

The Pillars of Excellence

NewsLetter

Term 6



2024

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The Canterbury Academy Trust

Knight Avenue
Canterbury, CT2 8QA

This term the Academic pillar can reflect on what the academic year of 2023-24 has looked like. Most importantly, I am delighted with the way in which our students have embraced the wide range of activities that fall within the Academic pillar. Two years on from Covid we are back to being able to use every opportunity to enhance the curriculum and offer learning opportunities under the academic umbrella. I want to celebrate the tenacity and desire of all of our pupils who have tried something new, challenged themselves academically and often moved out of their comfort zone. Similarly, I celebrate the staff who have gone the extra mile to support pupils and think creatively to put on activities, run clubs and take pupils out of school for extra-curricular and super-curricular events.

Below are some of the many opportunities offered to our pupils:

- A revamped, fabulous library
- University Scholarship scheme for Years 8, 9 and 10
- Brilliant Club
- Langton/Academy enrichment activities
- Chess club
- Rewards days at Kent and Christ Church Universities
- Sixth Form volunteers at Canterbury Primary School
- New librarians
- Reading support programme with Kent University ambassadors and Franklin Scholars
- University support programme with St Hugh's College, Oxford
- Science research programme with Simon Langton Boys
- Author visits
- Year 7 visit to Waterstones and gift of their own book

University applications soar

We are delighted that this year we have had over 200 Year 13 students make applications to higher education institutions. We have over 70 different destinations chosen and a massive array of courses intended to be studied. We are hoping that in August results day will allow our alumni to go on to great and interesting opportunities. We are very proud of them and delighted with their positive aspirations.

I would like to thank the phenomenal effort and support that Mrs Kendrick White has given to all of our students. Below are some of the different examples of support that have been offered to this year's cohort:

- Higher Education Fair trip- where all universities promote their courses
- Oxford University Outreach – current Oxford students explain the Oxbridge application process
- Personal statement workshops from Canterbury Christ Church University
- Access and induction to Unifrog (excellent research site for all university courses, accommodation, employment record etc)
- Bespoke support from Mrs Kendrick White



To arrange a professional discussion and/or visit please contact:

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academic@canterbury.kent.sch.uk

or

Steve Hadlow

Head of The Sixth Form

6thform@canterbury.kent.sch.uk

Library looms large

I am keen to start this overview of the year with the library. This has been an exceptionally exciting development for the whole school and an integral part of what the Academic pillar wants to offer to pupils. We have had a fantastic number of books borrowed, clubs running every day, special events marked and celebrated with workshops, author visits and a great team of librarians to support our amazing librarian Mrs Kingsland. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank Mrs Williamson, our literacy lead for guiding the whole process. As an indication of the impact of the library for our pupils this is a short section from one of our Year 7 librarians' application form to become a librarian:

Firstly, I would like to say that I love spending time in the Library and I love to help out with putting books away, being a librarian, being here for many activities such as world book day, book fairs etc, and also being able to decorate the library for many amazing events in the course of history or even just to celebrate!

Below is a snapshot of what has occurred this year:

- 3200 books loaned out. A good mix of fiction, graphic novels and non-fiction
- Multiple competitions such as writing, colouring, crafting etc over the year
- Author talks throughout the year
- Books of the week
- Reading reward scheme
- Primary school events
- Variety of clubs from colouring, film, book clubs, chess, board games etc
- Events held in the library for Halloween, Christmas, World Book Day, Olympics etc
- Book fair
- New books regularly purchased from student requests and following trends in books and new releases
- Student librarians worked hard all year to learn how the library runs and helped to promote and run the library. Next year we are looking forward to completing awards and leading and training the new librarians



Expeditions end a fantastic Duke of Edinburgh year

As we complete the second full year of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, we have had some great expeditions, the key part of the scheme: a two-day adventure ending with an overnight stay in the Herne Bay woods. Alongside the expedition, all students on our bronze and silver awards schemes must participate in a hobby, volunteer and regularly do some physical activity.



We are delighted with the uptake from our students, with now up to 120 participants in less than 2 years. Once again, we must thank the amazing staff who offer these opportunities. A big thank you to Mrs Phillips and Ms Envis for all their time and leadership of this fantastic scheme.

