

Personal Enrichment at Great Barr Academy Sixth Form

"Where students embarking on post 16 courses with us will progress to new and different activities outside of their academic studies"



Your Options here at Great Barr Academy Sixth Form

All year 12 and 13 students should be expected to complete Personal Enrichment Time during their time at Great Barr Academy Sixth Form. Alongside embarking on post 16 courses students will choose from a variety of new and different activities outside of their academic studies which will contribute to them becoming well-rounded individuals who are good academically as well as skilled in other areas. This booklet will offer a guide to enrichment here at Great Barr Academy Sixth form, but will also ensure that enrichment is tracked well with allocated time to be reflective and fill it in as preparation for Higher Education applications.

LEADERSHIP

Post 16 students are encouraged to engage in leadership roles

- **SUBJECT AMBASSADORS**

This position allows students to be an advocate for a subject area supporting learners, curriculum based events and promoting their subject area. Students volunteer for this position which is supported by subject staff.

- **SIXTH FORM STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Becoming a member of the SFLT is a great honour and is an opportunity to take part in leadership of the student experience as well as modelling positive behaviour both academically and personally for the rest of the school. There is the opportunity to become Head Boy and Girl with students formally applying for the position as well as running a campaign- producing promotional resources.

- **SIXTH FORM PREFECTS**

The Sixth Form prefect body plays a vital role in the life of Great Barr Academy and the students who are prepared to fulfil a duty as an ambassador for the school and the younger year groups will, in return, receive a wide range of transferrable skills which can be used as evidence for any university, apprenticeship and job applications in the future.

GREAT BARR ACADEMY IN THE COMMUNITY

- **VOLUNTARY**

As part of the Personal Enrichment programme students are encouraged to participate in voluntary work during their time in the Sixth Form. This has included volunteering in local charity shops, nursing homes, local primary schools and Brownies. Great Barr Academy sixth form students are expected to facilitate their own voluntary work to gain vital transferrable skills. There is also the opportunity to be a subject teaching assistant whereby students are seconded to a department of their choice to assist in a variety of ways.

- **CHARITY**

Post 16 students have the opportunity to support many charities. Health and Social care students are ambassadors for charity work and have raised money through completing the annual memory walk for the Alzheimer's society. In September we are going to launch an annual 'pink/blue' day in order to raise money for male and female cancer charities with us fundraising as part of Gynaecological and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

SPORT

- **CONTRIBUTIONS**

The school competes in both area and national sporting competitions in a variety of sports- such as; Partnership games, English Schools Athletics and away fixtures. During the year we hope to offer enrichment opportunities such as yoga or other physical activities to our students, as well as already putting on fitness classes once a week.

We also offer the opportunity for sixth form students to assist at our own sporting events such as sports day and mini-school competitions and even take on the role of manager/coach of year 7 football and netball teams. Post 16 is not just about the academic – staying physically fit helps students in their quest for excellent grades and we encourage students to focus on their well-being as part of the Personal Enrichment Programme.

TRIPS

As a Post 16 student there will be an opportunity to participate in a variety of trips:

- Rome (Religious Studies)
- Liverpool Tate and New Designers (Art)
- Science Live!
- Birmingham Central Library
- A broad variety of University visits due to use fostering good links both locally and nationally
- Theatre visits
- Annual Criminology Conference
- Subject specific revision workshops

The choice is enormous, with more opportunities likely to arise. Our staff are committed to extra-curricular opportunities with Great Barr Academy priding itself on developing the whole student- both academically and socially.

WORK EXPERIENCE

All students in Year 12 are **expected** to undertake work experience during the Summer Term (week commencing 17th June 2019). While there is time allocated for this, students are supported and directed towards appropriate placements from form tutors, our work-related learning team as well as the sixth form leadership team.

