

The Scholar Ship

"Originality is the essence of true scholarship. Creativity is the soul of the true scholar" - Nnamdi Azikiwe

"Why I'm Applying to Oxbridge"

Prospective Oxbridge students Giles Lennox (Law) and Helena Exley (History) explain why they chose to apply...



[Giles]: Recently, I submitted my application to Jesus College, Cambridge. There were a variety of reasons that drove me to apply to such a prestigious institution. The first, and most obvious, was that it is the best university for Law in the country and a degree from there would be a great help when applying to highly competitive pupillages later in my career. However, I think a more pivotal reason was the challenge it poses. By applying to Oxbridge, you put yourself against some of the smartest people your age in the world and it was that challenge and aspirational drive that made me want to push myself. I realised that I had nothing to lose and everything to gain, so why not? If I am successful, then it would be a huge personal achievement; if I'm not successful in getting an offer, I have 4 other fantastic universities to aim for!

[Helena]: We've all been inspired by something in our lives, whether it's a family member, something we found out at school or an adventure we went on in the holidays. These inspirations can affect our life choices, and for me, they have affected which universities I aspire to go to. Being aware of the prestige of Oxbridge and the opportunities they could hold for successful applicants always motivated me to apply. But it was visiting Cambridge, seeing the academic passion and aspiration of everyone I met in the colleges, from students to their lecturers, that inspired me to commit myself to an application. I'm applying to Cambridge as it will give me the chance to extend my knowledge beyond anything I've seen before, but also because the feeling of being surrounded by academia is truly inspirational and proves to me where academic ambition can take you.

BASET Certificate

Michael Van Haren

Gosling Music Bursary

Talan Hogan

Awards for 5 Pieces of Optional Prep in Classics

Henrietta Stenning
Imogen Leigh
Jemima Mayes
Harry Smith

Upcoming Events



November 12th, 1700

Library

Riddle Society
Olympiads - Classic,
modern and alternative



November 18th, 1000

Airineers - Green For
Girls



November 19th, 1830

Library

Election Hustings
Our 6th Form candidates
pitch their ideas



November 21st, 1300

Big Bang! STEM
Event

Born to be bad...?

Are some people just made of the "wrong stuff"? Is it just that they are from the "wrong part of town"? Or could it be that there is something more complex at play? Rosie Pritchard reports from the most recent Studd Society session...

Tuesday the 8th of October marked the first Studd Society event of this academic year. The aim of this event was to explore how different sociological and psychological factors can affect someone's mental health and how these factors could potentially lead them down a criminal path.

We started off by exploring an imaginary case - carefully scripted by Mrs Price and Mrs Wilcock - that of Luke Warren. We delved into different bits of personal information about his past; for example, his socioeconomic background and his family life. We discovered that Luke's father was in and out of prison for the duration of Luke's childhood and discussed whether this could have contributed to his criminal lifestyle now. Luke had been committing crimes since his early teens, during the time when his life at home was difficult and he was underachieving at school. Some people at the Studd Society meeting took the view that his punishment should be less harsh due to the fact that he had an extremely difficult childhood. However, there were a number of counter arguments against this point: the most common being that he should go to prison - no matter the circumstances - as he still committed a wrongful act.

We were given information folders filled with news articles and useful information about psychological and sociological theories on criminals. For example, we read about Lombroso's theory of how he thought that there was physical evidence seen on criminals' skulls, leading



to his conclusion that some are 'born' to be criminals. The offenders were thought to have criminal traits as they had indentations in the back of their skulls, similar to those of early man.

We then explored in groups whether people could be 'made' criminals through purely sociological factors. For example, can racial stereotypes such as 'black people or ethnic minorities are more aggressive and commit more crimes' actually cause people from these social groups to fulfil the stereotype and see it as their 'fate' to end up in prison?

Overall we came to the conclusion that Luke would benefit much more from a system of rehabilitation rather than just being sent to prison. I think that what this Studd Society session taught the attendees is that the question of whether people are 'made' or 'born' criminals is extremely subjective and that there are many layers that this topic can have depending on the specific situation. I would strongly encourage anyone thinking of attending one of the Riddle or Studd events to go, as I believe that they are extremely beneficial in enhancing one's thinking and general breadth of knowledge.

"THE LAST WORD", WITH THIS EDITION'S SCHOLAR...

This is your life. Do what you love and do it often. If you don't like something, change it. If you don't have enough time, stop watching TV. If you're looking for the love of your life, stop. They will find you. Stop overanalysing; life is more simple than you think. All emotions are beautiful, savour them. They show your story. When you eat, appreciate every last bite. Open your heart and mind to new people; we are united in our differences. Ask the next person you see or meet what their passion is and share your dreams and aspirations with them. Anything in life worth doing, is worth over-doing. Travel often. Getting lost will help you find yourself. Some opportunities only come once, seize them. Life is short, live it to the fullest. Live your dream and wear your passion. This is your life.

- Joel (Y11)

