

# CARFAX

## TUTORIAL ESTABLISHMENT

### OXFORD

## FAQs FOR FAMILIES

### GENERAL:

#### **What kind of a school is Carfax Tutorial Establishment?**

*Carfax is a small, private tutorial college specializing in one-to-one and small group tuition. It has a reputation for excellent teaching and for having great flexibility in the courses it can offer.*

#### **Where is it?**

*The tutorial college situated in the world famous university city of Oxford, within easy reach of London (one hour by direct train). The Establishment occupies a central site which is convenient for the railway and bus stations and for all the cultural attractions of the city.*

#### **What is the nearest airport?**

*London Heathrow International Airport, and Gatwick Airport are linked to Oxford by The Airline coach company, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Heathrow is the closest international airport to Oxford. Stansted Airport is linked to Oxford by the National Express 757, which runs approximately every two hours. London Oxford Airport is convenient for private jets and helicopters,*

#### **How is it different to a traditional boarding school?**

*All tuition is provided one-to-one or in very small groups. Timetables are therefore individually constructed to suit each pupil and tutor. There is no school uniform but there is a code of conduct all students are expected to conform to. Students at a tutorial college have more independence than those at a traditional school and follow a programme of study and extra-curricular activities that is designed just for them.*

**What type of student does well at Carfax?**

*Carfax suits all types of student. In some cases these are independent learners who have felt intellectually constrained in a large classroom environment, and in other cases they are pupils who may have underachieved in public examinations and need greater individual attention and encouragement to fulfill their potential. The common denominator is that they thrive on the experience of having individual tuition.*

**What is your key selling point?**

*Carfax's ability to create individual and tailor-made programmes for each and every pupil, whatever their level of ability and needs, is what distinguishes it from larger more traditional schools.*

**How many students study at Carfax?**

*The average annual roll is 100. Some of these are full-time boarding pupils on one-year or two-year courses, and others are part-time day pupils.*

**Where do they come from?**

*The part-time pupils are mostly local to Oxford, but our boarders increasing come from a wide variety of countries. Over 25 nationalities have been represented on the in student body last two years. Traditionally, the majority come from Europe (East and West) and Russia, but with increasing numbers from the Far East and the Middle East.*

**ADMISSIONS:****Do you accept students in January and April?**

*Yes, in fact we accept students at any time of the year!*

**Do you take students for one term or for one year?**

*Yes, the duration of our courses is totally flexible.*

**What is the application process for international students?**

*Our friendly Admissions Team will guide you through each step of the process on an individual basis, as this may vary from one family to another depending on their specific requirements.*

**What are the entry requirements?**

*Carfax does not operate a selective admissions policy. Pupils of all levels and ages are welcome to benefit from the very personal tuition and pastoral care. Places are offered subject to interview to assess the candidate's needs and his/her suitability for the type of course applied for.*

**Can you do Skype interviews?**

*Yes we can.*

**Can you help with UKBA visa applications?**

*Yes, unusually for an educational institution, Carfax has members of staff professionally qualified to provide immigration advice and services through being registered with the Office of Immigration Services Commissioner and thus can offer understanding of all intricacies of visa application process as well as unprecedented visa turnaround times.*

**FEES:****What are the Registration Fee and Deposit?**

*The Registration Fee is £250 and the Deposit is a minimum of £1,000.*

**Is there a sibling discount?**

*All discounts are at the Principal's discretion.*

**Are Scholarships available?**

*The Principal will consider applications from exceptional candidates on a case-by-case basis.*

**Why are your fees higher than traditional boarding schools?**

*All our teaching is one-to-one, or in small groups of maximum three pupils. This level of personal attention is obviously more expensive to provide than a classroom teacher with a group of 20+ pupils. We also recruit only the most qualified and able tutors.*

**What do the Fees include?**

*Our tuition fees, accommodation (half-board or full-board) fees and activity costs are listed and quoted for separately, so each family will know exactly what they are paying for.*

**What additional expenses are there likely to be?**

*Books, stationery, trips, some extra-curricular activities etc. will be charged separately.*

## **BOARDING:**

**Where do boarders live?**

*Most of our boarders live with carefully selected and thoroughly vetted host families, close-by in Oxford. Some older pupils opt to live in self-catered rooms or flats.*

**Can they stay there in the holidays?**

*Yes, in principle, but this will incur an extra charge.*

**Do you have exeat weekends?**

*No, but pupils may ask permission to spend weekends away from Oxford.*

**Who provides Pastoral Care?**

*Regular and formal support is provided by The Dame and the pupil's Personal Tutor, but Carfax is a small community with a family atmosphere where all the staff take an interest in the well-being of all pupils.*

**Do you provide Guardianship?**

*Yes, Carfax Educational Guardians are based in Oxford, ensuring close links are maintained between the tutorial college and the guardian.*

**Do students have easy access to internet and mobile phone networks?**

*Yes, all areas of Oxford are well served by mobile networks, and all host families offer Wi-Fi access.*

**What are the eating arrangements?**

*Most host families provide half-board (dinner, bed and breakfast). Lunches are taken at local restaurants, organized on a rota basis and catering for all tastes.*

**Do you provide transport at the beginning and end of terms?**

*Yes, this can be organized on request with reliable drivers.*

**Do you run courses during the holidays?**

*Yes, Carfax rarely closes! Holiday courses can be tailor-made to individual needs, or pupils can join our popular Revision courses.*

## **ACADEMIC/CURRICULUM:**

**What is the staff:pupil ratio?**

*Because the vast majority of our teaching is on an individual basis the staff:pupil ratio is virtually 1:1*

**Where do your leavers go?**

*Our leavers attend a wide range of top universities including in the last two years Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, Edinburgh, York, Westminster, London School of Economics, SOAS (London), Loughborough, Royal College of Music.*

**What courses do you offer?**

*A list of courses is available on the website, but we have the flexibility to put on whatever courses our clients require. The most popular courses are A level and GCSE courses (either full-time or part-time), but we also have expertise in Oxbridge preparation, IB, 13+ Scholarship or entrance examinations, EFL, SATs etc.*

**What subjects do you offer?**

*With access to a very broad range of highly qualified tutors in Oxford, we are able to provide individual tuition in any subject required. Group courses are offered in all the traditional school subjects.*

**Do you specialize in anything?**

*Carfax, like Oxford itself, has a long history of providing highly personalized education, and this is our area of specialization. We believe there is still no better way to meet a pupil's specific needs and maximize their chances of success.*

**What is your academic strength?**

*Client feedback tells us that our greatest academic strength is in the quality of the teaching we provide.*

**What support do you offer for English as a Foreign Language?**

*Pupils from overseas will generally need to provide proof of their English level when they apply to universities in the UK. For this reason, Carfax prepares pupils specifically for the IELTS qualification, which is accepted as evidence by universities. Courses are also offered to prepare for different Cambridge English exams and other English qualifications, for example TOEFL and PTE. For pupils moving on to academic courses in schools or universities, EFL courses are tailored to their specific subject needs.*

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:****What sports are available?**

*As a small college community we cannot provide major teams games in the way that larger schools do, but we are well placed to arrange for keen and talented pupils to join local clubs as appropriate. Similarly there are unlimited opportunities for pupils to pursue individual sports.*

**What opportunities are there for performing arts?**

*Oxford is a vibrant cultural city and there are many classes and courses available for youth in dance, drama and music so we encourage our pupils to develop their interests and talents in music, dance, art and drama.*

**What weekend activities are organized?**

*Pupils may sign up for any number of extra-curricular activities, many of which take place at weekends. In addition we try to organize group trips for example to the theatre, to take part in an activity eg. ice skating, bowling, or to be involved in a charitable event (last Spring we organized a football match for charity).*