



# GUNNERSBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL



## SIXTH FORM AQUINAS PROGRAMME



Everyone is new to Year 12, whether joining from Year 11 at Gunnersbury or joining us from another school – the challenges and opportunities are the same. Our Sixth Form provides both the structure and space for students to develop and pursue their own academic interests and subject specialisms. Our Sixth Form enjoys an enviable academic reputation with outstanding annual results at 'A' Level and we are justly proud of the tremendous expertise that the school possesses in helping students gain places at the most prestigious universities in the UK and beyond, including Oxford, Cambridge and Russell Group universities.

The outstanding public exam results of Gunnersbury Sixth Formers are achieved through our central focus on teaching beyond the exam board specifications and, in the Sixth Form, this philosophy takes on new and powerful expression. Through our unique Aquinas Programme, which has been specifically

developed for Gunnersbury students who aspire to the most academically challenging degree courses at the world's very best universities, we offer an expansive calendar of activities, volunteering and employment opportunities, a wide range of societies, stimulating talks and lectures. These are individually tailored to develop and prepare you for entry to Oxford, Cambridge, or an Ivy League University and/or for acceptance at a School of Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science. The scheme will complement the academic rigour of our 'A' Level courses; it seeks to empower participants to be confident, articulate, questioning and passionate about their studies. Those who join our Aquinas Programme will be guided and encouraged throughout by experienced school staff and by past Gunnersbury students who are now undergraduates and graduates of these leading universities.

## LEADERSHIP

We strongly believe in developing leadership abilities in our senior students through the range of opportunities that Aquinas offers – the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, Sutton Trust Aspiring Professionals Programme, Reading University Scholarship Programme, Eton Summer School and the UCL Model United Nations are some of what is on offer to enable students to gain leadership skills and take on leadership roles.

We have a range of societies that will encourage you to develop your reasoning and debating skills in a variety of academic subjects. Our societies range from the da Vinci Society (for students whose interests lie in science and engineering), the Fleming Society (medicine), the Stresemann Society (finance, economics and politics) and the Washington Society (humanities and literature). Gunnersbury is fortunate to welcome a number of distinguished speakers to the school each year to share their knowledge and experiences with our Sixth Formers. In addition, Aquinas scholars secure student membership of some of the most respected British institutes, such as the Royal Chemistry Society and the Law Society.

Aquinas members also attend lectures by a wide variety of high profile speakers, as well as various specialist talks and seminars. This year's series of seminars featured such topics as: 'Nurture verse Nature', 'Modelling the Spread of Infectious Diseases', 'Reading as a Reader and Reading as a Critic', 'Sleepwalkers: how Europe went to war in 1914', 'Rights, Law and Religion in a Liberal Society', 'Criminal Minds – the neuroscience behind what makes a criminal', 'Can the euro survive globalisation?' and 'Brexit – where are we headed?'



## UNIVERSITY

The process of applying to university can seem quite daunting at first but the advice and information given at Gunnersbury is designed to set you on the right path and to help you achieve your higher education aspirations. Applications to Oxford and Cambridge, as with all universities, are increasingly competitive, and at Gunnersbury you will be guided and supported throughout the different stages of the admissions procedures.

University departments are looking increasingly for evidence in applications that candidates have acquired a number of key study skills during their Lower Sixth year (Year 12). A key element of our Aquinas Programme is that participants will enjoy a genuine pre university experience. At our weekly after school sessions, students are divided into smaller groups and given direction towards more independent and creative modes of thinking and speaking; we publish a reading list that reflects key works covering all the 'A' level subjects we offer. In addition to your examination grades, the most important section on your university application will be your Personal Statement, where you have an opportunity to explain your passion for your chosen degree subject. Students who have participated in a wide range of intellectual and cultural activities, and who can show evidence of individual initiative, are at a significant advantage, especially now that the competition for places at the more popular universities is so intense. You will also be a much more interesting candidate at interview, and you can take advantage of the mock interviews that we arrange in the autumn term of Year 13.

We have close working relationships with Somerville College Oxford, Homerton College Cambridge, Imperial College, London School of Economics, Reading University, Royal Holloway, UCL, King's College, Reading health outreach workshops and UCL, where Aquinas scholars have access to a range of subject specific master classes and lectures as well as mentoring programmes to support you in your work towards securing a place at the best universities. You will attend a number of university taster days and will have an opportunity to participate in an Oxbridge or Russell Group summer school (at the end of Year 12), designed to give you a 'feel' for university teaching styles and a glimpse of university life.

For high-achieving science and Maths students, you can participate in the Imperial College STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Potential scheme, running throughout Years 12 and 13 and giving you access to practical hands-on laboratory investigations at Imperial's South Kensington campus.

A range of work experience and community service placements are available and we aim to tailor these directly related to your chosen subject at university (for some subjects like medicine, Law or engineering, it is essential).



# AQUINAS PROGRAMME

## AN ENVIRONMENT OF OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGE

Membership of Gunnersbury's Sixth Form and of our Aquinas Programme opens a myriad of doors to invigorating intellectual and cultural opportunities; we encourage you to broaden your horizons and we provide the opportunities to do so. In each Aquinas activity, you can expect the work to be challenging and exciting; we actively encourage you to be intellectually ambitious and to debate and voice your opinions with confidence. There will be a genuine dialogue and discourse between you and your peers and, above all, lots of fun!

At Gunnersbury, our excellent track record in enabling former Aquinas scholars to secure a top Oxbridge or Russell group place has shown us that these top universities and international companies want young people who are empathetic, resilient and self-determining. By joining Gunnersbury's Aquinas Programme, we will help you to develop those qualities; our Sixth Form will offer you the opportunity to discover new things about yourself and your talents and our Aquinas Programme is a forum where you can direct your energy and enthusiasm to add to your already impressive CV.

At Gunnersbury we are very proud of our long tradition of academic success. When you finally fly our nest, you will continue to soar. In 2023, once again our Year 13 students gave us cause for celebration with exceptional A-Level results. Their fantastic achievements enabling Gunnersbury students to start their undergraduate studies at the most prestigious Russell Group and Oxbridge institutions, including Cambridge, York, Bristol, Manchester, King's College and London School of Economics. Their fantastic achievement has enabled these students to secure places at the very best universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial, UCL Warwick, to name but a few. They will be reading a variety of subjects including Medicine, Law, Economics, Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PPE), Mechanical Engineering and Aerospace Engineering, Economics and Mathematics.

<b>Alula-Elias Mulugheta</b>	University College London	Astrophysics	<b>Deyana Babic</b>	Warwick University	History & Politics
<b>Antonio Chahine</b>	Imperial College	Physics	<b>Christopher Fernandes</b>	Imperial College	Engineering
<b>Chloe Hooper</b>	Cambridge	Law	<b>Krishnaa Sutharsan</b>	Imperial College	Biochemistry
<b>Darvy Cana</b>	London School of Economics	Law	<b>Joaquin Bello</b>	Imperial College	Medicine
<b>Lorenzo Egwue</b>	Imperial College	Aeronautical Engineering	<b>Enrique Bello</b>	Royal Holloway	Law
<b>Mary Barsoum</b>	University Leicester	Medicine	<b>Piotr Kozicki</b>	University of Bristol	Computer Science & Mathematics
<b>Mary Fadel</b>	King's College	Dentistry	<b>Mikolaj Rycek</b>	Cambridge	Chemical Engineering
<b>Hubert Kaluzny</b>	Imperial College	Computer Science	<b>Ramandeep Rao</b>	Queen Mary University	Dentistry
<b>Joseph Scanlon</b>	University of Warwick	History and Philosophy	<b>Makysmillian Chmiest</b>	Royal Holloway	Law
<b>Jesse Kimani</b>	Oxford	Medicine	<b>Matthew Haddad</b>	King's College	Medicine
<b>Robert Fakhoury</b>	King's College	Dentistry	<b>Ellie McLeish</b>	Brighton & Sussex University	Medicine
<b>Tanirika Shukla</b>	St George's, University of London	Medicine	<b>Arrin Fernandes</b>	Queen Mary University	Aerospace Engineering
<b>Ben Kim</b>	Cambridge	Medicine	<b>Eric Lawrence</b>	Imperial College	Biomedical Engineering
<b>Thomas Farmer</b>	Oxford	English	<b>Ben Kim</b>	Cambridge	Medicine

