

# Sixth Form



**Independent day  
and boarding school**

# Contents

2	The Sixth Form at 333
4	Key Facts about the Sixth Form
6	Living and Studying in Oxford
9	Our Sixth Form Curriculum
10	Teaching and Learning
11	A Level Subjects at d'Overbroeck's
12	The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
14	Our Sports, Activities and Social programme
16	Music and Drama
17	A typical week in the Lower Sixth
18	Boarding in the Sixth Form
22	Pastoral Care
23	A level results
24	Futures: our University and Careers Programmes
25	Monitoring and Reporting on progress
26	Medics and Vets
27	University Destinations 2019
28	Admissions
29	Staff
30	A map of d'Overbroeck's facilities
31	Travel

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d'Overbroeck's is an accredited member of the Independent Schools Council. As such, we are subject to regular inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI). This takes the place of Ofsted inspections for ISC members.

In our most recent full ISI inspection, the school was judged 'Excellent' in all aspects of its educational provision. The inspection team also commented on the 'extremely high levels of satisfaction with the school overall' expressed in the parental responses to the pre-inspection survey. The full inspection report can be found on our website: [www.doverbroecks.com/inspection](http://www.doverbroecks.com/inspection).

d'Overbroeck's is in membership of the Society of Heads of independent schools and of the Boarding Schools Association.



## Welcome to d'Overbroeck's Sixth Form

The d'Overbroeck's Sixth Form is one of the most successful sixth forms in the country providing an outstanding transition from "school" to university. Students achieve extremely well academically whilst developing confidence in themselves, their ideas and their abilities. The Sixth Form attracts students from Oxfordshire, from all over the UK and indeed all over the world as they want to benefit from this unique, highly distinctive Sixth Form.

With over 360 students in the Lower and Upper Sixth taken together, our Sixth Form is the largest part of our school. In addition to our own Year 11s progressing through, we have a substantial intake of new students (some 130+) who join our Lower Sixth each year – a mix of day students and boarders. These are students who choose to move to d'Overbroeck's from other schools.

Why do students choose to change schools to join us? There are, of course, as many different reasons as there are students. Predominantly, though, the reasons lie in the combination of the compellingly distinctive ethos and more "grown up" environment that we have here, the quality of teaching and pastoral care that we provide and the high calibre of our students' academic and other achievements. Unlike most schools our Sixth Form has its own facilities and boarding completely separate physically from the younger years. This combined with the significant number of students joining us from other schools gives the Sixth Form a very dynamic and exciting feel. It is easy for students to fit in because it is new to almost everyone; even our own Year 11s won't have been taught at this site.

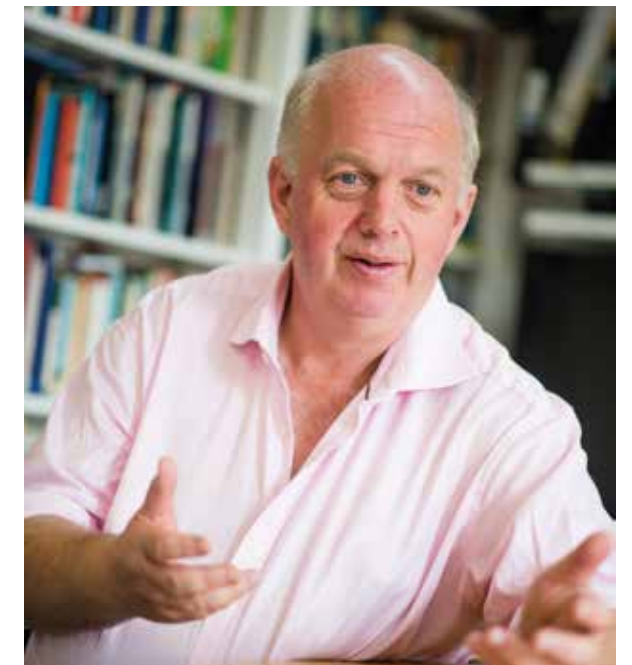
Another appealing factor is the fact that we offer an unusually broad range of subjects at A level. This gives students the flexibility to choose the combination of subjects that best fits their strengths, interests and future aspirations.

We set ourselves the goal of offering an outstanding sixth form education, and we mean this in the broadest possible sense. The great majority of our students achieve excellent academic results and go on to many of the top universities (and Art, Drama and Music schools) in the UK. But, for all that exam results are crucially important, results are not our only measure of success; we want students to enjoy a broad and fulfilling sixth form education.

Daily life at d'Overbroeck's is fuelled by enthusiasm, laughter and a strong sense of common purpose. What you will find here is a vibrant, welcoming, forward-looking, diverse, tolerant and supportive community of staff and students. Students will also find themselves in a confidence-building and highly motivating environment which offers a wide-ranging programme of activities from which to choose, the opportunity to make strong and lasting friendships – and a very special atmosphere which we, staff and students, all thoroughly enjoy. Our approach is based on respect: respect for the individual

and respect for differences in ideas. Staff and students call each other by their first names, reflecting a collaborative approach to learning; one where we work together and enjoy doing so.

I believe that a d'Overbroeck's education gives students the opportunity to grow into well-rounded, self-possessed and forward-looking young people and into confident, resilient learners and independent thinkers. In short, I believe that a d'Overbroeck's education provides an excellent springboard to life at university and beyond.



Alasdair MacPherson, Head of Sixth Form

**“We set ourselves the goal of offering an outstanding sixth form education, and we mean this in the broadest possible sense.”**



## The Sixth Form at 333

//  
A forward looking, innovative  
Sixth Form – full of energy,  
laughter and success.//

d'Overbroeck's was listed as the  
58th top co-educational school  
in The Times league table in 2019.

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We were also pleased to be  
included in the Tatler Schools  
Guide this year.





# Key Facts about the Sixth Form

Location: our Sixth Form has its own facilities separate from the younger years at 333 Banbury Road, North Oxford.

Numbers: over 360 students in the Sixth Form. Unlike most sixth forms most of the students are new to us. They are changing from other schools to benefit from our approach.

Approximately 50:50 day and boarders.

Approximately 50:50 male: female.

Approximately 50:50 UK: international students (from around 40 countries).

Class size: we aim for a maximum 10 students in a class.

35 A levels to choose from in any combination; no option blocks.

Over 20 activities a week to choose from; sport/activities twice a week.

Excellent academic results in absolute terms.

Outstanding value added. We are regularly the top performing school in Oxfordshire for value added results at A level.

Informal in approach in that we do not have chapel, weekly assembly, prefects, a House system, morning registration or uniforms.

We use first name terms, have a belief in and respect for students and an outstanding, collaborative approach to teaching and learning where you can enjoy your subjects and do exceptionally well.

