



CLT Academic Enrichment Newsletter Easter and Term 5, 2025-26

Dear Students (and Parents/Carers),

Welcome to the third Academic Enrichment Newsletter of the school year 2025/26, and you are going to notice some changes.

Most items that have been previously promoted in previous issues have been moved to pages on the Academic Enrichment Blog of the King Alfred's Academy website, and there is a link to each of those pages given instead. The only items that have been published previously but are still included are those with a submission deadline coming up soon (competitions, challenges, etc.) or those that require registration for a forthcoming event(s).

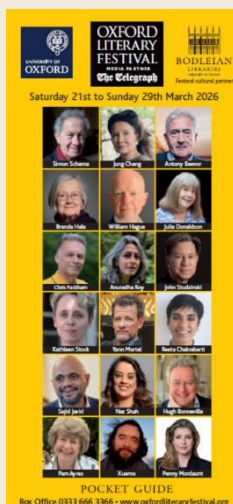
Posts that are totally NEW to this issue will continue to be printed in light blue, and posts that are still current but have already been published in previous issues will remain in black. This should make it easier for you to navigate the Newsletter.

- (a) [Events and Exhibitions](#) organised by Institutions such as Museums and Academic Bodies
- (b) [Websites to explore](#)
- (c) [Courses and Workshops](#)
- (d) [The Competition Corner](#)

Once again, I strongly recommend taking a look at the Competition Corner, especially for Year 12s – academic competitions give you a brilliant opportunity to try out a subject that you may be considering taking to degree level. Not only can it help you to decide whether or not you like the subject enough for this, but it will also provide you with “gold dust” material for a personal statement, as well as build up your academic skills ready to take on the challenge.

The aim of this Newsletter is to share with Secondary schools in the Trust some of the various opportunities on offer in our immediate locality that students can pursue independently. We would like to develop an ever-stronger partnership with our parents in promoting the intellectual development and curiosity of all our students.

Pam Stokell
Head of Academic Enrichment



Almost on our doorstep: The Oxford Literary Festival

Saturday 21st March – Sunday 29th March 2026

Sadly the bulk of this Festival is on while we are still at school, but you might be able to catch an evening event, or something during the as the Easter Break gets under way. If you are looking for some stimulating academic enrichment, no matter what the subject area, you will find it at the Oxford Literary Festival.

Just to prove my point, this is just a listing of their upcoming *Science* events: [Science | Oxford Literary Festival](#).

Go on the website here [Events 2026 | Oxford Literary Festival](#) to see the huge range of subject categories that they have on offer. Many of the events require an entry fee, but there are also a number of free events.

You can also download the full brochure here: [Layout 1](#).



Section 1. In person and/or Livestreamed events from Museums and other Academic Bodies – includes webinars, talks, courses



The Royal Institution
Science Lives Here



Yes, the Royal Institution was set up for the dissemination of scientific ideas, but they are careful to appeal to a very broad range of interests,

and their talks are an excellent place to start looking out for those priceless links between subjects that make learning so exciting. (And which will make you stand out from the crowd if you choose to apply to a top-level university.)



The Royal Institution YouTube Channel holds an archive of their lectures (about an hour long each), but if you are running short of time, you can also find a series of “Ri Shorts” at [\(181\) Ri Shorts - YouTube](#) which are short video talks about 10 minutes long,

And there is also the Royal Institution Animations selection at [\(181\) Ri Animations - YouTube](#) which are typically 5 minutes or less.



And below you will find this term’s recommended selection of three of the longer talks:



Recorded Talk: Hearing smell and Tasting Words: the Science of Synaesthesia

See sounds or taste words? Discover how synaesthesia reveals the surprising ways our senses and brain work together to shape perception. How does the brain make sense of the world around us?

For most of us, our senses—sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell—seem separate. But in reality, they work together in complex ways. Some people experience synaesthesia, where senses blend in remarkable ways—like tasting words or seeing colours when hearing music. Join cognitive psychologist Mary Jane Spiller as she discusses how our senses interact. [Hearing smell and tasting words: The science of synaesthesia - with Mary Jane Spiller](#)



Recorded Talk: Forensic Chemistry – can chemistry help catch a killer?

