



carmel
college

Inspiring minds.
Shaping futures.

HIGH
Achievers'
Programme 2019

AT CARMEL WE ARE KEEN THAT ALL OUR STUDENTS REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL



Our High Achievers' Programme is designed to ensure that our most academically able students are given the encouragement and assistance they need to achieve success.

Students are automatically enrolled onto the High Achievers' Programme based on their GCSE results and their performance during the first term at Carmel. Being part of the programme will enable you to work alongside other high achieving students. Collectively you will be able to support each other and achieve together.

We provide a structured programme of activities, events and support for our high achieving students. Our Programme offers the best possible preparation for students applying to Oxbridge, Russell Group and other prestigious institutions as well as onto Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science (MDV) degree courses.

As a high achiever you will be supported, encouraged and challenged by our highly qualified and committed team.

Students following the High Achievers' Programme will receive support through:

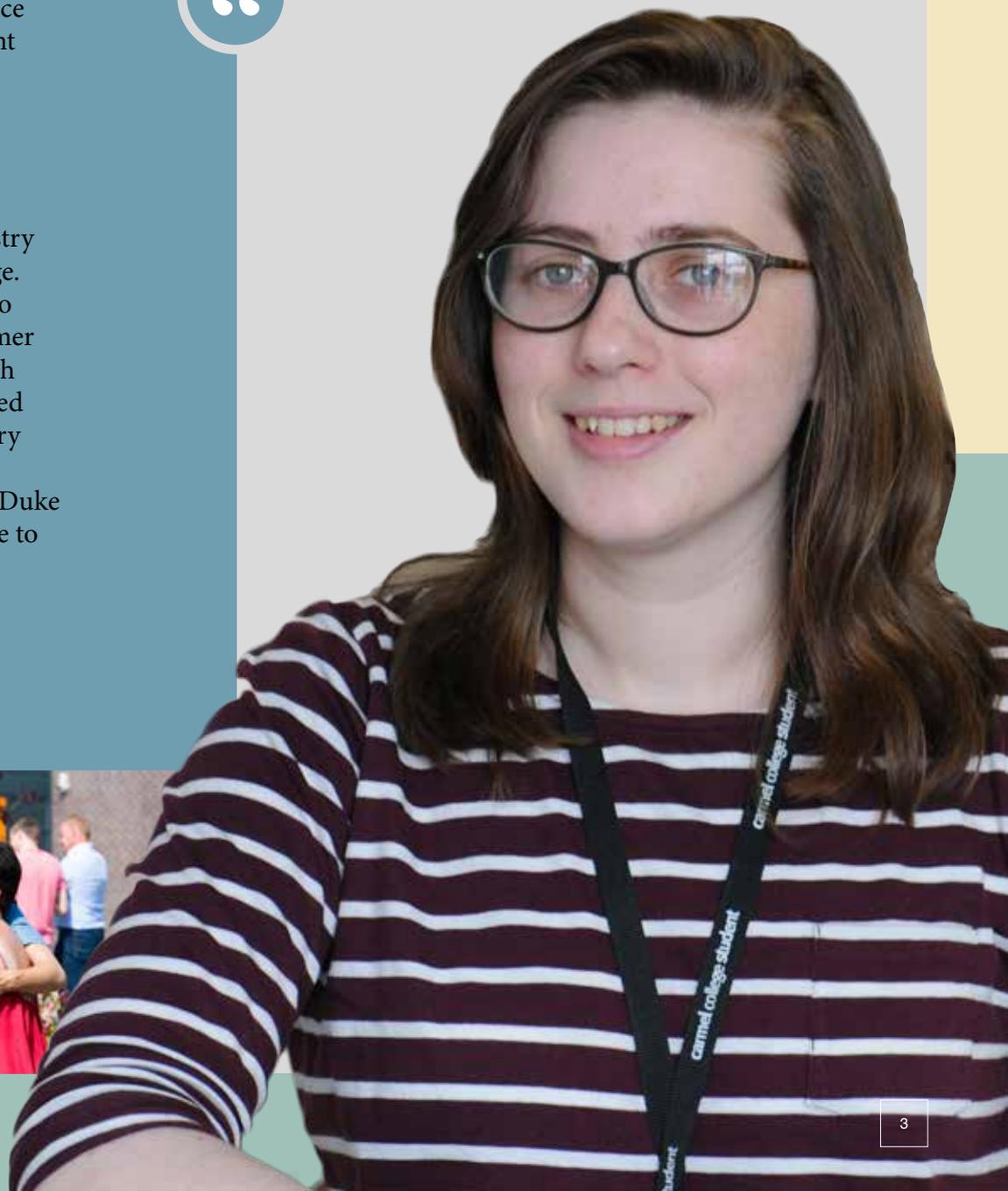
- Talks, workshops and events
- Visits to Oxford & Cambridge universities
- Help with university applications
- A monthly newsletter
- Admission test preparation and mock interviews
- Careers / UCAS advice and presentations
- The chance to experience university life on the Cambridge University Shadowing Scheme
- Enrichment activities and societies to develop skills and support applications to prestigious institutions
- The opportunity to study for the Extended Project Qualification



The High Achievers' Programme has supported me in my application to Russell Group universities by offering specialised Personal Statement advice and interview practice. The Science Department has lots of Enrichment activities available, for example I attended a STEM Masterclass at the University of Liverpool which opened my eyes to the diverse options for degree level study in Science. During my time at Carmel I have also had the opportunity to take part in the Chemistry Olympiad and Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. The High Achievers' Programme inspired me to make a successful application to a UNIQ Summer School course at the University of Oxford which was an amazing experience. This not only helped me to confirm that I want to pursue a Chemistry degree, but also helped me grow in confidence. Another highlight was taking part in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which allowed me to challenge myself and learn new skills.

AMY STANFORD, *Rainford High School*
Biology, Chemistry, Geography & Maths (A*AAA)
Now studying Chemistry at University of York

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HIGH ACHIEVERS' PROGRAMME

Specialist Support

You will be offered specialist support from one of our High Achievers' Co-ordinators to help in your applications to Oxbridge, Russell Group and other prestigious institutions and for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science courses.

Develop Research Skills

You will have the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This allows you to choose a subject area in which you have a particular interest and then use your research skills to produce a 5000-word essay. This qualification is highly regarded by leading universities as it demonstrates your ability to work independently as well as being ideal preparation for admission interviews.

University Admissions Preparation

Your specialist High Achievers' Co-ordinator will assist you in drafting your Personal Statement which forms a key part of your UCAS application. As the most prestigious and competitive universities select by interview, you will also be given the opportunity to participate in practice interviews. These will test and refine your skills, which will also include professional feedback to enable you to improve your performance in the real thing.

University Admissions Tests

You will be given guidance and preparation for aptitude and admissions

tests as well as the Oxbridge Admission Tests. These include the Law National Aptitude Test (LNAT), The Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT) and the Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA). These tests are designed to test skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, verbal reasoning and essay writing.

Oxbridge Trips, Placements and University Seminars

Students on the programme have the opportunity to visit Oxford and Cambridge, staying in undergraduate accommodation and experiencing life there as a student. There is also the annual Oxbridge Regional Conference where students attend lectures and find out information about studying there. Our high achieving students are also encouraged to apply for the UniQ Summer School (Oxford) and the Cambridge Shadowing Scheme (CUSU). There are also a number of lectures and seminars throughout the year which are given by leading academics which students are encouraged to sign up for.



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

AUTUMN TERM 2019

Welcome to the High Achievers' Programme meeting

High Achievers' societies start

Internal Exams

Oxford/Cambridge Interview training; Cambridge Shadowing Scheme

Nuffield applications

SPRING TERM 2020

Should you be thinking about Oxbridge? - talk

Subject Masterclasses at Oxford and Cambridge

Regional Oxbridge Conference

SUMMER TERM 2020

Oxbridge trip

Oxbridge Open Days

AUTUMN TERM 2020

UCAS preparation Early Applicants

Aim Higher Evening

Oxbridge application training

Early application deadline; Mock Interview evening - internal

Oxbridge interview training - external



UNIVERSITY PREPARATION

A successful application to Oxbridge and other prestigious universities requires lots of preparation.

