We hope your academic year has begun well and that your students applying to Oxford have now submitted their UCAS forms and been registered for any admissions tests. Read on for guidance on final preparations for the admissions tests and information about our interview process.

**Admissions Tests**

**31 October 2018**

Good luck to all those sitting our admissions tests at the end of this month. We know that practising past papers really helps students to do well, so please encourage them to have a go at some past or sample papers, ideally under timed conditions. They can find these on our [individual test pages](#), which also contain further information about how to prepare.

**Oxford interviews**

The interview is a crucial part of our admissions process. A good deal of the teaching at Oxford takes place in small interactive classes or tutorials, and the interviewers — who may be your students’ future tutors — are assessing a candidate’s ability to study, think and learn in this way. Tutors are looking for self-motivation, enthusiasm and academic potential. Decisions are based on an applicant’s capacity for thinking independently and engaging with new ideas beyond the scope of their school or college syllabus. Coming to Oxford for an interview is also a great opportunity for candidates to experience student life here and to decide whether they would enjoy our university.

**Interview Travel Bursaries**

We are working hard to remove any barriers that might make it difficult for candidates to come for interview — like the cost of travel. If this is a problem for any of your students, then we may be
able to pay for the cost of travel to and from Oxford, by public transport, for UK residents who
attend or have attended a UK state school or college. Candidates must also be:

- currently eligible for Free School Meals;
- and/or in local authority care;
- and/or have another reason why it would be difficult for them to pay for travel to
  attend interview in Oxford.

The college assessing the candidate's application will send them a letter which includes a link to
an online form for them to complete. This will give us the details we need to check their eligibility.
Please encourage your students to complete this form as soon as they can; there isn't much time
between invitation and the interviews so it is really important that they don't delay. Once we have
received and checked the details, we will contact them with details about how to make a booking.

Now the application deadline has passed, your students may be anxious to know
whether they have been selected for interview.

Due to the large number of applications we receive, it does take time to work
through them all and make sure we've
considered every element of an
application, including admissions tests and
written work. This means that most
students are given only a week or two's notice about their interview. They will be
sent either a letter or an email to invite them.

Candidates who made an open application
will be able to find out which college is
assessing their application the week ending 26 October by email and via UCAS.

There's lots of information on our Teachers' eGuide to help you prepare your
students for their interviews. You may also
like to look at these samples questions,
which could be used in a mock interview.

Our best advice is to encourage your
students to immerse themselves in their
chosen subject in their own time; whether
that's by reading something like National Geographic or the London Review of Books,
attending a public lecture or an
exhibition, or by watching a relevant
documentary. You can also help your
students to prepare by spending time
discussing their subject with them so they
can learn to articulate their ideas and
opinions and feel confident doing so.
Students should read our Interview Guide.
Access Arrangements

Mid-November

If any of your students that are offered an interview need access arrangements because of a disability or long-term health condition they should let their college know as soon as possible.

Colleges will make reasonable adjustments to support applicants at interview, for instance: by providing materials in alternative and accessible formats, arranging extra time for reading interview materials before, amending interview timings, or providing accessible accommodation.

2018 Interview Timetable

2-14 December 2018

This year’s interviews will take place in Oxford between Sunday 2 and Friday 14 December.

Students should bring a copy of their personal statement and any written work they were asked to submit. Food and accommodation is completely free and there will be current students on hand to show people where to go.

There’s no dress code for candidates, but they should remember to bring some warm clothes!
UNIQ is a free access programme of residential and digital content run by the University of Oxford for state school students in their first year of further education. This programme aims to support pupils who would do well at Oxford but may lack the confidence to apply. In 2019, we are offering an additional 500 places on our residential programme for pupils to come to Oxford for 4 nights and 5 days. 1,350 pupils will have the opportunity to study their chosen subject, experience undergraduate life and receive first hand support on making a competitive application.

There is also an opportunity for students to engage with UNIQ Digital, our online platform which provides students with mentoring, activities and advice in preparation for making their applications. UNIQ Digital is a resource that is available to all participants but also a further 1000 students who miss out on a residential place.

UNIQ is extremely effective at transforming a student’s chances of success. Students have a 34% chance of successfully applying to Oxford, compared to the average UK rate of about 20%. Applications open 3 December and close 28 January. For more information on how to help your pupils apply please click here.

This newsletter is distributed five times throughout the academic year. Please feel free to circulate this newsletter to any colleagues who might be interested or they can sign up via our online form. If you have any feedback or suggestions for future content, we’d love to hear from you, just send an email to study@ox.ac.uk.