

News from  
around CATS  
Canterbury

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# Canterbury

## Principals letter

### Dec-16

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Royal  
Honours

Top  
Awards

In top 4  
UK 6th Form  
Colleges

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## Dear Parents/ Agents/Students

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I am delighted to enclose the latest report on work this term.

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You will see there is a clear Target grade for each subject. This is simply a minimum grade we would expect a student to achieve based on Tutor experience and a test from Durham University. It remains really important to work hard next term to meet or exceed that target grade and to keep attendance levels at a minimum of 95% in all areas. You will also see from tests or coursework marks how well students have been doing and it's important to keep working hard as we move towards important examinations. Students need to attain overall attendance levels of 95% and 80% actual attendance to lessons for us to enter them for examinations. Our current average attendance of students is over 98% outstanding for a UK School and 6th Form College.

## You may have heard on WeChat Facebook or Twitter

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That CATS Canterbury has been presented with certificates for Outstanding Contribution for International Understanding and also for IT in addition to the award we have already won for Excellence. Our A level results put us in the top 11 of every school in the UK and we have been in the top 4 Sixth Form Independent Colleges in the UK. Rankings do not tell you how good a school is but its always pleasing to see us yet again scoring so well and also winning top national and international awards.



INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOLS  
ASSOCIATION

*Award of Excellence*





“ It was a great evening and tribute to all our great staff and students alike. Last year Canterbury was ranked as number 4 in the league table of 6th Form Independent Colleges in the U.K. and our exam results also put us in the top 11 of independent schools all over Britain.

However, far more important than league tables is the importance we place on student voice and university destinations and we were even more delighted to be one of the few UK schools graded as Excellent in every single area.”

## The Times Educational Awards

Is the major award ceremony for top schools all over the UK and it is the third year running that CATS Canterbury has been invited to attend with the selection of very top schools from all over the UK.





## Christmas Celebrations

This year we had a wonderful chance to celebrate the year and reflect in Canterbury Cathedral – part of the World Heritage site here in Canterbury dating back to 549AD! It was a great chance to sing, see performances and hear readings and experience part of the traditions of Christmas in the UK in one of the most amazing buildings possible! Many of our Christmas traditions in the UK date back hundreds of years, while some like Christmas trees are more recent and came from Germany in the nineteenth century.



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# In November we celebrated our Global Leadership Day

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With lectures on the Psychology of leadership, LEAD NOW training, and a wide range of sports and academic activities designed to support leadership skills. It was great fun and helped students boost their development towards gaining leadership awards which are great for university applications.



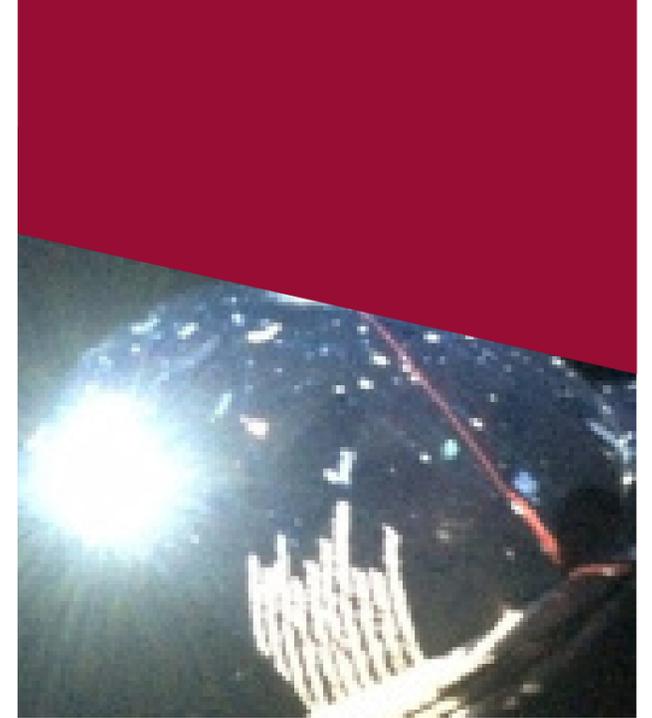
We have a booklet full of ways students can become Global Leaders at Canterbury which you can see on the CATS App.

