

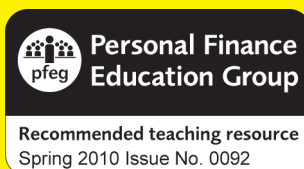
# University Challenge Money Diaries



Middle Secondary

Written and Illustrated  
by Abigail Kirby,  
Rebecca Bradley and  
Ryan Dickinson





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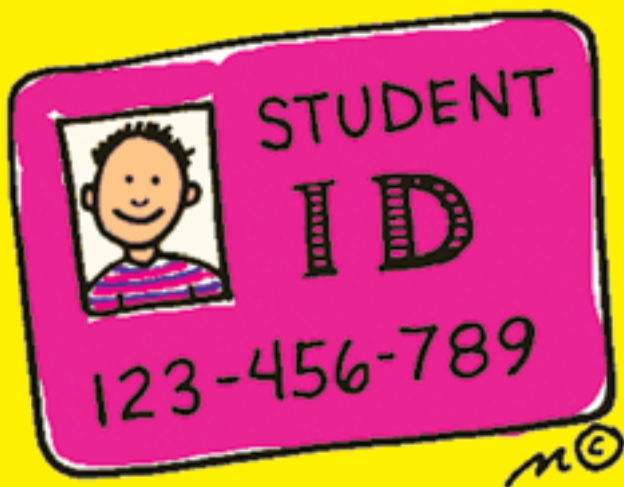
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# Emma - Studying Medicine

## 20th August 2010



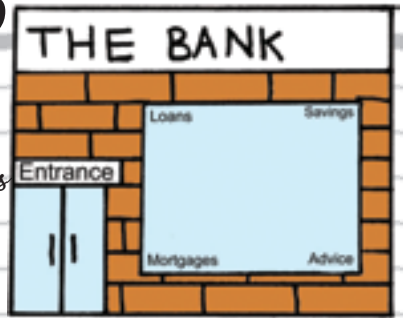
Dear Diary

I got my A-level results today: finally! I've been waiting for them for ages, wondering how I've done, going over the exams again and again in my head, but when the moment finally came to collect my results and see how I'd done, I was so scared. What if I failed? What if I didn't get the grades I needed? I did great, though.

I'm so happy! My parents are so proud of me, and now I feel like my life is really beginning. I got A's in all my chosen subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths! Can you believe it? I was really surprised about Physics, because I really didn't feel that the exam had gone too well, I'm so relieved! Now I have my results - and the ones I needed - I know for sure that come October I'll be a student at St Andrew's University! It's a long way from home, but it's such a respected school and gets really good results - Prince William even studied there! How cool is that? I'm going to ask for a few more shifts at the shop I'm working in for the summer to save up some more money for a new wardrobe, before I go to university. I've got to go now, though; Mum and Dad are taking me out to a restaurant to celebrate!



2nd September 2010



I've been sorting out all of my loans this week. I had no idea student loans were such a big deal. I've had to fill out all sorts of applications and the people who grant them apparently have to carry out thorough checks on each person who applies. It's actually been pretty daunting applying for all this money, it's not something I've ever really thought about before; I've always been more preoccupied with just the thought of going to university. Anyway, I've applied for two loans; a tuition fee loan to pay for my course, which is for £3,000, and, since I'm going to be living in student halls and will need to buy all of my own necessities, I've also had to apply for a Student Maintenance Loan, which is for £4,000. Each year I have to re-apply for the loans again, but if you ask me, £7,000 (which is the amount I'll have when both loans come through) is a lot of money. However, it does have to last me all of the year, I guess, but I'm sure I'll be fine. Besides, what's the point of worrying about loans and everything now? I only have to pay them back once I leave University and have a job - hopefully working my way up to being a Doctor! Can you imagine how great that would be. Anyway, I have ages until I have to pay off my student loans, right now I have much more pressing concerns; I'm starting to get really nervous about starting university. I want so much to fit in and to do well there. I got some amazing clothes last week - spending all of my savings, but it was definitely worth it so I will at least be up to date with the fashions. I won't know anyone else there, and I'll also be living with a bunch of other girls in student halls.



# 3rd October 2010



I'm at St Andrews and it's amazing! This week is Fresher's week, which basically gives all us new starters a whole week to go to parties and get to know one another. I've already made loads of friends and have also been invited to quite a few parties. Everyone is really friendly, although most of my new friends are from really different backgrounds to me. One of them, Chloe, just got back two days ago from spending all summer in Italy at her parents' villa. I'd love to have a villa abroad, I could go to anytime I wanted. Chloe lives just down the hall and most of the girls living in this hall are all really friendly; it's going to be so great living here! I've already spent some of my student living loan, probably more than I should have. I wanted to buy some things to jazz up my room a bit and also to buy things for our joint living area, which most of the other girls pitched in for as well. I couldn't really afford it, but I didn't want to seem tight or anything. Besides, isn't this what the loan was for anyway?





