



CSG SIXTH FORM MASTERCLASSES



Spring 2025 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 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 only £1 per session!
- Parents/guardians will be sent an invitation to pay through ParentPay by email.

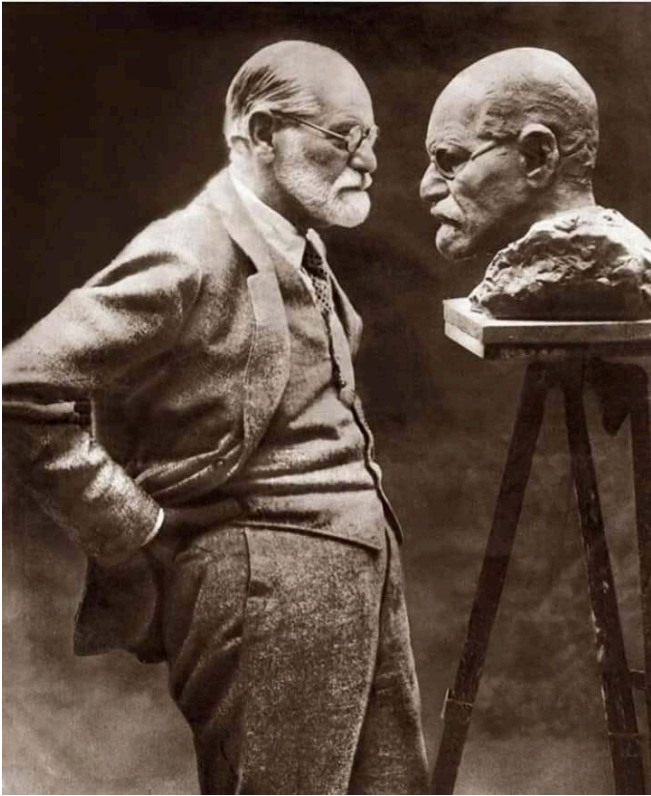
Parents and friends are welcome to attend masterclasses - one off tickets for a session are £10 (this will be used to subsidise the participation of bursary students in the residential trip at the end of the year) - please email jstubbings@csg.school to register your interest.

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 - 3.30pm - S5



Psychoanalysis Before and After Freud - A Brief History of Truth with Philip Hill

Freud is frequently misunderstood. In this masterclass, in order to move towards a better understanding of Freud's theories of love, demand and desire, and their central part in the human condition, we will look at theories of truth and deception before and after Freud.

Philip Hill is a practising psychoanalyst and author who works with the ideas of Freud and Lacan.

