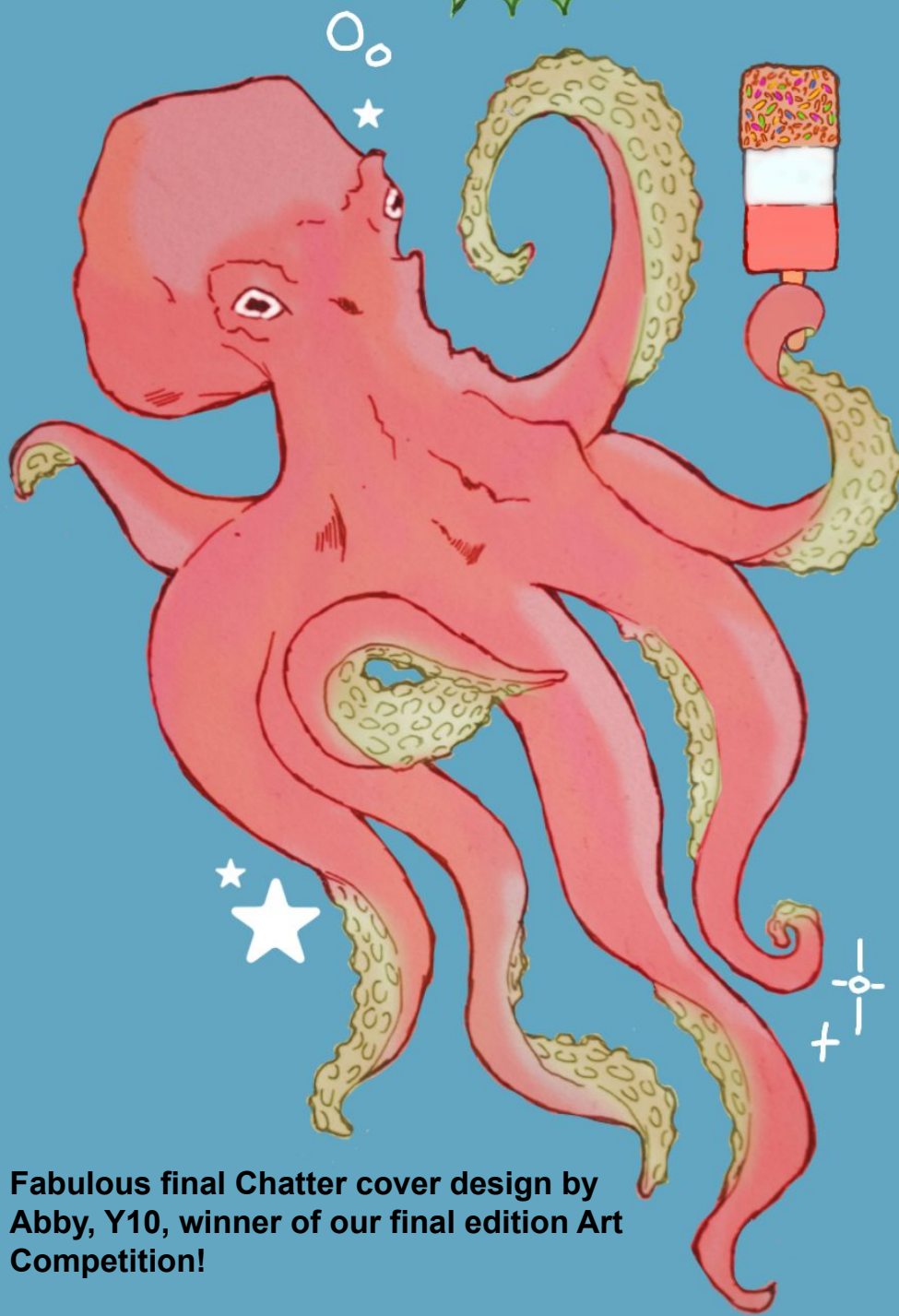




DCGS Chatter



bye
chatter



DCGS
CHATTER

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Medieval Banquet
- DCGS production of Grease
- Sports Day

And much more!

Fabulous final Chatter cover design by Abby, Y10, winner of our final edition Art Competition!



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Words from the Editor

Hello DCGS *Chatter* readers & welcome to Chatter 26!

We have, as always, so many delightful articles within this edition- the last before the summer holidays and before Chatter takes a break in September, and the launch of a new 'Chatter' on our return to school.

We have reports on the **Medieval Banquet**, **Grease** and **Sports Day**, as well as some fabulous **book reviews** and updates on our **Chatter fundraisers, competitions and celebrations!**

We also say **goodbye and good luck** to year 11, year 13 and some wonderful members of Dane Court staff.

Thank you to everybody who has supported Chatter over the last 5 years. We hope you enjoy reading this edition of Chatter as much as we have enjoyed putting it together and we wish you all a safe and safe summer.

The Ed

This Edition's Chatter Team...

Year 7 Team - Lily, Jecca, Dot, Ffion, Stanley

Year 8 Team - Caitlyn, Leah, Ael

Year 9 Team - Anezka, Thomas, Oli, Shannon, Sophie

Year 10 Team - George, Hadley, Hayden, Abby, Sofia, Cameron, Beatrix, Dylan

6th Form Team- Skye, Lara, Hanna, Yasmin, Tia

With a little help from Mrs Cronin, Miss Purdy, Mrs Finlay and Miss Shaw



Chatter's Final Edition Competition

Welcome to the final edition of Chatter magazine!

We would like to start by wishing **congratulations** to Abby, Y10, whose wonderful front cover design won this term's Chatter Art Competition! Well done Abby, please see Mrs Finlay at the start of next term to collect your prize.

As many of you now know, Chatter will be taking a break from September, however, we are keen to keep the creativity of the Chatter team going. We are therefore launching another exciting art competition over the summer holidays and look forward to seeing all of you in September for the new Creative Writing and Editorial clubs which will be running in the library.

Chatter's Fabulous Final Edition Art Competition!

We would like you to get your creative thinking caps on and design an artwork in response to the theme of '**New Beginnings**' before we get together in September with new ideas for celebrating our wonderful school community.

The competition entries will be judged by SLT and Mr Brooks, with prizes and merits up for grabs! We wish you all the very best of luck and look forward to seeing all of your entries!

**CHATTER'S FABULOUS FINAL EDITION
ART COMPETITION**

THEME: NEW BEGINNINGS

PLEASE SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO
CHATTER@DOWNCOURT.KENT.SCH.UK
BY 1ST SEPTEMBER
GOODLUCK!

MERITS FOR ALL ENTRIES

**JUDGES: SLT AND THE ONE AND ONLY
MR BROOKS**

EPIC PRIZES TO BE WON

Good luck!

**Deadline:
1st
September**



Medieval Banquet



By Lily - Year 7



The medieval banquet is one of the main big events of year 7, where history and food tech combine. Here's what I thought about it...

The medieval banquet can be a different experience, mainly in terms of food, depending on your ranking in society. For example lords and ladies get a better meal than the knights and barons, however knights and barons got a better meal than peasants, but that's just up to your opinion... (Pottage is the best!) The entertainment is pretty similar to most of the classes, but you're more likely to end up in the stocks if you're a peasant!

THE FOOD

Most people (The peasants) got pottage, a mixture of vegetables and oats, similar to porridge. Maybe that's where it got its name from? They also had a slice of bread, and apple juice (Intended to supplement for an alcoholic beverage) The knights, lords, barons, and ladies had access to more bread, fruit, and meat, but didn't get to try the pottage. They also gave out any unwanted food to the peasants.

THE ENTERTAINMENT

There was plenty of fun and entertainment, including a jester, songs from the music department, and a performance from the drama department. There was also dancing that the peasants had to take part in and the best part: The stocks. You could throw wet sponges (that would have been rotten fruit in medieval times) at anyone whose parents said had been misbehaving, so behave!

THE COSTUMES

There was a peasant fashion show and an award for the best costume! This was different for peasants, lords, ladies, barons, and knights. Everyone made shields, but the knights carried theirs.

In conclusion, the medieval banquet was really fun, and I would gladly take part again!





