



HARROW  
SCHOOL



## SIXTH FORM ELECTIVES

2023-24







## SIXTH FORM ELECTIVES

Electives are unexamined courses that boys choose either to complement or to contrast with their A-level subjects. They provide boys with an opportunity to explore areas of study beyond the confines of any examined syllabus, with a focus on independent learning, extension work, lateral thinking and problem-solving.

Electives form an integral part of the Harrow Diploma, which requires boys to follow a certain number of courses during their two years in the Sixth Form. The majority take eight or more courses, with an expectation that they choose at least one Elective from each of the five subject groups: Individuals and Societies; Maths, Science and Technology; Literature and the Arts; Life Skills and Wellbeing; and Interdisciplinary Courses.

As with the main A-level curriculum, the Elective programme aims to promote certain skills, grouped together under three key literacies identified by the School: social, cognitive and digital.

Most Electives are short courses consisting of eight lessons, although there are also a few longer courses, which comprise 24 lessons and last a whole term.

Boys register their preferences in the first week of the Autumn term, and the lessons begin in Week 2.

This document contains brief descriptions of all the Electives courses that are being offered in 2023-24.

**A D Todd**

Director of the Super-Curriculum

### GROUP A: INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES

#### THE GRAND TOUR: THE EVOLUTION OF THE GAP YEAR IN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

The idea of a gap year as a year of travel, fun and misadventure is familiar to pupils today. This course examines the original 'gap year' by looking at the 18th- and 19th-century equivalent: the Grand Tour. This programme of travel was popular between the 1660s and 1840s and largely followed a traditional route that was designed so that young men could engage with beautiful works of art, meet other noblemen from across Europe, learn manners and dancing, and perhaps have an affair of the heart along the way. We will look at the origins of this trip, engage with memoirs of travel, and examine the way in which the Grand Tour reflected contemporary ideas around masculinity, coming of age, beauty and adventure.

##### Key skills

**Social:** cultural awareness; collaboration; emotional intelligence

**Cognitive:** reading and assimilating; researching; reflection

**Digital:** effective use of search engines; word processing; referencing skills

#### EXPLORING THE SILK ROAD

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

The Silk Road was in many ways the first glimpse of the globalised world we are unable to escape today. East met West, as cultures, goods, religions and diseases were disseminated from far flung corners of the globe along a network of trade routes. This Elective will analyse these historical flows and connections through the lens of the contemporary geopolitical structure of Eurasia, the cities that rose and fell as a result, and the overland routes that are available to modern-day travellers.

##### Key skills

**Social:** cultural awareness; collaboration; discussion and debate

**Cognitive:** comprehension, collaboration; evaluating sources

**Digital:** effective use of search engines; PowerPoint

#### THE HISTORY OF REALISM

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

With its origins in classical antiquity, beginning with Thucydides, Realism is a school of thought that emphasises the competitive and conflictual side of international relations (IR). It is concerned with the pursuit, possession and application of power. In this course, we explore what the theory is and examine how it can be applied to the Peloponnesian War and the Cold War, as well as modern geopolitics.

##### Key skills

**Social:** discussion and debate

**Cognitive:** evaluating sources

**Digital:** effective use of search engines



## ICONOCLASM: THE DESTRUCTION OF IMAGES

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

From the controversy over the veneration of religious images in the eighth century to the destruction of antiquities by ISIS and the removal of Edward Colston's statue in Bristol, iconoclasm is as relevant today as it was in the Middle Ages. This course traces the history of the destruction of images and asks whether the treatment of works of art in this way can ever be justified.

### Key skills

**Social:** discussion of ethics/social issues; the value of democracy; emotional intelligence  
**Cognitive:** debate; lateral thinking; reflection  
**Digital:** effective use of search engines; PowerPoint

## THE CIVIC SOCIETY: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STRUCTURES IN THE CITY OF LONDON

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

As well as being Vicar of St Mary's and a member of the Chaplaincy team at Harrow, Father James Power has also played an active role in the Corporation of the City of London, having served as Master of the Haberdashers' Company and Chaplain to the Lord Mayor of London. In this course he provides an introduction to the workings of the Corporation, the role of the Lord Mayor and the historic eccentricities of the Livery Companies.

