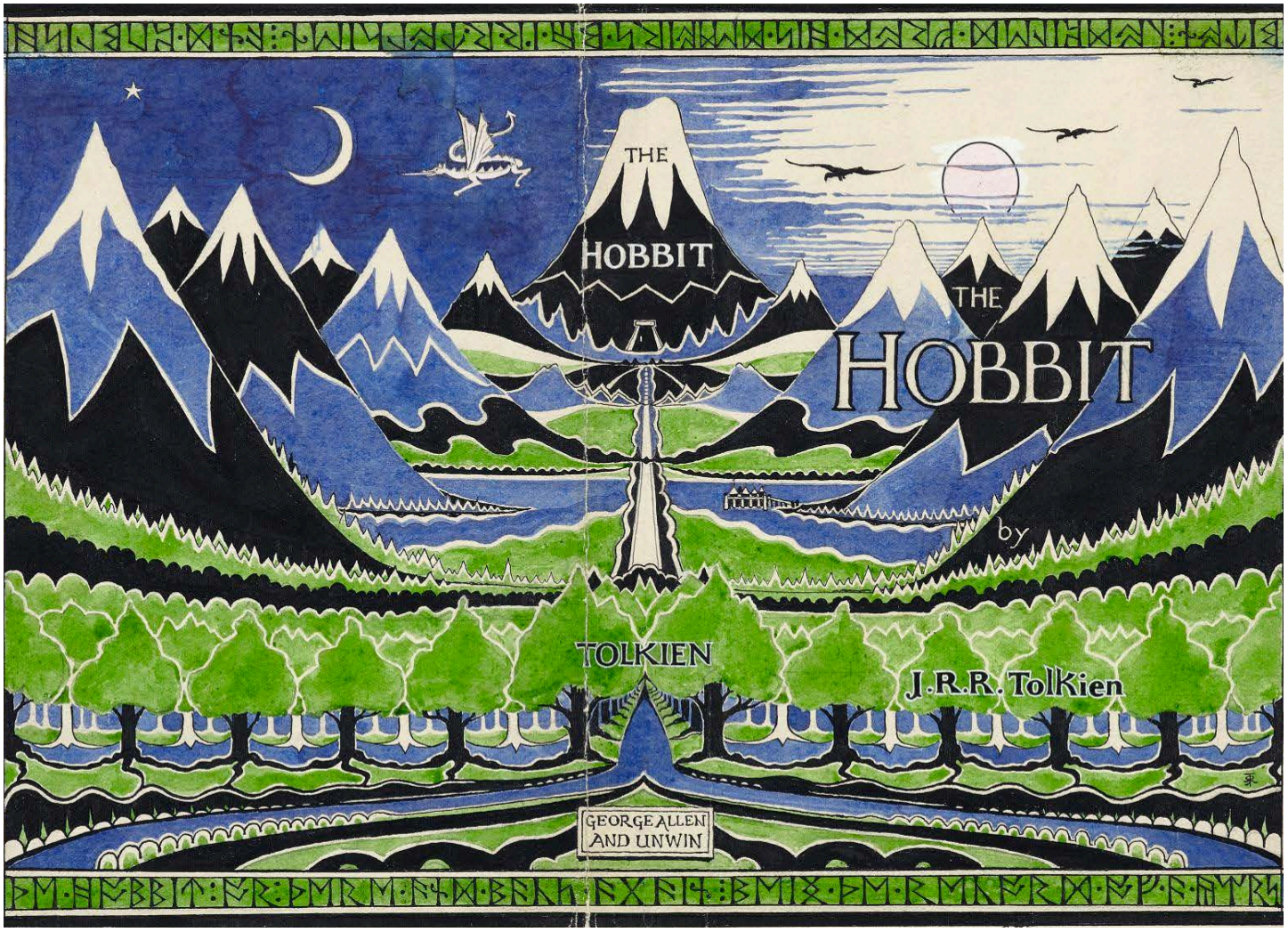
CSG SIXTH FORM MASTERCLASSES



Autumn 2026 Programme

CSG Sixth Form Masterclasses

No exams.

No grades.

Just interesting speakers and stimulating discussions.

- Masterclasses are
- 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.

