



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
ACCESS & OUTREACH
EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES





Dear Teachers,

We hope you are having a good start to the school term. At St John's, we have had a busy summer running our second set of virtual summer schools for the Inspire Programme, which were a great success. [You can read more about the summer school here](#) and [see some of the work pupils created in response to the activities here](#).

This termcard collates outreach events, opportunities and resources on offer across the University of Oxford. The information is particularly relevant to teachers and pupils in our link regions of Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, Southampton, West Sussex, and the London Boroughs of Ealing and Harrow. 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 new Admissions online resources, the TAP platform and information about our Inspire Programme. We have also included other opportunities and virtual events beyond St John's, organised into 'Humanities and Social Sciences' and 'STEM' sections. As the Oxford application deadline is approaching on 15th October, we have included a section on important Oxford admissions dates and deadlines.

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

With best wishes,

The St John's College Access & Admissions Team



St John's

Admissions online resources

We have released a suite of three new videos on our website to provide more information about the Oxford application process. The videos are:

- Oxford – How to Apply
- Oxford Explained
- A Quick Guide to Admissions Tests

We hope that they will prove a useful resource for you and your students, particularly while opportunities for visits to Oxford are limited due to COVID-19. [You can find the resources on the St John's College and Inspire websites.](#)

Our Undergraduate Admissions Officer, Sarah Jones, is also very happy to answer questions about the Oxford application process by phone or email. You can contact her at sarah.jones@sjc.ox.ac.uk or on 018652 77317.

The Ambassador Platform

St John's is a member of The Ambassador Platform (TAP), an online system which allows 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. [Pupils can visit The Ambassador Platform here.](#) The resource will be available until the end of December 2021.

Inspire Programme

Applications for our **Year 10 & 11 Inspire Programme**, open to pupils attending non-selective state schools anywhere in the United Kingdom, will open later this term with a deadline in early December. The online programme will start in January, comprising academic super-curricular articles and competitions, as well as an online/ in-person summer school in 2022.

Our **Year 12 & 13 Programme**, accepting pupils attending non-selective state schools in our link regions and/ or within the [Oxford for South East Consortium](#), will open for applications in January. This programme combines online twilight sessions from March to June and an online/ in-person summer school in Year 12, as well as support with university applications in Year 13. We also hope to offer in-person study days at St John's College to pupils enrolled on this programme.

We will send out an email to this mailing list when these programmes open for applications, as well as announcing it on social media.

School visits

We are delighted to have been given the go-ahead to resume a limited number of in-person school visits to St John's College. As capacity is limited, please email access@sjc.ox.ac.uk to enquire about dates and availability. Please note these visits are primarily reserved for non-selective state schools in our linked regions.

Important Oxford Admissions Dates and Deadlines

These dates are correct at the time of going to print. However, please check the [Oxford University Admissions website](#) for the most up to date information.

15th October:

Deadline to submit UCAS applications for Oxford and Cambridge.

15th October:

Deadline to register to take admissions test if the subject requires one (BMAT and LNAT have different deadlines). See the [University of Oxford website](#) for more details.

Wednesday 3rd November:

Admissions Tests: BMAT (Biomedical Admissions Test);
Philosophy Test;
CAT (Classics Admissions Test);
MAT (Mathematics Admissions Test);
MLAT (Modern Language Admissions Test);
OLAT (Oriental Languages Aptitude Test).

Thursday 4th November:

Admissions Tests: TSA (Thinking Skills Assessment);
ELAT (English Literature Admissions Test);
PAT (Physics Aptitude Test);
HAT (History Aptitude Test).

Wednesday 10th November:

Deadline for sending in written work if required for course.

1st – 20th December:

Oxford interviews - (online)

January

Pupils informed of outcomes of interviews.

General University and College Outreach Events

[St Hugh's College: Connect online group mentoring sessions](#)

Friday 24th September, 4 – 5pm

Friday 8th October, 4 – 5pm

St Hugh's Connect online group mentoring sessions with current Oxford undergraduates are back for pupils in Year 12 and 13. Both sessions will take place on Microsoft Teams and will focus on personal statements, and any last-minute queries about these and the application as a whole. These sessions are before and after half-term, and so will be good opportunities for pupils to gather questions they may have as well as implement any suggestions. The St Hugh's Outreach Officer will be present throughout for any technical queries. Registration for each date is via these links: [Friday 24th September](#) & [Friday 8th October](#). Connect is an ongoing project, so there will be more online mentoring sessions in the future.

[Meet the Russell Group Virtual Event](#)

Wednesday 29th September, 12pm – 7pm

All 24 Russell Group universities have joined together to offer one big virtual event on Wednesday 29th September, where you'll be able to speak directly with their staff and students, and explore their campuses through virtual tours. There will also be 13 interactive webinars throughout the day, including advice on Constructing a Competitive Personal Statement. The event is completely free of charge, and open to students in Years 11, 12 and 13 from anywhere in the world. [You can find out more and register for the event here.](#)



Humanities and Social Science Events and Opportunities

Classics

Classical Conversations

Ongoing

The Faculty of Classics is continuing its 'Classical Conversations' initiative. Teachers can invite Oxford academics to meet teachers and students virtually for up to 30 minutes and have a conversation about any aspect of the ancient world.

The Faculty of Classics is pleased to offer up to two Classical Conversations per school per academic year. Preference will be given to state-maintained schools. [Visit the website for more information](#) or email outreach@classics.ox.ac.uk.



David Raeburn Prize

Deadline: 2nd December 2021, 6pm

The Faculty of Classics, in partnership with the Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama (APGRD), is proud to launch the David Raeburn Prize, an exciting new performance competition for young people from across the UK.

This competition is open to any participant aged 11-18 (or Years 7-13, or equivalent). The judges will be looking for powerful, creative and exciting interpretations of ancient material. Performances are to be delivered entirely in English and must be no longer than 5 minutes. There is no minimum length.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three performers in each category (solo translation, solo spoken word and group translation – prizes will be split equally within groups):

- First place performers will receive £200, certificate(s) and Oxford Classics merchandise.
- Second place £100, certificate(s) and Oxford Classics merchandise.
- Third place £75, certificate(s) and Oxford Classics merchandise.

All shortlisted performers will receive certificates of participation.

Please note: up to THREE entries per category are permitted per school/institution/educational setting. It is the responsibility of teachers/tutors to determine which performer/group will represent their school/institution/educational setting. [For further details, and how to enter, see here.](#)



Humanities and Social Science Events and Opportunities

English, Modern Languages and Literature

[Prismatic Jane Eyre translation competition](#)

Deadline: 1st March 2022

The [Prismatic Jane Eyre School Project](#) is running a nation-wide creative translation competition for school learners that will be launched on 30th September 2021 – International Translation Day. The competition deadline is 1st March 2022. Entrants are asked to produce a poem in another language inspired by a selected passage from Jane Eyre. The competition accepts submissions in any language from learners in Key Stages 3-5, and all entries need to be accompanied by a literal translation into English.

Up to 100 entries to the competition will be published in a printed anthology, which will also be available online.

[Support materials will be available on our resources page.](#) Additional activity packs will be provided in the workshop languages (Arabic, French, Polish, and Spanish) by October 2021. These materials give learners and teachers the chance to take part in creative translation activities related to Jane Eyre at home or in the classroom.

[The competition guidelines and selected passages will be made available online on 30th September 2021 on this webpage.](#)

Law

[Pathways to Law](#)

Deadline: 15th November 2021

Year 12 students considering studying Law at university are invited to apply for the Sutton Trust's Pathways to Law Programme. The programme offers the opportunity to explore what entering the legal profession might look like through experiences of Taster Lectures, University Preparation Workshops, Mooting and opportunities for relevant work experience. There are online and in-person courses depending on where you live.

[For more information about the programme and eligibility requirements, visit the Sutton Trust's website.](#)



STEM Events and Opportunities

Chemistry

[Autumn Chemistry Conference](#)

Thursday 30th September, 4pm – 6pm

Open to Year 12 and 13 students (or equiv., 16-19 yrs) and their teachers interested in finding out more about the cutting-edge research happening in the field of chemistry, and hosted by the Department of Chemistry, University of Oxford. Sixth form students are welcome to attend unaccompanied by a teacher. [Find out more and register here.](#)

[COVID-19 Chiral Chemistry Workshop](#)

12th October, OR 10th November, OR 2nd December, 4pm – 5pm,

This online workshop for KS5 students at state schools focuses on the 3D shapes of molecules, what the word 'chiral' means, the importance of chiral molecules in biology, and about the resources available to research chemists looking at proteins, in particular current research focused on the main protease in SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for the current pandemic. [Request a workshop place via the website.](#)

Physics

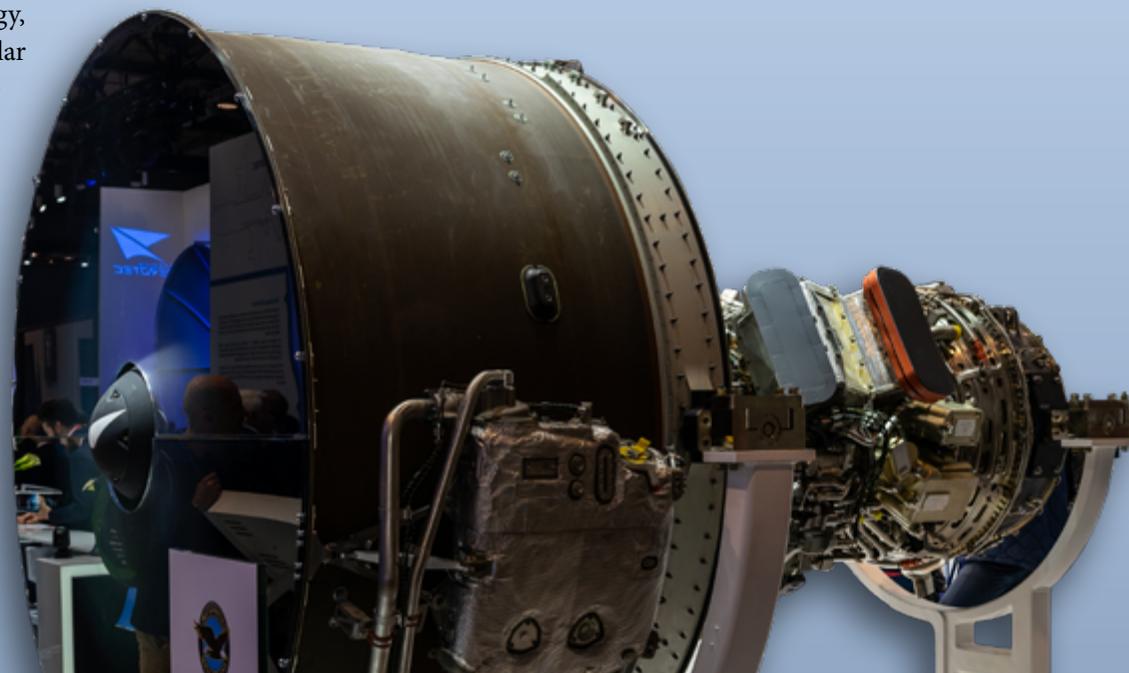
Undergraduates at Jesus College have created walk-through videos of the Physics Aptitude Test, which Oxford applicants need to take if they are applying for Physics, Engineering, Material Science or joint courses including these subjects.

[Watch the videos here.](#)

Mathematics

The Maths Department at Oxford is running a weekly livestream this autumn term on Thursdays at 5pm to help applicants prepare for the Mathematics Aptitude Test. Each session is themed around a particular set of topics, including Polynomials, Primes & Proof, and Integration & Differentiation, with a sheet of questions available in advance. Each sheet includes revision material, warm-up problems, some past MAT questions with hints, and extension material that's not related to the MAT. After the MAT, three special bonus livestreams will cover the following; unrelated mathematics (to give us all a break from MAT), a look at the 2021 paper, and then finally some Oxford Maths interview questions.

[Find the schedule and links to sessions that have already taken place here.](#)





Additional Resources:

[Digital Prospectus](#)

Browse the University of Oxford's first digital prospectus.

[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.

[Explore](#)

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.

[Springboard Videos](#)

Discover your new favourite topic with our Springboard videos, bringing you cutting-edge research from Oxford's graduate students on topics from climate change and colonialism to microbiomes and mathematical logic. These videos are intended for school pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13. Each offers an introduction to a new topic, plus lots of activities and further resources to explore.

[Super-curricular Resources](#)

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

[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.