



EXCELLENCE
PROGRAMME



The Excellence Programme

Spring 2018 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Pupils,

Following a successful Autumn Term during which many boys attended Excellence events, we are presenting you with the Spring newsletter. The highlights of last term were the Spaghetti Bridge Competition, which saw boys building bridges that held over thirty kilograms. Our guest speaker was Professor Childs, Head of the Dyson School of Design Engineering at Imperial College, London. Professor Childs gave the boys an inspirational talk and was impressed by the quality of the bridges built by the John Lyon boys.

This term also saw our Year 9 Mastermind Competitors raise £1200 pounds for Harrow Mind Charity, in preparation for their Mastermind Challenge at Harrow School on 22nd February 2018.

To help our Lower Sixth Oxbridge applicants, an Excellence Guide to Oxbridge has specifically been written for John Lyon boys. This is a tool boys have found very helpful.

We are delighted that Owen Marshall has received an offer from Oxford to read History and Lami Mabifa has received an offer to read Human, Social and Political Sciences at Pembroke College, Cambridge. Both boys have worked extremely hard together with the John Lyon staff to achieve the degree of Excellence required for a successful application to Oxbridge. Best of luck to both boys in achieving the required grades in the Summer.

On the following pages you will find the:

- Spring Term STEAM Challenge
- Spring Excellence weekly workshops
- Spring Excellence trips
- List of Excellence clubs

All Excellence activities are open to all boys in the school, but we would expect the boys on our Excellence List to attend at least one event or activity each half term.

Reading is also at the heart of our programme, and many boys have already been making use of the 1876 Reading Room. Reading fiction and non-fiction material on subjects and ideas that they are interested in is the best way for any pupil to become an expert and fires enthusiasm for further learning.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to email us: Excellence@jonhlyon.org,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Trafford and Dr Weinberg

SPRING STEAM CHALLENGE, Y7-Y9

The Bright Ideas Challenge (Sponsored by Shell)

Deadline for Applications 27th April, 2018

The challenge is to come up with an idea for a city in 2050 that could:

Create more clean and affordable energy
and/or
Make the city more energy efficient

Shell is looking for students' bright ideas to power the future cities. Vouchers are offered to winners.

Introduction to Challenge: Tuesday 16th January 2018 & Tuesday 23rd January at 1.15pm in S8 or email Dr Weinberg to arrange a different time: FRW@johnlyon.org

Further weekly guidance on Tuesdays 1.15pm – 1.45pm in S8

SPRING WORKSHOPS: LUNCHTIMES, Y7-U6

Oxbridge-style supervisions with Dr White

Philosophical discussion in the 1876 Reading Room for all year groups

Critical reading with the author of an academic article. The first two sessions will focus on understanding the argument. The third and fourth sessions will focus on students building their own critique.

Monday 22nd January at 1.15pm

Monday 29th January at 1.15pm

Monday 5th February at 1.15pm

Monday 19th February at 1.15pm

CRITICAL THINKING WORKSHOP, Y10-U6

Thinking Out of the Box with Mr Mephram

Weekly, every Tuesday 4.10pm – 5.00pm in L8.

UPCOMING EXCELLENCE TRIPS/EVENTS

Holocaust Memorial Day, Y9, January 31st

Mastermind Competition, Y9, February 22nd

American Literature Day, Y11, March 1st

Cambridge History Forum, Y11-U6, March 3rd

Matt Dickinson Author Visit, Y7-U6, March 14th

Academy Conferences, Cambridge, Y10 and Y11 March 16th

Bloodhound Car Rocket Competition, Y7, March 27th

CLUBS THAT PROMOTE EXCELLENCE (indicative)

Boys should refer to the School Club and Co-Curricular Programme sent home and online for times and locations.

Code breaking and Maths puzzle	Preparation for national Cipher Challenge and Alan Turing competition.
Coding	We will be using the BBC Micro:bits to introduce and build upon core programming concepts in Python. Introductory Game Development, Advanced Python, and advice on computing related careers will also be available to print.
Crest Award (Science Club)	Boys work on a science project of their choice. They are guided and given equipment. The boys work to get their Crest Award.
Literary Culture	Boys will use the springboard of a literary text or film to explore deeper cultural and philosophical ideas.
Junior and Senior Debating	Boys come to learn the art of debating and have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of both internal and external debating competitions
L6 & U6 form reading circle	To enhance the awareness of literature and the discussion of texts in the manner of a book club. The aim is to ensure boys not studying Literature are kept engaged with discussion and conversation about the art with a view to engaging with possible interview questions.
Economics	The Economics Society is led by students and the group discusses salient economic issues of the day, whether related to current events in the news or topics covered in the A level course.
Model United Nations	The Model United Nations activity offers students the opportunity to engage in debate about geo-political issues. Students take part in committee debates, taking on the role of the UN Security Council, the Health Committee, the Environment Committee or Political Committees debating UN resolutions.
Business Society	A society to discuss business topics and boys will enter 2 National Competitions
Politics Society	A discussion group for Sixth Form students to discuss contemporary events in the realm of politics and international relations.
The Excellent French Society	This Society encourages students to develop their subject knowledge outside of traditional curriculum. This will include preparing to teach lessons, parallel text reading, film reviews... This society is available by request or by invitation.
Oxbridge and top universities entrance exam preparation	Different clubs and mentoring schemes are running to prepare boys to the HAT, MAT, STEP, ELAT, TSA exams