



Head First

It has been a really busy term as students have returned after the summer break, whilst as ever our students have come back with a desire to learn and make the most of the academic opportunities in school there have been a huge number of other activities also taking place.

As a school we have always had one eye on giving our students a breadth and depth of experience both within and outside of the curriculum and this is again evident this term. This breadth of experience gives our students time and opportunity to develop those skills and characteristics which aren't always measured in exam results or league tables but nonetheless are still incredibly important.

You will see our students have taken a very prominent role in the Green Team activities which have taken place in school and beyond and as well have been incredibly supportive of the work done to support the families in Ukraine over the past year.

There are a number of trips that have taken place both at the end of last year and this term and our students learn a huge amount from these trips to support their learning but also get to experience the cultures and traditions of other countries and to have time with their peers in a more relaxed environment. We held our first Disco for a number of years, brilliantly organised by our Year 10 Young Enterprise group and nearly 150 pupils attended this which was a fantastic community event.

There is lots to read about in this edition and I am very thankful to all of the staff involved in creating such a rich diet for our students but also want to acknowledge our students for making these trips and events so enjoyable.

Simon Martin

"Wisdom is with aged men, With long life is understanding."

Job 12:12

Green Team Week

At the end of September, the school Green Team joined with the Debenham Green Team to put on events that raised awareness of the importance of recycling and avoiding single use plastic.

Through assemblies, focussed lessons, a talk given by Jon Neal, CEO of Suffolk Mind around managing anxiety around Climate Change, awareness was raised of both the issues and possible solutions based on individual action. Along with the educational aspects, there was the chance for students to



wear green or recycled clothing on Friday; to participate in the House Challenges by entering a Recycling Poster Competition and doing the Green Quiz written by student leader, Harry Cantwell. All of Year 7 were given their own re-usable water bottle to help deter waste.

The local community were also able to get involved through recycling metal waste in the skip kindly donated by Sackers and buying goods from Jo Embley when she set up her mobile Choose Refills van in the car park.



School Support of Ukraine



As we discussed last year, we have been very active in trying to support those people effected by the ongoing issues in Ukraine, you may remember that back in Spring a group of our students wanted to collect donations to send to Ukraine to support those people who were having such horrific experiences.

We collected a huge amount of donations, which were sorted and boxed by our ASDAN students during their time in school. We had to make two trips to the sorting centre to deliver all of the items so kindly donated. We have seen photos of the donations being received in Ukraine and whilst a small part in the grand scale of events demonstrates our ongoing support for people in these challenging circumstances. Another group of students made and sold book marks to raise money to send alongside these donations. I am incredibly proud of our students for their courage in standing up for what they believe is right and the support from their peers in these ventures.

As you may know we have also welcomed a small number of Ukrainian students into school over the past few months. I want to pay testament to all members of our school community for the care and compassion that these students have been shown and how welcomed they have been. Our students have really demonstrated all that is good in young people and their endless ability to show care to those who really need it.

My thanks to everyone for all they have done to support this initiative.



Polyglot Club

Polyglot Club has got off to a flying start this term with an average of 18 students each week. We've enjoyed student-led sessions on French, Japanese and German as well as a tutorial by our resident native Tagalog speaker, Mr Geronimo. Quizzes, music, fun and foreign food every Friday lunchtime!

Si hablas idiomas el mundo no es tan grande - If you speak languages the world is not so big!

POLYGLOT CLUB

多言語クラブ

CLUB POLIGLOTTA

CLUB POLÍGLOTA

CLUB POLYGLOTTE

клуб полиглотов



If you are
interested in
learning

ANY language.
Head to room 16 at
1:20-1:50 on Friday
lunch time to
improve your
language learning
skills and to try
some foods from
other countries
around the world.



French Immersion Trip

Just before the end of school, our Year 10 and 11 GCSE French students visited Normandy in France on their Immersion trip. The days were packed with exploration of the area and many different activities. Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed with hot chocolates at around midnight, after a very long journey on the ferry and coaches.

The trip started with a visit to the local market, where we were able to practise our ordering skills in buying our own lunch, quickly realising that baguette and cheese would become our main food group. After this was a trip to the local goat farm, where we learnt all about “les chevres”, and were given the opportunity to meet all of their goats. We could all pet and brush them, and few of the braver among us even drank very very fresh goat milk, straight from them!

