



CSG SIXTH FORM MASTERCLASSES

SPRING 2020 PROGRAMME



CSG SIXTH FORM MASTERCLASSES

No exams.

No grades.

Just interesting speakers and stimulating discussions.

- Masterclasses are extra-curricular lessons delivered by teachers from CSG or visiting experts in various fields.
- Each masterclass will either provide an introduction to a subject which is not taught at A Level – or explore a new aspect of a subject you are familiar with - taking you beyond the confines of the A Level syllabus.
- Most sessions should be accessible and of interest to students who study the subject in question, as well as those who do not. We hope that a student who is studying sciences would still be interested in poetry and music, and a student of the arts would be interested in scientific questions.
- Hopefully attendance will encourage students to read further and perhaps inspire some to pursue a subject at university.
- Aim to arrive at S5 (Sixth Form Hall) soon after 3.30pm – usually there will be tea, coffee and biscuits – the session will begin at about 3.40pm and finish by 5pm at the latest - **but watch out for occasional exceptions.**

Unfortunately, due to government cuts to the funding of state education since 2010 (and particularly of post-16 state education), it is with regret that we feel we have to make a charge for certain extra-curricular opportunities such as these.

- **Attendance is free for students on bursaries or free school meals.**
- For students who are not on free school meals or a bursary the cost is £10 for a 'season ticket' to attend as many masterclasses as you like in one term – so if you come to all 10 that is just £1 per session!
- Parents are also welcome - £5 for one masterclass
- All parents/guardians of students at the school will be sent an invitation to pay through ParentPay by email.
- **NEW THIS YEAR: At certain masterclasses there will be an opportunity to buy books by the visiting speaker with a 20% discount and get them signed - see details for individual sessions for more information.**

We hope that you will find something of interest in these masterclasses - and that you enjoy them as much as we enjoy preparing and delivering them.

Jon Stubbings

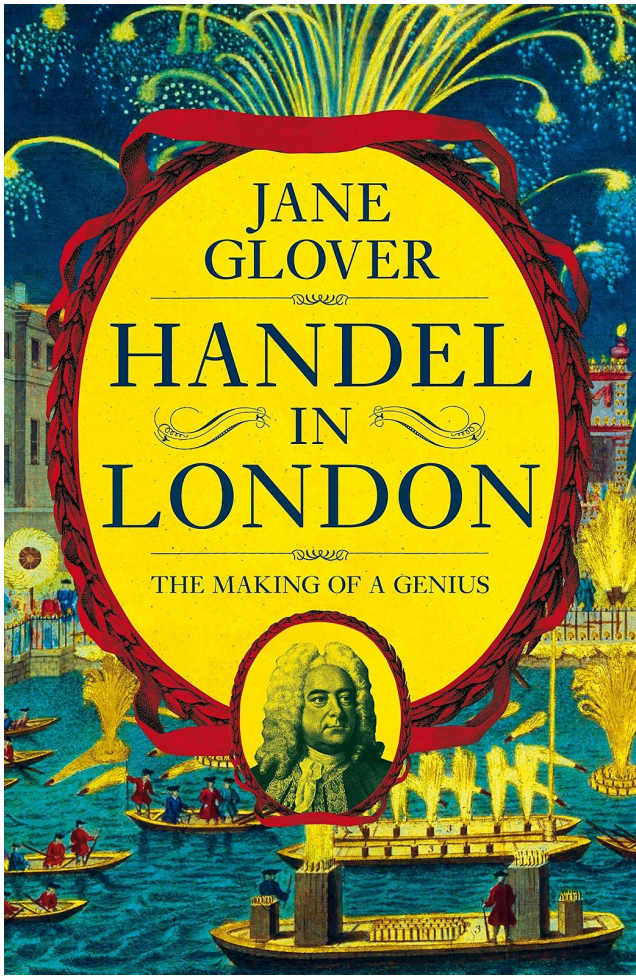
CSG Masterclass Programme Co-ordinator

Thursday 27th February - 3.35pm - S5

ENGLAND'S GERMAN GENIUS - HANDEL IN LONDON WITH JANE GLOVER

Jane Glover is a musician and musicologist who has conducted at the world's most prestigious opera houses, including The Royal Opera House in London and The Metropolitan Opera in New York. Her recent highly acclaimed biography of the composer George Frideric Handel is informed by a lifetime of performing Handel's music as well as extensive research. In this masterclass she will give an outline of his early life in various German states and his fateful, and permanent, move to England; his association with three British monarchs, and his entrepreneurial activities as a promoter of opera and oratorio seasons in London and elsewhere. But most of all she will try to convey (as she does in her book) a sense of the sheer brilliance and power of his music and the pleasure that can be experienced by listening to it.

