



A VIEW OF

THE CLOSE

LENT HALF TERM 2021 EDITION





Welcome

to this special half term edition of *A View of The Close*

Due to the volume of material submitted for inclusion this week, I have substituted the usual newsletter format for this slightly fuller publication! Moving forward, an extended edition like this will be prepared at each half term and end of term point.

My view of The Close has been significantly altered this week by the presence of snow, which has served to illuminate my office beautifully. *Storm Darcy*, or 'Beast from the East 2', has certainly made its presence felt in this part of Kent! The snow began to fall early on Sunday and, by late morning, The Close was bathed in brilliant white. This was a fantastic treat for our boarders, several of whom had never experienced snow before! With the majority of pupils and staff at home, the 'snow days' this week have at least been less disruptive and safer for us all than in normal times.

On Tuesday we celebrated [Safer Internet Day](#), an initiative promoted by countries around the world. Pupils across the College have been engaged in a range of activities, with a focus this year on how we can build an internet that we can all trust. Miss Green led a Senior School assembly on this topic on Monday, and Mrs Groombridge did likewise for the Prep School pupils today. As we utilise technology further, the importance of raising awareness of the dangers and drawbacks, as well as the positive aspects, is more important than ever.

In assembly on Monday, Mr Breeze officially relaunched [Round Square](#) at the College. As you may already be aware, we are a member of this international organisation of some 200 schools spread over 50 countries. Mr Breeze will be forming a committee of pupils from across the school to consider how we can further embed the Round Square values (internationalism, democracy, service, adventure, leadership and environmentalism) in all that we do.

This first half of term has seen several competitions and, given the popularity of the baking and photography ones, we have decided to launch a few more for pupils to engage with over the break. Details of the art and craft, stop-motion short film and poetry competitions are enclosed.

We eagerly await the update from the Government, once they have reviewed the latest data on cases and the vaccination programme. I gather any announcement regarding the reopening of schools is likely to come on or soon after Monday 22nd February. If you have not already done so, please do return the consent form (Senior School pupils only) for lateral flow testing to privacy@dovercollege.org.uk. It remains likely that testing of secondary age pupils will be a feature of schools reopening.

Whilst in many ways it seems hard to believe that half term is now upon us, I know that the pupils will be ready for a break from their screens. I remain incredibly proud of how they have adapted, making the best of the situation and engaging with the full range of curricular and co-curricular pursuits on offer. They have genuinely embodied the College's motto - *non recuso laborem* (I cannot refuse the task)!

*Have a very good half term with your child.
Thank you for your ongoing support.*



Post lockdown dreams...

Senior School pupils were asked to reflect on what they are most looking forward to when the lockdown restrictions are finally lifted. Their hopes - from seeing friends and family to riding rollercoasters at Thorpe Park - have been combined into a short video which can be watched [here](#).



Snow Days

There was much excitement among the boarders on Saturday night, as the weather forecast was checked and rechecked! Happily the predictions were correct, and by late Sunday morning most of Kent was blanketed in snow.

Despite the freezing temperature, the boarders spent much of the day out on The Close. For some, it was the first snow they had ever experienced. A great deal of fun was had by all, including snowball fights and the building of a giant snowman. We hope that our day pupils had as much enjoyment!

On Monday morning some healthy house rivalry was encouraged, with a 'Snow Creature' challenge issued by the Headmaster. All three houses rose to the challenge, with creative entries (pictured below) made by each. School House was declared the winner, with their snowy Loch Ness monster named 'Messie'.

Despite signs of the snow clearing on Wednesday, we were treated to another batch that night. Whilst The Close looks incredibly picturesque and the conditions have provided a welcome diversion for boarders, we can't help but feel that the snow has begun to overstay its welcome!



1:1 iPad Programme

As you will have read in the special edition of A View of The Close on Friday 22nd January, thanks to the incredible generosity of The Dover College Trust, the College is embarking on an exciting new digital strategy. We are extremely grateful for the Trust's funding of this project, which ensures that we can proceed with this important initiative separate from our day to day operating costs and fee income.

Over the last few weeks vital infrastructure improvements have been made at the College, including new fibre cabling between buildings and the replacement of certain networking hardware. In the weeks ahead a new high speed Wi-Fi system will be installed. These important works will ensure that the College network has the capacity to handle the concurrent use of devices by pupils and staff.

During the Summer Term, pupils from Prep 3 upwards will be issued with an iPad. This device will be configured with the apps and settings appropriate to the age of the child and their particular curriculum. The device will be managed by the College, allowing parents and teachers to be confident that its potential as a learning tool is realised both in school and whilst at home. Pupils in Reception, Prep 1 and Prep 2 will have access to school iPads whilst in school.

We all know what a transformational impact technology can have when it is used well. We look forward to being able to seamlessly blend the use of technology with more traditional classroom based learning activities.



Prep School Celebration of Learning

Simple sentence - ONE CLAUSE	I went to my friend's house.	I went on a walk.	These bottles are smashed.	I smashed the window.	I silly-salmoned off a cliff.
Compound sentence - TWO MAIN CLAUSES AND A COORDINATING CONJUNCTION (FANBOYS)	I went to my friend's house so I can stroke her pug.	I went on a walk and it was windy.	These bottles are smashed but one of them survived.	I smashed the window but I cut my hand in the glass.	He went to the stadium and he played lots of football.
Complex sentences - ONE MAIN CLAUSE AND A SUBORDINATE CLAUSE JOINED BY A SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION	I went to my friend's house whilst it was raining to stroke her pug.	I went for a walk while it was sunny.	I like Dame Tu Casita because he likes burgers and I like burgers.	I broke the window whilst my nan was here.	We went to the stadium although it was a rainy day.

Prep 4 English



Amaya (Prep 4)

W.A.L.T. Write a biography about our famous person using the correct criteria for writing a biography

Introduction

Floyd Mayweather Junior

Have you ever wanted to know who was the undefeated Light Middleweight champion? Well you came to the right place. Floyd always had a rough childhood but it never really affected his career in professional boxing as Floyd never lost a single fight in boxing. But he did lose some fights in amateur boxing.

Childhood

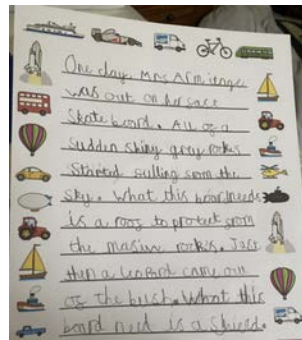
Born on February 24, 1977, in a family full of boxers.

Floyd's childhood was as bad as living in a pile of dumps. His family wasn't really in great condition as Floyd's mum was addicted to drugs. Floyd accused her of doing drugs as he saw her doing it herself and called the police. Mayweather's aunt died of AIDS so that is even more sad! Also Floyd's dad was in prison so basically his mum was looking after him. Floyd never forgave his mum for doing drugs and he only really loved his uncles Jeff and Roger who were two time world champions. he also loved his dad the only one who could train him to become a legend. His dad was called Floyd Mayweather Senior/Sr.

Once his dad told him that movement is the most important thing in boxing and that's how Mayweather never even got punched in the face before in boxing and no one ever even touched him the ring or even layed a hit on him he would always dodge it (well almost).



Ethan (Reception)



Spencer (Prep 2)



Perdita (Prep 4)

Early Life

Floyd's Amature and professional career of boxing

Floyd's amature boxing career was a rollin. He won the national golden gloves in 1993 1994 and 1996 he was a really good young talent in boxing. His record was 84 wins 8 losses in amature boxing as he normally won his fights by knockout.

Alex (Prep 5)

1 st pair of calculations	2 nd pair of calculations	3 rd pair of calculations	4 th pair of calculations	5 th pair of calculations	6 th pair of calculations	7 th pair of calculations
a) 11 + 5 = 16	a) 11 + 4 = 15	a) 23 + 2 = 25	a) 12 - 3 = 9	a) 21 - 2 = 19	a) 3 + 6 = 9	a) 21 - 5 = 16
b) 11 - 5 = 6	b) 11 - 4 = 7	b) 23 - 2 = 21	b) 12 - 3 = 9	b) 21 - 2 = 19	b) 3 + 6 = 9	b) 21 - 5 = 16

Alex (Prep 1)



Neave (Reception)



Adriana (Reception)



