Aim for Oxford

St Anne’s and Christ Church are working together as two of the University of Oxford’s link colleges for the North East of England. Our ambition is that Oxford should be the home of choice for the brightest and most ambitious students from all backgrounds. We believe that a diverse student population is the best student population and that diversity in itself is a rich source of learning. We are committed to increasing applications from students from less advantaged socio-economic backgrounds and ethnic minority groups that are currently under-represented at Oxford. Aim for Oxford – a programme for ambitious sixth formers in the North East - is one of the ways that we will do this.
Between 2015 and 2017, 36504 applicants applied to Oxford for undergraduate study, of which 733 were from the North East. Of these North East applicants, 204 received offers – a success rate of 27.8% - notably higher than the overall UK success rate of 24%! The North East contains 4.1% of the UK population but only 2.3% of the Oxford undergraduate student body is from the region. We know that we are missing out on some incredibly bright North East students and more needs to be done to attract students from this region.

The North East Consortium offers funded residential stays at the University’s Open Days for students and teachers from North East state schools, allowing them to travel to Oxford and stay for two nights completely free of charge, learning more about the University, its courses and how to apply. Outreach Officers from St Anne’s, Christ Church and Trinity also travel to our link regions to give information and guidance sessions, including interview workshops. All this work is supported by generous donations and last year over 3,200 state school pupils benefitted.

Oxford's colleges are working with students in state schools across the UK. St Anne’s, Christ Church and Trinity colleges make up the North East Consortium and through the consortium offer events aimed at secondary school students from Year 7 to Year 13. The consortium introduces younger students to Oxford and higher education in general and provides more specific support for sixth formers on making applications to Oxford and other competitive universities. The North East is the most under-represented English region amongst Oxford undergraduates and so it is particularly important to us to ensure that we are not missing out on talented students who could benefit from the opportunity to study at Oxford.

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The colleges' current interactions with schools are important for maintaining positive relationships and providing a key point of contact with the University. However, in addition to maintaining a core level of outreach provision across the region, a new programme is being launched: Aim for Oxford.
St Anne’s College, in partnership with Christ Church, is now launching a more targeted high-intensity two-year long programme, working with a cohort of young people in a sustained manner. This programme will support disadvantaged, high achieving state school applicants from the point that they get their GCSE results through to making strong applications for, and then arriving at, Oxford.

**Application Process**

**Sept - mid-Oct**

Pupils entering Year 12 of a state school in the North East of England will be eligible to apply. Selection for places will be on the basis of contextualised educational achievement at GCSE and one or more of the following widening participation criteria:

- A POLAR postcode score of 1 or 2 or an ACORN postcode score of 4 or 5
- Eligibility for free school meals
- From an ethnic minority background which is underrepresented at Oxford
- Among the first generation in their family to go to university
- Have been, or currently are in, care
- Young carers

Information in short personal statements and teachers references will also be taken into account. Students can register their interest in the programme throughout summer 2019, with applications opening in September.

**Successful Oxford applicants from the first cohort of Aim for Oxford will commence their studies at the University of Oxford in October 2021.**
‘This ambitious and exciting new initiative will provide talented students from the North East with insights and the best possible support so that they can aim for Oxford. We are looking forward to working with schools, students, and the local community to open up the University, and reaching those students we are missing out on at the moment.’

Helen King – St Anne’s College Principal

Ways to get involved

Follow, share and re-tweet us on social media, Facebook and Twitter
@stannescollege @stannesoutreach @ChCh_Access @OxOutreach

Get in touch with us at outreach@st-annes.ox.ac.uk or access.officer@chch.ox.ac.uk with any comments or queries about Aim for Oxford.

If you know someone who would like to be involved or who should consider applying to study here, please tell them about Aim for Oxford and encourage them to get in touch.

Applications open at the beginning of September 2019, but students can register their interest in the programme now to receive email updates: http://bit.ly/aimforoxford

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Our Values

FORWARD LOOKING & OUTWARD FACING  •  DIVERSE & MULTIDISCIPLINARY
AMBITIOUS & DOWN-TO-EARTH  •  INDEPENDENT & COLLABORATIVE  •  RIGOROUS & SUPPORTIVE