



King's High  
School



# INSPIRE

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT  
PROGRAMME

AUTUMN TERM 2023

**Aspire.** Achieve. Enjoy.



# Introduction

Inspire now enters its seventh year and continues to grow. As ever, the aim of Inspire is to enrich our pupils' academic learning and to encourage them to grow as independent, creative thinkers who are curious about the world around them.

In this brochure you will find a snapshot of some of the clubs, societies and events that pupils across the year groups will have access to during the Autumn Term. Whether it be a KS3 Inspire trip, a King's Links visit to a top university, an outing to the theatre as part of our RSC Shadowing Programme, or one of the many talks, competitions or events, our aim is to provide exciting, memorable and meaningful learning both within and beyond the classroom.

I hope that these pages create a sense of the vibrant enrichment that helps to shape the experience of all pupils at King's. We encourage each and every one of our students to find something that appeals to them, get involved, and have a spark of interest kindled.

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

Our ever-popular Sixth Form Led Science society prides itself on a programme of visiting speakers, a regular publication, and a team of student organisers who are passionate about spreading their love of Science throughout the school.

## Classicus Alchemy Club

A ground breaking club for Year 9 that will combine exploration of classical civilizations, including the Egyptians, Romans and Celts, with the Science that shaped life many centuries ago.

## 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

Dissection Club helps pupils to extend their anatomical knowledge and skills through practical experience. This is a chance to turn theory into practice – calling all budding scientists, and everyone who is curious about how anatomy works.

## Elite University Preparation Run

After school for Pupils preparing UCAS applications, these sessions focus on the skills and attributes that top universities are looking for. This is particularly suitable for pupils applying for courses that require a pre-admissions test or interview.

## 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 range 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.

## Inspire into University

For all pupils in Year 10 and 11 (and Year 9 if you are really keen) interested in thinking about what is required for top university applications. What kind of students are universities such as Oxford and Cambridge looking for? Come along to find out.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 Digital Maker Space

Open to students in KS3 who are interested in digital making, inquisitive engineers, future fashion designers or robotic scientists. You will have free access to our extensive physical computing hardware to create your own projects. You can use Raspberry Pi, Micro-Bit, Lego EV3 and Arduino computers to work with and create anything you choose; a magic mirror, reactive clothing, internet radio or emotive lighting; your imagination is the only limit.

## KS3 Science Club

Year 7 to 9 are invited to join KS3 Science Club, which will extend your knowledge, enrich your classroom learning, and also provide a lot of fun along the way. This is an excellent way to explore a range of scientific disciplines, ahead of potentially specialising later on in school.

## KS5 Physics

Aspire Physics! Inviting all Sixth Form Physicists to extend their knowledge and think about Physics well beyond the curriculum. Inviting all those interested in asking the big questions posed by the Physics of our world and our universe.

## 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 students after a three-course meal.

## Language Society

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

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.

#### **Medic Support**

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.

#### **MedSoc**

For all of those considering university applications for Medicine and Allied Sciences. Our Medical Pathway includes tailored advice on all aspects of preparing and applying for top medical courses.

#### **MICE: Mathematical Investigative and Challenge Exploration Team**

Join MICE! Open to all students in KS4 and KS5 who are interested in exploring team mathematical challenges.

#### **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.

#### **Reading Programme**

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**

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**

Run jointly with Warwick School, this Sixth Form society involves presentations about scientific research. The Club is excellent preparation for university applications and will stretch your thinking beyond your A Level learning.

#### **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.

# Calendar of Events

[First Week Back, In School](#)

## Launch of Inspire Homework

Years 8 and 9 will be invited to compete in a brand new Inspire Homework. These optional enrichment challenges are for all pupils looking to extend their learning beyond the curriculum and grow in creativity, curiosity and independence. All will be revealed in assembly!

[First Week Back, In School](#)

## Announcement of Inspire Essay Competition Winners

Following a bumper crop of entries last summer, the judges have now agreed on the Highly Commended and winning essays for our sixth annual Inspire Essay competition. Congratulations to all involved and watch this space for the publication of the winning essays.

[First Week Back, In School](#)

## Launch of Go Beyond Homework

To enable pupils to go further in their studies, all departments now have a range of ‘Go Beyond’ homeworks that pupils can opt to complete in their own time. From creative, open tasks to further tests and interactive quizzes, these homeworks are for all ambitious, passionate pupils wishing to take charge of their own extra-curricular learning.

