

Inspiring Futures: A Visit to Somerville College, Oxford University.



Last week, a group of our Year 8 students had the incredible opportunity to visit Somerville College, one of the many historic colleges that make up the University of Oxford. The trip offered a fascinating glimpse into university life and inspired our students to think ambitiously about their futures.

Somerville College has a remarkable history. Founded in 1879 as one of the first colleges for women at Oxford—at a time when they were barred from most universities—it remained all-female until 1992. Today, it welcomes both men and women who continue its proud tradition of academic excellence and social progress.



Many influential figures have studied at Somerville, including former UK Prime Minister **Margaret Thatcher**, Indian Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi**, Nobel Prize-winning scientist **Dorothy Hodgkin**, broadcaster **Esther Rantzen**, and author **J.K. Rowling**. It's also known for its wide range of subjects, from sciences to humanities, and its warm, inclusive atmosphere.

During the visit, students attended engaging talks on “*Why University?*” and “*Why Oxford?*” before enjoying a guided tour of the college. Lunch was served in the impressive dining hall and in the afternoon, the group

explored more of Oxford, including a visit to St John’s College, an interactive *Explore* presentation, and a fascinating workshop at the University museum.



It was a day filled with learning, inspiration, and a real sense of what studying at one of the world’s leading universities could be like.

“I learnt such a lot. I loved looking around and seeing what students do” Marja

“The day at Oxford University was a once in a lifetime experience and showed me what I should aim for. The sights and the scenery were wonderful” Timur