



## Head First .....

As we near Christmas and the season of Advent is upon us it is encouraging to look back over the past 7 weeks in school and see all that has happened in such a short space of time. I always look forward this term to the School Carol Service at the end of the Year but there have been so many highlights that our staff and students have generated.

As a school we are always very proud of all of the extra-curricular events and trips which are such an important part of the offer for our students and trips such as Paris and more local trips are a fantastic way to bring students' learning to life and give real life context. It has also been pleasing this term to see our students excel in competitions and challenges which stretch their learning and understanding and allow them to really extend their knowledge and passion for curriculum areas.

The MFL department have undertaken a huge amount of events and initiatives to really help our students immerse themselves in other cultures and develop that all important understanding of others, whilst having fun! I think one of my highlights has to be processing around the tennis courts with hand held lanterns singing German folk songs with over 100 students and parents.

Our students have shown compassion and care for others through events such as Charities week and the Big Hoot (and Little Hoot), which we were very proud to receive an award for recently.

I am incredibly proud of all the work our staff and students do to really give the students the most out of their time at Debenham, academic achievement is really important and a gateway to future careers however I hope you can see that at Debenham this is a part of what we try to achieve as a whole community.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Christmas service or concert over this coming week but in the mean time I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

**Simon Martin**

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."*  
*John 3:16.*

## Remembrance Day



On Friday 11th November we were grateful to be able to attend a Remembrance service led by Rev Tracey James and Rev Susan Taylor at St Mary Magdalene. Our Senior Prefects gave readings and we reflected upon those lost in conflict. Names were read from the Debenham War Memorial and names were also included of those known to us, allowing us time to pause and reflect and remember sacrifices made for us.

In school our Year 8 and Year 9 students created a range of memorial poppies in their AD&T lessons in September. We collated their work in plastic, material, card, paper and salt dough to create memorials for remembrance around the school.



# Sankt Martin's Laternenumzug



On 11th November at 4.15pm 50 year 7 students and their families (about 140 people in total) gathered in the school hall for our inaugural German 'Laternenumzug' celebrating Saint Martin, the Roman soldier turned Bishop, famed for helping a poor beggar by sharing his cloak on a cold Winters day.

In the preceding weeks students enjoyed making lanterns and learning two traditional German songs in readiness for the event. On arrival each year 7 student was presented with a Lebkuchen goose to share, just as Saint Martin shared his belongings.

Once in the hall we practised our songs, expertly accompanied on the violin and squeeze-box by Christine and Paul Keeler who travelled from Norwich especially for the occasion. Full audience participation was encouraged and , in particular, the chorus of "rabimmel, rabammel, rabumm" caused much laughter!

We were then treated to a fabulous re-enactment of Saint Martin's encounter with the poor beggar, performed by the year 12 German A' level class from Abbeygate Sixth Form College in Bury St Edmunds. Again, the audience joined in heartily with cries of "Martin ist ein guter Mann".



Following this we processed around the school site in the darkness, illuminated by our lanterns and singing en route.

Once back in the hall we enjoyed a buffet of German specialties provided by parents and carers and chatted with friends before making our way home.

It was lovely to see so many families enjoying themselves together at school. Parents loved it, students loved it, teachers loved it. Mr Martin said, "Let's make it an annual event." So, it's in the

diary for 2023 and we can't wait to do it all again with next year's year 7!



# Toby Talks To .....

Nastya, one of our Ukrainian students who joined our school in June last year, in Year 9, has been an avid badminton player and formidable athlete all of her life, initially taking inspiration from her father, to date she has seven years' experience under her belt but constantly strives to adapt and improve her gameplay. She highlighted the difficulty of trying to maintain her lead when her opponents are working to try and catch up to her, when this happens she takes time to think and evaluate her gameplay before returning to the match with a fresh perspective. She is clearly able to overcome these challenges and is ranked first in Ukraine doubles for her age category and second in mixed doubles and singles. Despite all of this, Nastya does not play for medals or glory and does not care about her rank. She is enthralled with the badminton and looks up to the Chinese professional badminton players, it is her dream to one day be like them and compete at the Olympics. As well as this, she wants to one day pass her expertise on to the next generation of badminton players and become a coach.



Nastya faced some difficulties with badminton in Ukraine from both coaches and fellow players but since coming to England her love for the sport has grown exponentially. England's badminton is both fun and rigorous, developing her gameplay. She has enjoyed taking part in the badminton club in school but she has also joined one out of school. Nastya and her teammates have already bonded, partly through their five training sessions a week and competition every weekend but also their shared passion of badminton. So far her highlights of badminton in England have been an exhausting yet excellent training camp in Milton Keynes where she had three two hour badminton development training sessions for a week whilst training in a state of the art badminton performance centre.



Her competitions have been going extremely well with Nastya already being ranked sixth in the UK despite only being here for a short time. In order to challenge Nastya she often plays with people above her age, particularly in the under 19s category. She loves her team in England but prefers singles to double as she believes it is more individual so therefore more tactical, which is where she excels.

Looking to the future, Nastya is eagerly anticipating a huge Estonia under 15s competition January where she will be able to display what she has learned in England and play against some of the best young, up and coming badminton players in the world. Nastya undoubtedly has a very bright future within badminton and at Debenham High School we can't wait to see what she does next.





# ADT Trip to Paris

40 students, 4 days, 40 miles of walking, very little sleep. What a whirlwind visit to one of the fashion capitals, a non-stop exploration of all things art and fashion with sight-seeing opportunities along the way.

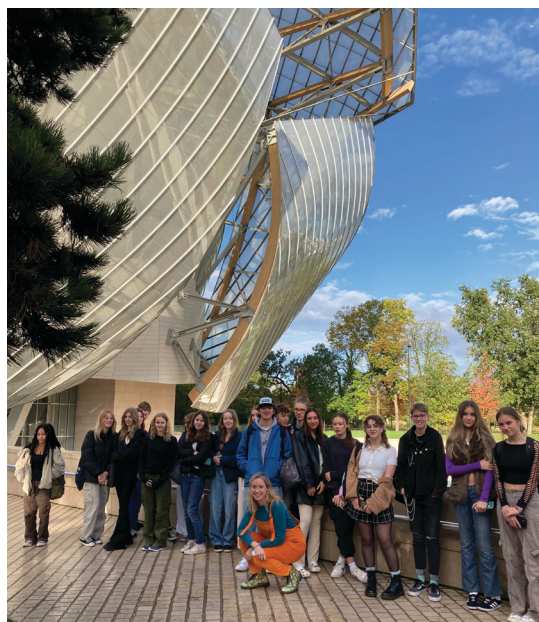


The weather was glorious after a torrential storm on the first night. The galleries were all we had imagined and more. A first time for many of us, Paris was a delight. Our bus driver got us to every destination on time and in one piece and our itinerary ran to plan with Textiles and Art students splitting and coming back together each day to fit even more activities into the jam packed days. We certainly saw a lot of Paris and experienced the craziness of the Metro and the bustle around the Eiffel tower. For some Art students, the graffiti tour with Thom Thom was the highlight of the trip as he drew on the pavement, cut into posters on walls and took us on a tour of the best graffiti Paris has to offer. We were very excited to learn that he is a well-known street artist, working for H&M and

other firms with his cut out, layered work.

Textiles students were lucky enough to see two exclusive exhibitions. The doors of the Yves Saint Laurent museum were closed for a private view of the icon of fashion's 'Gold' exhibition, examining the role that gold played in his work. Students were witness to his studio and desk as it was left, as well as an array of his garments and accessories.

