

DSTC NEWS

EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE

DSTC SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

INTRODUCTION BY MRS DAVIS

How lovely it was to finally see the sun this week between the grey clouds and to see the blooms of flowers and trees. Spring really is around the corner.

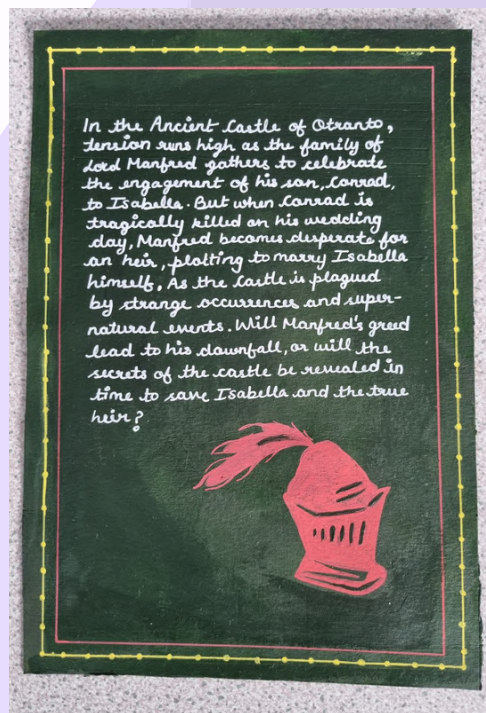
With the change in daylight hours the hot days and long evenings will soon be here as will the exam season. As ever the students, staff and Governors have been busy and this issue is packed with snippets of events which have happened since we returned in the new Year.

I hope you enjoy the stories and I wish you an enjoyable Easter Break.



ENGLISH: GOTHIC FICTION

BY MRS AVCU



In year 9 we are studying gothic fiction this term.

For homework, students picked one of the literature texts and created a book cover.

Krithi produced this absolutely amazing piece of work.

It is so realistic we thought this was the real novel!

EXECUTIVE PREFECTS AT DSTC

BY THE EXECUTIVE PREFECT TEAM

It has been a real pleasure to work with such a wonderful and pro-active Executive Prefect team this year. As they begin their final term at DSTC, we wanted to give the members a chance to reflect on their achievements.



MEG

EXECUTIVE PREFECT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Since being Executive Prefect for wellbeing, I have been involved in whole school events including the Summer and Christmas Fayres. I have also assisted at open evenings for the main school and Post 16, where I delivered speeches. I attended the 'Big Mental Health' Conversation with Kent County Council and contributed to the planning of mental health awareness week. Finally, I created a presentation and delivered an assembly alongside other prefects. Overall, being a prefect has provided me with opportunities to develop my confidence as well as take on extra responsibilities adding extra appeal to my UCAS application.



RENE

EXECUTIVE PREFECT FOR ENGAGEMENT

During my time as an Executive Prefect for Engagement, I had the opportunity to provide my opinions and ideas to better enhance the DSTC community. I had the chance to be involved in many events around the school such as open evenings for potential sixth formers and year 7s. For our open evening, I wrote a speech of my views and opinions towards the school and presented this to prospective parents and their children. I have been able to express my individual viewpoints as well as build upon my public speaking skills. My participation also includes being actively involved in School Council, as well as engrossed in the Summer and Christmas Fayres. I contributed to the overall set up as well as operating stalls. Ultimately, my position as a prefect has been enjoyable and I had the ability to increase my teamwork and leadership skills.



SOPHIE

EXECUTIVE PREFECT FOR STANDARDS

As Executive Prefect, I have had the privilege of mentoring younger students. I have supported the Science Department in the running of KS3 Science Club, further helping students to develop a love of science. I have also continued to support the school's commitment to anti-bullying and worked with our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to achieve their Diana Award Respect badge.

I have assisted with many school events and conducted assemblies to a number of year groups. My time as an Executive Prefect has allowed me to develop essential skills, such as leadership, communication and teamwork, which will prepare me for life after Post 16.



ELLIE

EXECUTIVE PREFECT FOR ENGAGEMENT

Since becoming an Executive Prefect for Engagement, I have completed a speech for the Post 16 open evening, explaining why I chose to complete my A levels here and why I think this is a good school to attend. I have also helped present an assembly with another Executive Prefect about Remembrance Day in front of the Post 16 cohort. I have also volunteered to help out with the senior citizen afternoon tea, where I supported younger students to interact with different age groups and guided them through conversations with the senior citizens, especially during the activities we offered. I have also helped out at the summer fayre by supervising a stall and being a leader to the younger students. I was responsible for managing two stalls and keeping the public engaged throughout the event.

