

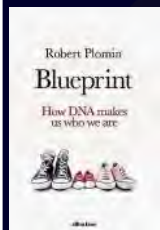


SWPS NEWS



MR C C MULLER—HEAD

Over the half term I had the exciting opportunity to see SWPS Senior Sixth students, Hannah Burrows and Lauren Younge in a special Battle of Ideas debate at the Barbican in London. On the topic of dangers and benefits of Artificial Intelligence, the discussion ranged from the practical implications to the ethical consequences. Our two SWPS debaters did themselves, and the school, proud.



Whilst at the weekend festival itself, attended by other members of the SWPS community, staff and students, I was privileged to sit in on a lecture by Professor Robert Plomin who was discussing his new book Blueprint. Launched with an unsurprising measure of controversy, his thesis is both challenging and unsettling. More subtle, however, than the headline pronouncement that we are only what our genetic inheritance is, Plomin's book provides, nonetheless, much food for thought.

Plomin argues that the ability to use DNA to understand who we are and who we will become has increased exponentially over the past few years due to the huge amount of research that has taken place – in short his, and others', conclusions are that a large chunk of our personality is shaped by our genes and even our nurture is determined by our nature: we try to find environments that reflect our genetic predispositions.

The learned professor does not say that there are any necessary educational policy implications from the finding that "inherited DNA differences are by far the most important source of individual differences" and he is at pains to point out that genetic "heritability describes what is but does not predict what could be". Yet, he does think that there are messages that are important from what has been discovered – namely tolerance for others as well as ourselves. In his words "genetics, not lack of willpower, makes people more prone to problems". Genes, he says, are not destiny because people can and do change, but some will find it easier to change than others.

It was such a thoughtful and interesting session that I immediately bought his book. Whether I was genetically pre-disposed to do so, I'll find out!

Big to promote Indian culture in Bristol
SWPS student Anoushka Mishra (Y11), along with her family, celebrated a Hindu festival 'DurgaPuja' during half term where Anoushka provided invaluable assistance in organising and participating in the event.



The event was so successful that it even appeared on BBC News. Click the link below if you'd like to read more about Anoushka's exciting half term.

[**BBC News | Bid to Promote Indian Culture in Bristol**](#)

Upcoming Events

3 Nov	Sixth Form: Scholarship Exams
6 Nov	Maths: UKMT Senior Challenge
7 Nov	Drama: Junior Drama Performance
8 Nov	Art: 7P & 7Q Trip to National Gallery
9 Nov	Senior Awards
10 Nov	Art: Printmaking Workshop

Y8 Lunchtime Concerts

These concerts begin at **12.55pm** in the Jarvis Room. All students participate in their group's concert.

Parents, relatives and friends are most welcome to attend to support the performers. Please sign in at the Main Reception and you will be guided over to the Music Department.

[Tickets are free but please reserve your seat\(s\) by clicking here](#)

8 Nov	8W
15 Nov	8Y
22 Nov	8X
29 Nov	8Z

Autumn Concert

The fantastic performances from the Autumn Chamber Concert from just before half-term are available to listen to on the Music page of the School website.

WWW.SWPS.ORG.UK/MUSIC

Spelling Word of the Week

Humour



Designed by Ellie Monk 9P

spell the word correctly.

The first winner is Eleanor Monk (Y9) who came up with a clever mnemonic on how to spell 'humour.' Eleanor's suggestion has been displayed on the screens this week.

Next week, you will see Vinomie Managei's (Y9) suggestion for a seasonal word 'autumn'. Always tricky with the silent /n/ at the end.

Eleanor and Vinomie were presented with a certificate and a prize at assembly earlier this week. Congratulations to them both.

