



DSTC NEWS

EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE

DSTC SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023 FAREWELL MRS DAVIS

As this year comes to a close, we all want to take the time to say goodbye to our Principal, Anne Davis. Anne started her career in Welling teaching Maths at the school she once went to. After a very successful career trajectory, including some time teaching overseas, she joined DSTC in September 2016 after 7 years as Principal at Longfield Academy.

Anne has led a huge number of positive changes during her time as our Principal, to name but a few from a list of many, she has increased the number of girls choosing DSTC and we are at full capacity with an extensive waiting list - a huge increase from when she joined us. Anne also supported the Post 16 team with dramatically increasing numbers in the upper school.

She increased teaching and support staff numbers to ensure DSTC was fully resourced in order to thrive. Over time, she led a full review of the curriculum and introduced ICE lessons, she brought in a House System, leading to healthy competitions between staff and students. She has introduced the Eco Project, which will encourage the local community to use the allotment and orchard, once it comes to fruition.

Anne also introduced Winter lectures with guest speakers for the local community to attend. We now have a second hand uniform shop for our families. Anne held our first Trust AGM and has overseen the transfer of the schools land from the council to the schools Cooperative Trust.

There have also been various site improvements for the comfort of our students and staff. There are too many to list, but not least, air conditioning across the school, a new catering and IT management and investment in a major IT refresh. Anne introduced a new, robust GDPR policy as well as a new Digital Strategy. Anne supported staff with running The Duke of Edinburgh Award, STEM activity days, our successful Careers Aspiration and the extensive work done with TAGS and CAGS (the exam grading during Covid.)

Perhaps most importantly, we have had two Ofsteds during Anne's tenure as Principal both have been 'Good' with the last Ofsted report reflecting the incredible work done at the school. Our results have dramatically improved and we are now the top performing non-selective school in North Kent.



Let's not forget Anne achieved all of this under the cloud of the pandemic, during perhaps one of the most challenging circumstances ever faced by schools. She led us through this difficult time and took everything in her stride, including the covid testing, risk assessments, social distancing, reviewing all procedures and completely changing the way the school worked. Anne guided the school through remote learning and ensured suitable provision for vulnerable students. We always looked forward to her weekly Principal posts keeping us fully updated.

Anne introduced our two week October Half term (for which the staff and students are eternally thankful!) and perhaps her favourite addition to DSTC - the very successful Christmas Market (she really is Mrs Christmas...) and she managed to convince the music artist Will.i.am, after noticing he was on the same flight as her to New York, to record a message for her students. That really is going above and beyond!

We can all agree Anne has certainly made a huge difference to our school and we are very grateful to her for all her achievements but especially for always thinking of her students and staff well being.

We will miss you Mrs Davis and we thank you for your tireless efforts to make our school an amazing place to learn and work in, we wish you the very best in your well deserved retirement.



GOLD TIE PREFECTS

BY MRS J IJEWERE

The Gold Tie was introduced in 2019 and is awarded to select students in Year 11 who demonstrate, through their behaviour, attendance and progress across all subjects they are role models for the rest of the school.

Gold Tie Prefects supervise designated areas of the school at break and lunchtime, contributing to an orderly and effective school outside of lessons. They also serve as DSTC ambassadors at community events. Gold Tie Prefects work very closely with the Post 16 Executive Student Team who support a variety of initiatives across the school.

Mrs Ijewere, Raising Standards Leader for Post 16, said: "The Gold Tie is a visible and tangible reward students in lower years can aspire to. Now in its fourth year, the Gold Tie has developed our Year 11 students and prepared them for life at Post 16. The skills and experience they gain during the year has also enabled many to secure valuable work experience as they demonstrate their ability to perform their duties in a responsible and reliable way."



DISTRICT ATHLETICS 2023

BY MRS N FLETCHER

A large group of DSTC students attended Dartford Harriers on Tuesday 4th July to take part in the District Athletics Event. We had representatives from years 7 to 10, completing all track and field competitions. All the students performed well and tried their best to attain as many points as possible for the school. A special mention must go to Clarissa competing in Year 10 long jump, Megan in Year 7 high jump, and the fantastic Year 8 relay team!



