

#DSTC NEWS

Dartford Science and
Technology College Newsletter
March Edition

ALL THE NEWS FROM DARTFORD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT: CREATIVE DEPARTMENT



THE ART OF AUTISM

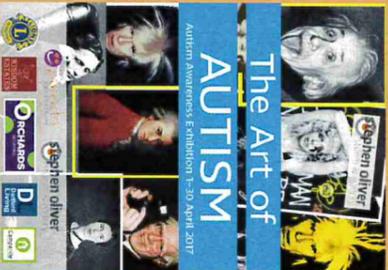
Together with Cllr Mandy Garford, local artist Stephen Oliver will be hosting an art exhibition in his gallery in Dartford with the subject of AUTISM as the theme.

Expressions of autism from any local children aged 3-18 on the autism spectrum are welcomed.

This could be artwork on paper, canvases, as a sculpture or something more extravagant.

Just one piece per ASD child or as a group; any entries will be considered for display in the gallery over the weeks set aside to raise autism awareness in Dartford.

Entry forms can be obtained from Ms Meed in Art 1 for the exciting opportunity to celebrate the achievements of any student diagnosed with autism.



DSTC COLLEGE PRODUCTION

This year's College Production will be 'The Sunday Rehearsal', a new musical featuring songs from shows and the charts. The show is set in a girls' school on a Sunday afternoon when the Performing Arts students are taking part in their final rehearsal before the show week. However, not all is as it should be.



With performances from the Year 10 BTEC group, members of BTEC Dance and girls from the new Drama Club, the show promises to be THE fixture of the Performing Arts calendar. Performances are on 23rd and 24th May. Auditions will be held on Wednesday 1st March.

DSTC ART STUDENTS GOING FOR GOLD

Fine Art students Emily Allingham and Taseen Chowdhury are going for their individual Gold Artsmark award; they are currently assisting on the Dartford Artsmark Town Exhibition. This exciting opportunity allows them to help curate the 2D and 3D work, preparing the exhibition space at The Meeting Place in the Orchards Centre. Watch out for fliers promoting the exhibition in a couple of weeks.



We're working
towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts
Council England

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SISTER ACT THEATRE TRIP

Our theatre trip to see Sister Act at The Orchard Theatre was a sell-out trip, with twenty of our Performing Arts students attending the matinee performance on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

The lead role was played by Alexandra Burke from X-Factor. The singing and dancing were wonderful, it was a feel-good show that really inspired us all! We look forward to observing how this amazing show influences the Dance students' own standards!



DSTC FUTURE CHEF



At the beginning of term, DSTC hosted the local heat of the Futurechef competition. Each year 10,000 students enter from all across the UK. We had nine students from five schools cooking a main course and dessert for two people. Bailey Davis, a Year 10 DSTC student, cooked feta and spinach stuffed chicken with potato fondant and a spinach sauce followed by a panna cotta with mango and lime soup for dessert. We were delighted when Bailey was awarded second place. Well done Bailey for your wonderful achievement!



MINDFULNESS MOMENT

Mindfulness is all about taking control of your emotions rather than letting them take control of you. It is about pausing and being in the present moment. The strategy below will help you deal with the stress that revising for exams can bring.

- 1 Pause what you are doing for a moment and take one or two deep breaths to help bring you into the present moment.
- 2 Look around you and silently name three things that you see around you.
- 3 Now, opening to the sounds around you, silently note and name three things that you can hear right now.
- 4 Bringing your attention to your body, silently name three sensations that you can feel in this moment. Take one or two breaths to finish this mindfulness exercise.



DSTC GLEE PERFORMANCE

Our amazing Glee girls performed 'Lightning' at the Regional Finals on Saturday. We were in the top 9 groups throughout the entire region.

An outstanding performance from 15 of our students at DSTC; they made the College proud.



DSTC VISITS THE SCHOOLS' BOROUGH TRAMPOLINING COMPETITION

The DSTC PE department took seventeen students from Years 7-12 to DGSG to compete in the Borough Trampolining Competition. Students were entered in events ranging from Novice to Elite; impressively this included some Sixth Form students judging as well. The students had an amazing day and should be extremely proud of themselves! We had fantastic results: Saskia Mundy in Year 8 came first in the Intermediate category, Ashleigh Warren in Year 12 competed in the Advanced category and came second and Louise Norman in Year 12 competed in the Elite group and achieved Champion. These three students qualified for the next round to represent the Borough in March in Gillingham and we wish them the very best of luck. We also had some very nervous first time trampoliners who all completed both routines so should be proud. Congratulations!



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DSTC MATHS CHALLENGE

In January, twenty students from Years 9 and 10 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge which is aimed at students in Year 11 or below in England and Wales. The challenge involved answering 25 multiple choice questions in one hour and is taken under normal exam conditions. Renee Plumb in Year 9 was really excited to be part of the Intermediate Challenge this year as she had previously taken 'Best in Year' and 'Highest in School' in the Junior Challenge. The top 40% of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate in the ratio 1:2:3. We are looking forward to receiving our 'Best in School' and 'Best in Year' certificates. Around 500 of the highest scorers in each school year are invited to take part in the Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad papers. Excellent work!

INTERNET SAFETY DAY

On Tuesday 7th February Safer Internet Day 2017 was celebrated globally with the slogan 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet'. At DSTC we explored the integral themes of the day in KS3, KS4 and KS5 assemblies. Our teachers and students were asked to consider how to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. When online, take a moment to reflect: are you creating a better and safer online community?



The UK Safer Internet Centre suggested the following advice to support parents and carers with internet safety. Firstly, be engaged: talk regularly with your children about how they use technology. Secondly, be aware: explore the online features of the devices you already own in your family. Thirdly, be there: the most important thing is to ensure that you are there if something goes wrong. Finally, be thoughtful: encourage your children to think critically about the things they see online including the images and videos they view on social media. Let's be the change: Unite for a better internet!

CAREER INFORMATION

Did you know that to become a solicitor you will complete a law degree? In order to get on a law degree course you will usually require a minimum of two A Levels and the most popular courses will require three A Levels at grade A. In addition to A Levels or equivalent, you will also need five GCSEs at grade 9-5 including Science, English and Maths.

Interestingly, 65.8% of law graduates went directly into employment.

Apprenticeships are available in the following areas:

- Degree Apprenticeships: Trainee Solicitor
- Higher Apprenticeships: Legal Services – Level 4 – eg Conveyancing Technician, Licensed Conveyancer, Chartered Legal Executive, Senior Claims Handler

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PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

"Time changes everyone" and some of our students are moving ever closer to leaving DSTC and onto the next phase in their lives. For those Year 11 students who applied to study here Post 16, we enjoyed interviewing you and conditional offer letters will be with you shortly. For those who are undecided, please see Mr Dix, Ms Cane or Mr Christopher as soon as possible to help you prepare for onward progression.

For those with exams coming up in the next few months, time is of the essence and we encourage you all to make the most of the opportunities you are given. The way we spend our time defines who we are. Clearly, there are a lot of dedicated, creative, talented and diligent girls at DSTC as you will see from the snapshots of news in this edition.

Anne Davis

COMING UP

Here are some key DSTC dates for your diary.

- 2nd March World Book Day
- 3rd – 13th March Pre-public exams for Years 11-13
- 20th March Year 10 Parents' Evening
- 31st March Staff Training Day
- 3rd – 17th April Easter Holidays
- 18th April Students return to school

Don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour on the last Sunday (26th) in March when British Summertime begins.

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



DSTC - CULTURE CONNECTIONS FESTIVAL

In the Autumn Term, a group of Year 8 students were given the opportunity to visit Canterbury University's 'Culture Connections Festival'. The festival was aimed at challenging student perceptions about migration and immigration.

The day was eventful and the students heard inspiring stories from migrants, completed drama and singing activities exploring different cultures and watched a powerful one-woman show. All the students engaged with the activities in a mature and advanced way. Notably, the professor running the day said that their behaviour was commendable. In response to this day, the students completed a range of stretch and challenge tasks for homework: writing a diary entry from a migrant's view point and an article exploring the representation of migrants in the media. A wide range of outstanding work was submitted, however one stood out above the rest: Riddhi Patel's response was poignant and well researched. Well done to all!

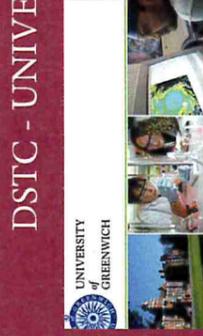


DSTC CUPCAKE DECORATING MASTERCLASS



On Friday 3rd February the Year 9 Food class were lucky enough to have Keely Mann from local business 'Sugar Clouds & Crumbs' come in to deliver a cupcake decorating masterclass.

Keely specialises in cupcake bouquets and kindly volunteered to share her skills and expertise with our students, teaching them how to decorate cupcakes in the style of a rose. It was a delight to see the students engaging with a local business and learning new skills that they then applied to an enterprise project. The following week the girls made in excess of 200 cupcakes which were then sold by the DSTC Enterprise Company. A profit of over £80 was made and this will contribute to outdoor seating for students to enjoy. Many thanks to Keely for giving up her time to inspire and engage with our students.



DSTC - UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH SCIENCE by Arinola Ogunjimi

On Monday 23rd January, accompanied by one of the teachers, I was privileged to attend a four lecture course and a tour at Greenwich University. At first we attended a Biology lecture which allowed me to experience making my own DNA. Additionally, we had a Forensic Science lesson in which we experimented how to use a footprint to find the DNA of a criminal. After Forensic Science, we completed an Environmental Science lesson which was based around plants, insects etc. This was very educational and I have learned more about the movements of insects.

After lunch, we experienced a Chemistry lecture and made glow-in-the-dark glow sticks.

Lastly, we had a tour around the campus and this gave me an insight of what "university life" is like. In conclusion, I am grateful for the Science Department for allowing me to go on this trip and I really enjoyed the day. It made my desire to attend university even stronger. In the future, I am determined to go university and enter a medical career.

