



King's High
School

INSPIRE

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

SUMMER TERM 2021

Aspire. Achieve. Enjoy.

Introduction

Summer Term 2021

The last twelve months have prompted significant reflections in schools across the country about some of the core principles of education. Perhaps most importantly, the disruption of GCSEs and A Levels has led some educational thinkers to question whether our exam system needs a radical shaking up, to help teachers and students alike get away from the limitations of 'teaching to the test'.

At King's we are hugely proud of the enriched education that we offer as a matter of course. As well as top quality classroom teaching, it is our mission to provide all students with the opportunity to grow as independent, creative thinkers who are curious about the world around them. Excelling in exams has never been a broad enough goal for us as a community of students, teachers and parents. The challenge for King's students is to select from the extraordinary range of events, workshops, societies, talks and (fingers crossed as we look to the future) trips that are on offer.

Highlights from the Spring Term include talks from academics from Imperial, Durham, and the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory; student debates on free will, censorship in the media, and the UN; a jam-packed British Science Week including a focus on 'smashing stereotypes'; record numbers attending talks from representatives of 25 universities (from Oxford to Kosice in Slovakia); similar numbers attending Shakespeare showings and composition masterclasses; and a series of talks and discussions on ableism as part of our student-driven focus on justice and equality.

Our Inspire Programme is nearly five years old now, and ideas that became initiatives not long ago are quickly becoming traditions. I hope that this booklet gives a glimpse of the enriched education we share in here at King's, all with the aim of encouraging creativity, independence and curiosity about the world.

Dr P Seal

Acting Deputy Head (Academic)



Academic Societies

This term our well-established academic clubs and societies will be run in a range of ways to reflect the global situation. Some will meet in person and some will take the form of meetings on Microsoft Teams. If you have any questions at all about joining a society, which may be starting up later in the term as the practicalities around schools become clearer, please contact Dr Seal.

Art and Design 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.

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 Writers

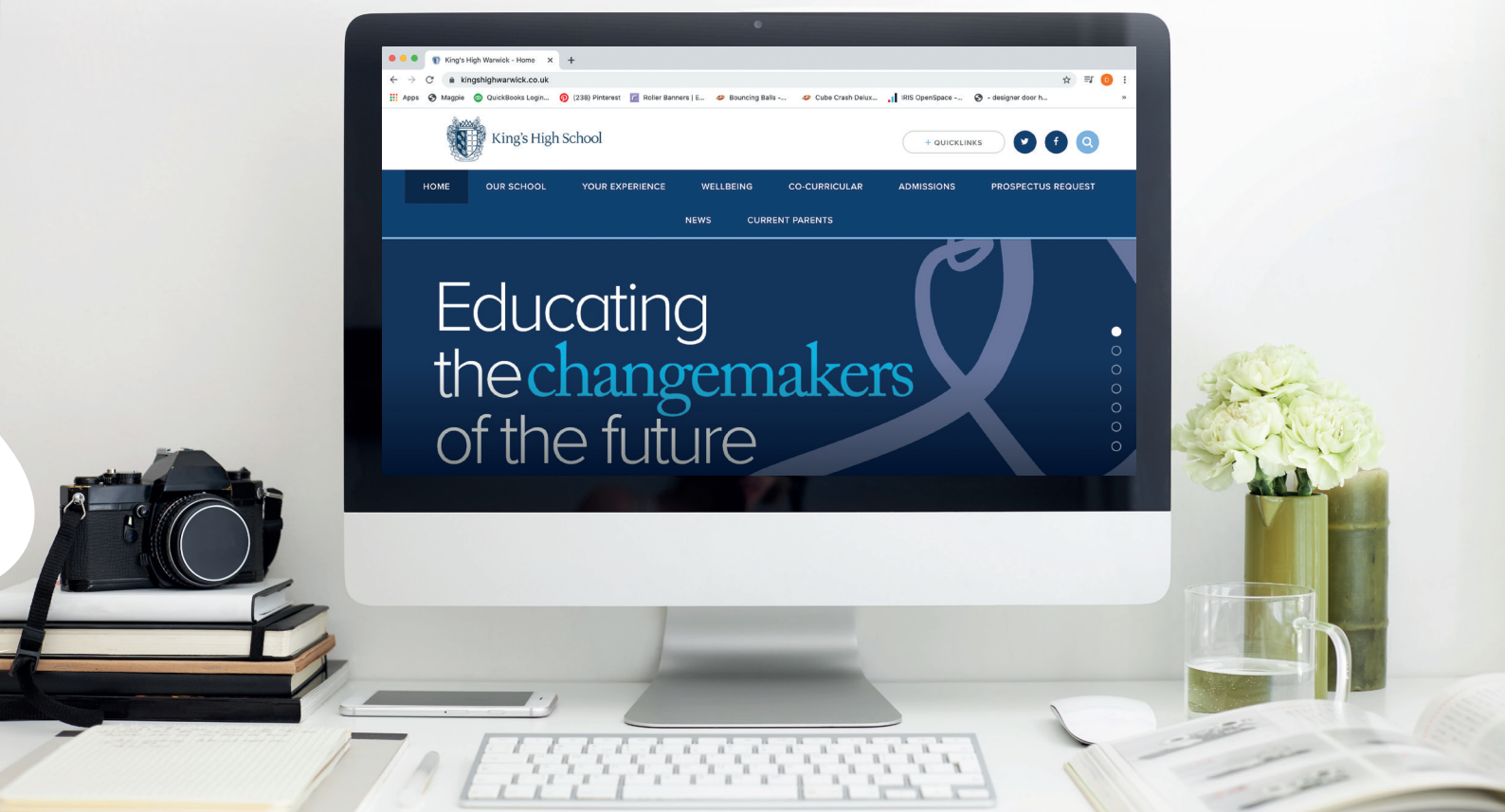
Calling all Year 7, 8 and 9 students who enjoy working with words. Our club gives students space to develop their style and learn new techniques as young writers.

