



ASPIRE

Celebrating success 2021-22 December Edition



As we come towards the Christmas Holiday I am hopeful that we will maintain our low levels of Covid and staff and pupils are able to enjoy a Christmas with their loved ones.

As you will see in this edition of ASPIRE we have been able, this term to run a number of our curriculum and extracurricular events and this really has enriched the offer for the students but also the wider school. Students as ever have thrown themselves into a wide range of activities both within and beyond the classroom and I am so pleased to see the enjoyment and value that students get out of these activities.

You will see in this edition a range of activities from our amazing group of musicians who took part in their Trinity Music Examinations as well as other events, the fantastic work in Art and Design Technology, Science and PE. I have been really pleased to see a number of trips happening again and this really is important as we help our students to develop their understanding of where their learning and indeed they as people fit in the wider world. At time of writing, although we have scaled down our usual end of Year plans we are still planning to take some students down to the Church for a Christmas Service, continue with Debenhams Got Talent as well as the welcome return of the Christmas Lunch. All things that perhaps don't have such a big impact on the academic progress but are so important to all of us in developing the wonderful community that Debenham High School is.

I am sure you will forgive me for mentioning that earlier this month Debenham was named as the 6th best school in the country (11-16 schools) for our GCSE results in the Sunday Times Parent Power survey. This really is a reward for all of our community, staff, students and parents for working together so effectively to ensure our students achieve their very best. Whilst we are very proud of these results I hope you will agree that Debenham is about much more than academic progress and results. The results I believe are a testament to the commitment to developing the whole child and giving everyone the very best opportunities both academically and holistically in students' time with us.

With warmest wishes and wishing you a very Merry Christmas

Simon Martin

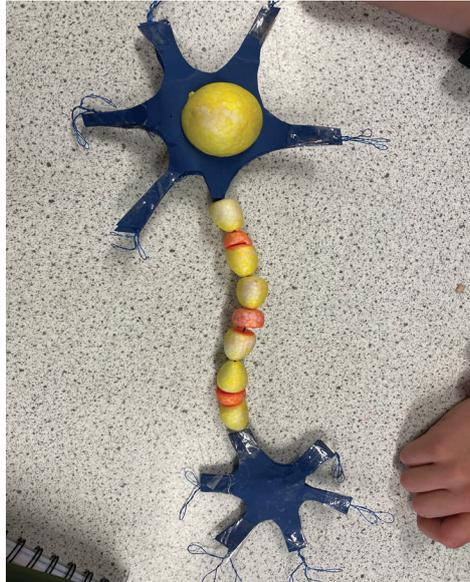
As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10

Remembrance Service, St. Mary Magdalene's Church

It was very pleasing to be able to take our Year 9 students to our Remembrance Service at St Mary Magdalene's Church on 11th November. Our students paid their respects to those who lost their lives in conflict, with Year 9 student leaders delivering readings and some of our students playing music as part of the service. In school, students had a special remembrance assembly and observed the 2 minutes silence, it was an important day as we collectively remembered how grateful we are to all who gave their life to give us our freedom today. We were also pleased to be invited to attend the church later in the day, we took a small group of students to the service at the War Memorial where two of our Year 10 students laid a wreath of remembrance as part of the service.



Year 7 Science - "Cells"



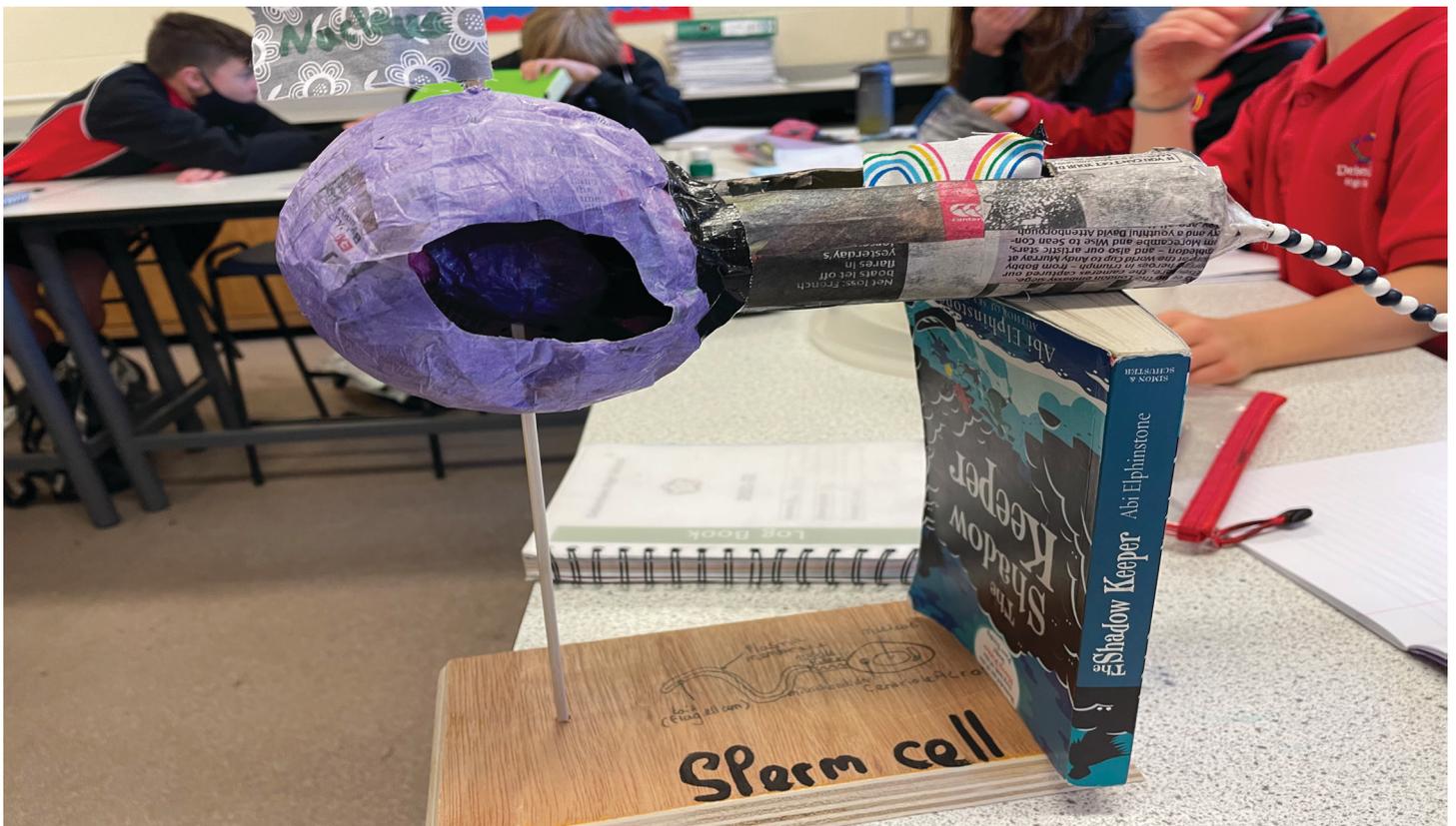
7A, 7O and 7N have just finished their unit on cells. During this unit, they have learnt about both Animal Cells and Plant Cells as well as looking at how these can adapt for different functions around the body and in different parts of a plant.

One of the homework tasks set in this topic was to create a model of a cell that they have learnt about. The creativity shown by everyone in these tutor groups was amazing and it was so lovely to see the different ideas that they could come up with. We had sewing projects, 3D models made of clay, cells made out of footballs and even cakes!

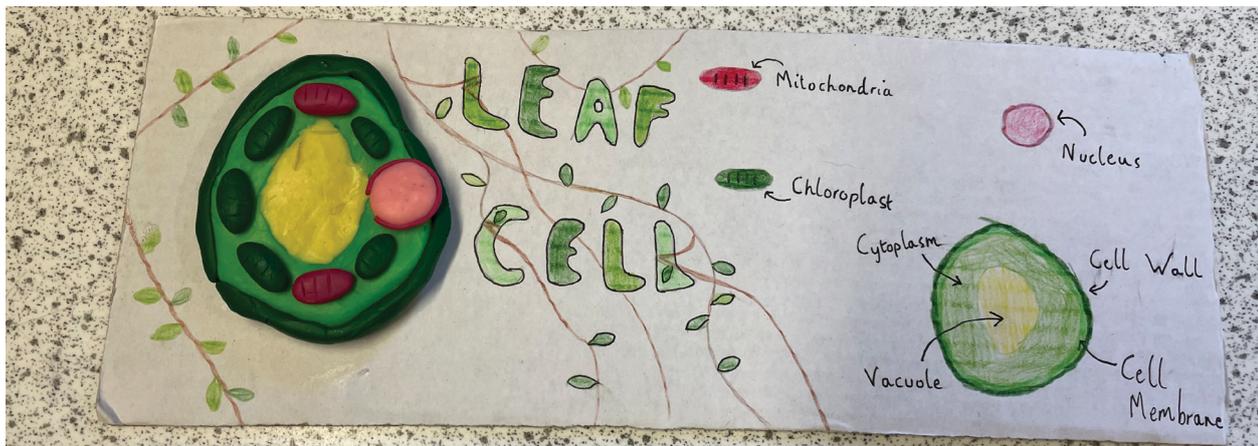
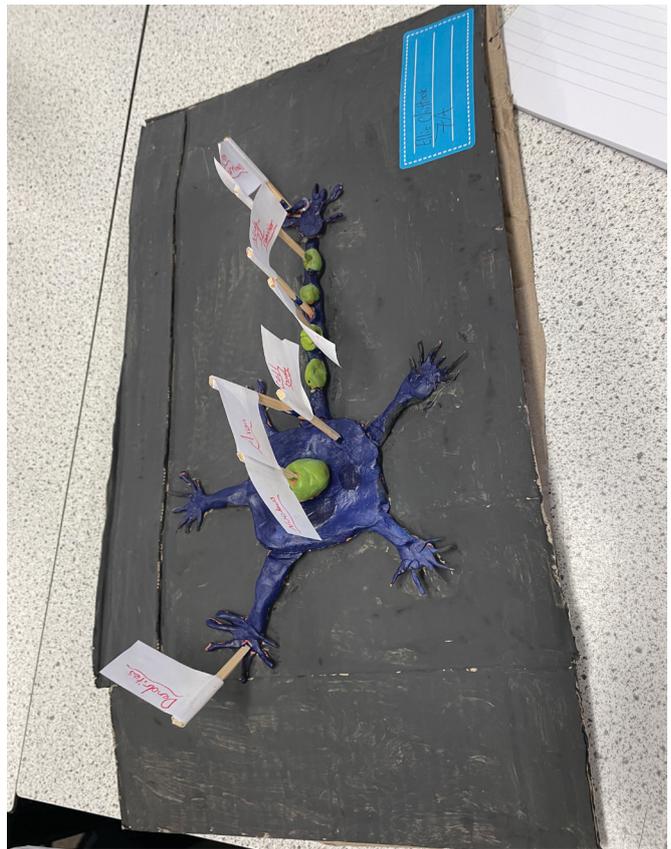
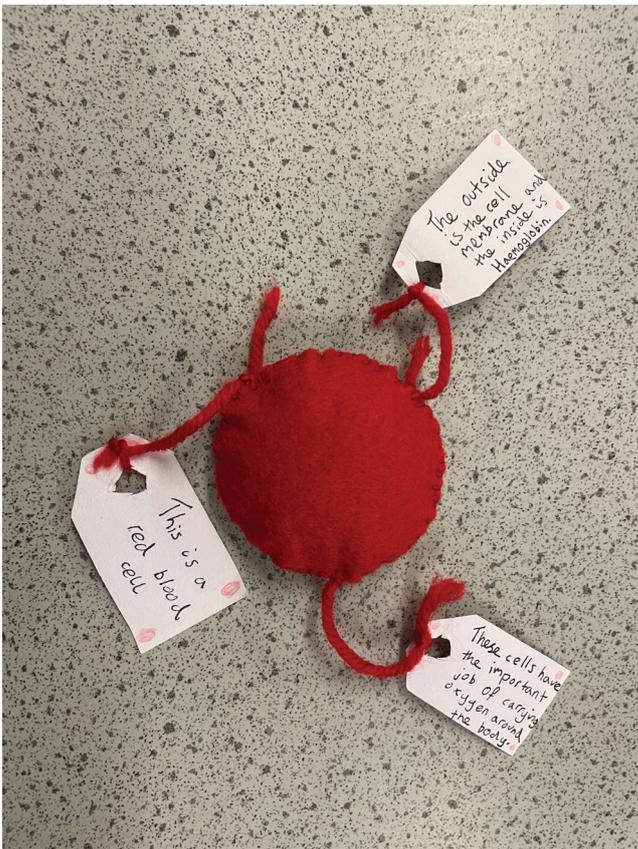
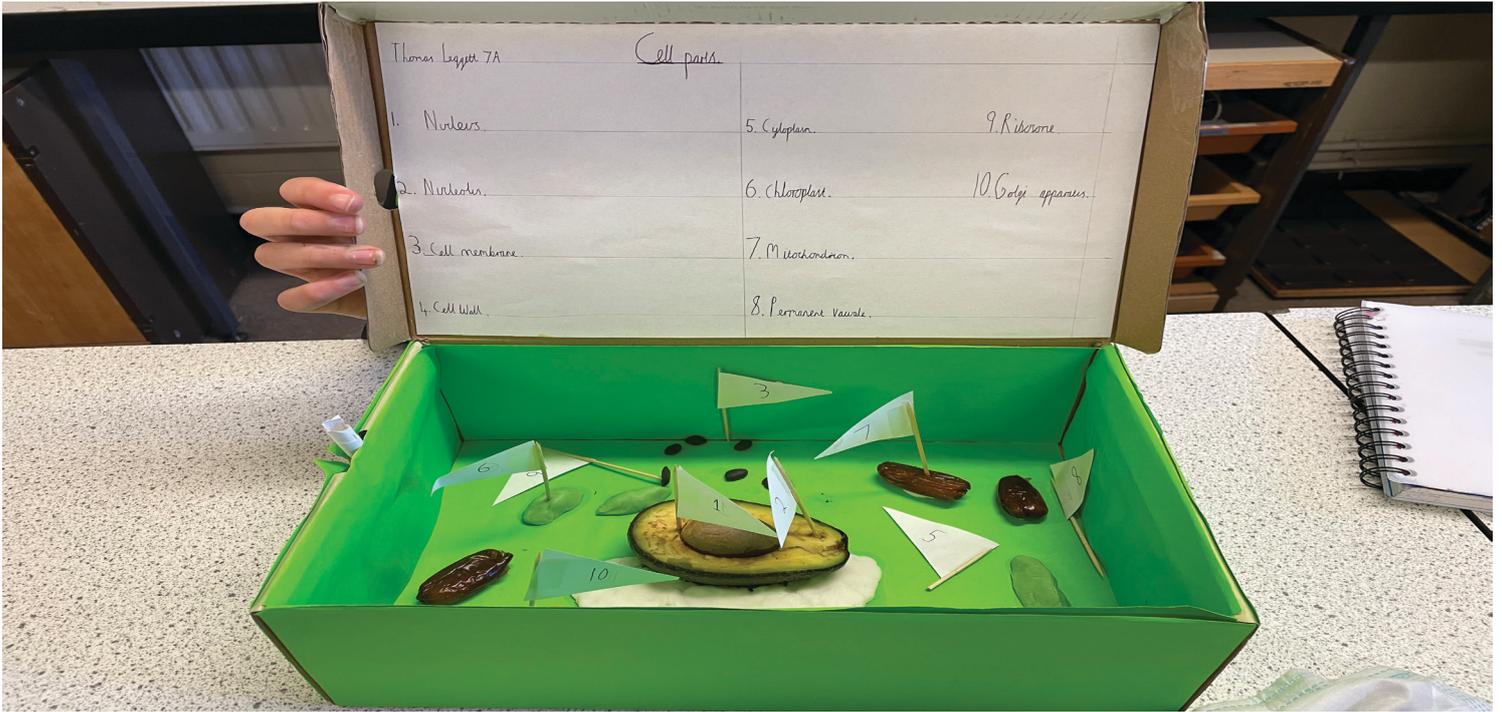
Each student was able to share their models with their class and explain why they chose the method that they did. Some of the most unique models involved cells suspended in water, sponges and cross-stitch!

As you can see from the photos, the wide range of models is fantastic and I thoroughly enjoyed receiving them. This has been one of the highlights of this topic by a mile!

Miss Floyd



Year 7 Science - "Cells"



Ready Steady Cook ...

The Royal Navy Catering Specialist Team came into school to challenge Year 11 Food Tech students to a ready steady cook challenge. All teams had to produce a 2 course meal from a range of ingredients and anything from the “kitchen larder”. Usually students get to plan their meals in advance so this was quite a challenging task for them.

Using their own knowledge and some online recipes they soon divided up what they wanted to cook and got to work.

All teams worked extremely hard and efficiently to produce a range of very good quality meals within a very short timescale. The Navy chefs were very impressed with dishes that were served up and said that they would happily pay for them if they were served up in a restaurant.



Ready Steady Cook 2021



Art - Big Draw 2021



Students got involved in the Big Draw 2021 and shared their ideas of kindness. Students and staff drew feathers of kindness over the windows in two lunch time workshops and spent a registration period creating a drawn feather of kindness. These are being displayed in the covered way and our Art Ambassadors will be selecting feathers to appear on our Big Hoot Owl next year!

