

Outreach News 2017/18



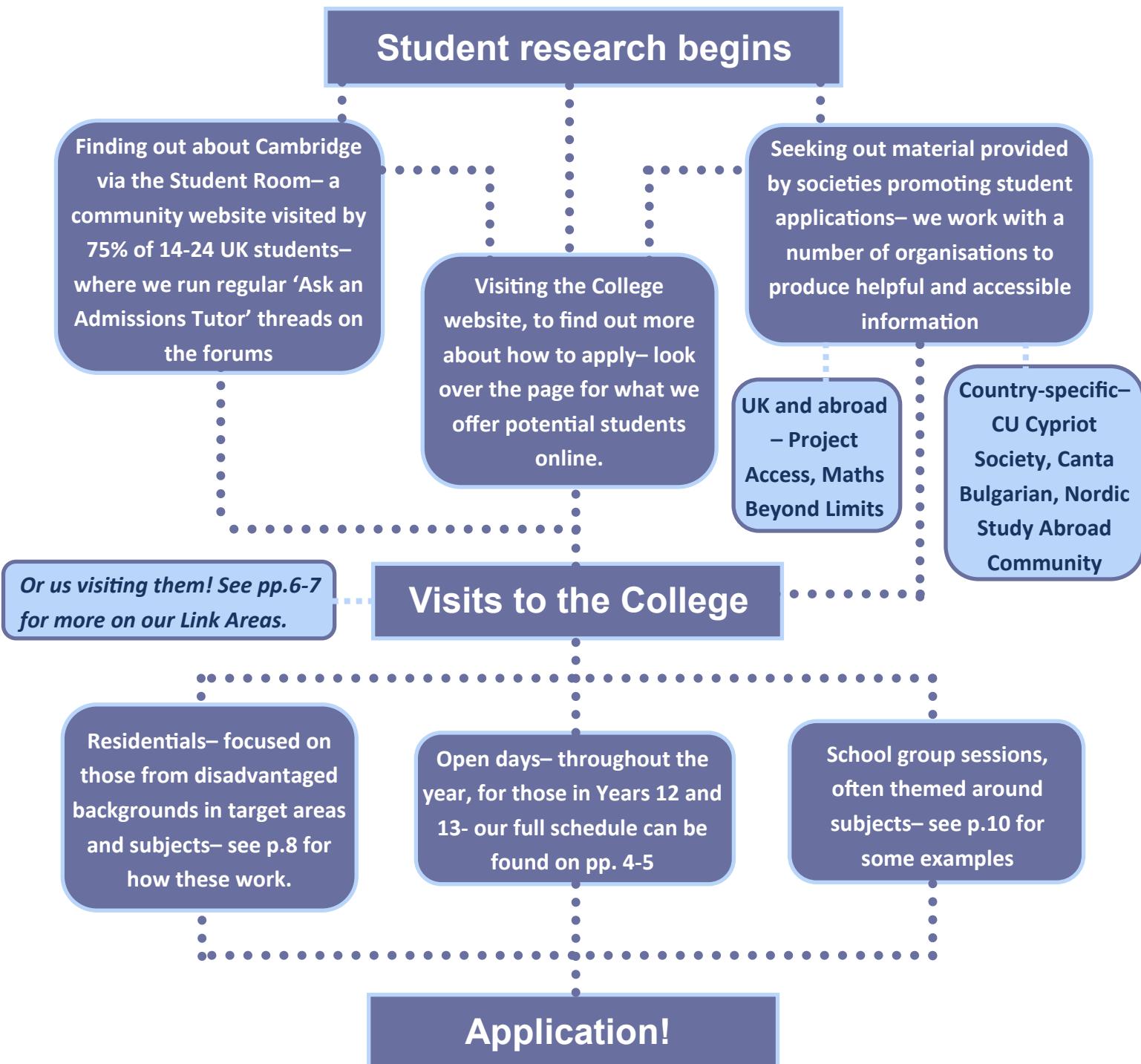
Our aim at Christ's is to admit students of the highest intellectual potential, irrespective of social, religious or financial considerations, and we seek to ensure that our applicants are assessed fairly and without bias, wherever they are from.

