

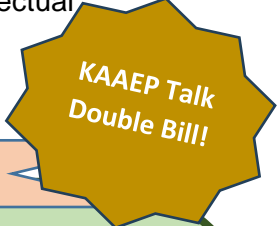


Dear Students (and Parents/Carers),  
Welcome to the Academic Enrichment Newsletter for Easter and Term 5!  
There are so many opportunities for our students to continue to nurture their intellectual curiosity and independent learning!  
For ease of navigation and to avoid repetition, and as most institutions 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



### Dates for your Diary

**KAAEP Talk: Dancing through the Stars: the changing sound of Space on Screen**  
**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2024. 6:30 – 8:00pm**  
**King Alfred's Sixth Form Auditorium**

Dr Jan Butler is a musicologist who specialises in understanding the impact of music and sound in films. In reality, there is no sound possible in the vacuum of space, so films which are set in space offer an interesting opportunity for imaginative musical and sonic responses to this environment. In this talk, Jan will take a look at how the sounds of space on screen have changed over time, and explore how music and sound are used in the films *Gravity* (2013) and *WALLE* (2008) to help audiences understand the experience of life in space, and enhance our sense of Earth as home. Book your seats [here](#).



**KAAEP Talk: An Idiot's Guide to Toppling a Dictator**  
**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2024. 6:30 – 8:00pm**  
**King Alfred's Sixth Form Auditorium**



Dr Andrew Sillett is a classicist at the University of Oxford, and he is proposing to take you into the depths of Julius Caesar's dictatorship. What did the Romans find so awful about his rule? How did they fight back? By comparing ancient and modern approaches to undermining and toppling tyrants, he hopes to show you that the enemy the dictator fears most of all is... the comedian!

This promises to be both fascinating and thought-provoking! Book your seats [here](#).

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



The Royal Institution  
Science Lives Here



Yes, the Royal Institution was set up for the dissemination of scientific ideas, but they are careful to appeal to a very broad

range of interests, and their talks are an excellent place to start looking out for those priceless links between subjects that make learning so exciting. (And which will make you stand out from the crowd if you choose to apply to a top-level university.)



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

Ri Shorts

And there is also the Royal Institution Animations selection at [\(181\) Ri Animations - YouTube](#) which are typically 5 minutes or less.



Ri Animations

And below you will find this term’s recommended selection of three of the longer talks:



### **Recorded Talk: A History of Islam and Science**

Explore the rich history intertwining Islam and Science, with the esteemed scholar and University of Cambridge lecturer Tim Winter (Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad). [A history of Islam and science - with Timothy Winter \(youtube.com\)](#)



### **Recorded Talk: How the Brain shapes Reality**

Join philosopher and cognitive scientist Andy Clark as he challenges our conventional understanding of the mind's interaction with the world. [How the brain shapes reality - with Andy Clark \(youtube.com\)](#)



### **Recorded Talk: Uncovering the Ocean**

What lies hidden beneath the sea is one of the Earth's biggest mysteries, with only 5% of the area explored - but the Schmidt Ocean Institute are changing this. [Discovering the hidden secrets of the ocean - with Jyotika Virmani \(youtube.com\)](#)

### **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 \(rigb.org\)](#)

## 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!

[The Atlas of Early Modern Wildlife Lee Raye \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Tundra Plant Responses to a Rapidly Warming Arctic | Isla Myers-Smith \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Knowing and Naming: The Roots of Ethno-Ornithology | Andrew Gosler \(youtube.com\)](#)

[The Case for Conservation Optimism | Martin Harper \(youtube.com\)](#)

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 Oxford Martin School – Finding solutions to the world's most urgent challenges**

The University of Oxford boasts that there is no research organisation in the world that is quite like the [Oxford Martin School](#) in that it brings researchers from across all disciplines to work together on finding solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

As part of sharing their work, they have a series of talks – a mixture of in-person and online – most of which are free and open to all. It's worth keeping an eye on their [events](#) page, and also to go browsing through their archive of past talks at: [Past Events | Oxford Martin School](#). You will find something here that is relevant to almost any academic interest. Well worth scanning through if you are doing an EPQ on a topic that involves a threat to the world or to society.

