



King's High  
School

*Be Inspired*

# INSPIRE

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

SUMMER TERM 2022

**Aspire. Achieve. Enjoy.**



# Introduction

Education used to be seen simply as the transference of the knowledge in a teacher's mind into the mind of their students. Nowadays, all good educators recognise that the formative years that young people spend in school should be about more than this. Alongside the acquisition of high-quality knowledge, educational settings such as King's High have a strong and growing focus on the skills and habits of learning that will stay with their pupils for the rest of their lives.

For five years now, our Inspire Programme for academic enrichment has focused on three core components. The cultivation of creativity, independent thinking, and curiosity about the world are the three hallmarks of Inspire, and everything you read about in this booklet stems from them. We very warmly encourage all pupils from across the year groups to participate in the wonderful array of events and activities on offer.

Highlights from last term include the outstanding inaugural King's High Conference, at which students spoke about the future of society with passion, eloquence and impressive depth of knowledge. Well over 200 students from year 7 to 13 have attended the four Inspire Trips that have taken place this year so far; please consider joining if you haven't already. Our culture of student leadership, in tandem with the provision of world-class speakers, has never been stronger, and we extend thanks to our friends at Warwick School for hosting the extraordinary Encounters Programme.

I hope you enjoy reading these pages and being part of Inspire during what will be an exciting Summer.

**Dr P Seal**

Deputy Head (Academic)

# Academic Societies

Full details of our academic societies, with times and locations, are available on the co-curricular programme. All pupils who wish to form a society of their own should contact Dr Seal directly.

## ACT (Aspiring Creatives in Theatre)

Don't be fooled by the name – this club is everything BUT acting! A brand-new Friday lunch time club, open to all. We will explore technical & design roles, hear from visiting speakers working in the Performing Arts Industry and watch live theatre together.

## Ancestry Society

This brand new, student-founded society will enable students to reflect on the importance of ancestry in self-understanding, as well as providing tools to conduct personal research into your own family history.

## Café Philo

Café Philo is a student-led discussion group. Each session focuses on a topic of interest related to philosophy, politics, ethics and current affairs.

## Café Scientifique

An innovative science group. With its own blog and regular visiting speakers, Café Scientifique is a fun and exciting way to discover more about science and the mysteries of the physical universe.

## Creative Writing

Building on the success of our KS3 creative writers, who published a termly anthology last year, look out for new opportunities to craft your writing style, have it in print, and attend workshops with like-minded creatives.

## Da Vinci Society

A new, student-founded and student-run society that is already doing outstanding things. Look out for invitations to hear artists speak about their life and work.

## Dissection Club

For Lower Sixth students with a passion for learning through practicals. This is a chance to extend your scientific knowledge beyond the classroom in a hands-on way.

## French Cultural Club

For Sixth Formers looking to extend and enrich their understanding of all aspects of French culture.

## Geographical Society

Calling all students looking to take their geographical learning further. The society looks into some of the key issues within geography that are shaping our world today.

## Higher Education Seminars

These seminars are for current Sixth Formers interested in Oxford, Cambridge and similar, with a focus on high level thinking skills, interviews and pre-admissions tests.

## History Society

The student-led History Society hosts an outstanding range of speakers on a host of fascinating topics. For all students who want their historical knowledge elevated beyond the curriculum.

## Hobbs Society

The Hobbs Society, named after philosopher Angie Hobbs, meets at least once every half term. The Chair and Secretary invite distinguished guests to address students on a range of topics.

## Investigating Science (KS4)

A club for the scientifically inquisitive in KS4. Come along if you want to start building a profile of scientific knowledge beyond the GCSE syllabus.

## IRIS Genome Project Decoders

Open to Sixth Form biologists interested in extending their knowledge of genome sequences and how genes can be identified from unannotated genomic data. This is a novel research project run in collaboration with the Institute for Research in Schools and the Wellcome Sanger Institute.



### **Inspire Research Club**

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These sessions are open to all intellectually ambitious students in Years 7, 8 and 9 who want to have their thinking extended. We look at how to develop a personal profile of research interests, and teach research skills that will be useful for essay competitions and research components later on in school.

### **Junior Mathematical Challenge**

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Members of Years 7 and 8 are presented with problems that will stretch and challenge them in preparation for the Junior Maths challenge in the summer.

### **KS3 Science Club**

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Calling all young scientists. If you are ambitious about learning more about science and extending your knowledge beyond the classroom, this is the society for you.

### **Landor Journalism Club**

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This student-run journalistic venture is for all students wanting to hone their writing skills. The club works towards producing a professional final product using advanced formatting software.

