

Welcome

Dear all,

Visiting Hong Kong on behalf of the school to catch up with former students and parents and to meet other families was one of half-term jobs that goes beyond what most people probably expect a school teacher to be doing. Aside from the considerable jet lag (unpleasant), temperature difference (pleasant) and culinary challenges (mixed but largely extremely pleasant) it was illuminating as always to gain perspective from this tropical location, former British colony but now of course very much within the influence of the economic and political giant that is China.

Put simply, one does see the world and its issues differently from this location. As one former parent, an Australian, formerly resident in Cambridge but now running his law firm's offices in Hong Kong, put it "why bother about what is happening in an island of 65 million or in a European Union of 750 million, if you can't also work out how to do business with the 1.3 billion Chinese or the 1.1 billion Indians?". This is exaggerated to make a point of course but it is a timely reminder, in a week of almost unimaginable global political decisions, that our place in the world is highly complex and that this is surely one of the greatest challenges facing our students in 2016.



One of the highlights of the trip was to meet former students now relocated and working largely in the banking and law sectors - all highly successfully it would seem too! It is always interesting to see how things land for students perhaps two or three years out of university. They are still finding their feet and making decisions but they have all found a path to follow. One topic of conversation was working habits, hours and holidays. I am sure the same conversations will happen throughout their working life! I was intrigued to learn of the different work expectations of companies operating in Hong Kong. Some are very much along the lines of no one being allowed to leave the office before the boss, even if that is midnight or beyond. Others regularly receive Sunday emails and conference calls. Another was proud to say that the European bank for which she worked insisted everyone had a two hour lunch break and went home at 6pm. (This is quite unusual, by the way!).



All of these are valuable insights. The reality of working life is more nuanced than the salary package offered at the recruitment fair. It is the working culture of the organisation that has such a high impact on well-being, happiness and, dare I say, productive efficiency. As our students progress towards their careers, this is one area that we will try to highlight - understanding something of the working culture of the company or sector is very valuable. It is another reason to encourage work experience as well as gaining information by listening to alumni and other visitors to the school. The patterns and expectations that they set out in the sixth form will contribute to their approach to work and to life opportunities later on. With the examination system now almost totally in a two year, linear format, there is greater chance here to enrich the learning journey in the Lower 6th year. As such, I am pleased that Ms Helen Kedie, our curriculum leader for English, will be talking to all the students on their Monday assembly this coming week on the importance of reading.

As part of our ongoing guidance in this area, Mrs Fisher, our learning Resources coordinator recently sent an email to all students to remind them of the range of items available. I include a copy of this email below because you may find it a useful trigger to family conversations as we encourage 'reading' in the widest sense - the curious engagement with print and digital resources that can enliven the interest of all students in all disciplines.

iTunes U Course

Six students from the lower sixth attended the launch event for the Engineering Education Scheme this week. The students learnt about how to manage a successful project and they participated in a team building task. This year they had to design and build a model rollercoaster from just paper, tape and a marble; a real challenge to complete in just three quarters of an hour!

Working once again with ARM the students will start their sixth month project working towards the celebration and assessment day next April. As always the scheme offers the students the chance to develop a range of skills such as project management, problem solving and working in a team.

<https://itunesu.itunes.apple.com/enroll/ENL-HBW-AXL>

Finding books using the Library catalogue

All of the Library's borrowable books can be searched for using our catalogue. This can be accessed via the [iMLS app](#) and using the search box in the top left hand corner. Books can be searched for by, author, title and keywords. Your username to login to the app is your school email and your password is your date of birth in the following format: ddmmYYYY .

Renewing loans

You can renew your loans in person in the Library or using the iMLS app. To renew a current (or overdue) loan access 'my account' from the menu on the left, then use the tabs at the bottom of the app to view your loans. To renew a resource swipe across the resource with your finger and a Renew button will display. Tap Renew to extend the loan period.

Electronic Resources

The library has subscriptions to various electronic resources; below you will find details of the resources and links access and login details.

[Britannica School](#) is the digital version of Encyclopaedia Britannica for schools.

[Gale Science, Environmental and Global Issues](#) is a package of three resources, these are:

Global Issues In Context is a multidisciplinary resource that covers current world issues, conflicts and events from a global perspective.

GREENR (Global Reference on the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources) provides high quality information on all aspects of sustainability and the environment.

Science in Context is a comprehensive, provides access to over 55 major reference works such as the Gale Encyclopaedia of Science and the Macmillan Science Library. It also includes articles from prestigious titles such as Nature, New Scientist and Scientific American, plus more than 6,000 videos, and 158,600 podcasts

[Hodder Education Review Magazines](#) an archive of specialist subject based A-Level Review Magazines as well as the IB Review

[JSTOR Secondary Schools Collection](#) offers you access to the full text of over 1,800 leading academic journals covering the arts and sciences.

[Student BMJ](#) is a world renowned resource that supports medical students through every stage, from applying to medical school all the way to making the transition to practising as a junior doctor.

If you need any helping finding a book or need assistance with the any of the electronic resources please come and find me in the 6th Form Library (X08 in the Shaftesbury Building in case you've forgotten!). If I'm not around in the library please feel free to email me with any queries.

News

University update

Our mock interview and university preparation programme continues in these weeks as students who may have an interview as part of their selection are provided, as much as possible, with a trial experience. We are very grateful to the many friends of the school, parents and alumni who are helping our students.

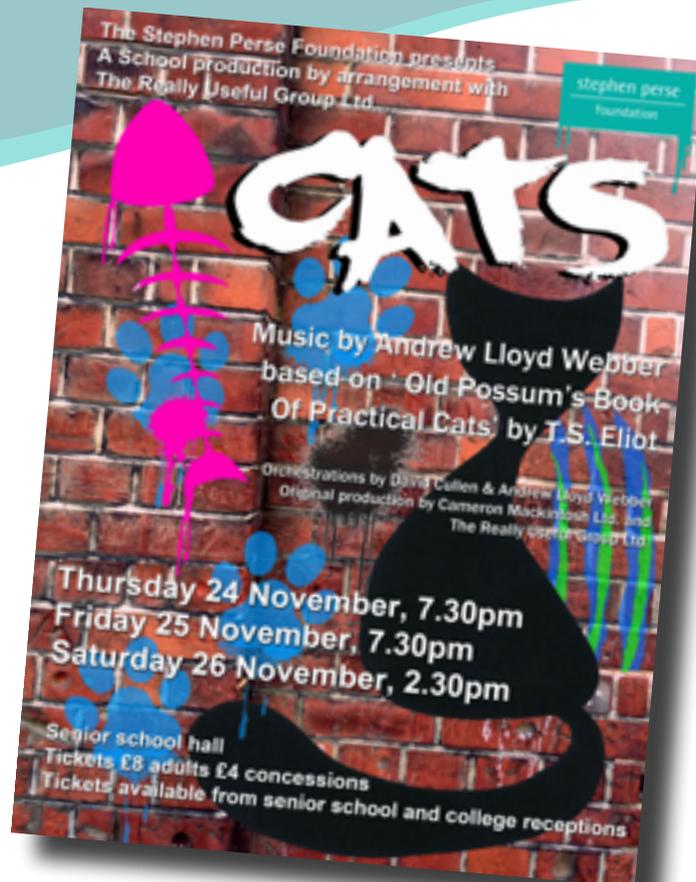
I am also delighted to announce that the Universities of London (KCL, UCL, Imperial, LSE and King's) will be visiting the sixth form in January for a presentation to all the L6th students. More information on this nearer the time.

Cats

Tickets are now on sale for this term's main school production of the musical Cats!

Students from Years 10 - 13 will star in this all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza which will be performed on Thursday 24, Friday 25 and Saturday 26 November in our senior school hall.

Tickets can be purchased at the senior school and college receptions - please see the poster for further details.



Greek Play

On Thursday 14th of October our Greek and Class Civ classes got the opportunity to go to the highly anticipated Cambridge Greek Play (performed all in Ancient Greek). The performance consisted of firstly the tragedy, Antigone which, without trying to spoil it too much, involves a lot of death.



Even though the audience struggled to keep up with the scrolling subtitles and watch the captivating actors on stage, it was still an incredibly moving performance. We had a short interlude, which mainly consisted of ice cream. Then we filed back in for the comedy Lysistrata; a provocative piece (in both senses of the word).

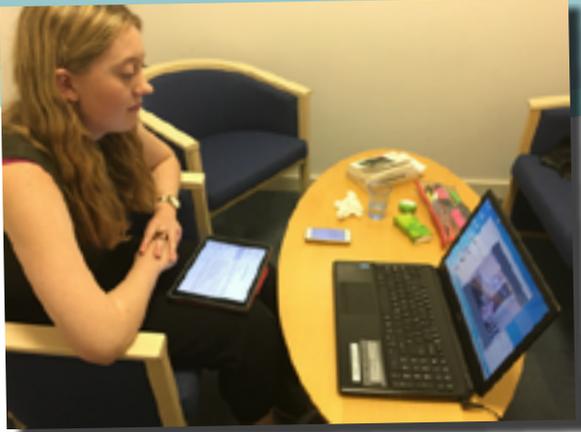
The main themes are politics and gender, an incredibly relevant issue today, and about women trying to take some control in a society which didn't really respect the role of women in a political sense. The comedy involved a huge number of innuendos which had the audience in fits of giggles especially when they managed to slip in Donald Trump and Boris Johnson, and a rather beautiful interpretive dance.

Overall it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, and amazing to hear a language out loud that is never usually spoken.

By Zoe Clark , L6



Conversation with Sandra Smith, translator of Suite Française



A few weeks ago I was given the incredible opportunity to have a Skype conversation with Sandra Smith, translator of *Suite Française* by Irene Némirovsky. This novel is not only a definite favourite of mine, but is also the focus of my French Extended Essay. It was incredible to speak with Sandra about Némirovsky and her immense talent as an author. She explained in such amazing detail Némirovsky's experiences and life; information which at times was passed on from Némirovsky's daughter, Denise Epstein, who Sandra got to know during her work with *Suite Française*.

To hear about the opinions and experiences of Némirovsky's daughter was incredible; her opinions on her mother's work

provided me with a fascinating and very real insight into the reasons behind Némirovsky's literary choices. Sandra further explained to me her discussions she had with Saul Dibb, director of the film of *Suite Française*, and his explanation for the film's contrasting ending to that of the novel. The knowledge and understanding I received from Sandra was invaluable.

Her insight not only helped my EE, but also allowed me to further my understanding of the incredible and admirable woman that is Némirovsky, whose breath-taking personal strength and talent as a writer genuinely inspires and teaches me so much; about the struggles of the past and about the characteristics, both good and bad, possessed by each and every one of us.

By Francesca Boyce-Cam

Recent DramSoc Theatre Visits

'In Our Hands', Mumford Theatre, Cambridge

Sixth form Drama scholars joined our Year 11 IGCSE Drama group and Year 10 scholars to watch 'In Our Hands' performed by Smoking Apples at the Mumford Theatre, Cambridge. Incorporating puppetry and visual theatre techniques, this show gave us an insight into the life of a Cornish fisherman, struggling to make a decent living. This charming piece also explored some very complex themes, including bereavement, the impact of big industries on small communities and the breakdown of family relationships.

'The Duke', Hot Numbers, Cambridge

Members of the college enjoyed a very different theatre experience at Hot Numbers Coffee on Gwydir Street in Cambridge when we went to watch Shon Dale Jones of Hoipolloi Theatre perform his one-man show 'The Duke'. Part true story, part fantasy, Shon's piece won a Fringe First at the Edinburgh Festival earlier this year. He is giving all proceeds from this show to the Save the Children charity to help refugees.



<http://smokingapplestheatre.com/show/in-our-hands/>



<http://www.hoipolloi.org.uk/our-work/the-duke/>