Primary school seizes the academic opportunities

Below are some fantastic pictures that capture the academic year for the Primary school and just some of the events that took place:

- Year 6 Cathedral Trip
- Dog's Trust workshops
- STEM workshop
- Chaucer college – Japanese college visit
- Geology workshop
- Author visits



French Open Success for Canterbury Academy Sixth Former

Year 12 student, Ruben Harris, has enjoyed incredible success on the tennis court this summer. He excelled in The French Open by claiming the Junior Boys doubles wheelchair event at the famous Roland Garros venue. He partnered Austria's Maximilian Taucher to seal the inaugural French Open boys' wheelchair doubles title. Ruben's dedication to his sport involves committing over 15 hours a week to his tennis and he has travelled across Europe to compete in international tournaments. This success is extraordinary and something that The Canterbury Academy are extremely proud of.



Canterbury Primary School Pupils Interview England Euro Stars

A selection of pupils from our primary school appeared on England Football's special digital programme "Lion's Den." The pupils asked Ivan Toney and Harry Kane questions about the tournament and their favourite players. The pupils involved were Zev Westgarth, Freddie Crouch, Aaron Francis-Abud, Nathan Cotgrave, Lyra Foster and Sasha Cherepovskiy. They delivered their questions brilliantly and represented the school in such a positive way.



Track and Pool Success

Two of our Sixth Form athletes have enjoyed promising summers on the track. Georgie Kyte has been selected to run for Kent in a national competition in Birmingham. She has excelled in the 400 metre hurdles this summer and recently smashed a second off her personal best in the county championships. Abi Hawkes did very well in the 800 metres at the same event.

Year 8 student, Ashton Platts, continues to perform well in the swimming pool. He competed at The British Para-Swimming Championships in Coventry and swam in seven events. He was swimming against older competitors and despite this, he has qualified for the summer national event in the 200 metre individual medley.

Some of our younger footballers have finished the season in style. Year 8 student, Lucy Stringer, capped an incredible season for her club by being selected for the Kent Schools U14 squad after a trial during June. Cody Beale and Charlie Betts, also in Year 8, represented Canterbury District in a national final against Salford in Manchester this summer. Despite losing 3-0, this is a great effort by both boys.

Year 9 student, Lola Sanderson has been selected to represent an England u15 touch rugby side in an international tournament in France in August. Lola represents Canterbury Rugby Club and Invicta Touch.



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To arrange a professional discussion and/or visit please contact: Phil Relf
Director of Sport
sport@canterbury.kent.sch.uk

County Cup Success

Our under 18 cricket side won the Kent Schools' Lemon Cup for the third successive year by defeating Eltham College in the final. The following students have represented Kent this summer- Akhil Venugopalan, Harry Fulton and Fergie Conway. Our under 17 team lost to Epsom College in the regional final of a national cup meaning they had reached the last sixteen in the country.

Boxing Developments

We have begun an exciting partnership with City Boxing Club that sees them providing specialist fitness and skills sessions at their amazing facility in Roper Road. A number of younger students are now benefiting from highly structured training.

Success in Malta for Sixth Form Netball

Our netballers enjoyed a productive end of season tour to Malta where they got to train with international players and play against local clubs and schools. The trip was a huge success.

National Sports Week

Our second national sports week was another resounding success. Our PE department provided a number of activities on site and off site for every year group. Students experienced outdoor and adventurous sports that included climbing, abseiling, high ropes, kayaking and canoeing.

Sports Partnership News

Sports leaders from The Canterbury Academy and The Langton were involved in filming with England Rugby for a special coaching video. The video will be shared nationally with primary schools. The leaders received an England shirt, kit bag and trip to Twickenham. Isaac Little, Lottie Martin and Aqsa Kayani took part on behalf of The Canterbury Academy.

The sports partnership also ran their first summer athletics festival for local primary schools. Blean Primary School performed brilliantly across every year group. In addition to this, the district sports awards took place this term. Selected students enjoyed a beach volleyball session, refreshments and an awards ceremony including prizes from Faversham Trophies, Inflate 'N' Play, Kent Crusaders, Kent Cricket, Canterbury Rugby Club and Impact Dance Academy.



News and Events Excellence in Performing Arts

Performing Arts A Round-up of a Year of Fabulousness!

What an amazing year we have had in performing arts! With record-smashing numbers of performers and performances our faculty is going from strength to strength! Thank you to all our students and their families for their ongoing support – we are so grateful to you all.

