



INTRODUCTION



It feels wonderful to make it to the end of the Spring Term, with the daffodils playfully dancing at the edge of the croquet lawn, the annual staff Easter Egg hunt competitively concluded (with no serious injuries) and all the children looking forward to family celebrations in gardens and parks across the land. I wonder how many roast Easter Sunday lunches will be done on the barbeque this weekend, liberally garnished with Rosemary and all the trimmings?

I very much enjoyed seeing the eggstatic fun unfolding at the Pre-Prep and Prep School on the last day of term, as the sun shone beatifically on our youngest while they undertook various eggstraordinary Easter challenges, culminating in a wonderfully eggstravagant hunt, using treasure maps and clues – clearly the map was made by one of Ewell's finest carteggrappers... Well done to everyone who received celebration merits, commendations and awards, particularly for their resilience as learners during Lockdown.

As you will know from my letter last week, we will be welcoming Mrs Loren Macallister as the new Head of Ewell Castle Preparatory School on 1st September, following a rigorous

recruitment process. Mrs Macallister joins us from Shrewsbury House Preparatory School in Surbiton, where she currently serves as the Academic Deputy Head; she is also currently engaged by ISI as a Team and Compliance Inspector. She is fully aligned with the Ewell Castle vision and values, and has been closely involved with the Ewell Castle family since her daughter joined in 2014. Mrs Macallister is very much looking forward to meeting pupils, staff and parents during various "Meet the New Head" events over the coming months.

GCSE BTEC and A-level

With the summer examination season fast approaching after Easter, in the guise of Centre Determined Grades (CDGs), colleagues in the Senior School have spent considerable time on building up individualised evidence portfolios and statistical analyses for our GCSE, BTEC and A-level cohorts. More announcements are expected from Ofqual this week to clarify the process further but yesterday's staff INSET day was all about marking, moderating and quality-assuring the assessments and various assignments that have already been collated. Given how much is already in place, I am confident in the professional judgement of my colleagues to ensure a fair and rigorous outcome for all our young people involved.

8Billionideas

Some of you will have already gathered that we are now an official partner of the newly re-launched 8billionideas and, as such, a number of our pupils (Years 5-11) can sign up for free online creativity and innovation workshops over the Easter holidays.

All you need to do is register by going to www.8billionideas.com and click on 'Start your free 10-day trial now'. Once they have registered, they will be given a log-in to the 8billionideas website where they can book their courses from 1st April onwards.

Staff news

Mrs Edwards will be starting her leave after Easter and we look forward to hearing about her new arrival in due course. We will be welcoming Mrs Douglas as Teacher of Music in the Senior School and Ms Materna will be Head of Year 8, both appointments for the Summer Term. Mrs Blake is due to start her maternity leave in May and handover plans are already in place to ensure continuity in terms of academic leadership in the Senior School. As part of this, Mr Leigh will be taking back responsibility for exams while Mrs Owen will be taking the strategic lead on teaching and learning at the Castle. As Mrs Owen will be stepping down from her role as Head of Geography, Miss Earthrowl will be taking on this role for the Summer Term. I would also like to congratulate Mrs Sarmiento on her appointment as Student Council Co-ordinator from 19th April.

Some Tentative Dates to Pencil in

Subject to the vagaries of the Pandemic, please pencil in the following dates, which are yet to be confirmed:

- The Year 11 and Year 13 Learning for the Future Programme (L4F) enrichment programmes will run from 7th June to 25th June
- Prize-giving events for both the Prep School and Senior School are due to go ahead on the 28th June in some shape or form – more news

to follow about finishing dates for Year 11 and Year 13

- Open events scheduled for 25th June early evening and 26th June mid-morning will go ahead on site – do let your extended families and friends know – more details to follow
- Current Year 5 Ewell Castle families will be invited to a VIP open event at the Senior School in mid-September (when they will be in Year 6), tailored to their bespoke requirements

School Uniform

- The amnesty on School uniform will largely come to an end from the 19th April, meaning that pupils should return to their previous normal uniform arrangements in all settings. As the temperature (hopefully) rises, we will announce the date when summer shirt-sleeve order protocols can commence
- Should families have trouble sourcing uniform items, or are concerned about investing in something new for just one term (Year 6 or Year 11 may be affected here), I refer you to the New2U sale on 16th April from 3pm. For stock enquiries please contact: ewellcastlenew2u@gmail.com. This service is run by parent volunteers so there may be a delay in responding; however, they will endeavour to issue a revised stocklist before the sale via our social media channels. If you wish to come along, please send an email to pta@ewellcastle.co.uk stating the time you plan to attend
- For any other uniform eventualities, please do contact form tutors or Heads of Year

I will take this opportunity to wish everyone in our #EwellCastlefamily a peaceful and joy-filled Easter season. There has never been a more appropriate time to reflect upon the retreat of the dark days of winter as we look forward optimistically to the vibrancy of new life that Spring heralds.