Medieval Banquet



Photos of the Banquet



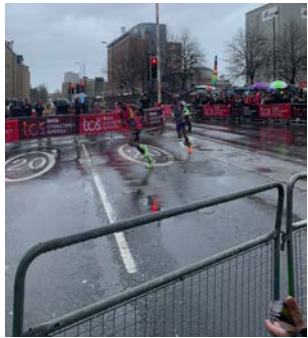
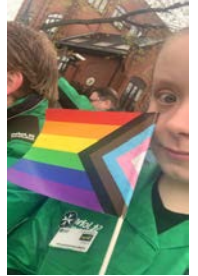


St John Ambulance: London Marathon 2023



By Skye - Year 12

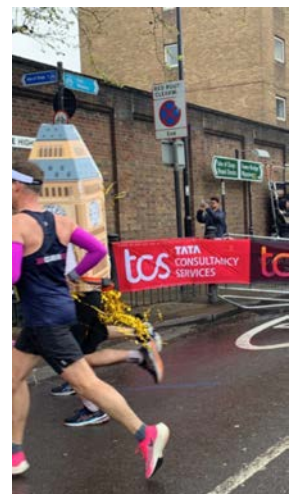
On Sunday 23 April, over 40,000 people began the London Marathon 2023. St John Ambulance helped to cover this large-scale event alongside the London Ambulance service. As a Cadet Operational First Aider with Combined Care skills, I am not only able to treat patients under adult supervision, but also check blood pressure, check glucose levels and administer certain medications under supervision. I was located at TC 5.2 in Limehouse along Rainbow Road.



There were many different sectors of St John Ambulance involved in large scale events such as this, that all played their own vital roles to help events such as this to run as smoothly and efficiently as possible. Some of these include sectors such as logistics to provide us with the equipment needed. Control Dispatcher provide us details needed on the ground and for us to report patient conditions along with transport units such as Cycle Response Units helping to go to difficult-to-access areas and stabilise the patient so they'd be able to reach a Treatment Centre.

Each mile had several Treatment Centres - including at least two Doctors, a Physiotherapist team, Advanced First Aiders, Paramedics, and Cadets. Upon arrival to the event, we had to work as a team to set up our treatment centre allowing for both a minors triage to treat patients with minor injuries and another section for a majors triage to treat any potential serious injuries.

Over 45 Guinness World Records were broken at the marathon! Kelvin Kiptum ran the fastest ever London Marathon, the second fastest in history, at 2:01:25. Throughout the day, I saw many famous people including Mo Farah along with several comedic costumes like Big Ben, Rhinos, Dinosaurs, Telephone boxes and Minions, but my favourite was Aldi's Cuthbert the Caterpillar. Overall, despite the weather, it was a great day and an immense atmosphere of cheering and excitement made possible by the community of many organisations and services. I would highly recommend anyone to watch the marathon if they have the chance!





Make it my Business



By Leah - Year 8

During Term 4, Year 8 participated in the 'Make it my business' project. We were all put into groups of around 5 people, and had to invent an app or a product that either had a social objective or used technology. We would work on this in most mentoring sessions, and on March 10th, we were off timetable all day to work on it. We had to make a 3 minute presentation on our product, then in the last week of term presented it to our mentors, who chose one to be presented in front of the year group and the judges. We needed to create 5 slides, including:

The name of the company, the logo and slogan, the main idea, marketing/branding idea, finances/ costings and why your project would be a success?

On March 31st, during period 3, we went to the theatre to watch the 6 finalists who had been chosen. They were as follows:

8B: Eco Heads

8D: Ecoover

8H: Beach Bloom

8N: Lifecoach

8S: Eco Bloom

8T: Bin Blockade

The judges on the day of the final were: **Lois Gunn** (winner of Channel 4s The Great Pottery Throw Down) **Janice Gibbs** (from Education Business Partnership Kent), **Mr White** (Year 8 Leader), and **Mrs Linton** (Careers Leader).

The teams were judged according to this criteria:

- **Company Name** (relevance to the product/professional sounding)
- **Branding Material** (how they are going to promote their idea/Logo and colours)
- **Concept/Idea** (do we think it is actually viable as a company)
- **Business Plan** (how professional they seem as business/finances seem believable/marketing works for their target audience)
- **Overall Pitch** (Is it organised/professional graphics/easy to understand their concept/spoken clearly)

The winners of the competition were as follows:

1st: Ecoover - 8D

2nd: Lifecoach - 8N

3rd: Bin Blockade - 8T

I asked some people in Year 8 what they thought of this project:

It was fun because you got the creativity to create your own product.

It was a fun and creative activity for us and it was nice being able to express our ideas together.

It was a good opportunity and practise for people wanting to make a business in the future, and the skills involved could help in preparation for future projects or jobs.

I thought it was very scary and it was boring.

It gave us an opportunity to explore what business' could be like however I feel as though it could have been organised better, for example a brief could be installed to help others think of ideas.

I think it could have been a fun opportunity if we were able to choose what groups we were in, or even if our mentors chose them.



Interview with WWF Ambassador



WWF

By Anezka Yr 9 & Skye Yr 12

Abigail in Year 11 has recently been elected as a WWF Ambassador. She is one of a handful chosen across both the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. WWF is the World Wildlife Fund; a non-profit charity dedicated to not only conserving endangered species but also addressing global threats to the planet, such as climate change. The charity's main symbol is a panda because it is widely recognised so it can speak to a lot of people, and people will remember it when they think of pandas.

Abigail chose to become an ambassador as she cares deeply about the environment, and the ethics of workers and wants to support making companies. This role is very individual to the UK, however there are similar roles in other places, but one task specific to this position is the ability to be able to lead campaigns. To be elected in this position, it was similar to a job interview: 4 initial questions to which over 150 people applied, an online group interview, and then 12 people across the UK were selected. Ambassadors are typically between the ages of 13 and 17.

As an ambassador, there are many duties and responsibilities like strategy, policy, social media and more. There is also an opportunity currently to see how young individuals are viewing climate change, and providing knowledge to develop their understanding. In the local area, there are several upcoming plans:

- Storytelling
- A campaign about endangered animals
- Eat4Change campaign - Making small changes to what we eat, one plate at a time, to improve the planet. It also involves putting pressure on governments across Europe and South America to change policies and partnerships in order to help them work to support Sustainable Development Goals, climate change treaties and integrating positive economic and social change impacts.
- Focusing on manufacturers
- Reducing climate change, no higher than 1.6°C, to prevent impacts of extreme and dangerous weather events. This temperature increase will trigger many dangerous consequences such as 70% of tropical coral reefs will be at risk of severe degradation as a result of temperature-induced bleaching, but virtually all of coral reefs will be degraded in a 2°C world.
- Getting the government's support to help them e.g. tackle poaching and illegal logging, support local communities, and ensure development plans consider environmental impact and the needs of local people.
- Build a stereotype that it's cool to be a climate activist

Anyone interested in being involved with WWF can:

- Join a membership for 13-17 year olds which helps with volunteering
- Youth election is every 3 years
- Be an orca and actively campaign and action support to reduce climate change, litter pick, learn about wildlife, etc.

WWF website: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/>





Year 9 Ypres Trip



By Thomas - Year 9

70 alarms went off at 04:00 on Friday the 9th June signalling the 20 hour long battlefield trip to Ypres, Belgium. 04:30 the massive double decker coach pulls up to the school and we board. A short trip later, we arrived at Dover and began the extremely slow process of passport checks and border control. At 06:55 we boarded the highly luxurious ferry. It had all you needed - an arcade, a lounge, it even had pizza! After a 1hr 35mins of swaying left and right with the waves of the English Channel, we made it to Calais, France and continued our journey towards Poperinge - our first stop.

Here we learned the things soldiers did at Poperinge and its importance. Not only that, we also learnt of the amount of executions carried out because of soldiers of the war deserting their posts and running. After a little taste of information, we departed for the gardens at Memorial Museum Passchendaele. Once there, we walked through the museum, gazing in awe at the weapons, attire and artillery they had preserved for over a hundred years. Furthermore, there was an underground section of re-created dugouts from the war.

Then we made for the Tyne Cot and Langemark cemeteries to pay our respects to the fallen. We even got the blessing of watching the local flute ceremony at Tyne Cot! A nice twist to the visit. Next up on the list was the small museum of Sanctuary Wood. There they had some relics from the war and some short clips of wartime events. There was also a large set of preserved trenches from the war which caught many's eyes. A great taste of trench life!

After that we went to the Menin Gate, only to see a building coated to the brim with scaffolding! Sadly, we didn't see much of the gate itself, however underneath the scaffolding were the inscriptions of soldiers' names who died and whose bodies were never found.

