

The Judd School

Headteacher's | Newsletter



WELL DONE, YOU MADE IT!

As what is unquestionably the weirdest of terms closes, I reflect on the pride I have in our school community, and society as a whole, in how we have come together, adapted and learnt new skills all amongst a back drop of rising anxiety and concerns for our loved ones. A massive congratulations for making it to the summer holidays, have a well deserved break, all!



Farewells!

This has been a testing time for so many, but to those leaving us this year particularly, an odd farewell.

Firstly those staff leaving us (joined in...):

- Kathleen Lynch Howard (1994)
- Rosemary Brown-Hume (2005)
- Shirley Dobra (2010)
- Peter Boyages (2015)
- Jenny Sullivan (2018)
- Charlie White (2019)
- Charlotte Riddle (2019)
- Megan Taylor (for maternity leave)

Thank you to all those above, who have given so much to the school, specifically to our students.

A very happy retirement to Kathleen, Rosemary and Shirley. The 50+ years you have dedicated to supporting our students between you is an outstanding achievement. A set of extremely large shoes in our exams, careers and UCAS provision all supporting student transition to the wider world is left behind.

Thankfully, you were each kind enough to allow us to plan for this well in advance and so hopefully the big feet we have found are ready!

Peter leaves us to start a family back in his home, Australia. A huge thank you to him for the support he has given the Sixth Form in his current role and to the scores of maths students he has supported.

Jenny and Charlie leave after relatively short times with us, but having made significant impacts. They each go on to exciting new opportunities locally with our warmest wishes for great success.

Thank you to Charlotte, who provided such excellent cover within the Art Department, we would have loved you to stay, but good luck in your next role.

Warmest wishes to Megan (and James) on the birth of their second child.

Finally, a very fond farewell to our Year 13. It was very sad that we didn't get a proper goodbye in March, we did our best on short notice. We'll have to do that at the prom and Skinners' Day (2nd and 4th Jan - hopefully!)



Changing of the Guard!

Our outgoing Senior Prefect Team (Dola Rabiou, Alexandra Duncan, Felix Baker, Kaya Hardie) have been one of our strongest - a massive thank you to them for navigating the year with grace, style and endeavour. We welcome a new team, who haven't had the usual run in through the summer weeks, but will be ready to get cracking in September I'm quite sure. They have already been recording welcome videos to our new students!



Head Boy: John Mulford, Head Girl: Sophie Cantwell-Kelly, Deputies: Becky Roodt and Theo Briscoe.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN LOCKDOWN?



Virtual Charity Run

Earlier in the year, Year 11 student Henry Bretz (pictured after his run!) organised a virtual charity run with the support of the sports department in order to raise money for NHS Charities Together. The event was well received by staff, students and OJs alike with over 160 participants signing up to run.



**Judd XC Virtual
Charity Run**

**NHS CHARITIES
TOGETHER**

The aim was to run as far as cumulatively possible. As the run was virtual, everyone could record their distance and upload it whilst still abiding by the Government guidelines on social distancing.

The run was a huge success, with a total distance of 1914 km being covered over the course of the day! The combined efforts of staff (including Ben Headon - right), students and OJs raised £5,690 for health care workers across the NHS.



Our Developing Digital Strategy

Like everyone else adapting to working from home, we too have had to quickly change our approach to delivering lessons online and facilitating home learning using digital resources. Thankfully, the recent transition to Google for Education has meant we were in an excellent position to quickly adapt. Staff have had to quickly learn new skills - such as running lessons over Google Meet and have redesigned schemes of work so that they are deliverable over the internet. They have risen to the challenge and I thank them for how quickly they have transitioned to this way of working.

Just as we entered lockdown, we made the decision to purchase GCSEPod. This has proven hugely popular with students as it breaks learning down into smaller chunks, giving them the ability to focus on their own area of weakness, testing themselves as they go.

