

Skipton Girls' High School



ISSUE 94

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022

[www.sghs.org.uk](http://www.sghs.org.uk)



Skipton Girls' High School

# A Word from our Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

As the first half term of the academic year draws to a close, I am writing to thank our school community for bringing their unique combination of hard work, creativity, imagination, and fun to SGHS. As well as their timetabled lessons, students at SGHS have had many opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities ranging from a poetry party to celebrate National Poetry Day, to First Aid training, theatre visits, field trips to the coast, Post 16 work on eradicating rape culture and much, much more. I am grateful for the efforts of all staff and students who have provided such a rich diet of experiences for our community and urge students to try something new in the next half term.

Alongside all of this, we had the much-anticipated visit from His Majesty's Ofsted Inspectors and whilst I am unable to share the outcome until after half term, I am extremely proud of the entire school community who have worked incredibly hard to create a school with strong shared values, warmth, and ambition. It is a privilege to lead this school and I hope that when the report finally becomes official you will share in my pride and gratitude.

Next half term will see more exciting opportunities for our students to participate in activities beyond the classroom as we begin our exciting work with the NSAT Farm Twinning with Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The project title 'Learning in Protected Landscapes' provides us with a unique opportunity to think creatively by immersing ourselves in nature to understand climate change and sustainability – watch this space for more detail in the coming months.

Year 11s will also be preparing for their mock exams so please support them by encouraging taking the time to relax away from screens and come back into school feel energised and motivated.

As the nights start to draw in, I hope that you can find some time to relax, go out into nature and enjoy the October half term. I am looking forward to time with family, a good book and having lots of walks in the autumn sunshine (let's hope the weather cooperates!).

Have a lovely half term,

**Ms M Featherstone**  
Headteacher

# Art Club - October October

This half-term, we have kicked off Art Club for the Year 7s and we have had a great turnout. In our first session after having got to know one another, we had fun drawing animals in many different styles. Our focal project this term has been focusing on autumn, with links to our tutor read, October October. As a club, we have come together to create a marvellous tree, full of different ideas and styles, and we hope that you will have already seen the tree outside reception on your way into school, but if not, make sure to check it out! We've also been using watercolour to explore different designs and colour concentrations. Next half-term we will be having more fun, and exploring different mediums of art as well as what we can create. We hope to see lots of new students there who have a passion for art!

**Anisa, Clemmie, Emma and Maisy**  
Year 12



# Need a book for half term?

*It's not news that reading is GREAT for your mental wellbeing! Whether it's taking the opportunity to switch off and escape into a completely fantastical world, reading about a different way of life or – as these books demonstrate – exploring some of the difficult things we sometimes face in our own lives from a new perspective, we can all benefit from picking up a book this half-term.*

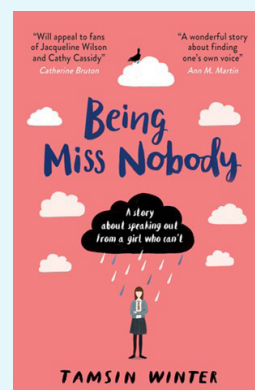


## Being Miss Nobody Tasmin Winter (11+)

*Rosalind hates her new secondary school. She's the weird girl who doesn't talk. The Mute-ant. And it's easy to pick on someone who can't fight back. So, Rosalind starts a blog - Miss Nobody; a place to speak up, a place where she has a voice. But there's a problem...*

*Is Miss Nobody becoming a bully herself?*

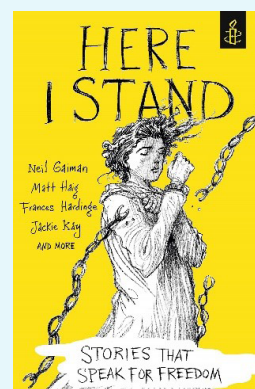
An insightful book into the world of Selective Mutism with messages of kindness, bullying, love, and normalising mental health. This book is a heart warming read with an important message and some heart-breaking moments will give you an insight into the life of a young girl finding her voice.



