



CHATHAM & CLARENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Newsletter

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Issue 34 - March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

The Easter break is almost upon us; it does not seem possible that we are already two thirds of the way through the school year! The summer public exams are not very far away, so I would urge parents of students in Years 11 and 13 to encourage your child/children to make the most of the holiday to get a good amount of revision under their belts! During our 1:1 meetings with Year 11 in February and again this week, we have discussed the importance of striking a work life balance, students should have time to both revise and have 'down time', during the fortnight holiday. It is also important that in the few weeks left after Easter, students make good use of all the revision and support sessions on offer by staff, both at lunchtime and afterschool.

Contacting staff

We have more and more parents who contact staff out of school hours and during school holiday, 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. Many staff will not be checking their emails over the forthcoming break.

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.

P6 Reminder

Just a polite reminder that our same day P6 is in place to prevent your child falling behind and to allow them to have a fresh start the next day. Please do not ask us to rearrange their P6 unless, for example, you have a pre-arranged medical appointment. If your child is in Period 6, you may have to make alternative arrangements to get them home. Please do not blame us for this, rather discuss how inconvenienced your child made you. This will further develop good learning habits and consideration for you and the family.

Italian and Colombian Students

You may be aware that we have had both Italian and Colombian students visiting us this term as part of an Immersion Programme run by Broadstairs English Centre; each student is assigned two buddies to look after them for the duration of their stay, taking them to their lessons, helping them with their English, explaining how our English school system works and generally being their friend. I want to say a massive well done to all the students who have volunteered to buddy a student, your friendship makes all the difference to the students who are part of the programme. The feedback from the students and their teachers is always full of praise for our amazing students.

Finally, school will close at 3.15pm on Friday 31st March and re-open on Monday 17th April. We wish all students a restful break and a Happy Easter.

Debra Liddicoat
Headteacher.

- Notices from the Headteacher
- Chicago - Full review of CCGS's 2023 production
- Thanet Music and Drama Festival - Success for CCGS
- Foremothers - Sixth Former students put on original piece
- House music - Reports from the Upper and Lower School competitions
- Football - Under 12 team in Cup Final
- RP Charity Week - money raised for Cardiac Risk in the Young
- Science Week - Students participate in national event
- D of E Award - Celebration of all those involved

Chicago and all that jazz...

From the first eerie trumpet call (played by Year 8 student, Lucie Hall) to the final curtain call, I was mesmerised by this stunning production of Chicago.

This is not an easy show; the song lyrics are integral to telling the story, so must all be heard, yet include some fast tongue-twisters, the dance is an essential ingredient, needing talent, energy and imaginative choreography, the characters are all flawed, but subtly different and we need to see them as people, not 2-D stereotypes, and the action and scenes need to keep moving with expert narration linking them...

And we had it all here! If someone had unknowingly wandered in, I very much doubt they would have realised that this was a school production; they might have even thought they were in the West End.

No performance detracted, and many were amazingly good, including Lola Walton (Velma), Erin Gardner (Roxie), Jed Silk (Billy) and Molly Jones, but for me the most outstanding was Daniel Young as Mr Cellophane; Amos Hart. Full of pathos, and tugging at our heart-strings, yet never OTT, this was a really mature nuanced performance.

The ensemble work was also immaculate. The main ensemble dazzled with their dancing, and the younger students contributed much to the larger ensemble stagings, particularly the crowd of journalists, each displaying a slightly different character whilst still working as a team.

The live band contributed hugely to the overall effect, and it was wonderful to see several are present students; Francesca Coldham, Nima Fitzgerald, Natasha Townsend and Thomas Hall (in addition to his sister Lucie, mum and uncle...)

There were lots of stand-out moments but those that have stayed with me the most are the expertly executed ventriloquist number "They Both Reached for the Gun", and the clever re-enactment of the original crime scene (as reimagined by Roxie and Billy...) towards the end of the show.

Despite the macabre subject matter and lack of sympathetic characters, I still left the hall on a high, singing those brilliant songs well into the next few weeks.

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



Thanet Music and Drama Festival

The Thanet Music and Drama Festival was back in full this year, at last, culminating in the much missed Gala Concert on March 24th with the winners being presented their trophies by the eminent Dr David Flood. It was a wonderful occasion with sparkling performances from those chosen to perform. Ruby Richardson (Year 12) sang her heartfelt "Folksong", and Isabelle Barrs (also Year 12) tapped her way through a solo and duet.

The first section to take place is always Speech and Drama, at the end of February, with several CCGS students appearing in various classes. We had the very experienced Cally Foster as our adjudicator; her third appearance here in Thanet, but sadly her last as she retires very soon. She makes everyone feel special, and calms any nerves. Her diplomatic drawing out of the positives from any performance is much appreciated.

The festival opened with the speech classes at Queens Road Baptist Church, and moved to the Sarah Thorne Theatre for the more dramatic weekend classes. Henry Hodge, Year 7, took part in the poem recital class for Years 7-8, and Ryan Baskaran in the Public Speaking class for Years 7-9. The standard was incredibly high, and both did well to hold their own against such opposition. Ryan also took part in the prose-reading, Bible reading and poem recital for Years 9-10, alongside Joanna and Jerusha Durasingham. Ryan won the Bible reading with the highest mark of any Bible reading for the older students, thereby winning the Franks Trophy. Jerusha came first in the poem for their age-group, with Joanna second and Ryan third, whilst the girls tied behind Ryan on the Bible reading, and just ahead of him, in second place for the prose reading. They were all tightly fought classes, with very high marks. Louca Theodorou-Bunce (Year 11) came first in his public speaking class (with a high distinction), and Harriet Tyman (also Year 11), did particularly well, winning four classes in both speech and drama, half(!) the McCleesh cup for reading aloud at sight, and the Lanes' cup for overall excellence. These were presented by Dr David Flood at our restored Gala Concert on March 24th at the Sarah Thorne Theatre in Broadstairs.

We always have several entrants in the Vocal and Choral section, and this year was no exception. Many were entered by our own singing teacher, Abs Pascoe, but other teachers entered our students as well, and it was good to see a choir comprising several of our students. This section was held, as usual, at St. Philip's Church in Palm Bay, on the 2nd-4th March.

The section began well for us with the first five classes won by one of our students... Libby Field (Year 11) won the set solo song and traditional folk song for 16 and under, while Ruby Richardson (Year 12) won the same two classes for 18 and under, as well as the vocal solo with piano accompaniment; in her case, partnered with Nima Fitzgerald. Ruby won 4 cups! In the evening on that first day, Ophelia Howard (Year 12) won the class, and cup, for musicals, 18 & under, with a song from Into the Wood (Sondheim is always hard too!) In the same class for 16 and under, Merryn Pearse (Year 11) gained a really high mark for a spirited rendition of "If I were a Bell" from Guys and Dolls, Saskia Howard (Year 10) came third with a song from Mean Girls, and Kelsie Bissett, singing the best I've seen in a moving version of "She used to be mine" from Waitress, a deserved second (she'd have won had I had the vote!) There were several students in the final class of the day too; the "Song in a Modern style"... Libby, and Christina Hodge (Year 13) both did well. I think this was Christina's first public performance, and she included scat singing in her rendition of "Lullaby of Birdland". Ruby Richardson won the class, and cup, with her interpretation of "Falling", gaining an impressive 91 marks ("outstanding"). The last two to sing tied in 4th place: Bobby Pearse (Year 13) with a great, upbeat "Mack the Knife" (sung with a proper swing), and Kelsie with one of my favourite Queen songs, "Somebody to Love"; a brilliant end to a really enjoyable evening.

Thanet Drama and Music Festival continued

The following day saw classes for the younger entrants. Isabella Fountain (Year 7) did well singing a song from Tangled, and in the final class of the day for 13 & under, Annabelle Collings (Year 7) came third with a song from James & the Giant Peach, and Lucie Hall second with a lovely rendition of that song from My Fair Lady.

Next morning, Annabelle was back in a choir from her dance school who won their class, and Benji Sydenham, Matthew Gough, Stanley Whitmarsh-Hart and Ethan Gregory were all part of the Holy Trinity graduates choir who included Macmillan's "Radiant Dawn", and won the open choral class.

It's a long time since I've been to the Pianoforte section but I spent the entire Saturday afternoon there this year; a lovely peaceful way to spend part of the weekend, and a joy to see a number of our students doing well. Asa Faux-Bowyer (Year 7) and Anna Uchnast (Year 8) had some stiff competition in their classes, but in the largest class of the afternoon; the junior recital for under 14s, Ethan Jennings (Year 7) came 3rd, and Ruth Bell (Year 8) 2nd; a particularly good result alongside the all-winning wunderkind of the festival. And we had winners too: Luka Knight-Del Sastre (Year 11) won one of his classes and the Millennium Cup, Levin Bell his repertoire class and, against more competition, Delaena Debre (Year 10) won hers with a beautifully rhythmic and fluid CPE Bach piece. Later, on the same day, Rei Escofet (Year 8) won 2 of his 3 violin classes, with his duet gaining distinction.

Congratulations to all who took part this year; it takes guts to get up and perform in front of an adjudicator and biased audience! Why not try to attend the 2024 festival (end of Feb-March) and support our students in person?

www.thanetfestival.org.uk



Foremothers... A Houselights Devised piece

Those who ventured to the Drama Studio in the Sixth Form Centre on March 9th and 10th (and there were, thank goodness, plenty of us) enjoyed a really exciting evening...

Foremothers told the story of the 1621 "Tobacco Brides" and how they came to be shipped to Jamestown in West Virginia to be married to the European settlers of the West Virginia Company. What could have been a dry history lesson became a fascinating, fast-paced exploration of the backgrounds of 4 of these women.

Many of the students involved, although mostly 6th formers, are not actually taking drama A Level, but the understanding of what they were trying to achieve, the level of concentration and focus, and the absolute commitment to the whole cast and overall production suggested that perhaps far more of them should be!

In devising the play themselves, they tapped into many of the Frantic Assembly techniques; seamlessly moving from scene to scene with any staging/prop movement as part of the action, a high level of physical energy, and a real reliance on teamwork. Much of the play contained ideas alien to our ways of thinking now, yet the cast had fully grasped how the women would have felt then, without inflicting 21st century sensibilities and emotions upon them as so often happens in literature today. The maturity they showed went well beyond their years.

Mr Smith explained "We began this project with one leading question: 'How desperate must a person be, to leave the life they know behind, to start again in a world where uncertainty, hardship and hatred await?' The idea of starting afresh often appeals - but when the journey is fraught with danger, when lives are literally on the line, that decision takes far more courage. Throughout history people have been displaced by war, poverty, famine, natural disasters, genocide and more. No one would risk it all unless they felt they had nothing else to lose. This is a story that transcends the ages. America was built on immigrant people looking to escape oppression, starvation and persecution and yet today immigrants are portrayed as a problem, a strain on society... it is a one-sided argument that creates division when history has shown us that those looking to mark a new start often stimulate positive change despite the challenges they face. Today we look back at these brave pioneers with a sense of wonder... so why do we view others with a sense of fear or disdain?"

Foremothers continued

“From a personal perspective, this has been one of the most rewarding journeys I have been on in my career as a teacher. There is something incredibly dangerous about devised work, not knowing what you will end up with. It is an organic process that requires full commitment and trust from the ensemble. I have been so impressed and inspired by their creativity, their risk taking and their immense focus and drive. These students willingly sacrificed evenings and weekends for several weeks, never settling for ‘okay’ but always striving to improve with each and every performance. We told the story of the Foremothers but we told our story too in the way we wanted to. There was not a single member of the cast or crew who didn’t make substantial progress themselves as performers and practitioners. If this was assessed work they would all have been awarded A* - I’m so incredibly proud of what they have achieved.”

A huge congratulations to all involved, and to Mr Smith for masterminding (directing). This has whetted my appetite for Houselights’ future productions, and, once again, made me proud to be part of a school that takes the performing arts so seriously.

Cast; Freya Bartlam-Morgan, Maisie Chambers, Kirsty Clapham, Camilla Comincioli, Alicia Gasser, Thomas Gravelle, Lily Howse, Freddie Kilner-Jones, Bessie Molyneux, Samuel Mountford, George Pearson, Summer Scholes, Lennon Searle, Apollo Stocker, Rachel De La Barra Stone, Ruby Tipple, Daniel Young

Production Team: Adrian Smith, Jaan Richards, Courtney S. Hughes, Grace Williams, Daniel Young, Audrey Benjamin, Richard Potter, Ruby Redmond, Tara Vidal Von Ronn, Edmund Rudland, Lauren Kirby



House Music

We had a really successful House Music competition, thanks so much to everyone that took part.

All the Year groups (10-13) were well represented, except Year 11, where only five students performed from the entire Year group.

Special thanks to the music prefects Molly, Christina and Tom for organising their Houses' performances (even holding auditions in some cases to select the best entrants).

Only one House was underrepresented, which sadly affected the final results - if you play an instrument or sing and didn't take part this year remember that if you had it would probably have made a big difference to the final scores.

The Year 10 audiences were brilliantly supportive and very appreciative of everything they heard, regardless of the style or type of music.

Thanks also to Mr Gibbons for running sound on the day and the staff who came along to watch.

The final House placings were:

1st KH
2nd (joint) RP and TS
3rd MS

The ensemble awards (Years 10-13) were as follows:

1st 10TS Band and Erin and Maddy (joint)
2nd MS Ensemble
3rd Nima and Ruby, RP House Ensemble and Thea, Della and Freya (joint)

Highly commendeds:

Year 12 RP band
TS Day Tripper Ensemble

The solo awards were as follows:

Year 10

1st Thea Curtis
2nd Saskia Howard
3rd Delaena Debra

Highly Commendeds:

Joe Shelton, Lewis Hodges, Jairus Kuriakose, Henry Cleverdon, James Woodward

Year 11

1st Zaia Zaman
2nd Erin Gardner and Kelsie Bissett (joint)
3rd Matt Cornelius

Year 12

1st Ruby Richardson and Fran Coldham
2nd Carys Weedon and Natasha Townsend
3rd Nima Fitzgerald

Highly Commendeds:

Levin Bell
Luke Gore
Spencer Harris
Grace Williams

Year 12 got the highest scores of any one year group - well done!

Year 13

1st Molly Jones
2nd Tom Hall
3rd Matt Whelan and Jed Silk (joint)

Highly Commendeds:

Jo Attwell
Emily Burne
Lola Walton
Christina Hodge

Mrs Clements watched the whole morning's performances and would like to give the following additional awards:

RP - RP House Ensemble
MS - Matt Whelan
TS - Joanna Attwell
KH - Ruby Richardson



Larkin Cup

The Lower School Larkin Cup 'House Music' Competition was a really enjoyable morning, a massive well done to everyone who took part. It can be very scary playing or singing in front of so many people so you should be very proud if you took part and contributed to your House' overall scores.

The overall House results were as follows:

1st MS
2nd KH
3rd RP
4th TS

The individual winners were as follows:

Year 7

1st Edward Curtis (piano)
2nd Asa Faux-Bowyer (flute)
3rd Frankie Bateson (electric guitar)

Highly Commended:

Amelia Martin
Jessica Ashman
Elliot Martin
Ewan Ganley

Year 8

1st Lucie Hall (trumpet)
2nd Rei Escofet (violin)
3rd Amelia Catto (flute)

Highly commended:

Amelie Maycock
Jess Robinson
Ethan Cobley
Regan Capewell
Rachael Patterson
Luke Falconer
Elikem Debre
Rebeka Matovcikova
Ruben Lanciaprima

More than 60% of the total entries were from Year 8 - you have a very musical year group and so the standard was much higher here, sorry if you missed out on a highly commended.

Year 9

1st Benji Sydenham (piano - own composition)

2nd Kara Hendrick (flute)
3rd Edith Jeffries (clarinet)

Highly Commended:

Louisa Green
Grace Manville
Lillian Dennis

And the ensemble prizes were as follows:

1st Lucie Hall and Anna Uchnast
2nd Ethan and Rachael and TS Choir (joint)
3rd Kiera and Morgan

Highly Commended

9RPg Ensemble
8KH Ensemble

Well done to everyone who took part!

Mrs Harris watched the whole morning's performances and would like to give the following additional awards:

RP - Amelie Maycock
MS - Regan Capewell
TS - TS Choir
KH - Grace Manville

There will be a 'winners concert' later this academic year that will feature many of you that performed so watch this space!

Many thanks,

The Music Department



U12 Kent Cup Football Final

A competition that started back in October, culminated last Friday 24th March at Ramsgate Football Club. Our Year 7 Football Team, who had been unbeaten since joining the school, unfortunately lost their Kent Cup Final 3-1 to Rainham Mark Grammar School.

The scoreline however, doesn't give a true reflection on how the game played out, with CCGS controlling the majority of the ball and creating plenty of chances to score. The boys' commitment, resilience and energy was fantastic and kept fighting throughout the game to try and turn things around. Credit must go to our opponents, who were organised and defended well. However, on another night, with a bit more luck and a good bounce of the ball this would have been a different ending to this journey.

It was an amazing turnout, with over 300 people in attendance supporting both schools'. The team would like to thank the fantastic support shown from staff, students and parents on the evening, the atmosphere was amazing and despite being a 'neutral' venue, it certainly felt like a home fixture for our boys.

This group will no doubt challenge again and come back stronger in Year 8.



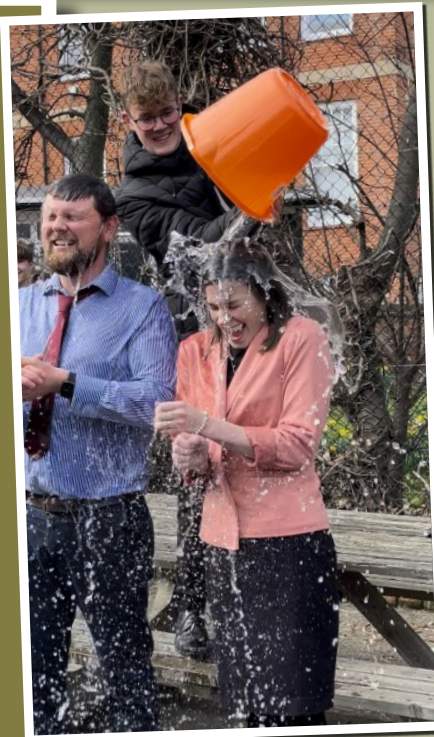
U12 Squad: Ethan Jennings, Jack Appleford, Alexander Smith, Danny Mumby, Bobby Adams (Capt), Jensen Fordom, Dillon Lawson, Finley Bonneywell, Leon Vig, Ted Baker, Joaquin Munoz-Wood, Max Sanger, Stanley Hosking

Cardiac Risk in the Young

RP Charity week

A huge thank you to all who contributed in time, talent or donations toward the recent RP charity week, raising funds and awareness for Cardiac Risk in the Young. A total of £1,255.30 was raised for this great cause. Arrangements are underway for the charity to come in and offer a screening service to students who fall within the suggested age group next year.

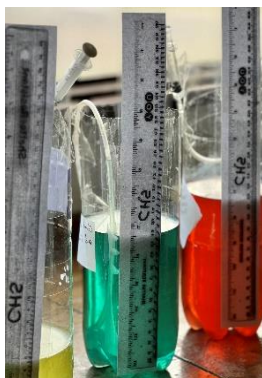
The week was fun-filled with various events including, basketball and football shoot-outs, raffle, fayre, chess & rubix competitions, cake and pancake sales, request a tune, chocolate sales, soak the teacher and the Abba Voyage raffle, Thank you all!



British Science Week



The theme for this year's BSW was connections. Year 7s had to make up a message to send by morse code and evaluate which method of communication was best, based on how close the received message was to the sent message.



Year 8s made barometers and are using these to measure changes in pressure. By also recording the weather, they can determine a link between it and barometric pressure.

Year 9 Biologists looked at our links to and our reliance on the oceans. How can we balance the interests of those making a livelihood from it and not damaging the oceans and fish stocks? Debates were then heard, with students taking on the roles of different interested parties, debating if sea fishing should continue.

Year 9 Chemists looked at producing foams and how changing the mass of a key ingredient can change the volume and texture of the foam. Then they were treated to a mega foam demo



Finally the Year 9 Physicists were challenged to build a bridge to span a gap of 40cm and that could hold the highest mass before deforming... but from only 3 sheets of newspaper and 1m of tape! A prize awaits the group which held the highest mass and will be announced when all results are in!

Duke of Edinburgh Award

This academic year has seen the Duke of Edinburgh Award go from strength to strength, signing off multiple awards and sections and now assisting our biggest cohorts to date! Within Year 9 we are proud to have 68 Bronze Award students who are excited for their expeditions in May and June and as well as this, our first Silver Award cohort is made up of a brilliant 42 students from Years 10, 11 and 12 who have their expeditions in April and July.

All 110 students are completing a skill, a volunteering session and a physical activity and collectively are taking part in a brilliant variety of activities. These include piano lessons, cricket, dancing, litter picking, language lessons, martial arts, young leader, football, care home work, painting and many others, all of which will help them develop vital and useful skills that will benefit them later on in life!

As well as this, on Friday 10th February, we held a small awards ceremony for the 64 students who have successfully completed their Bronze Awards. Mr Richford who attended echoed our thoughts of how proud we are of you all and look forward to presenting even more Bronze and Silver awards in the coming months.

If you would like to get involved in the award, Year 8 you will have the chance to join Bronze in September 2023 and Years 9-12 you can join Silver in 2024.

Finally, I would like to thank my staff who help facilitate the award for the students, most notably Mr Mayo. Without you all we could not offer the award to the students!

Mr Topping



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