



STUDENT COMMISSION

EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Session Title	Date	Outline	Skills and Attributes
<p>Kinesics: The study of non-verbal communication</p> 	<p>Wednesday 27 March</p>	<p>Have you ever wanted to know what people are really thinking when they're talking to you? This session focusses on multiple different aspects of non-verbal communication that make up a conversation. We show you how to spot the features and read someone's body language, along with different ways you can use these to your advantage. Experimenting and exploring body language in a fun, drama-oriented way makes for a highly engaging and interesting session.</p>	<p>Enhanced communication skills Deeper understanding of body language Improved understanding and control physicality when communicating Develop a heightened conciseness of your body Transfer your skills into: public speaking; performing; presenting, and reading people just for the fun of it!</p>



On Wednesday 27 March, 27 pupils from Key Stage 3 attended an Extended Learning Opportunity session on the topic of Kinesics – the science of understanding body language. They learnt about the key components that make up body language, ranging from adaptive gestures, to evasive oculusics and intimate proxemics. Integrated with interactive activities, the session was 90 minutes of fun and engaging learning, equipping all of the students with high-level perceptive skills to use in their everyday lives. The most interesting activity was on oculusic gaze direction, analysing the eyes of a death-row inmate during his final interview and evaluating the validity of what he was saying in respects to what he was actually thinking, shown to us through the movements of his eyes. Everyone had a really enjoyable afternoon, and picked up some very useful skills along the way. (Ben, Karolina and Patrycja)

Session Title	Date	Outline	Skills and Attributes
<p>Foam Fighters</p> 	<p>Thursday 7 March & Thursday 14 March</p>	<p>Have you ever want to be an aeroplane engineer / designer. Well now is the chance! You will explore and learn the theory of flight through the use of a model demonstration aircraft. You will then put theory into practice and have an opportunity to design your own aircraft and using motors get to fly them and test them out.</p>	<p>Help to improve analytical and practical science and design skills Introduce new scientific ideas and use them in a practical way. Develop teamwork skills Practice solving problems using strategies. You will formulate plans based on theoretical evidence Develop practical design skills Learn to be resilient / resourceful.</p>



Over the course of two extracurricular sessions, 16 students from Year 9 took on the challenge of constructing remotely controlled fighter aircraft made from foam board. By the end of the second session three aircraft had been built and painted, each by a syndicate of five.

It became clear to the “junior aeronautical engineers” how accuracy was key with assembly of an airframe and they even learnt about some of the aerodynamic principles of flight along the way! Throughout the process they discovered more and more about the various controls of and aircraft and how the design of an aircraft can be manipulated to change its flying characteristics.

Absolutely everyone who took part showed an increased level of team work skills, demonstrating determination when anything went wrong. We hope to have sparked an interest in aviation in all who attended and look forward to seeing how the aircraft fly!

(Alex, Amy and Ben)



Session Title	Date	Outline	Skills and Attributes
<p>Is Democracy always Good?</p> 	<p>Tuesday 12 March</p>	<p>We live in a democratic society, where we vote on issues that affect the way we live. But it has long been asked if this is the best way for a society to function, from Plato at the dawn of democracy to Richard Dawkins on the EU referendum. In this session we will explore this question and any alternative systems of power there may be. We will also have a look at what politics involves, and find out if any of you have what it takes to be the future Prime Minister?</p>	<p>You will develop your critical thinking</p> <p>You will have the chance to test your verbal communication skills</p> <p>You will gain knowledge of key citizenship skills</p> <p>You will develop your maths skills and learn basic economic ideas</p> <p>You will learn research skills</p> <p>You develop your own moral and ethical viewpoints</p>

On Tuesday 12 March, a group of Years 8 and 9 students had the opportunity to take part in a session in which they explored the nature of democracy, how challenging it is to run a society and alternatives to our democratic system. After a Kahoot to explore what they already knew about politics, they were divided into two groups and given a budget and a list of the areas of government spending, pensions and defence. They then faced budget cuts and a financial crisis to navigate and prioritize aspects of spending. After discussing and exploring the alternative ways to run a country, we debated the question ‘Is democracy always good?’ which was answered with an almost unanimous ‘No’. It was a highly and engaging session which allowed students to advance in their political knowledge, problem solving skills and encouraged them to think about the way their rulings affected other people. (Sarah Anderson, Megan Garwood, Rory Clarke)



