



CSG SIXTH FORM MASTERCLASSES



Spring 2024 Programme

CSG Sixth Form Masterclasses

No exams.

No grades.

Just interesting speakers and stimulating discussions.

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

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

- **Attendance is free for students on bursaries or free school meals.**
- For students who are not on free school meals or a bursary the cost is £10 for a 'season ticket' to attend as many masterclasses as you like in one term – so if you come to all 10 that is only £1 per session!
- Parents/guardians will be sent an invitation to pay through ParentPay by email.

Parents and friends are welcome to attend masterclasses - one off tickets for a session are £10 (this will be used to subsidise the participation of students from less well off backgrounds in the residential trip at the end of the year - see back cover) - please email jstubbings@csg.school to register your interest.

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

Jon Stubbings

CSG Masterclass Programme Co-ordinator

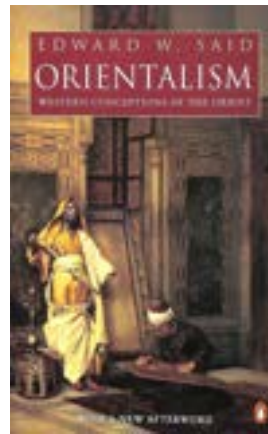
Subject to be decided by vote with Jon Stubbings

For the opening session of this term's masterclasses students will have the opportunity to vote for the subject that they would most like to hear about. A Google Form will be sent out with the four options below - the subject with the most votes will be announced in assembly and on Google Classroom:

1. North Vs South: The American Civil War 1861-1865
2. Le Vingtième Siècle: 20th Century History and Politics in Herge's Tintin books
3. The Post-Colonial Bible: Edward Said and *Orientalism*
4. The End of the World As We Know It: Apocalyptic and Post-Apocalyptic Fiction



THE ADVENTURES OF
TINTIN
REPORTER FOR "LE PETIT VINGTIÈME."
IN THE LAND OF
THE SOVIETS



Monday 4th March - 3.30pm - C30 (Music Hall)

Piano Masterclass with Eva Doroszkowska



Eva Maria Doroszkowska is an international pianist who, as soloist and chamber musician, has performed in festivals in the UK and across Europe. She has worked with many contemporary composers and teaches at the Royal Academy of Music Junior Department. On Wednesday 6th March Eva will return to perform a recital of works by three female composers from Estonia, Latvia, Poland/Lithuania, all of whom fought to keep music and song alive during times of oppression.

Please note venue - C30 (Music Hall)

Thursday 7th March - 3.30pm - S5

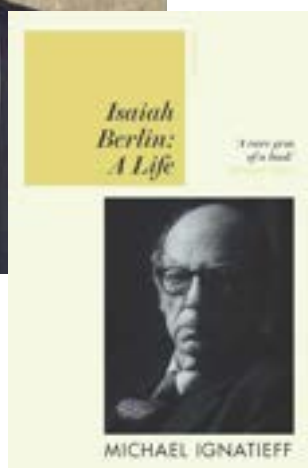
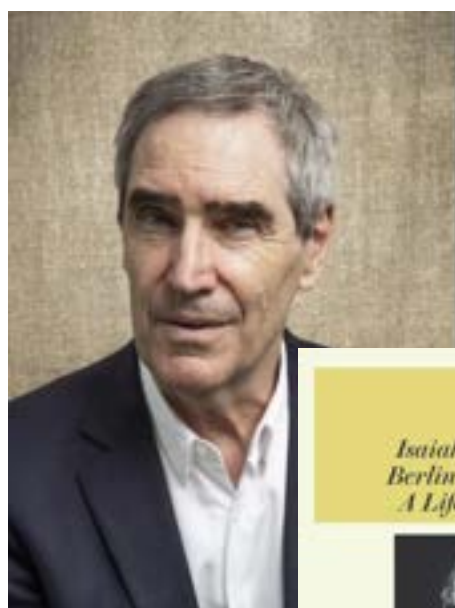
Public Morality and the Culture Wars with Bryan Fanning

In this masterclass, Bryan Fanning (University College Dublin) will argue that public moralities concerning customs and social norms are as old as the first laws and religious codes enacted by humankind. Taking as examples some current debates on human nature, sexuality, gender, abortion and censorship/free speech, Bryan will offer a non-polemical analysis of modern debates about public morality in the Anglophone world. Much of the heat and noise generated by these 'culture wars' tends towards a binary shouting match between 'us' and 'them', but Bryan will suggest that we should rather think in terms of a 'triple divide' between conservative, liberal and progressive viewpoints, and the shifting alliances and disagreements between these positions as they have changed over time.



