



Headteacher's Update

1st April 2022

Today has felt like a really positive end to what has been a highly productive spring term. It is amazing just how much enjoyment many of the students derive from simply wearing their own clothes to school! This term has, in large part, felt like the first time for a considerable period that the school has been close to its normal operations. It has been fantastic to see the number of trips and visits that have taken place, extra curricular activities back in full flow and major activities such as the school production and sports finals having all taken place.

Hopefully, the summer term will provide us with the opportunity to take further steps forward, even if these steps are taken cautiously. It will, of course, be the term when our students in Year 11 and 13 sit their examinations and I would like to take the opportunity to remind them of the importance of the Easter break to get themselves organised (if they haven't already done so), work through their revision plans and most importantly, recharge their batteries so that they are energised for the term ahead.

I would like to thank Mr Beale for his engaging assemblies about the Ukraine conflict this week. Whilst providing an update on the situation in Ukraine, Mr Beale was also able to focus on a number of key issues that many students have been asking about. One such issue is that of the historical context of this conflict. I am aware that one or two parents shared concerns about references to the conflict in Crimea and the tensions that emerged between east and west during the cold war, but it is important that our students understand that the conflict in Ukraine has a historical context and is not simply as a result of present day issues.

Another important point that was addressed by Mr Beale was the importance of scrutinising information that we read, listen to or watch on the television.

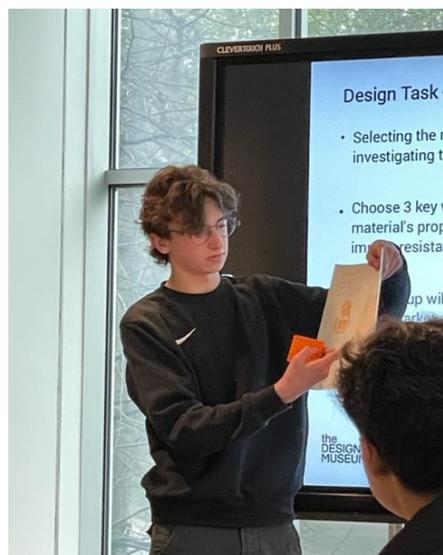
It was clear from student responses within the different assemblies that many students acquire their information in such circumstances from platforms such as Tik Tok and websites such as Wikipedia. Whilst this is fine in some instances, these platforms are not required to verify their sources prior to publishing online. Whilst I am sure that some parents may take exception with news outlets such as Channel 4 news, Sky News and the BBC it is important to note that these broadcasters are legally required to verify their sources and are also required to be impartial. I think that it is fair to say that we are well and truly in a technological age where information is available at the touch of a button. Given that this is the case, it will remain important to remind our young people of the dangers of accepting all information at face value.

Design Museum Visit

Our Sixth Form product designers enjoyed a materials workshop at the Design Museum in Kensington on Wednesday 30th March. With an emphasis on sustainable and smart materials, the students enjoyed experimenting with a range of materials that respond to stimuli, to experience the beneficial changes in material characteristics. Highlights included learning about sustainable uses of materials such as water containers made from seaweed, wellington boots made out of used chewing gum and a mushroom-based alternative to polystyrene.

Students also completed a design challenge by using their newly acquired understanding of a particular smart material to propose a new product design for a given target user. Their inspired concepts included a biodegradable bird feeder made from a Luffa plant, an impact resistant egg carton, sustainable dog toys made from used gum and a fashionable, impact resistant backpack.

The day also provided the students with an opportunity to view and interact with a number of design classics. Thank you to all students and their parents and carers for supporting the trip and helping to make it such an enjoyable, worthwhile experience.



Maths Department News

Back in February, some of our students in Years 9 and 10 sat the UKMT intermediate maths challenge. Seven students qualified for the next round, which is a fantastic achievement. Well done to Ariyan Ali (9C), Ross Bell (9J), Luca Burksfield (9G), Stanley Parker (9P), Cara Shea (9C), Ella Brown (10C) and Harry Patmore (10W). A particular congratulations must go to Ella Brown, who achieved a merit in the second round.

It was also lovely to receive feedback this week from another high performing mathematician, Saira Batool (12M) regarding her recent engagement in an Advanced Mathematical Support Programme (AMSP). She noted the following:

'I recently had the wonderful opportunity to experience the AMSP Maths Course. This programme, spread over 10 weeks, enhanced my problem solving and logical approach to maths questions. I have learnt simple, quick and effective tricks that can be applied to complicated questions, making them easier to understand. Personally, I found it extremely manageable and useful in which it broadened my understanding and opened a different aspect when approaching difficult problems. I would definitely recommend this programme to anyone in Year 12 who has an interest in Maths or taking it as an A-Level'.

My congratulations to Saira and appreciation for sharing this wonderful opportunity with others.

Rugby

I would also like to congratulate all students who participated in the Borough rugby finals on Wednesday afternoon. It was fantastic to be able to get out of the office to watch our Year 7, Year 8 and 1st XI teams compete in high quality competitive matches at Ruislip Rugby Club. The Year 7 boys won their vase final by overcoming Queensmead. The Year 8 and 1st XI teams were defeated by excellent Haydon teams. However, both sets of boys competed valiantly and gained a lot of credit for their performances. I was particularly delighted to see some of our Year 13 students take to the field in the Vyners journey for one last time. They have been a credit to the school and I wish them every success in the sporting pursuits in the future. Very well done to all involved and my thanks to Mr Hall and his team for their dedication and hard work.



Finally, I would like to wish all students, staff and families a long, restful and enjoyable Easter break. As always, I hope that this is a special time for our community and I very much look forward to welcoming the school community back into the buildings on Tuesday 19th April.

Happy Easter

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

Headteacher Commendations

Work Related Learning

Aniya Pannu	8J	
Marli Pistorius	8J	
Ameera Quraishi	8J	
Sarina Rashid	8J	
Lewis Sharman		8J
Yash Shaunak	8J	

English

Adam El Uahabi	8M
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