



Head's Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As you can see from the above photo (rehearsals for an outdoor performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*) we are daring to dream of a memorable summer term. It has been a very positive week as academic work continues apace and the co-curricular and pastoral programmes continue to deepen.



Geography Enrichment

On Friday, we welcomed Danny Dorling to the school to speak to our Sixth Form during their Skills and Service session. Danny is a statistician, Demographer, Social Scientist and (according to Mrs Burton) all round "Geography god", specialising in social injustice and inequality. Much of Danny's work has informed government policy in a number of spheres over a number of decades. He currently presides as Professor of Geography at Oxford University. Many of his books are required reading for our upcoming A-level Geographers, including 'Population 10 Billion' and 'Inequality and the 1%'. We are very grateful to him for taking to time to visit us in person and for giving our Geography society their very own question and answer session beforehand.



L6 Film Studies presentation on early cinema and animation



Eadweard Muybridge, 1830-1904 - life in motion

Rufus Filmer, Art teacher at St. Edmund's School, gave an insightful talk to L6 Film Studies pupils on Eadweard Muybridge - photographer, inventor, and early filmmaker. Pupils were introduced to Muybridge's contributions to cinematic history from his pioneering work on sequencing photographic images to provide the illusion of movement, to how Muybridge's early engineering influenced animators, and animation aesthetics, from Walt Disney to 'bullet time' in the Wachowskis' 1999 science fiction action hybrid 'The Matrix'. Pupils were also provided with the opportunity to create their own stop-motion animation task using their phone cameras, in addition to constructing a zoetrope.

As pupils start thinking about their own coursework (short filmmaking or screenwriting with a digital storyboard), Mr Filmer reminded them that careful sequences and pre-production planning is key to moving image success.



New Chaplain

I am delighted to announce that we have appointed a Chaplain to replace The Reverend Steve Bennett from September. The Reverend Joy Atkins is currently Associate Vicar at Greyfriars in Reading. She will be a wonderful addition to the St Edmund's family and we wish her every success.



Sports

We saw the return to fixtures this week and were delighted to welcome King's Rochester for U14 boys' cricket and Dover College for U15 girls' rounders. The sun shone, and although a little blustery, the pupils were very happy to be back playing competitively. I am pleased to report that both teams were successful, with the rounders team winning 18-7. Outstanding performances came from Skye Jarrett (who displayed great forward thinking in the field) and Esther Kimani and Alisha Davis with the bat.





The boys put in an equally strong performance. Luke Giffin and Charlie Alexander launched the bowling attack with our guests quickly slipping to 13-3. King's Rochester rallied in the middle order before Henry Goodwin (2-7), Samson Buck (2-14) and William Knoupe (2-18) mopped up the tail. In reply, steady batting from Luke Giffin, 15*, enabled fellow opener Goodwin to play with flourish. A superbly crafted 63* gave the team a much deserved 10 wicket victory.

Many congratulations to Max Lester (U6) for his impressive win in the BR4R Round 1 MTB Downhill race at the Bull Track, Crowborough last weekend.



Baker Social

Mr Clapp reports!

“As ever, life is like a box of chocolates in Baker House. We enjoyed a well-attended L5 social last night of pizza and a film. The film choice was Forrest Gump, which was a hugely popular choice and really engaged the pupils. They were heavily involved in the plot with live dissections of the action, cries of outrage at Forrest's treatment and lots of laughs. The ending, however, proved too much for some, with tears and outpourings of emotion. Mr Clapp and Miss Scally promise the next L5 social will be less of an emotional rollercoaster!”



Wagner Social

L5 and M5 Wagner pupils enjoyed some brief but fun social time in the teepee roasting marshmallows!



Have a great week!

Edward O'Connor

Head