

FT Index

The number '2020' is rendered in a large, bold, orange font. The interior of the numbers is filled with a pattern of small, colorful triangles in shades of red, blue, green, and purple, creating a confetti effect. The background around the numbers is also decorated with larger, scattered triangles of the same colors.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Happy New Year

We hope that you all enjoyed a blessed and peaceful Christmas season. At the start of this year, The Family Trust is embarking on its new three-year vision and the emphasis will be on strengthening our relationships with schools, churches, and individuals. We want the work of The Family Trust to be a partner and friend to local churches as we serve the Kingdom of God in Maidstone, Medway and Swale.

We are thankful to God for all He has enabled us to do over the past three years, and 2020 will continue to afford us exciting opportunities to help children and young people discover more about the Christian faith. In this edition of the FT Index there are features on how you can volunteer for The Family Trust and CAST (in Maidstone). There is information about our new Chequer Tree Camp website and celebration for some of our achievements over the past few years.

We will continue to be Christ-centred in all we do, and with excellence and integrity help children and young people learn more about Christianity. Finally, we pray that you will know the goodness and grace of God in your lives in the year ahead.

Jonathan
Chief Executive

Stream Conference

Some of our team attended the STREAM conference back in October, which was held at the London City Mission. It was a day devoted to thinking about Trans issues, a particularly topical subject and one which is important to understand in our work with children and young people. It was useful to get to grips with this complex issue and more broadly the whole matter of sexuality and gender identity. The speakers were Peter Lynas (Evangelical Alliance) and Jo Fitzsimmons of YouthScape. The EA website has some really good articles if you would like to find out more.



In related news the government has launched its 'Relationships Education' statutory guidance which schools are legally required to comply with and comes into effect in September this year. Relationships Education is compulsory for all primary school children and Relationships and Sex Education is compulsory for all secondary school students. The guidance is aimed at governors, other statutory bodies and faith representatives. As we continue to deliver our services across schools we will need to be aware of these requirements and exercise wisdom and discernment.

For those of you who might not know, STREAM is an informal affiliation of organisations from across the south-east who work with children and young people in schools, youth clubs and other sectors. If you would like to be involved in STREAM, please contact via email address below.



a partnership network for all
christian schoolworkers
streamschoolorwork@gmail.com

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”
Isaiah 43:19

CHEQUER TREE CAMP

Camp One

Sunday 26th July

Friday 31st July

Camp Two

Sunday 2nd August

Friday 7th August

£195 FOR THE WEEK!

Day tickets: £25 for the day, £110 for the week.

**BOOKINGS ARE OPEN! VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE:
CHEQUERTREE.ORG.UK**

We are excited to announce that we are once again returning to Boughton Monchelsea Primary School for Chequer Tree Camp this summer. We also have a shiny new website giving you all the details so don't forget to check that out. After its successful introduction last year, we will once again be offering the option of day campers who can join us to be a part of camp but stay in their own beds!

If you would like to book your child onto camp you can do this through the website. If you would be interested in helping as a leader, or know someone who would, look out for leaders forms coming shortly!

If you don't have a child of camp age but would like to sponsor someone who does, then we would love to hear from you and enable more children to experience camp this year.

THE BIG PARTY!

The Big Party is back! An opportunity to meet with old friends and make new ones! The Big Party is free and open to anyone in years 3 - 7.

MAIDSTONE

SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY

2.30 - 5PM

MEDWAY/SWALE

SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

2.30 - 5PM

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE CLOSER TO THE TIME FOR MORE
DETAILS.**



As we move into our three year Vision Plan, we look back on some of our achievements. We are so grateful for everything God has provided for us, and of course we couldn't do it without your support.



75
CAST
volunteers

30
Secondary
School
workshops

8
Secondary
Schools

35
Kingsquads

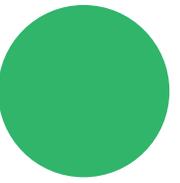
315
students
mentored

169
Primary
Schools

29
New Chequer
Tree Camp
volunteers

5790
Secondary School
Prayer Space
participants

133
Primary
CAP Money
Courses



3000
Primary
School
assemblies

5
Safe Space
Groups

16
Secondary
School Prayer
Spaces



God is Good!

As we look forward to a new year, we wanted to stop and thank God for just a few good things from the year 2019. Here's some highlights from our teams and the children we work with:

Our Team

I would thank God for the opportunity to see one of my Kingsquad children baptised into His family

I would thank God for answering my prayers and providing hope for the future!

I thank God for his faithfulness!

Thank you God for all of the lovely schools and children that we see all year!

I thank God that I have a long, long list of things to thank Him for!

I thank God for pictures like this from children, that remind me why we do what we do

Children

Making the world!

Making sure we have food to eat

Making us born

Making the people and animals we love

KINGSQUAD

What do I love about Kingsquad?
I love that everybody is kind and caring to each other. We comfort each other. We make new friends. We care for each other. That is why I love Kingsquad about it we trust and respect GOD
By Katie
Year 5

WHEN I GROW UP...

This academic year, The Family Trust and CAST decided to redesign our 'gap year' offering into an internship, with the focus moving towards providing a more flexible opportunity to work on specific projects and develop key skills as desired by the candidate. We are thrilled that one of our volunteers, Michael, has taken up this internship opportunity for the academic year 2019/20. Read on to find out about Michael's journey!

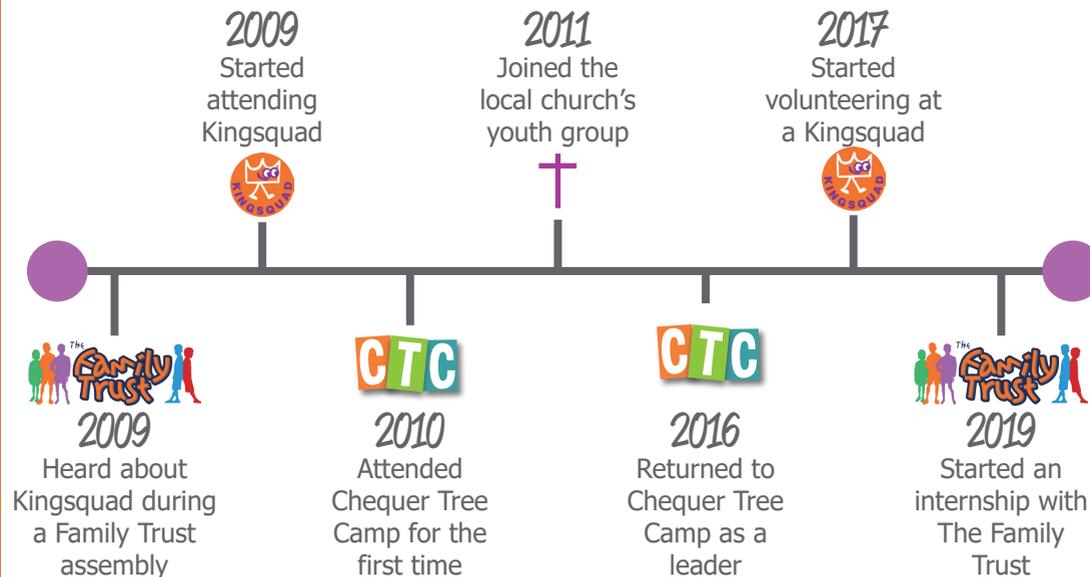
"Whilst in year 5 at Brookfield Junior School I started attending a Kingsquad lunch time club, after being introduced to it by Jude Johnson during a Family Trust assembly. Near the end of the school year my Kingsquad leaders told me about Chequer Tree Camp, which my parents agreed to let me go to, despite not being Christian themselves. I attended CTC for 3 years as a camper, until the end of year 7.

At the end of year 6 I had to move on from Brookfield, which meant leaving Kingsquad. However, I was invited along to the local churches youth group which I went on to attend for 7 years. This allowed me to connect with a church in my area and learn more about God and Christianity, whilst not being able to attend a morning service.

After having so much fun as a camper I decided to apply to be a junior leader at CTC when I was 16. Whilst leading at camp my faith grew in strength as I witnessed God move in both the children and leaders, seeing the effect He had on their lives. Soon after camp I started volunteering at Kingsquads, whilst working part time at my job. Providing children with the same opportunities I had when I was their age was very important to me. It was during this time I decided I wanted to pursue a career in children's work, specifically in primary education. The Family Trust offered me the opportunity to do an internship with them over a year, which I didn't hesitate to accept. I hope this internship helps me develop my skills working and engaging with children, through assemblies and preparing Kingsquads."



My JOURNEY...



As a charity, we have had some fantastic young adults join our team for a season. We consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to come alongside them and provide the space for them to strengthen their skills, with the aim of helping them move closer towards their career aspirations.

We can provide training and on-the-job experience in a range of areas including:

- PRESENTING IN A WHOLE SCHOOL SETTING
- ADMIN AND COMMUNICATION IN AN OFFICE ENVIRONMENT
- PREPARING AND DELIVERING PROJECTS TO SMALL GROUPS
- CREATIVE WRITING
- ONE-TO-ONE MENTORING
- RESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES

If you know someone looking to begin a career in schools work or working with children, please do encourage them to get in touch with us to see how we can be part of their journey.

TOP EXAM REVISION TIPS

The new year can bring with it so much joy and anticipation for a great time ahead, with many resolutions and plans. However some of our young people dread the coming of the new year because of one word...exams!!

We do our best to support our young people through our Family Trust and CAST activities, additionally we have put our thinking caps on to make a handy list of revision tips. Please feel free to share these with anyone you know who is taking or supporting a young person through exams this term.

On the Day

1. Plan your time
Make a revision timetable and take regular breaks to do things you enjoy. Aim to study for 45 mins, then take a 10 min break.

2. Practise
Use past papers from your exam board's website. Have a look at the guide to see how marks were awarded.

3. Food!
Eat well, have snacks and regular meals. Make sure to also drink plenty of water!

4. Sleep
Make sure to get a good night's sleep. Your brain will process things while you sleep.

5. Learning Styles
Read, make notes, watch videos, speak it out loud, use colour codes.

1. Eat well
Have something to eat an hour or two before the exam.

3. Breathe
When you sit down, take six deep breaths, in through the nose and out through the mouth.

4. Read
Make sure you read the questions carefully.

2. Calm down
Use a mindfulness or meditation app to help you feel calm.

5. Check
Re-read your answers, check grammar and spelling.

6. Focus
Try not to overthink the exam afterwards. Focus on the next one.

Good Luck!



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