60-second interview: John- Louis Loewenthal

John-Louis Loewenthal has just finished his A-levels in History, French and Biology and has applied to study anthropology at university. In his spare time he enjoys music, art, football and going out.

How did you first learn about anthropology?

I had never heard of it until just over a year ago, flicking through university prospectuses I saw a brief description of the subject and was immediately interested.

What makes you interested in studying the subject at university?

The opportunity to learn about something of such importance and relevance, yet of such a different nature to anything I have learnt at school.

Do you know anyone who has studied the subject at undergraduate level?

Yes, the brother of one of friends who is studying at Sussex and continually sings anthropology's praises.

What do your parents think about your decision?

Unsure at first considering the unfortunate lack of publicity that anthropology has had, yet they are pleased and supportive.

Which university have you decided to apply to and why?

Oxford – the course seems very interesting, mixing social and biological anthropology as well as archaeology. I also feel that I could best explore areas that appeal to me, such as connections between art and anthropology.

What do you think makes anthropology distinct from other social sciences?

I think it is much more grounded, you are not just learning and reeling off facts, but studying something so infinitely broad and intricate as humankind. Ideas and perspectives are continually being changed and you become far more aware and better equipped to embrace the diversity of the world, in a way that incorporates history, geography, sociology and more.

Are you planning to take a gap year before going to university? Why/Why not?

No, I feel that I would make better use of a year out, after taking my degree. Hopefully my interests and direction will have become clearer to me and I will be more suitably equipped to explore my interest in anthropology.