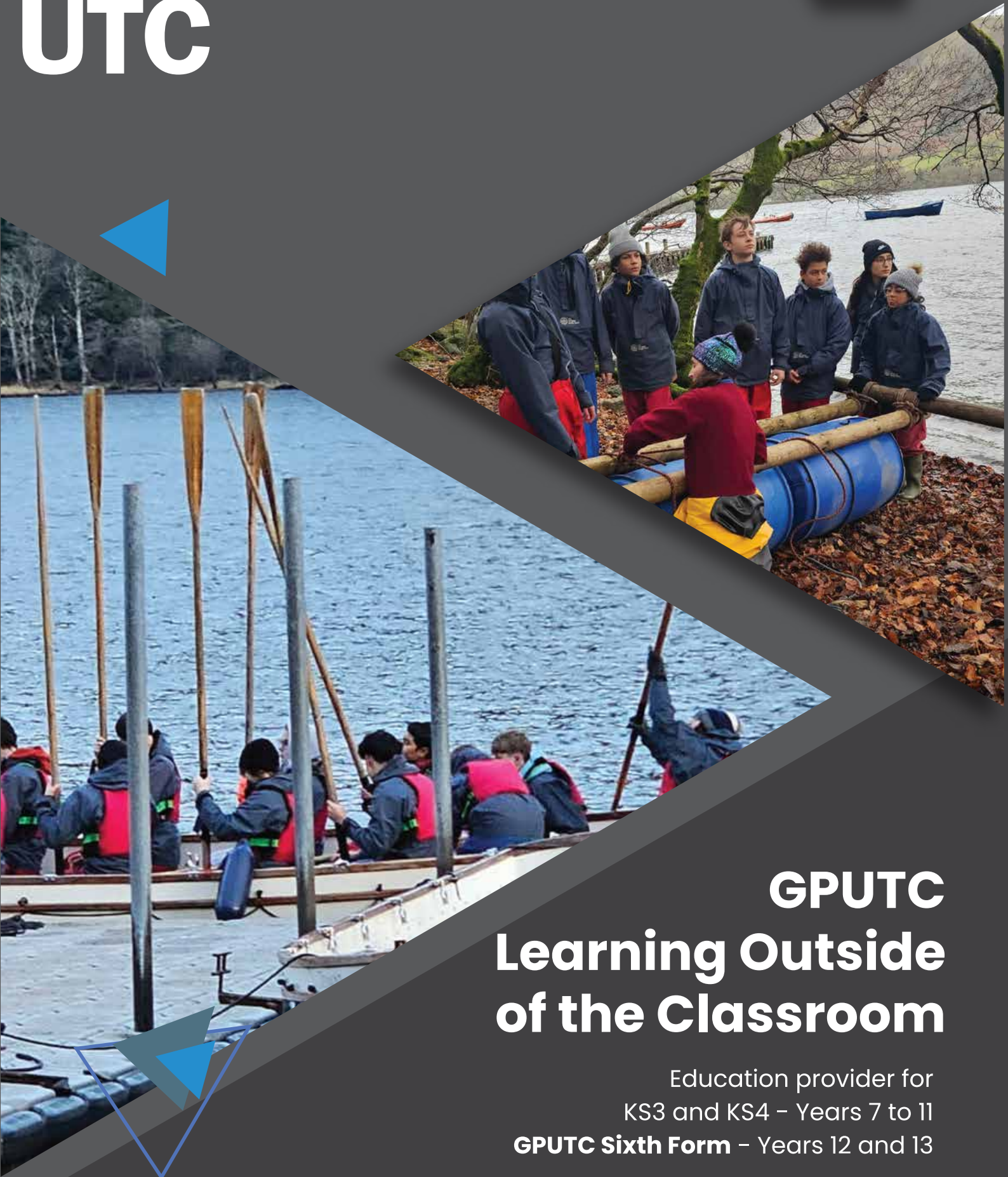
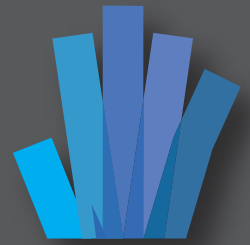


GREATER PETERBOROUGH UTC



GPU TC Learning Outside of the Classroom

Education provider for
KS3 and KS4 – Years 7 to 11
GPU TC Sixth Form – Years 12 and 13

'Creating the Workforce of Tomorrow'



A Slam Dunk of a Night!

