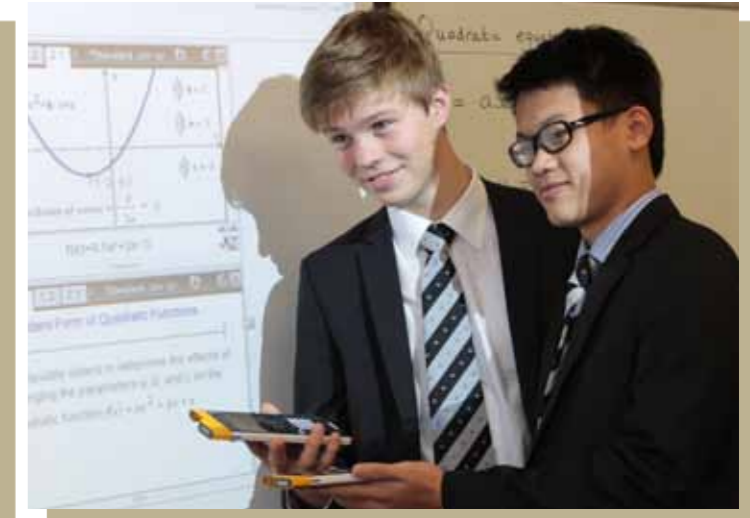




Ellesmere

Academic Enrichment





Academic Enrichment at Ellesmere College



The Ellesmere programme of Academic Enrichment aims to enhance the College's reputation for providing a rounded education that maximises the potential of all its students. All teachers at Ellesmere are committed to providing an environment that encourages individuals to develop their full potential. Academic Enrichment, therefore, is not an elitist programme in the sense that our more able students are taught separately. Ellesmere has already earned a reputation for providing an enriched education for everyone, and the programme is an extension of that.

The Ellesmere scheme is linked to the Gifted and Talented scheme operated by the National Association for Able Children in Education (further details can be found at www.nace.co.uk), and we have used their criteria to aid identification of our Gifted and Talented pupils.

A gifted pupil is one who is in the top 10% of the national pupil population: one who "has the capacity for, or demonstrates high levels of performance in one or more academic areas". A talented pupil is one who is in the top 10% of the national pupil population who has a specific ability in a non-academic area, such as a physical talent, a musical talent, mechanical aptitude, outstanding leadership or creativity.

There is no direct linkage between being recognised as Gifted and Talented and being in receipt of a scholarship. The standard for a scholarship is higher than the criteria for participation in our Academic Enrichment programme. However, both the Gifted and Talented programme and the Scholars' programme are open to all pupils where appropriate.

Further information on scholarships and awards available can be obtained from the Admissions Department.

Examples of activities within the Academic Enrichment programme

The programme offers both extension and enrichment activities for all subject areas and for all age groups. Extension work is predominantly organised by subject teachers and is monitored as part of the curriculum. A number of examples of subject extension activities are uploaded onto the College's Virtual Learning Environment website, although other extension work will often be given out during a lesson. The enrichment activities and projects are organised by the Gifted and Talented Coordinator, and are collated together to create an enrichment calendar that can be found on the College website.

Whilst some students are encouraged to take part in a variety of activities, others will concentrate on key areas, in recognition of the fact that their strengths are more clearly focused on a particular academic discipline.

The enrichment provision forms part of a closely monitored and personalised programme for each student. Their participation and personal reflections of each activity are recorded in their log book, which they hold for a year. This is periodically checked by the Gifted and Talented Coordinator who holds regular meetings with individual students to discuss their progress.

The following examples of enrichment activities provide a flavour of some of the activities on offer although are by no means comprehensive:

- Cambridge essay writing competitions for Sixth Formers interested in History, Science and English.
- Political journalism is tested as part of the Parliamentary Press Gallery national writing competition.
- Fiction and story writing competitions such as the Young Historians' competition and the Golden Sponge Stick Classics competition.

- National and International quizzes such as the internationally renowned Classics Medusa competition and the Schools' Challenge quiz, which is based on the popular University Challenge on TV.
- Science competitions such as the Biology and Physics Olympiads as well as the Top of the Bench Chemistry competition. In addition, Science teams up with Design Technology and Maths to provide a weekly Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics club, which aims to look at the practical applications of these subjects in an engineering context.
- Regular sessions are held for keen Classicists to study for a GCSE in Ancient Greek, whilst other linguists are offered the opportunity of studying conversational Mandarin.
- Lecture evenings and study days are also offered for students who are interested in widening their understanding of subjects beyond the curriculum.
- Potential Oxbridge students are also offered the opportunity to attend the Oxford Woodard Masterclass. This is an annual event which allows Ellesmerians to meet with other likeminded students as well as to experience the reality of studying at one of the world's most prestigious universities.
- Sport, Drama and Music provision is provided by the directors of each faculty and specialists who are brought in especially.
- In addition, the school has a close link with Aston University, which provides lecture days and workshops for gifted students in a variety of academic disciplines.

The College is very proud of the enrichment programme on offer and a number of students have performed exceptionally well both at a national and international level in various competitions. Furthermore, the enrichment programme is designed to allow students the opportunity independently to explore subjects in more detail and in practical ways. The outcome is the development of widely read, independent and focused young people with a curiosity and thirst for knowledge.



The Ellesmere Scholars' programme

The Ellesmere Scholars' programme is an established scheme to support further the development of individual excellence.

There are expectations of excellence, commitment and attitude placed on all pupils in receipt of an award. For example, in the cases of Music scholars or scholars for whom sporting excellence forms the basis of their award there are clear and obvious expectations: musicians need to practise, perform and give active support and commitment to musicmaking at the school. Those for whom sport forms part of the award are expected to show a commitment to training and to representing the school in sports teams.

The scholars' programme focuses on those students for whom an academic element is the basis for a part or the whole of their awards. Participation in the scholars' programme, as directed by the College, is a condition of holding an award. The scholars' programme is open to all College pupils, whether or not they are award holders.

In the course of an academic year scholars can expect to attend up to six out-of-college events, which will contribute to their all-round intellectual development.

Typical examples would be a lecture on the Monarchy by Historian David Starkey; an evening of poetry reading by Poet Laureate,

Andrew Motion, and a lecture on Affluenza by psychologist Oliver James. In the first term of the year, students have the opportunity to take a guided tour of Manchester and study its architecture before attending a play at The Royal Exchange Theatre. The College also benefited from the Royal Institute of Philosophy's Jacobsen programme and scholars attended a series of lectures in College given by a professional philosopher. The events are chosen to promote curiosity and broaden cultural awareness in Scholars and are not intended to match precisely any given course.

In addition scholars are expected to attend Headmaster's Lectures which are more in depth talks and discussions. Richard Godwin, CEO Zero Gravity Solutions Inc., Matthew Syed, Sunday Times award winning journalist, Ross Jobber, Managing Director of Citibank, David Whitehouse QC and Bryan Oates, Oscar-winning film editor have all provided their professional input and real life experiences to our students.

As with the Academic Enrichment programme, the emphasis is upon creating opportunities for talented pupils while encouraging independence of mind and self reliance.

There are separate information booklets available on the scholarships and awards available at Ellesmere, and these can be obtained from the Admissions Department at the College.

The Registrar

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