

## Why do some students get to go on University trips whilst others don't?

The benefits of young people being exposed to the mysteries of University whilst still at school have long been known. Firstly, visits help to inform pathway decisions. For some, it will inspire them to realise their true potential and encourage them to study hard for the grades they will need to meet the entry requirements of their chosen course. Others will be the first generation in their family to have an opportunity to study at degree level. So, if it's so beneficial, why don't all students get to go on University trips?

Some of the opportunities for visits are funded solely by the Universities and have very specific selection criteria. E.g. the Widening Participation Initiative is aimed at increasing the number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds who apply to University. The selection criteria includes, amongst other things, first generation students, those on free school meals, and certain home post codes. Other visits are aimed solely at those students who are identified as More Able. These students are identified based on their KS2 SATs scores, peer comparison and criteria established by subjects and teachers. Additional visits are arranged by Faculties to complement the curriculum teaching.



So, what is Tuxford Academy doing to ensure as many students as possible get opportunities to visit Universities? Firstly, Sue Johnson and Maxine Tivey are working together to ensure we maximise the number of students who go on the visits. We are also actively seeking University visit opportunities and target students who haven't met the selection criteria for other trips. Finally, we are incorporating year group trips to University, starting this June with the Y8 CEIAG visit to Lincoln University, Lincoln College and Riseholme College, a Year 11 trip to Sheffield University and a Year 10 trip to Nottingham University. These opportunities have been opened up to all students in the relevant year group.

We endeavour to offer our students the opportunity to visit a variety of Universities including Russell Group Universities and Oxford and Cambridge throughout their time at Tuxford Academy.

In addition to our trips, we also offer advice through a variety of afterschool information evenings such as the Discover your Futures Fair. In March 2019, Peterhouse College from Cambridge University will also be visiting us afterschool to offer advice to any Year 11 and 12 students who may be considering applying to either Oxford or Cambridge.

## What are the different Career Pathways Available?

Find out in the next issue about the different career pathways available to young people and how we support them in making informed decisions about their future.

Sue Johnson MCDI, Leader of Cross Curricular Skills/More Able & Maxine Tivey, Work Related Learning Leader



@TuxfordCEIAG