



THORPE ST ANDREW SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM ORBIT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021



In this month's ORBIT Newsletter, we're showcasing one of the activities that students in ORBIT in Years 7-10 have been engaging with.

ORBIT Groups in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been meeting throughout November, and starting to plan their activities. Year 9 are preparing some micro-debates, Year 10s have convened a Law Society, and ORBITers across the year groups have been taking part in competitions and enrichment events.

Year 9 Cambridge Robotics Event

Oluwatooni writes:

On Saturday 27th November, I joined the Cambridge University Robotics Society Girls' Challenge. It was an event that had been created to invite more girls into studying engineering, specifically robotics. We were given 2 challenges, each with 3 levels and we had to try and complete them in a limited time. Even though I just did it because I was interested in what it was and not because I wanted a future in it, it was still a lot of fun. I met a lot of new people and had a q&a session and I found out a lot more about what it was like to go to university. Overall I enjoyed the experience.



It's Interview Time!

Oxford and Cambridge Universities still interview all their candidates, and there are lots of myths about the interview process. There is a misconception that the interviews are meant to catch the candidate out, but that's not the case!



Here is a YouTube Video from our link College, Gonville and Caius. The Admissions Tutor, Dr Chris Scott, explains the process, and answers questions from applicants who attended an outreach event in October.

If you want to see the kinds of questions asked at an Oxbridge interview, [look here!](#) You'll find a long list of subject specific questions, and then some questions with advice from admissions tutors on how to answer them. Feedback from ORBITers who have been to Cambridge for interview is that the tutor is looking to see how the applicant handles the topic, and how well they engage in a discussion on the topic. Look in our website's Alumnae section for more from our ORBITers who are now at

Cambridge. We wish our ORBITers well in the coming interviews!

Who Do You Follow?

Here are some of our favourite Twitter accounts - we follow them for an insight into life as a Cambridge student, or for advice on preparing applications and personal statements! Also, there are Twitter accounts that are a great way to boost your enrichment programme.

CambTweet Theology @cambtweettheo · Nov 26
Went to my first formal outside of John's at @TrinityHallCamb! It was the best way to celebrate Bridgemas (that's 'Cambridge-Christmas' on the 25th November): with a beautiful hall, delicious dinner, and great company!
#CambTweet

TORCH Oxford @TORCHOxford · 18h
In Conversation with Alice Oswald and Katie Mitchell
We're delighted to host these two acclaimed artists as they ex of trees - in poetry, on stage, between cultures, and in the wor
Tues 21 Dec, 6pm | Online
Watch here: tinyurl.com/yh4yh23k

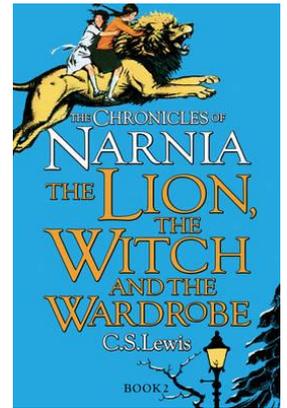
New Scientist @newscientist · 3h
Merging black holes may create bubbles that could swallow the universe

Caius Schools @CaiusSchools · Nov 30
❄️ Yesterday was our final school visit of term, from the wonderful @Forest_HillSch, on a very frosty @CaiusCollege morning! We have loved having visitors back to college and hope to see the students again soon at more events!

Each month we focus on a specific subject. This time we think about Theology – well, it seemed appropriate with Christmas just around the corner!

Read Something

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe is a classic children's novel, written by a Professor of Medieval Literature who converted to Christianity in his 30s. The book, the best known and second in a series of seven, presents a fantasy world of fauns and witches, which explains the core beliefs of Christian Theology as an analogy. Disney made a film of the book, and there is a BBC Children's TV series, but the books remain the best way to enter the wardrobe!



Do Something

C.S. Lewis was a poet as well as an author and professor. He experimented with poetry to explore his responses to Old Norse myth. Today, there is a rich tradition of poetry in response to the Climate Crisis, especially topical with COP26 – [click here for a theological reflection](#) on that. The Royal Society of the Arts [has published this](#). Poets have often reflected on the glory of the Universe. Why not try your hand at some writing of your own?



Visit Somewhere

Since it is Christmas, it seems appropriate to recommend visiting a Carol Service. Our own Carol Service will be in Norwich Cathedral on Monday 6th December. Alternatively, tune in to the live stream from King's College Cambridge on Christmas Eve, from where the famous "Nine Lessons and Carols" has been broadcast every year since 1918. The carols and "lessons" (readings) explain the mystery of the Christian idea of "the Incarnation" that lies at the heart of the Christmas story.

