



CLT Academic Enrichment Newsletter **May Break and Term 6, 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.

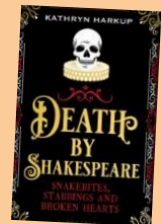
Pam Stokell

Head of Academic Enrichment

Date for your Diary



The Sir Christopher Ricks Talk 2026
“Death by Shakespeare”
with Dr Kathryn Harkup
Wednesday 30th September 2026, 7:00 – 8:30pm
The Beacon, Portway, Wantage.



Shakespeare found dozens of different ways to kill off his characters, but how realistic are these deaths, and did Shakespeare have the knowledge to back them up? This talk turns a scientific eye towards the Bard and the varied and creative ways his characters die. Was death by snakebite as peaceful as Shakespeare makes out? Can you really murder someone by pouring poison in their ear? Find out all this and more in a rollercoaster of Elizabethan carnage, poison, swordplay and bloodshed.

Please set aside Wednesday 30th September for an evening at the Beacon, Wantage. You can reserve your seats by submitting [this form](#) or by emailing pstokell@kas.cambrianlt.org.

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

The Physics Department at the University of Oxford offers you a feast of Public Lectures!



2026 Halley Public Lecture

26 May

5-7pm, Department of Physics and online

AUDIENCE: general public

This year's Halley public lecture will be delivered by Professor Matias Zaldarriaga from the Institute for Advanced Study, USA. His talk is entitled 'Black holes we

didn't expect: puzzles from gravitational wave observations'.

Free admission; no registration required

[2026 Halley public lecture | University of Oxford Department of Physics](#)



Sir Martin Wood Prize Lecture

8 June

2-3pm, Department of Physics

AUDIENCE: general public

This year's Sir Martin Wood Prize Lecture will be delivered by Professor Takamasa Sakai from the University of

Tokyo, Japan. His talk is entitled 'Innovation of gel science based on the creation of homogeneous gels'.

Free admission; registration required. [The Sir Martin Wood Prize Lecture 2026 | University of Oxford Department of Physics](#)



65th Cherwell-Simon Memorial Lecture

12 June

5-6pm, Department of Physics

AUDIENCE: general public

Professor Dorit Aharonov will present the Cherwell-Simon lecture. Her talk is entitled 'The quantum computation revolution and its impact on physics'.

Free admission; registration required. [65th Cherwell Simon](#)

[Lecture | University of Oxford Department of Physics](#)



31st Hintze Public Lecture

16 June

5-6pm, Department of Physics and online

AUDIENCE: general public

The 31st Hintze Public Lecture will be delivered by Professor Duncan Lorimer FRS from West Virginia University, USA. His talk is entitled 'The brightest pulses in

the universe'.

Free admission; no registration required. [31st Hintze Public Lecture: Professor Duncan Lorimer | University of Oxford Department of Physics](#)

The University of Oxford-Brookes have a series of three events coming up, all linked by Gardening. Take a look below!



Microbiome, Gut Health, Gardening and Wellbeing – Screened Documentary and in-person talk

Wednesday 10th June 2026, 6:00 – 8:00pm

John Henry Brookes Lecture Theatre , John Henry Brookes Building, Headington

For more information about this event (FREE), and for details of how to book, please visit: [Microbiome, gut health, gardening and wellbeing - Oxford Brookes University](#)



In Person and Online: Therapeutic Horticulture, Community Gardening and Gardening for Health.

Wednesday 24th June 2026, 6:00 – 8:00pm

Chakrabarti Lecture Theatre (JHB 208), John Henry Brookes Building, Headington

For more information about this event (FREE), and for details of how to book, please visit: [Therapeutic horticulture, community gardening, and gardening for health - Oxford Brookes University](#)



In Person and Online: Gardening as we age – Green and Blue Dementia Care

Wednesday 15th July 2026, 6:00 – 8:00pm

Chakrabarti Lecture Theatre (JHB 208), Headington

For more information about this event (FREE), and for details of how to book, please visit: [Gardening as we age - green and blue dementia care - Oxford Brookes University](#)

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:](#)

[New and Emerging Threats to Plant and Tree Health in the UK | Professor Nicola Spence](#)

[Does Nature Have Rights? An Evening with a Barrister for Earth](#)

[HUMANS | A Monstrous History](#)

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](#)



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: Part 1 How the brain creates a sense of self_ Why don't we understand consciousness?

