



ABINGDON

From Head of English: Joanna Bridgeworth

14 October 2016

Dear Parents,

RE: Joint Literary Society Sixth Form Dinner – Wednesday 30 November 2016

The fifth annual Literary Society dinner will take place at St Helen's this year and is open to all boys studying English A level, Theatre Studies A level, or those who are regular attenders of our Literary Society.

We are extremely lucky to have as our guest speaker Lucy Hughes-Hallett. Lucy, a fellow of the Royal Literary Society, is a biographer, critic and journalist. Her biography of Gabriele D'Annunzio, *The Pike*, won both the Samuel Johnson prize for non-fiction and the Costa biography award in 2013. Her other publications include *Cleopatra: Histories, Dreams and Distortions* (1990) and *Heroes: Saviours, Traitors and Supermen* (2004). We hope to engage her in conversation about her writing and to draw out her thoughts on controversial artistic figures like D'Annunzio as well as discuss the art of life-writing, and the phenomenon of hero-worship within literary studies and contemporary culture more broadly. We anticipate a fascinating and stimulating evening!

The evening will start at 6.30pm with drinks in the atrium. We will move to the Studio Theatre to hear from Lucy Hughes-Hallett at 7pm, before sitting down to dinner at 7.45pm. A small glass of wine will be served with the meal (if parental consent is given). Boys should be ready to leave by 9.15pm and I would appreciate it if you could confirm that you are happy for the boys to make their own way home or be collected from school at that time.

The total cost for the event is £15. I hope you will be happy for this to be added to your end-of-term bill. I would be grateful if you could return the permission slip to me at school by Friday 4 November.

Do let me know if you have any questions at all.

Yours sincerely

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