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Issue 23
Feb 2018

Showcasing exceptional
work by pupils from
Princethorpe College,
Crackley Hall School and
Crescent School.



WELCOME



Working with talented and very able pupils over the years, I have always felt that the origins of greatness are far more complex than any single approach will capture and have therefore made an effort, over the years, to understand all the many complex, nuanced factors contributing to the emergence of greatness and its developmental trajectory.

As a result, our innovative da Vinci programme here at Princethorpe College looks to nurture and to identify not just above average ability (in the traditional sense of gifted and talented provision), but creativity and task commitment besides. When these three interlocking traits combine, students are identified as performing at da Vinci level and are entered into a system of reward and further stretch and challenge. This method allows the College a more holistic approach to gifted and talented provision and enables us to focus on nurturing performance virtues (such as perseverance, motivation and resilience), intellectual virtues (such as curiosity, reasoning and reflection) and deliberate practice, as well as innate ability. Our approach is founded on wide-ranging academic research into the complexity of greatness.

At Princethorpe College we value natural ability, deliberate practice and psychological disposition in equal measure. We are constantly striving to improve and develop our understanding of greatness and, as a result, this academic year, we have introduced a further two innovations to complement the da Vinci Programme. The first is **Grit Sticks** stickers. These rewards are worth the equivalent of two academic merits and celebrate moments when students demonstrate great resilience and determination.



The second is our new **Learning Skills** curriculum, delivered during Tutor Time each week, when we focus our students on developing non-cognitive skills and academic behaviours (such as resilience, grit, self-control, conscientiousness, meta-cognition, growth mind set and self-efficacy) which will make them better learners. This, in turn, will help them to achieve their innate potential and to flourish as individuals.

It is the culmination of these character traits in Upper Sixth Art student **Adam Smith** that has come together to produce the excellent front cover of this issue, with his painting titled 'Ella in Blue'. Well done to Adam but he is not the only one.



There are pages and pages of excellent work in this issue from across an expanding Foundation. It's always a pleasure and a privilege to bring everything together in one place and to see the thoughtful work our pupils have been doing. Well done everyone.

Thanks go to: staff at Princethorpe College; staff at Crackley Hall School (ably co-ordinated by C at Hardwick); staff at The Crescent (ably co-ordinated by Sarah Lowe); our Marketing Team and designer Debbie at DamDesign.org.uk.

see you next issue!

HELEN PASCOE-WILLIAMS



It's official Miriam can talk for England!

Princethorpe Head Girl and Upper Sixth Former, Miriam Isaacs, has won the national finals of the Catenian Public Speaking Competition for Young People from Catholic schools.

The competition took place in September, at the Manchester Conference Centre, and Miriam was one of 16 regional winners who travelled from all over the country to take part in this prestigious event.

17-year-old Miriam, who is studying A-levels in History, French and English Literature and Language gave a four-minute presentation on the topic of 'Should the law should always be obeyed?'

Competitors were marked by the judges, Wendy Sutcliffe, Lord Alton of Liverpool and the Bishop of Salford, Reverend John Arnold, on a variety of criteria from content, delivery, elocution and appearance. Points were deducted for excessive use of notes and over or under running. Standards were very high and the judges were unanimous in their decision to award first place to Miriam.

Miriam's success knows no bounds as she has recently been awarded a Gold Medal for her Grade 8 Acting, London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) Examination, the highest level possible.

She had to prepare three monologue speeches from published plays. Her repertoire included 'Antigone' by Sophocles, 'St Joan' By George Bernard Shaw and 'Our Country's Good' by Timberlake Wertenbaker, they demonstrated her ability to convey period and style using contrasting pieces of comedy and drama.

LAMDA teacher, Mary MacDonald paid tribute to Miriam, "This is the culmination of five years LAMDA study, including acting, mime, and public speaking. Her outstanding success is a direct result of her diligence, ownership and mature understanding of the tasks involved."



I felt very privileged to be able to take part in this competition at a national level and talking about the law and justice reminded me how lucky we are to be able to speak our mind in public. And of course, winning was the icing on the cake!



PROJECTS UPDATE

Well done to students from Years 8, 9 and 13 as we approach the deadline for submitting Project Qualifications. It's not easy to sustain an independent project alongside a busy schedule of curriculum studies. They have all done extremely well to get this far.

This year, Year 8 Academic Scholars Oscar Page, Emma Thomas, Prateesh Prabakaran and Madoc Williams have been meeting every week to plan, research, complete and evaluate Level 1 Foundation Projects ranging from rugby to social media.

