



**THE CAMDEN  
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**



## **Friends Newsletter 2018**

## Foreword from the Headteacher, Ms Elizabeth Kitcatt

*It has been a busy year here at Camden School for Girls, as always. Our building works finally completed as you will see from the cover photo. The design of the new buildings is absolutely beautiful and we are thrilled to be enjoying them - and it is a real pleasure every day to see staff, students and visitors smiling as they come in and look around them.*

*Our school performed outstandingly well in the DFE Performance tables, as I'm sure you will be aware, and it is now in the top 10% of schools nationally in terms of the progress our students make while they are with us.*

*We continue to attract remarkable speakers to the school and you will find accounts of some of their presentations in this newsletter.*

*And along with many women up and down the country, we celebrated 100 years of women (or some of them!) having the right to vote in the UK.*

*I hope you enjoy this sample of life here at CSG.*

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

August brought some **exceptional exam results**. **GCSE results** were our best ever, with 92% of all results across all subjects being 9-4 (standard pass) opening up a wide range of opportunities post-16. 15 students achieved A\* or 9-8 grades in eight or more GCSE subjects (10 students in 2017) and 2 Camden girls gained 9 grade 9s, the new top grade.

Once again **A level results** were significantly better than the national picture. This year students and teachers faced particular challenges because many A levels were reformed for 2018. This meant teachers had no past papers or previous experience of the syllabus to refer to in preparation for the exams. It is therefore especially pleasing to see grades going up at Camden School for Girls. 21% of all grades were A\* (up from 18% in 2017) and 50% A\*-A (national 26%), 79% A\*-B (national 53%). 12 students achieved 3+ A\*s, 65 students 3+ A\*-As and 134 students 3+ A\*-Bs. We were also thrilled to see 17 students going to Cambridge or Oxford and 7 about to start degrees in medicine and 1 in dentistry. Congratulations to All!

**25 students celebrate  
Cambridge, Oxford and  
medical and dental school  
success**



## A new chapter in the history of our building

The Sandall Road entrance now looks very different thanks to a brand new entrance that was completed at the beginning of May just in time for summer. Work was also concluded in the Sixth Form building. Students have been enjoying the benefits of a larger dining area, a spacious and light foyer and an improved Sixth Form Common room and classrooms. These improvements will benefit current students as well as future generations representing a new era in the school's evolution.



We are grateful to the local authority for funding the majority of this work which has cost over £1.7 million, but as a voluntary aided school we are obliged to contribute to a percentage of that funding. The **CASCA 60 for 60 campaign** helped to raise an astounding £105,000, raising an incredible £45,000 more than the initial target of £60,000. This will go towards the cost of the fixtures and fittings.

Baroness Gail Rebusk, whose daughters Georgia & Grace Gould attended the school, opened the new entrance officially on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018. Those that attended were given a tour of the new space by the head student team.





## Highlights from 2017-2018 academic year

### Music & Drama

#### Romeo & Juliet

In **January**, our Sixth form students performed the play about two star cross'd lovers 'Romeo and Juliet'.

As well as acting, students took key roles in costume, design and stage management, working together to create a really vivid and thrilling evening.



#### Medea

In **February**, students presented a production of the powerful Greek tragedy **Medea** here at the school.

Students gave a gripping 80-minute performance staged in the round. They brought it right up to date with modern references to Gloria Gaynor, Taylor Swift, Donald Trump and Syrian refugees. Outstanding performances from the whole cast were backed up by a remarkably collaborative and skilful off-stage team, including lighting and sound crew and live band, as well as costume and set designers, stage hands and various artistic advisors and helpers. Altogether over 100 people were involved in this fantastic play! Congratulations go to Teacher of Classics Mr Lundholm who adapted the text and co-ordinated the whole production which took months to rehearse.



Poster for Medea

## School Concerts

Our students performed in a whole array of concerts throughout the year. All three school terms culminated with end of term concerts. We also enjoyed a beautiful Spring Choral Concert at the wonderfully atmospheric St Martin's Church in Gospel Oak.



## Camden Music Festival at The Royal Albert Hall



On Monday 12 March a large group of students from Camden School for Girls joined other young people from the borough to participate in the fabulous **Camden Music Festival**. The Royal Albert Hall was full to bursting point with parents, siblings, teachers and friends of the performers in the audience. The programme was varied, with pieces by Tchaikovsky and Mancini as well as some original compositions. The evening was hosted by Camden resident Jon Snow, who brought great humour, warmth and enthusiasm to the occasion, and the whole event was made possible through support from the Camden Music Trust. Congratulations to all our exceptional musicians, thanks to the teachers for all the arrangements and to all parents who came along to celebrate the event.

## Dance Show



Also in March, we enjoyed thrilling dance performances by students in Years 7 - 11 as participants in our Dance Evening. Year Seven had been working hard on large group dances, in which they needed to think carefully about their position in relation to others, remember their own moves and follow the music - not easy at all and particularly nerve-wracking in front of an audience of family and friends! There were classical pieces, street, hip-hop and tap dancing and it was clear throughout the evening that the girls had worked extremely hard in lessons, with their teachers and on their own.

Finally, the Year 11 dance students performed in front of the cameras for their GCSE assessment. They were confident, well-rehearsed and inventive, putting huge energy and enthusiasm into every move.



## Cry Baby

Welcome to picturesque post-war Baltimore! Over at the park, the Women's Club is planning an Anti-Polio Vaccination Carnival, and readying themselves for nuclear apocalypse. Allison is a good girl, but she doesn't want to be.

On the other side of the tracks, the misunderstood Cry-Baby wants to find love, clear his parents' name and live in love and peace and rock and roll for evermore. Only time will tell whether they can beat the system, or whether their love will doom them to misery, agony, helplessness, hopelessness, heartache and woe...

This year's school production was so much fun. Our students and staff put on a triumphant production of this little-known musical at the end of the summer term and left the audience in raptures. Congratulations and thanks to all!



## Science Teacher & Author!



A new book, written by one of our science teachers, Alom Shaha, has been published to fabulous reviews. The book is designed to encourage young people and their families to develop a curious wonder in the scientific world around us. A science teacher at Camden School for Girls since 2008, Mr Shaha has said that he loves teaching at the school and much of his work outside is inspired by his interactions with his students and colleagues at CSG.

<https://www.camdencitizen.co.uk/2018/03/20/alom-shaha-children-science-lecture-ucl-recipes-for-wonder/>

## Jack Petchey Achievement award

Congratulations to **Calla, Tiffany, Abigail, Tallulah, Aysha, Biba, Mathilde and Madeleine** (Years 9 -11), pictured bottom left, who each won an award from the Jack Petchey Achievement awards scheme in November for their excellent contribution to the school and the wider community. Each winner receives £250 to spend on items for the school, such as: iPads, extra equipment for the departments, props for productions, benches for the gardens - anything to enhance their time at school that is not part of the school budget.



Congratulations also to **Mary Kavanagh** (pictured top right with her daughter) who was selected to receive the **Jack Petchey Leader Award** this year. The school nominated Mary for the award in recognition of her extraordinary contribution to Camden School for Girls over many years. Mary was a very active member of CASCA when Lucy was in school and has continued to support us in many ways in subsequent years. She is well known to staff, parents and students as a tireless fundraiser and enthusiastic supporter of the school and our nomination of Mary for the Jack Petchey award is just a small way of recognising her for all her hard work. Mary has been given a small grant of £700 to be spent on the new Garden outside reception.



We are also extremely proud of our Year 12 student Sophie (pictured below) who received an award in February from the Bangladesh High Commission for her outstanding performance in her GCSEs.



***“At this event I was able to meet and talk to like-minded students, aspiring to become successful doctors, lawyers, engineers, and many other incredible professions. I was able to hear about how they achieved their amazing results and their future aspirations. After listening to speeches given by influential Bengali people, I have been inspired to work harder to achieve my ambitions, and hopefully attend the achievement awards again, but this time for my A level results.”***

## 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.*



### Daniel Barker

In September ex-Camden student, Daniel Barker, came to speak at the sixth form assembly. He described his wealth of experiences and his journey through the music, acting, and entertainment world. Daniel has been working as a comedy actor for the last five years, doing live gigs as well as writing and filming short sketches for ‘Alongside’ his YouTube channel, which now has over 12,000 subscribers. He says that his YouTube channel, where he posts all his satirical sketches has proved very useful in gaining attention and was key in boosting his career in voice-over acting and comedy to the point it is at now. The lesson learnt from this assembly was that you should never be afraid to walk into the unknown. There is enough time to be many things, and exploring multiple paths in life allows you to grow your experience and your character.



## Georgia Gould

Also in September, the Labour politician and current leader of Camden council, Georgia Gould, discussed with us her journey into the political sphere and some of the obstacles she encountered along the way in the face of the media.

As a former Camden girl she highlighted how Camden as a school helped her to form her acute passion for politics and went on to stress how important it is for young people today to become actively involved in politics and become members of parties. Gould's talk ranged over many topics from the Grenfell fire incident, informing us of the action Camden council has since taken to ensure the safety of thousands living in similar blocks, to her opinions on Jeremy Corbyn and the current Tory government. She also spoke about the importance of women entering the political arena and how, as a very young woman in a field still dominated by men, she has in the past when attending a meeting, been mistaken for an intern! The Q&A session was very vibrant with lots of students asking questions about a range of things such as: would the residents of the evacuated flats have more of a say in the maintenance of their homes; is Jeremy Corbyn a viable leader for the Labour party and what inspired her to enter politics.



