



**THE CAMDEN
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**



Friends Newsletter 2017

Foreword from the Headteacher, Ms Elizabeth Kitcatt

It is always a pleasure to look back at the past year and remember what has been going on at Camden School for Girls. As always, we have welcomed many visitors into the school who have inspired, provoked, entertained and educated our students. Visitors remind us all of the world beyond the school gate and give students first-hand information about fascinating careers or subjects which have motivated and interested them.

*Our students have been involved in an extraordinary number of **projects and activities** outside the classroom. They've been monitoring our air quality, practising public speaking and debating, exploring WW1 battlefields, Warner Brothers Studios, and our 'Teen Tech' girls have been developing their STEM skills and meeting professionals who have made their careers within these academic disciplines. Art in Barcelona, the French Revolution in Paris and geography fieldwork on the river Bulbourne are just a few of the trips that have been enjoyed by our well-travelled students this year.*

*Our **performance** calendar has been as full as ever with concerts, a sixth form play, a dance show and a musical. **CASCA** has organised an extraordinary programme of events to raise funds for the school and to pull the community together. They have now launched the 60 for 60 campaign to raise £60 000 to re-furbish the new building extensions and celebrate just over 60 years in Sandall Road. As always, the art, photography and DT shows were highlights of the Summer Term.*

*The list of **speakers** in sixth form assemblies is truly remarkable, and is always a very popular feature of life in Years 12 and 13. And we are delighted to hear news of **CSG alumnae**, making their mark on the world, as ever, and hope you enjoy reading about their lives after Camden.*

I hope you enjoy reading this selection of news items from the school. I have certainly enjoyed re-visiting highlights from 2016-17.

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

Last August brought some **outstanding exam results**. For GCSEs, 79% of students achieved five or more A* - C grades including English & Mathematics. 61% achieved the English Baccalaureate – a record high for the school. 82% achieved five or more A* - C grades in five or more GCSE subjects. 94% of students in English, and 90% in Mathematics made expected or more than expected progress.

Our A Level results were also excellent with 41% of all grades being an A* - A, 76% of all grades at A* - B and 93% of all grades at A*-C. These are exceptionally strong results, reflecting extremely hard work by students and teachers, and consistent support from parents.

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

Camden School for Girls has been identified by government ministers five times since 2013 as being one of the 100 top-performing non-selective state-funded schools in England. In March this year the Rt Hon Nick Gibb, School Standards Minister wrote a letter of congratulations to the school in recognition of our achievement in particular for the English Baccalaureate.

CSG Music

Orchestral/Ensembles Concert



On the 8th of February, the school held a concert where students from Years 7 all the way up to Year 13 performed in what turned out to be an amazing showcase of talent.

The first half opened with an impressive performance by the Senior Brass, followed by the school's Symphony Orchestra. A range of repertoire was demonstrated: they played two movements by Sibelius, two pieces by Prokofiev (including the 'Montagues and Capulets', perhaps better known as The Apprentice's theme tune) and ended with the exciting Moldau by Smetana.



After the interval we were treated to some jazz by an amazing quartet led by Alex on saxophone, before solo performances from Lydia, Mabel, Jasmine and Xenia, all of which were beautifully performed. The night ended with the Year 12 Jazz Band who - rather impressively - do not have a tutor, and are organised entirely by themselves. After two jazz standards by Charles Mingus and Charlie Parker respectively, the night ended with 'Mercy Mercy Mercy', which was arranged by the band themselves, and performed by memory.

Choral Concert

Our Spring Concert took place in St Martin's church, Gospel Oak in March with a varied programme that included choral work from the 17th and 18th century together with innovative arrangements of popular music and songs from the musicals.

There were student-led groups (Three Little Birds and Year 9 Vocal Group) and soloists, and the Choral Society performed Schubert's Mass in G - soloists included Mr Bateson, Alice Fidler, Jill Hallpike and James Waite. The audience clearly enjoyed the occasion and our performers all demonstrated great skill and commitment throughout the rehearsals and performance.

Thanks to the Rev. Chris Brice, Sergio and James Waite for once again allowing us to use the church.





Dance Show

In March, the Main Hall was transformed into a dance performance space as our students, including the whole of Year Seven, took to the floor to perform in front of an audience of parents, teachers and friends. They had been very well-taught by colleagues from **Step into Dance** and by our own teachers. The girls were well-rehearsed, confident and beautifully presented, and everyone in the audience felt very proud of their achievement.

The Tempest

In December Shakespeare's wonderful romance 'The Tempest' was performed by the Sixth Form. Our school hall was transformed into a remote island and the play was transposed to a sixties, psychedelic context with beautiful, flowing 'Tempstock' costumes and appropriate music from the era.

There were outstanding performances from the whole cast, who captured the magical atmosphere of the play as well as its humour and warmth. Their delivery of Shakespeare's challenging language was superb and each actor accurately conveyed the essence of their character. The students had clearly worked hard as a team, with production, sound and lighting, costumes, poster design and stage management all being delivered by sixth form students.

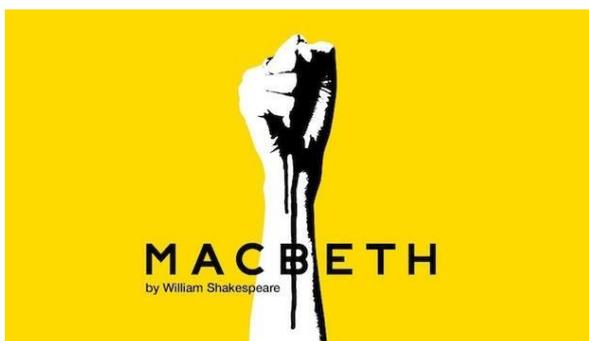
Well done to all the cast and crew for such an enjoyable evening, and to Ms Silver and Ms Cohen for their inspirational and highly creative direction.



Poster for *The Tempest*

The National Theatre comes to Camden

On Monday 9 January, the National Theatre's production team transformed the hall into a most spectacular acting space for their production of 'Macbeth'. The whole of Year 10 and Year 11 watched their GCSE set text brought to life in a fast-paced, exciting production. We were very lucky to have such a prestigious company in school and it was great to see such an enthusiastic response from the students.



