



Outreach News 2018/19



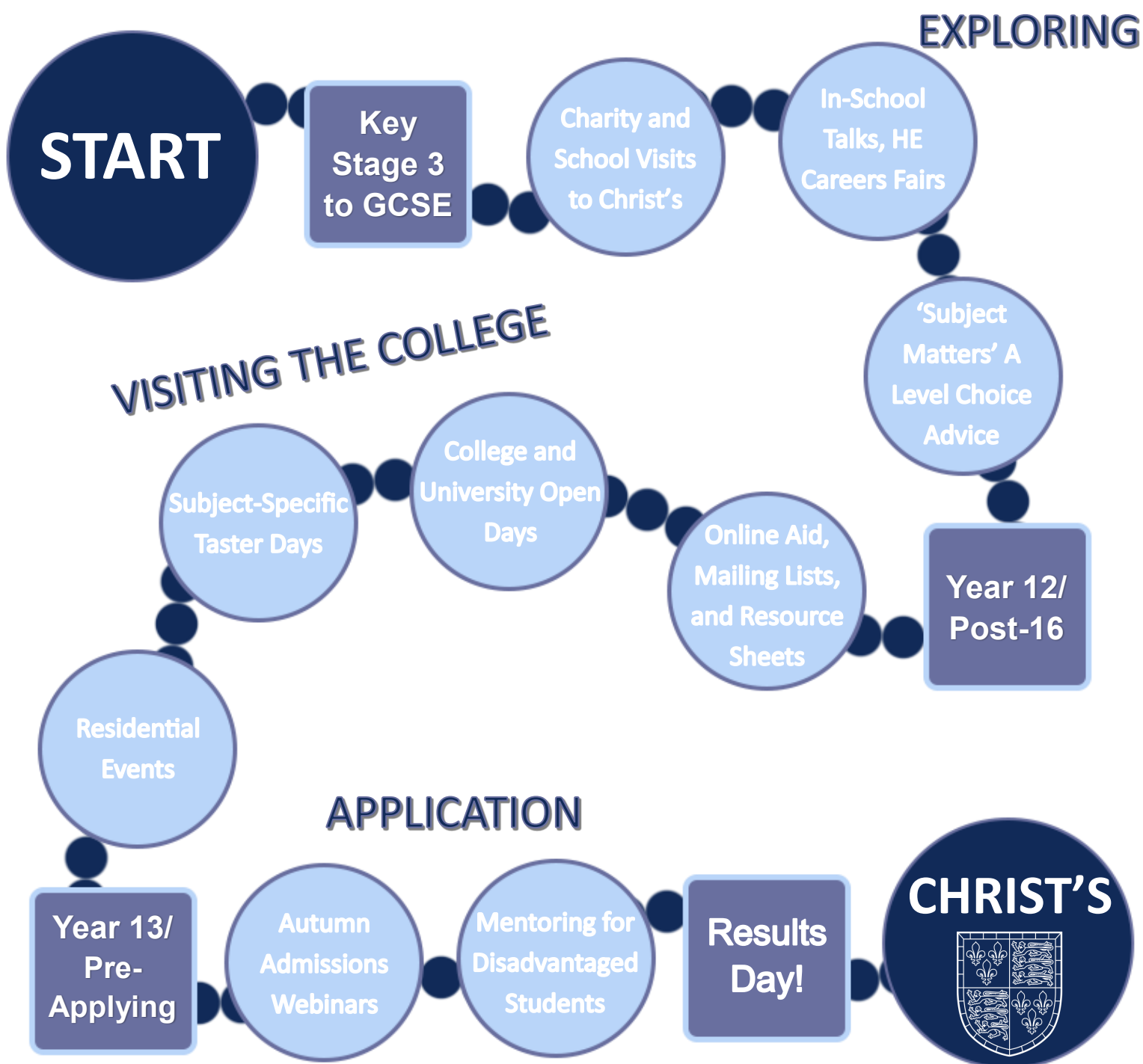
Our aim at Christ's is to admit students of the highest intellectual potential, irrespective of social, religious or financial considerations, and we seek to ensure that our applicants are assessed fairly and without bias, wherever they are from.

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.

