

# NEWNHAM COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE CB3 9DF

January 2012

Dear Head of Sixth Form,

## **Subject Taster Days – March 2012**

Newnham College, Cambridge University, is hosting a series of Subject Taster Days for high achieving **Year 12 girls** who are potentially interested in and capable of studying at the most academically challenging universities. The aim of these days is to give prospective candidates a first-hand taste of what it is really like to study a particular subject(s) here at Cambridge. We would be delighted if some of your students were able to participate in these events:

**Human, Social & Political Sciences** (*a new subject beginning in 2012-13 that combines Politics, Psychology & Sociology with Archaeology & Anthropology*): Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March

**Geography**: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

**Classics and Philosophy**: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March

**Architecture, Engineering, and History of Art**: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March

**English and Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic**: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March

The format of each of the days is varied, though most will include three 50-minute academic sessions, a fourth session offering guidance on choosing a university course and the Cambridge University admissions process, and an opportunity to quiz an Admissions Tutor and current undergraduates. Most of the days will finish with a workshop session run by current postgraduate and/or undergraduate students at Newnham, during which students will also have the opportunity to visit some of the facilities available for undergraduates studying at Cambridge. I enclose a skeleton timetable for the days with this letter. The subject focuses of the days (with the exception of Geography) are deliberately broad. There are overlaps between the subjects and the idea is to allow students to have a taste of the traditional and the quirky, in order that they can gain a broad exposure to what is on offer. Students do not need to have expressed their specific interest in these areas in order to benefit from the experience: if they have a genuine interest in related subjects, they should find much to engage them! These promise to be very full days to encourage your most talented students in their university aspirations.

There are just 40 places available on each Subject Taster Day, and every school is invited to submit the names of up to **four** top students for consideration, for any – or all – of the days. You are welcome to add a ‘reserves’ list in case we have spare places, but please make it clear who are the ‘first choice’ students, and who are the ‘reserves’. We would expect them to be aiming for A\*s and As at A Level (or 40 points in the International Baccalaureate) but, knowing these exams are yet some time away, we leave it to your discretion to select the most appropriate students.

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Applications should be sent to [slo@newn.cam.ac.uk](mailto:slo@newn.cam.ac.uk) and should include:

- School name
- Contact details for the member of staff coordinating students' involvement (which may be different for each day)
- Students' full names
- Number of GCSE A\* and A grades
- Current AS (or equivalent) subjects.

The deadline for nominations is **10th February** to allow ample time for confirming places, but we recommend early applications.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided **free of charge** to all who attend, and there is no payment for the day, though we ask that students make their own transport arrangements to and from the event. Accompanying staff are encouraged and very welcome, but we understand how difficult it can be to release staff from their responsibilities in school. It is therefore not a requirement that students are accompanied by an adult. However, it is the school's responsibility to seek permission from students' parents/guardians in the usual manner; and it should be made clear that the students and school are responsible for students' behaviour and safety. **I would be grateful if you could let me know if your students will be accompanied or not.**

I very much hope some of your students will be able to join us! If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Amy Aukland  
Schools Liaison Officer, Newnham College  
[slo@newn.cam.ac.uk](mailto:slo@newn.cam.ac.uk)  
01223 330471