As a taster, forthcoming events include:

['Past, present, and future of economic growth:...' | Oxford Martin School](#)

[The Dr Stanley Ho Memorial Lecture:...' | Oxford Martin School](#) – “Revisiting Genetic Determinism – evidence from large population cohorts”

['Making sense of chaos: a better economics for...' | Oxford Martin School](#)

['Historical research in the time of the...' | Oxford Martin School](#) This one is about the Anthropocene and using climate data to help us read the past.

['Historical research in the time of the...' | Oxford Martin School](#) – Note that this one is in-person only.



## The London Mathematical Society – upcoming talk and past lectures FOR FREE

A big thank you to Mr Taylor, Head of Maths, for sending this one our way!

The London Mathematical Society runs a series of talks - the LMS Popular Lectures - which are free public lectures that present exciting topics in mathematics and its applications to a wide audience. They are for anyone with an interest in mathematics, including those without high-level maths training.

The 2024 Popular lecture is scheduled for the **9<sup>th</sup> May 2024**. This year's speaker is Sarah Hart (Gresham Professor of Geometry, Professor Emerita of Mathematics and Fellow of Birkbeck, University of London), author of *Once Upon A Prime: The Wondrous Connections between Mathematics and Literature*.

The talk will be uploaded to [the LMS YouTube channel](#) - click 'subscribe' to be alerted when new videos are added.

You can watch previous LMS Popular Lectures [here](#).



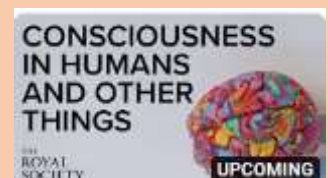
## The Royal Society – dedicated to promoting excellence in science for the benefit of humanity

The Royal Society is a Fellowship of the world's most eminent scientists and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence.

Like many such institutions, they have a freely accessible Youtube channel, which is well worth browsing through, even if you think that

“science isn't your thing”!

Their channels includes most of their past lectures, including the most recent Faraday Lecture which was given by our very own Professor Anil Seth (one of our most illustrious *Alumni*). [Consciousness in humans and in other things with Anil K Seth | The Royal Society \(youtube.com\)](#)



And if you are short of time, the [youtube channel](#) also includes a number of six-minute videos explaining some of the Big Ideas in science, as well as the series “New Science in less than 15 minutes”.



## [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 - Bruegel to Rubens – Great Flemish Drawings](#)

*Open now until the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century Flemish masters, some of which have never been exhibited before, and indeed some which have only recently been discovered.

To book your tickets and 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 £15.30, with concessions down to £7.65 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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*

### **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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:**

#### **Na Mele o Hula Kahiko**

Available until 24<sup>th</sup> 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)



#### **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://www.pitt-rivers-museum.ox.ac.uk/whats-on/2023/12/12-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://www.pitt-rivers-museum.ox.ac.uk/whats-on/2023/12/12-his-dark-materials)

### 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.historyofscience.ox.ac.uk/exhibitions/typhoid)

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?

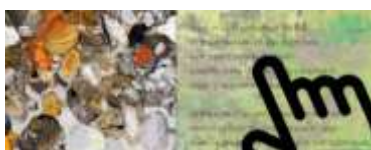
Available until 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024



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](#)



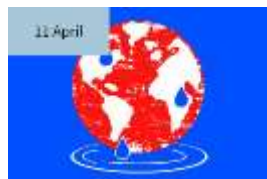
### **A Treasure of Online Exhibitions!**

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](#)

### **Water and Climate Change – Adaptation at the Margins**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 18:00 – 19:00



