



TOWNLEY ELECTIVES 2024

Education that Empowers

Townley Grammar wants to provide students with an education that allows them to go beyond the curriculum, providing a bespoke experience that will enable students to specialise in fields, they may not be able to during their study of A Levels.

Electives will enhance our students' education, widening and deepening their knowledge and providing an exciting opportunity to study areas they may not be able to access till they get to university.

The purpose of the programme is, therefore, to enable all students to be able to develop their knowledge and understanding of areas that their academic rigours do not necessarily cover. There is, therefore, a wide variety of options for students to choose from; these range from accredited (certified) to non-accredited (non-certified) options, as well as those which will require curricular or some extra-curricular involvement. Students will choose to take one or more of these electives for one period per week per elective through to the Summer Term.

Please read the options carefully and ensure you choose electives that complement your A Level choices.



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*Electives marked with an asterisk are accredited courses.

NB. Subjects offered are dependent on numbers and staffing.

ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS

Additional Maths is an accredited one year course aimed at students not studying A-level Mathematics. The course is designed to build on the GCSE Mathematics course and extend knowledge to cover some of the basic concepts learnt at A-level such as calculus, statistics and mechanics. The course will help students studying any maths based A-Level course such as Computing, Economics, Physics, Biology or Chemistry, but can be taken by anyone wishing to extend their interest in the subject. (The course should not be taken by anyone taking A-level Mathematics).



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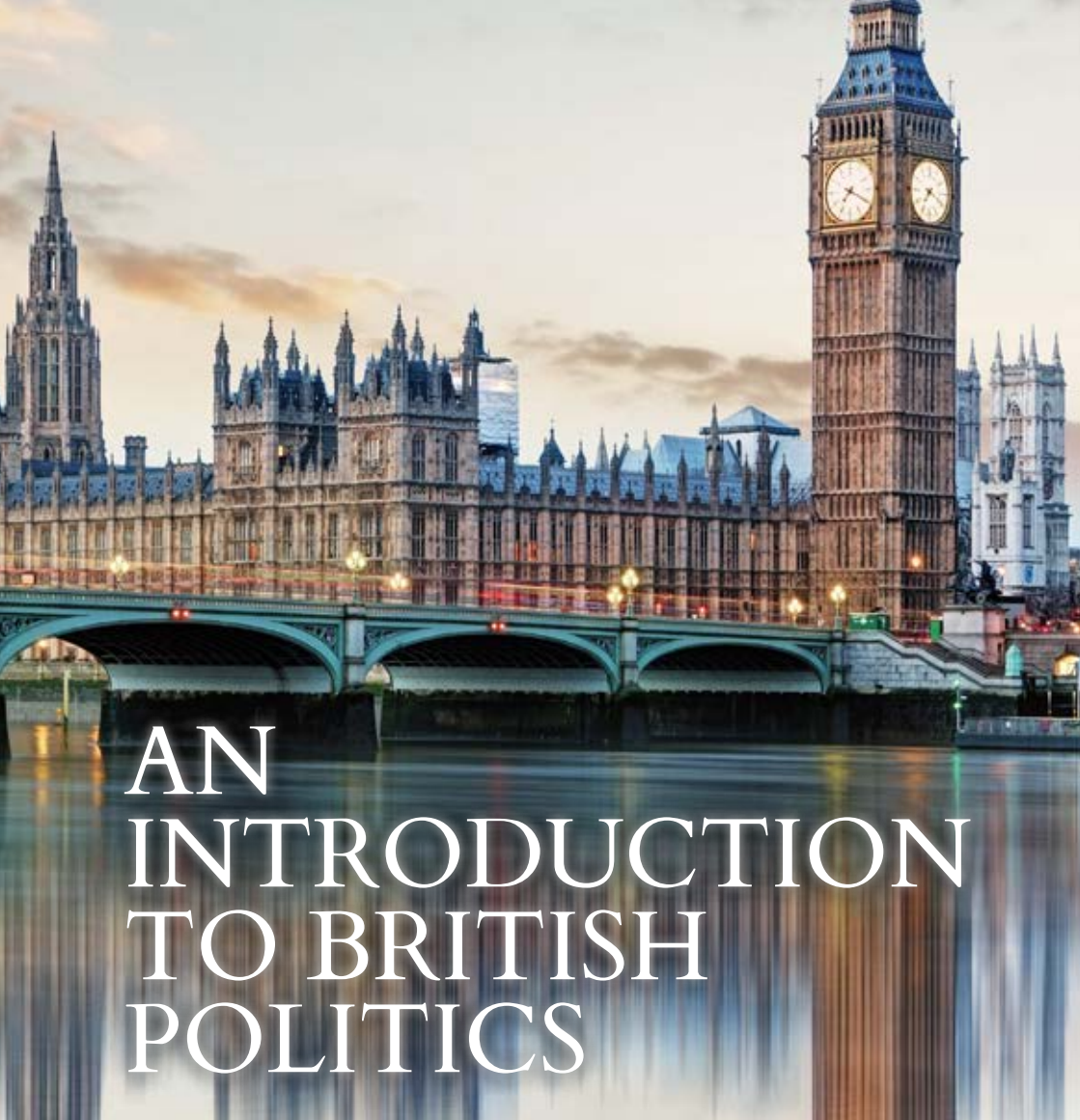


AI

This will be dedicated time for students to complete Courses, Tutorials and Certifications in AI. This will prepare students for the future world and help them understand how AI works. Students will carry out activities such as Chat bot creations among others.



