



WIN SWEET TREATS!

Simply find 'Albert Einswine' and you could win a stash of sweet treats.



In this edition of Chatter we have hidden Dane Court boar whose name is Albert Einswine. **Ryan**, from **8T**, won our last competition to name the Dane Court boar and he said, "I think that the boar should be called Albert Einswine because our school is a grammar school for smart people and Albert Einstein was smart." Well said, Ryan - witty, smart and a Chatter competition winner!



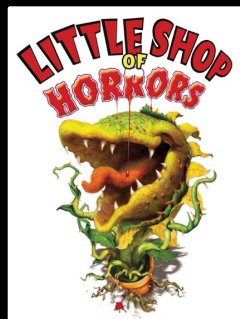
All you have to do is find a sneaky animated Albert Einswine boar hidden in this edition. To be in with a chance to win one of TWO goodie bundles, email the page number you think the boar is on by 11 am on 20 July.

Winners will be chosen at random from all correct answers and will receive their prize before school closes for the summer holiday.

(Does not include the boars on the page headers.)

"LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS"

competition winner, Millie from 8T, has now seen the show! To win, Millie told us, 'The plant (Audrey II) is a cross between a butterwort and a Venus flytrap.' Turn to page 22 to read reviews of the spectacular show that lit up the school over four days, and filled our daily lives with splendid song.



Ryan, from **8T**, won the 'Name the boar' competition with his suggestion - **Albert Einswine**.

We hope Albert Einswine is being well cared for Ryan!



Coming up in this edition of the DCGS Chatter...

Page 3-4
Sports Day
Everyone involved!



Pages 5-6
Farewell Mr Fowler
Headteacher's second to last speech

Page 7
Bye Mrs Van Hinsbergh
7N prepare to say their goodbyes



Pages 8-12
Adios, sayonara, au revoir, so long, see ya later
Wonderful memories of staff departing

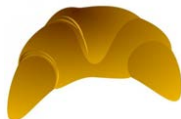
Page 13
Sikh Temple Visit
Year 7s on the road to Gravesend

Page 14
One Year Down
Student experiences

Page 15
Bullied?
Tips and support



Pages 16-17
Year 7s in France
Non-stop activities



Pages 18-20
Château de Warsy
Is it a 'them versus us' situation?

Page 21
Critics Horror Story?
Curtain's down, but are thumbs?



Page 22
Helsinki cleaning up for charity
Busy, busy, busy!

Page 23
Joker Jenny
Jokes to warm you up for summer

Page 24
Mrs Finlay's great sunshine reads you won't want to put down.



Words from the Editor

Albert Einswine, eh? I much prefer Jeremy, but Mr. Einswine shall do well.

So many **staff leaving**, or semi-retiring, even our own **wonderful head, Mr. Fowler**. We will make sure to put our own grievances behind us and respect a man who has cared for many of his students, won't we?

School is almost out, and I doubt many can wait for the **end of the school year**, but I am certain that many are dreading the return in September...oh my, not many years left for some of us, nearing the brink of adulthood! However, for those only just new to our school, **enjoy the holidays**, and look forward to the rest of your life!

But first, **enter the competition, win a bundle of treats** to take home on Friday, and before you know it back to a new year at school on **Wednesday 5 September** - HAPPY HOLIDAYS! **AONM**

This Chatter Team...

Jenny Allan 7D * Erica Cousins 7D
Isabella Barrs 7S * Tasneem Daud 7H
Ana Macura 7H * Jessica Rowland 7H
Summer Gibbins 7N * Hazel Leese 7N
Sophie Tyler 7T * Skye-Louise West 7T
Maddie Erridge 8D * Jamie Raven 8S
Jaan Richards 8S * AONM 10D
Lauren Casey 10T * Jacob Cherry 10S
Hannah Simpson 6B2 * KC 6H2
Tamsin Hooker 6N2 * Mrs Radley 7H

with a little help from
Mrs Finlay and Mrs Hutchings

Contact the Chatter team on
Chatter@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

That's enough...until next academic year!

Sports Day

Sports Report by Jenny Allan

Close and Surprising

A lot of races were very close and **full of surprises**. In one race where a Year 10 boy started off second to last he then came first!

A **surprise** was when one or two teams were disqualified for changing lanes during a 4x100m relay, turning the podium on its head!

An important thing that was close was Neuchatel winning sports day by only 18 points!

On the **first day it was the field events** and, for many, lessons missed. Plenty of action and excitement with **extraordinary** distances thrown and jumped. With some **Year 7s throwing the discus over 17 meters!**

On the second day it was the main event, **banners flying**, team games and lots and lots of running. Lasting all day it was **fun for all**, until it got cold and you were wearing shorts and t-shirt, then no fun!

What's an insect's favourite sport?

Cricket!

Mascots and Banners

On the day there were some **very impressive banners** and even someone dressed up in a mascot outfit as **lion for Neuchatel!** The **Delphi** banner had a heavy **papier mache dragon head** (I nearly dropped it!). **Barcelona** also seemed to have the idea, but with a **3D dolphin!** Overall there were some very impressive banners and a great amount of noise during the fantastic "**banner parade**".

What's harder to catch the faster you run?

Your breath!

Ironic

During the staff and Year 12 relay **Miss Bolt** was seen hobbling during her 100m bit of the run and seems that she injured **herself because she didn't warm up properly and PE teachers are always saying warm up or you'll injure yourself!**

	B	D	H	N	S	T
Year 7	65	107	114	128	69	100
Year 8	96	74	122	144	77	133
Year 9	116	91	130	107	136	100
Year 10	107	106	132	137	56	132
Sixth Form	18	6	10	14	11	7
Total	384	378	498	516	338	465
Position	4th	5th	2nd	1st	6th	3rd





Sports Day Fanatics!

Sports photographer extraordinaire, Mr Alderson, did a fab job on the day!

What an incredible day!

Well, we have all seen the photos...

