



Dear parents, students, and wider community,

The festive season is in full swing and I find myself reflecting on the warmth and joy that this time of year brings. Holidays remind us of the importance of family and friends, of spending time together and cherishing the connections that bind us. It highlights the value of togetherness, generosity, and gratitude.

In many ways, this sense of unity mirrors the incredible teamwork we've seen across our school community this term. The dedication and collaboration of our staff, parents, and carers working together to create a supportive and enriching environment for our children - a place where they can thrive, grow, and feel valued.

Whether through the everyday commitment of teaching and learning, the organisation of events, or simply the encouragement and kindness we show one another, our collective efforts demonstrate the power of working together. Just as this time of year brings people closer, so too do our shared values of commitment, pride and success.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your contributions this term. To our staff, for your tireless dedication; to our parents and carers, for your unwavering support; and to our students, for your hard work and enthusiasm. You make our school the vibrant and caring place that it is.

As we break for the holidays, I hope that you are all able to take time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the company of loved ones. May this holiday season be filled with happiness and peace, and may the New Year bring us all hope, success, and continued collaboration.

Best wishes,

Dan Portsmouth, Head of School



Oracy Skills

Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

On Thursday, December 5th, thirty Year 10 students participated in the prestigious Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. The day began with an engaging workshop on public speaking, where students honed their presentation skills and learned techniques to captivate an audience.

They were then tasked with crafting and delivering their own speeches to their peers, showcasing both creativity and confidence. From this group, five exceptional finalists were selected: Kyan, Yaeesh, Maizie, Macie and Hayl. These talented students will now advance to the semi-finals, where they will deliver their speeches to the entire year group.



The stakes are high, as one of them will earn the honour of representing the school at the Bexley competition. Each of the 30 participants demonstrated impressive skill and growth throughout the day, gaining valuable experience and significantly enhancing their public speaking abilities. The event was a true testament to their hard work and determination.

**Ms Keeler, Associate Assistant Headteacher
Head of English**

Oh Christmas tree....

At the start of December, a group of our students were selected to help Mr Moloney decorate the school Christmas Tree in the main entrance. It was a very festive affair and the students were rewarded for their efforts with a cup of hot chocolate with marshmallows!



We would like to send a BIG thank you to **Sidcup Partners BID** for kindly donating the decorations, lights and hot drinks and adding a festive feeling to our school.

London Youth Games Celebration Evening

Congratulations to the members of our Gold Medal Winning Boccia Team on being recognised at the London Youth Games Celebration Evening on Tuesday 12th November. The students received a certificate from the Mayor of Bexley proudly wearing their Gold medals around their necks.

Mrs Beaven, Teaching Assistant

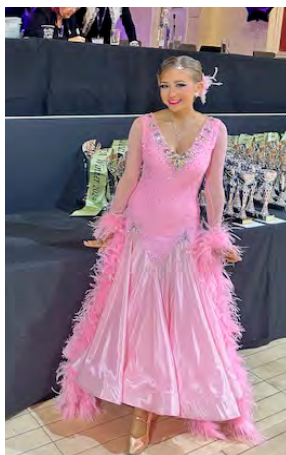




Recognising student success in the wider community

This edition we would like to celebrate the achievements of Bella in Year 11, one of our Jack Petchey Award Winners. This is a scheme designed to recognise, reward and celebrate outstanding young people at Cleeve Park School. The award is for young people who are going above and beyond or even trying hard in or out of school when facing adversity.

Bella has been learning Latin and Ballroom dancing since she was 5 years old at the Flynn School of Dancing. She competes regularly in competitions both regionally and nationally and twice a year competes at the 'home of ballroom' itself – Blackpool! As you can imagine, competing at this level is very competitive and requires a huge amount of dedication and hard work and Bella has reached a National Final at the IDTA Medallist of the Year competition.



