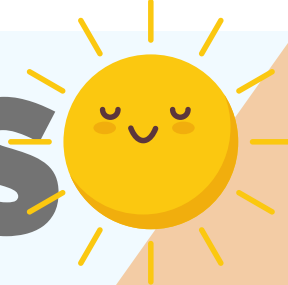


DSTC NEWS

EVERYONE EXCELS IN ALL ENDEAVOURS



DSTC SUMMER NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCTION BY MRS DAVIS

As we end the Summer Term we have much to be happy about, even if it is not the football result.

We look back at some great achievements and fun events in this issue. The summer looks set to be freer of COVID constraints and we are planning a more typical school running from September 2021.

We will still need to keep good hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene and our sanitation stations will remain in place in each classroom next term. We hope that you will manage to enjoy the summer, that the sun shines but most of all that you stay safe both physically and mentally.



SPORTS DAY MAYORAL VISIT

BY MR ALLEN

It was such a great pleasure to welcome The Worshipful Mayor of Dartford, Councillor Rosanna Currans and her Escort Carena Bailey today to our DSTC Sports Day.

We would like to thank them for their attendance and the wonderful words they had to say about our school.

We really look forward to seeing them both tomorrow for the second part of our end of year activities!



THE ONLINE SAFETY ALLIANCE

BY MR ALLEN

This half term, Years 7,8,9 and 10 have been undertaking the Online Safety Alliance (OSA) certificate in online safety. Students have been working during their ICE lessons to learn more about online safety and work towards their certificate, undertaking a series of mini-assessments.

The OSA Certificate of Online Safety provides excellent evidence that our students understand how to stay safe online. It supports students if they feel at risk online and what the possible consequences of bad choices could be.



We have been incredibly impressed with the dedication and effort that students are putting in to their work. Students have shown high levels of maturity and understanding when completing the tasks. There is a very diverse range of learning within the OSA certificate, including units on bullying, grooming (including radicalisation), sexting, safe use of smartphones, digital footprints, live streaming, gaming, reporting of concerns and more.



Our students have found the course very useful. Here are a few accounts of their experiences below:

"From completing the Online Safety Alliance course I have learnt about multiple dangers that can occur online. I have also learned how to keep safe online and how to avoid getting myself into bad situations."

Amelia

"Online safety is a very important topic and should be taught to students in every school if and when possible. I believe all of these topics e.g grooming, online bullying, online safety and so on should be taught because it may help more in recognising if someone is going through any of these things."

Gracie

"The OSA course will benefit me in the future because I know how to not create a bad digital footprint which makes it easier for me to get a good job and not lose it. It has also helped me be aware of all the issues involved with the different topics which will help me avoid getting myself into trouble."

Phoebe

"Now that I have received this OSA training, I will take more precautions online when using social media. I will change my settings to private so that only my friends and people close to me can see my profile. I will be prepared for any dangerous situations on social media and beware of strangers."

Grace

"When being safe online you are protecting yourself and your personal information from being leaked and can also make it so that you have nothing bad in your digital footprint. It is also important because when being safe you can stop your mental well-being from being damaged."

Piruntha

SPORTS DAY 2021

BY MS WHITTAKER

After a rather disruptive year to the school sports calendar it was fantastic for the girls at DSTC to participate in Sports Day. Due to the current Covid restrictions it was decided that Year Group Sports Days were the most suitable and safe option.

On Wednesday 14th July Year 7 and 8 took part in their Year Group Sports Day. Year 8 started the day off in the morning participating in both track and field activities with Year 7 participating in their events during the afternoon. It was wonderful weather and great to see the girls creating a fun atmosphere. Notable performances were Peyton of 7C who came first in 800m with a time of 3m 12s, Ellie in 7D who came first in discus with a throw of 16.12m and Phoebe in 8G who came first in 800m with a time of 3m 05s - almost beating the school record!



On Thursday 15th July Year 9 and 10 took part in their Year Group Sports Day with Year 9 starting the day off in the morning and Year 10 participating in their events during the afternoon. Again, the atmosphere was electric and all were fully appreciative that such an event could go ahead. Notable performances were Tamsyn of 10D who came first in High Jump with a jump of 1.25m, Piruntha in 9D who came first in Javelin with a throw of 14.53m and Ruby in 9C who came first in 200m with a time of 31.97s.

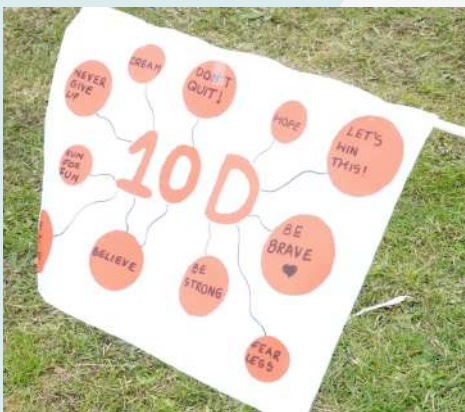
The overall **winners of Sports Day were 7C, 8D, 9S and 10T.**

However, it was not only sporting achievements that were being celebrated during each Sports Day. House Points were also on offer for students who showed good character values. A few examples of these are the students of 7D for their incredible banner supporting Ada Lovelace House and the students of 7C and 9G for showing resilience and team spirit by stepping in at the last minute to participate in Sports Day events due to fellow classmates having to isolate. Also, Jasmine in 8D for congratulating and being respectful to her fellow 75m competitors after her victory.

Well done to all of the athletes that took part and to all the girls who made their Sports Day special. A big thank you also goes to the DSTC staff that supported the PE team with events, such as Mr Jarrett, Miss Hall, Mrs Wright, Ms Fox and Mr de Freitas as well as all those staff helping with the spectator pens. In addition, we appreciate the effort of the Post 16 students who attended to help the Sports Day run smoothly, safely but also effectively by assisting with measuring and recording of results, encouraging students to achieve their best as well as sanitising all the athletics equipment after each use.







TREDWELLS CATERING TRIP

BY MR DIX

On the 1st July we took 16 students who are currently studying hospitality and catering to London to have lunch at Tredwells. The restaurant is owned by Marcus Wareing (judge on Professional Masterchef) and the chef is Chantelle Nicholson. A female head chef is rare in a prestigious restaurant such as this and she is inspirational.

We had an amazing lunch. Exciting dishes were on the menu such as beef rump, pink fir and peppercorn sauce, fig leaf panna cotta and bergamot shortbread.

We were also able to look at the kitchens and talk to the chef to understand the enormous quantities that the kitchen produces as they do some preparation for their other restaurant and are also catering for a function with 2000 people in a few months time.

The day was a success and the students, as always, were a credit to DSTC from start to finish.



UNIVERSITY AND APPRENTICESHIP VIRTUAL FAIR

Students in Years 10-13 were encouraged to attend this virtual event, to give them the opportunity to interact with a wide range of universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers.

The event allowed students to explore all Post 18 options in one place. Students registered in advance to enable them to log-in to the event on the day, to access live webinars and chat with the representatives online. They could then log-in as many times as they wished during the day and also after the event, to access recordings of the webinars.

The event had two main virtual 'rooms', an Exhibition Hall and an Auditorium.

In the Exhibition Hall, students could visit stands for different universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers. At each stand, they could view information about the exhibitor, download documents, view videos, visit their website, and chat to their representatives or ambassadors live, to receive answers to any questions they had.

In the Auditorium, students could view live webinars on a range of subjects, presented by different universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers. Whilst viewing a live webinar, they could ask questions in the chat and receive answers directly from the university, college or apprenticeship provider. All of the webinars were recorded, so if any were missed, the recording could be viewed in the Auditorium too.

The feedback we received from students was very positive:

"It was engaging and made me understand how uni life may be."

"Helped us with writing personal statements"

"Covered a variety of topics"

"You could see a lot of different universities and university life"

Exhibitors included those below, plus many more:



UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH GREAT SKILLS RESILIENCE WORKSHOP



The University of Greenwich provided us with resources to run a 'Resilience' workshop in our Year 9 ICE lessons.

This activity aimed to explain to students the meaning of resilience. This enables students to identify key characteristics and skills required for building resilience and describe methods for overcoming challenges and developing personal resilience.

Students were asked to complete a 'Resilience self assessment' handout before viewing a presentation. Following the presentation, they were asked to complete the same assessment again, to see how their understanding had improved. They were also asked to list 3 things they could do to build their resilience.

Overall, the students found this activity improved their understanding of resilience and how they can use it to help overcome challenges.

"The activity taught me that a lot more things need resilience than I thought and that there are many ways to be resilient."

"Before the video I had heard about resilience but didn't know what it really means but now I know that it is the ability to mentally or emotionally cope with a problem very quickly."

"I liked how it gave you questions to make sure you understood, and on the test you can go back and look at the mistakes you made".

UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN VIRTUAL TOUR



UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

During Tutor time, Year 10 students were shown two videos recorded by the University of Lincoln:

"Fast Forward Week" which discusses many aspects of Higher Education, including why you should go, the application process and funding

"Our Campus and City" which focuses on the University of Lincoln specifically, showing students what life is like at that particular university.



Students found these videos to be a useful introduction to Higher Education and gave them a starting point to research the possibilities of going to university.

"The 'Fast Forwarding Event' video is extensive"

"The video was very helpful, particularly the section about funding"

THE GREAT DARTFORD VIRTUAL BAKE OFF

BY MR DIX

Due to the popularity of the Great British Bake Off, and also spending a long amount of time indoors, many of us have taken an interest in baking.

I thought that a DSTC bake-off would be a good idea but then thought why not make it bigger. So I then contacted all the schools in Dartford and the Great Dartford Virtual Bake Off was born!

The brief was to make a show-stopping bake and bakers all round Dartford set to work.

Graham Hornigold, who is a parent of a Year 9 student, pastry chef and former judge on the Junior GBBO, also offered to help judge the amazing entries. We had **100** entrants from **15 schools around Dartford**.

The judging was hard and the standard was amazing. We both did not know how old the bakers were or what school they were from. We are very proud to announce that 2 of the bakers were from DSTC! Well done to **Kiki in 8D** and **Jashanpreet in 12S** who are our star bakers! Each winner received a goody bag with Mary Berry's baking book, a set of nozzles, professional piping bags and an amazing trophy.

Thank you to Dartford Borough Council and Dartford Living magazine who sponsored the event to make it possible.



DSTC ACTIVITY DAYS 2021

BY MR ALLEN

Things have been very different this year for all of us, and that has meant many changes to DSTC in order to keep all our students and staff safe. Everyone has done incredibly well, working harder than ever. We therefore wanted to end the year not only with a great Sports Day in Year groups, but two engaging and exciting activity days.

Our activity days were planned to maximise participation, engagement and learning. Students used many different character-based skills such as resilience, confidence, self-belief and tenacity to achieve a variety of goals. We hope you enjoy the pictures from each session.

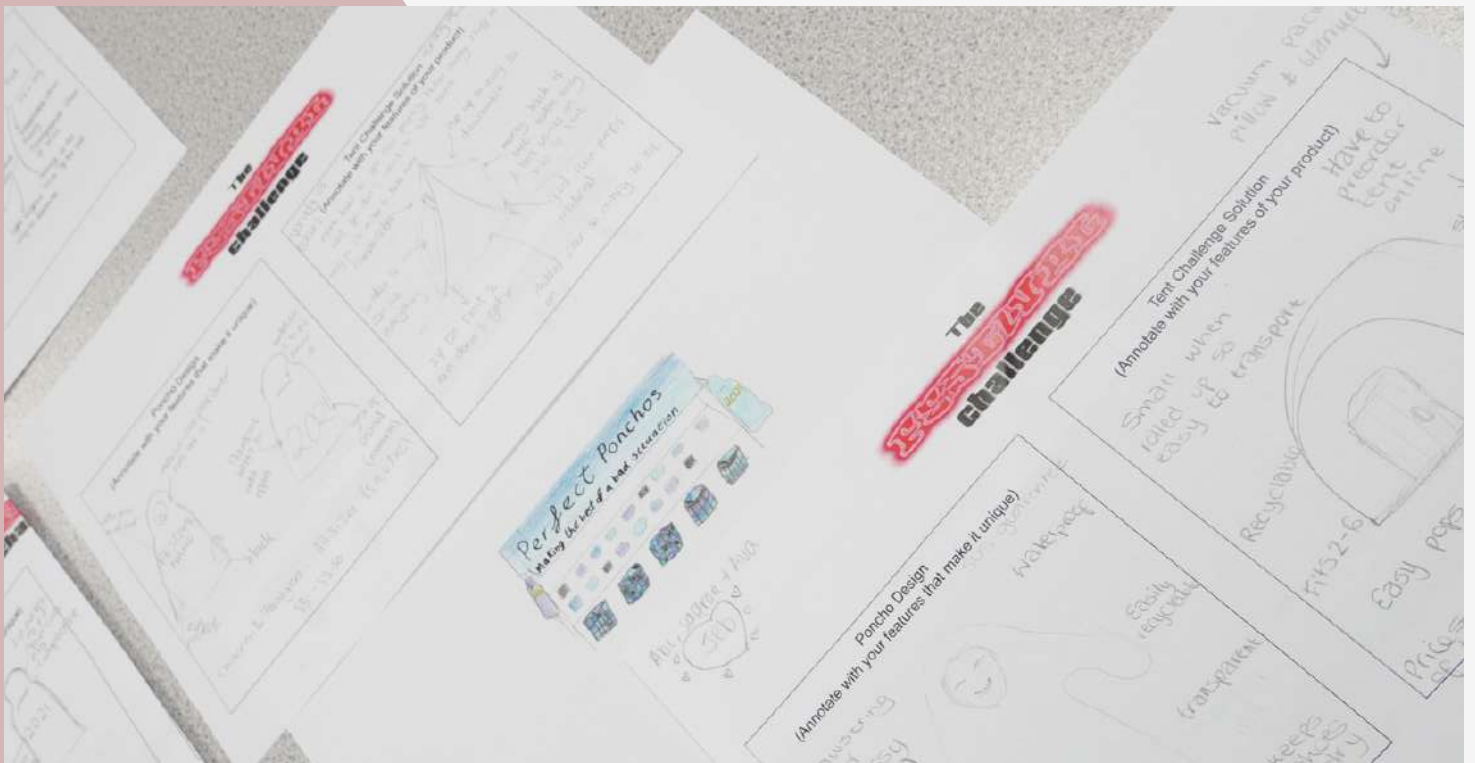
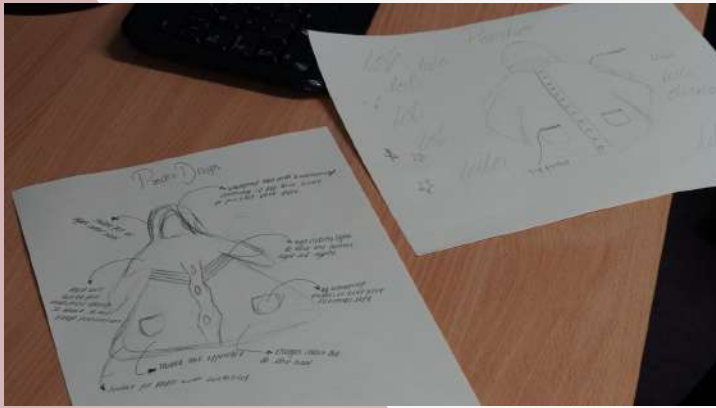
YEAR 9 FASHION SHOW



YEAR 9 FASHION SHOW - THE FINALS



YEAR 9 AND 10 ENTERPRISE CHALLENGES



YEAR 7 SCIENCE - FORENSICS DAY

BY MRS DELASALLE

'Who Done It' was the name of the game for Year 7's as they spent a day in Science, trying to solve the mystery of 'Who Stole the House Cup'. The day started off with the girls having an introduction to the world of forensics and considering evidence that Crime Scene Officers look for. Then the scene was set and the girls started to work through the different labs, analysing the evidence to come up with the culprit. Each lab had a different activity and therefore different evidence to collect and record.

A letter was found at the scene and the technique of chromatography was used to identify the pen that had been used. The students compared a number of different pens to find out which gave the same chromatogram as the one used by the suspect. The letter also had to be decoded, so cryptography skills were put to the test with the girls decoding the note and seeing if it presented them with any clues.