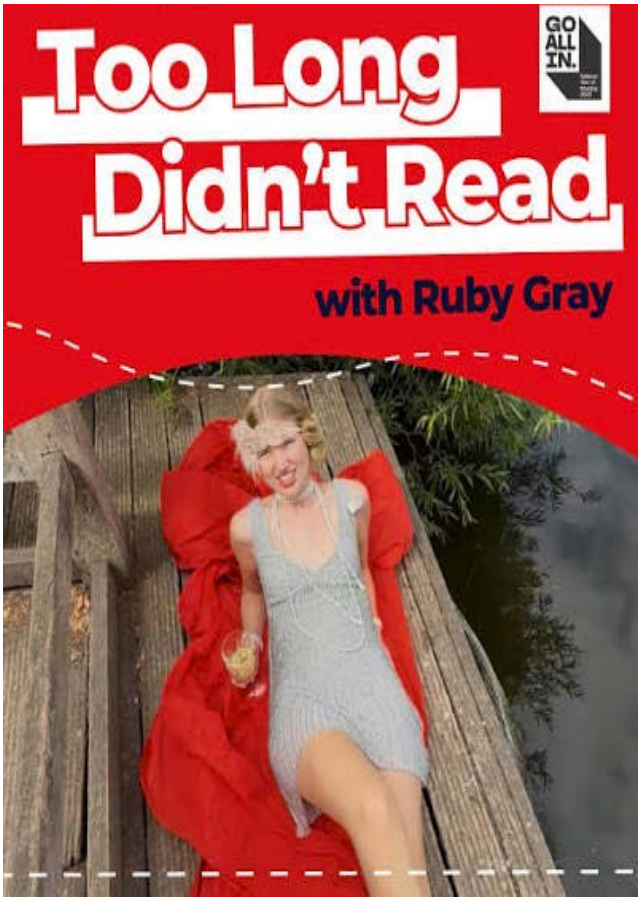
Parents and friends are also welcome to attend masterclasses - one off tickets for a session are £10 - **please email jstubbings@csg.school to register your interest.**

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 Masterclasses Coordinator

Monday 19th October - 3.30pm - S5



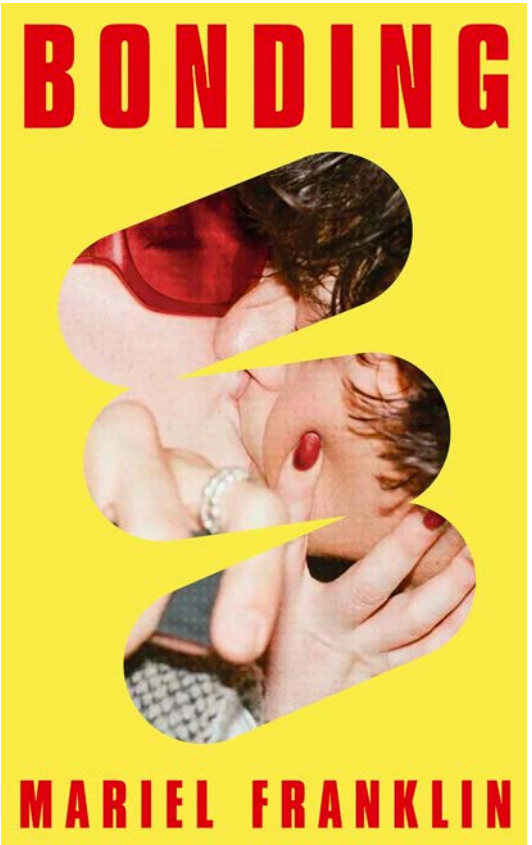
'Too long Didn't read' - The Surprising Stories Behind Classic Literature with Ruby Gray

Ruby Gray came late to a love of classic literature - having previously studied the History of Science at university. She now makes videos explaining and introducing classic literature to an online audience of new readers (over 100,000 followers on Instagram and her videos have had millions of views). In this talk Ruby will share some of the fascinating stories she has uncovered while following in the footsteps of the authors of classics such as *Frankenstein, 1984* and *The Great Gatsby* - and explore what we can learn from them about what it means to be creative.

