

# #DSTC NEWS

Dartford Science and  
Technology College Newsletter  
December Edition

## ALL THE NEWS FROM DARTFORD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

### DSTC INTER-FAITH DAY

In early December the Year 10's attended an Inter-faith Day. Mr Andrew Jackson of Net Church and Miss Lynne Parkinson from Christchurch gave talks about Christian beliefs.

Miss Jackie Scott talked about Nichiren Daishonin Buddhism and our Attendance Officer, Miss Sohal, explained her experiences as a Sikh. The students were not only able to gain an insight into religious beliefs and practices but were able to ask challenging questions.

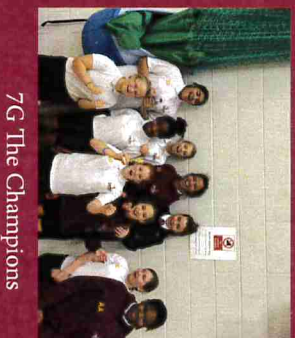
The morning was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the girls felt that it had been an enlightening and inspirational occasion. We intend to run this event next year and if any parent feels they would like to contribute, please contact Mrs Talbot.



### DSTC INTER-FORM BASKETBALL

The inter-form sporting competitions took on their second event this week with basketball being the sport this time. Pupils got to experience full court basketball for the first time in which they played against other forms in a mini tournament.

The sixth form BTEC and CSLA students helped out with scoring and timekeeping, and staff refereed the hotly fought matches. Over 180 girls volunteered to play and the event was well received by all involved, despite a few hurt egos when teams lost matches. Next events include football, hockey, rounders and athletics later in the year.



7G The Champions



### DSTC IN THE GLEE FINALS

Our talented music and dance students were successful at the audition stages to make it through to the Jack Petchey Glee Regional Finals. They will soon be attending an exciting Boot Camp in January, working with professionals from the industry and then taking part in the Regional Finals Performance at The Broadway Theatre in Barking in February.



Wish us  
luck for  
the O2  
Finals!

### DSTC DANCE AT THE MOVIES PRODUCTION

Our dance production 'Dance at the Movies' on Wednesday 23rd November 2016 was a fun evening of entertainment, showcasing amazing talent from 50 DSTC dance students. This performance was greatly received by an audience of 180 guests, including the Principal and Governors.

*"May I congratulate you for producing and directing Dance at the Movies. It was the best dance production that I have seen at DSTC. The show was slick with good change overs, no noise behind the scenes when changing costumes, excellent background scenery and a lovely buzz throughout the evening with all the girls enjoying taking part".*  
Andrew Taylor, School Governor



## INSPIRING EDUCATION, NURTURING SUCCESS

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### MINDFULNESS MORNINGS

These sessions offer students the opportunity to gain skills in dealing with stress and anxiety. Various breathing techniques and ways to effectively manage daily struggles were covered. Morning sessions allowed students to gain skills in managing the stress and pressures of exams. They were taught how to use the power of breath to manage stress, were given strategies for dealing with difficult situations and learnt how to balance their life and workload.



### DSTC HAS JOINED ARTSMARK

DSTC has now joined the Artsmark programme; we are 1 of 5 schools in Dartford to join. The Artsmark award celebrates schools that champion the arts and strive for excellence in their provision.



As well as recognising schools that make the arts come alive, the Artsmark award is a useful, practical and valuable tool for enriching a school's arts provision and ensuring the myriad of benefits brought by the arts are infused across the curriculum and the school community. It provides schools with access to high quality and practical resources and enviable networks that will enable them to use the arts to inspire learning and harness the power of the arts in developing happy, successful and confident young people.

### DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY

A number of Year 7, 8 and 9 DSTC students took part in the Cross Country Championships held in Swanley Park.

Year 7 race: *Hallie Newman-French* 4th, *Leanna Mitchell* 6th, *Lily Russell* 9th, *Maizie Perry* 11th, *Lottie Eagles* 15th  
*Jodie Gillman* 17th, *Freya Stunsell* 25th  
Year 8 and 9 race: *Jael Varathanasun* 27th, *Faith Knight* 30th  
*Laine Lambert* 31st, *Emily Scott* 37th, *Shannon Selves* 40th



### DSTC YEAR 7 LEPROA FUNDRAISING

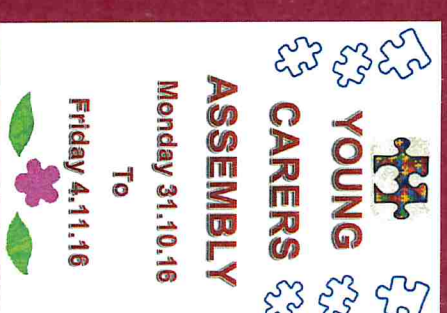
We would like to congratulate Year 7 students who have worked very hard to raise £776 for the charity Leproa. The money that our students raised is enough to provide full medical care for 31 children suffering from leprosy and will make a massive difference to these children's lives. The Year 7 students were rewarded with a Zumba session that they all thoroughly enjoyed. If you would like to help raise money for this charity, please go to [www.leproa.org.uk](http://www.leproa.org.uk)



### YOUNG CARERS ASSEMBLY

Seven of our Young Carers ran an assembly every day last week. They bravely stood up in front of the school and shared their stories with the school community.

Their stories were honest and demonstrated that all of them have huge levels of strength and resilience. They were fantastic ambassadors for all of the Young Carers at DSTC.



### HEALTHY CHINESE CUISINE AMBASSADORS

On two different occasions we had the privilege to have the Fun Healthy Chinese Cuisine Ambassadors. Their aim is to go into UK schools to teach that Chinese food is quick but also very healthy. Our Year 10 catering group watched a presentation of Chinese culture and food and then watched a professional demonstration showing them how to make Kung Pao chicken. Students all enjoyed the experience and said that they had learnt a lot.



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### DSTC FOOTBALL TEAM

The lower school football teams went to the Leigh Academy to compete in the Dartford football competition. They did really well, the highlight being beating Dartford Grammar.

Players of the match were Alyssa Engmann and Leah Griffin. Hope Smith went as a DSTC Sports Leader - she organised the team, umpired and coached the girls so another fantastic achievement. We hope to be representing Dartford at the next stage of the competition if it is organised by the local FA this season.



### DSTC GOES TO KIDZANIA

On 9th December, 43 students from Years 7 and 8 travelled to KidZania in Wexfield, London. On arrival they were given a small amount of 'Kidzo' currency and were set the challenge of earning more by taking on paid employment. More than 60 activities were available to try out in retail outlets, on production lines, alongside the emergency services, in a hospital and even on the stage. Most girls tried several different jobs and were then able to spend some of their hard-earned Kidzos in the Kidzania department store.



### AWARD WINNING AUTHOR VISITS DSTC

DSTC were very fortunate to have invited the award-winning author of SUPERGIRL 2 SUPERWoman, Sheun Oke to deliver a special presentation to our Year 9 students on female leadership. "Sheun is the nation's #1 self-leadership and confidence expert with over 20 years experience of being a top sales and marketing executive, trainer, communications expert and serving as executive and image coach to several clients and has devoted her life to coaching, training and inspiring the next generation."

One of the students, Hope Smith, who was asked to stand on stage to share her dreams, explained why Sheun Oke has inspired her: "Sheun Oke was inspiring because she encouraged me to follow my dreams of being a Footballer even though it is a male dominated job. She also taught me not to let other people get in the way of my dreams and to be resilient when things don't go according to plan. Sheun showed enthusiasm in all of our dreams and told us to never ever give up on what we want to do in life!"

All in all, the students had a fantastic experience and hopefully we are able to inspire and recruit more female leaders in the near future!



### DSTC VISITS THE HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE DARTFORD



On the 8th December I took seven students to the Healthy Living Centre in Dartford. For the last few years we have helped set up, serve, socialise and then clear up for the senior citizens' Christmas lunch. Again, it was a massive success. The students - Leanna Letchford, Rachael Boem, Katie Donald, Daisy Turner, Jessica Nobbs, Rebecca Newland and Sophie Tompkins - showed great maturity and carried out their roles brilliantly. The Healthy Living Centre has already asked for help next year! The community activities that we undertake throughout the year show our commitment to the community and the Co-operative Values.

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### PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

It has been a good term for all students at DSTC. There is always something to celebrate here from academic progress and achievement, through enterprising activities and sports fixtures to all sorts of visits that raise aspirations and awareness as well as encourage creativity. You will read about many of the successes in this newsletter and I hope you will join me in congratulating all the girls and staff on their involvement. There really is nothing DSTC girls cannot do - or dream to do in the future - they just need to believe. This is also the time of goodwill and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and those in the local community who have welcomed me to DSTC.

I believe DSTC is well positioned to move from good to great and I hope in 2017 you will see many examples of this. I wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe festive season and look forward to working with you again next year. Term starts at 8.40am promptly on 3rd January 2017. Anne Davis

### COMING UP

Here are some key DSTC dates for your diary.

- 10th January 6th Form Parents' Evening 4pm to 6:30pm
- 13th January 6th Form Taster Day
- 16th January Year 11 Parents' Evening 4pm to 6:30pm
- 24th January Deadline for 6th Form application
- 7th February Year 9 Options Evening
- 10th February Staff Training Day - students not in school
- 13th to 17th February Half Term - return to school on Monday 20th February



If you require anymore information regarding our upcoming diary dates, please contact us.

### DSTC UNDER 16 NETBALL RALLY - YEAR 11 WON 4 OUT OF 5 MATCHES

For the first time we have had two teams. Year 10 have never played in a competitive match before and organised their own team. Whilst they lost their matches they scored in every one and were so thrilled to score any goal, you would have thought they had won the match each time!



The Year 11's had two new players join due to revision restraints for other players and they did an amazing job. Becca and Holly have never played a competitive match before and really fitted in well. The girls won four matches, and lost just one due to an injury in the second half affecting their mid-court play. It was a great team effort. I was so proud to see them all giving their all in sport, and encouraging each other. Players of the match were Alice Mitchell and Amber Manley.



### DSTC CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

This year DSTC staff and students were encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper to school on Friday 16th December and to donate £1 to show their support for the charity, Save the Children.



We are pleased to say we raised £153 which will help the charity to continue their work across the world.

### CASCADE DANCE PRODUCTION

Our talented dance students took part in a dance performance at a professional theatre in Tunbridge Wells on Saturday 3rd December 2016. They gave an outstanding performance of the Witch number from the Wizard of Oz in front of a live audience.



"Thank you for Saturday, the girls were amazing! So proud of them!"  
Ricia Taylor, Cascade Artistic Director

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