ALADDIN THE MUSICAL JNR

BY THE EXPRESSIVE ARTS TEAM

We are exceptionally proud to report that our latest performance, "Aladdin the Musical Jnr" was a resounding success. We are so grateful of the support from parents, carers and other students that came to watch the show.

Thank you to our wonderful staff, Ms. Wright, Mr. Dorrian, Ms Bridgland, Mrs. Pope and Mrs. Bournes for their incredible work on the production, leading rehearsals and making the set. Thank you to our incredible site team, Mr Cordier, Mr. Hazard and Mr. Newman for their ongoing support with set up and staging.

Well done to our DSTC Dance captains, Faith, Chloe and Abbie who were true role models for our younger years, taking leading roles on the choreography. Thanks also to Lucy and Zara for their exceptional work as stage managers. We sadly say goodbye to a number of outstanding Post 16 students this year as they leave DSTC for the next stage of their education - Meg as stage manager, Zoe as sound engineer, Erin as music assistant and Jas as assistant stage manager. This team has been a pleasure to work with and they will be greatly missed.





SPORTING EXCELLENCE

BY ARTINA, YEAR 11

I started playing Tennis at 7 years old and played in my first competition when I was 10. A year later, I won my first national tournament and I started competing internationally when I was 13. Since 2020, I have represented Great Britain internationally in the under-18 age category.

I have won 20+ international tournaments in various age categories – under 12, under 14, under 16, under 18 and open female. I have also reached the semi-finals in two international tournaments (3rd place) and three quarter-finals. More recently, I gained promotion to the Kent under 18 team; I'm currently ranked number 2 in the county. Nationally, I am ranked in the top 60 and I am also ranked internationally. Additionally, I'm the national champion of Kosovo (ranked number 1), and I've been selected to compete in one of the most prestigious events in Tennis, the upcoming Junior World Championships in France.



To-date, I have competed in over 25 countries. Fortunately, I have also secured sponsorships, which provide the essential financial support allowing me to continue pursuing my Tennis career. I've also met many professional Tennis players and practiced alongside them – Emma Raducanu, for example.

Typically, I train 4-6 hours daily, 7 times a week day, both before and after school and at weekends. So, pursuing a career in Tennis requires absolute dedication and commitment!! To accommodate such a demanding training schedule, I was home-schooled until I joined DSTC at the start of Year 11.

