



Welcome to our new termly newsletter. I'm delighted to report that pupils have made an excellent start to Term 2. We look forward to a busy term ahead and hope you enjoy reading about some of the events that have occurred since the beginning of the school year.

In our last newsletter, I mentioned a series of changes that were being made around the school. After listening to views of parents/carers we will now be hosting two Parents' Evenings for each year group per academic year. We feel this additional communication will be a huge benefit to help support your children, our pupils, achieve their full potential. All Parents' Evening dates are in the 'dates for you diary' section of this newsletter.

As you may be aware, we recently had a visit from Ofsted. The outcome letter will be available shortly on Ofsted's website. We are grateful to Ofsted for supporting the recent changes made within the last term in regards to strengthening the School's behaviour policy; adjusting the curriculum; changing the structure of the school day to improve pupils' engagement and raising standards across the college. We are aware of areas that we need to improve and I want to reassure you that my team and I are determined to make St Catherine's College an outstanding school for the local community. As always, if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I am looking forward to what I am sure will be an exciting and positive second term in the run up to Christmas and want to thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Solomon Berhane, Headteacher

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

INSET DAY

Friday 23 November

LAST DAY OF TERM 2

Wednesday 19 December

FIRST DAY OF TERM 3

Monday 7 January

INSET DAY

Wednesday 30 January



CAROL SERVICE

St Andrew's Church, Seaside

Monday 3 December, 6.30pm

Please join us for a festive celebration at our annual Carol Service. It is a lovely family-friendly service, led by Father King, and filled with music and song performed by our school band and choir. There will also be musical interludes, and readings from pupils and staff. Mince pies and refreshments are served after the retiring collection. I hope you will be able to join us!



AWARDS EVENING

De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill

Thursday 15 November, 7.30pm



Winners of Gold Awards and subject awards for last year will come together at the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill on Thursday 15 November, starting at 7.30pm. **Please be reminded that entry is ticket only and seats have now been allocated.**

At Awards Evening this year, we have the very talented Year 10 pupil, Mykee-D, performing. Mykee-D appeared on 'The Voice Kids UK' in July. He gave a phenomenal performance of Sia's 'Opportunity' and we are very much looking forward to his performance next Thursday evening!

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GOD'S CHILDREN AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO

Together we listen, learn, achieve

FIREWORK SPECTACULAR

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Firework Spectacular last week. It was an amazing event with over 1000 people attending! Children enjoyed fairground rides. There were burgers, pizza and candy floss for sale, a bar (for the adults) and, of course, a fantastic firework display!



NON-UNIFORM DAY

There will be a non-uniform day on **Friday 9 November** to coincide with the launch of Anti-Bullying Week.



Pupils are challenged to add one item of blue clothing to their non-uniform to symbolise standing out against bullying (this could be blue jeans, top, socks, etc). If your child would like to take part, please remind him/her to bring in £1 this week. Money raised will be shared amongst an anti-bullying charity, student sponsorship in Uganda and our house charities.

