



## SWPS NEWS



### MR C C MULLER—HEAD

Welcome back and I very much hope that you all had a wonderful and relaxing summer. It is always so exciting to see our students back from their holidays ready, I am sure, to work hard, aim high and get involved.

The start of the school year is and should be optimistic. That is why I choose as my theme for the first assembly of the year optimism, especially optimism for the future.

It struck me that our students, despite what they hear, see and read on the news, are living in the most amazing time in human history. I pointed out that in 1836, Nathan Rothschild, at the time the world's richest man, an individual who could afford whatever he pleased, had died of blood poisoning, a condition which can be treated routinely today. The technological, scientific and medical advances which we now enjoy are simply incomprehensible to previous generations.

Yet it does not stop there – if someone had said to me, as an undergraduate in 1990, that over the next twenty five years of my life world hunger would decline by 40%, child mortality would halve, and extreme poverty would fall by three-quarters, I, like all my contemporaries, would have told them they were a fantasist.

But the fantasist was right. This is truly what has happened. Despite all the pessimism something remarkable has happened over the past 25 years.

How?

Through the power of human ingenuity and reasoning but most of all through education. It is education and its expansion that has enabled the development of science and technology across the world. Education enables us to solve difficult problems – social, scientific, and economic.

In the words of Bertrand Russell "*The world of pure reason knows no compromise, no practical limitations, no barrier to the creative activity*" and pure reason is shaped by education. So welcome to the power of education!

### Willy Wonka Bar, Friday 13 September

Our wonderful catering team, Harrison Catering, celebrated Roald Dahl's birthday today in our dining hall, with a special Willy Wonka bar. Thanks so



much to Mr Matt Burton and his team for providing such a colourful and tasty display! It was really meant for the students, but some staff were seen joining in with the fun. A great end to the first full week for our new students!

### Upcoming Events

16 Sept	<b>Geography:</b> L6 Fieldwork Trip to London
17 Sept	<b>Year 11</b> into Sixth Form Information Evening
18 Sept	<b>DT:</b> 6F Injection Moulding Trip
	<b>Art:</b> National Portrait Gallery (Y10)
	<b>DoE:</b> New Bronzes Meeting (Y9)
21 Sept	<b>Concorde 50 Gala Dinner</b>
23 Sept	<b>Drama/Theatre Studies:</b> Frantic Assembly Workshop (Y10-13)
25 Sept	<b>German:</b> Bocholt Exchange Students arrive
	<b>DoE:</b> Prospective Silvers Meeting (Y10)
	<b>Drama/Theatre Studies:</b> Frantic Assembly Workshop (Y10-13)
26 Sept	<b>Ghana Trip:</b> Parent Info Evening
	<b>Hangzhou/Shanghai Trip:</b> Parent Info Evening
	<b>Classics:</b> Greece residential Parent Info Evening
27 Sept	HPV Vaccinations (Y8)

### Y8 Lunchtime Concerts

These concerts begin at 12.55pm. All students participate in their teaching 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. Please note 8Y's concert will take place on Wednesday due to Junior Drama rehearsals.

8Y	<b>Wednesday 16 October</b>
8W	<b>Thursday 14 November</b>
8Z	<b>Thursday 21 November</b>
8X	<b>Thursday 28 November</b>



#### Four generations at SWPS

All schools have last week welcomed new pupils, but not many will have welcomed a 'fourth generation'.



Last week we welcomed Una, accompanied by her grandmother, Ann Tilbury, who first started at the school in 1951, at the age of thirteen. Prior to that, Una's great-grandmother first came to the school in 1921.



Many changes to the school will have occurred since Ann's day, and she brought her old school photographs with her when delivering Una to the school on Wednesday morning. She reflected on the change in buildings and uniform, but the ethos is still the same. Ann is now the Community Editor at the Woking News & Mail.



#### Excellent PGCE Mentoring

Congratulations to our Head of English, Dr Mercer, for being graded 'excellent' in her recent mentoring of a PGCE student. Buckingham University sent a certificate to recognise her achievement and mentioned that the mentor is, by some way, the most important person in the support of trainees. Only a very small proportion of mentors receive this recognition.

