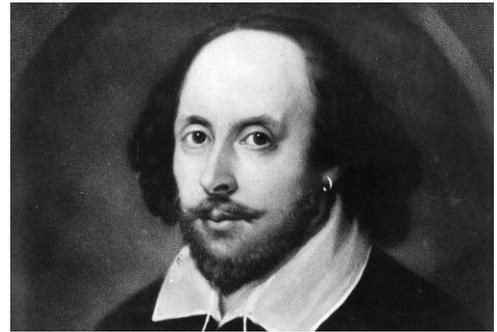


The English Department presents

Marlowe Unmasked

Research into the authorship of the plays of 'Shakespeare'



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher Marlowe".

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Shakespeare".

In Christopher Marlowe's play, *The Jew of Malta*, the character Barabas sees Abigail on a balcony above him. He says:

But stay! What stars shines yonder in the east?
The lodestar of my life, if Abigail!

We can instantly recognise how similar this is to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, when Romeo sees Juliet on a balcony above him:

But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?
It is the East, and Juliet is the sun!

Here at the *Marlowe Unmasked* project, we wish to analyse these parallelisms and, when exploring the mysterious and highly dubious 'death' of the known spy Christopher Marlowe and the debut of the mysterious, late-blossoming William Shakespeare, investigate the claim that the two playwrights were one and the same individual. To aid us in our exploration of this 'Marlovian theory' we have established research links with the Canterbury Cathedral Archives and the international Marlowe Society, providing us with previously unseen archived resources and extensive research material.

Project Leaders: Max Migden, Jack Seery and Ophelia Gregory

The project feeds in perfectly to our Year 12 participants' upcoming EPQ qualification, as each of our project members aim to write an essay about their findings, some of whom may choose to enter for the Hoffman Prize, with prize money of £9000.

Max Migden

It is worth adding that the English department does not have a consensus view on the Shakespeare authorship question: ours is a broad church, although some members of the team do lean somewhat towards the 'Hoffman thesis'. Please note also that internationally-acclaimed academic and Marlowe specialist Dr Ros Barber will lecture on the authorship debate at the Langton on Wednesday 8th January. All most welcome.

Please contact me for details: ctaylor@thelangton.kent.sch.uk

Dr CJ Taylor