At the end of May, Judd was identified as being in the top 10 schools in the country for GCSEPod usage indicating that our students have been making very good use of this resource.



Judd Engineering Society

Members of the student organised Judd Engineering Society have been working to support care homes, hospitals, key workers and local businesses over the lockdown period, by designing and manufacturing accessories that relieve the strain of wearing vital PPE for prolonged periods of time.

Year 12 student Robert Gregson, Chair of the Society, said:



"Joe Wheeler and myself wanted to set up the society earlier this year in order to foster an interest for integrated STEM activities at school.

"I've been really pleased with how people have got involved, as we now have one of the highest memberships of any of



the school societies. Over lockdown we've kept this great momentum going through weekly virtual meetings, and - as many of our members were keen to support the effort against COVID-19 - our work creating PPE accessories for key workers.



I'm extremely proud of the fantastic and professional work the team has put in on the logistical, design and manufacturing sides of the project; and for the support of Mr Reay and the School as well as volunteers from the wider community. It's been very rewarding to see such a motivated and skilled group work together, and a brilliant learning experience for all involved. We are so glad we have managed to help so many people at such a difficult time."

The students have done a terrific job and have so far delivered 2,620 items to key workers within 40 organisations across Southeast England.

Linklaters Triumph!

Samantha Hall

The 'Making Links Schools Challenge' was a fantastic opportunity hosted by the magic circle law firm: Linklaters. 19

finalists and I were selected for the Virtual Grand Final via an essay competition based on the question: 'What has been the single biggest disruption or innovation in the business world, within your lifetime?'. This question really peaked my interest and I decided to enter the competition, basing my argument around social media and its affects on the UK economy.

Following my nomination, Linklaters hosted a series of virtual webinars as preparation for the Grand Final but also as further insight into the law firm itself. Joining this competition has given me lots of new ideas about how the corporate world works. During these webinars, we



were introduced to people working in the different sectors of the law firm and got to hear what their everyday routine looks like as well as some tips for applying. The Grand Final itself involved submitting a self-recorded video where you discuss your essay title in more depth. In preparation for this, public speaking coaches attended the webinars and gave us useful information about how to make our presentations more interesting and interactive. It was a challenging but rewarding experience.

Not only has this benefitted me, but Linklaters have also provided extra funding to the school, where it will be used to finance more law books for the school library as well as the Bar Mock Trial competition for the lower school. Like many students, I am unsure about my future career however I hope these investments will help other students find their passion and find what their future career might look like.

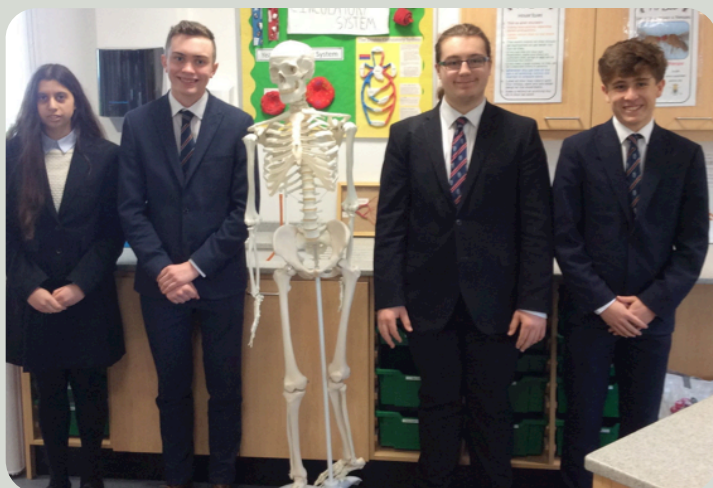
Thank you Linklaters for this experience!

Some of our Triumphs

Olympiad Successes! - Biology

Year 12 students were able to take part in a remote Intermediate Biology Olympiad which took place in early June with great success: 5 gold medals, 6 silver medals and 7 bronze medals as well as 9 high commendations and 3 commendations. Congratulations to all!

