

Academic Scholarships



The Ideas Lab

Spring 2026

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kimboltonschool.com



Introducing The Ideas Lab

Kimbolton School is excited to launch The Ideas Lab: our Academic Scholarship Programme for Spring 2026.

The Ideas Lab is a vibrant community for scholars who love to think deeply and challenge themselves. Rooted in the pursuit of *arête* - excellence in thought and character - the programme offers a mix of teacher-led sessions and personal challenges designed to spark curiosity, refine questioning, and build confidence in tackling complex ideas. From evaluating evidence and detecting bias to debating big questions and presenting ideas with impact. The Ideas Lab empowers scholars to grow as independent rigorous thinkers ready to make their mark.

Throughout the Spring Term, academic scholars are expected to attend as many of the teacher-led sessions as possible. These will occur on a fortnightly cycle with logistics communicated to scholars in advance. Between each session a personal challenge will provide the opportunity for scholars to push themselves further and deploy what they've learned practically. By the end of the programme, pupils will have a portfolio of work and reflections which demonstrate the growth of their thinking skills alongside a clearer idea of how to approach intellectual challenges critically and holistically.

How to succeed in The Ideas Lab

Be curious

Ask questions - even the ones that seem simple. Challenge ideas, and don't settle for easy answers. Curiosity is the starting point for deep thinking.

Think like a scholar

Examine evidence carefully, spot gaps, and justify your reasoning clearly and effectively. Express your ideas clearly and confidently - structure matters as much as substance.

Question everything

Upgrade your questions to make them sharper, deeper, and more meaningful.

Embrace challenge

Some tasks will be tricky, but give them a go. Don't shy away from difficult thinking. Growth happens when you push beyond your comfort zone.

Reflect on your thinking

What you've learned, what surprised you, and what will you explore next. Learning is a process - one you can learn from!

Collaborate

Listen, question, join discussions, work with others, and build on other people's ideas. Collaboration often makes thinking stronger.

Have fun!

Thinking deeply can be exciting. Enjoy exploring new ideas and seeing your skills grow.



WE BECOME

Problem solvers
Leaders
Independent thinkers
Confident communicators
Enterprising
Socially responsible
Digitally literate

WE PROMOTE

Knowledge and understanding
Challenge and stretch
Opportunity
Guidance and support
Adventure and exploration

Kimbolton Learning DNA

WE ARE

Engaged
Motivated
Ambitious
Reflective
Brave
Supportive

WE THINK

Critically
Creatively
Collaboratively

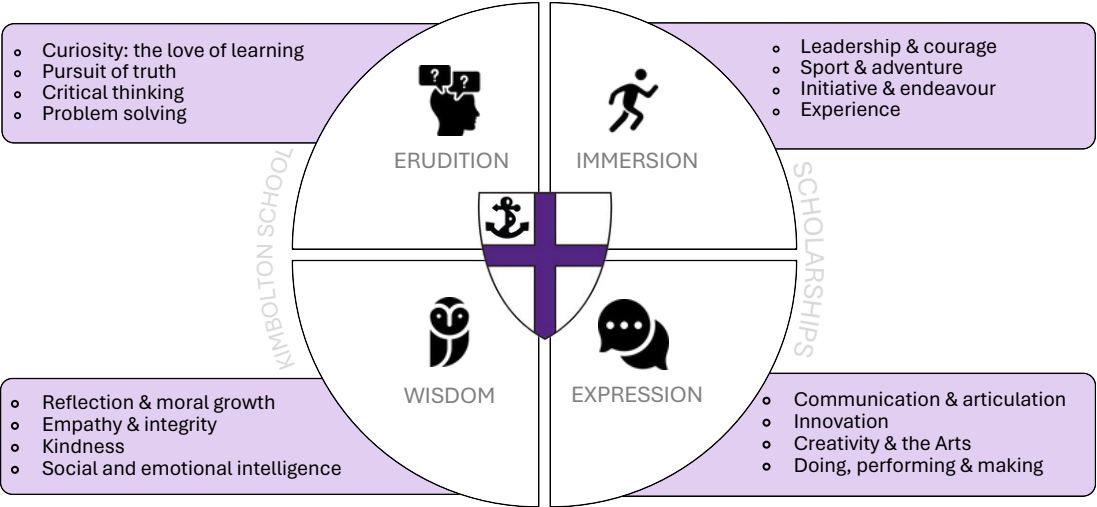
The Ideas Lab Spring Programme

Teacher-led activity or personal challenge?	Year Group	Activity	Intent
Teacher-led	All	Launch of the Ideas Lab	To introduce pupils to The Ideas Lab as a selective academic community that values curiosity, challenge, and thinking
Personal challenge	4 th - U6	The Question Upgrade Challenge	To develop pupils' ability to refine and improve questions so that they become more precise, meaningful, and academically rigorous, recognising that strong thinking begins with strong questions.
Teacher-led	1 st - 3 rd	Thinking like a detective	To help pupils understand that good thinkers do not rush to conclusions, but examine evidence carefully, question reliability, and justify their reasoning clearly.
Personal challenge	1 st - 3 rd	The Question Challenge	To encourage pupils to move beyond surface curiosity and practise generating deep, thoughtful questions that lead to investigation, reflection, and more sophisticated thinking.
Teacher-led	4- U6	Evidence Under Pressure	To develop pupils' ability to evaluate the strength, reliability, and limitations of evidence, particularly when faced with conflicting information or persuasive claims.

Teacher led activity or pupil challenge challenge	Year Group	Activity	Intent
Teacher-led	1 st - 3 rd	Collaboration & Problem Solving	To build effective collaboration skills by requiring pupils to work together to solve complex problems, communicate ideas clearly, and adapt their thinking in response to challenges.
Personal challenge	4 th - U6	Misinformation & Spin Challenge	To strengthen pupils' media literacy by teaching them to identify bias, misleading language, and manipulation in information, and to judge claims critically rather than accepting them at face value.
Personal challenge	1 st - 3 rd	Evidence in the Wild	To help pupils apply their understanding of evidence beyond the classroom by analysing real-world claims and judging how trustworthy and convincing they are.
Teacher-led	4 th - U6	Big Ideas & Better Questions	To encourage pupils to engage with complex ideas and practise framing ambitious, high-level questions that reflect mature and independent academic thinking.
Personal challenge	1 st - 3 rd	The Claim Tester	To develop pupils' ability to evaluate claims independently by weighing evidence, identifying gaps, and making balanced judgements rather than relying on initial opinions.

Teacher led activity or pupil challenge challenge	Year Group	Activity	Intent
Teacher-led	4 th - U6	Ideas in Action: Present, Defend, Refine	To provide pupils with the opportunity to present their thinking, defend their ideas under challenge, and refine their arguments through critique and questioning.
Personal challenge	All	Preparing showcase	To enable pupils to synthesise and present their strongest academic thinking, reflecting on skill development and articulating how they think more critically and confidently as scholars.

Arête: Holistic Scholar Development





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