



Caterham School Sixth Form

Lower Sixth Enrichment Programme



The Aim

In the Sixth Form at Caterham, we believe that, in addition to a strong academic foundation, it is important that our pupils develop wider skills that will help ensure that they make the best of their opportunities beyond school. The Caterham Award encourages this through promoting full engagement in the co-curricular life of the school via sport, drama and music, alongside other areas such as work in the community, getting involved with trips and much more. To supplement this, the Lower Sixth Enrichment Programme has been designed for those pupils who have some space in their timetable after Christmas, using some of their additional study periods to develop some core life skills and allowing them to extend themselves with a choice of more in-depth options and wider subject research.

The structure of the Lower Sixth Enrichment Courses comprises of three parts, which run in half termly segments from January until the May half term.

Block 1 - Life Skills

All pupils in the Enrichment Programme will attend the life skills sessions on rotation. These are designed to give pupils a brief overview and awareness of some of the core areas of independent skills that they will require over the coming years. The areas covered are:

- Think like an undergraduate (KWE)
- Writing a CV and applying for jobs (CBR)
- Building up a UCAS portfolio (CJA)
- Leadership skills (CWJ)
- Personal finance (JWE)

Blocks 2 and 3 – Development Courses

The second and third section of the Enrichment Programme comprises a choice of 5-week courses. These are offered in a range of areas and will allow our pupils to develop or learn new skills, improve their analytical skills and develop their understanding of the world around us. The courses being offered this year are:

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Public speaking (RSA) | • Community partnerships (AFA) |
| • Critical thinking (TMU) | • Art History (EGR) |
| • Survival Spanish (NMC) | • Coding for scientists (NST) |

A more detailed outline of each of these courses is available at the end of the brochure. We will ask students to give a preference of 3 courses in order. Wherever logistically possible, pupils will get their first two choices, and we will do our best to make this the case for the vast majority, if not all, pupils. However, if particular courses are extremely popular, it may not be possible to accommodate all pupils, in which case they will be given their third option. I should also point out that due to timetabling clashes, there are a few subject lessons which run in these enrichment slots, meaning that those students will be otherwise engaged at the times the courses run.

Subject specific library enrichment

In addition to the Enrichment Courses, doing three subjects affords pupils additional time to read and research in more depth and detail around their remaining subjects. This has direct benefits to a pupil's motivation, understanding and success in those subjects. It is also a key indicator of interest and enthusiasm for a given subject which pupils will need to include in their university application. Each subject has prepared a range of wider reading materials for Sixth Form pupils and all pupils on three subjects will need to sign up for two library reading lessons of their choice per week from January onwards. For those pupils on four or five subjects, these materials are of course also available, but on an optional basis.

Next steps

Once pupils have had a chance to consider their options in terms of the right A Level programme for them following the November assessments and Parents' Evening, they should complete the attached form (tutors will also have copies to hand out) and return it to their tutor. If pupils are sure of their choices, we would appreciate returns before Christmas to aid with the logistics, but we understand that this may require reflection and discussion over the holiday, so could we please have them back by latest **Tuesday 9th January**. If this is a problem, or you need further discussion with teachers, do please let us know. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact your son or daughter's tutor or the Director of Sixth Form.

Programme overviews for the Enrichment Courses

Critical Thinking – Mr Murphy

Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and rationally about what to do or what to believe. It includes the ability to engage in reflective and independent thinking.

Someone with critical thinking skills is able to do the following :

- understand the logical connections between ideas
- identify, construct and evaluate arguments
- detect inconsistencies and common mistakes in reasoning
- solve problems systematically

Critical thinking is not:

- Accumulating information.
- Being critical of other people (although this may come into it)

Why is critical thinking important?

- Critical thinking is a domain-general thinking skill. Being able to think well and solve problems systematically is an asset for any career.
- Critical thinking is very important in the new knowledge economy. Good critical thinking promotes such thinking skills, and is very important in the fast-changing workplace.
- Critical thinking enhances language and presentation skills. Thinking clearly and systematically can improve the way we express our ideas.
- Critical thinking promotes creativity. Critical thinking plays a crucial role in evaluating new ideas, selecting the best ones and modifying them if necessary
- Good critical thinking skills will enhance performance in examinations

The course will be useful for all, but of particular relevance for those facing unseen analytical tests or interviews. If you enjoy kicking around ideas and arguments more than merely accumulating facts) you will benefit. Problem-solvers, debaters, intellectuals (and pseudo-intellectuals!) and those who enjoy challenging arguments and questioning established views and practices will be in their element.

Coding for Scientists – Mr Stokes

Python is one of the most popular programming languages both in education and in industry. Python is used by Google, NASA, Instagram, Facebook and thousands of other companies to develop their applications. It is easy to learn and is a suitable language for tackling all sorts of projects.

In this short course, we will be introducing you to the basic principles of programming and the Python language. You do not need to have any previous programming experience. We will see how you can get data from a user and process it to form the output you require using sequence, selection and iteration techniques. It is often useful to store data, either prior to processing or afterwards, and we will investigate ways this can be achieved with text files and SQL databases.

Art History – Dr Gray

Art History is a subject that allows you to explore and understand the visual world around you. In a time when we are bombarded by visual images, learning how to look and talk about images is not only enjoyable, but important for evaluating the messages that are communicated to us. In this course you will consider different topics, such as the human body, nature, politics and war, relationships by looking at different works of art (painting, sculpture, photography, drawings and illustrations) from a range of different artistic movements (such as medieval, Impressionist, Cubist, Surrealist, Pop Art).

Classes will be based around discussions, films, games and independent research. Learning how to look at images not only provides a useful skill, but it equips you with a way of looking that will continue to enhance your interaction with the world around you.

Survival Spanish – Mrs McVitty

In this course you will learn one of the essential skills that a good education can provide: how to communicate in a foreign language.

Imagine that you find yourself in Spain, Mexico or South America, whether it is for work or leisure and realise that not as many people as you thought speak English! Fear not! If you have never studied Spanish before, this survival course is for you.

We will look at and practise essential Spanish structures and phrases which will help you get what you need, sort simple problems and more importantly communicate so you can fully appreciate the culture and getting to know more people. Last but not least, it will stop people laughing at you and give you the confidence you need.

The Art of Public Speaking – Mr Salem

In this course you will learn some of the most important skills that a good education can provide: how to speak in public. Whether you are leading a seminar of students at university, addressing your colleagues or giving a best man/woman speech at a wedding, you are guaranteed to need to address a large audience at some stage in the coming years. What is more, you may well need to persuade that audience: to buy, to sell, to vote, to employ you...

We will look at structuring speeches, the 'Power of Three', body language, eye contact, verbal tics and how to master them, humour, how to construct (and deconstruct) arguments, and much, much more. At the end of the course you will understand the theory behind effective public speaking and you will have had an opportunity to develop the skills and practise your new-found talent.

Community Partnerships – Mr Fahey

We will be organising opportunities to engage in partnerships within the community on a regular basis. In the first instance we will be looking for students to help with English and Maths at St John's Primary school in Caterham. We visit St John's once a week for a double lesson to assist with lessons.

Other possibilities, depending on numbers and transport, could be helping at Clifton Hill or the Orpheus Centre. These will be dependent on when you are available and on transport logistics. Should you have a link with a community group with opportunities for a regular commitment, it is possible that we will be able to facilitate this during the school day, please let us know

These opportunities will be immensely satisfying, contributing to the community, and will allow you to develop key personal qualities in a practical setting beyond your day to day experience. You will have to demonstrate commitment, empathy and good communication. As the links develop there will be a need for creativity, teamwork and leadership.

Lower Sixth Subject and Enrichment Choices Form

Name.....

Tutor Group.....

Please complete the below.

Either:

I have decided to continue with all of my current subjects.

Signed.....

Or:

I have decided to stop studying the following subject

Signed.....

For all students who will be doing 3 A levels from January:

My top 3 preferences for my Enrichment Courses are:

Enrichment Course	Preference (1, 2, 3)
Survival Spanish (NMC)	
Coding for scientists (NST)	
Art History (EGR)	
Community partnerships (AFA)	
Public speaking (RSA)	
Critical thinking (TMU)	