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OXFORD  
for North  
East

2021-2022

# OXFORD FOR NORTH EAST



SCHOOLS WORKSHOPS  
AND ACTIVITIES

OXFORDFORNORTHEAST@ADMIN.OX.AC.UK



## ABOUT OXFORD FOR NORTH EAST

Oxford for North East is a consortium of colleges from across the University of Oxford. **Christ Church, St Anne's and Trinity Colleges** work collaboratively across the region to ensure that state schools students, teachers and families across the North East have access to high quality resources, workshops and activities that introduce higher education, the University of Oxford, and prepare students for a competitive application to university - especially to the University of Oxford - in the future.

**Our link regions are:** Darlington, Durham, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, South Tyneside, Stockton on Tees, and Sunderland.

## MEET THE TEAM

### HANNAH SNELL (ST ANNE'S) SENIOR OUTREACH OFFICER

Hannah attended a state school in Derbyshire before studying Classical Archaeology and Ancient History at Oxford (BA and MPhil). She spent 5 years working at a Sixth Form in Southwark as a Head of Year (12/13) before returning to the University in 2019 to work in access and outreach. She enjoys baking, hiking and writing the novel she will never finish!

### EREN SLATE (ST ANNE'S) OUTREACH OFFICER

Eren studied at a West Dorset state school before completing a degree and then a PhD in Chemistry at The University of Sheffield. He then volunteered with a youth support group and worked as a secondary school Careers Advisor and Science Subject Mentor. When he's not working, you'll probably find him drinking tea or playing ukulele badly, but with great aplomb!

### RICHARD PETTY (TRINITY) TEACHER ENGAGEMENT AND ACCESS OFFICER (NORTH EAST)

Richard was born and brought up in Newcastle. He was previously Headteacher of a 16-18 school in Hertfordshire, following a 17-year career teaching in state schools in London and Oxfordshire. He has since moved back to the North East and works at Trinity College. Richard enjoys spending time with his family, fell running and walking.

### JOEL BUTLER (CHRIST CHURCH) ACCESS & SCHOOLS LIAISON OFFICER

Joel attended a state school in the West Midlands before studying History at Durham, St Andrews, and in Istanbul. He has also taught in state schools in the West Midlands and Oxfordshire and recently completed a DPhil in History at Oxford University. When not working on access and outreach, Joel is a huge fan of Birmingham City and Solihull Moors football clubs and a football referee. He also enjoys writing, playing the guitar and singing (both badly), and oversleeping.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, the Oxford for North East colleges have continued to offer workshops and activities for schools and organisations across the region.

We intend to continue this digital offering alongside a return to our face-to-face outreach activities in the near future.

# KEY STAGE 2 AND 3



## HIGHER EDUCATION EXPLAINED

In this session we aim to:

- Understand the difference between school and university
- Find out what studying at university is like
- Learn about what studying at Oxford is like
- Discover some of the courses on offer at university

**Recommended for Years 6-8, up to 1 hour**  
**Online or in school**

**"See you again  
in 7 years!"**

Year 6 Student  
Ark Globe Academy

**"Excellent day - the pupils  
were so engaged and  
absolutely loved being here -  
thank you!"**

KS2 Teacher

## VISIT TO OXFORD

A typical Key Stage 2/3 visit may involve:

- Welcome and Higher Education Explained Talk from the Outreach Officer
  - Tours and Q&A with Student Ambassadors
  - Carousel of short academic taster sessions delivered by students, tutors and outreach staff
- OR**
- Guided museum visit and activity
  - Refreshments and a sandwich lunch in college
  - Evaluation activity



**In Oxford - c.4 hours duration (or overnight)**

## OVERNIGHT VISITS

We appreciate that Oxford isn't exactly local to the North East and, at certain times of the year, the Oxford for North East colleges may be able to support with any of: travel costs, overnight accommodation, teacher supply costs, and planning your visit. Please get in contact to discuss if you would like to visit the University. There are also opportunities through our partner organisations, such as **The Brilliant Club** and **Universify**, for your students to visit the University as part of these programmes run through your school.



## UNIVERSITY AND FUTURE CHOICES



In this session we aim to:

- Find out more about different universities, including the Russell Group
- Find out why someone might apply to university
- Learn more about studying at Oxford University
- Understand the costs associated with university
- Discover some of the courses on offer at university
- Think about ways of preparing for university study

**Recommended for Year 9-10, 1 hour**  
**Online or in school**

**"I really enjoyed learning about the different subjects and why people go to university."**

Year 8 Student  
The Charter School  
East Dulwich

**100% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they understand better what top universities are looking for in their students.**

2019-20 KS4 Feedback

## WHY UNIVERSITY, WHY OXFORD

In this session we aim to:

- Find out more about competitive universities and what they are looking for in applicants
- Learn more about studying and being a student at the University of Oxford
- Understand the costs associated with university
- Find out more about university courses and specific subjects required to study them
- Explore super-curricular activities to prepare for university study



**Recommended for Year 10-11, 1 hour**  
**Online or in school**

# KEY STAGE 3 AND 4

## EXPLORE WORKSHOP

This super-curricular workshop introduces a question from the [Oxplore website](#) and provides resources for students to either have a **classroom debate** facilitated by the Outreach Officer, **or to produce their own Oxplore question**.

Skills include: exploring a new topic critically, creating an evidence-based argument, making links with curriculum subjects, and thinking outside of the classroom.

**Recommended for Year 9-13, 1 hour**  
**Online or in school**



**"It has made me  
think really seriously  
about going to  
Oxford."**

Year 10 student,  
Compass School

**"The day was highly  
organised, very  
informative, thank you  
so much for your  
support."**

Teacher

## VISIT TO OXFORD: DISCOVERY DAY

A typical Key Stage 3/4 visit may involve:

- Welcome and Oxford Explained Talk from the Outreach Officer
  - Tours of colleges from Student Ambassadors
  - Q&A with Student Ambassadors
  - Carousel of short academic taster sessions delivered by students, tutors and outreach staff
- OR**
- Guided museum visit and activity
  - Refreshments and a sandwich lunch in college
  - Evaluation activity



**In Oxford - c.4 hours duration**

**Please contact us to discuss overnight stays**

## KEY STAGE 5

### MAKING A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION

In this session we aim to:

- Consider what competitive universities are looking for in applicants
- Find out more about being a student at Oxford
- Understand the costs associated with university
- Consider courses on offer at Oxford
- Learn more about the Oxbridge application process and its admission stages
- Consider ways of exploring subjects outside of the classroom



**Recommended for Year 12,  
1 hour, or up to 90mins including Student Q&A  
Online or in school**

**"I found the ideas of how to research  
and learn more about your subject  
useful as well as the information about  
financial support"**

Year 12 Student  
Whitley Bay High School

**95% of students agreed or  
strongly agreed that they now  
know more about pursuing their  
academic interests through  
'supercurricular' activities**

2019-20 KS5 Feedback

### SUPER-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WORKSHOP

In this session we aim to:

- Understand the difference between extra-curricular and super-curricular activities
- Link super-curricular activities with competitive university applications
- Explore the range of activities that can be super-curricular
- Gain confidence in finding relevant super-curricular activities



**Suitable for Year 11-12, 1 hour  
Online or in school**



## PERSONAL STATEMENT WORKSHOP

In this session we aim to:

- Understand the Oxbridge application process
- Explore what competitive universities value in a personal statement
- Reflect on students' interest in their subject and their super-curricular activities
- Clarify top tips for writing a personal statement
- Examine some case studies



**Recommended for Year 12-13,  
1 hour, or up to 90mins including Student Q&A  
Online or in school**

**"Evaluating the different personal statements was useful as I was able to see what I should and shouldn't include."**

Year 12 Student  
The Charter School,  
North Dulwich

**"I found the activities useful because they forced me to come up with an answer, even if I was not sure."**

Year 12 Student  
Kingsdale Foundation School

## ADMISSIONS TEST WORKSHOP

In this session we aim to:

- Understand the Oxbridge admissions process
- Clarify how Admissions Tests are used in the application process
- Explore ways of preparing for different admissions tests
- Examine how to approach particular past paper questions and gain confidence answering them
- Know where to go for more resources

**Suitable for Year 12-13, 1 hour  
Online or in school**



## KEY STAGE 5

### INTERVIEW SKILLS WORKSHOP

In this session we aim to:

- Clarify the Oxbridge admissions process, how interviews are used, and what to expect
- Explore past interview questions and approaches to answering them
- Gain confidence and skills in answering unseen interview questions
- Understand further ways of preparing for interviews



**Recommended for Year 13, 60-90mins**

**Online or in school**

Where possible, we would like to arrange these with more than one school at a time, and particularly welcome students who may be the only applicant from their school.

**"It gave me a much better idea of what the application process would look like and what an interview would be like."**

Year 13 Student  
Newcastle Sixth Form College

**100% of school staff strongly agreed that they would like to bring their students on a trip to St Anne's College again.**

### VISIT TO OXFORD: TASTER DAY

A typical Key Stage 5 visit may involve:

- Welcome and Competitive Applications Talk from the Outreach Officer
- Tour of the college from Student Ambassadors
- Q&A with Student Ambassadors
- Choice of academic taster sessions with Oxford staff (depending on availability)
- Refreshments and a sandwich lunch in college
- Second college tour
- Evaluation activity



**In Oxford - c.4 hours duration (or overnight)**

**PLEASE GET IN CONTACT TO DISCUSS HOW WE CAN SUPPORT IN PLANNING AN OVERNIGHT VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY.**



# TEACHERS

## TEACHER AND/OR ADVISOR IAG

These workshops can cover a range of topics, depending on your needs, and may be particularly suitable for Heads of Year, Sixth Form Staff, Sixth Form tutors and subject champions.

Content can include:

- Overview of the Oxbridge application process
- Writing competitive personal statements
- Preparing for admissions tests
- Interview skills and preparation
- Supporting Oxbridge applicants
- Gaining feedback for applicants
- Careers education through the free resources available from the University of Oxford's Careers Service, including the Litmus survey (careers toolkit)



**Online or in school, 1 hour (can be split into multiple sessions)**

**Where possible, we would like to arrange these with more than one school at a time**

**WE ALSO ORGANISE A NORTH EAST TEACHER CPD PROGRAMME EACH SUMMER (EITHER ONLINE, OR AS PART OF AN ANNUAL TEACHER RESIDENTIAL IN OXFORD).**

**"I enjoyed the day especially the biscuits and desserts at the canteen. I enjoyed heading to the museum as well... thank you for the day :)"**

Year 10 Student  
Bishopshalt School

**93% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more confident about applying to the University of Oxford in the future, if they wished.**

2020-21 KS5 Feedback

## PARENT, CARER AND FAMILIES SESSIONS

During these online twilight sessions, we can cover a range of topics and questions, such as:

- The benefits of going to university, and its financial costs
- What the University of Oxford can offer prospective applicants
- Supporting parents and carers in feeling more confident about their role in supporting their child's future choices.

**Online or in school**

**1 hour, or up to 90mins for more detailed sessions, or to include Ambassador Q&A**



## AIM FOR OXFORD (NORTH EAST)

Aim for Oxford is our sustained contact programme for Year 12 students from state schools in the North East of England, run jointly with Christ Church.

After being selected for the programme, participants will:

- Explore subjects with university researchers through academic taster sessions
- Attend workshops on the application stages
- Be invited to attend a free week-long residential in Oxford
- Receive ongoing support from current students and outreach staff through Year 13 and university applications.

For more information, please see the website:

<https://www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduate/working-with-schools/aim-for-oxford/>



OXFORD  
for North  
East

**"Before this program, I never even considered applying to the University of Oxford... You have all helped me believe in myself."**

Joe, Aim for Oxford Student

**"Clear, concise information. Friendly atmosphere. Approachable members of staff that made everyone feel welcome - excellent all round!!"**

Aim for Oxford Parent

## STUDENT Q&A

As well as running separate Student Q&A sessions for schools, our trained Ambassadors can be contacted at any time on our college chat platforms:

**Christ Church:**

<https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/admissions/chat>

**St Anne's:** <https://www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk/chat-with-our-students/>

**Trinity:** <https://www.trinity.ox.ac.uk/chat-to-our-students>



**We also run an annual residential for North East state school students around Oxford's summer Open Days (29/30 June 2022) - we hope to return to this in-person activity this year. Applications will open in April 2022.**