

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)



Brine Leas School An Academy

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/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-levels-do-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

Research A Level Courses

If you are lucky enough to know what career path you want to follow, research what A level subjects 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).

Enrichment and Experience

This is the time to spend working hard on your courses, as well as applying for, and undertaking super curricular enrichment such as Oxnet schemes, summer schools, research placements and wider reading to name but a few. For MDV applicants, work experience should have been sourced and started.

UCAS Begins

The UCAS course search tool will update to the next years' courses early May, allowing you to research 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 all Y12 students for UCAS during June. This would be a good time to start your personal statement and you should also look to confirm if any of your likely choices require **pre-admissions assessments**.

Pre
BL6

Sep /
Oct

Nov -
Apr

Apr /
May

May /
June

Jul /
Aug

NB - MDV stands for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science

Identification of Applicants

Potential early - entry applicants are identified, and target grades assessed for suitability 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.

Year 12 Exams

Time to work hard revising to make sure you are well-prepared for your Y12 assessments. Grades achieved in these assessments are used to inform your UCAS predicted grade, which will be critical in whether you are successful or not in your future applications.

Ready to go!

During the final term of Y12 and the summer holidays, it is crucial that early-entry applicants are finalising their 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.



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