# 17th November 2010

I'm settled in to life here now. There are still loads of parties, which are so much fun. My worries that I wouldn't fit in seem silly now; I have plenty of friends and get invited to all the parties. I've had to take a couple of days off and miss a few lectures, which to be honest, I perhaps wouldn't have had to if I hadn't gone out the nights before, but missing a few classes every now and then won't really affect my future career as a Doctor. I mean, what do a few days here and there matter? I bought myself a new phone, even though I just got one earlier this year, but everyone else here has brand new, top of the range ones, so I figure, what could it hurt? My roommate, Anna, has got a job working as a waitress a few nights a week for some extra money, she offered to ask the owner for a job for me as well, but I don't think I could handle a job right now. I just have too much going on; it's hard to keep a balance between my studies and maintaining a social life as it is, I couldn't cope with a job as well.



# 13th December 2010



We've finished school and I'm currently in Switzerland skiing with friends! It's amazing! Who'd have thought that in three months time I'd be holidaying in Switzerland and learning to ski (which, for the record, is much harder than it looks). Money is starting to get tight so I've had to ring my Dad to see if he can help me out. He wasn't happy about it, and started asking me a bunch of questions about how I've been spending the money. I hadn't even noticed that I was spending so much, but when he was questioning me, I began to realise that maybe I do need to be more careful. I have to remember, the money I got from the student loans company has to last me until the next school year and Dad can't afford to keep helping me out with money. I've been eating out most nights with friends, both at school and here in Switzerland and I guess I could try cutting back on that. Maybe I could suggest staying in more often and buying a frozen pizza from the supermarket rather than ordering in Dominos, but it's just so much easier and quicker and I don't have to do any cooking. I'm still only eighteen, I should be going out and having fun...





# 26th December 2010

I'm currently at home, having spent Christmas with my family. Switzerland was so great, I'll have to go again at some point (although it would probably be better if I never tried to ski again). Mum gave me, amongst other things, a cookbook; she thought it would be a good idea for me to start cooking my own meals. I tried to be nice and politely tell her that cooking wasn't really my thing, which resulted in a big lecture from both my parents. They think that I'm not taking things seriously; money, my studies, career... They don't understand at all. It's not that I'm not taking all those things seriously - I am, I just don't see what's so wrong with having some fun at the same time. Christmas break was going great until they brought all the studying and money thing up, and now I'm starting to feel really down. With nothing else to do, I've been thinking through all of my expenses and it's all so stressful. I just want to go back to university to see my friends and have a laugh again.



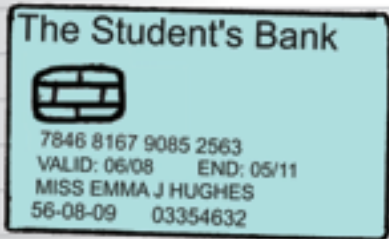
# 31st December 2010

I'm currently on a train back up to Scotland. Dad and I talked everything through and I promised him that I would concentrate on my studies and really try hard next semester. Everything's okay between us now and I'm feeling a bit more reassured that everything's going to be all right. It just has to be. Unfortunately, my resolution of spending less money hasn't got off to the best start. My train ticket this morning cost me over £100! I was so shocked when the lady behind the glass window of the ticket counter told me how much it was going to cost, that I even asked if she'd made a mistake. She hadn't though, apparently it's more expensive if you buy the ticket on the day of your travels, rather than order them in advance. I also just spent the last of my change on a coffee from one of those big coffee chains, which cost me £3.20. This, of course, means that I'm short of money again, but, in my defence, I hadn't even known I was going to be coming back to Scotland until last night, when I got a text from a friend, so I really couldn't pre-order. There's going to be a party tonight, which practically everyone is going to, so I couldn't miss it. This is just what I need right now, to forget about everything else and have some fun.



# 1st March 2010

Sorry I haven't written in a while, but I just haven't felt up to it. So much has happened since I last wrote and, unfortunately, hardly any of it good. My 'for emergencies only credit card' was declined in a store last week, so I rang the company and they told me that apparently it had reached its limit - I didn't even realise how many times I'd actually used it. I remember the first time I used it to pay for dinner, and I remember promising myself that it was just a one time thing,



that I wouldn't use it again unless I really did have an emergency. I don't really know what happened then. I used it again, and made the same promise afterwards. Then I just kept using it, each time telling myself it didn't really matter.

