



SWPS NEWS



MR C C MULLER—HEAD

We often talk about resilience; indeed it has become the sine qua non upon which every teacher conference is based. Arguments and debates range in their attempts both to define what we mean by resilience and how schools might obtain it.

I suppose that it is human nature to test something by seeing how well it stands up to scrutiny; my father was always keen to kick a tyre on a used car to test the robustness of...what? To test and try something or someone, seeing if they can come back, is, for many, the essence of resilience. In many ways it is a trial by ordeal.

In the medieval sense, though, the ordeal had a very particular meaning. Trial by ordeal was a method to determine whether or not someone was a witch. It was not a fair trial, but it certainly was final.

Of course that was all in the past and we have come a long way since then – we are now more civilised. But can we be so complacent in our attitudes?

Yes we no longer believe in witches, but we do believe in doctors, students, lawyers and teachers—and for every profession there are more subtle ordeals, all designed to build resilience.

Young doctors must endure huge hours in the early stages of their career; young accountants and lawyers must commit endless weekends to ensure that their jobs are completed; and students are regularly and constantly examined and tested.

Some ordeals are self-imposed: the marathon, for example is voluntary and for many it must be an "ordeal". For those who feel that the marathon is commonplace and not sufficiently challenging, there is the triathlon

And it is not just physical endurance that is tested: I remember my stamina being tested by listening in one sitting to Wagner's entire Ring Cycle. A feat of forbearance I would hesitate to commit to today.

And then there are those involuntary ordeals that are simply a fact of life: the misery of defeat; the sense of unfairness over being passed over; the "joy" of revision; the loss of something precious and irreplaceable.

So do ordeals build resilience? In many ways they do. An ordeal is a great but sometimes brutal teacher. The experience of an ordeal provides the individual an opportunity to understand oneself a little more. Whether it be a recreational ordeal or an unfortunate fate, the chance to "Know thyself" more remains the passage to greater wisdom.

Microsoft Careers Opportunities

We welcomed April Edwards on Monday who came in to talk to students about career opportunities at Microsoft. Our careers seminars will resume again on January 21st 2019 with a session about becoming a Specialist Paediatric Speech and Language Therapist. More details to follow on Firefly where students can sign up the workshops they wish to attend. A big thank you again to all the parents who have volunteered their time to come in and talk to students about their professions.



Microsoft

Upcoming Events

8 Dec	SWPSBC: British Indoor Rowing Championships at London Velodrome
9 Dec	SWPSBC: Christmas Pudding Races & BBQ
10–14 Dec	Wellbeing Week
10 Dec	Music: Carol Service at St Peter's Church, Chertsey
11 Dec	Music: Carol Service at St Peter's Church, Chertsey
13 Dec	Whole School: Christmas Dress-Up (50p for Charity)
	Christmas Lunch
	Sixth Form: Pantomime Performance
14 Dec	Charity Movie Afternoon (run by 8Q) in Jarvis Room
	Whole School: Final Assembly
	12.45: School Breaks up & Coaches Leave

Fee Bills

All fee bills have now been issued and if you do not receive yours by Wednesday 12th December, please email Fees@swps.org.uk

If you have any fee bill queries, please also send information to this email address.

Team SWamPieS Cheque Handover

SWamPieS have now handed over a cheque to Woking and Sam Beare Hospices for £1400, raised by this year's group of staff who undertook the Commando Series challenge at Hever Castle in November.



Each participant was faced with a 6 or 12km challenge mixing endurance and obstacle racing, including the dreaded Sheep Dip - much mud and water involved, and it certainly took its toll on our hardy colleagues! However, they survived the experience and raised £1400, which was presented to Nicole Sallis of Woking Hospice last week.

It was a particularly poignant cheque presentation, as it took place in a garden designed for the hospice by Chelsea Flower Show Gold Award Winner of 2017, Charlotte Harris, who is a former pupil at Sir William Perkins's School.

This is an annual fundraiser for staff of SWPS, masterminded by Estates and Facilities Manager, Andy Sivyer, and one which certainly put everyone through a gruelling test!

If anyone would like to donate to this marvellous charity, go to their website here: <https://www.wsbhospices.co.uk/>

Hans Woyda Maths Competition

On Wednesday, Bethan Williams (Y9), Bella Cook (Y10), Clara McKee (L6) and Amy Stonehouse (S6) represented SWPS in the final group stage match of this year's Hans Woyda competition.

