



School news and updates

Celebrating the hard-earned Duke of Edinburgh Award achievement of over 130 students

On Wednesday 6th December we held a Duke of Edinburgh Awards celebration evening for more than 130 students who have achieved the award at Bronze, Silver and Gold over the past 12 months.

Joined by guest speakers Rachel Smith, Bournside of DofE Alumni, and Paul Webb from H5 Adventure, the ceremony recognised student achievement at all levels of the award and the efforts that staff and volunteers have made to ensure the scheme is so successful. Congratulations to everyone involved!

"Windswept, wet and wondering which way up the map goes: the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme provides all kinds of challenges. When we think of the D of E, we tend to think of expeditions - of days spent exploring the mountains, valleys and pathways of our countryside. Those expeditions require teamwork, problem-solving, and the ability to keep going when stopping seems a far more attractive option. However, it's not just physical endurance that is required to be successful. The other elements of the award are testing too: they take staying power, perseverance, and dedication. They test students' "people skills"; they require initiative and independence."

"In other words, success in the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme is hard-earned. It's not easy! It is, therefore, a real pleasure to spend some time this evening celebrating those of our students who have risen to the challenge."

- Mr Jefferies, Headteacher



Diary dates

Monday 4th - Friday 15 December

- Year 11 Mock Exams

Wednesday 13th December

- Christmas Concert, 7.30pm. Please join us at St Matthew's Church for a wonderful Christmas Concert. Tickets £3.00 via MCAS. All are welcome.

Thursday 14th December

- Year 7 Disco. Tickets are available via MCAS.

Tuesday 19th December

- Student Awards Ceremony, CLC Parabola Arts Centre.

Wednesday 20th December

- Student Christmas Lunch (details tbc)

Friday 22nd December

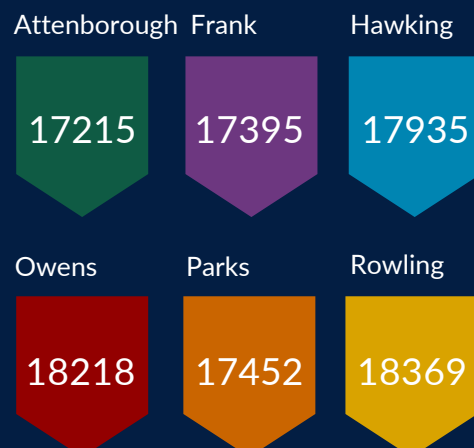
- Last day of Term 2. Early finish 12.45pm.
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Monday 8th January

- First day of Term 3

House points

Rowling hold the lead. Will they hold it until Christmas?



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Cooking with a Royal Navy Commando



Last week Year 10 students had a visit from Royal Marines Commando Chef today where they took part in a live cook along of Turkey and vegetables wraps. The workshop discussed how students can cook high protein healthy dishes which are also budget friendly! Royal Marines Mike discussed career prospects not just in the Royal Navy but for the next steps in their lives.

Archives Live: Tudors

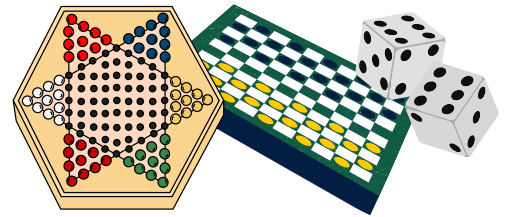


Year 13 historians joined 'Archive Live: Tudors' on Monday to participate in a session focusing on rediscovering Tudor sources. Run by The National Archives and delivered by historian, Tracy Borman, and seasoned London Tour Guide, Jenny Draper, the session included the study of original documents such as the Valor Ecclesiasticus and deciphering Tudor handwriting.

Mrs Ryland, Assistant Head of History and Politics said "This opportunity was designed to aid the students understanding of sources relevant to the Edexcel Rebellion and Disorder in Tudor England course and to give them an insight into the work of historians. Year 13 worked well in their source analysis and produced some interesting discussions. Well done!"

Club highlight: Table Top Games Club

Hang out and enjoy board games and card games with new friends, every Wednesday after school in the Library. - **Mr Marlow**



Fill a box this Christmas for Open Door



Mr Clarke in the English Department is leading on a school-wide collection of food, toiletries and other essential items for an important local charity, Cheltenham Open Door.

The festive period is a particularly difficult time of year for many people in our community, and this year is no exception. Open Door supports some of the town's most vulnerable people, with well over a hundred people dependent on them for their day-to-day survival. Based in Alstone Road in Cheltenham, Open Door provides hot food, laundry facilities and social support, as well as signposting services to other support agencies and charities.

Students are asked to take their donations to their TUTOR GROUP before Thursday 21st December, where they will be added to each House collection. Thank you for your support.

[Click here to read this week's student careers newsletter](#)



Student Christmas design competition

We're not sending Christmas cards IRL this year! Instead, we'd like YOU to design our Christmas social header.

- The competition: Design a Christmas social media cover image (1640px x 924px) for us to use over the holidays.
- Your design should represent the school, our values and Christmas. To enter via Showbie please join the class (**code ZA979**) and upload your artwork, by Friday 15th December.
- The winning designs will win an Amazon gift voucher (1 x £20, 2 x £10) and will be shared with the 5000+ followers on our social media channels.

Good luck!

- Mr Waters, Deputy Headteacher



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