

Sutton Trust Summer Schools 2016

Once again, the Faculty of Education hosted a group of Year 12 students from across the country as part of the University's Sutton Trust Summer Schools, giving them an opportunity to learn more about the Education course at Cambridge. The Sutton Trust offers free residential summer schools for Year 12 students from UK state schools, giving them a taste of student life and a chance to engage in intensive study with University experts. Many of the participants will be the first in their families to enter higher education, and the summer schools aim to equip them with the knowledge and insight to make high quality applications to top universities.

The Education strand of the summer schools ran from 25th – 29th July 2016 and was led by Eve Berwin, the Faculty's Schools Liaison Coordinator. Assisting her was recent PGCE graduate Luke Rhodes and University CAMbassador Alice Duddy.

During the week the students had the opportunity to explore topics from all three tracks of the revised Tripos, as well as to enjoy an interactive seminar led by Simon Brownhill based around the popular first year Tripos paper Language, Communication and Literacies.

David Whitley kicked off the week with his Education, English, Drama and the Arts session, getting the students thinking about all sorts, from poetry to *A Bug's Life*. The following day, Jenny Gibson introduced the students to the Education, Psychology and Learning track; the students enjoyed finding out about autism and exploring the Psychology observation lab. On the Thursday, the students got an insight into the Education Policy and International Development track when they looked at historical perspectives on globalisation with Liz Duignan. The week also included an explanatory session on the Cambridge admissions process, with advice for writing personal statements and preparing for interviews.

Throughout the week, students worked in pairs to research and produce projects on education and social mobility, spending time in the Faculty library to prepare, before presenting to the group on their final day. The students benefitted from taking part in supervisions which were delivered by Simon Brownhill, Kevin Kester and Cora Lingling Xu. Cora also helped introduce the task to the students through an interactive seminar exploring the topic of social mobility. The finished presentations were of an extremely high standard and all students displayed impressive critical engagement with the literature.

The students were an absolute pleasure to work with and we very much hope that they enjoyed the week as much as all of the staff did. Hopefully many of them will be inspired to consider Education when they apply to universities this autumn.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Faculty's outreach work, please contact Eve Berwin: outreach@educ.cam.ac.uk

Eve Berwin

