



A community of transformation founded on love, hope & trust

St Mark's Church of England Academy

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Headteacher: Aimee Gallagher

21 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child has been invited to attend an Access and Outreach event on **Monday 09 February** at Merton College, Oxford University. The event is designed to support your child to attend a top university when they graduate from school. Your child has been selected to take part in the programme as they have been identified as having the potential to progress onto a competitive university or degree course.

St Mark's and Merton College Oxford are partnered in commitment to support students in making informed decisions about studying at Oxbridge. Our aim is to **dispel myths and stereotypes** about the College and University, to draw the best applicants **regardless of background**.

Merton College is particularly keen to work with state schools and colleges to promote **aspiration-raising, fair** and **informed** choices about universities, including Oxford.

Trip details

10:30 - Arrive at Merton College

10:45 - 11:30 Introduction to University / Oxford and Personal Statement Workshop

11:30 - 12:30 Student Q&A and tour of the college

12:30 - 1:15 Lunch in Hall (provided by Merton College)

1:30 - 2:30 Academic Taster Lectures (STEM and Humanities options will be available)

2:30 – Depart

Accompanied by Ms Alford and Ms Elliot, students will leave school at 8am and travel to Victoria Station using National Rail. From Victoria Coach Station, the group will then take a coach to Oxford City Centre to arrive for 10:30am.

Travel will be paid for and arranged by the school. We endeavour to return to Mitcham Eastfields by 4pm, where students will be dismissed from the station.

On the day

Your child will learn about the pathways to university and learn about university life, what it takes to get in, how to choose subjects, and the things they will need to do between now and completing sixth form to stand a good chance of receiving an offer from a top university. They will meet representatives from Oxford University as well as current students who will tell students about the realities of university life and offer top tips for success.

Students should bring a pen, notebook, water as well as appropriate clothing e.g., coats. Standard, smart Sixth Form uniform must be worn.



Please fill in and return the slip below to Ms Alford (HU5) or Ms Haider by 04/02/26 to secure your place on the trip.

Yours faithfully,

Miss S.A.Alford

Head of Geography, 12A Coach and Oxbridge and Elephant Group Mentor

PLEASE RETURN TO MS ALFORD (HU5) OR MS HAIDER (6TH FORM OFFICE) BY 4 FEBRUARY 2026

I hereby consent to my child attending the visit to Merton College on 09 February 2026

Child's Full Name	
Child's Coaching Group	
Parent/Carer Name	
Parent /Carer Signature	
Date	
Please supply details of any medical updates	