S Hay

Dyslexia Awareness Week

As part of Dyslexia Awareness Week, which was run from 1st to 7th October, a competition was held where students in Years 7-9 had to choose a word from the Serious Spelling List and suggest a way to help

Spelling Word of the Week

Autumn



Designed by Vinomie Managei 9P

Classics Trip to Butser Ancient Farm

In the week before half term the Classics Department took the Year 8s to Butser Farm. This is in a beautiful and tranquil

location near Petersfield, and showcases "experimental archaeology", which means that they use current archaeological research to build and make things, including houses, to test if current beliefs about Romans and Celts are credible. Our pupils got a day in the fresh air and sunshine, looking at real replicas of Celtic and Roman houses, then making Celtic jewellery, spinning wool (a hugely important activity for women in the ancient world), painting Roman frescoes, and building walls out of clunch.

I Peel



SWPS STEM DINNER 2018

Friday November 30th, 7pm



Please confirm your :

- attendance,
- menu choices
- willingness to be billed

to Mr Peel,
in writing or by
email to
ipeel@swps.org.uk

by Friday 23rd Nov

Guest Speaker: Professor Sarah Gurr

Title:

Global food security: food, famine and fungi.

Sarah is Chair in Food Security, a post created by Exeter University, which nests within the Food Security and Research Land Alliance between the Universities of Exeter, Bristol, Bath and Cardiff

She was previously Professor of Molecular Plant Pathology at Oxford and formerly President of The British Society of Plant Pathology.

Her interests are in crop diseases (notably of rice and wheat), with particular emphasis on fungal infestations and their global movement and control.

Location: Dining Hall - glitzy as you've never seen it before

Menu: 4-course meal

Cost:

Adults: £29

Pupils: £25

Dress: To impress

South Africa Senior Sports Tour || A busy, sporting half term for the SWPS pupils!

Over half term, the Year 10 and 11 netball and hockey squads spent 10 days in South Africa. After two long flights they arrived in Cape Town on Monday morning where they transferred to the Goedgedacht Trust where along with the Netball training and match against the 'Pathway out of Poverty' girls, the squad was able to take part in many different activities including dancing, cycling and an obstacle course. After a few days at the trust it was time to transfer to the first hockey match vs Hugenote where SWPS came away with a 1-0 win.

The next day everyone was up early to head into the mountains to go on the Zipline Canopy Tour - a highlight for many of the girls. Next stop was the Garden Route Game Reserve where the girls were treated to two fantastic game drives and had the opportunity to get some great pictures of the Big 5. Having been up early to see some amazing animals, it was then time for the Netballers to play their next matches of the tour against Langa. The Y11 team came out victorious yet again but the Y10s narrowly lost, though it can be said that both teams played incredibly well.

Up next was the journey to the fourth and final hotel in Cape Town, where the girls experienced many of Cape Town's most famous attractions such as Table Mountain, Robben Island and Boulders Beach as well as the next few hockey matches where the team excelled against their opponents winning 5-0 against Milnerton High School and then a 1-1 draw against Wynberg Girls a few days later.

Whilst in Cape Town the girls were able to experience some of South Africa's speciality dishes at Gold African Restaurant along with some drumming and dancing. Hockey and Netball weren't the only sports that the girls were able to have a go at whilst abroad, they also learnt what it was like to ride the waves (or at least try) in a great surf lesson which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

After a slightly delayed trip home, all of the girls came home in one piece, just maybe a little tired from the excitement of the past 10 days. On behalf of the girls, we would like to say a massive thank you to the teachers who came with us and allowed us to have such an amazing trip!

Jess, Y12



Hockey

Well done to the U12 A and B hockey teams who played some good matches against Notre Dame on Thursday evening. A 1-1 draw for the As and a 0-2 loss for the Bs were unfortunate scores for the Year 7s. However they all demonstrated determination throughout the games and played their hardest in the cold weather against tough opposition. Plenty to work on for improvement for the next game! Well done Year 7s!

OTHER SPORTING NEWS FROM OVER THE HALF TERM:

Karate

Maddie Y10 competed in the ELITE International Open Karate Championships in Essex last weekend and won Gold in her individual event and Gold in her team Event. Fantastic work by Maddie, well done!



