



SWPS NEWS



MR C C MULLER—HEAD

In the Academic Ambition Seminar this week, SWPS and Salesian students discussed the politics of John Milton. Milton, one of the country's greatest and most profound poets, was a political radical whose writings continue to resonate today.

Born on 9 December 1608, he was educated at St Paul's School and later at Cambridge. A brilliant linguist, he learnt not only Latin and Greek but also Italian, Hebrew, Aramaic and Syriac. A prodigious traveller as well as reader, Milton was one of the most educated men of the 17th century. On his travels through Italy, it is said that Milton even met Galileo, at the time under house arrest. There is a poignant reference to Galileo as "the Tuscan artist" in *Paradise Lost*.

The political period that Milton lived in was, by any measure, tumultuous. Employed as Cromwell's Latin Secretary he was able to see first-hand the nature and brutality of politics.

Our seminar focused on Milton's reaction to the 1643 Licensing Order. This law declared that "no book or pamphlet or any other part of any written text could therefore, of from that moment, be printed, bounded, stitched or put to sale, by anybody" unless it was "first approved" by parliament.

The act would not only imprison someone for writing a book; it would also imprison someone for printing it. Milton was furious and used the power of words to make his stand.

He argued that the freedom of the press was one of the central liberties that should be granted to individuals. In his famous tract, the *Aereopagitica*, he wrote the powerful and famous words:

"it is as good almost to kill a man as to kill a good book. Who kills a man, kills a reasonable creature in God's image, but he who destroys a good book kills reason itself. Kills the image of God, as it were, in the eye. Many a man lives a burden to the earth, but a good book is the precious life blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life"

Milton had a sense of the book as embodying God through the image of man. He advocated the right of any reader to exercise his liberty in reading; education for Milton was, of course, essential because therein lay the ability to read and write; the ability to use and say words effectively; the ability to employ reason.

Naturally, we must put Milton in historical context – for all of his claims to liberty, Milton was nonetheless operating from an anti-Catholic position in his writing on censorship. Indeed at one point he held the view that freedom of the press should be denied to Catholics!

Yet his wider intellectual assertion about the right of the individual to read what they want remains powerful and topical. It certainly provided fodder for much discussion on Monday.

On Monday 3 December, we shall be examining *The Sin of Pride* in Dante's *Purgatory*.

Upcoming Events

1 Dec	SWPSBC: Junior Pizza & Film Night
3 Dec	Careers: Y10+ Careers Workshop
4 Dec	PSHCE: Year 9 GCSE Options Talk from Sixth Form
5 Dec	Christmas Concert
6 Dec	Year 9: Parents' Evening
7 Dec	English: Y11 AQA GCSE Poetry at Apollo Theatre
9 Dec	SWPSBC: Christmas Pudding Races & BBQ
10–14 Dec	Wellbeing Week

Christmas Wellbeing Week 10–14 Dec: 'Gratitude'

Look out for the programme of events for this term's Wellbeing Week coming soon!



**Christmas
Present Appeal**



Salvation Army

Please bring in Christmas food or toy donations to the pupil entrance by Friday 7 December. Thank you!



**NEW CHRISTMAS MENU
AT THE ATRIUM**

Spice up your latte or hot chocolate with the new flavours,
Gingerbread Winterspice
or **Mint Syrup**



Opening times

7.45-8.20am: ALL years are welcome

Morning Break: Years 11-13

Sixth Form 7.45am - 2.30pm anytime



Careers

On Monday we were very pleased to welcome Nina Wright, the CEO of New Scientist Magazine. She gave an inspiring talk to students regarding her career path, as well as giving the students tips and guidance for applying for jobs in Journalism, and the different roles available at the magazine.

On Monday 3 December after school we are holding our final Careers seminar which will be run by Microsoft discussing their career opportunities. Students can sign up to attend on the link on Firefly.



Year 8 IET Faraday Challenge Day

A team of six Year 8s were selected to attend one of the regional Faraday Challenge days held this year at Notre Dame School. They were shown details of the building and deployment of the multi-national James Webb telescope due to be launched into space in 2020. Their brief was to design an item that could be useful to the operation of the telescope and then make a working model; it had to contain some electronics. Whilst most teams made some type of transport vehicle needed to take the telescope to the launch site, our inventive team came up with an innovative design for a twin wiper system to keep the telescope's gold-coated mirrors clean. They worked really well as a team and their model was one of the few that really worked to show their design ideas; they were clear winners and were presented with a lovely glass trophy and Amazon vouchers. Very well done!



UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge



Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge 2018

Huge congratulations to everyone who participated in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge between 5–16 November with Mrs Cox. 49 students across the year groups participated, completing a series of online challenges which introduced computational thinking to promote and encourage students into Computer Science. SWPS had a fantastic turn out, with 14 students placed in the top 10% of the country for their age group and have been invited to participate in the 2019 TCS Oxford Computing Challenge in March. Huge congratulations to Jenna, (Y10), Sierra, Amy, Beth, Katherine, Grace, Imaan, Bethan, Lorna (Y9) Emily, Ria, Lucy E, Lucy B (Y8) and Abby (Y7).

On top of the amazing success of these students Clara (L6) has been invited to attend the second stage of the competition at Oxford University as her results placed her as one of the best in the country. The day will include academic lectures in the Department of Computer Science, a chance to explore the Hereford college, the challenge and then finally the awards ceremony. This is an amazing achievement and we wish Clara the best of luck in February.



SWPS in World War I

In assembly last week students learned about what life was like at SWPS during the Great War. The school archives had



revealed some great treasures including a photograph of the first students to start at SWPS in Sept 1914 and the original register which detailed things such as their father's occupation (a coach driver, a gardener from Longcross house, post master and blacksmith amongst others) and their destination following school. It was interesting to see the very limited range of jobs they went on to – mainly clerical or shop work, with one student going to work in a munitions factory. We also found the original pen and ink plans for the building of the current school, dated 1916. It was fascinating to see that the current library was once the assembly hall and dining room and that there was one Science lab which has since become two of the English classrooms. This explains the mysterious blocked up door way in the Year 7 corridor! The original old building had a beautiful solid wood block floor (hiding underneath the carpet today) and granite steps leading outside, where the pupil entrance is currently located. One of the most touching finds was the school magazines, 'The Rambler' dating back to 1915. It includes details of war work undertaken by the students (knitting socks for the troops) and war poetry. The tone of this poetry changes as the war progresses, from jolly patriotic sentiments, to a rather darker and more reflective atmosphere in 1918. These artefacts enabled us to have a glimpse into the lives and personalities of students living one hundred years ago.

We really are so lucky to be part of such a special school with such a history.

Woking Music Festival

Pianist Lola Adepoju (Y9) participated in the Woking Music Festival last week. She won the Bach - Under 17yrs category with her performance of the Gigue by J S Bach and was awarded the Ena Margaret Churchill cup.



National Youth Choir of Great Britain

We have just received the exciting news that Charlize Butcher (Y8) has been offered a place in the National Youth Girls' Choir of Great Britain having attended an audition last month at the Royal Albert Hall. For her audition Charlize had to prepare one accompanied and one unaccompanied song. She also had to undertake a vocal assessment and some musicianship tests.

Charlize is really excited to have been offered a place. She has enjoyed singing from an early age; she attended weekly singing classes at Colourstrings Music School (CMS) in Roehampton when she was just five years old and she sang in her primary school Chamber Choir. Charlize now enjoys being part of our SWPS Chamber Choir which she joined in Year 7.

For further details about the National Youth Choirs please click here: <https://www.nycgb.org.uk>

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



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



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.

Netball U13 A & B Netball Tournament— Saturday 24 November

A fantastic morning for the U13 A and B team on Saturday. Despite the terrible weather to start the morning, both teams powered through to play some excellent netball. The As had some tough games, however made it through to the finals to play against Prior's Field. Prior's Field were too strong for us in the final and we lost 6—3. A fantastic job and second place finish for the A team, congrats to Lucy who was player of the tournament!



In the Bs tournament, we were dominant from the start and got better as the day went on. We won two games by over 15 goals, thanks to fantastic shooting by Steph and Ciara.

Outstanding play by all players led us to WIN the tournament overall! Arissa was voted player of the tournament for the Bs! Well done Year 8s!!

