

The Excellence Newsletter

Summer Term 2021

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to present to you the Summer 2021 Excellence newsletter together with the Excellence Programme.

The level of involvement of pupils in Excellence activities has significantly increased this academic year, and it is a pleasure to see so many of your sons giving up their free time to listen to academic talks or enter competitions. We have been encouraging students to attend events, but parental support has also been key to the increased uptake of Excellence activities. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to welcoming your sons to further events this Summer term.

Reflecting on last term, one of the highlights was our annual Talks-on-the-Hill event that was hosted remotely for the first time. The event brought together our School and local communities for talks on the topic of *La Peste*. We heard thought provoking talks from medical expert Professor Hugh Montgomery, Professor of History Dr Lori Jones, Reverend Andrew Hammond and our very own Head Boy Daniel Wong who impressed all attendees with his talk on the book of '*La Peste*' by Albert Camus.

A very exciting item in this newsletter is a call for speakers for our November 2021 TEDx event. Applications are now open to all pupils, parents and teachers, see details in the poster further in this newsletter.

A reminder that the Excellence talks listed in this newsletter are enrichment provided to all pupils of listed year groups and will take place instead of their usual lessons. We include the details in the newsletter so that you are aware of the guest speakers hosted by the School. However, in the Excellence Programme also attached to this email, is the list of optional events your child can attend and the competitions that they can choose to enter. We encourage pupils and parents to review the programme together and select which events to attend and which competitions to enter.

Yours sincerely,

Dr FWeinberg

GUEST SPEAKERS

Climate extremes | YEARS 9 - 11

Dr. Gabriele Messori

Wednesday 5th May, 11.15am

Gabriele, who holds a PhD from Imperial College in Atmospheric Physics was awarded the 2021 Imperial College Emerging Alumni Award, one of the many awards he has won over the last few years. Gabriele is an atmospheric physicist with a keen interest in the functioning of our atmosphere and its interactions with other components of the Climate System. With his research group, he explores a wide range of climate extremes — from severe windstorms to urban pollution.

We are delighted that Gabriele will be talking to our pupils about Climate extremes and his research.

Mars One and Space travel | YEARS 7 - 9

Bas Landsorp

Thursday 20th May, 11.15am

Bas Lansdorp is an entrepreneur with a passion for ambitious projects. Lansdorp abandoned his PhD research in wind energy at Delft University of Technology to start his first company, Ampyx Power. Ampyx Power develops a novel, cheaper than coal, method of wind energy generation. Lansdorp then sold part of his shares in Ampyx Power to finance the start of *Mars One* in 2011. He is co-founder and CEO of *Mars One*, the Dutch foundation that aimed to land the first human on Mars in 2032. Despite a contract with aerospace titan Lockheed Martin for this mission and others, the project did not go ahead and the *Mars One* project is no longer. Bas is now working on new and exciting projects.

We are delighted to welcome Bas virtually in May, to enlighten our pupils about entrepreneurship, dreams, moving on from failure and the future of space travel.

THE GOLDHAWK LECTURE SERIES | SIXTH FORM

Goldhawk lectures take place weekly for Sixth Form, details of some of the coming sessions can be seen below:

| Date | Speaker | Topic | Year group |
|------------------------|---|--|------------|
| 20 th April | Polar Explorer Author, Speaker, Photographer | The Long Haul - creating a record breaking journey, and a polar career | L6 & U6 |
| 27 th April | Azeem Amir International Blind Footballer | There are no barriers to success | L6 & U6 |
| 4 th May | Jonny Benjamin MBE Mental Health Campaigner | <i>The stranger on the bridge</i> | L6 & U6 |

EXCELLENCE EVENING EVENTS

Excellence Programme



Monarchy

Professor Kate Williams at John Lyon

Tuesday 11th May 2021

6.30pm

Microsoft Teams Excellence Channel

All pupils, parents and staff will be sent a link to attend

Historian and broadcaster Professor Kate Williams looks at the past, present and future of the British Monarchy. A specialist in modern history, royal and constitutional affairs, she has made a number of television programmes for the BBC and other networks, and has become a well-known face on British television, often asked to give her views on the British monarchy. Professor Williams is also an author and academic, who lectures in Modern History at the University of Reading.

Excellence Programme



From Fact to Film to Fiction

Jane Hawking at John Lyon

Tuesday 22nd June 2021

6.30pm

Boyd Campbell Hall

Ticket details TBC

Award-winning writer and teacher Jane Hawking will talk to pupils, parents and staff about her life and career as an academic and writer, including how her autobiographical book, *Travelling to Infinity*, was turned into award-winning movie *The Theory of Everything*, an examination of her relationship with Stephen Hawking, as he was diagnosed with motor neurone disease and rose to global fame as a physicist.

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

TED^x JohnLyonSchool
x = independently
organized TED event

Regeneration

The second TEDxJohnLyonSchool will look at the world of tomorrow — its science, its health, its economics, its identity — with speakers proposing big ideas and solutions to questions that may yet to be asked.

**Are you a John Lyon pupil,
parent, staff member or
an Old Lyonian?**

**Do you have a Big Idea
you want to share?**

**Would you like be part of
the next TEDxJohnLyonSchool?**

If so, please email excellence@johnlyon.org with a title and short summary of the idea you want to share.

Deadline for applications: Tuesday 1st June 2021
Auditions will take place in June

CALL FOR SPEAKERS