



CHATHAM & CLARENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Newsletter

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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! GCSE and A Level 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 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 either as a breakfast club or at lunchtime and afterschool, details of which are available on the website.

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.

Visiting Students from Panama, Italy and Thailand

You may be aware that we have had students from Panama, Italy and Thailand visiting us recently as part of an Immersion Programme run by Broadstairs English Centre; each student is assigned 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 during their stay. Our students take their responsibilities very seriously and 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 Thursday 28th March and re-open on Monday 15th April. We wish all students a restful break and a Happy Easter.

Debra Liddicoat
Headteacher

Issue 36 - March 2024

Latest HOUSELIGHTS production - JAB, proved to be a real hit with audiences this term

Thanet Music and Drama Festival - revealed a wealth of CCGS talent

CCGS presented with 'The Black Prince' - Historic replica sword

MFL department have a busy term - Students from Year 9 to Year 13 have been taking part in a variety of educational visits.

Senior Boys Football County Cup Final - Take on the Judd school

UKMT Intermediate maths challenge 2024 - an amazing set of results

Medical research trip - A day in the life of a laboratory researcher

BEBRAS and Oxford University Competition - Student achieve

Movies, Musicals and More 2 - An evening of live entertainment

Audiences knocked out by latest HOUSELIGHTS production!

HOUSELIGHTS latest production, JAB, proved to be a real hit with audiences this term.

The play charts the tale of a young female boxer, Maxine, who is tipped to become a member of Team GB's boxing squad, until an unexplained seizure leaves her stranded in the ring.

Student Director, Lilly Howse, said 'This is our second devised piece with the HOUSELIGHTS ensemble and I think it is possibly our best performance yet. It's also been our most personal. We knew we wanted to do something about a female boxer but it wasn't until we were several weeks into rehearsals that the idea emerged.'

The HOUSELIGHTS team went through a series of physical theatre workshops to generate ideas for the show and by Christmas a full script had been written based on some of the ideas that came out of the process.

Head of Drama, Mr Smith, said 'I'm really pleased with the story we've managed to pull together - it is an emotional rollercoaster, and it touches on the frustration of awaiting a diagnosis. The story could have easily become flat, but the HOUSELIGHTS ensemble had so much energy and focus that they've really produced something magical.

'Our ensemble have been phenomenal. Despite everything going on around them they have really raised the bar again this year. I couldn't be prouder of what they have produced and how hard they have worked. From our cast of actors to other students working behind the scenes making costumes, stage-managing, composing original music, operating the sound and lights or as part of our directorial team, it's been awesome.'

This year's production saw several new arrivals to the HOUSELIGHTS ensemble, including Mabel Walton who played the lead role, Maxine.

Mabel said 'This is the first show I've been able to take part in since before COVID-19. I'd seen my sister involved with HOUSELIGHTS over the last two years and it was one of the main reasons I decided to join Chatham & Clarendon's sixth form.



HOUSELIGHTS latest production, JAB, continued...

Mabel continues, 'It's a really intense show with so many physical sequences to learn and remember and I'm on stage for virtually the whole thing apart from a few quick costume changes. It was really challenging but I'm so glad to have been a part of it.'

JAB was the third HOUSELIGHTS production for Maddy Sales, who plays Maxine's close friend and sparring partner Casey.

Maddy said 'I think this is without doubt the best HOUSELIGHTS production I've been involved with. The Frantic Assembly style sequences were so much fun to be a part of and develop and by the end of the run I was literally going through the sequences and lines in my sleep.'

Mr Smith finished by saying 'There's such a special atmosphere at this school built on compassion, trust and respect, which has filtered from the Headteacher down. My colleague Mrs Cackett and I took a chance and set HOUSELIGHTS up three years ago because we knew we had the full support of the School Leadership Team. It makes such a difference knowing you can take risks and that there are people behind you willing for it to succeed or to pick you up if you fail. It's something we try to instil in our students, and we are seeing them grow more confident and ambitious year on year.'

'It's unique. I've never known another school to have such a sense of community and to champion the creative arts as much as they do here at Chatham & Clarendon. The success of JAB is no coincidence. Our students have grown so much since the pandemic and it's so nice to finally see them reach their potential again.'





Thanet Music and Drama Festival

As ever, the Thanet Music and Drama Festival revealed a wealth of CCGS talent... some we have always known about, others keep it more hidden!

Unfortunately this year, illness prevented me from going to any section but my own (Speech and Drama), but I do know who was down to perform, who won trophies, and who is performing at the Gala Concert at the Sarah Thorne Theatre with VIP singer David Wyatt presenting the trophies.

All our students did well in the Speech and Drama section; I particularly enjoyed the duologue Mabel Dunbar-Brunton and Olivia Dilkes performed – they were robbed of the cup! Both girls, along with Ava Harris, (year 7s), did well in a number of classes across speech and drama, with Mabel gaining 89 for her original poem, and also winning the Lane Cup for overall achievement. Both Jerusha and Joanna Duraisingham won cups; Joanna the Mary Raven Cup for Speech, and Jerusha the Margate Bible Society Cup. For Joshua Eve (year 7) this was his first festival, and he achieved a first and third in his two classes.

The section with most students from CCGS is Vocal... congratulations to all who took part... Layla Gregory, Libby Field, Ruby Richardson, Lewis Hodges, Saskia Howard, Benji Sydenham, Matt Gough, Franklin Joyner, Stanley Whitmarsh-Hart, Millie Bailey, Isla Connolly, Isobel Bailey, Rosie Fitch, George Hall, Mabel Dunbar-Brunton, Freddie Walters, Maddison Pay, Amelie Maycock, Isabel-la Fountain, Annabelle Collings.

And of these, not only did Libby, Ruby and Freddie win cups, but the CCGS Lower Voice choir won the Cup for Choirs years 7-13.

Mabel took part in the pianoforte section as well, and won a duet cup with her sister, and Ethan Jennings won FOUR! Dylan Jiang, Asa Faux-Bowyer, Benji, Ruth Bell, Stanley, Luka Knight-del-Sastre and Levin Bell also all took part.

I apologise that I don't know how many of our students were involved in the dance section this year; Annabelle, and Evie-Mae Hulls were certainly down to dance! Ethan and Mabel are both performing piano pieces at the concert.

Mrs Myhill

'The Black Prince' sword presentation

Simon Rolfe (father of Jack Rolfe 8MSB) presents Mr Ferguson, Head of Mann Somerville House (Lower) with a replica sword of 'The Black Prince', Edward of Woodstock (1330 - 1376).

He was the eldest son of King Edward III of England and is entombed in Canterbury Cathedral.

Mr Rolfe's kind gift will be used as a learning aid and will be displayed in the reception area at the Lower school site.



The MFL department has been busy in the last few weeks!

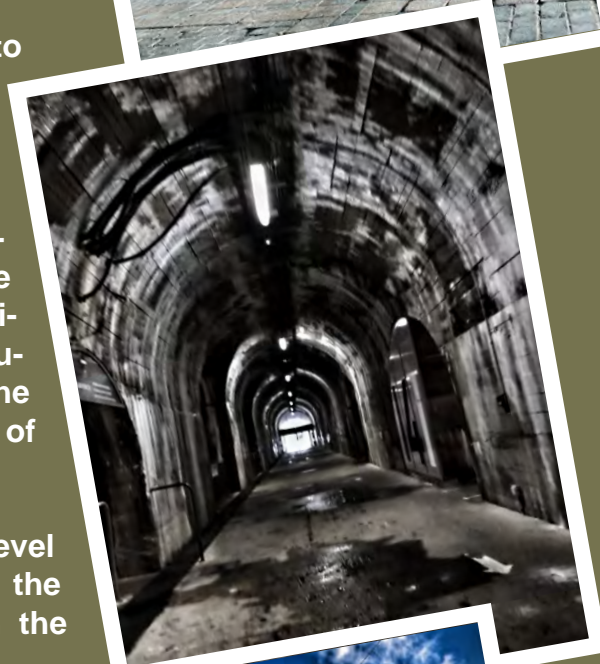
Students from Y9 to Y13 have been taking part in a variety of educational visits which has given them numerous opportunities to see the concrete application of learning French and Spanish.

Y9 were invited to attend a day of workshops at the British Film Institute in London, Southbank. This gave them a chance to watch award-winning short films, in the target language, and to learn and use key vocab to talk about the situations or the cinematographic techniques used in the making of those films. We were impressed with the behaviour and focus of the groups who attended. Some were very brave to volunteer to answer questions in front of an audience of around 400 teenagers and teachers. An even braver pair performed a scene on stage and in French!!!

Y12 had the opportunity to go to the University of Kent to attend a day of conferences. To quote the organisers: "Organised by the Langton Language Centre in collaboration with the University of Kent, this day conference included lectures and workshops in French, German and Spanish relating to the current A level syllabus and aimed at improving language skills and cultural understanding. There were also contributions from university staff and support from university students." The day proved very valuable, and our students realised that there is a life for languages outside the classroom! It gave them perspective on potential use of languages in their future careers too.

Having a healthy number of students in our French A Level groups this year allowed us to organise a short trip over the waters to experience first hand some of the themes on the French syllabus. 15 Y12 and Y13 students took the ferry to France on a chilly (yet thankfully wind free) January morning. One big part of the Y13 work is dedicated to the study of life in occupied France so we paid a visit to "La Coupole" near St Omer. The scale of the site gave us an idea of the nazi military operation in Northern France and beyond. The most prominent feature was a huge concrete dome, constructed in the side of a chalk quarry. The facility was designed to be a V2 launch pad which, had it been successfully completed, would have allowed the Germans to bomb Southeast England and London, without leaving French soil.

Our visit left a lasting impression on our pupils who gained a better understanding of how hard life must have been for the French population under the nazi regime. The rest of our trip was spent discovering the northern city of Lille, its history, architecture, and gastronomy. And of course, a bit of retail therapy "à la française" in the "Euralille" shopping centre as well as in Lille town centre made the experience all the more worth it! On the way home, we even got a snapshot of the French farmers strikes when our coach had to leave the motorway which was blocked by an impressive number of tractors and a few piles of France's best manure! Weirdly enough, this was like seeing the curriculum in action as one of the Y12 topics looks at the world of work (and consequently strikes) in modern France.



MFL continued...

Finally, the Y13 Spanish A Level group went to the Cervantes Theatre in London to see a performance of the play they are studying: La Casa de Bernarda Alba. This striking play by the Spanish dramatist Federico García Lorca, performed by a cast of 8 women, tells us about the living conditions for women in early 20th century Spain. The Cervantes Theatre's intimate setting makes you feel like you are on stage with the women, experiencing their plights and struggles. This trip always brings the play to life and adds an all-important dimension to its study.

All of these visits were greatly enjoyed by pupils and staff alike and, in a post-covid world, have reminded us of how travelling is paramount to the development of curiosity and cultural awareness in our students' young minds.

For our next trip, we look forward to taking Y7 to the Opal Coast for their residential trip in July. Follow us on the ccgs_mfl Instagram page to see what they get up to!

Mrs Thelliez

Our Senior Boys in Football County Cup Final

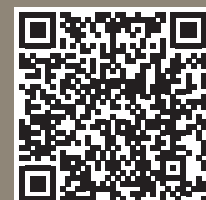
Our Senior Boys Football County Cup Final is fast approaching against The Judd School on Friday 19th April, at Ramsgate Football Club. Please note the kick off time has now changed to 6.45pm.

It would be amazing for the boys to see plenty of familiar faces supporting them on the evening. You can still purchase tickets by clicking the link below, or using the QR code on your phone.

We'd also like to thank The Paul Keohane Sports Fund for sponsoring the warm up tops the squad will be wearing on the evening and furthermore, they have helped by supplying sporting equipment for our students to benefit from over the next few years. The programme objective

is to engage and enthuse Thanet School children to play sport and they are passionate about local children enjoying the numerous benefits that sport provides.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/under-19-white-cup-tickets-840309366937?aff=oddtcreator>



UKMT Intermediate maths challenge 2024

We had an amazing set of results from our Year 9, 10 and 11 mathematicians, with 103 certificates awarded in this national maths competition. There were 9 gold, 39 silvers and 55 bronze certificates and we are very proud of all of our mathematicians who took part in this excellent problem solving challenge. Five students made it to the follow-on Kangaroo round and we are expecting great results from Lewis A, Henry C, Filip G, Joshua P and Joseph H.

Gold certificates:

Joshua Prentis (Best in Year 11 and in school), Henry Cleverdon, Filip Grigoras (Best in Year 10), Joseph Hobley, River Smith, Fletcher Greenan, Ewan Foreman, Lewis Anderson (Best in Year 9), Sebastian Stone

Silver certificates:

Joseph Walton, Jeremi Aydin, Delaena Debre, Samuel Johnson, Kat Hendrick, Kian Price, Jay Yeung, Ryan Baskaran, Obinna Uliem, Otto Eberlin, Ethan Cobley, Vincent Huang, George Mikoyan-Walters, Deividas Pakulis, Meghan Costin, Rebecca Kemp, Adityasingh Panwar, Ben Webber, Maxwell Wood, Oliver Crimmins, Aminah Hossain, Samiksha Mohanaram, Tyla Groom, Samuel Martin, Renuga Rasiah, Louisa Green, Coco Chen, Vincent Donnelly, Ashwin Muralitharan, Jake Hill, Emilia Kalnikaite, Rishika Giddaluru, George Saunders, Tammy Falai-ye, Harry Harrison, Isabelle Kinsey, Matilda McPherson, James Murdoch, Imogen Savage,

Bronze certificates:

Daisy Booth, Polly Cooke, Corban Grottick, Ryan Ni, Orla O'Sullivan, Alisa Gerins, Mark Macaulay, Augustas Kalnikas, Lucy Tuffs, Archie Chapman, Samuel Foster, Jacob Grace, Marek Vaclavik, April McGowan, Ron Zaki, Arnie Butkus, Emma Huttley, Sophie Pyke, Meredith Lay, Joshua Hawkins, Ryan Monfort, Kian Albuera, Olivia Gilham, Bradley Lawrence, Natalie Reid, Dakota Debling, Beth Beraet, Leo Cao, Oliver Birmingham, Leo Martin, Grace Manville, Evie Ottaway, Finley Munson, Ruby Beasley, Jerusha Duraisingham, Michael Gage, Rafi Zaman, Chloe Hougham, Ethan Elliot, Esme Afthab, Kyle Dunn, Hermione Redwood, Zoe Lancley, Alan Robinson, Videh Amin, Amelie Maycock, Jack Sperryn, Ella Brooks, Tharaha Raveendran, Sylvia Jiang, Yasin Koksai, Alfie Willis-Crowley, Austin Brown, Hassan Khusro, Juanita Jabson,



Medical Research Council Facility Trip, Oxford

On 23rd February, 15 6th formers were invited to the MRC facility for the day to experience life in research laboratories and to visit the Mary Lyon Centre.

Students were given a tour of the laboratories and were able to see processes like gene 'knock in' and 'knock out' and genetically modified stem cell use in action. Yr13s are currently studying gene technology and were able to see PCR machinery for real and appreciate the high throughput achieved by automation. This technology revolutionised the human genome project and took years off the estimated completion date. A working lunch looked at how behaviour video and recognition software were revolutionising disease detection. The concept is that e.g. in Parkinsons, much earlier detection through subtle behavioural changes could create a window to apply early therapies to delay more serious symptoms and disease progression. Visiting the Mary Lyon Centre required specialist clean clothing and adopting practises so that we did not contaminate the area. The air shower was a unique experience!

“It was a pleasure to have visited the Mary Lyon Centre at MRC Harwell. With the technology required to perform processes like phenotyping and genotyping, it was astonishing and it truly demonstrated how genetics have a role in an organisms development. For instance, looking at the machinery and technology that was used to show how genes can be put together in order to achieve a specific characteristic. Additionally, the technology involved in PCR testing which was crucial to our fight against COVID-19 and its use for biometric identification when trying to identify criminals for example was incredibly fascinating. This visit has truly inspired me into the world of medical research. “

“Currently studying the topics of DNA, genes, chromosomes and genetic diversity in Year 12- It was fascinating to see first-hand the future of genetic research for the use of studying human diseases and not only apply my growing knowledge to the activities provided but also stretch my current understanding to a more advanced level. Apart from the air showers and welcoming muffins on our arrival, my favourite part of the day would have to be seeing the germ-free mice at the facility that are currently being used to study the effects of microbiota in living organisms. But of course, at the end of the day also hearing about who the centre was named after in recognition of her achievements - Mary Lyon. It was inspirational to learn of the history of her academic strides during a time of inequality for women in the world of science. Despite these challenges, Mary went on to study Physiology, Zoology and Biochemistry at Girton College, Cambridge and became one of the foremost geneticists of the 20th century. Our visit to the Mary Lyon Centre at MRC Harwell was truly a privilege and an invaluable opportunity. I'd like to give my thanks to all involved with the day for giving up their time and efforts to make our experience the best it could be.”



Computer Science - BEBRAS and Oxford University Competition

All year 10 and 11 computer science students entered the BEBRAS Computational Thinking challenge. This is a UK national competition. Students compete in problem solving and how solutions can be arrived at using a range of techniques we teach in computer science.

All students did exceptionally well and here are the results of those that achieved a distinction and merit!

Best in School* Gold Award - Sebastian Stone

Distinction* Gold Award - Henry Cleverdon, Zakary O'connor, Maxwell Wood, Jeremi Aydin, Augustas Kalnikas, Kian Price, Harry Howse, Grace Manville, Jake Hill, Adityasingh Panwar, Emilia Kalnikaite

Distinction - Sandro Levant, Cameron King, Austin Brown, Joseph Hobley
Sylvia Jiang, Aidan Luckhurst, Henry Thomson, Otto Eberlin, Beau Southen

Merit - Polly Cooke, Isabelle Kinsey, Alejandro Iglesias, Kacper Hertel, Rafi Zaman, Ronnie Watts, Dakota Debling, Jay Yeung, Thomas Coombes, Jacob Grace, Imogen Savage, Delaena Debre, William Carpenter, Oliver O'dwyer, Vincent Donnelly, Harry McBride, Cayden Attwater, Ashwin Muralitharan, Anya Ogilvie, Vincent Huang

Sebastian achieved the best in school, and all the above students with a star next to their award, were given a gold certificate, as they were within the top 10% of students in the UK Nationally for Computational Thinking. These students were invited to take part in the second leg, run by Oxford University.

We were very proud of the efforts that all of these students made. Out of the 12 students who entered, Adityahsingh Panwar achieved the top mark in the Oxford University round, and was awarded a Certificate of Merit.



MOVIES, MUSICALS and MORE 2

A wonderful evening of live entertainment and theatre, featuring a 20 piece band and a host of local talent

Saturday 27th April 2024

7.30pm (Doors 6.45pm)

Chatham House Theatre, Chatham Street, Ramsgate

Tickets

£6 each or 4 for £20



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Jazz Band



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