

POTENTIAL ABLE
INTERESTED CURIOUS
TALENT ENGAGING
NURTURING
MOTIVATED
THOUGHT-PROVOKING

AIMS PROGRAMME



Kent
College

INTRODUCTION



The Able, Interested and Motivated Students' (AIMS) Programme at Kent College is a rich and varied programme which seeks to identify and inspire the strengths and talents of our students and nurture them by offering a broad range of opportunities for them to grow and be challenged both in and out

of the classroom. Our Programme spans a range of disciplines: Academic, Art, Dance, Drama, Music and Sport.

Traditionally, ability is seen as a deciding factor when it comes to success, but effort and motivation are arguably as important. Students are encouraged to pursue their individual interests and be stimulated through their "thinking" and "doing", with diverse provision from sessions which focus on goal-setting to stretch and to challenge students, to lectures promoting intellectual curiosity and learning for its own sake. Students who have been awarded a scholarship or exhibition are expected to participate fully in the Programme, but all students who consistently demonstrate their ability, interest and motivation will also be invited to access the Programme.

HALO LECTURE SERIES

The Higher Aspiration Learning Opportunity (HALO) lectures are a regular series of talks that explore a variety of cultural, scientific and political themes which take students' thinking beyond the limits of the curriculum. Scholars and Exhibitioners are expected to attend the lectures with AIM Students expected to attend at least one per term.

Lectures have included:

- Media Industries and Power: Who controls the Media?
- Inflation and the cost of living.
- Should we genetically engineer humans?
- How Many Senses Do We Really Have?
- Perfection, Beauty and The Golden Ratio.
- 'The Five' – the untold lives of the women killed by Jack the Ripper.
- Society – what it means to be part of a society.

During lessons at Kent College, staff will direct students to links between syllabus material and possible enrichment opportunities, both in and out of school. Teaching staff support and guide students who develop particular areas of interest where appropriate.

Alongside this, all students who have been awarded a scholarship or exhibition are allocated a supervisor with whom they meet regularly to support the student's academic/sporting/artistic development and also assist them to manage their commitments in a positive and stress-free manner. We aim to go the extra mile in nurturing students' talents and helping them reach their full potential.

In addition, opportunities to develop their talents and skills will be available to students in all disciplines. Art Scholars will contribute to an annual art exhibition. Dance Scholars perform at school dance performances. Drama Scholars will present at an annual drama show. Music Scholars will perform at school music events. Sport Scholars have a programme of fitness training and physical development, alongside the opportunity to represent the school when appropriate.

"HALO is a great opportunity to explore thought-provoking questions, allowing us to engage in interesting topics with our peers." Charlotte & Grace

"The talk on the Golden Ratio was unique and attention grabbing. It gave an alternate viewpoint to what being 'perfect' means in not only social terms but also mathematical terms." Helena

"I found the lecture about Society interesting and thought provoking. It made me consider things that I don't usually think or wonder about." Nina

"I really enjoyed the HALO talk this week; it was interesting to learn about our senses. The body is very clever, when one sense is not working, the other senses worker even harder, this was proved by the fun experiments we did!" Leah

MENTORING

All AIMS Scholars and Exhibitioners have one-to-one mentor meetings with a supervisor. These meetings are intended to provide feedback for students, set aspirational targets and review progress. Academic Scholars and Exhibitioners meet twice each term with the Head of AIMS and AIM Students have termly meetings in a group setting.

SCHOLARS' PROJECT DAY

AIM Students will be invited to spend a day exploring a topic with invited guest speakers. They will share and debate a globally significant idea and work on their communication skills to present their ideas.

“The project day about gender equality was a lovely opportunity. It was wonderful to have the chance to research different areas of gender equality with my friends as well as being able to present our findings.”

Sarah

“I really enjoyed the whole structure and process of the day and how we were guided in order to choose a topic, learn about how to structure and deliver a TED talk and then be able to independently put together our TED talks within our groups.”

Mila



HALO PROJECTS

Once a fortnight AIM Students from Year 7 to 11 will be invited to attend a project club intended to promote critical thinking skills, develop cultural awareness and global citizenship along with research, communication and presentation skills. AIM Students will explore topics of interest to them and develop skills to articulate their thoughts and delve deeper into their specific areas of interest.

COMPETITIONS

AIM Students will be encouraged to take part in competitions in subject areas which align to their interests and abilities. Students have taken part in the UK Maths Challenge, Page Turners Award Reading Challenge, Poetry by Heart Competition and the Bebras Computing Challenge as well as essay competitions in various subjects.



MASTERCLASSES

Students are invited to take part in subject specific masterclasses at school on an ad-hoc basis. Previous classes have included creative writing masterclasses with a guest author, an able linguist day at Southampton University, a STEM day and tour of Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University.

WEST KENT ISSP

Each year AIM Students in Years 7 to 9 are invited to a series of lectures on a central theme and a day of cross curricular masterclasses. These enrichment activities afford students the opportunity to widen and deepen their thinking, knowledge and understanding of extra-curricular topics.

The West Kent Independent State School Partnership (ISSP) comprises Kent College, Mascalls Academy, Oakley School, The Judd School, The Malling School, The Skinners' School and Skinners' Kent Academy. The objective of the partnership is to provide the best educational opportunities for able and interested young people in and around Tunbridge Wells.



SIXTH FORM AIMS

Sixth Form Academic Scholars join the Lucerna critical thinking discussion group which meets once a fortnight. They examine ethical, philosophical or political issues which will lead to further research and wider reading around topics which spark their intellectual curiosity.

KC FUTURES PROGRAMME

The careers programme aims to explore and challenge understanding of the possibilities so students are able to make positive and well-informed choices about their futures. Speakers from a broad range of business sectors and industry visit on a regular basis to discuss options with students as part of this programme.



For further information contact Mrs D Quigley,
Head of AIMS. quigleyd@kentcollege.kent.sch.uk



PREP AIMS PROGRAMME

Students in the Prep School, starting from Year 1, may be invited to participate in the Prep AIMS programme. Guided by the Head of Prep AIMS, all students will be encouraged to engage in various clubs such as STEM, Book Club, Young Entrepreneurs, and other relevant activities. Class teachers will tailor their teaching to meet each student's academic requirements within suitable groupings. Additionally, the Head of Prep AIMS will hold termly meetings with every student. As they progress to Year 6, AIM Students will have the opportunity to attend appropriate HALO lectures in the Senior School.

For further information contact Mrs C Williams, Head of Prep AIMS.
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