

It might be known as the 'season of mellow fruitfulness' but for thousands of young people this time of year is the season of personal statements, open days, university applications, and frantic checking of the UCAS website as soon as they get up each morning! Many have been put off applying this year for a variety of reasons; during the last month UCAS has reported that university applications are down by an average of nine per cent. If you are uncertain about whether university is for you and you want to learn the skills that will get you on your career ladder within a year, OMBS is a great alternative to university. Come and talk to us. *Angela Liddiard*



After the lovely warm start to the term it seemed only fitting that the day we chose to do our Christmas card photo shoot was sunny, but very chilly! Every student gathered outside the building and, to the astonishment of passers-by, shouted 'Happy Christmas' and waved furiously! The whole photograph is too big to post here (and besides, I wouldn't want to ruin the surprise), but here is a little teaser.

### Website of the Month

<http://www.christmasmarkets.com/UK.html> If the thought of Christmas shopping with crowds of people in overheated shopping malls fills you with horror, check out this website. This lists some of the many Christmas markets that will be on during November and December – there is bound to be one near you. Twinkling lights, carol singers, mulled wine and mince pies; all of these seem to evoke the Christmassy feel, and you will be helping local traders too. If you are in Oxford I can thoroughly recommend the Oxford Christmas Market at Oxford Castle from 2–11 December.

### This month's IT Tip

*How do you delete text in Microsoft Word? If you are one of those people who positions the cursor then presses **Backspace** or **Delete** until the text has disappeared you will like this tip. Position your cursor at the beginning of the word that you want to remove and press **Ctrl+Delete**. The word has gone! If you want to delete (say) three words press **Ctrl+Delete** three times.*

*This also works with the **Backspace** key by putting your cursor at the end of the word to be deleted and pressing **Ctrl+Backspace**.*

### Bucking the National Trend

In a month when the Office of National Statistics reported that the jobless rate among 16- to 24-year-olds is 21.3 per cent, OMBS is pleased to report that over ninety per cent of its Summer 2011 leavers who were looking for a job have found one. Not call centre jobs, not waiting staff jobs ... proper career jobs.

### Google+ and Google+1

In the last newsletter I featured **Google+** as the website of the month. **Google+** is Google's new social network with many of the features that you would find on Facebook, and quite a few more. If you would like to read the article again, [click here](#).

Google also has a new feature called **Google+1**; you may have seen the button on websites, search results and Google AdWords over the last few months.



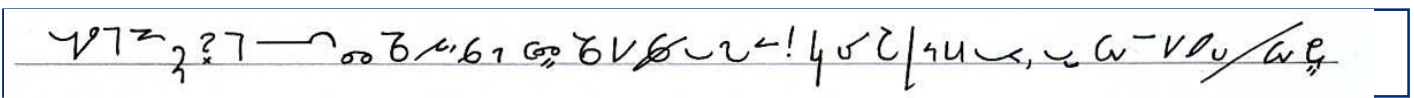
In its simplest terms, if you click on the **Google+1** (also known as **+1** and/or **G+**) button you are endorsing that website with your recommendation – very much like the Facebook 'Like' button. However the +1 button has wider uses than the 'Like' button.

Firstly, a list of the +1s that you have clicked on is stored in your Google profile (which you would have set up when you registered for **Google+**, Google Mail or any of the Google services). How many times have you remembered that you found a website that interested you, but can't remember where it was? If you +1 it, you can keep them all in one place. This works much better than adding them to your Favourites as your Google profile is available wherever you are accessing the internet. You can choose whether or not to publicly display your +1 tab.

You are able to share your +1s with your circles on **Google+**. Remember that when you add people to **Google+** you put them into circles, so that (for instance) all your old school friends are one circle, family another, your boss might be in a circle all of their own! You can then specify which circles can see your posts and comments – and your +1 recommendations. This makes each circle more relevant; the fact that you are recommending the latest Robert Pattinson film will (perhaps!) interest your friends but not your work colleagues, who might themselves be passionate about gardening. They will be posting +1 recommendations of the latest Monty Don garden compost tip, but you will never know that because you are not in their 'gardening' circle (and, probably, you don't want to be!).

When people who belong to your **Google+** circles look at the webpage that you have +1d they will see your name. In turn you will also be able to see everything that they have +1d. If people who are not in your **Google+** social network have +1d a website you will not be able to see their names, but you will be able to see how many times the +1 button has been clicked.

What does this mean to you? Depending upon which report you read it is said that somewhere between fifty and ninety per cent of people believe in and trust personal recommendations rather than advertising. If you can see that your friends have given a website their public seal of approval it will make you more likely to read it with interest and, perhaps to buy.



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You are most welcome to visit us here in Oxford at any time. You can watch a normal day as it unfolds, visit lessons and talk to students and tutors.

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