



QUEENS' COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

OUTREACH NEWSLETTER – MICHAELMAS TERM 2022 #1

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have all had a suitably restful summer and all is going smoothly with the start of the new academic year. Here at Queens' we are preparing for the arrival of students at the end of the month, as well as finalising everything for the incoming Freshers.

As of 30th August I (Charlotte) have joined the Queens' College Outreach Team. I'm a recent graduate from Newnham College, Cambridge where I studied Human, Social and Political Sciences with a specialism in Politics and International Relations. I grew up just outside Huddersfield in West Yorkshire where I attended state schools for all of my schooling. Whilst a student at Cambridge I did a lot of access work for Newnham College as their Student Access Officer; was Access Officer for the University's 93% Committee; and set up a politics and debating society that aimed to create an accessible and more informal place to engage with politics and hear high profile speakers. During my time in this post for Queens' I'll be joining Sian in doing school visits, admissions talks and welcoming people to College. Sian will return to having more of a focus on Bradford and Peterborough schools, whilst I'll work more closely with the Kent, Medway, and Havering schools. I'm looking forward to working with you in the future.

Queens' continues to offer a range of access talks (in-person and virtual) as well as the opportunity for you to bring small groups of students to visit us. Please find below opportunities for you and your students to engage with the University of Cambridge, the department, and the Colleges.

Do share this newsletter with any of your colleagues or students who may be interested in the University of Cambridge and keep an eye on [this link](#) for information about events and opportunities the university is running. As always, feel free to contact us with any specific events or assistance you think we may be able to provide, and we can discuss what would be possible.

Important Information

1. LNAT Deadlines

The deadline to register for the National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT) this year is **15th September 2022**. The exam itself must be taken by no later than **15th October 2022** and can

be taken at any LNAT test centre. Further information and details on how to register can be found on the [LNAT website](#).

2. Admissions Assessment Registration Deadline

Some of our courses require that students take an admissions assessment for which they must be registered in advance. These tests are administered by Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing (CAAT) and the deadline to register this year is **30th September 2022**. Late registration will not be possible and may result in the student's application being invalid.

These tests must be taken at a local authorised assessment centre. If your school or college is not a registered assessment centre and would like to find out more about becoming one, you can find more details on the [CAAT Website](#). The deadline to apply for this is **16th September**.

- Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology (NSAA) – assessment date: 19 October
- Computer Science (TMUA) – assessment date: 18 October
- Economics (TMUA) – assessment date: 18 October
- Engineering (ENGAA) – assessment date: 19 October
- Medicine (BMAT) – assessment date: 18 October
- Natural Sciences (NSAA) – assessment date: 19 October
- Veterinary Medicine (NSAA) – assessment date: 19 October

3. September Open Days

Cambridge University is hosting Open Days on **15th and 16th September**. Although virtual content and sessions provided by both Queens' and the University will be available from **5th to 23rd September**. These Open Days have a focus on the Colleges and so are a fantastic opportunity for your students to come and look around. There will be a smaller offering from the departments. In order to attend the Cambridge Open Days, whether in-person or virtually, you must have registered in advance so please do pass [this link](#) on to students and parents.

Queens' will be open for student-led tours, as well as offering an 'Applying to Cambridge' talk led by our Admissions Tutor Dr Susan Haines (**19th September**); a Q&A typed chat with our admissions team (**20th September**); and a virtual Q&A with current students (**23rd September**). To attend these events please ensure you and/or your students have signed up [here](#).

Information about the subject sessions that will be on can be found [here](#) and the timetable for the wider University events is [here](#).

Support from Queens' College

1. Talks available for your students

As mentioned above, both Sian and I are happy to deliver in person and virtual talks depending on the needs of your school and the type of event you are wanting to have. Running online events do continue to have their advantages, especially in terms of increasing engagement from parents.

Please do note, however, that we can only deliver virtual sessions on a platform hosted by your school, with a teacher or other member of staff in the call for the entire duration. This is to ensure what we comply with safeguarding and GDPR considerations.

In this first term, as well as the list of talks below, we can offer **interview workshops for Yr 13 students**. These workshops will help applicants to know what to expect in their interview, as well as help with preparation tips. If you have students who you believe would benefit from these sessions then we would encourage you to book in these workshops as soon as possible as the more time that your student has to prepare then the better prepared they will be. You don't need to have a large group of students applying to be considered for these workshops as we can link our visits in with other schools in the local area and deliver some sessions online as well. Please email to us on slo@queens.cam.ac.uk to express your interest in receiving these sessions.

Our main sessions that we offer all year round are listed below, but please note that we can also deliver other sessions on request.

- *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.
- *Student Finance* – for year 12 and 13. Introduces students to student finance as well as seeks to dispel common myths around the topic.
- *Introduction to University* – for years 9 to 11. Provides a general overview of why people go, what the experience is like, and (for Yr 10 and 11s) how A Level choices are relevant.

We may also be able to, in the future, deliver a limited number virtual of Student Life talks with some of our current students. More details of this will likely follow in the next newsletter.

If you would like to book in a session with us, please do get in touch via return email with at least three possible dates and times.

2. Free CPD Sessions for Teachers

Queens' continues to work with Advancing Access to deliver free CPD sessions for groups of teachers or advisors. These sessions can be delivered both in-person, or online and are completely free. Advancing Access is a partnership between the Russell Group universities, working with schools and colleges to support students' progression to higher education.

In terms of talk content, you can request support for students aged 16 or 18, as well as a session on personal statements, UCAS references, interviews and admissions sessions, and contextual admissions processes. The sessions range from 45minutes to an hour in length and Advancing Access also offers bespoke session should you require something different.

Click [here](#) for more information, as well as to request a session.

Support from the University of Cambridge

3. STEM SMART Programme

STEM SMART (Subject Mastery and Attainment Raising Tuition) is a widening participation run by the university in association with Isaac Physics, to provide free teaching and support to UK (non-fee paying) students who:

- Have either experienced educational disadvantage or belong to a group that is statistically less likely to progress to higher education and
- Are considering applying to Engineering, Physical Sciences or Biological Sciences courses at university and are studying A Levels (or equivalent) in maths and science,

The scheme is free and runs for 17 months, split into three phases that each focus on developing different skills, as well as raising their confidence to apply to top universities.

To be eligible, applicants must have achieved at least a grade 7 in GCSE Maths, at least grades 66 in double Science GCSE or grade 6 in two separate sciences from Physics, Chemistry and Biology. They must also be studying or have studied Maths and at least one further subject from Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Further Maths at A Level or equivalent. For further details on academic and non-academic criterion for application please go to [this website](#).

The application deadline for the programme is **31st October 2022** and applicants should [complete this online application](#).

The course is not designed to support students who are considering applying to medical courses.

4. Applicant Webinar Series

The 2022 Applicant Webinar Series begins on **20th September**, and booking is currently open [here](#). These sessions are aimed at students applying for 2023 entry or 2024 deferred entry, their supporters, and teachers. The series runs from September-November 2022 and consists of 7 virtual sessions each on various aspects of the application process, with an opportunity to ask questions at the end. All sessions are run by Cambridge admissions staff and Admissions Tutors.

5. Shadowing Scheme 2023

The Shadowing Scheme is an access initiative that is run by the Cambridge Student Union. It consists of a Thursday-Saturday residential in Cambridge for Year 12 students who have studied at state school in the UK. Particularly it seeks to target those students who have little family history of attending university, and who go to schools where few go on to university.

Students accompany a current student during their day-to-day activities, giving them an opportunity to gain a valuable and immersive insight into Cambridge student life. Throughout the scheme, the students have access to a secure online platform where they can continue to talk to their mentor.

Applications for the 2023 Scheme are open and student can apply via [this link](#). Applications close on **9th October 2022** and guardian and teacher consent forms must also have been submitted by **16th October**. There is also an [applicant information pack](#) and a [teacher information pack](#) which both provide more information.

6. Cambridge Foundation Year Open Evening 2022

This Open Evening Webinar is on **26th September 4.30-5.45pm**. The evening will give an insight into the Cambridge Foundation Year, including explaining eligibility, progression after the year, information about the Colleges taking part and where to find information about apply. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions of the staff and academics who are (virtually) present.

Booking is required to attend the evening. Please use [this link](#) to do so.

7. University Newsletters

Cambridge has a number of different monthly issuing newsletters that provide useful information on applications and events.

The Teachers and Advisers' Newsletter can be signed up to [here](#). It will keep you up to date on events, admissions news, and resources for students and teachers.

The Student Newsletter provides useful information on applying to university, as well as details of upcoming events and other practical resources. It can be signed up to [here](#).

Finally, there is also a parent/carer newsletter that you may wish to pass on details of. Again, this seeks to keep people up to date with the latest admission news, events and resources. It can be signed up to [here](#).

Useful Resources

8. Super-Curricular ideas

One of the key things that the University of Cambridge, and many other selective universities, look for in a student's application is that they have sought to explore their chosen subject through wider reading outside of the classroom.

In order to help you to guide students to material that may help them to do this we, in collaboration with colleagues from across the University, have [compiled a list of suggested reading and resources](#). This list is made up of suggestions only and are not required reading for applicants.

We also have a [super-curricular log](#) that students can use to record their super-curricular activities, and what they have learnt from them.

If you want to find out more about super-curricular activities, and why the University looks for them, then check out [this website](#).

9. HE+ Website

The [HE+ website](#) is our open-access website aimed at secondary school students. It provides access to super-curricular resources written by Cambridge students/academics. Each undergraduate course is represented with a subject page, and within the subject pages there are links to over 30 curated and updated super-curricular resources.

10. STEP Support Programme

This is a free online Programme offered by the University to help applicants develop their advanced mathematical problem-solving skills and to prepare for the STEP mathematics exam. It consists of online modules, hints, and full solutions. You can find the programme [here](#).

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

Best wishes,

Charlotte Armstrong

Siân Bex

Queens' College Outreach Team