



Beyond the Classroom



**Enrichment at
Sancton Wood School**



Beyond the Classroom Enrichment at Sancton Wood School

Education is about more than what happens in the classroom. A well rounded academic provision must also include a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities. At Sancton Wood we deliver this in style.

Students are offered opportunities in performing arts, sports, outdoor pursuits and a variety of clubs, all of which build an exciting day to day programme.

We believe that these extra-curricular activities help students develop a range of interests and skills and build a sense of confidence that will support them in the classroom and beyond. Our activities help pupils to develop 'intellectual curiosity' and enable a 'community of fun and energy' - these are core values at the school and we encourage all our children to take full advantage of the opportunities available.

The Programme of Clubs offers something for everyone, please see the insert for a detailed breakdown of this term's provision.

"I've really valued the opportunity to learn about the production equipment and develop technical skills that I can take with me to college or in a future career"
(Jonathan, year 10)

Intellectual Curiosity

Education is far more than simply learning to pass exams. We expect our students to be curious about life. Aside from the classroom learning our work experience week, careers forum, topical assemblies and visiting speakers serve to ignite their curiosity.



Inspire Me

Inspiration comes from the many visiting speakers in the school. It's most useful for our students to listen to talks from people who are making significant contributions to their specialised area of work. This programme, entitled 'Inspire Me', aims to have a visiting speaker per week into the school.

The students have enjoyed talks from:

Food Bank (The Trussell Trust)
CLIC Sargent (Young lives with cancer)
Power2Inspire
East Anglian Air Ambulance
Blood UK
Amnesty International
Cambridge Fire & Rescue
STEM speakers:
Immunologist: Christel Krueger
Structural Engineer: Dmitri Jajich
Applications in Electronics: Neil Johnson
Former international BBC journalist: Sean Klein



Higher Project Qualification (HPQ)

We have introduced this independent research qualification (worth half a GCSE) which offers unparalleled training for life beyond school. It encourages the skills of independent research, analysis of the material, presentation and public speaking. Students choose their own topics and research (which can take many forms) is at the heart of the final assessed project.

2018-19 HPQ projects included:

To develop and extend my creative writing skills by planning and writing two chapters from a novel which explores the theme of coming of age.

To develop my technical skills by creating a fully working sound and lighting box for performances?

To what extent can the implementation of audio choices affect a game's immersive experience for players?

Can Artificial Intelligence simulate humanity and if so what are the moral and social implications? Develop my film-making skills by planning and creating a short film which explores this idea.



Cambridge on the doorstep



Our small size and ideal location enable us to make the most of all the wonderful opportunities available in Cambridge. Staff frequently take students to visit exhibitions, open events and sites in the centre.

This year local activities included: a Gothic Ghost Walk through the city centre, Senior School students had sessions at Anglia Ruskin as part of a STEM partnership, an arts tour in The Fitzwilliam Museum, language enrichment at French cafes, various Science Week events and a visit to The Lucy Cavendish Centre. Pre-Prep children visited a local bakery to develop their understanding of where our food comes from.

"We offer a broad range of GCSEs and we take every opportunity to bring education to life for our students."
Debra King (Head of Senior School)



Trips At Home and Abroad

Our students also enjoyed trips and visits beyond Cambridge. London is a short train journey away and our proximity to the station means that we are often to be found in the capital.



"I was so glad to see the famous Northern Lights in real life. It's something so many people want to do, and now I can say that I have. It was the perfect end to a great day."
(Seb, Year 10)

This year Senior School students enjoyed a 'Ripper Tour' as part of their GCSE syllabus on crime and punishment in Victorian Britain and Y8 were at Hampton Court Palace. Key Stage Three students have the opportunity to see West End productions and GCSE student trips have included theatre productions of texts studied.

From Y3 upwards we offer residential activities for our students including local sites such as Grafham Water and Lavenham, and destinations further afield - our Geography students visited Iceland as part of their GCSE course and linguists visited Santander and Normandy.

Teaching Resilience

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)

Students from Y9 have the opportunity to take part in the Duke Of Edinburgh Award. This year's course included an expedition in Suffolk and all participants are on track to complete their bronze award. Once completed they are looking forward to moving onto the silver award.

Pupils take part in 4 areas: volunteering; physical; skill and expedition. It's a balanced programme which develops the whole person - mind, body, and soul in the environment of social interaction and teamwork.

As part of our PSHE programme, students from Y7 to 11 have sessions on intellectual and emotional resilience, in which they learn a powerful set of self-coaching, life skills.

