

Extended Learning Week for Years 7-9

Monday 1st July – Friday 5th July 2019

Developing Curious Minds at MGS...



“It is a dangerous business, Frodo, going out of your door. You step onto the road and there is no knowing where you might be swept off to.”

Gandalf, The Lord of the Rings

What is it all about?

Extended Learning Week is for everyone, no matter what your interest or passion. It is a chance for all at MGS to rejoice in shared learning experiences together, outside of the usual curriculum. We want to give students and staff the opportunity to extend and develop their knowledge, skills, cultural and social experiences outside of what is normally needed to be covered in the classroom. It has become an established part of life at MGS and we can't wait for it to start again this summer!

Why?

This year, while we have our usual expansive array of activities going on, we really want students to start thinking about what their passion really is. What is that thing that deep down, they really want to know more about? It might not be something they talk about that often, but as our boys develop into young men, we want them to be proud of their interests! As with our Gandalf quote at the start, taking a step forward with a curiosity can be terrifying, but once you delve into an interest, there is no telling where it may take you! Maybe it is a love of sport, or race car engineering, a language, writing poetry or anything from a multitude of interests that we know these boys have. Blending into the background and just doing what everyone else does is easy; why not be curious, daring and explore what you love learning about? This is what being part of Maidstone Grammar School is all about!



How does the week work?

Normal school rules and expectations apply during this week, as in any other week. However, staff and students are permitted to wear smart and casual clothes, or specific clothing, as directed by your activity leader and the task that you are doing.

Normal attendance and punctuality rules apply. There will be registration at the start of the day and after lunch and it will be completed by your activity leader. Your Extended Learning Week base becomes the equivalent of your form room for the week.

Latecomers must sign in with a senior member of staff at the School Office.

The daily timings are as follows:

8.40am – 10.10am **Session One**

To include AM Statutory Registration by the activity leader between 8.40am-8.50am.

10.10am – 10.30am Morning Break

10.30am – 12pm **Session Two**

12pm – 12.50pm Lunch
(The Refectory will be operational as normal).

12.50pm – 2pm **Session Three**

To include PM Statutory Registration by the activity leader between 12.50pm-1pm.

2pm – 2.20pm Afternoon Break

2.20pm – 3.30pm **Session Four**

There will be a **slightly earlier finish at 3pm on Friday 5th July.**

Some activities are for five days, or students may choose to do two lots of two and a half day activities. Swap over for the two and a half day activities will be **at the end of Session Two on Wednesday 3rd July.**

How do the applications work?

The **Choice of Activity Form** will be in the Tutor Folders and available via parentmail and will need to be returned **by Friday 29th March.** If you have not made your choice, Mr Ferguson will allocate you an activity.

If parents believe they are eligible for financial support for their child to participate in a costed activity, then please contact Mr Ferguson in confidence by Friday 29 March.

Please note that, in some cases, the costs below may change marginally as numbers and prices are confirmed.



Please take the time to look at the activities and decide what interests you. Don't think about what your friends are doing as this is chance to follow your own interests and meet other likeminded Maidstonians!

So what is on offer this year....?

ADVENTURE KENT

Duration: 2.5 days

Cost: £45 and payable soon after applications close.

Adventure Kent offers students two and a half days of outdoor sports and activities including climbing, sailing, canoeing and rafting. Students should expect to learn many new skills, push their physical limits, make new friends and have a great adventure!

Choose only one master – Nature

Rembrandt

BASKETBALL CAMP

Duration: 2.5 days

Cost: £0

Horse, 21, Round the World, Streetball 3-on-3, full court... Interested in many different approaches to Basketball? Then this camp is for you. After a brief introductory history of the game's invention, we will develop fundamental skills: pivoting, passing, dribbling, shooting, and rebounding.

*I can accept failure;
everyone fails at
something. But I can't
accept not trying.*

Michael Jordan

After fundamentals development, competitions begin in the Sports Hall, with teams changing frequently, allowing a range of games throughout the day. A mini-fives tournament will complete the competition. After lunch, we'll cool down with videos like *Under the Rim* (a history of the short man in professional basketball), and *Basketball Bloopers and Blunders*.

You'll need good appropriate footwear, changes of T-shirts and socks, a towel, water bottle, and sports tape for weak knees or ankles. Prepare to run, jump, and perspire in copious volumes!

PROFESSIONAL CHESS MASTERCLASS

Duration: 2.5 days

Cost: £22.50 payable in advance of the week for professional coaches

Chess is over 1000 years old and its worldwide popularity has never been greater due to the internet. Anyone can play against anyone anywhere in the world on a smartphone. It's more than just a game though and learning chess has proven to help with study skills, business planning and dementia prevention in later life. As in life, one bad decision in chess can have fatal consequences, but one moment of inspiration can open a door to long term success.

Chess helps you to concentrate, improve your logic. It teaches you to play by the rules and take responsibility for your actions, how to problem solve in an uncertain environment.

Garry Kasparov

We will teach you to play the game if you don't know already, how to avoid careless mistakes and some master tactics to crush your opponents. There will be explanations at appropriate levels and puzzles as well as an overall competition at the end of the 2.5 days. Students will be using both boards and laptop computers.

CREATIVE WRITING MASTERCLASS

You can make anything by writing.

C.S Lewis

Duration: 5 days

Cost: £0

Has creative writing always interested you? Do you love to read, and have always dreamt about writing your own short story or novella? Our focus this year is going to be on creating an anthology of tales for children. This won't just be writing; during the week we will focus on the advance skills required, as well as learning about the process of editing, illustrating and publishing.

If those rare creative writing lessons for you in English simply don't feel long enough, then this is for you!

REWRITING SHAKESPEARE

Duration: 5 days

Cost: £10

Many regard Shakespeare as the greatest playwright to ever live. His plays have stories that can make you laugh and only moments later, make you cry.

We will spend a week looking at some of his greatest plays and following a visit to the Globe to watch 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' live, we will explore screenplay writing and work on rewriting some of his classics!

Earth has music for those who listen.

Shakespeare

FAST BUT NOT FURIOUS (TECHNOLOGY)

Duration: 2.5 days

Cost: £22 payable in advance of the week

Well, it's time to stir up the dust, extended learning week is back. This year for a technological emphasis, we are going to design, develop, manufacture and compete with some simple vehicles.

You will have the opportunity to find real skills in making things go faster. Using some pre-manufactured components and your imagination, you will create your own vehicles. In teams, you will race against the competition. As well as the fame, prizes will be available in a series of categories. Rejoice when you win even if you are not first past the post.

Scientists dream about doing great things. Engineers do them.

James Michener

FORMULA ONE IN SCHOOL

Duration: 5 days

Cost: £22 payable in advance of the week

Working together to design your own F1 teams. You will work on your ethos, your branding, design and engineering of your car to be the best around. This a

serious scientific and maths based course that will focus on engineering and analytics.

Aerodynamics are for those who can't design engines.

Enzo Ferrari

GENETICS, GENETIC MODIFICATION AND PLANTS

Duration: 2.5 days

Cost: £10

Working with external providers and visits outside of school during the week, students will get the chance to

work with the genetics of plants during hands on experiments with crops currently being explored in their laboratories. This is about exploring genetics and how science can be used to truly push the boundaries of what is possible for research purposes, but also to protect the future of our planet!

The laws of genetics apply even if you refuse to learn them.

Johnson

Trip includes a visit to the Royal Society of Science Summer Exhibition.

GOLF ACADEMY

Duration: 5 days

Cost: £65 payable in advance of the week

Golf's winning combination of exercise, sporting skill and social interaction make it the perfect sport for good health and happiness. The Golf Academy is for beginners or golfers of any standard. Golfers with recognised handicaps are encouraged to sign up for this fabulous week which is designed to develop golfing techniques and skills at all levels.

Achievement is largely a product of steadily raising one's level of aspiration and expectation.

Jack Nicklaus

Monday to Thursday, you will be in small groups rotating around 5 activities (driving, video analysis, chipping, putting and keep fit) all under the tuition of PGA qualified professionals at the Tudor Park Golf Club, Bearsted. Friday will be Tournament Day for the 4 golfing activities and a golf competition on the course for the best golfer with a recognised handicap. Prizes for winners!

Those taking part will have to arrange dropping off and collection from Tudor Park each day. If you want to fine-tune your game for the summer ahead, or want to learn and play golf for the first time, join The Golf Academy!

GREAT MGS BAKE OFF

Duration: 2.5 days

Cost: £5

During MGS' own version of the hit TV show, students will learn key cookery skills and compete in exciting challenges. Students will work on their artistry and flair, but also on the science of baking, hygiene and teamwork. It will be a busy 2.5 days, but by the end of the week, we will have crowned our champions!

A recipe has no soul. You as the cook, must bring the soul to a recipe.

Thomas Keller

HAS THE WORLD GONE MAD – A POLITICS AND DEBATING EXPERIENCE

Duration: 2.5 days

Cost: 0

There is a huge interest in politics across the school at the moment and the changing nature of our world is fascinating the students. Mr Amin will be helping the students understand some of the reasons behind these changes and help them gain the skills to discuss them with sophistication and knowledge, rather than following the latest meme!

THE ELW NEWSPAPER

Duration: 2.5 days
Cost: £0

Ever been interested in journalism or blogging? We are looking to offer an experience to a small team to create their own ELW newspaper that will be printed and distributed as promotional material for the school. We believe in Extended Learning Week so much, we want to document it and share the great news about everything that you all do!
This is a great chance to come and develop a new skill!

“LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION”

Duration: 5 days
Cost: £0

Students will gain the unique opportunity to fully devise their own short film. They will compete in small groups to develop scripts, plan production, perform and record, learn the skills for post-production and finally complete their masterpiece. Students will learn a vast array of skills, including technical proficiency with editing software. This is a chance to fully understand and explore the world of film beyond Hollywood...

If it can be written or thought, it can be filmed.

Stanley Kubrick

THE MGS MUSICAL/PANTO

Duration: 5 days
Cost: £15 payable in advance of the week

I love acting. It is so much more real than life.

Oscar Wilde

Calling all budding actors, musicians, singers, dancers and stage managers!

It can be tough rehearsing for a play when you have homework and lessons to go to. NOW you have the opportunity to spend a whole week devoted to the fun of putting a show together, with the added excitement of performing to an appreciative audience of primary school children on the last day!

Good musicians and backstage staff are essential to make the show a success. There will be opportunities to sing and dance as well as act.

MATHS CHALLENGE - CODEBREAKING

Duration: 2.5 days

Cost: 0

Come and try some high level code breaking and mathematics to really stretch your minds. We have also been asked to video our top maths students in action to enter a national competition, which we will be doing during this activity. It is going to be a real challenge, but that's the fun of it all!

LEARNING SIGN LANGUAGE

Duration: 2.5 days

Cost: £30

The Oscar-winning film 'The Silent Child' has caused a surge of interest in learning British Sign Language, and we have commissioned the local deaf charity Hi Kent to run a special course during Extended Learning Week. Hi Kent already has strong links to MGS and works in partnership with Kent Adult Education by teaching BSL in towns all over Kent.

British Sign Language (BSL) is a language used by more than 70,000 deaf people in the UK and is the first preferred language of the Deaf community. It is a language in its own right with its own vocabulary and structure of grammar, expressed through movement of the hands, body, face and head. It has its own grammar and principles, which are completely different from the grammatical structure of English.

Having a basic knowledge of BSL can be helpful when applying for jobs in many customer-facing roles.

Learn the basics over a two-and-a-half-day course, topics will include; the alphabet, numbers, colours, greetings, travel, family and food. Teaching will be provided in a fun and interactive style, no pens or paper needed!

THE MGS AMERICAN FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE

Duration: 5 days

Cost: £0

The NFL is becoming more and more popular and with staff fans (and even players) at MGS, we are going to run an American Football Boot Camp. Learn the skills, analyse your performance, get drafted for a team, learn the plays and compete in MGS' first Super Bowl of our own!

This is going to be a lot of fun, but also very physically and academically demanding.



SPORTS MEDIA WEEK

Duration: 5 days

Cost: £0

For all those interested in competition and analysing performances with technology and media!

*Sport does not build
character, it reveals it.*

*Broun (Sports
Journalist)*

Be the star of your team and of your own sports video!

You will be competing as a team in a number of sporting events, including: Rugby Sevens, Volleyball, Penalty Shootouts, T-Ball, and Street Hockey, to top the table and win a trophy for your efforts.

Using video cameras, performance analysis software, GPS and statistic apps, you will be able to produce your own 'Match of the Day' or 'Sky Sports' style programme detailing the events of the week. For the sportsmen and 'techies' amongst you!

SOUND ENGINEERING AND PERFORMANCE

Duration: 5 days

Cost: £0

Ever wanted to be in a band? Maybe you have always just loved the idea of being with a band, supporting them through the technical aspects of their shows. Well, even if it is just you and you have never been part of a band, now is your chance! Come and build a band, rehearse, film music videos and perform, culminating in a recording of your own CD.

Don't sit there and let your dreams pass you by; come and join the band!

Students are required to be able to play an instrument.

TENNIS

Duration: 5 days

Cost: £65 payable in advance of the week

South-Eastern Tennis coaches will be offering an intensive week of tennis coaching during the MGS Extended Learning Week this summer at Penenden Heath.

Students will have an opportunity to continue either playing for fun by hiring courts, going to Summer Holiday Camps, or playing in competitions at the excellent public facilities at Penenden Heath, or Maidstone Lawn Tennis Club in Allington.

Boys will need to arrange their own transport to and from Penenden Heath and provide their own drinks and lunches.



REMEMBRANCE - RESEARCHING OUR FALLEN

Duration: 5 days

Cost: £0

During the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, Mr Walker embarked on a vast research project with students to learn all about the lives of Maidstonians who lost their lives during this tragic conflict. Mr Walker is returning to MGS to complete this project, but this time, focusing on the Second World War and how we can share this information with our community.

ALTERNATIVE COMMITMENTS

Please be aware, you may also be involved with the following:

- CCF Camp
- RAF Training Camp
- Navy Trip to Clyde Feet Tender
- Spanish Trip
- Canada Trip
- All Year 10 are on Work Experience