*It was a very informative assembly and very inspiring to know that an ex-Camden girl had gone on to be so successful in her career.*

**Celia**  
**Sixth Form Head Girl**

## Wayne Sharrocks

During November, ex Special Forces Support soldier and current member and advocate of **Veterans for Peace** Wayne gave a powerful assembly to the Sixth Form, as he discussed his experience of life in the army, the horrors he witnessed in action and subsequently why he believes we should search at all costs for an alternative to war.

On his second tour of Afghanistan, Wayne was highly affected by two Improvised Explosive Devices, which detonated close to him in the space of a few weeks. The former killed the leader of his platoon while the second destroyed the limbs of a comrade while blasting shrapnel in Wayne's own face. He touchingly communicated how all-consuming the army is when talking about a conversation with his mother in hospital, to which the response to the question "are you going back?" was instinctively "yes of course", even though he felt totally traumatised at this point.



But Wayne did not go back. Thinking about his army life Wayne realised he could not justify the unnecessary violence both in training and on the field. After leaving Wayne found he was isolated within society, struggling to live in the "civilian" world which he had previously had such contempt for. While having a few poorly paid jobs Wayne was diagnosed with severe depression, and sought to reach out to other ex-military members who felt the same as him. He thus founded Veterans for Peace, and has since gained a filmmaking degree, and hopes to crowdfund to make a film about his experience and depression. He finishes with the powerful mantra that "war cannot be the only way", a particularly poignant message given the celebrations surrounding the centenary of the First World War.

## Natalie Haynes



In December writer and broadcaster Natalie Haynes talked to students about Aristotle's opinions about what makes a perfect tragedy: there has to be a unity of time and unity of place. As well as this, each scene has to have two things: plot development and character development or something that reveals more of the character.

In addition to this, Haynes looked at the differences between the theatre in ancient times and now. She argues that the theatre should be something everyone can access for free especially considering it was free in Ancient times. Her new novel 'The Children of Jocasta' is a retelling of the Oedipus story but from Jocasta's point of view.

*Natalie Haynes' humorous way of getting her points across, her way of bringing a new perspective to the way we look at the Ancient world and the pure dedication that she has towards Classics is what I enjoyed about listening to her masterclass.*

**Mercedes - Year 13**

## Guy Sigsworth

In January British composer, producer and songwriter Guy Sigsworth came to talk to Sixth Formers. He has worked with many well-known musicians such as Seal, Bjork, Madonna and Britney Spears. Guy started off by explaining how he got into music. He, at first, had a passion for early music from the 1400s and earlier and was especially fond of modern musician David Munrow who used the old but exciting instruments from that time. He was, however, awakened by acid house music to the values of pop and henceforth a long and prosperous career as a music producer started.



He likened listening to music to listening to a foreign language and tried to get his music to emulate that; he also noted that in his opinion voice was the most important thing overall when producing a record. He then went through some of the records he produced and explained the stories and thoughts in his mind when they were made.

Finally he gave advice in response to some questions, perhaps the most valuable being that if one is looking to find an entry into the music production business then the best thing to do is do the best you possibly can with what resources you have at your disposal.

## Solutions not Sides

Also in January, an organisation called Solutions not Sides came to speak to our Sixth Formers. The first speaker, Celia (an ex CSG student) explained the work the organisation does in delivering non-partisan education on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She outlined how the Israel-Palestine conflict polarises students in schools and universities across Europe, with aggressive campaigning often alienating and intimidating students, and shutting down constructive dialogue on the issue. The Solutions Not Sides Programme, which has been formulated with the input of both Israelis and Palestinians, as well as senior members of Jewish and Muslim communities, is designed to prepare students to make a positive, solutions-focused contribution to debates on Israel-Palestine.



Solutions not Sides brings together speakers from both Israel and Palestine to talk about a non-violent peaceful approach to the conflict, and the fact that both sides are united in their desire to achieve this will hopefully mean they will come to a solution much more quickly.

***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](mailto:fgoldsmith@csg.school) to give more information and to arrange a possible time.***

## School Trips

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

### Year 12 Geography Department trip to East Sussex

Year 12 geographers braved sub-zero temperatures on their trip to East Sussex in March 2018. They visited the geography department at Sussex University and had a lecture on the cutting edge coastal research that department is doing. They also conducted their own research into the physical processes acting at Cuckmere to understand the recent decision by the local authority to leave the area undefended from the action of the waves. In a few short years this stretch of coast will look very different.





