

Newsletter

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Messages from the Headteacher

The end of a very busy two terms is almost upon us, our new Year 7 students are now well and truly settled in. We have managed to cram lots of events into these last few weeks, trips to the theatre, all Year 7 will have visited the Turner Contemporary by the end of term, reward trips for both Year 10 and Year 11, lots of sporting fixtures and finally the Christmas Concerts, (which were an absolute triumph, and saw a full house on both evenings. Well done to all the performers, they were absolutely superb).

Year 11 mocks went well and the students are to be congratulated on the way they conducted themselves during exam fortnight.

Year 13 Mocks commence on our return after the Christmas break!

Christmas Jumper Day took place on Friday 13th December and coincided with Christmas dinner and the Lower School Disco.

House Drama

As ever, my fellow adjudicator, Miss Burke, from the Sarah Thorne Theatre in Broadstairs, and I, sat awaiting the dramas of the morning to unfold, anticipating being thoroughly entertained... and we weren't disappointed.

This year's theme, given at the end of last year's competition ensuring maximum time for the writing of scripts, was "A Slave To..."

The day began with RP's "Slave to Comedy", and knew we were in for a treat as Jed Silk and Bradley Bissett strode confidently on to present the best double act I have seen in any House Drama. It is easy to underestimate what it takes to present/narrate/link a play, and it is a role often, misguidedly, given to the person one can't think how to cast/a weaker actor etc. In this instance, it was particularly important, as the RP play consisted of a number of highly entertaining sketches, linked by the two hosts. Poppy Head had skilfully directed her excellent cast (taken from all years) in a well-constructed, fast-flowing production that kept us almost crying with laughter (intentional!) from its slick opening to the end. There are so many talented performers in this House, and they had been used well... Look out for, in future productions, River Smith... Kelsie Bissett... Will Johnson, all of whom excelled with apt body language as well as clear enunciation in their cameo roles. There was such obvious commitment from the entire cast, and the energy and enthusiasm gave rise to an extremely high bar for the other Houses to beat.

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House Drama continued

Starting on such a high, we felt for TS who had to follow. Their play "Slave to the Internet", was far more serious and might have benefitted from a little more humour to get over their well-intentioned ideas. The cast coped well with the wordy script, and I was particularly impressed when I discovered that several had had to take on different/bigger parts at almost the last minute. It was difficult to know all who were in it, as the very beautiful programme sadly lacked the cast's names. Ruby Lydford was excellent in the lead, ably 'supported' (or otherwise) by her so-called friends...Elena Dalecki, Freddie Kilner-Jones, Lydia Nottingham and Rowan Tyler. Carys Weedon and Joseph Eldred played off each other nicely as the phone-obsessed parents. The play, written and directed by Luke Meades, gave a lot of food for thought. Congratulations to the backstage crew who coped so well with a lot of furniture moving, and to the sound engineer with the apt use of "I want to break free".

MS' "A Slave to be a Blast from the Past" returned us to the humorous approach... We were grateful that we had been handed the programme during break as, via some Googling, it enabled us oldies to get up to speed with some of the characters' intricate soap-opera lives (Gemma Collins etc.) We were somewhat at pains to understand quite how the play fulfilled the "Slave to" brief and did feel it was written, by Sam Gerlack, rather to show off his, undoubtedly masterly, talent for moon-walking! But why was a dead American singer on the island, let alone able to become a British P.M?! (I know, stranger things have happened in reality, but...) There were some great ideas in the play, and it had a "proper" ending. Congratulations to Alfie Keefe and Thomas Gravelle for another fun double act, with some amusing characterisation.

Finally, we were highly impressed by KH's "It's a Slave to Love" with the ingenious set-up of a dating game-show involving "real" couples from literature, films and TV. This was such a lovely idea, and showed huge knowledge and insight by its playwright (and director), Annika Swansbury, who managed to capture the style and mode of speech for each couple (e.g. Romeo & Juliet, Gatsby & Daisy, Princess Leia & Luke Skywalker etc) whilst also injecting humorous modern idioms etc. We were presented with a beautifully created programme in the form of a menu, which included all we needed to know. I thoroughly enjoyed the voice-overs and was disappointed there were not more later on... the waiter links were a good idea but much of what they said needed rather more projection. The backing group was a fun extra, although some of the musical numbers were too long. There were some particularly fine performances amongst the couples, with Maisie Chambers and Kirsty Clapham excelling as Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet, and Lillie Van Walwyk re-creating a very credible Stacey (of Gavin &...). We really enjoyed this production and it very satisfactorily concluded a most entertaining morning.

After much deliberation, buckets of tea, but in complete unity, the awards went to...

Best Programme	KH
Best Backstage	TS
Best Supporting Junior Actor	Thomas Gravelle & Alfie Keefe MS
Best Supporting Senior Actor Elizabeth Bennett)	Maisie Chambers & Kirsty Clapham (Darcey & KH
Best Junior Actor	Lillie Van Walwyk (aka Stacey) KH
Best Senior Actor	Bradley Bissett & Jed Silk RP
Best Script	"It's a Slave to Love" by Annika Swansbury KH
Best Director	Poppy Head RP
Overall	1. RP 2. KH 3. TS/MS

Congratulations to all who took part, on and off stage... we look forward to next year, where the theme will be... (and you read it here first...) **TOO MANY COOKS...**

Mrs L Myhill



Cleaning Vacancies at Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School

We currently have a number of cleaning vacancies within school which we hope to fill in the new term.

There are a choice of shifts: 06:30am to 08:30am Monday to Friday or 15:30pm to 17:30pm Monday to Friday

The work is term time only plus three weeks (flexible) during the summer holidays.

The current hourly rate is £8.44 p.h. rising to £9.00 p.h. in April 2020.

The school will also pay for 25 days holiday pay.

If you are interested in the vacancies, please contact C. Freeman, Business Manager by email: cfreeman@ccgrammarschool.co.uk

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Cast and broadly planned in the final weeks of the last academic year, and rehearsed 3 times a week since the start of September, performance day suddenly arrived... and two minibuses, four members of staff, and twenty-three students set off for the Theatre Royal, Margate on 13th November at 1pm, and only emerged 8 hours later...

Our production of "The Dream" was part of the annual Shakespeare School Foundation's "Shakespeare Festival", which sees over 30,000 school students each year participating in Shakespearean plays, all over the country. Bradstow School had already had their tech and dress rehearsal in the morning, and we shared the afternoon slot with St. Gregory's who were doing a beautifully costumed Macbeth. We were able to watch this after our own tech & dress.

Following a dinner break, and warm-up exercises at 6pm, the order for the evening was announced. It was no surprise that we, as usual, were going last, but the interval was to be after the first performance (Bradstow's) which at least meant that all the audience wouldn't disappear before we took to the stage! We sat and watched Bradstow's moving interpretation of King Lear. These young people are profoundly autistic, and it was humbling to watch them perform. During the interval we went out into the delightful cramped dressing rooms, got ready, and waited until St.Gregory's had performed. And then it was our turn...

The action had been shifted to the early 1980s and the students were suitably garbed, with use of 80s' music between scenes. Mrs. Gregory had cleverly added linking lines, spoken by two Hunger Games-like hosts (grumpy: Imogen Smart, and happy: Lauren Kirby (also playing Philostrate, and, as one of the most reliable & committed members of cast, often taking on other roles in rehearsal), which gave the whole production a more rounded feel. All the cast, when not on stage as their main characters, played cloth-covered, atmospheric noise-making trees as part of the essential magical forest. Mrs Magill, Mrs Gregory and myself had shared the direction, and the whole production was one of real team-work, with no "main" performances.

Aleksandra Zascerinska, Maddy Sales, Maisie Chambers and Anna Worledge were delightful as the confused lovers. The Athenian Court was ably portrayed by Luke Meades, superb as the "strict parent", Asha Olk and Anya Sandwell competent, clear and showing their mixed emotions well, and Sophia Bembridge excellent as the annoying attendant.

Mayan Davies and Joe Eldred looked and acted just right as the bickering Titania and Oberon, and were well served by their pogo dancing fairies (Jessica Perrott, Lillie van Walwyck, Maddie Read, Lauren Montgomery and Emily Fisk) and Bobby Pearse, excelling as the mischievous Puck.

The mechanicals provide most of the comedy, particularly in their own badly performed play for the court. Joanna Attwell, as Quince, commanded the troop with an air of flustered authority, trying to subdue the self-grandeur of Bottom (Poppy Head), dealing with a reluctant leading "lady", (Flute: Sam Gerlack) and giving on-stage encouragement to the other players... Edie Dodson as Snout, upset at having to play a wall, Merryn Pearse as Staveling/the Moon: stubbornly refusing to move upstage, and Noah Shakeshaft as the not-so-clever Snug playing the wonderfully roaring lion. I particularly loved how he showed his pride in being slow of learning...

No production complete without sound and lighting, and we are particularly blessed to have a student in our midst who can do both. Lewis Yates had to plan two different lighting designs for the two venues, and did a wonderful job for both. He also put together all the sound cues.

Congratulations to them all, and for sustaining the performances through two more back-back stagings to the school the following week.

Acting in a Shakespeare play and being able to impart his text with understanding, is something valuable to which all children should have access... may the Shakespeare for Schools Festival long continue.

Mrs L Myhill

CCGS Christmas Concerts

What a treat! And what an excellent start to the Christmas celebrations... Here was a concert with something for everyone. Whatever your musical tastes, whichever year you, (or your children) or friends are in, whatever standard you are musically, there is a musical group meeting each week that must suit! And they were all in fine form last night.

We began in traditional mode, with the AVE girls singing Britten's Alleluia Processional from his Ceremony of Carols as they walked, each with a candle, from the back of the hall to the stage. A brave Ruby Richardson then strongly sang the opening verse of "Once in Royal", the choir, the second, with full harmony (good to see more senior boys this year as well as a whole line of young trebles) and we all joined in for the final two. The keyboard has a convincing organ sound and helped create the atmosphere.

Because many of the groups are (and hooray for this!) quite large (especially the choir and intermediate band) there was quite an amount of necessary "scene-shifting" between each group, but there was no chance of getting bored, as Paul Stewart, on keyboard, treated us to a soothing selection of Christmas classics each time.

The first half zoomed by with the groups "Friday Rock", "Intermediate Band", "Steel Pans" and "Senior Wind Band" giving us a huge variety of music from the delightfully performed blues of Stand by Me, through the foot-tapping Pirates of the Caribbean, and more recent "Feel it Still", the funky fun riffs of Daft Punk and the Ketchup Song with a Caribbean twist, back to Christmas with "Winter Wonderland", to a 'spot the film' medley of Silvestri scores.

AVE then changed the mood again with a great rendering of the La La Land song "Another Day of Sun", and then the Jazz Band gave us three wonderful numbers with Sam Gerlack and Emilia Carters' accomplished solos in "Valerie", the band playing a lovely instrumental arrangement of "Santa Claus is coming...", and Beth McKeand and Katie McNally doing real justice to James Brown's "I Feel Good".

We finished the first half "as we began" with "O Come all Ye Faithful" with full organ, harmonies and descant.

AVE began the second half singing Fleet Foxes' White Winter Hymnal and fascinating us with their clapping/body percussion... They were accompanied by the Ukulele Club... and another alliance followed, with the Rock Choir singing John Williams' "Somewhere in my Memory" to the Christmas Ensemble. Lovely to see a violin at last!

I was very much taken with the Ukulele Ensemble's simple but charming "Cup Song". Not only were we again mesmerised by their clever cup "juggling" (shame you weren't on the stage for this), but it was the perfect song for Carys Weedon's vocals.

Mr Gibbons and his three other "Polka Folka"s showed off Orla Whelan's voice to great effect in Dylan's "Forever Young".

The choir ended the evening with a spectacular rendition of Take That's "Never Forget" and the beautiful Whitacre song "Fly to Paradise". Thank goodness we have so many amazing musicians and such talent in this school....

A few statistics for you... Of the 131 students taking part, only 23 were not in the choir, and of the 108 who were, over half of them were in at least one other group as well. 16 students were in 3 different groups, 8 were in 4, and 5 (namely... Hannah Baker, Sam and Katie March, Carys Weedon and Orla Whelan) were in FIVE different groups. Each group meets, weekly, at a different time/on different days, so imagine the rehearsal time and organisation needed! Congratulations to ALL our participating students, and a huge thank you, not only to Ms Hollman, and Mrs and Mr Gibbons, but also to Mrs Liddicoat, and the Governors for recognising the importance of music and the arts and encouraging them in and outside the curriculum. I hope you continue to have a live-music filled Christmas.



CHATHAM & CLARENDON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



THE CCGS FRIENDS would like to THANK EVERYONE who Contributed gifts, time, effort and support to this year's Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November

With over £1000 raised, which will be donated to the School and individual House charities, this continues to be a fun filled successful event. Chocolate fountain, many & varied Tombola's, Name the Teddy, the raucous Play Your Cards Right (back by popular demand), mince pies and cakes for sale, Hot Chocolate drinks, Christmas themed Candles for sale, Raffle, Lucky Dip etc etc. All of which meant plenty to do and we were never short of customers with a great footfall including past, present, future students and members of the public who heard the music and came in to investigate. Fantastic and well done to our students who entertained us all with carols and Christmas songs.

All this and Father Christmas too!

For the first time The Old Ruymians, known affectionally as ORs, the association for students and staff of our School (as well as past students/staff of Chatham House & Clarendon House) sold tickets for the Special Raffle, which they were the main sponsors for. With their new banner, it gave the current members the chance to explain the purpose of the association; the benefits and fun of belonging, promoting the events held each year and highlighting the tradition of the continuation of belonging to your school community, with a chance to give back by raising money for School projects.

We join them in the hope to raise awareness and promote membership of the association for the good of the School and members alike.

If you would like to know more please email Sue - details below.

Last week the superb Christmas Concerts took place and we were there with Mulled Cider Punch and other refreshments to help ward of the cold (and wet) and celebrate this wonderful event. We raised over £400 which will be put to good use in the warmer months to come with the ongoing improvements to the Clarendon Site gardens. Look out for the return of Michaelmas Daisies as a nod to our past!

If **YOU** are willing to **CONTRIBUTE** to **YOUR CHILD's** school then it's very easy, it doesn't have to take a lot of your time (or any if you are able to donate via your business), just **ONE NIGHT IN THE WHOLE YEAR** to serve refreshments **HELPS**, you don't need to join the committee or come to a meeting! Any help **YOU** can give would be great and makes the Friends even more successful. Remember, the money we raise directly benefits all **OUR** students including **YOUR** child.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2020

If you aren't sure how you can help contact Sue at shurrell@ccgrammarschool.co.uk to have a chat.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 13th December staff and students were invited to wear their best festive knits to raise money for Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day.

This is a national event which the CCGS community whole-heartedly support every year to help raise money for children around the world.

The monies raised by Save the Children, is used to help bring essential healthcare, education, protection and food to millions of children who are missing out on these basics.



Christmas Tree Festival

CCGS were delighted to be invited again by St George's Church, to decorate trees for the 14th Church Christmas Tree Festival. The church invites schools, businesses and friends and family in the parish to exhibit a decorated tree.

Representatives from the four Houses each decorated a tree in House colours.

The trees looked fantastic and contributed to the magnificent display in the church. You couldn't fail to notice the amazing scent of the trees!



There but Not There

Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School

Remembrance November 2019

Once again, the Tommies sat amongst us in the Chatham Library.



A copy of the Ruyman Notes from 1945 lists the 95 names, known at that time, of students and staff who were killed during the Second World War.

This year we could not have every one of the 95 killed individually recognized. We therefore brought 14 names out of the pages of our records to sit amongst us. Their names, time at School and in which House they belonged, were recorded along with copies of the Certificates of their final resting place.

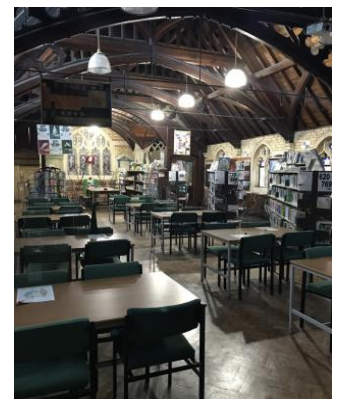


On display were clippings giving interesting accounts of the months of 1939 before the start of the war detailing normal School events, including a trip by Scouts to Lichtenstein at Easter 1939. Exchange trips to Germany explain the situation there as war was declared including the message from home to get out and be careful not to be shot at the border! Also, details from the start of war in September '39, the School site's preparation for air raids, including limiting the number of students attending until enough shelters were built with the help of students and staff. In 1940 the school was evacuated to Stafford, articles of both the preparation, the move, School life there and the call from parents in the later stages of the war to bring the students home, gave insight to the practicalities of life during war.



The clippings also give news from the front including details on those who were Prisoners of War (the boys of the School collected money for parcels to be sent to the POWs with amounts raised by each House duly noted) and along with news of marriages of past students - some home on leave, births of the next generation, the sad news of those missing and dead.

The display was viewed by members of the public, past & present students and staff over the weekend. On Remembrance Day our students sat with the Tommies during break and lunchtime, reading, researching homework projects and relaxing playing cards.



Poppy decorated cakes were on sale and with a voluntary collection a total of £102 was raised

and will be included in the monies collected by the School for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal from the sales of poppy merchandise including zip pulls, bangles, rulers and of course the Poppies themselves.

Thank you to all who came along, the Tommies are now safely packed away waiting for next year when once again they will sit amongst us. This time to commemorate 80 years since the evacuation of Dunkirk, and the Battle of Britain, with more details of life during the evacuation of the School to Stafford.

Sue Hurrell TbNT CCGS

Combined Cadet Force update

We are pleased to announce that our RAF section is now very much active. Early assignments have included turning out for Ramsgate's Remembrance Parade, observing the school's silence on Armistice Day, and leading with playing the last post.

Currently cadets are about to sit their first exam which once passed will allow them to take part in flying training and shooting activities.

Recently six of our Year 10 cadets took part in the All Squadron Trophy at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire. Not only were they warmly commended by the Lord Lieutenant, but also two of them have now been promoted to Junior Corporal.

Congratulations to the school's first two NCOs: Christina Hodge and Joseph Yoofoo!

Interested students who wish to join the CCF are welcome to email Mr Lewis and then go along to a Tuesday Parade Night (usually finished before 1730, and students can arrange to leave earlier if needs be). In term 3, it is hoped to take RAF transport up to RAF Cosford in Shropshire for a trip to look into RAF training, engineering and aircraft history.

CCGS awarded Heritage Schools Award

Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School has been awarded the Heritage School Award by Historic England. Helen Spencer from Historic England came into school to present the plaques to Mrs Liddicoat and Mr Mayo. CCGS becomes the first secondary school in Thanet to receive the award.

Helen praised the work that the children in Year 8 had done last summer and discussed with them the skills that they had developed, and the work that they had produced. She thanked the students for their hard work and said that she looks forward to working with many of them again in the future.

Mr Mayo, who was given a Lead Teachers Award for introducing the Heritage Schools project into CCGS, praised the students for their hard work and commitment to the event last summer. "The Heritage events in the summer were a great success and create important links between the schools, its history and our local community. We will be building upon the great work done by the students to introduce more



Messages from the Headteacher

Homestay

As you may be aware we work closely with Broadstairs English Centre and regularly have foreign students visit the school for a week and many of our students have 'buddied' up with those students to help them improve their English. Broadstairs English Centre are always looking for hosts to accommodate the students, if you would be interested in becoming a Homestay Provider, leaflets are available in reception at both the Clarendon and Chatham sites which your son/daughter can pick up for you.

Uniform

Could I please remind you to adhere to our uniform policy when replacing items of uniform, this can be found in the student planner. Shoes must be traditional and formal in style and not of a trainer type. Ear Piercings – students should only wear one stud in each earlobe, earrings are not permitted in any other part of the ear and students will be told to remove them. The school kilt should not be rolled, nor should it be shortened. Students who have their skirt shortened will be asked to either purchase a new one, or wear trousers instead. Some girls are wearing their skirts so short that decency is compromised, so much so that we receive complaints from members of the public about the way they look. Students in the 6th Form who wear skirts are reminded that the dress code says Business dress and therefore the length of the skirt should reflect what would be acceptable in an office environment.

Staff Workload

Can I remind you of school policy with regard to emails to staff, which I wrote about in my Christmas newsletter last year: It has become commonplace for parents to email staff directly and expect a response by return, this is neither sustainable nor practicable. All teachers have a significant teaching and marking workload, therefore in line with some other workplaces I do not expect them to check their emails after 5.30pm or before 8.30am in the morning, nor do I expect staff to respond to emails at the weekend. Please be mindful that staff who only work part time may take longer to respond to emails. We will prioritise all electronic communication in the same way as incoming letters or telephone calls. Rest assured that we will respond as soon as is practicable, but please be aware that more urgent matters may take priority and your patience is therefore appreciated.

It has also become commonplace for parents to email staff directly about a variety of issues, however increasingly common to query why a student has been given a behaviour point. Behaviour points are given in line with the school behaviour policy sometimes for unacceptable behaviour around the school or behaviour that disrupts the learning of others but more often than not, for missing a deadline. One of our roles in school is to train students to be resilient and able to deal with the rigours of both GCSE, A Levels and the outside world. Meeting deadlines will become increasingly important throughout your son/daughter's school career and onwards into adulthood. Could I politely point out that a deadline is a deadline and where they are missed, the consequence is a behaviour point. Some students complete their homework and fail to hand it in and then are upset that they receive a behaviour point, in the adult world this would be like filling in a job application but forgetting to send it off and then being upset that we did not get the job! Dealing with these sorts of queries is taking up a lot of staff time and it is demoralising when staff feel that their professional judgement is regularly being called into question. Please support staff in training your son/daughter into good habits that will serve them well both in their academic career and in their adult lives.

Messages from the Headteacher - continued

Could I also take this opportunity to remind you that if you wish to see a member of staff in person, it is always better to ring first and make an appointment. Form tutors and Heads of House all have a large teaching commitment and therefore we cannot guarantee that they will be available to see you without prior appointment.

Charity

Students raised £1193 for Children in Need in November, through a non school uniform day.

Financial Support

I would like to thank all those parents who make a one off or regular donation to the school, your support is much appreciated. These are still testing times financially for schools and it will still take a number of years for the benefits of fairer funding to be felt after so many years of underfunding. If you would like to make a regular donation to the school, no matter how small, it will be gratefully received.

Staff leaving

Mrs McLellan – Learning support is leaving us to move to another school and we want to thank her for all her hard work and for the support she has provided to students both in class and on a one to one basis. We wish her every success in her new role.

Miss Tilley – Learning support is leaving to move to a primary school and we want to thank her for all the support she has provided to Key stage 3 students, both in class and on a one to one basis. We wish her every success in her new school.

Mrs Richardson – 6th Form Manager is retiring after 9 years at the school. Mrs Richardson has provided pastoral support to many of our 6th Form students to enable them to meet the demands of 6th form courses. She has also organised placements at a wide variety of charitable organisations for students to get volunteering experience during their time in the 6th form. I am sure that all students who have been supported by Mrs Richardson would want to thank her for her care and for always being willing to go the extra mile for them. We wish her a very long and happy retirement.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very restful Christmas break and a Happy New Year.

School will close for the Christmas break on Wednesday 18th December and recommence on Monday 6th January 2020 at 8.40am. On the final day of term Students in Years 7-10 will finish at 2.15pm and Years 11-13 at 1.30pm.

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Chatham & Clarendon
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