The Oxbridge Programme (talk starts at 7pm)

Encouraging and supporting students who wish to apply for Oxford or Cambridge

Mrs Linde (Associate Head of Year)



What is early-entry?

All applicants to the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge have to submit UCAS applications by 15th October each year. This is significantly earlier than the January deadline of most University courses.

Who is involved?

Mr Mottram is the Transition Leader and i/c of UCAS and Early Entry and will offer support and guidance to candidates alongside other members of the Sixth Form Team and Ms Morrison – the Careers Coordinator

Who do we work with?

Students throughout the school who may have the **potential** and the **ambition** to apply to Oxbridge.



Aims of the program

- 1. To identify students who have the potential and the drive / ambition to apply to these institutions or for these courses.
- 2. To support these students throughout their time at Brine Leas Sixth Form so that they have appropriate enrichment and / or work experience to enhance their application.
- 3. To support students with the application process.
- 4. To support students with their preparation for admissions tests and interviews.
- 5. To help students to become aspirational, brave and engaged!



How do we identify students?

- 1. Talk to the students give them a chance to express interest, to come forward, to ask questions.
- 2. Look at GCSE results who are our top achievers?
- 3. Talk to staff who is really shining? Who has the potential to apply to these competitive courses?

Students can declare an interest in Early Entry at any time.



Support in Year 12

- Regular meetings to check progress, answer questions, share relevant articles and engage in discussions.
- Support individual students in developing a program of super-curricular activity and/or work experience (via Ms Morrison).
- Organise speakers and / or events lectures on admissions, talks from students currently at Oxbridge or academic lectures.
- Organise and accompany students on trips to Oxford and Cambridge open days, and to the Oxbridge student conference.
- Encourage and support students in applications to summer schools / competition entries.
- Liaise with subject teachers to ensure the student has personalised support for the course of their choice.

Support in Year 13

- Personal statement writing workshops.
- Individual support with writing personal statements.
- Individual support with the SAQ for Cambridge (Supplementary Application Questionnaire)
- Personalised support for the Oxbridge entrance exams.
- Support with application for the UCAT.
- Support before interview all students will have a 'mock interview' with someone other than their subject tutor before the interview itself.



Typical Requirements

Oxford / Cambridge

Specific requirements per each course and depending on the college, typically A*AA required.

Medicine

Chemistry + Biology + Maths / Physics (AAA)

*Most, but not all medical schools require maths.

Chemistry + Biology plus another (AAA)

Veterinary Science

Biology + 2 others (normally science disciplines) (AAA)

Dentistry

Chemistry + Biology plus another (AAA)

An A or B in EPQ can result in a lower offer from universities. E.g. Sheffield offered places at A A B with A in EPQ for Medicine in recent years.



Typical Requirements – some useful links

- https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/admission-requirements-table?wssl=1
- https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/entrance-requirements
- https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/making-an-application/entry-requirements
- https://university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/what-a-levelsdo-you-need-to-become-a-dentist
- https://www.ucas.com/ucas/subject-guide-list/veterinary-science



Example Summer Schools / Visits / Conferences in recent years have included:

- Pembroke North Super curricular scheme
- Oxford / Cambridge Open days
- Uniq Summer Schools (Oxford)
- Sutton Trust (Research placements)
- Oxbridge Student Conferences (Liverpool)
- Keele Medical Day / Steps2Medicine
- North West Science Network @ Corpus Christi College
- 'Making Maths' @ University of Manchester
- Cambridge University Master Classes
- Application preparation day at a local partner school
- And much, much more.



Deciding where to apply and what to apply for...