Term 1 and 2 Christmas Cabaret, 6th and 7th December

What an absolute blast we had at our Movie themed Christmas extravaganza this year! Students from our primary, secondary and sixth form academies were singing, dancing and playing their way through two wonderful performances for your festive delight. With an all-time record number of performers (including a very special cameo performance from our very own Mr Watson!)



Terms 3 and 4 'Lord of the Flies' at The Gulbenkian Theatre, 31st January – 2nd February

The Acting Academy, across three evenings, with the assistance of some of our wonderful younger JIPA performers performed with maturity and sophistication.

We were incredibly proud of you all.



'The Little Mermaid' at The Black Hole Theatre, 7th-9th February

Congratulations to The Musical Theatre Academy on their amazing performances of 'Disney's The Little Mermaid'. The show was a huge success - playing to sold out, enthusiastic audiences. The pictures show just how amazing it really was.



'Choscars' at The Canterbury Academy, 7th March

Our favourite time of year in the performing arts department – CHOSCARS! Our awards night is the most joyous way to celebrate all of our amazing performing arts students. We were incredibly proud to welcome back our guest

speaker, Louis Sparks to school. Louis was a student at the Academy for many years and is now enjoying a successful career as an actor.

To arrange a professional discussion and/or visit please contact: Sarah Watson
Director of Performing Arts

performingarts@canterbury.kent.sch.uk

'Frozen' at The Gulbenkian Theatre 20th-22nd March

We filled the Gulbenkian Theatre with pure joy in March! With our biggest JIPA cast to date; with four performances and three separate full casts. Add the amazing Canterbury Primary School PIPA students and it was pure magic. We sold out every single performance and every single student on that stage SHONE! We really hope that you managed to catch it and enjoyed it as much as we did.



Chernobyl at The Gulbenkian Theatre, 15th May

The Dance Academy performed their first ever PTP show at the Gulbenkian Theatre! They worked so hard on their production of Chernobyl and gave a powerful and engaging performance.

'Real Estate' at The Black Hole Theatre, 20th and 21st May

The Acting Academy presented their second sold-out show of the year at The Black Hole Theatre. A sharply observed, epic play combining elements of social realism and satire. With two casts, this play really challenged our actors to take on gritty, believable characters – and they absolutely smashed it! We were so proud of all of you.



Terms 5 and 6 'Revival' at The Black Hole Theatre, 24th May

On 24th May our highly talented 6th form Music Academy students performed their annual showcase in The Black Hole. They gave the show the title "Revival" to reflect their choice of songs from before the year 2000. All performers did an amazing job on the night and they were also in charge of organising and managing the whole gig as part of their BTEC course. Great show guys.



'Legally Blonde' at Strode Park, 24th June

Our incredible musical theatre students performed Legally Blonde the Musical at Strode Park Foundation's amphitheatre. It was a huge gamble doing an outside performance, but the British summertime weather was on our side and we had a fantastic week.

The cast performed beautifully whilst dealing with seagulls squawking, bright sunshine, light drizzle and blustery winds! It was an experience for us all, and as always, our students did us proud.



'Shrek' at The Gulbenkian Theatre, 16th-18th July

As this newsletter goes to print, we are in the thick of our four-performance run of Shrek. With all performances sold out, our huge ensemble of 200 students are working and performing their socks off and we are having the time of our lives. What a way to end the year!!

Happy Summer everyone.



Careers Fair for KS4 and KS5

The Careers Fair have been a fantastic opportunity for our students to investigate possible career routes and research the necessary qualifications and subjects that can best support them achieve their aspirations.

We were very fortunate to have universities, local employers and apprenticeship providers volunteering their time to share their specialism and expertise with our students.

Year 9 Design and Technology Competition

A group of year 9 students took part in the V&A Innovate challenge, where they chose to come up with creative solutions for the theme of 'Restore'. They developed their team working skills while finding solutions to real world problems, considering the needs of the local community and communities further afield. One team focussed on the flooding issues in Tuvalu, another considered how the old Nason's department store could be used for the community.

Young Cooks Competition 2024 – Finalist and Winner

Sydney Mason in Year 9 entered the Young Cooks competition. Sydney cooked a lovely chilli beef with udon noodles which secured her place in the final on the 14th of March. She then prepared and cooked her dish for the judges in a timed competition and was judged to be the overall secondary category winner.

