



Royal Wootton Bassett
Academy Sixth Form
Weekly Newsletter #119
21 July 2023



All students and staff made it back from a soggy Dartmoor, and now having had time to dry out they can celebrate in their success of all completing and passing their final Gold expedition.

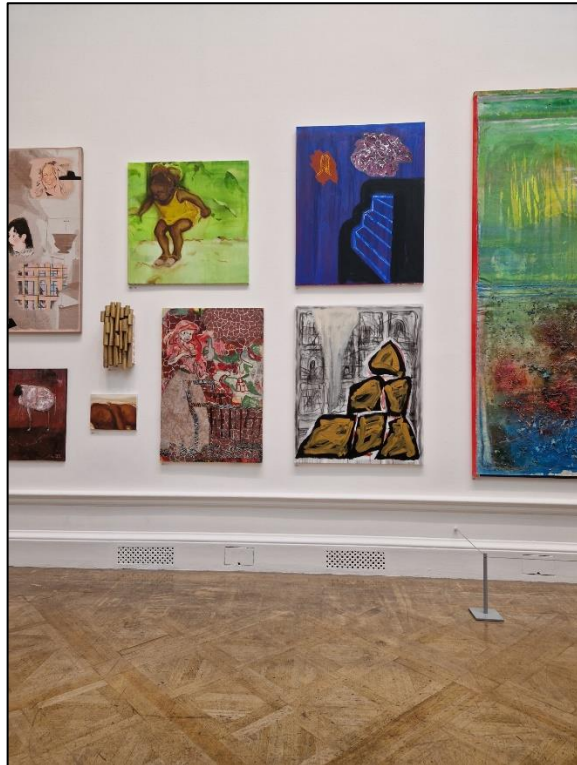
Well done to you all.



Royal Academy Summer Show

Friday 14 July

Last week some of the Art Students visited the Royal Academy and the National Portrait Gallery as part of a subject trip, gaining an opportunity for them to appreciate all forms of Art







ART
Inspirations

Enrichment Week & Sports Day Activities

"Gallery of Photos"



Kanjam
Volleyball
Relay Race
Tug of War
Each House was definitely out to win!



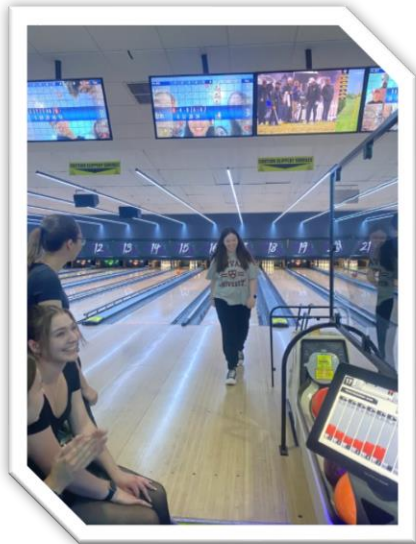
Well Done Compton House
for the overall win

