

carmel
college

Inspiring minds.
Shaping futures.

Gifted and Talented

ENGLISH

PROGRAMME 2016-17



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GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMME 2016-17

Carmel's GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMME

provides a structured programme of activities, events and support to our Gifted and Talented students. It offers the best possible preparation for application to **Oxbridge, Russell Group and other prestigious institutions**, as well as onto Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science degree courses. It also provides support for our talented students in specialist fields such as Art, Music, Physical Education and Drama/Theatre.

As a Gifted and Talented English student at Carmel, you will be supported, encouraged and challenged by our **highly-qualified and committed English tutors**, who will help you to **achieve your potential** in your English studies and to develop the high order skills necessary for success at degree level.

Success Stories



Louisa Keight (Rainhill High) is reading English at **Magdalene College Cambridge** after achieving an A* in A level English Literature.



Bethany Cross (Sts Peter & Paul) is reading English at **Newnham College Cambridge** after achieving an A* in A level English Literature and an A in A level English Language.



Sian Bradshaw (Kirkby High) is reading English at **Wolfson College, Cambridge** after achieving an A* in A level English Literature and an A* in A level English Language.



Ben Ramsey (St Cuthbert's) won the under 19s category of the Walter Swan Trust Playwriting Competition. Ben's play, which was entitled 'Following Orders', impressed the judges because it engaged with such a big topic and portrayed some great character relationships. His play was performed at the Wildman Studio, Ilkley Playhouse and on the Courtyard Stage, West Yorkshire Playhouse.



Jessica Taylor (De La Salle) is currently reading English and Creative Writing at the **University of York** after scoring an outstanding 400/400 in English Language and Literature.

What will I be offered through the College Gifted and Talented Programme?

At the beginning of your first year in college you will be enrolled onto **Carmel's Gifted and Talented Programme**. You will be offered the chance to attend the **Haydock Oxbridge Conference** and to visit Oxford and Cambridge.

You will also have the opportunity to complete the **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**, which will allow you to choose an area or aspect of English in which you have a particular interest, such as tragedy or language change, and then to use your research skills to produce a 5000 word study. This qualification is the ideal preparation for writing English dissertations and is highly-regarded by leading universities as it demonstrates your enthusiasm for the subject and ability to work independently. Moreover, it is often a point of focus for discussion at English admission interviews.

What will the English Gifted and Talented Programme offer me?

As part of the English Gifted and Talented Programme, you will be supported by our **English Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator**, who, assisted by members of the English team from across the three subject areas (English Literature, English Language and English Language & Literature) will offer you specialist help to ensure that you develop your interest in English, choose the right English degree course for your career intentions, and are supported at all stages during the UCAS application process.

This specialist support begins in your first term at Carmel, some students being enrolled onto the programme as a result of their GCSE points profile, but others as a result of their performance in the college's internal examinations in October and their commitment to English within lessons.

In September you will have the opportunity to sign up for one of the four **enrichment courses** run by the English team, including one on 20th Century poetry and one entitled, "Six Texts in Six Weeks," which, as its name suggests, is a reading group which encourages you to read six seminal literary texts and discuss your responses to them and is ideal preparation for admissions interviews.

At the beginning of the second term, as you begin to consider which English courses you may pursue at degree level, you will have the chance to attend a **wider reading group** led by one of our tutors, which will provide you with the opportunity to broaden your literary knowledge. Later in the term, **talks** will be held by **ex-Carmel students** currently studying English at prestigious institutions. The latter 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. When the college's UCAS application process begins in earnest, you will be given specialist support at **admissions workshops**, which will cover all aspects of the admissions process, from choosing an appropriate course to writing an effective Personal Statement.

At the start of the second year you will continue to be supported with the application process, receiving specialist help from members of the English team to perfect your Personal Statement and prepare for **admission tests** such as Oxford's ELAT and/or **interviews**. You will also have the opportunity to attend a **weekly wider reading group** focusing upon challenging texts from the literary canon. Finally, with your external examinations approaching, you will be offered **Stretch and Challenge tutorials**, which will provide you with the opportunity to hone the skills needed to achieve the highest grades in English.



English students engaged in wider reading discussion

2016's Gifted and Talented students visit the Oxbridge colleges



Our students say..



"As a Gifted and Talented student at Carmel, I have received a vast amount of support with regards both to ensuring that I achieve success in my A Levels and in applying to Oxbridge. Within English, there are great Enrichment opportunities available, like the poetry and dystopian/utopian

literature discussion groups, which enable you to explore interesting aspects of English and find where your passions lie. The subject has a designated English Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator who supports you through the application process, helping you with the drafting of your Personal Statement and putting on mock interviews to prepare you for the real thing when applying to Oxbridge. I couldn't be more grateful for the help I received when preparing for my Cambridge interview, and don't think I would have been as successful as I have without being part of the Gifted and Talented Programme and receiving the support I did. It is unlikely you will find this level of invaluable support anywhere else."

Bethany Cross studied Critical Thinking, EPQ, English Language, English Literature, Philosophy & Religion



"The English department have been invaluable in encouraging and assisting my successful application to study English at the University of Cambridge, with mock interviews and tutorials that have helped to stretch my knowledge further."

Sian Bradshaw studied English Language, English Literature, EPQ, Psychology

"As a Gifted and Talented student at Carmel, I was given invaluable support with all aspects of the application process, from choosing an appropriate course for my interests, to writing an effective Personal Statement and gaining success at interview."



Jessica Taylor achieved A*AB in English Language & Literature, Performance Studies and Psychology. Jess also achieved an A in her Extended Project Qualification. Now studying English, University of York

English Gifted and Talented Calendar 2016-17

		GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMME GENERAL	ENGLISH GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMME
2016/17	SEPTEMBER	Gifted and Talented Programme meeting; Gifted and Talented Societies begin	Enrichment - 20th Century Poetry, dystopian fiction, creative writing, 6 texts in 6 weeks
	OCTOBER	Internal Exams – Gifted and Talented students not already on the programme are identified and enrolled	Students enrolled on the programme as a result of performance in October Assessment
	NOVEMBER	Apply for Cambridge and Oxford Shadowing Scheme	
	DECEMBER		
	JANUARY	Application for Sutton Trust and summer schools; Identification of Gifted and Talented students after internal exams	Enrichment cycle repeated; English reading group
	FEBRUARY	Should you be thinking about Oxbridge? - talk	Bluecoat Project (creative writing)
	MARCH	Mansfield Study days at Oxford; Haydock Oxbridge conference	
	late JUNE	Careers Evening talks	Admissions workshop 1 and talks by ex-Carmel students
	JULY	Oxbridge Open days; Summer schools start	
2017/18	SEPTEMBER	UCAS preparation Early Applicants; Aim Higher evening; Oxbridge application training	Admissions workshop 2 - Personal Statements, Admissions test, interview advice; English mock interviews; Reading group - What is the literary canon?
	OCTOBER	Early Application deadline; Internal Mock Interview Evening	
	NOVEMBER	Oxbridge interview training	
	DECEMBER		English Stretch and Challenge tutorials commence
	JANUARY onwards		English Stretch and Challenge tutorials continue
	AUGUST	Support on results day	English Departmental support on results day

More Information

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