On the 8th of November, a group of students had the incredible opportunity to experience the excitement of live basketball as they attended the Leicester Riders' game against the Sheffield Sharks. Accompanied by Lee, Ben, Brian, and Jess, the students were immersed in the fast-paced action and high-energy atmosphere of professional basketball, making it an evening to remember.

The game itself was nothing short of thrilling. Both teams fought hard, keeping the score close throughout, and the tension in the arena was palpable as the Riders found themselves with just 18 seconds on the clock to tie the game and send it to overtime. The crowd erupted in cheers, willing the team to push through, but despite their best efforts, the Riders fell just short, losing by a narrow margin of 3 points. While the loss was disappointing, the intensity and excitement of the game made for a truly unforgettable experience.

For our students, the event wasn't just about enjoying an evening of sport—it was a fantastic Learning Outside the Classroom moment. Watching the players in action demonstrated the importance of teamwork, strategy, and determination, as the Riders displayed resilience in the face of a challenging opponent.

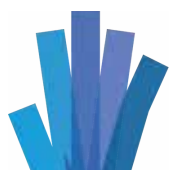
The students also had the chance to see how professional athletes communicate and support one another under pressure, lessons that can easily be applied both in the classroom and in their own team activities.

The camaraderie among the students and staff made the night even more special. Sharing the experience of cheering on the Riders, feeling the highs and lows of the game, and soaking in the electrifying atmosphere of the arena created memories that will last a lifetime. For some, it was their first-ever live basketball game, and it's safe to say it left a lasting impression.

A big thank you goes to Lee, Ben, Brian, and Jess for organizing and accompanying the group, ensuring the evening ran smoothly and everyone had an amazing time. Events like these are what make Learning Outside the Classroom so impactful—providing opportunities for students to engage with new experiences, build connections, and gain valuable insights in an exciting and dynamic setting.

It's safe to say this was more than just a fun outing—it was an inspiring and educational experience that showed our students the importance of perseverance, teamwork, and community spirit. What a slam dunk of a night!





Year 10 & 11 Students Inspired by Live Poetry at New Theatre

On Thursday February 6th, our Year 10 and Year 11 students had the incredible opportunity to attend a poetry lecture at the New Theatre in Peterborough, where they saw some of the UK's most celebrated poets perform and discuss their work.

As part of their GCSE English Literature studies, students were treated to live readings and insights from Carol Ann Duffy, Imtiaz Dharker, Daljeet Nagra, Owen Sheers, and Simon Armitage—all of whom have poems featured in the AQA Power and Conflict anthology.

Each poet shared their inspirations and interpretations, giving students a fresh perspective on the themes and emotions within their poetry.

The highlight of the event was seeing poetry legend John Agard take the stage.

His enthralling and energetic performance captivated students from start to finish, leaving a lasting impression and igniting a new appreciation for the power of spoken word.

This experience not only brought poetry to life in a way that textbooks alone cannot, but also helped students develop a deeper understanding of the poetic techniques, historical contexts, and emotional depth behind each piece.

Well done to our students for engaging so positively with the experience. We hope this has sparked a newfound enthusiasm for poetry as they continue their studies!



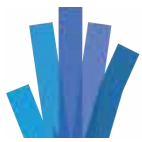
Creating the Workforce of Tomorrow

Respect

Readiness

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An Unforgettable Adventure at Ullswater

What an incredible trip! From the moment we stepped off the bus excitement was in the air.

We couldn't have imagined the challenges and triumphs that lay ahead, or how much we would grow as individuals and as a team. Storm Bert brought an added level of difficulty, but it only made the experience even more memorable. This wasn't just a trip about outdoor activities—it was a transformative journey of personal growth, resilience, and teamwork, all made possible by the outstanding staff at Ullswater Outward Bound.

Every day was filled with activities that pushed us physically and mentally while reinforcing the importance of our core values.

From the very start, Respect was at the heart of everything we did, as we supported one another through fears and anxieties, building trust and camaraderie along the way. Cheering each other on during the infamous jog and dip (a bracing run followed by a plunge into icy water), we learned to support and encourage one another.

Readiness became second nature as we prepared for each new challenge, whether it was rowing across the stunning Ullswater lake, navigating tricky terrain during a blindfolded navigation exercise, or gearing up for a night hike to explore a breathtaking waterfall under the stars. These experiences required us to step out of our comfort zones and embrace the unknown with enthusiasm and preparation.

Taking Responsibility for ourselves and each other was a critical part of the trip. From managing our equipment to ensuring everyone was ready for the next adventure, we learned the importance of teamwork and accountability. Firelighting was a favourite activity that allowed us to wind down after a busy day, and of course, no campfire is complete without toasted marshmallows!

When it came to Resilience, the trip provided endless opportunities to rise to the challenge. Hiking through the fells, navigating steep inclines, and dealing with ever-changing weather tested our physical and mental limits. Storm Bert brought wild winds and rain, but instead of dampening our spirits, it taught us to adapt and persevere. These hikes weren't just about physical endurance—they were designed to develop embedded leadership skills, with each of us taking turns to guide and motivate the group.

Other highlights included night-time navigation exercises, which taught us to trust our instincts and our teammates as we worked together to find our way in the dark. Canoeing and rowing brought plenty of laughs and moments of camaraderie, while activities like blind navigation challenged us to communicate effectively and think creatively.

The jog and dip was tough, but nothing compared to the sense of achievement we felt after diving into the freezing water and cheering each other on.

This trip wasn't just about outdoor adventures; it was about discovering our potential, learning to work as a team, and building memories that will last a lifetime.

Words alone can't capture the magic of the experience, but the photos we've taken speak volumes.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Pete, Claire, Sarah, and Jess for their guidance, energy, and support throughout the journey. This was more than just a school trip—it was an experience that will shape us for years to come!



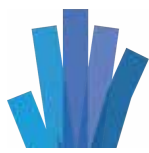
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STEM Racing at GPUTC: A Thrilling First Competition Experience

As many of you will remember, GPUTC has embraced the F1 in Schools project, now rebranded as STEM Racing. This exciting programme is about far more than just racing miniature cars—it is a global competition that challenges students to apply engineering, design, teamwork, and business skills in a real-world STEM context.

The Build-Up to Competition Day
Leading up to the competition, our teams were working tirelessly, fine-tuning their pit displays and portfolios, ensuring they were ready to showcase their designs and hard work. They were also incredibly fortunate to receive support from Caterpillar, who visited GPUTC the day before the competition to help them practice their verbal presentations, offering valuable industry insight and constructive feedback.

Competition Day – January 16th at Boston College

Excitement and anticipation were high as we ventured to Boston College, unsure of what to expect. Upon arrival, teams quickly got to work setting up their pit displays, standing alongside some highly experienced competitors who have been in the competition for years.

The competition day was structured into key judging stages, where teams were assessed on:

Pit Displays – Judges evaluated creativity, branding, and engineering design.

Portfolios & Cars – Teams discussed their design and engineering processes.

Verbal Presentations – A nerve-wracking but valuable experience, presenting their work to judges in a closed-room environment.

Race Times – The big moment where cars were put to the test on the track!



