



Welcome to ASPIRE



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

What is the ASPIRE PROGRAMME?

It provides bespoke support to our students who want to apply to Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge



ASPIRE Programme Tutors



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Humanities



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STEM



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Hanner**
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Joining the ASPIRE programme

- Students with a strong GCSE profile (currently 7.2) are invited to join the Aspire programme with a view to applying to Russell Group universities
- Progression is key. Students who have lower scores on entry will be identified after Year 1 exams and invited to join the programme.

What does the programme offer?

- A specialist tutorial group early in the Spring Term with students in their potential subject area (either Humanities/Soc. Sci. or STEM).
- Students begin with super-curricular activities (summer school applications, competitions, independent reading and research) and keep a journal of all these activities.
- They are guided through the process of selecting a subject and institution (and often a particular college in the case of Oxbridge applications).



Other Activities

Open days, public lectures, seminars

Meeting offer holders from the Upper Sixth

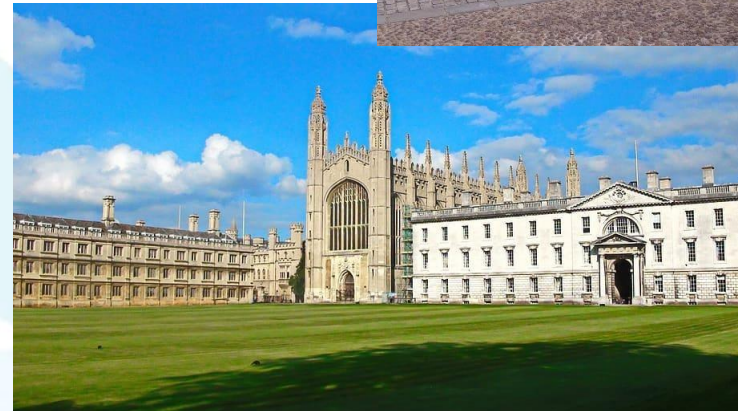
Meeting Varndean alumni

Visits to Churchill, Cambridge and St. John's, Oxford

Oxbridge Applications

Students are given specialist guidance on preparing for the application process (practice entrance papers, mock interviews, personal statement advice).

They are supported up to the outcome of the application - and beyond.



Applications and Typical Offers - Oxbridge

- GCSE scores
- Essays
- Personal statement
- Reference
- Admissions tests
- Interviews

It's worth bearing in mind that many other top institutions require very similar entry grades.

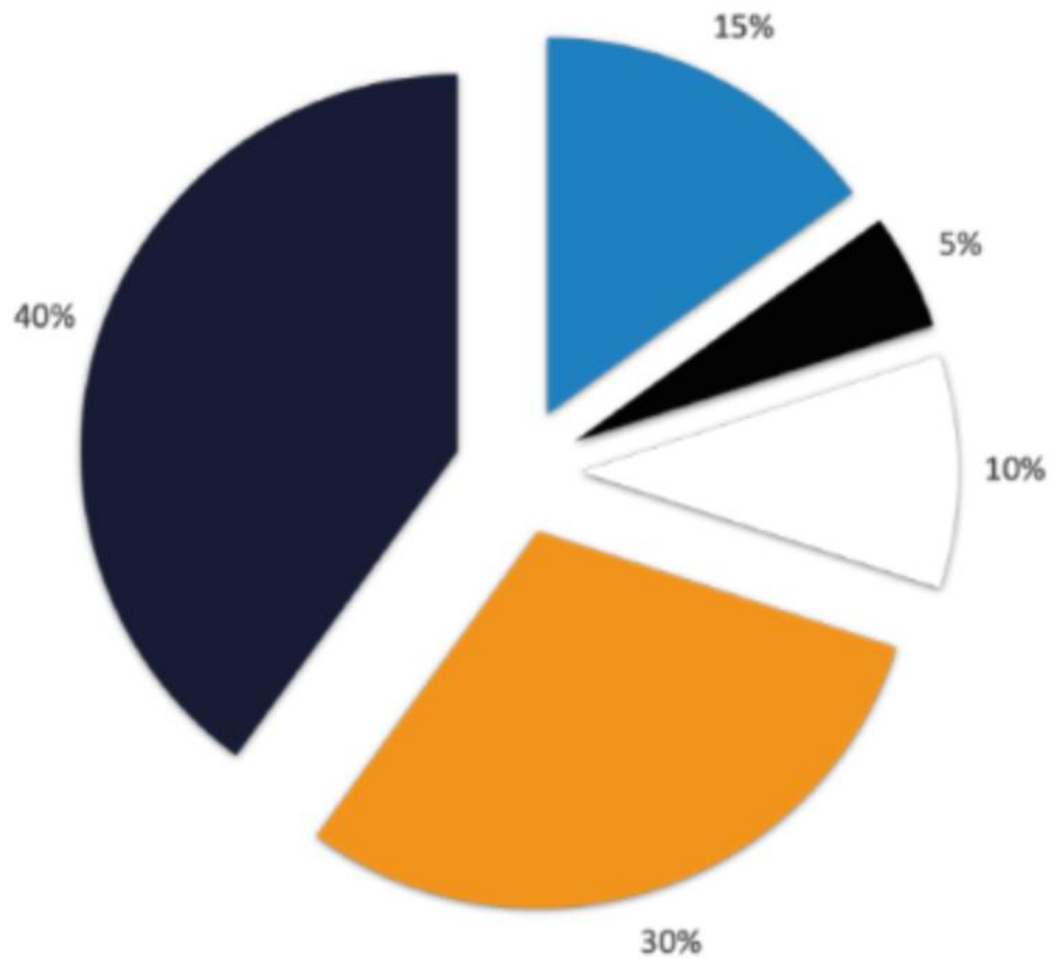
Oxford

- A level AAA or A*AA in Maths and Sciences
- A Level A*AA Humanities
- IB 38 + 666 or 766 at HL

Cambridge

- A level A*AA or A*A*A in Maths and Sciences
- A Level A*AA Humanities
- IB 41-42 + 776 at HL

Weighting



● GCSE Scores
● Interview

● A level Predictions

● Personal Statement

● Admissions Test Score

Applications to Colleges and Open Applications



32 colleges admit undergraduates at Oxford; 29 at Cambridge.

Varndean College students receive offers and places at a wide range via both application routes, and over the last five years, entry to each university has been about equal in numbers.

Oxford and Cambridge - Where to Apply

- Both universities state that there is no advantage to choosing a college over an open application.
- Both universities publish ratios of applicants to places by college and by subject.
- Some colleges actively promote direct application more than others:
- Cambridge : Homerton; Lucy Cavendish; Girton; Murray Edwards.
- Oxford : University College; Mansfield.



ASPIRE programme schedule

February Programme begins with a focus on academic interests and aspirations

- March- July Open days; decide on universities
- March – September Keep journal of extracurricular activities
- June - October Practice admission tests
- July Writing the personal statement
- September 28th College deadline for completed Oxbridge applications
- October 15th Oxbridge deadline
- October 31st Admission tests for Cambridge, Oxford
- December Interviews
- December Deadline for Russell Group
- January 9th Decisions; pool interviews at Cambridge