In the hidden world of forensic chemistry, miniscule molecules can tell us stories and invisible traces can provide key information for achieving justice. From fingerprints to fibres and even lipsticks, forensic chemist Baljit Thatti will explain how chemistry provides

voices to silent evidence through intricate preservation techniques.

[Can chemistry help to catch a killer? - with Baljit Thatti](#)



Recorded Talk: Ultrasound – Engineering’s secret weapon

Imagine being able to spot flaws in a rollercoaster, railway line, or power station before disaster strikes - all without laying a finger on them. Sounds like sci-fi? Welcome to the world of non-destructive testing, where engineers use sound to uncover hidden dangers like cracks and corrosion. The standard method of ultrasound testing

involves the same gel couplant used in medical ultrasounds, but researchers are seeking out more optimal alternatives. Physicist Rachel Edwards will explore new ways of generating and detecting sound, and the tantalizing possibility of developing a “sound VISOR” to help visualise sound and revolutionise engineering. [Engineering's secret weapon: How ultrasound spots structural problems - with Rachel Edwards](#)

Ri Science Podcast



And did you know – the Ri has a Podcast!

Most of those amazing talks which you can watch anytime on the Ri’s Youtube channel are also available as podcasts, so you can listen in wherever you are. The

link below will take you to the great talk by Lucy Cooke, who will take you on a journey through an array of different animal examples as she explores evolution:

[Podcast: How did females evolve? - with Lucy Cooke | Royal Institution \(rigb.org\)](#)

And there is lots more at: [Browse our science online | Royal Institution \(rigb.org\)](#)

The Linnean Society Online Talks

The Linnean Society of London is the world's oldest active biological society, dating back to 1788. It has a wide and varied programme of talks, and you can also arrange to visit their library at Burlington House, London.

[The Linnean Society | Communicating Nature Since 1788](#)



FREE Online talks from the Linnean Society

Many of the talks from the Linnean Society are recorded and available through their youtube channel: [\(3\) Linnean Society - YouTube](#). Below are some recommendations to whet your appetite and hopefully prompt you to look for other talks!

Three new recorded talks for you to explore:

[The Mind of a Bee | Lars Chittka](#)

[Bat Foraging | Where and How They Do It](#)

[A Quietening of the Woods | The Decline of Woodland Birds](#)

Sixth Formers, if you have a study period during the day, it might be worth checking whether you can catch one of their lunch-time talks. Check out the events page online at: [Upcoming Events | The Linnean Society](#)



EST. 1865

The London Mathematical Society

The London Mathematical Society runs a series of talks - the LMS Popular Lectures - which are free public lectures that present exciting topics in mathematics and its applications to a wide audience. They are for anyone with an interest in mathematics, including those without high-level maths training.

There is a real treasury of past talks to be found at [the LMS YouTube channel](#) - click 'subscribe' to be alerted when new videos are added.

You can watch previous LMS Popular Lectures [here](#).



The Oxford Mathematical Institute – Public Lecture: A Mathematical Journey through Literature

In this lecture, Sarah explores the many connections between mathematics and literature. She shows the hidden mathematical structures behind everything from poetry to novels, and reveals some of the beautiful mathematical imagery and symbolism in fiction, from simple fairy tales to classics like Moby-Dick. Her goal is to show that not only are mathematics and literature inextricably linked, but that understanding these links can enhance our enjoyment of both. Sarah Hart is Gresham Professor of Geometry at Gresham College and Professor of Mathematics at Birkbeck, University of London. She is author of 'Once Upon a Prime: the Wondrous Connections between Mathematics and Literature'.

[A Mathematical Journey through Literature - Sarah Hart](#)

There are some fabulous museums almost on our doorstep – why not take a look around the University Museums of Oxford?

We are lucky to have some world-class museums just a short bus ride away. However, do check on their websites as many of the exhibitions still require you to book a timed ticket in order to reduce congestion in the galleries.

Take a look at:

The Ashmolean Museum

The Weston (Bodleian) Library

The Pitt Rivers Museum

The History of Science Museum and

The Natural History Museum.

