



DSTC NEWS DECEMBER 19

ALL THE NEWS FROM DARTFORD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of DSTC

I would like to start by sending you best wishes for the season and to wish you a Happy New Year 2020.

It does not seem possible that we are approaching 2020 and this made me reflect on the fact that all students currently at DSTC were born post the millennium. What a different world they now live in.

We continue to work tirelessly to improve provision and conditions at DSTC and am pleased to see that so many of our girls are thriving here and making great progress. As you will see from this issue, there are always plenty of enrichment opportunities going on and I thank you for your support in our endeavours to educate your daughters.

DSTC wishes you a restful, happy and healthy break.

Anne Davis
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 6th January - All students return

Monday 6th to Friday 17th January - Year 11 -13
Mock Exams

Thursday 9th January - Post 16 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 21st January - Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

Tuesday 11th February - Year 11 Parents' Evening

Thursday 13th February - Reports emailed home

Monday 17th to Friday 21st February - Half Term

WINTER LECTURE 2019

2019 is the 100th anniversary of the Women's Engineering Society and to celebrate this we invited Mandy Hickson to be our Winter Lecture presenter this year. Mandy was the second woman ever to fly a Tornado GR4 on the front line, completing three tours of duty and 45 missions over Iraq. She spoke about her story which started with dreaming about being a fast jet pilot at the age of 13 and culminated in her leading an entirely male dominated Front Line Tornado Squadron on operations. She explained that her route to the top was turbulent; at 17 she was awarded an RAF flying scholarship, long before she even passed her driving test. However, despite her achievements, she failed the computer based tests required by the RAF. Undeterred, driven by determination and passion, Mandy persuaded the RAF to take her on as a test case, thereby overcoming seemingly undefeatable hurdles. She explained the importance of resilience and tenacity, skills our students should demonstrate.

Mandy was engaging and funny, the audience were enraptured, following her every word and came away truly inspired and motivated, believing they too could achieve their dreams.

Mrs Donegan-Edwards



INSPIRING EDUCATION, NURTURING SUCCESS

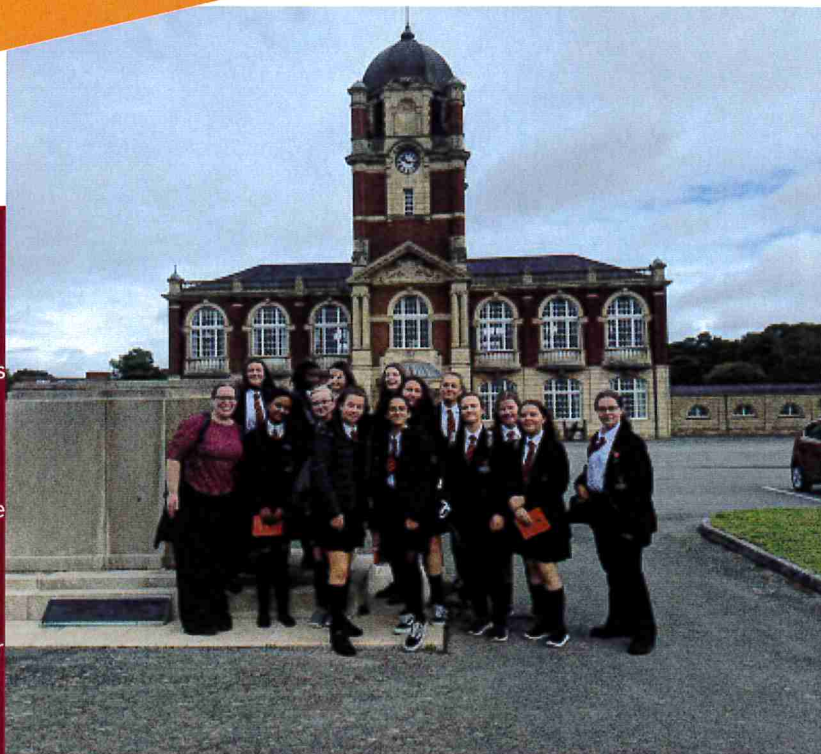
SANDHURST STEM DAY

To celebrate 2019 being the 100th birthday of the Women's Engineering Society (WES), a group of Year 10 engineering enthusiasts were invited to attend a STEM careers day, run by the Armed Forces at Sandhurst Military Training Centre.

