



Dear Students (and Parents/Carers),
Welcome to the Academic Enrichment Newsletter for the half-term break and Term 6!
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](#) This issue has a load of academic competitions for students in Year 12 looking for some challenging super-curricular enrichment that will support their university applications!

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

A Date for your Diary

The Sir Christopher Ricks Talk 2024

Wednesday 25th September 2024, 7:00 – 8:30pm

The Beacon, Portway, Wantage.



The Sir Christopher Ricks Talk was set up in 2017 to celebrate the Arts and Humanities here at King Alfred's, and it was named after our most illustrious alumnus: Literary Critic and erstwhile Oxford Professor of Poetry Sir Christopher Ricks.

This year we are delighted and proud to let you know that our Speaker for 2024 will be Actor and Comedian [Marcus Brigstocke](#), known for his incisive wit on numerous TV and radio appearances, as well as stand-up comedy. Radio credits include work on *The Now Show* and *The Late Edition*; television credits include *Have I got News for You* and *Live at the Apollo*, among many others.

We do not yet have a title for his talk but you can be sure that Marcus will have a most interesting and original take on the topic. In the meantime, please set aside Wednesday 25th September for an evening at the Beacon, Wantage. You will be able to reserve your seats during Term 6 and into the start of the next school year.

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,

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



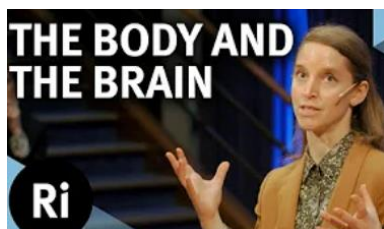
And below you will find this term's recommended selection of three of the longer talks:



Recorded Talk: The Evolution of Free Will?

Do we have free will? And how does brain activity prove or deny this? Join leading neuroscientist Kevin Mitchell as he argues that we are not mere machines responding to physical forces but agents acting with purpose.

[Want to take notes like a pro, so you can focus on the work that matters? \(youtube.com\)](#)



Recorded Talk: The Science of Mental Health

How does the body affect our brain, and vice versa? Can exercise, psychedelics, or the gut biome improve your mental health? Find out with neuroscientist Camilla Nord.

[The science of mental health - with Camilla Nord \(youtube.com\)](#)



Recorded Talk: The Dark History of Genetics

Join the 2023 JBS Haldane Lecturer Adam Rutherford as he explores how, as we continue to use and celebrate the advances of our intellectual predecessors, we frequently fail to acknowledge the toxic political views that informed their work. Even today, scientists are not exempt from their culture, and

science is always political. In this talk Adam will explore the work, views and legacies of some of our heroes, including Karl Pearson, Ronald Fisher and yes, JBS Haldane.

[The dark history of genetics - with Adam Rutherford \(2023 HBS Haldane Lecture\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

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!

[Drawn to Extinction: Depicting the Thylacine | Jack Ashby \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Women, Environment and Networks of Empire | Victoria Dickenson and Anna Winterbottom \(youtube.com\)](#)

[How to Bee-Friendly: The Best Plants for Bees and Other Pollinators | Natasha de Vere \(youtube.com\)](#)

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

Sixth Formers, if you have a study period during the day, it might be worth checking whether you can catch one of their lunch-time talks. Check out the events page online at: [Upcoming Events | The Linnean Society](#)

The 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 **9th 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 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:

28th May 2024, 5pm - ['Why hydrogen is of strategic importance to... | Oxford Martin School](#)

Hydrogen is projected to play a significant if not crucial role in the future energy mix, with the IEA forecasting an increase of almost an order of magnitude compared to hydrogen consumption today.

29th May 2024, 5pm - [Book Talk: 'Migration: past, present and... | Oxford Martin School](#)

Join us at the Oxford launch of Professor Ian Goldin’s latest book - The Shortest History of Migration.

10th June 2024, 5pm - ['The role of a global multilateral development... | Oxford Martin School](#)

The world is confronted with an unprecedented level of political, economic, and social unrest with increasing divergence of views on the causes and appropriate response.



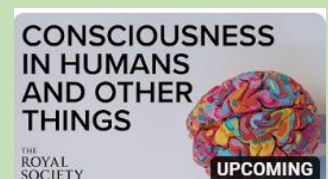
The Royal Society – dedicated to promoting excellence in science for the benefit of humanity

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 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, 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](#) |

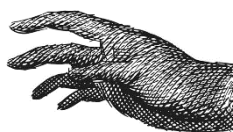
[Ashmolean Museum](#)

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 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



Kabuki Legends

Available until 23rd February 2025

Japanese artist **Takahashi Hiromitsu** creates dynamic, colourful prints showing exciting moments in kabuki, a traditional form of dance-drama. This is the second show in a two-part exhibition of his works.

Gallery 29



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



Simple Pleasures: Li Jin with Roger Law

This exhibition showcases work by the contemporary Chinese ink master **Li Jin** – his first solo show in the UK – alongside a selection of drawings and ceramic work by the British caricaturist Roger Law and some of their correspondence. The two artists have been friends for many years. Both share a sense of humour and sharp observation in their artistic endeavours and appreciation of each other's art.

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 the Great War

25th June - 29th September 2024

An exciting exhibition looking at the contemporary artwork of the Wars and the years immediately following. It's a great exhibition to consider the biases and messages that were being promoted at the 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:

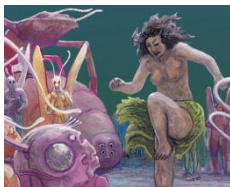
[Online Talks – Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum](#)

[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:



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.



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)



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*

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*.

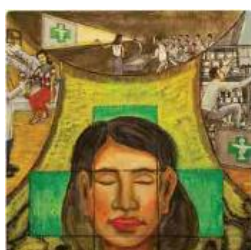
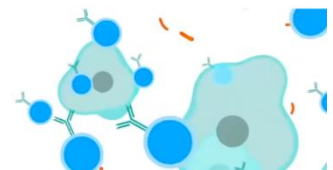
Alice in Typhoidland: The Past and Present of Typhoid

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*.



Display: The Disease of Greed – Fake, falsified and substandard medicine

Fake objects in museums may seem harmless, but fake medicines and misinformation have real consequences for all of us.

Come and investigate hoaxes, forgeries and fakes in the world of public health in Southeast Asia. Bear in mind that, although this display explores the problem in one area of the world, the issues arising are not confined to

that area. Take a closer look online before visiting the display: [2024 Fakes Display \(FINAL\) \(genial.ly\)](#)



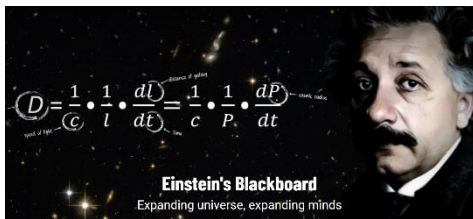
Meet Guglielmo Marconi – one of the minds who made the modern world

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.

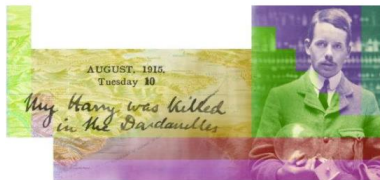
This blackboard is more than a glimpse into the mind of a genius, however: it is a key moment in our understanding of the Cosmos. To find out more, visit the online story

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 of the world's most comprehensive collections 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 \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

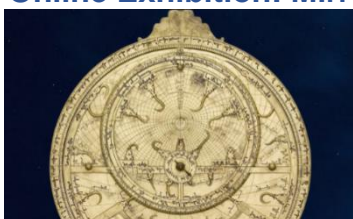




Display: on Prayer

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?

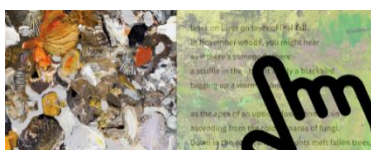
Available until 1st September 2024

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](#)

Panel Discussion – Insects and the Psychology of Disgust and Revulsion

Thursday 23rd May 2024, 18:00 – 19:00



Humans have a widely held disgust for insects.

Is this disgust innate, or even universal? Are there good evolutionary reasons for it? Or is it just learnt behaviour? And how did Franz Kafka exploit this sense of disgust so successfully in *Metamorphosis*?

Join us for a panel discussion in the Museum's beautifully-decorated Westwood room, originally Mr. Hope's Museum of Entomology.

Please note that booking is essential, make sure to bring proof of booking with you on the night. [Tickets £5](#)

Talk and Activities: What is Kafka's problem with Insects?

Wednesday 5th June 2024, 6:00 – 9:00pm



Enjoy a lively talk from television's favourite entomologist, George McGavin, and then explore a range of insect-related activity stalls within the museum.

FREE Event, but **booking required in advance**. Go to: [What's Kafka's problem with insects? | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)

Talk: Megalosaurus and the Incredible History of British Dinosaur Discoveries



Join acclaimed palaeontologist, author, and TV presenter Dr Dean Lomax as he takes us on a journey through millions of years, revealing the amazing dinosaurs that once called Britain home.

Booking is essential, and tickets are £5. For more information and to book, please go to: [Megalosaurus and the Incredible History of British Dinosaur Discoveries | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)



Photography Workshop – Curious Adventures in Nature

Saturday 6th July, 2024 14:00 – 16:00

Multi-disciplinary contemporary artist Graham Fudger will explain how to use your smartphone camera to capture and manipulate exquisite images of nature that explore colour, texture and light. The workshop includes options to explore time-lapse and identifier apps.

To find out more and book your FREE places: [Curious Adventures in Nature | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)



Film Festival: The Good Natures Conservation Optimism Festival

Saturday 6th July, 2024 18:00 – 21:00

In the face of environmental erosion and human negligence, it is all too easy to regard our planet with despair. But nestled amongst the prevailing stories of loss and destruction, there are inspiring stories of regeneration — of communities who nurture the planet, and who benefit from it in turn. Go along for an evening of empowering and inspiring stories from across the globe. Advance booking essential, and tickets are £5. To find out more and book, please go to: [Conservation Optimism Presents... Good Natures | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)

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

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

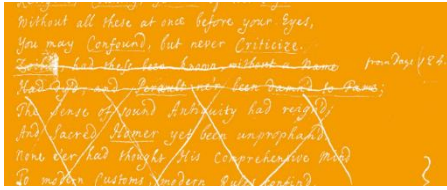


In Person Exhibition: Kafka – the making of an Icon

Available until 27th October 2024

Kafka: Making of an Icon marks the 100th anniversary of the author's death, celebrating not only his achievements and creativity but also how he continues to inspire new literary, theatrical and cinematic creations around the world.

The exhibition features materials from the archives of the Bodleian Libraries, which hold the majority of Franz Kafka's papers, including literary notebooks, drawings, diaries, letters, postcards, glossaries, and photographs. *St Lee Gallery, Weston Library.*



In-person Exhibition: Write Cut Rewrite

Available until 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: Prints, Plates and Pixels

Available until August 2024

Prints, Plates & Pixels explores the intersection where art and science collide. It reveals how transformative new technologies have allowed us to look at 17th- and 18th-century printing plates in unprecedented detail, and led to exciting discoveries. For more information: [Prints, Plates & Pixels | Visit](#)

[the Bodleian Libraries \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

Blackwell Hall, Weston Library

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

Section 2. Sites to explore online

John D Cook Blog – Solving Hard Problems

JOHN D. COOK
CONSULTING

This website comes strongly recommended by our Head of Maths, Mr Taylor, and with good reason. John D Cook's Consultancy specialises in all manner of hard problems, some of which are related to the consultancy work, and some of which are beautifully random just-for-fun problems. If you have ever wondered about the real-life applications of Mathematics, look no further! It is also a fantastic place to explore super-curricular Mathematics and fall in love with the wonders of Maths. [Consulting in mathematics, statistics, and data privacy \(johndcook.com\)](http://johndcook.com)



QUANTA Magazine

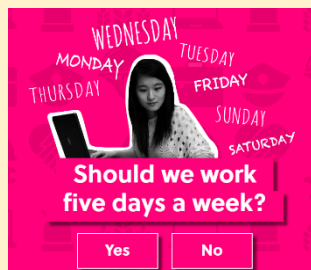
Another website that comes strongly recommended by our Head of Maths, Mr Taylor, and I love it. If you have an interest in the Sciences and Computing, QUANTA Magazine has a regular outpouring of excellently written articles on all topics STEM-related. It is a great website to find out about current research, but also to learn about the scientists carrying out that research, and to learn about the implications and possible applications of that research. You can subscribe to their newsletter, or just get into the habit of checking the website on a regular basis. It is totally FREE. [Science and Math News | Quanta Magazine](#)

The Mindscape Podcast

Ever wanted to know how music affects your brain, what quantum mechanics really is, or how black holes work? Do you wonder why you get emotional each time you see a certain movie, or how on earth video games are designed? Then you've come to the right place. Each week, Sean Carroll will host conversations with some of the most interesting thinkers in the world. From neuroscientists and engineers to authors and television producers, Sean and his guests talk about the biggest ideas in science, philosophy, culture and much more.