Lilly (Prep 1)



Bertie (Reception)

LIMERICKS

There once was a small dog called Duke
Who had as much energy as a nuke
He ran about all day
He ran and he played
And at night he slept just right

There once was a boy called Charlie
He was as thin as a pepperami
He won a golden ticket
He jumped like a cricket
He's now as barmy as a chocolate army

Isaac (Prep 4)

Super Cooper news

One GOLDEN ticket who will find it?
Yesterday a boy called Mike Teavee found the fourth GOLDEN ticket. Chaos struck in town as hundreds of people tried to get a glimpse of the lucky finder.
Mike freaked out in his interview Mike said move it I'm watching my favorite show DIE DIE!
Next week he will be going to willy wonka's extraordinary factory with the other lucky finders.
Lucky finders: Augustus Gloop found his ticket in a judgemailow. He is 10 and speaks german. Veruca salt found hers in a nutty crunch she is 8 and lives in London. Violet Beauregarde is a champion gum chewer and karate purple belt she is 10 and lives in america. Mike Teavee is a TV And shooting games addict he is 9 and also lives in america.
Who next? WATCH OUT THE LAST GLISTENING TICKET COULD BE ANYWHERE!
DON'T FORGET THE COMPETITION ENDS BEFORE FEBRUARY! SO GET RUMMAGING IN THOSE WRAPPERS!



Cooper (Prep 4)



Alfie & Elsie (Reception)



Sophia (Prep 5)

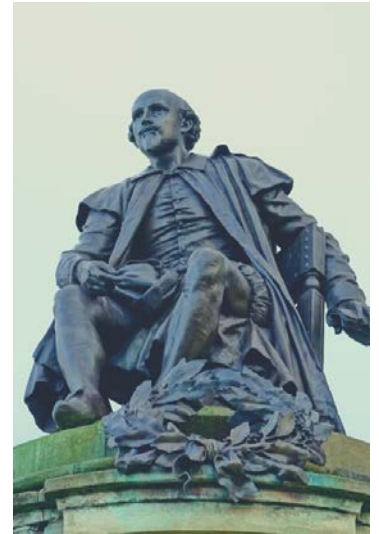
From the English Department

Despite the upheaval of moving across to remote learning, the English Department continues to go from strength to strength this term. An impressive and sustained level of engagement from pupils across all year groups has ensured fantastic progress continues to be made.

Key Stage 3 pupils have continued to cover a wide range of genres and styles of writing. Science-fiction, gothic and mystery have all been touched upon since the start of the term, with pupils routinely exploring key aspects of fiction including characterisation, setting and thematic conventions. While analysis of text and creative writing have been a primary focus, particular mention goes to Jack Manser in Shell who wowed Miss Green with his Doctor Who themed stop-motion animation!

Across Key Stage 4, pupils continue to cover both English Language and Literature in preparation for GCSE examinations. The Third Form have explored the notion of difference and how it is presented in society. Extended writing tasks, lively virtual debates, and a range of extracts drawn from inspirational autobiographical sources have produced some outstanding work; notably, Poppy Harris' fantastic monologue, achieving a thoroughly deserved Grade 8; and Ella Ray for her work on dialect and vocabulary. Equally impressive, the Fourth Form have made an admirable start to studying Macbeth, undaunted by a return to online learning. Enthusiasm, wit and the occasional questionable accent have all ensured the magic of Shakespeare has not been lost, with many pupils seizing the opportunity to develop their online research skills with great results. Isabelle Klappa and Seb Powell deserve specific mention for their performance in end of term assessments, both achieving a Grade 9. Last, but by no means least, the Fifth Form as a cohort deserve special recognition for their continued work ethic. All pupils are regularly working to the absolute best of their ability and are demonstrating a commendable level of maturity despite the disruption of a third national lockdown.

Finally, both Upper and Lower Sixth pupils have continued to produce exceptional work based upon a range of Key Stage 5 core texts. While numerous efforts deserve recognition, Harrison Seal stands out for his essay exploring the importance of death in gothic literature, achieving a Grade A.



"A FANTASTIC COLLECTIVE EFFORT AND A HUGE WELL DONE TO ALL INVOLVED!"

