

**HIGH ACHIEVERS+ 23/24**

**“ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF TODAY ARE THE  
STEPPING STONES  
FOR THE FUTURE ONES.”**

INVAJY



**IMAGINE YOUR FUTURE**



**Expecting to receive  
the highest grades  
in your GCSEs?**

**Interested in applying  
to the most competitive  
universities?**

**Yes? Then the High  
Achievers+ Programme  
at Carmel is for you!**

The Programme will support  
you, challenge you and inspire  
you to be the best you can  
be academically, helping you  
succeed in your chosen path  
beyond Carmel.



## **HOW DO I BECOME PART OF THE HIGH ACHIEVERS+ PROGRAMME?**

To join our High Achievers+ Programme, you will  
need an average GCSE points score of 7 or above  
or be identified by your subject teachers as Gifted  
and Talented.

## **HOW IS THE HIGH ACHIEVERS+ PROGRAMME DELIVERED?**

- Delivered by subject tutors, a Pastoral Team and supported by the HA+ Co-ordinators.
- Support and challenge are at the heart of our High Achievers+ Programme.
- Every student in the High Achievers+ Programme will be part of a High Achievers tutor group.

# Progression Pathways

Our Programme offers bespoke pathways for students who wish to aim for:

- Oxbridge (Oxford and Cambridge universities)
- Russell Group and Sutton 30 universities
- Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science (MDV)
- Talent (Art and Design; including Architecture, Performance and PE)
- Vocational career access (High calibre apprenticeships and opportunities)

## HA+ Timeline

### YEAR ONE

#### HA+ Programme Enrolment

Supportive tutor group for students with an average GCSE point score of 7.0.\*

#### AUTUMN TERM

#### HA+ Programme & Subject Induction

- Introduction to the Programme including the co-ordinators and the curriculum area resources.
- Introduction to subject specific Super Curriculum resources including reading lists and opportunities to be selected for programmes with external partners.

#### Progression Pathways

- Begin a supported research project to select your competitive progression pathway.

#### SPRING TERM

#### Pathway Selection & Super Curriculum Engagement

- Select your pathway and begin fully engaging with super curricular resources.
- Develop your knowledge beyond the curriculum. Demonstrate your academic thirst.
- Participate in projects with HE+, The Brilliant Club, UAL INsights, Medic Mentor, Nuffield Research Placements and many more.
- Engage in a super curricular project.
- Attend lectures and seminars.

#### SPRING / SUMMER TERM

#### Progression Preparation

- Attend workshops/talks to prepare you for progression lead by The University of Cambridge, The University of Liverpool, UAL and many more.
- Draft your personal statement and begin your applications.
- Prepare for entrance exams.\*\*
- Develop your portfolio.
- University of Liverpool Pathways Programme Session.
- Attend open days including the University of Liverpool HA+ Day.
- Trips to Oxbridge including Magdalene College, Cambridge HE and industry.
- Begin the Extended Project Qualification.\*\*

### YEAR TWO

#### AUTUMN TERM

#### Finalise Choices

- Submit UCAS or alternative application.
- Practise for admission tests.\*\*
- Finalise your portfolio or audition piece.\*\*
- Begin interview preparation. Interviews with HA+ Coordinators, teaching staff, alumni, industry and interview preparation experts.
- Continue to engage with Super Curriculum.

#### SPRING TERM

#### Interviews & Offers

- Attend interviews.\*\*
- Complete admission tests.\*\*
- Receive offers to competitive progression destinations.
- Complete Extended Project Qualification.

#### SUMMER TERM

#### Achieve & Progress

- Achieve high grades (A/A\*) in courses studied and progress to a competitive destination.

\* Students with an average points score lower than 7 can be brought into the programme as gifted and talented.

\*\*If applicable.



## Oxbridge

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

They are looking for bright, ambitious students with lots of potential, whatever their social or economic background.

The application process is more rigorous than other universities and you will need to have outstanding GCSE grades (average of grade 7+) and be on track for A\* and A grades at A level.

You **MUST** engage in super-curricular study from the start of A level study so you can stand out from other applicants from around the world.

### SUPPORT

- Information day in January to introduce you to the application process for Higher Education, including Oxbridge.
- Dedicated Co-ordinator for your chosen subject who will support your application throughout your Lower 6th and Upper 6th years.
- Support sessions delivered by tutors from our super-curriculum. This is anything beyond the A level specification.
- Oxbridge supervision hours to develop your ability in discussions that stimulate critical thinking.
- Visits to Oxford and Cambridge Universities in the summer term of Lower 6th.
- Visiting lecturers from Oxbridge Universities.
- Advice and support on selecting a college.
- One-to-one support, from the summer term of Lower 6th, with writing your personal statement.
- Guest alumni from Carmel and industry partners will support all stages of the process from application and admissions tests to interview and offer.
- You will be given multiple practice interviews and support with practising your admissions tests.
- Post application support and guidance.



## Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science (MDV)

- A comprehensive enrichment course that runs alongside A level studies.
- Designed for students who are aiming to apply for prestigious MDV courses.
- You will enrol on the MDV Programme as soon as you arrive in September and will need to attend weekly 1-hour sessions.

### WHAT GCSEs DO I NEED TO STUDY MDV?

MDV degrees are highly competitive so you should aim to achieve the highest grades possible. Different universities have different requirements, so you need to do your research.

Most Medical and Dental schools expect a minimum of grade 6 in the core subjects. Most applicants usually have 7s, 8s or 9s at GCSE. Most Veterinary schools require a minimum of five grade 7s to apply.

### WHAT A LEVEL SUBJECTS SHOULD I CHOOSE?

- You must study A level Chemistry.
- Your second choice can be A level Biology or Physics.
- Your third subject must be an academic A level. Popular choices are Maths, Psychology, Spanish\* or French\*, or a humanities subject.

\*Having an A level language will help you stand out from other applicants.

### WHAT DOES THE MDV PROGRAMME INCLUDE?

Weekly sessions and workshops will cover the following:

- Understanding the job roles.
- Online and in-person talks from Doctors, Dentists and Veterinarians.
- Work experience support.
- MDV Ethics lectures, debates and presentations.
- Problem Based Learning (PBL) and developing critical thinking. PBL is a method some universities use, so it is a great opportunity to find out if this is something you like.
- Entrance exam revision sessions.
- Personal statement workshops.
- Interview practice workshops.







## Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths (STEM)

The STEM High Achievers+ Programme will help get you ready for a future degree or job in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics. We will also support your UCAS and Degree Apprenticeship applications in the STEM area.

At Carmel you will:

- Attend subject specific High Achievers+ sessions where you will get to explore your subject and interests beyond the syllabus.
- Take part in local and national competitions.
- Network with students across the STEM subjects.
- Take part in trips and speaker events to broaden your knowledge and understanding.
- Get support for university admissions tests such as MAT, TMUA, STEP, ENGAA, PAT, NSAA etc.



## Sutton 30 and Russell Group

These universities have:

- Outstanding teaching, research and student facilities.
- On average, more teaching staff available per student than other universities.
- Their graduates have a great reputation for gaining high-paying jobs.

We work closely with the University of Liverpool to promote progression onto this group of universities:

- Our students attend an Open Day at the University of Liverpool in June of Lower Sixth, which is specifically for Carmel College.
- The day includes a welcome talk from the university and bespoke talks from the different faculties to enable our HA+ students to explore progression routes to these universities.
- Our Oxbridge applicants will typically apply to this group of universities in addition to Oxbridge.



View our  
High Achievers+  
Programme  
web page



## Talent

Bespoke support for students pursuing competitive progression in the Arts. Students progress to specialist courses including Art & Design, Architecture and Performing Arts courses.

- Specific application, portfolio, audition and interview support.
- University of the Arts London progression partner. Bespoke workshops, portfolio guidance and paid university specific visits.
- Bespoke workshops with prestigious drama schools for audition techniques (these have included Mountview / ALRA / RADA / ArtsEd / LIPA / Royal Central School of Speech and drama / Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Wales).
- Participation in the National Theatre Connections Festival and working with NT to perform a specially written play, performed in college and also at the Lowry Theatre.
- Participation in the National Theatre New Views project and Barbican Box projects.
- Exhibitions in local and national venues.
- Support with developing an industry focused CV.
- Enrichment sessions delivering a range of live briefs and competitions.

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**“DEDICATED WORK EXPERIENCE**

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**STAFF WORK WITH STUDENTS TO**

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**DEVELOP BESPOKE PLACEMENTS**

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**AND ACTIVITIES THAT MATCH**

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**STUDENTS’ FUTURE CAREER GOALS**

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**& AMBITIONS.”**

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**OFSTED 2019**



## Degree Apprenticeships

In recent years, degree apprenticeships have grown in popularity. They allow you to combine work and study by:

- Offering you degree level qualifications (your employer pays all your tuition fees).
- Paying you a competitive wage.

Degree apprenticeships are offered by many prestigious organisations.

Some examples include Deloitte, KPMG, Jaguar Landrover, BAE Systems, Sellafield, Merseyside Police, the BBC, the Civil Service and many more.

At Carmel, our Careers Team will help you look for suitable degree apprenticeship opportunities, and will support you with the application process.

We offer talks from visiting speakers, and we keep in contact with our former students who are currently on degree apprenticeships, many of whom have mentored our current students through the application process.

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## International Opportunities

If you are considering applying to university abroad, we can help you consider your options and support you with the application process, both in Europe and further afield.