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cont... STEM Racing at GPUTC: A Thrilling First Competition Experience

Our Teams & Their Success

Apex Racing (Year 9) – Competing in the Entry Class, this team of James, Harvey, Ben, Zack, and Ethan made an incredible debut.

Function FNI (Year 10) – Entering the Development Class, David, Sam, Theo, Marcus, and Aleeza took their skills to the next level with outstanding teamwork.

Calibre (Year 12) – Competing in the Professional Class, Jake, Charlie, Jack, George, and Abigail represented GPUTC at the highest level. While Dylan was unable to attend, his contributions were instrumental in their journey, as he was part of their car development.

What made the day even more unforgettable was that each of our teams, in their first-ever competition, came away with a trophy! The excitement was palpable—students were buzzing, and staff were beyond proud.

Looking to the Future

Following this success, we have been invited to attend the National Competition in March to experience the next level of STEM Racing. Meanwhile, our teams are already working harder than ever to prepare for next year, determined to improve and achieve even greater success.

We are also thrilled to welcome a new Year 7 team into the programme and are keen to expand further. We hope to introduce an in-house competition, which could potentially be opened up for others to view.

If you're interested in getting involved, learning more, or sponsoring a team, please reach out to fiteams@gputc.org—our students would love to share their experiences and talk about the competition!

This is just the beginning of an exciting journey in STEM Racing, and we can't wait to see where it takes our students next!



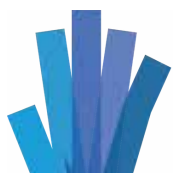
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Something wicked this way comes...

At GPUTC, we believe that learning goes beyond textbooks, and this term, our Year 10 English students had the exciting opportunity to bring Shakespeare's Macbeth to life in a way that deepened their understanding of this iconic tragedy.

As part of their GCSE English Literature studies, students have been exploring the themes, characters, and dramatic techniques within Macbeth. To enhance their engagement with the text, they took part in a practical, interactive session, bringing key scenes to life through performance and discussion. By stepping into the shoes of Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, and the witches, students were able to explore the emotions, motivations, and conflicts that

drive the play's dramatic tension.

This immersive experience not only helped students to understand Shakespeare's language in context, but also encouraged critical thinking about the relevance of power, ambition, and fate—key themes that still resonate today.

Engaging with literature in this way allows our students to develop confidence in analysis, public speaking skills, and creative interpretation—all essential tools for their upcoming exams and beyond.

Well done to our Year 10s for their enthusiasm and commitment—we look forward to seeing how this deeper understanding supports their learning as they continue their GCSE journey!



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Learning Beyond the Classroom: A Transformative Experience

Meridian Trust recently had the privilege of hosting the Learning Outside the Classroom Annual Conference at Weldon Village Academy.

The event brought together over 300 educators, united by the theme "Supporting Students to Thrive." It was a day filled with inspiration, collaboration, and a shared passion for enriching students' learning experiences beyond traditional settings.

A standout moment was hearing from two of our own students, who shared their heartfelt stories of personal growth during a residential trip with The Outward Bound Trust in Aberdovey, Wales. Their accounts of overcoming challenges, building resilience, and forging strong relationships resonated deeply with attendees and underscored the profound impact of outdoor learning.

We are incredibly proud to share their inspiring words with you—a testament to how stepping outside the classroom can spark lasting transformation.

Claudia wrote: *"It was last February when I heard about an Opportunity to go to wales. I was new to the school and apprehensive about going, even more so when I realised it was talking with on my birthday. Although family after decided not to turn down a once in a lifetime experience."*

And I'm so pleased that I didn't.

When I was in wales the activities were fun and the staff were friendly which made the environment welcoming. I knew about the activities available but I didn't feel confident with many of them. I communicated with staff and did not feel pressured to do anything I felt I couldn't do. Over the next few days we became more of a team, supported each other and really bonded. I Still felt anxious but seeing others push themselves encouraged me to thought push myself I would too. I leant to like things I never like, sleeping out overnight, a week without my phone, not being surrounded with people I knew. I never thought I would be able to do it, but I did. It was exhausting but so worth it.

