

CHATHAM & CLARENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Newsletter

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Issue 31 - April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

We are two thirds of the way through the academic year and although we have begun to revert back to some semblance of pre-covid normality, regrettably covid is very much still with us and we continue to experience high numbers of staff and student absence. To that end, if we have high numbers after the Easter break in particular year groups, we will reinstate mask wearing, until cases decline.

We no longer have any test kits left in school, therefore if your child has covid symptoms, you will have to obtain a test kit via local pharmacies or online suppliers.

Contacting staff

We have more and more parents contacting staff out of school hours and during school holidays and expecting an instant reply, however Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School respects the wellbeing of its staff. There is no expectation that emails are responded to before 8.30am or after 5pm Monday to Friday, at the weekend or during school holidays.

With regard to incidents that happen during school holidays, we have no jurisdiction to deal with incidents of poor behaviour or social media violations which happen during these periods. Anything of a serious nature should be referred on to the police.

Collection for Ukraine

We were overwhelmed by your generous response to our call for donations for the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. We made two trips to Folkestone to the collection centre and the minibus was filled to the roof both times!

I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Andrew who organised a collection at Blaze Signs and Cygnia Maintenance to donate to the appeal. I would also like to thank them for the Love To Ukraine banner, now displayed outside the Chatham site.

- Notices from the Headteacher
- Grease - Full review of CCGS's 2022 production
- Thanet Music and Drama Festival - Success for CCGS
- Making Waves - Young CCGS sailor Jacob Websdale awarded
- Roller Hockey - National team honours for rising star
- Spring Clean - Details on green initiative
- Travel and Tourism - Students visit London
- Notices - Easter activities at Baypoint, School Immersion Programme, staff leaving and dates for your diary.



Grease is the word...

What a lot of very hard work and anxiety went into this year's CCGS musical production; a huge well done to all involved, producing such a good show with a pandemic still raging...

I was smiling from the start, as the large enthusiastic dance troupe proclaimed that Grease is the word, making the most of their short time on stage and returning at the end amongst the audience.

The leads; Jed Silk (Danny), and Molly Jones (Sandy) gave fine performances, singing well and showing the dilemmas their characters have with regards to love v status etc...

The T-birds and Pink Ladies revealed some great talent. Both gangs felt like real groups of friends, and their members presented different characteristics. Bradley Bissett's excitable OTT Kenickie was beautifully matched in Lola Walton's Rizzo. She appeared as brash and uncaring as him but then revealed a sensitive core towards the end as she sang "There are worse things I could do". Matthew Whelan, Finley Dunk and Luca Terenghi worked particularly well together as the rest of the T-Bird gang, with some of the best harmony work. The other Pink Ladies (Coco Newby, Ellie Rayleigh-Strutt and Carys Weedon) showed really good, subtle nuances of characterisation. All sang well, with excellent diction, and were committed to their different personalities whilst exhibiting fine work as a team.

Penny O'Halloran, for someone not yet 18, made a convincing and authoritative Miss Lynch, and Sam Mountford was suitably creepy as the veteran DJ Vince Fontaine. I particularly loved his voice-overs. Anna Redmond, as Cha Cha, showed her excellent dancing skills as well as her acting, and Edmond Rudland made me feel sorry for his sad awkward Eugene (I'd have loved to see his Danny! The two roles couldn't be more different...) Aimee Hancock was wonderfully annoying as Patty, and Zaia Zaman was outstanding as Johnny Casino/Teen Angel. Their performance commanded the stage; they are so assured and confident without appearing arrogant.

The dancing was excellent; congratulations to the ensembles, and it is exciting seeing how much talent there is coming up through the younger years.

The band, comprising Paul Stewart, Joe Ledgerwood, Taylor Cousins, Liam East, Averil Lawrie, Steve Ansell and Mr Gibbons, conducted by Mrs Gibbons, were rock solid and gave the whole production an added air of professionalism.

A huge congratulations to all the backstage crew too; swift scene changes and excellent sound and lighting. The car, and its transformation into a super-model during Greased Lightning, was another highlight!

WELL DONE to Mrs Cackett and Mrs Gibbons for a first-rate production, and to all involved.

Mrs Myhill

For a full gallery of photos from the event please see <https://www.cccgrammarschool.co.uk/48/latest-news/article/636/grease-is-the-word>



Thanet Music and Drama Festival

The Thanet Music and Drama Festival is back, after the inevitable year away (two for Instrumental...) which meant we sadly missed our centenary year. There is again no Gala Concert this year: winners are being presented their cups within the sections, and we hope to resume in 2023.

As ever, the first section to take place was Speech and Drama, at the end of February, with several students from year 8 and above in a number of classes. The witty, very experienced Stephen Owen adjudicated this year, and gave such first-class advice. Being involved is the equivalent of attending a masterclass... for free.

The festival opened with the speech classes for Years 7-8, at Queens Road Baptist Church, whose airy auditorium is perfect in these times. Kavya Mangam, Jerusha Duraisingham and Ryan Baskaran all took part in a number of classes, with Ryan doing particularly well, gaining three 1sts and winning the Vinson Cup for Speech. His public speaking entry, "Money Equals Happiness" was a highlight of the day.

On the Sunday, we moved to the Sarah Thorne Theatre, and saw a mixture of classes for the older entrants. Without a festival for two years, and because I do not see our senior students at school, it was delightful meeting them again and discovering what lovely young people they have grown to be (from lovely younger people, of course). I was so proud that they were CCGS students. They all did really well too, but my delight was far more in their bearing, manners, and attitude.

There were fewer triumphs in the Vocal and Choral section this year, with only Bradley Bissett (Year 13) and Ruby Richardson (Year 11) winning any of the trophies... Bradley won the Light Opera Cup, 18 & under, and Ruby, the Eileen Vesey Memorial trophy for folk song. Others taking part from CCGS were Lucie Hall (Year 7), Libby Field, Kelsie Bissett, Harriet Tyman, Merryn Pearse (Year 10) and Kati Stembridge (Year 11). This year's adjudicator made some rather controversial decisions, so let us hope next year's is more conducive to our students!

The Pianoforte section followed on the next Saturday with three of our students taking part; Anna Uchnast (Year 7), Luka Knight-del Sastre (Year 10) and Reuben Grier (Year 13).

The Dance section is the largest, staged over three weekends and ending on the 20th March. I am yet to be sent the list of Dance trophy winners, but amongst those taking part from CCGS were Evie-Mae Hulls (Year 8), Sarah Farr (Year 9), Harriet Tyman (Year 10), Betsy Bridger, Aimee Hancock & Anna Redmond (Year 11)

The Instrumental section was also on the last weekend of the Festival, and is our smallest section, with few from CCGS ever taking part. This year there was just one; violinist Rei Escofet (Year 7).

Hopefully next year will see a full return to "normal" with the gala concert reinstated, the performances of dance troupes, and choirs able to have a proper audience. Meanwhile, please congratulate all who took part this year, and pop it in your diary to support the event and our students in 2023 (end of Feb-March) www.thanetfestival.org.uk

Young Sailor

Olympic gold medallist Dylan Fletcher presented Jacob Websdale with an RYA Musto Youth Award at the Dinghy and Watersports show last month.

There were ten awards given out nationally, Jacob's was for his contribution to the growth of youth sailing.

Jacob joined Margate Yacht Club when he decided to try sailing at age nine and was the only regular youth sailor at the time.

As his skills and enthusiasm for the sport have grown, in a bid to promote youth sailing at Margate and allow more young people to learn Jacob trained as an RYA Assistant Dinghy Instructor over lockdown and qualified last summer.

When Jacob first joined the club, there were no other young sailors to race against, so he went straight into racing against adults in the club.

He now teaches sailing (under supervision) as a volunteer at the club as well as competing in his own boat in Margate, regionally and nationally.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Jack Knowles who recently took part in the Union of European Roller Hockey (UERH) tournament, this was his first run out for the National Under 17's team and his country.

This European tournament was the first of its kind to be held in the UK and 8 other nations were due to take part. Unfortunately, due to covid, only 5 teams were able to take part. Jack's team was the younger of 2 England teams taking part.

The final outcome was; the Swiss team took first place followed by the older England team coming second and Jack's team taking third place.

Jack will be taking part in a training camp during the Easter half term in Portugal, then re-selection for a European tournament in September. Well done Jack!



Spring Clean

The Great Ramsgate Spring Clean 2022 is from March 25th to April 10th. A Litter Pick was organised in Chatham Place Triangle area on Saturday March 26th. Other events are taking place but everyone can 'do their bit' simply by litter picking in an area that you frequent i.e. park or beauty spot or even just outside your home and or the street that you live in. In the words of a popular supermarket (other supermarkets are available) "Every little helps".

Travel and Tourism Trip to London

On the 11th March 2022, the Y12 Travel and Tourism class visited London for the day in order to experience and evaluate visitor attractions in the capital city. The class visited multiple attractions in London, from the London Eye to Madame Tussauds, and even a guided river tour on the Thames!

The class visited Madame Tussauds first, a wax museum with realistic sculptures of famous celebrities, such as Tom Hiddleston, The Queen, and Shrek! Tussauds has a variety of set pieces for the greatest photos for the family, and selfies for your Instagram followers. The realism is amazing! Just remember it's not actually real, Mr Dudley may have forgotten that one.



The class then took a minibus journey through London, all the way to the Thames, ready for the informative river cruise on the Thames, where the students could learn about the history of London and its famous landmarks, like the Shard, Charing Cross Station (it looks like a toaster) and Tower Bridge! Just make sure not to sit on the top deck when it's raining, it gets cold up there, or at least bring some paper towels!

Lastly, to finish the day off, the class took to the skies on the London Eye, the best place to see all of London's glorious landmarks and skyline. With views from one of the highest points in the area, you can see the likes of the BT tower, Parliament, Waterloo station, London Bridge and much, much more! Be sure to get set up ready for the photo on the way down, there are hidden cameras!

But they were not just there to have a fun day off school! The class were tasked to find how these attractions are suitable for different people with different accessibility. These include the language buttons on the rideable taxis, brail in the lifts, the London Eye stopping to allow wheelchairs on, and baby changing areas and toilet facilities.

Overall, the day was a blast, with lots to do and see, as well as loads to learn and experience. Just make sure to book it on a sunny day, a wet ride on the minibus home may not be the most comfortable thing you do that day!

J Turner Y12



Baypoint Easter Activities

Baypoint are running their third HAF (Holiday, Activities and Food) programme this April in the Easter Holidays.

Baypoint Sports Community Interest Company aims to make a positive contribution to the personal, social, physical, development and health of all. By providing a safe, enjoyable, learning environment, individuals will be given the opportunity to express themselves whilst being challenged to maximize their potential.

In pursuit of this goal; we will help each person to be the best that they can be, and a collaborative effort will ensure we are 'one winning team'.

Our sessions will be tailored to suit children and young people's individual needs, inclusive of SEND.

Each day all the children and staff come together at lunch time for a warm meal, then some free time to help with their social interaction. We are giving the option for an early drop off for all children and working parents, and we will provide the programme for an additional 1.5 hours in the morning for breakfast club.

The HAF programme is FREE for those receiving benefit related school meals.

School Immersion Programme

We will be welcoming two groups of students from a school in Columbia in the next two terms, the first group of 10 are arriving on 25th April for 4 weeks and the second group of 18 students on 6th June for 4 weeks. They will be buddied up with students in both KS4 and KS3 and accompany them to lessons as part of their 'immersion' into school life, the language and culture. These are our first visitors in almost over two years, so it is very exciting!

The trips have been organised by Broadstairs English Centre, who we worked with on a number of occasions prior to the pandemic. The centre is looking for host families to accommodate the students during their visit; if you are interested then please contact the centre on: 07946063799 or via email: hosting@broadstairsenglish.com.

Staff leaving

Mr Burke (maths) will be leaving us at the end of the term to retire from the profession after almost 15 years at the school. I would like to thank him for his hard work supporting our students to achieve their potential in Maths. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Finally, school will close at 3.15pm on Friday 1st April and re-open on Tuesday 19th April. We wish all students a restful break and a Happy Easter.

Debra Liddicoat

Headteacher.

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6