

The Coulsdon Chronicle

'Excellence through rigour, resilience and passion'



Culture Day Edition 2023

A Note from the Editor

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Welcome to The Coulsdon Chronicle's annual Culture Day Edition 2023 where we celebrate the importance of diversity in our community. The Academy organized a range of events throughout the day, including a fashion show, Caribbean cooking masterclass, origami and applique. In addition, this edition celebrates the achievement of Kiera Grierson, a Year 11 student whose award winning play was performed on the National Theatre's Olivier Stage: the youngest writer to ever receive that highest of acknowledgments. Plus, the Coulsdon Chronicle's very own Nicolas Deeks' achievement of reaching the final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. It has been quite a term!

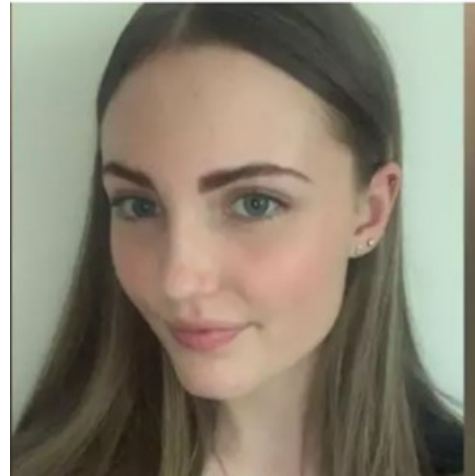
OAC Students Receive BRIT School Scholarships

Congratulations to Michael Keska, Leon Stanislas, Theo Winkley, Cian Fenton and Leah Dejere, who have all received scholarships for The BRIT School for their talents in the creative arts. Ms Richardson, Music Teacher at OAC, comments, "I am incredibly proud of all our students moving on. They have shown great talent and determination to get there. I wish them all the best"

OAC Student wins prestigious competition!

Keira Grierson from Year 11 achieved first prize in the National Theatre's *New Views* playwriting competition. Her play *3.2.1* beat 500 entries and was staged on the prestigious Olivier Stage of the National Theatre on the 5th and 6th July.

Keira, who has just completed her GCSEs at Oasis Academy Coulsdon, wrote her play to reflect the collective experience of teenagers and the impact of social media on her generation. The narrative is told through a series of mobile communications and multiple voices. Her play impressed the panel of judges, who named her play the winner. In total, 1063 schools from across the country took part.



Keira's drama teacher Ms Killeen said, "I am so proud of Keira. What she has achieved cannot be understated. To be the youngest playwright to have a play produced at the NT—truly remarkable."

Miss Nel, Keira's English teacher said, "Keira's hard-work and dedication to literature, combined with her creativity and imagination, are an example of the talent and potential that we have here in Coulsdon. Her play reflects her own authentic voice on a subject she cared passionately about."



Year 10 Student Reaches Jack Petchey Final

Nicolas Deeks, Year 10 student and journalist for the Chronicle, reached the national final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge.

Nicolas' speech, 'Why I Should be on Love Island', was complimented for its humorous and engaging style. The competition receives 30,000 entries, with only 15 speeches being nominated for the final event, which took place at The Cambridge Theatre, London. Miss Nel, Nicolas' English teacher, commented, "Congratulations to Nicolas. It was an honour to see him on stage perform his excellent speech. It took real courage in front of all those people. We are very proud."

After the ceremony, Nicolas said, "The atmosphere of the whole thing was surreal. I didn't think I was going to make it out of the regional final, let alone get here. Overall, it was such an enjoyable experience, and I'm looking forward to MCing the regional final here next year!"

CULTURE DAY HIGHLIGHTS

“STOMP THE YARD”—Students are in the sports hall with a steel pan each. There is an instructor telling them how to play and which notes are which. He then tells them what order to play the notes in. They repeat the order over and over again until it starts to resemble the song “Shape of You” by Ed Sheeran. They replay the notes until everyone gets the order right and is in time. When everyone is in time they play all together. It sounds amazing.



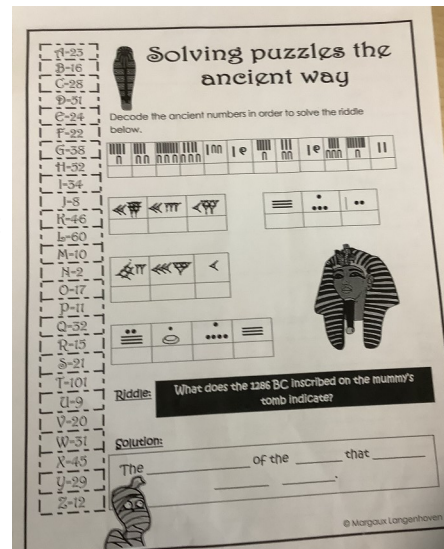
ANCIENT GREEK STEM—This activity involves building a post lintel system strong enough to hold the members of your group. This activity is fun and is great for problem solving. You only have limited resources. This activity was adapted by many cultures for large structures.

“ORIGAMI” - The Japanese art of paper folding, was well received by students. They were taught how to make a menagerie of animals. It was run by two wonderful Year 9 students, Noah Patrick and Aaron Johns.



BADGE MAKING—At this activity, students can create badges relations to culture, hosted by Mr Calvo. First draw your design then use a badge machine to bring it to life. You can make badges by choosing different counties and cultures to inspire you. You can make them inspired by your culture or other cultures that fascinate you. It looks like a lot of fun!

Maths—In this activity, students explored different cultures by looking at county’s number systems. They played lots of different maths games to translate and decode number systems and use problem solving. This helps people understand culture a long time ago and what certain cultures bring to the modern world.



GEOGRAPHY—In the Geography scavenger hunt, students had to find and identify 18 flags positioned around the school. The flags had magnifying glasses to distinguish them. Once students had found and identified all 18, they returned to S7 to have their findings verified. They were offered a sweet and set about their work. Using the clue “Our Wish for the World,” they set about decoding an anagram using the first letter from each country. All correct solutions were entered into a prize draw for a £10 Amazon voucher. Happy hunting!

FITNESS— In fitness, Mr Simmonds put students through their paces with a no-nonsense workout. It started with a warmup. This consisted of paired burpees, air squats and sit-ups. Then they did a mobility exercise . This consisted of ‘Cat and Cow’, and other assorted exercises. The ‘Ab Blast’ consisted of 20 seconds on and 20 seconds off, or 20 seconds exercise and 20 seconds rest. The exercises consisted of sit ups, planks, and flutter kicks. In teams of 4 they completed 2 full laps of the field with a kettle bell. 200 air squats, 160 burpees, 120 press ups, 80 sits ups – within 45 minutes.



FASHION SHOW— This event took place at the beginning of culture day and was amazing event that included dances, explanations of different cultures and history, hosted by Ms John. There were many amazing people representing their cultures and countries. Student were informed and entertained by dances and presentations by key note speakers.



MFL—In this fun activity, students learned salsa taught by Ms Ellery, Ms Maddocks and Ms Salvador. You learn a series of moves related to the Spanish culture. It consists of foot, arm, and body movements. It's exciting and interesting to find out about the Spanish culture and learn some moves to take home with you.

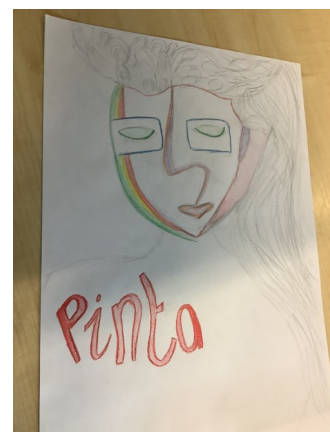
CARIBBEAN COOKING—Miss Spinks, OAC Food Tech Teacher, ran a fun and practical session on Caribbean food, allowing students to explore a range of flavours and combinations.



Coulsdon Kahoot—The Coulsdon Kahoot is a quiz about different cultural things like cultural music, cultural dances and more. In these, they answer questions about different things that relate to cultures all around the world. There are five rounds and the top three get sweets. It took place in the Agora. In one of them, there was a question asking about what country a dance came from. For other question, they played a music, and you have to name the country it was from. Another one would tell you to guess what the music was called. Some of them were multiple choice. One of the questions was: Which two countries did hip hop originate from? And the answer to the question is Africa and America.

Kahoot!

MFL Picasso—In this activity, students were taught about the Spanish , abstract artist Pablo Picasso, Hosted by Ms Salvador, students explore his life and culture and artist career. He was an inspiration to Spanish culture and it is good to learn about his life. Later on, you get to make your own Picasso picture and draw from his perspective and journey.



Plastic Free July by Molly Hughes



You may not know what Plastic Free July is but in fact it is a global movement that encourages millions of people to be part of the solution to plastic pollution. This is so we can have cleaner streets, oceans and beautiful communities. Plastic free July provides many resources to help millions of people around the world reduce how much they use single-use plastic at home, work, school and even at a local café. Plastic free July's movement has inspired over 100+ million people in 190 different countries.

If people decide to take this challenge we will collectively make a massive difference to our world. In July you can choose to refuse single-use plastic (and beyond)! The best part is, being part of Plastic Free July will help you find alternatives and make great habits forever.

A Bin Audit at school is a great way to keep track of what you waste you could avoid and help improve your composting and recycling habits. For example, if people in your school are putting cardboard in the landfill bin you could check to see if there is recycling services.

After participation in plastic free July you could get into good habits of not using single-use plastic and always recycling. For the following years to come, you can take part in plastic free July.

Pride month 2023

by Rose Bishop, Year 7



What is Pride Month?

This June 2023 there is a very special event – Pride Month! This month celebrates people part of the LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community, where many amazing people are part of. This is an annual event which means people celebrate it every year. The first pride month took place in 1970 in honour of this community. Many events are held across the globe in Pride Month. This month is a very special way to raise awareness for the LGBT+ community. June was chosen as the month of Pride because it was when the first Stonewall Riots took back in 1969. The theme for this year is gather, dream, and amplify.

Who are some famous LGBT+ famous people?

There are many successful LGBT+ people out there who have succeeded regardless of all of the discouragement they get. This month is to celebrate the people who are amazing like these:

- Elton John, Major singer who has sold over 300 million records, making him one of the best-selling music artists of all time is a gay man
- Alan Turing, A man who played a crucial part in WW2 was a gay man
- Edith Windsor, a leading woman in the fight for LGBTQ rights in America and activist was a lesbian woman
- Maureen Colquhoun was the first openly lesbian MP, as well as the first openly LGBT MP
- Marsha P Johnson was an activist for LGBT right and was a transgender woman
- Lily Allen, an English singer, songwriter and presenter is a bisexual woman
- Kim Petras, a German role model for young trans children and pop star is a transgender woman
- Miley Cyrus, an American pop star and actress is a bisexual woman

There would have been no pride month without some of these people who play a huge role in this community

How to support the LGBT+ community

Even if you are not part of this group you can always support them. This would be such a considerate thing to do and make sure you show acceptance. You could host a pride month event like a parade, raise or donate money for their rights, talk to a LGBT+ person and be supportive or even just think or speak about LGBT+ inclusion. These would all be great ways to show you support the LGBT+ community and show consideration.

We hope that if you are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Two-Spirit, you feel included especially this month where we can celebrate there people.