

CHERWELL COLLEGE GAZETTE

MICHAELMAS TERM

Vice Principal Forward...

Michaelmas term 2021 was full of intellectually stimulating professorial talks and master classes: we marched through medieval times towards the glory of renaissance, shaping our thoughts on ideas of goodness. Stoicism, comprehending the Neoplatonic idea of a single supreme source of goodness - that evil is simply the absence of goodness and perfection.

Diving through the 21st century we followed the evolution of artificial intelligence and why the common good matters in the further development of Artificial Intelligence

I am applauding our Political Scientists for an extraordinarily busy Parliament Week, meeting Anneliese Dodds, Chair of the Labour Party and Shadow Secretary of State for Women & Equality; collaborating with Oxford Union and representing our College in the Ivy League debate competition.

Our culturally enriched trips helped us to appreciate world cultural heritage: celebration of 700th anniversary of Dante Alighieri, the poet and philosopher.

The juxtaposition of AI with the Divine Comedy is the theme of a current exhibition in Oxford's Ashmolean Museum, urging us to take a critical view on how to regain control of ourselves and our studies.

We are truly bonded with the dynamics of Oxford and look forward to our continuing journey into 2022.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!



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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI DEVELOPMENT IN CONTEMPORARY IT WORLD

Stephen Clarke



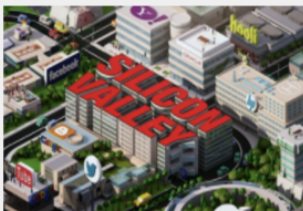
Oxbridge College with Berkeley University, California presented an Introductory Masterclass which opened up a whole new world to our students and focused on:

An Overview Of Data Science
Machine Learning; Deep Learning

State-Of-The-Art AI Applications; Data-Driven Business Models
A Silicon Valley Perspective

Building Real-World Data Systems

Demystifying Blockchain: how Bitcoin, Ethereum and Web 3.0 works
One of the challenges to both spirit and humanity in the 21st century is the power of Artificial Intelligence, created and unleashed by human ingenuity.



Scientists introduced the term, AI in 1950s predicting that 'every aspect of learning or any other feature of intelligence can be so precisely described that a machine can be made to simulate it'. Over the course of time, that prophecy has mainly been realised.

Artificial intelligence can take the place of human thought, often in not obvious ways: in medicine, AI promises to become both irreplaceable and inestimable.

To an extent we are frightened to acknowledge, AI monitors our consumption patterns (e.g. Amazon, Expedia), our taste in everything from food to culture, our perception of ourselves and our political views.

If we want to re-orientate ourselves and take a critical view of this, before it is too late to regain control, how can we do so?

Alexander Fred-Ojala is an expert on AI, and he is also the AI and Blockchain Director of the Learn2Launch Program at UC Berkeley. Alex was awarded the Amazon Alexa Innovation Fellowship 2018-2019 as one of ten faculty members globally. A successful track record of consulting for Fortune 500 companies, startups and hosting executive education programs for business leaders globally.

**WEEKEND COURSES, EASTER AND
SUMMER BOOT CAMPS WILL BE ON
OFFER**

THORPE PARK



BY ZIDANE MCINTOSH

My visit to Thorpe Park was a memorable one. It was the possibility to ride some of the UK's Fastest Roller Coasters with my classmates that made the experience truly remarkable. My favourite rides included ones with high force, which were twisty and also some short yet potent rides. The most addicting rides were those like stealth, which drew me back in time after time. The features of the Stealth rides were fast and intense in nature, which really appealed to me. and it quickly became one of my favourite rides.

My experience at Thorpe Park was also enhanced by the quality time I had spent with my friends. Thorpe Park aided the bonding of students and made getting to know one another less intimidating and more enjoyable. The fact that we were able to get away from the monotony of the day and spend time getting to know each other outside of the school environment made Thorpe Park so memorable.

SCIENCE CLUB

Mubeen Ashraf



Science is a phenomenal collective human endeavour. Generating solutions for problems in everyday life, helping us to understand the great mysteries of this universe. Science fundamentally creates new knowledge, which improves education and the quality of our lives, as well as our spiritual wellnesses. The science club at Cherwell College was initiated to encapsulate the yearning for science discussion within the student body. The essentiality of understanding and engagement with science has never been more relevant. The present world confronts a Global Pandemic, with incredible advances in Artificial Intelligence Technology such as DeepMind and AlphaFold, as well as the dangers of Climate Change.

The science club has attracted much attention amongst the Cherwell community, with lively debates and discussions taking place within the college. The topics of discussion this term have included COP26, Artificial intelligence in protein structure discovery and a discussion on science of popular myths. The Cherwell college science club promotes a culture of science learning, equipping students to make informed personal and professional choices.



To find out more about the events in COP26 click the following link:
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1105792>

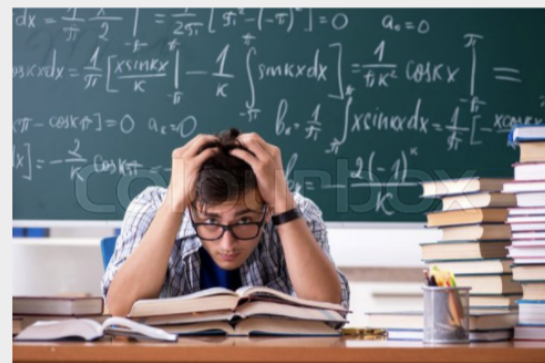
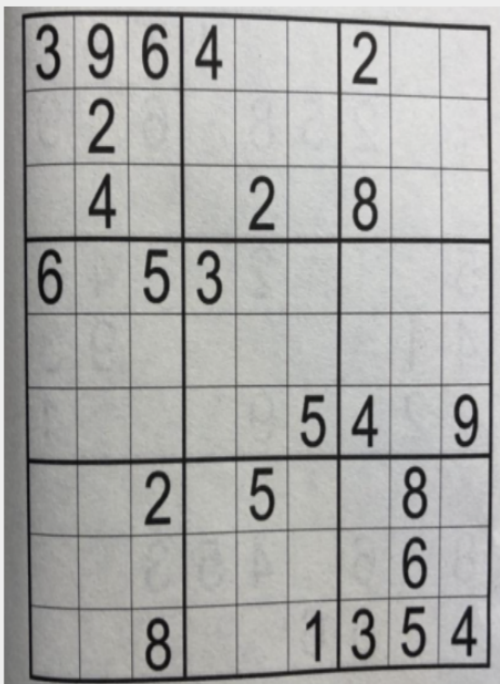


MATHS CLUB

Ophelia

The Cherwell College's Maths Club was founded in Michaelmas Term in 2021 with the aim of increasing students' interest in Mathematics and exercising their independent thinking ability to solve mathematical problems. In club activities, students usually work on their GCSEs and A-Level questions which were not covered during their classes and solving those problems independently. In addition, we also do some other activities besides textbooks, such as sudoku. If you are interested, please try the one below! When you have finished, and if want to check the answer or have any further discussion, please email to Siming.Yang@cherwell-college.co.uk. All correct answers will be put into a hat, and one entry will be drawn to win a prize. By the way, you can find the rules online if you have never played it before on <https://masteringsudoku.com/sudoku-rules-beginners/>)

THE SODUKU QUIZ:



UCAS AND CAREERS ADVICE

Alan Carter

The Michaelmas term is the longest but also feels the shortest as deadlines approach for the Oxbridge and other courses (e.g. Medicine) in Mid – October.

Our Oxbridge and early deadline candidates are supported from the previous term, and their orientation & preparation for the aptitude tests are developed over the first weeks of this term.

Using the tutorial system is a particular strength for our candidates who can approach the interview season with confidence knowing they already participate in the very same pedagogy as they are applying for.

Following UCAS, and being data driven, we use analysis of past applications to guide our students to the best possible universities – normally in the Russell Group.

Students are encouraged to attend open days where possible at Oxford, and of course to use the online resources where necessary.

“Ambition and achievement are individual to each student; we do make sure they are fully aware of all their options and have a clear plan for moving forward.”

We do go the extra mile with our support – engaging specialist tutors where appropriate for test preparation.

As we wait for the expected interview invitation for one of our year 14 students to Oxford for History, we wish all students applying the very best fortune in their applications – however we are confident that luck will play no part and they will fulfil the very best of our expectations.



Finally, ‘breaking barriers’ for our SEND students is the norm – our current year 12s really are the “ case studies of individuals who have overcome adversity to achieve a goal - and they most certainly do feel more confident about achieving their own aspirations in the future.”

DESTINATIONS IN 2021 INCLUDED

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
UCL (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON)
UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS
KING'S COLLEGE LONDON,
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
DURHAM UNIVERSITY
QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF
LONDON
UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
UCL (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON)
ST BENET'S HALL OXFORD FOR 2022
DURHAM UNIVERSITY



PARLIAMENT WEEK

River Lee

Throughout this term's parliament week, we had several opportunities to engage in a variety of discussions and meetings with highly knowledgeable individuals with a strong background in politics and issues pertaining to the United Kingdom and its history.

To begin our parliamentary week, the students attended Mr Paul Craig and Mr Sean Murphy's discussion of 'British Values,' participants discussed how British values are codified in the 'human rights act of 1998.' Furthermore, we discussed another parliamentary act (equality act of 2010). This is another example of a 'British Value', such as the prohibition of discrimination on the bases of disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief. Besides that, we also explored the rights conferred by the United Nations (UN), such as the rights of a child, to improve our society.

This collective group discussion was extremely beneficial in terms of prompting us to consider and become aware of the types of questions to ask the UK's shadow cabinet minister (Miss Annalise Dodds- Member of Parliament for Oxford). Mr Sean Murphy encouraged us to develop questions for Miss Dodds that would cover her opinions, as well as her life and work as an Oxford Member of Parliament.



The questions the students asked her were multifarious, including examples such as: 'How frequently does she work in the Oxford constituency given her busy schedule at Westminster' and 'How popular is Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer within the party'.

Mr Alan Carter introduced us to Miss Dodds and ensured that she had an opportunity to respond to most of our questions on a wide range of subjects; at the conclusion of the questions, Mr Carter told Miss Dodds that it would be ideal if the college could visit Parliament again after the COVID-19 restrictions were eased.

This week was incredibly enthralling and eventful as it provided a new perspective for the college's young and like-minded students, in addition to being highly informative. We are all looking forward to Parliament Week next year.



OXFORD UNION AND HISTORY OF ART

Alice



HISTORY OF ART

The 2nd of October marked the official start of our 10-week online course in the History of Art and Architecture entitled «An Initiation into the Mysteries of Western Art»

This exciting short, online course was delivered by one of our esteemed tutors-Dr. Edward Clarke, who has taught Art and Architectural History in Oxford for the past fifteen years and is currently preparing a book that draws together his interests in this field, called «The Secret Mind of Art», to be published by Lion Books in 2022.

The course is designed to offer an insight into the foundations of Western Art in Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Week by week students will learn to look with fresh, but well-informed, eyes at such radiant works as Piero della Francesca's the Baptism of Christ, Botticelli's the Birth of Venus, and Donatello's David. Building on our appreciation of the mysteries inherent in these works, then ascended to a critical judgement of Michelangelo's immense Sistine Chapel ceiling and Titian's sublime Bacchus and Ariadne, before entering Palladio's well-proportioned Villa Barbaro in the Veneto.

Our short-term online courses are designed to provide an all-round education and erudition to our students and the wider audience.

OXFORD UNION

A new cohort of young "Cherwellians" has recently been given a tour of the Oxford Union. Since its foundation, Cherwell College Oxford has developed good links with the oldest student-led debating society, the Oxford Union, which enables our students to become members, despite the fact that usually, the doors of the Union are open to the university students only.

The Union is steeped in history. It was founded in 1823 and is the world's most prestigious debating society, with a reputation for bringing international guests and speakers to Oxford. It has a reputation for hosting international figures and celebrities, the world's most prominent individuals across politics, academia and popular culture, including Winston Churchill, the Dalai Lama, Albert Einstein, Michael Jackson, Morgan Freeman, Jordan Peterson, Stephen Hawking, Theresa May, Sir Ian McKellen, Rio Ferdinand, Stephen Fry, Yasser Arafat, Desmond Tutu, to name just a few.

While the Union is known for attracting the great, the good, the powerful and the infamous, a fun fact to know is that it also has a tradition of inviting less obvious speakers, for instance, the actress Pamela Anderson (she was there to talk about a cause close to her heart-vegetarianism) and once Kermit the frog, a Muppet character.