We believe that all students benefit from diversity, and that they learn more, and learn better, if they are stretched and challenged by views and experiences unlike their own. To that end, we work to recruit students from a wide range of backgrounds and demographic groups, including groups currently under-represented at Cambridge, and we do our best to ensure that no student with the ability to succeed here is deterred by misconceptions or a lack of information about what our processes entail.

We recently re-structured our Admissions Department in order to increase our capacity to engage in outreach throughout the year, and enable us to pioneer and evaluate new approaches to access, including our innovative offer-holder mentoring scheme. **We are at the forefront of the University's efforts to widen participation and unique in the support that we provide for student-run outreach in the UK and elsewhere.**

Connecting with applicants

Almost every application to Cambridge starts with a great deal of research, before any decisions are made – and we are involved every step of the way, in order to ensure that Christ's is at the forefront of their mind.



‘Anything that demonstrates genuine interest in, and commitment, to the subject, and to study at University in general, is not a waste of time.

Advice from ‘Ask an Admissions Tutor’ Thread on The Student Room

With updates to the College website, we are hosting more material than ever before online; allowing prospective students to easily get all the information and advice that they need for making successful applications. These include...

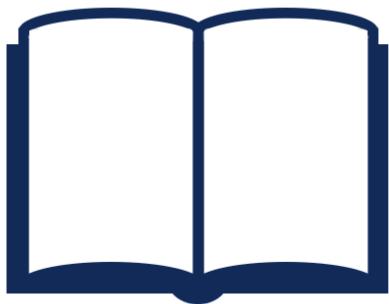


A programme of webinars, focused on-

- Subject Masterclasses for those in Year 12
- Application support sessions for those in Year 13

Targeted mostly at those from our Link Areas, or who have attended the LPN Summer School.

Sign-ups for regular mailing lists, that remind students about upcoming events and webinars, available for all state school students in Year 12.



A wide variety of PDF booklets and guidance on choosing courses, finding supra-curricular resources, and securing work experience.

Student profiles, giving pupils relevant and helpful advice on courses, and tips to prepare them for UCAS Form writing and the interview process



'When I went to an open day I knew practically instantly that I wanted to apply to Christ's. From the moment I walked in, I knew that I really liked the atmosphere of the college, then I got a tour from the friendliest student I'd met all day and I was allowed to walk on the grass in the Fellows' garden!'

Charlotte (m. 2016), from her Website Student Profile

Open Days and Advice Clinics

We run a number of open days throughout the year, building on the two University-wide days in July, allowing prospective students the chance to visit from the time they are starting their A-Levels, to just before they make their final decisions in October.

These days include opportunities for prospective students to look around the College grounds and facilities, meet current staff and students in informal sessions, and learn more about specific subjects with talks from the Directors of Studies.

We even offer a post A-Level results Advice Clinic, for those who did better than expected in their exams, and are considering applying to Cambridge.



October Year 12

Open Day

February Year 12

Open Day

April/May Maths

Open Day

July University

Open Days

August Post A-Level

Advice Clinic

September Year 13

Open Day

October Cambridge

applications deadline



'It has definitely made me feel a lot more confident about applying to Cambridge. The whole day was very welcoming and the lectures were challenging, but embellished with charm and humour that was simply brilliant'

Maths Open Day Attendee

Our Student Ambassadors

Of course, we couldn't run any of these events without the help of our team of undergraduate Student Ambassadors. From leading tours, to answering questions, and even just providing a friendly face who has gone through this process recently, they are an invaluable part of our Access programme.

In the past two years, around **half** of all new students signed up to be trained as ambassadors...



... an entire matriculation photo's worth in total!

I love being a Student Ambassador; it makes me feel that I am making a difference to people's perception of the College, and helping the College think about how it presents itself to the outside world. Cambridge is a fantastic centre of learning that should accessible to anyone with the ability to be here. It's great to be part of an active community of students trying to make that happen - as

Ambassadors, Mentors and Shadowing Scheme volunteers

Esme Cavendish, Second Year, JCR Access Officer and Student Ambassador



'I come from a slightly non-traditional background and was nervous about applying to Cambridge. I came to Christ's on an open day and met a Student Ambassador who absolutely bowled me over with her friendliness. That Ambassador is the reason I didn't look at any other College.'

Grace Etheredge (m.2016), JCR President

Link Areas

Every Cambridge College is assigned 'Link Areas' in the country, and work with them to encourage applications to top universities. Through this scheme, we have contacts with Schools in Lincolnshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and the London Borough of Harrow, all of whom we have run initiatives with over the past year.

Here in College, we held a Worcester Schools Residential in April; this had record nominations for attendance, thanks to our successful engagement drive which re-established contacts with a number of schools in the area. We also undertook regular visits to both Lincolnshire, including holding a regional teacher briefing focused on admissions, and Harrow, where we attended HE events, and helped run Harrow School's *Lumina* course over the Summer. This was attended by 200 students, from 40 local maintained schools, all aiming for Oxbridge.

This year also saw our inaugural 'Year 11 Preparing for Sixth Form Days'. Targeted at Link Area Schools, we invited a group of pupils who had just finished their GCSE examinations, to help them make informed decisions about their A-level and I.B. subjects, and advice on supra-curricular activities to make strong applications. A great success, we look forward to running these again in 2019!

Last year we met c.4,000 Link School Students....



...nearly twenty percent more than in 2016-17!



'Prior to the residential, I had felt somewhat over-awed by some of the word of mouth reports about Cambridge.... However, I found the entire experience inspiring and stimulating. As a result, I feel highly motivated and very clear about what I am determined to achieve'

Worcestershire Schools Residential Attendee

HE+ Enrichment Programme



Most of our work in Herefordshire this year was as part of our HE+ commitment with the University. Each College in the scheme is assigned a region, where they operate with local schools to form consortia, designed to engage their brightest students in a year-round enrichment programme.

Our consortium is run alongside Hereford Sixth Form College, which acts as the 'hub' for the five eligible schools across the county. In collaboration with the school, we are able to put together subject masterclasses, academic extension classes, and admissions sessions there, as well as organise a visit to Cambridge— see photo to the right!

Currently **200** students take part in the Herefordshire HE+ scheme, and we look forward to this number increasing.



What do you want to **discover today?**



Thanks to the success of our work in Herefordshire, we have received funding to run a second, pilot scheme in Worcestershire, paired with Worcester Sixth Form College. This additional programme, going beyond our University commitment will really benefit from the experiences and expertise developed in the neighbouring scheme, and we hope that the end result will be even more talented applications to the University, and especially Christ's.

'The access initiatives run at Christ's are vital in ensuring that academically talented students, irrespective of background feel comfortable and equipped in applying to Cambridge! We've seen first-hand the successes of running these events - with attendees joining us to start their journey here.'

Shadab Ahmed (m.2015), CUSU Access Officer

Nationwide



This year has seen us develop both of the national residencies that we run in College: the **Low Participation Neighbourhoods Summer School**, run alongside Sidney Sussex and Murray Edwards, and the **Women in Maths Residential**, partnered with Trinity College. These programmes are in their third and second year respectively, and offer disadvantaged students the opportunity to take part in 'taster' sessions and lectures, to receive admissions advice, as well as the chance to experience Cambridge life, to help dispel myths about applying.

LPN Summer School– The Stats

28% of students from Low

Participation areas who applied to Cambridge received an offer in the 2017 application cycle



56% of Summer School attendees who applied to Cambridge received an offer in the 2017 application cycle.



