



# Scholars' Programme

2021-22



**Culford**

## Welcome to the Scholars' Programme for 2021-22



Scholars are in a privileged position at Culford, both in their status and because of the financial

awards they receive. We expect them to show real commitment to the academic life of the school, not just by working to their own benefit, but also by being academic leaders in their subject areas and advocates for their passions.

The Scholars' Programme is overseen by the Deputy Head and comprises a series of Oxbridge-style tutorials, workshops, debates, holiday reading, projects, presentations, seminars, critical thinking, study skills guidance and trips designed to inspire our most able pupils to achieve their full academic potential. The programme supplements scholars' normal

academic studies and subject-specific enrichment activities, and is excellent preparation for the mixture of reading, lectures and tutorials that scholars will meet at university. Scholars are expected to attend all events as their first priority unless excused by the Deputy Head. In addition, all pupils in the Senior School are welcome to come to the majority of the events and are encouraged to do so.

We put together a wide range of interesting topics in our annual programmes 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 2021/22 - from astronomy, history, medicine, maths, psychology to ecology, global warming, music and education. Scholars also experience further lunchtime seminars on topics such as great composers, astronomy, evolution, and recent scientific developments, given by Heads of Academic Departments.

GCSE and A Level scholars complete an Edexcel GCSE research project and our own Sixth Form 'Culford Independent 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, however, be a stimulating experience in its own right: as should attending the programme of events laid out over the following pages. I hope this brochure will whet the appetite of our scholars, therefore, and leave them keen to be involved.

**John Guntrip BSc PhD**  
Deputy Head





**FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER**

**Scholars' Seminar**

**'It's Nothing Personal'**

**Speaker: Elliot Philips**



Elliot Phillips is a Graduate Business Psychologist with a BSc in Psychology and MSc in Occupational Psychology. Despite having a passion for academia, Elliot believes that psychology is most useful when its insights are applied to real world scenarios.

He now works for Psychological Consultancy Ltd, a firm that specialises in psychometric solutions for employee selection and engagement, as well as personal, team, and leadership development.

**Time: 16:00**

**Venue: Billiard Room**

All Scholars and Exhibitioners

All pupils welcome

**FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER**

**Scholars' Seminar**

**'The challenges and future of Health Care'**

**Speaker: Diane Last**

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (WSFT) provides hospital and some community health care services to the population of west Suffolk and is an associate teaching hospital of the University of Cambridge. We serve a predominantly rural geographical area of roughly 600 square miles with a population of around 280,000.

The 430-bed West Suffolk Hospital is a district general hospital at our main site in Bury St Edmunds and has a variety of services and departments. These include general medicine, surgery, maternity and paediatrics. There is a purpose-built Macmillan Unit for the care of people with cancer, a dedicated eye treatment centre and a day surgery unit where children and adults are treated.

The Trust has a turnover of £200 million and employs just over 3,000 staff. A variety of professions are employed to work across the clinical and non-clinical areas.

**Time: 16:00**

**Venue: Billiard Room**

All Scholars, Exhibitioners and Pupils Welcome





## FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER

### Scholars' Seminar

'To Mach 5 and Beyond: A Career in Aerospace'

Speaker: Sophie Harker



Sophie Harker is a Senior Serodynamicist at BAE Systems, working on developing future Flight Control technologies for Team Tempest. She has run analysis of fast jet future concept aircraft and was responsible for the company's hypersonic and spaceplane concept development, working closely with Reaction Engines and the application of SABRE.

Sophie is one of the youngest engineers to ever achieve Chartered Engineer status with the RAeS, at just 25 years old. She is an active STEM ambassador and inspirational public communicator, setting up a non-profit organisation to expand the reach of STEM ambassadors. She has received commendations in the form of the SEMTA Graduate of the Year 2017, Top 50 Women in Engineering Under 35 2017, the Bee Beamont Award 2017, the Sir Henry Royce Medal 2018, IET's Young Woman Engineer of the Year 2018, the RAEng Young Engineer of the Year 2019 and the RAeS Young Person's Achievement Award.

**Time: 16:00**

**Venue: Billiard Room**

All Scholars and Exhibitors  
All pupils welcome

## FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER

### Scholars' Seminar

'What I Learned at Culford and some of the things I should have, but didn't!'

Speaker: Edward Libbey



After leaving Culford and studying Chemistry at Cambridge, Edward began his international career with BP, working across the UK, Europe and the USA. He moved back to the USA to run Whatman's North American business and after setting up an electricity trading business there which he ultimately chaired, he settled back in Norfolk 20 years ago.

In recent years he has managed international executive recruitment projects, mentored many executives as well as working as a non-executive for the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Education. His final substantive role was as Chair of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn.

**Time: 16:00**

**Venue: Billiard Room**

All Scholars and Exhibitors  
All pupils welcome



## FRIDAY 21 JANUARY

### Scholars' Seminar

**'Why Understanding the History of the British Empire Matters'**

**Speaker: Sarah Longair**

Sarah is a Senior Lecturer in the History of Empire at the University of Lincoln. Her research focuses upon the British Empire in the Indian Ocean world in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with a focus upon material and visual culture.

She studied history at Oxford and then worked in museums and galleries for several years, including eleven years at the British Museum in the Learning Department and the Africa section. She undertook her PhD at Birkbeck, University of London, part time alongside her work at the BM, and examined the creation of museums in colonial East Africa.



**Time: 16:00**

**Venue: Billiard Room**

All Scholars and Exhibitioners

All pupils welcome

## FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY

### Scholars' Seminar

**'The Importance of a Statistician in Medical Development'**

**Speaker: Nigel Baker**



Nigel Baker has a first degree in Applied Statistics and a Masters in Statistics from the University of Kent. He has worked as a statistician in the pharmaceutical industry for the whole of his career. He has helped scientists design and analyse studies in all phases of the medicine development process, from the experiments in the laboratory, through the animal testing and all phases of clinical development. He has worked in a range of therapeutic areas including antifungals, asthma, renal disease, cancer and the side effects of cancer treatment.

He now works for AstraZeneca as a Statistical Science Director. In this job he manages a team of programmers and statisticians and has global responsibility for the statistical aspects of the clinical development of a medicine that treats several different types of cancer.

**Time: 16:00**

**Venue: Billiard Room**

All Scholars and Exhibitioners

All pupils welcome

## FRIDAY 25 MARCH

### Scholars' Seminar

#### 'The Evolution of Antarctic Sea Floor Communities'

**Speaker: Dr Rowan Whittle**

Dr Rowan Whittle is a palaeobiologist at the British Antarctic Survey. Rowan gained an MSc in Geoscience from Royal Holloway, University of London, an MSc in Biological Sciences from Imperial College London, and a PhD in Palaeontology from the University of Leicester. Since finishing her PhD, Rowan has been researching invertebrate evolution, covering subjects including mass extinction and past climate change. Rowan has been on two fossil collecting trips, and a biological cruise to Antarctica.

**Time: 16:00**

**Venue: Billiard Room**

All Scholars and Exhibitors  
All pupils welcome



## FRIDAY 6 MAY

### Scholars' Seminar

#### 'Concurrent Disasters: California's wildfires and mudslides'

**Speaker: Julia Thomson**



After graduating from Cambridge University Julia completed a PGCE in London and became convinced that she wanted to teach Geography. A huge love of learning meant that she went on to complete a Masters' in Education and Diploma in Geosciences whilst working in Cambridge. Previously Head of Geography and Geology at Hills Road Sixth Form Julia came to Culford School just in time for one of the most unusual years in education with COVID taking centre stage. Recently appointed as Head of Pupil Performance she is passionate about pupils thriving academically, socially and in sporting endeavours.

Julia has friends in California who were impacted by the Thomas fire and this led her to research the rising incidence of wildfires and hazards. She looks forward to supporting Culford Scholars in 2021-22.

**Time: 16:00**

**Venue: Billiard Room**

All Scholars and Exhibitors  
All pupils welcome



**FRIDAY 10 JUNE**

**Scholars' Seminar  
'Improvisation in Music'**

**Speaker: George Philips**



George Philips is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (London) where his principal study was Jazz Saxophone. Since graduating in 2006 with honours, George has led a busy professional career performing and teaching.

He has performed with many jazz ensembles including The National Youth Jazz Orchestra, The London Jazz Orchestra and The Ronnie Scott's Big Band.

He has performed at many prestigious venues including The Royal Albert Hall, The Royal Festival Hall, Ronnie Scott's

Jazz Club, The 606 Jazz Club and The O2 Arena.

He also has extensive experience recording with, and performing alongside, many established Jazz and Pop artists including Clean Bandit, Sir Cliff Richard, McFly, All Saints, Charlotte Church, The Puppini Sisters, Bruce Forcyth, Ministry of Sound, Hedkandi.

George currently teaches in various schools in the South of England as well as privately and online, to pupils of all ages all over the world.

**Time: 16:00**

**Venue: Billiard Room**

All Scholars and Exhibitioners  
All pupils welcome

# EXCELLENT

## IN ALL CATEGORIES

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“Pupils demonstrate excellent attitudes towards learning.”

“Majority of pupils achieve their first university choice with demanding entry requirements.”

“Pupils have a high level of responsibility demonstrating an intrinsic motivation and determination to succeed”

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE 2020

## 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

GCSE and A Level Subject Selection Time-Line: Presentations, Seminars, Tutor and Teacher Support  
FOURTH FORM TO FIFTH FORM

Lunch-Time Careers Seminars e.g. Accountancy, Architecture, Medicine, Psychology, Engineering, Digital Media, Law  
SIXTH FORM

Lunch-Time Academic Workshops: Overseen by Heads of Department  
FOURTH FORM TO FIFTH FORM

Weekly 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

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 several 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 run by the Head of Debating and the Debating Society, 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 2020:

Throughout the term	TED-Style Seminars: Given by Scholars ALL YEARS
Throughout the term	Critical thinking Seminars: Academic Analysis and Review ALL YEARS
September	Scholars' Assembly and Reading Tutorials ALL YEARS
September	COA Further Education and Career Feedback and Interviews UPPER FIFTH
September	Independent Learning Conference and COA Career Questionnaire FIFTH AND SIXTH FORM
September	Sixth Form Choices Forum: Presentations and Parents' Meetings SIXTH FORM
September	Edexcel Independent Research Project: Detailed Research Project on a Topic of Choice (equivalent to half a GCSE) LOWER FIFTH

## AUTUMN TERM CONTINUED...

September	Unifrog Careers Analysis and Reflection LOWER FIFTH
October	Presentation Skills: Training with External Assessments SIXTH FORM
November	University and Beyond: Presentations and Guest Speakers SIXTH FORM
November	Centigrade Higher Education Questionnaire and Interview Feedback SIXTH FORM

### SPRING AND SUMMER TERM 2021

February	Culford Independent Research Project (CIRP): Preparation and guidance SIXTH FORM
February	Interview Skills: Training with External Assessments SIXTH FORM
February	Oxbridge & Higher Tier University Conference FIFTH AND SIXTH FORM
March	Aspirant Oxbridge Conference: Epsom Downs Racecourse FIFTH AND SIXTH FORM
May	CIRP Presentations SIXTH FORM
June	Life after Culford Conference: Careers, Apprenticeships, University, Gap Years, Enterprise LOWER SIXTH
June	UCAS National Exhibition SIXTH FORM
June	COA Further Education Questionnaire LOWER FIFTH

# Ready Culford Sixth Form



“Culford aims to prepare you, not just for university, but also for your life beyond School.”

Mr Marcus Rackowe, Head of Sixth Form

## Life After Culford



Life After Culford aims to prepare Sixth Formers for life after A Levels. The event begins with a trip to a University Exhibition, where pupils meet representatives from all UK universities to learn about available courses. Pupils are able to speak to gap year organisations, and they also discover the steps of the UCAS process and information on admission to European and US universities.

High-profile speaker visits are a key part of Life After Culford. Past speakers have included a Managing Director of a Human Resources firm; a Managing Partner of a global accountancy and consultancy business; and representatives from University Admissions Departments, to name a few. Old Culfordians and Culford teachers also get involved in the conference to share their experiences in various careers.

Another big part of Life After Culford is a Dragon's Den-style challenge. During this event, Sixth Formers are split into teams and have 24 hours to form a company, come up with an innovative product, create a marketing strategy (including promotion, pricing, distribution, branding and financial projections), create a crowd funding website and produce a website proposal and TV advert. The pupils then pitch to an industry professional, and one team is crowned the winner.

Life After Culford is designed to equip our Culford pupils with the range of skills they will require in the future and to present the breadth of opportunity to Sixth Formers in terms of the next step to take after they have completed their A Levels.

**Marcus Rackowe**  
Head of Sixth Form





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