

Academic English, Critical Thinking, and Leadership Skills

*St Mary's School, Cambridge,
9-15 April 2018*



INDEPENDENT
THINKERS EDUCATION



St Mary's School
CAMBRIDGE



SECTION 1: OUR COURSES

Independent Thinkers Education, in conjunction with St Mary's School, Cambridge, is offering an intensive academic English, debating, and critical thinking programme, delivered over a week during the Easter 2018 holidays, for academically ambitious students who are non-native speakers of English.

The programme, aimed at students aged 15-18, is designed for non-native speakers who want to push their academic English to the next level.

Alongside lessons on English, debating, and critical thinking, and a leadership workshop, the Academic English course will include a programme of excursions which expose students to some of the highlights of British culture through visits – *inter alia* – to the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge; to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge; and to the Houses of Parliament.

The Course

Throughout the week-long course, students will have the opportunity to digest what they learn, to practise the skills and competencies they are acquiring, and to receive individual feedback on their work from their course tutors. They will also work in small groups researching an academic or current affairs topic of their choosing, and will present their findings orally to their tutors and peers at the end of the course.

Our materials and courses have been developed in consultation with experienced English teachers, and tutors with extensive experience of teaching at Oxbridge and other leading universities (see the advisory board on our website).

Sample Timetable

Day 1	
9.30am-12.45pm	Academic English 1 – Essay Writing (with 30 minutes' break)
12.45pm-1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm-3.45pm	Academic English 2 – Debating (with 15 minutes' break)
3.45pm-6.00pm	Visit to King's College Chapel, Cambridge; and attendance at evensong

SECTION 2: COURSE DETAILS

Academic English, Debating, and Critical Thinking

Tutor: Steven Cole

This course will give students whose first language is not English the tools and skills in essay writing which will enable them to succeed in A levels, the IB, and at university. Students will also develop their oral presentation skills in English through debates and discussions on current and international affairs. Finally, they will be introduced to the critical thinking tools of argument analysis and explication, and be encouraged to integrate these ways of thinking into their approaches to essay writing, and into their academic work more broadly.

Student Leadership Programme

Tutor: Jo Cruse

This programme focuses on three areas: leadership philosophy, leadership identity, and leadership tools. The programme opens with an exploration of the nature of leadership. Students will be introduced to the 'Unreasonable Leadership' philosophy (that leadership is the capacity to create change and create leaders, and that exceptional leadership is divergent, not convergent). The next section of the programme focuses on identity: participants will, as a community, uncover what facilitates their progress towards their personal dreams and aspirations, as well as what holds them back from achieving them. Once the identity of the group has been established, students will work on developing their public speaking skills as they are guided through the process of crafting and delivering a speech.

SECTION 3: OUR TUTORS

Our courses are taught by leading academics and professionals, and teachers at some of the UK's best independent schools. All our tutors have outstanding records of personal achievement, and extensive teaching and mentoring experience; as such, they act as inspiring role models and mentors for the students attending the courses.



Steven Cole received his BA from Dartmouth College, where he majored in English with a minor in Philosophy. He has taught English, drama, and critical thinking at many of the UK's leading independent schools, including the King's School, Chester, Cranleigh, and, for the longest period of his career, Millfield. At Millfield he was a Housemaster, Head of the Sixth Form, and Director of US College Admissions. Under his supervision, Millfield increased its US College applicants to around 25 students a year, with his students gaining places at US Ivy League Colleges, most notably Dartmouth, Harvard, and Yale. Steven instituted a highly successful SAT preparation programme at Millfield, integrating this into the existing school curriculum, and delivering teaching on the verbal and critical thinking sections of the test.



Jo Cruse is an entrepreneur; her company, The Unreasonables, is an education startup which delivers leadership programmes to students at some of the UK's leading schools. She is currently Entrepreneur in Residence at Putney High School. Last year, Jo undertook a nine-month expedition from Alaska to Argentina to uncover the stories of over 70 pioneering social entrepreneurs across the Americas. A former teacher of A Level Politics and Economics, Jo read PPE at university. While living in South Africa, she held a number of key positions, including Chief of Staff to the Parliamentary Leader, in the country's main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance.

SECTION 4: KEY INFORMATION

Our location

Situated in the heart of Cambridge, just ten minutes' walk from Cambridge train station, St Mary's School is the perfect location for our courses.



The fee for attending the course on a residential basis is £1900; the fee for attending as a day student is £1100. Representing excellent value for money, these fees include all course sessions, course materials, meals and refreshments, and, where applicable, excursions and boarding accommodation.



TESTIMONIALS FROM PREVIOUS COURSES:

'I'd like to thank the organizers for the very helpful tuition they provided for my son. He found the course both challenging and enriching in content. Highly recommended!'

Mother of a student who attended the October 2017 Economics at Cambridge course.

'The pre-reading for the interview was really relevant and thought provoking and I found discussing this very beneficial.'

Student from Roedean School who attended the October 2017 Advanced Comprehension and Essay Writing course.

'I felt more confident and having a day focused solely on the test gave me a clear idea of what to expect.'

Student who attended the October 2017 TSA Preparation course.

'I definitely recommend the course to students who are considering applying for Medicine, as it not only provides you with helpful tips from doctors and Oxbridge graduates on tackling each section of the BMAT, but also provides guidance on how to prepare for the admissions test from the beginning of the school year.'

Student from The Tiffin Girls' School who attended the October 2017 BMAT Preparation course.

www.independent-thinkers.co.uk/easter/

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