



King's High  
School



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# INSPIRE

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

AUTUMN TERM 2021

**Aspire.** Achieve. Enjoy.

# Introduction

## Autumn Term 2021

The aim of our Inspire Programme is to provide every pupil at King's High with the opportunity to grow as an independent, creative thinker who is curious about the big ideas that shape the world. In this booklet you will find an array of events and activities that are all designed with this core goal in mind. School terms are varied and busy, and there are always additions to the Programme as new opportunities arise, so please keep an eye out for further invitations and updates, as well as looking through the particularly rich schedule advertised in the pages that follow.

National debate is now starting to catch up with some of the key questions that have long interested us at King's. Should a school education teach pupils lots of content, or should it teach broader skills that will be applicable later on in life? It has always been clear to us that the answer is simply, 'Both!' Whether it is through attending a talk, engaging with a competition or enrichment project, or setting up your own club or society, the Inspire Programme is about learning new, unusual things and then, crucially, thinking about them and applying them to your own life and your own thinking.

I've written before in previous Inspire booklets about how Covid failed to dampen the intellectual spirits of our pupils, and, as we head into the 2021-2022 academic year, we should reflect back with huge pride on how Inspire has continued to flourish despite the logistical challenges of the pandemic. New societies have sprung up, our number of speakers and events has grown to new heights, and it has been truly wonderful to see the remarkable groundswell of interest from across the school in debating two key topic areas, namely equality and the environment. It is certainly an exciting time to be studying and working in schools, and particularly at King's, where our pupils really are curious, creative, independent thinkers.

**Dr P Seal**

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.

## 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

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.

### 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!

### 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.

### 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 emotionalls 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

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

## Autumn Term 2021

### Week commencing 6 September

**LAUNCH OF ‘TRIVIAM’ (KS3 PUBLIC SPEAKING)  
KING’S HIGH HALL, 08.45-09.10AM**

This new club will develop public speaking skills, working towards ESU Performing Shakespeare and Poetry by Heart competitions in the Spring.

### Week commencing 6 September

**LAUNCH OF KS4 AND 5 SENIOR DEBATING CLUB  
KING’S HIGH HALL, 16.10-17.00PM**

Senior Debating will allow students to develop and practise debating skills in preparation for competitions. The Club is open to all year groups, with competition teams comprised of KS4 and 5 students.

### Week commencing 6 September

**JUNIOR BAKE OFF (KS3), FOOD DEPARTMENT**

The King's High Bake Off is back! One pair from Year 8 and 9 from each School House will complete a baking challenges, concluding with the final on open evening.

### Week commencing 6 September

**LAUNCH OF NEW KS4/KS5 SENIOR CREATIVE  
WRITING CLUB, CH1**

The launch of our new Senior Creative Writing Club will enable writers in KS4 and KS5 to share ideas, tips, techniques and work with like-minded individuals with a passion for the written word. A Senior Creative Writing Club Anthology will be published twice yearly.

### Week commencing 6 September

**LAUNCH OF INSPIRE HOMEWORK  
KING’S HIGH HALL, 08.45-09.10AM**

Our first Inspire Homework of the year will offer a chance for pupils to present independent research through the spoken word.

### Friday 10 September

**ENCOUNTERS PROGRAMME: ED HUSSAIN  
SCIENCE LECTURE THEATRE, 16.15-17.45PM**

Ed Hussain, one of the UK’s foremost scholars of Islam, will speak about ‘Islam and the West – where next?’

### Thursday 16 September

**ENCOUNTERS PROGRAMME: ALEX BURGHART  
SCIENCE LECTURE THEATRE, 16.15-17.45PM**

Alex Burghart, MP for Brentwood and Ongar, and Permanent Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, will speak about his life and work.

### Friday 17 September

**ENCOUNTERS PROGRAMME: VICTORIA PRENTIS  
SCIENCE LECTURE THEATRE, 16.15-17.45PM**

Victoria Prentis, MP for Banbury, will speak about balancing of personal viewpoints (on issues such as Brexit legislation) with keeping with the wishes of constituents.

### Monday 20 September

**READING FAIR, KING’S HIGH SCHOOL**

Look out for details of how to join in with this celebration of reading. Which stories have helped to shape you, challenge you, and introduce you to new worlds and ideas?

### Week commencing 20 September

**ROUTES INTO LANGUAGES POSTER COMPETITION  
KING’S HIGH SCHOOL**

KS3 students will be invited to enter this national competition, to be launched during the European Day of Languages assembly.

### Thursday 23 September

**FUTURE OF EDUCATION STUDENT PANEL  
KING’S HIGH STUDIO, 16.15-17.15PM**

A team of pupils will share ideas at this panel discussion. Which emerging topics will it be vital for young people to learn about in order to equip them for the future?

### Friday 24 September

**DRAMA WORKSHOP  
BRIDGE HOUSE THEATRE/WARWICK HALL**

A Level Drama students will take part workshops throughout the day with external Theatre companies which will culminate in an evening performance.

### Friday 24 September

**ENCOUNTERS PROGRAMME: PROF RICHARD BARKER  
SCIENCE LECTURE THEATRE, 16.15-17.45PM**

Professor Richard Barker, a leading economist who previously won ‘Most Acclaimed Lecturer in the Social Sciences’ at Oxford, will speak about his research on sustainability and business responsibility.

### Thursday 7 October

**INSPIRE DINNER WITH RUTH PADEL  
KING’S HIGH HALL**

For our first Inspire Dinner of the year, Ruth Padel will join us for a special evening celebrating the power artistic expression, with pupil performances and a talk from Prof Padel on how music inspires her poetry.

### Friday 8 October

**ENCOUNTERS PROGRAMME: SIR STEPHEN LOVEGROVE,  
SCIENCE LECTURE THEATRE, 16.15-17.45PM**

Stephen Lovegrove has served as Permanent Secretary at the Department of Energy and Climate Change and Defence, and is currently the UK’s National Security Advisor.

### Saturday 9 October

**KS3 INSPIRE TRIP TO OXFORD, OXFORD, ALL DAY**

Look out for the invitation letter for our first Inspire trip of the year, taking in the Dreaming Spires and visiting key cultural landmarks.

### Monday 11 October

**HUMAN RIGHTS SPEAKER – DR AMNA NAZIR  
VENUE TBC**

Dr Nazir, who is Associate Director of BCU’s Centre for Human Rights, will speak to pupils about her research.

### Week commencing 11 October

**BOOK SWAP, KING’S HIGH SCHOOL**

Take part in our whole school book swap, lending and borrowing a book with one of your peers and being introduced to a new writer.

### November (dates TBC)

**ESU MACE, REGIONAL HEATS, LOCATION TBC**

Good luck to our Senior Debaters, who will take part in regional qualifying heats for ESU Mace competition.

### November (dates TBC)

**LAUNCH OF ROUTES INTO LANGUAGES CHRISTMAS  
CARD COMPETITION, KING’S HIGH SCHOOL**

KS3 students will be invited (via their language lessons) to enter this national competition.

### Week commencing 1 November

**LAUNCH OF INSPIRE HOMEWORK – MONOSTICH  
KING’S HIGH SCHOOL**

This Inspire Homework will ask students to explore changemakers and changemaking through the mediums of both photography and poetry as they compose monostich poems.

### Monday 8 – Friday 19 November

**BEBRAS COMPUTING CHALLENGE  
KHS COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

Students will have a practice lesson and a competition lesson to answer questions that focus on computational and logical thinking.

### Friday 12 November

**ENCOUNTERS PROGRAMME: ANGUS LAPSLEY  
SCIENCE LECTURE THEATRE, 16.15-17.45PM**

For this Encounters talk, we will hear from Angus Lapsley, who is currently Director General (Strategy and International) for the Civil Service.

### Monday 15 – Friday 19 November

**FESTIVAL OF IDEAS  
VARIOUS KING’S HIGH SCHOOL VENUES**

The theme for this year’s Festival of Ideas is ‘The Future’. Throughout the week, we will hear from a range of exciting and renowned speakers, including Dr Adriene Chapman of the Alan Turing Institute.

### Thursday 25 November

**GCSE DRAMA TRIP, WEMBLEY TROUBADOUR THEATRE**

GCSE Drama girls will see a performance of The National Theatre’s renowned production of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time.

### Friday 26 November

**ENCOUNTERS PROGRAMME: MATT WESTERN  
SCIENCE LECTURE THEATRE, 16.15-17.45PM**

Matt Western is currently Shadow Minister for Further Education and Universities, and is keenly involved in green issues.

### Saturday 27 November

**KING’S LINKS, REMOTE EVENT**

All pupils are welcome to attend our latest King’s Links events, offering the chance to meet and talk with former King’s pupils studying a range of courses at University.

### November–December 2021

**LANCASTER UNIVERSITY MODERN LANGUAGES IN  
SCHOOLS PRIZE, KING’S HIGH SCHOOL**

Sixth form linguists will be encouraged to enter this prestigious essay competition, which will help their university application to stand out.

### Friday 10 December

**ENCOUNTERS PROGRAMME: BRIDGETT KENDALL  
SCIENCE LECTURE THEATRE, 16.15-17.45PM**

Bridgett Kendall was the BBC’s Moscow correspondent from 1989-1995, before becoming the Washington correspondent. She is currently Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge.



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SUMMER TERM 2021

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