Please note that there are other museums in Oxford, but these five are the University Museums and all are centrally situated within walking distance of one another. For example, you might like to visit the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock, and our Vale and Downland Museum in Wantage. And don't miss out on Modern Art Oxford!

And calling all students interested in stories, reading and books: the [Story Museum](#) is on the lookout for **Youth Collection Ambassadors** – a great opportunity to volunteer at the Museum and gain behind-the-scenes experience at a truly magical place! Click on the link above to find out more!



The Ashmolean Museum

The Ashmolean is the University of Oxford's museum of art and archaeology, founded in 1683. The Museum's world-famous collections range from Egyptian mummies to contemporary art,

telling human stories across cultures and across time.

You can find out more about current exhibitions and events at: [King Alfred's Academy - At the Ashmolean Museum](#)

The Pitt Rivers Museum – a wonderfully eclectic museum.

For a list of some of their current exhibitions and events, please visit [King Alfred's Academy - At the Pitt Rivers Museum](#)

The History of Science Museum

This Museum is based in the oldest museum building of the country, and it has a breath-taking collection of scientific artefacts through the ages and from across the world. You will find a listing of their current exhibitions and displays here: [King Alfred's Academy - At the History of science museum](#)

Home | History of Science Museum

Event: Let's talk about Surveillance: Tracking disease

Thursday 12th March 2026, 5:30 – 7:30pm

This is a free event, but booking is essential due to limited numbers.

Let's Talk About: Surveillance | History of Science Museum

And from the Natural History Museum of Oxford:

Oxford University Museum of Natural History holds an internationally-significant collection of natural history specimens and archives in a stunning example of neo-Gothic architecture. It is home to a lively programme of research, teaching and events focused on the sciences of the natural environment.

You can find some of their current exhibitions and events at: [King Alfred's Academy - At the oxford natural history museum](#)

From the Bodleian Libraries

If you find yourself in the city of Oxford, why not take a walk down Broad Street and pop into the Bodleian Library to see one or more of the four Exhibitions listed below. All are FREE to enter, and you do not need to book beforehand.

You can find some of their Exhibitions and events at: [King Alfred's Academy - At The Bodleian Library](#)

From the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

A small but excellent museum based in Woodstock! Well worth a visit, and there is much to explore online at its website: [Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum – Conflict & County](#)

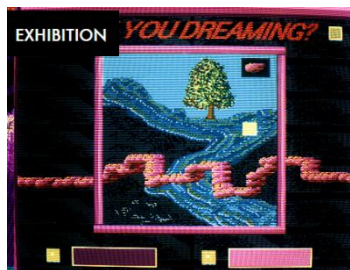


You can find a listing of what is available at: [King Alfred's Academy - At the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum](#)

Modern Art Oxford

Summer Exhibitions and Events at Modern Art Oxford

Modern Art Oxford is one of the UK's leading contemporary art spaces. Our programmes offer opportunities for all for inspirational exchange and creative participation, both in person and online. Well worth a visit. Take a look at their range of workshops, exhibitions, performances and other activities at: [What's On | Modern Art Oxford](#)



Exhibition: Suzanne Treister – Prophetic Dreaming

Available until 12th April 2026

Prophetic Dreaming is the first major institutional retrospective by pioneering digital and para-disciplinary artist [Suzanne Treister](#) (b. 1958). Spanning more than forty years, the exhibition maps Treister's visionary practice and investigations into new technologies, networks of power, alternative belief systems, and the futures they prefigure. Full Price £9.50, concessions £7. No

need to book in advance. [Modern Art Oxford](#)

Section 2. Sites to explore online



The Royal Society's Women in STEM History Map

This is a developing map. Go onto the website to explore the historical contributions of women to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). You can also contribute towards the development of the map – do you have a favourite landmark, monument or location that is connected to a famous female scientist who has inspired you? Visit the map at:

<https://royalsociety.org/news-resources/women-in-stem/women-stem->

[history-map/](#)



Who are the Most influential Women in British Science History?

