



KS4 Raising Aspirations and Attainment Day Programme

Summary:

This is a sample programme for introductory visits to Cambridge for Y10 and Y11 students, to be held either in Lent or early Easter Term. Visitors have the chance to learn more about UK universities and the University of Cambridge and to participate in a range of activities designed to raise their aspirations and to enrich their studies. The precise content of the academic/taster section of programme can have general educational applicability or can be made more subject-specific, according to the aims of individual visits.

Target:

The event is targeted at KS4 students from one or more link-area schools (max 40 can be accommodated), the rationale being to influence both the students' ideas about university and their attitudes towards education in general at this important stage in their intellectual development. Individual visits can be targeted generally at high achievers, or be used to contribute towards the college's efforts to widen participation by asking schools to select students on the basis of outreach-related/socio-economic targets (e.g. LPN, BAME, IMD, etc.) should a relative local educational disadvantage be identified within the visiting school's catchment. Alternatively, visits may also target a particular subject area and aim to raise educational outcomes or HE progression rates in that subject. Co-ordination with schools will be carried out in advance in each case.

Aims:

The programme aims to raise the aspirations and the educational attainment of KS4 students by introducing them to university and by making academic study both desirable and enjoyable. More specifically, the programme is also intended to increase pupils' familiarity with the University of Cambridge and to counteract any negative preconceptions they may have about the university. In addition, the individual aims of each visit will also be specifically tailored to its individual target (see above) and the specific activities will be organised accordingly.

Outcomes:

Attendees should feel more informed about the benefits of university education and should be more likely to apply in several years' time than students who have not participated in such programmes. They should also return to their schools having enjoyed the academic opportunities they had during the visit and with a renewed commitment to their studies. This may be reflected anecdotally in higher attainment, but a direct causal connection cannot be established and so is not expected.

Evaluation:

Attendees may be surveyed after the event to ask whether they enjoyed the activities and how (if at all) it changed their attitudes towards university and/or a particular subject. Anecdotal evidence from teachers may also follow, regarding the subsequent academic performance of attendees. If data is gathered, individual students will eventually be tracked via HEAT to see whether they later explore the university in greater detail through other events, such as Open Days, and eventually to see how many apply to the university.



Sample Timetable:

Time	Session
From 10.00	Arrival in Cambridge, walk to Christ's College and welcome
10.30-10.45	Examining our assumptions about 'university' and 'Cambridge'
10.45-11.30	Introduction to Higher Education in the UK
11.30-11.45	Break
11.45-12.30	Academic/Taster Session
12.30-13.00	Lunch/Tour of College
13.00-13.30	Tour of College/Lunch
13.30-14.15	Why consider Cambridge? What the university can offer you.
14.15-15.00	Student life in Cambridge
15.00-15.15	Concluding session, re-examining our assumptions and departure

Practical Information:

For all practical information for schools visiting Christ's College, please see:

<https://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/admissions/outreach-access-and-schools-liaison/practical>

For information on how to get to Christ's, please see:

<https://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/how-get-christs>

For a map of Christ's College, please see:

https://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/sites/www.christs.cam.ac.uk/files/inline-files/01_College-map_2017_4.pdf

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