



CHATHAM & CLARENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Newsletter

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Messages from the Headteacher

The summer holidays are upon us and I cannot believe how quickly the year has passed! I hope your sons and daughters have had a happy and successful year and are ready to face the challenges of the next year, whether that be starting GCSE courses or continuing on to A Level courses or going on to other 6th form or further education providers.

We have had a packed year of trips and activities put on for our young people, from sporting fixtures, concerts, school productions, and school trips. This all culminated last week in our activities week for Years 7-9. I hope your children enjoyed the activities and trips put on for them last week, they take a lot of work and planning and place a lot of responsibility on staff shoulders. I was particularly impressed with the Year 7 students who spent the day on Wednesday learning British Sign Language, culminating with them signing the song, 'A Million Dreams'. Many of the activities have been posted on our social media feeds.

I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the staff at the school, who work hard to support our/your children in their endeavours ensuring and encouraging students to be the best that they can be. They give their time both in school, out of school hours and at weekends to make sure your children not only achieve academically but to offer those activities that extend and enrich our curriculum, some of which would not happen if staff were not prepared to give their time, like the CCF, D of E, school productions and music concerts, sports competitions and matches. This has been another challenging year, with the recruitment of qualified specialist staff an ongoing issue, which has meant staff stepping in to fill staffing gaps, taking on extra classes and consequently extra work. I therefore applaud the staff in facing up to all the challenges with good humour and a determination to do the best by our/your children. I am fortunate to have colleagues who work together to model the sense of community which pervades throughout our school, I value their hard work, their professionalism and their friendship.

Debra Liddicoat
Headteacher

Issue 37 - July 2024

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Duke of Edinburgh Award – 2023/24

Another year has gone and another two cohorts of brilliant students have passed through the Duke of Edinburgh Award here at Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School. The award has continued to grow from strength to strength as we have continued to offer both Bronze and Silver levels, seeing our biggest Bronze cohort yet and another successful cohort of Silver students. This was in large part due to the kindness and generosity of parents, guardians, colleagues and friends of the school who, after a plea from myself, had responded with generous donations of rucksacks, roll-mats, sleeping bags and hiking boots. With our store cupboards brimming with spare pieces of equipment, no future student who does not have access to these pieces of equipment will be prevented from taking part in the award for years to come.

Students have continued to attend weekly training sessions after school, learning valuable life skills such as how to pitch and pack away a tent, cook a hot and nutritious meal on a Trangia stove and lifesaving first aid skills. As well as this, the students have continued to hone their map work skills, efficiently planning a two or three day expedition (for Bronze or Silver level respectively), which would then be walked by the students independently and without teacher supervision. Students not only have to do this once, but twice, a Practice and an Assessed!

As our Bronze cohort has continued to grow, even from its impressive numbers from last year, we again split them across 4 expeditions. A grand total of 75 Bronze DofE students carried out their expeditions, camping at Ross Wood Scout Campsite for the Practice in April/May and Hamlet Wood Scout Campsite for the Assessed in June.

With the Practices kicking off the season, all students were budding with excitement in the minibus as they arrived at the campsite in Ross Wood. As with all new experiences, the Practice expeditions continued to be a harsh learning curve for most and highlighted why we practice these skills and events. However, students demonstrated remarkable resilience, all whilst carrying everything they needed, with their adaptability and determination shining through. They all successfully navigated the two days of walking and a night of camping with the famous wolf enclosure at Wildwood next door! Despite some groups not taking to it as quickly as others, all groups were reminded of the nature of the Practice expeditions, progress over perfection.

The Assessed expeditions soon came round and with some of the hottest and haziest days on record (which says a lot about our British Summer now), both groups of students were again bouncing with enthusiasm, ready to kick on with their experiences and honed skills. It was pleasing to see that most groups' perseverance had paid off, and of all the groups which had passed, the ability of them had improved drastically, with some showing competency to push onto Silver already. Overall, the expeditions were a resounding success.

Moving on to the Silver award, again the cohort grew from last year and a total of 45 students signed up for the challenge. The Silver expeditions took place in April for the Practice and June for the Assessed and whilst the framework is the same, the Silver award is a touch different to Bronze. The students are out walking for an extra day and camping for an extra night, exploring for seven hours a day as opposed to six hours at Bronze. As before, it was pleasing to see so many students in Year 10 and 12 sign up after completing their Bronze award and strive for a new challenge. In addition, it was fantastic to see so many new students sign up as direct entrants after hearing about their friends Bronze experience had gone in the previous years.



