

A-Level English Literature Students Take Note of Shakespeare Scholars at Annual Lecture



"I don't believe there is any other spot on earth where you can get so close to a man of genius." These were the opening words of Dr Roy Lodge, founder of the annual Shakespeare lectures and master of ceremonies at the fourteenth annual Shakespeare Lecture held on April 6th in Stratford Upon Avon's magnificent, and recently refurbished, Town Hall.

Stratford Girls' Grammar School English Literature students enjoyed an afternoon of scholarly lecture and debate focusing on: 'Hamlet', 'The Tempest', 'Measure for Measure' and 'Othello'; each a text studied by the invited schools attending.

Leading Shakespearean scholar: Rev. Dr. Paul Edmondson, Head of Research at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, who delivered the main lecture, was supported by a panel of scholars: Sir. Prof. Stanley Wells, Dr. Nick Walton, Dr. Viv Thomas and Jennifer Waghorn.

An hour's Q and A session was held after the main lecture with SGGs student Lara Foxon kicking off the questions on the contentious issue of Gertrude's silence in 'Hamlet'. English Ambassador, Hannah Radley also posed an interesting argument about often omitted Fortinbras from productions. To have five leading Shakespeare experts debate your question is not something that happens every day! Plenty of notes were taken before Hannah gave the vote of thanks, notably to the Town Trust for enabling this wonderful event to take place.

Sixth Form A-Level English Literature Students Enjoyed an Evening with 'Birdsong' author Sebastian Faulks



Year 12 and 13 A-level English Literature students travelled to St Mary's Church, Warwick on Saturday September 11th to enjoy an evening with acclaimed author Sebastian Faulks. As part of the Edexcel A-level English Literature course students explore Faulks's multi-million best seller novel 'Birdsong' so it was an apposite treat for us to be able to hear him discuss his most recent work 'Snow Country'. Faulks spoke about the influences on his writing. He was questioned about his repeated use of the war to explore humanity to which he replied that by using enormous transitional world events such as WWI he is able to expose the ways that mankind responds both physically and psychologically to adversity. Faulks took questions from the audience after his hour-long discussion (interviewed by local author Kit de Waal whose best selling novel My Name is Leon is soon to be dramatized by the BBC)