Our teacher CPD programme is coming soon. Aimed at teachers in state schools and colleges in the North East of England, and conceived prior to Covid-19 as a programme of live online workshops to make it as easy as possible for colleagues to attend, the programme aims to support colleagues assisting students in applications to competitive universities, with a particular focus on Oxford. The programme, which also aims to enable teachers to meet other colleagues in a similar position in a series of round-table workshops, has been piloted for maximum success and will be accredited.

We invite colleagues to take part in the programme regardless of their school’s current level of pupil progression to top universities, including Oxford. We particularly welcome teachers for whom the UCAS process is brand new, who have little experience of supporting pupils through the Higher Education application process, applying to the Russell Group or the University of Oxford.

In the programme, we aim to break down the various aspects of university applications, and help colleagues to see that whilst each individual element such as the personal statement or an interview is important, it is part of an overall package, each element of which we hope to make more manageable.

We will offer practical advice to those supporting applications: what is that universities really want from a teacher reference? How can a student best prepare for something challenging like an Admissions Test? What are universities looking for in interviews, and how can I help my students look forward to them and prepare practically? The programme kicked off with an introduction on Monday 6 July and runs into the Autumn term, in twilight sessions at 4pm on Wednesdays, with each session placed at an appropriate moment in the admissions cycle:
July 2020 introduction:

Introduction to Oxford University admissions and the national and NE regional context in which they operate: equality, fairness and disadvantage. Supporting students to make the university choices best suited for them as individuals. Opportunities for colleagues to ask questions about, and help design the focus of, further modules.

Autumn term series:

1. Introduction to Oxford University Admissions & Outreach: the key parts of the process. Why University? Why Oxford? Why is Outreach so important to Oxford, in the North East and nationally? Introduction to the key parts of the admissions process. Wednesday 9 September 4pm
2. Supporting excellent applications: personal statements, the teacher reference, and building strong foundations for them. Wednesday 16 September 4pm
3. Stimulating super-curricular exploration: developing learners’ thinking skills and curiosity. Wednesday 23 September 4pm
4. University admissions tests and helping applicants prepare for them. Wednesday 30 September 4pm
5. University interviews and helping applicants prepare for them. Wednesday 14 October 4pm
6. An example of developing passions, interest, literacy and oracy in younger learners: the Oxplorē platform. Wednesday 11 November 4pm
7. Pastoral aspects of applying to a highly competitive university: addressing stresses, pressure and disappointment. Wednesday 25 November 4pm

We are excited to have some current Oxford students, who themselves come from the North East, involved in one of the later sessions to help us reflect on what we have covered during the programme.

To register your interest, please go to NE Teacher CPD form; if you have any questions about the programme, please email richard.petty@trinity.ox.ac.uk.