[Friday 15 September, 4.15pm, Science Lecture Theatre](#)

## Encounter with Professor Juliet John

Professor Juliet John is Vice President, Education, at City, University of London and Professor of English Literature. She will speak to us about her work on Charles Dickens, ahead of the publication of her co-edited volume *The Edinburgh Companion to Charles Dickens and the Arts*, coming soon in 2024.

[Friday 22 September, 4.15pm, Science Lecture Theatre](#)

## Encounter with Gareth Russell

Gareth Russell is a historian, biographer, and broadcaster. His biography of the late Queen Mother was named a Best Book

of 2022 by The Times and *The Ship of Dreams*, his account of the Titanic disaster, was named a Best Book of the Year by The Times and a Best History Read of 2019 by The Daily Telegraph. His most recent book is *The Palace: From the Tudors to the Windsors*, 500 Years of History at Hampton Court.

[Friday 29 September, 4.15pm, Science Lecture Theatre](#)

## Encounter with Matthew Symonds, Science Lecture Theatre

Dr Matthew Symonds is the editor of Current World Archaeology magazine, and one of the leading scholars on Roman frontiers in Britain. He has co-edited four volumes on Roman military matters and is the author of *Hadrian's Wall: creating division and protecting the Roman Empire: fortlets, frontiers, and the quest for post-conquest security*. Matthew has excavated at numerous Roman sites, but is most at home on Hadrian's Wall.

[Monday 2 October, In School](#)

## Warwick Words History Conference

An opportunity to attend a conference designed for A Level students studying Tudor history, with contributions by expert historians.

[Deadline of Monday 2 October 5pm](#)

## Young Geographer of the Year

The Royal Geographical Society wants you to create your own blueprint for the future. We are looking for innovative ideas to address problems in areas such as food production and supply, energy and sustainability, water security, resources, population growth, economic crisis, transport, travel, urbanisation, risk management, trade, environmental management, biodiversity and more. Talk to the Geography Department to enter!

[Tuesday 3 October, In School](#)

## Geography Research Trip to BIFoR (The Birmingham Institute of Forest Research)

BIFoR aims to provide fundamental science, social science and cultural research of direct relevance to global forested

landscapes. This trip will allow students to see geographic research in action and collect some of their own data using world class equipment.

[Friday 6 October, 4.15pm, Science Lecture Theatre](#)

## Encounter with Dan McKee

Dr Dan McKee is Head of Theology and Philosophy at Warwick School and is the author of the books “*Authentic Democracy: An Ethical Justification of Anarchism*” and “*Anarchist Atheist Punk Rock Teacher*”. When he’s not making philosophical arguments against our current structures of government he enjoys playing music, improvised comedy, and writing his philosophy blog, Philosophy Unleashed.

[Friday 6 October, In School](#)

## Senior Mathematical Challenge

An optional Mathematical Challenge for those in Year 11 and above. A chance to enhance your UCAS application and solve challenging mathematical puzzles. Look out for further details from Mr Wild.

[Thursday 12 October, RSC Stratford-upon-Avon](#)

## RSC trip to Macbeth

A chance for pupils to attend this well-reviewed production of the Scottish play. Prepare for ruthless ambition, supernatural mischief, and some of Shakespeare’s darkest lyrical writing.

[Friday 13 October, 4.15pm, Science Lecture Theatre](#)

## Encounter with Daniel Kawczynski MP

Daniel Kawczynski was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1972 and moved to Britain with his parents at age five to join relatives already settled here. Daniel was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Shrewsbury and Atcham in the 2005 General Election. Daniel has sat on the Foreign Affairs, International Development, Justice and the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committees and was previously the Parliamentary Private Secretary for the Secretary of State for Wales.

[Monday 16th October, 4pm-5pm, In School](#)

## British Physics Olympiad - Physics Challenge

The paper is based on the common curriculum for Upper Sixth students. It is an introduction to problem solving for some students. It is designed to stretch thinking into the applications and ideas rather than to keep to the narrow content of the syllabus.

[Time TBC](#)

## Science You Can Eat!

Watch this space for an opportunity to join an experimental cooking session linking Food and Science. A chance to see how connections across subjects can enhance learning and develop your link-making abilities.

