

17. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We offer a wide variety of activities outside of lessons and it is worthwhile joining in at least one of them. It is a good way of making friends, having fun and developing lots of new skills! Further details of events and activities are published each September and updated throughout the year as required. Activities appear daily on the student bulletin which is sent via email.

Listed below are a number of the extra curricular activities for your information.

Charitable Fundraising

Students are able to become involved in a range charitable fundraising events. These include Year 12 students arranging a two or three day festival of money raising activities during the summer term's 'Charity Week'. National events such as Comic Relief, and individual initiatives which have included raising money for charities such as The British Heart Foundation, EveryChild, WaterAid, Clinical Human Factors Group and Thames Valley air Ambulance have been given donations in recent years. International Mindedness Week in the spring also raises money for a nominated charity. This year's is United World Schools and the money raised will help to build a school in Nepal.

Dance

Students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of Dance Clubs. We currently run the following clubs for dance: Lower School Dance Club for Years 7 & 8, Contemporary Technique Club, Upper School Dance Club for Year 9 upwards. Older students in Years 10 and 12 also have the opportunity to apply to become a Young Arts Leader where they have the opportunity to lead a club for other students. For the past couple of years we have also successfully run an 'audition only' lower school dance club (for years 7 & 8) called "Brightlights".

In 2016 we became Southern Premier Champions of the national dance competition "Rock Challenge". This is a prestigious event, held at Portsmouth Guildhall, where we have to create a concept, choreography, set, costume, lighting and a soundtrack which we then perform. Our 6th form students play a pivotal role in every aspect of the production.

Drama

We have a variety of Drama Clubs at lunchtime, including Footlights (audition only club) and Lower School Drama Club (for Years 7 – 9). We also offer Trinity Guildhall Speech, Drama and Musical Theatre exams. These all operate in the lunch hour and all school students have the opportunity to take part in the annual school production (musical and straight play on rotation).

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The award programmes are managed exclusively by the school using an external provider (Zest for Adventure) and are aimed at students in Years 10-13. The Bronze and Silver schemes aim to develop a range of personal skills through involvement in a range of activities – volunteering, physical, skills, expedition. Expeditions take place at weekends; local venues include Green Park but silver expeditions take place in the Cotswolds and Derbyshire.

Movement towards the Gold Award is possible for those students who wish to undertake these nationally recognised awards.

Music

Students are encouraged to participate in a range of musical ensembles most of which rehearse at lunch times and are not auditioned. Instrumental ensembles include the Senior Orchestra, String Ensemble, Floyd Brass, Concert Band & String Quartets. We also have numerous choirs including: Senior Choir, Chamber Choir, Gospel Choir, Floyd Macapella, Floyd Acabellas, Lower School Choir and the Year 7-8 choir. These groups perform in a variety of styles and often combine to perform larger works, for example, *The Messiah* by Handel.

All students have the opportunity to perform in concerts throughout the year either as a member of these ensembles or as soloists. In addition to termly concerts we also hold a Christmas Celebration, Band Night and various recital evenings. We also perform to wider audiences at larger venues including the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre and Symphony Hall Birmingham as part of the National Festival of Music For Youth.

Public Speaking and Debating

For many years now Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School has entered teams in a variety of Public Speaking and Debating Competitions, both locally and nationally. These give students the chance to learn the skills required for talking in public and working as a team.

The school has had much success in Public Speaking and Debating, and this continues to be a popular extra-curricular activity among students. In 2009 a Sixth Form team got to the final of the Bar Mock Trials at the Old Bailey in London which was a phenomenal achievement and in 2011, Year 9 students were County Champions in the Junior Magistrates Competition. The Senior Debating Society is exceptionally well-attended by Sixth Form students who organise house debating and participate in external competitions, entering the Oxford University, Warwick University and English Speaking Union Debating Competitions in recent years.

Science

Younger students are encouraged to experiment and learn further in this vast subject area whilst working with both staff and student 'science ambassadors'. We offer a weekly science club for Year 7 and 8 students.

Skiing & Snowboarding

In recent years tours have been arranged to take place during February half-term (Years 11 – 13) and/or during the Easter break (Years 7 – 10).

Full instruction has been given in the resort with 2 x 2 hour lessons per day. There has also been an 'après ski' programme ensuring a great deal of fun for all.

These trips in the past have been to Sankt Johann im Pongau in Austria and booked with Snowslippers, a specialist tour operator based in the resort.

Sport

The PE department offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities including athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket, rugby, cross country, football, gymnastics, hockey, netball, rounders and tennis.

All clubs are open to both boys and girls regardless of ability.

Most clubs and practices run during lunchtime to ensure that everyone can participate. Students are expected to compete in inter-house matches. The school participates in a number of local and county leagues and is fully committed to friendly matches. These take place after school, and occasionally at weekends. We welcome parental support at these events - there are even opportunities for parents to referee matches.

World Challenge

This personal development programme is aimed at students in Years 11 - 13. Over a period of approximately twenty months students raise funds and prepare for a month long expedition to a developing country. Recent destinations have included Nepal, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan (the Silk Route), Ethiopia and India. Last year our destination was Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

All students have a compulsory training expedition in October in Snowdonia. As part of their fund raising, students in Years 7 and 8 are invited to take part in the 'Stay-awake-a-thon' each November. Students also organise a themed evening in March for parents and other guests.

Other Activities

Other things to do at break and/or lunchtime include borrowing or browsing through books and periodicals in the school's Library, or using one of the computer suites for advice and information on Further Education and employment, or to get help from the members of the Sixth Form who assist with supervision and mentor students who are having particular difficulties with some of their subjects.

Opportunities to visit the theatre and museums, attend concerts, lectures and workshops, take part in foreign exchange visits, and visit locations both at home and abroad that are linked to particular areas of learning are available to all students as they progress through the school. In 2016 we ran a successful exchange visit to China.

Additionally, each year group undertakes a challenge activity during the course of the academic year which aims to develop personal confidence and team building skills. Locations such as Oxfordshire (bushcraft), Dorset (beachcraft) and the Normandy beaches in France are being used during the school's Enrichment Week at the end of the summer term this year when students in Years 7 – 9 will enjoy a residential experience for three to four days.

At the same time Year 10, take part in enterprise activities, careers planning and a university visit to raise aspirations and consider the possible pathways that lie ahead.