

## BSix and University Applications



**BSix is a comprehensive sixth form college.** This means that we welcome students with different backgrounds and interests. It also means that we are passionate about supporting anyone who is interested in progressing to university. Access to higher education is at the heart of the BSix ethos.

2014-15 was BSix's most successful year in terms of university application: 85% of all eligible BSix students applied to study an undergraduate course. This success is the culmination of five years of consistent improvement. In 2010 158 BSix students went to university, and 5 students went on to study at a Russell Group institution. In 2014-15 387 BSix students went to university, and an impressive 30 students secured a place at a Russell Group institution, six of whom were studying a BTEC qualification. Our application rate to NHS funded courses, those which prepare you to be a nurse or midwife, also experienced a dramatic improvement. Our rate of successful applicants doubled from the previous academic year.

Perhaps most impressive, however, is the range of degrees and universities that our students choose.

Students choose unique and fascinating undergraduate courses, such as Psychology and Philosophy, Petroleum Engineering, International Finance, and Arabic and Linguistics, and choose excellent and varied universities to study them at, such as Bristol University, the University of Exeter, and the University of Glasgow. These decisions are testament to the ambition of both staff and students at BSix.

Applications for 2016 entry are already underway, and the college is buzzing at the prospect of another year of outstanding university success. BSix is an institution that prides itself on building links with the very best and most prestigious universities, whilst also maintaining its absolute emphasis on inclusivity. Whatever your intellectual passion is; if you choose to study at BSix, university study is only a step away.





# OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE applicants at BSix

'This year, BSix has nine students applying to the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge. Oxford and Cambridge are ranked as the top two universities in the UK, and are widely regarded as some of the best in the world. Both universities were founded in the 13th century and have been educating undergraduates ever since. We asked two of our Oxbridge applicants why they decided to apply, and how BSix helped them to do this.'



An interview with Cambridge applicant, **Ibrahim Mohamed**

Ibrahim is applying to read Human, Social, and Political Sciences at Clare College, University of Cambridge. He achieved A\*, A\*, A in his A2 exams.

### Why did you decide to apply to Oxbridge?

'I wanted to study a degree that offered me the variety of studying social science subjects while still being able to specialise in my chosen field. The course at Cambridge offered me that. The fact that Oxbridge has reportedly been biased towards private school students, as opposed to state school students like myself, also made me want to apply.'

### How do you feel about BSix?

'BSix is like many other colleges in that there is a close-knit A Level community, however, where it stands out is that our teachers go above and beyond, and not only help us academically, but socially too. I have never been more inspired. Because of the close rapport I had with my teachers I felt confident that I would get good grades. Every student at BSix has a narrative, which not only makes them down to earth, but also very dynamic. The Sociology department and my A level classmates have been my biggest influence, constantly encouraging me to be the best academic I can be.'

### Were there any BSix activities that you feel helped you get to university, or influenced your choice of subject?

'I attended extra-activities such as the University of York YESS summer school, the Wadham College Study Retreat, the Hackney University Extension, and the RBS banking experience. All of these activities, without a doubt, encouraged me to apply to Oxbridge and other great universities. It is a great thing that BSix help students to get involved with university. It starts to create an equal playing field between state school students and other private school students. I started an independent A2 Sociology study group in my last year at BSix. We all became a family and worked throughout the year helping one another.'



An interview with an Oxford applicant, **Leanne Gayle**

Leanne is applying to read English Language and Literature at Wadham College, University of Oxford. She achieved A, A, A in her A2 examinations

### Why did you decide to apply to Oxbridge?

'Oxford offers an unparalleled education through the tutorial system. The subjective and nuanced nature of English Literature means that the best way to engage with the subject is through debate. Oxford offers the best environment for doing this, along with one of the most varied and historically focussed literature courses in the country.'

### How do you feel about BSix?

'I moved to BSix from a different sixth form for my A2 year because I knew it was the kind of place that encouraged independent learning and thought. The teachers were encouraging and supportive, and I felt the style of learning was similar to what university would be like. The flexible timetable meant that I could spend many hours in the library. This gave me a lot of time to explore my subject through wider reading. I also found my subject modules to be more varied and interesting than I had come across before in my other schools. We studied African history and the British Empire, which provoked a lot of debate in the classroom, I was more engaged and therefore got higher results. I also appreciated how, especially in history, the teachers asked us if we were enjoying the learning environment and if there was anything more that they could do to make the lessons more interesting. It is this flexible approach to learning that made me want to continue to stay at BSix in my gap year as a volunteer A Level English and History mentor.'

### Were there any BSix activities that you feel helped you get to university, or influenced your choice of subject?

'The Pembroke Humanities Programme was one of the main reasons I decided to move to BSix. I had taken part in this through my previous college, and I saw how much effort and energy BSix put into helping their students to help get to the best universities. When I did come, I was offered another opportunity to spend a week at Wadham College, Oxford, for a 'study retreat'. Revising in Oxford during that week really inspired me to work hard all the way up to my exams.'



# BSix students who went to top universities in 2015

Firstname	Surname	School before BSix	Course placed	Institution Name	League Table Position**
Abdelrahmane	Khelloufi	Brampton Manor School	Mechanical Engineering	Queen Mary, University of London*	33
Abduljebaar	Ulusow	Tawhid Boys School	Finance and Mathematics	University of Glasgow*	30
Abdullahi	Sharif	Highbury Grove	Science and Engineering	Queen Mary, University of London*	33
Abdulrahman	Sharif	Tawhid Boys School	Economics	Queen Mary, University of London*	33
Afua	Henebeng	St Mary Magdalene Academy	Economics	University of Essex	34
Ahmet Safa	Nazim	Abroad	Engineering	University of Manchester*	28
Aisha	Abdulkareem	Abroad	Multimedia Technology and Design	University of Kent	22
Aliunho	Fernandes	Holloway School	Sports Therapy	University of Kent	22
Angel Efrain	Puruncajas Guevara	Bishop Challoner	Chemical Engineering	University of Surrey	8
Angelina	Owusu	Havering College	Pharmacy	University of East Anglia	16
Anisa	Fatima	Newham College of FE	International Relations	Queen Mary, University of London*	33
Archie	Roberts	Acland Burghley Sixth Form School	Business, Management and Economics	University of Sussex	21
Batuhan	Kobra	Wisdom School	Information Management for Business	University College London*	13
Bolaji	Adedeji	Abroad	Accounting and Finance	University of Surrey	8
Cansu	Kurnaz	Islington Consortium	American Studies	University of Sussex	21
Chenelle	Shury	Barking Abbey School	Law and Sociology	University of Warwick*	7
Chinayenwa Theresa	Nwabia	Hammersmith and West London College	History	University of Southampton*	14
Eldaa	Kilunga	Mount Carmel Re	International Relations	Queen Mary, University of London*	33
Eligijus	Blankus	Forest Pathway College	Computer Science	Queen Mary, University of London*	33
Eniola	Ojumu	Abroad	Ancient History and Classical Archaeology	University of Warwick*	7
Fatima	El Kaderi Kadiri	Westminster Kingsway College	Science and Engineering	Queen Mary, University of London*	33
Ferus Mobratu	Tesfay	Elizabeth Garrett Anderson	History	Queen Mary, University of London*	33
Gutshy	Gumanda	CONEL	Accounting and Finance	University of Surrey	8
Hamza	Merzouki	St Mary Magdalene Academy	Engineering and Applied Science	Aston University, Birmingham	32
Hatice	Tas	Highgate Wood School	Law	University of Kent	22
Iman	Ahmed	Highbury Fields	Pharmacy	University of East Anglia	16
Joana Catarina	Pereira Sousa	Northumberland Park	Adult Nursing	University of East Anglia	16
Jonathan	Yip	Abroad	Economics	University of Southampton*	14
Katerina	Vardanian	Walthamstow School for Girls	Biomedical Science	University of Essex	34
Khadeza	Uddin	Swanlea School	Pharmaceutical Chemistry	Queen Mary, University of London*	33
Ladan	Ismail	Regent High School	English and American Literature	University of Kent	22
Maria	Acheampong	Abroad	Nursing Studies	Kings College London*	23
Marian	Aden	Highbury Grove	Computer Science	Kings College London*	23
Matthew	Osei-Tutu Bonsu	The Palmer Catholic Academy	Computing	University of Leicester	24
Mohamed	Ibrahim	Stoke Newington	English Literature	University of Exeter*	10
Mohammed Saif	Ullah	Newham College of FE	Computer Science	University of Essex	34
Mujibur Rahman	Mejan	Swanlea School	Computing	University of Leicester	24
Naema	Musse	Abroad	Biochemistry	Queen Mary, University of London*	33
Nasseem	Omar	The Petchey Academy	Accounting and Finance	University of Surrey	8
Oluwatosin	Adegoke	Cardinal Pole RC School	Philosophy	University of Bristol*	15
Omar	Abdi	Haringey Sixth Form Centre	Mathematics	University of Essex	34
Omar	Warsame	Nightingale Academy	Petroleum Engineering	University of Leeds*	19
Omolade Oluwatoyin	Osinaike	Abroad	Engineering and Physical Sciences	University of Nottingham*	25
Orgil	Thompson	Prendergast-Ladywell Fields	Theoretical Physics	University of Bristol*	15
Peymani	Sengonul	Abroad	Politics and International Relations	University of Kent	22
Renas	Siti	Acland Burghley Sixth Form School	English Literature	University of East Anglia	16
Robert David Sebastian	Glennie	Abroad	Engineering	University of Manchester*	28
Sahin	Erdogan	Thomas Rotherham College	Law	University of York*	17
Sapphire	Ferreira-barker	Clapton Girls Academy	Physics	University of Kent	22
Sarah	Esrish	Abroad	Criminology and American Studies	University of Essex	34
Shaikor	Paul	Islington Consortium	History	University of Essex	34
Sibil	Devassy	Abroad	Computer Science	Kings College London*	23
So Yon	Park	Holloway School	Mathematics with Economics	University of Sussex	21
Steven Scott Thomas	Glover	Enfield Grammar School	Politics	University of Nottingham*	25
Sulayman	Ibrahim	Conel College	Biochemistry	Queen Mary, University of London*	33
Thabiso	Moyo	Abroad	Marketing	University of Kent	22
Timi	Olayinka-Oke	Abroad	Business and Management	University of Kent	22
Victoria	Ziewiecka	Abroad	Psychology	University of East Anglia	16
Vivian	Kehinde	Clapton Girls Academy	Politics and International Relations	University of Kent	22
Xafsa Abyan	Sheikh Mohamad	Regent High School	Sociology with Anthropology	University of Southampton*	14

