



Hanley Castle High School and Sixth Form Centre

Academic Enrichment for All Newsletter

Autumn Term 2021

Welcome to the first edition of our **Academic Enrichment for All** Newsletter. In it you will find lots of opportunities and events that will enrich your child's education by broadening their understanding of a range of subjects, some of which may be entirely new to them. It is designed to engage, stimulate and pique the intellectual and creative interests of Hanley students by offering experiences they can independently undertake outside of the classroom, possibly taking them down academic routes they never knew about! As you might expect, the majority of these are virtual and are suitable for different ages and interests. We strongly encourage all students to explore the events outlined in the newsletter to find what interests them.

You will also find a '**Cultural Capital**' section which provides information on local events that will enrich your child's cultural experiences as well as challenging and thought provoking fiction and non-fiction 'recommended reads' in several different subject areas. We have also included '**Dinner Table Discussions**' (which also form part of our tutor programme) where we suggest current topics you can discuss with your children so they develop their understanding of the wider world and important global and social issues. Please note that there is no obligation for your child to partake in any of the events here; rather we hope they will find this newsletter useful in developing academic or cultural interests or finding new ones. It should be an enjoyable experience rather than one they feel they "need" to complete! And if there's nothing here that catches the eye, more opportunities and events will be published in the Spring term newsletter.

Can you help the Zooniverse? (All ages)

The Zooniverse is the world's largest and most popular platform for people powered research where you can assist professional researchers from around the world by working on projects with them. You don't need any specialised training, background or expertise to take part in and you can contribute to real academic research at your own convenience and on your own computer. You'll be able to study authentic objects of interest gathered by researchers, like images of faraway galaxies, historical records and diaries, or videos of animals in their natural habitats thereby helping to contribute to our understanding of our world, our history, our Universe and more. There is a vast amount of projects you can join in a range of disciplines such social sciences, space, natural history, language and climatology. Have a look at the different projects you can take part in here:

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects>

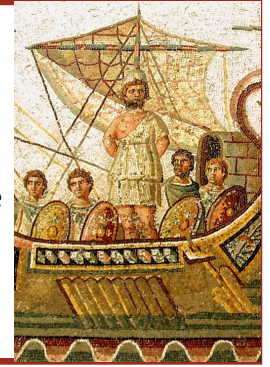
Parents please note: Students are required to register and will need to provide an email address. This should be their school email address



Greek Mythology (recommended for KS3/4)

Listen to some of the most famous and enduring stories from classical mythology on the **Classical Tales** website. From Aesop's fables to the story of Achilles and the Trojan war, these wonderful podcasts are a great introduction to the subject. The website also provides free teaching resources if you want to study the tales in further depth.

<https://classictales.co.uk/>



Geology and Cosmochemistry: "Fire and Ice"

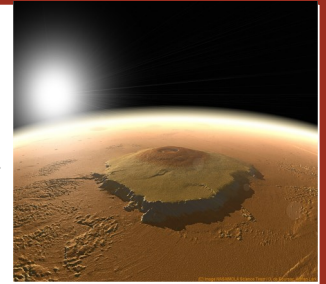
Thursday 30th September 7-8.30pm (all ages)

A **free online** lecture from **The Royal Institution** that delivers a tour of the incredible volcanoes of our Solar System.

<https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/events-2021/september/public-fire-and-ice>

You can find other inspiring upcoming lectures from The Royal Institution here: <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on>

Keep an eye out for news on their excellent **Christmas lectures** which will be broadcast on the BBC between Christmas and the New Year <https://www.rigb.org/christmas-lectures/about>



Gresham College Lectures- (recommended KS4/6th form)

Follow this link for upcoming lectures in a range of disciplines including **law, medicine, history, the natural world and politics**.

All lectures are free to live stream. <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/attend/?page=1>

You can also browse their past lectures by following this link with notable speakers such as Professor Chris Whitty and Professor Leslie Thomas QC <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch/>



GRESHAM
COLLEGE

Environmentalism and Conservation (all ages)

Speakers for Schools have recorded many talks delivered by a vast range of renowned experts from many fields. Here you'll find a talk by **Steve Backshall MBE** on how you can develop your Green Skills and learn how you can help nature and protect the planet.

<https://www.speakersforschools.org/vtalks/steve-backshall-mbe-presenter-conservationist-and-sky-zero-ambassador/>



**Newnham College, University of Cambridge: Engineering a Career
(recommended KS4/ 6th form)**

<https://www.newn.cam.ac.uk/event/newnham-conversations-engineering-a-career/>

26th September– online

Newnham Fellows Dr Clare Barlow and Dr Sathky Selvakumaran are providing an online talk on the impact of women in engineering and discussing their own careers in the field. A very useful **Super-Curricular** event for those students interested in a career in engineering or studying it at University.



Upcoming Cultural Capital Events

The Nutcracker, Malvern Theatre, 21st November 7pm

Tchaikovsky's timeless and magical Christmas ballet will be performed by the Russian State Ballet and Opera House. Enchanting for all ages.

<https://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk/whats-on/the-nutcracker-2/>



The Magician's Elephant, RSC Stratford, various dates from the 14th October

"Magic is always impossible. That's what makes it magic"

A brand new family musical adapted from Kate DiCamillo's prize winning novel. There are also some dates for socially distanced performances for those wishing to avoid larger crowds.

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/>



Spectacular Classics, Birmingham Symphony Hall, 13th November, 2.30pm/ 7.30pm

A dazzling light display accompanied by some classical greats. Elgar, Wagner, Vaughn Williams, to name just a few, will feature, making this a fabulous introduction to Classical music. It also concludes with an exciting finale of the 1812 overture, cannons and indoor fireworks!

<https://bmusic.co.uk/event/spectacular-classics>



Reading Challenge

How many can you read each term?

Reading regularly and widely is essential for learning. These recommendations will change each term and we challenge you to read as many possible! Discuss what you read with your teachers and classmates and do ask us if you want even more recommendations. Please also note that while you are welcome to read above your key stage, the key stage 5 texts may contain adult themes and language.

	<u>KS3</u>	<u>KS4</u>	<u>KS5</u>
Fiction	<p><i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i>– Harper Lee</p> <p><i>The Book Thief</i>– Markus Zusak</p>	<p><i>Purple Hibiscus</i>– Chimamanda Adichie</p> <p><i>1984</i>– George Orwell</p>	<p><i>Birdsong</i>– Sebastian Faulks</p> <p><i>Brighton Rock</i>– Graham Greene</p>
Non Fiction	<p><i>Human Universe</i>– Professor Brian Cox (Science)</p> <p><i>Extreme Survival: A Doctor Explores the Limits of Human Endurance</i>– Dr Kenneth Kamler (PE)</p>	<p><i>No One is too Small to Make a Difference</i>– Greta Thunberg (Environment/ politics)</p> <p><i>Freakonomics</i>– Levitt and Dubner (Economics)</p>	<p><i>The Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat</i>– Oliver Sacks (Psychology/ Neurology)</p> <p><i>Chavs: The Demonisation of the Working Classes</i>– Owen Jones (Sociology)</p>

Dinner Table Discussions

Current issues

Have we abandoned Afghanistan?

Learn more about what is happening in Afghanistan and who the Taliban are here (KS3) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/58221225>

BBC Radio 4: The Moral Maze <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qk11/episodes/player?page=2>

Listen to current and past episodes of debates on a range of topics and issues in our society:

- ◆ Is it right to party during a pandemic?
- ◆ Are our ideas about masculinity immoral?
- ◆ Is swearing in public wrong?