The **LPN Summer School** residential is the culmination of a two year programme for these students, which includes subject enrichment sessions, taster experiences, and admissions advice.

120 students are chosen from those who apply, all from areas with low progression to Higher Education. Interest in the scheme is only increasing, with **640 applications** (doubled from last year!) for these spaces, and the successes of the programme are evident from this year's admissions cycle.

'I have now realised that Cambridge isn't some far-off goal, and that anyone who has academic potential, despite background and school, can get offers.... I found the summer school an amazing experience, and it certainly helped me to understand University more– especially Cambridge'

Hannah– 2018 LPN Summer School Attendee

International Outreach

At Christ's, we have a long tradition of welcoming students from across the world, and many of our students are involved in outreach initiatives in their home countries. However, in order to further attract the best and brightest international applicants, we regularly travel abroad to participate and run events to raise the aspirations of foreign students, take part in Project Access 'boot-camps' for those from disadvantaged backgrounds, as well as undertake school visits. Just in the year to date, we have visited...

Denmark

Mark to Danish Academy for Talented Youth, working alongside Project Access, in April

Copenhagen

Emily to Nordic Study Abroad Conference, September

Italy

Mark with Project Access in September

Colombia

Emily giving talk to prospective Graduate students in August

Cyprus

Emily revisiting schools over March

Poland

Emily with Project Access in June

Austria

Kristy in Vienna with Project Access in September

Southeast Asia

Emily maintaining longstanding connections in Malaysia and Singapore, late January to early February

'I always thought that I'll never be able to get into one of the top universities in the UK, but after visiting Cambridge, it has opened my mind to see that if I work hard, I could one day study there!'

Student visitor to Christ's

Visiting College

School groups are always welcome to come to Christ's, and indeed we often have visits of classes from our link areas, abroad, and even those taught by our alumni. Programmes for the day include visits to the Library, so that they get to see treasures like our early editions of *Paradise Lost*, or Newton's *Principia Mathematica*, and meeting with students who arrange tours of the College and facilities. These are inspiring events, and ones we really enjoy running.



One of the more popular visiting opportunities we offer are our annual subject taster days, themed around two of our famous alumni: Darwin (Biological Natural Sciences) and Milton (English)...

...In response to this demand, we are looking to develop this, introducing taster days for Lady Margaret Beaufort (History) and Davidson Nicol (Politics, Social Sciences and International Relations).



'The workshop really set me to start questioning things I had previously overlooked. This taster day also gave me the opportunity to see whether I could keep up with the lecture pace (I could) and to finally meet others who share my interests and ambitions.'
Taster Day Participant

A Visit's Impact

On 19 September 2018, a group visited Christ's College from the Patchwork Foundation; a charity who help those from disadvantaged and minority backgrounds get involved into wide areas of British society, both social and political.

We worked closely with the Faculty of Politics and International Studies to facilitate their visit to the College - including talks about the University and admission, a tour, and lunch - before they went to a lecture at the Department.

The impact these events have can be seen in the feedback we received.

“It was a real honour to be welcomed into Cambridge University for the day by such friendly staff and students- and to experience such a lecture in a small group... especially as I had always hoped to attend Oxbridge” Gemma

“A special thanks to our College guide, who answered questions with real honesty and personal reflections, allowing us to get a real feel for ‘Cambridge life’” Faheem



“Thank you for inviting current students to lead out tour, it was very insightful learning about their university experience and to see the university from their perspective”

Tahira

“I feel that the experience left me well informed of the application procedure, and also demonstrated why students succeed at Cambridge”

Priscilla

“The tour of Christ's was fascinating, and I am glad I have a few pictures to reminisce over... Perhaps next time we can meet the cat!” Anjuma

‘I am writing to thank you for organising the Patchwork Masterclass at Cambridge University... I am especially grateful and appreciative of the time that your team took out of their day to accommodate us, and how attentive they were when answering our many questions’

Abrar Agil, Patchwork Foundation Attendee

Our Partners

As part of our commitment to outreach across the UK, and with different age groups, we work alongside a number of charities, facilitating their goals and in return getting in contact with age ranges and groups that we otherwise would have less opportunity to.

