



CLT Academic Enrichment Newsletter Summer Break 2025-26

Dear Students (and Parents/Carers),

Welcome to Summer issue of the Academic Enrichment Newsletter for the school year 2025/26. As with previous issues, most items that have been previously promoted 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](#)

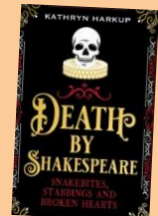
Once again, I strongly recommend taking a look at the Competition Corner as entering academic competitions is an excellent way of developing your Academic Portfolio. Not only do they help you to build on your academic skills beyond the classroom but, for our older students, they are great for "trying out" a subject that you may be considering for a degree. It can help you to decide whether or not you like the subject enough for this, and will also provide you with "gold dust" material for your application, as well as developing your academic skills in preparation. 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



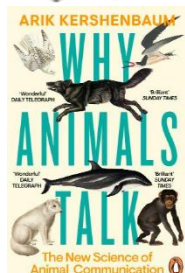
The Sir Christopher Ricks Talk 2026
"Death by Shakespeare"
with Dr Kathryn Harkup
Wednesday 30th September 2026, 6:30:00 – 8:00pm
The Beacon, Portway, Wantage.



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? Was death by snakebite as peaceful as Shakespeare makes out? Could lack of sleep have killed Lady Macbeth? Can you really murder someone by pouring poison in their ear? This talk turns a scientific eye towards the Bard and the varied and creative ways his characters die. Kathryn investigates what actual events may have inspired Shakespeare, what the accepted scientific knowledge of the time was, and how Elizabethan audiences would have responded to these death scenes.

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



Livestream: Why Animals Talk... and can we translate what they say?

Thursday 16th July 2026, 13:00 – 14:00

This thought-provoking talk from Dr Arik Kershenbaum challenges the idea that animal communication is a simplistic version of human communication. Instead, this talk will explore the idea that animals may experience and interpret meaning in ways very different from linguistic humans. This talk also questions whether traditional measures such as “complexity” are useful indicators of language-like systems, and considers how meaning is conveyed in communication signals that are graded, as seen in dolphins and wolves.

If this grabs your interest, check out one of the projects from Zooniverse highlighted in this issue, which deals with behaviour and communications in dolphins.

This talk is FREE and there is no need to book in advance. Visit the website [Why animals talk...and can we translate what they say? | Sainsbury Laboratory](#) for more details and the link to attend online.



Autumn Chemistry Conference

Thursday 24th September, 2026 16:00 – 18:00

In-person places are now fully booked, but you can still attend online!

The University of Oxford’s seventh Autumn Chemistry Conference will be held on Thursday 24th September 16.00 18.00 BST at the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, Department of Chemistry (and streamed online). Open to students studying A-level Chemistry and their teachers and parents/carers interested in finding out more about the cutting-edge research happening in the field of chemistry. (Younger students are more than welcome to attend however please be aware this conference is aimed at A

Level students.)

Students are welcome to attend in-person unaccompanied by a teacher provided that they are aged 16 or over on the day of the event and have provided emergency contact details. Priority will be given to local state schools. There will also be optional tours which will include an Oxford College and the department’s brand-new self-guided chemistry-focused tour of the Ashmolean Museum (timed-entry applies), created in partnership with the Ashmolean Museum. All tours will run from around 12:00 - 15:15. More information about the speakers and booking can be found at [Autumn Chemistry Conference 2026 | Department of Chemistry](#).

The final talk in a series on gardening-related topics from The University of Oxford-Brookes.



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:](#)

[The Amphibious Hearing of Pinnipeds | James Rule](#) (Pinnipeds are seals, sea lions, etc.)

[Underground Dragonflies | Ruary Mackenzie Dodds](#)

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

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](#)



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.)

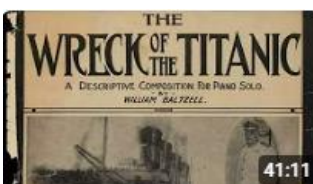


The Royal Institution YouTube Channel holds an archive of their lectures (about an hour long each), but if you are running short of time, you can also find a series of "Ri Shorts" at [\(181\) Ri Shorts - YouTube](#) which are short video talks about 10 minutes long,

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: Why is Science the gateway to History?

In this conversation, a panel of specialists in AI, digital reconstruction and scientific investigation discuss how science and technology can be used to reveal new truths about human history and the ancient past. [Why is science the gateway to history? | The Royal Society](#)



Recorded Talk: Why do Animals Sing?

