

Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School

Newsletter

For all the very latest news log on to ccgrammarschool.co.uk

Message from the Headteacher

It has been a very busy and long two terms, for staff and students and many of the events and activities have been published via our Department Social Media feeds (Instagram). With that in mind we have decided that this will be our last formal Newsletter and from now on all our celebratory news will go out via Social Media platforms as they happen rather than a round up at the end of the term

Finally ... May I take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and good wishes over the past two terms, they have meant a great deal to both myself and to all the staff.

Therefore on behalf of all the staff at CCGS I want to send all parents, carers and students best wishes for the festive season, however you are spending it. I hope you all have a very peaceful Christmas and hope that 2025 is everything you hope for.

With very best wishes


Debra Liddicoat

Issue 38 - December 2024

- House Drama - Report from the annual competition
 - BEBRAS Competition
- Christmas Jumper Day - CCGS gets into the festive spirit
 - Bake Off - The tasty favourite's back again
- Geology A-level at CCGS
- PSHE - Helping young people stay healthy, safe and prepared for life
- Music Tour to Germany
 - Macbeth - A thrilling performance
 - Maths in Motion Club
- Reverse Advent - Thank you for your donations!
 - Does CCGS have a Microclimate?
- Sixth Form Debating Society
 - Year 11 Theatre Visit
- Year 10 Trip to the Panto - a roaring good time
- Old Ruyman Cricket Week
- Mathematical Olympiad for Girls 2024
- The End of Coal - A Christmas Future Powered by Renewables
- Médecins Sans Frontières – Doctors Without Borders
- Year 13 Spanish BFI Trip
 - Year 9 Tree Decorating
- Houselights Production Abigail - sells out within a week
- Senior UKMT Maths Challenge



Find us at:

 Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School

Follow us at:

 /ccgrammarschool

Follow us at:

  ccgrammarschoolramsgate

HOUSE DRAMA 2024 - "THOSE IN GLASS HOUSES"

Miss Burke, Mr. Such, and I, Mrs. Myhill, had such a great day back in November judging the House Drama. The atmosphere this year seemed particularly warm, especially in the afternoon... more on that later.

First up was Mann-Somerville with *The Blame Game*. Written by Merryn Pearse and Libby Field, and directed by Merryn, this production impressed us from the start with its strong opening. In fact, as soon as we were handed the professional programme (by Meredith Cloke), we were intrigued. The script had some nice touches of humour, and they had a large cast, with representation from all years. Libby had had to step into a major role only two days before the event, but you'd never have known. Rachel Patterson's performance as a senile great aunt had us all giggling. We particularly admired the sound and lighting, which were done by James Rowland-Hill and Joe Shelton.

Rothschild-Pearce performed next with *From the Screen to the Streets*. We loved the moral storyline; it was a really good, rounded idea, although the ending was a little weak. Their programme was... interesting, and it worked best if you stood on your head for half of it. But it made us smile. Maddy Bowes and Asa Faux-Bowyer were particularly good, and it was another large cast (many of whom were not credited in the programme). I think it was written by George Hall (though he was not in the programme).

Knight-Heath's play was, like last year, rather on the short side, but it had a good central idea and some well-thought-out teamwork. During their performance, a butterfly suddenly appeared, distracting both the cast and the audience, but they did really well to continue. Cody Flint and Hetty Pullen gave especially strong performances. Ryan Taylor wrote and directed their production.

Thomas-Sharman, who have won for the last two years, were last to perform, and they did not disappoint with their well-constructed offering, *I Know You*. Their opening set the scene with a touch of intrigue and mystery. The cast seemed to have the edge on timing, with moments of real humour shining through. They varied the action too, with dance and music. Matthew Gough and Apollo Stocker were outstanding, but all the performances were strong!

We deliberated, as usual, over lunch, and came back at 2:15 to announce the winners. At this time, only those who had participated were allowed in, and we were very impressed this year with how each House supported the others. It really moved me, as did the behaviour during the winning House's repeat performance afterward. It made me very proud to be part of the school, and Mr. Such and Miss Burke remarked on it too, which is even more important!

Congratulations to all involved, and thank you for such an enjoyable day at school.

Awards:

Best Programme	<i>Mann-Somerville - particularly loved the background</i>
Best Backstage	<i>James Rowland-Hill and Joe Shelton (Mann-Somerville)</i>
Best Supporting Junior Actor	<i>Cody Flint (Knight-Heath)</i>
Best Supporting Senior Actor	<i>Rachel Patterson (Mann-Somerville)</i>
Best Junior Actor	<i>Asa Faux-Bowyer (Rothschild-Pearce)</i>
Best Senior Actor	<i>Matthew Gough (Thomas-Sharman)</i>
Best Script	<i>George Hall (Rothschild-Pearce) - Clear moral and less confusing than some!</i>
Best Director	<i>Merryn Pearse (Mann-Somerville) - Excellent opening, largest cast, and clearly thought hard about not masking</i>

HOUSE DRAMA 2024 - "THOSE IN GLASS HOUSES"

Final Outcome:

1st	Thomas-Sharman
2nd	Mann-Somerville
3rd	Rothschild-Pearce
4th	Knight-Heath

Thank you, and congratulations to everyone who took part; it's always such a pleasure watching your performances. We are already looking forward to next year, when the theme will be "The Butterfly Effect..."





BEBRAS COMPETITION

All KS4 and KS5 students were entered for this year's national computational thinking challenge and we have once again achieved some great results both as a school and nationally this year from our computer science students.

A total of 15 students came within the top 10% in the country, and who will be invited to the next round. These are: Mac Yang, Joseph Hobley, Michael Gage, Lewis Anderson, Sebastian Stone, Samuel Martin, Jacob Grace, Esther Johnson, Oliver O'Dwyer, Jasmine Gibson, Logan Sandwell, Kit Perdeaux, George Saunders, Lilyanna Manning and Alfie Willis.

In the elite category (KS5) Mac Lang came 21st out of 15,084 nationally who took part, Sebastian Stone came 404th and Logan Sandwell came 807th in the country. Whilst in the seniors category (KS4), Joseph Hobley came 439th in the country out of 40,848 contestants, Michael Gage came 624th and Lewis Anderson came 1209th. A huge congratulations to everyone who took part.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Thank you to all the school community for your donations for Christmas Jumper Day. The mini bus was completely full!!

The picture below doesn't really give you a true sense to how much we collected, but there were bags and bags filled with tins, packets, toiletries etc.

The donations have now been delivered to Priory Sure Start Centre who were equally grateful to our school community for such generosity. Well done everyone!



CHRISTMAS BAKE-OFF

Yet again the students have outdone themselves in this year's Christmas Bake Off. The theme was Christmas films, thank you to all that came and cheered the students on, it means such a lot to the students as they do find it hard in the kitchen for 3 hours.

After the 3 hour competition our Judges spent over 25 minutes tasting and deciding on the final three:

1st	Phoebe Beasley 7RPG with her Elf breakfast cake
2nd	Kyle Robbins 7TSB with his Home Alone cake
3rd	Isobel 7MSG with her Snowman cake

After working so hard they enjoyed a little after party trying their creations as well as some snacks and Christmas music.

As you can see by the picture they were incredible. Please congratulate them, the rest of the entries are on our Instagram if you would like to see them.



GEOLOGY A-LEVEL at CCGS

The Science and Geography Departments at CCGS have teamed up to deliver an A-Level course in Geology from September 2024. We currently have a keen student body who have had a wonderful time learning to identify rocks, understanding the formation of fossils and how the learning of the early formation of the Solar System can give us big clues about the past. Since September, the students have engaged in a number of practical activities and on Monday 11th November they undertook their first day of fieldwork. On this day, the students went fossil hunting on the Folkestone foreshore, each going home with a goodie bag of various ammonite and bivalve fossils.



