

# CSG SIXTH FORM MASTERCLASSES

AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2017

CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS SIXTH FORM  
SANDALL ROAD  
LONDON  
NW5 2DB





# CSG SIXTH FORM MASTERCLASSES

No exams.

No grades.

No measurement or quantification of either students or teachers.

Just interesting speakers and stimulating discussions.

- Masterclasses are extra-curricular lessons delivered by teachers from CSG or visiting experts in various fields.
- Each masterclass will either provide an introduction to a subject which is not taught at A Level – or explore a new aspect of a subject you are familiar with - taking you beyond the confines of the A Level syllabus.
- Most sessions should be accessible and of interest to students who study the subject in question, as well as those who do not. We hope that a student who is studying sciences would still be interested in poetry and music, and a student of the arts would be interested in scientific questions.
- Hopefully attendance will encourage students to read further and perhaps inspire some to pursue a subject at university.
- Aim to arrive at S5 (Sixth Form Hall) soon after 3.30pm – usually there will be tea, coffee and biscuits – the session will begin at about 3.40pm and finish by 5pm at the latest - **but watch out for occasional exceptions.**



**CSG Masterclasses/History of Ideas**

– sign up to receive updates and announcements.

Unfortunately, due to severe and ongoing government cuts to the funding of state education since 2010 (and particularly of post-16 state education), it is with regret that we feel we have to make a charge for certain extra-curricular opportunities such as these.

- **Attendance is free for students on bursaries or free school meals.**
- For students who are not on free school meals or a bursary the cost is £10 for a 'season ticket' to attend as many masterclasses as you like in one term – so if you come to all 12 that is less than £1 per session!
- Parents are also welcome - £5 for one masterclass or £20 for a one term 'season ticket'
- All parents/guardians of students at the school will be sent an invitation to pay through parentpay by email.

We hope that you will find something of interest in these masterclasses - and that you enjoy them as much as we enjoy preparing and delivering them.

JON STUBBINGS

CSG MASTERCLASS PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR

# THE FIRST 10 HOURS IN THE LIFE OF A FROG

SIR JIM SMITH

THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOV 3.40

S5

Jim Smith is a developmental biologist – a scientist who tries to understand how a single cell, the fertilised egg, divides many times to become a human being. He helped establish the Francis Crick Institute where he has an active research laboratory, and he is Director of Science at the Wellcome Trust. Jim is a Fellow of the Royal Society and was knighted for his services to medical research and science education earlier in the year. In this masterclass he will talk about his career and give an insight into the nature of biomedical research.



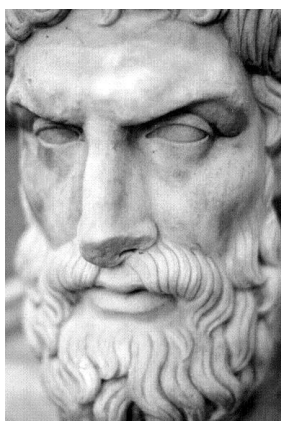
# THE HISTORY OF ATHEISM AND UNBELIEF

JON STUBBINGS

MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOV 3.40PM

S5

Throughout history people have been persecuted, tortured and killed, simply for saying that they do not believe in God or gods or that they do not subscribe to the orthodox religious beliefs of their society. How much have things changed? Although in most 'Western' countries (the big exception being the USA) more than half of the population now describe themselves as having no religion, apostasy and atheism is still a crime in other parts of the world, and free thinking bloggers have been attacked and murdered in recent times in Bangladesh. In this masterclass we will take a whistle stop tour through the history of Unbelief from thinkers such as Epicurus and Lucretius in the ancient world, through the long years of monotheistic persecution, to the re-emergence of 'free thinking' in the Renaissance and the Enlightenment. We will discuss the ideas of 19th C thinkers like Darwin, Marx and Nietzsche and the mass scale loss of faith undergone by society over the last 150 years – culminating in debates about the so-called 'New Atheists' today. Are Richard Dawkins and co. as intolerant as the religious fanatics that they oppose? Come along to discuss.





# SYLVIA PLATH'S *THREE WOMEN*

JULIA GIBSON

THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> NOV 3.40PM

£5

Plath's little-known radio play, written in 1962, was her only published foray into the world of the drama. Why did she adopt this form? What are its central concerns, and what can it teach us about the world today? Part biography, part an attempt to give voice to the voiceless, this work is perhaps one of Plath's greatest and deserves to be as well known and widely read as *The Bell Jar* and *Ariel*. This masterclass will include a rehearsed reading of the text by Year 13 students, and will go on to explore in detail Plath's extraordinary use of language.



