



Students' joy at Oxbridge offers

Four Havering Sixth Form College students have received offers to study at Cambridge or Oxford Universities next year.

Emma Webb, Simeon Balson-Jones, Arber Haliti and Alexandra Spannbauer have been chosen from thousands of students who applied to the UK's most prestigious universities.

College Careers Co-ordinator Nikki Phelps said: "We are delighted by the news that these four students have been successful in receiving offers from Oxford and Cambridge. With such fierce competition for places, this is a wonderful personal achievement for them and greatly deserved."

Former Royal Docks Community School student Alex Spannbauer who has an offer from Oxford for English Language and Literature, said she was surprised but thrilled by her offer and advises other students who are unsure about applying to be brave. She said: "The College Careers staff were instrumental in getting my UCAS application up to scratch and advising me on which unis to apply to.

"If you're a lower sixth and you want to apply but you don't think you'll get in, then you're in exactly the same position I was last year. What I did was look at it logically - it'll be tough to get in if you apply, but impossible if you don't!"

Former Canon Palmer High School student Simeon Balson-Jones, who has an offer from Cambridge for Maths, said: "I had mock interviews with my subject tutors and an interview organised by careers staff in preparation for my interview. The interview process at Cambridge was more relaxed than I expected it to be. My advice to students considering Oxbridge is if you think you have a chance, go for it."

Emma Webb, who attended Emerson Park School and has an offer from Cambridge for Theology and Religious Studies, said: "I'm not sure that it has really sunk in yet but I am excited about studying under the guidance of world renowned theologians. I would advise anybody who is passionate about their subject to apply just to see if they can get in.

"I felt that my interview went terribly; I tripped over, fell off my chair, and was thoroughly questioned in areas outside my expertise; I think the best thing to do is to think on your feet, and most importantly to be thoughtful and confident."

Former Eastlea Community School student Arber Haliti has received an offer from Cambridge for Maths. He said: "The College Careers staff made everything easy. They helped me process my application quickly and I would advise anyone to apply as early as possible.

"In my interview they were most impressed by all the extra Maths modules that I have done and am doing, so I urge anyone to do any extra work around their subject that they can. Also be prepared for questions like, 'Why this College', 'Why Cambridge', 'Why your chosen subject'. Be honest and original."