Silas Edmonds



SENIOR SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

During lockdown, there have been many interesting online assemblies given to the pupils to ensure they received strong pastoral care as well as academic education. A wide range of interesting and useful subjects have included careers, the importance of exercise and strong mental health, developing a growth mindset and encouraging random acts of kindness.

Mrs Greensmith (Senior School ELSA) gave a very practical

assembly on how pupils can look after themselves, especially useful when some may have been experiencing more anxiety at this time. Suggestions such as making a gratitude jar, wellbeing tips and grounding techniques were all very helpful during these more challenging times.

Humour has often played an important part, especially in the House Assemblies. Pupils are now aware of the longest word in New

Zealand, and even more impressed that Mr Nugteren could pronounce it perfectly! No doubt many of the pupils were disappointed he didn't share the 'Kiwi' pronunciation of some other words! Whilst Mr Hall defended his lasagne making skills and explained how the feedback he received over this incident had affected him!

WELLBEING POST

For young people

Tips #1 to #6

- #1- Find a small daily routine 
- #2- Go for a short walk daily 
- #3- Do an hours exercise each day 
- #4- Call a friend each day 
- #5- Have 10 minutes of me time 
- #6- Come off your phone 2 hours before bed 



WELLBEING POST

For young people

Tips #7 to #12

- #7- Write down 3 things you are grateful for 
- #8- It's ok not to feel ok 
- #9- Give yourself time and space to speak about your feelings 
- #10- Don't read too much news 
- #11- Try to learn a new skill 
- #12- Try using some grounding techniques.
E.g. 5 things you can see, 4 things you can touch, 3 things you can hear, 2 things you can smell and 1 thing you can taste. 




Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu 

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch 



37 dialects 1 dialect  

Deck Data Six

idea "Maturity is learning how to start when you feel like procrastinating and learning how to listen when you feel like talking."

quote "Instead of asking how many tasks you can tackle given your working hours, ask how many you can ditch given what you must do to excel." MARTIN HERRON

question If you met someone exactly like yourself ...
- Same experience, resources and problems ... what advice would you give them?

The reaction....



How the abuse made me feel

- Isolated – Nobody makes lasagne like me
- Self conscious about my cooking
- Worried about further abuse
- Avoid school
- Worried – My current friends might not like me because of the way I make lasagne
- Weird – Does anybody else make lasagne like me?



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2021

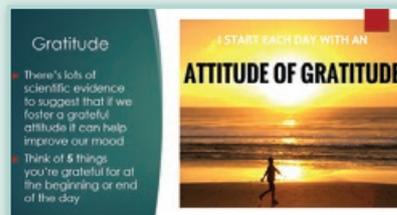
We celebrated 'Children's Mental Health Week' during the first week of February. It was an opportunity to focus on our mental wellbeing, in partnership with Place2Be (a children's mental health charity with over 25 years' experience working with pupils, families and staff in UK schools). The week comprised of several online talks and presentations and useful links for pupils, parents, and teachers on our website and in the School bulletin.

The week began by using a slide presentation in Monday's assembly from Place2Be, the theme chosen by them was 'Express Yourself', with the idea of finding creative ways to share feelings and thoughts. It is recognized that being creative and expressing

yourself can help relax and de-stress you and increase 'feel-good' endorphins which lift the mood. This in turn helps generate feelings of empowerment and creates a sense of identity and achievement.

In addition, three presentations were put together (by staff members) to be used within Form Time/Assemblies to spark further discussion and thought amongst pupils on how to look after and manage their mental health and wellbeing. The three presentations included:

- Mindfulness - a sound file guiding the listener on how to meditate.
- Kindness - a presentation showing the benefits of practising kindness toward both yourself and others, including the science behind kindness and practical ideas of



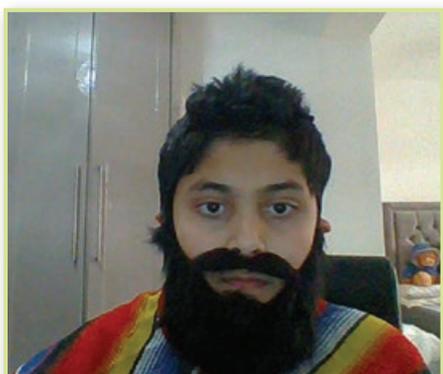
how to incorporate kindness into our everyday lives.

