



The Russell Group represents 24 leading universities who are at the forefront of academic research and provide an outstanding academic experience for their students. They have particularly high expectations of their undergraduates.

- University of Birmingham
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- Cardiff University
- Durham University
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Exeter
- University of Glasgow
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- London School of Economics & Political Science
- University of Manchester
- Newcastle University
- University of Nottingham
- University of Oxford
- Queen Mary, University of London
- Queen's University, Belfast
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- University College London
- University of Warwick
- University of York

Other elite universities outside of the Russell Group offer a similar experience

- University of Bath
- Lancaster University
- University of Leicester
- Loughborough University
- University of Reading
- University of St Andrews



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St Benedict's
Sixth Form
Academic Excellence
Programme

Welcome to the Academic Excellence Programme

Our mission is to deliver educational outcomes "equal in every respect to the best public schools in England." This includes successful applications to our elite universities, including Oxford and Cambridge

The AE programme is a dedicated enrichment process which is designed to support our most academically able students in realising their potential and gaining a place at the highest ranked universities in the UK.

Entry to these top universities, including The Russell Group (see overleaf), is highly competitive and students need detailed and correct advice and guidance in preparing their applications

Subject Choice

Your A Level subject choices can have a significant impact on the course options available to you at university. The elite universities sometimes prefer students to have taken certain subjects, or combinations of subjects, because they believe they are more likely to provide an effective preparation for study at this level. At guidance meetings, students are asked about their ambitions for the future. An understanding of a student's chosen pathway allows us to offer targeted support and guidance.



Super-Curricular Activities

You will know about extracurricular activities, opportunities outside of your regular lessons to partake in activities like a sport or D of E.

Super-curricular activities are those that take your regular curriculum further, allowing you to learn about your chosen subjects beyond the classroom. These are a very important part of our AE programme and of great interest to elite universities.



The Programme

The programme starts in Year 11 and carries right through until the UCAS applications have been sent off in Year 13. It contains the following key elements:

- An aspirational visit to Oxbridge to focus the preparations for sixth form
- Clear information on necessary wider reading for each chosen subject
- Involvement in Public Speaking events and/or Debating club
- Relevant work experience opportunities
- Extra super-curricular courses - MOOCs, EPO, Core Maths
- Access to EtonX - partnership with Eton College to develop critical skills
- Research placement opportunities (STEM subjects)
- Summer Residential Opportunities
- Presentations from elite universities
- Specific early applicant tutor group in Year 13
- UCAS convention in Leeds
- Oxbridge programme
 - Personal Statement advice and feedback
 - Interview advice and practice
 - University Admissions Test advice and guidance
- 1 to 1 mentoring partnership with Bradford University third year students