



# ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY



Head's Newsletter

20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents,

Einstein once said

*"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving."*

My sense is that as academic life continues to normalise and our school starts to gather speed, things are stabilising and balance is returning.

We have had a very positive second week of term and the pupils (and staff) are settling into the traditional routines of school life that have been so disrupted over the last two years.

My thanks to those parents who attended the Middle Fifth Curriculum webinar. I hope that you found it useful in smoothing your child's transition to GCSE study. We will run similar webinars for other year groups through the academic year.



## Sports News...

St Edmund's hosted the annual *Mel Clewlow Hockey Tournament* this week, with nine schools taking part. Pool games were played both here and at Kent College during the morning session, with Cup and Plate play offs taking place in the afternoon. Our newly formed 1<sup>st</sup> XI team, under the captaincy of Rebecca Reynolds, started brilliantly with a 1-0 win over Ashford School. A 1-1 draw followed against Sir Roger Manwood's School with the girls showing excellent attitude and impressive team cohesion. St Lawrence College and Sutton Valence proved a difficult challenge and we lost narrowly in both of these games.





However, the team successfully made it through to the Plate competition in the afternoon. Some very promising play was on display throughout and we look forward to the development of this young team over the coming weeks. An outstanding Sevenoaks School team were the overall Cup winners. Congratulations to all who took part.



Horse Riding cantered into action this week too at Deepdene Stables near Faversham. Five senior girls took up the invitation and had a great session in the sunshine! Our sports options increase further next week with the start of Golf and Indoor Climbing.







Our Sports Scholars began early morning training on Wednesday. Mrs Millard tells me that the work ethic and commitment was superb. The Scholar's Strength and Conditioning sessions were extremely well attended too.

My congratulations go to Poppy Gower (M5) on an outstanding performance at the Hickstead showjumping championships this weekend. Poppy (riding Seville) placed at impressive 8<sup>th</sup> out of 40 competitors in the 70 cm class. Poppy also competed in the 80 cm (8 faults) and 90 cm (4 faults). Well done to Poppy and Seville on a great effort.

### **Choirs at St Edmund's**

Singing is proven to benefit our mental and physical wellbeing and, as you know, we do a lot of it at St Edmund's! All Senior School choir rehearsals are now in full swing with something for everyone on offer this term. In addition to the Chapel and Chamber Choirs, we now offer the St Edmund's Rock Choir, which takes place every Friday Week B lunchtime and will set everybody up nicely for the Skills & Service afternoon.

As part of the East Kent Schools Together Partnership, we also have the opportunity for our pupils to join 'The Big Sing' which is run by local choir director, Lemon Otter. They will learn three upbeat songs, have the chance to play games, take part in Kahoot music quizzes (with prizes) and get to know students from across the partnership. This term, there are two online TEAMS sessions on Tuesday 28 September and Tuesday 12 October, 5-6pm and a performance opportunity on Saturday 23 October, as part of the Canterbury Festival for those who would like to take part. To sign up, pupils should email or speak to Dr Rowcroft.



### Outdoor Learning Zone...

In the outdoor learning area behind the Astro, we now have some resident fish in the pond.



They have grown at an exponential rate in recent weeks and to help them out, Colour Sergeant French has installed a small fountain and pump to keep the water oxygenated. Our Pre-Prep have already been down to meet the fish!

I have sent the following photo to Netflix as they are about to cast the second series of *Swamp Thing*.

### Academic Stretch and Challenge

The *Curiosity Shop* Lecture Series returned last week. Dr Caiazza gave an excellent talk on the importance of public speaking and debating skills. Last year, our school team reached the national final of the English Speaking Union's Churchill Public Speaking Competition and we are looking for a new generation to build on this success.

I am always keen for our pupils to look at external academic competitions and awards. There are lots of opportunities out there to develop their thinking and take on new challenges. This week I have chosen four competitions run by the University of Oxford that might be of interest. If pupils would like to take part, their teachers and Head of Department will be happy to advise them...



Department	Competition	Eligibility	Deadline for entries	Further details
Department of Computer Science and Faculty of Philosophy	UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge	UK students in Years 2-13 (or equivalent)	School must register by October. The Challenge will take place in November	<a href="#">UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge</a>
Faculty of Classics	The David Raeburn Prize	Any participant aged 11-18 (or Years 7-13 or equivalent)	6pm, Thursday 2 December 2021	<a href="#">The David Raeburn Prize</a>
Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics	Practical Ethics and Responsibility Competition	Teams of between three and five students in Year 11, 12 or 13	5pm, 10 January 2022	<a href="#">Practical Ethics and Responsibility Competition</a>
Faculty of English	Prismatic Jane Eyre Schools Project	TBC	March 2022	<a href="#">Prismatic Jane Eyre Schools Project</a>





## House Celebrations

On Friday, the thick clouds of blue smoke rising above the Sheep Field signalled the start of the House BBQs. In beautiful sunshine, the pupils enjoyed a variety of culinary treats enhanced by the presence of an ice cream van. A game of Cork Ball was organised which enabled Mr Clapp to demonstrate his remarkable skills and physicality. The atmosphere was lovely and I am very grateful to the House staff who planned and managed the event.



Have a great week!

Kind regards,

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