Students at Great Barr Academy gain a wealth of experience through placements that correspond directly with intended higher education courses. This gives them an insight into their future career aspirations. Our students have had the chance to work in a range of work placements, for example at Birmingham Magistrates Court, within the education sector (early years, primary and secondary), alongside MP's such as Shabana Mahmood and also within the health sector such as the University Hospital Birmingham and local Pharmacies.

MOCK INTERVIEW DAY

Annually we host a mock interview day where our Year 12 students are interviewed by a range of employers. It resembles a real interview, for the purpose of providing experience for our students. It helps them to understand what is expected in a real job interview and aids them in evaluating their own skill set in order to improve their self- presentation.

We have a host of employers from a range of different sectors who conduct the interviews and where possible we will match our students with employers from their chosen career paths. The interviewer will be commenting on:

- First impressions and appearance
- Non-verbal behaviour and body language
- Verbal communication and key interview content

This process has proven entirely successful with the aim of encouraging our young people to have high aspirations, to be equipped with a real-life transferrable skill set as well as being wholly reflective of their own strengths and weaknesses.

STUDENT TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Commencing from September 2018 will be the opportunity to become a subject teaching assistant. This will be a timetabled slot weekly whereby students will fulfil a range of roles and responsibilities within their chosen department. These will include:

- Getting the classroom ready for lessons and clearing away afterwards
- Listening to children read or reading to them
- Helping children who need extra support
- Helping teachers prepare materials that match development needs
- Supervising group activities
- Helping teachers manage class behaviour

If students apply for this role it will be on the basis that it is permanent, lasting the duration of the year with students maintaining a good performance academically in addition to this.

KITBOX

Kitbox prepares students for the new world of work, generates fundraising income for the school and delivers a valued service to families. This enrichment scheme has been a huge success with our sixth form students earning money through their service as well as gaining transferrable skills through working collaboratively with an employer, the school and parents.

SIXTH FORM SCHOOL SUPPLIES SHOP

Students are encouraged to work to a rota outlined by the Sixth Form Student Leadership team and assist in the running and stocking of the Sixth Form School Supplies shop at break times and lunch times. Again, this prepares students for the world of work and generates income for the school as well as providing value for money supplies which are cheaper than local supermarkets etc.

WOODLANDS INDUCTION TEAMWORK RETREAT

We visit Woodlands as part of the year 12 induction process. It is a perfect blend of teamwork and competition. The teams work together, strategize and are challenged to be efficient, think outside of the box and truly put to use the skills we want to see here within the sixth form.

LAW GROUP/ DEBATING SOCIETY

A new provision which we will be launching in the Autumn term (2018). The School Law Society's aim is to bring students with a genuine interest in the law together and explore the legal profession, and to get more people involved and interested in law, as it can be found in many different spheres of life. Our main goal will be to establish a foundational understanding- through the running of mock trials, which will give us a better knowledge of courtroom procedures.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

How do you get your application noticed among so many others? One way of making your application a little different from the rest is by attending a summer school. Not only does this help you stand out, but it adds value in many other ways. They help to improve your grades and give yourself a better chance of doing well in your exams. The extra tuition will help cement what you've learned at school and build on it, giving you deeper knowledge to draw upon in an exam context. They help to brush up on a subject you're not confident about. They also help to prepare for university applications

NCS THE CHALLENGE

NCS helps build skills for work and life whilst taking on new challenges and meeting new friends. Running during summer and half-term, Great Barr Academy students will have the opportunity to learn more about NCS through an assembly and opt to take part.

COUNTER TERRORISM TRAINING

This is something we are looking at introducing within the 2018-2019 academic year where we will work alongside West Midlands Police, examining the PREVENT strategy in more detail and how to spot signs and respond to radicalisation on Social Media platforms.

MUSIC FOR PERFORMANCE

Students who are able to play an instrument are encouraged to take part in school performances and key events throughout the year. Students are not required to be doing a Performing Arts qualification to get involved. We just need to know whether you play an instrument and will then provide you with opportunities as and when they come up.

