

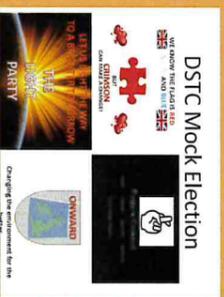
# #DSTC NEWS

Dartford Science and  
Technology College Newsletter  
July Edition

ALL THE NEWS FROM DARTFORD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

## DSTC MOCK ELECTION

Year 9 Citizenship students were asked to create their own political parties. They had to have a manifesto, logo and slogan.



Four parties went through to the election on Thursday 8th June and, after a very busy day of electioneering, 'The Onwards Party' won. They highlighted the need for environmentally friendly transport and solar power and were concerned about the loneliness of the elderly.



Over half of the school participated and 72% of Year 7 students voted. It was a very successful exercise in the Co-operative Value of Democracy.

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## DSTC STUDENT GOES TO THE EUROPEAN SKATER HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Friday 23rd June, Cameron Morgan in 10S flew out to Karst in Germany to compete in the International Inline Skater Hockey Federation Under 16 European Championships. Cameron plays for the London Knights Skater Hockey Club who will be representing GB in these Championships.

It was a very tough competition as they played against teams from Denmark, Germany, Israel, Copenhagen and Austria, to name a few. Out of a squad of 19 players Cameron is currently the only female player.

The squad trained incredibly hard for this and had a fantastic weekend of sport. They have now been ranked 10th in the world. #thisgrrican



## DSTC AT THE DARTFORD OPEN AIR THEATRE

DSTC went to Dartford Open Air Theatre on 30th June, the aim was to bring primary and secondary schools together to write and act in a play that celebrates Dartford through the ages. The play was a fantastic production in Dartford Park's Open Air Theatre which was attended by over 150 parents and children. The production is part of our school's local primaries programme and is in collaboration with Emma Barr, an actor and educator from the Icon Theatre.



It is hoped that not only will this provide some revenue for the school, but it will start to promote a sense of self-responsibility of both staff and pupils towards doing their bit to help the planet.

Congratulations to Humayra Ahmed who designed our winning logo for the bins.



## DSTC GOES TO ICELAND - THE LAND OF FIRE AND ICE

High winds and driving rain could not dampen the spirits of our enthusiastic Geography students on our visit to Iceland at the end of May. Even on sunny days we still found ways to get wet – exploring secret gorges and walking behind waterfalls.

Iceland is on the active plate boundary between America and Europe and offers many signs of its continuous tectonic activity. We were able to experience the bubbling mud pools, the spouting geysers (some of us getting a surprising soaking) and the magnificent scenery including lava fields, volcanoes and the wonderful black sandy beach at Reynisfjara with its basaltic caves and columns. The wildlife in Iceland is also very special, from the unique Icelandic horses (a breed only found on the island) to the abundance of sea birds. The whales were a bit camera shy, but we became experts at spotting puffins. The girls were amazing and were an absolute pleasure to take away – a real credit to the school.

The Geography Department is always keen to provide trips like this to give the opportunity for our students to experience, first hand, the awe and wonder of this and other amazing places and hopefully instil a greater understanding of how the planet works together with a love and respect for the natural world.



## DSTC ECOLOGICAL SCHOOL PROJECT

The Geography Department has been taking part in an eco pod project to investigate the effects of climate change on invertebrates and how this affects bird populations. We were one of 2263 schools to send in data collected in the school grounds as part of this nationwide project. This involved a small group of willing Year 8 students to get their hands dirty and come up close and personal with insects and worms found in the school grounds. We found a surprising amount of life within the soil, showing the importance of these habitats to support bird populations, especially within an otherwise built up area.

As a school we are also looking again at ways to improve our eco status and have carried out a survey of the school to investigate ways we can improve.

This July we are re-launching our classroom recycling (which had lapsed a little in recent years). We do have the clothing recycling bin by the school entrance and will be looking into other issues over the coming months. Each tutor group now has an eco rep and we hope to raise the profile of this important issue.



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### 6TH FORM SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDENT EXPERIENCES

In April a range of different learning experiences took place for our Year 12 and 13 Sociology and Psychology students. The Year 13 Psychologists attended a very professional and engaging revision day at the Vue Cinema complex in Stratford. The day was well focused on the AQA topic areas and students received high quality revision materials to assist them with their exam preparation. The Year 12 Psychologists visited the University of Kent for a 'Students as Researchers' day where they were able to gain an insight into the research practice of a Psychologist and useful application ideas for the Research Methods element of the qualification. All students were great ambassadors for the school and contributed brilliantly to the days they were involved in.

### ATHLETICS TRAINING AT

#### DARTFORD TRACK

The students below had the opportunity to use the facilities at Dartford Athletics Track to test their abilities for an hour and a half. The local coaches running the track commented on how talented the girls were. The events they got to try out included discus, javelin, shot put, high jump, 100m, 200m, 800m, hurdles and relay. We had a number of girls that produced new records:

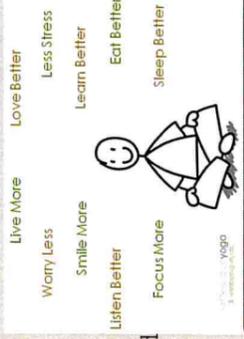
Yr 8 Tammy Adedayo 75m Hurdles  
Yr 9 Alexia Phokou 75m Hurdles  
Yr 9 Daisy Rothen Javelin and Shot  
Yr 9 Relay Daisy Rothen, Alexia Phokou, Naomi Delano-Lindo, Josephine Coker



### DSTC MINDFULNESS TIPS - RELAX THIS SUMMER

As the summer holidays are quickly approaching and you come to the end of your current year group, you may feel that a year has flown by. Now is a good time to reflect upon the year and prepare yourself to be the best you can be, as you prepare to enter a new academic year of your secondary school life. Mindfulness is all about allowing yourself to be in the present and really value each moment for what it brings.

If you suffer with anxiety, there are excellent strategies you can put into your daily routine to make life that little bit easier. The school day can be very busy and sometimes you may feel overwhelmed. In times of difficulty, take a few minutes to focus on your breath. Count to ten and take deep breaths, making sure you pay attention to your mind and body. If you are struggling with paying attention to your breath, place your hands on your tummy and feel your diaphragm contracting as air enters the lungs, and then expanding as you breathe out. This is a great technique to help you feel calmer and more focused. Another breathing technique that helps if you struggle to get to sleep is known as the 4-7-8. The way you do this is you breathe in for 4 seconds, hold your breath for 7 seconds and then release your breath for 8 seconds. It is a fantastic way to help you calm down and fall asleep a bit quicker. This summer, make sure you do the things that really make you smile. Spend time with family and friends, read a good book, see a great movie and make sure you enjoy this well-deserved break.



### DSTC ATTENDS CASCADE DANCE WORKSHOP

Talented Dance students from Years 7 to 10 attended weekly contemporary dance workshops with Cascade Dance Company (fully funded by Sports for England). They worked hard to create, polish and perform exciting dance numbers, to include the show opening number 'Let me entertain you', a musical theatre piece from 'Matilda', and the famous 'Fame' theme song.



In association with

The dancers had to work together as a team to perform advanced dance skills and high technical lift work. They presented the pieces in front of a live audience of over 150 family and friends at our DSTC School Musical production 'The Rehearsal'.

"Thank you both for organising and directing another very enjoyable evening's entertainment. You have now raised the bar for future shows at DSTC. The dancing and singing was excellent with slick changeovers. Behind the scenes costume changes, lighting and sound were all conducted without any fuss.

Would you please convey my thanks to all the students who took part. The many hours of rehearsal paid off with good teamwork, happy smiling faces and most important having fun."

Andy Taylor (Governor)

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### PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

As we look forward to summer holidays and the extra time to spend with family and friends, we are also able to look back and reflect on the past year. For the 150 girls who have taken exams this summer, they will be wondering where the year went and eagerly awaiting the results days. Our best wishes for outstanding success are with them.

For those left at DSTC, the year closes with a flourish. All year groups have now moved up to the next academic year group and this means no more Year 7s, our youngest students have graduated! There is still plenty to complete in the last few weeks – not least our annual Sports Day on 17th July and our unique Community Day on 19th July 2017. I wish everyone a relaxing and safe break and look forward to seeing the new Year 7 and Year 12 on Wednesday, 6th September and all other year groups on Thursday, 7th September.

Anne Davis

### COMING UP

Here are some key DSTC dates for your diary.

- 17th July Sports Day
- 19th July Community Day
- 20th July Last Day of Term - students finish at 12.25pm
- 17th August GCE (6th Form) Exam Results 9.30-11.30
- 24th August GCSE Exam Results 9.30-11.30
- 24th/25th August Year 12 (current Year 11) 6th Form Registration 9.30-12.30
- 31st Aug/1st Sept Year 13 (current Year 12) 6th Form Registration 9.30-12.30
- 6th September Year 7 and Year 12 return to school
- 7th September Whole school return



Enjoy your Summer Break!

### DSTC NUMERACY NINJAS

Key Stage 3 classes have been involved in a weekly 'Numeracy Ninjas' activity. Each week the students are given 30 questions to answer in 5 minutes to encourage their speed and accuracy with simple calculations. Their work is marked by a partner and their 'Ninja Score' entitles them to receive a coloured 'Ninja Belt'. The students have enjoyed trying to achieve the elusive 'Black Belt' and also, more importantly, have worked very hard to improve their score each week.



### DSTC MATHS WHIZZ

Two of our Year 7 classes have been using Maths Whizz since October 2016. Maths Whizz is an online personalised Maths tutor which is designed to provide students with lessons in the specific topic areas that they need some help with.

It is presented in a fun and engaging way. "I think that Maths Whizz really helped me gain my confidence in Maths. I'm happy with Maths Whizz and I think I will use it even more to help myself" (Fezra Kabadayi) "I think Maths Whizz is fun and helpful, it teaches us topics we are not sure of." (Summer Higgins)



### DSTC SUCCESS AT ATHLETICS EVENT

As part of the PE Curriculum and SMSC we try to extend students' learning by inviting them to after school clubs and events so that they can experience a competitive environment and develop their skills in athletics. Some students went to The Leigh Academy and competed against other schools in different events in training for District Sports. Well done to the following students:



#### YEAR 7 AND 8 STUDENTS

- \* Susana Agbonifo – 3rd out of 27 in long jump
- \* Rugi Kanu 4th out of 20 in shot put
- \* Scarlett Wooldridge 3rd out of 22 in 300m and a new school record for Year 7.

#### YEAR 9 AND 10 STUDENTS

- \* Josephine Coker – 3rd overall and broke the 100m Year 9 school record.
- \* Tilly Burgess (Year 9) 2nd in 1500m race
- \* Rebecca Akimololuwa – 2nd overall and broke the shot put record for Year 10



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