Dear colleagues,

We hope that this finds you and your school community well.

This our third newsletter to you this term which contains even more 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.

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/).

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

1. **Virtual Open Days, 2nd and 3rd July**

Cambridge University Open Days are online this week from Monday 29th June (Live sessions only available on 2nd and 3rd July). Colleges and departments will display their courses, accommodation and other features with various interactive tours, videos, talks, and opportunities to chat with Admissions Tutors and staff and students. Interested students should register here: [https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/cambridge-open-days](https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/cambridge-open-days)

You can preview Queens' open days here: [https://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/applying-here/considering-queens/open-days/virtual-open-days-2020](https://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/applying-here/considering-queens/open-days/virtual-open-days-2020). We will keep these videos on the website beyond the open days to provide assistance to applicants.

Queens' College will be offering live sessions for students interested in Chemical Engineering, Computer Science, Engineering, and Mathematics on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd July. Those interested in Engineering need to register here: [https://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/applying-here/considering-queens/open-days/virtual-engineering-subject-session](https://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/applying-here/considering-queens/open-days/virtual-engineering-subject-session)

The Cambridge Engineering department will be participating in the Cambridge Open Days via a suite of online events and videos here: [https://www.admissions.eng.cam.ac.uk/open-days/openday-videos](https://www.admissions.eng.cam.ac.uk/open-days/openday-videos). They are also providing a number of live webinars allowing you to hear about the Engineering course and ask your questions to a panel of Engineering academics. To participate on the day, please register for the Engineering event in advance at [https://www.admissions.eng.cam.ac.uk/open-days/virtual-open-day-webinars](https://www.admissions.eng.cam.ac.uk/open-days/virtual-open-day-webinars)

The Faculty of Divinity have also launched some of their very useful material here: [https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/study-here](https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/study-here)

2. **Talks available for your students**

We have been delivering a variety of online sessions for your students, and would love to speak to you and your students. Sessions include:
• **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 from September to December. Interview preparation for applicants to Cambridge and Oxford; what to expect and preparation tips

Please note that for safeguarding reasons, 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 email (slo@queens.cam.ac.uk) with at least two possible dates and times.

3. **Cambridge Applicant Support Programme – applications close 17 July**

Applications are now open for the Cambridge Applicant Support Programme, the programme offers a series of interactive sessions, mentoring and guided independent learning to support eligible students who are considering making an application to the University of Cambridge in October 2020.

The core programme will run from the beginning of August 2020 until December 2020, with the potential for continued academic and mentoring support for offer holders from January to March 2021.

To find out more please click [here](#), or click [here](#) to apply.

To be eligible to apply, a student must:

• Be a student at a state school or college in the UK
• Be intending to make an application to Cambridge in October 2020
• Be studying for qualifications at their school/college that meet the entry requirements for their chosen course at Cambridge AND be on track to achieve the minimum grades required for entry (A*A*A for most sciences courses and A*AA for arts courses
• Be committed to undertaking the necessary work attached to participation in the programme; places on the programme are competitive and we expect students chosen to be engaged with all aspects of the programme

Assuming the student meets the above criteria, we would be delighted to receive their application, please do publicise this opportunity to your students and encourage them to apply.

4. **BAME Maths Outreach Event**

Originally planned as a residential, this event will be provided online. It includes sessions on Pure Maths (Number Theory), Applied Maths (modelling epidemics through a game ‘zombie apocalypse’ simulation, with some coding), a STEP workshop, an Admissions session with Q&A, and some facilitated online interaction on a University virtual platform.
The programme, "Intro to Maths at Uni" aims to address the under-representation of BAME maths and science undergraduates at Cambridge, Oxford and other highly selective universities - particularly students who identify as Black, Pakistani and Bangladeshi.

There is a cap on participants, and we are asking schools to nominate Yr 12 students whose ethnic background is Black, Pakistani or Bangladeshi, using this spreadsheet, by email to fao@maths.cam.ac.uk by Monday 13 July. All information about selection is in the spreadsheet. You can also find a poster for the event here.

5. Free CPD for teachers – Advancing Access

The Queens’ outreach team are now working with Advancing Access to deliver a range of CPD sessions for schools, 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.

Click here for more information, or to request a session (you can even request Siân or Maria to deliver the session for your school).

6. Teachers and Advisers Conference Webinars

We are delighted to announce our webinar series to support Teachers and Advisers in their roles as they help prepare their students for applications to Cambridge. The sessions are suitable for any member of staff who wants to learn more about the Cambridge application process and for those who want to understand how they can support and prepare their students to make successful applications.

We will be running 4 sessions from 6th July, please follow the link below to find more details about each session and to register your attendance.

Click here for more information.

7. 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, 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.


https://www.oxfordandcambridgeoutreach.co.uk/resources/super-curricular-suggestions
8. BMAT Preparation support for Medicine applicants

The following is a gathering of BMAT support materials for students looking to apply to study medicine at Cambridge or other universities.

- **Updated BMAT preparation guide**

One of our key resources for students each year is our BMAT preparation guide, which gives tips on how to approach preparation and use the resources available. You may wish to link to this via your social channels or other communications with students: https://www.admissiontesting.org/images/238518-bmat-preparation-guide.pdf

- **BMAT Section 1 resources**

We circulated an email to many of you confirming the updates to BMAT Section 1. We have also updated all of our resources for students, and there is an updated Test Specification, a Section 1 Question Guide, and Practice Papers available on our website: https://www.admissiontesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/preparing-for-bmat/

- **Teacher Guide**

We have produced a brief guide for teachers, which helps teachers understand the benefits of BMAT as well as giving them links and tips that they can pass on to students. In your communications with teachers, please send them this link so they can download the guide and register for email updates (if they wish): https://admissiontesting.cambridgeenglish.org/bmat-teacher-resources

- **BMAT email alerts for students**

We are running our yearly BMAT email campaign which gives students reminders on key dates, links to free resources and videos of tips from current students, etc. You may wish to encourage applicants to sign up: https://admissiontesting.cambridgeenglish.org/bmat-email-alerts

- **Admissions Testing on Twitter**

We have been on Twitter since September last year and we’re including some tips and news about BMAT for test takers. Please follow us and feel free to re-tweet or reuse our content on your own channels: https://twitter.com/admissiontests

- **YouTube BMAT Preparation Channel**

We have a BMAT Preparation channel on our YouTube account where students can find lots of helpful videos: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnGQf2c7wHmTKvP2GvKT2l31bkmX3yVh

9. Coronavirus Tutoring Initiative

The Coronavirus Tutoring Initiative (CTI) has been set up by several Oxbridge 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. More information can be found on our website: https://coronavirus tutoring.co.uk/about.
10. Millennium Maths Project

The project consists of a family of complementary programmes, including the very successful NRICH website, Plus online mathematics magazine, and face-to-face work with schools and the public.

https://maths.org/

11. Sidney Sussex College videos

A series of videos have been made for prospective applicants detailing: choosing a subject, choosing a college, admissions assessments, and making a competitive application.

Click here to view the videos.

12. Cambridge Admissions Office 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.


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 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 at slo@queens.cam.ac.uk with any questions.

Best wishes and stay safe,

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Queens’ College Outreach Team