The second day was (according to lots of students) the most exciting: visiting Mont St Michel. It is a small island (at high tide). We spent a few hours there exploring the narrow streets in smaller groups. Then in the afternoon, once the tide had gone out, we all walked across the sand, with our tour guide leading us through the many rivers in the scorching heat and even teaching us how to walk in the quicksand. We ended up with about half of us halfway into the ground by the time we got the hang of it.

What followed was one of the hottest days that anyone could recall for an extremely long time. With temperatures well surpassing 40 degrees Celsius, the day mainly involved water breaks, cold outdoor showers, and games that luckily required minimal effort. The students were split into 3 groups and each assigned a separate activity, one of which was baking. After a brief introduction and mixing of the main ingredients, the students then had to partake in a very lively and vigorous process of kneading the dough with singing, dancing and trying to make the best model animal. The dough was then finally shaped and sent off to the kitchen where it would be baked and enjoyed later on in the day. During this, the other groups both played separate games. 1 group focused on improving their circus skills (with plate spinning and juggling etc) while the others were competitively battling it out in ‘Kubb’, a game which objective was to knock the opponents ‘king’ over with wooden blocks.



French Immersion Trip



The penultimate day of the trip involved visiting numerous historical landmarks. An early start to the day after a light breakfast saw our first stop at Bayeux. A short walk led us to the magnificent Bayeux Tapestry. The fascinating history of 1066 explained through a listening device was a trip favourite moment for many including a few of the teachers. After lunch, we set off again to a war memorial of WW2 allied soldiers; this was the saddest moment of the trip, as the numbers of graves from men who couldn't be identified astonished many of the group. To continue the theme of WW2 we then went to an exciting 360 degrees cinema, which, using archived photos and videos, showed the D-day landings in precise and clear detail. The students explored the nearby town of Arromanches before heading back to the chateau in the evening for the final night of the trip.

Our return to Debenham was a long trip that lasted the entire day. After a short stop at a supermarket, to buy food and test out our French, we boarded the ferry and started the journey back across the channel. After a narrow second place on the way there, a number of students redeemed themselves by winning the on board quiz towards the end of our journey. A swift coach ride from Portsmouth back to Debenham saw us arrive at the expected time of arrival. After many thanks to the teachers who so kindly organised, planned, and supervised the trip, everyone departed and went home after thoroughly enjoying themselves over the past 5 days.

By Abigail Woodhouse and Gethin Harries



Year 7 Visit to St. Mary's



At the beginning of October, the whole of Year 7 visited St Mary Magdalene's Church in Debenham as part of their RE lessons. The visit was to help us to further explore our learning about worldviews and we thought about why religious buildings can be seen and valued in various ways depending on our own beliefs, interests, upbringing and other factors. It was also a great opportunity to meet both Reverend Susan Taylor and Reverend Tracey James (one of our School Chaplains) and one group even got to see the Parish Pantry in full swing during their visit, which further amplified their knowledge of the varying roles that a church plays in a community. We are very grateful for the ways that our local parish church is willing to play in deepening our learning in this manner.



Year 11 Work Experience

Year 11 students undertook their work experience placements at the end of last term. We had a diverse range of placements with students working in retail, law, mechanics, construction, animal care, landscaping, accountancy, childcare and catering to name but a few. Students excelled themselves and were fantastic ambassadors for the school and greatly enjoyed the opportunities offered to them.

Some feedback from our employers:

"Naomi is very enthusiastic and she applied herself diligently and meticulously to all the tasks allocated to her."

Ipswich & Suffolk Council for Racial Equality

"I feel Noah would fit into the animal industry very well. Noah has a great attitude towards work in general."

Suffolk Owl Sanctuary

"We have really enjoyed having Toby working with us." PLS Financial Services

"Esther was an outstanding individual with a super personality and a great work ethic able to confidently communicate with older generations. We would love to have her back!" Waveney Food Bank

"Daniel fits in so well, he is punctual and a joy to have on board." Brockford Delivery

"Ethan made an excellent effort to integrate himself into the team. He added value to the team and was a pleasure to host." Suffolk Fire & Rescue

Young Enterprise Year 7/8 Disco

On the 29th September the Young Enterprise team held a disco for year 7 and 8, to raise capital for their business and provide a fun opportunity for the school's new students to make friends. Over 120 pupils attended the event, and were able to experience DJ Finegan's final performance at DHS. It lasted from 6-7:30pm and in this time the tuck shop sold out! This opportunity built a sense of community within the lower year groups and allowed the year 10 YE team to develop skills, such as budgeting and event planning, which will be applicable throughout their lives. It was fantastic to see so many students enjoying themselves on the dance floor and with the disco lights, a smoke machine and glowsticks it created a fantastic atmosphere and memories that we hope will last the students a lifetime.



Year 11 Geography Trip

Our Year 11 students recently undertook a trip to the beautiful Lake District. This was designed to provide for some of the requirements of their GCSE whilst also serving to show them some real world, less-flat, Geography!

The trip was based at a Field Studies Centre in Blencathra, a beautiful Lake District building which previously served as a Blencathra Isolation Hospital; offering treatment, seclusion and fresh air for those suffering from tuberculosis. The centre offered clear views, when the rain temporarily ceased, of Helvellyn and Scafell Pike, as well as surrounding glacially-formed landscape.

Whilst there, all students undertook a piece of human fieldwork and physical. The human fieldwork looked at tourism in Grassmere, the home of William Wordsworth. This wealthy tourist town gave the students the opportunity to look at the facilities available, to talk to visitors and to survey the quality of the environment. For some, it also gave a sneaky opportunity to buy some of the famous Grassmere gingerbread.



to the Lake District



The physical fieldwork looked at measuring the velocity, width and depth of a beck close to the field centre. Originally planned to take place in the larger Glenderaterra Beck, the heavy rainfall and saturated ground meant that this larger Beck was very far from safe and accessible. Fortunately, as you would expect from the Lake District, there was no end of other, slightly smaller, options.



Whilst it did rain a lot and the students were working until late in the evening, as they made sure to gently remind us, everybody had an excellent time and they really were a pleasure to spend time with from start to finish.



Residential Trip



The students got a real taste of adventure and survival, making the most of a wonderful itinerary and braving the 40 degree heat. Students stayed in an international hostel and were exposed to various international groups which they enjoyed, and were well fed and watered (and sprayed-down on many occasion) during the trip.

On day 1, students took the lift up to the second floor of the Eiffel Tower taking in the iconic views of the city, followed by a boat trip along the Seine. Students enjoyed a tour of the city by coach and some well-needed down time followed by an evening walk down the Champs-Élysées, revelling in the cool breeze and enjoying a spot of shopping.

Day 2 was spent in beautiful Montmartre where some students and staff lit candles in memory of someone in the Sacré Coeur, and students wandered around Montmartre, some being drawn by artists, and others grabbing their Paris souvenirs and gourmet gifts. The staff enjoyed taking such a large group of Year 9s overseas, and students really enjoyed spending time with their peers in such an exciting context.

The buzz on the coach during the award ceremony on the way home and the "thank you's" on arrival back were much appreciated by staff. Thanks for the adventure.

Madame Douglas, Madame Moreau, Monsieur Tapscott, Madame Woodhouse, Monsieur Hughes.



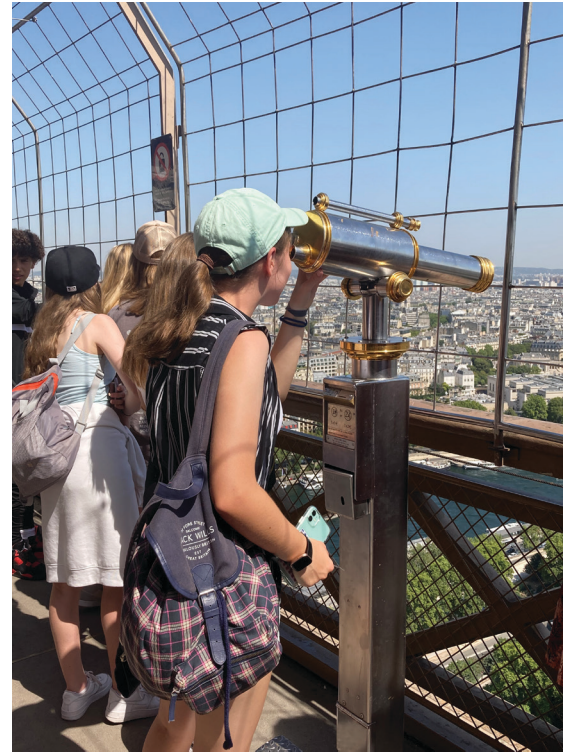
to Paris 2022



"Great all round trip. I got to see some parts of Paris I would never have seen without school." Rory Palmer

