



# Bolingbroke Academy

## SIXTH FORM AUTUMN TERM NEWS 2017-18

The first term for the new Sixth form cohort has been an exciting and informative start to the year. Below are just some of the highlights:

### TRIPS & VISITS

Oxford University Lecture (Language and Power)

King's College London "After Hours" lecture series:

- What's so special about special effects?
- Is Film the Best Historical Source?
- Does democracy work? Do we want it to?
- Thinking about Rubbish (Language study)

New College of the Humanities Lecture Series

- Economics: "Nudging People into Making Better Decisions"
- History: "Why did people go on the first crusade? Family, Lands and Honour."
- Philosophy: "An Evening with AC Grayling"
- Politics: "Democracy, Referenda and Brexit"

Roehampton University Reading Retreat

Cambridge University Student Shadowing Scheme

Cambridge University Application seminar

Attendance at the Modern Muse programme at Credit Suisse – this is a programme designed to inspire and engage the next generation of female business leaders and entrepreneurs.

Attendance at the Ark Apprenticeship fair – for students thinking about degree and higher apprenticeships a chance to meet over 100 top employers to gain an insight into how to get a place on these amazing programmes.

Visit to the Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology for students interested in this career pathway and a different kind of university.

## ASSESSMENTS

Year 12 Students completed their first major assessments in all of their subjects in December following Unit 4 of our 3-weekly curriculum structure. Their results are evidence of the immense amount of progress they have made in their first term of the Sixth Form and their predicted grades when aggregated would represent a truly outstanding set of first KS5 results.

We are all aware that there is a long way to go and a huge amount of work to be done, but there was a great deal to celebrate. Some of our top performers who achieved A\* or A grades in all of their assessments included: **Sophia Francis, Roha Dahir, Antoinette Simon, Eugenie Faure, Theo Rooney, Moniece Mullings, Salma Awale, Rabab Rajwani, Amira Zanabi and Ariana Farmanfarmaian**

## ENGLISH

### English Literature Bridging Project winners 2017

Over the summer, our first cohort of Year 12 Literature students were tasked with presenting their contextual research around Tess of the d'Urbervilles and Death of a Salesman in the most informative, creative and engaging way they could think of. They did not disappoint!



#### Winner

**Ariana Farmanfarmaian** - built a 3-D spiral story board mapping the plot and themes in Tess of the d'Urbervilles.

#### Runners Up

**Moneice Mullings** - composed and performed a choral arrangement presenting Tess of the d'Urbervilles.

**Dill Shepherd** - created an information packed Tess mood board.

**Betty Smith** - created a theatre programme detailing the characters and background of Tess.

**Sophia Francis** - created a fabulous Death of a Salesman mood board.

Well done to these fantastic students - what a super start to the year.

### **ASPECTS OF TRAGEDY LECTURE DAY**

On Wednesday 29th November, our lovely Year 12 Literature students traveled to the Emanuel Center, Westminster to take part in an "Aspects of Tragedy" lecture day. It was an action packed programme, brimming with top speakers who brought our exam texts to life in an undergraduate style.

The morning began with Carol Leach - an A-level and GCSE examiner and teacher. She was Principal Examiner for AQA and OCR for 15 years and is an Ofqual specification reviewer for GCSE and A-Level English. Carol led the first 50mins on **"Defining Tragedy, the Tragic Genre and Tragic Sub-genres."**

We were then introduced to Dr Michael Meeuwis - Assistant Professor of English at the University of Warwick. His research interests include nineteenth-century British literature, Romantic and Victorian poetry and nineteenth-century drama and performance studies. Dr Meeuwis gave a really thought provoking study entitled **"Reworking tragedy: old forms for new contexts."** He also treated us to a full Batman impression.

Our firm favourite was the **"Tragedy in Shakespeare"** lecture led by Nick Hutchison - an actor, director and lecturer who has directed Shakespeare's plays across the globe. He lectures for Shakespeare's Globe and at universities worldwide and on Jacobean Theatre for LAMDA and RADA.

Finally, giving top exam advice was Dr Pamela Bickley - an English subject expert with decades of English Literature teaching experience at A-level and undergraduate level. She is the author of a number of books on Shakespeare, early modern drama and contemporary fiction. She is a trustee of the English Association.

Everyone involved found the day invaluable for really stretching understanding and allowing us to consider lesser thought-of perspectives on Tess of the d'Urbervilles, Death of a Salesman and Othello. I look forward to taking our next cohort of Year 12s again in 2018.



## **MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

On 22nd November pupils attended the German Embassy-sponsored LSE German Careers Fair, the experience was very insightful: we learned about the sphere of influence German companies such as Allianz, LIDL, and the Goethe Institut have over the economy in the UK.

The Careers Fair covered thought-provoking questions, as they inclined us to discuss the pursuit of internships, work placements and exchanges in Germany.

In light of this, we collectively compared the cultural differences in the UK to Germany within the world of work. The people were welcoming and enthusiastic about sharing their experiences and impressions with us, as well as giving us advice about the value of communicating in German (or other modern foreign languages) at different levels of the work chain.

Moniece Mullings commented "As a result of my experience, I would be open to the thought of working abroad in Germany in order to enhance my German skills. Ultimately, the LSE German Careers Fair highlighted the importance of understanding a foreign language in all fields of work."

Eugenie Faure noted "I was particularly interested in the exchange program offered by UK-German Connection for next summer. I would perhaps consider getting an internship but not before my university years."

## **EPQ**

Students this half-term have been delving further in to their projects and had a chance to visit the newly developed Roehampton University campus to explore the library, find relevant resources and speak to student ambassadors about university life. In the New Year, they will also be working with postgraduate students at St. Marys University, Twickenham who will support them in the construction and production of their final project pieces.

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

In December, Psychology students attended a day-trip combining the Freud and Imperial War Museum which directly links to their studies this half-term. Students had a chance to immerse themselves in what it was like to be a Freudian patient, as well as get a greater understanding of the role that obedience and situational factors in Germany played in the Holocaust at the Imperial War Museum.

## **MATHS**

On 22nd November 2017, a group of 25 Year 11 and Year 12 Bolingbroke Academy pupils went to the Maths Inspirations event at the Piccadilly Theatre, hosted by 'stand up mathematician' Matt Parker.

Amongst the unusual setting (created for the musical Matilda!), there were a series of three talks delivered by professional statisticians and mathematicians all of whom talked about aspects of Maths that had captured their imaginations and steered their careers into Maths in very different directions.

The first talk was by medical statistician Jen Rogers who is based at Oxford University. Jen talked about the difference between relative risk and absolute risk. A follow up link from her talk can be found here:

Jen Rogers analyses Ryanair: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2017-06-29-ryanair-random-seat-allocation-not-s...>

Next there was a talk from science presenter and comedian Steve Mould looking at how a string of beads can possibly fall upwards! The link is here and is worth a look:

The Mould Effect explained - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eEi7fO0\\_O0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eEi7fO0_O0)

Finally, mathematician and juggler Colin Wright took the stage and had the students create a juggling problem for him using network diagrams:

Colin Wright – juggling patterns <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dwgusHjA0Y>

The Bolingbroke students said they had really enjoyed the talks which were all so different from each other.

For further information and news please visit our website

<http://arkbolingbrokeacademy.org/sixth-form/news-events>