

A VIEW OF THE CLOSE

Friday 11th December 2020



FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

@dovercollegehm



In recent months we have been working hard to make our **social media** feeds more informative, vibrant and exciting. They are a powerful way for us to celebrate what is happening at the College on a day-to-day basis. If you don't already, **please do consider following us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn or Instagram**. Links to these various feeds are below.

As the end of term approaches, the Department for Education has issued guidance to schools on their role in contact tracing during the school holidays. **Where a pupil tests positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19) having developed symptoms within 48 hours of last being in school, you should contact me directly using headmaster@dovercollege.org.uk**. If symptoms are developed and a positive test result recorded more than 48 hours after last being school, you should follow the instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

I look forward to seeing many of you this Sunday, at the drive-in sing-along Carol Concert around The Close. Please look out for the link to the **Senior School Virtual Carol Service** on Thursday 17th December. A link to the Prep School one is below.

Simon Fisher



[INSTAGRAM](#)



[FACEBOOK](#)



[TWITTER](#)



[YOUTUBE](#)



[LINKEDIN](#)



PREP SCHOOL VIRTUAL CAROL SERVICE

Children were greeted with much festive cheer when they arrived at school on Monday, as staff had spent the weekend adorning the halls, staircases and classrooms with traditional Christmas decorations. Squeals of laughter could be heard as Prep School pupils were shown video evidence of their teachers' antics!

Thanks to the hard work of **Mr Lockyer** and other staff, our **Prep School Carol Service** has been able to go ahead – albeit virtually. Well done to all of the boys and girls who participated, particularly those who took the time to learn poems and readings off by heart! The service can be viewed [here](#).

THE PREP SCHOOL DAILY MILE

ASHTON	   	587 laps (117 miles)
CHRISTIAN	   	587 laps (117 miles)
NEVILL	   	595 laps (119 miles)



THE RACE TO PARIS IS COMPLETE!

Many congratulations to **Leamington House**, who crossed the line first after an impressive final sprint!



5th



4th



3rd



2nd



1st



HELP US ALL TO KEEP SAFE

We ask for your support as we continue to encourage social distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene and the use of face coverings. As per Government guidance, the measures differ slightly between the Prep School and Senior School.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME AND ARRANGE A TEST IF THEY EXHIBIT ANY OF THE THREE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS SPECIFIED BY THE NHS.



BLACK LIVES MATTER #BLM

Senior School pupils were given the opportunity in PSHE to reflect on the Black Lives Matter movement, focusing on how people might experience racism and how it might feel. They considered the meaning behind powerful statements, such as "I can't breathe" and "Black Lives Matter", and discussed their reasoning as to why they agreed or disagreed with them. Pupils also considered other's experiences by listening to real life stories from British radio presenter Clara Amfo and singer Leigh-Anne Pinckney.

Time was given to think about what this movement symbolises and reflect on our own behaviour and actions. Students thought about their own assumptions and what they could do in their own lives to be kinder.

In response to this, pupils showed their support for anti-racism by creating their own posters to help keep Dover College a resilient community which works together to improve life for everyone.



IN-GAME CHAT

As the holidays approach, many of your children will be spending more time online and many will be having fun gaming and chatting to their friends online. Remember, one of the key principles of children and gaming; the majority of children use gaming for socialisation over and above the actual game. It's one of the reasons Fortnite, COD, PUBG and other games are so popular. CEOP released a YouTube video back in August that might be useful for you. The YouTube video is [here](#).

THE COLLEGE ELF

The College elf has continued to cause mischief this week. From visiting the Discovery Garden to trying to film a virtual assembly, he pops up somewhere new each day!

You can follow his exploits up to Christmas Eve on the Dover College social media feeds on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)



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A GOLDEN CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

Ben Preusser, who left Dover College last summer, has had an early Christmas present – his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award!

Ben's Gold is a fine achievement and Mr Cox, DofE Centre Manager, is very proud that Ben has received his reward. A special section that is just added to the Gold Award is to complete a residential week. This must be organised by the participant and the task is to stay somewhere you have not been before for a week. The young person has to join a group of people they do not know and work on a project for 5 days and 4 nights, including events in the evening. Even most adults would find this a daunting task but Ben, with great ingenuity, organised, from his home in Germany, to go canoeing with a group on the rivers of Sweden.

The trip went well but getting the evidence was another story. First, Ben knew only the first name of his Assessor, Daniel. Trying to track down "Daniel" was only one issue. Evidence is required to prove that the week went ahead. Unfortunately, the only person with a camera in the group managed to drop it in the river! The tour company, Zebra-Tours, then ceased trading and could not be contacted. This was followed by the Covid lockdown which meant that no-one was at work at the parent company to answer calls and emails anyway! However, all was well, finally, and Mr Cox was able to work with DofE HQ to resolve the authentication and evidence issues.

For Ben's other sections, he completed his Volunteering by spending a year as a School and House prefect. Mr Lee commented, "Ben mentored new pupils... and has become a key player in the college. He makes daily tours with parents, meets and greets our visitors and delivers chapel services and assemblies. He has developed his confidence with meeting new people and developed his communication skills – especially when dealing with adults." For his Physical, he worked on his fitness for a year and, for his Skills section, he spent six months of his own time improving his German so that he could sit an extra A Level. Ben completed his Expedition section with expeditions in the Brecon Beacons.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

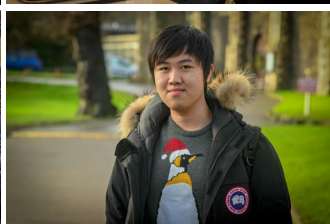
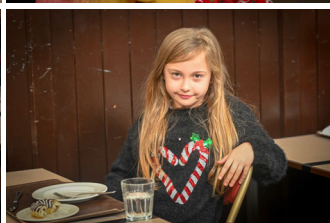
You may have spotted some of the beautiful wreaths around the College, crafted by our very own Grounds Manager, **Jen Ball**, and made with plants from the College site only.

The base plants used for the wreaths are holly and ivy, representing a celebration of life and renewal with the pine cones representing new beginnings.

The Grounds Team are hopeful that in future years they will be able to run wreath-making workshops to raise funds for charity at this time of giving.



This photo shows **Ben Preusser** (pictured in his group, second on the right), just about to set out on Day 1 of an expedition in the Brecon Beacons.



HEADMASTER'S COMMENDATIONS

Commendations are awarded for excellence in effort or attainment. Both Prep and Senior School teachers can put pupils forward for one. In the last fortnight the recipients have been:

Jack Manser (Shell) – English homework of a consistently very high standard.

Rosie Baldwin (Lower Sixth) – outstanding essays on *The Tempest*.

Tessa Mebus (Lower Sixth) – an incredible dedication to broadening her educational horizons.

HOUSE POINT STANDINGS

as at 11.12.20



33.5



19



25



38.5