### **Landor Dining Society**

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Our Sixth Form student-led Dining Society invites speakers with diverse specialisms and expertise. The visiting speaker addresses girls after a three-course meal, which may take on the form of a 'remote meal' this term!

### **Language Society**

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Student-founded and student-led, this society promotes the spirit of the Inspire Programme by introducing cultures and languages not normally covered by the syllabus. Prepare to have your perspective widened!

### **Law Society**

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Our student-run Law Society encourages students to think critically about the complexities of case law and the wider issues involved in forming and applying legal concepts.

### **Lit & Phil Society**

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The Lit & Phil Society is for anyone interested in exploring ideas beyond the classroom. It meets every half term, with each session run by students or teaching staff.

### **Lit Soc**

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For all Sixth Formers and keen GCSE students who want to delve deeply into the world of literature, criticism and theory. The society looks at seminal authors, with a focus on combining enjoyment of reading with developing a thoughtful response to literature.

### **Medic Support**

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Through our Medic Support programme, pupils preparing applications for Medicine and Allied Sciences receive a wealth of help preparing for the different aspects of their application.

### **Model United Nations**

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MUN is a superb way for students to learn about international perspectives on topical issues, as well as to learn how to articulate their views in front of others.

### **Moventis Scientiam**

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A newly formed-society for students hoping to study science at top universities. This club will offer stretch and challenge to all ambitious students with a long-term passion for science.

### **Prism Creative Writing Magazine**

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Our new student-run and student-designed creative magazine showcases some of the wonderful literary talent on display throughout King's High.

### **Reading Programme**

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Watch out for a host of events and initiatives from our Library team that encourage a simple activity that benefits you emotionally and intellectually: reading for pleasure.

### **Ruth Court Mathematical Society**

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For all keen mathematicians interested in looking at Mathematics in a new way, applying ideas and solving problems, as well as learning about fascinating new ideas.

### **Science Journal Club**

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For all students seeking to combine their writing skills, scientific knowledge, and research skills.

### **Senior Debating**

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Led by our Head of Public Speaking, Senior Debating is in an exciting phase. As well as honing the skills required for high-level debate, students will prepare for competitions such as the ESU MACE Schools Debate.

### **Wildlife Conservation Society**

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Founded and led by Sixth Form students, this society focuses on educating and inspiring on the topics of ecological sustainability, with a focus on conservation techniques.



# Calendar of Events

Throughout term

## JET ENGINE WORKSHOPS

Calling all students interested in seeing our very own brand new Viper Jet Engine, which was very kindly donated to us and is now housed in our DT Department. Mr Walker will be in touch with opportunities to come and see the engine and look in detail at how it works.

Wednesday 27 April

## INSPIRE TALK WITH DR LAURA SCHWARTZ, 4.15pm

Dr Laura Schwartz is a historian of feminism and labour movements in Britain, across the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Her work to date has examined the intellectual and political formations that drove successive feminist movements, but also how these ideas are ‘lived’ and taken up by women more widely. Her talk promises to be both informative and inspiring.

Friday 29 April

## AN ENCOUNTER WITH DOMINIC SANDBROOK - “WHAT HISTORY SHOULD WE LEARN?” BRIDGE HOUSE THEATRE, 4.15pm

One of the pre-eminent historians of his generation, Dominic Sandbrook is the author of many books on Modern British History. He regularly appears on television and in the press. He has a regular podcast with Tom Holland called *The Rest is History*.

3-13 May

## BIOLOGY CHALLENGE

Questions will be set on the school curriculum, but the competition will also reward those students whose knowledge of the subject has been increased by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes, taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest, and are generally aware of our natural flora and fauna.

Friday 6 May (deadline)

## DR MCGALE BIOLOGY COMPETITION

Dr McGale was a former King’s High Head of Biology and his family sponsor a Speech Day prize for a KS3 Biology project on a chosen species. This is the most prestigious Biology prize you can win in KS3 at King’s High.

Friday 6 May Onwards

## STEPHEN SPENDER PRIZE

The Stephen Spender Prize is an annual competition for poetry in translation, with categories for young people (14-and-under, 16-and-under, and 18-and-under). Translate into English any poem from any language – ranging from Arabic to Uzbek, from Danish to Somali – and win cash prizes!

Friday 6 May

## JUNIOR PHYSICS CHALLENGE

The Junior Physics Challenge competition is designed to engage and challenge students of all abilities by offering them a range of problems to solve. The key aim is that students enjoy taking part and are encouraged to do more physics. The purpose is to be fun for the students and to be inclusive. This will take place in Year 10 students’ Physics lessons on the day enabling all students to participate.

