



Head's Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Last week was Mental Health Awareness week nationally and various initiatives took place across the 3-18 school.

The Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools has developed the School Mental Health Award to give schools a framework for whole school mental health development. The objective of the award is to strengthen the mental health of pupils and staff, enabling them to reach their full potential. Over the next year, we will be working on a developmental framework, auditing our current provision, and making realistic improvements to support the mental health of our pupils, staff and community. In February 2022, the School will be awarded the Bronze, Silver or Gold Award dependant on the evidence submitted against eight themes.

St Edmund's School @StEdsCanterbury · May 14

As part of [#MentalHealthAwarenessWeek](#) our Pre-Prep children have spent plenty of time outdoors in recognition of the importance of connecting with nature to support positive mental health [#StEdsCanterbury](#) [#Nursery](#) [#PrePrep](#) [#CanterburyNursery](#) [#Canterbury](#) [#EarlyYears](#)



Sports Update...

It was a bumper week of fixtures, starting with the first girls' cricket fixture of the season against Kent College. It was an exciting game, played on our fantastic new pitch on the Jackman Field. Charlotte Richards was on fine form and took the most wickets with Alisha Davis bowling a maiden over.



The U14 boys entertained Dover College on Tuesday afternoon. After 5 overs, our guests were 10-4, with Charlie Alexander 3-5, and Oliver Tesic 1-8. However, with some wayward bowling and errant fielding, Dover posted 50-8. I am sorry to report that 40 of these runs from extras! However, in reply, Charlie Alexander scored 16 not out and Samson Buck hit an impressive 31, finishing the match with a fantastic six, over deep midwicket. Another win in the bag!

The Great British weather took a turn for the worse on Thursday but, ever the optimists and excited to be back to competitive fixtures, the 1st team cricketers were diverted to Polo Farm for an 8-a-side fixture versus Dover College. A tight bowling display from St Edmund's restricted Dover to 103 for 2 after their 20 overs, with wickets taken by Jacob Storey 1-12 and Ali Scott-Kilvert 1-23. The St Edmund's batsmen responded with confidence, with Oliver Millard reaching 47 not out, Will Vant notching up 37 and Ali Scott-Kilvert scoring 12 not out, giving us the victory by 9 wickets.





Meanwhile, at St Lawrence College, the Senior tennis teams were rekindling their love of match play. A stunning afternoon of tennis followed, with Lucy Henderson and Louisa Hudson impressing with their placement of the ball. Frankie Shepley and Josh Kingsbury made a superb partnership, winning two of their three sets with quick reactions at the net and accurate groundstrokes. The girls came away with a 4-3 victory from the sets played – a great result!



Thursday afternoon also saw a senior rounders match versus Dover College. It was a great opportunity for some of our U6 to get a final game in before study leave begins in earnest, and although they lost by a couple of rounders, it was an excellent, competitive experience.



The U14 and U15 mixed doubles tennis teams were in action versus Kent College after school on Thursday, by which time the sun was shining. Once again, the pupils were delighted to be playing competitively and the atmosphere was tremendous. Congratulations to Iris Nazir and Charlie Gotke who were the outstanding pair on the courts, dominating all three of their doubles opponents! In the end it was a narrow loss overall for the U15s and a win for the U14s.

Mrs Millard has asked me to thank all who have represented St Edmund's this week: you have made the sports department very proud with your efforts.



Recipe for Success...

U6 Leith's pupils faced the challenge of their final examination last week – the culmination of two years of hard work. Xenia Murray (examiner from Leiths) was very impressed with their practical skills, time management and professionalism in the kitchen. Their exam required them to make spaghetti bolognese, a BLT salad with their own mayonnaise dressing and orange shortbread with orange segments. It was a lot to do and they all did brilliantly, but surprisingly, soft boiling eggs under pressure definitely proved the most challenging aspect of the exam!



Boarding Activities!

It has been an interesting and creative week in boarding with hair braiding and jewellery making/modelling enjoyed by both boys and girls. There was also a cookie decorating competition which produced some interesting results! The usual boarding activities such as basketball in the Sports Hall, working out in the gym, playing football and rounders on the Astro and film nights also continue to be popular.





Geography News...

Lower Fifth geographers went out into the woods this week. They measured the height and the age of trees, identified plant species and used quadrats to discover the impact of shade on diversity on the forest floor.



Final Assessments

Good luck to the U5 and U6 who begin their programme of Final Assessments this week. I am sure some will be anxious. However, they should regard these tests as a positive opportunity to demonstrate how their skills and knowledge have progressed over the last two years. The Final Assessments form one element of the basket of data upon which the Teacher Assessed Grade judgements are made.

COVID-19 Protocols

As per my email last week, the school has updated its COVID-19 Risk Assessment in line with government guidance. The only significant change relates to face masks. All of our other COVID-secure protocols remain in place. The updated Risk Assessment can be found here:

<https://www.stedmunds.org.uk/about-us/policies-inspection-reports/>

Have a great week!

Edward O'Connor

Head