



## DSTC AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2021

INTRODUCTION BY MRS DAVIS

As we come to the end of term with a sense of Deja Vu due to the pandemic (masks and on site testing in January), we are keen to look back at the positives of the last term where we have returned to teaching in a new 'normal'.

It has been refreshing to see students engaged, enthused and excited to be taught more interactively and the return of extra curricular clubs and trips has been warmly welcomed by all. There is a wide range of articles here showing a flavour of what the DSTC community have been doing since September and I want to say a heartfelt thank you to students, parents and staff for their resilience under continued pressure and uncertainty.

The support of all of you involved in the DSTC community is first class and I wish you all a very happy, healthy, safe and enjoyable break.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Anne Davis



## BEING A DSTC STUDENT

VERITY STORRIE

I moved to DSTC from a local grammar school in year 9, in November 2020. Up until this time I had always disliked secondary school. I would count down the hours and the days until it was the weekend and would wake up every Monday morning dreading the week ahead. I can now honestly say that I genuinely love going to school. I am much more engaged with my learning while still being academically challenged. I'm also lucky to be able to study for a BTEC in Performing Arts and DSTC has been very supportive of my dance classes outside of school where I train up to 20 hours a week.

The students and the teachers have made me feel very welcome; there is a real sense of mutual respect and the school cares about my wellbeing. Moving to DSTC was the best decision I ever made. I am confident that at this school I can now reach my full potential academically and still maintain a sense of balance, positive wellbeing and achieve my long-term ambition of being a professional dancer.

# THE FOOD FOREST AND ECO CENTRE

BY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE DARTFORD

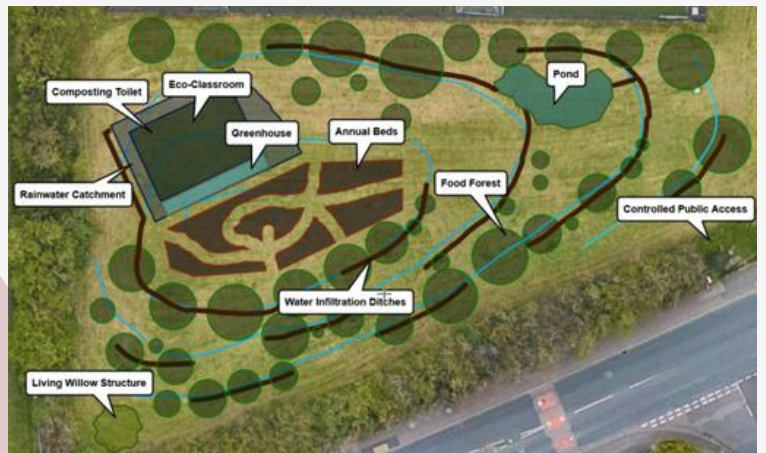
If you haven't heard by now, we're planting a food forest and building an eco-centre!

The project is a collaboration between DSTC and the Growing Community project from the Healthy Living Centre Dartford. All students and parents are invited to get involved, whether you want to get hands on with the planting and building, help with the designing or contribute any of your skills and ideas.

Imagine an orchard with bushes and smaller plants planted around the trees, or a woodland made almost completely from edible plants, and you'll be pretty close to what a food forest looks like. It will look pretty wild when it's mature, but it will have been carefully designed so enough sunlight reaches the lower plants, harvests are accessible and everything works as a harmonious whole.



**From this....**



**To this....**

Food forests are a way of growing an incredibly diverse range of crops in a way which mimics nature. This means we get fewer pests and diseases, more habitat for wildlife, and we don't have to exert so much effort in forcing something which goes against the grain of nature. Similar to how your body will form a scab over an open wound, nature will protect exposed soil with fast-growing plants we usually call weeds. When planting a food forest, we can utilise this impulse to our advantage by densely sowing ground-cover plants such as oregano to keep the soil covered and also provide a harvest to us.