We have celebrated several international evenings since my last newsletter and we are always very proud to see our students in colourful and exciting national costumes as well as making and presenting national dishes for us all to sample. We had an Americas Evening at the end of term and our Christmas Evening where we sampled many traditional foods with of course our Italian students showing us all how to cook! We also had and cake baking days raising money for charity!

Every evening there is always an activity going on in College and it's always great to see students getting involved.



## The Planetarium and STEM Clubs...



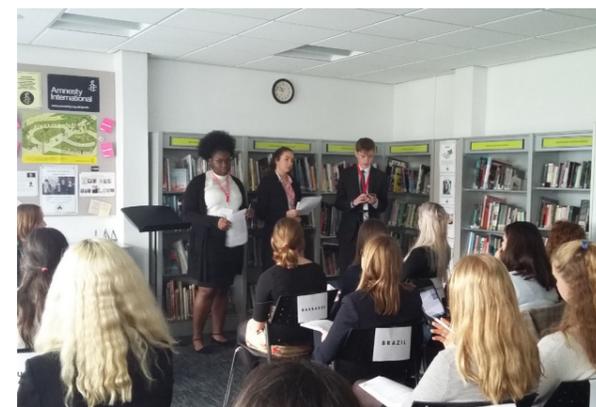
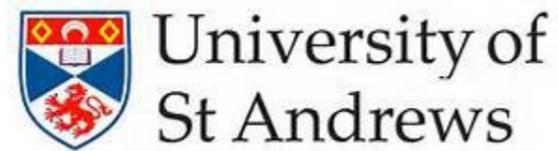
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Science and Technology clubs are thriving at the college, including robotics! This term we also welcomed the Planetarium where students had the chance to experience and see the stars and solar system in our own planetarium built for CATS Canterbury for the day in the Sports Hall.



We also recently welcomed the Universities of **Sydney, Australia, Hong Kong, British Columbia, Canada, UCL, St Andrews, Queen Mary's and New York University** who came to Canterbury to talk to students about **American University Applications** and the options they all have in North America.

A number of students were very interested and have now not only met with more than **85 British Universities and overseas universities this term**, but have also had the chance to think further afield and talk about America too. CATS Canterbury is an **SAT testing centre** and we help students individually with US applications and have a special **CATS Canterbury booklet** about American University applications which any students can ask for.



# Model United Nations.

On 5th December students took part in a Model UN event at Benenden School in preparation for their visit to New York next year.

The trip to New York can contribute towards assessment in both UFP and IB Global Politics courses and is a great event for all our students who represented Ukraine, Lebanon, Republic of Korea, Ecuador and the Order of the Phoenix this week.



“Students meet regularly for Chill and Chat sessions in their Houses where they plan activities they want to do with their House over the term and it’s great to see them getting involved in the life of the College and showing their leadership abilities.”

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## Students took part in team building and sailing at Bewl Water this term

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All the IB students worked together to get to know each other.

This year we have some of our largest numbers of IB students ever as the college continues to be a top and very popular destination for students. The college is very full and it’s an exciting time with so many great activities and things happening every week for students to take part in.