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

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

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

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.

Lander Journalism Club

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.

Lander Dining Society

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!

Law Society

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

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

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.

Model United Nations

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

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

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

Ruth Court Mathematical Society

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

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

Senior Debating

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

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.

independence
creativity
curiosity

Calendar of Events

Summer Term 2021

Week starting 19 April

LAUNCH OF INSPIRE FUTURE OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Meeting every Monday, this is a chance for KS3 students to develop their vision for the future of schools. In the light of recent events across the world and the changing world of work, should the curriculum be changed? In light of technological development, should we reconsider how the classroom is set up?

Week starting 19 April

LAUNCH OF INSPIRE INTO UNIVERSITY CLUB

Meeting every Friday, this new initiative will offer students in Year 10 and 11 the opportunity to learn more about applying to academic courses. With a focus on interview skills, pre-admissions tests, and course selection, this group is for all ambitious students wanting to get ahead in their thinking.

Week starting 19 April

LAUNCH OF SOUNDTRACK FOR LIFE

We are excited about the launch of this exciting new series of events, which is designed to introduce students to major works of European and American classical music. Each session will combine an introductory talk, dedicated listening time, and seminar-style discussion.

Week starting 19 April

LAUNCH OF THE INSPIRE ESSAY COMPETITION

It's that time of year again. Calling all Year 7, 8 and 9 students to write an essay of 1,000 words – on any topic of their choosing. The name of the game is to show off richness of knowledge and analytical skills. Past winners include 'What is consciousness?' and 'The brass band community and what its future holds'.

Week starting 26 April

LAUNCH OF MOTHER TONGUE OTHER TONGUE COMPETITION

After significant success in recent years, our Modern Languages Department will again be encouraging students to put together entries for this multilingual poetry competition.



Monday 26 April

JUNIOR MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGE

All members of Year 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to sit this challenge, including those pupils who have been attending Mathematical Challenge Club in preparation.

Tuesday 27 April

DRAMA MASTERCLASS FROM RONAY POOLE

Actress Ronay Poole, from the BBC's *Motherland* and Immersive Theatre's *Dracula*, will offer a masterclass on how to approach careers in acting, providing practical insights into the industry as well as stretching students' thinking.

Monday 26 April, lunchtime

TALK FROM ANGELA WEBB

Angela Webb will share insights into her practice and career as an artist, talking about the inspiration for specific works of art and the thought process that helped to shape them.

Wednesday 28 April

TALK FROM PHILIP MOULD, OBE

Accompanied by researcher Ellie Smith, Philip Mould from the BBC's *Fake or Fortune* will speak to students and staff about his work as an art critic and art historian..

Thursday, 13 May

GCHQ TALK

Our very own Mrs Brebner will be talking about her experience working for GCHQ and her subsequent secondment to the Foreign office. This talk will be suitable for anyone interested in problem-solving and coding, as well as linguists.

Wednesday 12 May, evening

SHAKESPEARE SHOWING OF A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

More students than ever have watched classic Shakespeare plays this year, from *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* and *King Lear* to *Twelfth Night* and *Henry IV Part II*. Join us for some more well-earned fun at this showing of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Week starting 7 June

MASTERCLASS ON HISPANIC ART

Co-run by our Modern Languages Department and our Art and Design Society, this event will offer the chance for students to consider their interpretation of canonical works of Hispanic art.

Following 7 June

KING'S LINKS EVENT

Our King's Links events provide current pupils with the opportunity to learn more about life at University from former King's students. At our last event there were an extraordinary 250 places taken up at talks attended remotely, with 25 speakers. Watch this space for another informative and interesting King's Links event during Summer 2021.

Tuesday 8 June

BRAIN DAY WITH DR GUY SUTTON

Lower Sixth psychologists will take part in this pre-university preparation day, with a focus on providing insight into the workings of the mammalian brain and contemporary issues in neuroscience.

Wednesday 30 June, 13.05-13.45

TALK FROM PROFESSOR ERICA GOLEMIS

Café Scientifique will host Professor Golemis of the Fox Chase Cancer Centre, Philadelphia, USA, for a talk about her research into cancer prevention.

Saturday 3 July

INSPIRE TRIP FOR KS3

Our termly trips to Oxford, Cambridge, London and Stratford have been replaced in recent times by hugely popular Saturday masterclasses on creative and critical thinking. Watch this space as rules and regs are updated and we confirm whether this KS3 event will be a physical trip or a remote journey of intellectual discovery.



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King's High School
Banbury Road
Warwick CV34 6YE
t: 01926 494485 e: enquiries@kingshighwarwick.co.uk
www.kingshighwarwick.co.uk