### Key skills

**Social:** discussion and debate; discussion of ethics/social issues; the value of democracy  
**Cognitive:** debate; reading widely  
**Digital:** effective use of search engines; PowerPoint

## THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

As a natural land bridge connecting the continents of Africa, Asia and Europe, the Middle East has been important throughout human history. Events there continue to dominate our news screens. Why does the region look as it does today? Why is it so turbulent and volatile? This course gives boys a balanced and broad overview of the complex dynamics at play in the region by looking at the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, the development of Arab nationalism and the rise of political Islam.

### Key skills

**Social:** discussion and debate; respecting different viewpoints; cultural awareness  
**Cognitive:** critical thinking; evaluation of sources; speaking and listening skills  
**Digital:** effective use of search engines

## THE MAFIA (AND OTHER CRIMINAL ORGANISATIONS): REALITY AND FICTION

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

In January 2023, the boss Matteo Messina Denaro was arrested after 30 years on the run. The capture of the 'last godfather' of the traditional Mafia opened up the debate on the existence and form of this and other criminal organisations in the contemporary world. To reflect properly on these issues, however, it is necessary to take a step back and look at the origins of the Mafia, its evolution and, in particular, the image of it that was created over time by newspapers, politics, literature and cinema. Distinguishing fact from fiction and history from stereotypes is the aim of this course.

### Key skills

**Social:** discussion of ethics/social issues; values and positive behaviour; cultural awareness  
**Cognitive:** comprehension; problem solving; critical analysis of scientific data  
**Digital:** effective use of search engines; PowerPoint; referencing skills

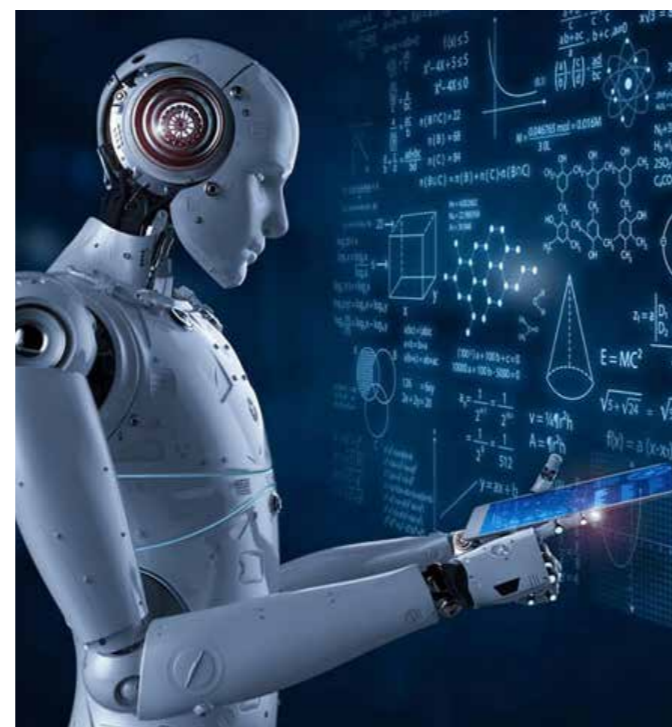
## THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

The circular economy is a model of production and consumption that involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible. This course examines examples of the circular economy (including Ikea, Harrow Community Kitchen, Powerday and Avedøre Danish Power Station). We consider whether transitioning the whole economy to a circular economy is possible or desirable. Might this be the most effective solution to the climate crisis?

### Key skills

**Social:** sustainability  
**Cognitive:** debate  
**Digital:** data analysis and interpretation



## GROUP B: MATHS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### ENRICHED PHYSICS

Course duration: long course (24 lessons)

This course, aimed at boys hoping to apply to study physical science or engineering subjects at university, explores physics beyond the A-level curriculum, using full mathematical rigour. Beginning with some essential mathematics (complex numbers and differential equations) we move on to classical particles and waves before introducing quantum theory and Schrödinger's equation. This course is only suitable for those taking A-level Physics and Mathematics.