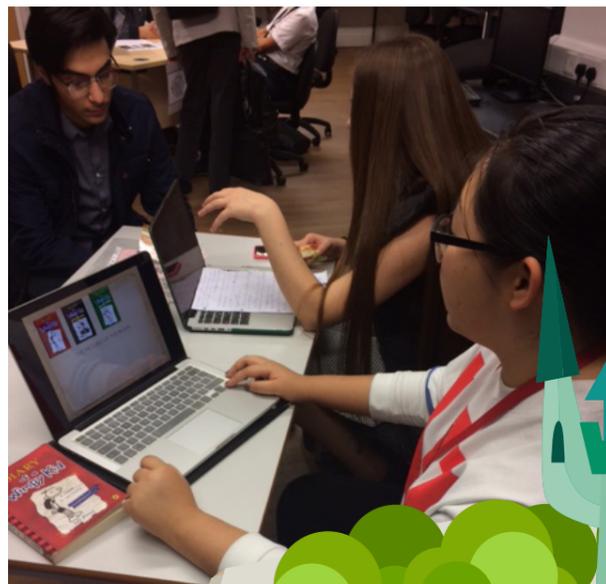
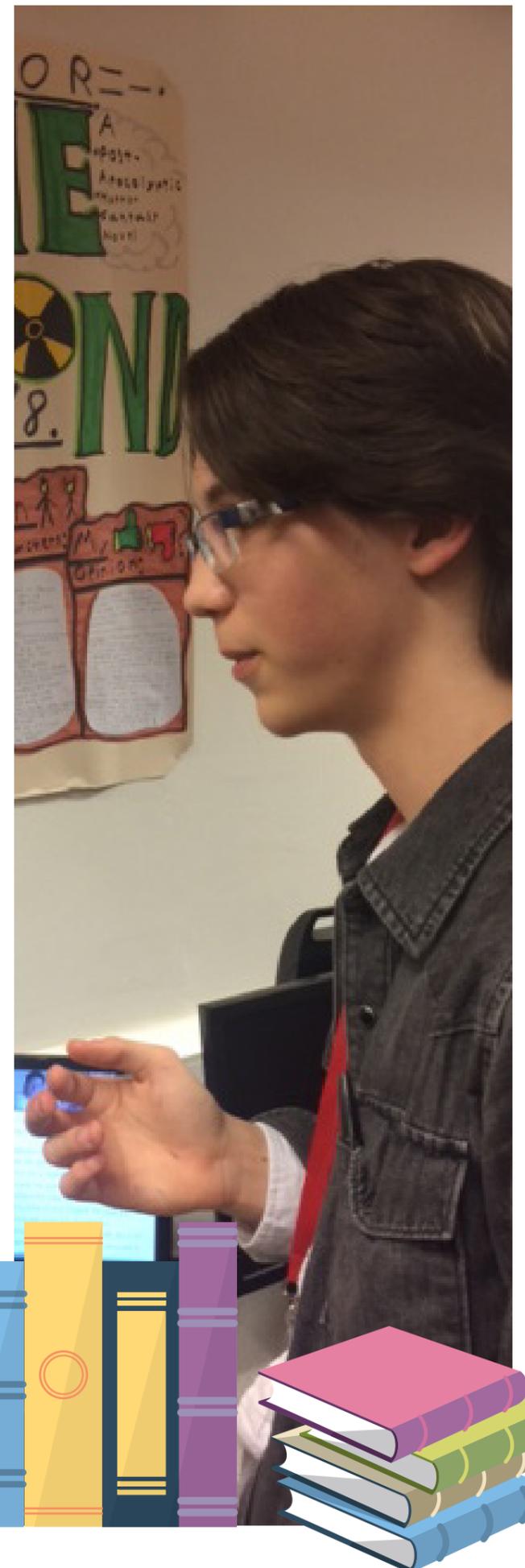
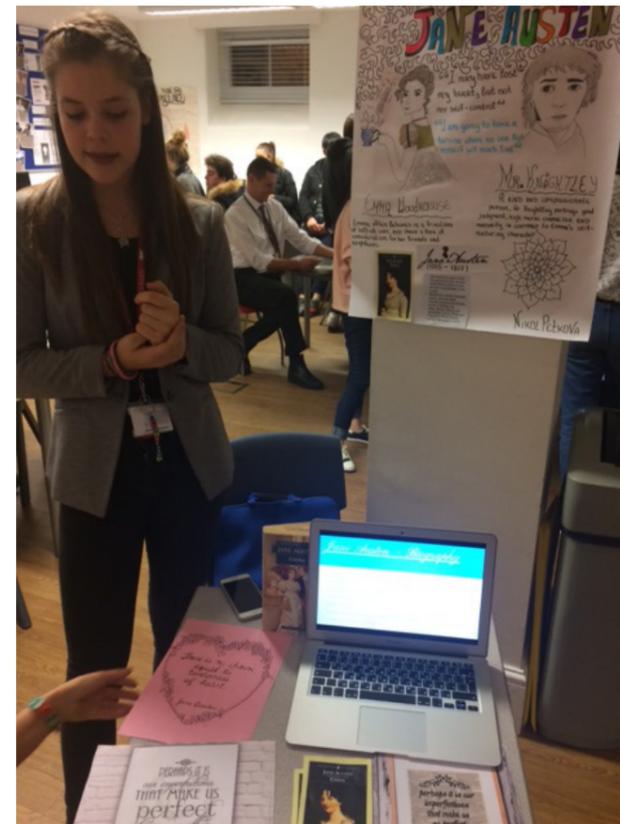
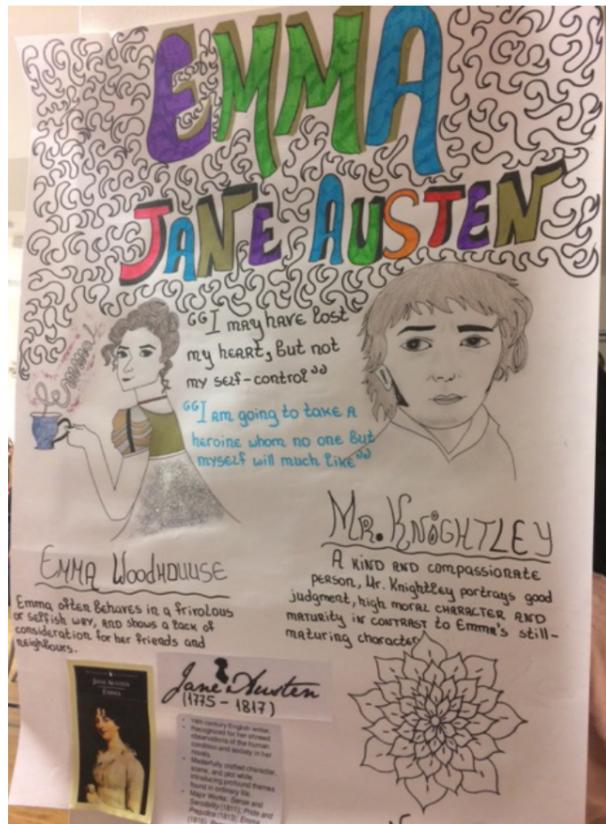
# Pre and GCSE Literature Festival.