The Owls students drew and painted for the Art competition were of such a high standard. A massive congratulations to our winners:

- * Year 7 - Beth McCormack and Lucy West.
- * Year 9 - Jessica Gibson
- * Year 10 - Charlotte Ciuksyte

We hope you enjoy using the art materials you received as prizes.

Thanks to every student and member of staff for once again making the Big Draw such a success and special thanks to Miss Stratford for organising the events.



Big Draw 2021



"Atoms"

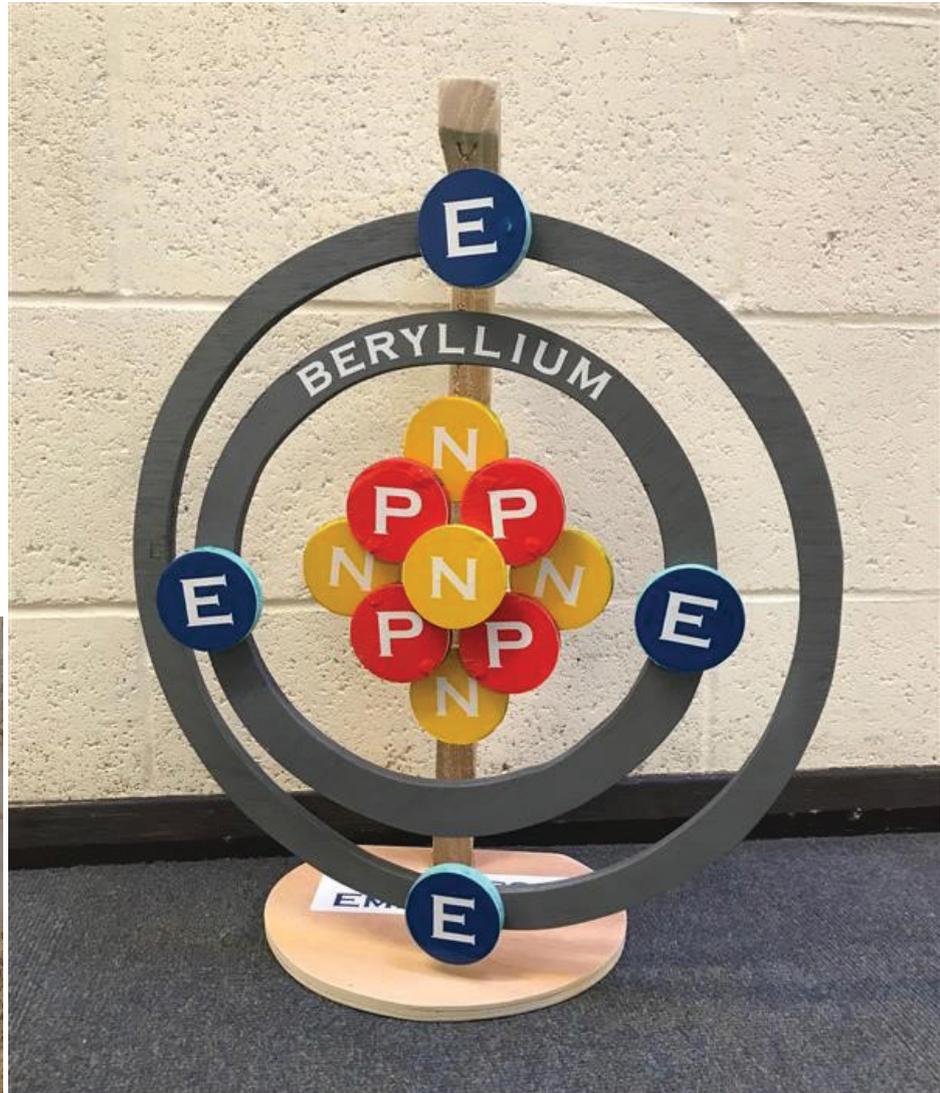
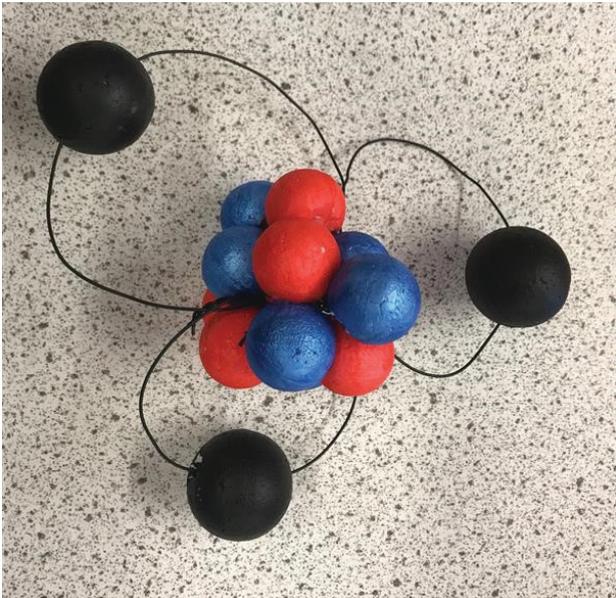
This term in Science, 8A have been studying a Chemistry unit on Atoms, Elements and Compounds.

Over the course of the unit, students have learnt about the structure of an atom, elements, compounds and the Periodic Table. Towards the end of the unit, students were asked for homework to pick an element from the Periodic Table and demonstrate their understanding of atomic structure by making a model of the chosen element. This model could be made in any medium and needed to follow a set criteria.