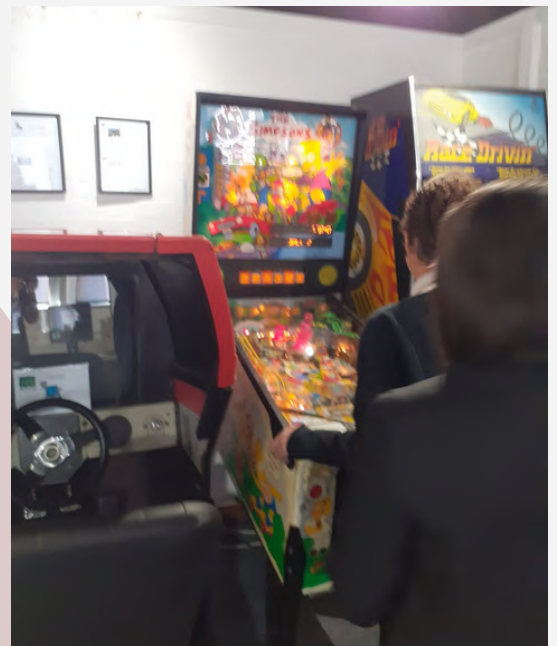
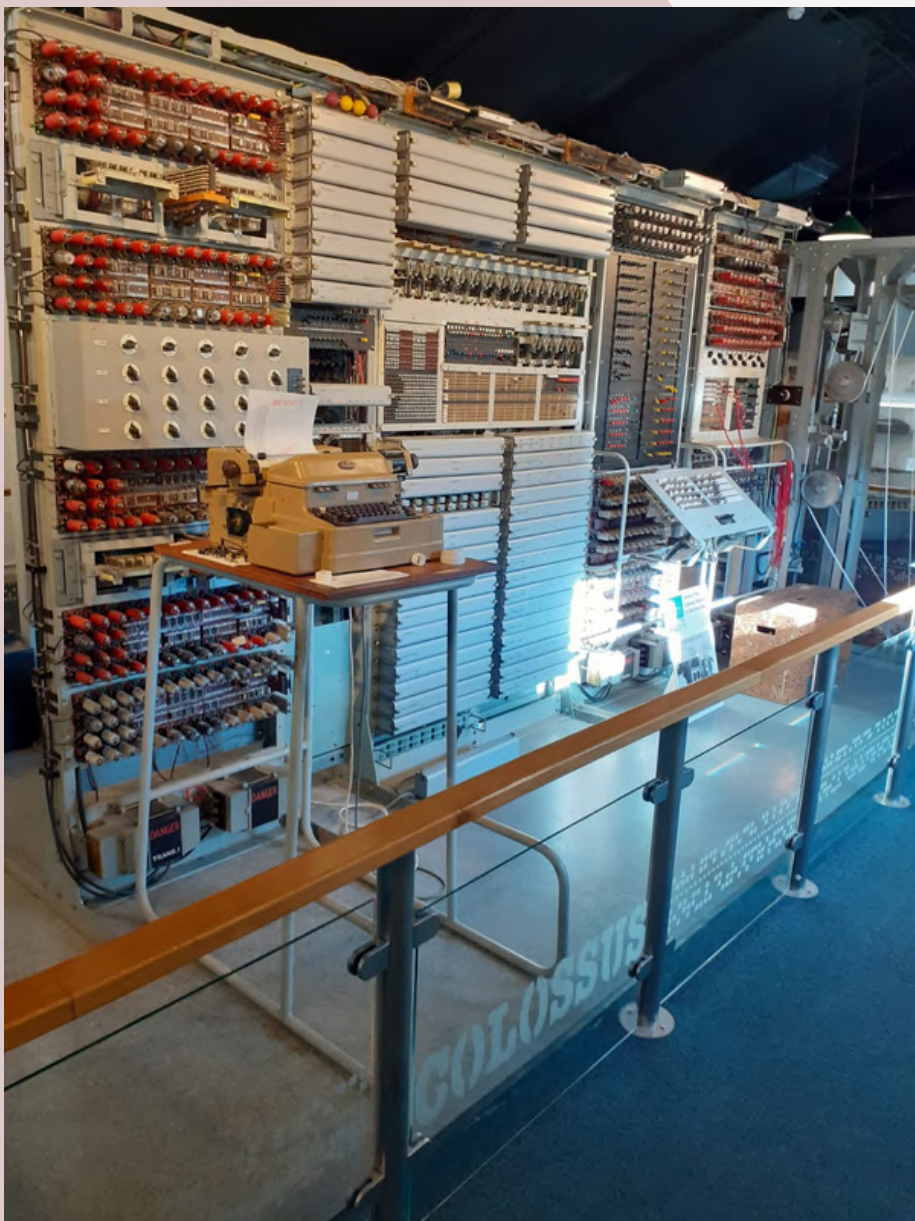
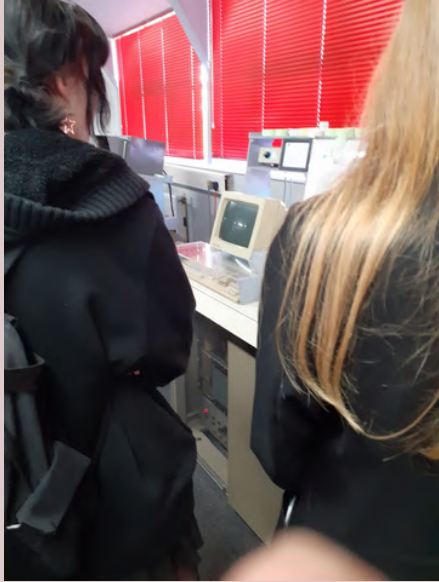
My long-term goal is to be ranked number 1 in the world, win Wimbledon and break world records. In the short-term, I aim to play at Wimbledon next year and achieve top 10 (UK) and top 100 (world) rankings.

Once I retire from Tennis (age 35), my intention is to set-up and run my own Tennis Academy to support and encourage young athletes who, like me, want to work towards a successful career in Tennis.

BLETCHLEY PARK TRIP

BY MR K BEKOE

The KS4 - 5 Computer Science and IT students had a great experience at 'The National Museum of Computers' at Bletchley Park. The students explored some of the oldest computers in the world such as The Colossus, The WITCH and The Bombe. They also took part in interesting interactive activities by playing dynamic games to find out some of the famous women in computing. They created and played snake games using BBC micro (silver computers).



