



A Writer in Our Midst

I often write in the weekly newsletter about students' achievements but this week's news is a first for our school and a first for me as a teacher: Year 13 student Adrianna Tetnowski has had her first novel published this week!

The book is called **The Dark Maiden**

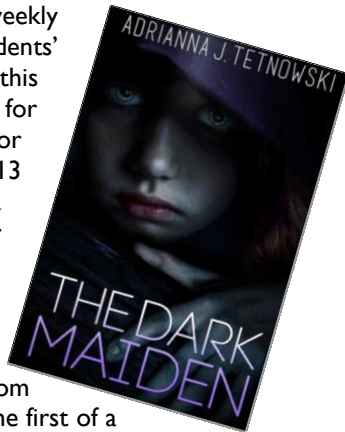
and is available from Amazon Books. It is the first of a series of stories that Adrianna has planned; she has finished the second volume and she is already halfway through writing the third.

Amazon outline the fantasy story on their website:

Adelaide Redbane has been given a difficult role. As the only daughter of Hathor Redbane, King of Iradas, she appears to have caught the eye of Marcus Valenti. Now under the threat of being forced to marry his son, Adelaide has a choice: Become Valerius Valenti's bride by force or Prince Nicademius Mouridieus' wife by choice. But what of this mysterious girl Valerius had found, after the attack on the city of Anderaith? This 'Dark Maiden' people are whispering about? Is she just a shadow in the dark? Or is she Adelaide's chance of freedom from the Valentis...as well as Iradas' only hope left?

It has taken Adrianna four years to write the novel which she has managed to do while studying for three A levels, one of which is, of course, English Literature. Very many congratulations to Adrianna on having her hard work and perseverance rewarded.

To order or download a copy please visit Amazon Books (<http://www.amazon.co.uk>) and search for 'The Dark Maiden'.



Year 11 students were issued with their own newsletter this week. Parents are asked to read this so that you have the most up to date information. Please note, the PPE exams start Tuesday 23 February and not as indicated in the Year 11 newsletter. All students have timetables.

Sean Hayes

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins next week and so we find the first day, Ash Wednesday, falling in term time for the first time in several years. We will formally begin Lent in school when we return from the half-term break and it will be the focus of assemblies that week. However, we will still mark Ash Wednesday with the distribution of ashes. As the hall is unavailable due to the production (below) we will use the Chapel and invite students down in the same way that we do for Reconciliation. Our Lent Reconciliation services will be on 3 March.

Peterborough Telegraph

I understand that there has been some confusion around the article about exam results in last Thursday's paper. The actual detail in the article was correct, and the paper printed what I said, but the headline was somewhat contradictory and the picture didn't help.

I would therefore like to clarify that nothing is changing about the school, and we continue to be Good as far as Ofsted is concerned. However, we did see a dip in English and Maths results at GCSE last summer and this was mainly down to grade boundary changes. This is not an excuse, but a fact: it is just unfortunate that we used the two exam boards that increased the pass mark significantly. They do this because the government regulator, Ofqual, insists on ensuring that the number of grade stays roughly the same from year to year, and they do this by telling exam boards to increase the pass mark.

Conversely, our Value Added measure for 2015 was better than the national average and we were one of only four schools in the city to achieve this. Similarly, our Sixth Form results were good compared with national benchmarks.

The accountability system changes completely this summer with the introduction of "Progress8". I have explained this in previous newsletters and expect it to be a positive move for our school. If you have any questions about any of this please contact me.

The Little Shop of Horrors

Wednesday 10 & Thursday 11
February - 7.00 pm

Tickets available from Student
Services

£5 Adults / £3 Students/Concessions

Red Day – 10 February

Beverly House students are aiming to raise a record breaking amount for their charities on Red Day. Various events will be happening on the day, at break and lunchtime. This will also be a Mufti Day where students who have paid £1 in advance can wear their own clothes for the day (red clothing optional). Mufti Day tickets will be on sale at break and lunchtime in the main hall.

Mr Hayes

Aid to Calais Refugees

On Saturday 23 January 2016, I accompanied a local charity named Peterborough Active Youth (PAY) to deliver donations to 'Auberge des Migrants' charity in Calais, to meet the urgent need for food and humanitarian aid for the refugees. A big thank you to students and parents from our school and the local communities all around the city who kindly donated from the goodness of their heart. God bless! *Mr Akbar*

Holocaust Memorial Day

Last Wednesday was Holocaust Memorial Day. This year's theme was 'Don't Stand By' and as a whole school community our thoughts for the week were focused on people like Rudolf Vrba who refused to stand by when the Nazi's began to persecute the Jewish people. A number of students took part in a service in Peterborough city centre. Year 7 and 8 students performed a moving and thought provoking drama based on the poem 'First They Came' by Pastor Martin Niemoller. Our Head Boy and Girl introduced the various speakers during the service. Slavomir Lacko from Year 10 played a traditional Slovakian piece of music called Krstny Otec on piano and was accompanied by his father on violin. Thank you to all the students who were involved in marking such an important moment in human history and inspiring future generations to never stand by. *Mr Burgess*

Safer Internet Day 2016

Play your part for a better internet

The internet is a fantastic resource for research and entertainment, but it can be abused. As a school we will be supporting Safer Internet Day on 9 February to help all students understand how to use the internet wisely. During tutor time and in ICT lessons, we will be exploring how to treat each other online and looking at ways to keep ourselves and others safe. As parents and carers, you can also play your part. Encourage open discussion about what makes us feel unsafe online, how to avoid scams and how to report anything that is not right.

For more information and advice, have a look at the e-safety section on the school website (<http://www.stjohnfishersschool.org.uk/e-safety/>). This contains the student council's top tips for staying safe online along with a presentation about how we as a school protect our students. My top tip is to enjoy the Internet, but just be careful what you say on social media.

Miss Griffin

Little Shop of Horrors

When students come to school next week they will find the school hall transformed into Mushnik's Skid Row Florist with a very large man-eating plant Audrey II! This is because next week, on Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 February at 7pm, our school production 'Little Shop of Horrors' is taking place. All this week the cast have been in house assemblies performing two of the upbeat and toe tapping numbers from the hit musical. Tickets are still available from Student Services: £3 for students and £5 for adults. Please do come along to what promises to be a fun, entertaining and slightly gruesome night out.

Mr Burgess

School Council

At the School Council meeting on 25 January we discussed numerous topics. Firstly we spoke about the positive changes that have been made since our last meeting; these include replacing the broken hand dryers in the toilets and raising awareness of our anti-bullying box. We then spoke about the problems students face at lunchtime in the dining hall. We also discussed the dining room and how to ensure students did not try and reserve seats for their friends. We discussed radicalisation and extremism and the threats that come with this. We will be looking to include some information about the dangers of these in upcoming PSHE lessons and assemblies and what you can do to help. This will include how to recognise extreme behaviour and the correct way to deal with and report it if you happen to come across it. Finally I would like to make you aware that as Pope Francis has declared this year as a Year of Mercy, we will be introducing a Door of Mercy.

Ciaran Kelly, Head Boy

Netball News

On Wednesday 27 January, the Year 7 netball team embarked on their first league matches of the season at Hampton College. Three fixtures were played in one evening, against Hampton, Nene Park Academy and Jack Hunt School. The girls were absolutely fantastic and were a credit to the school in terms of their attitude and behaviour, as well as their success in the games. The results were as follows:

SJF vs NPA – SJF **WIN** 8-2 – *player of the match Mariza*
SJF vs Hampton – **DRAW** 4-4 – *players of the match Mariza and Trinity*

SJF vs Jack Hunt – SJF **WIN** 9-7 – *player of the match Klaudia Mazur*

All players of the match were voted for by the opposition umpire and were all very well deserved!

The team were incredibly unlucky to not come away with all 3 wins, but Hampton had some very tall opposition, and a feisty defence, which our shooters dealt with well, with their incredible movement and teamwork. The team were Klaudija Andrisiunaite (WA), Mariza Baretto Da Costa Soares (GA), Elicia D'Ambrosio (GS), Tegan Dee (GD/GK), Bianca Fixe (WD/WA), Trinity Francis (C), Negin Haydari (GK/GD) and Klaudia Mazur (WD).