



Course Guide Autumn Term 2018

The Burton Borough University

Y7 / Y8 Thinking Skills

The sessions include activities using a wide range of different texts – fiction, poetry, non-fiction and film. They systematically develop skills of inference, deduction and analysis, increasing the students' confidence, resilience, understanding and ability to express their ideas. There is also a focus on stretch questioning, forcing students to explain and develop their ideas to a higher level. They learn about metacognition and the steps that they can go through to develop their own analysis of texts and wider problems.

These sessions will be on Wednesdays after school for 1 hour during White Week between 3:20 and 4:20. Please sign up with Mr Allen during the week prior to each session to book your place. There are a maximum of 28 places for each session.

VEX Robotics Challenge

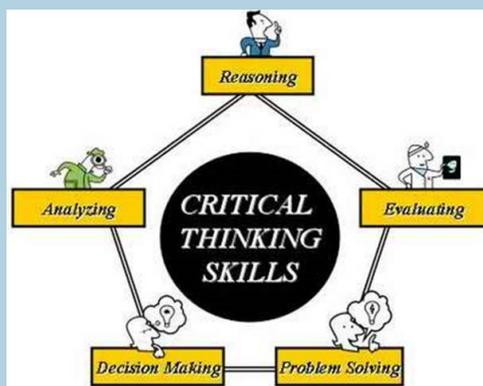
The VEX IQ Challenge provides students with an exciting, open-ended robotics challenge that enhances STEM skills through teamwork, critical thinking and hands-on learning. Using the VEX IQ kit, the teams have to research, design and build a robot to compete in each year's competition, an engineering challenge in the form of a game.

Students in years 7-9 who are interested should see Mr. Mackenzie before the end of September.

Y9 / Y10 Critical Thinking

These sessions will help students to develop the kind of skills that many of the top universities want from their applicants and could make the difference at interview or during entrance exams. We will explore questions that will call on problem-solving skills, including numerical and spatial reasoning; critical thinking skills, including understanding argument; and reasoning using everyday language.

These sessions will be on Wednesdays after school for 1 hour during Blue Week between 3:20 and 4:20. Please sign up with Mr Allen during the week prior to each session to book your place. There are a maximum of 28 places for each session.



Strategy Games Club

This runs in the library every lunchtime. Students can play chess or any of the games available in Comms 18 as long as they check in with the librarian. We have a range of games so come along and join in!

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The Big Think

We are very proud of the Big Think programme here at BBS. The vision for this is to encourage students to think critically about some of the significant issues in the world today by exploring the research and ideas around some key questions. In doing this they will broaden their knowledge of these issues and ideas while developing the independent inquiry skills so prized by the top colleges and universities.

Each half term we put forward a question for the students to respond to and invite them to submit position papers that set out their thoughts, research and conclusions. Past questions have included: 'Is a robot a person?'; 'Should we eat animals?'; and 'Do guns hurt more people than they protect?'

This year we are publishing the submission dates in advance. We have also decided to award students who participate small school reward points.

The first question this year is 'Can we end poverty?' and the submission date is Friday 28th September.

The next question will be shared after half term and the submission date will be Friday 30th November.

It would be great to see parents getting involved, perhaps co-writing the position papers with their children and doing the research together. You can use the explore.org website for plenty of links to the research available (this is where we got the question from). You are also welcome to explore other sources of research you feel appropriate. Guidance on writing your position paper is below and also available on the school website along with one of the best submissions from last year to look at.

Reading List

At Burton Borough School we see reading and, in particular, reading for pleasure as a key factor in the success of our students. It is for this reason that we have 20 mins dedicated reading time each day for students in year 7, 8 and 9.

We also have a recommended reading list for students who find it difficult to find or choose a book to read. We have produced this to try and encourage more students to read a wider range of high quality fiction and non-fiction in their spare time. We want to help guide our students to engage with books that they may enjoy but will also stretch and challenge their vocabulary and ideas.

You will be able to find the list on the school website in the 'High Potential' section and the school librarians have made every effort to source copies of all the books on the list.

We would like students to aim to read and enjoy 6 of these books over the course of the year. I hope you will be able to support us in this and will discuss the books read with your child. The importance of providing them with the opportunity to share new ideas and discuss events and characters they have read about cannot be underestimated.

Happy Reading!



Mock Trial Competition

The SmartLaw Mock Trial competition is a unique opportunity for our Key Stage 4 students to gain unparalleled insight into the justice system. The competition immerses students in all aspects of a criminal trial, as they take on the roles of barristers, witnesses, clerks, ushers and jury members. Students appear in real crown courts in front of real judges and are assisted in their preparations by professional barristers. Throughout its 26 year history, the competition has supplemented traditional classroom learning by encouraging the development of essential skills such as logical reasoning, clear communication and teamwork.

The school mock trial squad, who have already been chosen for this year, will be meeting on the following dates in Comms 5:

13/9 — after school until 4:15
17/9 — lunchtime
20/9 — after school
27/9 — after school
1/10 — lunchtime
4/10 — after school
11/10 — after school

15/10 — lunch
18/10 — after school
25/10 — after school
5/11 — lunch
8/11 — lunch
8/11 — after school
10/11 — Regional Final at Stafford Crown Court

Film Club

Film entertains, educates and inspires. We believe that children and young people, given access to a range and diversity of films and the opportunity to explore their responses, will make more informed and adventurous decisions about the films they choose to watch. It is also an engaging and inclusive way of developing a wider cultural awareness as well as literacy and oracy skills.

The films we are showing this term and the dates are below. Students will need to collect a permission letter from Mr Allen in order to get their ticket.

Monday 24th September — 10 Cloverfield Lane

Monday 1st October — The Pursuit of Happyness

Monday 22nd October — TBC

Thursday 25th October — The Nightmare Before Christmas

Thursday 15th November — TBC

Thursday 29th November — TBC

13th December — Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale

INTO
FILM

Explore Live!

Surely if something is blue then we all see that it's blue - fact! But what if it's not that straightforward? Colours can have different meanings in different cultures and religions. And our biology is not completely the same.

Explore, the website run by the University of Oxford where we take our inspiration for the Big Think questions, frequently runs interactive live stream events!

We will be taking part in their next live event on Wednesday 3 October at 2pm (BST). We will be discussing the Big Question 'Do we see colour the same' with fantastic guests from the University of Oxford. **Students who are interested in taking part should see either Miss Barre or Mrs. Stephens to let them know.**