\* A member of the Russell Group which represents 24 leading universities committed to maintaining the very best research and an outstanding teaching and learning experience.

\*\* The Complete University Guide league table ranks the 126 UK universities according to such criteria as student satisfaction and the percentage of students who complete their degree.



## Supporting student applications to university

'BSix provides a wide range of support for students who want to apply for university. The college is passionately committed to helping students reach their chosen undergraduate course, whatever this might be.'

### Learning **Beyond** the Classroom

BSix has a dedicated 'Learning Beyond the Classroom' team to support you on your journey to university. The team organises university trips and residential summer schools, and manage links with some of the most prestigious higher education institutions in the UK. They can also help you to find work experience, or sign you up to one of our many clubs and societies to help enhance your university application. Two members of the Learning Beyond the Classroom team are dedicated, full-time Careers Advisers. The Careers Advisers are available Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, for student drop-ins. You can visit them at any time and discuss undergraduate study, the UCAS process, student finance, and student life.

For more information email: Nik Higgins, Head of Learning Beyond the Classroom ([nhiggins@bsix.ac.uk](mailto:nhiggins@bsix.ac.uk)).

## Hackney University Extension 2015-16

The Hackney University Extension has been running since 2007. The programme for this academic year offers students the chance to participate in sixteen academic courses taught by university academics. The 2015-16 programme sees the continued involvement of the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, and the University of York. It brings together 8 schools and colleges from Hackney, 1 school from Tower Hamlets, 1 school from Westminster, and fifteen universities from across the UK.

Each course focuses on a particular university subject, and is based on a relevant theme from that academic discipline. Students take part in lectures, seminars, Easter schools, and residential summer schools.

For more information email: Laura Macbeth, Learning Beyond the Classroom Coordinator ([lmacbeth@bsix.ac.uk](mailto:lmacbeth@bsix.ac.uk)).

### Autumn Term

Subject	Course title	University
Healthcare	An Introduction to Healthcare	City University
American History	Cold War Civil Rights	University of East Anglia
Biology	Genetics and Microbiology	University of York
Chemistry	An Introduction to Chemistry	University of Warwick
Classics	Discovering the Ancient World	The East End Classics Centre
Physics	Exploring Physics	The Institute of Physics and University College London
Politics	Grassroots and Protest Politics	Queen Mary, University of London
Sports Science	Improving Performance	University of East London

### Spring Term

Subject	Course title	University
Drama	Performance and Characterisation	Royal Central School of Speech and drama and Guildhall School of Music and Drama
English Literature	Fighting and Writing	King's College London
Media	Explore Media	Goldsmiths
Sociology	Crime and Deviance	University of York
Business Management	Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities	Business Management
Classics	Contemporary Interpretations of Classical Culture	The East End Classics Centre
Humanities	Enlightenment and Romanticism	Pembroke College, University of Oxford
Mathematics	Scientific Modelling	Clare College, Cambridge



## The Red Room

The Red Room is BSix's little bit of the University of Oxford in Hackney. It is designed to look like a traditional Oxford don's study, and is complete with chandeliers and leather chairs. We want students who come to BSix to be comfortable with the university environment before they even apply to UCAS! The room gives students the chance to work in an exciting, and perhaps unfamiliar, environment. It is also home to the East End Classics Centre and the Library of the Ancient World.

The East End Classics Centre organises an exciting programme of Classics related events, and invites students studying all qualifications to learn more about the ancient world. Students can take part in the Ancient Greek and Latin Club, attend lectures and seminars delivered by Russell Group Academics, act in a Greek tragedy, learn how to design Roman togas, and spend an afternoon sketching priceless archaeological artefacts.

The Library of the Ancient World is a reference library for students wishing to study Classics, Ancient History, and Archaeology in more depth. It hosts a collection of specialist academic texts donated to BSix by university lecturers. Students can also use the Library of the Ancient World in the run up to examinations. Many find that its quiet environment, and fascinating décor, offer the perfect place for intensive study.

For more information email: Naomi Littlejohn, Learning Beyond the Classroom Coordinator ([nlittlejohn@bsix.ac.uk](mailto:nlittlejohn@bsix.ac.uk)).