In the Palais Galliera students were treated to the 'Frida Kahlo - beyond appearances' exhibition which showcased a collection of her clothing, accessories and her hand painted corsets, this was complemented with an exhibition of garments inspired by Frida Kahlo including corsets by Alexander McQueen, Jean Paul Gaultier and gowns by Givenchy. All inspiring, and an amazing opportunity to see the detailed work of couturiers up close and in real life.





# ADT Trip to Paris



At the Musée des Arts Décoratifs Mr Trevorrow and Mrs King were thrown back to the 1980's in the '80's Fashion, Design and Graphic Art' exhibition. Whilst pupils witnessed the power dressing and bold colours of Christian Lacroix, furniture by Philippe Starck and poster campaigns by Jean-Paul Goude. A feast for the eyes and an inspiration for all.

With thanks to the lovely weather great views of Paris were seen from the amazing architecture of The Pompidou Centre, The Ugly Tower (Tour Montparnasse), from the steps of the the incredible Sacre Coeur in Montmartre, and the view was worth the wait from the top of the The Arc de Triomphe following the climb of the 284 steps.

Year 11s were a delight to take away and for some, this is the first and only residential they will have experienced due to previous covid restrictions. We all learnt a lot from the trip and discovered amazing places and views. Memories were made. Thank you Year 11.





# Are you ready for Christmas?

I wonder how many times you have been asked that in the last week or so. And are we ever actually ready for Christmas – what would it even look like to be ready? Perhaps when all the presents have been bought, wrapped and labelled correctly? Or when the Christmas dinner ingredients have been bought, prepared and are ready to cook? Maybe when term is finished or your Christmas holiday begins.

In church the season of Advent is all about getting ready for Christmas, you don't need to buy anything but it is about preparing – preparing for the birth of a baby, the coming of the Christ child who changed everything over 2000 years ago. A baby born into poverty, into a family who would become refugees, a family who relied on gifts and kindness from others.



*Mosaic of the Nativity from the baptistery of Saint Sebastian's cathedral in Bratislava Slovakia designed by Jesuit Marco Ivan Rupnik*

Our world feels like a dark place at the moment – with the cost of living crisis forcing more and more families into poverty and needing to rely on foodbanks, with heart breaking stories of refugees fleeing war and persecution and making such dangerous journeys to keep their families safe.

But, as we told those at our Christingle service, it was into this world that Jesus was born, into a dark and dangerous world, that God sent his own son to be a light in the darkness. For it is when it is dark that we most need a light. Jesus came as the light of the world but he also shares that light with each and everyone of us. We can all bring that light into dark places, we can all share love with others, we can all make our world, God's world, a brighter place. And then we really will be ready for Christmas.

I pray that the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ-child  
would be yours this Christmas time and always. Amen.

Rev Tracey James



“Be a Star”

# Tree-cycling

Leave the hassle  
of recycling your  
Christmas tree  
to us!

Your support will make  
a real difference to  
your local hospices

Collection  
dates:  
12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>  
January 2023



Register your collection  
TODAY at

[www.charityxmastreecollection.com](http://www.charityxmastreecollection.com)

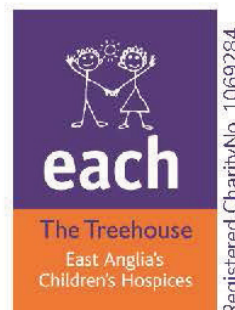
Get in touch on: 01473 723600



**Registration closes: 8th January 2023**  
(May close early if capacity is reached)

Register, donate, leave your tree for  
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# Danes teaching at DHS



This autumn the teachers and students at Debenham High School have had the pleasure of hosting two Danish teacher trainees. Miss Hammershøj and Miss Høy have been a welcome addition to the English department, working alongside experienced teachers in school. Staff and students alike have been impressed by both their enthusiasm and commitment not to say their ability to teach in their second language!



Liv and Emma write, we have been at the school for seven weeks as part of our Bachelor's in Education in Denmark. In the beginning we did some observations in different classes and later, we went on to teach in English. It has been an experience we will never forget, and we are very grateful to have been given the opportunity to get to know the wonderful students at the school.

It's been interesting getting to know the English education system, as it differs from the Danish one quite a bit; in Denmark, we don't divide the students into ability sets, every class is mixed ability. We find that dividing the pupils into sets makes it easier to help the students at their level, and to make sure that you can challenge them when they need it.

Teaching at Debenham High has shown us what being passionate about your job means. All the teachers at the school show an interest in their pupils, and it is obvious to us that they all care about educating the students, not only by making them smarter, but also teaching them how to be kind and respectful towards others.

Thank you for having us, it has been a pleasure being at the school, and we are sad to go home.

Liv Høy and Emma Hammershøj



# The Big Hoot Result

After an exciting summer walking the Ipswich Hoot trail and finding Gracie displayed in a shop front, we added up all our fundraising which totalled £1,285.00 for St Elizabeth Hospice!

We were so thankful to all that donated during our fundraising activities which included the AD&T Ambassadors selling roses for Valentines day, selling cakes and biscuits made at school, and a non-

school uniform day. We of course also created our very own Debenham Little Hoot trail in Debenham, where every Year 7 & 8 students made a clay owl to display in local shops and businesses. This incredible endeavour, the brainchild of Miss Stratford, won us a Big Hoot award for the most exciting fundraising initiative!



We were very excited to invite Brandon from the Big Hoot into school this November to present St Elizabeth Hospice with their cheque and to

receive our prize for our Mini hoot trail. We are very excited to have an owl camera box which we will soon be installing at the school with a view to live streaming footage when we get a resident owl! We are sure a family will want to move in very quickly.

Thanks to each and every student of the school as we all got involved in creating Gracie, making designs on feathers and fundraising for the Big Hoot.





# UK Bebras Computing Challenge



**UK BEBRAS 2022**  
Computational Thinking Challenge  
**7<sup>TH</sup> - 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

the world excited about computing. Each participant had to answer questions that focus on computational and logical thinking. The goal of the challenge was to solve as many problems as they could in 40 minutes. There were three levels of difficulty and the students received either 6, 9, or 12 points for each correct answer.

Well done also to the following Y10 Computer Science students who achieved 'Distinction' in the 'Seniors' category:

Riley Harnor, Lottie Evans, Oliver Green, Evan Lockwood, Theo Darrington, Harry Fryatt, Finley Prime, Evan Austin and Niles Moore.

Congratulations to the following forms who achieved the highest average in their year group.  
7A, 8N and 9O

A massive congratulations to the following students who achieved a 'Gold Award' by having a score that put them in the top 10% in their age group in UK Bebras:

Taiten Scanlan-Baker

James Palmer – also achieved the 'Best in School' result

Eleanor Ford

Joseph Scurrall

Delilah Houghton

Samuel Hamilton

Isabelle Willings

Jude Knowland

Rose Williams

Isabelle Linney

Charlie Dibbs

Will Riley

Tamzin Steel – also achieved the 'Best in school' result

Elsie Pyett

Sofia Ciuksyte

Isaac Jarrold

During the week beginning 14th November, Key Stage 3 Computing and Year 10 Computer Science students participated in the annual UK Bebras Computing Challenge.

The Bebras Computing Challenge aim was to introduce computational thinking to students. It was organised in over 50 countries and designed to get students all over



The above students received an invitation to join in the Oxford University Computing Challenge which will take place in January 2023.



# UK Bebras Computing Challenge

Well done to everyone who participated in this year's challenge. Congratulations to the following students who achieved 'Distinction' in each year group:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
James Palmer Eleanor Ford Joseph Scurrall Taiten Scanlan-Baker Evie Dyer Poppy Ryan Joseph Besley Henry Hawes Phoebe Ramsey Wrenn Harnor Rocco Matta Amber Minchin Dayah Brunero Jasper Childs Xavi Parker Andre Devlin Myles Sharpe Dexter Sims Elba Webster Max Collett Toby Moss Keeley Utteridge Florence Allen Laura McLeish Isabel Brown Jessica Vernau Emilia Fairbrother Federico Goduti Leila King Monty Palmer Joseph Austin Lola Dod Eryn Clarke Charlotte Mottram	Samuel Hamilton Isabelle Willings Jude Knowland Delilah Houghton Keith Allmey Emily Daynes Carmen Sumpton Malachi Mangan Summer Harvey George Hart Lucy West William Berkley Daniel Moody Alex Chattell Maicy Lummis Regan Rolfe Ross Folkard Beth McCormack Beth Stone Lila Sharp Max Smith Edward Williams Felicity Farthing William Taylor Jaymee Painter	Tamzin Steel Charlie Dibbs Elsie Pyett Rose Williams Sofia Ciuksyte Isaac Jarrold Will Riley Isabelle Linney George Hawes Conrad Gilfedder Poppy Coward-Williams Luca Kading Jed Taylor Albion Denton-Cardew Finn Jarrold Phoebe Knights Lottie James Jessica Oakley Finneas Dod Ella Townsend Casey Carpenter Lucy Bewley Evlyn Bosworth Tomos Harries Joseph Hayes Ella Mitson Charlie Eastwood Abigail Cooke Bryn Thomas Molly Dorsett George Farthing Lucy Kirk Mia Flatman Kathrine Coleman Max Uttley Leo Cox Monique Fryatt Jasper Sage

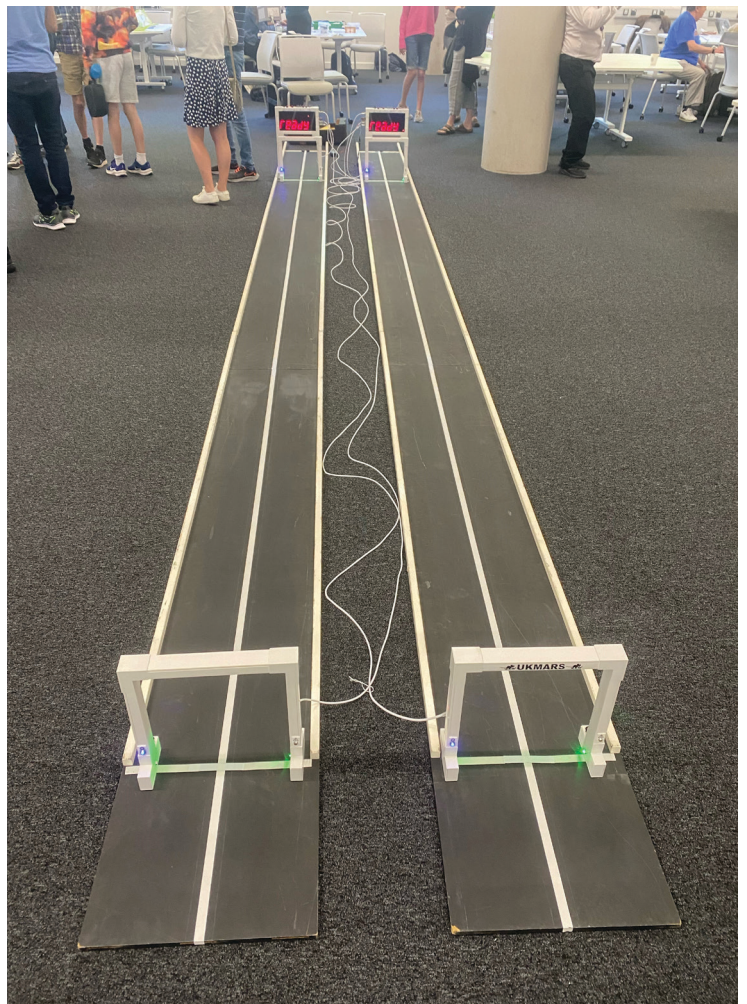


# National UKMars Robotics --



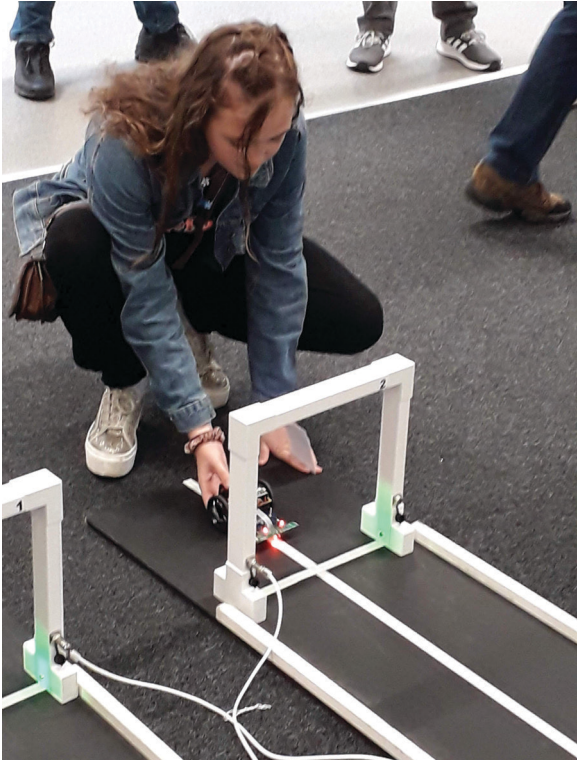
Year 8 students have been attending robotics buggy club each week in the DT department since the autumn term. During this time they have assembled and programmed their own robotic buggies using Raspberry Pi Pico chips. They have been working towards becoming the fastest Drag racer, line follower or Maze solving buggies.

Once they had built the buggies they had to write their own code to ensure it performed the selected tasks and met the guidance for the competition. For instance all buggies have to start the race automatically and compete unaided and stop within the designated area at the end of the run. This has to be attempted in the fastest time possible but the faster the buggy moves the more unstable it can become on the track. Following weeks of developing and testing their coding programming we had 2 students who had produced competition ready buggies.





# -- Year 8 Summer Competition



Evlyn Bosworth and Alex Beale both attended the UKMars robotics summer competition which was held at Birmingham City University. They competed against other juniors from across the country in a range of disciplines. The day involved them having to practice on new tracks, develop and adjust coding for their robots and compete in competitions.



We are pleased to say that Alex won the fastest line following Robot for both the long track and short track. Evlyn came first in the fastest Drag racing robot with Alex coming in second place.

These are superb results as it has taken a lot of hard work and programming skills to be able to produce a robotic buggy that can not only successfully complete the tasks let alone be competitive and win the events.



A huge thank you to Mr Clapson and Mr Fisher who have supported the students both in person and virtually and attended the competition with them on the day. This has been a very rewarding and valuable experience for all involved.

Huge well done to Evlyn and Alex.

