



Twelfth Night

On Monday evening (31st October) I went to Greenwich Theatre to see students from Years 8 to 11 perform Twelfth Night as part of the National Shakespeare Schools Festival and like the rest of the audience I thoroughly enjoyed the performance. This abridged production set a new high standard in this competition and I do not think many adult amateur companies could have performed the play better.

The delivery and production of this play fitted the professional arena we were in; we even took our own lighting crew to ensure every aspect of production was ours. The play was so good that the audience were focused on the story being played before them rather than the fact that these actors were students. There were outstanding individual performances on show, both subtle and engaging, while the whole troupe worked together to make sure that the show was spectacular in terms of stagecraft. There was always something going on to keep the complex story flowing in an easy way. There were tremendous comic moments and several captivating innovations like the presentation of Feste by 8 students played simultaneously and harmoniously!

Lydia Lewison from the Shakespeare for Schools Festival said of our performance: "What a fantastic show you put on - I was so impressed. Your ensemble work was some of the best I have seen. They were such a tight company, every single line and cue was on point, and the whole piece had a fantastic pace that kept the energy going throughout. It is an extraordinary thing you do to enable a group of young people to perform Shakespeare on a professional stage in a prestigious theatre like Greenwich, and I am in awe of what teachers, who are already so busy, achieve in the Festival. I hope the confidence and all the other benefits your young

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 9th November ~ Year 8 Parents' Evening

Monday 21st November ~ UCAS application deadline

Friday 25th November ~ PA Bollywood Dinner/Dance

actors gained will stay with them for a long time."

I loved the evening and was very proud of the students involved and the staff who supported and led them. So, my thanks go to Mr Otley, Miss Palmer, Miss Woodcock, Miss Bartlett, Mrs Mitten and all the families of our students who attended while my heartiest congratulations go to all of the students involved.

You will get your chance to see this clever production when it is performed at school on the 1st and 2nd December. I recommend that you buy your tickets quickly to ensure getting a good seat, it will be worth it.

Mr Welsh

Photos from the production can be found on the website: Gallery – Events – Twelfth Night

House Drama 2011

This year's House Drama event was a sparkling testament to the hard work put in by all the House Captains, with each House turning in a performance of great quality. Collins House defied the odds and stole the show, winning the competition with a daring original piece satirising the Olympic Bid with razor sharp wit. Johnson's 'Alice in Essex', wonderfully parodied the popular TV Show. Kirkman's brilliantly adapted version of Sondheim's 'Into the Woods' (complete with papier mache cow!) continued to impress the judges. Mabbs' piece 'Beauty is a Beast' kept the laughs rolling. Prothero's version of Shrek entertained us all, and Wellman's twist on the Wizard of Oz rounded off an enjoyable day for all. Well done everyone!

Matt Arnott, 13CP, Collins Senior House Captain

Photos from the productions can be found on the website: Gallery – Events – House Drama



Year 11 Work Experience

During the week before half term, Year 11 completed their work experience. The placements varied from office work to outdoor activities. They all gained a lot of experience and speaking to most students there was a definite buzz surrounding their experiences, stating they had gained a lot from their placement. Interesting placements included students experiencing the trading offices in major banks and financial institutions, placements at the House of Commons, theatres, and charity organisations. I was very impressed that all students secured placements and the feedback from employers was excellent. Thank you to Mrs Aspill who formalised all of the placements as well as Mrs Longman. *Mrs Pearman, Director of Studies Year 11*

Charity News

Our next non-uniform day is scheduled to coincide with the BBC's Children in Need appeal on Friday 18th November. We too shall be collecting £1 from every student for wearing non-school clothes for the day, and donating the money to groups supporting children in need. As before, the money will be split between different causes and charities and the Student Council will be promoting these around school in the next couple of weeks.

The charities are: BBC's Children in Need: www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey, UNICEF: www.unicef.org.uk, NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk and BGS Carers - the latter is being arranged by Mrs Haslam and the SEAN team to support students and young people who are carers for other members of their families at home.

Voting sheets and collection forms will be with form tutors soon. If any parents, guardians or staff would like to make an additional donation to any of these charities, please feel free to put it in an envelope, and give it to the finance office in school, with the name of the charity clearly stated on the front, and this will be sent with our donations at the end of November. *Mr Harris*

Good luck to Joseph Thompson-Oubari, Year 13, who is to stage a series of performances to raise money for a variety of charities. Joseph is a member of the London based West End Kids.

Joseph will be at the Ideal Home Christmas Show at Earls Court on 17th November. He will join the casts of the West End hits, Jersey Boys and Million Dollar Quartet in supporting The Soldiers' Charity which gives support to serving and retired soldiers and their families. He will also be performing for NSPCC at the Savoy Hotel, CLIC Sargent at the Royal Albert Hall and the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People at Guildford Cathedral.

Merits

Well done to Mobolaji Kuti 7SMA on reaching 50 merits this half term.

A fantastic effort that shows a lot of hard work. *Mr Pullen*

BGSPA AGM

Appointment of new officers

BGSPA held its annual general meeting on 13th October and all serving officers stood down, including Mandy Goode, who had completed three years as treasurer. Her dedication, enthusiasm and fantastic fundraising ideas are greatly appreciated. Many thanks also to Mohamed Yongawo for stepping forward as deputy secretary last year despite a busy work schedule. Our talented and highly committed chair Martha Gowans stood down after three very busy years. We're delighted that she put her name forward for vice chair this time round.

Following the nomination process, the following officers were elected to serve the PA in 2011/12: Chair: Carole Walker; vice chair: Martha Gowans; treasurer: Wendy Milliams; secretary: Ann McGauran; deputy secretary: Sanj Boatswain. Thank you to all who came along to the AGM or sent their apologies.

Student Safety

Please do not drop students off in front of the school in the morning and please do not use our car parks for the same.

This creates considerable danger which can easily be avoided by dropping students off around the corner or beyond the width restrictions. *Thank you*

Morrisons have now finished handing out their gardening vouchers so if you could check your bags, pockets, cars and other hiding places for any stray ones you may have and send them in as soon as possible we would be very grateful. *Thank you. Science Technicians*