Our first session was based around coding and was run by apprentices from Microsoft who were there to tell us about their careers in computing. After the session we were allowed to visit each of the stands at the fair where representatives told us about what they do and what their role involves. We met people from Amazon, BT and Transport for London. We also got to witness displays from the army sniffer dogs and were able to sit in an army tank. Part-way through the morning we heard a helicopter and were told that Princess Anne was on her way. She visited many of the stands and we also got to speak to her, telling her about our school and what we do.

It was an excellent day, we learnt a lot about engineering and all the different routes getting into it.

Sophie Erodoutou Yr 10



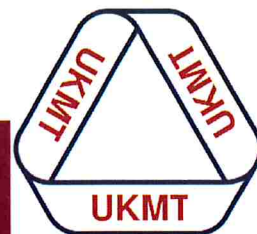
YEAR 7 TRIP TO SUTTON LIFE CENTRE

On 5th November the entire cohort of Year 7 went to the Sutton Life Centre, this is an interactive, immersive experience that teaches students about different issues that they may come across in everyday life.

The building is split into different zones. The transport zone is where they learnt about travel etiquette, the home zone where they experienced a fire and what to do, internet safety, healthy eating and peer pressure. The environment zone is an immersive 360° room where students learn about the impact humans may have on the environment and what they can do to help. Lastly, the street. In this area they were faced with moral choices about how to treat others.

As always, the students' behaviour and attitude were exemplary.

Mr Dix



UKMT SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

Two of our Year 13's took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge on Thursday 7th November 2019. Both students did well with Alice Stockburn achieving a bronze award and Phoebe Foster achieving a gold; the first in the school since we've been taking part in the challenge. She was subsequently invited to take part in the UKMT Senior Kangaroo Challenge on Friday 29th November 2019. Well done Phoebe.

Mr Nyaku

BIG BUILD COMPETITION 2019

Wates teams from London Construction (King's Road and Borough's Yard) and Residential South (Erith Development) joined forces to undertake an epic scale Big Build with Year 9 students from Dartford Science and Technology College. 150 students decided to take on the challenge of constructing the London skyline. For 6 hours the School Hall and Innovations Room became a hive of activity filled with cardboard, sticky tape and paint.

The girls showed amazing teamwork, communicated and problem-solved to produce amazing structures.

The students worked in small groups of 4 to 6 to focus on teamwork and participation. With 12 willing Wates representatives, who assisted the students with their buildings and helped them with overcoming many construction challenges, the students created some amazing structures. At the end of the day we had several working London Eyes and Tower Bridges, buildings with working lights and even some that changed from their original design to other buildings. The London Eye for one team ended up as the O2.

The students also got to engage with the Wates team, 7 of which were women, from across all the disciplines – Ops, Commercial, Design and Admin. We may have inspired some of the next generation into the industry.

Mr Law

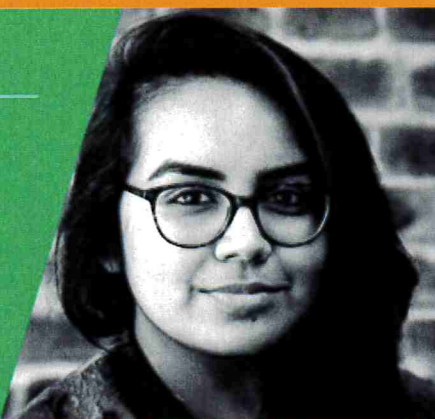


Considering Ethics in a Data Driven World

"We need to consider the ethical implications in data handling on people and society, either directly or indirectly... Data ethics should therefore be considered at all stages of data handling from stewardship, creating analysis, products and services, and deciding what to do next."

Gina Sharma
Business Data Analyst

kubrick
GROWING DATA EXPERTS



CAREERS DAY

As part of our Careers Programme, Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in an interactive assembly presented by Gina Sharman from Kubrick Consulting. She came in to talk about possible careers in Data consulting which helps companies use information to improve their business. The students were keen to hear how Gina got involved in her role and the opportunities that will be available in the future in the industry.

Mrs Redpath



CHARITY

We might be a small school but we have a big heart!

As part of our Student Leadership Team we have charity representatives - a group of girls responsible for coordinating and organising charity events within school and they have had another fantastic term raising money for a variety of causes as suggested by the school via the College Council.

The first event was 'Jeans for Genes Day' where the whole school were allowed to wear denim in order to support children and families who are dealing with a genetic disorder. We raised £600 for the charity which went towards paying for specialist nursing care or helping young carers get the break they deserve by funding an overnight trip away.

With the help of Mr Dix we also ran another successful Macmillan Coffee Morning where we sold cakes and Krispy Kreme donuts and were able to raise £78.00. The money we raised helped run the Online Community Forum for over an hour. Typically, that would give nearly 750 people affected by cancer both emotional and practical support.

The last council meeting was held a couple of days before 'Children in Need', where we decided that it was unfortunately too short notice to organise a whole school event. Three Year 7 students were so upset that they decided to take matters into their own hands and worked incredibly hard to organise a lip-balm sale and cake sale and successfully raised £58 which goes towards helping disadvantaged children and young people across the UK. Huge well done to the Year 7 students involved.

Our final event of the year (on Friday 20th December) is the 'Save the Children's Festive Jumper Day' where we hope to beat last year's total of £470. Staff and students will come to school in their finest Festive Jumpers to raise money that could change a child's life. It could help them grow up healthy and safe and get an education, so they can grow up to be who they want to be.

Student Council



AWARDS EVENING

On Thursday 7th November, staff and parents came together to celebrate the wonderful successes and achievements of our students over the previous academic year.

This year we were honoured to be joined by the MP for Dartford, Mr Gareth Johnson, who presented the awards to our students and gave a closing speech.



Students from Years 8 – 11 were presented with certificates and badges to celebrate their achievements across the whole school curriculum. Awards were also presented to students who had shown exceptional resilience and community spirit throughout the year.

The final awards of the evening were the Principal's awards. These were awarded for amazing young ladies who have shown positivity and resilience consistently, and make the College a better place for us all to be.

There were also performances from our very talented Cascade Dance Group and from Molly Wakeman who performed an excellent solo singing piece.

Mrs Ellis commented that she "couldn't be prouder of the students and staff of DSTC this evening. Thank you to all the parents and families of our wonderful girls for forming such positive partnerships with us."

We would like to thank Gareth Johnson for presenting the awards.

Mrs Ellis

CHRISTMAS MARKET

On Saturday 23rd November 2019, DSTC held its first ever Christmas Market and Santa's Grotto and it was a huge success. 84 children enjoyed a magical walk accompanied by DSTC elves, amongst Christmas trees and fairy lights, to have a chat with Santa in his cosy grotto and receive a gift bag.



25 DSTC students helped on the day by welcoming visitors and selling entrance tickets, selling hot drinks and waffles, manning the games stalls and tombola and running the grotto dressed as elves. In lunch clubs running up to the event, students made the gift bags, researched prizes and refreshments, made posters, created the games, made the tombola and reindeer food.

Staff donated items for a fantastic Christmas hamper and also donated 36 items for the main raffle and 4 prizes for the games.

The event raised over £500 for DSTC and we are already planning a bigger and better event for next year!



Mrs Palmer

DORA LOVE

On Thursday 26th September nine History students from across the school were invited to attend a Holocaust workshop at the University of Essex in conjunction with the Dora Love Prize.

As part of this day the students attended different workshops centred around the history behind the Holocaust and genocides that happen as well as a more creative workshop to explore different ways to get messages across.

As well as the workshops, the students had the opportunity to listen to Frank Bright, a Holocaust survivor, speak about his experiences of living through the Nazi occupation as a boy, his time in a concentration camp and the difficulties he faced once this was over.

Following on from this day, the students now have the task of creating a project which encompasses the theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day of 'Stand Together' and are invited back to Essex University on Wednesday 29th January to present their project with the opportunity of winning this year's Dora Love Prize. We look forward to hearing how they got on next term.

Miss Chivers



DUKE OF EDINBURGH PROGRAMME

Dartford Science and Technology College are proud to announce the launch of the Duke of Edinburgh Programme. We have recently become a licenced organisation to be able to run this within the school and have begun by offering this to all Year 9, 10 and 12 students at the Bronze level.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is the world's leading achievement award for young people and is highly regarded by Universities, Colleges and employers. It encourages young people to develop independence, commitment, leadership and teamwork through being involved in a personalised programme of activities.

