



**Oxford Royale Academy**

inspirational cultural and academic courses



Where Ideas, Ambition and Discovery Meet

# FESTIVAL ROYALE

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## OXFORD

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**5 Streams | 20+ Sessions | 1 Unforgettable Day**

Build your own festival. Shape your future.

# One Extraordinary Day. Endless Possibilities.



This summer marks the launch of the very first Festival Royale, an exciting new experience created exclusively for Oxford Royale students.

Taking place during the middle weekend of the programme, Festival Royale transforms Oxford into a vibrant hub of ideas, skills and discovery.

**Dates:**  
**Saturday 11 July**  
**Saturday 25 July**  
**Saturday 8 August**

**Choose your sessions.  
Design your day.  
Create your own Festival  
Royale experience.**



Across historic venues and campuses, students take part in a dynamic programme featuring:

- Inspiring guest speakers
- Expert-led workshops
- Hands-on practical experiences
- Academic and career development sessions
- Leadership and sporting challenges

Inspired by the world's leading conferences, Festival Royale gives students the freedom to design their own day - choosing sessions that match their interests, ambitions and curiosity.

Move between venues. Choose what excites you. Discover ideas that could shape your future.



# For one day, Oxford becomes a festival of ideas, energy and discovery.

Students move between historic colleges and venues, attending inspiring talks, exploring hands-on workshops and meeting ambitious peers from around the world.

What makes Festival Royale unique is that every student creates their own timetable, choosing sessions across the four Festival Royale streams.

## Example Festival Day

- 09:30 **Inspiring Conversations**  
**The Power of Resilience**
- 11:15 **Open OR Workshop**  
**AI: The Most Important Technology of Our Lifetime**
- 12:30 **Festival Break**  
**Refuel. Explore. Connect.**
- 14:00 **Your Future Workshop**  
**Choosing Your Future Pathway**
- 15:45 **Mock University Interview**
- **Late Afternoon**  
**Leadership in Action**  
**Oxford Royale World Cup**



# Five Streams. One Incredible Day.

Festival Royale is organised into five exciting streams - each offering a different set of talks, workshops and activities.

Students can move between streams throughout the day, choosing sessions that match their interests and designing their own festival experience.

## Inspiring Conversations

Big thinking from extraordinary people tackling some of today's most important global questions.

## Your Future

Academic and career workshops designed to prepare students for university and beyond.

## Open OR

Hands-on workshops that allow students to explore practical skills and subjects beyond their course.

## Leadership in Action

High-energy activities that develop teamwork, communication and leadership.

## Discover Oxford

Opportunities to explore the historic city and create lasting memories.

# Inspiring Conversations

Big thinking. Real experience. Extraordinary perspective.



**Some lessons can only be learned from people who have truly lived them.**

The Inspiring Conversations series brings students face-to-face with individuals who have explored extreme environments, led innovative careers and tackled some of the world's most challenging problems.

These sessions are not theoretical lectures. They are powerful real-world stories about resilience, leadership and ambition.

Students gain insight into how extraordinary people think, lead and overcome challenges.



**Al Sylvester MBE**

**RAF Mountain Rescue Leader & Polar Explorer**

## The Power of Resilience

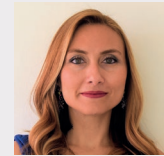
**-45°C | 600 miles | One rule: Don't quit**

Al Sylvester led the Royal Air Force's first unsupported expedition to the Geographic South Pole.

This extraordinary story of endurance and determination delivers one unforgettable message: If you never give up, extraordinary things are possible.

In this remarkable talk, students discover:

- How elite expedition teams are selected and trained
- Leadership under sustained physical and psychological pressure
- What it takes to survive in one of the harshest environments on Earth
- The mental resilience required to recover from adversity



**Dr Emine Phillips**

**Entrepreneur, Technologist & AI Strategist**

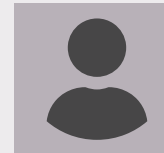
## The Truth About Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence is transforming industries, economies and careers - but few people truly understand how it works.

Students leave better informed, more curious and better prepared for a rapidly changing world.

In this engaging and thought-provoking session, students explore:

- How AI systems are programmed and trained
- Why critical thinking is essential in an AI-driven world
- The risks and misconceptions surrounding intelligent systems
- How humans will work alongside AI in the future



**Guest Speaker**

**Astrophysics & Space Exploration**

## The Secrets of the Universe

Black holes. Galaxies. The mysteries of the universe.

