













## Our Programmes







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#### Our Programmes



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Our programmes are supported philanthropically by donors who share our belief in the power of education to transform lives. Even small amounts of support can make a difference.

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## From the President

St John's College is very clear in its core purpose: we aim to admit students with the highest academic aptitude, irrespective of background, and enable them to reach their potential through the best academic teaching and resources, and with encouragement and support of their wellbeing and welfare.

In striving to encourage applications from the very best, we recognise that social mobility is a challenge and that many disparities emerge in school between students from less privileged and more privileged backgrounds, often with lifelong consequences. Disadvantage impacts early and is hard to overcome.

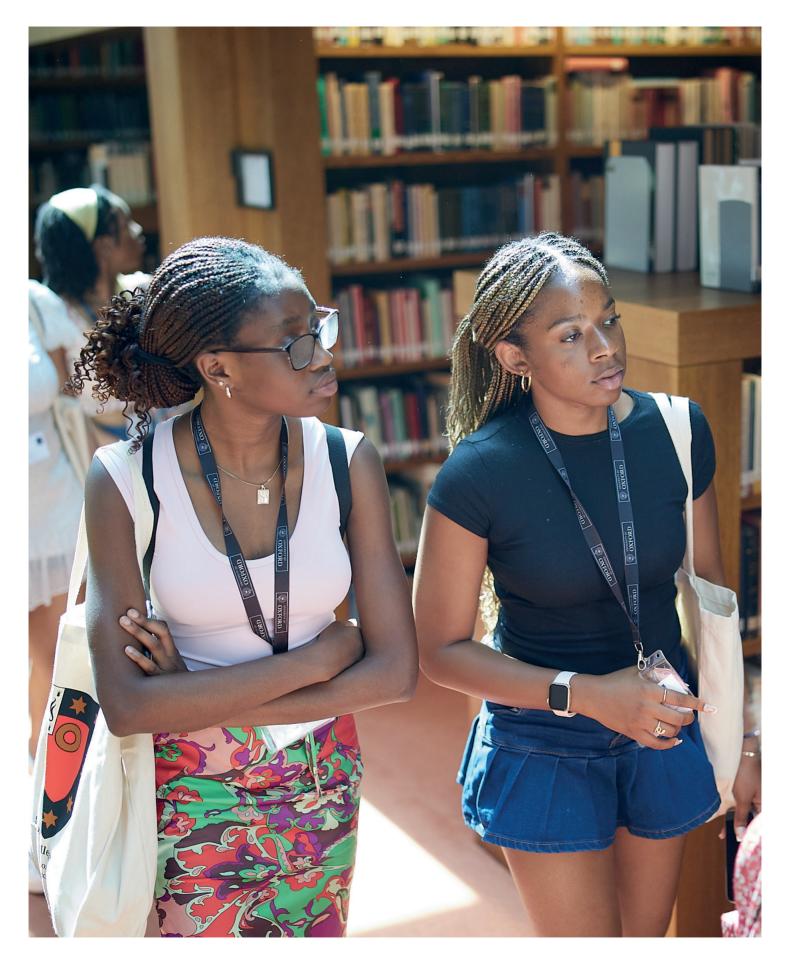
In understanding this, we purposely devote considerable resources to our access and outreach programmes to encourage students with exceptional promise to aim high, to stretch themselves academically, and to be confident in making well-founded applications to top universities including Oxford.

I hope that this overview will illustrate how our Inspire programme provides pupils of all ages with inspiring curriculum content and resources, how we support teachers and help them to disseminate best practice, and how we encourage parents and carers to aspire on behalf of their children.

We have built strong strategic partnerships within our local communities and in our link regions across the country. If you would like to know more – or to Inspire – do please get in touch.













## Overview:

## the St John's Difference

Access and Outreach at St John's encompasses programmes for ages 4 to 18 that raise the aspirations and attainment of pupils in the local community, in our link regions and across the country. Our work is unmatched in scale and ambition within the Oxford Colleges.

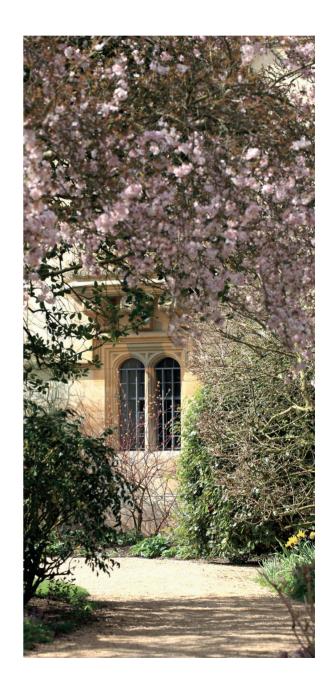
Core programmes are restricted to those studying at nonselective state schools, and our team use a sophisticated targeting system to ensure that our access programmes prioritise those with the greatest need.

Our programmes are not limited to engaging those who might apply to St John's or even Oxford. Whilst many participants do go on to study at elite universities, we offer something for almost every young person studying at a state school in the UK. All of our programmes are completely free and many include additional generous financial support to ensure that those most disadvantaged can participate fully.

We are proud to make a difference to the lives of thousands of young people each year and to be able to demonstrate this through our quantitative and qualitative evaluation strategies.

Access and Outreach is embedded across the College. All staff share the Access Office's commitment and play their part in supporting target pupils – as does the College's student body. Our work is overseen by a Steering Committee of internal and external advisers.







## Zoe Hancock, Principal Bursar

The charitable purposes of St John's are to be "a perpetual college of learning sciences, sacred theology, philosophy and the good arts". It has become increasingly clear that in order to ensure that we can meet our educational and charitable purpose we need to ensure that we are enabling the very best individuals from all backgrounds to achieve their potential. Our access programme enables us to do exactly that. We provide donations to schools who serve the most deprived communities, which enables them to develop or improve libraries or to ensure all children can access enrichment opportunities which they otherwise wouldn't be able to. We provide educational support to the most able, who otherwise might not have access to it, which develops their abilities and raises aspiration. We ensure that any candidate who has the ability to attend the College has the financial support to succeed.





# Our Aims



Raise the academic aspirations and attainment of pupils principally from non-selective state schools, and those with the greatest levels of socio-economic or educational disadvantage who are under-represented at high tariff/elite/Russell group universities



Develop pupils' academic and practical skills and enrich their experience to maximise their potential for university and beyond



Offer opportunities for pupils to explore their academic interests, support them in their current and future studies, enrich their experience and enable them to discover subjects that are new to them



Continually develop high-quality resources that engage, excite, inform, and encourage pupils to explore their higher education options



Provide accurate and up-to-date advice about university application processes and attending university. Develop practical skills to assist pupils in making a competitive university application



Welcome pupils to explore St John's College and other University of Oxford institutions



Offer pupils holistic support by extending our access provision to include teachers, parents and carers in our link regions and within the wider Oxford community



Create lasting relationships between St John's College, the Higher Education sector and other education providers







# Our Impact

Our Access and Outreach programmes reach thousands of pupils across the country each year. We continuously evaluate these interventions internally, as well as partnering with specialist education evaluators and data consultancies to deliver independently verified analysis.