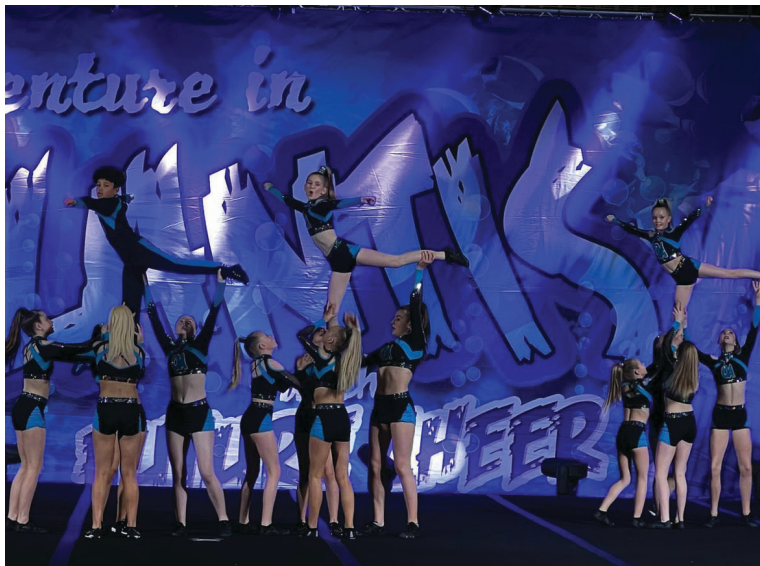


# Gethin Gets the Lowdown on.....

## Suki Helyard - Cheerleading

For a long period of her life, Suki partook in gymnastics as a hobby that she was deeply interested in. However a few years ago, through the exposure to Netflix TV series and loss of interest in gymnastics, she has transferred her experience from gymnastics to train and compete at the top level of cheerleading.

After being forced to change teams due to lack of participation within the sport, Suki has quickly adapted to a new environment and trains regularly 3-4 times a week in Chelmsford with the majority of the sessions being 2 hours of high intensity exercise. This can present many issues with time management and strain on her physical health, however due to her experience with being in the sport for a long time, she can adapt and work around these challenges to minimize the time she has out of training.



Cheerleading is also known for being a very risky and dangerous sport, Suki's communication and trust skills within her team must be near perfect otherwise it may result in an injury as her role within the team often entails launching her teammates up in the air, and then catching them. This is a trait Suki is constantly making stronger as she did admit that she drops her teammates on the odd occasion.

With a relatively short Cheer season of Feb- July, Suki's time is always full with competition dates where her team's routine technique and difficulty is meticulously scored out of 100. She competed her last tournament in July and will soon compete in the World Championships in Florida next April which is a hugely important date in the Cheerleading calendar that she is extremely excited for. She wishes to attend American college to increase her ability within Cheer and one day hopes to compete at the highest elite level within the sport.

**Oblivion Allstars Stealth 22/23**  
**U17 International Level 2**

*Meet The Team!*

**Name:** Suki  
**Age:** 13  
**Years cheering:** 6  
**Fun Fact:** I did gymnastics for 9 years!

**STEALTH**



# Stowmarket Christmas Tree Festival

The Art, Design and Technology department has been busy creating decorations for our tree at the Stowmarket Christmas Tree Festival, taking place between 25th November to 31st December 2022.

This year's theme is the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas' for which we made decorations from salt dough, felt, wool, acrylic, buttons and card showcasing the creativity of our students.



The tree can be seen in Stowmarket Library until the New Year.

Many thanks to the AD&T Abassadors for all of their help.



## Green Team Tub2Pub

The Green Team are collecting confectionery, cracker and biscuit tubs again this year for Greene King's Tub2Pub charity fundraising campaign.

Money raised from the recycling of the plastic tubs goes to Macmillan Cancer Support. Please save any tubs accumulated over Christmas and bring them in to school in the New Year.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

The Green Team





# Mathematicians of the First Half Term

Each half term the Maths department award a Mathematician of the Half Term for each Maths class. The winner is chosen based on their drive to improve their mathematical skill and the resilience shown when they encounter difficulty. Congratulations to the following students who were our Mathematicians for the first half term:

<b>Year 11</b>	Heather Whitehead Jack Turner Max Deeley Alice Scoresby Abby Knights Rhys Neesam	<b>Year 9</b>	Poppy Coward-Williams Seth Wnukoski Ben Dreher George Farthing Joseph Hayes Danny Bissett
<b>Year 10</b>	Sofia Hrushanska Evan Lockwood Amelie Knowland Faith Pearce Milly Coleman Joseph Webb	<b>Year 8</b>	Thomas Leggett Maicy Lummis Ethan Morgan Maddison Mayhew Imogen McCartney Monty Keeble
<b>Year 7</b>	Phoebe Ramsey Eryn Clarke George Margetson Ella Kading Ruby-May Reynolds Oliver Phillipson Freeman		

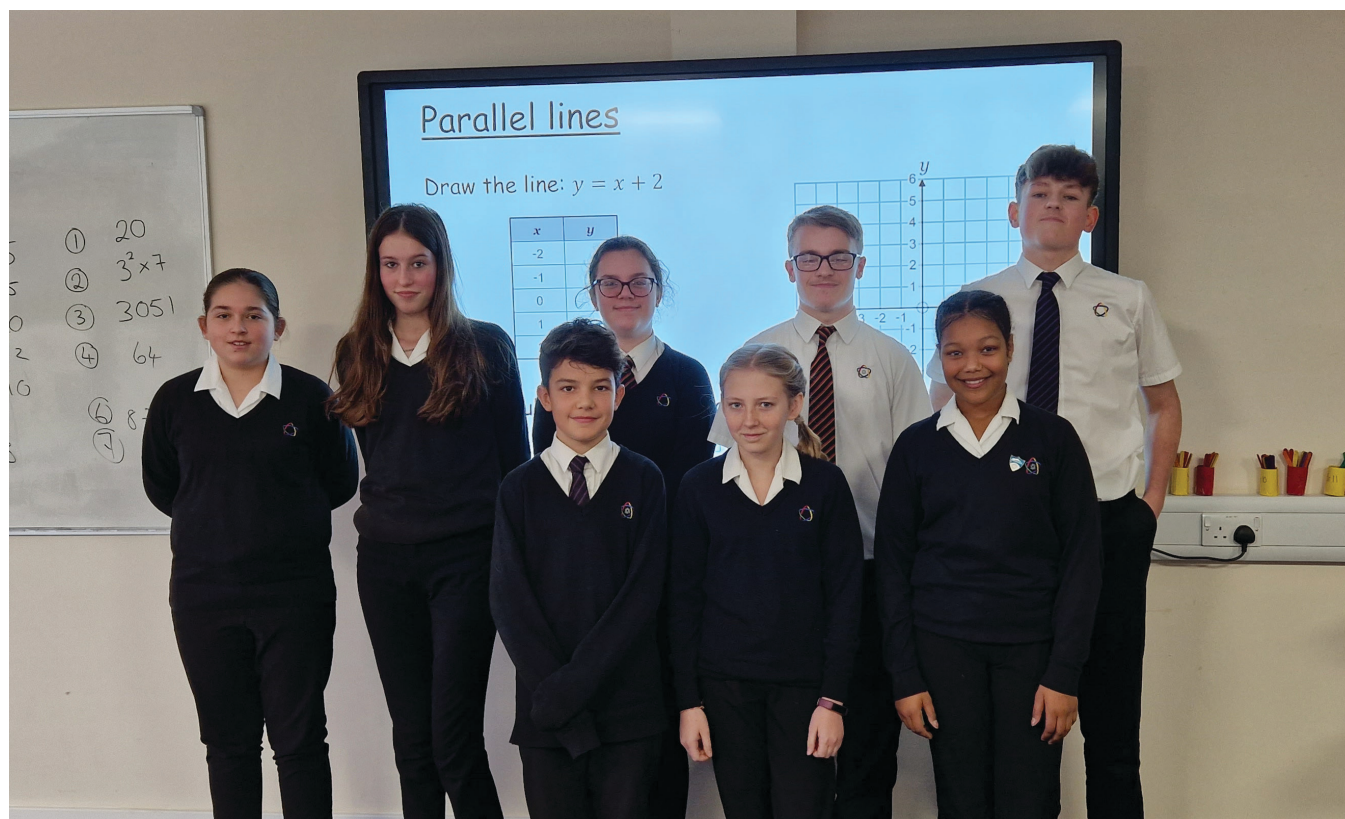




# Mathematicians of the Second Half Term

Congratulations to the following students who were our Mathematicians for the second half of this term:

<b>Year 11</b>	Toby Townsend Louis McCullough Joe Osbourne Tristan Sharpe Paul Moody Dollie Light	<b>Year 9</b>	Isabelle Linney Imogen Foreman Phoebe Knights Sienna Crane Katherine Coleman Sophie Moody
<b>Year 10</b>	Riley Harnor Cadence Davey Herbie Taplin Katie Sparrow Sunday Moffatt Bobby Bultitude	<b>Year 8</b>	Ashley Lloyd Isabel Spofforth Amber Otieno Lily Wilden Millie Abbott Fraser Noble
<b>Year 7</b>	Joseph Besley Theo Wilkins Harvey Stretch Keeley Utteridge Mollie Huntingford Courtney Thacker		





# Year 8 & 9 Charity Week

For this year's Charity Week, Years 8 and 9 came together to support Help for Heroes's, The Poppy Appeal and Children in Need. We chose these charities as Charity week fell on Remembrance Day this year and thought it was significant to mark the occasion. The year leaders joined forces to create fun fundraisers for the week to get all the years involved. We made sure that there was a chance for everyone to donate and take part.

On Tuesday, we held a tombola where there were opportunities to win a range of prizes that were donated by the student body. All the prizes could be donated to a charity or kept. Wednesday saw an intense staring and arm-wrestling competition with Mr Finegan stepping up to the role as the main opposition. The most exciting event was held on Thursday where Year 9 held a bake sale. It sold out very quickly! You were very lucky if you managed to get a slice of cake. We would like to encourage all students and family members at home to get behind baking for these



incredibly popular bake sales whenever possible.

Friday saw the student vs teacher table tennis match to see who came out on top. It ended in a 3-3 draw with some fabulous performances from both teachers and students. Thank you to those who took part.

Finally, on the following Friday, we had a non-school uniform day where we wore yellow or spots to support Children in Need. We even had a few people dressed up in Pudsey costumes!

Our charity week was very successful as we managed to raise **£746.21** for the charities.



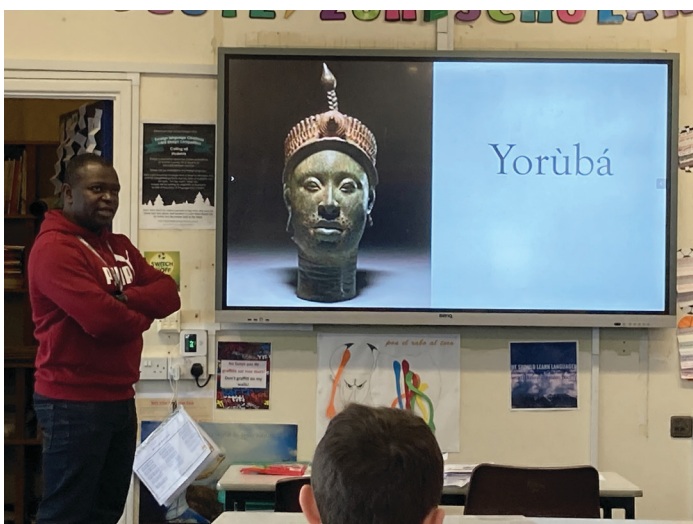
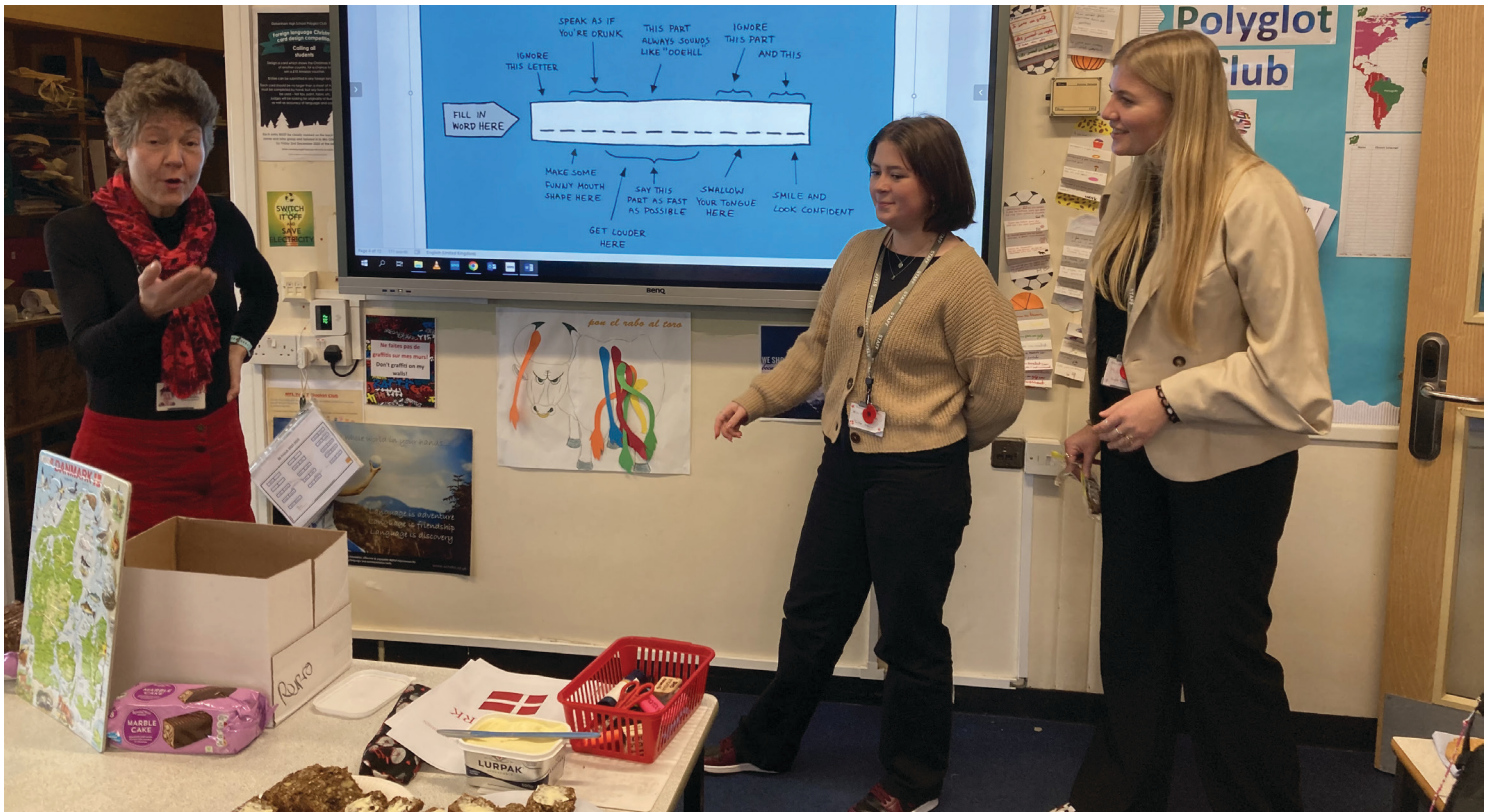
# Polyglot Club

Polyglot Club has continued to flourish this half term. We've particularly enjoyed learning about languages spoken by members of our school community, including Tagalog with Mr Geronimo, Danish with Mrs Godson and Yoruba with Mr Olusegun.

Thanks also to Marcus, Jacob, Ross and Sam for teaching us some Turkish and Portuguese. We will end the term with a special visit from Caga Tío, the bizarre Catalan present-pooing log!

Our Polyglot Passports are filling up nicely and many students are well on their way to receiving their Polyglot Club badge of honour next term when, amongst other things, we will be learning some Shona, Hungarian, Italian and Albanian.

We meet every Friday at 1.25 in room 16. New members always welcome!





# DHS Horse Riding Team

The team have really done us proud representing Debenham high school. Both the children and their ponies all looked really smart. We left home at 5.00am and we all met at Keysoe International Bedfordshire by 7.00am. Being the first team to ride which is always a disadvantage but never the less they all rode well finishing 29th as a team . Mia Flatman came 20th and Thomas Leggett came 23rd against over 200 other school riders. On the Saturday, Thomas competed in the 90's individually and finished 31st , this was against over 160 other riders , so this was a great achievement .



Attendance at the National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) event yesterday saw Thomas Leggett in 8A take his horse Grande Dame Sunshine (Nancy) into the 90/95cm class as an individual as unfortunately the team had to withdraw due to illness. However, Thomas went in and jumped incredibly and won the class! They are now the Suffolk County Champions for 2022/23, which is a huge achievement given he is so young still, and have qualified to represent Debenham High School and Suffolk at the National County Championship at Hickstead in May 2023! They also finished a long way ahead of the Norfolk and Cambridgeshire County Champions with their win in what was a large class!

They have had an incredible year this year having only been a partnership for about 7 months. They enjoyed competing in October for the school in the National Championship at Keysoe, having won their qualifying class for that too. We have a great NSEA team shaping up, very competitive. Always lovely to welcome new riders too, please email the school in the first instance if you are interested in joining us.



# Trip to BT Adastral Park

Our year 11 Computer Science students attended the 'ChriSTEMas Event' at BT Adastral Park on the 7th of December. They had the opportunity to participate in two lectures. They were also introduced to the different technologies which BT are currently working on.

There was a buzz of excitement as we joined several schools from the county and beyond to experience the latest innovation showcases that are transforming the way we live, work and play.

The day started with a lecture on 'Promoting Global Change through Technology'. The talk explored how future technologies might empower people to improve their lives, bringing about global change, one person at a time.



After the first lecture, we were able to visit the different showcases. Our students had the chance to learn about the various technologies that BT are developing, from the Internet of Things (IoT) to drones. They had the opportunity to have hands-on experience with these new technologies.

Students also had the chance to chat with some of the companies who are involved in developing these new technologies.

The second lecture was more interactive and our students particularly enjoyed the encryption challenge. They learnt about some of the different ciphers for GCSE and this enabled them to increase their understanding as to how other methods impact password strength and decryption time.





# MFL Christmas Card Competition

DHS cultural explorers have researched other lands and enriched us with their festive findings! 39 students submitted 42 Christmas cards representing the languages of 28 different nations.

The brief; design a hand made Christmas card showing the Christmas traditions of another country. Choosing winners amongst such a diverse range of countries, such as Hungary, Sweden, Italy and Iceland, was very difficult.

First prize goes to Jed Taylor for two cards. One features the brightly coloured festive stars on poles carried by Ukranian carol singers. The second shows a bleak side to this season in China where Christmas is not commonly celebrated. Instead, workers toil under terrible working conditions throughout this period making Christmas supplies for other countries. Joint second prize goes to Helena Pascalides and Imogen Foreman. Helena's card illustrates Wigilia, the traditional Polish Christmas Eve vigil supper whilst Imogen's German card features 'Krampus', St Nikolaus' terrifying aide. Joint third prize goes to Amber Minchin for her cheerful Bulgarian entry and Izzy Minchin for her jolly Mexican mariachi snowman.

The prize for the tutor group with the most competition entrants goes to 80

¡Feliz Navidad! Joyeux Noël! Frohe Weihnachten! Buon Natale!





# Music Making in the Local Community

Our Musicians have been spreading Christmas cheer in the local community.

One of the aims of the Music Faculty this year is to be more involved in the local community both as a blessing to others but also as a chance to perform as a group.

Under the leadership of Jean Downes, one of our peripatetic music teachers, students have made a very positive start. During the Debenham Christmas Fair on 2nd December, a group of wind musicians played a selection of carols and Christmas songs on the steps of Forrester's Hall.



On 7th December a larger group played at the Debenham Project Christmas lunch held at Coopersfield Retirement Complex, where they were very well received with the diners being impressed by the quality of their group pieces and the confidence our students playing solos. What a great way to start Christmas!





# Year 10 Young Enterprise



This term our Young Enterprise company team have been working hard to further develop our business, Koazy. Our current focus is on production and sales. After creating the idea for a company with both a beneficial product and profitability in mind, it was decided we would produce a variety of blanket-based items, including family throws and dog blanket bundles. This choice was inspired by the cost-of-living crisis that many households in the UK are currently facing. As the number of people who can freely heat their homes is decreasing, making a product with a functional purpose was at the forefront of our decision. As well as this, our products are ideal for gifting, particularly at Christmas.

We are currently meeting weekly, on Mondays, after school to review our progress and plans. Fortunately, our meetings are now attended by our business adviser, Mr Pepper, who has offered invaluable advice.

At the beginning of this term, we had a team of people making calls to fabric suppliers and negotiating prices. After the fabric arrived, we held many production days on weekends where all members of the team contributed. Alongside this, we had teams working on marketing projects, such as logo design and creating a website.





# Year 10 Young Enterprise

With an eye on keeping our company as sustainable as possible, we have chosen to use any excess fabric and offcuts to make other products, such as scrunchies, in order to reduce waste. Furthermore, our packaging is minimal and can be recycled, allowing us to market our products at more affordable prices.

In the last month, we have attended several sales events, including those held in Gislingham Primary School, Framlingham Christmas Market and Debenham late night shopping. We will also be selling our products at the school's production of High School Musical. These events have provided us with outstanding opportunities to learn practical skills and identify which items sell best.



At the start of the New Year, we aim to look back at what we have achieved and evaluate our current business model. We will look to eliminate any issues we have found to enhance the company's efficiency and profitability. Understanding how companies work and how to be an active and useful member of one has been fundamental in our learning. We can now recognise how important organisation is in all aspects of running a business. For example, knowing stock quantities and forecasting sales for upcoming events. As well as this, it has been vital for individuals to take ownership of their roles to ensure maximum productivity.

Whilst it has been challenging at times, it has been equally rewarding and the Koazy team would like to thank everyone who has supported our business so far.



For more updates and future sales events follow

@koazy.y.E on Instagram.

