



# ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY



Senior School Newsletter

8th February 2021

Dear Parents,

Apologies for the late arrival of this week's newsletter. As I write, it is early on Monday morning and Canterbury is in the grip of the "Beast from the East II". The school is open though and a few brave souls have ventured in. I am very grateful to the grounds staff who have been out gritting the site from 6am this morning.



My thanks also go to our COVID Lateral Flow Testing Team (Trevor, Allison and Victoria) who continue to test staff (in a very chilly Old Gym) to help ensure our site stays COVID secure.





## Public Examinations

We still wait for clarity from Ofqual regarding the arrangements for public examinations (GCSE and A-Level) this summer. There is some kind of announcement expected on or shortly after the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. When that happens, and the details are clear, we will run a series of webinars for staff, parents and pupils to explain what is required and how the school will respond and manage the process.

## Children's Mental Health Week & East Kent Schools Together

Screen Free Friday for L5 and M5 (fortuitously) coincided with sunny weather and I hope the children were able to get outside and enjoy it before the snow arrived. Supporting pupil wellbeing in the pandemic is not only a focus at St Edmund's but also a national priority. Last week was Children's Mental Health Week nationally and several initiatives were put in place.

St Edmund's is leading the East Kent Schools Together partnership this year and, despite lockdown, EKST continues to provide excellent opportunities for young people across East Kent. Our pupils (along with children attending our partner schools) were offered some interesting invitations and resources through EKST.

**NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK**  
8-14 FEBRUARY 2021

National Apprenticeship Week aims to shine a light on the amazing work being done by employers and apprentices across the country. To celebrate this annual event we will be hosting five talks throughout the week from STEM Ambassadors showcasing the opportunities available to young people, with an insight from the following companies:

MON 8 <sup>th</sup>	TUE 9 <sup>th</sup>	WED 10 <sup>th</sup>	THU 11 <sup>th</sup>	FRI 12 <sup>th</sup>
BNC Systems with Skills in Engineering Technician	Thames Water Utilities Limited with Jonathan a Water Project Delivery Manager	Thales with Culture, David and Ollie in mechanical design, software engineering and data analyst apprenticeships	Flourish with Only a Chemistry Apprentice	Purvison College with Dan the Apprenticeship Lead

In addition, we will have a variety of pre-recorded videos available throughout the week by STEM Ambassadors in a range of STEM sectors. Visit [thestemhub.org.uk/index.php?system=insight](https://thestemhub.org.uk/index.php?system=insight) to watch them and you can also watch our 'short' (5-10 mins)!

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, VISIT [thestemhub.org.uk/events](https://thestemhub.org.uk/events)

OLD ABINGDONIANS TALK

## MANAGING THE MIND IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Toolkit

A guide for managing your mental health and wellbeing.

#MANAGINGTHEMIND #OASTALK #MENTALHEALTHMATTERS



### Marble Run Challenge – February 2021

#### The challenge:

Using recycling & household objects you must plan and engineer the most interesting Marble Run you can.

You do not have to use a marble, any ball will do, but it must get from one end of the run to the other. So a cut open kitchen roll tube could be a shoot, a pair of chopsticks could funnel from one zone to another and a shoe could even be the final end pot. You need to consider how quickly you want the ball to descend, how you will angle the objects so that the ball doesn't fall off the course plus watch out for obstacles which could mean the ball gets stuck! Perhaps your course could even have a theme? Have fun and good luck.

#### How to submit:

When you are ready video the marble run and submit your film to [ekstpartnership@gmail.com](mailto:ekstpartnership@gmail.com) with EKST Marble Run in the subject line. Closing date is 5pm on 1 March 2021.

#### The judging:

Najah Battikh, Engineering Academic at Canterbury Christ Church University, will judge your marble run based on creativity and the length of the time the marble is in motion.

#### The prizes:

There will be one overall winner and two runners up prizes (one for KS3 and one for KS4). Prizes to include an amazon voucher plus a fabulous prize from CCCU.

