

# College students get Oxbridge offers

TRICKY interview questions were no match for four Elizabeth College students gaining offers from Oxbridge universities.

Four students have received offers from the world-renowned colleges – three at Oxford and one at Cambridge – and, all being well, they will follow in the footsteps of some of the country's most famous and celebrated individuals.

But for one, 18-year-old James Cottam, the unconditional offer means that, come what may, he is definitely off to live a life he has dreamt of.

'I have thought about it for a few years but I did not seriously consider for a second that I would get in.

'You do get a sense of the history when you are there. I think one of the buildings is 1,000 years old.'

Although James, who will be studying classics, did not get any of the legendary difficult questions, Matt Colfer, 17, who wants to read Earth Sciences at Exeter College Oxford, did.

'I was asked what velocity I would need to achieve to keep moving away from Comet 67P [which the European Space Agency recently landed on] after I jumped off it. They asked a few maths questions to warm me up and then went in with that.

'I was nervous going in for the first interview, but not so much the second. I was more relaxed about that one.'

For Ian Palmeri, 18, who has received an offer to study medicine at Oxford's Christ Church College,

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there is one legend of the place he might be keen to try out.

'There is a statue in the middle and apparently everyone who has knocked it over has become prime minister. I decided to apply there because it is one of the best medicine courses in the UK, I preferred the Oxford course although I knew applying was risky. I want to specialise in oncology, that is a fast moving area.

'They asked me how the weather was – and then asked me to define memory.'

Matt Le Maitre, 17, is the sole Cambridge man with an offer and should be off to study natural sciences at Christ College.

'I am pretty happy and overjoyed. This is one of the best universities in the world,' he said.

'I really liked the course and can tailor it to what I want. Like anywhere I would have gone, it will take a while to get used to. They also have a rocket society, which looks cool.'

Principal George Hartley was very pleased with the number of offers which had been made.

'I really am very happy with the offers, to get them is becoming increasingly difficult as there is more competition. With this particular year group we encouraged a significant number to apply because they are a strong academic year.'



The four Elizabeth College students who have been offered places at Oxbridge Colleges. Seated, Ian Palmeri and Matt Le Maitre; standing, Matt Colfer and James Cottam. (Picture by Adrian Miller, 6877721)