

Sir, At Mansfield College we are delighted that our longstanding unique selling point as “the state school college” at Oxford is under threat as a result of the significant increase in state-sector intake across the rest of Oxford University. As a result of quiet determination and commitment, Mansfield has been a beacon of access and outreach work for more than 20 years. Our state intake has been more than 80 per cent for ten years and more than 90 per cent since 2016. This year more than 90 per cent of Mansfield’s state-sector intake is from non-selective schools. In recent years, our students’ performance has also risen consistently. It shows (as we have always known) that cognitive and social diversity do not threaten academic excellence, they enrich it.

**Helen Mountfield, QC**

Principal, Mansfield College, Oxford