Unbelievably exciting. My heart was rushing throughout the entire production. I heard the drum beats next to me and it made it feel very real.

Poppy, Year 10

Really gripping and thoroughly intense throughout.

Ruby, Year 10

The play was amazing. The fight scenes were so real.

Samiha, Year 10

Guys & Dolls

Our production of Guys and Dolls in July was truly exceptional. It was funny, fast-paced, beautifully acted and a real delight for the eyes and ears!! The performances by both actors and musicians were really assured, and every word was audible; the music made the whole show flow along with great energy. I was really delighted to see so many younger students involved. The sixth formers added professionalism, poise and confidence. They couldn't have done any of this without the guidance and inspiration of Ms Cohen, Ms Silver, Mr Byers and Ms Gordon.



It was a great experience for a number of reasons, the main one for me being that I was able to be very creative and do tasks which are relevant to my interest in art. The costume team also got the chance to visit the National Theatre costume archive and help choose items to hire, which was an amazing experience.

Honey, Year 12



Jack Petchey's Speak out challenge!

In October, a group of Year 10 students took part in the **Jack Petchey's "Speak Out" Challenge** workshop during which they learned how to prepare a speech and how to speak in front of a group with more skill, confidence and enjoyment. At the end of the day, they were given half an hour to prepare a speech on a subject of their choice lasting between one minute and a minute and a half which they delivered in front of the group without any notes. Five winners were selected to perform their speech in the Year 10 assembly and their peers voted for their favourite. Edie and Poppy (pictured below) from Year 10 won and then delivered their speeches at LSU on November 29th with Edie being awarded 3rd place overall. Well done All!



Jack Petchey Achievement award

Congratulations to Dania, Martha and Ambra (all Year 10) and Jessie, Shannon, Dolly & Elsa (Year 11) who won an award from the Jack Petchey Achievement awards scheme in November for their excellent contribution to the school and the wider community. Ms Silver also won a leader award for her time and dedication the Drama department and school productions.



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.

Dr Ingo Gildenhard

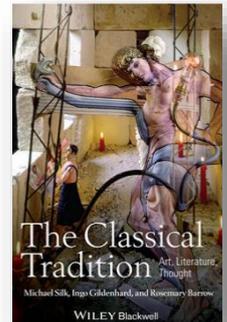


In May we were fortunate to be visited by Dr Ingo Gildenhard (King's, Cambridge) who classified Classics as the study of the ancient Greek and Roman cultures, their languages and their effect on culture since. The last of these he called the classical tradition. He talked of how the classical tradition can be seen all across modern societies and one well known example is the works of JK Rowling. Rowling herself was a classicist and includes many classical aspects in her books from creatures, (like the centaurs and Fluffy, the three-headed dog), to the names of characters, (like Albus, white, Severus, strict, and Minerva, wise),

and the spells themselves; like expelliarmus and expecto patronum.

He continued to describe how examples of the classical tradition appear throughout the centuries including Milton and the Bard himself. Shakespeare writes Iliadic scenes including the death of Hektor and Milton includes hints to Narcissus with his telling of Eve. He also mentioned how our language is hugely influenced by Latin and Ancient Greek particularly in longer words or even the longer versions of short words we commonly use like bike/bicycle and phone/telephone.

Lastly he also talked about how we often see scenes of Greek mythology in art as well such as the story of Daphne turning into a laurel tree, contrasted by Pollaiuolo to the biblical story of St. Sebastian. Of course these tales are adapted to the beliefs and ideals of the time with Titian's Actaeon not looking directly at the forbidden sight of nude women but the skull of a stag foreshadowing his dire fate.



I really enjoyed the talk as it went deeper into topics that I have a lot of interest in and it is also an area of study that encompasses the importance of Classics and its relevance in modern society. Dr Gildenhard did an amazing job of giving these modern and past examples of the classical tradition and I thoroughly enjoyed the talk and am going to explore the classical tradition further in the future.

Baroness Morgan



On Monday the 17th October, we were very lucky to have Delyth Morgan, Baroness Morgan of Drefelin, a crossbench peer in the House of Lords and Chief Executive for the charity Breast Cancer Now, speak to Years 10 and 11 during their PSHE lesson about Breast Cancer and how important it is to raise awareness. She also talked about how young people can help fight Breast Cancer, either by raising awareness with their families and friends, raising money to support charities like Breast Cancer Now who fund important research into preventing and treating breast cancers or by following a career path that will allow them to personally help to carry out research into the disease.

Baroness Morgan was an interesting and inspiring speaker and we appreciate her giving up her time to come and speak to us. This was a great way to start our week of raising awareness and money to fight breast cancer.

If you or a family member have an interesting job or interest and might like to come into school to speak to either our KS3 or KS4 students, the sessions are every Monday 10:20am - 11:00am. Please contact Fern Goldsmith, the PSHE coordinator, by email: fgoldsmith@csg.school to give more information and to arrange a possible time.

Barbara Horspool

Barbara Horspool is a highly regarded Product and Creative Director within the fashion industry and is currently Clothing Director for The White Company, where she manages the design, buying and technical teams. She has also worked for Jigsaw, New Look, Marks & Spencer and Esprit. In March she came to CSG to share her experience and insight into the fashion industry with a number of students interested in a design, retail or a fashion related career. This was a fantastic opportunity to learn some tips and careers advice. We saw exciting examples of her own design work and other leading British designers and learnt about what sort of jobs are available in the industry, and what you may need to study to do them. We would like to thank Barbara for her time and look forward to working with her in the future.



School Trips

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

Art Department trip to Barcelona

Just before Easter we took 40 students from Year 12 who are all studying Art, Photography, History of Art or a combination of these subjects to Barcelona. We spent 4 days getting to know the city and visiting many, but not all, of the city's fabulous art galleries and museums. We went to the National Art Museum of Catalonia, the Miro Foundation, the Picasso Museum, Mies van der Rohe's Barcelona Pavilion and the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art. We also went to the beach and Parc Guell as well as taking the famous cable car across the bay. We stayed in a great area called Garcia just outside the city centre.