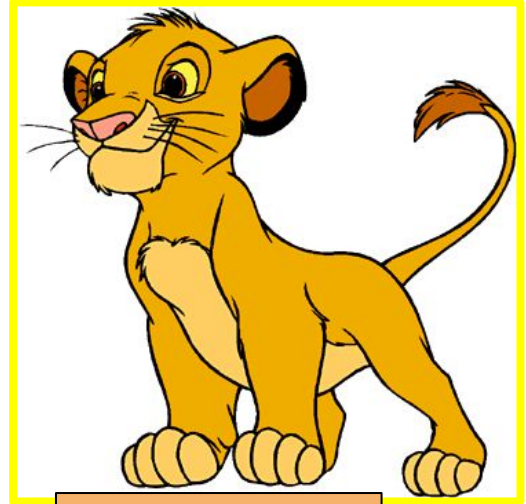
Helsinki's
dancing wolf



Sorrento's
flaming flames



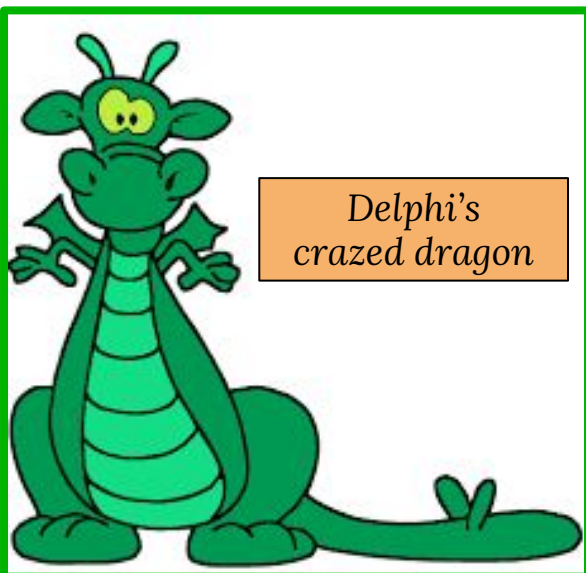
Neuchatel's
joyful lion



Barcelona's
screaming dolphin



Delphi's
crazed dragon



Tallin's
growling tiger





Farewell, Mr Fowler

Interview by Jacob Cherry and Skye-Louise West

Bidding farewell to our Headteacher, we permit him one final moment to take centre stage!

* What changes have you implemented at Dane Court?

I knew, before coming to Dane Court, that it was already a very successful school. There was no need to change anything quickly. Instead, I made a promise to students and staff that I needed to take some time to get to know the school, its strengths and weaknesses, before I would want to change anything.

*All the same, I realised fairly quickly that there were changes that had to be made. For a start, the Government drastically cut the amount of money that the school receives. For sixth formers, they gave us £1,000 less per student per year. There were also changes that I felt I wanted to make, in order to improve the quality of the lessons. When I arrived at Dane Court, we had 6 lessons each day, each lesson being 50 minutes long. This meant that students were moving between classrooms very frequently, and lots of learning time was being wasted in settling down and packing up. So we moved to five **lessons of one hour**. We also moved to a **two week timetable**, which not everyone likes. I consulted everyone on when to have lunch: I thought it would be better to have lunch earlier, and have two lessons in the afternoon. But most people, students and staff included, felt it would be better to have just one lesson in the afternoon, so that's the pattern we chose.*

* What is the best experience you have had here?

*The best experience for any teacher or a headteacher is **to see a student succeed** at something they thought they could never do. This happens all the time! It really is fantastic to see how, with effort, determination and some real confidence-boosting help from members of staff, Dane Court students succeed way beyond what they themselves believe they can do. Last year I taught Maths in Year 7: what I love about teaching Maths is that you can literally see on their face when someone 'gets it' – **that 'PING!' lightbulb moment** when someone suddenly understands how to crack a problem or work out the solution. It's brilliant! The Government's Department for Education recently recognised **Dane Court** as being the '**best secondary school in Thanet**', in terms of exam results, progress, attendance, and so on. This isn't a surprise to me, because it backs up what I see every day – **ordinary people doing extraordinary things**.*

* Have you enjoyed teaching here?

*I'm glad you asked about teaching. Although I'm a headteacher, and I spend a lot of my time making sure the school runs smoothly, and sorting out its problems, **my main love is teaching**. So many head teachers don't teach; I think they're missing out. I trained to teach Music and Maths, and at Dane Court I've also taught Drama and Chemistry. This year I've been teaching English, which I can honestly say has been the most fun, and the most wonderful teaching experience I've ever had. **I think perhaps I should have been an English teacher!***



Farewell, Mr Fowler

(Continued)

* In your opinion, what one thing or change would make DC great?

One thing that makes me sad is to see how lots of people – and I mean students and even some teachers – just lack ambition. They're content with ordinariness, and they don't feel the need to push themselves. I've seen the huge difference that it makes when students are determined to succeed, when they fail first time but won't give up, and when teachers expect the best and won't settle for anything less.

To change that attitude would make Dane Court not just great, but world-beating!

* What will your next job be?

*The title of my next job is **Senior Secondary School Improvement Officer** for North Tyneside Borough Council. That's quite a mouthful. It means that I shall be working with head teachers, teachers and students in 12 secondary schools, in an area from Newcastle to the North Sea. **My aim is to help them improve their curriculum, their finances, their teaching and their results.** It's a tough job, because many of these schools are in quite difficult areas, but I like a challenge, and this seems like a suitable next step from Dane Court.*

* What nickname would suit you?

*I don't like this question! I'm allergic to nicknames. You've probably noticed that I never call anyone by a shortened form of their name, or by anything that isn't their name. Some teachers manage it, but it always felt phoney to me. **Someone called me 'Andy' once, and I really hated it.***

* Can you leave us with some words of wisdom?

Do you mean you haven't been listening in my assemblies?!

*I'm not sure I have a lot of wisdom to impart. But one of the things I like most about Dane Court is that **you can be yourself here, whatever that is, and you'll be accepted.** So I say to everyone, take time to discover who you really are. And then aim to be the best version of yourself that you possibly can. **Gareth Southgate told his England team, 'Go out and make your own history.'** That's pretty good advice.*



Bye, Mrs Van Hinsbergh

Interviews by Hazel Leese & Summer Gibbins



I first arrived at Dane Court in 1988, having been teaching in Hertfordshire. Although I knew of Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs I'd never visited them and certainly hadn't ever heard of '**Planet Thanet**'!

I was a little concerned about the type of people in the area when a student asked me where I was living. I replied Birchington and they responded by saying, 'Where's that?!!'

Having found out that some of the staff at the school had been here for A LONG TIME (Ms Hale, Mr Towe - and this was 1988!!!!) I thought to myself '**NO WAY I could work in the same place all that time**'! But 30 years on I realise why staff stay so long at Dane Court...it is a wonderful school and I truly feel a part of the **Dane Court community** which permeates into every part of Thanet. I have been privileged to work with **fantastic colleagues** and enjoyed being with so many **intelligent, vibrant and lovely students** every day.

I wish the school much success in the future and hope to still be around to help out on the sports front now and again... when I'm not playing sport myself or visiting different holiday destinations!

'You can always find happiness in the darkest of times if only one remembers to turn on the light. Mrs Van Hinsbergh was the one who turned on the light.'

Sofia-Rose Baker

'Mrs Van Hinsbergh was amazing and we all loved her in the short time we've known her. It was a pleasure to have her as a P.E. teacher and form mentor and I hope she comes back to visit.'

Hazel Leese and Summer Gibbins



Thank you, Mrs V from 7N!

We all owe a great thanks to Mrs V. From the moment we arrived at Dane Court to the moment we were about to leave Year 7 she has been there to help. The whole of 7N appreciate her wonderful personality and the way she has always been there for us!

Adios, Mr Bettany and Mr Votta

Roving reporters Jacob Cherry and Skye-Louise West

Historic departure for 'The Bettanator'!

Mr Bettany, how long have you been at DC?
26 years teaching History, Politics, TOK, General Studies, Geography, Citizenship, Thinking and Reasoning, PSHE and Drama.

If you could go back in time would you still be a History teacher?

Yes, especially here at DC.

Why retire then?

Because 26 years is a long time, and so I am still young enough to do other things.

What are your interests?

Motorcycling, I like the sensation of riding as I feel the air passing me (rides his motorbike to school most days). **I also like sailing** (has a dinghy)

Which time period would you live in?

The same one - more computers, the world is better. That's a difficult question.

How would you make DC better?

Fund the school properly, make me the Head and have smaller classes. (Simple really, Sir, let's do it!)

'Bettonator' sounds more like detonator to me - so that's why our Year 7 History lessons are so explosive!



Is Mr Votta 'otter?!

What job do you do at DC?

Head of Science for 20 years but shared that for the last year, also Head of Physics.

Before I came to DC I was Head of Physics at a sixth form in London. Before then I was Head of Science in Tokyo!

How long have you been at DC?

Since 1998, so 20 years!

What was the best part of your job here?
Teaching smashing students.

What will you remember DC for?

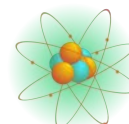
The sense of community, and the support students and staff have for each other. If only there was more money to spend on students!

What are you looking forward to when your time at DC finishes?
Enjoyable things like painting, walking and cycling (eek, watch out for padded lycra shorts!). **Although I have to pop in from time to time to play badminton and tennis.**

My wise words for students...

There are two rules:

Be nice and work hard. If you work hard and be nice to people life will work itself out.



Sayonara, Mr Couch and Mr Dunn

Interviews by That Guy and Mr Dunn

Mr Couch

What job do you do at DC?

**Physics and Chemistry teacher, mentor to 9D.
I have been here a total of eight years.**

Have you done anything else before DC?

I have worked at different schools. I was assistant headteacher at Sandwich Technology School with particular responsibility for technology development; a great aid to learning.

What was the best part of your job here?

Seeing young students have the penny drop.

What lasting memory do you have of DC?

**Friendships between staff and students.
Schools ability to work together.**

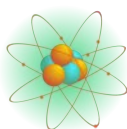
What are you doing once you leave here?

Retiring, playing with my railway set, which I have yet to build as it is still sitting in the box, and spending time with newly born granddaughter.

I am of the opinion that learning is something that must be lifelong - not just for school, but in every walk of life.

I've always appreciated the following quotation from Terry Pratchett in his book I Shall Wear Midnight: "Learning is about finding out who you are, what you are, where you and what you are standing on and what you are good at and what's over the horizon and, well, everything. It's about finding the place where you fit."

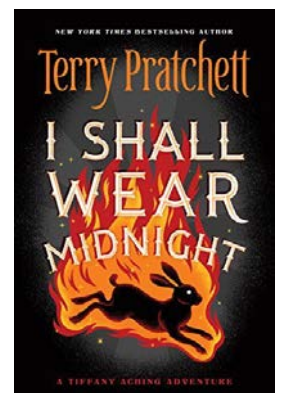
However, there is another wise saying which really does mean a great deal to me as someone who trusts in Jesus Christ: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...", in Proverbs chapter 1 verse 7. Interestingly, the verse ends with "...but fools despise wisdom and discipline" - the word 'fool' in the Old Testament denotes one who is morally deficient.



Mr Dunn: I returned to Dane Court after an absence of five years in 2013 to cover Mrs Wood's maternity leave in Chemistry...and I'm still here! In the meantime, I have transformed from Chemistry to Music and have been so lucky to have been given the opportunity to share my music with you in that time. Highlights for me are performing on stage at **Disneyland Paris, school concerts at school, church and the Winter Gardens.**

Keep up the good work and I wish you all the best.

PD



Au revoir, Mr Curry and Miss Kerr

Interviews by Ana Macura and Tamsin Hooker 6N2

Mr Curry: I started at DC in 2012 initially as a cover teacher, but then went on to teach Physics before eventually training as a **Maths teacher**. I left in 2015 only to return again in 2017! One of my most memorable experiences was when we were 1300 miles away in the south of Spain on a Year 7 trip. The thing that struck me the most was the contrast in the students, outside of a formal setting, something I hadn't experienced before. They showed **remarkable independence and resilience** that often isn't seen in the classroom.

