



# AIMING HIGH

stretch and support for our talented academic students

**We are committed to extending the academic abilities of all our pupils. Small class sizes, experienced and enthusiastic teachers as well as specialist facilities all help us to broaden our pupils' horizons, elevate their ambitions and deliver learning of the highest quality.**

**In addition, we have a range of programmes and opportunities so our pupils with specific academic talent can be stretched intellectually. Our team of academic staff with specialised responsibilities for academic extension include:**

**Academic Extension Co-ordinator**

**HPQ Co-ordinator**

**EPQ Co-ordinator**

**Academic Scholar and Oxbridge Co-ordinator**



## GENERAL ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND PROGRESS

Pocklington School is proud to support and challenge pupils with a wide array of abilities and talents.

We are particularly proud of this year's GCSE cohort who achieved exceptionally well overall, gaining on average, a third of a grade higher per subject than students of similar abilities in other schools. This 'value-added' is highly significant in the core subjects with students gaining a whole grade higher than expected in English language and the separate sciences, and more than half a grade higher in combined science, English literature and mathematics. This pattern is not confined to the core subjects, with positive 'value added' in a broad range of subjects including art, drama, geography, history, music and PE.

Our teaching staff have excellent subject and exam knowledge alongside a wealth of experience in challenging pupils to gain the highest grades possible. All are approachable and supportive and, on occasions when students require additional help, would be happy to offer one-to-one bespoke support sessions to consolidate learning.

We offer excellent provisions for exam preparation with additional small group revision sessions outside lesson time and extensive revision resources available on our school intranet. In addition, academic extension activities are available to all pupils through our intranet.

Personalised progress reviews are used to monitor each pupil's progress at key points across the academic year, identifying individual strengths and areas for improvement as well as setting bespoke targets.



## ACADEMIC EXTENSION QUALIFICATIONS

Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) is a popular choice for talented academics in Year 9 and Year 10. Pupils attend an after school session every week where they are taught the research methodology useful for university preparation and study. Every pupil is assigned an individual academic mentor to support them through their seven month project period during which pupils conduct investigative research into a subject area of personal interest. The HPQ provides an excellent foundation for the more challenging EPQ qualification that can be undertaken in the Sixth Form.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an academic extension course for students in Year 12 that allows them to follow their own area(s) of interest while gaining credit for it. This is an independently researched project which can take the format of a 5000-word essay or a practical artefact (e.g. artwork, design, performance or script) plus a 1000-word commentary. There are weekly seminar-style taught sessions in small groups to deliver the skills needed for successful completion of the project. In addition, every student has a weekly meeting with their individual supervisor who supports their progress throughout the course. The EPQ is a valuable qualification to teach the skills needed for university study – planning, research, referencing, self-motivation and organisation. EPQs are a Level 3 qualification and are awarded UCAS points, for example an A\* is worth 28 points and a C is worth 16 points.



## ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Our academic departments are keen to stretch the most able pupils in their subjects. Enrichment trips to universities or workplaces are organised in addition to preparation sessions and entry into local and national subject competitions; recent notable successes include the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and Royal Society of Chemistry competitions, the UK Maths and Physics Challenges, the PERSE coding competition and Young Enterprise (a business competition).



## SIXTH FORM SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

This dedicated programme offers further enrichment to our Sixth Form courses. Visiting speakers who are leaders in their fields inspire our students to widen their knowledge beyond their Sixth Form studies. As well as these weekly events pupils are encouraged to attend our popular Careers and Business Network events and Alumni community events, all of which provide an early insight into the importance of business networking.



## MY SUPERCURRICULAR

Sixth Form students have access to 'My Supercurricular', a new platform which will allow them to easily find and access resources to stretch their understanding beyond the taught curriculum. Students can explore a wealth of digital resources, books, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), competitions, lectures and more, to delve deeper into their chosen areas of study. This enriches their academic understanding and exam performance. It also supports personal statements and university applications, particularly to elite institutions such as Oxbridge and the Russell Group.



## ACADEMIC SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

Academic scholarships are awarded on entry into Year 7, Year 9 and Lower Sixth (Year 12). Each age group of academic scholars attend a half-termly scholars' meeting where topics from beyond the taught curriculum are discussed to extend and broaden intellectual thinking. Over the course of a year, a range of academic skills (debating, lateral thinking, teamwork, presentations) are developed through the use of carefully selected extension activities designed to challenge each age group. This offering is alongside teacher-led Teams groups which are used to share opportunities and resources such as external essay competitions, super-curricular reading and online talks, all of which raise our pupils' aspirations and encourage academic curiosity.



## OXBRIDGE PREPARATION PROGRAMME

The Oxbridge Club provides an opportunity for talented academic students to practise key skills at interview. Students will be offered a practise interview with the Headmaster, Governors, external subject specialist or Oxbridge alumni. Weekly meetings offered to pupils in Year 9 and upwards, develop skills in problem-solving, lateral thinking and facing challenges. Valuable resources readily available to the group include suggested appropriate super-curricular reading and academic talks, information about essay competitions and details of webinars from Oxbridge colleagues.



## OXBRIDGE SUBJECT MENTOR PROGRAMME

Each Oxbridge applicant will be allocated a subject specialist mentor for support through the application process. Students should expect to meet with their mentor several times each half term once their application is underway. Guidance is given on the student's personal statement, suitable academic extension and super-curricular activities.





## OXBRIDGE VISITS

Old Pocklingtonians (former pupils) who are currently studying at or have recently studied at Oxford or Cambridge give talks to our current students, providing valuable insight into 'what to expect' throughout the application and beyond. The talks include a Q&A which seeks out information that isn't available on university websites.



## OXBRIDGE TRIPS

Having the opportunity to visit Oxford or Cambridge University is key. Trips to both Universities are arranged by our Oxbridge Co-ordinator who accompanies each trip to ensure the best possible experience is had by all students. The trips introduce students to the huge opportunity on offer as well as inspiring, encouraging and motivating students to challenge themselves academically.

