



GIFT Easter School 2019

Academic enrichment for the brightest, most curious students.

April 14th to 19th, Grendon Hall, Northamptonshire

GIFT has been supporting gifted students for over 40 years. Our residential courses provide an opportunity for young people aged 11 to 18 to experience a range of challenging courses with our specialist lecturers. Students chose one course for each day, and then there's an extensive range of early and late evening activities to choose from. In between sessions there is plenty of leisure time to explore the extensive grounds and enjoy the company of new friends. On the Wednesday we take a field trip to a mystery location....

MONDAY OPTIONS

The Illusion of Life

Long before moving images, cave painters depicted horses with multiple legs to convey the illusion of motion. Animation allows film makers to bring objects and characters to life by photographing or drawing objects one frame at a time. We will investigate some of the techniques and processes available to animators such as stop-motion capture, green screen and pixilation, with the aim of making short films. Please bring a digital camera or mobile phone, and a Windows PC laptop which is running Windows 7 or later which is essential due to the software we provide.

Hail, herald of the Greeks!

Classical Greek Theatre is recorded from the 5th Century BC. It's a testament to how excellent this genre is that it has lasted over two millennia. We will explore how the chorus and associated mask work, (acting and making) is the pivotal role in Greek Theatre. Working as a chorus is the ultimate acting experience requiring excellent scripts and precision unison acting. Sophocles, Euripides, Aeschylus and Aristophanes were masters of this theatre and there were annual competitions to see who was the most accomplished. Romp through comedies, weep through tragedies, write and star in your own Greek Drama Competition.

59-Q

For centuries, people all over the world have passed the time by setting puzzles for one another: thinking purely for the pleasure of it. We'll look at riddles through history and from

around the world, unlock the code of the cryptic crossword, and become connoisseurs of conundra and engineers of enigmas as you devise your own fiendish puzzles to tease one another's brains. Plus playing the infamous 59 Questions, which on a previous occasion was won by narrowing every possibility in the universe down to the right hind leg of a dead, adult, male polar bear.

TUESDAY OPTIONS

Hickory, Dickory, Not!

Watches measure time as we would like it to be, uniform and regulated; sundials measure time as it is. Noon is when the Sun reaches its zenith and this time changes every day. Telling the time by observing the shadow cast by the Sun has occupied bystanders for centuries. Find out how to make a traditional horizontal sundial and a solar compass - "Heaven's light our guide." We may even make a nocturnal to tell the time from the stars, or find ways of capturing time with water, string and whatever else ingenuity can suggest.

Putting the World to Rights (Yr 9 and up)

If you watch the news, it's obvious that there are many problems and injustices in the world that aren't being solved by current thinking; if you don't watch the news, is that another problem waiting for a solution? On this course, you'll be part of a think tank digging deeply into the real-world problems that interest you. We'll look at successful and unsuccessful attempts to change the world, and you'll collaborate to create your own solutions to the challenges that will define the '20s. A mixture of dark clouds and blue skies thinking.

Beau Geste

In the middle of the Sahara a is discovered where everyone is dead. There has been no invasion. The commanding officer is dead, murdered by a soldier from his own ranks who has since disappeared. A note is found in the hand of the officer confessing to the theft of the fabulous 'Blue Water' diamond. We will look at the journals and letters that were and might have been written by the characters and discover the solution to the mystery. Maybe this mainly creative writing project is about what letters don't say.

THURSDAY OPTIONS

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?

Everything Is Alive

What would your hair say about you today? How might a block of Cathedral City Cheddar think about its existence? This course is about developing depth of character and story arcs through exploring a different narrative – that of an object. Avoiding clichés and putting a refreshing spin on the writer's axiom, "show don't tell", we will move through a range of writing activities to get those imaginative juices flowing. The end result will be unique story writing which could be from any perspective from Winston Churchill's false teeth to a divorcée's wedding ring.

A Mighty Effort of Will

John Stuart Mill was an intellectual giant of the Victorian age. He received an extraordinary education which put him many years ahead of his peers, wrote definitive works on economics and philosophy, lost and changed his mind and wrote definitive works disagreeing with himself. Feminist, defender of free speech and the rights of the common man, this complex character will be our guide for the day as we tackle the questions he wrestled with and which are still urgent today. Which John Stuart Mill are you?

Behave yourself?

Observing how animals behave can tell us a lot about their biology, lifestyle and interactions

with one another. Everything animals do happens for a reason, and exploring those reasons can tell us about ourselves, too. How do woodlice manage in a maze? What is the working day of a duck? Time too for some observation of the behaviour of the most puzzling animal of all, homo sapiens.

FRIDAY OPTIONS

Even More Rocketry

By special request from those who did the Advanced Rocketry course in the past, 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. Limited numbers.

The Judson C-Curity Fastener

Spend some time thinking about clothes and you realize they are a complex and highly-engineered product. We'll investigate how fabrics are made and produced, and how costume has been engineered to fasten and fit us over the centuries. Practical explorations, experiments, designs, and social history all feature as well as engineering and structural design. Make your own fabric and futuristic predictions.

Body Building

Is the heart the best form of apparatus for pumping blood round the body? Are the lungs the best respiration system? Is the skeleton the best protective framework? Can you emulate Mother Nature? Are there wrong turns in biology that could be improved upon? You will design and build an organism from first principles using everyday materials. Access to reference sources and discussion will determine the nature of your design.

Tall Tales at Short Notice

Whether you're making up an excuse for not handing in homework, entertaining a small child or attempting to scare one another silly at Halloween, being able to make up stories is a great skill and tremendous fun. We'll create stories from scratch together, building from retelling actual events and embellishing them to extravagant flights of the imagination and convincing parodies of well-known story genres. Sometimes funny, sometimes absurd and occasionally rather beautiful.

All tuition, accommodation, excursions, food, materials and evening activities are included in the price of £449*. This can be paid online, via bank transfer, Paypal or even a cheque.

Questions? Ring, email or see the website FAQs 01245 830321
enquiries@giftcourses.co.uk www.giftcourses.co.uk

**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 us for more details.*