- MR ALLEN

From the Computing Department

As part of their unit on video production, pupils in Remove were tasked with creating a video advertisement, music video, or short video. They had the freedom to choose their product, music, and theme for the video production. All of the work submitted was of high an extremely high standard, but Mr Mousavi singled out two particularly outstanding pieces:

'The Lost Perfume' by Will Murphy
Beautifully shot and edited, Will's short film is aesthetically superb and is a fantastic demonstration of his artistic vision.

Music Video by Katie-Jane Wallace
Bold and ambitious, Katie's music video is beautifully choreographed and is a great testament to her hard work and dedication.



Music Video by Katie-Jane Wallace



'The Lost Perfume' by Will Murphy

From the French Department

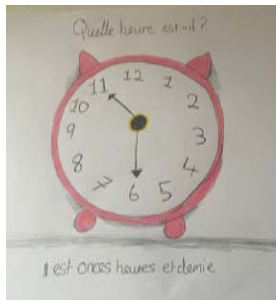
Pupils in Prep 1 and 2 have been learning colours and names of animals through the Brown Bear story, a book by Bill Martin and Eric Carle (*Ours brun, Ours brun, dis-moi ce que tu vois?*).



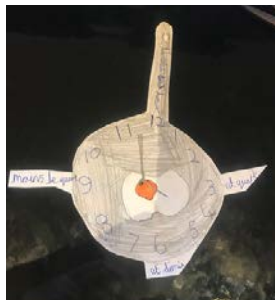
Hannah Ray and Beatrice Dorban-Hall in Prep 2 should be commended for their fantastic answers in class every week and excellent drawings of the animals from the story.

In Prep 1, Alexander Gooch and Izzy Broadley have made a particularly excellent effort to remember colours.

Pupils in Shell have been learning how to tell the time in French. They were asked to design their own clocks and then annotate them with times in French.



Tilly Seward



Max Mulgrew



Lola Jaenicke

In Remove, pupils have been learning how to use the past tense and talk about a holiday. They had the opportunity to make holiday photo albums and present them orally in class, and to record dialogues entirely in the foreign language involving their friends over the phone or family members at home.



Lola Lanham produced these lovely Mr Men themed flashcards, to help her to remember the vocabulary relating to how we describe someone's personality. We think this is a fantastic idea and we love the colourful illustrations on each flashcard!

This colourful poster was put together by Katie-Jane Wallace, to help her to remember which verbs are conjugated with être as opposed to avoir in the passé composé (past tense).



The MS VANDERTRAMP mnemonic is great aide-mémoire, and we love how Katie-Jane has used colour and illustrations to bring this to life.



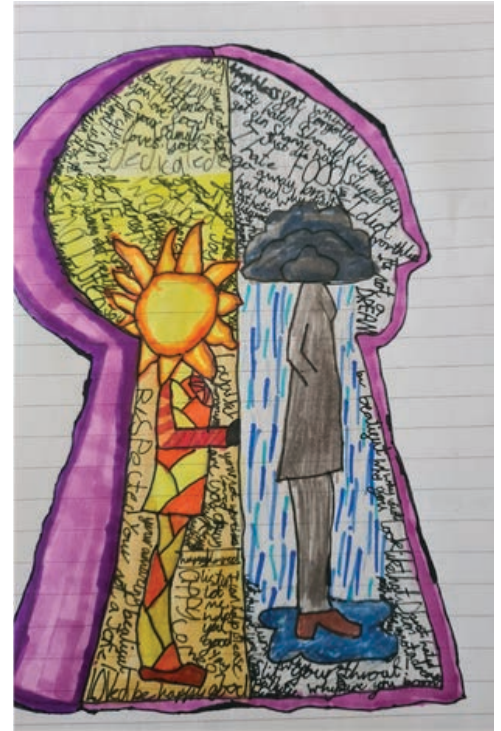
Children's Mental Health Week

Last week as a school we participated in Children's Mental Health Week, an initiative organised annually by Place2Be. Now in its seventh year, the week is designed to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year that has felt more important than ever. The theme for the week this year has been Express Yourself.

Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good. It's important to remember that being able to express yourself is not about being the best at something or putting on a performance for others. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

Miss Green started the week with an assembly on the topic for Senior School pupils. Miss Richardson led the Prep School assembly, using the story *Perfectly Norman* to help to illustrate her message.