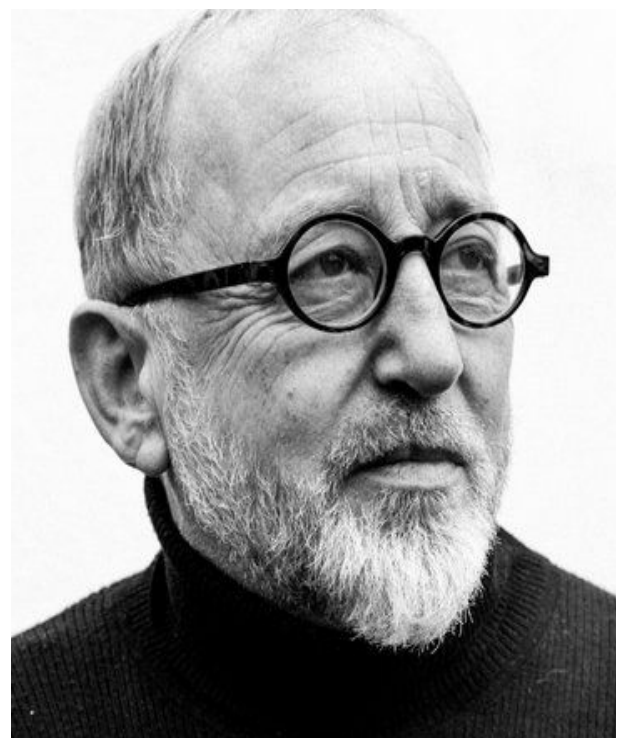
Copies of Jane's book *Handel in London* will be available to buy for £8 (cash)



Monday 2nd March - 3.35pm - S5

WHO'S AFRAID OF JORDAN PETERSON? A CONVERSATION WITH TIM LOTT

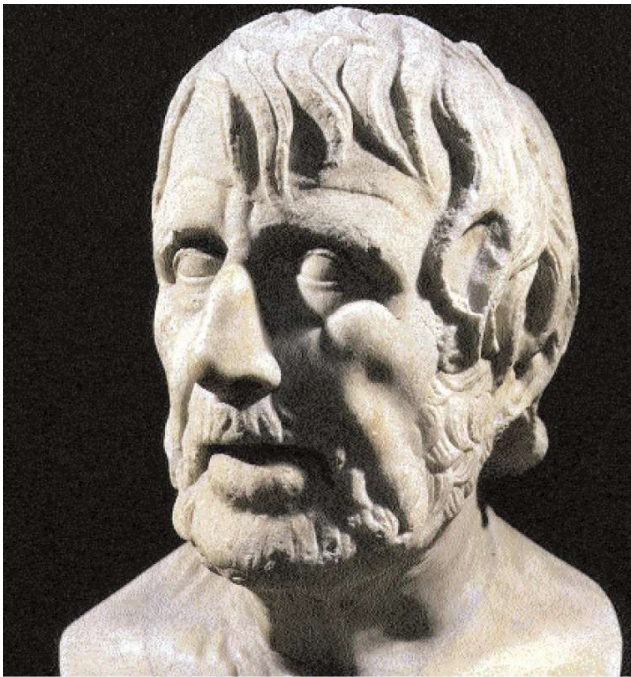
In this masterclass the writer Tim Lott will talk about his career as a journalist, novelist and teacher of creative writing. Tim, who describes himself as an 'old lefty', is interested in storytelling, spirituality and politics, and he was one of the first to interview and write about Jordan Peterson (for *The Spectator* and *The Guardian*) before the latter rose to worldwide fame and notoriety. We will discuss the Peterson phenomena, amongst other things, and hopefully shed some light on the increasingly polarised political culture of these strange times we are living in.



