

PUTNEY HIGH SCHOOL



THE

ATHENA

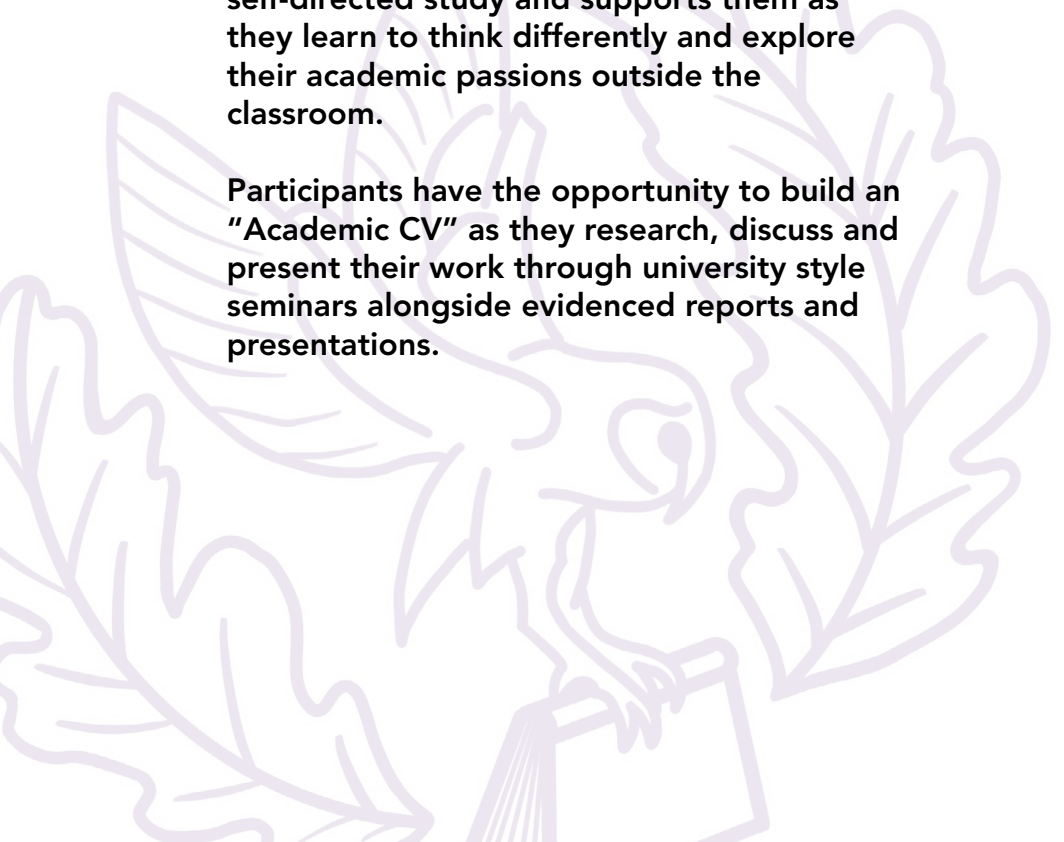
PROGRAMME

## **SUMMARY**

The Athena Programme is Putney High School's unique programme of academic extension which encourages students to pursue scholarship and academia beyond the syllabus in preparation for entry to the top Higher Education institutions.

Available to students in Years 10 – 13, the programme offers a customisable plan of self-directed study and supports them as they learn to think differently and explore their academic passions outside the classroom.

Participants have the opportunity to build an "Academic CV" as they research, discuss and present their work through university style seminars alongside evidenced reports and presentations.



### **WHY 'ATHENA'?**

Greek Goddess of Wisdom and War and importantly, applied reasoning, Athena was a polymath, friend of the adventurous and known for her courage and strategic thinking. Although known as a fearless warrior, Athena was also known for her generosity and compassion; key qualities that are central to Putney's ethos.

### **WHO CAN TAKE PART?**

The Athena Programme is an integral part of the academic provision for Academic Scholars but is also available to any Putney student looking for extra stretch and challenge.

### **WHAT IS INVOLVED?**

The programme begins in Years 10 and 11 with completion of a core module followed by a 400–500 word report. In Year 12 the modules are developed and expanded through Putney's Futures programme (weekly seminars and tutorial discussions based on academic texts studied in advance.) Students in Years 12 are also strongly encouraged to engage in a "long course": Putney Electives and Future Learn/Harvard Courses. In Year 12 the award is given upon the delivery of a final presentation on their programme of study. In Year 13 the award is given after a viva voce.

### **FUTURES**

Futures are university style extension sessions run across every department. They focus on going beyond the prescribed A Level syllabus. Sessions will often take the form of discussing an academic text (read in advance) or students may research and deliver presentations to the group on a topic of their choice. For example, in Politics Futures we explore key political thinkers throughout time, the nature of being, and the function and purpose of government. Examples of presentations include Populism, Nationalism and the 2020 US Primaries. In Year 13 Futures moves more towards Oxbridge preparation for interview.

## LEVELS AND AWARDS

Modules may include external essay competitions, playwriting and exhibition reviews, supported by seminars and evidenced in a report or presentation.

**PASS** – undertake core module + 2 electives

**MERIT** – undertake core module + 3 electives

**DISTINCTION** – undertake core modules + 4 electives

An example of a completed Distinction Portfolio:

Core Module	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5
Attend a Putney Academic Society e.g. FemBook Soc + Politics Futures	Complete a Putney Elective on 'Gender and the Second World War'	Exhibition review on 'Portraying Pregnancy: From Holbein to Social Media' at the Foundling Museum	University Essay competition with the title 'To what extent can Politics in Democratic Athens be characterised as populist?'	Write a short play in the style of Samuel Beckett in order to explore the concept of the 'Theatre of the Absurd'

**BRONZE AWARD** ~ Year 10

**SILVER AWARD** ~ Year 11

**GOLD AWARD** ~ Year 12

**PLATINUM AWARD** ~ Year 13

For more details of the **Athena Programme** see [putneyhigh.firefly-cloud.net/intellectual-agility/athena-programme](http://putneyhigh.firefly-cloud.net/intellectual-agility/athena-programme)