

Newsletter

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Messages from the Headteacher

As we approach the summer holidays it had looked as though Covid was a thing of the past, sadly not, we have increasing numbers amongst students and staff. As a result, we have decided to have a low-key end to the term, limiting large group gathering, to try and mitigate against spreading the virus just in time for the holidays!

We have had a less disrupted year this year and students on the whole have got back into the rhythm of normal school life. Looking back on the previous two years, it would be easy to think that catching up with what has been missed is an impossible task, however our children should realise that they have, on the whole coped, some indeed have thrived, they have shown resilience, flexibility, creativity and determination, all attributes which will stand them in good stead in life. They have endured and come through a worldwide event that might never be experienced by generations that follow them and it will no doubt be documented in future history books and social commentaries. Never underestimate the bounce-backability of young people!

I also want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the staff at the school, who work tirelessly to support our/your children in their endeavours ensuring and encouraging students to be the best that they can be. They give their time both in school, out of school hours and at weekends to make sure your children not only achieve academically but to offer those activities that extend and enrich our curriculum, some of which would not happen if staff were not prepared to give their time, like the CCF, D of E, school productions and music concerts, sports competitions and matches. This has been a challenging couple of years for staff dealing with and covering for covid related staff absences, it has often seemed like a revolving door, as one member of staff came back to work another one went off! I therefore salute them in facing up to all the challenges with resignation but also good humour. I am fortunate to have colleagues who work together to model the sense of community which pervades throughout our school, I value their hard work, their professionalism and their friendship.

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Duke of Edinburgh Award - 2021/2022

Duke of Edinburgh Award - 2021/2022

The Duke of Edinburgh Award here at CCGS has had a very successful year as it has been jam-packed with training sessions and Expeditions; a two day walk with a night's camping in Blean Woods.

Students have been learning how to pitch a tent, cook a meal on a Trangia, first aid skills and how to plan a route which they would then walk on their own with remote teacher supervision. This has allowed students to start to develop the skills leading towards independence which will benefit them later in life.

Despite playing catch up following on from the continued disruption of Covid-19 we are very pleased that in this academic year we have been able to offer the following opportunities:

- 2 Expeditions in September & October for 30 Year 11 students
- 2 Expeditions in May for 46 Year 10 students
- 2 Expeditions in June for 51 Year 9 students

This has meant that in total, 127 students across three different year groups have completed their Bronze Expedition, one of four sections required for the whole award, and are now one step closer to completion. Students showed versatility, resilience and courage through some challenging conditions such as driving rain but also blistering 30°C heat, not to mention trying to sleep whilst the wolves next door at Wildwood were howling! What was a highlight was the fact that there was always a strong sense of teamwork amongst the groups and the school community spirit was displayed throughout all the expeditions as students made new friendships and supported one another during the weekend.

Looking at DofE, the website where students upload their evidence for their three remaining sections (Volunteering, Skills and Physical) the range of activities that have been completed are fantastic and a real testament to the brilliant and talented students we are fortunate to have here at CCGS. From taekwondo, cooking, litter picking, tutoring a sibling, motor sports, photography and Scouts/Girlguiding to table-tennis, lifeguarding, refereeing, ballet, playing an instrument, painting and archery, the list could go on!

Next year we are proud to finally be launching the Silver award. This will be available to students who are currently in Year 9 and 10 but also the current Year 11 students who will be staying with us next year. Year 8 students going into Year 9 will be able to sign up to the Bronze award in Term 1 of the 2022/23 academic year.

On a final note, I would like to thank my DofE Team, Mr Mayo, Mrs Clark, Mrs Morgan and Mr Dudley for your assistance in helping me run the award and to all other staff members who have chipped in and offered your assistance throughout the year. As well as this, to 1st St Lawrence Scout Group for lending us some equipment when we needed it. Finally, to the Old Ruymians who have kindly gifted us some money to purchase more equipment for the award.

The biggest praise though should go to the students! You have all been brilliant and it is you who make running the award worthwhile. I hope you have enjoyed this year and that you push on with it through to Silver!

Mr Topping

Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager



Earth Observation Project IRIS

The school is a member of IRIS (Independent Research in Schools) and this year we ran the Earth Observation project for the first time. Students access an array of historic and current satellite images and use these to carry out research on their own projects. Sophia Bembridge completed her project on 'How Effective has Japan been in Reducing Pollution' looking at specific gas pollutants like carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide. She submitted her project to IRIS and has been awarded a certificate from IRIS for her project.



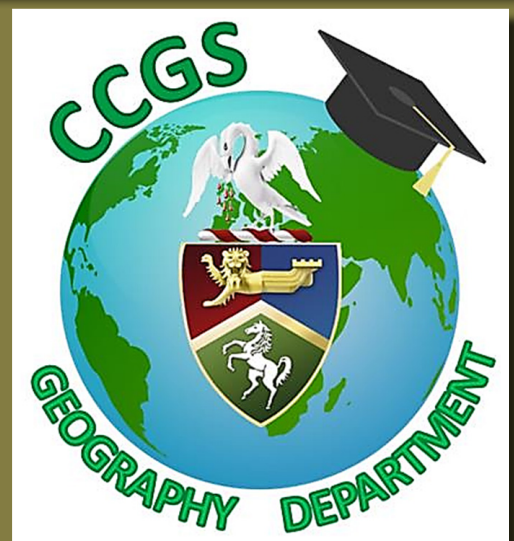
Geography Logo

The department came together to review and shortlist the 47 logo entries that were entered. We found it impossible to choose between the entries produced by Tilly Keeper (8KHg) and Harriet Rowe (8KHg), and so decided to combine both logos to create one final product. As such, both students were awarded winning certificates and an Amazon gift voucher in the Lower School Church Assembly on Wednesday 8th June.



The final design will feature around the Geography departments at both the Lower and the Upper sites for years to come.

We would also like to say thank you to following students for producing highly commended logos: Danika L'Fakir (7TSg), Nadia Curtis (7TSg), Jemima Cone (7KHg), Neve Taylor (7RPg), Nate Ling (8TSb), Thay Fitzgerald (8TSb), Kristian Nagl (8RPb) and Sophia Buka (9KHg).



Thank you to all who contributed to the competition.

Industrial Cadets – EDT – Gold Award

Five Year 12 students volunteered to participate in an extra-curricular investigation set up by Engineering Development Trust (EDT) for aspiring young Industrial Engineers. This was a 20-week programme which started in November, which gave them an experience of problem solving as engineers; and they were given links to a mentor from BAE Systems, who aided them to discuss a planned challenge. They met up via Teams, on a weekly basis and face to face at a 2-day event, which was coordinated for them to plan the next steps and learn new skills; aided by the mentor. These sessions were held in the University of Kent's Engineering Department building in January, allowing the group to suggest possible developments of the idea and move on from any issues.

This was the remit plan for the team of industrial cadets.

“What we chose and why...

We decided to develop a pair of glasses/visor to attach to a helmet, to help a soldier on a battlefield. This was to be developed to provide a soldier with information that would help them to remain as safe as possible and to help the squad or unit they belong to.

Our initial research was into the Royal Air Force and the American military so we could see what kind of technology is already being used and possible technology that maybe used soon. Once we had gathered this, we began to consider what kind of technology and the use for it in our one design.

We used the knowledge we already had on the kinds of problems foot soldiers in the Army may find as well as what we had looked at in the Air Force. We then went into researching what the best kind of technology that would be to use, this led us to decide on:

1. A sensor that we programmed to alert the wearer of any movement on a given distance.

We did this by using Arduino when we did the workshop at the University of Kent. We learnt how to program properly and how to build a sensor that is fully functioning for our needs, understanding the wiring and circuit boards.

2. Thermal imaging to help see movement and enemy target when camouflaged and at night, would have allowed for tracking/identifying the enemy in darkness as well.

This was researched and compared with night vision to see what the cost would be and how effective, but would give the best results. We came to the conclusion that although it was more expensive, it worked in all weather and terrain types. However, night vision was limited and only works at night and is not good in all types of weather.

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Industrial Cadets – EDT – Gold Award Continued

3. Looking into materials that we would use if we were to manufacture this product properly.

Since we are only doing a prototype, we wouldn't be able to order and make our product out of the material of choice, however we did investigate getting materials such as Kevlar to make our product out of, as it would be good for protection and quality."