The students in Geology have had ample opportunities to turn the theory learnt in the classroom to practice through a variety of practical activities since September. These activities range from being able to correctly use equipment to identify minerals and characteristics in sedimentary rock, to modelling crustal deformation at plate boundaries, along with opportunities to practice their sketching skills.

The Geology A Level is a wonderful opportunity for students who have a keen interest in both Science and Geography. Alejandro says "Geology unlocks the natural world in front of our eyes, connecting it in ways I never could have imagined! Also, it totally rocks!". Sophia & Sophie say "Geology links to other A-Levels well and enhances your wider learning. I enjoy learning it and cannot wait to get to the dinosaur topic!".

Students in Year 11 who may be interested in studying Geology at A Level can obtain further information from Ms Cullen or Mrs Stoner. The grade requirements are 5 grade 6s at GCSE, including one grade 6 in Science. A GCSE in Geography is beneficial but not required.



PSHE at CCGS

This term in PSHE students in Year 7 and 8 have focused on friendship, family, bullying and identity. Year 9 have been considering social media and careers before then going on to study issues relating to racism, discrimination, the Equality Act and the Protected Characteristics which culminated in a written assessment on either the Equality Act and the Protected Characteristics or Racism and Discrimination. Safeguarding, the police and awareness of county lines have also been discussed with the Key Stage 3 groups. Year 9 also were given a talk on consent from the organisation 'Talk Consent' as part of their statutory RSHE provision.

Year 10 and 11 have been following a tutor programme which has included discussions around mental health and well-being, stress management, alcohol and drugs awareness and financial literacy.

The theme of the Year 12 and 13 PSHE provision since the beginning of the academic year has been safeguarding. Students have received a number of talks from the Child Centred Policing team where key messages relating to Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion, staying safe online have been reinforced. Students have also had input from the Child Centred Policing team on drugs and alcohol awareness. The PHSE coordinator and tutor team have delivered key messages on mental health and well-being alongside road safety and the perils of gambling. All of Year 12 were given a talk on consent from 'Talk consent' and key messages with respect to RSHE provisions have been reinforced with the student body.

MUSIC TOUR TO GERMANY

In July we took 42 students from our Senior Wind Band, Jazz Band and Advanced Vocal ensemble on tour to Germany, where they gave three concerts and visited waterfalls, historical towns and the theme park Europa Park. All had a fantastic time and can't wait for the next one!

For the first time ever we livestreamed our concerts on Instagram so that parents could watch from the UK! To see more photos of the trip please visit the music department social media sites on Instagram and X and follow us there.



MACBETH; A THRILLING PERFORMANCE

Mrs Gregory, Mrs Myhill, Mr Mayo and Mrs Cross took up our CCGS Shakespeare company to perform Macbeth at the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury on Monday 18th November 2024. And what a show it was! From the cast to our production team and our brilliant technicians, everyone pulled together and created something 'marvellous.' Mrs Gregory is leaving the write up to the professionals but would like to thank and commend everyone involved for their hard work in all the school rehearsals, the tech and dress rehearsals on the day, as well as the performance.

Thank you to the Drama team (Mr Smith, Mrs Cackett and Mr Potter) too for their support along the way. Pupils were all fantastic ambassadors for the school and Mrs Gregory is still receiving praise to pass on to pupils from people who saw the performance after a month has passed! So, thank you and well done all!



“SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES”

Macbeth
by Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School
at The Gulbenkian, 18/11/2024
appraised by Lisa Ors

It is my great pleasure to congratulate you, Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School, on your brilliant performance of Macbeth as part of Shakespeare Schools Festival this autumn. It was a joy to watch you shine on your performance night, and I'd like to spend some time now highlighting all the aspects of your production that I loved the most.

I loved your fantastic opening, which transported us to the dramatic and eerie heath. The ensemble created some wonderful movement, conjuring up the image of spiked brambles and ancient trees which captured the otherworldliness of the witches' domain. As a company, you developed an effective contrast between this mystical world and the human world. This was particularly powerful when the two elements collided, creating dynamic tension that enthralled your audience.

