
News, Events and Updates at Chatham Grammar

2021 Schools Time Capsule - BAFTA Kids

Chatham Grammar students took part in the 2021 Schools Time Capsule, which aimed to help children reflect on their experiences and encourage a sense of togetherness within their school community, by creating something to mark the end of an extraordinary year.

Year 9 student Shaunna (Year 8 at the time), submitted a poem about COVID-19 into the competition, which she completed during lesson time. Shaunna wrote about how coronavirus has affected everyone, but how we should always be hopeful and thankful to those who worked hard through the pandemic.

Shaunna's poem was selected to be a part of the Time Capsule! To view Shaunna's entry, along with others from the academy, please click on the following YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRZuiPqIkwY>

Medway Street Angels - Charity Donations



overflowing!

With local families struggling to pay for the festive season and in general managing the impact of COVID-19, Chatham Grammar students and staff chose to support local charity Medway Street Angels this term. Students and staff filled shoe boxes with either gifts for a child, a teenager or a family food box. Collection crates were located around the academy to allow staff and students to drop off individual items - the crates were

Mrs Kitching dropped off the array of Christmas wrapped boxes, together with the individual items to a very overwhelmed Medway Street Angels!

If you would like to find out more information about the Medway Street Angels, please click on the following link: <https://msahomeless.co.uk/>

Exams

Year 11 and 13 students have made a fantastic start to their exam success in next summer's public exams. During November they sat their first set of mock examinations and now take forward their areas of improvement into the next term.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We have been overwhelmed with the amount of Year 9 students that have signed up to do their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award, with a record of 100 students!

This term students have attended their eDofE training with Mrs Lynch after school. Next term students will start training for their expeditions, which are planned to take place in March 2022. The students are very keen and have already started working on their sections (Volunteering, Skills and Physical).

We have received so many great expedition presentations from last year's Silver cohort and we would like to congratulate all the students for their hard work.

Quote from Silver Award students:

"Not only has DofE taught us how to become critical thinkers and gain resilience when your walking across that incredibly long corn field, but it has given us the step forward for universities and our cv; it has given us the opportunity to stand out amongst the crowd. DofE has created a new us from either being incredibly shy and hating the outdoors, to loving the memories we created and being extremely grateful for taking part."

For further information on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, please click on the following link: <https://www.chathamgrammar.org.uk/dofe>

Strictly Come Reading

On the 10th December we held the annual Strictly Come Reading, which was especially exciting since it's the first one in two years due to the pandemic. Strictly Come Reading is a public speaking competition designed to help build self-esteem and confidence.

Students auditioned for a place, and the chosen participants get up on stage to speak in front of Year 7 and 8 students, together with three judges! We had 8 reading acts this year, with 11 participants. All participants were awarded medals and the winners were given trophies.



SSG Badminton Competition

On the 18th November, 16 students and two sixth formers attended the SSG Badminton competition at Medway Park. All students performed well and really pulled together as an academy team.

All students supported each other and were co-ordinated throughout the day. A special thank you must to our sixth form helpers, Mia and MJ.

The tournament consisted of singles and double matches. Our KS3 teams finished in 5th and 6th place, with KS4 teams attaining a 2nd and 5th place. These results move us into 2nd place in the SSG competition, just one point off 1st place!

A Conversation with Michael Morpurgo



On the 1st December, 11 academy students were given the chance to watch author Michael Morpurgo speak at the Gulbenkian Theatre on the campus of the University of Kent, Canterbury. The event was amazing and enjoyed thoroughly by all. The author treated us to many life stories, an excerpt from a new book and even a song! The tickets were gifted by the University of Kent.

New Books

This term has seen a host of new books arrive at the library, some recently published and some found in charity shops! The library has replenished its stock across all genres, with dozens of new stories available to read. Following popular demand, there is now a shelf dedicated to manga and graphic novels - but students have to claim them quick!

Puzzles

One puzzle has been completed this term! Students across all year groups have been coming in to add a piece or two on their breaks and lunches. Students have eagerly begun the next challenge - it's a community effort!

Book Buzz Delivery

This year's Book Buzz books have been delivered to the Year 7s! Every year, Year 7 students get to choose a free book, paid for by the academy, to take home and keep. This scheme is part of Book Trust, who choose an annual selection of new stories. The most popular stories this year were *Star Switch* by Alesha Dixon and *When Life Gives You Mangoes* by Kareen Getten.



Book Cover Competition Winners



The winners of last year's Library Book Cover Competition have had their covers printed! Every year, the library hosts this competition in order to redesign and rejuvenate an old, boring cover from a classic story. The 2020-21 books were *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (Year 7 and 8 category) and *The Castle* by Franz Kafka (Year 9, 10 and 11 category). *Pride*

and *Prejudice* now has a splendid new cover from Lucy (then Year 7), and *The Castle* has a wonderfully emotive cover by

Shakira (then Year 9). This year's competition will be announced at the end of Term 2!

Launch of Digital Art Club

A culture of digital art has developed over the last year on the library Edmodo group, with students submitting pieces they've made for Black History Month and other events. The library Edmodo kept students connected with the library remotely through the pandemic. In light of this interest, Miss Goosey has set up a digital art club that runs on Fridays after school (2-3pm), where students can all teach each other and learn new skills pertaining to digital art. All students are welcome to attend - please see Miss Goosey in the library.

Remembrance in Library

The library has been celebrating Remembrance this term - students have been able to read letters from soldiers, learn about the countries that fought in WW1 and explore the host of books and films that the library has to offer. The non-fiction history shelves are currently undergoing work to make them more accessible in line with the curriculum - old books are being sold and replaced with new and updated books. This will hopefully be up and running in Term 3.



Primary Partnership

The UKAT Partnership Development Programme was launched in July 2021 and is going well, we are engaging with some local primary schools to share our amazing resources and the teaching expertise we have access to across our academies and our Lead Sponsor, the University of Kent.

We have successfully delivered our new style of 11+ tuition via webinar which covered all three topics within the 11+ Medway Test during the October half term break. Year 5 students from primary partnership schools were able to attend for FREE! The next 11+ webinar will be held in the February half term break.

We are currently planning our Super Saturday Creative Club based at Chatham Grammar starting in January 2022 for three weeks. Year 4 and 5 students will be invited to attend from our partnership schools. The workshops will have a creative and wellbeing focus. Students will get to work with super-sized puppets and develop skills around creating, structuring and sharing stories. UKAT's mindset coach Jo Price will be delivering fun and educational workshops based on a unique combination of mindfulness, brain theory and relaxing meditations. We are also hoping UKAT's new puppy Aslan will be able to attend too!

For further information regarding our UKAT Partnership Development Programme offer, please click on the following link:

<https://www.chathamgrammar.org.uk/ukatpartnershipdevelopmentprogramme>

Current News and Information - Social Media

For the most current news and information at Chatham Grammar, we invite you to follow our social media pages:

Facebook: @ChathamGrammar

Twitter: @ChathamGrammar

Instagram: @ChathamGrammar



We regularly promote competitions for our students and parents/carers on our social media channels.

Term 3 Return and Updates

We would like to advise parents, carers and students that the academy returns after the Christmas break on Tuesday 4th January 2022. Please check the website for any updates regarding changes around COVID.

To view the academy terms dates and Staff Development Days, please click on the following link:

<https://www.chathamgrammar.org.uk/term-dates>

After School Clubs

Each term we have a variety of exciting after school clubs that students can get involved in. Should students have any questions relating to the clubs on offer, we asked that they speak with the member of staff listed below:

Day	Club	Year Group	Time	Room	Staff Member
Monday	Combined Cadet Force (CCF)	All	3.15pm - 4.30pm	Dance Studio	Ms Knight
	Basketball	All	3pm - 4pm	Sports Hall	Christina Crusaders
Tuesday	Science Club	7 - 9	3.15pm - 4.15pm	Lab 03	Mr Maheta
	Netball	8 - 9	3pm - 4.15pm	Courts	Miss Tarrant
	Handball	GCSE PE students only	3pm - 4pm	Sports Hall	Miss Lee
	Choir	All (including staff)	3.15pm - 4.15pm	Hall	Mr Ware
	Philosophy & Film Club	9 - 11	3pm - 4pm	H14	Ms Byron
	Writing for Performance	7 - 9	3pm - 4pm	Drama Studio	Mr Care
Thursday	History Book Club	All	3pm - 4pm	H4, H5, H7	History Department
	Orchestra	All (including staff)	3.15pm - 4.15pm	Hall	Mr Ware
	Netball	10 - 11	3pm - 4.15pm	Courts	Mrs Wakeman
	Badminton	All	3pm - 4pm	Sports Hall	Miss Tarrant
Friday	Green Team	All	2pm - 3pm	H01	Mr Prescott
	Netball	7	2pm - 3.15pm	Courts	Miss Lee

Access to Higher Education Diploma - Short Courses at Chatham Grammar

We are pleased to advise that the University of Kent will be offering short taster courses in Chatham Grammar from mid January 2022. The free four-week courses will run for two hours each week in the evening.

The university will be offering the following courses throughout the remainder of the academic year:

See Yourself Write: Short Stories

See Yourself Write: Poetry

Getting to Grips with Shakespeare: A Helpful Guide to Reading the Bard

Further information and how to register for the above courses will be sent out to parents, carers and the wider community in the New Year.

Free Talk Therapy for Adults



University of
Kent | Academies Trust
(UKAT)

University of Kent Academies Trust
Counselling Service

FREE Talk Therapy for Adults
**Monday to Thursday,
4pm - 8pm**

During these uncertain times, you may find yourself feeling anxious or stressed. The dedicated team of volunteer Counsellors in training, are able to offer you confidential and non-judgemental support.

Counselling offers opportunities to look at other ways to manage difficult situations.

For further information or to book, please email:
Counsellors@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk

For further information or to book an appointment, please email Counsellors@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk

Facilities for Hire

We are pleased to advise that Chatham Grammar's facilities are now available to hire. For a full list of facilities, further information or to book, please email officecg@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk, alternatively click the following link: <https://www.chathamgrammar.org.uk/facilities-for-hire>



Lettings



- Sports Hall
- Dance Studio
- Main Hall
- Classrooms
- Meeting spaces

For more information please visit:

<https://www.chathamgrammar.org.uk/facilities-for-hire>

**FACILITIES
AVAILABLE TO
HIRE NOW**