

# DSTC NEWS

EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE



## DSTC SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022

INTRODUCTION BY MRS DAVIS

The academic year 2021-22 will be remembered by the return to (nearly) normal routines. Year 11 and 13 students have been exceptional as they took their formal exams this summer. We join them in waiting for their results and sincerely hope they are successful.

There is a lot to celebrate and showcase from this term as you will see from this edition of DSTC newsletter. I continue to be impressed and inspired by students, staff and parents in relation to creativity, support and resilience.

Thanks to all of you. Have a fantastic summer and we will see returning students on the 2nd September 2022.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Anne Davis



## FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS...

BY MR. G PROUT

At the end of a long and very hot term I would like to reflect on some of the highlights at DSTC since Easter.

The governors were delighted to receive the final report from the Ofsted inspector which showed just how far the school has moved forward over the last four years. The Good judgement was the highest he could award us at this time but it hid so many outstanding aspects of the school's development that reflect so well on the unstinting efforts of the staff and the students as well as your support too. Many governors attended the school production in May and were greatly impressed with the enthusiasm and skills of the young cast, supported by senior students and staff.

The last few weeks have understandably been a nervous time for senior students taking the first external exams for two years but we are informed that have responded very well to the challenges and have been well prepared so we hope they have all done themselves justice in the end. May I wish you all and your families an enjoyable summer break and hopefully the excellent weather will continue for us all.

Kind Regards,  
Mr G Prout





# COMMUNITY DAY 2022

BY THE DSTC STAFF

It is with greatest pleasure we were able to welcome back our DSTC Community Day this year. After 2 years of being unable to run the day, our 2022 event was even more special. The staff and students did an incredible job in our local community and we are truly proud of their efforts. Thanks goes to Mr Dix for the organisation behind the scenes and of course to the businesses and institutions who welcomed our school. We really hope you enjoy all the pictures from the day!

## WATLING STREET AND THE BRENT



## MEADOWSIDE DAY CENTRE



## TEMPLE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

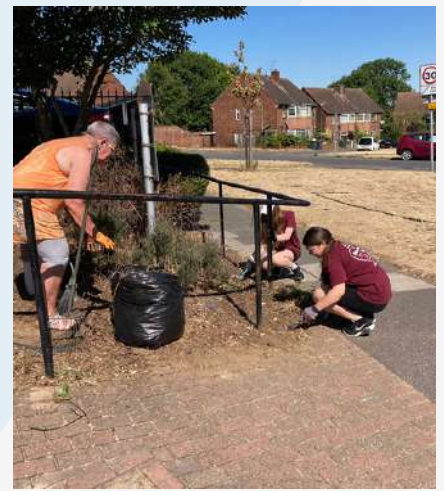




## ST EDMUNDS CHURCH

*"We were very pleased to welcome you and the children and would like to say a big thank you for all that they achieved. We would be very happy to host again."*

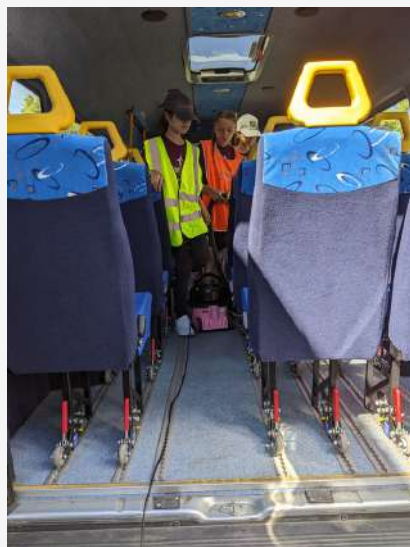
St Edmunds Church



## MAYPOLE PRIMARY SCHOOL



## WE ARE BEAMS





## WEST HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



## ASDA SWANLEY



## ST MARY UNDER 5'S





## HEXTABLE PRIMARY SCHOOL



*"Thank you so much for coming along to us on your Community Day. The girls were an absolute pleasure to have with us and were so helpful. They worked brilliantly in their teams to complete our job lists and played well with the children."*

