



## GIFT Summer School 2017

### Residential Week for Gifted and Talented Students

Years 7 to 13

At Grendon Hall, Northamptonshire, NN7 1JW

**August 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> 2017**

GIFT, providers of internationally renowned enrichment courses, presents GIFT SUMMER SCHOOL (now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year!) a residential for the **most able and most curious students** in Years 7-13 or Home Educated children of that age.

*"It's an experience being with people bubbling out with ideas and enthusiasm for learning, and having my brain stretched right out to the limit of what I could follow."*

Study subjects that really interest you in depth or try something new and intriguing. There are ample breaks to enjoy the grounds of the 17th century Manor House and a civilised hour and a half for lunch. Early evening activities are followed by late ones. Mindfulness, fireside relaxation and stargazing (cloud cover permitting) will all feature on the menu, alongside who knows what more hectic options...

---

### Monday Project Choices

#### Sound the Deep Waters

This is an introduction to the life of Victorian women. The stereotypical Victorian woman was demure and domesticated. We shall endeavour, by examining various writings (poetry, novels, plays, autobiographies), to reveal the real and challenging personalities beneath.

#### It's a Mystery

On 5th November 1872 the Mary Celeste left New York with a cargo of commercial alcohol, 8 crew, and 2 passengers. The ship was found abandoned on 4th December, drifting in the Atlantic Ocean. What made ten people leave a perfectly seaworthy ship containing a valuable cargo and enough food to last six months? The Court of Enquiry at the time was unable to draw any satisfactory conclusions and it has been a

mystery ever since. Using the same evidence that was available to the court, can you come up with an answer?

#### Our Sentimental Friend the Moon!

In the early seventeenth century Galileo Galilei built the first astronomical telescope and observed lunar craters on the moon. Two hundred years later three scientists working independently became the lesser-known fathers of space-flight, Konstantin E. Tsiolkovsky, Hermann Oberth and Robert Goddard. In 1917 Oberth suggested the use of liquid fuelled rockets which promoted the idea of spaceflight, and in 1926 Robert Goddard launches a liquid fuelled rocket. The 'Space Race' truly began in 1957 when the USSR launched the first artificial satellite 'Sputnik 1'. On July 20th 1969, 384,400 km from Earth, Neil Armstrong stepped onto

the surface of the Moon and into the history books. NASA's funding for the Apollo missions peaked at a massive 4.4% of the federal budget in 1966. A single Saturn V rocket launch cost up to 365 million dollars, with an estimate for the total Apollo missions being in excess of 200 billion dollars. The legacy of space exploration has had a profound impact on our daily lives. This project involves a day of space exploration and science, highlighting the milestone of discovery throughout the 20th Century. I observe: our sentimental friend the Moon! T. S. Eliot

### **Music by Numbers**

How have numbers affected musical composition over the past millennium (and a bit)? Has the process of composition changed over the ages? If so, how? We'll look at and listen to examples of millennial (plus a bit) music and then use a process called isorhythm to compose a piece. This could be for percussion and piano or any combination of your own instruments. An ability to read music is essential (please bring your own instrument).

### **Rocketry**

Wernher von Braun and Sergei Pavlovich Korolev, pioneers of the American and Russian space programmes respectively, both started by experimenting in their back gardens with toy rockets that they'd made when they were very young. That's how far they went. How far can you go?

## **Tuesday Project Choices**

### **Tentacle Pentacle**

Rabbitfish, Foxface and Starfish live under the ocean. Starfish, Asteroidea, are members of the phylum Echinodermata. They have radial symmetry with appendages usually appearing in multiples of five, known to many as Starfish. However, starfish are not actually a fish at all! We will investigate the anatomy of these sea creatures

### **Will Power**

Was Richard III really a hunchback? Did Henry V really look like Kenneth Branagh? Who murdered the Princes in the Tower? Find out for

yourselves the mix of propaganda and history in Shakespeare's plays. Carry out your own investigations from authentic sources and find out just how much of Shakespeare's 'history' plays is based on fact.

