



## The Dixie Grammar

Senior School

### **Oxford and Cambridge**

Every year we have students who consider applying to study at either the University of Oxford or Cambridge. In recent years, Dixie students have applied for subjects as diverse as Chinese, Mathematics, Natural Science, Law and History.

Both universities are, of course, primarily interested in the academic potential of the candidate in the subject for which they have applied. Nevertheless, the mark of an Oxford or Cambridge student is intellectual curiosity – successful applicants are those who have a thirst for learning beyond the school curriculum.

At Dixie, we have a wide variety of opportunities available to students of all ages and we would encourage very able members of our community to explore existing and new academic interests throughout their time at the school. The following is just a flavour of what Dixie has to offer for those who may consider an Oxford or Cambridge application:

- **Community Lectures**  
These talks cover a wide range of topics from science and philosophy to criminology and provide opportunity to listen to and engage with stimulating ideas.
- **Philosophy Society**  
Open to students of all ages, this weekly club allows for lively debate of a wide range of philosophical and ethical questions, developing flexibility of thought and intellectual rigour.
- **Public Speaking & Debating**  
Researching, developing and defending an argument are important skills – as is the ability to communicate your ideas effectively to others. Internal and external public speaking and debating competitions are open to all interested and engaged students.
- **Quiz Teams**  
Senior and junior quiz teams regularly compete in regional and national school competitions – an opportunity to demonstrate a breadth of general knowledge.
- **Academic Extension**  
Teaching staff at Dixie are highly skilled at meeting the needs of students with different abilities. Academic challenge and extension are routinely available in

lessons for very able pupils – in addition, many subjects offer additional lunchtime support and challenge. Whatever the interest, be that Medicine, Mandarin or Mathematics – our staff and our extra-curricular programme will ensure that students are able to fully realise their academic potential.

- **Trips and Visits**

We are very proud at Dixie of our International Schools' Award – a recognition of the global focus and range of our provision. Trips to China, the United States, France, Germany and Hungary – many giving students the opportunity to stay with host families – allow our young people to expand their horizons, develop greater understanding of other cultures and hone their language skills.

- **Careers Related Projects**

Throughout their time at Dixie, students are exposed to a variety of opportunities to challenge themselves. From innovative and creative design projects in partnership with the Engineering Trust, to conducting real research through the CREST Award, students have many opportunities to stand out as gifted individuals.

### **Sixth Form**

By the time they reach the Sixth Form, potential Oxford and Cambridge candidates are likely to have self-identified and also been identified by staff. The Sixth Form provides potential applicants with a range of opportunities, including:

- Weekly enrichment sessions
- Expert UCAS application support
- Practice interviews
- External guidance and support through partnerships with other schools, local universities and organisations
- Oxbridge conferences and workshops
- Stretch and challenge work and academic experience
- One to one guidance tutorials
- Subject specific preparation for entrance examinations