Thursday 5th March - 3.35pm - S5

SENECA'S STOIC PHILOSOPHY OF LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH LIZ GLOYN

Seneca was a Roman Stoic philosopher, statesman, dramatist and tutor to the Emperor Nero. He famously came to a sticky end, although it is possible that his Stoic philosophy helped him to come to terms with it. In this masterclass Dr Liz Gloyn, Senior Lecturer in Classics at Royal Holloway, University of London, and author of *The Ethics of the Family in Seneca*, will explore the ways in which Seneca's Stoicism informed his beliefs relating to love, relationships and the family. In particular she will explain how Seneca squares the circle of Stoicism's self-contained anti-emotionalism with the potential turbulence of close interpersonal relationships.



PENGUIN CLASSICS

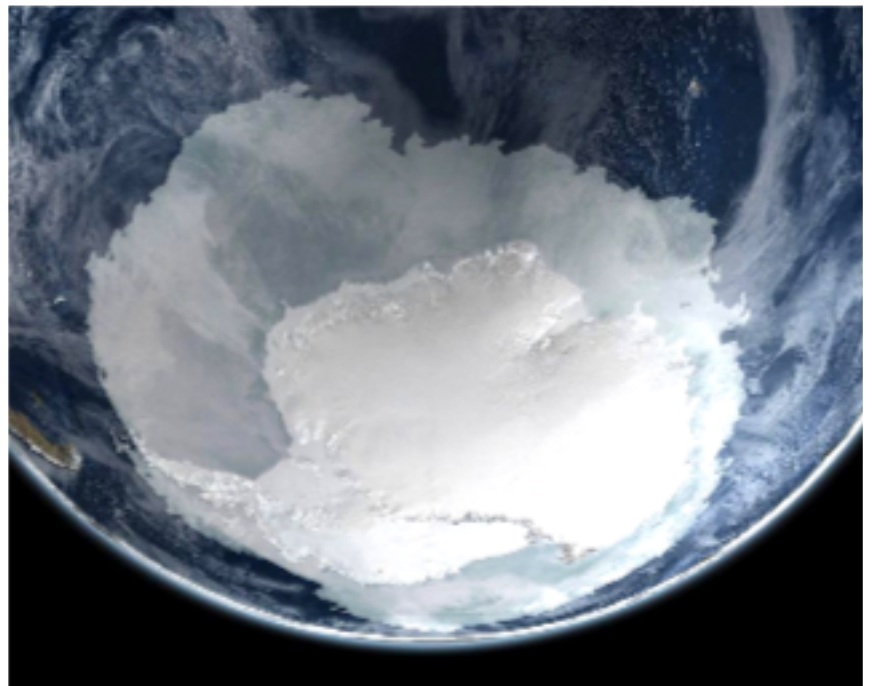
SENECA

Letters from a Stoic

Monday 9th March - 3.35pm - S5

FINDING NEUTRINOS IN ANTARCTICA AND BEYOND... WITH RYAN NICHOL

Neutrinos are the smallest particles of matter. Antarctica is the coldest, windiest, driest, emptiest continent on Earth. In this masterclass Prof. Ryan Nichol (UCL Physics and Astronomy) will explain why his research has led him to search for the particle which is as close to nothing as we can get (the neutrino) in the place which is barely on many maps (Antarctica). What can these tiny particles in this frozen wasteland tell us about how the Universe works?





Thursday 12th March - 3.35pm - S5

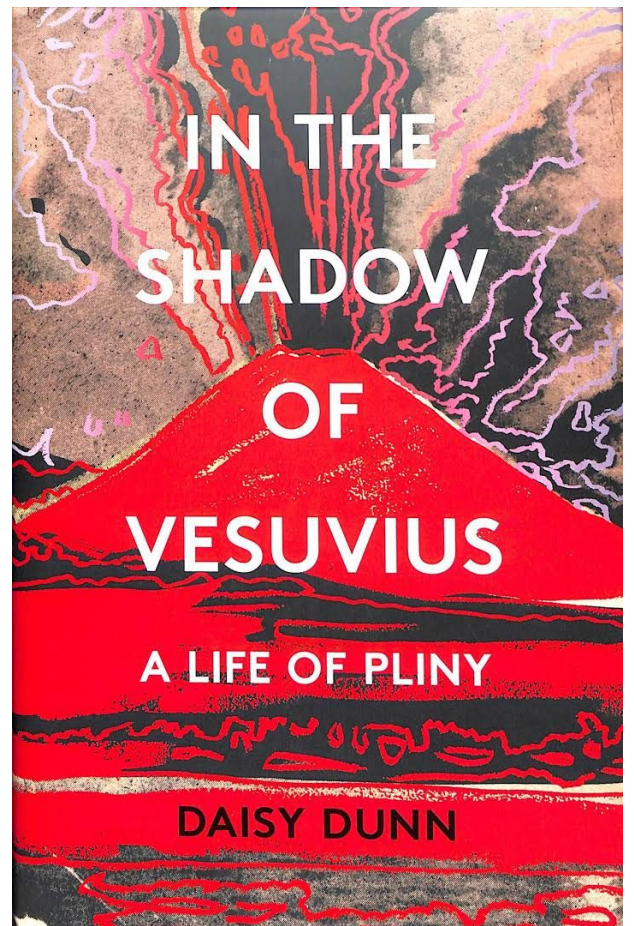
NATURE, NURTURE, OR NEITHER? THE VIEW FROM THE GENES WITH STEVE JONES

Many people today assume that their fate is coded for in their DNA, while others insist that the environment - one's way of life - is far more important. To some degree, both are correct; but the essential point is that the effects of the environment often depend on the genes one carries; a discovery essential to modern medicine. The eminent evolutionary biologist and geneticist Steve Jones has published many books and articles on this subject and appears regularly on TV and radio. In this masterclass he will outline the most up to date scientific evidence relating to this long running and contentious debate.

Monday 16th March - 3.35pm - S5

IN THE SHADOW OF VESUVIUS - THE LIFE OF PLINY WITH DAISY DUNN

Dr Daisy Dunn is a writer, classicist and cultural critic. Her latest books, published in 2019, are *In the Shadow of Vesuvius: A Life of Pliny*, an anthology of ancient stories translated by great writers entitled *Of Gods and Men*, and the Ladybird Expert book on *Homer*. In this masterclass she will talk about the fascinating lives of both Pliny the Elder, the natural historian who died in the eruption of Vesuvius in 79CE, and his nephew, Pliny the Younger, the Imperial politician and prolific letter writer who bore witness to the reigns of the Emperors Titus, Domitian and Trajan in the late 1st and early 2nd Century CE. Through an exploration of the relationship between the two men we will gain an insight into Roman attitudes towards life, death and the natural world at the high point of the Roman Empire.



Copies of some of Daisy's recently published books will be available to buy and get signed.



Thursday 19th March - 3.35pm - S5

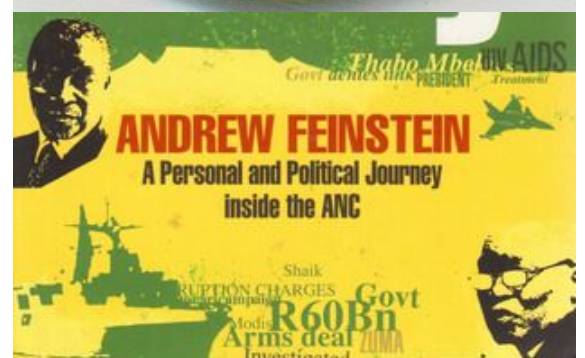
RISKY BUSINESS – STUDYING ACTIVE AND HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE VOLCANOES WITH CHIARA PETRONE

Volcanic eruptions are exciting and spectacular displays of nature's incredible power, but they put people in danger. Approximately 800 million people live within 100 km of a volcano that is currently erupting or has the potential to erupt in the future, making it more important than ever to mitigate risks to local populations by monitoring data and estimating the probability of an eruption and its impact. Dr Chiara Petrone is based at the Department of Earth Sciences at London's Natural History Museum. In this masterclass she will talk about her work studying active and highly explosive volcanoes such as Popocatepetl and Stromboli, using rocks emitted during volcanic eruptions to understand the hidden processes inside the volcano.

Monday 23th March - 3.35pm - S5

SOUTH AFRICA'S ANC – FROM LIBERATION MOVEMENT TO GOVERNING POWER WITH ANDREW FEINSTEIN

Andrew Feinstein was an ANC (African National Congress) Member of Parliament in South Africa where he served under Nelson Mandela in a variety of roles in the 1990s, gaining an insider's view as the ANC transitioned from a persecuted liberation movement to becoming the dominant and almost unchallenged party of government. He resigned over the ANC's refusal to allow an enquiry into a multi-billion dollar arms deal which was tainted by allegations of high level corruption. Now based in London, Andrew is currently Executive Director of Shadow World Investigations - an NGO that investigates and exposes the impact of bribery and corruption on democracy and development – and an investigative writer, broadcaster, campaigner and speaker. In this masterclass he will discuss all of this and bring us up to date with the current state of affairs in South Africa.



Thursday 26th March - 3.35pm - S5

WHAT NEXT FOR THE LEFT AND THE LABOUR PARTY? WITH CHI ONWURAH

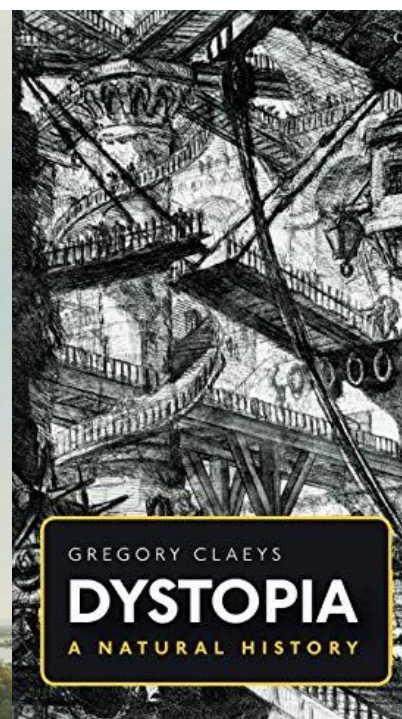
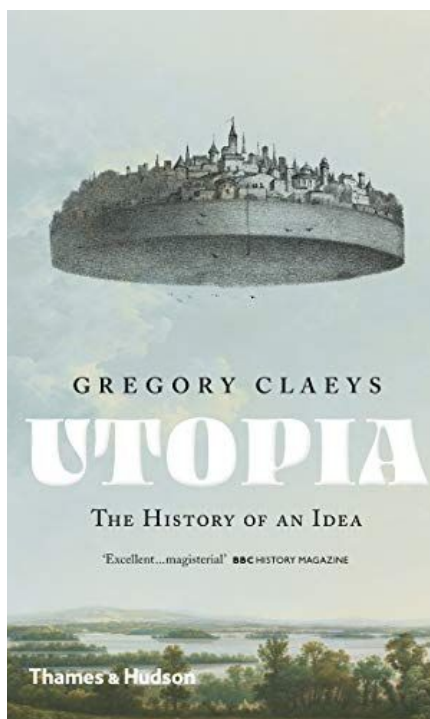
At 11.27pm on the 12th December the first result of the 2019 general election was declared in Newcastle - Chi Onwurah was duly elected as the MP for the Labour Party with a solid majority of over 12,000. Unfortunately for Labour, it all went downhill from there as the results came in from the rest of the country. In this masterclass Chi will talk about her career as an engineer before she became a full time politician, and how this informs her role as shadow minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. She will also outline her ideas as to how the Left and the Labour Party can recover from its recent crushing defeat and her personal vision for how it might be possible to unite a Britain that seems more polarised, divided and unequal than ever before.



Monday 30th March - 3.35pm - S5

UTOPIA/DYSTOPIA - THE HISTORY OF AN IDEA WITH GREGORY CLAEYS

So-called 'perfect' societies are now usually referred to using the name invented by Sir Thomas More - but the fear of their shadow side, a nightmare society resulting from the attempt to actually create such places, has inspired a host of writers from Huxley, to Orwell and Atwood. Arguably one person's Utopia is another person's Dystopia - and who can say with certainty what is 'good' and 'bad'? There can be no more knowledgeable authority on the subject than Professor Gregory Claeys of Royal Holloway, University of London. In this masterclass he will trace this enduring idea through 2500 years of intellectual, cultural, political and literary history.



Copies of Gregory's book *Utopia- The History of an Idea* will be available to buy for £8 (cash).



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SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
SIXTH FORM

