



# OUTREACH REPORT 2022

**NOVEMBER 2022**

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**Corpus Christi College  
University of Oxford**

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# Introduction

## Widening Access and Corpus Christi College

Since the last Outreach Report in 2019, there have been many changes within Corpus Christi College and, indeed, the world! We were all affected by the outbreak of the pandemic and Corpus saw most outreach activities halted in 2020. Over the last two years, we have been adapting to a new online era and developing exactly how we deliver outreach to our link areas and schools.

In 2019/20, the University of Oxford updated the geographical link areas between the Colleges at Oxford. Oxford's regional outreach plan took place which saw some colleges change their link regions. Corpus Christi College are now linked with Greater Manchester, including Oldham, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, and Trafford. In addition to this change Corpus are now part of the North West Consortia (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/oxfordforNW>), in collaboration with Pembroke College, the Queen's College, and St Peter's College.



At Corpus Christi, the Outreach team also changed, with the arrival of Emma Gregory in April 2022, who took over the role of Senior Outreach and Admissions Officer, and Anna Fiteni in October 2022, who took over the role of Assistant Outreach Officer. Emma previously worked at St Hilda's College as the Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach Officer for just under three years, and Anna joins the college as a recent graduate from Balliol College.



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**Left: Assistant Outreach Officer, Anna Fiteni, delivers a talk during a school visit**

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# Outreach at Corpus Christi: Aims and strategies

## A Summary

The main outreach work undergone by Corpus is to offer Information and Guidance, 'IAG', at an appropriate level. That includes working to introduce younger students to the idea of higher education and what it would be like to study at a competitive university. We help support students at key points in their education so that they make informed decisions regarding their future choices. We also help Sixth Form students consider their post-18 options and ensure they see Oxford as a viable one for them (whether they ultimately apply or not, the aim is to make sure that decision is informed and not based on misconceptions).

At Corpus, we predominantly work with students from year groups Year 9 (ages 13/14) to Year 13 (ages 17/18). During term time, the Outreach team offers inbound visits from non-selective state schools every Tuesday and Thursday, as well as offering several outbound visits to schools in our link area throughout the year. We also take part in conferences, Higher Education Fairs, and careers Fairs, again, in our link region.

Due to the pandemic, most of the outreach work that was undertaken since 2019/2020 has been online. In 2021/22, we returned to offering inbound school visits and we introduced a virtual session for schools to attend before arriving at College. This is to ensure that school students are able to experience a more enriched visit when arriving at Corpus and at Oxford.

Typical school visit:

Time	Session
10:30am	Arrive at Corpus Christi College
11am	Morning activity (usually an academic session)
11:50am	Meet student ambassadors
12pm	Lunch
12:30pm	Tour of Corpus Christi with student ambassadors
12:50pm	Q&A with student ambassadors
1:05pm	Afternoon activity (e.g. college tour, museum visit, tour of Oxford)
2pm	Depart Oxford

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***Feedback from a recent school visit:***

