

Heartbeat



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Issue 38

Is this a Shakespeare festival I see before me?

Students from Years 7 and 8 swapped Maths for Macbeth, History for Hamlet and PE for Pericles last week as they took part in a Shakespeare festival.

The two year groups each spent a day brushing up on the Bard as they set about working on extracts of the great playwright's work, selections of which will be performed in the Prep Hall this evening.

With the College bringing in professional help to guide the youngsters, the exhibition promises to be the real deal. Among the advisors were Playhouse representatives who delivered workshops, scriptwriter Sue Mooney, mother of Katie Mooney (8T), BBC scriptwriter, Stephen Butchard, who is also the father of current College students Chelsea (11E) and Antony Butchard (10T) and ex-students now studying Drama and Music, amongst them Joe Carroll, who delivered singing workshops.

With help from Mr Butchard, Year 12 students wrote a script based on Shakespeare's plays, including, most notably, *As You Like*

It. Once the script was completed, Mr Butchard returned to offer feedback on their writing. Elsewhere, staff helped in producing everything from costumes, dance routines, artwork, physical comedy and language classes.

Over the course of the two days, both year groups did everything possible to ensure all's well that ends well ahead of tonight's big performance.

Among those who helped organise the two days was Drama's Ms Walsh, who was delighted with how well the festival went. She said: "I could not have asked for anything more from the students. All the students, from both year groups, really got involved to make it a really enjoyable experience.

"I would also like to thank all those who came in to help. Everyone from writers, Playhouse staff and ex-students all helped make tonight's event possible."

Tonight's performances start at 6.30pm in the Prep Hall.



News in brief

A selection of work from the Year 7 and 8 Shakespeare festival will take place at 6.30pm tonight in the Prep Hall (see above for details). Year 7 and 8 students will travel to Manchester on Wednesday for a matinee performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Summer term finishes at 12pm for students on Thursday. As usual, brunch will be served during break and those requiring lunch as well should inform Form Tutors by Wednesday.



Historic Warwick is a joy for Year 7



Courtrooms, dungeons and the plague were just some of what our Year 7 students experienced on a recent trip.

But fear not, a good time was had by all as the students enjoyed the annual History trip to Warwick.

Among those who accompanied the students was History's Miss Court, she said: "Most of the students went to the castle dungeon, where they got to live through the medieval experience of the plague and take part in a courtroom scene.

"There is a new room, called Witches of Warwick, that Olivia Sansbury (7D) described as 'dead scary', but Frank Maguire (7D) said was 'hilarious'."

Other attractions included, the birds of prey display, Guy's Tower - 538 steps up a spiral staircase - and The Kingmaker, where students could try on armour and helmets.

Miss Court added: "The state rooms had a special Jubilee theme and displayed dresses worn by the Queen. Some students went on a Ghost Tour and visited a memorial to soldiers in Afghanistan.

"Lunch was taken by the river and we had the opportunity to visit the birds of prey sanctuary, while others visited the peacock garden. All the students really enjoyed it, with Ella Ferguson (7D) describing the day as 'brilliant'."

Super reviewer is a Super Reads winner

Congratulations to Sophie Robertson (8E) whose review of a new children's novel won her first prize at the Sefton Super Reads.

The Super Reads judges nominated Sophie's critique of Paula Rawsthorne's, *The Truth About Celia Frost*, for the award at the annual ceremony, which took place at Crosby Civic Hall on July 5.

The event, attended by members of the Lower Site Reading Group and a number of Year 9 students, recognises the best new children's novel as voted for by Super Reads readers.

Among those in attendance was English teacher Mrs Weekes, who said: "This year's shortlist contained some fascinating and gritty reads by the likes of Patrick Ness, Andy Briggs and Paula Rawsthorne.

"Our students had voted for Paula's book as their favourite, so when it was announced that her book had won, our students were thrilled."

Paula delightedly accepted the trophy, designed and made by our own technician Mr Simpkins.

Mrs Weekes added: "The icing on the cake came when it was announced Sophie (pictured below, with writer Paula Rawsthorne) had won a prize for her review of the winning novel."

It was also a special night for retiring College Librarian, Christine Donegan. Christine (pictured above, second right) was honoured at the start of the presentation with a bouquet of flowers for her work on the Sefton Super Reads scheme.

