




PUTNEY
HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIP

at Putney
2021-22





The Year 7 badge challenges have been a great way to stretch myself outside of the classroom. It has been fun to find out about loads of different subjects whilst using my creativity and imagination as well!

Florence, Year 7

Taking the Athena modules was immensely useful as it enabled me to learn more about myself. It has helped me realise my strengths and weaknesses, and also to think about university study.

Georgie, Year 11



Central to our mission at Putney is fostering an ethos of scholarship.

Putney students are curious, creative and encouraged to challenge pre-conceived ideas and ask the big questions. They learn to think critically and to stretch their wings intellectually; key skills for life at university and beyond.

In lessons this takes the form of innovative teaching and learning.

Outside the classroom students are encouraged to be intrepid, with academic extension opportunities open to all, designed to challenge and inspire.

Wherever their academic interests take them, this is the beginning of a lifelong learning journey.

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Year 7 Badge Challenge

Girls are invited to stretch themselves by taking on the Year 7 Badge Challenge. Each department has set a challenge designed to develop independent thinking skills.

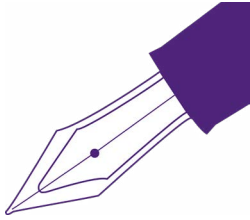
A minimum of three challenges must be completed to earn each badge. Create a set of historical Top Trumps, translate Greek or Abma, learn more about the geography of Africa or explore the meaning of faith in the 21st Century. This is a fun way to start exploring beyond the timetable.



Year 8 BAFTA Awards

Essays aren't the only way to explore a topic. The BAFTA Awards give students an opportunity to think outside the box and show their creativity by responding to a topical issue in their own way.

Working independently on a project in a style of their choice, students respond to a topical news story or current issue through their chosen medium, which could include making a short film, a podcast, written work, art, music, or indeed anything goes!



Year 9 Essay Competition

An opportunity to go beyond the Year 9 syllabus and explore topics and questions that spark individual interest.

The project focuses on three main skills: Curiosity, Self-Discipline and Originality. This is a chance to practise writing and submitting essays for competition and is ideal preparation for GCSE and beyond.

The chief focus is Independent Thinking: choose a title, research and refine, complete an essay.

**NO JUSTICE
NO PEACE**

Year 10 PPE Lessons

In Year 10 students take part in timetabled cross-curricular lessons in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE).

They are exposed to each discipline in turn and encouraged to discuss and apply theory to modern day issues.

Recently they've been learning about governmental access points – writing letters to their MPs – and about issues surrounding race, inclusivity and social justice.

Athena Programme

Years 10–13

The Athena Programme is Putney'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. 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 (see page 6). Students in Year 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 students can apply to become an Athena Ambassador. This is an opportunity to work with scholars and help facilitate academic extension further down the school, producing seminars, and guiding presentations or research projects.

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** Attend a Putney Academic Society e.g. FemBook Soc, Politics Futures
- Module 2** Complete a Putney Elective on *Gender and the Second World War*
- Module 3** Exhibition review on the MET NYC's Virtual Exhibition: *The 'Three Perfections' of Japanese Art: Poetry, Painting and Calligraphy*
- Module 4** University Essay competition with the title '*To What Extent can Politics in Democratic Athens be Characterised as Populist?*'
- Module 5** 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

ATHENA AMBASSADOR ~ Year 13

For more details on intellectual agility and the Athena Programme see putneyhigh.fireflycloud.net/intellectual-agility



Futures

Futures are university-style extension sessions that 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 through time, the nature of being, and the function and purpose of government. In Year 13, Futures moves more towards Oxbridge preparation for interview.



PIE

The Putney Ideas Exchange (PIE) is an exciting series of talks that is open to everyone and designed to extend students' thinking beyond the school curriculum.

External speakers visit Putney from across the world of academia and the full gambit of professional careers – from Number 10 advisors, to doctors, historians or, most recently, our local MP.

Girls are inspired by what they have to say and always have an opportunity to engage in questions and discussion.

200+

Academic Clubs

Girls can take part in any number of co-curricular clubs that run each week.

There are a plethora of academic enrichment clubs and societies on offer. Go along to MedSoc, Politics Club, STEAM, Mathletes or our very own Student Research Group. These opportunities not only allow students to engage with topics outside of the curriculum but also, more importantly, to nurture key skills of independence, curiosity and problem-solving, and to develop their academic voice.



Academic Competitions

Each Academic Department guides girls towards internal and external competitions and prizes.

University essay competitions, such as the Gonville & Caius Cambridge English Essay Prize and the HART Prize for Human Rights, are incredibly popular in the Sixth Form. Further down the school we've had recent winners of the Historical Association Prize and students being awarded places on the prestigious John Locke Institute courses.



Elsa Maud

The Elsa Maud Plant Scholarship is one of the most exciting scholarships at Putney.

Students apply for the award in Year 11 and have an interview during which they present their idea for an independent, overseas research project. Two awards are given – one for Modern Foreign Languages and one for Science – which entitle the recipient not only to an academic scholarship, but also to a grant towards foreign travel. A recent Elsa Maud Scholar completed a research project on ‘Understanding Medical Care in Rural France’.



EPO

An EPO is a highly-valued qualification, which allows students to explore an area of interest beyond the confines of the classroom.

Starting in Year 12 and running through to autumn of Year 13, the Extended Project involves students getting to grips with independent research. They choose their topic and explore how to present their ideas. It's an opportunity for girls to go deeper into one of the subjects they are studying at A Level, or to keep up with a subject in which they have a particular interest.



Academic Scholars

Scholars meet regularly with members of SLT and sixth form mentors in small cross-year groups to discuss their progress and their academic goals.

As well as Academic scholarships, awards are also offered in Music and Sport at 11+. Sixth Form scholarships are available in the following categories: Academic, Art, Drama, Design Technology, Music and Sport. Sixth Form scholarships in Modern Foreign Languages and Science are also available to candidates who have studied with us during Years 7–11.

It is important to note that all students have a wealth of opportunity irrespective of whether they are scholars.

“We were encouraged to explore different fields from early on and there were so many events happening, such as the weekly PIE talks. I discovered my love for Science in Year 10 which led me to join the Medical Society, and I also participated in the UKMT Maths Challenges, and Biology and Chemistry Olympiads.”

Class of 2020 student,
now studying Medicine at
Imperial College, London

Our students have achieved . . .



Maths Challenge

22 students
qualified for
the final
2021

Athena Awards

38 Gold
61 Silver
38 Bronze
2021

Science Olympiads

5 Gold
6 Silver
7 Bronze
2020/21

University Essay Competitions

Over 100 entries in 2021

$\frac{1}{4}$ of Leavers

went to Oxbridge or to
study Medicine in 2020