To better understand the effect of the 60,000 annual pupil contact hours within our programmes, we partnered with the Elixirr Foundation for an external evaluation of our impact. The Elixirr Foundation are the not-for-profit arm of Elixirr, a London-based consultancy with expertise in understanding large datasets.

of our participants end up attending a top 1/3 ranked university

of our participants end up attending a top 3 ranked university

We are particularly proud of the fact that this pattern can be seen even with the most disadvantaged participants. 78% of our participants from postcodes with the lowest HE progression go on to attend a top 1/3 ranked university, with 10% attending one of the top three.

The national average, by comparison, shows that 38% of students who go on to Higher Education from these postcodes study at a top 1/3 institution.







### 2022-2023 in Numbers

# 60,000 pupil contact hours





PUPILS VISITING ST JOHN'S ON ACCESS VISITS AND PRIMARY VISITS



STUDY DAY ATTENDEES



PUPILS ON INSPIRE Y12









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1,844

hits on the virtual summer school

4,000

pupils reached each year through open days + 3,000 more reached at school careers fairs and UCAS Exhibitions



## Our Investment

Access and Outreach is a strategic priority for the College and we are proud to play a significant role in Oxford's ever-more progressive approach to widening access. Each year, the College invests over £500,000 in access and outreach, with a further £170,000 of support from generous philanthropic giving.

£700,000 total access spend

£170,000 Supported by £170,000 in Philanthropic Giving

£530,000 College Investment\*

£51,932

Additionally, we invest a further £51,932 subsidising Oxford University's flagship UNIQ Outreach programme for Y12 pupils.

36%

36% of our undergraduate students are in receipt of bursaries, with the College committing £89,641 in 2022/23 to supporting these students. Students with a household income is assessed as being £7,500 or less receive an annual bursary of £5,920, whilst those with a household income between £7,500 and £32,500 receive an annual bursary of £5,100.

£121,337

In 2022/23 £121,337 was invested each year in REACH undergraduate scholarships to ensure that a St John's education is accessible to people from all over the world. Reach Oxford scholarships are offered to students from low-income countries who, for political or financial reasons, or because suitable educational facilities do not exist, cannot study for a degree in their own countries.

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<sup>\*</sup>College investment: the college has decided to prioritise Access over our commercial conference business. Our investment includes lost opportunity costs for accommodation and catering.





## What sets our work apart?

### Free for participants, free for schools

All of our programmes are completely free and we are able to provide additional generous grants to broaden participation to ensure that there are as few barriers to entry as possible.

#### For all

Our programmes are broad in scope and offer something for everyone. Whether in the local community, in our link regions or nationally, we work to share the resources of St John's with young learners. Whether through access visits or through a curriculum-enhancing programme for all abilities, we are proud to work with all students, not just the most able. Our programmes reach teachers who take part in our career-enhancing programmes as Inspire Teacher Leads, and we support parents and carers in providing the information and confidence to support their children academically, and in their university applications.

## For those most disadvantaged

We balance these comprehensive elements, however, with a sophisticated targeting system for our most intensive engagements.

# For the entire educational journey

We don't only support students with their progression into Higher Education, but throughout their time at school to raise academic attainment and aspirations. For those who come to St John's, the College provides generous on-course support and career development opportunities to ensure that the needs of those most disadvantaged are not overlooked once they reach university.







## Inspire Years 9, 10 and 11

#### What is the programme?

The Inspire Scholars Programme for Years 9, 10 and 11 is a pioneering sustained-contact programme developed collaboratively with schools to help pupils explore their interests, develop academic skills and explore their prospects.

The programme has several components – from Inspire Clubs to Teacher Conferences, to Parent Information Sessions – to ensure that Inspire Scholars, their schools, and their supporters feel excited by, and engaged with higher education.

Piloted for three years with 336 pupils in nearly all secondary schools in Ealing and Harrow and extensively evaluated, we have since expanded to partner with secondary schools across our wider link regions.

Partner schools in our link regions choose a cohort of 14 students per year group selected on academic and socioeconomic criteria to be Inspire Scholars, totalling 42 per school. These Scholars are then supported for the next three years with fortnightly in-school classes, opportunities to visit Oxford and to participate in summer schools. Over 550 pupils joined the Programme in 2022/23 with this number set to double as the Year 9s transition to Year 10, and a new set of Year 9 Inspire Scholars begin the year.

#### **Inspire Clubs**

Inspire Club Classes are super-curricular classes and workshops designed by our education professionals and delivered by in-school teachers. We have a full range of classes detailed in our Class Options Booklet, and more classes are being added to the programme all the time.

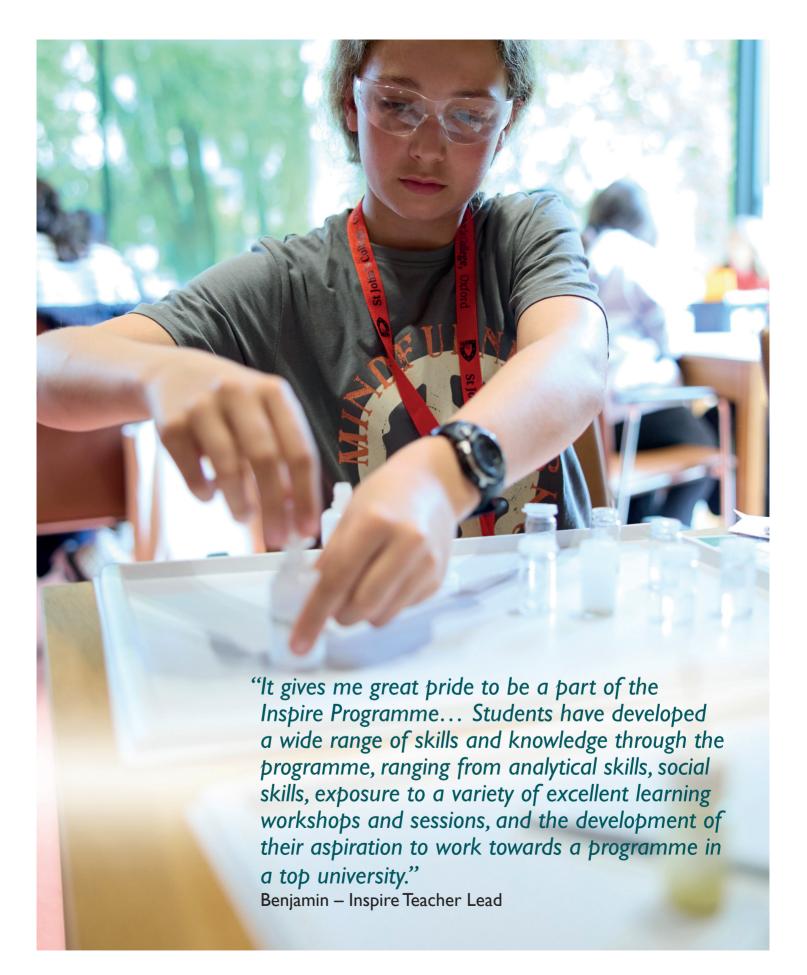
Each school selects a designated Inspire Teacher Lead to run all Inspire activities in their school, while a School Partnership Coordinator based at St John's College is responsible for the overall operation of the Programme.

#### Classes include:

- Found in translation (Languages)
- The Vikings: Language and Lore (History)
- The Plastics Problem: Science and Sustainability (Chemistry)

We offer grants of £300 to cover class materials and a £300 grant for refreshments for each participating year group in a school's Inspire Scholars programme.







#### Inspire Years 9, 10 and 11

#### **Priority College Visits**

Inspire priority visits offer scholars the chance to experience life at St John's and explore higher education pathways. They include:

- Information, advice and guidance about Higher Education
- Academic taster sessions and critical thinking workshops
- · Free lunch in our Hall
- · Tours of St John's College
- Visits to Oxford's Museums



OF TEACHERS
EITHER AGREED OR
STRONGLY AGREED
THAT THEIR PUPILS
LEARNED A LOT
FROM THE AFTER
SCHOOL CLUBS



OF PUPILS
EITHER AGREED
OR STRONGLY
AGREED THAT
THEY ENJOYED THE
INSPIRE CLUBS



OF PUPILS REMAINED ON THE COURSE FOR THE DURATION OF THE THREE-YEAR PILOT



OF SCHOOLS REMAINED ON THE THREE-YEAR PILOT PROGRAMME



#### INSPIRE PARTNER SCHOOLS

Avanti House Secondary School Beacon Academy Bentley Wood High School Brentside High School Canons High School Claverham Community College Dormers Wells High School Drayton Manor High School Ealing Fields High School Featherstone High School Felpham Community College Greenford High School Harrow High School Hatch End High School King's Academy Ringmer King's School Hove Northolt High School Pinner High School Ratton School Academy Trust Rooks Heath College St Catherine's College **Testwood School** The Cardinal Wiseman Roman Catholic School The Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls The Weald Community School and Sixth Form Twyford CofE High School Villiers High School Whitefriars High School

Whitmore High School

William Perkin CofE High School







#### **Inspire Aspiration Fund**

The Inspire Aspiration fund offers Inspire Clubs the chance to apply for a limited number of competitive grants of up to £650 to run a trip or in-school visit. It's another way of providing opportunities for Inspire Scholars to learn new skills and experience new educational settings.

Examples of previous Aspiration Fund experiences include:

- A Space Spectacular Day at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich
- Workshop on British history at the Tower of London
- Trip to the Natural History Museum, Science Museum and a trip to the theatre
- A visit to the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies
- A team-building adventure at Moors Valley Country Park

#### **Inspire Parents**

We provide digital resources and online sessions to enable parents and carers to support their Inspire Scholar's academic ambitions and progression.

This includes live twilight information sessions on subjects like:

- What does university study look like now?
- Going to university: what does it cost?
- How can I best support my Inspire Scholar?

This is followed by a live Q and A. Each session is recorded and posted online for parents and carers to access in their own time.

"I was so delighted to be a part of the trip to the Royal Observatory. Our students had the opportunity to meet inspiring young scientists. And it was great to see how those young scientists inspired our students with questions around science, ethics and the universe. We were challenged, we were pushed. And we were made to feel very welcome throughout. At the end of the day, our students floated all the way home on Cloud Nine. Thank you so much!"

Inspire Teacher Lead



## Inspire Teachers

When a teacher becomes an Inspire Teacher Lead, they join a community of like-minded teachers who enjoy a suite of benefits and career-enhancing opportunities. As part of this, we offer an annual Teachers' Conference, a fully-funded Teachers' Staycation in Oxford, an online Teachers' Hub, a monthly Teachers' Forum as well as paid opportunities to develop specialist content for our programmes.

#### **Inspire Teacher Leads Conference**

The Inspire Teacher Leads Conference is an annual event hosted at St John's to promote career development and build a community of likeminded professionals. The 2022/23 Conference hosted in early April had a packed timetable that included the following:

- A fascinating lecture on her life's work from the President of St John's, Professor Dame Sue Black
- A session delivered by an Oxford University Career's specialist Callum Buchanan on teaching development and advancement
- A Teaching with Objects masterclass and tour from the Teaching Curator at the Ashmolean Museum
- Lunch and refreshments, Q&A session with our student ambassadors, and time to meet with other Inspire Teacher Leads and St John's Fellows.

"I would like to thank the team for organising such a fantastic day. It was so informative, and so much care went into the day! Thank you!"

#### **Inspire Teachers Two-night Staycation**

A new addition for 2023/24, the Inspire Teachers Two-night Staycation will be an invitation to stay at St John's during the summer months. Accommodation and breakfast are provided free of charge, and travel grants of up to  $\pounds$ 100 (dependent on distance) will be provided.

Every Inspire Teacher Lead and one guest are able to book – each in a single occupancy, en-suite student room. During their stay they will have access to the Alumni House Common Room for refreshments, the modern gym and study centre, and our traditional Dining Hall for cooked breakfasts made by St John's chefs.

This is an opportunity to experience what life is like at Oxford University and explore the historical city. Teachers are invited to select one complimentary cultural activity that can be booked for them before their arrival. Examples to choose from include punting, Oxford Botanic Garden, Oxford Playhouse, or College Tours, the cost of which is covered as part of the programme.

Upon arrival, teachers will also be given useful suggestions of where to go and what to visit during their stay, such as museums, gardens, cafes, and restaurants. We hope this will increase familiarity with the University and city and ensure Oxford feels as welcoming to teachers on the Programme as it does to pupils.

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#### **Termly Teach Meets**

Inspire Teacher Leads are invited to Termly Teach Meets to develop connections with like-minded education professionals. Teacher Leads will be able to discuss best practice and experiences both in relation to the Inspire programme and their wider role.

"I am passionate about increasing opportunities in higher education for disadvantaged students who are intellectually bright. Coming from a disadvantaged background myself, I am too familiar with the struggles students from disadvantaged backgrounds face when accessing higher education... The students have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Inspire Programme and have highlighted that it has had a direct impact on their learning in school."—Davinder, Inspire Teacher Lead

#### **Inspire Teachers Hub**

The Hub has been created based on feedback from our established Inspire Teacher Leads, who are looking forward to having the chance to collaborate further, become more involved in the Inspire Programme, and create networks with their fellow Teacher Leads.

It is an online platform run on Facebook for the exchange of ideas between teachers and the Inspire Team. It is a quick way to keep up to date with new releases on the Programme such as new class availability, release of Aspiration Grant funding, events taking place, key dates, photographs from the summer schools or scholars visits, or any changes to the Programme.











## **Inspire Critical Thinking**

Inspire Critical Thinking is our comprehensive programme that caters for all abilities; all pupils at non-selective UK state schools can join. Delivered online, the course approaches a central theme from a variety of subject viewpoints. Each virtual class includes critical thinking skills sessions, academic articles, interviews, recorded lectures, and challenges developed by University of Oxford academics and students.

In 2022/23 1096 students explored their interests in depth, discovered new and exciting topics that they might not have studied before, and developed fresh confidence in their abilities. Pupils also have the chance to submit responses to each class's challenges, with an opportunity to win prizes.

The programme has a new theme each year, with brand-new articles and challenges that reflect the cutting-edge academic work at Oxford. The theme for Critical Thinking 2023/24 is 'Crime and Punishment', whilst for Critical Thinking 2022/23 the theme was 'Is Sport Ever Fair?'

