

shrewsbury school

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Making Fun





Scintillating Satire

For some reason, this week (I cannot think why), I was prompted to think once again about the idea of 'satire' and about the power of programmes and publications that are designed to hold a mirror up to authority to put across a different perspective.

Such vehicles for expression are part of an ancient tradition and what seems to be an inherent right for groups and societies relative to their leaders. The creative output here is usually extremely clever and derived from a careful and detailed perception of the political scene.

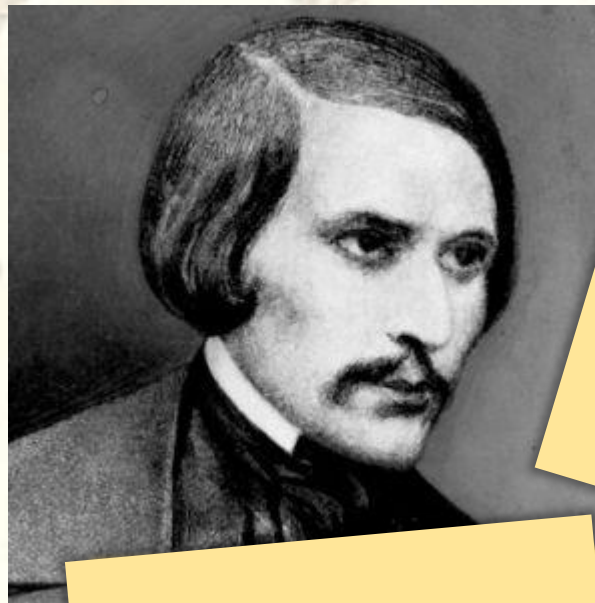
This week's edition, then, is devoted to a study of those who have, throughout history, used their intelligence, skill and talent, to poke fun at those with the ability to effect change – looking at the impact of their actions across a wide range of different media

The ability to make a point, cut through the spin and get to the truth is, of course, a hugely important one and clever satire does this deftly and effectively. Of course, there are also occasions when humour is used just for its own sake...



"Stop laughing, you fool - they're taking the mickey out of people like us."

A weekly satirical magazine, first set up by Henry Mahew in 1841, Punch sadly went out of print in 2002. Nonetheless, its barbed and pointed cartoons live on - not least in History Exam papers!



SP1758 Nikolai Gogol

Exiled, himself, for his obsession with parodying and ridiculing the rich and powerful, Nicolai Gogol's play, 'The Government Inspector' pokes fun at what such people do when they are placed under the lens. Click [here](#) for an extract.

SP1759 Dorothy Parker

Suggesting the words 'excuse my dust' for her own epitaph, Dorothy Parker, poet, critic and wise-cracking satirist contributed enormously to the development of modern political comedy. Click [here](#) to find out more.



SP1760 Sabina Guzzanti

Devoted to examining social and political life in Italy, she has been an outspoken critic of the Italian government and particularly of the Catholic Church. Although a massively controversial figure she has been a constant campaigner for free speech. Click [here](#) for more.

