

CONTACT







Communication with our parents is really important at St Catherine's College. The Covid 19 restrictions have meant that we have not been able to meet in person with our parents and have not been able to operate Parents' Evenings as we normally would. On Wednesday this week, we held our first virtual Parents' Evening with Year 8 parents. Year 8 tutors met with the parents of their tutees through our Teams platform. They discussed issues raised from the recent Year 8 reports and also how their child had settled in since returning to school after the period of lockdown.

This is a new way of communicating and something we had never dreamed would have taken place before the Covid situation. The tutors appreciated speaking to the parents and many parents found the whole experience easy to use and really beneficial. We will be organising more virtual meetings with other year groups over the coming months.

Thank you to Year 8 parents who took the plunge to enter the world of new technology. We are all learning so many new things!

Jenny Inch Assistant Headteacher



ARMISTICE DAY

A report Mr Jewell:

- Why remember on 11 November?
- Why is the poppy the symbol of remembrance?
- Is 11 November just about World War 1?
- How and why do we 'remember' if we were not there?

These are all questions which I addressed in this week's College Worship on Wednesday 11 November. Unusually for a College Worship, the pupils were set a number of challenges to follow up afterwards. I am sharing these challenges here for parents to see, and as a reminder for pupils:

- 1. Are there any Commonwealth war graves in local church yards near to where you live? There are a number of war graves locally, usually signposted by a green sign at the entrance to a church. If you find some, who do they belong to and how old were the soldiers, sailors or aircrew remembered?
- 2. Did any of our parents, grandparents or great-grandparents serve in World War 2, or in any of the 18 wars, conflicts and peace-keeping operations in which Britain has been involved since? Can those stories and experiences be heard?
- 3. Who is on our local war memorial? Do we recognise any of the family names and in which conflict did they serve? On my local war memorial, a soldier from Afghanistan 2011 is named; not every sacrifice pre-dates the life of our pupils.

Within the Worship, I shared the story of a Battle of Britain pilot, one of the men Winston Churchill identified as 'the few', whom I had the privilege to know. He was Squadron Leader Iain Hutchinson. It makes for rather uncomfortable reading, but here is his account of having been shot down during the Battle of Britain:

"As soon as I got my top half out of the plane, I was flattened against the fuselage by the 400mph slipstream; and my parachute hooked onto the cockpit's hood and locked me onto the plane. I was pinned there painfully. I hoped the plane would hit the ground soon and get it all over with. Ridiculous speculation ran through my mind: would the half of me that was outside the cockpit get pulped worse than the half of me that was burning inside the cockpit?" By some miracle, lain escaped, and remembers falling through the sky, pulling his parachute, and it failing. What he thought was parachute fabric was flapping around his face as he pulled the chord on his back-up emergency parachute. It later transpired that the flapping around his face was not his failed chute, but flaps of skin burnt from his face. Iain's burns received pioneering acid treatment at East Grinstead Hospital and he returned to service with the RAF.

As an act of remembrance, pupils across St Catherine's College observed the 2-minute silence at 11.00am on Armistice Day in an exemplary manner. I hope they also take away the key message that we must all act and make decisions which promote peace for the future. If only that were easy!



ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE POPPY PROJECT

To mark Remembrance Day this year, St Catherine's College launched the 'Poppy Project'. Students were asked to donate £1 and create a poppy. The response was overwhelming! The History Department, together with Year 9 cadets, spent each day after school last week creating a giant poppy display. This currently sits proudly on our skywalk. You can see the Cadets in action below and the result is pictured on the next slide. A huge well done to all involved!











ECO-CONFERENCE

A report from Mrs Bawden:

On Monday, eleven Year 7 students attended an eco-conference to talk about environmental issues that worry young students today. Along with a number of schools in Eastbourne, we connected with a conference in Perth, Australia, where there were delegates who had attended the 'Leave it to us' eco-conference which took place in Eastbourne 25 years ago.

In the lead up to the conference, the students worked on a project about the re-generation of Jubilee Way which sits behind The Royal Eastbourne Golf Club. We were joined by Tim Smit of the Eden Project and William Bird who developed the Beat the Street program that our students have taken part in. Tom Neville, one of our Year 11 leavers, showed us a video he had made about his project to have car free days. We were really proud to see Tom out in the community, making positive changes and not letting obstacles stop him from achieving his goals.

Year 7 student, Cameron, wrote a speech about the environmental issue he would most like to tackle – plastic waste. Here it is below for you to read:

Global warming is becoming an increasing threat to our world.

The main issue that worries me is plastic waste in the ocean.

This concerns me because this is where fish and creat<mark>ure</mark>s are and every time we drop or throw away plastic it affects the animals that live there when it eventually makes its way to the sea. It also becomes a problem when it washes up on our beaches and starts to affect the creatures on land too.

I have found this interesting fact on the National Geo<mark>gr</mark>aphic website, "Single use plastics account for 40% of the plastic produced every year. These products, such as plastic bags and food wrappers, have a lifespan of minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years!