These sessions include practical lessons and advice on: how to build confidence and a sense of self-worth; how to manage your mind in order to feel better and be more productive; how to set proper boundaries in relationships; how to set goals and use self-discipline to take massive action towards achieving your goals.

These sessions are taught by Sophie Hannah, internationally best-selling writer and founder of the Dream Author Coaching programme for writers.



Creative Arts

We aim to provide a variety of curricular and extracurricular drama and music opportunities for all our students (and even parents and staff too!) Music and Drama are taught by specialist teachers weekly from Reception through to Y11 and both subjects are offered at GCSE.

We stage both a Prep and Senior School production every year, as well as showcases of classwork and performances throughout the year. This year the Senior Prep students performed Ernie's Incredible Illucinations, the Lower Prep put on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and the Senior School were lucky enough to perform the debut of Sophie Hannah's original musical Work Experience . In the summer term, the Y9 students work together on a cross-curricular Music and Drama project (this year on the theme of war) to showcase to parents. The students have written and composed their own music, raps, written scripts and devised original drama to form a truly original production.

We have a full timetable of trips and workshops to offer our students the opportunity to experience the arts in a variety of settings and styles to enhance their learning experience. Last year's highlights were a trip to London to watch Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time and The Woman In Black and to the ADC to see Ibsen's Hedda Gabler. The GCSE students were lucky enough to experience a fantastic Physical Theatre workshop from Frantic Assembly to help inspire and develop their devising skills.

The students have the opportunity to take LAMDA examinations - measuring progress in speech and drama, as well as improving self-confidence, vocal and physical technique, and language awareness.

The school orchestra, known as Minstrels , rehearses each week and is open to students from Y7 upwards, as well as parents and staff. They perform regularly at school services from Harvest to Christmas and Easter, as well as at the end-of-year Prize-giving. There is also a newly formed string group, led by a parent who is a professional cellist, giving the students really tailored coaching and experience of ensemble playing. For our singers, there is a choir that meets to rehearse each week and also performs regularly at school services and events. Sancton Wood Singers initially started for parents and staff but students from Y7 upwards are now also invited to get involved in this.


In addition, students are encouraged to form and take responsibility for their own groups so we currently have a rock band that rehearses weekly after school as well as individuals/pairs working on writing their own songs from scratch. The school services also provide an excellent opportunity for solo and duet performances, including the students' own compositions. With so much musical activity going on there is almost always a lunchtime rehearsal taking place in the music room!

There is a team of specialist instrumental teachers who visit each week and provide 1:1 lessons for students throughout the school and many choose to take graded exams.



Sports

Inclusivity! This one word is central to the PE and sporting philosophy at Sancton Wood. Every student in the school has the opportunity to participate in team or individual events, where they can experience and develop a range of lifelong attributes; from understanding and dealing with the emotions of success and failure, of frustration to positive resilience, and discovering how amazing their bodies and minds are when they choose not quit but to strive for personal achievement.



As part of our inclusivity concept, the Sancton Wood PE department believe in variety and providing students with a whole range of sporting experiences. Students will have the opportunity to experience a range of sports. To enable this we are affiliated with a selection of outstanding sports organisations, both local and national.

These associations allow us to develop our local community spirit and also enable our more dedicated athletes the chance to compete against the country's best students. Our affiliations include the Cambridge School Sport Partnership, Parkside Federation Sport, Cambridge District Secondary School Sports Association and the Independent Schools Association.

On average, the PE department has two to three external fixtures per week, spread across the age and ability range, for class years 2-11. These fixtures include sports such as tag rugby, full contact rugby for both boys and girls, football, basketball, cricket, netball, swimming, handball and dodgeball, as well as many others.

Just some of our sporting success in 2018-2019 include:

Silver and Gold medals at the ISA National Swimming Championships in London
Silver and Gold medals at the Cambridge Schools' Indoor Rowing Competition
National qualifiers for the ISA Cross Country Championships
Bronze, Silver and Gold medals in the ISA National Junior and Senior
Regional Athletic Championships



A curriculum that enriches our students' education both within school and beyond the classroom walls.

Our varied programme includes:

- extra-curricular clubs and activities;
- a variety of educational visits;
- visiting speakers and tailor-made workshops;
- trips to study the natural world and to enjoy arts and culture;
- residential visits to different countries.

Sancton Wood School was rated 'excellent' by ISI at the last inspection for extra-curricular activities.

"The curriculum is enhanced by a wide range of educational visits" (ISI)



"We aim to develop the full potential of every student at Sancton Wood. Our enrichment programme is designed to compliment our young people's interests and enhance their abilities."

Richard Settle, principal.