

• St John's • inspire programme

St John's College launches the next phase of the *Inspire* programme

I am delighted that the College is now able to extend its outreach programmes to Year 9 students through this exciting new initiative. St John's wishes to do all it can to widen access to higher education and to encourage all students to aim high and to believe in their potential to achieve.

Professor
Maggie Snowling

President, St John's College



St John's announces the creation of a new in-depth programme aimed at highly-able, pre-GCSE, state school students in one of the College's link regions: Ealing and Harrow. It will launch in September 2019 for 40 teachers and 400 students at the start of Year 9 (13-year-olds) and will run until the end of July 2022 when those students will have completed their GCSE year (Year 11).

Inspire will look at the needs of the highly-able student in the round to:

- Support students with inspiring digital curriculum content and resources for in-depth study;
- Provide stimulating extra-curricular activities, such as debating, to develop broader non-academic skills;
- Raise students' aspirations and self-belief about their potential to achieve through ongoing *Inspire* workshops locally;
- Inspire further the most able students through attendance at a five-day St John's Oxford Summer School;
- Develop teacher understanding of how best to support highly-able students;
- Disseminate best practice across schools to support a wider range of able students;
- Support parents and carers with information about the benefits of higher education – and Oxford in particular – and raise their awareness of student needs and potential.

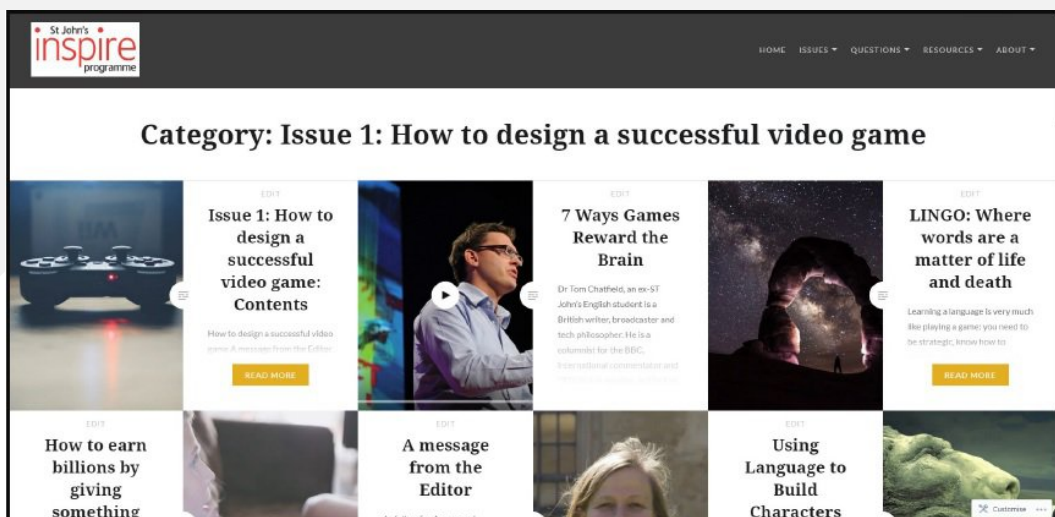
What will we offer?

Inspire Club

This fortnightly after-school club will offer a range of activities, aimed at building students' confidence. Some sessions, like maths or physics masterclasses, will be run with Oxford academics. Activities will include:

- Practice your debating skills against your peers on thought-provoking issues beyond the standard curriculum
- Design a new building or city using architects' software
- Develop a new product as a group in a Young Enterprise-style activity
- Collaborative problem-solving games, including coding and programming





Inspire Digital

Inspire Digital is an online resource packed with inspiring content, written by experts, providing structured digital mini-courses across the three years of the programme and covering a range of subject areas.

Students will have access to modules on a termly basis – and the content will relate to the content of the workshops (see below). Students will also have access to reference content online to support their learning.

What will we offer?

Inspire Workshops

Twice-termly Saturday workshops will build on content in the digital hub with a challenging and inspiring day focused on learning broader non-academic skills:

- Learn to play the guitar in a day – and then perform in a concert for your parents
- Write a play in a day
- A hands-on workshop on taste and smell – and create your own experiments
- Make a film – and then hold a film show



The teacher co-ordinator of each group will be able to choose activities from an extensive list, including hands-on science experiments, a visit to the Houses of Parliament, a behind-the-scenes look at a museum...



Inspire Event Day

In Year 10, all 400 students will have the opportunity to visit Oxford for a day to explore the city and University.

What will we offer?

Inspire Oxford Summer School

Five days (three days in Year 11) of stimulating, challenging and stretching activities in Oxford to inspire two selected students from each school to raise their aspirations and to introduce them to a new world of experiences – and to their own potential.



Our plans include workshops at Oxford's museums and libraries, getting to grips with handling and investigating objects, learning bookbinding, teambuilding outdoor activities, a mystery to solve... And more!

[Click here for a sample
Summer School timetable extract.](#)

How can I be involved?

FOR STUDENTS

Ten highly-able students will be selected from each of the 40 state secondary schools involved in the programme at the start of Year 9 to take part. These ten students will be able to access all elements of the programme and at least two workshops per term. Two students from each school considered to have exceptional promise will be selected to attend the St John's Oxford Summer School at the end of each year of the programme: a one-week summer school in July 2020 and July 2021 and a shorter summer school in July 2022.

Students will initially be selected for the *Inspire* programme using a number of measures including:

- Strong academic performance in end of Year 8 examinations (A/A* equivalent);
- An individual application, including a personal statement.

Preference will be given to students in receipt of free school meals, and ACORN (an area with a flagged postcode) and POLAR (an area with a low progression rate to University) data will also be reviewed. In addition, adjustments will be made for students in care or disabled students to enable them to access the programme fully.

We will measure students' overall progress at the end of each year. Assessments will be carefully chosen to be free of bias (avoiding, for example, tests heavily focused on previous knowledge or cultural references) and to ensure a variety of modes of assessment. We will also monitor students' attendance, engagement with *Inspire* Digital and their motivation to continue on the programme. These assessments and measures will help determine which two of the ten students on each year's programme will attend the St John's Summer School. Student and teacher feedback will also be sought through qualitative questionnaires and focus groups.

Additionally, parents and carers of students on the programme will be supported to broaden their understanding of the needs of highly-able children and the opportunities offered by further study at elite universities.

Mentors drawn from amongst St John's own undergraduates and graduates will provide students with support and encouragement throughout the three years through organised events and workshops.



How can I be involved?

FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS

With a total investment of £825,000 to deliver *Inspire* pre-GCSE, St John's will recruit and fund 40 teachers in 40 state secondary schools. A highly-motivated Teacher Co-ordinator will be appointed in each school to improve support, to embed best practice and to broaden understanding of the needs of highly-able disadvantaged students. Each Co-ordinator will support ten students on the programme one-to-one, run workshops and set up a club in their school. These Co-ordinators will be part of a network and will be supported by specialist advisors throughout the three years of the programme to ensure maximum impact.

We will pay the Teacher Co-ordinators and fund all events. A Project Lead will co-ordinate across all participating schools and a Project Support Officer will support the organisation of all events and clubs. See below for further details of these positions. We are also looking for two lead schools in Harrow and Ealing to host the programme's workshops.

[Contact Dr Sandra Campbell for further details if you are interested in being a host school.](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Project Lead The Project Lead will launch and develop the programme and be responsible for effective implementation. The role will be based in Harrow and/or Ealing with full administrative support for Teacher Co-ordinators to access advice and information throughout the year.

Project Support Officer The Project Support Officer will facilitate the fortnightly school clubs, weekend workshops and the summer schools. Their role will be reduce the administrative load for the schools and teachers.

[Click here for details of these job opportunities.](#)

Teacher Co-ordinators We are looking to appoint 40 teachers in 40 secondary state schools to deliver the programme in their school, with support from the Project Lead and Project Support Officer.

[Contact Dr Sandra Campbell for further details.](#)

St John's will host an annual *Inspire* Teacher Summit – a weekend conference for all teachers involved in St John's outreach programmes to share best practice, to celebrate success, to gain a better understanding of the collegiate University (for example, by using its libraries and museums) and to network with each other.

[Click here for details of the Teachers' Residential Week.](#)



Our Aims

St John's recognises the need to act, not only for the wider good, but also to ensure that the College continues to attract applications from students with outstanding potential, regardless of background, and to help them realise that potential through academic excellence and the promotion of diversity: the two are inextricably linked.

We aim to encourage all students with exceptional promise to aim high, to stretch themselves academically and to be confident in making well-founded applications to top universities like Oxford. We also though recognise that disadvantage sets in early and is hard to overcome. The typical comprehensive secondary school has just eleven high-attaining students per year, with 43% of schools having ten or fewer, and only one such student from a disadvantaged background. In addition, highly-able students from BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnicities) backgrounds are more likely to come from lower rather than higher socioeconomic groups. Disadvantaged students face significant obstacles and are not always able to fulfil their early promise. Barriers to success include lack of teacher awareness of how to support and stretch able students in mainstream settings (or lack of time), socioeconomic factors, parental lack of experience with higher education and lack of access to wider knowledge and experiences beyond the curriculum as well as general skills training.

The UK is experiencing an extended crisis in social mobility [with those] from privileged backgrounds... over-represented in the top professions and most prestigious universities... Many of these disparities, which have lifelong consequences, emerge in school.

Sir Peter Lampl

Founder, The Sutton Trust

St John's will put in place robust evaluation, both quantitative and qualitative, to select and track student progress and teacher and parent attitudes. Over time, this St John's investment could be applied to other colleges within the University of Oxford, and, based on well-evidenced success, a scalable model could be created to use in other regions.

Be Inspired!

[Click here for more information and to be part of this unique opportunity.](#)



Help us fill these seats with bright young students – get in touch now!

● St John's ● inspire programme

inspire@sjc.ox.ac.uk

(01865) 277350

St John's College
St Giles
OX1 3JP
Oxford

For more information, and to
find out how you can
participate:

[St John's Inspire Programme](#)

[Inspire Digital](#)