Harry Potter trip

In November the Design and Technology students went on a magical journey to Warner Bros studios. Once there they explored the world-famous sets, costumes and creative departments involved in the production of the Harry Potter film series. From their arrival at the studios many of the students were literally bouncing with excitement. Those of us less familiar with the magic of Harry Potter were inducted via a cinematic montage of the books, the films and their impact on the imagination of all ages, worldwide.



Sixth Form at The Royal Society



In March, nine students from the The Air We Breathe research project went to The Royal Society in Central London to take part in their Partnership Grant Conference along with twenty-three other schools from around the country. Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, President of The Royal Society, gave the opening speech on science. This was followed by an intriguing talk from Professor Lucie Green on the physics of the sun along with how some forthcoming exciting new space programs will hopefully increase our knowledge of our system. This was followed by a presentation from each school on their project, including ones on epigenetics, cosmic rays and ionic liquids.

After lunch, workshops followed on 'Science and Policy' and 'Filming Science'. In the former, students learned about the vital roles played by various scientific groups in help the Government respond to emergencies including ebola and the local floods.

The climax of the day was a presentation of our research posters. Mimicking a real-life scientific conference, Fellows of The Royal Society and students from the other schools visited our display. Here we explained our methods and findings and answered any questions they had. Their feedback was extremely positive and many seemed impressed with the value of our research, especially given our school is so close to a busy, main road.

Overall, attending the Partnership Grant Conference at The Royal Society was very enjoyable and rewarding experience, especially as many of us hope to one day be professional scientists - visiting such a hallowed ground for science was incredibly inspiring.

Maceo Year 12

English Speaking Union London Debate Challenge



On Monday 1 June, Aysha, Bluebelle, Martha, Ruby and Madeleine accompanied by Mr Gunn attended the first round of the English Speaking Union's London Debate Challenge. The event took place at the ESU's headquarters at Dartmouth House in Mayfair and the day consisted of the following three debates;

1. This House Would Re-Introduce the Death Penalty
2. This House Would Ban Private Health Care
3. This House Ban Gambling

Five schools from around London took part in the day and CSG debaters made fantastic arguments on these difficult and thought-provoking topics. At the end of the day it was confirmed that CSG won the last two debates and would be representing the borough of Camden on the ESU finals day.

It was a great experience for our debaters to prepare them for the finals day which took place in June at the English Speaking Union's headquarters in Mayfair. Here students debated difficult ideas against very good opposition and were praised by the judges for the development of their points. Unfortunately, the judges decided that the CSG team didn't quite do enough to make it through to the London final. However, the day was a fantastic experience for our debaters and was a good end to a successful year of debating.

The cuts to education across the country is devastating on a day to day basis, with so many of the things my generation values most about school being cut for no other reason than money. While my school is lucky enough to have a teacher willing to give his own time to run a debating society, so many schools simply don't have that luxury, and given public speaking is one of the most important skills in life, the disadvantage this gives to state school students is not helping to lessen the gap between the state and private sectors. Because of this, I decided to start a local debating program in which every student is given the skills necessary to express their thoughts and make their voices heard.

Bluebelle Year 10

Migration workshop at the Jewish Museum

On Wednesday 14th June, 11 students from Years 8 and 9 visited the Jewish Museum with Mr Gunn and Ms Gall-Gray to take part in a migration workshop. The school was invited to take part in this pilot scheme by the museum who have put together a new programme of educational sessions.

The session, which lasted two hours, focused on Jewish migration to Britain during the late 19th Century and 1930s and 40s. Students analysed sources, visited the galleries and discussed the causes, experiences of and reactions to migration and were asked to make links to present day issues about migration and refugees.

The session was very enlightening and the vast array of sources at the museum really helped students build up a bigger picture knowledge of issues about migration.

At the end of the session, students were asked to write their message to migrants to Britain on a post-it note, which was a very positive way to end the day.

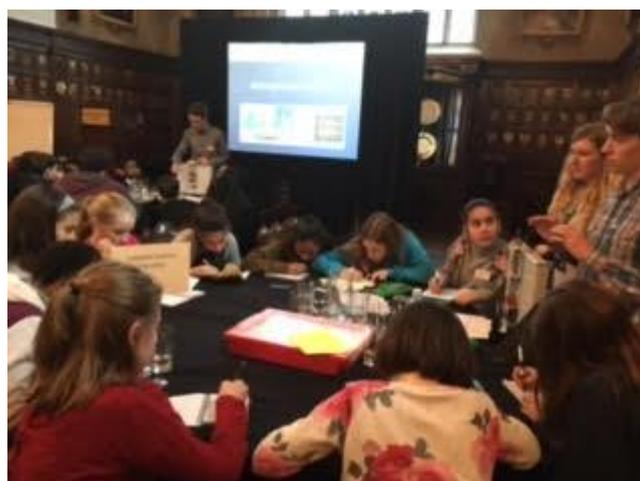


Y8 Trip to Ironmongers Hall – Making Materials Matter

Ten students in Year 8 visited the Ironmongers Hall in the city as part of our project “Making Materials Matter” in association with Oxford University. While we were there we met the master of the Ironmongers, which was a real privilege! We began researching for our project and met our team leaders. We will be researching the different materials that go into chocolate and what holds them together. We carried out experiments looking at the strength of different materials using a universal testing machine.

We will continue to work with the PhD students from Oxford University over the next few months to complete our project in creating our own chocolate and we will be in with a chance of winning the Crest Awards.

It was an exciting event and a great opportunity to meet science students from Oxford.



Camden School for Girls has experiment performed at leading UK science facility



At 11am on the 26th April, scientists Dr Claire Murray and Dr Julia Parker began the mammoth task of running an experiment on 1,000 samples prepared by students from schools across the UK – including those from year 11 and year 12 at Camden School for Girls. The students have prepared ten samples of calcium carbonate using specially selected additives, which will be analysed at Diamond Light Source – the UK’s synchrotron science facility – a giant X-ray microscope the size of Wembley Stadium.

Project M is Diamond’s largest public engagement project to date. The massive set of results will (hopefully) be used to write a scientific publication, as this research has never been done before.