#### For inspiration:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INOWn0XgPXQ>



### The Big Chill 2021

Following on from Children's Mental Health Week 1 – 7 February, we are delighted to be sharing with you our virtual 'Big Chill'.

At this challenging time the 'Big Chill' offers activities you might like to try to help look after your wellbeing. While small amounts of stress are healthy and can help us get things done, high levels of stress can seriously impact our mental and physical health, so it is important that we find ways to manage this.

The menu of on-demand activities below can help you to develop skills and techniques to reconnect with yourself, nurture yourself and relax. These activities will also help you to learn how to deal with times of stress and pressure in your lives, improving resilience and self-reliance.

Last year's 'Big Chill' event was devised to help students struggling with stress and exam pressure and received incredibly positive feedback. This year, in its virtual form, the sessions can be accessed by anyone who is feeling anxious or stressed due to the current situation or would just like some time to chill out and learn new skills. We hope that you enjoy these activities over the coming weeks.

#### 'Words Work' with Gary Studley

Use mind mapping to identify stress, reconnect with yourself, improve your resilience and find ways to focus on goals.

#### 'Poetry Workshop' with Tommy from CCCU

An opportunity to express yourself, process your feelings, reflect on lockdown and look to the future.

#### 'Yoga for Teens' with Alicia from Still Yoga

Learn how to move, breathe and relax; to feel invigorated and grounded in your body and mind.

#### 'Sleep and the body clock' with Kirsty Vant\*

Factual and physical ways to get the best restful and restorative sleep.

#### 'Simple book Binding' with Esther Miles\*

Working with your hands, try something totally new and rewarding to create your own beautiful handmade jetter using simple materials you will have at home.

\*To download the associated handouts and activities go to: [www.ekst.org/events/the-big-chill-online/](https://www.ekst.org/events/the-big-chill-online/)





On a related note, congratulations to Warneford Housemaster Ms Florence who (after much hard work) was awarded the NCFE Cache Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Children and Young People's Mental Health from Chichester College.

## ESU-Churchill Public Speaking Competition

Dr Melanie Caiazza reports on more public speaking success...

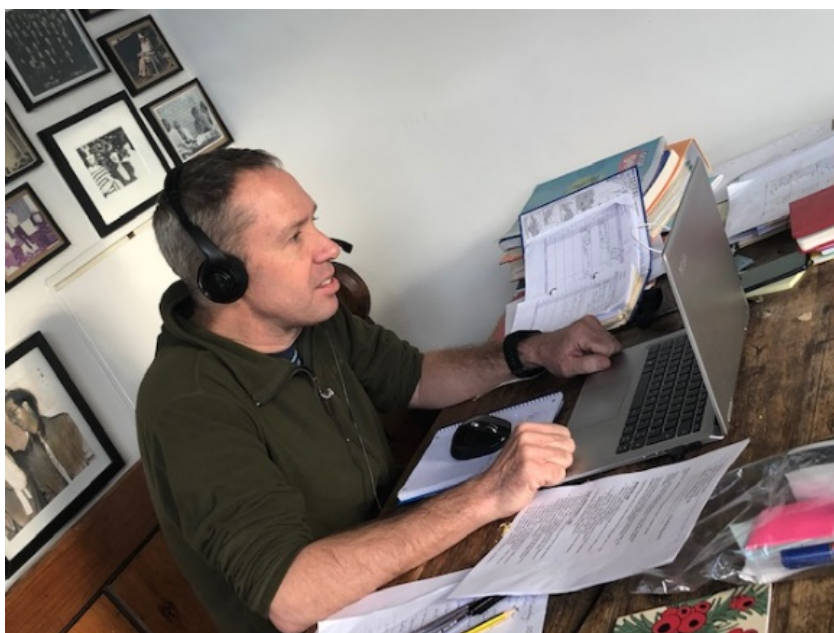
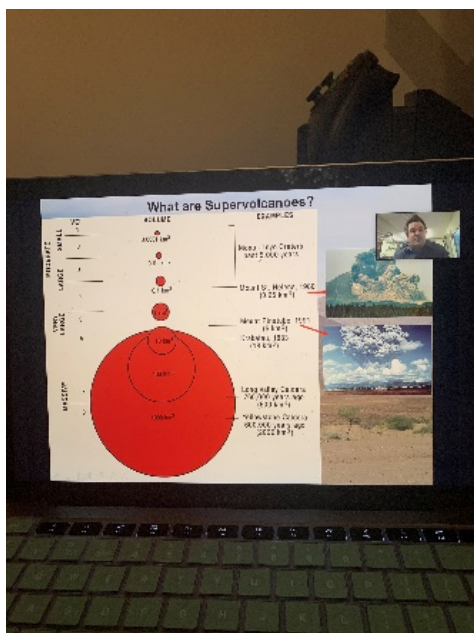
"It was another exciting week of national and school public speaking competitions. On Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, via Zoom, our M5 and U5 public speaking teams competed in the ESU's Churchill Public Speaking Competition. The M5 team, consisting of Max Visagie (chair), Caitlin Hopkins (speaker) and Orla Wanstall (questioner), confidently worked as Team One whilst the U5, consisting of Maurice Caldon (chair), Katie Head (speaker) and Hattie Pickles (questioner), made up Team Two. The U5 won against Kent College and Team One will now go through to the Regional Finals in March. Caitlin's speech 'Is democracy in crisis?' allowed for engaging contemporary political examples whilst her research and knowledge impressed the judges. Katie Head's speech, 'Does talking better help us to think better?' was commended for its global language focus. Maurice's 'excellent and supportive' introduction of the Kent College speaker also impressed the judges whilst Hattie's astute questioning showcased her preliminary research into the speaker's topic on 'cancel culture'. We wish Maurice, Katie and Hattie the very best of luck as they prepare for the regional final.



Also, this week, the inter-house public speaking semi-finals took place on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> February, with Baker and Wagner competing first and then Watson against Warneford. It was a real pleasure to see so many L5 and M5 speakers supporting their houses and speaking for the first time in a competition setting. In addition to this, the younger year groups worked exceptionally well with older and more experienced debaters in the U6. In fact, the Watson team, represented by L5 and M5 pupils only, including Thomas Young (chair), Masha Polglase-Korosteleva (speaker) and Orla Wanstall (questioner) achieved the highest score of the evening. Commendable first-time speakers included Scarlett Burke, the chair for Wagner and Matthew Bawtree, questioner for Wagner. Bea Lewis, the speaker from Baker, Samuel May, Warneford's speaker, and Katie Head from Wagner all delivered convincing and confident speeches on current and controversial topics ranging from climate change to medically assisted suicide. We wish Watson and Wagner the best of luck as they prepare for next week's public speaking final."

## Extension opportunities for A-level Geographers

This week our Sixth Form saw a new face on their screen for a change. Mr Charlie Burton came to speak to them about how current events are changing the way we trade, unveiling the mysteries of the Percy Pig stand off and explaining the concepts of Free Ports and Single Markets. We were also invited to an evening lecture through the EKST partnership this week. Jude took this photo of Mike Mawby, Head of Geology at The King's School, delivering his lecture on supervolcanic eruptions. He used to be professor of Earth Science at Durham University and presented a very informative and interesting talk for our senior pupils.



## Safer Internet Day



It is Global Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr Underwood (our Designated Safeguarding Lead) has sent an email to parents with a link to a presentation by E-Safety expert Karl Hopwood.

If you are unable to access it or have any other questions relating to online security, please email Mr Underwood at [rpu@stedmunds.org.uk](mailto:rpu@stedmunds.org.uk).



## New York! New York!

I had the great pleasure of living and working in New York for a short period in my late twenties. I completely fell in love with this amazing city. However, I had the chance to travel down memory lane (or more accurately 3rd Avenue) on Tuesday when I gave a presentation to Mrs Sherwin's Dragonflies class about life in The Big Apple. The talk was part of the Dragonflies' Round the World learning project.



As always, the Dragonflies asked some brilliant questions and showed a great deal of knowledge about New York and the USA.

Although New York was the focus, I should say that we did get diverted onto grizzly bears, alligators, mountain lions, burgers and pizza...

## Bingo!

Back by popular demand - Boarder's Bingo on a Sunday afternoon live from Ms Florence's living room!



Congratulations go to our winner this week, Karosi, who wins a digital download Amazon voucher.





Boarding has been lively this week with a range of activities underway for the small number of students we are looking after during the lockdown:



## Art Competition

A last reminder from Mr Hodge about the Recreate Art Competition...

**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/>

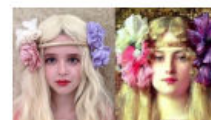
**OPEN TO ALL**

**PRIZES FOR THE  
WINNING  
ENTRIES!**

**ENTRIES TO:**

Mr Hodge  
[njh@stedmunds.org.uk](mailto:njh@stedmunds.org.uk)  
By Monday 8th February

  
**ST EDMUND'S  
SCHOOL**  
CANTERBURY





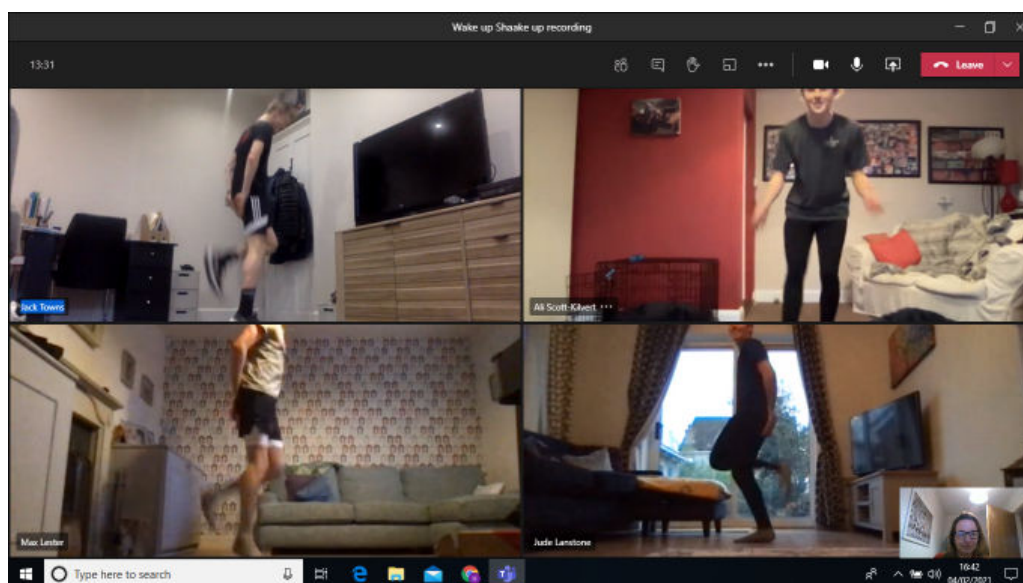
## Sport News

And finally, a sports update from Mrs Millard:

“With the sad news of the passing of Captain Sir Tom Moore last week, it gave us the chance to reflect on his amazing achievement during the first lockdown. Inspired by Sir Tom’s efforts during the summer months, pupils were asked to follow his example and take a walk for Games afternoons. Although the weather is not so kind at the moment, it’s amazing what a simple stroll can do for both physical and mental health. I would encourage everyone to use Captain Sir Tom as inspiration once again, and make a walk part of their daily routine whenever weather conditions permit!

L5 had a super live PE lesson this week with Miss Dornan’s ‘This or That’ game. Theatre or Cinema? Cats or Dogs? Sun or Snow? An exercise for core, legs, arms or cardio was attached to numerous options and the pupils flew through the session with great enthusiasm and terrific engagement in the chat. Well done!

Finally, some very brave U6 pupils volunteered to record some ‘Wake Up Shake Up’ sessions to deliver to the Junior School children. I am very grateful for their help and good humour! More to come, with a Hawaiian theme next week!”



And on that note, with thoughts of Hawaii to warm us up on this chilly Monday morning, I will leave you!

Have a great week and stay safe!

Edward O'Connor

Head