



Scholars' Programme

2024-25



Culford

Welcome to the Scholars' Programme for 2024-25



At Culford, we believe that every pupil should make the most of their personal gifts. Our learning ethos which is to be

flexible, innovative, dynamic and resilient is aptly supported by our extensive Scholars' Programme.

We identify pupils who show high ability and potential in a particular subject or discipline and provide them with added opportunities to explore further into the curriculum and beyond. No matter what a pupil's talents or interests are, these will be identified, valued and nurtured. This enables the pupil to become a creative thinker who explores possibilities beyond assumptions, problem-solves and generates ideas, an innovator.

The Scholars' Programme overseen by Christopher Smith, Head of Physics, consists of Oxbridge-style tutorials, presentations, workshops and debates to help develop pupils' curiosity and critical thinking. Discussions around current affairs, weekly quizzes and research projects ensure pupils are up-to-date with topical issues and help them build the skills and attributes to prepare them for life and work in the 21st century. GCSE and A Level scholars complete an Edexcel GCSE research project and a level three research project respectively, on any topic they are passionate about, with academic mentors. The experience of writing an extended dissertation, or producing a suitable musical, dramatic or artistic composition, is good experience of university-style study and clear evidence to top universities of academic interest in a relevant subject. Such learning should also be a stimulating experience in its own right as should attending the programme of events laid out over the following pages. These all work together to enable

pupils to become dynamic independent learners who can effectively participate in learning activities either as an individual or in a team.

We put together a wide range of interesting topics in our annual programme of speakers, allowing scholars to experience diverse academic areas presented by specialists and experts. The following pages outline the breadth of topics we are offering for 2023-24, ranging from biological science, consultancy, linguistics, sports journalism, pharmaceutical, music and history. These enable pupils to become reflective thinkers about the world that they live in. Scholars also experience further lunchtime seminars on a range of topics given by Heads of Academic Departments enabling pupils to become more flexible in their learning journey.

Each scholar is paired with a staff mentor to ensure their continual development and support throughout their time at Culford.

They will have regular meetings to set targets, review and make the most of the opportunities on offer. Our scholars are role models within the school and set an example for others in their conduct and attitude. They play an active role in life at Culford, upholding our values and ethos and acting as ambassadors for the school. As such, scholars are expected to attend all scholars' events as their first priority.

I hope this brochure will whet the appetite of our scholars, therefore, and leave them keen to be involved.

Christopher Smith
Head of Scholars and Head of Physics

FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2024

Scholars' Seminar

'Bodies, Books, and Bandages: Why bother with the Medical Humanities'

Speaker: Hannah Twinberrow-Hirst



Hannah is a PhD student at the University of York, researching untold narratives of disability. Her path to academia was unconventional; after initially studying Dentistry at the University of Bristol, she had to withdraw due to ill health. She spent several years adapting to life as a disabled person, during which she worked with a charity in South Africa and taught science in the UK. Once her health stabilised, Hannah pursued a BA in English at the University of Cambridge. This was followed by an MA in Medical History & Humanities at the University of York, funded by a Wellcome Trust

Scholarship for her research on queer, disabled protagonists in Victorian novels.

Hannah is a published academic and speaker on equality, diversity, and inclusion, contributing to institutions like the National Archives and presenting on disability-related topics. Her current research explores overlooked voices in disability literature, combining Medicine, History, Sociology, and Literature. In her interactive sessions, Hannah introduces the field of Medical History & Humanities, shares intriguing medical facts, and discusses the importance of storytelling in understanding disability.

Time: 16:00

Venue: Billiard Room

FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER 2024

Scholars' Seminar

'Organisational Culture - Finding Great Places to Work and Learn'

Speaker: Josh Fox



Josh Fox was Head of Physics and Science during his time teaching at Culford (2012-2022). He achieved a Master's degree in Educational Leadership and School Improvement from Cambridge and has since been involved with teacher training, writing flipped-learning curricula for science and is part of a team establishing an international online school.

Having worked, managed and led in many establishments across different industries throughout his career, Josh became fascinated with what it is that makes a great place to work. Carrying out research into school culture during his time at Cambridge led him to look deeper into the way we feel about the places we work and study, and how all members of an organisation can influence this.