“Calcium carbonate is hugely interesting – it’s the 4th most abundant mineral on the planet – found in nature in shells and chalk, and also an integral part of industries such as paper manufacturing,” says Dr Claire Murray, a researcher at Diamond who is co-project manager for Project M. “It can exist in different forms, and if we can understand how, and where, each form is made, we may be able to learn from nature to create futuristic ‘biomimetic’ materials.”

It has been fantastic for students to see that even something as ubiquitous as calcium carbonate, a compound that is the main component of limestone, marble and chalk, still has secrets to reveal. The fact that our students are playing a key role in uncovering new and fascinating insights into this everyday material makes the project all the more exciting and inspirational – we’re so grateful to Claire and Julia at Diamond Light Source for giving us this opportunity.

Mr Flynn, Teacher of Science

CASCA

Camden School's Community Association has been working tirelessly this year with phenomenal results. They have created lots of exciting new events including Dramstock! In the Spring term alone they raised a record £11,500 for the school. Funds raised this year have paid for a new library floor, chromebooks, PE equipment and support for the Duke of Edinburgh students among other things.

Scaffolding is now up in school to undergo large-scale building improvements, the first for many years. In addition to a new entrance foyer, the dining hall will be substantially extended, as will the sixth form building. All this will hopefully go a long way to ensuring that Camden School for Girls continues to be ready for the next generation of young women. CASCA are raising funds to help furnish and decorate the new buildings in a new campaign called 60 for 60. Please click [here](#) if you would like to help. Additionally we would be hugely grateful for any donations of auction or raffle prizes to be used for upcoming fundraising events. Please contact Kelly Pawlyn at kpawlyn@csg.school if you would like to make a donation.



60 for 60

60 for 60 is a campaign to ensure that our school continues to be a beacon of excellence. '60' is for anniversary of the school's current location at Sandall Road and for the £60,000 we need to raise by the end of 2017. Everyone can participate in 60 for 60. Your donation of £25 buys a new chair for the new dining hall. Add a zero, and £250 buys a table and a suite of chairs for a classroom. A donation of £500 buys a bench with your name on it.

If you're keen to go bigger, there are more opportunities to contribute and thus help ensure that CSG remains the world-class school it is today:

- £7,500 purchases essential kitchen equipment for the newly refurbished dining hall
 - £12,500 buys a modern art display board to properly show off the amazing artwork created at CSG
- ...and if you're feeling 'flush', £10,000 pays for essential refurbishment to the loos!

Each 60 for 60 supporter will have the opportunity to be acknowledged on a fantastic display board in the school - a powerful message of solidarity in challenging times.

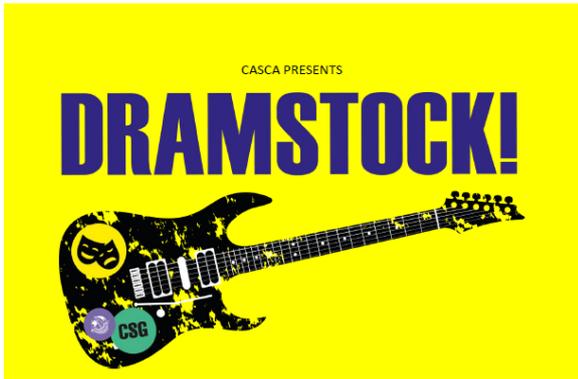
For more information, contact Greg Klerkx, CASCA Chair, at gklerkx@csg.school

Many thanks, and we really hope you can get involved!

Another fabulous Jumble Sale!!!

The highlight of the Autumn term, this year's Jumble Sale was an absolutely staggering success. Every year, we wonder if we can reach, never mind beat, the previous year's total. A fantastic £7,000 was raised. A wonderful team of helpers included parents of current and past pupils, current and ex-pupils of the school, friends and staff who worked for hours to get the stalls looking orderly and inviting. Then they came early on the day itself to make sure all was ready, and they worked incredibly hard during the three hours or so of selling to make sure the school got the best possible price. Finally, the big clear-up is always tiring and demanding, but we had a great team of people tidying up and they made short work of the task. Our thanks to everyone who generously donated items for sale, or who came along and spent money. Special thanks to Mary Kavanagh for her boundless energy, coming into school every day in the run-up to the Jumble Sale and running her Christmas stall and also using her superb organisational and communication skills to run such a successful event.



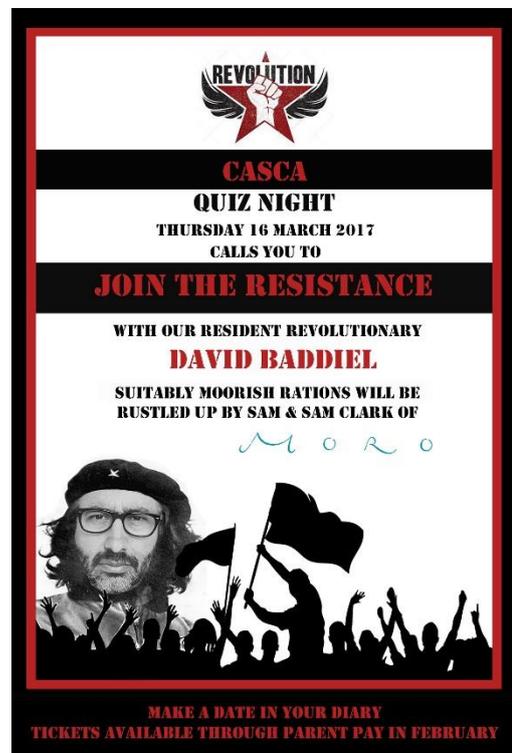


In January CASCA hosted a brand new event called **Dramstock!**, an evening of entertainment in support of drama and music at CSG.

It featured: - exit zero – the will byers band – our angels - the dirty blondes – luke & charlie – cosima accurso - nicky darby & magan wilcox – lula ashdown band

An incredible **£1,605** was raised.

In March, CASCA organised the ever popular **Quiz Night** hosted by the excellent Quizmaster **David Baddiel** with delicious food supplied by **Sam & Sam Clark of Moro**. The organization was superb and the atmosphere was lovely, really cheerful, welcoming and positive. The auction was a real triumph, very well led - what energy from Genevieve, our auctioneer for the night! The donations to the auction and raffle were really generous. And the Raffle was superbly organized by **Mary Kavanagh** as always. An amazing **£7,854** was raised.