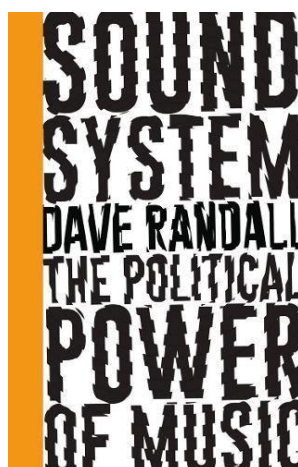
# THE POLITICAL POWER OF MUSIC

DAVE RANDALL

MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOV 3.40PM

£5

Musicians have often wanted to change the world. From underground grime artists to pop icons, many have believed in the political power of music. Rulers recognise it too. Music has been used to unsettle the most fundamental political and social conventions and to prop up the status-quo. Years of touring, playing and protesting have given Dave Randall a unique insider's view of the music industry, enabling him to shed light on the secrets of celebrity, commodification and culture. He finds remarkable examples of music as a force for social change as well as something that has been used to keep people in their place throughout history. Dave's new book *Sound System* is the story of one musician's journey to discover what makes music so powerful, it is a book of raves, riots and revolution. From the Glastonbury Festival to the Arab Spring, Pop Idol to Trinidadian Carnival, Randall finds political inspiration across the musical spectrum and poses the question: how can we make music serve the interests of the many, rather than the few?



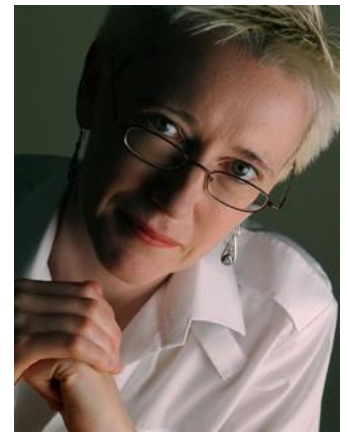
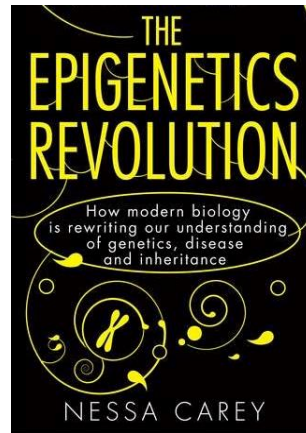
# THE EPIGENETICS REVOLUTION

NESSA CAREY

THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOV 3.40PM

S5

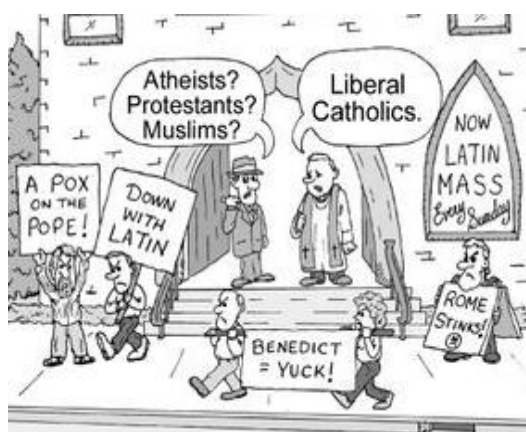
Epigenetics refers to situations where two things are genetically identical and yet are not the same in appearance or behaviour. For example, the 70,000,000,000,000 or so cells in a human body are almost all genetically identical and yet they form lots of different cell types, which remain the same for our whole lives. A caterpillar, and the butterfly that it turns in to, have the same genetic code but it's hard to think of two things that look more different. It turns out that cells read the genetic code in DNA more like a script to be interpreted than a mould that replicates the same result each time. Scientists are now investigating the role of epigenetics in chronic diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and schizophrenia, as well as drug addiction and the long-term effects of abusive or neglectful childhoods. In this masterclass, Nessa Carey, author of *The Epigenetics Revolution* and a visiting professor at Imperial College, reveals the some of the amazing possibilities that epigenetics offers us all.



# CAN YOU BE LIBERAL AND A CATHOLIC?

PETER STANFORD MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> NOV 3.40PM **VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED**

From the standpoint of a 21st century liberal, the Catholic Church has one or two skeletons in its closet; institutional antisemitism, complicity in the forced conversion and genocide of non-Europeans, the Spanish Inquisition, opposition to science (only officially admitting that Galileo was right in 1992!), collaboration with Mussolini and Hitler, the cover up of child sex abuse, opposition to contraception... even today women are not able to be priests and Catholicism is associated by many people with homophobia. Can there be a place in such an institution for someone with liberal or progressive and left wing views? Peter Stanford is both a liberal and a Catholic, as well as being a writer, editor, journalist (formerly editor of the Catholic Herald newspaper) and presenter, known for his biographies and writings on religion and ethics. In this masterclass he will make the case that it is indeed possible to be both liberal and a Catholic in the 21st Century.





# EDUCATION AND SOCIAL MOBILITY

LEE ELLIOT MAJOR

THURSDAY 23<sup>TH</sup> NOV 3.40PM

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All politicians claim to be in favour of social mobility. But all of the current evidence points to the fact that if you're born at the top you are likely to stay there, and if you're born at that bottom you have very little chance of moving 'upwards'. Education – which should be the means of enabling meritocracy and social mobility – all too often seems to be the means by which the privileged seek to pass on that advantage to the next generation. What, if anything, can be done about this? Dr Lee Elliot Major is Chief Executive of the Sutton Trust, the UK's leading foundation for improving social mobility. In this masterclass he will set out the ways in which we need to rethink education and the workplace more fundamentally - how do we nurture those effectively failed by an academic sorting system and insecure workplace, and identify talent (academic, creative, vocational etc.) where-ever it comes from? Not easy! But the consequences of low social mobility - poorer economic growth, an increasingly divided society, unrepresentative elites - are all around us.



# HOW TO LOSE A REFERENDUM – THE STORY OF WHY THE UK VOTED FOR BREXIT

PAUL GOLDSMITH

MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOV 3.50PM

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Did David Cameron have to call a referendum? Was Britain's departure from the EU destined from the moment he called it? If so, why did almost everybody think that the British public would vote to remain? Why was a project designed for common peace and prosperity ultimately so hard to defend? Teacher of Economics and politics and Political Blogger Paul Goldsmith is co-author of 'How to Lose a Referendum – The definitive Story of Why the UK Voted for Brexit'. In this masterclass he will outline his research into the social fabric of the UK, the psyche of the electorate, and seventy years of European history, as well as the interviews he carried out with major figures from both campaigns. Ultimately Paul will give the key reasons why, in his view, the UK made its choice, from Britain's absence at the birth of the European project to the inflammatory rhetoric of Nigel Farage, and everything in between. Whether you're a Leaver or a Remainer, a Brexiteer or a Bremonoaner, this masterclass will change the way you look at Britain's vote for Brexit.



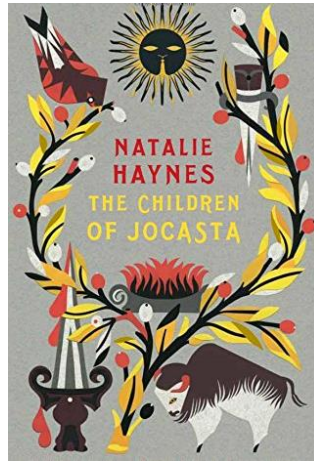
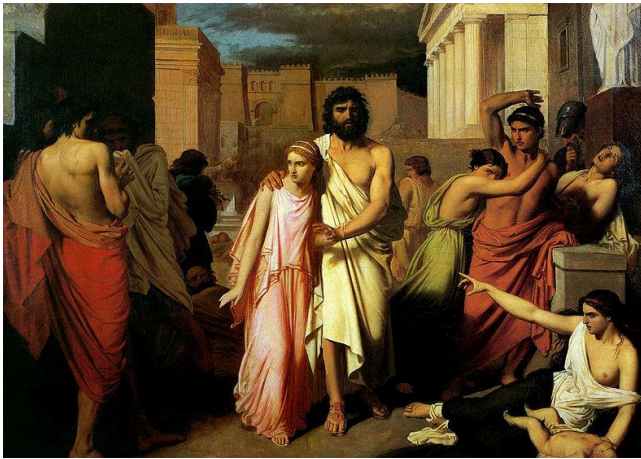
# HONOUR AMONG THEBES – RE-TELLING THE OEDIPUS MYTH

NATALIE HAYNES

THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> NOV 3.40PM

S5

Natalie Haynes is a writer, broadcaster, reviewer and classicist. She was once a stand-up comic, but retired when she realised she preferred tragedy to comedy. In her last book – *The Ancient Guide to Modern Life* – she explored parallels between the ancient and modern worlds in politics and law, religion and philosophy, and in so doing portrayed how people really lived in Athens, Rome, Sparta and Alexandria. In her new book - *The Children of Jocasta* - Natalie takes a fresh look at an ancient story, reimagining in gripping prose how the Oedipus and Antigone stories would look if the oft-overlooked female characters took centre stage. Retelling the myth to reveal a new side of an ancient story . . .



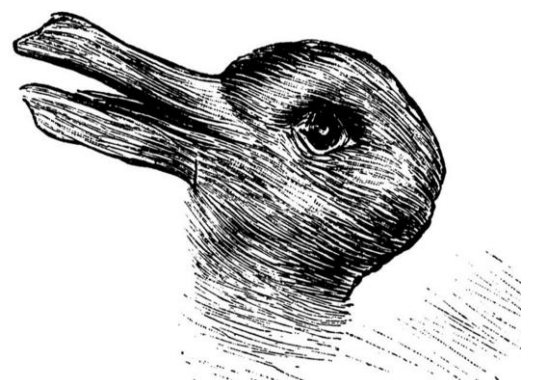
# WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED SCIENCE? - AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE.

SIMON FLYNN

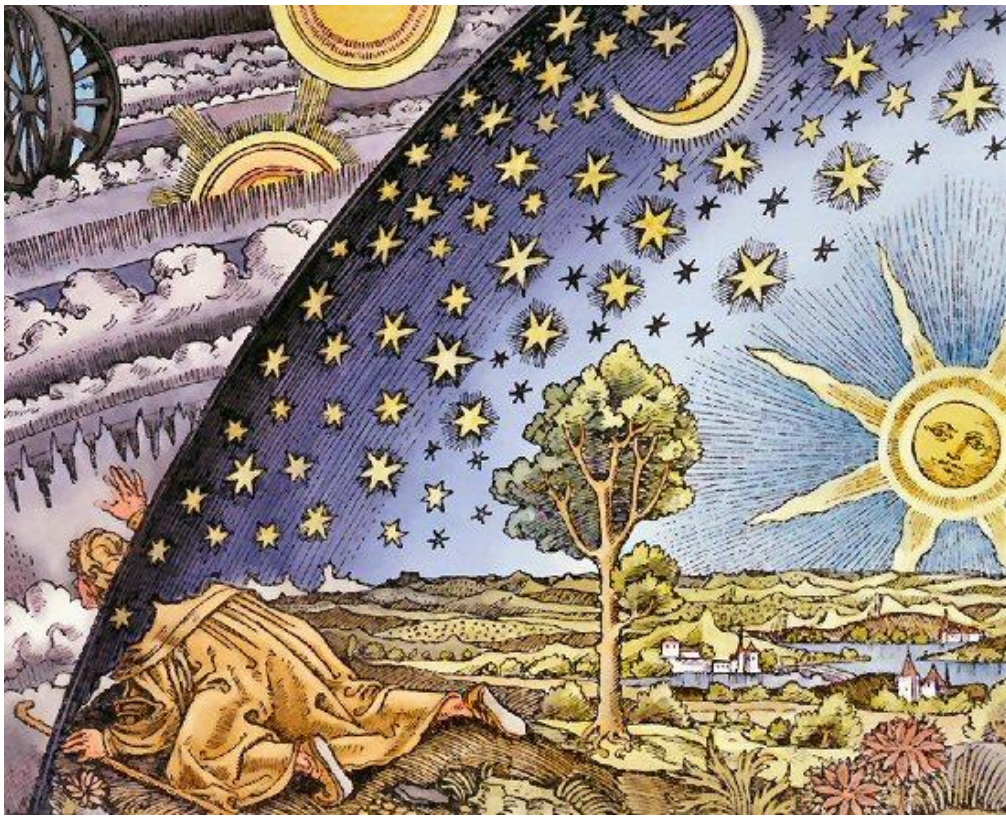
MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DEC 3.40PM

S5

For many years, scientific theories were thought to be something derived purely from facts – crudely put, it was believed that the more facts you had, or examined, the better your theory was likely to be. However, as someone aptly put it, ‘the trouble with facts is that there are so many of them’ – how are you to decide which of them are relevant? There’s an even bigger problem with a fact-leading-to-theory view of science – no matter how hard you try, it’s pretty much impossible for observation, typically the source of a scientist’s facts, not to be in some way theory-laden. Norwood Russell Hanson summed this up wonderfully when he said, ‘there is more to seeing than meets the eyeball’. Sherlock Holmes understood the danger that one might ‘begin to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts’. So, perhaps surprisingly, observed evidence isn’t necessarily sufficient for supporting the truth of a theory. Which begs the question, what is?







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