

ORBIT Support

During their time at Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form we encourage students to be ambitious and aim high. This becomes even more important when studying in our Sixth Form as we endeavour to provide a comprehensive programme of support to those applying to elite institutions and courses.

We support students aiming for Oxbridge, The Russell Group or similar universities through our ORBIT Programme (Oxbridge and Russell Bridging Intervention Team).

The support involves:

- Early identification of prospective students by analysis of Target Grades, Expected Levels of Performance and GCSE data.
- Specific student support group for aspiring Oxbridge candidates.
- Subscription to e-newsletters for both Oxford and Cambridge Universities.
- Student conferences such as Med Six and Vet Six hosted by the University of Nottingham.
- Linking to Research and Science Mentors who offer support across the two years to individual students.
- Cambridge Outreach Activities at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. This is a residential summer school each July for students between Years 12 and 13 who are seriously considering an application to top universities. This usually takes place in the last week of July and has been very popular with students and their schools. The first three days are for students focused on the sciences, and the second three days for students focused on the arts and humanities.
- University and College Open Days at Oxford and Cambridge.
- Visiting speakers from Cambridge and Oxford Universities. Last year we hosted speakers from Caius College, Cambridge.
- Talks from Alumni who now attend Cambridge and Russell Group Universities.
- Co-ordination of the Norfolk Summer School. This is a five day, non-residential series of activities hosted at Norwich School. It includes tours, seminars, activities and trips to relevant institutions. It is open to all students.
- Nuffield Bursaries. These are awards made to successful applicants from the Sciences. Students receive a "salary" to work for between four and six weeks on live research projects within the Norwich area. These include projects hosted at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, John Innes Institute and NFER. These bursaries are highly sought after by prospective medics, dentists, vets and scientists and Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form has a good record of successful applications.
- Centre for subject supporting aptitude tests. Several universities require the completion of subject specific aptitude tests. The most common of these are the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT), BMAT for prospective medical students and LAT for lawyers. There are several others, in particular for Oxbridge applicants. The school acts as a centre for the sitting of some of these tests.
- Mock interviews. There is an ever growing number of opportunities for mock interviews held at Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form and other venues. These are specifically designed to give students a taste of the format and questioning they can expect at Oxbridge and other elite institutions.

In addition, we offer bespoke help during the UCAS application process with personal statements and references.

