



Dear Parents,

Firstly, sincere apologies for the lack of a newsletter since the start of term.

Unfortunately, I have had COVID so have been away from school for two weeks. This has been my first full week back and there is certainly a lot to catch up on! I would like to start by thanking Mrs Shearer for running the school so ably in my absence – greatly appreciated.

Remote learning is now in full swing. We are aware, of course, that it is a deeply challenging process for all involved - teachers, pupils and parents. However, the breadth and quality of the work currently taking place is remarkable. As with the first lockdown, these undertakings are always a huge, collaborative effort. We are reviewing our current provision (in part, on the basis of your questionnaire feedback) and will be making some adaptations in the weeks ahead to help pupils.

Year 11 and 13 Examination Briefing

On Monday, we ran an information evening for Upper Fifth and Upper Sixth families about the plans for GCSE and A-Level Assessment this summer. Dr Sotillo gave a comprehensive presentation outlining what we know (and do not know) about the process. Ofqual is running a consultation until 29th January so things should become clearer shortly after that date. However, it does seem clear that Year 11 and Year 13 pupils across England will be required to undertake some kind of assessment task or tests in their subjects (via schools and marked by teachers) in May and early June. The exact format for this is unclear at the moment. However, pupils should continue to work hard, complete all tasks set by their teachers and assume that they will be tested in some form during the Summer Term.

The Ofqual consultation document can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/953000/6743-1 GCSE AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/953000/6743-1_GCSE_AS_and_A_level_grades_should_be_awarded_in_summer_2021.pdf)

The school is providing feedback to Ofqual on the consultations proposals and will obviously keep families fully updated as the arrangements are clarified and finalised.



Upper Fifth Options Evening

Despite the impact of COVID, normal school processes continue. On Thursday, Mr Mount led our Upper Fifth parents through a presentation on the A-Level options procedure. This is always an exciting moment as pupils start to take ownership of their future academic careers. For some the decisions are easy. For others though, it can be difficult. However, Mr Mount and the Sixth Form team are available to provide advice and support over the coming months to ensure pupils choose their A-levels wisely and appropriately.

Academic Life

The L5 academic enrichment programme has continued successfully this term, with Mrs Burton delivering her thought-provoking lecture: **'Changing Attitudes to Risk Perception. Why does it matter what we think about risk and how does it change the way we manage it?'**

There was an excellent turnout, which included a number of pupils from the Junior School.

The next session will take place on Tuesday 26th January at 4.40pm, with another fascinating topic delivered by Dr Gemma Jones: **Medieval medicine and the regression from the Egyptians and Romans. How could lives have been saved?**

Lots of exciting stuff is going on in the virtual classrooms too. I thought you might enjoy a few examples.

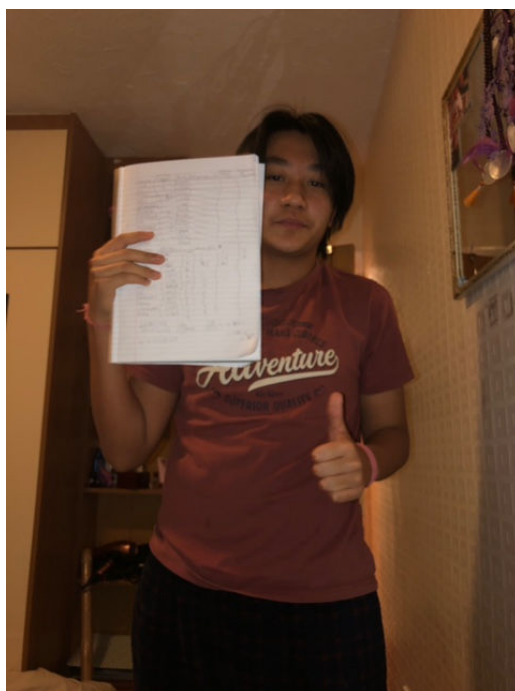
Ms Florence's lesson on energy storage took an interesting turn this week as she demonstrated the difference between potential and kinetic energy using a makeshift "wrecking ball" (below). Apparently, there is a contemporary pop music reference here as well (sadly beyond me)...





Mrs Burton tells me that some of our Lower Fifth Geographers took part in an extension lesson last week (in their lunch hour!) to conduct a statistical test on the relationship between calorie intake and GDP. They drew the following conclusion:

"Our Rs value of 0.918 is greater than the critical value of 0.618 with 11 pairs of data. We can be sure to a degree of 95% significance that there is a relationship between GDP per capita and calorific intake. Abiral took a photo of his impressive calculations!"