Sydney will have a whole day's work experience at The Dog at Wingham, cooking at a showcase lunch for specially invited VIP guests as well as an amazing prize of £500. We are all so very proud of Sydney. Well, done.

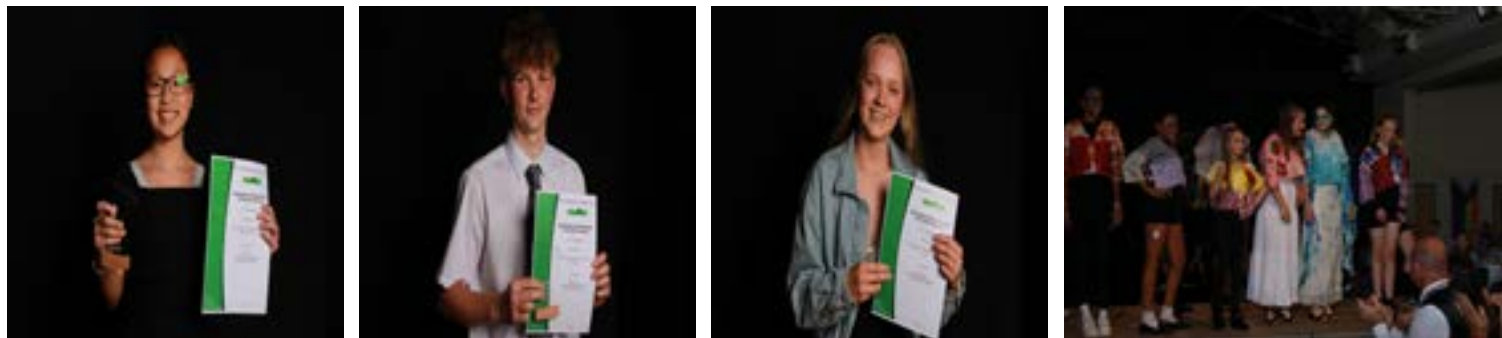
Margo Art Workshop

Some of our Year 8 and Year 10 students had the absolute joy to work with a well-known artist from Kent. Margo McDaid, known as 'Margo', from Margate, worked with a group of students in a painting workshop. Margo is an extremely successful artist whose work is inspired by colour, vintage shirts, and illustrations in children's books. The students and staff involved thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Practical Awards Evening

We celebrated the achievements of over 50 students across The Academy Trust within the Pillar for Practical learning. The evening was complimented by the Phenomenal Art and Photography exhibition with some amazing talents on show. We held our annual Fashion show with jackets made by students and the hair and beauty completed by our students. It was an amazing evening and showcase of talents.



Amelix Success and Collaboration in the Community

The Shedloads shop at Whitstable Harbour is a unique partnership between Amelix Education, Canterbury City Council, The Canterbury Academy Trust and St Nicholas School to provide an opportunity for students and pupils to get invaluable work experience in all aspects of running a shop- stock taking and ordering, customer service, retail display and money management, including working the till. The main business of the shop is to sell environmentally sustainable products including refillable detergents and beauty products. Some of our current Sixth Form students are attending for work experience as part of this collaboration.



Canterbury Skate Project

We have recently been visited by Skate GB and interviewed about the opportunities that are provided for our students. Look out for the article soon.

We recently visited Sheldwich Primary school to offer some workshops on skateboarding with Year 5 students.

The primary students had a fabulous time with Mr Wall and Ms Jury, and we will work in collaboration to help set up skateboarding clubs at other local schools.

‘Skateboarding was really fun because I liked learning how to flip it over. I thought it was great and I hope we do it next year.’

“I loved skateboarding, the coach was really nice and kind. I would so have this as a club.”



It has been an amazing year for the pillar, and it has been great to see so many students thrive and achieve great things in their subjects and enrichment activities.

I look forward to seeing what next year brings. Have a great summer.



Communities Day

This year our Communities Week evolved into a Communities Day with all staff and pupils off timetable for the day to give back to others or the environment.

Activities included litter picking sites around Canterbury; planting hedges at the Academy; bag packing at ASDA; collecting and delivering donations for Catching Lives and Canterbury Food Bank; making snacks for Blue Light Workers; holding intergenerational conversations; painting fences onsite; making artwork and bags for Dottie's Little Hog Hospital to sell to raise funds for the charity; making books to share with nursery and primary children; making friendship bracelets for guests attending our performing arts showcase.

Children from the whole school worked together to make a difference to others and improve our local environment for the benefit of the wider community.

- Our Asda bag packing volunteers raised £152 for Catching Lives today and delivered items directly to the charity this afternoon.
- More than 250 children litter picked across Canterbury, going to Broad Oak, Blean, Spring Lane, Military Road and around the school.
- Local residents received gifts of 30 hugs in a mug on their doorsteps.
- Children onsite painted fences, planted hedges, wrote and read books to our primary pupils and nursery children.
- Children delivered homemade snacks and meals to the police station, fire station and hospital.
- Year 1 and 2 from CPS watched Academy and primary performers and received friendship bracelets made by academy pupils.
- As a community we amassed more than 4000 hours of giving back today.





This term the Caterpillar children have been exploring outdoors. We have been looking at snails, slugs, spiders, birds and have sometimes seen the occasional cat! The children have also been very excited when looking in the sky for aeroplanes. Once again, we have visited the river to feed the ducks. There have been several celebrations including Fathers' Day and Insect Week when the children used paint to make marks on paper and themselves! We also enjoyed a picnic snack on World Picnic Day.

This week we have been singing 'Baby Shark' and getting very wet with water play to celebrate Shark Awareness Day. Our older children have been visiting the Ladybird room ready for their transition in September.

Our Ladybirds have been exploring summer by spending lots of time outdoors. We have been learning about sea creatures and took a wonderful trip to Margate beach. We made sandcastles, splashed in the water and even had a lovely ice cream on the beach! Thank you to our families who came along to join us. We have also been exploring our emotions and supporting the children to identify and name their feelings.

We have celebrated many 'Wow' moments this term with many of our children growing in independence, trying new things and making choices for themselves. This term has also been non-stop with celebrations with many of our toddlers having their third birthday. The children have adapted well having regular visits to pre school where they will be transitioning in September.

It has been a wonderful last term for our pre-schoolers. As we have moved into the later stage of the year, the children have been solidifying their phonics knowledge ready for the new adventures that await them in September.

We have been focusing on the theme 'fantasy' and within this we have been learning about superheroes, aliens, pirates and mermaids, castles, mythical creatures and witches and wizards. It is evident that the children have thoroughly enjoyed this topic from the work that has been produced and the learning that has taken place. We have been making up nonsense words when rhyming, using our knowledge of initial sounds to create alliteration and creating silly sentences to support our blending and segmenting of sounds. The quality and quantity of 'Together Time at Home' has been extraordinary, and the children really enjoyed sharing their creations with their friends - especially our wand making task!



The pre-school team want to take this time to let our children know how incredibly proud we are of them. It has been an honour watching our children grow, and make huge progress both personally and academically this year. Please can we thank our parents at City View who have given their time and support with our family garden. We hope you like the results.

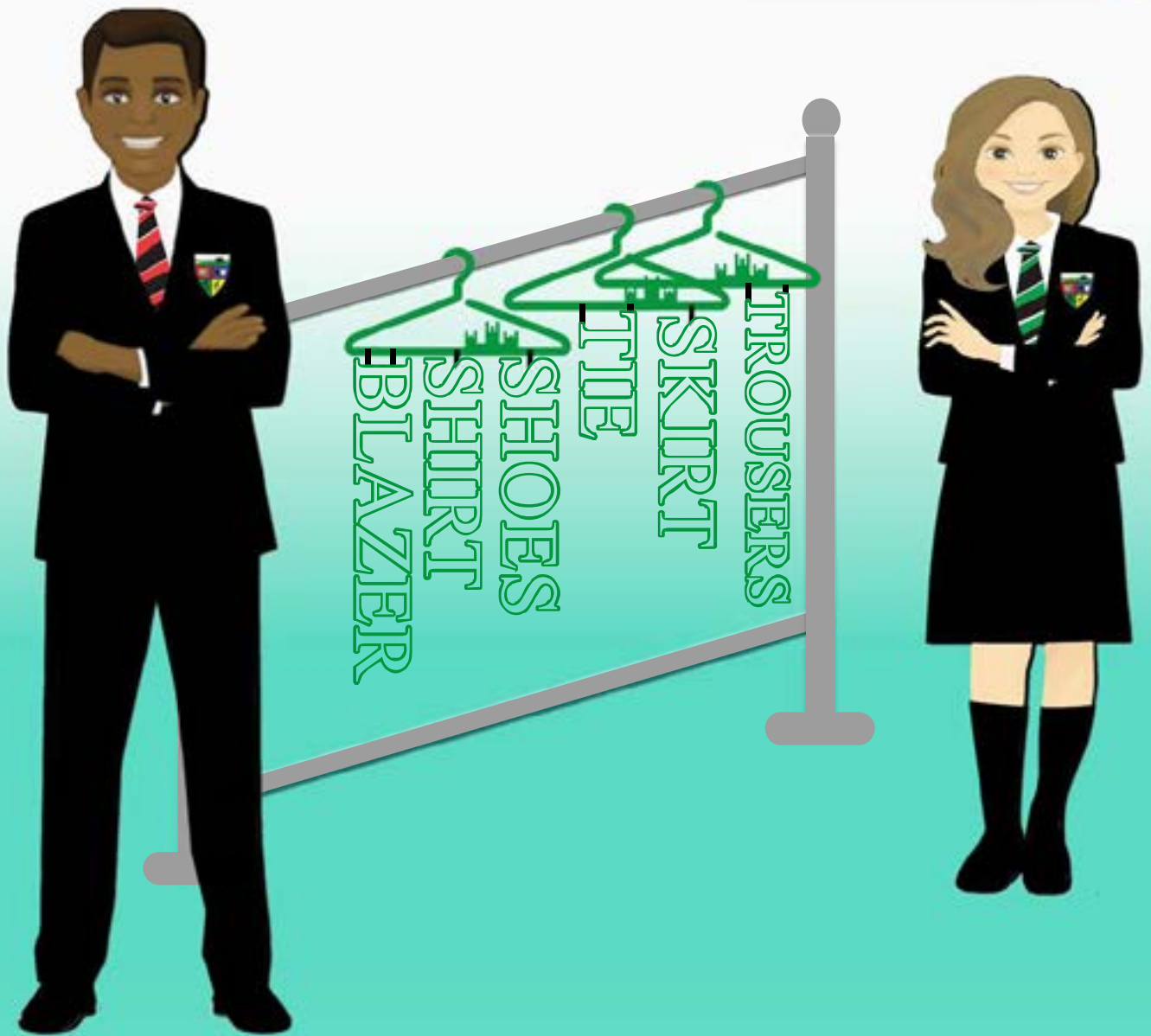
This summer term with the children has been a busy and exciting one with school transitions, sports day and an outing to the park. We have also launched the 'Our Family Garden' project that has seen our garden have much needed make over. The family garden has been a joint venture with Canterbury Christ Church University and family volunteers who have who worked together to create an outdoor area that is bright and welcoming.

Our phonics topic this term has been 'fantasy' with the children having to invent themselves as superheroes. This encouraged them to design a costume and tell their friends about their superpowers of kindness and resilience that they have. The children were invited to come into the setting wearing their amazing costumes and share their heroic stories of helping and caring for one another.

To round off a great year, we will be having our graduation ceremony and leavers' party which is always lots of fun and very well attended. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a happy summer and give our best wishes to our school leavers who will be starting their primary schools in September.



PRELOVED SCHOOL CLOTHES



Please donate your preloved and gently used school uniforms, shoes and PE kit items that are in good condition. Where possible, please ensure that items are washed, free of stains, and in good repair. Donations can be dropped off at main reception, student reception or given to a member of staff. This uniform will benefit other pupils.

We thank you in advance for your donations.

SUMMER FEST





S P R I N G D A Y T S



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Our Buddy Programme

- Our term 6 buddy programme was a great success, with 15 student visitors from Taiwan and their teachers here for 2 weeks.
- All of the academy buddies were exceptional hosts and everyone had a wonderful time.
- The Thai students said they felt very welcome, they loved all their lessons and the food was great!
- The Thai teachers praised the opportunities we give our students and said everyone was so friendly and kind to them.
- Concorde International wanted to pass on their thanks to all the staff who welcomed the visitors and the academy for continuing to accommodate this programme, which has been running successfully for over 12 years!