### Key skills

**Social:** collaboration; communication; taking responsibility  
**Cognitive:** problem-solving; lateral thinking; innovation  
**Digital:** Wolfram Alpha; OneNote; effective use of search engines

## AN INTRODUCTION TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Course duration: long course (24 lessons)

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly permeating all industries and having a profound impact on many aspects of our existence. This course is designed to give you a firm understanding of what AI is and its applications. You will become acquainted with terms like machine learning, deep learning and neural networks, and understand how to program basic AI machines. By the end of the course, you will have had hands-on interactions with several AI environments and applications and will have built and deployed some simple AI models and intelligent machines. This course is of intermediate difficulty and will require some Python programming skills.

### Key skills

**Social:** discussion of ethics/social issues; communication; speech and language skills  
**Cognitive:** research; innovation; critical analysis of scientific data  
**Digital:** artificial intelligence/machine learning; coding/Python; referencing skills

## AN INTRODUCTION TO BIOINFORMATICS

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

A-level biologists and chemists will find this course especially rewarding. Bioinformatics is a rapidly developing field within the life sciences, focused on developing computational methods to understand biological data. Bioinformatics brings together concepts of biology, mathematics and computer science to provide a quantitative basis for understanding biological data. It was used recently in vaccine design against SARS-CoV-2. The course provides an overview of bioinformatics, with up-to-date examples and elementary training in the use of tools to interrogate genetic sequence, mutations, and protein structure and function.

### Key skills

**Social:** collaboration; active listening; teamwork  
**Cognitive:** problem-solving; research; critical thinking  
**Digital:** data analysis and interpretation; effective use of search engines

## RECORDING AND SOUND TECHNOLOGY

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

This course provides an introduction to the recording process, covering the basics of acoustics, sound, production and working with a digital audio workstation. You will study the history of recording, sampling and synthesis, and produce your own track in the Recording Studio.

### Key Skills

**Social:** practical work  
**Cognitive:** creativity  
**Digital:** audio editing

## HUMAN EVOLUTION: SEVEN MILLION YEARS OF CHANGE

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

This course is an exploration of changes in characteristics in the human species since our divergence from chimpanzees, focusing on consciousness, language, tool use and culture. How have those changes affected our identity as a species and our sense of ourselves as exceptional, and how can we use this understanding to project ourselves sustainably in the future?

### Key skills

**Social:** collaboration; discussion of ethics/social issues; cultural awareness  
**Cognitive:** critical analysis of scientific data; critical thinking  
**Digital:** effective use of search engines.

## SPORTS NUTRITION

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

Whether you are a professional athlete in training or just exercising to improve your mental and physical health, sports nutrition plays a key role in optimising the beneficial effects of physical activity. In this course you will learn about the importance of fuelling your body with the right foods. Macronutrients such as fat, protein and carbohydrates, in addition to crucial micronutrients such as vitamins and minerals, are analysed in depth to show how the intake of specific nutrients is essential for bodily functions, which, in turn, enhances sport performance and injury prevention.

### Key skills

**Social:** personal discipline; taking responsibility; active listening

**Cognitive:** independent thinking; speaking and listening skills

**Digital:** effective use of search engines

## AN INTRODUCTION TO CORPORATE FINANCE

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

This course will be maths driven, so a firm grasp of A-level Mathematics is essential. The course offers an introduction to the world of financial economics. Examples of topics covered include valuation using discounted cash flow (DCF) analysis; fundamental portfolio theories such as the capital asset pricing model (CAPM) and the Fama-French three-factor model; and the merits of debt versus equity financing for companies.

### Key Skills

**Social:** discussion and debate

**Cognitive:** conceptual thinking

**Digital:** data analysis and interpretation

## READING THE SCREEN: FILM STUDIES

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

By the end of this course, you will have produced a short film using the iMovie app. In preparation for that you will examine various historical and critical approaches to cinema as an art form, exploring its artistic, cultural and political implications and how it evokes emotion through its direction. You will reflect on an eclectic mix of films.