"Great experience. I loved seeing the Eiffel Tower." Felix Carroll

"Very enjoyable. I managed to do so much in just three days and it was mind-blowing seeing the Eiffel Tower." Rueben Morse



Toby Talks To

Millie Courteen in 10C has been an avid tennis enthusiast since the age of five, immersed in the sport due to her dad running a tennis club in Shropshire.



She was introduced to the first ever female president of the Lawn Tennis association, Cathie Sabin, who inspired her to physically take up the sport for the first time.

Currently Millie is a renowned member of the Wortham Long Tennis Club, she started with Wortham in a tennis summer camp and from there progressed to regular tennis lessons after discovering her passion for the sport.

Whilst she is currently taking a break, her training regime consists not only of tennis based training depending on the time of year but also cardiovascular fitness to improve her performance on the court. Millie's club is highly prestigious being three times winner of Suffolk LTA Club of the Year, the club has over 220 members, playing at a variety of levels and ages ranging from beginners to national standard. Despite the challenging level of competition she emerged victorious from her tennis final on September 11th as well as winning the under 18s doubles competition.

Millie's aspirations in tennis have grown hugely after the success of Emma Raducanu winning the US open in 2021. At only 19 years old, Millie has seen Emma's age as an inspiration to continue to work hard as even those at a young age can succeed at the highest level. Millie also looks up to veterans of the sport such as Andy Murray, one of the most well-known sportspeople today. Millie's whole family loves the sport with her dad even knowing Andy Murray's mum, Judy Murray personally.



Millie has visited many significant tournament locations such as Wimbledon and one day hopes to travel the world with her tennis career. In the future, Millie hopes to one day pursue her passion for tennis at a professional level achieved through determination and dedication.

In the future, Millie wishes to make it to the same level as her idols that she currently looks up to. Millie's future within the sport is undoubtedly very bright and Debenham High School eagerly anticipates what she does next.



Friends of DHS

The Autumn term seems to have only just started but we are busy pulling together some fun events and activities for our families which will be announced shortly.



The Friends of Debenham High School exist to enhance the facilities and opportunities of our children whilst at the school and we are currently working to help the school raise money to replace the old minibus.

Our first event is to hold a Christmas Grand Draw on Monday 12th December and we would welcome support of donations for prizes and your help to sell raffle tickets to friends and family. Please look out for more information about this event that we will be sending out shortly. The Friends committee recently assisted the school manning the scrap metal skip during Green Week and this raised £63 for the school.

If you would like to help raise funds without doing much at all you are able to support us via your online shopping. You can support the Friends of Debenham High School for free through <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/debenhamhs> and smile.amazon.co.uk (where you will need to register the first time you visit and nominate "The Friends of Debenham High School" as your chosen charity). Please save these to your favourites bar too!

Don't forget Palmers & Partners estate agents have agreed to sponsor us so if you, friends or family are thinking about moving and use Palmer & Partners please mention our school at time of instruction and for each house sold to completion we will receive £250.

If you would like to contact us any time you can e-mail us at friends@debenhamhigh.co.uk; we would be delighted to hear from you. Our next meeting will be Wednesday 25th January at 6.30pm.

We would like to thank you for all your support, it truly makes a difference.

Learning Resource Centre

For the first time since March 2020, the school Learning Resource Centre (Library) is back to full capacity with all year groups using the Library facilities at break and lunchtime every day. As well borrowing and reading one of our 5,000 books, students can come to the Library to read newspapers/magazines, use the computers for homework/research and play board games.

In that regard, we would like to update our board games in the Library and ask that if any parent/carer happens to be having a clear out, ***we would welcome any donations of used board games in good condition.*** These can be dropped off at the School Reception at any time during the school day.

We have lots of events happening this term in and around the Library. These include movies at lunchtimes related to our autumn term book displays, free books for Year 7 through the annual BookBuzz programme, the Year 7 Author visit, the Half Price Scholastic Christmas Book Fair and the in-school heats of Book Mastermind. So, keep an eye out for announcements and posters around school for these activities and more in the next few months.



Language Leaders



We are pleased to introduce the newly appointed Year 9 Language Leaders for 2022/23.

Many thanks to Ben, Olly, Max, Jed, Lily, Evie, Phoebe, Charlie, Rose, Tilly, Lucy, Emily, Lottie, Ella T, Sky, Eleanor, Ella M, Evlyn, Mia, Isabelle, Max, Sofia and Nastya who have kindly volunteered to support the MFL department with this year's linguistic activities.

Their upcoming tasks will be running the Year 7 MFL Blooket club on Wednesday lunchtimes in Room 12 and later in the

term, helping to plan and deliver language activities at the primary school.

The language leaders considered - Why is learning a language important? Here is a selection of their responses :

"Learning a language helps you to understand the world around you. One language opens several different countries' cultures and allows you to speak to more people in a shared tongue as not everyone speaks English and nor should they have to. By learning a language you speak to people from all around the globe in every continent." Isabelle 9C

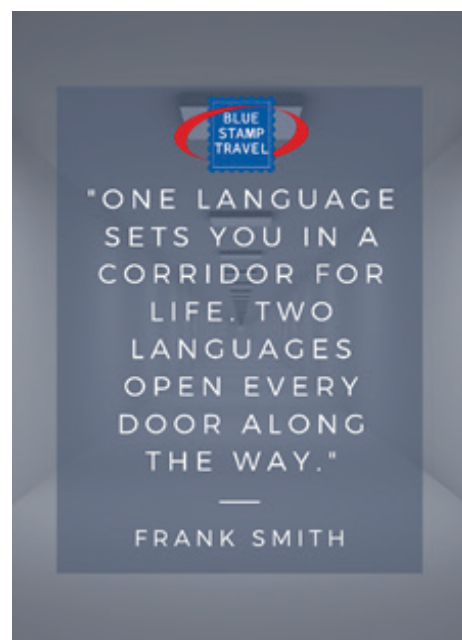
"It is a way to reach out to other people and express kindness, with the power to affect people's lives." Sofia 9O

"I think learning a language is important because it will open your eyes to many different cultures and histories which will enable you to understand your own language further.." Rose 9A



"I think learning languages is important because it is a very unique thing which helps you to interact with people around the world and make new friends." Max 9C

"I think learning a language is important because it helps with future applications for further education and France is one of the world's top destinations and learning a language would make it an even better experience". Eleanor 9O



Spotlight on

Motocross is a racing sport where participants ride motorcycles over rough terrain. The courses have to be one to three miles long, and they need to have different obstacles for the riders. No two courses are alike, and that can make motocross more demanding than other racing sports.

It's been a positive racing year for Seth Wnukoski, 9D on his KTM 85 SX. A few small injuries along the way but finished 2nd place overall at Hockham and an invite to compete for Norfolk and Suffolk Junior M'cycle club team competition in October. This included teams from the whole south of England held at Canada Heights MXGP track, near Brands Hatch, London.



Seth learnt to ride a motorbike at 3 and half years old, an electric automatic Oset. He started competing in the Autos category at Norfolk and Suffolk Junior Motorcycle Club aged 7, riding an automatic 50cc KTM.

He has worked his way through the 65cc, 85cc small wheel classes and now onto 85cc big wheel. Seth regularly competes in the Eastern area, riding for Peterborough Club also.



Next year might see Seth join other clubs to race further afield around the UK. This would include racing at national events. He has gained sponsorship from a few companies interested in helping him progress including Gibbons Plant Hire.

Seth, #56, battling for 2nd as his last race at Hockham track, Norfolk

Seth would love to train at a track school in Spain next summer and has aspirations to take the sport as far as he can whilst balancing school life!



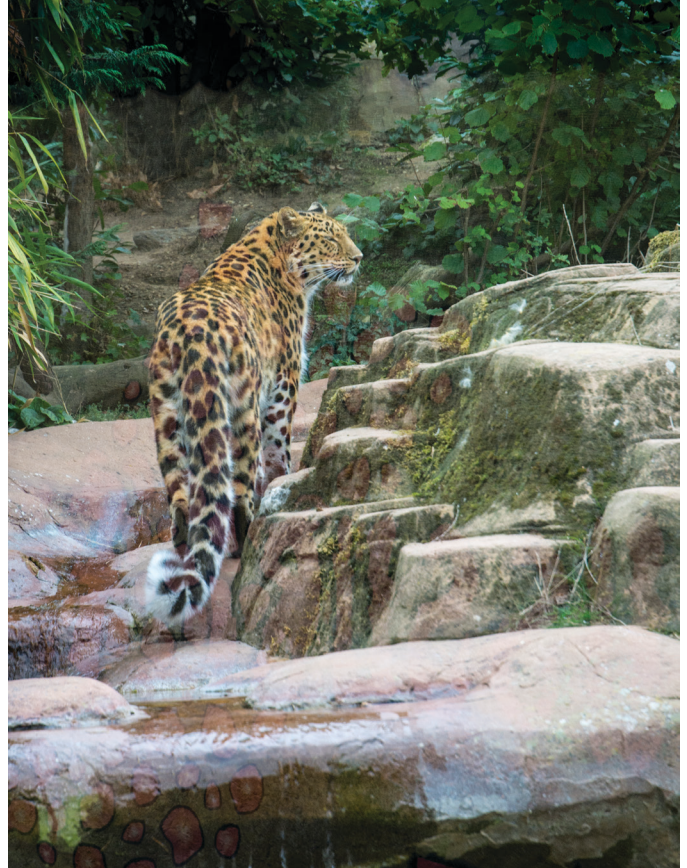
Year 7 Trip to Colchester Zoo



The Science Department took all of Year 7 to Colchester Zoo to put their learning into practice, looking at the adaptations of animals making them suitable for their environment. Apart from a long delay on the A14, the day was a success, with a lot of work completed and a lot of tired legs.



Year 7 Trip to Colchester Zoo



Sports Roundup

Welcome back to a fantastic Autumn term here in PE, with Football, Netball, Hockey, Cross Country, Dodgeball and Rugby matches all happening this term! Participation at clubs has been really encouraging, and some excellent results against local schools so far this term.

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.



Yr 8 Football

The boys team win a nail-biting tie in the first Round of the County Cup vs Hartismere. After normal time the score was 1-1, and a 4-2 Penalty shoot out win meant a really promising first game this year for the side. They have also played Thomas Mills in an Omnibus games fixture, winning impressively 6-0, to a side that had beaten them 7-5 last year!

Yr 9 Football

The boys were outstanding against Hartismere in the first Round of their County cup, winning 9-1, with Danny Bisset scoring 5! In the National cup, they faced a tricky tie away vs Farlingaye, and despite a few injuries and withdrawals, played a really good and clever game. Farlingaye have around 150 boys in a year group, compared to our 50/60, so the team really had to work hard. 3-3 after extra time, with goals from Danny, Archie and Henry, meant another tense penalty shoot out, but we won through 4-2. Special mention to Charlie Huntingford in goal, and to George Farthing and Max Bernstein for playing at short notice to help out the side. The Year 9's always have an excellent turn out at training, and the 'B' side played a majority 'A' side from Thomas Mills, and certainly did not disgrace themselves, losing 6-2, Goals from Stanley Child.



Sports Roundup



U13 Girls

The girls played Hartismere in the county cup, losing on penalties 3-1, after finishing 1-1 in normal time. In the ESFA cup, they thumped Archbishop Sancroft from Norfolk 11-0, and now face Copleston in the next round.

U15 Girls

The side faced Northgate in their Round 2 game in the ESFA cup, after receiving a bye in the first round. Despite many injuries and absences, the Girls won 4-1, with goals from Leah and Ashlee Banham, and also Amelia Locke.



Team Building

Four Year 8 students, Lottie, Daniel, Victoria and Fraser went over to Hartismere to take part in some team building challenges. This was a really good and well enjoyed event, and all the students learnt some new skills, including blindfold challenges, building walkways and playing Giant Jenga.

They mixed really well with the other schools, and Daniel was selected by the Hartismere leaders as team player of the evening, receiving some amazon vouchers as his reward.



Cross Country

Last week, 39 students took part in the first round of the Suffolk schools races this year at Holbrook. This ranged from Y7's in the Minor races, Yr 8/9 in the junior, and yr10/11 in the Inter category. All were fantastic ambassadors for the school, we believe around 15 have qualified for the next round of selection for the county squads in November.



Debenham High School



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