In this conversation, neuroscientist Anil Seth and author Michael Pollan explore the science and philosophy of conscious experience: how the brain constructs our sense of reality, what it means to have a self, and how far consciousness might extend beyond the human mind into the animal kingdom and the natural

world. [How does your brain create your sense of self? Part 1 with Anil Seth and Michael Pollan](#)



Recorded Talk: Part 2 How the brain creates a sense of self - AI Consciousness

This episode continues the conversation, bringing into the equation the rapidly developing field of Artificial Intelligence. [How does your brain create your sense of self? Part 2 with Anil Seth and Michael Pollan](#)



Recorded Talk: 6000 planets discovered – and we still cannot read their atmospheres

We now know that almost every star in the galaxy hosts a planetary system — over 6,000 exoplanets have been confirmed so far, and counting. But knowing they exist is just the beginning. What are these worlds actually made of? Could any of them support life? [6,000 planets discovered — and we still can't read](#)

[their atmospheres | with Jonathan Tennyson](#)

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 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

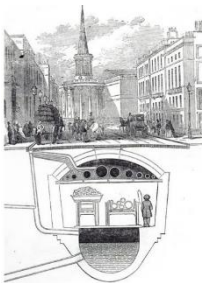
The Ashmolean is the University of Oxford's museum of art and archaeology, founded in 1683. The Museum's world-famous collections range from Egyptian mummies to contemporary art,

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 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](#)



Blog – How Oxford's Sewage Disposal System protects against epidemics
This is a fascinating read by MultakaOxford Volunteer Valerii Malko, a Professor of Philosophy from Ukraine. He starts his blog by saying "The problems of City Sewage were not originally my area of interest". Read on to find out how this unlikely topic captured this professor's imagination. [Oxford's sewage disposal system protects against epidemics | 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](#)

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](#)

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.



Drop-in Event – The Nature Festival

Saturday 27th June, 2026 10am – 5pm

Go along to the Museum to celebrate nature as they host Oxford's Nature Festival. With stalls, talks, walks, films, music and art and craft activities all day, discover how people and organisations are studying, supporting and gaining inspiration from nature across Oxfordshire and beyond. *FREE event. Drop in. No booking required.*

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.



Exhibition: Wonder of Birds

Available until 3rd January 2027

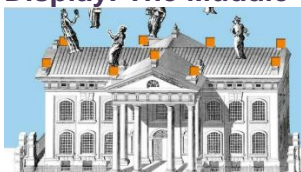
Inspired by *The Book of Birds* by Jackie Morris and Robert Macfarlane, *Wonder of Birds* celebrates the splendour of the birds around us at the same time as recognising the steep decline in bird populations across our skies in recent decades. Following the 'Seven Wonders' of birds – nest, egg, beak, song, feather, flight, migration – this exhibition pairs the words

and art from *The Book of Birds* with Oxford ornithological research and Bodleian collections to explore the beauty and mystery of these extraordinary creatures.

For more information: [Wonder of Birds | Visit the Bodleian Libraries](#)

The Treasury, Weston Library. FREE Exhibition, no booking needed.