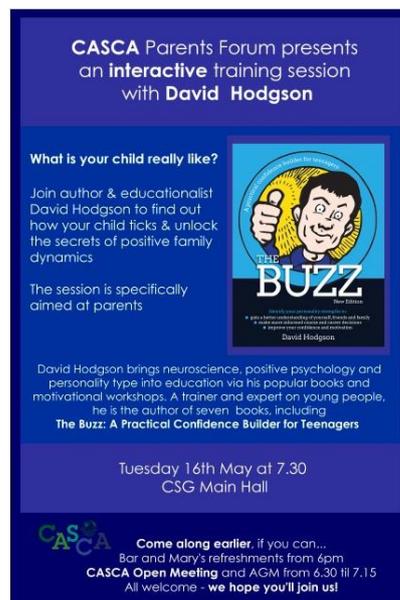
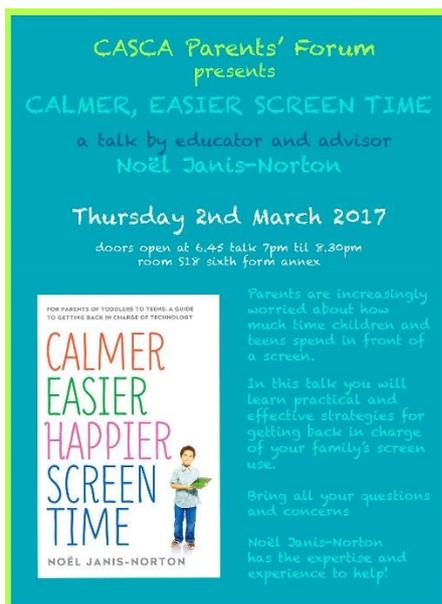
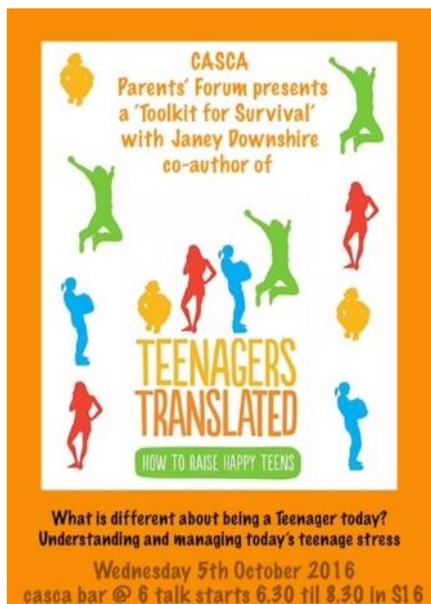


The **Summerfest** took place on a beautiful summer's evening in June, and yet again was extremely successful. The postcards from our anonymous art auction were displayed, with a variety of entertainment. A superb **£7,717** was raised.

CASCA Parents Talks

In addition to helping raise much needed funds CASCA also organise a variety of Parents Forum talks to help support parents of students at the school with pertinent issues. In October, **Janey Downshire** (co-author of the book, *Teenagers Translated*) talked about how parents can constructively help teenagers manage their workload and avoid stress. She gave tips and presented a Toolkit for Survival.

In March, **Noël Janis-Norton**, creator of *Calmer, Easier, Happier Parenting* and an internationally renowned expert on the learning and behaviour of children visited us to talk about Calmer, Easier Screen Time. Finally in May we were fortunate to have an interactive training session with David Hodgson author of *The Buzz: A Practical Confidence Builder for Teenagers*.



Founders Day 2017

We celebrated **Frances Mary Buss's** legacy on 7 April this year, with her favourite flower, the daffodil, in full bloom. Lessons stopped on Thursday afternoon so that students could participate in the traditional posy-making, using blooms in the suffragette colours of white, purple and green in addition to the daffodil in remembrance of Miss Buss.

Many visitors told me how much they enjoyed seeing our students singing, speaking and performing so well, and participating fully in the commemoration. As always, the orchestra and choir performed brilliantly and our head students spoke warmly of their appreciation of Miss Buss's work and the traditions and values she established which we still uphold today. All speeches and more photos available at: -

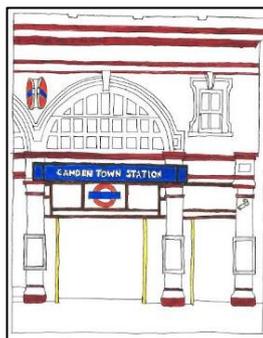
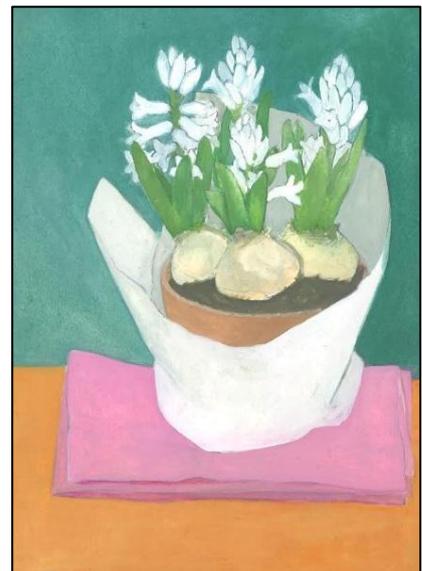
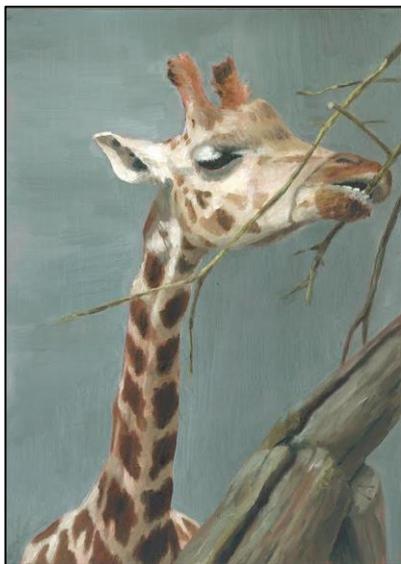
<http://www.camdengirls.camden.sch.uk/page/?title=Founder%27s+Day&pid=78>