A typical workshop will contain:

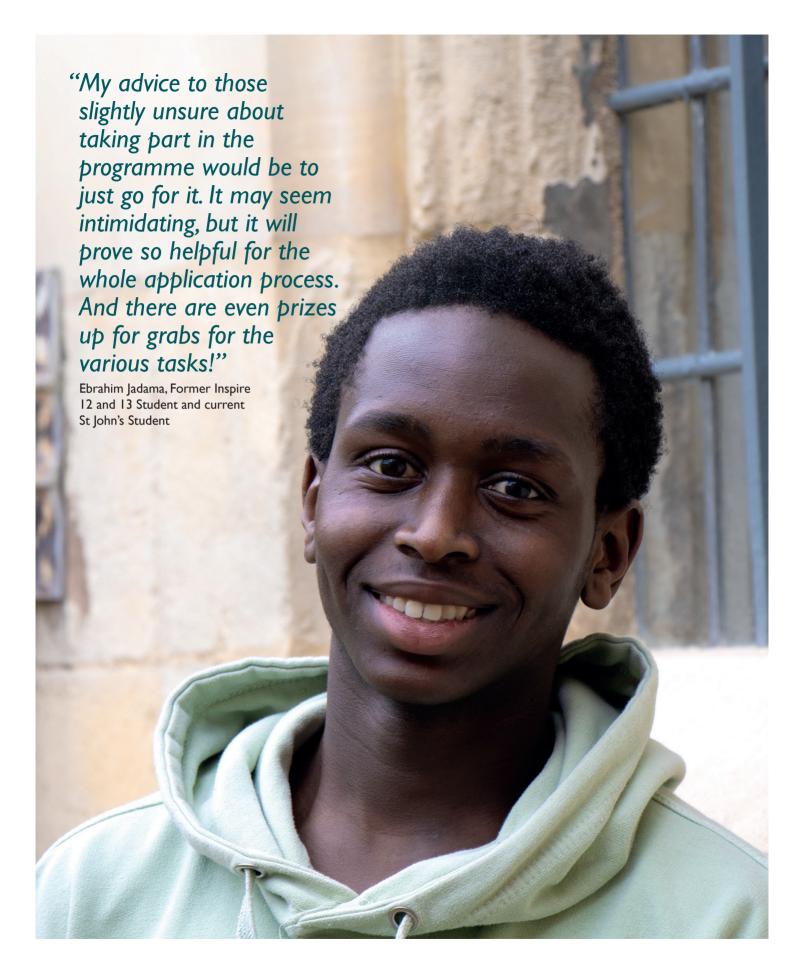
- Academic articles approaching the topic from individual subject viewpoints
- A Critical Thinking Skills Focus covering how to approach and dissect academic arguments
- A University Spotlight section comprising a look at exhibits from the many museums of Oxford, information on the University of Oxford itself, or a 'Day in the Life' video from one of the Student Ambassadors
- · Introductory videos and interactive materials
- Multiple challenges linked to the academic content encouraging students to apply what they have learned.



Following the four interactive classes, all registered pupils will be invited to attend the Inspire Virtual Summer School. For pupils in Year 11, there is also a competitive application process for a free Inspire Residential Summer School at St John's College.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed this course and I hope to access this again next year! Thank you for improving the way I study and revise while introducing me to a range of informative and topical subjects!"











## Inspire Years 12 & 13

Inspire Years 12 and 13 is our sustained-contact programme for Years 12 and 13. Designed to inspire, encourage and inform students alongside their A-Levels, participants explore their favourite subjects in greater depth, receive up-to-date information about applying to university, and take part in opportunities that can be used in personal statements, interviews, and CVs.

In 2022/23, 476 pupils were enrolled on the Year 12 Programme, with a further 230 in Year 13.



**INSPIRE BOOK** RESIDENTIAL **INSPIRE ACADEMIC AWARDS** RESEARCH **SUMMER TASTER SKILLS SCHOOL LECTURES POSITIVELY** MOVING AND SUBJECT TO UNIVERSITY YOU (Y12 & Y 13) **EXPLORATION** HUB (Y13)

"I love the academic taster lectures. They're always really interesting, and I can easily fit them around my A-Level revision."

Year 12 Inspire Student

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#### Inspire Years 12 & 13

#### Academic Taster Lectures - Years 12 & 13

Each month a new set of super-curricular lectures and resources are released, each specially developed by academics from the University of Oxford. Every set of lectures includes subjects from across the Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, allowing pupilss to delve deeper into their favourite subject and discover new interdisciplinary connections.

Pupils can work through all these resources at their own pace, allowing them to fit this around A-Level study.

#### **Taster sessions include:**

- Palmyra: An Ancient City in the Desert (Classics)
- Cancer Research: Accidental Discoveries, Yeasty Cures, and Mathematical Biology (Oncology/Biochemistry)
- Reconstructive Surgery after Trauma (Medicine)
- From the Big Bang to Biology: Finding Patterns Through Mathematics (Computational Modelling)
- Geopolitical Anomalies: What can they Teach us? (Geopolitics)

"I highly recommend [the programme] and I cannot wait to join Inspire 13!"

"I enjoyed every single minute of it, and has motivated me to study at Oxford at some point in my life."



#### Study and University Skills Sessions – Year 12

Our expert information, advice and guidance equips Years 12 and 13 students with the skills to make competitive, well-informed applications to university. Topics include:

- How to Create a Research Proposal
- Understanding Student Finance
- How to Choose the Right Course for You
- UCAS applications
- Oxford Admissions Tests
- · How to Write your Personal Statement.

#### Research Project - Year 12

The research project is an exciting opportunity for students to investigate a topic of their choice, developing their ability to think creatively, critically and independently. Students who submit a winning Inspire Research Proposal attend a Research Skills Day, receive a Blackwell's voucher and gain access to Oxford University Press resources. There is also a celebration evening at St John's for all who make a full research poster!

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"I loved getting an insight into the way that Oxford works and what it would be like to study there. I particularly enjoyed the interview questions as they were challenging, but taught me how to approach hard questions by thinking outside of the box and coming up with ideas to steer yourself in the right direction."

Year 12 Pupil on the Virtual Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Study Day 2022

#### **Inspire Admissions Support**

The Inspire programme offers extra support for those students considering applications to courses at Oxford, Cambridge and other universities that require admissions tests. For many, these represent a significant barrier to a successful application. In response to feedback, the Inspire Programme developed exclusive classes, webpages, and webinars for students, teachers, parents and carers.

The programme also offers funding in the form of book vouchers to help pupils purchase recommended books to practise for Admissions Tests for entry to competitive universities.

#### **Positively You**

For 2023–24, the Inspire 12 & 13 programme has developed a partnership with Positively You, one of the UK's leading providers of educational workshops and resources. For over 20 years, they have helped empower learners and inspire learning, providing the tools and techniques students need to excel in exams.



The Inspire 12 & 13 cohorts have access to the Positive You online resource hub which contains resources: Exam Busters and Super Speedy Study Skills. They also have access to two Positively You workshops: Future You and Mastering Student Motivation.

#### Year 13

In Year 13 students continue to engage in academic taster lectures and university application advice sessions. They also receive resources to ease the transition to university, with a range of topics covered including cooking at university, living on a budget and how to make the most of the first week. We also provide study skills resources to help students feel confident for upcoming exams. 230 students took part in the Year 13 programme in 2023/23. This grew from an initial pilot of 30 students, and is forecast to grow further in 2023/24.

Skills Sessions include Interviews; How to Make a Good Argument; Critical Thinking; and Notetaking.

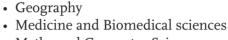
In addition, the Inspire 13 programme also offers an Additional Support Guide focusing on student wellbeing and learning how to cope with student life at university.