- Do your research
- For medicine, veterinary science and dentistry, some institutions are more competitive than others.
- Preference college or open college?
- For Oxford / Cambridge, different colleges may be more/less competitive for certain courses. Tactical applications are common but are unlikely to have a massive impact in increasing the chances of success.

https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/statistics



A history of success

- Brine Leas Sixth Form has a high success rate in terms of students who achieve offers of places on Early Entry courses.
- In the last 3 cohorts, we have had a strong success rate with 8 students achieving offers / places at Oxford / Cambridge on courses including Mathematics, Chemistry, Medicine, Law, and Natural Sciences.
- We have also had great success in terms of Medicine and Veterinary Science with numerous students achieving undergraduate places across the country over the last few years – many of these students come back to support our existing cohorts.



Year 12 Early Entry Roadmap NB - MDV stands for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science Research A Level Courses If you are lucky enough to know what career path you want to follow, research what A level subjects BL6 will best allow you to gain access to an appropriate future pathway. E.g. to become a doctor you will usually need to study Maths, alongside Biology and Chemistry (or an alternative science subject). Identification of Applicants Potential early - entry applicants are identified, Sep / and target grades assessed for suitability Oct against entry requirements where applicable. Advice is given on super-curricular opportunities and work experience requirements for MDV. Applicants are advised to attend course information days / events. Enrichment and Experience This is the time to spend working hard on your Nov courses, as well as applying for, and Apr undertaking super curricular enrichment such as Oxnet schemes, summer schools, research placements and wider reading to name but a Year 12 Exams few. For MDV applicants, work experience should have been sourced and started. Time to work hard revising to make sure you are well-prepared for your Y12 assessments. Apr/ Grades achieved in these assessments are May used to inform your UCAS predicted grade, which will be critical in whether you are successful or not in your future applications. **UCAS Begins** The UCAS course search tool will update to the next May / years' courses early May, allowing you to research June in more detail exact course content and entry requirements, as well as start to lock in which courses / institutions you are going to apply to. We will introduce you to the UCAS process and register Ready to go! all Y12 students for UCAS during June. This would be a good time to start your personal statement and During the final term of Y12 and the summer holidays, it is Jul / you should also look to confirm if any of your likely crucial that early-entry applicants are finalising their Aug choices require pre-admissions assessments. applications as the deadline to submit comes early in Y13 (October 15). This means personal statements should be onto final drafts and UCAS forms should be near-completed. For those courses requiring pre-admissions assessments, we will try to arrange some tuition for those during the final half term - staff availability depending. Some students may be attending summer schools during July / August.



Year 13 Early Entry Roadmap NB - MDV stands for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science **Finalise Applications** UCAS predicted grades from staff will be decided early on in September. These will help you to decide whether an early-entry application is still viable or worthwhile. You make the final decision on whether or not you want to apply. By September you must have completed your UCAS form, including your personal statement, and **Deadline Day** selected your choices. The deadline for October 15th is the deadline for submission of registering for some pre-admissions tests (e.g. UCAT) is late September. early entry applications but the internal deadline is a week before this. Applications will start being sent off this month. The last weekday in October is usually when any college-sat pre-admissions tests will take place (in school). UCAT tests must normally be Invitation to interview taken by the start of October. Invitations to interview will start to come in and Nov interviews take place throughout this period Dec (MDV courses may not invite to interview until the Spring). Interview preparation takes place at BL6 with Offers practice interviews in November / December. MDV applicants will be offered interview support Decisions from Oxford and Cambridge (following by attending practice events / enrolment in interviews) will normally be received starting paid online course. Dec from late December with all decisions normally Jan made by mid January. MDV applications at other institutions may not receive decisions for some time yet and may not yet have had a reply from the initial application. This is normal. Get exam ready! MDV interviews and decisions will continue into the Feb -Spring and may not be concluded until the end of June March, but in the meantime, MDV and Oxbridge students need to focus hard on their studies. Hopefully by now you have completed sufficient work experience / enrichment so now is the time to **Results Day** scale back on this and other comittments and put the hard graft in to achieve the highest grades A Level results day is normally on a Thursday mid-August possible in the May / June exams. Aug and if you achieve the grades you need for your offer, then you are in! Congratulations! If your final grades do not meet the university requirements, then you can accept an offer at an insurance choice, or

support and guidance.

