



A Guide to Societies at Highgate School 2011-2012



Aims and ethos of co-curricular activities at Highgate School

Co-curricular activities are an integral and critical part of Highgate School. We aim to be an exemplar for the healthy life where pupils:

- are supported in developing strength and resourcefulness to meet the challenges of day-to-day life
- develop healthy, transferable interests and pursuits in a coeducational setting
- learn and practise the skills of friendship through participation in a wide range of activities
- grasp the value of the community, and its price

There are many school/subject-based societies, as well as other societies begun and run by pupils which are open to all members of the school, at least from Year 9 upwards. All pupils are encouraged to attend these, to take part in them and so develop a productive 'hobby habit'.

Art Society

MJN

An engaging society for Y7 who are keen to exploit the many diverse materials, techniques and processes in Art and Design. Each 1/2 term a different Art specialist will show you how to construct your own mixed media materials; introduce you to the vibrant world of Art History; explore traditional and non-traditional sculptural materials; create textiles; and give you the chance to become a film maker. The society will be held every Monday after school. For more information contact Mrs Nimmo (MJN). Starting Lent term.

Astronomy Society

SFT

The puzzling and endless world of astronomy is explored fortnightly at the Astro Soc at lunchtime in the physics department. The talks last roughly half an hour and take place at 1.10pm in P3 every other Tuesday. Everyone with an interest in the big picture is welcome – and keep an eye out for the posters in the physics corridor and around school.

Automobile Society

PRA/ABHS/AZS/AFT

The society fosters the development of practical skills and knowledge required for the servicing, repair and restoration of motor cars. These skills include the use of a wide variety of hand tools, power tools, and welding equipment. The society also offers an opportunity for classic car appreciation. See Stone Frackle (GH) or Charlie Bruce (NG) for further details.

Beekeeping Society

AZS/RND

The school has two colonies of bees. Both are thriving and we have had a fair crop of honey this term. At society meetings we learn how to handle bees and monitor their life cycles. Simon Blackaby (SH) and Ozan Toker (EG) are our principal beekeepers.

Biology Society

SRC

A society for the Sixth Form and Y11 pupils. We meet on a Thursday after school, several times a term. Internal and external speakers are invited to discuss their interests and research. We also have more practical sessions, including dissections. Meeting dates are in the blue book or ask Dr Crawford for details.



In Chemistry Club you can do amazing experiments!



Annual General Meeting of which society?

Middle School Biology

WJA

MSB is a new Bio society specifically for Y9-11. The focus will be on presentations made by pupils on any area of the subject of interest to them, from the microscopic world of the humble bacterium to saving the panda to how the human body works. We meet each Monday at 1.10 pm in B1, lunch provided.

Junior Biology Society

BSW/WJA

The Junior Biology Society is open to all pupils in Y7 and Y8 and it meets every Tuesday of Week A in B1 at 1.10pm. The JBS aims to give students the opportunity to make short, informal presentations on any aspect of Biology that particularly interests them, irrespective of whether or not it is covered on the syllabus. Recent subjects included 'the Origin of Life' and 'Viruses'. You are not obliged to give a talk, so please feel free to just come along and listen if you would like to. A packed lunch is provided.

Chemistry Society

AZS

The Chemistry Society was founded in 1972. Pupils carry out experiments ranging from the tame but beautiful crystal gardens to phosphine smoke rings and the explosive Thermit reactions. Invited speakers also visit the School and give talks on Thursday afternoons twice every term. See Nicky Collins (NG) or Jamie French (SG) for further details.

Chess Club

JW

The Chess Club is a society for all ages and abilities, and is held in room M7 every Tuesday lunchtime from 1.10pm during the Michaelmas and Lent terms. Chess Club offers pupils the chance to play a friendly game of chess over a tasty school packed lunch, while also offering the more competitive players the opportunity to represent the school in competitions in national Competition. The club will again be hosting the year 7 and 8 inter-form competition, which has proved increasingly popular in recent years.

