

oxbridge mafia

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<http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,,2265754,00.html>

Your chances of being involved in politics and journalism and broadcasting and law are immeasurably improved if you happened to have studied at either Oxford or Cambridge.

Or maybe it just seems that way, I think, as I transcribe name after name, until I discover that the Sutton Trust had done actual, proper, qualitative work into this and calculates that 81 per cent of the judiciary went to Oxford or Cambridge, 82 per cent of all barristers, 45 per cent of 'leading' journalists, and 34 per cent of front-bench ministers and shadow ministers.

t's whether you think it's a problem, of course, for Oxbridge to dominate the British cultural landscape so overwhelmingly, that any of this matters. And a lot of people don't. When I emailed Jeremy Paxman to ask him if he had any opinion, he replied:

'God, this is a boring subject, isn't it? Surely the reason is perfectly obvious. Oxford and Cambridge are the finest universities in Europe and two of the best universities in the world.

'They are also intensely beautiful, operate on a small college basis and employ some of the cleverest men and women in the world as teachers. They therefore attract some brilliant students. Only someone whose chip was so big that it completely obscured their eyes could be surprised – or consider it undesirable – that these two universities contribute lots of people to some of the more prominent areas of British life.'

Will Hutton, author of *The State We're In* and chief executive of The Work Foundation describes the private school/Oxbridge system as 'a secure passport to the upper echelons of British life for which the entry ticket is cash'. And, even if you gatecrash it, or hitch a free ride on the tails of a state-school education, it's still wrong. Britain has the worst levels of social mobility of any country it's possible to measure. And key to that stasis, to the maintenance of the status quo, to a diminution of opportunity for 93 per cent of the population, is Oxbridge.

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Public life From Amnesty to the Welsh national opera

Heads of institutions

Cambridge

Hans Blix Former UN weapons inspector (Trinity Hall)

John Eatwell Former chair of the British Library (Queen's)

Christopher Frayling Chair, Arts Council England; chair, Design Council (Churchill)

Eddie George Ex-Governor, Bank of England (Emmanuel)

Mervyn King Governor, Bank of England (King's)

Rachel Lomax Deputy Governor, Bank of England (Girton)

Ed Mayo Chief Executive, British National Consumer Council (Downing)

Nicholas Penny Director of the National Gallery (St Catharine's)

Charles Saumarez Smith Chief Executive, Royal Academy of Arts; ex-director National Gallery (King's)

Nicholas Serota Director and Chief Executive of the Tate (Christ's)

Barbara Stocking Director of Oxfam (New Hall)

Prof Mark Walport Director of the Wellcome Trust (Clare)

Sir Nigel Wicks Chair of Committee on Standards in Public Life (Jesus)

Oxford

Kate Allen President of Amnesty International (Brasenose)

Mary Archer Chair of Addenbrooke's NHS trust (St Anne's)

Richard Calvocoressi Director, Scottish National Gallery (Magdalen)

Ian Blair Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police (Christ Church)

Paul Condon Former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police (St Peter's)

Cressida Dick Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police (Balliol)

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Vivien Duffield Chair, Clore Duffield Foundation (Lady Margaret Hall)

Marty Feldstein CEO, National Bureau of Economic Research, USA
(Nuffield)

Peter Foy Governor, BFI; former MD of McKinsey (St Peter's)

Diana Guy Deputy chair, Competition Commission (Lady Margaret Hall)

Tony Hall CEO, Royal Opera House (Keble)

Jeremy Greenstock Former special representative to Iraq (Worcester)

Lt Gen Nick Houghton Chief of Joint Operations (St Peter's)

Nicholas Kenyon Managing Director, the Barbican Centre (Balliol)

Prof Colin Lawson Director, Royal College of Music (Keble)

Neil MacGregor Director, British Museum (New College)

Brian Paddick Former Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police;
Lib Dem mayoral candidate for London (Queen's)

Jonathon Porritt Former director, Friends of the Earth (Magdalen)

Martin Smith Chair, English National Opera (St Edmund Hall)

Nicholas Stern Former chief economist of World Bank; author of Stern
Review on Climate Change (Nuffield)

Ben Summerskill Chief Executive, Stonewall (Merton)

Geraint Talfan Davies Chair, Welsh National Opera (Jesus)