This session will explore the conscious and subconscious elements of how we feel about the organisations to which we belong and how they might influence our future choices. This is an interactive session, so please bring your opinions, your phones and an open mind!

Time: 16:00

Venue: Billiard Room

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2024

Scholars' Seminar

'The Unexpected Amidst a dark, very cold, Arctic winter'

Speaker: Alex Hibbert



Alex Hibbert is the world record-holding polar traveller who has skied further on an unsupported Arctic journey than anyone in history, and is one of only 11 people to have broken the polar unsupported 1000-mile barrier.

He read Biological Sciences at the University of Oxford, including fieldwork studying wolf behaviour, and has subsequently led Arctic projects almost every year. Alex has been interviewed live for all major news networks, has written three books, and is a prolific speaker for clients such as Rolls-Royce and the BBC. He has been a recent guest speaker at the Oxford Union, and has an

online subscriber-base exceeding 100,000 people.

Time: 16:00

Venue: Billiard Room

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER 2024

Scholars' Seminar

'Jet Setters: Cutting-Edge Technologies for Jet Engine Manufacturing'

Speaker: Christine Hannon



Christine Hannon is a Chartered Engineer with a strong background in Aerospace Engineering, holding a Master's in Aeronautical and Aerospace Engineering and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Leeds. Since 2011, she has been involved in Aerospace Manufacturing, bridging the gap between University research and industry to drive innovation. At Rolls-Royce, Christine is an Analytical Design Specialist focusing on tooling and assembly technologies. She also manages research programs on manufacturing innovation, digital technologies and sustainability,

collaborating with internal teams and external partners. With extensive experience in academia and industry, Christine is passionate about inspiring the next generation of engineers.

In this session, Christine will guide you through the fascinating world of jet engine manufacturing, exploring innovative technologies that are revolutionising the industry. From 3D printing components to developing advanced materials that withstand extreme temperatures, she will demonstrate how science, engineering, and creativity power the engines of the future. This session challenges you to think big, innovate boldly, and imagine yourself as a designer of next-generation jet engines. Perfect for those eager to see how cutting-edge technology is pushing the boundaries of what's possible in aviation.

Time: 16:00

Venue: Billiard Room

FRIDAY 17 JANUARY 2025

Scholars' Seminar

'Theatre Pathways: How to pursue a career in the Arts'

Speaker: David Whitney



David is the Head of Creative Learning at Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds, with a career rooted in freelance Theatre Making and Creative Learning. He has worked with venues such as Sheffield Crucible, ALRA North and The New Wolsey Theatre. Previously he was the Learning and Community Engagement Manager at The Stained Glass Museum and Creative Learning Co-Ordinator at Babylon Arts. He also served as Creative Learning Officer at Hull Truck Theatre and was an Associate Artist at Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds from 2015-2018.

Specialising in work with young people and communities, David has led learning departments nationwide. Passionate about community engagement, he has run workshops and projects with diverse groups including SEN groups, the elderly, and charities like The YMCA and Women's Refuge. Trained at Italia Conti Academy, David transitioned from acting and music to directing, focusing on ensemble-based projects. He has trained with Gecko Theatre through the Regional Theatre Young Directors Scheme and collaborated with companies like Pilot Theatre. A member of The Young Vic Genesis Director's Network and JMK Trust Regional Directors Scheme, David supports performers in exploring character and motive. He also works as a Magician, Mind-Reader, and is a member of The Magic Circle.

Time: 16:00

Venue: Billiard Room

FRIDAY 14 MARCH 2025

Scholars' Seminar

'The Complete guide to Clinical Oncology: a Phenomenally Rewarding Job'

Speaker: Dr Tom Roques



Dr Tom Roques trained as a clinical oncologist in London and Vancouver before becoming a consultant in Norwich in 2004. He specialises in head and neck, thyroid, upper gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary cancers as well as lymphoma radiotherapy. He has particular interests in technical radiotherapy and doctor-patient decision-making.

From 2018 to 2021, he was Medical Director for Professional Practice for Clinical Oncology at the Royal College of Radiologists. He was Oncology Service Director in Norwich from 2010-2016. He has been Chair of the Anglia East Head and Neck Cancer and Thyroid Cancer multidisciplinary teams since 2005, radiotherapy lead for Norwich and was chair of the Anglia Alliance Radiotherapy Board from 2013-19.