Written by Emily Hall,  
Company Secretary (Year 10)



# Advent Window



The Year 8 ADT Ambassadors have been extremely busy designing and creating an advent window for the library as part of Debenham's living advent window trail.

Using the village as their inspiration they have been using a combination of hand skills, computer aided design and computer aided manufacture to get their creations completed in time for the reveal date which was the 5th December.

Our windows will be illuminated every evening until the 24th of December between 6pm and 9pm.

Maps of all the windows on the trail are available to print via Debenham high street Facebook page and from the Ruby and the Angel webshop



## 9A Homework Project

The wonderful 9A has been busy producing superb homework projects about their pet's daily routines. If these pets haven't already been spotted in the surrounding community, here are a few screen shots to give these gorgeous pets their moment of fame.

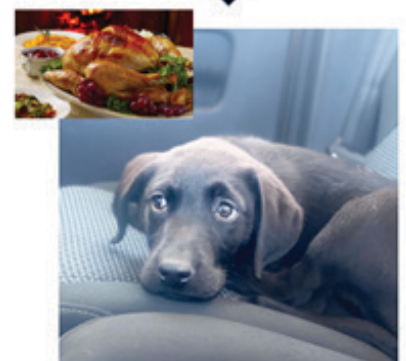


owner - Ava Emmerson-Shaw



J'aide mon pere au travail  
puis je vais dejeuner

Je retourne ensuite dans la  
voiture et je rentre chez moi  
pour le diner



"Woody" owner - Erin Davis



# Learning Resource Centre

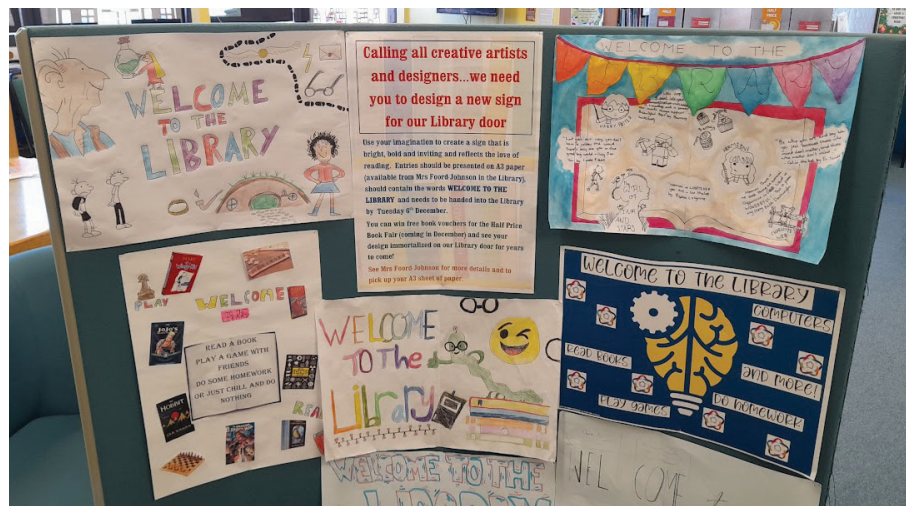


After a three year absence our half price Christmas Book Fair returned to school in December. Open at lunchtimes in the Library, the Fair featured a variety of books, half off their marked prices, providing students with an excellent opportunity to purchase gifts for friends, family and of course themselves in time for Christmas.

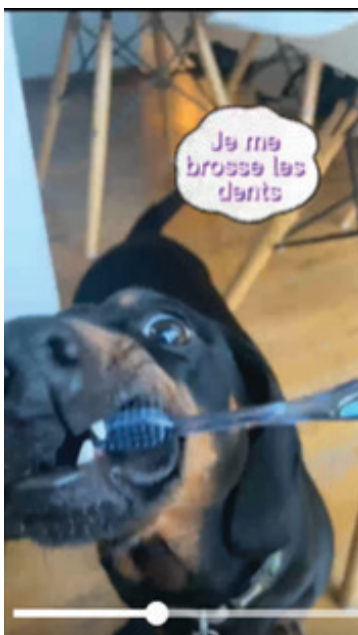
In celebration of the return of the Book Fair, students were given the opportunity to win free book vouchers for the Fair.

To win the vouchers we asked students to design a new sign for our Library door using their imaginations to create something that is bright, bold and inviting and reflects the love of reading. You can see above some of our wonderful entries in to the competition.

We will feature the winning entry in next term's newsletter.



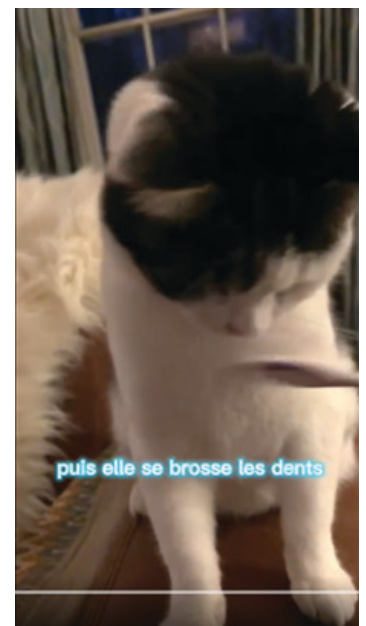
## 9A Homework Project



owner - Mia Salmon



"Ricky" owner - Imogen Foreman



"Ivy" owner - Sam Way



# Friends of DHS

The Friends of Debenham High School have been busy in the lead up to Christmas as we endeavour to reach our target of purchasing a brand new minibus for the school.

The Grand Christmas Raffle concluded last week with ticket sales totalling in excess of £2000!! We want to say a big "thank you" to all who supported this fundraiser. We had some fabulous prizes very generously donated from local companies and we will be announcing the lucky winners in the next edition of Aspire.

A festive fundraiser for the students saw them having fun sending candy canes with a note to their friends and teachers last week. Very heartwarming festive messages of thanks, gratitude and friendship were shared - and some students enjoyed the sweet treat for themselves!

(photo of candy canes).



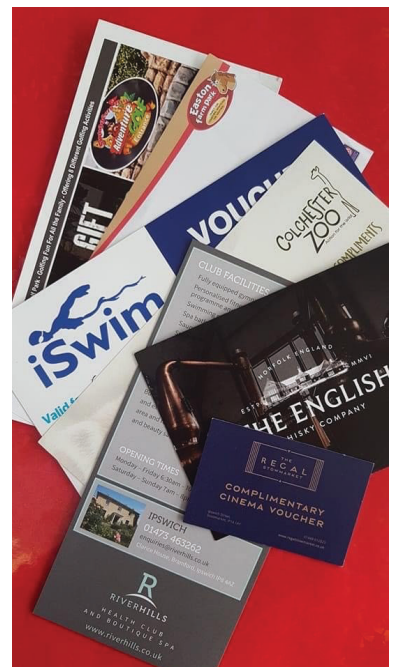
The school production of High School Musical was such a hit and our volunteers were on hand to provide refreshments to parents, siblings, students and staff. Thanks to your generous donations we continue to make positive progress towards reaching our target.



It is so important to us, now more than ever, to be a support for the school, the students, the parents and the wider community in which we live. In an effort to provide tangible support in these difficult times, we are revolutionising how we offer second hand uniform within the school. As many parents have been unable to attend our in-school second hand uniform sales, we have decided to set up an on-line shop which can be accessed at any time. The like-new uniform items are packaged individually, and prices start as little as £2! We are so excited about this new offer and will keep you updated as we transition to the new more accessible system. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us at [uniform@debenhamhigh.co.uk](mailto:uniform@debenhamhigh.co.uk), if we can be of any assistance.