During their weekly Art lesson, Prep 5 and 6 pupils were encouraged to express themselves through the medium of art. They explored and discussed the importance of looking after their mental health and being aware of the indicators of a decline in wellbeing. They were challenged to create a piece of art directly from their imagination, with no guidelines or criteria, in order to allow them to fully express their thoughts, ideas and personality. We think they did a fantastic job.



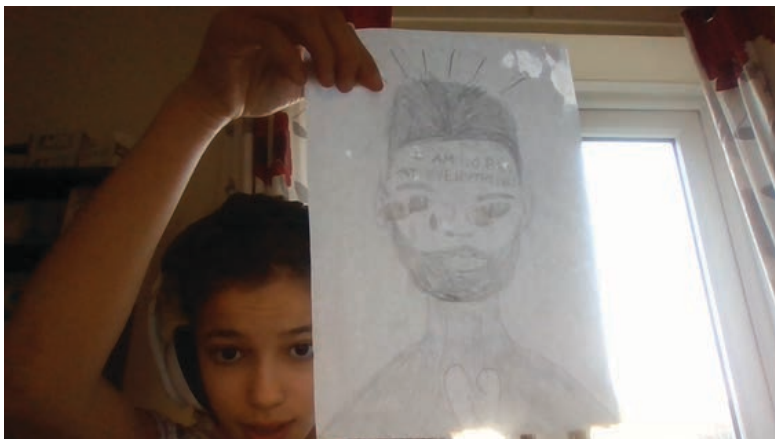
Tristan



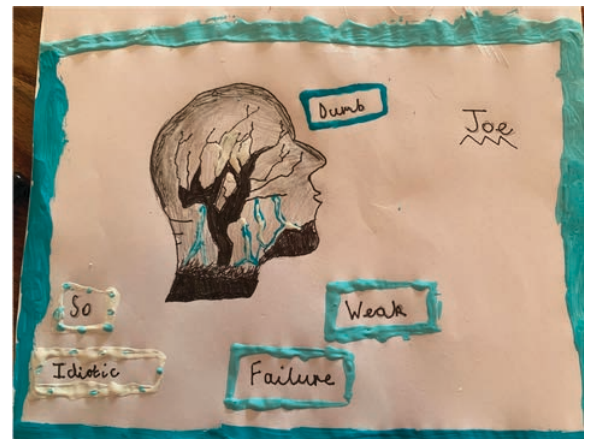
Sofia



William



Beatrice



Joe

From the Boarding Houses

SCHOOL HOUSE

Happy Chinese New Year. Tonight the boys will be having a Chinese feast in the refectory to launch the Year of the Ox.

It has been three years since the last flake of snow hit the Close. Then it lasted just an afternoon, but this time it has been five days. Now the snow is thawing and the flowers are starting to show some colour. Spring is still a way off, but it is nice to have the sun shining. I was very impressed with the effort the boys put in to building a snow Loch Ness Monster for the 'Snow Creature' competition set by the Headmaster, which they deservedly won.

The boys have been busy in the House, and even though it is half term next week the activities and busyness will not stop! We have set building, wand making, baking, Quidditch, prop creation and lots of other things going on to keep them busy and entertained. They will of course have some downtime as well!



LEAMINGTON HOUSE

This work has seen a real focus on work from our boarders, who have shown their resilience and determination to do well in their studies.

A decent snowfall meant that everyone could get outside and there was a large scale snowball fight on Sunday evening when the deputies from Leamington and School House rashly challenged the boys and were bombarded with snowballs! The snow was fun and the boys created an amazing surreal snow statue with huge headphones in response to a challenge from the Headmaster. Some, however, preferred to stay indoors in the dry and warmth and use the gym facilities!

Today began with the Upper Sixth and the Fifth Form uniting to serenade their tutors with an interesting rendition of the Chinese New Year Song *gōng xǐ gong xǐ*. We wish everyone a Happy New Year (of the Ox) and look forward to a feast in the College tonight and then another feast in Leamington tomorrow evening, when the boys will show off their culinary skills!



