

# Teacher News

Autumn  
2016



A regular update on the access and schools liaison work of University College, Oxford.

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# Welcome to Univ's Teacher News

It has been an exhilarating six months from the point of view of University College's schools liaison and access work. As well as a series of study days and open days aimed to allow students from all backgrounds to explore their options, we have continued our programme of Year 10-11 taster days which seek to demystify Oxford University and raise aspirations.

In addition to this, the College hosted the UNIQ summer school for four weeks this summer. This is the only official University of Oxford summer school ([www.uniq.ox.ac.uk](http://www.uniq.ox.ac.uk)) and over 150 of the 850 total UNIQ students made a home in Univ's brand new en suite accommodation block.

We also launched an ambitious new scheme – **the Univ Opportunity Programme** – as part of our serious commitment to widening access to Oxford to students regardless of any prior educational disadvantage. During the admissions process in 2016/17, up to 10 additional places will be offered to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The aim of the scheme is to ensure that very deserving students of high potential who come from disadvantaged backgrounds, but who might otherwise miss out on a place at Oxford due to the sheer number of applications, have the chance to study



here. Another aspect of the scheme comes in the form of targeted academic support provided by a summer bridging course to ensure that they are able to transition effectively to high-level university study. We recognise that many students from disadvantaged backgrounds may not have had the opportunity to broaden and deepen their academic skills and experience beyond the school curriculum. Please see [our website](#) for further information.

If you have any questions, or are interested in working with University College, Oxford, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

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You are receiving this newsletter because you are registered on University College's database of schools and teachers.

Univ has a dynamic and comprehensive range of schools liaison and access initiatives and this newsletter provides information about admissions developments and upcoming opportunities for your students.

# Looking back... Summer 2016

The summer term was a hive of activity for the students and outreach team at Univ. Take a sneak peak here...

## Medical Sciences Study Day

At the close of the summer term fifty Year 12s experienced a taster of the Medical Sciences at Univ. There was a large range of topics available on the day—from finding out about the Hypoxia research associated with University College for 350 years, to exploring whether we can or should pursue a “cure” for Autism. In addition to meeting Univ’s excellent teaching staff, the attendees also met some current students, had a tour of the College and ate lunch in our dining hall.

Univ’s study days cover multiple disciplines, meaning they are the perfect opportunity for students to explore a range of potential degrees subjects, particularly those like Medicine which are not taught at school.

Please check out the programme of 2017 Study days over the page and encourage talented students to apply.

### What the students say:

“I really enjoyed the study day, it gave me a better insight into not only medical sciences at Oxford, but also life at University College.”

“Thank you very much for organising this. I enjoyed it thoroughly.”



Students in lectures and discussion sessions

## Univ’s “Roadshow” to Stoke-on-Trent

June 2016 saw a team of 6 ambassadors along with the Schools Liaison and Access Officer run our annual Roadshow in Stoke. We worked with sixteen schools and met 400+ students over the 4 days. For the first time this year, two days were hosted at local Sixth Form Colleges and provided whole day experiences for Year 9-10 students. Hosted in venues which demonstrated a potential next step for them, the students could also look forward to their university options. They took part in a Philosophy taster session, a subject choice workshop and a session to develop their critical thinking skills.



The 2016 Univ Roadshow team!

We would love to partner further with Sixth Form Colleges or with groups of schools to provide full day university experiences for Year 9 and 10 students.

Please get in touch with Nelli if you are interested.

## University of Oxford Open Days

The summer saw the College take part in 3 Open Days. Meeting such a large number of interested students is always a yearly highlight for the tutors and students at Univ. Guests had College tours and could ask questions of current students. Talks from Univ’s Senior Tutor (who heads up admissions in the College) and the Schools Liaison and Access Officer gave visitors clear information about making a competitive application to Oxford.

28-29 Jun  
& 15 Sep



Don’t forget to mark out the dates for 2017 Open Days in your diaries. Students can visit individually or get specific application advice. Teachers can also bring whole groups on a school trip. Check out [ox.ac.uk/opendays](http://ox.ac.uk/opendays) as a full schedule is released in Spring next year.

See over the page for details of our 2017 events...



# How can we help you...

## Have a Univ Ambassador to visit

Univ has a team of undergraduate students who volunteer as 'Ambassadors'. They are a friendly and enthusiastic bunch who assist with the various school and student events that the College runs. Ambassadors run tours and Q&A sessions on our taster days and are always keen to meet students considering Oxford University.

They are also trained to run their own visits to schools. They are excellent role models and in a superb position to be able to demystify University for younger year groups, or respond honestly to those

questions which sixth form students can often be reluctant to ask their teachers or parents.

To see if a Univ Ambassador lives locally to your school, please get in touch with Nelli ([access@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:access@univ.ox.ac.uk)).



## Year 10 and 11 Taster Days

University College offers a series of days each term for small groups of Year 10-11 students.

Year 10 and 11 can be an excellent time to start hearing about the different options available at Higher Education. We really hope that experiencing Oxford first hand, finding out about how students study and spend their time, and where they live, will inspire students to aim high.

Contact Nelli to express an interest in bringing a group from your school on 01865 286565 or [access@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:access@univ.ox.ac.uk).

### 2017 Spring & Summer Taster Day programme

- 25 Jan
- 8 Feb
- 10 Feb
- 22 Feb
- 3 Mar
- 7 Mar
- 28 Apr
- 3 May
- 18 May

## Year 12 Study Days

We offer a series of subject based Study Days consisting of taster lectures and interactive classes. These are aimed at giving Year 12 students across the UK an experience of a selection of subjects as well as providing pointers for them to explore their subjects outside school.

More information and details of how to apply on our Website. Application processes generally open at least two months prior to the study day.



### 2017 Year 12 Study Days

<b>PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)</b>	14 February
<b>Maths, Physics and Engineering</b>	20 February
<b>English and History</b>	26 April
<b>Medical Sciences</b> (Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Biochemistry and Psychology)	12 May
<b>Ancient Civilisations</b> (Classics, Ancient History and Egyptology)	15 June

### Feedback from 2016:

"Thank you so much for such an amazing day - was unsure about day beforehand, but you provided such an informative, fascinating and exciting day!!"

"It was a thoroughly useful and interesting experience giving an enjoyable insight into Oxford uni life. Would definitely recommend."

For more info see our website: [univ.ox.ac.uk/content/activities-and-events](http://univ.ox.ac.uk/content/activities-and-events)

## Other events...

We would also love to hear from you about other ways we can support you in any way. Representatives from Univ can also attend a variety of other events

across the country if we are available. Please get in touch if you are interested in working with us.



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