CREATIVE WRITING

Tatiana

I share a passion for creative writing. I have been writing essays for a while and have had the chance to take part in various essay competitions, including Exeter College Essay Competition where I was awarded Commendation status.

What Is Creative Writing:

Creative writing is any writing that has an emphasis on narrative craft, character development, and the use of literary tropes or with various traditions of poetry and poetics.

Creative writing goes outside the bounds of normal professional, journalistic, academic, or technical forms of literature.



Tips for starting creative writing:

- Stephen King's book "On Writing" is very helpful for amateurs who are just starting creative writing.
- Try to write at least 4 short stories a month. For these essays you may want to use different techniques, so try both not outlining beforehand and planning it all first and see what's easier for you.
- Try not to get too fixated on the idea for your essay. Beginners always worry so much about their ideas. They nurture them endlessly, expanding them without ever getting them on paper because they don't feel like they're ready.
- Try coming back to your essays after a while to re-work your mistakes. Practice will eventually make it perfect!



To read Tatiana's winning essay click here [🔗](#)

Tatiana is studying A-Level Politics, History and Sociology at Cherwell College Oxford. She aspires to a career in international law and is working towards The Law National Aptitude Test to apply to UK universities for her undergraduate studies (including the University of Oxford).

Congratulations to Tatiana on a well-deserved award and for all the effort and passion she invests in raising awareness on issues close to her heart. We hope her story serves as an inspiration to other students.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH SCHEMES

Katya Kryvonos

Cherwell College Oxford proudly offers its students an opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award Scheme, which is an internationally recognised youth achievement award launched in 1954 by the late Duke of Edinburgh (the husband of HM Queen Elizabeth II) with a view to promoting young people's all-round development, outside of the classroom environment.

The programmes are offered at different levels, depending on age of the student and the degree of involvement and difficulty they are seeking to commit to! Each scheme consists of 4 core sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition and Residential (at Gold level only).

The programme is a fantastic opportunity to obtain formal recognition in a range of extra-curricular activities, however, the main 'value-added' is that recognised achievement awards are also viewed very beneficially by prospective universities.

Despite the Covid restrictions, young "Cherwellians" have managed to continue with their DofE programmes but in a slightly adapted fashion! Some activities had to be brought 'in-house' which in a way created a community spirit amongst the student cohort.



A very popular type of activity for Volunteering Section this academic year involves teaching or mentoring a peer where an A-Level student would take under their auspices a younger peer (usually from the GCSE cohort) and have a regular point of contact to help them navigate through College life and academic commitments.

This has been having a positive impact on younger students who have recently joined us and need additional peer support to settle in the new academic and boarding environment.

As for the Physical section, students have been opting for gym, swimming, badminton, football as well as the more leisurely type of activities such as walking along different trails and producing write-ups for personal blog posts.

As for Skills, the College has keen chess players, who meet every week for a Chess match, as well as some talented musicians who take their mind off daily routines by producing short compositions which may, (who knows), one day culminate in an orchestral piece!

Apart from actual participation, the DofE award participants are responsible for reporting regularly to their programme coordinator and submitting written logs of their progress and performance, this has proven to be a slight 'chore' for some students and has involved a degree of prompting and chasing (!)

VALUE OF ONLINE LEARNING

Ralina Abibullayeva

'Studying online can be an exciting but also a tumultuous yet valuable experience'

Luckily, at Cherwell, the College has managed to deliver Oxford excellence through academia and enrichment activities purely online.

Cherwell College has conducted multiple, highly-anticipated events this past term; Parliament Week with MP: Annalise Dodds, professional talks with Dr. Edward Clarke, who dove deep to explore the religious and philosophical contexts of the world's known masterpieces, and we also had introductory masterclasses about Artificial Development in the Contemporary IT world in the 20th Century, with a notable speaker from Berkeley University.



On top of these fascinating events, I get to have all of my tutors conduct their scheduled lessons productively and to make steady progress towards my A-Level studies, and am able to communicate with other students from the College in the same way I would if I were studying at Oxford in person.

Therefore, the benefit of online learning at Cherwell is not only well understood but also constantly improving. Needless to say, the value of online learning has not only been beneficial for my development as a student, but also as a person who is naturally curious and open to the idea of constantly evolving and growing with knowledge.





Thank you for reading
our latest Gazette issue!
Happy Christmas and
New Year to all!

