From   Head of Middle School Scholars: Tim Chase

25 May 2023

Dear Fifth Year Student

STEP - 5th Year 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.

After you have completed your public examinations, we know that many of 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 in the Amey Theatre.

Yours sincerely

Tim Chase
tim.chase@abingdon.org.uk

The Task

We're inviting you to respond to **ONE** of the following title prompts, 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:

- Agency
- Synthesis
- Growth

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: +44 (0)1235 521563   Fax: +44 (0)1235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk

Abingdon School: A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales. Company No. 3625063

Registered Office: Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DE. Registered Charity No. 1071298

Examples

Here are some examples of projects/prompts to help you establish a suitable research project, 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:

- **Agency:** (Economics/Philosophy/History/Politics/Business/Sociology/Ancient History) – who/what has agency? Do developments in technology enhance or diminish people's agency? Will AI replace human agency? How have conceptions of agency/control/determination changed throughout history?

- **Synthesis:** (Music/Literature/Art/Science/Classics/Architecture). Reflect on the different possible interpretations of the word, and the different contexts in which a 'synthesis' could manifest (e.g. in music; architecture; literature; art; cultural exchanges; chemical reactions; human biology and relationships). Try to hone in on something particular that interests you.

- **Growth:** (Science/Economics/Sport/Literature/Technology/Psychology) – Reflect on the multiple possible meanings behind this word and hone in on an area that interests you. You may wish to consider: economic growth; personal growth and the acquisition of knowledge; cognitive growth/growth mindset; physical growth and fitness; biological/organic growth; population growth; technological growth and developments etc.

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. A 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

All projects must be submitted with a bibliography with clear referencing, and with a separate document outlining the notes that you made as part of your research.

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: p3aedjf).
- The deadline for registering your interest is Friday 30 June; simply send a brief email to Mr Chase at tim.chase@abingdon.org.uk stating that you'd like to do a project.
- The deadline for completed projects will be Friday 25 August.
- We aim to announce news of prizes at the very start of Michaelmas Term.