

Super-curriculum

We have a wide range of super-curricular opportunities. Super-curricular activities are those that take the subjects studied further, beyond that which a teacher has taught or what has been done for homework. A student may go into more depth on something they've picked up in the classroom or learn about a new topic altogether. Deepening and enriching a student's subject knowledge is a key issue, particularly for competitive universities.

Year 12 students are encouraged to complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This additional qualification can add considerable value to a university application. It allows students to research an area of interest and demonstrate their ability to work independently. It may also give them an advantage in securing a place on the most competitive courses. Future Learn MOOC here <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/research-project>

Other examples of super-curricular activities include:

Psychology - students wider reading includes Academic Journal research Articles; Listening to BBC Radio 4 All In the Mind; Questioning Judges & Barristers at Crown Court; Producing Podcasts; Watch Documentaries and TED talks relating to Eyewitness Recall (Elizabeth Loftus).

Criminology - students explore Solving Cold Cases- This criminologist speaks about what prompted him to create one of the most unique citizen-driven clubs in the world, leveraging the skills of regular people to solve some of the most challenging cold cases. Witness Testimony- Scott Fraser studies how humans remember crimes. In this powerful talk he suggests that even close-up eyewitnesses to a crime can create "memories" they could not have seen. Why? Because the brain abhors a vacuum. Find more exciting talks at www.ted.com/talks. Questioning Judges & Barristers at Crown Court; Producing Podcasts; Watch Documentaries and TED talks relating to Eyewitness Recall (Elizabeth Loftus).

English - Students are introduced to the wider reading of various Literary Criticisms including Gender Theory, Freudian readings of canonical Literature and modernist theorists. Students' academic Literary glossaries offer sophisticated lexical terminology which is interwoven through the study of the core texts, and this is referred to throughout their studies, as learners are required to produce essays rooted in wider reading and research. Additionally, students are shown how to create academic bibliographies and are asked to hone their critical thinking skills in producing independent presentations on the Literary movement of their choice, informed by super curricular reading of texts outside their core novels, plays and poetic texts.

Media - students are given a wider reading list that includes media podcasts, websites, newspapers and twitter accounts.

IT - In IT, students must plan and implement a social media campaign. To support this students are encouraged the to engage in a supercurricular activity of working with real business owners to meet the requirements of their assessment brief. In doing this, students demonstrate enthusiasm and curiosity for how the subject translates into a potential career. Their engagement with working adults through business meetings improves their capacity to be an autonomous learner, and will undoubtedly enhance their CV/personal statement and help prepare them for interviews

Art - students are encouraged to visit galleries, whether locally, within the United Kingdom or abroad. Some students have organised participating in workshops with practising designers.

Maths - students are directed to articles/pages in books that will deepen understanding. There are also opportunities to develop skills through watching online mathematics video such as “*LSmathematics*”. Students have also discussed the applications of particular mathematical topics to scientific problems (eg The firing of shells from Challenger 2 tanks accurately; or the production of Heinz tins at the most efficient cost)!

History - students read historical novels, watch films set in the past and visit key sites with historical significance.

General resources we encourage students to use:

Clever Podcast is all about design and inspiring interviews with top designers

Edge magazine is an online resource that brings together leading thinkers in their fields and within broad subject areas – mind, life, culture, universe and technology. Expert conversations range from Alzheimer’s prevention to how to be a systems thinkers.

<https://www.edge.org/>

iTunes U - Free podcasts, video lectures, reading recommendations - A whole range of resources from leading universities (Oxford, Yale)]

YouTube - Has its own educational channel – EDU

Radio 4 - Excellent range of archive material - Recommended – Week in Westminster / Thinking Allowed / A History of the World / In Our Time

TED - Talks from experts from a variety of fields

MOOCs – Massive Open Online Courses – These online courses provide videos, reading lists and activities FutureLearn – www.futurelearn.com, EdX – www.edx.org, Coursera – www.coursera.org]

Websites of Professional organisations e.g. - www.rsc.org (Royal Society of Chemistry)
www.history.org.uk (The Historical Association)

Newspapers - some online versions are free (eg the Guardian) - read more than one to develop critical skills

Isaac Physics is described as a Department of Education project at the University of Cambridge. It aims to give students transitioning from GCSEs to Sixth Form, to university, insight into and understanding of physics by problem solving. A Level resources range from problem solving, mentoring schemes to extension resources (includes a section on maths questions to help prepare for a STEM course interview). <https://isaacphysics.org/alevel>

- **Alison** (<https://alison.com/courses>) offers a range of courses, from art to humanities.
- **Coursera** (<https://www.coursera.org/>) has a range of courses, and works in partnership with top universities and organisations to offer courses online. Courses range from an Introduction to Engineering Mechanics to Introduction to Mathematical Thinking, and more.
- **EdX** (<https://www.edx.org>) has a wide selection of courses, ranging from science to languages and law. EdX was founded by Harvard University and MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).
- **Futurelearn** (<https://www.futurelearn.com>) has partnered with leading universities to provide a wide range of MOOCs. See their website and go to individual university pages to explore the range of

MOOCs available

- **Udacity** (<https://eu.udacity.com/>) is focused on courses related to computing.
- **Udemy** (<https://www.udemy.com/>) has a wide range of online courses, from design and photography to IT and software.

My HE Plus is hosted by Cambridge University. The website aims to give students the opportunity to explore different subjects beyond the school curriculum. Each subject section has been put together by Cambridge postgraduate students and academics who are at the cutting edge of research in their field. As well as guided activities, there are questions to think about and suggestions for further reading.

<http://www.myheplus.com/>

Created by Oxford University, **Oxplore** aims to engage young people in debates and ideas that go beyond the classroom. A wide range of subjects are covered, from archeology to zoology, and linked to the latest research being carried out at Oxford.

<https://oxplore.org/>