



OXFORD
HIGH SCHOOL
GDST

Programme for Oxbridge Candidates

Careers at OHS



Programme for Oxbridge Candidates

Oxford and Cambridge remain the premier UK academic destinations for high-achieving students. Whilst admission is highly competitive, for those candidates who truly love their subject the rewards in terms of intellectual fulfilment are enormous. The programme for Oxbridge candidates at Oxford High School aims to provide comprehensive guidance and support through the process. Key aspects of the programme are set out below.

The OHS Support Programme:

Year 10/11	Academic Clubs and Societies As students move through their GCSE courses, they are encouraged to engage with academic opportunities outside the curriculum. Subject specific clubs, such as the CREST Award, Engineering Club and Language Clubs (and many more!), as well as the OHS Inspires Masterclasses, offer students the chance to explore widely, whilst Debate Club and Aspire Club challenge students to develop their skills of verbal communication and intellectual agility while growing in academic confidence.
Year 11/12	Support with Course Choice All students receive one-to-one guidance during Year 11 to help them make the right A Level choices – pursuing the subjects they love while ensuring that the pre-requisites for any future university admissions are satisfied. As student narrow down their options for university study in Year 12, they again receive one-to-one tailored support and guidance in identifying the right match for their ambitions.
Year 12/13	Super-curricular engagement A key element of any Oxbridge application is evidence of exploration beyond the A Level curriculum. The Head of Careers runs a weekly club through Year 12 which provides a forum for academic debate and exploration of students' individual interests, at which the following are all promoted: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wider reading – academic reading reflecting the candidate's interests beyond the scope of A Level is the bedrock of a strong Oxbridge application. Reading lists are available in all subjects, and the Head of Careers and Librarian update these regularly to ensure they reflect current developments in different subject areas;• EPQ/ERP – an excellent way of exploring an area of interest which can be referenced on the Personal Statement and at interview, demonstrating independent research and high-level written communication skills.• Lectures/Podcasts – students are encouraged to attend academic lectures and explore podcasts and documentaries related to their subject area;• MOOCs – many universities now run Massive Open Online Courses, providing insight and 'tasters' of university level study and these can introduce students to new ways of thinking and approaching problems;• Essay competitions – many Oxbridge colleges (and other organisations) run competitions in a variety of subject areas, providing stimulating and exciting topics for research. All candidates are encouraged to enter, and in recent years several students have achieved commendations and placings.

Year 12	<p>Practical/work experience</p> <p>For certain subjects, practical engagement is an important element of an application. Medicine is an obvious example, but work experience will also greatly strengthen an application to research science subjects, law or archaeology, among others. Students are supported and encouraged in undertaking relevant work or practical experience, and in reflecting on what they have learnt or taken from their experience.</p>
Year 13	<p>College choice:</p> <p>College choice is always highly personal, and is informed by many factors. Students are encouraged to attend Open Days to get a feel for the different colleges, and are offered support in tailoring their application to the college that offers the best match for them.</p>
Year 12	<p>Personal statement</p> <p>Informed by all the previous activities, the personal statement is a reflection on the student's academic journey, and is an important element of the overall application. Each candidate will receive individualised feedback and one-to-one guidance to ensure they can showcase their potential to its fullest extent.</p>
Year 12/13	<p>Scholars/OWLS programme</p> <p>This forum for scholars and exhibition holders from Wimbledon High School and Oxford High School to engage in academic research, discussion and collaboration creates a community of scholars that encourages students to look far beyond the curriculum.</p>
Year 12/13	<p>Support with pre-admissions testing</p> <p>Students are offered support, advice and guidance with regard to pre-admissions testing; whilst entry to most Oxford courses involves a written examination, at Cambridge the picture is much more fragmented, varying widely by course and college, allowing for a strategic approach which plays to individual strengths. Heads of Department offer subject-specialised preparation for the tests, including timed mocks and personalised feedback sessions. The Head of Careers offers extra support for candidates taking the LNAT and TSA.</p>
Year 13	<p>Interview practice</p> <p>In partnership with Oxford Tutors, all candidates are offered a full practice interview, with detailed written feedback and points for improvement. This is vital in enabling candidates to</p>
Year 11/12/13	<p>One-to-one Guidance</p> <p>Underpinning all of the above is our ongoing commitment to ensuring that all our students find the pathway that offers the best possible match for them and will enable them to thrive, succeed and realise their ambitions beyond school. The Head of Careers, working closely with the Head of Science, is always available to meet with students one-on-one to discuss their options and aspirations throughout the process, and to help them achieve their goals.</p>

Oxford High School
Belbroughton Road
Oxford, OX2 6XA

oxfordhigh.gdst.net



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