

King Alfred's Academy Academic Enrichment Newsletter February Break and Term 4, 2023-24

Dear Students (and Parents/Carers),

Welcome to the Academic Enrichment Newsletter for the February Break and Term 4! 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](#)

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



The Oxford Literary Festival 2024

Saturday 16th March – Sunday 24th March 2024

Every year, the Oxford Literary Festival puts on a phenomenal programme, with some of the world's most interesting writers, on all manner of topics – from science and medicine to classics, and from technology to film and theatre, with everything in between. None of the events are free, sadly, but many are quite reasonably priced and there is a student price category available to students with a recognised student card and to under 18s in education.

You can either explore all the events by category here: [Events 2024 | Oxford Literary Festival](#)
Or you can see what's on each day of the festival:

- [Saturday March 16](#)
- [Sunday March 17](#)
- [Monday March 18](#)
- [Tuesday March 19](#)
- [Wednesday March 20](#)
- [Thursday March 21](#)
- [Friday March 22](#)
- [Saturday March 23](#)
- [Sunday March 24](#)



Tickets are on sale online at oxfordliteraryfestival.org, or by telephoning the box office at 0333 666 3366 (a booking fee of £2 applies to purchases made through the telephone box office).

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW AT oxfordliteraryfestival.org

In person and/or Livestreamed) from Museums and other Academic Bodies

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!

[Elevating Science: The Power of Photography | Roberto García-Roa \(youtube.com\)](#)

[The Jewel Box: How Moths Illuminate Nature's Hidden Rules | Tim Blackburn \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Coral Reefs: A Canary in the Coal-Mine for the Anthropocene? | David Obura \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Is Wildlife Crime a Security Threat? | RosaleenDuffy \(youtube.com\)](#)

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.)



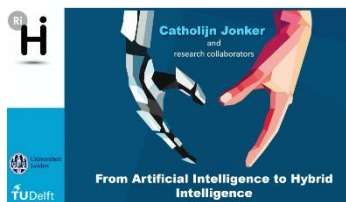
Recorded Talk: Living in Outer Space – what are the ethics of space colonisation?

Join Erika Nesvold as she explores the relatively new field of Space Ethics and what it involves. From Astronomer to Space Ethicist. What are the ethical issues of moving humanity into outer space? Find out more about the questions we need to answer, with astrophysics engineer Erika Nesvold. [Intro to what we do \(youtube.com\)](#)



Recorded Talk: The Volcanic Chemistry of Sulphur

Ri favourite and science icon Andrew Szydlo takes you on a tour of the amazing, and sometimes explosive, chemistry of sulphur. [The volcanic chemistry of sulfur - with Andrew Szydlo \(youtube.com\)](#)



Recorded Talk: From Artificial Intelligence to Hybrid Intelligence

Hybrid Intelligence (HI) is the combination of human intelligence with artificial intelligence, enabling humans and AI to mutually grow together. Catholijn Jonker is full professor of Interactive Intelligence at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science of the Delft University of Technology.

[From artificial intelligence to hybrid intelligence - with Catholijn Jonker \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

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 \(rigb.org\)](https://www.rigb.org/podcast/how-did-females-evolve-with-lucy-cooke) And there is lots more at: [Browse our science online | Royal Institution \(rigb.org\)](https://www.rigb.org)

Talking Science with the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory 2023-24

Two upcoming "Talking Science" Talks from the Rutherford Appleton Laboratories

These science talks are FREE, but you will need to book in advance. Both talks are available as an in-person event (at the RAL Lecture

Theatre) or as a livestream, and the link to book tickets below contains tickets for both talks, in both formats.

To book your tickets: [Talking Science with the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory 2023-24 Tickets, Didcot | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/talking-science-with-the-rutherford-appleton-laboratory-2023-24-tickets-71234567890)

No time to chill: ultra-low temperatures at the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source, with Dr Chris Lawson (12+)

Friday 16 February 2024, 19:00

The ISIS Neutron and Muon Source generates beams of neutrons and muons for over 1000 experiments every year. Many of these require ultra-low temperatures, reaching close to absolute zero (-273.15 degrees C) and creating some of the coldest environments in the universe. Join Chris from ISIS as he takes you on his cryogenic journey, stopping off along the way to explore some very cool experiments and intriguing effects with liquid nitrogen, before thinking about what the future may hold ... how low can we go??

Searching for water on the Moon, with Dr Katherine Shirley, University of Oxford (10+)

Friday 8 March 2024, 19:00

The search for water across the Solar System has long driven space science, but what about on our nearest neighbour? In this talk we will explore why we are interested in water in the Solar System and how our understanding of water on the Moon has changed over time. We will also talk about how researchers at Oxford are working to build space instruments that will tell us more about lunar water in upcoming missions.

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.

 **ASHMOLEAN
MUSEUM
OXFORD**

**Last
chance to
see this!**



[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.

[And coming soon, the next Main Exhibition: Bruegel to Rubens – Great Flemish Drawings](#)

Opening on the 23rd March, and available until the 23rd June 2024



This exhibition pulls together some of the most exquisite drawings from the collections held in both Antwerp and Oxford, and showcases over 100 artworks from the 16th and 17th Century Flemish masters.

To find out more, please visit: [BRUEGEL TO RUBENS: GREAT FLEMISH DRAWINGS | 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](#))



Pio Abad: To those sitting in darkness

Available until 8th September 2024

Deeply informed by the history of the world and particularly the Philippines, where Abad was born and raised, his works draw out transnational lines between historical incidents and people, and our lives today.

Concerned with colonial history and cultural loss, Abad's works are exhibited together with select works by other artists and 'diasporic' objects from Oxford collections, chosen by the artist.

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



Money in Renaissance Germany

Available until 10th November 2024

This new display explores the creation of a common currency across the Holy Roman Empire in 1559. It was the first European currency whose units were clearly and consistently marked with their face values in Arab numerals.

While the fronts of the coins were harmonised, the backs retained some forms of local reference, which was in some cases quite playfully medieval.

Money Gallery

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.)



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.

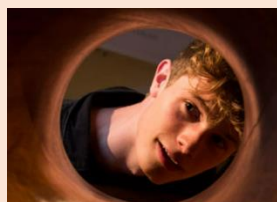
[HOME LEARNING | Ashmolean Museum](#)



[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](#)



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
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:

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/collaborating-with-the-past)

Na Mele o Hula Kahiko

Available until 24th April 2024

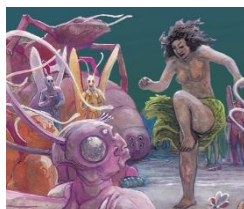


Find out more about how the tradition of Hula is centred within the Hawaiian landscape and ecosystem, through this display that includes a stunning quilt depicting Hula motifs.

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)

Nothing without us: Experiences of Disability – Museum Trail

Nothing Without Us is a co-produced gallery trail that shares the lived experiences of disabled people, their stories revealed by objects in the Pitt Rivers Museum. This trail invites you to reflect on how such experiences have not only shaped their lives, but have a deeper connection and meaning that matters for all of us.



Display and Film: Wandering in Other Worlds – Evenki Cosmology and Shamanic Traditions

Through this display and a [360 degree film \(available to view online\)](#), you are invited to wander in another world, an Evenki world. Find out more about Evenki cosmology and shamanic tradition and how these relate to objects in the Pitt Rivers Museum.

Display Case C.22.A (Main Court)



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/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 \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

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*.

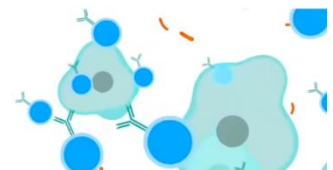
Alice in Typhoidland: The Past and Present of Typhoid

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 \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

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



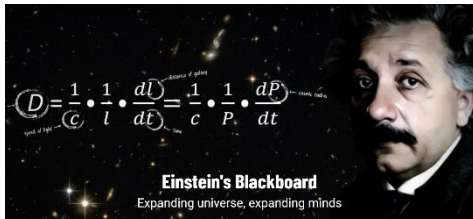


Meet Guglielmo Marconi – one of the minds who made the modern world

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 \(ox.ac.uk\)](#))



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 \(shorthandstories.com\)](#) and, next time you're in Oxford, pop into the museum to see the blackboard for yourself.

