



King's High School



# INSPIRE

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

SPRING TERM 2020

**Aspire.** Achieve. Enjoy.





# INTRODUCTION

## Spring Term 2020

The Inspire Programme for Academic Enrichment continued in style during our first term on Myton Road. The aim of the Programme continues to be the encouragement of curiosity about ideas, the development of independent interests and perspectives, and the promotion of creative thinking across the curriculum and beyond. The ability not only to remember information, but also to be able to use knowledge to come up with ideas, suggestions and solutions, is something that is increasingly recognised as essential by employers and universities. We are excited to be part of preparing our students for a world where creative thinking is going to be increasingly important in the 2020s and beyond.

A few highlights from last term include our two Inspire Trips – to Oxford and Bristol – as well as a fascinating Inspire Dinner Talk by composer Darren Bloom and a super lecture by Dr Miriam Gifford on the cellular clock. Our RSC Shadowing Programme took us to productions of *The Merchant of Venice* and a screening of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and our Senior Debating Team were crowned winners of their ESU Schools Debate heat. Our Festival of Ideas in November provided a week of inspirational events, including Dominic Dromgoole (former Artistic Director of The Globe) talking to students about taking his production of *Hamlet* around 300 countries. In the world of research, EPQ students have been busy shaping their Year 12 research projects, Years 10 and 11 have been doing superb work on their independent Create Projects, and Years 7 to 9 have wowed us with some of their inspire homework projects, including ideas for businesses to change the world and a shortlisted student essay in the national Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Schools Prize.

This booklet outlines some of the main opportunities for academic enrichment available to students during the coming term. As well as the array of trips, events and other activities, we have exciting plans in store as we work with a company called Imagineer to create a physical structure, to be housed on our quad, that will show off our creative thinking as a school. Another key date to look out for is 29th April, when we will have a Festival of Creative Thinking. Watch this space...

**Dr P Seal**  
Director of Studies

**Dr Harrison**  
Assistant Head of Academic Enrichment

# ACADEMIC SOCIETIES

Please take a look below to see the academic enrichment societies we run during the week at King's High. In addition to the list here, students also have the chance to sign up to Friday Afternoon Activities, many of which are academic in nature. The list of Friday events is too long to include here!

## Book Club Chat

### Thursday, Second Lunch

A student-founded and student-run group for those who love reading and talking about books. Recent genres for discussion have included Fantasy, Mystery and the Classics.

## Café Philo

### Tuesday, First Lunch

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

## Café Scientifique

### Wednesday Lunch

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

### Friday, Second Lunch

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

### Tuesday, Week B, First Lunch

For Year 12s 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

### Tuesday, First Lunch

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

## Geographical Society and Clubs

### Tuesday Lunch (Society); Wednesday First Lunch (Senior Club); Wednesday Second Lunch (Junior Club)

Calling all students looking to take their geographical learning beyond the realms of the classroom. Both the Society (years 12 and 13) and Clubs (Senior: Years 10 and 11, Junior: Years 7, 8 and 9) look into some of the key issues within geography that are shaping our society and our world today.

## Higher Education Seminars

### Tuesday, 16:00-17:00

These seminars are for current Year 12s and 13s interested in Oxford, Cambridge, and beyond, with a focus on high level thinking skills, and helping to prepare students for the particular requirements of top academic courses.

## Hobbs Society

### Tuesday Lunch, once per half term

The Hobbs Society, named after the 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)

### Tuesday, First Lunch

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

**Fridays, 16:00-17:00**

Open to Year 12 and 13 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 in collaboration with the Institute for Research in Schools and the Wellcome Sanger Institute.

### Inspire Research Club

**Wednesday, Second Lunch**

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.

### KS3 Science Club

**Friday, Second Lunch**

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

### Landor Journalism Club

**Tuesday, Second Lunch**

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

**Look out for emails with upcoming dates**

Our Sixth Form student-led Dining Society invites speakers with diverse specialisms and expertise. The visiting speaker addresses girls after a three-course meal.

### Lit & Phil Society

**Thursday, Second Lunch**

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

**Wednesday, 16:10-17:10**

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

**Tuesday, First Lunch**

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.

### Ruth Court Mathematical Society

**Wednesday, 16:00-16:45**

This is open to girls in all year groups who love talking about Mathematics and discovering new things beyond what is learned in the classroom. Girls will be given the opportunity to research and present areas of Mathematics, and to take part in the annual Mathematics Presentations Evening.

### Science Journal Club

**Friday Lunch**

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

### Senior Creative Writing

**Monday, 13:05-13:35**

This is a chance for all creative writers in Year 10 and above to spend time honing their writing style, discussing favourite writers, and working towards the production of an anthology of poetry and prose.

### Senior Debating

**Thursday Lunchtime**

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.