ATTENDANCE

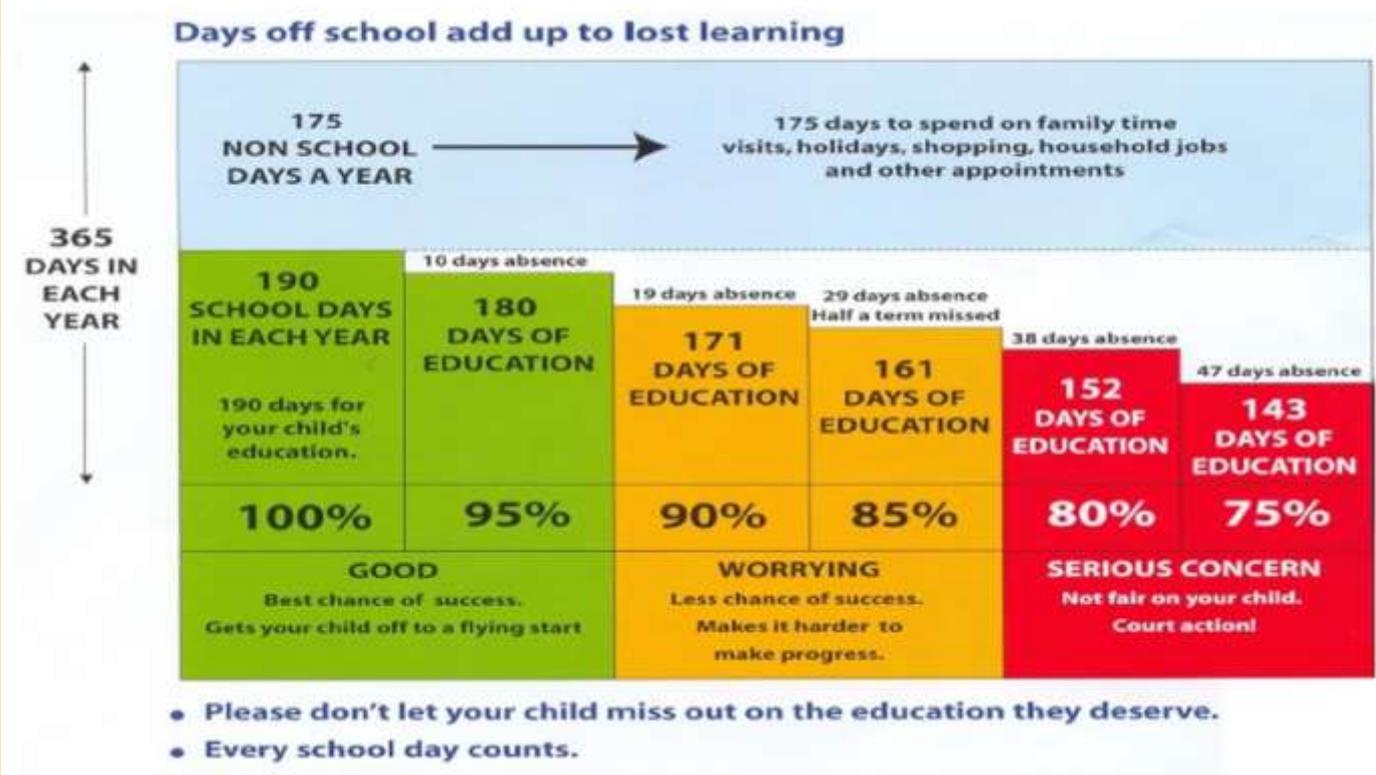
A report from Mr Watts:

In Worship this term, we have focused on the importance of attendance. Pupils were asked to review their attendance for Term 1 and set themselves a target for Term 2 and the rest of the academic year. These targets were then recorded in pupils' diaries.

At St Catherine's College we like to recognise excellent attendance. Pupils who achieve 100% attendance this term will go into a prize draw with the chance of winning a pair of tickets for the cinema or a £20 Amazon Voucher. There will be a draw for each year group.

Regular attendance is extremely important as missing school and valuable lessons impacts a pupils learning and leads to gaps in their education. Persistent absence from school impacts the grade that a child can achieve at GCSE whereas good attendance enables pupils to learn in line with their peers and ensures they access all parts of the curriculum. A pupil who has a record of 90% attendance misses 200 lessons per school year. Pupils with lower attendance will continue to be supported by Tutors and Heads of Years. They will meet regularly to discuss strategies and steps to help improve their attendance.

Below is a chart which shows the impact that attendance can have on a pupil's progress:



MOTOR VEHICLE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

A report from Mr Hillier:



Our motor vehicle pupils have been busy at our garage working on unused cars to give them a broad understanding of the engineering sector. Pupils are working towards their Level 2 Diploma in Service and Maintenance Engineering. To support our successful Motor Vehicle Unit, which is going into its tenth year, we are looking for any unwanted vehicles for pupils to work on. Do you have one? Might you know someone that is willing to donate one? If so, please contact me: 01323 465433 or nhillier@stcatherines.college.