Students had a great time with the Pre Literature Festival where students spoke about their favourite book and told everyone about it.

Staff and students walked round the Learning Centre from table to table to hear about books students had really liked! There was an amazing range from Jane Austen and the Great Gatsby to Zombies and World Literature.

Reading is the single most important thing in improving English levels and its great to see our students reading such a wide range of books and really enjoying them.

Many thanks to all the students and staff who took part or helped prepare all the food as well – **it was a great time!**



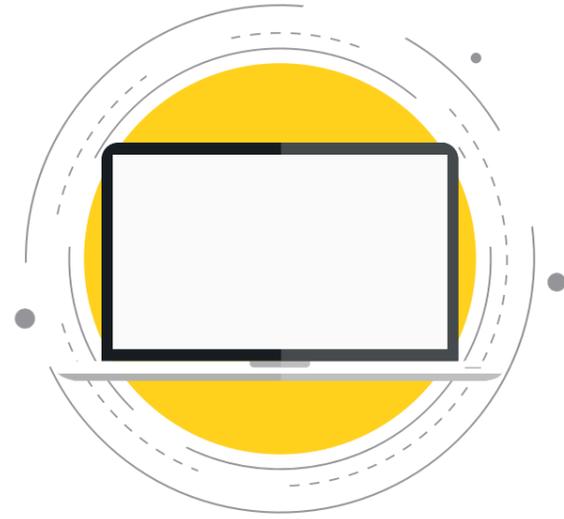
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## A note on residences and living out

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Can I also remind you that we are unique among many UK schools in allowing a private accommodation option for students, but you appreciate that at least a term's notice has to be given before we can consider this option.

Students wishing to stay in College at February Half Term or Easter should by now have let us know. There is very limited availability at the last moment if students do not book when requested.



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## Academic Work log in at [my.catscollege.com](http://my.catscollege.com)

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**In order to support students with their work, they are all able to see their targets and attendance levels online whenever they log onto their computers.**

This offers students immediate and regularly updated access to exactly what they should be doing to increase their grades. We encourage students to make full and regular use of this information and discuss it directly with their teachers. You can log into this directly from your CATS App.

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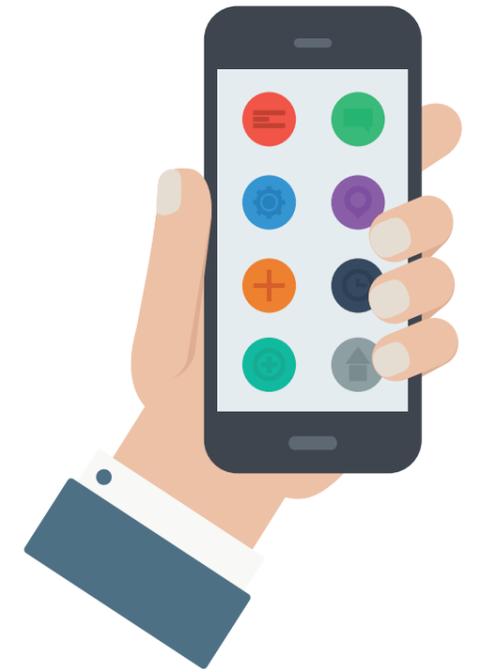
## University Applications

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**Staff have also been working hard to support all students on their University applications with deadlines for these now upon us.**

Students need to check their CATS College emails regularly and listen carefully to the advice given by our Higher Education staff who support our students through the whole process. All applications must be finished by the end of term. We have also undertaken our first online student survey of the year and will be discussing the results with the Student Council and Senior Staff once it is complete. We have had a 98% return on this so it is great to keep in touch with student views as the term progresses. Attendance at the College this term was 98%- another outstanding figure for a Senior College in the UK.

If you have any concerns or would like to talk further about the reports, please do not hesitate to contact the College and we will be pleased to discuss any educational or other issues with you.



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## CATS App Download it now

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**All students are encouraged to download the new CATS App as soon as possible.**

It works on iPhone and android and gives you immediate access to any key information you need about the college as well as links to log into your email, [my.catscollege.com](http://my.catscollege.com) and all sorts of areas! You can access your college diary, term dates and photos of key staff, the Student Council and Students Heads of Houses.

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## On a very practical note

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**Can I remind all students not to carry large sums of money on them or keep large sums in their rooms.**

Every bedroom at CATS has a safe which can be set with a number that only the student knows. It is important to be safe and sensible. We also do not allow students to lend money to other students. If there is a problem, please do come and chat to one of us and we are always happy to talk and support.



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If you have any concerns...

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Or would like to talk further about the reports, please do not hesitate to contact the College and we will be pleased to discuss any educational or other issues with you.

As we enter the season of Christmas – the birth of the Prince of Peace – may I wish all of you a relaxing and peaceful holiday.

With all best wishes,



*Jonathan Ullmer*

Jonathan Ullmer MBE  
Principal of CATS College Canterbury



# Preparing you for university SUCCESS

CATS College Canterbury is part of  
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