**“ I couldn't have wanted to go to a better Sixth Form! Inspiring teachers and amazing people! ”**





# Living and Studying in Oxford

**Oxford is known as the city of dreaming spires. It is a beautiful and historic city with a long standing and prestigious academic reputation.**

Oxford is also a modern, thriving centre of culture and technology. It is a very safe, student-friendly city with two universities as well as many schools and colleges and plenty for you to do. For example, you can visit the world-famous Ashmolean and Pitt Rivers Museums, see contemporary art at Modern Art Oxford or visit The New Theatre, Oxford Playhouse or Pegasus Theatre for dance, drama and musical performances.

The University of Oxford offers public talks to which we can take you, giving you a taste of the intellectual challenges which you can embark on by studying at this hub of learning. You can also benefit from a reduced fee for membership at the world-famous debating chamber at the Oxford Union. There are many parks in Oxford and the University Colleges which are well worth a visit. You can also go punting but if you would like to be more active, there are swimming pools (indoor and outdoor), an ice-skating rink, running tracks, bowling arcades and, of course, the many sports and activities clubs run by d'Overbroeck's. And if that's not enough there are many notable places to visit nearby including Blenheim Palace and the retail outlet Bicester Village.



## Summertown

The Sixth Form is just a few minutes' walk from Summertown in North Oxford. Here you will find cafes, coffee shops, restaurants, retail outlets and an art gallery. There is also a leisure centre which you can join. This offers a swimming pool, gym and studio facilities. Alternatively, you can join the private health club Nuffield which again is only a few minutes from the Sixth Form. d'Overbroeck's students pay half of the usual membership fee.





## Our Sixth Form Curriculum

All students starting in the Sixth Form choose four subjects for the first year. You can then continue with these four in your second year or, more commonly, drop one subject to focus on three.

You may well be uncertain of exactly what you want to study for A level and in a number of cases will be taking subjects you have never studied before. By taking four subjects in the first year you can maintain breadth in your education and explore your options before you finalise your three A level subjects. We ask students' opinions each year and they overwhelmingly value studying four subjects in the first year; in a significant number of cases the subjects that they carried on with in year two were not the ones that they thought they would continue with at the start.

You can choose four A level subjects in almost any combination – we do not have any option blocks. This flexibility means you can study subjects that engage you and that play to your strengths. Studying something you enjoy is likely to lead to a much more successful outcome than being forced to take a subject because of option blocks. We will provide a great deal of support to help you choose the right subjects given your background, your skills and your university and career ambitions.

“Coming to this school was probably the best decision I have made in my life so far! The school massively encourages you to be yourself and I have definitely become the best version of me even after just one year at this school.”

– Past student

### Beyond

Whilst A levels lie at the heart of a sixth form education with us, we believe it is also important to offer the opportunity to go beyond the A levels. Ultimately at A level you are studying within the framework set out in the subject specification. Universities and employers are increasingly interested in what students do for themselves that goes beyond this.

As a result, we encourage you to engage with your subjects beyond the classroom whether that be through visits, workshops and conferences or national competitions.

You may also benefit from:

- **The d'Overbroeck's Plus programmes:** Our Plus programmes are available in a range of subject areas and provide academic extension. The Plus Programmes allow you to go beyond A level and explore your interests in greater depth. The aim is to build research skills, develop critical thinking further and introduce you to what studying a subject at university is likely to involve.
- **Our specialist preparation programmes** for highly competitive courses and institutions e.g. our Oxbridge preparation, our Medics, Dentistry and Law Preparation programmes.
- **The Extended Project:** The Extended Project is an exciting option for you if you want to pursue a particular area of interest. There are general classes to develop research skills and you will have a personal supervisor to support your work. Most of the projects focus on a written report in a particular academic area, but have also included the writing of a poem, a short novel, a film, dance choreography and a musical composition.
- **Discovery Plus.** This is a new optional activity for this year. It aims to enhance academic excellence while encouraging students to become more intellectually engaged with current affairs and wider issues of academic interest. It will encourage students to explore the links between subjects while improving their academic literacy, skills of analytical reasoning, research and presentation, and awareness of current affairs. You will work in teams and be given a challenging issue to research over a term and present your findings on at the end.
- **Enrichment:** We have an enrichment session each week for all Lower Sixth students. These sessions include speakers, workshops and activities and are designed to help you develop the study skills you need for Sixth Form life, help you engage with issues in the wider world, develop greater resilience and prepare you for university and your careers.





# Teaching and Learning

At d’Overbroeck’s we focus a great deal on learning – how do students learn best? What is the most effective form of feedback? How do we best develop the key transferable skills students need for the future? Our aim is to make learning enjoyable and interactive as well as highly successful.

## Our aims at the Sixth Form include:

- Promoting academic excellence and intellectual curiosity where you create, collaborate and debate. We want to encourage academic ambition and help you to stretch yourself as a student. We want you to challenge and think critically about issues.
- Helping you to develop as a person– we want you to be able and confident to express who you are and to think for yourself.
- Creating an engaging learning environment in which teachers are passionate about their subjects, where lessons are interactive and learning is fun.
- Helping you to develop key skills for their learning and careers such as problem solving, communication skills and digital literacy.
- Helping you to have a global perspective to better understand the world’s issues and the views of others.

## Features of our approach to teaching and learning include:

### Teacher-led, student-centred classes

Lessons at d’Overbroeck’s are teacher-led but student-centred and our small classes lend themselves to interactive and energetic lessons where everyone plays a part. Our maximum class size is usually 10. You will be engaged throughout – able to ask questions and encouraged to contribute.

### How to think, not what to think

The best teaching starts by showing you how to think (never what to think) and leaves you ready for the next stage in your career, able to think for yourself. That ‘aha!’ moment of revelation, when you really understand something, perhaps even perceive something we haven’t, is one of the greatest joys in teaching.

You learn best when you are inspired, and we want nothing more than to pass on a passion for our subjects. In the Sixth Form at d’Overbroeck’s, we create an environment that makes this possible.

### Small classes

Small classes also mean that we can teach to the individual. We have time and space to stretch you when you are ready to fly and to help you where you need support. Teaching of exam skills is a core part of our lessons (for instance, deconstructing a formula or a good paragraph sentence by sentence); equally, we encourage vigorous debate and energetic exchange of ideas.

### Learning to learn independently

Our approach to teaching has twin aims. We are intently focused on preparing you for the task at hand: achieving your full potential at A level. At the same time, we want to ensure that you acquire the academic skills, organisation and self-awareness needed to become an independent learner who is well prepared for the next stage in your life.

This means that you need to learn to research, to select and evaluate information, to think for yourself and have the confidence to construct a well-informed and well-reasoned argument. You need to develop self-awareness, so that you know how you learn most effectively and learn to use this to maximum effect. You also need the ability to manage your time effectively, to juggle priorities and get things done on time.

We work hard to help you develop these skills and qualities by the time you leave us. We know we have done our job well when you achieve your potential, not just at A level, but also at university and in your working career.

