

Welcome

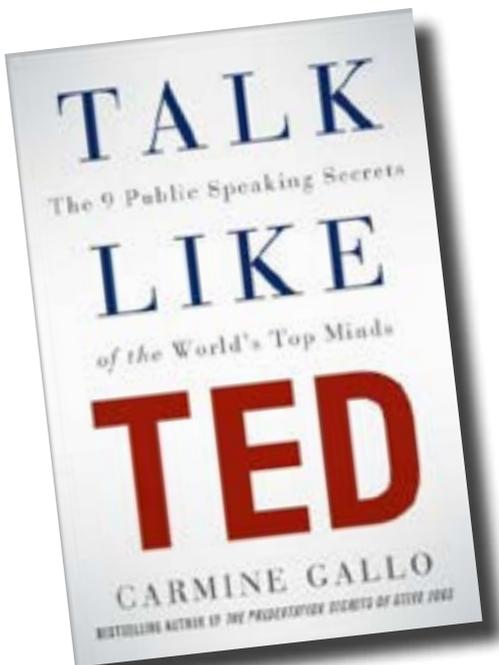
Dear all,

When students ask if they can run an assembly or introduce a new initiative, I am nearly invariably delighted! The offer to run a campaign to raise awareness about Black History and to deliver an assembly to coincide with Black History Month was therefore too good to pass up. Iona and Una's talk linked the history of people of colour from 12th century UK to the present day as well as including elements of a global chronology. Communicating important ideas such as this effectively is surely one of the most powerful skills of the modern day. I only say 'modern' because in a world where there is ever more information and background 'noise' it is harder to get one's point heard. In this case, the content and the clarity of the message were excellent. These students told a story. The story of some well-known figures in Black History. However, the reason that the message resonated was that they also told their own histories.



News

TED-Ed Club



Telling your own story is something that we are encouraging in the TED-Ed Club in Tuesday enrichment (Year 10 to U6th). It's still early days with this new activity but our first cohort of students, led most ably by Mrs Juneau, and less ably by me, have covered some of the basic ideas related to how TED talks are devised.

As you probably know, these 4 to 18 minute TED talks that seem to flow so effortlessly. However, they almost all comply with a formula. If you can understand the formula of a TED talk you can replicate it and adapt it to become the way in which you tell your own story.

The book 'Talk like TED' is a great read for anyone thinking of jobs, interviews or just wanting to work out why some people are better communicators than others.

Study skills company help us to promote positive study habits

We will be making a push on the importance of reading next half term. It is one of the great discriminators used by universities to try to see whether a potential student is truly interested in further study.

For L6th students, now is a great time to explore the resources in the library - digital and print - and to establish some form of exploratory reading plan. 'Quality not quantity' will be the message.

It also doesn't matter whether the 'reading' is a book or the exploration of a sequence of credible websites. The important thing is that this is an opportunity to go beyond the boundaries of any syllabus and that has to be a good thing.

We have placed various guidance posters around the college to help students to think about what they might need to do in this area.



Engineering Education Scheme

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 change to develop a range of skills such as project management, problem solving and working in a team.



Cabaret

Cabaret was stunning. Staying at work until gone 10pm on Friday evening isn't most people's idea of fun but this was the Stephen Perse Sixth Form at its best. Superb! Fresh performances from new stars (some of whom have never stepped up to the mic before) and some seasoned hands too. The evening was compered by Eddy and Patsy (aka Rachel and Alessandra), with fantastic performances from sixth form students and a couple of guest performers from Years 10 and 11. My enormous thanks to Ms Barrell and her team for the organisation, including the 6th form enrichment group.

Amantani was our chosen charity. Amantani's mission is to help the indigenous children of Peru keep their smiles. They help children from marginalised Quechua families to access education, stimulating social development for Peru's most disadvantaged communities. Overall we raised £476 for the charity. Congratulations to the cabaret committee for organising and running such a successful event and a huge thank you to all our performers and to our audiences of parents, students and teachers for supporting this event.



Here is a link to the showreel: <https://youtu.be/gw3Y7ENa8sA>

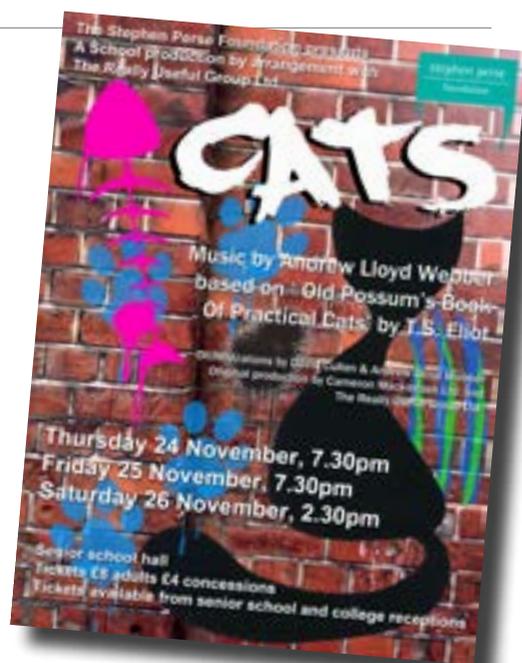
We were also challenged to think about the need to have a supportive and inclusive community through a poem by Molly Watkins (L6) written as a reflection on the tragic Orlando Florida shootings of this summer.

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.



Finally

Many of the U6th have now told their personal stories in their university application forms. First offers are actually starting to come over the line, largely for the gap year students, with a few offers for History, Engineering, Classics, Egyptology and Law. For the majority it will still be a long run to have the decisions delivered and we all wish them the very best of determination, calmness and perspective as they wait between now and the end of March. Interesting link to an article on the BBC website about university interview preparation: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-37618894>

Thanks to all who helped on the Open Evening on Tuesday and for the great contribution to Barnado's Day in the Senior School on Thursday.

Simon Armitage
Head of 6th Form

