



Dear Parents,

This week the School handed over the Chair of East Kent Schools Together Partnership to St Anselm's after a year of leading the organisation. Over the last twelve months, St Edmund's has helped grow and broaden the provision of EKST, despite the COVID crisis. Two new schools (Folkestone Academy and Archbishop's) have joined the group, we have secured approximately £25k of additional funding to help target disadvantage in East Kent and also diversified the group's provision to include a focus on pupil and staff wellbeing. The Michaelmas 2021 programme for EKST will also include a series of online lectures called Everyone's Responsibility, which will address issues relating to sexual harassment in schools. As I step down as Chair of the Heads' Group, Leigh Millard also passes on his role as Chair of the Management Group. My thanks go to him for doing such a sterling job for EKST during a difficult period and to Sarah Moir, the group's coordinator and "engine room". We will continue to play an active role in this important partnership.

Curiosity Shop Lecture

On Wednesday, we welcomed Dr Robert Green OBE who is currently the Director of Student Engagement within the School of Physical Science at the University of Kent. Dr Green was made an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list of 2008 for his services to forensic science. He delivered an inspiring and thought provoking talk '*Fingerprints and Fingermarks*'. He explained the process for matching fingermarks to a print and how 60% of people have loop prints, 5% have arches and the rest have radial and ulnar loops! As a group, the audience then looked at matching various patterns themselves in a practical exercise. Unfortunately, CSI St Edmund's only scored 50% collectively (best leave things to the experts)! I am extremely grateful to Dr Green for providing such a stimulating presentation.





European Day of Languages **Our Head of MFL, Mrs Judi-Sprinks reports...**

“This year, St Edmund's is celebrating the European Day of Languages and beyond! As a School that welcomes pupils from across the globe, it seemed more appropriate to allow all languages to form part of our various activities through the week. Even Esperanto, a language that is only spoken by 2 million people and has no native country, made an appearance in the L5 languages challenge on Wednesday lunchtime!

The Head and Prefect team launched the week's initiative with some recognition to languages in Line by greeting the school in various tongues. St Edmund's polyglot, Mr Georgiou, offered a taste of Italy on Monday lunchtime with a smorgasbord of Italian delicacies to taste and discuss in the target language. In addition, the M5 MFL, EAL and Latin linguists have competed in a quiz, the week's lunchtime menus were translated, boarding has a foreign film night (planned with some interesting snacks to accompany their films), JS and SS tutor groups tackled tongue twisters and a giant world flag appeared in the corridor on Friday lunchtime! Pupils used the flag to mark their home countries, reflecting just how diverse St Edmund's really is.”





Music

Five senior school musicians performed in our very first lunchtime concert on Thursday. After such a long break, it was a real pleasure to hear live music again and feel the engagement of performers with an audience. Orlando Barton-Hodges introduced the programme with his rendition of *Auch kleine dinge* by Mathis and Engel; his rich bass tones and long, beautifully sustained vocal lines projected the atmosphere very effectively. Zoe Rogers performed *Make you feel my love* by Adele and the character was well-caught in this introspective account. Isobel Kimber found suitable vocal warmth in her account of *She used to be mine* from Waitress followed by Olivia Johnson at the piano, with the lyrical and flowing *Moonbeams* by Barbara Arens. To round off the concert, James Hodgkinson sang *The Monk and his Cat* by Samuel Barber; a quirky but evocative piece, delivered with much character and nuance. Well done and thank you to all performers.

Sports News...

The week started with some excellent fixtures played in beautiful September sunshine. The U15 A and B team boys played Kent College on Tuesday.

Mr Jones reports:

'Making our debut in the District league, the U15s were anxious to produce a solid performance, and, hopefully, a first three points. After a cautious start, from both teams, the deadlock was broken by a stunning goal from Will Knoupe. Breaking down the right, the cross seemed to have eluded him, being slightly behind. However, an audacious back heel, whilst facing the goal, left the keeper with no chance. Work that out if you can! Stunned by this, our guests sat in, and, with confidence flowing, Samson Buck began to run the midfield. A powerful free kick, and strike from the edge of the box, gave their keeper no chance, and gave him a first half brace.

With captain Stanley Allom leading a solid central defensive unit, alongside Carlos Sala and the impressive Luke Robinson, the match was effectively over within ten minutes of the restart. Camille Lalande's stalwart efforts, in leading the attacking line, were soon rewarded and further goals followed from Raphael Peres and Joe Burgess.

Pleasingly, a strong run, and finish, from Samson Buck, gave him a well-deserved hat trick. A great start, more to come, I'm sure, from a fine side.'

The U15 B's were less fortunate, losing 0-5, but Mr Millard was pleased with the work ethic demonstrated and the attention to formation and tactics.



Our 1st XI teams were in action too, with the girls playing Kent College, Pembury in the first fixture of the newly formed 'local' league. Some impressive performances saw a 5-0 victory with goals from Jildou Chappel (2), Rebecca Reynolds, Dali Tabony and Abi Stanfield

The boys played a very competitive fixture against a more experienced Kent College side and, although 3 goals were conceded, this was a very good first performance from St Edmunds's. Players followed the team plan and there were outstanding debuts from Anton Von Poelnitz, and Caspar Barton Hodges in goal, making a magnificent penalty save. 1-3 the final score.

Finally, there was a superb turn out for trampolining club again this week. Seat drops and swivel hips were on the agenda for most, with work on body tension and rotation. Pia Uffmann, however, wowed the group with her fabulous somersaults and tricks – Mrs Millard may be out of a job!





Warneford

This week, Ms Florence dusted off her chalk sticks and introduced a little bit of “Warneford Wisdom” to the pupils of Warneford house. ‘It just provides a helpful reminder and a guide to successful living’ she explained. Pupils are on board, feeling positive and have helped to generate these inspired point. However, she tells me there is one space left for a classic pearl of wisdom. Polite suggestions on a postcard please...



London Lunch

Having been in exile for two years, the famous alumni “London Lunch” made a comeback on Thursday. It was a great event organised by Old Boy Tony Zinopolis (Baker, 1963) and a wonderful opportunity to catch up.

“Zino” made a moving and heartfelt speech about the challenges we had all faced over the last twelve months and we raised a glass to absent friends. The attendees were in good form and, as always, told some brilliant stories about their experiences at the school.



Design Technology Trip

On Thursday, the 6th form Product Designers visited Design London at Magazine London, the new up and coming Greenwich Peninsula. Here they were inspired by designers, materials and predicted trends which will go some way in generating ideas for their own A level projects.





Academic Stretch and Challenge

Gresham College runs an excellent series of lectures on a wide range of academic subjects. These provide excellent academic enrichment opportunities for pupils and I strongly recommend spending some time searching through their impressive archive which can be accessed here:

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch/>

I am also a huge fan of the Radio 4 series "In Our Time":

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl/episodes/player>

Both resources are very useful sources of ideas for personal statements. Upper Sixth take note...

HMC

Monday-Wednesday this week I am away at the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference in South Wales. This annual event is an excellent opportunity to catch up on trends in the sector and learn about new technologies and best practice. Mrs Shearer, will deputise for me in my absence. However, I am contactable

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