To achieve these goals, our Admissions Office runs an evidence-led, strategic and carefully evaluated programme that combines universal provision of resources with a series of targeted events and initiatives, both within the UK and internationally. We work closely on many projects with a number of other Colleges and with the Cambridge Admissions Office, but are nevertheless proud to stand as one of the most forward-thinking and proactive institutions within the University. **We hope you will be interested to hear some of the highlights of this year's work and we would welcome your engagement with and support for our programmes.**

An Applicant's Journey

Every student's educational journey is different, but at Christ's our outreach programmes provide opportunities for supportive intervention at every step. Here are just some of the ways a student might interact with us during their time in school



'I wanted to pass on thanks for all of your efforts. The sessions were really stimulating, helpful, and informative. Our students (and myself and our Head) were so impressed by the support you provided and that was echoed by our students who attended the sessions'

Teacher in Lincolnshire Link School after routine visit from Christ's

HE+ Worcester



- Launched February 2019
- 180 Students Involved
- 7 Schools Across the County Participating
- 4 After-School Extension Classes, with 8 Subject Options
- One-Night Residential in March

As mentioned in last year's *Outreach News*, Christ's was successful in its bid to launch a second HE+ consortium, based at **Worcester Sixth Form College**, involving students from schools across the county; including **Worcester**, **Droitwich**, **Stourport**, **Redditch**, and **Evesham**.

The consortium, in collaboration with Christ's, runs a sustained year-long programme, including academic extension classes, HE information and guidance sessions, and a visit to the University. Students are also encouraged and supported to continue their subject exploration beyond the HE+ classes.

Following its successful pilot year, we are looking to expand the consortium to **200-250 students**, and have approached several schools in the county about participating next year.

'It has been tremendously exciting to work with students and teachers from across Worcestershire on the HE Plus project—and to get such excellent support, advice and inspiration from Christ's College. Doing HE Plus sets the students up so well for making really competitive applications to top universities.'

Paul Morris, HE+ Worcester Co-ordinator, Worcester Sixth Form College

Residentials at Christ's



Residentials, or Easter and Summer Schools, are an opportunity to bring students from groups that are currently under-represented at Cambridge to Christ's for a more sustained and intensive programme. Residentials allow us to re-create elements of student life for a few days, and to give students who have never previously visited the University, or even considered applying, the chance to live in College.

Through the academic events they attend, students gain the opportunity to explore their subject interests in more detail, whilst the admissions-related sessions dispel myths about Cambridge, and provide the information they need to stand the best chance of making a competitive application to top universities.

50% of 2017-18 attendees

who made an application to Cambridge received an offer



Annual Residentials currently running at Christ's

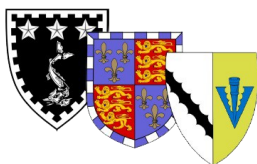
HE+ Residential—For Worcestershire and Herefordshire HE+ students

Women in Maths— Encouraging women to apply to Mathematics at Cambridge (with Trinity)

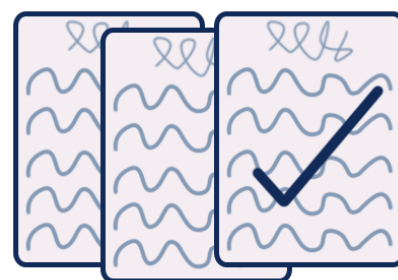
Teach First—See facing page for more on this new Residential (with King's)

LPN Summer School—For students living in areas of low participation in Higher Education (with Sidney Sussex and Murray Edwards)

And a new one planned for 2020! (See page 9)



On average we receive **3x** as many applications for residentials...



... as we have places!

'I am now more confident in the application process and have more confidence in being accepted. In addition, having had a real understanding of student life from talking to the students themselves, I am more sure university is a good choice for me.'

Feedback from 2018-19 Residential Attendee

Spotlight on... Teach First Residential

*For 2019 we added a third national residential to our annual programme: the **Teach First Residential**, the pilot year of which we co-hosted with King's College in April.* Teach First work with a network of almost 1,000 schools nationwide, located in some of the most economically disadvantaged areas of the country. Statistically, students at these schools are significantly less likely to go to university than their wealthier peers, and even less likely to attend top universities. However, many of them are capable of achieving the grades necessary for Cambridge.

The Teach First Residential was designed to provide high-attaining students from these schools with an opportunity to attend a two-day programme of subject enrichment sessions, taster experiences and admissions workshops. Students attended classes in subjects they were currently studying, whilst also having the chance to try new subjects they had not previously considered, including anthropology, neuroscience, and linguistics. They also got to know some of our current students and enjoyed a private performance from the famous Cambridge Footlights.

Many of the attending students are eligible for Free School Meals or would be the first in their family to go to university. We found them to be engaged, highly able and ambitious students, who made the most of this opportunity to explore life at a top university and to find out what they need to do to study here. We look forward to developing this event further in future years.



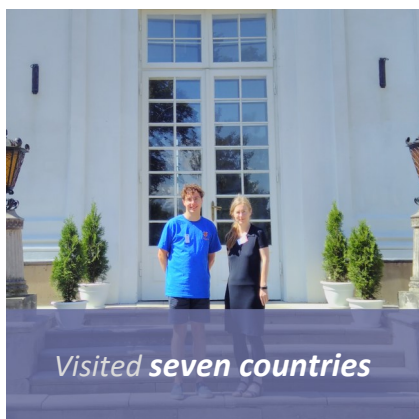
'When I stayed at Christ's, I got an entirely different view of the university itself. Cambridge clearly cares about improving their intake of students with a different demographic.'

Teach First Residential Participant

International Outreach

Christ's is very much an international College and we are proud of our long-standing tradition of welcoming students from across the world and from many backgrounds.

Outreach outside the UK is therefore an important part of our work. Every year we host international visits to Christ's and travel abroad ourselves to attend events that encourage and support prospective applicants to Cambridge. In 2018-19 alone we:



Visited *seven countries*



Spoke to *several thousand students*



Hosted *17 events at Christ's for international schools*

Spotlight on... Denmark

2019 Tour Stops



We visit Denmark twice each year, once to attend the **Nordic Study Abroad Conference** in Copenhagen each September, and once to tour the country in the spring with our partner organisations, the **Danish Academy of Talented Youth (DATY)**, **Danish Students Abroad** and **Project Access**.



Additionally, by hosting a return visit from the DATY at Christ's each October, the students then have the chance to see first-hand what it is like to study here.

We have been delighted to receive some fantastic applicants from Denmark over the years, and hope this relationship will continue to develop in the future.

'[The seminar] gave a detailed overview of the requirements and what it takes to apply to and ultimately get an offer from a foreign university, and I also got a good impression of what it will be like to study abroad and at an elite university.'

Nordic Study Abroad Conference attendee

Partnering with Student-Led Initiatives



InsideUni

InsideUni (www.insideuni.org) is a recent website set up by current students to demystify the Cambridge application and interview process, especially those applicants without other support from parents or their school.

Our current JCR Access Officer, Esme Cavendish (English, m. 2018), who has been heavily involved in the project, says: *'The website is easily accessible and already has an impressive range of student profiles which provide helpful information about the interview process, with more features currently under development. It has been great to be involved with this project in its early stages and I'm excited to see it grow!'*



Camspire

Our former JCR Access Officer, Shadab Ahmed (Natural Sciences, m. 2016), has returned to Christ's in the autumn to complete his studies following a year as the Cambridge University Student Union (CUSU) Access Officer.

During his time in office with CUSU, Shadab created CamSpire, the first Cambridge outreach initiative specifically targeted at students from Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Arab backgrounds. The programme runs from the spring of Year 11 to the autumn of Year 13, and includes three trips to Cambridge: residential events in Years 11 and 12, followed by an interview workshop in Year 13, all run by current BPA students.



Christ's has also supported **Maths Beyond Limits**; a twelve-day course in advanced mathematics for gifted high school students from fourteen countries across Europe, held every September in Miłówka, Poland, and run by University of Warsaw and Cambridge students. We have been connected with the project for two years, and host a welcome party in October for incoming Cambridge students who had attended the previous year's event, as well as a spring "boot-camp" for offer-holders whose schools can't prepare them for the STEP.

'Christ's students are pro-active supporters of the College's outreach work. We encourage them to pursue their own initiatives to help bring about the changes we all seek and are delighted that our students have played such key roles in these important projects.'

