



Scholars' Programme

2023-24



Culford

Welcome to the Scholars' Programme for 2023-24



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 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

Scholars' Seminar

'From the Office to the Ocean, an Unexpected Journey'

Speaker: Florence Ward



Old Culfordian, Florence Ward (2004-2011), is a consultant at Accenture and an ocean rower. During the pandemic, she rowed across the Atlantic Ocean, breaking the world record for the youngest female trio to row an ocean.

In her professional life, she is a growth marketing consultant with a background in data and analytics. In 2021 she was recognised at an industry level when she won a Campaign Female Frontier award for 'Marketing - Rising to the Top'.

Next year she has her sights set on her next adventure, the Indian Ocean, with a new team called *Ocean Sheroes*. As the world's most experienced female ocean rowing team, they are attempting to break another world record. Florence is hoping to share some of her learnings from the ocean and the office.

Time: 16:00

Venue: Studio Theatre

FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER 2023

Scholars' Seminar

'DNA: Past, Present and Future'

Speaker: Chris Spicer



Chris studied at Philip Morant in Colchester and went on to obtain a BSc (Hons) in Biological Sciences from the University of East Anglia, with a specialist focus on genetics and bioinformatics. After graduating, he completed his teacher training in Chelmsford before moving back to Norwich to continue his career.

In 2010 he took a year-long sabbatical from the teaching profession to travel the world, including participating in the Mongol rally. After a further three years of teaching, he moved to Japan to teach biology at the British

School in Tokyo, leading the subject for seven years. Finally, he returned to the UK and became Head of Biology at Culford in 2022. His passions in the subject include the impact of lifestyle on our epigenetics and the modernisation of farming using hydroponics and technology.

How can a simple, repeating arrangement of chemicals define life on our planet? This session looks at the controversial discovery of DNA, how it has unlocked the greatest understanding of ourselves and the potential secrets still to be uncovered within its four letter code.

Time: 16:00

Venue: Billiard Room

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2023

Scholars' Seminar

'The Challenges of Audio-visual Translation: Subtitling and Dubbing'

Speaker: Dr Carlos de Pablos-Ortega



Dr Carlos de Pablos-Ortega is Associate Professor in Spanish and Applied Linguistics at the University of East Anglia, where he has been teaching since 2007. Carlos' areas of research include the exploration of pragmatic components from a contrastive perspective, and intercultural communication and audience perceptions of audio-visual materials.

Carlos is the founder of SAAM (Support for Access to Audio-visual Media), an international accessibility project where student volunteers from UEA, Universidad de Alcalá (Spain) and Université de Lorraine (France) help

charities and non-profits from all over the world to make their audio-visual materials accessible with the creation of subtitles.

This lecture will focus on the challenges of audio-visual translation from both technical and linguistic angles. The first part will introduce the basics of subtitling and dubbing, their technical elements and linguistic features. This will be followed by other aspects such as time or space constraints and limitations that have an impact on the translation of the original film script into subtitles and dubbed scripts. Throughout the lecture there will be practical examples which will lead to reflection, analysis and discussion about the challenges and constraints of this mode of translation.

Time: 16:00

Venue: Studio Theatre

FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2023

Scholars' Seminar

'Why I Swapped Classroom for Newsroom - Navigating the Football and Sports Industry from a Journalist's Perspective'

Speaker: Charlotte Harpur



Charlotte Harpur (OC 2005-2012) was Head Girl in the Class of 2012 and went on to study French and Italian at Oxford and became Head of French at an academy school in Wellingborough.

Sport always played a big part in Charlotte's life. She has been the lead correspondent at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup and 2022 UEFA Women's Euros tournaments. Charlotte also reported on the 2022 Men's World Cup in Qatar for *The Athletic*, a digital subscription site recently bought by The New York Times. Charlotte is also a

freelance football commentator for BBC One's Final Score and Radio 5 Live Sports Extra.