## Here I Stand Various Authors (13+)

*Through short stories and poetry, twenty-five leading authors and illustrators explore the top human rights issues facing young people today.*

This collection of short stories and poetry shines a light on real and sensitive issues in everyday society such as racism, LGBTQ+ rights, human rights, suicide, refugees, and terrorism. Not only addressing the suffering occurring in our world, but these fictional stories also contain ways that we can fight for freedom and equality within our everyday lives in a way that is beautifully presented.

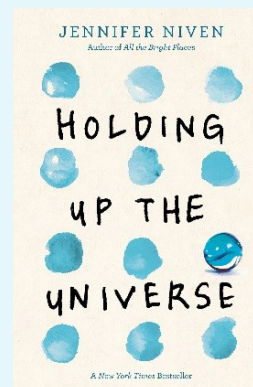


## Holding Up the Universe

### Jennifer Niven (14+)

Once dubbed 'America's Fattest Teen,' Libby worked hard to become healthier and to stop caring what others think, no matter what she weighs. Everyone knows her 'secret', and you know what? She doesn't care.

'Holding Up the Universe' is a moving read with diverse and complex characters and a unique storyline. A story of growth, acceptance and a touching love story with an underlying message to tolerate and be kind to others.

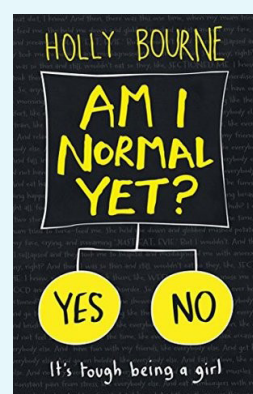


## Am I Normal Yet?

### Holly Bourne (15+)

"Everyone's on the cliff edge of normal. Everyone finds life an utter nightmare sometimes, and there's no "normal" way of dealing with it. There's only what's normal to you."

A hilarious but heart-rending, and truly eye-opening YA novel involving feminism in its most genuine sense and a closer, sensitive look at mental illness. A story of friendship and love with representation of OCD and social anxiety 'Am I normal yet' puts a lens onto the everyday life of a teenage girl who is struggling to find her feet in life.



## Remembrance Day Sculptures

Like the image below, Skipton Town Council are creating large scale poppy relief sculptures, for Remembrance Day in November; these will be on display in the grounds of Holy Trinity Church in Skipton. All schools in Skipton have been invited.

It has been great to see our students respond to my message in the student bulletin, and come along and paint a stone. We will have painted more than 200 stones when they are all completed.

**Mrs Scott**  
Curriculum Leader: Art



## Femsoc

SGHS FemSoc has started the year with some fascinating student presentations and ensuing discourse related to contemporary issues of feminism.

We began the year with a focus on direction for SGHS FemSoc this year, clarifying our aims and intentions as an intersectional group focusing on active change within both our school environment and wider community. Here are the statements we came up with:

**SGHS FemSoc creates: a supportive, encouraging and safe space for expression of viewpoints and for all students of the school.**

**SGHS FemSoc is: inclusive, interactive, pro-active and thought-provoking.**

**SGHS FemSoc strives to be: informative and inspiring, interesting and empowering.**

Following on from this, Liv and Kate in Year 13 have presented on the intersection between art and feminism with a fascinating exploration of the positioning of the viewer in relation to feminist art, and Haleema and Isla in Year 9 have presented on women in sport, exploring not only the inspirational aspects of these figures but also the fascinating topic of how sport remains so gendered and the differing experiences of women in competitive sports vs men in competitive sports.

Coming up next half term, we will have student-led presentations and discussions related to:

- How feminist icons are still dictated by the patriarchy
- The need for periods and period pain to be normalised
- The 'genderising' of job roles
- Gender bias in science and engineering

Any student wishing to join in the conversation is welcome to come along to R1, every Friday, from 12.05pm onwards.

## Friends of SGHS Update

### Games and Bingo Night

Following a very successful event last year, the Friends of SGHS Family Bingo & Games Night returns on Friday 11th November 2022. Come along with the whole family to enjoy fun and games, food and drinks. It's a great way to meet other parents and support the Friends' fundraising. Individual tickets cost £9.50 or a family ticket (consisting of 2 adults and 2 children under 18 years) is £30. That price includes a pizza/pasta supper - what a bargain!. A cash/card bar will be available.

Please buy your tickets via Parent Pay or on our events website [here](#). We look forward to welcoming you and having a lot of fun!

### Amazon Smile

Did you know that if you buy anything on Amazon, you could be raising funds for the school at no cost to you?

With the festive season approaching, it has never been a better time to switch on 'Amazon Smile' and the school will receive a donation to the value of 0.5% of your purchase. It's Amazon's money coming to us, not yours, and we want it please!

Just use this link to our Amazon Smile page <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1179034-0> and select Friends of SGHS as the charity you want to support. From then onwards simply go to the <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> page and it will automatically donate (with no extra cost to the buyer). You can also switch Smile on in your Amazon app.

All those pennies add up, and we've already received almost £200 from Amazon since August. Your help is much appreciated.



# FAMILY BINGO & GAMES NIGHT

Games include Disco Bingo, Play Your Cards Right, and Heads & Tails

START

48

PRIZES  
TO BE  
WON

FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER  
11TH

6.30-9PM  
SKIPTON  
GIRLS'  
HIGH  
SCHOOL  
SCHOOL HALL

9

Get your tickets: [www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofsghs](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofsghs)

TICKETS

£9.50 PER TICKET

A family ticket (2 adults and 2 children under 18 years) will cost £30. Tickets via Parentpay or the website above. For more info contact:

[team@friendsofsghs.org.uk](mailto:team@friendsofsghs.org.uk)

CASH &  
CARD  
BAR

11



Ticket includes pizza, pasta, garlic bread & salad supper

# Drama Workshop with 'The Paper Birds'

It has been wonderful to begin the new school year with GCSE Drama groups in both Year 10 and Year 11 having a completely 'normal' start to the year in relation to their exploration of the dramatic arts without covid contingencies in place.

As part of our Drama programme, we were thrilled to host a digital workshop with 'The Paper Birds'. 'The Paper Birds' focus on verbatim theatre, using interviews/documents and 'real' texts alongside movement and music to create immersive physical theatre. As a female fronted company with a focus on the experience of women in theatre and the prioritisation of narratives centered on women, we felt their workshop was the perfect fit for our GCSE classes.

As they are based in Essex, co-director Kylie carried out the workshop via Teams making use of the technology that we have learnt to love over the past two years, and by the end of the workshop students from both year groups had produced beautiful, funny, bitter-sweet and at times rather moving pieces exploring 'what it means to be a teenager in 2022'.

The theatrical techniques explored and developed in this two hour workshop will be vital for our Year 10s as they move into their devised piece and extremely useful for our Year 11s as they focus on precision and polish in relation to characterisation for their text in performance module.

For more information about the theatre company, visit: [www.thepaperbirds.com](http://www.thepaperbirds.com)

