



King's High
School

INSPIRE

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

SPRING TERM 2021

Aspire. Achieve. Enjoy.

Introduction

Spring Term 2021

The constraints placed upon us by Covid last term required us to think differently as a School about how we ran the Inspire Programme. The results of this re-thinking were remarkable. In a number of respects, Autumn 2020 was one of the most successful periods we have had in the cultivation of independent ideas and curiosity about the world. Here's to continued success for Inspire ahead, whatever 2021 brings.

Unable to attend performances at the RSC, we developed the 'Shakespeare Watch and Chat' programme, whereby staff and students watch a play from home and share ideas on a Teams Chat while the plot unfolds. We attended three outstanding productions in this way – *Hamlet*, *King Lear* and *Twelfth Night* – with a record number of students taking part. You cannot replace the thrill of live theatre, but being able to ask questions about plot and interpretation during a performance has its own unique educational value.

The Sixth Form Societies, too, have thrived like never before. Highlights include Joana Simango's Hobbs Society talk on racial equality, which was met by a standing ovation from the 70 students in attendance; the superb work of Café Scientifique, who have developed a stunning newsletter; and the organisational brilliance of History Society, who held events led by remote speakers from Durham and Warwick, as well as best-selling writer, Sonia Purnell.

Normally, we host one Inspire Lecture by a top academic per term, but the number of outstanding academic speakers on our calendar has multiplied. Last term alone, we welcomed Professor Angie Hobbs (philosophy), Dr Jess Wade (physics), Ms Gillian Bishop (law), Ms Katie Reilly (microplastics), Prof Linda Hutcheon (literature), Mr Jefferies (politics), Dr Adam Bronson (Japanese history), and Dr Rebecca Earle (women's History). The ease with which remote speakers can dial in and share their knowledge is another instance of lockdown yielding unexpected fruits.

The Art Department has also been leading the way, with the development of a new 'Inspire Art Programme', including masterclasses from University of the Arts London on the creative skills required for success in the creative industries. We firmly believe that creativity is going to become increasingly important in education in the coming years. Watch this space for more initiatives to come.

I hope you enjoy looking through this booklet, which gives a taste of what we have to offer for Spring 2021. As ever, the aim of Inspire is to foster independent thinking, curiosity, and creativity.

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.

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

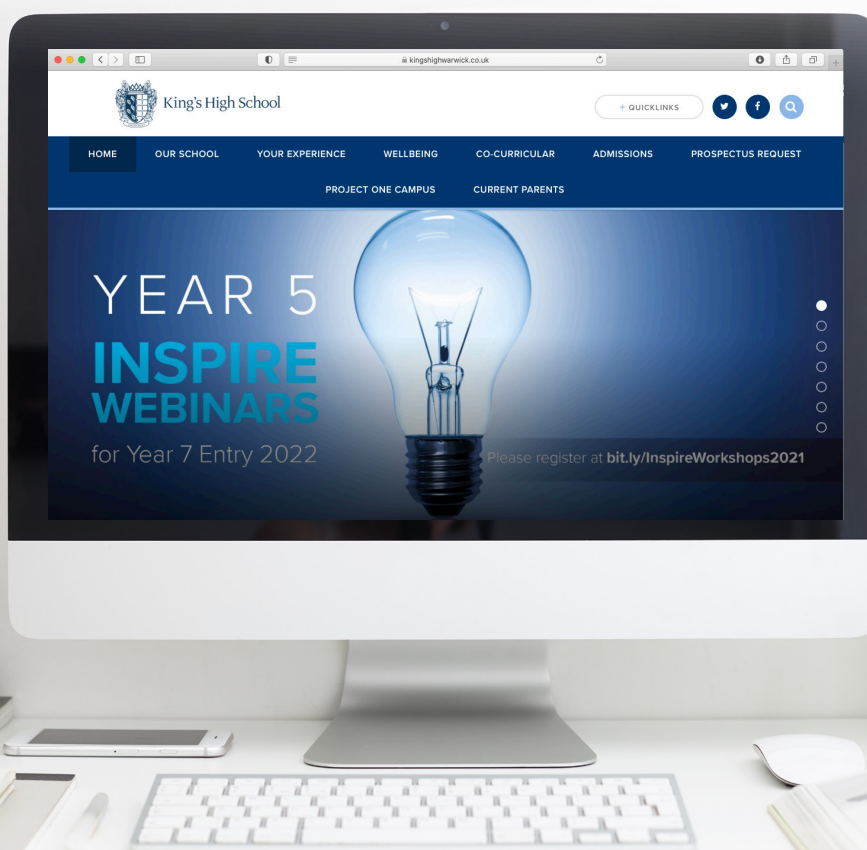
For Lower Sixth students with a passion for learning through practicals. This is a chance to extend your scientific knowledge beyond the classroom in a hands-on way.

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 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 science and extending your knowledge beyond the classroom, this is the society for you.

Landor 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.

Landor 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.



Dream BIG

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 keen to look 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.

