



14th December 2018

Dear Parents

This serves to inform you that the second half of the Dulwich Prep London Leake Lecture Series (the ninth) will commence on Wednesday 9th January 2019. The weekly lectures take place on Wednesdays from 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. in the Music School Concert Hall. There will be six presentations in the course of the first half of the Spring Term. Attendance is free and voluntary for all who wish to come along – Dulwich Prep Middle and Upper School boys, their siblings, parents, friends, staff and members of the wider community. Boys from the Lower School may attend too, but they should be accompanied by a parent. Below is information on each of the lectures:

Wednesday 9th January: Dr Priya Vigneswaran, the mother of a boy in the Lower School at The Prep, is a clinical psychologist working with young people and their families. She supports children and adolescents, helping them to recover from difficult feelings such as anxiety and low mood, but increasingly finds that rather than a "fix-it" approach, young people respond best to an identification of their strengths. She takes a new approach, seeing children as their own best experts with resilience, and tries to cultivate what is best already within young people to enhance their experiences of love, work and play. This is an approach that is useful to promote in all our young people and is protective against problematic feelings and psychological difficulties. Priya will speak on "The Power of Positive Psychology in Young People".

Wednesday 16th January: Television and Discovery Channel director/cameraman, intrepid adventurer, explorer and author Matt Dickinson will speak to us about his "African Adventures" (new material that has not been seen before). He will present film clips of his journey flying down the Rift Valley and crossing the Sahara Desert in various different ways and show how the world's largest desert has changed in the last twenty years, both politically and in climate.

Wednesday 23rd January: Jeannette Lichner is a finance expert with more than 25 years' experience in financial services across a variety of roles with firms such as Deutsche Bank, JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley. She will talk to us about the fundamentals everyone needs for money literacy. She will let us know what good money habits are, how to think constructively about our earning goals and dreams for the future and how to think about the impact of "good" and "not so good" spending.

Wednesday 30th January: Charlie Houseago is a researcher in the Dyson Robotics Lab at Imperial College London. His current research is centred on domestic exploration, scene understanding and environmental manipulation. He attended Dulwich Prep London from 2002 to 2007 before heading to Westminster School as a Queen's Scholar. From there he attended Cambridge University with a Junior (and then Senior) Scholarship at Trinity College where he obtained a Master's Degree in Engineering. Charlie is passionate about Scientific Communication and his ambition is to move into broadcasting following his PhD. He has already featured as an engineering expert on BBC 4's "Television's Opening Night: How the Box was Born" in 2016.



Charlie will speak on “Eye Robots: How Artificial Intelligence Understands the World around Us”. As robots and smart machines become ever more commonplace in our society, they are having to exist and operate in complicated environments alongside human beings. For us, the job of navigating and understanding the world comes naturally; human beings learn how things in the world behave through a combination of experimentation, instruction and prediction. In his talk, Charlie will explain and demonstrate cutting-edge methods used in research and industry to enable the next generation of robots to make sense of the complicated world around them.

Please be advised (warns Charlie) that this talk will feature robots with moving parts which may cause harm. Please give them a wide berth unless accompanied by the presenter or assistant!

Wednesday 6th February: William Brightman (Old Boy of The Prep) will speak to us on “Turning Trash into Treasure”. In other words, creating value from ingredients that would otherwise be discarded. Will started up a business (which received financial assistance from dragons in ITV’s “Dragon’s Den” to turn used coffee, and other items destined for landfill, into natural sustainable skin products. Nature gives us many wonderful ingredients that make our skin healthier and more radiant – like used coffee grounds and brewed chai tea spices. At UpCircle, Will and his colleagues elevate leftover natural ingredients, bringing them back to life as beauty products your skin will love. With UpCircle, you get to enjoy the uplifting benefit of nature’s own rejuvenators – and you get to do some good for the planet at the same time! William will provide the opportunity for those attending to take part in a “make-your-own-scrub” class, which he describes as a bit like a cookery class, but for skincare!

Wednesday 13th February: Sarah Stein Lubrano will speak on “Philosophy for Kids: Big Ideas for Curious Minds Aged 8 – 108”. Sarah began work at The School of Life, helping create some of the earliest YouTube videos. She now does research, writing, and design for everything from films to apps to interactive workshops. She not only creates internal content for The School but also designs bespoke content for clients. Sarah holds a bachelor’s degree from Harvard College and an MPhil in Political Thought and Intellectual History from Cambridge University. Prior to joining The School of Life, she made films, and worked as a prison tutor, student welfare officer, and obituary writer.

The School of Life (TSL), which is devoted to developing emotional intelligence, offers a variety of programmes and services concerned with how to live wisely and well. Headquartered in London, it operates around the globe, delivering services down a number of channels to suit different needs. TSL has a new book out that helps children and adults learn about Philosophy. It is a subject that has a lot to teach everyone, whatever their age. It might even be the most important subject you ever study. This book wants to open the door to the mysteries of Philosophy, to show you what it is all about and how it can help you understand life. Copies are available at a discounted price of ___ (RRP £18) which can be purchased using your son’s school account via this link [insert link to order form].

At this interactive, activity-based event, we’ll learn a bit more about leading philosophers from around the world and find out why their ideas continue to matter. Together we’ll learn from Seneca about why not to expect too much, from Confucius about why politeness matters,



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from Simone de Beauvoir about why it's hard to know what we really want, and from Zera Yacoub about how people are unhappy, not mean.

I look forward to seeing you and your sons at our lectures in January and February 2019. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr Piers Young should you have any queries, or, indeed, if you wish to offer your services – we are in need of transmitters and receivers! It just remains for me to wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy festive season.

Thank you.

With best wishes
Richard Aitchison