Religious leaders

Cambridge

Dr Barry Morgan Archbishop of Wales (Selwyn)

Baroness Neuberger Rabbi (Newnham)

Dr John Sentamu Archbishop of York (Selwyn)

Dr Rowan Williams Archbishop of Canterbury (Christ's)

Oxford

Michael Nazir-Ali Bishop of Rochester (St Edmund Hall and Fitzwilliam,
Cambridge)

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Sir Jonathan Sacks Chief Rabbi (New College, and Gonville and Caius, Cambridge)

Politics From whips to prime ministers

The Cabinet

Cambridge

Andy Burnham Culture, Media and Sport Secretary (Fitzwilliam)

Shaun Woodward Northern Ireland Secretary (Jesus)

Oxford

Ed Balls Children, Schools and Families Secretary (Keble)

Yvette Cooper Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Balliol)

Geoff Hoon Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and chief whip (Jesus)

John Hutton Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Secretary (Magdalen)

Ruth Kelly Transport Secretary (Queen's)

David Miliband Foreign Secretary (Corpus Christi)

Ed Miliband Cabinet Office minister and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Corpus Christi)

Paul Murphy Wales Secretary (Oriel)

James Purnell Work and Pensions Secretary (Balliol)

Jacqui Smith Home Secretary (Hertford)

Junior ministers and others

Cambridge

Lord Malloch–Brown Africa, Asia and UN Minister (Magdalene)

Stephen Timms Employment Minister (Emmanuel)

Oxford

Lord Adonis Under–Secretary for Children, Schools and Families (Keble)

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Kevin Brennan Under-Secretary for Children, Schools and Families
(Pembroke)

Angela Eagle Exchequer Secretary (St John's)

Maria Eagle Under-Secretary for Justice (Pembroke)

Helen Goodman Deputy Leader of the House of Commons and Parliamentary
Secretary (Somerville)

Meg Hillier Under-Secretary for Security and Counter-terrorism (St
Hilda's)

Rhodri Morgan First Minister, Welsh Assembly (St John's)

Ian Pearson Innovations, Universities and Skills Minister (Balliol)

James Plaskitt Under-Secretary for Work and Pensions (University
College)

Kitty Ussher Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Balliol)

Lady Vadera Under-Secretary for International Development (Somerville)

Shadow cabinet

Cambridge

Chris Grayling Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary (Sidney Sussex)

Nick Herbert Shadow Justice Secretary (Magdalene)

Oliver Letwin Chairman of the Policy Review and chairman of the
Conservative Research Department (Trinity)

David Lidington Shadow Foreign Office Minister (Sidney Sussex)

Frances Maude Shadow Cabinet Office Minister and Chancellor of the
Duchy of Lancaster (Corpus Christi)

Andrew Mitchell Shadow International Development Secretary (Jesus)

Oxford

Peter Ainsworth Shadow Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Secretary
(Lincoln)

David Cameron Conservative party leader and leader of the opposition
(Brasenose)

Alan Duncan Shadow Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

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Secretary (St John's)

Michael Gove Shadow Children, Schools and Families Secretary (Lady Margaret Hall)

William Hague Shadow Foreign Secretary (Magdalen)

Philip Hammond Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury (University College)

Jeremy Hunt Shadow Culture, Media and Sport Secretary (Magdalen)

Theresa May Shadow Leader of the House (St Hugh's)

Baroness Neville-Jones Shadow Security Minister (Lady Margaret Hall)

George Osborne Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer (Magdalen)

Owen Paterson Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary (Corpus Christi)

Theresa Villiers Shadow Transport Secretary (Jesus)

David Willetts Shadow Innovation, Universities and Families Secretary (Christ Church)

Lib Dem frontbench

Cambridge

Vince Cable Deputy leader and Treasury spokesman (Fitzwilliam)

Nick Clegg Leader of the party (Robinson)

Julia Goldsworthy Shadow Secretary Communities and Local Government (Fitzwilliam)

David Howarth Shadow Solicitor General (Clare)

Simon Hughes Shadow Leader of the House and party president (Selwyn)

David Laws Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Selwyn)

Sarah Teather Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (St John's)

Martin Thomas Shadow Attorney General (Peterhouse)

Roger Williams Shadow Secretary of State for Wales (Selwyn)

Oxford

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Danny Alexander Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary (St Anne's)

David Heath Shadow Justice Secretary and Lord Chancellor (St John's)

Chris Huhne Shadow Home Secretary (Magdalen)

Susan Kramer Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (St Hilda's)

Steve Webb Shadow Secretary for Environment, Energy, Food and Rural Affairs (Hertford)

Former prime ministers

Oxford

Clement Attlee (University College)

Tony Blair (St John's)

Alec Douglas-Home (Christ Church)

Edward Heath (Balliol)

Harold Macmillan (Balliol)

Margaret Thatcher (Somerville)

Harold Wilson (Jesus)

Arts From Pythons to poets

Comedy

Cambridge

Alexander Armstrong (Trinity Hall)

David Baddiel (King's)

Sacha Baron-Cohen (Christ's)

John Bird (King's) Tim Brooke-Taylor (Pembroke)

Jimmy Carr (Gonville and Caius)

John Cleese (Downing)

Stephen Fry (Queen's)

Graeme Garden (Emmanuel)

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Nick Hancock (Homerton)

Matthew Holness (Trinity Hall)

Eric Idle (Pembroke)

Hugh Laurie (Selwyn)

John Lloyd (Trinity)

Rory McGrath (Emmanuel)

Miriam Margolyes (Newnham)

David Mitchell (Peterhouse)

Robert Newman (Selwyn)

Sue Perkins (New Hall)

Jan Ravens (Homerton)

Griff Rhys Jones (Emmanuel)

Tony Slattery (Trinity Hall)

Robert Webb (Robinson)

Oxford

Rowan Atkinson (Queen's)

Terry Jones (St Edmund Hall)

Emma Kennedy (St Edmund Hall)

Richard Herring (St Catherine's)

Armando Iannucci (University College)

Michael Palin (Brasenose)

Sally Phillips (New College)

Mel Smith (New College)

Laura Solon (Worcester)

Writers

Cambridge

Peter Ackroyd (Clare)

JG Ballard (King's)

Quentin Blake (Downing)

Alain de Botton (Gonville and Caius)

AS Byatt (Newnham and Somerville, Oxford)

Jonathan Coe (Trinity)

Colin Dexter (Christ's)

Margaret Drabble (Newnham)

Sarah Dunant (Newnham)

Sebastian Faulks (Emmanuel)

Michael Frayn (Emmanuel)

Stephen Greenblatt (Pembroke)

Germaine Greer (Newnham)

Joanne Harris (St Catharine's)

Robert Harris (Selwyn)

Nick Hornby (Jesus)

Howard Jacobson (Downing)

Clive James (Pembroke)

Lisa Jardine (Jesus)

Nick Laird (King's)

Robert McFarlane (Pembroke)

Maggie O'Farrell (Emmanuel)

Helen Oyeyemi (Corpus Christi)

Frederic Raphael (St John's)

Salman Rushdie (King's)

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Tom Sharpe (Pembroke)

Nicholas Shakespeare (Magdalene)

Zadie Smith (King's)

William Sutcliffe (Emmanuel)

Graham Swift (Queen's)

Claire Tomalin (Newnham)

Matt Thorne (Sidney Sussex)

James Wood (Jesus)

Oxford

Diran Adebayo (Wadham)

Monica Ali (Wadham)

Tariq Ali (Exeter)

Martin Amis (Exeter)

Julian Barnes (Magdalen)

William Boyd (Jesus)

Caryl Churchill (Lady Margaret Hall)

Nicholas Evans (St Edmund Hall)

James Fenton (Magdalen)

Helen Fielding (St Anne's)

William Fiennes (New College)

Mark Haddon (Merton)

Christopher Hampton (New College))

Alan Hollinghurst (Magdalen)

Sophie Kinsella (New College)

Hari Kunzru (Wadham)

John Lanchester (St John's)

Hermione Lee (New College)

Howard Marks (Balliol)

George Monbiot (Brasenose)

Jan Morris (Christ Church)

John Mortimer (Brasenose)

Kate Mosse (New College)

Andrew Motion (University College)

VS Naipaul (University College)

Tom Paulin (Lincoln)

Iain Pears (Wadham)

Philip Pullman (Exeter)

Craig Raine (New College)

Michael Ridpath (Merton)

Michael Rosen (Wadham)

Edward St Aubyn (Keble)

Will Self (Exeter)

Rory Stewart (Balliol)

DJ Taylor (St John's)

Simon Winchester (St Catherine's)

Jeanette Winterson (St Catherine's)

Naomi Wolf (New College)

Tobias Wolff (Hertford)

Film/Theatre/TV

Cambridge

Michael Apter (Downing)

Howard Brenton (St Catharine's)

Dominic Dromgoole (St Catharine's)

Stephen Frears (Trinity)

Paul Greengrass (Queen's)

Peter Hall (St Catharine's)

David Hare (Jesus)

Nicholas Hytner (Trinity Hall)

John Madden (Sidney Sussex)

Sam Mendes (Peterhouse)

Jonathan Miller (St John's)

Mike Newell (Magdalene)

Trevor Nunn (Downing)

Stephen Poliakoff (King's)

Oxford

Simon Beaufoy (St Peter's)

Richard Curtis (Christ Church)

Russell T Davies (Worcester)

Richard Eyre (Lincoln)

Nicholas Kenyon (Balliol)

Ken Loach (St Peter's)

Thea Sharrock (Corpus Christi)

Actors

Cambridge

Khalid Abdalla (Queen's)

Naomie Harris (Pembroke)

Tom Hollander (Selwyn)

Derek Jacobi (St John's)

Cherie Lunghi (Homerton)

Ian McKellen (St Catharine's)

Stephen Mangan (Gonville and Caius)

Thandie Newton (Downing)

Tilda Swinton (New Hall)

Emma Thompson (Newnham)

Rachel Weisz (Trinity Hall)

Olivia Williams (Newnham)

Sophie Winkleman (Trinity Hall)

Oxford

Kate Beckinsale (New College)

Eve Best (Lincoln)

Emilia Fox (Jesus)

Hugh Grant (New College)

Kris Kristofferson (Merton – Rhodes Scholar)

Emily Mortimer (Lincoln)

Rosamund Pike (Wadham)

Samuel West (Lady Margaret Hall)

Emily Woof (St Catherine's)

Business & law From Martha Lane Fox to Master of the Rolls

Business

Cambridge

Damon Buffini Head of private equity company Permira (St John's)

Dermot Gleeson Chief Executive, MJ Gleeson; BBC governor (Fitzwilliam)

Paul Judge Chair, Schroder Income Growth Fund (Trinity)

Oxford

Rex Adams Chair, Invesco (Merton)

Anthony Best MD, JP Morgan Securities (St Edmund Hall)

Victor Blank Chair, Lloyds TSB (St Catherine's)

Jason Gissing Founder of Ocado (Worcester)

Darius Guppy Convicted City fraudster (Magdalen)

Brent Hoberman Co-founder of lastminute.com (New College)

The Earl of Home Chair, Coutts (Christ Church)

Martha Lane Fox Co-founder of lastminute.com (Magdalen)

Stephen K Green Chief Executive, HSBC Holdings (Exeter).

Douglas McCallum MD, ebay UK (St Edmund's Hall)

Matt Ridley Former chairman of Northern Rock (Magdalen)

Andrew Rolfe President of Gap (St Edmund's Hall)

Howard Stringer CEO Sony (Merton)

John Varley CEO, Barclays Bank (Oriell)

Gurdon Wattles Director, Deutsche Bank (St Edmund's Hall)

Philip Yea CEO 3i Group, (Brasenose)

Law

Cambridge

Anthony Peter Clarke Master of the Rolls (King's)

Lord Goldsmith Attorney General of England and Wales, 2001–07
(Gonville and Caius)

Rosalyn Higgins President, International Court of Justice, (Girton)

Anthony Julius Senior consultant, Mishcon de Reya, Princess Diana's
lawyer; (Jesus)

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Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers Lord Chief Justice (King's)

Gareth Peirce Campaigning solicitor (Newnham)

Oxford

John Doyle Chief Justice of Australia (Rhodes Scholar)

Nicholas Bratza Vice-president of European Court of Human Rights
(Brasenose)

Ken McDonald, QC Head of Crown Prosecution Service (St Edmund's Hall)

