



The Sixth Form Beyond the Classroom



LEICESTER
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

Introduction from the Head of Sixth Form



The prospect of joining the Sixth Form at Leicester Grammar is an exciting one. Opportunities to excel are there in abundance. Sixth Form students enjoy their work and lessons, whilst contributing much to school life generally and showing the requisite qualities of leadership and initiative which will stand them in fine stead for university and the world of work. As the senior students in the School, we expect much from you. You will be encouraged to take a lead, to think, to participate in new co-curricular activities, support music, sport, drama and to work as a team with your peers, the staff and the younger students in the school. Education in its broadest sense is the overall aim at this level. New responsibilities as a Prefect, House official, or leader in sport, drama or music await you. Opportunities in other fields such as debating, Young Enterprise, community service, work experience and many others are also there to be seized.

Alongside A level studies, students get the chance to complete an EPQ which is, put simply, a big independent project (the students choose the topic and the title) which earns them a qualification and additional UCAS points. Universities like it because it indicates to them that students are 'university ready', equipped with the vital research methods and the independent learning skills to ensure that they hit the ground running in their first year of further education.

We also run the Ivy House leadership course and, as part of our Short Courses provision, students have the opportunity to explore interests in topic areas outside of the established curriculum, from Controversy and Debate in History, Numbers and Shapes, through to Knitting and Hand Quilting.

Through our Friday Lecture series, our students will hear from a varied programme of guest speakers, including Amnesty International and the CND Peace Organisation. We'll tackle important issues, such as the Syrian refugee crisis and what it's like to live with HIV. We've even got a visit from one of Nelson Mandela's ex-bodyguards scheduled for the New Year, a talk that will explore the thorny history and implications of apartheid in South Africa.

Our wish is that at the end of the Sixth Form you will be able to state that you enjoyed the Sixth Form experience and that you are proud of what you have achieved both in term of results and, perhaps more significantly, in terms of what you have contributed to the whole School community here at Leicester Grammar.

J T Hunt

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The Tutorial System

In the Sixth Form you will be placed in a small form group with pupils from Year 12 and Year 13 and your tutor. Your tutor registers you each morning and deals with day-to-day administration matters. They have oversight of your academic and personal progress and will act as your UCAS referee in year 13.

Instilling Good Work Habits

STUDY SKILLS

The transition from GCSE to Sixth Form can be difficult for some students. The type of work and the pattern of working may be different. In order to help students get the greatest benefit from the Sixth Form, relevant study skills are introduced in the induction course and are developed during tutor periods and through subject teaching.

PRIVATE STUDY PERIODS

These are an important aspect of any Sixth Former's career. Sensible use of this time is encouraged and forms a vital part of the training for the demands of Higher Education later.

In the Lower Sixth private study in the Library is supervised, but students who prove their ability to manage their time and work well will become eligible for study periods at home, where this is deemed appropriate. In the Upper Sixth students are given the opportunity to exercise greater personal initiative, and they can claim study afternoons. All Sixth Form students should spend a great deal of their time outside of lessons in the Library or the Quiet Study Area.

SHOULDERING A WIDE RANGE OF RESPONSIBILITIES AS PREFECTS

At the end of the Year 12 we go through the process of appointing Prefects. Our prefects are led by the two Heads of School and their Deputy Heads of School. Prefects work in teams to carry out duties at break and lunchtime and also help on formal occasions. All younger pupils are expected to respect the prefects and to do as they are asked by them. Any bad behaviour or language may be dealt with by the prefects, but if it is more serious, it may be referred to a member of staff.

HOUSE SYSTEM

Opportunities to lead one of the school's four houses – Dukes, Judges, Masters And Vice-Chancellors

Houses meet regularly to take part in competitions and events in a broad range of activities

Inter House Competitions run throughout the academic year and culminate in the award of The Midland Bank Cup, for overall winners, at Speech Day





Co-Curricular Activities

The Sixth Form experience is about much more than achieving high grades at A-Level, important though this is. Leicester Grammar School Sixth Formers involve themselves in a wide variety of activities:

HOUSE MEETINGS, HOUSE DRAMA & HOUSE MUSIC

Sixth Form are encouraged to represent their House in the varied competitions that run throughout the year, such as Rugby, Netball, Singing and Spelling Bee. They should also make the most of opportunities to take on inspirational and organisational roles for big events such as House Drama and House Music.