Display: The Muddle of the Muses



Available until 4th September 2026

Encounter the muses of history, epic poetry and rhetoric!
Blackwell Hall, Weston Library

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](#)



New Temporary Exhibition:



Lee Miller – a Woman at War

Available until 13th September 2026

Lee Miller (Vogue model, surrealist photographer and war correspondent) worked as a combat photographer with the US Army during the Second World War, creating a unique historical record. [Lee Miller: A Woman at War Exhibition – Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum](#)

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](#)

Section 2. Sites to explore online



Discover Economics in collaboration with Bangor University – Recordings from the Online Conferences

Session 1: Why Prices matter – explore real-world applications of price elasticity of demand, and understand how prices influence behaviour

Session 2: Mind the Rate! – a workshop on interest rates, personal finance, and the impact on everyday decisions

Session 3: Tariffs in Action. Who wins, who loses? – understand how trade tariffs affect consumers, businesses and economies.

You can find all three recordings at [Discover Economics - YouTube](#), as well as the 2025 RES Annual Public Lecture.



For Year 12: St Anne's Supercurricular Club

Thursday 28th June 2026 – Music, Technology and the Human Body

Thursday 4th June 2026 – Building Evolutionary Trees

This webinar is part of [St Anne's Supercurricular Club](#) - a series of online seminars aimed at students in Year 12 (or equivalent) 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) every Thursday from 16 April to 4 June 2026. [St Anne's Supercurricular Club 26](#)



Recorded Talk: Nature or Nourishment? Balancing biodiversity conservation and food security

Professor Deepa Senapathi delivered a lively and thought-provoking public talk exploring the urgent challenges facing wildlife, ecosystems and global food systems. The discussion brought to life the pressures of climate change, biodiversity loss and rising agricultural demand, while questioning the common assumption that protecting nature and feeding people are competing goals. Drawing on research from the UK, Europe and South India, Professor Senapathi highlighted how farmers and policymakers are using nature-friendly farming methods to support the beneficial insects that are vital to food production. She also emphasised the importance of developing solutions that reflect local environmental and agricultural contexts.

[Nature or Nourishment? | University of Reading Public Lecture](#)

Curious to see what a University Department of Computer Science is like?

Although this is a tour of just one department at one university, it is fairly typical of most university department for this subject. So take a look: [Oxford University Department of Computer Science tour](#)



Outrage and Optimism – a climate change podcast that explores the issues from a range of perspectives

Over 300 episodes exploring a huge range of topics, from the economics of climate finance to the health emergency hiding in rising sea levels. [Browse All Outrage + Optimism Episodes | Climate Change Podcast](#)



Take a peek: The National Gallery – explore the work of Zurbarán, a giant in the history of Spanish Art

Francisco Zurbarán was one of the greatest painters of Baroque Seville. This video gives you a taste of his work, as well as a look at some of the Exhibition's highlights. And if you can get to London before the 23rd August, the full exhibition is

available at the National Gallery (free to under 18s).

[Zurbarán | Exhibitions | National Gallery, London](#)



Meet the Medic Online Webinars - For students in Years 10 to 13 interested in Medicine

Have you ever wondered what it is really like to be a doctor in London? Our interactive webinar series brings medicine to life.

'Meet the Medic' will have a different medical professional each month sharing their specialism, career path and day-to-day life as a doctor - and answering your questions live.

IN May, the webinar series are joined by Dr Caroline Scott-Lang sharing stories from her time working with young people and their families in paediatrics. Sign up, and also visit the website to view recorded webinars at: [Find out more and register to take part on our Webinar Series page.](#)



Online Talks: International Women in Engineering Week 2026

22nd – 26th June 2026

This is a series of five talks, hosted by the University of Oxford to celebrate this week.

The talks are aimed at students in Years 10 -12, but all are welcome and you can attend as many or as few talks as you wish.

The first of the talks will be from individual female Oxford University postgraduate students, currently working on projects and research within the Engineering Science Department. Check the website for more information as the talks are finalised.

To register, please go to [Oxford University International Women in Engineering week 2026 | Jisc Online Surveys](#)



PODCAST - Book at Lunchtime: a series of book discussions from TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities)
There are over 80 episodes, each dealing with a book in one of the huge range of topics that falls under the umbrella of the “Humanities”. From History to Economics, Politics to Philosophy. Each episode involves a conversation between experts with different perspectives on the topic.
A great way of exploring a book prior to reading it, or to add to your bank of activities for your personal statement.