I have always enjoyed teaching and the students at DC have been a pleasure to teach. I remember on the day of my interview back in December 2012, during break time there was a flash mob to the tune of Michael Jackson's, Thriller. **I was blown away to see a flash mob in person**, something usually reserved for Youtube viewing. Students from all years, seven right through to thirteen, took part in the dance, which had clearly taken a considerable amount of time and effort to pull off.

What I took from that was that there must have been an **extraordinary sense of community and cooperation at DC**.

I have spent years building relationships with staff and students and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time. For me, DC is now part of my past and borrowing a quote from Her Majesty The Queen, "2017 is a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure."

Next step? Holcombe Grammar School, second in charge of Maths and Head of Year 8, working at a very fast paced school.

I'm very excited about the future now.

If I had one piece of advice it would be for the **boys** in the lower school. **Please stop wearing white socks with black trousers and shoes!** And to my colleagues, going back to my Northern Irish heritage, **keep D.Ream'ing!**



Miss Kerr

Why are you leaving?

To expand my horizons in the future.

What are your memories of DC?

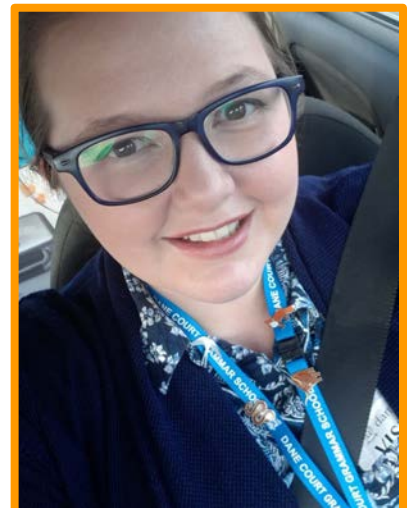
Best was the Health and Social girls (especially the trip!). Also, screaming at Psychology students, reminding them to always, 'Link back to the questions'! Worst is having to say goodbyes, i.e. the last lesson with each class. I have loved everything!

What's your new job?

Highsted Girls' Grammar School Sixth Form in Sittingbourne, teaching A-level Psychology.

What are you looking forward to in the future?

Coming to see the Y12s as Y13s, and hearing about you at university.



"I am going to miss all of the staff members and students. Thank you all for teaching me just as much as I taught you!"

So long, Mrs Dondi and Mr Marshall

That Guy, Jacob Cherry 10S

Mrs Dondi

What job do you do at DC?

Teaching assistant

Have you done anything else before DC?

Reflexologist and florist

How long have you been at DC?

12 years

What was the best part of your job here?

The students I work with. (Me, of course!)

What lasting memory do you have of DC?

The strong community.

What are you doing once you leave here?

Career break.

If you could change one thing at DC what would it be?

Mobile phones only out at break and lunch not any other time.

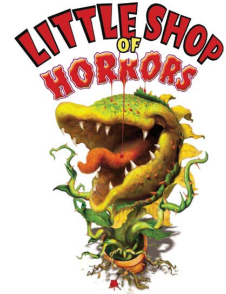
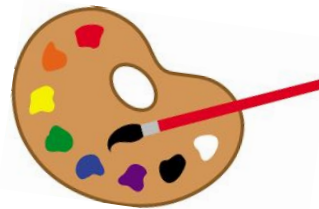
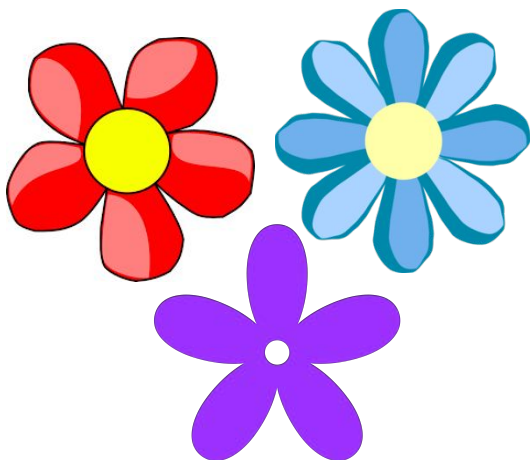
Would you ever return given the chance?

Depending on what I would be doing, yes.

Can you leave us with some words of wisdom?

Life is for living and you want to live it well.

Students who have a solid grounded education and are kind will succeed in life.



Mr Marshall

Mr Marshall is currently an art technician and worked in SEN in 2017 having been a student here for 7 years. He's hugely creative, his **talents know no boundaries**, being a filmmaker, model maker, talented rapper...the list is endless!

Although being a filmmaker will always be his first love, Mr Marshall is going to **Reading University** to study English, Film and Theatre following which he intends to become a teacher. He would like to set up his own **SEN department** in the future as this is the area within the school that he is hugely passionate about.

Recently the puppeteer in the **role of blood thirsty plant, Audrey II**, in the production of 'Little Shop of Horrors', which he counts as one of the best parts of his job here, aside from the students that is.

"My lasting memory of DC is when a student came up to me and said they saw me at Westwood Cross with my son - it was my brother. When I asked how old he thought I was, he said 35!"

Naturally, wanting to stay longer, it is time for us to say goodbye to Mr Marshall and his words to us are to remember, **"Everything turns out okay in the end, if it doesn't, it's not the end."**

See you again very soon, Mr Marshall, and remember to bring that great sense of humour of yours!

See ya later Miss Hill and Miss Buffrey!

Miss Buffrey

How long have you been at DC?

I have been at DC since Year 7 and have spent the past year being the PE Teaching Assistant. I also work at Revolution as an instructor for climbing and skateboarding.

Why are you leaving?

I will be starting a Physical Education and Sport & Exercise Science course at the University of Kent in September. I want to be a PE teacher. Although I am leaving this job, I will be back as a cover supervisor next year.

What words of wisdom can you give us?

You can't succeed if you don't fail.

