

# Oxbridge placements beckon for gold-standard students

## Four receive offers for Oxford, one for Cambridge

by Ben Francis

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FOUR students from Elizabeth College have received offers for places in top-flight universities next autumn.

Three students have offers at Oxford and one has an offer at Cambridge.

Elizabeth College principal George Hartley said the school are proud of the four boys.

'It's one measure of the standards of scholarship and academic achievement at the college,' he said.

'For some, this is still the gold standard of achievement in terms of students going to university.

'All four of them have worked incredibly hard, the knowledge and research required is far beyond that of A-levels.'

The application processes for Oxford and Cambridge are more competitive than other UK universities and are often viewed as the most prestigious to attend.

Both universities require face-to-face interviews with potential students, with Oxford's interview process lasting between two and three days.

Elizabeth College head of sixth form, Charlie Cottam, said that with more and more students attending university, to be educated at either Oxford or Cambridge would make students stand out to potential employers.



Four Elizabeth College students have received offers of places at the Oxbridge colleges. Left to right are: Barney Thompson, Classics at Balliol College, Oxford; Justin Malcic, Linguistics at Churchill College, Cambridge; Jack Colley, English at Jesus College, Oxford; and TJ Fitzgerald, Geography at St Hilda's College, Oxford.

(Picture by Tom Tardif, 12990176)

'I think the subject and quality of the degree is very important, but a degree from Oxford or Cambridge will set you up for life in whatever you want to do,' he said.

TJ Fitzgerald, who has received an offer to study Geography at St Hilda's College, Oxford, said the application process had been a huge effort.

'I was working throughout the summer to prepare myself for the interview.

'The interview itself was scary but I felt I wouldn't have been

asked there if I wasn't already at a certain ability.'

Jack Colley, who has an offer to study English at Jesus College, Oxford, said the teaching methods used by Oxford made him want to apply.

'They put a lot of emphasis on very small groups,' he said.

'It's a style of teaching I think will be really helpful. You get to know the teachers well and hopefully really enjoy your studies.'

Justin Malcic has an offer to study Linguistics at Churchill College, Cambridge.

Having already studied French, German, Italian and Latin, he was already thinking beyond his undergraduate course.

'Eventually I want to do a masters and I'd like to do research into the reading process, as that's something we still don't fully understand,' he said.

Barney Thompson, who has an offer to study Classics at Balliol College, Oxford, said he was thankful for the help he had received at school.

'I think Elizabeth College is a brilliant school and it builds up good relationships with its students,' he said.

'It does a lot of work preparing us for university interviews.'

Ladies' College have also had a successful top-flight university application.

Laura Smith has an offer to study Law at Oxford.