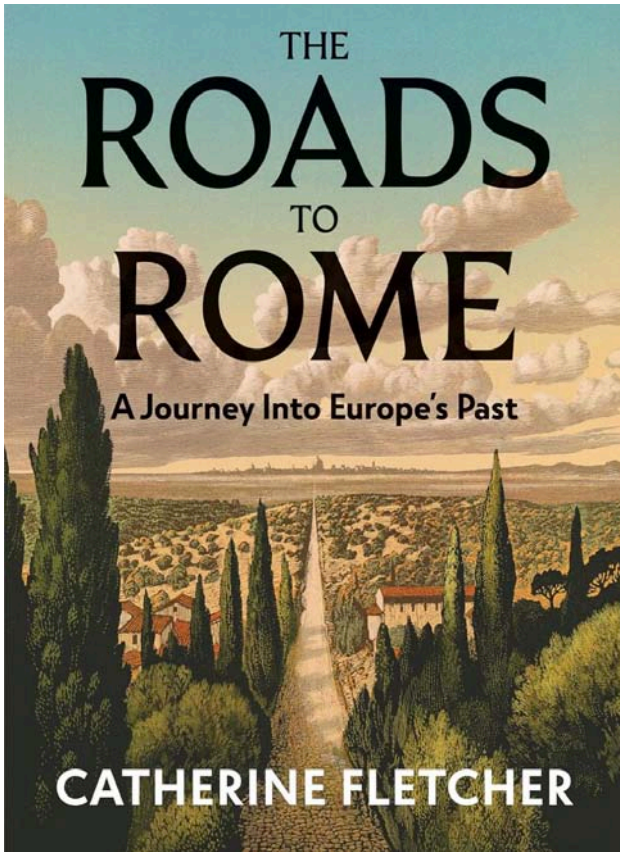
Monday 3rd March - 3.30pm - S5

A Report from Cuba - The Battle of Ideas with Orlando Hill

For almost 50 years Orlando Hill has been following the Cuban Revolution. In October, he finally visited Cuba as part of the National Education Union (NEU) delegation and had the opportunity to speak to students, teachers and ordinary people in the streets. In this masterclass he will talk about his views on the economy and the way forward for Cuba; democracy and popular participation; the role of education, and finally racism. Cuba, along with Brazil, was the last country in the Americas to abolish slavery. What is the legacy and how is it dealt with?



Thursday 6th March - 3.30pm - S5



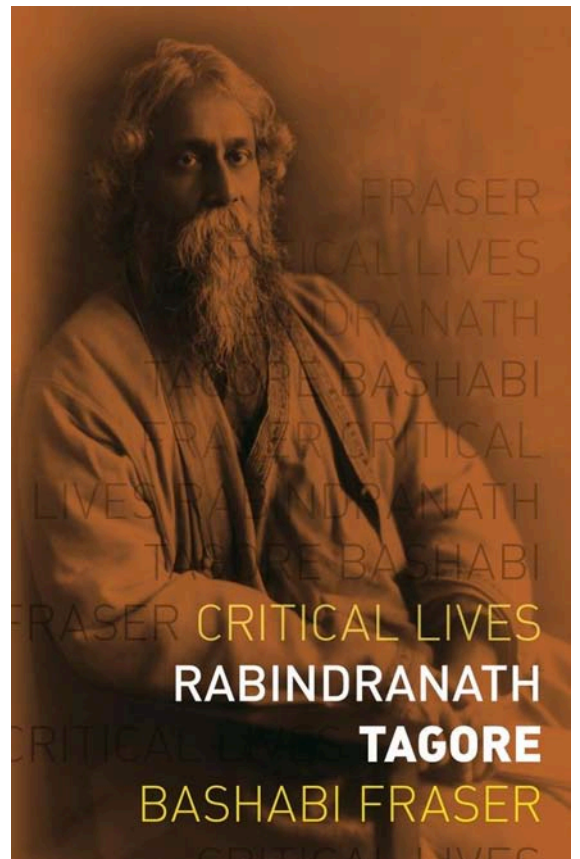
The Roads to Rome with Catherine Fletcher

'All roads lead to Rome' is a medieval proverb, but in a certain sense it is true: many of today's European roads still follow the networks of the ancient empire, as Rome's extraordinary legacy continues to grip our imaginations. Over the two thousand years since they were first built, the roads have been walked by crusaders and pilgrims, liberators and dictators, but also by tourists and writers, refugees and artists - as channels of trade and travel, and routes for conquest and creativity. In this masterclass Catherine Fletcher will show how the roads forever transformed the cultures, and intertwined the fates, of people across Europe, North Africa and the Middle-East.

