

NEWSLETTER

“Cambridge is a place of incredible intellectual energy, where great ideas are born and nurtured.”
Neil Gaiman, Author

Week 3 2022-23

EMBRACING CAMBRIDGE



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE OPEN DAY

On Friday 15 September, we took our A Level Year 1 students and current Oxbridge applicants to the Cambridge University Open Day . All of the students walked from our Elizabeth House campus through the historic centre of Cambridge to the New Museum Site where many of the university's faculties, including psychology, anthropology and zoology are based. Our students were free to explore and question at their will. Highlights included the enormous fin whale skeleton of the Museum of Zoology in the David Attenborough Building, the chance to have tours around Trinity, St John's and Gonville and Caius colleges and, of course, the Chelsea buns at Fitzbillies.

Not only did the open day give our students an unparalleled opportunity to immerse themselves in such a historic seat of learning but, as it was so close to the start of the year, it was an invaluable chance to get to know Cambridge as a city as well as a university, from the undergraduates who study there. When we returned back to college, everyone had done a lot of walking, a lot of laughing, learnt a lot and come away hopefully inspired to pursue their dreams.

Phil Harwood, Vice Principal



Newnham College

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY OPEN DAY

KATSA

On Friday, 15 September 2023, I had the chance to visit a Cambridge college I am deeply interested in. Newnham College, the iconic women's college of Cambridge. This stunning college has a long history of women's education at Cambridge and ties to influential women in history such as Sylvia Plath and Rosalind Franklin.



At first, I was confused to find the entrance, but then finally managed to get into the Porter's Lodge, where three Newnham students - one is a hijabi studying Medicine, the rest Geography students - greeted me. I had already felt Newnham's welcoming atmosphere the moment I stepped inside the college.

One of the Geography students, Zinzi, went on to take me on a tour. We had very pleasant conversations together. I found out that she was once a boarding school student and her A level subjects were similar to mine. We love Geography due to its interdisciplinary nature and she told me that studying Geography at Cambridge allows you to study both human and physical Geography.

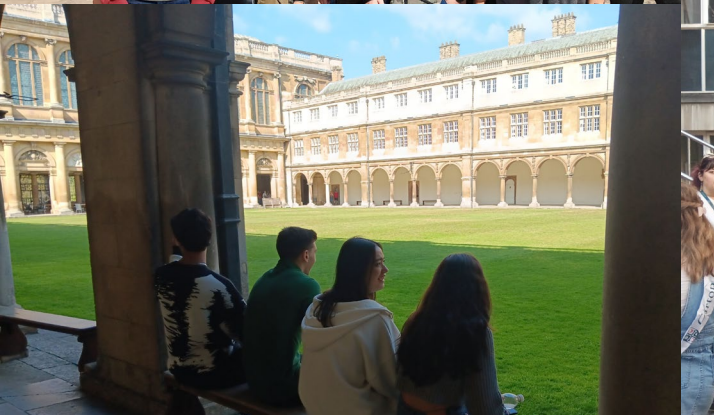


Zinzi took a picture of me in Newnham's garden. Unlike other colleges, Newnham lets you to step on the grass. She then took me to interesting places around the garden. This gate on the picture is very symbolic to Newnham. In 1921, male undergraduates stormed the gate, putting the women inside under siege. Today, the gate stands as a reminder of the endeavour for women's education.



My visit to Newnham has been very inspirational. I am glad to meet beautiful people in a beautiful place.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE OPEN DAY



ISAAC AND CAMBRIDGE CITY FC



On Tuesday 19th September, I had the privilege of taking Isaac to a trial to become a player for Cambridge City Football Club Under-18s where I am proud to say he was successful! I contacted Matt Mee, the manager of Cambridge City about bringing Isaac along to a trial as I know Matt from my previous career as a football coach at Norwich City Football Club. He was more than happy for Isaac to go along and have a look at his talent.

With Isaac getting into the team this means he will be playing in Cambridgeshire Under-18 league and also the FA Youth Cup. We are all incredibly proud of Isaac and cannot wait to see how he gets on in his new team.

Myself and Matt the Cambridge City coach are going to be in contact all the time discussing Isaac's development, and keeping an eye out for any other CATS Cambridge players that have the skills and passion for a trial at Cambridge City Football Club!



George Leland,
Sports & Activities Manager



Cambridge City Football Club is located just outside the historic City of Cambridge. Along with the men's first team the club boasts a thriving youth, ladies and girls setup along with two Par-Ability teams. The club are currently building a brand new stadium, including training facilities and hospitality suites in Sawston, South Cambridgeshire.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT 52 STUDENTS WILL BE DOING THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH THIS YEAR!

WHAT IS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH?

Students work together to complete their award, which is made up of 4 sections:

Volunteering: Previously, students have helped in charity shops, read to primary school children, or done litter picking.

Skills: Students have learnt to play a musical instrument, a new language, played chess, knitted, or attended model UN.

Physical: Students have cycled, ran, walked, played badminton, basketball, or table tennis.

Expedition: this is where students create their own walking routes and go camping together.

Student who do the Duke of Edinburgh tend to build strong friendships, and it is a fun project for all.



WHY DO UNIVERSITIES LIKE THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH?

The Duke of Edinburgh is a prestigious award which universities like to see on personal statements. It shows them that students are well-rounded individuals that can learn skills, do sports, and volunteer on top of studying. It also teaches students a wide range of skills.

WHAT DOES THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH TEACH OUR STUDENTS?

The Duke of Edinburgh teaches our students time management, problem-solving skills, teamwork, and communication skills. It also gives increased confidence, self-esteem, and independence.



THE PRACTICAL SKILLS STUDENTS LEARN:

- How to read a map and use a compass,
- First aid,
- How to set up a tent and pack a rucksack,
- How to set up a camp stove and basic cooking,
- Health and safety, risks, the countryside code,
- How to plan their routes and go camping.



We look forward to keeping you updated on all the amazing things we do this year!

HIGHER EDUCATION

Wan Qi recently completed the B BioGrad Education Level 3 Certificate in Preparation for Entry into Medicine.

Wan Qi completed the 6 week Level 3 certificate over the summer holiday.

Bio-Grad Education emailed Christine (our Higher Education Officer) with comments of her study with them as follows:

I am writing from BioGrad Education, we recently had the pleasure of hosting one of your fantastic students (Wan Qi) on our 6 week pre-med programme. I had the pleasure of spending some time with Wan during the summer and have to say she is a credit to yourselves at CATS!

Well done Wan Qi, excellent work!

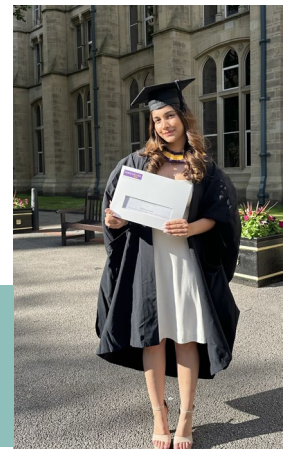


ALUMNI NEWS – RECENT UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

At CATS Cambridge, we pride ourselves on our excellent provision for supporting students into their journey into higher education. We take equal pride in their success at the end of it! Here are some of our alumni who have kindly shared their graduation success with us. Well done all.



Yuliia
Class of 2019
University of Cambridge, Peterhouse
Mathematics



Duru
Class of 2023
University of Manchester
1st Class Honours in Mechanical Engineering



Daren
Class of 2020
University of Leeds
Economics and Finance



Lexy
Class of 2020
King's College, London
1st Class Honours in History



Isabella
Class of 2019
Istituto Marangoni, London
Fashion Business Communication and New Media



Learning Is Its Own Exceeding Great Reward

Philip Harwood,
Vice Principal



In education, the pursuit of knowledge reigns supreme, and we should draw upon the wisdom of philosophers and scholars to illuminate our pathways. Amongst these, essayist James Hazlitt, is often forgotten. One of his more memorable quotes, that "Learning is its own exceeding great reward.", serves as a powerful reminder of the intrinsic value that lies within the journey through education.

Hazlitt's words might seem enigmatic, but beneath the surface lies a profound truth that transcends the boundaries of education. It reflects upon the idea that the act of learning itself is immensely fulfilling and enriching, surpassing any external accolades or material gains. It encourages us to recognise that the process of acquiring knowledge is an unending voyage of growth and self-discovery, where the rewards gained from one's learning experiences exceed those of the final destination.

It is in the classroom that the essence of Hazlitt's quote comes to life. When students approach their studies with genuine curiosity and enthusiasm, they find themselves engaged in a world of endless possibilities. Rather than seeing learning as a mere means to an end, such as good grades or future success, they recognise the inherent value of each lesson, concept, and idea both in and beyond the curriculum. Such a mindset fosters a love for learning that extends far beyond the classroom, nourishing a lifelong thirst for knowledge.

Moreover, the concept of learning as its own reward encourages us to embrace the process of making mistakes and facing challenges with resilience and determination. It teaches us that setbacks and even failures are but steppingstones toward progress. It is by overcoming difficulties that we learn the art of perseverance and develop our problem-solving skills. This invaluable experience empowers students to confront the unknown with confidence, knowing that every effort expended in the pursuit of knowledge holds inherent worth.

Beyond academic growth, embracing the intrinsic reward of learning nurtures a lifelong love for exploration and creativity. It ignites a passion for seeking answers to life's most profound questions and encourages students to push the boundaries of their intellectual capabilities. In this way, we all progress toward becoming lifelong learners where learning becomes a gateway to a world of constant self-improvement and transformation. Through exposure to diverse subjects, ideas, and cultures, we gain a broader perspective of the world and our place in it, developing empathy, open-mindedness, and critical thinking skills - qualities essential for building strong, compassionate, and well-rounded individuals who can engage ethically and purposefully in our ever-changing world.

In conclusion, James Hazlitt's timeless quote that "learning is its own exceeding great reward," echoes through the corridors of education, urging students to approach their studies with open hearts and inquisitive minds. By appreciating the inherent value of every learning experience, we embark on a journey of continuous growth and self-discovery. This perspective on learning not only enriches our academic pursuits but also lays the foundation for a fulfilling and meaningful life. So let us embrace the boundless rewards of learning and celebrate the joy of knowledge that accompanies each of us on our remarkable voyage of learning.