



ABINGDON

From Head of Middle School Scholars: Andrew Jamison

21 May 2021

Dear 5th Year Student,

STEP - Summer Term Extension Project

I am writing to let you know about an exciting, independent, academic opportunity for you to be involved in which will run until the end of your academic year.

In the absence of public examinations, we know that you will welcome the opportunity to continue to keep your minds active, embark on some independent research on a chosen topic while also building good foundations for entering the Lower Sixth. Participating in such a project will look great on your applications to top universities, and there will be generous prizes for all good entries. The best projects will be published on the school website, and the very best will have the chance to present their projects at a future presentation evening.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Jamison

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The Task

We're inviting you to respond to ONE of the following titles, by undertaking some independent research on it, which attempts to be multidisciplinary i.e. incorporates the approaches of and research in more than one subject. The titles are:

- Language
- Speed
- Light

Examples

Here are some examples of projects, but they are just for illustration and we'd strongly suggest you choose your own and interpret your chosen theme as creatively as you can:

- Language: (Modern and Ancient Languages/Geography/Art) - how is it that languages have changed around the world over time? What's the relationship between land and language? To what extent is language a set of artistic symbols? How have certain fonts been developed and what do they symbolise? What is the future of language?
- Speed: (English/Maths/History/Music/Science/Philosophy) How fast can a human go? Why is

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speed increasingly important in our world? What's the relationship between technology and speed? How could slowness be perceived as a virtue? To what extent can we really measure speed? What is the ideal tempo in music?

● Light: (Science/ Literature/ Architecture) - what makes it so important for the science of life? Why are so many writers obsessed with light? How has light been portrayed in fiction through the centuries? To what extent is light the most crucial element of a building?

End Product

We'd strongly encourage you to be as creative as possible and your response could be in any form; please see some suggestions below:

1. a recorded presentation
2. piece of writing
3. a more creative approach such as a piece of creative writing, a computer programme, a piece of music or even making a model or a board game

Supervision

We'd encourage you to share ideas with your peers and after this point, you should feel free to get in touch with myself, Mr Richard Taylor or Dr Burnand, if you'd like to. Dr Gardner is also available for consultation.

Submission and Deadline

You will be able to submit your final project (in whatever format that may be) on Google Classroom (code: sxv43tc). **The deadline for submissions is Thursday 24 June.** We aim to announce news of prizes by the end of the summer term.