Head of Sixth Form’s Welcome

We have had a very busy week. On Tuesday we were delighted to welcome Jay Rayner to speak to our students as part of the Speakers’ Programme. We are very grateful to Jay for his time, delicious honesty and humour. Read more about the talk in this edition.

We have also had nine students attend work experience at Morgan Stanley. This opportunity has been cultivated through of links with them through the Speakers’ Programme. Five INA students also attended a Law insight day at Taylor Wessing. Read more about their experiences in next week’s edition.

We have also had a number of students visit Open Days and insight days. Whilst we encourage students to seek to learn more about courses, universities, careers and apprenticeships please note that Leave of Absence requests must be given with enough notice for the request to be considered.

As the term draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of upcoming key dates.

On Tuesday 3rd July we will have our Sixth Form Transition Day. We have had over 200 students confirm their attendance and we are looking forward to meeting them! No Year 12 lessons will take place that day and we are asking all students, other than the Student Leadership Team, to use the day to:

- Visit universities or apprenticeship providers
- Research their next steps using unifrog
- Attend supercurricular activities
- Apply for work experience for the summer
- Prepare for any entrance examinations

Students will be expected to feedback to their tutors on how the day was utilised and we look forward to hearing about where the research undertaken on this day has led students.

On Tuesday 17th July from 3:00pm- 4.30pm we will host the Year 12 Results Afternoon. We will issue student results, including UCAS predictions. We will also give you a copy of the student and tutor reports which included a draft copy of their UCAS personal statement. We will go through all of this information with you. Parents and carers are expected to attend as this will be an opportunity to discuss results and predictions. Please put this date in your diaries.

Finally our Awards Evening will take place on Wednesday 18th July at 6pm (doors will be open from 5.30pm). This will be a lovely opportunity to celebrate the many achievements of this founding cohort and we look forward to seeing you then

With best wishes,

Sugra Alibhai
Vice Principal and Head of Sixth Form
Jay Rayner is one of those people who, not content with excelling in one field, needs to be successful in a completely different area, too. Make that a plural: areas. One of Britain’s foremost food critics, a veteran of television and radio broadcasting, he has also been nominated in the Commission for Racial Equality’s Race in the Media Awards, (for his reporting of race crime in Britain), and for the Mental Health Media awards (for his work on mental health issues). In addition to his contributions to the above fields, and to the issue of global food security, Jay Rayner is an accomplished jazz musician. For the sixth form students of INA, he was a lively, engaging and honest presenter whose review of his life and work commanded complete attention.

Jay Rayner grew up in NW London and was, as he freely accepts, immensely privileged: his mother was the famous agony aunt, broadcaster and novelist Claire Rayner, and his father was an actor. He went to a public school, but notes that he was not allowed to work on the school magazine as only those pupils who were deemed likely to become journalists were allowed this privilege. The injustice of this still rankles a little, and was not lost on the audience: during questions, students asked about it and were rather pleased that he gave an emphatic refusal when the school later attempted to use his success for their own glory.

Although he did consider a career in acting, he explained, during the question-time, that he realised that simply being good at remembering lines and wanting to show off did not constitute a sufficient basis for becoming a professional actor. He was attracted to journalism because it seemed like an interesting lifestyle.

He went to Leeds University where he read Politics, but was mostly attracted to the university because it had a vibrant student newspaper. He began his career in journalism by editing that paper and after graduation initially found work writing gossip columns for a mainstream newspaper.

He moved into more serious journalism, writing 4,000 – 5,000 investigative pieces, before becoming the restaurant critic for the Observer in 1999, a job he has been doing ever since.