We then walked down a short road to the chocolate shop and spent some cash on chocolate and sweets! They had a 10% discount for us and a special deal - you can get a bar of either kind of chocolate, a free gold box of random chocs and any one item from a certain shelf for only £12:30! Bargain! After that, we set off for Calais and the luxurious ferry trip home. We were allowed to have our tea on the coach even though eating on the coach wasn't allowed, which was very nice of the drivers!

We arrived at Calais at 19:15 and waited for the delayed ferry trip home. Once we were back at Dover, we made straight for the school and arrived there at around 11:30 at night! My gosh we were shattered! I'm sure everyone got a good night's sleep that night!





Advice for starting GCSEs



By Cameron - Year 10

As a Year 10 myself this year, I felt honoured to write this helpful report for you, and now wish to reflect Year 10 from a first person perspective.

For my subjects, I chose Spanish, Triple Science, History and Art. I also had my MOCKs the second week after Easter. My subject teachers are incredibly understanding and willing to help answer my questions, inside and outside of the GCSE specifications and thus broadening my knowledge scope. They bring a jovial atmosphere to the classroom and make learning enjoyable, I nearly always bring a smile to lessons, and a willingness to learn, two things which are incredibly important for a student nearing GCSEs.

I started the year really worried about the workload. However, a large amount of my subjects are redoing work from KS3 and recap of subjects, just with an added layer of depth. Most of my homework became revision and recap of key facts, which in itself became more spread out than the homework I was set in Year 9.

My biggest worry was not knowing who I was going to be with for my lessons, students and teachers. I made more friends than I thought I would though. Without the shuffling of the year groups, I wouldn't know as much about a large amount of my fellow Year 10 Chatter team and friends, which enforces the fact that we are insanely lucky to meet new people this way.

Workload:

- Starting GCSEs can seem daunting at first, as at the end of Year 11, in about June time, you do have examinations. However, teachers do well to prepare you, we work through the coursework at a reasonable pace, not speeding through all of the topics in one term and all the teachers are incredibly supportive.
- Homework starts to become more revision or consolidation of key facts for your lessons. If you know you won't be able to hand in a homework assignment on the date, be honest with your teacher before the due date and tell them or email them and politely tell them you may struggle with handing it in on time. Of course, it's no guarantee that you'll get an extension, but you reflect yourself as prepared and honest, and it does show better than you handing it in late without specifying a reason beforehand.

Exams:

- Probably the most prominent struggle in your mind is the exams. Of course they can be stressful, but another thing to keep in mind is that they all prepare you for the two year battle with the GCSEs. At the end of a topic, in most subjects, there is an End of Topic Test, which reflects the areas that need to be worked on for your GCSEs and also reflect what revision strategies work for you.
- The 2-1-2 timetable happens for a few reasons, one of which is MOCK exams, these reflect roughly what the GCSEs will look like. There is one week of MOCKs in year 10, as the subjects haven't been entirely covered. MOCKs also happen in Year 11, before the final GCSEs when all of the work has been covered, and revision starts to occur, so tend to be a bit longer. Of course, English, Maths and Science are core and can't be changed, MOCKs will occur for these. However, MOCKs do not occur for PE (Core PE for those who didn't pick sports studies) and PSHE. Like End of Topic tests, the MOCKs exist solely to reflect to teachers what subjects need work and to show you how effective your revision strategies are.



Advice for starting GCSEs



By Cameron - Year 10

People:

- One of the biggest challenges I faced moving from Year 9 to Year 10 wasn't anything to do with exam pressure or workload, it was the people. Since, in KS3, the houses are split, Neuchâtel 1, Barcelona, Delphi and Helsinki are together and have very little to do with Neuchâtel 2, Sorrento and Tallinn inside of lessons. I am not disputing that you may be good friends with those outside of these two groups outside of lessons, but I know that many tend to form groups with people in the same part of the year group. In year 10, all 6 houses (7 forms) will be mixed up, for all lessons, into the groups A and B. These will determine when you have lessons, each group will be further split for English, Maths, Sciences, PSHE. However, PE will occur for everyone in one group at the same time. Other subjects, like History, Geography, Drama, Music, Art, and languages, along with others, will be students of A and B mixed together.
- You may not be lucky enough to be mixed with all of your best friends, but that doesn't mean you can't be friends with other students. You still have break time and lunchtime together, and your form stays the same as in KS3.

My advice:

1. **Try to do any homework tasks set to make a good impression on your teacher- be a pleasure to have in the class.**
2. **Revise for any tests, this reflects your willingness to revise and do well in a subject.**
3. **Be enthusiastic, for example doing homework on time, you will make a good impression on your teacher and also make yourself enjoyable to teach.**
4. **But also remember to have fun, revision can get stressful. Take breaks, do hobbies and meet up with friends, it helps your mental health, which in turn positively impacts your results.**
5. **Be prepared to make mistakes, we are all human, but also be prepared to learn from them- as Winston Churchill said "Everyone makes mistakes, but only the wisest learn from them."**
6. **Saying "I am going to revise more" is really easy to do, but difficult to understand. What you need to do is learn what revision works for you. I have found creating flashcards and revision slides incredibly useful. I do recommend doing something active instead of just reading notes, the activity helps transfer information into your long term memory, and is easier recalled later on.**

I hope this report is helpful to future Year 10 students - the transition from KS3 to KS4 is an experience filled with opportunities to meet new people and expand your academic horizons.





Coronation Celebrations



By Lara - Year 12



Many people across England and the wider population celebrated the coronation, from watching the event on TV to throwing street parties.



In several street parties, food involving the national colours of red, blue and white were prepared to commemorate the country and new king.



Foods such as scones and cakes were decorated not only with the national colours, but specially designed paper wafers and sugar paper cake toppers to celebrate.





Bake Sale



Well done
total amount
raised
£64.35

Team Chatter



On 9th May Team Chatter held a Coronation themed bake sale at break and lunchtime to raise money for our Chatter charities. Lots of yummy cakes, biscuits and even fudge were made and almost everything sold, raising a grand total of £64.35 for charity! Thank you to everyone who baked cakes, bought cakes or helped with the bake sale in any way and especially to Mrs Cronin for organising this event!



yummy!



What is England's Favourite Pet?



By Hadley - Year 10

Cats or dogs is an argument as old as time, but what is the right answer? To find out which pet is better, I searched for what pet is owned more in England. 62% of all households owned a pet in 2022, which is 17.4 million houses

In 2023 the UK population of cats was estimated at 11 million, which when spread to per household is around 28% of all houses with pets. In 2023 the UK population of dogs was estimated at 12 million, which is 31% of households.

No other pet goes over 2 million, with the 3rd largest pet number being rabbits at 2.8% of households. Snakes are the smallest creature percentage share at 700,000 or 1.4%

Fish - while in a different category - have 7 million indoor fish tanks, and 6 million outdoor ponds, meaning fish easily surpass any other pet in terms of numbers.



Summer Uniform - Opinions



By Oli & Shannon - Year 9

Now over the years Chatter has had many a debate featured regarding summer uniform, if boys should be allowed to wear shorts etc. Here are a couple of year 9 students opinions on if the summer uniform at Dane court should be changed.

Boy's uniform -

In my opinion I think that PE kits would be a good alternative to shirts and trousers. This is because if we are to wear just our shirts and trousers we could be identified as a pupil from any school, however our PE kits have the school emblem on them meaning that we could be identified that we are from DCGS. This can be useful as it can help the public to recognise the behavioural problems or the good deeds that some students do outside of school. It can also make students feel less restricted in what could be their uniform, meaning they will get outside more often so they can run around, etc. - **Oli**

Girl's uniform -

I think girls should be able to work in summer uniform because the summer gets too hot and when girls are walking around. Also, girls who don't feel comfortable wearing skirts with socks, not tights, can wear leggings because the school PE kit allows leggings. The girls and the boys should be allowed to wear whatever they want. In addition I think that it's unfair to the boys on how they have to wear trousers all the time whilst girls have the option to either wear a skirt or trousers. The boys should be able to have an alternative, such as shorts or a PE kit. - **Shannon**

German Language Trip



By Sophie - Year 9

On the Thursday before half-term, we went to the British Film Institute in London for a German Language trip. The day began with the organisers doing a presentation, showing us quite a few clips from multiple German movies. They then set us tasks based on those films, including asking for some audience participation. A few people from our school put up their hands - kudos to them! After lunch, we then watched a film in its entirety called 'Berlin 36'. This fell within the historical genre and was about a famous female Jewish athlete during WW2. I hadn't seen a film like that before. I won't lie, the subtitles were useful! Watching the film was particularly cool because this was the UK's biggest movie screen, making for a pretty immersive experience. The film itself wasn't the highlight for me, however. I found it really interesting to see all the different schools and hear the kind of vocabulary they had learnt, compared to ours. This was a unique experience and I'm glad I took part.



