

Welcome

Dear all

It is always a pleasure to welcome new students to the college, and with around half our L6th intake coming from other schools there is a real sense of new beginnings.

News

Start of year dinner

The, now traditional, start of year dinner was held at St John's College with the Student President Team choosing the menu and taking full responsibility for the choice of dessert – Water Pudding. I have to say that opinion was divided on this item! Personally, I found it certainly intriguingly memorable although the overt connection with 'water' did seem rather tenuous. However, as it is St John's College's signature dish, I should pay respects to it, and also to the staff and Fellows of the college, who made it possible for us to use their fine venue for the evening.



Enrichment activities

Enrichment activities, now with mixed groups across from year 10 all the way to the U6th are proving a great success and our new debating team has already had its first outing – to the Rotary Debate Competition hosted by The Leys this week. My thanks to Dr Walton-Jordan and Dr Rahman for taking the team who performed very strongly, taking second place from six excellent local teams. The motion was "This House believes that by leaving the EU, the U.K. will contribute positively to world peace" with the Stephen Perse Foundation. Our speakers were Angus Lockhart (U6th), Daniel Honey and Samantha Matthews (L6th) with Nicolette Seabrooke (U6th) supporting.

The Rotary Club's International Peace Scholar's visit

We like to make the most of speaker opportunities and were pleased to welcome Sandy Fong, The Rotary Club's International Peace Scholar, on Tuesday lunchtime this week. As a Fijian, living in Geneva and speaking across the globe on matters of peace and democracy in the Pacific Region, Sandy gave a powerful representation of global connectivity and most appropriate for our 6th form's strong international dimension.



News from our alumni

On university matters, those who are applying through the UCAS process this year are fully entrenched in the system of completing their statements and making their university choices. It is a difficult time but one which opens the doors to such varied and exciting futures. It was therefore a particular delight to hear from one of last year's leavers, Bobby Edge-Partington. I feel a little responsible for his choice of university destination, having found out about the admissions process for SciencesPo around 12 months ago and passing the information to two students in the then Upper Sixth who were looking at courses for International Relations. Fast forward a few months and both students received offers – one for the Reims campus near Paris and the other for Menton in the south of France. Going to university only a stone's throw from Cannes and Monte Carlo compares very favourably, I would suggest, to the Fens at this time of year!

With his permission, I have reproduced an extract from Bobby's email to me here.

"Today is the last day of integration week ... We actually had an earthquake here last night, it was only magnitude 4 and nobody felt it! Tomorrow the actual course starts and the president of SciencesPo, Frédéric Mion, is coming to officially open the academic year in a ceremony in the afternoon.

"SciencesPo has a TedX talk happening next semester which I've signed up to be involved in, I might even be doing some on-stage presenting work. It's going to be a day-long event featuring some amazing keynote speakers, and some heads of state, Prime Ministers etc might be coming. Once I've got more details I can let you know, and it might be nice to advertise it to Stephen Perse students for a trip or something as I think it sounds like an amazing opportunity.

"There seem to be lots of really good opportunities here, for example our Mediterranean MUN has actually gained recognition from the UN and members have been invited to New York in the past to go to the actual UN. We also do a lot of work with the EU, and apparently Prince Albert of Monaco is keen to work with us on climate change initiatives, so we'll see what happens."

I would like to think that it shows just the spirit of enthusiasm and involvement that I wish for all of our Stephen Perse 6th Form students.

Simon Armitage

Head of Sixth Form



In other news

Stephen Perse Foundation strikes a distinctive chord

Two 6th Form students and a student in year 8 have achieved a musical hat-trick of distinctions. The talent, hard work and commitment of Naomi Choy, Valeriya Kopanitsa and Juliette Richards has resulted in Trinity College London awarding three distinctions in their recent Performance Diplomas. Valeriya, an accomplished pianist, and Naomi, a talented saxophonist, both undertook ATCL Performance Diplomas. A post Grade 8 level qualification, this Diploma is equivalent to the performance component of a first-year undergraduate degree course.

Talented pianist Juliette, at 13 years of age, gained her distinction in the LTCL Performance Diploma with a mark of 96 out of 100. This outstanding achievement follows Juliette's distinction in the ATCL (the first of the performance diplomas) earned at the age of 11. The LTCL is the second of three levels of performance diplomas and is equivalent in standard to the performance component of the final year in a full-time undergraduate course at a conservatoire or other higher education institution.

Read more at: <http://sixthform.stephenperse.com/news/2016-17-college-news-1/stephen-perse-foundation-strikes-a-distinctive-chord-3>



Congratulations to Linya Peng

Congratulations to our student Linya Peng who is runner up in the Institute of Economic Affairs essay competition having successfully answered the question: "In the light of several countries now having negative nominal interest rates, can monetary policy have any real-world macroeconomic effects and what might they be?"

Linya clearly has a real talent for writing as earlier in the year she was also awarded 'Highly Commended' for her entry to the Robinson College, University of Cambridge competition. The judges wrote:

"Not only is this essay written with lucidity and an excellent command of language. It also presents a careful argument with 'feeling' and urgency, without sacrificing the discipline of closely answering the question. This piece of work is multidisciplinary in scope, sharp in focus, passionate in presentation and a pleasure to read." Well done Linya.

Read more at: <https://iea.org.uk/essay-competition/>

Talk by Julian Sheather from the British Medical Association



A hugely interesting talk was given by Dr Julian Sheather from the British Medical Association which focussed on the ethical issues involved in end of life care. Prospective medics, clinical psychologists and philosophers among our 6th form students were faced with dilemmas drawn from real life which had involved patients, families and the doctors concerned dealing with complex moral and ethical issues. Dr Sheather's talk certainly gave everyone lots to

reflect on and the students found themselves thinking of things they had never previously considered. All in all, a most thought provoking event.



New student coffee machine proves big hit!

Students were delighted to come back to a new coffee machine and chill out areas in our 6th form after the summer.

The machine was one of many enhancements made to the 6th form to improve study and relaxation areas for our students to unwind. We hope you enjoy them!



What's happening in our 6th form?

Event: University of Buckingham presentation on their MB ChB programme

Date: 3rd Oct. 2016

Time: 4.15pm

Location: 6th Form College

We will welcome a representative from the University of Buckingham who will talk to students about their prestigious 4 ½ year MB ChB programme.

Event: Sixth Form Cabaret

Date: 14th Oct. 2016

Location: Fitzwilliam Building, 6th Form College

This year's performances kick off with our annual sixth form cabaret. For one night only, the college will be transformed into a fabulous cabaret venue to showcase some of our finest talent. This event is organised and run by students - all proceeds will go to charity.

Further details will follow soon - please watch this space!

Event: Talk on the History Aptitude Test given by Oxford University

Date: 29th September at 4.30pm

This is presented by Dr Leif Dixon, of Regent's Park College.

Further details will follow soon.