TENNIS STAR!



A truly outstanding performance was shown by Lola, Year 8 pupil, in the recent U12s Sussex County Closed Tournament. After a tremendous start in the early rounds, Lola gathered pace and put on an exceptional exhibition to win the finals and the tournament!

Congratulations Lola, now ranked number 1 in Sussex!

YEAR 11 HISTORY TRIP

A report from Mrs Clifton:

On Tuesday 16 October, Year 11 History pupils went to London to explore Whitechapel which forms part of their Crime and Punishment topic at GCSE. The East End of London in the late 19th century was well known for its overcrowding and crippling poverty. The relatively new Metropolitan Police force struggled to deal with rising crime and their flaws were highlighted during the Jack the Ripper murders of 1888. As part of their GCSE pupils must be able to explain how the Ripper murders exposed the limitations of the police and how crime detection changed after them. To help them do that, we went on a 90 minute walking tour of the East End. Our tour guide Mick brought the 19th century streets to life. We walked down streets that had not significantly changed in 150 years and visited several of the murder sites. The poorly lit twisting alleys and roads demonstrated how easy it was for Jack to make his escape. Everyone enjoyed the projected images that Mick could put on the side of buildings.

Having exhausted ourselves walking, we caught the tube to Westminster and made the most of the sunshine at lunchtime. As our course covers 1000 years of Crime and Punishment in Britain, we also went to the London Dungeons. I think Year 11 enjoyed the visit, although the amount of screaming may suggest they didn't! Although a bit of fun, the Dungeon does cover many aspects of our course and seeing Mr Millen threatened with some medieval punishments gave us plenty of energy for the journey home. Year 11 you were brilliant - well behaved, polite and inquisitive - and it resulted in a fantastic visit.





YEAR 9 PUPIL REPRESENTS ARMY CADETS

In October, Year 9 pupil, Ben, was chosen to attend celebrations in France to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War One. Travelling as part of 3,500 cadets, Ben represented the Army Cadet Forces from Sussex and Surrey.

Ben is a member of the combined cadet forces and hopes to go into the army when he's older.

TRIP TO GLYNDEBOURNE

A report from Mr Wozzley:

On 16 October, our KS4 music pupils enjoyed a trip to the world-renowned Glyndebourne Opera House, set in the stunning Sussex countryside near Lewes.



The performance was a schools' matinee of French composer Jules Massenet's Cendrillon (Cinderella). There was much of the familiar fairy tale in this story: the poor girl with a doting father, a wicked step-mother and of course the 'ugly' sisters. However, the opera was not as straightforward as it seemed, with the 'Prince Charming' character played by a woman, and Cinderella having strange visions of her younger, more innocent self. The staging was modern and spectacular, weaving a mix of high art, visual illusion and pantomime. All our pupils enjoyed the experience, and were impressed by the skill of the singers, dancers and orchestral musicians. We hope to return next year for another visit!



STREETWISE

Half way through Term 1, our Year 7 pupils experienced 'Streetwise' a pedestrian safety theatre presentation. The presentation was funded by Sussex Safer Roads; a partnership of organisations including Sussex Police, East Sussex County Council, East Sussex Fire and Highways England. The partnership's aim is to create a safer environment for all road users.

The pupils enjoyed the engaging theatre presentation which involved three 'Performance in Education' actors and a number of different masks. The performance focused on the potential consequences of lapses in concentration and risk taking behaviour around roads (such as using phones and listening to music, as well as 'messaging about' with friends).

After the show, the actors led a question and answer session that demonstrated that the pupils had listened and learned.



BOYS' U16 BASKETBALL TEAM

A report from Mr Watts:

A great start to the season for the Boys' U16 Basketball Team. The team was successful in the first round of the county cup with a 73-48 win over St Pauls (Burgess Hill).

The boys have improved significantly since Year 10 and have their sights on county and national success. The basketball display they produced during this match was of the highest quality. Well done to all involved!