[Book at Lunchtime: Unseen City](#)



Evening Event: Einstein at Oxford – an evening of music and conversation

Thursday 18th June 2026, 5:00 – 6:00pm

Trinity College (Levine Building), Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BH

Einstein’s love of music made him see the world differently. He once said that he often thought in music.

Andrew Robinson’s book *Einstein in Oxford* encapsulates this rich complexity: the scientific genius who loved playing his violin; the logical mind who saw the inner beauty of the universe in Mozart’s music but mocked Oxford’s ceremonial splendour; the celebrity who spurned the trappings of fame.

For more information and booking details, please go to: [Einstein in Oxford: Thinking in Music | History of Science Museum](#). Tickets are priced at £5.

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.



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.



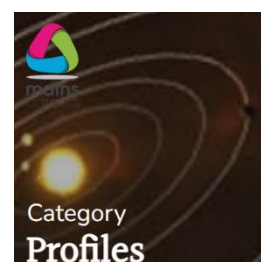
The Cambridge Physics Centre Sixth Form Lectures

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?**



Black Hole Hunters

In *Black Hole Hunters*, we're asking you to help us find some of the Milky Way galaxy's millions of missing black holes. Using data from the TESS satellite, we'd like you to look at graphs of how the brightness of stars changes over time, looking for an effect called *gravitational microlensing*. This lensing effect can indicate that a massive object passed in front of a star – its gravity bending

and focusing the star's light – and we hope to use this to uncover the existence of otherwise invisible black holes.

All we need you to do is look at some simple graphs and tell us if you see anything that looks like a distinctive peak-like shape. These graphs are called *light curves*, and they show how bright a particular star was each time it was measured. We're looking for times when a star suddenly gets brighter for a while and then goes back to normal. This could signal the presence of a Black Hole.

For more information and to get started, visit [Black Hole Hunters | Zooniverse - People-powered research](#)



Iguanas from Above

By using drones to survey the marine iguana populations on the Galapagos Islands, we can collect high quality images from which iguanas can be counted at a later stage. This means we survey much faster and don't need to physically visit all the colonies. And because we can send the drones from boats, we can do this work with minimal disturbance to the delicate wildlife of

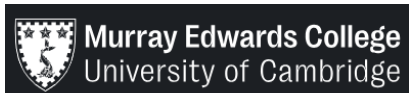
the islands.

Through this work, we collect a huge number of images, and it would take our small team a long time to do all the counting. This is why we are asking for your help through our project on Zooniverse. By joining in, you are making an incredibly valuable contribution to preserving the unique wildlife of the Galapagos Islands.

For more information and to get started, visit [Research | Iguanas from Above | 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.

Y12 Shared Ground - Girton College, Cambridge

This is a brand-new programme open to **students in the UK in Year 12**.

The programme consists of 3 webinars, resulting in **a residential for selected students at Girton College, 24-26 August 2026**. Successful students will have the opportunity to take part in academic lectures, visit museums across Cambridge, and present at a symposium (a mini conference!).

This programme explores the varied perspectives taken on how to most effectively harbour a relationship with our environment. Now more than ever, students should be expanding their skillset to become adaptable to the ever-changing conversations around our planet, through science, linguistics, geography, literature, and engineering. Shared Ground works with students to build and practise those skills, mapping them onto real examples for the upcoming Cambridge admissions process:

- How to critically read texts
- Advice on how to find super-curricular resources
- Tips on understanding reading lists
- What is an abstract, and how do I write one?
- Q&A with current Cambridge students

Registrations are open now and close on 1 June -

https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bvJr9PI0lypBWhE. Further information can be found on our website - [Upcoming Outreach Events | Girton College](#).