Overall, I really think Aberdovey brought out another side of me. I now don't pass up an Opportunity and my week in the beautiful Country of wales was very different from my day to day life.

The outward bound experience has allowed me to push myself doing things. I wouldn't normally do the outcome was rewarding and a big achievement

It also made a very memorable 14th birthday. Thankyou to everyone involved!



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Outward Bound Adventure in Aberdovey, Wales

During the first week of term, 12 of our students set off on an unforgettable five-day residential to the Outward Bound Centre in Aberdovey, Wales—a week that would stretch limits, spark confidence, and create lifelong memories.

Surrounded by the stunning Welsh coastline and rugged landscapes, students took part in a range of thrilling outdoor activities designed to build resilience, teamwork, and leadership. From abseiling down rocky cliffs to kayaking across open waters, every challenge pushed them beyond their comfort zones and encouraged them to work together to overcome obstacles.

Throughout the week, students experienced river gorge walking, orienteering, scrambling, and bivouacking under the stars—yes, even camping out in

the wild with shelters they helped build themselves! Whether navigating forest trails or gathering around a crackling campfire, they learned to solve problems, support one another, and persevere through both physical and mental challenges.

But this trip was about more than just adventure—it was a powerful journey of personal growth. Students returned with boosted confidence, a greater sense of independence, and a deeper understanding of what they're truly capable of. Their courage and commitment throughout the week were truly inspiring, and they should all be extremely proud of what they achieved.

A huge thank you goes out to the dedicated staff team and the incredible Outward Bound instructors, whose energy,



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Outward Bound Adventure in Aberdovey, Wales

encouragement, and care ensured that the experience was both safe and transformative.

Well done to all who took part—you embodied the spirit of GPUTC with readiness, resilience, and respect. We can't wait to see how you take these lessons forward into your studies and beyond!



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F1 in Schools Nationals Visit – Fuelled with Inspiration for 2026!

On Wednesday 26th March, our GPUTC F1 in Schools teams had the fantastic opportunity to visit the F1 in Schools National Finals, held at the impressive Magna Science Park in Rotherham. Although our teams hadn't qualified to compete this year, the visit provided a powerful source of motivation and insight for what lies ahead.



The competition showcased the very best in student-led innovation, engineering, and teamwork. Our students returned absolutely buzzing with ideas—from concepts for their next car designs to creative ways they can bring their pit displays to life. With a clear vision in mind, they're now more determined than ever to secure a place in next year's finals.

Marcus from Year 10, a member of our Function FNI team, shared his thoughts on the experience:

"STEM Racing Nationals was a cool learning experience and fun to spectate (very good, you should join the STEM Racing club). I'll do it



again because it was fun, and the competition itself taught me a lot. Working in a team is great—but also a test of patience—and it's important to learn how to navigate that."

We'd also like to extend our congratulations to Unity Racing from Scarborough UTC, who once again took the top spot. It was great to see Silverstone UTC's Revolution Racing—who visited GPUTC back in January to test their cars on our full-length F1 track—pick up the Best Pit Display Award in the Development Class.



The recently rebranded STEM Racing competition continues to grow in prestige and impact, and it's clear that



UTCs across the country are leading the charge. With a curriculum focused on technical skills, innovation, and real-world readiness, our students have a clear advantage—and competitions like this bring those strengths to life.

With fresh inspiration, new goals, and exciting ideas, our GPUTC teams are already planning for next year. The countdown to STEM Racing 2025 starts now—watch this space!



A Day of Discovery: Cotilda's Experience at Oxford's Materials Science Day

Submitted by Cotilda, Year 12

In March, I had the incredible opportunity to attend a Materials Science Experience Day at Oxford University—a day packed with discovery, hands-on learning, and exciting insight into the world of materials science.