In this fascinating and accessible session, students explore some of the biggest unanswered questions in modern science from how galaxies form to the role black holes play in shaping the cosmos.

Led by a leading expert in astrophysics and science communication, this session brings complex ideas to life with clarity, energy and curiosity.

Students will explore:

- The biggest unanswered questions about the universe
- How black holes really work and why they matter
- What it's like to study astrophysics at the cutting edge
- How curiosity and creativity drive scientific discovery

Blending world-class science with engaging storytelling, this session opens a window into the universe and challenges students to think bigger about the world beyond our planet.

**Full speaker line-up to be announced April 2026**

# Your Future

## Academic & Career Development

Success at university and in professional life requires more than knowledge – it requires skills, confidence and preparation.

This stream offers practical workshops designed to help students develop the tools they need for academic success and future career opportunities.

Students don't just receive advice - they actively practise the skills that will shape their future.



### Study Skills Masterclass

Students learn techniques used by high-performing scholars:

- Advanced revision strategies
- Analytical note-taking
- Persuasive academic writing
- Critical reading methods

### Choosing Your Future Pathway

Students explore how to make confident decisions about:

- University choices
- Subject pathways
- Career opportunities

### Networking Skills Workshop

Students learn how to build meaningful professional relationships through:

- Confident introductions
- Communication strategies
- Networking simulations

### Negotiation & Communication Skills

Students practise structured negotiation frameworks used in business and diplomacy.

### Counsellor Panel

Insights into university applications, expectations and common mistakes.

### Mock University Interviews

Students experience a simulated university interview and receive personalised feedback.

# Open OR

## Try Something New

The Open OR stream invites students to explore new subjects, industries and technologies through immersive, hands-on experiences.

Delivered by specialist providers, these sessions allow students to step beyond theory and engage with real-world tools, technologies and challenges.



### AI Workshop

The Most Important Technology of Our Lifetime  
Artificial Intelligence is already reshaping the world.

In this interactive session, students will:

- Challenge a real AI system in a live activity
- Explore how machine learning actually works
- Examine how AI is transforming science, medicine and business
- Debate one of the defining ethical questions of our time

### Business Negotiation Simulation

Students enter a simulated business environment where they:

- Learn eight structured negotiation strategies
- Work in teams to solve commercial challenges
- Develop persuasion and influence skills
- Build commercial awareness

### Sales Pitching Masterclass

Drawing on modern sales frameworks such as Gap Selling, students learn how to:

- Identify opportunities and needs
- Structure persuasive arguments
- Present ideas clearly and confidently

### Medical Observation & Diagnostics

Students experience clinical medicine through a fully hands-on session where they can:

- See inside the body using an ultrasound machine
- Record an ECG from their own heart
- Capture retinal images using specialist equipment
- Practise keyhole surgery using surgical training kits
- Perform suturing techniques on synthetic skin

This is medicine experienced - not observed.

# Leadership in Action



Leadership is not only learned through theory - it is developed through action.

This high-energy stream gives students the opportunity to practise leadership skills in collaborative and dynamic environments.

## Sports Leadership Workshop

Students explore different leadership and communication styles before applying them in practical challenges.

Participants will:

- Identify different leadership approaches
- Understand verbal and non-verbal communication
- Solve collaborative challenges
- Lead peers through practical activities

Students leave with greater confidence and a clearer understanding of their personal leadership style.



## Oxford Royale World Cup

Five-a-side football tournament.

Students compete in friendly round-robin matches that promote:

- Teamwork
- Communication
- Strategic decision-making
- Resilience under pressure

Leadership in motion.

# Discover Oxford

Explore. Experience. Remember.

Oxford is one of the world's most historic and inspiring academic cities.

Festival Royale gives students the opportunity to experience the city that has inspired generations of thinkers, writers and leaders.

Throughout the day students can explore Oxford Royale campuses and discover the unique character of the city.



# A Day That Stays With You

Festival Royale brings together ideas, ambition and discovery across one remarkable day in Oxford.

**Extraordinary stories.**

**Hands-on experiences.**

**New perspectives.**

Festival Royale isn't just an event, it's a moment that stays with you long after the day ends.





Stay up to date with the latest Festival Royale speakers,  
sessions and announcements at:

[WWW.OXFORD-ROYALE.COM/OXFORD-ROYALE-FESTIVAL](http://WWW.OXFORD-ROYALE.COM/OXFORD-ROYALE-FESTIVAL)

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