
Principal's Newsletter

6 May 2022

Dear Parents,

Our shortened week includes a number of experiences for our Year 9. Mrs Drew writes:

This week our Year 9 pupils completed a Skillsbuilder Start Up Success Challenge Day in school as part of Personal Development week. Working in teams, the pupils completed eight lessons and team tasks based around the essential skills of the Skillsbuilder programme: listening, speaking, creativity, aiming high, staying positive, problem solving, leadership and teamwork. With a budget of £25,000 the teams had to design a product, the merchandise, market the project and then pitch to gain £250,000 investment. The pupils worked so hard, and the ideas the teams created were fantastic; day one we had a super chair, a cheese festival and a new range of sportswear. Day two the teams all created their own festivals and we travelled around the world with cooking lessons, attended a Met Gala festival and tasted foods of the world with a song.

Year 9 pupils also undertook their Duke of Edinburgh expedition. On Wednesday I watched a group of pupils set off with waterproofed backpacks. Experiencing the great outdoors in this country means having a lot of rain gear, and they seemed relatively upbeat about the prospect of marching and navigating through drizzle.

On Thursday, pupils who were not on Duke of Edinburgh practices and expeditions had a careers based day in school, as Mrs Drew describes:

After a live talk from Investin, our work experience partner, on communication skills, the Year 9 pupils worked through some of the Skillsbuilder essential skills and discussed how they can work on their listening and problem-solving skills. The pupils then moved on to work online on our new careers platform, Careerpilot, where they created their skills profile and also looked at their future pathways. Youth Employment UK is another one of our careers partners and Year 9 looked at the importance of work experience from Year 10 onwards and also completed the Youth Voice Census 2022. After a fitness break we spent the afternoon in an apprenticeship workshop with Be More and then finished the day with some mindfulness and mental health support from the Lee Cooper Foundation.

Our Year 6 pupils start their SATs on Monday and examination season, a new experience for everyone facing them, is coming ever closer in the secondary phase. Some assessments

have already begun, revision sessions are furiously moving forward. There is a hush made by intense concentration in many lessons as pupils realize that this is actually happening. We are days away from the start of the fireworks.

Before the rain came, pupils enjoyed the developing poolhouse playground. The greenhouse is full, the planters full of flowers, the paths are surfaced. The place is really coming along thanks to the efforts of Ms Robinson and our estates staff. It is a true local effort: the poolhouse residents are beautifying our surroundings.

Raaga D (Y13) shared some beautiful photographs that she took of the school grounds.



The development of the campus includes a bright new library, refurbished after a generous donation. It is amazing what new illumination, furniture and floor covering does to a space. As one pupil commented to me: this looks like a proper new library.

Congratulations to Year 4 pupils who completed the English Speaking Board exams as part of their Personal Development Programme. Mrs Pease reports that all 84 pupils took part achieving Merits and higher, with 12 pupils gaining Distinctions.

This week's Artist of Week is Katie L (Y13) with "Masterpiece".



Katie writes:

I wanted to explore nature. As I interpret it, I see it as the world's greatest masterpiece. Nature is the very core to our entire existence, and we simply could not live without it. Trees give us the air we breathe, water allows us to produce the food we eat, and animals keep nature alive. Nature has brought so much life in the universe, and I incorporated this with portraiture as humans also share the same extraordinary ability to create life.

I met with Mr Harvey and his team at the LC Chronicle. These young journalists, storytellers and archivists asked me many questions about the history of our school. 100 years ago, the school was on its second campus at Lodge Lane. About 250 boys and 15 staff can be seen on photographs of the era. It is a far cry from today's College where the photography company who will take our school photograph in the next academic year will need a day to prepare seating, scaffolding and various constructions and tricks of technology to make it possible to photograph more than 1700.

May I wish you and yours a glorious weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal