



# ASPIRE

## The John Warner School Opportunities Roundup

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## Aspire launch



Welcome to the first edition of Aspire, The John Warner School's futures roundup. It's my job as Associate Head teacher for Aspiration, Scholarships and Futures, to coordinate opportunities

for the incredible students in our school and across the Multi Academy Trust. As well as working with KS5 students to support their applications to university through UCAS, I am also responsible for ensuring all our students, through all key stages, recognize their worth and abilities to succeed academically. By identifying students with an aptitude for further study we can then help them to take advantage of the huge number of opportunities available to them both in and outside of school. This might be through our Scholars Programme, Faculty Enrichment Projects or Futures Days. We work closely with the best universities to ensure we develop our students' skills, experiences and subsequently widen their choices when it comes to studying at university.

With this monthly publication, we now have in place a central location for parents and students to refer to when looking at the possibility of applying to university. With many tailored opportunities for students of all ages, who wish to go on to study at undergraduate level.

In each edition you will find information on the school's futures programme and all manner of useful information to help our students aim high now and for their futures.

To get in touch email [ukt@johnwarner.herts.sch.uk](mailto:ukt@johnwarner.herts.sch.uk)

*"Having been conflicted about what I wanted to do post A levels, attending various taster sessions throughout the year (organised by the school) allowed me to focus in on what I wanted to do and was a great opportunity to expand my current knowledge! The teachers were very supportive and know how and when to help."*

*Maddie Sanz*

*JWS alumni*

*Studying medicine at UCL*

## Taster Days and Summer Schools

In each edition you will find listings for Taster Days and Summer Schools. These are a great opportunity for students to visit subject specific sessions at local universities. Quite often students will have the opportunity to meet and talk to subject lecturers, attend workshops and learn new and challenging topics. These are great opportunities for students to try out subjects, develop learning skills and meet new people. Experiencing university life can be a really good motivator for students. If they know what their end goal is, then they are more likely to work hard to achieve them. [See current opportunities for years 9-13 on page 3](#)

Summer schools are often residential trips at universities for older students, usually those in year 12. Students will often get an opportunity to engage in some undergraduate subject specific tasks and experience lectures and tutorials. These are excellent opportunities to meet new people, make contacts at specific universities and is also a useful activity to include on your personal statement when you apply to university.



# ASPIRE

John Warner School opportunities roundup

## Teacher Ambassador Project

This year The John Warner School is taking part in an exciting new partnership with St Peter's College of Oxford University. The Teacher Ambassador project is aimed at encouraging applications to one of the most prestigious universities in the world. Executive Head teacher, Mr Kennedy and Miss Thomas, Associate Head teacher, took part in the launch day at St Peter's College for the project which will run for 3 years. The project will involve Miss Thomas working with Professor Marina MacKay at the English department at Oxford to develop an enrichment programme for A level English students. Miss Thomas will also be developing further ways of supporting students in applying to Oxford university with expert guidance from admissions tutors.



*'This is an exciting project which will involve teachers from other faculties in the future. We already have a close working partnership with Oxford University and it is a great privilege to be working with St Peter's College.'*

### Student View



**Tabitha Dunthorne** shares her views about how the Teacher Ambassador Project has impacted her learning.

The mock tutorials that take place after school with myself and another student, do more than allow me to put off my politics homework for an hour or two; the method of teaching is unique, creating in students a kind of feedback loop of ideas and their development, whilst ensuring the retention of a large amount of independence within said development. Points expressed verbally allow less time for refinement, admittedly, but equally don't allow for doubt; they are necessarily sincere and largely experimental in nature (although teacher guidance ensured that these ideas didn't get a little too experimental). Even when addressing unseen texts, there exists in traditional essay-writing the comfort zone of having time to formulate a written plan. Given the limited opportunity for just talking about texts in a consciously academic way, was actually really fun.

Lasting for about an hour, it was pretty impressive how much we actually discussed. In that time, we examined two texts: Orwell's essay 'Why I Write' and an unseen poem by Don Paterson, 'The Rat'. The essay was one I went into the session with some big (see: self-assured) opinions about; most of these were challenged, and many were abandoned under a closer examination than they previously received through just reading the text. The poem allowed for less self-assurance - on account of it being unseen - as my opinions were constructed in a context of debate, a context that required them to be formed on a stronger basis. Neither text forms part of the A level course. One benefit of this is the introduction of writing we probably wouldn't have read (at least, not with as much focus) Another is the welcome shift of attention, as texts in English class tend to be studied very closely for extended periods of time, although the session didn't operate independently to, or irrespective of, the lessons we already attend; the novelty was helpful in illuminating novel ideas to apply directly to the familiar texts.