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AN INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH POLITICS

The aim of this course is to give non-Politics A Level students an introduction to, and understanding of, the workings of the British political system. It will answer questions such as: How does Parliament pass laws? What is the role of the judiciary? Do we have a British constitution? What does it mean to vote? How important is your vote and how does the voting system operate in the UK? The course will give a foundation for students trying to comprehend the complexities of modern day politics in Britain looking at systems of governance and current events.



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ANCIENT GREEK DRAMA

The drama produced in the ancient Greek theatre forms some of the most powerful literature of the ancient world, and has had a profound and wide reaching influence on modern culture, from Shakespeare to Tarantino. In this elective you will study plays produced by the ancient Athenians, including the myths on which they are based and the context in which they were performed. You will also have the chance to see how these plays have impacted modern culture.



ANCIENT LANGUAGES

This course is offered for anyone interested in learning or consolidating knowledge in ancient languages. We will learn beginner's Latin, ancient Greek, Persian and one of either Norse or Egyptian hieroglyphs! By learning these languages, we will be able to get a new perspective on the cultures that used them, which in turn will lead to discussions of how those cultures can be connected to our own through their language and cultural traditions. Enriching your ideas of other languages will broaden your horizons and maybe even appreciate our own language in a new light as the descendant of so many.



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ANCIENT WORLD STUDIES

This elective will enable you to study the lives, societies and cultural productions of a diverse range of ancient societies from across the world. Through art, architecture, literature and artefacts you will come to understand the values, beliefs and experiences of people who lived thousands of years ago. Each half term will focus on a different society, so you'll develop a broad historical and cultural understanding that will stand you in good stead if applying for a Humanities subject at university.



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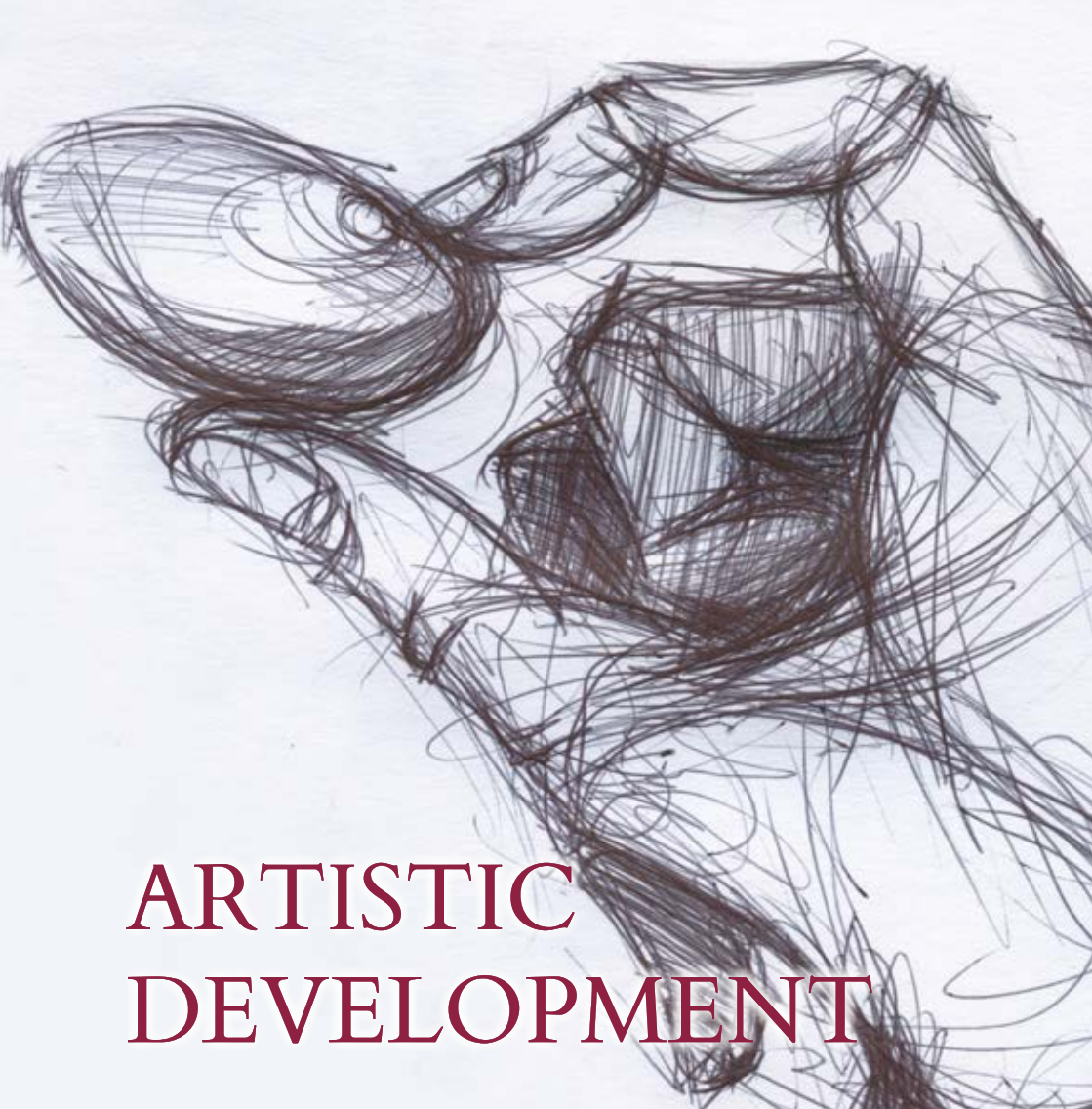


ART APPRECIATION

Visual language is around us on a daily basis, from billboard advertisements to television and film. Being able to decipher a visual language is a key skill; in this Art Appreciation course you will learn how to decode paintings and analyse what artists were trying to convey. You will also see how art sometimes shocked the world, and how it often changed the way people viewed society. The art appreciation course will teach you how to analyse images and understand a visual world at a deeper level. Suitable for any student interested in Art and Art History.