Many animals use complex, rhythmic and melodic sounds in communication, territorial defence or mating calls, from birds to whales, and from frogs to insects. In this conversation, a panel of experts reveal the magic of sound and music in the natural world. [Why do animals sing? | The Royal Society](#)



Recorded Talk: Feeding the World without costing the Earth

Food production does more damage to wild species than any other sector of human activity, yet how best to limit its growing impact is greatly contested. Looking first at recent progress in encouraging less damaging diets and trying to cut food loss and waste, Professor Balmford will conclude that both are essential but far from sufficient. This talk promotes the way forward as collaboration between conservation and agriculture as essential to bend the curve of biodiversity loss. [Feeding the world without costing the earth | The Royal Society](#)

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 \(riqib.org\)](#)

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



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: Space, Time and Shakespeare



I was delighted to find this recent talk from the Mathematical Institute, as it fits in so very well with our upcoming Sir Christopher Ricks talk! (see front page).

It also gives you a wonderful insight into the mind of a mathematician!

Shakespeare's work provides a snapshot of how people made sense of the world around them: how they solved problems (e.g. how large is an opposing army?) and how they navigated a complex environment (does the sun rise in the east?)

In this talk, Paul Glendinning explores how scientific and technological ideas are woven in to Shakespeare's plays and sonnets through action, words, and conversations between characters. [Space, time and Shakespeare - Paul Glendinning](#)

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.



The Ashmolean Festival of Archaeology

Saturday 18th July, 2026 11:00am – 4:00pm

This is a FREE drop-in event, and there is no need to book in advance. It's on the first Saturday after we break up from school, so an excellent way to get the Summer break off to a super start.

With demonstrations, workshops, activities, crafts and mini tours, there is something for all ages.



Story from the Ashmolean: the quiet genius of Gwen John

In this story (there is one for every month), Ashmolean curator Eliza Goodpasture explores the life and legacy of Gwen John, marking the 150th anniversary of the celebrated artist's birth through the Museum's collection of her work.

[GWEN JOHN'S QUIET GENIUS | Ashmolean Museum](#)

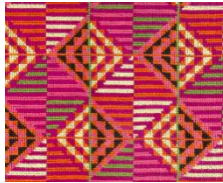
You can find past stories at [STORIES | Ashmolean Museum](#). All are short articles, about 5-6 minutes to read, and feature a range of topics, from the History of the Olympics to the Changing face of Money.

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](#)

The Pitt Rivers Museum – a wonderfully eclectic museum.



Online Exhibition – Palestine: Pieces of Me

This collaborative online exhibition highlights the message of Sumud (steadfastness) through objects of everyday life, dabke dance and embroidery/

[Palestine: Pieces of Me | Pitt Rivers Museum](#)



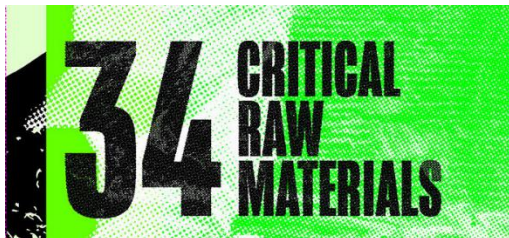
New trail through the Exhibits – With these Hands

This new museum trail contains nine stops, across all three floors, and was created to share an insight into the way people craft and make beautiful objects in different cultures. This trail was created as part of [Multaka-Oxford](#). You can download the trail here: [with-these-hands-trail-map.pdf](#)

For a list of some of their current exhibitions and events already published in previous issues, 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.



New Main Exhibition; 34 Critical Raw Materials

Available until 13th April 2027

We use raw materials extracted from the earth in almost all of our technology, from smartphones to jet engines. These technologies, and the materials that make them, are critical to our ability to survive and thrive as societies. Global demand for these materials is growing rapidly as a result of our transition to green

energy and increased reliance on digital technologies. Science and industry are urgently seeking more ethical and sustainable ways to mine vital raw materials, use them more efficiently, and recycle them effectively.

We hear about critical raw materials almost every day in our news feeds, but how do they actually fit into our lives? What are they? Why do we need them? Where do we get them from? And how will we get them in the future? Find out more at: [34: The critical raw materials shaping our future | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)

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.



Display: The Muddle of the Muses

Available until 4th September 2026

Encounter the muses of history, epic poetry and rhetoric!