Year 11 Pastoral Support Lead, **Mrs Hobbs**, nominated Bella for the Jack Petchey award in recognition of how Bella has used the resilience and confidence learned from competing at such a high level to support herself in school during this GCSE year. We are very proud of what Bella has achieved and, to borrow from Strictly – **Keep Dancing!**

A day in the life of a Palaeontologist

Students in year 9 visited the Natural History Museum.

As the subject focus this term has been about the study of evolution they experienced 'a day in a life of a Palaeontologist'. Students analysed fossils in order to understand the evolution of marine reptiles. Students also got the opportunity to view other displays including dinosaurs, human evolution and tried out the earthquake simulator

Miss Gentry, 2nd in charge of Science



Bronze DofE - Participants Brave the Elements in Cudham, November 25, 2024 - Cudham

A group of determined young adventurers took on the challenges of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award training expedition in Cudham. Battling cold temperatures, relentless rain, and gusty winds brought by the infamous "Hurricane Bert," these participants showcased extraordinary resilience and teamwork.

The weekend's weather was anything but kind, with torrential rain saturating the fields and fierce winds testing the endurance of even the sturdiest tents. Despite the challenging conditions, the participants approached the experience with remarkable grit and enthusiasm. Under the guidance of experienced leaders, the young adventurers were well-prepared for the adverse weather. Equipped with waterproof clothing, sturdy hiking boots, and essential camping gear, they set off with determination to complete their navigational challenges and camp setup tasks. "The weather was tough, but we were ready for it". "We learned how to stay warm and dry, even when everything around us was wet. It was a great lesson in preparation and resilience."

One of the highlights of the weekend was seeing the participants bond as a team. Whether it was setting up tents in driving rain or cooking warm meals on camp stoves amid the wind, they demonstrated impressive cooperation and problem-solving skills. "The weather brought us closer together". "We had to rely on each other, and that made the experience even more rewarding."

The Bronze DofE training weekend is designed to teach young people essential outdoor and life skills, and this weekend certainly delivered on that promise. Participants practiced map reading, route planning, and survival techniques under extreme conditions, proving their ability to adapt and overcome challenges.

"Hurricane Bert threw everything at us, but the group's determination and positivity were inspiring". "They not only survived but thrived, learning valuable lessons they'll carry forward in their DofE journey and beyond."

With the training weekend complete, the participants now look forward to their qualifying expedition in the spring. Reflecting on their experience, many expressed gratitude for the opportunity to test their limits and grow stronger as individuals and as a team. As the sun finally broke through on Sunday afternoon, spirits were high despite the mud and fatigue. This group of Bronze DofE participants has undoubtedly earned a badge of honour for their perseverance and camaraderie in the face of Hurricane Bert.

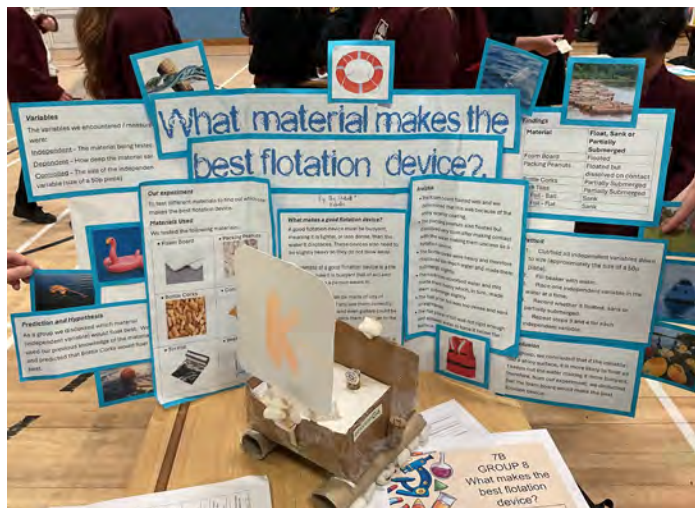
For these young adventurers, the weekend was more than just a training exercise – it was an unforgettable adventure and a testament to their potential to overcome life's storms, literal and figurative.

