

Oxbridge 'rejects'

- 1 SIR - Mark Bailey, high master of St Paul's, is right (Thunderer, Jan 25): Oxbridge¹⁾ has a distorting and completely outdated pull on 21st-century Britain. The parents are much to blame; again and again, as head of Brighton College and then Wellington College, I saw Oxbridge rejects go off to other universities in Britain and abroad with a lasting impression that they had somehow failed to get into the best.
- 2 Equally absurd is the obsession with Oxbridge as a measure of the success of social mobility in Britain. The young from disadvantaged backgrounds would often be much better off going to more local high-achieving universities than being shunted off to Oxbridge, which might make the social class warriors feel good but can leave the young people lost in a totally alien environment. I went to Oxford, and it suited me perfectly, 42.

SIR ANTHONY SELDON
Vice-chancellor, University of Buckingham

The Times, 2018

noot 1 term used to refer to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge