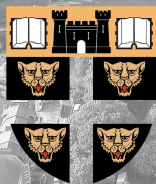


A VIEW OF The Close

FRIDAY 12TH MARCH 2021



Round Square Virtual Conference

On Saturday 6th March, five of our students took part in a virtual conference on the theme of mental health. The conference was hosted via Zoom by the International School of Kenya in Nairobi and featured over 250 student delegates from 17 different countries including Pakistan, Namibia and Australia.

After talks from experts on coping with anxiety, gaining resilience and practising mindfulness, the students were split into "Barazas" (an East African word for 'meeting place') where they discussed their experiences with mental health and dealing with issues surrounding it. It was interesting to see how experiences of mental health differed from country to country. For example in India, many of the mental health support services are only a viable option for those more fortunate. Those living below the poverty line are often those who need it most but are unable to access the treatment options at all.

We are very lucky in the UK that 'old-fashioned' views on mental health are largely absent from society. One delegate from Namibia noted that many people's attitudes towards mental health in his country were very poor and he regularly heard comments such as "stop attention seeking" or "get over it".

However, whilst we do have lots of options for treatment in the UK it is still far too common to hear of people of all ages being too afraid to ask for help. Charities and organisations such as Mind (www.mind.org.uk) or bOKes (www.bokes.life) are working hard to raise awareness and remind people that it's "OK to talk".

This was a very successful first conference for our students and there are many more coming up. If any pupils would like to participate then please contact Mr Breeze.

From the Headmaster's Desk

There has been something of a start of term feel this week, as staff and pupils returned to the College to resume face-to-face teaching for the first time this calendar year. The excitement in the air on Monday was palpable, which happily helped to detract from the not entirely pleasant prospect of rapid testing! By the afternoon the school timetable had resumed for all and it was business as usual (or at least our "new usual")!

March is a busy period for national and international celebrations. Miss Green gave an excellent assembly on **International Women's Day** on Monday, noting that a challenged world is an alert world and that from challenge comes change. On Tuesday it was lovely to see a fantastic assortment of book characters represented in the belated **World Book Day** celebrations at the Prep School. We look forward to marking **World Poetry Day** later next week.

I am extremely grateful to pupils, parents and staff for your assistance and compliance with the new and existing measures to help keep all in our community safe. This week Senior School pupils have been assiduous in their use of face coverings whilst in indoor contexts. The take-up for rapid testing has also been outstanding. As my letter of 10th March explains, we move to a regime of home testing from this time next week. Home test kits will be distributed to pupils from Monday.

Whilst the number of calendar events this term remains slim due to restrictions, we look ahead with anticipation to a time when these can resume. With that in mind, over the coming weeks we will be introducing a new digital calendar on the school website. This will, we hope, be a more useful tool than the static Red Book PDF which we currently use.

Have a very good weekend.

Simon Foster

#Ditto Online Safety Magazine

#Ditto is a monthly magazine which focuses on online safety within education, aimed at children and parents. It includes valuable advice and tips.

The March 2021 issue can be downloaded [here](#). Future issues can be accessed [here](#).



World Book Day Celebrations

World Book Day this year took place on Thursday 4th March, before schools returned. Given that this is one of the highlights of the year for Prep School pupils, we decided to delay celebrating it until **Tuesday 8th March**, the day after pupils returned. Pupils came in dressed as their favourite book character and the staff joined in too, with a coordinating Charlie and the Chocolate Factory theme for their costumes! Prep 4 pupils were also encouraged to make potato book characters (see picture above). How many can you recognise?

Prizes for the best costumes went to **Bertie Dorban-Hall** (Muddy Knees), **Jack Ailwood** (Prep 1), **George Zammit** (Prep 4) and **Huey Darton** (Prep 5).



Help Us All To Keep Safe



You must not come to the College if you are exhibiting any of the symptoms of COVID-19 or have had contact with someone who is or has recently tested positive.



Adults, including visitors, and Senior School pupils must wear a face covering in all indoor contexts where maintaining social distancing of 2 metres may not be possible.



Distancing of at least 2 metres must be observed at all times. Wherever possible, distancing should also be maintained within year group and house bubbles.



You must regularly sanitise your hands, including as you enter and leave buildings and after handling any shared equipment. You should avoid touching your face.



Catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue and dispose of it in a bin. You should practice the principle of:
**CATCH IT!
BIN IT!
KILL IT!**



Please help us to maintain strong ventilation within all indoor contexts. Where possible keep windows and doors open to maintain a good flow of air through indoor spaces.

A VIEW OF The Close

FRIDAY 12TH MARCH 2021



World Poetry Day

It's World Poetry Day a week on Sunday. Held every year on 21st March, World Poetry Day celebrates one of humanity's most treasured forms of cultural and linguistic expression and identity. Practiced throughout history - in every culture and on every continent - poetry speaks to our common humanity and our shared values, transforming the simplest of poems into a powerful catalyst for dialogue and peace.

Mr Allen and the English Department have plans for how we will celebrate this, which they will reveal next week. In the meantime, here is a lovely poem from **Evie Monk** (Shell):

MY MAGIC BOX

I will put in the box the sound of singing birds in the morning and the taste of chocolate brownies on special days.

I will put in the box my cheerful, bouncy Dog and my black shirt with a glimmering gold star.

I will put in the box the 13th month and a rainbow sky.

My box is fashioned from diamonds and filled with smiles; it will be covered in memories.

I shall fly in my box to the moon and count the stars until I have counted all of them.

Stop-Motion Short Film Competition

We are grateful to the team at Olaus Roe, a video production company in Bristol, for judging the entries.

1st - **Tom Harrop**
2nd - **Nathaniel Turner**
3rd - **Leo Young**

The judge's feedback can be viewed [here](#).

Through the Window - Art and Craft Competition

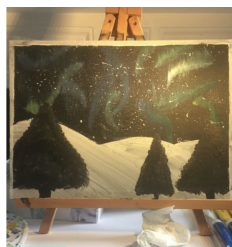
We are grateful to Mr Dominic Harper (Chairman of South East Artists) for agreeing to judge the competition. Dominic was an Art teacher, and has previously helped to develop art and design qualifications and publications and schools and colleges. Since moving to Deal he has served as a town councillor.



1st Place
Louise Wallace



2nd Place
Alicia Myers



3rd Place
Theo Wood

The Entries from **Mrs Plested** and **Tessa Mebus** were highly commended.

Certificates

The following Prep School pupils were awarded certificates in **assembly** today. The number is higher than usual, as it includes some MFL awards too:

Leo Hall in Muddy Knees
Ellis Venness in Pre-Reception
Alfie Stevens in Reception
Lilly Anslow in Prep 1
Isabella Broadley in Prep 1
Bea Dorban-Hall in Prep 2 x 2
Hannah Ray in Prep 2
Daniella Elegbede in Prep 3
Daisy Fisher in Prep 3
Eva Gambrell in Prep 3
Darcey Gilbert in Prep 3
Mia Golding in Prep 3
Dylan Barr in Prep 4 x 2
Cooper Turner-Dauncey in Prep 4
Amaya Sangiuseppe in Prep 4
Perdie Wilkinson in Prep 4
Huey Darton in Prep 5
James Sutton in Prep 5
Sophia Zammit in Prep 5
Felix Cavell in Prep 6

Josh Chappell in Prep 5 received a Headmaster's Award.

In the Senior School, Headmaster's Commendations have gone to:

- **Tom Cowell** in Shell
- **Sofia Boblo** in Third Form
- **Agustina Valenzuela Portilla** in Third Form x 2
- **Fanny Weinhold** in Fourth Form
- **Tessa Mebus** in Lower Sixth



The Race to Berlin

Special mentions this week go to **Maddie Warnock** (Duckworth), **Lucas Wood** (Leamington), **Zirui Wang** (School House) and **Lola Lanham** (St Martin's).

Participation Percentage



23.7%
1st



20.9%
2nd



20%
3rd



19%
4th



13.3%
5th

Total Distance



312.86KM
1st



247.58KM
2nd



182.12KM
3rd



157.37KM
4th



136.66KM
5th



The recent drop in temperature wasn't enough to deter our boarders last Saturday night. Great fun was had toasting marshmallows over the fire pit.

House Points

as at 12.3.21



64



70



67



84