



STRETCH AND CHALLENGE YOURSELF THROUGH LP CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All students, from Year 7 to Upper Sixth, will soon be given the choice of signing up to co-curricular activities for the autumn term. I hope every student will pursue their passions, and perhaps try something new.

Amongst the dazzling variety on offer, I wanted to draw your attention to a few options that may be particularly attractive to students looking for additional intellectual challenge and high-level skills.

In the current educational climate, competition for places at top universities is becoming increasingly intense. Participation in co-curricular activities such as these can sometimes allow a student to demonstrate a dedication and passion that marks them out from the rest, as well as inspiring them and developing a flexible and rigorous learning approaches beyond the classroom.

Inspiring High (previously known as 'Brainstretchers') is a society for the intellectually curious: once a week, we meet for a 45-minute talk or discussion on a subject that reaches far beyond the curriculum to stretch and challenge students from Year 7-11. Our first talk this year, from world-renowned marine biologist and coral expert George Warner, will take place on Wednesday 11 September; last year our topics ranged from 'Was maths invented or discovered?', to 'What is most likely to end the human race?'

Club STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts, Mathematics) - Undertaking a project into an area of interest is a very powerful way to stand out from the crowd if you hope to apply for top Universities – importantly, it is never too early to start. If this is for you, Club STEAM projects on a Tuesday afternoon is an ideal activity where, having been given a grounding in project management skills, you can undertake a team project or take one of your own ideas and make it fly. If you want some ideas, take a look at [Cambridge University BE+](#).

Debating will give you an introduction to British Parliamentary Debating and formal public speaking, as well as opening up opportunities to participate in prestigious competitions. Our school team were runners-up last year in the national 'Debating Matters' competition, debating in the final in the stunning venue of the Oxford University Union.

Model United Nations will allow you to debate the biggest current global issues, preparing for MUN conferences at home and abroad.

Ted-Ed Club - take a big idea and change the world, whilst developing your research and presentation skills: discover, explore and present topics that interest you in the form of a short, TED-style talk.

Young Philosophers' Society - come along to explore thought-provoking questions: What does it mean to be human? What is power? What is the best form of government? How can I be truly happy?

Please do look through our Co-curricular Brochure for Autumn Term 2019 for further information about these, and many more, brilliant activities. Details of teachers that run each activity are available in the brochure - please do let them know if you have any questions about particular activities.

Please do speak to Natasha Coccia (Assistant Headteacher: Co-curricular and Outreach Activities) or Jenny Powlesland (Assistant Headteacher: Teaching & Learning) if you have any more general questions.