Classics Society

GAW

The Classics Society is an academic society designed to enable pupils to discuss all aspects of the Classical World, beyond the confines of the syllabus. Pupils research topics that interest them and deliver presentations on a weekly or fortnightly basis. Previous speakers have discussed a variety of historical and literary themes including Latin Elegy and the historian Polybius. Teacher-led seminars are also held occasionally.

Junior Classics Society

HES

Whether you are studying Latin, Greek, Classical Civilisation – or no Classical subject at all – Junior Classics Society is open to Years 9, 10 and 11 and offers a fantastic range of quizzes, games and films to help you explore the Classical world. Wednesdays at 1.10 in Room 6. Packed lunch provided.

Creative Writing Society (All years)

CLH

A chance for pupils to share their poetry and short stories with other pupils, and to discuss ideas and difficulties. The society also compiles and edits an anthology of Highgate stories and poems. See Toby Sharpe (QG) or Andrew Prideaux (MG) for further details.

WINK IN THE WILLOWS



TIDDLYWINKS SOCIETY

Winner of the best society poster competition



Culture of the highest order

Senior and Junior Debating Societies

AKMS

The Debating Societies (Years 11-13) aim to meet and debate a motion at least twice every half term. In the past, motions have ranged from the serious ('This house believes euthanasia is wrong') to the more light-hearted ('This house believes Halloween is just an excuse for thuggery'). Debates are usually held at lunchtime and are attended by an audience that is more than willing to get involved in the floor debate.

Economics Society

JAS

The Economics Society meets weekly to allow pupils to explore the subject beyond the confines of the A-level specification. The format of the meetings is usually a presentation by a guest speaker, a pupil or a member of staff, followed by a discussion of the topic. There are a number of interesting talks lined up this year, Mr George Magnus is coming in to discuss the possibility of a "double-dip recession", Mr Richard Edwards will be delivering a presentation on carbon trading, and Miss Norris will be explaining why footballers are paid so much, to name a few. Economics Society meetings take place in D21 at 1.30pm on Mondays. Packed lunches are provided.

Engineering Society

JTMB

A nuclear powered aeroplane? A train travelling at the speed of sound under the Atlantic Ocean? These topics are the realm of The Engineering Society. Open to all years, the society meets on Tuesday lunchtimes every fortnight to discuss some of the most interesting advances in technology and how they affect the world around us. From structural to mechanical, from software to aeronautical, the scope of engineering is huge. Keep an eye out for posters about what is coming up next...

English Society

JEM/RWF

Read. Discuss. Explore. Open to Years 8 to 10, English Society meets every Friday lunchtime in E45 to read, discuss and write about books you don't get to read in lessons.

Environment Society

REJ

The society is open to students in all year groups and meets fortnightly on Monday B in Gg4 at 1:10pm. Our aims are two-fold: first, to debate moral, ethical and environmental issues from the global to local scale. Secondly, we act to make positive changes to help Highgate School reduce its carbon footprint.

Film Society

SJHB

Highgate Film Society seeks to bring people together through a love of film and talking about film. We meet to discuss excerpts from films based on different themes, directors, genre, actors etc. We also have occasional screenings or classic cinema or new work. For more information see Lucas Shelemy (QG) and Yaseen Kader (EG).

Football Society

SNB

Addicted to the world's greatest game? Need a mid-week fix? Whether you're a gooner, mag, red devil or mad hatter, you'll be sick as a parrot if you miss the weekly opportunity to listen to great speakers and vent spleen. What's up with Newcastle? Are City going to buy the title? Which ground has the best pies? Pit your wits in the school's fantasy football league as well. Turnstiles open at 1pm. Free entry.



Meteorological Society enjoy the great outdoors.



Hugo Robbins at the controls of a submarine.

Geography Society

DGB

The Geography Society is organised by Mr Brandt with the help of Katie Thomas (WG). It meets relatively regularly (although not every week) to hear talks by both outside speakers as well as geographers within the school. We meet normally on a Friday lunchtime in GG1, often to listen to enlightening talks or to discuss matters of great geographical interest. All are welcome to attend. Individual talks are advertised on school noticeboards.