Calendar of Events

Spring Term 2021

Week starting 11 January, Key Stage 3

LAUNCH OF INSPIRE HOMEWORK

We are not yet revealing the open-ended task KS3 will be set this term for Inspire Homework, but as ever you can count on it providing creative thinking, independent ideas, and a good dose of curiosity.

Wednesday 13 January, 09.00am, Years 7 and 8

ENRICHMENT TALK: WHERE ARE THE WOMEN IN STEM?

This interactive lecture will uncover the history of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and the reasons why the world needs more females in these fields.

Wednesday 13 January, 13.05-13.35pm

ENRICHMENT TALK ON MEDICAL PRIVATISATION

'To what extent is it ethical to privatise vaccinations?'
An opportunity to discuss medical ethics, with students sharing opinions and listening to others.

Monday 18 January, Year 7

ROMAN THEATRE COMPETITION

A fantastic opportunity to get creative as we explore the goings-on in the ancient theatre. We will explore actors, festivals, architecture and more.

Wednesday 20 January, 09.00am, Years 7 and 8

ENRICHMENT TALK: HERE ARE THE WOMEN IN STEM

An opportunity to hear from an inspirational group of women working in various STEM fields. Hear their stories of how they became scientists and engineers. Our students will have the chance to submit questions ahead of this talk.

Wednesday 20 January, Lunchtime

ENRICHMENT SESSION: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

An enrichment talk on the French Revolution, for all those looking to learn about a new historical period and make links with their curricular learning.

Wednesday 27 January, 13.05-13.35pm

ENRICHMENT TALK ON DRUG DISCOVERY

A talk on 'Drug Discovery' from a researcher from Imperial College, London, with opportunity to ask questions.
Hosted by Café Scientifique.

Wednesday 27 January, Lunchtime

HISTORY SOCIETY TALK FROM PROFESSOR POLLY LOW

Prof Low (Durham University) will talk about Athenian Democracy, sharing knowledge and posing questions about the nature of society.

Friday 29 January, 09.00am-12.30pm, Years 10-12

CLIMATE IN ACTION DAY

A morning of lectures from academics working in the field of climate change.

Wednesday 3 February, 13.05-13.35pm

ENRICHMENT TALK ON CENSORSHIP IN THE MEDIA

Hosted by Café Philo, we will be discussing whether the limitations of censorship in the media violates our free speech, therefore making it immoral.

Wednesday 3 February, 18.00-21.00pm

SHAKESPEARE WATCH AND CHAT: MACBETH

Our first Shakespeare play of the term will be *Macbeth*. Year 10 will find this particularly useful as an aid to their GCSE studies, but all year groups are very welcome to learn about the infamous 'Scottish play'.



Wednesday 10 February, 13.05-13.35pm **ENRICHMENT TALK ON GENETIC ENGINEERING**

'Is cloning and genetic engineering ethical?' An ethical discussion of a very current topic that will be especially helpful to any future scientists!

Saturday 27 February, 10.00am-13.30pm **KS3 INSPIRE TRIP**

Last term's Inspire Trip was replaced by a Creative Thinking workshop, introducing concepts from design thinking. Even if we cannot travel to Oxford, Cambridge or London for this trip, we will take you on another intellectual journey. Watch this space for more information!

Wednesday 3 March, Lunchtime **ENRICHMENT TALK ON POLITICS BY MR NICHOLAS MILTON**

Mr Milton (Guardian columnist) will talk about pressure on political leaders, particularly looking at Neville Chamberlain and his decision-making at the beginning of WW2.

Wednesday 3 March, 13.05-13.35pm **ENRICHMENT TALK ON 'DOUBLE JEOPARDY'**

Students will debate the American law of prohibiting 'Double Jeopardy'. This law stops anyone being prosecuted twice for the same crime. Especially helpful for any aspiring lawyers! Hosted by Café Philo.

March 5-14, various **BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK**

We will be celebrating British Science Week, with talks on 'Smashing Stereotypes in STEM', 'Innovating for the Future', 'Research in Science' (Birmingham University), and 'Drug Discovery' (Rutherford Appleton Laboratory)

Saturday 13 March, 10.00am-13.00pm **KING'S LINKS UNIVERSITY TALKS**

After the huge success of our last remote King's Links events, we will be hosting a further one, inviting current students to meet with Old Girls, who will talk about their University courses and life as undergraduates.

Wednesday 17 March, 13.05-13.35pm **ENRICHMENT TALK ON FREE WILL**

An opportunity to have a group discussion over the 'notion of Free Will'. We will look at concepts including Determinism and Fatalism. Hosted by Café Philo.

Wednesday 17 March, 18.00-21.00pm **SHAKESPEARE WATCH AND CHAT: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**

Our second play of the term will be *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Students across the School are invited to enter into Shakespeare's playful reflection on mistaken identity and fantasy.

Wednesday 31 March, 13.05-13.35pm **ENRICHMENT TALK ON THE ROLE OF THE UN**

An exciting opportunity to explore the effectiveness of the United Nations, looking at past events and decisions. This controversial question will aid any aspiring politicians! Hosted by Café Philo.



King's High School

THE
Best
IS
*Yet to
Come*

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