



# CHASE

GRAMMAR SCHOOL



## International Scholarship Programme





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SPORTS HALL



# Contents

**Introduction 4**

**The Scholarship Programme 5**

**What You Will Learn 6**

**What Makes a Scholar 8**

**Testimonials 10**





# Introduction

The aim of the Chase Grammar Oxbridge Programme is to prepare students holistically for applications to Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group universities, not only in terms of academic excellence, but also in developing their critical, scholarly analysis, passion for their subject, and the interview skills unique to these universities. The programme operates on the belief that, while examination performance is an important prerequisite for application, the most successful applicants will have proven their intrinsic enjoyment of the subject, will already have begun working at an undergraduate level and will be able to clearly express their ideas and respond to the constructive criticism given during interviews.

The focus of the Scholarship Programme is on supporting students with their preparation.

This means that they will have access to a wide range of learning and extension activities which will support them in expanding their subject knowledge. The fundamental principle of this programme is that in order to become true scholars, students need to have the opportunity to develop a breadth of skills which extend far beyond the boundaries of their academic studies.





# The Scholarship Programme

The Scholarship Programme seeks to create strong applicants through personal development, skills coaching, high-quality teaching and interview skills, while also offering excellent leadership and learning opportunities through wider school life. Learning for the sake of learning is strongly encouraged, and the Oxbridge scholars should consider themselves to be part of a learning community - sharing their ideas, challenging each other and supporting each other to greater academic success. They will, in the Classical mode, be 'symposiacs' who see the play in learning.





# What You Will Learn

## **Research Skills**

We guide students on how to research courses and universities, and explore wider learning opportunities. Some students will start from a desire to find the course that is best taught and has just the components that suit them; others will be guided more by the choice of university than the course, and will want to look for a course that they will enjoy and that is not overly competitive. We help students identify what is important to them and how to go about finding the right fit.

## **Preparation Advice**

We show students how to prepare and to exploit every opportunity to develop their academic ability through wider reading, discussion and written work, work experience, work shadowing or relevant visits. These are all vital ways of showing enthusiasm and commitment to a chosen subject. This can then be used on the UCAS application form and may be discussed at interview.

## **Personal Statement Development**

Writing a good personal statement takes time and a disciplined approach. It is an advantage to create a well-thought out personal statement to have the maximum effect on your reader. We aim to give students the insights they require to produce a favourable statement to give them an advantage when applying for their university place.

## **Interview Preparation**

Interview preparation is fundamental to gaining acceptance to Oxford or Cambridge. Our Oxbridge alumni are well placed to give students advice and recommendations on how to approach interviews for best results.







# What Makes a Scholar

## **γνῶθι σεαυτὸν (gnothi seauton) - Know Thyself**

Personal development is key to the aspirant scholar - not only in knowing their strengths, but also in knowing their weaknesses and how to overcome them. Students must be aware of what makes them special as an applicant, and use that to shape their approach to study. Oxford and Cambridge have high academic expectations, and it is not enough for a student 'merely' to have the required grades - for this is a baseline - they must rather go beyond what is required at A-Level. Oxford and Cambridge look for scholars who have the potential to lead the study of their chosen field, rather than passively receive the wisdom of others.

Our candidates should progress from being humble to confident when presented with the question "What makes you so special?". They will learn teamwork and critical thinking skills through a taught programme linked to their subject; they will learn research and academic writing techniques with the purpose of preparing them for EPQs and university work; they will regularly read academic journals relevant to the subject, with the guidance and support of highly qualified staff; they will have regular lectures from a variety of speakers, on a variety of topics; they will undertake mentoring conversations with specialist staff to expand and question their knowledge; and they will have extensive interview preparation to be fully prepared by Year 13. Our students will complete their personal statements with support and advice from expert staff, in order to best express their unique excellence in their subject.

## **docendo discimus (we learn by teaching) - the academic community**

Our scholars are expected to take active and leading roles in wider school life, and an especially valuable experience is to serve as beacons for younger students who are interested in their topic. The Oxbridge programme therefore seeks to empower students to lead exciting, academic sessions both inside and outside the school. In Year 12, students will lead their own 'Able, Gifted and Talented' sessions aimed at lower year groups, on a topic of their choice. Students should use this as an opportunity to consider what it is that attracts them to their field of study, while also considering the challenge of making it accessible and enjoyable for their target audience. Further, these sessions will require students to develop their communication skills both in breaking down concepts, posing questions and answering queries extempore. In Year 13, their focus will be more widely cast by organising competitions both within and outside the school, which will demonstrate a high level of initiative and further challenge students to explore the potential of their subject.



## **sic itur ad astra (this is the path to the stars) - achieving excellence in STEM teaching**

While our students should be independent learners, we also aim to offer outstanding STEM teaching and enrichment opportunities. A common theme in Oxford and Cambridge interviews is using scientific principles for real-world problem-solving; thus, our teaching is also based on this same principle. Students will be presented with problems and will need to propose solutions for how they could be solved; the destination takes second place to the journey, as the value is in the discussions and processes used. As part of their studies, students will be encouraged to enter competitions to further their studies beyond the A Level course. They will enter essay competitions, hosted by prestigious universities, as well as entering practical competitions such as CANSAT, hosted by the European Space Agency, where they attempt to create a functional satellite which fits within a soft drink can. In addition, students will seek out work placements for their subject, as well as engage with the Grand Challenge and Quantum Ambassador programmes to discover how the United Kingdom aims to lead industries over the next decade.





# Testimonials

Members of the scholarship group in Year 12 have appreciated the opportunities that our new International Scholarship Programme has given them, and we are looking forward to members of the current Year 11 participating in the programme next year.



“ The scholarship group has given me the opportunity to refine my research and presentation skills by leading a discussion with my peers on a topic I’m interested in during the weekly symposium. This has been something I’ve been able to write about on my personal statement. ”

“ One good thing about our scholarship group is that you gain a sense of the stage at which other people are in the university process, so it gives you ideas for work experience, reading material and other useful information. ”

“ It encourages you to research subjects relevant to your future university course. ”

“ Mr Wallace’s EPQ lessons are useful for university. ”

“ The scholarship group helped me to gain more knowledge about topics I’m passionate about and engage in discussions with other people about them. ”



RECEPTION



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VISITORS MUST SIGN IN AT RECEPTION





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