As well as that, there's a new book we've been told to buy for class, but I don't have enough money to buy it. I still have some money from the loans I took out in September, but I need this to last me until the end of the year. I rang my Dad, hoping maybe he could help me out a little. I was so scared calling him, thinking of what I would tell him. He didn't go mad as I was expecting. Instead he went quiet - seriously, scarily quiet. I told him that I did still have some money left, but he wasn't happy. In the end he told me he was sorry but he wasn't going to give me any more money, other than for books. I guess I can't really blame him; both he and Mum have already done so much for me. I've really let both of them down.

# 8th April 2010

End of year exams are next month. If we fail the exams then we can re-sit in August, but if we don't pass them that time, we get dropped from the course. I'm so nervous, and am desperately trying to catch up on lectures I've missed. On top of this, I'm worrying about money, it makes everything so much harder, and just adds to the stress of revising for exams. Despite the fact that exams are looming there are still parties being held regularly, although for once I've been saying no whenever I've been asked to go - well, most of the time, at least. Anna asked me Friday afternoon whether I was going out that night and when I told her no, she started going on about how boring I'd become. I tried not to let her get to me, but in the end I agreed to go out. It was nice, especially since I hadn't been out in a while. There was a really good band on, it felt like I hadn't seen anyone for ages. They were all going on at me about how I hadn't been on a night out with them for ages, I didn't want to tell them all about my money problems so I just explained how I'd been busy revising, which they seemed to be okay about, especially after I bought a round of drinks for everyone. I probably shouldn't have done but I thought I couldn't be the only one not to buy a round. It probably wasn't a good idea. I've just looked in my purse and it's empty again... I'll get by and figure something out. Besides, it's April, which means it's not that long to go before I can re-apply for student loans again.



# 3rd July 2010

I failed my exams. I can't believe it. I mean, I know that I probably haven't been working as hard as I could have done, but I guess I always kind of figured that everything would work itself out, that everything would be okay. It was never this hard at college; it was always fairly easy to do well and pass exams. Looking back I suppose I always had someone encouraging me to do better, whether it was my mum or dad or my teachers. Here, if I don't work hard, no-one's going to make me. To be honest, I'm wondering whether I would have passed my exams if I hadn't been worrying so much about my finances. I'm spending all of my time revising, I mean all of my time. No being talked into going to any parties, this time around. Of course, the fact that I have to take re-sits means that I can't go on holiday like all of my friends. I was really looking forward to going as well; we were going to stay in Chloe's parents' villa in Italy, before moving on to France, Greece and then Turkey. It was going to be fairly cheap as well, since we were going to be staying in friends' or relatives' houses. Of course, not as cheap as not going on holiday at all, but practically everyone at university goes travelling in the summer, going backpacking or whatever, so it really wouldn't have been that big of a deal. Passing my exams though, is more important than any holiday, and I guess that at least this way I'll save a bit of extra money.





# 24th August 2010

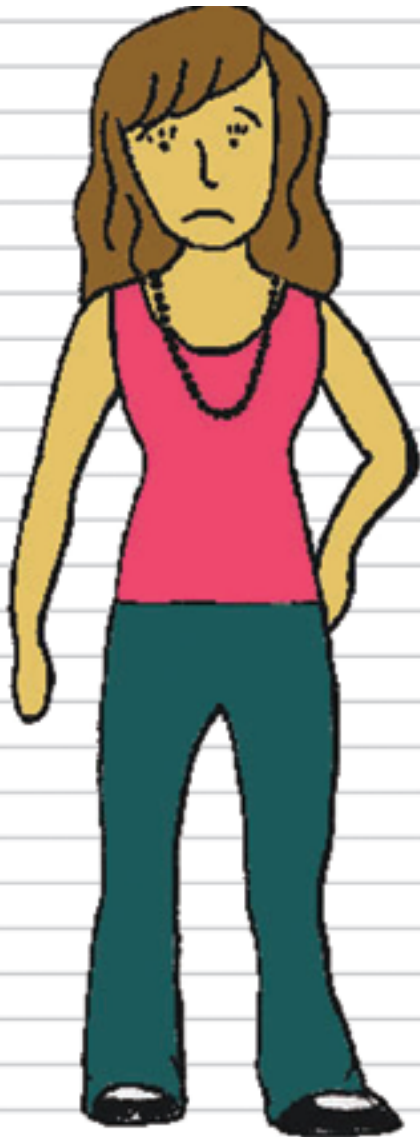
I've re-sat my exams and am now just sat at home praying I've at least done well enough to return in October. Dad's been lecturing me about why I haven't gone out looking for a summer job. He was questioning me about how I spend my money, and went mad when he found out that I buy magazines every month, saying that spending £4 on a single magazine was ridiculous. I don't really see what the big deal is there; it's not even a fiver, and only once a month, it's not as if it's every single week or something. All he ever goes on about is how I'm only nineteen and am already racked with thousands of pounds of debt. I tried to explain that I couldn't get a summer job because I needed to revise, but then he just asked me why I hadn't got one now that I've finished my resits. His lecture seemed to go on forever, all about "responsibility" and how I could work from now until the beginning of October, if I go back to University, that is and get a decent bit of money saved up. I guess what he says makes sense but I just can't face getting a job; I'm so tired and stressed out all the time. I'm literally a nervous wreck. All day I'm thinking about what I'm going to do if I've failed my resits and then my thoughts turn to all these debts I have and how I'm supposed to pay them off. I want so much for someone to come along and just take care of everything for me, but I know that's not going to happen. This is my mess.





