



SUMMER LOVING

Cassandra Rei investigates options to make the most of the school holidays

More school during the summer holidays? Probably not quite what your child was expecting to hear, but whether you are looking for something to help your child 'catch up', keep your child occupied while learning a new skill, brush up on a tricky subject or pursue a particular talent, there is a summer school out there for your child.

Summer school may possibly be just the environment that could help your child to flourish. Unlike schooling throughout the year, summer schools offer children the opportunity to engage in valuable learning without the pressure of 'normal' school. With zero assessments and constraints, summer schools are able to supplement academic teaching with many enjoyable enrichment activities. They are fun,

Summer schools are useful to children who want to expand their knowledge on an area of interest or develop a skill

interactive and engaging – if they weren't, it would become an absolute chore and not enjoyable at all.

Many summer schools are area specific. Sending your child to a particular summer school could be what it takes to spark an interest in an area that your child finds dull or challenging. They offer smaller class sizes, which means your child will get much more individualized attention. Furthermore, research has shown that if a struggling

child gets himself back on track over the summer, they are more likely to perform better and work harder during the school year.

Summer schools are also useful to children who want to expand their knowledge on an area of interest or develop a new skill. They are also a great way to allow your child the opportunity to meet different people and make new friends. We have put together a few of some of our favourite summer schools around London.

YOUNG SCIENTISTS SUMMER SCHOOL

Dates: 19-23 August 2013, 9.30am-4pm

Ages: 5-7 Years

Cost: £355 + vat

Location: Imperial College South Kensington

This year's inspirational science course has three main strands – Robotics,



There is no shortage of options to expand your child's knowledge during the summer break

Kitchen Chemistry and Science Sparks. Each one will increase the participant's wider understanding of science and its practical applications.

Students pick one of the three branches to explore. In Robotics they will learn about artificial intelligence and robots, basic programming techniques to control a robot's movements, and will build their own robot to compete in a final challenge.

Kitchen Chemistry gets pretty messy and is held in the Reach Out Lab. There students will find out the amazing things you can do with the contents of a kitchen cabinet, from extracting DNA from strawberry jam to turning milk into plastic! Science Sparks is for those who get a buzz out of the wider applications of science.

01730 262927; exscitec.com

YOUNG FILM ACADEMY

Dates: See website for details

Ages: 10-13 years and 14-18 years

Cost: £430

Location: Courses in St John's Wood, Chelsea and Wimbledon

Four-day film school courses for 10-13 year olds and 13-17 years olds, plus Make A Film In A Day – a short course for 8-13-year-olds. The longer courses cover writing, performing, shooting and screening a short film, and teach the importance of teamwork along the way as the children learn to decide what to edit out of their work, and come together to direct and shoot the performers. For youngsters who want a taste of what filmmaking is all about the single day courses centre around James Bond or Harry Potter, and shows them how footage is cut together and sound effects and music are added.

020 7387 4341;

youngfilmacademy.co.uk

ARTS EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL LONDON

Dates: 29 July-9 August

Ages: 4-6 years and 7-12 years

Cost: Between £140-£270 depending on course

Location: Cone Ripman House, 14 Bath Road, Chiswick, W4 1LY

Various courses for all ages between 4 and 12 years. Once upon a Time; Create a Musical in a Week; Create a Play in a week; Youth Actors school; Youth Musical Theatre School;

Musical Theatre Company and Audition Technique.

artsed.co.uk;

020 8987 6692

❖ **Cassandra Rei works on the team at Laidlaw Education. Ring Sue Laidlaw or Victoria Webb on 020 8487 9517 and visit laidlaweducation.co.uk for details of lessons and courses run throughout the year**