Thursday 29 November

Thursday evening saw the return of Prior's Field after the tournament on Saturday. We were on home ground so were hoping to have the home advantage. The Bs had another exciting win 14—7 and Ki was awarded player of the match. Unfortunately, Prior's Field were too strong for the As again and we lost 5—12 – Tilly was awarded player of the match. We look forward to our next fixture with Prior's Field A team and will be training hard to beat them next time!! Well done Year 8s!!

District Cross Country On Tuesday 27 November students from Years 8—10 took part in the District Cross Country Championships.

A good day was had by all with some top 10 places and personal best performances achieved by several students.



The team consisted of Jessica Wilkes, Carys Poole, Jess Swetman, Anna Cowell, Eve Pauffley, Eloise Williams, Monica Chawla and Lucy Porter.

Year 7 Team Building Skills

Year 7 have continued to work on their team building and problem solving skills in PE. This week they managed to transport a hockey ball with the use of guttering from one end of the sports hall to the other in under 30 seconds!



Hockey—U15 County Tournament

The Year 10s Hockey squad represented the school at the County Tournament on Tuesday, losing two games and winning two, finishing with a well-deserved 4—0 win over St Teresa's.

Having started slowly and losing to Tormead the squad kept improving through the day and showed their capabilities in patches throughout, these patches getting longer as games progressed. This meant 3rd place, slightly higher than expected and just missing out on going through to the next round.



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

The DT Department's Designs of the Week this week are from Carmen Bailey and Sharanya Roy, who have designed and made striking clocks inspired by the Memphis and Bauhaus design movements. They first designed their clocks on paper inspired by research, before creating their designs on CAD software 2D design and then cutting from acrylic using the laser cutter.

J Blackman



LIBRARY

Book of the Week

This week's BotW is 'Home Fire' by Kamila Shamsie, selected by Mrs Vidgen.

WINNER OF THE WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION 2018

Isma is free. After years spent raising her twin siblings in the wake of their mother's death, she is finally studying in America, resuming a dream long deferred. But she can't stop worrying about her beautiful, headstrong sister back in London – or their brother who's disappeared in pursuit of his own dream: to prove himself to the dark legacy of the jihadist father he never knew.

Then Eamonn enters the sisters' lives. Handsome and privileged, he inhabits a London worlds away from theirs. As the son of a powerful British Muslim politician, Eamonn has his own birthright to live up to – or defy. Is he to be a chance at love? The means of Parvaiz's salvation? Two families' fates are inextricably, devastatingly entwined in this searing novel that asks: what sacrifices will we make in the name of love?

A contemporary reimagining of Sophocles' *Antigone*, *Home Fire* is an urgent, fiercely compelling story of loyalties torn apart when love and politics collide.

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!



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!

Artworks of the Month

Here are our four Artworks of the Month for November, selected by the Art & Design Dept staff.

They're by Chrissie Jacob (L6), Jess Stamford (L6), Katherine Moore (L6), and Sophia Scholey (Y11).

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



Lucy Smallbone Artist Workshop

Last week on Friday 23 November, the Lower Sixth art students had the pleasure of attending a one-off, all-day workshop, led by landscape artist Lucy Smallbone.

Lucy Smallbone is a contemporary painter who depicts beautiful landscapes 'with something not quite right about them'. She is particularly concerned with an application of marks and paint onto board, and her use of layers and colour create a sense of unease with nature 'taking over'. Smallbone completed a masters at the Slade School of Fine Art where she won several awards for her work, including the Duveen Travel Prize in 2015. The travel prize enabled Smallbone to visit Chernobyl, Ukraine, which became a huge influence on her work. Despite the lasting contamination of the area, scientists have been surprised by the dramatic revival of its wildlife.

Her artwork recently featured in The Week, where they raved about her work and recent appearance in the Sky Arts show, describing her practice as 'too good for the small screen'.

The morning commenced with a presentation of Lucy's artwork, where she spoke about her practise and influences. Everybody was especially interested to find out more about Lucy's exciting and unique opportunity to visit Chernobyl, and to view the work that her trip inspired. After a break, the students continued the workshop with a series of quick, experimental drawings with a variety of different media, in which the students were challenged with adopting a much freer drawing style, followed by more experimental techniques using oil paints.

The workshop was a great success, which inspired both the students and staff who attended.

