



Head's Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back!

I hope that you had a wonderful half-term. I managed to get a few days away down in Devon. They say the road to hell is paved with good intentions. I can confirm this after walking the South West Coastal Path in what I presume must have been hurricane season. As you can see, half-way through walk two on the cliffs near Abbotsham, I realised I had made a terrible mistake and should have stayed on the sofa in Canterbury...



COVID-19

Thank you for the supportive responses to my letter following the new government guidance for schools. Today you should receive an excellent document called "What if?" which has been thoughtfully prepared by the Medical Centre and Mr De Silva. It provides clear and helpful instructions on how to respond in certain COVID scenarios. I hope that you find it useful.

Our Risk Assessment and COVID Protocols are also available here on the website if you need to refer to them: <https://www.stedmunds.org.uk/about-us/policies-inspection-reports/>

COVID-19 Co-Curricular Programme

Sadly, we have had to curtail our co-curricular programme in the face of the new regulations from the government related to the lockdown. The responsible staff will no doubt be in contact directly but I have given the key details in summary on the next page:



Offsite trips

All cancelled.

External providers

Visiting speakers/coaches etc. will still be able to attend sessions at school but must follow our COVID Visitor protocols.

After school activities

GCSE and A Level Drama rehearsals will continue until the assessed performances are completed.

Music practices will continue because students are working to specific performances/grades.

Both Drama and Music will have specific risk assessments and COVID secure measures (bubbles, distancing etc) in place.

Subject clinics continue as they directly to examination coursework/grades.

All other co-curricular clubs after school will stop until further notice.

Saturday

No Saturday activities for day pupils.

Boarding activities will continue.

Summer Examinations

The Government's current plan is for the public examination session to take place during the summer, albeit delayed by three weeks. However, as we now start another lockdown, this plan is by no means certain. It is still possible that school may be asked to submit Centre Assessed Grades and Rank Orders as we were required to do last year. Given that, it is essential that students in Upper Fifth and Upper Sixth continue to work hard on their coursework and prepare thoroughly for the upcoming mock examinations. This is because their test results and coursework may be needed to form the basis for a "CAG" later in the year.

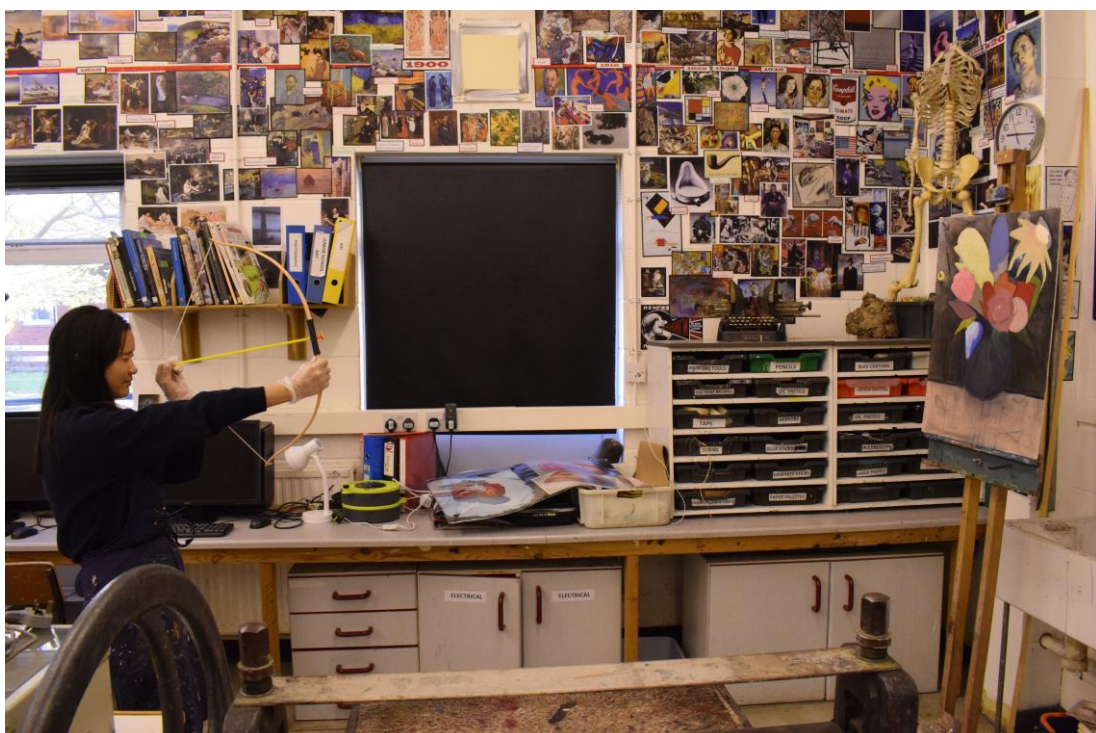
Sixth Form Information Evening

My thanks to Mr Mount and the Sixth Form Team for running the Information Evening on Thursday night. Apologies that I was unable to be there. My spies tell me it was an excellent event with clear guidance provided on progress monitoring and support for university applications.



Art-Chery

Our M5 pupils shot painted arrows at their work yesterday as a way of exploring the boundaries between chaos and control in paint. This is part of the skills-based unit that introduces M5 to some of the fundamental concepts, techniques, and processes within painting.





Mrs Sherwin reports on a rocket science for the Dragonflies provided by our Physicist-in-Chief Dr Horn!

“Dr Horn and Mr Wright worked tirelessly to provide the lesson despite the restrictions of bubbles and social-distancing; relocating their lab bench and equipment to the Pre-Prep bubble. I was so impressed with how resourceful they were, Chris was able to demonstrate his Harry Potter-like magic: changing flames with different chemicals on a mere camping stove. My eager young scientists watched and listening in awe, learning impressive scientific vocabulary and quickly identifying the chemicals; they were soon able to recognise that green flames meant there was copper, sparkles meant there was magnesium or iron and flashes meant there must be some zinc! How quickly their young minds learned these new words and recalled them - what an amazing teacher Chris is, we are so lucky to have him.

The highlight of the afternoon was a splendid firework display - the rockets released by Mr. Wright as the Dragonflies whooped and cheered, shouting out the chemicals that had been added to make the colourful displays. What a wonderful and memorable way to learn!

We drew quite a crowd of (socially-distanced) Senior School pupils, they all stopped to watch and join in with the infectious enthusiasm of the Dragonflies. As Dr Horn observed, it was lovely to see them have a bit in fun in these dark days. It gladdened my heart to look around and see the school gather in this impromptu celebration.”



Shout!

We would like to draw your attention to the following free service - <https://giveusashout.org/>

Information from their website:

‘Shout 85258 is a free, confidential, 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope. We launched publicly in May 2019 and we’ve had more than 450,000 conversations with people who are anxious, stressed, depressed, suicidal or overwhelmed and who need immediate support. As a digital service, Shout 85258 has become increasingly critical since Covid-19, being one of the few mental health support services able to operate as normal at this time.’

We will be making pupils aware of this service in the coming days.



Sport News

Congratulations to Will Knoupe, Stanley Allom and George Wager (L5) who have been selected for the U14 Canterbury and District football squad this season. We look forward to seeing their progress over the next few months. George and Stan also attended an event with Chelsea Football Club over half term as a result of our Thursday talent pathway sessions. This is an exciting development and one which will continue after the latest lockdown has finished.

Elianna Webster (L5) represented the school at the NSEA show jumping competition recently at Duckworth Farm. She competed in three classes: 60cm 70cm and 75cm. Elianna won the 70cm class and came 2nd in the 75cm class. Fantastic results which see Elianna qualify for the regional finals. Congratulations!





Pi and the Concept of Infinity

Looking forward...

...as part of a series of lectures designed primarily for the L5 scholars, next week Dr. Jones will look at the background to the number pi, how it has been historically calculated, and how this relates to the concept of infinity. The mathematical, the physical and the metaphysical definitions of something that is endless will be discussed!

Although designed for L5 scholars, all pupils are welcome to attend. The session will take place on Thursday 17th November 4:30 Library.

Have a great weekend and stay safe.

Kind regards,

Edward O'Connor

email: eoc@stedmunds.org.uk

Tel: 01227 475600