Members of the Upper Sixth can apply to become a House Captain to provide a direct input into the week by week running of the House, interacting and liaising with students of all ages in addition to their Head of House.

THE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMME

Either as an alternative to Games or undertaken at another time – further details can be found on the following page.

A WIDE RANGE OF SPORTING ACTIVITIES

Further details are given in the Physical Education & Games section on page 10.

THE SCHOOL MAGAZINE – THE LEICESTRIAN

There are opportunities to join a team of writers and editors who work to prepare the glossy school magazine each year. Work involves a range of activities from interviewing new teachers, retiring teachers and outstanding students, to writing individual pieces on school events. Of course, writers and editors also work under the pressures of deadlines, word limits, quality control and budgets. However, despite being a fairly demanding role, a place on The Leicestrian team is a fantastic opportunity to learn about and contribute to every stage of the production of a professional publication. Students who are not part of the team will still have chances to offer work to the magazine in the form of persuasive essays, creative writing and artwork. The Foundation Day essay competition will provide prize-winning personal essays each year from every form in the school.





AGE UK's befriending service matches an older person with a volunteer who can call for friendly conversation and a listening ear on a regular basis.



Community Service

In the Sixth Form it is possible to undertake a Community Service placement. The aims of this are to:

- provide Sixth Form students with an opportunity to serve the local community and to develop their social awareness;
- give Sixth Form students an opportunity to develop initiative;
- give Sixth Form students an opportunity to identify their own development needs and to manage their own learning;
- develop links between the School and the local community.

For those without school sports team commitments, Community Service can be undertaken in place of afternoon Games, or at other suitable times in addition to Games. It is expected that the placement will be for a full academic year although it is reviewed at the end of each term.

The scheme provides an excellent opportunity to do voluntary work in the local community and foster initiative, confidence and self-reliance. Students are encouraged to find their own suitable placement. The coordinator at school will then confirm the arrangements and maintain regular contact with the student and placement supervisor to ensure that everything is going well. The most popular placements involve working in primary schools, nurseries and charity shops, although placements in hospitals, animal rescue centres and similar centres are also chosen.

The supervisor is asked to provide a written reference at the end of the placement. The school coordinator passes these reports onto the student's UCAS referee, who in turn may refer to this feedback in UCAS references and end of year reports. Students may find that their Community Service experiences provide a useful addition to their personal statements.

What's the Sixth Form like?

'The Sixth Form has given me some of my best memories of the School. The work gets a lot more challenging but the atmosphere becomes more relaxed.'

Teachers treat you and connect with you in a completely different way and lessons are more fun and more in-depth. I hope to study Law at university and have received a great deal of support and advice making me feel very prepared. I will definitely miss the Sixth Form when it's time for me to leave'

The future?

'I hope to study Law at Oxford'

JOHN

Courses: English, French, History, RS



Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Scheme

The award scheme is made of five sections. The first section is organised by the school and involves a compulsory weekly training session in order to prepare students. The rest of the sections are organised by individual students.

EXPEDITIONS Complete a four day expedition as part of a team. Practice expeditions are in the Peak district during the Easter holidays and the qualifying expedition is in the Lake District during the summer holidays.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY Take part in a sport or physical activity (e.g. circuit training, rowing, football, rugby, hockey or dancing), usually as part of a club or organized group.

SKILLS Follow a skill or hobby. Examples include driving skills, jewellery design, music, choir, cookery, language lessons or ICT lessons.

VOLUNTEERING Practical service which benefits part of your community such as sports coaching, helping at Beavers/Rainbows or in a charity shop. Some Sixth Formers help run the Year 11 Bronze groups for their volunteering activity.

RESIDENTIAL Living away from home for a minimum of five days/four nights as part of a training course, volunteering project or similar with no one you previously know. Examples of this have included helping at a residential camp for disabled children or attending a residential drama camp.