The Royal Society asked a panel of experts – all leading female scientists or science historians – to vote for the ten women in British history who have had the most influence on science to celebrate the Society's 350th anniversary in 2010. The panel comprised Professors Lorna Casselton, Athene Donald, Uta Frith

and Julia Higgins, all Fellows of the Royal Society, and Dr Patricia Fara, an eminent historian of science. [Most influential women in British science history | Royal Society](#)



St Anne's Supercurricular Club

What St Anne's Supercurricular club is a series of online seminars aimed at Y12s looking to explore their interests ahead of applying to university. Sessions will be led by academics from St Anne's College, and will give students an introduction

into university research and study. We will be running eight sessions on a range of different subjects (from pathogens to music to Japanese literature).

Who Year 12 students from state schools

When Every Thursday from **16 April** to 4 June 2026 at 16:00-17:00

Where Online

Links: More information on our website: [St Anne's Super-Curricular Club | St Anne's College, Oxford](#) Students can sign up [here](#)



Wadham Yr 12 Book Club

What Wadham is excited to launch a free online book club. The Book Club will involve three online sessions, as well as the chance to attend a final, in-person session and Taster Day at Wadham College. Each session will involve a short lecture,

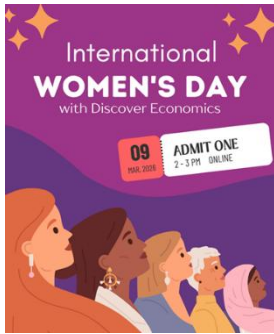
breakout room discussion with current Oxford students, and recommendations for further reading and support. The theme for these sessions will be 'Possible Worlds', considering the ways that writers have thought about the possible futures that may await humanity. Our aim is to build on core A Level English texts by thinking about their wider literary contexts with the aim of bridging the gap between A Level and university study. In the 3rd session, Dr Cat Parry (Tutor for Portuguese) will also incorporate poetry in translation in order to develop appreciation for world literature. Participants will be required to read 1-3 short extracts (provided) ahead of the sessions.

Who Year 12 state school students interested in studying a literature-based subject at Oxford

When Monday 27th April- Monday 22nd June

Where Online via Teams (Sessions 1-3)

Links To sign up go to [Book Club 2026](#)



Recorded Talk: Economists share their career journeys on International Women's Day

Did you miss the **International Women's Day Discover Economics webinar**?

You can now watch the recording and hear from three inspiring economists: **Kajal Patel (OBR)**, **Emma Kearney (Frontier Economics)** and **Hiba Sameen (The Health Foundation)**.

In this session they share their career journeys, discuss the work they do, and offer advice for students considering studying economics. Watch the recording [here](#).

The 1001 Stories Website

This site is curated by Oxford's Story Museum and contains hundreds of book recommendations, listed by genre, age (up to 14+) and theme. Many of the recommendations also include one or more book reviews, all written by young people. It's a great way of finding your next read.

[1001 Stories - The Story Museum Collection](#)



Become a Youth Collections Ambassador for the Story Museum

And if you would like to write book reviews for them, and become a Youth Collections Ambassador, go to: [Become a Youth Collections Ambassador or join... | The Story Museum](#). As a Youth Collections Ambassador, you would assist the museum in developing their story and object collections.



Are you a budding author?

Probably best for students in Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9), this podcast has an episode a week that celebrates books in general, and will give you lots of tips on how to decide what to write; how to deal with writer's block; how to come up with great characters, and more! (Thank you, Megan, for sending this in!)

[StoryKind Podcast | Free Listening on Podbean App](#)



Explore Chemistry - A super-curricular series

This series of talks is aimed at students in Years 12 and 13. You can sign up below for a series of online live talks and Q&A sessions delivered by researchers. [Explore Chemistry Series](#)



Strongly recommended: Beyond the Classroom - Trinity College Oxford's Online Academic Enrichment Programme is back in 2026

What online after-school academic enrichment programme new series of mini lectures, Explore taster sessions, academic skills talks and advice about preparing for university study and submitting a competitive application to university and the University of Oxford. Gain a certificate demonstrating your commitment to super-curricular enrichment!