EAL CULTURAL WELLBEING GARDEN

This garden will primarily serve as a nurturing space for students who are struggling emotionally perhaps due to being refugees or having undergone a form of trauma. We also feel that the building and maintaining of the garden will have holistic therapeutic benefits for students with sixth form students encouraged to be actively involved or even use the garden themselves.

RESEARCH PLACEMENTS AND MASTERCLASSES

These are an opportunity to embark on research projects within a university or work setting. Birmingham University offers a range of master classes <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/outreach/16820-Masterclass-Brochure-AW2.pdf> Birmingham Link (BLINK) also offers support for applying to Russell Group Universities <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/teachers/pupil-opportunities/post-16/birmingham-link.aspx> as well as the Academic Enrichment Programme aimed at giving students a taste of what it is like to study at a research led institute <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/teachers/pupil-opportunities/post-16/year-12-academic-enrichment-programme.aspx>

NUMERACY LUNCHTIME SESSIONS

Sixth form students will have the opportunity to work with pupils in main school by facilitating Maths catch up sessions which follow a set programme outlined by Dr Bartlett. This would involve testing times tables, basic percentages, adding and subtracting, long multiplication and division in a fun context. The sixth formers do not have to be A-Level Mathematicians but may want to pursue a career in teaching.

Enrichment Checklist

Activity	Brief Description	Interested?
Subject/ / Mini School / Department Ambassador	Assisting at open evenings; parents evening; creating displays for departments. (inc ISU/EAL) Working with Mini schools for Mini School Championships and events	
Sixth Form Leadership Team	Working with main school tutor groups depending upon which mini school has been allocated; leading success assemblies; leading on duty points around the school; increasing the community role of Great Barr Academy; coordinating social events.	
Sixth Form Prefect		
Sporting contribution	Team player; Coach; assisting with sporting events.	
Student Teaching Assistant	Timetabled slot weekly whereby students will fulfil a range of roles and responsibilities within their chosen department.	
Voluntary work	Students are expected to locate and facilitate their own voluntary work to gain vital transferrable skills- e.g. communication.	
Law Group/ Debating Society	To bring students together weekly with a genuine interest in the law and explore the legal profession, and to get more people involved and interested in law, as it can be found in many different spheres of life.	
Kitbox	An opportunity to gain transferrable skills through working collaboratively with an employer, the school and parents.	
6th Form School Supplies Shop	Assist in the running and stocking of the Sixth Form School Supplies shop at break times and lunch times.	
Charity work	Post 16 students have the opportunity to support many charities- we collectively contribute as a sixth form but there are also opportunities to work in groups/ independently.	
NCS - The Challenge	Building skills for work and life whilst taking on new challenges and meeting new friends- running during the summer holiday and half term.	
Counter Terrorism Training run through West Midlands Police	Involves gaining information on spotting signs and responding to radicalisation on Social Media platforms- tailored to young adults. This is especially useful if wanting to pursue a career within the CJS or even Computing.	
Music for Performance	Playing an instrument at key events throughout the year (students not studying a Performing Arts qualification are encouraged to get involved).	
EAL Cultural Wellbeing garden maintenance	Building and maintaining of the garden will have holistic therapeutic benefits for students with sixth form students encouraged to be actively involved or even use the garden themselves.	
Summer Schools	These are available either directly through the universities, public schools – Eton provides summer schools https://www.etoncollege.com/USS.aspx or through applying to The Sutton Trust https://summerschools.suttontrust.com/	
Aston Progression Pathways	This is an opportunity to be mentored by an undergraduate studying a course that you aspire to (or similar) from Aston University. More information at http://www.aston.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/sro/outreach/app/	
Routes to Professions- University of Birmingham	An opportunity to engage with Birmingham University Undergraduates for a mentoring scheme in Medicine, Dentistry, Law, Financial Services or Engineering. More information at https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/teachers/pupil-opportunities/post-16/routes-to-professions.aspx	
Aspiring Professionals Programme	The APP Programme offers mentoring by a professional, tailored skills sessions and career workshops, university application support and guidance and internships with top employers. More information at http://www.socialmobility.org.uk/programmes/app-city/	
Research placements- Nuffield	These provide students with the opportunity to work alongside professional scientists (including quantitative social scientists), technologists, engineers and mathematicians. http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/nuffield-research-placements	
Numeracy Lunchtimes	Facilitating Maths catch up sessions in a fun context. A set programme will be followed. An opportunity to support younger students to achieve success in Maths	

