



DCGS Chatter

Edition 17

April 2021



Welcome Back Dane Court!

Staff and student sponsored challenges!

DCGS Students-Merit Worthy

Meet the new Head Student team!

Competition's Galore!

Return to School Survey!

Did you enjoy the snow?

"We are very proud of the way that you all responded to the challenges of the winter lockdown and school closure. Your engagement with live and pre-recorded lessons was brilliant; you demonstrated maturity and dedication and you have impressed us all with your enthusiasm and determination. It has been particularly heart-warming to hear about the ways that you have supported each other over the last few weeks. At times, this year has been tough and it has been so important for us to work together. I have no doubt that this experience will bring us even closer together as a community.

I'd also like to thank parents, carers, brothers and sisters (and often other members of the family) for their support during the period of school closure. Your families have been amazing throughout." **Mr Jones**



Year 7 Artwork

Plus... learn about going to school in other countries, lockdown inspiration, the latest school sports news, and a delicious Easter cake recipe for you to try!



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Merit's..
& a sad farewell



Words from the editor

Hello **DCGS Chatter** readers & welcome to Chatter 17!

We have, as always, so many delightful articles within this edition so we hope you have as much fun reading as we have had putting this edition together for you. Our lovely **DCGS Chatter members** have worked incredibly hard to bring you a variety of articles from members of the team across the school community.

As we said last edition, it was decided that for this school year, to ease the workload for our amazing students that we would only be doing **3 editions** of Chatter, this is the 2nd of those for school year 2020-2021.

Lastly in this edition, I would like to say, well done & thank you to all the Chatterers who have contributed to this edition - we know that you have missed the biscuits during our meetings, but hopefully things are going to be more 'normal' soon! **A special thanks to Joe in Year 9 for our fantastic new Chatter design!**

Please enjoy this edition, perhaps whilst eating some nice chocolate or a hot cross bun, stay safe and we will see you all back in school on **Monday 19th April 2021**.

This Editions Chatter Team...

Year 7 Team - Angel, Daniel, Thomas, Sophie, Florence, Idunumi, Asvita, Lily, Shannon, Bedrixan

Year 8 Team - George, Hadley, Beatrix, Abigail M, Sofia, Cameron, David, Faye, Kerri-Ann

Year 9 Team - Joe, Cheyenne

Year 10 Team - Ellie, Sofia

Year 11 Team - Jamie, Gabriella, Gabriel

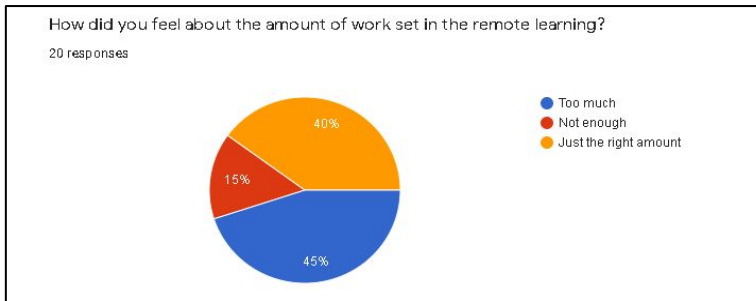
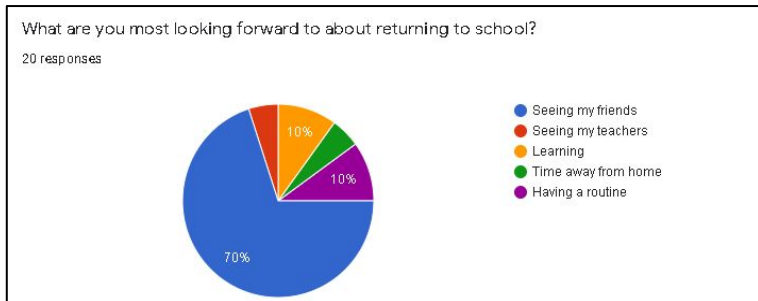
6th Form Team- Jacob, Louise, Cesar & Abbie

And a little help from some members of staff



Returning to school - How do you feel?

By That Guy- Year 13



The past year has been hard for us all. It has especially affected our learning due to not being able to come into school. Even with the implementation of online lessons, school has been very stressful for us all. But it's interesting to see everyone's opinions on the matter. The Chatter team decided to conduct a survey, to see how their fellow students were feeling about the return to school.

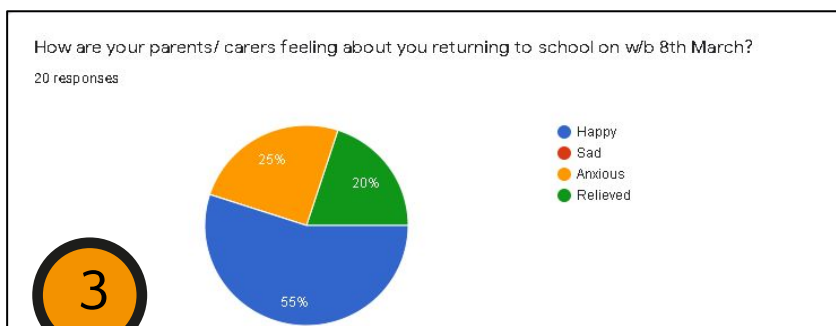
According to our recent survey, 65% of our students are happy to return to school (most likely because we can see all our friends again.) I am sure we all want to be able to talk to people face-to-face again and also not having any more wifi issues mid-way through a lesson. Some were a little concerned that they may have fallen behind on certain subjects, others that they may not be able to adjust properly due to rules possibly being stricter, such as the wearing of masks.

Along with this, we found out that 75% of you enjoyed the remote learning. It appears we have a lot of introverts. Either that or you all loved being able to have a cup of tea at a whim and eat your lunch during a lesson. I know I enjoyed that part!

The return to school also means we will have the ability to ask more questions to teachers when we are confused as, during the remote learning sessions, it was very hard to explain especially when some of us did not have microphones, and the teachers will be able to see how much work they are giving us rather than overload us with more work than we can do in a week. However saying this the students surveyed were divided on opinion of whether there was too much work set with 45% saying there was and 40% saying there was just the right amount of work... A small proportion of the students (15%) said there wasn't enough work set!

