

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

Oxbridge Evening

Dr Caroline Burt, Admissions Tutor, Pembroke College, Cambridge

Dr Mark Wormald, Senior Tutor, Corpus Christi College, Oxford

Richard Partington, Senior Tutor, Churchill College, Cambridge



APPLYING TO OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE



Dr Mark Wormald

Senior Tutor, Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford

Mr Richard Partington

Senior Tutor, Churchill College, University of Cambridge

Dr Caroline Burt

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HOW DO OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE STAND OUT?

- Collegiate
- Exceptional access to senior academics via uniquely small-group teaching: supervisions and tutorials
- Intensive courses: contact-time and provision of feedback
- Outstanding academic provision
- Accommodation and social facilities
- Excellent career opportunities
- Low costs
- Very extensive financial and other support

SELECTION CRITERIA

- A-level/IB (or equivalent) grades/predictions and subject combinations
- AS/A unit marks (Cambridge)
- I/GCSE grades
- Contextual data
- Test results (Oxford)
- UCAS school/college reference
- UCAS personal statement
- Submitted work (where requested)
- Interview performance

COMMON PITFALLS

- Wrong subject
- Track-record in exams causes concern
- Poor organisation
- Inconsistent UCAS reference
- Lack of super-curricular exploration – evidenced by thin UCAS personal statement
- At interview:
 - Subject knowledge insecure
 - Insufficient analytical ability, synoptic ability or clarity of thought
 - Unwillingness to re-think ideas in the face of contrary evidence

KEYS TO OXBRIDGE SUCCESS: THE FOUR 'R's

- **Right** subject
- Excellent examination **results**
- **Read** and think – critically and analytically
- **Revise** - to embed learning and especially in advance of interview