Swimming

Also over half term, **Eleanor** Y7 participated in a three day Swim England camp in Surrey. She was selected for this camp following the Surrey Championships in 2018. She has also had great success in three galas since September! Well done Eleanor, keep up the great work!!

Fencing

Leena in Y7 competed at the BBO (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire) County Foil Championship over half term and fought hard, winning first place in the U12 age group! Even more great news, Well done Leena!



Ice Skating

Extremely exciting news from **Ava-Mae** (Y7) who qualified for the British Skating Championships back in September with her partner. They are currently working hard with their coach, Hamish Gaman (appearing in Dancing on Ice as a professional skater in the new year...just to name drop!) as well as the Head Choreographer from Dancing on Ice!



We wish Ava and her partner Adam the best of luck in the Championships which are taking place at the end of the month.



Pairs Head

The last weekend before half-term saw the first competitive outing for the Perkins Rowers at the Pairs Head of the River. Four senior doubles raced in apocalyptically wet, windy and wavy conditions on the Tideway over two-thirds of the Boat Race course, recording some very promising results. In a field of twenty-seven J18 doubles, Annabelle Taylor and Emily Keen placed 3rd, 8.4 seconds from victory. They were followed 7 seconds further back by Eve Linney and Denise Martin in 5th, Celia Crosbie and Louise Wax in 9th, Lerin Adetola and Ella Ayoade in 15th and Emmie Kirkhope and Tess O'Donnell in 17th. A good first step into the racing season for the senior squad; we have two quads and a four back on the same bit of river tomorrow for the Fours Head of the River. Fingers crossed for some finer weather!



Portugal Camp

The senior squad athletes had the fantastic opportunity to take part in the first overseas training camp of the season in week one of half-term. 21 rowers made the trip to Figueira Da Foz on the coast of Portugal for 7 days of hard training, eating, studying and having a good time with their team-mates. We arrived to a scene of mild devastation as a hurricane had hit just the night before, but in amongst the fallen trees and road-signs the rowing rolled on completely unaffected on the purpose-built 2000m course at Montemor-o-Velho. One of the main benefits of a training camp is having the time and facilities available to get a lot more time on the water than during regular term-time and the whole squad really threw themselves into the chance to get fitter, stronger and row better! In between the sessions there was time for schoolwork, and obviously the bonus of having a group of friends on tap all day every day for a week! Everyone finished the camp having improved significantly and we can't wait for April to roll around and the next chance to take the boats for a trip abroad!

Upper Thames Autumn Head

Half-term closed out with the J15 squad taking over Henley for the Upper Thames Autumn Head. It was exciting to see this group have a crack at their first race of the season with their trademark enthusiasm, and there were some very pleasing results to show for the hard work they put in. The morning saw double sculls racing, with Lizzie Way and Samar Alam coming 4th, Katya Nearcou and Mara Leigh 8th and Sofia Deilamy and Sahiba Atwal 13th. All of these crews did a sterling job of navigating their way down the course in their first race without having a cox to steer the boat and tell them what to do! In the afternoon two Perkins quads battled down the track; Megan Postlethwaite, Mary O'Donnell, Amber David, Eve Thomas and Alex Glasspool finishing 3rd and Heidi Mayne, Khushy Toor, Bethany Illsley, Holly Pemberton and Mia Rai coming in 6th. Seeing the improvements the whole J15 squad is making is very pleasing and we look forward to their next event at Henley Sculls on 10th November!



DESIGNS OF THE WEEK



This week design of the week nominated by the Design Technology Department is **Ellie Monk (Y9)** who designed and made a fantastic space age era inspired 'Man on the Moon' necklace for the departments acrylic jewellery design project. Well done Ellie for combining the different plastics so well to create such a pleasing piece.

