



SIXTH FORM

The Darwin Elective Programme



Bright Minds, Bright Futures

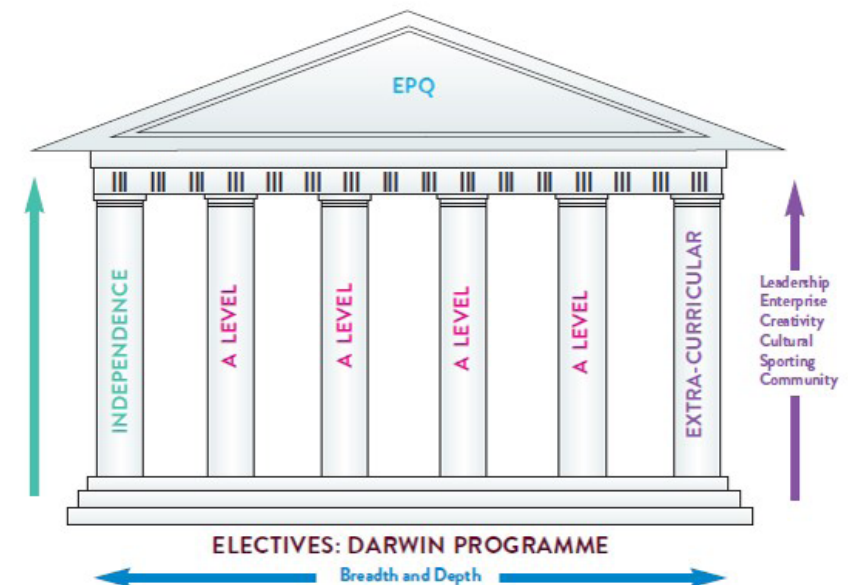
The Darwin Elective Programme

The Sixth Form is a chance for students to continue to develop their broader education: to be exposed to a wider range of skills and experiences that will prepare them for lifelong learning beyond the confines of their chosen specific academic disciplines.

Thus the Darwin programme of electives offers students a chance to study a range of academic, cultural and practical activities such as: debating, anthropology, current affairs, architecture, digital photography, putting on a Sixth Form production and analysing 'bad science'.

Volunteering in the local community is an important element of this programme and involves visiting schools for children with learning difficulties, helping the elderly at local residential homes and teaching swimming skills to disabled children.

The aim is to provide a broader curriculum and to extend the students' knowledge and experiences beyond their A-level subjects. Benefits can include inspiration with higher education choices, volunteering experience, preparation for highly competitive courses and universities, the opportunity to try something completely different, personal skills development and confidence building.



ANTHROPOLOGY



SUBJECT LINKS: Philosophy and Theology, Economics, Geography, History, Languages and Art.

SKILLS: Analytical and evaluative skills, communication, understanding human diversity, understanding research skills for collecting and making use of information.

DESCRIPTION: The word anthropology itself tells the basic story. From the Greek anthropos (“human”) and logia (“study”), it is the study of humankind, from its beginnings millions of years ago to the present day. Though easy to define, anthropology is difficult to describe. Its subject matter is both exotic (e.g. star lore of the Australian aborigines) and commonplace (anatomy of the foot). And its focus is both sweeping (the evolution of language) and microscopic (the use-wear of obsidian tools). Anthropologists may study ancient Mayan hieroglyphics, the music of African Pygmies, and the corporate culture of a U.S. car manufacturer. The discipline’s largest branch, social anthropology, applies the comparative method and evolutionary perspective to human culture. Culture represents the entire database of knowledge, values, and traditional ways of viewing the world, which have been transmitted from one generation ahead to the next—non genetically, apart from DNA—through words, concepts, and symbols. This elective is a whistle-stop tour of some key anthropological fields of research.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn and Spring terms.

BAD SCIENCE



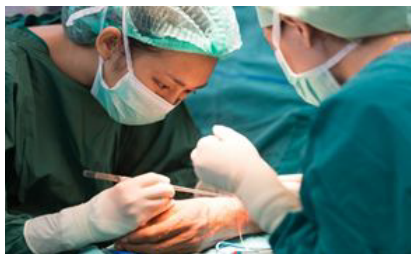
SUBJECT LINKS: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Current Affairs, Politics and Critical Thinking.

SKILLS: Analysis and a willingness to see past the media presentation of an issue: a curiosity to uncover the truth.

DESCRIPTION: How do we know if a treatment works or if something causes cancer? Why do we seek scientific explanations for social, personal and political problems? We are obsessed with our health and yet we are constantly bombarded with inaccurate, contradictory and sometimes misleading information. Until now. In this elective we learn to dismantle the dodgy science behind some of the great drug trials, court cases, the MMR issue and missed opportunities of our time. Learn to distinguish between real science and pseudoscience and assess the importance of the distinction. By the end of this course, you should have the tools and abilities to uncover bad Science for yourself.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

BMAT & UKCAT



THE BIOMEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST (BMAT) is a subject-specific admissions test taken by applicants to certain medicine, veterinary medicine and other related courses.

THE UK CLINICAL APTITUDE TEST (UKCAT) is used as part of the selection process by a number of UK medical and dental schools to help them choose from among the high level of applicants applying to their courses. The UKCAT is designed to test aptitude rather than academic achievement.

DO I NEED TO TAKE THE TEST?

The medical school you are applying to will require either the BMAT or UKCAT. The UCAS website has a list of which medical schools use the BMAT or UKCAT.

PREPARATION FOR THE TESTS: The BMAT is a two-hour pen-and-paper test consisting of three separate sections. The BMAT does not require a great amount of extra study as it concerns the skills and knowledge that candidates should already have. The UKCAT is designed to test aptitude rather than academic ability and therefore does not draw on any specific areas of knowledge or from a curriculum that can be learned. However, candidates are advised to practise answering the types of questions that are featured in the UKCAT in order to familiarise themselves with the format and layout of the questions. Sessions will focus on preparation and familiarisation for the tests and will move onto interview practice and techniques.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn and Spring terms.

COOKING FOR UNIVERSITY



SUBJECT LINKS: DT, technology, PSHE

SKILLS: cookery and life skills!

DESCRIPTION: In this elective you can learn how to cook a range of dishes in our new facilities. All abilities are welcome to participate and no previous experience is necessary. These sessions not only help you to develop an important life skills - you will also be able to impress your friends with your delicious dishes and have a lot of fun at the same time.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

CURRENT AFFAIRS



SUBJECT LINKS: History, Government and Politics, Psychology, Anthropology, Economics, English, Geography and Critical Thinking.

SKILLS: Developing wider awareness of global political and social events.

DESCRIPTION: The elective makes sure that students are informed about what's going on around the world. Our aim is to ensure our pupils are armed with the tools to be able to distinguish between opinion and fact; between evidence-based statements and empty rhetoric; between sensationalism and solid journalism. Just like most other things in life, the best way to do all that is through practice. During our sessions, we discuss and debate key events and issues from around the world; ranging from the Syrian Civil War, Identity Politics, and the impact of Direct Democracy.

DURATION: Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING AND THINKING SKILLS



SUBJECT LINKS: History, Government and Politics, Psychology, Anthropology, Economics, English, Geography and Critical Thinking.

SKILLS: Developing wider awareness of global political and social events.

DESCRIPTION: The elective makes sure that students are informed about what's going on around the world. Our aim is to ensure our pupils are armed with the tools to be able to distinguish between opinion and fact; between evidence-based statements and empty rhetoric; between sensationalism and solid journalism. Just like most other things in life, the best way to do all that is through practice. During our sessions, we discuss and debate key events and issues from around the world; ranging from the Syrian Civil War, Identity Politics, and the impact of Direct Democracy.

DURATION: Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



SUBJECT LINKS: Art, Photography and Architecture.