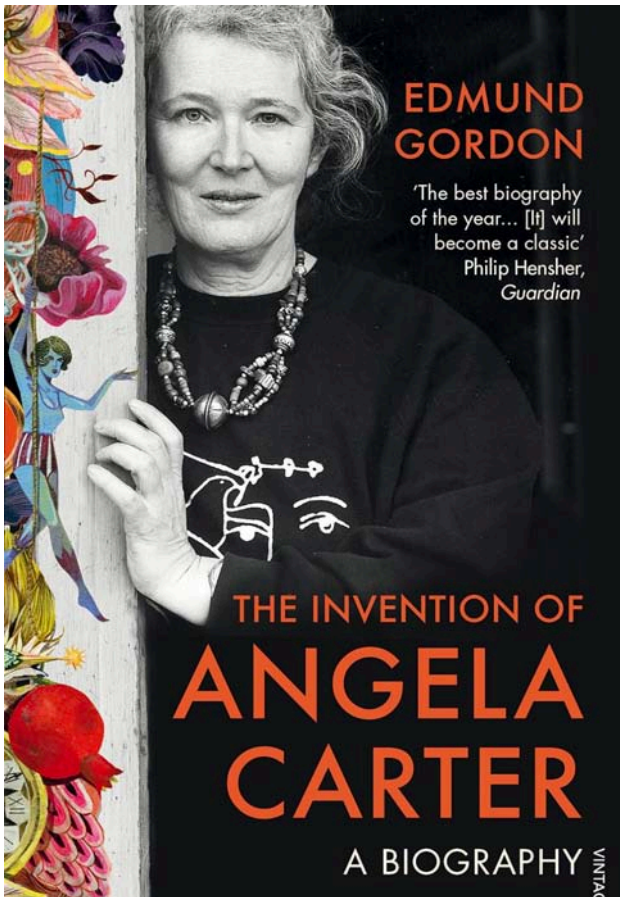
Monday 10th March - 3.30pm - S5

Rabindranath Tagore - Bengal's Greatest Writer with Bashabi Fraser

Polymath Rabindranath Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 and many regard him as the greatest Bengali writer of all time. But Tagore was much more than a writer. Through his poems, novels, short stories, poetic songs and paintings, he transformed Bengali literature and Indian art. He was instrumental in bringing Indian culture to the West and vice versa, and strove to create a less divided society through mutual respect and understanding. In this masterclass Bashabi Fraser will introduce us to Tagore's philosophy and writing - his ties to his upbringing in Bengal and his role in Indian politics - and make a case that he is a writer who should be much more widely known and read today.



Thursday 13th March - 3.30pm - S5



Angela Carter and The Bloody Chamber with Edmund Gordon

As a writer Angela Carter was playful, mischievous, and provocative – and these qualities are present in abundance in her short story collection *The Bloody Chamber*. In this masterclass Edmund Gordon, lecturer at King's College London and author of the highly acclaimed biography *The Invention of Angela Carter*, will give an outline of her life and work with special reference to her re-workings of gothic tropes and fairy tale archetypes in *The Bloody Chamber*.

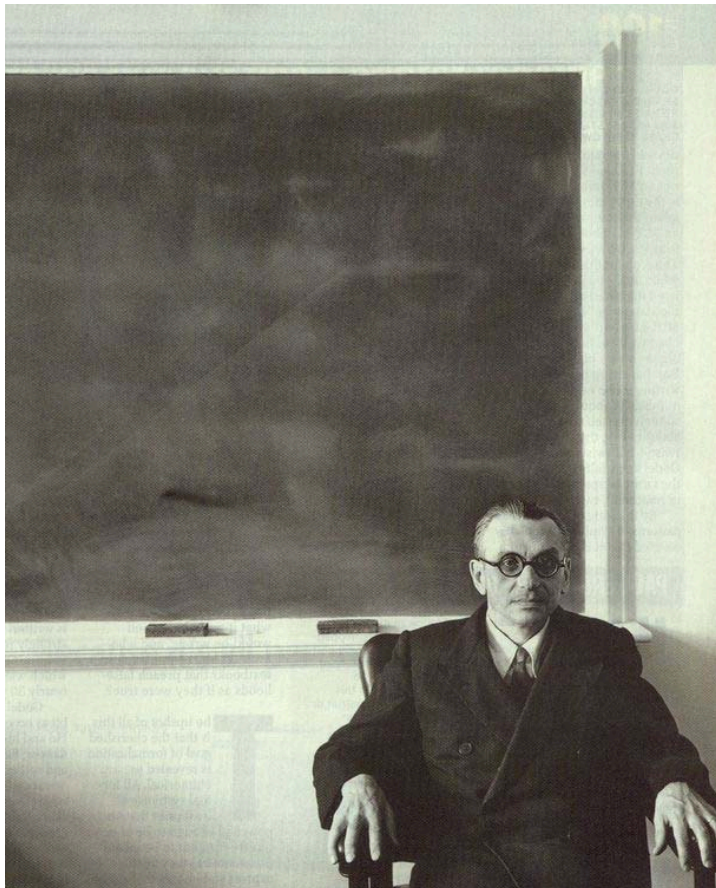
Monday 17th March - 3.30pm - S5

Silk - A Global History with Aarathi Prasad

In this masterclass Aarathi Prasad will weave together the story of a unique material that has fascinated the world for millennia. As she does in her new book - *Silk - A History in Three Metamorphoses* - she will present a cultural and biological history from the origins and ancient routes of silk to the biologists who learned the secrets of silk-producing animals, manipulating the habitats and physiologies of moths, spiders and molluscs in order to manufacture the highly prized fabric.



