

King Alfred's Academy
Academic Enrichment Newsletter
Christmas and Term 3, 2023-24



Dear Students (and Parents/Carers),

Welcome to the Academic Enrichment Newsletter for the Christmas Break and Term 3! There are so many opportunities for our students to continue to nurture their intellectual curiosity and independent learning!

For ease of navigation and to avoid repetition, and as most institutions are now offering a mix of both in-person and online events, the Newsletter is divided into three sections:

(a) [Events and Exhibitions](#) organised by Institutions such as Museums and Academic Bodies – in-person events and online events will be clearly signposted.

(b) [Websites to explore](#)

(c) [The Competition Corner](#)

Do make a note of our forthcoming KAAEP Talk (see box below).

The Academic Enrichment Newsletter is part of the work of the Academic Enrichment Programme (AEP) at King Alfred's, and its aim is to share with the whole school 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

KAAEP Talk: "Understanding Bushman Rock Art in Southern Africa", with Professor Peter Mitchell of St Hugh's College, Oxford
Thursday 25th January, 2024. 6:30 – 8:00pm
King Alfred's Sixth Form Auditorium



[Professor Peter Mitchell](#) specialises in African Archaeology – especially that of Southern Africa during the Later Stone Age – as well as the archaeology of hunter-gatherer communities.

Peter will give us an overview of Archaeology as a subject, and will then talk to us about some of his amazing research into the Rock Art of Stone Age Southern Africa.



I would encourage **all** our students curious to find out more about it to come along this evening, as Archaeology (like Anthropology) is one of those wonderful multi-disciplinary subjects that mix the study of Humanities with those of the Social, Biological and Physical Sciences.

Yes, if you love both the Humanities and the Sciences, then you don't have to choose between them! Archaeology might be just what you are looking for.

If you would like to book your seats, please go to <https://forms.office.com/r/tLL1argH2g>, or email Pam Stokell at pstokell@ka.vale-academy.org.

Exhibitions and Events (both in person and/or Livestreamed) from Museums and other Academic Bodies

The University of Newcastle's Holmes Lectures, for Years 7-9



Researchers from **Newcastle University's** Faculty of Medical Sciences and School of Computing are delivering Holmes Lectures for **10–14-year-olds** on the theme of Humans vs Artificial Intelligence.

Lectures take place on **Wednesday 17 and Wednesday 24 January 2024**. Find out more and

book your place [here](#). You will also be able to access lectures from previous years, including a series on keeping healthy with sports and food.



Oxford Brookes University Science Bazaar

Saturday 3rd February, 2024 11:30am – 4:00pm

This event is open to all. Fun for all the family and most suitable for 5-16 years.

Visit the Headington Campus to meet the University staff, students, and partner organisations, explore the many interactive stands, listen to talks, learn something new, and to get stuck into a load of activities!

There is also an earlier autism-friendly opening.

For more details and to book your tickets, please visit the website page at: [Science Bazaar - 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!

[One-Way Mirror in the Room: How Language Barriers Impede Conservation | Tatsuya Amano \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Is Natural Selection a Team Sport? | Jonathan Silvertown \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Parasites in Biodiversity Conservation: Friend or Foe? | Joshua Brian \(youtube.com\)](#)

[The Hidden World of Parasites | Beth Okamura \(youtube.com\)](#)

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.)



Recorded Talk: What is Generative AI and how does it work?

Join Mirella Lapata as she outlines how technologies such as ChatGPT are created, and what the future holds for AI models. You can watch it here: [\(3\) What is generative AI and how does it work? – The Turing Lectures with Mirella Lapata - YouTube](#)



Recorded Talk: What are the risks of Generative AI?

Are generative AI models moving too fast for regulation to keep up? Will the development of generative AI outpace our ability to ensure their responsible use? In this lecture, Mhairi Aitken examines what this means for online and offline safety and discuss how society might be able to mitigate these risks.

[\(3\) What are the risks of generative AI? - The Turing Lectures with Mhairi Aitken - YouTube](#)



Recorded Talk: How does Materials Science affect our lives?

What's the science behind everyday materials like glass, plastic, steel, and sugar? And how can you make a chocolate trumpet? Find out with Anna's demo-packed talk.

As a materials scientist, Anna has turned to storytelling to communicate her work in new and engaging ways. Through her stories and demos, you'll see materials in a whole new

way. [\(3\) How does materials science affect our lives? – with Anna Ploszajski - YouTube](#)

And did you know – the Ri has a Podcast!

Ri Science 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 \(rigb.org\)](#)

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.



Explore in Person

The Main Exhibition at the Ashmolean - Colour Revolution: Victorian Art, Fashion and Design

Open now until the 18th February 2024



Somehow, most of us have an idea of Victorian Britain as somewhat monochrome, dull and strait-laced. This exhibition will lead you to rediscover Victorian society as a vibrant colour-filled era – from dazzling dyes used in chic corsets, bold experiments by avant-garde painters, and the flamboyant use of nature's beauty in jewellery.

To book your tickets and find out more, please visit: [COLOUR](#)

[REVOLUTION: VICTORIAN ART, FASHION & DESIGN EXHIBITION | Ashmolean Museum](#)

Please note: this exhibition has timed tickets, and the tickets are priced at £12.25, with concessions down to £6 for a 12-17-year-old child, and free entry for children under 12.