SKILLS: Digital photography techniques, Macro photography, Shutter speed, B&W photography, Digital editing skills and Creating a portfolio.

DESCRIPTION: The digital photography elective is designed for those who do not study photography for A Level, but would like to expand their understanding of the skills associated with digital photography. This might be an elective to broaden your experience of technology, or simply to enjoy as an alternative to your subject choices. The course covers basics including how to use your digital camera, simple photography techniques to get started, moving from shutter settings to creating a depth of field, B&W photos, before moving photos from your camera to computer for editing in Photoshop, applying editing techniques for creating art and marketing materials, creating a modular exhibition and building your own personal portfolio.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

GREAT WOMEN ARTISTS



SUBJECT LINKS: Art, History, Politics, Photography, DT

SKILLS: Analysis, evaluation, knowledge

DESCRIPTION: Challenge the way you view the art world by exploring the work of exciting female artists from the last 400 years. You will learn how their work was as important and often inspirational to their male contemporaries. If you are interested in Art, Art History, History or feminism, this elective is the one for you!

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

INTERIOR DESIGN



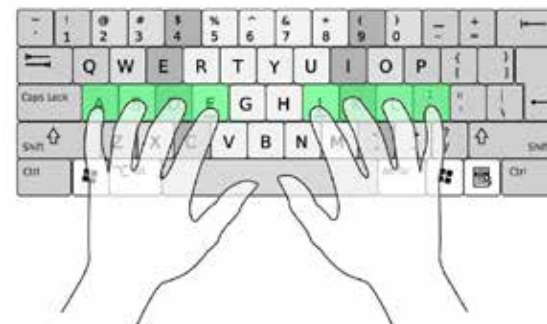
SUBJECT LINKS: Art, DT

SKILLS: technical drawing, developing a mood board, creativity

DESCRIPTION: Students are given a brief in order to help them develop a portfolio and build CAD skills. The task involves converting a Victorian tin chapel ready to rent out for holiday lets. The students work both collaboratively and independently and have the opportunity to develop mood boards to present to the 'client' as well as producing 3D rendered images in SketchUp. This is perfect for anyone who is considering a career in a creative industry such as architecture or interior design, or maybe just wants to pursue something a little different to their A levels.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

LEARN TO TOUCH TYPE



SUBJECT LINKS: All subjects

SKILLS: important life skill

DESCRIPTION: Learn to touch type with this innovative new online programme. Touch typing is an important life skills and can really save you time when you are studying. This programme is highly effective and has been developed by a local expert.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

MADE WITH LOVE



SUBJECT LINKS: Art and Design Technology.

SKILLS: Working with craft materials, developing ideas, making and designing, creating your own products and collaboration.

DESCRIPTION: Made with love is an elective unlike any other, where students get to create beautiful hand made products in a relaxed and informal environment. The skills developed include working with textiles, fabrics and textile design equipment, designing graphics, shapes and form, and allow you to explore your creativity. Groups are kept small so that there is a genuine close knit group feel where students can relax and enjoy the experience of making.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

MEDITATION, QI GONG, TAI CHI



SUBJECT LINKS: All Subjects!

SKILLS: We learn the short form of the Yang Style Tai Chi and Qi Gong which aid controlled breathing, calming and reduce in stress.

DESCRIPTION: Tai Chi is an internal Chinese martial art practiced for both its defense training and its health benefits. The term taiji refers to a philosophy of the forces of yin and yang, related to the moves. The Tai Chi exercise naturally deepens the breathing, calming the mind and gently stimulating the whole system. It is this precision during the exercise which accounts for many of the health benefits. Like Acupuncture, Tai Chi's aim is to balance the life force or Chi and cultivate good health and a calm mind. It is used extensively in the Far East not only to maintain good health but also to support recovery from ill health in many hospitals.

DURATION: A carousel option during Spring and Summer terms.

MOOC



SUBJECT LINKS: All Subjects and Personal Development Areas.