Companies are trying to reduce single use plastics by introducing reusable bags and changing from plastic straws to paper ones. Households are also starting to play their part by recycling more effectively.

Although these are fantastic steps forward, we still have a long way to go in the fight against plastics! Thank you for listening.

What could we do as a community at St Catherine's College to reduce our plastic waste? Here are some ideas:

- Bring a re-usable drink bottle to school instead of buying a bottle each day.
- Pack lunch in re-usable packaging such as beeswax wraps or greaseproof paper.
- Buy washable masks rather than using a disposable one each day.

We would love to hear your ideas about what else we can do to reduce plastic waste at school. Mrs Pavey runs an eco-club which has a group on Teams if you would like to contribute any ideas.



CHINESE MOON CAKE BOXES

A report from Mrs Ruff:

These exquisite Moon Cake boxes were made by our Year 10 and Year 11 Mandarin learners. When Mid-Autumn Festival, one of the most important festivals in Chinese speaking countries, was approaching this year, these keen young learners, guided through by their two teachers, worked carefully and diligently to make their cake boxes as beautiful as they could be. The elegant lady drawn on the box is the Moon Goddess of Chinese legends. She is said to live on the Moon, longing to meet her family on the Earth. The Chinese characters carefully written on the boxes by our young learners, wrapped up with love, are sending festive messages to people living on the other side of the world.





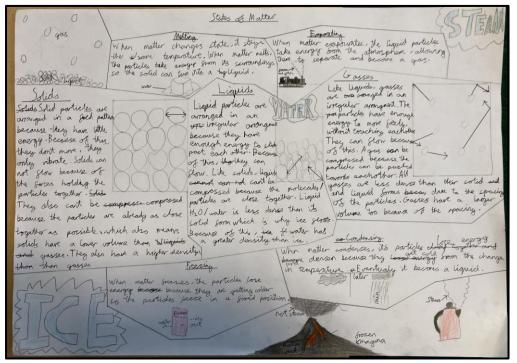


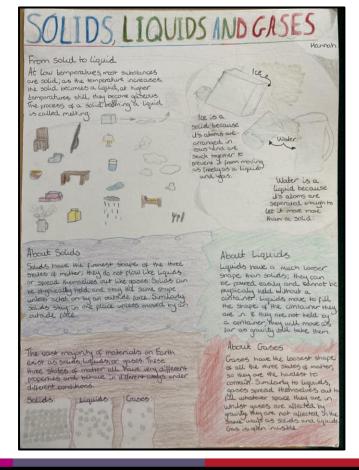


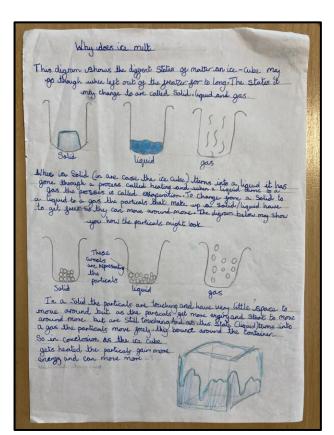
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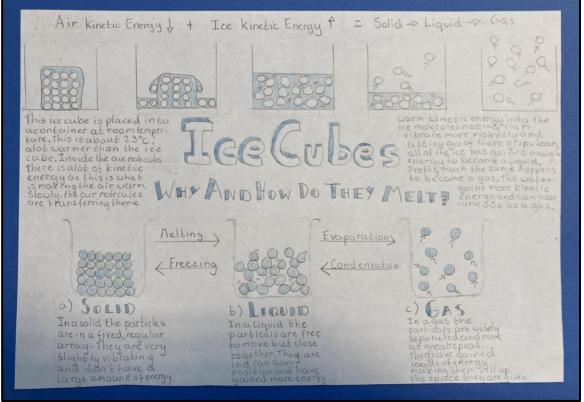
YEAR 7 SCIENCE HOMEWORK

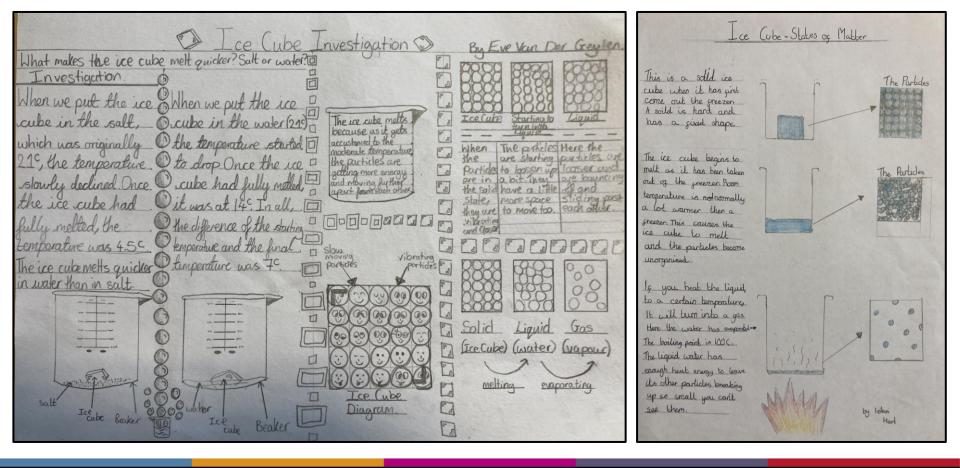
Year 7 students were asked to create a poster describing the change in state of water for their science homework. You can see the wonderful results here and on the next two slides. Well done, Year 7!