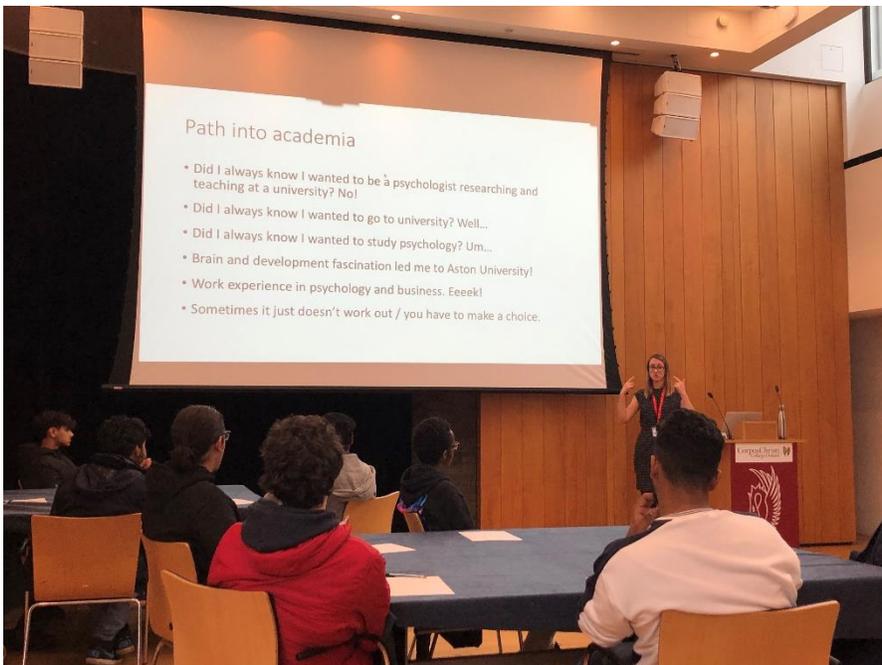
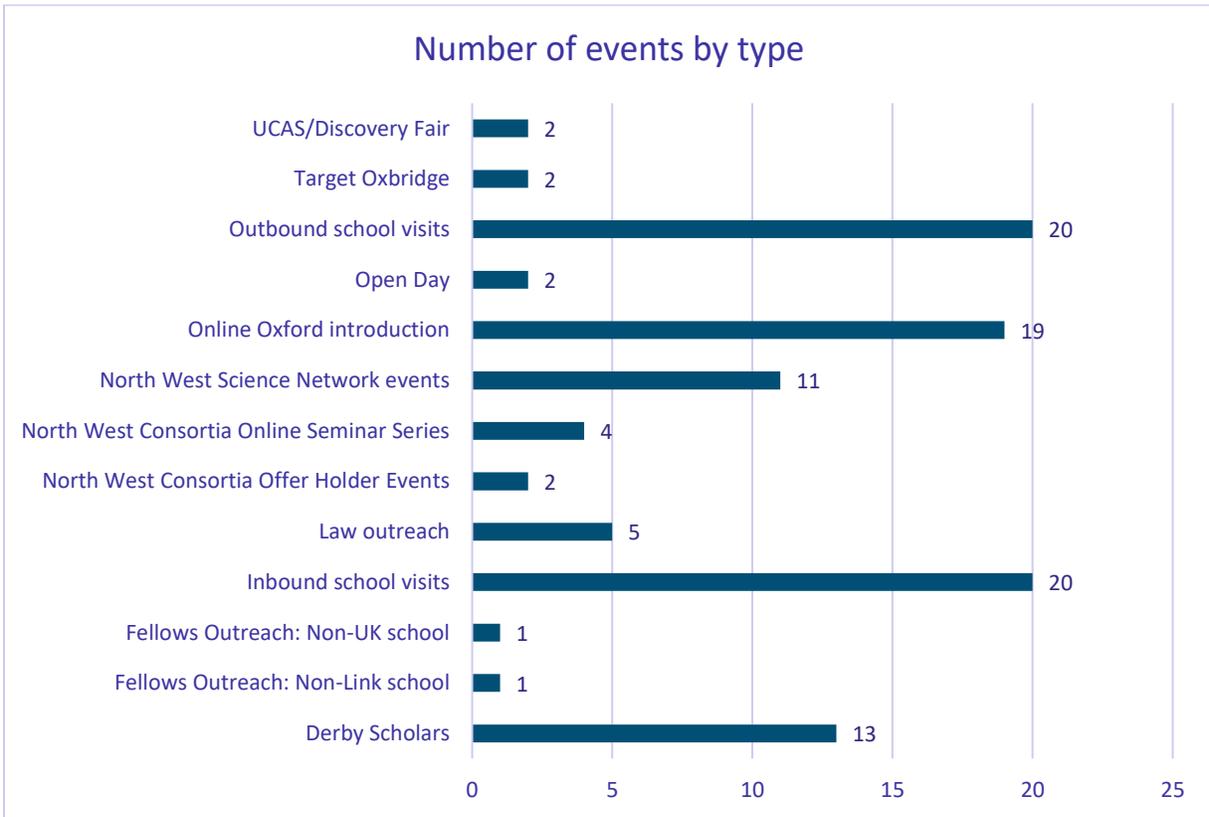
***I would just like to say thank you from me and all the students who visited Oxford on Thursday. It was an amazing experience and one we are all very thankful for. We all had a brilliant time and are so grateful to you and everyone who was involved. Thank you again!***

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# Outreach Data

In the academic year 2021/22, Corpus delivered 102 events, interacting with students from over 40 different UK state schools. The table below show the types of events that we took part in during this period:



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***Left: Dr Julia Badger talks about her path into academia as part of her academic taster session during an inbound visit***

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# Outreach Programmes at Corpus

## North West Science Network

The North West Science Network is now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year, and is continuing to grow. The scheme consists of locally-hosted lectures and talks at the hub schools in the North West, a laboratory visit arranged by Prof Pete Nellist (the scheme's lead), a 'Maths in Science' spring programme, and a STEMM summer school, hosted at Corpus Christi College. For the academic year 2022/23, the Network welcomed Blackburn College as one of its hub schools. Our other two hubs are Xaverian College, based in Manchester, and Cheshire College, South and West, based in Crewe.

The aim of the Network is to promote STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to Year 12 students and to engage student from the North West with research-level science and scientists. The Network is designed to further equip them to make informed choices in relation to Higher Education and to support them in their application and entry to university. We aim to reach as many students as possible from state schools in the North West.

### June Summer School

25 students attended the June 2022 summer school at Corpus Christi, which included a range of lectures, workshops, and tutorials from across the whole spectrum of Science and Maths. The students worked together in group research projects which they showcased to academics at the end of the week. The summer school also included a visit to Culham Centre for Nuclear Fusion.



