



Hello, my name is Natasha Haggart and I am a Science Teacher at St Catherine's College. I lead the Duke of Edinburgh Award as well as the Year 8 annual residential trip to Bushcraft. I strongly believe that outdoor education is a vital part of the curriculum. It is rewarding to see how much our pupils develop both their personal skills and team working skills as they support each other during these fantastic experiences.

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award is open to Year 9 pupils and the Silver Award to Year 10. Participants must complete four sections: Physical; Skill; Volunteering; and Expedition. We have recently completed a day walk



for Silver participants who further developed their compass and map skills. They did really well considering it was a dreary, wet January day!

Pupils completing the Bronze Award will be participating in a walk on 3 March when they will be able to put into practice what they have learnt in their weekly sessions. Together with Silver Award pupils, they are also busy planning their routes for a practice expedition weekend in April.

I am excited to announce that we have recently been approved by the Ministry of Defence to set up our first Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Army contingency. This amazing opportunity will be launched next term and will be open to pupils in Years 8—11. Cadets will participate in a weekly parade where they will learn a variety of life skills and build on their self-confidence. They will also be able to partake in field days and a week-long camp where they will be involved in a range of outdoor activities.



Cadets are able to gain qualifications from the skills they learn during their time in the CCF. Our aim is to enable the development of personal responsibility, leadership and self-discipline of our pupils. Pupils may, at times, see me around the school in my CCF Army uniform.

FEBRUARY'S MATHS CHALLENGE

Congratulations to George Jones, 7NL, who correctly answered last month's challenge; five house points coming your way. Also, a huge well done to Mr Jewell, a parent and our Vice Principal, who used excellent mathematical reasoning in his response. Well done to all those who entered.

This month's Challenge has been taken from the UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge which some of our Year 9 pupils entered last week:

Which of the below is equal to $\frac{10}{9} + \frac{9}{10}$

- A) 1 B) 2 C) 2.01 D) 2.1 E) 2.2

Hand your answers to your Maths teacher or email stinkl@stcatherines.college (full workings expected) by Friday 23 February.

- Well done to January's Mathematicians of the Month:
Year 7: Jack Ovens; Luke Haswell ; Bethany Turtle; Robin Davis; Paige Mathiot; Sienna McFadden; Ollie Robson ; and Jemimah Pritchard.
Year 8: Chloe Gower; Bethany Hennessy; Harvey Ridge; Oliver Patterson; Abdullah Dob; and Braden Muller-Morris.
Year 9: Daisy Barson; Ruby Collect; Abbie Brockman; Kim Murphy; Nichole De La Mare; Erik Metaliaj; and Celina Humphreys.
Year 10: Hass Illami; Jessica Browne; Charlie Travers; Lily Kitcher; Joseph Crowhurst; Ciara Blake; and Ashlyn Weekes.
Year 11: George Sadler; Poppy Morgan; Halima Dob; George Connor; Blue Robertson; Hannah Frais; and Daniel Budd.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- February
19 First Day of Term 4
22 Y10 Parents' Evening, 3.45pm-5.45pm
26 Y9 & Y11 Assessment Fortnight begins
March
13 Y8 Options Evening, 4.00pm-6.30pm
21 Y7 Parents' Evening, 3.45pm-5.45pm

SCHOOL PRODUCTION: CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

A report from Mrs Bawden:

The school production of Charlie and the Chocolate factory took place on Thursday and Friday last week. Those of us who were lucky enough to be part of the audience were rewarded with an outstanding performance that demonstrated the dedication, tenacity and resilience of all the pupils and staff involved in putting on this show.



A school play is not just about the performance. Dipping in and out of some of the rehearsals in the weeks prior to the big night, I saw pupils building new relationships through the collaboration it takes to learn lines, practice timings and ensure that you are in the right place at just the right time so that the scene runs seamlessly. I am amazed at the recall skills it must take to memorise the lines but also to have a physical awareness of using expression, gesture and body language to deliver a line convincingly.



I had the privilege to photograph the play and at no point did I see a pupil drop their character; the whole evening I was convinced that I was watching Willy Wonka, Mr and Mrs Salt, Mike Teevee and gang. All the pupils had analysed the script and developed characters that showed true understanding of the personalities they were portraying.



When looking through the photos on Monday morning, a member of my tutor group exclaimed, '*I blew those bubbles!*' It seems like such a small thing but it was the little detail that truly captured the audience's imagination. There were more magic tricks from the pupils and staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes; an inflating Violet, a scary boat ride and Grandpa Joe and Charlie floating, which were all memorable moments! The lighting and projections were incredible and, with the musical accompaniment, created atmosphere to draw in the audience. The supporting cast also contributed to the ambience, whether it was the Oompa-loompas, the moving chocolate river or the judgemental squirrels. The pupils who put effort into these roles are just as important as the lead parts.



The dedication and hard work doesn't end when the lights go down. I am grateful to the site staff who set up the hall and stayed late to clean up, ready for the next day. The teachers involved with the costume and props will be re-organising cupboards for some time, ready to recycle equipment for another show in the future.



Thank you to the pupils for taking part; you shone. Thank you to Mrs Gwynne, Ms McQueen and Mrs Farrier for leading the production; you all rock. If you printed a ticket, applied eyeshadow or paint, twirled a rainbow coloured umbrella, created a giant walnut or made a great glass elevator move up and down, sideways, slant ways and any other way you can think of; thank you too and thank you to the numerous people who I do not have space to thank. I must not forget to thank the parents for ensuring that the children were turning up to rehearsals and bringing family to watch the show. I shall leave you with the eloquent words of Mr Marshall, who was kind enough to return from retirement to support behind the scenes, and one of our governors:

Mr Marshall said:

"Each year you set a new benchmark for your show and then the following year, having raised the bar, you manage to clear it..... and this year was no different. Having watched every production of the school during the past eight years I can only say Bravo. 2018 was, to my mind, the best yet. It was slick, clean, funny and fantastically portrayed. I find it impossible to isolate any of the main characters for praise. Each character was an individual performance and each represented the character, as I would have envisaged them to be.

As was said on the last night, the removal of the arts from schools borders on the criminal. Not only do they develop the mind of the child, they give them targets, goals and experiences. The core subjects might give them the academic skills but the arts, in all their various forms, allow the pupils to develop their personal, social and inter-relation skills."

Mrs Anderton, Governor, said:

"I wanted to thank you very much for inviting me to 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.' I thoroughly enjoyed this delightful production.

It was clear to see the effort that had been put in with so many lines to learn and such a selection of different sets to consider. It is always wonderful to experience children committing to a project together and producing a great success!"