Following his earlier success in the first round of the British Biology Olympiad and a challenging second round, John Mulford placed in the top 4 out of over 9,000 students to represent the UK in the International Biology Olympiad. This was due to take place in Japan but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it will now take place remotely during August. We congratulate him and wish him the best of luck!



German

Chamika took part in the Oxford German Olympiad and submitted an essay on the topic of nature and technology. He received the excellent news that he won the competition.

Chamika also applied for a highly competitive work shadowing programme organised by the Goethe Institute that had an unprecedented high number of applicants, and needs to be congratulated for obtaining a placement in Schwäbisch-Hall.

Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme run at The Judd School has had its most successful year to date with the highest amount of DofE Awards achieved: 121 - 113 Silver (6 from Year 13, 36 from Year 12 and 71 from Year 11) and 8 Gold DofE Awards were achieved by Year 13 participants.

DofE Headquarters confirmed that 3211 hours of physical activities, 3887 hours of working towards a skill, 3302 hours of volunteering were completed by the above participants.

A huge range of activities were chosen from each section ranging from: cooking at home to go-karting and forestry in the skills section; rugby and cricket were the most popular activities chosen in the physical section; and within the volunteering section, many participants committed their time to working in charity shops as well as helping out at Cubs and community shops.

Year 11 Silver DofE participants also completed a practise expedition in The Ashdown Forest in May 2019 followed by a very successful assessed expedition in a brand-new location in The South Downs.

Finally, thank you to the many teaching and support staff who volunteered their time to help out with the training weekends and on the expeditions and learnt to enjoy camping in all weathers. Luckily, the weather was perfect expedition weather last Summer!

Fly Lab Gold CREST Award



Anna, Maisie, Rhea and Sabrina were recently awarded a Gold CREST Award in recognition of their work in Fly Lab. The group investigated the effects of different concentrations of alcohol on *Drosophila melanogaster* and wrote an extensive report for submission to CREST. Their project was praised for being well written and communicated with thorough planning and fulfilled 13 out of the 15 criteria.

This is an excellent achievement especially considering experiments had to stop in March, well done! We look forward to hearing of the success of the other five groups who will be submitting reports soon.

In other news...

Wear Your Uniform at Home Day

As you will have read in the newspapers, there is an increase in the number of people who are accessing the food banks at this time. During school holidays, these services are always in particular demand and this year this is looking as if they will be even even more in demand.

Therefore, we thought it would be appropriate to run a "Wear your uniform at home day" to raise money for the local Nourish Community Foodbank. Judd parents, friends and family have kindly donated to our Just Giving page and sent in photos of our students at home wearing their ties and blazers - and anything else of their uniform which still fits!

Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated, we are delighted to have reached over 2.5k so far!

Cross Country

In March, KSAA (Kent Schools Athletics Association) Cross Country Team 2020 was confirmed as overall ESAA Boys XC Champions for the 5th time in 8 years! A quarter of the team was made up from Judd boys which is a fantastic result!

School Garden

After a year of planning and organising, the new school garden has recently been completed. Designed by members of the Judd Eco Committee as a quiet space for staff, students and wildlife, it includes an evolution trail, mini-orchard, greenhouse, wildflower area, pond and raised beds.

Although the work was completed the week we went into lockdown, we are delighted to say it is still being



used by our students who are children of key workers to grow carrots, beetroot, potatoes, spring onions, parsnips, pumpkins, courgettes and even melons in the greenhouse!

A number of bee and butterfly species have also been spotted enjoying the wildflower area. We hope many more students will be able to get involved in the new gardening club when they all return to school!

We would like to thank Lavender Blue Landscape Gardeners, run by OJ Parent Andrea Byerley, for their hard work in making the Eco Committee's, plans a reality.

Thanks, of course, to the committee for their dedication to the space!

