

The Scholar Ship

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a flame to be kindled" - Plutarch

"Find Your Inner Nerd"

Head Scholar, Xanthe Jones, explains why she's proud to be a nerd and encourages our pupils to feel the same way...



A common message at RHS is to seize every opportunity you can. When we are told this, it is more likely than not in relation to the numerous extracurricular activities available to you: sport, CCF, debating, music. This is excellent advice, and I urge all of you to follow it. However, I would like to offer you the same advice, but set in the context of academic endeavour. I put it to you that if you treat your academic work with the same enthusiasm and vigour as you do a rugby match, you may find it just as, if not more, rewarding than those non-academic pursuits. These rewards come not just in the form of good results; personally, I find little more satisfying than cracking a maths problem long struggled with, or finally carving out a coherent translation for a piece of Latin prep. Now, you may call me a nerd for saying this, and you would be right to do so; I will be the first to admit that I am one. But I don't think this is a bad thing. I have found a passion for the things that I study, as I hope all pupils will. I implore you all to find your inner nerd; don't worry about whether it's 'cool' or not – find your own niche, find the things that make you excited, and allow yourself to be nerdy about them. Every subject offered here, and the many more that become available once you leave, are filled with interesting facts just waiting to be uncovered, and you can't feel the satisfaction of uncovering them if you don't allow yourself to try. If you take the opportunities, for example, to ask niche questions or research ideas you have, the academic world is your playground; a playground full of exciting new experiences, and one which we can all learn to enjoy.

New Academic Scholars

Felix Arp-Petersen
Daisy Clabburn
Archie Cossor
Louisa Cuddihy
Sophie Durrant
Oliver Goodwin-Day
Rochelle Gordon-Scott
Maya Govindasamy
Alexander Gray
Lily Hargraves

Ellie Hewes
Freya Horseman Sewell
Ben Jackson
Owen Jackson
Jessie Jordan
Hattie Kerridge
Bertie Kerry
Anjola Koyejo
Charlie Lewis-Booth
Olivia Mayers

Flo Nicholls
Todi Ojemuyiwa
Alexander Popovis
Olly Preece
Aoife Rew
Emi Sharples
Jason Sims
Zara Spendiff
Frankie Stenning
Sarah Stubbs

Upcoming Events

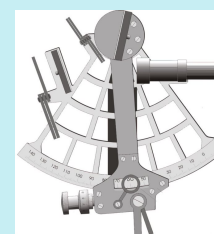


September 24th,
1830

de Leybourne Debate
- Can Terrorism be
Justified?



September 26th
European Day of
Languages



October 1st,
1700

Riddle Society -
Trial of the (18th)
Century

Things Mr Johnson learnt recently...

We are used to the idea that there are chess grandmasters. However, it was only recently that I discovered that there are origami grandmasters too. The person with perhaps the greatest claim to be considered the origami grandmaster was Akira Yoshizawa (pictured). Born in Kaminokawa, Japan, in 1911, he was most famous for developing the technique of 'wet folding': using thick paper and wetting it slightly before folding to create a softer, more natural look. He died of pneumonia in 2005.

Ninety-one years earlier, an equally remarkable and little-known person also died of pneumonia. She was Sayyida Salme, the princess of Zanzibar and also the first known author of an autobiography written by an Arab woman (*Memoirs of an Arabian Princess*, 1886). She became pregnant by a German merchant, Rudolph Ruete, and departed Zanzibar with him in 1866 to spend the rest of her life in Europe.

The nearest major city to the island of Zanzibar is Dar-es-Salaam, which was the capital of Taganyika, before it and Zanzibar united to form the modern country of Tanzania. It was in Dar-es-Salaam that another notable love affair with a German took place, this time between the British man Duncan Scott-Ford and a German girl (history does not record her name). This liaison took place in 1939, at the outbreak of the Second World War. Scott-Ford was sentenced to two years in prison for passing secret naval codes to the



Germans. However, he did not learn from this experience and was convicted again in 1942 for selling secrets to the Germans for £18. He was hanged at 9am on November 3rd 1942 at the age of 21 and thus became the youngest Briton ever to be executed for treason.

Duncan Scott-Ford was educated at RHS from 1933 to 1937.

Journeys of knowledge such as this fascinate me. The fact that I can find connections, however tenuous, which link an origami grandmaster to this school (albeit via one of our less illustrious alumni) gives me great pleasure, as does having the opportunity to share this knowledge with you. I would therefore like to invite pupils to contribute similar articles to future editions of *The Scholar Ship*. If you have learnt something interesting recently and would like the opportunity to share it with a wider audience, please speak to either Mr Routledge or myself.

"THE LAST WORD", WITH THIS EDITION'S SCHOLAR...

My first week at the Royal Hospital School was definitely one to remember. Arriving to class on time was hard but finding the classroom was certainly harder. I know you should arrive to class on time, as punctuality is key, but when you are surrounded by people twice your height and nearly twice your age it is definitely a lot easier said than done. But luckily I did manage to attend all of my classes and I may or may not have been late to some of them.

Most of my classes are very informative and interesting as well as all being taught by friendly people. Additionally, the teachers and all members of staff are very nice and understanding. They're not like the strict and uptight teachers that you might have imagined to be working at a secondary school.

Overall it's a ten out of ten for me!



Nanayaa, Year 7