Eight da Vinci students from Year 9 have been busily working on Level 2 Higher Projects, with topics ranging from the composition of a folk tune to the design of an App. Lucy Gribben, Ben Scares, Mary Lomas, Caitlin Mason, Anthony Convey, Ciaran Smith, Archie Hancock and Keely Ball have all worked tirelessly each week and Mrs Scott and I are very proud of them.

Upper Sixth students James Fletcher, Luke Dunkley, Miriam Isaacs, Anna Harper-Lawrence, Grace Blackhall, Alexx Parkin, Kate McIntyre, Laurence Chapman and Michael Gucluar have been forging ahead with performances, writing a novel and questions of law and order. A fascinating mix of pursuits.

I look forward to seeing what this year's Lower Sixth students discover as they progress through the year, now that the Project Qualification has replaced General Studies on the time table. Our new team of mentors has worked hard to support them in learning the art of project management.

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!



Malala's story

Mr Isaacs' Year 8 Religious Studies class has been studying Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate. This wonderful poem by Molly Wincott-Thomas about Malala's courage in calling for equal access for girls to education is well crafted and insightful. Well done Molly

Malala's story

Malala Yousafzai from Pakistan
 Dreamed of equality between woman and man
 She knew that worth wasn't based on gender
 And had no idea of the journey that fate would send her

In her country it was forbidden to educate a female
 And in going to school she risked persecution and jail
 The Taliban wished to stop all girls' education
 So Malala, she fought for herself and her nation

Aged 15 she travelled from school on the bus
 Excited to learn like each one of us
 When a gunman stopped them, gun in his hand
 Violence was used because learning was banned



THE 'AVERAGE' STUDENT

7Y3 have been investigating the "average" student in their class. They decided what data they wanted and collected it, choosing the most efficient way to do this; they calculated mean, median, mode and range, and then decided which of those averages was the most useful for each piece of data; they produced pie charts and bar charts to get a clear picture of what the average student in the class was.

In conclusion, the average student is a boy, aged 12, with brown hair and blue eyes. He is 162cm tall, with size 6 feet and a hand span of 15cm. He is in Austin or More House, and likes to play cricket.



National ISA Art Competition 2017



KS4 Drawing:
Helena Lintott - Winner



Over 16 Painting:
Oliver Mottishead -
Runner Up



KS5 Sketchbook:
Tom Barnes - Runner up

PRINCETHORPE ARTISTS LIVING OUT LOUD



Émile Zola once said, "If you ask me what I came to do in this world, I, an artist, will answer you: I am here to live out loud." The tremendous art produced by students at Princethorpe College certainly does just that and we are always extremely proud to celebrate their successes. Last term, a number of our Key Stage 4 and 5 Art students achieved recognition in the Regional and National Art Competitions.

Congratulations everyone.



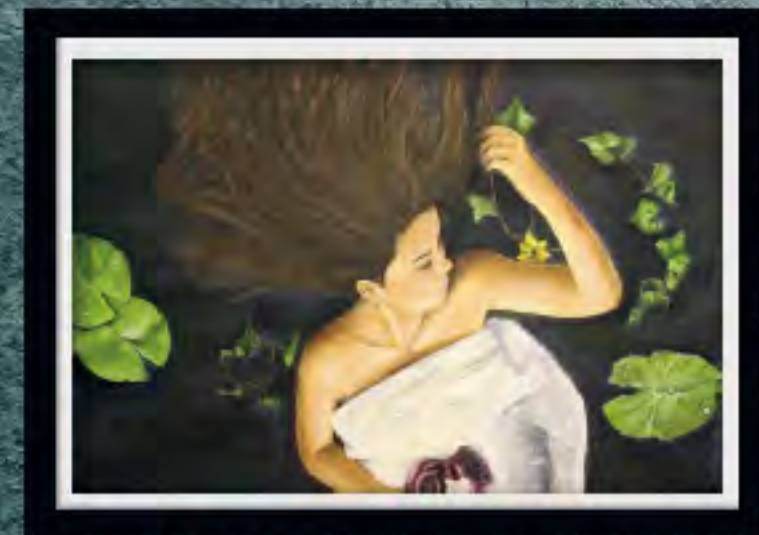
KS4 Textiles (Art): Lauren Hill -
Highly Commended



Sebastian
Lloyd-
Thomas, Y11



Sophie
Mitchell,
Y11



Jack
Murley,
Y11



National
ISA Art
Competition
2017

SNEAK PREVIEW

Our A-level and GCSE artists have been busy working on their portfolios before their final examinations in April and May. Here's a sneak preview of some of their work which will be no doubt appearing in the Summer Art, Photography and Design Show in June. Join us on: Thursday 21 June, 6.00pm to 8.30pm and Sunday 24 June 2.00pm to 4.30pm.



