**OUTREACH NEWSLETTER – LENT TERM 2021 #1**

Dear colleagues,

Next week will conclude the admissions round for colleges of the University of Cambridge with decisions being communicated to applicants on 25th January. Those missing out on an offer to go to Cambridge are welcome to request feedback and should contact the college to which they applied.

Big news from the university is the launch of the Cambridge Foundation Year. Please see below for further details.

Queens’ continues to offer virtual sessions to school groups to support student aspirations and prospective applicants. We understand that contact time with students is quite precious at the moment, and we are happy to deliver these during lunch periods and after school to minimise class disruption. Please find below opportunities for you and your students to engage with the University of Cambridge, the departments, and colleges as we are all creating ways to continue to support future applicants to university during the pandemic.

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues or students who may be interested in the University of Cambridge and keep an eye on the Cambridge website for current information [here](https://www.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus).

**Support from Queens’ and the University of Cambridge**

1. **Talks available for your students**

Due to the pandemic, we have taken our school talks online, and will continue to offer the following talks online to schools in our link areas. This term we anticipate concentrating on Introduction to Cambridge and the Year 13 Interview workshops. **Please email us by return and suggest three dates and times that suit.**

* *Introduction to Cambridge* – for years 9 to 12. Provides a general overview of what makes Cambridge different to other universities, our admissions process, and guidance for making a strong application.
* *Super-curricular ideas workshop* – for years 9 to 12. Aims to help students discover ways to better explore their subjects outside the classroom, with a view to preparing for university applications.
* *Personal statement workshop* – for year 12. Aims to help generate initial ideas for writing a UCAS personal statement. Students will create a blueprint of ideas, to help form their personal statement over the coming months.
* *Interview workshop* – for year 13s only from September to December. Interview preparation for applicants to Cambridge and Oxford; what to expect and preparation tips

Please note that for reasons of safeguarding and GDPR, we can only deliver sessions ***on a platform hosted by your school, with a teacher or other member of staff in the call*** for the entire duration.

If you are interested in booking a session, please get in touch via return email with at least two possible dates and times.

1. **Free CPD for teachers – Advancing Access**

The Queens’ outreach team are now working with Advancing Access to deliver a range of CPD sessions for school teachers, all of which are currently delivered online and are completely free of charge. Advancing Access is a partnership between the Russell Group universities, working with schools and colleges to support students’ progression to higher education.

Topics covered include supporting students in making post-16 and post-18 choices, writing school references, interviews and admissions tests, and contextual admissions, and more. These sessions are particularly useful to teachers who are not necessarily careers advisers but are involved with students who are likely to apply to university,

Click [here](https://www.advancingaccess.ac.uk/request-cpd) for more information, or to request a session (you can even request Siân or Maria to deliver the session for your school).

**Support from the University of Cambridge**

1. **Cambridge Foundation Year**

The [Cambridge Foundation Year](https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/foundation-year) is a new opportunity that offers a stepping-stone to Cambridge for those who have experienced educational disadvantage. This innovative route is designed for a new field of candidates to help them realise their academic potential through a full-time, residential programme fully embedded in the Collegiate University. It is a fully funded opportunity so comes at no cost to students.

1. **Prospective Applicant newsletter**

Monthly updates are being sent throughout the year, highlighting key themes such as choosing a course, choosing a college, student life etc. Content will be timely following the application cycle and student journey. School student can [sign up here](https://app.geckoform.com/public/#/modern/21FO00rhq2ami800h813veoiv2)

1. **Super-curricular ideas**

For your students who may be interested in applying to the University of Cambridge or other selective universities, it is important not only to do very well academically, but to also explore their chosen subject through wider reading outside the classroom.

In collaboration with colleagues from across the University, we have compiled [a list of suggested reading and resources](https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/sites/www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/files/publications/super-curricular_suggestions_1.pdf), organised by subject, which may be of use to your students during the current COVID-19 lockdown. It is important to note that these are ***suggestions only***, and certainly do not represent required reading for Cambridge applicants! The document is hosted at both sites below.

1. **Students/teachers interested in Religious Studies, Philosophy or English during lockdown.**

*Theology & Literature study evening*

‘Voicing the Devil’: A study evening exploring the relationship between theology and literature. Aimed at students in Years 11 and 12 with an interest in literature, performance, theology, religion, and philosophy of religion - especially those who are thinking about studying these subjects at university. Online 28th January 2021, 6-7pm <https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/study-here/open-days/study_evening>

*Film Competition*

Students are invited to make a short film inspired by one of the 50 Religious Treasures of Cambridge with a chance to win a share of £500. Open to all UK Year 9-13 students. Closing date 1st March 2021 <https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/study-here/open-days/filmcomp>

1. **Classics Teachers at State Schools**

The Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge is creating a [mailing list of state-schools](https://forms.gle/K8fR1VHnfxkMbp4U9) offering Classical subjects. In our commitment to widening access and participation, we want to do more focused work with state-schools around the country, especially those whose students are already studying Classics in some form. We hope to offer curriculum-enrichment focused sessions, tailored to the needs of our target schools.

1. **HE+ Website**

[HE+ website](https://myheplus.com) is our open-access website aimed at secondary school students and provides access to supercurricular resources written by Cambridge students/academics. Each of our undergraduate courses is represented with a subject page; within the subject pages, you’ll find links to over 30 curated and updated supercurricular resources which go deeper into a particular topic. The new website’s resources feature more video/audio content, glossaries, worksheets and reflective questions for each resource, a feedback mechanism and links to further reading.

1. **Virtual HE21+ Enrichment programme**

Cambridge’s colleges for mature students; Wolfson, Hughes Hall and St Edmund's College, are holding a virtual HE21+ enrichment programme from 8-12 February, so prospective mature students can explore what it is like to study at Cambridge. The programme includes:

Study skills workshop

Opportunity to chat online with current students

Application advice and support workshop

Taster days for Sciences, Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities

Lectures with live Q&As

View current students taking supervisions

[More info and booking here.](https://bit.ly/3feRJo7)

**Useful resources**

1. **Coronavirus Tutoring Initiative**

The [Coronavirus Tutoring Initiative](https://coronavirustutoring.co.uk/about) (CTI) has been set up by several Oxbridge students to ensure that no child misses out on their education over the coming months. School closures risk increasing the disparity between those young people who can access private tutoring and those who cannot, so we aim to connect university students from across the UK with young people who need free tutoring in any pre-GCSE, GCSE, or A-Level subject.

1. **Millenium Maths Project**

The project consists of a family of complementary programmes, including the very successful [NRICH](http://nrich.maths.org) website, [Plus](http://plus.maths.org) online mathematics magazine, and face-to-face work with schools and the public. <https://maths.org/>

1. **Sidney Sussex College information videos**

[A series of videos](https://www.youtube.com/user/SidneySussexCollege) have been made for prospective applicants detailing: choosing a subject, choosing a college, admissions assessments, and making a competitive application

1. **Cambridge Admissions Office Teachers’ and HE Advisers’ newsletter**

If you are interested in hearing about more outreach events at the University, you may wish to also sign up for the Cambridge Admissions Office’s Teachers’ and HE Adviser’s Newsletter [here.](https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/find-out-more/teachers-and-parents)

1. **Oxford & Cambridge Collaborative Outreach Network**

The Universities of Cambridge and Oxford maintain a joint outreach website, which lists various events and resources that may be of interest to you. You can find the website [here](https://www.oxfordandcambridgeoutreach.co.uk/) or go directly to [the resources page](https://www.oxfordandcambridgeoutreach.co.uk/resources).

That’s all for now – as always, feel free to get in touch any time via email slo@queens.cam.ac.uk or slo-bradford@queens.cam.ac.uk with any questions or bookings requests.

Best wishes and stay safe,

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*Queens’ College Outreach Team*