The event began at 10:00am, with the official introduction taking place at 10:15 in the Hume-Rothery Lecture Theatre. We



were each given a welcome folder, which included our timetable for the day, lab safety information, a prospectus for studying Materials Science at Oxford, a list of recommended books and websites to explore, and more. During the introduction, we were welcomed to the Department of

Materials and given an overview of what Materials Science is all about, as well as what to expect throughout the day.

Our first session, from 10:25 to 11:10, was a taster lecture by Professor Angus Wilkinson, titled "Breaking Better: The Importance of Microstructure in Fracture." Professor

Wilkinson emphasised the importance of studying how materials fail—because that's how scientists can make them stronger. He said:

"All the serious technological endeavours over your generation are somewhere in it going to involve materials science... When you have ideas and want to implement them to make a real impact in the world, you need to select, process and work with the right material."

The lecture included a brilliant live experiment using spaghetti laid across Lego walls on a balance to test when it would break. It sounds simple, but it revealed an important lesson: real-life materials, like those used in aircraft, can have a huge range in performance, and selecting the right one is often a matter of risk and precision. It made the subject feel extremely relevant to solving real-world engineering problems.



After a quick break and a chance to chat with other Year 12 students, we headed out on a tour of the Materials Science department. We saw some amazing equipment—including around ten electron microscopes (each worth around



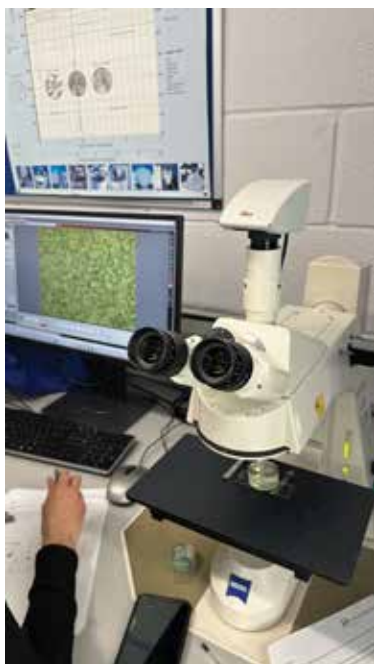
Cont... A Day of Discovery: Cotilda's Experience at Oxford's Materials Science Day

£50,000!) and Oxford's brand-new Transmission Electron Microscope, which still had its ribbon on and cost several million pounds! We also visited a lab where we watched a demonstration involving liquid nitrogen, magnets, and superconductors—technology that's already being used in things like Maglev trains and wind turbines.



We then made our way to Mansfield College for lunch, where the building was as impressive as the meal itself. Over lunch, I enjoyed connecting with other students about degree apprenticeships, their current studies, and how they balance their workloads. We even shared details about other events we'd found useful for exploring careers in STEM and engineering.

In the afternoon, we had the chance to carry out a hands-on practical, the very same one new



Materials Science students complete in their first year at Oxford! Using an optical microscope connected to a computer, we studied samples of copper, brass, bronze, and aluminium-copper alloys. It was fascinating to see the detailed structures of these everyday materials and link them back to what we'd learned earlier in the lecture.

The day wrapped up back in the Hume-Rothery Lecture Theatre with a helpful talk about the Oxford application process, followed by a Q&A with current fourth-year students. They spoke honestly about their own journeys, and gave us lots of advice—not just about getting the grades, but about taking part in super-curricular activities, reading relevant books and journals, entering competitions like the British Physics Olympiad, and preparing for the Physics Admissions Test. Most importantly, they emphasised that in Oxford interviews, tutors are looking to see how you think and approach problems—not just if you know the answer.

Overall, it was an inspiring, challenging, and exciting day that has made me seriously consider applying to Oxford. I was definitely intimidated at first by how confident and advanced some of the other students seemed, but I left feeling motivated and grateful for the experience. It's shown me how exciting a future in Materials Science could be—and how many pathways are open to students like me.



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