Failure is a stepping stone to success.

Make Mr Wallace the Head!



Erica 7D

Miss Hill

During the 7 years I was a student at Dane Court, I thoroughly enjoyed being taught by the **incredibly supportive, reliable teachers** in such a welcoming environment and it has been a pleasure to have been able to work alongside them for a year. The quick transition from student to member of staff was definitely strange (**calling teachers by their first names was odd in the beginning**) as well as having to learn so many new skills! But it's also interesting as I got to appreciate more of what goes on **'behind the scenes'** in school and see just how much effort is put in to make sure the day runs as smooth as possible for everyone! The **students are so wonderful and intelligent** and I know they make everyone at Dane Court so proud. I am incredibly grateful to have so many **fantastic memories** from the past 8 years and honoured to have been offered such a superb experience.

I wish all the best for all students and staff at Dane Court in their future endeavours.

Best wishes, Miss Hill



Gurdwara - Year 7s in Gravesend

Tasneem Daud Reporting

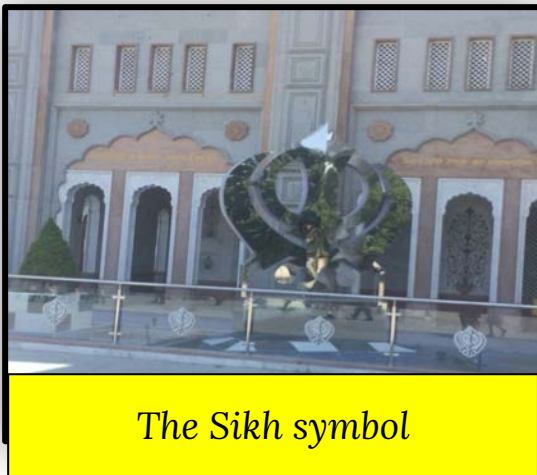
On 28 June 2018 an inspirational trip once again took place. 42 students from Year 7 chose to come along to the newly built beautiful **Gurdwara (a Sikh temple) in Gravesend**. With all its wonders and beauties the Year 7s have learnt a lot about Sikhism and Sikh beliefs this year.

The charms of the Gurdwara filled the students with awe before they even stepped through the door. Its design is unique as you can see from the pictures.

The Year 7s were told to **wash their hands and take off their shoes**. The students were then escorted to the rooms in the buildings such as the meditation room.



Beauty at first sight!!



The Sikh symbol

The meditation temple was a gorgeous sight and there we received a lot of information about what Sikhism is about. We had an opportunity to ask questions freely and the lady giving us the tour would kindly answer them in the best way possible. **We learnt what the symbols meant and what they believed in. It was very inspiring.**

The best part of the day was the part where they all got to try the langar food. It was **chapati and curry** it was delicious. **I think every group asked for seconds.**

"It's so delicious do you think we can have seconds?"

"This is the best it was so worth it!"

Overall I think this trip was amazing and very influential and I recommend this trip not only to the next Year 7s but to anyone!



Everyone enjoying the mouthwatering langar food!

One Year at DCGS

Year 7 and Year 12 - new starter perspectives

What a difference a year makes!



My very first day...most people find it **scary starting a new school**, trying to make friends, Especially when it's a completely new experience, like moving up to Year 7 in secondary school. I came from a school of about 60 people in the whole school! **I found it quite easy to make friends.**

On my first day I would say I was actually more excited than nervous, I love new experiences. I shuffled into the main hall, **buzzing with excitement**, and frantically looking around for a friend I had made on transition day. We all sat and watched an **assembly** before going to our mentor groups. I immediately went to find my new friend and some other people we had met before. We sorted a lot of things out (fingerprints, logins, etc.) then went off to our first lesson here. **It was nerve wracking!** I don't remember much after that but there was certainly a lot of excitement!

Erica Cousins 7D

One year later...Jenny says this about Erica:

Erica has changed a lot since the beginning of the year.

In September she had long, blonde hair and glasses. Recently she **cut her hair short for charity** and raised £700 for The Little Princess Trust - awesome! She has also dyed it brown!

Erica has also **grown a lot** and I know this because she is still taller than me.

Our friendship has grown even stronger since the early days and we have just had a great time on the Year 7 trip to Rockley in France. **Oh and she lost, yes lost, her glasses!**

Jenny Allan 7D



KC joined us in Year 12.

This year has been my first year at Dane Court Grammar School and it has been a very interesting one to say the least! After having come from Royal Harbour Academy, the workload here was a struggle to begin with but all of the teachers have been amazing and helped me in any way that they could. Coming from a different school worried me to begin with but **I was welcomed with open arms**, and **Mrs Hale has been one of the most supportive teachers I have ever met**, helping me get through my worries and doubts about belonging in a school as well known as this one.

A lot is expected of grammar school students and I never understood why until I joined one myself. This was when I realised that everyone here had the ability to live up to those expectations. The workload and approach to learning is like nothing I have ever seen before but I have seen for myself that it has been very effective. The only way I could see it **improving** from a sixth form perspective would be to have a larger **area for only sixth form students** where we can really settle down and work.

I have enjoyed the challenge of this year, even though it did get the better of me at some points and look forward to the challenges of the next year.

KC 6H2

Bullying

Tips on what you can do from Isabella Barrs

Say 'NO!' to Bullying

Each day people suffer from bullying in different ways, at home, school or also online. **If someone does something that hurts you inside or outside and they do it on purpose, that's bullying.**

* We can be bullied **physically** by someone hurting our body like pinching or pulling hair.

* We can be bullied **verbally** by someone calling us names, saying horrible things, or teasing us about something.

* We can be bullied **emotionally** by someone taking your friends away, spreading rumours about us, or by **cyberbullying** like them being mean to us or about us on social media.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Walk away - if you feel threatened, worried or scared by a bully, just walk away from the situation.

Tell the bully to stop - show them that you have had enough and you will not stand for it.

Tell someone - Even if you don't want to, it will only get worse if you don't tell anybody

Stay calm - All the bully wants is to upset you, if you don't show any response they will stop.



If you know anybody who is being bullied, report it to a teacher or any adult you trust, it will make the situation a lot better.

**Life is tough enough for us all without people making it tougher on purpose.
Stop bullying. Be kind.**



Useful links: <https://www.bullying.co.uk/> <http://www.bullybusters.org.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying-and-cyberbullying/what-is-bullying-cyberbullying/>

Rockley Activity Week - France

Rock 'n' roller Jenny Allan splashing about with Erica and company

Would we ever get there?

We were meant to set off from school at 4pm on Saturday, but the coach was an hour and a half late and then the driver needed a half hour break, so we finally set off at around 6pm!

After an hour to Dover, we caught a ferry, then it was a 16 hour journey to La Rive, South West France.

We slept for most of the journey and, when we were **meant** to get off the coach for a break, I was asleep and **Mr Wallace** thought he'd lost me!

Arriving at the campsite at around breakfast time we then went straight out **kayaking**. Erica and I were really bad and ended up drifting everywhere!

On one day we were **paddle boarding** and a power boat had to rescue me because the current was pushing me into a wood and wire fence! **Kai** decided to be a pirate and push people off their boards but I managed to get my own back and I pushed him off!

One really fun evening activity was "**Challenge**". We had mud thrown at us, then we had to pull a kayak round a barbed wire fence in the water, collect a flag then get back to shore and dig a hole, run around the beach, fill in the hole, then swim with the kayak again! Phew!!!

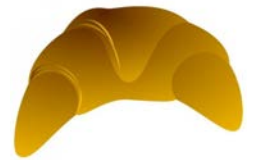


On another day we went out for the day to the **largest sand dune in Europe - Dune du Pyla**, and I ran down it and rolled down it. After this we refreshed ourselves by going to **Aqualand**, a **water park** with slides

which had massive drops, sharp turns and were pitch black - **we screamed our heads off!**



The **food was really good** and I loved breakfast, cereal and a hot food like porridge or croissants! Erica suffered slightly though because she asked for a small portion of dinner and the man serving gave her a plate full of sauce and the lady gave her a titchy amount of rice!



We did a lot of cool stuff like paddle boarding, going to the largest sand dune in Europe, mountain biking, kayaking, sailing uncontrollably and loads more!

Egg drop!

The "egg drop" was where we gained points by doing well in other activities like doing impressions, then we had to make something to protect the egg when it was dropped. As every team's egg survived, two people from each team had to throw the egg to each other and gradually make the gap bigger! Erica and I were the throwers for our team. We did well and were one of the final two teams remaining, but then Erica threw the egg, it hit a tree and then cracked on me!

Thanks to Mr Wallace,
Miss Bolt & team



Rockley Laughs

Some of our funniest moments...

- ★ At midnight **I fell out of bed**, cut my elbow and ended up going to first aid!
- ★ **Erica** accidentally bounced off a sailing boat and **Rowan** then fell off from laughing so much!
- ★ **Erica** was in charge of steering our boat and literally made our boat board the back of another boat!
- ★ We were playing a game called **Dobble** (a bit like Snap!) on the way back and I made **Erica** jump and she screamed really loudly!
- ★ 2 boys decided to be “**pirates**” when we were sailing and steal stuff, but they couldn’t sail...
- ★ I pushed **Mr Wallace** off a boat and **Kai** pushed **Miss Bolt** off a boat - tee hee!



- ★ **Me and Erica** had to get **spiders** out of **Miss Bolt’s** tent, using her torch!
- ★ **Erica** fell off our sailing boat 14 times - I know, I thought she’d learn too!
- ★ **A raw egg cracked on me!**
- ★ **Erica and I** hid under the beds of some other girls in our tent. When they came back in we tapped their ankles and they screamed and ran - BOO!

Jenny 7D

WE HAD AN AWESOME TIME!

Do I recommend this trip?

Well why wouldn’t I?

I did loads of activities, ate croissants, climbed the highest sand dune in Europe, went to a water park, sailed and kayaked, fell out of bed, chased spiders, had a raw egg crack on me & paddle boarded!

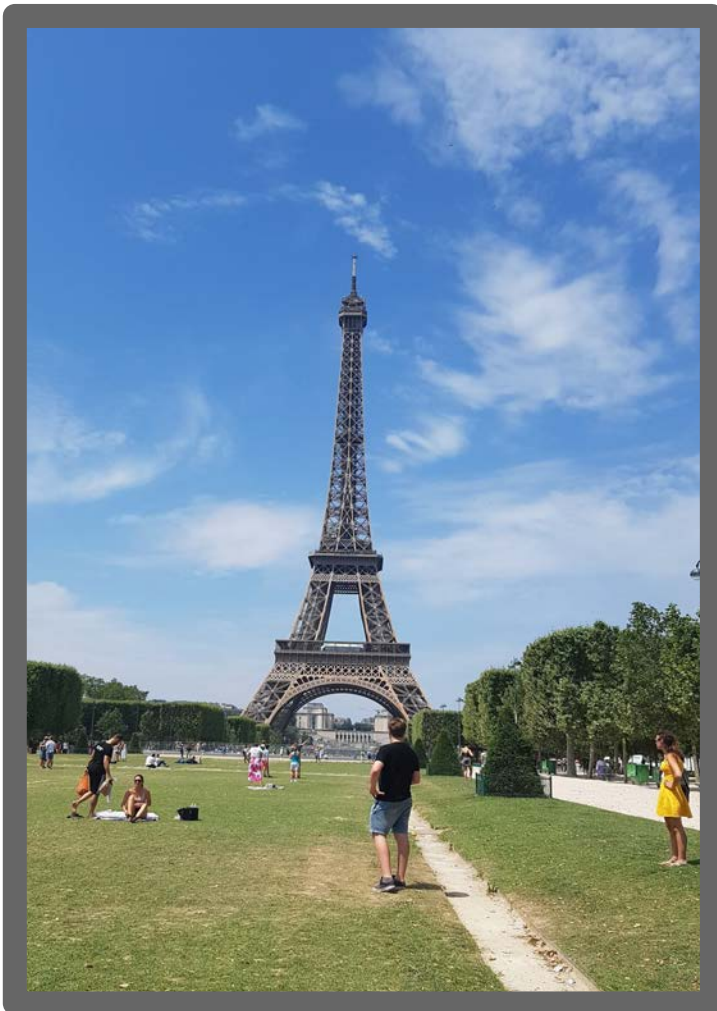
Next years 7s will have a fantastic time just like we did!