We decided to also ask how parents were feeling regarding their child's return to school and found that 55% of parents were happy, a further 20% were 'relieved' and 25% were anxious about the return.

It's going to be interesting to see how school works now we are all back. Especially now that we are all being tested to keep everyone safe. While this year has been hard on us all, students and teachers alike, we can hopefully start returning to some form of normality as the vaccine is rolled out and, slowly but surely, reduce the restrictions given to us.

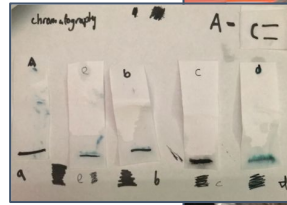




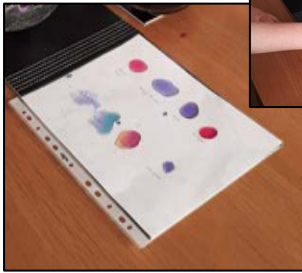
Working hard remotely

Well done to all of our DCGS students!

Students from across the school did some amazing work whilst working from home. The Chatter team decided that we should celebrate this by showing you just some of what they got up to!



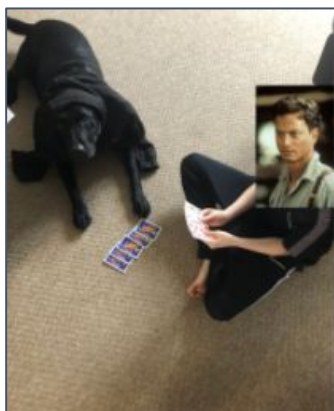
Above: Some year 7s did brilliant work trying out Chemistry practicals at home on Chromatography and making indicator from red cabbage. I just loved the enthusiasm--and improvisation eg using calpol syringes for pipettes



Well Done !!



Right: In art, students had been looking at the work of the Impressionists, Post impressionists and their influence on David Hockney landscapes.



Left: Tableaux created by Year 7 students using the book 'Of Mice & Men' as their inspiration



Staff embark on charity trip around Europe.

Dane Court staff travelling virtually around Europe, all for a good cause.

The Dane Court staff are embarking on a virtual trip around Europe visiting the schools 6 different houses along the way, whilst raising money for the Pilgrim's Hospice in East Kent.

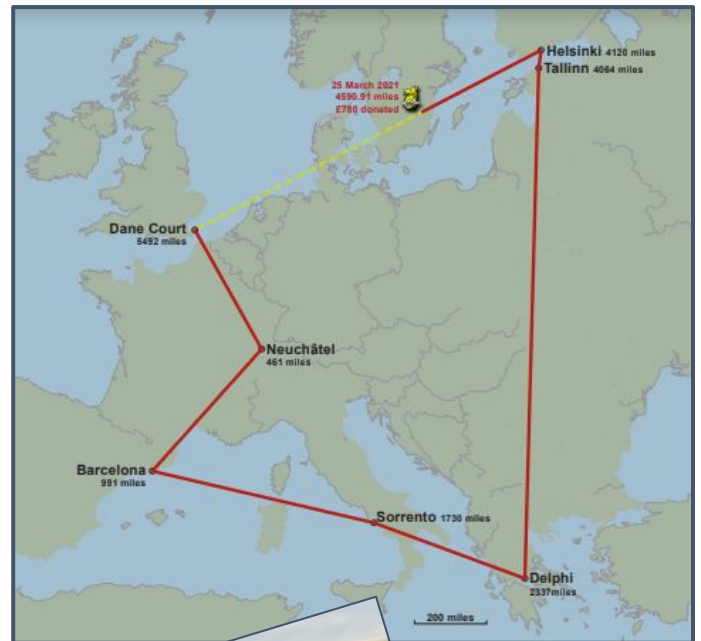
They began their journey on 10th February 2021 and only 2 weeks in, they had already completed 1684.2 miles, 30.67% of the 5492 mile target. They have been keeping track of all the exercise they have been doing and all exercise such as walking, running, cycling, horse riding, taking the dog for a walk has been included. At the time of writing this article (26th March 2021) the staff had done an amazing 4637 miles, 85% of their journey and are well on their way home to Dane Court with just 2 weeks left, of the 2 months they had given themselves as a goal for completion.

They have already visited Neuchatel, Barcelona, Sorrento & Delphi, Tallinn & Helsinki and only have 855 miles to go until they reach home!

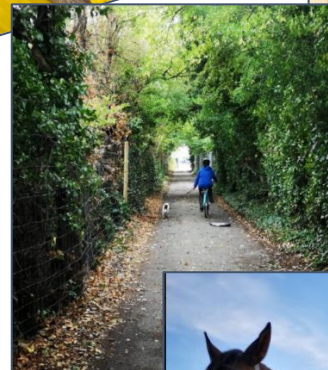
This mammoth challenge they have taken on is a team building exercise to boost both physical and mental health, whilst raising money for an amazing cause. Their target amount to raise is £1000 & they have currently raised £780, if you would like to support the staff with their challenge, the link to their fundraising page is https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dane-court-grammar-school?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=dane-court-grammar-school&utm_campaign=pfp-whatsapp&utm_term=e0326b6de07a428991b7ae9f7a1ae726

Mrs Gallantree said that she has fully utilised her home gym equipment she set up during the 1st lockdown and has seen her regular stint on her exercise bike go from 5k to a fantastic 20k during this challenge!

The Chatter team hope to interview some more staff regarding their journey for the next edition of Chatter but for now here are some pictures of the staff whilst on their challenge.



Left: Miss Vincent walking in the countryside
Below: Ms Gallantree - sweating it on her exercise bike!



Right: Mrs Demetriou riding around Europe on her horse!!



Head Student Team 2021-2022

By Louise Carroll, Abbie Debling, César Delgado - Year 13

It's another year and a new student leadership team has been selected. The student team is responsible for helping to represent the student voice as well as working closely with members of staff to come up with innovative ideas to help improve the school experience for all.



This year the team consists of: César Delgado, Abbie Debling, Jessie Cherry, Macey Boulton, Louise Carroll, Evie Anderson, Aimee Lewry, Gizem Yilmaz and Oscar Phillips-James.