One of the physical, volunteering or skill activities must last for a minimum of eighteen months, another for twelve months and the third for six months. This is subject to change if you have completed Silver Award elsewhere. The volunteering section must last for at least twelve months. All activities must be supervised by a suitable adult and signed off appropriately in your award scheme booklet and on the eDofE website.

You do not need to have completed the Bronze or Silver Awards in order to start the Gold Award.





Young Enterprise

Young Enterprise offers students a unique practical experience in running their own business and is offered as a co-curricular activity in association with advisers from local industry. Young Enterprise counts not just as enrichment, it is also highly valued by university admissions tutors and future employers, as the program enhances employability and promotes entrepreneurship, leadership, team work, organisation, innovation, problem-solving and communication skills.

Young Enterprise companies are live companies which give students the opportunity to set up, operate and liquidate their own business over an eight-month period. As such, it demands commitment, with students attending weekly board meetings and getting involved in a range of business-related activities (sales fairs, product development meetings, promotions, etc.).

Young Enterprise achievers compete against other teams and schools at local, county, regional, national and international level. Young Enterprise teams can win a number of prizes e.g. most profitable company, best marketing strategy, best company report, best presentation, best community involvement, etc. at all these levels.



NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICES

Leicester Grammar School has been a proud supporter of the National Citizen Service for many years. The scheme encourages students to give up some of their time to participate in a range of outdoor activities such as canoeing, rock climbing and sailing; to gain experience of group activities in a business type challenge and to help in community based action such as environmental projects.

To us, this has always seemed a tremendous opportunity for all our students and we have been lucky to have many visits to school from the staff at NCS who do a tremendous job in encouraging the students here to seize new opportunities and, in particular, for those who possibly do not do many extra-curricular activities in school, to go outside of their comfort zone and do something different and of value to them as individuals and to their community.

We know that all the students who have participated in the scheme have gained a huge amount from it, way beyond a certificate from the Prime Minister and the chance to include details about NCS on any future UCAS application. We will continue to encourage our students to support NCS. Being awarded the title of Champion School 2016/2017 is a source of great pride for us all at Leicester Grammar School.



Drama

Students wishing to perform should audition for the main school production, which takes place in December, and of course should take part in the biennial House Drama competition, which is directed by students. There are also opportunities to get involved backstage or front of house. In addition, our technician runs a vibrant student Technical Team, which is responsible for the technical aspects of all examined performances and productions, as well as a number of high profile and regular school events. Students also have the opportunity to develop their performance skill and theatrical knowledge in LAMDA lessons, which are taught before, after and throughout the school day by experienced professionals.



Music

The Music Department boasts an impressive array of activities for sixth form students. The Chamber Choir, Big Band, Folk Group, Symphonic Wind Band and First Orchestra in particular are geared towards all senior students with an interest in music-making and perform regularly in the school as well as more widely in the local community.

The biennial musical production with the First Orchestra is often a highlight, as is the Big Band's trip to Leicester's Little Theatre. Each year, there are opportunities for the most able students to perform a concerto with the Bardi Symphony Orchestra and during most terms there are concerts by LGS pupils at local primary schools as part of our partnerships programme.

Lessons are available at the school with our team of expert instrumentalists who also run smaller bands and chamber groups. In addition, our concert programme is enhanced by visiting musicians who often offer masterclasses for pupils.

Recent performances at the school have included: West Side Story; We Will Rock You; The Syd Lawrence Orchestra, Lunasa and the Leicestershire Chorale.



Academic Enrichment

As students look ahead to university applications, we encourage them to expand their understanding of subjects by taking advantage of the many super-curricular activities run in school and help guide students to seek their own academic enrichment outside of school.

A number of clubs within school help students to expand their own understanding, including MedSoc, English Extension, Physics and Engineering Extension, Chemistry Challenge Club, The Business and Economics Society, Journalism Clubs and Debating.

Some activities prepare students to take part in national and international competitions, including The International Chemistry Olympiad, Cambridge University Chemistry Challenge and Young Enterprise. We have had an excellent record of success in these three competitions, including Gold awards in the Chemistry competitions, National Final placement for Young Enterprise and a BASE National Final place this academic year. Teams are also entered for the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge (and its follow on competitions the British Mathematical Olympiad or Senior Kangaroo, for students with qualifying scores).

Sixth Form students frequently take a lead in leading clubs for younger years, including STEM Club, Classics Club and a new Philosophy Society.

Students are encouraged to independently enter academic competitions outside of school, many of which are advertised in the half-termly Enrich newsletter.

Recent successes include:

- 1st place in the Trinity College Cambridge Linguistics Essay Prize (2021)
- A shortlisted video in the University of Oxford's 'Unsung Heroes of Science' video competition, which won the Audience Award for most-watched video. (2021)

The Fresh Minds Club is also an option for Year 12 students. This club supports students to complete a STEM research project for a Gold Crest Accreditation. Along the way students work with leading universities, industry experts and enter international competitions. Last year, two sixth form students were named runners-up for the Siemens Award for Digital Skills with their Recommendation Engine, as part of the Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineering Fair.



Physical Education & Games

In addition to timetabled lessons in academic subjects all Sixth-Form will also be timetabled for one afternoon per week of Games.

We have six major sports at school, with Hockey, Netball, Tennis, Athletics and Cricket for girls, alongside Rugby, Hockey, Tennis, Athletics and Cricket for boys. Our teams have a busy schedule of training and fixtures, and we aim to put out at least a 1st and 2nd team for each of our major sports. We also run several other minor sports, including badminton and table tennis.

Students not selected for major sports squads choose between Games and Community Service

In Games students can select on an option basis (done in termly blocks) from the following activities:

Advent & Lent Terms

Hockey
Soccer
Badminton
Fitness Suite
Step Aerobics

Swimming
Tennis
Table Tennis
Ultimate Frisbee
Basketball
Cricket

Trinity Term

Cricket
Fitness Suite
Softball
Aerobics
Hockey
Swimming

Tennis
Ultimate Frisbee
Basketball
Trampoline
Table Tennis

We also offer some sports off site, subject to student interest and staff availability.

Students participating in Games will be expected to wear the appropriate footwear and school PE/Games kit:

Outdoor Activities

School Rugby Shirt
Black Rugby Shorts (boys)
School Navy Games Skirt (girls)

School Tracksuit
Amber Games Socks

Indoor Activities

House Shirt
Blue PE Shorts
School Tracksuit

In addition to representative sport, we encourage all members of the Sixth Form to participate in a wide variety of co-curricular clubs and activities on offer.

Ask any member of the PE Department for details.



Career Development

The Career Development Centre within the Library holds a wealth of career information on the full range of post-16 and post 18 options. Every student has access via a login to the Morrisby careers platform where they will find up to date and detailed career and job information and links to current live course and apprenticeship vacancies. The School has a fully qualified Careers Adviser who is available to offer one-to-one career guidance to students. Special care is taken with regards to the guidance of Sixth Formers in their A-Levels, particularly in relation to their university or Higher/Degree Apprenticeship options and their progress into the world of work. Industry-related career events are held to support students' decision-making at this key transition stage and students and parents are encouraged to attend.

THE SIXTH FORM CAREERS PROGRAMME

- Lower Sixth Form individual and group interviews
- Careers sessions on UCAS and wider options post 18
- Advice on university/college choice/Higher and Degree Apprenticeships/employment
- Upper Sixth Form individual mock interviews
- Preparation for graduate recruitment

- Preparation for applications to Higher and Degree Apprenticeships and employment
- Interview technique support
- A-Level results service from mid-August
- Preparation for UCAS applications
- Careers advice on leaving school
- Careers lessons within Life Education
- Visiting speakers from industry

CAREERS FAIR

Industry and other career organisations are invited to send representatives to take part in the Fair, so that both parents and students have an opportunity to discuss possible future careers with experts in a variety of fields. This takes place every two years with our most recent fair being in September 2019.

WORK RELATED LEARNING

Work related events are delivered by LEBC and virtual and actual work experience opportunities are encouraged.

GUIDANCE

Access to careers guidance is available throughout a student's time in the school. Morrisby psychometric profiling is used to support careers guidance.



AQA Extended Project Qualification

What is the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)?

We understand that you, along with universities and employers, value a student's ability to research and analyse material independently. Promoting independent learning is also central to the ethos of the AQA Baccalaureate (AQA Bacc) and is gained through the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Universities support and value the EPQ as evidence of a student's ability to use a range of skills that are vital for successful study in higher education. The EPQ:

- gives students the opportunity to **choose their own topic**
- makes students **responsible for their own learning** and development
- **inspires and motivates** students – completing the project gives them greater confidence and a sense of achievement.
- teaches new skills, such as **independent research, project management, reflection and self-directed learning**
- awards **70 UCAS points for an A***

How is the EPQ assessed?

Students are assessed on their ability to manage, develop, record and realise their projects. If your students are already taking the EPQ with another awarding body they can still sit the AQA Bacc. The EPQ is graded on an A*–E scale; with the grade contributing to the level of AQA Bacc awarded.

Students can also take the EPQ as a stand-alone qualification or as a compulsory element of our Advanced Diplomas.

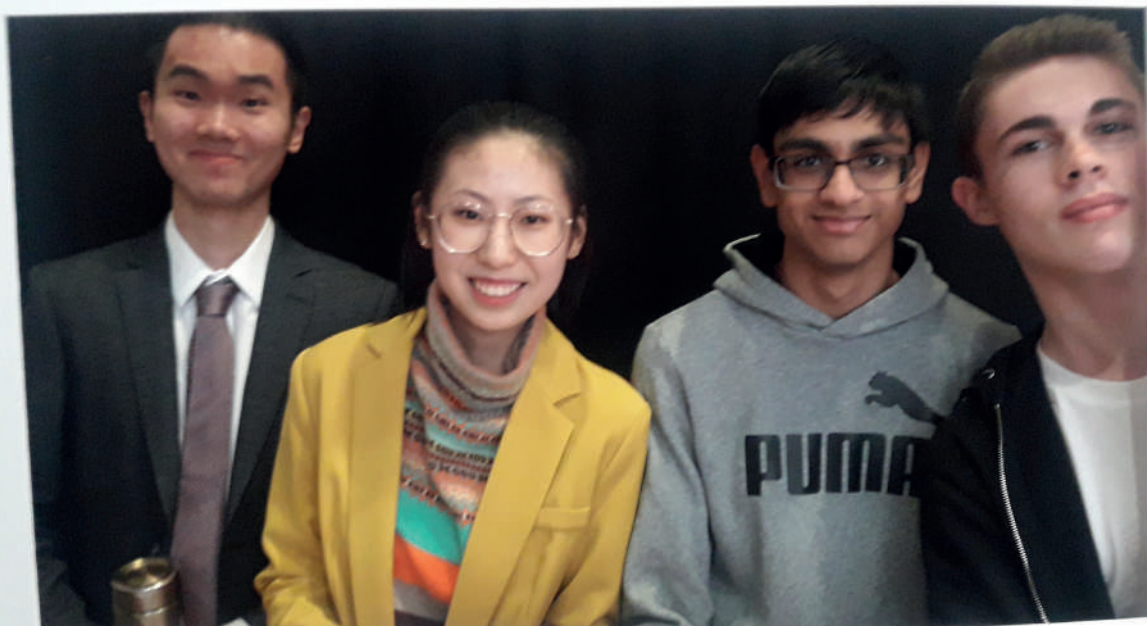
EPQ allows each student to embark on a largely self-directed and self-motivated project. Students must choose a topic, plan, research and develop their idea and decide on their finished product.

We encourage creativity and curiosity. A project topic may be directly related to a student's main study programme, but should look beyond the specification. A finished product may take the form of a:

- research based written report
- production*
(eg: charity event, fashion show or sports event etc)
- an artefact*
(eg: piece of art, a computer game or realised design)

*A written report must accompany these options.

#youdothemaths



#youdothemaths

Senior Debating Competition

This competition has run for several years. All Sixth Formers are invited to participate, both as competitors and members of the floor. The motions normally require a grasp of contemporary issues as well as ethical and moral perspectives. Involvement will be tremendously beneficial.



Local & National Competitions

Each year in Chemistry around a dozen Year 12 and Year 13 students are tutored for and subsequently enter the **International Chemistry Olympiad** whilst many more Year 12 students attempt the **Cambridge University Chemistry Challenge**. In both competitions, we have an excellent record of success in achieving Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards with a recent student coming in the top 0.7% nationally. Additionally we take part in University Challenge style competitions for Years 11 to 13. We also enter the **Nuffield Research Project** for Year 12 students, and participate in university hosted Chemistry Camps for Year 10 students and Salters competitions for Year 9. A combined team of Year 9, 10 and 11 students also take part in the Top of the Bench competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Schools' Analyst competition at Nottingham University. Our record of achievement in these competitions against major independent and state schools is outstanding.

The school also regularly participates in the **Biology Olympiad, Physics Olympiad, UKMT Senior Maths Challenge** (and its follow on competitions the **British Mathematical Olympiad or Senior Kangaroo**, for students with qualifying scores), and inter-school competitions in fields such as Mathematics and Debating. Opportunities also exist to enter essay competitions in English and Classics.

Competitions in business, the media, debating and other areas such as University essay competitions are well publicised throughout the school.





Student Support Group

The Student Support Group provides an opportunity to be trained by a qualified counsellor to mentor pupils in the Lower School. The Student Support Group offers support and advice relating to pupils' personal issues, organisational skills, difficulties with homework etc.

It also runs a lunchtime homework club for Lower School pupils twice each week. Student Support Group members can also offer advocacy between individual pupils and teaching staff to resolve issues. Members also liaise with Mrs Ewington, Director of Co-curricular and Wellbeing, and the Year Heads.

VISITING SPEAKERS

In addition to guest speakers arranged as part of the Friday Lectures course during the Lower Sixth, over the course of the academic year a number of academics across all subject areas are invited in to talk to students in Years 11, 12 and 13 about topics of current interest. Students are encouraged to attend talks outside of their subject specialisms as a way of broadening their education.

What's the Sixth Form like?

'Being in the Sixth Form is hard work but taking the subjects you love makes it more enjoyable'

Most enjoyable aspects of life in the Sixth Form?

'I think one of the best aspects of Sixth Form is the attitude of the teachers who begin to treat you like adults'

The future? *'I am going to study Theology at university'*

LAURA

Courses: Art, English, RS



Charities Committee

The Charity Committee is for those members of the Sixth Form who want to take a proactive role within the school to raise awareness and funds for charities who really value our support.

Members attend regular meetings to organise and run events throughout the school year. They will be expected to take the initiative to research charities worthy of support as well as to show leadership in coordinating varied events. From cake sales to discos, fun runs to balls, members of the Charity Committee can make a big difference. Their actions and hard work can positively affect the wider community, as well as raising awareness within the school context.

What's the Sixth Form like?

'The Sixth Form is a thoroughly enjoyable experience easily topping all other years in the school. The greater freedom and responsibility we are given are two things which really enhance my school experience, both academically and socially, and access to the café and the gym is certainly a bonus.'

The future?

'I hope to study History and French at university.'

DAVE

Courses: English Literature, French, History

What's the Sixth Form like?

'The Sixth Form is really good. It's challenging and hard work but it is an opportunity to study in more depth subjects that interest you. Being at the top of the School there are lots of activities to take part in and opportunities to pursue.'

The future? *'I am going on to study Biomedicine at university'*

EMILY

Courses: Biology, History, Maths

WHAT'S THE SIXTH FORM LIKE?

'The student teacher relationship is a more friendly one'

'A warm welcoming atmosphere'

'Never a dull moment'
'Always someone to help with any difficulties'

'An encouraging atmosphere for study'

'More freedom'

'More initiative'

'It's a great experience'

'Challenging & rewarding'

'Encouraged to express ideas'

'Teachers are allies to assist with your learning'

'An encouraging atmosphere for study'



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