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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - PERFECTIONISM

MR C C MULLER, HEAD



What is the cost of perfectionism? Or rather, can one seek to be perfect in one field of life, whilst ignoring any attempt at perfection in other areas of life?

Increasingly, wherever one looks there are attempts to render perfect aspect of life, experiences and opportunities. Books are now written which routinely discuss the likelihood of parents "upgrading" their children through advances in bio-technology. Such a process of upgrading is founded on the mistaken belief that there is, out there somewhere, a perfect child.

"If you look for perfection you'll never be content"

Leo Tolstoy

Yet such attitudes are bound not just for disappointment, but also unhappiness. The human species is, I suspect, not designed to be satisfied, and hence by pinning our happiness on this kind of aspiration we are likely to fall short.

"The intellect of man is forced to choose. Perfection of the life, or the work"

WB Yeats

The pursuit of perfectionism requires a terrible one-sidedness. Yeats realised that to perfect the self: morally, physically and mentally comes at a cost. Yet, to seek perfection in work also comes at a cost. It is at a price of not living life to the full – not embracing the opportunities that exist in all areas of our lives.

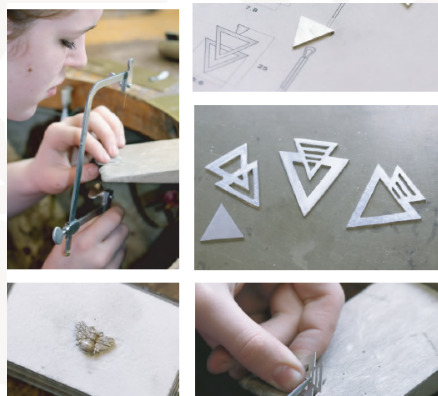
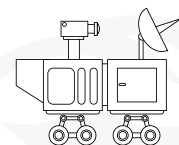
Our students' lives are complex, complicated, frequently full of contradictions and often messy. Like adults, they need to make compromises – to choose the good over the perfect.

They cannot be the perfect friend, the perfect sister, the perfect child, the perfect student. They have to and they need to distribute themselves in different, varied and non-perfect roles. They find this hard because they do not want to let others down.

So what to do? We need to enable our students to recognise and celebrate the fact that they, indeed all of us, are not perfect. Perfection is soulless, lifeless and without interest. Whereas it is our mistakes, our failures that make us human – that is why forgiveness is so important.

AT SWPS THIS WEEK...

A ROUND UP OF THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS



BROOKE AT THEO FENNEL

Following the Theo Fennell master class at SWPS in September Brooke was one of our two Senior Sixth to win a work experience placement at Theo Fennell's workshop and studio.

Over the course of the week Brooke mastered adobe illustrator and accepted the challenges of working with silver on a small scale to design and make a pendant which includes one of Theo's iconic bee motifs.

The work she produced is excellent and we are thrilled that Sophie will be completing the apprenticeship in June.



MISSION TO MARS

February saw the grand final of the Year 7 Mission to Mars project, where students learned about the challenges and opportunities of space exploration in Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics and PSHE lessons.

Outstanding posters, role plays, animations and models were displayed by all teams. Form groups nominated the best class project presentation to compete in the grand final, judged by Mr Muller, Mrs Holloway and the Senior Sixth Astrophysicists. The judges were impressed by the creativity and academic content they saw.



Finalists included: Hannah, Maroo, Isabella, Amy and Amaara, 7M; Maia, Bella, Zeynep, Erin and Elizabeth, 7Q.

7P were runners up with an impressive model of a Marsian base from Lea, Madison, Natasha, Ariana and Inaaya. 7L are our 2020 winners with a superb project featuring animations and a lego model of a Mars Rover. Congratulations to Leah, Taarunya, Sophia, Matilda and Megan!



FOODBANK DONATIONS

Whilst studying their Wealth & Poverty module, our Year 8 Religious Studies students learned of the shocking statistic that there are more Food Banks (2,000) in the UK than McDonalds (1,300). They decided they would like to help the local community by each bringing in a donation to the Chertsey Foodbank.

BETH TAKES WOODWIND TO NEW HIGHS

Congratulations to Beth Kuipers (Year 9) on her success at the Portsmouth Music Festival. Beth took part in the woodwind section on her descant and treble recorders. She was awarded a Distinction and The Druce Trophy for her performance in the 'Own Choice Solos Treble Recorder Grades 3-4' class, and a Distinction and The Margaret Cotterill Memorial Trophy in the 'Own Choice Solos Descant Recorder Grades 5-6' class.



AT SWPS THIS WEEK...

A ROUND UP OF THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS



AUSTRALIA FUNDRAISER

On discovering the plight of Australian wildlife during recent wildfires and the extraordinary efforts of the NSW Rural Fire Service, our students were determined to show their support.

A mufti day with additional fundraisers was decided and our Year 7s attended school in full Aussie wildlife regalia, seeing a colourful band of koalas, platypus's, emus, wallabies and even a life-size crocodile. Their efforts raised **£595.25** - including proceeds from 10Qs cake sale!

This will be split between WIRES Wildlife Rescue and NSW Rural Fire Service.



BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD GOLD

Five Year 13 students took part in the British Biology Olympiad, answering challenging questions on all things Biology.

Over 7,000 students entered from 600 schools! Mirren Black gave an outstanding performance to earn a Gold medal - which is only awarded to 6% of entrants; Mariella Trickett and Ria Mistry both achieved Silver medals; Rachel Coxon gained Bronze, and Dani Bae received a Highly Commended Certificate - fantastic results, well done to all!

LIFE OF A GP

Our Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Society welcomed Dr Sharon Burroughs this week to find out about her unusual career in medicine and her experiences as a lifelong learner and practitioner.

Initially studying Biomedical Sciences at Southampton University followed by Medicine at Cardiff University, she has been a partner in a practice for several years and is now focussing her efforts on children's safeguarding. Our students had many interesting questions for our fascinating guest, who was very kind to share her experiences with us.



KEW ORCHID FESTIVAL

After a blustery start Year 8 Y and Z enjoyed the sunshine at Kew Garden's Orchid Festival, where they learnt about plant adaptations and their uses in rainforests.



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YEARS 8-12**

www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk

SPORTING SWPS

OUR SPORTING FIXTURE ROUND-UP



NETBALL

VERSATILITY TOURNAMENT

Our Year 9 A team went to Tormead on Tuesday for a Versatility Tournament. It was a great fun event and the whole team played brilliantly in mixed up positions! Well done to Lucy who was voted Most Valuable Player!

YR7 NETBALL V HEATHSIDE

On Wednesday, our Year 7 A and B teams went to Heathside to play their District League fixtures. The A team had an incredibly close match and won 10-9, on the whistle. Jaz who was player of the match! The B team had a fantastic match and won 19-2 thanks to top shooting and brilliant turnovers in defence too! Tilly was player of the match!

SATURDAY 7 MARCH

RACE NIGHT

DOORS OPEN 19.00
TICKETS £8.00 WITH SUPPER

Raising funds to kit out
Year 11 Common Room and
NEW Textiles Room!

Friends of
SIR WILLIAM PERKINS'S
SCHOOL

Join us for Race Night:

- Great fun to be had
- Big screen action
- Live commentary
- 8 pre-recorded races
- Computerised tote system
- Become a Race Horse Owner for the night for £3 (extra prizes to be won)
- Prize money 50% of bets per race
- Harrison's providing supper
- Cash bar (bring change!)

Tickets £8 WITH supper!

Email: Friends.of.SWPS@gmail.com

Pay: 20-90-56 a/c: 90770868



SERENA GUTHRIE

ENGLAND NETBALL CAPTAIN

COACHING SESSION WITH Q&A

Thursday 2 APRIL 2020 - 15.45-18.45

Limited spaces, tickets £15

email: HFoxley@swps.org.uk



SIR
WILLIAM
PERKINS'S
SCHOOL

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING UP IN THE WEEKS AHEAD...

5 MARCH - THURSDAY WORLD BOOK DAY AT SWPS LIBRARY

World Book Day is on Thursday 5 March, don't forget your costume and competition entries!

Wonderfully bookish prizes will be awarded for The Best Potato Head character, costume and Book Face photos... judged by SWPS students and staff.

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
5 MARCH 2020

5 MARCH - LUNCHTIME CONCERT 25 MARCH - SPRING CONCERT CONCERTS

Join us at lunchtime to be transported by 7Q performing their chosen group and solo pieces - family and friends are welcome to attend; [click here](#) to book your place.

Join us for our wonderful spring concert, a great musical evening featuring talent from across the school. [Click here](#) to book your place.



11 MARCH - WEDNESDAY 14.00-17.00 HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

Come along to our Higher Education Fair to find out everything you need to know about studying at University, how to apply, student finance, writing a personal statement and much more.

With **over thirty** top universities in attendance it's a perfect opportunity to get your questions answered.



University of
BRISTOL



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



The University of
Nottingham



The University of Manchester



Loughborough
University



UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

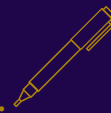


UNIVERSITY OF
EXETER



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...



MARCH 2020

- 04** SPEECH & DRAMA CONCERT
- 05** WORLD BOOK DAY
- 05** SIXTH FORM COOKERY CLASSES (FOOD TECH)
- 05** 7Q LUNCHTIME CONCERT (JARVIS ROOM)
- 06** STAGE COMBAT WORKSHOP
- 07** FRIENDS OF SWPS RACE NIGHT
- 11** HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR
- 13** AUTHORS VISIT (LIBRARY)
- 21** AMAZING MAZES YEAR 4 WORKSHOP
- 25** SPRING CONCERT (MAIN HALL)
- 30** LOWER SCHOOL BOOK CLUB

HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

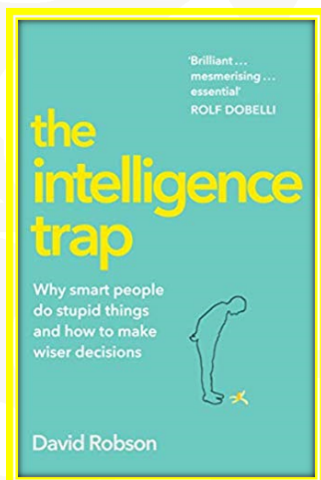
Wednesday 11 MARCH 2020
14.00-17.00

email: futures@swps.org.uk

SIR
WILLIAM
PERKINS'S
SCHOOL

BEST OF THE REST...

DID WE FORGET TO MENTION...?



RECOMMENDED READ

What blinkered Einstein and Edison? Why did Steve Jobs and NASA make lethal errors of judgement? How might environmental disaster and social inequality be averted? It is time for us to learn a new way of thinking.

The twenty-first century presents complex problems that require a wiser way of reasoning, one that recognises our current limitations, tolerates ambiguity and uncertainty, balances multiple perspectives, and bridges diverse areas of expertise.

Whatever our age and experience, whether a NASA scientist or a school student, we will benefit from wielding our minds with insight, precision, social sensitivity and humility.

In an exhilarating journey through current research, drawing on insight from Socrates to Benjamin Franklin and some of the world's most successful industries, award-winning science journalist David Robson shows how to build a cognitive toolkit to help us all maximise our full potential.



EX SWPS TEACHER TAKES ON ANTARCTICA

Former SWPS Sports Teacher Rebecca Rowe is one of a crew of fearless female firefighters pitting their survival skills against the elements in a bid to conquer Antarctica.

Having experienced the trauma of Grenfell Tower first hand, the crew, known as The Fire Angels, aim to raise awareness of mental health issues. They will take on a 70 day trek covering 1,180 miles in 2023 - we wish Rebecca and team the very best of luck.

CALLING ALL BAKERS AGED 9-15

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

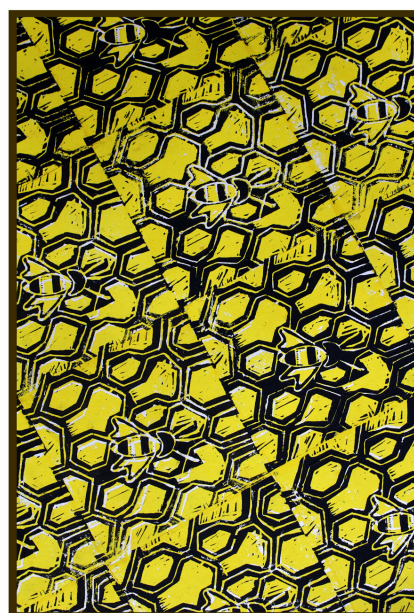
...IS LOOKING FOR THE UK'S
BEST YOUNG BAKERS
AGED 9 - 15

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

APPLICATIONS CLOSE
SUNDAY 5th APRIL 2020

Enquiries:
applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk

ARTWORK OF THE MONTH



Our third Artwork of the Month for February, selected by the Art & Design Dept staff, is by Ella (Year 9). Take a look at more of our students' artwork on our website: www.artdesignswps.org.uk