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| <b>Person(s) responsible for this policy</b> |                   | <b>Director of Sixth Form</b> |                       |
| <b>Last review by</b>                        | <b>O Rusholme</b> | <b>Review date</b>            | <b>September 2024</b> |
| <b>Date of next review</b>                   |                   | <b>September 2025</b>         |                       |

## Oxbridge Application Policy: Streatham and Clapham High School, 2024

### Aim

To provide a structured and comprehensive support system for students considering applying to the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge. This policy aims to:

- Identify potential Oxbridge candidates early and prepare them for application.
- Provide tailored support and guidance throughout the application process.
- Encourage a wide range of co-curricular and supra-curricular activities and academic pursuits.
- Prepare students for the rigorous application process, including interviews and examinations.

### Eligibility

All students who express an interest in applying to Oxford or Cambridge are eligible to participate in the Oxbridge application program.

### Stages of the Oxbridge Application Process

#### Year 11:

- **Into the Sixth Evening:** Parents and students will be introduced to the Oxbridge application process, including key requirements and expectations.
- **Options Interviews:** Students will be asked about their aspirations, and those considering Oxbridge will be added to a dedicated register.

#### Year 12:

- **Confirmation of Interest:** Students will be asked to reconfirm their interest in applying to Oxford or Cambridge and to indicate their preferred subject choices. Heads of Department will then be informed of intentions.
- **Introduction to the Application Process:** Students will receive comprehensive guidance on:
  - Personal statement writing
  - Choosing a college

- Supra-curricular activities
- Interview preparation
- Examination requirements
- **Mentoring Program:** Students will be assigned a mentor from the relevant department(s) to provide personalised support and advice.
- **Oxbridge Visit:** A visit to Oxford or Cambridge will be organised to provide students with a firsthand experience of university life.
- **Personal Statement Draft:** Students are expected to complete a first draft of their personal statement by the end of the summer term, and will finalise this over the summer in preparation for early application.

### **Year 13:**

- Students are expected to complete their UCAS application by the beginning of October. They will then be expected to complete other sections of the application independently, as per the college's requirements.
- **Subject-Specific Examinations:** Students will be contacted by the Head of Examinations regarding relevant subject-specific examinations to be taken during the October half-term break.
- **Examination Preparation:** Students are expected to complete at least 2-3 practice examinations or activities under timed conditions.
- **Mock Interviews:** Students will participate in at least two mock interviews: one with a subject specialist at school and one with an external specialist – including alumna.
- **Formal Interviews:** If selected for interview, students will attend formal interviews at Oxford or Cambridge in December (in some cases, these may be online).

### **Expectations of Oxbridge Applicants (throughout sixth form):**

- **Academic Excellence:** Maintain high academic standards and strive for exceptional grades.
- **Co-curricular Engagement:** Participate in a wide range of activities to demonstrate breadth and depth of interests.
- **Independent Learning:** Demonstrate self-motivation and the ability to work independently.
- **Effective Communication:** Develop strong written and verbal communication skills.
- **Time Management:** Prioritize tasks and manage time effectively.
- **Resilience:** Maintain a positive attitude and persevere through challenges.