Your characters were well drawn, bringing the audience in to the their range of emotions and internal thoughts. In a play with complex intentions and relationships, your performances added great clarity to the story and it really felt like you had made their stories your own.

It was fantastic how you committed to the drama within the play. I especially loved the dramatic battle where Birnam Wood 'moves' to Dunsinane. As a company, you showed great movement skills and focus when performing the detailed choreography.

Your production was a real team effort and I'd like to commend your student technicians and production team who, between them, created and operated lighting, recorded sound, looked after props and handled live effects including your stage flats. Great job!

Congratulations on a dramatic and marvellous production of Macbeth from a energetic and confident team.

We are in awe of all your passion, hard work and creativity! What you have accomplished is something truly special, and we are already looking forward to reimagining Shakespeare with Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School again next year.

CHATHAM AND CLARENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



**“A DRAMATIC AND MARVELLOUS
PRODUCTION OF MACBETH FROM A
ENERGETIC AND CONFIDENT TEAM.”**

MATHS IN MOTION CLUB

Maths In Motion Club is open to all year groups in the school and we have a good mixture of girls and boys who regularly enjoy attending this weekly Wednesday lunchtime club.

The Club is an eye opener into the applications of Mathematics outside of the classroom. Pupils can work together or independently setting up a virtual car solving an optimisation problem. They then use a range of mathematics to do their pit team briefing measuring the track, working with scales and calculating the correct lap to do a stop depending on the weather.

CCGS have won various Racing Series Season National Races gaining a good reputation over the years including holding the status of being a Centre Of Excellence. The Club inspires pupils to enter the engineering field and is an impressive asset to include on a personal statement when applying to top Universities.



REVERSE ADVENT DONATIONS

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the Sixth Form students and staff who so generously contributed to our Reverse Advent for the Salvation Army Foodbank.

Your support has been overwhelming, and we are truly grateful for your kindness. Every donation helps those in need, and your efforts will make a significant impact this holiday season.

Thank you for coming together to make a difference in our community – your generosity is truly appreciated!



DOES CCGS HAVE A MICROCLIMATE

In the last week of November and the first week of December, 60 Year 7 students collected weather data from around the school site to investigate whether the school has its own microclimate. The students used a thermometer to collect temperature data and an anemometer to measure wind speed. Once the data was collected, they each set about constructing several graphs and analysing their data to determine whether there was evidence of a microclimate.

On both data collection days, it was proven that the school does, in fact, have a microclimate in comparison to the local area, with temperatures on average more than 3 degrees higher than the surroundings, and wind speeds lower. After analysing data from several different sites, the students concluded that the structure of the building provides a significant amount of shelter from the wind, particularly if it is coming from the West or Northwest. They believe the higher temperatures are caused by a combination of sheltered spaces and heat being given off by the building.

The students will go on to learn about the impacts of urban microclimates and ways they can be reduced.



SIXTH FORM DEBATING SOCIETY

We are delighted to report that participation in the Chatham & Clarendon Sixth Form Debating Society has been overwhelming with the quality of the debates in the Sixth Form on a Thursday lunchtime outstanding. The following topics have been debated:

- Whether statues celebrating controversial figures should remain.**
- Whether Socialism can combat climate change.**
- Thatcher's premiership and her legacy.**
- Trump's election.**
- The continued necessity of feminism.**

We hope that from this society a debating team can be established to compete with other schools as we progress through the academic year.

YEAR 10 TRIP TO THE PANTO

On Thursday 12th December, 45 fabulous Year 10 students embarked on an enchanted adventure to watch the fantastic pantomime of Beauty and the Beast at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury.

This fairy-tale extravaganza lived up to its promise to be packed full of comedy, colour, and chaos. From the laughter to the magical moments, everyone had an unforgettable time.



YEAR 11 THEATRE VISIT

Year 11 have had a fantastic opportunity to visit the Old Vic Theatre in London this term, to watch A Christmas Carol, with, none other than John Sims (Dr Who) as Scrooge! The students were so well behaved and really impressed with their theatre etiquette.

From the coach ride to the chaos of finding seats our CCGS students did us proud.

OLD RUYMIAN CRICKET WEEK

The Old Ruyman Cricket Week, held in the second week of August, was a fantastic celebration of cricket, camaraderie, and the enduring spirit of Chatham House. For the first time in nearly 20 years, the event had a full fixture list, with 32 players aged 15 to 69 taking part. The week brought together Old Ruymians from many generations to play on the Chatham House site, enjoying competitive matches and plenty of socialising under sunny skies.

The week kicked off with a match against Nelson CC, where the strong bond between the two sides was evident. This was followed by wins over Thanet Wanderers RUFC, London Strollers, and the XL Club. A standout moment was a thrilling victory against the XL Club, where the ORs chased down 222 with just two balls to spare. The final match against Alexandra Park CC saw a superb individual performance from Craig Alder, who helped the ORs to a 6-wicket win.

Special thanks go to Clive Bowden, the long-time groundsman, whose efforts ensured great playing conditions, as well as to the school staff for their invaluable support throughout the week. The event was expertly organised by Senura Ratiyala, whose hard work ensured a smooth and memorable week for all involved. The presence of cricket legend Tommy Thomas, a retired teacher, added a nostalgic touch, reminding everyone of the rich history of Chatham House cricket.

Overall, the 2024 Old Ruyman Cricket Week was a resounding success, bringing together alumni, creating new memories, and reinforcing the strong ties that bind the OR community. We look forward to more exciting cricket weeks in the years to come!



MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD for GIRLS 2024

Delaena Debre, Emily Ford, Emilia Kalnikaite and Imogen Savage from Year 12 took part in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls. This is a 2.5 hour challenging test comprising 5 problems requiring full written solutions and proofs.

Well done to these ambitious mathematicians who worked with amazing focus and speed on these difficult problems. Imogen and Delaena achieved a joint first place in school and secured a certificate of merit. Congratulations!



THE END OF COAL

The following is an extract from the CCGS Christmas edition of the Lab Report:

We all know coal to be the gift you get from Santa Claus if you've misbehaved. But what is it? And will Santa find a new resource as the world moves away from using coal?

Coal has been a vital means of powering the world for centuries – the first coal mine opened around 3,000 years ago in China. In 2022, eight billion tons of coal was combusted worldwide for electricity, steel plants, and cement works. But it is running out. Coal is a natural resource, forming when plants die and sink to the bottom of the swamp, becoming buried and turning into peat. The pressure and depth heats and compacts the plants, causing them to undergo a process called diagenesis, where they become lignite. Over time, as the lignite is heated and compacted more, it becomes bituminous coal and then the best type of coal, anthracite. Because of what it is made of and how long it takes to form, coal is a fossil fuel and a finite resource.

The stores we have of coal in the world are hugely depleted, so some governments are looking for other ways to power their country. The United Kingdom very recently closed its last coal plant, situated in Ratcliffe-on-Soar, on the 30th of September 2024, joining 11 other countries such as Iceland and Norway in becoming coal-free. We now aim for clean power by 2030, using only renewables such as wind power, solar power, or even bioenergy. Over the last 12 years in the UK, coal has gone from powering 40% of the country to nothing, whereas renewables rose by 28%.

So, when you open your stocking on Christmas day this year, you might find a solar panel or a collection of fresh leaves to power your house in place of some lumps of coal. - **Clove Gater**

MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES – DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

On Monday 16th December, all students in KS4 and KS5 were invited to join an online talk from Médecins Sans Frontières, organised by the Langton Language Centre. Mark, a clinical pharmacist, shared insights into his work in the Democratic Republic of Congo and explained how his GCSE French opened doors for him in this field. He captivated us with stories of the life-changing work he has been involved in across Central Africa.

Médecins Sans Frontières operates worldwide, providing emergency medical aid to those affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural disasters, and exclusion from healthcare. Their team is not only made up of doctors but also includes professionals in marketing, fundraising, social media, logistics, engineering, and many other fields. Mark emphasised the importance of having a basic knowledge of a foreign language to do this work effectively and to show respect for the people you are working with.



YEAR 13 BFI TRIP

On 5th December, Year 13 A Level Spanish students travelled to the BFI to attend an A Level study day, alongside hundreds of other sixth-form students. The focus of the day was on the film *El laberinto del fauno* (Pan's Labyrinth), which is part of the A Level course. The students spent the day attending lectures in Spanish from lecturers from the University of Bristol and Royal Holloway University. There was also time for discussions and the opportunity to watch the film again on the big screen at the BFI.

TREE DECORATING

Our Year 9 Front Bench students decorated a 'House' tree as part of the St Georges Church Christmas Tree Festival. The church is looking amazing with lots of trees decorated by the local community. The Festival is running until the 23rd of December, with doors open from 2-5 pm .



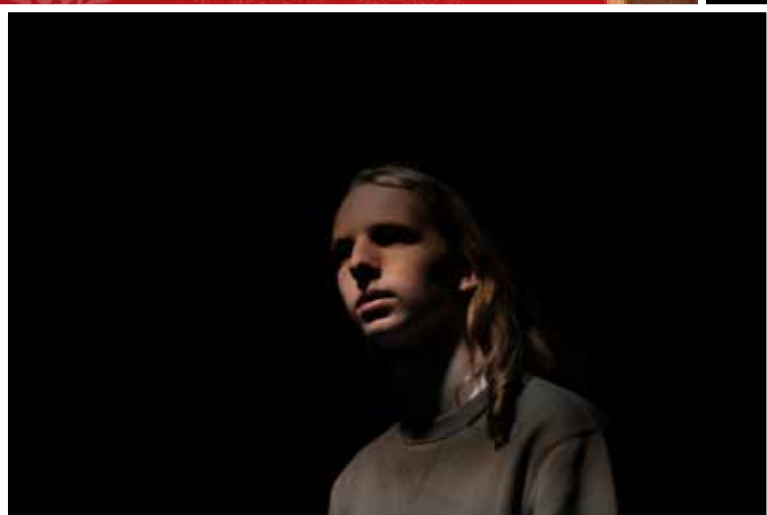
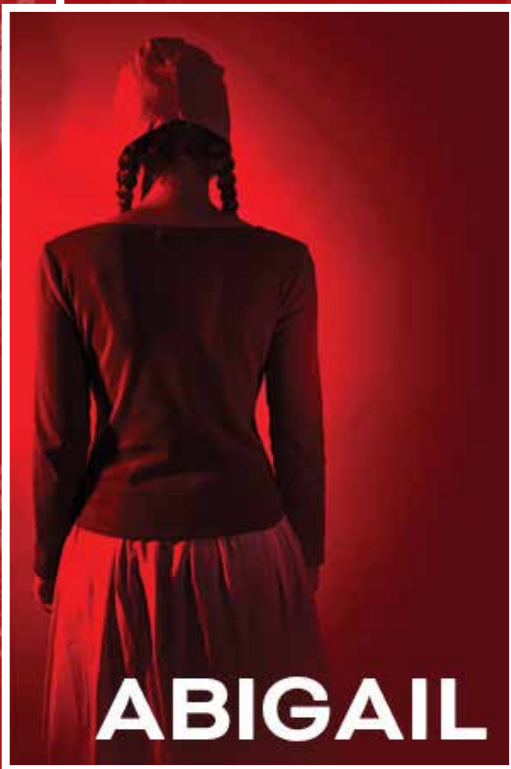
HOUSELIGHTS PRODUCTION - ABIGAIL

December saw HOUSELIGHTS first performance of this academic year ABIGAIL, a new piece inspired by and including scenes from Arthur Miller's The Crucible.

Directed by Meredith Cloke and assisted by Kye Bell and Saskia Howard, ABIGAIL takes Miller's seminal play and approaches it from the perspective of young Abigail Williams. The play was devised and developed by the HOUSELIGHTS ensemble and featured an ensemble of 18 performers lead by the excellent Maddy Sales in the titular role.

Mr Smith said 'This has been the first time I've completely let go of the strings on a HOUSELIGHTS production and we've seen so many new faces joining us this year with an equal number of students working behind the scenes. They have not held back, from their ambitious set design to an amazing original music score written and performed by our team of musicians. So many people involved, in fact, that the program was almost thicker than the script!'

The show took place in the intimate CCVI Studio to two sell out crowds. Though HOUSELIGHTS is traditionally a KS5 troupe this performance saw early debuts for Laura Douglas (Year 11) and Ellie Hallett (Year 10). The next HOUSELIGHTS production will be 'The Brain Play' as part of the National Youth Theatre's CONNECTIONS festival in the Spring. Follow @ccgsdrama and @ccgshouselights for regular updates.



SENIOR UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE 2024

Over 130 of our mathematicians in Year 12 and 13 with a selected few from Year 10 and 11 took part in the Senior UKMT maths challenge. They completed a set of 25 demanding maths questions using their excellent problem-solving skills and understanding of geometry and algebra.

We had an amazing set of results with 7 gold, 16 silver and 57 bronze certificates awarded in this national competition. Well done to all of our students taking part, we are so proud of your achievements!

Gold certificates:

Fletcher Greenan, Jay Yeung, Zaki Richards, Sam Thompson, Mac Yang, Joseph Hobley, Sebastian Stone

Silver certificates:

Filip Grigoras, Ashwin Muralitharan, Henry Cleverdon, Kian Price, Lucy Tuffs, Augustas Kalnikas, Joshua Prentis, Austin Brown, James Murdoch, Leon Lee, Charlie Bishop, Luke Nash, Charlie Page, Jude Green, Thomas Andrew, Coco Chen

Bronze certificate:

Kayden Costin, Aminah Hossain, Samiksha Mohanaram, Harry Harrison, Erin Newbold, Imogen Savage, Ronnie Watts, Freya Mooney, Polly Cooke, Keir Mcvey Henry Thomson, Ruby Beasley, Corban Grottick, Thomas Jones, Alfie White, Natalia Kolodziejczyk, April McGowan, Deividas Pakulis, Delaena Debre, Ewan Foreman, Emilia Kalnikalte, Kyle Dunn, Jazouli El Jazouli, Rebecca Kemp, Isabelle Kinsey, Oliver Yoofoo, Jemima Topping, Harry Howse, Milo Burch, Oliver Davies, Tammy Falaiye, Nina Honey, Samuel Johnson, Renuga Rasiah, Ella Brooks, Arnie Butkus, Ron Zaki, Lewis Gore, Lizzie Laffey, George Hall, Harry O'Neill, Oasis Smith, Namish Jain, Maya Shakeshaft, Cody Smith, Jem Harris, Logan Jenkins, Max Dinley, Milo Dodson, Harriet Tyman, Jack Atkins, William Groombridge, Charlie Lastella, Samuel Pearson, Frank Broadbent, Hayden Gittins, Elijah Moir


Sebastian, Jay, Joseph H, Fletcher and Zaki made it to the follow on round called Senior Kangaroo where Zaki achieved a Merit!

Mac Yang scored so high that he was invited to the prestigious British Mathematical Olympiad. He sat a 3.5 hour, wonderfully challenging maths paper and we are still awaiting results.



© 2024 Chatham & Clarendon Grammar

Find us at:

 Chatham & Clarendon
Grammar School

Follow us at:

 /ccgrammarschool

Follow us at:

  ccgrammarschoolramsgate