

High Achievers' Academy

Information Evening

Programme

18:00 - Welcome and Introductions (*Sundial Theatre*)

18:10 - Split into 2 groups, Parents & Students

18:10 - 18:45 - Parents (*Sundial Theatre*)

- Higher Education - Key Issues
- High Achievers Academy Programme

18:15 - 18:45 – Students (*J270*)

- What the Student needs to know
- Tips from present and former HAA students

18:45 - 19:30 – Questions (*Sundial Theatre*)

- High Achievers' staff available for any questions



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Why apply to Oxford, Cambridge or Russell Group Universities?

Is this the right path for you?

Some context

- Around 40% of young people now go to university
- Universities are looking at more and more applicants who look increasingly similar.
- In order to get a place, candidates can't just think in terms of meeting the entry criteria: that just puts them in the race, it doesn't mean they'll win a place.



What is a selective university & which universities are we talking about?

Russell Group

Traditionally the 24 'top' most competitive universities to get into – includes the likes of Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol and Imperial

Sutton Trust top 30 Selective Universities

Includes Russell Group plus the likes of Bath, Royal Holloway, Surrey

Top third or Times list

Includes the above plus the likes of Sussex, Aston, Kent



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Advantages

- Outstanding reputation for teaching, research and learning nationally and internationally
- Teaching based on small groups and tutorials at Oxbridge
- Employment prospects
- Excellent facilities
- College system



Disadvantages

- Capricious nature of selection process
- Traditional and at times narrow/unsuitable choice of courses
- Pressure of learning with the elite
- Greater assessment by examination

Different Application Process for Oxbridge

- Deadline earlier – 15 October
- You apply to a College, although open applications are possible
- Pre-admissions tests
- Interviews for all courses in December
- Offers are made early January



Oxbridge Outreach

- A number of Virtual Outreach Opportunities aimed at Year 11 and Parents
- *Introduction to Supracurricular Exploration*
- *Bridging The Gap Between GCSE and A levels*
- *Introduction to Cambridge and the admissions process*
- [Webinar Series | Lucy Cavendish \(cam.ac.uk\)](https://www.cam.ac.uk)



What else do they look for

- Powerful performance at interview
- Academic and intellectual potential
- Check College and Faculty prospectuses for additional criteria



Super-curricular

- Read extra books or articles
- Attend summer schools or lectures
 - Complete extra projects
- Subject or career focused work experience

Extra-curricular

- Hobbies
- Part time jobs
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Volunteering



Choices

- University websites often have guidance on the types of subjects they like to see.
- Get your information ‘from the horse’s mouth’!
- If you are thinking about a specific course then check its entry requirements.
 - If you want to do Medicine you need to be taking Biology and Chemistry
 - Some Economics and Psychology courses require Maths
 - If you’re not so certain on what degree then try to have at least two “facilitating subjects” - “Russell Group Informed Choices”



Russell Group

- You apply through UCAS
- Early application is advised
- Offers are usually high
- Some courses/universities interview
- Check teaching grades
- Are they offering the best fit of course for you?



What do you need from a Post 16 provider?

- A focused Oxbridge/Russell support programme
- Oxbridge tutors who can give individual and informed advice
- A centre who have a good relationship with a number of these universities
- Knowing what Admissions Tutors want



What do you need from a Post 16 provider?

- A really well organized HE programme
- Dedicated trips, speakers and mock interviews
- Well written references and quality guidance with the personal statements
- Contact with existing Oxbridge/Russell Group students

HE = Higher Education



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Some Worries

The Image...



The Reality...

