**LOTE Week 2018 Italian Performance**

**by Danielle Gazzola (Year 8 Orange)**

On Friday 3 August, during LOTE Week, two incredibly talented actors came to MLMC to perform a short romance story for all of the Year 8 Italian students. I really enjoyed the performance as the plot was funny and intriguing, while the characters were exceptional.

The love story began with the classic Italian characters from the theatre being Columbina, Arlecchino, Il Capitano, Pulcinella and Pantalone. The story was set in Naples, Italy, where Colombina worked as a maid for Pantalone, who was a greedy, demanding and obnoxious man who was indeed powerful. Pantalone craved money and was always looking for ways to become richer. Columbina had a boyfriend, who she had met in her hometown. He was called Arlecchino. The two kept in touch by texting, and while Columbina longed to be alongside him in real life they were kept apart by Columbina’s job. In his newest plan for money, Pantalone had set up a foreign wealthy commander named Il Capitano to wed Columbina in exchange for a great amount of money. Il Capitano accepted the offer and was soon on his way to the Naples to meet Columbina. Columbina already had a boyfriend but she was forced against her will to marry Il Capitano.

Meanwhile, Arlecchino gave up his life in his hometown and packed up all his things so that he could move to Naples to be with his love, Columbina. Along the way, Arlecchino bumped into a filthy criminal named Pulcinella, who tricked him and stole his suitcase. At the same time, Il Capitano was arriving in town to meet Columbina. Arlecchino pretended to fall and hurt himself in front of Il Capitano's horse, so that he could steal the money by Pulcinella's doing. This plan did not work and Arlecchino ended up fighting him, and he also learnt of the news that Il Capitano was planning to marry Columbina. To stop the wedding, Arlecchino came up with the idea to pretend to be Colombina so that the real Columbina would not marry Il Capitano. The two Columbinas briefly met and Arlecchino found it hard to not reveal his love for her. A few scenes later the wedding between “Columbina" and Il Capitano took place. But Il Capitano found out the truth about the bride switch and chaos took over. However, at the end of the story, the villains did not prevail, instead Arlecchino and Colombina found each other and rekindled their love for each other.

At the end of the performance, the actors revealed themselves and I found it really awesome that they shared their career paths with us. Overall, I (and I’m pretty sure others) truly enjoyed and valued the performance of the actors and found it very knowledgeable. I am thankful that we had this opportunity to learn about a different culture and I think that if we did more of these activities in the future, it would be beneficial.