## Year 7 trip to the Tower of London

Violet in Year 7 gave the following account of the trip:-

*When we first arrived we had a tour guide dressed as a medieval lord! He talked about medieval weapons, castle designs and the three contenders for the throne in 1066.*

*After the demonstration (which involved us re-enacting the Battle of Hastings), we went to see the glittering crown jewels, which we passed on a very slow traveller. The riches on show went from medieval things to jewels worn recently by the Queen. It was incredibly busy and we were happy to make it outside again in time for lunch, which we had outside the White Tower.*

*Then we made a final stop to Beauchamp Tower, which was a medieval prison. Prisoners in the tower used to write their name and messages in the stone wall - medieval graffiti! The messages were really interesting to read and look at the patterns made - the prisoners turned out to be amazing sculptors!*



**Violet, 7C**

## Year 13 Christina Rossetti trip



On Friday 9 March a group of Year 13 English students along with Mr Graham and Ms Gibson walked in the footsteps of the great 19th century poet Christina Rossetti. We are fortunate that she lived and worked in London and in order to take advantage of this they embarked on an educational walking tour of some key landmarks associated with the poet. The group toured various locations in Fitzrovia including places where the Rossetti family lived and worked. Following this the group visited the West Cemetery at Highgate - usually only accessible by a special guided tour- where they learnt about the cemetery and concluded the visit at the Rossetti family grave. The students are currently studying the poetry of Rossetti in preparation for A-level English exams in June and this visit helped to further develop their understanding of her life and work.

## Year 8 Devon Trip

Every year the PE department take a number of Year 8 & 9 pupils to Kelly College in Tavistock, Devon for a weekend of water, trees, mud and sleep deprivation....but we love it! Here's an extract of an account Aisha and Raia (our Year 8 PE Ambassadors) wrote for the Friday News:-

***"We did all sorts of exciting things like climbing, abseiling, swimming, running in mud, jumping off water cliffs, sleeping in haunted Nuns Cross Farm and rafting building which resulted in all of us capsizing as we didn't tie the knots tight enough!***

***We took the coach back home to London desperate to get back to the comfort of our homes and just finally relax after the lack of rest we were all suffering from. Most of us fell asleep on the coach back!***

***All in all, Devon was an amazing experience - we are all hoping we will get to go again next year!"***

Aisha & Raia 8R (Year 8 P.E Ambassadors)



## Year 7 trip to Lords



In April a group of students from Year 7 had the opportunity to go to the Lord's Cricket Ground to celebrate seeing the Middlesex Women's team play on the ground for the first time in history. To mark this outstanding achievement, Middlesex invited different generations of women out onto the field to play cricket for a demonstration game at lunchtime including a team of 10 from CSG.

Here is an extract from Amy & Ava in Year 7 from the Friday News:-

***"Out of thirty-six schools we were proud to be selected to represent TeamUp and play a game on the ground, both batting and fielding. Thanks to the multiple lessons with our coach Piya, many of our players hit fours and sixes and played excellently. It was a very enjoyable day and we were glad to be part of this historical event."***



## Oxford Schools Debating Finals



On Saturday 10th March Bluebelle (11M) and Madeleine (10M) took part in the Oxford Schools Debating Finals Day, which took place in the prestigious Oxford Union.

After an early start from Paddington station, the top 108 debating teams from all over the UK, as well as a few international schools, gathered to prepare for a day of debating.

The competition is the pinnacle of schools debating in the UK and it was a truly memorable experience for our students to compete against debaters of a very high standard. It is particularly noteworthy as our students were one of the few teams who weren't A-Level students.

The CSG team took part in four debates over the course of the day;

- This house, as a parent, would use tiger parenting (CSG in closing opposition)
- This house would legalise child labour in developing countries (CSG in opening opposition)
- This house would ban private healthcare (CSG in opening government)
- This house would ban all members of political dynasties, including those who have never held political positions before, from running for political office (CSG in closing government)

At the end of the day, the CSG team didn't make it through to finals evening but were commended by their judges for their analytical and confident approach to the complicated and broad topics.

This was a real success for debating at CSG and a testament to what a high level our students have reached.

## Classics Trip to Rome and the Bay of Naples



Over Easter Year 12 & Year 13 visited Italy as part of a Classics trip. They arrived in Rome where they took in the sights including the Pantheon & the Vatican as well as the Gallerie Nazionali di Arte Antica di Roma where they admired an amazing fresco by Pietro da Cortona. They spent time on Palatine Hill amongst the ruins of the emperor's palaces looking at the fantastic views of Rome and the Roman Forum. They then travelled to Sorrento, Pompeii and Herculaneum.