[Sean Carroll's Mindscape Podcast – Sean Carroll \(preposterousuniverse.com\)](http://preposterousuniverse.com)

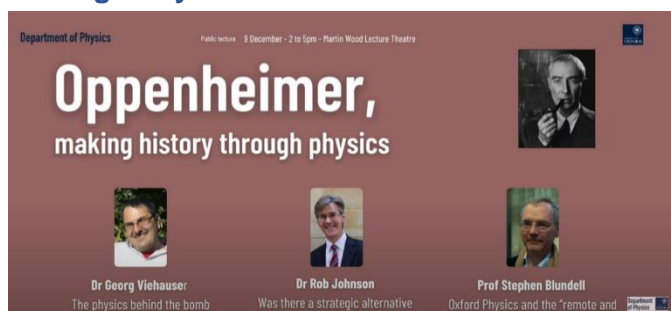


OX?LORE

E

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

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](#)



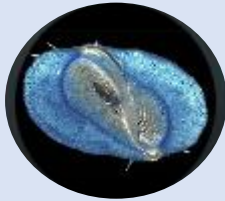
Routes: The Journal for Student Geographers

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](#).

[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 Living Sailor

Living Sailors, also called by-the-wind sailors (or *Veleva veleva*), travel the world's oceans. These beautiful and strange jellies float at the surface and harness the wind with a fleshy sail that points either left or right. Over 60 years ago, a Soviet scientist hypothesized that left- and right-facing sails travel across different parts of the ocean. Was he right?

This new project asks volunteers to count and identify The Living Sailors from thousands of images gathered by iNaturalist observers from around the globe. Volunteers will count Living Sailors, determine whether they are lefty or righty, and whether they are alive or dead. The data from this project will help us determine (1) where and (2) how many lefty and righty Living Sailors are around the ocean. With more than 10,000 images from more than 7,000 iNaturalist observers, we can possibly answer this half-century-old question: does sail direction guide Living Sailors to different parts of the global ocean? Knowing that answer, we can better understand this overlooked community of strange and wonderful wanderers. Get involved at [The Living Sailor — Zooniverse](#).



AtmosElec – Atmospheric Electricity for Climate

The AtmosEleC research team needs your help transcribing historical data from Lerwick Observatory in Shetland, UK. The atmospheric electricity measurements at Lerwick began in 1925, and were continued systematically by diligent observatory staff until 1984.

Atmospheric electricity measurements are closely linked to global lightning activity and can be used to study the electric charge separated by thunderstorms. Within the recorded data, significant past weather and climate changes are captured, including the warming and cooling effects of the Pacific Ocean associated with El Niño events. Intriguingly, these measurements also contain information about environmental radioactivity, especially the nuclear bomb tests of the 1950s.

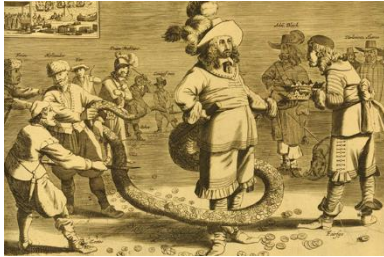
By digitising these records, you will help create a searchable dataset that scientists and researchers worldwide will then use to advance atmospheric research!

To find out more and get involved, visit: [AtmosEleC - Atmospheric Electricity for Climate — Zooniverse](#)

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: [When all the English had tails](#)

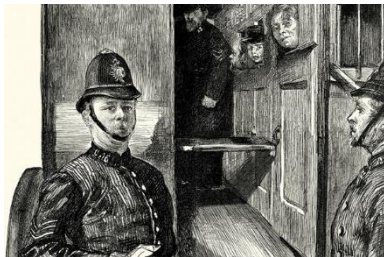
Where did the myth that English men (and probably women) were hiding tails beneath their clothing come from? And what was that about eggs?

