



SWPS NEWS



MR C C MULLER—HEAD

My assembly this week had the potential to cause controversy. It also provided easy ammunition for the students to think that I am really “out of touch”. On Wednesday morning I talked about Reality TV, with a particular focus on the latest craze: Love Island.

Full disclosure first - I am genuinely baffled by its popularity and wider-spread interest. Perhaps, then, I am not the best person to take a view on this, but here goes: what has struck me recently is the way Reality TV programmes focus almost exclusively on how we look.

People on these shows are nearly always presented in swimsuits, with the clear message being that this is the “perfect” image. How a person looks, how they are valued and what impression they make is based on their body - and what seems to be important is how they appear rather than what they say, think or believe.

It is no surprise that human beings judge on appearances: they always have. Indeed some evolutionary biologists have argued that physical beauty is linked in subtle ways to bodily health: organ function, child bearing, and a host of other factors, all of which help a person better survive and adapt.

However, Reality TV Shows take this a step further, by promoting the objectification of people as entertainment in itself. Openly judging a person according to their body, placing a value on them solely because of their appearance and deciding on this basis if they are worthy of further attention would seem to be a necessary feature of these shows.

Yet, we are more than just our bodies and we are, of course, more than just how we look. Inside bodies are actual people, with feelings, thoughts and values. Kindness and trust, love and judgement, integrity and compassion – all go beyond our body and this is who we are.

In reducing people to how they look and in treating them as an object to be assessed, we commit Kant’s grave error: treating people as a means to an end, rather than an end in themselves. In addition we perpetuate a message that how we look is more important than how we feel, who we are, or what we can do for each other.

Such objectification of people changes how we relate to ourselves and each other, and not in a good way. Reality TV turns the objectification of people into entertainment to be enjoyed and in doing so reinforces the concept that how we look is the most important thing above all else.

It is not.

It is what it always has been – kindness, love, trust and care.

So I have a new idea for the producers of Reality TV shows: “Kindness Island” with the winner being who displays the most kindness to those in the group?



Upcoming Events

20—23 Jun	SWPSBC: Henley Women’s Regatta (Y11-S6)
20 Jun	Y11: Post-exam Celebration
23 Jun	SWPSBC: Thames Valley Park Regatta (Y9-10)
24 Jun	House Event: SWPS’s Got Talent!
25 Jun	Y11: Sixth Form Induction Cambridge Trip
	L6: Make a Difference Day
26 Jun	L6: MDV & UCAS Workshops
	Y10: Mentor Training
27 Jun	Sport: District Athletics Championships at Hoe Valley School
	OPEN EVENING (students/coaches depart 12.45pm, students return at 6.00 pm, finish at 8.40 pm)
28 Jun	School Council: Meeting for Y7-10 & L6
	S6: Leaving Ball, Foxhills
29 Jun	English: L6 Great Gatsby Theatre Trip
	SWPSBC: Reading Town Regatta (Y9-10)
30 Jun	SWPSBC: GB v France (Y11)



Sports Day at SWPS
Tuesday the 2nd of July from 1-4pm

Join us for the annual fun, family BBQ during Sports day where the Friends of SWPS will be offering:

- Burgers, Hot Dogs,
- Pimms, Beer, Soft Drinks,
- Cream Teas, Coffee and Tea

Second hand uniform will be available to purchase uniform or PE kit to be ready for next year.

Taster Days 2019

We have been happy to welcome 160 Year 5 children to our annual Taster Days this week. Many of the current SWPS students who have helped us still fondly remember theirs! Whether it was DT, languages, Art, Music, Science (including the ever-popular maggot-racing), everyone has had a great time and got the feel of the wonderfully warm SWPS community. Thanks to all the staff and students who have helped.



Year 9 Biology Field Trip to Nower Wood

Year 9 visited Nower Wood nature reserve this week and carried out a range of ecological investigations relevant to their IGCSE biology course.



The students represented the school well and thoroughly enjoyed being able to apply the skills they have been learning in the classroom in a practical setting.

Thank you to the Biology department and everybody involved with organising the trip.



Y10 Aqua Park Trip

On Tuesday afternoon Year 10 had the pleasure of travelling the short distance to Thorpe lakes to go on their inflatable aqua park. There was great excitement amongst the Year 10s, in spite of the rain!



Great bursts of energy enabled us to navigate our way through and over the inflatables. As we swam and leaped across them, it was a relief for all of us to have finally finished our exams (that is until our trial exams after the Christmas holidays) and whilst we hoped to be enjoying the aqua park in the sunshine, the weather wasn't on our side. However this made it all the more amusing and, seeing as we were in the lake, the rain didn't matter. The only impact it made was that it managed to persuade some of us to buy hot chocolates and coffees after our session on the aqua park had finished.



I expect we made quite an impact on the people nearby as our laughing and jovial shouting would have been heard from miles around!

Grace Docherty (Y10)

SWPS ART & DESIGN EXHIBITION



The private view of the GCSE and A-Level exhibition was an incredible success. Many family and friends attended, all of whom were very impressed with the standard of work.

It has been a pleasure to work with the students this year and everyone in the Art Department is very proud of their achievements.



FOSWPS Jazz Café - Friday 14 June

There was a wonderful feast of jazz in the Dining Hall on Friday evening organised by FOSWPS who had arranged for The Stuart Skeffington Quartet (Stuart Skeffington – keyboard, Mike Austin – saxophone, Graham Mann – drums, Phil Scragg – bass) to entertain us. Stuart is very keen to promote jazz to young people and he kindly invited our students to perform guest solos with the quartet in 9 of the 21 numbers.

Year 13 students Hannah Burrows and Yasmin Baker Marshall, chilled out from finishing their A Levels (Hannah had sat her final A level Music paper only that morning), performed 'Autumn Leaves' and 'It's only a paper moon' (Hannah), and 'Baby I'm a fool' and 'Maybe this time' (Yasmin). Isobel Eriksen (Year 12) sang 'A foggy day' and Harlie Curtis (Year 9) sang 'Dream a little dream of me'. Lauren Christian (Year 12) performed 'Lullaby of Birdland' on her saxophone, Caitlin Pittol-Neville (Year 12) performed 'I'm getting sentimental' on her trombone, and Imaan Siddiqui (Year 9) performed 'It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing' on her saxophone.

The band were amazing and so were our students! They only had one rehearsal with Stuart on the piano before the half term break but adjusted immediately to the inclusion of the other instruments on the night. They clearly enjoyed performing with the band and we had a great time listening to them!

In between the two sets we ate fish and chips in the Atrium and drank Pimms. It was a really super evening, a truly lovely way to unwind at the end of the week.

Thank you to Friends of SWPS for the considerable organisation behind the scenes to make the evening such a success, and thank you to the band and to our own musicians for all the fabulous performances!

T Scrutton
Director of Music



Singing Festival – Wednesday 19 June

On Wednesday evening the Music Department held the inaugural competitive Singing Festival in the Jarvis Room. This was open to all our classical singing, and classic music



theatre students and there were two classes: the Margaret Hull Junior Cup for students in Years 7-9 and the Senior Classical Singing Silver Salver for students in Years 10-13.



Eighteen students took part, nine in each class; they were accompanied on the piano by Julie Aherne. Olivia McGibbon, our singing teacher, organised the Festival, and Dickon Graves Gough was the independent adjudicator. Dickon is a

renowned performer in the West End; his credits include playing Lurch in 'The Addams Family' (the Musical), Porter in 'The Midnight Gang', and the Sergeant of Police in 'The Pirates of Penzance'. We really didn't envy his task during the evening as the standard remained extraordinarily high from the onset.

All the students performed with poise, confidence and conviction, and were completely word perfect whilst singing from memory. Dickon was clearly very impressed by their mature interpretation of their chosen songs; the ability to convey the story within a song was a major factor for him when deciding the two winners.

The Margaret Hull Junior Cup was awarded to Emma Currier who had performed 'Killer Instinct'. Amelia Baker was first runner up.



Margaret was our singing teacher and director of the Chamber Choir for many years before she retired last March; she was really delighted to be returning to SWPS to present the Junior Cup.



The Senior Silver Salver was awarded to Eileen Zoratti for her performance of 'O Sole Mio'. Dickon described her singing, and that of the first runner up, Megan Graham, as 'stunning'.

Congratulations to all the students who took part – we are so proud of you all! Thank you for your wonderful performances, and for being the first students in what we hope will become a regular annual event. You have set the benchmark high for next year!

MUSIC (Continued...)

Concert @ 1 on Thursday 13 June

Our final lunch time concert for this year took place in the Jarvis Room last Thursday. Twelve musicians took part and it was a really lovely way to unwind after the exams!

The concert began with our Year 9 Guitar Trio: Naina Bhatia, Shruti Ravivarman and Milly Wee assisted by Caitlin Pittol-Neville (Y12) playing Tanz by Haußmann; it is always a pleasure to listen to this group! Ella MacGregor (Y8) then stepped forward, transforming into Eliza Doolittle as she did so, to sing 'Wouldn't it be lovely' with a most convincing Cockney accent! Alice Woodburn (Y7) confidently played 'Long, Long Ago' on her violin followed by pianist Grace Lawlor (Y9) who gave a sensitive interpretation of a lovely piece by Parry called 'Elizabeth'.

Next up onto the Jarvis Room stage was violinist Zaina Nassman (Y12) who played 'Rondeau' by Purcell; this was Zaina's debut in a SWPS lunchtime concert and it was great to have her on board. Amy Towner (Y8) then sang a beautiful old English melody called 'Over the Mountains' – there were some challenging moments in this song to surmount, but Amy very ably rose to the occasion. Violinist Ellie Warman (Y8) played Vivaldi's 'Allegro', giving a performance that certainly lived up to the title of her piece. Elgar's 'Chanson de matin', arranged for piano, was very sensitively phrased by Amelie Houghton (Y7).