### **Fair Maids and Foul Fiends**

Experience the tension and trauma of the Victorians' favourite theatre. You will be cunning villains, silly sidekicks, heroes and heroines. We'll meet the characters, write the lines, and act out the scenes with heavy sighs, tearful farewells, and swashbuckling bellows. Spend a day immersed in the wonderful spectacle of Victorian melodrama, a form of theatre that is closely linked with pantomime and twice as much fun! We'll make a (melo)drama out of a crisis!

### **Even More Rocketry**

By special request from those who did the Advanced Rocketry course at Easter School, Even More Rocketry goes further and hopefully higher with two-stage rockets and other new paraphernalia to experiment with. You need to have done at least one GIFT rocketry course before in order to select this option, either this week or on previous courses.

### **Ancient Alphabets**

Explore the earliest alphabets. Learn to read and write in hieroglyphs, runes, and pictograms. Invent your own alphabet / writing system. A day of codes and codebreaking, art and invention!

## **Wednesday** Mystery field trip...

## **Thursday Project Choices**

### **Smashing the Glass Ceiling**

Women are less likely than men to rise to the top in the media, science, or the professions. They live longer than men do but earn less and own less. Why? Are men and women just different? Or is there something else going on? This project looks at the balance of power between the sexes in U.K. society. We'll look at evidence from economic and social history, learn about how feminism started (and how it's

changed over the last 30 years), discuss what it means for men and women to be 'equal' and come up with a blueprint for the society of the future.

### **Game of Tones**

The success of a pop song is neither purely coincidental nor entirely based on public relations and marketing. Those elements may play a part, but there's something in the very structure of music itself and the way it works in our brain while we listen to it that's more important. Listening to music always includes being able to recognize something and at the same time being pleasantly surprised. The better the mixture of 'old' and 'new', the more we enjoy a song. But what's the perfect mixture? Bring your instruments and voices and we'll play around with songs and produce our own blends and 'mash-ups' that explore the ideas and limits of surprise and recognition.

### **What Did the Romans Ever Do for Art?**

From the streets of Pompeii to the homes of the rich and powerful, Roman civilization was rich in meaningful images. As the Republic and Empire rose and fell, their art changed too. Put creativity, contemplation and history together in this intriguing mosaic of a day that looks at art through the lens of history and vice versa, and tries your hand at some Roman-style image-making

### **Thirty Days Hath September**

In this project you will examine some of the devices people use to recall information and attempt to memorize increasingly lengthy codes using mnemonics. Afterwards you will explore the ways in which we gain access to longer-term memories and whether random thoughts are really so random after all or we are simply the playthings of suggestion and the collective unconscious. Eventually you will attempt to devise mnemonics for more complicated and personal experiences. Then you will try to remember where I left my keys...

### **Stream Course**

This is a course in freshwater ecology. What makes a stream? Come and find out how high,

how long, how wide, how polluted, and how much life is present. Closely observe objectively living organisms in their natural surroundings and begin to understand all the complex relationships at work between the life in the stream and the stream in the living environment. Wellington boots and an extra towel will be a necessity!

## **Friday Project Choices**

### **How to Train Your Novel**

We peel the flesh off of some successful novels to reveal the skeleton beneath, then use a popular method to construct outlines for our own blockbusters, potboilers, thrillers and chillers. Acts and arcs, MacGuffins and motifs – this course is about the big picture of writing or appreciating a novel. You don't need an idea for a book you would like to write to enjoy this course: there will be plenty of ideas to play around with.

### **Fake News and Fake Fake News**

When truth becomes stranger than fiction and those in power want to have their own "alternative facts", it would be easy to give up and think that no news is good news and everything in the newspapers you can't believe. In this course, explore the tangled web of mainstream and alternative media and the way power, money, politics and print interact as you attempt to tell fake news from fake fake news and consider what a post-post-truth world might look like.

### **A Pack of Lies**

Lies can be audacious, blatant, barefaced, blazing, dirty, downright, plump, round, walloping, white, out-and-out, deliberate, shameful, thumping, flat out, infamous or whacking - to name just a few! But what's exactly wrong with lying? The ninth commandment seems to be rather a dead duck in real life. Philosophers, psychologists, sociologists and zoologists claim that we (including other animals) are all natural-born liars, but at the same time we need and worship the truth in fiction from novels (Pinocchio) to TV series (Lie to Me). So, when, where, why and how do we lie or rather...tell the truth? How

many different kinds of lie and truth are there? Let's examine (truthfully) this complicated affair...

