



Enrichment opportunities

The Abbey Award

Every student has the opportunity to design and complete an individual enrichment programme.

Futurelearn.com

Free online courses from many of the world's leading universities. Courses can offer a taste of university education or be pursued until the end for an impressive grounding in an advanced area.

Competitions

Many universities and Oxford and Cambridge colleges have competitions for individual subjects with a range of challenging and engaging titles.

Gold Crest Award

Students have the opportunity to complete a project that makes an original contribution to a STEM field of study whilst honing their investigative skills and employ the scientific method to conduct their own piece of research.

Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award

Networking Dinner

These annual evenings provide opportunities to hone networking skills.

LVI (Year 12) Conference

All LVI have a day in the summer where they focus on where they would like to be in ten years' time. Students choose which sessions to attend from a selection including practising interview technique, thinking about the effects of having a family, how to build a CV, working abroad, and building resilience, among others.

Young Enterprise

Students explore the world of business by creating, setting up and running their own company. Young Enterprise is an excellent and practical way for young people to get a taste of the world of work and the excitement of running a business.

Subjects Enrichment

Art

- weekly workshops including special sessions on ceramics
- Articulation competition in which students present readings of art works
- Leadership opportunities in lower school clubs
- individual support for students
- twice weekly drop-in sessions for Sixth Formers to make art
- the Art Scholars programme

- e.g. 2020 the Memory Project where Sixth Formers gave their time and skill to produce portraits of children from a Russian orphanage.

Biology

1. Lectures, visitors or events

Annual Jo Trott Memorial Lecture

- This year it was given by Abbey alumna (1990) Ester Hammond, Professor of Molecular Cancer Biology and a Senior Group Leader at the Oxford Institute for Radiation Oncology and she gave a talk entitled 'Oxygen deprivation – good or bad for tumours?'

Competitions or awards

Biology Olympiad competition for UVI

2. Clubs or drop-ins

Biology Clinic for all year groups (every Thursday)

3. Reading lists or research suggestions

Biology in the news and articles on the Biology corridor board (updated every Monday)

Reading lists in the student area

Biological reviews and articles

Biology-related TV programmes and documentaries shown on BBC channels advertised in advance on the Biology board (updated every Monday)

CREST Gold Award

HAPTICS project

Chemistry

- Chemistry Olympiad (UVI)
- Cambridge Chemistry Challenge (LVI)
- CREST Gold
- Reading list, periodicals and other opportunities as published in Interesting Miscellanea
- Drop-in sessions

Classics

- Sixth former study buddies to new LIVs who have not studied Latin before
- Classics Society
 - a. A lecture with an outside speaker each year.
 - b. Last year it was given by Professor Stephen Harrison of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, he looked at the portrayal of Ancient Rome in Hollywood movies.
- We go to plays and museums.
- Modern Greek Club
- Mythology Club
- St John's Essay Competition

Drama

- Drama scholars: programme of theatre visits and extension activities

English

- Departmental Book Club
- University Preparation Lessons
- Creative Writing Society and termly competitions
- Senior Debating
- IB International Literature Day
- Public Speaking e.g. Rotary Public Speaking Competition
- Year group theatre trips

French

- books and resources in the library
- conversation practice with a native speaker
- extension packs with activities for the holidays

Geography

- Field trips
- Overseas Enrichment trip October half term
- RGS Young Geographer of the Year competition
- Earth Day competitions - such as our Plastic free event
- GIS day events
- Lectures at Reading School, Royal Grammar School and universities
- Extension reading and tasks to encourage geographical understanding

Global Politics

- Politics Club - Friday Lunch Time
- Law Society
- Law trip e.g. visits to Reading Crown Court
- Reading list and Politics collection in 6.4 and the Library
- Critical Thinking Workshops

- Trip to Washington DC in 2019

History

- Evidence boxes of Medieval Artefacts are hired from Reading Museum
- Sixth form encouraged to enter either the Vellacott History essay competition from Cambridge or the St Hugh's History essay competition from Oxford.
- There is usually at least one lecture by an external speaker.
- Young Historians Award run by the Historical Association open to all year groups
- History Days at Queen Mary, University of London, offered to the sixth form each year.
- LVI run History club
- History help club offered once a week for all age groups
- Assemblies and school-wide displays marking a range of important historical events. Assemblies presented by LVI historians e.g. 500 years since Martin Luther and the Reformation, 100 years since the 1918 Representation of the People Act
- School-wide events to stimulate historical awareness e.g. Lunchtime quiz on the Russian Revolution with LVI help, Staff and LVI dressing as suffrage campaigners and LVI and teachers from many different departments wearing votes for women sashes in the run-up to the anniversary of the law.

- Holocaust memorial project run with Art department
- Different age groups are offered extension reading e.g. the Lemon Tree about the Arab-Israeli Conflict is a reader for LV. LVI and UVI are offered extension reading in their different papers and Oxbridge applicants are given a comprehensive list of possible extension reading.
- Oxbridge applicants are offered an eight week course, one lunchtime a week which covers big themes in History in a student-led seminar environment. Exam and interview practice is also covered.

Mathematics

- the Senior Maths Challenge
- resources to enhance learning available on estream
- competitions including the University of Southampton's National Cipher challenge
- access to STEP and TMUA papers
- weekly drop-in sessions
- a wide range of podcasts and further reading available in the Learning Journals' Guide
- resources available at [desmos.com](https://www.desmos.com)
- talk planned on Financial Maths by Bill Dalton

Physics

- Various ASPIRE lectures and events, Helping at UIV Engineering Day,
- Royal Holloway College's School Physicist of the Year competition
- Physics club for all ages run by sixth form Physicists, Physics Olympiad competition
- Visits to STEM days, visits to Rutherford Appleton Laboratory science and engineering events for UIV and sixth form, visit to CERN for sixth form Physicists, visit to Medical Physics department of Royal Berks. Hospital, sixth form visit to junior school for Particle Physics presentation by Royal Holloway College.
- Work experience placements at Rutherford Appleton laboratory, HEADSTART courses at various Universities throughout the country. Some students have obtained a Nuffield Bursary in the summer for 4 weeks at Oxford.
- Reading list, and other opportunities published through Interesting Miscellanea
- Biannual visit to CERN in Geneva

Spanish

- Easter trip to Spain with families stay and lessons
- Netflix series and TV series in Spanish
- Mentoring programme for UV
- regular conversation practice
- extra resources (DVDs, books, magazines, etc) in the library
- guidance on extension activities and resources

Charity

- Annual Sixth Form Quiz Night – each year the Sixth Form charity prefects organise a charity quiz night

Weekly Opportunities

- The weekly quiz: each Friday every student takes part in a short, fun current affairs quiz using Kahoot!
- Learning journals: each student is given a journal and encouraged to record their enrichment and reflect on their learning
- Textiles workshops, a drop-in session each week to create and explore textiles
- Young Enterprise programme