[Time TBC](#)

## French Cookery Demonstration

Our wonderful Head Chef Christophe will once again be demonstrating French cookery techniques in the Food Department. This will be particularly useful to our GCSE and A Level Food and French students and will take place after school in the Autumn term. Watch this space for dates and times.

[Thursday 2 November, In School](#)

## Day of the Dead celebrations

Whole school skull decorating competition led by our DT and Spanish departments. Come and join the cultural celebration and fun!

[Friday 3 November, 4.15pm, Science Lecture Theatre](#)

## Encounter with Stephen Hammond MP

Stephen Hammond has been the MP for Wimbledon since 2005. He was Minister of State in the Department of Health and Social Care from November 2018 to July 2019 and was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport from 4 September 2012 to 15 July 2014. He served on the Treasury Select Committee from 2015-2018. He was also a local councillor in Wimbledon from 2002-2006.



November 2023 - Across Two lunchtimes. Times TBC

### Junior Astro Challenge

Aimed at Y9-11 students, this competition consists of 2 x 25 minute question papers designed to engage and challenge students of all abilities by offering them a range of problems to solve. Although most of the questions are based around the current GCSE curriculum, students will be able to gain more marks if they have a general knowledge in astronomy as well as taking a keen interest in the night sky.

Thursday 9 November 2023

### Goethe Institut German Career Roadshow at Warwick University

An excellent opportunity for all pupils studying German IGCSE to expand their awareness of career opportunities involving German, to broaden their understanding of the job market, to develop their cultural awareness and to enrich their linguistic knowledge on the topic of Work and Careers.

Friday 10 November, 4.15pm, Science Lecture Theatre

### Encounter with Stephen McCabe MP

Steve McCabe is the Member of Parliament for Birmingham, Selly Oak. Previously he was as an Adviser for the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work. He's also a former social worker.

Friday 10 November, In School

### British Physics Olympiad - Round 1 (Upper Sixth)

An extremely challenging Physics competition that require Upper Sixth students to solve problems. Participation indicates a level of achievement that should in itself be considered by pupil and school as a profound depth of development, skill at the subject, and a determination to solve hard physics problems.

Saturday 11th November

### Inspire Trip to Oxford University

Calling all pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 for our annual enrichment trip to Oxford. We will be visiting some of the key sites of the city with the aim of encouraging pupils to dream big and start exploring beyond the curriculum.

Friday 17 November, Science Lecture Theatre

### Encounter with Professor Stephen Smartt

Professor Stephen Smartt CBE FRS is the Wetton Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Oxford and Christ Church college. He works on understanding the most energetic explosions in the Universe. He leads several major telescope survey projects which scan the sky on a nightly basis, searching for transient, explosive, and moving objects.

W/c 20 November, in School

### Festival of Ideas

A week of daily events designed around the theme of collaboration. Our Sixth Form Societies will be hosting panels on themes such as global perspectives and the nature of the individual, alongside a multitude of further activities. Pupils – watch this space for more information in assembly, on posters and by email.

Wednesday 22 November 10am - 3pm

### Maths in Action at University of Warwick

An opportunity to deepen your understanding of mathematical concepts and explore new mathematics areas to enhance your classroom studies. During this enrichment day, pupils will participate in a variety of interactive sessions that will challenge and inspire them. The experienced speakers will guide students through a range of topics, from advanced calculus to mathematical modelling, and will provide students with opportunities to collaborate with their peers to solve problems and explore new ideas.

Friday 24 November, 4.15pm, Science Lecture Theatre

### Encounter with Timothy Radcliffe

Timothy Radcliffe is a Dominican friar and Catholic priest. He taught at Oxford and was involved in ministry to people with Aids, before being elected as Master of the Dominicans (1992 - 2001). He has travelled to over 120 countries, published a dozen books, and has honorary doctorates from universities in Britain, France, Italy and the USA.

Friday 1 December, Science Lecture Theatre

### Encounter with Professor Brian Foster

Brian Foster is currently Donald H. Perkins Professor Emeritus of Experimental Physics at the University of Oxford and Leverhulme Emeritus Fellow. His research interests include electron-proton scattering, electron-positron annihilation physics and charged-particle acceleration using plasma wakefields.

