

ENGLISH & MEDIA

Jack Petchy Speak out Challenge: Fifty year 10 students attend workshops run by trained speakers

Literacy Captains: Each year Captains are selected to help and support literacy across the school, promoting various projects run by the English Department

BBC News Reporter: 30 of our Year 8 students will mentor younger students and take part in the BBC News School report for the second year running

Sentence of the Week: Every week 'Sentence of the week' is published in our newsletter and shared with staff and pupils.

Termly Writing Competition for the Young Writers: As a result of this the writing and poetry of many students has been published.

Poetry Competition: In its Fourth year; the competition takes place before Christmas. There is a separate poetry competition for Gifted and Talented students.

Theatre Trips: Theatre trips are run for students in all year groups.

Spoken Word lunchtime club: Students will be invited to learn about performance poetry leading to poetry 'Slams' (competitions).

KS3 English & Homework Projects: This year we will be setting termly projects with a select group of year 7 and 8 students. These will include stop motion, crazy talk and news programming.

GEOGRAPHY

Geography Club – Meets weekly

Interschools Geography Quiz (Geographical Association – Worldwide Quiz): Hosted by the Sixth form College. Each school can enter as many teams of 3 as they like.

GCSE Fieldwork Trip

The Young Geographers Award: All students can enter in year 9. Recognised by the Royal geographical Society

High Ability/extensions in all lessons – New KS4 resources and schemes of work for this year

Expert Geographers rewarded in lessons – Geographer Association badges

Ambassadors from the Royal Geographical society: Come in to talk to Gifted and Talented Students.

LANGUAGES

KS3

ALL: regional competition for speaking – students prepare dialogue and perform against other schools – there are 2 heats and a final, students in German, French and Spanish have been represented in the final over the last 2 years

SPANISH: New Yr7-9 Spanish club. GCSE Spanish for KS4

Foreign Language Assistants – Working with French and German language assistants – there are opportunities for students' language skills to be extended and developed further outside the classroom. FLAs run weekly lunchtime language clubs

TRIPS

German - Year 8 and 9 cultural trip to Mosel Valley plus new exchange with Gymnasium in Bochum planned for summer 2017

French - Year 8 and 9 French exchange with partner school in Bourgogne - June / July 2017. 5 days in France and 5 days in UK, cultural and language activities.

Year 10 language leaders' visit to local primary schools, Christmas 2016

EAL- Qualifications in native languages -

Students are encouraged where possible to take GCSE qualifications in their home languages. This is coordinated by our EAL (English as an additional language) teacher who deals with entries, runs additional exam language classes and oversees controlled assessment in writing and speaking. She is responsible for finding native speakers to conduct speaking exams. The number of students and range of languages is growing all the time.

KS4: Language Leaders – year 10 students gain level 1 qualification by working with primary and lower school students. They meet weekly; work on pedagogy, design resources and prepare games and activities. There are opportunities for them to visit partner primary schools and organize a language festival in summer term
Lunchtime sessions with FLAs to practice pronunciation and improve oral fluency

French Exchange – selected students host a French student from our partner school in Chatillon sur Seine and then spend 5 days in France with their partner. The programme includes joint lessons, cultural excursions and social events

MATHS:

North East Essex Maths Olympiad (Nemo): Two teams of four are entered from each year group annually to join 20 other teams in Maths competition.

BLETCHLEY PARK VISIT – 50 talented maths pupils will be taken to Bletchley Park for code-breaking activities.

P.E.

Pupils who show talent in lessons are encourage to attend a variety of lunchtime clubs and after school teams

GCSE Pupils – are encouraged to attend Wednesday after school sessions where the department can do one to one coaching / team / group coaching to improve the quality of their performance

The department has a display that highlights all G and T pupils in a variety of outside school sports. These students receive additional support and training for competitions about College work load at home.

The department has put co-ordinates talented sports pupils so that any pupil who shows an interest in a particular activity can then be put in contact with other pupils on the list, who act as mentors.

Through the year 9 performing arts programme a number of pupils are trained as sports leaders and they are invited to lead primary schools sports events. The best pupils are then taken to Mersea Primary school to help lead their annual sports day.

DRAMA:

Christmas and summer showcases

Technical Crew; a group of students who help set up and run audio equipment for drama productions.

MUSIC:

Gifted and Talented Instrumental & Choir Groups

Opportunities to conduct/direct lower year's vocal groups.

Peripatetic lessons; Help develop a range of skills and interests; from Voice, Guitar, Woodwind/Brass, Strings to Drums and piano/keyboard

Performance Opportunities; Regular concerts, Christmas and Summer

SCIENCE:

University Visits: Annual trip to the 'Big Bang' event at the University.

Science Live Lectures: Open to Year 11 students

STEM Club: .Friday lunch times run by the University

KS4 Separate Sciences Option: Students are given the opportunity to choose separate sciences, this is particularly useful if they want to go on to study medicine.