### STEMillions

**Thursday, 16:00-17:00**

STEMillions has been running for three terms and is an exciting joint club for Years 5-9. Activities encourage innovative ways of thinking about STEM subjects. In the past the STEMillions members have made a 'working' model heart and a solar system out of skittles.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Spring Term 2020

### Thursday 9 January

#### PSYCHOLOGY BRAIN DAY

##### Warwick School Lecture Theatre, All Day

Year 12 students will attend a day of lectures on neuroscience as part of their wider explorations of the fascinating world of the study of Psychology. With talks on Neurons and the Brain, Genes and the Brain, and The Working and the Damaged Brain, this will be a chance for our A Level Psychology students to enter into a complex, fast-growing and vital area of academic interest.

### Saturday 11 January

#### KS3 TRIP TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

##### London, All Day

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will travel to London for a tour of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. With time after lunch to explore Westminster, this trip is designed to get students thinking about democracy, power, history, and the forces that are shaping the current political climate across the world.

### Week Starting 13 January

#### LAUNCH OF INSPIRE HOMEWORK

##### King's High, Morning

Our through-school focus on independent research ensures that girls in every year group have the chance to work on the topics and projects that interest them. In assembly this week students will learn about the open-ended tasks they are encouraged to explore in their weekly Inspire Homework time. Without giving too much away, this term's focus will require technological, design and writing skills.

### Monday 20 January

#### HIGHER EDUCATION EVENING

##### King's High, 6.00pm-8.30pm

As Year 12s start to look ahead to UCAS applications, we will be running an evening designed to provide a

wealth of information about post A Level options. With talks from the King's Higher Education team, and seven speakers coming in to talk about universities, Degree Apprenticeships, studying abroad, Oxbridge and more, this is an evening for students to think ambitiously about where they are headed after King's.

### Wednesday 23 January

#### MEDICINE TALK

##### SS5, 4.00pm-5.00pm

Every year we have a significant number of students apply successfully for Medicine and Allied Sciences such as Dentistry Veterinary Science. This talk is designed to offer practical and academic advice to students considering taking up that route or a similar one.

### Thursday 24 January

#### INSPIRE DINNER WITH PROF. GREG LEADBETTER

##### King's High, 6.00pm-9.00pm

Our very own Poet in Residence will return to King's to lead our second Inspire Dinner of the year. As well as sharing his own ideas on poetry, he will help to launch an exciting competition, for which students will write poems to celebrate the past, present and future of King's. Winning entries will form part of an historic anthology, alongside commissioned poems written specially by Prof Leadbetter.

### Wednesday 29 January

#### ROUND 2 OF ESU MACE DEBATE

##### Solihull Sixth Form College

After winning their first round debate in this national competition, our Senior Debating Society will go on to compete against other heat-winning teams. The motion this time is 'This house regrets the commercialisation of Pride' and the girls are already thinking creatively about how to present their arguments. We wish our debaters all the very best of luck as they polish their rhetorical skills in preparation for this prestigious event.

### Thursday 6 February

#### INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGE

##### King's High, 4.15pm-5.15pm

Keen mathematicians in Years 9 and 10 will sit a special paper designed to test not only their existing mathematical knowledge, but also their ability to think outside of the box in response to new, challenging problems. These tests require quick, creative thinking, and we wish all our entrants the best of luck.

### Wednesday 26 February

#### DIONYSIUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

##### Bloomsbury Theatre, King's College London

Students are invited to attend this fascinating re-working of a classical play for the 21st century, combining ancient Greek and English. The play will prompt students to consider the role ancient literature has in thinking about the problems we face as a society today.

### Thursday 12 March

#### INSPIRE LECTURE BY PROF. ANGIE HOBBS

##### White Studio, 4.15pm-5.00pm

Our second Inspire Lecture of the year will be delivered by renowned Professor of Philosophy, Angie Hobbs, who will be talking on the very fitting theme of 'New Beginnings'. Prof. Hobbs specialises in the public understanding of philosophy, with a passion for the promotion of philosophical thinking in all areas of school life. This event is a must for all students who want to be able to think deeply about any kind of academic issue.

### Monday 30 March

#### LANDOR DINING WITH SHAUN DELLENTY

##### King's High, 6.30pm-9.00pm

Award winning writer Shaun Dellenty will lead discussion of the facilitation of difference and diversity in this special Landor Dining event. With a three-course meal for an intimate gathering of students followed by a presentation and chance to talk to Shaun about his work as a writer and campaigner, the evening will prompt serious questions about the future of inclusion.

### Wednesday 1 April

#### EPQ PRESENTATIONS EVENING

##### King's High, Evening

EPQ students in year 12 will crown their year of research with the chance to share their findings and reflect on the challenges they faced. Open to all of the school community, the evening will consist of talks and Q and A sessions with our Year 12 researchers. This is a must for all students who want to see the pinnacle of our through-school focus on research in action.

### Wednesday 29 April

#### FESTIVAL OF CREATIVE THINKING

##### King's High, All Day

This special day will celebrate and extend our skills as creative thinkers across the school community. Launched by Professor Bill Lucas, whose book Teaching Creative Thinking has been a start-point for much of our enrichment work at King's, this day will challenge students to come up with ideas and share their own innovative work. We think this Festival is a UK first. Watch this space...



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