You can receive help and support from the Careers team at any time during your study. We can help you to define your career action plan and realise your ambitions. Alongside individual guidance, there will be opportunities to attend talks on applying to Russell Group universities and applying for competitive courses. You will receive advice on your personal statement for university and support through the UCAS process. Should you require work experience for your university course we have a Work Experience Co-ordinator who will help you to find a suitable placement.



RUSSELL GROUP

What's so great about studying at a Russell Group university?

Russell Group universities have outstanding teaching, research and student facilities. On average, they also have more teaching staff available per student than other universities, and their graduates have a great reputation for gaining high-paying jobs.

One in three students receive bursaries or scholarships to help with their studies.

Prestigious Russell Group Universities include:-

- 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
- LSE (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
- UCL (University College London)
- University of Warwick
- University of York

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Carmel and have been challenged and supported by all my teachers. I've achieved more than I believed I was capable of and can now progress with confidence in my ability as a result of studying at Carmel.

JAMES BURKE, *Sts Peter and Paul Maths, Further Maths, PE (A*AA)*
Now studying Accounting & Finance at University of Manchester



Being part of the High Achievers' Programme at Carmel gave me lots of additional support with my application for Biology at the most prestigious universities in the country. Throughout the application process I was given a lot of help such as perfecting my Personal Statement and interview practice. I initially thought it would be very stressful but I found the whole experience very enjoyable and I was able to access a range of support within the college.

CHLOE MALONEY, *The Prescot School*
Biology, Maths, Physics (AAB)
Now studying Biological Sciences with Management at Imperial College London



OXBRIDGE RULES!

Oxford and Cambridge 'Oxbridge' are not only the UK's most famous universities, but two of its highest ranking.

Having one of these universities on your CV will open many doors, and stand you in good stead for the rest of your life. They are looking for bright, ambitious students with lots of potential, whatever their social or economic background, and the application process is a bit more rigorous than other universities. You will also need to apply early (mid-October), and you cannot apply to both of them.



OXBRIDGE SUCCESS

To be accepted at Oxbridge is a fabulous achievement, but with hard work and determination it can be within your reach. Here are some former Carmel students who have gained places to study at Oxbridge in the last three years:-

Emily Bonnon, Sts Peter and Paul
History, Trinity Hall, Cambridge

Caitlin Corrigan, Haydock High
Law, Mansfield College, Oxford

Katherine Cleary, Broughton Hall
Modern Languages, Girton College, Cambridge

Hannah Mitchell, Culcheth High
English, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

Anna Elliott, Penketh High
Psychology, Christ Church, Oxford

Natasha Clieve, Tower College
Law, Herford College, Oxford

Anthony Walker, De La Salle
Modern Languages, St Peter's College, Oxford

Rowena Machin, St Gregory's
Law, Brasenose College, Oxford

Anna Begley, St Gregory's
Law, Pembroke College, Cambridge

Daniel Davidson, Rainford
Economics, Open College, Cambridge

Suzanne Vanezis, Wade Deacon
Fine Art, Lady Margaret College, Oxford

Andrew Dixon, Wade Deacon
Law, Merton College, Oxford

Megan Wellens, De La Salle
Philosophy, Christ Church College, Oxford

Ryan Ellison, Rainford High
Biochemistry, Exeter College, Oxford

Lucy Hughes, Rainhill High
Law, Magdalen College, Cambridge

Matthew Best, St Ed Arrowsmith, Whiston
Natural Science, Clare College, Cambridge

Sian Bradshaw, Kirkby High
English, Wolfson College, Cambridge



CAREER SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES

The High Achievers' Programme includes activities and support to develop the skills needed for your next step.

Preparing for your future is an important part of your time at Carmel and the Programme offers you specific career related activities that may be relevant to your particular career aspirations.

Thanks to the support offered by the High Achievers' Programme through Personal Statement guidance and regular interview practice evenings, I have not only been able to develop the key skills needed to make a good and lasting impression at university interviews, but also for future employment.

I was really pleased when I received an offer from all four universities that I applied for!

ANTONY STOTT, *De la Salle*
Biology, Chemistry, Maths (A*A*A*)
Now studying Medicine at University of Liverpool

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WE OFFER ACTIVITIES TO PREPARE YOU FOR THE FOLLOWING CAREERS:

- **Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Science**
- **Law**
- **Creative Arts**
- **Science & Engineering**
- **Mathematics**

Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Science (MDV)

In the first year you will be encouraged to enrol for MedSoc, an enrichment activity which takes place regularly throughout the year. During these sessions, skills will be developed such as the ability to engage in independent research on contemporary medical/scientific issues and the ability to 'think outside of the box' in preparation for rigorous interviews. You will also be involved in discussions involving ethical issues and given the opportunity to present your views and respond to challenges regarding those views.

Students will also attend presentations by practising medics and other external speakers. In addition, you will have the opportunity to be part of a Merseyside Medical Challenge Day which includes talks and Q&A sessions with doctors and medical students. Students can also enrol on taster courses held by MDV departments at different universities and Career Access Courses at local hospitals. Later in the term, talks will be held by former Carmel students currently studying MDV. This will enable you to gain invaluable advice about which institution and course to choose and how to maximise your chances of success in the application process.

The goal in the second year is to ensure a successful UCAS application for your chosen course. You will be offered substantial specialist help with completing your Personal Statement, specialist guidance with your application and interview practice conducted by our science staff, doctors and other external professionals. You will also be assisted in your preparation for the BMAT, which is required as part of the application to several medical courses.





Law

We have a strong record of students going to Oxbridge to read Law. You will be given specialist help to ensure that you fully develop your interest in Law, choose the right Law course for your career intentions and are supported at all stages during the UCAS application process.

At the beginning of the first year you will be invited to attend the Law Society. These sessions are designed to encourage students in their wider reading and to help them to develop their research skills and ability to assimilate information from different sources; skills which are vital to the study of Law at degree level. Students

will also have the opportunity to participate in the annual National Bar Mock Trial held at Liverpool Crown Court. This is a very prestigious event, providing our students with the invaluable opportunity to gain advocacy skills in a public forum.

In the spring term, talks will be held by representatives from Oxford/Cambridge. The Law department is very proud of its Carmel Law Vocational Programme, which offers our most able students the opportunity to gain work experience in a variety of solicitors' firms. These work placements are both in barristers' chambers, such as the prestigious Atlantic Chambers, and Weightmans, which is a leading UK firm.

At the start of the second year, you will continue to be supported with the application process, receiving specialist help from the Law High Achievers' Co-ordinator to help perfect your Personal Statement and prepare for admission tests such as Oxford's

LNAT and/or interviews.

You will also have the opportunity to attend a weekly discussion group which will focus on current legal issues.

Creative Arts

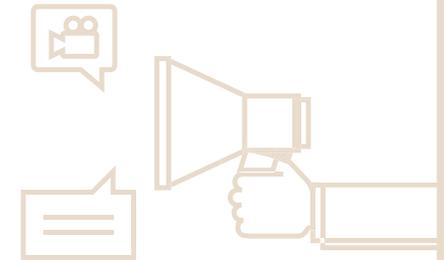
For students studying a Creative Arts subject, your main contact for support for any additional opportunities will be your subject tutor who will ensure you receive the advice and information needed to submit appropriate UCAS applications.

Staff have extensive knowledge and experience in preparing portfolios and guiding you through any additional work submissions or projects required for interview.

Carmel College has strong partnerships with University of the Arts London, MMU and Salford University allowing committed students to benefit

from unique progression agreements if recommended by tutors.

Annually, the Faculty hosts a Creative Arts Evening including a large exhibition, fashion show and performances to celebrate the outstanding achievement and success of our students. There are also various trips within departments and opportunities for students to participate in workshops run by relevant artists, designers and performers throughout the year.