Afternoon Tea Anyone?



By Young Cooks 2023 Competition Winner
Ael - Year 8

King's Coronation Coffee Morning

Total
raised for
charity:
£250!

Year 8s invited parents and teachers to this charity event which took place on Monday the 12th of June 2023.

I'd say it was fun to do something a little out of the ordinary and away from our usual lessons. We each had to, in pairs or threes, make sweet and savoury foods and snacks to present beautifully on cake stands and vintage plates and crockery, tea cups, and saucers on a nicely laid table and we wore smart aprons to wait at tables, and offer drinks and foods to our guests during the whole morning. They were waited on like royalty, it was all very British!

My twin brother Manni and I brought in homemade shortbread biscuits for my group while one of the other students brought in sandwiches but there were all sorts of other delicious treats such as mini pizzas, cakes, mini sandwiches, and yummy scones with cream and jam too!

As a whole, the class had made some great-looking food that we served to the guests, our parents and staff loved it and everyone seemed to have had a fabulous time eating delectable treats whilst drinking tea and chatting away merrily.

A very successful event indeed!



Is that a
Masterchef
logo on your
apron Ael?!



The money raised
will go to **Cancer
Research & The
Wildwood Trust**
Well done Year 8!





Farewell Year 11

Team Chatter



On 26th June, having completed their GCSE exams, Year 11 returned to DCGS as a year group for one final time, to recollect and celebrate their five years together.

Year 11 arrived onto the red carpet to the applause of all the students, staff and parents who had gathered to bid them farewell and goodluck in the next stages of their education.

Outfits were admired and photos were taken before Year 11's final ever year group assembly, during which they received messages of commendation and good luck from their mentors and subject teachers, as well as getting to watch a music video created by DCGS staff!

Everyone here at Team Chatter wishes all of Year 11 a massive good luck with receiving their GCSE results in August and all the very best for the future.





Farewell Year 13



By Yasmin - Year 13

On the 26th April 2023, 180 Year 13 pupils walked into the theatre for what would be the very last time as pupils at Dane Court Grammar School. After 18 months of hard work, laughter and tears, those who had joined at the beginning of sixth form had cemented close bonds, found their feet and quickly become cherished members of the school community. Almost as soon as they had settled, suddenly it was here: the great goodbye. And for those of us who had been at the school since Year Seven, this moment was tinged with an added sense of surreality. We had walked through these same doors as timid little eleven year olds a whole seven years ago, and done the same for much of our childhoods since then. How had we suddenly turned into adults like this? Going out into the world, armed with everything we had learned about it and ourselves. Yet, amidst a fabulously endearing, side-splittingly funny look back over the last seven or so years through the medium of a photo collage, one thing became apparent: our learning was far from over. So, as we signed shirts, bid each other farewell and good luck in our impending exams - and of course took umpteen selfies to mark the occasion - we all made sure to thank the much-loved and appreciated DCGS staff for being part of something amazing: our beginnings. Amidst all the laughter, sentimentality and tears of that wonderful day, there was a resounding sense of community and family that struck us all violently and will surely stay with us forever. We have made truly unforgettable bonds which we will reflect on with bittersweet nostalgia and deep, deep affection for many years to come. However, while we will always belong to this magical Dane Court family, our time has come to fly the nest. As we receive what will surely be results reflective of all the hard work, integrity and character we have shown over the past few months, there is one thing we all must remember - despite all our trepidation, this next chapter of our journeys hold bigger, better and braver things. So let us carry on a little of the DCGS spirit wherever we go. May we forever be caring and open-minded. May we forever take risks, give out doughnuts (we do have some truly wonderful teachers!) and embrace every last second of our new adventures!



Good luck, thank you and farewell to everybody we leave behind at DCGS! You all deserve (and are more than capable of) the greatest success - seize it, invest in it and most importantly: enjoy it!



Farewell Staff Leavers

Team Chatter

As we reach the summer holidays it's that time of year where we have to say goodbye and goodluck to some of our amazing Dane Court staff!



Mr Fricker

Mr Fricker. I will start by saying goodbye and wishing you the best wherever you go following DCGS and thank you for being the amazing Head of Physics that you are - and also for arranging all with the observatory and allowing me as a Chatter editor to discuss the matter with professionals for an article. With a sunken heart, we bid you farewell but look eagerly onward to the impact you have had on the school's science department that we will notice when you're gone. Thank you for everything, and best of luck! -

Cameron Y10

Miss Koster

"Miss Koster, where to begin. From Year 7 you have done nothing but support us and now support the Year 9s as their AHoY. This is our way to thank you for all that you've done - and wish you the best in the future. We celebrate the things you have done for us and wish you the best. Thank you." - **Cameron Y10**

"Miss Koster was a wonderful Assistant head of year and a great teacher. I wish you luck in whatever your new job takes you and good luck" - **Shannon Y9**

Mr Forward

Mr.Forward has had a huge impact on my time here at Dane Court. Not only did I have the pleasure of being taught by him for my GCSEs, but he has been guiding me through the beginning of my journey into Oxbridge. Mr.Forward encouraged me to stay on and pursue the IB, which I will be forever grateful for as it has allowed me to discover my love for Anthropology. He has also supported me in pursuing an interest and future application into Oxford. I don't think I can fully express how grateful I am to have been guided by him throughout my time here, whether it be my indecisiveness regarding my option choices or having to sit through an awful amount of my essays and creative writing works; even if I just got a 'satisfactory', in reply and had the phrase 'contemporary society' permanently engraved in the back of my mind. I wish him the best of luck for the future and hope future students understand what a thoughtful mentor he is. Thank you for everything, and all the best.

- **Tia**



Farewell Staff Leavers

Team Chatter



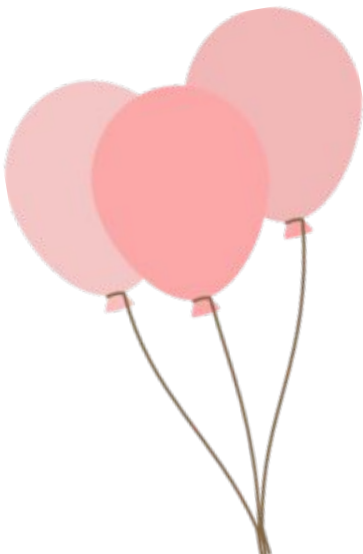
Miss Tudor

Miss Tudor, where to begin? Such a lovely cover teacher that has covered some of my lessons. Although only being a cover teacher she still makes sure that every lesson she covered was the best for the students, it was never a dull moment when knowing she was your cover teacher for the next hour. I hope her next chapter at King Ethelbert as a history teacher will be an amazing experience for her, I wish her the best of luck! - **Dylan Y10**

It has been a pleasure to work alongside Miss Tudor. Miss Tudor has been an amazing cover supervisor for the last year being super enthusiastic with the classes she takes and helping run a lunchtime book club. We wish Miss Tudor all the best in her new teaching role and she will be hugely missed. - **The cover supervisors**
A huge thank you to Miss Tudor for helping to run Book Club and for all your brilliant recommendations and book chattering - we are going to miss you heaps! - **Mrs Finlay and Book Club**

Mr Wheeler

Mr Wheeler was a name I have heard throughout my whole career at Dane Court, but I have only been taught by him myself this past year. Mr Wheeler has been an amazing and engaging teacher who immediately began making accessible options for me when I struggled with some of the structures in lessons, and has provided me with highly valuable information particularly regarding how to properly face the IB english exams. Outside of my passion and enjoyment for English, Mr Wheeler's own passion and excitement for the subject matter he has been teaching has made lessons a delight to be in, and has allowed me to learn in an environment where everybody is learning and interested in the content discussed and taught within the lesson. I have enjoyed my time in his class and thank him greatly for everything he has taught me, and can confidently say I will never remember a topic sentence in my essays again. I wish him all the best in his travels and hope he is appreciated in his future teaching career. Thank you so much for this year! - **Tia**



Some happy Chatter news!

Team Chatter wishes Mrs Cronin huge congratulations on the birth of her beautiful daughter Isla-Rose on 27/06/23. Enjoy making precious memories and we hope you come to visit if you're ever passing DCGS!





Death Note Manga Review



By Abby - Year 10

Death Note manga- review and information (*without* spoilers 👍)

Summary & Review:

Death Note is a manga series that continued from 2003-2006. The story and plot was written by Tsugumi Ohba and the art was done by Takeshi Obata.

Essentially, the story focuses on a guy named Light Yagami, who one day finds a 'death note' (belonging to a shinigami named Ryuk) with the ability to kill anyone whose name is written in the book. Light uses his newfound power to kill criminals and create his ideal world under the persona of 'Kira'. However, Light is wanted by many police officers and the Japanese task force.

Death Note is honestly really good. The story's development is really great and you never really feel bored whilst reading it, as there is always tension or suspicion going on in each volume. The characters themselves are all incredibly well written, and all have distinct personalities and traits which make the story fun to read. The plots in it are never predictable. In fact, the only slightly negative thing I could think about Death Note is that sometimes the character plans can be a bit complicated and hard to follow and make sense until much later in the series. However, overall Death Note, although being kind of old, is still an incredible manga series that I would recommend! 😊

The different volumes:

The story comes in 12 volumes, all with unique and pretty amazing cover art. These 12 books cover the whole story of Death Note. However, you can actually instead get something called the 'all-in-one edition' which is all 12 volumes in one giant book, although I would say this is more for collection purposes than for actually reading as it is very big and kind of inconvenient to read. Another book you can get is 'Death Note 13 - How To Read', which was released 5 months after the main story ended. Although the '13' in the title makes it seem like a continuation of the story, it is instead filled with tons of cool information about the series such as interviews with the writer + artist, characters unused designs and facts. However, I wouldn't recommend reading Death Note 13 until you have finished the rest of the series as it does contain major spoilers for the entire ending!!!

Shinigami and their use in Death Note:

In Japanese folklore, shinigami are known as 'Gods of Death' and are believed to be spirits that guide humans through death. In Death Note, Shinigami are creatures who are able to kill humans using a 'death note' (which is how the series gets its name 😬). They spend their time in the Shinigami world where they kill using their death notes to add years to their life.



The Emerging Revolution in France

By George - Year 10

Over the last few months protestors and unions have taken to the streets of France, but recently these protests have escalated. This has sparked some to call for President Macron's resignation, and others to start to label these latest series of protests the beginning of a revolution. These all stem from the pension reforms announced by the Prime Minister in January, the headline of which is an increase in the retirement age from 62 to 64.

What are the new proposed reforms?

On 10th January, French Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne announced the headline change of increasing the retirement age from 62 to 64 by 2030 in the name of becoming "financially balanced". This means an increase in the minimum age which one needs to reach to be entitled to a full pension by 3 months each year until 2030, but there are of course exceptions and caveats. Starting from 2027, people will have needed to work for at least 43 years before being entitled to a full pension. Therefore, this minimum age only applies to those who have fulfilled this condition of working enough years to qualify. Consequently, this unfairly disadvantages people who interrupted their careers to raise children, or people who undertook long periods of study and education before starting their careers. The people who do not meet this condition, and so will be required to work until 67 to retire without penalty. However, provisions for early retirement will still exist under the reforms for those who started working before the age of 20, and for specific occupations like police officers and firefighters. After being abolished 10 years ago, the policy of phased retirement is being reintroduced for civil servants, meaning they will be allowed to become part-time 2 years before retirement. This is in addition to the maintaining of the long careers system and a few other exceptions to the minimum retirement age.

Macron's Reasoning and Justification

Ultimately, the reform proposal is of no surprise to anyone, as it has undergone suspensions and postponements. A spectre haunting France since Macron's election in 2017 you may say. However, the reform is justified by Macron now with particular pertinence as he points to a September 2022 report from France's Pension Advisory Council (COR) which found the pension system will run a deficit on average over the next 25 years. It reported a financial deterioration between 2023 and 2027, but showed the system returning to breaking even by the mid 2030s even without any reforms. Macron's concern over a deficit is further compounded by government forecasts which predict an annual deficit of the pension system of €13.5bn by 2030 if there is a failure to act. Overall, the French pension system costs almost 14% of GDP, which is the third highest in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development behind only Italy and Greece. And on 8th January 2023, Budget Minister Gabriel Attal said "Without reform, there will be €500 billion in additional debt over 25 years," posing the ultimatum, "it's reform or bankruptcy". But this ultimatum may not be as persuasive as intended since people look to recent history, Covid-19, when hundreds of billions were borrowed to help the country survive – although during a time of unprecedented and extraordinary crisis. Additionally, Macron's determination to enact reform may be fuelled by the necessity to reassure the financial markets. On 4th January 2023, he told the Council of Ministers, "A few days ago, France borrowed above 3% (the interest rate on the borrowing), something that had not happened for years,". French debt will soon reach €3 trillion and rising interest rates further compound the issue, resulting in an increase of the cost of the debt by €13 billion in 2022 to over €51 billion. Considering the financing of France's budget is as much borrowing as is tax, the issue is of utmost seriousness to Macron. A failure to implement this reform could be seen to be very risky by investors who facilitate France's borrowing, resulting in a potential downgrading of French debt which would consequently see France paying higher interest debts, making their borrowing even more unaffordable. Also, particularly resonant, Macron's address to the Council of Ministers included encouragement to "find savings areas", a phrase recklessly used by the UK government since 2010 to justify the horrific policy of Austerity that has inflicted and continues to inflict nothing but destruction on everything it touched.



Bypassing the National Assembly

In June 2022, elections were held in France for members of its national assembly. Unfortunately for Macron, who had only recently won the presidential election in April 2022, his party lost their absolute majority in the national assembly. This resulted in a hung parliament for the first time since 1988 as no coalition could be formed to establish a majority. Therefore, Macron's confidence in passing the reform bill through the national assembly was severely lacking. As a result, to ensure the smooth passage of the reforms, it was announced by Élisabeth Borne on Thursday 16th of March in the National Assembly that Article 49.3 would be invoked. The announcement was met by chaos, in which left-wing lawmakers sang *La Marseillaise*, the French national anthem, as loudly as possible attempting to prevent the prime minister from speaking while far-right lawmakers from the *Rassemblement National* party shouted "Resignation, resignation!". This marks the 11th usage of the article since Macron began his second term last year, compared with only 1 usage during his first term (2017-2022), exemplifying the instability and ineffectiveness of the current French political situation. But what actually is Article 49.3 of the French constitution? The article provides the government with powers to force a bill through the national assembly without a vote, which as per a 2008 constitutional reform, can only be done once in a parliamentary session. As an exception, there are no restrictions on its use for the state budget and the social security budget. However, the power is only exercisable "after deliberation by the Council of Ministers". Ultimately the use of the article is a big political gamble. This is because after the triggering of the power by the Prime Minister, MPs have 24 hours to table a motion of no confidence in the government. If the motion doesn't achieve a majority and so fails, the government's gamble pays off and the law passes. But if the motion gains a majority, then the government effectively collapses, all government ministers including the prime minister resign, leaving the most suitable course of action to be the President calling early National Assembly elections - with the bill evidently being rejected. But before that could even happen, on Saturday 11th March, the upper house, the senate, voted by 195 to 112 to pass the bill, meaning the reforms were one step closer to becoming law and being adopted. And on Friday 14th April, the French Constitutional Council approved the proposed reforms, which meant Macron could sign the reforms into law as he did shortly after. However, the council rejected some parts of the reform, the six concessions made by the government to the unions - which included a senior index designed to promote and track the employment of older employees - making what for them was already unfair "even more unbalanced".

