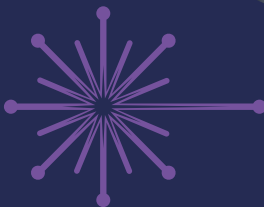


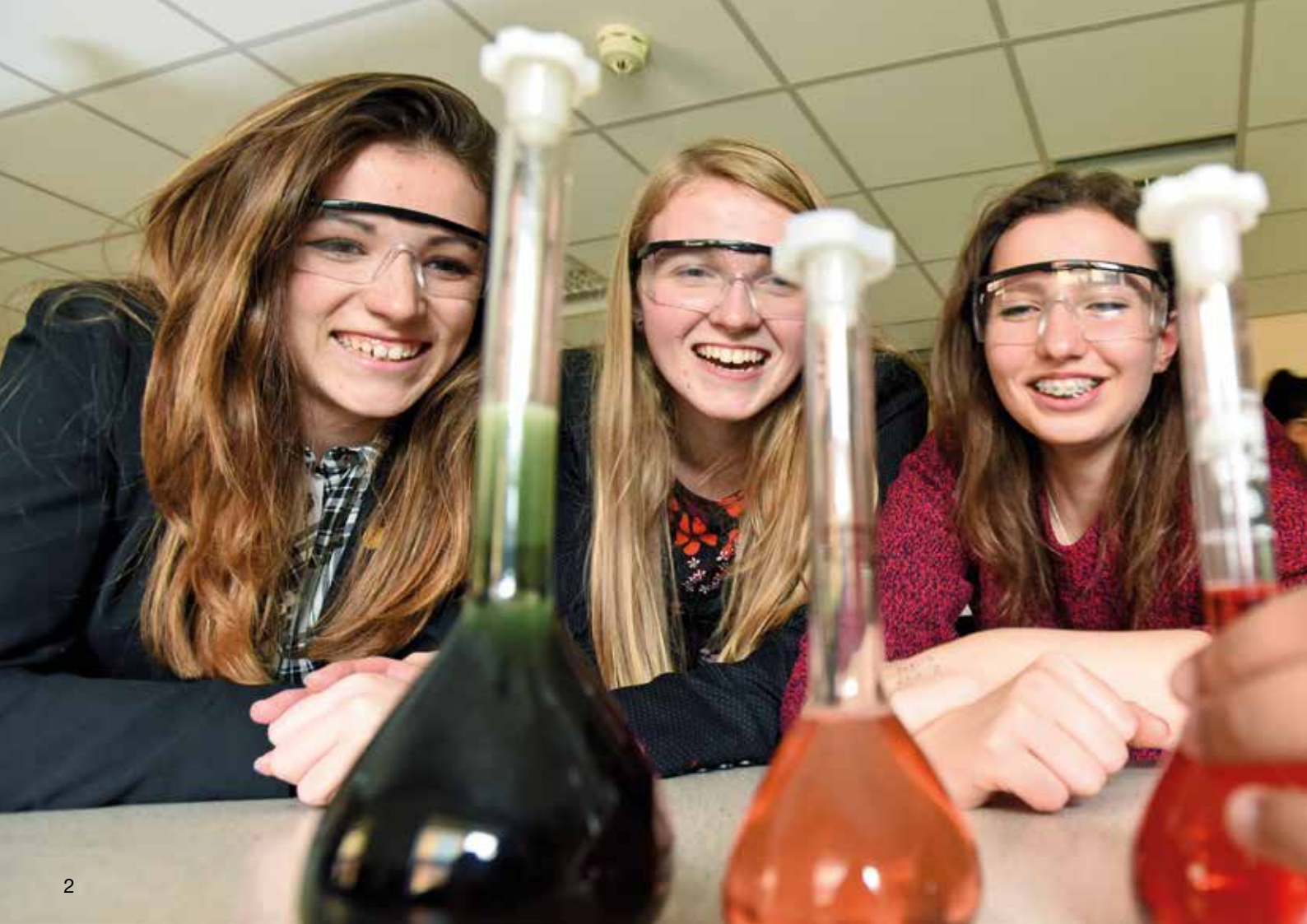


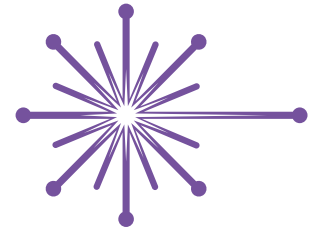
THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST



UNIVERSITY EARLY ENTRY PROGRAMME





THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

## RAISING ASPIRATIONS, BROADENING HORIZONS, SUPPORTING CHOICES: YOUR JOURNEY

Our goal at The Priory Academy LSST is to see every student achieve their academic potential and reach their chosen destination after leaving our school community. For many of our students, this means moving on to further study on competitive courses at competitive universities. This might be anything from studying Medicine at Newcastle, Engineering at Cambridge or Japanese Studies at Oxford. It is our aim to support and prepare each individual to ensure that they have the best chance of being successful in achieving their dreams.