He is one of the four authors of the *Red Book* (Practical Radiotherapy Planning) and has written many other book chapters, as well as the 2017 RCR guideline on radiotherapy target volume definition and peer review.

Dr Roques's tenure as Vice-President, Clinical Oncology at the RCR is 2022-2025.

Time: 16:00

Venue: Billiard Room

FRIDAY 2 MAY 2024

Scholars' Seminar

'Crafting a Career in Communications: Your Future in Marketing, Media and Creative'

Speaker: Sue Keogh



Cambridge communications consultant Sue Keogh will discuss how her career has moved from radio to digital, agency to consultancy. The session will focus on the skills and outlook that will hold you in good stead, whatever changes are on the horizon in the communications sector, from social media to AI.

Sue Keogh is the Founder of Sookio, a communications consultancy in Cambridge. She works with senior leadership teams who value an external perspective on their communications, bringing fresh energy and 25+ years of industry expertise to help them think beyond

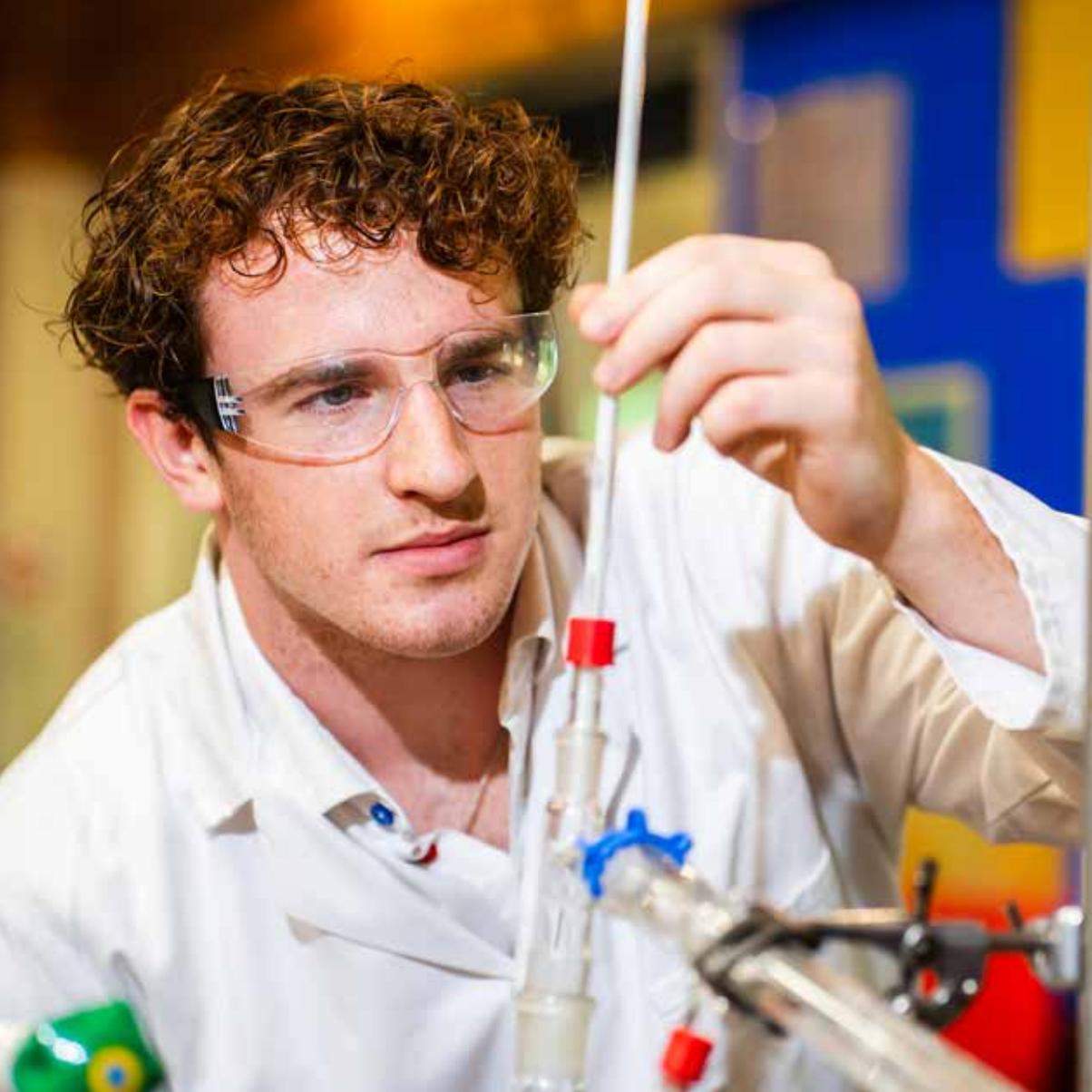
the structures of the organisation.

