

Oxford Conference: 'Doing History at Top Universities', 17 July 2014

At the beginning of the summer holidays the Historical Association hosted a conference entitled 'Doing History at Top Universities' which four of us attended. Below the three girls who were there tell us a bit about what they learnt.

Phoebe Stephenson:

On the 17th July, Martha, Bella and I went to Oxford with Miss Boon. We spent an interesting and informative day at the History Faculty learning about the application process to Oxford and Cambridge. In the morning we watched a mock Oxford interview to give us a clearer idea of what the interviewer expects from candidates, and received some helpful tips and advice. There were also talks about the History Aptitude Test (HAT) and the importance of Personal Statements. I learnt a lot about the process of applying to university, which I think will have prepared me well for when I am in that position.

Bella Charlton:

We met at the impressive building home to the History Faculty to begin a very interesting day of lectures and demonstrations informing us about university level History, in particular at Oxbridge. Throughout the day, which was broken up by a lunch break of sandwiches in the glorious sunshine, we learnt such things as the importance of the HAT when applying to Oxford, what universities look for in candidates and, perhaps most importantly, how an Oxbridge interview must be approached in order to succeed. I returned to London feeling very well-informed on every aspect of studying History at a higher level which, I have no doubt, will be incredibly useful as the subject is one which I am particularly interested in and keen to pursue.

Martha Meshoulam:

A number of girls taking IGCSE History experienced a day of fascinating lectures and inspirational workshops. The day provided an incredible insight into what it is like to read History at a top university, whilst providing tips for students who wished to pursue the subject further. I would highly recommend attending this expedition next year if you plan on studying the subject for A-Level as it provided me with an interesting, new perspective on History beyond school level.