J Blackman

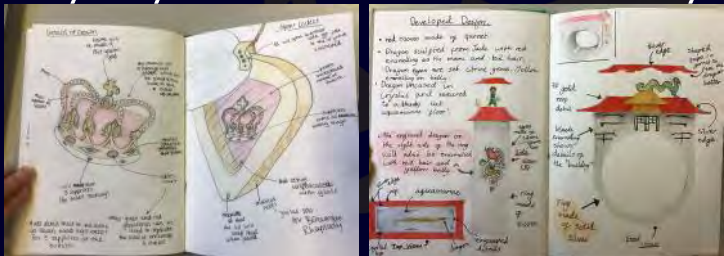
Design Technology: Theo Fennell Master Class

I am delighted to announce the winners of the Theo Fennell master class jewellery competition:

Sriya Roy

&

Lauren Mansey



In what was a very hard decision as all eight entries were incredibly worthy, Sriya and Lauren's detailed designs won them the opportunity to spend a week's work experience with Theo in his workshop and design studio. At the end of their time working with Theo and his team a decision will be made on whose design will be made. This is a completely unique opportunity that Theo has offered due to how impressed he was with the students' work and dedication.

If students would like their sketchbooks back, please can they come and collect them from DT by Friday 9 November.

J Blackman

DT Coursework Collection

Please be advised you can collect your GCSE / A Level Design Technology folders and practical work now. Please email Miss Blackman: jblackman@swps.org.uk to arrange a date and time for this.



All work **must** be collected by **Monday 3 December** to make space for current exam projects.

Here are some wonderful examples of the DT work produced last academic year.



Follow the SWPS Design Technology department [@SWPSDesign](https://twitter.com/SWPSDesign) to keep up with all of their creations and activities!

LIBRARY

Book of the Week

This week's BotW is 'The Water Will Come' by Jeff Goodell, selected by Mrs Vidgen.

An eye-opening and essential tour of the vanishing world.

What if Atlantis wasn't a myth, but an early precursor to a new age of great flooding?

Across the globe, scientists and civilians alike are noticing rapidly rising sea levels, and higher and higher tides pushing more water directly into the places we live, from our most vibrant, historic cities to our last remaining traditional coastal villages. With each crack in the great ice sheets of the Arctic and Antarctica, and each tick upwards of Earth's thermometer, we are moving closer to the brink of broad disaster.

The Water Will Come is the definitive account of the coming water, why and how this will happen, and what it will all mean. As he travels across twelve countries and reports from the front lines, Jeff Goodell employs fact, science, and first-person, on-the-ground journalism to show vivid scenes from what already is becoming a water world.

Non-Fiction
November
Book of
the Week



What's on in the Library

Follow [@SWPSLibrary](https://twitter.com/SWPSLibrary) to keep up-to-date with what's happening in the Library!

FRIENDS OF SWPS

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SCHOOL**

Christmas Fair 2018

Saturday November 17th from 11:30am to 3:30pm

Live Music
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Song Sheet by Finn
(young male singer
from ACM Guildford).

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Fabulous new
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Coffee Shop

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In aid of the Woking Young Musicians Trust

GRIFFIN ROOM, HG WELLS SUITE, WOKING

Saturday 10th November 2018

9am – 5pm

OPEN TO ALL AGES AND STAGES (Beginner to Advanced)

The MUSICATHON is an opportunity to entertain without the pressure of a formal concert. Come help raise money for this worthwhile cause.

For more details or to book a slot, please contact:

Pam Lunn 07917 874473

jivebunny@talk21.com



THE GRIFFIN ROOM
H.G.WELLS SUITE

SATURDAY 16th MARCH 2019

9:00 – 5:00

In Aid of The Hospice and

The Woking Young Musicians' Trust

OPEN TO ALL AGES AND STAGES (Beginner to Advanced)

The PIANOTHON is an opportunity to entertain without the pressure of a formal concert. Come help raise money for these worthwhile causes. It will be a rewarding day for all!



**FOR MORE DETAILS OR
TO BOOK A SLOT,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

PAM LUNN
jivebunny@talk21.com
07917 874473