

# CHATHAM & CLARENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# Newsletter

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Issue 26 - March 2019

We are now two thirds of the way through the school year and exam season is almost upon us. Students in Years 11- 13 should have begun their revision and be utilising the extra support sessions that staff have put on for them. Details of revision classes are available on the school website. Please encourage your son or daughter to make the most of the Easter holidays to revise.

## CCGS ROCKED US ALL...

WOW! That was my first profound thought as the first night of Schools Will Rock You drew to a close...

As a long-time hard-core Queen fan I had avoided going to the show when it was in the West End... who could rival Freddie Mercury or Brian May? So I actually had no idea what to expect, nor whether I would be growling quietly at the ruining of such sacred material... But I emerged at the end feeling so very different.

The show itself is cleverly written (by Ben Elton), set far in the future, with many references to other music superstars and well-known songs, and is far more than a stringing together of Queen hits. It is a fast-paced high-energy show, and needs to flow without any hiatus...

And it did; and more... What incredible talent we have here at CCGS; students, teachers and part-time staff, all headed up this year by Mrs Gibbons. She had directed and choreographed the entire show (with, a little help from Ms Nash and students) and was then working her socks off in the pit for each performance. When the music is so integral to a show's success, there can be no let-up for the MD, picking up the cues, setting the correct tempi, ensuring the ensemble, band and soloists are all as one. Here, there was the added dimension of the off-stage choir, expertly trained and directed by Ms Hollman, adding harmony and extra layers, but still needing keeping within Mrs Gibbons' eye too!

The band was exceptionally good; during their final rendering of Bohemian Rhapsody I was convinced that they had been joined by Brian May himself, such was the authentic replication of his sound and riffs. The balance in the first half was a little out of kilter so I could not hear all the lyrics, and there was some technical hitches with the mics, but by the second act, these seemed to have been dealt with, so I am sure the subsequent performances will be completely word-audible.

• We Will Rock You - Full review of CCGS's 2019 production

• Thanet Music and Drama Festival - Success for CCGS

• Larkin Cup - Junior Houses take to the stage

• War Horse - Students view the spectacle

• Residentials - Visits to Paris and Strasbourg

• News from the Maths Department - All the very latest from a busy term

• Notices from the Headteacher.



We Will Rock You continued.

Part of the point of the plot is that everyone acts and thinks in the same way, implying that all dance moves for the Gaga Kids and Yuppies had to be identical. This is not easy to achieve; a slight difference from one member of a troupe becomes very noticeable, but these students excelled each time they appeared. The Bohemian troupe, allowed to be far more individual, were a delight... I particularly enjoyed Bobby Pearse's drunken punk Cliff Richard, and the short duet performed by Larissa Curtis and Franklin Joyner.

Lighting, ingenious projections, (Mr Gibbons & team) the minimum of stage furniture and props (and what there was smoothly moved in and out of position; Mrs Cackett and team) all added to the atmosphere and professional feel of the production.

And then... there were the soloists. What a team. Daisy Shingles and Emilia Carter movingly sang the song celebrating those pop artistes who died young (No-one But You) and Jed Silk made his mark coolly strutting his Big Macca stuff. Bradley Bissett never fails to rivet one's attention, and he has perfected the art of timing and delivery. It was a double tragedy when his delightful character, Britney (yes, as in Spears) is killed, depriving us of his presence in Act 2. Katie McNally was a great foil for him, and came into her own as she sang. It's been a privilege watching her grow in confidence and singing stature as she's progressed through the school.

Joe Eldred had the difficult task of a 15 year old portraying an old man, but he is such a dedicated student, he was just right as the vague rather lovable librarian (and I should know). Orla Whelan was perfect as the nasty Commander Khashoggi. I failed to recognise her for quite some time, so utterly different was she from last year's naïve Liesl (Sound of Music). Orla succeeded in making her character a complete person to such an extent that I was upset when she was killed.

