

NEWSLETTER

“The proper function [...] is to live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them. I shall use my time.”

Jack London, Author

Week 16 2023-24

VISITING ALUMNI



ALUMNI NEWS

How does it feel to come back?

Excited, it's really good.

What have you been up to?

I read for Management Science at UCL under and post-graduate. My undergrad was difficult due to the pandemic, but my Masters was better, with more chances for networking and the lectures were excellent, including guest speakers.

How has CATS helped?

CATS education was more suitable for my way of learning. My subject choices passed into Uni, and I found it very useful to have a grounding in these subjects as they all applied to my degree directly. The most important factor was the learning methods I gained from CATS which really worked at university.

What's the future look like for Angel?

One more year of study as Master of Management Science at UCL then I want to find a job in the finance sector and investment banking.

Do you have anything you want to say to your teachers?

I remember that when I began my education, I found it hard to understand, but I kept asking questions and my teachers were very patient and supportive with helping me develop in my English and my subject knowledge and skills. Martin taught me how to make clear effective presentations and I still use this skill today.

Any advice for current students

Focus on cultivating your study methods as this will help you at University when there is less direct support and more self-learning. Report writing at Uni needs the skills that I learned from my lessons at CATS Cambridge. Thank you to all my teachers, especially Martin, who made me love Physics.



Angel – Class of 2020
Studied Maths, Physics and
Economics at A-level

ALUMNI NEWS

**Daniel – Class of 2019
Studied French, Spanish,
Chinese Languages at A-level**



How does it feel to come back?

Perfect and it's been a pleasure to see all of you again. It feels like I'm back from vacation and I'm still studying here!

What have you been up to?

Graduated CATS Cambridge in 2019 and then went to Paris to study Linguistics until 2022 where I got a 1st degree at Sorbonne Université. Then I started my Masters in France and I graduate this year in June. My intention is to start my doctoral thesis in September!

How has CATS helped?

In China, I was learning things which I wasn't good at, so I looked for somewhere else. I chose CATS Cambridge due to the warm welcome I received when I visited, and I would get to meet people from all over the world. With my teachers I improved a lot with my English, and my tiny class in French really helped me accelerate my knowledge of the language. Teachers here care a lot, and the small class size means the teacher can care about all of us. We can share our opinions and we were never ignored.

Anything you want to say to your teachers?

Take care and I really wish every student you teach is a dream student, and you enjoy your life.

Any advice for current students

Work hard and stay healthy, do some sport (I didn't). Develop a mode of studying, build your passion, or Uni isn't for you!

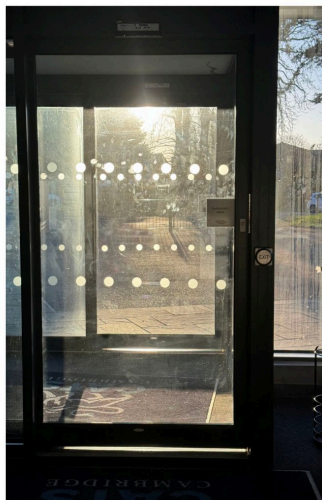
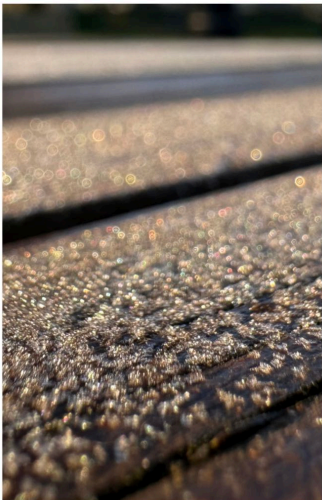
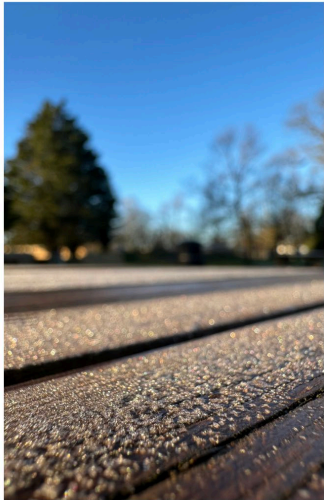
ART SHOWCASE

Year 10 Photography students have been looking at how to put images together into Diptychs, using composition and viewpoints. Their initial work was taken in and around the college environment.

For this particular task they were mainly focusing on 'zooming in and zooming out' to capture both the whole picture and also the finer detail and then to connect the images together.



ART SHOWCASE



SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF



This week we are shining a spotlight on one of our key staff members here at CATS Cambridge. Qadeer Afzal holds the role of Assistant Principal (Academic) and teaches Mathematics at all levels. His work now centres on school assessment data, and teacher training.

Hi Qadeer, how are you today?
Not too bad, how are you?

I'm fine thank you. Thanks for agreeing to an interview. Let's get going.

So, what made you decide to be a teacher?

I was training people up in MS Network and I had a friend who was a teacher training lecturer and she asked me to come and have a look. I said yes, I really enjoyed, and the rest is history.

What made you get into maths?

I've always been good at Maths and my degree was maths based. It's integral to me and seemed like a natural fit for my interests.

How long have you been teaching and what was your first school?

Since 1998. I started in Bladesmoor Comprehensive as a full-time teacher. It was challenging, but after the first three months I started to enjoy it, and getting into teaching was the best thing I've ever done.

What made you decide to work at CATS Cambridge?

I was looking for a change in area and environment and a new challenge. I found the environment at CATS Cambridge is conducive towards learning, the smaller class sizes meant I could do more individualised lessons. The staff were very approachable, and the students were lovely, and generally more mature than I was used to, having taught younger years in my previous schools.

What is your teaching Philosophy?

My philosophy is to ensure students and myself enjoy the lesson and when the students go, they've left with new knowledge.

Do you have any advice to students?

Enjoy what you have now, ensure you are learning subjects you want to do and wish to follow as a career. Life is not about existing it's about living. That's a quote from someone, no idea who.