### Working collaboratively

You will find our teachers extremely approachable if you need any help. Teachers are always happy to talk through work and support you in your learning. This collaborative approach is regularly commented on by students and many find it extremely refreshing. With small classes it is easy to ask questions and the environment is positive and supportive so no-one worries about talking or putting forward your view.

If, for any reason you do need some extra support beyond the classes many subjects offer subject workshops. Particularly when we approach progress tests or exams there are plenty of additional sessions to help with your revision.

We also offer Independent Learning Skills support. These sessions are available to all students who would like to work for short periods of time on specific skills such as organising your revision, structuring an essay or note-taking.



# A Level Subjects at d’Overbroeck’s

We believe it is very important that you can study the subjects you enjoy, that suit your strengths and that prepare you effectively for your future career. That’s why we offer a wide range of subjects and, unlike most schools, you can usually choose these in any combination. If you study the subjects you enjoy, you are more likely to succeed. You and your parents will have many opportunities to discuss subject combinations because we believe it is vital to get these decisions right.

ART	LATIN
BIOLOGY	MANDARIN
BUSINESS	MATHS
CHEMISTRY	MEDIA STUDIES
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	MUSIC
COMPUTER SCIENCE	MUSIC TECHNOLOGY
DRAMA	PHILOSOPHY
ECONOMICS	PHOTOGRAPHY
ENGLISH	PHYSICAL EDUCATION
FILM STUDIES	PHYSICS
FRENCH	POLITICS & GOVERNMENT
FURTHER MATHS	PSYCHOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY	RELIGION, ETHICS, PHILOSOPHY (REP)
GERMAN	RUSSIAN
HISTORY	SOCIOLOGY
HISTORY OF ART	SPANISH
ITALIAN	TEXTILES
JAPANESE	



# The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The Extended Project Qualification has proved to be hugely successful and popular at d'Overbroeck's. It is a free-standing qualification that allows a student to embark on a largely self-directed and self-motivated project. d'Overbroeck's offers every student in the Sixth Form the opportunity to pursue an EPQ, in addition to studying for A levels. The EPQ is widely respected by universities and often results in a lower offer being made against a student's A level subjects.

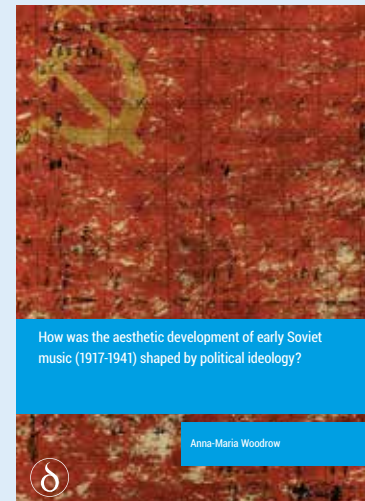
## An Extended Project Qualification (EPQ):

- gives you the opportunity to choose your own topic to research
- makes you responsible for your own learning and development
- gives you greater confidence and a sense of achievement
- teaches new skills, such as independent research, project management, self-directed learning and multimedia presentation techniques

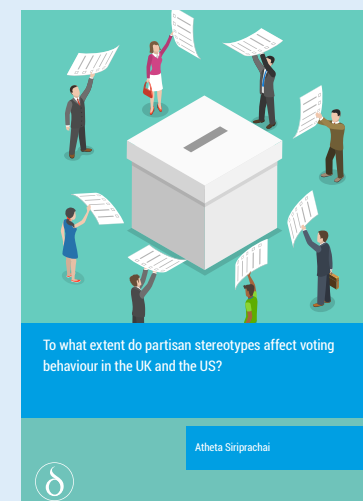
As one of the first schools in Oxfordshire to introduce EPQs into the Sixth Form, our experience of the qualification has been wholly positive. As well as providing you with a competitive edge when applying to top universities, the EPQ offers you a genuine opportunity to engage in high-level research or to plan and produce a creative product, all in a supportive environment. These are all important skills for university and beyond.

**82%** of students submitting an EPQ this year achieved a grade A\* or A

## Examples of Recent Extended Projects



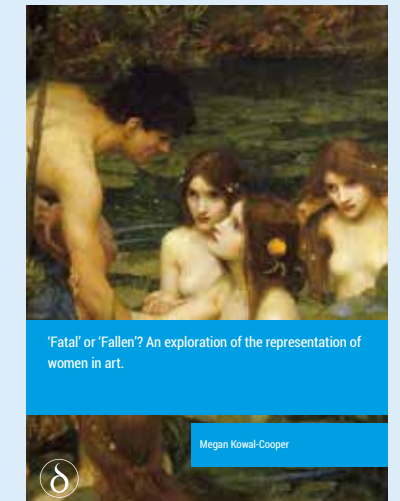
Anna-Maria Woodrow  
University of Cambridge  
English



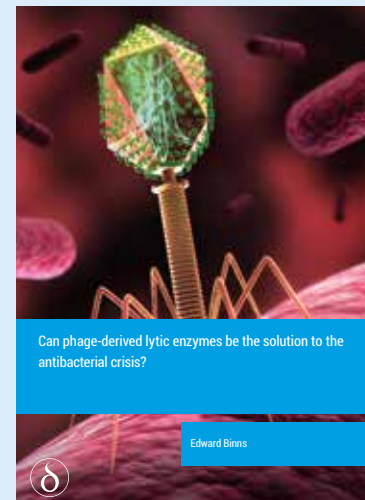
Atheta Sirirachai  
University of Cambridge  
Human, Social, and Political  
Sciences



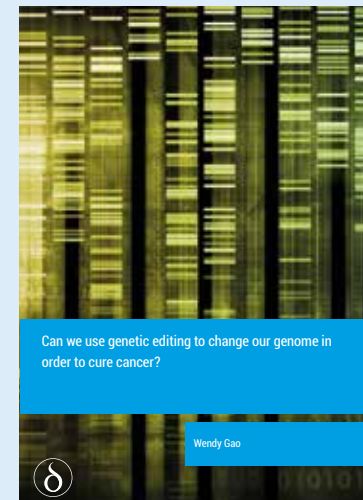
Lucia Volpe  
NUA  
Graphic Design



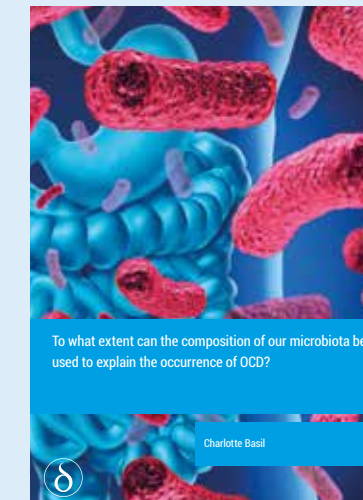
Megan Kowal-Cooper  
Courtauld Institute  
History of Art



