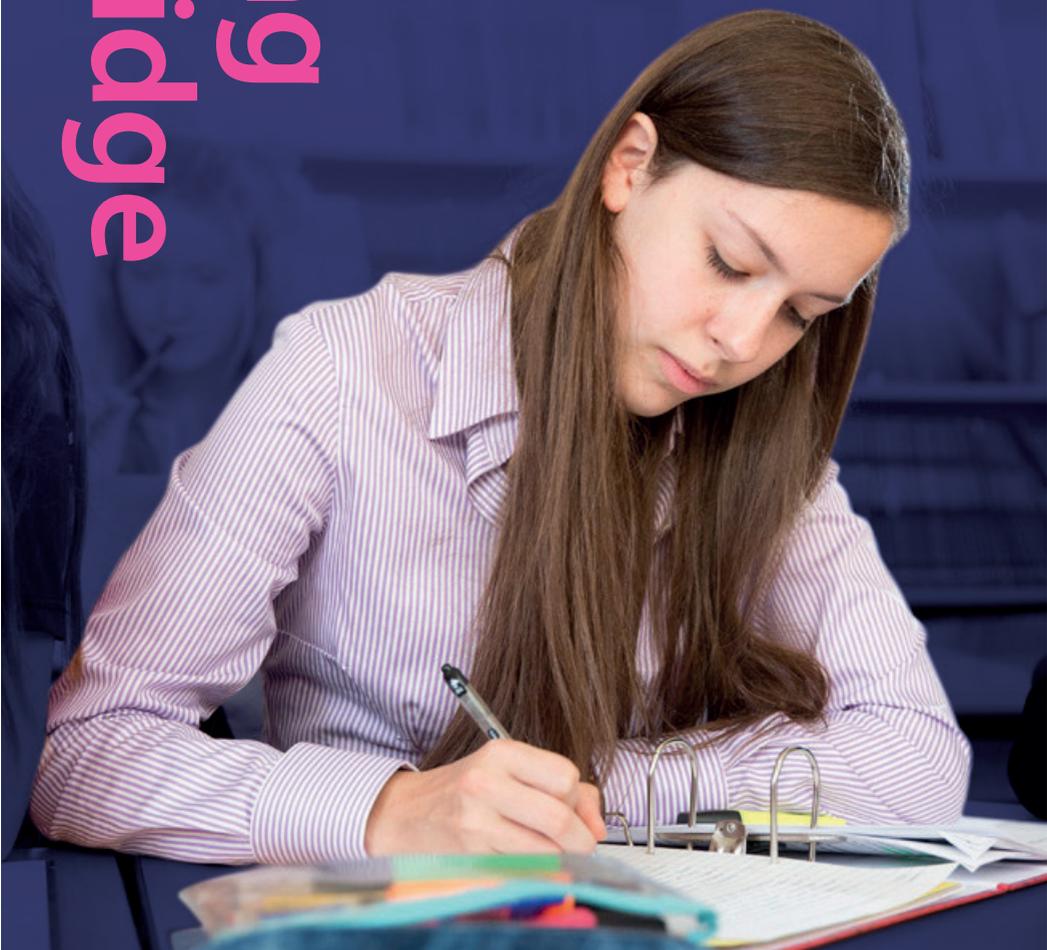


Preparing for Oxbridge



The Woldingham Oxbridge Programme

We are committed to ensuring that our Oxbridge support for students is exceptional. This includes additional academic enrichment opportunities, bespoke one-to-one mentoring from the end of the Lower Sixth year, advice in crafting the UCAS personal statement, and interview preparation and practice, both in school and outside it. The weekly Oxbridge Plus session for Sixth Form students is open to those who want to apply to Oxford and Cambridge, but is also useful to other students.

We know that such applications are very competitive and so we try to ensure that students keep their application in perspective: even the strongest applicants might not ultimately end up being offered places.

At Woldingham, our Oxbridge preparation covers a range of activities, but we put equal value on our general academic enrichment programme, which stretches much wider; part of our university success is due to the fact that academic enrichment permeates school life.

In the Sixth Form, for example, we have a Cultural Society, a Literary Society and a STEM Society, as well as the Oxbridge Plus Group. Students and staff give regular lunchtime lectures and we have an extremely busy 'Thinking Big' programme of lectures and workshops from external speakers and organisations throughout the year. We also make full use of public university lectures and students attend workshops in London, Oxford and Cambridge. Many students enter Oxbridge essay competitions with great success. A good number of our Oxbridge students also apply to top universities in the USA, drawing on the expertise and help of our US Universities Advisor.

The Lower Sixth will begin to think about what making an Oxbridge application will involve from the very start of the spring term. The emphasis is on de-bunking myths surrounding Oxbridge, as well as giving students a realistic overview of the competitive nature of the applications. Students will be given practical support to begin thinking about how they might ensure that their applications stand out from the many excellent applications Oxford and Cambridge receive each year.

Students are equipped to pursue their intellectual curiosities independently, and are encouraged to love learning for learning's sake. There will be the opportunity for students to hear from recent graduates from a wide range of subjects, who will be able to inspire students and address questions they might have about the experience of studying at undergraduate level.



Towards the close of the Lower Sixth academic year, students will meet with the Oxbridge Co-ordinator to draw up a bespoke summer holiday plan of academic enrichment in readiness for drafting their UCAS personal statements.

From the start of the Upper Sixth, the focus is on giving students practical support to complete their applications well before the mid-October deadline, including applications and preparation for the relevant aptitude tests.

Once applications have been submitted, the focus shifts to intense interview practice for students who have been invited for interviews. Students will be given feedback on interviews they have with subject specialists in school, and at other schools and in unfamiliar settings. Woldingham also works in partnership with external providers of Oxbridge application support and students can take advantage of their services at a reduced cost.

In addition to the above, from early in their application journey, we assign each Oxbridge applicant a subject specialist mentor with whom they meet weekly. Mentors will offer advice on suitable academic enrichment opportunities and wider reading, and work with students to develop their interest in their subject of choice.

Those students who might be interested in applying or who want to find out more about Oxbridge can contact our Oxbridge Co-ordinator, Miss Georgina Noble, nobleg@woldinghamschool.co.uk. Parents who would like to know more are welcome to get in touch too.



WOLDINGHAM
SCHOOL

Woldingham School, Marden Park, Woldingham, Surrey, CR3 7YA

T: 01883 349431 E: info@woldinghamschool.co.uk

www.woldinghamschool.co.uk