



SWPS NEWS

MR C C MULLER—HEAD

This Wednesday morning it was my last assembly with the Senior Sixth. In fact it was their last assembly for good at the school. With A level examinations beginning next week, their time at SWPS sadly is coming to an end.

As is customary it was a good opportunity to provide the students with some thoughts about what they might do: a list for life as it were. I began with the polymath Leonardo – as I am sure many of you are aware we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of his death. Born in 1452, Leonardo da Vinci died on 2 May 1519. An individual exalted for his art, intelligence and creativity, Leonardo is widely regarded as a universal intellect. The

ultimate brain; the ultimate genius. But what made him so extra-ordinary, and can we, as mere mortals, ever hope to learn or even imitate him?

In his wonderful recent biography of Leonardo, Walter Isaacson believes that we can. Having studied him in detail for many years Isaacson argues that we, regardless of our limitations, can all learn from the master's attitude to life and learning. Out of the many lessons there presented in the book, for the assembly I chose five:

1. **Forever be curious** - Einstein once said "*I have no special talents, I am just passionately curious.*" Leonardo was curious about everything – he wanted to know what causes people to yawn, how they walk on ice in Flanders, how light is processed in the eye; he instructed himself about the placenta of a calf; the jaw of a crocodile, the tongue of a woodpecker, the muscles of a face and the edges of shadows. Being curious about everything around us is something that each of us can push ourselves to do.
2. **Retain a childlike sense of wonder** – at a certain point in life, most of us cease puzzling over every day experiences – when did you last ask why is the sky blue? Einstein wrote – "You and I never cease to stand like curious children before the great mystery into which we were born"- don't ever outgrow that sense of childhood wonder. It is a gift and Leonardo never lost it.
3. **Respect facts** – Leonardo was a forerunner of the age of observational experiments and critical thinking. When he came up with an idea, he devised an experiment to test it. And when his experience showed that a theory was flawed, he abandoned his theory and looked for a new one. Like Leonardo – don't be afraid to change your mind when you get new information.
4. **Let your reach exceed your grasp** – imagine and think big. Leonardo would sit and wonder how you would build a human powered flying machine or divert a river. Think big and have a go!
5. **Take notes and at times put them on paper** – 500 years later we can still read Leonardo's notes to astonish and inspire us. Fifty years from now, your notes, thoughts and ideas can astonish and inspire your grandchildren – put them on paper, I think they will last longer than tweets and Facebook posts.

So my final advice to our wonderful departing Senior Sixth – be like Leonardo and live extraordinary lives.

Upcoming Events

10–12 May	Geography: L6
11 May	Y4 Workshop: Fun Fiesta
12 May	Y7: Level 2 Self-defence
16 May	L6: Parents' Evening
17 May	S6 Leavers' Picnic
18 May	SWPSBC: Thames Ditton
19 May	SWamPieS: Staff Dragon Boat Race, Goldsworth Park
21 May	Geography: L6 Geographical Assoc. Course
22 May	Perkonians: London Networking Event
25–30 May	German: Y9 Bocholt Exchange
26 May	SWPSBC: National Schools Regatta



Year 11 Past Paper Day

Year 11 students were hard at work on Thursday at our annual Past Paper Day in the Main Hall. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to hone their exam technique in the run-up to the start of the GCSE exams by practising as many past papers as possible. There was a great turn out for it despite the fact that their exam leave had already started and the students found it to be a very useful day indeed.



NEW TO AFTERNOON TUCK!

After School club? Rushing to dance class? Rowers? Do you meet your child from the School bus and find them 'Hangry'?

Now on offer in the dining hall at 3.30pm tuck is a packed tea £1.50 to keep energy levels going!



DofE Silver Practice Expedition

On Saturday morning, 30 rather tired Silver DofE students met at school at 6am ready for their practice expedition to Exmoor in Somerset. Once all kit was packed onto the vans the students were driven in minibuses to their respective start points, where they would walk in company with their volunteer leaders cross country and into the Westernmill Farm camp site.

The weather forecasts proved accurate and the night time temperatures took a drop well below zero degrees, providing a challenge to keeping warm to leads and students alike! The benefit to the cold and clear weather was lots of warm sunshine during the day. The second day was a training day across the open moorland countryside, giving students the opportunity to practice navigation in quite featureless terrain.

