



AIM HIGH

Wymondham College support for young people with high aspirations

The Aim High programme has been developed for students across the College who wish to broaden their knowledge and academic skills in order to help them fulfil their potential.

The activities are designed to challenge students to consider new concepts, discover new influences and to develop critical thinking and debating skills.

Throughout the programme we aim to prepare our most academic students for applications to top universities in the UK and overseas.

The activities and events offered are organised and delivered to be appropriate for each year group and include discussions, debates, academic challenges, trips and interview support.

In addition, students have access to Unifrog – an online resource open to all students and parents at the College. This platform offers guidance on careers and universities as well as a 'Geek Out' section for students looking for super curricular activities to expand their subject knowledge.

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A World Class State Boarding and Day School

Aim High in Year 7, 8 and 9

During these three years, the focus is on encouraging students to expand on their curriculum subject knowledge, think creatively and explore options and ideas.

Genius Hour

This initiative involves students in Years 7 and 8 producing an independent project as part of their College PSHE prep. Students can choose to work in teams or on their own, with their project linked to a subject area or a personal interest. The final work is displayed in an exhibition fair in the sports hall and viewed by staff, parents and guests. The work is judged and prizes awarded. Genius Hour is very popular and develops students skills in time management, creativity, problem solving and research skills, while boosting self confidence and learning.

Independent learning

Students in Years 7 and 8 receive a booklet of activities linked to academic subjects and careers which they can undertake in their free time. These encourage wider reading, exploration and research.

STEM events

These are organised as part of Collapsed Curriculum days

- ICT trip to Bletchley Park and BT headquarters at Adastral Park
- Year 8 Pyrotechnics day
- RAF STEM challenge (girls only)

Subject trips

These are organised by subject departments and can include:

- Languages trip to the University of East Anglia
- History trip to Norwich Castle Museum
- RE trips to Norwich Cathedral and Norwich Synagogue
- Drama trips to the theatre
- Food technology – Field to Fork trip
- English residential trip in Y9 to the Arvon creative writing center

Aim High in Years 10 and 11

In years 10 – 11, the focus moves to optional group activities within school, as well as trips and visits aimed at expanding subject knowledge and interest.

Aim High lunchtime lecture series:

These are organised by the Deputy Headteacher and Careers Leader and include:

- Introduction to Oxbridge - Talk from University of Oxford or Cambridge schools liaison officer
- How to evaluate and discuss a source – led by the Lincoln Fellow, a recent Oxbridge graduate
- Visiting Alumni sessions focused on ‘What I’d tell my Y10 self’
- Teacher specialist interest areas – in recent years these have included ‘Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics’, ‘Could I be Mensa material?’, ‘Is veganism a passing fad?’ and ‘Machiavelli hero or villain?’ Reading material is shared in advance, 15minute teacher lecture and then debate and discussion

Trips and Visits

These vary every year. A typical offer will include:

- Physics trip to Cavendish Laboratories, Cambridge University – information on Oxbridge applications alongside a range of experiments completed in the Cavendish laboratories
- GT Masterclass, Cambridge – attending a lecture series with a range of topics aimed at expanding critical thinking
- South Norfolk Assessment Centre – working as a team on a series of tasks and interviews
- Women in STEM – a range of lectures and practical events
- Summer School Sessions at UEA
- Mock Bar Competition – working as a team on a legal case

Subject Societies & Publications

Students are encouraged to engage with subject staff in their preferred subject area and involve themselves in super curricular opportunities. For example in languages this could be working as a Language Ambassador in our Primary schools programme, in Geography writing pieces for the Geographical Society Magazine or in English working as a Literature Ambassador affiliated with the Norwich Writers’ Centre.

Individual Careers Interviews

Students are able to meet for an hour with our Careers Leader who is able to discuss pathways post 16 and recommend specific opportunities to support areas of interest. Meetings can be booked via a direct email to wallacda.ad@wymondhamcollege.org

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Sixth Form

In the Sixth form, the Oxbridge support programme is targeted at those students who are eager to make an application to the most competitive universities.

Students initially meet with Sixth form staff to discuss the application process, application deadlines, the importance of super curricular activities to demonstrate their passion for a subject and the need to achieve top A level grades.

The programme is tailored to fit the course interests of the students and includes:

- Introductory talk and questions and answers session with the Oxford University schools liaison officer from Christ Church
- Presentation to students and parents from schools liaison officer from Gonville & Caius, Cambridge
- Group visit to Cambridge University including a talk on the Oxbridge system, the applications process and advice on admissions tests and interviews, followed by a tour of three Cambridge colleges
- Individual advice and guidance throughout the process from the Lincoln Fellow – a recent Oxbridge graduate
- Weekly group discussions and presentations on academic subjects to encourage academic research, critical thinking and evaluation skills.
- Advice and support from former students and successful Year 13 students
- Individual personal statement advice from the Lincoln Fellow and senior sixth form staff
- Support with admissions tests and registration
- Mock interviews and interview practice with academics or Oxbridge graduates
- Notifications of subject masterclasses, taster events and essay competitions emailed to students on a regular basis
- Access to the Norfolk County Council higher education programme which offers additional support in the application process.

Students are also directed to useful resources to help them develop their super-curricular activities and prepare for competitive applications.

These include:

- Additional reading recommendations such as www.staircase12.univ.ox.ac.uk
<https://www.myheplus.com/>
- www.ox.ac.uk/itunes-u
- www.ted.com
- Massive Online Open Courses www.unifrog.org

The logo consists of the words "AIM HIGH" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters "A" and "H" are stylized with upward-pointing arrows integrated into their top strokes. The text is set against a solid yellow rectangular background.

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Individual Careers Interviews

As in the main school students are able to meet for an hour with our Careers Leader who is able to discuss pathways post 18 and recommend specific opportunities to support areas of interest. Our Careers Leader will build up a profile for each student so as time progresses will be able to discuss different opportunities. Meetings can be booked via a direct email to wallacda.ad@wymondhamcollege.org

Subject Societies & Leadership Opportunities

In the Sixth Form we have a wealth of student societies that our Aim High students tend to lead. The meetings of societies are lively and filled with debates and guest speakers. Several societies also create publications that allow students to write academic essays on areas of interest. In addition, Student Subject Leaders work as mentors for younger students and represent the College at a range of events and competitions.

If you would like more information on the Aim High programme please contact Mrs Jayne Edmunds-Grezio, Deputy Headteacher
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