**Miss Silver**  
Curriculum Leader: English







*(Above) Year 11 fieldwork at Grasmere*

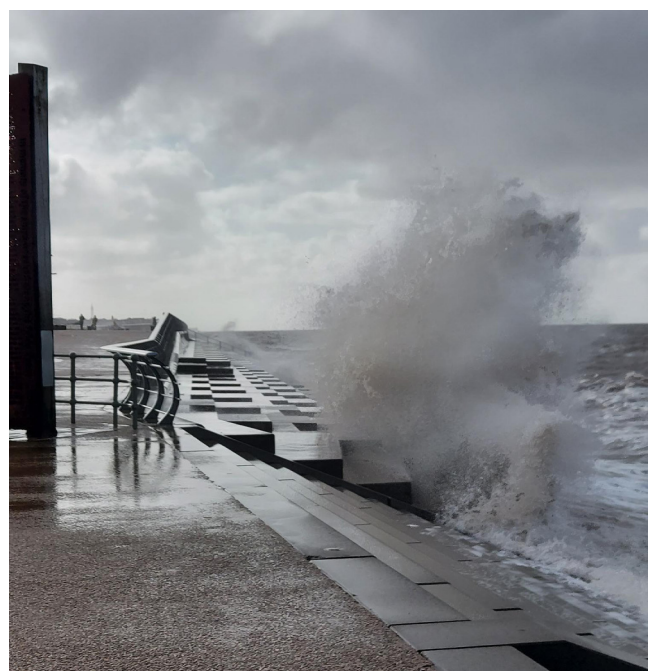
## Geography Field Trips

The geography department have been out and about on fieldwork lots this half term. We have investigated the impacts of tourism in Grasmere with Year 11 as part of their GCSE course and been to Wycoller Beck with Y1ear 2 to investigate the factors which affect infiltration (and therefore flood risk) in a drainage basin. Year 9 have just been to Cleveleys on the Lancashire coast to evaluate the success of the flood defences there in helping to create a sustainable community and local economy, they're currently working on reports in which they will analyse the data they collected to reach their own conclusions. It's a trip we've not done previously but it worked really well although next time some better weather would be nice! Well done to B and C for collecting lots of data in extremely strong winds and to F and J for managing to do fieldwork and remain really positive despite getting absolutely soaked by the rain!

**Mrs Phillips**

Curriculum Leader: Geography

*(Below) Year 9 fieldwork at Cleveleys*



# Meet the Class of 2022-23

*Our brilliant trainee teachers now have one half term under their belts. Here are a few comments on how they feel the first 7 weeks of training have gone...*

## **SV - Primary**

*This half term has been great, my placement school are amazing, the children are fantastic and everyone has made me feel really welcome and valued. I already feel part of the team and I've made new friends already. Its been so nice to experience a new school environment and get stuck in with some responsibilities. My mentor has been so supportive and helpful which has been a real relief, I'm looking forward to what the next half term brings.*

## **CC - Primary**

*There have been so many highs during this first half-term! I've been on a three-day residential trip, which I agreed to attend before I'd even met anyone from the school but thankfully loved! Being able to work so closely with the children from the very beginning of the course. Being welcomed, accepted and supported by my mentor and other school staff on my placement. Having such an approachable staff on the SCITT who have been so obliging and helpful (particularly Helen!). But most importantly, having such an amazing and supportive cohort of other students who I feel like I've known for years not just weeks.*

## **CA - Secondary**

*I'm a new trainee on the SCITT just beginning my entry into the world of teaching chemistry. I'd say the highlight for me so far was teaching a couple of revision sessions prior to a progress check. This was great as it was my first time teaching for an extended period and confirmed for me that, yes, teaching is exactly what I want to be doing. It was very rewarding getting to see the results afterwards, but also a great opportunity to evaluate and improve on my technique for future lessons.*

## **CA Secondary**

*This half term has been really interesting, getting to see a completely different side of teaching, and the challenges and rewards this career can offer. I have loved getting to know students, trying to answer interestingly off the top of my head and learning all the different skills needed to be a teacher. I am looking forward to seeing the student's ability and confidence grow along with mine.*

## **SM Secondary**

*How the time flies! This half term has been a very exciting experience, from being another adult in the room observing a class with 30 students very eager to learn to being at the front of a class with their eyes and ears all directed at me. It has been a very valuable and rich couple of weeks at SGHS and cannot wait to keep learning, delivering and developing my teaching skills. Thank you Northern Lights!*

## TT Secondary

*So far, this course has been more rewarding than I expected. I am really enjoying myself each day and the fact that each day is different is a massive bonus. There is a lot of content to cover and learn so far, and work keeps on piling up each day, however, the resources and help provided both the staff at my course and staff at my placement make things so much easier to do. I am also enjoying making and building a good working relationship with both the students and the teachers at the school. My days spent in classroom teaching and helping students understand their content have been so rewarding so far and have cemented my passion about becoming a teacher.*

## PD-L Secondary

*It's the end of the first half-term and I have been training to teach Spanish and French to secondary school students. Without a doubt, the best thing so far has been the impact I have made on students – seeing them work out that problem they were struggling with or just eager to say hello in the hallway is such a great experience. The first time you stand in front of the class can be quite challenging, but once you start teaching the lesson all the nerves disappear. I cannot wait to watch students develop their own confidence using a second language. It is so rewarding to teach MFL – you really feel like you're helping them develop a skill that can take them all over the world.*