Step back into online version of previous Exhibitions, dating back to the 1995!

The History of Science Museum has been creating virtual versions of their past Exhibitions for over 25 years – a real treasure trove of learning. Do take a look at:

[Past exhibitions and displays | History of Science Museum \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)



Dear Harry...



Discover the Collection: Science in the Islamic World

The History of Science Museum houses one 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 \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)





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](#)

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 \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)



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 within them.

[Finding and Founding Blog One Our History Matters | History of Science Museum \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)



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 \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

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

[Current Displays and Exhibitions | History of Science Museum \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

And from the Natural History Museum of Oxford:

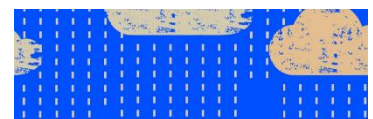
Explore in Person: Exhibition – Fair Water?

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](#)



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](#)



Asia's Small Apes

Monday 12th February 2024, 19:00 – 20:00

In this talk, Dr Susan Cheyne, co-director of the Borneo Nature Foundation, will share a series of case studies about conservation activities resulting from scientific research. She will also discuss the importance of bespoke outreach and education activities that combine science and culture.

No booking needed. £4 entrance payable at the door.



Insect Adventure Workshop for ages 10-14

Wednesday 14th February 2024, 14:00 – 15:30

You will have access to some exciting museum specimens to look at and handle, as well as microscopes to take a close look at their amazing features. You'll also get the chance to do some arts and crafts inspired by insects.

Young people need not be accompanied by an adult but please **book your place in advance by emailing education@oum.ox.ac.uk**



The Spiders of Hawaii and other Remote Islands

Thursday 15th February 2024, 19:00 – 20:00

Remote islands such as Hawaii often give rise to unique and novel species and spiders are amongst the most diverse. Hear from Professor Rosemary Gillespie how they travel, some of the unique features they have evolved, and what the future holds.

No booking needed. This talk is FREE.



Curiosity and Colonialism – by *Uncomfortable Oxford*

Saturday 24th February 2024, 10:30 – 12:00

Discover and discuss how the Museum of Natural History, Pitt-Rivers Museum and their displays sit within the history of the British Empire exploring them beyond traditional narratives, highlighting histories of race, gender, class and empire.

Tickets are available from £5. [Booking is essential.](#)



How Fair is your Water Footprint?

Monday 26th February 2024, 17:30 – 18:30

Join Dr Nick Hepworth, Director of Water Witness International, to find out why half the UK's global water footprint is unsustainable, how our water use pushes the Global South into climate vulnerability, and how we can create a fairer water future for all.

This talk is FREE, but booking is essential. For more information and to book, go to: [How Fair Is Your Water Footprint? | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)

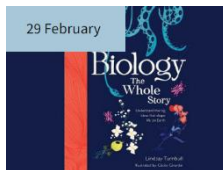


Climate Information

Tuesday 27th February 2024, 18:00 - 19:00

Climate models are a powerful tool to enable communities and countries to adapt to change. Join Dr Ellen Dyer and Dr Wilfried Pokam Mba to discover how the models work. Learn how good data and sharing knowledge can improve global climate resilience.

This talk is FREE, but booking is essential. For more information and to book, go to: [Climate Information: How is it made, by whom, and how can it be used for a more equitable and resilient future? | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)



Biology: the Whole Story

Join Professor Lindsay Turnbull as she discusses her new book *Biology: The Whole Story*, an indispensable read for students of biology and anyone curious about how life works.

From the origins of life to the structure of modern ecosystems, this beautifully illustrated and full-colour book follows the story of life on Earth, stopping along the way to relate how key developments have influenced events in history. There will be an opportunity for you to buy a signed copy of the book and ask Professor Turnbull any questions.

