

#DSTC NEWS

Dartford Science and
Technology College Newsletter
October Edition

ALL THE NEWS FROM DARTFORD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE



It is with great pleasure that I write my first message to you in our reformed newsletter. The last seven weeks have been amazing and I am constantly impressed and inspired by the girls, staff and parents of the DSTC community. There is so much happening here in addition to academic success that it is right that we have a vehicle for sharing this with you. I am also delighted to report that DSTC tops the Dartford table for non-selective schools with its P8 score, beating all Leigh Academy Trust schools and, in fact, making as much progress as Wilmington Grammar School for Boys. This is a fantastic achievement and I hope you share my pride in the work and success of all at DSTC.

A Davis



DSTC NETBALL TEAM

A great effort by all the girls. The Year 8's lost just one match, with some new players this season settling in well, and their player of the tournament was Captain for the event Lucy Allan. The Year 7's, with a couple of older pupils to help them out, played in the Year 8 league to get some match practice this week and managed to score in every match, so a great learning curve for them ready for their Year 7 matches. Player of the match (also Captain for the tournament) was Leanna Mitchell.



DSTC NIGHT WITH THE STARS

On Monday 14th November at 4:15pm you are invited to our Supermoon Astronomic gathering. We will meet in SC5 and go outdoors to use our telescope to await the moonrise at 4:43pm. If you want to meet us, please make sure you get a letter from Mrs Owen with more information about the evening (from 4:15 to 5:15pm) and get your parents' permission.



DSTC THE KENT CROSS COUNTRY CUP!

On 3rd October a group of Year 7, 8 and 9s travelled to Tonbridge to participate in the Kent Cross Country Cup. We were against a lot of difficult schools including both private and grammar. However, this didn't stop the girls from all running fantastic races and representing the school extremely well. This was a great experience for the girls and hopefully we can improve on these results at other cross country events in the future. If you see any of the girls around school please congratulate them!

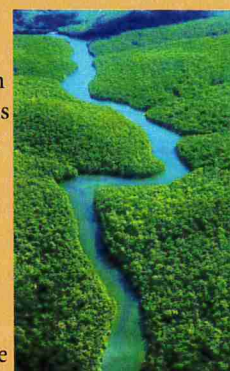
Lily Russell
Maisie Perry
Onor Akpede
Laine Lambert
Josephine Coker



DSTC STUDIES THE AMAZON

This term, our Year 9 Geography classes have been studying the Amazon Rainforest. Last week we were fortunate enough to have Charlie from Zoolabs come in to discuss and show the students some of the animals that are found in the rainforest.

The Year 9 class found out a lot of interesting facts about the creatures; Did you know a Madagascan hissing cockroach can survive in your freezer for 2 years? Altogether, the feedback we received was very positive as all the pupils enjoyed their fun day looking into the rainforest and its animals.



THE JOHN DOWNTON AWARD

The John Downton Award for Young Artists is an annual exhibition which encourages and celebrates the creativity of Kent's young artists. It is open to students, aged 11 - 18, from schools and colleges across Kent.



Herieth Mbade -
Ink drawing of London

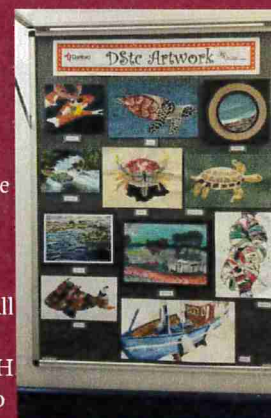
The exhibition commemorates the life and work of John Downton, the celebrated Kent artist, poet and philosopher.

This year Sixth Former Herieth Mbade had her ink drawing of London shortlisted, it will be on display at County Hall in Maidstone from 24 October to 3 January.

DSTC NEW DISPLAY BOARD

With the support of Darent Valley Hospital and our links with the Co-operative Trust we now have our very own DSTC display board. At present you will be able to view some of our talented Art students' work in KS4 and KS5, you can see the board along the corridor by the outpatients department.

