Twyford Advanced Programme & MedSoc 2018-19
TAP

What is TAP?

TAP is a programme aimed at preparing students for the application to Oxford or Cambridge University (Oxbridge). There will be approx. 50 students on the course, selected based on GCSE grades and an induction essay.

In Year 12, students can expect:

- A weekly wider reading lesson
- A weekly lesson introducing the Oxbridge system
- Personal statement support
- Beginning of the EPQ course (see overleaf)
- Information regarding open days, masterclasses and summer schools at Oxford and Cambridge
- The opportunity to attend Lumina, a free week-long course at Harrow School supporting students in their Oxbridge applications

In Year 13, students can expect:

- Interview workshop
- ‘Assertiveness training’ led by an external professional
- A mock Oxbridge interview held by governors, directors and lead members of staff
- Completion of the EPQ
- EPQ presentation evening
- One-to-one support in writing and editing personal statements
**Extended Project Qualifications**

These projects involve detailed research into any topic of the student’s choice, allowing students the opportunity to go outside and beyond their A Level subjects. Students will do the vast majority of this research over the summer holidays at the end of Year 12 and will work one to one in the autumn and spring term with a supervising member of staff to turn this research into a piece of extended writing.

The projects can take the form either of a 5000 word essay, or an artefact (such as a piece of art, a science experiment or a film etc) accompanied by a 1000 word essay.

This essentially equips students with the skills needed to bridge the gap between A Level and undergraduate style learning, as well as looking very impressive on personal statements.

It also supplies university interviewers with a topic to discuss with the applicants, which can demonstrate the breadth and depth of the students’ knowledge and interest in their subject.

**Examples of previous projects:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Course</th>
<th>FPQ Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History and Politics</td>
<td>Given the radical ideas present in the country at the time, why was the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>English Civil War outcome so conservative?</td>
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<td>Animation</td>
<td>To what extent are animated features able to display complex emotions?</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Literature and</td>
<td>Should censorship exist in the theatre?</td>
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<td>Drama</td>
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<td>Geography</td>
<td>What is the effectiveness of COP21 in aiding developing countries with the</td>
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<td>transition to greener climates without inhibiting economic development?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aeronautical Engineering</td>
<td>To what extent have aeronautical advances been responsible for</td>
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<td>globalisation?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>How effective are treatments of secondary cancers in primary sites?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>An ongoing slump - The Japanese Economy 1990-2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maths and Computer</td>
<td>How effective is game theory at helping AI to win computer games?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>How has the Cinderella story of 'rags to riches' evolved?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>Are we living in 1984?</td>
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Wider Reading

To ensure the strongest possible Oxbridge applications, students will need to have read around their interests within their chosen field. Students will receive a monthly Wider Reading Newsletter, with 21 different subjects included. For each subject, there will be articles, books, podcasts, documentaries, free exhibitions and lectures in London.
MedSoc

What is MedSoc?

MedSoc is a program for aspiring doctors, dentists and veterinary scientists. The program runs for two years supporting like-minded individuals through the exciting and challenging journey to becoming a medical professional.

In Year 12, students can expect to attend:

- Journal club which require prior reading about medical interests that are then presented to peers
- Support sessions designed to help students develop their medical portfolios ready for university applications
- Entrance exam preparation
- Personal statement support
- Problem based learning, similar to those used in some universities

In Year 13, students can expect to attend:

- Journal club which require prior reading about medical interests that are then presented to peers
- Entrance exam preparation
- Personal statement workshops
- Mock interview advice and preparation sessions
- Mock interview practise following the more commonly used MMI style of interview
- Mock group interview practise
External Speaker Program

There is an extensive program of external speakers, many of whom specialise in the medical field. Talks take place after school and students are strongly encouraged to attend these talks to widen their understanding of different medical disciplines. Examples of talks that have taken place in the past include:

Hafsa Malik – Dentistry Student

Hafsa is in her final year of Dentisty at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry (part of Queen Mary University of London). Hafsa will be speaking about her journey from finishing GCSE's (with no clue about her future) to coming to the end of University with a career plan! She'll also cover what it's like going to university in London, living out vs. living at home and making the most of university (both academically and socially), followed by a Q&A to answer any questions on these topics, or anything else on your mind!

Dr Jeremy Levy – Imperial College Healthcare

Making difficult choices in healthcare: Only one kidney available – who should it go to?

Should you buy a kidney for your mother if she needs one?

Professor Jeremy Levy is a Consultant Nephrologist (kidney specialist) at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, Professor at Imperial College London.

There is never enough of anything! In healthcare we face this dilemma all the time. This afternoon we will think about how to make such choices using examples from patients with kidney disease, needing dialysis or a kidney transplant: how should we decide how to allocate one kidney if there are lots of people waiting? Is it the right thing to do to buy your mother a kidney if she needs one and no-one in the family can give one?

Dr Bea Vickers – St George’s Hospital

Relaxation or Mindfulness - what's the difference and how do they relate to the brain?

Dr Bea Vickers, (MBBS, BSc, MRCPsych) is a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at St George’s Hospital in South London. After studying medicine at UCL and working in various medical jobs Bea decided to specialise in psychiatry and now only works with teenagers with mental health problems. She is interested in how the brain copes with trauma and what has been shown to work when treating young people who have had traumatic experiences.
**MedSoc Wider Reading**

To ensure the strongest possible medical school applications, students will need to have read around their interests within the medical fields. The library has a number of specialist science books, including those specialising in the medical disciplines. In addition, there is a MedSoc Wider Reading List, developed based on recommendations from previous MedSoc students who have successfully secured a place at medical school. A section of the recommended reading list can be seen below.

**MedSoc Recommended Reading List**

- **Complications** by Atul Gawande
  
  Sometimes in medicine the only way to know what is truly going on in a patient is to operate, to look inside with one’s own eyes. This book is expository surgery on medicine itself, laying bare a science not in its idealized form but as it actually is -- complicated, perplexing, and profoundly human.

- **Do No Harm** by Henry Marsh
  
  Neurosurgery has met its Boswell in Henry Marsh. Paintfully honest about the mistakes that can “wreck” a brain, exquisitely attuned to the tense and transient bond between doctor and patient, and hilariously impatient of hospital management, Marsh draws us deep into medicine’s most difficult art and lifts our spirits. It’s a superb achievement.

- **Confessions of a GP** by Benjamin Daniels
  
  Confessions of a GP is a witty insight into the life of a family doctor. Funny and moving in equal measure it will change the way you look at your GP next time you pop in with the sniffles.

- **A Very Short Introduction to Medical Ethics** by Tony Hope
  
  Issues in medical ethics are rarely out of the media and it is an area of ethics that has particular interest for the general public as well as the medical practitioner. This short and accessible introduction provides an invaluable tool with which to think about the ethical values that lie at the heart of medicine.

Further information about extra-curricular events in the Science department can be found at [https://twyford.ealing.sch.uk/specialisms/science](https://twyford.ealing.sch.uk/specialisms/science)