Mr Southby, DofE Leader

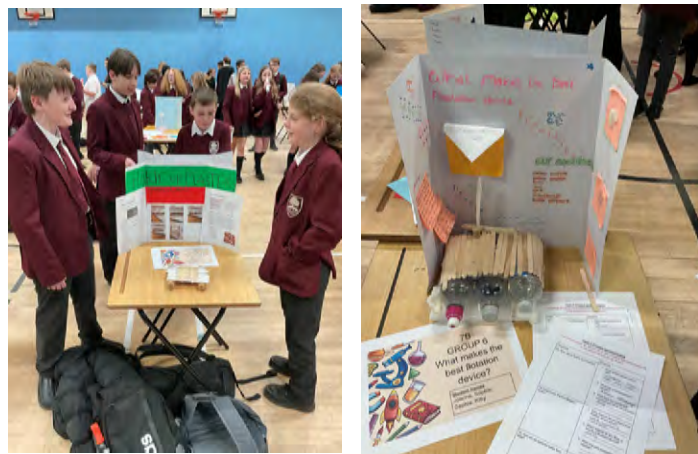


Year 7 Science Fair

This term Year 7 students have been working on a science project to do with the big question **'do we really need clean water?'**.



Working in groups they planned, conducted and evaluated their experiments and created a presentation based on this.



They then presented their products as part of a Science Fair on 17th December where all Year 7 students were able to speak to each other about the different projects. A secret panel of voters then decided on a winning group.



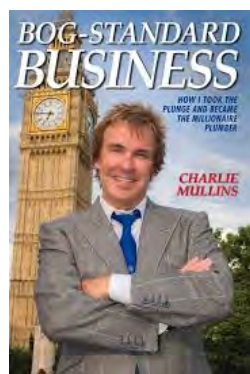
The Science Department

Bog Standard Reading

The Business Department has been fortunate enough to be handed a generous amount of copies of 'Bog - Standard Business' by Charlie Mullins OBE, founder of Pimlico Plumbers.

The book discusses the journey Charlie took to become a successful entrepreneur turning over £20 million per year from his humble beginnings as an apprentice.

The book is a very honest and heart-warming memoir of what effort and determination can achieve. Effort and determination are just a few of the entrepreneurial characteristics that are discussed at Key Stage 4 & 5 business options.



A special thanks goes to the Mullins family for giving us this enriching read! Copies are available in the library for any student to borrow.

Ms O'Hare, Business Studies Teacher & Head of Social Sciences

Children in Need Bake Sale

Thank you to everyone who supported our Children in Need Bake Sale on Friday 15th November.

Our Year 7 students did a sterling job, supported by Ms Manchester (Year 7 PSL), selling baked goodies over both lunch breaks.

A huge **THANK YOU** has to go out to our wonderful Canteen Team from **Innovate** who donated their time and ingredients to provide the delicious cakes and cookies for the students to sell.

In total we raised over £300! Plus, we received a 'shout out' from Paddy McGuinness on Radio 2 to wish us good luck.



Ms Manchester, Pastoral Support Lead Year 7

Poppy Appeal

Our Sixth Form Students did a sterling job selling Poppies for the Royal British Legion in the run up to Remembrance Day.

Coordinated by Mrs Hobbs, Pastoral Support Lead Years 10 & 11, we managed to raised £190.

During the week running up to Remembrance Day Mr Barritt, Head of History, held special assemblies for all year groups.





Sixth Form 'can drive' for local foodbank

KS5 students have been busy collecting tinned food and toiletries to donate to a local food bank charity at Trinity Baptist Church in Bexleyheath.

We hope this donation will benefit local families during this difficult time. Thank you to all the students who donated.

Merry Christmas to all from

Mrs Rogers and Mrs Page, Post 16 Pastoral Mentors



Drama Trips

In November Year 11 drama students went 'Back to the Future' as part of their GCSE Drama exam. A great time was had by all! (including an emergency stoppage of the performance for 50 minutes!)

And last week our Year 7 students went to see a Snow White Panto (oh no they didn't... etc., etc.) Lots of boo-ing, hiss-ing and cheer-ing was done by all who attended.

Miss Cutting, Drama Teacher, RSL Year 9



ACE Pizza Reward Lunch

The ACE Team rewarded 65 of their students with Domino's pizza on the last Thursday of the year as a well done for achieving 100% attendance this half term.



We hope to reward many more of our ACE students with free pizza in the Spring term.

Mrs Priestly, Mrs Roach & Miss Priestly, ACE Mentors

Wider Community - Fundraising Success

We would like to acknowledge the work that **Dylan** in Year 11 has put into raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society. As a member of the Chelsea FC Women's Team official supporters club, Kingsmeadow, Dylan has been involved in contacting the players to gather items such as signed shirts, boots and gloves which can then be raffled off to fellow supporters. In only 3 months these raffles have raised £2290!



What a fantastic amount raised.

Christmas Talent Showcase



As is now traditional we have seen out the end of term with our Christmas Talent Showcase. Never your traditional Christmas show, we like to present an eclectic mix of acts, this year they included Ballroom Dancing, monologues and House DJ Dave alongside more traditional acts provided by our talented musicians, bands and vocalists.

Expect the unexpected and you will have a great time!

Congratulations to all our performers and the Performing Arts Team



Have a wonderful Christmas Break

On the last day of term students were welcomed to school by the big man himself 'Santa' and his Elf.

We wish you a festive, peaceful and restful Christmas Break and New Year.

See you all on the 6th January 2025!



Key Dates 2025

- Mon 6th Jan - Back to school
- Thurs 9th Jan - Year 13 Parents Evening (Online)
- Thurs 16th Dec - Year Parent Evening (Online)
- Thurs 30th January - Year Parent Evening (Online)



Sporting Round-up

Our sporting students and clubs have had a phenomenal start to the academic year. Our Girls Football Teams have once again started off the year in winning form and our U15 team made it through to the Kent Cup Semis Finals. This year we had so many boys signing up for football that we were able to form A and B teams to play against local schools and in competitions.

Rugby has been a long awaited new addition to our sporting offering and the boys across the year groups have really taken the game to heart. The Year 7 A Team have gone 4 games undefeated and are looking forward to continuing and building on their success in the new year.

In Cross Country 30 students represented the school at Chis & Sid in November and 6 of them qualified to compete in the Kent Schools Cross Country event and congratulations must go to all students involved in the Bexley and South London Schools Panathlon Tenpin Bowling competition on 11th December. Cleeve Park was represented by 10 students, achieving 2nd and 4th place out of 14 schools. Special mentions to **Samuel K** and **Harry C** who scored over 100 points. Samuel was the highest scorer of the entire competition with a total of 117.

It has been a fantastic term for sport at Cleeve Park and below is our 'Team of the Term' for November/December – These are students in P.E and Sport who consistently display the core values of commitment, pride and success.

We can't wait to see what next term has in store for us!

Mr Eydmann, Head of PE



TERM 2

Team of the Term

Year 7 Girls Football

- Hollie C
- Sadie P

Year 7 Netball

- Nellie B
- Rosie R

Year 7A Boys Football

- Oscar M
- Freddie J

Year 7B Boys football

- Jude J
- Thomas G

Year 7 Rugby

- Tommy W
- Kostiantyn O

Year 8 Girls Football

- Eliza G
- Millie B

Year 8 Boys Football

- Malachi E
- Tyrese G

Year 8 Boys Rugby

- Thomas P
- Randy B

Year 9 Rugby

- Ollie H
- Thomas H

Year 9 Boys Football

- Charlie N
- Kie H

Ten Pin Bowling

- Sam K
- Harry C

Year 10 Girls Football

- Anu O
- Isabella G

Year 10 Boys Football

- Caiden J
- Ishamel D

Year 12 Boys Football

- Chris B
- Nnamdi T

Year 13 Boys Football

- Frankie D
- Charlie

Whole school X Country

- Isabella R
- Harley D
- Hollie C
- Aidan M T
- Sienna M B
- Hattie M