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# THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - MEANING IN OUR LIVES

MR C C MULLER, HEAD



Each day we are taking stock of our lives; thinking hard about what is important and why. The coronavirus pandemic has made all of us more acutely aware than ever that meaning in our lives is vitally important.

Naturally, at times, we have all felt that our life lacks meaning, whilst at the same time, looking with envious eyes at someone who “has it all” and leads, what on the face of it is, a wonderfully meaningful life. It is, perhaps, the biggest challenge for any school – to ensure that all our students lead what is for them a meaningful life.

In using the term meaningful, we suggests a kind of depth, a sense of purpose and a sense of fulfilment. None of us want our children to lead lives which are empty and devoid of meaning; lives which are boring, difficult and futile.

We can sometimes associate the word good with meaningful – a good life is one which is full of meaningful activities and actions. But do we actually know what constitutes a life which is meaningful? Indeed do our students know what is going to be meaningful to them in their lives?

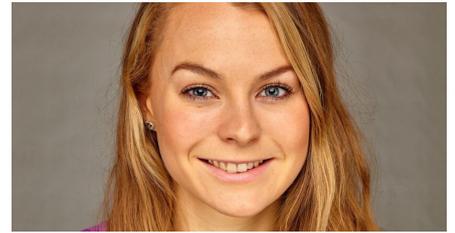
Crisis such as the one we are all experiencing affords us the opportunity to reflect. In pursuing a meaningful life we want our students to find something they love doing, be involved with things that they really care about and which give them a huge amount of joy. We know that “going after” their passion is essential because in doing so it will give them happiness: they will be fulfilled. But is this sufficient? Is the point of fulfilment nothing more than finding an activity, any activity, that one enjoys and then to make every attempt to pursue that? Or is it possible that some activities are more worthy than others? Fulfilment might be achieved, but should we care about the sorts of things that may give rise to that fulfilment?

I personally think that there is more to be said; that something larger than oneself should be at the heart of our pursuits. I suspect that we, as parents, all want our children to be involved in something greater than themselves, something other than themselves. At SWPS in all our discussions about kindness, values and generosity we urge our students to rise above their needs and desires – desires and needs that potentially serve themselves.

I believe that every SWPS student will make a positive and greater contribution to the world – in short leave the world a better place than the one they entered. It is our task to facilitate that – huge task yes and possibly too much. Yet, education is undoubtedly the place to start; by ensuring that those values of integrity, commitment and kindness are part and parcel of the daily activities of our students at SWPS, we shall set firm foundations for them to pursue a meaningful life.

# SIXTH FORM FUTURES

POST A LEVEL SEMINARS, MEET OUR NEW HEAD GIRLS TEAM



## POST A LEVEL SEMINARS

This week saw the launch of our Post A Level Seminar Programme, designed to prepare our students for undergraduate and college study. Seminars to date include 'An analysis of Freud and Fairy Tales', as well as those catering for our scientific and MDV students.

Following requests from students, our Sixth Form Team have subscribed to Nebula On-Line Training which provides students with general finance training; from taxation to managing bank accounts and investments. Many of our students also attended our Post A Level Seminar on Finance.

We have also subscribed to the Medic Portal which is an online interactive website offering tutorials and guidance on all aspects of studying and pursuing careers in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

This week, all S6 students were sent an invitation to enrol in MOOC courses provided by Future Learn. There are hundreds of interesting and extremely useful courses available and we have recommended courses relevant to each student. Please encourage your daughters to enrol!

Finally a number of our Alumnae have offered to hold subject specific Q&As for our sixth formers to prepare them for undergraduate life and study.

## TRIBUTE TO RACHEL

It is with deep sadness that we share news of the loss of former student Rachel Brown, who was at SWPS from 2006 to 2013. Rachel was a much-loved student who is fondly remembered by former teachers and peers. She is remembered for her beautiful smile, robust opinions and active dedication in our community.

Rachel gained degrees in Law from Queens University Belfast and in Security and Intelligence Studies from Brunel University. Following her studies Rachel joined the Metropolitan Police as an intelligence analyst, which she loved. Our deepest condolences and loving thoughts go to her friends and family.

## NEW HEAD GIRLS TEAM

Introducing our new Head Girls Team - Sophie Hawken, Head Girl; and Mythili Chawan, Imi Elliott and Cece Tam as Deputy Head Girls. Sophie is currently studying Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Further Maths at A Level; and is considering a science degree at university; looking at options including Forensics and Bio-Chem.

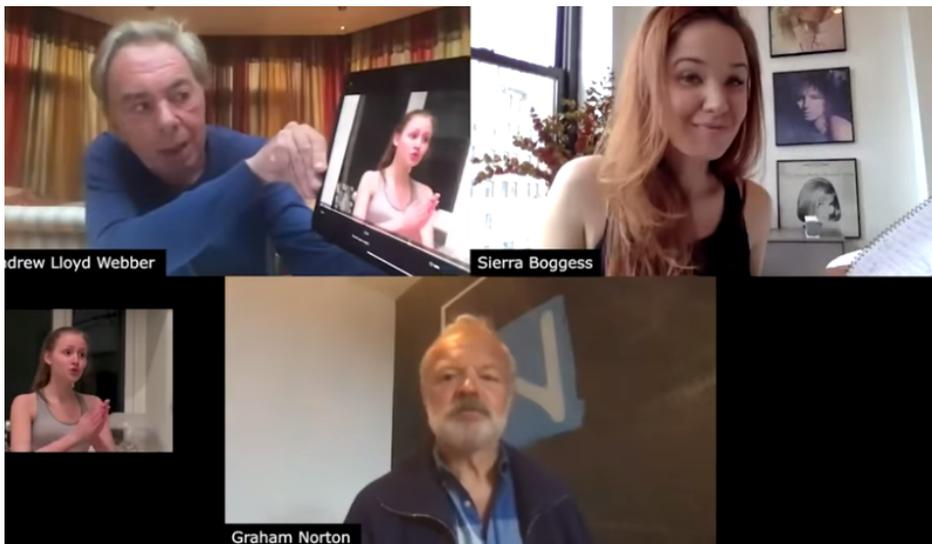
The Team aim to be accessible to our student body, so they have set up a Head Girls Instagram account @swpsheadgirlsteam. Follow them there to discover more about their plans; hear their tips and advice and participate in surveys. When school returns to normal, they hope to bring year groups and forms closer together and work further towards helping the school be more environmentally friendly.



[SWPSHEADGIRLSTEAM](https://www.instagram.com/swpsheadgirlsteam)

# SWPS STAY AT HOME SUCCESS STORIES

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE CONFIDENCE, INTEGRITY AND EXCELLENCE



## MILLY B IMPRESSES ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

Milly B (Amelia) in Year 9 recently sang for Andrew Lloyd Webber, Graham Norton and Sierra Boggess in Lloyd Webber's 'Cadenza Challenge'; part of his #ComposerInIsolation series. The judges singled Milly out as being 'Extraordinary', 'The new Charlotte Church'; [watch here](#) (go to 12.41).

Milly had a huge social media response during the challenge, with over 600 'likes'. Milly didn't win the contest, however Andrew Lloyd Webber has taken an interest in her singing. Amelia hopes to pursue a career in Musical Theatre, and is a long-time fan of Andrew Lloyd Webber, so her success in the competition is a dream come true. Milly is a member of SWPS Chamber Choir, so look out for future performances.



## LAURA H HELPS NHS

Laura H in 8P has been busy making laundry bags for NHS workers' scrubs. The bags allow NHS staff to safely transport and wash their clothes without risking any spread of the coronavirus to their families.

Laura is doing a brilliant job making the bags with a collective called Horsell Scrubbers based in Woking. To find out more join their facebook group.



## NINA T HAS AN EASTER TO REMEMBER

Year 7 student Nina T has had an Easter to remember, we very much enjoyed her Von Trapp style public health message with her family (view on our school twitter feed @SWPSOfficial); and who could forget her wonderful depiction of Jacqueline Du Pre, with which she went on to win our Hard Boiled Heroes Competition - winning 100 housepoints in the process.

Nina's greatest achievement this Easter however was with her Cello, playing as part of Jess Gillam's Scratch Orchestra. The orchestra, made up of 930 musicians from 26 countries, played a rendition of Bowie's 'Where are we now?' on Zoom; the haunting melody garnered huge public attention; and Nina was thrilled to play on-screen alongside her cello hero Sheku Kanneh-Mason. We're looking forward to seeing what's next for Nina.



## AMELIE CARES FOR HORSES

This is Amelie in 7P looking after horses furloughed from the Riding for the Disabled Association. She has been feeding and grooming them daily. A wonderful act of kindness.



[@SWPSOFFICIAL](#)

# STEM - TAKING THE LEAD

SWPS MAKING STRIDES IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS



## QUARANTINE CHEMISTRY

Each Monday Biology & Chemistry Teacher, Miss Brown, presents Quarantine Chemistry from her YouTube channel of the same name, which you can find [here](#).

On her channel you will find a collection of experiments which can be easily replicated using common household items. So far Miss Brown has shown us how to make a lava lamp and a rainbow jar; and how to grow gummy bears - making sweets bigger, we've all got to get behind that!

These experiments have gone down a storm with our students whose efforts have been rewarded with amazing results. This is something to look forward to each week. Stay tuned!



## SWPS DESIGN STUDENTS ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE

Over the last few weeks our talented Design students have been designing a wonderful array of planters and bird feeders designed to encourage birds and wildlife into their gardens. Some of the work has been truly spectacular, head over to [@SWPSDesign](#) on Twitter to see many more creative examples.



## HARD BOILED HEROES

To launch The Female Lead Society at SWPS, our Hard Boiled Heroes competition was designed to inspire our students to support and empower each other.

All entrants used a hard boiled egg to create a tribute to a woman they admire. The winner was from Nina T in Year 7, for her depiction of Jacqueline Du Pre an exceptional British Cellist. Second place went to Ella M for Cleopatra and third to Rushali C for Malala Yousafzai.

Another excellent entry was from Katie, whose Rebecca Adlington egg was selected as a joint winning entry by The Female Lead - for which Katie was awarded £50 in vouchers!

## ALGEBRAIC SEQUENCES

This week in Maths our Year 7s made algebraic sequences from objects found around their homes. This is Skye with hers - check out our Twitter feed [@SWPSOfficial](#) for more.



## CHARLIZE'S CHALLENGE

Year 9 student Charlize spent Easter cracking the Rubix Cube, and can now solve it in the very respectable time of one minute 23 seconds!

Having found a real passion, she's involved siblings and grandparents in the craze, which has been a great way of keeping her family connected.

She has also launched her own YouTube channel 'Lizzy xox', where she is teaching others everything she has learned - you can watch her videos and subscribe [here](#).

We are using Charlize as inspiration for a House Challenge. Check Firefly for details, house points for anyone getting close to her time!

## MATHS PUZZLE

**In a school of 1200 pupils, 580 are girls. One third of pupils travel by bus. 462 boys do not go by bus. How many girls go by bus?**

Answers on Twitter [@SWPSSTEM](#)



[@SWPSOFFICIAL](#)

# SPORTING & CO-CURRICULAR NEWS



A ROUND-UP OF SWPS LATEST NEWS AND SPORTING EVENTS



## DoE GOLD WINNERS

To celebrate the achievements of Gold award holders who can't attend a presentation at Buckingham Palace this spring HRH The Earl of Wessex sends a message of congratulations.

We add a huge well done to all our deserving Gold Award Winners: India, Valentina, Jessica, Kate, Brooke, Sriya, Katharine, Madeleine, Caitlin and Rebekah!!

SWPS has over a 75% DoE completion rate at all levels, one of the very best rates in Surrey! To all of our other DoE participants and our brilliant Bronze and Silver Award, very well done and keep up the fantastic work!



## SPORTING CHALLENGES

Check out [@SWPSSport](#) on twitter to keep up with our latest sporting challenges and student activities.

From learning new skills like Kung Fu and taking part in charitable fundraising activities, our students are keeping themselves busy and active, which is great for mind and body alike!

Send us your videos and photos of your challenge attempts.



## ROWING STAR HATTIE T

In a recent interview SWPS Alumna Hattie Taylor talked about her career highlights, rowing at SWPS and looking forward to Tokyo 2021.

An international medallist at U23, Hattie was first selected for a senior boat at the 2017 World Cup regatta in Lucerne. Following her time rowing at SWPS, Hattie spent her gap year with Melbourne University Boat club.

Picked to represent the UK in 2015, she took bronze with the women's eight at the World Rowing U23 Championships. She made her senior GB debut in 2017 in the women's four, before winning silver as part of the eight at the World Rowing Cup 2018.



## ATHLETES HOTSEAT

Our NEW Athlete Hotseat Series will see our students involved in live interviews and Q&As with elite athletes - including World and Olympic medallists, Boat Race winners, Henley Royal Regatta winners and overseas rowers.

New events will air every two weeks. Our first guests were Matt and George Rossiter of the prestigious LeanderClub, over 50 of you tuned in to listen to stories of the GB squad.

Events are currently open to J14-18 rowers who can attend via the SWPSBC group Teams - look out for further announcements. Recordings of the events will be posted to our website.

THE  
GOOD  
SCHOOLS  
GUIDE

'A golden ticket to a bright future, with lots of fun to be had on the way.' *March 2020*



Excellent in all areas.  
'Pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their lives.'

*October 2019*



# OUR BRILLIANT STUDENTS

RESILIENT, CARING, INGENIOUS, CREATIVE, EXTRAORDINARY - A CELEBRATION