Ideally, every school should have this in place for interested students, partially for the sake of their grades, mostly because learning so engagingly makes subjects seem much more real; not the means to an end or the final grade that the subjects can seem like with the ever-present approach of preparing for exams and the critical red pen. Introduced as early as year 12, it's easy to believe that it would be a veritable blessing for student motivation, by giving another approach to revision and another opportunity for supra-curricular work.



# ASPIRE

## The John Warner School Opportunities Roundup



### The Brilliant Club

The Scholars Programme recruits PhD researchers, trains them as university access professionals and places them as tutors in schools to deliver programmes of university style tutorials to small groups of high potential pupils. Pupils study academic subjects based on their PhD tutor's research, completing weekly homework assignments and a final written assignment. Each programme starts and finishes with a trip to one of our partner universities, where pupils have a campus tour, meet undergraduates and receive guidance from university admissions staff. Our year 10 students have recently started their project on monuments, which involved a launch trip to Oxford university!

### Primary Aspire

It's never too early to think about challenging and inspiring children to aim high. Instilling them with an enthusiasm for learning about the world will set them up for a future of academic and personal success. This section of the roundup will share events and activities in the local area that will enrich and excite those growing brains! We would welcome any feedback or contributions to this section;

#### Music

**The Peacock Theatre** will once again be bringing Raymond Briggs' much-loved children's book *The Snowman* to the stage, with a live orchestral performance of *Walking In The Air* - [www.londondrum.com/events](http://www.londondrum.com/events)

#### Literature

**The Discovery Story Centre** is a fabulous place to let children's love of literature come to life [www.discover.org.uk](http://www.discover.org.uk)

**Paddington Bear Walking Tour of London** Uncover the world of Paddington Bear on a walking tour with a local guide. Explore locations that featured in Michael Bond's much loved books as well as locations from both movies. You'll get to explore areas of London including Paddington, Little Venice, Maida Vale and Notting Hill. As you walk, you'll learn about how the famous Bear from Peru arrived in London and the adventures he had in the British capital

#### Science/Photography

**Wildlife Photographer of the Year** exhibition is a highlight of the year at the Natural History Museum, consistently showing fresh perspectives on animals, insects, plants and landscapes. Brilliantly captured across a variety of categories, a bald eagle soaked to the skin, seals in a frozen labyrinth and a seahorse holding onto a cottonbud help create the most

Let us know what you have been doing to develop your love for learning - send your pictures and reviews to;

[lkt@johnwarner.herts.sch.uk](mailto:lkt@johnwarner.herts.sch.uk)



#### Alumni

If you are alumni of The John Warner School or any of the Multi Academy Trust Schools, and you would like to work with us helping our students to aspire to studying at university, we would love to hear from you! We are always looking for successful ex students to come back and talk to the students about their academic and professional experiences Please get in touch at [lkt@johnwarner.herts.sch.uk](mailto:lkt@johnwarner.herts.sch.uk)



# ASPIRE

# UCAS

## Upcoming opportunities calendar

To book onto any of these please contact ;

[lkt@johnwarner.herts.sch.uk](mailto:lkt@johnwarner.herts.sch.uk)

**Reminder : UCAS** deadline is **January 15th** Year 13 students should have submitted their applications **before** the Christmas holidays!

### Year 9-12 Maths Conference for Girls **January 2018**

The Mathematical Institute and Department of Statistics are running a maths conference for girls. These will include Inspirational talks by female mathematicians, mathematical activities and games and hands-on workshops.

