

Dear Parents

At a time of handover between one Student President Team and another in the sixth form, I would like to devote much of this letter to the topic of leadership and to thank the outgoing President Team for their contribution to the life of the college over the year.

Much of what leaders do is hidden from the masses. This is true of all walks of life and also of the Student President Team. As I asked them to come to the front in the L6th assembly meeting and outline what they had achieved the catalogue was impressive. There are the visible parts of their help and organisation on induction day and the start-of-year dinner at St John's College but there are many things behind the scenes that are necessary to make such an event possible. One of the most significant contributions in the year was to assist the marketing department in their consideration of a new prospectus and website for the Foundation. A chance to work with the business side of the school and to learn from the processes that they go through when examining this important, and indeed expensive, decision! Many readers of this newsletter will themselves realise from their own business experience how multi-faceted is the process of consideration of such things. The President Team were able to contribute but also to learn. As a school which prides itself in all students and staff being 'learners' this is a very fitting involvement.

Tribute should also be paid to the coordination and help in organising charity activities. The fun-run, held on Barnado's Day last year is one example. The team also talked about their role in welcoming visitors to the 6th form. Some of the L6th may, themselves, have benefitted from this as it is often associated with potential students having a tour or staying for lunch. To hear the pride of the President Team as they talked about 'their' sixth form was touching and important.

There are other achievements from the team including their help on open events in the College and the Senior School and their public speaking on these occasions too. I will not try to produce an exhaustive list but a final thanks to their help in making some refurbishments to the common spaces in the buildings including the improvements to seating and study space in the library and for encouraging the purchase of a coffee machine for the student area of the Shaftesbury Building!

So now comes to the time to look ahead. There were over 30 students who wanted to find out more and be considered for the Student President Team this year, such that we have expanded the official team to a total of 12. We have been very democratic about it with voting in two rounds - first to determine the term and secondly to give us our co-Presidents. Congratulations to the whole team and particularly to the co-Presidents, Molly Watkins and Aidan Grenville with D'Arcy Seamon as the lead vice-President. I look forward to working with them on a range of projects and also seeing how best to capture the enthusiasm of the rest of the year group who also want to contribute and participate.

Kind regards,

Simon Armitage

Head of 6th Form

Gala Flamenca

Last Friday, twenty students from 6th Form and six teachers traveled to London for the Gala Flamenca. The performance was at Sadler's Wells theatre and was part of the annual Flamenco Festival. It started at around 7:30 up until 9:20. I doubt that anyone could disagree, it was an extraordinary experience. The dancing was beautiful and the singing was very moving. The costumes were wonderfully diverse, ranging from snow-white dresses coupled with vibrant azure shawls to all black suits topped off with a hat.

The dancers themselves however, brought even more diversity to the stage varying greatly in age and style, which is what made it so interesting to watch as every performance had a different feel and style; there were incredibly fast dances in which the dancers feet moved so quickly they blended into a single blur, as well as more fluid dances which focused more on movement and feeling. One dance even used castanets as a prop, possibly the instrument most associated with this art form.

Despite struggling to keep up with all the melodic spanish singing, we all thoroughly enjoyed it - some of us even attempted singing and dancing on the way back to the station. Personally, we both were in awe at the talent and effort that the dancers and singers put in. It is definitely an event that we wholeheartedly recommend seeing.

We would also like to thank Sr. Pompeo for organizing the trip, and for the teachers that came with us for coming. None of this would have been possible without them.

Eva B and Nicole G



Sixth Form Virgil Lecture Day

On a rainy Tuesday morning, accompanied by the unfortunately umbrellaless Mr Lord, five eager Classics students made the trip to London in order to enrich their knowledge of one of the best but most complex texts ever written, the Aeneid. The day began with the best lecture of the trip, which explored Homeric Elements in the Aeneid. Professor Leigh used a wide range of examples in order to demonstrate how fruitful a comparison of the similarities and, more importantly, the differences between these two pillars of western literature can be. The second lecture discussed Virgil and Augustus. It centred on the debate as to whether Aeneas as a hero legitimises Augustus' unorthodox seizure of power due to the emphasis on fate, or suggests it is problematic through the human suffering so clearly displayed. As well as a very comprehensive talk about religion in the Aeneid, the afternoon concluded with a lecture on the end of the Aeneid. D. T. E. Franklin's discussion of Virgil's "puns" on the word "finis" (end) in the first Book of the Aeneid, certainly showed an almost humorous side of Virgil none of us had considered.

All in all our trip to London was a fantastic opportunity to consider the Aeneid as a whole and see the extracts we study at A level in their context.

Ariadne P

Alumna talk

Date: Monday 27 March

Time: 12.15pm – 12.45pm

Location: Old Library, 6th Form College



Coinciding with Cambridge Science Festival, alumna Imogen Coe (left SPF 1981), will talk about studying in Canada, STEM careers and working in science.

Inspired by her biology teacher at SPF, Imogen has delivered a TEDTalk on Women in Science, features in the WXN 2016 Top 100 Women in Canada, and is in the UK to take part in a conference to promote Women in STEM.

This event is aimed at Senior School and 6th form students interested in all careers in STEM and anyone considering studying abroad. You will need to sign up for this event on a [Googleform](#)

Notice

Contractors started their work on Monday to complete improvements on the Hills Road to Long Road/Queen Edith Way junction, which is expected to take around 11 weeks. The new facilities, funded by the Greater Cambridge City Deal, will include safer crossings at the junction of Hills Road, Long Road and Queen Edith's Way, along with dedicated raised cycle lanes and two new bus stops.

Those travelling in the area are advised that works will begin on the city bound side first and will involve minimum traffic management measures in the form of lane narrowing. The existing bus stop will be relocated to just outside the works. As the project progresses, other appropriate traffic management arrangements will be required from May and plans are underway to ensure that the work involves the least disruption possible.

More information on the Hills Road to Addenbrooke's Scheme can be found at [http:// www.gccitydeal.co.uk/cross-city-cycling](http://www.gccitydeal.co.uk/cross-city-cycling).