Edward Binns  
Imperial College  
London Physics



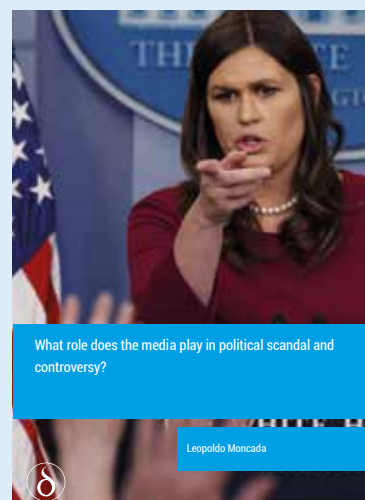
Yujia Gao  
Imperial College, London  
Medicine (6 years)



Charlotte Basil  
University of Edinburgh  
Psychology



Molly Chambers  
University of Manchester  
Economics



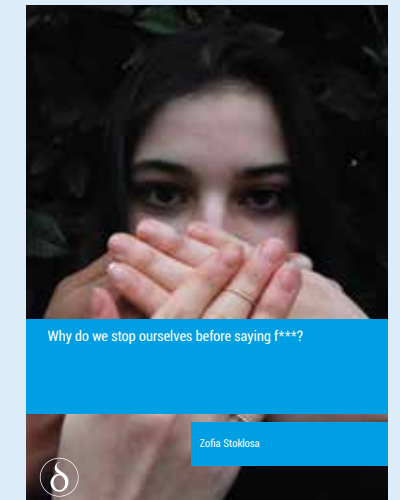
Leopoldo Moncada  
London School of Economics  
Politics



Joseph Wakefield  
Bath University  
Natural Sciences (with  
Professional Placement)



Anna Bykoriz  
University College, London  
Psychology



Zofia Stoklosa  
King's College, London  
Classical Studies with English



# Our Sports, Activities and Social programme

Sports and activities are seen as important complements to students' studies and as such our sports and activities programme is an important part of sixth form life. Taking part in these activities enables you to balance your studies with other interests. You can train and compete against other schools in individual or team sports and/or pursue other interests that range from Dance to Debating (and Model United Nations), Volunteering to Yoga. You can also get to meet other you and take some time to "switch off" from your studies.

// The best two years of my life. //

Past student

## Sports and activities

Students must take part in two sports or activities each week (on Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning). You can choose the ones you would like to participate in from a whole range of options each term.

Our sports and activities are very much inclusive, allowing you the opportunity to develop your interests. The programme is also designed to develop important skills such as team-working and communication skills and to enable you to socialise with others from across the Sixth Form.

The options open to you in our sports and activities programme change each term. We review the programme regularly and try to respond to students' interests; for example, relatively recently we started a highly successful Polo club. At the start of each year we have an activities fair where you can find out about each club before deciding what you would most like to do.

We use excellent sport facilities within the city such as the University of Oxford's Sports Centre and you will be transported to and from these venues.

In addition to the regular weekly programme, we also arrange a variety of one-off activities and trips at various points in the year. These vary from local events to major international expeditions such as our very popular ski trip (February half term) as well as more ambitious trips further afield that we run most years. These have included trips to Zambia, Namibia, Iceland and China.

## Social events

We also offer a wide range of social activities throughout the year that you can take part in. These can include group visits to the cinema or to the theatre. It can be fun (but quite competitive!) with events such as laser gaming, go-karting, punting and trampolining. We also run trips to places of interest such as Bath and to big events such as The Clothes Show or key sporting fixtures. At the start of the year we organise a welcome barbecue to help everyone settle in.

As with everything we do we work closely with you to make sure we develop a programme that reflects your interests.

## TYPICAL ACTIVITIES:

AERIAL SILKS

ART CLUB

BADMINTON

BASKETBALL

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

BOARD GAMES

BOOT CAMP (FITNESS TRAINING)

CHESS

CHOIR

CIRCUITS

COMEDY WRITING CLUB

COMPUTING

COOKERY

CREATIVE WRITING

CRICKET

DANCE

DEBATING

ECONOMICS SOCIETY

ENTERPRISE CLUB

FILM CLUB

FIRST AID

FOOTBALL 5-A-SIDE

FOOTBALL SQUAD TRAINING

GOLF

GYM

HOCKEY

ICE SKATING

JUDO

JUGGLING

KNITTING

KORFBALL

LAWN BOWLS

MINDFULNESS

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

NETBALL

ORCHESTRA

PHOTOGRAPHY

POLO (HORSE)

PSYCHOLOGY FILM CLUB

ROBOTICS

ROCK CLIMBING

ROUNDERS

RUNNING

SCHOOL PRODUCTION

SOCIAL STUDIES DISCUSSION

SPORTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

SPINNING

SQUASH

STEM

SWIMMING

TENNER CHALLENGE

TENNIS

VOLUNTEERING SERVICE

YOGA







## Music and Drama

Music and Drama are important elements of life at the school. In the Sixth Form you can choose to study A level Drama, Music and Music Technology and we have many students who go on to great success in these areas. However, whether or not a student is studying these subjects at A level, there are many opportunities to be involved in music and drama. Our approach is inclusive – we encourage and support all students who are interested, excited and inspired by the performing arts.

### Music

All students who are interested are actively encouraged to take part in the musical life of the school. The Music department has two main ensembles (an orchestra and a choir) and a number of smaller ensembles (vocal groups, bands, etc) and you are encouraged to form your own groups if you so wish. You are also encouraged to perform in numerous concerts organised throughout the year. We have regular performances and there are many opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate your talents.

Instrumental tuition is available.

### Drama

Every year we mount a full-scale production which is open to all of our students from Year 7 to 13. We alternate yearly between a musical and a straight play, which allows students with different talents to shine in a big budget production that challenges and stretches their acting abilities. We aim to ensure that everyone who auditions is given a part while the audition process itself is friendly and unthreatening. In the last two years we have put on "The Crucible" (pictured above) and "Legally Blonde". Our 2019 production will be Macbeth.

We treat our production as if it were a professional one. Plays are chosen to allow for interpretative scope and we are constantly commended by audiences on the strength of our concepts, designs and interpretations and we feel that, for the students, it helps bring classic works to life in imaginative, exciting and cutting-edge ways.

You can also become involved in areas such as lighting and costume design.

### Theatre Trips & Workshops

We are lucky to be situated quite close to the centre of Oxford. We frequently take you to the Playhouse theatre to see productions. Additionally, we organise trips to the West End in London and to the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-Upon-Avon.

## A typical week in the Lower Sixth

In the Lower Sixth:

- you study four A level subjects. You have four lessons a week and a total of four and a quarter hours of lessons in each subject per week. In addition, there will be preparation for lessons and homework.
- you will take part in your chosen sports or activities twice a week and participate in the Enrichment programme.

Subject workshops are often available to support you in your studies. You may also join the d'Overbroeck's Plus programme allowing you to pursue your studies beyond A level in your chosen field.

