



Front cover image: Jesus College Seren Summer School at Oxford University

Jesus College 450th Anniversary Campaign Access & Outreach

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Attracting the best students from all backgrounds

Jesus College has been pioneering in its **access and outreach** efforts to reach out to schools and communities where pupils might not otherwise be encouraged to aim for Oxford. Nearly 30% of Jesus students receive a financial bursary or scholarship. We continue to seek funding for **bursaries** to ensure that those able enough to secure a place at Jesus are never deterred from taking it up by financial concerns.

We are committed to raising aspiration and improving social mobility. This is particularly true for young people from our linked communities in Wales and south London, some of the most deprived areas of Europe. Our aim is to ensure that ability to pay is not a barrier to receiving the highest-quality education.

With your support, we aim to do the following

Expand our programme of Bursaries to ensure that the very best students have the opportunity to receive an exceptional education at the College, regardless of their financial circumstances. Increase our access and outreach programmes in London and Wales. We will also expand our pioneering work with state schools, to reach young people who may otherwise never consider studying at a leading university, let alone Oxford. Fully endow our Access and Outreach Fellow, and the role of an Access Co-ordinator to ensure that these programmes have the vital administrative support to continue.



"Ours is a shared community, a fellowship and a collective of scholars. Anyone can be a part of that community. It doesn't matter what background you have, or how rich or poor your parents are. The only thing we care about is whether you're willing to share your ideas."

- Dr Matthew Williams, Access and Career Development Fellow

Access & Outreach at a glance

Ι

Currently, nearly 30% of Jesus students receive a financial bursary or scholarship.

Π

We were one of the first colleges to employ a Schools Liaison Officer and subsequently an Access Fellow from 2014.

III

In 2019, our outreach activities at the College and in schools reached more than 9,000 young people from nearly 500 statefunded schools, an increase in contacts of 25% on the previous year.

IV

57% of students admitted between 2015-2017 were from state-funded schools; 11% were from less advantaged areas.



V

In collaboration with the Welsh Government, our pioneering Access Summer School hosts 75 students from Wales's state schools for a week of interdisciplinary lectures, seminars and tutorials to raise aspirations and attainment. In each year, from 2017-2019, near 2/3rds of summer school attendees applied to Oxford, with a higher than average success rate. In 2019, the programme was extended to target schools in London.







Bursaries for the brightest young minds

At Jesus we believe that academic excellence is obtained through diverse voices coming together and learning from each other. Our aim is to ensure that ability to pay is not a barrier to receiving the highest-quality education. We offer world-beating educational opportunities to the best students, selected according to their merits rather than their privileges.

With your support, we will greatly expand our programme of **bursaries** to ensure that the very best students have the opportunity to receive an exceptional education at the College, regardless of their financial circumstances. In 2019, we increased our Access Bursary allocation to £850 per year per eligible student. A quarter of our students already use this bursary, and it supplements government or University support.

"I am grateful for the education and opportunities Jesus gave me and am delighted to help it continue to do that for today's students."

— David Stephen (Zoology, 1980)

"The Jesus College Access Bursary has really helped with my time in Oxford. In my first year, the Bursary helped me to purchase my bike and study supplies and enabled me to attend subject dinners in College. The bursary is also really helpful for buying textbooks, which are often expensive, and other living expenses. I will always be so grateful to Jesus for everything over the last three years!"

— Bethan Thomas (Biological Sciences, 2016)







Pioneering Access and Outreach programmes

The young people we work with in our access programmes mostly come from South London, Wales and Oxfordshire. Some of these young scholars come from the poorest and most educationally deprived areas of Europe, let alone the UK. They will have the talent and the aspiration, but they do not have access to the range of opportunities of some of their more privileged peers. To readdress this balance, we continue to invest in our access programmes in order to expand our pioneering **access and outreach** work with state schools in our target communities. At the very least, we want to change students' perceptions of Oxford and thereby shift their motivations. Our aim is to reach students who may otherwise never consider studying at a leading university in the first place because they believe Oxford is "not for them". This is where our outreach is most critical. By bringing students to College and working directly with their own schools, we become ever more open and accessible, which in turn gives students the confidence to apply.

Our outreach programmes focus on Wales and London where we have historic ties and where the University has entrusted us to take a lead.