Our opponents were Harrodian, an independent school in Barnes, West London. After a hard fought first three rounds, SWPS went in to the half-time match interval trailing 16-20. A fantastic team performance in the team round and excellent individual performances in the mental and race rounds helped SWPS to go on to win the match 31-26. SWPS have therefore won two matches out of three in an exceptionally challenging maths competition comprising of 64 of the most academic schools in the London area. This is a fantastic achievement for the team, who will finish in at least 2nd place in the group. More information our final group position will follow in the newsletter next week, once all group stage matches have been completed.

Year 10 End-of-Term Social

Year 10s were treated to Hot Chocolate and Biscuits as a well-earned treat for what has been a challenging term. They took much pleasure in being served by their tutors whilst they gossiped and chatted about their stresses and strains. It certainly helped to lift their moods and get them into the festive spirit.



Many thanks to Mrs Husselbury who had to step in for Mrs Syngé to say a big well done to the students for working so hard, and to enjoy a well-deserved break over the Christmas Holidays.

Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Human Dissection Lab

On Wednesday 28 November 2018, a selection of Sir William Perkins's School students, including members of the Medics, Dentists and Vets Society, as well as some of the A-Level PE students, were given the unique learning opportunity to visit the Human Dissection Lab at Guy's and St Thomas' hospital of King's College, London.



This enabled us to further our knowledge and insight of human biology, anatomy and physiology.

We were warmly welcomed by a number of post-graduate medical students and doctors who showed us a variety of anatomical phenomena. It was fascinating to be able to see the human body at such a level of intricacy and intimacy, with the doctors answering all of our thoughtful questions about the complexity of the human body. The experience was awe-inspiring; from being given the chance to hold a real, preserved human brain and heart, to viewing the labyrinthine biology of the neural system and blood vessels of our bodies.

We all learned a lot from this incredible experience, to take further into our studies of biology, medicine, veterinary science and anatomy in the not so distant future.



Antony & Cleopatra Theatre Visit

Recently, Senior Sixth students and accompanying English Department staff were entranced by a first-rate production of Shakespeare's epic tragedy 'Antony and Cleopatra' at the 'National Theatre'.

The protagonists played by Ralph Fiennes and Sophie Okonedo gave commendably fine performances bringing the roles to life, although the star of the production may have been the vibrantly-coloured milk snake in the final Act!



MUSIC

Christmas Concert 2018

Our Christmas Concert took place this week showcasing some fantastic performances. Most of our music groups performed on the night which was



opened in stunning fashion by the School Orchestra who gave a poignant tribute to the victims of the World War. Their Tunes from the Trenches were illustrated with a selection of very moving photographs as a sensational backdrop. We then got into the Christmas spirit as our groups and ensembles performed their festive and other chosen pieces beautifully. Recordings were taken which will be advertised in a future newsletter and featured on our school website once available.

Christmas Choral Floral House 2018

Today the Chamber Choir brought some Christmas cheer to our local residents at Floral House, a local retirement home in Chertsey. There was some toe tapping and a few of the residents



joined in with the singing to popular Christmas favourites like O Come all ye Faithfull and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.

As we were leaving one resident was heard to say "Can you stay longer?" – a good testament to our students performance and a lovely way to spend a Friday lunchtime.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Model United Nations— Paris Trip

This weekend, six of us travelled to Paris to participate in Model United Nations. Between us, we represented Cameroon and Paraguay on the Political, Human Rights, Environmental and Sustainable Development Commission committees. We all found this a very interesting experience as we got to debate important, real world issues at a high level and consider new



viewpoints in a way that we hadn't before. Each committee discussed two issues which was followed by a general assembly on the final day attended by all participants which allowed us to broaden our range of topics and ideas. Attending the conference were schools from 20 different countries around the world which meant there was a large diversity of ideas and viewpoints brought across by many different students.

Committees had up to around 100 people giving us the opportunity to talk to people from many countries and backgrounds which was great for discussing the relevant issues as well as the social aspect of the trip. Furthermore, representing a country which may not share our personal viewpoints on each topic proved a challenge, however it allowed us to broaden our perspectives and consider points of view which we may not have even thought of previously. Besides the conference, it was a great chance to experience the sights of Paris and so on the first evening we walked down to Notre Dame along the River Seine and made the most of the fact that we were in such a historic and beautiful city. Overall, it was a brilliant experience in which we got to engage in some excellent and intellectual debates as well as being introduced to many new ideas and issues.

Denise Martin & Sasha Glasson (L6)



Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Join us for our annual Christmas service with readings and popular carols sung by the School, Chamber and Year 7 Choirs followed by mulled wine and mince pies provided by FOSWPS.