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*Above: Summer school students take part in a Chemistry lab workshop*

*Left: Summer School students visit Culham Centre for Nuclear Fusion*

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## Being Human – Classics

Due to the pandemic and changes at both Corpus Christi College and Worcester College, Being Human has entered a short hiatus for this academic year 2022/23. However, at Corpus, we are keen to restart the programme in 2023/24, following a similar programme as held previously. This would involve a series of seminars hosted in Greater Manchester, as well as online, a three-day residential at Corpus Christi College, an information session about studying Classics at Oxford, and followed by a personal statement workshop. We look forward to restarting the programme again in 2023/24 with new seminar topics from our academics.

## Derby Scholars

The University of Derby and Corpus Christi are now entering the fourth year of Derby Scholars, a sustained contact programme and support network to support disadvantaged high achievers across the city of Derby. Participation in the scheme is led by the University of Derby, who contacted all state-funded secondary schools and mainstream FE providers in Derby city and invited them to nominate Year 9 and Year 12 students to participate in the scheme. Students were required to meet at least one widening participation criterion and, for Year 9, were predicted to achieve grade 7 and above in all their GCSEs, and for Year 12, were predicted to achieve at least AAB in their A levels.

103 Year 12s and 190 Year 9s from across the city of Derby have been supported over three years of Derby Scholars:

	Year 9	Year 12	Total by academic year
<b>Cohort 1 (2019-20)</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Cohort 2 (2020-21)</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Cohort 3 (2021-22)</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Total by year group</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>293</b>

The programme for Derby Scholars involves:

Year 12:

- Homework clubs (these are usually offered around twice a month from January to July)
- Workshops
  - How to decide a university course
  - Courses available at Oxford
  - Academic skills
- Masterclass sessions (academics talk about their subjects and what it's like to study their field of interest)
- Oxbridge application support session

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- Visit to Oxford and Corpus Christi College (and other colleges)
  - Visit to Cambridge

Year 9:

- University of Derby Experience Day
- Homework club
- Workshops
  - Academic skills session
- Visit to Oxford and Corpus Christi College (and other colleges)

We look forward to working with the University of Derby again this academic year and delivering a mix of in-person and online events together.

## Law Outreach

Following the disruption from the pandemic, the Law Residential moved online in 2020 and 2021. Following these online sessions, the Law Residential returned in person this year, taking place from 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022. We received 289 applications for the spring residential (for 30 places) and 98 essay prize entries, including submissions from international students. Law tutor, Professor Matt Dyson (programme lead) also delivered an online workshop in April for those candidates who applied but who we were unable to host for the residential.



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***Above: Prof Matt Dyson with the Peter Cane winner and runners up***

***Left: Prof Liz Fisher delivers a lecture during the Law Residential 2022***

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## Open Days

After two years of online Open Days, the University returned to in-person Open Days, with two days in June 2022 and one day in September 2022. In June, the College welcomed over 1,400 people, and in September, we welcomed over 700 visitors to the College. Along with tours (delivered by our student ambassadors), visitors were able to learn from two mock interviews (one in a Humanities subject and one in a Science subject), meet some of our tutors over coffee, and enjoy a buffet sandwich lunch.



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***Left: Student Ambassadors during the June Open Days***

***Below: JCR Access Officer Will takes part in a History demonstration interview***

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We were able to offer state schools from Greater Manchester the opportunity to stay overnight during the June 2022 Open Days. We had 67 students and teachers stay from 6 different state schools from our link region. Students were offered free accommodation and meals during their visit to Corpus.

It was wonderful to be able to welcome back prospective students in person this year and the feedback we received from students, teachers, and parents has been very positive to the return of in-person Open Days!



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# The Junior Common Room

The members of the Junior Common Room (the undergraduate student body) play an integral part in the access and outreach work of the College, and we are grateful for their continued support and participation. We would like to thank all those who have taken part in outreach, either through volunteering or as a College Subject Ambassador.



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***Above left: Student Ambassador David with participants of the NWSN Summer School on an Oxford Discovery Hunt***  
***Above right: Student Ambassadors David and Miranda during the Open Day***

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The College's Subject Ambassadors scheme is a paid opportunity where our students can commit more time to access and outreach. These students are the face of the College during the Open Days and the interview period. Their biographies and photos are on the website, together with their subject ambassador email addresses. Prospective students and offer holders are able to contact our Ambassadors directly with questions they may have about living and studying at Corpus Christi. We're really pleased to see the continuation in interest from our students to take part in outreach activities as their insights are invaluable to our prospective students.

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# Note of thanks

The Outreach work at Corpus Christi College would not be possible without the hard work and support of a wide range of contributors, partners, and supporters. We are immensely grateful for the hard work and dedication of College staff and students, and the continued collaborative support of the wider university community.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks and express our gratitude to the invaluable philanthropic support we receive, particularly from the College's alumni, without whose support the extent and scope of our outreach would not be possible.

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