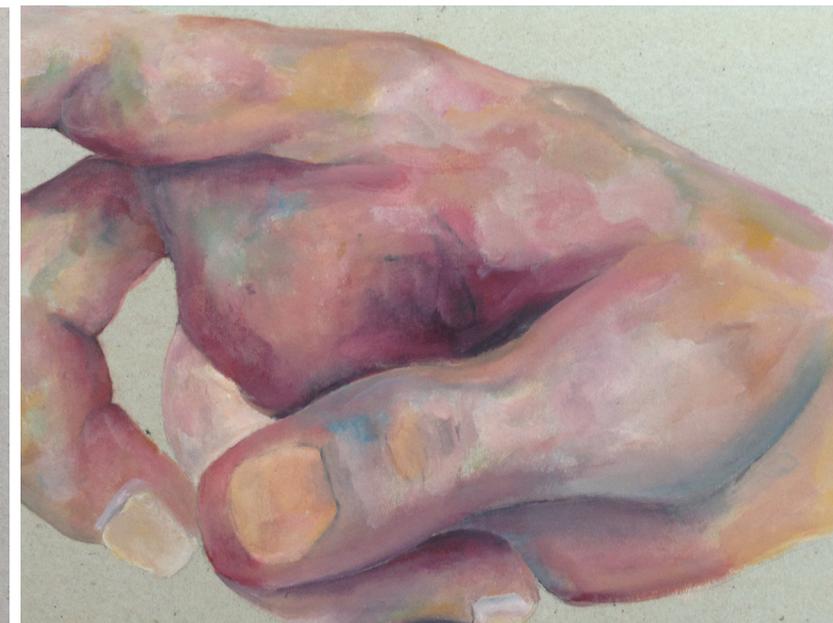
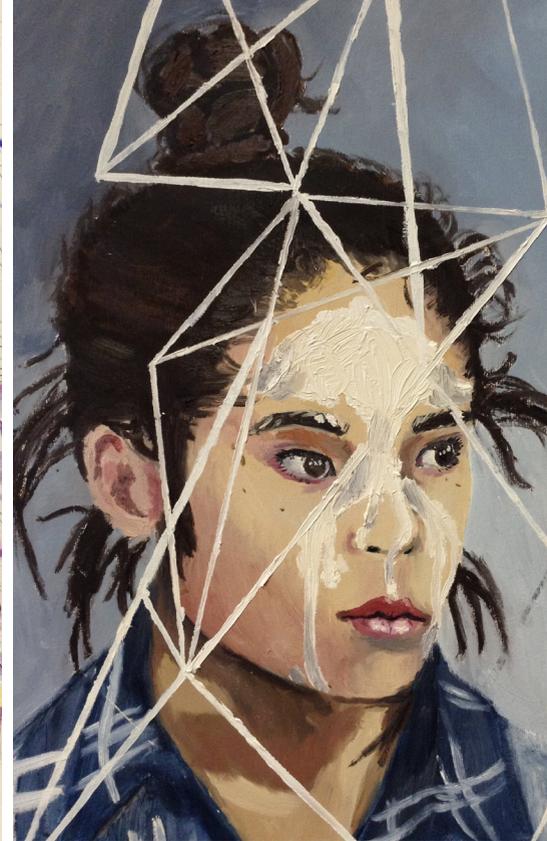


High Arts

2017/2018



Welcome



'We need people who think with the creative side of their brains—people who have played in a band, who have painted... it enhances symbiotic thinking capabilities, not always thinking in the same paradigm.'

This endorsement of the Arts in education comes from a perhaps unexpected source. Not from a luminary in the Arts – a painter, say, or a musician. It comes from Annette Byrd, a business consultant and until recently a senior manager with GlaxoSmithKline.

At a time when the Creative and Performing Arts in schools are nationally in rapid decline, it is a particular source of pride and satisfaction to me to present to you this showcase of the varied and high-quality work done by girls and colleagues at the High School. This year has actually brought an expansion of our Arts programme, with our annual Arts festival being extended from a one-day to a four-day event. In this way, we mark our 140th Birthday by focusing on an area of school life that has an enormous positive impact on the lives of our students and that helps to shape the School as the exciting centre of broad educational excellence it is today.