Friday 8th March - 11.20am - S5

The Life and Thought of Isaiah Berlin; Champion of Liberal Pluralism with Michael Ignatieff



Renowned writer, historian, professor, and former politician, Michael Ignatieff is on a brief visit to London for the reissue of his seminal biography of the historian of ideas and liberal sage Isaiah Berlin. In this special masterclass he will talk about the extraordinary life of Berlin and the importance of his ideas - particularly relating to individual liberty, tolerance and pluralism. There may well be some continuity from the previous masterclass with Bryan Fanning as we discuss how diverse societies can flourish and how we can negotiate the inevitable challenges posed by genuine diversity of viewpoint and belief. **Please note that this session is in the enrichment time slot on Friday morning - but all are welcome to attend.**

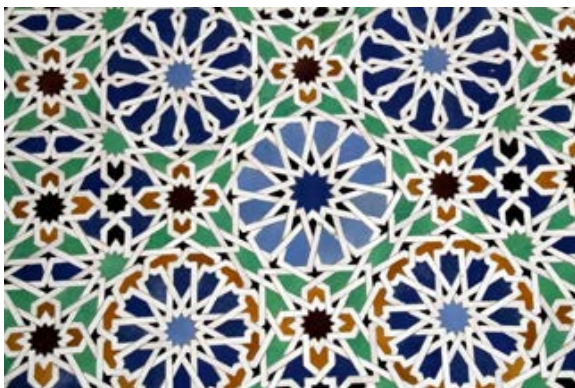
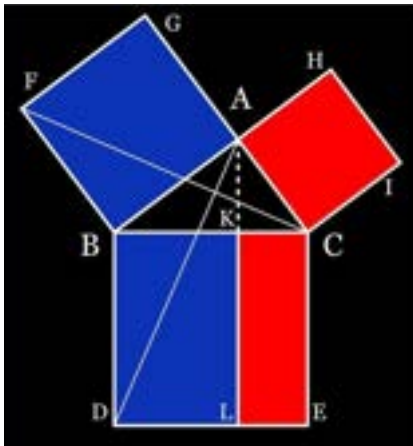
Monday 11th March - 3.30pm - S5

British Jews and the Middle East - A discussion with Hadley Freeman and Rabbi Jeremy Gordon

Around 70% of British Jews have family living in Israel, 90% have visited the country at least once, and, regardless of religious observance, the vast majority of Jews in Britain consider the existence and safety of the world's only Jewish state to be an important part of their identity. The events and aftermath of October 7th have left many feeling conflicted, and many more feeling scared and threatened by a corresponding rise in antisemitic incidents. Journalist and author Hadley Freeman and Rabbi Jeremy Gordon will discuss the implications for the British Jewish community of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.



N.B. The intention is that there will be a similar session, at a future date, in which the impact of conflict in the Middle East on British Muslims is also discussed.



Thursday 14th March - 3.30pm - S5

The Beauty of Mathematics with Kateryna Law

In this lecture, Ms Law explores some of the key elements which makes mathematics truly beautiful. From proof to mathematical modelling, from fluid dynamics to geometry in art, this lecture will give you a sense of the power and elegance of mathematics. Non-mathematicians are very welcome, no prior knowledge of A level mathematics necessary.

Monday 18th March - 3.30pm - S5

An Arctic Mystery with Martin Evans

In 1897, Swedish engineer Salomon August Andrée set out with his two companions on a doomed attempt to become the first humans to visit the North Pole. He chose to travel by hydrogen balloon. They were never seen again. What happened to them? In this masterclass, Mr Evans, a lifelong arctic obsessive himself, will piece together the emerging evidence and propose a solution to the enduring mystery at the heart of this tragic and frankly slightly ridiculous expedition.



Thursday 21st March - 3.30pm - S5

The Struggle for Existence - Malthus and Darwin with Simon Flynn



This Masterclass explores the complex interplay between Thomas Malthus's controversial and polarising views on population and interpretations of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection. It argues that Darwin's explicit acknowledgement of Malthus's influence shaped early readings of 'On the Origin of Species'. As a result, Malthusian overtones quickly emerged as Darwin's ideas were applied to humans and society.

Monday 25th March - 3.30pm - S5

Biological Sex and Fertility

with Güneş Taylor



Güneş Taylor is a postdoctoral research scientist at The Francis Crick Institute. As a molecular biologist she uses cutting-edge technologies to understand how reproductive systems are built. In this masterclass she will outline her work on the mechanics of sex determination and her particular interest in ovarian function; the subject of her own independent research program, which she is embarking upon with the ultimate hope of developing solutions for women's health and fertility.

Coming up after Easter:

After Easter there will be a further series of talks about some of the following subjects:

- The art of Lucas Cranach
- The life and music of J.S. Bach
- Napoleon and the Battle of Leipzig in 1813
- The life and music of Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn
- The Bauhaus school of art and design
- The DDR - Communist East Germany 1949-1990

Keep a lookout for announcements in the Summer term.

