



# Weekly Newsletter

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

### EKST Big Design Challenge

Pupils from the 11 schools in the EKST partnership (East Kent Schools Together) were invited to take part in the **Big Design Challenge**, hosted by St Lawrence College this Wednesday. The pupils were challenged to develop empathy with their product users, all the better to boost their creativity and to develop really innovative and exciting ideas.



ST LAWRENCE  
COLLEGE

Together with Dr Sutton, Director of Science, five year 9 students had the opportunity to take part in this challenge at St Lawrence college in Canterbury. A brief was set by the guest judge, Zoe Laughlin, a British artist and materials engineer. Designing was overseen by special guest Dr Zoe Laughlin, with the support of CCCU delegates (Canterbury Christ Church University) and teachers from Spires Academy, Herne Bay High School, St Edmunds School and of course St Lawrence.

The brief was to imagine how the future would look in 2075 and design a product that would fix a problem decided by the team. The students worked in mixed groups, and collaborated with students from other schools to come up with a design, build a prototype, and give a five-minute presentation to the rest of the students and judges. Congratulations to the students involved, particularly Madison Gisby who was part of the winning team.

St Lawrence college is a beautiful school, we were all in awe of it when we arrived! Our students were slightly intimidated at first, but it was lovely to see their confidence grow as the day went on. Our students really excelled, they were a credit to the school. They were all put into mixed teams with other schools, and Madison was in the winning team. The guest judge commented to Dr Sutton to say how brilliant she thought Madison was!

Well done and congratulations to the following:

Archie Boswell  
Tariro Kandawasvika  
Nuala Armstrong  
Raphaella Veloso Marins  
Madison Gisby



East Kent presents a diversity of economic, social and educational backgrounds for schoolchildren. When pupils and staff collaborate across schools, by sharing resources and exchanging experiences, there can be huge mutual benefits, especially for disadvantaged children. East Kent Schools Together is an innovative independent-state school partnership, in which each school contributes and draws from the partnership on an equal footing for the benefit of all. The inclusion of a university as a partner opens exciting and innovative educational opportunities for the schools involved.



## STAGGERED DISMISSAL TIMES w/c 10/10/2022

Day	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri	3.30	3.25	3.20	3.15	2.10	3.30	3.30
Thursday only	2.30	2.25	2.20	2.15	2.10	2.30	2.30

### Spotlight on...Black History Month

This year's Black History Month at The Abbey School is more important than ever - it is not just a month to celebrate the continued achievements and contributions of Black people to the UK and around the world but also a time for continued action to tackle racism and discrimination.

All students at The Abbey School learn the 9 Protected Characteristics in Wider Personal Development (WPD) sessions - including race (race refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour and nationality (including citizenship), ethnic or national origins. Race discrimination occurs when people are treated differently because of their race in one of the situations The Equality Act 2010 covers.

The theme for Black History Month 2022 is

**"Time for Change: Action Not Words"**



Assemblies and lessons will celebrate this throughout October for all year groups; KS5 Core Learning students will be working on a series of materials that will be used in future sessions too. Thanks to Mrs Evans for this fantastic display in the Learning Resource Centre.

#BlackHistoryMonth2022

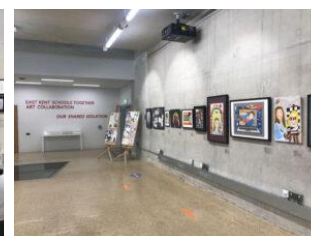
### Rhys continues to box clever!

Thank you to the Cleaver family for sharing some awesome news with us recently. You may remember, back in issue 20, we celebrated Rhys' previous success at a bout in Bexley. Last weekend, Rhys won yet another boxing fight competition in Essex.

This achievement had a really positive effect last time and really improved his confidence, both in and out of school. He has been working so hard to do the right things in school and we are all glad this attitude is also translating to his sports. [#bethestyoucanbe](#)

### Alfie's continued success with EKST

Back in Lockdown #1, East Kent Schools Together launched 'Our Shared Isolation' art collaboration project which concluded with an amazing exhibition installed at the Daphne Oram centre for Creative Arts at CCCU. All the winners, including Alfie Monks, were invited to attend. Alfie's wonderful self-portrait was very well-received and gained the attention of Dr Jonathan Barnes, who will be including it in his new book about education. Only 2 portraits were chosen for the book so this is very high praise indeed!



### Mental Health Day – 10<sup>th</sup> October

In support of Mental Health Week 2022 and Mental Health Day, we have emailed all students to remind them of our Wellbeing Newsletter and have provided a mental health booklet for their use. This will all be flagged up in Tutor Time and assemblies as a point of interest all of next week.



[World Mental Health Day | Mental Health Foundation](#)

#MentalHealthWeek2022 #MentalHealthDay2022

### CCCU Information Evening

On Tuesday 4th October, the 6th form students were invited to attend a university finance information evening run by Canterbury Christ Church University. Ambitious year 12 and 13 students and their parents received some positively reassuring information about the financial impact of University which has certainly given them something to think about in the months ahead.

We are looking forward to working with our students further in securing their next destinations.

### Upcoming Key Dates

Open Morning	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October
Tower of London Reward Trip	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October
KS4 Dance Workshop	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October
End of Term 1	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October
HALF-TERM (Two Weeks)	<b>17<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>
Return to school for Term 2	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October
Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exam Week	31 <sup>st</sup> October – 4 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 11 Kent Choices Week	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November
Swale Youth Forum Day	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 11 Consultation Evening	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November
Year 12/13 Consultation Evening	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
Year 9 Consultation Evening	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
Year 10 Consultation Evening	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
Year 8 Consultation Evening	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
Year 7 Consultation Evening	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2023

Reminder to parents, carers and students →