On the Verge of Another Revolution

Within 24 hours of Article 49.3 being utilised by Élisabeth Borne, 2 motions of no confidence had been filed. One by a cross-party alliance of the left-wing parliamentary group NUPES and the regionalist group LIOT, the other by the far-right party *Rassemblement National*. On 20th March both motions failed to reach a majority, with the cross-party motion being most effective and only failing by a margin of 9 votes - a result that was almost certainly too close for comfort for the government. These reforms have attracted a united front from trade unions and many other social movements, especially youth groups, demonstrating their adamant determination in opposition. The unions criticise the reforms for numerous reasons, they argue the reform will penalise low-income people who tend to start their careers early, forcing them to work longer than graduates, who are less affected by the changes. Additionally, the reforms have been branded "anti-women" by the opposition, given that a government report showed that women would have to postpone their retirement for longer than men. This criticism has only been validated by the admission that "Women are obviously penalised a little" from Franck Riester, the Minister Delegate for Parliamentary Relations, on 23 January. As well as the transport minister Clément Beaune saying that "sometimes, the jump will be a little bit bigger" for women. Which compounds and exacerbates the existing gender inequality in pensions, since women already retire later with pensions 40% lower in comparison. Prior to the use of Article 49.3 on 16th March, actions by striking workers had seen national power production reduced by 14% and maintenance blocked on 6 nuclear reactors on Saturday 11th March. The strikes of workers had caused major disruption to rubbish collection, airports, public transport, schools, TV stations, energy production, fuel deliveries and many other sectors. After the invocation of Article 49.3, protesters and police escalated their tactics, marking a turning point in response to a complete denial of democracy and a show of contempt towards the people as the unions claimed.



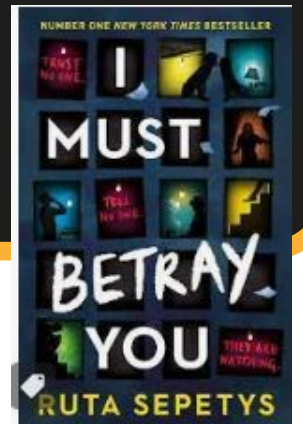
These protests and strikes continue, and the escalation into increasingly radical tactics by protesters has worried some, especially as protesters display no sign of wavering. Moreover, many concerns have been raised over the policing of the protests which has received criticism by The Council of Europe; which condemned France's crackdown on protests and warned that sporadic acts of violence could not justify "excessive use of force by agents of the state". Human Rights Watch also said it was very concerned about "what appears to be abusive police practices".

My Concluding Thoughts

Ultimately, I believe the issue of pension reform is representative of something much bigger, issues of economics, yes of course, but also those of fundamental democracy. And on issues of fundamental democracy, I predict the people of France will not be very forgiving to Macron, but this has some worries attached to it. These worries originate in the potential growth in popularity of far-right parties and policies due to the observed weakness of democracy. This weakness may in itself give power to far-right parties due to a possible increased dependency on them to pass laws from Macron, although the far-right seems quite reluctant to be seen cooperating with him, making clear the pension reform was an agreement of circumstance not of government. Whatever your opinions on the right or wrongs of this reform, it is evident that the issue at stake has evolved and is no longer so simple. This series of protests originated to contest Macron's pension reforms, but has now emerged into something much more, the defence of French democracy.

Book Review

By Sophie - Year 9



'I Must Betray You' by Ruta Sepetys

I really loved this book and thought it was a great historical thriller. I don't normally read books in this genre but thought I would branch out. The cover specifically hooked me because it communicated the general 'hiding' feel throughout the book. The title was blunt and had a hint of what was to come – lots of drama! The first-person perspective paired with Cristian's reactions to his situation and his feelings made the character feel real. It also meant you could understand the complexity of his emotions. By writing Cristian's observations of the people around him and his questioning, the book felt poetic and insightful. For example; when he sees he has to ward off the wild dogs from the young girl, afterwards he asks; 'Being eaten by wild dogs – did kids in other countries have to worry about that?' The author also mentions how the girl was less worried about the fact that she was almost eaten by wild dogs and more worried her coat was ruined. This really showed the perspective people had. I also thought that it was interesting how throughout the book Sepetys kept mentioning Cristian's own 'revolution(s)' when he drank the coke, or when he mocked the revolution using jokes. I thought the mention of 'revolutions' by Cristian was a nice way to foreshadow the ending and explore more of his character.

Overall, I loved this book. The choice of perspective and use of poetry and rhetorical questions throughout made it a very insightful and interesting read.



DCGS Production of Grease



In what has so far been an exciting July here at DCGS our fantastic drama and music departments were able to host our first school performance since 2019!

For four nights the DCGS theatre was transformed into Rydell High School, as students from years 7 to 12 formed the cast of the musical classic Grease.

After weeks of learning lines, songs and choreography, the atmosphere around the school grew in anticipation. For days in advance the school was buzzing with glimpses of props and costumes, whilst the unmistakable melodies of 'Summer Nights', 'Grease Lightning' and 'Beauty School Dropout' could be heard when passing the theatre.

The cast and tech crew held four performances of the production from 5th to 8th July, all of which were a roaring success enjoyed by students, staff, parents/carers and friends alike.

Students wowed the audience with their fantastic acting, singing and dancing capabilities, with many laughs and lots of applause!

Team Chatter would like to congratulate the talented cast and tech crew involved in the production and give a special thanks to our fabulous drama, music and art teachers for working tirelessly to make Grease such a massive success and so enjoyable for everybody involved!





DCGS Production of Grease



Praise for Grease!

"I saw Grease on Saturday. The live band and singing was amazing. Good props too." - **Lara, Y12**

"I was in it- It was really fun being in the first big school production since 2019. I made loads of friends in different year groups and got to know people who I would never have met if I hadn't done Grease" - **Beatrix, Y10**

"The performance was excellent. I went to the Friday performance and there was a great atmosphere. It really brought the school community together in celebrating our talented students. I hope everyone involved had an amazing time!" - **Miss Purdy**

"I watched it and was in it. It was really fun albeit a little stressful. But it all pulled together in time." - **Seren, Y9**

"I saw the Wednesday evening performance and it was spectacular! Absolutely superb performance by everyone involved!" - **George, Y10**

"I went along to see Saturday evening's performance of 'Grease' and was absolutely blown away by such a fantastic production! It was such a brilliant multi-sensory treat from start to finish - from the amazing acting and singing from all of the cast, to the wonderful, accompanying musical score from the DC band, all under the dedicated guidance and direction of their fabulous music and drama teachers! Thank you and congratulations to everyone involved in making this great production, not forgetting, of course, the talented Art department, for producing such realistic stage sets, as well as the skilled sound and lighting technicians and front-of-house teams!" - **Mrs Demetriou, SEN TA**

"Grease was amazing! I went to watch Friday's performance and was so impressed with everyone's singing and American accents! Everyone looked like they were having so much fun which was really special to watch. The props and costumes were so good, they made it feel like you were really there! Well done to everyone involved, it was such a brilliant show!" - **Miss Shaw, PSO**

"I was part of Grease and it was very fun and during the experience it felt like the cast was family (as we were spending every waking moment with each other). It was something I would love to do again." - **Jecca, Y7**





International Food Evening



Team Chatter

This year saw the return of DCGS's International Food Evening event for Year 7. The event ran as part of our International Week, during which our school learnt about different countries, cultures and languages from around the world.

In preparation for International Food Evening, students worked together in groups to research and prepare food from their chosen country. Countries included Japan, Sweden, Turkey, Egypt, Mexico, China and Hawaii and Year 7 worked hard to set up a stall celebrating these cuisines.

As well as the Year 7's delicious dishes, a number of outside companies joined in with the event. The bubble tea was a massive hit and the mocktails named after DCGS teachers were also very popular!

Team Chatter would like to say well done to Year 7 and offer a massive thank you to all of the Food Tech department for their continuous hard work planning, preparing for hosting this event which was enjoyed by so many of members of our school community.

A few words from Mrs Leese

Over 160 year seven students hosted the International Food Evening on 11th July. Students worked in groups to research the cuisine from over 30 different countries and made samples of food for visitors to taste. This was a vibrant and lively event, we also welcomed a range of local food and health related businesses to join in with stalls of their own as well as a busy mocktail bar and tea room run by older students.

The aim of the event was to showcase the research and practical skills of our hardworking year 7 students, for them to educate visitors on the staple foods, languages, costume and traditional dishes of their chosen cuisines. We also raised money at an exciting auction, the proceeds of which will benefit Dane Court Students in the Food department. We would like to praise our students for their hard work, creativity and professionalism, and to thank our wonderfully supportive parents for participating in the event, donating items for our auction and tombola and helping with preparations leading up to the event. We would also like to thank staff and volunteers who gave up their time willingly to support the event.





International Food Evening





Sports Day



Miss Purdy

July can only mean one thing, the much anticipated DCGS Sports Day!

Events kicked off on Monday 10th July, with a number of students coming to school with their house t-shirts and best competitive spirits ready for the pentathlon and field events, including shot put, javelin, discus, long jump and triple jump.

Friday 14th July was the main event, when the whole school community came together for a day of games and races, with the six houses, **Barcelona**, **Delphi**, **Helsinki**, **Neuchâtel**, **Sorrento** and **Tallinn** battling it out for the DCGS house cup.

