

A VIEW OF The Close

FRIDAY 7TH MAY 2021



Kent Life This Month

We are delighted to have been chosen to feature on the cover of the A+ Education Supplement for Summer 2021.

From the Headmaster's Desk

Despite somewhat unpredictable weather, it has been wonderful to see competitive fixtures resume on The Close, at Maxton and away at other schools. Well done to all those who have participated, but particular congratulations to the Under 13 boys cricket team who decisively won their first fixture of the season against St Lawrence College.

The response to my request for pupil journalists, to write articles for this newsletter, has been overwhelming. The number interested is already in double digits, with representation across Prep and Senior as well as day and boarding. I am sure that, like me, you look forward to reading their contributions to this weekly publication.

The 'Coffee and Croissants' sessions at the Horse Box Cafe, last week and this, proved extremely successful. It was wonderful to chat to the Lower Sixth about their future plans and to hear their feedback and ideas about how the College might develop moving forward. Over the coming weeks, and hopefully with more settled weather, I will be arranging similar opportunities for other year groups.

Our iPad rollout for pupils is now complete, save for Upper Sixth whose focus in the remaining weeks is on completing their A Level and BTEC assessments. Teaching staff attended an INSET session last Saturday to discuss their early experiences of the technology in the classroom. This was a hugely positive and enriching session, and we look forward to seeing some of the ideas and initiatives shared come to life in lessons over the coming weeks.

With a rather mixed weather forecast for the weekend, please keep our gallant Third and Fourth Form pupils in your thoughts as they complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition!

Simon Ffrench

COVERING HAMPSHIRE, KENT, SURREY, SUSSEX AND SURROUNDING AREAS

JED MERCURIO
On the e-learning platform, there will help students thrive

MAGGIE O'FARRELL
Reveals the secrets to successful creative writing

EXAM CANCELLATIONS
How schools and pupils are responding

BACK TO CLASS
As our schools welcome children back into the classroom, we take a look at the lessons from a year of remote learning

The Repair Shop

Fourth Form pupils studying Design and Technology have begun work on a series of focused practical tasks. They are all enormously glad to be back in the workshop!

Fanny Weinhold, pictured, has been using the heat treat area and forge to heat up metal before dip coating it.

Head of Design and Technology, Mr Irwin, noticed that some of the oak chairs which would have originally been in the Refectory have seen better days. Over the last few weeks they have received some intensive TLC in the workshop. Using glue, dowels, clamps and a final titivation of gold paint, the chairs are now back in use.

Two down, several more to go...



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: **CATCH IT! BIN IT! KILL IT!**



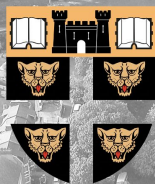
Please help us to maintain strong ventilation within all indoor contexts. Where possible keep windows and doors open to maintain a good flow of air through indoor spaces.

Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 8th May	Bronze DoE Qualifying Expedition (2 days)
Thursday 13th May	Shell Virtual Parents' Evening
Friday 14th May	Prep 4 Assembly
Thursday 20th May	Third Form Virtual Parents' Evening
Friday 21st May	Prep 3 Assembly
Saturday 22nd May	Silver DoE Practice Expedition (2 days)
Friday 28th May	Prep 6 Assembly Half Term Begins
Saturday 29th May	Gold DoE Practice Expedition (3 days)
Friday 11th June	End of assessment period for Fifth Form and Upper Sixth Silver DoE Qualifying Expedition (3 days)
Monday 14th June	Sixth Form Taster Week
Friday 18th June	Non-uniform Day
Friday 25th June	Prep School Sports Day
Saturday 26th June	Senior School Sports Day
Friday 2nd July	Gold DoE Qualifying Expedition (4 days)
Tuesday 6th July	Prep School Summer Concert *** DATE TO BE CONFIRMED ***
Thursday 8th July	Prize Day, Leavers' Service and End of Term

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From the Science Department

This week Remove pupils enjoyed making their own bell jar to simulate how lungs inflate and deflate during the process of breathing. These mini models allowed students to gain a practical understanding of how air is drawn into the lungs and exhaled, allowing oxygen to be delivered and carbon dioxide removed.

Priory Science Club have been designing a 'Bin to the Future'. The bin senses when a plastic bottle is deposited via a motion sensor. This motion sensor then triggers a mini thermal printer to print a ticket. These tickets can then be claimed at the end of term for various prizes. The aim of this project is to incentivise recycling so that they all do their part to keep plastic out of the ocean and drive a more planet conscious school environment. They are currently in the design phase of their project and are looking forward to entering the build phase in the coming weeks.