YEAR 7 AND 8 ROUNDERS

BY MRS N FLETCHER

The Year 7 and 8 rounders squads competed in a friendly fixture against Wilmington Grammar this evening. Freya and Scarlett made some fabulous catches to get their opponents out, Darcie showed excellent throwing skills from her backstop position, Chloe V was vocal supporting her teammates and alongside Phoebe had some successful stumps out against their opponents. Safi grew in confidence in her role as bowler and showed excellent consistency.

When batting, we showed some great tactical knowledge and understanding of the game. They utilised the 'backward hit' rule to their advantage. Melody, Chloe V and Ruby demonstrated some powerful hits and made successful runs using their quick pace.

As always, the girls were an absolute pleasure to take to the fixture and represented DSTC with sportswomanship and enthusiasm.

The final score was DSTC 11 and Wilmington 7.5!



SWIMMING GALA

BY MRS N FLETCHER

A group of students represented DSTC at our first ever Swimming Gala. It was held at DGSFG and the students involved not only showed some amazing swimming skills, but also fantastic teamwork, encouragement, sportsmanship and attitude! They were an absolute credit to our school and thoroughly enjoyed the juice and biscuits at the end of the gala. We attained some 1st placings from Erin, Leah, Olivia, Lara, Emilia and Navaeh; including the year 7 relay medley. We also had plenty of 2nd and 3rd placings too.



FITNESS AND YOGA AT DSTC

BY MRS N FLETCHER

Due to the inconsistent British weather and the sports hall hosting the summer exams; our year 9 and 10 students have experienced a few impromptu fitness and yoga lessons during this term. 9T in particular really embraced the lesson and developed their 'sun salutation' and then some more complex positions. A great way to relieve stress and prepare themselves for the rest of the day!



CAREERS FOCUS DAY - NHS

BY MRS P SMITH

DSTC hosted a fantastic NHS Careers day, with support from a great team of Darent Valley Hospital staff, brought together by Denise Aspland, Head of Clinical Education.

In the morning, Years 8 and 9 had presentations from 7 healthcare professionals, covering careers in Nursing, Midwifery, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Operating Department Practitioner, Pharmacy and Pathology.

After lunch, Year 7s took part in an interactive presentation, following the journey of a patient through the NHS, using the example of a pregnant lady who had fallen and badly broken her arm. This example enabled students to be introduced to a wide range of careers within the NHS, which included Paramedic, A&E Nurse, Radiologist, Surgeon, Midwife and Occupational Therapist.

At the start of the day, the majority of students indicated they knew nothing or only a little about Careers within the NHS. By the end of the presentations, students felt they had learned a lot about Careers within the sector. Overall, we had a very positive response to the day from students and supervising staff.

The presenters also expressed how they had enjoyed the day and commented on how well our students participated.



ECO PROJECT

BY MRS L MCINTOSH

We have made great progress behind the scenes for this ambitious project. We now have a bank account so we are able to be transparent and auditable in our own right. We will now be looking to transfer all the associated funds for this project to this account.

We have run several volunteer working days since January 2023, usually one a month. The first in January we planted all the trees and shrubs on the plot that are now established and thriving, bearing blossom in the spring. However, there were a couple of casualties which we will look to replace in due course.



We have purchased and built a large wooden framed greenhouse which has been constructed on a concrete base and has a concrete walkway through the centre of it. This was built by the father of a student as a volunteer. He is a builder by trade and has done a fantastic job.

The beds have been constructed and filled with compost and topsoil. These have been planted out and the plants are starting to grow. We now have our very own courgette grown in our Eco Project. A small thing but very satisfying for those involved.



There is now a large, stepped pond especially for the science department. It has been built to their requirements with the help and input from Sam Reynolds, science teacher. This is not quite finished as the edging and the wetland area need planting and finishing. However the pond is filled almost to the top and water plants are planted there and floating on the pond. There is already evidence of wildlife using the pond with fox prints around the edge and insects either visiting or living in the water.



