



ST. CATHERINE'S
COLLEGE

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

CONTACT



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Preparing students to stand shoulder to shoulder with their peers: locally, nationally and globally.



At St Catherine's College, we are committed to an education that enables pupils to live life in all its fullness and fulfils the words of Jesus in John 10:10: 'I have come that you may have life and have it to the full'. As an inclusive organisation, we believe that this commitment is to all students; everyone!

The Church of England recently published 'Valuing all God's Children' which provides guidance on challenging homophobic bullying and how to 'offer a safe and welcoming place for all God's children'. 'Valuing all God's Children' reminds us that bullying, including homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying causes profound damage, leading to high levels of mental health disorders. Central to Christian teaching is the truth that every single one of us is made in the image of God and every one of us is loved unconditionally by God. As a church school, it is incumbent on us to ensure that all children are kept safe and can flourish, particularly those who may identify as, or are perceived to be, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

To help us develop an LGBT+ positive learning environment and combat LGBT phobia, we have been working to meet the six standards of the Rainbow Flag Award. Recently, we received confirmation that we have successfully achieved two more of the Rainbow Flag Award Standards.

Local and national LGBT+ services are available for children and young people, and families. Should members of our college community wish to discover more about LGBT+ issues, we would recommend the following organisations as sources of reliable information.

Allsorts Youth Project (Brighton) [Click Here](#)

The Proud Trust (national) [Click Here](#)

Stonewall (national) [Click Here](#)

Neil Pittman, Assistant Headteacher



THE RAINBOW FLAG AWARD UPDATE - SKILLED TEACHERS AND EFFECTIVE POLICIES STANDARDS

St Catherine's College has successfully met the Skilled Teacher and Effective Policies Standards of the Rainbow Flag Award (RFA). The RFA is a national quality assurance framework for schools. The award focuses on positive LGBT+ inclusion and visibility.

We were pleased to receive the following positive feedback from our assessor.

The plan, in which you have set out the 6 standards, is absolutely brilliant. It clearly demonstrates your commitment to ensuring positive actions within your school moving forward. The plan looks at a whole school approach which is very innovative as in order to create change, everyone has to buy into making experiences better for LGBT+ students, staff and families who are connected to the school.

Your policy examples demonstrate the hard work of your school to ensure that LGBT+ young people are free from bullying and harassment.

Your RFA presentation for staff is well laid out and you have used some ideal examples of definitions and language. You have defined what comprises LGBT+ bullying and have included your school's protocol on how to report it, if there is an incident in the future. This really reinforces why the RFA is so important.



ENGLISH SKILLS IN THE WORKPLACE - A CAREER IN ADVERTISING

A report from Mrs Williams:

'Why do we study English, Miss?' I was asked by one of my Year 9 students last year. I was just about to launch into my usual stock response about the importance of passing their GCSEs, when I realised how rarely we speak to students about how English skills can be applied in future careers. Consequently, this term we have been studying how English language can be applied across a variety of industries.

At the beginning of this term, we were very fortunate to have Amy Bell, a Marketing Director of the Lewes-based company Michael Bell, agree to run several presentations about careers within the advertising industry. Via Microsoft Teams, Amy discussed employment opportunities within the industry and what an average day may involve. She then answered questions that the students may have. In addition to this, Amy set students the task of designing an advertising campaign for the charity Homelink. Homelink is an East Sussex based charity which helps people who are homeless or are facing homelessness. The charity arranges funds to pay for housing deposits (leweshomelink.org.uk). Students were given just one week to create their advertising campaign. Following this, Amy presented for a second time, giving feedback on a sample of adverts. Amy explained to the year group which adverts were successful and why.

Amy gave our Year 9 students the following feedback:

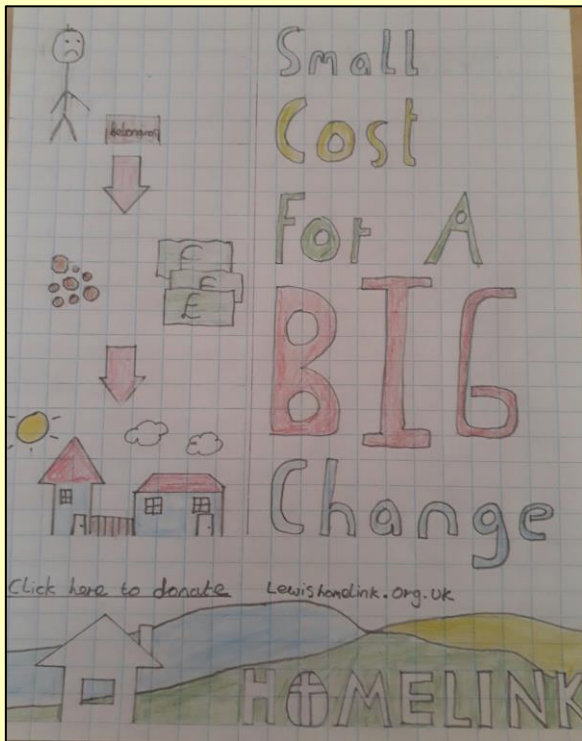
"When I was asked to take part in helping support the teaching of the use of copy in adverts to Year 9, I really wasn't sure what the final output would be. I presented a brief to the Year 9s and highlighted the key elements they needed to include and the rationale behind it. The final designs have been brilliant and beyond our expectations. Clearly a lot of effort and thought has been put into the final adverts and the Year 9 English pupils and staff should be very proud of what they have achieved. It is great to have a commercial element to the syllabus and for the pupils to see how an English GCSE can contribute to a future career and hopefully this will result in some brilliant copy writers of the future."

The designs were also shared with the charity, Homelink, who gave students the following feedback:

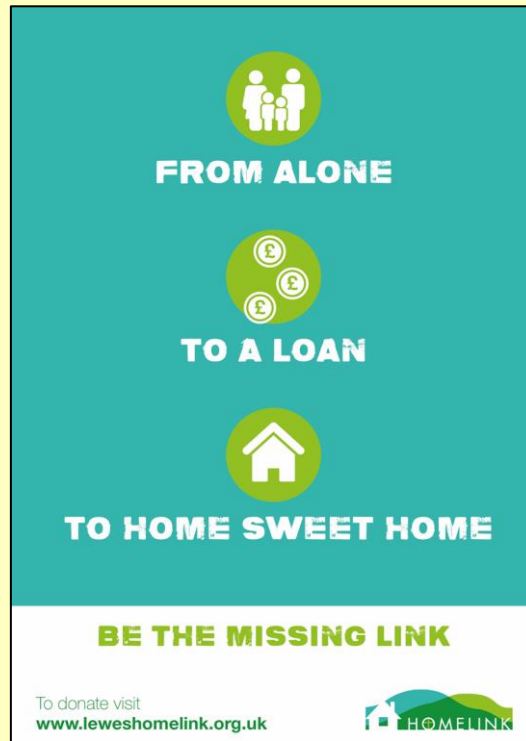
"Wow! Thanks so much for sharing these with us - it's been a real privilege to look at the students' designs. The standard of their work overall is outstanding - excellent ideas that have been well thought through, strong messaging, great use of images and emotive calls to action. We've really enjoyed looking at all of the designs and were particularly impressed with the designs that received a commendation - we thought "Small cost for a BIG change" was really powerful and also really loved the 'Best Overall Design' advert with its simple layout, use of HOMELINK's colours/branding and sophisticated copy. A really professional piece of work. Will you please pass on our thanks to everyone who shared their work with us? It's been a joy to look at these designs. There are definitely some budding copy-writers and designers in the year group!"

We were very impressed with how sensitively and creatively students dealt with this task. We were especially impressed with the designs on the next slide that were created by Connor A, Ellie G, and Sophie S. Two very professional videos were produced by Jasmine A and Lewis H and a thought-provoking PowerPoint presentation, with a series of images, was produced by Ola A.





By Connor A



By Ellie G



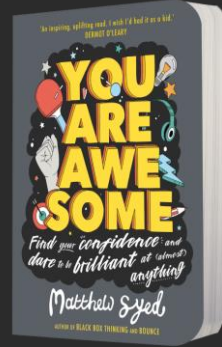
By Sophie S







THE 'YOU ARE AWESOME' PROJECT

For the last four months, we have focused on the book 'You are Awesome' by Matthew Syed, a former number one British table tennis player. Many students have read the book and discussed the key messages at home guided by eight Family Activities. In school, we have continued the discussion in tutor group Life Skills lessons.


Mathew argues that hard work is the key to success and not the concept of innate talent. This means that success can be achieved by adopting the characteristics of a growth mindset, ie, embracing challenges, learning from feedback, always trying to improve, being inspired by the success of others, and giving lots of effort.









We are probably all inspired by the successes of famous people such as authors, athletes and musicians, but there are inspirational people around us in everyday life. Many people we associate with day-to-day, have growth mindsets who live out our College values of **ambition**, **hard work**, **resilience** and **responsibility**.

Many of these 'awesome' people are students at St Catherine's College who daily take on challenges; try to improve when given feedback; and put in lots of effort. Well done to all of our awesome students!



We haven't got room in this week's Contact to list every awesome pupil, but on the next slide are a few who have demonstrated growth mindsets.....





SCIENCE

Ludovica K (Year 10) works hard and always tries to go the extra mile. She recently challenged herself by entering the Big Bang science competition.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Ethanael and Teagan (Year 7) are adventurous, resilient and keen coders who fight-back against problems and take pleasure in beating syntax errors!

LIFE SKILLS

Sophie Carter (Year 7) put lots of effort into completing the You are Awesome family activities; she recorded her thoughts and answers to all of the tasks!

Ruby (Year 7) has embraced the You Are Awesome class work and talks enthusiastically about having to work hard to achieve what you want.



DRAMA

Tala (Year 11) has worked hard to change her mindset to believe that she can both write well and perform well. She always strives to respond to feedback effectively and embraces challenges.



Greg (Year 11) shifted his mindset (from fixed to a growth mindset) ensuring that he worked harder and made every effort to achieve the best grade he could.

ENGLISH

Ludovica C (Year 10) requests extra homework each term so that she can improve.

Sansai (Year 8) embraces the challenge of the work and homework, and responds to feedback really well.

Rhys (Year 9) rose to the challenge of speaking in front of others when he led his group's advertisement campaign presentation.



YEAR 7 AND 8 MUSICAL THEATRE DANCE CLUB

Every Wednesday, we learn and perform dances from different musicals. We started with a fast, lively number from Hairspray and this week, we have started dancing to tunes from Mamma Mia. If you'd like to join, speak to Miss McQueen or Mrs Robins. Everyone's welcome!



YEAR 11 DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER PRACTICE WEEKEND

A report from Miss Haggart:

Despite winds of over 50 mph, our Year 11 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Team braved the elements and completed day one of their practice weekend. Not much sleep was had on the first night but, by the morning, the wind had subsided and day 2 was beautiful. Day 3 had patchy rain, but spirits remained high.

An amazing DofE group that showed resilience and brilliant teamwork; we are very proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing them for their qualifying weekend on 9-11 July.



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100% ATTENDANCE

Huge congratulations to all our students who have achieved 100% attendance this term. They have been awarded ten house points and entered into a group draw, with two winners from each year group receiving a £10 amazon voucher. Well done to our winners, some of whom are pictured below.

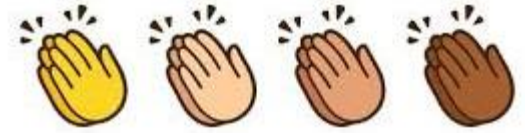


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TOP HOUSE POINT ACHIEVERS



YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Rebecca C 1003	Jack D 885	Lauren D 881	Jade D 734	Aaron A 795
Sophie C 886	Logan A 876	Caedmon M 781	Solen S 703	Ailsa C 775
Isla C 880	Eva B 845	Millie B 770	Isabelle W 641	Berrie R 771
Max T 839	Teriza W 800	Daniella B 760	Ellise M 608	Amber M 650
Archie M 835	Jasmine G 796	Amberley C 717	Cyrine E 598	Samuel H 588



WHO ARE WE?

STAFF PEN PORTRAITS

Mrs O'Connor is our Careers Leader and has worked at the School for many years. This is Mrs O'Connor



I come from a large family of ten children and had to learn to survive a hard life at a very young age.

I was born in a small village called Besmé- in the Picardie Northern France.

I got married in 1985 to Andy who I met on a holiday in Majorca, Spain, in 1982.

I have two grown up children and became a nanny to a beautiful granddaughter last year.

I moved to England in 1984 after finishing my studies.

I worked in Paris near the Eiffel Tower as part of my course.

I worked in different sectors as a bilingual secretary for 14 years. I decided to train as a teacher when I was 35. I did my degree at Brighton University and got my first job at Bishop Bell School (now St Catherine's College) and have been here ever since. I call it my second home and work with amazing people and students.

After arriving in England, I worked in a French bank in the city of London.

I enjoy cooking, knitting, travelling and of course, spending time with my family, especially my granddaughter.

I started at Bishop Bell School as an NQT in the MFL Department. I became Head of MFL and then semi-retired and now work as Careers Leader, helping our students on their careers journey.

I lived in Sutton, Surrey until 1990 before moving to Eastbourne.



CAREERS PAGE

Please click on the underlined heading to take you to the website.

Routes into STEM | EDT - Inspire young people into STEM

The virtual routes into STEM allow students aged 13+ to recognise the variety of opportunities available to them after taking their GCSEs. It will provide them access to key information on different pathways: college, university and STEM careers.

STEM & Medical Sciences Summer Internships

Plumpton College - Open for September 2021 applications

One Day Workshops. Just launched! New one day workshops at redeveloped Stanmer Campus, based at One Garden Brighton, within horticulture and floristry areas. Learn new skills or begin a new hobby. Spend time with friends and family with one of the workshops such as, plant propagation; create your own cutting garden; design and create a flower crown; build a garden bug hotel; or learn to make your own compost!

The Future Leader Project

The Future Leaders Project is a free schools' leadership project that allows young people to be seen, heard and developed.

Join us for an online Tea and Talk session - Virgin Media's Insight Days by Springpod

Fun, interactive webinars aka Tea and Talk sessions that are jam-packed with information to give you the opportunity to learn more about Virgin Media apprenticeships while meeting likeminded people. The best bit? Our Tea and Talks are completely free of charge! Simply book your place then join on the day using the meeting invite that is sent to you; take a look for an Insight Day that suits your schedule.

The Parent Perspective Podcast - Amazing Apprenticeships

'The Parent Perspective' Podcast "The Parent Perspective" is an exciting new 8-part podcast series for parents and carers, helping them to support their children with careers advice and guidance.

UNIFORM DONATIONS

At St Catherine's College, we have a store of 'pre-loved' uniform where students donate their old school uniform when they leave the School or simply outgrow it.

If you have any unwanted school uniform items that you would like to donate, please drop into Visitor Reception. We would be delighted to receive donations of any good condition uniform and are particularly short of larger blazers and trousers, ties, and the new St Catherine's College PE kit. Thank you for your support.

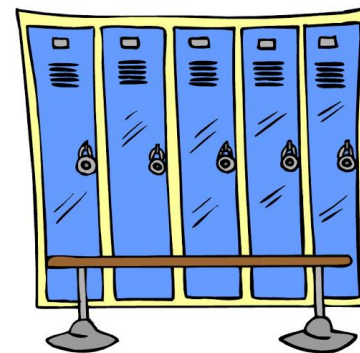


LOCKERS

Locker bookings are now available for 2021/2022 from locker.rentals at a cost of £18 per year. Parents will not be sent a renewal email as unfortunately, students are unable to rebook the same number locker next year. However, lockers available will be in the same year group bubble location. Please book by 1 August to avoid disappointment. Lockers will be installed according to demand by this date.

All students will be asked to clear their lockers before the summer holiday as they will be emptied and cleaned during the summer.

Please contact Mrs Poston with any queries: aposton@stcatherines.college



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



A report from Mrs Poston:

I would like to share with you a helpful resource about **panic attacks**. We hear in the news about 'Long Covid' as the physical symptoms linger after suffering the virus. Equally, Covid may have longer term effects on our mental health. Some psychologists describe the worldwide pandemic as a traumatic event.

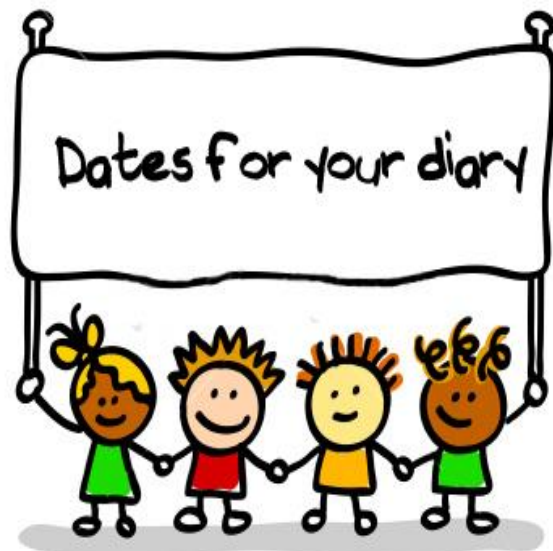
Trauma affects people in different ways and the effects can be delayed. Some people may only be suffering difficulties with their mental health now that we are trying to return to 'normal'.

Trauma can also come out as panic attacks (which of course can be suffered for many other reasons.) Please [CLICK HERE](#) to read an excellent Young Minds article about panic attacks.

Please contact your child's Assistant Head of Year if you are worried about their mental health, or alternatively, a wellbeing referral can be made [HERE](#).

Adults can self-refer for their own mental health support to Health in Mind by clicking [HERE](#).





Monday 7 June

Tuesday 8 June

Monday 14 – Friday 18 June

Saturday 19 – Wednesday 23 June

Wednesday 23 June

Friday 25 June

Wednesday 30 June

Wednesday 7 July

Wednesday 7 July

Wednesday 7 July

Thursday 8 July

Friday 9 July

Friday 9 – Sunday 11 July

Wednesday 14 July

Thursday 15 July

Thursday 15 July

Friday 16 July

Wednesday 21 July

Thursday 22 July

Thursday 12 August

Wednesday 1 September

Thursday 2 September

Inset Day

First Day of Term 6 (for students)

Life Skills Week

CCF Summer Camp

Year 12 Reunion Event, School Hall, 6.00pm – 9.00pm

School Closed (re-arranged from 1 February)

Year 7 Virtual Parents' Evening

Year 8 HPV I Vaccinations and Year 9 HPV II Vaccinations

Year 8 Virtual Parents' Evening

Year 6 Taster Days

Silver DofE Qualifying Expedition

Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening

Year 11 Prom

Sports Day

Sports Day

Last Day of Term 6

First Day of Summer Holidays

GCSE Results Day

Inset Day

First Day of Term 1