Our ambition for our girls knows no bounds and this means there is no limit to what they can achieve, under the guiding hand of our inspiring faculty staff. From Year 1's Mondrian collage work to the award-winning films produced by Amelia Simpson with a range of collaborators, we celebrate the marriage of technical acumen and self-expression every day of the year in some shape or form.

This year, 14% of our leavers are preparing to study creative subjects at university, the largest number in recent years.

In doing so, they will not only follow their dream but will also be building up the thinking capabilities that the world of work will be looking for in the years ahead.

Dr Stringer, Headmistress

As we prepare for our special 140th Birthday Arts Festival, it is striking to see that in every area of the Creative and Performing Arts, girls from across the School have, once again, created exciting and original work. The department looks incredibly vibrant and we look forward to showcasing our girls' talents.

Our actors and musicians have excelled in all year groups, both in lessons and through a range of exciting performances this academic year.

The Sound of Music production promises to be a fantastic culmination of the hard work and commitment of girls and staff have shown throughout the months of preparation

In Food, it has been a pleasure to visit our young chefs in U3 Food lessons preparing to make their scones, and I know their results were delicious! Miss Knight is always on hand to deliver skilful advice.

We are proud to broaden the age range of films in the cinema for this year's Arts Festival, thanks to the work of our budding Year 6 filmmakers, who, with Ms Heimfeld's expert guidance, have learned new skills

The choices of materials and techniques selected by the girls in Art have, as always, been adventurous and thought provoking; always a pleasure to see

Our Sixth Form girls in Art and Fashion & Textiles have built on the previous successes enjoyed at the University of Northampton Schools Art Competition, with an impressive three winning entries this year from Rosie Kelly, Charlotte Dykes and Zahra al Najjar

Short stories and poetry written by girls are also external competition winners, proving that unique personal expression and creativity are alive and thriving throughout the School



We hope you enjoy the Festival and enjoy the range and breadth of creativity on show.

Mrs Beacroft, Head of Creative Arts Faculty

Music

This has been a very busy year for the Northampton High School music department. We held an evening recital in April featuring the year-group winners from our Young Musician of the Year competition, which took place in February. The evening featured piano, woodwind, strings and vocal performers producing excellent renditions of mainly Classical music, with some musical theatre thrown in for good measure. The winners of the competition went on to Howell's School in Cardiff, where they represented the school in the wider GDST Young Musician contest.

We have been fervently rehearsing the musical repertoire for the forthcoming production of 'The Sound of Music' with the school orchestra and choir. The musical will be staged at the end of June and promises to be outstanding.

ABRSM examinations results have gone from strength to strength, as the school remains an excellent centre for the smooth and professional running of the examinations.

Our Christmas Concert was very well-attended and featured a wide selection of repertoire, ranging from Haydn to Ed Sheeran, and with many experienced and also younger performers taking part.

The music department now runs a regular performance schedule, which provides music at the beginning of school assemblies. This has proved to be an excellent initiative and many students have had the benefit of performing to an audience through this medium. The performance schedule also features music assemblies where the whole time slot becomes a mini-concert. These also have been highly successful, featuring talented and versatile performers.

We are working towards our 140th Anniversary concert which will be held in All Saints' church in Northampton in December. We will be joined by seasoned professionals and the concert is set to be a great evening of music-making.

The music department is undergoing significant refurbishment during the Summer break, including IT upgrades, piano replacement and a major facelift of the practice rooms. Student have been heavily involved in the planning of this project and the refurbishments will augment the quality of the department and the musical community.

Mr Nathan, Director of Music



Music (Junior School)

It has been another busy and successful year for Music in the Junior School. In October, girls from Years 2 to 5 took part in an Indian drumming day. The School was filled with the sounds of lively and exciting rhythms and the younger girls also had the opportunity to create a piece of Indian textiles.

Year 5 composed their own carols for the House competition. The carols were of a very high standard this year and Artemis and Demeter were the worthy joint winners.

There were three Christmas productions this year. Nursery and Reception gave a performance of 'A King is Born', Years 1 and 2 presented 'The Landlord's Cat' and Years 3 and 4 led the Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert with 'Witnesses' - supported by carols sung by Years 5 and 6.

In March, the Orchestra visited Collingtree Care Home and played for the residents.

This Summer term has started with a concert, 'Out of this World' featuring all our Junior extra-curricular music groups. We run three choirs, an orchestra, string group, jazz band, flute choir, guitar ensemble and a piano club. All the concert items were rehearsed in the girls' own time and we are very lucky to have the support of our Senior School girls who have run three of the groups this year.