In the Upper Sixth most of you will continue with three subjects for A level. In the Upper Sixth there will be five lessons and a total of five and a half hours a week per subject.

Lunch will be served daily in the Hall for those who have opted-in. Food and drink are available to purchase from the Cafe during the day.

In the sample timetable below for a Lower Sixth student the light blue and dark blue sessions are compulsory. The sessions in green are optional.

	08.35 - 09.35 Period 1	09.45 - 11.00 Period 2	11.10 - 12.10 Period 3	12.10 - 13.00 Lunch	13.00 - 14.00 Period 4	14.10 - 15.10 Period 5	15.15 - 16.15 Period 6	> 16.15	
Monday	Biology	Art	Independent Study		History	Extended Project Class	Psychology	Subject Workshops	
Tuesday	Art	Independent Study	History		Psychology	14.05 - 16.15 Sport and Activities			
Wednesday	Independent Study	History	Independent Study	Meeting with Director of Studies		Independent Study	Biology	Art	Subject Workshops
Thursday	Psychology	Biology	11.05 - 12.40 Sport and Activities		12.40 - 13.35 Lunch	13.35 - 14.50 Plus Programme	15.00 - 16.15 Enrichment		
Friday	History	Psychology	Art	12.10 - 13.00 Lunch	Independent Learning skills	Biology	Independent Study		





# Boarding in the Sixth Form

Boarding is an important part of life in the Sixth Form and around half of our students are boarders. Our boarding houses provide a welcoming and friendly environment in which to live and study and for you to begin to prepare for more independent living at university.

Each boarding house has a Head of House who looks after you and whom you can contact if you have any questions. We also have a boarding assistant in each house to help with activities and day-to-day life, and a school nurse and two day matrons who look after the general health and wellbeing of students.

Our Heads of House create a sense of community within their houses. There are regular house meetings to share information and also small groups to discuss house rules, catering and activities so that you can be involved in helping within the house community.

Each of these boarding houses has usually only Sixth Form students, creating a community of students of the same age who are studying and living together. Rooms for boys and girls are in separate parts of each house, however there is a large communal social area, with TV, table tennis and other games, where you can relax after study period or before dinner. On some weekends boarders will enjoy our social and activities programme which includes BBQs, punting, cinema visits, trips to other cities and games. You will also have some free time to catch up on studies, socialise and relax with friends and explore Oxford.

“ I honestly feel comfortable talking to anyone here, whether it is a student or a member of staff. Everyone is helpful in so many ways.”

Student

Breakfast, lunch (if you have opted-in) and dinner are provided at 333 where there is a range of excellent food. In the Houses you may also prepare your own light snacks – for example, there is a microwave, kettles and toasters. In the evenings there is a study period from 7 to 9pm (Monday to Thursday) and you must all be in your rooms by 10pm during the week.

Boarding provides an opportunity for you to begin to get used to life at university in terms of living with others and managing your free time and studies. Being in Oxford, you have access to tremendous facilities whether these be sports facilities, galleries, theatres, cinemas or cafes. Oxford is very much a student city, providing a safe environment with plenty for you to see and do in your free time.

Weekly boarding is available as an option.

## Boarding Houses

Our two main boarding houses are Islip House and St Aldates. Both houses are usually for Sixth Form students only. There are around 60 students in each house; boys and girls rooms are separated either by being on different sides of the house (at Islip) or different floors (at St Aldates). Both houses have a communal area, kitchen and laundry facilities.

Islip is directly opposite the Sixth Form and has twin en-suite rooms.

St Aldates is in the centre of the city close to all leisure facilities such as cinemas and the ice rink as well as the train and coach stations. It is within walking distance of the world-famous Christ Church College (where some of Harry Potter was filmed), the river and Oxford's new shopping centre. St Aldate's has single en-suite rooms and all students living here are given a bus pass to travel to the Sixth Form.

## Host Families

You may prefer to live with a host family rather than in a boarding house. We have a number of families so that we can find you the family that suits you best. All our host families are close to the school and you will have your own room and study facilities. There are usually two or three d'Overbroeck's students living with a family. The advantage of family accommodation is that you have a bit more "personal space" – in that you are living with one to two others, not 60. You also have more flexibility – for example, about when you eat and what you eat. We find that over 90% of our Upper Sixth students choose to live with host families (although you may apply to stay in a boarding house).



## Islip Boarding House

Located opposite the Sixth Form

Around 60 students

Twin rooms en-suite







## St Aldate's Boarding House

Located in the centre of Oxford

Around 50 students

Single rooms en-suite

## Our staff



**Kate**  
Head of Boarding

Kate was brought up in Oxford and on leaving school studied at UCL to become a Speech and Language Therapist. Returning to Oxfordshire, she worked in the NHS for many years until a career change led her into Educational Publishing sales, also in Oxford.

Before coming to d'Overbroeck's Kate has worked at Harrow School where she was a Resident Matron in a Boarding House. Kate enjoys working with boarding students because they are young, fun and extremely enlightening!



**Emma**  
Head of Non-Residential Boarding  
(Host families)

Emma read History and Politics at SOAS, London University. She has considerable experience of working with young people, both as a piano teacher, a literacy volunteer in her local school and as a Special Needs teacher, having gained a Diploma in Teaching Learners with Dyslexia/SpLD. Emma also spent a year as a researcher to a journalist in Hong Kong and subsequently worked in a PR company after gaining a Diploma from the Institute of Marketing. Emma used to be a d'Overbroeck's host family herself.

## KEY BOARDING FACTS:

About half of our Sixth Form are boarders

Lower Sixth boarding houses are Islip and St Aldates

Each house has a Head of House and an Assistant Head of House plus a resident graduate or gap year student

Breakfast, lunch and evening meals are at 333

Weekly boarding is available as an option

Study period 7–9pm

Curfew 10pm Sunday to Thursday;  
11pm Friday and Saturday

All bed linen washed by the school

House facilities include piano, tv, table tennis and outdoor space

All rooms have own small safes for possessions

Boarders may leave at weekends if we have written permission from parents or guardians in advance

Students cannot stay in boarding houses at half term or the longer holidays

Over 90% of our Upper Sixth students choose host families



# Pastoral Care

The outstanding pastoral care at the school is regularly commented on by our students and their families. This is a school which does not try to make you fit into a particular box, which recognises and celebrates your talents and achievements and which believes being happy at school is extremely important.

Whilst we are ambitious for you in your studies, we don't want academic success at the expense of personal happiness; we hope academic success comes from being happy. So the role of all staff in the Sixth Form is to support and encourage, to make sure you are well looked after and to care for students' wellbeing. Whilst our Sixth Form is more informal than some, behind it there are lots of people making sure you are doing well and looking after you. This includes Hannah, our Pastoral Mentor, teachers who -given there are such small classes – can quickly see if anyone is worried or unhappy, your personal tutor (called a Director of Studies), the Head of House in boarding and our school counsellors along with everyone at the school who is there to support you.