*The children were all very keen to make friends with the "big girls" and as they left, all made comments about their new friends.*

*We would love to continue developing our links with you in the future. Thank you again."*

Hextable Primary School

## SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL RESCUE (SCAR)





## ASDA GREENHITHE



## DARTFORD SEA CADETS





## DARTFORD CREEK LITTER PICK



## SWANLEY TOWN COUNCIL



## DARTFORD PRIMARY ACADEMY





**GRAVEL HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**ALL DIRECTIONS CENTRE**



**JOYDENS WOOD INFANT SCHOOL**





WENTWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL



SAINSBURYS CRAYFORD





## PAXWOOD

*"The benches look super smart and are well protected from the elements with the varnish on. Thank you so much for including us again this year; what the girls do every year is a valuable contribution to our site."*

*It was also nice that a lot of them this year had visited the site as members of girlguiding in the past."*  
Paxwood



## DARENT VALLEY HOSPITAL





# UKMT JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE 2022

## YEAR 7 & 8

BY MISS BERNARTE

Selected students in Years 7 and 8 took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge this April. The questions were very challenging and involved using and applying Mathematical knowledge and skills.

All students received a certificate of participation and some were awarded with the below certificates...



**Y7 Bronze certificates - Banita, Davina**

**Y7 Silver certificates - Jodie**

**Best in Y7 - Jodie**



**Y8 Bronze certificates - Isla, Simonika**

**Y8 Silver certificates - Poppy, Ponnile, Oliwia**

**Best in Y8 - Oliwia**





# YOUNG WRITERS SUMMER 2022

BY MRS AVCU

We are delighted to announce that 'Young Writers' have once again selected 9 of our talented students' poems to publish in their Summer edition of 'Empowered - words of inspiration'. We are so proud of them and look forward to seeing their poems in the book soon. The poems they have written are thought provoking, insightful and inspirational. Titles of their poems include 'No Longer Invisible', 'Women of Power' & 'Invisible'. The Spring edition of Empowered is now available in our school library which features the Spring term winners (featured in our previous newsletter). We look forward to adding this Summer edition to our school library once it is published soon.

**Layla** - "My Mind And Emotions"

**Maisarah** - "Religion"

**Olivia** - "The Flower Dance"

**Jasmine** - "Our Earth"

**Chizara** - "It And Allergies"

**Emma** - "Women Of Power"

**Khrisha** - "Apologetic"

**Niamh** - "No Longer Invisible"

**Ruby** - "Petrichor"





# HIGH ASPIRATIONS CAREERS DAY

BY MRS P.SMITH

In collaboration with our Enterprise Adviser Susan Pearson, and Lara Pool from the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, we hosted a 'High Aspirations' careers event for all students in Years 7-9 on 15th June 2022.

This event aimed to break gender stereotypes across a range of career sectors and encourage our students to reach their full potential. Students heard from inspirational women who have achieved success in a traditionally male dominated area and were able to interact with them to learn more about their education and career paths. Students also received advice about the qualifications required and apprenticeship opportunities available within a number of the sectors represented.

Years 8 and 9 moved between classrooms on a carousel basis, visiting each speaker and learning about their career paths and current role. Students then had the opportunity to ask questions, some of which they had prepared in advance.

In the afternoon, the event moved to the Hall for the Year 7s. The speakers introduced themselves, then students circulated around the hall, visiting each one and asking questions. After this, students sat down and each speaker returned to the front of the hall and asked students questions, to find out what they had learned about them and their jobs/career sector.



Speakers included:

**Susan Pearson** - who runs her own HR Consultancy business

**Hannah Smith** - who plays professional rugby for Harlequins

**Lara Pool** - from EDC, responsible for the Ebbsfleet Garden City project

**Juliana Lucena** - from Techary, a company which helps businesses procure, implement and support technology across the world.

