



Camden School for Girls
Celebrating 150 years of education

December 2023 Newsletter

As we come to the end of a long and busy term, I would like to express my gratitude for the hard work of the students and staff and the support of families during this time. Particular highlights of the term have been the wonderful School Concert in St Martin's Church, the sixth form production of 'An Enemy of the People' and the many school trips. The sixth form Christmas pantomime was the best yet and Year 7 students performed beautifully at the Motown themed Year 7 concert. I could not be more proud nor privileged to serve such a remarkable community. On behalf of everyone at Camden School for Girls, I would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas break and the very best wishes for the New Year.

Kateryna Law, Headteacher



Onwards & Upwards

In this issue...

Main School News

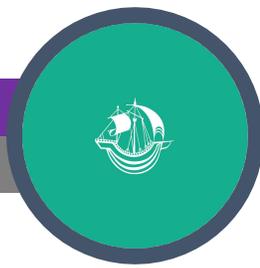
Robotics and TeenTech
Poetry
Languages Day
Geography Trip

Sixth Form News

Production
Photography
Café Scientifique
Assembly Speakers

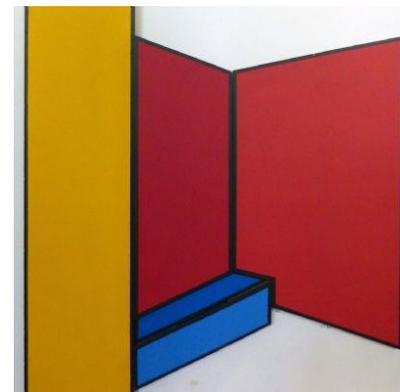
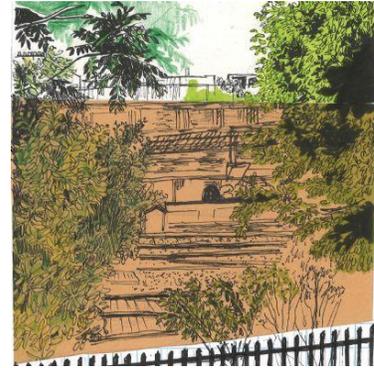
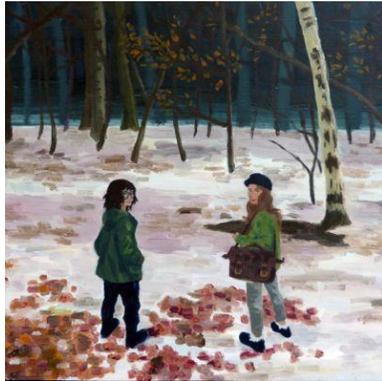
Events

School concert
Sixth Form Production
Young Artist Summer Show



CSG Christmas Card Artwork

This years Christmas card artwork reflects the high level of talent amongst the CSG artists. This is a small selection of works from the Year 11 and Year 13 artwork. The full collections can be viewed here: [A Level](#) and [GCSE](#).





The Vex Robotics Day with STEM club

The STEM Club spent the day at Queen Elizabeth's Boys School, exploring robotics and getting hands on experience. Leoni in 9M writes the following:



It was a fun experience and I learnt so much about robotics and technology. One of my favourite parts was racing the robots that we built. We worked with QE students who have 11 successful competitive robotics teams. There was a lot of trial and error as we had never built VEX robots, but we were all able to finish and test drive robots at the end of the day. QE Boys school has a whole room dedicated to robotics with courses specially designed to race our robots around. We really hope we can have something like that at CSG as there's a shortage of all girl robotics teams. Altogether, I definitely recommend anyone that is interested in technology to participate in STEM club as we've had such a great term doing lots of fun things with tech.



Black History Month Poetry Competition

The CSG Black History Month Poetry Competition entries were of the highest standard this year.

The KS4 winner is Christyvie in 10R and the KS3 winner is Naima in 8R. Their poems are beautiful and powerful evocations of the experiences of black women now and throughout history, and we thank them for their bravery and honesty in writing them. Both winners were presented in assembly with a copy of David Oluosoga's book, 'Black and British.'

Refuge - by Christyvie 10R

Refuge.

The feeling of being free,
Of shackles and of oppression
It's truly a divine thing to be.

In the darkest chapters of history's page,
Lies the haunting story of human plight,
A tale of anguish, sorrow, and rage,
Of slavery's chains and the fight for light.

Whipped and tortured,
We suffered the consequences
Our silent cries
Resulted in our lost defences.

A network of heroes, both known and unknown,
They sought refuge in the arms of the brave,
Risking their lives, their compassion shown.
In the depths of forests, a clandestine enclave.

My ancestors died horrible deaths,
All because of their skin complexity,
How vile could someone be?
Because this is my identity.

May this poem be a solemn reminder,
To honour the past, and strive for a day,
That humanity's spirit can blaze like a fire,
When all find refuge, where hearts can stay.



I salute you - by Naima 8R

Am I a human?
Or am I an alien?
Am I an equal?
Or am I a slave?
Am I a bridge?
For you to cross
For a safe passage
Am I a journal?
For you to
Store your pain
No, I am alive
And so were the past generations
Never recognised nor appreciated
Always backstage
Nudging you in the right direction
They were alive
But erased from our history books
The women, the people
Because they didn't look
How society had built itself
They were heroes
Intelligent and brave
They were artists
But the world wasn't ready for their art
They were writers
But few would listen to their stories
They were musicians
But no one could play their melodies
They were hard workers
But no one appreciated their labour
But from their labour bore fruits
Of wisdom and understanding
Learning from our mistakes
Our failures, our faults
They were teachers
They were ancestors, family
They were our sisters, mothers, grandmothers
They were and will always be part of
Our past, present and future
So, thank you
And I salute you my sisters

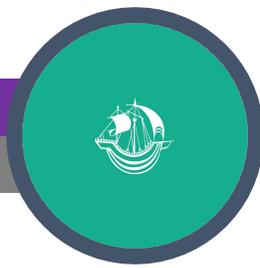


Year 12 Photography

The Y12 Photography class visited three different galleries exhibiting a range of photographers to draw inspiration for their own work.



We visited The Photographers Gallery where we viewed the Daido Moriyama exhibition 'A Retrospective'. Daido Moriyama is a Japanese photographer who is best known for his black and white street photography and association with the avant garde photography magazine 'Provoke'. He said "What we photographers can do, and should do, is capture with our own eyes those fragments of reality that are completely impossible to capture with existing words, and continue actively to create materials which confront those words and thoughts." - Editorial text in Provoke



#2. Moriyama's work can inspire our own in both his technique and style, and in his process of documenting his environment and finding inspiration wherever he goes.

Next, we went to the National Portrait Gallery, to view the Taylor Wessing Prize. This exhibition showcases selected submissions of the portrait photography competition, which is open to both amateur and professional photographers. This was a fascinating exhibition, as we could see a wide range of photographers' work, and draw inspiration from their different styles and interpretations. I personally found Ruth Samuels work inspiring, as she aims to amplify marginalised voices and empower women through her work. There were many insightful works that draw on a range of themes using the genre of portraiture photography.

Lastly, we went to the Centre of British Photography. One exhibition on show was Charlie Philips: 'How Great Thou Art' which documents 50 years of African Caribbean funerals in London. It offers a modern and historical cultural insight and provides an example of the theme of documentary photography. Other exhibitors in the gallery included Dorothy Bohm 'London Street Markets' and Arpita Shan 'Modern Muse'. Overall, it was great to gain an insight into the possibilities for using Photography as a voice.

Follow the Photography department's Instagram page for more regular updates.

[csg_photography_dept](#)

Lilly Y12





TeenTethics TeenTech Workshop

Year 9 and Year 10 students took part in an exciting workshop about ethics in the design of products led by Maggie Philbin and a team of industry professionals. Maggie has worked on a wide range of science, medical and technology programmes, from Swap Shop to Tomorrow's World. Interestingly, many of the everyday gadgets we now take for granted were demonstrated on live television for the very first time by Maggie – the first truly mobile phone, the first car navigation system, even the first supermarket barcode reader! As co-founder of TeenTech, she aims to encourage young women to pursue careers and reach top positions by understanding more about the real opportunities in Science, Technology and Engineering.





Students took part in a range of fun activities; future gazing into emerging tech, and thinking about how these innovations could hit the headlines should ethical considerations not be taken into account. Thinking through how ethics impact our everyday decisions and how fundamental these issues are to our society and future was a really challenging and intellectual way to explore design, science and tech. Their ideas will hopefully contribute to the foundation of a Young Persons Charter for Ethical Innovation! This was a fantastic opportunity and the sessions were really fun and enjoyable!

