



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2016

A merry Christmas to you all!

It has certainly been a memorable term, it is by far the longest term of the year and as usual we have packed a lot in!. We started the year celebrating examination results. Congratulations to students in years 9, 10 and 11 who achieved a range of GCSE, Functional Skills and Entry Level qualifications.

Having returned from the summer break students were once again full of energy and ready to embark on the numerous challenges available. As usual they have experienced an exciting variety of activities both in and outside the classroom.

A number of new students have joined us this term and we are incredibly pleased with the way they have been welcomed and at how quickly they have settled in and become part of our school community.

Christmas time is always a time to reflect on the experiences of people less fortunate than ourselves. Throughout the term students and staff have organised and participated in several fundraising activities including **The Great Welly Walk** where we raised £232.00 to help African farmers and their Families to work themselves out of poverty through improved ways to manage their crops, livestock, forests and access to water.

Our **Christmas Fair** was once again an amazing success. Students and staff worked incredibly hard, working tirelessly to produce gifts and creating activities for all to enjoy. Santa's Grotto provided a wonderfully festive experience for children. A massive thank you to everyone who supported this event, we raised £257.34 for the Autistic Society.

On Monday a group of students delivered essential goods to **Catching Lives** which is an independent charity aimed at supporting the rough sleepers, homeless and vulnerably housed in Canterbury and East Kent; those who have, for many reasons, fallen through the gaps in society and feel they have nowhere else to turn. This annual visit raises student awareness of the difficulties faced by many people in our local community.

Our School Council representatives have been active this term. They have been responsible sharing the views of students within each Key Stage, and have made suggested improvements within the school.



Two students have continued to attend Challenger Troop and have been awarded 'Top Trooper' on several occasions during the term. Congratulations to you both.

Key Stage 3 & 4 students have represented the school in football fixtures against other schools. All demonstrated fantastic team spirit and were a credit to the school.

The autumn term would not be complete without a trip to the Panto. This year it was "Dick Whittington" at the Marlowe ... (oh no it wasn't, oh yes it was!). Students thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were a credit to the school - we even got a call out from Stephen Mulhern!

Another Christmas tradition was celebrated following the panto - Christmas Lunch. It was wonderful to see all students and staff so relaxed and enjoying lunch together. Well done to students for their behaviour.

We would like to wish Michelle the very best of luck and will miss her. After 15years at Learning Opportunities she is off to new pastures.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their overwhelming support in recent months, it is greatly appreciated.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact the school on 01304 381906 or e.mail lesleyb@learningopps.org

Online Safety

www.thinkuknow.co.uk - Visit the "Parent/Carer" Section for information about technology and tips to keep your family safe and explore the rest of the site with your child to learn together about online safety.

www.ceop.gov.uk - Website for the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre. Use the report abuse button to seek advice and report online abuse such as grooming.

www.iwf.org.uk - Report illegal content online

www.parentport.org.uk - Report inappropriate content

www.childnet.com - Visit the 'Know It All' Section for an interactive tool about the Internet and keeping safe.

Please note students return to school on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

