

CAREERS

Oxford University Trip – Somerville College



Last week some of our Year 8 students visited Somerville College, part of Oxford University. It was a fantastic opportunity to raise student aspirations and give them a taste of University life.

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 attend and many go on to change the world.

There are many famous alumni from Somerville including:

Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the UK

Marjorie Bolton, British author and poet (taught by C.S Lewis and J.R.R Tolkein)

Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India

Dorothy Hodgkin, [Nobel Prize winning](#) scientist

Esther Rantzen, TV personality

JK Rowling – Author

The college offers a wide range of subjects, including humanities, sciences, and social sciences, and has a reputation for strong academic performance.

When the students arrived, they were given a talk on ‘Why University’ and ‘Why Oxford?’ and had a guided tour of the college. Afterwards, lunch was served in the vast dining

hall (Somerville is one of the only colleges where you don't have to wear your academic gown at formal dinners!)

After lunch, the students had a walking tour of Oxford to see St John's followed by an Oxplore Presentation. The last stop was the Museum where the students took part in a mini workshop.

It was an incredibly inspiring day which the students thoroughly enjoyed.

"I really liked the old library at St John's, it is a beautiful building, and the old books were especially impressive. It surprised me that an old Principal's heart was kept in the chapel! I was amazed to find out that Oxford University has over 30 colleges" Alex V