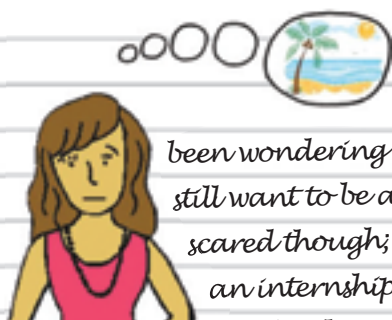
## 3rd September 2010

I passed my re-sits, thank goodness! I'm happy, but not in too much of a celebratory mood, because I'm in the middle of applying for my student loans again, which are the same as last year. I'm determined to do better this year; I'm going to try and budget my money and spend more wisely. Dad's helped me with my budget, explaining that making simple changes can make a big difference. It's actually really helped me, having him explain things for me. For example I've never thought twice about going to the local coffee shop and paying £3 for a single cup of coffee, when I could buy a jar of coffee from the supermarket for the same price, which would last a whole week! I've also decided not to get a credit card again this year, and hopefully this will help me. It's bad enough having the student loans to pay off, but having credit card bills on top of that makes everything so much more stressful. To be honest, if I had a credit card, I'm not sure I'd be able to resist using it, and with one enormous credit card bill to pay off from last year, I don't need another this year.



# 1st July 2011

Wow, the end of another year again! This year's gone so fast I can't believe it. I've been looking back over my last entry and my resolutions to save money and keep my debt to a minimal amount. I've definitely done much better this year. My credit card bill was really stressing me out, and I kept getting demands to pay the money back, which really scared me. I also spent my maintenance loan pretty quickly. Because of this I decided to get an extra loan from a bank, which I used to finally pay off my credit card and also buy the books I needed. Having the money from this other loan was a huge relief, but then I realised how much bank loans differ from student loans, especially in terms of interest rates. I started to get all stressed out again. Things are okay now, but it's going to be really hard to pay off. At least I don't have to take any re-sits this year, which I'm really happy about. I only got a Second, which, is still good, but I can't help remembering when I first started out from College and my ambitions of being the perfect student and finishing with a First. I've decided not to go on holiday this year. Instead, I've









got a job working as a waitress for the summer. The pay's terrible and the job's boring, but I can't afford not to work. I've been wondering whether I shouldn't just drop out, but I still want to be a Doctor, it's all I've ever wanted. I'm so scared though; I still have years left to study, before I do an internship in a hospital. I'm going to have to work harder than ever now and it's scary to think of all the debt I've already racked up in two years, when I still have much of my course left to do. It's scary wondering how much debt I will have at the end of this.

## Sometime later...

I've finally finished university and am now looking for an internship, although I'm finding it hard to get in somewhere because of my grades. It's not that I have bad grades, I finished with a Second overall but there's so much competition for places and there are so many people with better grades than me. I can't help wondering where I'd be now if I'd just been more sensible and thought about the long-term rather than going out every night and blowing money on clothes to make sure everyone liked me. I'm slowly having to come to terms with the fact that I may even have to take a gap year if I don't find a place soon. Taking a year off was never part of my plans, but I just can't afford not to be working, so I might take a break and get a job as a receptionist or waitress and earn some money, before re-applying for an internship next year. I've wanted to be a doctor since I can remember. I just can't believe how things have turned out. The last thing I thought about when I went to uni was money worries, but that's because I didn't understand just how easy it is to get into debt. Currently, I'm £40,000 in debt; can you believe that? I've never been so scared in my life, and the crazy thing is, most of that debt came from me just being foolish and irresponsible.



## FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT DEBT

-  The average household debt in the UK is £9,120 (excluding mortgages).
-  The Citizen Advice Bureau deal with 9,300 new debt problems on average every day in England and Wales.
-  Most personal debt is built up through Credit Cards and personal loans, and fuelled by the increase in household utility bills, growing unemployment and the overhang from Christmas spending.
-  386 people today will be declared insolvent or bankrupt. This is equivalent to 1 person every 3.72 minutes. A property is repossessed every 11.2 minutes.
-  Total UK personal debt at the end of October 2009 stood at £1,458bn.
-  The average consumer borrowing via credit cards, motor and retail finance deals, overdrafts and unsecured personal loans is £4,724 per average UK adult at the end of October 2009.

*Above information provided by Credit Action -  
1st December 2009*



# BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO MANAGING MONEY

The world of banking and finance might seem very complicated at first. However, it is actually a piece of cake as long as you stick to a few simple rules:

First of all, you need to understand the difference between a current account and a savings account. A current account is an account with a low rate of interest (the money the bank pays you for depositing money with them). Normally people have their wages paid into their current account because they are able to get access to their money whenever they want. They usually do this by using a debit card, which is linked to their account, to pay for goods and services in shops or by getting cash out at cash machines.

A savings account on the other hand gives a much higher rate of interest but it's more difficult to get access to your money (usually you'll have to give the bank notice that you want to take money out and the higher the rate of interest, the more notice you have to give them).

You should aim to keep enough to live on each month in your current account and move the rest to your savings account so you can earn more interest. It's important that you always leave a bit more in your current account than you think you'll need before you next get paid in case of an emergency (this is called a buffer).





You don't want to risk going overdrawn (below the amount you have available in your account) as your bank will charge you unauthorised overdraft fees.



These days, it's actually very easy to move money between accounts using internet banking.

Credit cards work in a similar way to debit cards. The main difference is that when you use your credit card, you are not using money from your own account, you are actually borrowing money from the bank. Because the bank is lending you its money, it charges you interest on the amount you've borrowed, which is why you should always consider using your own savings first before buying anything. One advantage of a credit card is that your purchases are usually protected against loss or damage, which can be an important factor when buying large, expensive items over the internet for example.

Direct Debits (DDs) are payments that automatically come out of your account each month to cover the cost of services that you've used, such as gas and electricity. It's a good idea to set up your monthly bill payments as DDs as not only is it usually cheaper (many companies will give you a discount for paying by DD) but it's much easier for you - once they're set up, you don't have to do anything other than make sure the right amount has left your account each month. It's also a good idea to set your DDs up so they come out of your account the day after you've been paid. That way, you'll know exactly how much money you've got available for the rest of the month and how much you'll be able to save.



# KAI - STUDYING ARCHITECTURE

20th August 2010

Got my results today, I'm so pleased I'll be able to get into university and hopefully be able to study Architecture like I wanted. I got a C in ICT and Bs in Art, Graphics and Maths. This is great, I really didn't think I'd even pass Maths, it was so hard. Can't believe I got a B! There's a party at Cameron's tonight to celebrate all our results and I can't wait! Everyone's going to be there and it could be a while before we all see each other again, as most of us are off to university soon. Best go and get ready, don't want to be late.



# 6th September 2010

Found out a couple of days ago that I definitely got my place at university studying Architecture, I'm so relieved. I was starting to worry that my results hadn't been good enough after all. It is a relief, but now I have to start looking at loans. My tuition fee loan is going to be around £3,000 each year, I couldn't believe it! Luckily, I don't have to take out a student maintenance loan because I'm going to the local university so I can live at home. I hope I can stay on top of my loan then I won't get into any more debt. It's going to be hard so I should probably look for a job to start paying off as much as I can now. At least I won't have to worry about travel costs either, because my parents have bought me a new bike therefore it should only take me about fifteen minutes to cycle into Uni each day. I'm dead nervous but really excited too, I'll be starting in less than a month, just hope I can cope with everything. I'm getting a little bit worried about how hard the course is going to be, and I still want to be able to pay off as much of my loan as possible, though I know it's going to be really hard.



