



## Another busy fortnight...

A jam packed fortnight that has gone in the blink of an eye. First up was the wonderful **Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge**; an opportunity for Year 10 students across the Borough to take part in a public speaking workshop, the winners from each school then compete against each other in November. **We were the proud hosts this year and the great and the good descended on Kelmscott en masse.** As hosts, we were entitled to two speakers; Sophia Kearns and Fatima Chaudhrey. Competition was very fierce and the judges had a very difficult time separating the wealth of talent on display. **In the end a worthy winner was decided upon from Frederick Bremer School but our girls acquitted themselves very well and were unlucky not to scoop the prize – next year!** Special thanks to Mr Ahmed for doing such a good job organising the programme and to the musicians who entertained the audience superbly on the night.

The following Wednesday was our own **Evening of Excellence.** Last year's Year 11 are invited back to celebrate their success and achievements as well as hearing from two keynote speakers. In the audience were staff, family and some of our current Year 10 and 11 students all inspired by the evening's proceedings. **Our first speaker was ex-student Charlotte McKenzie who spoke about her experiences growing up in the local area as well as her career path after leaving Kelmscott.** It was very inspiring with some excellent and practical advice for the students (and adults) present to take on board. **Our second speaker was Rachelle Anderson who spoke about her experience as a sports scientist. Students were enamoured with her account of the time when she treated David Beckham himself.**

It was lovely to see last year's Year 11 again and to hear about how they are getting on at their respective Colleges and Sixth Forms. We do hope that they stay in touch. The door is now open for the current Year 11 to earn themselves a spot at the same evening next year. **Special thanks to Ms Reid for all her hard work organising the event.**

Talking of Year 11, another successful **Mock Interview day** came and went last week. All of Year 11 dressed in business attire were put through their paces by a large number of external businessmen and women in the school hall. The students had to talk through their CVs as well as answer some tricky questions before finding out if they got the job. **Feedback from our visitors was highly positive about our students who acquitted themselves very well on the day.** The day is a real rite of passage for Year 11 and a purposeful step in to the adult world. We always see a shift in their attitude and maturity after the day. **Many thanks to Ms Ereira for organising the event.**

**As always there were many enrichment activities that took place including one to the National Theatre led by Ms Lawrence our Head of Drama but with a STEM focus.** The students' favourite part was making exploding 'blood bags' (water was used) work with the wigs and make up department and learning that there is a real job that exists to be in charge of pyrotechnics and managing the guns and swords! There was also a lot of science and innovation being deployed, for example, bubbleology that the students had to explain to me. They used their numeracy, technical and communication skills too in a workshop looking at the sound and lighting roles, and learned how to make mince pies out of bread for stage props.

**Each half term we have a really close look at one department in the school.** This half term it was the languages department. Lessons were seen, teachers and students were spoken to, work was examined and wow what a superb job the department do! **Our MFL**

**department is one of the most successful in the country so it was great to see first-hand what they do.** We will now share our findings with other departments across the school who may want to pinch some of the many excellent things that we saw. **Many thanks to the MFL Department and Mr Ravoux the Head of MFL for having us.**

I'll finish with a few words about our lovely students who have informed me about some of their achievements these past few weeks. Firstly, **congratulations to Kaya Gulbahar in Year 8** who finished in third place at the National Tang Soo Do championships in Wales. Secondly, **congratulations to Kareena Myers in Year 9** for being selected to represent Essex at Hockey – a wonderful achievement. Finally, **well done to Gaia Tsoutsani in 8S** who went to a Milton Court Jazz event last week where she took part in an exciting workshop where she improvised on her clarinet with her group of musicians. She also watched a performance from Yaz Ahmed, an accomplished trumpet player, which she found inspiring to say the least.

**Wishing all of our families and communities well.**

**Mr Sam Jones**

December 5<sup>th</sup> 2019