Our Careers and Pastoral Teams can help you research your ideas, and apply for programmes such as the Fulbright Commission Scholarships and the Sutton Trust Summer Programme aimed at students looking to study at an American University.

We can also help you explore Gap Year opportunities abroad. Previously, students have applied for programmes such as Camp America and BUNAC, voluntary service overseas and conservation charities.

We have many students on our sports programmes who are considering applying to the US on sports scholarships. Our sports staff have many years of experience in helping students with this process, and in signposting students to more specialist support.



## Carmel Super Curriculum

Carmel's bespoke HA+ Super Curriculum will be offered to all High Achievers. These are academic materials and opportunities that are designed to push and challenge your thinking outside of the A level specifications. Engaging with the Super Curriculum will enable you to be competitive in your progression applications, develop high level thinking skills and subject related knowledge which will support you to achieve A and A\* grades in your A Levels.

### The HA+ Super Curriculum includes:

- How to achieve a subject specific A\*: additional learning materials, seminars and alumni support.
- Critical / lateral thinking challenges and workshops.
- Visiting HE lecturers and seminar programmes.
- HE focused wider reading lists (subject specific).
- Soft skills interview preparation sessions.
- Public speaking support sessions.
- Industry masterclasses and mentoring.

Our HA+ Super Curriculum includes a lecture programme and applicant support from competitive universities such as Oxford University, Cambridge University, University of the Arts London, RADA, Central School of Speech and Drama, Russell Group Universities such as the University of Liverpool, University of Manchester and even International Universities such as the University of Salamanca in Spain. Additionally, we support our students to secure places on competitive HE scholar programmes.

### HA+ Focused enrichment:

- Chemistry Society
- Future Architects
- Future Engineers
- Law Mock Trials
- Law Society
- Maths Society
- MDV Programme
- Physics
- STEM Society
- The Brilliant Club

## Additional AS Levels

Some high achieving students will also be able to study for an AS level in Further Maths, French or Spanish in Lower Sixth (dependent on meeting the entry criteria and progression advice).

## Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

This sought-after qualification is offered to all High Achievers and will demonstrate your subject enthusiasm and can even lower your UCAS points offer.



More about  
the Extended  
Project  
Qualification



More about  
High Achievers+  
Enrichment.

"A CULTURE OF EQUALITY &  
DIVERSITY ACROSS THE COLLEGE.  
STUDENTS FLOURISH IN THIS  
INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT AS  
CONFIDENT AND MATURE  
INDIVIDUALS."

OFSTED 2019

## OPEN EVENTS

Come along and see our fantastic facilities.

WED 11 OCT 2023 5:00-7:30pm

THURS 9 NOV 2023 5:00-7:30pm

TUES 12 MAR 2024 5:00-7:30pm

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about the High Achievers+ Programme contact Daniel Saunders:

[daniels@carmel.ac.uk](mailto:daniels@carmel.ac.uk)

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“The Programme is really good and offers great support for university applications and preparing you for university interviews.”

*Rebecca Rylands*

ARCHBISHOP BLANCH SCHOOL  
EPQ, HISTORY, ENGLISH LIT, FRENCH (A\*A\*AB)  
HISTORY, JESUS COLLEGE,  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



“The High Achievers+ Programme includes extracurricular help for each subject, pushing me to extend my knowledge.”

*David Cuesta-Moreta*

CARDINAL HEENAN CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL  
CHEMISTRY, MATHS, PHYSICS (A\*AA)  
CHEMISTRY, LADY MARGARET HALL,  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



“I had mock interviews and personal statement workshops. This support really helped me with my applications to Russell Group universities.”

*Niamh Hurstfield*

WADE DEACON HIGH SCHOOL  
BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY,  
MATHS (A\*A\*A)  
MEDICINE, QUEENS UNIVERSITY,  
BELFAST



“The High Achievers+ Programme has been so useful for guidance on how to improve my university applications.”

*Lola Hammerton*

TOWER COLLEGE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE,  
GEOGRAPHY, ECONOMICS (AAA)  
ENGLISH, UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL



“Without Carmel and the HA+ Programme, I am certain I would not have received my offers from prestigious universities.”

*Brennan Hamilton*

DE LA SALLE SCHOOL  
BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, SPANISH (AAA)  
VETERINARY MEDICINE,  
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM



“The support I received was invaluable and made the university application process much more manageable.”

*Zilin Wu*

CARDINAL NEWMAN  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE  
PSYCHOLOGY, HISTORY,  
ENGLISH LITERATURE (A\* A\* A\*)  
LAW, CHRIST'S COLLEGE,  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



Prescot Road, St Helens,  
Merseyside WA10 3AG

Tel: 01744 452200 (Reception)

01744 452214 (Admissions)

Email: [info@carmel.ac.uk](mailto:info@carmel.ac.uk)



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