Excel @PRIESTLEY

At Priestley you will be inspired to reach your full potential by dedicated teachers, visiting academics and professionals as well as a rich variety of fascinating courses.

THE GRADUATE | PRE PROFESSIONAL

OXNET | GATEWAY TO SUCCESS

Welcome

At Priestley College you will be supported, inspired and challenged to ensure you reach your full potential.

For more than 40 years we have prepared students for life beyond college, whether that be for a chosen profession or a place at the UK's most prestigious universities.

Typically more than 500 of each cohort go to university, a high percentage of those secure places at Russell Group universities including Oxford and Cambridge.

As well as academic programmes such as The Graduate, we offer dozens of enrichment opportunities that will impress any university or future employer. How about being able to speak Japanese, or discuss the masterclass you studied about Einstein, the Neolithic Revolution or the pursuit of happiness?

These little extras will make you stand out in a crowded and competitive world and that is why Priestley will help you to excel.

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Meet the team

Everyone at Priestley is committed to ensuring our students achieve their goals. We also have several key members of staff responsible for overseeing our Excel programme.

Chris Peacock

Chris Peacock is Head of Humanities, Languages, Health & Education and Excel lead. He has a BA from Liverpool University in Sociology and Criminology and worked in countries such as Nigeria and China before entering teaching. During these years he learned how to speak Mandarin.

Connie Bostock

Connie Bostock is our Graduate Tutor and Oxnet Coordinator. She graduated from University College, Oxford with a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE). During her degree, Connie received a University College Tutorial Award for her consistent academic performance.

Jenny George

Jenny is a former Bridgewater High School pupil who studied at Priestley College. She went on to secure a 1st Class Philosophy Degree from the University of Warwick.

Shahida Khanam

Shahida studied Chemistry at The University of Manchester and has been teaching for over 20 years including working in Italy and The Netherlands. She specialises in Medical School and STEM Oxbridge applications and is an associate facilitator with STEM learning.

Raising aspirations with Oxford and Cambridge

Priestley is a hub for **OxNet** – a programme run by the University of Oxford and Pembroke College aimed at making higher education more accessible.

OxNet is unapologetically academic in its focus, and has had significant impact in the local communities in which it has worked since 2008.

This happens through a rigorous academic programme featuring seminars (run at Priestley), and Easter and Summer conferences.

Oxford also has a relationship with **TCAT** which involves our Year 12 students accessing specialist **STEM** and languages support sessions, academic talks, experimental facilities and the latest research.

Priestley also takes part in HE+, a collaborative project with the University of Cambridge. HE+ is a year-long programme that includes academic extension classes, subject masterclasses, information and guidance sessions, and a visit to the university.

Bridging the gap to university

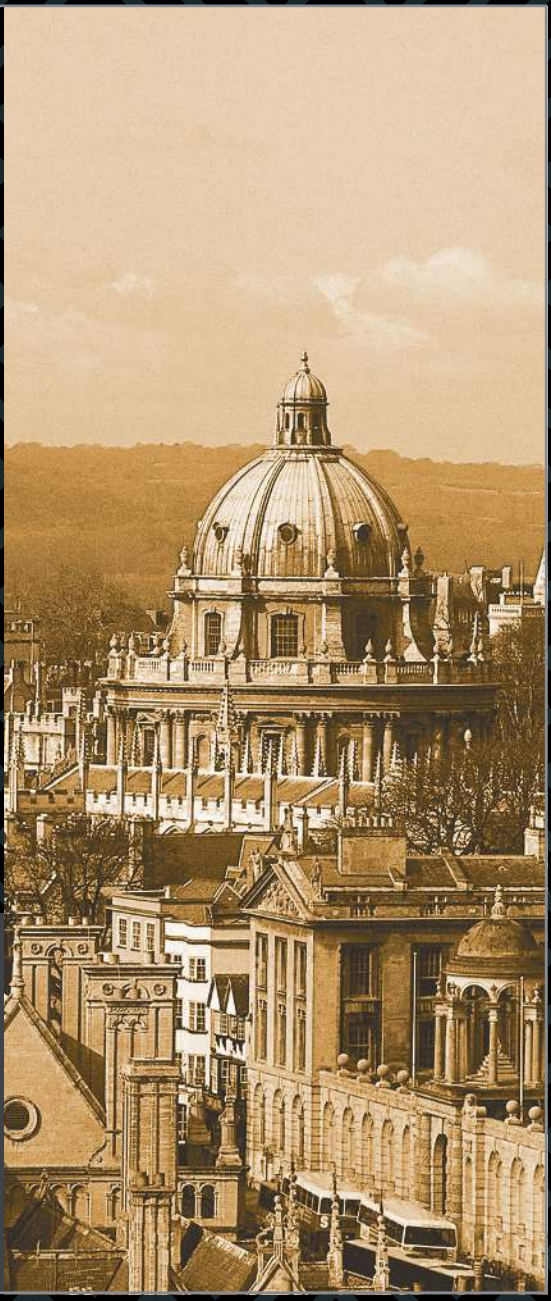
Throughout the year we invite speakers into college to help you make the right decisions about your future.

Representatives from UCLan, Dundee, Arts University of London, Liverpool Hope and Chester universities are just some of those who attend.

They offer advice on how to apply to university, writing personal statements, degree apprenticeships and early applicant interviews for Oxbridge.

Priestley also organises a number of study days at University College Oxford for those students aiming to study at Russell Group universities.

Each year we dedicate Choices Week to helping students gather all the information they need for university. More than 100 sessions take place.



Guest speakers this year include:

Sir David Lidington - former deputy PM under Theresa May

Lee Ivett - Architect and professor

Alex Bainbridge - Daresbury Scientist and member of the Science and Technologies Research Council

Pre Law

Our Pre Law programme is designed to prepare A-Level students who want to progress onto a law-related degree or career.

There will be the opportunity for you to take part in mock trial competitions against other colleges as well as trips to crown and magistrates courts.

Our students enter mooting competitions - simulated court hearings that challenge those taking part to analyse a problem, research a law and prepare oral arguments.

We have a link with a local solicitor who offers work experience.

Key events include helping students with personal statements and preparation for The Law National Aptitude Test, which will help you determine if you have chosen the right career.

PRE LAW
FACT

Priestley's law students have previously won regional mock trial competitions against other colleges, demonstrating how well prepared they were for the challenge.

The Graduate

The Graduate is an inclusive, but ambitious element of Priestley's stretch and challenge programme.

It is at the centre of Priestley's goal to challenge our students to think and learn beyond the curriculum.

Therefore, as well as having a strong emphasis on developing soundly researched and effective personal statements, helping students to gain access to their desired courses, specialist interview practice and advice, and the development of academic writing, the Graduate pushes students to think in depth about individually researched projects, debating, and reasoning skills.

All of this is with the aim of giving students a rigorous taste of what a higher educational experience will be like.

THE GRADUATE OFFERS...

- Specialist coaching
- Opportunities to work with and visit leading universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, Durham, London, York and Warwick
- Challenges that take you out of your comfort zone and help prepare you for making applications and interviews
- Support, advice and guidance
- Lectures from leading universities
- Feedback on your university applications

GRADUATE **FACT**

Students founded the college's Debating Society after conducting several debates within Priestley's Graduate enrichment classes.

Pre Med

Priestley's Pre Med course supports students applying for Medicine, Dentistry and degrees linked to the healthcare profession.

Students are prepared for medical school applications, interviews and UCAT/BMAT.

Pre Med also offers:

- Work experience at local hospitals, care homes, charity shops and hospices.
- Talks by experts in Speech Therapy, Audiology and Pharmacy.
- Workshops in First Aid, suturing, bandaging and human physiology.
- Lectures by leading academics, doctors and consultants.
- Medical Summer Schools at leading universities.
- Mock interviews with Oxford researchers.

PRE MED
FACT

Priestley College holds an annual NHS Day attended by professionals from across the sector who give advice and guidance about pursuing a career.

Gateway to success

One of the ways Priestley College will help you excel is by providing high quality education from teachers who are specialists in their subjects.

For example, our Humanities tutors are experts in their respective fields and many are examiners.

In English and Modern Foreign Languages you may be taught by a former New York journalist, a published poet or a native speaker of the language you are studying. For those of you keen to tread the boards at college you'll be pleased to know our Performing Arts tutors have stage experience that will benefit you as you step into the spotlight.

As well as excellent teaching you will be learning in a friendly, but lively atmosphere with lots of support along the way.

However, you will also develop the independent learning skills that are vital to your success at university. All this combined gives you the best chance to achieve your goals and secure a bright future.

Giving you the edge

Priestley is committed to ensuring its students have the edge over their peers when applying for university and employment.

Here are just some of the other ways we can help you stand out:

SOLVAY PARTNERSHIP

We work with this highly respected chemical company to stage a science festival every year.

MATHS AND SCIENCE OLYMPIADS

Our maths and science students enter annual Olympiads where they set themselves against the best students from across the country, even worldwide.

LANGUAGES FOR LIFE

Weekly one-to-one lessons with native speakers have helped our students achieve above the national average in their oral exams. The benefit of this regular conversation with our language assistants is invaluable.

EUROPEAN WORK EXPERIENCE

This is aimed at AS/A-Level language students and is an excellent opportunity for language learning and to build your confidence.

FOCUS ON EMPLOYMENT

Our specialist Guidance Team works to ensure every opportunity is taken to engage leading local, regional and national employers in activities that prepare students for the world of work.

A student's view

Madgey Thompson headed for the University of Oxford after leaving Priestley College with A*s in French, English Literature and Psychology.

She decided to pursue her love of languages at university by studying French & Arabic.

"When I realised there were lots of links between French and Arabic it seemed like the perfect course for me because I love the idea of learning history through a new language," she said.

It was only through studying at Priestley, taking advantage of the opportunities on offer, that Madgey realised universities such as Oxford were 'open to her.'

Initially she thought of them as being too elite, but her time at college changed her perceptions and aspirations.

We caught up with Madgey six months after she joined Oxford to ask about her experience up to that point.

The former King's Academy pupil said the UK's most competitive universities needed state school students.

"We do think a little differently and bring something unique to the university," she said.

"I did have a feeling of 'imposter syndrome' when I first was offered a place at Oxford, but that has gone away now."

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