Aranhata
Rennle,
Gaskin, Y11



Walt
Watson,
Y11



Imo
Butler, U6



Jess
McCoy, Y11



Isabella
Duncan, Y11



Scarlet
Gladwin, Y11



Lizzie
Watson, U6



Leah
Dunkley,
Y11



Luke
O'Keefe,
Y11



Abby
Keast, U6



Selma
Hassan, U6

ARABIAN NIGHTS CAST SPELL OVER NEW CLARKSON THEATRE

It's wedding night in the palace of King Shahrayar. By morning, the new queen, Shahrazad, is to be put to death like a thousand young brides before her. She has the one gift that can save her: the gift of storytelling. With a mischievous imagination and silver tongue, Queen Shahrazad paints a dazzling array of stories and characters, summoned forth from strange and magical worlds populated by talking birds, singing trees and crafty thieves.

Can the power of storytelling save her life?

So begins Dominic Cooke's adaption of Arabian Nights, directed by Aileen Cefaliello and performed with verve and passion by our wonderful troupe of players. Over three nights this February, captivated audiences were transported to a colourful world of larger than life characters, tall stories and Eastern promise, what better way to combat this long cold winter we have had.

As an added treat on Saturday 10 February, we welcomed Old Princethorpean and professional actor, Emilio Doorgasingh, back to the College to talk to the cast and officially open the Clarkson Theatre at the beginning of the final sell-out performance.



TOTAL LEGENDS!

Legends Hockey Camps at Princethorpe are back again this summer and if you haven't been before, now is the time to find out about them and book your place for summer 2018!

As well as first class hockey coaching, last year's camps enjoyed the usual highlights: the delicious hog roast supper; the weird and wonderful silent disco; the water slide cool down; Dex's music (and last summer an appearance from the incredibly talented one-man-band Thom Kirkpatrick) as well as a not-so-usual visitor... What a surprise it was when the janitor sweeping the floor took off her overcoat to reveal herself as no other than Olympic Gold-Medallist Helen Richardson-Walsh!

Together with hockey legend and 1988 Olympic Gold Medallist Imran Sherwani, they handed around their medals (Sherwani's Seoul Olympic Gold Medal turned out to be a bit smaller than

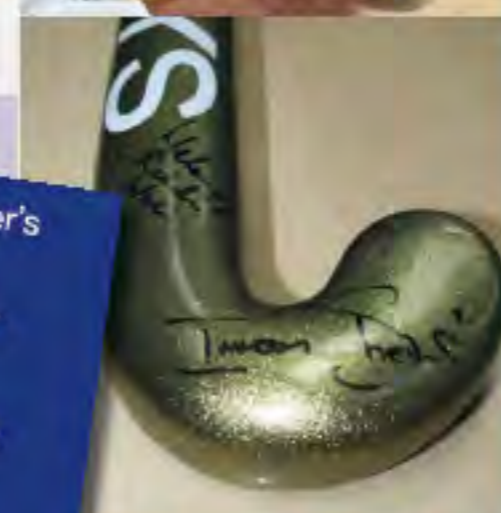
What a surprise it was when the janitor sweeping the floor took off her overcoat to reveal herself as no other than Olympic Gold-Medallist Helen Richardson-Walsh!

Helen's more recent 2016 Olympic Gold Medal) and talked to the hockey campers about their experiences in the world of hockey.

After the talk, everyone had the chance to get autographs, selfies and words of wisdom from each of the hockey superstars. It was, truly, a remarkable and unforgettable day for all.

Another two Great Britain players Adam Dixon and Ollie Willars, also visited the camp and spent most of the day getting involved. They took part in an exhibition mini match that saw lots of the attendees playing with their heroes. They spent time

with some of those who aspire to play at the top level and gave them some very good advice on how to win over the selectors.



If you want to be part of this summer's camps, the dates are as follows:
 Camp 1: 24 - 27 July 2018 (Tuesday to Friday)
 Camp 2: 31 July - 3 August 2018 (Tuesday to Friday)
 All are welcome from age 6 to 17.
 For a flavour of what happened on Camp 2 last year, follow this link: <https://youtu.be/P3IGXHEJnnw> and for more information on how to book your place on a upcoming camp, check out the website: <http://legendshockeycamps.webs.com>
 What are you waiting for? Become part of the Princethorpe legend and book your place now!



Traitor or Framed?

Mrs Landon has recently awarded a da Vinci to William Hawkins in Year 8 for producing an outstanding History essay on The Gunpowder Plot. His work is well above Key Stage 3 level. His response includes considered and developed analysis and independent research well beyond what has been taught in the classroom. Highly accomplished work William!



Another big historical debate questions the Gunpowder Plot and whether it was a) a genuine attempt to blow up Parliament b) Robert Cecil (and Parliament) framed the Catholics or c) it started off as an actual plot but was exaggerated and that Cecil knew from early on to catch them red-handed because he knew all about it from the start. My essay will look at all three options and come to a conclusion as to what I think happened, which no doubt will change as the evidence on both sides is very strong and I could be easily convinced either way. Guilty, framed or a trap?

Remember, remember, the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and plot, we see no reason, why gunpowder treason should ever be forgot. It makes sense that a group of Catholics would want to retaliate to the political and religious madness over the previous century and a bit. They obviously would be aggravated by James I's decision to send the Catholic priests away and being a Protestant himself, the plot is understandable. Also Guido (Guy) Fawkes, Thomas Winter, John Wright, Robert Catesby and Percy were all known to be strongly Catholic and Guy Fawkes' journey to England to be the explosives expert couldn't be a coincidence. This evidence suggests that the Catholic's idea was based to go against James I and that the plot was probably genuine.





Don't stress! Cross-School Space Mission Saves Earth!



As we approached February half term, 35 lucky Foundation pupils swapped a day of lessons for a mission-critical 'Rendezvous with a Comet' challenge to save planet Earth at the National Space Centre, Leicester.

Savoring the opportunity to demonstrate their problem solving skills, pupils were briefed by their Space Centre Commanders before coordinating their efforts to build and launch the probe that would save the day. Pupils took on various roles including Navigation, Communication and Data Officers as well as being part of the Isolation, Medical and Remote Teams. During the two and half hour mission, real life dilemmas were presented to the Year 6, 7 and 8 pupils to test their ability to work under pressure. They had to communicate effectively, plot accurate coordinates, swap data, test chemicals, identify gases and colour spectrums.

After a heroes' welcome, the teams returned to Mission Control safely. Da Vinci Coordinator, Mrs Pascoe-Williams said, "It was another excellent day at the Challenger Learning Centre. This is the sixth time that we have taken pupils on this annual trip and, as always, the atmosphere was fantastic. I was extremely proud of our astronauts' capacity for high-level cross-curricula learning and it was wonderful to see Year 6 Crescent and Crackley Hall School pupils working alongside each other. Accompanying members of staff Mr Harris and Mrs Lowe were extremely impressed by how industriously every student worked from start to finish; everyone was totally engaged at all times."

The mission-critical trip ended with that all-important visit to the gift shop to purchase some souvenirs to remind everyone of their journey into space.



"The vast amount of equipment we used really made us all feel like we were in space. I especially enjoyed using the headsets, just wearing them made me feel part of a much bigger team."
CHRISTOPHER GIBSON, CLASS VI

"Mission Control was my favourite because it was cool communicating like we were in space. If I did blast off into space I would like to be a Communications Officer."

FYNN WALKER, 16

"Using a robot for the first time was simply amazing. I didn't think we'd do anything as important as checking for radiation... Wow!"

KAENA WASELY, 16

"Finding out how we plotted the coordinates to launch the probe was amazing. We worked together to ensure a direct hit and ultimately mission success."

SAMUEL LAU, CLASS VI

"It was so great to get out of the class room and get real hands on experiences! I absolutely loved the clean room and it was one of the highlights of the trip... opening my mind to coping under stressful and pressured situations, and working co-operatively as a team"

EVE FARQUHARSON, Y8



The Big Question

Year 9 Religious Studies pupils have been studying the arguments for and against God's existence. This exceptional work by Isabel Nelson presents the arguments clearly and creatively showing an appreciation of both sides of the debate.



Summer holidays inspire language skills

Modern Foreign Language Year 9 students were asked to write about holidays with four areas of focus: what you did on holiday last year; why holidays are important; how you can holiday cheaply; and whether you prefer to go on holiday with family or friends. Here are some examples of excellent vocabulary use and structures. Well done everyone.



Harpreet Birdi

La Station Familiale de Harpreet

Activités

On peut:

- Jouer au badminton: il y a une courbe de badminton
- Jouer au tennis: nous avons cinq plots de tennis
- Faire du badminton: il y a trois courts de badminton
- Faire tennis sur: nous avons un court de tennis
- Jouer au golf: il y a deux terrains de golf
- Faire du yoga: on trouve les salles gratuitement
- Jouer plaisir d'activités familiales

Réglement

Charges:

- Porter des chaussures dans les bâtiments
- Porter des bâtons de ski dans les bâtiments
- Être respectueux envers les autres visiteurs

À ne pas faire:

- Fumer après 23 heures à 7 heures
- Boire de l'alcool dans les chantiers
- Fumer dans les appartements

Autres installations:

- Sea
- Gym
- Swim
- Zone d'activités pour enfants

En plus:

- Un suite de quatre lits, une salle, une cuisine et deux chambres et deux salles de bains
- Un suite de deux lits, une salle, une cuisine et un chambre et une salle de bains

Pour manger, des restaurants sont à votre disposition:

- Le Barri Verts - buffet de salade
- Salad Parbat - cuisine de légumes
- Wan Hai - cuisine de Chine
- Jalisco - cuisine rapide
- Muchachos - cuisine de Mexique



Ella Mason

Information générale

pièces:

- Nous avons une chambre, une salle de bain et un balcon avec un jardin pour vous détendre dans!

activités:

- Louer votre voiture dans le parking à l'entrée
- Surveiller les enfants de moins de dix ans près de la piscine
- Quitter votre appartement avec une clé au par de départ

Le ne peut pas:

- Fumer dans les appartements
- Être invité au personnel
- Détruire les meubles

autres:

- Nous avons de la nourriture, de la soupe, des boissons chaudes, des boissons froides et un balcon avec un jardin pour vous détendre dans!
- Nous avons deux restaurants - La Grande Spécialité dans le centre de la ville et une spécialité dans le centre de la ville
- Nous avons un jardin pour les enfants
- Nous avons un jardin pour les enfants

Bienvenue au centre de vacances AU CLAIR DE LA JOURNÉE

→ ouvert à tous

→ Situé au bord de la mer, au cœur de la journée vous pouvez le faire dans vos vacances chez nous!

IN DEN SOMMERFERIEN

Year 10 student Lauren Mason has only been studying German for a year and a half but that doesn't stop her handing in homework with only one tiny spelling mistake for her teacher to correct. Mrs Ellis was impressed by her wide range of vocabulary, selection of complex structures and tenses, the accuracy of her grammar and spelling as well as the fluency of her language through use of connectives and connective phrases. Ausgezeichnet!

In den Sommerferien bin ich mit meiner Mutter nach Berlin geflogen. Berlin liegt in Deutschland, und ich habe die Reise ganz lang gefunden, obwohl das Flugzeug sehr schnell geflogen ist. Wir haben bei meiner Tante für eine Woche übernachtet, und wir haben die Sehenswürdigkeiten zusammen besichtigt, z.B. Checkpoint Charlie und den Reichstag. Ich habe viele Fotos gemacht, und wir haben jede Nacht im Restaurant gegessen, weil ich deutsches Essen liebe.

Glücklicherweise hat es nie geregnet, obwohl es oft zu heiß für mich war. Ich bin in nur eine Souvenirshop gegangen, um Andenken für meinen Vater und meine Schwester zu kaufen. Sie waren ganz teuer, also hoffentlich werden meine Familie sie lieben.

Nächstes Jahr würde ich zurückkommen, weil Berlin nicht nur wunderschön sondern auch sehr historisch ist. Ich freue mich schon auf meinen nächsten Besuch!



Lauren Mason, Y10



Alex Rejali

Letztes Jahr bin ich mit meiner Familie nach Portugal gefahren. Wir waren für zwei Wochen in einem modernen Hotel. Ich habe viele Fotos gemacht, die ich an meine Freunde geschickt habe. Es gab viele Sehenswürdigkeiten, obwohl wir nicht viele sehen. Wir sind in die Stadt gegangen, wo ich viele Andenken gekauft habe, die unglaublich teuer waren! Am liebsten habe ich am Strand Sommerbaden und im Meer schwimmen. Wir haben auch ein Boot gemietet und konnten schöne Delfine sehen - es war spektakulär! Endlich wir haben eine Radtour am Meer gemacht, aber die Bootsfahrt war besser als die Fahrradtour.



Daniel Hatfield

Le Parc Des Vacances Ensoleillement

Activités

- Tir à l'arc - pour les juniors et les adultes
- Les Quads - il y a quatre centres
- Jouer au tennis - il y a trois courts de tennis extérieurs
- L'escalade - Le mur d'escalade est dix mètres

Il y a autres activités au centre sportif.

Aussi au Parc

- Village du Parc - il y a des magasins et des restaurants
- Le peintre de poterie - Portals pour les familles
- La Ménagerie - Nettoyage tous les jours
- Le parking - Deux voitures par le logis

L'évaluation des cinq étoiles

Le Parc Des Vacances Ensoleillement offre un tarif pittoresque. Il y a beaucoup des activités passionnantes et une piscine spectaculaire.

Nous avons deux différents logis. Le logis de mer a trois chambres, une cuisine, un salon et deux salles de bains. Le logis de terre a quatre chambres, chambres de jeux, une cuisine, un salon et quatre salles de bains.

Il y a beaucoup des restaurants et aussi centre sportif avec la spa.



Speaking Out

Mrs Moon's Year 8 English group have been aiming to use direct speech effectively in their writing and to do a bit of 'show, don't tell'. They have written conversations occurring after the executions described in *Animal Farm*. Here are two examples of excellent work by Dan Webb and Madoc Williams.

Cold winter winds blew into the barn where the animals, stunned and terrified, took shelter from the harsh weather. 'What happened to Animalism?' they asked each other. Confusion spread. 'I just don't understand,' Boxer declared, 'why Napoleon broke the rules of *Animal Farm*. I thought Napoleon was always right.'

Clover sprang forward and exclaimed, 'Well, this time, Napoleon is wrong! Is it fair to slaughter innocent animals? Is it fair to sleep in the farmhouse? Is it fair to manipulate and command us?' The crowd began to stir...

Suddenly, Squealer burst through the barn door: a pack of dogs like body guards snarling beside him. 'It is now forbidden to meet without Napoleon's attendance after dark,' he announced. The dogs reinforced his words with threatening growls which sent the animals running to their beds. 'That will teach them,' muttered Squealer as he slipped out of the barn into the freezing night.

'The animals grow restless...' Napoleon muttered to himself. He leaned back on his chair and puffed his cigarette, the smoke spiralling and dancing through the farmhouse. In the corner, comfortable on an assortment of blankets and pillows, the dogs lay sleeping. 'They must learn,' Napoleon finally exclaimed, 'who their true ruler is!' His menacing cackle echoed around the room like files trapped in a jar.

The time had come for Phase Two...

By Dan Webb



It wasn't until midnight that they met again. Squealer found Napoleon behind the old well at the bottom of the farm, its ancient wooden structure creaking in the wind.

'I got the dogs to finish 'em off,' Napoleon told Squealer in a hushed gruff whisper. 'They're rippin' the corpses to shreds behind the mill.'

'Excellent plan, sir.' The moon tore through the clouds.

'A-ha!' Napoleon said as he unravelled the plans for the windmill onto the well, 'Now we talk business.'

'More killings, sir?' Squealer asked in an anxious tone.

'No, or there'd be no more workers.'

A relieved sigh escaped Squealer's snout. He trotted over to Napoleon's side, whisking his tail, and studied the plans in the glowing moonlight. 'The modifications will be perfect, sir,' Squealer complimented.

'Yes,' Napoleon whispered, 'But now we must leave before we are seen.'

And with that, they departed. And, on their way out, left footprints. And, on their way out, further wrecked the flour mill. Now, Snowball had been there...

The deranged dogs continued ripping through the dead all night and by morning, were lying on the floor filled with meat drooling lazily on the grass. However, when it was only just dawn, the hounds were rudely aroused by Napoleon ordering them to return to the barn and wake the other animals.

When the animals saw the windmill, Boxer's jaw dropped but it was Clover who spoke first, 'Snowball,' she said finally.

'That is right my fellow comrades,' consoled Napoleon who had sneaked up behind them. 'It appears he has targeted the flour mill,' he grunted angrily, 'so now we will install the hooks, fridges, slicers and source a cleaver.'

'For what -'

'Don't ask questions. Work starts now.'

By Madoc Williams



'IN CRIME WRITING, THERE ARE ALWAYS VICTIMS.'



Upper Sixth English Literature students are currently studying *Hamlet* as a crime text. Yes, that's correct, a crime text. We are certainly familiar with the play falling within the genre of tragedy, but looking at the play through the lens of crime writing is a novel and fascinating idea. Here is one example of an excellent essay written by Laurence Chapman to whet your appetite.

'In Crime writing, there are always victims.'