## Y12 Study Days

Immersive subject-specific Study Days enable students to see what studying at Oxford is like, as well as providing them with opportunities to explore their subject interests. Participants at our Study Days attend talks and workshops led by tutors, find out more about the course at Oxford and what tutors are looking for, and meet current St John's students. We offer both in-person events and virtual events to ensure that as many can benefit as possible.



In 2022/23 our days included:

- Maths and Computer Science
- Modern Languages
- Chemistry
- English

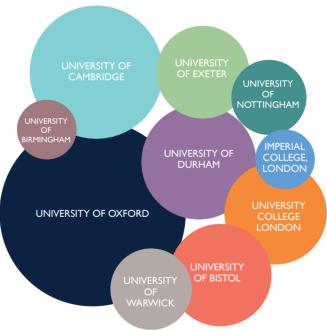




- Live lectures in your subject by Oxford academics
- The chance to meet Oxford students studying the subject
- Tailored admissions advice and guidance
- The opportunity to explore St John's and have lunch in our Dining Hall
- Tour of the College, its quads and gardens

"I loved getting an insight into the running of the college through tours, taster lectures, and hearing from students. I also loved looking at Spanish poetry as it is not something I had done before but now want to go on and study."

Year 12 Pupil at the Modern Languages Study Day 2022



Each year, the Access Team receives data about the university destinations of those who attended historic Inspire Study Days. Whilst participants from recent Study Days have gone on to study at 53 different universities, three universities – Oxford, Cambridge and Durham – account for 40% of destinations. The infographic sets out the top ten of these destinations by number of participants.



## Y12 Subject Exploration Days

Participants at our Subject Exploration Days attend talks and workshops led by tutors, find out more about the course at Oxford and what tutors are looking for, and meet current St John's students. We offer both in-person events and virtual events. These events are open to any UK Y12 pupil.

Each year, we offer Subject Exploration Days in English and in Classics and Ancient History.

These aim to:

- Widen the College's reach in a given subject
- Inform, engage and inspire pupils about studying a subject at a higher level
- Recruit students to subjects with lower applicant rates

We also offer a Classics and Ancient History Essay Competition - a chance to conduct independent research and explore classics and ancient history. This is a fantastic opportunity to conduct independent research, and encourages curiosity and reflection in those who have studied the ancient world before and those who have not. In 2023, questions included:

- Discuss the role of bad memories in ancient literature.
- 'So that human achievements may not become forgotten in time' (Herodotus).
   Was Greek and/or Roman historical memory primarily about nostalgia for past achievements?
- Did art and archaeology in the ancient world ever try to manipulate its viewers' memories of historical events?
- Sometimes we have false memories. So can we ever trust what we remember?







## Inspire Summer Schools

#### **Residential Summer Schools**

In 2023 we welcomed 260 Inspire pupils to St John's as part of our residential summer schools. They're the perfect opportunity to experience life as an Oxford Student, explore a range of different subjects and extracurricular activities, make friends with pupils from other schools and stay overnight in St John's halls of residence.

Inspire Summer schools are free of charge, and we also have travel awards available to help pupils cover the cost of travelling to and from St John's College.

Inspire Summer Schools allow attendees to:

- Experience student life at Oxford
- Stay in student accommodation
- Meet like-minded students from other Inspire schools
- Take part in taster sessions, museum visits, and fun activities like punting
- Enjoy our beautiful college and the city of Oxford

In 2023 the Access Team hosted Year 9 for two nights, Year 11 for three nights and Year 12 for three nights. The year 9s started their summer school with a lecture from Professor Dame Sue Black, President of St John's, who introduced attendees to forensic anthropology by guiding them around a skeleton found during the construction of Kendrew Quad. Pupils then participated in a historical object-handling session with historian Dr Petros Spanou, whilst the afternoon was devoted to a STEM carousel in which pupils moved between Chemistry, Material Science, Physics and Engineering practical sessions. For YII and I2 the summer school programme contained a mix of academic sessions, cultural activities, and free time to explore the College, city and to make friends.

"It was the best four days of my life and I cannot wait to join Inspire 13!"

2023 Year 12 Inspire Summer School Pupil



"I'm so grateful for the experience and feel very lucky to have attended. I enjoyed every single minute of it, and it has motivated me to study at Oxford at some point in my life. I can't think of a single improvement. It was a perfect blend of experiencing the place and the academic side."

2023 Year 11 Inspire Summer School Pupil



## **1,844** Virtual Summer **School Views**

#### **Virtual Summer Schools**

As our summer schools are often oversubscribed. Virtual Summer Schools ensure that all Inspire pupils can access five days of engaging extracurricular content in the form of exclusive videos, workshops and articles.

Each session has been carefully created by Oxford students and academics, covering a wide variety of subjects and themes. This encourages pupils to explore their interests further and consider them from different critical perspectives.

#### Sessions include:

- Academic taster sessions from Oxford tutors.
- Videos, podcasts, articles and activities provided by Oxford Gardens Libraries and Museums.
- Opportunities to submit work and win prizes.
- Career interviews and chances to submit work and win prizes

















## Inspire Primary and Community Engagement

In collaboration with partners across Oxford, St John's is delighted to work with local primary schools and the local community through Inspire Primary. We hope that the resources of St John's – be they our outstanding students or excellent facilities – will enhance the educational experience of young learners, and help them to make the first steps in inspiring a lifelong interest in education.

#### Bayards Hill: our twinned school

We're delighted to partner with Bayards Hill Primary School in Barton, East Oxford.

St John's has played a key role in the establishment of a new library at the school. Undergraduate students and staff have given over 150 hours of time to catalogue around 4,000 books, many of which were donated by the College community. St John's has also donated shelves to help transform an otherwise unused classroom into the beautiful library it now is. Each week, volunteers travel to the school to run the library.

Groups from Bayard's Hill Primary School are also welcomed to the College to explore the grounds and share our facilities.

"Our priority is to ignite passion for reading in all our pupils, opening up a world of adventures. We're so grateful for the work that St John's has done to enable us to build our library and instil this love of reading in our pupils."

Paul Waite, Assistant Head, Bayard's Hill Primary School

#### Visit St John's

Our primary school visits are extremely popular and can include:

- Fun activities like our University Detectives treasure hunt
- Free lunch in our hall
- Time for pupils to explore the College
- A visit to one of Oxford's museums

#### **Primary Festival of Science**

Each year we welcome 150 Year Five pupils from local primary schools to two days of science workshops as part of the Primary Festival of Science, run in collaboration with Trinity College and specialists from the mathematical, physical, engineering and life sciences departments. In 2023 pupils experienced a carousel of activities including a planetarium from the Physics Department, simulating earthquakes with the Earth Sciences Department, Iodine Clocks with the Chemistry Department and making parachutes with the Material Sciences Department.

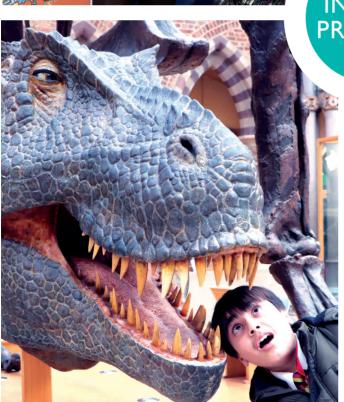
#### Support from our students

Our undergraduate student volunteers have worked with teachers in our Inspire primary schools to support them with reading and also delivered fun extra-curricular sessions for pupils. From staffing a library to creating and delivering a drama workshop, our DBS-checked volunteers have opened up new extra-curricular possibilities in our link schools whilst developing transferable skills for their own careers.









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#### Use of our facilities

St John's is fortunate to have a range of outstanding facilities and we are keen to share these with the local community. Outside of the university term, we offer spaces in St John's for Inspire primary schools to hold an INSET day, sports day or workshop in our College or sports grounds.

#### **Schools Grants**

We know that schools are forced to make difficult decisions because of real-terms cuts to budgets. According to the <u>Institute for Fiscal Studies</u>, school spending fell by 9% in real terms between 2009–10 and 2019–20 – the biggest cut for over 40 years. Whilst the government has since increased spending per pupil by over 8%, school spending per pupil in 2022–23 will still be 1–2% lower in real terms than in 2009–10. The effects of such cuts are most pronounced on the most disadvantaged schools.

This national challenge cannot be solved by St John's alone of course. Nevertheless, it is clear that the generosity of the College can have an impact within a limited number of target schools. Each year the College awards nine  $\pounds$ 5,000 grants to primary and special schools, to be spent on whatever the school deems to be a priority.

In 2021/22 and 2022/3 the College focused on 18 schools Oxfordshire, including Bayards Hill, Rose Hill, The Mulberry Bush, Pegasus School and Wood Farm. Projects funded included new libraries, play areas and sensory gardens, as well as breakfast clubs.

In 2023/24 the College will commence funding for primary and special schools in our link regions, prioritising those with the highest levels of disadvantage.



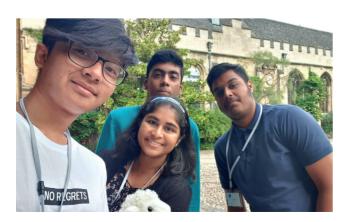
£45,000 in donations to local primary and special schools.



## Open Days



The Oxford University Open Days are a brilliant chance to look around all of the colleges and departments at Oxford. Each year we welcome over 4,000 visitors to the College across three open days, and engage with thousands more at regional UCAS fairs.



At St John's, prospective applicants and their supporters can expect:

- Tours of the college led by our enthusiastic Student Helpers who are happy to answer any informal questions
- Informal discussions with our Admissions Staff about the application process
- 'Tea and Tutors' in Kendrew Café a great chance to meet some of our subject tutors here at the College

For those unable to attend one of our in-person Open Days, we also offer a Virtual Open Day where you can find out more information about studying at Oxford.









## Offer-holder Support and Inreach

#### Offer-holder Days

For some offer-holders, St John's will be a familiar place. They may have visited on an open day, attended a study day or lived in the College for a week during a summer school. Others may never have set foot inside the College prior to receiving their offer – particularly now interviews are online. But regardless of people's educational journey, coming to university can be daunting.

Our virtual and in-person offer-holder days aim to smooth the transition to St John's. They provide offerholders with the opportunity to meet their year group before arrival, and to explore their College. Offerholder days were launched for the first time in 2023 and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants.

In 2022/23 the College welcomed 98 offer holders in person all other offer holders had the opportunity to attend the virtual events. The packed timetable included:

- Talks from the admissions and outreach teams
- Talks from student ambassadors
- Tours of the College
- · Tours of Oxford
- Informal opportunities to meet other members of the year groups and older students





### Internships

Each vacation we welcome a team of undergraduate student interns to work within the Access Office. Roles have included:

- Digital and Design Internship
- Access Delivery Internship
- Data Analysis Internship
- Social Media and Content Creation Internship

Our internship programme is developed to support students' progression into the working world by offering training and project work to aid professional development. In 2022/23 we have welcomed 15 undergraduate interns into the Access Office.

Intern work has included:

- Developing sessions for various outreach programmes
- · Developing social media plans and content
- Analysing historic project data
- Designing our summer schools

"I loved being able to create new content for potential applicants, using social media to give greater insight into the reality of life in Oxford. It's so rewarding to demystify it for those trying to decide whether Oxford is somewhere they could imagine studying at."

Lucy, Social Media and Content Creation Inspire Intern

"It's been brilliant to learn just how much work St John's does to make Oxford more accessible to students, and to be able to be such an active part of its outreach work myself."

Lily, Inspire Intern













### Skills for life

Whether through our Internship programme or through working as a student ambassador, our students gain a wealth of transferable skills to equip them for the workplace.

In our summer school, for example, four students gained leadership skills by working as Lead Student Ambassadors – each managing a shift of ten further students. Our interns, meanwhile, can expect training and development opportunities that include:

- Data management and analysis
- · Writing for different audiences
- · Social media and publicity
- Video editing and content creation

### Postgraduate student opportunities

We have a range of paid opportunities open to our postgraduate students to support them in enhancing their employability and, in some cases, helping them to promote their research. Postgraduate opportunities include:

- Teaching on Study Days
- Developing materials for Inspire
- Marking essays and competitions for Inspire Digital
- Being a helper during Open Days and the admissions period

By participating, postgraduate students gain a wealth of transferable skills to enhance employability during and after their studies. This includes:

- Public speaking
- Pedagogy
- · Extended writing
- Communication





# Inspire Support

#### **Travel Awards**

Our travel awards are available to assist anyone with difficulties in covering the cost of travelling to St John's. In 2022/23 48 students received up to £200 to cover travel to an event, depending on distance, though typically students require between £40–60.

These awards are donor funded. This means that even benefactors who give even a very small amount of money can have a transformative impact on the lives of young people. Many would not be able to attend our events without such support.

We're also pleased to support schools to visit the College on Access visits. Any visiting school can reclaim the cost of coach travel for recipients of pupil premium, young carers, refugees or cases where the school is aware of challenging financial circumstances. For high-priority schools who are yet to visit Oxford, we fund the entire cost of coach travel for their first visit, ensuring that there are as few barriers to participation as possible.

£3,20 I in Travel Award Support in 2022/23

### **Inspire Digital Assistance Awards**

Whilst all of our programmes have opportunities to visit Oxford, many of our sustained-contact programmes are delivered online. For some, this format presents its own challenges. We ensure all can participate by providing digital equipment to those who need it most. This has included tablets, headphones, mobile hotspots and styluses.

Many of our partner schools on the Inspire Scholars Programme have also used these awards to ensure that all their pupils can engage with the club classes.

### Inspire Offer-holder Book Awards

The Inspire Book scheme supports offerholders in the two most disadvantaged quintiles of contextual data to buy books ahead of their course. Each student gets a £100 Blackwell's vouchers to spend as they see fit.

In 2023 42 incoming students received a £100 to spend at Blackwell's.

£4,200 in offer-holder support







### **UNIQ**

UNIQ is the University of Oxford's access programme for state school students, supporting 1350 Sixth Formers each year. In 2023, 183 of these stayed at St John's . The College significantly subsidises the cost of this residential by £265,676 – ensuring the university the increase the size of the programme.

### The Brilliant Club

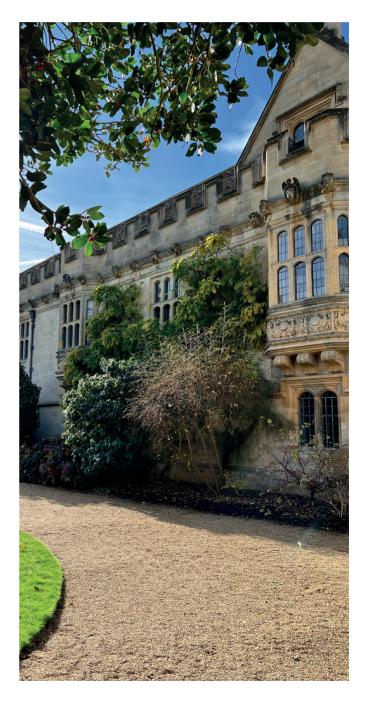
The Brilliant Club is a free scheme that mobilises graduate students to work with priority pupils to access the most competitive universities and succeed when they get there.

We are delighted to partner with the Brilliant Club to host launch and graduation events, welcoming Brilliant Club schools from across the country to St John's.

### **Oxford Open Doors**

St John's is open to the community each day from 13:00 to 17:00, free of charge. We also participate in the Oxford Preservation Trust's annual 'Open Doors' event, welcoming thousands of visitors to the College to see new spaces and try activities for the whole family.

During this, visitors will find a wealth of activities including a 'University Detectives' Treasure Hunt for children, find out more about our access programmes and opportunities to meet student ambassadors.











# Inspire Steering Committee

The Inspire Steering Committee provides strategic oversight of the College's Access and Outreach work. We're fortunate to draw on expertise from senior academic and non-academic staff within St John's, and to learn from external specialists – including headteachers and experienced access professionals. The committee meets three times a year to review the term's activities and consider plans for growth and development. As well as core members, the committee welcomes guests to input on specific areas of discussion.



## Professor Dame Sue Black DBE OBE FRS FRSE FRAI FRSB ChFA, Baroness Black of Strome President of St John's College

Professor Black is one of the world's leading forensic scientists and has most recently been the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engagement at Lancaster University. Since graduating from the University of Aberdeen in Human Anatomy and Forensic Anthropology, Professor Black has had a varied and distinguished academic career, lecturing at St Thomas' Hospital London and working as a consultant forensic anthropologist for both the Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office. She was the lead forensic anthropologist during the international war crimes investigations in Kosovo. From 2003 to 2018 she was Professor of Anatomy and Forensic Anthropology at Dundee University, and in 2021 entered the House of Lords as a crossbencher peer. Professor Black joined St John's in 2022 and chairs the Inspire Steering Committee



## Dr Sandra Campbell Fellow for Access and Supernumerary Fellow in Physiology

Sandra is the Fellow for Access at St John's, directing an extensive range of outreach projects including the Inspire Programmes. She leads our team of access and admissions staff, all of whom are passionate about making a difference for disadvantaged pupils. Sandra has worked in higher education for the last 25 years, a tutor in Physiology at Oxford for the past 13 of these.



## Denise Cripps Director of Communications and Strategic Projects

Denise studied Classics at St Hugh's College and works on a wide range of projects including strategy and governance, communications and public engagement. Before joining St John's, Denise worked in educational publishing, in editorial and senior director roles, for 25 years for Oxford University Press and Scholastic UK after teaching English in state high schools in Japan and studying for a Masters in Japanese. She was a Board Member of the Educational Publishers Council and Governor and Chair of Governors at Combe Church of England Primary School in Oxfordshire.





Zoe Hancock Principal Bursar

Zoe is the Principal Bursar at St John's and is responsible for the College's assets and operations, including its buildings and contents, HR for non-academic staff, as well as the equity and property investment portfolio that supports the College's teaching and research activities. She represents the College on external business, in particular concerning estates matters, planning and development. Zoe joined St John's in March 2021 from Oaklands College, a large further education college, where she was Principal and Chief Executive for several years. Beforehand she was the Director of Planning and Projects at the British Museum. Zoe studied modern history at Merton and trained as a chartered accountant with PwC.



Professor Patrick Hayes Tutorial Fellow in English

Professor Patrick Hayes is a Fellow of St John's College, Oxford, where he teaches English Literature from the Romantic period to the present day. His current work considers debates about the nature and value of aesthetic education from the late eighteenth-century right up to the present.



**Professor KJ Patel FRS** 

Director, Weatherall Institute for Molecular Medicine, Fellow for Ethnic Minorities at St John's College

Professor KJ Patel is the Director of the Weatherall Institute for Molecular Medicine and the MRC Molecular Hematology Unit at the University of Oxford. K J trained in medicine in London and spent his research career until recently at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge – one of the premier research institutes in the world. Professor Patel is the Chief Scientist at Cancer Research UK.



Professor Kate Nation FBA
Tutorial Fellow in Psychology and Provost for Academic Affairs

Professor Nation is a Fellow of St John's where she teaches Psychology. Her research is concerned with language processing, especially reading development, and she is the director of the Read Oxford research group.



### **External Advisors**



Rachel Kruger Headteacher, The Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls, Ealing

Rachel has taught in comprehensive schools both in the UK and in South Africa and is currently the head of The Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls in Ealing. She is passionate about girls' education and works hard to inspire girls to go to university. Her school has been part of the Inspire program for some time. Rachel is on the board of the Ealing Learning Partnership and chair of their Pathways and Progression Committee, where they consider the future opportunities available to pupils from Ealing.



Susan Hammond Head Teacher, Whitmore High School, Harrow

After studying Natural Sciences and Chemical Engineering at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Sue joined BP and worked in various engineering and commercial roles in the UK and USA. Sue then moved into teaching and is currently headteacher of Whitmore High School in Harrow, an inclusive community school with 1,700 pupils and a long-time Inspire partner. Sue is Chair of Harrow's High School Headteachers Group and Schools' Forum and is committed to ensuring all young people have fair and equal access to a high-quality education.



Katherine Ryan, MBE Former Headteacher Matthew Arnold School, Oxford and CEO of Acer Trust

Katherine brings a lifelong commitment to improving the quality of education for all learners. She was Headteacher of Matthew Arnold School, Oxford from 2006 to 2021 during which time she worked to ensure that all pupils had high levels of aspiration leading to success and progression to positive destinations when they left the school. From 2015 to 2022 she led the development of a Multi Academy Trust, the Acer Trust, consisting of primary and secondary schools across Oxfordshire, with a core aim of 'Achieving Excellence for All'. Before taking up the headship of Matthew Arnold School, she was the Principal Adviser for Secondary School Improvement at Birmingham City Council. Her career includes advisory work in science education and education leadership in three Local Authorities, as well as teaching in a range of comprehensive schools across Oxfordshire and the West Midlands. She has also worked in Higher Education as Science Education Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham.





Dr Katherine Dilnot Senior Lecturer, Oxford Brookes University

Catherine graduated with a degree in physics from St Hugh's College, Oxford. She qualified as a chartered accountant with KPMG for whom she worked until moving into academic life at Oxford Brookes University. Her responsibilities at Brookes motivated her to better understand the choices of subjects and qualifications young people make at 16+ and 18+ and how these choices relate to their social background and access to university and professional/higher managerial careers. Somewhat later in life than usual, she gained an MSc in Social Research Methods from LSE and a doctorate from UCL. Her most recent project has been on the relationship between Level 3 qualifications and subjects and social background and how these relate to university outcomes, particularly examining differences between outcomes for those with A-levels and BTECs. She and colleagues at UCL are currently working on a project using data from large firms to examine how their graduate, work experience and apprenticeship recruitment processes relate to the diversity of successful applicants in terms of social background, gender and ethnicity.



