



# DSTC NEWS

EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE

## DSTC AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2022

INTRODUCTION BY MRS DAVIS

It's certainly starting to feel festive at DSTC. The success of the Christmas Market and Carol Concert will be followed by the annual Christmas meal and Christmas Jumper Day at the end of term.

There is a lot to do before we break, not least learning and reading. I know that some holidays can seem long to parents and students but a good book can help and we recommend all students have a chance to read this break.

The school will close to students from 12 noon and then fully close from 2pm on Friday 16th December 2022. DSTC will not be open until Tuesday 3rd January 2023. I look forward to seeing everyone back safe and rested after the festive season.

Mrs A Davis



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

BY MRS ROWSON

In RE, Y7 students have been learning about the significance of the birth of Christ.

They have learnt why and how Christmas is celebrated. Students in 7D have begun making their own 'Christingle'.

This is a tradition whereby an orange is decorated. It is usually lit with a single candle during midnight mass services to symbolise the birth of Christ as the 'light' of the world.





# THE DSTC ECO CLUB

BY MS LAZELL AND MS TASSELL

The DSTC Eco Club have been hard at work helping the environment and the local community this term!

During the summer holidays some members of Eco Club got together and visited the River Darent to clear it of rubbish. We have also installed the bird boxes we made last school year, around the DSTC site.

We have begun a biodiversity survey so we can measure the impact of the new food forest being created on a disused section of the school field. We will be litter picking around the school regularly.

We will begin to plant fruit and veg in planters, as well as trees, around the school to begin our journey on increasing biodiversity and have recycled milk bottles so we can grow our own cress.





Eco Club is a safe space to share ideas with everyone without judgement and is open to all years from year 7 to 13.

The Food Forest will be an amazing project for our students to be part of We will be litter picking around the school regularly and are beginning to plant fruit and veg in planters around the school to begin our journey on increasing biodiversity.



# BTEC YEAR 10 PERFORMING ARTS 'LION KING THEATRE TRIP'

BY MS WRIGHT

Our year 10 Performing Arts students went on a Theatre trip on Wednesday 7th December 2022, to London West End to see the amazing Lion King show.

This was a integral part of their Btec coursework, enabling them to observe a live professional musical theatre and gain greater understanding for the production process.

It was a wonderful show, with amazing dance, singing, acting, set design, costumes and puppetry.

The girls were able to use this experience to help them to complete their performing arts course. We all had a wonderful time!





# DSTC ECO PROJECT

This term, staff volunteers and students have been developing the Eco-project on the grounds of DSTC. Working with "Healthy Living Centre Dartford", we will regenerate an unused section of our DSTC field. Our plan is to establish an ecosystem thriving with wildlife, fruit, vegetables, plants and trees, and invites us to thrive with it.

Staff volunteers have braved the cold on two separate occasions, volunteering their time alongside other members of the community. We have already 'made good' a donated glasshouse, re-assembled by many of the staff at DSTC. In addition, another team of helpful staff have begun the framework of a hand-made composting toilet.





We are also excited to announce another activity coming up with our colleagues from the Dartford Community Growing Group. On the 8th January, we are holding a tree planting event (listed in the advert below). It will be a great family activity giving everyone the opportunity to come and plant the first trees into our Food Forest.

Please make sure you dress appropriately for the activity and weather, not forgetting your gloves. We will provide the other equipment and of course the trees.

If you are interested in coming to this event to mark the first planting then please email [lesley.mcintosh@dstc.kent.sch.uk](mailto:lesley.mcintosh@dstc.kent.sch.uk) and [growingcommunity@hlcdartford.org.uk](mailto:growingcommunity@hlcdartford.org.uk) so we can plan to cater for the correct number of people. If you would like to add yourself to our volunteer list then please let us know on the same email address.

You do not have to have any previous experience - just a willingness to get involved. Activities will range from planting, ground work, building required items from recycled material. All skills and abilities are happily welcomed.

# Tree Planting Day!

Dartford Science  
and Technology  
College  
8th January  
12:30 - 15:30



*Join the Growing Community  
Partnership*

*A family friendly event!*

*Tree Planting*

*Stalls, Crafts and Activities*

*Free Chilli Lunch*



*To register as a volunteer, please email  
Nikolas at  
[growingcommunity@hlcdartford.org.uk](mailto:growingcommunity@hlcdartford.org.uk)*



# MOULIN ROUGE WORKSHOP WITH JONATHAN MAWSON

BY MS WRIGHT

During this term, we welcomed Jonathan Mawson from Miskin and Reynolds College to DSTC where he delivered a two part workshop to the Year 10 and 11 BTEC Performing Arts classes.

The Year 10 workshop consisted of a Moulin Rouge style piece with the sounds of the iconic Baz Luhrman 2001 film and the West End show. The dynamic showgirl piece includes an eclectic style with moves stemming from street dance, to the classic musical theatre to whacking. The piece is everything you would expect from a Moulin Rouge piece with the girls exuding sass and confidence with their movement and facial expressions.



The Year 11 workshop consisted of a fun, energy-filled dance to Dua Lipa's "Levitating". The fast paced piece has a set movement phrase and worked in collaboration with the pupils, incorporating their own choreography within it. The quality of the piece reminds you of Dua Lipa's own international tour movement. The pupils remind you of pop sensations due to the choreography of Jonathan Mawson.





# THE WINTER CONCERT

BY MR DORRIAN AND MR ALLEN

We are delighted to announce the return of our music concerts to DSTC. The latest edition was a resounding success, full of incredible performances and very well attended by guests.

Performances from the "DSTC Singers", school band and a whole host of incredible soloists were a real treat for our audience, as well as several fantastic pieces from the cast of our future 2023 musical "Aladdin Jr".

Every student who took part gave a memorable performance and we are proud of all them. Well done to the students for taking part and delivering an excellent concert.









# "RISE UP ACADEMY" AT DSTC

BY MR ALLEN

During the penultimate week of term, we were honoured to host the "Rise Up Academy" for 5 days of Media and Broadcasting workshops. "Rise Up Academy" is an outreach programme delivering broadcast engineering and technical workshops to primary and secondary school children aged 9 through to 18 years old. Its intention is to inspire, educate and inform children and young adults about the pathways and career opportunities available to them within the broadcast technology industry.

DSTC was able to coordinate and run workshops with "Rise Up" for over 200 students over the week, with 60 of those being Year 5 and 6 students from Westgate Primary school. The media industry is currently facing a major skills shortage, so empowering young people with this opportunity is incredibly important to us.





Each workshop involved a briefing and lesson about moving images and how TV is broadcast. The students learnt about all the technology involved in a TV screen and how an image is made up of pixels.

The main part of each workshop was to assemble, cable and use a mobile TV studio. Students had access to state of the art equipment, used by media professionals worldwide. The kit was the same type and specification as the professionals used in their day jobs. Both DSTC and Westgate Primary students used the equipment to an incredibly high standard, building each section of the studio themselves.

Once the studio was built, all the students were able to rotate around each section of the equipment and take turns in using it. This ranged from operating cameras and monitoring to live sound and of course taking part in the show itself.

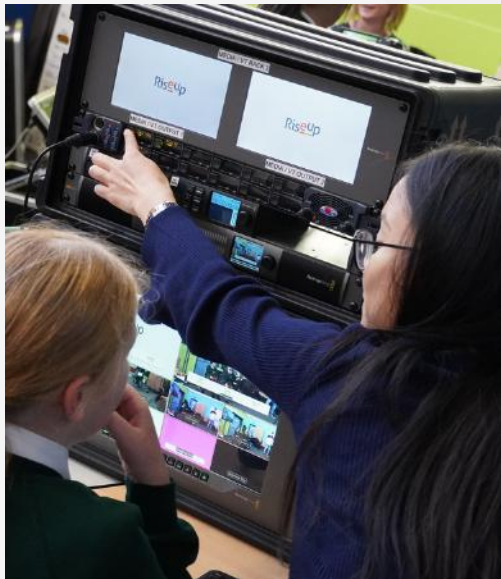


We would like to thank Carrie Wooten, the MD for Rise Academy for organising the professionals to run this incredible experience, and Ajay Sharman our Chair of Trustees for making us aware of the opportunity. We also pass on our thanks the inspirational professionals who delivered the sessions and their employers who supported all the workshops:

