



OXBRIDGE POLICY (Senior School)

(This document is available on the school website or on request)

Reviewed November 2017

Treatment of our Oxbridge candidates should be viewed as a natural extension of the school's aim to ensure that every pupil is academically stretched and achieves his full potential. In essence, we are seeking to promote differentiation at the top end of our ability range in the context of the particular requirements of Oxbridge and to stretch the most able pupils in the school. Implicit in this policy is an acknowledgement that: a) applying to Oxbridge brings with it unusual and particular demands; b) attending A Level lessons alone will not provide most candidates with sufficient preparation for making a realistic Oxbridge application. Rather, staff and candidates should be aware of the need to broaden and deepen subject knowledge beyond what is currently learnt in the classroom.

More specifically, our Oxbridge policy aims to include the following:

1. early identification, through staff recommendation, of Year 11 pupils who show aptitude and an attitude to learning that may be indicative of later Oxbridge success; these pupils join the Year 11 mentor programme;
2. on-going identification in Year 12 of those students with Oxbridge potential;
3. informing and advising those who wish to proceed regarding their suitability for Oxbridge and their choice of subject, university and college;
4. offering advice regarding additional subject reading, preparation of personal statements and completion of Oxbridge application forms;
5. through additional tutorials and mock interviews, affording our candidates the best possible chance of performing well in any relevant entrance tests (BMAT, ELAT, CAT, MAT, MLAT, PAT, TSA etc) and at interview;
6. those pupils applying for non-A Level courses, such as PPE, Philosophy and Law, to be catered for through a specially tailored in-house mentoring course and, where available, assistance from outside experts;
7. taking advantage of the experience of previous Oxbridge candidates to refine our preparation of current and future candidates by maintaining contact with them;
8. the co-operation, subject knowledge and experience of heads of department and other staff are essential for the school's Oxbridge policy to work

effectively; where specific Oxbridge knowledge experience is felt to be lacking, training opportunities are available to staff;

9. preparing candidates for interview, specifically through practice interviews and, more generally, by encouraging candidates to be well-rounded sixth-formers.

From our Oxbridge candidates, we should expect that:

10. they appreciate the need for independence of approach on their part and proactively research subject / university / college details to allow informed decisions to be made;
11. where possible, they attend at least one college or subject-specific open day at their chosen university;
12. they demonstrate and explore beyond the boundaries of their A Levels, widening and deepening their subject knowledge through additional reading;
13. they show commitment to their application by preparing for and attending extra tutorials when required.