



As part of the Pathways programme to inspire and motivate students to think about university as a post 18 option, a group of eight Year 10 students visited St Hilda's College in Oxford to get an idea of what it is like to be a university student for a day.

After an initial group work session working with other schools, we were shown round the College by second year students who gave us the opportunity to ask questions about life as an Oxford undergraduate. We were told that it was hard work; "usually two x two thousand word essays every week to research and produce" but great fun and they loved being there.

We had lunch in the student refectory and then got the chance to hear three very different lectures from Oxford lecturers: psychology, history and biology. Each of the lectures was fascinating and the professors engaged the students with their enthusiasm for their subjects.

At the end of the day, the students were asked for their feedback on the day and all were positive, stating that the trip had been: "interesting", "intellectual", "useful" but also "laid back" and "fun". One of the questions was: "How seriously are you now thinking of applying to Oxbridge?" All the students had raised their score from the beginning of the day with two of the group scoring it 9 out of a possible 10. Comments to the question: "Are there any actions you will now take following this trip?" were a variation on; "work harder so that I have the chance to consider Oxbridge."

Kate Darvill, Sixth Form Learning Centre Supervisor