Blackwell Hall, Weston Library

Wander into the Weston Library to meet the Muses, which usually sit atop the Clarendon Building. These are the Muses of History (Clio), Epic Poetry (Calliope) and Rhetoric (Polyhymnia). (The Clarendon Building is that imposing 18th Century neoclassical building next to the Bodleian Library and the Sheldonian Theatre.) Don't miss the chance to see these sculptures at eye-level and discover the intriguing story behind their conservation.

You can find more of their Exhibitions and events (published in previous issues) 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](#)



Exhibition: Capturing Conflict: Tools of the War Correspondent

This fascinating exhibition explores the strategies and working tools of war correspondents through the ages, highlighting the risks that these brave journalists are willing to undertake to record and report the events of war.

You will find this exhibition on the Landing Gallery (First Floor).

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. Their 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



Corpus Christ College Masterclasses

If you are looking for subject tasters or just seeking to explore your passion and develop greater context within your subjects, the Corpus Christi

Masterclasses are for you! From Mediaeval Magic

(History Section) to Making Drugs and Nano Materials (Chemistry Section), there is a great deal to explore. Lots of other subjects and topics available!

[2022 Masterclasses Media Collection | Corpus Christi College University of Cambridge](#)

The Physics Department at the University of Oxford offers you some great recorded talks for you to watch any time!



Destination: Space - a series of recorded talks

If you have an interest in Space, then this series of talks from the Department of Physics at Oxford is just for you.

From exploring whether there might be water on the moon,

or the possibility of alien life, there is much here to whet your astronomic appetite!

[Would We Lie To You \(About Space\)?](#)



School QM Seminars

Also from the Oxford Department of Physics, a series of four seminars, including Frontiers in Computing and Quantum Magnetism. For anyone taking GCSE or A Level Physics and looking to extend their understanding of Physics and how it interacts with other sciences (including computing!).

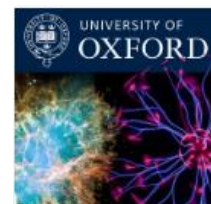
[QM Seminars - YouTube##](#)

Lectures from the Department of Physics

This is a treasure trove of talks on many different aspects of Physics, most of which are accessible to GCSE level students and beyond, and all are relevant to A Level students seeking to broaden their understanding of the subject.

Well worth exploring!

[Physics | University of Oxford Podcasts](#)



St Anne's Supercurricular Club talks 2025

Although this year's St Anne's Supercurricular club is now finished for the school year, you can find all of the talks from the 2025 club available here. From Exploring Fractals to How to Read a Mediaeval Poem, you will find a talk for a wide range of

interests. Well worth taking a look! Scroll down the page to find them. [St Anne's Supercurricular Club | St Anne's College, Oxford](#)



Podcast – Costing the Earth

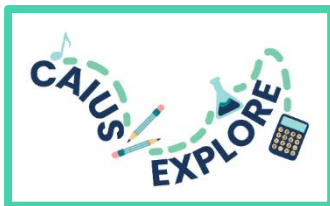
This is a brilliant podcast for all students interested in Physical Geography, Conservation and the Environment. There are over 400 episodes, with fresh ideas from the sharpest minds working towards a cleaner, greener planet.

[BBC Radio 4 - Costing the Earth](#)



World Mapper

This is a fantastic collection of world maps called cartograms, where territories are resized on each map according to different subjects (e.g. CO₂ emissions per capita; Earthquakes; Nobel Prize Winners; Lentil Production; and dozens more). The cartograms give you an insight into the workings of the world in a most unusual way. worldmapper.org



Caius Explore - A fantastic resource for supercurricular exploration!

This is a fantastic source of about 30 open-ended tasks across all subjects, including some not taught at school (e.g. architecture, medicine, archaeology, etc.).

The tasks are designed to encourage students to develop their supercurricular interests and/or to develop greater context for their

school subjects.

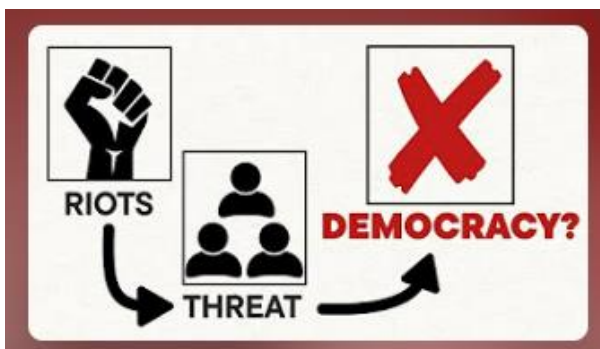
And if they are in Year 12, they can submit their entries (deadline of 26th July) and a Cambridge lecturer will review their entry and provide them with some feedback. The feedback is the prize, but Caius College will also pick their favourite entries and invite them to the college for a meal and tour, etc. in September.

What they are looking for is

- (a) creativity of thought and
- (b) obvious enjoyment of the task shining through.

Some of the tasks are for essays only, but there are many who also accept audio recordings or videos, so take your pick!

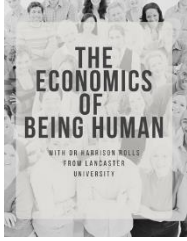
[Caius Explore | Gonville & Caius.](#)



Video Series: Can Riots Lead to Democracy?

In partnership with CAGE, *Discover Economics* has released a new video exploring how economics helps us understand the world around us and tackle some of society's biggest challenges. The video introduces key economic ideas in an engaging and accessible way, making it a great resource for students considering studying economics further. You can watch the video on Riots and Democracy here: [Can riots really lead to democracy?](#)

And you can find other videos in the playlist here: [School Series \(in association with Discover Economics\) - YouTube](#)



Springpod Subject Spotlight: The Economics of Being Human

If you are wondering what studying Economics at University might be like, Dr Harrison Rolls of the University of Lancaster has put together a course of four episodes exploring experimental and behavioural economics.

It's totally free.

[Economics University Taster | Springpod](#)

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?**



We Cam Coexist

The Wolf Conservation Centre Integrative Ecology & Coexistence Lab (WCC-IECL) conducts research to support the development of nonlethal, community-centred management practices for wolves and coyotes. *We Cam Coexist* is currently helping us learn about coyote life in the northeastern and southern United States. Using trail cameras deployed at various parks, we can estimate

the density and behaviour of eastern coyotes and their wild neighbours, including deer and foxes. The Centre also conduct wildlife surveys to understand how people feel about their local coyotes. By integrating the ecology data with the surveys, the WCC can build an approach to support positive human-wildlife relationships. For more information and to get started, visit [We Cam Coexist | Zooniverse - People-powered research](#)



Spiral Graph: Cluster Buster

Scientists can infer a lot about spiral galaxies by simply measuring the shapes of their arms. In [Spiral Graph](#) (a previous project on the Zooniverse platform also led by this research team) volunteers like you helped by marking the spiral arms on images of galaxies. More than 8,400 volunteers identified and traced

the spiral arms on more than 20,000 galaxy images. We have now built an algorithm that clusters, or groups, these tracings together to indicate the individual spiral arms for a galaxy, but it is not always correct. This project needs your help to look at the results of the clustering and to tell the researchers if the algorithm was successful or not so that they can improve its accuracy.

For more information and to get started, visit [Spiral Graph: Cluster Buster | 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.



GBIF- the Global Biodiversity Information Facility

This huge database holds information on a large range of biodiversity issues, from population sizes and distribution, to journal citations and other resources. It is an extremely valuable research tool!

Find out more at: [GBIF](#)

Kew Gardens: the Digital Collection is now live

An extensive project to digitise the Kew Gardens Collections, which comprise over 7 million specimens of plants and fungi, is finally opening its Data Portal to the public. You can access millions of specimens for free, including those that go back centuries. [Digitising Kew's Collections | Kew](#)

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 or on a L5-7 Apprenticeship. [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.



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.

There is one last session, just as we break up for the

Summer.

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](#)

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.



Wainwright Fund

The Near Eastern Archaeology Ancient Object Biography Competition – open to Years 10-13

With not much time left till the deadline, it’s just as well that this competition only requires 150 – 300 words.

You need to write a biography of an ancient object from either the Middle East or North Africa (the website gives guidance on this), and there are prompts to help you structure your information. Your best bet for our area is to visit the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford!

Deadline: 12 noon on Friday 31st July 2026.

For more information and details of how to submit your entry, please visit: [Wainwright Fund Ancient Object Biography Competition 2026 | Wainwright Fund](#)



The Stephen Spender Translation Prize 2026 Open to Years 7 up to 13

The Stephen Spender Prize is an annual competition for poetry in translation that celebrates creativity. The competition welcomes translations from all languages, as well as a special Spotlight strand that focuses on a different widely spoken language. The spotlight language this year is Polish.

The rules are simple: translate into English any poem from any language, and produce an accompanying creative response. For more information and details of how to submit your entry, please visit: [Stephen Spender Prize – Stephen Spender Trust](#)

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**



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. 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?

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>



[Month - Into Film](#)

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](#)



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](#)