German Club

GDC

German club takes place every Friday lunchtime in room 13, and the German assistant will be organizing a wide range of cultural and academic activities for the 'Stammkunden'. Last year the club created their very own version of the german pop song 'die perfekte Welle', which was then filmed. Haribo sweets are also always on offer for the prize winners

Guild of Freemen

AZS

Without any doubt, this is the most exclusive society at Highgate. It is for pupils who value their freedom and their dignity above all else – as such they do not burden themselves with mobile phones, wires or pods of any kind when they come to school. They are thus free to enjoy lessons and to focus their entire attention on learning and on making friends with the wonderful people in their immediate vicinity. Meetings are held on an occasional basis – we discuss our hobbies and our interests in one of the beautiful rooms in our School. For details of meetings contact Charles Katz-Summercorn (EG), our founder and president.

Junior History Society

AWG, JRB

Who was the most horrible dictator? Who was the greatest Briton? Which Empire was the best? These are just some of the fascinating topics that have been recently discussed at Junior History Society. If you're interested in any way about the past, come along and listen to presentations or make presentations yourself. There is normally a lively debate and lunch is provided. Come along to Room 4 every other Thursday.

History Society

JPRN

Under the stewardship of JPRN's acolytes Danny Tompkins and Red Strivens, the History Society is the first choice for aspiring academics or History buffs in the Senior School. Whether your tittle is political, military, social or cultural History, weekly presentations from students, the occasional teacher and professional historians will inspire and amaze you. Crucial for History applicants and the most fun anyone could possibly have in the Undercroft on a Friday lunchtime.

LGBT Society

AJP

LGBT Society is open to pupils in Years 9-13 and meets fortnightly to discuss and raise awareness of gay issues both inside and outside the school. The society also organises lectures led by internal and external speakers. Last year's discussions included: The Biology of Sexuality; The Life, Death and Legacy of Alan Turing; Football vs Homophobia; and Wrestling with Religion and Sexuality. You don't have to be gay to join! If you are interested in civil rights, equality and tackling prejudice then come along. Ask Mr Plaistowe for further information.



Come and have fun. Join a society!



Make new friends!

Literary Society

RWF

The new Highgate Literary Society will be meeting to read and discuss a wide range of literature – novels, poetry, drama; writers old and new; classic works and writing that veers off the beaten track. For more details, see Mr Fisher or Toby Sharpe (QG).

Maths Society

LAP

For those who want to know more about how Mathematics can be used to describe the world around us or simply wish to explore the invented world of numbers beyond the scope of lessons, talks will be given on a wide range of topics by both teachers and pupils. For years 7-10, the junior society will take place every Tuesday week B and for years 11-13, the senior society will meet on Thursday week A. Speak to Mr Pearce and see posters around the Maths department for more information.

Mandarin Society

PSL

The Mandarin Society meets every Thursday in room 12 at 1pm. All pupils are welcome to attend to hone their speaking skills in this world language now in its second year at Highgate. For more information see Miss P-S Lin.

Masaryk Society

JPRN

First established in 1943 in honour of the great European politician and philosopher, T G Masaryk, the Masaryk Society is re-born under the co-chairmanship of Jack Saville and Alexander Tansey as an informal current affairs discussion group. For anyone who is curious about the world around them, whatever your views or interest, please come along and make Masaryk Society the fervent centre of active debate and discovery that it once was. The Masaryk Society is especially useful for aspiring students of politics.

Meteorological Society

AZS

Come and enjoy talks and chat about the world's meteorological phenomena. Hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards and droughts, as well as the UK's own crazy weather. Members of the society will be taught to collect readings from our own weather station. See Maxim Rozhdov (WG) for details. We meet on Fridays (Week B) in Room C1 after school.

Modern Languages Society

PLB

The Modern Languages Society meets every other Monday at 1 pm in Room 12. We organise language week events and promote student led and outside speaker talks on Modern Languages worldwide. This can take the format of a taster course in another foreign language such as Italian, Catalan, Basque or Breton or a presentation on a famous writer or cultural phenomenon.

Music Society

LSSF

The Music Society meets from time to time to present talks on a wide range of topics within the fields of classical and jazz music. Additionally, there are occasional visits to concerts and the opera at major London venues.