We hope to be able to show the talents of all of our students in DSTC over the coming years. We are very grateful to DVH for their support and input in being able to achieve this.



DSTC KS4 and KS5 Artwork

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SILVER SPORTS MARK FOR DSTC

Dartford Science and Technology College has been awarded the Silver Sports Mark in recognition for the sports opportunities offered at the school. The School Games Mark is owned and created by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and is implemented and developed by the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England. The Mark rewards schools for their commitment to and the development of competition, school sport and physical education and was first launched in June 2012 via the School Games website. DSTC is the only secondary school in Dartford to achieve this, and it just shows how varied the sporting opportunities are for the pupils at the school. No other school has even been able to obtain the Bronze award so we are really proud to achieve this after all the hard work to get school/club links and inter-school competitions up and running.



DSTC CAREERS VISIT

Year 11 and 6th Form students visited Dartford Grammar School last Wednesday to look at the different careers on offer for them both in the UK and abroad. The students had a great time talking to many different professionals and university representatives.

All of the students felt it had been a positive experience, helping them to discuss their future careers and having questions answered to allow them to make informed choices next year.

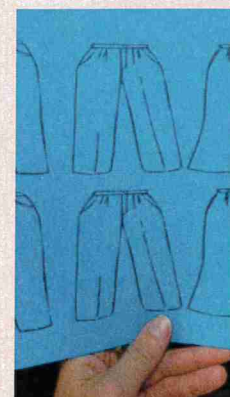
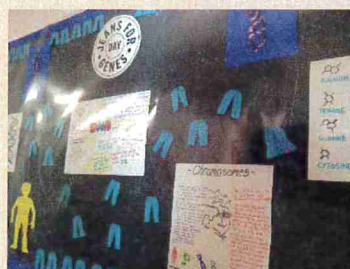


JEANS FOR GENES AT DSTC

During the last two weeks of September students and teachers at DSTC had the Jeans for Genes Assembly and a follow up form time activity where they created mini jeans and donated money towards "Jeans for Genes". This charity supports the family of children with genetic disorders. Genetic disorders affect 1 in 25 children in the UK. Life can be very difficult as some children look different and are often stared at and teased. Sometimes children have to take extra care to live a normal life and they find it hard to communicate, understand and learn.

For example, the money we raised may go towards:

- A piece of equipment, called a Tobii Eye Gaze, to help three little girls with Rett syndrome (a regressive condition meaning they can't move, speak or eat for themselves) to communicate with those around them.
 - A member of staff to provide direct support and advice to children and families affected by a rare genetic condition called Bardet-Biedl syndrome (affected children suffer from vision loss leading to blindness; become obese; have kidney abnormalities, which can be life-threatening; experience developmental delay; and have difficulties with learning, speech and language, and balance and coordination).
- Thank you for your mini jeans, your spare change and your generosity.**



DSTC SUMMER SCHOOL 2016

83% of our intake took up the opportunity to attend Summer School. It ran from Monday 22nd to Wednesday 24th August. The students were involved in a large number of team building games and various craft activities over the week, sometimes in small groups and sometimes as a whole group.

Activities included brain gym, bag design, wishing tree, clay (Bowl of Light), ICT, drama, cooking, speed stacking, a Maths Smartie Investigation, bench ball, photo-booth, dance, bracelets, collage and a Photographic Task about their new Environment.



Sixth Form students, as well as being excellent role models, supported the girls in all their activities. Some of these activities gave them the opportunity to familiarise themselves with their new school environment. The students were able to meet staff and many of the Support team who they will come into daily contact with once they start in the new term. Several of the School Governors attended various sessions to chat to the students and see how they were spending their time.

Parents and carers were invited to attend a short informal workshop on Wednesday afternoon. This session was led by the Vice Principal, Mrs Kelly, the focus being to help parents feel comfortable about approaching the school with any questions or concerns they may have around transition but also to encourage future involvement and long term interest in their daughter's education.

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