A recognised specialist in digital content, Sue has worked closely with institutions including the BBC, ITV, Government Digital Service and the University of Cambridge, and led Sookio as a highly successful digital marketing agency for 16 years.

Host of the Communication Untangled podcast, Fellow of the RSA, and a judge at the National Business Women's Awards, Sue draws on her extensive industry and business experience to solve critical communications challenges now, and in the future. sookio.com

Time: 16:00

Venue: Billiard Room



ACADEMIC SCHOLARS' ANNUAL PROGRAMME

Throughout each term:

Oxbridge-Style Tutorials with Academic Tutors: Reading, Current Affairs, Academic Research, Critical Analysis, Presentations, Debates

FOURTH FORM TO LOWER SIXTH

Lunch-Time Academic Workshops: Overseen by Heads of Department

FOURTH FORM TO FIFTH FORM

Leadership and Life Skill Lessons and Learning for Life Seminars

ALL YEARS

Study Skills (focused on school values), Seminars and Workshops

FOURTH FORM TO LOWER SIXTH

Edexcel Independent Research Project: Detailed Research Project on a topic of choice (equivalent to half a GCSE)

LOWER FIFTH

UCAS Tutorials: Preparation for University

SIXTH FORM

Subject-Specific Enrichment Activities: Societies, Clubs, Talks, Trips and Field-Courses

ALL YEARS: IN SUBJECT DEPARTMENTS

Academic Seminars: Guest Speakers (see enclosed)

ALL YEARS

Scholars' Termly Debate

ALL YEARS

Scholars' Termly General Knowledge Competition

ALL YEARS

TUTORIALS AND DEBATES

Academic scholars are required to attend Oxbridge-style tutorials each term run by year-group scholar tutors. Subjects are discussed via presentations and debates; topics include academic research, reading, current affairs, UCAS applications to universities and interview skills. There are also termly debates and termly General Knowledge competitions. GCSE pupils also experience further lunchtime enrichment discussions run by heads of department.

FURTHER TERMLY EVENTS AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

AUTUMN TERM 2024:

TED-Style Seminars: Given by Scholars
ALL YEARS

Scholars' Assembly and Reading Tutorials ALL YEARS

COA Further Education and Career Feedback and Interviews UPPER FIFTH

Independent Learning Conference and COA Career Questionnaire FIFTH AND SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form Choices Forum: Presentations and Parents' Meetings SIXTH FORM

Edexcel Independent Research Project: Detailed Research Project on a Topic of Choice
(equivalent to half a GCSE)
LOWER FIFTH

Unifrog Careers Analysis and Reflection
LOWER FIFTH

Presentation Skills: Training with External Assessments SIXTH FORM

AUTUMN TERM CONTINUED...

Trip to Oxford University
UPPER FIFTH

University and Beyond: Presentations and Guest Speakers
SIXTH FORM

Centigrade Higher Education Questionnaire and Interview Feedback
SIXTH FORM

SPRING AND SUMMER TERM 2025

Culford Independent Research Project (CIRP): Preparation and guidance SIXTH FORM

Interview Skills: Training with External Assessments SIXTH FORM

Oxbridge & Higher Tier University Conference FIFTH AND SIXTH FORM

Aspirant Oxbridge Conference: Epsom Downs Racecourse FIFTH AND SIXTH FORM

CIRP Presentations SIXTH FORM

Life after Culford Conference: Careers, Apprenticeships, University, Gap Years, Enterprise
LOWER SIXTH

UCAS National Exhibition SIXTH FORM

COA Further Education Questionnaire
LOWER FIFTH

Culford Scholars and Careers Networking Event
ALL YEARS



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