Who any state school student in Year 7 to 12 who is interested in exploring learning across a broad range of themes and across subjects beyond the classroom, and/or may be interested in applying to Oxford.

When on Tuesdays at 4:30pm-5:30pm, beginning Tuesday the 10 March 2026, (excl school holidays) for 15 sessions running to Tuesday 7 July. Students can opt in for the sessions of their choice.

Where online on Teams.

Links see more details can be found on our website which will be updated as [themes for the programme](#) are confirmed and students can register themselves at [Trinity Beyond the Classroom 2026](#).

The Oxford Martin School – Finding solutions to the world’s most urgent challenges

The University of Oxford boasts that there is no research organisation in the world that is quite like the [Oxford Martin School](#) in that it brings researchers from across all disciplines to work together on finding solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges.

As part of sharing their work, they have a series of talks – a mixture of in-person and online – most of which are free and open to all. It’s worth keeping an eye on their [events](#) page, and also to go browsing through their archive of past talks at: [Past Events | Oxford Martin School](#). You will find something here that is relevant to almost any academic interest. Well worth scanning through if you are doing/considering an EPQ on a topic that involves a threat to the world or to society.



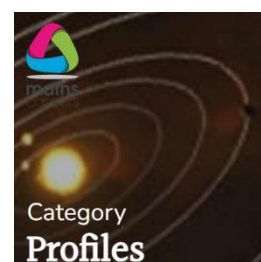
The Cambridge Physics Centre Sixth Form Lectures

This lecture series is open to all, but aimed at those in years 12 and 13. It exists to enthuse, stimulate and challenge students and their teachers across the whole broad spectrum of physics-related topics.

You can find recordings of this year’s lectures at [CPC Recordings 25-26 | Department of Physics](#), and you can find [Cambridge Physics Centre Sixth Form Lecture Schedule | Department of Physics](#)

So what can I do with a degree in Maths?

Gone are the days when mathematicians became either accountants or maths teachers. With the huge increase in technology within the workplace, Mathematicians can end up almost anywhere. This website draws together a series of career profiles to show where Maths can take you: [Profiles Archives - Maths Careers](#)



Two new projects from Zooniverse

For all those citizen science enthusiasts, here are two projects to whet your appetite. If neither of these grab your attention, then head over to [Projects — Zooniverse](#) where you will find hundreds of other projects, on all sorts of topics, from languages to astrophysics, and from medicine to the Arts. **And did you know that working on Zooniverse projects can count towards the volunteering bit of your D of E qualification?**



The European Camera Trap Project

The European Camera Trap Project invites volunteers to help identify animals in photographs taken by camera traps placed in different regions of Europe. These cameras automatically capture images when animals pass by, recording species such as red deer, wolves, Iberian lynx, brown bear, foxes, and other animals that are often difficult to observe directly.

Camera traps can collect hundreds of thousands of images during a single monitoring session, creating valuable datasets for studying wildlife distribution, behaviour, and biodiversity change. Processing such large volumes of images is a major challenge for research teams. By helping classify these photos, volunteers will support stakeholders and scientists in analysing these important data while also helping train artificial intelligence tools to make it easier to process wildlife images in the future. Your contribution will help detect and track changes in wildlife populations and ecosystems, supporting conservation efforts.

For more information and to get started, visit [European Camera Trap Project | Zooniverse - People-powered research](#)



The Senses of Stories

Help researchers explore how stories activate the senses and pull readers into worlds of sound, sight, touch and taste.

This project invites you to help analyse how writers create immersive reading experiences.

Stories make us see, hear, feel, and even taste through a simple series of words on a page. In this project, you will be asked to rate sentences to help researchers understand how sensory language works in storytelling.

The dataset includes passages from world literature, fanfiction, and nonfiction. Each sentence is a small experiment in how language generates sensation in the reader's mind.

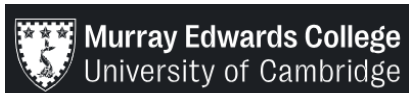
Your contributions will enable the research team to:

- Study sensory immersion in storytelling.
- Examine how sensory language interacts with emotions and other narrative features.
- Compare fictional and non-fictional stories across genres, periods, and cultures.
- Assess limitations in current AI models in how they understand the embodied senses of stories.

