

Year 8 Visit to the Curtain Playhouse Excavation in Shoreditch

On Wednesday 25 May, Year 8 had the unique opportunity to visit a recent archaeological discovery of Shakespeare's Curtain Theatre in Shoreditch. Historical records prove that Shakespeare had performed at the theatre, in the days when Shoreditch consisted mostly of green fields. The students were introduced to Stella and Kelvin from MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) who told them what archaeologists do, what they find and how the further they dig down in the ground the further back in time they are able to study. The archaeology team showed Year 8 different fragments of pottery found on the site, from early mediaeval, Tudor and Victorian times. Amongst the objects found were animal bones, clay pipes, money pots, beer mugs and plates. The students were given the task to clean some of the pottery relics which they had to complete with a tiny toothbrush, they had to think about which era the relics would have come from. It was a challenging task, that involved them looking at the different types of glaze, colour and the quality of the pottery. The students then visited the actual site of the dig and saw the archaeologists at work. They were uncovering the stage of the theatre and it was clear the builders in Shakespeare's time had used animal bones to create the flooring. The students were able to see walls and art work that had covered the audience gallery. There is documentary evidence that William Shakespeare acted at 'The Curtain Theatre' with the Chamberlain's Men, many of his plays were performed at the theatre before he moved to the Globe Theatre South of the river.

The last activity for the students included digging to uncover artefacts using trowels and paintbrushes, once found the broken fragments had to be reassembled and the students had to try to work out what the artefact had once been. It was really tricky, but very exciting, some of the students thought it was like recreating a 3D jigsaw puzzle.

All of Year 8 enjoyed the trip and learned so much about "uncovering history". It put them in touch with the past in a very real way. Some of the dig site will be covered over next month, but a section will remain for permanent viewing by the general public.



A Musical Extravaganza with the Apollo Orchestra

Members of the Apollo Orchestra visited the Year 8 Music classes for three weeks in May 2016. In the first week the brass section visited with musicians playing the trumpet, trombone, French horn and tuba. They showed the students how to make a sound using a length of hose pipe and a funnel. In the second visit the students were introduced to musicians from the woodwind section of the orchestra who played the flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon and several saxophones. The final visit was from the string section and included musicians who played the violin, viola and cello.

On each occasion, the musicians showed everyone how their instruments worked. They then played a selection of different orchestral and modern music ranging from Carmen, Swan Lake and Tango to the Simpsons theme tune. A highlight was when the strings played a surprise arrangement of "Let it go!" from Frozen, to which two students sang. The musicians were impressed by how much our students knew about instruments and also how well they listened. Well done 8C and 8A for asking some excellent questions. Year 8 will be going to watch the Apollo Orchestra in concert at the Hackney Empire in July.



Stormont House School Art Exhibition and Family Day - Saturday 11 June

On Saturday 11 June we are holding an 'Art Exhibition and Family Day', where art work from years 7 – 11 will be exhibited in school. There will be art workshops for all ages and abilities. The event will run from 10am to 1pm and is free to enter. There will be refreshments available and you will be able to purchase gifts and prints of students artwork.

Young Epilepsy Ambassador

We are very proud of Tia (11H) as she was requested by the 'Young Epilepsy Organisation' to be filmed for a video, which was shown as the introduction to this year's 'Champions Award' ceremony which took place on Wednesday 18 May 2016. Tia and her mother were invited to the event at Shakespeare's Globe. In the film Tia explains how she copes day to day with epilepsy - if you would like to take a look at the film please follow the added link:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=3QMGB05RDVg>

Tia has taken part in a number of groups where teenagers with Epilepsy discuss what it is like to cope on a day to day basis with the condition. She has acted as a role model in school to younger students who gain confidence from Tia's ability to talk about her experiences.



Dates for your Diary

Summer Term



11/06/16
16 - 17/06/16
20/06/16
22/06/16
23/06/16
24/06/16

SHS Art Exhibition and Family Day
School Dentist
NO CRICKET CLUB
ROA Day (Year 11's)
London Youth Games Athletics Meet
INSET Day (School is closed to students)