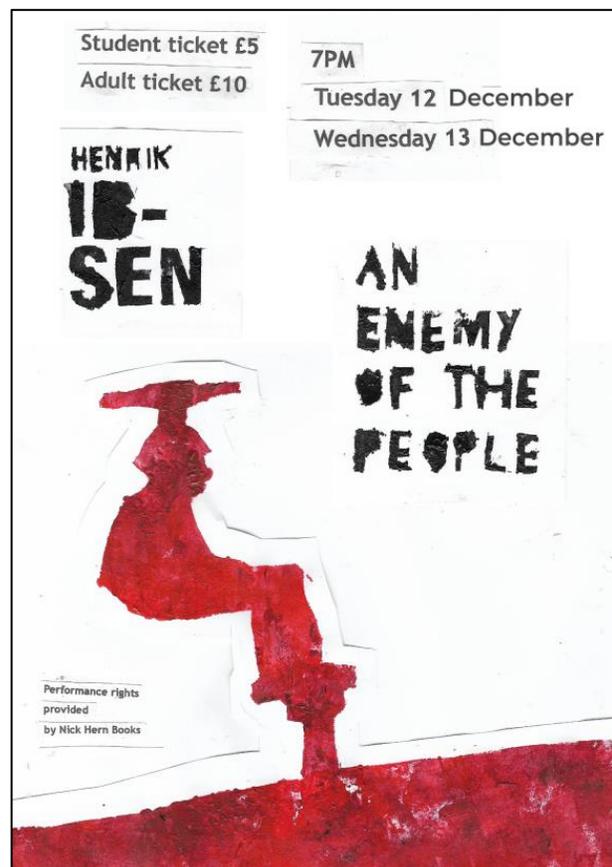
Sixth Form Production – An Enemy of the People by Henrik Ibsen

The show did go on and it was brilliant!

On the 12th and 13th of December, the sixth form put on a compelling performance of Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*. Directed by Ms Earnshaw-Punnett, with a cast of Year 12 and Year 13 students (and even one from Year 9!) the play, performed in the round, was mesmerising from start to finish. *An Enemy of the People* is a very dramatic play with very serious themes and the actors did it proud. All the performances, and especially those by the lead actors, were superb and would give many West End actors a run for their money! The staging and the funky musical score added to the sense of intrigue and kept the audience glued to their seats. It was a fantastic experience for all involved and I would like to thank Ms Earnshaw-Punnett and the cast for all their very hard work and dedication.

A fantastic end to the term!

Olivia Camillo
Head of Sixth





CSG School Concert

This year, the CSG Christmas concert involved over 140 students and was attended by a large audience. St Martin's Church in Gospel Oak was entirely full and the students performed a range of musical styles from Beyonce to Smetana. It was brilliant to see performances from two new ensembles as well as the choirs and orchestras. An enormous thank you to CASCA for the mulled wine and refreshments. Many of you will be aware that Ms Gordon, after 16 years with the CSG Music Department, is leaving us for a new life in the West Country and we would like to wish her all the very best and thank her for years of dedicated service and musical excellence.



Camden School for Girls School Concert

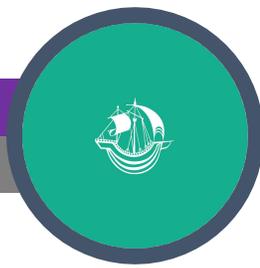
Tuesday 5th December 2023

St Martin's Church,
Gospel Oak



Performances by
Big Band, Choir, Orchestra
Chamber Ensembles & Soloists





Geography Trip to Docklands

In the teeth of storm Ciarán brave Year 7 geographers set off to investigate the Docklands last week, returning up the Thames by boat.



The students were wonderfully enthusiastic despite the blustery weather and they increased their understanding of this regenerated part of London whilst also practising their map skills.

Martin Evans
Head of Geography



Sixth form Assembly Speakers

CSG Sixth form hosted a diverse range of assembly speakers this term, including **Gus Casely Hayford** - Director of V&A East, **David Nicolls**, novelist and screenwriter, **Ismail Einashe** - journalist and writer, **Cornelia Parker** - artist, **Duncan Greig** - professor of Genetics, Evolution and the Environment at UCL and **Bunny Schendler** - animation director and filmmaker.





CSG's Café Scientifique

Year 12 and 13 students recently met for CSG's inaugural Café Scientifique, a place to discuss and explore science beyond the curriculum while enjoying hot drinks and biscuits.



The focus was 'Darwin's Originality', a short paper by Peter J. Bowler, professor emeritus of the history of science at Queen's University Belfast. Many found it surprising that Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection was widely rejected by his contemporaries, even his most vociferous supporters, such as T. H. Huxley. Other highlights included the role of society and social factors in constructing scientific knowledge. For example, some academics have argued that Darwin's anti-slavery beliefs fuelled his move to evolutionism. At the same time, Darwin's views on gender were very much of his time and can make uncomfortable reading today.

As the meeting progressed, we all came to the greater realisation that the story of the development of Darwin's ideas and the branching paths they later journeyed was an incredibly rich and occasionally disturbing one. It provided much food for thought.