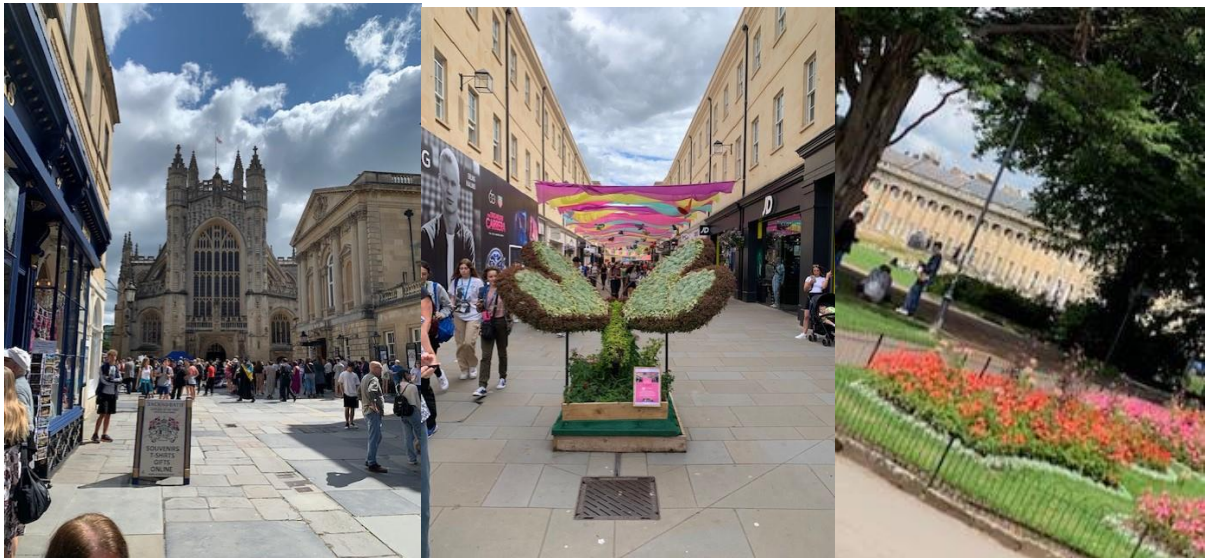




Tug of War, Rounders and Ping Pong – brought out the competitive spirit!









***A Great Week of Sport, Trips and Culture in
and around our local community***

Summer
Enrichment Week



A-level Students

School Essay Competition 2023
 A joint competition run by the Royal Geographical Society and the Financial Times.
<https://www.rgs.org/schools/competitions/school-essay-competition/>

"What risks are associated with climate change and what should we be doing about it?"

The competition closes at 5.00pm on Monday 2 October 2023

Geography have put together a super curricular programme for next year. A great opportunity to show your curiosity and be inspired by the subject, not the qualification.

Open to all students current Year 11 – outgoing Year 13s.



Term 1 House Competitions



All Years	All Years
<p>Young Geographer of the Year Competition 2023</p> <p>What is your plan for our planet? Our World is changing. The big geographical issues of today need to be addressed now to protect the future of our planet and the people who live on it. KS3 and KS4 students should produce an A3 size poster entry.</p> <p>This can be handmade (then submitted electronically using a scanned copy or photograph) or using PowerPoint, Word, Publisher or PDF. KS5 students should produce an Esri Story Map or write an essay – both of which should contain no more than 1,500 words.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Stage 3 criteria: Provide your plan for at least two or more geographical issues, using annotated images, maps or diagrams. Key Stage 4 criteria: Provide your plan for at least three or more geographical issues, using annotated images, maps, diagrams and data. Key Stage 5 criteria: Provide your plan for multiple geographical issues, using annotated images, maps, diagrams and data. <p>The competition closes at 5.00pm on Monday 2 October 2023 https://www.rgs.org/schools/competitions/young-geographer-of-the-year/2023-competition/</p>	<p>Physical geography student Competition 2023</p> <p>The theme of the competition is 'Mobile Earth'. This year's competition is about finding and taking a photo that captures an example that demonstrates the mobile Earth and the Earth as a flowing machine. Your image needs to show or convey movement of Earth material(s), or a landform or feature produced by materials movement, or evidence of a process or an agent that causes movement of Earth materials</p> <p>The photograph needs to be accompanied with its (precise) location and up to 250 words that 'show and tell' the physical geography, describing the focus your example and explaining what it reveals and/or demonstrates about the mobile Earth, and how the movement happened.</p> <p>The closing date will be 30 September 2023. Results will be announced on the GA website in November 2023. https://geography.org.uk/physical-geography-student-photo-competition/</p>





UK Dementia Research Institute: Online Neuroscience Research and Careers Conference

For Year 12 and 13 Students

Join the UK Dementia Research Institute (UK DRI) at their third [Making it Brain online research and careers conference](#) for secondary school students.

On 13 September 2023 – 14 September 2023 at 16:00 - 17:30, **this free, two day virtual webinar will feature talks and a live Q&A with student and staff speakers** from the UK Dementia Research Institute who are pioneering dementia research - from cells to circuits and systems to patients.

You will also go behind the scenes to see what research actually looks like inside a working laboratory in a series of videos from the UKDRI.

[Register to join the conference by Zoom here.](#)



At KPMG, we're seeking young talent to join us in Audit and KPMG Business Services. But we'll need your help to spread the word, as your guidance can help make a difference.