Given the rising instability climate change is bringing, it will become increasingly important to be able to grow your own food or have access to locally-grown food which doesn't depend on long supply chains or fossil fuel inputs. This project is a small step towards a future, in which food growing helps to regenerate instead of degenerate the natural world. We can't fix everything in one broad stroke, but if we can sow some seeds of change, the vision and values behind this project will continue to grow. DSTC recognises they're educating the citizens of the future, so we want to ensure they're well equipped for the tomorrow the students are stepping into.





The eco-centre will be a hub of education, community events and food growing. It will be constructed using straw bales – a low-emission method creating buildings which are long-lasting, warm in winter and cool in summer.



The planning stage began in late summer, and following some observation of the site a preliminary design was created. This will be tweaked and updated over time to include input from students and anyone else who wants to contribute. This is a community project so if you have any suggestions we would love to hear them.

We recently met up with the DSTC eco-club to visit the site, find out why the project was important to the students and what they were excited to grow. This was made into a short video which you can view on the crowdfunder page: <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/the-food-forest-eco-classroom>

Soon we'll be ready to have some swales dug. Swales are water infiltration ditches which, rather than channeling rainwater away, help to slow and spread the path of water across the site. This helps to prevent soil erosion in a downpour, and recharges the groundwater so plants have plenty to drink in a dry spell.

Then it'll be time to plant some trees! A mix of fruit trees, nut trees, and nitrogen fixing trees such as Alder which help to naturally fertilise the soil. Keep an eye out for future updates, as we will be announcing details for the community tree-planting days and building project, when you can come and take part in an exciting milestone of the project. We're looking for up to 10 lead volunteers – trainers who will receive a five-day course on the building technique. These lead volunteers who will then oversee the building days with students and other members of the community. Not only is this a fun, creative and educational way to get people together, it also helps to keep costs down, meaning your donations can go towards the things which are really needed. If you're interested in being a lead volunteer for the build of the eco-centre, contact Nikolas using the details below.

The fundraising recently got underway with the launch of a crowdfunder in collaboration with the Aviva Community Fund. We have already received so many generous donations from parents at DSTC. We can now reveal that our project is in the "Stretch Goal" stage, having reached a **current total over £5796** thanks to your support.

A big thank you to everyone who has already donated! Please feel free to share the project with anyone you think might be interested, and don't forget to look out for opportunities to get involved in the future.

Nikolas  
[growingcommunity@dartfordhlc.org.uk](mailto:growingcommunity@dartfordhlc.org.uk)



# ECO CLUB

BY MISS LAZELL

Eco Club launched this term and what a launch it was! On our very first meeting the students met with Nikolas who is running a very special project for us. Within the school grounds the Eco Club students will be aiding with the planting and construction of a food forest and an eco centre which will enrich them and the wider community. This will be a climate legacy, to which the student's names will be attached, and will benefit generations to come.



When our time is not focused on the food forest project we have been actively trying to lower DSTC's carbon footprint as well as our own. Each club member has made a power, plastic, and plant pledge for two weeks which will help them to earn their green Blue Peter badge. The students have also been working together to raise awareness of the pollution caused, and thus the damage to their health, by leaving your car engine running in our school car park. This is an ongoing campaign and posters and a student presence in the car park will be the club's next steps.

The rest of the school year is going to be busy for the Eco-Club members. As well as helping with the food forest project and tackling air pollution we are collaborating with the DT department to make bird boxes. These will be used in the upcoming food forest and to place on the already established trees within the school grounds. We are also going to be working with the wider community and are hoping to invite a local councillor into our club to educate us about hedgehog houses and aid us in building some to increase the biodiversity within our school community grounds. Finally, towards the end of this super manic Eco Club year, the students will be building a bug hotel from the leftover materials of the main project and our DT projects.

We will keep you updated in the coming newsletters of how we are progressing.

We have hit the ground running and there is no stopping us, climate change is happening now and we are acting now!



# EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING...

BY MRS MCINTOSH

I wanted to share with you some fortuitous news regarding use of one of our onsite defibrillators. A hirer of our 3G AstroTurf pitch unfortunately suffered a cardiac arrest after participating in a hockey match.

Due to the quick reactions of the other players, the defibrillator in our sports hall was used successfully to resuscitate the individual, who is now making a good recovery in hospital. Please see below a link to St Johns Ambulance "How to use a defibrillator " instructions.

<https://www.sja.org.uk/get-advice/first-aid-advice/how-to/how-to-use-a-defibrillator/>

By using a defibrillator before an ambulance arrives you can significantly increase someone's chance of survival



## SANCTUARY NEWS

BY MS GREENO

We have had a very successful re-opening of Sanctuary, our lunchtime club.

We have welcomed both year 7 and year 8 and the students have already been entering quizzes, enjoying games and participating in craft activities.





# MATHS BEHIND THE GAME SHOWS - NOVEMBER 2021

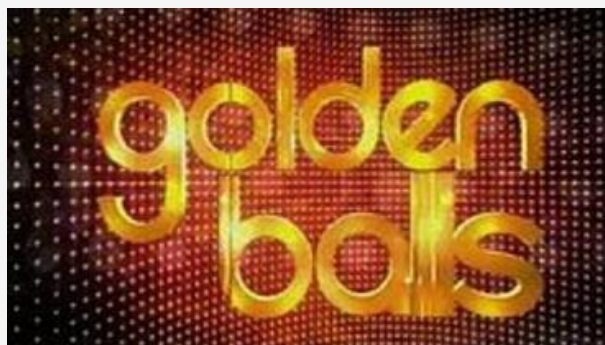
BY MRS HALL

This term, the Year 12 Mathematicians attended an online event organised by the University of Kent which looked specifically at a branch of Maths called 'Game Theory'.

Some of you may remember the show 'Goldenballs' which was hosted by Jasper Carrott back in 2007. In the final of this show, two contestants were asked to either 'split' or 'steal' from their fellow contestants. If both contestants chose to 'split', they shared the jackpot 50/50. If one chose to 'steal' and the other to 'split', then the money was won by the contestant who chose to 'steal'. If however, both contestants chose to 'steal' then they both walked away empty handed.

During the session, our A-Level Maths students looked at various strategies and probabilities in order to maximise their chances of walking away from the show with at least SOME of the cash.

Other game shows which were also discussed were 'Plinko' from the 1970's show 'The Price is Right' and 'Let's Make a Deal' hosted by Monty Hall from the 1960's.



## NETBALL @DSTC

BY MRS FLETCHER



### Chloe Y11

"This year in netball, we have worked on passing, defending and attacking drills in order to develop everyone's confidence and ability in the sport. We have also participated in several matches against one another to gain experience and knowledge that we can use in the future. Everyone is developing their skills and performing well, showing much enthusiasm and promise."

### Jess Y7

"At netball club, we have learnt about footwork and how it works. We have learnt how to land when we are passed the ball and have also learnt how to shoot and how the positions work. Netball club is a good time to socialise with your friends and to exercise. If you enjoy netball you should come to netball club even if you think your not good at it, you can come along and try it! There's always space to improve."

# CHEMISTRY AND MEDICINE TALK

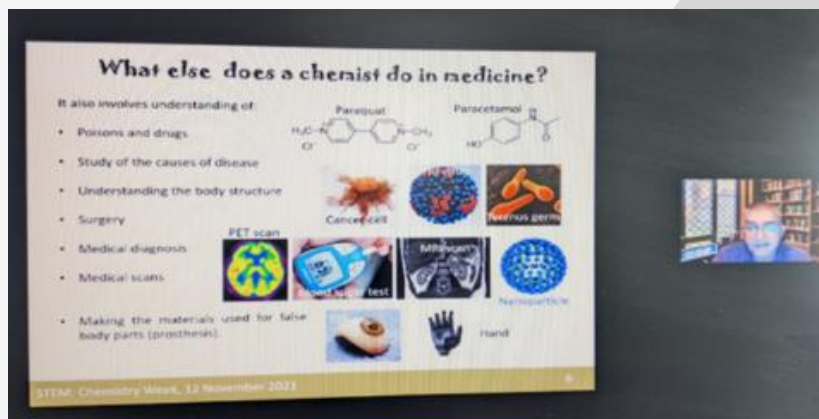
BY MRS DONEGAN-EDWARDS

To coincide with the Royal Society of Chemistry's careers week a group of year 10 students, who were interested in pursuing a career in medicine, participated in a virtual career talk run by The STEM Hub on 'Medicine and the role of the Chemist'.

Many students often wonder why they need to study Chemistry to be accepted onto Medicine courses at university and it became very clear why this was the case. They learnt about the many different aspects of studying medicine including understanding the action of poisons and drugs, study of the causes of disease, body structure, surgery, diagnosis, scans, and the use of false body parts and how all of these involve Chemistry knowledge.

Dipak Sakar, a Professor from the University of Oxford, explained how the Chemist contributes to various careers including the more obvious doctors and surgeons but also radiographers and coroners so there are many different paths a student who studies Chemistry can take.

He talked about the role of the pharmacist, for example how a pharmacist must know about medicines, which are molecules having a direct effect in the body, but medical people must also know about antibiotic action, destroying diseased tissues, medical scans and devising medical test kits such as the Covid lateral flow test. The students also learnt about nanoparticles and how these deliver drugs around the body. It was an interesting talk and the students got a lot out of it.

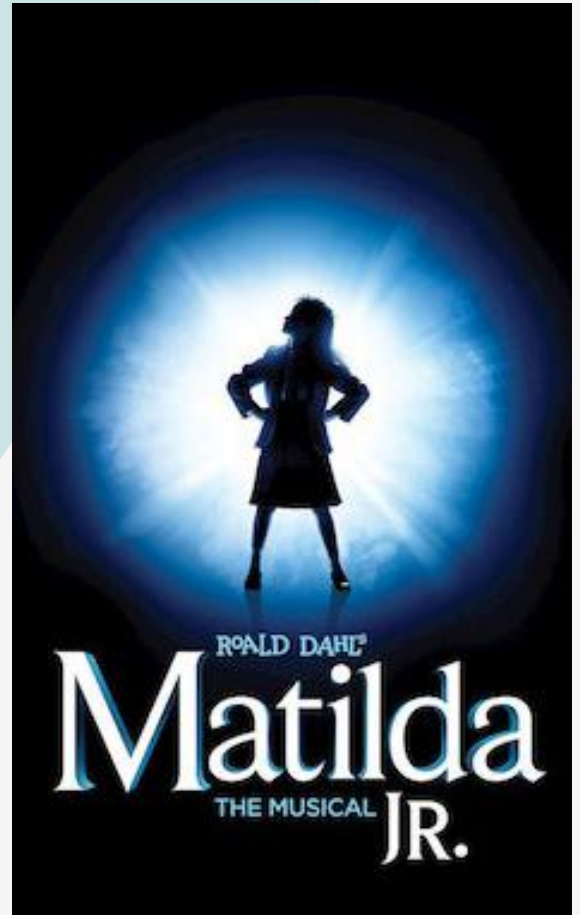




# DSTC PRODUCTION UPDATE: "MATILDA" JNR. - THE MUSICAL

BY MRS WRIGHT

Wow, what an exciting start to the term. We recently held auditions for our forthcoming School Production 'Matilda Jr'. This was well attended by many DSTC students, who were successful in achieving parts for the play. We now have a full cast of amazingly talented performers who have been rehearsing weekly - how fabulous this will be! We can't wait to see how the production progresses over time.



## DRAMA CLUB

BY MISS BRIDGLAND

I go to drama club because it is a good way to learn about improvisation work and learn skills about drama and also it is a good way to be creative. It is a good way to learn new things and to have fun .

We learn about improvisation, characters and script work. The skills I practice and improve at drama club are working on acting skills and learning about the aspects of theatre and improvisation also the drama lessons make you become a lot more creative. Drama lets you enter a world of imagination and show your creativity.

Drama club helps us focus through the practice of learning lines and being in character when it comes to rehearsals.

by Vanessa

I enjoy going to drama club as I see my friends and I learn how to boost my confidence.

I go to drama club as I would like to show emotions in the way I perform.

We practise how to show how we feel and improve our confidence from the first time we join.

The skills we use in drama are team work, confidence building and improving conversation skills.

by Chloe



# REMEMBRANCE DAY – HOUSE COMPETITION

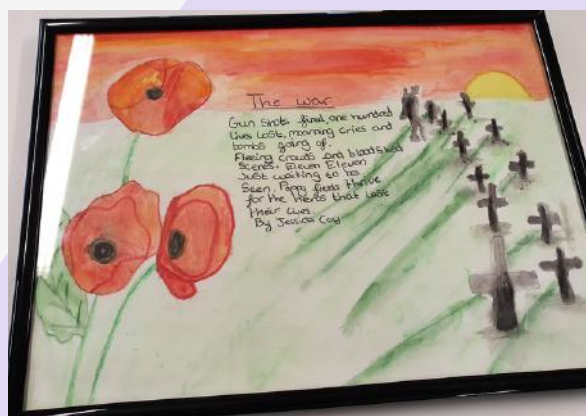
BY MS CHIVERS

In the week commencing 8th November and in recognition of Remembrance Day, the History department held assemblies to all year groups explaining the origins and reasoning behind Remembrance Day and the reasons why this should still be celebrated and respected today. Students reflected on how important it was to keep alive the memories of those who had fought for our freedoms in WWI and subsequent wars and how crucial it is to tell their stories.



As part of this, students were encouraged to go away and find out about any family members who had fought in wars and share their stories in tutor times. As well as this, a House competition was launched where students could create something in order to memorialise fallen soldiers in the war. We were inundated with entries for this and were overwhelmed with the time, effort and creativity students put into their entries.

Unfortunately, we were only able to pick one winner and four runners up and this was an extremely challenging task for the History department. However, the winner was Lili Shqau in 7C and runners up were Nisha Upadhyaya 9D, Megan Venter 8G, Jessica Coy 7T and Leah Ryan 9D. Well done girls, your certificates and prizes are on their way to you.





# HUMANITIES HOUSE COMPETITIONS

BY MRS ROWSON

Students across Year 7 & 8 showed off their incredible creative talent for Geography & History. They were invited to create a collective exhibit by making a model of their choice selecting from 'Volcanoes' or 'Historic Buildings'. These were displayed and used as interactive models when showcasing the Humanities department to the wider community.

Visitors to the school for the Open events commended the work and effort undertaken by our students. Well done to all of you and thank you for going above and beyond your teachers' expectations and demonstrating such excellent creativity.





# INDIVIDUAL CHARACTER EDUCATION (ICE)

BY MR JARRETT

At DSTC, we recognise the importance of ensuring every student leaves education being able to effectively take a productive role in society. Our Individual Character Education (ICE) curriculum aims to develop the whole child through not only Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), Character Education, Fundamental British Values, Citizenship, Health Education, SMSC and Careers within their dedicated ICE lessons, but also through the wider opportunities available to students throughout their education at DSTC.

During their ICE lessons throughout Autumn half-term 2, our Year 8 students have been learning about a range of topics related to 'Living in the wider world – community and careers'. One lesson in mid-November provided an excellent, fun opportunity for the girls to work collaboratively and put into practice their team-working skills. In their 'How do I work best with others?' lesson, the girls were placed into groups and asked create the tallest, freestanding tower in ten minutes using just paper and sticky tape. As you can see from the image below, the winning entry in one of Mr Jarrett's classes was particularly impressive.

Pleasingly, everyone fully-engaged with this activity, the purpose of which was to encourage creativity and help the girls identify and use other key skills (such as communication) required to work effectively as part of a team. Afterwards, the students were given the opportunity to reflect

on the different skills they had demonstrated, a process allowing them to consider and identify the positive – and negative – roles people can fulfil when working collaboratively, either during fun activities such as this or later on in life at college, university or the workplace.

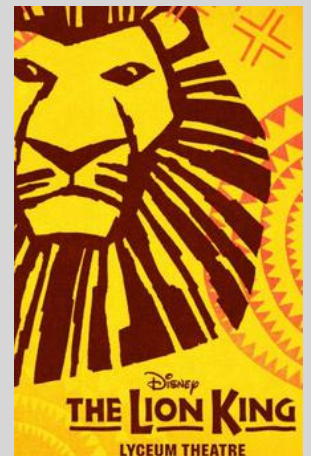


## THE LION KING THEATRE TRIP

BY MRS WRIGHT

On Wednesday 8th December the Performing Arts Department took 30 students to see 'The Lion King' at The Lyceum Theatre in London's West End.

What an amazing show! The talented cast were full of energy as they sang, acted and danced their way through the story of 'The Lion King' about the 'Circle of Life'.





# DSTC CHRISTMAS FAIR 2021





# CAREERS @ DSTC

BY MRS SMITH

## **Year 12 Level 2 Finance - CV writing advice session 9th November 2021**

'On 9th November, Anna Winter - Associate Lecturer at the Open University and Human Resources Consultant - came in to run a CV writing workshop with our Level 2 Finance students.

During this workshop, Anna discussed what CVs should contain and how they should be tailored to each job application. She then presented our students with a range of CVs, which were written in response to a seasonal retail vacancy at Boots. Working in groups, the students ranked these CVs from best to worst, sharing the reasons for their choices with the class. This activity highlighted the fact that a well-written CV increases the likelihood of being considered for an interview.

A number of the students had already written or were in the process of writing their own CVs and said this session had provided them with valuable advice.

Following on from this, Anna is planning to return in the New Year and run a further workshop concentrating on interview techniques.



The Open University

## **Year 11 CXK Careers advice sessions**

'Independent Careers Advisers - CXK - have been running weekly group advice sessions for our Year 11s. These have been concentrating on students' Post 16 choices and the different paths available to them, for their preferred career(s).

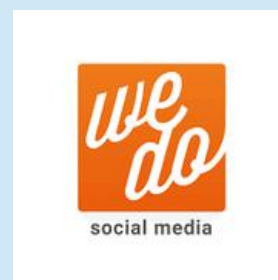
Groups of no more than 4 students, with similar career interests, were shown by the adviser how to research their options and directed to websites which provide relevant advice.

Leading on from these group sessions, CXK will continue in the New Year offering 1 to 1 advice, for those students who require additional support or further information.



## **Year 12 LinkedIn Workshop with Linda Cloke, MD of "We Do Social Media"**

On 8th December, Linda Cloke will be running a LinkedIn workshop for some of our Year 12 students. She will be advising them on how to set up a strong profile on this platform and how to use LinkedIn to their advantage. She will also be advising on the "Do's and Don'ts" of social media use.



Our Year 11 and Post 16 students learnt a number of useful strategies to support them in revising and preparing for future exams, as well as ways of managing mental and physical wellbeing.

Students were able to access modules on revision skills, exam technique and then coping with exams. Each module featured a University of Kent Student Ambassador who delivered part of a pre-recorded video, describing the session and sharing their experiences of University Life.



## **POST 16 STUDENTS SUPPORT TEMPLE HILL ACADEMY**

BY MRS IJEWERE

On Wednesday 10th November, 14 A-Level Business and Media students volunteered their time and skills to support pupils at Temple Hill Academy.

As part of a whole school enterprise project, pupils at the local primary school were taught about the value of money and hard work. They then spent the day making gifts to sell to friends and family at their Careers Fair. Post 16 students worked with pupils from Reception up to Year 6, taking photos and video recordings of them making their products and creating adverts for promotion. Products for sale included cake pops, pasta jewellery, glitter tattoos and personalised photo frames.

Miss Lydia Godden, Community Lead at Temple Hill Academy and former DSTC student, coordinated the project and expressed how impressed staff were with the knowledge and skills our Post 16 students demonstrated, along with the kind and nurturing manner they treated the younger children.





# YOUNG WRITER'S POETRY COMPETITION

BY MRS AVCU

## Like She Never Existed

Her shadow walks through the corridor,  
no one can see her and no one can hear her,  
it's like she never existed.  
All she can see is the flood.  
Her head down low as school time passes,  
no one can see her and no one can hear her.

She sits in the back of the classroom,  
all alone.  
Her thoughts slowly drown her,  
she is helpless...  
No one can see her and no one can hear her.  
It's like she never existed.

After school she stays in her room,  
the doors are locked,  
she is helpless.  
No one can save her  
it's like she never existed.

By Dorota

## They are watching you

As I walk through the corridor,  
My head filled with voices  
I hear "This is a dream" "Wake up to reality"  
"This world is not true."

I run away from the pains but they keep telling me to  
stay.  
They may be words but they are blocking my exit  
from this terrible world.  
"You don't exist"...We are watching you."

I am being watched and being told things that scare  
me oh they do.  
Help me.  
Please.  
I will never be let go from my miseries ho,  
They are watching you.

By Kezaih

## In the Night

In the darkest coldest nights children are sleeping  
snug and tight  
why must we always go to bed why stay up instead to  
listen to  
the songs of the cricket as it dances through the  
thickets.  
As dawn draw near and not a single tear from our  
weary eyes we all  
must rise!

By Neriah

## Never will I Break

From the ashes I will rise  
and turn away from scornful eyes  
people's stares burn through my skin  
and see how broken I am within.

They saw me broken  
they heard my cries  
they left me stranded  
they told me lies.

Yet I rise back up to fight again.  
I hide the tears  
they hurt.  
The pain.

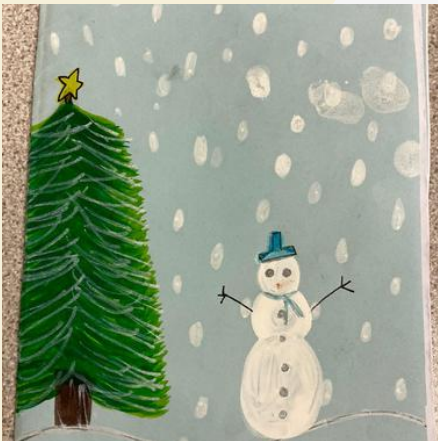
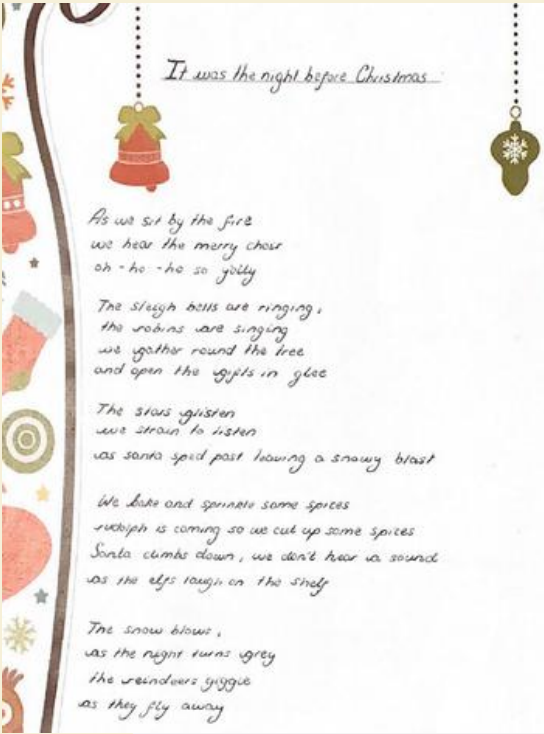
People broke me down to dust.  
But now I know who not to trust.  
People's words don't hurt me now.  
I block them out;  
I turn around.

From the ashes I will rise.  
I will turn away from scornful eyes.  
People's stares burn through my skin.  
But see that now I'm fixed within.

By Niamh

# CHRISTMAS CREATIVE HOUSE EVENT

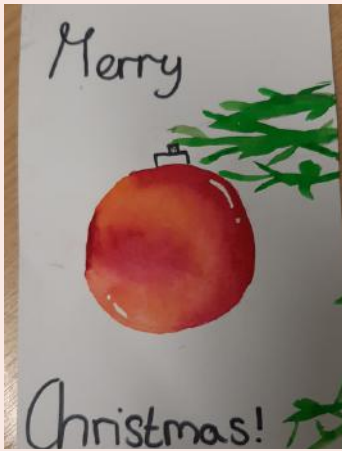
BY THE HOUSE LEADERS





# CHRISTMAS CREATIVE HOUSE EVENT

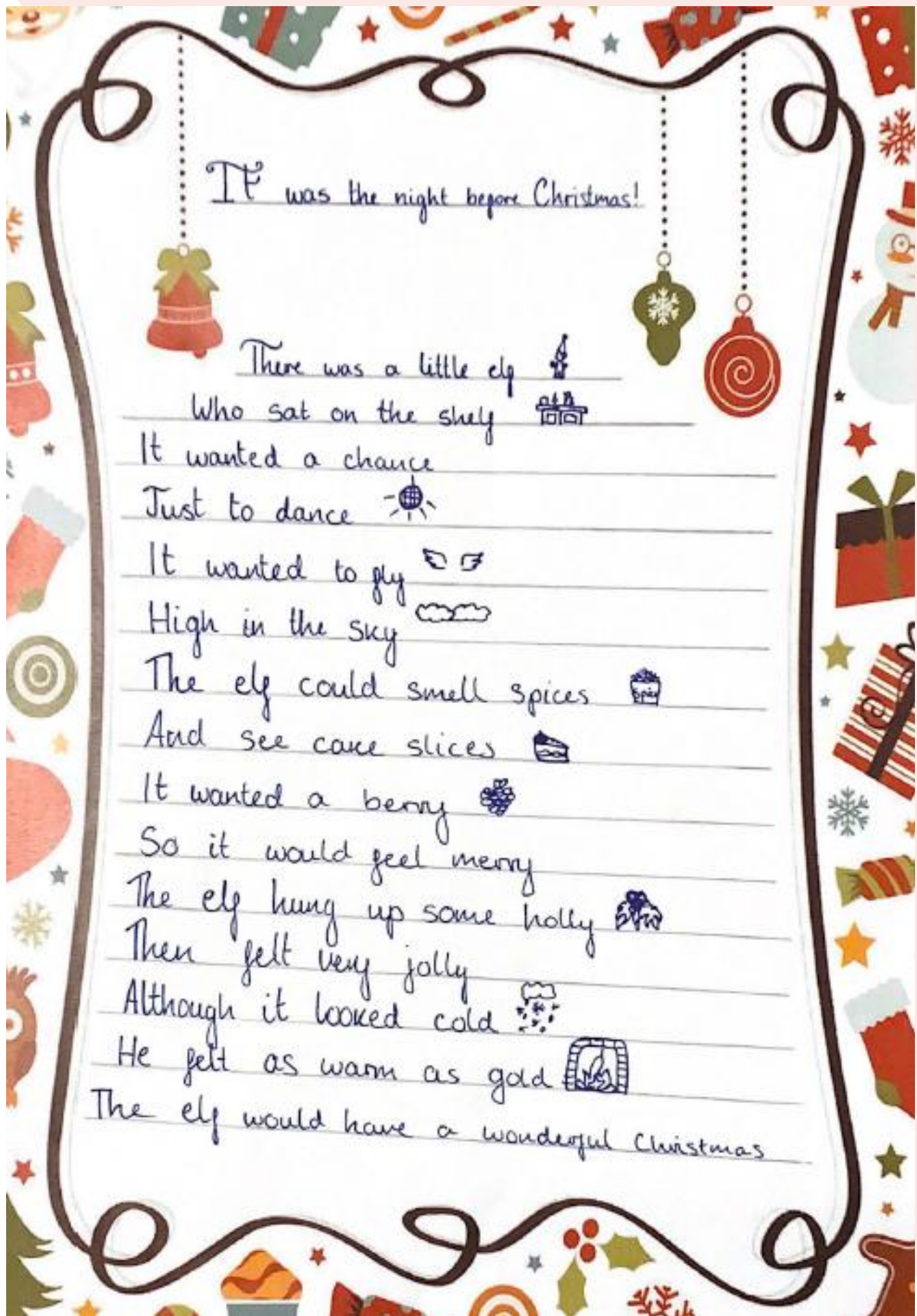
BY THE HOUSE LEADERS





# CHRISTMAS CREATIVE HOUSE EVENT

BY THE HOUSE LEADERS







# Dartford

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE  
EVERYONE EXCELS IN ALL ENDEAVOURS