Oxbridge - Varndean College Alumni



Previous School
Hurstpierpoint College

International Baccalaureate
Diploma
Achieved 43 points

Destination
Biomedical Sciences
University of Oxford

Maddi Burgess Smith



Previous School
Our Lady of Sion

International Baccalaureate
Diploma
Achieved 41 points

Destination
Psychological & Behavioural Sciences
University of Cambridge

Flora Burleigh



Previous School
Davison CE School

International Baccalaureate
Diploma
Achieved 40 points

Destination
Law
University of Oxford

Amelia MacLeod



Previous School
Varndean School

A Level Results
English Literature A*
Modern History A*
Maths A
+EPQ A*

Destination
History & Politics,
University of Cambridge

Nell Breckenridge

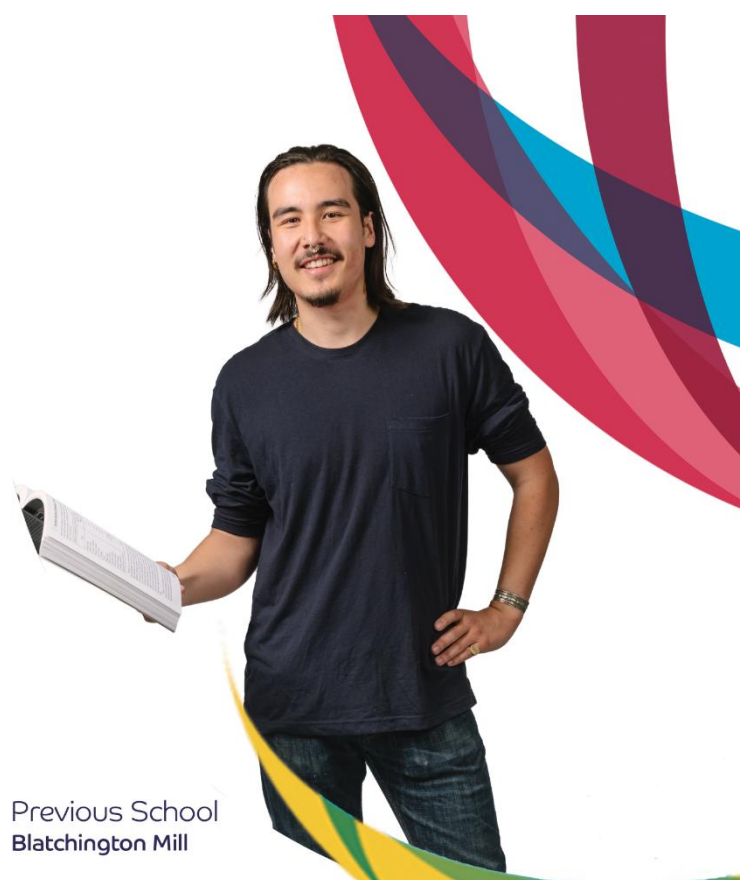


Previous School
Oathall Community College

International Baccalaureate
Diploma
Achieved 44 points

Destination
Engineering
University of Cambridge

Ella Tingley



Previous School
Blatchington Mill

A Level Results
Philosophy A*
Modern History A*
Classical Civilisation A*

Destination
Classical Archaeology & Ancient
History, University of Oxford

Bo-Min Ryu

Russell Group - Varndean College Alumni



Previous School
Patcham High

A Level Results
Textiles A*
Classical Civilisation A
Early Modern History A
+ EPQ (A)

Destination
Classical Civilisation
University of Warwick

Lydia Rae

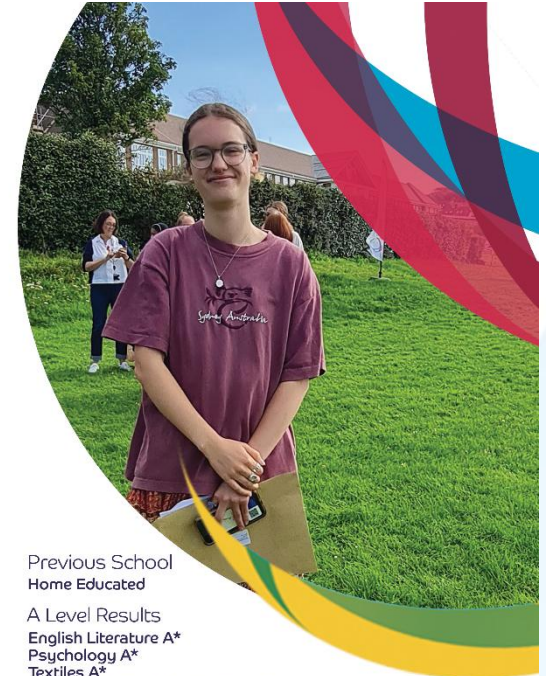


Previous School
Hove Park School

International Baccalaureate
Diploma
Achieved 42 points

Destination
Economics, Politics & International Studies
University of Warwick

Deneb Marden-Rull



Previous School
Home Educated

A Level Results
English Literature A*
Psychology A*
Textiles A*
Extended Project Qualification A*

Destination
English Literature
University of Sheffield

Madeline Archer



Previous School
Varndean School
A Level Results
Politics A*
Law A*
French A
Extended Project Qualification A*
Destination
Politics
University of Edinburgh

Helena Zdziech



Previous School
Dorothy Stringer
A Level Results
Modern History A
Politics A
Classical Civilisation B
Extended Project Qualification A
Destination
History,
University of Manchester

Jacob Haslam



Previous School
Oathall Community College
International Baccalaureate
Diploma
Achieved 39 points
Destination
Mathematics, University of York

Michelle Lin



Varndean
Sixth Form College

Visit our website at

www.varndean.ac.uk