For more information and to get started, visit [The Senses of Stories | Zooniverse - People-powered research](#)

Top Tip to practise your Languages: For an extra challenge, why not attempt to work on a project in either Spanish or French? Zooniverse has translated several of its projects into other languages. Whatever your chosen project, look for the Language button on the top right of the project's home page.

If you are thinking ahead to Higher Education and know that you want to apply to some of the country's top universities... but not sure what subject to choose for your degree, then attending subject taster webinars is a great way to explore your options and find out what you really like.



Subject Taster Webinars

This series offers online taster lectures followed by a Q&A that are delivered by some of the University of Cambridge's most prestigious fellows. The aim of these webinars is to give students who are considering applying to the University of Cambridge (and, if you are female, Murray Edwards College) an insight into the breadth of the degree programmes on offer; the content and research that is involved; and the teaching style that is used (the teaching style at Murray Edwards will be the same as that offered by other colleges).

The series spans a huge range of subjects across arts, humanities, social sciences and STEM. If you want to learn what it would be like to study at Cambridge, explore the webinars on offer at the link below and sign up to register your interest in attending. Do check back again as they will be adding more webinars over the term.

And worry not if a webinar you wanted to watch has already taken place: you can catch up with them at the Murray Edwards College [YouTube](#) channel .

The webinars are carrying on until the end of April, so there are plenty left!

To view up and coming Webinars and to register to attend, please go to:

<https://www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/study-us/outreach/webinars>

Especially for Y10s – Y13s looking to broaden their super curriculum in preparation for University Applications (also great for EPQ ideas!):

Super-curricular activities are not mandatory. However, they can help you make a competitive application, and prepare you for a challenging academic environment, so we strongly recommend them. Super-curricular participation can enhance your personal statement, give you greater confidence in your subject choice, show that you are serious about your area of study, and give you a wealth of ideas to draw upon in discussions if you're invited to interview.

It's likely that you'll develop new ideas and opinions, critical thinking and analytical skills, and an ability to understand new information from different sources – this is all great preparation for succeeding at university. [King Alfred's Academy - Super Curricular exploration](#)

Courses, Taster Days and Workshops

This section is set aside for courses and workshops, both in person and/or online, which students are able to access independently. They are almost always offered by academic bodies with a mission to develop the intellectual potential of curious young minds.



EDT Virtual Insights into University and Apprenticeships - Summer courses

Insight into University is a virtual experience that helps students explore STEM degrees, apprenticeships, and related careers. It offers access to university life, STEM projects from top UK universities and global companies, first-year lectures, and live sessions with academics, admissions tutors, apprentices, employers, and current students. Find out more at: [King Alfred's Academy - Virtual Insights into University and Apprenticeships](#)

Previously published courses that are still current may be found at: [King Alfred's Academy - Courses and Workshops](#)

“I have a Passion for Numbers”

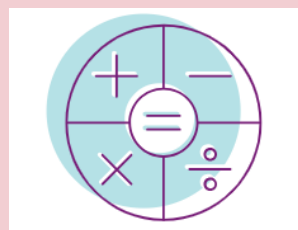
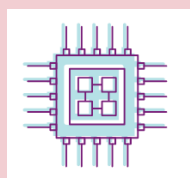
If you love numbers, then there are many pathways open to you. Explore the following four subjects:

[Computer Science | HE+](#)

[Engineering | HE+](#)

[Economics | HE+](#)

[Mathematics | HE+](#)



Competition Corner

“Why bother entering competitions? I am probably not going to win anything.”

And this is very true. But entering academic/educational competitions is an excellent way of stretching your brain and your abilities, and you will learn and hone many skills along the way. Once you are in Year 10+, entering academic competitions and being able to reflect on your experiences is something that will make you stand out in university and high-level apprenticeship applications. So *do* get into the habit of checking the **Competition Corner** of the *KAAEP Bulletin*, or looking online for other competitions. (If you find something, do please let me know so I can share it with others!)