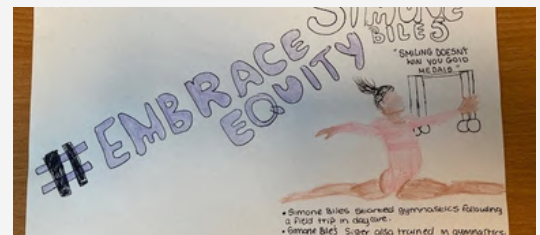
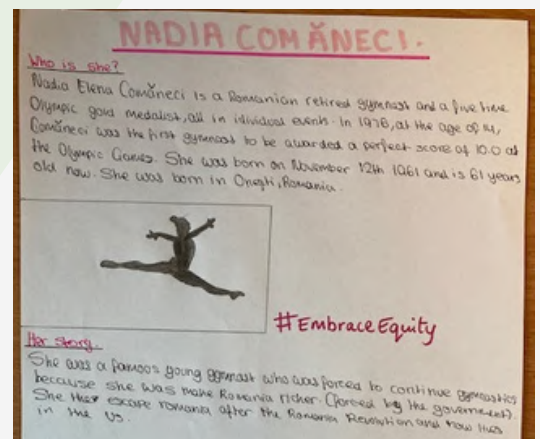
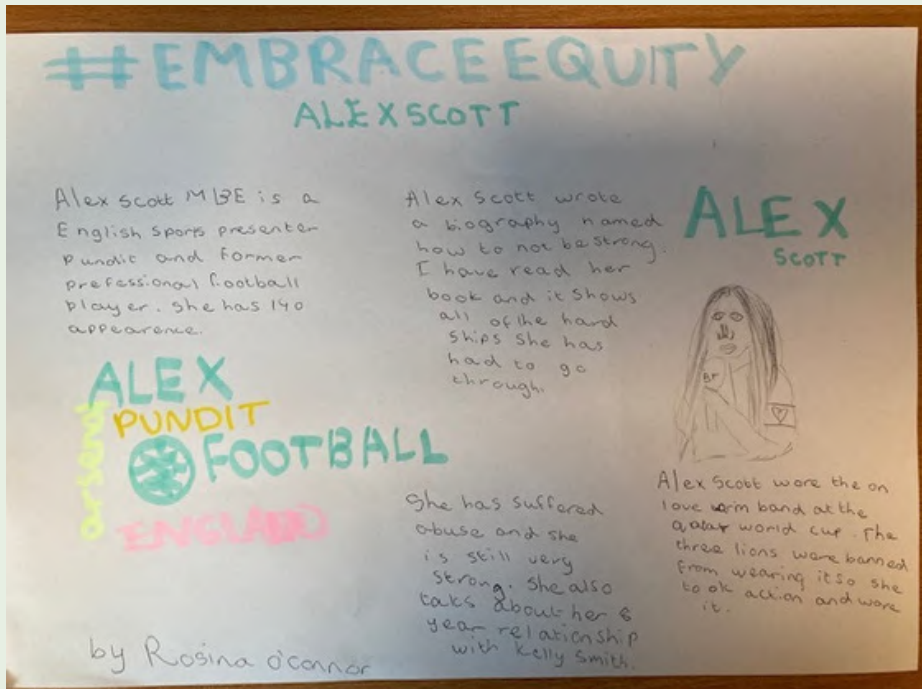
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023

BY MR ARCHER

On Wednesday 8th March DSTC celebrated International Women's Day (IWD). International Women's Day is a global day to encourage the social, economical, political and cultural celebration of women. It is also a call to action to promote and accelerate gender equality.

The theme of this year was Embrace Equity (#EmbraceEquity) and students were encouraged to think critically about how they as citizens can embrace inclusion, embrace diversity and forge unity and harmony.

There were a number of events, workshops and assemblies for students to engage with to promote the values of International Women's Day. Subjects were also encouraged to theme their lessons around the key values and aims of International Women's Day.



Here is a taster of the opportunities students had to reflect upon for the themes for IWD 2023:

Form Time Activities included:

- **Year 7 and 8** students designing "wordles" using the names of inspirational women using the videos from the IWD website
- **Year 9** students were writing about which female role models inspired them the most
- Choosing books from a range of **inspirational women**

Lesson themes:

- **Media Studies** - discussion about the representation of females in films - promoting films with strong female leads.
- **History** - discussion on females throughout history with a focus on women during Medieval times.
- **PE** - discussion about Women in sport in all lessons, students also created posters on Women who have changed sport.
- **English** - teachers started the lessons discussing women who have inspired them.

A team of **Post 16 students** were lucky enough to be invited to The British Film Institute in London for International Women's Day - you can read more about that later in the Newsletter

A big shout out as well to Ms Ford in the library who encouraged students to #EmbraceEquity by providing them with a reading challenge encouraging them to choose books by a range of female authors from around the world.



International Women's Day

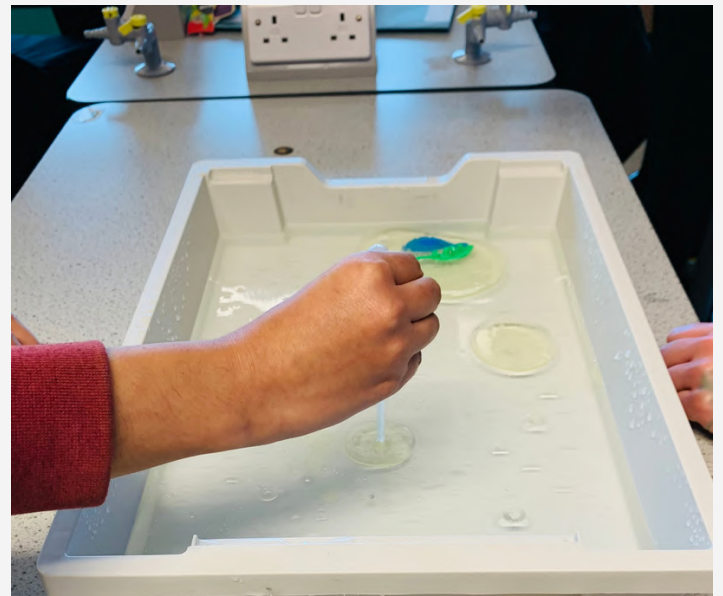


BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

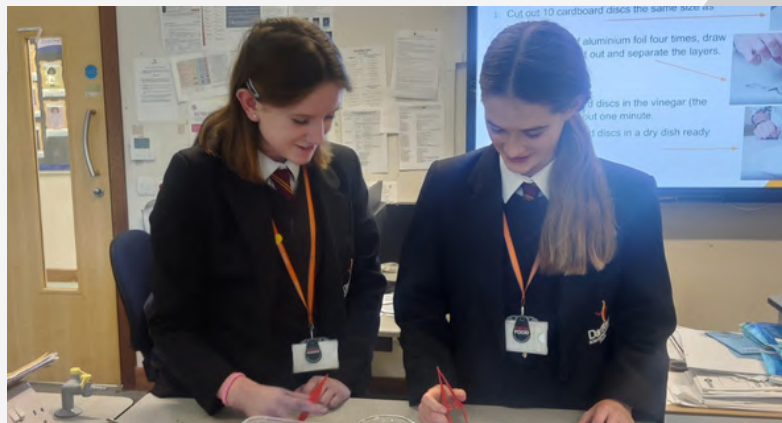
BY THE DSTC SCIENCE TEAM

In light of the theme for this year's celebration, which is '**connections**' the students were asked to think about the connection between human activities and its impact on the environment and wildlife. The April 2010 'Deepwater Horizon' oil rig spillage was the focal point of the lesson. Students had to investigate and discuss the human activities (oil exploration, drilling, the explosion and the clean-up) involved in this disaster.

The students then had to simulate a clean-up of oil spillage themselves, in order to experience the tedious and challenging process of cleaning up oil spills in the oceans and of the impact on marine organisms.



Year 8 students were investigating electricity. They were exploring the connection between some everyday items such as LED lights, vinegar, cardboard paper, aluminium foils, and copper coins. Students used the materials in a variety of ways throughout multiple experiments.

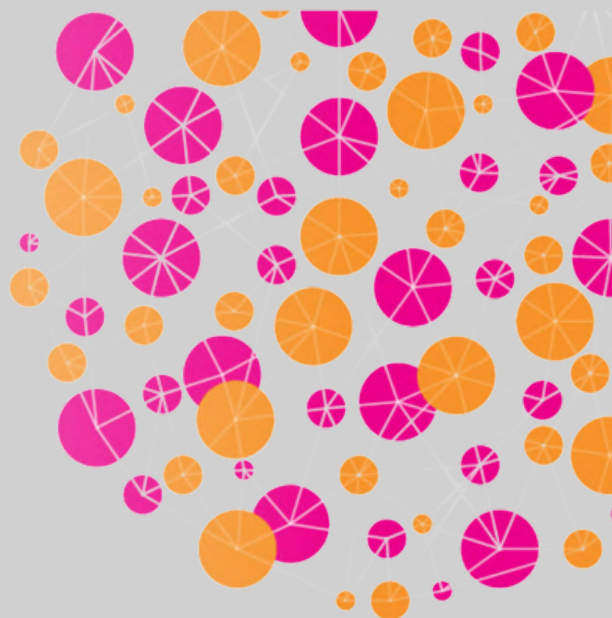


We had a very informative and interesting discussion (and literacy/comprehension tasks afterwards) about Artificial Intelligence (AI). Students explored the history (past and the present) of AI and the connections and relevance in today's technological development and advancement. Examples include Siri, Alexa and ChatGPT.

The Year 7 and 8 students are also participating in the BSW national poster competition for the year. We are in the process of selecting the best 5 entries, and hopefully an entry from our school will be successful.

7G have been making "fizzy test tube rainbows". They did this by adding universal indicator to hydrochloric acid. They then had to slowly add sodium carbonate at an angle to make the rainbow. This takes a lot of skill and some of 7G managed to create even better rainbows than Miss Duffy!

10-19 March
**British
Science
Week
2023**



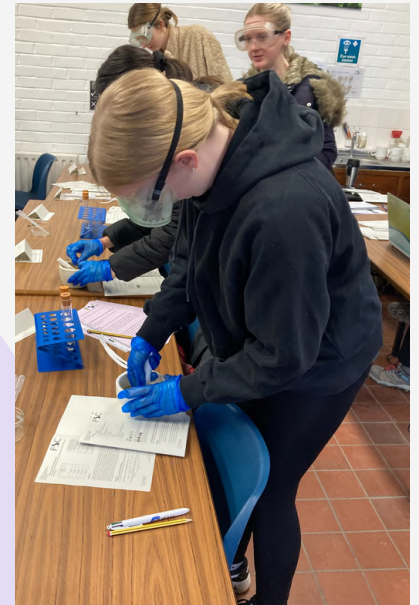
POST 16 SCIENCE TRIP

BY MRS DELASALLE

Year 13 Biologists spent three days at Juniper Hall, Surrey which is a field studies centre. Whilst there, they had a chance to study ecology out of the classroom, whilst also completing a number of required practical lessons for their course.

Students also spent time toasting marshmallows around the campfire whilst trying to solve riddles.

The girls worked really hard and were a credit to the school.



NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2023

BY MRS P SMITH AND MR M ALLEN

DSTC once again celebrated the annual "National Careers Week" with a whole host of opportunities for our students. Although we promote regular, meaningful careers provision throughout the year, this week is all about giving some space for our students to pause and think deeply about their potential career options.

The most exciting part of the week was how many staff and subjects got involved with an activity. Our staff are invaluable when it comes to careers advice, drawing on their own experiences and sharing them with the students.

In our Individual Character Education (PSHE) lessons, students were using the "National Careers Service" to find out what sort of careers could suit them. This is an excellent resource which uses targeted questions to unpick what industries could be desirable as a career option. ICE teachers got students involved in additional activities, such as sharing career aspirations in small groups and using subject-level research to offer other choices for careers.



Working in business

ECLIPS

AA 01

October 2022

The business world covers such a wide variety of employers and levels of responsibility that you should be able to find something to suit you! This leaflet outlines the main jobs and qualifications available, and points you to where you can find more detailed information.

Business activities go on in just about every employment sector including, as you might expect, in financial services, manufacturing and retail, but also in areas you may not immediately think of, such as local and national government, healthcare, the performing arts and charities. People with business skills and knowledge are needed to make sure that all organisations run efficiently and, for private companies, profitably. Good business skills can make the difference between success and failure.

What it takes

To work in the business world you need:

- good communication skills
- ICT skills
- some ability with figures
- teamworking skills
- a thorough and accurate approach to work.

Levels of work

The following are the broad levels of work in business, but bear in mind that job titles vary widely and don't always reflect the responsibilities of the role.

- **Administrative assistants** do straightforward office-based tasks under supervision, although the work can be varied and is important for the smooth running of the organisation.
- **Senior secretaries or personal assistants (PAs)** provide administrative support to a particular manager or, possibly, a team.
- **Administrators and office managers** perform responsible, high-level administrative tasks and may have to check the work of others.
- **Supervisors** lead a team of people within a particular area of work.
- **Departmental managers, general managers, directors and chief executives** have overall responsibility for an area of the business, a department or the whole organisation. At higher levels they are involved in making strategic decisions.

We had some excellent resources shared by the careers team and our school library. These documents supported Year Groups with extra reading, centred around employability. Forms in Year 9 decided to focus on how some professions have advantages and disadvantages, as well as the importance of languages and what jobs entail (e.g. travel, communication, organisation).

In English lessons, Year 7 had some lessons linked to careers in being an illustrator, publisher or an author. They explored the work of a famous illustrator Sir John Tenniel who was an English illustrator, graphic humorist and political cartoonist prominent in the second half of the 19th century. He created the illustrations for Alice in Wonderland.

The MFL department did several lessons linked to careers using languages. The Science team had some lessons using 'I'm a scientist get me out of here!' - Students were able to log on and ask questions to scientists about their job, life, etc. Students were able to read the profile about each scientist beforehand and see what they specialise in.

**I'm a
Scientist
Get me out of here**

A team of Post 16 students were lucky enough to be invited to The British Film Institute in London. They worked as part of the technical team to experience and engage with female guest speakers working with 'Rise Up Academy', celebrating females in the broadcasting industry. Our students were exceptional, taking leading roles running the cameras, live sound, graphics and directing. The event was attended by over 100 influential females in the broadcasting industry, as well as being live streamed to guests worldwide. What an incredible achievement for our students, combining the IWD and National Careers Week celebrations.



ROYAL NAVY CHEFS

BY MR DIX

DSTC welcomed the Royal Navy chef team to work with some of our our Food Technology students. The Chefs explained about careers and delivered some live demonstrations. Year 10 students had to follow instructions in their teams, showing leadership and teamwork to create a chicken and mushroom pie and sticky toffee pudding. The outcomes were great and students enjoyed the session.

It's possible to join The Royal Navy from 16 and get paid whilst training. The chefs did a great job at explaining this to our students.



STIXX WORKSHOP

BY MRS DONEGAN-EDWARDS

On Thursday 16th March, students in Years 7 and 8 attended a "Stixx" workshop. "Stixx" machines roll newspaper sheets into solid sticks which can be used to make a variety of structures including chairs, buildings and bridges. In celebration of British Science Week, we used our sticks to make a giant double helix structure which, when finished, will be displayed in the school hall.



UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE

BY MRS REDPATH

DSTC Students took part in the UKMT Maths challenge again this year, once again with excellent results. Congratulations to all who took part, especially Charlotte who achieved "Best in School"



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

ECO UPDATE

BY MRS MCINTOSH

Our exciting eco project is now firmly off the ground. It was a slow start as we had to complete a Geo Survey of the land to ensure that our plan for large trees and a structure could be supported. This was completed in the summer 2022. We then did some work on what trees would grow well near one another and came up with a tree map. We now have a good understanding of where the large trees and smaller bushes will go along with the siting of our proposed buildings.

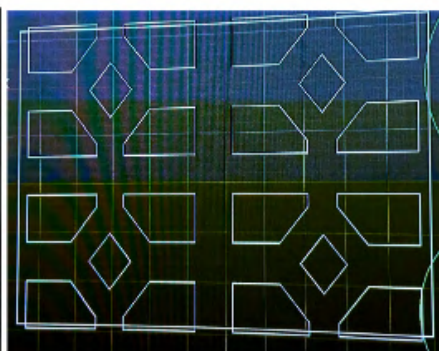
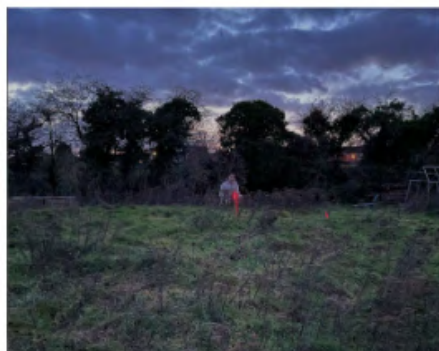


Due to the timings of the planting year and the climate change impact of the trees not going into hibernation as anticipated, we were not able to start our planned tree planting activity in the National Tree Week so this was delayed until early January this year when the community volunteers and members of Dartford Science and Technology College, Friends of the Earth and Healthy Living Dartford attended the tree planting event in what transpired to be a very wet and windy day.



However, we have been able to complete some work towards the project by starting to build the compost toilet in a workshop until it was near completion and taken outside. This is now near full completion and needing a firm base to site it on.

We had a very cold day to host our latest event on 25th February but despite the cold weather, rain and occasional hail stones we achieved a great deal. One of our volunteers had attended site for the few weeks before this event using his own laser to mark out where our raised planting beds will be sited. He has kindly used a programme called CAD to design our beds with specific measurements to allow wheelchair access and for persons with limited mobility. The beds will have 2 heights to also facilitate the access arrangements for such users of the project.



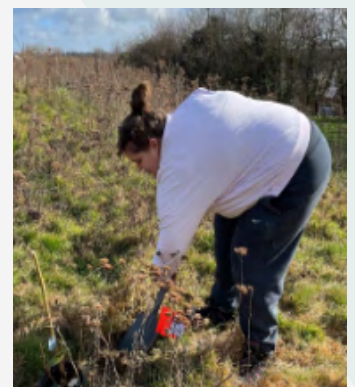
He then mowed the area in preparation for the siting of the beds. On the day the construction of the first beds was achieved, so there is now a template to follow. No material is thrown away, the cardboard the trees were delivered in was used to line the beds and the edging soil was taken from the pond area and placed in the bottom to start mulching in readiness for the next phase.



We also had our community helping with the planting of more trees and shrubs to bring us half way to our planting goal of 50 out of the 100 now in the ground.

The whole plot was marked out with numbered red flags to show where the planting plan was siting each individual plant. Our volunteers then used a corresponding map to ensure that the planting co-supports each plant located together. Each tree was planted with mushroom spores in the ground to encourage the subsoil health and ecosystem.

We wanted to get the general layout of the plot marked as per our plans so the volunteers can visualise the goal in real life, we also marked out the edging of the pond and defined it as much as possible by digging around the edging to ensure it is visible. We even did some improvised aerial shots with a phone on the end of a length of wood. Necessity is forever the driver of invention and new ways to improvise.



To complement this project we have an eco club after school where pupils have areas within the school to grow vegetables and fruit trees. These are recycled pallet boxes and a shrub bed that was not doing very well. The club has dug out and re-sited the shrubs within the school so they are not lost and then this leaves the old bed available for planting. They have lined the recycled pallet boxes and are going to fill them with drainage stones and topsoil so they are ready for planting.

The old beds will need to have all the debris and stones removed and fertiliser added to improve the soil enough to support planting.



GRADE BOOSTER WORKSHOPS

BY MRS IJEWERE AND MRS JONES

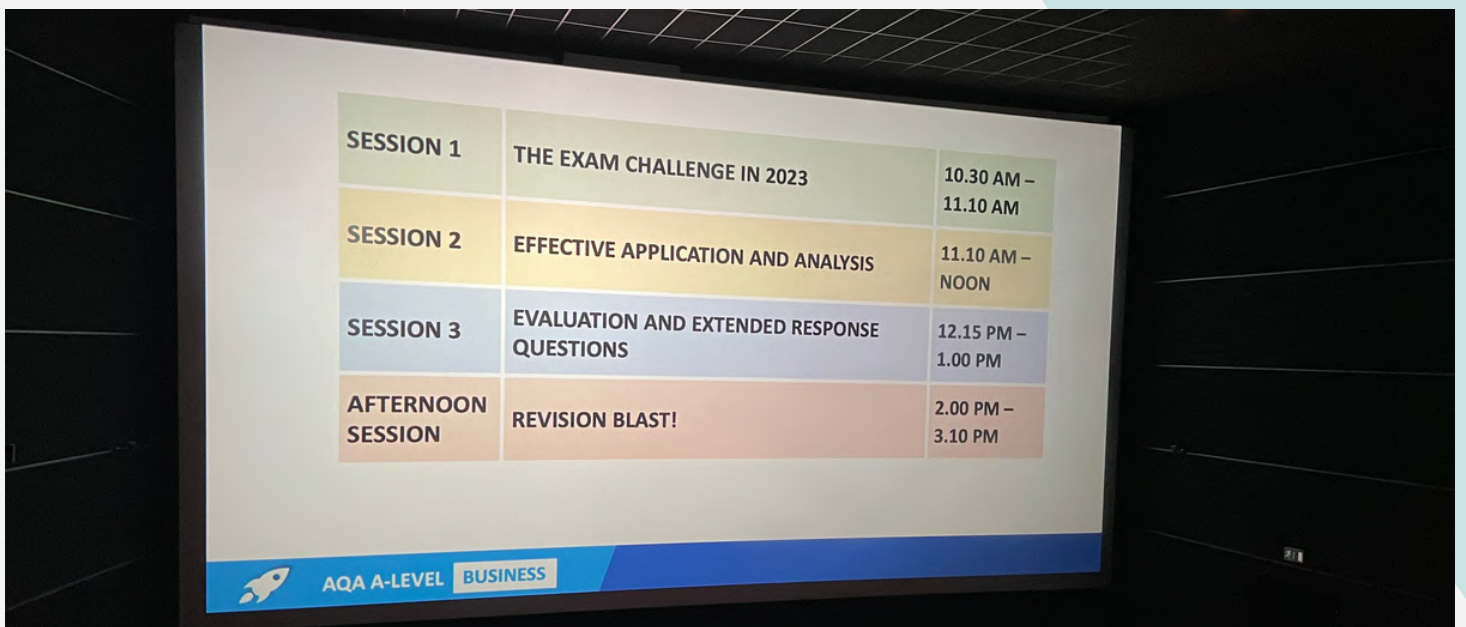
On 28 and 29 March, members of the Applied Department took our Post 16 A Level Business and Psychology students to grade booster workshops. These took place at the Vue Cinema in 'Westfield' Stratford and provided students with an interactive, intensive and fun learning environment where they were able to focus on their subject, develop their exam technique and revise core content.

The cinema workshops are designed and delivered by experienced teacher and examiner presenters, all of whom have a deep understanding of what students need to focus on in order to succeed in the 2023 exams.

Mrs Ijewere, Raising Standards Leader for Post 16, said “I was exceptionally pleased with the excellent focus and engagement in learning demonstrated by our students. If they continue to develop their knowledge and apply the tips and techniques from the exam workshops, they should do very well in their exams.”

Charlie Unthank attended the A Level Business workshop and demonstrated his exceptional knowledge by winning a prize! He stated “I found the workshop really informative and useful. It identified a lot of common mistakes that I’ve been making so I will know what to do to improve.”

Please wish all of our Year 13 students every success as they begin to prepare for their summer exams.





Dartford

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE