St. John’s College
Access & Outreach
Events and Opportunities
Dear Teachers,

We hope you are doing well in what are still unusual circumstances for us all.

As of this month, St John’s Access and Outreach team will be sending out an Events and Opportunities card for those on our mailing list. This card will contain information about what St John’s is offering schools: particularly those in our linked regions of East and West Sussex, Brighton & Hove, Southampton, Ealing and Harrow. We will also be including a range of opportunities and resources being offered by other Colleges and the wider university. We hope having all this information in one place will make it easier for you to identify and share relevant information with your students.

Below you will find descriptions of our initiatives at St John’s including virtual school visits, our new TAP platform and open days. We have also included other opportunities organised into ‘Humanities’ and ‘STEM’.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at access@sjc.ox.ac.uk.

With best wishes,

Maryanne

Dr Maryanne Saunders [she/her]
Access and Outreach Officer,
St John’s College Oxford.
St. John’s:
Virtual School Visits
We are delighted to be able to offer a Virtual School Visits to schools in our link areas of Ealing, Harrow, East Sussex, West Sussex, Southampton, and Brighton & Hove.
During the virtual visit, our Access and Outreach Officer, Dr Maryanne Saunders will present ‘Oxford Explained’, a wide-ranging introduction to Oxford, the University, Admissions and beyond. This is followed by a Q&A with the Access Team and undergraduate students where we can answer questions from yourself and your pupils live. Our Admissions Officer will also be on hand to answer any questions relating to the application process. The talk is approximately 45 minutes in length and the Q&A is 30 minutes.
If you would like to learn more, or book a session at your convenience then please fill in this form and we will be in touch.

Please note that these visits are primarily reserved for Non-Selective State Schools in our linked regions. If you are an Independent or Selective state school, we will require you to invite 2-3 state schools to your visit so student in your area can benefit.

TAP
St John’s College Admissions, Access and Outreach team are delighted to announce the launch of our TAP platform!

The Ambassador Platform (TAP), previously known as The Access Platform, is an online system which allows our own student ambassadors to chat to prospective applicants anywhere in the world in a safe and informal way. TAP allows our student ambassadors to make a profile about themselves, their background, their course, societies, accommodation and other features of their lives at St John’s. Prospective applicants can then chat with them directly about their experience at Oxford. Colleges already using TAP have reported it making a big difference to the pupils who engage with the platform as they can get specific answers to their individual questions and concerns. TAP will be promoted at Access and Outreach events, encouraging pupils to visit the page directly to talk to students.

Open Days
Our team will be available for questions at the upcoming university open days on the 30th of June, the 1st of July and the 17th of September. Staff and students can sign up for these through the website.
Humanities:

Jewish Country Houses, Refugee week (14-20 June) and Holocaust Education

‘Jewish Country Houses’ (www.jch.history.ox.ac.uk) is a research project based in the History Faculty and led by Professor Abigail Green. The project is working with the heritage sector to write country houses built by or owned by Jews back into British, European, and Jewish history and to establish their importance as sites of European and Jewish memory.

The project team is currently working with the Holocaust Educational Trust on a pilot project which will use the Jewish Country House as a focal point through which to think about Britain’s relationship to the Holocaust. Nymans (Nymans | National Trust) in West Sussex is one of the case study properties, and the study session here will examine the Messel family whose German relatives fled or perished in the Holocaust. More information is available on the HET site here Holocaust Educational Trust - Teacher Study Seminars (het.org.uk). Teachers will be invited to join a Zoom seminar at the end of May, and a site visit to Nymans on 6th June. We are very much hoping that teachers within easy reach of Nymans may be interested in getting involved.

‘A German Classic’ Essay Competition

The Oxford German Network has just launched the 2021 edition of ‘A German Classic’ – Oxford’s essay competition for sixth-form students. This year we would like to invite students to read Heinrich von Kleist’s Die in St. Domingo (1811) with us.

For information on study packs that students can request for free by 12 noon, Friday, 25 June 2021, eligibility, prizes, essay questions, submission process, and judging criteria, see the attached participation guidelines. The deadline for essay submissions is at 12 noon, Wednesday, 15 September 2021. You can also find more information on our website.

Christ Church Women in PPE Day

Christ Church is holding a Women in PPE Study Day on Tuesday 1 June 2021. The online event will include an introduction to Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford and taster sessions in each strand of the subject. We welcome applications from Year-12 students, whose gender identity includes woman, who are considering applying to study Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford. We will be prioritising applications from students who attend state-maintained schools in the UK. Click here to find out more and apply. Applications close on Tuesday 25 May at noon.

St Peter’s English Virtual Event

Thursday 3 June 2021

Applications are now open for the St Peter’s College English Virtual Event, aimed at prospective applicants. As well as providing a taster of our English Language and Literature degree, the event will enable students to virtually meet English tutors and current undergraduates, experience taster seminars, and receive an application workshop. For more information and to make an application click here.

Virtual Study Day: Classics & Ancient History

6th July 2021 | Oriel College, Oxford

Oriel College has added a NEW Virtual Study Day in Classics & Ancient History on Tuesday 6th July, for Year 12 students at UK state schools and colleges interested in life and study at a top university. There will be opportunities to interact with academics and current students. This event is intended for students interested in any course related to the ancient world: Classics, Classics Joint Schools, Classical Archaeology & Ancient History, and Ancient & Modern History. No prior experience of studying the ancient world and/or an ancient language is required, and students who have had limited opportunities to study or otherwise pursue their interests in this area will be prioritised alongside our existing criteria. Further information, including selection criteria and an application form, can be found here. Any questions should be directed to outreach@oriel.ox.ac.uk.
Balliol Virtual English Taster Day For Year 12

**Tuesday 1st of June 1:15-3:45pm.** This event is aimed at year 12 students who are seriously considering applying to Oxford to study English as a single or joint honours degree. This event includes; lectures, a demonstration interview and Q&A with undergraduates.

More information [here](#).

Balliol Virtual History Taster Day For Year 12

**Friday 21st May 11:30-3:00pm.** This event is aimed at year 12 students who are seriously considering applying to Oxford to study History as a single or joint honours degree. This event includes; course information, lectures, a demo interview and Q&A with undergraduates.

More information [here](#).

Virtual Study Days (English and PPE) June 2021 | Oriel College, Oxford

Oriel College, Oxford is offering Virtual Study Days in selected subjects for Year 12s from UK state schools. These virtual events will give a taste of studying each subject at a top university and offer advice and guidance on applying for them at Oxford, including dedicated sessions on interviews and admissions testing. There will be opportunities to interact with academics and current undergraduate students, and content will be available in live and pre-recorded formats (including recordings available for a period of time post-event) to enable participants to access the events in a way which best suits them.

Applications are currently open for English & English Joint Schools (1st June) and PPE (4th June). Further information, including selection criteria and an application form, can be found here: [https://www.oriel.ox.ac.uk/virtual-study-days](https://www.oriel.ox.ac.uk/virtual-study-days). Any questions should be directed to outreach@oriel.ox.ac.uk.

Classics Creative Writing Competition 2021

The Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research, in partnership with the Faculty of Classics, is delighted to launch its 2021 Creative Writing Competition. Prizes will be awarded to the top three creative pieces written in response to images from the Manar al-Athar Photo Bank. Email your submission to outreach@classics.ox.ac.uk as a Word document or a PDF by 6pm (GMT) on Thursday 27 May 2021.

More information [here](#).
St Hilda’s Taster Sessions

We are very excited to bring you a new series of taster sessions this term which we hope you and your students will enjoy! We have a variety of talks up until half term. To sign up for the talks, visit our website here. These talks are available for state school students and are completely free. A poster is attached for your students.

Wednesday 19th May – 4.30pm
Humanities – Year 12 – Taster Session in Medieval Studies

In this talk, Katherine Olley will give you a taste of the different aspects of medieval studies, from material culture to language development, to some of the world’s greatest literature. We’ll be having a close look at the manuscript of the Poetic Edda, one of Iceland’s greatest national treasures, and exploring the challenges that come with reading and studying it. Come prepared to have a go at some medieval Icelandic transcription and translation – no prior experience necessary!

Wednesday 2nd June - 2.30pm
Humanities – Years 10 & 11 – Becoming a Medievalist

Aimed particularly at those thinking about studying the humanities for A-level and wondering what kind of careers the humanities may lead to after school. This session will give you an idea of what it’s like (and why it’s important) to study the medieval period as well as demonstrating how the skills you learn at school can equip you for academic research.

Thursday 3 June 2021
St Peter’s English Virtual Event

Applications are now open for the St Peter’s College English Virtual Event, aimed at prospective applicants. As well as providing a taster of our English Language and Literature degree, the event will enable students to virtually meet English tutors and current undergraduates, experience taster seminars, and receive an application workshop.

For more information and to make an application please visit: https://www.spc.ox.ac.uk/increasing-access
STEM:

St Hilda’s Taster Sessions

We are very excited to bring you a new series of taster sessions this term which we hope you and your students will enjoy! We have a variety of talks up until half term. To sign up for the talks, visit our website here. These talks are available for state school students and are completely free. A poster is attached for your students.

Wednesday 26th May – 4.30pm

Sciences – Years 10 & 11 – How to become an Astronomer

In this talk, Jakob van den Eijnden will talk you through life as an astronomer: You may have heard of telescopes on Earth, such as the Very Large Telescope in Chile, or in space, like the Hubble Space Telescope. But have you ever wondered how to use those telescopes to uncover the wonders of the universe? That is the job of an astronomer. In this session, I will talk about my studies and career in astronomy, and what you can expect as a student of this subject. We will also get a taste of the types of questions that astronomers ask, and their sometimes baffling answers, during an interactive quiz.

Tuesday 1st June – 2.30pm

Sciences – Year 12 – Taster session in Astronomy

In this talk, Jakob van den Eijnden will talk about how to study the universe: Astronomy holds a unique place in the natural sciences. It may be built on the same foundations as, for instance, physics, but there is a fundamental difference: where most scientists design experiments that they completely control, an astronomer can never visit, control, or design the phenomena that they study. One does not easily build a star in lab, after all. That means that many astronomers, including me, spend their time by observing space as it is, trying to gain understanding from the chaotic and complex universe. In this taster session, I will talk about how we study the universe with telescopes, what we can learn, and why we want to do so.

Physics and Engineering at Magdalen

Physics and Engineering at Magdalen is a brand-new online programme designed specifically for Year 12 students from backgrounds that have historically been under-represented at the University of Oxford. The aim of this intensive three-day workshop is to introduce prospective students to our Physics and Engineering Science undergraduate degrees. Through live interactive sessions — including taster lectures, practical activities, and an admissions workshop — we aim to answer your questions about the content and structure of our degree courses, and help to familiarise you with Oxford’s approach to teaching and learning. The programme will run **August 17-19, 2021**.

You can find out more about the programme and the selection criteria [here](#). Applications are now open and will close on **June 13th**. You can apply [here](#). If you are a teacher, you may like to share [this poster](#). If you have any questions about this event, please don’t hesitate to contact the event organisers, Olivia and Amy, at outreach@magd.ox.ac.uk.

New comic by Oxford Neuroscientists

[https://enlightenyourclock.org](https://enlightenyourclock.org)

Interested in sleep, the biological clock and the influence of light? An open-access and science-based comic book “Enlighten your clock: How your body tells time” suitable (13+ years) made by neuroscientists at the University of Oxford.
ST. JOHN’S COLLEGE ACCESS AND OUTREACH EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Balliol Virtual Medicine Taster Day For Year 12

**WEDNESDAY 16TH JUNE 1.15-4.30.** This is aimed at year 12 students who are seriously considering applying to Oxford to study medicine. The event includes 2 lectures, a demo interview and an opportunity to speak with undergraduates. More information [here](#).

Balliol Virtual Biology Taster Day For Year 12

**Thursday June 3rd 2021.** This is aimed at year 12 students who are seriously considering applying to Oxford to study medicine. The event includes 2 lectures, a demo interview and an opportunity to speak with undergraduates. Information and booking form [here](#). To apply for a place at this online event, please complete and submit this form by **Tuesday 1st June at 5pm**.

Virtual Study Days (Medicine) | June 2021 | Oriel College, Oxford

Oriel College, Oxford is offering Virtual Study Days in selected subjects for Year 12s from UK state schools. These virtual events will give a taste of studying each subject at a top university and offer advice and guidance on applying for them at Oxford, including dedicated sessions on interviews and admissions testing. There will be opportunities to interact with academics and current undergraduate students, and content will be available in live and pre-recorded formats (including recordings available for a period of time post-event) to enable participants to access the events in a way which best suits them.

Applications are due on the 3rd June. Further information, including selection criteria and an application form, can be found [here](#). Any questions should be directed to outreach@oriel.ox.ac.uk.

Events and Competitions in Oxford and Beyond:

Writing Competition – The Ellis S Hillman Award The Lewis Carroll Society

Stretch those creative muscles and commemorate 150 years of the ‘Through the Looking-Glass’! The Lewis Carroll Society is launching a writing competition to celebrate the creativity of the author of the ‘Alice’ books. There is no charge for entering the competition and the closing date is Saturday, July 3rd, which is Alice’s Day in Oxford this year. The final results are expected to be announced in the first week of August.

The Lewis Carroll Society wish to encourage reading, writing and creativity across all age groups. There are three prizes of £100 each for three separate age groups – up to 16 yrs old, 16-20, over 20 yrs. Entries to be between 500 to 2000 words, depending on age.

Into the Green Poetry Project

The ‘Into the Green’ poetry project is an exciting opportunity for children aged 11–16 to submit a poem in celebration of plants, gardens and green spaces. Poems will be read by award-winning Oxford Professor of Poetry Alice Oswald and a selection will be collected in an anthology. The project is being run jointly by Oxford Botanic Garden and the Bodleian Libraries, in celebration of 400 years of plant science in Oxford. This resource pack aims to inspire young poets and provide guidance on writing and submitting their poem.

Download the resource pack (4Mb)

Project submission

Poems should be submitted by email to: education@bodleian.ox.ac.uk by 1 July 2021.
Additional Resources:

Virtual Tour of Oxford

An excellent resource created by the Chemistry department where students who are unable to visit Oxford can get familiar with the ins and outs of the city and colleges.

Inspire Digital

Our online resource platform for secondary school pupils. Inspire Digital is an interactive resource, with new material, hints and solutions to the questions posted on a regular basis. Subscribe to Inspire Digital using the sign-up box in the footer below to keep up-to-date!

Super-curricular Resources

Students are welcome to browse our extensive range of super-curricular resources and programmes.

Oxplore

Oxplore is an engaging digital resource from the University of Oxford. As the ‘Home of Big Questions’, it aims to challenge those from 11 to 18 years with debates and ideas that go beyond what is covered in the classroom. Big questions tackle complex ideas across a wide range of subjects and reflect the kind of critical thinking students undertake at university. Our goal is to raise aspirations, promote broader thinking and encourage intellectual curiosity, so everything you see is underpinned by the latest discoveries and research from the University of Oxford.