



NORTHAMPTON
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST

Enrichment and Electives at Northampton High School

There is a Chinese proverb which states 'Teachers open the doors, but you must enter by yourself'. The Northampton High School equivalent is 'We scatter your path with opportunities'.

We offer a vibrant and innovative learning environment that goes beyond excellent academic teaching and learning. The Enrichment Programme is an important part of ensuring we reach this aim. Expect more; demand and seize opportunities to develop employable skills for the workplace of now and the future. Whatever courses you choose, I guarantee you will develop much more than an understanding of the subject chosen; you will learn to collaborate, to think independently, to develop your own views and to enjoy the act of learning for pleasure. Our unique and bespoke Enrichment Programme is scattering myriad opportunities and all you are required to do is sign up, show up and be interested.

Henry Rickman
Deputy Head

Choosing Enrichment activities

Enrichment and elective activities take place in and out of the timetable and mesh in with the Games sessions in some cases. You should choose at least one Elective early in the school year and may also change activities at certain points, however, some Electives are not timetabled (e.g. EPQ, Enterprise and Young Philanthropy) and will normally take place across the whole year.

It may be possible to take more than one Enrichment or Elective, however, this will depend on the combination of subjects within the timetable and the overall balance of A Level subjects. All Year 12 students also undertake an Advanced Study Skills course during the first few weeks of the Sixth Form. Year 13 students are free to take advantage of Enrichment and Games, if desired and where appropriate.

All students are eligible for one or more of our Northampton Laureates, which are awarded at the end of Year 13.

The Courses

Articulation Prize

Do you have an interest in art and a passion for sharing this with others? Do you enjoy public speaking? If so, the Articulation Prize could be a great opportunity. You choose a particular piece of art, architecture or an artefact of interest to you and prepare a ten minute presentation to be delivered to an audience. The initial competition will be staged in school, however the winning competitor will earn the right to represent Northampton High School at the regional heat in January, with the potential to go all the way to the grand final in March.

Business and Enterprise Elective (GDST LEAD)

The Enterprise Elective at Northampton High gives students the opportunity to set up and run their own business. As a group they decide on their product or service, elect a Board of Directors, invest their share capital, find customers, trade and ultimately (we hope!) become a profitable enterprise. Under the guidance of a member of staff, the students will normally have one formal meeting each week where operational issues can be discussed and plans and strategies devised. The Enterprise Elective will give students the opportunity to develop their teamwork, organisational and interpersonal skills. This year again we will be joining with schools from across the Trust to participate in the GDST LEAD Enterprise programme in partnership with the London School of Economics Generate.

Core Maths (Maths for non-A Level Maths students)

The Core Maths course is designed to support students in the Sixth Form who do not take A Level Maths, but whose A Level subjects have a numeracy focus of one sort or another.

A number of subjects have a mathematical element that falls short of needing to study Maths, however, the skills involved often require support from a specialist teacher. Students studying subjects like Geography, Business, Economics, Biology, Chemistry and Computing may all benefit from following this course, which can lead on to an AS Level qualification in Year 13, if desired.

Dance

Dance is an integral part of a student's learning - this course is incorporated into the Games programme. Through movement we can enhance self-awareness, memory and creativity, as well as teamwork skills when developing choreography. Students will be offered training in multiple disciplines of dance, including commercial jazz, lyrical modern, contemporary, musical theatre, and ballet. There will also be time to explore choreography in various groups, giving a sense of achievement and helping build confidence and joy whilst dancing to music. A wonderful way to get active and fit!

Extended Qualification Project (EPQ)

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a standalone qualification designed to extend and develop your skills in independent research and project management. It has the status of an AS Level when completed, although, unlike other AS Levels, it is possible to achieve an A* grade in the qualification. You can choose to write an extended essay (dissertation) or make an artefact for your project; the possibilities are pretty much limitless! Universities are big fans of the EPQ as it helps students to build the kinds of skills that are extremely useful when studying for a degree. Some universities may reduce their offers for places if you complete an EPQ to a high standard.

Food Skills

The Food Elective focuses on building a repertoire of quick, low cost recipes suitable for life beyond school. Students can tailor the course to their needs by cooking dishes they want to learn to make. Recipe topics include: ways of cooking eggs, fakeaways/around the world dishes, roast dinner for 1 and a Ready Steady Cook challenge. Students can also optionally gain their Level 2 in food hygiene (at a small additional cost) which would expand their knowledge of food safety and would be a great addition to their CVs, especially when applying for jobs in catering. This is an excellent opportunity to become a more confident and independent cook, or for those more experienced, a chance to expand on the skills they have already acquired.

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

MOOCs are online courses with unlimited participation possibilities (hence 'massive'!). They are set up and run by large academic institutions such as universities and professional organisations, and have open access via the internet. In addition to traditional course materials, such as filmed lectures, readings, and problem sets, many MOOCs provide interactive courses with forums and discussions to support community interactions among students and teachers as well as immediate feedback to assignments. Some MOOCs can lead to certification, for which there is generally a charge, however, most can be accessed completely freely. Students interested in taking a MOOC should have a conversation with Sixth Form staff for help and advice.

Performing Arts elective

The Performing Arts elective will involve producing excerpts from various musicals, with the aim to offer informal performances during the year. We will combine music, dance, drama and costume in small groups. This will be exciting and rewarding and there will be opportunities for soloists and ensembles to shine. If you love singing, dancing or acting (or all three!) it could be just the tonic!

Photography Enrichment

Manual photography and darkroom use allow the artist to experiment with light, tone and contrast, using light sensitive paper and enlargers. Students will have the opportunity to develop a knowledge of how a darkroom functions, and how best to organise this space for the successful development of film negatives. We will introduce students to photograms, cyanotypes, test strips and the development of photographic images using manual techniques and chemical baths. Health and safety training will be fully covered, alongside slideshows of notable photographers and an additional digital photography assignment. Students will then be encouraged to compare and contrast their photographs, learning the advantages and disadvantages of each practical route.

Politics and International Relations

This programme is designed to introduce students to some of the key issues and personalities that are shaping important developments in the world we live in today. Students are encouraged to debate the issues raised, read around the subjects taught, and to prepare presentations to enhance learning. Students usually have the opportunity to visit Westminster in the autumn term and are encouraged to

take part in our Model United Nations Club. Additionally, extracurricular talks are delivered by staff, outside speakers and MPs to develop understanding of the national and global political scene. People of all political persuasions are welcome, as are those who are just curious about politics!

Problem Solving Maths (for applications for degrees in engineering etc.)

This programme is designed to support advanced mathematicians, computer scientists and physicists who are considering applying to university to study courses like Engineering, Maths or Physics. The difficulty of the problems involved generally exceeds A Level Maths and Further Maths standard and the course is adapted for the students involved, crossing the two years of Sixth Form as the cohort develops.

STEMSoc (programme for medical applicants)

This programme is a practical preparatory course for students who have chosen to apply for courses such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Physiotherapy, Midwifery, Nursing etc. at university. The programme includes reading and discussing medical journal entries, building up skills for interviews and discussions with visiting speakers and alumnae. It takes place across Years 12 and 13 once the cohort has been finalised each year.

T4T (Teachers for Tomorrow)

T4T is a programme that gives year 12 students the opportunity to work alongside teachers in their classroom to support the learning of students in the lower years. Initially you will observe and assist with lessons, learning how teachers plan for and communicate with their classes. You will quickly be encouraged to make your own contributions by producing and delivering lesson activities, and eventually you could plan and teach a whole lesson. If you want to improve your confidence and presentation skills or are thinking about working with younger people in the future this elective is an excellent choice.

Yoga

Yoga is a combination of physical and mental exercises that help to strengthen the body and calm the mind. You'll be fully guided to synchronise the breath with gentle poses. In addition, we will explore breathwork and meditation to develop techniques for coping with the demands of teenage life. Yoga is inclusive and practised at a level and pace that suits you. Benefits include: strengthening, toning, flexibility, better posture, reduced stress, improved sleep, healthy joints, balance, being more present and aware.

Young Philanthropy Elective

Available to Year 12, and Year 13 if required, the Young Philanthropy Elective offers students the opportunity to work with the school and local community on a range of voluntary service roles. This gives an enormous sense of achievement and can improve wellbeing as well as supporting UCAS applications. We work with the Northamptonshire Community Foundation which works to create safer, stronger communities. Projects supported include breakfast clubs, clubs for those with disabilities, support groups for the elderly, youth clubs, sporting activities etc., and High School students have worked with a number of these initiatives in the past. Alternatively, students may choose to volunteer within the school, for example, working with Junior School pupils.

The Northampton Laureate

In partnership with Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce on completing Sixth Form, all our students will have demonstrated academic achievement, intellectual creativity and leadership. They will have made a unique contribution to the school and the wider community through their participation in the Electives programme. This is recognised by the award of at least one of our five Laureates at the end of Year 13.

Gold - academic excellence

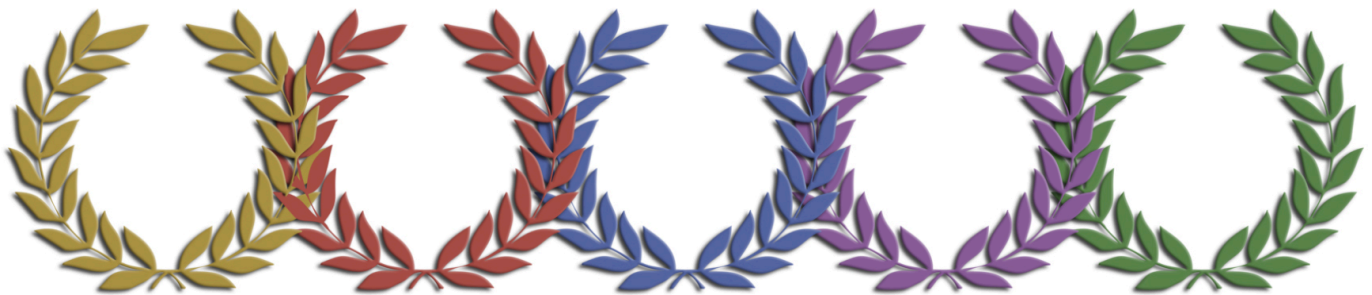
Red - sporting excellence

Green - partnerships and community excellence

Purple - artistic excellence

Blue - excellence in the school community

THE NORTHAMPTON LAUREATE



EXCELLENCE • CREATIVITY • ENRICHMENT