

Sydenham  
School's  
Magazine  
May 2015

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## We Win Debate Mate

Sydenham girls are  
rebuttle warriors

## Jobs for the Girls

Year 10 impress in their interviews  
for Employability Day

## We Win the Book Quiz

Sydenham girls are Book Bosses

# Worth one's salt

On the 12th May, four year eight students from Sydenham School competed in the annual Salters' Festival of Chemistry at the London

that were not familiar to them, to put together evidence to prove who killed a victim who worked in a limestone mine. The main prize was a set of



Molymod model making kits that will be put to good use during chemistry lessons. Before prize giving students were also lectured to by Dr. Jasmine Pradissitto who spoke of the link between Physics and Art, Dr. Pradassitto

South Bank University. It was a very hands on day where students competed in two competitions with students from 16 other schools from the South of London and Kent.



made an excellent impression on the students and she really encouraged them to 'think outside the box' when it comes to creativity and the sciences. It was a great

The first activity was for students to carry out a number of tests and practicals, using techniques

day and we are very proud of the wonderful effort of the girls who took part!

Images with thanks to London South Bank University

# Debate Mate Champions !!!



## Sydenham Girls walk away with London Championship of Debate Mate

Don't think you're winning a conversation with any Sydenham girl anytime soon. Our debate team had great success in winning the Deutsch Bank Debate Mate Cup regional finals. This adds to our record of success, which includes

taking part in two national finals held in central London locations such as the House of Lords in the coming months. Upon competition of our third debate, centred around the controversial motion "This house would ban all non-

proposition team for the motion "this house would arm all British police with guns". Despite the teams initial worries with the motion in prep time – mainly due to the fact that we wholeheartedly disagreed with it, we walked onto the stage, confident in our abilities as debaters to succeed.



The Sydenham B Team. Abigail Huruy, Amy Gibbs, Phoebe Butler and Zohra Iqbal

previous victories at the Credit Suisse Novice Cup and our recent winning streak in the Artemis Urban Debate league has placed us in the National finals – were we are currently ranked number 8 in the league. This means that we will be

essential plastic surgery" the finalists were announced and we were delighted to find that the Sydenham B team would be speaking at the final. In the final against City of London Academy Islington, Sydenham B team drew



## Whats on this term

- 1-12th June  
Yr 7, 8, 9 & 10  
End of year exams
- 10th -12th June  
New building open  
hour for parents  
3.30-4.30

23rd June  
Parent Forum 5

6th– 8th July  
School production of  
The Lion, The Witch  
and The Wardrobe

Got a suggestion for a story? Tweet us  
**@SydenhamSchool**

# Book Quiz winners 2015

**Know your Baggins from your Heeps? maybe you could give our Sydenham Book quiz Winners a run for their Galleon's**

To add to our month of winning, four Year 8 girls recently came out in front of 22 rival teams from seven local schools in the Lewisham Book Quiz. It was a case of maintaining a series of triumphs stretching back five years. Meanwhile, the success of the Year 9 and 10 girls in the London-wide regional final of the Deutsche Bank Debate Mate Cup held at the London School of Economics was a first for the Dartmouth Road School; the culmination of over six-months of after-school debating practice, and a passport now to national finals later in the summer term.

"I suppose there was a bit of extra pressure on the Sydenham Book Quiz teams to do well again this year," said Pia Houghton-Budd (13), "but once the questions began we really focused and had fun. We worked well as a team because we all have pretty varied reading tastes and so could help each other in every round." Among the challenges they faced were rounds on mythology,

science-fiction, the opening lines of classic novels, and a picture round where they were asked to identify books from details taken from their covers. "We were very strong on fantasy stories," added Saoirse Spy (13), "and even managed to correct one of the answers about The Lord of the Rings. The only sad thing is that this is the last time we can take part – it is only open to Year 7 and 8 students from Lewisham schools."

"I am very proud of the girls – they did terrifically well scoring 72 out of a possible 80 points and displaying a familiarity with some really quite exceptionally demanding literature," said Diana



Adams  
Sydenham School Learning Resource Centre Manager. "We do absolutely nothing to help the students - it is entirely down to the fact that they read a lot that their book knowledge is so good."

## Former student wows westend crowds

Its not just current Sydenham students scooping up gongs. Congratulatory to former student Katie Brayben won a prestigious Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical last month. Katie studied here from Year 7 till leaving at the end of Year 13 in 2000 to go to Rose Bruford College. Since then Katie has pursued a career in

the performing arts until recently taking on the lead role in the hit west end show 'Beautiful' about performer Carole King. We were so incredibly proud to learn that she had been nominated for the award and even more thrilled to watch her win the award on TV in April.