#### Exams Officers' Networking Meeting

We were delighted to welcome Nick Lait, Head of Examination Services (JCQ) and local exams officers to our networking meeting today. These meetings are vital to ensure that our school is compliant with JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements. It is also an opportunity to share good practice.



#### LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM

I've been in sixth form for just over a week now and even though I've been a student in SWPS for 5 years the difference between Year 11 and Sixth Form is remarkable. True, the homework we've been given right from the start is about the equivalent of mid Year 11, but it is more than manageable with our free periods and even enjoyable to sit down with friends and a cup of tea and work through problems together.

This week we've been getting used to life in the sixth form and have been introduced to our A Levels. I myself am finding A Levels much more enjoyable than GCSEs as I am only doing subjects that I am passionate about which takes the monotony out of the work we're given.

This week has been a delightful blend of friends, knowledge and tea and I look forward to progressing with my A Level courses.

Liberty Donovan  
L6LT

Friends of  
SIR WILLIAM PERKINS'S  
SCHOOL

#### Quiz Night & AGM

7pm Saturday 5th October 2019

Look out for details and booking forms next week

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#### Friends of SWPS || Classlist

Our Parent Association, the Friends of SWPS, use Classlist to keep in touch and promote their events, so sign up now, select your child's year group and form and get involved!

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN CLASSLIST](#)



#### ARTWORKS OF THE MONTH

Here's our first **Artwork of the Month**, for September, selected by the Art & Design Dept. staff.

It is by Sophia (Year 7).

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





## MUSIC



### 'Les Misérables' Workshop: Tuesday 27th – Friday 30th August

'Do you hear the students sing?' We certainly did during the summer break when students from Years 7 - 12 took part in a four day workshop to learn solos and choruses from 'Les Misérables' with West End performers, Olivia Safe and Duncan McGibbon, their colleague Vivien Parry, and pianist Julie Aherne.

Over the four days the group worked extremely hard to prepare a 20 minute performance for their family and friends on Friday afternoon. They were given an insight into what it takes to be a West End performer, especially in 'Les Mis' as Vivien Parry has just completed 13 months in the role of Madame Thénardier at the Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue.

The concert, which consisted of solo and chorus numbers from scenes from the show, took place in the Jarvis Room.

Every student had a chance to shine, singing solos, sharing the roles of some of the main characters, or reading passages from Victor Hugo's book to co-ordinate the scenes, and everyone took part in the chorus numbers which were stunningly choreographed.

Considering they only had, in effect, three and a half days to work on their performance together, the students were impressively professional and disciplined in their attitude and their standard of singing and acting was extraordinarily high!

There was quite a buzz from the audience afterwards who clearly enjoyed the experience!

## DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

This week there has been creativity and excellent work in all areas of the Technology department, delicious aromas of macaroni cheese and spaghetti bolognese with half of Year 8 whilst the other half of the year expertly assembled their bookend uprights in the workshop.

Half of Year 9 have also been the first students to use the new textiles room, learning sewing techniques as well as other aesthetic finishes like applique and batik.



Follow the SWPS Design Technology department [@SWPSDesign](#) to keep up with all of their creations and activities!

### ABRSM Music Exam Results

Congratulations to the following students who gained fantastic results in their ABRSM Music exams last term.

Name	Form	Instrument	Grade	Result
Zara Siddiqui	7L	Piano	1	Merit
Saanvi Srivastava	7L	Piano	1	Pass
Alice Woodburn	7L	Violin	1	Merit
Heather Young	7L	Alto Sax	3	Merit
Laura Horgan	7P	Alto Sax	4	Distinction
Amelie Houghton	7P	Piano	4	Merit
Kalina Xu	7Q	Piano	1	Merit
Annabel Fisher	8L	Flute	1	Distinction
Taban Mazloom	8L	Clarinet	4	Pass
Amy Towner	8L	Piano	6	Merit
Bethan Martin	8M	Oboe	2	Merit
Carys Poole	8M	Flute	6	Merit
Sophie Koram	8P	Piano	4	Pass
Ella MacGregor	8Q	Theory	5	Merit
Lola Adepoju	9L	Violin	5	Distinction
Ava Grant	9L	Trumpet	3	Pass
Meg Jin	9P	Alto Sax	4	Distinction
Phoebe Ayling	9Q	Flute	4	Pass
Miranda Bennett	9Q	Desc Recorder	5	Merit
Lydia Gammon	10CC	Piano	4	Pass
Hibah Zahoor	10RE	Singing	5	Merit
Maya Freeman	10SS	Flute	8	Merit
Anika Rabi	10SS	Flute	7	Merit
Ria Mistry	L6GL	Theory	5	Distinction
Gillian Ahm	L6IH	Violin	6	Merit
Theano Atalianis	L6NM	Flute	7	Pass

### Oxford University Choral Scholarship

Last September we reported that Eileen Zoratti (Class of 2019) was awarded a Choral Scholarship at Brasenose, her first choice of college at Oxford University. This was subject to her achieving the required A level grades to gain a place at the college as choral scholarships are not linked to the academic admissions process. We are delighted to report that Eileen achieved these grades, indeed she surpassed them, and will be taking up the scholarship this term. Eileen had to do two auditions while staying at Brasenose College over three days last September. As part of the process she chose to sing 'Se tu m'ami' by Pergolesi and she was given a challenging sight reading test and aural tests. Choral scholarships are highly competitive and there were over 200 applicants for Brasenose so this is a wonderful achievement!

### Concorde 50 Gala Dinner Silent Auction

Next Saturday sees our black-tie Gala Dinner, to raise funds for the Bursary Fund.

We will be sending out a link to our Silent Auction at the beginning of next week, so even if you are unable to join us on the night, you can help with this good cause.

Remember that Christmas is approaching, and some great lots are available!



## DofE AWARD

Over the summer term and into the holidays SWPS had several expeditions in the UK and Slovenia. At the end of June both the Bronze and Silver cohorts attended their training and qualifying expeditions in Surrey and Derbyshire respectively. During the summer holidays the Silver rowers attended their qualifying expedition and experienced probably the wettest day of the summer but two days of great sunshine soon dried them out! Both Silver expeditions were successful and some extremely diligent students gained their Silver Award by the end of term.



The Gold cohort saw a team travel to the Lake District and two teams in Slovenia. The UK team had very warm and dry weather, not usually expected in the wettest corner of England but the team gave a very good account of themselves, passing the expedition and gaining praise from the independent assessor as an outstanding team!

The two Slovenia teams took part in the inaugural joint international expedition with Kingston Grammar School. Following a team building day at SWPS the teams met early at Gatwick, at a time the students didn't think existed! By lunchtime we were at our hostel in the beautiful Bohinj Valley, deep in the Julian Alps. The next day the hard work started with all teams heading off in different directions to reach their respective mountain refuges for the night. Slovenia was a completely different prospect than the teams' previous UK experiences, with deep forests and high limestone plateaux at over 2000m altitude. The teams took the challenges in their stride and were able to appreciate the mountain environment and stunning scenery they travelled through. All the teams completed the expedition and walked back to the hostel for a well-earned shower, dinner and sleep but not necessarily in that order. The final day saw the students taken to Ljubljana, the Slovenian capital, for some sight-seeing and the opportunity to buy presents before heading for the airport and a reunion with their families, with lots of tales to tell.



All of this simply could not happen without the volunteer leaders giving up their valuable time, ensuring students experience safe and enjoyable expeditions, so the final comment goes to them, thank you all!

## SPORT

### Netball

On Thursday, we took our first netball fixture of the year to Notre Dame. Our Year 8 A, B and C teams played fantastically after the long summer break.

The A team won 15-8 and Jade and Millie got player of the match. The B team won 16-10 and Jimena and Sarah got player of the match. The C team had a nail biting match which unfortunately finished 10-9 to Notre Dame. Maya was awarded player of the match!

All of the teams played fantastically, considering we have only had one lunchtime practice – however we have plenty to work on for the upcoming season! Well done Year 8s!

### Swimming

A huge congratulations to Tash Holroyd in Year 11 who is the ENGLISH NATIONAL CHAMPION for the 1500m Freestyle Swimming!

After qualifying for the English National Championships as a reserve and going in to the championships in last place, this was only the 4th time she has raced the event and she dropped a humongous 23 seconds off her previous time and WON THE GOLD! Her splits were 6.02.6/6.03.6/6.00.4 Awesome pacing! This time has also placed her 10th out of all swimmers at the British & English meets! Congratulations Tash!



## LIBRARY

### Book of the Week

This week's BotW is 'Inventing Ourselves: The Secret Life of the Teenage Brain' by Sarah-Jayne Blakemore, selected by Mrs Vidgen.

Why does an easy child become a challenging teenager?  
Why do teenagers struggle to get up in the morning?  
Why do they often take excessive risks?

The need for intense friendships, the excessive risk taking and the development of many mental illnesses – depression, addiction, schizophrenia – begin during these formative years, so what makes the adolescent brain different?

Drawing upon her cutting-edge research in her London laboratory, award-winning neuroscientist, Sarah-Jayne Blakemore explains what happens inside the adolescent brain, what her team's experiments have revealed about our behaviour, and how we relate to each other and our environment as we go through this period of our lives. She shows that while adolescence is a period of vulnerability, it is also a time of enormous creativity – one that should be acknowledged, nurtured and celebrated. Our adolescence provides a lens through which we can see ourselves anew. It is fundamental to how we invent ourselves.

Book of the Week



Do you have a photo of you reading in an unusual or picturesque location?

Bring it to the Librarian to take part in

**The Summer Reading Competition**





Last weekend the current rowers took to the boathouse to honour three former SWPSBC members that have represented their country and Sir William Perkins's School with distinction by naming three of our boats in recognition of their achievements.

**Harriet Taylor:** a National Schools' Regatta medallist who started her rowing journey at SWPSBC. After school, she also went to America on a rowing scholarship, this time to Syracuse University, where she was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Varsity Eight for her last three years there. During that time she became an Under 23 World Medallist in the Women's 8, and this has subsequently become the boat type where she has excelled. She's been doing amazing things in the GB Women's squad for the past two seasons, and last weekend ensured that we will have a Women's Eight racing in Tokyo next year at the Olympic Games, by finishing 5<sup>th</sup> at the World Rowing Championships.



**Sara Locke:** throughout her time in the Boat Club, picked up national medals, won Henley Women's Regatta in the J16 Coxed Four, rowed at the Great Britain vs France J16 match and ended her time at school by winning Gold medals in the Great Britain Eight and the Coxless Four at the 2013 Coupe de la Jeunesse, at the same time as being Head Girl. She went to Yale on a rowing scholarship where she rounded off her time there stroking the Second Varsity Eight to the Ivy League Championship. Sara is currently studying medicine in Boston, USA.

**Emily Keen** was part of a bright group of J15s who won a silver medal at the National Schools' Regatta in 2016, going on to be the leading performer in our Boat Club over the course of her J16, 17 and 18 years. She was part of the first ever SWPSBC crew to qualify for Henley Royal Regatta, and then twelve months later, our first crew to win a race at the prestigious event. Over the course of her sixth form seasons, she represented Great Britain on four occasions winning gold at the 2018 Munich International Regatta and bronze medals at the Coupe de la Jeunesse in the Double and the Eight in 2018 and 2019. She has recently joined the High-Performance Programme whilst studying Geography at Durham University.

We are sure that the current crop will be looking to the example set by these outstanding performers to help inspire them to big things in the coming seasons.

A big thank you must also go to the parent committee and volunteers that helped organise and run logistics for the day.