### Key skills

**Social:** discussion of ethics/social issues; emotional intelligence; role playing

**Cognitive:** presentation skills; creativity; independent thinking

**Digital:** film and video editing; audio editing

## GROUP C: LITERATURE AND THE ARTS

### MUSIC AND FILM

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

The relationship between music and film is an interesting one that has developed enormously since the first silent movies were released in the early 1900s. This short course traces developments in that process from live music at the beginning, through the Golden Age of orchestral film music and the introduction of jazz and pop styles, to more recent uses of music technology. It looks at different techniques adopted, such as leitmotif and Mickey-Mousing, and examines the emotional power that music brings to the whole genre of film.

### Key skills

**Social:** discussion and debate; cultural awareness; active listening

**Cognitive:** presentation skills; research; speaking and listening skills

**Digital:** effective use of search engines

### ART IS A LIE THAT TELLS THE TRUTH

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

This course aims to foster an understanding of how art improves our ability to distinguish fact from fiction in a post-truth age, as well as presenting alternative ways of seeing that are not dictated to us solely through the tyranny of an algorithm. The course is interactive and discussion led, and poses some challenging questions about the way we perceive the world visually.

### Key skills

**Social:** discussion and debate

**Cognitive:** evaluating sources

**Digital:** effective use of search engines

### WRITING A SHORT STORY

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

This course is about one of the oldest types of literature in the world: the short story. In the first half of the course, we look at a variety of excerpts from modern novels and short stories, as well as guidance from some great authors on how to create character and drama, voice and plot. In the second half of the course, we give feedback on each other's writing.

### Key skills

**Social:** speech and language skills

**Cognitive:** creativity

**Digital:** word processing

## MUSIC OF THE AMERICAS

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

This course will give you an insight into how American music has become what we know today and how it has made its mark on the global music scene. It covers the music of Latin America and its many dance styles, along with a multitude of North American genres from bluegrass to jazz and hip hop. Along the way, we consider the historical and social impact of the music.

### Key skills

**Social:** discussion of ethics/social issues; emotional intelligence; active listening

**Cognitive:** comprehension; speaking and listening skills; research

**Digital:** effective use of search engines

## THE COLOUR BLACK: POWERFUL AND TIMELESS

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

In this course, we explore how the colour black has stirred emotions, revolutionised design and altered the path of history. From 20th-century fashion and modern science to Benedictine monks, ancient Greek pottery and prehistoric cave paintings, we take an artistic stance in order to examine the powerful and timeless nature of the colour black.

### Key skills

**Social:** emotional intelligence

**Cognitive:** creativity

**Digital:** effective use of search engines

## BLACK LITERATURE

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

This course explores the works of some of the greatest Black writers from across the globe. Their writing has shaped the discourse around race for decades, and we reflect on the impact of their literature in the past and the present. Among the writers we look at are James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Chinua Achebe, Frantz Fanon and Sam Selvon.

### Key skills

**Social:** discussion of ethics/social issues; cultural awareness; empathy

**Cognitive:** critical thinking; reading and assimilating information; reading widely

**Digital:** effective use of search engines

## SOUTH AFRICAN MUSIC: RHYTHM AND RESILIENCE

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

From the soul-stirring melodies of traditional indigenous rhythms to the pulsating beats of contemporary genres, this course offers an exploration of South Africa's musical heritage. Delve into the stories behind iconic artists, the profound influence of cultural and political movements, and the rhythmic evolution that shaped the nation's music. Whether you are a music enthusiast or simply curious about the cultural fabric of South Africa, uncover the resilience and significance of its music, and discover the harmonious blend of tradition and innovation that makes South African music an extraordinary cultural phenomenon.

### Key skills

**Social:** cultural awareness

**Cognitive:** speaking and listening skills

**Digital:** effective use of search engines

## WRITING FOR THE SCREEN

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

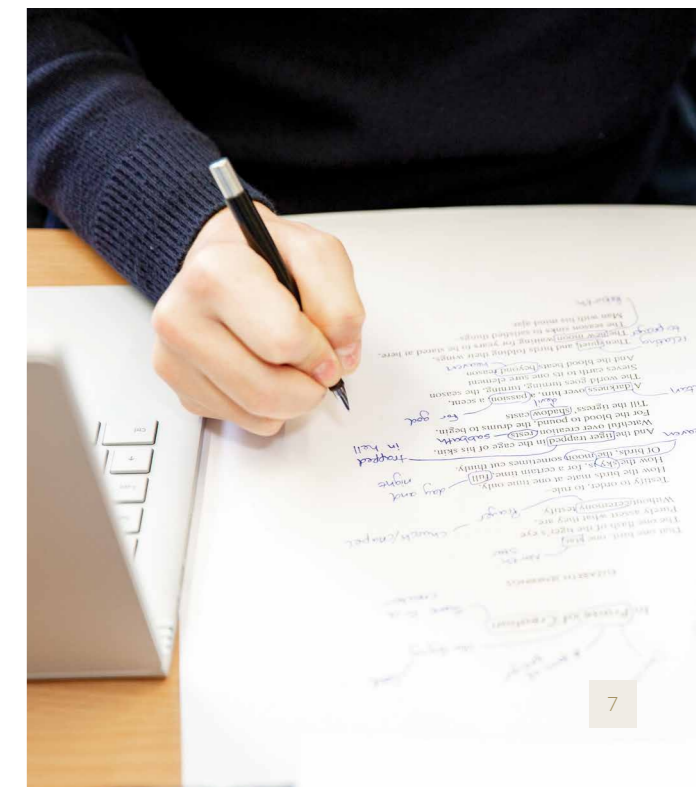
This course introduces you to the craft of screenwriting. We explore the key principles of storytelling for film and television and examine how screenplay format, choice of genre, structure and character combine to deliver a film's controlling idea. During the course, you will write an original short film script. This will challenge and enhance your creative-writing skills by having to adapt them to the practicalities of storytelling for the screen.

### Key skills

**Social:** discussion and debate; emotional intelligence

**Cognitive:** creativity; independent thinking; writing skills

**Digital:** word processing





## GROUP D: LIFE SKILLS AND WELLBEING

### AN ECONOMIST'S GUIDE TO SURVIVING UNIVERSITY

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

From pesto pasta to overfilled overdrafts, on this course Sixth Formers undertake a whistlestop tour of how best to keep their heads above water in life immediately after the Hill. The course looks at ways to administer your personal finances and expenditure, and how to utilise the best of fin-tech to manage money with the least possible effort.

#### Key skills

**Social:** practical work; personal discipline; taking responsibility

**Cognitive:** lateral thinking; independent thinking; reading and assimilating information

**Digital:** effective use of search engines; Excel; data analysis and interpretation

### AN INTRODUCTION TO ESSENTIAL FIRST AID

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

Whether you have signed up for The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, are already planning your gap year travelling around the world or are simply interested in first aid, this course is designed to introduce you to the essential skills required to deal with real-life emergencies. We look at areas of first aid such as performing CPR, airway management, bleeds, major and minor injuries, medical emergencies such as asthma and anaphylaxis, dealing with poison and different environmental concerns.

#### Key skills

**Social:** teamwork; taking responsibility; communication

**Cognitive:** problem-solving; responding to feedback; speaking and listening skills

**Digital:** PowerPoint; effective use of search engines

### THINKING, FAST AND SLOW

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

Our minds are tripped up by error and prejudice (even when we think we are being logical). This course investigates strategies and techniques that enable you to make better decisions at school, at home, in the workplace and in everything you do. The central thesis is a dichotomy between two modes of thought: 'System 1' is fast, instinctive and emotional; 'System 2' is slower, more deliberative and more logical.

#### Key skills

**Social:** values and positive behaviours; emotional intelligence; public speaking

**Cognitive:** presentation skills; research; peer teaching

**Digital:** PowerPoint; effective use of search engines

### ARMY LEADERSHIP

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

'There is nobody who cannot vastly improve his powers of leadership by a little thought and practice', said the great British military commander Field Marshal William Slim. This course is not just for boys in the CCF, but for anyone who is interested in furthering his knowledge of the British armed forces and their approach to leadership. Areas covered include the philosophy of military leadership, methods of instruction, fieldcraft and tactics lessons, and case studies of specific leadership scenarios.

#### Key skills

**Social:** leadership; teamwork; communication

**Cognitive:** problem-solving; debate; presentation skills

**Digital:** effective use of search engines

### CRITICAL THINKING

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

Reasoning is the everyday process that we all use in order to draw conclusions from facts or evidence. To think critically about what you read and hear is a vital skill. This course will help you to analyse the reasoning in books, articles or speeches, to identify flaws in arguments and to approach any topic with the ability to reason clearly and think critically. In the age of fake news, these skills have never been more important.

#### Key skills

**Social:** respecting different viewpoints

**Cognitive:** critical thinking

**Digital:** effective use of search engines

### MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

In a time of busyness and stress, it is more important than ever to have methods of recentring and refocusing oneself. While often associated with religious practices, mindfulness and meditation can have positive clinical psychological effects. This course explores the practices, both historically and in the present day, and how they could be utilised to have a positive benefit in school and in wider life.

#### Key skills

**Social:** personal discipline

**Cognitive:** reflection

**Digital:** digital hygiene

### THE ART OF WELLBEING

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

In the spring of 2018, the Yale psychology professor Laurie Santos unveiled a new course, 'Psychology and the Good Life'. The subject was happiness. It debunked popular notions of what makes people happy and helped students understand the habits they should build to lead truly happier, more fulfilled lives. The reaction was unprecedented and the course, now referred to as 'The Happiness Course', became the most popular class ever taught in the history of Yale University. The Art of Wellbeing explores that course and looks at ways to boost your mood and overall wellbeing.

#### Key skills

**Social:** collaboration; communication; emotional intelligence

**Cognitive:** creativity; reflection; speaking and listening skills

**Digital:** effective use of search engines; data logging; data analysis and interpretation

### AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHT DISHES

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

Culture and food are inseparable concepts; they inform, strengthen and celebrate each other. This course explores a range of exceptional dishes from all over the globe, as we learn more about their history, their cultural significance, and some of the many variations that have been developed over time. We will also take the opportunity to try each dish that we study in order to truly appreciate the array of regional flavours and ingredients that are so readily available to us here in North London. From Afghan aushak to Somali rice, you are sure to find something new and exciting to consider the next time you head out for dinner.

#### Key skills

**Social:** cultural awareness; discussion and debate

**Cognitive:** presentation skills

**Digital:** effective use of search engines; PowerPoint

### BEHAVIOURAL ECONOMICS AND MARKETING

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

The art of persuasion is central to many walks of life and is a vital skill in the corporate world. To persuade successfully, we need to understand how people think and behave, both collectively and individually. Beginning with a brief summary of classical rhetoric, this course focuses mostly on modern understanding of how ideas can be sold. A key thinker in this field is Rory Sutherland (Chairman of Ogilvy & Mather), whose idiosyncratic and sometimes counterintuitive insights into human behaviour have made him one of the most well-known contemporary names in marketing. His writings form much of the backbone of this short course.

#### Key skills

**Social:** communication; speech and language skills

**Cognitive:** critical thinking; innovation; lateral thinking

**Digital:** word processing; data analysis

### AN INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

What are people most afraid of? What do our dreams mean? What makes us happy? What are the causes and cures of mental illness? This course tries to answer questions like this, with an overview of the scientific study of thought and behaviour. It explores topics such as perception, communication, learning, memory, decision-making, persuasion, emotions and social behaviour. We look at how these aspects of the mind develop in children, how they differ across people, how they are wired up in the brain, and how they break down due to illness and injury.

#### Key skills

**Social:** emotional intelligence

**Cognitive:** conceptual thinking

**Digital:** data analysis and interpretation



## GROUP E: INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES

### ETHICS ON THE BIG SCREEN

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

Using as its stimulus a diverse range of film and TV, this course looks at a series of ethical dilemmas that have captured the public imagination on the 'big screen'. It provides an overview of some key ideas around the nature, origin and meaning of ethical language and a chance to debate and discuss how ethical theories are applied in practice. Popcorn may also be provided.

#### Key skills

**Social:** discussion of ethics/social issues; discussion/debate; respecting different viewpoints  
**Cognitive:** critical thinking; speaking and listening skills; research  
**Digital:** effective use of search engines

### A THEORY OF INFORMATION

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

Information theory is the study of the quantification, storage and communication of digital information. In this course, we discuss the nature of information and how it manifests in four separate realms: the mathematical, physical, biological and sociological. We will see that information is quantifiable and related to the amount of disorder in a system. By allowing a system to copy and alter information we can observe emergent phenomena, namely evolution at work. From here, we consider society as an evolving entity, bringing us to the ultimate question of 'where are we heading...?'

#### Key skills

**Social:** discussion and debate  
**Cognitive:** conceptual thinking  
**Digital:** data analysis and interpretation

### THE 450 MILLION DOLLAR PAINTING

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

This course is about a very famous and beautiful Renaissance painting, *Salvator Mundi*, usually attributed to Leonardo da Vinci. Everything about this work of art is controversial. Who bought it? Who endorsed it? Who restored it? Who decided its market value? And even ... who painted it? This course will look at some of the ethical issues in the art world that this painting, and its sale, force us to confront.

#### Key skills

**Social:** discussion and debate; the value of democracy  
**Cognitive:** debate; lateral thinking; reflection  
**Digital:** effective use of search engines

### A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

This course focuses on sustainability and consists of a series of lessons on the main issues our planet is facing, why it is important for us to solve them, and the solutions that currently exist. You will design a 'blueprint for the future' that addresses a number of these issues synoptically. You might come up with a blueprint that could save our planet.

#### Key skills

**Social:** discussion of ethics/social issues; values and positive behaviours; sustainability  
**Cognitive:** innovation; research; conceptual thinking  
**Digital:** effective use of search engines; OneNote

### ASPECTS OF STRATEGY

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

This course explores the origins and sources of strategic thought, from the Enlightenment to the industrial era. We consider the logic of strategy, levels of strategy and the practical application of strategy. You will undertake some case studies and engage in debates about sea, land and air strategy, and the impact of technology. Although we focus on operational and political strategy in war, an understanding of strategic thought has clear applications in many different contexts.

#### Key skills

**Social:** discussion and debate; discussion of ethics/social issues; teamwork  
**Cognitive:** problem-solving  
**Digital:** data analysis and interpretation

### GAME THEORY

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

Game theory is the study of strategic interactions among rational agents and has applications in many different fields. Game theory enables us to model all sorts of scenarios, from crime to politics to penalty shootouts. It also allows us to have some fun playing the games ourselves, and seeing how closely the outcomes match up to what we would predict in theory.

#### Key skills

**Social:** collaboration; discussion of ethics/social issues  
**Cognitive:** problem-solving; critical thinking; lateral thinking  
**Digital:** data analysis and interpretation; effective use of search engines

### KINGS AND VIKINGS

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

This course is about the relationship between England and Scandinavia in the early Middle Ages (roughly 500–1066), with a focus on the so-called 'Viking Age', when Norsemen voyaged from their homelands in Denmark, Norway and Sweden to engage in raiding, trading, colonising and conquest throughout western Europe. We look especially at the experiences of the historic kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon England – Northumbria, East Anglia, Mercia and Wessex – from a historical, archaeological and literary perspective.

#### Key skills

**Social:** cultural awareness; public speaking  
**Cognitive:** debate; evaluating sources; presentation skills  
**Digital:** effective use of search engines

### BOB DYLAN

Course duration: short course (8 lessons)

A towering figure in American culture and a global icon, the singer-songwriter Bob Dylan has chronicled and interpreted many of the cultural upheavals in America since the Second World War and was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 2016. In this course, we trace the evolution of Dylan's writing, examine his credentials as a songwriter and performer and explore his engagement with some major themes, including love, fame, politics and religion.

#### Key skills

**Social:** discussion of ethics/social issues; emotional intelligence; active listening  
**Cognitive:** comprehension; speaking and listening skills; research  
**Digital:** effective use of search engines





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