Explore in Person:

A few of the Free Exhibitions and displays at the Ashmolean:

(Please note: although entry to all of these exhibitions is FREE, it is advisable to book a free general admission ticket in advance. Please book your tickets at: [EXHIBITIONS | Ashmolean Museum](#))



Ashmolean Now: Flora Yukhnovich and Daniel Crews-Chubb

Available until 14th January 2024

Ashmolean NOW is an Exhibition series where contemporary artists are invited to create new work inspired by the Ashmolean's historical collections. The first exhibition is dedicated to contemporary painting. It juxtaposes the work of two London-based painters, Flora Yukhnovich and Daniel Crews-Chubb. You can find out more at: [ASHMOLEAN NOW: FLORA YUKHNOVICH x DANIEL CREWS-CHUBB | Ashmolean Museum](#)
Gallery 8



Fashioning Bodies in the Ancient World

Available until 8th May 2024

This display explores disability themes in the Ancient World, and is part of the Disability History Month and the Curating for Change Programme.
Ancient Middle East Gallery



Kabuki Legends

Available until 4th February 2024

Japanese artist **Takahashi Hiromitsu** creates dynamic, colourful prints showing exciting moments in kabuki, Japan's traditional dance-drama. Hiromitsu's striking designs are not portraits of actual actors, but visualisations of famous kabuki roles.

Gallery 29



Fang Lijun: Portraits and Porcelain

Available until 14th April 2024

This exhibition celebrates more than 100 artworks by the contemporary Chinese artist **Fang Lijun**, on loan from his studios in Beijing and Jingdezhen and from private collections. It showcases Fang's paintings and drawings, and also ceramics produced in the last five years.

Gallery 11

Upcoming events at the Ashmolean:

There are also a number of events. Many of the talks are available both in person and online. DO take a look and see if there is something to tickle your interest at: [EVENTS | Ashmolean Museum](#) (This is one of those websites that is worth keeping an eye on as interesting events come up on a regular basis.)



FAMILY EVENT

10 Feb

Drop-in Weekend Event: One World Family Festival 2024

Weekend of 10th and 11th February 2024, 11:00 – 4:30pm both days

Celebrate the many communities and faiths of Oxfordshire through a dazzling array of activities, performances, talks and crafts for all ages.

From a Japanese tea ceremony to a Jewish musical medley and Nepalese dancing to Islamic calligraphy, there's something for

everyone at this fantastic weekend festival.

Go along for drop-in events across the whole Museum.

Explore at Home

Dive into the Ashmolean's Collection of Short Story Videos

This is a great collection of *short* snippets that reveal more about some of the recent exhibitions, as well as some of the hidden stories behind some of the items in the Collections. Stimulating and thought-provoking. Do take a look!

[STORIES | Ashmolean Museum](#)

Have you looked at the Home Learning Section?

Ideal for KS3 exploration on a rainy day! Here you will find videos, short articles, photographs and things to make and do, on topics from Ancient Egypt to the Anglo Saxons, as well as jigsaw puzzles, Animal Crossing characters, and art and craft activities to do at home.

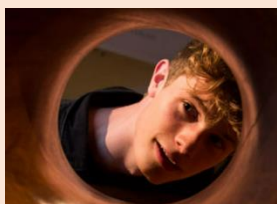
[HOME LEARNING | Ashmolean Museum](#)



And if you are inspired to see more, then browse through the Ashmolean's Treasures

You might retort that the whole of the Ashmolean Museum is filled with Treasures, so these items that are especially selected as the Museum's Treasures must have great significance indeed, possibly because of their rarity, or the place they held at the time. Do take a look, and then maybe head over to the Museum to see them for real!

[TREASURES | Ashmolean Museum](#)



Explore online:
The Ashmolean for Young People

This is a great section to explore, with advice on the sorts of careers that you find within a museum (you might be surprised!!), as well as challenges and other activities to try out at home.

[YOUNG PEOPLE | Ashmolean Museum](#)



From the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

Exhibition: The Art of British War Comics

Available until 30th April, 2024

An exciting exhibition looking at the comics that portrayed the war during the War and in the years following. It's a great exhibition to consider the biases and messages that were being promoted to (predominantly) younger people during this time.



Recorded Online Talks

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum has amassed a fantastic collection of recorded talks, with titles including *The Secret Life of Ian Fleming*; *The Pegasus Bridge Story* and *T.E. Lawrence: the Unconventional Warrior*. You can find all three series of talks here:

[Online Talks – Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum](#)



Step into the Pitt Rivers Museum

Step into the Pitt Rivers and it is like stepping back in time, into a Museum ages past, where exhibits from all over the world crowd in on you from all sides. But the Pitt Rivers is totally modern in its outlook and seeks to represent the world in all its wonder and diversity. Booking is now only needed if you are attending a special event with limited numbers.

Explore in Person

In addition to the permanent Exhibitions, do take a look at some of the current temporary exhibitions and displays at the Pitt Rivers:

Special Exhibition: Unmasked – Spirit in the City

Available until 7th January 2024



'Masquerade is a public spectacle based on disguise. In the ethnographic museum, masks are presented as if they reveal the mysteries of a culture and its cosmology. But masking has always been current, reflecting the times in which it is performed, and the landscapes - including cities - that masked spirits encounter.

This is what *Unmasked: spirit in the city* investigates. This show combines anthropology and contemporary art to capture the complex emotional stories behind a modern urban masquerade called Agaba. To find out more: [Unmasked: Spirit in the City | Pitt Rivers Museum \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

In addition, you can watch the film of the making of the Agaba Mask at [Agaba Mask Carving by Tonye Agala - YouTube](#)



Display: Native American Portraiture by Shane Balkowitsch

Available until 3rd March 2024

The photographs in this, the first UK exhibition of American ambrotypist Shane Balkowitsch's work, have been selected from a recent acquisition by the Pitt Rivers Museum of forty original plates.

Balkowitsch has set out to create one thousand portraits of Native American people using this historical wet plate photographic process, and to collaborate closely with each sitter on their photographs.

To find out more, visit: [Collaborating with the past | Pitt Rivers Museum \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://ox.ac.uk/pitt-rivers-museum/exhibitions/collaborating-with-the-past)



Na Mele o Hula Kahiko

Available until 24th April 2024

Find out more about how the tradition of Hula is centred within the Hawaiian landscape and ecosystem, through this display that includes a stunning quilt depicting Hula motifs.

Display Case C.95.A (Ground Floor Court)



Mo'olelo of the Ahupua'a

Available until March 2025

Encounter Hawaiian stories of living, working, playing and learning within a sustainable landscape through this display of paintings by Solomon Enos on the first floor of the museum.

Didcot Case (Lower Gallery)



His Dark Materials – Trail around the Museum

If you are a fan of Phillip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*, and you watched the BBC HBO TV series, then do pop along to the Pitt Rivers as, dotted all around the galleries, you will find props from the series. To find out more, visit: [His Dark Materials | Pitt Rivers Museum \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://ox.ac.uk/pitt-rivers-museum/exhibitions/his-dark-materials)



Online Archive: Curious about some of the Past Pitt Rivers Exhibitions that you may have missed?

You will find many of the past exhibitions here: [Past exhibitions | Pitt Rivers Museum \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://ox.ac.uk/pitt-rivers-museum/exhibitions)

Pitt Youth Action Team



Are you wondering what goes on behind the scenes at a vibrant Museum such as the Pitt Rivers? The Pitt Youth Action Team are a group of like-minded young people – typically aged between 16 and 19 – who meet at the Museum once a month. They are offered opportunities to have a real impact on the way

the Museum interprets its collections, usually going behind the scenes to advise and consult with staff over exhibition materials, run activities at public events and plan projects.

If you would like to know more, please [contact](#) the young people's co-ordinator at the Museum.

At The History of Science Museum of Oxford:

The Museum is open between 12:00 and 5:00pm Tuesday to Sunday.

Explore in Person:



Exhibition: Step into Lyra's Worlds – props and costumes from the BBC HBO series *His Dark Materials*

Available until December 2023

The History of Science Museum influenced the design of the Alethiometer. Come and discover your Daemon and journey

through the Museum with your daemon guide to discover stories of creative leaders, resourceful adventurers, daring visionaries and ingenious scholars.

There are objects and stories to find as a family in each gallery before you enter the world of Philip Pullman's international best-selling trilogy, *His Dark Materials*. Step into Lyra's study, under a canopy of stars and Dust, to discover props and costumes from the BBC HBO production, including Lyra's alethiometer from the series.

Explore the Museum's intriguing dials and devices that inspired Philip Pullman to create the alethiometer. *Basement Gallery*.

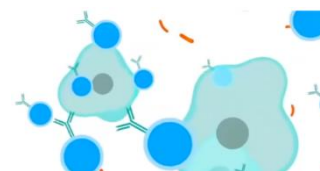
Alice in Typhoidland: The Past and Present of Typhoid

Discover the long history and cutting-edge research behind the typhoid vaccination and its roll-out.

Discover how Victorian doctors and scientists helped make typhoid visible and developed the first typhoid vaccines, and **Learn** about the current challenges of typhoid across the world and what researchers in Oxford are doing to tackle it.

To find out more about the Exhibition, visit: [Alice in Typhoidland | History of Science Museum \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.hsm.ox.ac.uk/exhibitions/alice-in-typhoidland)

You will find the Exhibition in the *Basement Gallery*.



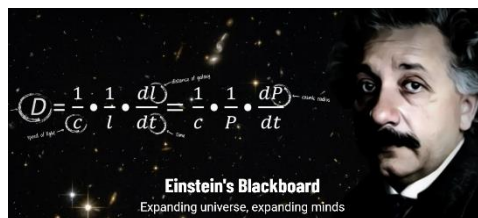
Meet Guglielmo Marconi – one of the minds who made the modern world

Through the work and experiments of Marconi, Radio was born.

This exhibition, housed within this Morris Minor Traveller Van, explains some of Marconi's journey of discovery and its legacy in the terms of radio and microwave physics.

Explore how Marconi's science experiments revolutionised the way that the whole world stays connected.

Basement Gallery (You can also explore some the exhibition at home: [Making Waves | History of Science Museum \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.hsm.ox.ac.uk/exhibitions/making-waves))



Display and Online Story

One of the most famous artefacts on display at the History of Science Museum is Einstein's blackboard, hanging high on the wall of the Basement Gallery.

This blackboard is more than a glimpse into the mind of a genius, however: it is a key moment in our understanding of the Cosmos. To find out more, visit the online story

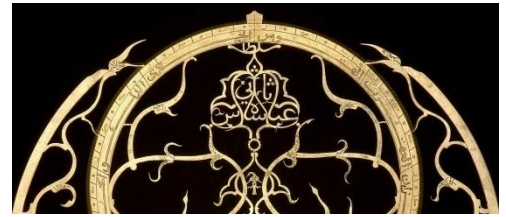
here: [Einstein's Blackboard \(shorthandstories.com\)](https://www.shorthandstories.com/einstein-blackboard) and, next time you're in Oxford, pop into the museum to see the blackboard for yourself.

Discover the Collection: Science in the Islamic World

The History of Science Museum houses one of the world's most comprehensive collection of astronomical instruments from the Islamic World.

Ranging from the 800s CE to the present day, these scientific objects were created and used by people living in *lands where the majority religion was — or is — Islam*.

While the artisans who made them came from different regions — Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia — the objects themselves still share many similar, distinctive characteristics. And though the instrument makers all lived and worked in the Islamic World, they were not all themselves Muslim. The result is a fascinatingly rich and diverse collection. For more information, please go to: [Science in the Islamic World | History of Science Museum \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.hsm.ox.ac.uk/science-in-the-islamic-world)



Display: on Prayer

This display was curated by the Young Producers volunteer group in collaboration with the Museum Curators. The display employs many of the scientific instruments from the Islamic Science Collection in order to highlight their role within the theme of Prayer. To find out more, please visit [Young Producers Curating Prayer: A display in the Islamic World collection - Inside HSM Oxford](https://www.hsm.ox.ac.uk/young-producers-curating-prayer)

Online Exhibition: Mirror of the Stars



“Pick up an Astrolabe, and you hold the Universe in your hands.”

Join Museum curators Dr Federica Gigante and Mathilde Daussy-Renaudin to explore how astrolabes mirrored the traditional view of the Earth at the centre of our moving universe. This step-by-step tour of the Exhibition takes you through what astrolabes were and how they were used in so many aspects of everyday life. Visit: [Mirror of the Stars | History of Science Museum \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.hsm.ox.ac.uk/mirror-of-the-stars)



Read the Blog: Why our History Matters – a look at the decolonisation project that will explore the origins of the founding collection

Consider the role of museums in general and then explore the origins of some of the key collection artefacts, learn about the way the items were procured and discover some of the hidden voices and stories that lie within them.

[Finding and Founding Blog One Our History Matters | History of Science Museum \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.hsm.ox.ac.uk/blog/our-history-matters)



Watch again: the collection of recent past talks

Scroll down the page to reach the Museum's Youtube collection of recent past events, which include a talk on Board Games and Mediaeval Medicine, and a discussion on whether science can always be considered “fact”.

[What's on | History of Science Museum \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.hsm.ox.ac.uk/whats-on)

You can also go on to take a virtual tour of the galleries at:

[Current Displays and Exhibitions | History of Science Museum \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.hsm.ox.ac.uk/current-displays-and-exhibitions)

And from the Natural History Museum of Oxford:

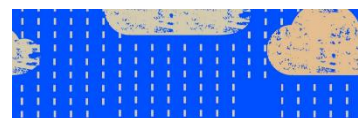
Explore in Person: Exhibition – Fair Water?

Available until 1st September 2024

FAIR WATER?

Earth is soaked in water from core to atmosphere. But just 3% of the planet's water is fresh, and one in four of us doesn't have access to clean drinking

water. We are so used to just turning a tap and being able to pour ourselves a glass of water, or take a shower, or wash our hands, that we don't stop to think that this is one of the world's greatest luxuries. How do we protect people's right to water when there's not enough, and how do we adapt to extreme water events? *Fair Water* reveals some of the global barriers to water equality and explores how researchers, communities and policymakers are working together to shape a fair water future.



Find out more at: [Fair Water? | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)



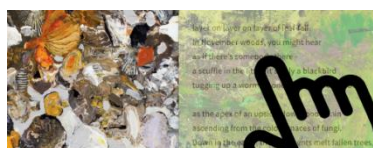
21 July – 31 Dec

The Climate Hope Museum Trail

Available until 31st December 2023

Natural and social scientists – including many at the University of Oxford – have contributed to our understanding of climate science and the impacts of climate change on people and the natural world. At the same time, the arts and humanities can help us make sense of how to navigate this change and take meaningful climate action.

This museum trail and digital learning experience is aimed at families and school groups. Learn more about the objects on the trail through videos and interactive digital content. You can also share the objects and stories that give you hope when it comes to climate change. For more information, visit: [Museum of Climate Hope Trail | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)



A Treasure of Online Exhibitions!

From Architecture to Animals, and from Bacteria to Brains, browse through the Museum's collection of digital exhibitions and learn more about all aspects of the Natural World. Dive in at: [Online exhibitions | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)

The Natural History Museum has a number of regular family-friendly events, such as *Science Saturdays*, *Autism-Friendly Openings* and *Family Friendly Sundays*. Do take a look at their website to check out the whole programme of events: [WHAT'S ON | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)

If you have not visited the Museum of Natural History in the last 18 months, then it is well worth a visit as there are new displays on biodiversity and the natural world in all the cabinets down the central aisle of the Museum! And they are stunning.

In addition to the couple of events mentioned above, the museum holds regular sessions on object handling. To find out more, head to [WHAT'S ON | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#) where you will find several pages' worth of events.



Young People at the University of Oxford's Museum of Natural History

DO visit this section for ideas of how to get involved (e.g. the regular Youth Forum for ages 16-19) as well as online challenges and resources. Keep an eye on this page as it is updated.

[Young people | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)

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.



In Person Exhibition: Alphabets Alive!

Available until 21st January 2024

Something magical happens when letters and the book become the raw material of art.

Alphabets Alive! brings the magic of books and alphabets to life, featuring more than 150 works inspired by the alphabet – manuscripts, prints, posters, sculptures,

alphabet books and, especially, artists' books in their many shapes, sizes, colours, materials and languages. Find out more: [Alphabets Alive! | Visit the Bodleian Libraries \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/alphabetsalive)



In Person Exhibition: Chaucer Here and Now

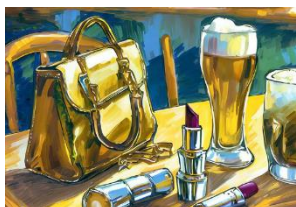
Available until 28th April 2024

Misogynist. Feminist. Conservative. Radical. Respectful. Irreverent. Monocultural. Multicultural. Imperial. Domestic. English. European. Catholic. Protestant.

Chaucer Here and Now presents Geoffrey Chaucer as you haven't seen him before. Not as the "Father of English Literature", but as a dynamic, global author, whose works

have been reworked and reinterpreted over time and around the world. Each generation reinvents Chaucer, taking inspiration from his work, and finding new meanings.

Find out more: [Chaucer Here and Now | Visit the Bodleian Libraries \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/chaucerhereandnow)



Special Event: Chaucer Now

Friday 2nd February 2024

Head over to the Weston Library for a **free** event to celebrate recent rewritings of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

It is a free event, but you do need to book in advance. For more information and to book: [Chaucer Now | Visit the Bodleian Libraries \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/chaucernow)

This is only a selection of the events at the Bodleian. You will find the full list at [Events & Exhibitions | Visit the Bodleian Libraries \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/events).

MODERN ART OXFORD

New Exhibition: Monica Sjöö – the Great Cosmic Mother

Available until 25th February 2024

Modern Art Oxford, Pembroke Street, Oxford.

Tracing the artist's deep commitment to gender and environmental justice, *The Great Cosmic Mother* showcases Sjöö's large-scale paintings created in response to the wide-ranging feminist and environmental campaigns she was actively involved in throughout her life. Sjöö's prescient artworks were a pioneering form of environmental activism and anticipated politically urgent debates surrounding the climate emergency today. This is a paying exhibition, with entry priced at £6/£12. [Modern Art Oxford](https://www.modernartoxford.org)

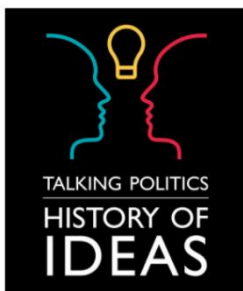


Section 2. Sites to explore online



Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team

HOT is an international team dedicated to humanitarian action and community development through open mapping. We work together to provide map data which revolutionises disaster management, reduces risks, and contributes to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. If you go onto the main site, you can hit "Start Mapping" on [Home | Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team \(hotosm.org\)](https://www.hotosm.org/). Alternatively, you can go to the separate mapping site [Explore projects - HOT Tasking Manager \(hotosm.org\)](https://www.hotosm.org/projects). Either link will allow you to sign in and create a free account where you can start mapping and support this amazing work.



A History of Ideas

From the award-winning team of "Talking Politics" comes this superb spin-off series which explores some of the most important thinkers and prominent ideas lying behind modern politics – from Hobbes to Gandhi, from democracy to patriarchy, from revolution to lockdown. David Runciman also talks about the crises – revolutions, wars, depressions, pandemics – that generated these new ways of political thinking.

Do take a look at [History Of Ideas — Talking Politics \(talkingpoliticspodcast.com\)](https://talkingpoliticspodcast.com/) and download this superb series.

And even better, if you are considering History/Politics/Philosophy/ Sociology at University, then after each episode, the London Review of Books has a some suggestions for further reading to enable you explore further: [Talking Politics: History of Ideas · LRB](#)



The Good Robot Podcast

Many of us have heard of studies that have revealed an unsettling misogynist bias in the thinking processes of AI – a bias that has been unwittingly introduced by the examples and experiences that the AI has been exposed to.

This podcast is a Cambridge University Project from researchers Eleanor Drage and Kerry Mackereth as they ask the experts: what is good technology? Is 'good' technology even possible? And what does feminism have to say about it?

The project translates scholarship into practical knowledge for industry, while also allowing industry approaches to inform academic work in the field of Gender Studies. It ultimately aims to provide the AI sector with practical tools for creating more equitable AI informed by intersectional feminist knowledge.

[LISTEN>> The Good Robot Podcast | Department of Politics and International Studies \(POLIS\) \(cam.ac.uk\)](https://www.cam.ac.uk/podcasts/the-good-robot)



Podcast: Girls in Marketing

In this podcast, we get up close and personal with marketers revolutionising the industry so you can learn from the best in the game.

From the latest marketing trends to building a successful marketing career, no topic is off limits! [Podcast - Girls in Marketing](#)



Key Stage 5 Autumn Chemistry Conference on Nucleic Acids and Therapeutics

Oxford University Professors Claire Vallance and Tom Brown shared some fascinating insight into current research into molecular collisions and mRNA vaccines, and responded to questions from the audience. You can watch the recording here:

[Outreach Conferences | Department of Chemistry \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

B:M2023

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

Black History Month 2023

Black History Month is typically celebrated in November, but Black History is relevant all year round. This is a fantastic website that does exactly what it says on its tag line: it digs

deeper and looks closer, prompting you to think bigger. Never mind that November is now past – take a closer look: [Black History Month 2023 - Celebrating our Sisters](#)

LGBTQ+? The Museum of Oxford wants to hear from you! Section 28 – 20 Years on

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the repeal of Section 28 laws in England and Wales (18 November 2003), the Museum of Oxford are collecting the stories of Oxfordshire-based people who lived and worked while Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 was in force. These stories will form part of an online collection called 'Section 28 in Oxfordshire', and will later be added to a digital exhibition.



The Museum researchers are also interested to hear from educators and young people in schools now to reflect on what it's like to be LGBTIQA+ in schools today.

To find out more: [Browse Collections · Museum of Oxford - City Stories \(omeka.net\)](#) and scroll down to the “Section 28” section

To contribute your own experience: [Contribute · Museum of Oxford - City Stories \(omeka.net\)](#)



The Royal Institution
Science Lives Here

Activities and Resources from the Ri

Here you will find a wonderful mix of resources and activities, from off-the-shelf masterclasses on maths (eg.

Exploring Serpienski's Triangle) to experiments you can run at home. Covering most of the main areas of science, including how the brain works, this is a site to savour over a number of visits.

[Activities and resources | Royal Institution \(rigb.org\)](#)





[Oxford Sparks](#)

This is an online portal that will allow you to engage with some of the exciting scientific developments taking place at Oxford.

Here you will find videos, podcasts, articles and other resources, all linked to the exciting world of cutting-edge research. Enjoy!

[Home - Oxford Sparks](#)

[The Big Questions Biology Podcast from Oxford Sparks](#)



Many of Oxford's Science researchers have worked with the fantastic science communication team at [Oxford Sparks](#) to share more about their research in an accessible way. They have curated a YouTube playlist featuring a wide range of their work with Oxford Sparks, suitable for home learning, and anyone keen to find out more about just how broad biology is. Find out more at:

[Oxford Sparks: Biology - YouTube](#)



[Classics Shorts with Mary Beard – bringing Classics to the next Generation](#)

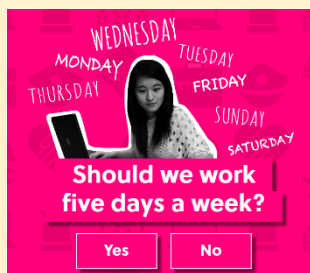
Have you ever thought the Classics are just ancient history – nothing to do with our world today? Well, think again!

Celebrity guests join **Prof Mary Beard** and her friends from Cambridge University to explore

modern day classroom themes with a classical spin.

The videos are indeed short, but the teacher resources provide some excellent background, and you don't need a teacher to explore them.

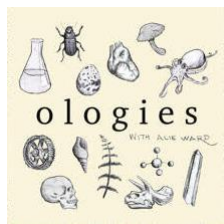
[Classics shorts with Mary Beard \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)



OX?LORE

Oxplore is an engaging digital resource from the University of Oxford. As the 'Home of Big Questions', it aims to challenge those from 11 to 18 years

with debates and ideas that go beyond what is covered in the classroom. Big questions tackle complex ideas across a wide range of subjects and reflect the kind of critical thinking students undertake at university. [Oxplore | The Home of Big Questions](#)

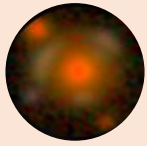


[Ologies](#)

This is a fun series of podcasts on all topics ending with "ology", some real and some contrived (e.g. sparklebuttology – the science of fireflies!). Each podcast is about an hour long, and it is the form of a conversation between an invited expert and the presenter Alie Ward, exploring not just the science but also the professional life of the expert. [Ologies Episodes — alie ward](#)

Three projects from Zooniverse

For all those citizen science enthusiasts, here is a small selection to whet your appetite. If none 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?**



Discover the cosmic detective in you - spot hidden galaxies using the power of gravitational lensing!

Massive galaxies warp space-time, bending light rays so that we can see around them to even more distant galaxies. These gravitational lenses are super rare but, in previous surveys, citizen scientists have already helped us find hundreds of new candidates. Now they need *your* help to find more of these lenses!

You might be wondering why this project is called [Space Warps - DES Vision Transformer](#): the candidates you will be inspecting are the output of a machine learning algorithm called a Vision Transformer run on the Dark Energy Survey (DES) imaging data. The project was started out by Jimena Gonzalez Lozano, learn more about Jimena's work on the project's [team page](#).

Scientists have around 23,000 images to inspect, so you can see why they need your help! To become a cosmic detective and get started, visit:

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/aprajita/space-warps-des-vision-transformer>



The Siren Project

Within the [SIREN \(Saving Italian hydrological measurements\) project](#), scientists ask volunteers to join them on a virtual trip across Italy to help us recover the historical measurements of daily river discharges. The project is based on the Italian Hydrological Yearbooks dating back to the 1920s. The Yearbooks contain loads of valuable data, but they are unfortunately often available only in printed books. In the past months, scientists have collected all the pages of the Yearbooks containing river discharges measured along Italian rivers, and they are now looking for volunteers to digitise one month of daily measurements. The help of volunteers is essential because these pages often present characteristics (e.g. handwritten notes, damaged ink or irregular structure) which makes them difficult to be interpreted by software.

Your contribution to the SIREN project will help the researchers to better understand past river floods, drought periods and, more generally, the climate of the Italian country.

Get involved and give the project a try! Please visit <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/siren-project/siren-project>



Solar Jet Hunter

This project aims to find *solar jets*, huge ejections of matter, from our star the Sun! This project initially launched two years ago and was successful in finding solar jets. Over the past few months, the science team has been working behind the scenes to prepare a new version of the project, and it is now ready to go. Now the scientists need your help to find solar jets in observations of the Sun.

On the project you will find two workflows: "Jet or Not", a workflow that asks you to find jets; "Box the jets", a workflow where you get to annotate the movies and draw a box around the jet. Using your classifications, the scientists are building a catalogue of jets that will be used by many solar physicists. You can check out their blog at (<https://solarjethunter.wordpress.com/>) as they will be posting news on the science that they do. To get involved, go to: [Solar Jet Hunter | Zooniverse - People-powered research](#)

Selection of Articles recommended by JSTOR Daily

If you enjoy the “[Everything is Amazing](#)” Newsletter, then you will probably enjoy the recommendations from JSTOR Daily – a collection of relatively short articles on all manner of topics, delivered to your email inbox for free. Here is a selection to whet your appetite. You can sign up to JSTOR Daily at: [JSTOR Daily Homepage - JSTOR Daily](#) It’s a fantastic way to keep the door open on all subjects, for developing your critical thinking, and for making those valuable connections across different disciplines.



Article for you to read: AI and the Creative Process – part 1

In this first of a three-part series, James Hutson looks at how new generative AI tools such as Stable Diffusion, Midjourney, DALL-E 2, and Adobe Firefly, are redefining the visual artist's relationship to the world, challenging traditional notions of authorship and creative control. [AI and the Creative Process: Part One - JSTOR Daily](#)



Article for you to read: Bride of Frankenstein

Drawn from the margins of Mary Shelley's 1818 novel, the cinematic Bride of Frankenstein is never just one thing, and she never goes away.

[Bride of Frankenstein - JSTOR Daily](#)

And if that article caught your fancy, then read this one:

Article for you to read: What if we've been misunderstanding Monsters?

This short article argues that evil fictional creatures might be more nuanced and, indeed, have more to teach us, than we may have considered.

[What If We've Been Misunderstanding Monsters? - JSTOR Daily](#)



An Introductory Reading List: Feminist Film Theory

Following on from Dr Chihab El Khachab's talk in November, here is a reading list on feminist film theory, for those who were captivated by the idea of studying culture and society through film and drama.

Evolving from the analysis of representations of women in film, feminist film theory asks questions about identity, sexuality, and the politics of spectatorship: [Feminist Film Theory: An Introductory](#)

[Reading List - JSTOR Daily](#)

Digital Ethnography – an introduction to theory and practice

Have you heard of Ethnography as an area of research? Can you think what it might be? Ethnography is a subfield of Social Anthropology, and it involves the scientific study of peoples and cultures. The rise of the internet age and digital spaces has created a whole new world for ethnographic investigation.

[Digital Ethnography: An Introduction to Theory and Practice - JSTOR Daily](#)



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. [Super-Curricular Activities \(cam.ac.uk\)](https://www.cam.ac.uk/super-curricular-activities)



The University of Oxford's Digital Resources Hub

The University of Oxford has compiled the best of its digital resources into a Digital Resources Hub to support learning and exploration. It is helpfully organised by age to help you find the resources that are best suited to your stage in education. They can also help parents and teachers to feed the curiosity of growing minds and inspire them to think broadly. These resources can also enable older students to explore their passions and interests further, and to discover more about Oxford. Go to: [Digital resource hub | University of Oxford](https://www.oxford.ac.uk/digital-resources-hub)

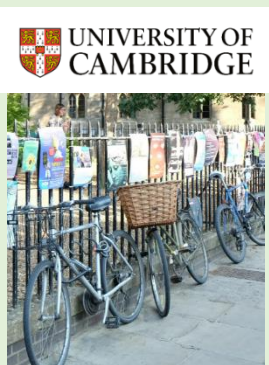


HE+

This website is for anyone interested in exploring ideas and developing their own critical thinking skills. Each topic is produced by Cambridge postgraduate students and academics at the cutting edge of research in their field. The topics provide guided activities, questions to think about and suggestions for further reading.

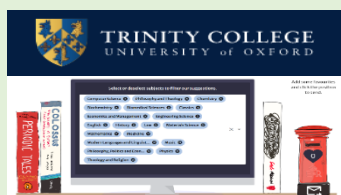
It is aimed at older students, but there is absolutely no reason why younger students cannot take a look and start thinking ahead. The main subject pages also give you a quick guide to what it would be like to study the subject at university level and suggest some further resources to check out. Click on a subject icon or search all topics to get started! Visit the HE+ website at <https://www.myheplus.com/>

Super Curricular Suggestions from the University of Cambridge:



Strong applicants to Cambridge and other competitive universities tend to have explored their chosen subject through wider reading outside the classroom, as well as doing very well in their GCSEs and A-levels. We call this sort of exploration 'super-curricular', as it builds on and enhances what you are studying in school. This selection of suggested reading lists and resources has been gathered from the Cambridge departmental and College websites, other universities and other sources on the internet. These lists provide some suggestions for places to start exploring your own interests in your chosen subject independently - you do not need to engage with any of the specific websites, books, podcasts etc mentioned and can easily find your own alternatives. The following lists are

suggestions only. [super-curricular suggestions.pdf \(cam.ac.uk\)](https://www.cam.ac.uk/super-curricular-suggestions.pdf)



Trinity College Library Quad

This is a treasure of super-curricular enrichment: a collection of resources from current Oxford Trinity College Students. The difference here is that all these resources come recommended as having been helpful in preparing for university.

