

THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

Priory Press

Module 4 - Edition 1



Chicago

Alastair Niclair

Chicago

The school show returned last module, after a break last year due to COVID, with a production of Chicago. It was without doubt a resounding success with two of the three nights being sold out and an audience comprised of parents, staff and also many students who came along to show support to their friends in the production. All three shows went without incident with the audience greatly enjoying the high standard of the acting, music, singing, and dancing. The cast's dedication was on full display throughout the performances with the cast having rehearsed for hundreds of hours combined and put in much hard work. The production brought together students from all years performing as leads, in the dance troupe, in the ensemble, in the band or helping backstage and with lighting and sound.



Chicago

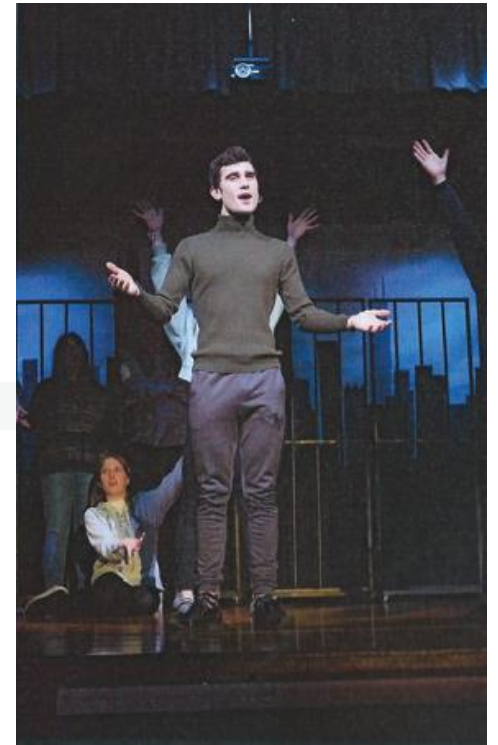
William Fitzgerald

Interview with Mr Billinger

His role in the production of Chicago was as Musical Director, which involved going over the music and teaching it to the ensemble and the band. He was also involved with deciding who would best fit roles vocally.

There were many struggles, including time management as it was difficult with rehearsals for soloist getting equal time, and there being fewer musicians as many band members from previous years had left so teaching the new, smaller band was more time consuming. The band were struggling at first but did a great job in the end. Some of the last minute problems were: a broken cello string, a cello spike going missing and the cast trying to remember their lines right up to the final minute.

Some of the fun parts were when soloist learnt the songs by themselves and performed them perfectly. One of the most exciting moments was the first performance to the Year 7s as everyone was enjoying themselves and it felt less like a job and was a lot of fun. However it was a bitter sweet experience on the final performance as it was so amazing to be involved in and he was impressed by how amazing the cast and band had been throughout the whole journey together.



Chicago

William Fitzgerald



Interview with Eve Scott - dancer

Many of the dancers had already danced in previous shows and were able to do it again. The amount of time taken to learn the moves varied as some were easier to learn than others but once they were learnt it was perfect.

One great thing was we never felt judged by anyone in the cast and it was fun all the way through. At the start we were worried about the singing but by the end we realised we had enjoyed it and had had great fun. We most enjoyed performing the Cell Block Tango – an icon of the musical.

On the first performance day we were very nervous and the pressure was on but after settling we were excited to go on stage. The last performance gave a mix of emotions and satisfaction after working so hard together for weeks and having made many new friends in the process.

A hectic time was when one of the dancers caught Covid only a week before the show and we had to reposition but it was handled well. Before joining the show, many of us thought it would not be our thing but when we joined the feeling was of indescribable joy. For all the readers out there if you want to join the show for any role you are welcome to, as many have agreed that performers who joined in late wished they had joined earlier. The dancers all say that the best motto to have is: “Don’t give up and stay committed as its so worth it.”

Chicago

William Fitzgerald

Hannah Minto

My role in Chicago was as dance captain which meant assisting and choreographing dances and it was great fun! I loved being part of the show and going through the choreographic process and then seeing it all come together at the end.

Some difficulties were: finding enough time for juggling the different sets of practices that all the cast needed; putting the show together in the first dress rehearsal with the acting, singing, live music, dancing and costumes was a huge challenge. We had to make sure that all the different pieces gelled together well and obviously everyone had to get used to working within their roles with people they didn't know. It paid off in the end though! One of the dance troupe members unfortunately caught Covid so we had to re-block most of the dances. It was stressful to reorganise spacing and change some movements, but we managed it!

We all loved having a little dance backstage whilst others on stage were singing. Especially doing some front rockette type kicks whilst Ben was singing Mr Cellophane. The school show is a lovely way to get to know people from all year groups and to come together through the love of musical theatre. Even if you are a novice to the arts, it's a great experience to have and will not only develop your confidence but also provide you with a new hobby!



Sport News

William Mayall

Sporting sanctions as tensions rise in the Ukraine

When a teenager misbehaves, parents might often ground them for a week to demonstrate their disappointment and try to influence better behaviour – this is what a sanction is.

Around the world, sanctions in all fields are now being applied against Russia because of its actions against Ukraine. The world of sport is no exception:

The Champion's League final has been moved to Paris instead of its previous venue in St Petersburg; in motorsport, the Russian Formula One Grand Prix will be re-located to another country and Manchester United is playing its part by blocking Aeroflot, the Russian national airline from their sponsors.

All of these are small changes and we might ask, what difference will they make? Individually, perhaps none, but along with thousands of other similar non-violent gestures, the message will be heard and a difference might be made. At the very least this is the western world putting a stake in the sand to voice its collective disapproval of violence and aggression from Russia towards its neighbour.

School News

Grace Ruto

LSST Anti-Racism Team

Last year, a fantastic group of Year 13s founded LSST's first, anti-racism team. These past two years have seen a great uproar of protests advocating against the discrimination of minority groups, including 'Black Lives Matter' and 'Stop Asian Hate' - provoking them to form the team. We are passionate about ensuring issues of racial abuse are handled properly, educating others, and making the diverse population of our school feel heard and feel safe.

This term we have begun drop-in sessions every other week, where students of all year groups can attend. At these sessions, we discuss topics like Islamophobia, racial trauma and historical events. You can come to learn, share your ideas or even just vent with people who understand. These sessions are a safe space and they are there so you don't feel alone. You are also more than welcome to use these sessions as an opportunity to report any racist incidents you have experienced or witnessed in or outside of school. On 19th March, it will be the United Nations anti-racism day. This will be a chance for all years to learn about slurs, human rights movements, colonialism, and racial bullying. The team aims for healthy and open debates and discussions where people feel safe to open up and share their ideas. There will also be a display board going up soon so you can meet the team, along with other useful information. We as a team, always want to hear from YOU! How should our school celebrate Black History Month or how can we open up the discussion on racism in school? We cannot end racism in school but a good school is not one without racism, but one that handles it accurately and with compassion.

School News

Sijin Wang

The Priory Academy LSST Chess Tournament 2022

This year's LSST chess tournament is here! Chess! A game of strategy that for many years has been used as a indicator of brawns. But today we're here with some personal insight into the players thoughts on chess and the tournament. The idea of a tournament, for many players , is to win- of course- but some players wanted to 'just play' and have fun. Chess may be seen as a 'time consuming' sport, but for some that's what they enjoy about it. Some people started playing chess during lockdown because this. This chess tournament had participants of different experiences. Some had started only a year ago, some had started a while back and some were born into the game of chess. If any of you want to start learning chess you can just pop into the library- Mrs Allan and the library assistants are all happy to help and teach you. Here are the winners! Paulius and Athena!



Sport News

William Mayall



Winter Paralympics starting soon

The Winter Paralympics is starting soon and everyone is excited, however not many people know many of the activities that Paralympians are involved in. So we are here to fix that.

Here are some sports that are included: Alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, Para Biathlon, Para cross-country skiing, Para ice hockey, snowboard and wheelchair curling. The event will be historic as for the first time in history the Para Alpine Skiing, Para Biathlon, Para Cross-country and Para Snowboard World Championships are held in the same city, at the same time.

Another big Paralympic sporting event coming up is the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham from 28 July to 8 August, though it is limited to Paralympians from countries part of the Commonwealth of Nations. Birmingham will host competitions in Para Swimming, Para Athletics, Para Track Cycling, Para Lawn Bowls, Para Powerlifting, Para Table Tennis, Para Triathlon, and Wheelchair Basketball. Around 25 countries including Australia, England, Canada, South Africa, India, New Zealand, Kenya, Nigeria, and many Caribbean nations, will be participating in the event.

This Week in History

Elliot Richardson Bushell

Klaus Fuchs convicted of espionage

This week in March 1950, a man called Klaus Fuchs was found guilty of spying for the Soviet Union and giving them atomic bomb secrets. He was one of Britain's top nuclear scientists and shared information with many outsiders about the Manhattan project – America's atomic bomb programme.

Fuchs was born in 1911 and after fleeing Germany in 1933 when the Nazi party took control, he began working with the British government developing the atomic bomb but in 1941 he began to send the information to the Soviet Union owing to his communist beliefs.

He gave the atomic bomb information a mere 5 years after the Second World War. His life had a major impact on the world today. He was responsible for many theoretical calculations dedicated to the atomic bomb as well as having an impact when the hydrogen bomb was made.

After he was convicted in 1950, he served over 9 years in prison before heading to East Germany to continue his scientific work, eventually helping China to acquire nuclear weapons.