Anonymous Art Auction

Inspired by the Royal College of Art's annual postcard sale and following last year's popular event, we launched the second **Camden School for Girls Anonymous Art Auction** in May. 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:-

Cat Andrew, Exploration Architecture, David Aronsohn, Beatrice Baumgartner-Cohen, Dilys Bidewell, Jon Bird, Yvette Blumberg, Delyth Bolt, Gabby Boyd, Kate Bradbury, Chloe Brownsey, Kate Cullinan, Rosa Doyle, Philip Ellis, Vicky Emby, Emma Gorman, Irene Graham, Philip Gunn, Leanne Hagger, Nicola Hepworth, Kelly Hill, Sam Hodge, Jamie Hosegood, Wendy Jacob, Nadav Kander, George Katralis, John Keane, Rachel Kneebone, Vaishali Londhe, Andolie Marguerite, Cathryn Marshall, Jeff McMillan, Renato Niemis, Brian O'Reilly, Carrie Paechter, Cornelia Parker, Andrew Pegram, Grant Penny, Sarah Pickstone, Hugh Ribbans, Amanda Ribbans, Philippa Schofield, Neil Smith, Jon Snow, Malena Stojic, Mark Wallinger, Kate Warner, Julia Warr, Suzi Warren, Rob White, Gillian Williams-Hay, Christina Wilson & Jesse Wolpert.



An outstanding £5,300 was raised, funds which will go towards the school for the benefit of current and future students.

Visit <http://www.jumblebee.co.uk/anonymouspostcardauction2017> to see more of the works.

Alumni News – Onwards & Upwards!

Thanks to CASCA, we have now invested in an alumni database to keep in contact with past pupils and parents who have such fond memories of the school.

Please do let us know what you have been up to you by emailing us at friends@csq.school
We would love to hear from you!

Georgia Gould

Former CSG student Georgia Gould is the new leader of Camden Council.

Georgia is working with Google, Facebook and the Wellcome Trust from Camden's headquarters in King's Cross on a project to create opportunities for young people led by the borough's STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) commission.

Georgia says "People say 'what do you know, you're a young woman?' But my school taught me a feminist ethos where you don't let it put you off."



Victoria Willing



Former CSG pupil Victoria Willing wrote *Spring Offensive* which was being shown in April this year at the Omnibus Theatre after being inspired by visits to the scenes of First World War battles in France. Victoria is primarily an actor who has starred in the West End in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* but has also worked as a puppeteer on films including *The Muppet Christmas Carol*.

The play looks at war tourism and the commercialisation of war: the hotels, the tours and souvenirs. There is also the notion of national identity and the way we commemorate the war dead.

"I am half Portuguese so issues of identity and national identity interest me. I am also interested in the way we memorialise. Going to the scenes of war in France you see quite a lot of ritualised grief – books of commemorations; the gravestones. There are certain kinds of memorials – there is a particular way of doing it. To this day people go to these places to mourn a relative they did not know. But this death holds a significance in the course of this family's family tree and history."

Lucy Kellaway

Another inspirational former CSG student is Lucy Kellaway who left her role as a stellar columnist and associate editor of the *Financial Times* last year for a new career as a maths teacher. Lucy has co-founded *Now Teach*, an organisation encouraging professionals to consider a career in the classroom.

Says Lucy, *"Schools need teachers. My generation has mostly paid off mortgages; we have pensions and can afford a pay cut. We will live until we are 100, and will work into our 70s. If Leonard Cohen could do world tours until he was 80, I can surely find the energy needed to be in a classroom all day, teaching kids my favourite subject."*



In Memoriam

Katrina Rose Rowland (née Kirielenko)

1st June 1926 – 22nd March 2017



Katrina Rowland was a Russian teacher and Head of House at Camden School for Girls for 20 years before her retirement in the early 1980s. Having moved from Holly Lodge Gardens in Highgate to Bury St. Edmunds in 2004, she enjoyed a very happy time in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, for almost a decade before moving to live in and be cared for at Pinford End Nursing Home.

Katrina Rowland passed away peacefully in the care of the staff at Pinford who looked after her with genuine affection, compassion and dignity right to the very end. She loved the school which she always remembered with such admiration and fondness and has requested that a prize be given to future language students in her memory.

In her own words

I was born on the 1st June 1926, Katrina Rose Kirielenko, in the village of Halbstadt, near Odessa in the Ukraine.

My Father had been an officer in the Imperial Russian Navy and served as a personal adjutant to Tsar Nicholas II on board the Yacht "Standard" escorted by Russian cruisers and destroyers when he and his Wife, the Tsarina Alexandra and their children visited the Isle of Wight and the King of England (his Cousin) Edward VII in August 1909.

My Father lost all of his Brothers and Nephews during the First World War as they were killed serving in the Imperial Russian Army or died while fighting for the pro Tsarist White Army of the Ukraine against the Bolshevik Red Army during the Russian Civil War of 1918 - 1922.

My Father escaped the brutal and indiscriminate Communist purges of the 1920s and 1930s because he had become an inspiring Headmaster for the Village School and was known for his kindness and generosity to all including feeding the poor Children every day.

My Family was the only one in the village to survive without losing a life to the deliberate and sustained policy of genocide, collectivisation and starvation of the Ukraine by Stalin's Government in 1933. This policy was a punishment for the region's previous support of the pro Tsarist White Army during the Russian Civil War and

the region's independent and strong Christian Orthodox religious belief system; it was called the "Holodomor" (death by hunger) and claimed 7 Million Ukrainian lives.

Six months before the policy took effect my Mother placed the entire Family on daily one third rations of our normal diet of food and water and hid our precious stores of food from the Communist Commissars seeking to find and confiscate it. Our bodies were therefore prepared for the physical deprivations of hunger and while we all suffered and became ill, on the day that the policy was lifted, we had all survived albeit we only had a single small bowl of potatoes left.

In 1939 I was selected to represent the region of Odessa as one of its leading academic school children within the Young Pioneers communist youth organisation. I travelled on a train non-stop for several days to a conference in Moscow where along with hundreds of other School children and older university students I personally met Stalin; I shook his hand and he squeezed my cheek; I remember that he was short, fat, terribly ugly, had deeply pockmarked skin on his cheeks, had a big black moustache, bushy eyebrows and smelt very strongly of garlic and tobacco.

On the 22nd June 1941 Germany invaded Russian in Operation Barbarossa.

My two brothers Alexei and Dmitri were both conscripted into the Russian Army to fight the German invasion and we never saw them again as they were both killed in action during the War as was my Father.

I had grown up with about 30 young men in my village who in 1941 were aged between 18 – 25 years old; all of them volunteered for service or were conscripted into the Russian Army and none survived the War.

In the Autumn of 1941 a column of German Wehrmacht and Romanian infantry regiments of Von Paulus' 6th Army marched through our village on the way to their victorious Battle of Kharkov fought in the Spring of 1942.

We learnt later that Von Paulus' 6th Army had been surrounded and destroyed at Stalingrad in February 1943 with 148,000 killed and 90,000 captured of which only 5,000 every returned to Germany after the end of the War.

The Mothers in the village sobbed when news came of the young German and Romanian deaths at Stalingrad; they cried for the loss of the soldiers' Mothers because they remembered the Germans and Romanians being so young, handsome, suntanned and full of happiness and life as they marched in their shorts, singing and smiling.

Many in the Ukraine had welcomed the Germans as liberators from the Communists but that all changed in the Spring of 1943 when the SS came to our village looking for "enemies of the state" and took our 90 year old Jewish family friend who lived with us into a wheat field and shot her. Many other Jews from the surrounding districts were killed and other civilians imprisoned, tortured and murdered in reprisal for partisan activities.

Shortly after my 16th Birthday in 1943 I was taken by the SS with many young boys and girls and held at a barracks in Odessa where I was photographed to create my formal SS authorised identification papers.

Later that Summer, my Family, along with tens of thousands of others, were commanded by the SS to leave the Ukraine and under the Nazi "Ost Arbeiter" (Eastern Worker) directive we walked across Eastern Europe and into Germany to enter service as forced labour.

All that I was able to take with me was a cotton slip case containing my School certificates and reports and a Cow to provide the family with milk during the journey.

Upon arrival in Germany in the late Autumn of 1943 I learnt to speak German fluently within a couple of months and because of this I was drafted and trained as an Auxiliary Nurse and served in a military hospital near Mittwitz. I suffered severe emotional and psychological shock and a complete nervous collapse after I had spent almost a year tending to the many young German soldiers who returned brutally wounded from fighting on the Eastern Front.

After recovering from my collapse, I was sent to work on a farm as forced labour with my elder sister, Irma, while my Mother and two other two sisters, Unna and Ludmilla were placed elsewhere in Germany.

In 1945 I came under the protection of a German Catholic Priest who was able to place me on a Red Cross refugee convoy that took me to England in 1947 to escape an enforced repatriation back to Russia and almost certain death.

I met my husband Charles when he was teaching English at the YMCA in Holborn in 1950 and soon afterwards became life long friends with Jean and Ralph Bonnett.

Charles and I married on the 7th July 1951 at St. Aloysius Church in London and for our honeymoon we visited Austria where my Mother and Sister Unna had moved and settled in a village called Mondsee near Salzburg where their Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren live to this day; Irma moved to Bamberg in Germany and married an American serviceman while Ludmilla married a businessman and moved to Southern Germany.

I gained my O' Levels, A' Levels and a BA (Hons) degree in the early 1960s to qualify as a language teacher and for over 20 years taught Russian and was a House Mistress at Camden School for Girls in North London while living in Primrose Hill and then Holly Lodge Gardens, Highgate.

Before and after I qualified as a teacher and throughout the "Cold War" years of the 1960s - 1980s I was regularly employed as a formal ambassadorial translator for the British Diplomatic and Foreign Service operating under the Official Secrets Act. My role was to welcome, escort and provide an active translation service for the Russian dignitaries as they visited their Embassy and Trade Delegation in London. I also provided character and temperament assessments of the Russians based upon my observations for the British Foreign Service. My highlight was meeting and working with Cosmonaut Yuri A. Gagarin on his triumphant tour to England after he became the first human to fly in space on Vostock 1 on the 12th April 1961.

During my teaching career I created a Russian English pictorial dictionary which is still in use to this day in Schools across the World while every Girl I taught at Camden achieved an "A" grade at O' Level and at A' Level with many going on to read Russian Language and Literature at Cambridge and Oxford.

I arranged many trips to Russia for my Camden girls during the "Cold War Years" of the 1970s - 1980s and these experiences were invaluable in developing the Girls' enjoyment and understanding of Russia culture while honing their language skills.

Charles and I adopted all of our 4 Children, Philip, Dunja, Suzanne and Paul and were blessed with 7 Grandchildren, Daniel, Sean, Caroline, Samantha, Daniel Keane, Harry and Lottie.

I retired in 1984 from Camden School for Girls and moved from Highgate, North London, to Bury St. Edmunds in 2005 after my beloved husband Charles passed away after a brave, honourable and long fight against Diabetes.

In Memoriam

Ruth Levitt

1 April 1950 - 12 December 2016

The obituary below about former CSG student Ruth Levitt was written by Lekha Klouda and appeared in The Guardian in February.



My friend Ruth Levitt, who has died aged 66 from cancer, put into practice her strong beliefs in the public good and the importance of culture in a varied career that included posts in the NHS, academia, publishing and management consultancy.

Born in London, she grew up in a secular Jewish family, the daughter of Harry Levitt, a GP, and his wife, Herma (nee Lang). Ruth attended Camden school for girls, then started social science studies at Sheffield University before switching to LSE.

She began her working life with the NHS, and became an expert on the then new community health councils established in 1974 to provide a voice for patients. Ruth published a widely used textbook, *The Reorganised National Health Service* (1976), which went to six editions. Her next move was to an academic appointment in public policy at Bristol University. Then, inspired by the formation of the Social Democratic party, she moved into politics, working for David Owen and standing, unsuccessfully, for Nuneaton in the 1983 general election.

