



# SWPS NEWS



### MR C C MULLER—HEAD

The start of January always feels that it is dominated by one overarching activity: examinations. GCSE trial examinations, A level Trial Examinations and our own Entrance Examinations. Both the oldest and the youngest have been writing answers, testing their skills and pushing their brains to the best of their ability.

Of course, exams are a standard feature of all our lives and the idea of testing our young people, through competitive examination, is part of our DNA.

In Britain the concept of a written examination first appeared in 1792, when a Cambridge Chemistry professor decided that, in place of the verbal examination in Latin, it would be much more efficient to get students to write down what they had learnt and what they knew. Once the exam was completed someone would mark them. Instead of one examiner testing one candidate, the written exam enabled one examiner to test hundreds. The written examination was born out of the Industrial Revolution.

In terms of the first country to hold a written examination, that honour belongs to China: the Chinese Civil Service Exam was held almost 2000 years ago. Candidates for that examination would be required to be in isolation for 72 hours. They had to live in a cell for three days. Names on the top of the examinations were not allowed; instead they wrote a code number and, to prevent the marker from identifying the candidate, the entire script was re-written by a third party before being marked.



So now the Trial Examinations are over and the papers returned and discussed, what tips are there to ensure that one can improve? There will be specific areas for individual development but there is one key lesson for all: providing oneself enough time to study; leaving things for the last minute is never a good idea.



### Entrance Examination, Saturday 12 January

We held our annual entrance exam last weekend, which you will all remember well! Our student ambassadors did us proud, welcoming our visitors, looking after them during the morning and in particular during their break, and gave an excellent example of the SWPS kindness for which we are known. We had several messages from families afterwards with wonderful feedback, so congratulations to all of the SWPS community involved.

### Careers Seminar

On Monday 21 January at 3.45pm in Room 251 we are running our next Careers Seminar from a Paediatric Speech and Language Therapist.

Students in Year 10 and above have been invited to sign up if they wish to attend via Firefly.

## Upcoming Events

19 Jan	<b>SWPS Boat Club:</b> Weybridge Winter Head
20 Jan	<b>School Production:</b> 'Mary Poppins' Prep Day
21 Jan	<b>RS:</b> Y10 to Bhaktivedanta Manor
21 Jan	<b>Ghana Residential:</b> Parent Info Evening
23 Jan	<b>Chemistry:</b> S6 Chemistry Olympiad
23 Jan	<b>Debating:</b> Y9 & 10 ESU Churchill Public Speaking Competition
23 Jan	<b>Sixth Form:</b> Parents' Study Skills Workshop
23 Jan	<b>Sixth Form:</b> L6 HE Info Evening
24 Jan	<b>Year 9:</b> FSB & Men C Vaccination
	<b>German:</b> A Level Conference
	<b>Chemistry:</b> Top of the Bench at RGS
25 Jan	<b>Maths:</b> Hans Woyda Competition
	<b>Classics:</b> 6F to Warwick University
27 Jan	<b>Year 7:</b> Self-Defence Workshop

## Concerts

Join us in a treat of musical performances by our Music Scholar and Year 7s at 12.55 PM in the Jarvis Room. (CLICK TO RESERVE SEATS)

24 Jan	<a href="#">Scholars' Concert</a>
31 Jan	<a href="#">7M Concert</a>
7 Feb	<a href="#">7L Concert</a>
14 Feb	<a href="#">7P Concert</a>
7 Mar	<a href="#">7Q Concert</a>

## SPORTS

### Netball Year 7 & 8 Tournament

Monday took the Year 7A and 8A netball teams to Tormead for a tournament. The Year 7s had a fantastic day, only losing 1 out of 5 matches and coming second overall in the tournament. Well done to Kate who was awarded Most Valuable Player.



The Year 8s had a tough draw and had really close matches but unfortunately lost 3 of their games which put them in 5th place. Georgie was awarded Most Valuable Player for her fantastic shooting.

A challenging day for both age groups with excellent preparation for the upcoming County Tournaments.

### Year 8 vs St Teresa's

The Year 8 A, B and C team went to St Teresa's on the freezing Thursday evening.

The A team had a close game and drew 12-12 against a team they had played and lost to at Monday's tournament, so a fab improvement by the As. Tilly was awarded Player of the Match.

The B team also had a close game and managed to come away with a 9-8 win. Eimear and Sophie were both recognised for their great defence and centre court play.

The Cs smashed their match winning 17-6! A huge score with excellent shooting and whole team play! Tegan was awarded Player of the Match! Well done all netballers!

An extra mention to Chloe, Katrina and Aisha from the D team who went out to train with Miss England and did some fantastic adapted games and practices to continue improving their skills.

### Swimming

On Monday, 25 students went to Notre Dame for our first swimming fixture of this year. We had a fantastic evening with some amazing swimming. The Year 7 team won and the other age groups had some close finishes. The swimmers are looking forward to the Surrey Individual Championships on Saturday and the next whole squad gala in 2 weeks.

## LIBRARY

### Book of the Week

This week's BotW is 'In Our Time' by Melvyn Bragg, selected by Mrs Vidgen.

We are taken on an amazing tour through the history of ideas, from philosophy, physics and history to religion, literature and biology. We can discover the reasons for the fall of the Byzantine empire, and why women were persecuted as witches in the seventeenth century. What shape is the origin of life? Where does our calendar come from? We can unearth the influence of prime numbers, Socrates and Tectonic plates.

"In Our Time" brings to life the signposts of history, the moments that significantly changed the world as we know it, and the individuals and ideas that made us what we are today.

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!

## DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

### Designs of the Week

This week we would like to showcase some excellent work finished by Year 7. They have been busy making a small wooden box from pine joined together using dowel joints. Year 7 have had the choice of making a lift off, swivel or sliding lid (with a 3d printed handle). Each of the lids have been engraved with their own CAD designs using the laser cutter, once the boxes have been assembled and sanded they have been finished with wax. This week's examples are made by:

- Amina Ahmad
- Heather Young
- Olivia Baker
- Sana Khan



### Club Dinner and Awards Night 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019 SWPS Atrium

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)  
 Tickets on sale now!  
 Limited availability - book early to avoid disappointment  
**Adults £60**  
**Kids £50**

**Guest Speaker**  
**Annamarie Phelps CBE**

- Celebrate SWPS Rowing
- Three course dinner
- Entertainment
- Individual and Crew awards

- Chair of British Rowing 2013-2018
- 1996 Olympian (Womens 8+)
- 1993 World Champion (Womens 14-)
- Vice Chair British Olympic Association

### Polymer Moulding

Today the lower sixth took a hands on approach to learning about polymers. They experimented using silicone moulds to pour and embed items into clear casting resin and then reused shredded milk bottles and scrap polypropylene from the department to make their own recycled sheet material using the newly purchased heat press showing in a low tech way how plastics are recycled into new products in a practical way.



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