## KB Secondary

*My first few weeks as a trainee teacher have been really insightful about the role of a teacher and school policies and procedures. My mentor is really supportive and is always available for advice and guidance and this has helped me settle well in the school environment. I got to plan and present some starters and interact with students. There's something new I learn each day about my subject, pupil behaviour or my own self.*

[www.northernlightsscitt.com](http://www.northernlightsscitt.com) ➔



# The hunt is on for the new poet laureates

*After a successful poetry party last week, the search for new Poet Laureates begins with all year groups welcome to apply!*

*Being a part of the Poet Laureates means you will become a poetry ambassador, helping the English department promote poetry within the school, writing poems for designated events, and taking part in lunchtime poetry writing sessions.*

## Why is poetry important?

Poetry is important in several ways. It enables people to express as well as allows us to connect with people in different ways and gives us new perspectives on what happens in the world. It is also very helpful for English and can help with language skills and enchases creativity

To apply, students have to write a poem on the theme of the Environment; the launch party took its cue from the National Poetry Day theme and saw a real buzz in the R rooms at lunchtime as students came to read and write poetry, creating a 'poet-tree' garland of leaves with their words, fears, and hopes for the environment around them. Thanks to the new Literacy Leads for supporting with the organisation, and to our Year 11 student photographers!

**For inspiration, here are some great poems on the environmental theme to try:**

- ➔ [William Wordsworth, 'On the Projected Kendal and Windermere Railway'](#)
- ➔ [Gerard Manley Hopkins, 'Binley Poplars'](#)
- ➔ [May Swenson, 'Goodbye, Goldeneye'](#)
- ➔ [ylvia Plath, 'Elm'](#)
- ➔ [Heather McHugh, 'Webcam the World'](#)
- ➔ [Eliza Griswold, 'Ovid on Climate Change'](#)
- ➔ [Oliver Tearle, 'Earth Summit'](#)



