

Corpus Christi taster day

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[摘要] 27 March 2007. Sixty students from four sixth form colleges spent a day at a Cambridge college last week. It took 17-year-old Taranjit Kaur less than a minute to change her mind about Cambridge. "I thought Cambridge would be posh and snobbish. But the moment I stepped into the university, I realised this just wasn't true. Everyone is friendly and the food is amazing!" she said.
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Taranjiti Kaur, an AS pupil at Sutton Coldfield Sixth Form College who would like to study law, was one of 60 students from four sixth form colleges around the country who last week spent a day at Corpus Christi College, getting a feel for life as a first-year undergraduate. The pupils – all of whom had shown an interest in making an application to Cambridge – came from East Norfolk Sixth Form College in Great Yarmouth, City and Islington Sixth Form College in north London, Brighton Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College (BHASVIC) in Hove, and Sutton Coldfield Sixth Form College, near Birmingham.
The taster day at Corpus Christi comprised a series of lectures, some interactive, given by Cambridge academics, followed by sessions on the application and interview process, and tours of some of the colleges.
For Chris Hole, humanities teacher at East Norfolk SFC, this was the third time he had brought a group of students to Cambridge in just six weeks. "Opportunities like this are brilliant for exploding myths and broadening horizons," he said. "Pupils benefit academically and socially through interaction with menial BHASVIC law and politics teacher, Neil Commin, who had accompanied 20 pupils to Corpus Christi, agreed. "Too many of our really able students still think that Cambridge is somehow out of reach. Bringing them here breaks glass ceilings and focuses their minds on what they could attain in the future."
The most talkative member of the 12-strong group from City and Islington SFC was 19-year-old Huseyin Acar. He had arrived in Britain from Turkey four years ago, speaking no English. With a string of GCSEs and an A grade in AS maths under his belt, he hopes to study architecture.
"As a child in Turkey I helped my father who was a builder. Concrete is in my blood. It was hard at first going to school in London and not knowing the language. But now I want to train as an architect and set up my own business," he said.
Tucking into lunch in the dining hall at Corpus Christi, a group of girls from Sutton Coldfield said that a degree from Cambridge would give them a competitive edge in the job market. However, they said they had to work hard to reassure their parents that they would be safe at a university not local to where the pupils' head of year, Suzanne Desmond said: "Trips like today's help to show Asian parents in particular that Cambridge is not too far away from home and that their children would be made welcome and given a lot of support if they came here. Many of our students' parents have not been to university the Dr Melanie Taylor, Admissions Tutor at Corpus Christi, said: "Events like this have a positive impact on students' perceptions of Cambridge. They get a real sense of both the intellectual and social opportunities that Cambridge offers, and can decide whether or not to apply from a more informed position."