She was followed by a fellow Year 7 student Féirín Hay who gave a warm performance of 'Ständchen' by Schubert on her cello. The concert ended with Riya Vyas (Year 8) perfectly singing 'One Perfect Moment'. Congratulations and 'Thank You' to all the performers for a perfect lunch time of music!

FRIENDS OF SWPS



Gift Aid

We are asking all parents who gift aid or would like to gift aid the annual membership donation for Friends of SWPS, (paid in the Autumn Term bill) to complete a new Gift Aid Declaration this year, including current Year 7s, to reflect the new GDPR requirements that came into force last year.

If you have not already returned your new form in recent months, please complete the new Gift Aid Declaration:

AVAILABLE BY CLICKING HERE

and return it by:

- Emailing it to Friends.of.SWPS@gmail.com
- Posting it in the Friends of SWPS post box in school (via your daughter)
- Sending it to: Friends of SWPS, c/o Sir William Perkins's School, Guildford Road, Chertsey, KT16 9BN

Many thanks for your continued support. Gift Aiding your donations will enable us to claim back an extra 25% on top of your annual donations to help support various projects within the school.

Jane Hawken
Treasurer, Friends of Sir William Perkins's School

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



This week the lower sixth DT students have made outstanding progress in getting the table for the SWPS front reception completed. As you can see the table is in one piece and just needs the addition of a shelf and a bit of tightening up and it will be ready to be on show at open evening in the DT department before the piece is presented to Mr Muller in the reception area.



Y10 Design Museum Trip

On Thursday 20 June Year 10 GCSE Design Technology students visited the Design Museum for a handling session of sustainable and smart products and visiting the Designer - Maker - User permanent exhibition where the students saw iconic designs from the last 100 years including the Thonet chair, 2012 Olympic torch and the evolution of Apple, Braun and Sony products. The handling session with Design Museum designer in residence was particularly useful as students embark on their NEA which is themed around sustainable product design.



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

Book of the Week

This week's BotW, selected by Mrs Vidgen, is:

'The Creativity Code' by Marcus Du Sautoy.

Book of the Week



Will a computer ever compose a symphony, write a prize-winning novel, or paint a masterpiece? And if so, would we be able to tell the difference?

As humans, we have an extraordinary ability to create works of art that elevate, expand and transform what it means to be alive.

Yet in many other areas, new developments in AI are shaking up the status quo, as we find out how many of the tasks humans engage in can be done equally well, if not better, by machines.

But can machines be creative? Will they soon be able to learn from the art that moves us, and understand what distinguishes it from the mundane?

In "The Creativity Code", Marcus du Sautoy examines the nature of creativity, as well as providing an essential guide into how algorithms work, and the mathematical rules underpinning them. He asks how much of our emotional response to art is a product of our brains reacting to pattern and structure, and exactly what it is to be creative in mathematics, art, language and music.

Marcus finds out how long it might be before machines come up with something creative, and whether they might jolt us into being more imaginative in turn. The result is a fascinating and very different exploration into both AI and the essence of what it means to be human.



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 our second Artwork of the Month, for June, selected by the Art & Design Dept staff.

It is by Bethany (Year 8).

Take a look at more of our students' artwork on our Art Dept website: <http://www.artdesignswps.org.uk/>



SWPS BOAT CLUB



Reading Amateur Regatta & Marlow Town Regatta

We may be in the last half-term of the school year, but the rowing season is well and truly still in full-swing!

Last weekend the club was split across two venues, with the Senior athletes competing at Reading Amateur Regatta and the J15 squad at Marlow Town Regatta.



For the seniors, this was the last tune-up event ahead of tomorrow's prestigious Henley Women's Regatta, and there was some tough racing across the board. Our double and quads raced in a mixture of J18 and senior events with a strong fight put up against some top university crews. The J18 coxed four (Eve Linney, Denise Martin, Celia Crosbie, Louise Wax, Sasha Glasson) continued their impressive run of success by winning the Tonbridge Cup for Girls' Fours with a commanding row against Godolphin & Latymer School.

Over at Marlow, there was a hat-trick of wins for our enthusiastic J15 group. The day started with victory in J15 eights (Katya Nearcou, Mary O'Donnell, Megan Postlethwaite, Holly Pemberton, Jess Roles, Lizzie Way, Maddie Jones, Bethany Illsley, Alex Glasspool), followed up by another win in the J15 double (Holly Pemberton, Alexia Fletton), and completed by a J15 single sculling success for Mary O'Donnell.

Another busy and successful weekend for the Boat Club. This weekend sees our rowers in action at Women's Henley and Thames Valley Park Regatta.