To become a part of the student leadership team we first had to make an application consisting of: why we wanted to be a part of the leadership team, what experiences and skills we possess that would be beneficial to the team, a brief description of an idea that could improve school life for all and what we would do with the student council. Normally then there would be an interview however due to the lockdown this did not occur. After the team was selected and we had a final task to decide which roles students would fill, that took the form of a detailed plan on an idea we had to improve the school community. When asked about their plans and thoughts about Dane Court, César and Abbie had this to say:

“As head students, we would love to make our school more comfortable and focus on issues that concern the majority of students, as that’s why we are ultimately here. We also would like to ensure that being approachable is a main priority for not only us but the rest of the head of council and leadership teams. As for changes we want to make, we would love to focus on what Year 13 couldn’t finish last year due to the pandemic: for example, their proposal on recycling, as we feel that this is key to establish their legacy to the school. After this we have many things that we, as a team, would love to focus on, such as improving certain aspects of the school to ensure that the time spent at Dane Court Grammar is both beneficial and memorable. Alongside these changes, we endeavour to adapt and improve the recruitment process into our school as addressed in our head student applications, which we believe will be the paving stones to a more plentiful and diverse community”

We look forward to working actively in the school community to make change and a nicer learning environment for all, and wish the old student leadership team and the rest of year 13 our very best as they prepare to leave Dane Court and go on to very successful futures.



Exams... To do or not to do?

By Gabriela - Year 11

Lately, as you all know, there has been a fair bit of chaos in terms of how GCSEs and A-Levels/IB are to go ahead. With indignation from the pupils against doing them and determination from the government and teachers to ensure some sort of exam, we have all been left a bit confused. Do we revise? Do we talk with our teachers? Or do we focus on what we're learning now? To try and alleviate the need for answers, I'll share all I know.

On the 4th of January 2021, Boris Johnson announced that it would be "not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal", and in addition, educational secretary Gavin Williamson was to "work together with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements". Now the exams watchdog Ofqual has confirmed that GCSEs and A-levels cancelled in England by the pandemic will be replaced by grades decided by teachers, yet "There will be optional assessments set by exam boards for all subjects, but they will not be taken in exam conditions nor decide final grades". What will be decided in Dane Court I don't know, especially as no mocks have been done yet.

I set a small questionnaire to 105 students, a mix of both GCSE, A-Level and IB, and posed them 2 questions:

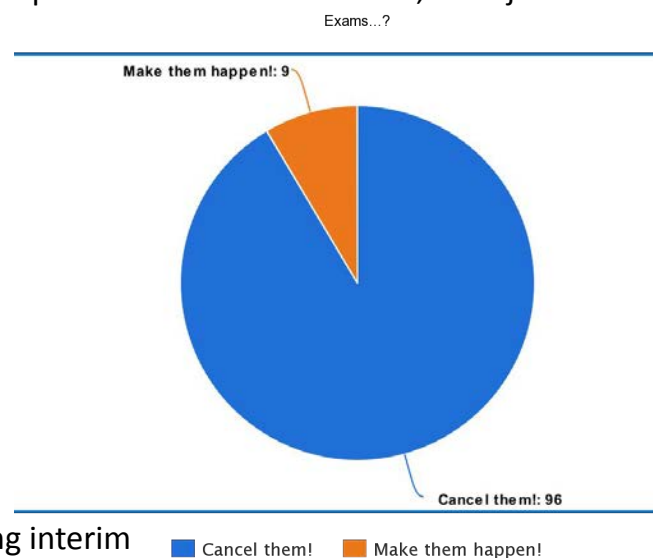
- Should exams be cancelled?
- How do you think we should be assessed?

As shown in the pie chart below, a massive majority of 96 people wanted them cancelled, with just 9 rooting for them to go ahead.

For the question of how the students themselves would handle the gradings, the most common answers from the answers were:

- Full teacher assessment, making
- Individual teacher interviews
- Data from all past assessments since year 10, average
- The grades from our last progress check used
- Small 'mock' exams with assessment of our classwork

Recently, Dane Court announced to us that we would be doing interim exams in every subject on the week beginning the 22nd of March, and secondary examinations after Easter. Despite still wanting full teacher examinations, students seem to be relieved with some clarity in terms of futures, and fingers are crossed that there are no major changes. Now, time to revise!





Year 11 students make our mouths water yet again!

Year 11 students upon their return to school continued to make our mouths water with their amazing dishes, created during their practical assessment for their GCSE in Food Preparation & Nutrition .

A BIG well done to all of our Year 11 students who all had assessments this term upon their return to school.





Have you ever wondered what school is like in another country?

By Hadley - Year 8

School exists in many countries if not most countries. Which leads to the question that I thought of "Is school equal in different countries?" Hopefully the result should be a resounding yes, but maybe it's not?

So how do schools in Serbia and the USA, compare to schools in the UK? In the UK we start school much earlier, at age 4, and stay at school until we are 16 or 18, when we take exams. The school day is relatively short and we have six terms with holidays in between. Most of us learn French from age 11 and usually another language too. Education is very important in the UK and we study a national curriculum. Most secondary schools are comprehensive and for all abilities but we also have grammar schools (like ours) in some parts of the country, and everyone works towards getting GCSE's.

Serbia:

Since Serbia is a small country (when compared to Russia), schools over there are very hard. Children would start school around 7 years old, but if you are very smart you have to start at 6. Children in Serbia have 8 years of primary school. Then they have 4 to 5 years of secondary school (depends on the school you go to). After that they go to university/college and find a job.

School is pretty hard over there, and a lot of Serbian people say that school is 4 times harder and more intense than other places. For example if you compared maths, history, geography and biology classes and material with a person who is the same age and year as someone who doesn't go to a Serbian school, but goes to school in the USA the things they are studying right now, many did in the same stuff in year 3.

The schools over there also pressure students to learn at least 2 new languages. In the end they all have got to know; Serbian, English, and Italian or French. In secondary school they have to learn German or/and Spanish.

USA:

School in the USA is a lot easier than in Serbia, this would be expected as if a country is small the quality can be better as the amount of money spent on schools is more if there are less schools (example: $5 \div 30 = 6$, but $5 \div 60 = 4$, so more schools and the same amount of money means the schools have more overall money. This also applies in concept to quality for the same reason.