SKILLS: Students selected training courses online.

DESCRIPTION: A Massive Online Open Course (or MOOC), is a self-directed study where students can enroll on a course that will broaden and develop their learning in a field of interest. This can range from food hygiene to first aid, software use to writing skills or design thinking. Each student presents their learning back to the group at the end of each term.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn and Spring terms (Year 13 only) and Summer term (Year 12 only). Additional time may be required to complete the course.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY



SUBJECT LINKS: Music, DTE, Computer Science.

SKILLS: Develop experience and skills in the field of music technology.

DESCRIPTION: The aim of this elective is to gain experience of industry standard professional music technology, including sequencing, recording, editing and mixing. You will choose from a selection of composition/technology briefs and work towards pitching your finished product to a selection panel. This is aimed at emulating and providing experience of what it would be like to bid for work in the Music Industry. You will need Piano keyboard skills and good basic use of IT (preferred), but not essential. A willingness to sing/perform on an instrument is desirable.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

MUSIC THROUGH HISTORY



SUBJECT LINKS: Music, History, Art, Philosophy, Literature.

SKILLS: Personal development and cultural awareness.

DESCRIPTION: Studying science or maths and are interested to expand your general cultural knowledge with references to your own subject? Interested in pursuing a degree in philosophy, history or literature and would like to explore the connections between your subject and the arts? Studying music and would like to further expand your musical horizons? 'Music through History' is for anyone who is interested in exploring the connections between their subject and culture, with a particular focus on music. We will discuss the connection between music and historical events, philosophical ideas, psychology, literature and even maths and science. By the end of the course you will know about the history of Classical Music from Ancient Greece to the modern day. You don't have to be an A Level music student to sign up and you don't have to be musical! Whether you are someone who's interested in pursuing a degree in philosophy, history, classical civilizations, psychology or maths and science and you would like to link subject-specific knowledge with cultural studies this could be the perfect elective for you.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING



SUBJECT LINKS: English Literature, History, Government and Politics, Economics and Critical Thinking.

SKILLS: Forming an argument, performing under pressure, increasing knowledge of current affairs, public speaking, resilience, determination, quick thinking and teamwork.

DESCRIPTION: You will be coached in the practice of British Parliamentary Debating, an international debating style. Sessions will include discussions on current affairs, economic theory, political structures and contentious issues such as animal testing, religious intolerance and gender inequality. As you become more adept you may have the opportunity to take part in external competition such as Oxford and Cambridge Union Schools Competitions. You will also be invited to join our Senior Debating Society which meets on a weekly basis after school and to help run junior debating activities.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn and Spring terms.

OTHER: Can be used as part of your skills requirements for DofE. University admissions value debating expertise and recognise its intellectual rigour.

PUTTING ON A PLAY



SUBJECT LINKS: Drama, Dance, English, Art and Music.

SKILLS: Developing independence, creativity, confidence, self-discipline, enjoyment and team work.

DESCRIPTION: The perfect choice for those who are interested in being actors, directors and stage-managers or anyone who has an interest in dramatic arts. All are welcome! You will have an opportunity to put on a play, under your own direction. You will get to identify a role, work with new and familiar students to create a fantastic theatre experience, and perform in front of a live audience on the evening of the Art Exhibition. The aim is to enjoy yourself, but develop as a person, confident and ready to face the world.

DURATION: Full year option.

OTHER: Can be used as your skills requirement for DofE.

SCULPTED BODY WORKSHOP



SUBJECT LINKS: Art

SKILLS: sculpture, creativity

DESCRIPTION: Warning - this is not a fitness elective! You will learn how to sculpt a human figure in clay through traditional methods of building a freestanding support then using modelling clay to create a life-life depiction of a human body. No experience is necessary and you do not have to be an Art student to participate. If you are considering applying to Art School, this elective could give you some new skills to showcase for your portfolio.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

VISIONARY CITIES



An introduction to history of art and architecture

SUBJECT LINKS: Art, Architecture, History of Art, Engineering, Geography, History, Languages and Design.