# World

by A. R. Ammons

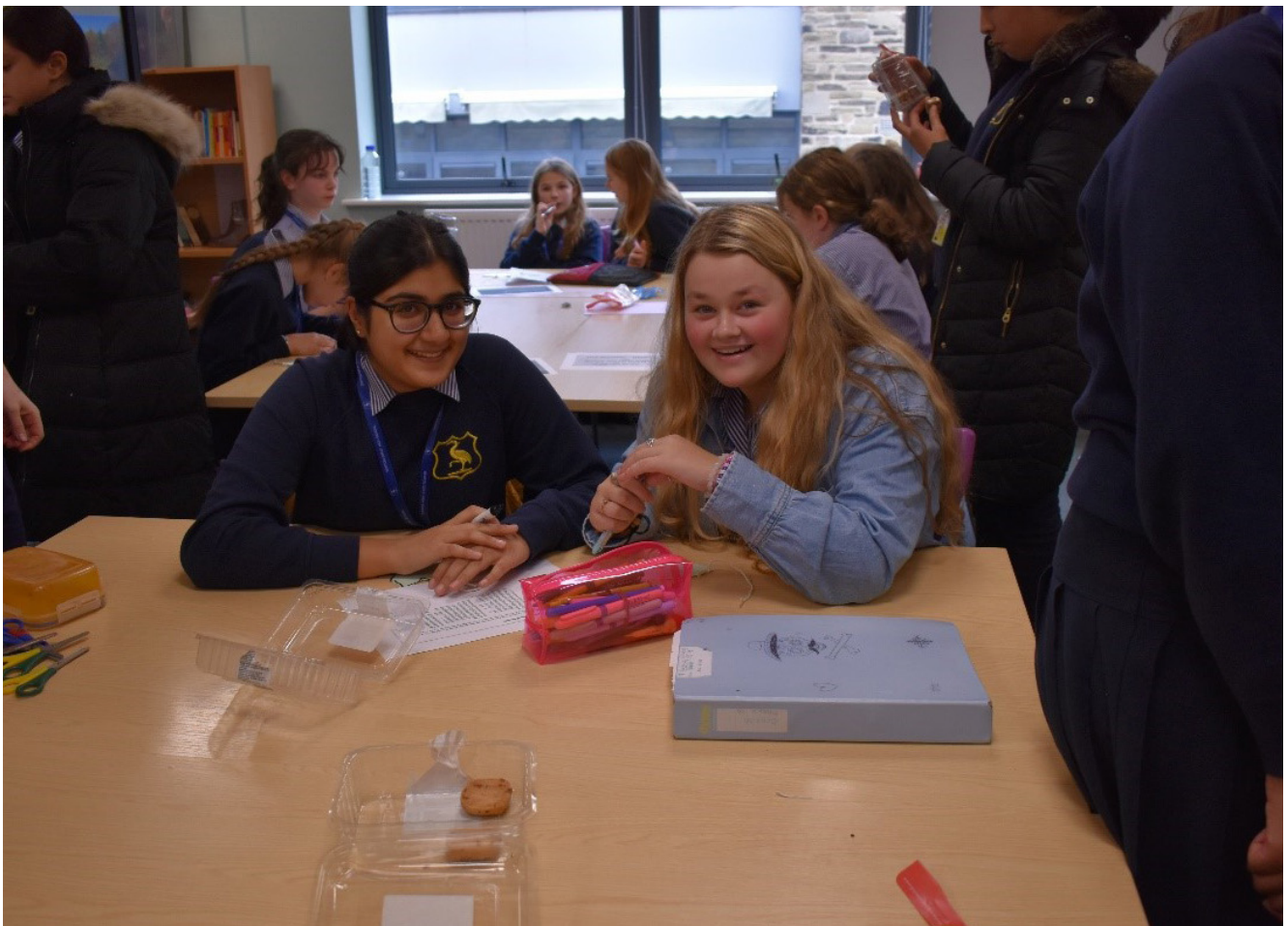
*Breakers at high tide shoot  
spray over the jetty boulders  
that collects in shallow chips, depressions,*

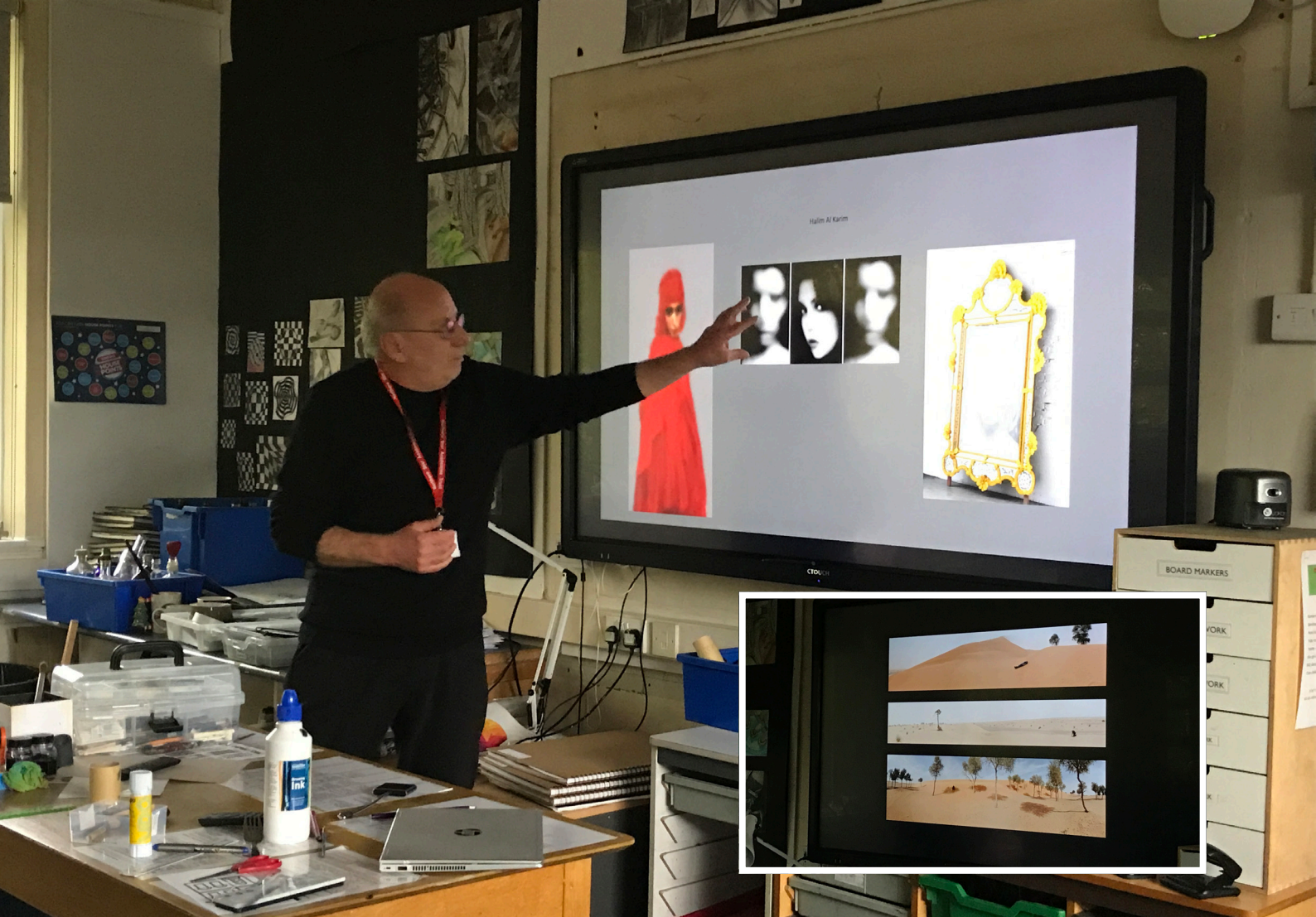
*evening the surface to run-off level:  
of these possible worlds of held water,  
most can't outlast the interim tideless*

*drought, so are clear, sterile, encased with  
salt: one in particular, though, a hole,  
providing depth with little surface,*

*keeps water through the hottest day:  
a slime of green algae extends into that  
tiny sea, and animals tiny enough to be in a*

*world there breed and dart and breathe and  
die: so we are here in this plant-created oxygen,  
drinking this sweet rain, consuming this green.*





## Photography Talk by Mark Pilkington

Our GCSE Photography students had a superb talk from Mark Pilkington today. Mark completed a B.A. in Painting at Winchester School of Art and an M.A. in Photography at the Royal College, London. He shows his Photographs all over the world including: the National Portrait Gallery, Photography Gallery of London, and the XVA gallery in Dubai, to name but a few.

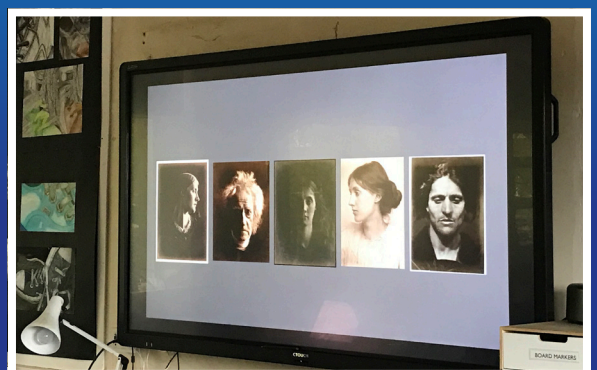
Firefly Resources 

His knowledge of the History of Photography was enlightening, and it was superb to see his emotive and experimental photography.

**Mrs Scott**  
Curriculum Leader: Art

### Hannah Robinson in Year 11 said:

*I really enjoyed Mark Pilkington's visit to school and found it fascinating to see the development of photography from it's origin to the modern art form it has taken today.*





This Edition, and previous issues  
of the Newsletter, can also be  
viewed on the School Website...

[www.sghs.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.sghs.org.uk/newsletter)



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