## Directors of Studies

Every student in the Sixth Form has a personal and academic tutor. Somewhat unusually, we use the term "Director of Studies" to describe this role. We have over 30 Directors of Studies in our Sixth Form, with each one typically working with around 10 to 15 students.

Almost all of the Directors of Studies are also teachers and/or Heads of Department. A student's Director of Studies has a pivotal part to play during their time at the school. To be more specific, Directors of Studies will:

- Keep closely in touch with each student in their care, to an extent which enables them to offer help and guidance whenever the need arises. This applies to personal as well as academic issues. You should feel you can turn to your Director of Studies for help, advice and support at any time.
- Monitor academic progress through regular discussion with both student and subject teachers. In particular, the Director of Studies will keep an eye on commitment, attendance and whether the student is able to balance the competing demands of his or her different subjects.
- Receive reports from subject teachers regularly, discuss these with the student and forward them to parents. We will keep parents informed about progress at regular intervals and more frequently if we judge it necessary or if parents request it. Support each of their students individually with their university choices and applications.

One of the chief tasks for a Director of Studies is to keep everyone fully informed of how their student is progressing. It has always been our policy to be open, honest and direct in all communication. We feel that it is important that all parties keep in touch with one another. We let you know what is happening and in return hope that you will let us know how things appear from your perspective- particularly if you have any anxieties.

**“ My son has gained confidence, a desire to learn and also a determination to do well. He has been very well supported, academically and pastorally, and been consistently inspired to aim high.”**

Parent



# A level results

Our students achieve in many different areas during their time at the Sixth Form – for example, in sporting competitions, music and drama performance, national science competitions, public speaking and debating competitions. Their achievements are wide ranging and impressive; as is their personal development how much they develop as individuals ready and eager to enjoy the opportunities ahead of them. An important part of their achievement is in the grades they gain at A level.



# A\*

Almost 1 in 5 of all entries achieved A\*



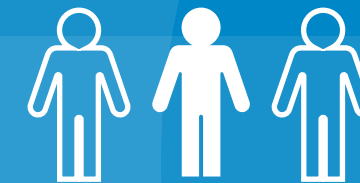
# 51%

Half of all entries achieved grade A\*/A



# 82%

Over 80% of entries achieved grades A\*, A or B



# 1/3

Almost one third of students achieved 3 or more grade A or A\*s



# 82%

We also continue to help students develop their research and academic skills beyond A level. For example, 82% of students taking the Extended Project gained an A\* or A grade.



# Futures: Our University and Careers Programmes

Sixth form is an important time in your academic journey. It helps you develop your academic and social skills and is a time when future studies and career options may come into sharper focus.

Higher education and careers guidance at d'Overbroeck's really begins before you start the Sixth Form. After all, discussions on future pathways should inform subject choice advice: some of you know what you want to do and may need specific subjects to help you get there, others have no idea and need subjects that will keep doors open.

Once you arrive we help you look ahead from the very beginning and think about what will help you with your future plans. Sixth Form is a crucial time for you not just in terms of A levels and the grades you achieve but also in relation to building your portfolio of skills and achievements. Whether it be through the Extended Project, sports, competitions, additional reading or Model United Nations, you need to think how you may want to use your time in the Sixth Form.

There are many activities that can prepare you for your next stage and give you an extra edge in your efforts to get there and we encourage you to make the most of these opportunities from the beginning.

The aim of our Futures Programme is simple: to ensure that you can make informed choices about what you want to do at the next stage of your educational career in relation to Higher Education, other study routes and careers. We aim to ensure that such guidance is accurate, well informed, up-to-date and impartial. Ultimately, we seek to encourage you to fulfil your personal potential and goals.

The great majority of our Sixth Form students go on to higher education at a university and we see it as a crucial part of our responsibility to devote a great deal of time and resources to guiding and supporting you through the process of gathering information, thinking through the options, making decisions and completing the necessary applications. We are especially keen that parents should feel as well-informed and as involved in this process as they wish to be and we run a series of events for them too. However, there are other excellent options – some students may want to take a gap year, some may suit apprenticeships and some may be ready for the world of work. Whatever your destination, we will support you in your preparation and applications.

## Our Futures Programme includes:

### ■ Preparation for university

Our university preparation programme includes talks and visits for you and your parents. Our UCAS programme will include help with personal statements, choosing universities and courses and meeting admissions tutors. The programme of events and activities is coordinated by our Head of Careers and Higher Education but you will be individually supported by your Director of Studies.

We are lucky to have the help of a number of experts at leading universities, many of them current and ex-parents, who come in to talk to you and your parents. During the year, you have as many sessions with your Directors of Studies as you need, and these continue intensively in the first term of the Upper Sixth where the focus of UCAS preparation becomes much more individual as you get ready to submit your applications. Although the vast majority of our students go on to study in the UK we also prepare a number of students for study in the US and other countries, such as Ireland and Australia.

### ■ Preparation for Art, Music and Drama courses

A number of our students each year go on to well regarded Art foundation courses to build their portfolio and help them decide on their particular creative route. If this is your plan, you will be supported in this by your Director of Studies and the Head of Art. Our students also have an impressive record of entrance into prestigious creative courses and institutions, such as the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, Guildhall and Central St Martins.

### ■ Careers and networking evening

Each year we organise a careers event for students. This is an invaluable opportunity for you to discover more about career options and network with people who are often leaders in their field. Many of the speakers and presenters (and there are well over 50 of them) are parents of students who are all too happy to pass on their experience and insights.

# Monitoring and Reporting on progress

When you visit us you will probably be struck by the outward informality. Students don't wear uniforms in the Sixth Form, students and teachers use first names and you will often find a student and teacher discussing a piece of work in the café or common room. This informality and sense of working together is at the heart of our Sixth Form.

At this stage of their lives, students are moving on from "school" and wanting a little bit more space to grow as themselves before university. However, behind this informality are many systems and structures to make sure you are happy and are doing well and to keep you informed. A simple example is that parents get a weekly email which would show, for example, if their son or daughter was late for a lesson that week. There is a lot of information flowing between teachers, boarding staff and a student's Director of Studies. The Director of Studies meets his or her students regularly and is in regular contact with parents, so they feel well informed about their son or daughter's progress.

## Reports

Progress reports are sent to parents three times in the academic year, once per term. In addition, there will be an interim progress report sent by the Director of Studies (including short reports from teachers) midway through the Autumn and Spring terms.

Subject reports are intended to be detailed, frank and informative. They are written as much for students to see as they are for parents. For this reason, the reports go in the first instance to the Directors of Studies, who will go through them and discuss them individually with each of you before they are sent out to parents. Each report shows a set of 'predicted grades'. We use these predicted grades as part of our system for tracking and reporting on students' academic progress.

