

- BAY - MAGAZINE

Summer 2021 Edition



Head Master's Foreword

It gives me great pleasure once again to write the foreword to another edition of our school magazine, Bay Magazine. This is a slightly shorter edition than previous ones but I am sure you will all agree that the three articles are most interesting and certainly worth a read. My thanks to Oliver Cox (Year 12), Maia Norton (Year 9), Mr Peace and Mrs Ballantine for their contributions.

This will be my last foreword to the magazine as I will be retiring in September. I am sure you can all look forward to many more editions now that the magazine is well established.

And so we come to the end of another atypical year where we had to face the difficulty of another school closure, the uncertainty of the Pandemic and the cancellation of GCSE and A-Level exams. Let's be optimistic and trust that we will regain complete normality when you return from the summer break. Personally, it is with a tinge of sadness that I will be leaving Bayside after so many years. I would like to end this foreword by wishing you all a happy, successful and fulfilling time as students of this great school of ours. Please do not waste the many opportunities that will come your way in years to come.

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Soap or Nope?

Over the course of about five months, a group of eleven Year 9 students have been working towards the Crest Bronze Award. With the help of Ms. Lucas, Mrs. Sarantos-Billups, Miss Rowbottom and some year thirteen students, we have been able to successfully conduct our experiment based on inhibiting bacterial growth.



What is Crest?

Crest is a program aimed at getting young people involved in science. The objective is for students to think like real scientists and engineers, and it provides practice in researching and conducting experiments. There are many different courses ranging from primary school level to A level; we undertook the Bronze Award, which takes place for over 10 hours.

What did we do?



Our experiment was called “soap or nope?” The aim was to find out which type of hand sanitizer is the most effective in killing bacteria. We did this by measuring bacterial growth from our hands.

We learned about bacteria, agar jelly, how to sanitize our workspace correctly and how to conduct an experiment of this nature.

We found out that:

- The best sanitizer was regular hand soap.
- The second best was antibacterial gel.
- The worst sanitizer was alcohol-based gel.

How did we conduct the experiment?

To conduct our experiment, we observed bacterial growth from our hands on agar plates both before and after sanitizing them. We pressed a dirty finger on an agar plate, then cleaned it for twenty seconds before pressing it again on a different plate. After incubating for a few days, we found that our samples had been contaminated, so we had to re-test by taking extra precautions. The next time, we sanitized our workspace using



the aseptic technique, where we lit a Bunsen Burner to kill bacteria in the air and wiped down all surfaces. This worked and our next experiments were successful.

Student Experiences

“I think the Crest Award was a fun experience and I think it will be very beneficial to my future. I look forward to doing the silver award” - Jayce Alecio.

“I enjoyed doing crest, as I have learned a lot and it was a fun experience” - Asia Kent.

“Crest was fun and very informative. I learned a lot during the course and I would like to do the silver award” - Adam Sohdi.

“Crest was a wonderful experience and very educational!” - Alfie Carrasco.

“Crest was extremely fun and I can’t wait to do the silver course next year” - Anna Sanguinetti.

“Crest was really fun; it gave me a taste of what science may be like in the future. I’d really recommend it because we learn about doing experiments, whilst having fun with our friends” - Ryn Rosado.



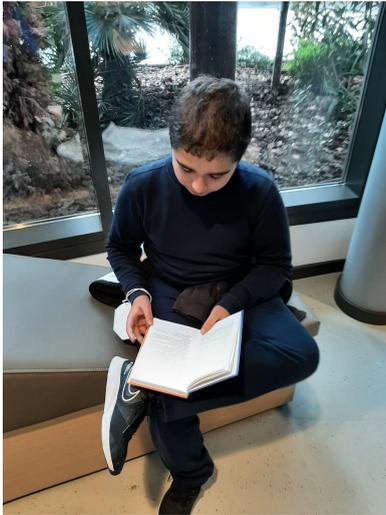
Conclusion:

Working on this was especially interesting now because we are experiencing Covid-19. We can relate what we have learned about the virus and how different ways of washing your hands are effective in preventing disease from spreading.

This was great practice for GCSE Biology and will no doubt be useful. Additionally, they are great experiences to have for applications, as it shows that you are capable of working on your own and thinking practically.

After finishing our experiments, the teachers running it allowed us to take part in extra experiments, such as the elephant toothpaste practical. This was also really interesting and so much fun to do.