### **Socratic Circles**

In any debate, whether on the news, between classmates or around the dinner table, the nuances of meaning will be used to engineer an advantage. We call this sophistry, a vital component of verbal struggle since ancient Greece, when sophists were employed to teach youngsters the art of winning arguments. But that isn't the whole story, for alongside these sophists were philosophers like Socrates, who taught the same youngsters the art of taking the sophists' arguments and destroying them utterly! On this course, you are invited to join

the Socratic Circles, among other question-themed games and activities, as we cut through the nonsense and discover what it takes to be right. After all, what did your friend mean by 'aliens'? Or 'don't'? Or 'exist'?

### **May the Odds Be Ever In Your Favour!**

We have better records about our species compared to any other on Earth. Use real data to study populations and how different conditions have caused human life expectancy to vary. What might the future hold for us and is there any hope? The day may reveal more than just demography! It may even shed a little light on how we behave. Is good health merely the slowest way to die?

*“GIFT is like a little bubble where all the children who don't quite fit in can enjoy respite....I have learned so many new things.....no one is judgmental.”*

**All tuition, accommodation, excursions, food, materials and evening activities are included** in the price of £419\*. This can be paid online, via bank transfer, Paypal or even a cheque – all details are on the attached booking form.

\*GIFT is very fortunate in having the long-term support of a couple of charities that **can provide bursaries to cover part of the cost of attending** for families who would otherwise be unable to send their child. Please contact The Potential Trust (Anna Comino-James 01844 351666) or call us on the number below.

One of the findings of last year's OFSTED report about most able pupils was that only 1/3 of schools visited are using pupil premium for enrichment activities. Our courses are a great way to support such pupils and are especially helpful in raising their aspirations and connecting them with an extra peer group of very motivated youngsters.

**Questions? Ring, email or see the website FAQs**

01245 830321 [enquiries@giftcourses.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@giftcourses.co.uk) [www.giftcourses.co.uk](http://www.giftcourses.co.uk)



## BOOKING FORM for GIFT SUMMER SCHOOL at GRENDON YEARS 7-13

To book online, visit [www.giftcourses.co.uk](http://www.giftcourses.co.uk), or to book on paper return this form, with a deposit cheque for £80 or full payment of £419, payable to GIFT Courses LLP, to: **GIFT, 7 Tower Rd, Writtle, Chelmsford, CM1 3NR**

**Bank transfers:** GIFT Courses LLP,  
Sort Code: 40-17-08 Acct: 22380781  
**Paypal** to [enquiries@giftcourses.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@giftcourses.co.uk)

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_ School year \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

School (or Home Educated) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> PROJECT CHOICE -**

**MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> CHOICE -**

**TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> CHOICE –**

**TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> CHOICE –**

**THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> CHOICE –**

**THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> CHOICE –**

**FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> CHOICE –**

**FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> CHOICE –**

### EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Main Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to participant \_\_\_\_\_

Landline \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(We will use email addresses to keep you informed of future courses unless you ask us not to.)

### MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please circle any your child has had in the last 5 years:

Anxiety, asthma/shortness of breath, back problems, blackouts, convulsions, diabetes, epilepsy, fits, heart problems, high blood pressure, mental health problems or other condition needing a doctor's care.

Please circle any allergies your child has:

Penicillin, other antibiotics, plasters, immunizations, other drugs, food (especially peanuts), anything else.

Please give details below or on another sheet about:

- “ anything circled above
- “ any ongoing medical investigations
- “ any undiagnosed symptoms
- “ any hospital admissions or major accidents or illness
- “ any regular medicines
- “ anything else you would like us to know

PARENTAL CONSENT: I understand that GIFT staff will act in loco parentis: in the case of accident or illness, GIFT staff may take medical decisions on my behalf. I have given full medical information above. I agree to pay for any damage caused by my child to the person or property of any other party. I indemnify GIFT in respect of any reasonable expenses incurred due to any accident or illness of my child. I understand that photos, audio or video footage including my child may be used for publicity and training purposes unless I have requested in writing that my child should be excluded from such.

Signed (parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_