# 5th October 2010

Finally started uni! It is Fresher's week, I still can't believe how big it is! Definitely didn't have any trouble finding it this morning on my bike, and luckily it isn't even as far as I thought, barely takes me ten minutes which is really good. I'm going to go to the football trials, this university is so big though, they have 5 teams. I hope I can get into the first team but I'm not sure, there are loads of people here so I might be lucky to get on any team! I got a job at a bar near my house a couple of weeks ago and luckily they're going to be quite flexible with hours, so it shouldn't be too difficult to fit my job in with studying and football practices, if, fingers crossed I get in the team. Went to the bank as well to open up a savers account which should make it a lot easier to save up my money and pay off my loans as soon as possible. I desperately don't want to get into any unnecessary debt, so I'm going to work really hard at it.



# 15th November 2010

Got into the 2nd team! Not quite the 1st team but it's still good and at least I got into a team. We've had so many matches though because it's the football season. It's been hard to fit studying in with football practices and my work hours but I've managed. Only thing is I've hardly been to any parties and my friends are getting a little annoyed with me, but I don't really want to miss any lectures if I can help it. Plus, I have to buy bus passes because it's too cold to cycle anymore. I'll try and go to Iain's party this weekend but I'll have to get some studying in beforehand. I'm finding it easier than I thought, I like all my lecturers and I can understand most of the course, I'm struggling a bit with the Maths side but I'm still doing alright. I'm really enjoying university life, it's busy but that's a good thing because you never get bored, it's actually quite fun.



# 29th November 2010

Iain's party was really good! I met up with Lucy; she's really nice and very pretty; I asked her out on a date and she said yes! I couldn't believe my luck! I'm a little bit nervous, I think we're going to see a movie. She's studying catering at the same university as me, only she comes from Dublin in Ireland so she's staying in student accommodation. Maybe she'll teach me to cook, I'm not very good and to be honest it's getting a little bit too expensive to order pizza whenever the cupboards are looking a bit bare. Hope it all goes well tonight!



# 20th December 2010

It's holidays, I've got almost a month left of holiday and then back to university. I've been able to take on some extra hours which means I can get my family and Lucy some good Christmas presents. Lucy's in Dublin for Christmas but I've already bought my train and ferry tickets. I couldn't believe how much you save just by being organised and buying your tickets in advance. Really looking forward to it but a bit nervous about meeting her parents, I hope they like me. I've been to a few parties and meals but they're so expensive and I still want to be able to pay off most of my loan for this year. The saving account has really helped me to save as much as I can but I'm always really tempted to take out a bit more each time a party comes up, I've been good so far but not sure how well I'll fare the closer it gets to Christmas and New Year. Have to make sure I don't fall behind on my studies too much either over the holidays, as I haven't really done much studying since the holidays started.





# 31st December 2010

I'm at Lucy's in Dublin and it is loads of fun, the parties have been great, luckily my parents are really nice and gave me some money for the visit which has lasted well. Lucy's parents are really nice and I feel right at home. It's really tiring, all these parties and meals but I'll be back home next week and getting ready to go back to uni so I might as well make the most of it!



# 10th February 2011

It's good to be back at uni and in the swing of things again. I didn't need to do much catching up to get back into the lectures and work but I did find out that Jim has dropped out! I can't believe it, I thought he was doing really well, but apparently he didn't keep track of things and was falling behind on his studies. He had already got into loads of debt apparently. I didn't realise there was so much pressure, I hope I can handle it. I don't want to have to drop out like Jim. Lucy has started teaching me some of the basics of cooking which is good. I feel sometimes like I'm cheating by having my Mum cook my meals so it will be good to cook some of my own food and not have to buy as many take-a-ways. It will really help if I decide to move into my own flat.



3rd April 2011



It was my birthday today; 19 at last and I got my first car! It's an old banger but still it's better than driving my Mum's people carrier or taking the bus. I've had to take out insurance on it which cost quite a bit because I'm a young driver. I did a lot of comparing online and managed to find a quote £400 cheaper than the quote I got from my mum & dad's insurance company. I just can't believe how much difference there is in the prices charged by some companies for the same thing. I guess it shows how important it is to shop around!

My birthday was really good too, didn't go to any of my lectures which I feel a bit bad about but I'll make up for it, and it was nice to have a day to relax and go out with Lucy. She made me a really great meal for the family and everything, this evening was brilliant! However I've got loads of studying to do; exams for the first year are just over a month away. I desperately want to do well so that I can work for most of the summer and not have to worry about re-sits. I've hardly been out except to see Lucy, but I really need to study as much as possible and then I can relax a bit more in the summer.



# 15th May 2011

Had my final exam today, I think it went well, I understood most of the questions, and I did put in lots of studying but I suppose only time will tell. I'm going to struggle to relax till I get my results but hopefully it's all gone well and I'll be able to concentrate on paying off as much of my first year's loan and still have time for some fun..



# 20th July 2011

Got my results today: On target for a First Class Honours Degree! I can't believe it, I'm so glad I did all that studying it's definitely paid off. I'm really surprised but dead pleased at the same time. This means I'll be able to work most of the summer without having to worry about re-sits and probably have time to go out and have some fun. Some of my friends are going back-packing across Europe, it sounds really cool and they've invited me to come along with them but I'm not sure yet. I really wanted to work during the holidays to pay off the majority of my loan, we'll have to see.



# 3rd August 2011



Iain, Connor and Luke started on their trip across Europe today, I decided not to go because it was going to cost a lot and I'd rather work and pay off my loan. I can do that sort of stuff in style later when I can afford it. Plus, Lucy is going to spend most of the holidays down here so we'll be able to go out most of the time when neither of us have work. I'd rather have a relaxing holiday than a busy one so that I can recuperate ready for my second year of uni. Kevin and Nick couldn't go on the holiday either because they needed to re-sit their exams. I really am glad that I did all that studying beforehand and I don't have to worry about resits. My first year's over and I feel that I've coped with it well, as long as I always find time for my studies and don't get into unnecessary debt, I should be able to make my way through university with hardly any worries and stress.



# 20th August 2011



Moved in with Iain, Nick, Connor and Luke, we all decided to rent a large flat and share out the rent, it's worked out quite well. I've had to take out a student maintenance loan this year which is about another £4,000 on top of the £3,000 tuition fee loan. It's going to be a lot to keep on top of and cope with but I feel if I really work on it I'll be able to get by alright. With Lucy having taught me the basics of cooking too, I know how to make meals and that should save us all a bit of money. I did quite well last year with working enough to almost pay off my first year's tuition fee loan and I've still got my job at the bar, so if I carry on like this, I shouldn't have quite as much to pay off when I leave. I'm worried I might not be as successful this year with two loans but I'm still determined not to take out any additional bank loans. As long as I keep to this I should be alright. This year should be good now that I'm used to university life and I'm really looking forward to it. I feel a bit more confident about keeping up with my studies, just hope it will be as easy to keep up with my loans. Plus, it's going to be a lot of fun sharing a flat with all my mates!

# 1st July 2012



I've been really busy all of this year, but I've coped well and I've done well with my studies again. I got my results for the second year and amazingly I am still on course for a first degree pass.

It's brilliant! Lucy and me are going out to celebrate it this evening. I can finally afford to take her to that nice restaurant we've been wanting to go to.

My manager at the bar was so impressed with my dedication and reliability that he's promoted me; the job comes with more responsibility but I get paid more! Only one more year until the year of 'hands on' experience and I can't wait! I'm getting good at coping with studies and managing my money whilst still being able to work and have a social life so hopefully this year should fly by with hardly any worry. Maybe I'll even be able to come back and do a masters degree after my work internship, who knows?

# 18th June 2013

My final year of studies is over (unless I go back to do a masters degree). I went for an internship interview today in London with one of the biggest companies in the UK. The interview went really well. Hopefully my results will be good enough to get me onto their internship programme. Lucy's also found a place in London. Her firm have offered her a permanent job as long as she passes her probationary period. We've both managed to save enough for a deposit to rent a small flat. I'm a little bit worried about the cost of living in the big city, but I know that my university experiences with handling money and loans will serve me well. Hopefully everything will work out. I'm so glad. I have been sensible with my money and that I've paid as much of my loans off as possible. It's been so much easier to concentrate on my studies without the stress of getting into debt.



# **GLOSSARY**

## **BAILIFFS**

A bailiff is someone who collects a debt on behalf of the person who is owed money.



## **BALANCE**

The amount of money in your bank account.

## **BANK LOAN**

Banks lend money to customers for things like paying for cars, holidays or home improvements. These loans can be called personal loans. For someone to get a loan they need to be at least 18 years old.



## **BANK STATEMENT**

A bank statement is a record of all the transactions (money coming in & going out) on your account. A bank usually sends one to the account holder every month by post. Mini statements come from ATMs (cash machines) and show the balances and recent transactions.

## **BUDGETING**

This is looking at the money you expect to receive and the money you expect to be paying out. This helps people know how much money they have and where it is all going and coming from.



## **CAPITAL**

Money that has been either invested or borrowed.

## CHEQUE

A cheque is a piece of paper that instructs the bank to give a specific amount of money from your account to another person or company. You can pay for goods/services by a cheque. When you are 16 you can ask for a cheque book which contains blank cheques that have your name and personal details on them so you can fill them in. But, cheques are only valid for 6 months from the date written on the cheque.



## CONTRACT

A written agreement. In housing terms; agreeing a cost of the property and what comes with it e.g. carpets and curtains.



## CREDIT CARD

A plastic card which lets you buy things immediately then pay for them later. There is an agreed limit on the amount you can borrow, and the time that the money should be repaid. To get a credit card you must be at least 18 years old.

## CREDIT RATING

This is a rating system used by banks to judge an individual or company's credit worthiness, which tells them whether you will be reliable to pay back a loan for looking at whether you have paid off previous loans. Depending on your financial history and personal details the bank will either reject or accept your claim.



## CURRENT ACCOUNT

A current account is a bank account where you can withdraw money immediately. You earn less interest than you would in a savings account when paying and withdrawing money regularly.



## DEBT

An amount of money owned to a person or company.

## DEPOSIT

Money put into an account.



## INTEREST

Interest is paid by a bank on savings placed in it.

If you borrow money from the bank you have to pay interest on what you've borrowed. Interest is the price of saving or borrowing money.

## INTEREST RATE

The percentage paid on every £1 saved or borrowed.

## MORTGAGE

A loan to help you buy property. However, the bank can take the property off you if the loan isn't paid back.





## OVERDRAFT

This is an agreement with your bank to allow you to spend more money than you actually have in your account. But, they charge for this service of borrowing money. You have to be aged 18 or more to take out an overdraft. An agreed overdraft is the limit up to the account holder can borrow from the bank, when there is no money left in his/her account. You shouldn't exceed the agreed limit to avoid excess bank charges.



## PIN

PIN is your Personal Identification Number. It is a four-digit number that you enter into an ATM when you want to take out cash, and you use to pay with your chip and PIN card. You never give this number to anyone, or write it down.



## SAVINGS ACCOUNT

A savings account is an account with a bank or building society in where you save money. This account earns more interest than a current account, but you may have to give notice before withdrawing money. A savings account is often the best account to have if you won't be withdrawing money regularly.

## TERM

A term is the number of months the bank give the customer to pay the money back by.



# About the Money Diaries Project



The **MONEY DIARIES** project has come together through a working partnership between Southlands School and the Debt Advice Foundation, which has been responsible for project funding.

## SOUTHLANDS SCHOOL

The Debt Advice Foundation would like to acknowledge the considerable advice and assistance provided by Southlands School, and in particular the enthusiastic involvement of Brian Souter, Deputy Head Teacher.



Southlands High School, A Specialist Technology College,  
Clover Road, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 2NJ  
Email: [mail@southlands.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:mail@southlands.lancs.sch.uk)



## DEBT ADVICE FOUNDATION

A registered charity founded in 2002, its core objects are:

- Provide free, impartial and appropriate **advice** to people with unaffordable debts.
- Help people with debt problems to gain free access to **solutions** that will help them.
- Promote the **education** of young people in money management so as to reduce the likelihood that they will misuse debt later in their lives.
- Undertake or fund **research** understand why problem debt happens and its effect on individuals, families and the wider UK economy.
- Use this evidence to become a force for **beneficial change** within the credit and debt solutions industry and to work with government to bring about legislative change to benefit UK consumers.

*The Trustees of the charity are Dennis Benson (Chairman), Andrew Redmond, Paul Latham and John Reynard.*

Debt Advice  
Foundation

# Pictures of Abi Kirby, Ryan Dickinson & Rebecca Bradley



## THE AUTHORS

Abigael Kirby was born in Leeds, Yorkshire and has lived in Chorley for most of her life.

She enjoys pumpkin pie and reading. Abigael and her family have a dog named Pip, she is currently studying for her GCSE examinations at Southlands High School and is intending to continue her studies at College. Abigael is a member of Mensa and also received the Princess Diana Award two years ago.

Ryan Dickinson was born in Preston, Lancashire and has lived in the village of Charnock Richard since the age of four. His interests include playing tennis and golf in his spare time. Ryan is currently studying for his GCSE examinations at Southlands High School and wants to go on to college. He hopes to pursue a career in the world of Aviation. Ryan is the current Head Boy at the school.

Rebecca Bradley was born in Preston, Lancashire and has lived in Chorley all of her life. She enjoys pumpkin pie and listening to music. Rebecca and her family have a dog named Button and Rebecca is currently studying for her GCSE examinations at Southlands High School and wishes to go on to study at College. Rebecca will be studying A-levels in English, History and Law. She sat her GCSE Law examination at the end of Year 10 and gained an A\*.

## Notes

## Notes

