



## SWPS NEWS



### MR C C MULLER—HEAD

At the GSA conference held this week in London the delegates, all Heads from single-sex girls schools, were privileged to hear a number of thought-provoking speakers, many of whom were keen to address the issues of mental health and well-being in schools.

Perhaps the most remarkable of all the speeches at the conference was the one given by Dany Cotton, the UK's first female Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade. In a wide-ranging and impressive oration (she spoke without notes fluently) she narrated to a packed hall her journey from enlisting at 18 in the Fire Service in the late 1980s, the sexism that she endured at that time being one of the very few female fighters, to her eventual rise to the very top job. Yes, she had experienced considerable sexism throughout her time in the service; yes, she was committed to stamping it out and to making the fire service a career that anyone, male or female, LGBTQ, ethnic or religious background, would see as a worthy and credible job for them. It was an inspiring and gripping story.

However, the most challenging and, I felt, most important part of what she had to say was her own struggle with mental health; her own feelings of "not being up to the job"; and her understandable and very human doubts about decisions that she has to make every day. Refreshingly she explained openly that after the horror of Grenfell she was seeing a counsellor and how she had hoped that the very act of coming out with that particular news about her life was empowering for so many others to speak freely and without judgment about their own issues. In a profession as potentially "tough" as the Fire Service, this undoubtedly took courage.

Cotton's message was two-fold and immensely uplifting: the fire service is a career for all and that it is ok to talk about one's mental health. The second message is a tremendously important one for all our young people, where too many feel that they must suffer in silence and have no one to turn to.

### Rowing—Great Britain Junior Early ID Trial

Saturday 17 November saw two SWPSBC senior squad athletes take on the rest of the country at the first set of Great Britain Junior Team Trials in Boston, Lincolnshire.

Emily Keen and Annabelle Taylor, fresh off the back of the senior sculling camp to Portugal, attacked the 5km race with all of the intent and commitment they have become known for. The trial itself is one of a series throughout the year culminating in selection for either The World Junior Rowing Championships in Tokyo, or Coupe de la Jeunesse in Italy. Sasha Glasson was also getting her first taste of the trials process as a cox, and was able to gain a really good picture of the athletes she may end up being in charge of and is looking forward to the next edition in February to see how they have progressed. The two athletes did themselves and the school proud, with Emily finishing 8th and Annabelle 13th in the highly competitive 99 strong field, showing good pace and potential to have a really strong season. The two will be waiting to hear if they have been invited to the week long GB Training camp in Spain this December.



J Keir

### Upcoming Events

26 Nov	<b>Careers:</b> Y10+ Careers Workshop
27 Nov	<b>Computer Science:</b> L6 Computer Science in Action in London
	<b>STEM:</b> IET Faraday Challenge
	<b>Perkonians:</b> Alumnae Morning
28 Nov	<b>Year 7:</b> Parents' Evening
29 Nov— 2 Dec	<b>MUN:</b> Conference Trip to Paris
30 Nov	<b>English:</b> Y12 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles' Study Day
	<b>STEM Dinner</b>
1 Dec	<b>SWPSBC:</b> Junior Pizza & Film Night
3 Dec	<b>Careers:</b> Y10+ Careers Workshop
4 Dec	<b>PSHCE:</b> Year 9 GCSE Options Talk from Sixth Form
5 Dec	<b>Christmas Concert</b>
6 Dec	<b>Year 9:</b> Parents' Evening
7 Dec	<b>English:</b> Y11 AQA GCSE Poetry at Apollo Theatre

### 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**

29 Nov	8Z
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### Forgiveness—Camilla Carr

The Sixth form lecture this week was by Camilla Carr. In April 1997, Camilla Carr and her boyfriend went to Chechnya to set up a rehabilitation centre for traumatised war-children. Three months later they were taken hostage by Chechnyan rebels. Their horrific ordeal lasted 14 months and during this time they were mentally tortured, physically abused and threatened with execution.

They survived by using Tai Chi, meditation, humour, and by creating a dialogue with their captors, looking beneath their masks of fear and anger to reach the small flame of love and laughter unquenched by the demonising nature of war. Camilla's fascinating story highlights the power of forgiveness in overcoming terrible ordeals.



### National Youth Choir—'Law Breaker to Law Makers'

Maya Daniel (Y8) performed at the 'Law Breakers to Law Makers' conference in Westminster on 21 November as part of the National Youth Choir, hosted by the Government Equalities Office (GEO). The event was a celebration of the centenary of the Qualification of Women Act, which enabled women to stand for election as MPs for the first time. 'Law Breakers to Law Makers' was introduced and chaired by BBC Woman's Hour presenter Jane Garvey and speakers included Victoria Atkins MP, Minister for Women, Stella Creasy MP, Baroness Jenkin, social media abuse campaigner, Seyi Akiwowo and up-skirting legislation activist, Gina Martin.