*It was a fascinating and really fun trip!*

Lily, Year 12

## 7T's Trip to the Roundhouse

The following account is from Cecily in Year 7

*"Because we won the Year 7 Challenge, 7T got to go on a trip to the Roundhouse on Wednesday to do a session on Spoken Word poetry. When we arrived we were given a quick tour of some of the studios before being taken to meet Talia and Kat who were running our session. We played a couple of games at first to warm up and relax a little. We then watched a film of a girl performing some spoken word. It was really interesting because she talked about things such as sexism, racism and stereotypes. Following that we annotated a poem written by Kat comparing life in London and life in Grenada. Next we got into groups of three to do some writing. We had to write about either the country or countries we were from. Later we performed them in front of each other. It was really nice to learn more about where each of my classmates were from and what they thought of as home. Everyone really enjoyed the trip and thought it was a great prize."*



## Year 12 Latin trip to Natalie Haynes lecture

Year 12 visited South Hampstead School for a lecture by Natalie Haynes about Ovid, whose work is still so important today. According to Daniel in Year 12,

***“We learnt about ancient Roman society, in particular how women were treated at the time and Ovid's controversial and rather unfeminist attitudes. Haynes highlighted the importance of recognising the faults in ancient societies such as sexism but also not being afraid to study them because of such faults.”***



## Sixth Form Senior Prefect Weekend to Wales

On Friday 15 June, the new senior prefect team set forth on a weekend adventure to the far off land of Machynlleth, Wales, seeking to cultivate new and old friendships, build teamwork skills and develop a sense of leadership that would define their role within the school for the forthcoming year.

After a traumatic train journey of lost baggage and stressful navigation, the team started the next morning with some character-building manual labour. Aside from procuring an assortment of insect bites and nettle stings, the team achieved their goals of trimming trees to trunks, levelling a yard of bracken to the ground, and ripping a plethora of weeds which had grown around the centre they were staying at. Out of these destructive chores, they found bonds of teamwork beginning to be constructed between them.

The next day, these were put to the challenge as they scaled the rocky face of Cadair Idris, a Snowdonian peak nearby, ascending through moist tendrils of mist. At the top, a few of the team took an icy swim in a wild lake which sat in the saddle of a glacial valley (which Mr Doyland so didactically informed them).

The team descended to civilisation with newfound purpose and a refreshed set of new initiatives and schemes with which to make their mark of Camden.





## Modern Foreign Language French School Visit to CSG

Also in June, Year 7 welcomed a group of students visiting from Normandy. Our students showed them around the school, asked them questions in French and exchanged information. The French group also enjoyed an English Tea with cucumber sandwiches, scones and Battenberg cake. It was a lovely experience and CSG girls were fantastic ambassadors for the School. The French staff were extremely impressed and grateful.



## PINK Week

Another successful Pink Week took place in October with events including busking by staff and students every break-time, a Dance-off between teachers and students, a sale of pink things (no matter what!) and the legendary Pink Catwalk and Conga on Friday. Well done to the Head Girl Team for such fabulous organisation! An incredible **£2,144** was raised for **Breast Cancer Care**.





## Anonymous Art Auction

The third **Camden School for Girls Anonymous Art Auction** took place in May and June. 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:-

Dragan Aleksic, Cat Andrew, David Aronsohn, Dinos Chapman, Jake Chapman, Beatrice Baumgartner-Cohen, Yvette Blumberg, Delyth Bolt, Chloe Brownsey, Kate Cullinan, Rosa Doyle, Vicky Emby, Exploration Architecture, Emma Gorman, Irene Graham, Carla Groppi, Leanne Hagger, Markus Hansen, Nicola Hepworth, Kelly Hill, Sam Hodge, Jamie Hosegood, Wendy Jacob, Nadav Kander, John Keane, Julia Landes, Michael Landy, Danielle Lemarche, Vaishali Londhe, Cathryn Marshall, Jeff McMillan, Issi Nash, Tom Pearman, Andrew Pegram, Grant Penny, Sarah Pickstone, Ella Porter, Amanda Ribbans, Hugh Ribbans, Sue Ribbans, Jeff Robb, Philippa Schofield, Neil Smith, Jon Snow, Malena Stojic, Flame Taylor Goldsworthy, Emily Tracy, Mark Wallinger, Julia Warr, Rob White, Gillian Williams-Hay, Gillian Wearing, Christina Wilson.

An outstanding **£5,900** was raised, funds which will go towards the school for the benefit of current and future students. Do visit [https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/auction/detail/auction\\_id/2438](https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/auction/detail/auction_id/2438) to see more of the works.



## CASCA

*Camden School's Community Association continued to work tirelessly this year with phenomenal results. See section below on the 60 for 60 campaign success. CASCA events have been superb fundraisers as well as tremendous fun and bonding for the school's student and parent community. Events held this year have included Dramstock, The Annual Autumn Jumble Sale, Quiznight, a Table Top Sale, a Specialist Antiques Sale, Summerfest, the Dance-a-thon and the Parent Forums. Including their 60 for 60 campaign CASCA contributed a staggering **£123,509** to the school – more details below.*



### 60 for 60

**HUGE THANKS** to everyone! **Together we've raised a spectacular £104,742** - surpassing our original target of £60,000 and helping the school in many more ways. The support from parents, carers, governors, staff and other friends has been **UTTERLY AMAZING**.

We're delighted that CASCA has helped to furnish the sparkling new spaces. So in addition to buying the things we pledged to, thanks to everyone's enormous generosity, we've also been able to help with much more. As well as funding new chairs, tables and benches; a cooker and a couple of freezers; a new roof of ceiling tiles; a fabulous modern display board for the reception area; plus new mirrors, locks and doors to

improve the toilets for the students....we've also contributed to a green roof on the front reception; new interactive panels for the classrooms; light fittings; new flooring in the classrooms; a new sign for the front of the building, and an acoustic screen for the 6th form private study area. We are over the moon.

### Another fabulous Jumble Sale!

The annual CASCA Jumble Sale was another phenomenal success! All the stalls drew dozens of customers, and the vintage stall in particular became a real wonderland. Parents and students donated thousands of items, and they seem to have gone down well with our visitors as the provisional figure for the amount raised, well over £7,000. It's the event that probably involves the most physical hard work from volunteers as well as alertness, the ability to haggle and an instinct for the right price - quite a tough skill set!

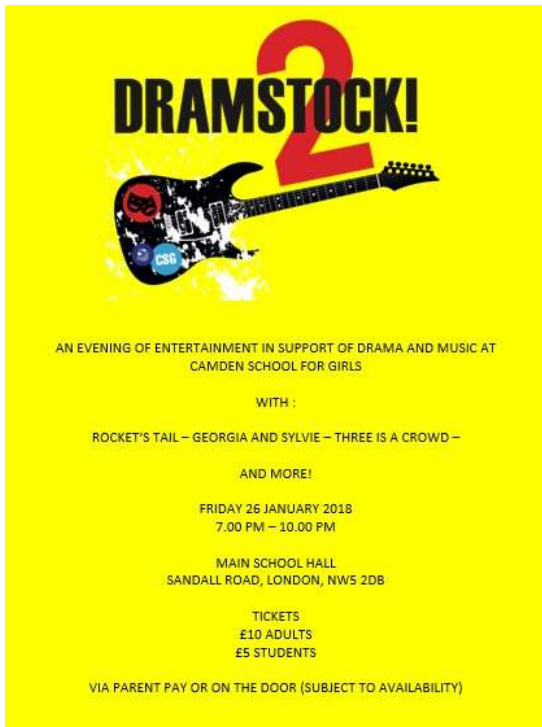
It seemed that there were more helpers than ever. It was especially good to see some new parents on board. The cafe was a great success and it was nice to see students coming along to help and/or spend. The day was really enjoyable with a great atmosphere, busy but good-humoured, a little bit frantic but that all adds to the sense that there is competition for those bargains!

Many thanks to Mary Kavanagh for her exceptional leadership and to all who volunteered to provide security, run a stall, or who donated items and came along and spent money.





## Dramstock! 2



In January, after a hugely popular introduction in 2016, CASCA hosted **Dramstock! 2**, an evening of entertainment in support of drama and music at CSG.

An incredible **£1,605** was raised.



## Quiz Night

In March, CASCA organised another fabulous Quiz Night. It was a wonderful evening, full of fun and puzzles, and great food, as well as one of those infamous practical Quiz challenges. The friendly competition and humour created a great atmosphere, and the sight of CSG parents building plastic towers like nursery children is not one we'll soon forget!

Particular thanks to David Schneider for his awesome hosting with wit and wisdom throughout the night, and of course to Kate Cullinan, our magnificent Quiz Queen, whose enthusiasm and organisational spirit brought the whole thing together - her energy was infectious.

Thanks too for Andy for his 'Up-the-Ante' Bar with his team on the night - Rita, Justin, Steve, Alison and Emma; to Mary and all prize donors for the lovely raffle; and to Kate's Quiz Night Dream Team - who helped with the all the practical preparations, cooked the delicious dinner, dreamt up the quiz questions, saved yoghurt pots... and helped throughout the evening.

The event raised a **spectacular £5,500** for the school - which will help buy industrial dishwashers and re-usable cutlery and crockery for the school canteen, so that the students can have sustainable dining too.