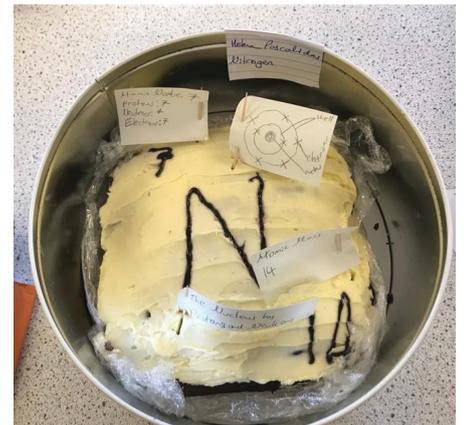
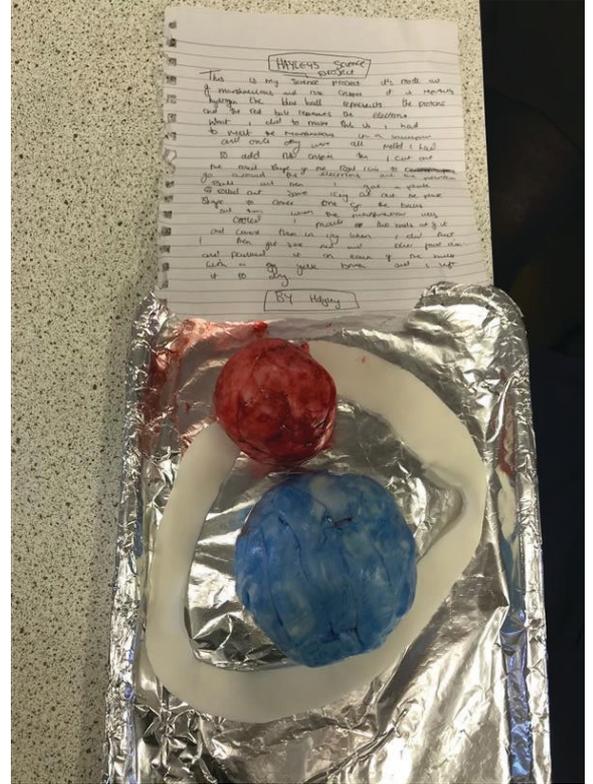
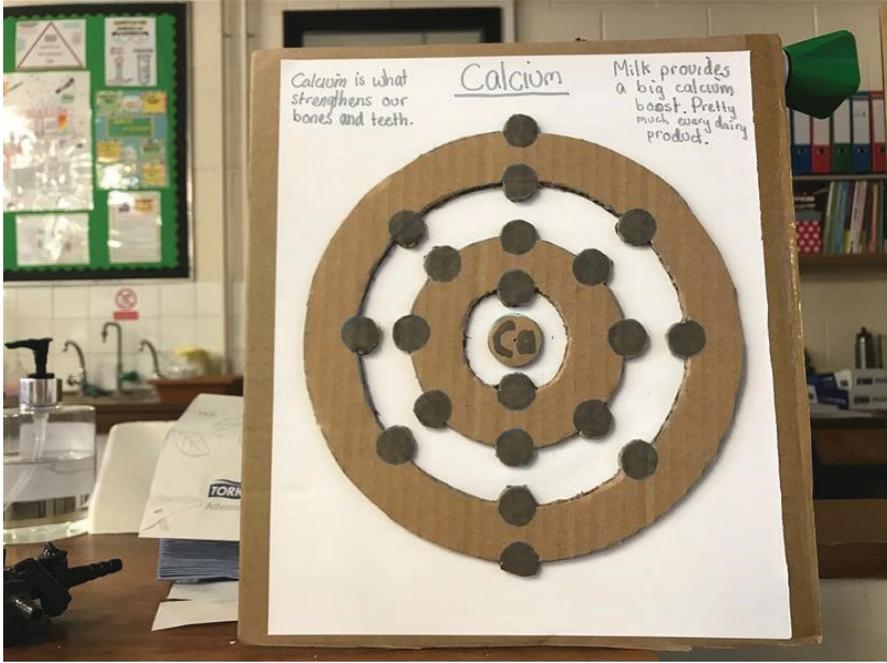
8A really rose to the challenge, and created some really superb models, a number of which we enjoyed eating following the lesson.

Well done for your creativity and thinking "outside of the box".

Miss Saunders



"Atoms"



Advent Angels



What does an angel look like, do you think? Big wings, halo, floats about?

A comedian, Billy Connolly, summed up a lot of people's thoughts about angels when he said, "I don't believe in angels, no. But I do have a wee parking angel (he's Scottish!). It's on my dashboard and you wind it up. The wings flap and it's supposed to give you a parking space. It's worked so far." There's a part of us that doesn't really believe in

angels, but we rather like the idea of them anyway... and who knows, they might exist.

Angels appear many times in the Bible. They are primarily messengers for God. They appear early on in the story of God's people meeting Jacob and then Joshua. In these ancient stories they often give news from God, but they also give guidance. Sometimes they are challenging; sometimes their presence is mysterious. In the Christmas story they appear many times, to Zachariah, to Joseph, to Mary, and loads turned up to terrify the shepherds; not to mention the Magi or Wise Men as they headed home. Each time they gave a message from God and, in a way, helped to point the people they appeared to in the right direction.

Perhaps that is why we like them so much; because they are here, from God, to help us. Joan Westler Anderson said, "For what is it that angels do? They bring us good news. They open our eyes to moments of wonder, to lovely possibilities, to exemplary people, to the idea that God is in our midst. They lift our hearts and give us wings."

What do angels look like? Well, we do often think of angels as having wings, but mostly in the Bible (apart from when they scared the shepherds) they look like ordinary people. Like us. Could it be that we all have the potential to be angels? Could it be that as we help others, guide them, greet them, give them messages of caring and kindness and compassion; that we all have the potential to be messengers from God. And could it be that as we travel through the seasons of Advent and Christmas that we will meet our own angels; for the Bible tells us,

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it."