[Library Quad | Trinity College Oxford](https://www.trinity.ox.ac.uk/library-quad)



Apply to Rise – for 15-17-year-olds

Rise brings together **15-17-year-olds** globally to solve humanity's biggest problems and provides support including scholarships, residencies, mentorship, networking, access to career development opportunities, and potential additional funding. *Interested?* You will need to [apply](#) before **Wednesday 17 January 2024**.



New Podcast: Uncharted – Tales of Data and Discoveries

With the inimitable Hannah Fry

Hannah Fry takes a look at some unusual data patterns, and investigates the possible reasons behind them. Hannah Fry is a mathematician who specialises in studying patterns in human behaviour. This one is not to be missed.

[The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry - Introducing... Uncharted with Hannah Fry - BBC Sounds](#)



BBC Podcast: The Life Scientific

This is an excellent podcast where Jim Al-Khalili talks to leading scientists about their life and research, finding out what inspires and motivates them, and exploring what impact their research might have on the future.

Well worth listening to!

[BBC Sounds - The Life Scientific - Available Episodes](#)

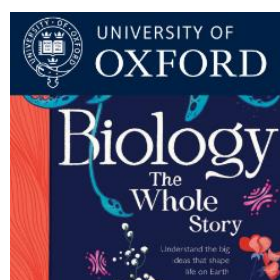


University of Oxford Podcast: Fantasy Literature

Fantasy Literature has emerged as one of the most important genres over the past few decades and now enjoys extraordinary levels of popularity. The impact of Tolkien's Middle-earth works and the serialisation of George Martin's 'Game of Thrones' books has moved these and their contemporaries into mainstream culture. As the popularity grows so does interest in the roots of fantasy, the main writers and themes, and how to approach these texts.

Oxford is a natural home to fantasy literature with those who worked or studied here having written so many famous and influential texts. These lectures, short talks, and interviews seek to take listeners into these works and these writers and beyond.

[Fantasy Literature | University of Oxford Podcasts](#)



University of Oxford Podcast: Biology – the Whole Story

Biology is the science of the 21st Century and everyone should know the fundamentals. In this series, Professor Lindsay Turnbull from the Department of Biology will guide you through key concepts, building a big picture of what Biology is all about. Based on her recent book, this video series is perfect for GCSE or A-level students, especially those looking for a University perspective.

[Biology: The Whole Story | University of Oxford Podcasts](#)

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 Newsletter*, 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.

“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 OxBright Essay Competitions 2024 for 15-18-year-olds



Test your academic skills with the OxBright Essay Competition. Designed for bright 15-18 year olds, the competition will challenge you to go beyond the school curriculum and think about the future of your subject.

Think big, stretch yourself – and stand out from the crowd when the time comes to apply to university or a degree-level apprenticeship.

The question for 2024 is:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.”

How does collaboration in *[your subject]* support social impact and innovation? Discuss how working together is essential when addressing global challenges and creating meaningful change.

In the space where it says *[your subject]*, you can insert any subject at all, so this is a really open question. For example, you can insert Economics, or NanoTechnology, or Philosophy. It is entirely up to you! For more information, visit: [Essay Competition 2024 | OxBright](#). The deadline for entries is **31st March 2024**.



Global Canvas: Children’s Wildlife Art Competition

Any art techniques can be used to create entries; including painting, sculpture, textiles, collages and we always like to see recycled materials. 2024 Theme: “The Barometer of Life” – A barometer measures atmospheric pressure to help us prepare for bad weather. The ‘Red List’ of threatened species measures the pressures acting on species and how many are left, which helps governments and wildlife charities prevent extinctions. That is why the ‘Red List’ of endangered species,

developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is often called the barometer of life.

There are generous prizes in the form of art vouchers, and there are three age categories up to 16 years of age. The deadline for entries is **13th February 2024**.

For more information and to enter, visit: [Global Canvas Children's Art Competition | David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation](#)



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](#)



Science without Borders Challenge

The *Science Without Borders® Challenge* is an international contest that engages students and teachers in ocean conservation through art. This

annual competition inspires students to be creative while promoting public awareness of the need to preserve, protect, and restore the world’s oceans and aquatic resources, contributing to the overarching goals of the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation. The *Challenge* is open to primary and secondary school students 11-19 years old, with scholarships of up to \$500 awarded to the winning entries. The deadline for entries is **4th March 2024**.

For more information and to enter, visit: [Science without Borders® Challenge – International Student Art Contest Living Oceans Foundation](#)



The National Geographic Slingshot Challenge

The [Slingshot Challenge](#) is run by National Geographic and is an exciting opportunity for students to get involved with the global programme. Students can enter in teams of up to six. Individual entries are welcomed although all entries are expected to involve collaboration with peers,

stakeholders, and/or marginalized communities.

Students work to prepare a short, 1-minute video, from topics with an environmental focus. We believe that no problem is unsolvable and that great ideas come from ALL places. Our community of 13–18 year olds can rise to the challenge and submit a 1-minute video describing their idea for solving environmental issues.

And we believe that, together, our ideas can lead to taking action to protect our planet and improve our future. For more information, visit: [Slingshot Challenge EN - National Geographic Society](#)



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](#)