In our nationwide Audit and KPMG Business Services apprenticeships, students will have the opportunity to be empowered and make a positive difference to the businesses and communities we serve.

We'll offer them training, qualifications and work experience that gives them the opportunity to grow in their own way and gain skills that will last them a lifetime. Our supportive community consists of inspiring and innovative colleagues and working alongside them is rewarding in ways that go far beyond our competitive salary and broad range of employee benefits. Students will be part of a diverse and inclusive community where everyone brings their unique perspective - they support each other and do their best work together. Just take a look at Mona's story.

She discovered that she wasn't expected to be an Audit expert from day one, and that our community accepts people for who they are. [Watch her full story here.](#)

Applications closing soon, apply today!!

https://www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/apprentice?utm_source=successatschools&utm_medium=html&utm_content=apps-generic_all&utm_campaign=sr23-app-core_successatschools_html_apps-generic_all_static_stairs_jul23&utm_source=Success+at+School+-+Newsletter+Signups&utm_campaign=da23f57384-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_07_19_02_43_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-136a2b9890-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&goal=0_65c6d67e71-da23f57384-211973597&mc_cid=da23f57384&mc_eid=bd69c7df25

R.W.B.A. A Reading School

Reading is everyone's business all the time

Reading has many proven benefits including:

improving your empathy
helping you to problem solve
developing your creativity
increasing your vocabulary
improving your memory
a way to de-stress and relax



**Help students continue and grow
their [enthusiasm for reading](#) over the summer**

To avoid the reading 'dip', with some young people struggling with their reading when they return to school in September, we've collected some ideas together to help them choose to read books they love over the summer.

QUALITY WIDER READING SUGGESTIONS



Click here for more recommended reads for all ages.

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/secondary-ks3-ks4-reading-lists/sixth-form-reading-list-books/#year-12>

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/secondary-ks3-ks4-reading-lists/sixth-form-reading-list-books/#year-13>

https://www.worldbookday.com/reading-recommendations/sizzling-summer-reads/?dm_i=35S3,1EHH8,7SDU7A,5J2A5,1





Summer Work 2023

For students joining Year 12 in September, remember you have compulsory subject specific summer work and recommended reading, watch and listen lists.

Click on the link for further instruction.

<https://www.rwba.org.uk/summer-work-sept-2022/>

Correspondence

A letter to students from Ofqual and UCAS

Published 18 July 2023

For those of you receiving your results this summer we know you might have questions about how your results are determined, results day, confirming offers and Clearing. Such as, what are your options on results day? What happens if you change your mind about your choices?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-letter-to-students-from-ofqual-and-ucas/a-letter-to-students-from-ofqual-and-ucas>