Green Team Re-Launch

Our Green Team Representatives from each form group met on Tuesday 7th December. Responding to a survey of both staff and students, four key project areas have been identified for work in January:



1. Raising awareness and raising funds for local eco-based projects in an Eco-Week in January
2. Raising awareness and acting on conserving energy in the school – i.e. turning off lights when leaving a room; not leaving computers on stand by
3. Recycling more effectively – i.e. making our current recycling work better; build in a recycling point for disposable masks; recycling soft plastics
4. Litter Picking – representatives from the Green Team to work on a set day to help reduce waste around the school site

Along with the projects for which we had a number of eager volunteers from students and staff, the Green Team will have their own designated notice board. To help arm the Green Team Representatives with ideas to develop their environmental awareness further, Mrs Foord Johnson will showcase books within the Resources Centre.

We will keep you abreast of future actions!

Green Team



Year 8 - Bags for Life

We welcome another creative year in Room 8 at DHS.

8ADT5 have just completed their Textiles rotation having produced some excellent scale prototype Bags-for-life inspired by Museums including the V&A and Natural History Museum. Considering some of the group missed practical Textiles in year 7 due to lockdown their skills were excellent.

Can you guess for which museum each bag was designed?



Year 11 Virtual Trip to Amazon



Have you ever wondered how that product in your online shopping cart gets from Amazon to your home? Our year 11 GCSE Computer Science students had the opportunity to see what goes on at Amazon when they attended their first ever virtual school trip. Amazon kindly allowed our students to visit virtually one of their fulfilment centres in the country. The tour gave us a glimpse of the future where humans and robots work harmoniously to get packages to customers on time.

Amazon has 175 fulfilment centres around the world. Many of these span the equivalent of 28 football fields and can hold tens of millions of items on any given day. In 26 of them, robots and people work together to pick, sort and transport packages. During the tour, our students saw how robotic automation has taken over certain duties making the lives of their employees easier and safer by performing the less desirable, more tedious tasks. This gave our students some insights which helped them when we covered the unit on the 'Ethical, Cultural, Legal and Environmental Impact of Technology' this Autumn term.

The tour leader took us around the various parts of the fulfilment centre. The one-hour tour, combined 360 degree footage video and live broadcasts which replicated the experience of their in-person tours. It also included interactive Q&A at the end of the tour.

Mr Geronimo



Year 10 & 11 Drama Trip



Hound of the Baskervilles

The year 10 and 11 drama students recently went on a school trip to see the Original Theatre Company perform 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' in Ipswich.

The play was directed by Lotte Wakeham and written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson. The performance, had been adapted into a comedy which was enjoyed by all

the audience members from Debenham High School.

There were only three actors performing in the play: Jake Ferretti, who mainly played Sherlock Holmes, though also performed in other roles such as the comical dame, Cecile. Serena Manteghi played Sir Henry and Niall Ransom played Dr. Watson. The various roles and disguises provided lots of humour. The use of props was inventive and creative. What resulted on a stage was a dynamic, engaging and highly entertaining performance that brought the story to life in a comedic way.

The actors were extremely talented and the costume changes for their characters were very effective in creating comedy and entertainment for the audience.

The play followed Sherlock Holmes (Jake Ferretti) who's intrigued by a centuries-old legend in which every generation of the wealthy Baskerville family is eventually killed by a monstrous hound.

The performance was well attended and very much enjoyed by the audience.

Written by Ruby Gibson, Y11



Reverse Advent Calendar

For nearly 30 years, Families in Need (FIND) Ipswich has offered a lifeline to people in Ipswich and the surrounding areas who are experiencing poverty and despair.

They provide free food parcels and personal care items to help people get through a crisis, as well as furniture, bedding and other household items where the person or family has none. On average over 6,000 food parcels are distributed each year.



Thank you to all those in our community who have donated to the Reverse Advent Calendar. It is a joy to be able to give to others at any time of the year but especially Christmas.

Representatives from the Student Council will take the goods to the Food Bank during the last week of term.



DHS Equestrian Team



Over the weekend of 12th – 14th November, the riding team were very excited to be taking part in the NSEA Schools Championship Plate competition at Keysoe Equestrian Centre in Bedfordshire. We had lots of practise training sessions with our amazing show jumping trainer Jake Hall to ensure that the team was as ready as they could be.

The team comprising Leah Banham, Millie-Baye Greig and Mia Flatman were very determined and represented the School impeccably. Sadly, we weren't placed but what an experience for our riding team.

At the end of November the riding team attended a NSEA Tri-County qualifier at Forest Edge in Norfolk. In the Mini 70cm Team Qualifier. Unfortunately, only the 1st and 2nd qualifier for the Championship was at Hickstead, but they came in 3rd place, which is a real achievement and Millie-Baye Greig was 4th in the individual qualifier. The team comprised of Millie-Baye Greig, Leah Banham, Ashlee Banham and Brieya Whitmore.

In the Novice 80cm Team Qualifier, they were unfortunately not placed, but a good effort, the team comprised of Leah Banham, Millie-Baye Greig and Ashlee Banham.

If you would like to join our riding team, please contact me and I can provide you with times and directions.

Tracey Emmins



Resistant Materials Projects

During the first 6 weeks of term students were able to have a taster session in all of the AD&T departments.

Year 7 Marble Run

Year 7 were inspired by a watching a clip of engineers from Dyson who had put their skills into making their own marble runs using cardboard, cardboard tubes, plastic bottles, egg cartons, tinfoil and sandpaper. In their designs the students considered the angle of the run and how they could create friction and centrifugal force to slow the marble down on the run. It was great to see such team work and ingenuity to produce some wonderful final outcomes with the winning time being 14.7 seconds.



Year 8 Bridge

Year 8 were tasked with constructing a bridge that had to span over a set distance that was then tested with weights to destruction. First students learnt about force and motion then frame, shell and mass, and what shapes and designs would give strength to their structure. With this knowledge they then designed and constructed their final bridge using card, art straws and glue.

One bridge was a particular success successful holding a weight of 11kg.



Year 9 Tower

Year 9 were involved in the construction of a freestanding tower. The tallest being the winner. The students looked at the structures of existing tall towers and how they were constructed, foundations and stability to improve the performance of their construction. They then only had access to paper, masking tape and glue to construct their final towers. To add to the challenge the tower had to hold a set weight at the top which added to the complexity of the tower design and structure. The winning tower was over 2.5 meters tall.