The termly concerts for girls taking music exams continue to be popular events with girls having the opportunity to perform one of their pieces in an informal setting.

Following on from last year's production of 'The Tempest' the Year 5 and 6 girls staged a triumph with 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

Mrs Miller, Music Teacher



Fashion & Textiles

This year, Fashion and Textiles has taken a new direction. The subject is now no longer part of Design and Technology but has taken a more creative route and is taught as 'Textile Design' at GCSE and A Level. What does this mean for our girls? The new route offers more flexibility within the subject, and enables the girls to explore fashion and textiles creatively with a view to building a portfolio of work, which is suitable for progression routes and university courses within the multi-faceted fashion and textile industry. New GCSE courses began this year with a project titled 'Fabulous Florals'. Within this project, girls were introduced to many of experimental creative textiles techniques and created exquisite samples, which could be developed into a range of textiles outcomes. The L5 students have since embarked on an extended portfolio project titled 'A Cultural Journey'. This began with a visit to the V&A Museum in London where the girls explored the Fashion Gallery, visited the Balenciaga exhibition and explored a range of cultures through art, design and textiles. Students have all identified a culture to take forward as inspiration for their extended project.

New A Level courses also began this year with 6.1 girls receiving an introduction to screen printing and digital printing. Students have explored contextual sources, either through art and fashion history or contemporary fashion and textiles designers and artists who inspire their work.

The girls have also taken part in a competition brief for 'Wool 4 Schools' where they were required to explore fashion design through creating an outfit for a musician of their choice. The current GCSE and A Level students, U5 and 6.2, have created a varied range of inspiring fashion outcomes for their coursework projects which explore varied themes; from Japanese Street Style and costumes for 'Great Expectations' to an updated version of Christian Dior's New Look.

This year two of our A Level students have chosen to go on to study Fashion and Textiles at university and have both built successful individual portfolios for interview. We are continuing to inspire girls to consider Fashion and Textiles courses as a viable university option and as a stepping stone into employment within creative industries. This is underpinned by an annual visit to Graduate Fashion Week in London in June, where girls are able to visit live Graduate shows, view portfolios and meet students, graduates and lecturers from leading university courses.

U4 have embarked on a competition brief to design and make a product inspired by textiles designer Jennifer Collier. The prize on offer is a workshop from the designer to be held within the winning school. Jennifer Collier's vintage-inspired work in paper and stitch has been used by the girls as a starting point to explore creative textiles techniques and they have been busy creating their own pieces in her style.

With the celebration of our 140th year, the U3 and L4 girls have enjoyed a heritage focus to their projects which have both been rooted in Northampton's footwear design and manufacture industry. L4 have had the opportunity to work in leather to create laptop bags with their own printed linings inspired by the work of Rennie Mackintosh. U3 have been inspired by Spanish Footwear designer Manolo Blahnik to design their own digitally-printed textiles and create a simple shoe bag.

We continue to offer a popular Fashion and Textiles club which provides all girls with the opportunity to drop in and work creatively in the Textiles studio at lunchtime. Girls enjoy exploring new machinery, equipment, techniques, books, magazines, fabrics, and all things textiles during these sessions.

Miss Lycett, Subject Leader Fashion and Textiles



Film Studies

This year Film students have won national competitions, interviewed a feature film director and visited a world-leading special effects company.

In March, AS Film students went to Artem Studios in London, where Paul Gorrie showed us how magical moments in films such as 'Paddington 2', 'Hot Fuzz' and 'Call the Midwife' are made. The exquisite details involved in creating animatronics and prosthetics was inspiring. In the warehouse we marvelled at boxes labelled 'Harry Potter parts' and 'assorted legs'. Paul explained how he created the iconic helicopter crash in 'The Matrix'. We saw how snow, bullet wounds and wind are faked for filming and marvelled at a life-like torso costume. Phoebe Abbott and Ezri Mannion got to try out shattering 'glass' which produced whoops of surprise when the breaking sound was so real, but the material crumbled into safe pieces. Outside was an Inception style rig for filming a spinning room. Offers of work experience and internships at Artem will provide real opportunities for our students to enter the film industry.