Students arrived at school in their house t-shirts and the day commenced with a frenzy of face painting, before the whole school made their way to the field for the banner parade and warm up activity led by the sixth form house captains and DCGS teachers to ignite their enthusiasm for the day.

Year groups then took up their positions around the field for their year group team games, with Year 7 playing rounders, Year 8 playing stoolball, Year 9 playing cricket and Year 10 playing softball.

Whilst the field was busy with the team games, down on the track a steady stream of students were making their way to the benches ready for the races including the 100m, 400m, 1500m and the relays.

Students not participating in races or team games gathered on the bank to show support for those running in the races, in a sea of house colours, face paint and banners and many medals were won to the sound of cheers.

After lunch and the last of the team games, the whole school gathered on the bank to watch the sixth form races and the extremely competitive staff versus sixth form relay, as is tradition here at DCGS. The science teachers stole the show, beating the sixth formers for the first time in many years!

Finally it was time to announce the final results, and after a lot of anticipation, Neuchâtel were announced as the overall winners of Sports Day 2023 with a grand total of 411 points!

Despite not being a sunny Sports Day, the rain held off, and the whole day was, as always, a huge success with a great atmosphere amongst students and staff and a chance to enjoy some time outside after a busy term!

Thank you to the brilliant DCGS PE department for all their incredibly hard work organising and running Sports Day, to Mr Lycett for the music, the Food Tech department for running the very popular snack stall, and to all the DCGS school staff who helped with umpiring, timekeeping and making sure everyone had a great day!

Congratulations to Neuchâtel, Dane Court Sports Day winners 2023!





PTA News

Boot Fairs & Sale

Do you need to clear out some unused items? Dane Court's PTA are holding their boot fairs again this year, it is a 6am start for stallholders and 6.30am for the public. No need to book, just turn up. The last dates are as follows:

Saturday 15th July

Saturday 9th September



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For more details, please see danecourt.kent.sch.uk/boot

Please also don't forget that the PTA also sell on the first Tuesday of every month good quality 2nd hand Dane Court uniform at great prices. This is held in reception.



Chatter's 5th Birthday



On Monday 22nd May 2023, Team Chatter celebrated their 5th birthday. Everybody gathered in the library at lunch time for the announcement of this year's Chatter prizes and to enjoy some well deserved cake!

Congratulations to our 2022/23 Award winners.





Fundraiser Update



Team Chatter

In response to Team Chatter's wonderful fundraising efforts over the course of this school year, we received a very kind letter from Dr Suzie Marsden, (Chair of trustees, Romania International Children's Foundation), thanking us for our hard work in choosing to support Romania International Children's Foundation and for our final donation of £121.25 towards this very important cause.

The letter included the following information on the two main projects this donation has contributed to:

A family for me (O familie pentru mine)

RICF helps equip foster carers to best nurture and protect the young people in their care, building hope, self esteem and the ability to set boundaries and make positive choices, in preparation for independent living. We facilitate monthly peer support groups that provide opportunities for foster carers to receive training, share stories about what is and what is not working for the children in their care, and to offer each other moral support and encouragement.

Me too, I want a mother (Vreau si eu o mama)

RICF works with mothers at high risk of abandoning their babies, to prevent child abandonment. We provide mentoring, training, advocacy and peer support alongside some time-limited financial support. Our training equips mothers with skills in newborn care, parenting and budgeting. Our advocacy and professional assistance ensures mothers have access to all applicable state support, e.g. child and carer's allowances. Our mentoring supports mums in finding safe and regular employment and our peer support groups help build support networks that can last even after mothers have 'graduated' from the project.

It is fantastic to see how the mums grow in self esteem and confidence through this project; how their bond with their baby grows strong and how their parenting skills blossom.

Team Chatter would like to thank Dr Suzie Marsden for her kind words and for providing us with further information on how the money we raised will have a positive impact on those accessing the charity's projects.



Charity Fundraiser Finale



This year, Team Chatter chose to support the following four charities: **Kent Green Action, Oasis Thanet, Thanet Animal Group, Romanian International Children's Federation**

Over the course of the school year, members of Chatter have held fundraising events to involve the whole school community in supporting our chosen charities.

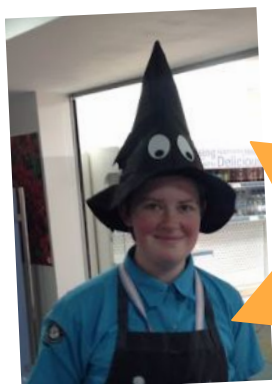
Sweets in a jar
Total raised:
£38.60



Christmas
craft sale
Total
raised:
£160.60



Wear
headwear day
Total raised:
£71.72



Easter Raffle
Total raised:
£108.5



Bake
sale
Total
raised:
£64.35



The fundraisers held this year proved extremely popular, with the total amount raised over the year for our charities reaching £485, resulting in each charity receiving £121.25!

Well done Team Chatter for all your hard work with this year's fundraisers and a big thank you to everyone who got involved and made our fundraising such a success!

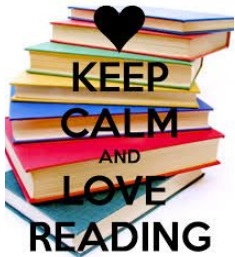
Total raised
this year:
£485
Well done
everyone!



Library Update



Mrs Finlay



Well done to all year 13's for your brilliant IB exam grades!!
Good luck with whatever you decide to do next, wherever that may be.

And good luck to all year 11's for your GCSE results in August!

We hope that everyone enjoys the summer and takes the opportunity to catch up on lots of reading - you don't just have to read fiction, pick up a newspaper, or magazine or something non-fiction like a cookery, history or sports book for example.

How about starting a summer book club with friends over the summer or an Articles club where you pick an article from a magazine, newspaper or online and discuss it.

As well as our very own eplatform, Kent libraries have many resources online in terms of ebooks, audiobooks, e-newspapers and e-magazines, that you can access, even if your local library is closed. You need to be a member of Kent libraries, and you can sign up via the following link:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/ebooks-eaudiobooks-emagazines-enewspapers>

There are oodles of old books in Charity shops, and you also have a great team of helpful booksellers at Waterstones in Westwood Cross and Waterstones Canterbury who can give you recommendations, as well as your amazing local independent bookshops such as Tales on Moon Lane, Ramsgate, and The Margate Bookshop. Check out <https://caboodle.nationalbooktokens.com/local-offers> for local events and competitions over the summer.

For sixth form and above, Margate bookshop in the Market Square, Old Town, runs a book club on the last wednesday of every month at Fort Road Hotel.

For Extended Essay research don't forget that you can use JStor, your local libraries, and eplatform over the summer, as well as looking up Ted talks, and getting advice from local independent booksellers.

Thank you to all the students and staff who have helped out in the library over the past year, and for all your enthusiasm in the various clubs from Junior Book Club, the Carnegie Shadowing Awards to the National Reading Champions Quiz, and Chatter.

Integer Stories Inspired By Numbers is the latest Young Writers competition, closing date is 21st July - here is a chance for you to write creatively and originally and get your work published!!!

A huge well done to those students who have entered the creative writing and poetry competitions throughout the year - it is so impressive to see your stories and poems featured in the Power of Poetry and Young Writers books - Dane Court are very proud of you!

<https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions>

<https://danecourt.eplatform.co/>





Library Update

Mrs Finlay



All Things International



Here at DCGS the MFL department (languages) and like to celebrate International Week alongside the fantastic Year 7 International Food Evening, and the library is always here to support all departments, so here are some pictures to illustrate how international our school library is.

How many nationalities and languages can you see in these 'books in translation', reference books, Carnegie Award shortlists, Horrible Histories, art books and National Geographic magazines? And did you know that we have books shelves with not only French language books, but German and Japanese language books too, so you can read the work in the original language. We also love to celebrate all the brilliant authors and illustrators from around the world, as well as the ones closer to home.