## Parents' Evenings

Communication with parents is ongoing so they are always kept well informed. However, there is also the opportunity to meet teachers at Parents' Evenings. There are two of these in the Lower Sixth and one in the Upper Sixth.

## Monitoring Attendance

You are obviously expected to attend all your classes punctually. Attendance is recorded in each class. As part of our procedures for keeping parents informed, any absences or lateness are automatically reported to them by email at the end of each week once term is underway.

## ALIS predictions

We work closely with the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) at the University of Durham to measure each student's progress with us. ALIS is a post-16 monitoring system designed to provide an individualised profile for each student. It provides teachers, students and parents with baseline measures and predictive information to help us ensure everyone is fulfilling their potential.

All students will take an ALIS assessment once they start in the Sixth Form and this enables us to set realistic targets within each subject. Our performance in adding value – i.e. helping students to achieve beyond what one might expect – is consistently outstanding. Regular monitoring enables us to work with you to develop your skills and knowledge, to provide support and to help you maintain the confidence, focus and engagement needed to succeed. On your reports you will see how your predicted grades change over time as well as detailed comments on areas of strength and areas to develop.

“d'Overbroeck's is a rare gem and an example of what can be achieved when each person is supported to find the best in themselves.”

Parent



# Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science Preparation

Those students who are aiming to study Medicine or Veterinary Science start with the Plus Programme which then develops into a Medicine/Veterinary Science preparation programme.

Students will follow a course that prepares them for all aspects of the demanding selection process operated by Medical schools and Veterinary colleges.

The programme, which is led by two senior members of staff in the Biology department, includes extension work in the biological sciences, discussion of new developments in medical research and practice, and debates on ethical issues confronting the medical or veterinary profession. It also includes help with the preparation for the demanding Medical/Veterinary interviews – and for aptitude tests (BMAT and UKCAT) that many medical and vet schools require applicants to sit as part of their selection process. In addition, we give students plenty of feedback on the Personal Statement that they have to complete as part of their UCAS application to make sure that they present their experience, achievements, personal and academic qualities, and their motivation for wishing to become a doctor or a vet as clearly and effectively as possible in the limited space available on the UCAS form.



“ I think d’Overbroeck’s stands out because of the genuine (and contagious!) passion teachers have for their subjects and the care and attention they give to each and every student. ”

Daria, PPE, University of Oxford

# Oxbridge Preparation

Our Oxbridge Co-ordinators work closely with Heads of Department and subject teachers to ensure that students who are planning to apply to Oxford or Cambridge – and indeed to other highly competitive universities such as the London School of Economics, Imperial College, etc. – are given plenty of support and preparation.

This consists of additional classes with a focus on extension work – above and beyond the requirements of the A level specification – in the student’s chosen subject(s); specific preparation for the searching, academically-focused interviews that these highly competitive universities give, and, where relevant, for the special aptitude tests (such as the LNAT, BMAT, HAT and others) that are required by some faculties, especially at Oxford.

Students start on our Plus Programme and this then develops into specific preparation for Oxbridge for those who are applying to these universities. We also give students plenty of advice to help make their UCAS Personal Statement as strong and effective a summary of their achievements, academic and personal qualities and motivation as it can possibly be.



“ I enjoyed how we often went outside the syllabus to delve further into the subject. This led to a better appreciation of what we are studying. ”

Mirza, Physics, University of Oxford

# University Destinations 2019

Our aim is to prepare students for the next stage of their education not just in terms of their qualifications but also the skills they need to thrive.

The majority of our students go on to university in the UK and the list of the most popular destinations in 2019 are shown on the right. We also have students going to leading art, music, drama and film schools. This year, for example, we have students going on to Central St Martins, and University of the Arts , London, the Courtauld Institute of Art and Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA).

- 1 KING’S COLLEGE LONDON
- 2 UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
- 3 UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
- 4 UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
- 5 UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
- 6 UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
- 7 CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON
- 8 UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
- 9 UNIVERSITY OF EXETER
- 10 QUEEN MARY’S, LONDON
- 11 IMPERIAL COLLEGE, LONDON
- 12 LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS



# Admissions

## Open Events

2019

Saturday 5 October, 10am–1pm

Tuesday 12 November, 6.30pm

2020

Saturday 8 February, 10am–1pm

Saturday 16 May, 10am–1pm

## How to join us for Sixth Form

If you would like to find out more about how to join us for Sixth Form, you can call our Senior Registrar, Lynne Berry, for an initial conversation. You can contact Lynne on 01865 688 600. We would then strongly encourage you to come and visit as early as possible.

Typically, you might wish to come to an Open Day first and then follow this up with an individual visit on a school day – though you can just as easily do this the other way around. Whatever is most convenient for you.

## Sixth Form Open Events

We have three Open Days – one in each term – and an Open Evening in November.

Joining us for an Open Event (Day or Evening) will give you a relaxed and informal way to meet current students and staff and to gain a lot of information about all aspects of life at d'Overbroeck's. You will be able to discuss possible A level subject choices with the relevant Heads of Department and with students who are currently studying these subjects. Most importantly you will get a "feel" for the Sixth Form.

## Individual visits

It is important (for us and you) that you and your parents come in for an individual visit to meet staff and to get to know more about Sixth Form life. You are very welcome to do so at any time and could choose to visit before you come to an Open Day or after. Whereas the Open Day will give you the opportunity to meet a wide range of staff and students and to gather a lot of information in a relatively short time, the individual visit will allow you to have an in-depth conversation with a senior member of staff (usually the Head of Sixth Form or one of our senior Sixth Form academic team).

## Entry requirements

You are usually expected to have achieved at least six grade 6s at GCSE or equivalent for entry to the Sixth Form.

At least a grade 6 at GCSE will be required in any subject that a student wishes to continue studying in the Sixth Form (please refer to the relevant subject profiles on the website for any additional subject-specific recommendations).

If you wish to study A level Maths you will be required to gain at least a grade 7 in GCSE Maths. If you wish to study Further Maths you will be required to have achieved a grade 8 or 9.

All students will be expected to have achieved at least a grade 4 at GCSE in both Maths and English. Where possible we would like you to attend an interview so we can show you around. However, Skype interviews can be arranged where necessary for students who are unable to visit in person.

## International applications

- International students who are studying for qualifications other than GCSEs will be expected to achieve results that are equivalent to the requirements above.
- Students whose first language is not English must also demonstrate at least an upper intermediate level of English, equivalent to at least upper B2 or above on the Common European Framework (IELTS 6.0 / 6.5 and above in all skills). Please note that most international students are expected to continue with EAL in the Sixth Form to support their other studies.
- International students will usually be required to sit our entry tests in English and Maths.
- Applicants will be expected to attend a personal interview, although Skype interviews can be arranged where necessary for international students who are unable to attend in person.

For all students joining us from other schools, we will request a reference from your current school, and this will be taken into account when the application is considered.