We currently have 80 students taking part this year, which is an amazing number considering this is something new to the school. Further information about the programme will be coming out soon. Please direct any queries to sian.chivers@dstc.kent.sch.uk

Miss Chivers



CENTRE STAGE

A new addition to our extra-curricular offer this year is Drama Club which is held every Friday lunchtime and is run by Mrs Wright and her team of prefects. They have been preparing a School of Rock piece to be performed at the Christmas Concert on 17th December.

To help with the production, Mrs Wright has been working closely with Centre Stage Theatre Company who use DSTC facilities every week. David Gillett, Creative Director at Centre Stage, was so impressed with the standard of our girls that he invited them to attend two free Drama workshops after school in November. Over 40 of our girls attended and, as a direct result, 20 of them have gained scholarships to Centre Stage! We are really proud of the girls and look forward to working with Centre Stage in the future.

Mrs Wright

ASPIRIN WORKSHOP

On Wednesday 20th December the Post 16 BTEC Applied Science students participated in Aspirin workshop at the University of Kent. We were greeted by student ambassadors of the School of Pharmacology. Once in the lab, students donned their lab coats and were given a brief introduction to the courses on offer and University life.

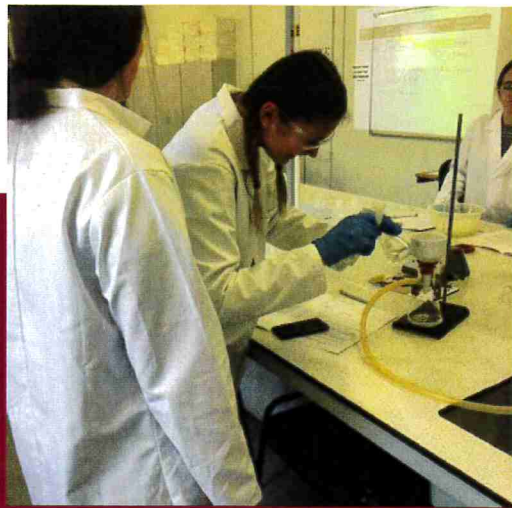
Students then followed the instructions, preparing their sample of aspirin which involved calculating the amount of salicylic acid required for the reaction. Once this had been determined, they accurately weighed this out before dissolving it in acetic anhydride in the presence of an acidic catalyst.

The crude aspirin was collected and recrystallisation was carried out to ensure that the product was as pure as possible.

After drying the aspirin sample, students then determined the melting point of their product, this would check the purity.

The workshop was a fantastic experience for our students allowing them to have an insight into University life and also to utilise the facilities of a fully equipped science laboratory. The students were amazing, demonstrated their practical skills with enthusiasm and were a credit to DSTC.

Ms Delasalle



UNIVERSITY OF KENT VISIT GIVES INSIGHT INTO LIFE POST 16

On Thursday 14th November DSTC was visited by representatives from the University of Kent Outreach Team to run a session for Year 9 students entitled 'What Happens Next?', aimed at educating them about their choices Post 16.

Fran Plom, a University of Kent graduate in Politics and International Relations, was joined by her colleague and University of Kent Student Ambassador, Harmony Eid in giving our Year 9 girls insight into the benefits and difficulties of the various options available to them following completion of their GCSEs.

The girls were taken through a range of individual and group activities in order to discover their current understanding of Post 16 education, inform them of the options and their unique characteristics, and give them a chance to consider



how their own preferences, skills and aspirations might influence their decisions now and in the future.

The event was a huge success and it was clear that the students gained a lot from being involved. All of the students came away from the session with a clearer understanding of their choices, and some were given an increased sense of purpose and focus in terms of their individual aims and aspirations.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the Kent University Outreach Team and their representatives for helping to inspire our girls to realise their potential and strive towards the DSTC motto of Dream, Believe, Achieve.

Mr Snipp





YULE LOG MAKING

On a cold winter evening in December, eight members of staff got together to participate in a Christmas Yule Log making session organised by Mr Dix.