Thursday 22nd October - 3.30pm - S5

Author Q&A with Mariel Franklin

Mariel Franklin's debut novel *Bonding* was published to critical acclaim in 2024; a dark and satirical dystopia of 21st Century dating, commerce and drugs, increasingly mediated through technology and the internet - Franklin explores modern life and relationships in the aftermath of the sexual revolution. In this session she will discuss how and why she wrote the novel and got it published, the writers and thinkers who have influenced her, the themes and issues explored in *Bonding*, and what she's working on now.



Thursday 5th November - 3.30pm - S5



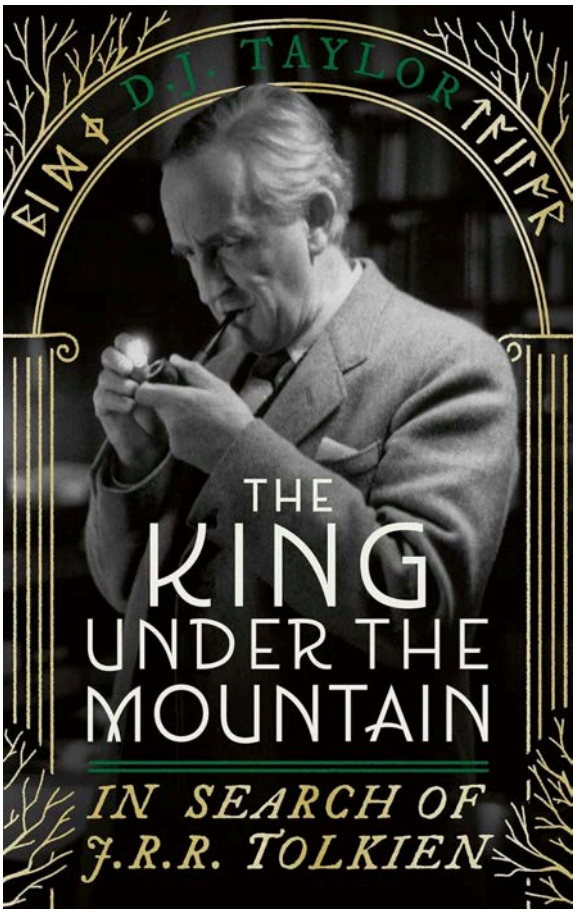
Stolen Revolution - Understanding Modern Iran
with Majid Montazer Mahdi

Majid Montazer Mahdi trained as an Islamic legal scholar at Tehran University and he has undertaken research work on Muslim history and cultures (both Arab and Persian) at Oxford and Exeter Universities. He is currently a project researcher at the Institute of Ismaili Studies in the field of Islamic Biomedical Ethics. In this session he will discuss the Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1979 and the ways in which Iranian society has been transformed over the last five decades - with the goal of increasing understanding of the nature of both the current regime and the resistance movements that oppose it.

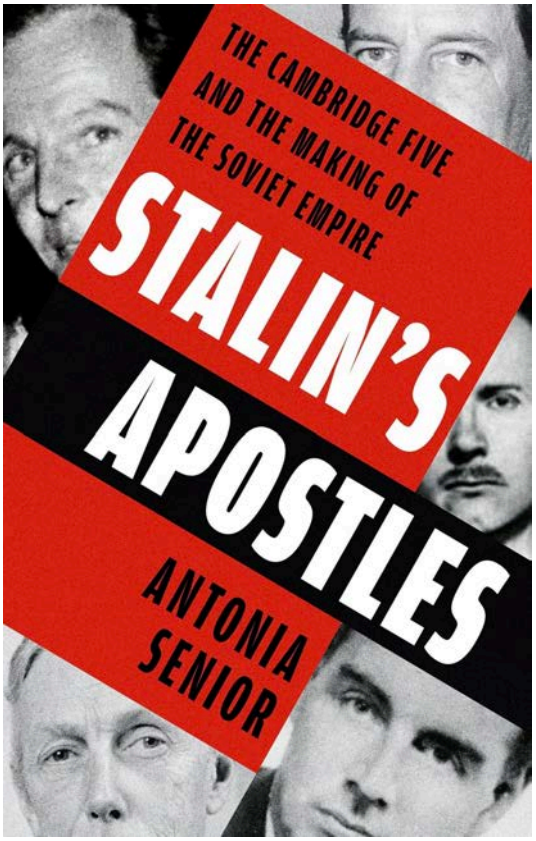
Monday 9th November - 3.30pm - S5

Rings, Kings, Dragons and Hobbits - In search of J.R.R. Tolkien with D.J. Taylor

Since his death in 1973, J.R.R. Tolkien's major works - *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* - have sold over half a billion copies, been made into hugely successful films and influenced generations of fantasy writers, musicians and artists who followed in their wake. In this masterclass the renowned literary biographer and novelist D.J. Taylor (who has visited us before to talk about George Orwell) will tell us about the enigmatic creator of Middle Earth - offering readings of his books informed by information about his life, and explore the ways in which the writer and his works achieved a cult status in the 20th Century that shows little sign of abating in the 21st.



Thursday 12th November - 3.30pm - S5

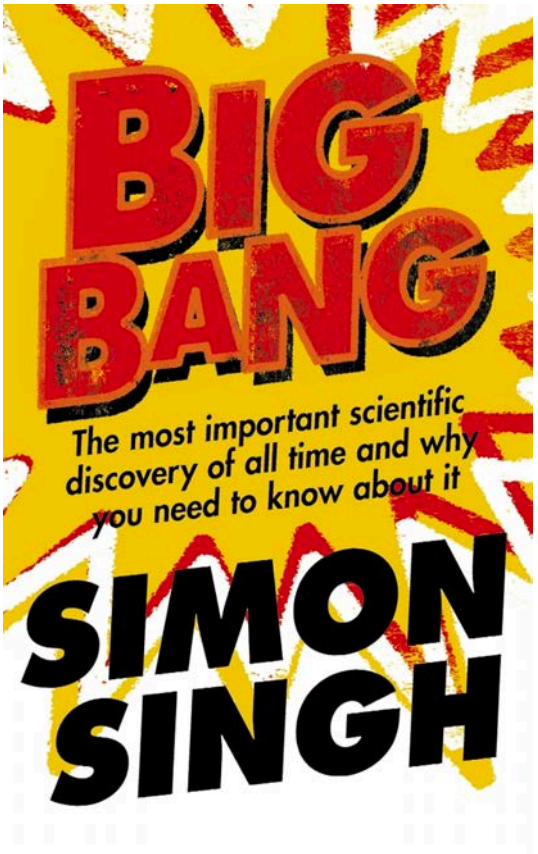


Stalin's Apostles - The Cambridge Five and the Making of the Soviet Empire with Antonia Senior

Using recently declassified files, Antonia Senior's new book *Stalin's Apostles* explores the treachery of the five privileged members of the British Establishment who spied for the Soviet Union: Donald Maclean, Guy Burgess, Kim Philby, John Cairncross and Anthony Blunt, all radicalised while at Cambridge University in the 1930s. In this session she will introduce this tale of espionage, friendship, and betrayal and set out the ways in which these traitors to their country contributed to the deaths of thousands and the growth of the Communist Russian Empire during the Cold War.

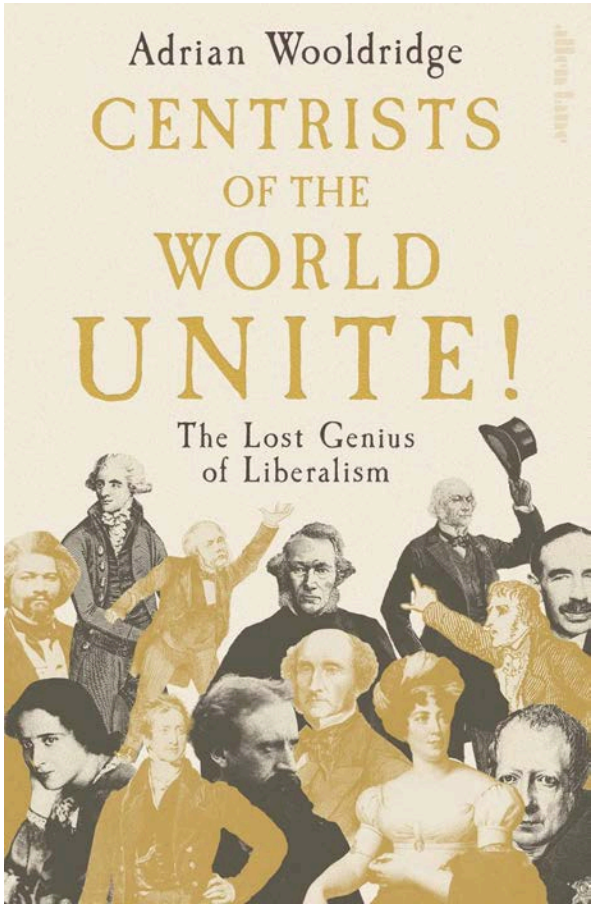
Monday 23rd November - 3.30pm - S5

Scientific Revolutions, Paradigm Shifts, and the Big Bang with Simon Singh



Warning: the ideas explored in this masterclass will be BIG - and may make your head spin. How did the universe begin? And what is the philosophy behind the ways in which humans have conceptualised it through the ages? Simon Singh is a highly renowned journalist and TV producer, specialising in science and mathematics, and the author of many books, including the groundbreaking work of popular science writing *Fermat's Last Theorem*. He is also passionate about science and maths communication and education, so it will be a privilege to hear him speak about scientific revolutions, paradigm shifts, and the Big Bang - for both science specialists and non-scientists.

Thursday 26th November - 3.30pm - S5



A Defence of Centrists and Liberalism

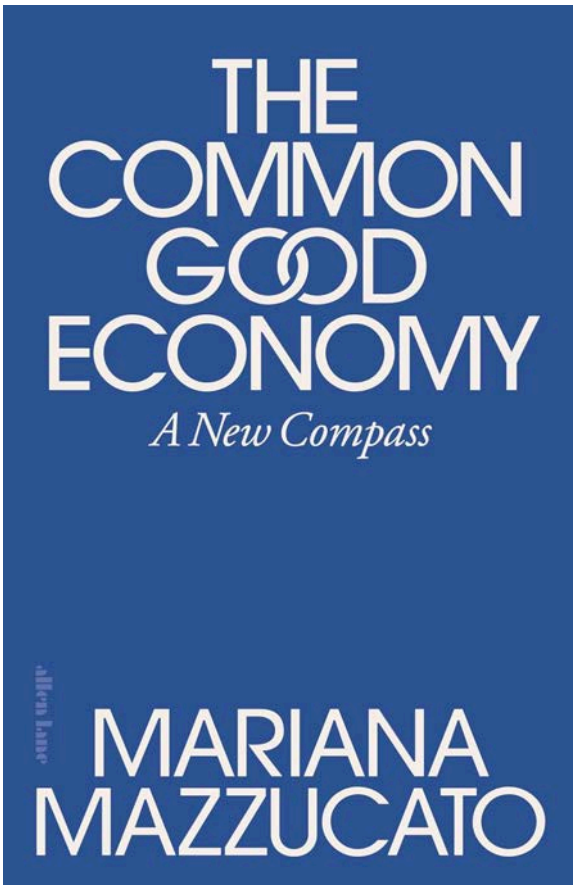
with Adrian Wooldridge

Political and philosophical liberalism has been the victim of its own success - creating its own illiberal enemies to both the right and left of it on the political spectrum. In this masterclass Adrian Wooldridge, journalist at Bloomberg and author of the new book *Centrists of the World Unite!* will argue that liberals and liberalism have powered progress in the form of democracy, mass welfare and defeated totalitarianism, and maybe they could save us from polarisation, populists and extremism again – but only if they rediscover the lost genius of their political philosophy.

Monday 30th November - 3.30pm - S5

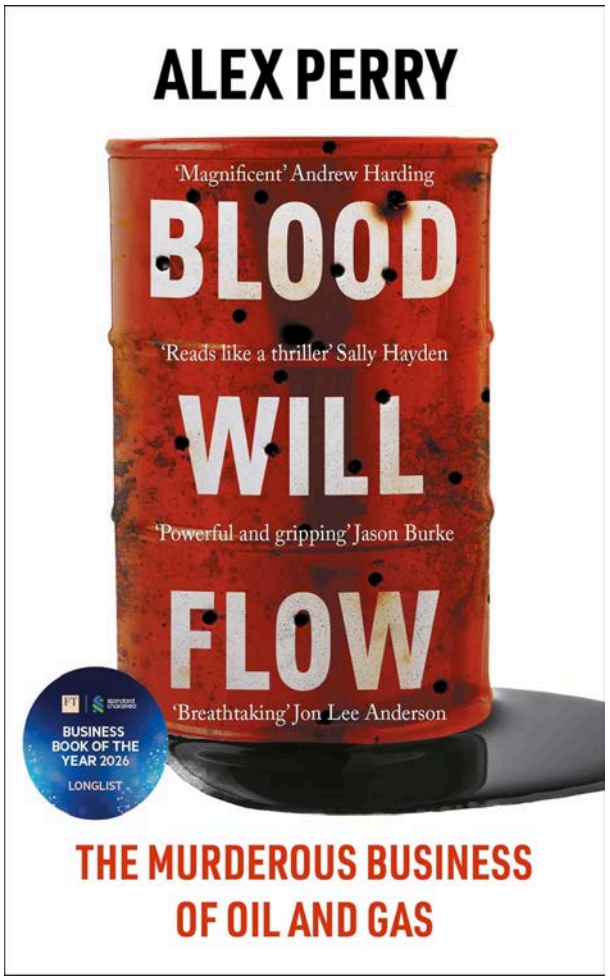
The Common Good Economy

with Mariana Mazzucato



Internationally renowned economist, and long time friend of CSG Sixth Form Masterclasses, Mariana Mazzucato, returns to talk in detail about her latest book *The Common Good Economy.* With increasing concerns about climate change, growing inequality, and with public trust in politicians at seemingly an all time low, what can (and should) governments do to manage the economy for the common good in the 21st Century? In this talk Mariana, who is also Professor of the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London, will set out her vision for some possible answers to that urgent question.

Wednesday 2nd December - 3.00pm - S5 (note day and time)



Blood Will Flow - the Murderous Business of Oil and Gas

with Alex Perry

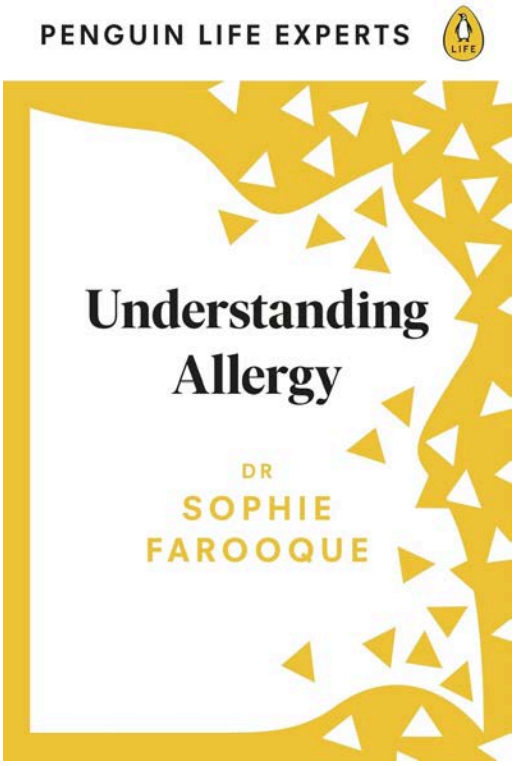
Described as delivering a morality tale for the global economy, and an inspiring quest for justice, Alex Perry's new book *Blood Will Flow - the Murderous Business of Oil and Gas,* is the result of years of investigative reporting on the dirty and unethical way in which global energy companies make their vast profits. Focusing particularly on the case of the gas fields off the coast of Northern Mozambique, the book reconstructs events of the last five years involving Islamist terrorism, multi-billion dollar foreign investment, corporate corruption and political scandal. Come to this masterclass to find out more.