Saturday 2 December

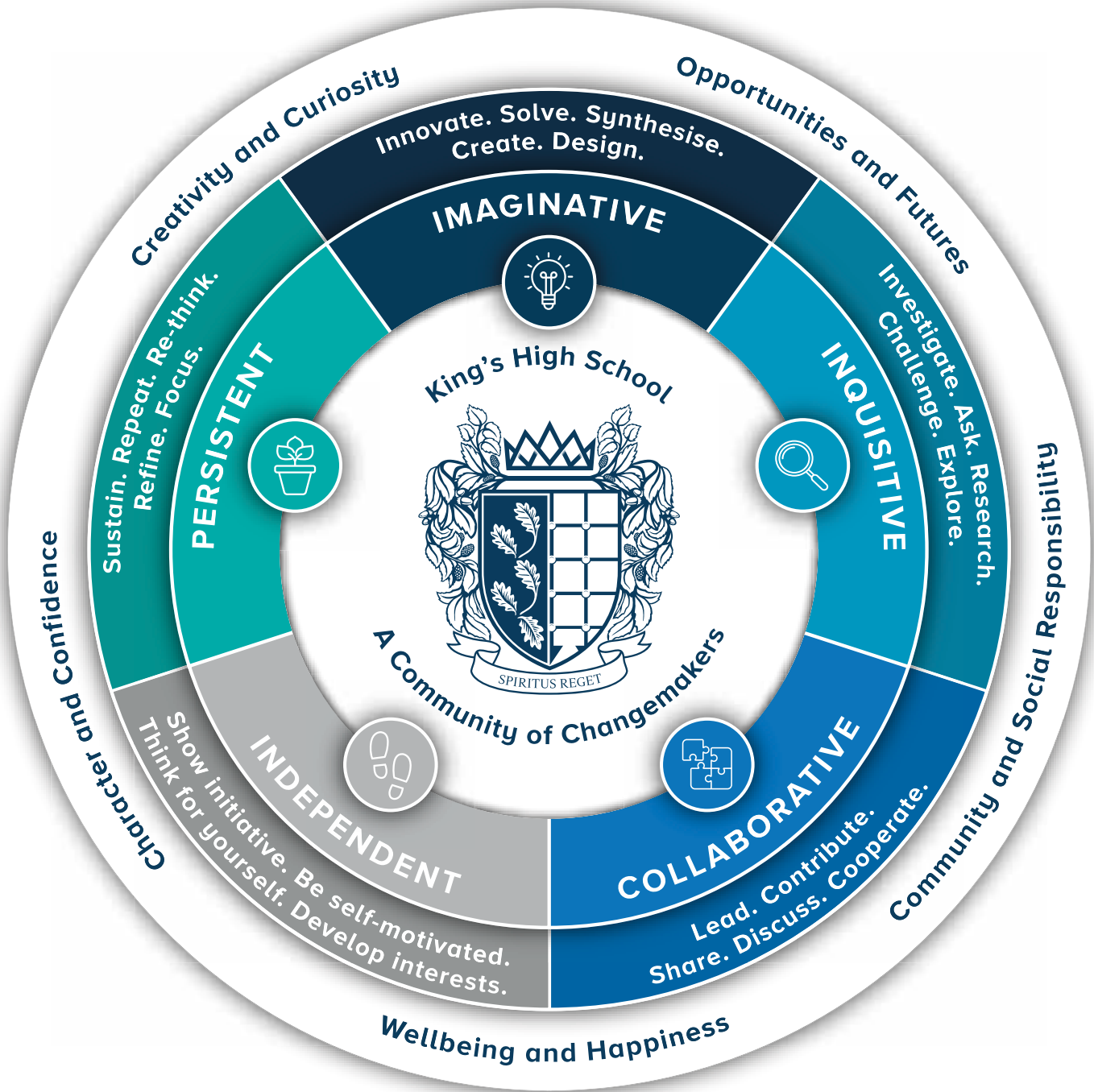
### King's Links Trip for Year 10 and above

King's Links returns with a trip to Bristol University. A chance to see a top Russell Group University, meet former King's pupils currently studying there, and have a lovely lunch in the heart of the city.

Friday 8 December, Science Lecture Theatre

### Encounter with Oliver Dugmore

Oli Dugmore is a journalist. He has reported from the Middle East, USA, Europe and all across the UK and Ireland. His work focuses on the impact of national politics on normal people.





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