Mark King, Christ's College Outreach Officer

Fellows and Outreach

Christ's Fellows are exceptionally generous with their time and many go out of their way to support our outreach work by providing academic sessions for our Taster Days, Residentials and other events. The impact this has on the students is clear in their feedback, and we are eager to continue involving them in our activities.



Masterclasses with the Master

Alongside the wider Fellowship, our Outreach events have been supported by the Master, who has contributed in a variety of ways; from running law masterclasses at two of our residentials, to acting in the role of Lady Margaret Beaufort and appearing from the Master's Lodge window into the Chapel for the benefit of our History Taster Day attendees in February!

The Admissions Office is incredibly grateful to all Fellows who kindly supported this year's programme of events, as well as to all those who contacted us to express their willingness to help in the future.



2018-19 Contributors- From Top Left (Clockwise)- Dr Field, Professor Kelly, Dr Hunt, Dr Norman, Dr Browne, Dr Waldmann, Dr Read, Dr Wade, Dr Franklin-Brown, Dr Tanna, Dr Beck, Dr Gundry, Dr Lyon, and Mr Hawker-Dawson. Not pictured- Dr Loktionov, Dr Nord and Mr Fannon

'Absolutely brilliant! The professor was brilliant and really included the class in our discussions. I'd only slightly studied Law previously, but this solidified my knowledge and has established for me that I have a genuine interest in the subject.'

Attendee of Law session given by the Master

Plans for Next Year

As part of our evaluative approach to our Outreach programme, we are constantly re-assessing our current provision and looking for ways to improve it. Over the next year, we will therefore be launching several new initiatives to address specific barriers to access that we have identified.



Teachers are key partners in our work with students, but face immense pressures on their time. To support them, we've teamed up with **Peterhouse** to run a new teacher residential event in Easter 2020. This will be targeted at schools that are struggling to increase their Oxbridge application success rates and will offer two days of highly effective CPD for our colleagues.

From 2019-20 we will be supplementing our existing offer-holder mentoring scheme with specialist support sessions for students who have been asked to sit STEP examinations, but cannot access STEP preparation through their schools.



TARGET OXBRIDGE

Target Oxbridge is a programme that aims to help black African and Caribbean students increase their chances of securing a place to study at Oxford and Cambridge. The University of Cambridge has partnered with Target Oxbridge since 2017 and Christ's held our first annual day for Target Oxbridge students on 30 August—more news next year!



Economics Taster Day

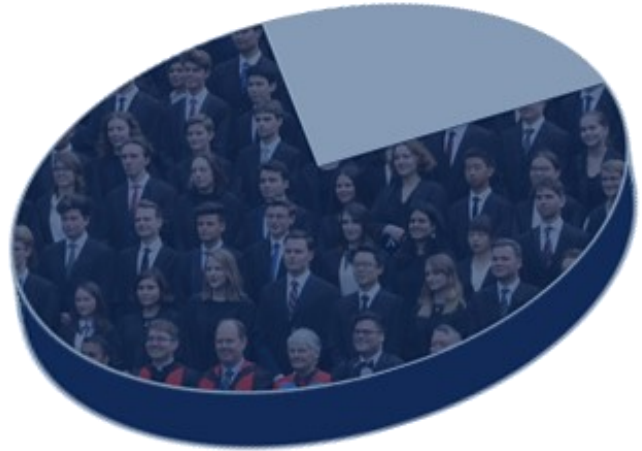
Continuing our alumni-themed Taster Days, we will be adding a new event in 2019-20: an Economics Taster Day, themed around the work of our nobel-prizewinning former student and Fellow, James Meade. We hope to use this event to attract more applicants to Economics from under-represented backgrounds.

'Peterhouse is very excited to be working with Christ's for the upcoming Teacher Residential. We believe that collaboration between colleges to support teachers is an effective way to maximise our impact'

Amber-Page Moss, Peterhouse Schools Liaison Officer

Activities and Achievements

**72.4% of our 2019-20 UK intake
are from maintained schools -
higher than the University
average of 68%**



In 2018-19, this funded...

90+ separate events

and engagement with over

4,000 students

...in the UK alone



**of attendees to our flagship events rate
them positively in feedback - and 75%
report that they felt more likely to apply to
Cambridge having attended**

*Thank you to our generous donors helping to
make this possible*

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. 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

To give to any of the causes in this report, go to the Access Fund giving page at

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/8940>

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