### Christmas Donations

As the school's charity reps we have organised food collection boxes in the pupil entrance and sixth form centre. They are aimed to provide people who cannot afford or aren't able to have a Christmas dinner. Some ideas of what you could bring are advent calendars, mince pies, gravy sachets, stuffing, mash potato sachets, tinned vegetables, cranberry sauce, Christmas crackers, Christmas pudding, custard, bread sauce mix, Paxo etc.

At the moment we don't have many donations in the boxes but hopefully with your help, we'll be able to donate an impressive and meaningful contribution to make somebody's Christmas more special.

Thank you.

Emily & Kitty (S6)



### RS Richmond Synagogue Trip

On Friday 16 November the whole of Year 8 visited Richmond Synagogue. Students enjoyed learning about the Shabbat, hearing about key festivals in the Jewish calendar and seeing the beautiful Torah. They particularly enjoyed partaking in the Shabbat meal by trying some challah bread and grape juice.



### Year 7 World Religions Project

Year 7 teams are currently working on their World Religions Project in RS. In teams they are investigating the key elements of a particular world religion including the religion's founder, their usual place of worship along with the key beliefs, festivals and rites of passage. Students will display their knowledge via a poster board and a short presentation to the class.

In addition, students are being encouraged to reflect on, and develop, their SWPS Learning Habits of courage, grit, imagination, sociability, curiosity, organisation and reflection as they work in teams to produce their finished projects.



These photographs show some of the students working diligently on their projects in the Library last week.

For extra credit, students are encouraged to read one of the novels selected by our librarian to support their understanding of how being a member of a particular religion can impact a person's thoughts and actions.

Students may also choose any other age-appropriate novel which features a world religion.



More details and copies of the form are available for students on Firefly <https://swps.fireflycloud.net/rs/year-7/world-religions-project>. Hard copies of the form are also available from the Library

The RS Department

### Printmaking Workshop

On Saturday 10 November we had our first ever Weekend Printmaking Workshop for SWPS students and parents. We wanted the participants to be able to spend a whole day creating artworks, and we thought it would be fun to involve both students and parents. The day went brilliantly. Guided by Ute Haring, our Printmaking Tutor, our students quickly learnt how to make lino cuts from their abstract designs and turn them into stunning, hand-made prints. Everyone worked really hard throughout the day and had a lot of fun in the process.

I Russell







## FRIENDS OF SWPS CHRISTMAS FAIR

It was that time of the year again, the Christmas Fair. The intrepid Sam Barry took on the exciting task of organising the new, improved Fair! What a fair it was! Her remit was to organise a truly family event that would be fun for all and sundry (except the poor committee!!), and raise money to enhance the learning experience for our young people.

With her group of conscripts, otherwise called volunteers, the planning began in earnest before the summer holidays! With her attention to detail, Sam pulled all and sundry along with her. With advice and support from Mrs Husselbury, Mrs Chapman, Mr Sivyer and the maintenance crew, Mr Burton and the Harrison's mob providing good quality nosh and drinks, Mrs Hallsworth and the front desk staff, it was a truly whole school affair, ably compered by Mr Peel. Shame we couldn't get him to wear the Santa outfit. The committee pulled off some festive miracles bringing you the various activities, but they baulked at wearing elf costumes!

On a glorious Saturday afternoon, the Atrium was used for the fair, and for the first time, we had an ice rink in the Sports Hall. This was immensely popular. Rudolph was there, having balls thrown through his nose under the guise of "feeding him". Mrs Hudspith and Mrs Scrutton were helping attendees not only to Splat the Turkey, (I thought turkeys were only for Christmas), but also playing with Olaf's nose! We had the excellent and ever competitive Y7 stalls, with 7M being the champions having raised £227 with their cake stall - many congratulations! Whilst Mr Muller and Mrs Chapman made teas and coffees, Finn Barry thoroughly entertained us with beautiful Buble covers, and the newly formed school Jazz Band gave us a jazzy twist to the Christmas repertoire.

The Grand Raffle draw saw 43 winners go home with either a luxury hamper, and a real Christmas tree or one of the top prizes. Suspiciously, not only did Mr Peel win one of the prizes, but Mr Muller went home with a Christmas tree! I wonder what Mrs Muller made of that!