We look forward to our next meeting, which will consider how scientific portraits can win friends and influence people, along with the myths surrounding Isaac Newton's falling apple.

Mr Flynn





Young Artist Summer Show 2023

Congratulations to Lily in 8T whose painting "Shimmers" (2023, acrylic on canvas, 30x40cm) was part of the RA Young Artists Summer Show 2023.

All the works are possible to view on the [Young Artists Summer Show](#) website.



"This painting was inspired by the glimmers of light you often see when walking along a canal. I was drawn in by the colours shown in the reflections and the contrast of them. I chose not to add any animals or objects as I wanted to focus solely on the ripples themselves. I allowed the water to become the focal point, and not just a background, emphasising the complexity it has on its own." Lily



Maths4girls

On Tuesday 10 October, a group of year 9 were treated with the opportunity to visit Google HQ for a fantastic event called Maths4girls. At 11:20 we left school and set off for a lovely half an hour walk, through Kings Cross. We took a lunch break and sat next to the canal while enjoying the view around us. Not long after, we entered the Google HQ.



The interior design was amazing, as we all gazed up at the numerous storeys above us and the fun designs created on the windows, using post-it notes! We were warmly welcomed by the hosts with disco lights and background music set up in a hall as we waited for more girls from other schools to arrive. Once everyone was settled, we listened to speakers talking about the importance of Maths including one in particular, Konnie Huq, a previous Blue Peter host, and one of the longest-serving female presenter of the British children's television programme, spoke to us about her experience of life and how crucial maths was a part of it.

After around 1 hour, we had a snack break, where Google kindly provided us with drinks and biscuits, which we definitely enjoyed. During the next session, we had a group mentoring session, with many different inspiring women who answered our questions and informed us of the importance of maths in their lives and how it can open many doors for us.

From these discussions we learnt a lot about just how crucial maths can be and the stereotypical views of it being boring or only something needed for a teacher, was totally wrong. And in fact, the use of maths can help us become so much more, including CEO, founders of maybe our own company and even fighter pilots, the results are just continuous.

Overall, this experience has been very beneficial, and I am very grateful for it, as I have learnt a lot from the experience of these other role models who so very kindly took their time to teach and inspire us of the importance of maths and how without it all the luxuries of our world would crumble.



I'd also like to say a big thank you to the two teachers, Ms Man and Ms Geilinger who planned and made this trip possible.

Tahira 9R

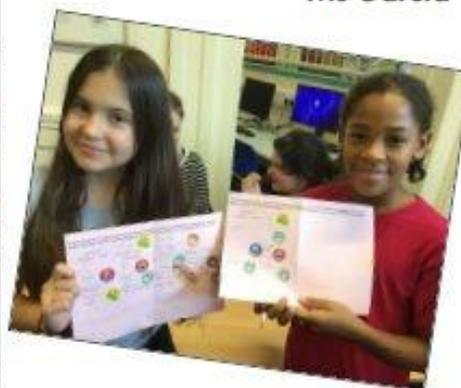


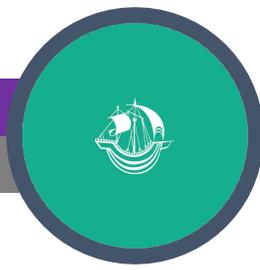
European Day of Languages 2023



Last Tuesday, on the 26th of September, our library came alive with celebrations to mark the European Day of Languages. Teachers and students, representing the diverse linguistic backgrounds in our school, came together to celebrate all languages spoken within Camden School for Girls. It was a day of linguistic exploration and cultural exchange that brought joy and unity to our school, highlighting the richness of our multicultural environment.

Ms García





We would like to wish all our students and families a wonderful Christmas break!

We look forward to seeing you back in January 2024

Spring Term

January	Monday 8 January	First day of the Spring Term
	8 – 12 January	Year 13 Mock Exams
	Tuesday 16 January	Inset Day
	Tuesday 16 January	Year 9 Options Parent Briefing (remote)
	Wednesday 24 January	Year 12 Higher Education Parent Briefing (remote)
February	Thursday 1 February	Year 7 Parents' evening
	Friday 2 February	Bands Night
	Thursday 8 February	Year 9 Parents' Evening
	12 – 16 February	Half Term Break

Support the school

An enormous thank you for all your donations. We could not make all these events and opportunities happen without your support. Camden School for Girls continues to face significant and ongoing cuts to its funding. As a voluntary aided school, we rely on your support to keep the high-quality provision at the school. If you wish to support the school we now have a very easy to use CAFdonate page available [here](#) or you can scan the QR code.

