



## Newsletter February 2024

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024. It has been a very busy half-term. Year 10 students are making good progress towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award by canoeing at Thames Young Mariners, in preparation for their expeditions during the Summer Term. Some students in Year 11 are enjoying their weekly work experience placements, while others have been practising their independence skills. Meanwhile, Years 8 and 9 participated in SOLD activities to help build their resilience, problem-solving and communication skills, and Year 7 continued to settle into school life extremely well.

This year, many of our students have been busy focusing on their career possibilities. Years 10 and 11 took part in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Architecture Workshops. Using simple materials, the Architecture Workshops enabled students to create complex structures revealing the nature of the built environment. The only materials used in the workshops were wooden dowels and rubber bands. Year 10 worked together to create a huge Ferris Wheel and Year 11 created a Skyscraper.

Years 7 and 8 took part in a STEM activity with SATRO, Planet Utopia. Students were challenged to explore a new planet, design the lived environment and look at what is needed to sustainably thrive as a community. As well as creating structures, students worked together as a team to make decisions, identify their strengths and present their ideas. Year 8 also had a very successful STEM Workshop with Everfi and Gatwick Airport. They took part in vocational profiling and were recommended STEM jobs based on their interests and skills.

We will be having a new telephone system installed during the half-term holiday. If you need to get in touch with the school over the half-term break please send an email, as our phone system may not be fully operational. Our normal phone service will resume when we return to school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

I hope you all have a restful half-term holiday and look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> February.

*Sarah Wild*  
*Headteacher*