What is the role of climate science in supporting adaptation to climate change for poor, vulnerable, and marginalised communities? Leading researchers and practitioners at the forefront of climate adaptation will reflect on the social and political barriers to producing, sharing, and using climate information. For more information and to book your FREE tickets: [Water and Climate Change: Adaptation at the Margins | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)

### **Curiosity and Colonialism – by *Uncomfortable Oxford***

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 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.](#)

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



### **In Person Exhibition: Chaucer Here and Now**

*Available until 28<sup>th</sup> 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 \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)



### **In-person Exhibition: Write Cut Rewrite**

*Available until 5<sup>th</sup> 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



### **Emmanuel College's Langevity Programme – for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 who are fascinated by Languages**

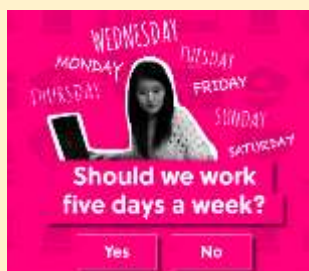
This is a FREE programme run by Emmanuel College, of the University of Cambridge, and invites students to sample the range of different languages that can be learnt *from scratch*. This will not only widen your appreciation of the complexities, similarities and differences between languages, but will also perhaps open your eyes to the vast array of subjects that can be explored at university – there are many others at other universities, remember – this is just one.

If you are in Year 12, the programme also goes on to offer support and guidance with applications in Year 13.

**Deadline for application: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

To find out more and to sign up, please visit [Qualtrics Survey | Qualtrics Experience Management](#)

[Qualtrics Survey | Qualtrics Experience Management](#)



## OXPIRE

Oxpire 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. [Oxpire | The Home of Big Questions](#)



### **Are you in Year 8 or 9 and interested in learning Latin? FREE GCSE Course with the University of Oxford, starting in September 2024**

King Alfred's has been working in partnership with the Classics Department at the University of Oxford for several years now, encouraging our most enthusiastic linguists to apply to learn Latin

with the fabulous OxLAT Scheme.

The next round of applications is coming up. If you are currently in Year 8 or Year 9, and you would like to learn Latin starting in September of next year, speak to one of your languages teachers and let them know that you want to apply.

**What's involved?** You will have to commit to attending lessons in Oxford every Saturday morning 10:30 – 13:00 during term-time, and you will have to complete homework tasks as for any of your GCSE subjects. The course takes two years, and at the end of the two years, you will take your GCSEs in Latin here at school.

**How to apply:** There are three stages to the application. You need to write a short personal statement explaining why you want to do this. Your parents also have to fill in a form to commit to supporting you with getting to and from Oxford every week. And finally, your teachers need to provide you with a reference to say that you are a committed and excellent student who would greatly benefit from this opportunity.

**What are the benefits?** The course will greatly improve your study of both Spanish and French. You will also gain an insight into the workings of one of the world's top universities, and will become familiar with one of the departments at the University. Find out more at: [OxLAT Oxford Latin Teaching Scheme. | Faculty of Classics | Outreach](#)

## Recorded Talks from the Oxford Department of Physics: Oppenheimer – making History through Physics



Recently, the Department of Physics organised a Special Event where different academics and researchers shared and celebrated different aspects of the life of Oppenheimer and how he made history through physics. To read more about the current work of Dr Johnson, visit his website

<https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/people/d...>

To read more about the current work of

Professor Blundell, visit the Physics Dept website (link in bio) or

<https://www.physics.ox.ac.uk/our-peop...>

To read more about the current work of Dr Viehauer, visit the Physics Dept website (link in bio) or <https://www.physics.ox.ac.uk/our-peop...>

- (1) ['Oppenheimer - making history through physics' Special Lecture \(1/3\) \(youtube.com\)](#)
- (2) ['Oppenheimer - making history through physics' Special Lecture \(2/3\) \(youtube.com\)](#)
- (3) ['Oppenheimer - making history through physics' Special Lecture \(3/3\) \(youtube.com\)](#)



