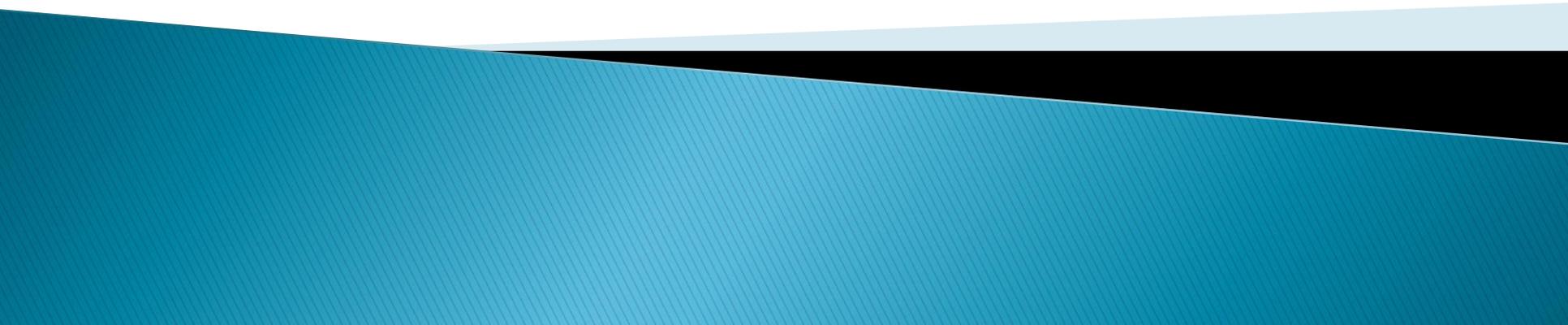


# VAISHALI MAHILA MAHAVIDYALAYA HAJIPUR, VAISHALI

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
Takes you to–



# OF STUDIES

## Francis Bacon

Born	22 January 1561 <u>The Strand</u> , London, England
Died	9 April 1626 (aged 65) <u>Highgate, Middlesex</u> , England
Language	English
Nationality	<i>English</i>

## Alma mater

- University of Cambridge
- Trinity College, Cambridge
- University of Poitiers

## Notable works

New Atlantis, The advancement of learning, Essays of Francis Bacon

# FRANCIS BACON



- ▶ Francis Bacon is a very important figure in the history of knowledge, and we can learn a lot from his essay, “Of Studies” today.  
“Of Studies” was published in 1597, less than 100 years after the Gutenberg printing press began to make written material available to more people. People were learning to read, but, unless they attended university, they did not know how to read well.
  - ▶ “Of Studies” explains how we can read and study and get the most benefit out of it. It connects learning and self-improvement in a very practical way.
  - ▶ We can still learn from this essay today. Although print media are being replaced by the web, it is just as important as ever to know how to read and study well.
- 

- ▶ The main challenge in understanding “Of Studies” is that the language is slightly out of date. Some of the words have changed meaning. The whole essay is very short and worth a bit of careful study itself.
- ▶ Bacon opens by asserting three purposes for reading: delight – reading for the fun of it; ornament – being able to show off that we know stuff; and ability. The rest of the essay focuses on study to increase our ability to succeed in life.
- ▶ He makes an important point in saying that we do not need to read every book all the way through; we can skim or select passages.
- ▶ The central theme of the essay is that specific fields of study sharpen the mind in specific ways. Study, Bacon asserts, is for the mind what exercise is for the body. We would exercise one way to be able to run faster, and another way to be able to dance. And we would choose which exercise depending on what we wanted to achieve and also on an honest assessment of our weaknesses.

- ▶ In this mode, Bacon recommends:
  - ▶ To become wise, study history.
  - ▶ To become sharp and clear with language, study poetry.
  - ▶ To understand things deeply, study science.
  - ▶ To be worthy of being listened to, study ethics.
  - ▶ To be able to think things through and make a case, study logic and the arts of writing and speaking.
  - ▶ To be more precise and less ADD, study math, especially proofs.
  - ▶ To learn precision, study the medieval philosophers.
  - ▶ To link ideas and prove one thing from another, study the law.
  - ▶
- 

**HOPE YOU  
UNDERSTOOD AND  
ENJOYED**

**THANK YOU**