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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - CLASSICS DINNER

MR C C MULLER, HEAD



At our Classics Dinner, Dame Emma Kirkby, one of the world's finest sopranos, was our guest of honour. Her talk, part autobiographical part a discussion of the links with opera

and the world of the ancient Greeks and Romans was sublime and fascinating.

We were also delighted to listen to some wonderful musical pieces (in a number of cases sung by Dame Emma herself) which had been written during the Renaissance and drew their inspiration from the classical world. According to Dame Emma, there is a direct line from Greek tragedy, myth and art form to modern opera.

The great 19th century composer Richard Wagner, argued that Greek tragedy represented the highest form of art the western world had created.

Convinced that all subsequent art forms were inferior from the Greeks, he, perhaps unsurprisingly given his occupation, argued that only opera, the dramatic musical art form, could rescue the western world from its artistic and intellectual malaise. He had five reasons for thinking this was the case:

Greek tragedy combined the art of music, mime, dance, song, poetry, drama and costume.

Its subject matter was the myths of Greece whose themes explored universal human dilemmas.

Being mythological in content, Greek tragedy was religious.

The human was celebrated and placed at centre.

The entire community took part in both its production and observation.

The last point is possibly the most powerful and compelling: the entire community taking part, involved, engaged and focusing a single project. In the modern world, such activity can be hard to find and harder to recreate.

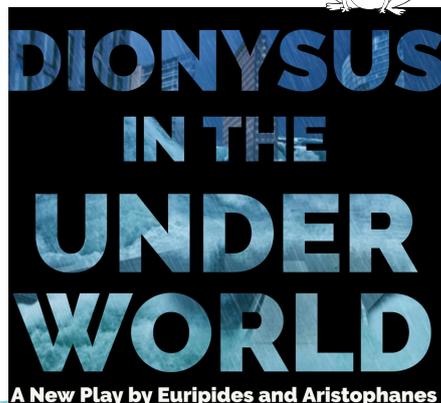
Yet, schools are perhaps the very communities where the involvement of so many in a particular project can lead to that sense of community, that sense of belonging, that sense of purpose larger than oneself.

It is why we so often see sways of commitment and dedication from SWPS students in support of their friends.

Community activity is at the heart of a healthy school – supportive, collective and congenial – it shapes who we are and what we want to be. It is greater than the sum of its parts, and its participation leads to well-being and success. The ancient Greeks knew this – and music is one way by which we can achieve for ourselves.

AT SWPS THIS WEEK...

A ROUND UP OF THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS



COMEDY & TRAGEDY

Sixth Form Classics Students have seen two of their set plays performed; Aristophanes *The Frogs* (in translation) at UCL, an enjoyable modernisation of this Greek comedy. Xanthias arrived on roller skates replacing the traditional donkey, and he and Dionysus travelled to the Land of the Dead (a club called Infernos) by Underground, with an officious London Transport policeman in charge instead of Charon!

We travelled to the Greenwood Theatre to see new Kings College production 'Dionysus in the Underworld', combining *The Frogs* with Euripides' tragedy *The Bacchae*. Both plays were produced in 405 BC and both featured the god Dionysus - a bold idea, especially when set against an Extinction Rebellion backdrop!

Bacchae (in Greek with sur-titles) was part of the literary contest, which takes place when Dionysus reaches the Underworld in *The Frogs*. One of the highlights of the comedy, the frog chorus, was beautifully executed, but overall we enjoyed the tragedy more. There was rhythmic music, fine acting, striking sound effects and costumes, all of which created a powerful performance.

DAME EMMA KIRKBY

We welcomed Dame Emma Kirkby and husband, conductor Howard Williams, as our guests at our Classics dinner. Emma told us how she had studied Latin from the age of seven and started Greek at ten, enabling her ultimately to achieve a place to read Classics at Oxford.

While teaching Classics near Reading she began singing professionally. Emma played some recordings of songs on a Classical theme. Each in a historical context with details about the composer, singer and style, a perfect end to a delightful evening.



ALLY SHERRICK VISIT

Ally Sherrick, author of best-selling 'Black Powder' visited us as part of our World Book Day celebrations to talk to students about her passion for reading and writing. She ran creative writing workshops, which we hope will inspire our students to start writing for themselves.

Ally explains why she writes about history: "When I'm writing I can be living at anytime and anywhere in the world - which is what makes being a writer so much fun - although of course there's lots of hard work involved too."

MAKE YOUR MYTH UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

For two years running Sir William Perkins's School Classics students have won Cambridge University's 'Make Your Myth' competition. Last year's winner was Caitlin Costello; and this year Serenna Copsey has taken the prize with her artistic representation of Athena.

KEW INSPIRATION

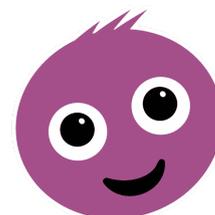
Year 8 Geography students were inspired by their recent trip to Kew to produce a creative display based on tropical rainforest ecosystems. Some created presentations on plant adaptations others focused on the rich cultural traditions of indigenous tribes.

CREATIVE FURTHER EDUCATION TALK

Reacting to increasing interest from students who want to pursue careers related to design and art subjects, Sixth Formers Sophie, Charlotte and Brooke, all of whom are applying for FE courses or Degrees in Product Design, 3D Craft and Art spoke with Yr 10 and 11 students about the application process, visiting open days and assembling a portfolio for interview. They also gave advice on work experience, A Level choices and exhibitions to visit.

AT SWPS THIS WEEK...

STEM ACTIVITIES - BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK



MATHS MASTERCLASS

Head of Year 11 and Mathematician Mrs Major delivered a Royal Institution Mathematics Masterclass at Halstead Prep School to 25 Year 5 students from local schools.

Everyone had great fun exploring the wonders of the history and development of number systems across the world. The students created their own number system for 1 to 15 and even made their own secret codes using binary numbers! We hope to welcome some of the students to study here in 2021.

UK BIOTECHNOLOGY

Thank you to Dr Carlos Pittol who came in to the talk to students in Year 10 and above. He discussed his role at a UK biotechnology company which is a leading innovator in smaller format antibody drug conjugate therapies for the treatment of cancer. Dr Pittol gave explained how the new cancer treatment works, and gave careers advice to those who may wish to work in that field in the future.

TECHOGNITION WEEK

As part of Techognition week we are celebrating the hard work of our Science technicians; Mrs Holloway, Mr Mulchrone and Mrs Mann. Techognition week is a national celebration recognising the importance of the essential work of all school and college technicians.

Staff and students alike are extremely appreciative of the amount of work our Science technicians put in behind the scenes in order to make our Science lessons come to life - lessons certainly wouldn't be the same without them!

'Behind every practical there are a team of technicians doing all the hard work for us. We want to acknowledge and celebrate all the hard work you do to stop us from accidentally blowing up the school!

LAUREN, SIENNA, AISLING, MOLLY YEAR 10

'I really enjoy practicals in Science lessons. Whether I'm using a microscope in Biology, making things explode in Chemistry, or testing friction and gravity in Physics. I am grateful to the technicians who make it possible, our learning wouldn't be as fun without them!'

NINA TRUESDALE 7P

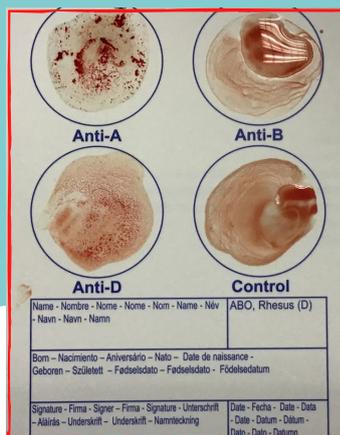
'We really appreciate the hard work the technicians put into our weekly MDV practical, ranging from microbiology to forensic science. The club would definitely not be as beneficial without the practical aspect, which is only possible with the help of our technicians.'

**MYTHILI CHAWAN
ISOBEL BARNFATHER L6**

BLOOD GROUPS

Our Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Society learnt about blood groups, and how we inherit them from our parents. We looked at the main blood groups and what it means to be type A, B, AB or O in terms of the antigens on your red blood cells and the antibodies within blood plasma.

The students tested their own blood groups using Eldon cards, comparing their blood type against the most and least common types. The students discussed the importance of identifying blood groups prior to receiving a blood transfusion.



HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

FUTURES @ SWPS



STARTING THE HE JOURNEY

For many students, the prospect of going to university is exciting and enthralling, yet it is also filled with quandaries and confusion. Which university? Russell Group or not? Which course should I do? Do I need a conventional degree for the kind of career I want? Campus university or collegiate? Rural setting, or city?

Should I take a gap year? Can I study abroad? At an American University? What financial help is available? Do universities have well-being programmes and provide emotional support? Our Higher Education Fair is an important event in inspiring students to take ownership over their future by answering their myriad of questions surrounding the vast options available to them post A'Level study - the beginning of a very exciting journey.

40 UNIVERSITIES ATTENDING

With 40 Universities in attendance from all over the UK, our Higher Education Fair 2020 offered a fantastic one-stop shop for our students from Years 10-L6, and more than 70 visiting students from Salesian School! From as far afield as Dundee, Aberystwyth, East Anglia and Plymouth every course and every interest was catered for.



UNIVERSITY MASTERCLASSES

Preparation is key and the wide-range of masterclasses on offer gave students and their parents the opportunity to ask all of those questions critical to the decision-making process. Classes on offer included Student Finance and Budgeting; Applying to Russell Group Universities; Student Life; Interview Techniques and more.



"I couldn't help but smile at the sight of excited students with piles of prospectuses."

Fatima Sygne, Head of Sixth Form



SPORTING SWPS

OUR SPORTING FIXTURE ROUND-UP



NETBALL

Well done to all netballers who have competed and trained over the past couple of weeks. We have had some excellent results and have seen big improvements.

The U12 A and B team played brilliantly in the Districts on Tuesday, with the A team qualifying for the District Finals and the B team winning the B Tournament. Lots of goals scored in very windy conditions. Only a couple of weeks left of the season and hoping for some good results in the upcoming matches!

NETBALL FIXTURES (WITH GIRL OF THE MATCH)

Claremont Fan School	U13 A	29-12	Feirin
Claremont Fan School	U13 B	22-3	Amina
Claremont Fan School	U13 A	6-5	Maya
District Tournament	U12 A	2nd	Charlie
District Tournament	U12 B	1st	Tilly
Box Hill	U12 A	28-4	Immy
Box Hill	U12 A	48-4	Jade
Box Hill	U12 A	23-4	Tilly & Ciara

HOCKEY

A busy couple of weeks for hockey players across all age groups. Well done for getting teams out in all weathers and playing hard against tough oppositions.

A successful day for the U12 A and B teams at Epsom College Tournament on 4 March. Both came away with creditable performances and results against stiff opposition. The B squad finished 4th having won one game and drawn one while the A squad went one better finishing 3rd, thanks to winning a shoot-out against Epsom College, goalkeeper Amelie saving two to win the game.

SWIMMING

Congratulations to all those that represented SWPS at the gala v St. Teresa's and Priors Field this week. Some excellent swims and several new PBs helped the squad to a great team score - well done!



HOCKEY FIXTURES

Salesian	U14 A	2-0
City of London Freeman's	U15 A	0-6
Epsom College Tournament	U12 A/B	4th/3rd
Priors Field	U16A	0-4

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

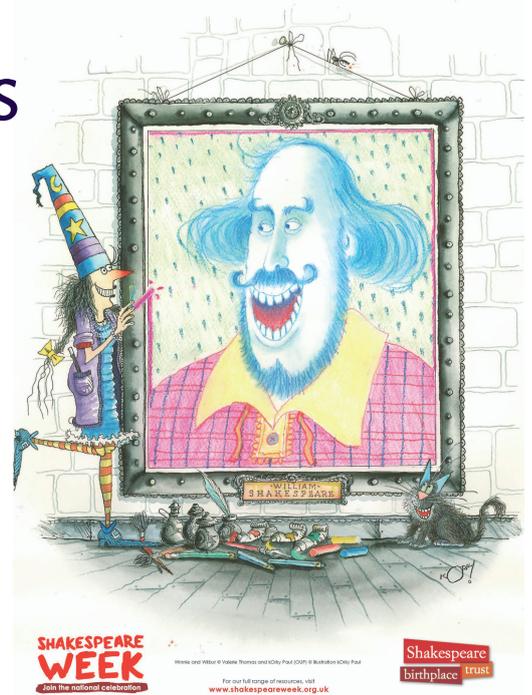
COMING UP IN THE WEEKS AHEAD...

16-20 MARCH

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE WEEK

To celebrate Shakespeare Week, we will place some books around the school for students to find, read and pass along for others to enjoy.

We will also have some fun activities in the library, so make sure to visit and immerse yourself in the works of the Bard of Avon.



25 MARCH - WEDNESDAY SPRING CONCERT

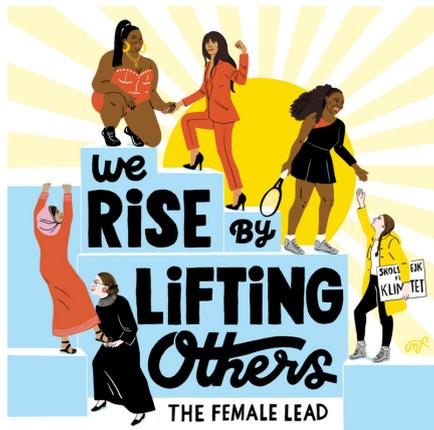
Join us for our wonderful spring concert, a great musical evening featuring talent from across the school. [Click here](#) to book your place.



31 MARCH - TUESDAY THE FEMALE LEAD

The Female Lead Society are delighted to welcome back eight highly successful members of our alumnae who want to share their career experiences with our current students. From the worlds of business, aviation, cake making, marketing and more, they will outline their paths to success as well as the highlights and pitfalls along the way. Students in years 10-13 will have the opportunity to find out more about a range of careers and ask their own questions. Society reps from L6 will visit classrooms to explain more next week!

The Female Lead is a campaign to showcase inspirational female role models across the world. "You can't be what you can't see. Role Models allow young people to believe in their own power", **Edwina Dunn** (Founder)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

MARCH 2020

- 16** WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE WEEK
- 20** WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE WEEK
- 21** AMAZING MAZES YEAR 4 WORKSHOP
- 25** SPRING CONCERT (MAIN HALL)
- 30** LOWER SCHOOL BOOK CLUB
- 31** THE FEMALE LEAD (ATRIUM)

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



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

ANOTHER FABULOUS WORLD BOOK DAY AT SWPS

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

5 MARCH 2020



INTERVIEW WITH OUR LIBRARIAN MRS VIDGEN

WHAT LED YOU TO WORK AT SWPS LIBRARY?

I always wanted to be a librarian; since I joined my public library, age 10. I grew up in a house filled with books and my father always talked to me about stories he'd read when he was a boy. But he would never reveal the ending - I had to go and read it for myself. This encouraged me to read more and tell him, in turn, about my favourite books. I would love to inspire a similar love of reading in our students.

SAY SOMETHING SURPRISING ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

Many librarians become writers. Really! And it's not because we have nothing else to do. To write you must love storytelling and read a lot! Really, a lot! When I studied the History of Literature I had to read thousands of books, but that was the best possible training, because I was introduced to the best writers and the imaginative ways in which they create their fictional worlds. I wanted to be as good as they were and make people empathise with my characters.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU HAVE FOR OUR LIBRARY?

I want to make our library the place students and staff go to learn and to relax. A fun, vibrant place, where everybody can feel comfortable and enjoy reading.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I think the best feeling is when I recommend a book to someone and they return it later, saying they absolutely loved it and ask for more recommendations. I love hearing from students, sometimes years later, they still remember that one book I gave them and how it made them feel.

WHICH AUTHOR WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET

I would love to meet Terry Pratchett or Agatha Christie - they both astound me with their creativity and imagination. I would ask Agatha how did she know so much about crime and poisons and what happened to her during those 11 days when she mysteriously disappeared from her home.

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP FIVE BOOKS?

Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron

The Lord of the Rings by J. R. R. Tolkien

Three Musketeers A. Dumas

The Master and Margarita M. Bulgakov

Much Ado About Nothing W. Shakespeare

And anything by Bill Bryson, because he is so funny.

Thank you Mrs Vidgen for this insightful interview. You can find Mrs Vidgen in our library, and she's always ready to hear your ideas, or help you find your next inspiring read.

WORLD BOOK DAY COMPETITION WINNERS

Potato Head: Leena Tageldin 8M & Alexa

Zagefka 8L **BookFace:** Sienna Balderson 7Q



WORLD BOOK DAY



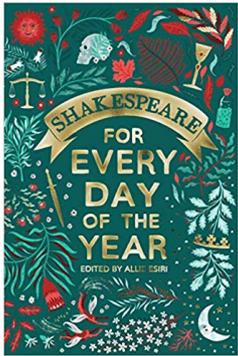
POTATO HEAD WINNERS



BOOKFACE COMPETITION WINNER

BEST OF THE REST...

DID WE FORGET TO MENTION...?



RECOMMENDED READ

William Shakespeare wrote at least 37 plays, 154 sonnets and a handful of longer poems, and you can discover them all here. Each page of this unique collection contains an extract, which might be a famous poem, quote or scene, matched to the date. Allie Esiri's introductions give her readers a new window into the work, time and life of the greatest writer in the English language.

"Shakespeare for Every Day of the Year" is perfect for reading or sharing and brings you Shakespeare's best-known and best-loved classics alongside lesser known extracts. Esiri's entertaining and insightful thoughts on each entry will fill your year with wonder, laughter, wisdom and wit.

PIDAY

Can You Solve This?

$$\sqrt{PI} + E = \sqrt{PIE}$$

Each letter is a different digit from 0 to 9 (but P ≠ 0).

STAGE COMBAT WORKSHOP

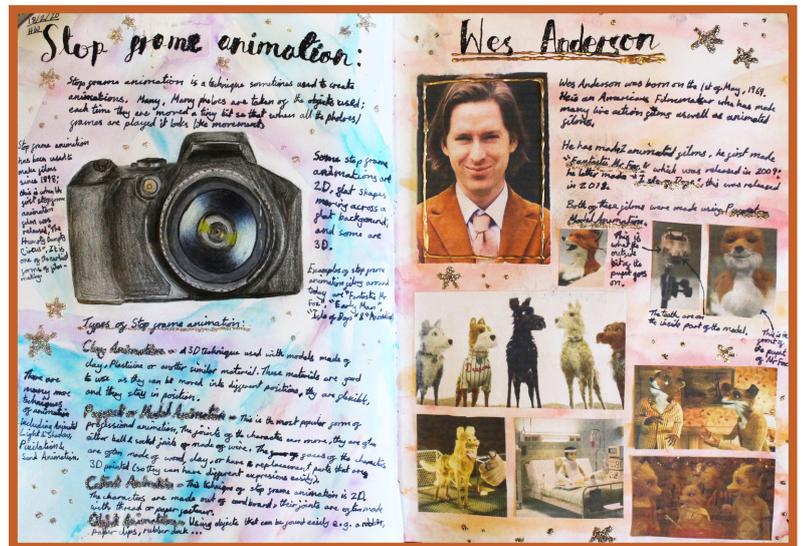
Well done to everyone who took part in last week's Stage Combat Workshop in the Drama Department. Students were taught hand to hand stage combat performance skills for stage and screen by a professional practitioner. The students then used their new skills to devise scenes and perform to the rest of the group. The result was some highly memorable and realistic performances from all involved!

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Congratulations to our students for their lovely performances in the Concert @ 1: pianists Sachi Takyar, Ellie Monk and Naomi Lugt, violinists Bella Gray, Ellie Warman, oboists Bethan Martin and Lauren Christian. Rosanna Muscutt sang 'Someone Like You' accompanied by Sachi Takyar on the piano, and Bella Chen played her recorder. Year 10 Guitar Trio Naina Bhatia, Shruti Ravivarman and Milly Wee performed, assisted by Caitlin Pittol-Neville. Thank you to all students taking part and the audience who gave much appreciated support.

Thank you 7L, 7M, 7P and 7Q for your super lunchtime concerts. Thank you also to the form tutors, peripatetic music staff and parents who supported the students during preparations. The students chose a wide range of musical styles to sing or play on their instruments. There were many solo and group vocal items and performances on piano, violin, cello, recorder, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, guitar, electronic keyboard and drum kit.

Our first and second Artworks of the Month for March, selected by the Art & Design Dept staff, are by Bethany (Year 9), and Maeve (Year 10). Take a look at more of our students' art on our website: www.artdesignswps.org.uk



ARTWORKS OF THE MONTH



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2020

6-15 MARCH



Chocolate
prizes!



ACTIVITIES

Year 7 - Design a Lab Coat

Year 7/8 - Astro Quiz (232 - lunch, TUES)

Year 7 - Science Quiz (231 - lunch, FRI)

Year 9 - Physics Rocket Launch

Year 10 - Investigate Sea Monkeys

S6 - Dr Pittol talk, 'Synthesis' (TUES)

Name our Dalek - Library

This day in Chemistry - Chemistry

Burp in a pot - Chemistry

Science Challenge - PSHE

