



06.07.2018

## HEADLINES

### Year 11 into 12 Taster Day

The Year 11 into 12 taster day on Monday went very well indeed. Approximately 100 Year 11 students attended the taster sessions offered by subjects and the feedback was very positive and encouraging. In the evening the Sixth Form team hosted a talk for parents to outline the key messages about Sixth Form study, messages that are particularly important for our transferring Year 11 students. My thanks to all families and students who attended.

### Sports Awards

Wednesday evening's Sports Awards was another super occasion in this busy and hectic end of year period. This year our guest speaker was Katherine Torrance – the former Charles Darwin School student and now international diving star who has recently secured a number of substantial international achievements. Katherine addressed the audience talking about her journey thus far with a maturity and composure beyond her years.

I thought it was a wonderful evening excellently hosted by our PE department. This year the hall seemed more crowded than ever before; the number of children being presented with awards and recognition for high quality sporting involvement seems to have shot up. My congratulations to all students who received an award.

*Sunil Chotai*

## LOCKERS

**Reminder:** all lockers should be emptied before the end of term as they are cleaned out during the summer holidays and anything left in them will be disposed of. Please make sure you take all your belongings home at the end of the summer term. Thank you.

**Student Services**

## Running down dementia



This year one of the charities Year 8 has been supporting is Dementia UK. A number of pupils have taken up the challenge of being sponsored to walk or run 100km over a five week period. A small number of pupils have been coming back after school each Thursday to help them increase the distance they are covering.

"We finished on Wednesday 4th July with our final few laps around the school field together followed by a well-deserved picnic," said Year 8 Achievement co-ordinator Mr Lamb. "A small number of pupils have raised nearly £600 for Dementia UK – a sterling effort."

Congratulations to all the pupils who took part and particularly those who took part in the final run: Grace O'Rourke, Emily Turnham, Ayishia Green, Imogen Seaton-Allen, Evie Dyer, Millie Richardson, Joel Berry, Abbey Leanord, Amy McCarthy, Millie Hall, Tiffani Edwards, Chloe Edwards, Abbey Parker, Ben Nosworthy, Ethan Galpin, Jemma Watts, Olivia Gewitzke, Chloe Dillaway, Leila Lagder, Kelsey King and Megan Chenery.

## Take me to the river Darent

Last week Mr Culver and Mr Tilley took the Year 12 Biology class on an ecology field trip to Westerham in order to sample from sites along the River Darent and estimate population sizes.

"We saw a red kite, hundreds of invertebrates, 2 American crawfish, beautiful demoiselle damselflies, a few dragonflies and many different species of butterflies and other insects," said Mr Culver. "For students this was an invaluable opportunity to get hands on with a range of sampling techniques they will be assessed on in next year's A level exams."

Mr Tilley and Mr Culver were particularly interested in the insect diversity within the cowpats but apparently the students are still building their enthusiasm for ecology up to this level of fervour.



## Events, Fixtures and Educational Visits

### Monday 9 to Friday 13 July

**9 to 11 July 2018** — Silver Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition

**10 July 2018** — Young carers trip to Quasar

**10 July 2018** — Year 13 drama trip to see The Phantom of the Opera

**9 to 12 July 2018** — Year 7, 8 and 9 girls football tour

**10 to 13 July 2018** — Year 12 Horizons

### Forthcoming events: summer term

**16 to 20 July 2018** — Year 12 Work Placements, career development, courses, Zanzibar trip

**18 July 2018** — Year 10 Headhunters careers event

**18 and 19 July 2018** — Summer enrichment activities for Years 7, 8 and 9

**18 July 2018** — Year 7 summer enrichment trip to Chessington

**18 July 2018** — Year 8 summer enrichment trip to Thorpe Park

**18 July 2018** — Year 9 summer enrichment trip to Kew Gardens

**18 and 19 July 2018** — Year 7, 8 and 9 trips to Bedgebury

**19 July 2018** — Year 10 Mock Interviews

**19 July 2018** — Year 7 summer enrichment trip to France

**19 July 2018** — Year 7 summer enrichment trip to see Aladdin

**19 July 2018** — Year 7 and 8 summer enrichment trip to Dawn of Super Heroes

**19 July 2018** — Year 7 and 8 trip to the Orbit at the Olympic Park

**19 July 2018** — Year 7 and 8 summer enrichment tobogganning trip

**19 July 2018** — Year 7 summer enrichment trip to the Natural History Museum

**19 July 2018** — Year 9 summer enrichment trip to Harry Potter Studio Tour

**19 July 2018** — Year 9 summer enrichment trip to Go Ape and Leeds Castle

**20 July 2018** — End of term and celebration of success assemblies

### Forthcoming events: autumn term

**4 September 2018** — Start of autumn term for Year 7

**28 September 2018** — Early close for Open Morning

**29 September 2018** — Open Morning from 9:45am—12:30pm

## TERM DATES 2018-19

### Autumn 2018

Tuesday 4th September – Thursday 18th October

*Half term: Monday 22nd – Friday 26th October*

Tuesday 30th October – Friday 21st December

### Spring 2019

Monday 7th January – Friday 15th February

*Half term: Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February*

Monday 25th February – Friday 5th April

### Summer 2019

Tuesday 23rd April – Friday 24th May

*Bank holiday: Monday 6th May*

*Half term: Monday 27th – Friday 31st May*

Monday 3rd June – Friday 19th July

**INSET Days** (school closed to pupils)

Monday 3rd September 2018

Friday 19th October 2018

Monday 29th October 2018

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

### Notes:

Good Friday – 19th April 2019 / Easter Monday – 22nd April 2019

## Pupils for Praise

Duty pupils of the week ending

29.06.2018

Tallulah Botton and Millie Richardson  
from 8JSn and GQu respectively

**Mrs Mills, Reception**

### Year 9 end of year exams in Music

After an impressive year of work with the Year 9 GCSE class, I decided to set them the ultimate challenge for their end of year exam - to sit an actual full GCSE past paper to see how they might cope with applying their knowledge under this kind of pressure.

To take a full GCSE paper two years early was always going to feel like an impossible thing to do, but I had faith that the class would rise to the occasion. We had set up the expectation that we would be happy to achieve grades in the D-F category at this point in the course. To my huge delight and pride, the results were very impressive indeed. Seven students from the class would have gained a C grade or higher, had they taken this exam back in 2015! One student - Harry Clarke - achieved an A grade on the paper. What an impressive achievement.

**Congratulations to the whole class**, but in particular to Harry Clarke, Isabel Wilkins, Natasha Swanson, Jhardelle Haye, Rebecca Hall, Taylan Ahmet and Calum Bell.

**Miss Mace**

### Where are they now?

Congratulations to Chloe Marie Wheeler who graduates from Southampton University with a 2:1 in Sociology and Social Policy.

**The Sixth Form Team**

### Summer enrichment

There are still a few places remaining on some of the summer enrichment trips.

However, we have to confirm numbers with some of the venues on Monday. If your child is interested in taking up one of the available places on the trips, please make your payment via ParentPay over the week-end to ensure they can take part.

Once numbers have been confirmed we will not be able to accept any late applications.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will receive individual timetables shortly.