Children in the USA start school at 5-6-years-old, although they can go to nursery/preschool if they are under 5 years old. This means that technically students in America can go to school longer than people in Serbia, but if someone doesn't go to college then they can go to school less than someone in Serbia (this would also depend on what they are learning in college). The earlier school years are much easier than in the UK, and the second language learnt is Spanish.

The issue is that school in general focuses on making children generally recite facts, instead of letting them learn. Another issue is that people within the ages of 13-19 have a day that feels like 26 hours (a bit like how hamsters have a day of 13 hours) but school starts at 8AM and requires students to wake at 6 to 6:30am, and if you sleep from 11pm (which people at the ages 13-19 go to sleep at on average) which is 11pm to 6am which is... 6-7 hours, as some wake at 5am, and people at 13-19 **NEED** 8 or 10 hours.

However, in the USA they then also have ridiculously long summer holidays!



You're yolking!

What kind of jewellery do rabbits wear?

14 Carrot Gold!!

What do you call the Easter bunny the day after Easter?

Eggs-hausted!!!

How can you tell the eldest rabbits in a group?

Look for the grey hares!!

Ha Ha Ha

Why are people tired in April?

Because they just completed a March!

Why don't you see dinosaurs at Easter time?

Because they are Eggstinct!!!



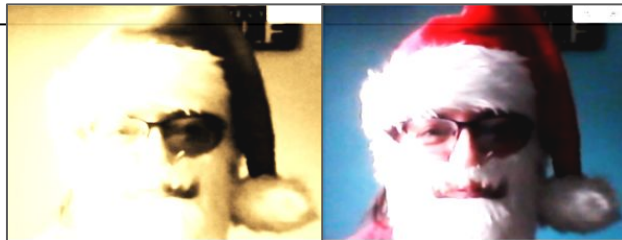
What day do Easter eggs hate most?

Fry-day!!

Chatter Competition

Win! Win! Win!

Last edition, the competition was to guess who Santa was.... Nobody guessed that it was in fact Mrs Cronin dressed as Santa! The good news is



that the bumper £15 voucher is now carried over to this editions prize and you have the chance to win a **£20 voucher**.... All you have to do is find the 5 hidden eggs in this edition.

They look like these eggs  (but not these ones, they are hidden!) and to make this fantastic prize yours, we shall need you to email the page numbers & tell us which colour egg is on which page. Email your answer to chattercompetition@danecourt.kent.sch.uk



Snow Day

By Abigail - Year 8

As the sun rises in the morning
A new day is dawning,
To celebrate the upcoming spring.

You open the window and you find there is snow,
Your sledge is just there, you can't wait to go,
When you open the door you're hit by the beauty in all that H₂O.

You see the snowflakes drifting slowly down
The crunch of the snow as your foot hits the ground
The harmony of nature all around

How can nature bring so much joy?
Bring the light in the day so we can enjoy
And how is it that it's the thing we destroy?

How is it that there is so much fun in water?
All snowflakes are unique - there's no order!
How can mother nature bring this gift - no one taught her?

But as you sit with your hot chocolate and remember how it felt
You think of the laughter those rain clouds dealt
Yet this joy overnight all will melt

Year 10 student loses her locks for Pilgrims Hospice

Year 10 student Tilly-May Tarrant is chopping off a **whopping 15 inches** of her hair and donating it to the **Little Princess Trust** charity, who create & donate real hair wigs, free of charge, for children & young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment.

Whilst growing her hair and before the big chop on the **2nd May 2021**, Tilly-May is raising money for the **Pilgrims Hospice** in memory of 3 members of her family.

To read more about her story or to sponsor Tilly-May please go to

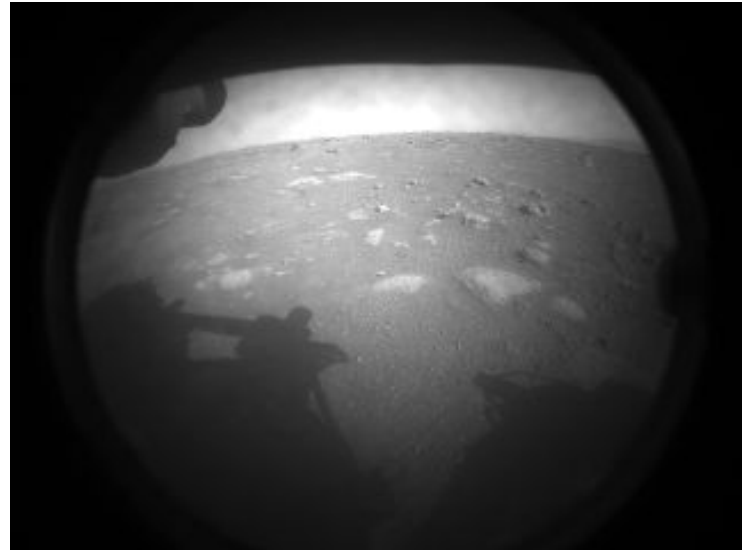
https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tilly-may-tarrant?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=tilly-may-tarrant&utm_campaign=pfp-whatsapp&utm_term=4d0c4a8cdad0490392f15bb2f6f65c7b



