



ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY



Head's Newsletter

13th September 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a refreshing and relaxing summer break. The much-promised heatwave arrived as I put my suit back on first thing on Monday morning! Anyway, the sunshine provided a gorgeous backdrop to the first few days of term and everyone has returned in good spirits, ready for the challenges and exciting opportunities that lie ahead for the St Edmund's community.

Welcome Back

In Head's Line on Tuesday, I welcomed all our pupils back. It was wonderful to have a "full house" again. I talked about our values as a school: how we value each other, intellectual curiosity and creativity, social responsibility, individuality and excellence. These will be my themes in Line this half-term.



Parents' Reception

There was an excellent turnout for our Parents Drinks Reception on the Sheep Field on Thursday night. Over 200 attended and enjoyed a glass or two of fizz, the music of our school rock group South by Zero and stunning views of Canterbury and the Cathedral. My thanks to all who organised, supported and attended this event.



Introducing our new Chaplain

The Reverend Joy Atkins officially joined the school this week. On Tuesday, we had a lovely licensing service run by The Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover. The Chaplain's theme for Chapel this term is Friendship. In Chapel this week, she discussed a study conducted by Psychology Department at Leeds University that discovered over 90% of young people they surveyed said that their close friendships had a significant impact on their emotional resilience, their ability to develop self-protective mechanisms and be in a stronger mental position for school work. The Chaplain will continue to develop these ideas and the importance of empathy, kindness and mutual support in the weeks ahead.

Leavers Brunch

On Friday we welcomed back our 2020 Upper Sixth Leavers for brunch in the marquee. It was wonderful to share a coffee (and a bacon/veggie roll) with our former pupils. Most are about to head off for their second year at university after a freshman year disrupted horribly by COVID. We wish them every success.

House Shields

Today, Ms Florence and the L6th Product Design students met with Mr De Silva, Head of Junior School to discuss the winning designs of the Junior School House Shields competition. Our Senior School students will now take up the manufacturing element of this design and manufacture 3-18 collaboration. Final outcomes will be displayed in the Junior School Reception area. Watch that space!





Sport returns!

Mrs Millard brings us up to speed...

"We have had a brilliant first week back, helped along by the gorgeous weather. Pre season training saw a record turnout of pupils and we were delighted with the energy and enthusiasm shown. PE and Games groups were full steam ahead and we look forward to starting our full programme of off-site Senior Games activities, Co-Curricular and Sports Scholars activities next week".



Auditions

Auditions took place over two days this week for the Whole School production of Beauty and the Beast. There were 140 pupils vying for 40 roles, so competition was exceptionally fierce. For those that missed out, don't worry. Mr Sell is planning some additional drama performances this year to give everyone an opportunity to showcase and develop their skills. Announcements on this will follow soon.





Staff Triathlon

Many congratulations to our staff sprint triathlon relay teams who performed superbly at the Blenheim Palace Triathlon.

The event consisted of 750m swim, 19k cycle ride and 5k run (a typical morning workout for me).

Our results were:

Team 1: Mr Pellet, Mr Anderson, Mrs Millard finished 7th/97 in a time of 1.19

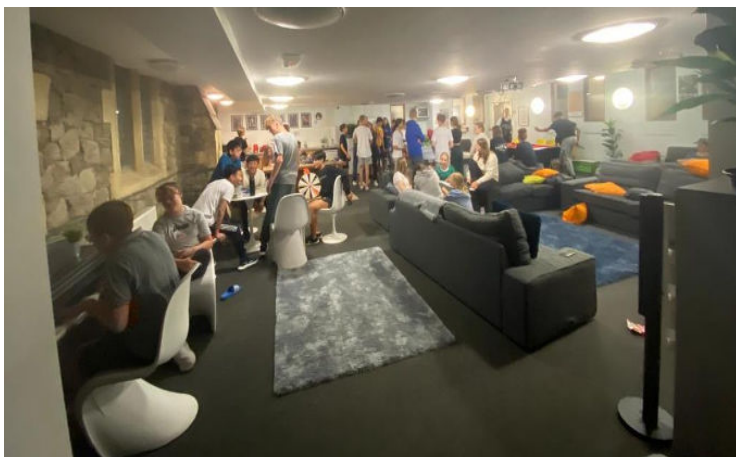
Team 2: Mrs Clapp, Mr Jones, Mrs Lea finished 20th/97 in a time of 1.30

Well done to the teams on a brilliant collective effort.



Boarding

Needless to say it has been a busy week in boarding! After the lovely reception event on the Sheep Field for new boarders and their families, the boarders enjoyed a Beatles singalong led by our resident McCartney James Hodgkinson on piano, a table tennis tournament and on Saturday a party accompanied by large amounts of special Chinese food created by our caterers Holroyd Howe.





Wagner Time!

Mrs Burton is a very outdoorsy person (just ask the Coastguard). Under her guidance, Wagner House line took place out on the Sheep Field yesterday. It was the first time the whole House had been together for over 17 months. The pupils had some time to get to know each other again and it was a chance to welcome our newcomers. It was wonderful to see Wagner pupils get reacquainted!



Watson Lower Fifth pupils were all taken to Flip Out in Ashford on Thursday after school. It was great fun and so nice to be able to have some social time out of school. Pizzas were yum and there were smiles a plenty. Special thanks to Mrs Lea, Miss Dornan and Mr Anderson for their support.

Kent Maps Online

Dr Caizza is a contributor on the Kent Maps online website which is a project run by Carolyn Oulton at Canterbury Christchurch University. The link is: <https://kent-maps.online/> and her recent piece is on the Anglo-Dutch war and its impact on the Isle of Sheppey in the 17th century. It is well worth a read!



And finally...Mr Whitman is excited...

"Dear Pupils, Parents, Guardians, Colleagues,

I can barely contain myself!

It has come to my attention that Baylor University is running an online programme devoted to Dante's *Divine Comedy*, one of the cornerstones of western literature. While students of A-level English Literature will be excited to learn that Dante's epic casts its shadow over set poets T. S. Eliot and John Milton (whom our students meet in Lower Fifth), I hope sincerely that the interest does not end there. Students of other subjects, will, I hope, at least take a few minutes to explore the website below. I hope too that there will be those among our students who will follow the free guided tour all the way through to Paradise, where it ends at Easter. The tour begins in Hell at, well, the start of the new academic year!

The following link will take you to the main website. This contains information about Dante's epic, as well as artwork and videos.

<https://100daysofdante.com/>

MIW

Have a great week!
Kind regards,

Edward O'Connor
Head

email: eoc@stedmunds.org.uk
Tel: 01227 475600