

# **12 supercurriculars that strengthen your child's Law application.**

*What top universities actually want to see beyond A-level grades.*

*the activities:*

*Your child doesn't need to do all 12. Pick 2-3 that genuinely interest them and go deep. For Law, tutors want evidence they can read closely, reason carefully and argue both sides. Admissions tutors at UCL, Bristol, Durham and KCL can spot a checklist approach immediately.*

### **1. Prepare for the LNAT**

Required by UCL, Bristol, Durham, KCL, LSE, Nottingham and others. It tests critical reading and argument, not legal knowledge, so preparation genuinely moves the score.

Start here: Read the official guidance and free practice tests at [lnat.ac.uk](http://lnat.ac.uk). Build the habit of summarising an argument's logic, not just its conclusion.

### **2. Read Real Judgments**

Nothing signals genuine interest like reading the law itself. Discussing a real case at interview puts them ahead of applicants who only read about law.

Start here: BAILII ([bailii.org](http://bailii.org)) is free. Read a landmark case like *Donoghue v Stevenson*, then watch a UK Supreme Court hearing at [supremecourt.uk](http://supremecourt.uk).

### **3. Mooting & Debating**

Mock legal argument is the closest thing to being a barrister. Builds the structured, two-sided reasoning Law degrees are built on, and it is superb interview practice.

Start here: Join or start a school debating society. Look for student mooting competitions and the English-Speaking Union's Schools' Mace.

### **4. Read Beyond the Syllabus**

One book read closely beats ten skimmed. The right starter book reframes what law actually is and gives them language to discuss it.

Start here: "Letters to a Law Student" by Nicholas McBride, then "The Rule of Law" by Tom Bingham. Oxford's Staircase12 hub ([staircase12.org.uk](http://staircase12.org.uk)) has a vetted Law reading list.

*the activities (continued):*

## **5. Enter an Essay Competition**

Forces a real, referenced argument under a deadline. Strong evidence of independent thinking and the writing a Law degree demands.

Start here: The John Locke Institute prize ([johnlockeinstitute.com](http://johnlockeinstitute.com)) has a Law question. Several university law faculties also run open sixth-form essay prizes.

## **6. Visit a Court**

Public galleries are free and open to anyone. Seeing advocacy and procedure in the flesh is memorable and makes a great personal statement detail.

Start here: Walk into a local Magistrates' or Crown Court public gallery. For higher-profile cases, the UK Supreme Court livestreams and keeps a free archive.

## **7. Follow Legal News & Podcasts**

Keeps them current on the debates shaping the law. Naming a recent case or reform at interview shows law is a live interest, not a school subject.

Start here: BBC Radio 4's "Law in Action" and "Law Pod UK". For commentary, the UK Human Rights Blog and The Secret Barrister.

## **8. Take a Free Online Course**

Shows self-directed learning beyond school. Best when they finish it and can talk about a concept that surprised them.

Start here: "Introduction to English Common Law" by the University of London on Coursera, free to audit. FutureLearn also runs short law and justice courses.

*the activities (continued):*

### **9. Legal Work Experience (incl. Virtual)**

In-person placements are hard to win, so admissions tutors care more about reflection than prestige. Virtual experience makes this open to everyone.

Start here: Forage ([theforage.com](https://theforage.com)) runs free virtual experiences with real firms. Locally, ask a high-street solicitor for a day's shadowing.

### **10. A Deep-Dive Research Project (or EPQ)**

The strongest evidence of all: an original legal question, researched and argued over months. The EPQ formalises it and some universities reward it with lower offers.

Start here: Pick a live debate, such as assisted dying or whether the UK should have a written constitution. Frame a focused question and argue both sides.

### **11. Sharpen Critical Thinking**

Spotting flawed reasoning is the core legal skill and the heart of the LNAT. A little structured practice pays off across the whole application.

Start here: "Logical and Critical Thinking" by the University of Auckland on FutureLearn (free), and "Thinking, Fast and Slow" by Daniel Kahneman.

### **12. Public Lectures & Taster Days**

Shows genuine interest and answers the "Why Law?" question. Several are free and aimed at state-school students.

Start here: Gresham College ([gresham.ac.uk](https://gresham.ac.uk)) runs free Law lectures, in person and online. Look at Oxford UNIQ, Sutton Trust and the Inns of Court schools programmes.

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*Pick 2-3. Go deep, not wide. Quality over quantity.*

# Need a personalised plan for your child?

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