



ABINGDON

From: Mr I Middleton

6 June 2024

STEP: 5th Year Summer Term Extension Programme

Dear 5th Year Student

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 August this 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.

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:

- Beauty
- Progress
- Causation

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:

- **Beauty:** (Philosophy/History/Sociology/Music/ Literature/Art /History of Art)
What is beauty? How have ideas about beauty changed over time? Is beauty important?
- **Progress:** (Science/Mathematics/History/Language/Literature/Art).
What does progress mean? When has the most progress been made? Is there a limit to progress? Is progress in some areas more important than progress in others? Is progress always a good thing?

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- **Causation:** (Science/Economics/Law/History/Philosophy)
The importance of causation in history, philosophy or law. How causation contributes to statistics and scientific research. How can causation be proved? Have humans always been interested in the idea of causation?

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. piece of writing
2. a recorded presentation
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 me, 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: [i2yuxmf](#)). **You must also submit evidence of the research you have completed.**
- The deadline for registering your interest is Friday 28 June. Please fill in this [google form](#).
- The deadline for completed projects will be Friday 23 August.
- We aim to announce news of prizes at the start of next term.

Yours sincerely

Mr Middleton