

NEWSLETTER

“Exploration is curiosity put into action.”

Don Walsh, Oceanographer

Week 23 2023-24

DofE Award students take a walk



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

On Saturday, the clouds parted over Cambridge and gave our students the first sunny day of the year to undertake their Duke of Edinburgh Award day walk.

28 students worked together in 4 groups to use their newfound navigation skills to complete a 16 km walk around Waterbeach. The positive atmosphere and attitudes of the students was a testament to them, and many adventures were had.

Resilience was shown in one group, where they missed a turning due to a member of the public pointing them in the wrong direction, and consequently found themselves off route – students learned to maintain faith in their own abilities over others and regaled an exciting moment of losing their map in a gust of wind and having to chase it down.

We are pleased to say that this wonderful day out has led to further anticipation of their final expeditions on the 23rd and 24th of March,



which will take place in Thetford and include overnight camping.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is a renowned youth development program that empowers young people aged 14-24 to challenge themselves, develop new skills, and contribute to their communities. Established by the late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in 1956, the award fosters personal growth and resilience through four main components: volunteering, physical fitness, skills development, and adventurous expeditions. Participants set personal goals and work towards achieving different levels of the award (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) by completing a series of activities and challenges over varying durations. By embracing the spirit of adventure and pushing their boundaries, DofE participants cultivate valuable life skills, self-confidence, and a sense of responsibility, preparing them for future success and leadership roles.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



MATHS INTERMEDIATE CHALLENGE



Once again CATS Cambridge students show their skills off by engaging in the UK Maths Trust Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. It's a 60-minute, multiple choice paper and not for the faint-hearted, so even the act of participating is laudable. CATS Cambridge students from year 10 and 11 once again took to the exam hall to display their prowess and the results do not disappoint. You can find out the results on the next page!

The UK Maths Trust Intermediate Mathematical Challenge is for students aged 13 to 16 across the United Kingdom. This annual competition presents a series of challenging problems spanning various mathematical topics, pushing participants to think critically, analyse problems creatively, and develop innovative solutions.

Beyond testing mathematical knowledge, the challenge fosters personal growth and academic enrichment. Participants learn to embrace challenges, persist through difficulties, and cultivate resilience, fostering a growth mindset that views mistakes as learning opportunities.

The competition inspires a deeper appreciation of mathematics beyond the classroom, igniting curiosity and passion for exploration. Through collaborative problem-solving and peer interaction, students develop teamwork, communication, and leadership skills.

Success in the Intermediate Maths Challenge can lead to further rounds of competition, prestigious awards, and recognition, opening doors to future academic and career opportunities in mathematics and related fields.



Participation

Ibrahim

Sa

Tam

Safina

Banchachan

Hyohan

Veerawich

Bronze

Yuri

Alexandru

Dilara

Arsenii

Kseniia

Thaw

Silver

Armor
(Best in Year)

Gabriela

Malika

Gold

Liangyu
(Best in School)

Yuxuan

Congratulations to all involved!
Yuxuan and Liangyu go on to take part in further rounds so good luck!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day holds significant importance at our international boarding school, where diversity and inclusion are core values. This annual celebration serves as a poignant reminder of the strides made in gender equality and the ongoing journey towards empowerment for women worldwide. On this day, our school community typically comes together to honour the achievements of women past and present, while also reflecting on the challenges that still lie ahead. Through presentations, student-led discussions, and opening a dialogue across genders, we foster a deeper understanding of gender equality issues and inspire our students to become advocates for change.

This year we followed the theme of Investing in women and inspiring inclusion by drawing upon the experiences of women and girls in other countries. As an international community, the students from Mexico wished to highlight the view that, in Mexico, International women's day is not a celebration in the same way it is here in Britain, but it is a day of raising awareness of the inequalities and dangers women face and is a day of campaigning for change, which fits the aspect of inclusion and investing in women.

International Women's Day provides a platform for all our students to amplify the voices of women from diverse backgrounds and cultures. It's a time to celebrate the accomplishments of female leaders, both within our school community and across the globe, who serve as role models for our students. It is a call to action for our school community to address gender inequalities and promote inclusivity. We engage in conversations about gender stereotypes, discrimination, and the importance of allyship, empowering our students to challenge injustice and advocate for equal rights. By fostering a supportive and inclusive environment, we strive to empower young women to pursue their passions, overcome obstacles, and make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

As our students point out in their wonderful and engaging presentation, International Women's Day is not just a single day of celebration but a catalyst for ongoing dialogue and action towards a more equitable and just world for all genders.





International Women's Day 2024

**Dominic Tomalin,
Principal**



The theme of this year's International Women's day (IWD) is 'Inspire Inclusion'. It has long been our mantra at CATS Cambridge that we don't tolerate diversity, we celebrate it. Part of celebrating diversity is to 'Inspire Inclusion'. I am hopeful that we meet with some success in ensuring that our students leave us with a recognition of just how important inclusivity is to the positive progression of our society, our civilisation. I am keen that CATS students go into the world with a determination to be anti-exclusivity, that they determinedly consider the merits of others based on the qualities of character, and the qualities of character alone. A person's gender should not come into that consideration.

Yet, to our great shame it still does. The World Economic Forum (WEF) has been assessing the Global Gender Gap using an index since 2006. The index examines the gender gap across 4 dimensions: 'Economic Participation and Opportunity', 'Educational Attainment', 'Health and Survival' and 'Political Empowerment'. WEF's research suggest that based on the current pace of progress toward gender parity, parity will not be achieved for another 131 years¹. There is still much to do.

Part of breaking down the barriers to gender parity is the sharing of stories that showcase the experiences of women from diverse backgrounds. The IWD website² points to the Entertainment Industry as having a particular influence and opportunity to showcase those stories. Though from my point of view, it is incumbent on us all to seek out and share stories that promote diversity and inclusivity.

With that in mind, I share here my deep admiration for Baroness Flather. Hers is not a story of which I was aware until I heard her eulogised on BBC Radio 4's 'Last Word'. Shreela Flather had an extraordinary life (1934-2024) which saw her determinedly bursting through the obstacles put in her way, culminating in her being the first women of Asian origins to sit in the House of Lords.



It is a testament to her character and determination that Baroness Flather remained true to herself and her origins throughout her career. She proudly wore her sari and celebrated her roots in the Indian Sub-Continent. What I was most taken by in the Radio 4 program was a recording of an interview with her in which she said that she had a far few 'ding-dongs' during her political career – but that she had held firm to her perspectives even when they were not popular. That she did so when it might have been tempting to put political expediency ahead of what she felt to be true, is an extraordinary virtue in a time when the bias of others would have put barriers in her path at every turn.

I have not done Baroness Flather's story justice here. You should listen to it yourself. I also encourage you to find a story to share about another woman or women that will serve to erode away prejudice, that will remove barriers to inclusivity, that will close the gender gap, that will help to realise gender parity much faster than the 131 years forecast based on our efforts to date.