In the photos: new books; a selection of National Geographic magazines; books from the Yoto Carnegie Award long and shortlists; books in translation; books by international authors; art and artists from around the world



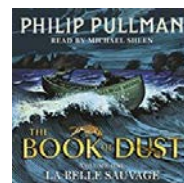
<https://danecourt.eplatform.co/>



Reading Recommendations

Whole School Community

Sophia, year 7, recommends the Book of Dust by Philip Pullman



Lyon, year 9, recommends all of the Tom Gates series

Louis, Sonielle, both in year 9, and Miss Tudor, all recommend The Priory of the Orange Tree by Samantha Shannon

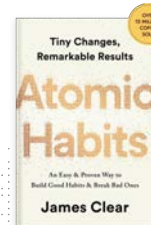
Mrs Linton recommends Still Life by Sarah Winman

Mrs Channing - English recommends 'Tangerine' by Christine Mangan - a strange and intriguing tale about a female friendship gone sour in the sultry and mesmerising Tangiers.



Mme Radix, Head of Languages: I recommend Listen to the Moon and Running Wild both by Michael Morpurgo. They are both superbly written and great page turners! Bonnes vacances!
I would recommend War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells and Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien because they are two of my favorites

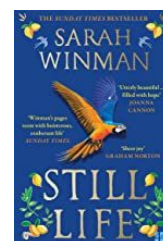
Mr Bundock, Physics, recommends
The Particle at the End of the Universe - Sean M. Carroll
Sapiens - Yuval Noah Harari
Atomic Habits - James Clear



Mrs Syred - School Business Manager would like to recommend the three Thursday Murder Club books that she has read by Richard Osman, The Thursday Murder Club, The Man Who Died Twice and The Bullet That Missed. They are contemporary crime fiction, with some great twists, written in a clever and witty way.

Books to read before the film/ series (in the opinions of book club students and staff):

101 Dalmatians
Hunger Games series
Maze Runner series
The Hate You Give
Heartstopper
Wheel of Time



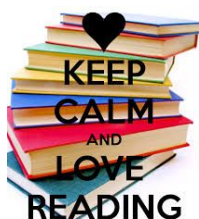
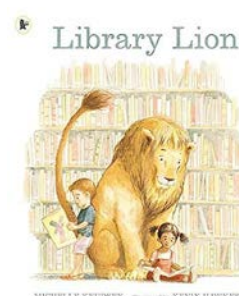
Miss Tudor says 'don't read The Taming of the Shrew', watch 10 Things I Hate About You, and don't read Twelfth Night watch She's the Man

Films/ series to watch before the book (book club):

Shadow and Bone series - the series
How to Train Your Dragon series
The Great Gatsby
Star Wars
Dune

Mrs Finlay (too many to choose from!):

If you're interested in saving the planet, James Lovelock's Gaia: the Practical Science of Planetary Medicine; for family saga fans, Behind the Scenes at the Museum; a brilliant story written in verse, The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo; anything by amazing author Ruta Sepetys; T.H.U.G by Angie Thomas; The Chronicles of Narnia series; for the best character name (Mrs Doasyouwouldbbedoneby) The Water Babies; for reading to younger siblings, anything illustrated by Katharine McEwan or Oliver Jeffers, and my favourite has to be Library Lion - well it had to have library in the title!





Reading Recommendations

Whole School Community

Miss Tudor's recommendations!!

For 9-12s:

If you want a fun, fresh fantasy series with a unique take on unicorns read **Skandar and the Unicorn Thief** by **A.F. Steadman**.

For a very quick, dyslexia friendly read that tells an important story about growing up, read **Needle** by **Patrice Lawrence**.

For young adults:

The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea by **Axie Oh**, a Korean mythical retelling with a gorgeous romance.

For summer vibes, Arthurian legends, and queer main characters, read **Gwen and Art Are Not in Love** by **Lex Croucher**.

For new adults (18-24):

If you like dark academia and love slightly pretentious magical main characters, read the **Atlas Six** series by **Olivie Blake**.

If you love fantasy with detailed world building and an abundance of amazing female characters, read **Priory of the Orange Tree** by **Samantha Shannon**.

For adults:

For a totally unique writing style and subject matter, dealing with the intersection between race and gender in the world of game developing read **Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow** by **Gabrielle Zevin**.

If you want a low stakes summer read with beautiful characters that just keep growing on you, read **House on the Cerulean Sea** by **T.J. Klune**.

A year 8 student recommends
Mystery - This Book Kills
Series - The Hunger Games
Comedic - Which is which?

From a year 7 student: I would recommend
War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells and Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien
because they are two of my favorites

Another year 7 student recommends the
Harry Potter series and Manga books

1984 by George Orwell - year 10 student

I personally recommend "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo"
for not only its view on relationships in Hollywood
but also an insight into queer politics of the 60s and 70s
Hope you enjoy!

A Year 10 'Chatterer' says: the hate you give is a really great book, as well as the good girls guide to murder series

What would **you** recommend?
Please send in your suggestions to
chatter@danecourt.kent.sch.uk, - we look
forward to buying them for everyone to enjoy in
our school library, and with your permission,
adding them to our new edition of '**Talkative**'



<https://danecourt.eplatform.co/>





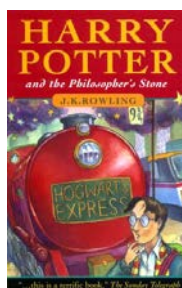
Discovering Harry Potter

by Bryony Evens

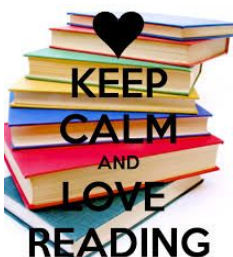
Mrs Finlay

We are very honoured that Bryony Evens, has taken the time to write something for Chatter, about her wonderful discovery whilst working in the publishing world, so thank you Bryony! Here is her story:

*I feel very grateful to have been the first person in publishing to read Harry Potter. I was working as an office manager in a literary agency when the first three chapters arrived. I was supposed to send them back because we didn't take on children's books. But I like to read children's books and it made me laugh as much as *Charmed Life* by Diana Wynne Jones, which has to be a good sign as that's a classic! I wrote and requested the rest of the manuscript and it was brilliant, not very different from the final published book. My boss and I asked Joanne Rowling to add more details about the rules of quidditch and some more about Neville because he's lovely. She was able to do that easily because she already knew everything about the world and characters of Hogwarts, even back in 1995. It took a year of waiting and sending it to lots of different publishers but eventually Bloomsbury made an offer for it. There was a real word-of-mouth buzz about it quite quickly when it came out. When I went to see JK (as she was known by then) speak at a literary festival when *Chamber of Secrets* came out, the room was full of children who knew the first book inside out and had loads of great questions. I met her in the book signing queue and she gave me a big hug, as we'd never met before that day. I've been lucky enough to meet her a few times at book signings since and she always remembers who I am. She even named some characters after me in her first detective novel, writing as Robert Galbraith - a great honour, even though it was supposed to be a secret that she was 'Robert' and it was just a buried clue in case I ever read the book. A detective story within a detective story!*



From a year 7 student:: I recommend this whole series to anyone above the age of 10 since it has a large story and is very exciting. So, I recommend Harry Potter (remember to read them in order).





Taking a Break



It is with sadness that we bring you news that Chatter shall be taking the next school year off.

Over the last five years Chatter has brought you news from around the school, reported on events happening in the local area and detailed what the fantastic students have been doing in their spare time.

From the very first edition 5 years ago the Chatter team have been fantastic at reporting, creating and editing top class articles that keep you all interested in reading the school newspaper. There have been successes from the team during this time from being invited to Downing Street after achieving Editorial team of the year with FirstNews!

We battled our way through Covid closure & returning in school 'bubbles' keeping the school newspaper alive and as a pleasant distraction from the new 'norm'. The articles created & photographs taken during this time were a pleasure to publish and the resilience shown by our students at DCGS was outstanding- you should all be incredibly proud!

We also paid tribute to both Prince Philip and The Queen in a caring, open minded & principled way, showing that the school values run through each and every one of you in all aspects of life.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for their funding provided to make chatter possible for the students, along with the parents and staff for supporting us in our many fundraising quests throughout the year.

Please enjoy the following pictures showing what Chatter's amazing team have created over the years and we hope to return to our readers again very soon!







DCGS Chatter

We would like to extend a final massive thank you to everyone who has been part of Chatter over the last five years.

The Chatter Team



Un mot de Max

(A word from our Head Boy, French higher student):

Quel honneur d'écrire pour la dernière édition du magazine "Chatter". je m'appelle Maximus et je suis un étudiant de 12e année ici à Dane Court. J'écris cet article pour remercier Mme Finlay, Mme Cronin et l'équipe de Chatte' pour tout leur travail acharné au cours des cinq dernières années. Quel travail incroyable!