

Newsletter

"When you've done everything you can to train yourself for competition, you'll sleep well when the tournament is over, win or lose."

Karch Kiraly, Volleyball Player

Week 9 2022-23

VOLLEYBALL SEASON HEATS UP





Interhouse Volleyball Tournament

Points so far

Game 1: Lions 3 Tigers 1

Game 2: Leopards 3 Panthers 1

Game 3 Lions 3 Jaguars 1

Game 1 Nov 2nd

The first ever CATS Cambridge Interhouse Volleyball tournament kicked off with a dig, a dump and a dive at North Cambridge Academy on Wednesday November 2nd. Tigers were playing Lions and within minutes of the starting whistle both teams were showing their colours. As the points rose one by one on both sides, the tension mounted. At 11-11 Mikel and Yunus demonstrated their agility and speed as they leapt to gain the points. At 13-13 the Lions edged ahead but within moments, Bosco fought back for the Tigers to equalise again. At 15-all it was still anyone's game. Then suddenly the game turned at 18-18 when Lions took a clear lead with several powerful serves and finally raced ahead to 25 to win the match 25-18. A nail-biting fight.

Game 2 Nov 2nd

The second game got underway with a strong showing from the Panthers placing North, Saad and Abubakr at the back and Ale in the middle. The Leopards took an early lead with Kerem and Efe bringing excellent teamwork into play. Ale demonstrated a powerful serve gaining points and steaming ahead. Aham rallied the Panthers with encouraging cries and they fought hard against the attack from the Leopards' end. Determined to get as many points as possible each gain was cheered with vigour. The Leopards proved to be the stronger team, however and built on their comfortable lead pushing to a great victory of 25 to 14.

Game 3 Nov 9th

The third competition of the CATS Cambridge Interhouse Volleyball tournament took place on Wednesday 9th November at NCA between Jaguars and Lions....with a little help from some of their friends. It was closely fought with the two sides demonstrating their determination to win, battling over each point. Lions gained the first advantage with a game down and then Jaguars fought back to equalise. Ultimately, Lions took the upper hand and won the match two points clear. A positive, competitive atmosphere meant that it was thoroughly enjoyable for all involved including spectators. A bit shout out to George for refereeing and Ruby for taking the photos.

Next Wednesday Nov 16th Game 4 Tigers and Leopards



HOUSE NEWS



Panthers House Director, Hayley Pienaar



This week, Panther House Students considered the difference between Cultural Appreciation, versus Cultural Appropriation.

The Oxford English Dictionary, which only put the phrase into its official lexicon in 2017, defines **cultural appropriation** as 'the unacknowledged or inappropriate adoption of the customs, practices, ideas, etc. of one people or society by members of another and typically more dominant people or society.'

Students were asked to think about the following points when using elements of another culture:

- Do I understand the significance of what I'm doing?
- Am I honoring the culture, or simply imitating it?
- Am I perpetuating a stereotype that might hurt those who belong to this culture?
- Am I doing this as a personal opportunity to interact with and experience another culture, or am I doing this for a photo opportunity?

Panther Deputy House Captain, Demir, has planned the menu for a **Celebration of Turkey evening at CATS College on 1st December**. He will meet with other Turkish students at CATS to plan the entertainment for the evening.



Leopards House Director, Ruby Bell-Williamson



This week, we developed a more thorough understanding of Cultural Appropriation. Rachel shared the example of the 'Fox Eye Trend'. She explains: 'some Asian people growing up are insecure about their "slanted eyes" or known as the Fox Eye. It is an appropriation as it steals Asian's beauty feature and makes it into a (their own) trend. "Our eyes are not your beauty trends", many Asians have viewed this not only as a cultural appropriation but also as racism towards them.'

Nizea explains that 'Caucasian people wearing Cornrows can be considered as Cultural Appropriation' as that hairstyle is meant for a specific type of hair. Also, it has been heavily stigmatized and frowned upon in the past so using it as a fashion statement without appreciating its history could be considered Appropriation.'



Tigers House Director, Sarah Morgan



This week in Tiger house we have had a rest week from the volleyball tournament, a time to recharge and strategize before next week's match against Leopards!

I have started to have weekly meetings with the Tiger House captain Mia and the Deputy House captain Julia, we are starting to plan the end of term celebration and ways to drum up entries for the student mastermind competition in a week, i am sure Tigers will not let me down!

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



On the 11th November 2022, staff and students gathered to commemorate Remembrance Day, led by Louise Chamberlain, Vice Principal.



War tears families apart, parents bury their children or are left not knowing where their children's graves lie, children are left with a photograph instead of a parent. Those who survive living through war, frequently have lives forever changed by physical and psychological injury. Today we remember all those whose lives have been affected by war and we hope for peace around the world.

Peace is not only important when there is war. Peace is something that we have to work for all the time. Simply by being a student or member of staff at this college, you make war less likely. Because you sit down to eat and work every day with people from many other countries, with people with very different religious and political views and - even when you disagree with another person here very strongly, when you hold very different fundamental beliefs - you see them as a person with joys and sorrows, family and friends, they are not an "other". War is only successful when leaders who want to use violence and aggression have no-one close to them with a stronger argument for discussion, diplomacy and looking for ways forward built on friendship, ways forward built on the recognition that all people have intrinsic value. Let us seek a global society where every single human being is valued.

A reflection on remembrance:

"Today we think of those who fought and gave their lives in a spirit of patriotism and duty; those who go reluctantly to a war not of their own making. We think of those who did not return, of those who returned injured or scarred in body or mind and of refugees unable to return to their own home. We think of those left grieving and bereft, struggling to rebuild their shattered lives. We think of those facing the despair of seeing no solution but violence. We think of those rising to claim their dignity in a system which denies it. We think of those who grow up in a world shaped by fear and anger.

Let us remember those who, in living memory, have been taught to label our enemies. Let us think of them, people like ourselves, remembering their dead, struggling to forgive and overcome bitterness, hoping for peace. Let us turn with compassion to victims of aggression and violence, whether they are labelled aliens or allies, enemies or friends. May we all experience the grace of forgiveness and the healing power of love. May our rage turn into potent anger at all forms of injustice, all attempts to dominate others through violence, all identification of the right to use force to win. May we go out to be beacons of peace in a dark world of conflict."

INTER-HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2



WINNER

'Connecting Meaningfully'

"Sunrise"

This photo shows the relationships between things that make up the breath-taking scenery.

by Wan Qi

Comments from the Jury:

'Great sky and no one around'

'The serenity prevalent in early mornings is emphasised by the calm water, through the absence of cyclists and rowers, and in the gracefulness of the swans.'

30 points for LEOPARD HOUSE

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'Connecting Meaningfully'

by Ei Hnin Khaing Zin
Thant (Ei)

Comments from the Jury:

'Speaks of the meaningful connections during lockdown and human creativity in maintaining those connections; the multiple signifiers of warmth in the image add a layer of the importance of the connection between the two'

5 points for TIGER HOUSE



Scan the QR Code
to see a gallery of
all entries.



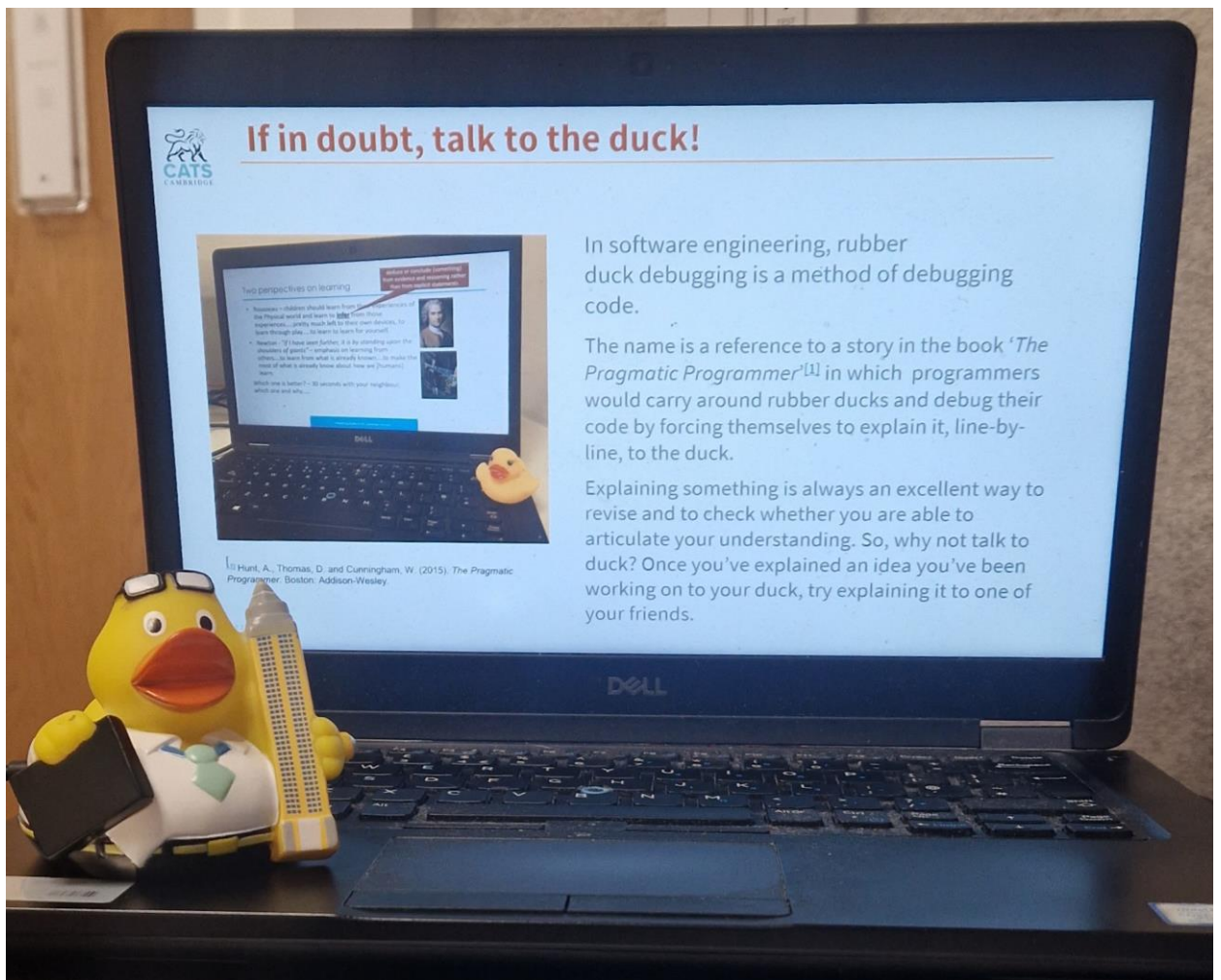
TALK TO THE DUCK



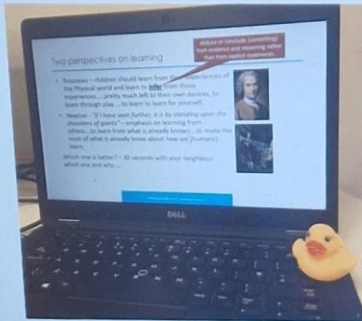
One of our Brazilian High School term students, Victoria Peixoto, added to the Principal's collection of rubber ducks with one that she bought when holidaying in Amsterdam during the half-term break.

“Talk to the Duck” is a method by which a student can double-check their work by reading it aloud to a duck. This comes from a technique used by code programmers, who would read each line of code to an inanimate object to check for errors.

Every student at the CATS Cambridge is presented with a small rubber duck at the start of the year. Many of the staff have their own ducks as well. There is an extremely large master rubber duck in the Principal's office which is the envy of all.



If in doubt, talk to the duck!



In software engineering, rubber duck debugging is a method of debugging code.

The name is a reference to a story in the book *The Pragmatic Programmer*^[1] in which programmers would carry around rubber ducks and debug their code by forcing themselves to explain it, line-by-line, to the duck.

Explaining something is always an excellent way to revise and to check whether you are able to articulate your understanding. So, why not talk to duck? Once you've explained an idea you've been working on to your duck, try explaining it to one of your friends.

[1] Hunt, A., Thomas, D. and Cunningham, W. (2015). *The Pragmatic Programmer*. Boston: Addison-Wesley.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND ALUMNI NEWS

COMING UP

VISITS



Higher Education Visit for:
AEM, GCSE, PRE-PROGRAMME,
Lower and Upper Sixth Students.

CATS Cambridge University Fair

All students are welcome to drop in and discuss UK University applications and specific courses, or you can just come along to ask for course literature or a prospectus.

Venue: Common Room

Date: **Thursday 17 November**

Time: 12:00-14:00 drop in over lunchtime

Universities that have confirmed their attendance so far:

City, University of London

Coventry University

Falmouth University

Norwich University of the Arts

Queen Mary, University of London

Ravensbourne University London

Royal Holloway, University of London

University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN)

University of Bristol

University of Dundee

University of East Anglia

University of Essex

University of Exeter

University of Law

University of Leeds

University of Manchester

University of Southampton

University of Westminster



Anna Hazolyshyn [right] visited – she is currently at Sciences Po, Menton Campus, a University in Paris, France, reading for Politics. She visited the College during her reading week. Anna studied A-Levels here at CATS Cambridge between 2020-22, reading for Economics, History, and Mathematics. Anna also won the CATS Cambridge CIFE Award 2022, where she was presented with a certificate by Lord Lexden at the House of Lords in Westminster.





The Backpage

Dominic Tomalin,
Principal

Halloween and all that

Here in the UK the nights are drawing in. Late October sees daylight saving. An extra hour magically appears as the clocks go back. It is also the time of year that is marked by Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night. As 'twas ever the case, Halloween is something of an amalgam of celebrations that have seen co-option of the local with those of invaders in bid to facilitate cooperation and societal cohesion. In contrast Guy Fawkes Night is a curiously British affair.

On the 5th November 1605 there was a Jacobite (Catholic sympathisers) attempt to assassinate the protestant King, James I. The ambition was to blow up the House of Lords. The attempt was foiled, Guy Fawkes himself was discovered guarding the explosives. Guy Fawkes and the other conspirators were found guilty of treason and executed via the most gruesome of methods; hanging, drawing and quartering. The Observance of 5th November Act of Parliament made it the law to celebrate the failure of the assassination attempt. The Act was repealed in the late 19th Century, but we British continue to mark the occasion with firework displays and the burning of an effigy of Guy Fawkes (I kid you not).

Though the seventeenth century seems a long time in the past and the relationships between various sects of Christianity are now more temperate and tolerant, sectarianism continues. In the UK it echoes down the ages in rumbling tensions in Northern Ireland. BREXIT and the Northern Ireland protocol once again highlighting frictions that have their roots in the 17th Century. The demarcation in that conflict was, once again, religious, between Catholics and Protestant. The protestant King William's defeat of the catholic King James II at the Battle of the Boyne is annually celebrated rather more contentiously in Northern Ireland by the Unionists' Orange Day. Such is the fervour created by the co-option of religion with the political ambitions of men that the wounds persist for centuries, through generations.

Halloween stands in contrast as a highly pragmatic Autumnal celebration. It can draw on a history that extends back over 2000 years to the time of Celtic druids with their festival of Samhain, marking the transition to the winter as analogous to the boundary between the living and the dead. The Romans being relatively adept at governing their vanquished, incorporated it with their own commemorations of Feralia, a day to mark the passing of the Dead, and Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. I still remember bobbing for apples as a child as part of Halloween parties; something of an homage to the goddess who gives her name through the French, pommes, to apples.

The Backpage Continued...

The ancient purpose of the late Autumnal festivals was to provide a sense of agency at a time when much of any human's existence was subject to the apparent vagaries of ethereal deities and elements. It has of course morphed into a festival in which children are encouraged to laugh in the face of all that goes, 'bump in the night'. In many respects it continues to serve the same purpose as of old. Halloween celebrations are an act of societal acknowledgement of the unknown and the unknowable, more importantly that such things should not be permitted to make us cower in dark, rather that we should address our fears head on, to laugh in their face, not least as many of them are of our own creation.

The juxtaposition of these two celebrations in our calendar is a reminder that humanity has both a propensity for often narrow sectarianism, a narrow sectarianism that sees the conflation of the political with the religious, and the capacity to recognise a commonality of experience and purpose that can extend beyond our sects. We must all be very mindful that we all have, things that go 'bump in the night'. We might name them differently, but in actuality they are most likely fears born of our psyche, collective or individual. We would do well to sprinkle a little of the spirit of Halloween over them and enjoy them being illuminated by the pumpkin lanterns that were much in evidence at College this week.