And the three "stars"? Exceptional... was the part of Killer Queen actually invented for Sam Gerlack (no, because originally/usually it is played by a woman)... or was it because of him that this show was decided upon? When he first appeared, I couldn't work out which 6th form girl this could possibly be, masquerading as a mature sassy, belt-voiced lady... He fully managed to inhabit this appalling character without making it a grotesque panto dame. Huge fun with masses of menace, and a terrific singing range, in dynamics and emotion as well as actual notes... if he wasn't already "going far" we would know he would!!

And again, it has been SO good to see Alfie Lawrence develop his considerable talents as he has worked his way up the school. It was certainly fitting that he should play the lead in his final year here, and what a way to play it. He completely inhabited the role, sang every song with total commitment and musicality, and deserves to go far. He was ideally partnered by Alicia Baldock, who made me smile every time she uttered one of her cynical put-downs. She was able to belt out the songs that needed it, but add warmth and emotion to others. As a couple, whether showing their love, or their more frequent arguments, they came across as a very real pair about whom we all cared.

But as with all our school shows, it is the teamwork that matters. The hours of rehearsal, working and trying things out, the learning of lines and moves; in the end it doesn't matter if you are in the spotlight, in the back line of the chorus, or tucked away backstage... if you don't get your part right and pull your weight, the whole production is affected. The arts are under such huge pressure, particularly in schools, I am so thankful that at CCGS they are recognised as all-important by all, from the senior management down. Every single student who takes part, in any manner, in such a show, does not just have a host of joyful memories, but gains in so many ways. So Don't Stop us Now, for These Are The Days of their Lives and they are not only The Champions producing a Kind of Magic (with no Innuendo), but they are a vital part of One Vision... get the arts back at the centre of educational life and beyond....

Mrs Myhill

## Thanet Music and Drama Festival

The Thanet Music and Drama Festival has just come to a glorious end with its spectacular gala concert, and once again, our CCGS students have taken pride of place in all sections, and in the concert itself.

The first section to take place is always Speech and Drama, at the end of February/beginning of March, with a good representation from the school in all the relevant classes.

Kareshram Mohanaram (Year 10) won 1st place in his prose-reading class and 2nd in the closely contested public speaking class for their age. Reynard Baskaran (Year 10) took part in four speech classes and came 1st in his poetry recital, and tied 2nd in his prose reading with Ruby Lydford (Year 10), who herself came 2nd with her original poem (on friendship) and 3rd in the public speaking. Rakshyen Mohanaram (Year 8) won his equally tough public speaking class. Both age groups were tackling the subject "Social media; more of a curse than a benefit"... Niamh Edgington (Year 12) was narrowly pipped to the post in her monologue class, achieving the very high score of 88 for her moving speech from Shaw's St.Joan. It is always good to see Year 7s taking part, and we had three in this section this year. Harriet Tyman and Louca Theodorou-Bunce not only recited poetry in the Speech and Drama section, but appeared in other parts of the Festival as well. And Jean Hodge, one of our quietest students, is such an accomplished reader that she came 1st in her Bible Reading, poetry, and sight-reading classes, and 2nd (but still with 87 marks) in her prose. She won two cups, for sight-reading, and the Vinson cup for speech for Years 7-10. One other member of CCGS won a couple of classes and a cup this year; me (Mrs Myhill, albeit under a pseudonym so that the adjudicator didn't realise I was the organiser). So I now have the Charles Dickens' Plate in pride of place at home...

The Pianoforte section followed on the next Saturday with just three of our students actually taking part. Louca Theodorou-Bunce (Year 7) coming second in his class, and Luka Knight-del Sastre (also Year 7) coming 2nd in both his classes. Hannah Baker (Year 12) took part in three classes and won the Junior Cup.

The Vocal and Choral section began on the following Thursday and always has the largest proportion of our students taking part, mostly in the Songs from the Shows' classes; of 33 in the 13 & under, a 1/3 were from CCGS; Libby Field, Matilda Ellis, Meredith Cloke, Daisy Atkin, Harriet Tyman (all Year 7), Maedhbh McCabe & Edmond Rudland (Year 9) all did well in this class. Ruby Dirksen (Year 8) achieved a distinction in the same class, Kelsie Bissett (Year 7) tied in 3rd place, and Grace Chamberlain (Year 7) came 2nd... no mean feat in such a large class. Daisy, Libby, Ruby, Maedhbh and Harriet also took part in other classes that day, with Harriet winning the Gandolfo cup for the set song, 11 and under, Daisy the Eileen Vesey cup for the set song 13 and under, and Ruby was accompanied by Francesca Coldham (Year 8) to win the prize for junior "song and accompaniment". Francesca also won a bursary. Daisy, Harriet and Maedhbh sang again on Friday in the Folk Song class. That evening, our seniors trod the boards in their songs from musicals' classes. Molly Jones (Year 9) and Beth McKeand (Year 11) both gained 87 marks, Katie McNally (Year 11) came 2nd with 90 marks, with a moving rendition of "Movie in my Mind" from Miss Saigon, but was pipped to the post by Bradley Bissett's (Year 10) flawless performance of "Waving Through a Window" from Dear Evan Hansen which gained him 92 marks and the cup for this class. In the final class of the day, Kaden Pearce's performance of "Think of Me" from Phantom of the Opera was exquisite and received 90 marks, but "only" came 2nd. The final class for the under 18s was the Song in a Modern Style, held on Saturday morning. Katie again did brilliantly with her Queen song "No-one But You" (now where have I heard that recently?!), but was again beaten by Bradley singing "Don't Stop Believing" which won him another cup and another 92 marks... To get any score over 90 is rare, to get two 92s in one festival is perhaps a first.

And if that wasn't thrilling enough, I was incredibly excited to introduce a whole new section to the festival this year; one for SIGNING choirs. We have at least three in Thanet, all of whom were there on the next day, Sunday, at QRBC in Broadstairs to battle it out in an inaugural session. This year we decided not to give marks (the adjudicators are trained BSL specialists) and all 3 share the new shield and came together to sing at the gala concert. Two CCGS girls, Carys Weedon (Year 8) and Maedhbh McCabe, are part of the Inspiration Youth Signing Choir and took part on both occasions. I look forward to seeing this section grow next year.

The final sections of the Festival are Instrumental, where our only entrants were Maedhbh McCabe (recorder, Year 9) and Francesca Coldham (flute, Year 8) and the huge Dance section which runs for three full weekends. Many of our students enter this, but it is harder for me to keep track of how they do! They include... Libby Field, Harriet Tyman, Maddy Sales, Daisy Atkin (Year 7), Betsy Bridger, Anna Redmond (Year 8) and Kine Thompson (Year 9).

If you have never been to the Thanet Festival, you're missing out! Next year's will be around the same time, so do make a point of going to one of the sessions, or to the final concert, where, this year, the last moment of glory went to Harriet Tyman when she won the closely contested Miss Vyse Cup for doing well in three or more sections of the Festival (she had entered 10 classes...)

## JUNIOR HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION FOR THE LARKIN CUP

What a wonderful day I have had... I always knew there were a host of musical students within our walls, but I didn't know just how many, or just how good! The standard was so high, and it is incredibly encouraging to witness how many Year 7s have the confidence to perform. Long may it continue.

We had a wide range of entries: vocal and instrumental: solos, duets and ensembles: year groups together, mixed groups of all 3 years together: unaccompanied pieces, players using backing tracks, students accompanying each other: pieces from Bruno Mars to Mozart, Star Wars to Wicked... It was never boring, and never hard to listen to!

Each House had some outstanding performances, and I really only have room to mention those...

Katie March (Flute,TS) and Kelsie Bissett (Vocal, RP) came 3rd in the Year 7 solo category, each with 88 marks, Seth Smith (Piano,RP), Matthew Cornelius (Trumpet, TS) and Luka Knight del Sastre (Piano,KH) tied in 2nd place with 89 marks, and just pipping them to the post with 90 was Mac Yang (Piano, TS) with his spirited performance of Bow Chic a Wow Wow!

The Year 7 ensemble was won by a huge margin by one of the top performances of the day; Harriet Tyman and Erin Gardner's vocal duet from Wicked ("Popular") was a real show-stopper. They really sang this together and fully engaged the audience.

Ruby Saunders (Vocal, MS) was 3rd in the Year 8 solos with 89, and Ruby Redwood (Piano, MS) and Francesca Coldham (Flute, KH) tied in 2nd with 90 marks. Ruby Dirkesen (Vocal, KH) was deservedly 1st with 91 marks for her superb rendition of "Beyond my Wildest Dreams".

There were some excellent Year 8 ensembles; I was impressed by a whole group of boys from 8RPb getting themselves together to play/sing "Shotgun", and they came 3rd with 86 marks. 2nd with 88 was another KH duet; Ella Cousins (vocal) and Nima Fitzgerald (piano/vocal), and in 1st place was the trio of girls from 8RPg with 90 marks for their performance of "Tongue-Tied"; well done to Shakira, Sophie and Beatrice, singing and playing and organising themselves to know exactly what each was doing without any outside help.

There were fewer performers from Year 9; the year when it suddenly feels embarrassing to get up there in front of your peers perhaps... so a huge congratulations to those who have the guts to continue... it IS worth it. Rocksy Antonygnaneswaran (Vocal, TS) was sensitively accompanied by Anna Worledge on piano to win the Year 9 ensemble section (it is always good to have live accompaniment). And there were some excellent soloists... Maddie Doody (Vocal, KH) came 3rd with 89 marks and Aicha Eastment (Vocal, RP) 2nd with 92 for her moving finale to KH's entries. Aicha really engaged with the audience; it makes such a difference if you do! But in 1st place was a musician who will surely go far; Thomas Hall has only been in the school for a few months, but he is making a huge impression on the musical side. His euphonium solo of "Glorious Ventures", accompanied by a "home-made" backing track, was breath-taking and probably deserved more than the 94 marks I awarded it. I look forward to watching Thomas' musical progress; note the name!

And now all that remains is to say who won the cup!

It was really close, with only 1 mark between the averages of the top 2... but in 1st place was Knight- Heath, with Rothschild-Pearce 2nd, Thomas-Sharman 3rd, and Mann-Somerville 4th.

A huge congratulations to everyone and I look forward to hearing you all again at the various upcoming concerts.

Mrs Myhill

**Drama Department trip to see War Horse at The Marlowe Theatre Canterbury, 12th March 2019.**

On the 12th March, fifty two students and four staff went to see the National Theatre's touring production of War Horse at The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury. We set off in high spirits and with much anticipation of seeing something truly remarkable and were not disappointed in the least, especially as we were seated in the first three rows of the stalls! This gave us the most incredible experience of almost imagining ourselves on stage and feeling like we were within touching distance of the performers and the large horse puppets of Joey and Tophorn who truly stole the show. Albert Narracot aged 16, is the protagonist of the story alongside Joey his beloved horse, who he trains to plough in order to win a foolish bet that his father Ted made. Albert creates an intense and sentimental relationship with Joey that the audience are emotionally invested in as the pair spend their days together on the farm. However, Joey is sold as a war horse for £100 and shipped to France, leaving Albert devastated. The puppeteers who worked the head, heart and tail of the giant puppets, became invisible to us the audience as they seamlessly controlled their, breathing, braying, neighing and stamping like they were really alive in front of our eyes. They cleverly produced micro movements of their ears to demonstrate the animal listening and responding and sudden tail swishes to seduce us into their world. The puppets bright eyes glinted off the stage lights to communicate their mood, deepening our emotional response towards them. At certain times it seemed like Joey and Tophorn were actually controlling the puppeteers as they cantered in rural Devon and charged into battle in Northern France, ending Act 1 with both horses up on their hind legs as they attempted to jump the wire.

Act 2 opened with more slaughter and horror of both man and beast, reminding us all of the 'universal suffering' endured in WW1, but hope prevailed and in the final touching scene of the play Albert, bloodied and blinded from a mustard gas attack and recuperating in a field hospital is finally reunited with his trusty friend Joey and they return to Devon and to the farm where the story began. This piece of Epic Theatre truly told a story of courage and loss but also enduring love, which brought a satisfying conclusion to the performance and I might add there was not a dry eye in the house.





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# CHILD GENIUS OPEN DAY!

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**DATE: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**VENUE: London W2**

**For ENQUIRIES or to REGISTER for this event:**

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**For children aged 8-12 but siblings are welcome to attend**

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## Year 10 Disneyland Paris Residential

In January the maths and MFL departments held their annual four-day Year 10 residential in Disneyland Resort Paris incorporating a full day of sightseeing in the city. Two coaches of excited students left on a chilly Tuesday morning for a smooth journey to the resort where they later enjoyed supper at the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show within the Disney Village. A picturesque landscape awaited them on their return to the hotel as a good couple of inches of snow had fallen during the show.

The snow did not hold up plans and students spent the following day under clear blue sky enjoying the many sights of the city, experiencing French culture and utilising their language skills. All students were commended by staff on their excellent behaviour and time keeping throughout the trip, a key element to the success of any visit.

The residential is popular among students as they enjoy the relative freedom of spending time with their friends in the two Disney theme parks, with staff never too far away. Students engaged particularly well this year with the maths workshops and seminars, designing their own roller-coaster by applying their mathematical skills and associated formulae, relative to their GCSE syllabus.

Next year's trip has now been launched.

## Politics Trip to Strasbourg 2019

From the perspective of a Year 13 student the trip was well balanced, providing a range of experiences. The arduous coach journey, interspersed with picnics and pit-stops, was eased by the diligence of 'Park-it-anywhere' Pete, the coach driver. Our visit to the brewery provided a small glimpse of the artisan crafts that Strasbourg harbours. The subsequent trip to the EU Parliament provided students with a wealth of revision opportunities; after a short tour we were met by a civil servant, Henry Wasung, who refreshed us with the working of, and activities that take place at, the EU Parliament. Once again, we were introduced to John Howarth MEP, who received our questions and attempted to clarify the muddled waters of Brexit. The evenings provided ample time to see Strasbourg by night; we sampled French cuisine and discussed what we had discovered during our activities.

The historical significance of Strasbourg was only too apparent from our scenic boat trip. The combination of medieval and imperial gothic architecture served as a visual reminder of the way in which Strasbourg and Alsace has been fought over by the French and Germans for centuries. Whilst visiting the Alsace Museum we learnt of the symbiotic relationship between members of the Jewish faith and Christian Catholic and protestant denominations. Only further emphasising Strasbourg as a place of compromise and co-operation between faiths, political perspectives and nationalities. The return trip and visit to the Thiepval memorial served as a harrowing reminder as to why institutions, such as the EU, are crucial in preventing further conflict and bloodshed in Europe.

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Charlie Graham

The Politics trip to Strasbourg was a brilliant experience and, despite not being a politics student myself, I found the visit to the EU parliament incredibly interesting and the meeting with MEP was a great opportunity and one I'll always remember. The rest of the trip was equally as enjoyable as we visited local museums, went on a tour of a brewery and a chocolate factory. The overall trip was really brilliant and I would recommend it to all students, even those who don't study politics or have a vast understanding of the subject.

Jemma Warner





## School Quiz Team

On Thursday 28th February, CCGS's School Challenge quiz team travelled to Bromley High for the regional leg of the competition. It was the first time in the team's history that they had won their local matches (last November at the Harvey Grammar in Folkestone) and were invited to compete at the next level. The one and a half hour car journey to Bromley was ideal to fit in some last minute practice and Elizabeth, Eleanor, Lydia and Rohit arrived at Bromley High nervous but ready to give it their best: they had nothing to lose after all!

Having been welcomed by the Headmistress and after a few snacks and refreshments, the teams were ready to battle.

The match might not have started well due to some premature buzzing and tough questions at first, but CCGS soon took the lead. They kept their fingers firmly on the buzzers but also prayed that no "British Isles" questions would be asked (if they had, surely "Hebrides" would be the answer!). They were very strong at securing the precious points of the Bonus Questions. And the final score tells the rest of the story: Bromley High 170 - CCGS 390!

Their next challenge will be meeting the King Edward VI Grammar School of Chelmsford in the Inter-Regional round. If they win, they will be in the National Finals at the End of April. Well done and good luck to Elizabeth, Eleanor, Lydia and Rohit.



## Maths Competitions

This term has been very busy for national maths competitions. We currently have 2 sixth form teams competing in the University of Manchester Maths Bombe and and 5 teams competing in the Alan Turing Cryptography competition.

One of the sixth form teams was recently selected for a spot prize and each team member was awarded a £10 Amazon voucher. Well done to all the team members, Kazki, William, Jonah and Callum.

Next year's trip has now been launched.



## Cryptography

The Alan Turing Cryptography competition has gone very well this year. We have several teams that are still working on the increasingly difficult clues. Monday night after school sees the teams working hard to crack the latest challenge. One of our teams was lucky enough to be selected for a spot prize after correctly solving clue 3 in a very good time. Every member of the team was presented with a £10 Amazon voucher. Well done to all them. Only the final clue is left to solve and that is proving very challenging. Well done to all the teams that have taken part.



## Raffles

Another term draws to a close and the Maths Dept will be holding their KS3 Raffles. All students that achieve 100% in their MyMaths homework tasks get an entry ticket into the raffle. The more 100%s they achieve the higher the chance of winning a prize. Good luck to everyone that is entered into the draws.

**Some of the prizes in the Maths Dept 100% MyMaths Raffle for Easter  
Make sure you have 100% to be in with a chance of winning**



## Uniform

From September 2019 the Green Kelso Bottle Kilt will be the compulsory skirt for all girls in Years 7-10. Students in Year 11 in September may continue to wear the black drop waist skirt. From September 2020 the kilt will be the compulsory skirt for all girls in Years 7-11. Girls in all years may continue to wear black formal trousers.

## Shoes

There are still a number of students who continue to wear trainer style shoes, which are not acceptable and it is also not fair on the 95% of students who conform to the uniform rules. In a bid to make it clear what is and is not acceptable the uniform policy has been amended for clarity. It now states:

Boys: Black polishable shoes of a conventional and formal style, i.e Brogue, Loafer, Slip On, Derby. No Leisure shoes, trainers or canvas shoes i.e. Vans, Adidas, Nike etc. Boots are also not permitted.

Girls: Black, low heeled, polishable shoes of a conventional and formal style, i.e Brogue, Loafer, Slip On, T-Bar, Mary Jane. No leisure shoes, trainers, or canvas shoes ie Vans, Adidas, Nike etc. Dr Martens, boots, sling-backs, stilettos or sandals are also not permitted.

This style of leisure trainer style shoes is not acceptable and we reserve the right to send students home who wear them.



## Community Litter Pick

Over 60 students in the Lower School volunteered to pick up litter on the lower school site on Friday 29th March at lunchtime in support of the Community Litter Pick took place on 30th March.

## Reminder

If your son/daughter is ill, could you please ring the school office as soon as possible to let them know. If you have to leave an answerphone message, this will be picked up by the office. Could I also remind you that your son/daughter should not ring you directly to pick them up, this should be done through the office. There are

numerous times when parents turn up to collect a child and we know nothing about it.

## Salvation Army Collection

The Salvation Army are collecting unwanted sleeping bags. If you have one which you no longer want/need please send it into school and we will arrange for the Salvation Army to come and collect them from us.

## Thanet Schools Porchlight Fundraiser

Schools in Thanet are all raising money for Porchlight a Charity which supports homeless people in Kent who have nowhere to go and no-one to turn to. Some are homeless and need help to escape the streets and rebuild their lives. Others are struggling to cope with different pressures in their life and need support to keep on track. Porchlight work with around 5,000 people each year, helping them with homelessness, housing, education and employment, and their health and wellbeing.

We will be doing our fundraiser on Thursday 4th April. This will include a 50p donation in return for students being able to wear their trainers for the day with the option of changing into slippers once they are at school! A drink sale at the Chatham site, Cake sales on both sites at break time and lunchtime and 'Just Dance' events at both the Chatham and Clarendon sites at lunchtime-50p entrance fee.

This is what our fundraiser could provide:

£100 - could provide 5 welcome packs (food & toiletries) for people moving into a Porchlight Hostel.

£500 – could pay the rent deposit for someone who is moving into their own independent flat.

£800 – could fund 10 move on packs (e.g. cooking utensils, crockery & bedding) for people ready to leave Porchlight's support and move into their own place.

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