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ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

In this course you will be taken through drawing and painting techniques to improve your skills. This course is an excellent opportunity for students to learn new skills or improve existing ones in Art. Suitable for any student interested in visual art.



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ASTRONOMY

Students will explore Planet Earth, The Moon, The Solar System, solar astronomy and cosmology in this elective, based on the content of the GCSE Astronomy course. As well as studying time and starlight, students will consider their place in our galaxy and the Universe. Students will learn theoretical models of planetary motion and stellar evolution. They will cover the basics of celestial navigation alongside observation of a range of astronomical features.





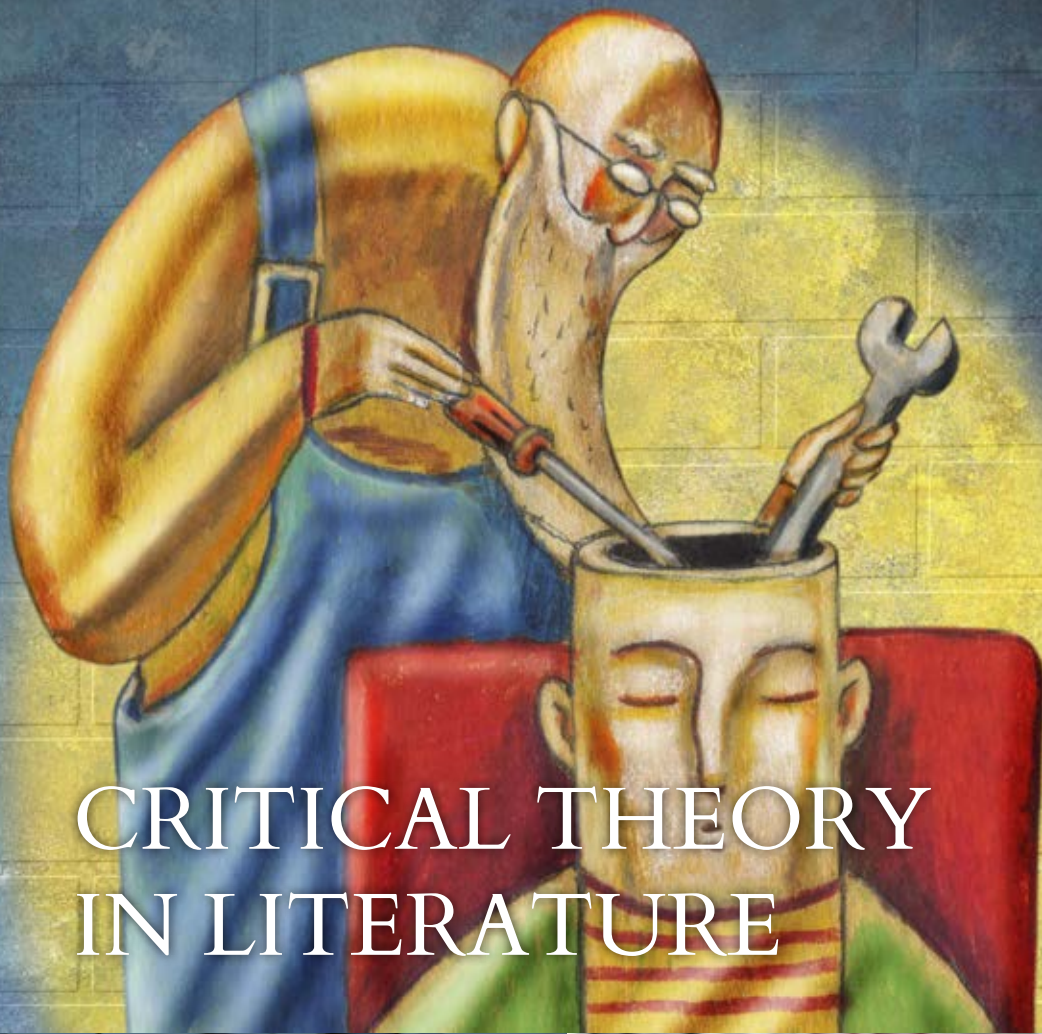
CHOIR

This elective is for anyone who enjoys singing. We will sing songs in a range of styles, in up to three part harmony, with song choices led by group interest and taste. Rock, pop, gospel, jazz and classical repertoire are all available but other requests are also possible. No previous singing or music reading experience is required. Practice will build to performances in a range of events throughout the year.



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CRITICAL THEORY IN LITERATURE

If there is such thing as literary theory, then it would seem obvious that there is something called literature which it is the theory of. We can begin then, by raising the question: what is literature? This course will make modern literary theory intelligible and attractive to as wide a readership as possible. We will cover all aspects of literary theory from psychoanalysis to feminism to post-modernist viewpoints and all will absolutely change the way you think about texts for a long time to come... Suitable for any student studying Literature or students who have a passion for reading.



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DANCE LEADERS

Dance Leaders is a bespoke course which enables successful learners to lead purposeful and enjoyable dance activity sessions, under indirect and direct supervision. Key content: leadership skills including organisation, planning, communication and teamwork through the medium of dance. Leaders can expect to: develop their leadership skills, plan, lead and evaluate dance sessions, assist in planning a dance activity/event, lead dance activity sessions. Suitable for all students that have a passion for Dance.



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DEAF AWARENESS

The focus of this is to highlight the impact of hearing loss on everyday life and increase visibility and inclusion of Deaf people. You'll develop a range of techniques and skills to communicate effectively including British Sign Language. Deaf awareness is about promoting the positive aspects of deafness and social inclusion. Beneficial for anyone who is going to be working with a variety of people in the future.



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DofE
THE DUKE
OF EDINBURGH'S
AWARD

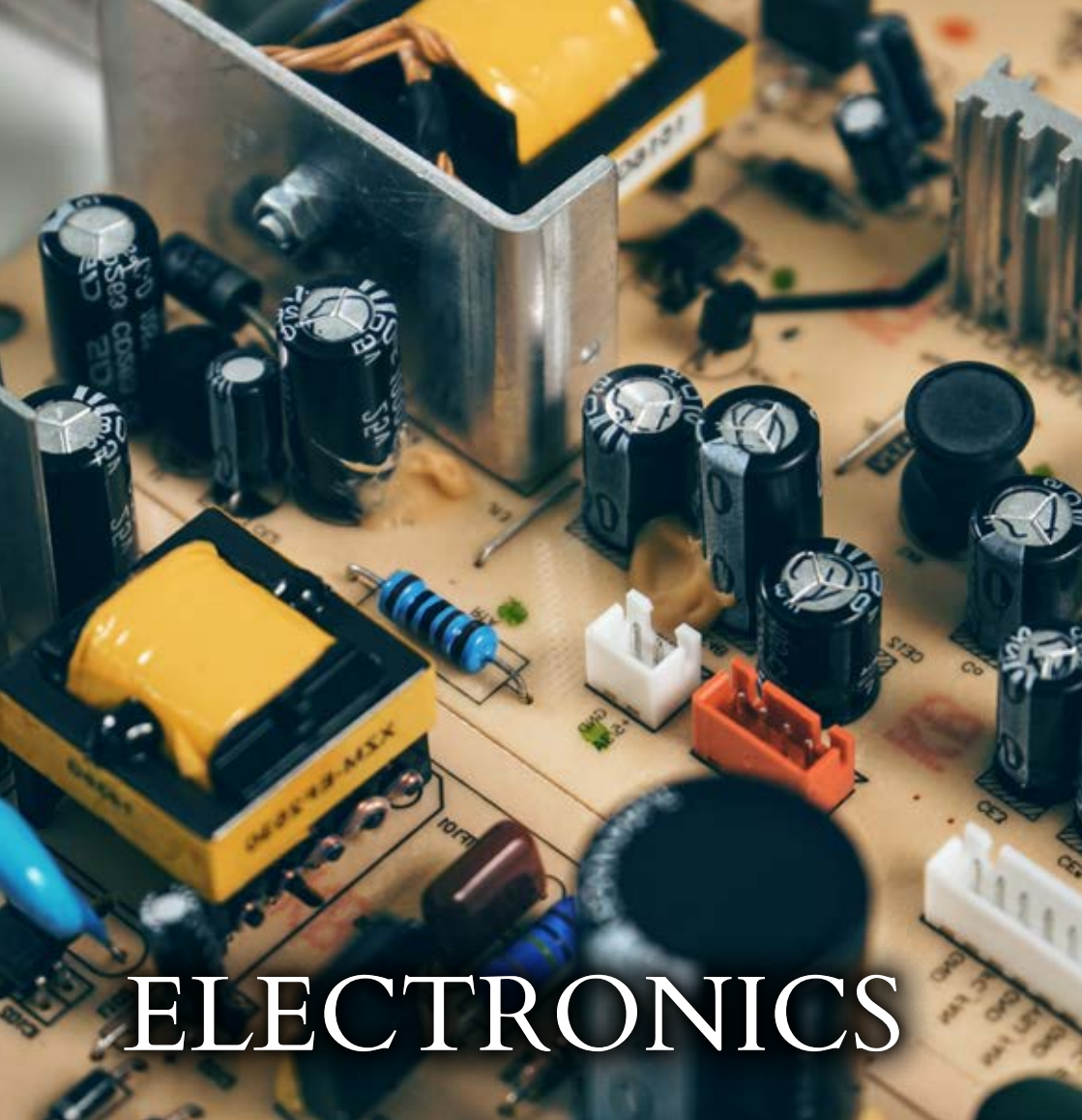
DofE
GOLD

Doing DofE Gold will give you skills, confidence and an edge over others when you apply for college or university. You'll develop communication, leadership and teamwork skills as well making a difference to other people's lives and your community. You'll also go on an exciting (and very challenging!) expedition and have memories to last you a lifetime.

Not only that, there's a whole bunch of employers who value the DofE when hiring. You'll also get your achievement celebrated at a presentation with a member of the Royal Family. So, it really is a big deal!



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ELECTRONICS

This is a beginner's course and will cover basic skills and knowledge of electronics. This course will cover theory (looking at various components) as well as practicals including soldering, designing and making circuit boards.