We really do value your continued support as we inch ever closer towards making the dream of a new minibus into a reality for the students here at Debenham. If you would like to get involved, even on an ad hoc basis, we'd love to meet you at our next committee meeting.

Our AGM will be held on **Wednesday 25th January at 6.30pm**, in the school staff room, we hope to see you there!





# Sports Roundup .....

Welcome back to a busy second half of Autumn term here in PE, with Football, Netball, Hockey, Cross Country, Dodgeball and Rugby matches all happening this term with some really great results and performances as mentioned below!

## Year 7 Boys Football

Unfortunately, due to various factors, the Year 7 boys football club has been very disrupted this term, with only five sessions taking place. Despite this disruption, the club has been attended, with over twenty students having attended the club at some point. A large number of these students have then gone on to represent the school in cup fixtures or friendlies and the results from these are as follows:

### National Cup

Lost to Northgate 3-2

### County Cup

Lost on penalties to Stowmarket in Round 2

### County Futsal

Won group stage (scoring nearly goals in the process) and have made it through to county finals, which will be played in March.

### Friendlies

Beat Thomas Mills and Hartismere



## Year 7 and 8 Football

As part of the Omnibus Games, the Year 7 and Year 8 Football teams played separate 6 a-side matches against Stradbroke. Although not victorious, all had a positive experience and it was a great opportunity for students to represent the school in a competitive game.

## Year 10 Boys Football

The team have played some good football in their four matches this year but results haven't gone there way. They had very good victories against Thomas Mills (5-3) and Stowupland (4-3) but lost on penalties in their two other games. This saw them knocked out of the National Cup by Copleston and the County Cup by Benjamin Britten. This was harsh on the squad, as they had played some pleasing football in both games but particularly the game against Benjamin Britten.





# Sports Roundup .....

In the area futsal competition, held at Stowmarket High School, the team finished in fourth place.

## Year 11 Boys Football

After a friendly win against Hartismere, the team were involved in County Cup action. In Round 1 they beat a battling Alde Valley team 7-2 and more goals were delivered in Round 2 where they convincingly beat Hartismere 9-3. This sees them take on Stowupland in Round 3, with this game taking place in the New Year.

In the National Cup however it was more penalty heartache as they lost 3-2 to Thorpe St Andrew. Like the Year 10 team, this was an unlucky result and one that could have gone the other way.

## U15 Girls Futsal

With some of the U15 team playing in another school fixture, the remaining members of the squad represented the school in the area competition, which involved a game against Hartismere. With the majority of the team playing up a year, it was always going to be challenging. The team did though battle away and eventually came out victorious. A 2-0 sees them progress through to the County finals to be played next year.



## KS3 Basketball



Numbers have been good at the Wednesday lunchtime club and as a reward for this, a friendly fixture was organised against Thomas Mills. This gave students the chance to put their skills to the test in a competitive situation. Some good basketball was played by all and this saw Debenham return with the win.

## U13 and U15 Table Tennis

In the area tournament held at Hartismere, at the start of November, the school took over one team to take part in the U13 competition and three to take part in the U16. All of the players involved in the tournament were playing at least one year above their age so it was pleasing to see a number of close games played out. Although the team weren't victorious, they should be congratulated for positive way in which they engaged in the event.



## Year 7 Dodgeball



There have been good numbers at the lunchtime dodgeball club and it was lovely to see a number of students, who go to this club, represent the school in a friendly fixture against Stradbroke. In addition to the normal games, many different variations were played, with all games being played in good spirit.



# Sports Roundup

This was the first game the Year 7 squad had played and for a number of the squad it was their first game ever! Having spent the last 7 weeks training it was the chance to see how we performed against Thomas Mills. We started well scoring a quick try which was then converted. As the game progressed the newly formed pack started to win ruck ball and we made good ground with the backs using the centre channel and the wings in order to win a number of converted tries. All the team had an amazing game linking very well together achieving the win we deserved. We look forward to further games in the New Year. Well done to all the squad.



This term has seen a number of fixtures for the girls in Netball. We have had a mix of results but the girls have never given up trying. They have worked well as a team and played in a variety of positions.

The week before half term saw the U14 and U16's playing in their Area Tournaments. The U14's came 4th and the U16's came 2nd. Well done.

Results:

	Hartismere	Thomas Mills	Stradbroke
Year 10	Lost 10-35	Lost 11-21	Won 20-0
Year 9	Lost 0-11	Lost 10-13	Won 8-2
Year 8	Lost 2-18	Lost 19-5	Won 5-2
Year 7	Won 8-2	Won 17-2	



## Sports Leaders

Students from Year 10 helped lead primary and secondary aged students who took part in the recent Alternative Sports event held here at Debenham. Students showed great leadership and communication skills throughout the event and this helped the event to run smoothly. Debenham entered two teams in this event and performed well, with one team winning and the other coming runners-up.



## X-Country

After making it through a previous round, Max (right) and Aidan (left) ran in the next stage of the Suffolk County Schools Cross Country Championship. Both ran extremely well, with Aidan finishing 10th and Max 8th. This sees both of them through to the next stage, which is being held at Woodbridge School in the New Year. Well done boys!



Debenham High School



debenham\_high\_pe



# Sports Roundup



## Year 10 Southwold Rugby Tournament

Our Year 10 rugby squad were invited to the Southwold Tournament for their first games of the year.

We were placed in a difficult pool with the stronger teams in the tournament which would prove quite a challenge for us.

In the first game we played Alde Valley. We had not played them before but the decision was to play good basic rugby keeping the ball in tight play. The first half was very close with Alde Valley able to create openings and take the ball forward on several occasions. We were able to counter with good scrummaging releasing the ball to our backs who managed good use of a running line through the centres. This opened up the game and gave us our first win.

After the first game we spent time working on and developing our rucking as we were turned over several times in the first game wanted to make sure we could secure ball at the breakdown.

The second game saw us playing against Hartismere. It was again very close first half which saw the lead swapping on several occasions. In the second half our forwards set about securing as much ball as possible giving the backs the opportunity to run wide with the ball on both sides of the field which enabled us to quickly secure two tries in succession. These were then converted and we were able to move further ahead with two more tries taking us the final.

In the final we played against Thomas Mills who we had only played once in the previous season. This was an altogether different game with the forwards having to work hard both in the scrum and on the breakdown ball. It was a real contest but as the game progressed we were able to win more and more ball resulting in the backs once again using the wide channel in the second half to score two further tries running from the half way line. These were then converted in windy conditions.

A fantastic achievement from all the squad and game play organisation from Captain Noah Besley

A big thank you to those parents who were able to come and support us at Southwold.

## Southwold Rugby Tournament

On Wednesday 12th October we attended the Southwold Rugby Tournament with our mixed U14 and U13 squad.

We have been training since the start of term but this is the first time the squad had the opportunity to play a series of games and test their skills.

We were in pool A. The first game was against Thomas Mills and we immediately demonstrated our skill in both the backs and forwards eventually winning the game.

We had to work on our rucking before the second game against Hartismere to enable us to win more ball.

A quick try in the first few minutes against Hartismere paved the way for a very close game throughout, and with improved work at the ruck and the backs using all the field we won the game putting us into the final.

The final against Bungay was a very hard game and despite our best efforts we were unable to win this game. The squad played really well throughout the tournament and were a real credit.