My fellow participants and I found this to be a valuable and educational experience. It was really enjoyable to work alongside my friends without it feeling like classwork. We were lucky to have had this opportunity. I strongly urge any Year 8s to participate next year.



World Book Day 2021

World Book Day 2021 looked a bit different to previous years due to social distancing. The library had bigger plans, which are now all on hold for next year; this year you could look forward to an evening of cosy reading and snacks mostly. However, we still managed to hold two events to celebrate this year.

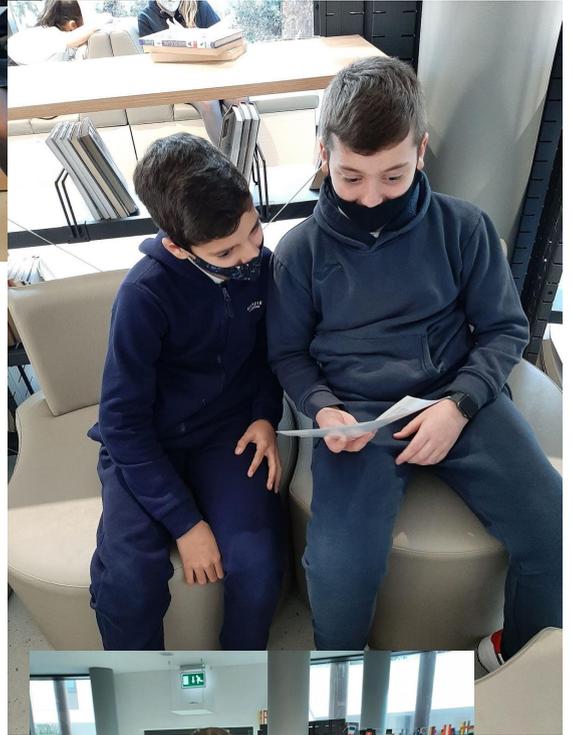
Some classes from Year 7 came to the library for “Speed dating- the book edition”. Readers were able to browse book descriptions and a few paragraphs from a few unnamed books, before deciding which book they would like to read more of, or take home (for a second date!). The librarians included lots of books with unexciting covers but interesting book descriptions, so some unloved books that had been sitting in the library for some time finally got to go out. Some students who had never taken a book out before also got to enjoy the library for the first time.

The second event was the **Air Miles Reading Challenge**. Students were able to gain air miles for each page read. We calculated that there were 25,000 miles needed to travel round the world. We awarded 25 miles for each page so those who wanted to travel all around the world needed to read 1000 pages. Some amazing reading took place with a number of students going round the world several times. Natalia Chipolina, Claudia Flynn and Tiana Dellipani (all from Year 7) achieved top five places in the final results over both schools.

If you haven't visited the library please come along and take a look. The librarians will be really happy to help you find a book that you are interested in.

Look out for our new challenge right now! :)





The Duke of Edinburgh Award

Ever wondered what the Duke of Edinburgh Award is all about...?
Have a look at my experience of a particularly tough weekend of hiking and
what it does to you?

“Camp Diary” - Duke Edinburgh Silver Qualifier -
June 2021

My Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition began like any other, with the whole Silver group meeting up at the Gibraltar-Spain Border. Pictures were taken, goodbyes were exchanged to onlooking family members, and before we knew it we were headed for Spain to begin our expedition. Little did I know, this expedition would be like no other I had experienced before and push me in ways I have never been pushed.



We boarded our coach on the Spanish side of the border, and sat on the bus in a great amount of angst for what might be in store for us. This bus ride to our site in Montejaque took roughly two and half hours long. The bus ride was particularly memorable to me, as we began to enter the peaks from the toll road. I will never forget the seemingly endless winding roads and impeccable views that would easily qualify as a screensaver.

When we arrived at Montejaque, our campsite for the night, we very promptly found our way through the quaint town with lovely, welcoming locals. We carried on to our campsite which we very soon came across. Once there, we swiftly unpacked our bags, set our tents up and started preparing our pre-packed food for the night. Later on, after everything had been set up, we relaxed and watched the sun go down over a scenic set of mountains that enveloped us. After that, we hit the sack, ready for what was to come.



Our first day of hiking started like any other; a 6am wake up call, with an hour to pack our bags and get ourselves ready for a 7am departure. Our route for the day took us from the quiet town of Montejaque all of the way to Jimera de Libar via Cortes. This was the longest of the three routes we had to walk to qualify for silver. It began with a climb of arguably one of the steepest staircases I have ever used, giving me 'the Rocky Balboa feeling' when I got to the top. From there we soon encountered a dirt track leading us into the massive ravine we would be following in order to head in our direction. This was a brilliant time in the hike, morale was high and we were enjoying the bliss of the countryside whilst getting the added benefit of the rising sun on our faces. This trail continued for many hours, with the elevation being fairly constant.

Checking my watch at about 10.30am, I couldn't help but notice how much the temperature of the barren fields had risen. This was when we stopped and looked for a mattress gate, a well briefed monument that we thought we had found. This took us into what I can only describe as the middle of a jungle, and before we knew it, we found ourselves extremely lost with no sense of where we had come or where we were going at all. The first human reaction I faced in that situation was the feeling of panic, the loss of direction coupled with the fact that we did not have any signal did not help any of the cumulative factors of stress. However, we as a group soon realised our stressed state and recognised that being worked up about the



situation we found ourselves in was not going to change the situation at all, just make the situation worse and more arduous than it already was. To right our wrong, we very soon reconvened and put all of our minds together to form an exit strategy from our predicament.

What we devised was that we needed to check our bearings and follow them back to where we came from, in doing this we were able to get back to the gate that led us down our path. This, unfortunately, took us a couple of hours to find, and with several other attempts down the same path we were at loose end. So, when the clock hit 6pm, we fortunately managed to gain signal and contact some leaders for some help, as we were exhausted and seemingly out of options due to the night rapidly approaching. So we headed back to a farm house we had passed several hours before to pitch up for the night. The night after the day we had felt rather strange, the feeling across the group was one of

frustration that we had not finished the hike we had set out to accomplish, but happiness at the fact we had somewhere to sleep and could relax in peace for one night.

The next morning we awoke at 6am as usual, but with a motive; to complete the hike that had caused us such grief. We departed the farm at 7am, walked for an hour along the familiar fields of the day before, and once again faced the mattress gate. Our first thought in facing the mattress gate route once again was ruling out any possibilities that it could in fact be the right route. After deciding as a group that we certainly did not want to go through the previous path, we searched for a different path, and sure enough it was roughly 200 metres away from the gate we had been focused on. It was an open path that led straight on to the next open field. This very soon after led us on to a large hill we needed to climb over to carry on our route. Scaling the hill, although painful, felt extremely rewarding personally as it was a sign that we had managed to get over and away from the problem that had caused us a great amount of stress the day before. After another couple of hours of walking we began to make true progress as we had managed to arrive at the road that would be the final couple of kilometers towards Jimera de Libar. The time spent on the final road ironically felt as though it flew past, considering the length of monotonous tarmac. Before I knew it, we had made it. That feeling was

incredible, to have made it to the campsite after such a struggle made it so worth it, and it made me realise what the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is about; learning most about yourself when things do not go right and how you deal with it. This, however, was not the end. We still had another day of hiking to do, which, on the back of such an amazing day I was certain we could face.



The final day had arrived! We were more than ready to face what was coming our way, and we were determined to finish the hike no matter what we would face. We began once again at 7am, and hiked for 3km from our campsite to the path that would lead us to the ravine we would follow. On finding the path, we followed a defined path that ran parallel with some train tracks for several kilometers. This path took us all the way past Cueva del Gato train station and beyond, where we carried on. Our next monument

we came across a couple of hours after our lunch was the river we crossed, which was a much needed refreshment after many hours of warmth. After that great experience, we pushed on for the final stretch. We did not anticipate how hard this final part of the hike would be as it took us up some extreme altitude in a short amount of time, meaning the hills were extremely steep, certainly making me work for the final part of the hike. The point that we got over the final hill, and saw the town of Montejaque, was a phenomenal moment of victory and fulfillment. Then, walking through the peaceful town back to our campsite was amazing, as we truly felt the weight of what we had gone to pass the weekend of hiking.

When we arrived back at base camp, I felt emotionally and physically exhausted after a very difficult couple of days, but I truly felt as though I had learned a lot about myself and the people in my group. If I had the chance to change anything about my weekend I wouldn't, as it taught me many things about myself that I would not have learned about myself otherwise. It was certainly an experience to remember.”

By Oliver Cox

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Participant.



Credits

Teacher - Mr Peace

Journalist - Oliver Cox

Library Article - Mrs Ballantine

STEM Article - Maia Norton (Year 9)
(Mrs Sarantos-Billups / Mrs
Lucas)