Jay explained that being a food critic is ultimately not, despite appearances, simply about consuming food, but about writing about the experience of being a diner in a restaurant – you have to be able to present an objective analysis in an engaging way. For aspiring writers, he offered a number of pointers:

• do not read Media Studies at university – choose a completely different course, e.g. Engineering or History.
• get involved in student journalism.
• do not worry if you were not that brilliant at writing at GCSE level (Jay got the equivalent of a C in English Language).
• be aware that the more expensive something is to produce, the less control over it you will have. He noted that as a newspaper columnist you have some influence, less as a radio broadcaster, even less as a participant in a television programme (he has worked on Masterchef, Dispatches and The One Show) whilst you have almost total control when you write books. He has written four novels and several non-fiction books.
• general journalism is fun, but it’s exhausting. Becoming a specialist – in his case, as a food critic, is less demanding.
In 2013, Jay wrote the non-fiction book ‘A Greedy Man in a Hungry World’ which deals with food security (which continues to concern him greatly, especially in view of the consequences of Brexit). He knew that it was likely to result in his being asked to participate in discussion panels, so he claims that it was primarily to avoid these (which he finds boring), that he developed a one-man show to carry his message directly to audiences. The success of this led to him turning his next book – a collection of his nastiest reviews - into another one-man show.

His career as a jazz musician came about when he was invited to join a couple of professional musicians. Despite, but also because of, the terror this induced in him, he continued to play with bands and now regularly performs as part of the Jay Rayner Quartet.

Jay’s presentation generated a great many questions from the audience, which all received thoughtful, honest and interesting answers. A small selection of the questions and answers are paraphrased below:

**Q: How do you pick which restaurants to go to?**  
**A:** I have to find places that there is enough to write about – it could be because there is something really interesting about the place; it could be happenstance that takes me there; or I find out about it from other people directly or through social media. I have to have a mix – different price ranges; different cuisines; different kinds of establishments.

**Q: Do you consider yourself a good cook?**  
**A:** I do certain things well – like braised meat and sauces.

**Q: Do people feel it’s unfair of you to criticise their cooking if you aren’t a great cook yourself?**  
**A:** I write about the experience of being a diner in a restaurant – it’s more than just commenting on food.

**Q: What meal should I cook my family to celebrate England winning the World Cup?**  
**A:** Given how unlikely it is – roast swan. Or you could put a shoulder of lamb in to braise for about 8 hours, that way when the match is over at least you will have something to eat whatever the result of the game.

**Q: Has your career in food overshadowed (I think the questioner really meant ‘detracted from’) your writing career?**  
**A:** It’s a good question, but no – food impacts on every area of life so when you write about food you are able to write about everything.

Jay said “The brilliant thing about talking to more senior students in a school is that the filter is off. They don’t tend to necessarily regard you as somebody who needs to be handled with kid gloves. The questions are open and direct and they are fiendishly difficult to answer. There’s nowhere to hide, which is the way it should be.”

We want to thank Jay for his time, honesty and humour and hope to welcome him back to INA again soon.
Q: Could you explain a bit about what Highers are?
A: Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Highers are the formal qualifications taken by most students in the Scottish education system and are normally required to gain entry into university. It is important to know that Highers are not equivalent to GCE A-Levels. The aim of Highers is to give a broad education in some subjects. Most students take five Highers in S5 (penultimate year of secondary school in Scotland) and then take SQA Advanced Highers and/or Highers in S6 (last year of secondary). Advanced Highers are not equivalent to A-Levels either but are of a very similar standard of in-depth study in the subjects taken at this level.

Q: Which Highers did you study, and why?
A: I studied Mathematics (of course), Physics, Chemistry, French and Information Systems for my Highers at school. I studied these subjects partly due to timetable clashes but mainly because I achieved in these subjects and it just so happened that my favourite teachers taught them.

Q: Which universities did you apply to, and why?
A: I applied to the Universities of St Andrews, Dundee, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh. The main reason was that these universities were free for me to attend and offered the most rigorous Mathematics courses. I didn’t look at league tables but at school I knew these universities were regarded as prestigious institutions of education.

Q: Which university did you actually go to? Why?
A: Luckily, I managed to get unconditional offers from the universities I applied to. There was no question that I would accept my place at St Andrews. Despite my local university being Dundee, St Andrews was the only university that actually engaged with me and I attended the Sutton Trust Summer School held in St Andrews. Therefore, I received support with my application through that and was given the opportunity to see the life I would live at St Andrews.

