

#DSTC NEWS

Dartford Science and
Technology College Newsletter
December Edition

ALL THE NEWS FROM DARTFORD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

A term is a long time in education and you will see from this newsletter just how much has been achieved above and beyond the timetabled lessons. One of the highlights for me was meeting will.i.am and asking him to record a message for our students which he so kindly did. DSTC girls loved it - it's on our website if you have yet to view it. Additionally, the inaugural Co-operative Trust Christmas Lecture with planetary scientist Dr Sheila Kanani was superb. Beyond that, I am inspired on a daily basis by the amazing achievements of the girls at DSTC and their appetite to help others.

Well done to everyone for your progress this term. I invite you to consider your New Year resolutions carefully and to take every opportunity that comes your way in 2018. On behalf of DSTC, I would like to thank Richard Abel Landscapes for their kind donation of our Christmas Tree. Enjoy the break, it has been a long time coming but is nearly here! Season's greetings to one and all.

COMING UP

Here are some key DSTC dates for your diary.

- 20th December Non uniform day
- 20th December Students finish at 12pm
- 4th January Students return to school
- 9th January Post 16 Parents' Evening 4pm to 6:30pm
- 9th January Visit to the Orchard Theatre with Mrs Wright
- 12th January 6th Form Taster Day
- 15th January Year 11 Parents' Evening 4pm to 6:30pm

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



DARTFORD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE IRISH DANCING

Students from Years 7 and 8 have been enjoying a six week long taster of Irish Dancing, led by teacher Miss McPartland. Here are some pictures of their progress:



Students have been learning key skills such as teamwork, fitness, discipline and posture whilst having fun choreographing and collaborating on duo and group performances. "I have seen many students progress from nervous Year 7s into flourishing dancers". Year 8 have been peer mentoring students who may not have come, had they not been made to feel so welcome by their peers. They have overcome challenges such as developing rhythm and social skills. What's more, students have acquired a valuable new skill for life.

WILL.I.AM AND DSTC MAKE THE NEWS!

During the Half Term break our very own Principal, Mrs Davis, was rubbing shoulders with the stars while she visited New York. Being a fan of technology in his music, will.i.am was so impressed with stories of our hardworking and high achieving students at our Science and Technology College, he decided to leave them a video message which has been played during assemblies to all students. The news of our newest fan reached the local papers who wrote an article about it. This can be found here:

www.kentonline.co.uk/dartford/news/williams-first-class-message-to-134696/



DSTC BIG PINK DAY!

Along with many in the country, DSTC colleagues dressed up in pink to raise money for Breast Cancer Now (BCN). We had lots of fun and the collection of unicorns was a great addition to our day of training. The activities that we had included:

- A biscuit decorating competition with pink sweets and icing sugar.
- A raffle with prizes donated by our colleagues. For this we used blue raffle tickets remembering that 1 in 1000 men will develop breast cancer in their life times; and
- A pink quiz. The winners of this were the Science department.

Our fund raising efforts reached £183 and due to gift aid BCN will be entitled to, roughly, an additional £30.



INSPIRING EDUCATION, NURTURING SUCCESS

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DTSC AT THE DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITIONS

On 16th November, a group of students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 competed in the Borough Cross Country Championships at The Leigh Academy. After the experience of racing at the Kent Cross Country Cup, a lot of the girls were ready and determined to do well.

The girls all ran fantastic races and represented the school extremely well with our Year 7 team coming 3rd overall, our Year 8/9 team coming 2nd and our Year 10 team also coming 2nd! Notable performances were Hallie Newman-French and Poppy Allen in Year 8 who came in the top 10 to qualify for the district team for the Kent Schools Championships.



EASY FUNDRAISING FOR DSTC

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online, from your weekly shop to your annual holiday, you could be collecting free donations for Dartford Science and Technology College? There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

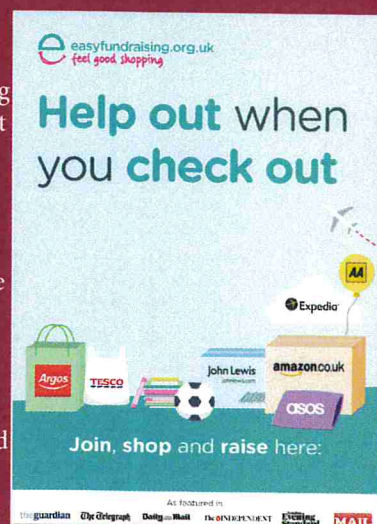
It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dstc/> and join for free.

2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.

3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost what so ever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Dartford Science and Technology College will be very grateful for your donations.



DSTC HEROES AND VILLAINS DANCE SHOWCASE

On Wednesday, 22nd November our talented Year 11 Dance students performed their production 'Heroes and Villains' as part of their BTEC Performing Arts exam. The audience were also treated to performances from our Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 students. Dance performance pieces included Little Mix 'Power', 'Superheroes', 'Zero to Hero', 'Singing in the Rain', 'Holding out for a Hero' to name just a few numbers.

Special guests included College Governor Andy Taylor who said "It was a lovely entertaining evening last night. We all enjoyed the theme Heroes and Villains. It was so lovely listening to the audience supporting and encouraging the performers. The choreography, costumes and back stage all came together for another great production."

It was a thoroughly entertaining evening; our Year 11 Dance solo performances received standing ovations from a sell-out audience of over 200 guests. Mrs Wright, Lead Teacher of Dance and Show Director commented "I cannot be more proud of the teamwork, energy and commitment from our talented performers. I'd like to congratulate each and every one of our talented dancers and we are really looking forward to our next performance at The Orchard Theatre in January 2018".



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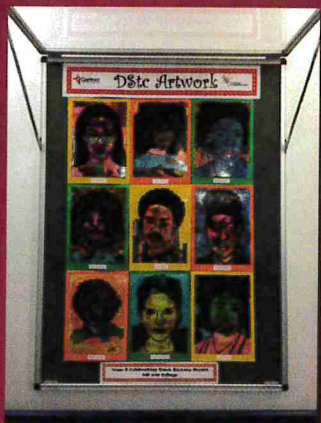
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DSTC ARTWORK IN THE COMMUNITY

You can see artwork from DSTC students out in the community.

Darent Valley Hospital display work created by our Year 9 students which is changed regularly.

Keep an eye out for this the next time you visit the hospital.



DSTC AT BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

DSTC played their first basketball match of the year with an amazing 14 Year 7 girls turning up to play. A tough first game with some very nervous girls against Mayfield Grammar, who have played some matches already. It was a steep learning curve but they only lost the first half 6-0 and then went on to win the second 2-0. The nerves were a distant memory and the fighting spirit showed with a 4-2 loss in the first half against Northfleet before beating them 6-2 in the second half.

Player of the match was Libby-Mai Matthews closely followed in votes by Ellie Watson who had just returned following a broken elbow.



DSTC AT FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

A group from Years 7 and 8 travelled to Goals at the Leigh Academy for a 5-a-side football tournament against local schools. Just as the first game started, the rain started to pour but the girls carried on and played exceptionally.

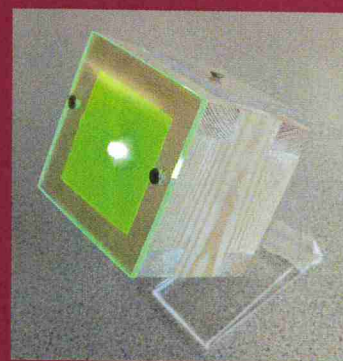
The first team did really well, winning 3, drawing 1 and losing just 1 against a very good Wilmington Grammar team. Player of the tournament was Libby-Mai Matthews who scored the majority of the goals for DSTC.



DSTC MOOD LIGHT MANUFACTURING

Year 9 showed they could outperform local grammar school standards as all students completed this challenging engineering task, something which has never before been achieved.

Developing mature approaches, students problem-solved technical issues and worked cohesively together to achieve stunning results.



DSTC GOES TO SUTTON LIFE

On 6th November, 136 Year 7 students boarded coaches all bound for the Sutton Life Centre just outside Croydon. The centre is a unique, state of the art educational and community facility that uses amazing technology to promote good citizenship, personal safety and the environment.

There are 4 main areas – transport experience, the street, the home experience and the virtual experience. Each area teaches a different aspect of safety. For example, in the transport experience students learn about the social etiquette of waiting for others to get off the train before they get on.

In the home experience they learn about safe use of the internet and chat websites. In the 360 virtual experience students learn about the impact of litter on the environment and why tap water is far better than bottled water. The students had a great day and their behaviour and attitude were outstanding throughout the whole trip.



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DSTC MATHS MORNING CLUB

The Maths Department have started a Maths Morning Club. This runs every Wednesday and Thursday morning from 8:05am to 8:30am in MA1 (Mrs Okagbare) and in MA2 (Mr Nyaku). The aim is to develop students' ability to do Maths to a high level through problem solving and higher order questions that require students to apply mathematical skills and reasoning. The level of work is targeted at Year 10 and 11 students who are aiming to achieve Grades 5-9. Interested students should, in the first instance, contact Mr Nyaku or Mrs Okagbare for a letter. It is essential that students have their breakfast before they attend as this will not be provided at the sessions.

Problem Solving and Reasoning

DSTC STEM ENTERPRISE GROUP

Throughout the Autumn Term, a number of Year 8 students have attended the STEM Enterprise after-school club which is run by Mrs Warren and Miss Hussey. Students have been working incredibly hard to plan, cost, design and make a range of Christmas-themed products. These are being sold in school during the festive period and the money raised will be used to buy new resources for the DT Department. Students have used a variety of skills during the process, including: Mathematics, CAD, CAM and Engineering. The products on offer include: hot chocolate reindeer portions, a 'Make-Your-Own' Christmas decorations pack, a 'Decorate-Your-Own' Christmas game and some Christmas-themed tea light holders.

Year 8 student Amy Mansfield said: "Taking part in the club has been very fun. We are looking forward to selling our products to the rest of the school!"

DON'T BIN IT, BANK IT!

Free and Easy Recycling raising funds for the school.

With the Christmas season upon us and the need for us to make space for new items in our ever expanding wardrobe collections, it would be easy to just throw away our old clothes, blankets, bags, curtains, shoes or soft toys but these items can be recycled to generate substantial funds to improve our school environment.

Dartford Science and Technology College have teamed up with LMB Recycling to offer a recycling clothes and shoe bank which has been generating a regular year-round income for the school. We are pleased to announce that so far donations from students, staff and visitors have raised £585 towards new exterior seating for students with many other ideas in the pipeline.

The bank is situated at the main entrance to the school from Heath Lane and anyone can donate old clothes, blankets, bags, curtains, shoes or soft toys. Funds from this will immediately benefit our school and students. Access to the bank is from 07:00-22:00 each weekday and 08:00-13:00 at weekends. If you require any further information please contact Reception.



DSTC GOLD CERTIFICATE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

It is always great to hear stories of our students helping others but recently we have been overwhelmed by two stories of our students helping out those in the wider community.

We received an email from a lady who was impressed by three of our students at Darent Valley Hospital who helped her with her bags and guided her across the road. Sophie Fowler, Sophie Wilkinson and Libbie-Mae Allcock, all in Year 8, have been awarded WH Smith vouchers for their efforts and a new award has been created by the Principal to commemorate such acts in the community. The 'Gold Certificate for Community Service' has been awarded to these students, alongside Angel Arnold, also in Year 8, who was spotted helping out an older gentleman in the town centre. The man had dropped a lot of coins on the floor and Angel helped him by picking up the money.

We look forward to hearing about the next set of students who will be commended for their good deeds in the community. Well Done!

Gold Certificate FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

