



NORTHWOOD
COLLEGE
FOR GIRLS

GDST

Oxbridge Programme

Oxbridge

With an alumni list featuring Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Oscar Wilde, J.R.R. Tolkein, Sylvia Plath and Margaret Thatcher, it is little wonder that Oxford and Cambridge are two of the most renowned universities across the globe.

Founded in 1209, the University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest universities; whilst teaching at Oxford dates back to 1096 making it the oldest university in the English-speaking world. Outstanding reputations, pioneering research triumphs and unparalleled academic achievements have consistently earned Oxford and Cambridge their top ten positions in the QS World University Rankings.

Throughout their courses, Oxbridge students benefit from being taught by internationally renowned academic researchers who are actively involved in cutting edge research projects and developments. Career prospects are excellent in all fields, from law and medicine to finance and academia.

Gaining a place at Oxbridge

Together with the attainment of A or A* grades at A level and 8 - 9 grades at GCSE, an Oxbridge candidate must clearly demonstrate her true passion for learning about her subject of choice, as well as a genuine dedication to learning for life. Our Oxbridge Programme is designed to assist Year 11 - Year 13 girls on an individual basis in the job of selecting the best subject to take at the best university.

Whether you already aim to go on to Oxbridge, a different university, or are not yet decided, there are opportunities that our Oxbridge Programme provides that will greatly benefit all.

Objectives of the Programme:

- to evolve and develop articulatory skills, clarity and focus
- to develop and nourish intellectual depth
- to improve levels of confidence and resilience
- to advance the ability to formulate ideas and express them coherently
- to cultivate the ability to debate and compose fluent arguments and points of view
- to thoroughly prepare for the application and interview process
- to support each candidate throughout the application and interview process
- to promote academic research through the use of scholarly literature pitched at a university level.



If you would like to take advantage of one or more of the following elements of the programme please contact Mrs Bailey or Mrs Brown.

The Northwood College for Girls' Oxbridge Programme:

- Allocation of your own Oxbridge Mentor
- Opportunity to attend supervised day trips to Oxford and Cambridge
- GDST Oxbridge Conference Weekend (fee applicable) for Year 12 (Summer Term): a two day residential event at an Oxbridge college with presentations by leading figures from the universities and the business world; advice, guidance and direction on interview technique; resilience and confidence building exercises. Specialist courses are available to prepare for pre-interview admissions tests and more specific advice for those wishing to read medicine or law (with courses to help prepare for specialist aptitude tests).
- An Introductory talk by an Oxbridge representative (from one of Northwood College for Girls' link colleges – St Anne's, Oxford or Peterhouse, Cambridge) which focusses on the application and interview process (Spring term)
- Support and guidance for university entrance tests such as the BMAT and UKCAT, STEP papers, ELAT, TSA and others
- Mock interviews with external providers, including academic and industry experts in your chosen field
- A programme of internal mock interviews with Northwood College for Girls' subject specialists
- A mock interview day at Merchant Taylor's School which features a talk by an Oxford or Cambridge representative covering the entry interview; a subject-based group session to review and discuss past interview questions and an individual academic subject specific mock interview with a recent Oxbridge graduate (verbal and written feedback is provided)
- Opportunity to run an extra-curricular club for younger girls in school. This year, Oxbridge applicants have set up Amnesty International Society and a Medical Ethics Society.

- Opportunity to enter one or more of the GDST's Prizes such as:
 - Chrystall Prize for Public Speaking (Year 11)
 - Pearson and Silver Awards for students applying for financial assistance towards the cost of attending courses or carrying out projects with a classical content (Year 12)
 - Johnston Memorial Scholarship for those students intending to read law at university (Year 13)
 - Minerva Prize which is awarded for all-round achievement (Year 13)
 - Nomura Scholarship for students interested in a career in investment banking (Year 13)
- Northwood's very own Bluestocking Society, a weekly discussion group to celebrate and encourage intellectual endeavours, is run by students and staff and are guided by research interests.

Sessions have included:

- Discussions of pertinent questions in science, mathematics, history, politics, literature, music, art and more; along with a termly book club and opportunities for students to present and lead on areas of their own academic interest
- The art and politics of Frida Khalo
- The evolution of Chinese language and culture
- The psychological impact of music

Guidance regarding online courses such as Future Learn, MOOCS, Edex, GCSE Astro and TED Talks.

- Cultural opportunities in dance, music and opera as well as lecture visits.
- We also run a termly Blue Stockings Book Club on current reads such as when 'Breath Becomes Air'



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