

Sir Roger Manwood's School



Spring Term 2022
Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

This has been one of the hardest terms for us as a school community for many years.

The first thing to hit us was the desperately sad and totally unexpected passing of one of our Year 13 students, Max Timberlake. Max was a super young man. He was happy, from a very supportive and loving family, passionate about Formula One, a Fulham FC supporter, part of a group that attended Deal Town home games, holder of an unconditional offer from his first choice university and a much loved member of his year group. Everyone who came into contact with Max, will always remember him for his very dry sense of humour, and for his confidence to be, do and think as he wanted and not be pressured into following the crowd. Max's mum spoke eloquently and powerfully to the assembled year group and staff at both our in-school service celebrating Max's life (where a bench and an oak tree that was planted in his memory were both adorned with red ribbons in acknowledgement of his love of Ferrari!) and at his funeral. She urged everyone to remember Max for the good times they shared. Although Max did not suffer from mental health issues, and with his mum's blessing, some students in the year group have been raising money in memory of Max for the charity Mind – as they say on their Go Fund Me page, they want every person to have somewhere to turn to for support so that no family has to go through what Max's family has had to endure:

<https://gofund.me/2aaed0fe>.

Secondly, from January all the way through to the end of term we had to cope with the highest number of Covid cases amongst staff since the pandemic started, which was made especially difficult since it was virtually impossible to find agency supply staff to cover for their absence due to the high absence rate across all schools in the area. Thankfully, we did not get to the point where whole year groups had to be sent home on rotation in order to free up those teachers who were in school to do the required cover, as happened in at least 3 other local schools.

On a positive note, there was also lots of good news too!

- Music concerts started back up again, with both Senior and Junior Concerts taking place in the last week of term
- The Drama Department started the audition process for the Summer Term School Production

- The PE Department ran as many clubs and fixtures that it could despite the difficulties of releasing staff during the day when cover was already stretched to the limit due to the impact of Covid as explained above
- The Science Department organised a STEM Day for Year 8 students about Robotics
- The DT Department organised the Arkwright Scholarship exams for some of its Year 11 students
- The number of students attending the CCF on Thursdays after school continued to grow. It is now up to around 120 cadets, which is certainly the highest since I joined the school in 2013. As well as their weekly Thursday activities, the CCF also enjoyed an adventure weekend in early March just outside Hawkinge, camping out under the stars despite the overnight temperature being just above freezing!
- Our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver training days all took place as planned, and participants are now preparing for the practice and assessed expeditions in May and June.
- After a rigorous tender process, as from 1 April 2022, the temporary contract awarded to Independent Catering after our previous caterers left, will be replaced by one with Caterlink. New menus will be posted on the website shortly. Parents will see no change when making online payments but there will be some temporary measures in place in school while the new company installs new equipment, which includes a bigger outside pod in time. Students should notice a wider range of choices from the first day back after Easter. Caterlink are keen to receive feedback from students and will be putting in place a mechanism to enable this.
- Our planning application for a full sized astroturf pitch and pavilion was approved by Dover District Council earlier in March and work will now begin in earnest to make these additions to our facilities a reality

STUDENT NEWS

Thomas Facos, Alexander Maddison, Samuel Rumary, Cameron Ryan and Isaac Maynard (all Year 11) sat the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship examination at the beginning of February. The Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is a prestigious award given to students to help them fulfil their potential in engineering by supporting them through their A level and University courses, and linking them with engineering companies. Any students in Years 7 to 10 who are thinking of becoming an engineer can find out more at [Arkwright Engineering Scholarships](#)

The U12 girls' football team beat Rainham Girls 2-1 in the semi-final of the Kent Cup and made it through to the county final to play Bullers Wood. Unfortunately, they lost the final but not without putting up a brave performance. Congratulations to the team for having made it to the final – there is always next year!

The U14 boys' football team progressed to the semi-final of the Kent Cup after beating Meopham 4-3. They played Norton Knatchbull for a place in the final and won. They will now play Hurstmere on Thursday 5 May. We wish them luck.

In the Kent Schools' Cross Country Championship, **Alex Dack** (Year 11) finished 2nd in the Intermediate Boys category and **Millie Dack** (also Year 11) who came in 4th in the Intermediate Girls category. As a result of this run, Alex was selected for the Kent squad for the English Schools Cross Country Championships on Saturday 19th March. That competition showcases the top talent from around the country, with each county selecting their top 8 athletes, per age group, to compete against the rest of England. Kent has been a particularly strong county in this competition in recent years, so it was even more of an achievement to be selected.

Albe Smith (Year 11) received the letter below from his local branch of the Salvation Army for his volunteering work that he did with them for his Duke of Edinburgh Award:

"Dear Albe

I want to write and express our gratitude for your help with the work of the Salvation Army. You approached us in 2021 offering to help collect food for our food bank. This was at a time when we were struggling to meet demand. There were so many coming to us for support. Whilst we continued to have donations from the public at some supermarkets, it was not enough to meet the need. So, we were very grateful for your offer.

Little do we know how hard you would work, and over such an extended period of time. Every week – irrespective of the weather – and you own personal interests - you went to the people of Cliffsend and asked for their help. This says much about the kindness of your community, but it speaks volumes about the respect and trust they have in you. For many people opening the door brings anxiety, so you clearly have a reputation that brings confidence and compassion.

You collected nearly 500 items for the food bank and some for our hygiene and baby bank. This is an extraordinary volume of food. When we make up food parcels, we add donated fresh produce (bread, vegetables, fruit) and the typical value is £17. This will last a single person three to five days. Your hard work and the generosity of your neighbours have allowed us to make parcels exceeding £1000 and help over sixty families".

Katherine Sharp (Year 11) is a Vice Captain at Dover Life Guards Swimming Club and recently helped to officiate the Dover Primary Schools Swimming Gala.

Amy Berridge (Year 12) has enjoyed a very successful career in the RAF Cadets. She currently holds the highest rank possible for her age, is serving as the Deal Mayor's Cadet and has been appointed to the London RAF Cadet Band. Amy has now been appointed to the **National** RAF Cadet Band. This is extremely prestigious and very difficult to get appointed to. Amy was accepted on her first application which is a rare achievement. She is due to spend a week training at RAF Cranwell over the Easter holidays and will hopefully be playing at some exciting events over the coming year. It's a particularly exciting year to join as the Jubilee will no doubt offer lots of opportunities for performances.

3 of our students – **Jessamine Lodge** and **Adair Holmes** (both Year 8) and **Thomas Haddaway** (Year 11) – have been invited to be part of the contingent representing UK scouts

at the 25th World Scouting Jamboree in South Korea in summer 2023, where over 50,000 young people will come together to work towards greater international understanding and give its participants a chance to learn new skills. All 3 have the next year to raise £4000 in order to take part. A significant portion of that amount is used to assist scouts from developing countries to attend the Jamboree. Please keep an eye out for news of events they will be doing, and sponsor them if able.

Eddie Rowney (Year 11) was selected for an England hockey training camp in mid-March in Shropshire. As a result of how he performed, he has been selected to represent England in the 5 Nations tournament that is taking place in Holland over the Easter holidays from 14th to 18th April, which involves teams from the Netherlands, Germany, Ireland and Belgium, as well as England. We are very proud of Eddie's achievements and wish him well for the tournament and look forward to hearing how he got in after Easter, which we will include in the end of term newsletter.

Several students in Year 11 had to sit the English and Maths National Reference Tests for 2022 which are used to benchmark the national cohort of students for use in setting examination boundaries this coming summer. We received the email from the national organisers afterwards:

"We would like to thank you for your help with the National Reference Test 2022 and we hope that the experience was interesting. The participation of your school this year has been particularly valuable as it will provide important longitudinal evidence about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on education for school leaders, exam boards and policy-makers. We are extremely grateful to you, the students and staff at your school who helped with the arrangements for the test and for welcoming our administrators. We understand the level of planning and organisation that the administration involved at a very busy time in the school year, and that this all took place in the context of the additional challenges presented by Covid-19".

CAREERS

PC Ruddock gave a talk earlier this term on careers in the police.

An alumnus, Grieg Baker, spoke to a packed Library, on what he does in and around Parliament that enables him to carry out his job of Political Intelligence

The Year 12 Computer Science students attended a 1-day conference at Maidstone Girls' Grammar School entitled 'Aspiration Digital'

ECO SOCIETY

Over the February half term, £8,000 worth of energy efficient LED lights were installed in the Sports Hall (a big thank you goes to our caretakers for arranging for that to happen and the Eco Society for having raised the money to buy the bulbs). This means we are now 90% through the switchover that last year's fundraising campaign enabled. **Zac Bowles** (Y12) has compared our electricity usage in 2019 (pre-Covid) to the amounts we have used this year and

we estimate that the school will save at least £6,000 a year from those LEDs and over 11 tonnes of carbon emissions a year will be avoided.

The Eco Society have been working hard since September on their campaign for this year – a solar panel project. Last term they focused on their fundraising campaign which will conclude on Earth Day (22nd April). Earlier in the term they had a very successful start to their fundraising efforts, raising £2,300. This will be added to the £15,000 received in the Autumn Term from the R&A, organisers of The Open, the £10,000 donated by very generous Old Manwoodians and their families, and a £10,000 grant. In further good news, the Eco Soc heard that £24,500 of their fundraising will be matched by the Q Charitable Trust (who also matched all of their LED fundraising last year).

This means, the Eco Society have now raised £60,000. They are now looking to raise the final few thousand needed to install an array of 198 panels on the Sports Hall roof. That will stop 16 tonnes of carbon from reaching the atmosphere each year and save £8,500 on the school's annual electricity bills (using today's prices, not the much higher ones that kick in at the end of our current deal in the autumn).

If anyone wants to contribute to this project and haven't done so yet, there is a page open on the School Gateway to enable donations. The graphic below shows what the solar panels will look like on the Sports Hall roof once in place.



The school has also agreed to the placing of nest boxes around the school site specifically for swifts after having heard a very persuasive presentation by 3 members of the Society that explained how their numbers have declined precipitously in recent years.

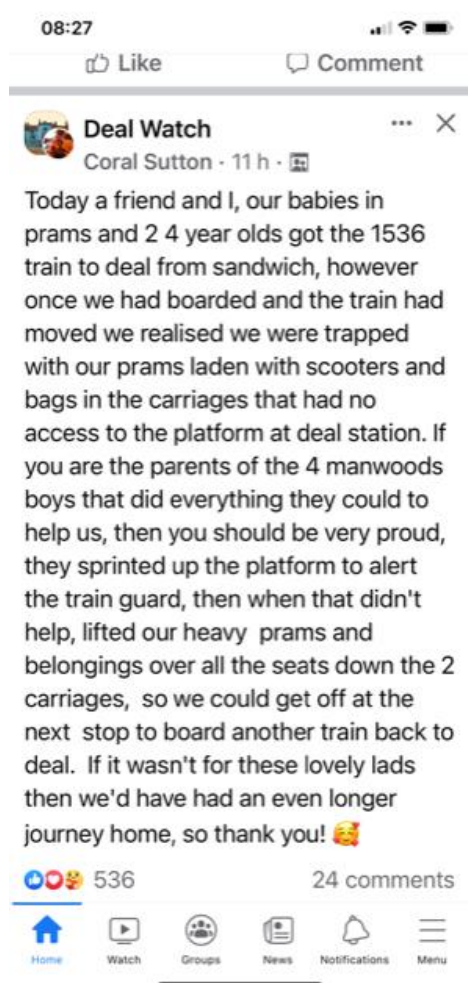
COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWS

As most readers of this newsletter will know, SRMS has long been twinned with a school in the north east of India near Darjeeling, called the Farato School. We were still holding on to the funds that the team who were due to visit Farato at Easter 2020 raised as we were waiting for Farato to suggest what the funds could be used for. I am pleased to say that we have now sent over two amounts – one to buy more much needed equipment for the school, and the other, a new idea, was sent to support the costs of 3 students from Farato going to a high

school in Darjeeling over the coming year to enable them to pursue their dream of going to university.

The School's annual Charity Week ran from Monday 21st March this year, and was devoted to raising funds for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal by the Disasters Emergency Committee so as to help the DEC family of charities to provide food, water, shelter and healthcare to refugees and displaced families. Sales and events took place in school all week, and on the Friday there was a non-uniform day. Thank you to all those parents and students who donated either money or something from the list of suggested donations, and Ms Lupton for driving the school minibus over to Folkestone to drop off the collected donations.

The message below was added to the Sandwich Town Facebook page. It is good to see such behaviour from our students, and long may it continue.



ALUMNI NEWS

Those parents who were themselves students at SRMS might like to know of the passing of Mr John Newton, who was Head of Art for a considerable time at the end of the last century and the early 00's. John was a well-liked and inspirational teacher to his students. He was popular with staff who liked him for his off-beat approach to life and for his kindness and consideration. John was also a good cricketer, who kept wicket with an easy skill and who for a time successfully coached the School's First XI.

UPDATED NHS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND GUIDANCE

The NHS [COVID-19 symptoms in adults](#) and [symptoms in children](#) have been updated.

Adults and children who have symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19, should follow the [UKHSA guidance](#).

The guidance says that children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can, and that they can go back to school and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and are well enough to attend.

UPDATED GUIDANCE ABOUT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR EXAMS THIS SUMMER

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published updated guidance about how special consideration for exams, this summer, will work in the context of Covid-19, and the new Living with Covid strategy and UKHSA guidance. The guidance is [here](#). The key points of the guidance are:

- Exam candidates will not be given free Covid tests during the series and will not be asked to provide tests to authenticate absence.
- In applying for special consideration on the grounds of absence, there is a slight relaxation of the rules this year, meaning that candidates can still get a grade if they have completed one unit/exam, rather than the previous requirement of 25%. For most qualifications this will not make a difference, but it may in a small number of cases.
- Candidates who are 18 and under who are unwell and have a high temperature, should not attend exams until they feel better and no longer have a temperature.
- Candidates who are 19 and over who have symptoms of a respiratory infection and a high temperature or do not feel well, should not attend exams until they feel better and no longer have a high temperature.
- Candidates who test positive for Covid (if they have chosen to take a test or have been directed to do so by a medical professional) should be advised not to attend exams for 3 days if they're 18 or under, or 5 days if they're 19 or over.
- In all of the above situations, centres can apply for special consideration on the grounds of 'absent from exam'.
- Special consideration will not be applied to candidates solely because they have suffered significant learning loss during their study due to Covid, either due to their own absence or their teachers'.

I hope that all members of the SRMS community – students, staff, governors, parents, carers and extended families – had a restful holiday.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 19 April 2022, which will be **WEEK B** in the timetable.

Best wishes

Mr Hunter

Headteacher