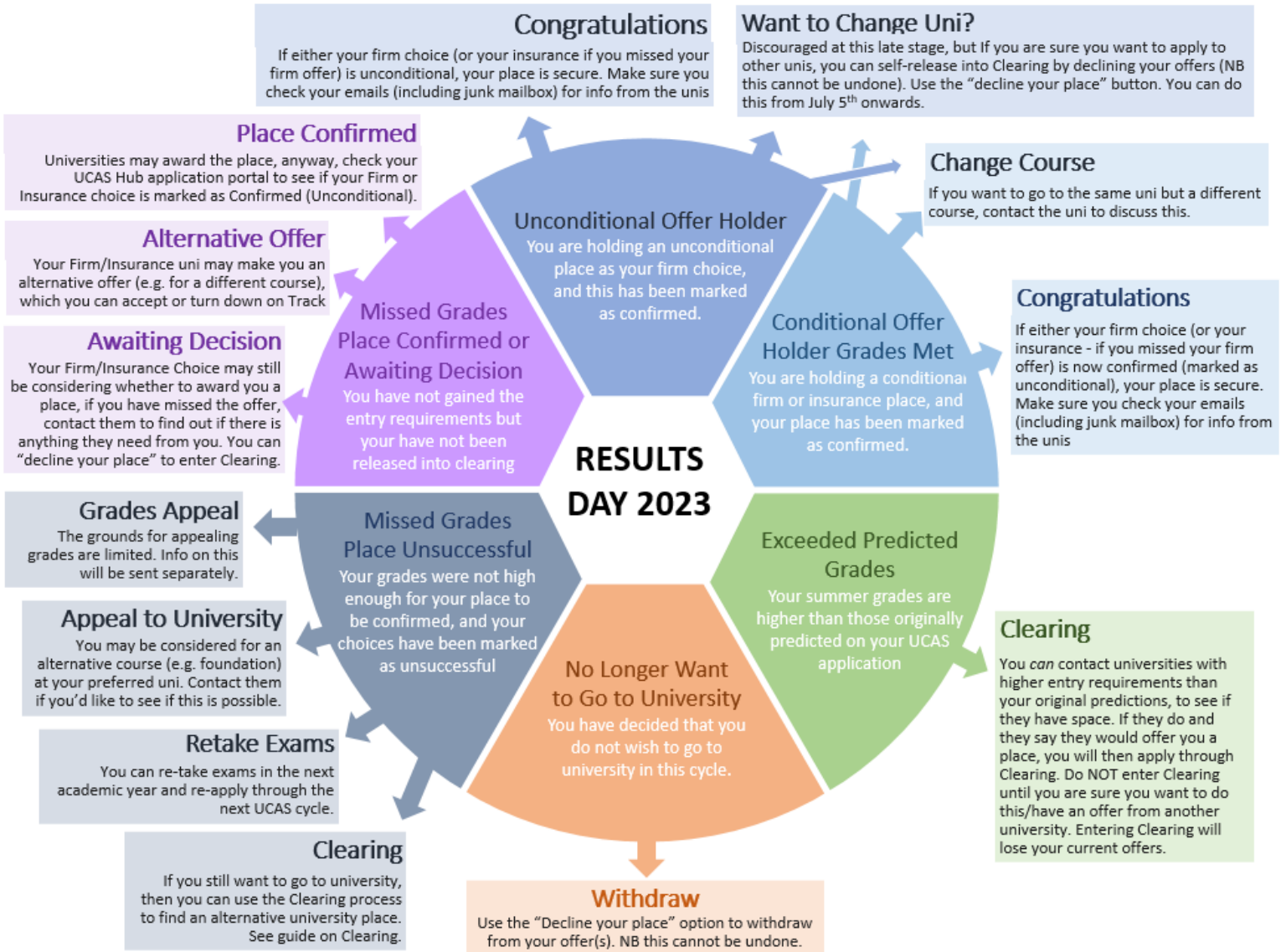


Year 13 A level and Btec results day is on Thursday 17th August.

Students can collect their results from the Sixth Form building between 8am – 9.30

Any Year 12 students collecting BTEC results can do so between 9.30 – 10am

Sixth Form staff will be on hand to support students with their next steps.



Results Day Webinar For Young People And Parents On 9th August 2023 – Sign Up For FREE!

Kim Lupton | 10th July 2023

Reading time: 4 minutes

A promotional graphic for a webinar. On the left, a circular portrait of a young woman with blonde hair is set against a pink background with a white diagonal striped pattern. To the right, the text 'FREE Online Webinar Results Day' is displayed in black and blue. Below this is a blue button that says 'Register Now'. Further down, the date and time '9th August 2023 1-2 PM' are listed. At the bottom right is the logo for 'YOUTH EMPLOYMENT UK', which features a stylized 'Y' with a Wi-Fi symbol above it. The text 'Experts on hand for all your FAQs!' is written at the bottom of the graphic.

FREE Online Webinar
Results Day

Register Now

9th August 2023
1-2 PM

Experts on hand for all your FAQs!

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT UK

<https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/results-day-webinar/>



Year 11 students can collect their GCSE results from RWBA Library on **Thursday 24th July** between **8am – 9.30**

Sixth Form staff will be available to discuss Sixth Form enrolment.

Pastoral staff will be available to support students with their next steps.



icould

Career ideas and information for your future

<https://icould.com/>



SPEAKERS for schools

<https://www.speakersforschools.org/>



<https://pathwayctm.com/>



<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/higher-and-degree-listing/>



Find work experience with world-leading organisations 🌐

Try a university course before you apply 🎓

Meet the students who have benefited from Springpod 🌈

Gain experience with top employers and universities on Springpod

<https://www.springpod.com/>

uptree

<https://schools.uptree.co.uk/>

Your
Game
Plan

YourGamePlan

Digital & Tech

A breakdown of how your favourite tech platforms work & information on how to break into a career in digital & tech.