Château de Warsy

Feedback collated by Lauren Casey 10

What a fantastic trip Years 9, 10 and 12 had to Château de Warsy in the Normandy region of France. Read on for a French diary, a 'grumpy' Year 12 review and some photos, there were more but we cannot publish!

"The Eiffel Tower was amazing and the boat trip on the Seine was fun."



"I enjoyed sharing a room with my friends."

"The Albert Museum was interesting."

"Kayaking was really fun - I just wish I spent more time in the boat than in the water!"

"The crepes at the creperie were delicious."

"I enjoyed singing around the campfire and doing a riff-off."

"The view from the Tour Montparnasse was great."

"I loved the whole trip, it was fabulous!"

"Madame Radish arranged the best trip - THANKS!"

"The food was really nice and it was nice talking to the people from the year below who I'd never normally talk to in school. It would have been nicer if there were more opportunities to practise our French."

Voyage au Château de Warsy 2018

AONM 10D

vendredi 29 juin

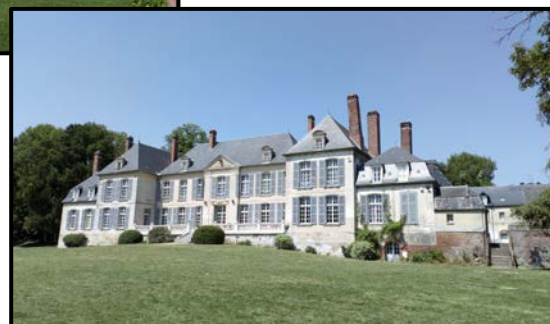
Aujourd'hui nous sommes allés en France. **Nous avons visité un mémorial de guerre et une ville qui s'appelle Albert.** Ici nous avons visité un **musée de la Somme**, et selon moi, c'était vraiment intéressant. Après ça, nous sommes arrivés au **Château de Warsy**. Nous avons mangé le dîner et puis nous avons joué un jeu qui s'appelle **'Buddy'**. Je pense que, et mes amis pensent que ce n'était pas très amusant! Après le jeu, mon amie et moi avons dormi mais mes autres amis ont joué jusqu'à vingt-deux heures moins le quart!

samedi 30 juin

Aujourd'hui, nous sommes allés à **Amiens**, une grande ville avec une cathédrale qui s'appelle **Notre Dame d'Amiens**. C'était extrêmement grand et intéressant donc c'était difficile de partir! Après ça, nous sommes retournés à Warsy, où nous avons mangé le déjeuner. Après le déjeuner, **nous avons joué aux sports nautiques**. Par exemple, nous avons fait du **canoë-kayak et c'était très ludique!**

dimanche premier juillet

Aujourd'hui nous sommes allés à **Paris!** Nous sommes partis très tôt, mais quand nous sommes arrivés, nous sommes montés **la Tour de Montparnasse** où nous avons vu beaucoup de Paris. Après ça, nous avons visité **la Tour Eiffel et il faisait très chaud!** Plus tard, nous sommes partis prendre **un bateau mouche sur la Seine**. Nous avons vu Notre Dame de Paris et c'était chouette! Puis nous sommes retournés à Warsy où nous avons joué au **volley-ball!**



lundi 2 juillet

Aujourd'hui nous sommes rentrés en Angleterre. Avant de rentrer, nous avons visité une ville au bord de la mer qui s'appelle **Le Touquet** et c'était très amusant! **Nous avons mangé des crêpes.** Puis nous avons visité un **hypermarché** où nous avons **acheté beaucoup de bonbons!** Finalement nous sommes arrivés à Calais et nous sommes rentrés à l'école à vingt heures.

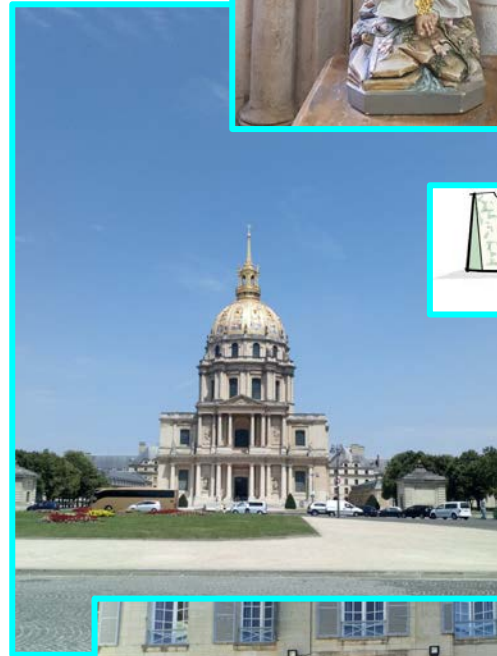
C'était des vacances géniales!

