

FROM THE PARENTS' ARTS SOCIETY

Winter Newsletter 2011

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Dear Parents and Friends

We are looking forward to welcoming you to another very full Lent Term programme. We have some excellent speakers: Tom Winnifrith OT will be talking about "Jane Eyre" and "Wuthering Heights" at a time of renewed interest in the Brontë sisters, and the sculptor Steve Dilworth, from whom the school commissioned a sculpture, will be speaking about his work. We have tickets to a special lecture at the Royal Geographical Society with Alistair Fothergill, producer of "The Frozen Planet", and Anthony Seldon will be back to tell us about Gordon Brown and David Cameron, as well as previewing his latest book on "Happiness".

We have a record number of five evening classes: the Italian classes will continue with Maria Schofield, there will be jewellery-making with Julie Tucker-Williams, and John Taylor has agreed to run a series entitled "Learning Classical Greek". Public interest in the ancient world is at an unprecedented high, and many of you will be coming with us on the expedition John is leading to Greece. Julia Russell is running some Pilates classes for anyone who wants to get into training, and we have organised a beekeeping course in time for you to start to produce honey in the summer. There are theatre trips to see "Jerusalem" at the Apollo Theatre, and "She Stoops to Conquer" and "The Comedy of Errors" (starring Lenny Henry) at the National. We are going to the ballet at the Royal Opera House: "Romeo and Juliet", while "Singin' in the Rain" promises to be a wonderful evening of exuberant and high-spirited song and dance. We also have tickets for "Death and the Maiden", "The Lion in Winter" – starring Robert Lindsay and Joanna Lumley - "Richard II", and "One Man, Two Guvnors", starring James Corden.

In addition, we have a large number of trips. There is a walking tour of theatreland from Covent Garden to Leicester Square, we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Dickens with a visit to a major exhibition at the Museum of London, and we will return to the BBC TV Centre for a final visit before they move north. Carnaby Street also features, as does a private tour of Banqueting House, the first building to be completed in the neo-classical style. We have expeditions to Temple Place, the London Metal Exchange and Margate to see the Turner Contemporary Gallery, and there is a tour of Roman London: while for those who would like something more local we have a walk through the Kent countryside, starting and finishing at Ightham Mote.

There is an Allan Bunney organ concert, with a programme of majestic, heroic and romantic music, the School Symphony Orchestra will be playing Tchaikovsky, and we have tickets for the Royal Festival Hall where our Director of Music is conducting Elgar. On the artistic front there is an exhibition of Chinese art in the Tunnel Gallery to celebrate the Chinese New Year, and Frank Woodgate will be guiding us around the Picasso exhibition at Tate Britain.

Finally, we have another trip to the site of the 2012 Olympics to see how preparations are going, and a visit to the Old Operating Theatre, close to where the original St Thomas's Hospital was built. This will be followed by "King Cholera Walk", trailing the rich and colourful medical history of the London Bridge area. Application forms will be posted on the website, from where you will be able to download them, and **the site will go live at midday on Friday 16 December.**

Have a lovely Christmas, and we very much look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

With best wishes

David Tennant