With a record attendance of over 600, the Friends managed to raise a lot of money for the school once again. It would not have been possible without our volunteers, and support from the school, with Sam coordinating things so well, and of course our various sponsors and 40 stallholders. Thanks to all. Whisper it softly, but the dedicated Christmas Team have already started planning for next year, so if you want to be on a winning team, please contact us. We are also looking for more volunteers and committee members.

Merry Christmas All.  
Olu Adetola  
Chair - Friends of SWPS





## Crime & Justice: Courtroom Roleplay

In PSHCE over the last few weeks, Year 9 have been learning about crime and justice.

On Tuesday, 9M had their court room role play. The case involved a young driver who was accused of dangerous driving, after knocking a 15 year old off their bike.

The defence and prosecution lawyers had prepared some excellent questions for the defendant and witnesses. After the questioning had finished and the judge had summed up the evidence, the jury left the court room to consider their verdict.

The jury failed to reach a majority verdict and therefore found the defendant not guilty. What a fantastic learning experience!



## MUSIC

Tickets for both the Christmas Concert and the Carol Service are selling quickly.

Seats are limited and issued on a first-come-first-served process—to avoid disappointment, please click on the relevant link to reserve your place



## Christmas Concert

5 December 2018

Main Hall 7pm

The evening will be a celebration of our students' talents and hard work featuring festive pieces plus a special centennial armistice performance by the School Orchestra.

Entry is free but tickets are required.  
To join us, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Refreshments will be served by FOSWPS.



## 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 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 7 pm

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 7 pm

[CLICK HERE TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE](#)

## Year 10 Classics Trip to Oxford

Last week the Classics department took forty Year 10 students to Trinity College, in Oxford University. They had a lecture from an Oxford Classics fellow,



Dr Peter Haarer. They also received some very early (but meaningful) advice about university applications, then had a college tour with a chance to meet current students, including some of our own alumnae. One student commented, "It was so exciting to hear an actual lecturer, and meet current students. Oxford looks like a really fun place to be!"

**I Peel**



## Oxbridge & MDV Practice Interviews

This Monday after school, Mr Peel organised practice interviews for all of our Oxbridge applicants, our medics, doctors and vets, and any other students who expect to be interviewed for their place. The Dining Hall was temporarily transformed into a Christmassy interview factory, and almost 70



interviews took place, including pupils from Surbiton and the Howard of Effingham. Many thanks to all the staff, Perkonians and parents who helped us out. Good luck to all the students!





## Hockey—U14 COUNTY TOURNAMENT

Monday saw the U14s head to Reigate for their County hockey tournament on a cold and wet day! They played 3 games - lost 4-0 to Tormead, lost 3-0 to Gordon's, but went on to beat St Teresa's 4-0 in the last game.

Unfortunately this was not enough to see them through to the finals but a strong win at the end of the day left us in good spirits! Well done Year 9s.

## Netball—U12 C&D vs PRIOR'S FIELD

The U12 C&D teams went to Prior's Field on Wednesday evening.



The Ds had an exceptionally hard game against a very tall team! In two very close games, the C team lost 6-5 and the D team lost 3-0. Alexa was awarded player of the match for the Cs and Poppy for the Ds.

Well done Year 7s, a much closer game against Prior's Field than last time!

## U13 C&D NETBALL vs PRIOR'S FIELD

Two more Prior's Field matches for the Year 8s on Thursday evening.

The C team played a fantastic game and thanks to excellent shooting and top defence, they won 15-2! Lucy was awarded player of the match for brilliant defence work.



The D team held Prior's Field to a close game for the first 3 quarters, only being 3 goals behind, however they pulled away in the last quarter to take the win 9-3. Aisha played a brave game after falling over in the first quarter but played excellently to get player of the match!

Well done Year 8s.



## Year 7 Team Building

This half term, Year 7 students have been working on their problem solving and communication in a number of team building challenges.

They have improved their listening skills and discovered ways to work better as a team.

## Badminton

Alexandra Oprisan has been hard at work again, this time coming second in the International U19 Wimbledon Badminton Tournament and qualifying for the Quarter Finals of the U19 French International Tournament!

Well done Alexandra!



## Rowing

Our J14 (Y9) rowers had their first taste of racing last weekend at a private fixture on our home stretch of water.



The SWPS boathouse hosted over 20 girls from Wimbledon High School and their parents as the athletes spent an afternoon putting the term's hard work into practice in a slightly more formal environment. It was a healthy balance of Perkins vs WHS races, and several runs where the two schools rowed together in mixed-up boats.