THE GAMBIA 2019

A report from Mrs Dolan:

During October, a team building day was held for pupils visiting The Gambia next February. This gave them the opportunity to come together to discuss some fundraising ideas. On Sunday 25 November, they will be bag packing at Morrison's Supermarket, so please come along and support them. They are also planning a cake sale in school and a tombola stall (any unwanted Christmas gifts will be greatly received) at Langney Shopping Centre in the New Year .

A huge well done to Charys and Hope Baxter who recently made and sold Yorkshire puddings and scones at their local church raising £60! This money will be used to buy a printer to go with one of the computers currently being restored for shipping to The Gambia. A big thank you to Mrs Hyde, parent of a Year 10 pupil, who has kindly donated £250 for the transportation of these computers.

All other money raised through fundraising will be used to support the work of the Gunjur project.



FREE MEALS IN OUR CAFÉ

Did you know that your child could be entitled to a **free meal every day** if your family income is below £7,400 per year? To register please complete the form using the following link below:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/school-life/meals/free/>

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL OXBRIDGE APPLICATION

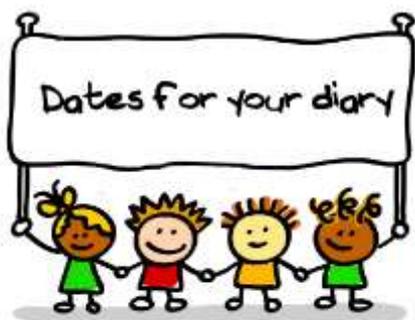
Former St Catherine's College student Alex Hilton won his place to study maths at Cambridge University after achieving four A* grades at A level.

Alex achieved 11 A* and two A grades in his GCSEs in 2017 when he studied at St Catherine's College. He then went on to study chemistry, physics, maths and further maths at St Bede's in Upper Dicker.

He recently visited St Catherine's College where he was congratulated by Headteacher Solomon Berhane on his successful application and acceptance to Cambridge University. Mr Berhane said: *"What a fantastic achievement for Alex whose hard work and dedication paid off. It was great to see him back at St Catherine's College to hear about his plans and we wish him the best of luck for the future."*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



November

- 6 Y11 Parents' Evening, 3.30pm– 7.00pm
- 13 DofE Parent Information Evening, 5.00pm
- 15 Awards Evening, De La Warr Pavilion,
7.30pm-9.30pm
- 22 Y10 Parents' Evening, 3.30pm-7.00pm
- 23 INSET Day

December

- 3 Y8 Parents' Evening, 3.30pm-7.00pm
- 3 Carol Service, St Andrew's Church, 6.30pm
- 12 Christmas Lunch: Y7 and Y8
- 13 Christmas Lunch: Y9, Y10 and Y11
- 19 Last Day of Term 2

January

- 7 First Day of Term 3
- 30 INSET DAY

February

- 14-20 Gambia Trip
- 15 Last Day of Term 3
- 25 First Day of Term 4

March

- 12 Y8 Options Evening

April

- 4 Y11 Photos
- 5 Last Day of Term 4
- 23 First Day of Term 5

May

- 20 Y8 HPV Immunisations
- 24 Last Day of Term 5

June

- 3 First Day of Term 6
- 14 Town Sports

July

- 1-4 Y8 Bushcraft Camp Trip
- 1 Y6 Familiarisation Day
- 2 Y6 Taster Day
- 12 Sports Day
- 23 Last Day of Term 6



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

A report from Miss Haggart:

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze qualifying expedition recently took place on a lovely September weekend with all participants successfully completing it. Everyone worked extremely hard and showed great resilience and teamwork. Katherine, Mia and Thanaksan said: "We learnt a lot about ourselves and others. We highly recommend the DofE for those who would like a fun adventure and major challenge!"



This year's Bronze Award participants have already begun to prepare for their sections. The Silver Award has just been launched to Year 10 pupils and those wishing to partake have written a letter of application saying why they want to do it; what they hope to learn and what they will find challenging.