ST MARTIN'S HOUSE

It has been a magical week for the girls as they marvelled at the beauty of The Close as the snow covered it! They have taken part in several snowball fights and enjoyed building snowmen, adding to the already long list of activities they have had the opportunity to take part in this term.

We had to take a break from the badminton on Saturday. The girls are enjoying the sport on offer and trying to beat Mr Payne, but they may have played a bit too much! There have been lots of aches and pains due to all of the sport; it has been more like having old women in the House than teenage girls!

What is the best solution to deal with the freezing weather and cold hands from snowball fights? We have discovered that a combination of hot chocolate, baking cookies and relaxing with friends in the warmth of the common room does the trick!

We are so proud of all the girls this half term. They have risen to every challenge presented to them with smiles on their faces!



Competition Time

We were delighted with the level of participation in our recent competitions. The Great College Bake Off was enormously popular, with entries received from Prep and Senior School pupils as well as staff. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Maria Turner, parent and professional cake maker, for judging the competition. The Lockdown Photography Competition also saw a significant number of entries, and we look forward to announcing the results.

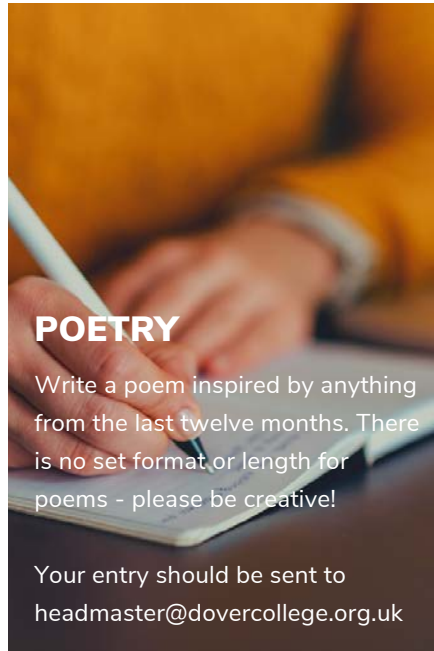
There are three competitions running over Half Term which pupils may choose to enter:



ART AND CRAFT

Create your own art or craft piece inspired by the theme 'through the window'. Your artwork can be produced in any medium and your creativity is encouraged.

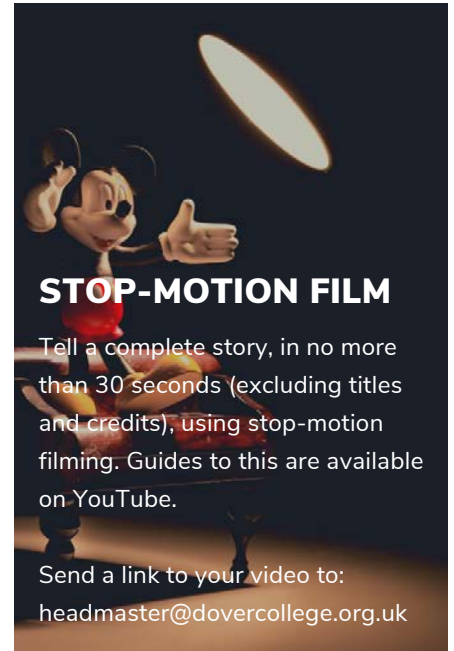
Send a photograph of your entry to headmaster@dovercollege.org.uk



POETRY

Write a poem inspired by anything from the last twelve months. There is no set format or length for poems - please be creative!

Your entry should be sent to headmaster@dovercollege.org.uk



STOP-MOTION FILM

Tell a complete story, in no more than 30 seconds (excluding titles and credits), using stop-motion filming. Guides to this are available on YouTube.