“Tails, tails!” That was the **taunt** the people of Paris flung at the English army in 1436 as the soldiers vacated the city that they had occupied for sixteen years. [When All the English Had Tails - JSTOR Daily](#)



Article for you to read: [Life in the Islands of the Dead](#)

Though part of the mainland county of Cornwall, the Scilly Islands offer visitors an encounter with history and the environment like no other. [Life in the Islands of the Dead - JSTOR Daily](#)



Article for you to read: [The Industrial Revolution and the Rise of Policing](#)

The increased use of machines and the division of labour allowed for the production of standardised products. It also made it easier to fence stolen goods. [The Industrial Revolution and the Rise of Policing - JSTOR Daily](#)



Article for you to read: [Colourful Lights to cure what Ails You](#)

Between 1920 and the 1960s, tens of thousands of people received treatment with a Spectro-Chrome to address various ailments. [Colorful Lights to Cure What Ails You - 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 \(cam.ac.uk\)](http://www.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](http://www.oxford.ac.uk/digital-resource-hub)

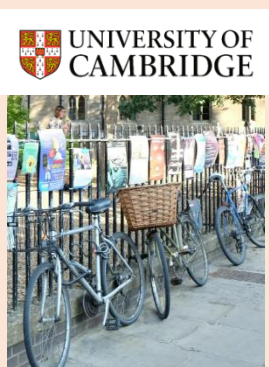


HE+

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

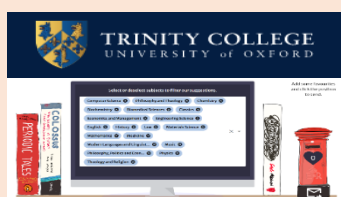
It is aimed at older students, but there is absolutely no reason why younger students cannot take a look and start thinking ahead. The main subject pages also give you a quick guide to what it would be like to study the subject at university level and suggest some further resources to check out. Click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

Super Curricular Suggestions from the University of Cambridge:



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

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



Trinity College Library Quad

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

[Library Quad | Trinity College Oxford](http://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 Ogden Trust Science Photography Competition for Years 7, 8 and 9 and their parents!

This year, the Ogden Trust Photography Competition is all about **Movement**. And this year, as well as student categories, there is one

extra adult category for the parents of the students in those year groups! It is free to enter, and there are some cool prizes to be won. But hurry, the **deadline for submitting your entry is midnight on Wednesday 5th June 2024**.

[King Alfred's Academy - The Ogden trust photography competition for Years 7, 8 and 9 \(kaacademy.org\)](http://kaacademy.org)



King's Entrepreneurship Lab Essay Competition 2024, for Year 11 and 12

The purpose of this competition is to encourage UK-based school students (in Year 11 and Year 12) to pursue entrepreneurial aspirations and understand better how to launch an enterprise. The organisers are particularly keen to foster this entrepreneurial spirit among students who might not traditionally consider entering the world of business and further hope this competition encourages more young people, who might not think about it, to apply to Oxbridge and Higher Education.

The competition is organised and run by the Entrepreneurship Lab (E-Lab) at King's College, University of Cambridge. More details about the E-Lab can be found on their [About](#) page.

Students should choose between one of three essays questions, exploring the importance of entrepreneurship and the challenges that business-people face. This essay should be written independently by the student but with input from a teacher or mentor. UK-based students from all backgrounds and regardless of subjects studied are welcome to enter the competition.

A winner, and two runners up, will be selected by the panel of E-Lab Judges. The winners will be invited to a prize-giving ceremony, to be held in King's College, Cambridge, on 2nd October 2024. The winner will receive a £1,000 cash prize, with two runners-up prizes of £500.

For more information and details of how to submit your entry, please go to: [Entrepreneurship Essay Competition — King's Entrepreneurship Lab \(kingselab.org\)](http://kingselab.org). **The deadline for submission of entries is 9pm on 12th July 2024.**



Trinity College Cambridge Essay Prize in Philosophy

The Philosophy Essay Prize is open to Year 12 students. The aim of the Prize is to encourage able sixth formers to pursue their interest in Philosophy, with the hope that they will be encouraged to read this or related subjects at University.

You may choose one of two questions for the 2024 competition, below:

- 'It is impossible to fit values into the world described by natural science.' Is it?
- Can machines have minds?

You should answer **one** question only. The deadline for entries is **12.00 noon UK time on Friday 31 May 2024**.

For more information and details of how to submit your essay, please visit: [Philosophy Essay Prize - Trinity College Cambridge](#)



QUEENS' COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

Queen's College Estelle English Literature Prize for Year 12

Queens' College invites submissions for the

Estelle Prize for English 2024, which will be awarded to the best essay submitted by a Year 12 (Lower Sixth Form) student. The winner will receive a £500 prize; depending on the strength of the field of submissions, honourable mentions may also be made. There are three questions to choose from – each offers a poem or passage(s) of prose, and the student is invited to analyse and comment on the writing following specific guidelines. Excellent practice for A Level exams or, indeed, for English Literature Oxbridge interview questions!