The event is one of many that are put on for staff wellbeing. Miss Hussey was on hand to serve up a glass of mulled wine or hot chocolate and then Mr Dix talked through the method for making the Yule Logs. The recipe was one of Nigella Lawson's finest and it went down a treat. Mr Dix had even bought boxes for the logs to go in, although many of the logs were too large to fit. Mrs Donegan-Edwards' log not only managed to fit in the box but looked so good nobody believed that she had made it!

It was an excellent evening and we can't wait for the next one next term.
Miss Bernarte

OUR FIRST TERM AT DSTC

We joined DSTC this year and so far it has been amazing!

Moving to Secondary School is a big change but DSTC set up a three day summer school for Year 7s near the end of the summer holidays where you can make new friendships and get to know your way around before you start in Year 7. It really benefits you and makes the transfer to a new school a lot easier. We did lots of fun activities like cooking, art, cup stacking, dance and drama but our favourite task was the photography challenge because we could go anywhere in the school to take photos of things we found unusual and that would help us find our way to our classes.

We find DSTC like a tree; Mrs Davis (the headteacher) is the trunk keeping us all held up and the teachers are the branches helping the leaves who are the students be able to grow and achieve our dreams.

We've met so many lovely people including our brilliant teachers. There were also great mentors assigned to each Year 7 form for the first week of term who showed us around and were happy to help with anything we were unsure of.

DSTC is a great and welcoming school and we have loved our first term here, everyone is friendly and it is an enjoyable place to learn.

Niamh & Ella
7D

THORPE PARK TRIP

As a break from the onslaught of mock exams and GCSE preparation, we decided to give the Year 11 and Post 16 students a chance to let off steam with a trip to Thorpe Park's Fright Night on Friday 18th October 2019.

Over 100 students signed up to attend, filling up two coaches and the minibus! Despite the promise of rain, the students were in high spirits when we arrived and everyone was looking forward to not only the rides but the 13 scare mazes too. The park was busy but we still managed to get on most of the rides including Swarm, Saw, Colossus and Nemesis without too much queuing. Miss Whittaker had never been on a rollercoaster before so had a shock when Ms Delasalle dragged her on The Walking Dead ride as most of it is set in the dark. She survived the ride only to be chased by zombies at the end and vowed never to go on one again!

There were many scare mazes to choose from but Mrs Donegan-Edwards was too scared to go in them so was designated bag holder. It was a long day and evening but everyone had a great time and we're looking forward to going back again next year - even Miss Whittaker!!

Mr Rushbrook



DSTC DANCE SHOWCASE

Our Year 11 and Year 10 BTEC Dance students performed in the 'Dance Styles' production at DSTC on Wednesday 4th December 2019. There were a cast of over 40 students, each dancing to a class and group routine to the theme of dance styles.

The girls were all excellent, performing with focus and energy to showcase their dance skills. Cascade Dance Company also performed an additional two dance routines, in preparation for their forthcoming performance in 'Once Upon a Time' production at The Orchard Theatre in February 2020. Their Alice in Wonderland was a highly technical piece including advanced dance skills, solos, duets and lifts.

A particular mention must go to Toyosi and Faith for their wonderful solo dance performances with advanced technical skills and artistic flair.

Mrs Wright



SPORTS ROUNDUP

It has been a busy term for the PE department. On Wednesday 13th November we took a group of Years 7 and 8 to a Sportshall Athletics. This is where the girls participate in a variety of indoor athletic events such as relays, standing long jump and speed bounce. All the girls tried their hardest and worked well as a team cheering each other on. The Year 8 came 2nd in the borough and our Year 7 team 1st! That means that the Year 7 team will represent Dartford at the Kent School Games in February.

On Thursday 14th November, a group of students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 braved the cold and competed in the Borough Cross Country Championships at Leigh Academy. The girls were fantastic, putting 100% effort into their races and represented the school extremely well. With some tough competition from local schools our Year 7 team came fifth overall, the Under 14 team came fourth and the Under 16 girls came third which are all great achievements. Notable performances go to Phoebe D in Year 7 for coming third in the Year 7 race and Maisie P who came eighth in the Under 16. Phoebe and Maisie have now qualified to represent Dartford in the district team for the Kent Schools Championships. Miss Whittaker