Feature film director Harry Michell spoke with students in October, as he was in pre-production for his new film, 'Ilkley', starring Derek Jacobi and Roger Allam. Recently named one of the BFI's Screen Stars of Tomorrow and nominated for Most Promising Newcomer in the British Independent Film Awards, Harry gave tips on getting into the film industry and was particularly encouraging of young women taking senior roles in film direction, writing and cinematography.

Northampton High students will get the chance to write, direct and star in a feature film. Paul Mills, Director of Screen Northants and Lorna Jowett, Northampton University lecturer in Gender and Horror, are helping to plan our all-girls zombie project.

In December, Screen Northants filmed the BSL/ Channel Four television drama 'Reverberations' in school, which gave Amelia Simpson

the chance to shadow the Director and for Leila Shahin to work with the make-up team. Ruth Purser joined the production team for Screen Northants 'Macbeth', filmed in Northampton during the winter.

Experience of working collaboratively is vital, so Film Students are encouraged to enter national competitions. Amelia won first place in the 70/30 campaign for her film promoting the fight to eliminate child abuse. Praised for its strong message and imaginative use of camera movement, a cheque for £500 was presented to Amelia by The Wave Trust at a Showcase at the Errol Flynn Cinema in May. Amelia and Ruth's 'The Leading Lady' won the Royal Shakespeare Company's Film Challenge and they were invited to a panel discussion and showing at the Barbican in November. Their film used quotes from Shakespeare and featured Northampton High students to present a positive view of women working within traditionally male roles. Amelia was selected for the National Youth Film Academy two-week course over Easter. Masterclasses with industry professionals included Gareth Edwards, director of 'Rogue One – A Star Wars Story'.

Working with a full crew and cast, Amelia wrote the script for 'The Killjoys' a short film which is now being pitched for television.

The Northampton High Film competition took the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage as its inspiration, considering how the world would be



different if the Suffragettes had failed to win the vote. The winners engaged with dilemmas facing young women today: Amelia, Ruth and Ezri produced a highly professional but terrifying dystopia 'Her', Katie Maybin's 'What Would Life Be Like?' examined the tragic consequences of extreme gender discrimination and Laura Charles' 'Suffragette Saviours' explored the consequences of altering a key Suffragette event. Extra-curricular opportunities included One Day Film School for the U4 who learned how to capture convincing fight sequences, edit in camera and create original ten shot films. Year 6 were given the chance to experience camera movement in a workshop led by Sixth Form Film students. Riding the dolly was very popular, as was experimentation with high and low angle shots.

Six students took AS Film Studies this year, producing highly original and professional quality coursework. Tess Heaton-Harris and Amelia Simpson will study Film at Exeter and Birmingham universities respectively, while Beth Harris will explore music composition for film at Liverpool.

Ms Heimfeld, Subject Leader Film Studies



Art & Design (Junior School)

The girls in the Junior School have been showing us once again how very creative they are when given a wide range of experiences in which to develop their skills in Art and Design.

Year 1

Creating natural sculptures in the style of Andy Goldsworthy at Forest School.

Collage work inspired by Mondrian; girls used paper to create a large collaborative centre piece and worked on the computers to design smaller pictures.

The girls used woodworking tools and the sewing machine; they made beautiful dolls house rooms.

Year 2

The girls used watercolour paints to create a sky and paper collage to create the sea before adding fabric boats to seascapes.

Drawing portraits in the style of Frida Kahlo and used oil pastels to add colour.

Year 3

Visiting the Herbert Gallery to look at different sculptures, investigate how they were made, what they resembled and the story behind them.

They then focused on portraits and made their own sculpture of a face using the different techniques shown, thinking about facial expressions and moods.

Year 4

Developing colour mixing skills to show mood by using different shades of the same colour in a landscape.

Collaging colourful trees in the style of Hundertwasser.

Sculpting figures inspired by Giacometti.

Year 5

Learning sketching techniques.

'Hapa Zome' leaf bashing prints stitched to wooden frames gathered in the Forest School area.

Picasso style portraits.

Posters in the style of Rennie Mackintosh, which emphasised some of our Northampton High School heritage.

Year 6

In Art, the girls have worked with a wide variety of media including sketching and watercolour to depict native birds, acrylic paint to produce flowers inspired by the artist Georgia O'Keeffe and mixed media to create silver birch trees.