**Quiz Night**  
back by popular demand

David Schneider  
be my guest

£20 includes supper £10 concessions\*  
tickets from [katecullinan@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:katecullinan@blueyonder.co.uk)  
or book directly on parentpay  
**15th March 2018 6.30pm**  
This quiz night promises not to use any plastic  
**Andy's 'Up the Ante' bar**  
Supper provided by Cullinary & Co  
raising funds to rid the school canteen of plastic  
\*concessions include OAP, unwaged, students and teachers





**Summerfest** took place on a beautiful summer's evening in June, and was extremely successful. Students ran, or helped at a number of stalls, and it was wonderful to see so many of them enjoying the event. CASCA members worked exceptionally hard to make the evening such a triumph. The quality of the refreshments on offer was extraordinary, with delicious home-cooked food available as well as cakes, strawberries and drinks. There were great prizes to win on the Tombola and the Raffle, and some beautiful plants to get into the garden this weekend. Bric-a-brac, the Silent Auction and all the other stalls drew customers throughout the festival. Finally, the performers and the judges of the Battle of the Bands provided a really summery atmosphere as the music filled the hall and courtyard and our judges kindly gave their expert opinions and offered welcome feedback to the musicians.

The 2018 sponsored **Dance-a-thon** took place in June. The whole school danced to raise money to help turn the kitchens eco-friendly and plastic-free. Kicking off at 9am, there were year-group dance-offs, Bollywood sessions, teachers' routines and of course a Champion's Cup to raise at 3.30pm. All funds raised went into the School Kitchen Pot! The event raised a phenomenal **£2,758** – amazing!



## CASCA Parents Forums



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 November we tackled, "**Sex and the Smartphone Generation: How to Talk Openly with Teenagers**". Today's kids are navigating pressures from social media, sexting and readily accessible porn that we, as parents, never had to contend with at their age. The best way to help shore up their resilience is by being open, and by talking with them early and often. But the conversation may not always come easily.

In March, Ravin Sampat, Assistant Editor of BBC Stories, BBC News, gave a practical, hands-on talk entitled **'A Bluffer's Guide to Social Media'**. He helped demystify the language and tools of social media and discussed some of the common hazards of trolling, negative talk, bullying and inappropriate posting. He was joined by Natasha Bateman, BBC Stories Instagram presenter and content producer.



In June we turned our attention to friendship; **“Friendships: the good, the bad and the ugly...how to help your children cope”**. Friendships are not only important to our children, but research shows that kids who have positive relationships with their peers are likely to be happier and do better at school. Yet friendships can also be challenging.

From jealousy to spitefulness, to bullying, all of our kids have to navigate some problems thrown up by friends behaving badly. Dr Terri Apter, a psychologist and writer at Cambridge University, is here to help. She's written two award-winning books - *“The Confident Child”* and *“Altered Loves: mother and daughters during adolescence”* - and has been studying friendships among kids for many years. She imparted tips on how to manage conflict, deal with social media and help your children have the best friendships they can.

## Votes for Women Centenary



***“I should like to revisit the earth at the end of the twentieth century to see the result of the great revolution of the nineteenth – the women’s rights movement”***

Words spoken by our school’s founder **Frances Mary Buss** towards the end of her life. She died in 1894 and had founded the first school to offer girls an education in 1850, the North London Collegiate School, and later in 1871 The Camden School for Girls. By 1900 schools for girls were being established in towns across the country. She was also one of 1,500 signatories of the 1866 women's suffrage petition, which was the first mass petition for Votes for Women presented to Parliament by John Stuart Mill MP.

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018, we marked the centenary since Parliament passed a law, which allowed some women, and all men, to vote for the first time - the 1918 Representation of the People Act with a 'Vote 100' display in the school foyer. Students were encouraged all week to share their thoughts and write messages to the people that made this possible. Some of the thoughtful comments are as follows:-



## Founders Day 2018

Our annual commemoration of the work of Frances Mary Buss, our founder, took place on the 29 March this year. Students rehearsed over the days leading up to the occasion and made hundreds of posies on the afternoon before Founders' Day. The Head students spoke with great poise, confidence and insight about their time as leaders in Camden School for Girls, exploring ways in which they have been influenced by the school, and how they have influenced others. Music from the choir and orchestra was beautiful, with some particularly moving solo performances, and all our students concentrated and participated superbly well. Our guests enjoyed mingling after the commemoration in the Art room over coffee.







After the service Ms Green and Ms Farrell took left over posies to Frances Mary Buss's grave where they were left as a tribute. This year's was especially poignant given the centenary of votes for women.