It was great to see so many enthusiastic young rowers enjoying their rowing, and they will soon be ready for external competition. Many thanks to the parents and supporters who provided a welcoming spread of refreshments for our visitors!

C Boddy

## Rowing—Teddington Head

Katie Knott, Anna Cowell and Lucia Frigé were all competing at Teddington Head on Saturday.

Katie took part in the WJ14 4x + where her boat rowed to 4th place in a time of 25:23.9 for the 5.2km course, a great time given the headwind that persisted all day.

Later in the day Anna and Lucia took part in the WJ 14 2x putting in a great time of 24:34.00 to take 1st place by over 30 seconds from the next boat.

A great day for the girls and their club.



BUILDING CONFIDENCE, INTEGRITY & EXCELLENCE



## Ready to Row



New Year – new challenges?  
Looking forward to rowing?  
Want to start getting prepared?

Join our new Ready to Row Programme for Years 7 and 8, commencing in January 2019.

Wednesday and Thursday mornings in the Sports Hall

7.00 – 7.45 Strength and conditioning session with an experienced trainer.

8.00 – 8.20 Breakfast based on British Rowing Association/ nutritionist advice.



Strength and conditioning; functional movement training – age-appropriate exercise.

Breakfast included, with healthy options aligned with British Rowing nutritional standards.

### Your trainer:

Patrick is an experienced, independent, British Rowing coach, who has trained Henley crews and coached both water and gym sessions. He has planned and delivered training programmes, and been Head Coach of junior rowing squads as well as assisting Directors of Rowing with senior squads.

Requires booking in advance and commitment for a whole term.

Book via SOCS by 7 December

<https://www.socscms.com/login/25509/parent/Wed/Thur Before School>Ready to Row>



## DESIGNS OF THE MONTH

This week's DT Designs of the week are Thea and Lydia's (Y10) creative clock designs. Both have been inspired by design movements from the past to produce original and eye catching designs from acrylic cut using the laser cutter. More clock designs coming next week.

J Blackman

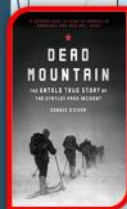


## LIBRARY

### Book of the Week

This week's BotW is 'Dead Mountain' by Donnie Eichar, selected by Mrs Vidgen.

Non-Fiction  
November  
Book of  
the Week



In February 1959, a group of nine experienced hikers in the Russian Ural Mountains died mysteriously on an elevation known as Dead Mountain. Eerie aspects of the incident, unsettling and unexplained causes of death, a strange final photograph taken by one of the hikers and signs of radioactivity, have led to decades of speculation over what really happened.

This gripping work of literary nonfiction delves into the mystery through unprecedented access to the hikers' own journals and photographs, government case files, dozens of interviews and the author's retracing of the hikers' fateful journey in the Russian winter.

A fascinating portrait of the young hikers and a skilful interweaving of their story and the author's investigations, here for the first time is the real story of what happened that night on Dead Mountain.

### Visiting Author— Chris Russell

We had much fun listening to Chris singing and talking about his career – from dreaming of a band to touring around the world with his group to publishing three books. Later he met

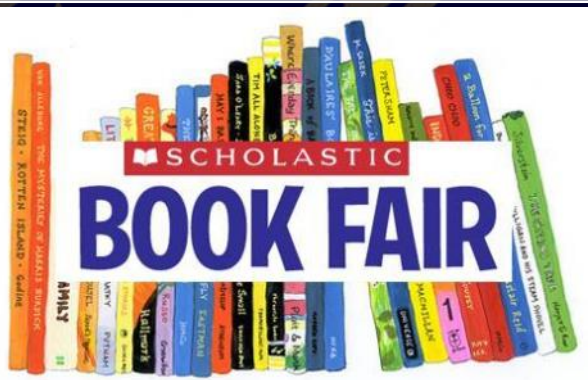


with his fans in the Library to answer more questions and sign some books.



### Scholastic Book Fair

Christmas is the best time to give books as presents! So if you are stuck for ideas to fill the stockings look at SWPS Book Fair page and chose a book or two... or three...



The address is: <https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/schools/sir-william-perkins-girls>

The Fair will be open online until Wednesday, 5th of December and all books will be delivered to school, P&P free, before the end of term.

**SIR WILLIAM PERKINS'S SCHOOL**

# LOVE LEGO?

**Could you be the SWPS Lego master?**

**Your challenge is to design and make a Lego snow globe.**

**Bring your entries to DT by Wednesday 12th December 1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes awarded in the end of term assembly.**

**Marks for creativity and originality (brought kits will not be accepted).**

**More details on Firefly**










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



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