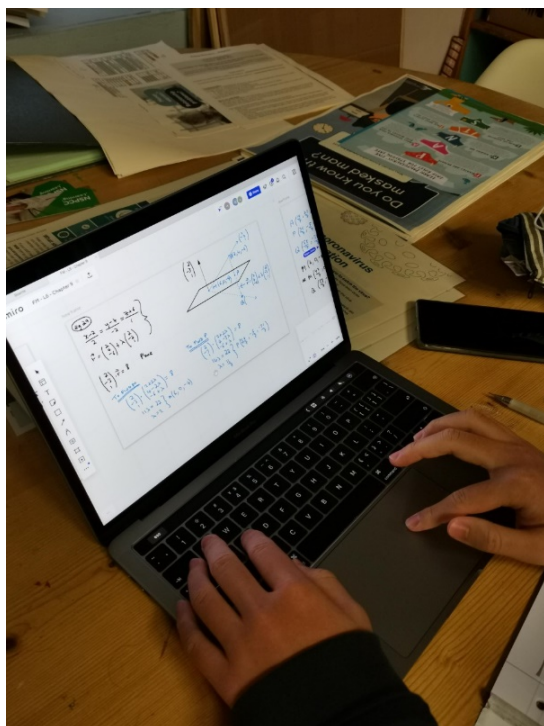


Here is Sophie de Georgio's digital response to a mixed media portrait topic this week. I am sure you will agree it is a stunning piece of work.





A Level Further Mathematics class is challenging at the best of times, so it's good to see Lower Sixth students are still smiling their way through complex equations during their remote lessons on MS Teams!



Our M5 English Literature students have been analysing the opening lines of famous novels this week using the “break out room” function on Teams. They have been considering the effectiveness of these famous quotes and identifying the literary techniques being employed by the writers. See how many you recognise...

“A man called Berg, who changed his name to Greb, came to a seaside town intending to kill his father.”

“It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.”

“This is the saddest story I have ever heard.”

“As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed in his bed into a giant insect.”

“My father’s family name being Pirrip, and my Christian name Philip, my infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer or more explicit than Pip.”

“Mr Smith was as unusual as his name was common.”

“It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.”



We are currently looking after key worker children on site. As you can see, this week (amongst other tasks) they have been working their way through the 'St Edmund's Lower Fifth Mindfulness Booklet'...!



Lower 6th Extended Project Qualification

Dr Rowcroft will be introducing the Extended Qualification Project (EPQ) to all Lower 6th pupils during their General Studies slot, period 5 on Friday 29 January. All are welcome to listen to the presentation: the focus will be on the requirements and flexibilities of this additional qualification which universities hold in high regard. There will also be time for a Q&A session if students have already considered an idea for a topic. Students should look out for a Teams invite, via email. If anyone is interested and cannot attend, they should email Dr Rowcroft (vjr@stedmunds.org.uk) to let her know. The session will be recorded and made available to those who need it after the event.



Co-Curricular Programme

Last Friday, we had the pleasure of an online Skills and Service session delivered by a young and inspiring adventurer - Josiah Skeats from Herne Bay.

He spoke to the pupils about his travels around the world (by bike and boat) and related the current COVID isolation felt by us all to the time that he spent alone on his travels. Josiah was able to allow the pupils to 'escape' around the globe for the afternoon and for that, we thank him for his time with us.



Mr Millard has also asked me to pass on a reminder that the weekly "Menu of Opportunity" is currently live for all pupils across the school in the Co-Curricular area of MSP. This week there was a careers focus for our older pupils.

CO-CURRICULAR MENU OF OPPORTUNITY LENT 2021 - ISSUE NINE



CO- CURRICULAR

In addition to the scheduled curriculum time, the school has collated a selection of resources that pupils can dip into to keep them educated, entertained and exercised without having to leave the house.

The Core Subjects

[Spark Notes](#) is a great website to use to find the most comprehensive, accurate, and useful guides to classic and contemporary literature on the Internet. Whether you're studying Hamlet or Hunger Games, Spark Notes will make sure you got the big idea.

[ABC Literacy](#) offers support for pupils from Key Stage 1 up to Key Stage 5 in all subject including English, Maths and Science.

Carol Vorderman has announced that access to her online school [The Maths Factor](#) will be free while schools are closed.

For STEM related activities check out [Crest Awards](#), for a challenge children could enter the [Crest Bronze Award](#).

Learning about cells, mind, and fun animals in science. [Wall Sci Show Kids!](#)

[Science at Home](#) - 10 easy & cool science experiments for kids to do at home.

[Make a stop motion animation video](#) - These look great and they're easier than you think.

Everything needed to learn computer programming the fun way! Go to [Twinkl](#) to find out more.

The [Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award](#), known as IDEA is an international programme that helps young children develop digital, enterprise and employability skills for free. Through a series of online challenges, you can win career-related trophies, unlock new opportunities and, ultimately, gain industry-recognised Awards that help you stand out from the crowd.

The online place to discover the magical world of the [Dr Seuss](#) books. Find out more about the stories and characters as well as the experiences for fans around the world. How about [readaloud.com](#) for a challenge?

[CosmathsKids](#), the website pairs maths with games. Grand Prix Multiplication, Alan Addition, Dirt Bike Fractions and Jet Ski Addition are all great games to engage children in mathematics.

For lots of mathematical activities plus much much more join thousands of parents using the most trusted home education app from year 1 to GCSE [MyEdplace](#).

[BBC Teach](#) - Whether you're at home or at school, you can use BBC Teach for free. Our website is home to thousands of free curriculum mapped videos, arranged by age group and subject.

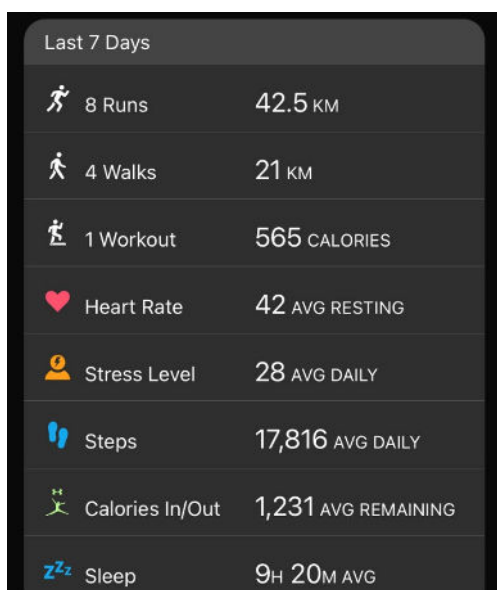




Sport News

Live PE sessions are taking place for Fifth Form pupils and Mrs Millard tells me that there has been a great turn out! "Heads and Tails" and the "Pack of Cards" game have proved to be a fun way to exercise with differentiated tasks over the last couple of weeks.

The focus for Games currently is to get outside in the fresh air for a walk, run or cycle wherever possible. The "Big Challenge" is in place for pupils to record distances travelled this half term. It was lovely to receive photos of this week's efforts and some fantastic scenes from around the world – from Moscow to Herne Bay!



Everyone is also welcome to join the Strength and Conditioning session at 4.30pm on Wednesday. Well done to those who are already joining on a regular basis. With a much more sedentary school lifestyle at the moment it's so important to take the time to move!

My congratulations also go to Charlie Alexander. Charlie has been invited to join the Kent County Cricket Bowling Provision. This means he joins 20 other boys across all County age groups from U13 up to U18. Although the bowling training provision has been hampered by COVID, Charlie will have an opportunity to train with ex England spin bowler Min Patel.




Watson House

Watsons Fastest Finger First e-mail quiz is back by popular demand! Pupils are e-mailed random questions and challenges and are awarded 10 points for the first correct answer or completion of a challenge. The first 5 for each challenge can be awarded points. James Press is currently in the lead. Mr Hodge has stated that "you have to be in it to win it – so keep a close eye on those e-mails Watsonites!"

Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show

The Art Department has registered the school for this competition and would welcome entries from pupils.



Young Artists' Summer Show

[Get involved](#) [About](#) [Past exhibitions](#)


[Log in](#) [Register >](#)

[Introduction](#) [Key dates](#) [Who can take part](#) [Entering](#) [Artworks](#) [Judging](#) [Prizes](#) [Read more](#)

How does it work?

The Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 5 - 19 years studying in the UK and British schools overseas.

To take part, teachers must first register their school. Next, students, their parents/guardians or their teachers can submit artworks. These artworks are then judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.



Key dates for 2021

Registration and submission opens
11 January 2021

Submission closes
26 April 2021

Judging
May 2021

Online and onsite exhibitions open
11 July 2021

How to enter - "Each student can submit up to three artworks of any type and there is no theme. When you enter, we'll ask for images of your artwork plus some information about the piece such as title, size, and a little text about the artwork and why you made it. Your artwork will be seen by our panel of judges and the selected pieces will be shown in our online exhibition. Some of the artworks will also be shown at the Royal Academy of Arts".

Further information can be found on roy.ac/youngartists #rayoungartists



Entries are also invited for the St Edmund's School Recreate Art to Photography Competition. Details below...

RECREATE ART TO PHOTOGRAPHY

ST EDMUND'S ART DEPARTMENT CHALLENGES YOU TO
RECREATE A WORK OF ART WITH MATERIALS AT HOME.



DEADLINE
Monday 8th February

WHO
Open to all
(Teachers and Pupils)
St Edmund's School Canterbury



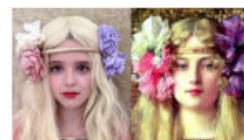
BE INSPIRED • The Getty Art Challenge • @gettymuseum •
<https://mymodernmet.com/recreate-art-history-challenge/>

OPEN TO ALL

**PRIZES FOR THE
WINNING
ENTRIES!**

ENTRIES TO:

Mr Hodge
njh@stedmunds.org.uk
By Monday 8th February



So a busy week at St Edmund's draws to a close. Stay safe and thanks for your ongoing support in these difficult times.

Have a great weekend!

Edward O'Connor
Head