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The High Achievers' Programme provides a constant stream of opportunities to get involved in, like the Cambridge Law Conference, where I went to lectures and basically lived as a law student for several days. This was an amazing experience that I'd definitely recommend! I've also really enjoyed doing my EPQ (mini dissertation) to research a law case. With the interview evenings here and the amazing support from my Law tutor with my Personal Statement I felt much more prepared for my uni interviews. After Carmel, I'm going to study Law at Oxford and then I hope to become a Barrister.

ROWENA MACHIN, *St Gregory's*
Biology, Chemistry, Law, EPQ (A*A*A*A)
Now studying Law at Brasenose College, Oxford



What is STEM?

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. STEM subjects are seen as critically important to the UK's economic success and pervade in every part of our lives. As employment opportunities in this sector continue to grow, there is an increase in demand for individuals with STEM skills. STEM education creates critical thinkers, increases science literacy and enables the next generation of innovators.

At Carmel we provide all our students with the opportunity to progress to a career within the STEM sector.



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Being part of the High Achievers' Programme at Carmel gave me opportunities I wouldn't have otherwise been able to take part in. I took part in a month-long True Adventure trip to Borneo in 2016 which is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I also got the chance to spend a week as an undergraduate at Cambridge. Studying Critical Thinking also allowed me to develop vital skills such as logical thinking and my analytical ability, which was not only important for my other subjects but also for success in future careers. The support I received at Carmel was fantastic and allowed me to flourish academically and achieve my goal to study Engineering at university.

SONNY BURNISTON *Broadgreen International School*
Chemistry, Maths, Physics (A*A*A)
Now studying Biomedical Engineering, Imperial College London



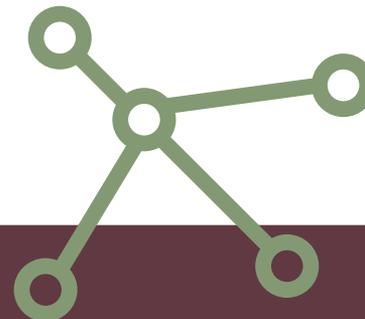
Science & Engineering

We have an excellent Enrichment Programme which involves our Science Society, SciSoc. During these bespoke sessions you will develop the skills necessary to succeed in a Science and Engineering career such as the ability to engage in independent research on contemporary engineering/scientific issues.

You will also develop the ability to think outside the box - a crucial skill required by top universities.

There will be an opportunity to take part in the Physics and Chemistry Olympiad, the CERN trip and PAT Tests. As you begin to consider which science related courses you may pursue at degree level, you will have the chance to attend a variety of events and lectures and the chance to meet scientists currently working in the science field. These will enable you to gain more experience of what courses involve at university and links to potential careers. There will also be talks given by former Carmel students studying science related courses at prestigious institutions, students just like you.

In the second year you will be offered substantial specialist help with completing your Personal Statement. Application and interview practice sessions will be given by our science staff and other external professionals related to the degree you are applying for. You will also get support with preparation for your entrance exams such as thinking skills tests.





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During my time at Carmel so far, I have really enjoyed all of my subjects. The level of support offered is incredible, and really gives you the confidence to tackle extremely challenging questions. I attend STEP/MAT/AEA preparation sessions during the Enrichment slot, which introduce you to the new style of questions that are used in university entrance tests. The practice is really useful, and I find that it makes it easier to think around any awkward questions in the exams. We also have the opportunity to take part in competitions. A few months ago, I took part in the Senior Team Maths Challenge. This involved working as part of a team of four, competing against other schools and colleges in the North West. The reasoning and teamwork skills gained from this were, for me, applicable across all of my subjects. After leaving Carmel, I will study Maths, possibly at Oxford or Cambridge.

BETHANY ANDERSON, *Gateacre School*
Studying French, Maths, Further Maths, Physics



Mathematical Sciences

As part of the Mathematical Sciences High Achievers' Programme, you will be supported by our Mathematical Sciences High Achievers' Co-ordinator, who, assisted by departmental staff, will offer you specialist help to ensure that you develop your interests in these subjects. You will receive advice as to which degree course will best suit your future career ambitions and you will be supported at all stages during the UCAS application process.

