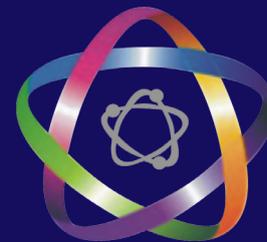


aspire

2013-14 Autumn Edition



Head lines

Our start to 2013-14 has been a good one. After our best ever GCSE results in the summer (read more inside) all our current students have returned to school with a desire to achieve and a strong sense of community. As usual, during the summer break we completed some refurbishment and building work around the school. Male and female students now have new toilets in the science block and the new look Covered Way celebrates student achievement and our house system.

In our first full week back at school we held our first whole school assembly. Unfortunately we cannot accommodate this in the school hall so all students and staff joined together in the leisure centre. We will be holding one whole school assembly a term in order to share our values and celebrate our collective and individual triumphs. Head boy, girl and their deputies read passages from the Bible and our School Prayer as we considered why our school community is stronger together than as individuals.

We were delighted to see so many Year 6 pupils and their parents and carers at our Open Evening at the start of October and by the time this newsletter goes out we will have entertained Year 6 students for their first liaison day. These days are an important part of our work to make the transition to High School a smooth one. There will be new challenges ahead but hopefully the days throughout the year mean that prospective students can make new friends and settle those nerves before joining us in a years time.

And finally a vote of thanks. We have an active and dedicated group of parents and carers who form The Friends of Debenham High School. Through their fund-raising last year we were able to buy some new durable outdoor furniture for the playground. Their events are part of the school social calendar and much appreciated by the school. If you would be able to help in any way please drop a line to friends@debenhamhigh.co.uk.

I hope that you enjoy our first newsletter of the year.

Julia Upton

Enterprise day



At the end of the summer term Year 9 students form fledgling companies and experience the demands and responsibilities of marketing a product. This involves designing a product, considering a marketing strategy and creating a financial business plan. We are grateful to local employers who joined us for the day, acting as mentors to the groups of students as they compete to become the Enterprise Team of the Year. Students came to school in business dress for the day.



GCSE success

We have always been proud of the academic achievements of students at Debenham High School. We believe that school is about much more than academic success but in our experience, a broad range of opportunities, emotional and social development go hand in hand with success in the classroom. Our Class of 2013 triumphed in all these respects; they were cohesive and supportive, engaged in a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities and set the bar high with their academic attainment. The GCSE results of 2013 were the best the school has ever achieved. The headline figures speak for themselves:

80% of students gained 5 A*-C grades including English and Mathematics

90% of students gained 5 A*-C grades

31% of grades awarded were A* or A

Underneath the headlines are stories of incredible individual success and progress. We look forward to welcoming all former Year 11 students back to the school in November for our Commemorative Assembly to celebrate their success and reminisce one more time about what a remarkable year group they were. We wish them all good luck in their chosen pathway.



Our student leadership team of Audrey McBride, Nick Harrison, Ele Williamson and Alfie Fawkner led their year group impeccably, but they did not lose focus on their students, amassing 23.5 A*, 15 A and 9.5 B grades between them.



Puzzle Day

Year 7 students experienced Puzzle Day in school at the start of October. This day had three aims: to encourage logical reasoning and problem solving skills; to give an opportunity for Year 7 students to interact and get to know each other working in teams; and to develop leadership skills in Year 10 students who created and led the activities all day. If you look carefully you can see how hard they are thinking!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

As we have stressed on many occasions, attendance at school has a significant impact on eventual attainment. We know that there will be times when students are unwell and they need time at home to recuperate but we know that regular attendance at school really does make a difference. Analysis of attendance figures shows that students clearly tend to do better if their attendance at school is good:
 95% or above attendance - 94% of these students achieve 5 A*-C grades including Maths and English
 Between 90% and 95% - 85% of students achieve 5 A*-C grades including Maths and English
 Between 80% and 90% - 65% of students achieve 5 A*-C grades including Maths and English
 Below 80% attendance - 29% of students achieve 5 A*-C grades including Maths and English

Our congratulations go to all the students below who in the 2012-13 academic year achieved 100% attendance. All students were entered into a prize draw for an iPod touch at the end of term.

Joseph Farrall	Rosie Halliday	Hannah Stephenson	Nathan Godding	Calvin Coe
Callum Stevenson	Eleanor Fawkner	Mollie Gardiner	James Pachebat	Poppy Fawkner
Lucy Stevenson	Megan Hobbs	Bethany Shaw	Niall Thomas	Aidan Coe
Louis Stephenson	Willoughby Axtell	Joseph Bullock	Katie Moore	Xavier Valentine
Martin McKenna	Oliver Cook	John Millar	William Rockett	Dominic Brock
Cameron Hogg				

COMMENDATIONS GALORE

For day-to-day success within the classroom we have a system of credits and commendations. These build to awards for Bronze, Silver and Gold Certificates at the end of the year. These are awarded in our Achievement Assemblies and students are entered into our prize draw.

Well done to all certificate winners last year, they worked hard for their achievements. Gold and silver winners are listed below.

Blunden Joshua	Hempstead Daniel	Champion Hannah	Altintop Baris	Ellis Connor
Covey Leanne	Jacobs Anna	Chenery Lauren	Bosley William	Flinton Francesca
Fawkner Eleanor	Mackay Jack	Fawkner Poppy	Gardiner Mollie	Gardiner Jade
Fulcher Erin	Moxon Sophie	Golding Leah	Russell Lauren	Hines Oliver
Iannelli Mia	Pearce-Wright Amber	Simpson Harriet	Bower Emily	Palmer Maisy
Long Barnaby	Rowe Stephanie	Barrett Bethan	Eade Scarlet	Pipe Chloe
Marsden Isobel	Rutherford Isabel	Goodchild Kirsty	McMyn Marcus	Scott Alexander
Pachebat James	Austin Nathan	Norman Eleana	Sunderland Emilina	Terry Augusta
Saddleton Hannah	Billington Eliza	Pooley Ryan	Swinburne Lauren	Thomlinson-Blount Alexia
Wither James	Godding Nathan	Simpson Jamilla	Green Carensa	Amass Summer
Tavendale Rebekah	Kilbourn Evelyn	Davy Louise	Lemondine-Martin James	Bruce Bethany
Fletcher James	McMyn Ewan	Mead Erin	Toohey Jacob	Bullock Henry
Frampton Phoebe	Barnes Bethany-Anne	Nunn Eva	Tuley Giles	Mole Catherine
Gilbert Holly	Boast Charlotte	Howard Eleanor	Botwright Edward	Ryder Joel
Gilgan Bridie	Bridges Ryan	Kissick-Jones Charlotte	Conway Jake	Sharpe Tobias
Goodchild Connor	Coe Aidan	Norman Jade	Dighton Mariah	Spurling Guy
Halliday Rosie	Francis Tallula	Saunders Katie	Leggett Timothy	Bird Emma
Hughes Romilly	Hughes Patrick	Warren Alexander	Mills Bradley	Chadwick Sean
Irving Thomas	Poole Dawn	Hogg Cameron	Simmons Morgan	Hobbs Megan
Parr Adam	Spurling Samuel	Banham Chelsea	Squirrel Emily	Keeble Anna
Porter Lily	Ford Bethany	Marsden Ella	Stopher Charlie	Manto Sarah
Rodwell Nicole	Hooper Molly	Roberts Eleanor	Wade Dulcibella	Barrett Harry
Sharpe Joseph	Hunt Rachael	Lockwood Hannah	Arnold Maddison	Hailstone Katelynd
Shore Alexander	Mills Charlie	Raven Lilly	George Hannah	Hammond Jasmine
Stephenson Hannah	Shenfield Amber	Brett Holly	Mallett Jamie	Lawson Alec
Turner Emma	Silverton Francesca	Pinn Philip	Mitson Jodie	Tapscott Carys
Walker Emily	Walczak Emily	Bosworth Blayn	Norton Thomas	Tooke Charmaine
Apps Holly	Fawkner Harold	Stephenson Rebecca	Ramsden Abigail	Vaughan Madison
Axtell Florence	Heath Ellen	Moore Katie	Stevenson Callum	Bagnall William
Coe Charlie	Keeble Erin	Robinson Lorna	Dennis Ryan	Johnson Adam
Davy Julie	Voller Annie	Ager Alice	Hazelwood Jessica	Seymour Philippa
Farrall Joseph	Champion Hannah	Coe Calvin		
Fowler Samuel		Sherman Christian		

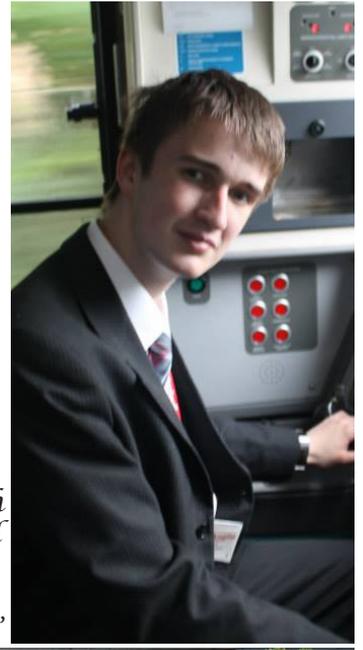
The world of work



Students in Year 10 spend two weeks at the end of the summer term experiencing the world of work. This allows them to consider different career options and understand the important “soft skills” needed in the workplace, such as communication and teamwork. Students pursue a wide range of different roles over the two week and when they return to school in September, reflect upon their experience and consider how this will influence their post-16 choices. We gain feedback from our employers and were delighted with the many comments made this year:

“Very impressed with him - a pleasure to have. He has asked about a job in the future. I would be happy to employ him.”

“She was an absolute pleasure to have work with us. She was efficient, confident, enthusiastic and she put 100% effort into her work. She used her initiative and was always keen to learn and help. I will be calling on her if I need more help.”



Two groups of Year 10 GCSE students visited All Manor of Events, an events management company based at Manor Farm in Henley. This was in preparation for their Controlled Assessment Task, based on an events management company, in which they have to create promotional material, add to a database of entertainers and create spreadsheets to cost out events and calculate profits. The students were hosted by Katie and Mark, who took them on a tour of the converted barn and then answered the questions the groups had prepared. We are extremely grateful for the time given by Katie and Mark to help the students in this way.



Puzzle Corner

Welcome back to our teasers in literacy, numeracy and languages.

Word games

What is the meaning of this English word?

Pyknic means

- a) a meal eaten outdoors
- b) someone who is very choosy
- c) short and fat.

Maths mayhem

Tommy Thomas's tankard holds 480ml when it is one quarter empty. How much does it hold when it is one quarter full?

A 120 ml B 160 ml C 240 ml D 960 ml E 1440 ml

Multi-lingual challenge

Can you translate these words? The three words (in three languages) translate to the same meaning in English.

French

citrouille
phantome
sorciere
toile d'araignee

Spanish

calabaza
fantasma
bruja
telerana

Italian

zucca
spettro
strega
ragnatela

Activity



As usual our term ended with a range of activities for students from Year 7 to 9 to choose from. From a trip to France, sailing, high ropes challenges to pamper products, there really was something for everyone.



Days



Spotlight on

In this new section to our newsletter we will focus on a two different students who have been excelling, within or beyond the classroom. It might be for their musical talents, in the field of sport, or something for the school or wider community. In our first edition, a Year 8 and Year 9 student who share the honours.



Daniel Hempstead, in Year 8, with the help of Jack Mackay raised over £300 for McMillan Cancer Support. This charity is dear to Daniel's family's heart and he baked cakes, served tea and collected donations on this national event. A stunning achievement with a genuine sense of community.

Matt Bensly, in Year 9, is currently competing in trials for the Norfolk Under 15 Hockey Squad. Matt was an ever-present member of the County Squad last year, in his favoured position as a defender. In extra-curricular sport at school, Matt is a key member of the hockey, cricket and football teams, making him one of the strongest all round sportsmen of his year group



Sports news

There have already been many competitions and matches for our sports teams this year. We have competed in hockey, football (girls and boys), table tennis, equestrian events, rugby, netball and cross country to name but a few.

Cross country

On Thursday last week fifty-six students took part in the Suffolk Schools Cross Country Competition (more than any other school). Fourteen students finished in the qualifying positions for entry to the next round of competition. Congratulations to Jack Millar who won the Inter-Boys event and Paddy Styles who finished tenth in the same race. In the Inter-Girls, Lella Ralph and Freya Emerick, running amongst mostly Year 11 students, finished an impressive 13th and 19th.

Match stats - well done to everyone who has represented the schools already this year

Year 7 Football National Cup - lost 7-3 at Hartismere; Year 8 Football National Cup - beat Stradbroke 6-0;
Year 8 Girls Football National Cup - beat Eastpoint; Year 7/8 Rugby - lost 45-12 to Hartismere;
Year 9 Football National Cup beat Ramsey School 4-0, and Stradbroke 2-0;
Year 11 Football National Cup - beat Thomas Mills 6-1, and lost 1-0 to Sir John Leman;
Year 11 Girls Football National Cup - beat County Upper 2-1 and Girls Football County Cup - beat Castle Manor 4-0;
Year 11 rugby - beat Hadleigh 63-5, beat Thomas Mills 55-0; Year 9 netball - Winners of tournament at Stradbroke;
Year 11 hockey - beat St Joseph's 3-0;
Under 13 boys hockey lost to Hartismere 7-3; Under 14 boys hockey beat Hartismere 6-5;
Under 13 girls hockey lost to Hartismere 6-5; Under 14 girls hockey lost to Hartismere 3-0;
Under 12 girls hockey beat St Joseph's 6-5; Under 12 girls hockey lost to St Joseph's 6-3
Under 13 and Under 16 table-tennis qualified for the county finals in November, beating Hartismere and Bungay.

