Students are automatically enrolled onto the High Achievers’ Programme based on their GCSE results and their academic performance during their time 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
- Dedicated High Achiever Tutor Group
- 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 staff at Carmel have been extremely helpful in pushing me to achieve my best, above and beyond my target grade, which has really helped with my university applications.

As part of Carmel’s High Achievers’ Programme, I was given the opportunity to attend the Cambridge Open Days in the summer, with overnight accommodation provided in Carmel’s link college, Magdalene. This gave me a chance to visit the different Cambridge colleges, speak to students and lecturers, and experience sample tutorials in my chosen subject area.

Magdalene College’s School Liaison Officer also visited Carmel and this provided invaluable information on what life at Oxbridge would be like, what to include in our applications and personal statements, as well as what the interview process was like.

The teachers at Carmel also went above and beyond in providing help and support to ensure my application and personal statement were the best they could be, as well as doing interview prep and mock interviews.

All of this help and support has meant I have received an offer to study Law at Magdalene College, Cambridge and I have no doubt that Carmel’s High Achievers’ Programme has massively contributed to this.”

AMY MAXWELL
Rainford High
Law, History, English Literature, EPQ (AABB)
Law, University of Liverpool
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.

EVENTS PROGRAMME

AUTUMN TERM 2020
Welcome to the High Achievers’ Programme meeting
High Achievers’ societies start
Internal Exams
Oxford/Cambridge Interview training; Cambridge Shadowing Scheme
Nuffield applications
Med, Dent, Vet Support
Multi Mini Interviews

SPRING TERM 2021
Should you be thinking about Oxbridge? - talk
Subject Masterclasses at Oxford and Cambridge
Regional Oxbridge Conference
University Careers Fair

SUMMER TERM 2021
Oxbridge trip
Oxbridge Open Days
Personal Statement Preparation Sessions

AUTUMN TERM 2021
UCAS preparation
Early Applicants
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

“Being part of the High Achievers’ Programme has enabled me to gain an advantage over my peers as I’ve had lots of opportunities to get extra help with my application to the top universities. I was able to attend many talks on a variety of topics, inspiring me to aim high and achieve the best I can. I’ve also been to workshops to help with the application process and received advice with my personal statement.

I’ve also benefited from extra-curricular activities such as a Nuffield Placement with Unilever and experiencing life as a Cambridge student for a week through the Sutton Trust.”

CAMERON MUMTAZ-WONG
Childwall Academy
Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry, Physics (A*A*A*)
Chemical Engineering, St John’s College, Cambridge

“Coming to Carmel is the best decision I have ever made. My subject tutors have inspired me to branch out of my comfort zone and to apply to universities I would have previously only dreamed about! Through the High Achievers’ Programme there are countless enrichment opportunities which I have been able to take part in. These sessions help to develop the skills needed to successfully apply to the most prestigious universities such as writing a personal statement, giving presentations and techniques to answer difficult interview questions. The staff at Carmel are so dedicated; they constantly offer extra support, encouragement and revision sessions.”

JADE EDWARDS
Wade Deacon
Biology, Chemistry, Maths (A*AA)
Chemistry, University of York
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.

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

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 four years:-

**Nicole Cardoza,** Great Sankey 
Veterinary Medicine, Cambridge

**Cameron Mumtaz-Wong,** Childwall Academy 
Chemical Engineering, St John’s College, Cambridge

**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, Magdalene 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.

As part of the High Achievers’ Programme I have been offered Russell Group and Oxbridge University visits, lectures from academics, extra sessions to advance my knowledge in Law and various other activities.

My application to study Law at the University of Cambridge was guided by the Law department and High Achievers Co-ordinators. They supported me through multiple mock interviews and personal statement coaching.

The Programme has also enabled me to advance my analytical skills through the completion of the Extended Project Qualification, discussing the legal effects of the progression of technology.

As a result of the help I’ve had through the Programme, I have been able to re-evaluate my goals for my future life and university study.”

ADAM SMITH
St Edmund Arrowsmith, Ashton
Law, English Literature, History, EPQ (A*BBB)
Law with European & International Studies, University of Sheffield

WE OFFER ACTIVITIES TO PREPARE YOU FOR THE FOLLOWING CAREERS:

• Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Science
• Law
• Creative Arts
• Science & Engineering

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. You will also 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.

“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*)
Law, 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.

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.

“What has impressed me most about Carmel is the help and support offered by the teachers and staff. The High Achievers’ Programme has helped to provide an insight into the application process for prestigious universities through High Achievers’ tutor group sessions, trips and talks delivered by universities.

As well as this, the Programme has enabled me to focus on a future STEM career in engineering, with help from the subject specific co-ordinators in Maths and Physics.

I’ve also taken part in enrichment activities that have helped me improve and be challenged in my chosen subjects such as the British Physics Olympiad and the UKMT Maths Challenge.”

JACOB BURKE
St Gregory’s
Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Chemistry (A*AA)

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.
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.

“I have really enjoyed my time at Carmel so far as there is so much to get involved in. As part of the High Achievers’ Programme, I have received amazing support from my High Achievers’ tutors who provide a continuous stream of opportunities to get involved in such as societies, conferences, competitions, trips and more.

I attend MedSoc sessions which helps improve the skills needed in medicine such as communication, debating and teamwork skills. Recently, I completed the TSA practice exam which introduced me to the style of questions present in Oxbridge entrance exams. This gave me the confidence to tackle similar challenging questions.

A highlight during my time at Carmel would be winning the Royal Society of Chemistry’s Merseyside Young Analyst Competition in a team of three. This involved us using our analytical and practical skills to complete tasks that are beyond the A Level syllabus. After leaving Carmel, I aspire to study Medicine at either an Oxbridge or a Russell Group University.”

YASMIN AL-ZURHAIRI
The Belvedere Academy
Biology, Chemistry, Psychology
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.

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.

Elected every spring, members of the Student Council make up a 13-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.

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

There are also talks delivered by university lecturers and famous physicists and engineers, as well as trips and visits such as the STEM Big Bang fair in Liverpool, Daresbury Laboratories and CERN Geneva.

Conduct a psychological investigation and work as a team to produce a PsychSoc magazine in which to publish your research findings!

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!

Want to see how the justice system works?

You can take on the role of a Barrister and defend your client in a real court room before a real judge!

“Studying at Carmel has really helped me to become a well-rounded person. My teachers are very supportive and always happy to offer help and advice. There are so many opportunities for students to achieve their potential here like the ‘stretch and challenge’ activities and involvement in competitions such as the Biology Olympiad. Not only does this stand out on university applications, but it also tests my knowledge of the course and allows me to go beyond the specification, developing my lateral thinking skills.

Carmel has provided me with the support and confidence to study a competitive Medicine degree. Carmel’s Medical Society (MedSoc) has helped me improve my personal statement and interview technique, as well as increasing my knowledge of current affairs in the medical profession.”

JASMIN LEE
Wade Deacon
Biology, Chemistry, Maths (A*AA)
Medicine, Lancaster University
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:

Nicola Walker
Law & Head of High Achievers/
Oxbridge
nicola@carmel.ac.uk

Emma Smith
Extended Project
emmajo@carmel.ac.uk

Kim Edgell
Medicine, Dentistry &
Veterinary Science / Science
& Engineering
Kimn@carmel.ac.uk

Jonathan Lavelle
Mathematical Sciences
jonathanl@carmel.ac.uk

OPEN EVENTS 2019–20

WED 16TH OCTOBER 2019  5:30-8:00pm
THURS 7TH NOVEMBER 2019  5:30-8:00pm
SAT 16TH NOVEMBER 2019  11:00am-1:30pm
TUES 4TH FEBRUARY 2020  5:30-8:00pm

APPLY ONLINE BY 21ST FEB 2020

www.carmel.ac.uk