

18 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I&S INSPIRES

Inspirational Talk from Simon McDonald

Before the Covid pandemic, we launched a series of talks called 'I&S Inspires'. Featuring different motivational speakers, the series peeled back the curtain behind some of the top career pathways, including BBC journalist Gabriel Gatehouse and civil engineer Ed McCann. We believe it is very important to offer our students unique opportunities to hear a range of different voices.

After relaunching the programme in June with a special talk from Dr Nick Bourne, we are now moving onto our next speaker - Simon McDonald. Here is his biography:

Simon McDonald was born and educated in Salford, and read History at Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he is now an Honorary Fellow. He joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1982 and, early in his career, served in Jeddah, Riyadh, Bonn and Washington, D.C.

Simon was British Ambassador to Israel (2003-2006) and to Germany (2010-15). In September 2015 Simon became Permanent Under-Secretary at the FCO and Head of the Diplomatic Service. After leaving the FCO in Autumn 2020, he was appointed a life peer, taking his seat in the House of Lords as a crossbencher in February 2021. Simon is a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George (GCMG) and Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (KCVO).

His first book - 'Leadership: Lessons from a Life in Diplomacy' - was published in November 2022. Simon became the 39th Master of Christ's College, Cambridge University on 1 September 2022.

You are receiving this letter as we believe this will be a fantastic opportunity for your son/daughter/ward to hear from a leader within their specialist field and be inspired by his story. This talk would be of special interest to students wishing to pursue careers in law, international law, international relations, politics, geography, history - as well as anyone looking to study abroad or at Oxbridge. It would also be beneficial to all students considering their next steps post-education.

The event takes place on **Wednesday 1 November** from **3.20 - 4.00pm** in the school hall. Simon will give a short talk and then invite questions from the audience. We hope to see your son/daughter/ward at this inspirational event.

Yours faithfully,



Simon Fisher
Co-Headteacher



Mr M Adams
Careers Leader