ST PETER'S
COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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OXFORD

UNIVERSITY

PROGRAMME OF
REGIONAL SUPPORT
2018/19

St Peter's College, Oxford is linked to schools in this local authority as a regional first point of contact for outreach and academic enrichment. The college would therefore like to offer state schools a programme of work for Key Stages 3, 4 and 5, and their teachers, placed throughout the academic year running 2018/19.

Working across the region helps the University to spread its work effectively and fairly to the schools that fall within it. It is hoped that the events scheduled in your region will be hosted in different locations across the year. Sessions will be delivered free of charge to participants.

Below is an expanded explanation about why we want to provide some of these opportunities in your local authority over the next few months. Details of the times and venues can be found by following the eventbrite link, where reservations for your students can also be made:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/daniel-pugh-bevan-17232942050

Teachers Session for Faculty Leads

What does the session cover?
Resources that may help prepare high-achieving young people from KS3 upwards, an overview of the Oxford admissions process, guidance about personal statements & references, admissions tests support, interview support, and opportunities to give your feedback to representatives from the University.

Why 'Faculty Leads'?
Making a strong application to Oxford involves much more than completing an application form and writing a personal statement. Supporting candidates can go beyond the scope and role of the UCAS co-ordinator. In the course of sitting admissions tests and undertaking academic interviews candidates may be required to demonstrate their ability to see a problem through the lens of other disciplines; i.e. a candidate applying for music may have to tackle historical or philosophical issues, a candidate applying for chemistry may be faced with complicated chemical problems that can be seen more simply from a mathematical point of view. We hope this session will provide an opportunity for leaders from across each school to come together to workshop ways in which we can all support able students both from KS3 upwards to the point of application.

Year 13 Interview Workshop (KS5)

Who is this for?
Candidates who have submitted an application to study at a university that requires them to undertake and academic interview. (for Oxford, Cambridge, and UK Medical Schools the deadline is October 15).

What does the session cover?
The session provides an overview of the interview process at Oxford and will include a mock interview for applicants to review. Depending on the availability of former members of the University who live in the region the session may also include opportunities for subject-specific workshops.

Why is this session important?
Shortlisted candidates need to perform strongly in the academic interviews they undergo in order to secure a place at Oxford. The interview is not the be-all-and-end-all but does help admissions tutors in reaching their decisions among a range of different admissions criteria. Practise and preparation are important. We hope that the workshop, by providing opportunities to meet with representatives of the University, current and former undergraduate students, will also help to put the applicant's mind at rest ahead of the interview exercise in December.

'OXPLORE' & competitive Universities (KS3)

What does the session cover?

The aims of this session are to build aspiration towards studying at competitive universities and to build the skills necessary to make a competitive application to institutions like Oxford in the future. The session utilises Oxford's online portal 'OXPLORE' to encourage participants to use their reasoning and debating skills.

Who is this session for?

This session will bring participating young people into contact with young people from other local schools. They will debate topics that have been designed to demonstrate that most courses at Oxford require an inter-disciplinary approach to study.

Why is this session important?

In Year 13 students who apply to Oxford will need to undertake at least one academic interview. Some applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds have underdeveloped verbal reasoning skills and sometimes struggle perform well in an interview scenario. Familiarity with verbal reasoning helps prepare applicants for the way in which we teach at Oxford. This first step aims to demonstrate to young people that they have the ability to perform well in an interview scenario. They will be provided with some resources and ideas for further exploration.

Academic Carousels

What does the session cover?

These sessions are offered to a range of age groups to help promote the ways in which studying at school is different to university. Participants will be exposed to a balanced range of one hour-long academic taster sessions led by academics from Oxford.

Why is this session important?

Students from disadvantaged backgrounds apply disproportionately for three of the most oversubscribed courses at Oxford (Medicine, Law, Economics and Management). We want to demonstrate to young people how course choice does not reflect career choice, and to encourage participants to continue working hard at the subjects they care about, are good at, and enjoy.

Options Workshops and University Course Choice

What does the session cover?

Some schools have requested that the college develops a session about the importance of GCSEs. In the session we try to show participants how their options choices at GCSE may impact their future career path and where subject combinations can lead to beyond school.

Why is this session important?

Some talented young people make GCSE options choices that limit their choices at A Level and subsequently impact the courses they are eligible to apply for at University. This session provides an opportunity to show young people how leading institutions use this academic information, to dispel myths, and to encourage aspiration.

We hope that this programme of work puts talented young people in touch with other like-minded people living in their local area. But there is much more going on across the University; please get in touch if you would like to enquire about work that is being delivered in Oxford and other areas of the United Kingdom that may be of interest to the young people you interact with. For full details of such events please visit: www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/visiting-and-outreach/outreach-events?wssl=1

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