Thursday 20th March - 3:30pm - S5



Gödel's Incompleteness Theorem

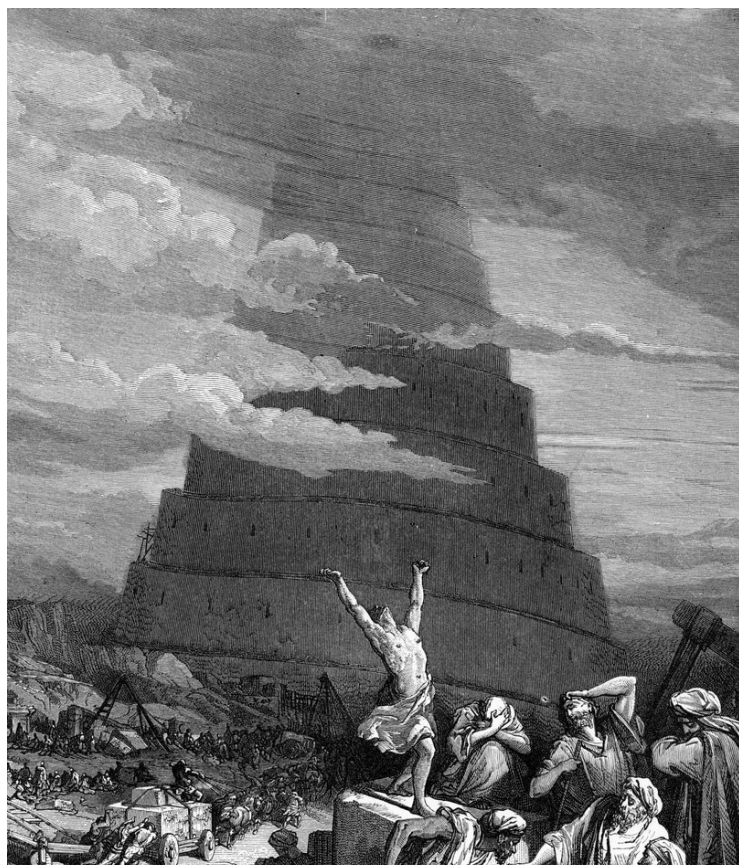
with Alex Diaz

Gödel's incompleteness theorems are two theorems of mathematical logic that are concerned with the limits of provability in formal axiomatic theories. These results, published by Kurt Gödel in 1931, are important both in mathematical logic and in the philosophy of mathematics. Come to this masterclass to hear Alex Diaz, Associate Professor in Applied Mathematics at UCL, make sense of this - as well as talk about some examples of how Gödel's ideas have been used to inspire works of fiction.

Monday 24th March - 3.30pm - S5

The Tower of Babel with Jon Stubbings

Why do humans speak different languages? Why are we divided into tribes and nations that so frequently come into conflict with each other? An answer to these questions was condensed into less than 200 words by the Hebrew scribes who wrote and edited the book of *Genesis* around 2500 years ago - but many questions still remain. Was there a real tower? What message did the Hebrew scribes intend their original audience to draw from the story? How has the story inspired many artists and writers since that time - and what is its relevance today? Come to this masterclass to find out more.



Thursday 27th March - 3.30pm - S5



Creative Writing and the Art of Storytelling with Tim Lott

What Is A Story? Why is a story different from 'stuff happens'? What do so many very different stories have in common with one another?

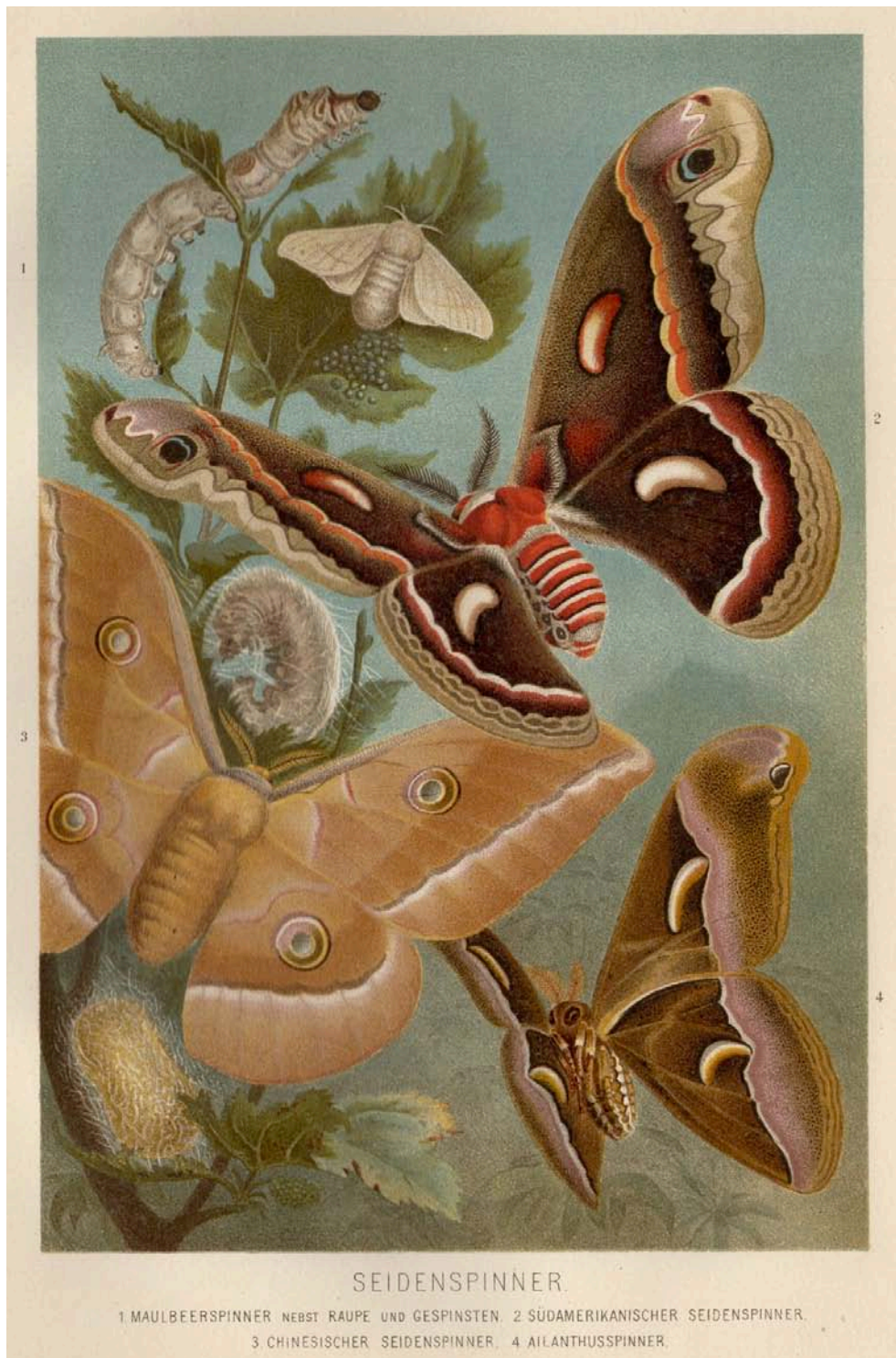
Tim Lott is the author of over ten novels and works of non-fiction and has written prolifically for The Guardian and The Independent as well as teaching creative writing. In this masterclass he will talk about the art of storytelling and offer you advice with your own creative writing ideas.

Monday 31st March - 3.30pm - S5

Pandemic Management and Vaccine Development with Sunetra Gupta

Sunetra Gupta is Professor of Theoretical Epidemiology in the Department of Biology at Oxford University. Her main area of interest is in the evolution of diversity in pathogens, with particular reference to the infectious disease agents that are responsible for malaria, influenza and bacterial meningitis. She is also a novelist who has a special interest in the public understanding of science. In this masterclass she will talk about the role of mathematical models in pandemic management and the development of vaccines - with reference to many case studies including the recent Covid-19 pandemic.





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