

GIFT Summer School 2019

Residential for Curious Minds - Years 7 to 13

at Grittleton House, Wiltshire

Sunday 4th August to Friday 9th August

GIFT, provider of internationally-renowned enrichment courses for more than 40 years, is running a Summer School for Years 7-13, and those educated at home aged 11 to 18.

The venue is Grittleton House near Chippenham in Wiltshire - dating from the 17th century.

Chose one main course each day, then pick one of several early and late evening activity options to try something different. On Wednesday we will embark on a mystery field trip to explore somewhere or something in our surroundings. Here are some examples of the brain treats on offer this year - go to our website to see the week in all its glory!



"I met other people like me, people bubbling out with ideas... my brain was stretched out to the limit of what I could understand."



Flying High

In 1782 Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Étienne Montgolfier constructed a balloon whose bag was lifted by lighting a cauldron of paper beneath it, thus heating and rarefying the air it contained - the world's first hot-air balloon. The rest is history. You will spend a day designing and making your own flying machines - from first principles to test flights: up, up and away!

Pow!

In 110 AD, Trajan's column told the story of the emperor's victories in a series of pictures. More portable comic strips became popular in the 1930s, and there is now a rich history of comic strips with storylines and artistic styles as diverse as any other genre. In this course with professional artist and comic creator, Richy Chandler, you'll learn about visual storytelling from examples of the greats, and have the chance to bring your own characters to life. You don't have to be an ace artist to participate: words and story are just as important, and the miracle of comic strips is that the simplest stick persons can carry a story.

Vain Wisdom All and False Philosophy

Untruths can often be made to sound reasonable using clever, persuasive language. This is a "know your enemy" course about the dark arts of rhetoric, sophistry and logical fallacies, in which you will create your own deceptions and delusions so that you can better see through the ones you encounter.

Peeling Back the Skin (Year 9+)

What do the monsters of Poe, Shelley and Stoker tell us about their own fears? Who's Britain's Dracula? Who's your "lost Lenore"? Every age, knowingly or unknowingly, puts its fears on page and stage through some version of the Gothic. What anxieties do we grapple with today? Who are our monsters? What do they want and what makes them so



Jem Wakefield

terrifying? From the Gothic Novel to the modern tabloid and the world of immersive contemporary theatre, get ready to act, write and vilify.

The Illusion of Life

Long before moving images, cave painters depicted horses with multiple legs to convey the illusion of motion. We will investigate some of the techniques and processes available to animators such as stop-motion capture, green screen and pixilation, with the aim of making short films. Please bring a digital camera or mobile phone, and a Windows PC laptop which is running Windows 7 or later.

Peripatetikoi

"Those given to walking about" - Aristotle's school of philosophers in ancient Athens was named after the covered walkways where they met, and many philosophers have seen a connection between walking and thinking. Following in their footsteps, we will head out of Grittleton on two physical and intellectual journeys.



Game of Tones

The success of a pop song is neither purely coincidental nor entirely based on public relations and marketing. Those elements may play a part, but there's

something in the very structure of music itself and the way it works in our brain while we listen to it that's more important. The better the mixture of 'old' and 'new', the more we enjoy a song. But what's the perfect mixture? Bring your instruments and voices and we'll play around with songs and produce our own blends and 'mash-ups' that explore the ideas and limits of surprise and recognition.

Sleeve, Loop, & Baggy Shirt

Mesopotamia is often referred to as the Cradle of Civilization, and one of its children was mathematics - the universal language of understanding science, art and humanity. The birthplace of writing, the wheel, agriculture, the arch and many other innovations. Even our way of thinking about time itself can be traced back to this remarkable time and place. Why was the square wheel not invented (and when might one be handy)? A day of mathematical madness, pictographic writing and knot wrestling in an attempt to have fun with numbers.

Stream Course

This is a course in freshwater ecology. What makes a stream? Come and find out how high, how long, how wide, how polluted, and how much life is present. Closely observe objectively living organisms in their natural surroundings and begin to understand all the complex relationships at work between the life in the stream and the stream in the living environment. Wellington boots and an extra towel will be a necessity!



Develop Yourself

More photos are taken in a day than used to be taken in a year - but how many of them are any good? Reach beyond the 'selfie' looking at some simple things to do to take great images and then putting what we have learnt into practice. After being creative showing our inner self in an image we will be use objects placed in an image to surprise and amuse. A day of creativity and technique for the photographic sophist.

Other Activities include: Smashing the Glass Ceiling, Play in a Day, Epoch Apollo, Short Short Stories, A New Angle on the Saxons, The Interpretation of Screams, It's a Mystery, A Brief History of Games

Venue & Staff

Grittleton House dates back to 1660, with later additions completed in 1853. We'll be staying in the Stables and Tower buildings. You'll be staying in a room of four to six people of the same gender and about the same age. All rooms are ensuite except for a few which each have their own dedicated bathroom.

The staff at Grittleton House are used to dealing with all sorts of dietary requirements. All our staff are DBS checked. They are chosen because they have a passion for interesting topics that aren't normally on the curriculum, and because they have the right approach to work with keen, curious students in a more informal setting. Some are qualified teachers, and others are bringing their expertise from professional or academic settings.



Schedule

It's a busy week, but there is plenty of time to relax as well. There are half hour breaks morning and afternoon, and an hour and a half for lunch in which you can enjoy the extensive grounds. There's more free time either side of dinner in the evening, and then we have a choice of early evening activities. There's usually a thinky option for people whose brains are still hungry, something relaxing, something fun and creative, and something else. In the late evening (after another break) we all get together - one evening is film night, on another we gather round a camp fire, and there's always something interesting happening.

All tuition, accommodation, meals, materials and evening activities are included in the price of £549*. A deposit of £80 secures your place. This can be paid online, via bank transfer, Paypal or even a cheque - all details are on the website. A sibling discount of £100 for the second child attending the same event from the same family is available.

*GIFT is very fortunate in having the long-term support of a couple of charities that **can provide bursaries to cover part of the cost of attending** for families who would otherwise be unable to send their child. Please contact us for more information.

"GIFT is a wonderful experience. You learn so many new talents and abilities and you make so many new and unexpected friends."

GIFT has been nurturing the brightest, most curious young people for 40 years, including students from overseas with a high level of competence in English.

Questions?

Ring 01245 830321, Email enquiries@giftcourses.co.uk or see the FAQs at: www.giftcourses.co.uk



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