Entries must be submitted no later than 5pm on Friday 19th July 2024

to tutorial.office@queens.cam.ac.uk. For details of the questions and how to submit your essay, please visit: [Queens' College Estelle Prize of £500 for Year 12 English students \(shorthandstories.com\)](#)



Gonville & Caius
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Caius Explore series of tasks – designed to help you explore your academic interests

For Caius Explore, academics at Gonville & Caius have designed tasks in many different subjects that are

aimed at **helping you to develop your academic interests beyond your school curriculum**. Not only is developing your academic interests one of the best things you can be doing to make yourself as competitive as possible as an applicant to Cambridge (or any other highly selective university), but we also think it's a very good thing to do for its own sake!

That is the spirit in which all of these explorations have been set: the organisers hope that they will be genuinely engaging, that they will encourage and help you to explore your academic interests, and most of all that they will be enjoyable. The tasks have been designed with Year 12 in mind, but you are welcome to have a go at them if you are in a younger year.

Collaborative entries are also considered!

You can enter for as many subjects as you like and entries will be open until **26 July 2024**. We will pick our favourite entries and invite their authors to come to Caius to meet our Directors of Studies, students, have a tour, and more.

Each task has a separate page with guidance, resources, and tips on how to get started.

Remember, you can explore as many of the tasks as you like!

[Caius Explore | Gonville & Caius \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)



Trinity College Cambridge Essay Prizes in English Literature, Languages and Culture, Linguistics and Politics

This page takes you to a number of different essay prizes. The ones mentioned above all have submission dates in August.

The Essay Prize for Law is now past, and the one for Philosophy is mentioned above as it has a submission deadline at the end of May.

For details of the questions, competition rules and how to submit your entries, please go to: [Essay Prizes and Competitions - Trinity College Cambridge](#)



St John's College Cambridge Academic Poster Competition 2024

An Academic Research Poster is a very different way of presenting your work – it requires less writing, but it also requires you to think about the presentation, wording and any images much more carefully. The competition webpage includes tips and advice on:

- How to get started with your research
- how to structure your poster, including online webinars and examples of previous years' entries, to give you a clear idea of what you need to do

You need to undertake a research project on an academic topic or question that interests you (*from any subject area and which relates to the competition theme*) and create an **academic research poster** about it. The **theme** of this year's competition is **SILVER**. Your submission must relate to this theme and the organisers encourage creative interpretations of the theme. Each submitted entry must be produced by an **individual** student and cannot be the result of group project work. Each student can only submit **one entry**.

Each submitted entry should include the following:

1. An academic research **poster**, containing academic **references**
2. A separate **bibliography**

For more information and to access the resources, please visit: [St John's Poster Competition | St John's College, University of Cambridge](#)

The deadline for submission of entries is: **4pm on Monday 5th August, 2024.**



Woolf Essay Prize 2024

The Woolf Essay Prize 2024 is now open!

[Woolf Essay Prize 2024 Information and Questions](#)

In 1928, Virginia Woolf addressed the Newnham Arts Society on the Subject of 'Women and Fiction', and from this talk emerged her seminal text, *A Room of One's Own*. Newnham is very proud of its place in the history of women's education, and we are delighted in the continuation of the Woolf Essay Prize. *A Room of One's Own* raises a number of questions surrounding the place of women in society, culture, and education, and the competition allows students to contemplate these themes and ideas while developing the independent research and writing skills essential to university-level study.

This year, the Woolf Essay Prize is open to all Women in Year 12 (or equivalent), regardless of school or country. For more information, including the question list, word limit, and submission details, please consult the Information and Questions document. The deadline for submission is **09:00am BST on Monday 8th July 2024**. For any queries not answered here, please contact essayprizes@newn.cam.ac.uk.

The Woolf Essay Prize will run separately to our [Essay Writing Masterclass Programme](#), which encompasses a variety of subject interests.

This prize may be of particular interest to those studying English Literature, History, Politics, Philosophy or Sociology, but we absolutely welcome entries from interested students studying [Woolf Essay Prize 2024 – Newnham College \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)



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](#)



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