

2nd October 2020

Dear Parents

This has been a very busy week in school – and again we seem to be returning to our normal routines. Mrs Roberts could barely contain her excitement on Wednesday at having CCF back up and running for the first time since March. It was great to see students in cadet uniform again. Ms Holmes has also had her first Vocal Ensemble session this week.

The Senior School inter form news quiz is up and running and running very competitively indeed. The first results and league tables will be available on Monday. The format is thirteen general knowledge, literacy and numeracy online questions with a majority opinion formulating a result for each form. Mr Robson tells me that there will be prizes at the end of each term – so make sure that you are keeping up with current affairs!

We have been conducting learning walks this week, looking at how the new routines are being embedded in the classroom and checking how teaching and learning is being adapted. It has been a real pleasure to see how well staff and pupils are working with the new classroom layouts and hygiene practices. I have heard lots of our Junior School children recite their grammar script and have also been lucky enough to observe our new Year 7 students' work in Mrs Babington's Food class, discussing the NHS EatWell Guide, and Mr Birtles' Maths class! I also visited all of the Senior Activities sessions on Wednesday afternoon which enabled me to spend time watching everything from Disney Appreciation, to a Russian language lesson, to Chess Club and of course a real range of sport on the courts and field.

I have also been able to have Rewards Reading with all of the Senior School bubbles for the first time this term. Junior School are still having assemblies in their classrooms at the moment to avoid disruption and movement, but it has been great to be able to reward Years 7 to 10 with the Top Five House points for their bubbles and with the overall House totals – Kent are currently in the lead in Senior School!

Mrs Mawson tells me that Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Queen Elizabeth II in their History lessons and have produced an Andy Warhol style portrait of her in their Art lessons. She has sent me this lovely picture of the finished work:



Miss Blundy has informed me that 6 Juno thoroughly enjoyed making some junk model instruments to help them to understand pitch in Science. They were allowed some cardboard, elastic bands, string and the contents of their pencil cases! They were able to explain why plucking different strings on their instrument produced different pitches.



This has also been House Week. This year we have calendared one House Week each half term to make sure that we spread our House competitions across the year. This week we have had a number of sports competitions – most hotly contested has been KS3 Cross Country. The following report is from Mr Wilkinson and Miss Coggins:

Over the last few days, Years 7 - 9 have been practicing their cross country within their PE lessons (with a few moans on their part). On Thursday they all managed to put that practice into use and take part in the House Cross Country Competition. All students finished the course, even year 9 who had the surprise of an extra lap thrown at them, with some even beating their previous times.

Year 9

1st - Alex W finishing with a time of 15min 10 sec
2nd - Harry K
3rd - Adam L

1st - Olivia D finishing with a time of 16 min 36 sec
2nd - Alara H
3rd - Ella G

Year 8

1st - Alex W finishing with a time of 10 min 53 sec
2nd - Blake E
3rd- Oliver R

1st - Skye M finishing with a time of 12 mins 06 sec
2nd - Sona J
3rd - Charlotte N

Year 7

1st - Charlie T finishing with a time of 11min 26 sec

2nd - Henry T

3rd- Jack G

1st - Jemima H finishing with a time of 14 min 17 sec

2nd - Sophie R

3rd - Evelyn G

We would like to say a massive well done to all those that took part, and a huge thank you to the non- participants for helping collect results and mark the course out. The overall winners of this house competition are.

Year 9 = SWALE

Year 8 = TEES

Year 7 = KENT

Key Stage 3 - Overall points totals....

4th - TEES - 213pts

3rd - SKERNE - 233pts

2nd - KENT - 245pts

1st - SWALE - 275pts

Well done to Swale!! We look forward to the results of other House events.

Can I take this opportunity for a few reminders? Firstly I must remind all parents that Senior School pupils should have a face covering with them every morning. We do provide them for students who have forgotten them, but the cost to school is not insubstantial and we would ask that parents make sure that their sons/daughters do have them. Secondly can I again remind all parents about considerate parking, particularly in the streets around school, and about driving slowly and carefully in residential areas. We continue to receive complaints from local residents about both parking and the speed of some drivers when dropping pupils off.

Next week will see our Year 10 'Introduction to GCSE' Parent Information Evening on Thursday via Zoom – I hope to see plenty of Year 10 parents on my screen!

I hope you and your families have a restful weekend.

Best wishes

Kate Reid