You can find an article she wrote "Why I swapped classroom for newsroom" at: www.theathletic.com/2044201/2020/09/09/charlotte-harpur-why-i-joined-athletic-womens-sport/

Time: 16:00

Venue: Studio Theatre

FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2024

Scholars' Seminar

'Molecule to Marketplace'

Speaker: Dr Sara Sandbach



As a biochemist fascinated by science and its impact on patient lives, Sara combines early scientific evidence with operational excellence to advance early-phase drug development. Leading AstraZeneca's Early Phase Clinical Operations Group for the Cardiovascular Renal & Metabolic Disease area she has a unique insight into what it takes to deliver new medicines to patients.

After gaining a PhD in Biochemistry and spending some time as an academic in the field of cancer research, Sara made the switch to drug development. She has over 16 years' experience in different pharmaceutical roles gaining

knowledge across biopharmaceuticals, rare diseases and oncology. Through this, she has helped to deliver several new medicines to patients all over the globe. One of the biggest achievements was supporting AstraZeneca to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine, a vaccine that transformed the way we do science and meet the needs of patients.

Sara will use this experience and others to bring to life the journey of 'molecules to the marketplace'. She will also talk about how the landscape for drug development is constantly evolving showcasing how digital health and AI are transforming drug development.

Time: 16:00

Venue: Billiard Room

FRIDAY 8 MARCH 2024

Scholars' Seminar

'Global Grooves – A World Tour of Rhythm'

Speaker: Stephen Williamson



Drummer and Educator, Stephen Williamson, has been teaching at Culford for the past 19 years. He teaches at four other local schools and plays in two bands.

Previously, Stephen was based in London. He graduated from The Musicians' Institute and went on to perform, record and tour in bands ranging from Jazz, Latin and Blues, through Pop, Funk and Indie, to Heavy and Progressive Rock.

Stephen will dispel the myth 'drummers aren't proper musicians, they just hit stuff', by involving his audience in some challenging polyrhythmic grooves from around the world.

Time: 16:00

Venue: Billiard Room

FRIDAY 3 MAY 2024

Scholars' Seminar

'Why Did People Long Ago Believe Strange Things?'

Speaker: Dr Francis Young



Dr Francis Young (OC 1992-1999) studied Philosophy at Cambridge University and was a teacher of Religious Studies and Classics for several years before completing a PhD in History at Cambridge University. He now teaches part-time for Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education and is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Francis specialises in the history of religion and belief and is the author or editor of 20 books including *Magic in Merlin's Realm* and *Twilight of the Godlings*, both published by Cambridge University Press, as well as

a textbook co-authored with former Culford Head of History, Alan Dures, *English Catholicism 1558-1642* (Routledge, 2021).

He is fascinated by the question of how historians should talk about people who believed things very differently from us and held worldviews alien to our own. His talk focuses on the challenge of engaging historically with religious and supernatural beliefs and ranges over medieval religion and magic, the witch trials, and modern conspiracist thinking and explores the possibility that the belief systems of people in the past were not necessarily any stranger than our own assumptions about reality.

Time: 16:00

Venue: Billiard Room

FRIDAY 14 JUNE 2024

Scholars' Seminar

'The Melancholic Imaginations of Hamlet'

Speaker: Angus Gowland



Angus Gowland is a Professor of Intellectual History at UCL. His main research interest is in the intellectual history of early modern Europe, especially in the fields of psychology, medicine, and natural and moral philosophy. He is also the editor of the new Penguin Classics edition of Robert Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*.

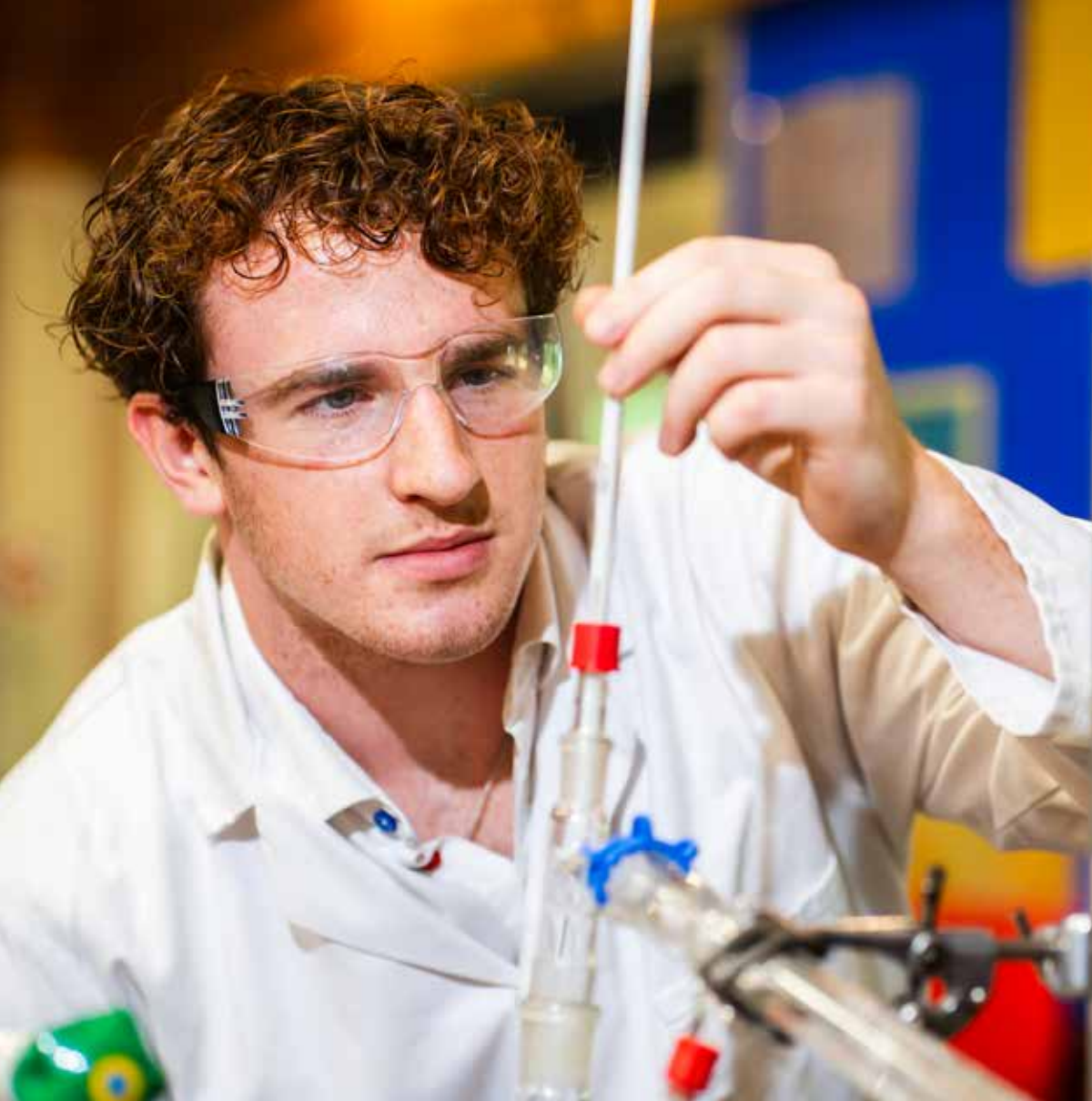
The inner life of *Hamlet* is one of the enduring mysteries of English literature. This lecture takes *Hamlet's* 'imaginings' as a way into his predicament, and thereby into some of the puzzles of the play and its legacy. It has long been recognised that the prince's melancholy is a

key feature of his characterisation, and scholars have sometimes connected this with his enigmatic comment that he has 'that within which passes show'. But they have rarely addressed something that Shakespeare and his contemporaries knew well about melancholy – that it was a disease of the imagination.

Building on this idea, the lecture explores the ways in which Shakespeare used early modern understandings of phantasy and mental disturbance to draw his audience into Hamlet's interior world, and dramatise the extraordinary powers of the melancholic imagination.

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 2023:

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...

University and Beyond: Presentations and Guest Speakers SIXTH FORM

Centigrade Higher Education Questionnaire and Interview Feedback SIXTH FORM

SPRING AND SUMMER TERM 2024

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



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