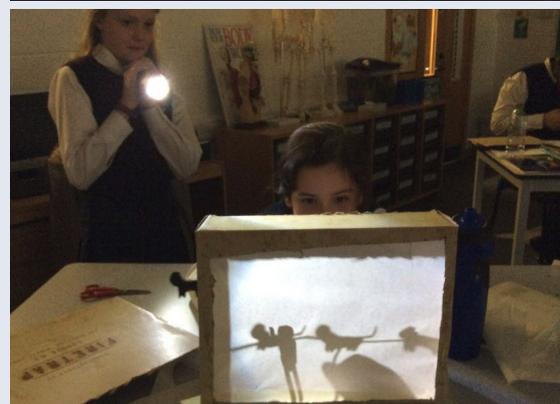
Textile work has centred around the production of individual cushions and once again the range of ideas and standard of finished work has been astounding.

Combining technology with creativity, the girls are in the midst of creating sets for their i-Stop Motion animations.

In early January we visited Milton Keynes Theatre to see 'The Snowman'. Our particular focus for this trip was Stage Craft and the girls worked hard towards producing the set and props for their production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in June. Some of our best Art and Design work occurs when we collaborate across Junior School.

Last year the theme for Arts Festival was Portraits and the girls faces were represented there in many different styles and media were of extremely high quality.

During Christmas Decorations Day the girls worked creatively to produce festive artwork from Nursery up to Year 6 to decorate the entrance hall.



In May we held our Art and Design taster day where the girls experience of the Art curriculum was enriched through the wide variety of activities on offer throughout the school, and opportunities which our visiting girls really enjoyed. And we are now looking forward to some textiles activity days with our visiting art specialist Jane Stock, to round off our creative year.

Mrs Revie, Junior School Teacher

English

English helps us to express our voices and there has been a lot of activity in public speaking, reading and writing this year. Lydia Moseley, Charlotte Morris and Freya Tansley performed in the District Final of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition, while Alex Ghiorghita performed in the GDST Chrystall Prize for public speaking, discussing the impact of social media on young people's mental health.

Engagement with contemporary writers for teenagers has been encouraged via the Carnegie shadowing scheme, whereby interested students read, discuss and vote on the shortlisted novels for the Carnegie Medal; 'The Hate U Give' is emerging as something of a front-runner at NHS, from a strong list including some pretty hard-hitting titles.

Creative writing continues to be a great strength of the High School. Last year saw Ruby Howard win in the Years 7, 8 and 9 category of the GDST creative writing competition with her short story 'Devilish Courage'. Ruby's story explored the theme of courage from the point of view of Malcifer Arch-Angel, a character considering a fall from God's grace and Heaven. It was praised for its unusual imagination, structure and convincing voice. Inspired perhaps by such success, this year we had two more winners in the competition, writing on the theme of 'ambition'. Julia Wardley-Kershaw's 'The Night's Conquest' won the Years 12 and 13 category, with her writing praised for its "strong, lyrical and compelling" nature and "great grasp of language." Georgia Lockey also won with 'A Dark Shadow' for the Years 7, 8 and 9 category, which judge Harriet Goodwin said made her "shiver; quirky, twisty and with a wonderful use of voice."

There was a similar vein with the annual Laurie Magnus poetry competition, which last year returned a 'Commended' for Isabelle Aphilé in the Years 7, 8 and 9 category with her poem 'All the World Dreams.'

An exciting development this year has been the introduction of two different student magazines:

'Platform' published independently by Julia Wardley-Kershaw and 'Backchat' coordinated by an editorial team across all key stages, including Jodie Clare, Kate Jameson, Holly Barry, Jessica Cressey-Jones and Alexandra Daly. Jessica and Alexandra have worked tirelessly on 'Backchat' and have really helped to drive through the second issue which focused on the theme of 'giving'.

Mr Williams, Subject Leader English



Food Preparation and Nutrition

Throughout this year, Food has collaborated with other subjects to enhance learning. This included an U3 French class making pancakes to fit in with their food topic, and a L5 Classics lesson where they produced Roman recipes and then shared their dishes, with mostly positive results! We are looking forward to continuing these cross-curricular links and establishing more with other departments.

The U5 girls have completed the exciting yet challenging Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs). The new specification now requires students to carry out a Food Science investigation and to produce three dishes during a 3-hour practical examination (think MasterChef!). This is a completely fresh take on the subject and the girls have worked hard throughout the year and produced some fantastic dishes during the restricted time limit; they should be really proud of themselves.

In December the L5 and U5 GCSE students attended the BBC Good Food Show in Birmingham - our annual trip. The girls really enjoyed the day and bought some interesting produce including Ilama meat sausages! Nadiya Hussain took to the main stage to demonstrate the classic Queen of Puddings and delighted us with her brilliant sense of humour!

A new competition was introduced this spring in the form of The NHS Easter Bake Off where students from U3, L4, U4 and L5 and members of staff showcased their talent and creativity. The winners from KS3, KS4 and staff categories were Tilly Poole, Imogen Weatherill and Mrs Tansley respectively. Watch out for the Christmas edition!

We entered the Rotary Chef Competition again this year, with Grace Rivers-Lambert, Erin James and Annika Dani from U3, and Tilly Poole from L4 challenging themselves in the Local round. Tilly won this heat and went on to cook in the District Final held in Peterborough where she was one of the youngest in the competition.

Tilly finished in the top five, which is a great achievement! We are excited to try again next year and continue working with Richard from the Rotary Club.

The MasterChef competition went ahead in last year's Summer term and it was so much fun! There were three teams made up of Elena Wilmot and Mrs Wilmot, Priya Lakkappa and Mrs Li-Lakkappa, and Leah Tanna-Shah and Miss Mason.

The winners were mother and daughter duo Mrs Li-Lakkappa and Priya who not only made delicious food but presented it beautifully too. They all did a fantastic job and the standard was extremely high; I am so thankful for all the effort they put in.

I have really enjoyed sharing what the girls have been up to in their Food lessons on Twitter. It is a great platform to inspire and be inspired. I aim to develop how Twitter is used in my classroom and hope to involve the girls more. Make sure you check out our departmental Twitter account @ ArtNHS!

Miss Knight, Subject Leader Food



Theatre

The new academic year began with the Senior Drama Company in rehearsal for a production of 'The Winter's Tale'. To celebrate the company's tenth year, we welcomed guest director, James Gillam who has trained with the Royal Shakespeare Company's education programme, to direct an abridged version retaining the original language. This was performed before October half term with an extract to follow in our annual Awards Evening celebrations held in November.

Also at the start of term, a Creative Arts enrichment day took place where we welcomed Year 6 pupils from neighbouring schools to attend workshops throughout the day which culminated in short performances in the theatre, inspired by Cirque du Soleil's, 'La Nouba'.

In October, the A Level Drama and Theatre Studies candidates presented their devised modern adaptation of 'The Fall of the House of Usher' using Frantic Assembly as their influential practitioner. The Drama Studio was transformed into a gallery style setting and the piece was staged as a promenade performance.

The House Story Telling Competition took place in October which gave the senior House Captains a chance to work with Year 7 on a well-known children's story, which was presented on the stage complete with lights, set, props and costumes. This was an excellent opportunity for the Year 7's to gain in confidence as they take the stage in their own right.

In November, all examined groups were taken to see the National Theatre's touring production of Ibsen's classic play, 'Hedda Gabler' in a new adaptation by Patrick Marber. It was directed by Tony and Olivier award-winning director, Ivo van Hove and starred Lizzie Watts in the title role.

Both L5 and U5 GCSE Drama candidates performed their Component 1 Devised performances based upon a given stimulus. The group performances were interpreted, researched and presented in many styles with themes

ranging from Trapped Miners to Abduction and Terrorism.

December saw the tradition of the House Play Competition. This year the theme was staged adaptations of popular children's films and the following adaptations were on offer to delight and entertain our audience; 'Legally Blonde', 'Mean Girls', 'She's the Man' and 'St. Trinian's'.

In January we journeyed to the West End to see 'Wicked', along with music students and in February, the seniors attended a workshop with the Royal Shakespeare Company to learn stage combat techniques as well as a pre-show talk with the Director and Designer of 'Hamlet', before watching the matinee performance of with Paapa Essiedu in the title role; the first black actor to take the role of Hamlet at the RSC. The piece was staged in the context of a West African state.

L4 attended a workshop with a Forum Theatre Practitioner and were given an opportunity to be involved in a series of sessions using the Augusto Boal method of Forum Theatre practice.

