As one of the University of Oxford’s link colleges for the North East of England, St Anne’s has always been about widening access to an Oxford education. Our ambition is to be the home of choice for the brightest and most ambitious students including those from under-represented groups; we believe that diversity of people is a rich source of learning for us all.

To achieve this we need to continue to increase the number of successful applications from groups that are currently under-represented, including students from less advantaged socio-economic backgrounds, and black and minority ethnic students.
Between 2015 and 2017, there were 36,504 undergraduate applications to the University of Oxford of which 733 were from the North East. 204 offers were made to students from the region (a success rate of 27.8%) which is a higher success rate than applicants from other areas. The overall success rate is 24%. The North East contains 4.1% of the UK population but the total number of undergraduates admitted to the University from the North East is only 2.3%. Whilst we have made progress in recent years, we know that there is more to be done for us to reach those students we are currently missing out on.

The North East Consortium offers funded residential stays at the University’s Open Days for students and teachers from North East state schools, allowing them to travel to Oxford and stay for two nights completely free of charge, learning more about the University, its courses and how to apply. St Anne’s Outreach Officer also travels to our link regions to give information and guidance sessions, including interview workshops. All this work is supported by generous donations and last year over 3,200 state school pupils benefitted.

Oxford’s colleges are working with students in state schools across the UK. The North East Consortium – St Anne’s, Christ Church and Trinity colleges – offers events for students as young as Years 7, 8 and 9, to introduce them to Oxford and higher education in general. For sixth formers, the Consortium provides more specific support on making applications to Oxford and other competitive universities. The North East is the most under-represented English region amongst Oxford undergraduates and so it is particularly important to us to ensure that we are not missing out on talented students who could benefit from the opportunity to study at Oxford.

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College’s current interactions with schools are important for maintaining positive relationships and providing a key point of contact with the University. However, in addition to maintaining a core level of outreach provision across the region, a new programme is being launched: Aim for Oxford.
On behalf of the University of Oxford, St Anne’s College is launching a more targeted, high-intensity two-year long programme in partnership with Christ Church, working with a specific cohort of young people in a sustained manner. This will support disadvantaged, high achieving state school applicants from their GCSE results through to making strong applications for, and then arriving at, Oxford.

### Application Process

**Late Aug – late Oct 2019**

Pupils entering Year 12 of a state school in the North East of England will be eligible to apply. Selection for places will be on the basis of contextualised educational achievement at GCSE and a number of widening participation criteria, including:

- A POLAR postcode score of 1 or 2 or an ACORN postcode score of 4 or 5
- Eligible for free school meals
- Black or minority ethnic background
- Among the first generation in their family to go to university
- In receipt of a bursary from their school or college
- Care background

Information in short personal statements and teachers references will also be taken into account. Forms will be distributed via schools this summer.

### Year 12 Programme  Dec 2019 – Aug 2020

- 1-to-1 meetings with selected participants and parents/carers including personalised Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) support
- Academic enrichment and IAG sessions delivered across 4 dates in the North East
- Opportunities to engage with University researchers and alumni
- Support to complete a summer independent research project
- A 4-night summer school, including free travel, accommodation and meals, taster tutorials, library and departmental visits, application support and guidance, admissions test preparation support and undergraduate student mentors

### Year 13 Programme  Sept 2020 – Sept 2021

- Students completing Year 12 of the programme making applications to Oxford will progress to the Year 13 programme
- Interview preparation workshops delivered in the North East
- An academic support allowance to support attainment and preparation for Oxford
- A two-night transition visit

Successful applicants from the first cohort of Aim for Oxford will commence their studies at the University of Oxford in October 2021.
‘This ambitious and exciting new initiative will provide talented students from the North East with insights and the best possible support so that they can aim for Oxford. We are looking forward to working with schools, students, and the local community to open up the University, and reaching those students we are missing out on at the moment.’

Helen King – St Anne’s College Principal

Ways to get involved

Follow, share and re-tweet us on social media, Facebook and Twitter @stannescollege @stannesoutreach @OxOutreach @ChCh_Access

Get in touch with us at development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk to let us know if you have comments or queries about Aim for Oxford.

If you know someone who would like to be involved or who should consider applying to study here, please tell them about Aim for Oxford and encourage them to get in touch.

Donate to the programme: To deliver this new initiative on top of our current provision we will need to more than double our current annual spend on outreach. You can make a donation at https://www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/st-annes-college.

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Our Values

FORWARD LOOKING & OUTWARD FACING • DIVERSE & MULTIDISCIPLINARY
AMBITIOUS & DOWN-TO-EARTH • INDEPENDENT & COLLABORATIVE • RIGOROUS & SUPPORTIVE