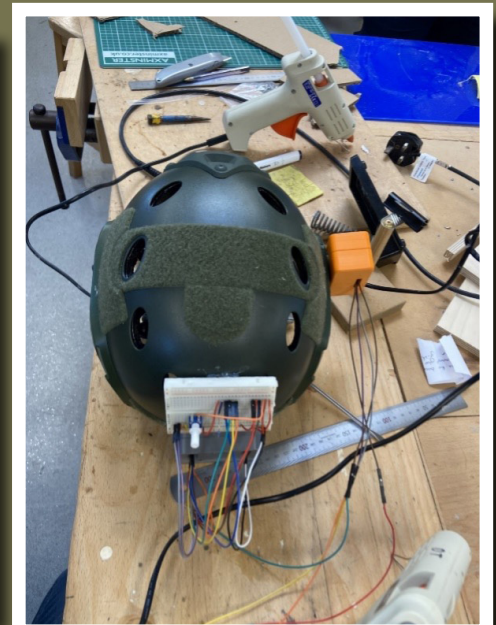
The students wrote a report of what they did and the learning curve that was achieved from the development of the idea. Sometimes the process was changed and developed by the mentor during meetings, which were held weekly. They also completed webinars and a logbook online. This was a very comprehensive and well-planned training programme, giving the students experience into engineering, and contacts at the university and in business.

The final process was to present their product and discuss the process to a panel of other mentors and produce a final group write up. They then answered questions, just like a Dragon's Den scenario in a presentation about decisions made and the final product produced, with reasons for actions and changes in direction on ideas and lessons learned.

Congratulations to:

Sophie Law
Emily Burne
Elliot Glover
Oliver Emery
Marley Adams

We would like to also thank EDT and BAE System mentor – Harry - for all his hard work with our school and the team.



Much Ado!

Mrs Gregory, Mrs Myhill and assistant director, Bobby Pearse, would like to say a massive thank you to the cast of Much Ado About Nothing for all their hard work. They are to be performing in November at the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury as part of Corum Shakespeare Schools Foundations. Very exciting times ahead! Watch this space for tickets.



Further Fundraising!

A big thank you to everyone who helped with fundraising to send humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine over the last two terms. Thank you for any purchases made, any cakes baked (or consumed!) and for guessing the name of Mrs Gregory's cuddly dog! The winner will be announced and awarded their prize on the last day of term.



Jack Pegden

Jack has been selected to represent the Under 18 Kent Tennis squad in the Salisbury Cup, competing against youngsters from several different counties. There are only 4 male and 4 females selected, so he has done well to be selected - especially when he is only 16!

Kooth

Free Parent/Carer webinars on Kooth: these sessions are designed to let parents/carers know how Kooth can support their children with their mental health & wellbeing.

Click on the registration link to sign up & attend. If parents/carers have any questions, they can email parentsandcarers@kooth.com

Date	Time	Registration Link
Weds 27 July	6pm - 7pm	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-kooth-for-parents-and-carers-tickets-277457000357

Kooth's Summer Holiday Digital Assets

These digital assets can be downloaded & printed for free:

- Summer Holiday Assets Option A [Click here](#)
- Summer Holiday Assets Option B [Click here](#)
- Kooth's Wellbeing Summer Checklist for Schools to share with pupils/students [Click here](#)

Junior Maths Challenge 2022

Our Year 7 and 8 mathematicians have achieved an impressive 7 gold, 23 silver and 48 bronze certificates in the national UKMT mathematics challenge. This is a one-hour long competition full of interesting and demanding maths problems.

Filip Grigoras (Year 8) and Coco Chen (Year 7) made it to the next round, Junior Kangaroo Olympiad, congratulations!

Gold certificates:

Coco Chen, Holly Adams, Meghan Costin, Anna Uchnast, Jo-Jo Widdows, Filip Grigoras, Ryan Monfort

Silver Certificates:

Kian Albuera, George Saunders, Ryan Ganley, Samuel Martin, Finley Munson, Rishika Giddaluru, Natalie Reid, Oliver Birmingham, Amelie Maycock, Lois Baisley, Samuel Foster, Mark Balazs, Eevee Goodall, Selma Koksai, Florrie Cartwright, Alan Robinson, Michael Gage, Evie Cunningham, Laura Douglas, Joseph Hobley, Jacob Grace, Rosey Mayo

Bronze Certificates:

Eva Davies, Sebastian Padi, Mustafa Akyol, Callum Farley, Evie Field, Luca Iglesias-Whittaker, Howard Yates, Rebeka Matovcikova, Leo Vidal, Finn Ilvonen, Botond Nagl, Elikem Debre, Alexander Ling, Alfie Willis-Crowley, Lewis Anderson, Grey Dennis Bennett, Deniz Akter, Tyla Groom, Milly McMahon, Herb Hales, Lucie Hall, Ned Liutkevicius, Morgan Coker, Vincent Donnelly, Samuel Kirby, Rafi Zaman, Finn Gardner, Alisa Gerins, Grace James, Zoe Lancley, Kavya Mangam, Evie Ottaway, Sylvia Jiang, Daniel Beldin, Isabelle Tiley, Jake Card, William Carpenter, Joshua Hawkins, Frank Carlton, Kara Hendrick, Morgan Brown, Lilyanna Manning, Leo Cao, Krisztian Nagl, Maia Tolley, River Brett, Layla Denby, Nicholas Fox

UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

We have had another excellent year with Intermediate Maths challenge, the national competition for mathematicians in Year 10 and 11. There were 5 gold, 18 silver and 19 bronze certificates overall.

Gold certificates: Mac Yang, Jake McGregor, Ben Macaulay, Audrey Benjamin and Finlay Newbold

Silver certificates:

Year 10-Lizzie Laffey, Matilda Ellis, Rose Burgess

Year 11- Luke Gore, Lucas Bush, Josh Jackson, Sorcha Power, Kirsty Burgess, Cassia Harris, Tilly Crimmins, Marley Barham, Ethan Dalecki, Lyon Downton, Olive Yalinkilicli, Kyle Alltoft-Stockwell, Peter Ni, Jefferson Harwood, Malachi Phasey

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UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge Continued

Bronze certificates:

Year 10 - Jean Hodge, Alishba Asim, Willow Cox, Minette Vickery, Grace Chamberlain, Maria Piecuch, Maya Shakeshaft and Macey Nicholson

Year 11- Lilly Howse, Ruby Saunders, Daniel Wallden, Ruby Redwood, William Johnson, Sophia Gooding, Francesca Coldham, Molly McGee, Cara Conteh, Eve Burkitt, Emily Ogilvie, Katie Todd, Tara Vidal Von Ronn.

Mac Yang scored the highest in the school and made it to the Hamilton Olympiad - two hour written paper for the top 600 mathematicians in the country. Mac went on to achieve a merit in this difficult paper, well done!

Jake McGregor, Ben Macaulay, Audrey Benjamin and Finlay Newbold made it to the Pink Kangaroo follow on round for the best several thousand mathematicians across the country. They all achieved a certificate of qualification.

Well done to all those taking part.

Charity Collections

Children in Need £1243

Comic Relief £1019

House Charity money raised during charity weeks:

KH -Take Off £805,

MS – Macmillan Cancer Care £507,

RP - Stop Hate £1002,

TS – Pilgrims Hospice £977

There was also a cake sale for Macmillan Cancer Research raising a further £107

Staff leaving

We have a number of staff leaving and I would like to thank them for all their hard work in supporting and encouraging students in their different fields of study.

Mr Mair – DT, a former and valued Design Technology teacher, returned for a year in 2018 and again in 2020 covering staffing gaps within the department staying beyond the initial year to help us. He is now moving on once again, with our best wishes. We are very grateful for his support of the school.

Miss Howell – Science, is leaving us to take up a position at another school as lead Teacher for Physics and we wish her every success in her new role.

Miss Riches – MFL is leaving us as she is embarking on a new career as a therapist, we wish her every success in her new venture.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and restful summer. School finishes on Monday 18th July at 2.05pm and re-commences on Friday 2nd September.

Years 8-11 start at 10.30am.

Our new Year 7 students will start at the normal time of 8.40am.

Year 12 have a meeting in the 6th form centre from 8.30am.

Year 13 will be expected to come in for a meeting with the 6th Form Team on Friday 2nd September at 11.30am, however their lessons will not start until Monday 5th September.