



**ST EDMUND'S
SCHOOL**
CANTERBURY



Newsletter 12: 19th March 2021

...so what has returning to school been like for you?

The above quote - or words similar - were spoken by a number of our children as they returned to onsite learning. Of course the past few months have stretched our understanding of quite what schools are and what they are here to provide. Is our school defined by the chairs we sit on, or the geographical location of our site? Well, in many cases... yes, particularly as our children are able to benefit from our learning environment and our facilities – but these don't make our school and certainly don't add up as the key constituent components to your child's academic, social and emotional progress. So, what does? Having spoken to a range of children from Form 3 to Form 8, they have missed their friends and their teachers; in essence... our community.

Over the past two weeks it has been a privilege to watch the community come back together and to flourish academically, socially and emotionally. There is certainly a greater appreciation for what we have as a school and what our children can give to us. My staff team have been working tirelessly over the past few months, as indeed have you. We have all learnt the importance of flexibility and understanding. This was commented on by Professor Robert Winston who flipped the most recent lockdown into an opportunity for our children – and, I must say, I agree. We have all learned new skills during this time and, whilst these may not be instantly recognisable, they are nevertheless relevant – particularly to an ever-changing educational landscape. At my most recent Head's Line I spoke to the children about New Beginnings because, in many ways, the return to onsite learning feels like one; from March 8th we can individually and collectively be new versions of ourselves creating an even better St Edmund's. What an awesome opportunity we have.

One such opportunity concerns assessment. The staff will be trialling a different approach to marking – mainly through providing your child with feedforward (rather than feedback); this will be done in a variety of ways, including highlighters and symbols. Once the process has been trialled, we will communicate the changes to you. Needless to say – the point of assessment is to support and develop your child's learning and we aim to do precisely that.

After the Easter Holiday we will also be focusing on the quality of presentation in children's books to ensure that our high expectations and standards are followed. Thank you in advance for your support with both the Marking and Feedforward changes and those concerning Positive Presentation.

Whilst I am on thanks – Huge thank you for your support with Comic Relief. In total we raised £1000! Well done to all! As you can see from the picture, a great deal of fun was had on Thursday when we observed Comic Relief. Alas, I feel that my fashion sense doesn't quite cut the mustard with the slightly smaller version of Mr De Silva!

Lastly, on Saturday 24th April we will be hosting a Virtual Junior School and Pre Prep Open morning. If you know of any child who would benefit from our wonderful school, please do encourage them to book a space by contacting admissions@stedmunds.org.uk

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr De Silva

Mr De Silva



Drop off and Collection – please do not park in the drop off or collection areas before or after school. Thank you for your support.



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Congratulations!

Bronze star certificates:

Angus H, Charles B, Bea A, Joey B, Percy M, Max J, Flossie A, Rafa BH, Joseph G, Meena H, Setayesh KK, Daisy B, Fraser B, Nathan S, Stella R, Edward U

Silver star certificates:

Imogen F, James S, Louis G, Ed CS, Zachardy R

Gold star certificates:

Oren R, Isla A, Amy H, Rohan L, Juliette M

Platinum star certificates:

Violet V, Ben B, Ruairaidh A

2nd time around Bronze star certificate:

Clemmie A

2nd time around Silver star certificates:

Josh C

Certificates of Excellence

Charles B

Winner of the Upper School 're-create art' competition:

Poppy H

Winner of the Lower School 're-create art' competition:

Alex S-B

Certificates of Achievement for effort and creativity in the 're-create art' competition:

Xavier G, Juliette M, Cora R-M, Bea A, Sophia R, Meena H, Joseph G, Aine R-M, Isabella R, Thomas H-W, Holly B

For completion of their initial Grade Piano with merit:

Xiaocan L, Elizabeth O

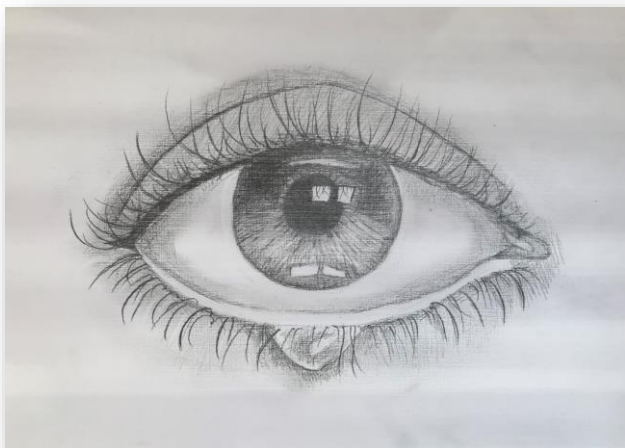
For passing their ABRSM Practical Music exams:

Rafa BH, Ben C, Josh C, Betsy C, Sophia DL, Theo I, Xiaocan L, Percy M, Cesar N, Elizabeth O, Patrick P, Cassius P, Luca R, Percy S, Alex SB, Peter S, Matthew W

For obtaining their Bronze awards in French Horn:

Logan W, Thomas L

Huge congratulations to Logan and Seamus who raised over £1500 for Comic Relief through their sponsored cycle. They each cycled 13 miles and we are hugely proud of their achievements – well done boys!



Well done to Juliette for her stunning drawing - following an online drawing workshop.



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St Edmund's Junior School Chameleon Tie-Dye new business venture selected as a finalist for the Special Recognition Award!

At the beginning of this academic year, 7 pupils from upper school embarked on their first business venture by taking part in the School Enterprise Challenge, a free global business start-up Awards Programme, run by the UK-based charity Teach A Man To Fish. They were all so thrilled to have been selected as a finalist for the Special Recognition Award! They all attended a live zoom event conducted in English and Spanish and were given the opportunity to hear about other very exciting businesses other schools all around the world had started running.

It was so exciting for the children to hear St Edmund's Junior School tie-dye being introduced as follows:

"This team got groovy and planned a tie-dye textiles business. Through thorough market research they determined that there was a significant demand for their products. They followed a customer-oriented approach not only by having a variety of tie-dye products, but also by letting the customers bring their own garments to be tie-dyed. To adapt to the pandemic they even added tie-dyed face-masks to their repertoire!"

I cannot wait to see their business flourish !

Mme Dieppedalle

"It was a great experience and a once in a lifetime opportunity, it was such a privilege to be a nominee in the final. We have learnt many things about starting a business that will definitely help later on in life. At the beginning we were unsure if the idea for tie-dye would work, but when we all put our ideas together, things started to fall into shape and we started to believe after many discussions and agreements we could do this. We are excited to start making our tie- dye and to start selling it as well. Thank you, Madame Dieppedalle, and everyone that has helped us and made us get where we are now."





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Year 5 and 6 were so excited to receive their first letter from their French pen friends from Reims!

Lord Professor Robert Winston

How lucky we were to have Professor Winston speak to the children and for him to answer their wide range of questions. We look forward to him (hopefully) visiting St Edmund's in the near future.