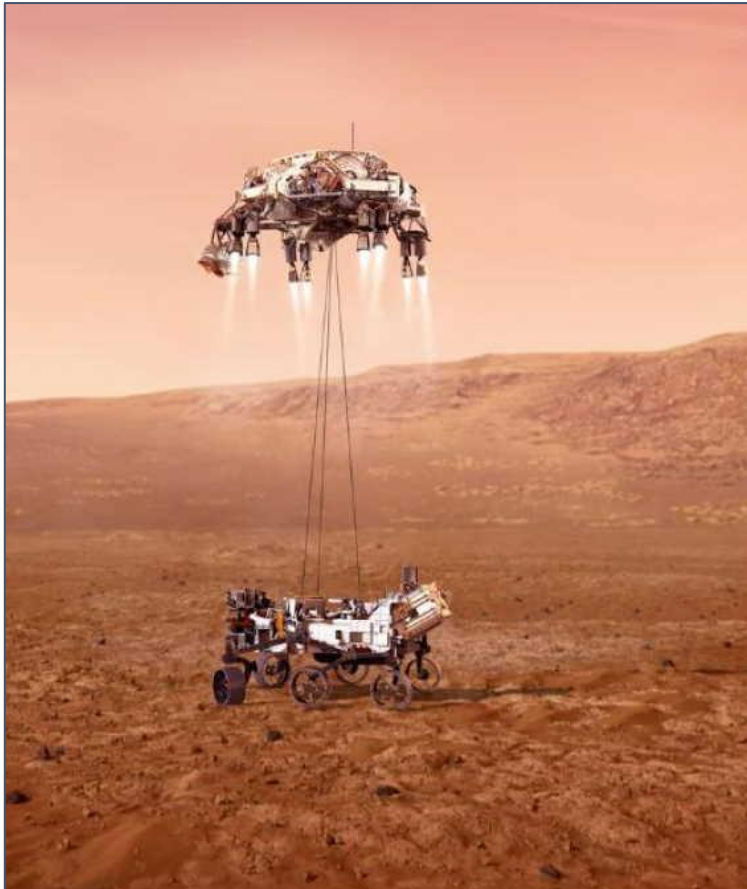
Perseverance Mars Landing

By Joe -Year 9

On Thursday the 18th of February 2021, NASA's Perseverance Rover landed on Mars after 7 months of travel. After many failed attempts, the \$1.7 billion rover touched down on the surface of the red planet without any major damage. It's first image from its undercarriage camera came shortly after it's landing. Because of the great distance between Earth and Mars, there is a large delay between the machine doing something, and us seeing it, this means that any images that are taken have a large delay before they actually arrive at NASA in the US.



First image sent back from the rover



With the new hints of life having existed on Mars, this Rover could be the key to discovering extraterrestrial life, right next door! (as next door as a neighboring planetary body can be). It would also come as no surprise as this is one of the most complex objects to ever leave this planet. It carries 7 scientific systems, refined down from nearly 60 proposals for what to put in the car sized rover. It also contains a total of 19 cameras and 2 microphones, so it can collect as much data as robotically possible from its surroundings. It is also capable of analysing many different kinds of radio waves and radiation to detect any signs of life on this otherwise bleak planet.

Over the course of its mission, the Perseverance rover should bring back lots of new knowledge about our next closest planet. Maybe we'll find that we're not alone after all?



Keeping Occupied In Lockdown

By Eleanor - Year 10

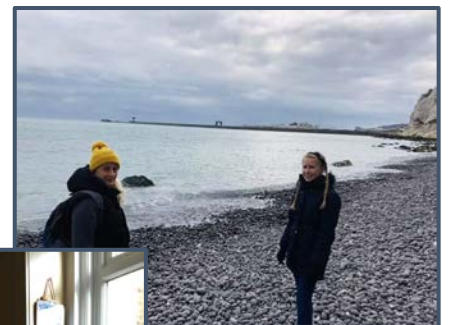
(Written January 2021)

For many, being in lockdown is a cause of stress, anxiety and boredom. YOU ARE NOT ALONE. Throughout the past year I have learned to value my time at school and picked up a few tips on how to stay motivated and occupied. I am going to share some of the things that have helped me in the time off of school.

1. Keeping a diary
2. Going for daily walks
3. Recording/Writing songs
4. Facetiming my friends
5. Online Dance/Music classes
6. Baking/Cooking
7. Emailing my teachers



Remember everyone, we are all in the same boat. If you are feeling nervous or worried, just email your teachers... they are here to help you! A useful website if you are feeling down - Kooth. This allows you to anonymously talk to councillors. Of course you could always email me/ text your friends, I am sure they will gladly help you. This whole experience has brought many challenges, but there is something good we can take from it. Together we have grown more resilient and learnt how to cope in these rough times. I'm sure we have all picked up a few new skills... if you haven't then you should try learning an instrument or practicing a foreign language!





Creative writing

By Faye - Year 8

Spring Will Come

Bunnies will hop across green fields,
Chicks will hatch from their eggshell shields.

Flowers will emerge and bloom from their beds,
All different colours; green, blue and red.

The days will lengthen, the cold will fade,
Children will intertwine daisies in their braids.

The sun will beam, warming Earth with its smile,
Watching us hunt for chocolate eggs, all the while.



Creative Writing Competitions

Do you love writing? Be it poetry or short stories, there is a competition out there for all of you budding writers, from all year groups. Here are just a few that Miss Holland found, but there are many more out there!

Creative writing competition for years 9,10 & 11.

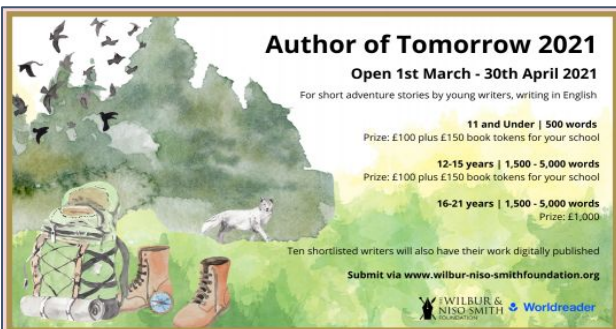
The brief is: The Green Light.

Deadline: 1st June 2021

Find out more: <https://web.trin.cam.ac.uk/litmus/>

<https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS3-4>

We already have a few students that have had their poetry work published in books from Young Writers... A big congratulations to those students!



Author of Tomorrow 2021
Open 1st March - 30th April 2021
For short adventure stories by young writers, writing in English

11 and Under 500 words	Prize: £100 plus £150 book tokens for your school
12-15 years 1,500 - 5,000 words	Prize: £100 plus £150 book tokens for your school
16-21 years 1,500 - 5,000 words	Prize: £1,000

Ten shortlisted writers will also have their work digitally published
Submit via www.wilbur-niso-smithfoundation.org

WILBUR & NISO SMITH FOUNDATION | Worldreader



HAPPY EASTER!

Poetry!

This competition has 3 different categories:
Spoken word

They are asking for videos of spoken poetry of up to 3 minutes long (from participants aged 16 or over)

Written word

They are asking for written poems of up to 500 words long (from participants aged 16 or over)

Growing word

This category is for written poems of up to 250 words long, from participants aged 11-15

Deadline: 9th April 2021

Find out more:

<https://www.poetryforgood.org.uk/>



School Sports News

It seems so long ago but we do have some sports news from events held this academic year.

Indoor athletics were held in school back in December 2020 in the sports hall. All the different year groups participated & the results were sent in to compete with schools across Kent. **DCGS results** were returned as:

Year 7 boys - 1st in Thanet, those results then also got compared to all participating Kent schools and they were **1st in Kent** also.

Year 7 girls - 1st in Thanet, those results then also got compared to all participating Kent schools and they were **1st in Kent** also.

Year 8 girls - 1st in Thanet schools, those results then also got compared to all participating Kent schools and they were **3rd in Kent**.

Year 8 boys - 2nd in Thanet schools, those results then also got compared to all participating Kent schools and they were **3rd in Kent**.

These are some **amazing** results and well done to every student who participated and had their results go forward.

Thanet schools Dance competition - Our Year 9 student came **2nd** in the virtual dance competition and this is when she had also been put up a key stage in error. She was incorrectly entered as our KS4 participant even though she is in KS3, so to achieve 2nd place in this competition is a fantastic achievement.

Thanet Try Angle Award for Year 9 Student

Ellis Dockherly is a true inspiration to his year group. Overcoming a rare form of bone cancer diagnosed in late 2019. Ellis rejoined his fellow pupils in September 2020, after nearly a year of intensive tests, investigations, chemotherapy and knee surgery.

Post surgery he excelled in both courage and determination to fight on and regain his strength, despite setbacks faced in the summer months of the damage to his heart that was caused by a chemotherapy drug, contracting covid & sepsis. But Ellis faced it head on as he had with all his other health problems without fear & with tenacity.

His initial outlook for treatment was just 6 months, going through cancer treatment at any time is scary enough without a pandemic to contend with and all the other complications Ellis faced.

I think everyone will agree that Ellis thoroughly deserved to be awarded the Thanet District Try Angle Award for Courage.

We are so glad to have Ellis back with us in school & the Chatter team wish to congratulate him on his well deserved award.

Ellis and 5 other members of his family including his Grandma & Grandad are all doing a 25km walk in London, past 16 London Bridges, to raise money for the charity **Click Sergeant**. that helped support him & his family during this difficult time. **To sponsor Ellis please visit**

https://uk.gofundme.com/ff9rxm-team-ellis?utm_medium=referral&utm_source=unknown&utm_campaign=comms_gfm+ff9rxm-team-ellis



I became 'we'

By Angel - Year 7

These last few months have been tough,
On every single one of us....

We lost those whom showed us so much love,
We also lost Donald trump! (YAY)
But even when our spirits were down
And gloom and misery were spreading round,
We gained something over these last few months,
Something that people had kept buried inside their hearts,

We found a sense of community,
We found a sense of kindness,
We found a sense of togetherness,
We found it in our hearts to gang up against coronavirus,
Over these last few months, I became we,

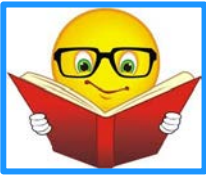
People helped their neighbours, their friends and even strangers,
This world what was once described as cruel begins to change its reputation,
Because over these last few months, I became we,
Selfish turned to selfless and I became we.

2020 had its losses, and 2021 will too,
But 2020 was also the year that I became we....
Over the last few months....
I became we.

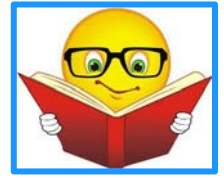




Carnegie Book Awards



Mrs Finlay



The Carnegie Shadowing Scheme

We are very excited to be part of the judging process once more for the Carnegie book awards, especially now that the shortlist has been announced. These are the books we will be reading and giving our opinions on:



We will be selecting books to read from the list for our year 7, 8 and 9 lunchtime book clubs - If you are a keen reader and would like to join in, or if you would like to help create our Carnegie Shadows website please come along to the book club (Tuesday week B for year 7, Tuesday week A for year 8 and Monday week A for year 9) - see you there!

eLibrary

It is wonderful to be able to say that we now have access to a fantastic e-library of ebooks from Wheelers eplatform - here is a reminder to the link where you can login:

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

Most of the Carnegie shortlist can be borrowed here, and there are new books added each month. You can customise your preferences for font size, spacing, colour and brightness to suit how you most enjoy reading or to help with dyslexia, and there is also a night reading mode .

Enjoy browsing for books - there are over 1000 to choose from - and happy reading to all of you!



Flotation Toy Warning Music Album Review

By Gabriel - Year 11

A brief review of Flotation Toy Warning - Bluffer's Guide to the Flight Deck.

Bluffer's Guide to the Flight Deck is an extremely difficult album to classify due to it refusing to stick to the conventional boundaries of genre. Sure, there are guitar solos and a few drum samples here and there, but there are also uses of opera and orchestration. Yet, throughout all of this diversity, sonically it remains consistent. These touches of experimentation are never sudden or jarring and they compliment the art rock sounds of the band, giving the album a wholly unique atmosphere.

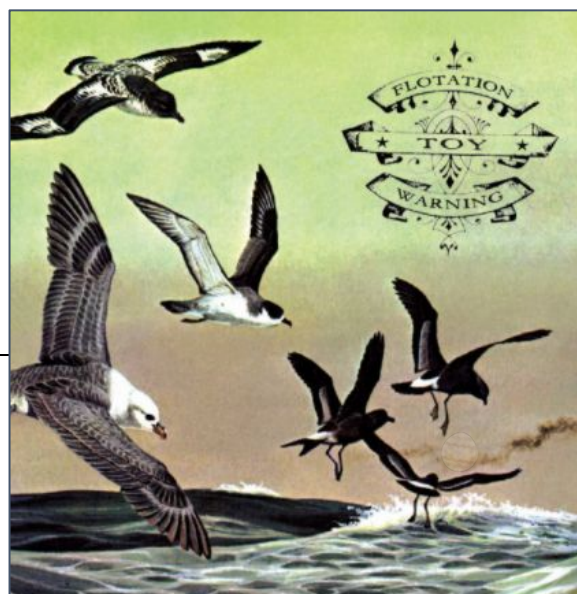
The lyrics throughout the album seem relatively simple, dealing with the concept of heartbreak often, but several themes are extended across several tracks which makes each line feel deliberate. Many lines dealing with cliché subjects are told comically and with household imagery, making the gargantuan subjects mentioned seem much more tangible.

A clear personal highlight is the album's 9 minute centrepiece, Donald Pleasance, due to it featuring the album's bluntest lyrics and the usage of a string quartet. The track's simplicity is its strongest asset because, no matter how many instruments are playing, it never feels overwhelming. The band never sounds out of place amongst all of the orchestration and in tracks without any brass or strings you can hardly notice that they're gone.

The album's climax, Even Fantastica, is another track of note. Everything previously stated is resolved with a hefty amount of cynicism and the themes from earlier tracks are concluded. The echoing of the word wonderful as the track comes to an end would be a great way to close the album's story, but it doesn't end.

What follows is the album's bleakest moment, Happiness is on the Outside. With only muffled vocals and a synthesiser, this 3 minute delivery delivers the most heart-wrenching vocal performance in the band's discography. The closing track, though not as distraught, doesn't tie up any loose ends and the album fades out without really finishing.

Bluffer's Guide is a unique album, with every imperfection adding to the album's charm. It doesn't try to innovate, and it doesn't try to break into the public eye. The story of the album is one of loneliness so its current position in pop culture seems somewhat fitting. A discarded magnum opus desperately trying to keep itself hidden.





Easter Cake Recipe

By Abigail & Sofia - Year 8

Ingredients

- 200g milk chocolate , broken into pieces
- 85g shredded wheat , crushed
- 2 x 100g bags mini chocolate eggs

You'll also need

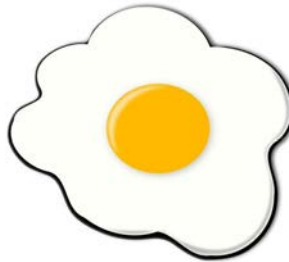
Cupcake cases

STEP 1

Melt the milk chocolate heat safe bowl placed over a pan of barely simmering water. Fold the chocolate into the shredded wheat and fold to combine.

STEP 2

Scoop the chocolate wheat into 12 cupcake cases and press the back of a teaspoon in the centre to create a nest. Place 3 different coloured chocolate eggs on top of each nest. Chill the nests in the fridge for 2 hrs until set then enjoy.



Japanese Cookery Competition

To encourage activity away from the screen during the school closure, Ms Myers our Japanese teacher in school decided to entice the students into the kitchen with a Japanese cookery competition.

There have been many fantastic entries so far and due to demand, the competition is now closing at the end of the Easter holidays on 18th April 2021. For fantastic recipe ideas and more details along with some more images of the entries so far please go to the competition google classroom (**Code - Inlbs4q**)

So what is stopping you 料理をしましょう

(Let's get cooking!!!)





Activists Charged by Hong Kong Authorities

By George - Year 8

Just for context, in June 2020 Chinese authorities imposed a very controversial national security law on Hong Kong during the heavily reported democracy protests, which was said to be in breach of the one country, two systems agreement formed between the UK and China in 1997. The contentious security law has now been used in the arrest of 55 activists and the charging of 47 of those arrested. They were charged with conspiring to commit subversion which, under this security law, if found guilty, could see them looking at a life sentence. For those unaware, subversion is “the act of trying to destroy or damage an established system or government” – Cambridge Dictionary.

On Monday 1st of March the charged activists had their first court appearances in bail hearings, which occurred within West Kowloon Magistrates’ Court, that ended on Thursday evening. It was said to be a few gruelling days in court, starting with the session on Monday which lasted for 13 hours and was only adjourned by the judge due to a defendant fainting. The defence brought up the issue of personal hygiene as, since reporting to the Police station, the defendants had not showered; as a result, the final hearing was delayed to allow this. In the group of the 47, only 15 were granted bail but, after receiving the verdicts, the Department of Justice immediately appealed the decisions. The 15 would have had to stay in custody for a maximum of 48 extra hours while the High Court heard the Justice Department’s appeal. Among those denied bail, all but 7 have lodged a review and so will return before Victor So (the Chief Magistrate at West Kowloon Magistrates’ Court) on Friday 12th March. For those not facing a bail review or appeal, the next hearing will occur on the 31st of May. The prosecution have previously said the Police need time in order to conduct further investigations.

As previously mentioned, they have been charged with conspiring to commit subversion, but why? And is it reasonable? The charges stem from quite unique circumstances. The accused helped to run an unofficial ‘primary’ election in June 2020 in order to select opposition candidates for the now postponed 2020 legislative elections. These elections managed to gain considerable popularity with 600,000 residents coming out to vote. That was said by Chinese and Hong Kong Authorities to be an attempt to overthrow the government and this belief held by the authorities led to the subversion charge.

This action taken by authorities in Hong Kong has caught the attention of the international community. It’s safe to say that governments and political organisations are outraged. Amnesty International described the detaining of the 55 as “the starkest demonstration yet of how the National Security Law has been weaponised to punish anyone who dares to challenge the establishment”. And Lao Cho Ming of Amnesty International Hong Kong said, “These prosecutions are an unprecedented attack on freedom of expression and association in Hong Kong, and the four-day hearing in gruelling conditions casts grave doubts over the fairness of this trial from the start.” The UK foreign minister, Dominic Raab, joined in by saying that the decision to bring charges against the 47 was a “deeply disturbing” step that violated the joint declaration that Beijing had reached with Britain before the former colony was handed back to China.





Hooray for me, I'm a massive nerd

The Ravenmeister - Year 11

So, the question on a lot of people's minds right now is "But what did you do during lockdown?" and variations thereupon. And for me at least, the answer is "I foolishly decided to rewatch Doctor Who because I like it, shut up, I don't need a reason." So, over the course of 43 days, I rewatched all 144 episodes of the show between Rose (2004) and Twice Upon A Time (2017). And here are some observations, because why not?

I like Doctor Who. Obvious one, but I haven't yet really said it. I genuinely enjoyed even the episodes I know are bad, and disliked very few.