Six Lower Sixth students, from various subjects, have come together to form a "Science at Heart" multidisciplinary team. They will design an 'ePoster', hoping for the chance to present it at the Imperial Festival in 2022. The poster, which they will be designing over the next two months, will illustrate the unmet needs in heart and circulatory disease research and treatment, and develop a strategy to reduce the number of deaths and disabilities from these diseases. We look forward to hearing their approach to this difficult challenge.

Safeguarding

Resource - Dove - Reverse Selfie

It is estimated that by the age of 13, 80% of girls have distorted the way they look online. This 1 minute video from Dove is really good as a conversation starter, to discuss why some girls (and boys) use retouching apps: is it pressure, confidence, self-esteem, confidence? You can find the YouTube video [here](#).

LGfL ParentSafe Portal

The LGfL (London Grid for Learning) have just launched their new ParentSafe portal (<https://parentsafe.lgfl.net>). It supports parental engagement with Online Safety, which is vital in reinforcing key safeguarding messages. Their portal offers parents and carers support and advice on safe settings, parental controls and monitoring, apps and games, talking to children about life online, screen-time and key topics from bullying to accessing pornography, extremism and gangs, fake news and more.

Sports Report

Under 13 Girls Cricket VS St Lawrence College

Priory girls had their first cricket match of the season on Wednesday, under a rather unpredictable sky! St Lawrence played very well and surpassed our score with overs to spare, but the girls stuck to their task with some brilliant fielding. **Phoebe Davis** impressed with her bowling and **Lola Lanham** struck some magnificent boundaries with the bat.

Under 13 Boys Cricket VS St Lawrence College

Priory boys travelled to St Lawrence for their first game of the season. We opted to bat first, which proved to be the correct decision. **Ronnie Meadows** retired on 40 and **Chayce Tobin** chipped in with a useful 19 runs. We ended our innings on 112-4. The good work continued into the field, with wickets picked up regularly throughout their innings from **Zac Ollerenshaw**(2), **Barnaby Agar** (2) and **James Warnock** (1). St Lawrence finished on 89-5, resulting in a 23 run victory for Dover College.

Senior Girls Cricket and Rounders VS Ashford School

It was a double-header fixture for the senior girls this week, as they played both cricket and rounders for their first fixture of the year. The rounders match kicked off with Ashford School batting first and by the end of the first innings there was only half a rounder between us. In the final innings there was strong play from **Tyler Henderson**, **Maisie Wells**, and **Imogen Langley** which kept us on track. However, some well placed shots from our opponents sealed the victory for Ashford School. The girls then had a chance to showcase their cricket skills. Superb bowling from **Angelique Taylor**, **Tyler Henderson**, **Libby Turbutt** and **Maisie Wells** helped cement our lead. There were many stand outs with the ball in hand as **Angelique Taylor** (3), **Tyler Henderson** (3), **Libby Turbutt** (1) and **Maisie Wells** (1) all took wickets. The final result was a draw, in what was a nail biting match.

Senior Boys Cricket VS XL Club

The start to the match was delayed due to rain, but happily we were able to get some cricket underway at Maxton for the second senior fixture of the term. It was a good start from our boys, with captain **James Hide** picking up a wicket. Unfortunately the rain came down, halting play and leaving the game abandoned. It was a shame, as our boys were performing well and were confident of getting a good result.



Certificates

The following Prep School pupils were awarded certificates today. Assembly can be viewed [here](#).

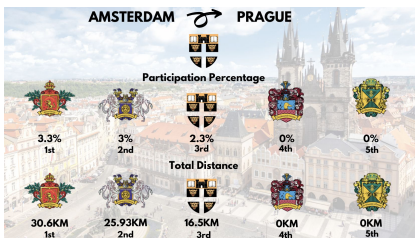
- Winnie Parker & Harry Piza in Muddy Knees
- Ellis Veness in Pre-Reception
- Ethan Bailey in Reception
- Lilly Anslow in Prep 1
- Huxley Wilkinson in Prep 2
- Daniella Elegbede in Prep 3
- Amaya Sangiuseppe in Prep 4
- Edith Lane in Prep 5
- Sophia Gebhardt, Allana Gambrell and William Ellis in Prep 6

In the Senior School, a Headmaster's Commendation has been awarded to:

- Edwin Zhou in Third Form
- Nathaniel Turner in Fourth Form

The Race to Prague

The race from Amsterdam to Prague is now underway. The winners of the last leg, School House, have pulled out a narrow lead. We look forward to seeing the St Martin's and Duckworth girls engage over the next week!



House Points as at 7.5.21



83.5



75.5



79



101