We had a weekend where we had loaned (free of charge) from a local company a small digger and a whacker plate. We worked the whole weekend to get the pond dug and the foundations for the greenhouse excavated.

Our next stage, once the pond is finished and planted and the path around the pond for student access is constructed, will be to build a fence such as this from reclaimed and recycled wood. This will be aesthetically pleasing in the surrounding area as well as providing a real barrier so users of the site will be safe from accidentally slipping into the pond. (Full warning signage will be erected around this area too. Access will only be permitted with a member of DSTC staff)



GIRLS UNDER 14 DISTRICT CUP FINAL

BY MR S LINDARS

We are so proud of our Under 14's team who competed at the Dartford District tournament. After an incredible series of matches, we lost on penalties in the final.

DSTC won 4 games against other local schools, drew 1 and only conceded 1 goal the whole tournament. Our DSTC players were superb, with several coaches and parents complimenting the team on their performance and attitude.

The team finished top at the league and deserved to be in final.

The results were as follows:

DSTC 3-0 Orchards Academy
DSTC 1-0 Leigh Academy
DSTC 1-1 Gadds Hill
DSTC 3-0 Leigh UTC
DSTC 2-0 Wilmington Grammar

After defeating them just 15 minutes before, we drew 0-0 with Wilmington Grammar in the final.

The girls were amazing and a real credit to the school!



The Year 8, 9 and 10 DSTC Football Club has been very well attended since February and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has participated but especially Amy, Sofia and Isabelle.

The girls helped coach the Under 14 football squad and have attended every session. The Women's Football World Cup is taking place during the summer holidays and we're expecting a large number of girls to attend the training sessions and represent DSTC at future tournaments and matches during the 2023/24 academic year.

Best of luck to the England football team but especially our girls who will be attending various football trials at local clubs during the summer.

DESIGN A CROWN COMPETITION

MRS S AVCU

The 'Design a Crown' competition was a wonderful opportunity to see our students' creative abilities. We were really impressed with the designs submitted from across all year groups and thank students for their entries. It was tough to pick winners! The overall winners received 5 house points and certificates in their year group celebration assemblies.

The Winning crown designs are on display in the English Department.

Year 7 - joint winners Erin & Madison

Year 8 - Stephanie

Year 9 - Verity

Year 10 - Maddie & Megan

Year 11 - Melinda



UKMT JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

BY MS E OATEN

On 26th April, students in year 8 completed the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. This is a very hard challenge and they all did extremely well. Special mentions to Layla who won a silver award and best in school, as well as Megan, Arusha and Veneisha who all won a bronze award.



PERFORMING ARTS

BY MS G WRIGHT

Year 10 Btec Performing Arts have been enjoying workshops with industry professionals in dance this term.

The students received a Commercial dance session, with Maria Mazzone from North Kent College. This was a fast pace, high energy and dynamic piece of repertoire to Beyonce 'Run the world'. They also had a Contemporary dance session, with Ricia Taylor from Cascade dance company. This was a musical theatre technical piece from Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Cats'.

They have been working hard towards their unit 2 and enjoying these workshops as part of their Btec Performing Arts course.



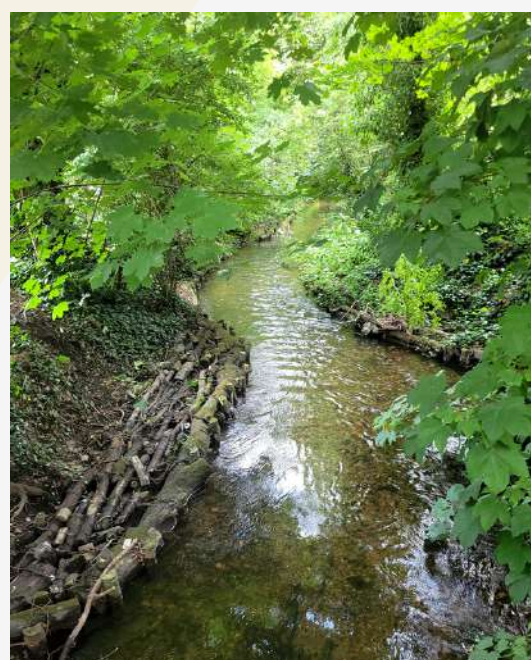
GEOGRAPHY INVESTIGATION

BY MRS B ROWSON

GCSE Geography students have investigated the possible impacts of a changing climate and future flooding events in Dartford. They visited residential areas, Brooklands Lakes and the town centre to collect primary data in preparation for their final exams.