**Melloney Harvey** - from Artisan, which restores decorative plasterwork in historical buildings.

**Lucy Sparks** - from Arcadis, whose current project is the Lower Thames Crossing.

**Becca Collins** - from Construction Youth Trust, which is a charity that educates, trains and inspires young people to help them build better futures in the construction industry

**Shauneen Fowler** - from Sian Formwork, a large local construction company.



Feedback from the students about the speakers at event was very positive:

*“they were relatable and actually made it desirable to work in the jobs they do and they are inspirational for being able to persevere in a male dominated work force”*

*“you could really tell that they wanted us to realise how much they loved their jobs”  
“They inspired me by telling me to keep going even if the road gets tough”*

*“I liked the way we could communicate with different people from different occupations”*

*“All the ladies told us how passionate they are about their jobs”*

*“Hearing about different jobs that I wouldn't think of doing”*

*“Learning about different career paths and what you need to do to get there”*

*“Learning about different job opportunities for the future and that being a woman doesn't stop you from getting a career in a male dominated area.”*

Another positive outcome from the day was that 50% of students said that the event had helped them to consider new career choices. We are so proud at DSTC to empower our students to become citizens of the future!



THE CAREERS &  
ENTERPRISE  
COMPANY



# SICILY TRIP 2022

BY MR DIX, MS HUSSEY, MS GIBBS AND MS ROWSON

On Sunday 10th July at 4 am we met 27 students to start our journey to Heathrow airport and then to the amazing island of Sicily.

We had a packed itinerary so as soon as we landed we were on our way to an orange cultivation farm just outside our base town of Letojanni. The owner explained his farm supplies Europe with 75% of their oranges. We also had an amazing lunch there.

On our second day we had a tour of the town Catania and then onto a second town high up in the mountains - Taormina. We were lucky enough to also taste some stunning cannoli - the Sicilian speciality of a biscuit moulded into a tube filled with ricotta and dipped in crushed nuts.

Our last full day was a visit to the spectacular Mount Etna - an active volcano with students being able to have amazing views of both Sicily and the crater.

On our way back we had a pizza-making class and enjoyed our creations with the addition of some granita. The students, and staff, had an amazing time and, as always, the students were a credit to the school.

Ciao Sicilia









# DSTC ACTIVITY DAYS 2022

BY MRS DONEGAN-EDWARDS

After a two year hiatus, we were very excited for the return of our DSTC Activity Days, that was, until we saw the weather forecast! Despite the unbelievable heatwave, we had an action-packed couple of days thanks to the excellent planning and contingencies put in place by the venues, as well as the support and conduct of our students and staff.

Year 7 went to Hever Castle and they all had a thoroughly good time, getting wet in the water maze and then looking around the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. Students that didn't go to Hever Castle spent the day in school taking part in three arts and crafts workshop, making origami and attempted candle holders. They then moved on to a clay workshop and gratitude journaling, run by our wonderful partners at the University of Creative arts (UCA). On Tuesday, Year 7 had a space themed day where they were able to visit the astrodome, an inflatable dome where the night sky is projected on the top and listened to a talk from a STEM ambassador from the Royal Observatory in Greenwich

Some of the students went to Howletts Wild Animal Park where they saw lemurs, tigers, elephants and a couple of gorillas. A highlight was being sprayed with water-misters by the teachers to keep cool! The students in school had a display from 'The Owl and Raptor Centre' from Groombridge place who brought in owls and raptors and taught the students about their habitats and how they find their prey. They then had an interactive talk from the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA), an animal charity, where the students learnt about animal heroes and caring for animals.

The second day for Year 8 was themed around preparing for their Duke of Edinburgh Award, which they will be able to start in Year 9. Students learnt about the countryside code and did some research on the skills, volunteering and physical sections and also practised map-reading in the form of an escape room.

Year 9 had great fun improving their team work by participating in 'Taskmaster' challenges and working their way through various communications scenarios. They were due to be going to Thorpe Park but unfortunately it had to be postponed due to the severe heat warning. Instead they did some fashion and architecture challenges at home. We are looking forward to next Year's Activity days and of course, that trip to Thorpe Park!

