

CHS Aspire

Application to prestigious
universities and competitive courses



What is Aspire?

Opportunities

Ambition

Motivation

Support

Fostering independence

Making you 'distinctive'

Synonymous
with EPQ?



Objectives

- Provide an overview of the nature and some of the requirements of prestigious universities and competitive courses
- Insight into the application procedure
- Recommendations for action now and in the future

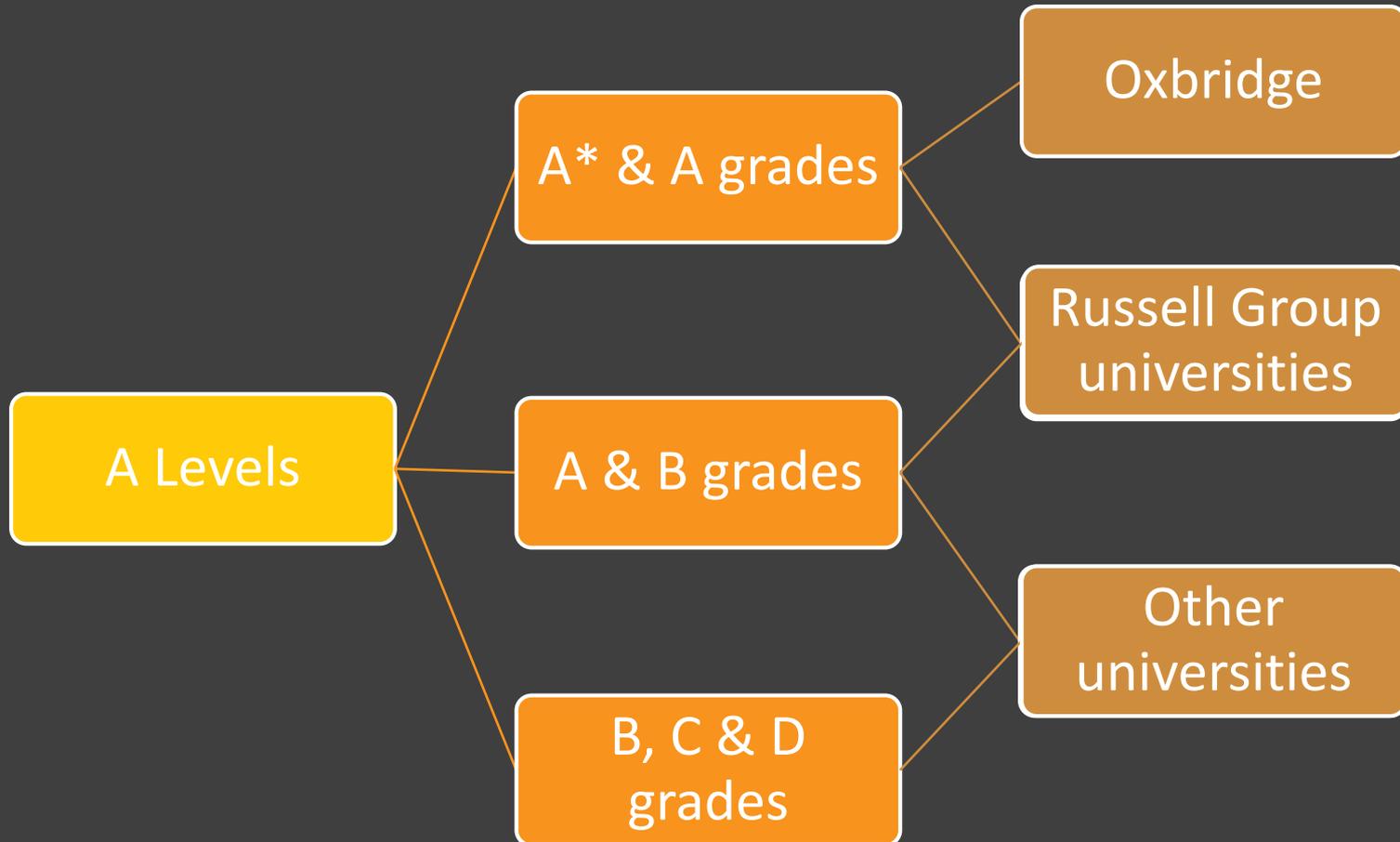


Who are our Aspire students?

- Passion and enthusiasm for their subjects
- Independent thought
- Commitment to studies
- Academic potential – demonstrated through examination results



Routes to University



Competitive Universities

Oxford and Cambridge
Members of the 'Russell Group'



Oxford and Cambridge

- Excellent courses and facilities
- Cutting edge teaching and research
- Enjoyable places to live and study
- Affordable
- Employment skills and opportunities



Oxbridge Student Profile

Seven or more grade 8 or 9s at GCSE

Some 6 or 7s at GCSE but on target for A / A*
at A Level plus high performance in
admissions tests.



Entrance Requirements

Typical offers:

A*A*A* - A*AA

After a rigorous interview process, often including admissions tests.



More than just grades

Everyone applying to Oxbridge has excellent grades.

- ✓ Flexibility of thinking
- ✓ Academic potential
- ✓ Wider knowledge



Oxbridge Interviews

- *How many kilometres of D.N.A. are there in the cells of one human body?*
- *How many planes are in the sky at any one time?*
- *How many water molecules are there in a totally filled Olympic size swimming pool?*

You don't need to **know** the answer

You need to be able to **think** your way through the problem



How is Oxbridge different?

- **Academic** and **theoretical** courses
- A focus on **independent** study and learning
 - Intensive 8 week terms
- Emphasis on 1:1 / small group **tutorials**
- Assessment largely through **exams**
- **Collegiate** system



Oxbridge

- Oxbridge conference at Aintree in March (Application process and course specific)
- Guardian app to keep up to date with current affairs.
- Open days (choose a college?)
- Contribute in lessons (and challenge ideas)
- Wider reading
- Challenges/competitions for your subject



Russell Group



World class universities

Research-intensive

Each has different characteristics



Russell Group

University of Birmingham

University of Bristol

University of Cambridge

Cardiff University

Durham University

University of Edinburgh

University of Exeter

University of Glasgow

Imperial College London

King's College London

University of Leeds

University of Liverpool

London School of Economics

University of Manchester

Newcastle University

University of Nottingham

University of Oxford

Queen Mary, University of London

Queen's University Belfast

University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University College London

University of Warwick

University of York



Why Russell Group?

- If you are thinking about a career in research or further study (PhD)
- Excellent academic reputation
 - World class resources
 - World class academics
 - Improved job prospects



Why not Russell Group?

- Course content
- Course style
- Assessment style

Other universities e.g. Lancaster, St Andrews and Bath are not part of the Russell Group but still very highly regarded.



Competitive Courses

Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science

Speech and Language Therapy

Midwifery

Physiotherapy

...there are many!



Start Now

Research

- Universities – book Open Days
- Courses
- Investigate admissions requirements
 - Admissions tests
 - Specific ‘facilitating’ subjects (Year 11s)



University Admissions

In general, admissions tutors consider:

- GCSE results
- Predicted A level grades
- Additional qualifications
 - EPQ
 - Duke of Edinburgh Awards
 - Music / Drama / Sport
- UCAS personal statement
- UCAS reference



Competitive courses

In addition, Russell Group universities and other competitive courses may require:

- Written work
- Aptitude tests
- Written test at interview
- Interviews



Admissions Tests

Law: LNAT

Medicine: UCAT or BMAT

Maths: Potentially STEP

Oxbridge: Course-dependent

Admissions tests are required for a variety of courses and this is becoming more common.

It is the **student's responsibility** to register with school or the external provider to sit these exams



Start Now

- Commitment to studies
- Hard work
- Wider reading
- Skills development
- Awareness of current research
 - Scholarly articles on Google Scholar
- Awareness of current affairs



'Wider Reading'



Keio University

Aging Populations: Lessons In Healthy Aging From Japan

Explore Japan's aging population problems and discover their policies and solutions for a long and enjoyable life.

🕒 4 weeks 🕒 3 hrs per week



Raspberry Pi Foundation

An Introduction to Computer Networking for Teachers

Build your knowledge and understanding of computer networks as a computer science teacher. Supported by Google.

🕒 3 weeks 🕒 2 hrs per week



University of Michigan

Arts and Technology Teach-Out

Explore the ways technology is expanding our definition of art in this online Teach-Out from the University of Michigan.

🕒 2 weeks 🕒 2 hrs per week



University of Wollongong

Bioprinting: 3D Printing Body Parts

Discover the recent developments regarding how biomaterials and 3D printing are colliding to create bioprinted body parts.

🕒 4 weeks 🕒 3 hrs per week

www.futurelearn.com



'Wider Reading'

BBC RADIO 4 **Seriously...** **LIVE** Woman's Hour [Schedule](#)

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Podcast

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A rich selection of documentaries aimed at relentlessly curious minds. No subject is too strange, no idea too weird. Released twice a week, this podcast is introduced by Rhianna Dhillon.

UPDATED: WEEKLY EPISODES AVAILABLE: 30 DAYS

RSS

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Fidget on Four
YESTERDAY
Dr Kat Arney examines the potential benefits of jigglng and doodling.

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Podcast

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Science sleuths Dr Adam Rutherford and Dr Hannah Fry investigate everyday mysteries sent by listeners.

UPDATED: OCCASIONALLY EPISODES AVAILABLE: INDEFINITELY

RSS

Episodes to download

The End of the World
Series 14
WED 4 DEC 2019
What would become the dominant species if, or when, humans go extinct?

[Download](#)

Why do you see faces in unexpected places?



OxNet

OxNet is an Access initiative run collaboratively between participating colleges at the University of Oxford, led by Pembroke College, along with other universities and partner schools.

Study days, seminar series, Easter conferences, summer schools and twilight talks.

www.oxnet.org



Sixth Form Support

- Aspire-specific opportunities in school & out
 - Guest speakers
 - Seminars
 - University workshops
- Aspire text messages with recommendations
- Library – journal and magazine subscriptions
- Library – newspaper subscriptions
- EPQ



EPQ

“The EPQ is a single piece of work that requires evidence of **planning, preparation, research and independent learning**.

These are **skills that are valuable** for studying at university. Some Russell Group universities will make you a **lower grade offer** if you have a good grade in the EPQ.

Even if it is not part of the offer, it can be used in your personal statement or interview to demonstrate your **interest or aptitude** in the subject.”

www.informedchoices.ac.uk (Russell Group)



EPQ

- Optional – offered to all Year 12 students
- Carried out over Year 12 and first half of Year 13
- Either a fully researched analytical essay or an artefact and commentary



Some EPQ Titles

“Are violations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the biggest threats to positive global relationships?” - Millie

“Should the NHS offer proton beam therapy to all paediatric patients with a brain tumour?” - Ella

“Can the soundtrack of the video game *Undertale* be successfully adapted for performance by an amateur orchestra?” - Nathaniel

“Is there a consensus between the generations alive today on Michael Jackson, and how far has the media played a part in these opinions?” - Mia



Timeline – Year 12

September – Careers Day & EPQ Launch

November – OxNet events, OxNet applications open

January – Sutton Trust applications open, OxNet applications close

March – UCAS Exhibition & Oxbridge Conference

July – HE Day, start Personal Statements, work experience

Summer – Attend university Open Days



Work experience

The last week of the summer term in Year 12

13th – 16th July

Students need to be proactive in finding their own **relevant** work experience.

For medical professions, caring work experience in different settings is appropriate.



Timeline – Year 13

September – EPQ Mid-Project Review

October 15th – Oxbridge & Med/Vet/Dental UCAS deadline

November – Mock interviews, Admissions tests

December – Oxbridge interviews, EPQ presentations

December – January – Med/Vet/Dental interviews

January – EPQ submission, Oxbridge responses received

January 15th – UCAS Deadline for all other courses

May – Deadline for university choice response

June – A Level exams start



Role of Parents

Be supportive throughout:

- Foster aspirations - many would probably not apply without your support.
- If realistic, continually stress your son / daughter 'can do it'.
- Try to avoid adding pressure!



Thank you

Please do stay to speak to us if you have any questions.

Or e-mail:

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