Ozan Toker with bees at the Mills Centre

Opera Society

JPM, AZS

If you enjoy fine food and fine conversation, and you can play a musical instrument to a high standard, then Opera Society is for you. Musical soirées in splendid surroundings are held on an occasional basis. For further details contact Laurence Carden (TL).

Origami Society

PSL

Create anything out of a piece of paper! All years welcome, packed lunches provided. Every Friday lunchtime in Room 14.

Philosophy Society

EAS/SJHB

The Philosophy Society meets fortnightly (Week A) on Thursdays at 1.05pm in room 16 it is organised by Miss Shipp who is helped by Toby Sharpe (QG) and Leo Mylonadis (GH). We discuss all aspects of Philosophy in an informal environment; questions ranging from 'What is the meaning of life?' to 'Can animals think?' are discussed. Any student with a particular interest in philosophy is invited to lead our discussion forums. Several university philosophers will also present papers throughout the year. Keep 'an eye out' for the posters advertising our weekly meetings.

Photography Society

AZS

This society provides an opportunity to explore the history of photography, and the history of the camera. It offers practical sessions on darkroom techniques (black and white only), film developing and printing, as well as the latest methods of digital imaging and image manipulation. Members meet weekly to discuss each other's photographs and use the darkroom or computer facilities. See Maxim Rozhdov (WG) for details.

Physics Society

DJS

The Phys Soc meets approximately every three weeks on Thursday afternoons after school. Meetings (which last about an hour) involve talks by outside speakers on physics-related topics ranging from smart materials through Formula 1 racing to superconductivity. Everyone is welcome to come along – keep an eye out for the posters in the physics corridor and around school.

Pocket Watch Society

AZS

Although traditionally this has been a gentleman's club, new lady members will be especially welcome. Members take pride in their appearance and their punctuality. Meetings are informal – watches are compared, and their different ticking sounds are appreciated. The life and work of John Harrison must be known and understood in order to gain membership of this exclusive club. See Simon Blackaby (SH) or Ozan Toker (EG) for further details.

Politics Society

RRXM

Politics Society meets most weeks to discuss any issue affecting Britain and the rest of the world. Pupils from the lower school as well as the Sixth Form are welcome.

Reptile Society

WJA

Reptile Society aims to increase the knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, these fascinating animals. It does this by providing a range of talks on captive animals, such as boa constrictors and bearded dragons, as well as reptiles in the wild, like adders. Live animals are often brought in for talks. Meetings are held every Tuesday of Week B in B1 at 1.10pm; a packed lunch is provided.

Société Francophile

OPW

This society meets every Wednesday Week A in room 17 at 1:10 pm to give pupils the opportunity to give presentations on issues and subjects relating to Francophone culture. These might relate to music, film, literature or politics, according to the interests of the pupils. All years, especially Year 10 and 11 are welcome.

Theatre Society

JEF

The Theatre Society is open to pupils in Years 12 and 13. We see approximately four shows a term, covering a range of the best of contemporary and traditional theatre in London. The society was established to broaden the curriculum and widen our pupils' knowledge of drama and the theatre. For further information please contact Ms Fehr.

Tiddlywinks Society

AZS

The Victorian English parlours once buzzed with the tension of the perfect squop and now the Economics floor is not too different. Join us every Thursday lunchtime from 1-1.30 to witness and enjoy the true English sport: tiddlywinks. Famous for our first advertising campaign that took Highgate School by storm, we now hold weekly meetings to discuss and play the marvellous game with tournament standard equipment. We shall hopefully send some of the more elite members of the society to National Pairs and Singles Tournaments in the future as well as setting up our own inter-scholastic tournaments in order to get Highgate the tiddlywinks prestige it deserves.

Vinyl & Philosophy Society

SGA

Talks on music by pupils, who choose which artists and bands they particularly like, and present their work, playing music and showing videos. Subjects range from James Bond themes to Swedish thrash metal.



In winter we have Snowballing society. Who can build the biggest snowball?



Mighty oaks