

NEWSLETTER

"All art is at once surface and symbol. Those who go beneath the surface do so at their peril. Those who read the symbol do so at their peril. It is the spectator, and not life, that art really mirrors."

Oscar Wilde

Week 7 2023-24

CATS CAMBRIDGE WELCOMES ACHIEVER'S PROGRAMME STUDENTS, INDIA



ACHIEVER'S PROGRAMME, CHANDIGARH, INIDA

Last week CATS Cambridge was honoured to receive a visit from students from the Achiever's Programme, Chandigarh, India.

The visit was a busy and exciting event, with our guests given an opportunity to tour the school, learn about metacognition from the Principal, and have a chance to discuss UK Higher Education provision with Christine, our HE officer.

Afterward, CATS Cambridge students and staff were treated to an Indian traditional classical music dance from the talented troupe. Various art forms were shown and explained, and the performers displayed remarkable skill and talent. Performing in front of a strange audience is nerve-wracking for everyone, but the talented dancers showed none of this, displaying enormous levels of confidence and capability.



PRASARNMIT DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL

We were pleased to receive a group of science teachers from Prasarnmit Demonstration School from Bangkok, Thailand.

Prasarnmit Demonstration School was founded in 1952 operating within the education faculty of Srinakharinwirot University. The school has built up a reputation of collaboration with a number of reputable institutions and we are pleased to open a new dialogue with them so we can exchange ideas and best practice in teaching and learning.

The visit was an opportunity for their science teachers across the disciplines to witness first-hand how our expert subject teachers deliver Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons in A-Level and University Foundation Programme. They were particularly interested in our use of digital data-loggers in tracking motion experiments in Physics, and no doubt they will take that back as a requisition request for their own lessons!

The excited group were given a tour of the school and given time with the Principal to learn more about CATS Cambridge and how we approach teaching and learning as a school, focusing on meta-cognitive development and the language of learning.



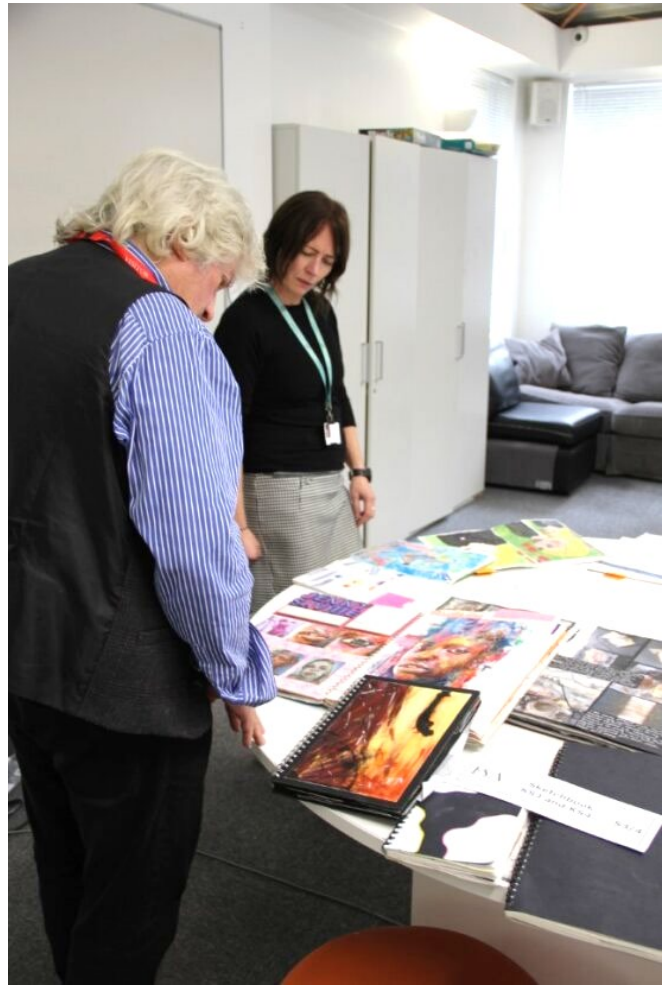
ISA EAST REGIONAL ART COMPETITION 2023

Continuing our piece from last week on the ISA East Regional Art Competition, we are pleased to share with you some images of the judging and gallery itself and some of the excellent artwork from across the region.

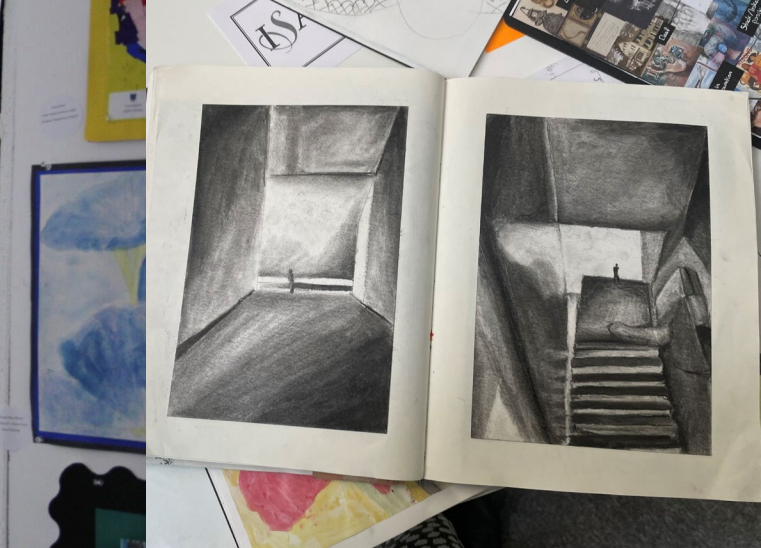
We welcomed over 80 parents and students from across the area and the buzz was tremendous as they moved through the gallery. It's always a pleasure to see student work showcased and it is interesting to see the development of imagination and skill as work moves through the key stages of education.

We welcome back James Horton in the role of judge this year. Past President of the Royal Society of British Artists, James is a Cambridge-based professional painter. Apart from his own books, James has written numerous articles for a variety of magazines and his work is also featured in many other books and articles. As a teacher he taught part-time in several different art schools until 1990 and now has occasional classes in his studio along the lines of the old atelier system where students can study with a working painter.

James spent some time deciding on the winners and commended pieces amongst the collection. The judging was filled with difficult decisions, as once again the students who entered pushed the envelope into new realms of skill.



ISA EAST REGIONAL ART COMPETITION 2023



OCTOBER UNIVERSITY FAIR

Once again, CATS Cambridge played host to a wide range of Universities as part of our Higher Education programme.

The first of several fairs planned for this year, this event saw 17 institutions set up stall in the common room, ready to help illuminate our students on what is available, what is suitable, and whether the University is right for them.

The fair was open for over two hours and students from all stages came to visit, with several staying to talk to every university so they have the full picture. Students had the opportunity to drop in and discuss University applications, specific courses and to collect course literature and prospectuses.

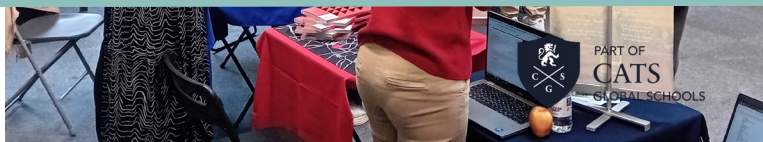
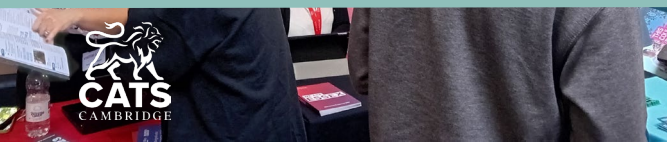
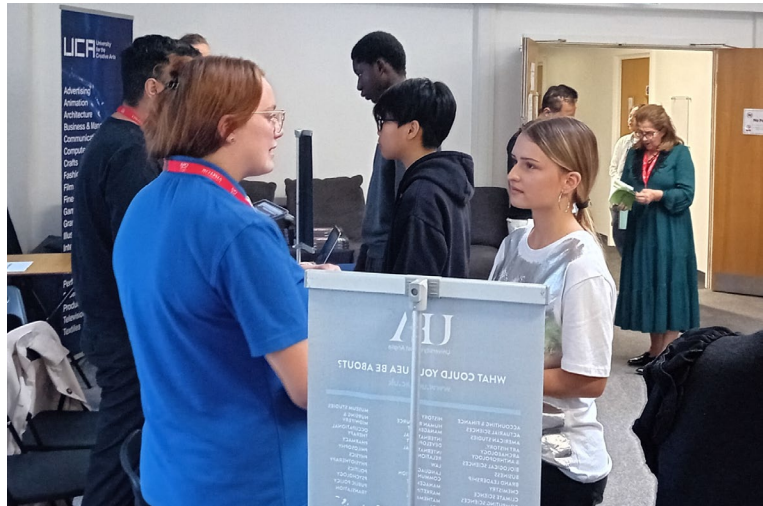
The CATS Cambridge University Fair was arranged by our Higher Education Officer, Christine Rudd.

The 17 universities that attended were:

- Cardiff University
- City, University of London
- Durham University
- Falmouth University
- Lancaster University
- Queen Mary, University of London
- St George's, University of London
- University of the Creative Arts
- University of Birmingham
- University of East Anglia
- University of Essex
- University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- University of Nottingham
- University of Southampton
- University of Surrey
- University of Westminster



OCTOBER UNIVERSITY FAIR



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD NEWS

Map reading

Last half-term, students have been learning some key skills with the Duke of Edinburgh.

Students have learnt not only how to read a map, but also how to use a compass. Students then went exploring, following their very own treasure map to win a prize.



'It took us two days to finish the treasure hunt. All of these are really beautiful views in Cambridge, and it was a really magical, relaxing journey for me'.

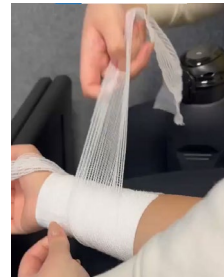


Students have also had their first session on First Aid. This included learning what to do when in an emergency, how to treat heatstroke and hypoglycaemia, as well as what to do if burnt.

Students were provided with the opportunity to practice their newfound knowledge and were able to bandage successfully.

First aid

'I think First Aid is a really important thing to know and it was really fun to learn about'



Sections

Students are also working hard at starting their sections; physical, skills, and volunteering.

Some examples of what students are doing this year are: playing basketball, football, running, playing an instrument, learning another language, leading experiments in the chemistry club, becoming part of the student council and helping in local charity shops.



'I have applied to volunteer at the 'British Red Cross' charity shop. I want to improve my English and my confidence, but also get to know Cambridge and its people better'.



This half-term, students will continue their First Aid training; including how to perform CPR. They will then go on to learn how to set up tents and how to pack a rucksack effectively. Most importantly, the Duke of Edinburgh students will continue helping the community in various settings within both the college and in wider Cambridge through placements.



Let's get real

Dominic Tomalin, Principal



In a world increasingly dominated by screens and virtual experiences, it's essential that we understand the profound significance of doing things in the real. The inspiration of pieces of art, electrifying energy of a live concert, the riveting suspense of a theatrical production, or the palpable excitement of a sports event are experiences that transcend the digital realm. It is our real-life encounters that teach us lessons that transcend the classroom and leave indelible impressions.

The past week has seen CATS Cambridge play host to fantastic events in the real. The first was the ISA East Regional Art Finals. This saw our common room turned into an art gallery. The creative spirit on display was awe-inspiring. There was something so tangible, so real, so visceral about the works on show. Later in the week we enjoyed a spectacular demonstration of traditional Indian dancing by a group from The Achievers' Group, Chandigarh, India. Beautiful, elegant, and engaging; the dance performance was a fabulous addition to our day.

Submitting work for scrutiny by others or participating in live performances fosters a sense of engagement that can't be replicated online. Being in the mix, being there in person, as a performer or spectator, imparts a unique sense of connection and unity with the people around you. It's a reminder that we are part of a larger community, where our collective emotions and reactions create a shared tapestry of human experience.

The importance of generous support in these endeavours cannot be overstated. As Theodore Roosevelt aptly put it in his famous "Man in the Arena" speech, "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles... The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena." Generous support, whether it's applause, encouragement, or the efforts of those behind the scenes, fuels the spirit of those who dare to step into the arena. It propels innovation, fosters creativity, and encourages them to pursue their passions. If you are not emboldened enough to be the person in the arena, the very least you can do is provide generous support to those who are. They are promoting the real connectivity that so often is absent in modern life.

In conclusion, what we do in the real teaches us the value of participation, engagement, and the vital role of generous in nurturing the connectivity and vibrancy of our communities. We should all embrace these opportunities to learn, perform, and support others, for it's in the real where real life happens. Let's get real by spending more time their together.



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