



ASPIRE

Celebrating success 2022-23 Easter Edition



Head First

In what is always the most condensed term in school it is pleasing to read and see how much has happened in the school over the last term. There have been a number of trips both residential and day visits. Our Year 9 students took part in a fantastic trip to Granada to immerse themselves both educationally and wider in the Spanish language and Year 11 students all visited Norwich to learn more about Christian and Jewish places of worship.

We held our biennial Diversity Week and whilst this is a fantastic way to highlight a large number of areas to celebrate and consider it is only a part of the role of the school in helping our students to understand and celebrate the differences and similarities in us all.

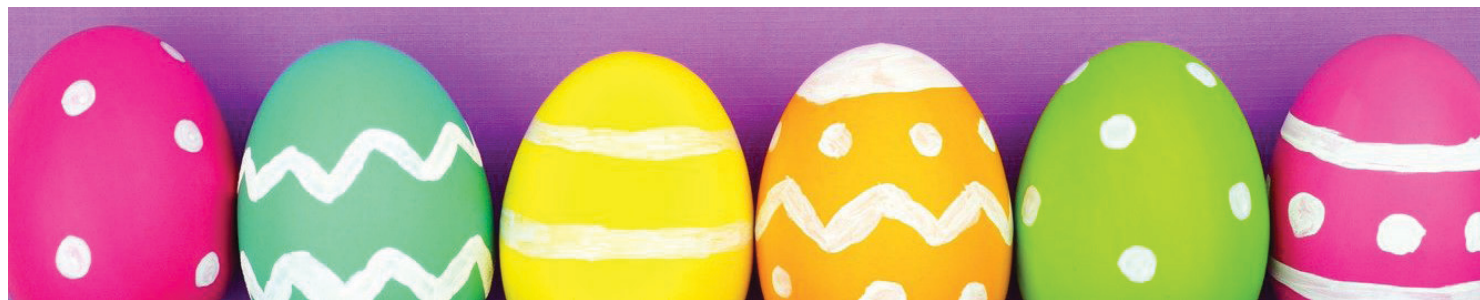
World Book Day was very well supported by both staff and students alike as well as the ubiquitous costume competition, over 40 students took part in a World Book Day quiz and attended a book swap during the day. There are some amazing costumes to see in this edition.

As always it is a pleasure to celebrate with our students their achievements both inside and out of school and we are blessed with so many students who have such a huge range of enthusiasms, talents and hobbies which they are keen to share, there are a number of notable individual and group achievements in this edition which I am sure you will enjoy reading.

With warmest Easter Wishes

Simon Martin

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8



National Careers Week

As part of National Careers Week, Year 10 had a talk from NHS Radiotherapy Physicist, Liam Stubbington on Friday 10th March. Liam spoke about his careers journey and the academic path that he had taken to lead him to working in radiotherapy physics at Addenbrooks Hospital. This included studying an MPhys, MSc and Phd at Exeter and Durham University and Kings College, London. Liam linked the physics behind his job to students' programmes of study at GCSE and it was great to see students being so academically curious. Year 10 asked some excellent questions on the theory behind treatment and the day to realities of working in nuclear medicine and the NHS.

Of particular interest was Liam's explanations of the machines that he uses as part of his job in radiotherapy at Addenbrooks. Seeing and hearing explanations and videos of the different machines used, how they work and how they diagnose and treat cancers was fascinating to listen to. We were very grateful for Liam giving up his time for the session and we hope to work with him again in the future.



Diversity Week Art Competition



What Shoe Shall I Wear Today?



DIVERSITY Poem

We are all different,
In every single way,
The way we look,
The way we think,
And the way we say.

Some of us are black,
Some of us are white,
We all range from different heights,
I might have brown hair,
You might have ginger,
We choose what we wear,
Because that makes us, us.

We should be able to live in places,
Where everyone is free;
We might be different in our faces,
But you are you, and I am me.

Diversity is what we wish,
To be looked on equally,
After all, we are human,
And what we want,
We should be.

By Ella Kading 7C

Year 7 students took part in an art and poetry competition as part of Diversity Week this year.

The theme was 'Walk a Mile in Someone's Shoes' and was based upon an assembly from Mrs Schmidt earlier in the year in which students learnt about the Empathy Museum's worldwide travelling exhibition which encourages participants to hear and understand the stories of others' life experiences.

Year 7 students produced varied shoe designs and artwork and poetry.

Congratulations to the winning students:

70: Excellent standard of form group entries in poetry and art

7N: Highest number of commended art entries

Isabelle Minchin 7A: Art competition winner

Ella Kading 7C: Poetry competition winner

Thought for Easter

When another person hurts us, it really can affect us deeply. Sometimes the hurt is very deep, such as when a spouse or a parent betrays our trust, or when we are victims of crime, or when we've been harshly bullied.

Anyone who has suffered a hurt like this knows that when our inner world is badly disrupted, it's difficult to concentrate on anything other than that pain.

Forgiveness is the greatest remedy to that turmoil. When life hits hard, nothing is as effective as forgiveness for healing those deep wounds. Both the hurt that's been done to us and the hurt we've dished out to others.

The Bible tell us.....

'Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.'

Ephesians 4:31-32

When God sent his son to earth to suffer at the hands of mankind, he did so to make a way for you and I to have a relationship with him, forgiving us of all the things we have done and will do wrong. He is the perfect example of what forgiveness looks like. This is what we remember and are thankful for at this Easter time.

Regardless of your faith or belief maybe take a moment this Easter to consider if there's anyone who needs your forgiveness, or is there someone you need to seek forgiveness from?

"Today I decided to forgive you, not because you apologised, or because you acknowledged the pain that you caused me, but because my soul deserves peace."

Tim and Tracey



Polyglot Club

Polish, Ukrainian, Italian, Shona, Lithuanian, Hungarian, Tagalog, Italian, Spanish, Swahili, Yoruba, Japanese, German, Danish, Africans, Russian, Arabic, French, Romanian.....

These are some of the languages spoken within our school community right here in rural Suffolk! Who knew we were so diverse? It's been wonderful in Polyglot Club, learning about all these languages and cultures. Many members have filled their club passports and have earned a highly prized Polyglot Club badge, as well as a presenter's certificate.

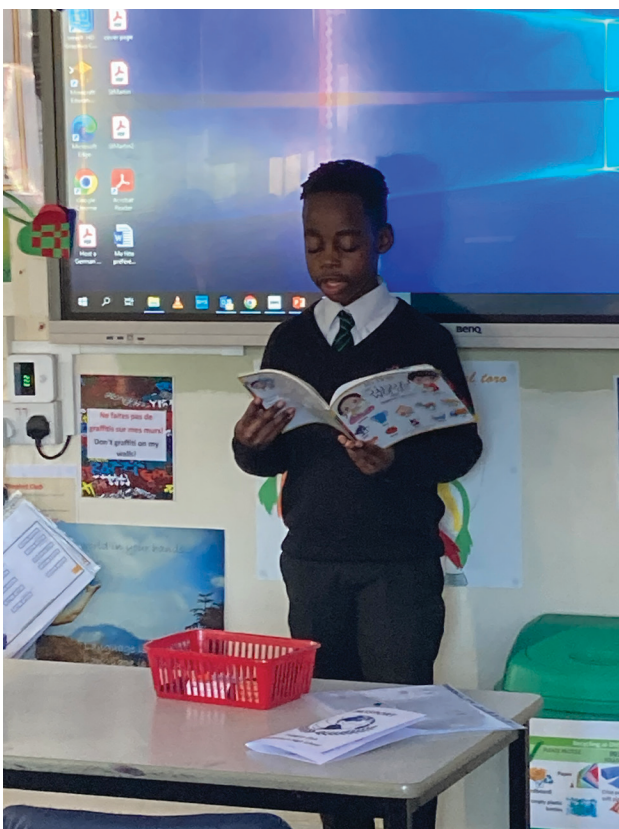
This term culminated in a visit to Debenham High School from the Polyglot, traveller, author and journalist, Alex Rawlings on Friday 24th



March. Alex was named Britain's Most Multilingual Student in 2012 after being tested for fluency in 11 languages and has since gone on to learn many more! Alex spoke to our years 7 and

8 and Polyglot Club about his exciting travels and the fun he's had with languages and language learning.

Polyglot Club meets every Friday lunchtime at 1.25 in room 16. We always welcome new members and love to expand our knowledge of different languages and cultures.



Diary of a Spanish Trip to Granada

Day 1 It was an early start from school at 3am! We put our suitcases on the coach and set off for Luton airport. We arrived at 5am and headed inside, it was so busy! Once we had checked our suitcases in, we had breakfast break before going to board our plane. It was a two-and-a-half-hour flight and the views of the mountains as we came into land in Malaga were amazing! We found our suitcases and got onto our minibus to take us to Granada. It was so weird driving on the wrong side of the road! The landscapes were so different, and it was exciting to see the different buildings and architecture. We met up with our host families and they walked us home. We had a late lunch and then met up with everyone else for our walking tour. We started by going up the paved stone roads. We learnt that they were narrow and windy, so it was harder for invaders to get up into the city quickly and unnoticed. We went up to a viewpoint with incredible views of the Alhambra across the river. We could see so far over the city; it was so interesting seeing the different shapes and styles of the buildings that are so different to home. We learnt about the history of the city, the names of the streets and statues and what they represented. After two and a half hours, we walked back to the centre of the city. It was so pretty at dusk with all the streetlights and then seeing the sun dip behind the buildings. We said goodbye to everyone and headed back to our host families for our first evening meal. It had been an exceptionally long day and we all slept well that night!



Ella Mitson



Day 2 I started my day with my morning walk to school with my friends, taking in the atmosphere around us, preparing ourselves for the day ahead. We arrived at the school and headed into the classroom, ready for our first Spanish lesson in Granada. Everyone started off by introducing ourselves to our new teacher. Everyone was given a sheet to fill out about ourselves in Spanish. It included things about our families, our interests, what we like and what we don't. It was a lovely icebreaker activity for us all. After we had finished, we passed our sheet to the person to the left of us and then we had to present that person to the class, all in Spanish! It was a wonderful way to broaden our knowledge of how to have a conversation with someone whilst in Spain. Overall, we all had a fun and positive lesson, and it was a fantastic way to start a busy day.

Afterwards, we headed back to our host families for lunch and were given some free time to explore the City of Granada for ourselves. After this, we hopped on a bus and headed up to Alhambra palace, built for the last Muslim rulers between 1238 and 1358.

We walked in and immediately I was in awe of the views surrounding us. Firstly, we went around the outdoor area, seeing incredible garden areas, fascinating buildings, and truly amazing, ancient architecture and listened to the interesting stories about how they got there. Before we headed inside, we climbed up some steep stairs, all the way to the top of a giant tower. The views were simply the epitome of beauty. You could see the whole of Granada from up there, including the wonderful Sierra Nevada Mountain range. We took a group photo to remember it all.

We visited both the Muslim and Christian areas and saw the similarities and differences between them. It was eye-opening to see how both groups used to worship there. I have never seen architecture quite like that before. The attention to detail in every single room was honestly like something you could only picture in your head. We got to visit the areas where they would worship, along with an outside area with the biggest pond I had ever seen. We went in so many different rooms, it became hard to keep track of them! However, every room had encapsulated me the same amount. Something that really intrigued me was the ceilings. They were so beautiful; all the patterns and designs were incredible. The patio area was so pretty; I had never seen anything like it. It had pillars and a marble floor and a sun-dial clock which was twelve different lion statues. One of the last places we visited inside was where the Sultan would be. This room was so captivating because when the Sultan had a visitor, they would walk in and because of where the Sultan would sit and the way the light would shine through the gaps, the visitor would only be able to see light shining in their eyes when they walked in, whilst the Sultan would be able to see them. It was extremely clever. We finished our tour with a look around the Generalife 'garden of paradise' which had some incredible sights and impressive garden areas. I am so glad I had the chance to experience the Alhambra, it was amazing. My favourite part was touring the inside areas and rooms. I learnt so much about the architecture and history of the building, especially the Sultans areas as they all had a story to go along with them. My friends and I finished the day with a delicious ice cream.

Molly Simpson

Diary of a Spanish Trip to Granada

Day 3 My third day in Spain and second day at Proyecto Español language school. During the mornings from 9:00-11:45 we had lessons at the school, a 5-minute walk from where me and my roommate were staying. We learnt bits and pieces of the language and expanded our Spanish vocabulary. After that we had a couple of hours to have a look around Granada and buy souvenirs from the shops before going back to our host family for lunch (in Spain they eat much later than they do in England). Afterwards, we all met outside Proyecto Español and walked about 25 minutes to the Parque de las Ciencias. This science park had many parts to look at such as AI (artificial intelligence), different illusions and space. They were all very cool. My personal favourite would have to be the AI, as you got to see some types of robots and look at how different technology worked.

To end with, we had about two hours to spare and wander around the city of Granada in groups and explore the different shops. We went back to our host families to eat dinner at 20:30. It was an interesting day learning about new things and tiring, but nevertheless it was a wonderful day. **Sophie McLennan**

Day 4 On the last full day in Granada we woke at 8.00 and had toast for breakfast before setting off for our last morning of school at Proyecto Español where we learned about daily routines. After school we had some free time to go to the shops and wander around but went back to our host families at 2 for lunch. After lunch we met up to do a treasure hunt. We were split into groups and had to complete a series of tasks in Spanish in some plazas and choose keys that could unlock the box to save Granada. We had to do a Cluedo puzzle, a quiz and many more tasks to pick keys for a better chance of winning. My group, 'Casey y las Chicas,' won! After that we had some more free time before returning and relaxing at our host families' houses. **Casey Carpenter**



Day 5 On the last day of our trip to Granada, we woke earlier so we could go home. Jake and I had tea and biscuits for breakfast and then walked off into the chilly morning with our host. We got on a coach to Malaga. There were lovely views and on the way we saw hills, forests, and more flat areas. Once we had reached the airport in Malaga, we went through security and ate. Few of us were given packed lunches that day so the school kindly gave us five euros each to eat. We almost made a mistake when getting on the plane but luckily Mr Geronimo noticed just in time. We swiftly made our way across the airport to the correct flight. We saw many magnificent views of the beautiful Spanish countryside on the plane and some people took a few too many pictures. Once back in Luton we had cheaper data again and took a coach home

for three hours or so. The views are not so good here in England if I am honest. I found the trip a wonderful experience and very enjoyable, the lessons were highly informative, and this has helped me with my Spanish speaking. We saw loads and experienced a lot of things that are hugely different to this country. My favourite part was the Alhambra palace as its full of history and you can see the whole city of Granada.

Albion Denton-Cardew

Year 11 RE Trip

On Thursday 9th March, our Year 11s went to Norwich to visit both Norwich Synagogue and the Anglican Cathedral. This is the first time we have been able to run the trip since the first Covid lockdown, so we were delighted to be able to bring students' classroom based learning to life by being inside the places of worship that have such an impact on not just their members' lives, but also the wider community.



We had some illuminating talks in both places of worship and students could ask questions of members of the faith communities to further understand what they believe, why they believe it and how their lives are influenced by their beliefs, but also the buildings themselves.



For many, it would have been the first time they had been in a synagogue especially, giving many an opportunity that they might not have had before and helped them to process their learning in a different way. We are very grateful to our hosts in both locations for their time and expertise that were given to us on the day.

Guest Speaker to MFL Department



We're so grateful to David Binns, owner of the UK branch of SANAKO, for taking the time to visit Debenham High School.

On both 13th December 2022 and 28th February 2023 he came to speak to KS3 students about the role of modern foreign languages in the workplace.

David spoke about his own educational journey and his route to a successful career, highlighting the importance of modern languages from an employers' perspective.

Students learnt that having a second language could significantly enhance their earning potential in whichever career path they choose to follow. David gave examples of many celebrities in different fields who speak other languages, and spoke of how this has boosted their careers and increased their earnings.

Here's what one year 9 student had to say about David's presentation:

"As someone who loves learning languages, I really enjoyed the talk we had. It demonstrated to everyone that having a second language skill is an amazing skill to have when applying for things like jobs or universities.

It even changed the minds of some of my friends who previously had thought that another language was not necessary.

They now believe that it's a great skill for someone to have, and not just for them but also for the people around them"



Celebrating Diversity at DHS

Between 6th and 10th February we held a Diversity Week at the high school. We aimed to raise awareness of the diversity in our school and local community so that as adults and young people we are better prepared for living in modern society. It was the chance to celebrate individuality and difference while also celebrating those things that are common to us as human beings.

It's as easy as A. B. C.

Using the acronym ABC, students and staff were encouraged to Accept all people; Be allies to those who are not always equally represented and finally Celebrate each other as individuals.

Promoting British Values

Our Upper School listened to an assembly by Manwar Ali, who works for the Home Office as an Intervention Partner to those who have been radicalised. As a former Jihadist, he could truly share why he finds the British Values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance; Individual Liberty such an inspiration. One of our Year 11 students said, "That assembly was the best we have ever had here!"

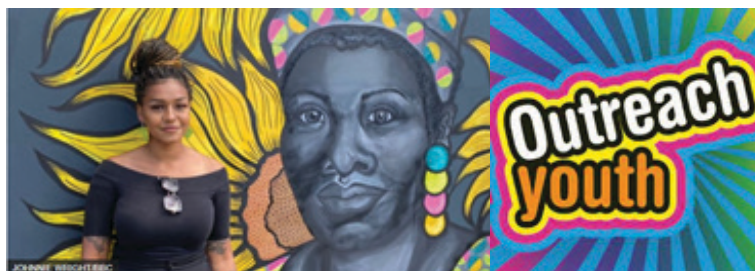
Along with talking autobiographically to the older students, he shared his belief in Islam with Year 9 during their Diversity Carousel. He could explain how his faith remains central to him but that he has changed some of the way he practices over time.



The importance of Representation and Understanding

As part of the Carousel, the students had two other workshops. A workshop from local artist, Lily Hammond who has Uwu Studio in Debenham – they were fascinated to hear her story as an artist, including the work she did on a mural at the Waterfront in Ipswich and through her colouring books celebrating black women and activists to ensure the representation of people of colour.

Also, Andy Fell and Isaih led a session on behalf of Outreach Youth exploring the work done with LGBTQ+ young people – they learnt about the changing terminology and ways to be better allies to those who were exploring their sexuality and gender identity.



JOHNNE WRIGHT/ABC
Artist Lily Hammond said Maya Angelou would "let young people of speech know that anything really is possible"

Years 7 and 8 – The Power of Positive Representation

Ellisha Soanes and Tonia Wilson, leading members of Aspire Black Suffolk, came with colleagues to lead sessions looking at stories about local people. Tonia led a session looking at the Windrush and the impact of this in Suffolk; Steph and Cole looked at stories of key individuals who have succeed locally that were not from white British origin, and finally, Ellisha considered the power of representation in the media, including the importance of the character Black Panther in the Marvel films. If you want to find out more about their work, this is their website <https://www.aspireblacksuffolk.org.uk/>

Celebrating Diversity at DHS

Year 9 Challenging Prejudice

A group of Year 9 student also set to work on their Dora Love prize work.

Dora Love was a survivor of the Holocaust who until her death in 2011 spent most of her life raising awareness of what made the Holocaust possible – intolerance, discrimination and outright hatred of people who are deemed as different.

Having had an initial visit to Colchester University, shown in the photographs below, our student representatives got to work. They have chosen to focus on the Roma and Sinti groups persecuted in the Holocaust and still the subject of much prejudice and discrimination today. Watch this space for news of how their project develops!



Year 8 learning to understanding other

Year 8 were able to be part of a Faith and Beliefs Carousel where representatives from the Christian Church; Judaism; Buddhism and Islam came to talk about their beliefs. It was a great chance to better understand the faith of our two Chaplains Rev Tracey James and Tim Warnock who co-led the session on Christianity!



Duke of Edinburgh

Expedition Season will soon be upon us, therefore training has started. A Saturday in January was spent in school writing route plans for all Bronze and Silver expeditions.



All groups worked hard and completed all routes in the day. A cold, but sunny Saturday in March saw the Bronze students in for their Campcraft and expedition training. They learnt about the Countryside Code, 20 conditions of the Expedition, considered what the Aim of their Expedition will be, looked at suitable clothing and equipment, and planned their menus. They then learnt how to use the stoves and pitch tents. They are now all ready for their upcoming expeditions.

Year 9 Trip to the British Film Institution

On Thursday 9th February a group of 16 year 9 students visited the British Film Institution in London for a cross curricular French and History event. After an early arrival to school at 6:45 the students began the journey on the minibuses and the tube. The students then arrived at 10:30 and began an interactive lecture by Muriel Huet on the film *Le voyage de Fanny*. The lecture consisted of learning new French vocabulary, watching film clips, and the contrast between 'la zone occupée' and 'la zone libre'.

After a short lunch break the students returned to the venue and watched the film. The film focuses on the courage of eight Jewish children who have embarked on the challenge of crossing the French border to Switzerland during WW2 to avoid deportation to a concentration camp. The children in *Le voyage de Fanny* are all vulnerable because of their background and their alleged membership in dangerous and radical racial, biological, or political groups. During the war over 1.5million Jewish children were killed at the hands of Nazi officials/ collaborators. During the start of the film the children stay in the home protecting Jewish children however, after being reported the children are forced to be rehoused with Madame Forman. During their stay in 'la zone libre' Mussolini (the Italian leader) is imprisoned meaning staying in France is no longer safe. This forces the children, led by Fanny, to make the dangerous journey to neutral Switzerland alone. The children face many challenges throughout their journey.

The film was based on a true story of Fanny Ben-Ami who was a 13-year-old girl who was forced to make the crossing to Switzerland with a group of young children. During the production of the film, she was allowed on set to meet the characters. People who were represented by Madame Forman in the film were all non-Jewish people who risked their lives to help save innocent refugees cross the border to escape occupied France. Today these people are known as 'the righteous among the nation' and memorials such as the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem celebrate these people although many were unable to be identified.



Overall, the film was moving, and the day was very helpful in developing the students' knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust.

Elsie Pyett, 9O

Young Carers



This term we welcomed Rachel and Sheree from Suffolk Family Carers along with their bus onto the school playground to raise awareness of the work they do to support young carers in our community. With the lure of free doughnuts the event seemed to go down very well!!

For more information visit:
www.suffolkfamilycarers.org



World Book Day



On Friday 10th March we held our (postponed) World Book Day celebrations within school. Students and staff were encouraged to raise money by paying a £1 contribution to come to school dressed as their favourite book character or in non-uniform. We raised £521, which will be split between purchases for the Library and Book Aid International, a charity that seeks to ensure all local communities have access to books and library resources.

Ten house points was awarded to each student that dressed up in a costume. The totals for each house were as follows:

Austen – 150 points
Curie – 70 points
Da Vinci – 60 points
Nelson – 180 points
Owens – 130 points

Prizes were also given for the best costumes. The Winner of the best costume was Sunday Moffat (10O). Sunday received a £25 Amazon Voucher and 50 house points. Dayah Brunero (7O) was second place and she receives a £15 Amazon Voucher and 40 house points. We had joint winners in third place, Henry Hawes (7N) and Noah Dorsett (7A), who both received a £10 Amazon Voucher and 30 house points.

We had some great costumes, from both students and staff as you can see from the photographs.



Book Mastermind

As many of you know, each year Debenham High School takes part in the Suffolk Schools Book Mastermind Competition. Book Mastermind is a county wide competition, open to all pupils in Years 7-9, whose aim is to encourage and promote reading across Suffolk. The competition starts in schools in the winter, with winners from each school coming together in the summer term to compete in the County Final.



We held our in-school heats here at Debenham High School in February. Competitors were invited to choose a book to read and remember. They were each given two minutes to answer 20 questions relating to their chosen book. Competitors scored 2 points for every correct answer and 1 point for a partly correct answer. The maximum amount of points a competitor can receive is 40 points.

Beth Stone (8O) and Ayla Hamflett (8O) came joint third in the competition, both scoring 33 points out of a possible 40. Beth answered questions on the book Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J K Rowling and Ayla answered questions on the book Twilight by Stephanie Meyer.

Florence Rosten (7D) came second in the competition. Florence answered questions on Five Have a Wonderful Time by Enid Blyton. See scored 34 points out of possible 40.

The winner of the Debenham High School Book Mastermind for 2023 is Fergus Willson (7O). Fergus answered questions on Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire by J K Rowling and scored an amazing 38 points out of a possible 40. Fergus will go on to represent Debenham High School in the County Final of the Book Mastermind Competition in May. Fergus has chosen to read The Last Bear by Hannah Gold in the Final. We wish him the very best of luck.



Mr Martin photobombing our winners picture

World Book Day - Book Swop

During Morning break on World Book Day, we had a Book Swap Party in the Library. Students were invited to come in to Library to swap a book from home that they no longer wanted. We had a wide range of books from which to exchange and students got to enjoy drinks and snacks while perusing the different books.



World Book Day - Team Quiz



At lunchtime during World Book Day, pupils were invited to take part in our 10th Annual World Book Day quiz. Students (in teams of three) were asked questions on popular books and authors.

The winning team was Team BDZ, consisting of Bethany Payne (10O), Darcey Green (10O) and Zoe Allmey (10C), each received a £10 Amazon Voucher and 20 House Points.

Two teams tied for second place, Team Watford, Arsenal, Chelsea, consisting of James Palmer (7N), Faraj Ogunbambi (7N) and Jack Brummitt (7N) and Team The Last Olympians, consisting of Marcus Linney (7O), Nicholas Linney (7N) and Isabelle Linney (9C). Each team member received a £5 Amazon and 10 House points.



Toby talks to

Evlyn Bosworth, Year 9

Evlyn is a competitive lifeguard that has trained since the age of ten in Ipswich after seeking out a new activity that challenged her and built life skills. She has had much success in the field of lifeguarding, representing the East of England under fifteens at the National Lifeguarding Championships. In order to qualify alongside her partner for this prestigious even, Evlyn first won the U15s Regional Doubles, a feat which she achieved with only seven weeks of preparation time.

The National Championships consisted: of a dry incident in which Evlyn and her partner



had ninety seconds to safely give first aid in a random scenario, a twelve metre rope throw, a twenty five metre swim and tow. Perhaps the most challenging and demand aspect of the contest is the wet incident, in which the lifeguards have to save up to seven people in challenging and unpredictable scenarios. Evlyn and her partner achieved podium placements on multiple rounds, placing sixth overall.



In order to prepare for her competitions Evlyn undergoes two to three hour specialist training sessions in addition to her one hour and 30 minute weekly training session. This training often consists of half in pool work and half theory lessons. As a strong swimmer, Evlyn prefers the in water training as opposed to the land based theory. The pool incidents Evlyn trains for vary

and pose many different challenges: unconsciousness, stubbornness, panic and more. As you compete with a partner, teamwork is vital with points awarded for impressive communication skills. Evlyn and her partner each have designated roles such as delivering CPR and putting people in the recovery position.



Looking to the future, Evlyn would like to pursue pool lifeguarding as a possible profession. Until then though, she has more competitions in November with Evlyn having her sights firmly set on the possibility of attending international lifesaving competitions. Evlyn is the most experience member on her squad and many aspects of lifesaving are second nature to her now; she is calm and collected under pressure, perseveres through stress and most importantly has confidence in her skills and abilities.

Year 8 AD&T Ambassadors

We have been delighted with the work the ambassadors have been completing in their after school master classes. Their painting, drawing and collage work has been incredible! We wish all of those entering the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition the best of luck. Well done to all that attended classes and showed high level skills and real commitment to their learning.



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Four talented DHS students were part of a 3 sell out performances of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang that were held at Otley Village Hall during in early March. Performed by Junior TOPs (The Otley Players) the all-singing, all-dancing, toot-sweeting show was truly amazing and even featured a 'flying' car.

Hannah Reynolds Year 11, played a perfect Truly Scrumptious with wonderful solos throughout. The Doll on the music box was particularly beautiful.



Evelyn Bosworth (year 9) played Boris the spy and together with friend Chloe proved a hilarious double act with fantastic comedy, some memorable disguises - one including flippers - and some great humour that made the audience laugh.

Felix Christian (9N) was an outstanding POSH Grandpa Potts, complete with pith helmet, plus fours and a genius flying shed. He captured the quirky, eccentricity of his character with plenty of puns, regimental wit and marvellous military moves.

Leo Cox (9N) played Baron Bomburst, the choochie-faced, toy-obsessed ruler of Vulgaria. His comedic cheek and clever choreographed slapstick, played out with his child-hating baroness, was hilarious and kept the audience laughing throughout.



But the star of the show was Chitty, a car with inflatable floats and retractable wings and flying gear that raised itself up and brought the house down.

The entire cast were children aged from 7 to 17, the show was packed full of inventions, innovative props, creative costumes and plenty of familiar tunes. Every scene was

filled with fun and laughter and a good time was had by all. It was fantastic show - just ask Miss Goodwin or Miss Downes.



Gethin Gets the Lowdown on

Aidan Wright, Year 9



Aidan has excelled in recent months with his passion for athletics, more specifically medium length running events such as the 300m sprint.

After taking up running 2 years ago due to his natural gift of speed, Aidan started training weekly with the Ipswich Harriers where his natural talent could be harnessed and strengthened. Even with this physically demanding training with the Harriers, Aidan also attends a weekly Park Run meaning his schedule is always packed with running but more importantly, doing what he loves.

The thrill for competition and racing has also seen Aidan performing extremely well at a wide range of competitive events. After amazingly coming 5th in the England Indoor Athletics Championship with a 300m time of 39.44s, Aidan then went on to beat that with 38.73s three weeks later at the East of England Championships (finishing 3rd)! This then moved his UK ranking to 4th, an outstanding achievement and amazing



testament to all of his hard work and dedication. Aidan is very excited for future English Schools and National Championship events that will give him more exposure to competition and allow him to demonstrate the incredible talent that he has.



Year 8 Art & Food Creative Day

On Thursday 2nd February Year 8 Food and Art students visited the Food Museum in Stowmarket. Many of the students were ADT Ambassadors. First on the itinerary was a visit to 'Pinky' and the printing press. The students got to see it in action, learn about how it works and its history.

Students then visited the Hedgerow exhibition to get inspired for creating a lino print design. They got to taste a selection of 'hedgerow' food and drink including nettle tea, rosehip syrup and apple cider butter.

Sketches from the exhibition were then developed into lino print designs which the students then carved and had the opportunity to print on the beautiful Columbia Lever Pull Press.



Friends of DHS & Year 11

At the start of March, The Friends of DHS and the Year 11 Prom Committee held a whole school quiz to fundraise for the minibus and also to cut down the cost of the Prom tickets. In planning the Prom, the Committee had been trying to make it as special as possible, quickly realising that the costs would stack up particularly high this year, due to the cost of living crisis. Above everything else, it was important to ensure everybody would have the equal opportunity to go to Prom at the end of the school year.

The event planning started all the way back in October. Emails were sent out to about 50 different local businesses in the hopes of securing some auction prizes, to run a silent auction as part of the fundraiser. We were lucky enough to receive around 12 different items, ranging from Wolsey Theatre Tickets, to RiverHills Spa day passes to Arcade Tavern vouchers, thanks to some very generous donations by Year 11 parents as well.

Next on our list was to get the whole year group involved in the event, by asking students to bring in an item (or a few) to make hampers for us to raffle off. We couldn't believe how many different items everyone brought it, from candles to snacks to many bottles of wine; we managed to make 10 hampers in the end! The evening of the fundraiser had a great atmosphere, with everyone enjoying the quiz and buying raffle tickets faster than we could keep up with; people were searching the school for new raffle books halfway through the night! Everything ran very smoothly with the help of some senior prefects who helped to set everything up and keep everything going on the night.



The Prom Committee are really grateful for all of the help they received in their planning aspect, especially to Mrs Norman for helping us solve any problem that came up in the months before the event, to Mrs Osborne and the "Friends" who provided a Bar on the evening and to Mr Cook and Mr Cobbold who kindly stayed to help out on the night. Overall we made over £1500, which (with some match funding that Barclays are generously donating to us) works out to roughly £15 off of everyone's ticket!

Abi Woodhouse, Year 11 Prom Committee

Musicians at Snape Maltings

On Thursday 9th March, students in the Orchestra went on an exciting trip to take part in the Snape Schools Celebration.

Every year the celebration team bring in an amazing new and upcoming composer, and this year was Charlotte Harding. The song, called "Me", was a beautiful message about the importance of being yourself, following your own path, and knowing your own power.

For our performance, we played a "Mamma Mia" Medley, as well as Lucy Kirk singing "The Name of the Game" with the orchestra accompanying her. All of our music is carefully arranged and conducted by Miss Downes.

Written by Abi Woodhouse, Year 11



Snape Maltings was an extraordinary experience. As it was my first time performing there I didn't know what the ordinary was but it exceeded my expectations.

It was incredibly organised and everyone there was kind and helpful. I took part in the survey on creative activities and I liked the fact they valued our opinions. The teachers there made it an amazing experience, and not just the ones from my school, also the ones from other schools were intrigued to find out what we were doing. Also, the singing workshop was fun and it ended the show so well and I'm sure it left a smile on everyone's face. I loved how it was so inclusive and we saw so many different age groups get together and have fun which I think Snape is all about. I would like to finish by saying a big thank you to all the team that made it possible and our own Miss Downes who does so much for us and makes learning an instrument feel exciting, fun, and less like a chore. Thank you for this incredible experience!

Written by Florence Rosten, Year 7

Drama Trip to "Wicked!"



In early January the GCSE Music and Drama students travelled somewhere over the rainbow (well, actually to the Apollo Victoria in London) to watch 'Wicked'. Having survived Mr Hardcastle and Mr Rinaldi's exceptional map reading skills on the Underground, we all arrived full of anticipation and excitement, even if we had a few hours to kill in Victoria Station!

of the Wicked Witch of the West', re-imagines the Land of Oz, creating a parallel universe to the familiar story written by L. Frank Baum and first published as 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz' in 1900.

The theatre was stunning, and we all settled into our seats and began to immerse ourselves in the wonderful world of Oz. We were all bowled over by the set, the story, the theatre and of course the singing on display. Had there not been a strictly enforced no singing rule on the minibuses back, 'Defying Gravity' would have been sung all the way back to Debenham.



Sports Roundup

Another hectic half term has seen sporting involvement and success in athletics, orienteering, hockey, football, badminton, dodgeball, netball and cricket. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in all of these sporting opportunities this term, and for representing the school with such dedication and excellence.

Indoor Athletics

Congratulations to the Year 8 boys, who travelled to Newmarket in late February to take their place in the county finals. They had won our partnership competition back in January to earn their place amongst the best 8 schools in the County. The squad were brilliant throughout, winning 3 of the individual and track races, coming second in 4 others, and also did really well in the field events. Overall, they were runners up, just missing out on top sport by 3 points overall.



Football



The Year 9 boys had a great run in the county cup this year, winning their earlier 3 round games by scoring 23 goals and conceding only 2. In the quarter finals, they had to face a strong St Joseph's side, with a couple of Ipswich academy players and Schools county players. The side battled hard, but eventually lost 3-0. They were also earlier in the term 3rd place overall in the county in the indoor futsal competition, held at Kesgrave.

The Year 11 Girls played a quarter final cup against KEGS from Bury, and battled away, but lost 3-1. All credit to the girls, especially Naomi in goal, and we would like to thank Alanna, Emmy, Kiera, Immy, Portia and Raquel for all their efforts over the past few years with the football matches played. If I missed anyone else out, thank you also to you!



The Year 9 girls lost to Sir John Leman on penalties 3-0, after a pulsating 3-3 draw in their County cup quarter final, and the Yr 10 Girls are due to play Chantry school this week in their quarter final. The U13 Girls took part in their indoor futsal tournament, finishing 3rd, and the U12 Girls will play in their County final, after defeating Stowupland and Horringer Court to get there. The Year 8 Boys came second in their area finals, drawing with winners Thomas Mills, beating Hartismere, Stowupland and losing to Stowmarket.

Year 7 Football - Having exited the County and National Cup in the early rounds, the Year 7 team hadn't had a game for a number of weeks. It was therefore really nice for them to go over to Thomas Mills to play a double header friendly, against the hosts and Alde Valley. In a closely fought game against Alde Valley, the team suffered a narrow 2-1 defeat but they bounced back strongly to defeat Mills 3-0.



Cross Country

As was reported in an earlier edition of Aspire, Max Uttley (Year 9) had been selected to represent Suffolk as part of their x-country team. On Saturday 18th March Max competed in the English Schools X-country championships, held in Nottingham. Here, he competed alongside runners from 45 other counties, in what is the biggest event in the schools x-country calendar. This no doubt would have been a great experience for Max and one that he will no doubt have learned a great deal from.



Sports Roundup

U15 Girls Indoor Cricket

Just before the half term holidays Debenham hosted the partnership, Indoor Cricket, Girls competition. After only a couple of lunchtime practices, the team put in two strong performances to beat Hartismere and Stradbroke. This saw them qualify for the play-off game against Framlingham College, with the winners of this progressing through to the County finals. Both of these games will take place before the Easter holidays.



U13 Girls Indoor Cricket

With even less practice time than the U15 team, the eight girls travelled to Thomas Mills for the U13 version of the Girls Indoor Cricket Competition. With very little cricket experience evident across the team, it was always going to be a challenge for them but they couldn't have represented the school in a more positive way. They played with smiles on their faces and reacted positively to feedback and advice given to them. This meant that they had a good experience and one that I am sure they enjoyed.



Gymnastics

Rishad Al-Amin had a standout competition at the English Gymnastics Championships, becoming the best in the country for the U14's on the parallel bars and also taking the bronze medal on rings. This really is a fantastic achievement for Rishad and one that he is no doubt very proud of.

Year 7 and 8 Futsal Club

It has been great to see around 25 students attend Futsal club on a Tuesday lunchtime. Students from Years 7 & 8 have interacted well and used the time to develop technical aspects of their game, in game situations. At the time of writing, the Year 7 team were preparing for the County finals, which are due to take place during the last week of term.

Year 10 Boys Football

On a cold Wednesday afternoon, at the start of March, the Year 10 team played Hartismere in an Omnibus Games fixture. Team Captain, Olly Leech, led from the front as his organised team played some good, confident football from the off. This saw them score six goals and record a comfortable 6-1 victory.

A week later, some of the players that were involved in the Hartismere match, travelled to Thomas Mills for a Futsal fixture. Although some good football was played, Mills came out on top in this fixture but the team played the game in the right spirit and there were some good individual moments.



Year 9/10 mixed Hockey

After a few postponements due to weather we finally got to play a mixed hockey match. The team worked well together, defended well and also looked to attack as a team. They were playing against strong opposition, but it was good to get a competitive game in.



Sports Roundup

Netball

We have had a mix of results for netball. Year 8 played Thomas Mills and lost 7-15 on a very cold but dry evening. They worked hard as a team. They also had a mixture of games against Hartismere on a very cold and snowy evening. They played a mix of year 7&8's and won 5-1, vs year 8's they won 8-4 and against the



year 7's they won 5-4. Well done girls you have worked hard all year.

The year 7's played Thomas Mills and won 9-6. They have come together well as a team and have worked hard over the year so far.

The final match of the year so far has been the year 9 and 10's against Thomas Mills. The 10's won 19-11 and the 9's lost 7-10. Both games were very close and hard fought. Well done to all who have played.



Year 7/8 mixed hockey

The year 7/8's had a mixed game of hockey against Thomas Mills. We played 10 aside without GK's. It was a very even game, some skilful players on both teams. It was end to end with the ball. The final result was a fair 3-3 draw. Well played everyone and we look forward to more games with these age groups.

Swimming

A year 7 boys team, 2 year 8/9 girls teams and a year 8/9 boys team went to Alde Valley for a swimming gala. 4 of the year 8/9 team also swam up to form a year 10/11 team. It was all team relays. They worked hard together and supported each other well in all relays. A special congratulations to the Year 7 boys team for coming 1st in the Medley relay. Well done to the girls and boys year 8/9 team for 2nd in the medley relay and the girls year 8/9 team for 2nd in the Freestyle relay. Well done all swimmers.

Rugby

The year 10 squad have had a wonderful season and have mostly been on the front foot throughout. They have beaten Thomas Mills in a very close game that went down to the last 10 minutes and played at the West Suffolk tournament winning 4 out of 5 games. They then won their pool cup at the Ipswich Festival winning against 4 other squads.

They then won against Hartismere in a hard game but showing great resilience were they were able to command the final quarter of the game. Thank you to Captain Noah Besley and the squad for their support throughout. We look forward to an equally good final season when they are in Year 11.



It had been difficult to organise any games for the Year 8 squad but we played at the Ipswich Festival in the snow!!! We won 4 out of 5 games which, for a squad with new players and little game time, is an amazing achievement. The forwards were able to win a great deal of breakdown ball and when the backs stayed wide the support was excellent. Well done to all the squad for their hard work at training and we look forward to next season.

Thank you to Captains Johnny Owens and Max Smith

The Year 7 squad have had a very good season developing their skills throughout. After a great game beating Thomas Mills at the start of the season their final fixture was at the Ipswich Rugby Festival. The weather was atrocious, we had torrential rain for every game! This did not dampen the enthusiasm in the squad and we had an excellent first game winning scrums and passing the ball wide to make use of the available space. Having suffered several injuries during the second game the squad played very well despite the appalling conditions but unfortunately missed out on wins in the last two games. I think everyone has now finally defrosted!! Thank you to Captains Theo Wilkins and Joe Besley and we can build on our successes from this season.



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