Naomi Kellman FRSA Rare Recruitment, Senior Manager for Schools and Universities

Naomi Kellman FRSA studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Oxford. On graduating in 2011, she joined diversity specialist Rare. In this role, she founded Target Oxbridge, a programme that has helped over 350 black African and Caribbean students secure Oxbridge offers, and currently supports hundreds of students a year. Naomi spent 2012 to 2015 working on education policy at the Department for Education and the Treasury, and served three years as a secondary school governor. Naomi has co-founded the BAME Fast Stream Network and the Oxford Black Alumni Network, and has made appearances on BBC News, Channel 5 News, ITV News and Sky News to discuss Oxbridge access, education and graduate recruitment. She is Rare's Senior Manager for Schools and Universities, a Trustee for The PRIME Commitment, and a member of the University of Oxford History Faculty's External Advisory Panel.



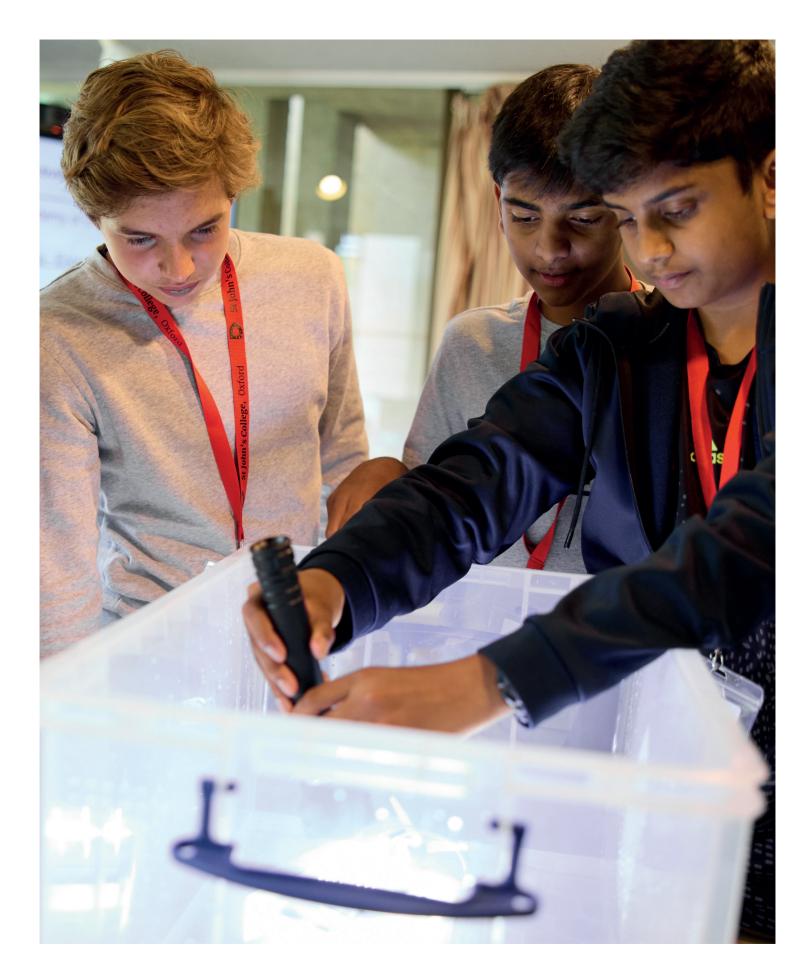
### **Richard Waters**

Richard studied Geography at Durham University, followed by a Master's in Climate Risk. He joined St John's as Access Programme Lead in 2020 after working in Access in the North East. During this time, he established Inspire Primary and embedded targeting, monitoring and evaluation into the heart of the Inspire Programmes. He left the Access Team in October 2023 to begin a PhD at St John's College, Cambridge, investigating statistical approaches to understanding human migration in response to climate change. Richard is the founder of Opportuned, an educational consultancy company specialising in evaluation and strategy for university access.

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### Dr Sandra Campbell Fellow for Access



I took responsibility for St John's Access programmes six years ago with a clear belief in the power of education to transform young people's lives. The commitment to this mission from every member of the College, coupled with the generosity of St John's, its alumni and friends has allowed us to redefine what is possible for a college to achieve in this sector.

In my first six years as Fellow for Access I had three priorities set by the Governing Body. The first was to place robust quantitative and qualitative evaluation at the heart of our work and to closely target our interventions. The second was to pilot, and subsequently roll out two flagship sustained-contact programmes for pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11, and – separately – those in Years 12 and 13 in our link regions. The third was to develop a truly comprehensive outreach programme – accessible to any state school pupil regardless of attainment. Our team has exceeded each one of these priorities. The quality, scale and ambition of what we do speaks for itself. The job, however, is never finished. Knowing that our programmes have transformative impacts only strengthens our resolve to reach as many target pupils as possible, and we have already widened our reach through partnerships with other colleges.

Whether you have followed the growth of our Access Programmes since their launch, or this booklet is your first introduction, thank you for your interest and your support.

### Katherine Ryan MBE Steering Committee



I joined the St. John's Inspire Steering Committee as an external adviser when the Access Team launched the pre-GCSE Inspire programme targeting years 9-11 in the College's linked state schools in Harrow and Ealing. I was immediately impressed with the ambition of the project and the level of commitment to the Inspire programme from the Access Team and members of the College.

I was, and remain, committed to the aims of the Inspire programme. As an educational professional for almost 40 years, I not only believe in the power of education to change lives but I also have direct experience of how a high quality education can make a a positive and significant difference to young people. From the outset, the Inspire Team has ensured that the materials provided are of the highest standard and that the teachers in the schools are supported to engage their students in academically challenging and stimulating activities.

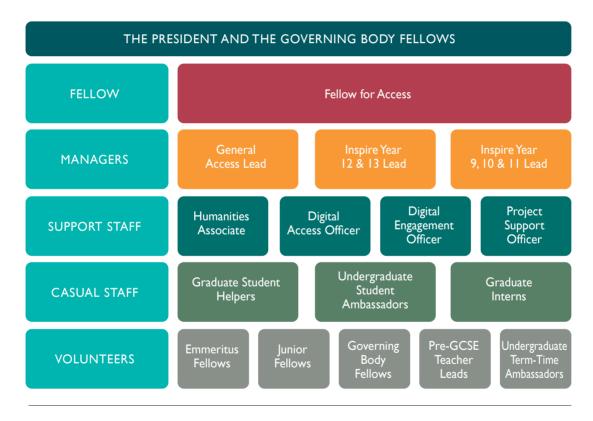
Over the past five years I have enjoyed seeing the Inspire project develop and expand to reach more students. I am proud that the evaluation of the Inspire programme clearly demonstrates that those students who have participated have benefitted and are in a better position to secure a place at the most competitive universities. The outcomes from a free, high-quality programme for all are excellent and I am excited to see how the future growth of Inspire will enable even more young people to realise their aspirations and to attain high academic standards.



## Access Team



Access is a core part of St John's College. Our team includes the President, the Fellows and spans all of our college community. Without them, the scale and scope of the work we achieve would not be possible.



Our programmes are supported philanthropically by donors who share our belief in the power of education to transform lives. The generosity of our supporters has not only created life-changing opportunities for thousands of young people, but enabled St John's to redefine what a college can achieve within access, outreach and widening participation.