AONM 10D

Château de Warsy

Hannah 'Just a Little Swim?' Simpson 6B2

Hopeful to be a trip of a lifetime as a last goodbye to our school trips with DC, the 5 sixth formers jumped on the coach with a large group of **Year 9s and 10s expecting hell**. In the **scorching heat** at the chateau we discovered a mighty pool, perfect to cool us and be the pinnacle of our holiday. Every day of begging never got us anywhere, we tried and tried but were never enough to be able to break the **robust wall between us and the pool**. The camp instructors taught us new experiences and the lake was as close to swimming freely in water as we could get (even though **head gear and life jackets** were apparently necessary in the 60cm deep water). We **paddle boarded and kayaked** through the thick weeds, **sabotaging** the teachers canoes throwing them into the slime. The evenings were calming with the mild air until you hear a slight buzzing near your ears, abruptly you would see us outburst and scream, desperately trying to whack the **momentous mosquitoes** away from our helpless feeble skin. The days would be packed full of sightseeing, eating and sleeping on the coach, taking pictures of our sleeping friends. The **nights were clammy**, us girls would sit and chat and play **Bananagrams** making stories of our days, all the while there was a distinct **stench of insect repellent and sweat** which you wouldn't notice after a while. For me, the **supermarket was a treasure trove**. I hauled my basket full of French goods, I sped walked round the market making a sound of a train as the wheels bumped along the tiles of the cold floor. As I departed, I heaved two mammoth bags full of **saucisson, jams and cheese and felt fully content** of my large shop as I looked upon the measly little handfuls of purchases the others held in their hand. All in all, despite the restriction of not being able to go in the apparently **'forbidden' pool**, it was a funny one to remember. I'm sure the teachers had had enough of **my antics** by the end of the seemingly long 4 days...**life would have been easier if the rules on the 'risk assessment' could have been slightly bent a tad**.



Yes, but we know you loved it Hannah!

"The chateau and the grounds were lovely."

Sophie Ait Tayeb 6D1

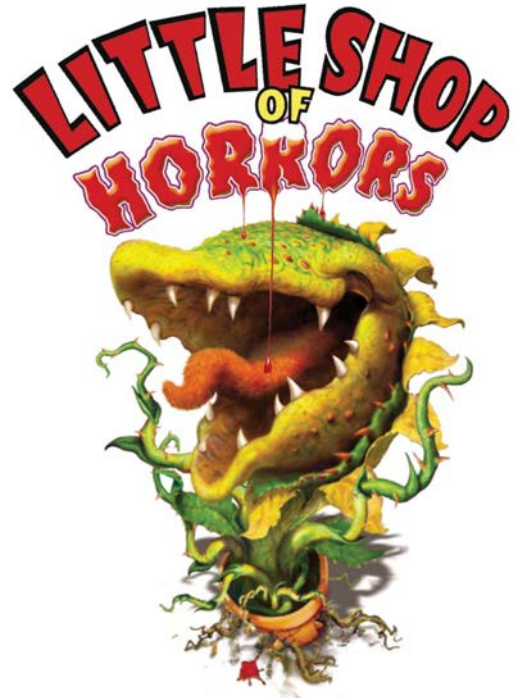
Little Shop of Horrors



Reviews and Backstage News

Little Shop of Horrors was the most amazing production I've done so far! Mr Stanley, Ms Radley and all the other teachers involved managed to keep it professional but **extremely funny** and **enjoyable** at the same time! We've worked incredibly hard behind the scenes, usually lunchtimes and after school, but coming up to our performances we had **full day rehearsals**. It was hard to keep our voices in check after all the singing we had done! **I've met new people and learnt a lot from the play**. It was by far the best experience I've had...**don't feed the plants!**

Maddie Erridge (Skid Row girl) 8D



What a vibrant show that simply dazzled and glittered on stage! I loved every moment.

Mrs Holmes

A fun evening with so much energy and creativity on display.

Mrs Mackintosh



The show was **extremely entertaining** and **surprisingly professional**, particularly Seymour's singing which was exceptional. The lead and supporting characters were **outstanding** and very talented, and the **Skid Row girls** were comedic, **bringing life to the show**. I am very happy I attended!

Izzy Arezina (audience member) 8B



Helsinki Charity Week

Mrs Radley and 7H

GAME RANGERS INTERNATIONAL

We are delighted to announce that we have raised over £200 for our charity, 'Game Rangers International'.

We ran stalls and events all week including;

- ~Name the Teddy
- ~Guess the amount of sweets in the Jar
- ~Adopt a balloon animal for a friend
- ~Lucky Dip
- ~Biscuit and Cake Decorating
- ~Photo Booth
- ~Raffle Tickets
- ~Football Keep-ups
- ~Staff Car Wash

7H worked tirelessly every break and lunch time to make this a success, including making cakes and biscuits, hard selling tickets to staff and students, **washing cars** in the **blistering heat** and they even washed the school minibus! **And they created over twenty balloon animals!!**

Thank you to all staff who assisted with the running of events including **Mr White and Yr12s** who also washed cars! And a huge thank you to those who donated generously to a great cause - you will have made a tremendous difference!



DCGS Parents' Association

The next Parents' Association boot fair is on **Saturday 8 September** at Dane Court School.

There's no need for stallholders to book, just turn up at 6:00am.
£7 for cars and £10 for vans.

The boot fair is open to general public at 6:30am and **refreshments are available.**

Remember, all students can get a free table to sell your unwanted items and make some money.



Summer Laughs!

Joker Jenny Allan gets us in the holiday mood - as if you aren't already!

Why did the cheerleader put extra salt on her chips?

~ Because she wanted to do summer salts!

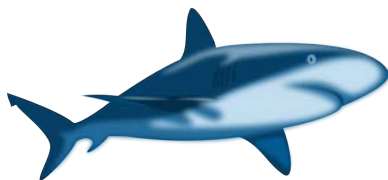
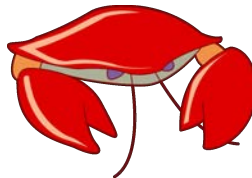


What did the pig say on a hot summer day?

~ I'm bacon!

Did you know I'm on a seafood diet?

~ I see food and I eat it!



Why don't mummies go on holiday?

~ Because they're scared to unwind!

Where do sharks go on holiday?

~ Finland!



What's grey, has four legs and a trunk?

~ A mouse on holiday!



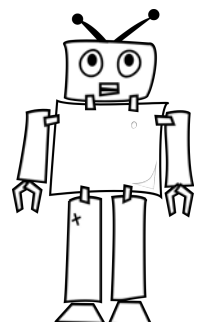
Why did the robots go on holiday?

~ To recharge their batteries!



Where do eggs go on holiday?

~ New York city!



Great Summer Reads

Send your book reviews to Chatter@danecourt.kent.sch.uk see them in print next time.