After a spell in social science publishing with Routledge, her interest turned towards art and she took a PhD at UCL on the 17th-century Dutch painter Albert Cuyp, learning Dutch on the way. She then went to work for the Macmillan Dictionary of Art and translated Dutch authors, including Tessa de Loo and Marga Minco.

Deciding to combine art with an interest in management, she took an MBA from the Open University. This led her into her next career – management consultancy for a range of arts organisations including the V&A and Ashmolean museums.

In later years she returned to research. As a visiting academic at King's College London she worked with Bill Solesbury on projects including the role of policy tsars. She also worked on Jewish history. After adding German to her repertoire, she translated Holocaust testimony for the Wiener Library and edited a book, *Pogrom November 1938* (2015), about Kristallnacht.

Ruth was a keen musician, playing the violin in amateur string quartets and the piano. She displayed enormous determination in everything and did not compromise. After her diagnosis with bowel cancer, having always cycled, she continued to do so, to and from her hospice. She maintained her inquiring mind and keen interest in the world.

She is survived by her brother, David.

In Memoriam

Rebecca Swift

10 January 1964 - 18 April 2017



Rebecca Swift, who has died aged 53 of cancer, believed that anyone who writes and wishes to be edited and advised constructively and professionally should be given that opportunity. To this end, in 1996 she founded The Literary Consultancy (TLC) with Hannah Griffiths. It was the first of its kind – a manuscript assessment agency offering detailed editorial feedback to anyone writing in English anywhere in the world. Set up in Becky's north London flat on a capital sum of £600, TLC never borrowed another penny.

From 1989 to 1995, Becky had been a junior editor at Virago Press. At that time, the “slush pile” – that mountain of unsolicited manuscripts – was one of the first casualties of the editorial department: publishers no longer had the resources to read unsolicited manuscripts, which were returned to the writer with a standard note.

Becky test-ran the idea of TLC while she was at Virago, unknown to her bosses, writing her first report under an assumed name and even charging a small fee. Her enduring belief in the link between the act of writing and the therapeutic process led her to an MA in psychoanalytic studies at the Tavistock Clinic in 1999. Her thesis *Are You Reading Me?* explored the relationship between unpublished writers and readers in the publishing industry. In her words: “TLC was born, perhaps to mop up some of that ‘toxicity’ that lay between production of a work and the apparently negligent ‘reality’ of the publishing world.” Through TLC she tirelessly sought to fill that gap.

On panels and platforms at literary festivals Becky talked about the work of TLC, and promoted her vision for it. It grew into a service that offered a mentoring scheme as well as a free reads programme aimed at low-income and marginalised writers and backed by Arts Council funding.

The Free Word Centre in Clerkenwell, central London, where TLC was a founding resident from 2009 onwards, became a crucible for the literary events and annual conferences that Becky programmed. The first, *Writing in a Digital Age* (2012), brought together writers, technology experts, literary agents, publishers and digital media gurus for the first time to discuss an increasingly complex publishing landscape which included the growing phenomenon of “indie” or self-publishing.

Born in Highbury, north London, and brought up in Hampstead, Becky was the daughter of the writer Margaret Drabble and the actor Clive Swift. They divorced in 1975, and in 1982 her mother married the writer and biographer Michael Holroyd. Becky grew up surrounded by writers – AS Byatt was an aunt – and one particularly, Doris Lessing, would influence her greatly. They first met when Becky was a teenager reading Susan Howatch's sprawling saga *Penmarric* – which much to her delight turned out also to be a favourite of the great Doris. This was the start of a lifelong friendship.

From her father, Becky inherited her love of music and musicals. She was never far from a song - at her last public appearance in November 2016 celebrating TLC's 20th birthday, she picked up her guitar, accompanied by the jazz trio who had been performing all evening, and sang Suzanne in memory of Leonard Cohen, who had died that day.

From Camden School for Girls, she went on a scholarship to study English at New College, Oxford (1983-86). She returned to London and took her first job in publishing, at Lokamaya Press, which published translations from Urdu and Hindi, before joining Virago.

Her publications include Letters from Margaret: The Fascinating Story of Two Babies Swapped at Birth (1992), a correspondence between George Bernard Shaw and Margaret Wheeler, and Imagining Characters (1995), a book of conversations between AS Byatt and the psychoanalyst Ignês Sodré. Her biography of Emily Dickinson was published in 2011 by Hesperus in its Poetic Lives series.

Becky's own poems were published in numerous anthologies and she had been putting together a manuscript of poems which she hoped to publish. She leaves a vast body of writing in the form of diaries she wrote daily for much of her life, fulfilling her need for introspection through this unflinching therapeutic ritual.

Becky experienced three periods of clinical depression, which informed her commitment to bettering mental health provision. This she pursued as a trustee of the Maya Centre, a charity based in north London providing free counselling to vulnerable women.

She will be remembered by friends, family and colleagues for her wit, warmth and wonderful storytelling. Noisy, confident and pioneering, she was curious about people, always wanting to push the boundaries in life and work. She has left publishing in a better place than where she found it.

Becky leaves her partner of many years, Helen Cosis Brown, her parents, her stepfather, her brothers, Adam Swift, a political philosopher, and Joe Swift, a garden designer and TV presenter, and her two nieces and two nephews.

And finally ...

On Monday 16 October 2017 there will be an exciting event called More@Moro at the legendary Moro restaurant - and we hope that you'll consider joining us. It's the highpoint of our 60 for 60 fundraising campaign that is aiming to raise £60,000 - and 'More' - to furnish the new spaces in our critical school refurbishment.

Moro founders, Sam & Sam Clark (CSG parents), are generously donating their beautiful restaurant for the evening ... including all the delicious Moorish food, wine and service for over 130 people. There'll be live music by talented CSG students and an auction of wonderful items specially curated for the event. This promises to be a date not to be missed.

Tickets for the sumptuous event will be an £150 per head - this includes all food, drink, entertainment and the opportunity to bid in the auction. And ... here's the key!... because of the amazing generosity of all at Moro, EVERY penny raised will go towards supporting the school.

*All Friends of CSG extremely welcome but do hurry as tickets will sell out fast!
Please contact Kelly Pawlyn at kpawlyn@csq.school for more information.*