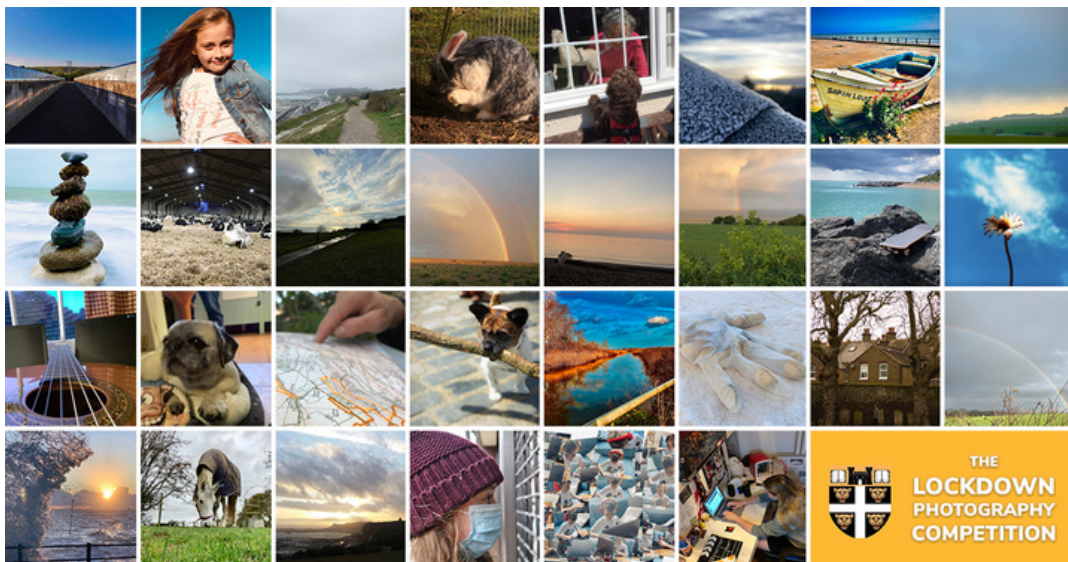
Send a link to your video to: headmaster@dovercollege.org.uk

"TRY AND FAIL, BUT NEVER FAIL TO TRY"

- JARED LETO

Lockdown Photography Competition

We are extremely grateful to Mr Gerald Kitiyakara (School House 1962-1967) for agreeing to judge our Lockdown Photography Competition. Gerald is a Licentiate of the Royal Photography Society and is President of Carshalton Camera Club. He regularly judges photography competitions and we are pleased that he has agreed to share his expertise for this one. We will publish the results in due course.



In Other News

VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

We are delighted to announce that, as part of her preparation to apply to Medical School, Imogen Langley (Lower Sixth) will embark on a two week virtual work experience, starting today, with the Kent and Medway NHS Trust.

We are very proud that Imogen was selected for this programme out of a huge number of applicants. It is testament not only to her impressive academic profile, but also her committed, enthusiastic and meticulous attitude to everything she undertakes. We wish her every success with this.



RELAUNCH OF ROUND SQUARE

During assembly on Monday, Mr Breeze spoke to pupils about what the College's membership of Round Square means for them. He encouraged pupils to volunteer to join a newly formed committee. This group will be considering innovative ways we can further embed in College life the Round Square IDEALS of:

INTERNATIONALISM **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS** **DEMOCRACY**
LEADERSHIP **SERVICE** **ADVENTURE**

AN INSPECTOR CALLS

This week Key Stage 4 pupils had the pleasure to join The Box Clever Theatre virtually for an online performance and workshop on J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. An established and educationally focused production company, Box Clever has made an impressive transition to the virtual stage, ensuring pupils of all ages continue to benefit from their unique mix of live performance and group based analysis activities.

Led by a team of three, pupils were privy to a selection of the play's most important scenes, focusing on characterisation, context and, most importantly, culpability. Throughout the performance, pupils engaged in a number of discussions, allowing them to put forward their own ideas as well as critique the arguments of others. The enthusiasm and veracity of contributors was exceptional, and a clear indication that the arts are still alive and well at Dover College, even in these strangest of times!



WHY SHOULD I EMPLOY YOU?

This week ten of our Upper Sixth students completed their professional interview assessments, as part of their Business BTEC qualification.

As part of the process they had to prepare questions they would ask as an interviewer, as well as responses as a candidate. The effort they all put in to this was impressive, including preparing CVs, covering letters and completing application forms.

We were delighted that Olivia Lu Xie could join us for her interview from China!

Safeguarding

1

SNAPCHAT GUIDE FOR PARENTS

From inception, Snapchat have focused on helping real friends connect when they're apart and to feel comfortable expressing themselves in the moment. The app was created as a tool to make people feel comfortable expressing themselves with their camera.

Snapchat is deliberately built differently than traditional social media, in ways that make it much safer for our community. Snap Inc. encourage parents and teens to have regular conversations about appropriate use of Snapchat and other platforms which is why they have put together [this](#) guide.

2

HELPFINDER FOR PARENTS

Times are tough for many people right now. Parents find themselves pulled in many different directions and children may be struggling being in the house for so much longer than usual. A mixture of concern about covid, work from home and children at home, along with a possible financial impact make for a stressful household.

Young Minds have created a useful 'Supporting Parents Helpfinder'. By answering six questions, parents can find out how to support their child's mental health during the pandemic (and beyond). The Helpfinder tool can be accessed [here](#).

3

MEETOO MENTAL HEALTH APP

The [MeeToo](#) app provides a safe and secure forum for teenagers wanting to discuss any issue affecting their lives. They can anonymously get advice from experts or other teenagers going through similar experiences in areas such as mental health, relationships and friendships.

With MeeToo, messages can be posted about any issue you are struggling to cope with. Supportive responses will be received from other teenagers and guidance from MeeToo experts designed to build confidence, increase wellbeing and improve emotional resilience. Every post and reply is moderated to make sure only positive feedback is published.

The Race to Amsterdam

This week has seen Leamington win the race challenge set for the second time in a row, closely followed by School House who arrived one day later! The introduction of the participation has added a new dimension and I hope it will encourage more students to stay active, contribute to the house totals and most importantly, help the house win more house points!

Participation Percentage



65.1%
1st



55.2%
2nd



51.6%
3rd



38.4%
4th



33.3%
5th

Total Distance



440.4KM
1st



441.5KM
2nd



411.4KM
3rd



397.2KM
4th



373.3KM
5th

SPECIAL MENTIONS FOR EFFORT THIS WEEK: Edward Aylward-Lopez (Leamington), Tessa Mebus (St Martin's), Charlotte Hodgkinson (Duckworth) and Seb Powell (School House).

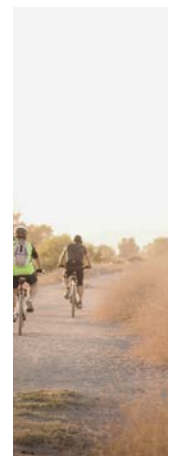
The next leg of the race...



We are now setting our sights on Berlin, which is the furthest distance we have attempted since these challenges were introduced.

To further encourage pupils to participate, cycling will now count towards the house total. To ensure that cycling has the same weighting as running or walking, each cycling total will be divided by five, before the contribution is added to the house total. For example, a 25km cycle will contribute 5km to the house total distance. Over half term it is important for pupils to step away from the screen after weeks of remote learning, and we hope to see an increase in participation across all the houses.

Well done to everybody who has taken part this term and we look forward to seeing the contributions pupils make to this next leg of the race, which will begin once all houses have reached Amsterdam. Keep an eye on your House Google Classroom - switch on notifications if you haven't already done so!





Prep School Certificates

This week certificates were awarded by the Headmaster in assembly to the following pupils:

Alfie Stevens in Reception
Lilly Anslow in Prep 1
Huxley Wilkinson in Prep 2
Violet Collinson in Prep 3
Mia Golding in Prep 3
Cooper Turner-Dauncey in Prep 4
Bertie Wall in Prep 4
Edith Lane in Prep 5
Sophia Zammit in Prep 5
William Ellis in Prep 6
Henry Grover in Prep 6
Beatrice Lockyer in Prep 6

Headmaster's Commendations

This week these were awarded by email to the following pupils:

Benjamin Sellier in Shell
Will Murphy in Remove
Katie-Jane Wallace in Remove x 2
Poppy Harris in Third Form
Louis Olson-Walsh in Third Form
Sebastian Powell in Fourth Form
Clara Denecke in Fifth Form
Louise Wallace in Fifth Form
Annabelle Kemke in Lower Sixth
Alicia Myers in Lower Sixth
Harrison Seal in Upper Sixth
George Ting in Upper Sixth

House Points Update



57.5 points



52 points



50.5 points



70 points

2021

THE YEAR OF THE OX

新年快乐 / 新年快樂

Happy New Year to all of our Chinese pupils and families