GET STARTED

YourGamePlan

Employability

Learn all the skills you need for the work place & find out more about different industries available.

GET STARTED

YourGamePlan

Money

Find out how to best manage your financial future, learn about taxes, loans, mortgages and more.

GET STARTED

YourGamePlan

Wellbeing

Understand more about your wellbeing, both mental and physical health. Also tips on handling exam pressure and stress.

GET STARTED

<https://yourgameplan.co.uk/>

Here are some super curricular suggestions that could make your summer holidays, enjoyable, inspiring and build your curiosity.

(Not to mention provide evidence for your personal statement!!)

English

The primary super-curricular activity for English is, of course, reading, with writing your own work coming a close second. Here are a few other ideas.

1. Take part in a writing challenge, such as National Novel Writing Month

Thousands of people all around the world do Nanowrimo every year.

Writing challenges are a great way of demonstrating your love of the written word. National Novel Writing Month takes place in November, and its object is as its name suggests: you write a novel in a month. It's a huge writing challenge, but you get lots of support from the online community of other writers who are taking part, and it's an undertaking that will give you a better understanding of the novels you read for your A-level. If you're applying before the 15 October Oxbridge deadline, it should be enough to mention in your personal statement that you enjoy writing, and that you're preparing to take part in the challenge; by the time interviews come round, you'll have written your novel and it'll be a good talking point in interviews.



2. Visit Stratford-upon-Avon

Stratford-upon-Avon is home to the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Stratford-upon-Avon was the home of one of the most important writers of all time: William Shakespeare. It's also the headquarters of the Royal Shakespeare

Company, one of the best theatre companies in the world. As such, it's a must-visit town for any literature enthusiast. With the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, the Swan Theatre and the Courtyard Theatre all offering superb Royal Shakespeare Company productions, a visit to Stratford-upon-Avon is also the perfect place to do the next activity on our list...



3. Go to the theatre

You'll doubtless be studying a play or two for your A-level, and you've probably already realised that if you're to appreciate a play properly, you need to see it performed. A theatre trip should therefore be an essential complement to your A-level study, and it's something you should approach with a critical mind. Be prepared to think about questions such as how well the production brought to life the words on the page, how the production differed to how audiences would have experienced it at the time, and so on.

Maths

Maths doesn't, at first, seem a subject that particularly lends itself to super-curricular activities, but there are still a few things you can do to demonstrate your enthusiasm.

4. Visit Bletchley Park

Bletchley Park is also a fascinating place to visit if you're interested in British history.

A great place to visit if you're enthusiastic about maths is Bletchley Park, home to the wartime codebreakers who, among other things, unravelled the workings of the Enigma machine. Once the workplace of the renowned mathematician Alan



Turing, Bletchley is a place that demonstrates the importance of maths in the real world, and it's also home to the world's first computer.

5. Enter maths competitions

A good way of demonstrating that your interest in maths goes beyond the classroom is to enter maths competitions, such as those organised by the [UK Mathematics Trust](#).

History/Classical Civilisations

History and Classical Civilisations are two subjects that lend themselves particularly well to super-curricular activities; indeed, such activities are a fundamental part of studying these subjects, and they can be broadly categorised into museum visits and site visits.

6. Museum visits

You can spend hours looking around the [British Museum](#) and only see a fraction of it. You name it, [there's a museum dedicated to it](#), and that's particularly true of History and Classical Civilisations. The [British Museum in London](#) and [the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford](#) are two obvious examples of superb museums spanning many periods of history, but there are numerous others, your experiences of which make a great talking point on your personal statement and in interviews.



7. Site visits

Whatever period of history you're studying, site visits are always advisable because they help you develop a deeper understanding of what you've read in books. From visiting Roman villas, Hadrian's Wall or even Greece and [Rome](#) for Classical Civilisations, to visiting the First World War battlefields for History, there's no limit to the interesting places you can talk about on your personal statement. If you're studying Georgian history, you might want to visit some [stately homes](#), or perhaps admire the Georgian architecture of Bath; similarly, a module on the Elizabethans could be supported with a visit to an

Elizabethan country house such as Longleat. You could even volunteer at a National Trust house to demonstrate your love of history.

Geography

Another subject well-suited to super-curricular activities is Geography, as getting out 'into the field' is an important part of understanding the concepts you've learnt about from books.

8. Field trips

Take the opportunity to explore fascinating and beautiful parts of the world.

Field trips will be a part of your A-level syllabus, but you can organise your own in your spare time to give yourself even more to write about on your personal statement. Visit a variety of environments: glacial valleys, river valleys, urban landscapes, coastal environments, and so on. Conduct your own research and make your own notes on the phenomena you observe: glacial features such as striations or drumlins, coastal erosion, oxbow lakes, sand dunes and so on. You could try fossil hunting, too.



9. Read National Geographic magazine

National Geographic is the world's most famous geography-related magazine, and it's the official magazine of the National Geographic Society. Subscribing to it will keep you abreast of geographical issues around the world, and it's the perfect way to demonstrate your interest in the subject.

Languages

There are lots of language-related super-curricular activities with which you can demonstrate enthusiasm on your personal statement.

10. Visit a country where the language is spoken

Most obviously, visiting a country that speaks the language you're learning is highly advantageous. Making an effort to talk to the locals in their language will

develop your confidence, improve your pronunciation and conversational skills, and give you a practical application for the skills you've developed in the classroom.

11. Watch films in the language you're studying

Another thing you can do to support your learning of a language is to watch films in that language, as this will help you tune into the sounds of that language, as well as familiarising yourself with the country's culture. If you find it hard at first, you could watch with English subtitles to begin with.

12. Gain a pen friend

Join a penpal website and find someone with whom you can exchange letters in the language you're learning. This gives you practice at both reading and writing in your new language.

13. Read foreign-language newspapers

Keep abreast of news in the country in which your language is spoken, and develop your language skills at the same time, by reading a newspaper from that country. For example, if you were learning French, you could read *Le Monde*.

Science subjects

We group the core science subjects – Physics, Chemistry and Biology – together here because many of the activities mentioned apply to all these subjects.

14. Perform scientific experiments and studies at home

Not every science experiment requires a fancy lab.

You don't need a lab to perform scientific experiments and studies; these can be carried out in the comfort of your own home. Approach such studies and experiments as though you were doing them for school, and you'll soon start to develop sound scientific principles and methods. For Biology, for example, you could observe the nature in your back garden and how it changes throughout the year, being scientific about it of course: writing down



your observations and recording exact numbers of different species and how they vary throughout the year, such as birds, butterflies and so on. Ideally, blog about your studies as evidence that you've done them. You could even contribute your findings to a wider study, such as those run by the [RSPB](#) or [Butterfly Conservation](#).

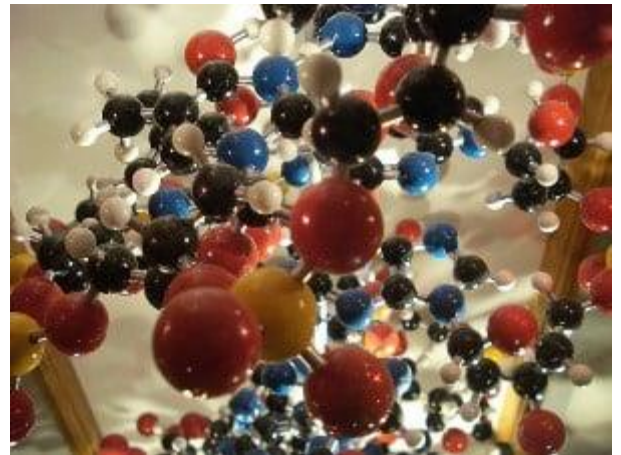
15. Subscribe to scientific publications

Keep abreast of [scientific developments](#) ready to talk about them in interviews by subscribing to reputable scientific publications and journals such as New Scientist, Scientific American, Nature and so on.

16. Visit science museums

Think about how science museums try to appeal to scientists and non-scientists alike – can you spot any simplifications?

Science museums aren't just fun: they're educational. Visit as many as you can, and find out about areas of science you hadn't thought about before. For example, there's a museum in [Oxford](#) dedicated to the history of science itself, which would encourage you to think about developments in scientific methods and beliefs.



17. Join scientific societies

Membership of scientific societies dedicated to your favourite science subject shows your commitment to the subject, as well as keeping you up to date with developments and allowing you to attend events; these include the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Institute of Physics and so on. These organisations usually have student membership options suited to various stages of your education (under-18, undergraduate, post-graduate and so on).

18. Take part in National Science and Engineering Week

Each year, the [National Science and Engineering Week](#) celebrates science in all its forms, with events and projects you can get involved in.

19. Arrange a visit to an observatory

Those wishing to demonstrate a particular interest in astrophysics can do so by visiting an observatory, the most obvious example in the UK being Jodrell Bank, which is part of the University of Manchester. Its [Discovery Centre](#) may be pitched at a more basic ‘family-friendly’ level, but there’s nothing wrong with emailing them to ask if you might be able to delve a bit further behind the scenes, perhaps to shadow a scientist as a form of work experience.

Art

Clearly, producing works of art yourself is a crucial activity on the syllabus for this subject; but it’s one that you can build on outside school.

20. Visit art galleries

Keep abreast of the latest artwork in the Turbine Hall of the Tate Modern.

Learn about a variety of artistic periods and genres by [visiting art galleries](#) and recording your responses to the art you see. You can mention some examples on your personal statement and this will be a good talking point in any interviews you are invited to.



21. Build a varied portfolio

You’ll be building a portfolio anyway as part of your A-level, but you can also be contributing to a personal portfolio that goes beyond the classroom. Experiment with different forms of art and build as varied a portfolio as you can, with a mix of genres and materials, such as photography, sculpture, watercolours, oil painting, and so on.

Music

Music is almost a super-curricular activity in itself, which makes it easy to suggest things you can do to support your university application for this subject.

22. Take graded instrument exams

You should be able to offer concrete evidence of your musical ability.

Prove your musical capabilities by taking the graded instrument exams, if you haven't already. Ideally, attain at least Grade 8 on your main instrument and at least Grade 5 on the piano (if that isn't your main instrument), as many universities like to see evidence of keyboard ability because it makes life easier for composing, among other things.



23. Perform

You'll understand music in a lot more depth if you're able to perform it yourself. There will likely be a performance element to your A-level – you'll probably be required to give a recital – but there are plenty of other performance opportunities. Join an orchestra, choir or other music group to expand your experience of making music, and try, if you can, to experience performing a variety of genres, such as jazz and all periods of classical.

24. Compose

Carry a notebook with you, so you can jot down ideas when you're out and about.

Again, composition is part of the A-level Music syllabus, but the more of it you can do in your spare time, the better.

Experiment with creating different sorts of music using composition software

such as Sibelius. One way you could challenge yourself is by watching a segment of a film with the sound off and coming up with a soundtrack for it.



25. Go to concerts

Hearing other people perform music is also important, and it's a good way of expanding your knowledge of different genres. If you can review the concerts you've been to – perhaps on a blog – then even better. In particular, try to attend

concerts from different periods of music history; a performance of Baroque music on period instruments, for example.

General super-curricular activities



Read around your subject as much as you can.

Finally, we end with a quick-fire list of some super-curricular activities that can be applied to any subject.

26. Read widely beyond the A-level syllabus.
27. Start a blog about your subject.
28. Tweet about your subject, and follow others who do the same.
29. Listen to subject-related podcasts.
30. Join a society or club dedicated to your subject.
31. Do some work experience in a career related to your subject.
32. Enter competitions related to your subject, such as essay competitions.
33. Take extra qualifications relating to your subject.
34. Join Mensa.

As you can see, the possibilities for supporting your university application with relevant super-curricular activities are endless – and great fun, too. Any of these will enhance your application and provide excellent interview talking points, so indulge in as many as you can, and enjoy them!

Summer holiday wellbeing tips



<https://bestforyou.org.uk/summer-holiday-wellbeing-tips/>



Have a great