### News from the Department of Physics

This is a fantastic webpage that takes you through some of the latest news and discoveries relevant to the Field of Physics, You can

filter the news items by research theme and department (a great way of finding out just how many sub-departments exist at the Oxford Department of Physics), and you can also choose to filter by audience so that you pick out the news items that have been selected especially for school students and prospective applicants. [Latest news and comment | University of Oxford Department of Physics](#)



### Routes: The Journal for Student Geographers

Lucy Cavendish College's Director of Studies in Geography, Dr Liam Saddington, has recently been appointed as co-editor-in-chief of Routes: The Journal for Student Geographers. Routes is a peer-reviewed journal for sixth-formers and undergraduates to publish geographical research. The [most recent issue](#) highlights a diverse body of geographical work, covering topics from place-making to water scarcity to flood risk management to Black geographies and film.

Find out more about Routes on its website [here](#), or by watching [this short video](#).



## Speakers for Schools – Inspirational Talks from inspirational People

On the “Speakers for Schools” Video Library, you will find hundreds of recorded talks from inspirational speakers across all areas of Industry, the Arts, and a

number of research organisations. You can focus your search for talks by both key stage and by type of talk (e.g. insight into industry, inspirational, etc.). Speakers include Authors, Journalists, Researchers in all sorts of areas (e.g. did you know there is such a thing as Forensic Linguistics??), Explorers, Designers, etc. [Inspirational Talks Library: Speakers & Video Broadcasts \(speakersforschools.org\)](https://speakersforschools.org)



### 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?**



#### Sunspot Detectives

This new project invites you to become a sunspot detective and help researchers to identify how many sunspots were on the solar surface in the past.

The project uses historical drawings of the Sun performed by Angelo Secchi at Collegio Romano, in Rome Italy from 1853 to 1878.

That is a very important task because such drawings of the Sun are like time capsules. The number of sunspots included in each drawing tells us about how magnetically active the Sun was in the day the observation was performed! Therefore, identifying and counting the sunspots in these old drawings helps us learn more about how the Sun behaved a long time ago, but also helps us understand how the Sun's activity can change over time. The data that will be derived from this project will be used in future studies of the international sunspot number, which is one of the most commonly used measures of solar activity over time. By contributing to this project you are participating in what stands as the longest-running experiment in astrophysics, which started in the early 1600s.

Get involved and [give the project a try!](#)



#### Finvision

This project asks volunteers to count and identify fish in underwater videos and images collected throughout coastal nursery areas on the south coast of the UK. The project focuses on capturing footage of the very smallest fish, to understand what habitats they require before they reach adulthood. The data from this survey will be used to programme an AI (artificial intelligence) model so that in future, we can automatically detect fish as they pass the camera!

The videos and images are collected from a new juvenile habitat monitoring camera (or the JHaM-Cam for short!) which uses state of the art stereo-camera systems. The camera systems are deployed in known fish nursery areas and are capable of recording for multiple hours at a time. That number of videos and images can quickly overwhelm the small team of scientists based at the University of Plymouth, UK. Your contributions to the FinVision project will allow the team to analyse critical data that will help to conserve natural fish nursery areas around the UK coastline.

You can get involved at <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/ryanhepburn/finvision>

## 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 Swooning Knights of Mediaeval Stories](#)

"Swooning" is a word we mostly associate with delicate femininity—**Victorian ladies** fainting away due to their physical and mental frailty, perhaps. But, as historian Rachel E. Moss writes, in Middle English romances from the late medieval period, it was often the strongest knights who were so overcome with emotion that they collapsed. [The Swooning Knights of Medieval Stories - JSTOR Daily](#)



### Article for you to read: [The Accordion Blues](#)

Though many associate the accordion with polkas and klezmer, the instrument played an important role in Black music after its arrival in the United States. [The Accordion Blues - JSTOR Daily](#)



