



**THE CAMDEN  
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**



## **Friends Newsletter 2019**

## Foreword from the Headteacher, Ms Elizabeth Kitcatt

*It has been a busy year here at Camden School for Girls, as always. Our new priority is to improve the grounds, and we now have green screens and wonderful whirling seats for students to enjoy!*

*Our school performed outstandingly well in the DFE Performance tables, as I'm sure you will be aware, and it is now in the top 3% of schools nationally in terms of the progress our students make while they are with us.*

*We continue to attract remarkable speakers to the school and in particular, to the Sixth Form assemblies, and you will find accounts of some of their presentations in this newsletter.*

*You will see that Camden students continue to raise money for charity, make exceptional music and produce compelling artwork.*

*We said goodbye to Geoffrey Fallows, very sadly, but found it a pleasure to re-visit his contribution and remember his cheerful leadership of the school.*

*I hope you enjoy this sample of life here at CSG.*

**Elizabeth Kitcatt**  
Headteacher, Camden School for Girls

August brought some **outstanding exam results**. **GCSE results** were exceptional. 91% of all results across all subjects were grades 9-4. 90% achieved grade 9-4 (standard pass) in both English and mathematics. 34 students achieved 9-7 grades in eight or more GCSE subjects. Our students worked especially hard to achieve top grades, not simply to achieve a GCSE result.

**25 students celebrate  
Cambridge, Oxford and  
medical school success**

We were delighted with the **A level results** achieved as well with our out-performing students nationally by a very significant margin. 93% of all grades were A\*- C. 45% of all grades were A\* - A. Exceptional grades were achieved in the sixth form's most popular subjects, English, mathematics, history and the sciences. These are exceptionally strong

results, reflecting extremely hard work by students and teachers, and consistent support from parents. Our students are ambitious and determined to achieve to the best of their ability, and these grades demonstrate that their effort and dedication over challenging two year courses have been worthwhile.

Congratulations to All!



## Improvements to the building

Caretakers Don, Pete & Tony were busy over the summer making numerous improvements to the school. The school is now surrounded by a green living wall which neutralises pollution from the main road and gives our students increased privacy.



We are also thrilled with our new astroturf multi use games area! Many thanks to CASCA and everyone who helped raise money for this.



Lastly our students have really enjoyed the **Thomas Heatherwick Spun chairs** which were purchased over the summer and are to be found dotted around the school grounds.



## Highlights from 2018-2019 academic year

### Music & Drama

#### As you Like It



In December, our Sixth form students performed William Shakespeare's '**As You Like It**'. It was a superb mixture of fine acting, inventive use of space, witty choices of music and sharp comic timing. There were outstanding performances all round from a cast that had really explored the nuances of relationships, power imbalances, gender complexities and Shakespeare's language.

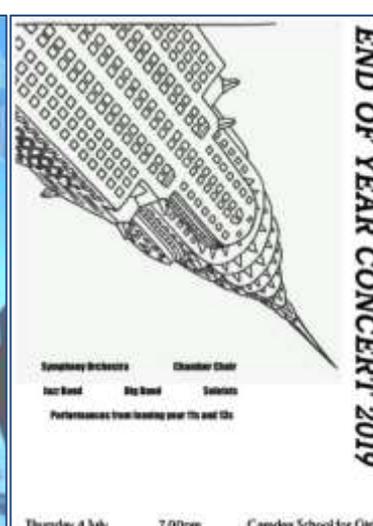
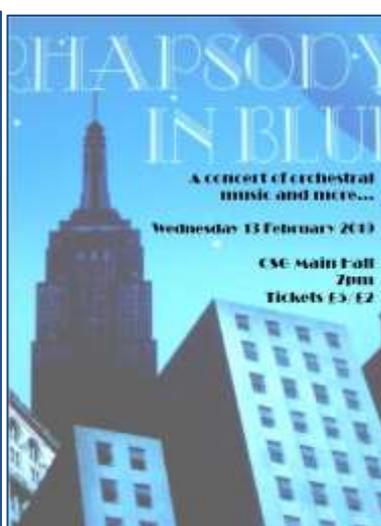


The production team did a superb job with sound, costume, make-up, props and stage management that enhanced the experience for the audience and made the play really memorable.

Many thanks to all the students who gave their time to keep us so fully entertained and special thanks to Ms Cohen and Ms Silver for their brilliant direction and inspired interpretation.

### School Concerts

The Music Department began its concert series back in 2018 with a delightfully intimate evening in the department's own performance space. The **Chamber Concert** had a wealth of soloists, duets, trios and beyond to allow our year 13 A level students to practice for their recitals and the year 12s to establish themselves in their new environment. The Chamber Choir, Big Band, Jazz Band and Sixth form Singers filled out the concert, the highlight being the beautiful voices in Ms Gordon's immaculately prepared **Chamber Choir**, leading us from the medieval Quem Pastores Laudavere through to Fleetwood Mac!



The **Christmas Year 7 concert** contrasted this evening perfectly with a riot of colour (the theme of the concert!) and exuberant arrangements of Blue Monday, True Colours amongst others. We are always incredibly proud that every child in year 7 performs in this concert alongside our Junior Voices, Woodwind, Brass, Strings and Jazz ensembles. Our next large scale concert was the **Orchestral Concert** in February where Maya (Year 9) impressed all with her expressive clarinet introduction in Gershwin's ever-popular **Rhapsody in Blue**. The rest of this concert was our year 13 A level students displaying a frankly astonishing degree of virtuosity on the violin (Bea's **Zigeunerweisen**), double bass (Jess's **Koussevitsky Double Bass Concerto**) and the astonishing one-man-band version of Led Zeppelin's **Bron Yr Aur Stomp** by Sonny. Unrepresented in the posters is the following month's **Choral Concert** where several choirs, including the school's adult Choral Society, raised the impressive roof of St Martin's Church in Gospel Oak with **Durante's Magnificat** and **Vivaldi's Gloria**. To round off the end of the year we embarked upon the double-whammy of our **End of Year Concert** followed by the school musical. The End of Year concert continued the New York theme of the previous concert with selections from Bernstein's **West Side Story** alongside Copland, and Moross's **Theme from The Big Country**.

See you at the concerts this year!

### **Little Shop Of Horrors!**

This year's CSG summer musical was '**Little Shop of Horrors!**' It is a darkly funny musical about a man-eating alien plant intent upon world domination, and Seymour, the hapless human who gets drawn into its wicked plans. Seymour, and his associates from Skid Row, attain fame and fortune, whilst the plant gets its suckers into every aspect of their lives. The show lurches from hilarity to horror in thrilling style, and includes the songs '**Somewhere That's Green**', '**Dentist**' and '**Suddenly Seymour**'. This production brought the year to a memorable finale with two packed performances of this hilarious but hit-packed show featuring some of the most talented students we've had the privilege to work with.





Little Shop of Horrors!



## Black History Month



In October, the History department ran a competition celebrating Black History Month, with a particular focus on the contribution of the Windrush generation of immigrants from 1948 onwards.

As part of the Black History Month assembly, presented by the Head Girl Team, students heard about the important role immigrants played in rebuilding Britain after the Second World War - working in the NHS and Transport for London for example.

The winner of the competition was Ella in 9R who created this excellent poster to celebrate Black History Month. Well done Ella!

## Jack Petchey Achievement award

Congratulations to **Kitty, Violet and Saskia** (Years 8 & 9) who each won an award from the Jack Petchey Achievement awards. Kitty in 8C was awarded for her contributions to the debating society and the Refugee Society raising awareness within the school and community. Violet, also in 8C represented the school at Parliament for an ICT competition. She has also been involved in a competition to design the new Big Ben. Lastly Saskia in 9T has shown good leadership skills and taken on leading roles at short notice whenever it was requested of her in form time. Saskia has lead assemblies with great confidence and always like to volunteer representing the school.



Congratulations also to our own long-serving CASCA member **Mary Kavanagh** who was presented with a prestigious Jack Petchey Award for 'Outstanding Service to Young People'.

An award well deserved!

*"Mary has worked tirelessly over many years and her determination and friendly personality have helped CASCA raise thousands of pounds since 1996"*

Elizabeth Kitcatt



## Student success at The Royal Academy

Congratulations to Sylvie from Year 10 who has had two works accepted by the Royal Academy. Her painting 'Nursery' was in the Summer Exhibition and her painting 'Eliza' was on the RA's website in their online Young Artists' Exhibition. The competition to get an artwork into both these prestigious exhibitions is fierce but it is particularly impressive that 'Nursery' was selected from the huge number of submissions produced by adult artists. Here are the paintings and Sylvie's own descriptions plus a link to the online exhibition :-

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibitions/2019/2826>



**'Eliza' - oil on board 127x177 mm**

This piece is a painting based on a photograph of my little sister when she was six. I thought the blues of the shadows in her face would be interesting to paint.

**'Nursery' - oil on board 304x406mm**

This painting is of a photograph of me when I was four. I was interested in the similarities between how I looked then and how I look now.



## Encouraging Young Engineers Design Competition 2018

Congratulations to Poppy, Rene, Margot, Violet and Zena. This year 8 Camden School for Girls' team were overall winners of the **Price & Myers competition** to build a model of and **design an extension to Big Ben**. The aim was to teach and inspire young people to consider future careers in structural and

civil engineering. The team participated in a drawing class to help students sketch their design and an elevation and a workshop where engineers ran through ways of making sure the extension models were structurally stable. The Institution of Structural Engineers hosted a prize-giving ceremony last week where groups from other schools presented their designs. They were judged against the following Criteria Scoring (max. mark 100) Structural



integrity / 25 Access and impact to surrounding infrastructure / 15 Environmental impact / 25 Technology / 15 Overall presentation - poster and 10 minute presentation (about model and poster)/ 20. Our year 8 design and technology student's entry really impressed the judges demonstrating creativity and ingenuity and the girls presented with confidence and poise to the audience of school children and engineers. The team won an **Amazon gift voucher**, some goodies and a fantastic opportunity to tour **FabLab**, the City of London's first purpose built digital fabrication and rapid prototyping workspace. The success was well deserved as they have shown fantastic teamwork and commitment working during their lunch breaks and after school to develop their concept and design proposal. Well done!

Ms Ronayne

### Structural Integrity

As a structure, we decided to use a geodesic dome and shaping. This is especially practical because the materials used to make geodesic shapes are extremely light. This is why they have very large 'strength to weight' ratios. Any stress put onto a geodesic dome will be distributed evenly across it. Triangles are the strongest shape, as they have fixed angles and don't distort very easily. This means that our building extension and even our model are much easier to use, stronger and have a very modern essence. Domes can withstand powerful winds and strong earthquakes. Concrete domes have been known to survive flying debris as big as cars. These are all great design features, as on whole, they create not only an easier building to build and a good structure, but also a lot of light, making the building more open and fits in with our water awareness theme.

### Technology used and features

The technological attraction for our visitor centre not only educates visitors about the importance of recycling water, it also connects the Big Ben with the theme of time. The top viewing gallery where you can see Big Ben close up in all its glory and the 360 degree viewing area of the clock face. This also periodically transforms into a 4D immersive cinema all about the history of London viewed from the top. It takes the viewers on the adventure through history, from the Romans to WW2. The glass tube is an attraction in itself as it gives the impression of being in the Thames surrounded by the water. An important feature of our design is the roof garden which gives the impression of greenery when the London skyline is dominated by industrial skyscrapers.

### Environmental impact

Our building relies heavily on recycling water and purification for use. Visually, the glass water purification tube is at the heart and core of our design. Water purification is the removal of contaminants in water, this water will then be used for the bathrooms, restaurants, drinking fountains and other water features. For the water to be safe to drink it needs to be filtered and purified. Water filters use physical filtration which is basically a very fine sieve and chemical filtration which chemically removes impurities. Water Recycling has many benefits. These include diversion of freshwater, reducing chemicals and better habitats. Water recycling can decrease diversion of freshwater from sensitive ecosystems. Plants, wildlife, and fish depend on sufficient water flows to their habitats to live and reproduce. In addition to this, irrigation with recycled water can reduce the need for chemical fertilizers. These factors are all extremely important, as these all lead to a more efficient and environmentally friendly approach to clean water. Our building keeps everyone water aware, and will inspire more healthy and happy habitats for fish, otters and plants by the river Thames. Capillary action is the movement of water upwards due to the forces of adhesion, cohesion and surface tension. Capillary action can only take place when the attraction between water molecules is less than the attraction between the water molecules and the glass tube. An example of this is when a paper towel soaks up water, the cohesive and adhesive properties draw the liquid into the paper towel. In our design, water rises due to the adhesion between the water molecules and the walls of a glass tube in the middle of the building which has a large surface area making the adhesion forces greater. As the water is drawn up it is purified for use in the buildings restrooms etc and as a waterfall feature that cascades down the front of our structure and bridges.

### Accessibility

Our Big Ben extension model is accessible to all users - those with disabilities, children, dogs (on leads) and the elderly. We have opted for electric ramps over stairs for mobility scooters, wheelchairs, crutches or anything else people may need to get around. It is designed with wide pathways and open plan exhibits so it is easy for people to move around exhibits. Our roof garden will have fencing all the way around, picnic tables and a children's play area. As you make your way up there is frequent seating for people who need it. It's in walking distance from Westminster tube station. You can travel via river bus (from London Bridge station) which is free and eco friendly. It will encourage people to take public transport.

**The Water Fountain - Big Ben Visitors Centre**  
By Camden School For Girls

## Speakers & Visitors

*The school invites many speakers from a range of backgrounds in to meet our students. Students respond with great enthusiasm to writers, academics, politicians and people who have extraordinary life experiences to recount. The selection of articles below covers just a few of the guests we have welcomed into the school this year and provides an insight into students' perspectives on the issues raised in the talks.*

### Polly Curtis

In September Polly Curtis the editor in chief of Huffpost and also an ex-Camden student, gave a talk for the sixth formers about journalism.



She began by talking about how she got to where she is now. She studied biology, geography and art at A-level and then did an art foundation, an unusual basis for a journalist. Then after travelling she did Development Studies at Leeds University. During her time at University she started to realise she was more passionate about politics. While she did feel out of place within the political discussion at first, she decided to take a risk and changed her degree to politics. She worked on her university newspaper and advised the Camden students that if

they wanted to work in journalism they should do the same.

When she first started as a journalist it was in print and there was very little feedback from readers, and the journalist simply provided the narrative. The digital age has disrupted this and reading and responding to the news has become much more interactive but also more problematic in some ways. People now can get news from anywhere and at any time, some is reliable and some is not, which Polly believes has weakened the trust in journalists.

She advised that if you want to be a journalist you need to read deeply and she also told the students to be aware of the way they are presenting themselves online, as an individual's online presence is something that more and more employers are looking at. She was asked many questions by the students, for example about how people are starting to not trust news due to fake news; in response to this she pleaded with the students to not give up on the news (though to always be sceptical and discerning about what they read) as many journalists are working hard to get the story right and to win the reader's trust. She outlined how for her as an editor, journalistic integrity and trust from her readers are paramount.

*It was an extremely interesting and informative talk.*

**Mia**  
**Sixth Form Prefect**

## Fiona Millar

Also in September, ex-Camden student Fiona Millar came to speak to the sixth form. In fact, we were informed that this year was exactly 50 years since she had studied at Camden herself.

Growing up, Millar always disagreed with the selective education system, as it meant that children from disadvantaged backgrounds went to schools which were of lower quality. This is one of the reasons why Fiona Millar is passionate about educating young people, especially through comprehensive schools.



Millar told us that during her time at Camden, the education system was rather relaxed as there wasn't much competition between schools, which meant schools were not under the pressure to outperform each other which they are now. There was also a far less rigorous approach to uni applications which resulted in Millar's mother, whilst she was on her gap year, sending off a UCAS application and Millar returned home to discover that she had been accepted at UCL. The important message that Millar wanted us to take away, was that if you don't succeed the first time, then you should persevere and try again.

Millar then went on to work for the Daily Mirror in the early 1980's, where she worked as a news reporter and political correspondent, along with her husband. Once she became pregnant with her first child, however, Millar had to put her career in journalism on hold. Millar made it very clear that having a family will always impact your life and career if you are a woman no matter what industry you work in. This she believes, is partly why there is still a pay gap of 18%, despite us being in the 21st century, in that taking maternity leave restricts women from receiving promotions or high status jobs. This is an important issue to raise and the way she spoke made it clear that she was a Camden girl through and through.

Millar was given a second chance at a career in politics, where she worked alongside Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street and was able to meet the likes of Princess Diana and Nelson Mandela. This allowed Millar to work with fascinating people and watch, what are considered to be, some of Labour's greatest achievements unfold. Millar moved on to become a school governor.

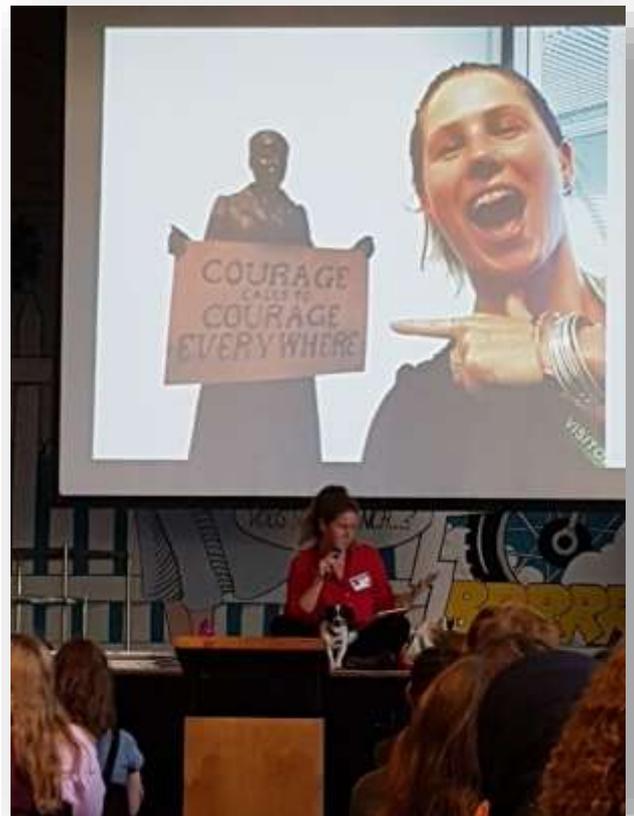
A big issue that Millar addressed, was the fact that affluent, middle class parents are able to send their children into good, private schools whilst those of lower classes are left to struggle. State schools find it hard to attract good teachers, which has serious impacts on their students as they are left feeling uninspired. With 95% of the UK population sending their children to state schools, it is important to keep them well funded in order to give all children the education they deserve.

## Caroline Criado Perez

Caroline Criado Perez, a feminist campaigner and journalist, described during her talk in September how she had tirelessly campaigned for a female figure to be put on a bank note (Jane Austen was put on the ten pound note in 2017). She also spoke about her successful campaign for a female statue to appear in Parliament square resulting in a statue of suffragette Millicent Fawcett being erected in April 2018.

Perez described herself as an 'anti-feminist' young girl, as she felt girls were 'rubbish anyway', always picturing men in high powered well respected job roles. Interestingly it was the realisation that she associated much of the world of work and influence with men and, after reading 'Feminism and Linguistic Theory' at university, that she discovered this was the common and problematic view of many people. She explained how it was this book which sparked her interest and passion for feminism. Perez also shocked us with facts and statistics proving how much of the world is designed to fit and benefit men, as women's different bodies and needs are not recognised. The most surprising statistic was that women are 47% more likely to die in a car crash, as the cars have been tested with male test dummies and therefore do not protect women as well.

Perez was an engaging and inspirational speaker ending by telling us there was no need to defeat the stereotype of the 'angry feminist', because in fact we should be angry!



## Alastair Campbell

Eager eyes and questioning sixth formers welcomed Alastair Campbell to Camden School for Girls Sixth Form on Monday 8 October. He is a journalist and political activist but above all most renowned for his work as Blair's campaign manager and spokesmen. His speech covered a range of issues and topics, including a focus on his own personal experience of a crisis relevant to us all: mental health.

"One day you will look back on these days and think: those were the best days of my life." He outlined how this is a phrase so often said to teenagers by a teacher, parent or grandparent but it is a phrase that Campbell immediately started his talk by dismissing. He claims that not only does this convey unrealistic expectations but it was also factually untrue for himself and for many teenagers. He definitely won bonus points, here amongst the sixth formers who are being weighed down by preparing for A-levels, UCAS applications and a hard to manage social life!

Campbell then went on to take us through a short timeline of his life, starting with his surprising achievement of being the first student in his school to be admitted to Oxbridge. As a teenager, he would have been disbelieving had he been told that he would go on to become successful as a political journalist, that he would one day become one of the prime minister's (Tony Blair) closest campaign managers, and that he would have the privilege of meeting and speaking personally to Nelson Mandela. The one thing he might not have been surprised to find out is that in his early twenties he would be hospitalised for mental health issues.

His clear message to us and the adage which he has lived his life and career by is one that was passed on to him by the very wise Nelson Mandela - that life can take us by surprise but also that any one thing may “.. always seem impossible until it happens.”



## Jason Arthur

Jason Arthur, a cabinet member for Finance and Health for Haringey Council who has worked to tackle educational inequality both as a teacher and in the charity sector, spoke to our Year 12 and 13 students in October about his works and his campaigns and how we all could and should become much more socially active.

He spoke about the two campaign groups which he co-founded 'I Will' and 'FFS'. The first is about encouraging people to empower themselves, hence I will, and work to bring about change if there is a social issue which they feel very strongly about.



Jason Arthur said if we think that something is wrong or unfair, we should not get mad but, instead, get organised. He suggests we follow the steps in this acronym – S.T.A.I.R.S: 'Scholarship' to be committed to the love of learning; 'Transformation' to constantly be able to push yourself to change and adapt; 'Aspiration' to have high ambition and expectations in life; 'Inclusion' to understand that you and your peers are part of a community; 'Resilience' to push through the difficult things, and 'Social responsibility' to ultimately be able to leave school with academic aspirations but also with a greater sense about YOU, what you care about, what you can offer and what contributions you will make to society.

The 'FFS' ( for our future's sake)is a group of students and young people across the UK who focus on mobilising more young people to campaign for a referendum on the terms of the Brexit deal. A huge majority of young people are angry about leaving the European Union and feel like their future is being stolen from them. The 'FFS' campaign fights for young people's voices to be heard and to help bring change. Interestingly, and ironically, the home page of the FFS website features a quotation from David Davis 'If a democracy cannot change its mind, it ceases to be a democracy.

"Do it today. Not tomorrow. Do something." - Jason.

*Jason was a really engaging and inspiring speaker.*

**Nour**  
**Sixth Form Prefect**

### **Bruce Daisley**

In November, Bruce Daisley came to Camden School for Girls. Having previously worked for other large tech firms such as Youtube and Google Daisley was met by eager sixth formers, waiting to hear about his success.

He started off the assembly sharing advice he had taken from famous guitarist Robert Cray, imparting the words "Think of the first thing that comes to your head, and don't do it." This phrase outlined the crux of Daisley's philosophy and was something he maintained was applicable to all walks of life, telling the students to keep things interesting and individual. Bruce won bonus points within the sixth form audience by detailing anecdotes from his youth growing up in South Birmingham, including the comedic story of his father who drunkenly stole a painting from a local art gallery!



Moving on from the comedy he had brought into the room Daisley began to describe the development of his career. Starting out with his initial determination to work in a record company after finishing university, the struggle to find a job amongst a sea of other applicants hit Daisley. Looking out for a way to stand out in his CV Daisley gave the first example of the application of his own advice, as he showed the intrigued sixth form students the cartoon version of his CV that he sent off after university.

This provided Daisley with an entertaining anecdote, and his more obscure, individual way of doing things is what he attributed to landing his first job at Capital Radio and later his progression into the company that owns radio stations such as KISS and Magic. This contributed to the main message of the assembly as Daisley encouraged students to present themselves as interesting and unique.

Using other examples of unique CVs in the format of video games and youtube clips, Daisley advised students to not be afraid to break away from the typical way of doing things. Using the example of the 'marshmallow test' which explores delayed gratification within toddlers, Daisley informed the students that, statistically, this test was a good predictor of success in later life - reminding the students of the importance of the message that things can often feel difficult before they take off.

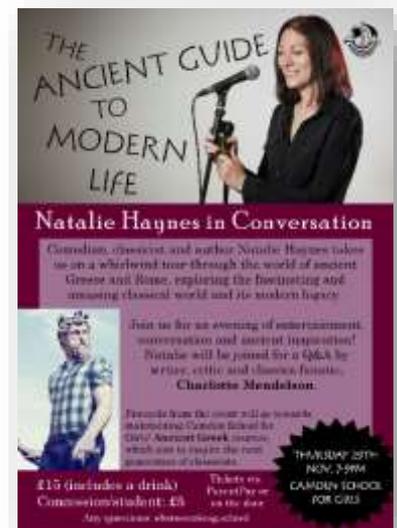
Bruce encouraged students to sell their individualism and use it to their advantage; encouraging them to spend less time on their phones and instead to spend 15 minutes a day enhancing skills that make them both more creative and more interesting in the future. His own success highlights just how important this creativity can be as when he first started a career in radio the big companies he went onto work for, namely Twitter and Youtube, didn't even exist. Putting his own, personal story of success down to his strategy of constantly learning new things in order to present the most compelling image of himself and to highlight his skills. Bruce Daisley inspired students within the sixth form to focus not only on the mundane requirements of UCAS and A-levels, that are all too familiar to them at this point in their lives, but also on the other, more engaging things that make the students truly individual.

Clearly engaged with the advice given to them students questioned Daisley on the issues he faces as the Vice President of Twitter, particularly asking questions on the grey area of hate speech online. Stressing the importance of freedom of speech and opinion Daisley made it clear that, as a private company it was not Twitter's responsibility to become the arbiter of the truth but rather that allowing the online community to challenge these falsehoods is what makes Twitter such an open space.

Overall, the sixth form seemed impressed by the advice Daisley shared and the refreshing take he gave on how to 'work' the system is something that inspired the sixth formers as many of us begin to look into the future and prepare for our own success.

## Natalie Haynes

Also in November comedian, classicist and author Natalie Haynes hosted a fascinating evening fellow author Charlotte Mendelson. The evening started with a whirlwind tour of the classical world - why everyone should read (but also hate) Juvenal, why every storyline in EastEnders is actually a Greek tragedy, and why Roman women always come across as so monstrous. Charlotte and Natalie ended the evening with a discussion on the highs and lows of being an author, the advantages of studying ancient languages (not only because you get to use words like 'celerity') and why it's a great thing to have Classics going strong in state schools.



## Sanchia Berg

In March Sanchia Berg, the award winning BBC correspondent and reporter came to talk about her job and the current state of journalism.

Berg began by focusing on David Irving, a holocaust denier who she had interviewed after Irving issued a libel writ against Deborah Lipstadt, an American academic and author of "Denying the Holocaust: the Growing Assault on Truth and Memory".

Shortly after the interview, Irving lost the court case and was sued for 2.5 million pounds. Berg made it clear that it is absolutely essential that reporters can verify the information they print. She outlined that it can be very difficult to physically prove events in this day and age as a reporter, as to cover a story costs a vast amount of money and takes up huge amounts of time, especially since decreasing amounts of the general public are buying newspapers. Because of the diminishing amount of newspapers being bought, there is less and less money for printing, and Berg described editors currently being in a "state of panic" due to the suffering state of journalism.

Berg showed the students a series of graphs, which displayed statistics about the public buying newspapers, and the social and economic status of said people. The majority of those paying for news tend to be better informed people who have been in full time higher education and are middle to upper class. As Berg explained, understandably, these are typically people who are bound to be more "news savvy" and therefore less likely to trust social media, and are more sceptical of fake news. The graph showed a trend of people earning more being more sceptical of the news presented to them, trends that are constantly getting manipulated by companies such as Cambridge Analytica.

Despite the crisis of fake news and falling rates of journalism, Berg encouraged each student to venture into this field, as one person can make an enormous difference. In fact, she argued that this is THE greatest time to be a journalist, seeing as there has been a huge advancement in technology and ways of reaching a much higher percentage of people. Print was once the only means of communication, however now there are lots more platforms, so Berg urged us to pursue this.



## Dan Thompson

Dan Thompson came to speak to Sixth Form in June. He is currently touring the world by foot in his Run The World campaign in aid of Cancer Research UK. With an aim of running 2,500,000m in 206 countries - a metre for every UK cancer sufferer - Thompson is devoted to promoting the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle. As of 24 June, he has been to 173 countries, run 1870km and raised \$52683 with the final leg to be completed in Hampstead Heath on 4th July 2020, alongside many volunteers, some of whom he hoped would be Camden students!



In many countries, Thompson was met with encouragement from fellow runners and the running conditions were excellent, however, in others, completing a run had great risks. There were physical factors such as incredibly high temperatures in South Sudan where he almost suffered a heat stroke, along with high altitudes in Bolivia where he was provided with air canisters and cocoa leaves (apparently chewing the leaves clears your throbbing head and lets you breathe again) from the British Embassy. Following this, Thompson touched upon social running and how even in some of the worst living conditions, it can be a form of both mental and physical release.

## Michelle Obama

On the 3rd December 2018, 18 lucky Sixth Form students whose names had been selected out of a hat went to see Michelle Obama in conversation with Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie at the South Bank about her autobiography, "Becoming".

Michelle Obama spoke about the struggles she had to overcome as a strong, independent woman in order to reach the influential position she holds today.

It was a truly memorable and compelling talk and everybody got a free copy of her book!

Below are the responses of some of the students who attended:



*A very interesting life lesson that I had learnt from her was that the journey to success is never finite. One never just "becomes", but is always "becoming". Life does not end once you have reached a certain goal. In fact, once the goal is achieved you should be inspired to reach another life goal.*

Sophie

*Going to see Michelle Obama will probably go down as one of the best things our school has ever been able to give to the students, I was inspired in so many ways as I listened to her talk about not only her journey at the White House but also everything that led up to it. As a young mixed race female in today's society having role models like Michelle Obama and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is so important, and they deliver such a strong message that should be broadcast to young girls everywhere. I'm so grateful to have been able to experience this first hand and it will surely be something I never forget.*

Lucia

## Astronaut Nicole Stott visits the year 7's for a Science and careers talk



This year the year 7's had an amazing careers talk by the first female astronaut to paint in Space, **Nicole Stott**. Having spent 104 days in space and nearly three weeks on the Aquarius undersea habitat, Nicole has seen Earth's bigger picture and provided a unique perspective of our planet.

Nicole Stott has completed two spaceflights and has lived and worked on both the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station (ISS). After 28 years with NASA, Stott is now a full-time artist and SciArt education advocate. Through her artwork, she uniquely shares her impressions of our planet from the orbital and undersea perspectives.

Nicole gave such an inspirational overview about her life, her passion for science, her career route and how grateful and emotional she felt when she was chosen to be an astronaut after an extremely tough selection process. She spoke about how life as an astronaut has inspired her art work. The year 7 students really enjoyed the talk and were so excited to have the opportunity to talk to Nicole Stott and also ask her many questions about her life in Space. Many year 7's fed back saying that it has made them really want to pursue a career in STEM, and some students want to walk in her footsteps. Other comments from the year 7 students include:



*I learnt that you can really do anything if you put your mind to it.*

**Year 7 student**

## School Trips

*Despite the funding cuts the school has managed to organise a variety of school trips for the students providing valuable learning outside the classroom. The following are a snapshot of some of these trips.*

### Year 11 Geography Trip to Brecon

In October intrepid Year 11 geographers travelled to Brecon, South Wales. As well as gathering data about the River Tarrell, they went down Big Pit, Blaenavon's last coalmine which closed in 1980, and walked behind the wonderful waterfalls at Sgwd Eira.

Weatherwise, it was a week of two halves. The first group of girls benefited from autumnal sunshine. The second group gained first-hand knowledge of the flooding hazard as Storm Callum beat down, dumping 182mm of rain in 48 hours with winds over 70mph, and South Wales' worst flooding for 30 years. The rivers burst their banks, roads were closed, and houses were flooded. The Camden Girls persisted!



### Year 7 Geography Trip to the Docklands

In November two Year 7 forms went to the Docklands area in East London. They looked around the River Thames where the docks were formerly placed. There were many new modern buildings but one older street still remained. The year 7 students also interviewed a few locals and people that worked in the area. We ended the trip with an exciting boat ride on the River Thames.



## 80 Years on – a commemoration of the Kindertransport



In November some students from the CSG Refugee Club along with Ms Al Zeer were invited to attend the Kindertransport commemoration event. One CSG student Ella had won (along with 2 others) the letter writing competition across the whole of the UK and therefore was asked to record her letter at the location. It would be played to the audience with the other two letters at the beginning of the event

Many stories around Kindertransport were shared by the speakers who were Kindertransport children, now active and celebrated members of society. Some of the most harrowing stories were of parents and siblings left behind that later perished in the Holocaust. While gratitude and joy at being saved was felt, they spoke of the loss, the heartbreak that never really went away. And yet these children who arrived in Harwich, starting December 2nd 1938, as young as 2 years old would grow up to contribute widely and extensively to UK Society. They became scientists, doctors, journalists, politicians and much more. Their children and grandchildren, fully integrated into British society were also helping to build and mould a better Britain.

At one point, Dame Esther Rantzen, speaking to the audience, asked those who were Kindertransport children to stand up. And so they did, now many decades older, they stood up and the hall was moved with emotion. Such courage and perseverance, such pride and gratitude. They were applauded enthusiastically by the remaining audience.

Yet here we are in 2018 and there are over 25 million refugees in the world, over half of whom are under the age of 18. This matter was passionately addressed by the speakers. Child refugees, homeless, hungry and vulnerable are spread across Europe. Many of them have family members in the UK and sadly some have died trying to make their way here. Lord Alf Dubs and other speakers pointed out that if we as a country could save 10,000 child refugees in 1938/9 then why not now.

There were several such refugees, rescued by Safe Passage, present at the event. Ridwaan, a 16 year old boy from Eritrea had spent 4 years on a long and terrible journey to finally make it into the safety of Britain. He spoke of how he now had a life of hope and opportunity and planned to study civil engineering. He spoke of his desire to help others as he had been helped. He said all those other children left stranded without family or security were like his brothers and sisters and they too deserve to be helped.

Sadly we could do not stay till the end as it overran. We left after Lord Alf Dubs' speech (the penultimate speech). He called on us and inspired us to be part of a movement for good, to reach out to help the child refugees to find a safe home and call on the government and local councils to offer 10,000 places in the next 10 years.

## Year 12 History trip to Paris

Between 21-23 March, 45 Year 12 History students accompanied by 5 teachers went on the annual CSG trip to Paris. The photos below show students at the Palais Royale, the Palace of Versailles and the Eiffel Tower (courtesy of Zoe Year 12)



*This year's history trip to Paris was very insightful as we got to physically see what we were studying about in class. We saw many important historical sites*

*Madi Year 12*

## Year 12 Geography trip to East Sussex

In the last week of the Spring term, 38 Y12 geographers travelled to East Sussex to reinforce their understanding of coastal processes and management.

Students attended a lecture at Sussex University which described how, using high resolution drone photography, they have built up astonishingly detailed 3D models of the local cliffs which allow them to make improved predictions of the scale and rate of cliff collapse.

Later, in bright sunshine, we enjoyed the beautiful meanders and beach at Cuckmere, seeing how the Environment Agency's recent decision to stop defending this stretch of coastline is affecting the vegetation and geomorphology of the area.



## Year 9 Geography trip to King's Cross

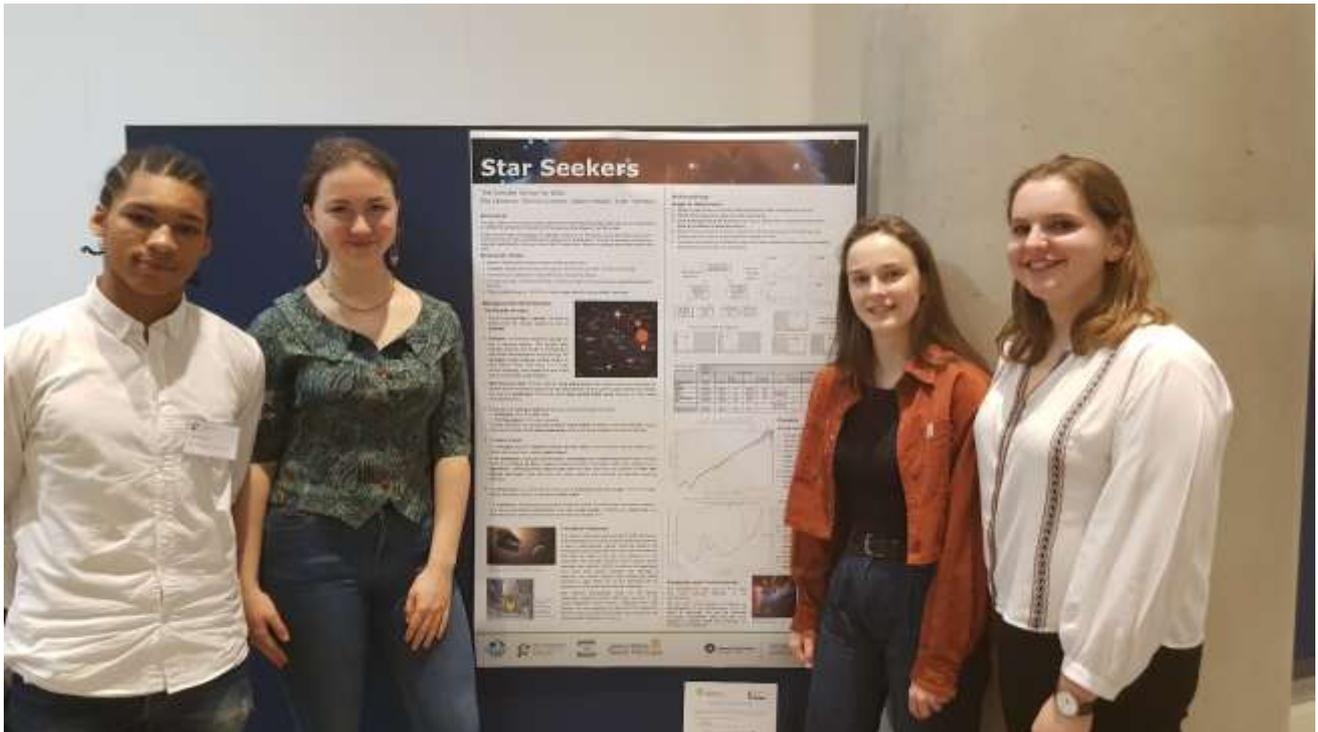
In July Year 9 geographers visited King's Cross as part of their studies of urban inequalities.

They used a wide variety of geographical techniques to make an assessment of the success of £1billion regeneration scheme. The fountains in Granary Square were really popular in the sunshine.

Since our last visit, the amazing Coal Drops Yard has opened, and the students enjoyed looking at the new shops, even if they were a bit taken aback by the prices!



## Star Seekers at The Francis Crick Institute



The **James Webb Telescope Cosmic Mining Project** (thankfully dubbed 'Star Seekers' by Ms Goldsmith) saw students from Y10 to Y13, analysing data on stars collected by the soon to be decommissioned Spitzer Telescope. Our findings will be used by astronomers to decide which stars deserve to be observed further by the James Webb Telescope, due to be launched in 2020. It took a little practice and experience with the process to get it down but once you'd become accustomed to reading the monstrous graphs of data, it became super interesting (if peering quite literally into the stars wasn't interesting enough!).

