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Hello

Congratulations on completing all of your exams and being offered a place to study in Oxford. This is a huge achievement. I hope you are looking forward to joining us in Oxford in the autumn. I'm looking forward to meeting and teaching you.

To help you start thinking about the move to university and preparing for study at Oxford, we've put together a reading list covering lighter books that give you a "popular" perspective on some of the broader issues in psychology. Given this is your summer vacation, I feel I should also suggest some even lighter introductions to the subject, there are films, interviews and podcasts. I hope you enjoy these.

Martin Lewis, *The Undoing Project*

Susan Cain, *Quiet*

And podcast option: www.ted.com/talks/susan_cain_the_power_of_introverts

Oliver Sacks. *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*.

And podcast option: https://www.ted.com/speakers/oliver_sacks

Malcolm Gladwell. *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*.

And podcast option: www.ted.com/speakers/malcolm_gladwell

Ben Goldacre. *Bad Science*.

And podcast option: www.ted.com/speakers/ben_goldacre

Steven Pinker. *How the mind works*.

And podcast option: www.ted.com/speakers/steven_pinker

Invisibilia - www.npr.org/podcasts/510307/invisibilia

All in the Mind - www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qxx9

If you are new to biology or neuroscience, you will find it helpful to start to engage with this subject over the summer. The neurophysiology module that you take in first year can be challenging and this is a fantastic opportunity to get a headstart. The core course textbook used through the year is:

"Neuroscience: Exploring the brain" by Bear, Connors and Paradiso

While reading can help you prepare for the academic demands of study at university, you may also be thinking about the move more generally. The UK's student mental health charity (Student Minds) have put together a fantastic bit of information about preparing for the move; www.studentminds.org.uk/starting-university.

All the best,

Charles Spence
Professor of Experimental Psychology