**Would you like to attend Founders Day next year? Email [friends@csg.school](mailto:friends@csg.school) with your details and connection to the school.**

## Alumni News – Onwards & Upwards!

We are always keen to hear from our Alumni – please do get in touch and let us know what you have been up to you by emailing us at [friends@csg.school](mailto:friends@csg.school)  
We would love to hear from you!

### Alumni News

Congratulations to ex-CSG student **Sabrina Francis** who received the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year Honours List. The BEM is awarded for exceptional service to the community.

Sabrina currently works at City University where she works as Social Media Officer. She also set up the City-Uni-Women network which she co-chairs.

Sabrina is a serving councillor on Camden Council. She is also an active supporter of the homeless charity CRISIS and has spent 5 Christmases working in the CRISIS homeless shelters.



Another alumni success story is former student **Freya Parks**, who has been doing an Art Foundation course at Manchester since leaving us, receiving a Distinction and the Alumni Prize at the end of the year.

Freya has also pursued her acting career and a film that she made – Bliss! – has been shown at festivals and has had a recent London screening at the Regent Street cinema with other screenings being offered - well done Freya!

<https://youtu.be/HnRpjMGaUDY>

Bliss! Trailer



## In Memoriam

### Antonia Syson



From The Guardian 24 June 2018

Antonia Syson was sceptical about digital innovation, mapping out narrative conflicts energetically on a blackboard, and drawing on her love of opera, film and leaf tea to enrich her students' experience

My friend Antonia Syson, who has died aged 45 of breast cancer, was a scholar and teacher with a fierce commitment to her students. She challenged the dominant assumption that frequency of publication is a meaningful measure of academic worth.

Born in Botswana, Antonia was the daughter of John Syson and his wife, Lucy (now Gaster), who was researching rural development for the United Nations development programme. Antonia's father was private secretary to the president, Sir Seretse Khama.

The family returned to the UK in 1973, where Antonia attended Hungerford Primary School in Islington, North London, and then Camden School for Girls. Her love of music was well established by her teens, and at 14 she sang in the Finchley Children's Music Group, performing at the English National Opera and the Royal Albert Hall.

After her parents divorced and her mother married Nicholas Deakin, professor of social policy at Birmingham University, Antonia moved to King Edward VI high school for girls in Edgbaston, where, through her Latin classes, she realised that her life's work would centre on literature.

She studied classics at Magdalen College, Oxford, completed a PhD at the University of Berkeley, California, and then made her academic career in the US. Her multidisciplinary approach to epic in her book *Fama and Fiction in Vergil's Aeneid* (2013) reflects her wider approach to scholarship, drawing on unlikely sources such as George Eliot's *Middlemarch* to illuminate her observations about the transformative powers of story.

In 2008, she joined the classics faculty at Purdue University, Indiana (known primarily for STEM subjects), where her students – whether engineers or linguists – were passionate about her classes.

Antonia was sceptical about digital innovation, mapping out narrative conflicts energetically on a blackboard, and drawing on her love of opera, film and leaf tea to enrich her students' experience; what mattered to her was that they learned to question their own assumptions. She believed that using the right words in the right way could unlock new channels of thinking: "If you can be clear how you're using subject and object, you can start listening in a more open way to history, to stories imagined and remembered."

Antonia made regular trips back to Europe to share with friends and family the pleasures she missed, whether opera at Glyndebourne or seal-watching in the Hebrides. In West Lafayette, Indiana, she created an exquisitely

English rose garden and filled her house with the works of Eric Ravilious, Edward Bawden, Paul Nash, Benjamin Britten and Powell and Pressburger.

In her last weeks she put aside an Asterix book loaned by a friend – it was making her “think too much about French imperialism” – but she never stopped learning, nor making connections between stories and people, however far-flung. Her funeral in the US took place at St John’s Episcopal church, where she had sung with the choir as an “inquiring atheist”. Antonia is survived by her mother, Lucy, her brother, Luke, and sister, Lydia, and by her stepfather, Nicholas.

### **Martin Deegan**

Martin worked with us from 2002 - 2016 as a teaching assistant here at Camden School for Girls. During his time with us, he worked with many students to make learning more accessible to them. He had a calm, approachable personality, and students felt very well-supported by him both in lessons and around the school. He was an excellent colleague; teachers and the whole learning support team found him thoughtful, kind and gentle in his work with vulnerable young people.

A very talented drummer, Martin also ran percussion workshops for students and inspired many to see all kinds of drumming as something that was highly enjoyable and uplifting to the spirits. Students, staff and the families of students with whom he worked are saddened by this loss.

### **And finally ...**

**Thank you to all those who generously donated to our campaign and spread the word to save Classical Greek here at Camden School for Girls.**

**We are delighted to announce that we have now reached our target of £30,000 to continue our provision.**