

Heartbeat



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Issue 12

Young scientists enjoy lectures from world's best



Time travel, how zebras get their stripes and what the planets do for us, were just some of the topics ten of our young scientists learned about at last week's Science Live lectures in Manchester.

Accompanying the students was Science's Miss Niescier. Here is her account of the trip.

On Monday, 25th November, I met ten Year 10 pupils at Lime Street Station to travel to Manchester for the GCSE Science Live event at the Bridgewater Hall. The day consisted of a number of lectures by leading Scientists from a range of different Science areas.

These included, Professor Lord Robert Winston (pictured, inset), famous for his work in fertility and a frequent communi-

cator of Science on television, Physicist and Chemical Engineer, Dr Maggie Alderin-Pocock, Inorganic Chemist, Professor Andrea Sella, Development Psychologist, Professor Bruce Hood and awe-inspiring Physicist, Professor Jim Al-Khalili.

The latter discussed the issue of time travel and whether it is possible using Physics theory, while Dr Alderin-Pocock discussed what the planets do for us.

Elsewhere, Prof. Sella explained how the zebra got its distinctive stripes, while Prof. Hood delved into the minds of the audience and discussed how sophisticated the brain is.

Also giving a lecture was Chief GCSE examiner Stewart Chenery who gave valuable advice to the pupils on how best to

prepare for their examinations, how to use the exam paper to the students' advantage and gave them a deeper understanding of what GCSE examiners are looking for on the exam papers.

Each Scientist gave information on a wide and varied area of Science but the closing message from each was that the future of Science was right in front of them in the Hall and each individual person could do something amazing in the world of Science in the future, whichever area they are interested in.

As always, it was a pleasure to accompany our students due to their impeccable conduct. Their keen interest was obvious when discussing what we had seen on the train journey home.

Drama students treated to workshop from top actor

Our Sixth Form Drama students got to tread the boards with star of stage and screen, Ian Redford, last month.

Having recently finished performing in the Royal Shakespeare Company's productions of *Candide* and *A Mad World, My Masters*, in Stratford-upon-Avon's Swan Theatre, Mr Redford visited the College to share his expertise with the students.

The Year 12 students spent the morning focusing on the work of theatre director, Max Stafford-Clarke, who Mr Redford has worked with many times.

The afternoon saw the Year 13 students being put through their paces by working on the Commedia-dell-arte theatre style, which included performing in clown noses and a range of grotesque Commedia masks.

The sessions were greatly appreciated by the students. Stephanie Mills (13C) said: "It was really great to work with Mr Redford again. It is a really comfortable environment which allows us to perform with ease and widen our skills."

Sarah McEvoy (13D) added: "It was a highly energetic and enjoyable afternoon which taught us a lot of new things."



Meanwhile, Chelsea Butchard (13C) commented on how the techniques learned came to life when put into practice, she said: "When we wore the masks it really changed how we moved and helped us become different characters." As well as his theatre work, Mr Redford has also appeared in many television programmes, including *Coronation Street*, *Only Fools and Horses* and *Casualty*.

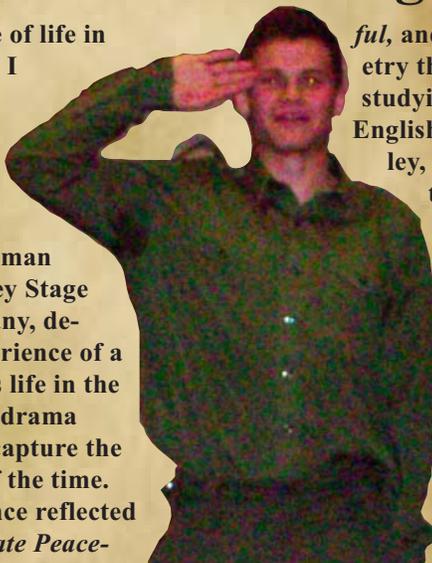
News in brief

Controlled Speaking Tests for Year 11 students take place today.

On Friday from 9am, representatives from Barclays Bank will deliver a talk on ICT for Year 13 students. At 1.30pm, a French theatre group will perform at Lower Site for Year 7.

Trench warfare brought to life at Lower Site

The experience of life in the World War I trenches was brought alive for students at Lower Site recently. *Over The Top*, a one man show by the Key Stage Theatre company, depicted the experience of a young soldier's life in the trenches using drama and poetry to capture the true horrors of the time. The performance reflected the novel, *Private Peace-*



ful, and the World War 1 poetry the students will be studying during Year 8.

English teacher, Mrs Mawdsley, said: "It was really interesting to see another perspective on life in the trenches. The students asked lots of questions after the performance and discussed the character's life.

"It was also an excellent way to engage the students with a true experience."