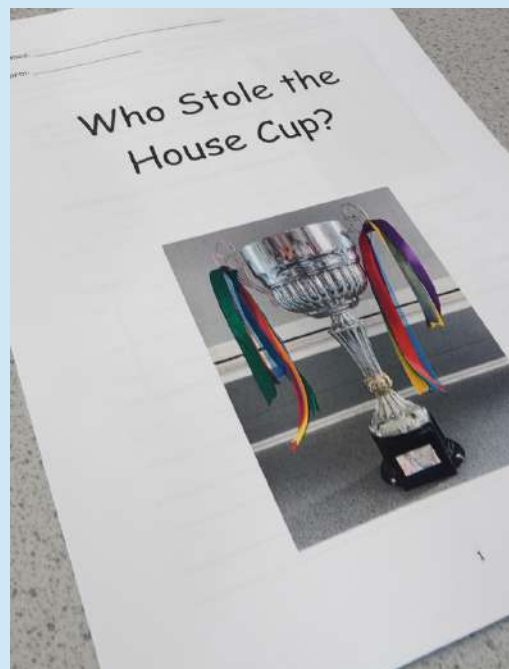
Fingerprints were also found at the scene. The girls then had to 'lift' the fingerprints off the glassware and place onto a slide. This could then be examined to find out the patterns within the fingerprints. Once identified, it could be compared to a bank of fingerprints already collected to look for the closest match.

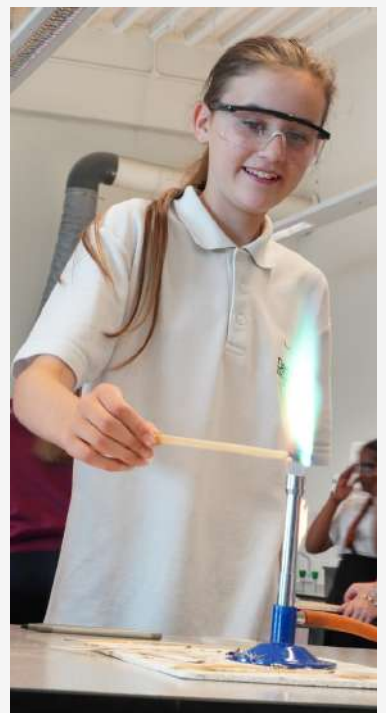
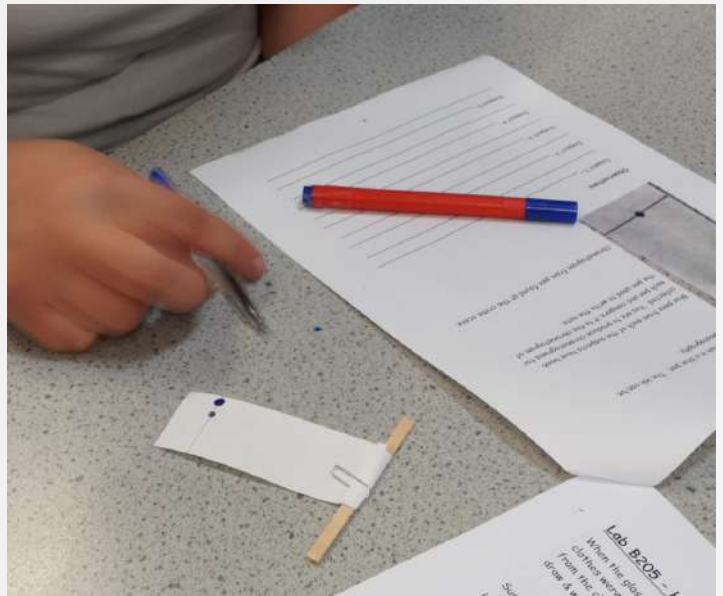
A mystery powder was also left behind by the suspect. The students carried out flame tests to try to identify the metal ion that was present in the powder. This technique involved placing the powder onto a damp wooden splint and burning it in a Bunsen flame. Different metal ions give off different distinctive colours which helps to identify them.

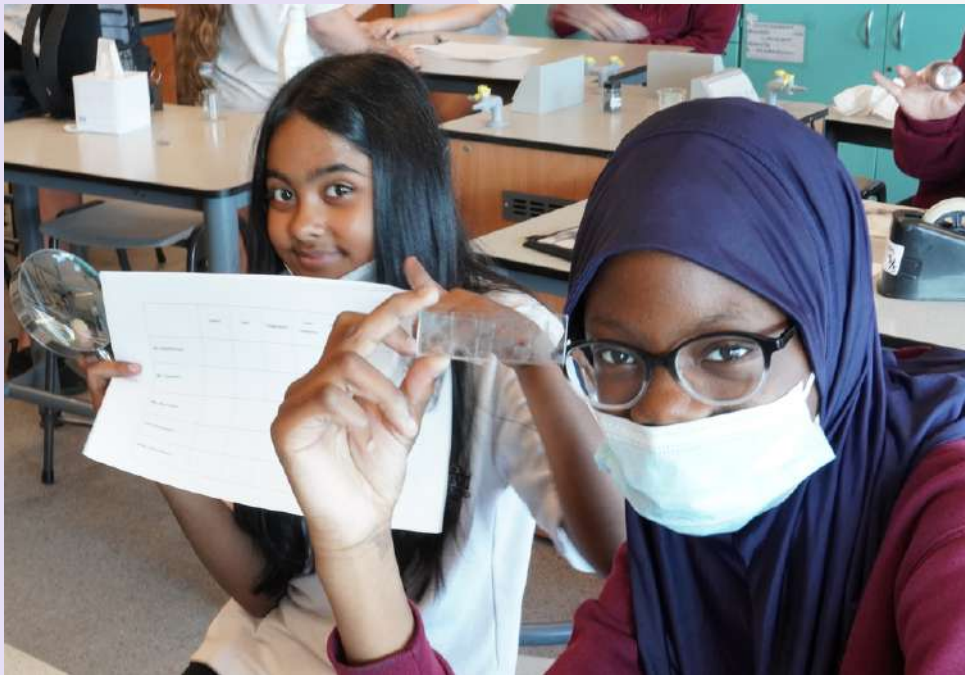
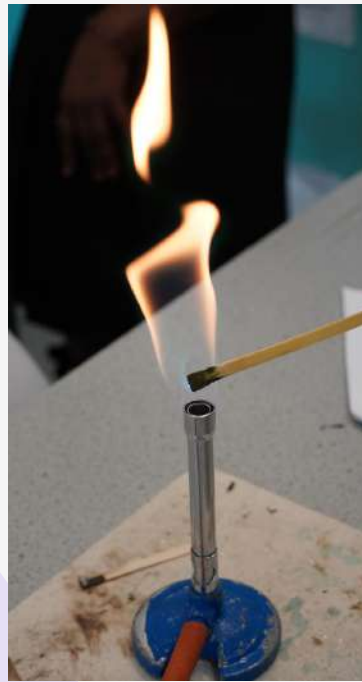
Another piece of evidence that the girls collected was hair and fibre samples. Microscopes were used to examine the samples to look at the finer details.

The girls observed the different microscopic structure of the different fibres to see how they are constructed. The images observed were drawn so that the evidence was recorded.

Once the girls had collected all the evidence, they then needed to eliminate any suspects in order to identify the culprit. This was a fun day for all involved and gave the students a chance to have an insight into the work of a Crime Scene Officer and a Forensics team.





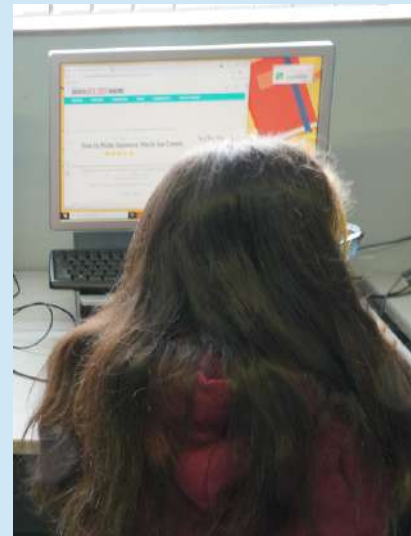


MATHS PROBLEM SOLVING - RECIPE CHALLENGE

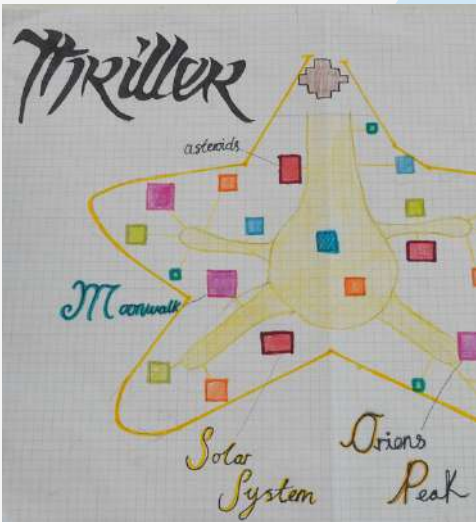
BY MRS HALL

On the 6th of July, Year 8 and 9 took part in a Mathematics Problem Solving Event designed by the DSTC Maths department. Students worked in small groups to solve variety of Maths puzzles and challenges. Students were required to use their skills to think creatively and logically as well as working together as a team.

Well done to the winning teams!



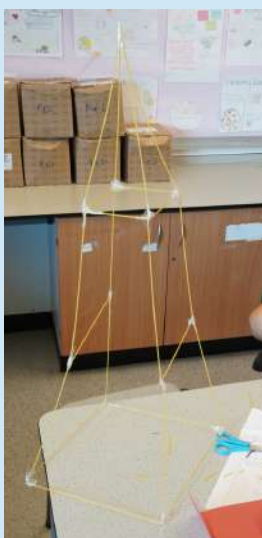
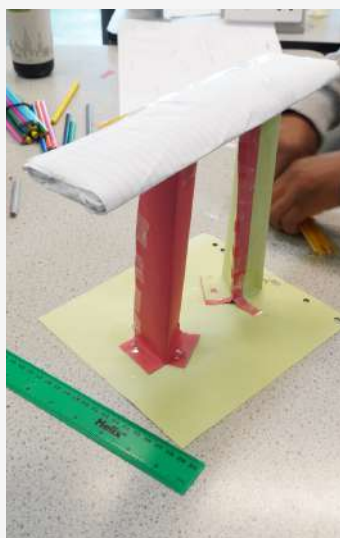
MATHS PROBLEM SOLVING DAY- LUNAR THEME PARK



YEAR 7 ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE



YEAR 8 SCIENCE - STRUCTURES



YEAR 9 AND YEAR 10 CELEBRATION

BY MRS SHEEN AND MR SNIPP

With the difficulties faced by students this year it has been more important than ever to pinpoint those instances where an individual's attitudes, behaviours and dedication to their studies have not just been good but outstanding.

As such it was our great pleasure to invite a select group of students from Years 9 and 10, across two days, to attend an afternoon of celebrations in honour of their steadfast commitment to being shining examples of what our students are capable of here at DSTC.

Students with the highest achievement points and lowest behaviour points joined Mrs Sheen, Mrs Sutton and Mr Snipp on the school field for an afternoon of snacks, music, dancing, and relaxing with their friends. Libby in Year 10 commented:

"Last week the school held a celebratory picnic on the field to recognize the good behaviour of some students. At this picnic there was lots laughing and dancing (even the teachers got involved). We all had so much fun and it was lovely for us to have a small break from learning and for the teachers to celebrate our good behaviour. Towards the end Mrs Sheen handed out a bag of food and drink to everybody which was much appreciated. I know everyone had a great time!"



UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE

BY MRS HALL

This Spring, a group of 30 students were entered for the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge.

The Maths Challenge is a 60 minute multiple-choice competition aimed at students from across the UK.

The Challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The students brought home an impressive medals haul - 4 students achieved silver and 9 achieved a bronze. The winners were:

Silver

Toluwani - Year 8 - Best in School

Charlotte - Year 8

Paige - Year 8

Rheya - Year 8

Bronze

Scarlett - Year 8

Kiki - Year 8

Mahera - Year 8

Holly - Year 8

Niamh - Year 8

Ellie - Year 7

Kyah - Year 7

Peyton - Year 7

Oliwia - Year 7



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

Well done to everyone who took part.

RATES OF REACTION EXPERIMENTS

BY MS OSUNDINA

During the teaching of the rates of reaction experiments, students learn a range of skills that are applicable in science-related careers and also the real world. These skills play a key role in food production, food technology and the chemical and pharmaceutical industries to name a few.

Through these practicals, the Year 10 girls can apply and build upon key concepts. Some of the concepts learned include energy changes, chemical reactions and a range of variables that may influence the rates of reaction.

Students also learn how to measure, record data, interpret and graphically represent rates of reaction. With the data gathered, they now have to apply maths skills to draw tangents as well as rearrange equations. In addition, students need to be able to communicate their findings and draw conclusions using scientific language.

When students understand and can apply these varieties of concepts and skills in their own work, they are better prepared to go into their final assessments and progressing into Key Stage 5.



DSTC HOUSE WINNERS 2020 - 2021

BY MR ALLEN


I wanted to end the final Newsletter of the year with an update on one of our newest initiatives at DSTC.

Launching and developing a House System has been both challenging and exciting, especially with all of the obstacles that the COVID pandemic has brought. Despite these difficulties, staff and students have rallied together to participate in many different House Events, including our final 2 main House Activity Days of the school year.

Each House Event has awarded House Points in addition to the individual House Points that students have been awarded throughout the year. These are awarded for character-based skills, such as showing resilience, confidence, participation and tenacity.

The final points of the year have been counted and I am extremely honoured to announce that the first ever DSTC House winner is Ada Lovelace House. Well done to Ms Whittaker and her House, as well as all the other Houses involved too!

House Points - 2020 / 2021 Totals	
Marie Curie House	1397
Rosalind Franklin House	1686
Jane Austen House	1718
Mary Seacole House	1728
Ada Lovelace House	2311



Ada Lovelace House Leader, Ms Whittaker, House Captain Akshaya Ananth, Deputy House Captain Libby-Mai Matthews and DSTC Principal Mrs Davis

SUMMER SELF-CARE

BY MRS AVCU

As we approach the summer holidays, after another really challenging year, it is important to take time to reflect and focus on how you can develop self-care. I hope this article helps guide you towards some helpful mindfulness strategies to create more calm and happiness within your lives.

Mindfulness is all about pausing and paying attention to the present moment, something that can be a challenge within the fast paced world that we live in. The pandemic has sadly heightened levels of anxiety and this is not surprising due to the uncertainty and confusion we have faced. Mindfulness strategies give you the tools to remain calm, centered and more focused.



This summer I would recommend that you try this relaxing breathing exercise:

Start: Sit upright, make sure you are comfortable and that you won't be disturbed.

Remember that in this period, whatever happens, whatever you experience, accept it. Try to see if you can keep any judgements, anxieties, criticisms or worries at bay and be as fully present with the body and with the breath as you can.

1. Attention: Bring your attention to your body - sensations of contact with the floor or chair, the sensation of your clothes against your skin and most importantly your feet to the ground.

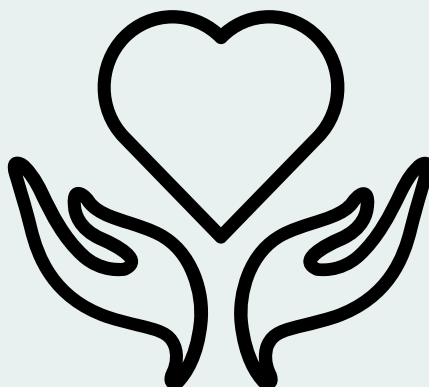
2. Awareness: Become aware of the breath as it enters your body - on the in breath and on the out breath as it leaves your body. Just follow your breath, breath by breath, without trying to change it.

3. Focus: Focus your attention on the way the breath moves the body in a very gentle rocking motion as the abdomen rises and falls with the in and out breath. Notice the rhythm of the breath, the changing sensations of the breath, whether it is slow, steady, slightly quicker or faster.

4. Relax: There is no need to change or alter anything; just gently notice what is already happening naturally in each moment.

5. Notice: Notice how by the middle/end of the exercise your breathing has slowed down and become more calmer. Hopefully you feel more relaxed.

Wishing you all a relaxed, calm and happy summer break.





Dartford

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

EVERYONE EXCELS IN ALL ENDEAVOURS