



EASTER NEWSLETTER 2023

Last Day Of Term 4

Friday 31st March

First Day Of Term 5

Monday 17th April

Whole School Photographs

Wednesday 19th April

Year 10 Showcase

Thursday 20th April

Bank Holiday Monday

Monday 1st May

Bank Holiday—Kings Coronation

Monday 8th May

End of Term 5

Friday 26th May

Start of Term 6

Monday 5th June

Year 12 Parents' Evening

Thursday 8th June

Sports Day

Wednesday 21st June

Year 12 Showcase

Thursday 22nd June

Book Return Day (Years 11 and 13)

Friday 23rd June

Sixth Form Induction Week

Monday 26th June—Friday 30th June

New Parents' Evening

Sixth Form Induction Week

Monday 3rd July

Year 10 Information Evening

Wednesday 5th July

New Student Visit Day

Thursday 6th July

Aspirations Week/Camp/Work

Experience Week

Monday 10th July—Friday 15th July

Year 9 Graduation Awards & Year 7 & 8 Lower School Awards

Tuesday 18th July

End of Term 6

Friday 21st July

GCE Results Day

Thursday 17th August

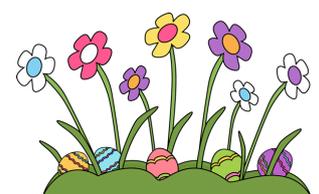
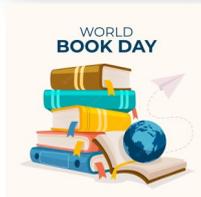
GCSE Results Day

Thursday 24th August

STAFF BRING WORLD BOOK DAY TO LIFE



Staff at Fulston truly entered into the spirit of things for World Book day and surprised students by dressing up as their favourite characters. Mrs Palmer said "World Book Day certainly gets students and staff talking about literacy matters and the characters involved – albeit fact or fiction. It was so lovely to see so many staff take part and we managed to get a photo of just a handful of them together. The outside and inside areas were littered with Three Blind Mice, The Woman in Black, The Grinch, The Adams Family, Frankenstein and many more. It's one of my favourite days of the year" A big thanks goes to Librarian Mrs Silver who dressed as Mary Poppins and organised the whole event.





LOOKING BACK AT CHRISTMAS 2022

Despite what was going on in the world last December, students and staff still managed to bring some festive fun into school. Much frivolity was on show during our Christmas Dinner Day when students were allowed to wear Christmas jumpers, socks or ties. £64.23 was donated towards Comic Relief 2023 and, looking at some of the photographs, the amount of happiness seen was priceless.



CHRISTMAS 2022 BRINGS OUT CREATIVITY IN STUDENTS

Mrs Silver ran a fun competition in the run up to Christmas giving students the opportunity to win a festive selection box. Emmy Holmes (winter glove creature) and Ava Gardiner (wreath) were the happy recipients of the prizes but Roxie Luck was highly commended for her gonk and won a Fulston Pen for her efforts. Well done girls.

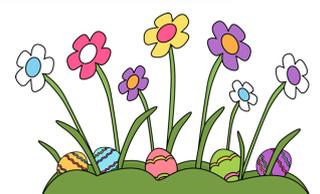


LESSON IN LIFE SAVING FOR STUDENTS

Students were totally focused during a recent whole school assembly as Mrs Woollcott spoke about a horrendous experience her family suffered back in 2015. Mrs Woollcott's father suffered a cardiac arrest in the family home; luckily for the family, Mrs Woollcott's Mum had been on a First Aid course just that week and learned how to administer CPR which she did, on her own, for 18 minutes. Mrs Woollcott explained just how helpless she and her sister had felt watching their mum do this, but being unable to offer any help or support as they didn't know how to administer CPR.

Following this assembly students were invited to sign up to a free CPR training course at school which was held on Wednesday 11th January, facilitated by Mrs Bourne, our first aider at the time. Over 110 students signed up, from all Year groups. Sam Hadlow, Year 11, said "it was so much harder to do physically than I had thought it would be, but I feel really good knowing that I now have that skill should I ever need it".

Mrs Woollcott said "I must thank Mrs Bourne who ran the session. She has a wealth of experience and her time given was very much appreciated. We hope that if any of our children are ever in the situation my family found ourselves in they will know what to do".



MOVE OVER BETH MEAD!!!



Year 8 student Annie Boichat is hoping to follow in the footsteps of Sports Personality of The Year 2022, Beth Mead. Annie, an extremely keen and talented football player, is passionate about the game and has been playing for as long as she can remember.

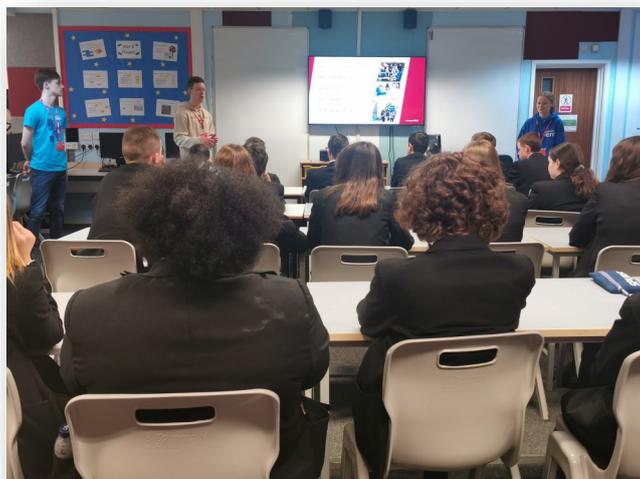
What sets Annie apart from other players is that she actually plays in the boys team as well as the girls – much to the surprise of opposing players. She plays for Sittingbourne Boys Football Club and the London Lionesses Girls Football. Annie said “The Sittingbourne Boys are used to me playing matches with them but I can see boys on the other teams sniggering and pointing as I come onto the pitch. They soon shut up though when I show them what I can do!”

Annie trains hard to keep up with her skills. She plays Centre Back with the boys and trains, after school, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mondays and Wednesdays are taken up with the girls training as centre mid. Mrs Palmer said “I’m really excited to see where Annie’s football career takes her. Having attended my first football match ever last year to watch Beth Mead and the England Lionesses roar to victory I can see myself being even more excited watching Annie when, not if, she makes it to the top! In the meantime we are incredibly lucky to have her on our side at Fulston”



UNIVERSITY LIFE BROUGHT TO FULSTON

On Tuesday 10th January, forty seven Year 9 students took part in sessions with student ambassadors from the University of Kent. Students found out about what life is like at university by listening to the diverse experiences of the ambassadors and taking part in activities. Ambassadors included an international student from Nigeria on a 2 year placement at Kent, and a student who has just spent a year studying in California studying wildlife conservation and media studies. They told the audience about enjoying a variety of activities such as music and football. A highlight was that one of the ambassadors was Fulston’s own Owen Craycraft, who left us last year and is now really throwing himself into university life, living on campus and studying Computer Science. It was fabulous to see him back at Fulston, although he said he found it strange being back in the role of ‘teacher’ rather than ‘student’, particularly when one of the students was his sister! He was a credit to the school speaking with passion and enthusiasm about his first year at university.



The Year 9s found out about the wide range of clubs available to students at university. They learned that if there was a club that they wanted but which didn’t exist they would be supported to set one up. The students then spent time deciding what their ideal club would be – which resulted in various suggestions including air soft, laido and even a chair club!

Students were also then told how life at university is more flexible than school with students having to decide themselves how to organise their life around the lectures they had. Year 9s had a go at organising a timetable, deciding what they would do and when, with some finding the idea quite liberating and exciting, with others finding it terrifying!

All students gained immensely from the sessions with comments being made such as “I found the session useful as I found out more about university”, “I found the session fun as I got to take part in different activities” and “I didn’t realise what a huge range of societies there were”.

Thanks were given to both the university team for making the sessions so useful and enjoyable and to the Year 9s for throwing themselves in and asking so many great questions.

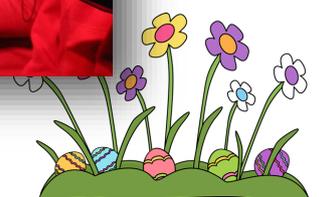


FIRST EVER JOINT CAROL CONCERT A HIT WITH AUDIENCE

December saw a new Performing Arts venture where we invited students from South Avenue Primary School to join our students in singing carols which definitely got the audience in the festive spirit.

The Millennium Hall was packed with nervous students, and equally nervous parents, but the resounding conclusion was that the event was an exceptional success with each and every one of the young people putting in 100% effort.

Staff from both schools thanked the students for their performances and we hope that this now will become an annual joint enterprise.



So You Think You Know Your Teachers ???

We are hoping to include some personal information about members of staff in each Newsletter so that students and parents can get to know our staff a little better. And colleagues can be amazed at some of the hidden talents sitting across the staff room from them!

To start this series we have the First Lady of **Cromer House**.....

Ms Hadok-Quadrio

Ms H-Q has been Head of Cromer House since 2018 having moved over from Morrison House. An Australian by birth her family still live in Brisbane but Ms H-Q decided to take a leap of faith and emigrate to this county in 2016.

Was teaching/working in a school your first career choice or did you have a previous career?

I have had a few previous careers - I was self-employed as a music teacher doing private lessons and performed full-time professionally from the time I was 17-25. I was lucky enough to tour the USA and perform on luxury islands which was very cool! I have also done some recording and have been lucky enough to perform with several Grammy award winners as a soloist! Teaching in a school was never my first choice, I'd love to do my PhD and perhaps teach at a university, but I'm not quite ready to take that step yet- I think teaching adults would be quite intimidating!



When you're not teaching what do you do in your spare time to look after your well-being?

I love cooking, making music and exercising. I also enjoy reading, and travelling (I'm up to 40+ countries so far!) My favourite country so far would be a tie between Sri Lanka and Cuba - both very fun-loving countries!

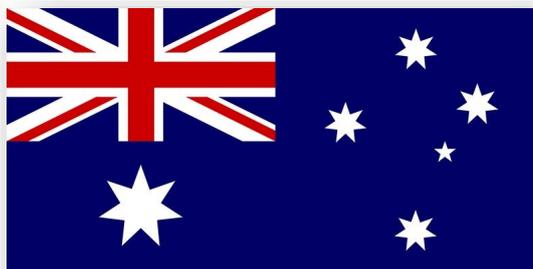


What is your biggest achievement in life?

Finishing three University degrees before the age of 25!

What has been your favourite Fulston memory so far?

I have loved the Performing Arts tours and performances, I think it'd be hard to pick a favourite. 😊



So You Think You Know Your Teachers ???

Mr Vigeon

Assistant Headteacher

(also teaches Health & Social Care and Extended project Qualifications)

Was teaching/working in a school your first career choice or did you have a previous career?

No, absolutely not. I previously worked as an accountant but, if I'm honest, I've still not found my first career choice after almost 30 years of working.

How long were you an accountant for and what changed your mind about doing this?

Four years and I found it didn't stimulate me.

When you're not teaching what do you do in your spare time to look after your well-being?

I walk, including long distance, and sometimes wild camp. I also design and make silver jewellery which I give as gifts and, occasionally, sell. **(WAIT!!! WHAT!????- We need to know more)**

During lockdown it was the perfect opportunity to start up a new hobby which I could do at home. It's been great learning a new skill and I find it really relaxing. I use silver clay and there are many processes to go through before a finished article looks all shiny. I'm quite pleased with how things are progressing and will hopefully continue to improve.



