
News, Events and Updates at Chatham Grammar

Chatham Grammar Virtual Open Events

On Saturday 14th and Saturday 21st November Chatham Grammar welcomed parents and carers of prospective students to our very first Virtual Open Events.

Viewers were greeted with a presentation from our CEO, Principal and Associate Principals, and also invited to view an extensive range of informative and inspirational content on our brand new and bespoke virtual events website.

Potential students could join Angel (Year 8 student at CG) on her very own student tour, and hear her views on the Academy and its amazing facilities, as well as explore some of the subjects on offer at Chatham Grammar.



Our Virtual Open Event was extremely successful, and parents, carers and students were really impressed. Our Principal's presentation has now been viewed over 900 times across our website and social media platforms. Parents and carers that registered were invited to give us feedback on the event and we received 100% positive feedback.

Parents and Carer Feedback

“It was by far the most extensive and best presented virtual tour of all the Medway grammar schools.”

“Not being able to look round the schools this year due to the ongoing pandemic was really disappointing but your virtual tour was great. It was by far the best virtual tour we watched. My daughter really loved being able to look in each class individually and having a student show us around as well as a parent, student and teacher's views and ethos of the school was excellent. Really fab virtual tour, you were our first choice so we've fingers crossed that she gets a place at your school as she's looking forward to a future there.”

“The virtual open event was extremely informative and really showcased CG. My eldest daughter attends CG in year 10 and as we have visited the school on several occasions, we were very impressed with the improvements that have been made to the school. We have always been impressed with the school and the virtual open evening really portrayed how great the school is.”

"Really impressed with the excellent tour. My daughter loved it and has now watched it several times! Very informative and showed all the different areas of the school to give us a good awareness of the school. Thank you! Best video we've watched by a mile!"

"My daughter Rose and I were very impressed with your online tour and with Angel's tour guide skills. Out of the three online tours we have watched this is our favourite and my daughter has chosen this as her first choice school. It looked very professional. Love the new building and all the new iMacs! And love the old building too with so much character."

The Design a Christmas Card Competition

The talented winner of "The Design a Christmas Card" competition was produced by a Year 7 student.

Nishna's creative and festive design was chosen as the winning entry by Ms Walters.

Congratulations Nishna, we hope you enjoy your prize!



UKAT Sixth Form Virtual Options Event

On Wednesday 25th November, the UKAT Sixth Form invited students to our very first Virtual Options Event. We had over 370 people register for the event, which included external Year 11 students, together with Year 11 students from Chatham Grammar and Brompton Academy.



The introduction video was streamed live on our social media channels at 6pm and has since reached over 880 views! Participants can access 360 virtual tours of both Chatham Grammar and Brompton Academy, along with information on subjects, student life, student destination and Higher Education. Students could also easily apply to the UKAT Sixth Form online.

If you missed our live event - please click the following link to tour our amazing facilities and access all the information needed to apply for our increasingly popular Sixth Form: <https://www.ukatevents.org.uk/ukat-sixth-form/welcome/>.

We are pleased to share with you some wonderful comments from the recent Virtual Options Event:

“It was very interesting and helped me think about my A levels.”

“It was very informative, and I enjoyed hearing about everything that was given. Very Interesting.”

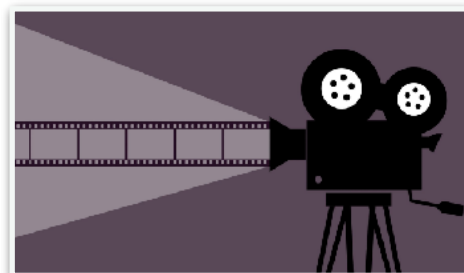
“It was well thought out, informative and engaging.”

Student Filming - Thank You!

Miss Price would like to convey a sincere thank you to all of the students who kindly participated in the production of the films for the CG Open Events and the UKAT Sixth Form Options Event.

Year 7 students were Grace, Alima, Emily, Patsy, Matila, Bibi and Naomi and Year 8 students were Amelia, Ore, Angel, Tatiyanh, Libby and Faaiaqa.

UKAT Sixth Form students were Lucy, Gabby and Nana Kwasi.