The Twelfth Doctor is a very mixed bag. On reflection, he's probably my favourite so far, but God knows he gets some terrible episodes, and perhaps the worst arc.

Kill the Moon really is that bad. For the uninitiated, Kill the Moon is regarded as one of the worst episodes, and rightly so. This and The Woman Who Lived are the only ones I hated.



For such a 'Monster of the Week' show, I remember a lot of the monsters. Perhaps that's me, perhaps that's just good production, but they all have something fun.



Hooray for me, I'm a massive nerd

The Ravenmeister- Year 11

This show has some incredible writers that never get talked about. Mainly Jamie Mathieson, but Sarah Dollard's good, and Neil Gaiman is in all ways a dream come true.



Let's be honest, we kept Mark Gatiss because he's a good actor and friends with Moffat. God love him, but his episodes are very rarely any better than mediocre.

I really dislike Chris Chibnall's writing. I don't think any cares about me skipping his tenure as showrunner, and for good reason. I am struggling not to use expletives here.



The speeches. I love the speeches, they're great. Sometimes they're for regenerations, sometimes just the companion telling someone to go away, but I love them all.

Send-offs for writers are better than for Doctors. The End of Time is maybe Davies's best episode, and Moffat, Gatiss and Whithouse all leave at once, spectacularly.

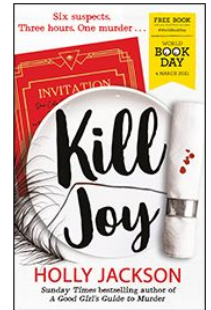
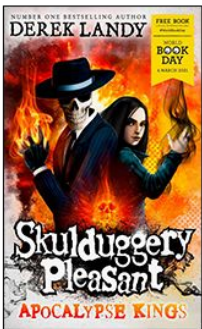
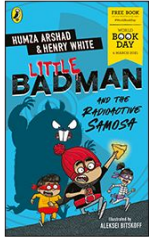




Library Update

Mrs Finlay

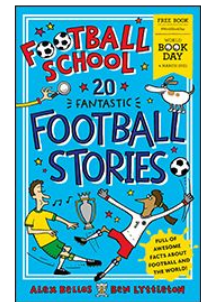
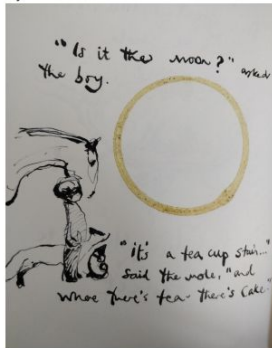
WORLD BOOK DAY



Hopefully by now you would have had a chance spend your World Book Day tokens The £1 books are on sale in supermarkets, but sadly this year you will not be able to browse the bookshops until they open again on April 12th (all being well).

TABLEAU COMPETITION

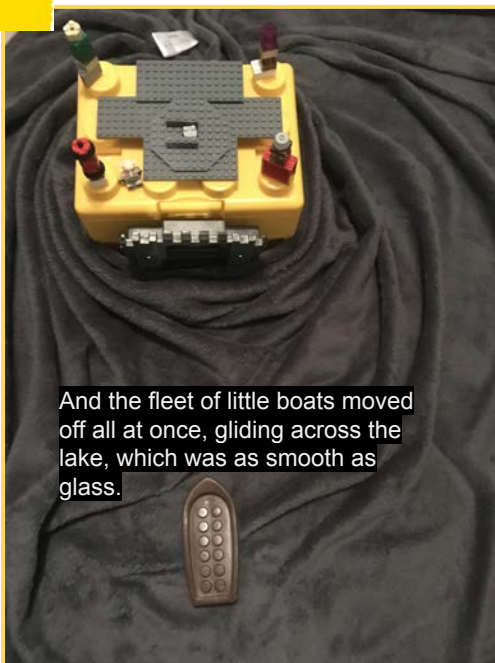
Mrs Finlay's attempt at a tableau from The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse



And here's Mr Wheeler's cat considering the chains he forged in life

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thank you to everyone who entered the World Book Day tableau competition. Here are a couple of favourites and the lucky winners - well done to Timothy K and Marth P in Year 7



And the fleet of little boats moved off all at once, gliding across the lake, which was as smooth as glass.





A Huge amount of merits for our DCGS Students!



Merits, Merits, Merits

Wow - well done for all you have achieved in your studies recently - a **massive** total of **1219 merits** were given out to our students during the last lockdown!

All of the teachers have been so impressed yet again with your dedication and hard work. You should all be incredibly proud of yourselves & what you have achieved.

As you may know there will be a merit prize draw during the last week of term, one for ks3 and one for ks4/5. **First prize for each draw is a £20 gift card.**

All those that have received merits during term 3 and term 4 will be entered into the draw. Good luck to you all for this draw.... Unfortunately there is not time to edit the winners into this edition.

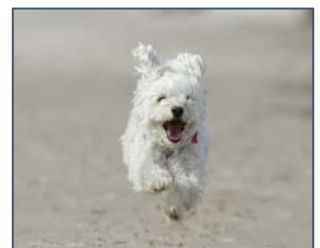
For a comparison across the six houses, the term 3 results table is below:

	Mean average number of merits per pupil
N	1.07
D	0.97
H	0.78
B	0.77
T	0.67
S	0.63



Neuchatel are presently in the lead, but as we all know this can change!

Farewell to Mrs Stivarius



(Not Betty but just as cute!)

The end of Term 3, back in February sadly saw the retirement of a fantastic teacher that will be greatly missed by all of Dane Court's students & staff.

Mrs Stivarius had worked at Dane Court Grammar School for more than a quarter of a century. During that time, she had taught English, Drama, Film Studies, PSHE and ICE. She is a great teacher - imaginative, caring and engaging. She was also a fantastic Head of Department, pastoral leader and Assistant Headteacher during her time at the school.

Over the last two and a half decades, thousands of students, parents, carers and colleagues have benefited from not only her teaching but her wisdom and guidance. Students wellbeing has always been at the heart of her work. Her loyalty to Dane Court students & her fellow colleagues shone through her continuous smile and will be missed in the corridors. Farewell Mrs Stivarius!