### Article for you to read: [The Most Dangerous Woman in the World](#)

"Chicago May" was a classic swindler who conned her way around the world in the early twentieth century. She was also a sign of hard times. [The Most Dangerous Woman in the World - JSTOR Daily](#)



### Article for you to read: [How Astronomers write History](#)

Scientists' approach to dating past eclipses changed when they stopped treating classical texts as authoritative records. [How Astronomers Write History - 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/extra-curricular)



### **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.ox.ac.uk/digital-resources)



### **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/extra-curricular/super-curricular-suggestions)



### **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)

## 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 Big Oxplore Video Competition!**

OXPLORE, the Home of the Big Questions, is inviting you to take part in the 2024 Video Competition. You need to put

together a short video in response to the Big Question: **Should cars be banned in your region?**

**If you are in Years 7-9**, submit a **3-minute video response** and

**If you are in Years 10-13**, submit a **5-minute video response**.

You can approach this question from a variety of perspectives – bring in Science, Law, Economics, Politics, Philosophy, Geography or any other subject or discipline. Just remember to answer the question!

**All submissions should be emailed to [explore@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:explore@admin.ox.ac.uk) by 11:59 BST on 3rd May 2024.** We recommend sending submissions in MP4 file format, though if they can access the video then it will be considered for marking! Please include your **name**, the **name of your school** and your **school year**.

Entries will be reviewed by Oxplore’s expert judging panel. The winners will receive **£100** and the runners-up will receive **£50** in Amazon vouchers.



### **Unsung Heroes of Science Video Competition**

Entries for the 2024 edition of the Unsung Heroes of Science video competition for 16–18-year-olds is now open. Entrants (as individuals or groups of up to 3) are invited to produce and submit a two-minute video on a scientific figure who they feel has been maligned or overlooked in history. Professional quality video editing isn’t necessary – engaging content and ideas are the main criteria! Back to Contents 5 The shortlisted videos will be promoted by Hertford College and their creators will be invited to a summer prizegiving event at the college. The deadline for

submissions is **Tuesday 16th April**. You can find more information on the competition at

[Unsung Heroes of Science 2024 - Hertford College | University of Oxford](#), as well as past

winning videos at [Unsung Heroes videos - Hertford College | University of Oxford](#). Good luck!



St Edmund Hall  
University of Oxford

### The Big Think Competition

To enter and be in with a chance to win up to £100, students record a 5-minute video answering a 'big' tutorial-style question specially designed to challenge students beyond their normal school curriculum and get

them thinking big about their subject and what it might be like to study it at university. It's also a useful introduction to the sort of content used for a UCAS personal statement. **Entries close on 1 May 2024.** [Find out more](#)



### The Webster Review of International History 2024 – Sixth Form Essay Competition

To mark the centenary of the birth of James Baldwin, the great African American writer and civil rights activist, in August 2024, this competition invites students to critically engage with the themes of race and gender in their past and contemporary development, reflecting James Baldwin's status as a Black, queer icon, and his relevance both in his own time and in the modern day.

Entrants must choose and respond to one of the three essay (see below) and essays should not exceed 2,000 words.

- What was the most significant achievement of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s?
- How does modern Britain continue to be affected by the end of its empire?
- How has the Windrush Generation shaped British culture and society?

Students must be currently enrolled in a UK university, at undergraduate or postgraduate level, or in Year 12 or above at a UK school or college. Entries should be submitted via the online form. Please indicate your age category as a separate set of prizes will be awarded to each category. Detailed submission instructions may be found on the next page. Important Note: In order to ensure an anonymous judging process, we ask that you do not include your name or school on your essay submission **Deadline: 30 April 2024, 23:59**

For more information, please go to: [Announcements - The Webster Review of International History \(lse.ac.uk\)](#) and, to submit your entry, please go to: [2024 Webster Review Essay Competition \(google.com\)](#)

### 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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>



### **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](#)