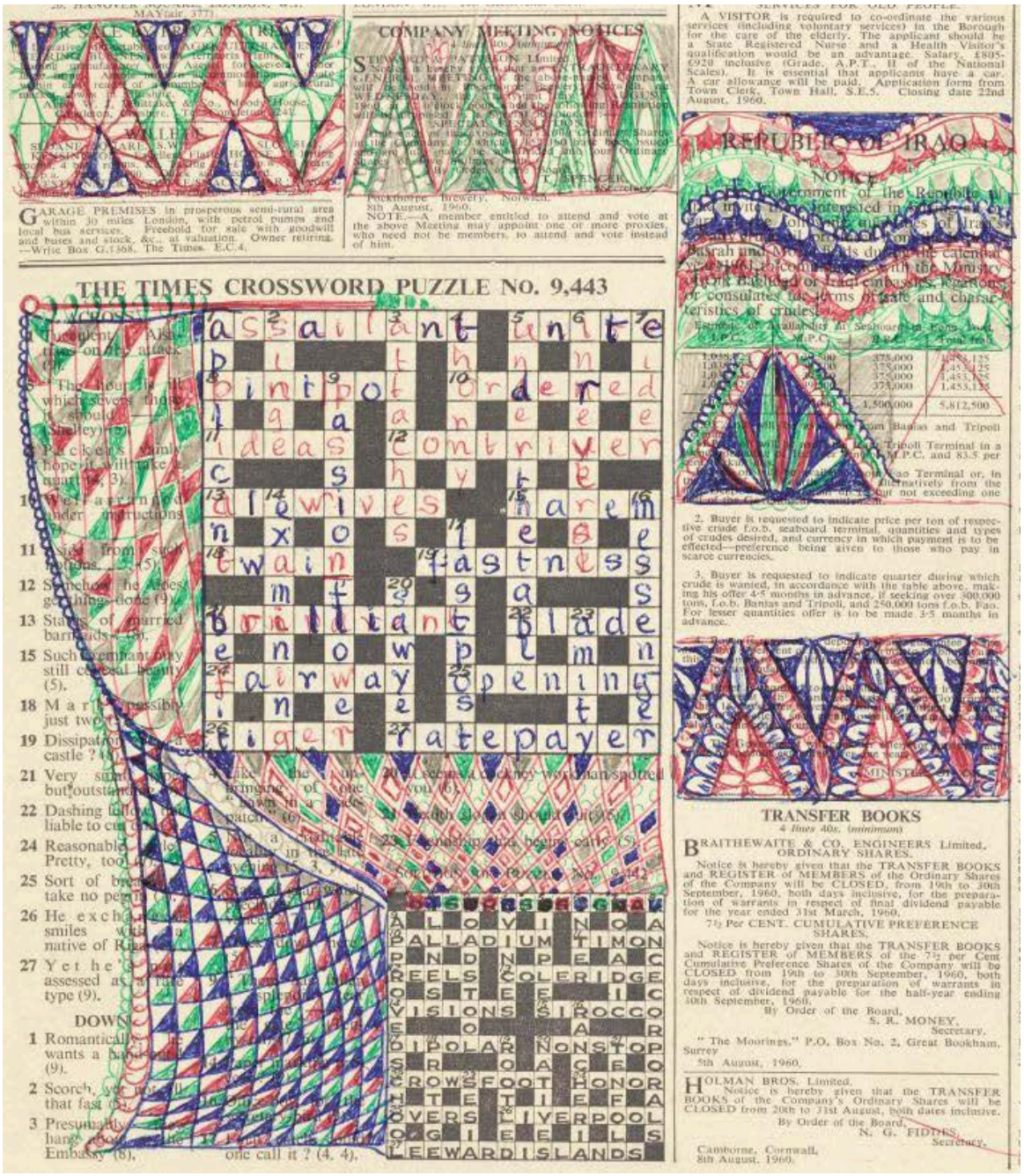
Thursday 3rd December - 3.30pm - S5

Understanding Allergy

with Sophie Farooque

Dr Sophie Farooque is one of the UK's leading allergy experts. A Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, she was elected to the council of the British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology in 2018 and is a practising NHS consultant at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington. Sophie lectures regularly both nationally and internationally and has appeared on TV shows such as This Morning, Sky News and the One Show. In this masterclass she will set out the biological facts about allergies such as hayfever, and intolerances to food and drugs, and describe her work promoting public understanding of allergies and increasing access to medicine for all - through better testing, diagnosis and treatment.





THE CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
SIXTH FORM