March was a busy time for the examined classes as they presented their Component 2 practical performances in the presence of a visiting examiner from Edexcel. A Level Drama and Theatre Studies students did a short adaptation of 'The Donahue Sister's' by Geraldine Aron and GCSE Drama candidates performed key extracts from hard hitting play, 'Five Kinds of Silence' by Shelagh Stevenson. Both examination cycles were extremely successful, portraying very moving and powerful interpretations of these published plays.

Theatre Department prefects continue to be ambassadors for the department, working with younger years and helping out with productions and clubs. LAMDA classes continue to be a popular extracurricular addition with examination taken at the end of the year.

The final showcase of the year for the Senior Performing Artists, is of course the much loved musical, 'The Sound of Music'.

It has been a pleasure and a joy to work with such talented and dedicated girls. Our Theatre Department motto is, Dream, Believe, Achieve and with the jam packed year of opportunities, it is no wonder our brilliant pupils make this a reality.

Mrs Care, Director of Theatre



Dance

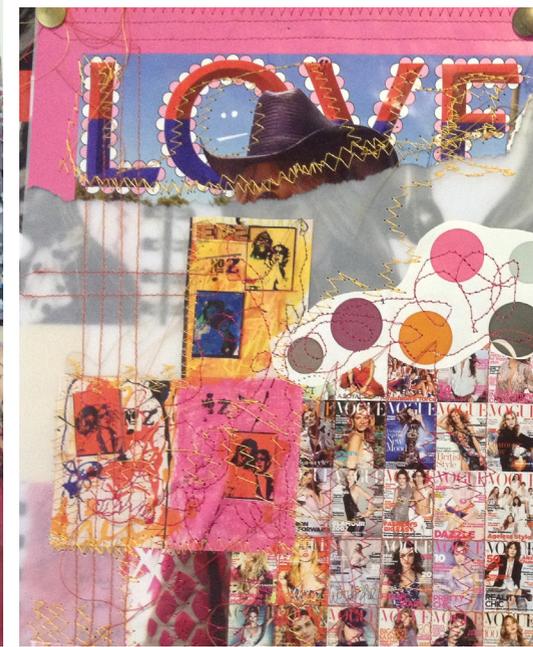
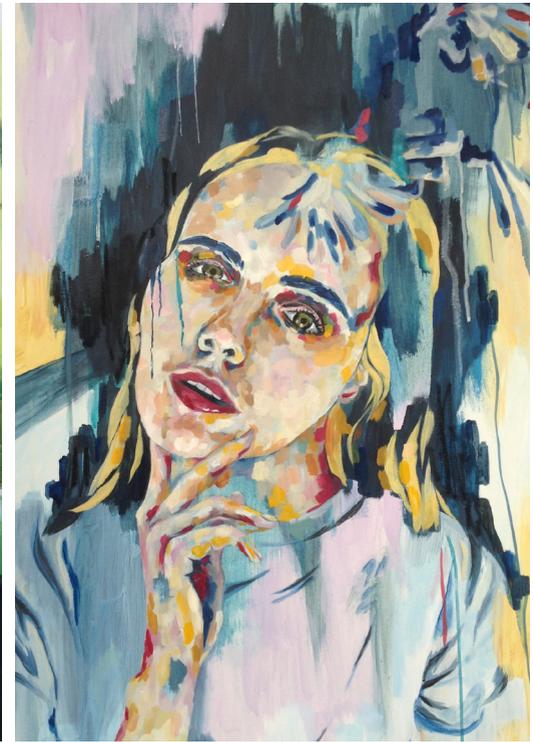
