



The Excellence Programme

Summer 2018 Newsletter

DATE: Monday 30th April

Dear Parents and Pupils,

The Spring Term has been a very busy term for the Excellence Programme. A few highlights:

A new **John Lyon Excellence Academic Society**, of which Jaimi Patel (L6) is chairman, was launched with a series of four lectures from Lower Sixth pupils. It was fantastic that so many younger students came to hear lectures on subjects ranging from black holes to the law and punishment. We look forward to welcoming many more younger students to our next set of lectures in Summer Term.

Ten boys in Year 9 worked extremely hard in the Harrow School's Mastermind Competition, not only winning several rounds and coming overall 3rd and 5th in the competition, but also in being awarded a trophy showing the greatest initiative in raising over £1,200 for the School's mental health charity, MIND. Congratulations to both teams.

The annual Academic Conference Trip to Cambridge took place earlier this month where 16 boys in Years 10 and 11 spent a day listening to top academics debate the meaning of truth. The John Lyon boys were commended for their curiosity and excellent questions and contributions to the debate.

British Science Week was a great success. Boys attended Biology, Chemistry and Physics sessions in which they learned about the deep sea, watched some incredible Chemistry practicals and took part in a balloon car race.

On the following pages you will find news of some the Excellence events that will be taking place this term. Most notably we are delighted that BBC News Political Editor Laura Kuenssberg is able to give the boys a lunchtime lecture, for which booking will be essential. 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. We have also stocked the 1876 Reading Room with a new batch of Oxford guides on a range of subjects from Marxism to organic chemistry, so please encourage your sons to enjoy them.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Trafford and Dr Weinberg



The John Lyon Excellence Programme

FAKE NEWS

How do you find the real story?

Tuesday 8th May, 1.15 - 1.45pm

Boyd Campbell Hall

Join us for as the BBC's Political Editor, Laura Kuennsberg, looks at the phenomenon of fake news in today's world, and inspires pupils with stories of her experiences in journalism. Open to Years 7 - Upper Sixth.

Booking is essential for Years 7-11, visit on: www.johnlyon.org/laurakuennsberg



EXCELLENCE
PROGRAMME



**JOHN
LYON**
HARROW-ON-THE-HILL

SUMMER SCIENCE ESSAY COMPETITION, Y7 - U6

This John Lyon competition is where Science meets English. We would like you to submit an essay on one of the following two topics:

What would you like to discover and why?

Why should I believe a scientist?

Your essay could: adopt a serious tone, include humour, incorporate facts, use statistical evidence, or embed quotations from scientists and philosophers past and present.

Whatever approach you adopt try to present your ideas in a clear structure, with an introduction to the topic that outlines your argument, with topic sentences at the start of each paragraph and a conclusion that shows some evaluation of the facts and ideas you have raised.

Please use these word counts as a guide:

- Years 7 - 8: 300-500 words
- Years 9 - 11: 600-800 words
- Sixth Form: 800 - 1,500 words

We are very much looking forward to reading your entries, which should be emailed to Excellence@johnlyon.org by **Friday 8th June**.

Winners for each age category to be awarded their prize at the Excellence evening event on Thursday 21st June.

SUMMER WORKSHOPS: LUNCHTIMES, Y7 - U6

Oxbridge-style supervisions with Dr White

Philosophical discussion in the 1876 Reading Room, Mondays at 1.15pm for all year groups. Four seminars on Liberty:

1. Isaiah Berlin's Two Concepts of Liberty - Monday 14th May
2. Berlin's Two Concepts of Liberty - Monday 21st May
3. Charles Taylor's What's Wrong With Negative Liberty? - Monday 4th June
4. Charles Taylor's What's Wrong with Negative Liberty? - Monday 11th June

CREST AWARD WORKSHOP, Y7 - U6

Work on a Bronze, Silver or Gold Crest Award with Dr Weinberg

Each year, over 32,000 CREST Awards are undertaken by 11-to-19-year-olds, giving them opportunities to explore real-world science, technology, engineering and Mathematical projects in an exciting way.

CREST is a UK award scheme that recognises success, and enables students to build their skills and demonstrate personal achievement in project work. It is student-led, which means that young people take ownership of their projects and choose to undertake them in areas they enjoy or see as relevant.

Weekly sessions, every Tuesday 1.15pm – 1.45pm in S8.

During the sessions you will be introduced and guided to complete the Bronze, Silver and Gold Crest Awards depending on the time and extent of the project you want to work on.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION SEMINARS, Y9 and Y10

Exploring deeper the big ideas raised at the Academic Conference in Cambridge with Mrs Trafford.

These seminars straddle the Humanities and Sciences and are particularly good for encouraging excellent all-round knowledge and thinking skills.

They will take place **week beginning 14th May, Thursdays in M1.**

All Year 10 boys who attended the Cambridge Academic Conference trip should attend and any others who are curious about the weird and wonderful experiences we can have as humans.

The boys will be expected to read and think about short notes in preparation for each session.

UPCOMING EXCELLENCE TRIPS/EVENTS

Regional Final Bloodhound Car Rocket Competition, Year 7, **Wednesday 2nd May**

Current Affairs Talk – Laura Kuenssberg, BBC News Political Editor, **Tuesday 8th May**

Summer Excellence event (details to follow), **Thursday 21st June**

CLUBS THAT PROMOTE EXCELLENCE

Monday			
1.15 – 1.50pm	Art Club	Years 7-9	AD1 & AD2
4.00 – 5.00pm	Thinking Out of the Box	Years 10-Sixth Form	PS1
5.15 – 5.00pm	Architecture	All Years	L8
Tuesday			
1.00 – 1.30pm	Classics Club	All Years	J9
1.15 – 1.45pm	Fate of the Universe	Year 11	S7
1.15 – 1.45pm	Crest Award Club	Years 8-11	S8
1.15 – 1.50pm	Art Club	Years 10-11	AD2
1.30 – 1.50pm	Economics Society	Sixth Form	TB2
4.00 – 4.45pm	Literary Culture Club	Sixth Form	M5
4.00 – 5.00pm	Biomedical Society	Years 9-Sixth Form	S4
4.05 – 5.15pm	MUN	All Years	TB1
Wednesday			
1.00 – 1.50pm	The Excellent French Society	All Years	J8
1.15 – 1.45pm	Drama Club	All Years	Drama Studio
1.15 – 1.50pm	Art Club	Years 10-11	AD1 & AD2
1.15 – 1.50pm	Book & Film Club	Years 7-10	M3
1.15 – 1.50pm	Philosophy 101	Years 10-11	L8
4.00 – 5.00pm	Coding Club	All Years	MICT
Thursday			
12.55 – 1.25pm	MAT & STEP Lessons	Sixth Form	L3
1.00 – 1.50pm	59 Club	Years 7-10	J7
1.15 – 1.45pm	Italian Club	Years 7-8	J2
1.15 – 1.45pm	Politics Society	Year 10-Sixth Form	TB2
1.20 – 1.50pm	Business Society	Year 11-Sixth Form	TB1
4.00 – 5.00pm	Sixth Form Literature Circle	Sixth Form	M0
4.00 – 5.00pm	Geography Review Society	Sixth Form	M3
4.05 – 5.00pm	UKLO Society	All Years	J3
4.10 – 5.00pm	Ornithology and Wildlife Club	All Years	J8
4.10 – 5.00pm	Debating Club	Years 7-8	PS1
Friday			
12.55 – 1.25pm	Code Breaking & Maths Puzzle club	All Years	L7
1.00 – 1.40pm	Astronomy	Years 7-9	S2
1.00 – 1.50pm	59 Club Upper	Year 11-Sixth Form	J6
1.15 – 1.45pm	Maths Clinic	All Years	L5
1.15 – 1.50pm	Conservation Club	All Years	S8
1.15 – 1.50pm	Art Club	Years 10-11	AD1 & AD2