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EUROPEAN LANGUAGES FRENCH

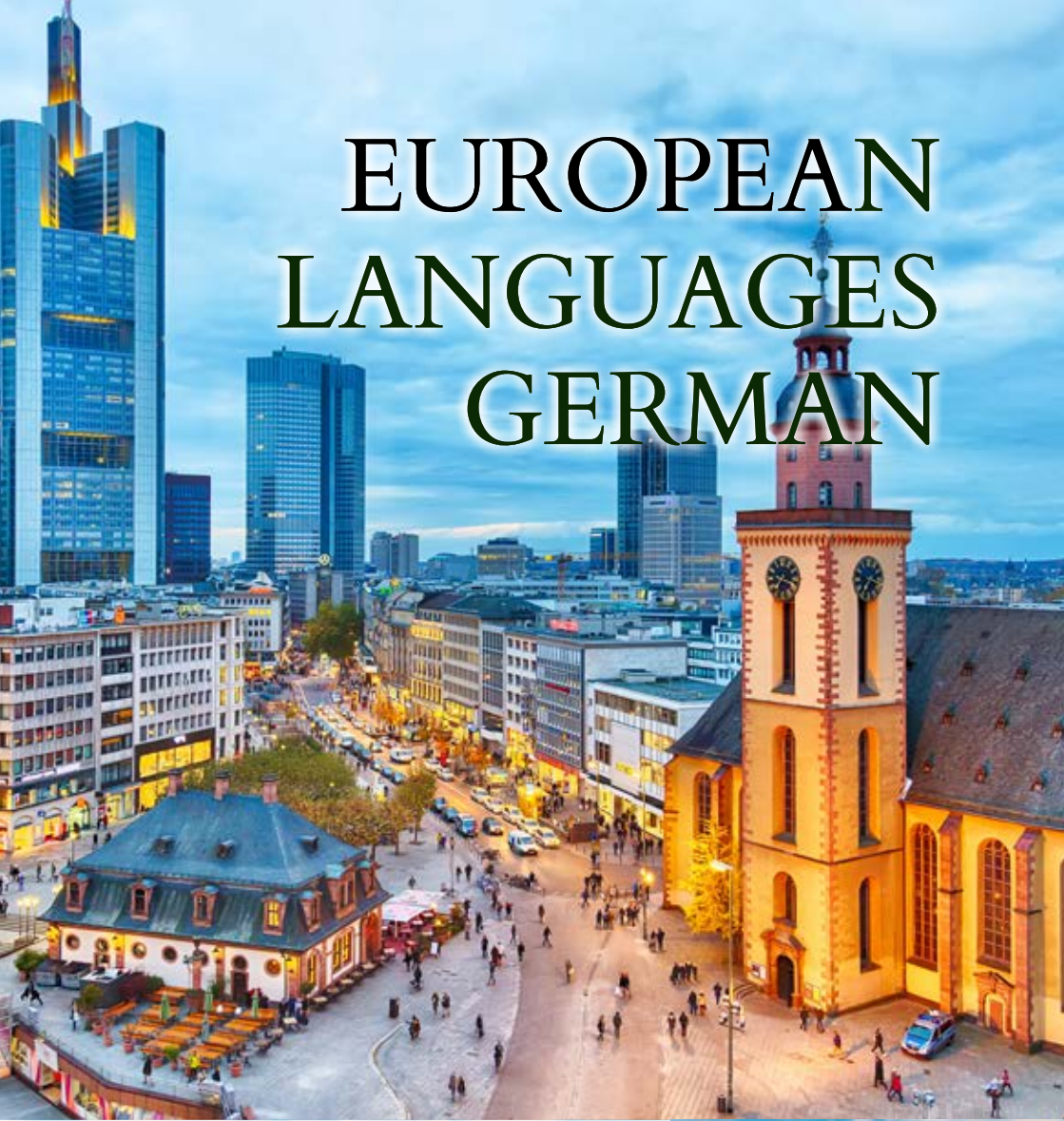


This course is designed for students who wish to continue with French after GCSE level. The course focuses on learning to communicate in settings that students might find themselves in should they visit a French speaking country. It is led by a native French speaker and will expand student's cultural knowledge of Francophone countries. Interactive, productive and receptive skills are developed through contextualised study of language, texts and themes.



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EUROPEAN LANGUAGES GERMAN

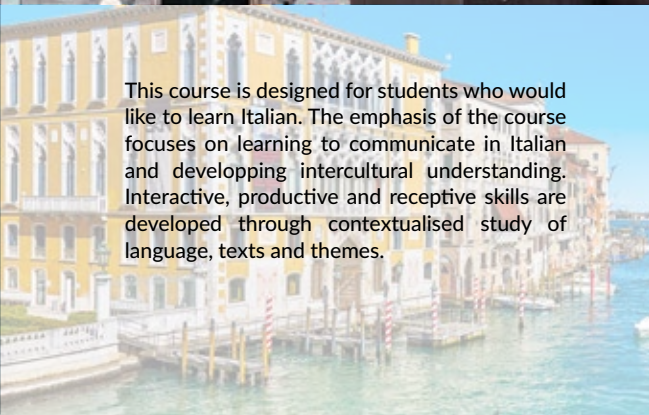


This course is designed for students who wish to continue with German after GCSE level. The course focuses on learning to communicate in settings that students might find themselves in should they visit a German speaking country. It is led by a native German speaker and will expand student's cultural knowledge of German-speaking countries. Interactive, productive and receptive skills are developed through contextualised study of language, texts and themes.

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EUROPEAN LANGUAGES ITALIAN



This course is designed for students who would like to learn Italian. The emphasis of the course focuses on learning to communicate in Italian and developing intercultural understanding. Interactive, productive and receptive skills are developed through contextualised study of language, texts and themes.



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EUROPEAN LANGUAGES SPANISH

This course is designed for students who wish to continue with Spanish after GCSE level. The course focuses on learning to communicate in settings that students might find themselves in should they visit a Spanish speaking country. It is led by a native Spanish speaker and will expand student's cultural knowledge of Hispanic countries. Interactive, productive and receptive skills are developed through contextualised study of language, texts and themes.



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FILM MAKING



Filmmakers use a range of elements in constructing narrative meaning and generating response. The key elements of film form consist of cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing, sound and performance and learners will enhance their knowledge of each aspect before going on to create their own short films, using cameras to film and learning to edit using Adobe Premiere Pro software. This course is designed for students who wish to pursue their interest in film-making who are not completing the full Film Studies A Level.



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FOOD

This course will focus on practical cooking skills to ensure you develop a thorough understanding of nutrition and Healthy food choices. Cooking is a life skill that during the year you will cover topics from affordable meals to cooking Hacks for University.



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A vibrant, pixelated LEGO-themed game scene. The central focus is a large, yellow, smiling LEGO head built from bricks, set against a blue sky with white clouds. To the left, a black and white eagle with a LEGO minifigure rider flies across. Below it, a red dragon-like creature is perched on a small, white, cloud-like platform. In the foreground, a large, green, textured LEGO structure resembling a mountain or a large head is visible. Several LEGO minifigures are scattered throughout the scene, some appearing to be in action. On the right, a red dragon with black wings is flying. The overall aesthetic is bright and colorful, typical of LEGO-themed games.

GAMES DEVELOPMENT

Computer games development is a very popular pastime for children and adults alike. Its popularity is reflected in the size of the games industry with games running on phones to consoles to home computers. The skills required to produce a game are varied, from a computer science point of view, a mix of technical and creative processes have to be employed to produce a finished product. The course will provide an introduction into the graphical and programming techniques required to produce a working 2D or 3D prototype game that could be targeted at the mobile or web markets.

A red shield-shaped logo featuring a white bird, possibly a phoenix or eagle, with its wings spread. The logo is positioned above the text 'TOWNLEY ELECTIVES 2024'.

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A detailed portrait of Immanuel Kant, showing his characteristic white powdered hair and a serious expression. The background is a dark, textured grey.

GERMAN PHILOSOPHY

Kant's categorical imperative shaped the way morality was viewed by society forever more. He was one of the foremost thinkers of enlightenment and arguably one of the greatest philosophers of all time. So how come, Nietzsche disagreed with him so strongly, and how does Pop-culture play into this? The German philosophy Elective seeks to review some of the most famous philosophical theories by implementing them into the context of pop-culture. No prior knowledge of German is required, although it may help. All texts and media will be in the English language. No prior knowledge of philosophy is required, and it may in fact be beneficial to the holistic learning experience of the course.



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HEALTH AND FITNESS



Year 12 students will follow a well-balanced Physical Education programme of activities such as: Fitness, Indoor Rowing, Volleyball, Badminton and Netball.

The aim of this programme is to develop students' confidence, health and resilience with vast opportunities to develop teamwork and leadership skills. Students will also be encouraged to develop their personal and social skills, reflecting an ethos of respect, fair play, determination, courage and excellence.



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LEADERSHIP

We believe the purpose of education is to prepare students to thrive in the future, developing your leadership skills through this elective will enable you to be a leader of own life.

What do you want your life to look like in five years? Have you decided who you want to be, not just what you want to do? Do you know what you're really good at? Do you know how to turn it into a career? How can you make your thoughts work for you, not against you? Do you know how to listen? Do you know how to get your point across in a way that will make others listen? Do you understand what makes other people tick? Are you a leader or a follower? How can you become more confident? Are you resilient, or do you get shaken by every little setback? Do you know how to build a network? What do people say about you when you are not in the room? Why should people choose you over someone else? Do you want to become the leader of your own life?



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MATHEMATICS BEYOND A LEVEL

'Problem Solving for Mathematicians' is designed to provide practice in the advanced problem solving skills necessary for success in advanced mathematics. It is particularly valuable for those students intending to apply to top Russell Group universities to study Mathematics or a related subject. Material covered will include the Advanced Extension Award, Oxford MAT and Cambridge STEP papers, as well as more general problem solving and puzzles. Students must be studying A level Mathematics, and the course is particularly suitable for those studying Further Mathematics.



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MATHEMATICS FOR ECONOMISTS

Mathematics for Economists will cover all the essential mathematics skills for students who are taking Economics A Level. Over the course we will be covering and brushing up on mathematics skills that you would have acquired during GCSE Mathematics classes, as well as putting into practice and learning new formulae required to be able to sufficiently provide quantitative analysis from Economics A Level. Later on in the course we will also be learning how to better scrutinise and interpret graphical representations of data, which will include looking at the implausibility of making economic judgements purely on the basis of mathematical paradigms. (The course is aimed at students who are not taking A-level mathematics and who achieved a level 6 or below in GCSE Mathematics)



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MATHS FOR SCIENTISTS

The course is designed to provide support for students studying a Science subject but not studying Mathematics. There will be a range of topics covered in the classes, including areas of both Mathematics and all three Sciences. You will develop a range of key skills, and most importantly learn how to reflect on them, building your confidence with the many mathematical concepts contained with all the Science A-level courses. (The course should not be taken by anyone taking A-level Mathematics)



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MEDICAL

The course will provide support for submitting Medicine applications. There will be a range of topics covered in the classes, including preparation for writing personal statements and practice at interview technique. You will develop a range of key skills, and most importantly learn how to reflect on them. You will be given guidance on the types of work experience to look for, how to apply and how to get the most out of it. Sessions may also include additional science work, and discussions and presentations about articles and news from the world of medicine.



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MUSICAL THEATRE



The aim of this course is to develop performance skills in acting, singing and/or dancing. It will explore a wide array of musical theatre examples, building to informal showcases. This will be a fun and enjoyable experience for all. No previous experience necessary, although willingness to try and energy required!




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OXBRIDGE

Interested in applying to Oxford or Cambridge University in Year 13? This course will provide support for your application to Oxbridge. There will be a range of topics covered in the classes, including preparation and support for admissions tests, personal statements and interviews. You will develop a range of key skills, and most importantly learn how to reflect on them. You will be given an opportunity to discuss your interests with fellow students and build your knowledge of wider topics, developing your communication skills as well as debating skills. You will be able to produce a well-rounded personal statement relevant to your chosen field, as well as having increased confidence when dealing with interview questions. It is not a requirement for students wishing to apply to Oxbridge to attend this course.





PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCE

This course will provide an overview of choosing a career in Pharmaceutical Science. It includes a wide range of topics covering working for health care providers, how medicines are prepared and dispensed. You will learn how pharmaceutical scientists are expertly trained to discover, develop, test and manufacture new medications. Throughout the elective, you will study how pharmaceutical scientists spend their time in a laboratory discovering and learning how different compounds interact with disease causing cells and organisms. In addition, how they research and investigate how these compounds interact with the human body to ultimately determine if they can become new drugs. Sessions will include investigative analysis using analytical techniques used in pharmaceutical research and industry.



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PHILOSOPHICAL AND ETHICAL THINKING

An introduction to key philosophical ideas such as “How can we know anything?” “What is real?” “What is art?” Also an examination of key issues in political philosophy, ethical philosophy, feminist philosophy and philosophy of the mind. Ending with an exploration of the role of philosophers and ethicists in 21st century Britain. (Not suitable for those taking Philosophy and ethics at A level)



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PHYSICS AND SOCIETY

Physics is integral to every aspect of life and matter in the universe, from the microscopic - the structure of the atom- to the macroscopic - the amazing phenomena in the Universe. The laws and concepts of physics guide it all. In the elective we will discuss some current ideas and applications beyond the scope of the A level syllabus. Primarily for those wishing to study Physics or Engineering at University it is also for those intrigued by the subject, who wish to know more. It is hoped we will engage in problem solving working towards the Physics Challenge national competition. It is also intended that we can invite Stem ambassadors into Townley to share their experiences of a life in science.



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PLAY AND PERFORMANCE



The aim of this elective is for students who are interested in performance and technical aspects of theatre, to stage a play to be performed in the summer term. Guided by the Drama department but directed by the students. This would be particularly beneficial for students considering a profession within the creative arts, but equally for those wanting to develop confidence in presentational flair and precision.



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PUBLIC SPEAKING



This elective is designed to enable learners to develop a wide range of skills in public speaking. Learners will be able to deliver two prepared speeches and one impromptu speech. They will integrate their knowledge and skills, demonstrating an understanding of the subject matter and the techniques required to speak confidently and with flair in public.

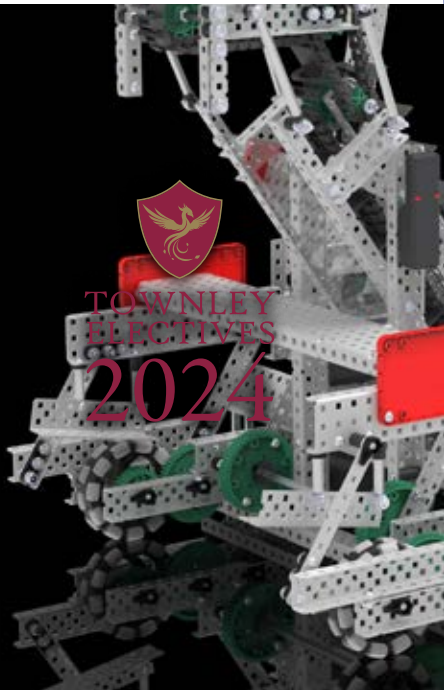


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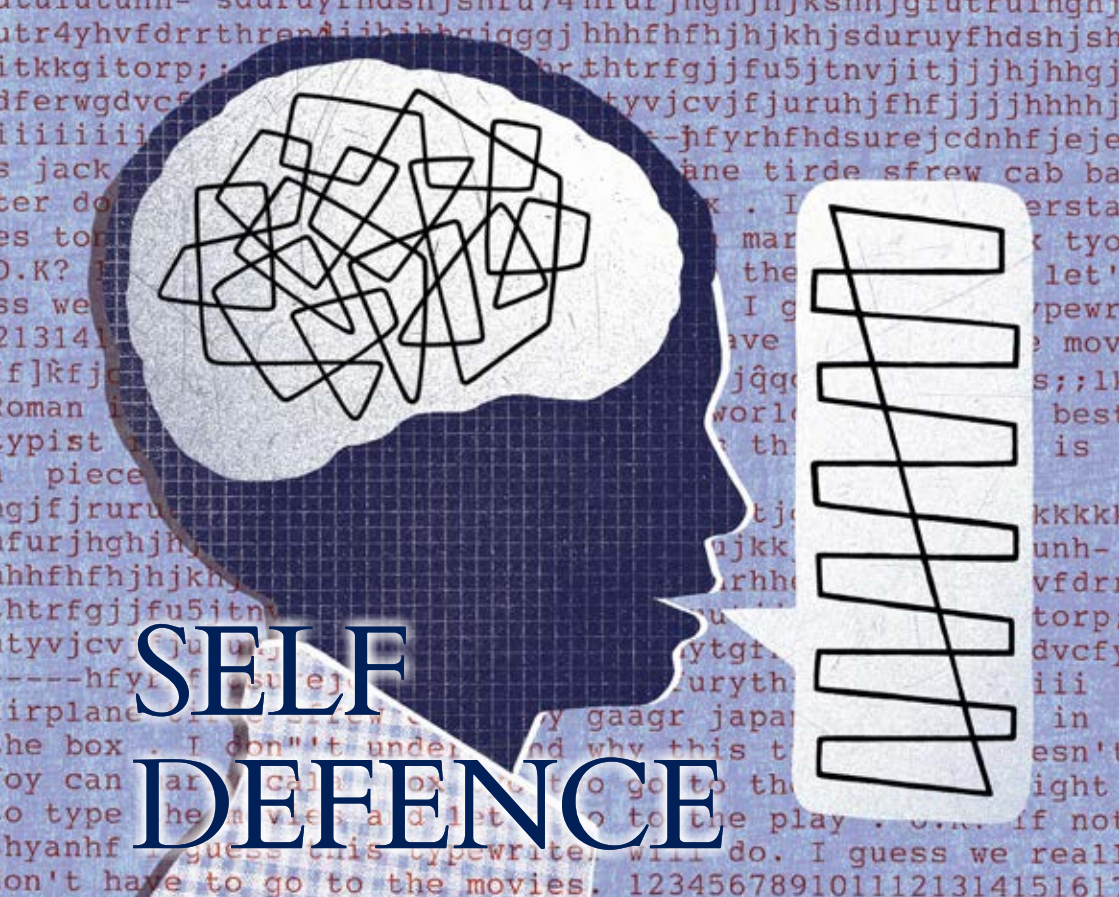


ROBOTICS

VEX robotics systems has been developed over 20 years of using robotics to teach STEM principles. V5 electronics are approachable, flexible and powerful, using state of the art technology. VEX allows students to hone critical computational thinking skills needed to succeed in both the 21st century's workforce and in everyday life. If you love to question, tinker, experiment and play. VEX competitions foster these skills and capitalise on the motivational effects of these competitions. Robotics also helps all students create an identity as a STEM learner. Robotics is a great way to expose students to valuable soft skills like communication, collaboration and time-management in a fun and authentic way. The VEX Robotics Competition prepares students to become future innovators with 95% of participants reporting an increased interest in STEM subject areas and pursuing STEM-related careers. Tournaments are held year-round at the local, regional and national levels culminating at the VEX Robotics World Championship each Spring!



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SELF DEFENCE

Townley Grammar is a safe and nurturing environment where we seek to equip our students with both academic and life skills. The system of Self Defence we teach is based on avoidance, early detection and escape from any potentially awkward situation. To that end, our training sessions involve verbal diffusion methods, neuro-linguistic programming when dealing with a would be aggressor and the physical element of learning tried and tested techniques of extricating oneself from a scenario. We have a fun, informative and enjoyable session. Our students always say how much they love practising the verbal and physical defences we teach. We feel this has the effect of bolstering self confidence along with the concomitant benefits of physical exercise and camaraderie.






SONGWRITING


In this course students will explore chord patterns, song structures, lyric writing, melody shape and instrumentation, looking at existing songs along the way and working towards writing songs of their own. Students need some skills in keyboard or guitar and should ideally have taken GCSE Music, although this is not essential for those with good skills.



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STEM CREST AWARD



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CREST is a UK award scheme that recognises success, and enables students to build their skills and demonstrate personal achievement in project work. It is student-led, which means that young people take ownership of their projects and choose to undertake them in areas they enjoy or see as relevant. This is an exciting opportunity to participate in the STEM Crest Awards run by British Science Association.





TABELETOP GAME DESIGN

This elective will give you the chance to study (and play) a range of tabletop games, thinking about the principles of game design and what makes a tabletop gaming experience fun. After studying some of the best games on the market today, you will design your own tabletop game, developing from an original idea to prototyping and playtesting.



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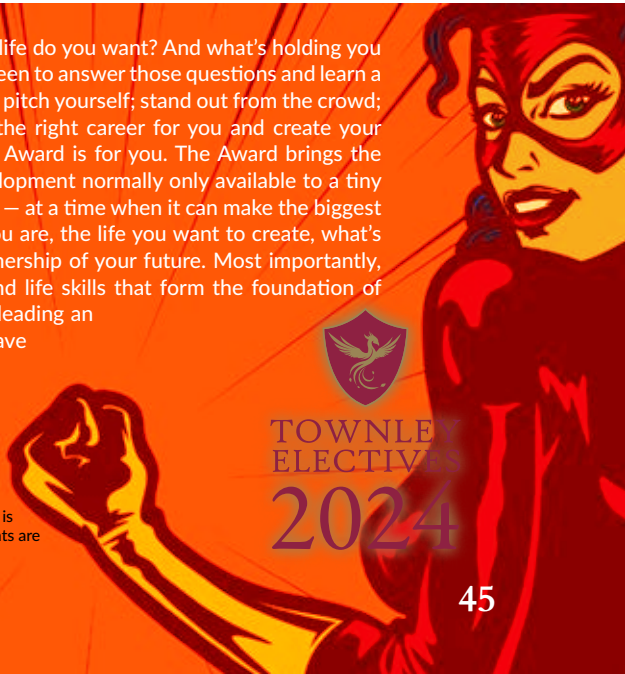


THE IVY HOUSE AWARD

ivy house
AWARD

Who do you want to be? What kind of life do you want? And what's holding you back from making it a reality? If you're keen to answer those questions and learn a critical set of skills that will allow you to pitch yourself; stand out from the crowd; make an impact; be memorable; find the right career for you and create your extraordinary life, then The Ivy House Award is for you. The Award brings the kind of personal and professional development normally only available to a tiny percentage of senior executives, to you — at a time when it can make the biggest difference. You will learn about who you are, the life you want to create, what's important to you and how to take ownership of your future. Most importantly, you will develop the key leadership and life skills that form the foundation of becoming an extraordinary leader and leading an extraordinary life. *This course does have a learner fee attached which is paid by the student. This can be supported, if students are eligible, by the discretionary bursary.

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UCAT & BMAT PREPARATION

The UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) is a compulsory admissions test for the majority of UK medicine and dentistry courses. A good result gives students the chance to stand out from the crowd and increases their chances of being selected for interview. In this course students will learn how to approach all sections of the test and be given guidance on resources. This course is suitable for students aiming to study medicine or dentistry.

UCAT

UNIVERSITY CLINICAL
APTITUDE TEST

BMAT

BIOMEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST



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NOTES

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