

Visit to Somerville College, Oxford University

In the autumn term some of our Year 8 students visited Somerville College, part of Oxford University. Somerville College was originally created for women only, when universities refused them entry, and remained an all-female college until 1992. Now Somerville female and male students represent the world and many go on to change that world too.

There are many famous alumni from Somerville including

- Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- Marjorie Bolton, British author and poet
- Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India
- Dorothy Hodgkin, Nobel Prize winning scientist
- A. S. Byatt, English novelist, poet, and Booker Prize winner
- Esther Rantzen, TV personality



It was a great opportunity for students to understand life at university and the various pathways in which they need to study at degree level including academically, practically and vocational. Students learnt how bursaries can support student's degree courses and how this can support the financial implications of studying a degree. At Chiltern Hills we firmly believe that ALL students should have the right to go to university if they so choose.

The Oxford trip was very helpful and gave me an idea of what I want to do when I'm older. I am very thankful I had the opportunity to go as it was very eye-opening.

Lana Adlam 8JEK

I had the pleasure of going to visit Oxford University. We got the chance to talk to the student ambassadors and they told us what life was like. In Oxford it consists of multiple different colleges; they are where students live, meet up with people, eat and much more.

The first college we went to was Somerville. In here we got told what we shouldn't worry about when applying to university, this was things like money and how you get a loan and pay it off over 40 years if you could. The last thing we did in Somerville was eat, the food was amazing! We then went to a college called St. John's and we got a fantastic tour.

Finally, we went to a small natural history museum where we got to hold hissing cockroaches and have a look around. The trip definitely gave me an idea on what I wanted to do with my life. This was an experience that enabled me to have fun and I would do it again.

Libby Osman-Duffin 8JEK