SKILLS: Communication, Art appreciation, Cultural awareness, Presentation, Initiative, Exploration.

DESCRIPTION: An exploration of Art and Architecture based in cities whose influence continues to shape our modern world today. In one term we will journey to Paris, Barcelona, New York, London and Florence to introduce a flavour of the culture of these visionary cities. Discover why the Impressionists based themselves in Paris, and why Florence is considered the birthplace of the Renaissance. Get to know Gaudi, and wonder at Warhol as you create your own travel journal each session. Of interest to those wishing to broaden their knowledge of other cultures.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

VOLUNTEERING - at a local residential home



SUBJECT LINKS: Medicine and Related Applications, Psychology, History.

SKILLS: Interaction, patience, humour, communication skills, creativity and empathy.

DESCRIPTION: Bromley High School has established a link with a local residential home, Elmwood House. Girls have the opportunity to visit the residents each week. They can lead and join in with activities with the residents. Activities could be reading, playing games, painting nails or just having a chat. The residents really appreciate the visits and will love telling you all about their lives - in many cases this is absolutely fascinating. They also like to hear about you too. Many of the old people you will be in contact with suffer from dementia and this can be quite challenging but there are members of staff present at all times and you are accompanied by a member of staff from Bromley High School. You will find the residents great fun and will find this a really worthwhile and fulfilling experience.

DURATION: All year or on a carousel each term.

OTHER: An excellent addition to UCAS statements particularly for medical school and healthcare course applications due to the community service element of sharing time and skills with others in a caring capacity. You may be able to use this as part of your DofE service requirement.

VOLUNTEERING - at Riverside School



SUBJECT LINKS: Psychology, Art, DT, Education.

SKILLS: Leadership, Interaction, Patience, Humour, Creativity and Empathy.

DESCRIPTION: Riverside School is based in St Mary's School and its students have varying levels of learning disability. We travel to the school once a fortnight to work on simple art and craft based activities with the aim of giving Riverside students the opportunity to interact with those from a mainstream school. We are also invited to watch performing arts shows which happen fairly frequently and we try to invite the students to Bromley High School at least once a year. Activities are often accompanied by paint, glitter, and lots of glue!

DURATION: September to May (one double per fortnight and dependent on timetable availability).

OTHER: An excellent addition to UCAS statements due to the community service element of sharing time and skills with others.

VOLUNTEERING - teaching children with complex needs to swim



SUBJECT LINKS: PSHE, PE, communication, events management

DESCRIPTION: This elective gives you the opportunity to teach swimming and help Marjorie McClure students in the water. You will organise a range of fun activities and possibly a Festive Fun Aquasplash event at the end of the term. Not only will you develop your own swimming knowledge but you will also enhance your communication skills. This is a wonderful opportunity if you enjoy working with others and would like to improve your disability awareness. It might also be useful if you are considering a career in events management or would like to train to become an assistant swim teacher to help you earn while you learn.

DURATION: A carousel option during Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE



SUBJECT LINKS: Economics, Business, Design, Mathematics.

SKILLS: Financial literacy, Teamwork, Collaboration, Enterprise, Initiative, Creativity, Presentations, Networking, Resilience, Confidence and Communication.

DESCRIPTION: Young Enterprise is a dynamic and challenging elective where you will be able to form a business, develop a product or service, and sell to the public. The aim is to raise as much money for a charity of your choice through creative and innovative business ideas. As a team, you will need to set up a social enterprise company, decide your direction, elect job roles, develop everything from a logo to a company website, and sell sell sell to make profit and develop your business. Your team will have a mentor to support you along the way with business advice and some financial support.

DURATION: Full year elective (Year 12 only).

OTHER: Can be used as your skills requirement for DofE.





Bromley High School
020 8781 7000

www.bromleyhigh.gdst.net