## HEVER CASTLE AND GARDENS





## UK OWL AND RAPTOR DISPLAY



## GRATITUDE JOURNAL AND CLAY WORKSHOP





## HOWLETTS WILD ANIMAL PARK



## SPACE THEMED - ASTRO DOME AND ROCKET MAKING





# MATILDA THE MUSICAL JUNIOR

BY THE EXPRESSIVE ARTS TEAM

It was with great delight we delivered our school production this summer – Matilda the Musical Junior was a resounding success with our audience, staff and students having a wonderful time all round. Our team worked incredibly hard since last year to prepare and plan the show, with students making great efforts to learn the drama, dance and songs.

Francesca was one of the "two Matildas" cast for this year's production of Matilda Jr. She commented: "I was really surprised when I got the part because I never did a show before. I was quite nervous about performing and at times, I found it quite stressful. But in the end, I loved it!"

The ensemble numbers were very energetic and impressive. There were of course also some wonderful performances given by the leads. Mr Taylor, one of our DSTC Governors commented:

*"Would you please convey my sincere thanks to all who contributed to the five star performance of Matilda Jr at DSTC. It was a well rehearsed team production with excellent singing, dancing and acting from a passionate cast. The scenery was thoughtfully designed and painted to enable swift changeovers during acts with music and audio merging in at appropriate times.*

*The finale had the audience clapping and cheering the cast who all thoroughly deserved their round of applause."*





Grace played Matilda on Wednesday night and gave a marvellously impish performance; 'Naughty' was an absolute delight and Francesca, as Matilda on Thursday night, delivered a beautiful version of 'Quiet'. Chloe played Ms Honey and gave a very emotional performance of her solo 'This Little Girl'. When asked about her experience of the show she said, "at the beginning of the year, I didn't think of myself as a singer but with a little practice I found my voice and quite surprised myself!".

Abbie was a frightening Ms Trunchbull who took pleasure in punishing the 'maggots', whilst Sophie and Lexie were hilarious as Mr and Mrs Wormwood - the selfish and hapless parents of Matilda.

Meg was involved on the Stage Management team. When asked what impressed her most, she said "the commitment and effort put into the production by all the cast was outstanding. Everyone involved said they were looking forward to doing next year's production."





# THE SCHOLAR'S CLUB

BY MRS POPE

**DSTC** is celebrating the success of 10 students as they graduate from The Scholars Programme, a national university access programme. Megan, Phoebe, Kiki, Soraya Rose, Annatullah, Chloe, Rebecca, Ashlyn, Milena and Maya were encouraged to think and work independently across seven tutorials with a subject expert PhD researcher.

During the programme, they learnt about Roman Britain and then completed a challenging final essay which was given a university-level grade.

The Scholars Programme, run by UK-wide university access charity The Brilliant Club, supports students aged 8-18 to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to progress to the country's most competitive universities and succeed once there.

By bringing together two communities – PhD researchers and students – who might otherwise never interact with each other, young people can study innovative and inspiring topics which very few people have ever covered.

The Scholars Programme has enabled our students to learn beyond the core curriculum and helped them to develop key skills for university and use later in life, such as critical thinking.



Beyond their graduation, these students have lots more to look forward to because the programme has a proven impact on university progression rates. For the sixth year running, independent UCAS evaluation has found that Scholars Programme graduates are significantly more likely to progress to a competitive university compared with students from similar backgrounds who have not completed the programme (56% vs. 37%).

## **Annatullah commented on her experience:**

*"This program was a very challenging thing for me to do but it was easy to overcome all my struggles with the help of my tutor and my peers. This program was very eye opening. I definitely enjoyed this experience and encourage others to participate"*

## **Megan commented on her experience:**

*"I learnt that university is not just all about work and essays but you get a social life as well. You can go to the library and hang out with friends or you can do clubs like tennis or drama"*

## **Anne-Marie Canning MBE, CEO at The Brilliant Club, congratulated the pupils on their achievements:**

*"Congratulations to these outstanding students as they graduate from The Scholars Programme. They join a community of over 90,000 young people who have taken part in The Brilliant Club since 2011. Completing their final assignments was no doubt challenging, but it has shown that these students have a passion for learning and the knowledge to produce university-style work already. I hope they use these new skills throughout their education and continue their fantastic work."*





# Dartford

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