Tickets are free but **booking is essential**: [Biology: The Whole Story | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)



Up in the Trees: What do we really know about dormice?

Monday 11th March 2024, 19:00 – 20:00

Humans have lived alongside dormice as long as we have been in England. The way we manage our landscapes has a direct impact on their populations. Hear from Professor Debbie Bartlett about dormice populations and behaviour, and discover how this knowledge can aid us in the conservation of these incredibly loveable little mammals.

No booking needed. £4 payable at the door.

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](#)

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.

Also, do take a look at the Events listings, as many of these are free to access as well. Please visit: [Events & Exhibitions | Visit the Bodleian Libraries \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)



FREE

In Person Exhibition: Chaucer Here and Now

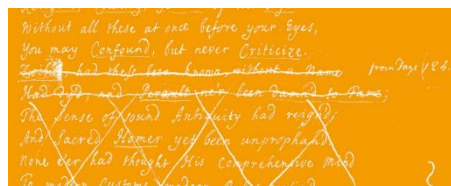
Available until 28th April 2024

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 \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)



Coming soon: In-person Exhibition: Write Cut Rewrite

29th February 2024 – 5th January 2025

Write, Cut, Rewrite is an exhibition dedicated to the creative importance of editing in literature, often referred to as 'killing your darlings'.

Often, in the attempt to find the perfect form, the author cuts more words than the ones that are eventually published, and one might expect these discarded fragments to end up in waste-paper baskets and disappear. But many are preserved in libraries and archives, a testament to the importance of this form of creative undoing in the writing process.

Free admission. *The Treasury, Weston Library.*



Display: Mischief in the Archives

Available until April 2024

Blackwell Hall, Weston Library

Explore a personal journey to uncover family history, challenge preconceived narratives, and restore dignity to those the archives have long muted.

Musician and artist Peter Brathwaite has traced his roots back to the British-owned Codrington plantations in Barbados. During this research, he discovered the stories of three ancestors whose lives intersected amid the grim reality of slavery in 18th-century Barbados.

For more information: [Mischief in the Archives | Visit the Bodleian Libraries \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

You will find the full list at [Events & Exhibitions | Visit the Bodleian Libraries \(ox.ac.uk\)](#).

Section 2. Sites to explore online



The Science Museum Climate Talks

Here you can access the new Climate talks – FREE and Online – and access this and last year’s talks as recordings.

Past talks cover topics from the effect of climate change on our oceans, to how changes in food production can help.

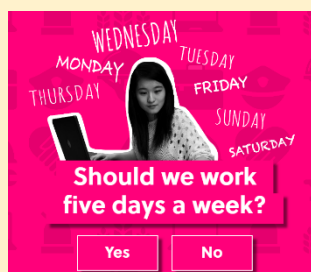
For anyone with an interest in Climate Change and its possible effects, this series of talks are a must. Delivered by experts in the field, and including panel discussions as well as Q&A opportunities.

Recorded talk from Weds 24th January – The impact of Climate Change on Food Security

Thurs 15th February – India’s green transition

Thurs 29th February – How to solve the UK’s power grid problem

To find out more and to register for the links, please visit: [Climate Talks | Science Museum Group](#)



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](#)

BBC Future

This is a great site to visit, again and again. BBC Future makes a powerful claim: “We believe in truth, facts and science. We take the time to think. And we don’t accept – we ask why”.

In a complex, fast-paced world of soundbites, knee-jerk opinions and information overload, BBC Future provides something different: a home for slowing down, delving deep and shifting perspectives. Sounds good.

Here you can look for answers to the issues facing the world in science. You’ll find stories here on almost every topic that matters. Psychology. Food. Climate change. Health. Social trends. Technology.

What links them all is the BBC Future approach. Through evidence-based analysis, original thinking, and powerful storytelling, this site seeks to shine a light on the hidden ways that the world is changing – and provide solutions for how to navigate it.

So dive into BBC Future and judge for yourself: [Home - BBC Future](#), and search out topics at [Tags - BBC Future](#)



BLETCHLEYPARK

Bletchley Park – the Home of WW2 Codebreaking

Bletchley Park is now a museum and heritage attraction, which you can visit (advance booking required), but it is also worthwhile to take a wander around the website, which has videos and podcasts explaining the tremendous achievements of the codebreakers of World War II. [Bletchley Park | Home](#)

[Two new 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?**



The Lives of Literary Characters

This is the first citizen-science project to study the wealth of human storytelling. How does it work? Volunteers will assist researchers by annotating stories to better understand the complex lives of fictional characters. Characters are the backbone of storytelling. With your help, this project aims to build AI models to better understand who characters are and what they do within diverse narrative

worlds to address one very big question: **why do human beings tell stories?**

By enlisting the help of readers like you, researchers can build better, more transparent AI systems to surface the intricate patterns upon which human stories are based. All of the data and models generated by this project will be open to the public, setting an important standard for transparent and inclusive AI. **The goal is not to build robot storytellers. With your help, researchers want to gain a deeper understanding of human storytelling.**

Come get involved and give the project a try! The first goal is to understand how characters interact with each other. You'll be asked to read short passages and help researchers figure out how characters are connected. New projects will be rolled out in the months to come. To get started, go to: [The Lives of Literary Characters — Zooniverse](#)

Where's Walleye?



Looking to sharpen your sleuthing skills? Want to be a part of a real-life hidden-object challenge and help science in the process? Where's Walleye (and his friends) is launching on Zooniverse!

This project is looking for volunteers to help find the fish hidden in short-video clips to help further research in Great Lakes coastal wetlands. Wetlands are biodiversity hotspots, and the home for many fish species, including gamefish, such as bass, perch, and muskie/pike babies! As a volunteer your help in classifying this project's footage is two-fold; you will aid researchers in assessing the fish community of coastal wetlands in Georgian Bay now, and further validate the use of a new fish survey method that is hopefully cheaper, more accessible, faster, and less harmful to the fish researchers want to study.

This survey method uses multiple action cameras placed in strategic locations in a wetland and left to film for hours. Since 80 to 90% of this footage can be empty, the Wetland Ecosystem Research Lab at McMaster University needs volunteers to comb through the serene waterscapes and find the "fishy" footage out there. While data collected from this project will help the team to learn what the current fish community is like in these wetlands, it can also be used to train machine learning algorithms in the future to do the searching for us.

You can get involved at: [Where's Walleye? — Zooniverse](#)

The Chalke Valley History Festival – The Podcast



Over the years, the annual Week-long Chalke Valley History Festival has pulled together some of the most exciting speakers in all areas of history. Visit the website to access a treasure of world-class speakers, with new releases every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. It's a while since I last reminded you of this, so there will be lots of new talks!

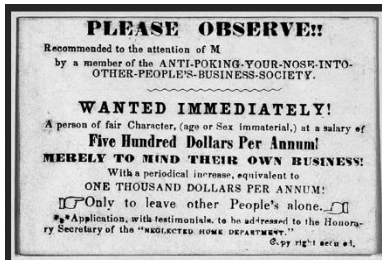
[Podcast – Chalke Valley History Festival](#)

cvhf.org.uk

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: [The Rise of Anti Societies](#)

In the early 1800s, Americans formed all sorts of anti-vice societies, triggering jokes and serious resistance to reform through a wave of anti-societies.

In 1829, a fad emerged in American newspapers. Citing the danger of fires, a number of northeastern papers proposed an “Anti-going-to-sleep-with-a-candle-burning Society.” Other publishers suggested the formation of an “Anti-talk-about-your-neighbor’s-

business Society,” or, in response to news of a woman said to have died from wearing a tight-fitted corset, an “Anti-too-tight-lacing Society.” [The Rise of Anti-Societies - JSTOR Daily](#)



Article for you to read: [That time Thor and Loki cross-dressed](#)

Why the Old Norse gods disguised themselves as a bride and bridesmaid before visiting Thrymr, king of Jötunheim.

[That Time Thor and Loki Cross-Dressed - JSTOR Daily](#)



Article for you to read: [Exporting Chinese Acrobats](#)

Since the late 1980s, Chinese acrobats have been amazing millions of audience-goers in Canada and the United States. Up to the early 2000s, more than a thousand Chinese acrobats worked as performers for North American companies. By 2010, 20 percent of the performers working for the Canadian entertainment giant Cirque du Soleil were Chinese. How did these gymnastic marvels make their way to the West? [Exporting Chinese Acrobats - JSTOR Daily](#)



Article for you to read: [Divest or Invest? A Climate Change Question](#)

Divestment from fossil fuel corporations is a common call of climate activists, but divesting could be counterproductive to efforts combating climate change. It’s a well-intentioned and intuitively appealing strategy to signal that what’s financially profitable may not be best for society. But it’s not quite as clear cut as it seems... [Divest or Invest? A Climate Change Question - JSTOR Daily](#)

A Message of Hope on Climate Change: IPCC Graphic Read



The IPCC is the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, and they will be releasing their new report (in part) as of July 2021. They know that the most important people to reach with their message are young people, and so they have released this 15-minute graphic read, beautifully illustrated, to make you aware of the main issues for consideration. They have done this by travelling forwards 100 years in time, and telling the story of the battle against Climate Change retrospectively. It makes an interesting read, and it is also full of hope as it

is told from the perspective of a crisis averted and a problem in the process of being tackled successfully. It also bears an important message: use your democratic vote wisely.

[Because IPCC - A 15 min graphic read - History and Science of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(thesuccession.ca\)](#)

A Pdf version of the book can be found here. [Download the PDF - Because IPCC - A 15 min graphic read \(thesuccession.ca\)](#)

(With thanks to Mr Taylor for passing this one on!)



The British Society for Immunology

One positive from the Pandemic is that the public at large has developed a greater awareness of immunity and disease, and that many of our younger people are curious about the study of Immunology and are keen to find out more. The British Society for Immunology has an excellent information page, including videos, activities and other resources. I especially liked the History of Immunology in 60 Objects, which you can find at: [A History of Immunology in 60 Objects | British Society for Immunology](#)

To access all the other resources, visit: [Public information | British Society for Immunology](#)



The Cambridge University Anthropology Podcast

What is anthropology? It is the study of the biological and social features that make us human, with an aim to gain a deeper understanding of the cultural and ethnic differences between our beliefs and perspectives. This podcast is aimed at students of Anthropology and academics in the subject, but it can be useful for giving our older students a good idea about the wide range of topics and research areas within the subject of Anthropology. Dip

into different talks and interviews to find out more!

[Camthropod | Department of Social Anthropology](#)

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 \(cam.ac.uk\)](http://cam.ac.uk)



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

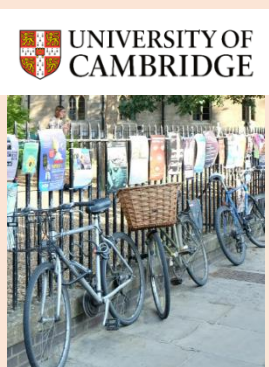


HE+

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.

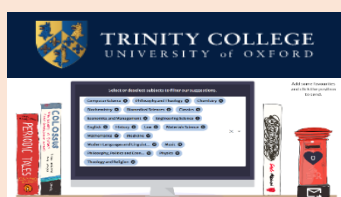
It is aimed at older students, but there is absolutely no reason why younger students cannot take a look and start thinking ahead. The main subject pages also give you a quick guide to what it would be like to study the subject at university level and suggest some further resources to check out. Click 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 \(cam.ac.uk\)](http://super-curricular_suggestions.pdf (cam.ac.uk))



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

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.



French and Spanish Flash Fiction competitions

Students learning French or Spanish and in Years 7-13 can enter a competition to win up to £100. They are invited to send in a very short story written in French or Spanish (100 words maximum). **The deadline is 27**

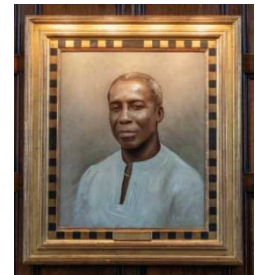
March 2024 and more details can be found on the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages [website](#).



The Rex Nettleford Prize essay competition on colonialism and its legacies

This [competition](#) is designed to encourage Year 12 students to engage with the legacies of colonialism in all its forms – historical, political, economic, social, cultural. To enter, students are required to write an essay on one of the following questions:

- How have ideas about nature shaped the histories and legacies of colonialism?
- What role has education played in the history of colonialism? Discuss in terms of specific educational practices, institutions, or curricula.
- How, if at all, has ancient imperialism influenced modern imperialism?
- Pick an example of popular or vernacular culture (for example, a song, film, sartorial style, novel, poem, dance, dish, meme, etc.) and explain it in relation to the histories of colonialism. How does your chosen example represent, contest, reflect, or otherwise respond to some specific aspect of colonialism?



Essays must be submitted to outreach@oriel.ox.ac.uk **by midnight on 15 March 2024**. Prizes will be awarded at Oriel College on the occasion of the Rex Nettleford Lecture during Trinity Term 2024.



The Year 12 Fitzwilliam College Essay Competitions

Each year, Fitzwilliam College runs essay competitions in a variety of subjects, allowing talented pupils to explore their interests beyond the school curriculum.

The University of Cambridge seeks out students with a passion for their subject and who have investigated it outside the classroom. Our essay competitions provide students with an opportunity to engage with their interests in this way, allowing them to demonstrate their enthusiasm for their subject.

This year, there are Essay Competitions in Ancient World and Classics, Archaeology, Economics, History, Land Economy, Medieval World and Slavonic Studies. We will additionally be running an Architecture design competition. Further particulars and this year's questions can be found at the links below. Please read the competition rules and submission guidelines carefully before entering a competition.

- [Ancient World and Classics](#)
- [Archaeology](#)
- [Economics](#) (for state-school UK students only - please see link for details on eligibility)
- [History](#)
- [Land Economy](#)
- [Medieval World](#)
- [Slavonic Studies](#)
- [Architecture](#) – students wishing to enter the Architecture Design Competition may find this [plan of Fitzwilliam College](#) and information on the [history of Fitzwilliam's buildings](#) useful

The deadline for all competitions is **6pm on Friday 1st March 2024**.

For more information, visit the website page at: [Essay Competitions | Fitzwilliam College Cambridge](#)

Magdalene College Cambridge Humanities and Arts Competition for Year 12



The Magdalene College Arts and Humanities Essay Competition is open to Year 12 students.



The essay questions will cover the breadth of arts and humanities subjects offered at undergraduate level at the University of Cambridge. Questions are often multi-disciplinary, designed to encourage entries to consider the connections between various subjects, and to allow entries

to approach the question from varying angles. Effective essays will present a clear argument supported by specific, relevant examples.

Submissions for the 2024 Essay Competition will open in February 2024. You can [register your interest here](#) to be notified when the essay questions are released. **The deadline for entries is 30th April 2024 at 6pm.**



[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](#)



New Directions Composition Prize

The New Directions Composition Prize aims to share the joy of music by encouraging young people to create their own original composition. The competition is run by Robinson College, University of Cambridge.

The competition is an opportunity to compose a piece of your own music, no longer than 4 minutes long, based on one of the images, poems or quotations provided. Your composition will be listened to and marked by Dr Jeremy Thurlow, Director of Studies in Music at Robinson College. The prize is open to anyone, regardless of your musical experience.

There are three age categories, and the deadline for submission is **Friday 12th April 2024**.

More information and the link to submit your composition can be found here:

<https://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/prospective-students/access-and-outreach/access-and-outreach-events/new-directions-composition>

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](#)



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](#)



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](#)

KA KINGALFRED'S
OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL