

Symposium on Child Learning and Raising Attainment in Schools

Brasenose College

Monday April 24th, 4- 6 pm

Session 1

Professor Sonali Nag (Education Fellow, Brasenose): 'Contexts, Circumstances and Children's Learning'

Professor Nag will address issues of childhood poverty, family aspirations and alienation/engagement with school systems.

Session 2

"Any Questions" style panel of teachers on raising pupil attainment in secondary education

Panel: *Rachel Warwick (Head teacher, Didcot); Rob Shadbolt (Head teacher, Wood Green); David Sammels (Head of 6th form, Upton Court)*

Chaired by Principal John Bowers QC.

Please submit your suggestions for questions when you register.

Session 3

Professor Charles Hulme (Education Senior Hulme Fellow, Brasenose); 'Interventions to Improve Children's Language and Reading Skills'

6.00pm Drinks Reception



This academic year, Brasenose welcomed two new Fellows in Education – Professors Sonali Nag and Charles Hulme. To mark their arrival, the College is holding an afternoon symposium on the twin topics of early child learning and raising attainment in secondary schools

Low attainment in schools is recognised as one of the biggest barriers to social mobility in the UK. Improving early academic achievement of children from disadvantaged backgrounds in primary and especially secondary school is also essential if socio-economic gaps in university access are to be closed. From 2018, Oxford's access agreement with OFFA (the Office for Fair Access) will include a new target related to raising attainment in schools.

Les Ebdon (Director of OFFA) recently noted that: "It is precisely because there are lower rates of attainment in disadvantaged areas that universities must work in close partnership with schools to raise attainment." Sir Peter Lampl, founder and chairman of the Sutton Trust, has also commented that: "It is staggering that at age 16 bright but poor pupils lag behind their rich classmates by almost three years".

In addition to its two Education Fellows, Brasenose currently has doctoral students researching early years' English as a second language acquisition and pupil attainment in schools. The College also admits around half a dozen graduates as PGCE students and up to 18 qualified teachers enrol on the Education Department's continuing professional development MSc programmes.

Led by the Schools Officer, Joe Organ, Brasenose maintains an extensive schools outreach programme. Around 250 school contacts are made each year and there are mentoring schemes with specific target schools and also individual students drawn from exceptionally disadvantaged backgrounds.

The symposium's three sessions all include opportunities for audience participation, especially so in the "Any Questions" style middle session. Our panel comprises three teachers from schools that Brasenose has worked with recently. You are warmly invited to submit a proposed question to the panel when confirming your attendance. We hope to include as many of these as possible and will contact attendees to confirm the questions we will be inviting the panel to respond to in advance of the event.

[Click here to register for the event](#)