

Oxbridge Chigwell Event

On Thursday 29th February 2024, I took a group of 20 Year 12 students to Chigwell School for an Oxbridge preparation event that we co-organised in partnership with Chigwell, Barking Abbey, Oaks Park and WCHS.

I prepared resources for students wanting to study Medicine, Dentistry, Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry and Biomedicine. Students were assigned to groups where they collaborated, discussed and thrashed out their ideas. There was a vibrant and dynamic vibe around all the different activities. I was very impressed by the enthusiasm shown by all of the students; they were engaged, focused and inquisitive. By far, the highlight for many was the presentation by James Davies-Warner Admissions & Outreach Coordinator Corpus Christi College which was engaging, informative and to the point.

Everyone contributed and engaged in all aspects of the day. It was great to be involved in such a wonderful and truly inspiring event that brought together so many partnership schools.

Saira Khan, Deputy Head of Science



What I found the most helpful from this event was the talk on what successful personal statements look like and all the steps I should take from now to progress towards building a successful application.

I thoroughly enjoyed getting to share thoughts and opinions on the work, alongside getting to know about each other's Oxbridge preparation so far, helping me with my own.

The Oxbridge Potentials event at Chigwell School was a great opportunity for me to learn more about the process of applying to Oxbridge, as well as finding out all the amazing things Oxbridge has to offer.

We studied sources on the Spanish conquest of Mexico, from varying perspectives. This is a topic I had never engaged with before. Sources from an Essex parish church gave a fascinating insight into local history "from below". We also explored femininity and masculinity within a painting ("The Oath of The Horatii") and its relation to French Revolutionary culture.

I was fortunate enough to get the opportunity to have an in-depth workshop on exploring historical sources, exploring their content, context and drawing up critical conclusions.

Overall, the day was very beneficial to my studies in further securing my interest in pursuing History at a higher level. The event enabled me to share this enthusiasm with like-minded students.

To push us further, we were driven by our supervisor to explain our arguments for some of our answers in the sample test. This allowed us to practice formulating strong and logical arguments, which is essential for a legal career.

Our sessions imitated 'tutorial-style' teaching, which was very helpful as some students haven't experienced that style before.

One of the key takeaways from the talk was the importance of demonstrating genuine passion and curiosity for the chosen subject. Rather than listing achievements or qualifications, applicants were encouraged to delve into their academic interests, detailing relevant reading, projects, or experiences that have influenced their intellectual journey.

Although I had just met these students, I thoroughly enjoyed working together with them and feel that this was overall a good experience for me as it helped me step out of my comfort zone.

Throughout the day, we collaborated with aspiring medical students from other schools, sharpening our team-building skills and developing our critical thinking abilities. Our teacher prepared us with a wide range of thought-provoking questions combining both Chemistry and Biology that not only tested our A-level knowledge but also challenged us to think creatively and outside the box.