### Year 11 and 12 Philosophy Plus Science Taster Day **January 2018**

This taster day provides an opportunity to find out more about how science and philosophy intertwine. More specifically, how computer science, physics, and mathematics all have "one thing in common, philosophy. The day will consist of lectures and college tours, as well as advice on the Oxford application process. Speakers will include University of Oxford lecturers and there'll be the chance to meet current Oxford students

### Year 12 English and History Study Days **January 2018**

University College, Oxford is excited to host an engaging and challenging study day for 60 Year 12 students interested in English or History. The day will include lectures from University's tutors and some extended break-out sessions where students will be able to discuss their subject in detail with other students

### Year 10 Taster Day Oxford University **February 2018**

Taster Days give academically able year 10 students a chance to visit Oxford for a taste of what it would be like to study here. The programme includes an introduction to higher education and student finance, interactive sessions with current students, lunch served in a college dining hall, and participation in an academic activity

### Debate Chamber Summer Schools 2018

#### Year 10-12 Medicine Summer School

A series of two-day events with specialist sessions on cardiology, pediatrics, oncology, emergency medicine and many other topics – enabling students to attend a wide-ranging introduction or select the sessions most relevant to their interests.

#### Year 10-12 Summer Law School

Three distinct five-day Parts to allow time for more cases, more analysis and more debate on some of the most intriguing legal questions. Students can choose to focus on Criminal Law, Civil Law or International Law, or to attend all three Parts for a comprehensive introduction to legal study.

#### Year 10-12 The Philosophy and Critical & Cultural Theory Summer Schools

Will look at some of the biggest questions in metaphysics, ethics and political theory, giving an opportunity to engage with the work of some fascinating thinkers, and also to develop students' own skills of reasoning and argumentation.

#### Year 10-12 Mathematics and Physics Summer Schools

These five-day events offer a challenging and rigorous exploration of theory and application, with a focus on developing practical problem-solving skills.

Arts & Humanities, we have Summer Schools in Economics, History,



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# UCAS

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**Reminder : UCAS deadline is January 15th** Year 13 students should have submitted their applications **before** the Christmas holidays!

### Year 9-12 UCL Taster Day for Girls February 2018

UCL is delighted to announce that it will be hosting 'Envision @UCL', a one-day event targeted at black female students interested in going to university and about to make important decisions about their futures.

The event is open to black female students in Years 10 -12 who meet all three eligibility criteria:

A prospective female student from a Black African, Black Caribbean or Mixed Black African/Black Caribbean background.

Attending a state school or academy in the UK, in Years 10 - 12.

On track to meet UCL entry requirements (minimum of ABB at A Level or 34 points at IB, plus minimum of grade C in GCSE English Language and Mathematics).

### Year 11-13 Tower Poetry Competition March 2018

Tower Poetry started in 2000 when a generous bequest to Christ Church, University of Oxford was made by the late Christopher Tower to stimulate an enjoyment and critical appreciation of poetry, particularly among young people in education, and to challenge people to write their own poetry.

Headed by the poet and academic, Peter McDonald (the first holder of the Christopher Tower Studentship and Tutorship in Poetry in the English Language at Christ Church, Oxford, and a Lecturer in the English Faculty of Oxford University) Tower Poetry runs a prestigious annual competition for 16 -18 year olds in the UK on a set theme.

In addition residential Summer Schools are run for those between 18-23 (the 10th was held from 30 August-2 September 2016), which bring a number of students together and allow them to write their own poetry in a stimulating and enjoyable environment. Over ten titles have now been published as well as about 100 book reviews, poetry readings and other events.

### Year 12 Floreat Humanities Programme January 2018

Balliol College, Oxford University, is running an academic programme for students in Hertfordshire. Following the successful programmes in 2015/16 and 2016/17, Floreat will offer around 20 Year 12 students from state schools the opportunity to engage with Oxford-style teaching in the humanities, as part of a 6-month academic programme.

The year will include academic seminars, led by Oxford University representatives and hosted after school hours in Harpenden, Hertfordshire; a five-day residential summer school at Balliol College, Oxford; and advice and support ahead of making applications to university in Year 13.

This opportunity is being offered free of charge and will suit bright students who are interested in studying a broad arts/humanities programme at a top university and keen to engage with academic material outside their school curriculum.

### CUSU 2018 Shadowing Scheme January 2018

The CUSU Shadowing Scheme brings UK students from schools without a tradition of top university entry to Cambridge for three days.

Prospective students come to Cambridge and spend time with a current undergraduate, studying a subject that they are interested in, who they 'shadow'. Accommodation and meals within the Cambridge colleges are provided as part of the Shadowing Scheme.

The idea is to give those who have little or no experience of university a taste of student life at Cambridge, in real time, with real people. We especially welcome applications from those who would be the first in their immediate family to attend university.