What do you like best about Fulston?

The characters! Although, to be fair, they are sometimes the things I like least as well.

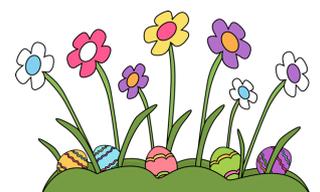


What is your biggest achievement in life?

My children. Well, they are quite nice really. They give me few problems, work hard and are generally wonderful young people who I hope will keep me when I am older.

What has been your favourite Fulston memory so far?

Every year in August when the students receive their grades. The vast majority of students' joy at getting amazing results.



Mrs Sterling

Psychology Teacher



Was teaching/working in a school your first career choice or did you have a previous career?

I always thought I wanted to become a psychologist. My plan was to spend a few years teaching to get experience of education and then leave and pursue a career as an educational psychologist. However, once I found my feet teaching I didn't feel that I wanted to leave. Before my teacher training I only had temporary jobs including many weekends and school/university holidays fitting children's shoes. Despite having fun with the people I worked with, it made me realise I wanted a much more challenging career.

When you're not teaching what do you do in your spare time to look after your well-being?

I am an avid reader and sometimes will take myself off to bed really early just so I have more time to read. I have also begun to colour as a way to de-stress at the end of the day. My sister kindly bought me a Querkles colour by numbers book last year and I got a bit hooked. Now my 5 year old son loves doing them with me. I also ensure I always have dates in the diary where I will be seeing family or friends; for me this is really important for my well-being.

What do you love about Fulston?

The people I get to work with. Working in a school where there are so many people willing to help you is wonderful and I know that this is not the case everywhere.

What is your biggest achievement in life?

My children. Obviously I am totally biased but I have created 2 utterly wonderful tiny humans and I am proud of them every single day.



What has been your favourite Fulston memory so far?

In my first year here Mrs Mason and Mrs Palmer had planned an activities week based around WW2. At the end of a week full of activities there was a party on the school field with staff and students dressed up in 1940's outfits. The weather was amazing and the atmosphere was wonderful. It was such a joyful end to the week and I will always remember it.



Mr Smith

English Teacher

Was teaching/working in a school your first career choice or did you have a previous career?

Yes I was a civil servant for 20 years – I worked in London in a large Government building, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. I was Marketing and Communications Manager specialising in media regulation which was very interesting. I then worked for Kent County Council and one of my roles was to deliver work-related learning days in schools. It was there I first got the idea of becoming a teacher.



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport



When you're not teaching what do you do in your spare time to look after your well-being?

In the summer I play cricket (with other men of a certain age). The playing is fun (even when I get out first ball!) but having a catch-up and laugh is the best thing. Even better than the cricket teas. I also love cycling and I would like to do more. I cycled to work in London for 20 years, making the round trip of 15 miles daily, so I guess I can't shake off the habit. One day I would like to cycle one of the famous routes used in the Tour De France.

I also support Leeds United in my spare time. Not good for well-being... I chose Leeds because I felt sorry for them when they lost in the FA Cup. I really should have been a villa fan like my Dad!



What do you love about Fulston?

The friendly supportive staff – they always keep smiling. The students, of course, are friendly and nice too so it's a lovely place to work!

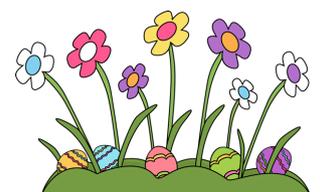


What is your biggest achievement in life?

Raising a family of four children. They are all young adults now and independent. They are polite and respectful human beings and that is how we raised them.

What has been your favourite Fulston memory so far?

The students (and staff) singing at Christmas – it was brilliant.



SHOUT OUT FOR SPORTY STUDENTS

Two of our very talented students have taken part in the Kent Schools Cross Country Championships held at Central Park in Ashford. Year 10 Morrison student, Heidi Hughes, ran an impressive 17.12 to claim 18th spot in the intermediate girls. Alfie Walach, Year 8 Stanhope student was one of three Swale boys running and came in at 19.10. A massive well done to both athletes.

Further to Heidi's performance last week we have just heard that this led to her being selected to represent Kent at the inter counties championship in Ardingly .

We were also informed that Heidi had competed for her club in the Kent cross country league throughout October and November. This resulted in her finishing in 10th place in the individual league table and along with her teammates they won the league overall for the first time.



Well done!

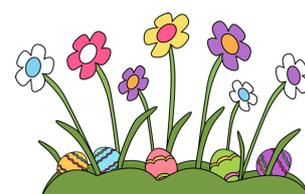
ARE ROBOTS THE WAY FORWARD?



On Wednesday 25th January, staff and ambassadors from Canterbury Christ Church University delivered a workshop to our Year 10 Design Technology students. The focus was Robotic building, the thinking and philosophy around it. Students took part in discussions about what robots are, what is artificial intelligence, the link between them and whether robots are actually real beings.

Fulston's teachers and students were challenged with the question, 'would you let a robot operate on you?', the majority of the year group said 'absolutely not!' and stayed at one end of their Millennium Hall whilst the remaining students and only 2 members of staff said 'yes why not!', and a debate started. However no one was persuaded to swap sides.

Students were able to get creative and were given a toothbrush head, a battery, motor, a feather and some googly eyes. When it was all put together students had their own little robot that moved and had character. Staff and students from Fulston had a great time and were grateful to CCCU for coming in and delivering this workshop.



TIP TOP LAP TOP DONATED TO SCHOOL

Mr Rayfield and Mrs Palmer recently visited Harrison's Homes to discuss a potential project which is in the planning stages and which could be very exciting for one of our students. Whilst there they were presented with a new laptop for our school donated through the Computers for Schools scheme. Director of Harrison's, Chris Ellis, said "With the recent teacher strikes, we are all aware of how underfunded many of our schools are currently and how they are having to make tough budgeting choices. Teaching Information Technology is part of the National Curriculum, yet many schools are forced to teach it with old or limited equipment. Computers for Schools wants to change this by providing new equipment to every school in the UK.

We donate £10 to the Computers for Schools scheme for every sale that we complete. We want to provide laptops to as many schools across the whole of Swale as we can. We have four more laptops waiting to be allocated to schools.

We have changed the way you can nominate a school to receive one this year. We ask people to nominate a school in the ME9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 postcodes. The top four schools will receive a laptop over the next term. As we raise more for the scheme and get new laptops we will continue to work our way down the list of nominated schools, giving every nominated school a chance to receive one".



Mrs Palmer, Events Manager for Fulston Manor School said " we really do have an exciting project in the planning stage at the moment and so our meeting has been really productive. When Chris and Ryan then presented us with a brand new laptop we were somewhat lost for words. This is such a generous donation and we cannot thank Chris and his team enough. Every school in Swale is able to be nominated so I would suggest everyone signs up – it costs nothing to do and will benefit the students immensely"

To nominate a school simply click on the link below and make your vote

<https://bit.ly/3RpwRxF>



POSTCARD FROM PARIS

Written by Mrs Collins

Writing and sending a postcard home was just one of the memorable activities that 44 Year 9 students experienced during our visit to Paris in January.

The 4-day residential trip took place over a cold weekend in January and overall we were lucky with the weather. The French experiences began at our first stop at a service station on our journey to Paris when many realised that the MacDonalDs menu in France is not the same as in UK! By late afternoon we had arrived at Chateau de Grande Romaine a PGL operated site situated south-east of Paris. Many of the students were excited to hear that the Brazilian football team, including Ronaldo, had stayed in the very same Chateau during the 1998 Football World Cup when they narrowly lost out to France.

On Saturday, we travelled into the centre of Paris and having negotiated security checks and having climbed the open metal stairways, we enjoyed some breathtaking views from the first and second floors of the iconic Eiffel Tower looking over some famous landmarks of the capital city. After baguettes for lunch we cruised along the Seine, past Notre Dame and the Louvre and underneath the many bridges spanning the river. This was followed by a short walk to the Place de Trocadéro and the opportunity to capture photographic evidence of a small-sized Eiffel Tower!



The photo theme continued back at the Chateau in the evening when staff opened a pop-up photo booth for some funny stereotypical snaps. After which, students had the chance to make and eat their own crepes.



With our final evening meal, the chance to try snails was taken by many, including Mr Beaumont who even had a second helping! The evening disco was a chance for many of the students to show off their dance moves, whilst others enjoyed a more relaxed time in the games room. We had one last excursion to a hypermarket on the journey back home with the opportunity to make some final purchases and to see a range of different products – many of which they recognised from UK!



We arrived back home after a fantastic 4 days, the end of our visit. What a wonderful trip, full of so many good memories and experiences, and for parents – a postcard too!



And finally— proof that Mrs Collins can really make miracles happen....



CHARITY WEEK A HUGE SUCCESS

Fulston Manor ran yet another incredibly successful charity week recently and raised a fantastic £7296.58 which will be split between the Swale Foodbank and Demelza House.

Throughout the week beginning 30th January, many fun activities were enjoyed by all including a staff netball match and watching Mr Deeks have his head shaved. Cake sales were also big winners at break times.

Thursday 2nd February welcomed one of the highlights of the week where staff 'volunteered' to take part in a bug eating competition. At the table were Mr Abbott, Mr Hadler, Mr Beaumont, Mr Westby, Ms Belfiore, Mrs Palmer and Mr Bowden. On the menu were crickets, meal worms, buffalo grubs and locusts. The room was full and it was necessary to turn children away at the door.



The atmosphere was tense. First up, the meal guests had to grab a handful of meal worms. Starting small (and crunchy) this didn't seem like too much of a challenge and Mr Hadler declared they were just 'like crisps'.



Next up were the buffalo grubs which the packet assured staff were more 'goopy and chewier' than the rest. Mr Abbott tried to just eat one, but the crowd were adamant they should all eat three. Mrs Palmer and Ms Belfiore chucked them back with no hesitation, as did Mr Bowden who actually seemed to be quite enjoying his snack. Crickets next and they had big, disgusting eyes. Organiser of this event was Mrs Woollcott who couldn't watch this one as Mr Beaumont and Mr Westby picked the biggest crickets they could. Luckily, she was distracted by the sound of Mr Hadler retching at this point. Last up were the locusts which frankly should stay in biblical plagues and not on plates. They were awful, every one ate at least one. They were heroes.

To round up lunch, and because staff had missed actual lunch for this, they were encouraged by the children to clear their plates and eat the left overs, which they all did. Mrs Palmer said "for all of our brava-do, the handful to clear our plates was the biggest challenge of all. The combination would NOT sit well even with the most sturdy of constitutions. Never again. Never!"



Finally, on Friday the 3rd February, 140 Students and 24 staff took part in an all-night 'StayAwake'. This meant staying in school from 7pm until 7am the next morning, to raise funds for the chosen charities. During the night a variety of activities were offered to keep the students awake: Mrs Crawford again ran a very successful 'Bake-Off' competition demonstrating a wide variety of creative bakes – Paul Hollywood watch out; Mr Meades and Mr Firth showed tremendous endurance refereeing the 5-a-side football match; Mr Rayfield and Ms Taylor dazzled with their wonderful artistic flair by applying glitter to the majority of the Sixth Form faces as well as having a Valentine's Card making stall. Other activities included basketball, cricket, volleyball, gaming, karaoke, silent disco and a quiz, to name just a few. The night was a huge success and Mrs Davies, Head of Sixth Form, said "we were so proud of our Sixth Form students. All students have been wonderful in raising funds far beyond our expectations, with a total of over £6400, which is no mean feat in the current climate. I'd like to thank everyone that contributed towards such a successful event; we look forward to supporting our local community again next year".

A Huge well done goes to all of the students and staff, whether taking part or donating to these causes.



WISHING GRACE AND ELLA THE BEST OF LUCK AT EASTER

Two of our Cromer students are set to cross the pond and take part in the Irish Dancing World Championships in Montreal, Canada in April. Grace Roe (16) and Ella Brooker, (14), both dance for the AMDC Arthurs Mason Dance Company. Having qualified the girls will be joining approximately 6000 other international dancers and the competition will be high.

Grace has been dancing since she was 8 and dances three nights a week. She also weight trains when she has any time spare – all at the same time as studying for her GCSEs. Grace said “I’m really excited about taking part in the competition and it will be excellent being there with Ella. Preparing for the competition takes time – about 45 minutes to an hour for the makeup and just putting the wig on can take a further half an hour. But it’s worth it. When I leave school I’d like to go to University and study Criminology. But who knows, I may end up being part of the wonderful Riverdance instead”.

Ella has been dancing for as long as she remembers and is equally excited, “It’s a huge opportunity and we are really looking forward to it. It will have been worth all of the extra training and strengthening exercises we need to do”. Mrs Palmer said “Ella and Grace are fabulous girls and we wish them both the very best of luck at Easter. We will be waiting to hear how they get on when they start back to school after the holidays”.



HUGE SHOUT OUT TO EX STUDENT—OWEN GILES



Left, Eva Alcock with Owen Giles at the end of training. Right, Owen in fire-fighting gear Pictures: Royal Navy/Baz Swainby

Owen, 21, fulfils forces dream with Royal Navy

By John Nurden
jnurden@thekmgroupp.co.uk
#KMSittingbourne

A former Sittingbourne schoolboy has completed his Royal Navy training as an aircraft handler and will now join ships on deployments around the world. Naval airman Owen Giles, 21, joined the service in January last year. After basic training

at HMS Raleigh he transferred to the Royal Naval School Of Flight Deck Operations at Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose to learn how to help aircraft land and take off from ships. The former Fulston Manor pupil said: “I had always wanted to join the forces. I wanted the chance to push myself further. I want to get promoted and make the best of my career, too. The

Navy has given me the best opportunity to do that.” He was one of 21 fellow classmates to complete their training at the Cornwall air station. Naval airmen, an old-fashioned job title which now includes men and women, serve on the flight decks of the Navy’s aircraft carriers, frigates, destroyers and support ships, specialising in fire and rescue training.

Owen said: “We have done lots of firefighting using breathing apparatus, cutting up cars to rescue people and putting out aircraft fires. We have also learnt how to manoeuvre aircraft. Now is the time to put all that training into practice.” Owen is to join 1700 Naval Air Squadron which sends teams of specialist sailors to other warships and support ships.

When we saw this newspaper article about one of our ex students we had to give him one of our heartfelt shout outs.

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FULSTON FAMILIES HOST ERASMUS VISITORS

Written by Mr Matthews, English teacher and Erasmus Co-ordinator

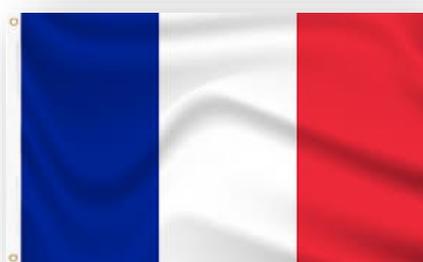
As January came to a close, Fulston Manor School welcomed staff and students from partner schools in Turkey, Sweden, Belgium, Italy and Spain in the penultimate chapter of our final Erasmus project.



Focusing on migration in Europe, 'Who's Knocking at Your Door?' is a project looking to dispel the myths espoused by media channels and encourage students to see the movement of people across the continent with fresh eyes. The week would provide a range of cross-curricular workshops, with students working individually and in groups to create artworks, videos and murals on theme, but also to provide rare travel opportunities to create new friendships and memories whilst enjoying highlights from the school's seat in East Kent.

A steady parade of willing host families arrived throughout the Sunday to collect the intrepid groups arriving from distant shores, all wide-eyed and full of nervous excitement about what the week would offer. Travel opportunities are fortuitously available to most, but the rare privilege of being hosted is what makes Erasmus the most special of our school residential experiences. Beach visits, open-mic nights, ice-skating, shopping-mall hauls, roller-disco sessions and more...as always Fulston's community of willing families were on-call to provide the best experiences and flawless hospitality for our guests.

Together with workshops exploring the presentation of migration in newspapers across all the member-states, all our visitors were organised into mixed-international groups with the aim of creating creative videos including interviews with each other and members of the public across the county and London. Understandably nervous, but determined to succeed, each group scoured the streets of Canterbury and London to hear what the public had to say.



Alongside gruelling interview schedules, opportunities for creativity were at the forefront of the week. Canva productions, tote-bag heat-pressing and exquisite painted mural sessions gave the chance for students to collaborate and exercise creative flair, taking away physical mementoes of their week in the UK; after all, a work of art will always outshine a political endeavour and creativity lends every group experience the brightest gloss.





Punctuating the week's workshop schedule, excursions to Canterbury, Greenwich, and Central London offered the chance to soak up architectural delights, compete in photo-bucket challenges and fill social-media feeds with pictures in the unexpectedly good weather. Hours in-front of screens, countless encounters with the public on film, and the paint-splattered mess of a panoramic mural display on Thursday afternoon...the cumulative exhaustion of the week wouldn't dampen spirits as evenings of bowling, stay-awake marathons and musical performances kept spirits up and allowed new friendships to flourish.



By Friday the scene was set for our closing ceremony; with project t-shirts sporting heartfelt sharpie messages and smiles eclipsing the nerves during final presentations, the sand was starting to slip away on a week, months in the making, and over in almost the blink of an eye. As our partner teams started to depart throughout Friday evening and Saturday morning, final embraces grew tighter as for one last time the flag of international friendship was flown over Fulston Manor School's community.

With one last leg scheduled to Sweden in April, the stage is set for our last ever Erasmus experience...we hope the energy and friendships forged during over the past 18 months and at the school last term culminate in an experience a project of their ambition and quality deserves.

On behalf of the entire school, Mr Matthews would like to extend our most sincere thanks to all the host families who so kindly offered hospitality and accommodation to our visitors; you have helped create memories that will last a lifetime.



STUDENTS BECOME TEACHERS



Four students from Fulston ventured into the world of Primary School teaching as part of a Citizenship project and received a fantastic response from their Year 6 audience. Helped by a powerful Powerpoint presentation the Year 11 students confidently stood in front of the class and spread the word on how important diversity in our communities is. Many questions were asked and answered and everyone came away from the session having learnt about either teaching and presentation skills or what is diversity and where does it have a place in our society. Mrs Franks was very proud of our students and wanted to say well done to Sophie Wetherall, Ella Elderfield, Jayden Harman and Ethan Neale.



ROSANNA GETS THE NEEDLE



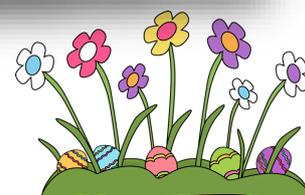
Our very own, very talented Rosanna Brookes has recently been working alongside Hand and Lock who have 250 years experience embellishing, embroidering and monogramming garments for the Royal family, the military and fashion houses including Dior, Hermes and Louis Vuitton. Rosanna was invited in during the February half term and had an amazing time learning new skills during her work experience there.

The Year 13 student has been offered a conditional place at Loughborough University on a Product Design Technology course and intends on using her creativeness to excel in her chosen field. We will be watching her progress very carefully and would love to see more of her examples of embroidery as and when they appear.

Well done Rosanna.



Well done Rosanna.



JAMES POOLS HIS RESOURCES TO WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP

2023 INTER COUNTY NATIONAL U18 FINALS – LOWESTOFT

James Goldsmith, a Stanhope student, has recently come out on top following a year of regional county Pool matches. The 16 most successful teams were invited to the National Pool Finals at Lowestoft in Suffolk. Kent were drawn in a group with West Yorkshire & Northamptonshire.

Having been runners up on the last 2 National Finals in 2020 & 2022 Kent, and James, were keen to make it 3rd time lucky.

Kent beat Northamptonshire 23-13 and West Yorkshire 27-9 to qualify for the semi-final with an 8.30am start on the Sunday morning.

The semi-final opponents were Leicestershire who beat Kent in last years final, so the pressure was on. It turned out to be a massive victory for the Kent team who were 6-0 up before Leicester won their first frame, this gap was maintained and just kept on getting wider and eventually Kent got to the winning target of 19 frames with plenty to spare in a 19-9 final score.

So onto the 3rd final in as many years (allowing for the covid year off) and it was Essex juniors who had come through a tough semi-final against Greater Manchester edging it 19-18 in a playoff.

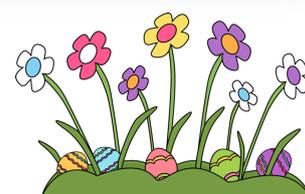
Once again the Kent team got off to a flyer and got comfortably in front and never looked in any trouble with the final score being 19-11, cue the celebrations.

This teams victory is added to the Kent men's team who won their National title on the same day at the same venue.

James was named the best player for Kent over the whole weekend winning 14 out of his 14 frames (as shown in the stats below) against the best juniors from all over the country, that is a great personal achievement and we are sure will command some words of praise when the official tournament report is published.

As a caveat to this weekend, on the Thursday night, James won a 16 man competition at Chatham picking up a first prize of £800. This has to be one of the biggest financial prizes ever won by a junior player (this was an adults event).

James now looks forward to two series of tournaments at locations throughout the country, 3 in the Under 18 category and 5 in the Under 25 category ,the latter containing many "Ultimate Pool" professionals and Internationals. Results pending for the rest of this season another England trial in January 2024 (fingers crossed).



Canterbury Tales For Year 7s

On Thursday 9th and Friday 10th March the Year 7s and the History department ventured to Canterbury for the day to experience the sights and sounds. As part of their work this term, Year 7 have been focusing on the History of Canterbury and how it has developed since the Roman era. In order to make this come to life the students and teachers travelled there for the day to visit the Cathedral and experience a tour of the City Centre led by Mr McCutcheon and Mrs Sharman. Though not quite the snow that we had experience the previous day, the weather did prove to be challenging. Constant downpours and gale force winds made the walking tour around the city difficult but the Year 7s were exceptionally well behaved throughout and used it to add to the fun.



Mr McCutcheon led the groups to the Stone Keep Castle, a Roman burial site, the site of an amphitheatre and even the guest house where Elizabeth I stayed on her 40th birthday. Students also enjoyed a tour of the Cathedral where they showed off their amazing knowledge of Thomas Becket and the Medieval period. The students amazed the tours guides, with one even emailing the school to let us know how impressed he was. What a fantastic couple of days the History department had with Year 7, we look forward to doing it again next year!



Fulston Chair Swale Youth Forum

Students from Fulston Manor School were honoured to chair the latest Swale Youth Forum meeting held on 22nd March at the council offices of Swale Borough Council. Year 13 student, Chris McCall was chair, helped by his deputies Harry Gill and Vanesa Vinckute. Chris explained to the other schools about our charity week and was proud to announce the fundraising event raised well over £7000. Discussions throughout the morning focussed on employment opportunities for young people, mental health support for young people and active travel, the Big Walk.



Beautiful Photographs captured on our way to work.

Mrs Daw, Administration Assistant and Second First Aider, shared this beautiful photograph having felt the need to stop her car and capture the moment in time on her way to work.

It made us think about how many other images were out there from our staff and how their working days started or ended during their journeys.



What follows on the next page are just a few....



Although taken last August, Mrs Eldridge, Cover Administrator and Lead First Aid,

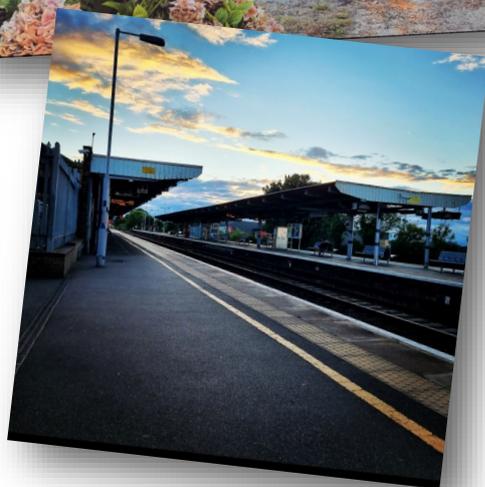
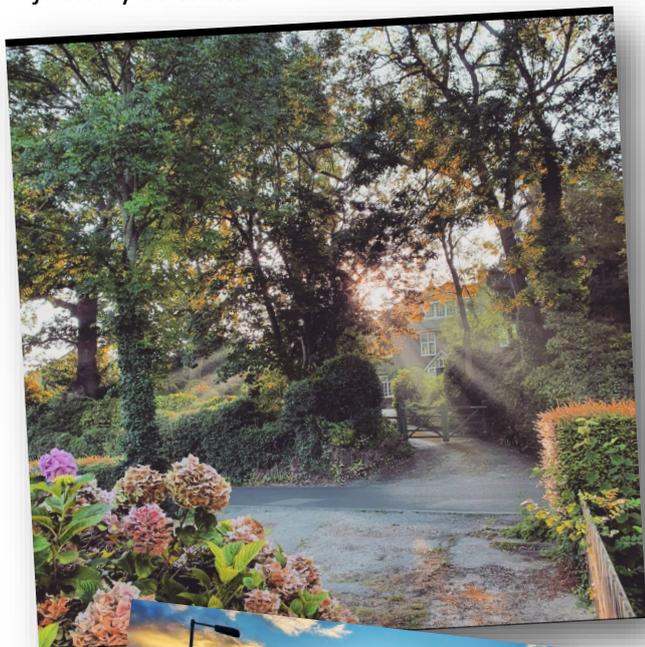
wanted to share her photograph of a Fire Rainbow.



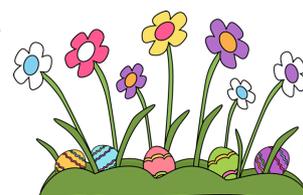
Mrs Davies shared her amazing sighting with 18, yes 18, peacocks sitting in a tree!!!! Also the view to go with it.



And finally Mrs Love , Office Assistant, shared her wonderful views of her journey to work.



How lucky are we to live in such a beautiful part of the country. We tend to take things for granted but if we stop and look around there is beauty everywhere.



SPRING FESTIVAL IS, ONCE MORE, A HIT WITH THE AUDIENCE

This term saw yet another splendid performance by our students and directed by our amazing Performance Arts Teachers.

Held on Thursday 23rd March the festival, entitled 'Night at the Movies' the audience were delighted to experience students showcasing their talents. A massive well done to all involved.



Continued



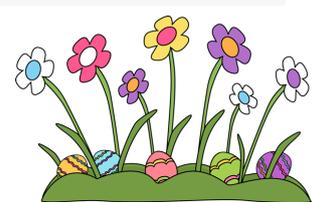


Well done everyone

STUDENTS REPRESENT FULSTON IN SPORTING MATCHES AND, YET AGAIN, MAKE US INCREDIBLY PROUD.

Our thanks and congratulations go, yet again, to those students who have represented the school in Football, Basketball and Netball. Well done one and all.

Netball	Basketball	Football Boys	Football Girls
<u>Year 7</u> Poppy Diddams Phoebe Dovey Katie Foreman Ava Gardiner Annabelle Jordan Amelia Marshall Maiya Neaves Eleanor Potter Evie Stoner	Emilie Codali Emmanuella Genfi Esther Shodipe Ruby Thomas Madison Westell	Zane Batchelor Liam Foy Charlie Harvey Jake Hoggins Archie Hutchinson Callum Maddox Archie Marshall Oliver Pooley Zak Sargeant Kyan Setterfield George Swallow Fletcher Verlin Liam Walker Roman Walmsley	Caitlin Butler Emilie Codali Connie Harris Esther Shodipe Bethany Silcock Lucy Steadman Ellie Stockdale Ruby Thomas Madison Westell Olive Saunders-Young
<u>Year 8</u> Selena Guilfoire-Ledger Alana Maddox Shaneeeka Mahommed Shanee Mahommed Ruby Thomas Damla Yashar			



SCHOOL FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

At Fulston Manor School we have a wide range of facilities available for hire that can suit any needs.

Whether you are an organisation looking to hold an event or conference, a sports team looking for a regular venue to train, or you may be just looking to hold a private function, we have facilities to offer. We also have an off-site playing field available for hire.

Our facilities are available during weekday evenings and weekends during term time and throughout the week during school holidays.

If you would like further details on the availability of our facilities please contact the Finance Office on 01795 412600 or finance@fulstonmanor.kent.sch.uk

Important Contact Details



Attendance Office telephone:

Attendance Office email:

01795 412639

attendance@fulstonmanor.kent.sch.uk

Cromer House Office telephone:

Cromer House Office email:

01795 412609

cromer@fulstonmanor.kent.sch.uk

Hales House Office telephone:

Hales House Office email:

01795 412610

hales@fulstonmanor.kent.sch.uk

Morrison House Office telephone:

Morrison House Office email:

01795 412611

morrison@fulstonmanor.kent.sch.uk

Stanhope House Office telephone:

Stanhope House Office email:

01795 412612

stanhope@fulstonmanor.kent.sch.uk

Sixth Form Office telephone:

Sixth Form Office email:

01795 412608 or 01795 412623

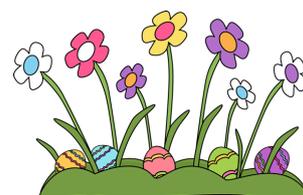
sixthform@fulstonmanor.kent.sch.uk

Reception telephone:

Email:

01795 475228

mail@fulstonmanor.kent.sch.uk



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

SCHOOL CLOSURE

In the event of the school having to close, due to adverse weather conditions for example, we notify parents in a variety of ways:

- Kent school closure website www.kentclosures.co.uk
- Notice on the home page of the school website
- e-mail message service (direct to your e-mail address)
- and/or text message service (direct to your mobile phone)



STUDENTS FEELING UNWELL

Can you please remind your child(ren) that should they feel unwell they should inform a member of staff or go directly to the First Aid Room if during break or lunch time. A member of staff will discuss the illness with your child and will contact you if it is necessary for them to be collected and taken home or taken for further medical examination.

Please note that the Medical Room is staffed by trained First Aiders, not qualified Nurses. Should your child have an on-going medical issue this should be referred to a doctor as we are not able to provide advice or treatment for such conditions.

REMINDER RE UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

We pride ourselves on the appearance of students at Fulston Manor, and we expect them to be smartly dressed on their way to and from school and throughout the school day. If you require any further guidance please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of House.

Our uniform is compulsory.

Our uniform **must** be worn correctly at all times – this includes on the journey to and from school.

Students may only wear weatherproof outdoor coats in addition to their school uniform. These **must not** be worn in place of their blazer. Hoodies, sweatshirts, denim jackets, leather jackets and gilletts are **not** allowed.

There is to be **NO** make-up worn, this includes painted/false nails.

There is to be **NO** jewellery worn, or piercings.

Only those hairstyles suitable for school are allowed – **NO** unnatural colours

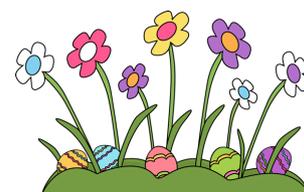
School skirts should be grey in non-stretch fabric– choice of two styles - either straight (with small back split or kick-pleat) or box pleat. Skirts must be knee-length.

Trousers must be “Charcoal grey or black classic straight-legged tailored school trousers.

Reminder re shoes: Shoes should be black, leather, sensible and suitable for both indoor and outdoor use. Boots (defined as footwear that covers the ankle), trainers and canvas shoes may NOT be worn.

If a student should arrive in school not complying to the above they will be given until the next school day to rectify. (nail varnish remover is kept in house areas and students will be asked to remove the nail varnish immediately and their community card will be signed). Failure to rectify could lead to isolation.

PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.





ATTENDANCE—AIM FOR 100%

A reminder about our recent letter regarding attendance. Students should aim to be in school every day of the academic year and there are clear links between good attendance and academic achievement. Students may think attendance of 90% is 'good' but this is equivalent to one half day off each week and means a student actually has persistent absence. A student with 90% attendance from Year 7 to 11 will miss 20 weeks of schooling (3 terms or **half a year**).

Medical Appointments:

Please could parents try wherever possible to arrange Doctor/Dentist and other appointments outside of school hours. If this is not possible then students should not take the whole day off and should attend school around the appointment time.

Punctuality:

Students should be in school by 8.40am and any student arriving to the school gates after 8.40am will have their responsibility card signed. Tutor time starts at 8.50am, if a student arrives after 9am then this is an unauthorised late and can result in a Penalty Notice being issued.

Attendance letters to parents/guardians:

As a school we have a duty to ensure all students attend regularly. The school sets a minimum level of attendance for all students of 95% which is endorsed by the Department for Education and the Local Authority. Any student whose attendance falls below 95% will automatically be sent a letter stating the attendance and outlining further actions that may have to be taken should the attendance not improve. This is monitored fortnightly and students may be spoken to. Where we know of medical reasons for this absence we may not send this letter, however, this will not always be the case.

We will normally authorise up to 3 days of absence if we have been informed as to why the student is off, anything beyond this may result in letters being sent home and absences being classed as unauthorised. We ask for parents to make daily contact to inform us of absences via the House office, in certain medical cases some continued absences will be authorised.

Informing us of absence due to illness does not automatically guarantee it will be authorised, this will be determined by the school depending on the student's current attendance levels and whether medical evidence has been provided. We do not require letters from a GP, any medication packaging or an appointment card would be enough.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring students are in school. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of House for support should you need it.

Please note the **Main School Office and The Finance Office** will be
Open 9am - 1pm
3rd - 6th April
11th - 14th April



Fulston Manor School

Brenchley Road Sittingbourne Kent ME10 4EG

Tel: 01795 475228

website: www.fulstonmanor.kent.sch.uk e-mail: sburden@fulstonmanor.kent.sch.uk
mail@fulstonmanor.kent.sch.uk