The weather was perfect for the tasks they needed to undertake and the girls worked hard. They demonstrated some excellent personal and social communication skills by interacting with members of the public to ask them questions regarding flooding to the area. Their questionnaire data will be collated and analysed for a fieldwork report they will write later in class.

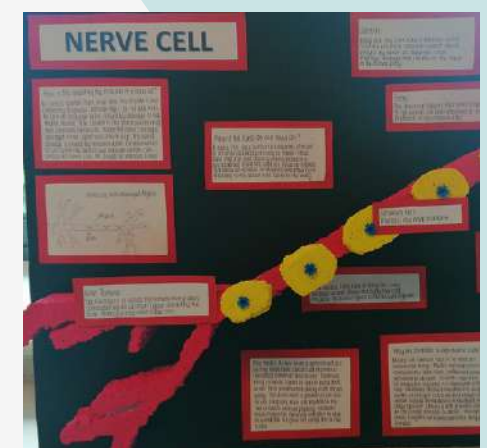
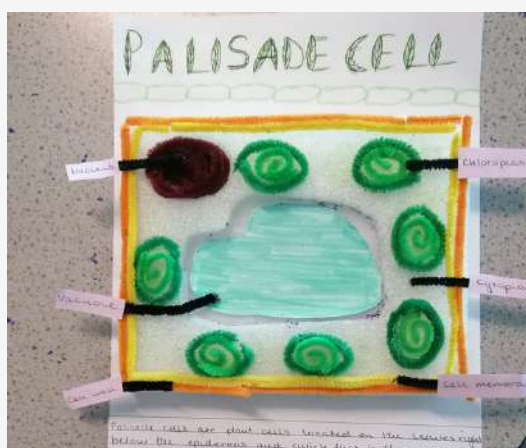
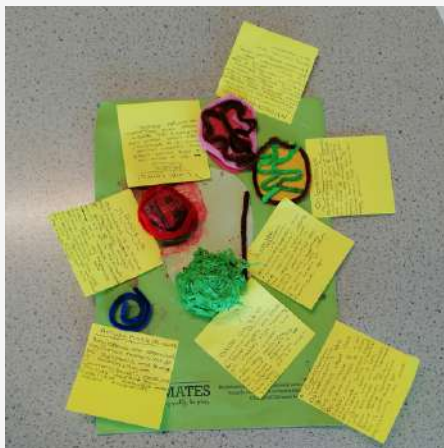
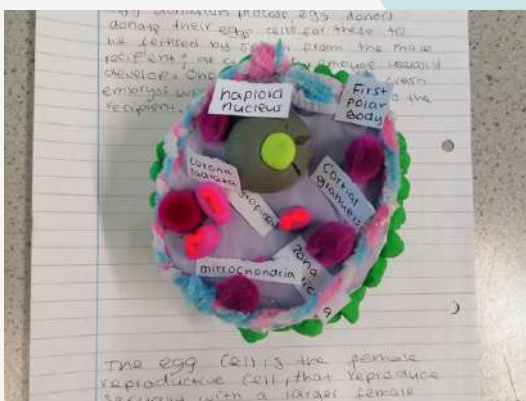
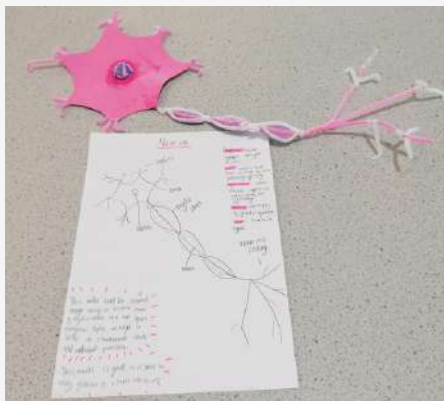
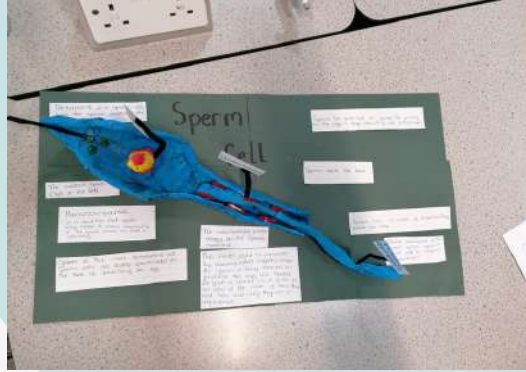
Thank you to Mr Sparks, Mrs Harris, Mrs Rowson and all the supporting staff who helped facilitate the trip.