Personal log of wider enrichment

Use this section to log your journey towards a University/ Apprenticeship application. The first line of the table provides you an example of how this should look.

Date	Location	Type of activity	Skills and knowledge gained
<i>November 2018</i>	<i>University of Birmingham</i>	<i>Masterclass Lecture</i>	<i>Talks from academic staff and young postgraduate researchers about particle physics and the latest experiments- including the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, the biggest and most energetic particle accelerator ever built.</i>

Wider Reading Log

Relevant reading- For most Higher Education courses it is important that wider reading is incorporated into your application (personal statement etc.). Do not list books! Rather offer some reflections or comments on things you have read. Wider reading should be focussed on literature not taught on A-Level syllabus. It is also impressive if you can make links between the different texts you include. Below is an example for computer science:

Book title and author	Specific areas you have read	Interesting ideas, content and concepts encountered
<i>"The Code book" by Simon Singh</i>	<i>The complete book</i>	<i>Encryption is actually a highly mathematic field; with elements of Mathematics like statistics used in techniques such as frequency analysis. The enigma was broken at Bletchley Park by using Mathematics and logic. Another aspect of the book I found intriguing is the description of the technique used in the Diffie- Hellma- Merkle key exchange.</i>

Record of Open Day Visits

You are allowed up to two days off per academic year to visit universities. A yellow slip must be completed and signed by Mrs Garvey and returned to Mrs Maund. To find out more about university open days visit www.opendays.com or www.opendays.com/calendar/ for an up to date listing of dates for each university.

Date and University visited	What did you like about this University and the particular course?	What reservations did you have about this University and the particular course?

Extra- Curricular Activities/ Paid work relevant to an application

Type of activity	Duration/ Level/ Regularity	Skills linked to application
<p><i>Example: Paid work at a specialist sports shop.</i></p> <p><i>Linked to an application to study Physiotherapy</i></p>	<p><i>Once a week for three years.</i></p>	<p><i>Developing working relations with my colleagues and good communication skills with a wide range of the public. I can perform a 'gait' analysis and have a knowledge of many common injuries like a plantar fasciitis along with their treatment.</i></p>
<p><i>Example: Play football in both Midland and local leagues, qualified referee and lifeguard</i></p>	<p><i>Last 5 years</i></p> <p><i>Last year</i></p>	<p><i>Developed my ability to work in a team.</i></p> <p><i>Responsibility, which has equipped me with both leadership and team-work skills, communication and time management.</i></p>

Other useful websites:

Work experience and summer placements Students for the Exploration of Space <https://ukseds.org/outreach/school-guide/>

Physics work experience <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/physics-astronomy/outreach/physics-work-experience>

Work experience opportunities <https://www.studentladder.co.uk/Work-Experience/work-experience.html>

Information about Apprenticeships www.getingofar.gov.uk

UCAS information www.ucas.com

Institute for Apprenticeships <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/developing-apprenticeships/trailblazer-groups/>

Price Waterhouse Coopers – Business partners www.pwc.co.uk/who-we-are.html

Network Rail - Business partners - <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/who-we-are/diversity-and-inclusion/collaboration/early-wider-engagement/>

Net Zero – Construction company for new build who have offered opportunities for project management experience <https://www.netzerobuildings.co.uk/>