Explore the significance of the ways that victims are presented in *Hamlet*.

In crime writing, there has to be victims. Sometimes, there are victims who are presented more significantly than others, as some are central to the plot and some are not, but are instead used to add more drama to the text and to the play on-stage.

In '*Hamlet*', the young Prince Hamlet has the heavy burden of avenging his Father's murder, as the ghost of the old king Hamlet commands his son to "avenge" him. This is significant because Prince Hamlet is the eponymous tragic hero and the detective around which the whole play is centred.

Hamlet is also a victim of Polonius spying on him and ruining his relationship with Ophelia. This is insignificant in terms of plot development, as Hamlet's relationship is more of a sub-plot that adds to the overall tragedy. All of this means however that Hamlet is more isolated, which further adds to the tragedy. This is significant when looking at the play through the lens of crime writing.

The prince is also a victim of Claudius' plan to send him to England to be killed, which adds another layer of stress and tragedy to Hamlet's life and also adds yet another potential crime and more blood on Claudius' hands. Hamlet is also a victim of grief and of circumstance, as he is fatherless and to him, "Denmark's a prison". This colours his mood and also causes him to be angry and somewhat melancholic.

Old King Hamlet is a victim of regicide and fratricide at the hand of Claudius.

This is significant because it provides the entire thrust of the play and sets out the whole of the plot. It is also the primary crime of the play.

In a very religious context, fratricide was considered extremely serious, especially of a king. This is because it relates back to the Biblical story of Cain and Abel.

By Laurence Chapman



The Atom

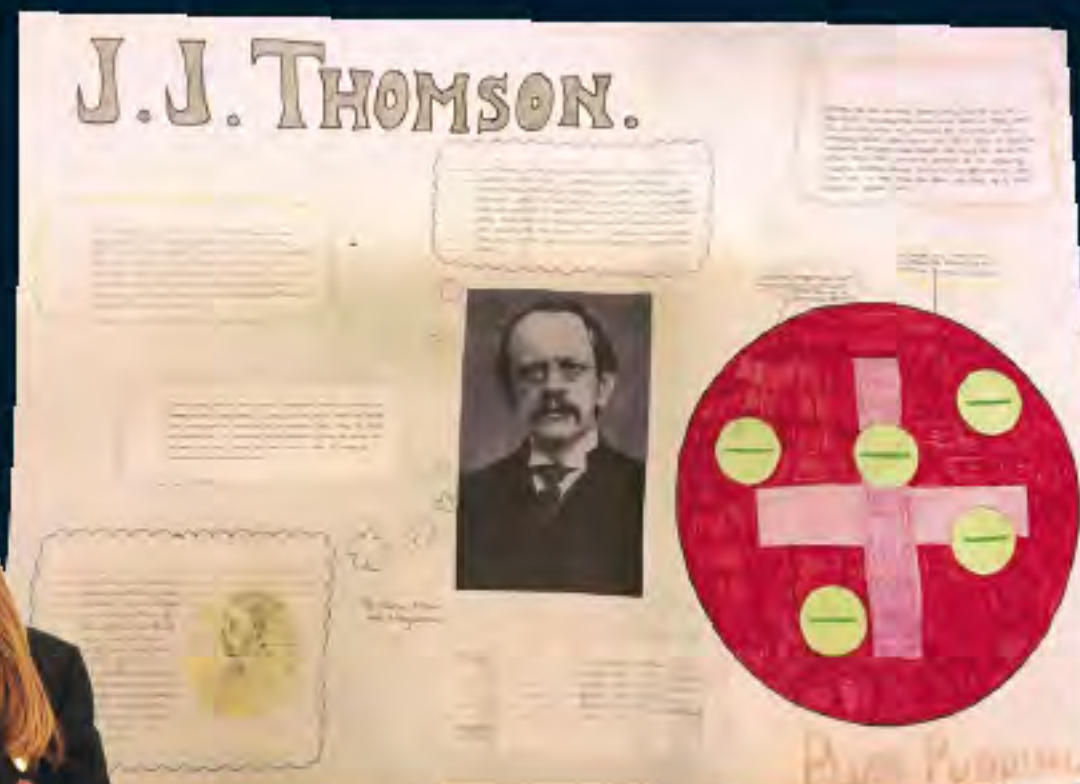
In Mrs Smith's Science Class Year 9 pupils have been exploring the development of the atom and were asked to investigate one model. Mary Lomas and Caitlin Mason produced this wonderful poster outlining the approach of Sir Joseph John Thomson OM PRS, the English physicist and Nobel Laureate in Physics, credited with the discovery and identification of the electron; and with the discovery of the first subatomic particle.



Mary Lomas, Y9



Caitlin Mason, Y9



On the pitch!

This season's U12A rugby team came together as a group of boys for the first time, with one common interest, a love of the game of rugby.

The fixtures commenced very quickly into the term and the first three games were tough, competition was strong - we were having to learn fast. We were a mixed group, experience-wise, some boys played rugby for clubs and some had never played the game before. Even though we lost the first three fixtures, there was much learning taking place on the pitch. Tackling and holding the line were proving to be key. The next couple of games saw wins for the team, a great confidence booster, we felt as though progress was being made. We were working together well and responding to the challenge. Leading the team with support and encouragement for the players was Tom Bates, an ideal man for the job, as well as, being a "master tackler" himself. We were beginning to gel really well as a team.

The Coaches Mr Holtom and Mr Bucknall had the confidence to select players who had never played the game before and they continued to provide their full support and guidance at training sessions and during matches.

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points for	Points against	Points difference
14	4	0	10	255	475	-220

The results above do not show the full picture—we won 4 of the 14 fixtures. However, we gained a huge amount as a team—we know each other better, we started to understand each others' strengths and weaknesses on the pitch, we worked for each other, gained a better understanding of the rules and of the resounding need to tackle! Most of all, we are all fired up and ready for next season when we will be provided with more opportunities to improve as a team and hopefully to secure a greater number of wins!

Thank you Coaches for your advice and encouragement and also very many thanks to our parents for their support, in all weathers, from the sidelines!

Quote of the season: after the first game, one player asked "are we supposed to tackle?"...

Tom Hollis, Y7



Thursday 28 September 2017 marked National Poetry Day. The theme was 'Freedom' and a number of our students were inspired to write some fabulous poems for an English Department competition. Congratulations to Sebastian Dibb, whose poem inspired by Dr Faustus, won first prize and a token of our admiration in the form of a book. Well done everyone, here is a flavour of the work produced...

Sebastian Dibb, Y9

Home Front

A regular man in a regular bed,
woke up one morning
with a thought in his head,
I've got to be free

and this regular man
began on his mission,
An aspiration
To escape from his boring
Mind, give life
and do something worthwhile,
and to kill his strife.

So today was the day
he would stop the obligation
that his life had a purpose,
and begin his graduation

Towards happiness, freedom
and a brighter state of mind
no longer would he be confined

From this day forth he would
advance and be defined
as a man in charge of his own destiny,
Someone dauntless, fearless, rock-like, real

So he leapt from his bed and grabbed some cash,
bought a plane and was gone in a flash

Possessed by his spirit and crazy idea
he marched into work and told his boss Ma
that he was leaving,
that he was going to change his life.

And so he wandered into the dark cold street,
he felt worried by the strong and steady beat
of the drum and the life,
Sounding out the best of his new-found life

Freedom

My stomach rumbled louder and louder everyday
As hours passed the hunger and harder I would grow
I would wash the morning sun rise
Through the tiny shed window with tears in my eyes
I tried to be positive and have some hope
But it was difficult trying to cope
Through the screaming, crying and grunts
I saw a soldier, I got shivers down my spine
He was Russian for sure, with a red star on his hat
He said we were free and that was that

I take nothing for granted I now walk with pride
So lucky to be out
Lucky to be alive
I'll never forget the past
Those memories will attack
I'm scared for life
My blood is now thick

Freedom is something to cherish and it shouldn't be
taken away
Freedom is something we take for granted
Freedom is something I'm thankful to have today

Jess Scott, Y10

Ciaran Smith, Y9

The Freedom Fight

The fight for freedom had finally come with
all the above and more left in the past,
The hardships have all been conquered,
And the reward of freedom has come at last.

Who would have thought one tiny man
could have fought so strong and brave,
He had so many others behind his goal,
And a lot of other people he managed to save.

All of the soldiers were confident with pride,
His cause was right and he spoke with a cheer,
People would come for miles to hear his speech,
And say things such as "brave" and "dear".

Eventually the fight came to close,
With him winning the battle and greater peace,
How his hard work all had paid off,
And everyone knew what he spoke was true.

He overcame all fears and gave up nothing and tells
that really we overcame blood and sweat,
One day he was walking to his destination,
But a shot rang out and he fell down dead.

Everyone should know about this wonderful man,
And how he fought for what he knew was right,
So let his name be an example to all,
Just keep going with your freedom fight.