Duke of Edinburgh Award – 2023/24 continued...

Much like last year, with the vast majority of students having some experience from the previous years at Bronze level, the Silver expeditions appeared to go a touch smoother. In addition to this, the weather was not as appalling as last year which always lifts moods and improves energy levels. All students rallied together for six days of 'torturous' walking and despite a range of experiences, all students excelled through both the Practice (Hope Hill – Meopham) and the Assessed (Adamswell – Royal Tonbridge Wells) with great success. At the end of the Assessed Expedition in June, and I say this every year to every cohort, I could not have been prouder of our students for persevering and getting through it – not one of them voiced concerns or a desire to quit!

Despite common misconceptions, the DofE isn't all about walking, camping and cooking! All students at both Bronze and Silver level have to complete three other sections over 3-12 months, depending on preference and experience. These include a Volunteering section (e.g. coaching, youth leading, helping in a charity shop, litter picking or tutoring), a Physical section (e.g. rugby, orienteering, dance, climbing, badminton, sailing, tae-kwon-do, cycling, swimming or horse riding) and finally a Skill section (e.g. drawing, cooking, playing an instrument, learning a language, life skills, sports officiating or photography). Students upload evidence of these activities onto the online website called eDofE.

Looking forward to next year, we will be opening applications to the Bronze and Silver awards for the 2024/2025 year during Term 1. This will be open to current Year 8 students for Bronze and current Year 9-12 students for Silver. Like previous years, it will be on a first come first served basis so make sure you check your emails!

Finally, I would like to continue to thank my incredible DofE Team for their continued support whom, without them, I would not be able to run the award and offer this wonderful experience to so many of our deserving students. Thank you, Mr Mayo, for all that you do, all year round, attending all six expeditions, teaching during every training session and being there in the background throughout the year. Thank you to Mrs Morgan for stepping in and covering all but one expedition and helping us sort out and pack away all the equipment at the end of the year. Thank you to Mrs Stoner for advertising and promoting the award throughout the year and assisting with expeditions and assessor reports. Thank you, Mr Dudley, for your continued support as our Verifier and signing off our awards. Thank you, Mr Gibbons, Shem and Chris, as all three of you stepped in to be a fourth body during all the expeditions at times. Thank you to Mr Cooper, Mrs Cullen, Mr Adelsberg and Mr Brewin for driving minibuses for us and getting from A to B. Finally, thank you to the reception staff, admin staff, first aid staff and site staff who have all helped distribute forms, help finance the award and keep all the students safe.

But, as ever, the biggest praise should go to all the students who take part! You have all continued to be exceptional throughout and it is your sense of humour, determination, skillset and characters which make running the award worthwhile. I truly hope you have made lifelong memories this year and got some enjoyment from it along the way, but also that you push on with it through to Silver or Gold outside of school!

Just remember, if it was easy, everyone would do it.

Mr Topping
Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager

Primary Maths Challenge Regional competition at CCGS 2024

Seventeen primary schools across Thanet each sent a team of four top Year 5 mathematicians to represent them at the UKMT Maths Challenge, organised by Mrs. Shuttle from the CCGS Maths Department. The teams, consisting of enthusiastic problem solvers, collaborated on four diverse challenges: a logic puzzle, group round, shuttle round, and the big maths relay.

It was inspiring to watch these young mathematicians work with such enthusiasm and speed. Many teams celebrated victories in individual rounds, but a special congratulations goes to Cliftonville Primary School for securing the overall victory and winning the Maths Challenge Cup 2024!



Round winners

Round 1 - St Gregory's Catholic Primary

Round 2 - Minster Church of England Primary

Round 3 - St George's Church of England Foundation Primary

Round 4 - Ramsgate Holy Trinity Church of England Primary

Well done to all the teams who participated - you made your primary schools proud!



Year 8 Maths Challenge day 2024

Our Year 8 boys had plenty of maths fun competing in teams of four during our maths challenge day. They took part in five rounds including group round, cross number, mini relay and big relay and also a practical pi challenge, requiring students to work together as a team under time pressure. There was also some intense running in the big relay, well done to all the winners!



A big thank you to our Year 11 (our brand new sixth-formers) who took time out of their summer holiday to help out, we could not run the day without them!

Year 8 Maths Challenge day 2024 continued

A selection of feedback from the first day shows how much our students enjoyed it.

"Today was really fun, I enjoyed doing all the competitive activities, the big relay was definitely the best for me as I got to sprint to the sixth-former and dodge objects which was fun" Adsayan

"The maths day was really good, I loved how it was planned and set out and overall it was an amazing day. My favourite part was the big relay." Lucas

"My favourite part was the pi chain competition, it was very challenging but fun." Tom

"I liked colour coding the paper pi chain to the digits of pi (a pi-per chain)" James

"Today was a really fun day. My favourite part was the making of the paper chains as the result was great! I also enjoyed the large relay loads." Leo



On the second day our Year 8 girls spent the day competing in small groups in a series of five rounds, ranging from group round, cross number to two different relays and a practical pi paper chain round. It was great to see the team work, competitive spirit throughout the day and the fast running during relay. Congratulations to the many teams that won a prize for a round or the overall prize! Our sixth-formers were a wonderful help again and looked after their teams brilliantly.



Year 8 Maths Challenge day 2024 continued

A selection of feedback from the students at the end of the day:

"Today was fun, I enjoyed the big relay because it was challenging and tense but it got us moving around and was fun. It was better than normal maths."

" I think today was very fun, definitely my favourite day of the week. I loved meeting the sixth-former, that was great."

"Today was fun, I liked the relay where we had to run. I liked our sixth-former, he was fun. All the activities with our sixth-former were the best."

"I think today was very fun. My favourite part of the day was the massive relay and meeting the very nice sixth-former."



Five of our mathematicians in Year 8 were selected for the follow-on round, Junior Kangaroo- a very challenging national maths competition. Three of them were awarded a Merit for their excellent work. Congratulations to Oliver, Jacob, Ethan, Kelvin and Leon.

Maths Minigolf trips

Over three days our Year 7 visited Lost Island Adventure Minigolf in Margate, the trips went very well. Our mathematicians had a great time collecting data playing mini-golf in Margate. They will use their scores to practise analysing data and complete their statistics projects in their maths lessons.



UKMT Junior maths challenge 2024

Our students have taken part in this national maths competition for the brightest mathematicians in Year 7 and 8. This year we had an amazing 10 Gold certificates, 23 Silvers and 40 Bronze certificates.

Well done to all the students who took part and we hope you enjoyed this wonderful problem solving!

Congratulations to...

Gold certificates:

Ethan J, Oliver Adams, Jacob Brazier, Kelvin Ni, Leon Vig, Isobelle Pepper, Dylan Graham, Alexa Cole, Kai Whiteing, Adsayan Sarvanantharajah

Silver Certificates:

Jackey Chen, Alex Tran, Hugo Polden, Kamsavy Jegatheesh, Stanley Whitmarsh-Hart, Harry S, Micah Barfoot, Joel Pibworth, Connor Collins, Sonny Cunningham, Zachariah Robbins-Wallace, Freddie Walker, Amelia D, Edward Owen, Olivia Dilkes, Jake Isaacs, Elliott Martin, Freya Stevens, Poppy Forge, Sofia Popa, Daniel Sojczynski, Riley Kavanagh, Gi Gi Lin

Bronze Certificates:

Amelia Gilkerson, Abigail H, Braiden Hykaj, Rupert Russell, Tharmithan Sarvanantharajah, Levi Debling, Brooke Golden, Jack Taft, Joshua Eve, Faye Dalton, Nadia Slon, Jack Appleford, Jasmine Counter, Kirill Franklin, Benedict Horsley, Skye Patel, Jamie B, Milo Demetriou, Layla G, Annika Yallop, Aislinn B, Isabella Walkom, Freya Johnson, Gabriel Sojczynski, Bella Mayo, Jenson Carter, Oliver Bloomfield, Mason C, Emma Shaw, Noah Stevens, Templeton Wescomb, Gerry Butkus, Theodore Griffin, Noah Grosvenor Dodge, Isabella Hill, Julia Pierozek, Mia S, Jack Tuffs, Alexis Warren, Ali Hashimi



Students perform in National Theatre Festival!

On Wednesday 8 May, students from Year 10 HOUSELIGHTS 'lite' performed at the Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury, as part of the National Theatre's CONNECTIONS festival.

The CONNECTIONS festival is an opportunity for young people across the country to take part in live theatre supported by theatre professionals and technicians. It is open to any youth group including schools and drama clubs. A few selected centres are then invited to take part in the festival supported by a regional theatre. The best of the best are then invited to perform at the National Theatre itself.

The project began in the Autumn when Miss Cross took part in some introductory workshops at the National Theatre and was allocated a play from one of six new emerging playwrights - 'Kiss/Marry/Push Off Cliff' by Josh Azouz. This was possibly one of the most challenging of the plays featuring a talking dog, panther and psychedelic moth. It also tackled more mature themes than the other plays.

After students had taken part in some exploratory physical theatre workshops, Mrs Cackett picked up the reins, hot off the back of a successful production of Wizard of Oz.

Mrs Cackett said 'We were up against it a bit because there wasn't much time between the live school performance and the performance at the Gulbenkian, but I can't fault the attitude and effort of our cast. They have been so passionate about this project and some real stars have emerged as a result, but I don't want to single out anyone in particular because they have been so supportive of each other as group and they have been possibly one of the nicest ensembles I've had the pleasure to work with.'

'I have to say the day at the Gulbenkian was a real highlight, and such a treat for the cast. They got to spend the morning with the team from Pappy Theatre and that alone was a pleasure to witness - our students were so receptive and engaged and every last one of them had a huge smile on their face. It was great.'



Students perform in National Theatre Festival continued...

'After lunch we then had a chance to work with the Gulbenkian's technical team, who were put through their paces by one of our students, James Rowland Hill, who absolutely revelled in the opportunity to experiment with the Gulbenkian's full technical rig and ran the lights and sound for the show by himself. That left me free to work with the cast and run through a few scenes before the dress rehearsal. This was a little nerve wracking as we were under the watchful eye of one of the National Theatre's Youth Directors and the Gulbenkian's Youth Director, but they were so nice about our students and so supportive.

'I'm so happy for the cast, the final performance was their best one yet. They all really raised the bar and this has been such a valuable learning experience for them. It will have done their confidence such a boost and it's such an honour to have been able to be part of the National Theatre's CONNECTIONS festival for the first time.'

Mr Smith said 'A sensational day, really great to see our students taking part and to hear so much positive feedback from everyone at the Gulbenkian and Pappy Theatre. They were really welcoming and said they hoped we'd take part again next year - which is always nice to hear. Oh, and the cherry on the top, we beat our partner school at Giant Jenga during the lunch break... never has a game of Jenga been SO tense!'

'Lastly, thanks once again to all the support staff and teaching colleagues who helped to make this possible - from trip paperwork, first aid reports, mini-bus drivers, rehearsal mentors and beyond - there were 18 students involved in this project and at least 14 staff behind the scenes which I think people don't realise. We're so fortunate to work in such a supportive and collaborative school. Thanks guys, and once again huge congratulations to our fabulous Year 10 cast on a job well done!!

Mr Smith



Sports Day

A huge thank you to everyone that helped with the two days of sports day. This year, the British summer tried to intervene, but we persevered and succeeded!

Thank you to the PE Department and everyone else that helped make it happen with special thanks to IT support, Mr Gibbons with the sound, staff in general with 'crowd' control, form tutors, Heads of House for chasing teams and especially to those that stayed to clear up at the end!

The results are: 1st RP, 2nd TS, 3rd KH, 4th MS

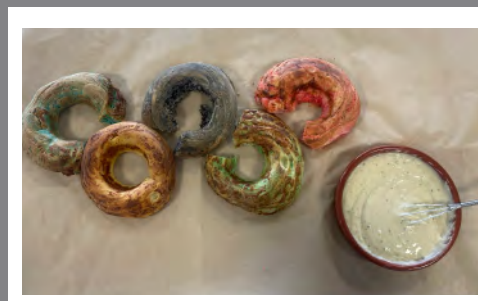


Sports Day Bake off

I would like to congratulate all the students that took part and tried so hard. It is not easy to cook for three hours without any help. The theme for this year was Paris Olympics and all students did so well. The results are as follows:

1st place was Lucas Foreman 8TSb with Triple Cheese and Pear flavoured bread with a French dipping Cheese sauce.

2nd was Cian Young 9TSb, 3rd place went to Ethan Cobley 9RPb, with 4th place going to Jessica Ashman 8RPg, 5th was Keagan Gray 7KHb, and in 6th place Marissa Waddington 8KHg



Thank you to Mrs Liddicoat for judging and as you can see from the photo, the dish Lucas created was clearly delicious. Congratulations to all who took - every one of them was a winner one way or another!

Message from one of our head students

“Hi everyone, I’m Charlie Hayman and I’m proud to be one of the Head Students here at CCGS. Firstly, I must start by saying what a year it’s been! With the first half of my sixth form experience already coming to an end, there is an air of anticipation for what the next chapter will hold, as I am sure there will be with many of you.

As Head Student, I want to make sure every voice is heard, and every achievement is celebrated across all areas of school life. As someone who has a passion for sports, and in particular rugby, it is always amazing to see the support of students at our senior rugby games (which will be starting in September). However, whether you are interested in sports, creative arts or any other activity, I hope that we can create an environment where all students can boost each other and acknowledge successes.

Nevertheless, as for the moment, I wish all of you a relaxing summer holidays (to try to forget about the euros) and I look forward to hearing everyone’s ideas on how to make this school even better in September.”



Industrial Cadets 2023-24

Seven Year 12 students - Charlie Bishop, Charlie Lastella, Katie March, Logan Jenkins, Regan Newman-Collins, Thomas Andrews, and Mo Mirza, participated in the Industrial Cadets this academic year. They chose to research, design, and produce a low-cost robotic arm for applications in bomb disposal. They were ably assisted by Mason, their tutor from BAE systems, Mr. Brewin, Head of DT department and Miss Jebbett, Head of Year 12s.

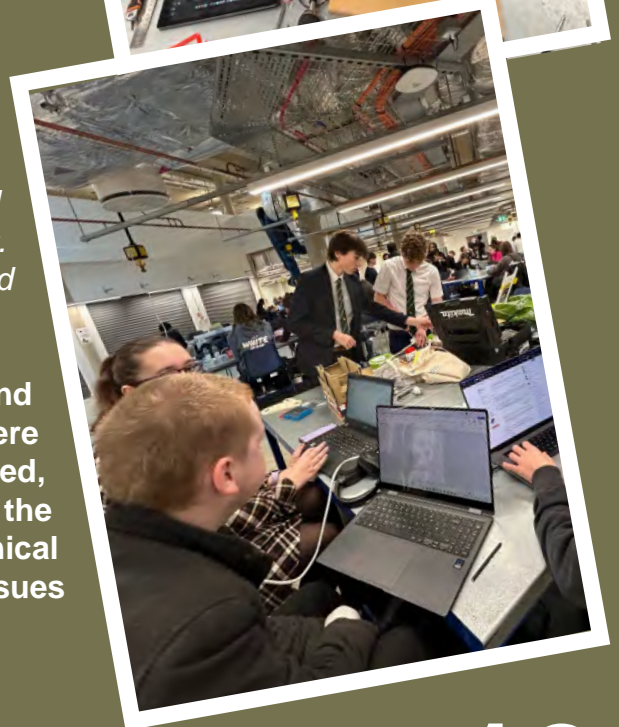
This course was set up to allow students to experience an engineering challenge, combined with an engineering company and links with university. The students had opportunities to link online with additional seminars, and they were involved in weekly meetings with their tutor from BAE systems, online, to review progress made in the building and planning of the robotic arm. The students' experience of two days in Canterbury Christchurch University Engineering Department allowed them to have a face-to-face link with Mason and with additional support from University Engineering Technicians.

The students all took roles in the research, planning and production. Whether it be linked to programming Arduino or micro controllers, planning 3D printing for parts, building the joints or tracks for movement, or soldering the wiring in place, or the presentation and write up of the project; all students were involved.

The feedback was as follows from the panel, at the end of the whole course, after the write up and presentation was given from Professor from Brunel University who was assessing the group said:

'The communication skills were exemplary, which ensured a seamless collaboration between team members. The report produced is well-written and comprehensive. It articulated the innovative aspects of the project. The presentation was well executed, engaging and highlighted the key points of the project. It also included some of the challenges that the team faced and how they approached those issues.'

The team showed very good technical skills, knowledge, and expertise. Their resilience and problem-solving abilities were remarkable. Although some of the issues remained unsolved, it was clear that the challenges they faced throughout the project were met with determination and in-depth technical knowledge which allowed them to overcome most of the issues efficiently.



Industrial Cadets continued...

The team in Canterbury Christchurch University Engineering Department workshops.



The bomb disposal prototype.

 **Industrial Cadets Gold** **BAE SYSTEMS**

CCGS Industrial Cadets

Calling all potential engineers, we are looking for year 12 students to take part in our industrial cadets team.

 **Gold Award**

Ideal for those studying levels that include a combination of...

- **Product design**
- **Physics**
- **Maths**
- **Computing**

Solving engineering challenges





Ramsgate swimming club...

Dear all, we are keen to promote a healthy and active lifestyle and spread the word about our club and encourage you to come along and get involved.

Best regards,

Stephen Goldsmith
Club Chair
Ramsgate Swimming Club

Charity Collections

Whole school charities -

Children in Need = £1216.97
Comic Relief = £922.78

House Charities -

KH - CALM = £706.24
MS - Macmillan Cancer Research = £578.21
RP - CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) = £1020.35
TS - Pilgrims Hospice = £1242.32

TOTAL = £5686.87



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Staff leaving

Mr Bowman - Science/Assistant Headteacher. Mr Bowman is the longest serving member of staff at the school, he has been with us since 1993, so 31 years, what an achievement! It is difficult to calculate how many students he will have taught over that period, though I imagine there are hundreds and hundreds of students who will credit him with helping them to gain their GCSEs and A Levels and set them off on a career path in science. Whenever I meet former students, the inevitable question is 'does Mr Bowman still work at the school', they do all have fond memories of him either as their Science teacher or as their rugby/cricket coach. At Parents Evenings, I watch him greet parents and engage in conversation with them, and it is always because he taught them or coached them, and remarkably he always remembers their names no matter how many years it is since they left the school!

Mr Bowman has also been an integral part of the leadership team since before I became Headteacher, he is wise, calm, adaptable, a great teacher and role model and a consummate professional. He has mentored many trainee teachers through their training to become qualified teachers, his high standards and high expectations for all trainee teachers, and his rigorous approach, means teachers who have been trained by him are well placed to meet the demands of the teaching profession and many of those have gone on to secure jobs in this school. He is stepping away from the profession, but he will have left an indelible impression on the school and will be sorely missed. I wish him every happiness in the future.

Staff leaving continued...

Miss Epps – cover supervisor. Miss Epps is embarking on her teacher training at a local high school. I have every confidence that she will make a fabulous teacher. We wish her the best of luck in her new adventure!

Mr Hallett – Science. Mr Hallett is a former student at the school, he subsequently trained to be a teacher and joined us in 2019. He has however decided that it is time for a career change and is leaving us to take up a position with Border Force.

Mrs Hudson – Economics. Mrs Hudson is leaving us having secured a promotion to Head of Department at Simon Langton Girls School. Mrs Hudson has been responsible for growing Economics to become one of the most popular A Level subjects in the school. I wish her every success in her new role.

Miss Jacobs – English. Miss Jacobs started with us in 2021 as a cover supervisor and has subsequently trained with us as an English Teacher, having just qualified, she is going to Borden Grammar school to take up an English post there.

Mr Knight – Cleaner. Mr Knight is leaving the school and retiring, we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Miss Lubi – Maths. Miss Lubi is leaving us after nine years at the school and is relocating to teach at a school in Madrid. We wish her every success in her new country and her new role.

Mrs Marsh – Science. Mrs Marsh is leaving us after ten years and is also relocating to teach at a school in Dubai. We wish her every success in her new country and in her new role.

Mrs Myhill – Librarian. Mrs Myhill has been with us since 2008, looking after the Library and encouraging our students to read. Although she is leaving, she will still be popping in on a regular basis to ensure the library is kept up to date.

Alan Newton – Art. Mr Newton has decided to leave the teaching profession and we wish him all the best in his future plans.

Mrs Shuttle - Maths and Head of Upper RP House, Mrs Shuttle joined us as a cover supervisor and then trained to be a Maths teacher. She subsequently became a Head of House in the Upper School where she has worked tirelessly to support the students in her House, not only with their academic studies, but pastorally, looking after their welfare and wellbeing. I am sure there are lots of students who credit Mrs Shuttle with getting them through their KS4 studies successfully. Mrs Shuttle is leaving us to go to another local school and we wish her every success in her new role.

Finally may I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, happy and restful summer. School re-commences on Tuesday 3rd September. Our new Year 7 students will start at the normal time of 8.40am. Years 8-11 start at 10.30am. Year 12 have a meeting in the assembly hall at the Lower Site (ChathamStreet) at 9.15am for a briefing, assembly and introduction to their tutors. Year 13 will be expected to come in to collect their timetables from CCVI on Tuesday 3rd, lessons commence on Wednesday 4th September.

Debra Liddicoat
Headteacher