## Fees

Details of the Sixth Form fees can be found on our website.

### For more information

Telephone: 01865 688 600 or  
E-mail: mail@doverbroecks.com

# Staff



**Jonathan Cuff**  
Principal



**Alastair Barnett**  
Senior Vice-Principal



**Alasdair MacPherson**  
Vice-Principal  
(Head of Sixth Form)



**Andrew Gillespie**  
Vice-Principal (External  
Communications)



**Kate Palmer**  
Head of Lower Sixth



**Nick Haines**  
Head of Academic  
Development



**Stephen Creamer**  
Academic Co-ordinator



**Alex Coburn**  
Head of Careers and  
Higher Education



**Andrew Colclough**  
Head of Teaching and  
Learning



**Ursula Boughton**  
Head of Independent  
Learning



**Johnny Richards**  
Director of Sport



**Richard Poyser**  
Director of Music



**Joe Swarbrick**  
Director of Drama



**Adam Johnstone**  
Head of EPQ



**Fizza Hussain**  
Enrichment Co-ordinator



**Nita Goriely**  
d'Overbroeck's Plus  
and Oxbridge Co-ordinator



**Kate Higgins**  
Head of Boarding



**Emma Brett**  
Head of Non-Residential  
Boarding



**Lynne Berry**  
Senior Registrar



**Anna Mitchell**  
Registrar

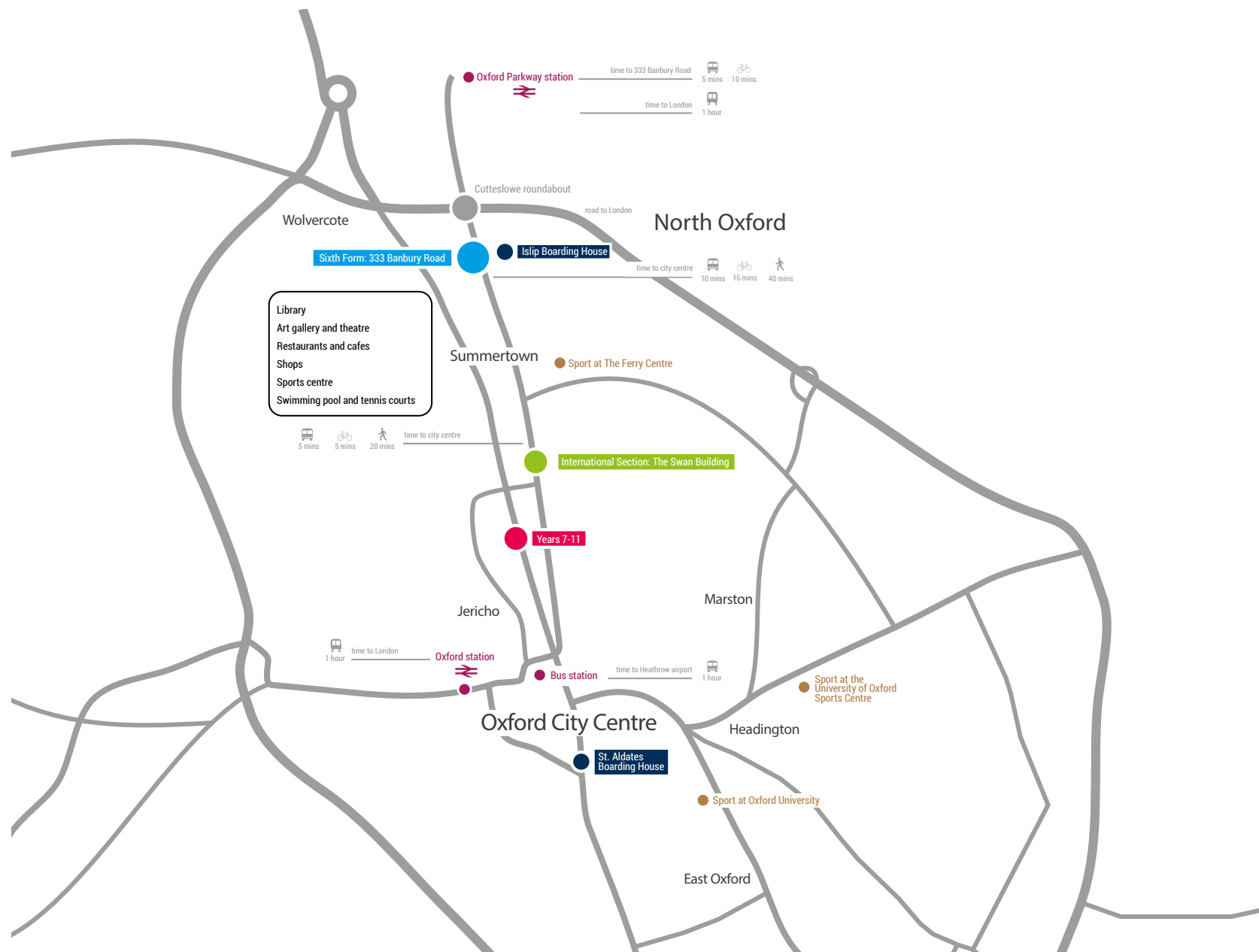


**Hannah Mungall**  
Pastoral Mentor &  
Social Events Co-ordinator





# A map of d'Overbroeck's facilities



## Travel

The Sixth Form is located at 333 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7PL.

### By road

By road If you are coming from the city centre take the Banbury Road north. You pass through Summertown where there is a parade of shops and about 5 minutes further up the road on the left is the Sixth Form. Drive up to the gates and call the reception to let you in.

If you are coming from the north, take the Banbury Road at the Cutteslowe roundabout turning towards the city centre and you will find the Sixth Form just a few minutes down the road on the right. Drive up to the gates and call the reception to let you in.

If for any reason there is a not a free parking space there are several 2 and 4 hour parking slots in the roads around the school.

### By rail

There are two train stations:

- Oxford's main train station is in the city centre. On arrival, you can either catch a taxi to the Sixth Form which should take around 10-15 minutes or a number 500 bus which runs between the two train stations and past 333 Banbury Road.
- The other train station is Oxford Parkway – with trains running to and from London Marylebone. You can get a taxi from here which will take about 5 minutes or catch a number 500 bus.

### Using the bus daily

The Oxford Schools Bus Partnership (OSBP) is a collaboration between seven Oxford schools: d'Overbroeck's, The Dragon School, Headington School, Magdalen College School, Oxford High School, Rye St Antony and Wychwood School.

OSBP has been set up to provide a safe, reliable transport solution for parents whose children attend the seven schools comprising the partnership.

For more information, including the timetable, please visit [www.osbp.net](http://www.osbp.net).

// I've gained self-knowledge, self-confidence, and had amazing opportunities. I've become more independent and now feel in control of my future. Using the skills I've learnt, I am excited to thrive in my future studies and career. //

Student



All information correct at time of writing.