Friday 6 May

## AN ENCOUNTER WITH PROFESSOR ADAM SMITH, SCIENCE LECTURE THEATRE, 4.15pm

Adam Smith is a member of the Oxford University History Department. He is the Edward Orsborn Professor of US Politics and Political History. In 2017 he published *The Stormy Present: Conservatism and the Problem of Slavery in Northern Politics, 1846-1865*, which won the Jefferson Davis Prize, awarded by the American Civil War museum in Richmond for the best book on the Civil War era.

Tuesday 10 May

## INSPIRE TALK BY DR MARI TAKAYANAGI, 4.15pm

Dr Mari Takayanagi is Senior Archivist at the Parliamentary Archives, a heritage professional, and a historian of Parliament and women. Her areas of expertise include the history of the Parliamentary franchise; women’s suffrage; legislation affecting women’s lives and gender equality, women and Parliamentary committees; women staff in Parliament. She is the author of a plethora of academic book chapters and articles and curator of numerous exhibitions. Her vast array of professional experiences and research interests will make for a fascinating talk.

Thursday 12 May

## AN ENCOUNTER WITH DAVID BLUNKETT, SCIENCE LECTURE THEATRE, 4.15pm

David Blunkett’s political career began on Sheffield City Council. First elected an MP in 1987 he was Education and Home Secretary under Tony Blair and now sits in the House of Lords. Blind from birth and brought up in one of the poorest parts of Sheffield, David will reflect on his remarkable political career.

Saturday 14 May

## INSPIRE KS3 TRIP TO BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM

Building on the recent highly successful Compton Verney Inspire trip, we will be visiting the British Motor Museum. Situated in a spectacular building with an art deco design is the world’s largest collection of historic British Cars, including some excellent “futuristic” vehicles.

Monday 16 May

## INSPIRE TALK BY PROFESSOR MIRIAM GIFFORD, 4.15pm

Professor Miriam Gifford is interested in how an organism interacts with its environment. The mechanisms that facilitate this interaction are particularly important for plants since they are sessile yet still cope with environmental extremes. Her work investigates the evolution of cell types in determining plant plasticity. This includes using systems analysis to understand the nitrogen-fixing symbiosis of nodulation, with the long-term aim of transferring it from legumes to staple crop species. Her innovative research is exciting and inspiring!

June (deadline 1 August)

## TRINITY COLLEGE LINGUISTICS ESSAY PRIZE

This annual Essay Competition aims to raise awareness of the systematic study of language as an interesting and multifaceted subject in and of itself. It will encourage students with an interest in linguistics to explore this further and to apply for a University course in this subject. In addition, it aims to recognise the achievements of high-calibre students.

June

## CAMBRIDGE CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE

Calling pupils in Year 12 to enter this prestigious Chemistry challenge, with prizes for the top performers nationally.

June (date tbc)

## SCHOOLS ANALYST COMPETITION RSC

Year 12 students take on four tasks on aspects of analytical chemistry and submit their results to then be judged across the whole country by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Monday 6 June

## PSYCHOLOGY BRAIN DAY

A chance for the Lower Sixth psychology students to experience what studying psychology or neuroscience would be like at university. The day is run by Dr Guy Sutton (Honorary Consultant Assistant Professor in the Division of Psychiatry at University of Nottingham) and includes a number of lectures on contemporary issues from the field including how bionics and artificial intelligence are improving people’s lives and the relationship between psychology and the criminal legal system. The day also includes a brain dissection.

Friday 17 June

## AN ENCOUNTER WITH ALEX BURGHART MP, SCIENCE LECTURE THEATRE, 4.15pm

Alex Burghart taught History at Warwick School. In 2017 he was elected MP for Brentwood and Ongar. He has served as Boris Johnson’s Permanent Private Secretary and in 2021 was appointed Permanent Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills.

Saturday 18 June

## KING’S LINKS TRIP FOR KS4 AND KS5

Following our trip to Cambridge in the Spring term, we will be visiting some of the top London universities, to meet former King’s students currently studying there and go on a tour of the key sites.

Thursday 30 June

## MATHEMATICS PRESENTATIONS EVENING, 4.30pm

This event marks the culmination of a year of The Ruth Court Mathematical Association. Students from across the Foundation will be coming together to share their mathematical delights and discoveries in a series of short presentations. A.B. Wild, Head of Mathematics at King’s High, will host the event.

Friday 8 July

## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY INSPIRE TRIP, WARNER BROTHERS STUDIO TOUR, THE MAKING OF HARRY POTTER

SCRIPT TO SCREEN – Students will have the opportunity to look at the journey of a film production from the script to what is seen on the big screen. They will study the processes used, focusing on artwork, plans, white card models, storyboards and the finished props and sets used in the Harry Potter film series.



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