Academy Values: Aspiration, Inspiration, Respect, Resilience, Innovation

A photograph of students in a classroom, wearing school uniforms (dark suits, light blue shirts, and dark ties). They are seated at green desks, looking at papers and materials on their desks. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue diagonal overlay on the left side.

## YEARS 7 AND 8: START YOUR JOURNEY

The finishing line for the student might be realised on A-Level results day in August of Year 13, but the journey begins well before then. For those who are already interested in these competitive courses, our guidance starts in Year 8, when our advice to students and parents/carers helps to ensure that appropriate GCSE subjects are selected during the options process.

We also begin to offer STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activities to the year group as a whole, together with more targeted events supported by Oxford University. At this stage, it is most important that the individuals concerned really enjoy their learning and start to investigate their ideas outside the classroom. They should seek out interesting authors or presenters, watching or listening to media programmes and reading extensively about their subject.

Budding Mathematicians or scientists should take part in national competitions such as the Maths Challenge. This personal interest can be infectious and lead others to raise their own aspirations, too.



## YEARS 9 AND 10: FOLLOW THE SIGNS

In Years 9 and 10, we start to broaden the outlook of our students, with study days and activities in less well-known subject areas. Recent events have included Russian Studies at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, and a Classics, Archaeology and Ancient History Day delivered by Oxford University lecturers here at the Academy. In addition, those interested in Science and Medicine have visited the University of Birmingham to engage in lectures and activities geared towards these areas.

We feel it is important that our students get a better understanding of the diversity of undergraduate opportunities available to them before they start to fix their ideas on one or two particular fields. It is also during this time that we arrange sessions explaining how both Cambridge and Oxford universities are organised and how the Oxbridge and Early Entry admissions processes differ from other institutions and courses.

# Things to Do in Oxford



## YEAR 11: KEEP STRAIGHT ON

As students get closer to their goal, the activities offered as part of the Early Entry programme become more focussed.

In the first few months of Year 11, students and parents/carers are encouraged to attend LSST's Sixth Form Open Evening, where they can discuss subject choices with teachers from all the different subject faculties in the Academy. At that time, we also give a presentation to parents to provide more details about the Early Entry process, which enables them to support their children in making decisions about their future direction.

After Christmas, all Year 11 students are interviewed by the Sixth Form Team on a one-to-one basis, to discuss their options for Post-16 study. Students are encouraged at this time to inform us that they are aspiring either to Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science. Advice can be much more targeted, and we provide guidance on A-Level choices and beneficial extra-curricular activities, such as work experience, wider reading or online courses.

Further trips and visits are organised to Oxford or Cambridge and, just before Easter, those who express an interest are invited to the Lincolnshire Schools' Oxbridge Conference. This annual event is organised and hosted by The Priory Academy LSST and attracts more than 500 students and teachers from across the county. It provides students with the opportunity to hear directly from Admissions Tutors, Subject Leaders, Schools' Liaison Officers and current Oxbridge undergraduates about the reality of applying for and studying at these prestigious, world-class universities.

As a consequence of these experiences, we hope students have a clear understanding of the performance needed to make a competitive application to these courses and institutions, allowing them to focus all their attention on their GCSEs with an informed view of the opportunities beyond Year 11.

**Settle into secondary education**  
**Enjoy learning a range of academic subjects**  
**Perform well academically**



**Select appropriate options for GCSE**



**YEAR 7**

**YEAR 8**

**YEARS 9 & 10**

**Commence studies at The Priory Academy LSST**



**Consolidate academic performance**  
**Develop independent learning skills**  
**Identify areas of personal interest**  
**Explore university courses**







**Prepare for GCSE success**  
**Research A-Level choices**  
**Consider university subjects or wider fields**

**YEAR 11**



**YEAR 12**

**Apply to university courses**  
**Prepare for tests and assessments**  
**Practise interview skills**  
**Receive offers**  
**Complete A-Levels**

**YEAR 13**



**Settle into A-Level studies**  
**Read widely around the subject**  
**Attend subject taster events and open days**  
**Undertake work experience for medicine**



**Complete studies at the Academy**

## YEAR 12: TAKE THE RIGHT DIRECTION

After GCSE results are published staff will, where necessary, have face-to-face meetings with students and their parents/carers, to ensure A-Level subject choices remain appropriate for each individual. At the start of Year 12, all students will be asked if they wish to join the Early Entry programme, and those who do will take part in weekly meetings to discuss extra study opportunities (including Massive Open Online Courses – MOOCs), to conduct independent research and to prepare and deliver presentations to one another.

Those students who are pursuing the Medicine and Dentistry route will begin a weekly lesson with specialist staff, in order to be prepared for the United Kingdom Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) the following summer. In addition, we

will aim to support these students in securing work experience and voluntary positions, so they may better understand the nature of work in a healthcare setting and further enhance their own interpersonal skills. In the past, this has included GP placements organised with Nottingham University, and work experience placements in Lincoln County Hospital.

Throughout Year 12, our close links with several universities allow us to organise extra-curricular activities to support the needs of our students, whether that is Interview Practice Sessions with Newcastle University or Physics workshops at Lincoln University. All our students are encouraged to apply for subject taster days, summer schools and workshops to

support their development into well-read, thoughtful and academically able candidates. This includes traditional subjects such as History, Law, Engineering and Physics as well as lesser-known fields such as Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic or History of Art.

At the start of the summer term in Year 12, heads of department will be asked to identify their top performing students, in order to ensure any individuals who have begun to thrive in the Sixth Form but who had not previously considered Oxbridge as a possible higher education destination are not neglected. At this stage, each faculty will put in place a short programme of enhanced, subject-specific learning and challenge to further prepare all those who are targeting a competitive course.

At the end of Year 12, we ask all our potential Early Entry students to submit at least one draft of their UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) personal statement, so that feedback can be given before the summer vacation.

Over the six weeks, many will take part in relevant work experience, a Nuffield Research Placement, subject-based Summer Schools (including those run by UNIQ and the Sutton Trust) or simply independent study. This will help inform their application in Year 13. Medicine and Dentistry applicants will also take their UKCAT examinations.





## YEAR 13:

### YOU HAVE ARRIVED AT YOUR CHOSEN DESTINATION

The Early Entry applications process begins in earnest in the first few days of Year 13. Applications need to be completed by 15th October, by which time all the accompanying information, including school references and personal statements, must be finished. Alongside their UCAS applications, some Medicine applicants will be preparing for the Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT), with teaching and supported study during registration time in the Autumn Term.

Once applications are made, all students are offered a programme of practice interviews with a range of relevant staff within the Academy, from subject specialists to the CEO of the Priory Federation of Academies.

All Cambridge applicants will be asked to complete a Supplementary Application Questionnaire (SAQ) by 22nd October, all of which will be checked by the Early Entry team. Oxford and Cambridge also have a range of tests and assessments, many of which are done in school in early November, around the same time as the BMAT. Subject departments support the students in their preparation for these tests and also in the collation of any written work which needs to be submitted to the different colleges.

Oxbridge applicants who succeed in the process described above will be called for interview in December and will learn by mid-January whether they have been successful in receiving an offer. Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science applications are processed over many months, with some interviews taking place as late as February and March. Offers are generally made by 31st March, although some are occasionally a little later.

All offer holders are invited to share their experiences with those in Year 11 and 12 during the Oxbridge Conference at the end of March, where their personal accounts encourage the younger students to follow in their footsteps.

Although only a proportion of our Early Entry students are successful in their application to Oxford and Cambridge, the majority of the group end up going to other first-class institutions, including places such as Durham University, Imperial College and The London School of Economics, where they ultimately achieve high levels of success. A number of our students have even been selected for the Sutton Trust United States programme, potentially leading to a full scholarship on a degree course at a prestigious American university.

## UNIVERSITY YEARS: RETURN JOURNEYS

The start of their university studies is not the end of our students' involvement with The Priory Academy LSST. Not only do they come back to support the Lincolnshire Schools' Oxbridge Conference, but they also help in the interview practice in Year 13. Our alumni are often in email contact with current students, helping them understand the application process and supporting them in their preparations.

Our undergraduates regularly meet up with the Early Entry team during holidays back in Lincoln and our staff even get invited to visit them in both Oxford and Cambridge, attending Formal Dinners and catching up with their progress. There is a strong sense of community among our alumni and their desire to be involved with upcoming students springs from their recognition of the value of the help they received.

The Academy team has many years' experience of working with students in the Sixth Form, assisting in completing their UCAS documentation and applying to opportunities beyond school. In addition, we have established good working relationships with a wide range of universities, whether that be with admission tutors, schools' liaison officers or subject faculty personnel. This allows us to give up-to-date advice that takes into account new developments in the fast-changing field of higher education, resulting in clear guidance for choices at each stage of a student's progress through our academy.

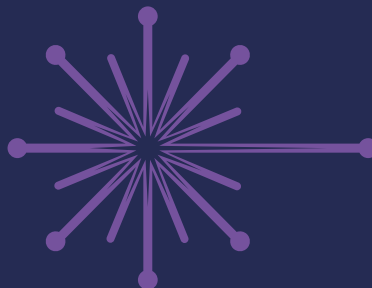
The whole Early Entry support programme at The Priory Academy LSST is focussed on helping our students find subjects about which they are passionate, so that they can study those subjects at world renowned universities and ultimately realise their dreams.



# UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS



take your breath



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