Dame Barbara Mills First female Director of Public Prosecutions (Lady
Margaret Hall)

Media From Nigella to Newsnight

Newsreaders & broadcasters Cambridge

Clive Anderson (Selwyn)

David Attenborough (Clare) Clare Balding BBC sports presenter
(Newnham)

Katie Derham ITV News (Magdalene)

Julie Etchingham ITV News at 10 (Newnham)

Vanessa Feltz (Trinity)

David Frost (Gonville & Caius) Damian Grammaticus BBC South Asia
correspondent (Corpus Christi) Emily Maitlis Newsnight (Queens) Andrew
Marr BBC (Trinity Hall) Jeremy Paxman Newsnight anchor (St
Catharine's) John Simpson BBC world affairs editor (Magdalene)

Edward Stourton Today programme (Trinity) Alex Thomson Channel 4 News
chief correspondent (New Hall)

Carol Vorderman (Sidney Sussex) Oxford

Zeinab Badawi BBC News (St Hilda's)

Melvyn Bragg The South Bank Show (Wadham)

Ben Brown BBC News 24 (Keble) Fiona Bruce BBC News (Hertford)

Evan Davis BBC economics editor (St John's)

David Dimbleby Question Time (Christ Church)

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Hugh Fearnley–Whittingstall Chef and food writer (St Peter's)

Matt Frei BBC Washington correspondent (St Peter's)

Krishnan Guru–Murthy Channel 4 News (Hertford)

Natasha Kaplinsky Five News (Hertford)

Martha Kearney The World at One (St Anne's)

Bridget Kendall BBC diplomatic correspondent (Lady Margaret Hall)

Nigella Lawson Food writer/presenter (Lady Margaret Hall) Siân Lloyd
Weather presenter (Jesus) Rageh Omar Al–Jazeera English (New College)

Tom Parker–Bowles Food writer (Worcester)

Robert Peston BBC business editor (Balliol)

Libby Purves Presenter, Midweek (St Anne's)

Nick Robinson BBC political editor (University College)

Peter Sissons BBC News 24 (University College)

Media executives

Cambridge Peter Bazalgette Chief Executive, Endemol, producer of Big
Brother (Fitzwilliam)

Mark Damazer Controller, BBC Radio 4 (Gonville & Caius)

Peter Fincham Director, ITV (Churchill) Peter Horrocks Head of BBC
Newsroom (Christ's) Christopher Meyer Chair, Press Complaints
Commission (Peterhouse)

Oxford

Jana Bennett Director, BBC Vision (St Anne's)

Danny Cohen Head of BBC3 (Lady Margaret Hall)

Rod Eddington Director, News Corporation (Rhodes Scholar, Lincoln)

Luke Johnson Chair, Channel 4 (Magdalen)

Roly Keating Controller of BBC2 and acting controller of BBC1
(Balliol)

Rupert Murdoch Chair and CEO, News Corporation (Worcester)

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Mark Thompson BBC DG, (Merton) Fleet street & beyond

Cambridge

James Harding Times editor (Trinity)

Alan Rusbridger Guardian editor (Magdalene)

Peter Wright Mail on Sunday editor (Clare)

Oxford

Lionel Barber Financial Times editor (St Edmund Hall)

Matthew d'Ancona Spectator editor (Magdalen) Geordie Greig Tatler editor (St Peter's)

Ian Hislop Private Eye editor (Magdalen)

John Micklethwait Economist editor (Magdalen) Columnists, critics & commentators

Cambridge

Madeleine Bunting Guardian (Corpus Christi)

Johann Hari Independent (King's)

Simon Heffer Telegraph (Corpus Christi) Simon Hoggart Guardian (King's) India Knight Sunday Times (Trinity)

Matthew Parris Times/Spectator (Clare)

Andrew Rawnsley Observer (Sidney Sussex)

Oxford

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown Independent (Linacre)

Nick Cohen Observer (Hertford)

Jonathan Freedland Guardian (Wadham)

Ben Goldacre Guardian (Magdalen)

John Harris Guardian (Queen's)

Christopher Hitchens Independent (Balliol)

Melanie Phillips Daily Mail (St Anne's)

Polly Toynbee Guardian (St Anne's)

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