Here are just some of the organizations we currently work with.



The Brilliant Club

A charity that encourages PhD researchers to deliver academic enrichment programmes to pupils from under-represented areas throughout the country, aged 11 to 18. With visits from these students throughout their programme, we can provide specific admissions information to help them consider making applications.



We sponsor IntoUniversity's Walworth Centre, in London, a local learning centre helping young people from disadvantaged backgrounds secure University places. They work with kids from as young as 10, really diversifying the age range of our Outreach impact. We also facilitate school visits to the College from the programme.



TARGET OXBRIDGE

Target Oxbridge is a programme which aids black and mixed race African and Caribbean students in making successful applications to Oxford and Cambridge. It is open for UK-based students in Year 12, and involves personalised events and mentoring.

Indeed, this partnership comes alongside our own changes to our national and Link Area outreach work, to ensure we are identifying and supporting potential applicants from minority groups.

'Working in partnership with outreach charities has dynamised our approach to widening participation at Christ's. We have made so much more progress by sharing insight, expertise and experience than we could ever have done trying to address the challenges on our own.'

Emily Tomlinson, Director of Admissions

New Developments

Of course, we are not just resting on past accomplishments— with all these changes, both internally and externally, we want to position Christ's as a University-wide leader in championing Access— something we can only do with your support



project access

11 Colleges
230 Offer-Holders Nominated
184 Invited
170 Took Part

A photograph of two students sitting at a long wooden table in a library, looking at books. The Project Access logo is in the top left corner.

Problem-

We noticed a concerning growth in the number of offer-holders from disadvantaged backgrounds missing their offers

Solution-

Christ's has begun a partnership with *Project Access*, offering online academic mentoring from current students for underprivileged offer-holders— and with our encouragement, a number of other Cambridge Colleges signed up too.

Results-

Out of **12** Christ's offer holders involved, **7** made their offer here, and a further **2** were taken by other Colleges— a **75% success rate!** This is a substantial increase for Christ's, and a sign of the impact this programme is already having.

Beyond the collaborations with other Cambridge colleges we have set up for our nationwide programmes already, we are looking at diversifying our contacts; for example, a planned Residential with King's College is in the pipeline for 2018-19, targeted at schools that have been unsuccessful in sending students to Oxbridge before.

'The advice and guidance from somebody who has recently been through exactly what you're going through is priceless. My mentor was charming and knowledgeable... I really can't thank her enough'
Participant in Project Access Mentoring Scheme

Thank you!

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assists us to deliver our outreach activities, particularly our very generous donors, without whom these initiatives would not be possible. We hope that with all that has happened this year, you can see what a difference your support is making to the lives of so many students.

With special thanks to...



Stephen Blyth

Anthony and Consuelo Brooke

**Alan Brown and The Brown
Source Trust**

Simon and Jill Campbell

Brian Chesterton

Eleni Kaloyirou

Keith Law

Mark and Sophie Lewisohn

Oscar and Margaret Lewisohn

Tim and Susie Lintott

Ted Margadant

Clare Malloch



...and all of our other Anonymous Donors!

'Having attended, I felt less worried about the admissions process— there was very much a vibe that they put a lot of effort to ensure that the right people get in.... I know that if I do my best I'll either get in, or it wasn't meant to be'

Women in Maths Residential Attendee

Get in Touch!



From left to right: Jan Marshall, Emily Tomlinson, Mark King and Kristy Guneratne... as well as Rocket the College cat!

We are delighted to talk about the work that we do here in the Admissions Department, and if you have any questions about anything in this report, feel free to get in touch through the Development Office
– development@christs.cam.ac.uk

And follow us on Twitter! [@ChristsAccess](https://twitter.com/ChristsAccess)

