



Clacton County High School Weekly News

www.countyhigh.org.uk

admin@cchs.school

parentnews@cchs.school

[The CCHS Blog](#)

Summer Term 2021 | Issue 31 | Friday 21st May

Duke of Edinburgh Award – Practice Hike Success

This year, as part of our Year 9 broader curriculum, a number of students have had the opportunity to work towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. After a successful practice hike in December, last week the fifty students embarked on their second practice around Great Oakley, Ramsey and Harwich.



Having spent a number of weeks planning their route, and practicing their navigation techniques, last Thursday morning they began their five-hour hike. Divided into ten groups, the students set-off from points in Great Oakley and Stour Woods in Wrabness. Hiking through woods and across fields, along designated footpaths, they made their way along their pre-planned routes towards the finish at the old lighthouse on Dovercourt seafront. Each group had to complete a project during their hike; some made sketches of the wildlife they encountered, whilst others documented their hike on film.



Their outing also included an hour-long stop with a challenge to cook a hot lunch, working as a team within their groups. Prior to starting out, each team had decided on their menu and packed the necessary ingredients, along with camping stoves and cooking pans, to enable them to cook their dishes. The menus were varied,

although pasta seemed to be the dish of choice, some opting for spaghetti, fusilli or similar with a sauce, whilst others opted for 'just-add-water' instant pasta or noodle meals. A number of groups actually cooked a meal for the whole team – one team managed to cook a tasty chicken curry and rice, whilst another toasted themselves (with Shloer fruit juice) after a successful morning and then repeated the gesture at the finish! Many of the groups spent their day almost entirely on sections of the Essex Way, whilst others, who should have been on the Essex Way, discovered that navigational errors had led to them walking in the wrong direction! After correcting their errors, they all eventually made it to the finish rendezvous, all be it a little later than originally planned, highlighting that they need to actually hike rather than just wander! All of the groups had a fantastic day in the spring sunshine, glad that the rain stayed away until later in the day. They will be conducting a further practice hike next month, before embarking on their final 2-day hike towards the end of term in July, which will include a night under canvas.



Follow us on Twitter - [@clacton_cchs](#) and Facebook [@clactoncountyhigh](#)



Young Writers Competition



Towards the end of the recent lockdown, one of our Year 8 students was recommended by a friend to enter a young writer's competition. Ruby set to work and submitted a short story in the Young Writers 'Spinal Shivers' Competition. Last week she learnt that her story had been selected for publication and now has the opportunity of being

selected as the winning story and a chance of winning a prize for the school. We look forward to seeing Ruby's work in print and stocking a copy of the book in our library. Well done Ruby!

PROUD Day

Students in Years 7 to 10 took part in another of our PROUD sessions last Thursday. These dedicated lessons link to our PROUD ideals and help support students' Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE). Year 7 students focused on respect, linking to the British value of 'Mutual Respect and Tolerance'; Year 8 learnt about basic personal finance, whilst Year 9 students were challenged to adopt a 'Growth Mindset', to help them push their limits and accomplish their goals. Our Year 10 students examined an issue that is currently in the news relating to peer on peer abuse and sexual harassment.



As part of the Year 7 session, students were challenged to produce a poem, song or rap based on the topic of Respect. The students certainly rose to the challenge with some fantastic lyrics produced – including this rap by Max Tasker (7x4)

*"Respect everyone, That comes your way
Make it fair, It'll make their day
Remember not to Discriminate
Don't do it, It's a way of hate
Skin colour, Orientation and Gender
It doesn't matter, It makes you an offender"*

Half-Term only a Week Away

Next Friday, we finish the first half of the summer term. Year 11 students conclude their five years of formal study on 28th May, but during the week beginning 7th June many will follow individual virtual timetables looking at their next steps. Students planning to join our Sigma Sixth College will enjoy a week of induction activities; others will complete induction activities from their preferred further education providers. **School recommences after Whitsun on Monday 7th June. It is then just six weeks until the end of the academic year on Friday 16th July.**

Learning Spanish, Mexican Style

Recently a number of Year 8 students used the Mexican 'Cinco de Mayo' celebrations to help enhance their Spanish language skills. 'Cinco de Mayo', or the fifth of May, is a holiday that celebrates the Mexican army's victory over France at the Battle of Puebla on 5th May, 1862 during the Franco-Mexican War.



The students designed their own ponchos and produced a list of traditional food and activities, as if they were preparing for a traditional Mexican 'Cinco de Mayo' fiesta.

Clubs linking to STEM subjects

A number of our clubs complement students' learning by linking to our STEM subjects – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, including our Astronomy and Planetary Science, Chess and Taskmaster clubs. These three clubs take place after school and are open to students in years 7, 8 & 9. There is no need to sign-up for these clubs, just turn-up and participate.



Chess Club - every Tuesday until 4.20pm

Taskmaster - every Tuesday until 4.00pm

Astronomy & Planetary Science - Fridays until 4.30pm



One of the Taskmaster club activities challenged students to design and make a paper aeroplane that would fly the furthest - they only had 7 minutes design time, followed by a further 7 minutes to make their plane. The task was complicated with the rule that they could only 'fly' their plane twice, including any test flights they wished to make.



Follow us on Twitter - @clacton_cchs and Facebook @clactoncountyhigh