Y12 Medic Mentoring Scheme - Emmanuel College, Cambridge

Taking place between July and December, the Medic Mentoring Scheme is open to Yr 12s attending state-maintained schools in the UK

who are applying for medical courses at UK universities including Oxford and Cambridge. Applications close on 17th June.

Participants will have an account set up for them on our e-platform and will be paired with a current clinical medic at Emmanuel. Through more formal interactions via our webinar series and more informal interactions with a mentor via the e-platform, the scheme aims to help guide participants through the application process and prepare them to make competitive applications.

Webinars will cover:

- Introduction to the Scheme and Approaching the UCAT
- Writing a Personal Statement for Medicine (led by an Admissions Tutor)
- Approaching Cambridge Medicine Interviews (led by an Admissions Tutor)
- Participants will also receive:
 - Written feedback from their mentor on a personal statement draft
 - A mock interview

The entire programme is free of charge. More information and the form to apply can be found [here](#).



St Hugh's Connect Programme – supporting your application to a high tariff University

Although this series is already under way, there are still four webinars out of five still to come. These are informal Q&A sessions.

29th May – Preparing a competitive Oxbridge application

12th June – how to make the most of your supercurricular activities in your personal statement

26th June – writing a strong personal statement for a high-tariff university

17th July – preparing for admissions tests

For more information and to register, please go to [Connect - Online Q&As with Student Ambassadors - St Hugh's College](#)

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

“I have a Passion for Numbers”

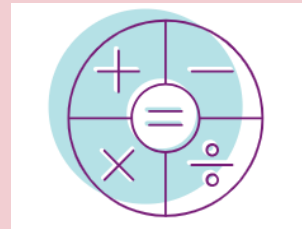
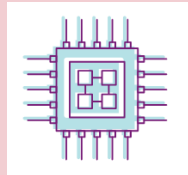
If you love numbers, then there are many pathways open to you. Explore the following four subjects:

[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.

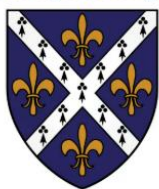


The Woolf Essay Prize 2026

Newnham College is very proud of its place in the history of women’s education, and they are delighted in the continuation of the Woolf Essay Prize. *A Room of One’s*

Own, which emerged as a result of a talk at the College, raises a number of questions surrounding the place of women in society, culture, and education. This competition allows students to contemplate these themes and ideas while developing the independent research and writing skills essential to university-level study. For more information, details of the Essay Questions and how to submit your entries, please visit: [Woolf Essay Prize 2026 | Newnham College](#)

St Hugh’s College



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**



Year 11-13 Entrepreneurship Essay Competition - King's College, Cambridge

The 2026 Entrepreneurship Essay Competition, run by the King's Entrepreneurship Lab (E Lab) at

King's College, University of Cambridge, is now open to UK students in Years 11–13. The competition is free to enter and designed to encourage students from all backgrounds to explore entrepreneurial thinking and consider higher education pathways.

Students are invited to submit a 1,000-word essay in response to one of four questions:

- How do personal experiences and social context shape entrepreneurial thinking?
- Can failure be a strength in entrepreneurship?
- What responsibilities do entrepreneurs have beyond profit?
- How do constraints shape entrepreneurial creativity?

We are especially keen to reach students who may not traditionally see themselves as “entrepreneurial” or who have not previously considered applying to Oxbridge. The competition welcomes students from all subject backgrounds and encourages the use of local, community based, or personal examples.

Key details:

- Deadline: 5 August 2026 (9pm)
- Prizes: £1,500 (winner), £750 (two runners-up)
- Additional recognition: Shortlisted/Highly Commended certificates
- Prize-giving: King's College, Cambridge (December 2026)

Full details (including essay guidance and past winning entries) can be found here: [Essay Competition — King's Entrepreneurship Lab](#)



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>

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.

ilm 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](#)



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' features the word 'CAMBRIAN' in a large, bold, dark blue, sans-serif font.

Nurturing Growth - Inspiring Minds