Q: Which degree subject did you choose? Why?
A: I chose to take a Mathematics degree at Uni. Originally I didn’t feel like I was academic but I managed to excel at Mathematics at school and my Maths teacher (Mr Boath) made sure I kept at it. I still wasn’t really sure about Maths but I decided to apply for it anyway. At St Andrews (Scotland generally) you get to take three subjects in your first year so it didn’t really matter that I wasn’t sure what subject I actually wanted to do a degree in.
Q: What was the best thing about doing that course at that university?
A: The course was very general to start with, ensuring you see all the options available to you in that subject. Maths can be incorporated into nearly anything and it was good to see which aspects of life I could apply Maths to. I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to take Mathematical Biology and look into modelling cancer cells with Mathematics for my dissertation project. This part of the course was so exciting as I used all the Maths skills I had gained throughout the previous 3 years on one project that seems to be the future of Maths.

Q: What was/were the best thing/s you did outside your studies while you were at university?
A: I was a very active member of the University’s Ambassador scheme, getting involved in outreach projects helping students in their final years of school (particularly from Fife [County St Andrews is in]) achieve their potential. This was very rewarding for me as I managed to successfully convert Mathematics haters and give young students the same opportunities I was given when I was their age. Outside of that, because St Andrews is very international, I was lucky enough to visit a lot of my friends from outside the UK and hence travelled a lot.

Q: Is there a decision you made that you are particularly happy about in retrospect?
A: Obviously I cannot speak about experiences at other universities but I thoroughly enjoyed my time at St Andrews and looking back I never regretted my decision to study there. The opportunities and experiences I had there were second to none and I definitely would not be in the position I am in now if I had chosen to study at another university.

Q: Is there a decision you made that you regret in retrospect?
A: Even though I felt like I had made the most of my time at St Andrews, I believe that there was so much more to the experience that I did not tap into. I regret not getting involved in more activities at the University, in terms of sports and societies. The activities I did get involved in were incredible but there were a lot more things I should have tried in my time as a student.

Q: Going forward, what are you hopes for the future?
A: Currently, I am working in the Admissions department for the University of St Andrews and I absolutely love the role. Unfortunately, I only have a two-year contract with the University so the plan is to move onto another similar role for a few years, then a Masters course in Biofluid Mechanics with the intention to move into a career more related to my degree in Mathematics.

Q: What message would you want the INA Sixth Form students to take away from your experience?
A: If anything, students should be aware of the options available to them. Make the most of all the opportunities given, wherever you end up, regardless if it is university or some other avenue taken to achieve your dream. I am still not very certain of my plan so do not worry, there is still plenty of time figure out ‘the plan’.
Sixth Form Transition Day

Tuesday 3\textsuperscript{rd} July

All Sixth Form applicants are expected to attend the INA Sixth Form Transition Day on Tuesday 3\textsuperscript{rd} July.

We have organised a series of taster lessons, ice breakers and information sessions for students. We hope that the transition day will provide you with ample information and preparation for joining the INA Sixth Form.

Isaac Newton Academy, 1 Cricklefield Place, Ilford, IG1 1FY
Join us in celebrating our first

Sixth Form Awards Evening

18th July 2018

6pm - 7:15pm

Refreshments will be available from 5:30pm

Two tickets will be issued to each Year 12 student ahead of the event.

Dress code: Smart
Year 12 Mathematical Problem-Solving Day
10:00am - 4:00pm
10 July 2018

This free full-day event for Year 12 students (ages 16-17) studying A-level mathematics is designed to broaden mathematical horizons, give a stimulating introduction to advanced mathematical problem-solving, and encourage students to consider studying Mathematics at university.

The event will give an insight into some challenging, exciting and rewarding mathematics, and will support students to develop their mathematical thinking and confidence in tackling challenging problems. The day will be highly interactive: it includes a mix of talks and small-group workshops led by the NRICH team and staff from the University of Cambridge Mathematics Faculty.

Click here for more information.

ISCI Report Launch - State Propaganda in Syria: from War Crimes to Pipelines (Dr. Nafeez Ahmed)
04 July 2018
6pm - 8pm

International State Crime Initiative

Event Description: The International State Crime Initiative, Forum for Change and Insurge Intelligence are pleased to announce they will be hosting the report launch of ‘State Propaganda in Syria: from War Crimes to Pipelines’

About the Report: In April 2018, the US, UK and France bombed Syria. The precision strikes on various facilities described as harbouring an ongoing Syrian chemical weapons programme followed horrific reports of a chemical attack in Douma on 7th April. Immediately after the incident, perspectives polarised on both sides, with differing reports emerging about the attack, leading to entrenched confusion and division in public discourse. ‘State Propaganda in Syria: From War Crimes to Pipelines’, an investigative report by Nafeez Ahmed of the independent crowdfunded publication Insurge Intelligence, addresses these issues by conducting a comprehensive and forensic examination of core conflict narratives relating to Syria promulgated by both states and media. The report investigates competing Western, Syrian and Russian narratives around chemical weapon attacks, the White Helmets, regime change, the attribution of war crimes, the motives of warring parties, pipeline geopolitics and other contentious issues, bringing to light the vast extent to which different states are responsible for promulgating propaganda about the war to serve their own interests. The report raises crucial methodological questions about how these state practices have impacted journalism in Syria, and in particular the danger that journalism on the conflict has in itself become weaponised by competing parties.

Click here for more information.
On the intensive week-long programme you will meet and learn from the best in both journalism and publishing. You will focus on honing your skills as a journalist and take a step into the world of publishing.

To give you a flavour of our summer school’s jam-packed week, you will:

- Learn the ABC of good journalism
- Meet and interview journalists and editors
- Learn how to produce and shoot videos
- Create your own news or literary podcast
- Be a data journalist by investigating facts and figures
- Review the latest books, films, TV and music

The summer school will take place from Sunday, 26th August to Friday, 31st August 2018. Please make sure you are available for the whole week before applying.

The closing date for applications is Sunday, 15th July 2018, 23.59pm.

We will be in touch on Tuesday, 17th July.

If you are successful you will need to attend group interviews on either Saturday, 21st July or Sunday, 22nd July, so please keep these dates free.

Good luck!

Click here for more information.
Join the Institute of Making to celebrate the sheer joy of stuff, as it hosts a one-day, large-scale, drop-in and totally free street festival with a wealth of curious things to get stuck into making and doing.

London’s most engaging lab will be bringing back its favourite activities from the past year as well as some new discoveries.

The event will take over Malet Place and fill it to the brim with delectable making madness, including mind-boggling demonstrations, exciting making stations, good music and improbable food stalls. As always, the Institute’s Makespace will also be open to the public, giving visitors the chance to have a glimpse of the magic goings-on inside and the opportunity to have a closer look at the Materials Library and its beautiful and wondrous collection of stuff.

Open to: Alumni | Public | Academic | Student
Admission: Free
Ticketing: Open

Click here for more information.
Rapid robot development
10.30am to 4.30pm, Thursday 26 July (£50)
You will design and build their own cardboard robot, based on an Arduino microcontroller.
Click here for details.

The enigma of cryptography
10.30am to 4.30pm, Monday 30 July (£50)
You will learn about historical codes and ciphers, making use of a working WWII Enigma machine.
Click here for details.

An introduction to rocket science
10.30am to 4.30pm, Friday 3 August (£50)
You will explore the theory of rockets and space travel, and design a mission to Mars.
Click here for details.

Adventures in topology
10.30am to 4.30pm, Tuesday 7 August (£50)
You will explore topology, the world of 3D shapes and the mysteries within.
Click here for details.

Spectacular colour chemistry
11.00am to 3.00pm, Thursday 9 August (£40)
You will discover what a colour actually is, understand how objects become coloured, and how chemists can manipulate these aspects to produce dyes and pigments.
Click here for details.

Adam Smith: what he thought, and why it matters
09 July 2018
6:30pm - 8pm
At a time when economics and politics are both increasingly polarized between left and right, this book, Adam Smith: What He Thought, and Why it Matters, which Jesse Norman will discuss at this event, returns to intellectual first principles to recreate the lost centre of public debate. It offers a Smithian analysis of contemporary markets, predatory capitalism and the 2008 financial crash; it addresses crucial issues of inequality, human dignity and exploitation; and it provides a compelling explanation of why Smith is central to any attempt to defend and renew the market system.
Click here for more information.