

# High School & Sixth Form

## New academic studies course for Lower 6



This year marks the exciting launch of the new Lower 6 Academic Studies course. As part of their academic development this term, Lower 6 pupils have been honing a wide range of valuable skills. They have learned to identify reliable academic resources, evaluate them for bias and relevance, and develop critical thinking around the content they engage with.

Public speaking has also been a key focus. Pupils independently sourced an article of their choice and presented their analysis to their peers, refining their ability to communicate ideas clearly and confidently. Alongside these academic skills, they have received lessons on prioritising tasks, avoiding procrastination, and effectively scheduling their time - essential skills for both academic success and personal growth.

Most recently, pupils have been learning to cite and reference their work accurately, using either the Harvard or APA system. These skills are invaluable, not only for preparing pupils for tertiary study but also for encouraging wider reading. This will directly support their UCAS statements in the first term of Upper 6, particularly when answering the question: *"How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?"*

The course culminated this term with a visit to the University of Leeds' Laidlaw Library, where pupils explored the wealth of resources available to them—completely free of charge! This experience opens doors to their future success, and we are confident that they will make the most of every opportunity it provides.

Mrs Colette McDermott