# POETOPIA

In Poetopia students must choose their faction and write a poem based on that faction's rules. Use the QR code at the bottom of the page with your smart phone or find more information at [youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/poetopia](http://youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/poetopia)



## Little Miss Perfect"

Little miss perfect  
There is no-one I hate more  
Thinks she is terrible at everything, for sure  
Little miss perfect  
Thinks she is so funny  
Rolling in ALL of her money  
Little miss perfect  
Has everyone sold  
Living in her perfect little world  
Little miss perfect  
Thinks she is so bad  
She gets all A's and then acts all sad  
Little miss perfect  
Such a hypocrite  
Constantly feeling like she doesn't fit  
Little miss perfect  
Always humble-bragging  
Left all her so called friends like me behind  
lagging  
Little miss perfect  
My hatred for her.

By Mya Onwugbonu 9H for Temperantia

## Procrastination

Great, another hour gone  
I tried to start but I just can't get on.  
My brain is in such a fuzzled state.  
I just can't remember history dates.  
Algebra homework, geography too.  
I can't even think of two plus two  
I've been sitting here for two hours now,  
with my legs crossed and my face stuck in  
a frown.  
I just can't do it.  
I can't begin.  
I say to myself, tears running down to my  
chin.  
It's sunday evening and I'm lying on my  
bed with my hands clasped around my  
head.  
No I can do this  
I need to start.  
I'm alright at maths,  
it can't be that hard  
There I've done it,  
everything's OK.  
I don't know what I was worrying about,  
it was only one page.

By Pearl Hodgkinson 7h for Industria

## Love, Anonymous

My daisy in the dust,  
My ruby in the ruins,  
Tugging on my heart strings,  
Touch light as cupid in flight,  
My night and my day,  
The woes of the past have fled,  
Leaving their tender places vacant,  
And in its body grows a passion so deep I  
have to fight,  
Wrestle with affection to keep my love a  
deathly secret,  
Through sickness and anger, till death do me  
part,  
Watching you, watching me,  
Every dawn and every dusk,  
100 nights awake, dreaming,  
You mock me with your presence,  
Not knowing but still believing in the  
recognition of but 3 words  
spoken,  
A rose blooming, fuelled by a breath-taking  
temptation,  
The cause of my heart to break,  
it grows more passionate by the hour,  
An enraging storm becoming harder to  
contain,  
A thriving love in the murkest but purest place  
in my heart,  
My nightmare and my summer night  
delusions,  
Midnight slumber and a gay daydream,  
Not daring to name it by the word of love,  
acquaintance or friend,  
There's nothing to stop me yet nothing to free  
me,  
I keep my love anonymous, I keep my heart  
at bay,  
All for you, and all for me,  
But you'll always be the light in my day.

By Abby Reyes 7S for Benevolentia

## Hate Politics

How should we worry  
About the  
Ticks we can not give? You make it so  
Easy to hate  
**POLITICS**

By Lara Podmore 7A for Temperantia



# You're Hired!



This term year 10 had their employability day. A day of learning about their up coming work experience and the further job market, culminating in their mock interviews

Employability day is an exciting day at Sydenham. With work experience fortnight only a month away Year 10 to take the chance to reflect on what might be required of them and how best to make and maintain a good impression in the workplace could not have been more welcome or relevant.

Head teacher Ms Unsted thanked the 35 visiting representatives of national and local businesses and services who had agreed to give up an afternoon to interview every Year 10 girl: "Today the girls get a crucial life-lesson: that all the work and effort they put into their studies and school life has a purpose when it comes to getting jobs and making a success of them." She asked that they be as honest as possible in their immediate feedback to the girls about their demeanour and dress. "Your comments will carry extra weight as it is coming from people outside school." In addition to giving the girls

advice, each interviewer was asked to decide which one girl among their contingent they would notionally want 'to hire.' 'Hired' students



confident. At this stage of their lives, when they inevitably can't show a significant track-record of experiences, ensuring they give a good sense of their personalities is essential." Her views were echoed by Lewisham Neighbourhood Safety Officer Selvin Reid, "the girls that have impressed me the most are those with clear ideas of what they want to do without being too

inflexible. Having such plans means all their studies have a purpose to them." On the other side of the table were students like Wren Patrick (15): "Although time was short it was important to think a bit about the questions before answering." The day was also a positive experience for Tarisai Muzeya (15) from Forest Hill: "I think it was great having this chance – it was encouraging: a boost before work experience and next year's exams."

will receive recognition in a celebration assembly later this term and all students get a certificate and detailed feedback.

"I have been impressed," said Bianca Tia Mesuria of the construction and consultancy company Lakehouse. "The best of the girls have come across as friendly but not over-

"Our most recent Ofsted report praised the success we have in extending students' learning and widening their horizons and raising their aspirations," added Carolyn Unsted. "The Employability Day is just one of the means by which we prepare students for the world beyond school and help them hone their interview skills."

