



**THINK ANEW**

**We must think anew, and act anew – A. Lincoln**

## **Gifted & Talented Courses Galore**

Ashby School has for some years been home to Think Anew Gifted & Talented Courses for Leicestershire brightest pupils. The future has certainly become a lot brighter recently. In the past, students have often been disappointed not to have been offered a place since courses are so heavily oversubscribed, in particular residential courses.

This year however has seen a significant increase in available courses, organised through Course Director, John Williams at School House, who has been running courses of this type since 1998.

The first of these courses is to be hosted at Cambridge University during the Easter vacation and focuses on the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, a time of huge change in England. Students will listen to and exchange ideas with a variety of Cambridge experts who will reveal something of the complex culture and history of that formative period of history.

Almost immediately after Easter, Course Directors from Ashby School will be teaching a series of experiential days throughout the Midlands region, for the National Academy for Gifted & Talented Youth. These will be held on Saturdays and include the study of Fine Arts, the Architecture, Social Structure & Conservation of National Trust Country Homes & Theatrical French Drama Productions.

Thereafter Ashby School will be closing its school doors on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July, the last day of term, only to reopen again on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> for the first of the four residential courses held at Ashby School and School House boarding residence. This new and exciting course is not for the faint hearted. Students will be both thrilled and appalled at the expert lectures in "Messing around in History". They will look at the filth, grime and bodily functions of society throughout history and learn how the grim arrival of the plague, cholera and other diseases brought about changes in Architecture, Science, Medicine, the Law and social conditions.

In addition two short residential courses offering an English Country House experience will give those students with little or no experience of a residential course the opportunity to experience a night away from home. Other students can experience it as a "taster" course before committing to a full residential. This compact, but fun and in-depth course includes a walk on a trail through the ancient forests at Calke Abbey and students will listen to tales of the Monks who may yet still inhabit these ghostly woodlands.

The final residential course organised as an outreach event for the National Academy of Gifted & Talented Youth is an extremely popular course entitled In Search of 14<sup>th</sup> Century Lost Villages. There will be visits to Mount St Bernards Abbey, Donington-le-Heath Manor House and fourteenth century "lost village" sites around Leicestershire, where Monks, Archaeologists and Actors will bring the fourteenth century back to life for the week.

For further information about Gifted & Talented courses, or to check eligibility for a place on one or more of these courses at Ashby School contact John Williams on 01530 413759 or e-mail [schoolhouse@ashbyschool.org.uk](mailto:schoolhouse@ashbyschool.org.uk).