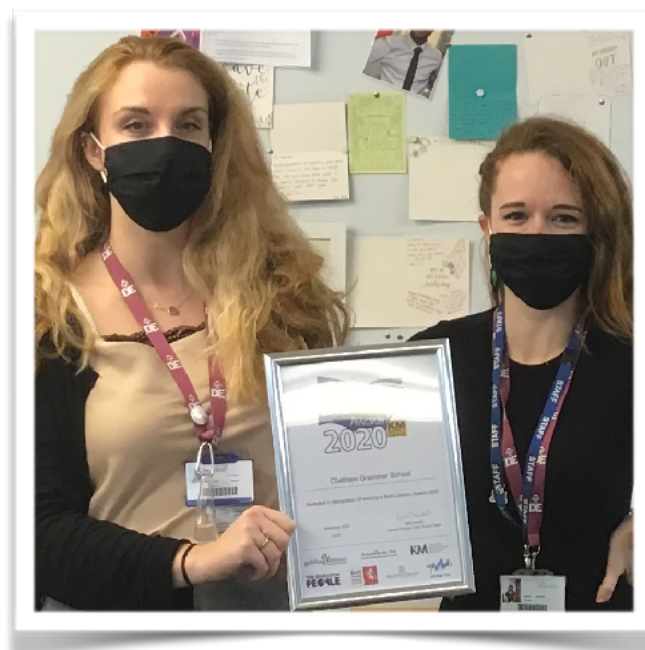


Kent Literacy Award

We are proud to announce that Ms Keers and Ms Goosey received the Kent Literacy Award from the KM Group. The award recognises their efforts in the following areas:

- Fantastic literacy lessons for Year 7 students last year.
- Their success in delivering the Creative Writing club in the Library.
- Creative writing competitions every term.
- Encouraging students to read during PT time as well as use the Library to broaden their skills.

Well done!



Free BuzzBooks for Year 7 Students

Year 7 students have been given the opportunity to order a free BuzzBook each, funded by the Academy. The books are being delivered by Miss Goosey the Princess Librarian! This has been a great event to encourage more students to read, and has been enjoyed by all of Year 7.

Some extra funding from the Academy has allowed the Library to invest in a multitude of new books to increase the diversity within the literature we provide. We now have books that have been released in 2020 – Japanese fantasy, Hindu mythology, LGBT+ and stories. As well as a brand-new collection of books to aid students with their mental health, including how to manage stress, anxiety and depression. A massive thank you to Ms Walters for this.

Students took part in a Bookworm quiz online to test their book knowledge and research skills and the top three highest-scoring students won prizes! Congratulations to Tallish in Year 7, Emily and Lucy in Year 10.

7



Year
Star



Debater

This year's Year 7 Debate took a slightly different format to usual, however, Year 7 didn't fail to impress everyone with their well-researched and confident contributions.

You all impressed your teachers with your perceptive and articulate arguments.

Congratulations and well done to this year's Star Debaters!



Green Week

After an exciting year of Green Team activities, this term we have started planting our trees which were donated by the Woodland Trust. Students from Years 7 to 10 along with staff planted the trees together. Poppy and Ruby from Year 8 are pictured below, along with Year 10 students, Emily and Isobel who were ably assisted by Ms Walters.

After working alongside Medway Environmental protection team and analysing a whole Academy survey, the Green Team responded, and have taken action to improve the air quality of our Academy. In 10 - 20 years, there will be a beautiful row of Birch, Rowan and Cherry trees along the perimeter of the sports field.



Online Safety Poster Competition

Mya in Year 7 is the winner of the online safety poster competition.

Year 7 and 8 students were invited to enter a competition as to how to be safe when playing games online. With the recent boost in online use from students and extra time at home, it was great to see so many students enter this competition and discuss the dangers of online gaming.

Mya's poster stood out for her meaningful points and her beautiful drawings, lots of effort is evident here. Well done Mya!

The next poster competition for how to use YouTube safely, has been launched and the deadline is 15th January 2021!

Please click on the link below for further information:

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



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The DofE programme has continued to thrive at UKAT with another record-breaking year for registrations across the trust.

In November, our DofE students in Years 9 and 10 had their first online training session to help get them started with their Award. Over 100 students have signed up for the Bronze Award and 46 for the Silver Award. We are really looking forward to seeing all of the amazing activities that they will be getting involved in.

Students should now have received their DofE welcome packs. It is amazing to see that some of our students have already started their Award and are submitting their evidence to their eDofE account.

With the #DofEWithADifference programme now in full swing, students have a lot more flexibility with their programme, and there is a real positive energy about learning new skills, getting fitter and coming up with new ways to complete their volunteering section under different conditions.

For further information about this amazing Award, please visit the DofE and the Academy websites by clicking the following links:

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

<https://www.dofe.org/>



Farewell from Mrs Culham

After eight years helping to run the DofE programme, first at Brompton Academy and then at Chatham Grammar. I am moving onto a new role within UKAT.

I have loved working with all of the DofE students, staff and volunteers over the years and have many, many happy memories, too many to share! My time has been made more enjoyable working with a great team and seeing students change from shy and guarded individuals into confident and independent young people and knowing that I helped in some small way.



It has been an absolute pleasure, and so much fun seeing the students achieve their Awards and helping them through their DofE journey.



I need to say thank you to so many - particularly to all of the staff and volunteers who give up their time to help us run such a successful programme across UKAT. A special thank you to Mr Webster, who has worked tirelessly alongside me to make UKAT DofE the amazing success that it is.

Mr Whitehead for his expedition knowledge, and of course to the legendary Mr Wyatt who has been a parent volunteer for five years.

Lastly, thanks must also go to the DofE South East Team, especially Alex and now James, who have helped me along my 'DofE journey' and have given our students some fantastic opportunities. One of the highlights was meeting HRH The Earl of Wessex and watching students showcasing the skills they have learnt through DofE, including speaking and singing in front of dignitaries at a prestigious dinner held at Hever Castle.

I am pleased to announce that Miss Newington will now take over as the DofE Manager at Chatham Grammar. I wish Miss Newington all the very best in this new role, and I really hope that in 2021 DofE can move forward with expeditions and celebrate everyone's achievements in person next year.

Very best wishes,

Julia Culham
DofE UKAT Manager



Music Department Updates

This term, students in Key Stage 3 have been looking at the elements of music through composition on GarageBand.

We have also explored music from around the world, samba from Brazil, djembe drumming from West Africa and reggae from Jamaica. We have discovered the descriptive programme music, music for film and explored genres such as electronic dance music, motown, soul and modern pop.

Music students in Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in the black history month listening challenge. Students were set tasks in each lesson and as homework, to listen to songs that were performed and composed by black, female seminal musicians such as Etta James, Aretha Franklin, Beyoncé and Tracie Chapman. Students discussed the historical and social impact of the artists and their songs, as well as listen out for musical features.

Well done to the winners of the challenge who were:

Amirah and Louise in Year 7, Amreet and Yemi in Year 8 and Keona in Year 9. Students received a £10 One4all gift voucher.

MAKATON CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

In the approach to the Christmas holidays, Year 7 students have been looking at and performing a Makaton version of Winter Wonderland in lieu of being able to perform in a Christmas Concert this year.

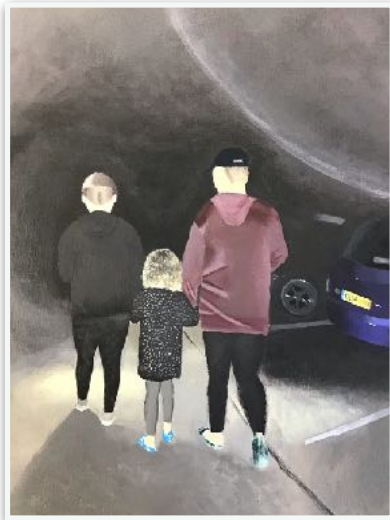
We are hoping to put on a concert to show off the amazing musicians that we have here at Chatham Grammar, once the current situation dissipates.



Year 12 Art - People in Places

Below are some examples of the fantastic artwork being produced from some of our very talented Year 12 students Jack, Clara and Amy.

Clara explains: "In this project, we explored the theme 'People in Places' which, as the name suggests, looks at figures in different places. Some of us for the first time, used oil paints to bring the sketches of our compositions and photographs to life, as well as exploring with other medias such as acrylic and watercolours. Despite being out of my comfort zone, I enjoyed this project."



Understanding and Supporting Your Teenager

At the beginning of Term 2, we invited parents and carers to attend an online workshop with The Behaviour Detective. The two-hour interactive Understanding and Supporting Your Teenager session allowed parents and carers the opportunity to discuss behaviours and why a teenager may behave in a certain way.

92% of participants would recommend the virtual workshop to other parents/carers.

"It was useful to hear other parents problems and how similar they are to yours. Helpful presentation and clear advice given."

"This workshop has validated all the good practices I have been doing as a parent and to change how I react to certain conversations that may unnecessarily escalate."

"The workshop was very well structured, and I felt Jo put things across in a really good way as a fellow parent. It has made me think about my approach."

We hope to be able to offer this workshop in early 2021 and will email parents/ carers as soon as this has been confirmed.



Inspired Food Sculptures

Year 7 students created Claus Oldenburg inspired food sculptures as an optional homework task over the half term break. The winning entries are below and the students received art packs to allow them to continue to develop their creativity.



Asda's Christmas Kindness

All 216 of the supermarket's cafés are taking part and will provide children under the age of 16 with a meal completely free of any charge when accompanied by an adult. There are no minimum spend requirements or restrictions on the number of children in a family or group that can take advantage of this offer.

Asda cafés located in areas with Tier 3 COVID restrictions will still provide this offer to local children via a takeaway service. The offer will run from December 1st to 31st December except Christmas Day when stores are closed.

The free meals for children is part of Asda's Christmas kindness campaign, which aims to support local communities during difficult and unprecedented times.

For further information, please click on the link below:

<https://corporate.asda.com/newsroom/2020/11/30/kids-can-eat-free-in-asda-cafes-throughout-december>



University of Kent Academies Trust **Counselling Service**

**FREE Talk Therapy for Adults
Tuesday's and Thursday's,
5pm - 9pm**

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