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, a small group consisting of myself, Caitlin, Ella and Thelma (all Y12) and Ms Goldsmith made our way to the Francis Crick Institute, just by St. Pancras International for the **IRIS Anniversary Celebration and Conference**. Our mission: let the world know of our successes, discoveries and experiences with the project. Our audience was vast, around 200 people, and well...they were scientists. I'm not too sure how the others felt, but the prospect of going up on stage and explaining a topic to people who have dedicated their careers to it was very daunting in my mind. But then came our time on stage, in the spotlight and we absolutely killed it!

The evening ended with a free roaming session where the guests had an opportunity to visit the individual stands and learn more about the projects. Unfortunately for us, we exited the auditorium to find our stand empty! The enormous A0 posters we had sent in advance had been kept "somewhere safe" within the Francis Crick building, and so we had to spend the first hour without it. Thankfully the issue was resolved and the marvel that was our poster was put on display (pictured above. It is viewable in the Physics department as well.

Overall, this was a truly excellent opportunity and one which I both fully enjoyed and would do again with the chance.

Tyler (Y12)

## Classics Trip to Greece



Mr Bateson writes:

*“Over the Easter break, a group of Y11s, 12s and 13s set off on an Odyssean adventure to Greece, where we would get to grips with the archaeological sites and museums fundamental to our understanding of this period of history.*

*After an early start and a rather rocky landing, we visited Cape Sounion, the southernmost headland of Attica on which stands a great temple to Poseidon. It was a rather windy and exhilarating experience and one that was unfortunately lost to the gods. There is no gift without sacrifice.*

*The next day we visited the stunning Acropolis of Athens, along with its museum and the National Archaeological Museum. Y11 were very excited to see some of the Mycenaean jewellery, pottery and grave goods that they have studied this year.*

*Day three led us to Tolon, with visits to the stunning theatre of Epidaurus and the rather rainy ancient Corinth. This was followed on our final day by a trip to Tiryns and Mycenae - two sites that Y11 know well.”*



## Design & Technology trip to the Skip Garden

In May a class of Year 7s went on a fantastic trip to the Skip Garden in Kings Cross and enjoyed looking at, smelling, planting and eating some plants.

Here's an account of the trip by one of the students:-

*"A sustainable urban garden with a twist" as their slogan, the Skip Garden shows us that there is really no excuse to not be green as you can grow things just about anywhere, even a soilless roof! When we saw an apple tree growing in a skip and a greenhouse made out of recycled windows The Skip Garden really blew our minds with their creativity and will to help the city kids and adults release the inner country.*

*When we left the shed the staff took us around the gardens and we saw huge skips filled with flowers and plants oozing with fragrance and vibrant colours and bugs. The brave Camden girls tasted all sorts of greens. Next, we visited the compost and wormery; the compost was such a surprise as the heat in the compost bin was tremendous. The wormery was very educating as we learnt a lot about England's past wildlife. At the end we gave a helping hand and pulled out the old bulbs. All us city kids definitely enjoyed getting our hands dirty and helping out.*

*In conclusion, I absolutely loved our day out and would absolutely recommend it to any families, couples, kids or friends on a sunny weekend. The staff was totally welcoming and the plants and grounds are very well kept. All the plants are cared for lovingly and the cafe has scrumptious organic treats. Overall I think the Skip Garden school trip was a success.*

Anna Y7



## English Speaking Union's London Debate Challenge Winners!



On Monday 1 July, a team from CSG took part in the finals of the **English Speaking Union's London Debate Challenge Final**. The top eight comprehensive schools from London came together in the ESU's headquarters in Dartmouth House, Mayfair for a day of debating.

The team from CSG was made up of five Year 9 students (Martha, Ines, Lola, Emma and Lea) who took part in three debates over the course of the day:- this house would punish people who don't recycle, this house would pay politicians the average wage & this house believes that more children's stories should have unhappy endings.

During the debates each speaker spoke for five minutes and engaged very well with these complex issues in both proposition and opposition. The CSG team was particularly praised for their confidence and well-structured speeches throughout the day. At the end of the day, CSG were judged to have done well enough to have made it to the grand final. Prior to finding out about the final motion, Martha was involved in a coin toss to decide our position and she chose opposition. The motion was "This house would ban mobile phones in schools".



*Preparing for the grand final in Dartmouth House*

The final took place in front of a large audience of students, teachers and judges and our team did incredibly well in the grand final and showed a very high level of understanding, offering thoughtful questions to the proposition. After the judges' deliberation and feedback, it was announced that CSG had won the final and were announced as the 2019 London Debate Challenge champions!

This was a fantastic day for debating at CSG and really reflects the strength of debating at the school. The London Debate Challenge is open to all state schools in London and involves two rounds prior to finals day. It is a great achievement to win and Camden School for Girls really has now established itself as a force to be reckoned with in schools debating.

## Fundraising

Students raised a phenomenal **£4,949** in total in 2018/19 for 14 different charities including *Save the Children, The Windrush Foundation & Safe Passage.*

### PINK Week

Another successful Pink Week took place in October with events including busking by staff and students every break-time, a Dance-off between teachers and students, a sale of pink things and the legendary Pink Catwalk and Conga on Friday. Well done to the Head Girl Team for such fabulous organisation!

An incredible **£3,158** was raised for **Breast Cancer Care.**



### Carol singing for CRISIS

In December the Sixth Form went to Highbury and Islington station to sing carols and other Christmas songs to raise money for CRISIS who work directly with thousands of homeless people every year. They provide vital help so that people can rebuild their lives and are supported out of homelessness for good. A substantial **£425** was raised. Many thanks to all the students and staff who came along and were such enthusiastic singers and bucket shakers. Huge thanks to Mr Byers and Ms Gordon for providing the song sheets, the keyboard, the sleigh bells and their wonderful musicality.



## Anonymous Art Auction

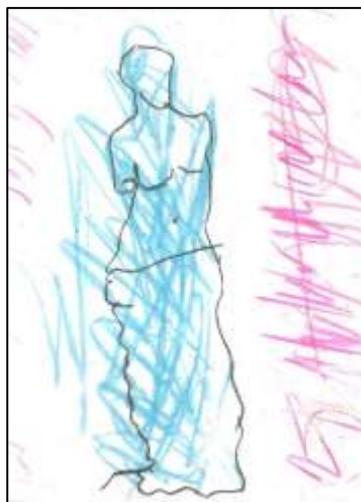
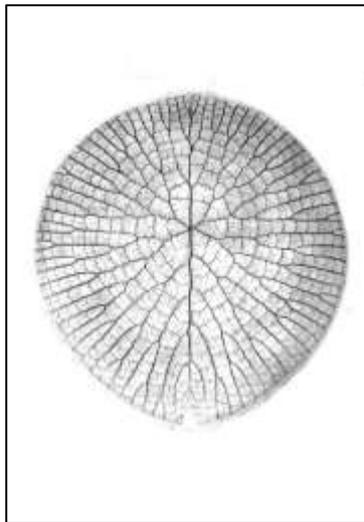
The fourth **Camden School for Girls Anonymous Art Auction** took place in May and June. We had an incredible array of talented artists who kindly donated a postcard sized work, which were then added to our online auction where bidders could make their offers. At the end of the auction the identity of each artist was revealed.

Contributors this year included:-

Beatrice Baumgartner Cohen, Chris Bennett, Yvette Blumberg, Delyth Bolt, Sebastian Coates, Daniel Crawshaw, Kate Cullinan, Edward Dill, Goldie Dill, Polly Farquharson, Lynda Farrell, Emma Gorman, Irene Graham, Vilte Grigaityte, Carla Groppi, Leanne Hagger, Maggi Hambling, Nicola Hepworth, Kelly Hill, Kanzani Humphries, Wendy Jacob, John Keane, Rachel Kneebone, Jillian Knipe, Michael Landy, Vaishali Londhe, Sarah Marshall, Jeff McMillan, Helen Oxenbury, Cornelia Parker, Amanda Ribbans, Hugh Ribbans, Sue Ribbans, Dorit Ronen, Philippa Schofield, Amy Sharrocks, Neil Smith, Jon Snow, Malena Stojic, Holly Turner, Gillian Williams-Hay and Christina Wilson.

A wonderful **£3,153** was raised which goes towards school projects and helps us to ensure we can continue to offer a creative, exciting and broad programme to all our students.

Do visit <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/anonymouspostcardauction2019> to see more of the works.



## CASCA

*Camden School's Community Association continued to work indefatigably this year with phenomenal results. CASCA events have been superb fundraisers as well as tremendous fun and bonding for the school's student and parent community. Events held this year have included Dramstock!, The Annual Autumn Jumble Sale, Quiznight, a Table Top Sale, a Specialist Antiques Sale, Summerfest, the Dance-a-thon and the Parent Forums. CASCA contributed a brilliant **£32,235** to the school – more details below.*

### Another fantastic Jumble Sale!

The annual Jumble sale raised **£7,555**, an astonishing achievement! The whole occasion was a resounding success. A really impressive amount of jumble was donated and everyone went away feeling they had a few real bargains in their bags. It was incredibly well organized, so that it was a real pleasure to go around the stalls and view the items, and even engage in a little friendly haggling! The cakes, biscuits, muffins and savouries were a real treat, and many of the items were home-made; thanks to all for the time and effort that went into making the cafe so inviting! Running a stall presents quite a challenge with high numbers of customers and speedy judgements being needed about prices. It was wonderful to see the students getting involved with this. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to provide security or run a stall as well as to those who donated and supported the event by purchasing items.

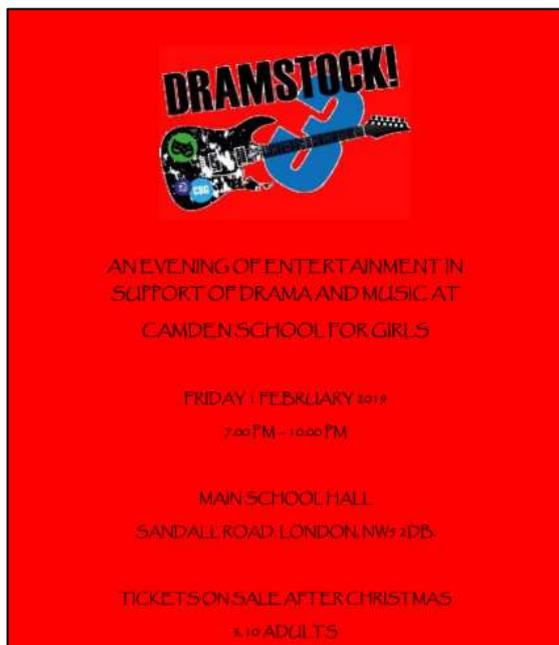


**Jumble Sale 2018**

## Dramstock!

In February we enjoyed the fantastic **Dramstock!** now in its third year. It was wonderful to see so many parents, friends and students in the audience. As always CASCA helped to make the atmosphere really friendly and welcoming, with a very popular bar, and it was a real pleasure to listen to the students performing. The experience of playing to this kind of audience is truly unique for them at this stage and it will have boosted their confidence enormously. It was especially delightful to see and hear students from the lower school through to the sixth form participating.

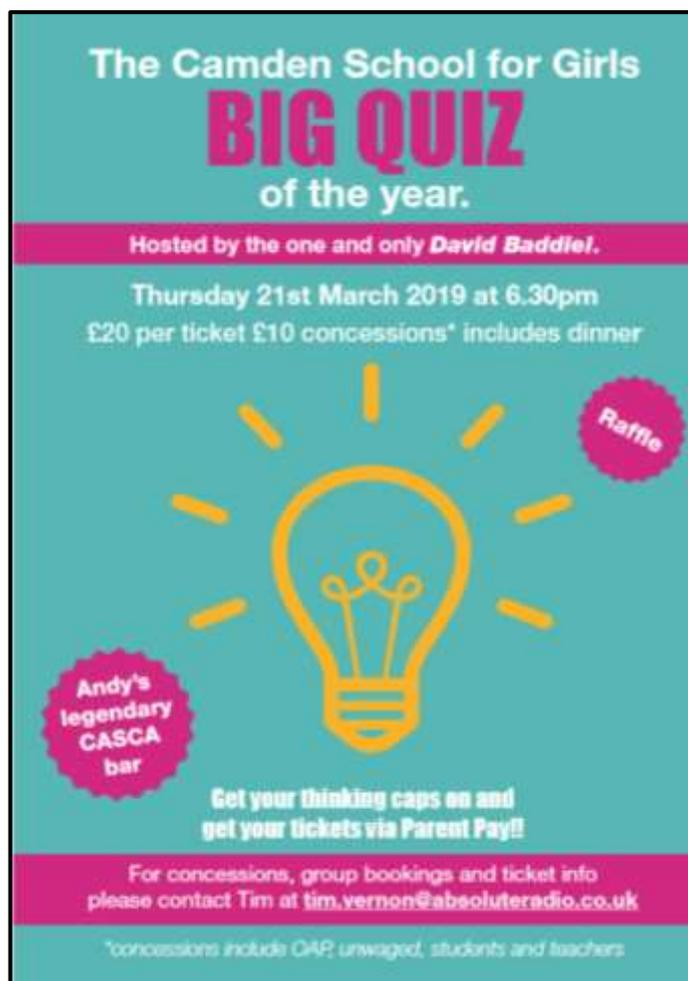
Many thanks as well to the parents and staff who played and contributed exceptional talent and goodwill. A particular thank you to Will Byers, our Head of Music, for arranging and marshalling the extraordinary talent that our school has to offer. Also huge thanks to Royston Deitch for having the idea of running an event in school to support performance and for all his hard work making it happen.



## Quiz Night

The Quiz Night hosted by **David Baddiel** on 21st March was a highly enjoyable event. It was remarkably well-attended and the atmosphere was light, friendly, and just slightly competitive!

An incredible **£5,532** was raised and included £920 from the raffle organised so brilliantly by Mary Kavanagh. Thank you to everyone involved and particularly to Martyn Gerrard who support the event.





In June CASCA also organised a brilliant **Summerfest**. It was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion, with a friendly and welcoming atmosphere and plenty of activities for all age groups. The food and drinks were delicious, and it was wonderful to taste a range of tasty home-cooked items, or fresh food prepared on site. The CASCA team and schoolkeepers worked incredibly hard to make the space available at the front of the school really welcoming, and many visitors said they thought it worked better than using the courtyard.

As always, the Battle of the Bands was a real magnet for students, as was the bouncy castle, and the silent auction, tombola and raffle did brisk business. Thanks to Mr Byers, Ms Gordon and Martyn Gerrard for their contribution. It was lovely to see students running stalls as well.

Also in June we held our third Dance-a-thon which definitely makes it a firm annual event! The whole school took part and it was a really fabulous day. The class dances were incredible – huge thanks to Ms Devine & Ms Hamilton for their support and the girls for their award-winning choreography! The music and the dancing didn't stop all day and even the teachers joined in at break thanks to the unstoppable energy of Elaine.

Enormous thanks to Nicola and Tim Longfoot from CASCA for all their hard work in making it happen again - a real triumph!

The event raised over **£3,280** which was put towards our pollution-busting living wall and to providing all new Year 7s with CSG water bottles in September, and everyone with a reusable tote bag to reduce all our single-use plastic on site.

It was the students' participation that made the event such a joy. They created an atmosphere that was electric - joyful, enthusiastic and inclusive. Everyone joined in. It was a real pleasure to watch and to admire.



Pictured above, 10R, the winning form with the **Dance-a-thon trophy**. They choreographed a dance to 'Footloose'

## Founders Day 2019

Our annual commemoration of the work of Frances Mary Buss, our founder, took place on the 29 March this year. Students rehearsed over the days leading up to the occasion and made hundreds of posies on the afternoon before Founders' Day. The Head students spoke with great poise, confidence and insight about their time as leaders in Camden School for Girls, exploring ways in which they have been influenced by the school, and how they have influenced others. Music from the choir and orchestra was beautiful, with some particularly moving solo performances, and all our students concentrated and participated superbly well. Our guests enjoyed mingling after the commemoration in the Art room over coffee.



***Would you like to attend Founders Day next year? Email [friends@csg.school](mailto:friends@csg.school) with your details and connection to the school.***

## Alumni News – Onwards & Upwards!

We are always keen to hear from our Alumni – please do get in touch and let us know what you have been up to you by emailing us at [friends@csg.school](mailto:friends@csg.school) We would love to hear from you!

### Alumni News

We are thrilled and delighted with ex CSG student Nubya Garcia's stellar success as a saxophonist, composer and huge British jazz talent. The Guardian said her performance at the Village Underground earlier this year was "history-making jazz in a London accent". Nubya attended CSG from 2003 to 2010. She began reading and playing music aged 4. She attended the Camden Music Centre at CSG every weekend from very young. At the age of 10, having played violin, piano and recorder, she started the saxophone. Nubya then won a saxophone scholarship aged 17 at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston. On her return to London, she studied Jazz Performance at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance and graduated in 2015.



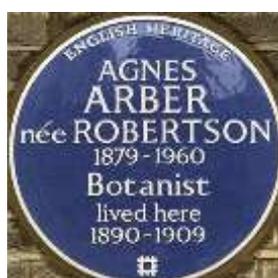
Nubya released her debut EP 'Nubya's Five' in 2017. Her second EP 'When We Are' followed in 2018. In 2018 Nubya was awarded both the Jazz FM Breakthrough Act of the Year and The Times Breakthrough award.



Another former student from Nubya's year, Cicely Balston, visited the school earlier this year to talk about her career as a mastering engineer at the internationally-renowned AirStudios. Cicely has been working with Nubya and has mastered some of her recordings. It's wonderful to see our past students continuing to collaborate with such incredible success!

### Blue Plaque unveiled for Agnes Arber

On 1st November 2018 a blue plaque was unveiled at the former house of Agnes Arber at 9 Elsworthy Terrace. Agnes lived there between the ages of 11 and 30 and was a student at North London Collegiate School for Girls, which at that time was based at Sandall Road. She was a prominent botanist and only the third female member and first botanist female member of the Royal Society. In 1948 she became the first woman to be awarded the Linnean Medal.



## In Memoriam

### Geoffrey Fallows



28th September 1941 - 11th June 2019

Colleague and leader at The Camden School for Girls 1975 - 2000

It is with great sadness that I am writing this tribute to Geoffrey Fallows, who died on 11th June 2019. Geoffrey became headteacher at The Camden School for Girls in 1989, having been appointed to the post of Deputy Headteacher in 1975, after teaching classics at Latymer and Crown Woods schools. Geoffrey appointed me as Deputy Headteacher in 1994, and I thoroughly enjoyed the six years I spent working with him in the school's leadership team.

Geoffrey was a kind, courteous, enthusiastic and knowledgeable leader. He was deeply committed to state education, arriving at the school at the time it was making a transition from being a grammar into a comprehensive. Geoffrey steered many other changes through the school; the integration of boys into the sixth form and its significant expansion, establishing a suite of workshops to provide technology subjects and the first of many attempts to remove asbestos from the school's mid-century building. He led these changes with his customary optimism, insight and good humour, and he always prioritised long-term benefit over shorter term inconvenience and worry about the impact of change.

The years of Geoffrey's headship saw many challenges; industrial action in relation to Key Stage Three SATs, reductions in funding, the implementation of GCSEs, which were introduced in 1989, the move to Local Management of Schools and the first few Ofsted inspections. Geoffrey took all of this in his stride, maintaining his focus on the school's core values and its drive to provide a first-class education for all its students.



*James Paice M.P., Minister of State at the DFEE, presents the OFSTED citation to Camden School.*

But there was also much to celebrate during these years; the wonderful fund-raising drive 'A Hell of a Hall', designed to give us the excellent hall which still acts as a focal point for all school community activities, brilliantly and generously supported by Emma Thompson; the continuation of exceptional music and art provision within the school and great success in the school's classics department.



*Emma Thompson & Linda Robson supported the school through its Hell of a Hall campaign*

And no tribute to Geoffrey would be complete without a reference to his love of the outdoors, which manifested itself in school as a passionate drive to improve the quality of the school grounds. Geoffrey called out to parents, governors and friends through the Friday News to come along and do gardening every month, and the result was a calming and beautifully planted environment for the school, much enhanced by Penny Wild's superb gardening knowledge and skills.



*Penny Wild, Chair of Governors, was always on hand to assist Geoffrey with gardening*

The school's traditions were important to Geoffrey, as was its foundation by Frances Mary Buss, in 1871. Geoffrey captured this sense of connection with the past in his Founder's Day addresses, and was delighted to celebrate the unveiling of a blue plaque in honour of Miss Buss in March 2000. Geoffrey was able to look forwards and backwards on behalf of the school respecting its traditions while securing its future.

*Connie Hurran, a former senior prefect at the North London Collegiate School and Harriet aged 11, the youngest pupil at Camden School for Girls unveiling the blue plaque*



A blue plaque in honour of Britain's first headmistress, Frances Mary Buss, the founder of modern girls' high schools, has been unveiled at Camden School for Girls.

The school in Sarsall Road, Camden Town, was the second founded by Miss Buss and the English Heritage plaque was unveiled last Friday by 89-year-old Connie Hurran, a former senior prefect at the North London Collegiate School, and Harriet Bennett, 11, the youngest pupil at Camden School for Girls.

In 1850 Miss Buss opened the North London Collegiate School, the first day school to offer girls the kind of education previously available only to boys, and was the first woman to describe herself as a headmistress. Camden School for Girls followed in 1871.

Geoffrey's wife, Carolyn, was a frequent visitor to the school, and many of us knew her well. It was therefore terribly sad to learn of her illness, and to hear that Geoffrey would leave Camden in August 2000 to spend precious time with her, which, very sadly, turned out to be all too short a period. After Carolyn's death and during his very happy time with Jo, Geoffrey remained a true friend of the school, and visited often, with Jo accompanying him to many of our Founder's Day celebrations.

During this time Geoffrey's legacy continued to be important; he had left his imprint on the school in terms of its ethos, its strong connections with very loyal alumnae and staff and the rich curriculum enjoyed by students. He enjoyed keeping in touch with many Camden girls and staff for years after they had left, having created the Friends network and annual magazine. Geoffrey was a person with a strong sense of history as well as an ability to adapt wholeheartedly when the times demanded change.

Geoffrey was extremely sociable, and our sadness when he left in 2000 was eased by the series of celebrations that were held in school to wish him farewell. These last few photos capture Geoffrey's enjoyment of his final weeks at Camden School for Girls.



*One for the library and one to take home?*



*The last assembly and gifts galore!*



*Staff Party*

Geoffrey will be remembered as a leader who embodied the heart and soul of Camden. For him, the school was about far more than academic achievement, important though this undoubtedly was to him. His values were those of the school; alongside intellectual curiosity he treasured friendship, generosity, community and laughter. He will be sorely missed.

Elizabeth Kitcatt July 2019

## In Memoriam

### Donika Barbatovci



9th May 1975 – 20th December 2018

Donika joined the school in 2007 as Examinations Assistant. She quickly established herself as a very approachable, friendly, efficient and capable member of staff, and she became Examinations Officer in 2013.

Donika's work affected all our students. She ran all the tests and exams our students take, from the banding assessment right through to GCSEs and A levels. She made sure students were comfortable, well-informed, calm and well-supported at the times in their lives when their future success was at stake.

Donika was a well-liked colleague; optimistic, energetic, kind and thoughtful. She had been unwell for some time, and had undergone a lengthy treatment process, about which she was always positive. She will be sorely missed.

On Friday 27th September 2019 Mary Kavanagh and CASCA hosted a fantastic MacMillan coffee morning (pictured below) in memory of Donika. It was very moving to take a moment on Friday to remember Donika and to reflect on the warmth and cheerfulness she brought into the school.





## ***Support the school***

As you may know, in the current financial climate, Camden School for Girls has faced significant and ongoing cuts to its funding. If you wish to support the school we now have a very easy to use CAFdonate page available [here](#) .

Did you also know that you can also include Camden School for Girls in your will? More information can be found on our Alumni website [here](#)

**Thank you for your support!**