- The power of 5 - looking at how gratefulness, thought distraction and breathing techniques can be used effectively to manage stress and anxiety.

Mrs C Varney

BOOK WEEK COSTUMES

Well done to all the pupils who made a tremendous effort with their costumes, here are a selection of photos from the day.



WORLD BOOK DAY ASSEMBLY

To celebrate World Book Day, Mrs Kerry gave a very interesting assembly on books, with pupils and teachers recommending their favourite book. In case you missed it and fancy reading a good book over the Easter holidays, here is the list!

Miss Britton – *I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith

Kieran Riley – *Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Rauf

Mr Chipperton – *Norwegian Wood* by Hauraki Murakami

Lucy Crockford – *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

Mr Edmonds – *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* by William Blake

Maddie Fourie – *A Thousand Boy Kisses* by Tillie Cole

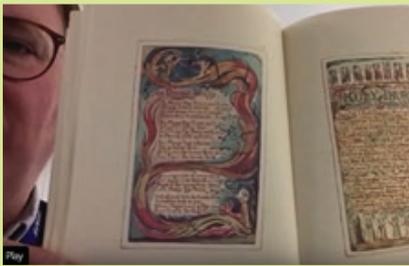
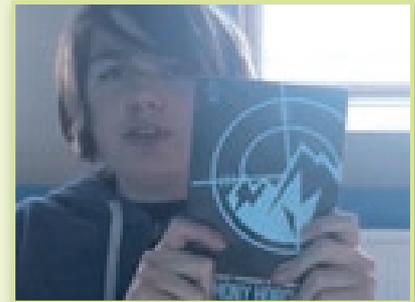
Miss Materna – *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte

William Whitson – *Alex Rider Point Blanc* by Anthony Horowitz

Mr Leigh – *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

Oscar Morris-Almond – *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline

Belle Prieto Clynes – *Mortal Engines* by Philip Reeve



EXTREME READING COMPETITION

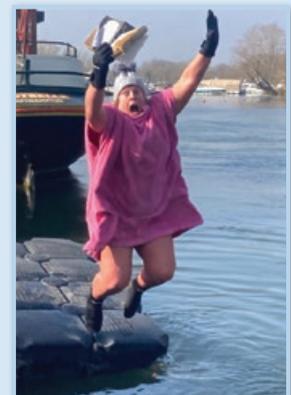
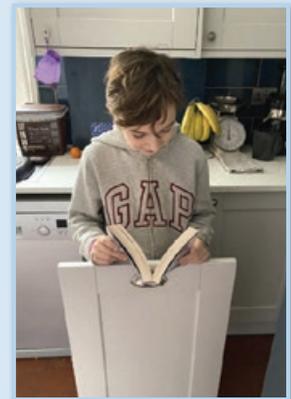
Well done to those pupils and staff that took part in the Extreme Reading Competition. The entries were fantastic, here are the winners:

Winner - Alexandra Banfield

Second Prize - Charlie Smith & Yazy Fowler

Third Prize - Hannah Pendry

Staff Winners - Ms Wallace & Ms Carrick



NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK COMPETITION

Mrs Kerry ran a competition during National Storytelling Week and had a huge response, with nearly 100 pupils participating. Winners for the video category were Juris Vitols (7AXB) and Abigail Schunter (7RJS) and for the written category, Nicholas Tank (8WJC), Flynn Edmonds (7PLB) and Belle Prieto Clynes (7AAM). Flynn Edmonds wrote a wonderful piece on the challenges of beginning his morning ablutions!

The Morning Brush

Morning had arrived, but much quicker than I would have preferred it to. I arose from my deep and dazed slumber to find the whole house as muted as a man with his tongue cut out. Gradually, I rose from my marshmallow-like mattress to observe the desecrated land which used to be my spotless bedroom. I slid out of my duvet gently, to plan my route through each wildly strewn obstacle that had found its way onto the floor of the expanse of my once clean and orderly domain. I tiptoed through the valley of eternal knowledge that hadn't yet returned to the bookshelf after last night's

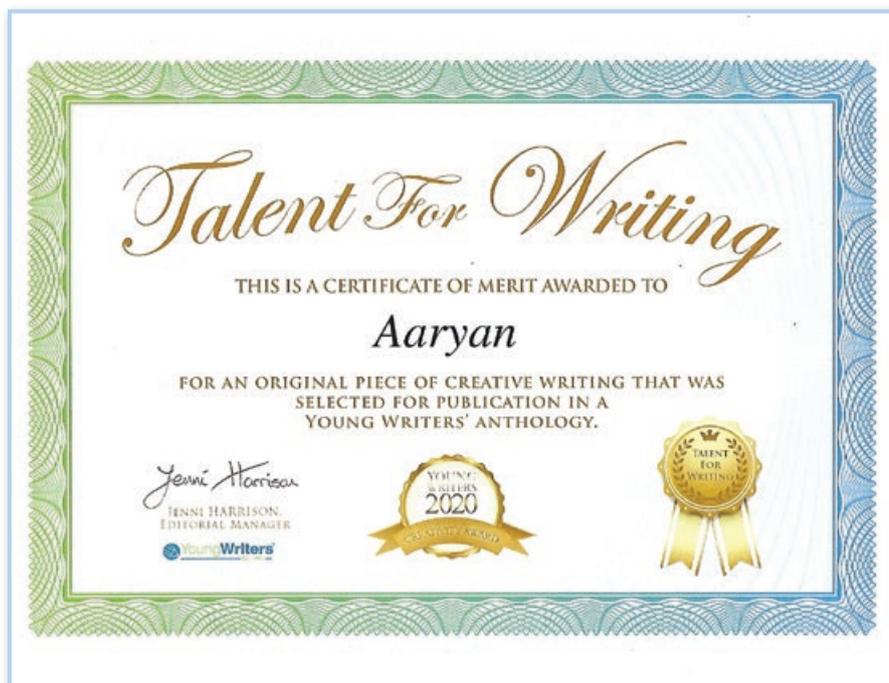
big read, or as I call it fiction Friday. It was a challenge to overcome the many trials that presented themselves to me so I could find the way out of this never-ending maze of imagination. After much frustration, I prevailed and crept towards the towering peaks of dirty washing.

I trudged through the soggy sock swamp in my bare feet just to get even the tiniest bit close to mount pantaloon, the tallest mountain in the stinking peaks. I found it possibly one of the hardest things that any human could experience, especially when I stomped into a pile of squelchy mud like pants. Now I could faintly see my dressing gown coated door. After the atrocities of mount pantaloon, I made my way through action figure forest desperately trying not to step on the sharp pieces of plastic. As soon as I had made it out of the jungle, I foolishly leapt into the air with a triumphant, overjoyed hurrah, which tragically resulted in a loud thud likely to have awoken the beast of Mumaris, the creature obsessed with silence, whom none have disturbed and lived to survive the wrath of her mighty waking groans.

At last, I had made it through all the dangerous locations in my bedroom, although I still had one more trial to overcome. Creeping as silent as space across the hallway to the clean and spotless bathroom, I carefully slid as silent and as slick as a ninja and darted in and out of more laundry piles. Suddenly, my foot slammed into a creaky floorboard which caused the most inhumane squeaking noise that not even the loudest and most terrified baby could produce. Then, I started to hear the loud waking groans of Mumaris. I knew that if I didn't run faster than I ever had before she would consume me like a ravenous lion; I ran and ran as fast and as quietly as I could, but all I could hear were the booming footsteps of Mumaris edging closer and closer until I could feel her cold and desolate breath down my sweat covered neck. Panting, I slid into the land of sanitary surfaces. Locking the door, faster than a prison warden I slumped against the wall to catch my breath. I had made it and would finally enjoy my glorious morning ablutions.

Flynn Edmonds, Year 7

MURDER IN THE MANSION



We were thrilled that Aaryan Patel (7AXB) was presented with a 'Talent for Writing' certificate for his wonderful piece of creative writing.

"Get out of my house get out!" demanded the millionaire. "You heard me alright get out!" he shouted once more. "Okay sir." Replied the servant.

That night at 1:00 in the morning there was a big, blaring thud that woke the millionaire. "You, I told you never to come back here ever again!" Shouted the millionaire. "This is MY revenge!" shouted the killer. The killer shouted as he stabbed the millionaire. The next morning the maid came up to give the millionaire his breakfast. Then she saw the millionaire was dead... "Ahhhhh" Screamed the maid. The killer had got away...

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

As ever Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is progressing well despite the limitations of lockdown. Pupils taking their Bronze award have done well with a large number of lockdown activities; notably home gym, cycling and cooking. They have also taken advantage of a concession allowing service to be done within the home. Pupils have helped siblings with homework and provided companionship to grandparents and elderly neighbours. During the September term our Bronze students planted bulbs in the School grounds near the croquet lawn, these are now up and flowering. We will be continuing this by planting trees in the School grounds next. As we get back to normal, more usual Duke of

Edinburgh activities such as cricket, netball and the School reading scheme will become available

Now we are emerging from lockdown, I am planning expeditions. We will have a full range of Bronze expeditions and training in the Surrey Hills in the summer and early autumn. Once the period for exam assessment is over, the Silver candidates will travel to the New Forest for their expedition. Most exciting of all are the Gold expeditions to Dartmoor and the Scottish Highlands. The DofE Award is certainly moving forward and I would encourage all pupils to get involved and complete their activities and write the assessors' reports.

Mr J Blencowe



YEAR 8 BAKE OFF

Year 8 took part in the 'Great Year 8 Bake Off' over half term and demonstrated some real creative and technical ability. It was a pity not to have been able to sample the goods, so we will have to save that for next time! Well done Year 8!

The winners were:

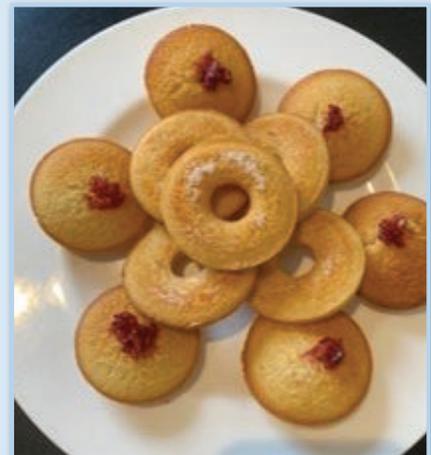
Most technically-challenging bakes:

- 1st place: Tom McGrath
- 2nd place: Harrison McLeod
- 3rd place: Bodeun Alcott

Most creative bakes:

- 1st place: Alex Skinner
- 2nd place: Emily Saiban
- 3rd place: Daniyal Uqaili

Mrs V Edwards



6TH FORM ENRICHMENT SESSIONS

Interview Skills Enrichment Session

During our online learning this term, we were fortunate enough to continue having Enrichment sessions on Thursday afternoons. Although not in their ordinary fashion, the Sixth Form team were still able to provide interesting and engaging activities, such as debates and guest speakers to come and talk to us.

During National Apprenticeship Week, Max Battista spoke to us about interview skills, and what he looks for in a job candidate as a Technology Recruitment Consultant at Oxford Knight. He told us some of the most important things to prepare for before going to an interview, such as making sure we research the company and know what they're looking for in a candidate. He recommended looking up who the interviewer is and research the company values and any projects they are carrying out at the moment. Max advised to be smart in our appearance, wear a suit or something formal - even if we think it is a bit over the top!

Secondly, we need to ensure that we are able to answer the questions and be prepared for them!

All these tips are very useful and could also apply to university interviews, something that our Year 13's have just gone through, and the Year 12's will do soon. The talk was incredibly useful - thank you very much to Max and Mrs McManus, Mr Getty, and Mrs Battista for organising it!

Lucy Crockford, Year 12



Recreation of a movie

During lockdown, the Sixth Form staff successfully maintained the smooth running of Enrichment lessons under challenging circumstances, through arranging relevant and engaging tasks for us to take part in.

In one particular task, we had to use our filming and acting skills to recreate an iconic movie or scene of our choice. Students were divided into teams and elected a group leader, who set out plans for each member's role and involvement, as well as determining what their group replicated. For example, our group leader, Ade Anifowose, suggested that we re-enacted the first Harry Potter film into a 5-minute clip. Each member of our group recreated

our own portions of the film, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, and compiled our clips into one overall video. Participants were required to add appropriate music and a voiceover, to enhance the experience for the audience, when exhibiting their films.

Having been given two weeks to complete and edit our final clips, students joined a virtual Enrichment session in which their 'masterpieces' were presented and graded by a number of judges who gave their verdicts on everyone's creations. Our recreation of the first Harry Potter film won and we were awarded with a monetary prize, having been recognised for our effective acting and editing skills.

Oscar Vieira-Martins, Year 13

St John Ambulance Enrichment Session

During these unprecedented times, it might be difficult to expect the Sixth Form to provide an Enrichment experience of the usual high standard, however the online sessions were much better than anyone could have expected!

The teachers succeeded in providing a wide range of engaging and enjoyable Enrichment experiences during the lockdown, but my personal favourite has to go to the St John Ambulance (SJA) Enrichment session. The relevance of SJA during the current national pandemic goes without saying, as they are supporting the NHS with the vaccination scheme taking place, however, this is not all they do. They are a registered charity which provides first aid services to those who need it most and can be the difference between a life lost and a life saved. They provide training to those who would like to be a volunteer in order to give back to their community and have an array of youth programmes along with working with schools that allow students to join.

As an aspiring medical student myself, the organisation is of great importance to me. The experience gained is invaluable and gives a real feeling of achievement in helping people. However, you do not necessarily have to be interested in the medical field to volunteer, the life skills you gain from SJA will be beneficial in all walks of life. Of course, the volunteering may not be for everyone, but this is not the only way to support them. Our Sixth Form ran a Curry Evening in the Spring Term in order to raise money for SJA and there are a whole host of fundraisers where you can support the charity. You can rest assured that the money donated will go towards helping them fulfil their vital role during this crisis.

Shiven Sharma, Year 12



The environment, recycling and sustainability

The Heads of Sixth Form recently devised a programme for the Sixth Form, to raise awareness about the environment, recycling and sustainability. During the first half of the session, we had a short talk about the current state of the environment and watched a video on Adidas' recyclable sportswear campaign. The following task was to create a ballgown out of recycled plastic bags that students had found around their house. I thought this was a great idea as it brought fun and a light-hearted approach to a very serious subject and made it interesting for all the students, even those who weren't as engaged with environmental issues.

The second part of the session looked at sustainability and innovation in the food industry. We were offered brownies and snacks, where the main protein was crickets! Using insects as protein supplements in food is not only sustainable, but also cheaper and more accessible for companies.

Our Heads of Sixth Form used this session to show us that the protein switch is actually unnoticeable in most foods and could be the future of European and global cuisine.

I think it is very important to educate people our age about this subject, as most of us will do what we can to protect the environment, but often don't know where to start. This session was a fun, enjoyable and practical way to help students understand the serious issue and begin to combat it.

Tabitha Sunderland, Year 12



6TH FORM VIRTUAL CURRY NIGHT

On Friday 5th March, the Sixth Form came together for our annual charity curry night. Usually, we would descend upon the local curry house, however this year we had to relocate to our own kitchens. Through the delicious provision of [Bang Curry](#) kits (who very kindly donated a large number of their curry kits), we were able to cook delightful curries from the comfort of our own home.

The previous week's Enrichment session welcomed former Senior Prefect and St John Ambulance (SJA) volunteer, Joshua Miller. He spoke about the important lifesaving training that SJA provide and how we can help, through volunteering or donation. Therefore, it only felt right to hold this evening in aid of SJA.

With Sixth Formers and teachers, we had great fun cooking the curry and laughing at some near fires! Even the quiz, that was extremely biased towards History students may I add, was great fun and allowed for some hilarious jokes.

I am so pleased to announce that we raised more than £300, with donations still flying in from people who couldn't make it. This will make a difference to the provision of lifesaving training. If you would like to donate, we have an option on ParentPay, or a fundraiser on the Sixth Form Instagram page (@ecs_sixth).

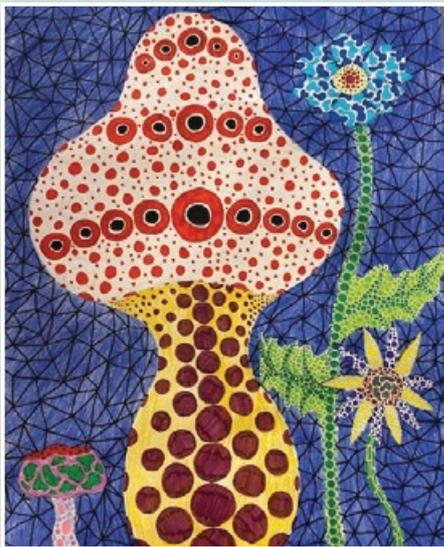
Patrick Alford, Head Boy,



ARTIST OF THE TERM - SPRING TERM



Charlotte Fyfe - Year 7



Jonny Montgomerie - Year 8



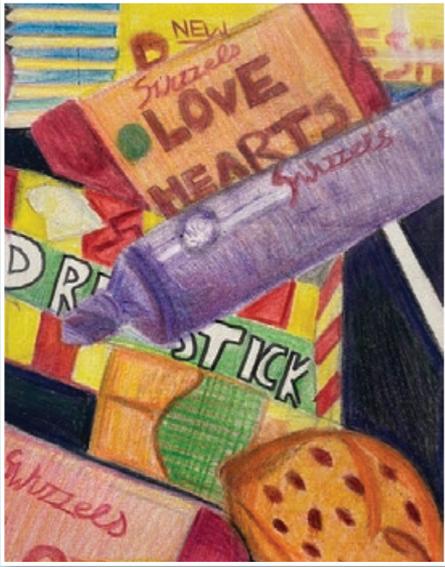
Nick Tank - Year 8



Sakura Yamamoto - Year 9



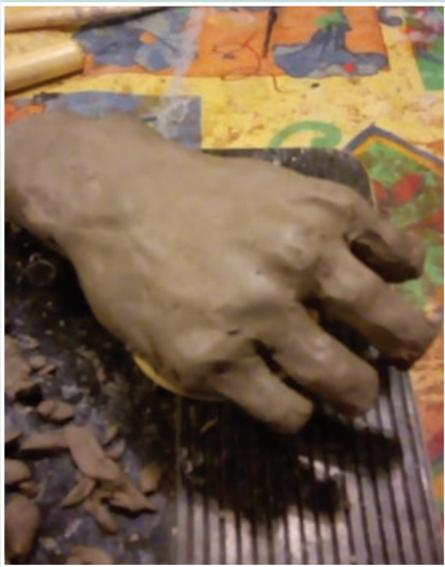
Sebastian Divall - Year 9



Hannah Szubert - Year 10



Sara Saleem - Year 10



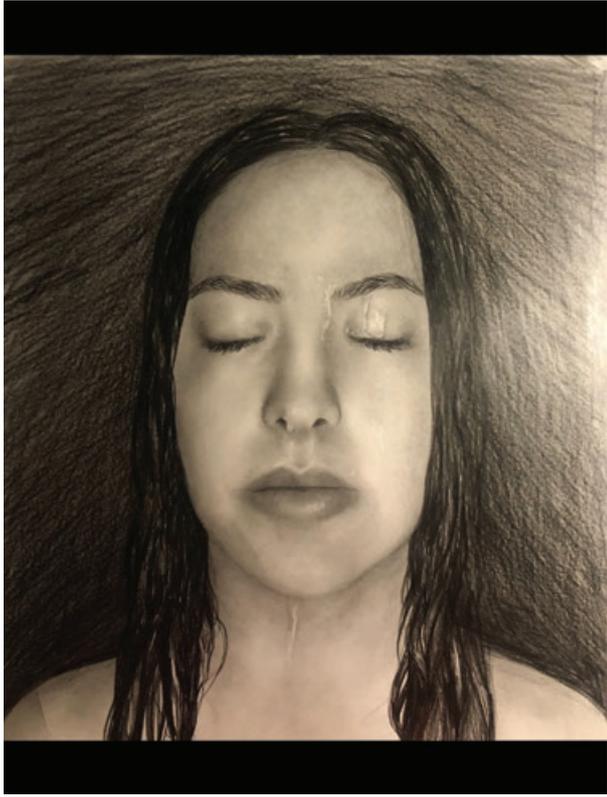
George Ditch - Year 11



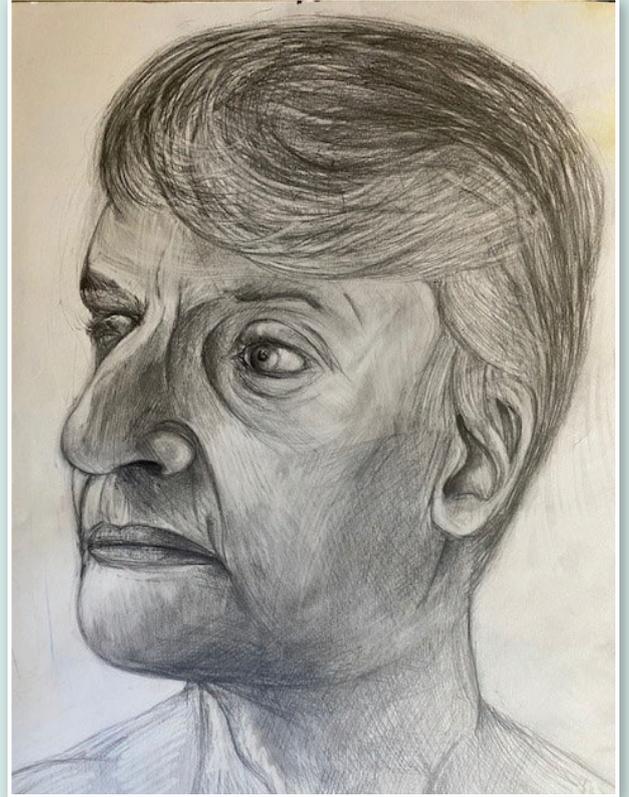
Arthur Charlesworth - Year 11



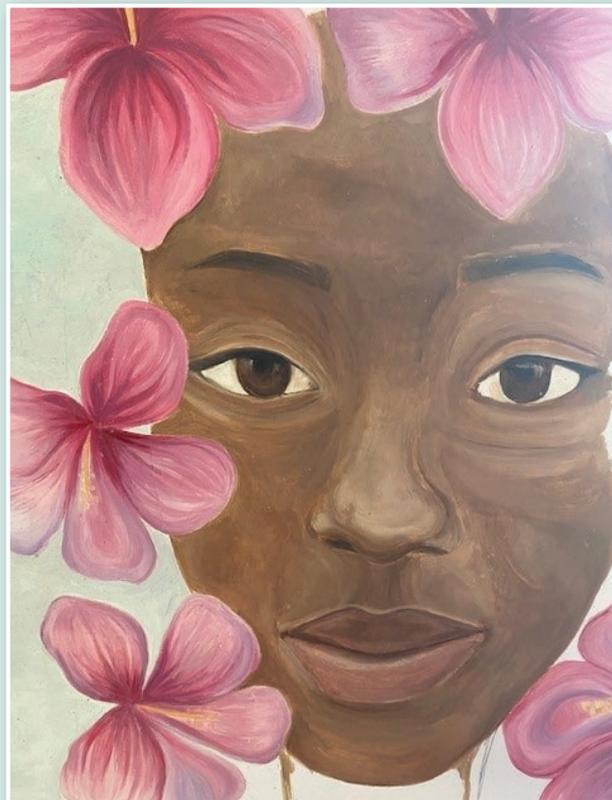
George Ditch - Year 11



Catherine Tudor - Year 12



Jack Dempsey - Year 12



Yasmin Shayesteh - Year 13

THE CHALLENGES OF KEEPING UP FITNESS, INTEREST AND MOMENTUM EVEN DURING LOCKDOWN

As a keen athlete, lockdown was a huge mountain to climb in many ways however, I realised that there is always going to be adversity and I had to fight through it rather than give into it. The lockdown rules set by the government shut all gyms and sports facilities, meaning that I had to find new ways to keep up my fitness levels and skills.

We were very lucky that the School Sports Department set exercises

to complete every week during our Games lesson, such as a 'ninja workout' which consisted of nine exercises. I realised though that I had to do more to maintain my fitness levels as I was sitting at a screen for most of the day completing online lessons. I decided to use any time I had in between lessons to do more exercise such as press ups and sit ups.

I have also developed new interests,

such as having an evening run to boost my stamina and to clear my mind after a long day of online lessons. Now that we are back to some normality and gyms and sports facilities are going to open again soon, I look forward to playing as much sport as possible. I have learnt not take any game or practise for granted as I now know I could be stuck inside with no sports at all.

Shea Brophy, Year 12

TENNIS ACADEMY - KEEPING FIT DURING LOCKDOWNS

When the lockdown period began during the Christmas break, it meant that I was unable to come back to School and continue my tennis training. Fortunately, the tennis scholars were provided with a fitness programme to help keep our fitness levels up and we recorded our progress.

We completed the exercises three or four times per week and could vary what we did on different days. At first, I found it challenging to keep up the exercises however eventually I was able to get into a good routine which

ensured I was fit enough when we returned to training back on the court. The more I completed the exercises, the more prepared I felt to play tennis again.

We have been told that competitions will begin at the end of April which is an extra incentive to train and achieve match fitness. We will also compete in the ISTA competition held at Eton during the first week of July which is another good target to work towards. I felt well supported during this lockdown, was able to occupy my time

wisely with off-court training and am looking forward to on-court training beginning.

Adeoluwa Anifowose, Year 12



ENVIRONMENT ACTION DAY

We were very lucky to have Expedition Leader and Geography teacher, Sally Earthrowl, lead our recent Environment Action Day, focusing on climate change and environmental action. Pupils attended fun and interesting sessions throughout the day, teaching them about the impact of plastic in our oceans, raising

awareness and exploring possible solutions. We thank those pupils who also participated in the litter pick around School. At the end of the day, pupils wrote pledges on how they would reduce the problem of plastic pollution and stuck them on our Wave for Change board that was displayed in the reception.