Wales

From 2020, the College and University will be united together for the sake of outreach work across the whole of Wales. This will allow us to do more to alleviate the disparities in access provision in South and North Wales. As it stands, the vast majority of access work is focused on the South, leaving the largely rural and coastal communities of Mid and North Wales under-serviced. This is a problem not only because it is iniquitous, but also means we are missing out on the tremendous talent of North Walian students.

The College's flagship intervention – the Seren Network Summer School – is the largest provision for Welsh comprehensive school students outside of Wales. Each year we invite over 70 students and their teachers to reside at Jesus for a week's experience of living as an Oxford student. This summer school model has been so successful that it is part-funded

by the Welsh Government. Even better, it has recently been secured in perpetuity by the fantastic generosity of an endowment from a Jesus alumnus. In addition to the College's own investment in the programme, we are beginning to attract transformative levels of support from other donors. The best part is that we are making an impact: **last year 10% of all applications from Wales to Oxford came from summer school participants.**

Our ambition for Wales, is to continue our outreach efforts by visiting schools and bringing pupils to College. With your support we can continue to grow the number of pupils we see and increase our capacity to make school visits.

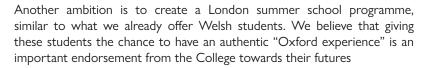




London & Oxford

Our work in London and Oxford allows us to reach some of the most diverse communities of possible future Oxford students. We want to expand our programme of activities to provide, in particular, more access opportunities to BME students, and for young people from the poorest backgrounds. We already are making headway in these areas, but have ambitions to expand our outreach network with partners such as the Brilliant Club, IntoUniversity, Rare, Target Oxbridge, and Universify.

We also want to work more closely with our London-based alumni, so that they can help provide expert guidance to our target schools. This will follow a similar model to that achieved at Brampton Manor ('The Eton of the Eastend') where networks of experts helped a state academy school send more than 40 students to Oxbridge in a single year!











"This is an incredibly exciting time to be involved with Jesus College. The redevelopment of the Northgate site is a transformational moment in the College's history. The new building will provide invaluable extra teaching and learning space; offer, for the first time, bespoke postgraduate facilities; enable us to further our Access and Outreach efforts using both the physical site and Digital Hub resources; create more inclusive spaces for staff, students, and fellows; and provide much better and more comprehensive disabled-access spaces. The redevelopment will also enable the College to be more outwardlooking, allowing members of the public to access events, exhibitions, and publicengagement talks more easily, expressing the inclusive ethos of the College while at the same time protecting its traditional working and living spaces."

> — Dr Alexandra Lumbers Academic Director



"The Campaign was planned to mark the 450th anniversary of our College in 2021, but no one could have foreseen that it would also coincide with a time when big questions are being asked of our country. Among those questions, the value of university education – who should have access to it and what should be taught – are all on the agenda. I see the Campaign as a chance to take a hard look at the future and focus on what has always been important. We will have a new building and we hope to fund tutorial fellows, postgraduate scholarships and access bursaries for undergraduates - to bring that building to life, bring disciplines and people together, and fill it with intellectual endeavour."

> ---- Ruth Saunders (English, 1974) member of the first female undergraduate cohort at Jesus

Access and the Digital Hub

The Northgate development will offer a once-in-a-generation opportunity for parallel infrastructural and intellectual transformations to take place in the historic heart of College. We are investing in a major new centre dedicated to cutting-edge research and learning, and for the first time our historic walls will be literally open and accessible to all from our new entrance on Cornmarket Street.

The new development will not only offer impressive new facilities for College, visitors, and prospective students, but will also provide a digital gateway to 21st century learning. Through Virtual Reality technology and state-of-the-art online educational tools, we will ensure that prospective students feel connected to College years before they arrive to us as undergraduates.

The Digital Hub offers a unique opportunity to level the playing field for applicants of all backgrounds. Our digital admissions resources will be open to all, offering a virtual sense of what student life at Jesus is actually like, and will dovetail into our Open Days and student visits. Through an ever-evolving digital library of webinars, apps, online lectures, and shared research tools, the resources available from the Digital Hub will facilitate a prospective student's path to Oxford. The digital connectivity of the College is especially important to students in remote areas of Wales, the UK, and the wider world. We want to lead the way as a centre of opportunity for our current students, and we want to inspire prospective students to put Jesus College at the top of their list. The philanthropic support we seek will be used to attract the talent to help harness the potential of the new building, and will secure Jesus College's place as a world-leading institution for study and research.









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