St Peter's Church, Chertsey
Monday 10th December 2018, 7 pm
Tuesday 11th December 2018, 7 pm

[**CLICK HERE TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE**](#)



Cross-Country

Following the District Cross Country competition last week, Jess Wilkes (Y8) has been selected to represent the North West Surrey District at the Surrey Schools Cross Country Championships in Reigate on Saturday 19th January 2019. Jess Swetman (Y9) has also been selected as a reserve for the North West Surrey District team.

Netball

The Year 7 A and B teams went to Prior's Field on Wednesday to play their second fixture.

The As played first against a good Prior's Field team. We made a great start to the match however their shooting was too strong for us to keep up. We ended up with a 3-11 loss. Indianna was awarded player of the match! Well done As!

The Bs match was a much closer battle. A 5-5 draw was the outcome with some excellent shooting from Amelie in the last quarter as we went goal for goal for the last couple of minutes! Well done to Imogen who was awarded player of the match! Well done Bs!

The Year 8 C & D team went to their last fixture of the term on Thursday evening against Prior's Field.

The Cs went first and fantastic shooting from our shooters Madison, Tegan and Izzy put us in front for the whole game and we won 9-3. Ella was awarded player of the match for excellent defence.

The Ds match was close throughout with defence from both teams doing a great job to restrict any goals going in. eventually, within the last minute, Katrina scored two beautiful goals from the edge of the D to put us ahead! Final score was 2-1 to SWPS! Lucy in defence was awarded player of the match! Well done Year 8s!

Well done also to Tilly in Year 8 who was at the England V Uganda netball match at the weekend in London. She was selected at half time to go and do a shooting competition and WON! She got an England Roses signed netball!! A successful day as the England Roses won their match 65-53. Well done Tilly!



Hockey

Year 8 played an A and B fixture at Salesian on Tuesday, both very good matches and coming away with 2 wins. The A team won 4-2 and the B team 3-0.

Year 9 travelled to Prior's Field on Wednesday and despite a very long journey due to traffic put up an excellent performance, only losing 1-0. SWPS created more chances than their hosts and were unlucky not come away with at least a draw but a great effort by all those playing.

Figure Skating

Ava-Mae Martell (Y7) had a brilliant, eye-opening and inspiring experience at the Ice Dance Couples British Championships in Sheffield last week. Ava and her partner Adam performed their routines well and even scored a personal best!



Ava-Mae and Adam finished in a very respectable 5th place against some immensely talented competition and have now moved up to Junior level!



Swimming

Isla Wood (Y7) a member of Woking Swimming Club, took part in a swimming competition - December Dasher - held at Woking Leisure Centre at the weekend (Sunday 2nd December). She won silver medals in 100m fly and 100m freestyle and a bronze medal in 100IM.

More Swimming news...

Next term we have organised several swimming fixtures. Mrs Dunlop is requesting information to help put together teams for these events.

If you swim outside of school, please complete a form from the PE office which will inform us of your PB's over the last 12 months and return it to Mrs Dunlop no later than Wednesday 12th December 2018.

We are excited to get a SWPS swimming team involved in local friendly galas, the Surrey Schools Swimming Association and England Schools Swimming Association galas.



Family Quiz Night

Friday 11th January, 7.30pm - 10pm, SWPS Boat Club



£5 Per Player - Bring your own snacks and drinks

Ticket info to follow

DESIGNS OF THE MONTH

To mark the end of the second Year 9 rotation the department wanted to showcase some excellent examples from the Year 9 acrylic jewellery project inspired by design movements from the past. These four examples come from 9X congratulations Aisling, Bluebell, Isabel and Sabrina! More next week.

J Blackman



LIBRARY

Book of the Week

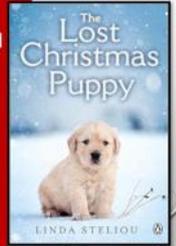
This week's BotW is 'The Lost Christmas Puppy' by Linda Steliou, selected by Mrs Vidgen.

Little Linda was three years old when she told Father Christmas a secret: *'What I want more than anything is to have a puppy of my own to love'*.

Book of the Week

But with every Christmas that went by, no puppy appeared. Linda grew into a busy working mum and wife, and her dreams of a puppy were pushed to the back of her mind. It wasn't until a special visitor one Christmas Eve, that she began to remember the wish she had made sixty years earlier...

This is an unforgettable true story about childhood, love, and how an animal can change anyone's life.



What's on in the Library

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

ARTWORKS OF THE MONTH

Here's one of our four Artworks of the Month, for December, selected by the Art & Design Dept staff.

It is by Tiggy Edwards (Y9).



Take a look at more of our students' artwork on our Art Dept website (Artworks of the Month are on the Spotlight page): www.artdesignswps.org.uk



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