CELLS PROJECT

BY MR C SNIPP

Year 9 were given a challenge to build some model cells. Students used recycled materials to build models of specialised cells, including labels and information, and then spent time presenting and evaluating their cells with other members of the group. Some students even went on to research the impacts of certain diseases on their chosen cell and also presented this information.



COMMUNITY DAY 2023

BY THE STAFF OF DSTC

On Friday 14th July we had our 7th Community Day at DSTC. After months of preparation and planning, staff and students proudly went out into a wet and grey Dartford to take part in a huge range of activities.

There were a staggering 45 placements this year. We went to 15 primary schools, undertaking tasks such as painting fences, helping to sort cupboards, taking down displays and supporting sports day. We packed bags in supermarkets and raised money for 'Home Start', 'Hive Hope' and 'Mary's Child'. We helped improve our environment by litter picking in the local area and our choir sang in Darent Valley Hospital whilst raising funds for 'Little Buds'.

The impact of DSTC's Community Day is huge - both for the students and the places we go to help and support. As always, students were outstanding and the feedback we have received so far has been amazing. Placements made comments such as:

'Please pass on my thanks to the girls who attended today. Despite the weather causing some issues, they were all wonderful and a real credit to the school and their families. Thanks again for all your effort, you are making a huge difference to the local community.'

We Are Beams

'A huge thank you to the teachers and students from Dartford Science and Technology College as part of their Community Day. The Choir entertained our staff, patients and visitors whilst students also raised money for our Darent Valley Hospital: Little Buds Fund...'

Valley Hospital Charity

'It was an absolute pleasure having a group of students from DSTC join me today. They worked hard weeding, making a herb bed and some lovely windchimes...I was so impressed with their attitudes and willingness to help. Thank you to their teachers who joined us too...'

Green Cllr Laura Edie

Thank you to everyone involved who made it a success. A huge thank you to our sponsors Wincanton, Dartford Borough Council, Bluewater, Kent County councillors Penny Cole and Kelly Grehan, Brent Old Boys, 'Downton and Ali' and Fox Estates.

A special thank you to **Mr Dix** for organising another successful Community Day at DSTC

HEXTABLE VILLAGE PRE-SCHOOL



CRAYLANDS SCHOOL



SUTTON AT HONE PRIMARY SCHOOL



BRENT SOCIAL CLUB



JOYDENS WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



HEXTABLE VILLAGE PRE-SCHOOL



GARDENING - THE BRENT



BRENT PRIMARY SCHOOL



LITTLE BUDS



SPIRITS REST



SWANLEY ASDA - BAG PACKING



SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL RESCUE



SWANSCOMBE TOWN HALL



WESTGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL



WEST HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



DSTC - BAKING



CEDAR ROAD ALLOTMENT



KINDNESS COMMUNITY



WENTWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL



TREE ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE



DARENT VALLEY HOSPITAL - DSTC CHOIR



ASDA GREENHITHE - MARY'S CHILD



VIP VISITS



SPORTS DAY 2023

BY MRS N FLETCHER

On Monday 17th July, DSTC hosted their annual Sports Day. The day consisted of multiple track and field events, allowing the students to show off their athletic talents and all the hard work they have been doing in their PE lessons.

Some outstanding efforts were seen by the students throughout the day and two school records were broken; firstly the Year 8 200m record was broken for the first time in 5 years by Angel who ran it in 29.65sec and also the Year 9 shot put record was broken by Francesa who threw an incredible 8m.45cm. Students were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals for each event, as well as given points for their participation regardless of their placements; but also staff distributed house points based on those displaying enthusiasm, sportsmanship, resilience and teamwork.

The students competed for their form groups with the aim to win the year group trophy, but in addition the house points were collated for each form group in the varying year groups to then aspire to win the house trophy. The year group winners were; 7S, 8D, 9G and 10G! And the **2023 House winners for sports day were SEACOLE.**













ACTIVITY DAYS 2023

HEVER CASTLE



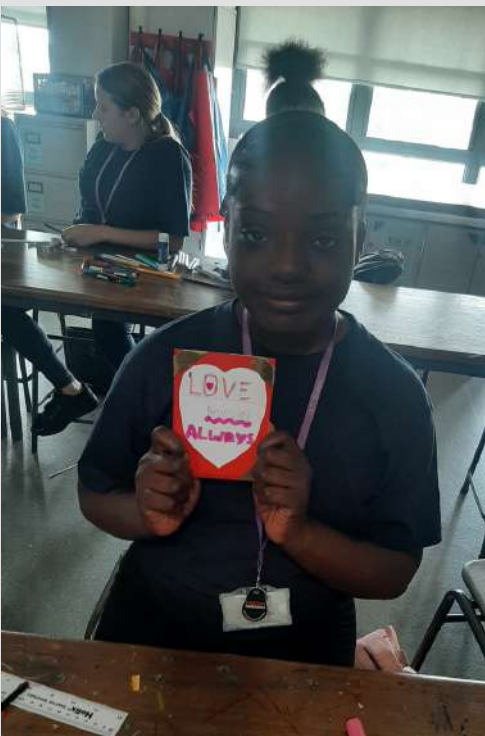
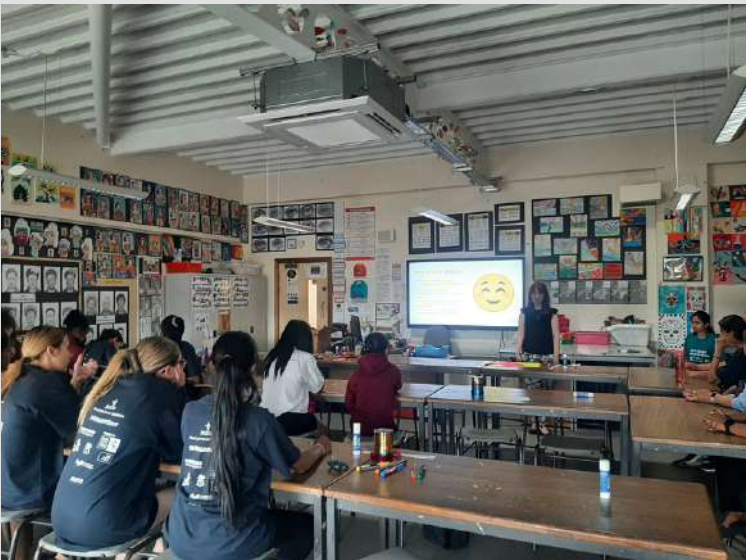
TASKMASTER



ARMY CAREERS



GRATITUDE WORKSHOP



PROBLEM SOLVING



RAF STEM EVENT



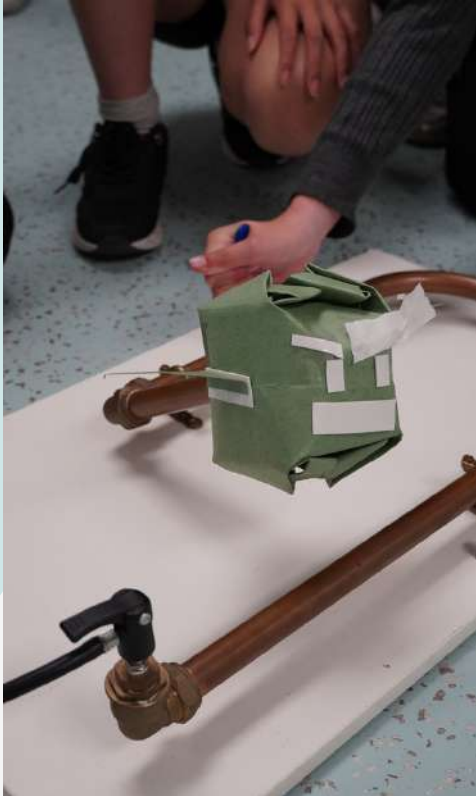
MOTE PARK



"NINEBOT" GO KARTS



BATHBOMBS AND ROCKETS



"MURDEROUS MATHS" CHALLENGE



FLOATING WORKSHOP



YOUNG WRITERS 2023

BY MRS S AVCU

The 'Kingdom of Words' Young Writers competition this term was a huge success. Our students submitted poems which were well crafted, thoughtful and definitely 'fit for a King!' Young Writers were equally impressed and picked nearly all entries for publication. This special edition of their poetry book is being made in recognition of King Charles III's Coronation this year. Our chosen students poems will feature in this book of which Young Writers will send to the Royal family and to the British Library.

These competitions provide students with excellent opportunities to showcase their creative writing skills. It also gives them something special to keep with many parents ordering copies of the book. Young Writers are yet to choose the overall winner. But we are very proud of them and believe they all have the potential to be in line of winning.

All students chosen received their special certificates and bookmarks from Young Writers in recognition of their achievement.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

BY MISS S CHIVERS

We have had an amazing year for Duke of Edinburgh this year with 45 Year 9 students taking part in the Bronze expedition and 17 Year 10 students completing the practice and assessment expeditions for the Silver award.

The students who have taken part in this year's expeditions have shown determination, resilience and motivation throughout the weekends they have endured and we are all incredibly proud of them.

We seem to have a habit of unintentionally picking weekends with the worst weather! The Year 9s endured heat unlike we have seen before (and last year was very hot!) and despite some navigational issues on day 1 really settled into the expectations on day 2. Despite the heat, they kept their cool, powered through and were very successful.

The Year 10s had a yellow weather warning in place for their three-day expedition on the south coast which resulted in torrential downpours whilst walking and 50mph winds on the second night and throughout the third day involving having to plan a last minute re-route in order to ensure their safety. This was an incredible challenge to stay positive and carry on going under these conditions but they did it!

A big thank you to the staff involved – Miss Whittaker, Mrs Kent, Mrs Murnane and Miss Chivers. Thank you to Miss Chivers for setting up the programme at the school. You will be missed by those who have undertaken expeditions and the memories they have but they will be left in the capable hands of Miss Whittaker to carry on this excellent opportunity.



YEAR 9 RECYCLING FASHION SHOW





LET'S RAISE MONEY FOR DSTC



It's a lot easier than you think to raise money for our school.

We work with "Easyfundraising" and use 2 recycling banks to help raise money for the school. Over time, we have raised £3,879.60 from the textiles bank and a further £3,020.67 from kind donations, raffles and sale of unwanted goods.

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed towards fundraising for our school.



Educating and Empowering Citizens of the Future

"Easyfundraising" turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for your favourite cause.

Just start your online shopping first at "Easyfundraising", select DSTC, create an account then shop as normal. We have raised £766.46 to date with "Easyfundraising"
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dstc/>



If you have any unwanted clothes, other textiles or paired shoes, you can put them in our **recycling bank** located by the main entrance.



DSTC receives money based on the weight collected.

All money received is used to upgrade school facilities



Dartford

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE