



Dear Parents,

The St Edmund's site is at its most spectacular on sunny days and over the last two weeks we have been lucky to enjoy some lovely weather. Having said that, working in a suit in 30 degrees is not especially enjoyable!



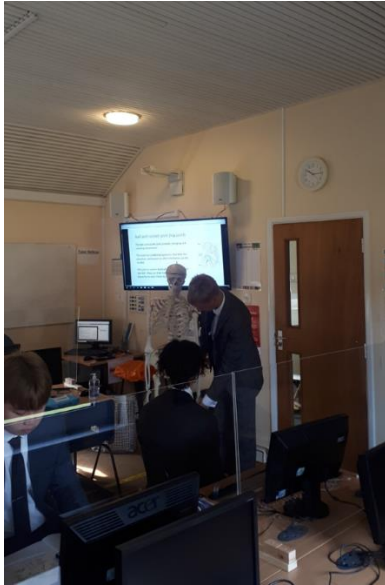
Academic Sport

As the temperatures continued to soar outside, our Cambridge Technical and National Sports Science groups were keeping cool, whilst hard at work in the classroom. The L6 are deep into studying the anatomy and physiology of the human body, studying the detailed workings of the cardiovascular and skeletal systems. They were tasked with creating a power point presentation, identifying different synovial joints and delivering this work to their classmates. Some impressive research resulted which was delivered with great confidence.

Having completed their unit in Sports Psychology, the U6 are learning about global Sport Organisation and Development. They have been insightful and self-assured in their discussions relating to the London 2012 Olympics and associated factors.

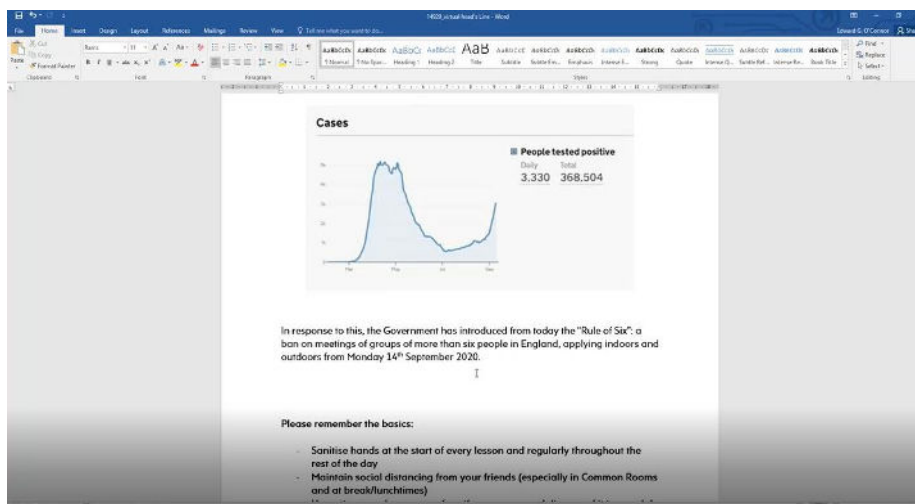


The M5 cohort undertook some fitness testing last week, learning the correct protocols and recording methods for components such as agility, muscular endurance and power. 'Reducing the Risk of Injuries' is the all-important exam unit for the U5 and they have shown a good knowledge about the preparation needed to take part in physical activity to that they minimise the risk of injuries. As always, we're really delighted to see the strong work ethic of our pupils.



Virtual Head's Line

Last Monday, I recorded my first Virtual Head's Line of the academic year. I took the pupils through a summary of our A-Level and GCSE results, took a look at university destinations for our previous Upper Sixth, reviewed the national situation regarding COVID-19 and our shared responsibility to keep the school safe and finally ran through the highlights of the week. It's no substitute for the real thing, but the "Virtual" format at least enables us to consider the issues that continue to impact on the whole school community.





Music

After a long summer, it was a great pleasure to see and hear the musical ensembles in action again last week, albeit in socially distanced year group bubbles. Members of the Orchestra, Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir and Big Band had the pleasure of making music together again. Performing together face-to-face yields many benefits, not least in the noticeable elements of gesture, inference and the immediate aural impact that direct human communication affords. Well done and thank you to everyone for bringing the pleasure and value of communal music-making back into our lives after what seems such a long time.

Science Clinics

The Science department has scheduled a series of GCSE clinics for pupils who need additional help. The times and locations are given below:

Week A U5th 1.20 Lab 2 - Monday Biology, Tuesday Chemistry, Wednesday Physics

Week B M5th 1.50 Lab 2 - Monday Biology, Tuesday Chemistry, Wednesday Physics

Geography

I am grateful to Mrs Burton for sending through this picture of Henrik Kane explaining the concept of "Peak Child" to his A-level class during a lesson on Population. She tells me that the class have made a great start to the course!





Curiosity Shop



On Friday, we launched the first of a series of Curiosity Shop talks around the theme of 'disaster' starting with a recorded lecture by Dr Caiazza on the disaster movie genre. The talk entitled '*Microbes, Monsters and Mass Destruction: A cultural and psychological history of the disaster movie*' explores the history of this popular and diverse genre. Dr Caiazza expertly takes us on a visual tour of how the focus of the disaster movie changed over time, and in accordance with world events. Dr Caiazza concludes that the disaster movie film genre helps to reinforce the dark truths of science, space and nature.



St Edmund's is proud to be a member of the East Kent Schools Together partnership. This is an innovative independent-state school collaboration, in which each school contributes and draws from the partnership on an equal footing for the benefit of all. The inclusion of a university as a partner opens exciting and innovative educational opportunities for the schools involved. I am pleased to announce that St Edmund's is taking over the Chair of EKST for this academic year. On Friday, we had our first strategy meeting for 2020-21 and there will be several exciting opportunities ahead for our pupils in the EKST programme.

Online Safety Tips

Follow this link for information and advice on screen time - <https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/>

Do you know how much time online is too much? Are your children using the Internet appropriately?

Please do contact us if you would like to discuss online safety.

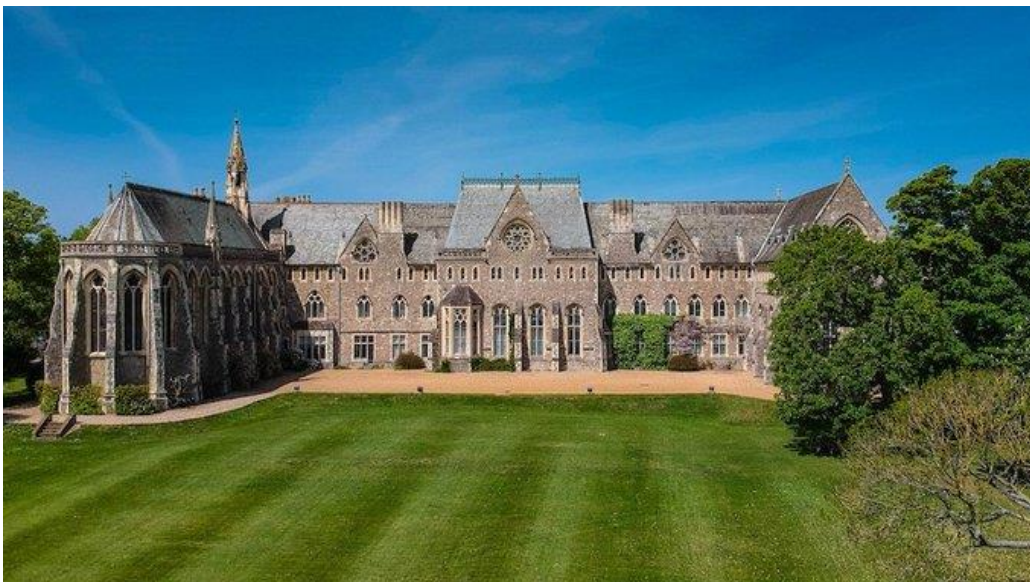


'Parents in Partnership'

After half term, we plan to launch this new initiative across the 3-18 school. The idea is to strengthen communications between home and school through a series of Year Group Parent Forums and themed webinars (on Internet Safety for example). More details on this will follow and hopefully, once COVID is behind us, the structure can evolve in to more face-to-face forums, school tours and other events.

Virtual Open Day

This year we will be running a virtual Open Day from 930-1030am on Saturday 3rd October. For COVID-19 reasons, we have decided not to have pupils in and there will not be any actual tours of the school site.



I have attached the necessary link for the virtual event. Feel free to forward this to any families who you know might be interested in the school.

<https://www.stedmunds.org.uk/admissions/open-events/>

Have a great week, stay safe and thanks for your continuing support.

Edward O'Connor
Head