ROAD SAFETY

We have spent a lot of time this year advising our students on how to stay safe from Covid-19, but road traffic is still a greater risk to school-aged children.

Last term, a Life Skills lesson was dedicated to reminding students of the dangers whilst travelling to school. We watched road safety public information films from different decades; the 'Stayin' Alive' hedgehogs from the 90s, the Green Cross Code man from the 70s, Tufty the Squirrel from the 60s (Mr Pittman wore his 50-year-old Tufty Club badge especially for the occasion!).

The videos clearly showed that some safety advice has been constant over the decades:

- · Be alert (look and listen).
- Cross a road at a safe place (not between parked cars, not checking for traffic turning into a side road at a junction).

Something not covered by the 'old' safety films is **the danger of being distracted by mobile phones.** Being 'plugged in' means children are not listening for traffic and staring at a screen means they are not looking either.

In addition, students that cycle to school are asked to:

- Wear a cycle helmet when riding to school.
- Not to ride on the school premises, as this endangers others.

We would very much encourage parents/carers to have the discussion about safety with your children again. Many pupils will say that they know it already, but the reminder might just be enough to keep them safer as they travel. Worryingly, there have been some near misses reported to us involving St Catherine's College pupils.



100% ATTENDANCE

Presented to

A huge well done to all those students who achieved 100% attendance in Term 1. They have been awarded ten house points and were entered into a prize draw for their year group. The winners, listed below, received a £20 Amazon youcher:

- Year 7 Tia Black
- Year 8 Freddy Marchesi
- Year 9 Anon
- Year 10 Jayden Reynolds
- Year 11 Bruce Foot





TOP HOUSE POINT ACHIEVERS



YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Abigail Sellings 270	Jack Davies 255	Sophie Sultan 214	Joseph Hill 206	Ailsa Cameron 237
Rebecca Carter 246	Jasmine Gallop 250	Shakira Halliwell 212	George Mead 193	Oliver Venn 228
Tia Black 245	Eva Bramley 217	Eden Prescott 204	Benjamin Manners 192	Bradley Hodgetts 226
Harley Forster 241	Emily Offord 217	Lauren Didsbury 202	Oliver Hall 192	Mia Colwell 225
Daisy Denness 240	Phoebe Gaskell 213	Millie Barrett 197	Solen Sain 188	Berrie Robertson 219

WHO ARE WE?

STAFF PEN PORTRAITS

This week we introduce the one and only, Mrs D. She is in charge of our 'Reflection' unit. In her own words, this is Mrs D

My eldest son lives
in Jersey with my
grandson which is
great because it is
great because for
a lovely place for
me to visit.

I was born in Liverpool and moved to Eastbourne with my family 34 years ago. I have three children, two boys and a girl and I have six grandchildren whom I adore. They make me smile every day.

My daughter lives in Scotland with her son which is also great because it is a fun place to visit there's always plenty to do.

Every day is different at St Catherine's College and the students make me laugh so much. I love it. I have done many jobs in my lifetime, but this job is by far the best and the most rewarding thing I have ever done.

One of my passions is live theatre. I love a day out in London sightseeing, going for a meal and then catching a live show.

I started working at St Catherine's College as a Kitchen Assistant.

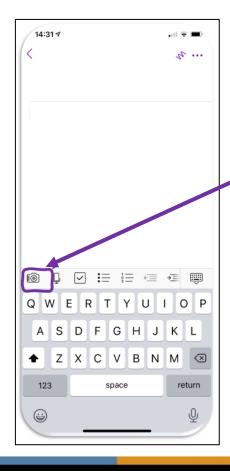
I have worked at St Catherine's College for 30 years and loved every minute of it!

I love football.
Obviously, I follow
Liverpool who are
amazing!

My ambition is to watch Liverpool play live but as things are at the moment, I may have to wait a while!

From a Kitchen Assistant, I became a Teaching Assistant, I then became Isolation Manager.





QUICK TEAMS TIP

Did you know that when using Class Notebook on your phone, you can insert a picture on the keyboard.

This is helpful if you need to show a teacher your work.

You can also use this function in the chat area of Teams



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4 December 2020 – SCHOOL CLOSED 18 December – Last day of Term 2