During your first year, there will be a number of opportunities for you to develop your subject experiences across the Mathematics, Computer Science and Economics departments. These include enrichment opportunities, such as a course in code breaking, sessions on solving Mathematical problems and participation in regional and national Mathematics competitions, such as the UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge and the Liverpool Mathematics Society Maths Quiz.

At the beginning of the second term, as you begin to consider which Mathematics related courses you

may pursue at degree level, you will have the chance to attend a variety of events and lectures, such as the Maths Inspiration Lectures and a 10-week Economics lecture course organised by the University of Manchester, to gain an insight into studying those subjects at degree level. There will also be talks held by former Carmel students studying Mathematics related courses at prestigious institutions.

The second year will begin with a focus on UCAS applications and you will be given specialist support at admissions workshops, which will cover all aspects of the admissions

process, from choosing the right degree course to writing an effective Personal Statement.

The focus will then shift to preparing for interviews and admissions tests, such as the MAT used by Oxford and Imperial College London, STEP which is favoured by Cambridge and Warwick, and the AEA. This support will take the form of weekly sessions delivered in college, and you will also have the opportunity to attend external sessions organised by the Further Maths Support Programme in Liverpool.



Enrichment

At Carmel there are lots of Enrichment activities to choose from which can develop additional employability skills that are sought after by employers and universities. These activities also give you the opportunity to try new things and meet other students.



Student Council

Elected every spring, members of the Student Council make up a 12-position body that represents all the students at Carmel and takes up any salient issues with the College Management Team on their behalf. Throughout the year, there are also opportunities to initiate a number of campaigns and fundraising events too, such as the ongoing Gambia Clean Water Project.



“Being involved with the High Achievers’ Programme was an amazing way of making sure I chose the right course.

Right from the start of my two years, the staff helped me to target and prepare for my application to Oxbridge and other top universities. When the time came to apply to Cambridge itself, the support from my High Achievers’ Co-ordinator really was invaluable, from helping to draft a personal statement to interview practices. As well as this, I was able to take advantage of the Critical Thinking course at Carmel, which helped tremendously with the LNAT as well as my interviews and Cambridge Law Test. Also, the enrichment True Adventure trip to Tanzania in the summer after my A Levels enhanced my application, and I’d recommend everyone to try and get involved with something similar!”

DANIEL THORPE, *Tower College*
English Literature, History, Maths, Spanish, Critical Thinking (A*A*AAA)
Achieved – Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Now reading Law at Downing College, Cambridge
Visit [YouTube/carmelcollege1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCarmelcollege1) to see Dan’s video



MedSoc

Thinking of applying for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary courses at Uni?

The Medical Society meets every week. Join us to get support with personal statements and interviews, listen to visiting speakers, watch topic related presentations and take part in discussion group activities.



THE LAW SOCIETY

Want to study Law at Uni?

We can help you develop your research and thinking skills. You’ll also get to debate and present legal cases just like being a real lawyer!

Tomorrow’s Engineers



Explore and engage in hands-on activities that contextualise engineering.

Projects our Physics students have carried out in the past three years include:

- Generating electricity from scrap
- The telescope challenge
- Programming Raspberry Pi robots
- The rocket challenge
- CERN beamline competition
- Physics Olympics competition
- STEM masterclasses



SciSoc Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths

Want to do a Science based degree?

Join the Science Society and we’ll help you develop your research, presentation and questioning skills and you’ll do projects solving science issues from around the globe!

Details of our High Achievers' Programme can be found at our Open Events and on our website www.carmel.ac.uk

Please feel free to contact a member of our team for further information:

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Kim Edgell

Medicine, Dentistry &
Veterinary Science / Science
& Engineering
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Mathematical Sciences
jonathanl@carmel.ac.uk



OPEN EVENTS 2018-19

Wed 17th October 2018 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Thurs 8th November 2018 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Sat 17th November 2018 11:00am - 1:30pm

Tues 5th February 2019 6:00pm - 8:30pm



APPLY ONLINE BY 22ND FEB 2019

www.carmel.ac.uk

carmel
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Carmel Sixth Form College