Year 12 is an important year for this as the most competitive universities seek out those students with the motivation and enthusiasm to enter academic competitions.

- (a) They make you stand out from the crowd - you can talk about your research in your personal statement.
- (b) They help you to explore and discover new interests.
- (c) They are a good way of testing whether studying the subject at university is really for you.
- (d) They improve and develop your critical thinking and essay writing skills in readiness for stepping up to university.

“It is a great idea to enter a competition in an area that you enjoy or are good at whilst you are still at school. If you win or are placed, that is excellent, but even if you don’t, it demonstrates commitment, interest, drive and immediately differentiates you from others. It looks good on your UCAS Form.” Student Ladder – Steps to Success.

PI REPRESENTATION COMPETITION



thought of!

The competition is **open for entries NOW**.

Deadline for entry is **11:59pm GMT Friday 27 March 2026**. [Pi Representation Competition – Think Maths](#)

Think Maths **FREE [Pi Representation Competition!](#)**

To celebrate Pi Day (14 March) 2026, the (FREE) Think Maths Pi Representation Competition is back!

Challenge yourself to represent π in any interesting way that you choose. For example, you could do some art work, make a piece of music or write a poem, or choreograph a dance! Or you might do something the organisers have not



For Years 10-13: The Young Economist of the Year Competition 2026

The Young Economist of the Year competition 2026, sponsored by KPMG UK, launches on Monday 23 March. Are you in Years 10 - 13? Are you interested in real-world issues? You don't have to be studying economics - it's a

great opportunity to deepen your understanding of economics and develop your analytical and communication skills.

Find out more at [Home | Discover Economics](#) on the 23rd March. In the meantime, you can sign up for the [webinar](#) to get hints, tips, and answers to all your questions.



Year 12 - The Arts and Humanities Essay Competition

There are a number of questions to choose from and, together, the essay questions cover the breadth of arts and humanities subjects offered at undergraduate level at the University of Cambridge. Do take a look! The questions are

wonderfully challenging and thought-provoking.

The deadline for submissions is 11:59pm on 26th April 2026.

For more information and details of how to apply, visit [The Arts and Humanities Essay Competition](#).



Year 12 Christ Church's Geography Essay Competition: "The Age of Humans"

Students are invited to write a reflective essay of up to 800 words on the theme of 'The Age of Humans', in relation to whichever aspect of Geography they choose. Entrants are welcome to approach the subject in whatever way is most meaningful to them, as long as they provide a written essay-style response and demonstrate thinking geographically.

For more information and details of how to submit your entry, please visit:

[Geography Essay Competition | Christ Church, University of Oxford](#)

Deadline for submission of entries: **Friday 17th April 2026**



For Years 11-13: The Big Think Competition

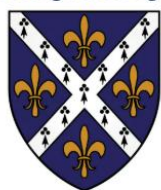
This is a very creative competition – there is no writing (unless you want to include some). Your task is to create a 5-minute video discussing one of the Big Questions, and there is one for all of the main subjects, including Law, Medical Science and Politics. You don't need fancy equipment, you can just video on your phone. And you don't need to appear on the video yourself - feel free to get creative! You could narrate a PowerPoint, record yourself drawing or even apply your TikTok-making skills...

For more information and details of how to submit your entry, go to [Big Think Competition | Access and Outreach | St Edmund Hall](#)

And not that you need this as an incentive, but there are cash prizes.

Deadline for submission of entries: **Monday 27th April 2026**

St Hugh's College



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Mary Renault Classical Reception Competition 2026

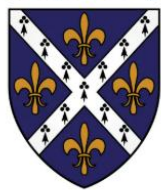
This competition is open to students in Years 12 or 13 and is an ideal opportunity for any student considering applying for Classics to explore any topic relating to the reception or influence of classical antiquity. If you are not too sure what is meant by this, go to the web page (below) and check out the titles of previous years' winners.

There are cash prizes (again!) and at least one prize will go to a student who is studying neither Latin or Ancient Greek to A Level.

For more information and details of how to enter, go to [Mary Renault Classical Reception Essay Competition - St Hugh's College](#)

The deadline for submission of entries: **2pm on Wednesday 22nd July 2026**

St Hugh's College



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Julia Wood History Essay Competition

The annual prize for this essay competition is worth up to a staggering £600. The tricky bit is that there is no set essay question. The prize is for the best historical essay, on a subject of your choice. For some ideas, head over to the website and take a look at some of the winning entries from past years.

For more information and details of how to enter, go to [Julia Wood History Essay Competition - St Hugh's College](#)

The deadline for submission of entries: **2pm on Wednesday 22nd July 2026**



Young Historian Awards 2026

The purpose of these Prizes is to encourage you to think, research and frame your own questions that you will answer from further reading and research. This might be

the result of a piece of work your teacher has set you to do at home, or it may be a piece of research you are carrying out for your own interest. It is also an opportunity to perhaps tell some of the untold stories around the themes.

Deadline: 17th July 2026

Open to: students aged from 11-19

For more information and details of how to enter, please visit:

<https://www.history.org.uk/secondary/categories/516/news/3689/young-historian-awards-2026-take-part-secondary>



Peterhouse Kelvin Biological Sciences Essay Prize 2026

This essay competition aims to give students the opportunity to explore scientific concepts and topics beyond the classroom, and to engage with scientific research. It is open to students in Year 12. Please note that there is a strict limit of four entries per school

preferably across multiple questions. **So please let me know if you are planning to enter this competition so that I can monitor numbers.**

More information on the competition, how to submit an essay, and this year's essay questions can be found on their website: <https://www.pet.cam.ac.uk/peterhouse-kelvin-biological-sciences-essay-competition>

Essay Questions (choose one):

1. What do we need to know to save a species from extinction?
2. Why does chirality matter in biology?
3. Why do some species live days and others centuries?
4. Can biosignatures provide convincing evidence of life on exoplanets?
5. With machine learning, can we abolish experimental chemistry?
6. Is quantum computing currently useful?

Deadline for submissions: Monday 20th April at 23.59



Imperial College – the Grantham Climate Art Prize 2026

Young people aged 11-25 across the South East of

England are invited to enter the 2026 [Grantham Climate Art Prize](#) by designing a mural to draw attention to the climate crisis. The 20m long mural will be on Imperial's White City campus and will be the 14th mural across Great Britain in this art prize series. A cash prize of £250 will be presented to the winner and runners-up will receive £150 each.

The design for the mural needs to consider the question: **What does a thriving, vibrant city full of nature and innovation look and feel like?**

The winning design will be selected by a judging panel and transformed into a large-scale panoramic mural by professional artist [Jeru Nomi](#) at White City Campus. Runner up designs will be exhibited alongside it in an exhibition.

For more information and details of how to submit your entry, please visit: [Grantham Climate Art Prize | Grantham Institute – Climate Change and the Environment | Imperial College London](#)

Deadline for entries: 13th April 2026

The logo for 'INTO FILM' features the words 'INTO' and 'FILM' stacked vertically in a bold, teal, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly irregular and have a hand-drawn feel.

Film of the Month Competition – any film, any genre, any time of year

This is an ongoing competition for young people aged between 5 and 19. Although it does say “any film”, there are some guidelines that you need to follow. You can submit at any time. The website has guides and resources to support your film-making as well. If you are interested in the

idea, take a look at: [Details of our active competitions. - Film of the Month - Into Film](#)

The logo for 'GHOST STORIES' features the words 'GHOST' and 'STORIES' stacked vertically in a white, distressed, serif font. The background is a dark, textured blue.

Ghost Stories – a Writing Competition for 12-18-year-olds

Few stories are as much fun to write as a good, spine-tingling ghost story. Those that get your readers on the edge of their seats!

This competition is open all year round, and is free to enter.

For more information and details of how to enter, please visit: [Fright Club \(12-18 Year-Olds\) | Young Writers](#)

The logo for 'CAMBRIAN Learning Trust' features the word 'CAMBRIAN' in a large, bold, dark blue serif font. Below it, the tagline 'Nurturing Growth - Inspiring Minds' is written in a smaller, dark blue sans-serif font.