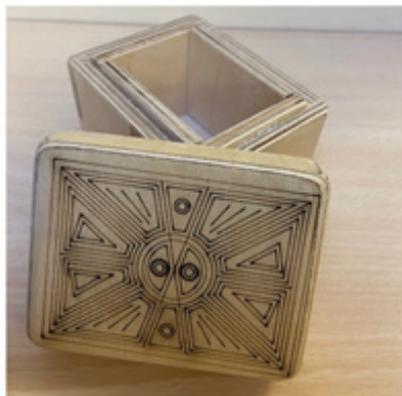
Resistant Materials Projects

Year 10 Resistant Materials

Students have been improving their practical skills and knowledge of woodworking tools and processes. They had been given a simple technical drawing of a box and had to adapt it and produce a final product made from Plywood.

The students added finger joints to the corners and could select the shape of opening the lid and how to hold it on securely. They were then able to personalise their boxes by creating computer aided designs that were then engraved onto the box using the Laser cutter. Finally the boxes were sanded and finished with a beeswax finish.

This was a largely independent task and it was great to see such good quality outcomes.



Resistant Materials Projects

Year 9 Engineering talk



As part of National engineering week some of our Year 9 students were fortunate to take part in a online lecture / workshop from Gitanjali Rao. Gitanjali is a 15 year old American girl who was voted the first ever Times magazine Kid of the Year.

She achieved this title due to her astonishing work using technology to tackle issues ranging from contaminated drinking water to cyberbullying.

The basis of the workshop was about her mission to create

a global community of young innovators to solve problems the world. This allowed students to interact with her live, ask questions and learn how they could use their skills to begin their own inventing journey.

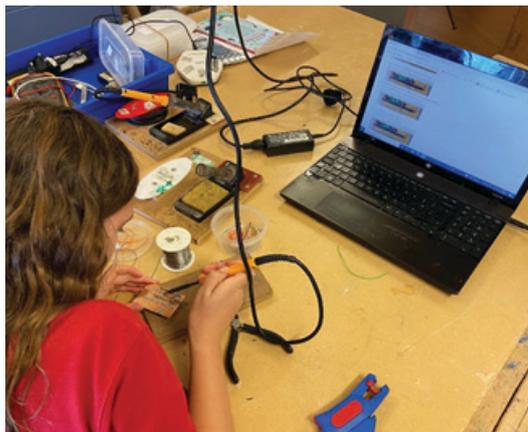
We were very fortunate to have access to this workshop through our links with the Royal Academy of Engineering network.



Year 8 Buggy Club

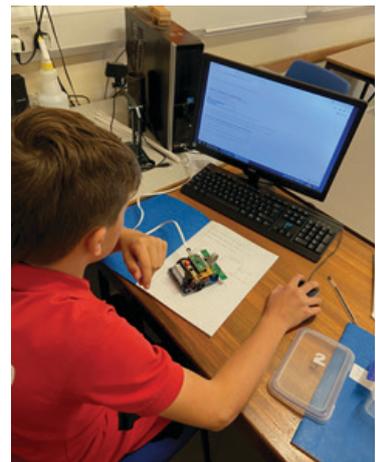
Students have been meeting one night after school to build and programme their own buggies for a range of tasks. Students can select whether they want their buggy to be a specialist in one of the following categories.

- Drag Racer
- Line follower- fastest to accurately follow and stick to a pattern of lines
- Wall follower- to be able to automatically finds it way around a maze.



The students have build their buggies from the component parts understanding electronic circuits and how to accurately assemble and solder components together. They have then used a computer programme to change the parameters and link it to the buggy so it can achieve one of the disciplines above. This project has allowed students to become really engrossed in programming and problem solving both individually and as a team.

The final aim is to compete at a competition run by the University of Birmingham later next year to put their new found skills to the test.



Music Examinations



Trinity Guild Examinations

On Saturday 11th December Debenham High School hosted Trinity College of Music Examiners for our students to sit their graded practical instrumental exams.

Students sat a range of performance exams from initial grades right up to the most difficult grade 8 exams. Lots of hard work with their teachers and practice at home over many months has been undertaken by our students in preparation for these and their hard work has certainly paid off. Trinity instrument exams are worthwhile in their own right however the higher grade exams are also worth additional UCAS points.

As Debenham High School is an examination centre, students get to take these in the more comfortable surroundings of their own school and they are run here three times every year.

Very well done to all our students and their Instrumental teachers.



AD&T Christmas Tree



Students have designed and created decorations for our tree at the Stowmarket Christmas Tree Festival.

The tree can be seen in Stowmarket Library until the 1st January 2022.

The decorations are inspired by the Christmas song 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday.'

Pupils used acrylic, wood, textiles, art techniques and baking to create their wonderful designs showcasing the creativity and high level of skill of our students.



The Omnibus Games

Not to be confused with the latest variant of Coronavirus! Our sporting partnership back in September have created a new competition between our local schools. The Omnibus word translates as meaning 'for all'. We compete against Thomas Mills, Hartismere and Stradbroke over one week per half term. The schools decide which sports to play in that week, and also the level - 'Compete' level for those more elite performers, 'develop' for those keen and improving performers, and the 'belong' level, to try and encourage some participation with some students. Look out for more information and results in our next issue!

THE OMNIBUS GAMES

COMPETE **DEVELOP** **BELONG**

A battle of heads, hands and hearts

Omnibus means "for all" and we hope that our events and competitions between schools in our partnership give everyone the opportunity to represent their school this year. Within each half term, schools will challenge one another over various sports and age groups, with the school winning the most events being crowned the 'Omnibus Games Champions'.

SPORT WEEK 3

SPORT WEEK 4

SPORT WEEK 5

Sport Week 3	20 Sept	15 Nov	17 Jan	14 Mar	9 May	20 Jun
Sport Week 4	27 Sept	22 Nov	24 Jan	21 Mar	16 May	27 Jun
Sport Week 5	4 Oct	29 Nov	31 Jan	28 Mar	23 May	4 Jul

Weeks 1,2,6,7 of each half term The first two weeks and/or final two weeks of each half term will be reserved for partnership events involving all schools

#OmnibusGames

SCHOOL GAMES

WILSON SCHOOL SPORT PARTNERSHIP

FIFA Playstation Competition!



Exciting news - we have been selected, after applying successfully, to run our own FIFA playstation competition here at school.

The ESFA football competitions that we take part in Nationally, had 32 places for schools to apply to enter for the on-line game, and we were one of them!

This means after Christmas we will be running knockout tournaments to select an overall school champions, who will then go on to the National FIFA champions tournament held next year.

I hope to receive lots of entries, and generate a strong community atmosphere within our school for all of our matches.

Format and rules are currently being sent to me, but it could mean Year group competitions initially, with the 5 winners playing in a champions league to decide an overall winner. More news early next term, so please look out and give it a try!

PE Department - Match Results



Year 9 netball team played Thomas Mills and lost 21-6



Year 7 netball team played Stradbroke and lost 5-0



Year 10 and Year 7 netball teams played Hartismere. Y10 won 30-16 with a super team performance and Year 7 lost 19-7.



Year 9 & 11 netball teams played Thomas Mills. Y11 won 22-3 and Y9 lost 14-8 in their first game of the season

DHS Match Reports

Girls Football

We are extremely lucky here at Debenham, as we have so many talented and interested Girls who are committing themselves to school football. We have County representation through Katie Sparrow, Evie Morris and Amelia Lock, and around 20 - 30 regular attendees at training on Monday evening. All are very welcome! There are U13/U14/U15/U16 sides, and matches for everyone to be involved in, at every level. Special mention also to Lucy Daly, who is also playing games with the U16 Boys -more about their results a bit later.

U13 Girls Football

In the ESFA cup, the team beat Horringer 7-3, before a brilliant display against Farlingaye in the 2nd Round, saw a 4-2 win. Although COVID hit the team quite hard, the girls went up to Great Yarmouth, and lost 7-1 to Flegg High school in Round 3. They are due to play Ipswich Academy in the County cup after Christmas.

U14 Girls Football

In the ESFA cup, the side played really well to beat St Joseph's away 4-0, and also Alde Valley 7-0. They then came up against a very strong Thorpe St Andrew side from Norwich, who beat us 6-0. This was a shame, but the girls tried very hard, with the majority of the side made up of U13 players.

U15 Girls Football

Although we didn't enter them for the ESFA cup, the Girls beat Hartismere 5-0 earlier in the term, and we are awaiting news of who they will play next.

U16 Girls Football

The team drew a team from Newham in London in the first round at home, winning 3-1 in a tight game. In Round 2 they battled hard against a Claydon team who we beat a couple of years ago 2-1 in the same competition, this time we lost by the same scoreline. Scorer for us was Captain Lucy Daly.

U13 Boys Football

We have been so impressed with the attendance for this club, with around 25 boys coming along every Tuesday for training. All those who have come along and shown this commitment we have tried to give some match time, with some 'B' fixtures as well. The side in the ESFA cup lost a close game 2-1 to Thomas Mills earlier in the term and have played some futsal and other B team fixtures against both Hartismere, Thomas Mills, and a friendly vs the Year 7 side.

U16 Football

As the year 11 group are classified as a 'small school', which means less than 65 boys in a year group, the side have been our only entry in the ESFA National small schools competition. This does mean playing against similar schools, which make the games more competitive and even to an extent! The side have been really impressive with their efforts and resilience in their cup run. In the first round they travelled to Archbishop Sancroft school, from Norfolk, as team we had played and beat in Year 9 5-3. This time, we ran out 5-1 winners, including an incredible goal from our keeper Lucas Brittain (Trust me, he has not stopped talking about it since!). In Round 2, we were drawn away to St Joseph's of Ipswich, who ran us ragged most of the game, and they lead 4-1 with about 15 minutes. Then, the most incredible of comebacks with Alex Oakley, Ollie Lankester, James Walsh and Ben Risby all scoring to achieve an amazing 5-4 win. This then gave us another away tie vs Melbourn Village college from Cambridge, where the game was played on their recently completed 3G pitch, and in high winds and driving rain! We lost the toss, and had to try and compete against a physical side and the worse of the elements. This led to us conceding 7 goals before half time! The weather was unfortunately ruining the game, and we ourselves did create a few chances of our own. Second half, we wanted a reaction, and to win the second half, which we did, and although overall we lost 7-2, the side battled away hard all game. Special mention to Lucy, who has played in the side this year, and is the first time we have had a female playing at this age group with the boys. Well done Lucy!

Sports round up

U12 Boys Football

After a slow start to the year in terms of getting numbers to training, this has picked up nicely and the Monday football club is now being attended regularly by 15-20 students. This has been great to see and hopefully will continue when we return after the Christmas break. In their three competitive games so far they have lost against Thomas Mills, Chantry Academy and Wymondham College but performances have improved. They finished this term with a friendly against Year 8's which finished 1-1.

U15 Boys Football

Numbers for the Thursday football club have been high all year and the majority of the students that have been in attendance at this have gone on to play games for the school. So far this year the Year 10 Boys have beaten Thomas Mills in a friendly and won on penalties against Hartismere in the County Cup. Unfortunately, they lost in the National Cup to Northgate but got back to winning ways in a Futsal game against Hartismere. Pleasingly, the team are playing well and hopefully this will allow them to have a good run in the County Cup, when this resumes in the New Year.



U16 Girls badminton came 2nd in the HSSSP tournament beating Thomas Mills and Bungay, but lost to overall winners Alde Valley. Boys U16 badminton beat Thomas Mills and Bungay and finished winners of the HSSSP tournament.

**Please follow our
social media pages**



Debenham High School



debenham_high_pe