Following another below zero night, the final day dawned bright and clear. The teams walked on their own from camp to the finish point, high on a hill overlooking Exmoor and the sea above Porlock. All the teams completed the walk well and were desperate for a McDonald's stop on the long drive back to SWPS.

As ever, these DofE weekends could not happen without the volunteer leaders' giving up their Bank holiday weekend, so thanks goes to them.



Capita SIMS South East User Group Meeting

We were thrilled to welcome over 40 schools' representatives to this event on Wednesday; this is a regular gathering of those who use this Management Information System within their school, updating themselves on news, and exchanging views and experiences. Six representatives from the Capita team attended to fill us in on forthcoming improvements in the system, and to take away users' ideas for future developments. Thanks to the site team and Harrisons, for their hard work facilitating the event at such a busy time of year.

Cisco Girls Power Tech Workshop

On Thursday 2 May, a group of 25 students from Y8 and Y9 went to a Cisco building in Feltham to take place in a workshop. It was a very inspiring and exciting day filled with many different tasks and a Q&A with Cisco workers.

The first thing we did when we arrived was get separated into teams with members from three other schools. The first task was to create a program to get a buggy to move, we then downloaded the code to the buggy and tested it out. We all enjoyed this so much that it inspired Mrs Timson to invest in some for SWPS! We then had an opportunity to discover more about Cisco and what they do there and we had a very interesting Q&A session as we discovered options for degrees and jobs at Cisco.

After lunch, we took part in the final challenge which was set in the style of dragon's den. We were given half an hour to come up with an app to present to a panel of judges. Many fun and clever ideas were created, including a wellbeing app, a pro and cons app, and a revision app.

The winner was an app that provided a charity funded 24 hr healthcare for elderly people. This brought an end to our day, but we couldn't leave without collecting some freebies to take home!

Amy 9M



Hockey

Mr O'Connell and Mrs Young took 16 senior hockey players to watch GB Women V China on Friday 3rd May on a very wet evening, which unfortunately ended in a loss for the GB Women. The students had a fun evening and enjoyed the experience!



A Level and GCSE PE Moderation

The A Level and GCSE PE Moderations have taken place in the last ten days. The students selected to be moderated in one of their practical activities have performed excellently, both moderators have commented on the effort and competitive attitude shown. They should be very proud of their achievements. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the students who have supported their peers during their assessments. Fran, Immy and Mel in Year 11 attended the Year 13 moderation to support the netball assessment, and students from Years 10, 11, 12, 13 all attended the Year 11 moderation. Such a collective effort allows our PE students to showcase the talents in the best possible light.

We wish the GCSE and A Level students the very best of luck in their upcoming exams.



Athletics

Following on from our successes at the Year 10/11 District Athletics Championships last week, the results have come through, and we have achieved further podium places on those mentioned in the newsletter previously. Congratulations to Lizzie Way who came 2nd in 200m, Emma Queen 2nd in 100m and the team of Lizzie Way, Emma Queen, Eloise Williams and Thea Morton who came 2nd in the relay, a fantastic achievement given that the whole event involved them competing against students in both their year and the year above.

This week saw the coming together of the best athletes in the district for the District Athletics Trials. 13 SWPS students from Years 8-10 vied for a place in the Surrey Schools Athletics Team. Jess Wilkes, Ella MacGregor, Izzy Barton, Phoebe Norman-Kench, Mia Gould, Sierra Warnes, Jess Swetman, Sya Dhomani, Ellie Monk, Jenny Gray, Matilda O'Dea, Emma Queen and Eleanor Raven showed both their athletic aptitude and resilience taking part and performing in some damp weather, which at one point saw the event paused when the heavens opened. The students all did themselves and the school proud with admirable performances and we now await the results of who has made it into the team!





Munich International Regatta
Emily Keen took another step on the international pathway representing Great Britain

this week at the Munich International Regatta in Germany. Having been selected back in March, the anticipation within the club had been building to see Emily put on a GB vest for the third time in two seasons. On day one paired with an athlete from Warrington Rowing Club to race the Junior Womens Double, in what was an extremely high quality field, Emily performed well to place 4th in the B final against many other international crews from the likes of Slovenia, Switzerland, Japan and Germany. Later that evening Emily moved into the quad for a one off race against some seriously tough opposition including Austria, Japan and Czech Republic, performing excellently to finish 2nd.

Day two of the regatta saw Emily again paired with the athlete from Warrington Rowing Club, again in the Junior Womens Double for another one off race. The pair becoming increasingly more familiar which each other's rowing styles as the regatta went on put in a commendable performance to finish 2nd.

Next up is "Final Crew Formation" where Emily will be hoping to gain selection into the GB Rowing Team to compete at the 2018 Junior World Championships in Racice, Czech Republic.



SWPSBC J14 Squad Fixture vs St Edward's, Oxford

On Saturday 4th May the 33 strong J14 squad were in action as they played host to 20 St Edward's School, Oxford rowers. With National Schools on the horizon, this proved an invaluable experience for all involved. Being able to recreate the intensity of a regatta in our own back yard really gave all of the crews the added boost they need going into the upcoming racing season.

The afternoon consisted of several short, high intensity races; first off in all SWPSBC line ups, but then swiftly into mixed boats with the St Edward's girls, so our crews could really begin to understand how to make their boats work when the crew composition changes. A really fun afternoon and a huge amount of learning to take into the boats for National Schools and the next race at Thames Ditton Regatta on May 18th.

Wallingford REGATTA

Wallingford Regatta

Last weekend's Wallingford Regatta was another chance for our crews to prepare for the National Schools Regatta at the end of this month, on the same patch of water at Dorney Lake. As we near that event, the spread and depth of competition increases each week, and there was impressive racing from our J15-18 crews throughout the day.

After a tight heat, where they out-sprinted the crew from Lady Eleanor Holles School, our J15 8 of Katya Nearcou, Mary O'Donnell, Megan Postlethwaite, Eve Thomas, Jess Roles, Lizzie Way, Amber David, Bethany Illsley and Alex Glasspool put together a promising 5th place row in the final in an event which will be certainly be one to watch at the end of the month. The J18 quad of Annabelle Taylor, Lerin Adetola, Denise Martin and Ella Ayoade had very close races in both heat and final, each time coming out the right side of their particular tussle, to finish 4th in their event. The final SWPS crew to make the top six was the J18 four of Eve Linney, Emmie Kirkhope, Celia Crosbie, Louise Wax and Sasha Glasson. After winning their heat in style they battled well through the final to secure 3rd place behind two very strong crews from Kingston and Henley.

In addition to these finalists, we also had the top non-qualifier in three events: Women's Elite Pair (Kate Stenning, Sikemi Adetola), J18 double (Annabelle Taylor, Ella Ayoade) and J16 8 (Katya Nearcou, Tess O'Donnell, Sophie Darke, Beatrix Cook, Charlotte Chinn, Sadie Koram, Maddy McGuire, Khushy Toor, Felicity Cunliffe) who all performed well to beat crews from other top schools and clubs across the heats.



Smoothie of the Week

This week we had a very popular Fresh Iced Berry Smoothie in the Café, next week we will be serving Fresh Banana & Mango Smoothie!

We have also introduced a Raspberry Iced Tea to the menu, a refreshing cold beverage for a hot day, light and fruity, perfect for the Summer and all year round!

Did you Know?

Although often considered a vegetable, did you know that the Aubergine or Eggplant is technically a fruit, as it grows from a flowering plant and contains seeds!

ARTWORKS OF THE MONTH

Here is the second Artwork of the Month, for May, selected by the Art & Design Dept staff.

It is by Lisa (Y9)

Take a look at more of our students' artwork on the Art Dept website: artdesignswps.org.uk



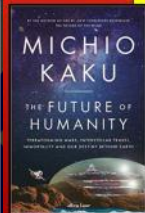
LIBRARY

Book of the Week

This week's BotW is 'The Future of Humanity' by Michio Kaku, selected by Mrs Vidgen.

Book of the Week

Human civilization is on the verge of spreading beyond Earth. More than a possibility, it is becoming a necessity: whether our hand is forced by climate change and resource depletion or whether future catastrophes compel us to abandon Earth, one day we will make our homes among the stars.



World-renowned physicist and futurist Michio Kaku explores how humanity might gradually develop a sustainable civilization in outer space. He shows us how science fiction is becoming reality: mind-boggling developments in robotics, nanotechnology, and biotechnology could enable us to build habitable cities on Mars; nearby stars might be reached by microscopic spaceships sailing through space on laser beams; and technology might one day allow us to transcend our physical bodies entirely.

With irrepressible enthusiasm and wonder, Dr. Kaku takes readers on a fascinating journey to a future in which humanity could finally fulfil its long-awaited destiny among the stars - and perhaps even achieve immortality.

We have a published author among us!

Serenna Copsey in Year 7 took part in a project intended to raise awareness on the loss of habitat of our wildlife. The stories in the project have been written and illustrated by young people from Artspiration and proceeds will help to raise funds towards wildlife conservation.



Serenna's book, called "The Magic Snowglobe", is available from the Library, but if you would like to support Serenna's cause, [click this link to take you to the website where you can buy her book.](#)

Well done Serenna!



What's on in the Library

Follow [@SWPSLibrary](#) to keep up-to-date with what's happening in the Library!

Singing Festival

On Wednesday 19 June the Music Department is holding a competitive festival in the Jarvis Room, between 6pm and 8pm.

This is open to all our classical singing, and classic music theatre students. There are two classes: the Junior Cup for students in Years 7—9 who are at least Grade 3 standard, and the Senior Plate for students in Years 10—13 who are at least Grade 5.

Mrs McGibbon, our singing teacher, is organising the festival but there will be an independent adjudicator who is currently playing a lead part in the West End who will give feedback on all the performances.

This event is only suitable for students who have already had some experience in singing solos in public.

Due to time constraints, places are limited to 12 students in each class.

If your child is interested in participating, or you require further details, please contact Mrs McGibbon directly: oliviasafe@hotmail.com.

Friends of
SIR WILLIAM PERKINS'S
SCHOOL

TICKETS ON SALE SOON

Jazz Cafe

THE STUART SKEFFINGTON QUARTET

will be entertaining us with their love of jazz music through the evening and will invite senior SWPS music students to join them for guest spots on stage.

**Friday 14th of June
7:30-10pm** (Doors open at 7pm)

Invite your family and friends and come along to listen to some Cool Cats!

Tickets are £25 including supper along with fantastic live jazz music.
Look out for booking forms next week!

TEAM SWAMPIES ARE BACK!

On Sunday 19 May 2019 a brave (and misguided) group of SWPS staff known as team SWamPieS are taking on their 6th year of charity challenges and return to - Dragon Boat Racing (sorry - no mud this year!).

The SwamPieS team are Dragon Boat racing at Goldsworth Park, Woking and need your support. This is a fun day and friends and family are welcome to cheer on the participants so please come along to support team SWamPieS!

Once again, SWamPieS are fundraising for Woking & Sam Beare Hospices and are gratefully receiving donations on their justgiving page.

[**CLICK HERE TO DONATE**](#)



Perkonian London Networking Event



Alumnae, Staff, Parents and S6 Students are invited to attend our London Networking Event to be held at The Union Club, Soho on Wednesday 22nd May, 6.30 pm – 9.00 pm.

We are very excited to welcome our speaker Helen Fospero, who is currently filming Watchdog and The One show.

Canapes and wine will be served during the evening. Cost is £25 per head.

[BOOK YOUR PLACE BY CLICKING HERE!](#)



**SAVE
THE
DATE**



Concorde 50 Gala Dinner:

We are proud to be celebrating Concorde's 50th birthday with a Gala Dinner in aid of the school's Bursary Fund.

Date: Saturday 21 September 2019
Venue: Brooklands Museum:
the birthplace of Concorde.

- ◆ Drinks in the Aircraft Factory – a walk through history.
- ◆ Hosted on-board visit to Concorde Delta Golf.
- ◆ Three-course meal including wine.
- ◆ Silent Auction.

Guest speakers:

Capt. Mike Bannister, ex-Chief Concorde pilot
&

Mr Geoff Want, Chair of SWPS Governors and former Brooklands apprentice.

Details to follow – watch this space!

So your teenager is turning in the SWPS Uniform in favour of Sixth Form attire?

**If you no longer require the SWPS
uniform then send it back into
school to sell with us.**

**Friends of SWPS will be holding a uniform sale in the
summer term and we want your child's uniform.**

Go to www.swps.org.uk/Friends for instructions, terms and conditions, labels and forms
that you will need to fill out if you would like to sell your second-hand uniform
through Friends of Sir William Perkins's School.

Drop your second-hand uniform and PE kit off at the storage boxes
in the pupil entrance anytime or contact Kirsten Patient
at the phone number or email address below if you have any queries.

07807623498
kirsten.patient@live.co.uk

Wishing all Year 11s the best of luck on their GCSEs!

