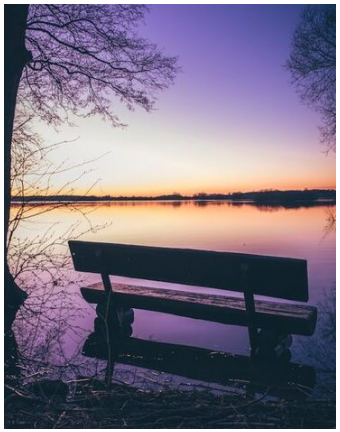


### Local Flooding—what causes it...other than water?

**Dr Colin Lloyd**
*Thursday 22nd April 2027*
*Sixth-Form Auditorium*
Colin Lloyd is with the Future Flood Resilience Group (FFRG) which is working towards the creation for a flood risk management plan for the Vale of the White Horse. This talk will explore the factors that impact flooding, what the FFRG have learnt about issues in our local area, and also what they hope to do in the future.

### Earthquakes, Seismology and the Earth's Interior

**Dr Petros Bogiatzis**
*Wednesday 12th May 2027*
*West Site Hall*

Petros Bogiatzis is a senior researcher in Seismology at the Earth Sciences Department of Oxford. He has a special interest in using seismic waves to understand the behaviour of earthquakes and other geophysical phenomena.





### Travelling Words

**Professor Melanie May**
*Tuesday 15th June 2027*
*West Site Hall*
Melanie May is the Head of Languages and Cultures at the University of Reading. In this talk, she will be exploring how and why words in European languages borrow from each other, causing languages to change over time.

**For more information closer to the time, please refer to our Academic Enrichment Blog King Alfred's Academy - Academic Enrichment . Booking information and any updates on dates and locations will be posted there.**

KA TALKS

KING ALFRED'S Academic Enrichment

# Programme of AEP Talks 2026-27

**Take a peek inside for this year's exciting collection of Speakers.**

**The Academic Enrichment Programme seeks to nurture the intellectual curiosity of King Alfred's Students by putting together an inspiring and diverse series of talks over the course of the year.**

**King Alfred's is committed to funding this programme and the talks are always free to our students and staff.**

**(You never know when you might learn something that could spark a life-long passion or interest!)**

KING ALFRED'S OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

LEARNING TRUST

CAMBRIAN Nurturing Growth - Inspiring Minds



## *The Sir Christopher Ricks Lecture 2026*

### Death by Shakespeare
**Dr Kathryn Harkup**
*Wednesday 30th September 2026*
*The Beacon Theatre, Wantage*

Dr Kathryn Harkup is a Chemist and Author, and she proposes to turn her scientific eye on the many creative ways whereby Shakespeare "did Away" with some of his characters. A multi-disciplinary talk exploring the existing scientific knowledge of the time, and the historical events that might have inspired the Bard's murderous ideas.

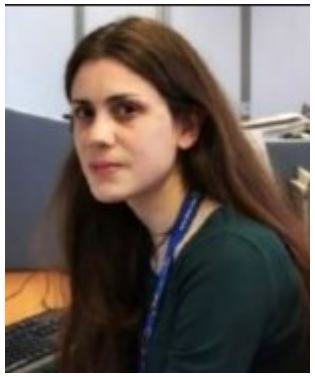


### What can Economics tell us about who will win the Premier League?
**Dr James Reade**
*Wednesday 27th January, 2027*
*Sixth-Form Auditorium*

James Reade is with the Department of Economics at the University of Reading, with a particular interest in the applications of Economics to sport. In this talk, he will be exploring how Economics theories can be applied to football and predicting trends and outcomes within the Premier League.
A wonderful opportunity to see how maths, economics and sports come together!

### The Day the Dinosaur Died
**Dr Victoria Robinson**
*Wednesday 11th October 2026*
*Sixth-Form Auditorium*

Victoria Robinson is an Environmental Consultant with an interest in the deep history of our planet, and a particular passion for all things Dinosaur.
Dinosaurs were the most successful group of vertebrate animals to have walked the planet, thriving for 165 million years. Until one day, they didn't. This talk explores what happened on that day, the causes of the mass extinction, the local and global impacts, and what it reveals about Life on Earth today.



### "Demandingness!" - considering fairness
**Professor Luke Elson**
*Tuesday 2nd March 2026*
*West Site Hall*

Luke Elson teaches at the Department of Philosophy at the University of Reading. He has a special interest in ethics, reasons and rationality, and the more vague the better.
Come prepared to wrestle with ideas such as 'if it would be wrong to let a child drown to save our shoes, why isn't it wrong to buy a pair of shoes instead of donating to Oxfam?' Why isn't it the same? Where are the flaws in the argument?





### Hieroglyphs for All—An Introduction to the Ancient Egyptian Writing System
**Dr Pablo Barba Garcia**
*Tuesday 1st December 2026*
*Sixth Form Auditorium*

Pablo Barba is an Egyptologist with the University of Reading, where he also heads their superb Outreach offer. This talk will be a highly interactive workshop—bring a pen and notebook, because you will be writing in hieroglyphs as part of this talk, and learning about the most unusual aspects of deciphering them!



### The Uncanny
**Professor Neil Cocks**
*Tuesday 23rd March 2027*
*Sixth Form Auditorium*

Neil Cocks is with the Department of English Literature. In this talk, Neil would like to explore with you the sense of the *uncanny*—that odd feeling when something is both familiar but strange at the same time. Neil Cocks will introduce the concept through a combination of story telling, literary analysis, and art criticism. His focus is on works that might not be thought of as obviously uncanny. There is something quite uncanny about seeing the uncanny in non-spooky places...