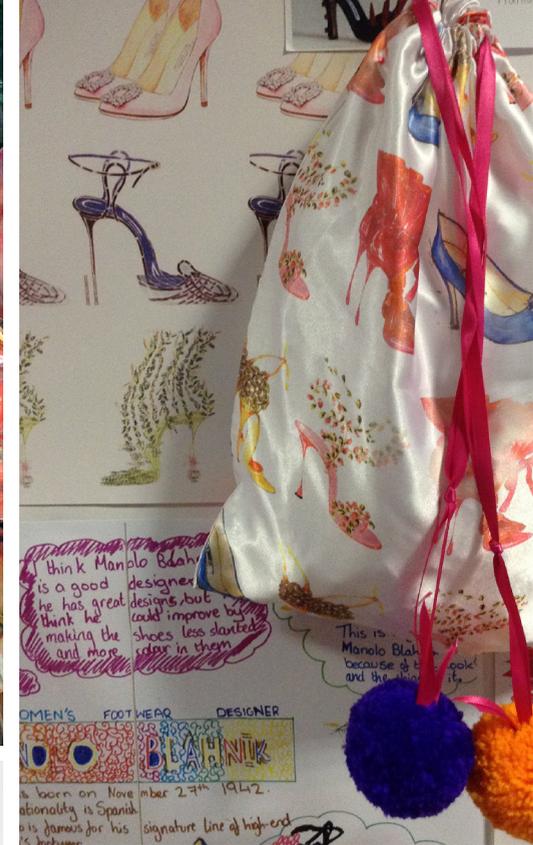
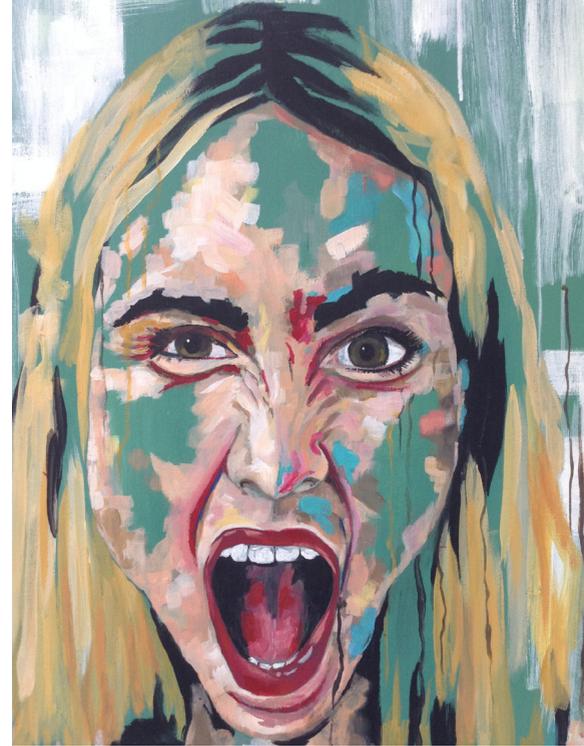
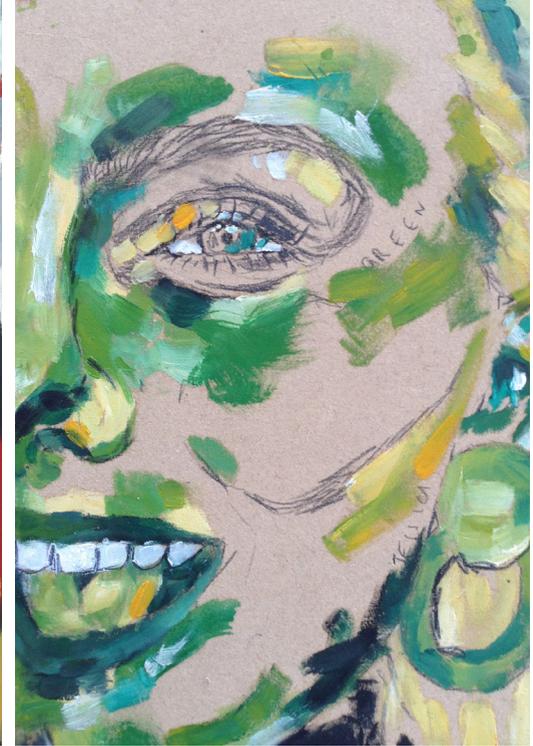
It has been another very successful year for ballet. It is lovely to see the youngest pupils begin to explore the freedom of movement that ballet brings, and also the continued enthusiasm and dedication of the older students.

All girls taking examination this year were successful with many achieving excellent results. Special mention must be made of the two Sixth Formers, Gigi Howard and Sadie Lauder, who both gained Distinction in Grade 8.

On Tuesday 3 July, we look forward to hosting our inaugural Dance and Gym Extravaganza. This event will celebrate the talents of our girls across the school in both Gym and Dance, and we look forward to what promises to be a fantastic event.

Mrs Windsor, Ballet Teacher and Mrs Hackett, Director of Sport





Jennifer's work has been awarded at major design and craft shows, receiving 'Best In Show' at the London Craft Show in 2006 and the BCTF Award for 'Excellence' in 2004.



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GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

We believe in our girls. And they believe in themselves

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