Peter Russell - Technology Director, ITV Studios  
Josh Martin - Head of Product, Take 1  
Isabel Sun - Support Technician, Disguise  
Tom Glover - Media Architect, Warner.Bros Discovery  
James Williams - Senior Solutions Architect, Amazon Web Services  
Richard Crome - Head of Technology, Drama, ITV Studios  
Jahangir Shah - TV Projects Engineer, Sky  
John Ruest - Regional Sales Manager, Clear-Com  
Matt Cottey - Technical Assistant, ITV  
Tim Guilder - Head of Production Technology, ITV  
Lisa Jarman - Freelance Project Manager

















# WORK EXPERIENCE 2022

BY MRS P SMITH

At the end of the Summer term, students in Years 10 and 12 took part in work experience. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to gain employability skills and continue their personal development.

For the first time since 2019, students were able to take part in physical work experience placements, as well as taking advantage of the many virtual work experiences (VWEX) on offer.

Students secured physical placements in a wide variety of industries, including: finance, hospitality, auto-mechanics, healthcare, Police, performing arts, logistics, education, office, retail, beauty and animal care.

In addition, VWEX placements were completed in Psychology, Film and Media, Law, Accounting, Technology, Medicine and Dentistry.

Students showed their resilience by attending placements despite the unprecedented heatwave. Other students' adaptability was evident when their placements changed to hybrid working, so students did not have to travel.





Here is what some of our students had to say about their experiences:

"I really enjoyed my work experience (at **Canopy by Hilton**). I have always been very interested in finance so when I chose my work experience I was really excited about it. My work experience helped me realise this was something I wanted to do in the future, as the skills I picked up and the things I learnt were useful. I found the work experience fun and exciting and the people at my placement to be nice and helpful. This really encouraged me to pursue this in the future." **ML Year 12**

"From my **Virtual (online) Work Experience (VWEX)** I enjoyed learning about a subject I have never learned about before which was **psychology**, using Springpod. Attending live seminars taught me a sense of responsibility and organisation. I gained more confidence in asking questions as you can ask any question you want about the topic! Moreover, I learnt time management skills as you have to plan out when in the day to do your work experience as you're doing it online - flexibility is also a key aspect of online work experience as you might have certain things planned at a time a seminar is on and have to work around that. Overall it was a really great experience and there are so many courses you can take, there are topics for every interest, I definitely recommend it." **EB Year 10**

"For my work experience I took part with the **Police**, and I have to say it was one of the most interesting, eye opening experiences I have ever been able to be involved in. One of my key highlights involves being able to go on the runway at Heathrow airport with the armed officers. If you get the opportunity to do work experience with any organisation, take it, as 99% of the time is the best experience and great for having a taste of what you want to do when you're older ." **BW Year 10**

"I participated in a **Virtual (online) Work Experience (VWEX)** at **Allied Health Mentors**. I chose this because I would like to pursue a career in medicine and the experience provided me with a wider understanding. The range of tasks also helped me improve my creative thinking which is vital for going into medicine. I enjoyed virtual work experience as there were engaging interactive tasks and insightful videos from people in the medical field." **MA Year 10**



Lawton  
Financial Services



Kent  
Police





The feedback we received from employers about our students was very positive – an indication of the commitment and enthusiasm they showed during their work experience:

*“HB has been a real asset to the class. She has engaged well with the students in the most trying circumstances (really hot weather). She has worked really hard and completed any task given to her.”*

**Sutton-at-Hone C of E Primary School**

*“I would like to thank OL for her time at our depot, her work ethic and positive attitude in all departments she worked in was outstanding. I had positive feedback from all my colleagues explaining how respectful and positive she was, she will be an asset to any company or work place that she embraces in the future. Well done OL and all the best for the future.”*

**DHL Services Ltd**

*“PS has been an absolute pleasure to have in the office. Her positive mindset and inquisitive nature have really shone during her placement with us.*

*We have put her through her paces with a series of tasks of varying complexity, and she has completed them all with aplomb. PS has found a way to streamline our filing system to be more efficient and we will be rolling that change out across the business”*

**Lawton Financial Services**

*“I was really impressed with SW’s attitude to her week with us. She showed energy and curiosity and made sure to make the most of her time, engaging with a wide variety of FCA staff and proactively reaching out to find out more about the areas she was interested in. SW was professional and diligent when dealing with the tasks we set”*

**Financial Conduct Authority**

*“AH was very punctual, polite and fast learner, her customer service skills really amazed us all. She is a fast learner and (a good) team integrator. AH worked on all areas of the restaurant and was well above expectation. We wish her all the best for her future.”*

**Excel Plus Ltd**

*“JC has been a great asset to the team on the past 3 days even in the heat we have all had to work in. (She) has taken on board tasks allocated and has even had the initiative to do other tasks that she felt she could do to support the team. JC has supported staff in delivery of sessions and came up with suggestions that could aid our offer.”*

**Dartford Youth Centre**





# CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY 2022

BY MR DIX

On Thursday 8th December, we welcomed just over 100 senior citizens to join us for an afternoon tea. This is now a yearly event for DSTC due to its increasing popularity.

Guests were greeted by a decorated Hall which was facilitated by a group of Post 16 students. The Year 10 catering team were busy upstairs making the wide array of homemade delectable delights.

Over the course of the afternoon, the Performing Arts students did two dances, we played bingo, had a raffle and then guests enjoyed a stunning performance of two songs by Nadia on vocals and Cherlyn on the piano.

A huge thanks goes to the two KCC councillors who funded the event, "Swantex" who donated the crackers and Sainsburys & M+S who donated the Poinsettias. Of course, an even bigger thank you goes to the students and staff who made it happen.

Due to the amazing feedback we have had - both on the day and afterwards - we know everyone had a great time:

*"I just wanted to say a massive thank you for putting on a fabulous afternoon for my mum and her friend. Christmas isn't the best time for her as we lost my dad to covid during Christmas time and she struggles to get into the festive spirit. She hasn't stopped talking all afternoon since I picked her up about how amazing everything was, from the table decorations, to the service, to the scones, the dancing and the brilliant raffle prize she won. Honestly it's so great to see her smile and all thanks to you and the team that put it all together. Thank you so very much."*





# SUPPORTING DARTFORD FOOD BANK

BY MR DIX

We have always had a very strong relationship with the Dartford foodbank. For many years now we have had two donations per year. This year was no exception. On Tuesday 13th December, six dedicated Post 16 students and Mr Dix visited the Dartford foodbank, based in Spital Street Methodist Church, in a minibus crammed full of food donations. The donations included presents, sweets, mince pies and other Christmas items.

The food bank is open every Tuesday and generally see around 70 people per week and give users three days of nutritious food.

If you would like to volunteer with, donate or use the Dartford Foodbank please visit [www.dartfordfoodbank.co.uk](http://www.dartfordfoodbank.co.uk) for more information.

Once again, thank you for the generosity of the students and staff of DSTC.



DARTFORD  
FOODBANK



# THE DSTC CHRISTMAS MARKET

BY THE CHRISTMAS MARKET TEAM

This year's DSTC Christmas Market was held on Saturday 26th November, and was bigger and better than ever. As in previous years the Hall was turned into a bustling market with gift stalls, tombolas and activities such as Catch the Present, Pick a Lolly and find the treasure on the map. We also ran a successful raffle which included prizes such as tickets for 'Up the Creek' in Greenwich, festive hampers and even a designer bicycle.

Festive delicacies were on sale in the canteen with Mr Dix's legendary sausage rolls and mince pies being enjoyed by hungry guests; all washed down with hot chocolate and mulled wine from Mr Allen, to keep the cold at bay.

However, for our younger visitors (and some slightly older) the highlight of the event was strolling through the magical Woodland Walk to visit Santa in his Grotto, who enjoys our Market so much this is now the third time he has kindly paid us a visit!

Huge thanks must go to everyone involved, but especially our wonderful volunteers from both students and staff. We really could not do it without you.





# YULE LOG MAKING

BY THE DSTC STAFF

At DSTC, we know wellbeing is important. There are lots of ways you can help your mental health and general wellbeing: being active, helping others, learn new things and lots more. As part of our staff wellbeing program, 23 members of staff all joined together to learn how to make a Yule Log. They were put through their paces and learnt how to make a Swiss roll, the chocolate buttercream and how to decorate it. Everyone had a great time and saw some great outcomes.







# Dartford

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE