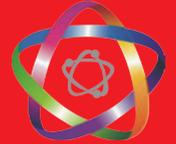


ASPIRE

Celebrating success 2018-19 Autumn Edition



Head First

It has been a super start to the school year. After the amazing success of the summer, with students at Debenham High School achieving the best GCSE results in Suffolk, there was much to live up to when we returned.

At the start of the school year, it is important that we set the tone for learning and make our expectations clear with all students. Year 7 seem to have adapted to life at High School and have quickly learnt how we expect them to work and behave.

After the Activity Days at the end of the summer term, it was back to the classroom basics at the start of the year. As we reflect on the summer's successes we know that those students who made the most progress were those who got involved in the wider aspects of school life but they also worked hard inside lessons and in work at home. Plain and simple, isn't it. The new GCSEs may, in the main, be assessed at the end of the course, but it is through strong foundations in Year 7, 8 and 9 that students make the most progress, building a secure platform and learning how they learn.

That focus on the basics doesn't mean that there hasn't been much going on; as you will see inside, we have had continued to contextualise learning beyond the classroom with our range of trips and visits; and the array of extra-curricular opportunities build resilience and memories that we hope will last a lifetime.

Julia Upton

P.S. After reading this edition you would be forgiven for thinking that everything we do involves cake. Not everything, just most things!

Christmas already?

Christmas arrived early in the Music Department this year, in September in fact! Students spent a day recording musical items for a Debenham High School Christmas CD, which will be available for you to buy in December. Tracks include contributions from the wind choir, flute and clarinet choirs as well as the saxophone group and pop choir. You'll also hear swing versions of classic Christmas songs by the Big Band and solo performances of Christmas songs. The recordings are now being mixed and are already sounding great. Watch this space for the perfect Christmas present; we will let you know as soon as it becomes available.



Follow all our exploits on Twitter @DebenhamHigh



Farwell to the class of 2018



Farwell to the class of 2018



At the start of October the government confirmed the first look at the national picture for GCSE performance in 2018. Indicative figures place us as one of the highest performing state schools in the country.

Our headline figures were:

- 88% of students achieved Grade 4+ in English and Mathematics
- 76% of students achieved Grade 5+ in English and Mathematics
- 38% of all grades achieved by students were Grade 7 to 9 or A*/A

We were pleased with the results of all our students. Our highest performers were:

Jake Phillips: 10 Grade 9, 1 Grade A*, 1 Grade A
Helena Hines: 8 Grade 9, 3 Grade 8, 1 Grade A*
Morgan Manly: 7 Grade 9, 3 Grade 8, 1 Grade A*
Isaac Bachu: 7 Grade 9, 3 Grade 7, 1 Grade 6
Leigh Dennis: 5 Grade 9, 6 Grade 8, 1 Grade A*,
Rory Coe: 5 Grade 9, 1 Grade A*, 2 Grade 8, 1 Grade 7
William Chapman: 5 Grade 9, 5 Grade 8, 1 Grade A*
Tom Potter: 4 Grade 9, 1 Grade A*, 5 Grade 8, 1 Grade 7
Zinnia Smart: 2 Grade 9, 6 Grade 8, 2 Grade 7, 1 Grade 6
Nerys Feeney-Howells: 3 Grade 9, 4 Grade 8, 4 Grade 7, 1 Grade 6

With completely new courses in almost all subjects, comparison to previous years' performances is impossible and progress harder to measure but congratulations to the following students who, using historic measures, made the most academic progress from their starting point in Year 7, some achieving the equivalent of more than two grades better in every subject that their starting point might have predicted:

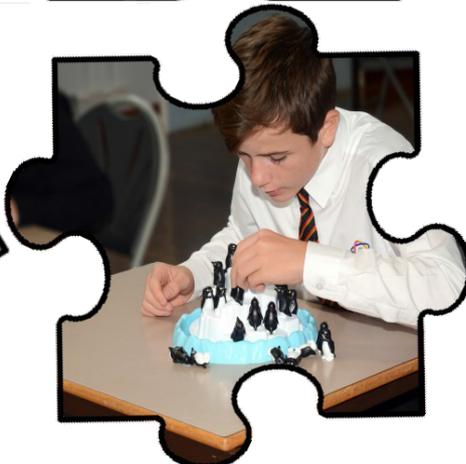
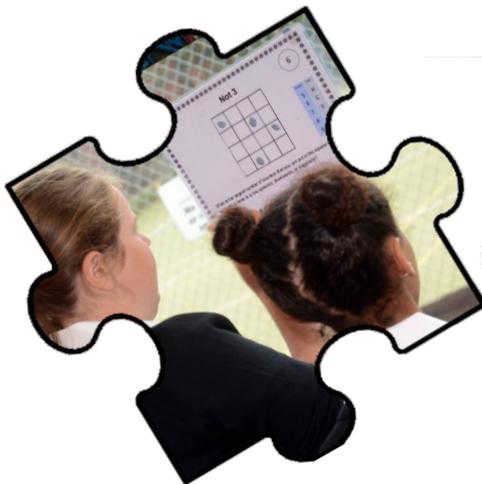
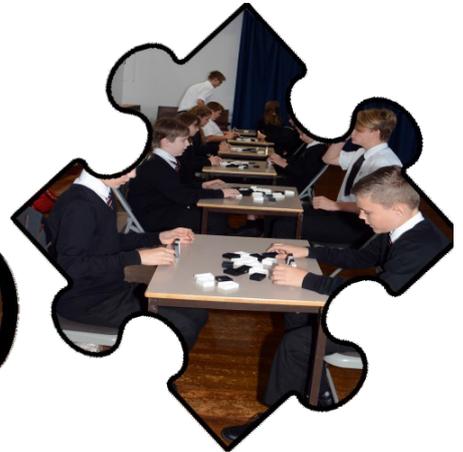
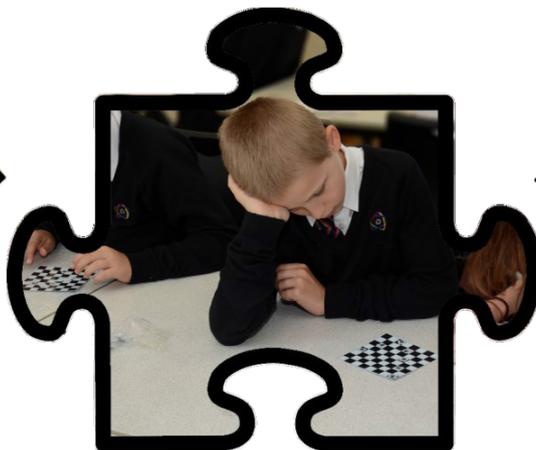
Eugenie Clarke
Tom Potter
Anna Mowles
Megan Jack
Holly Mayhew
Zac Carroll-Chambers
Anna Moore
Naomi Glasse

They most certainly, should be proud of everything that they achieved.



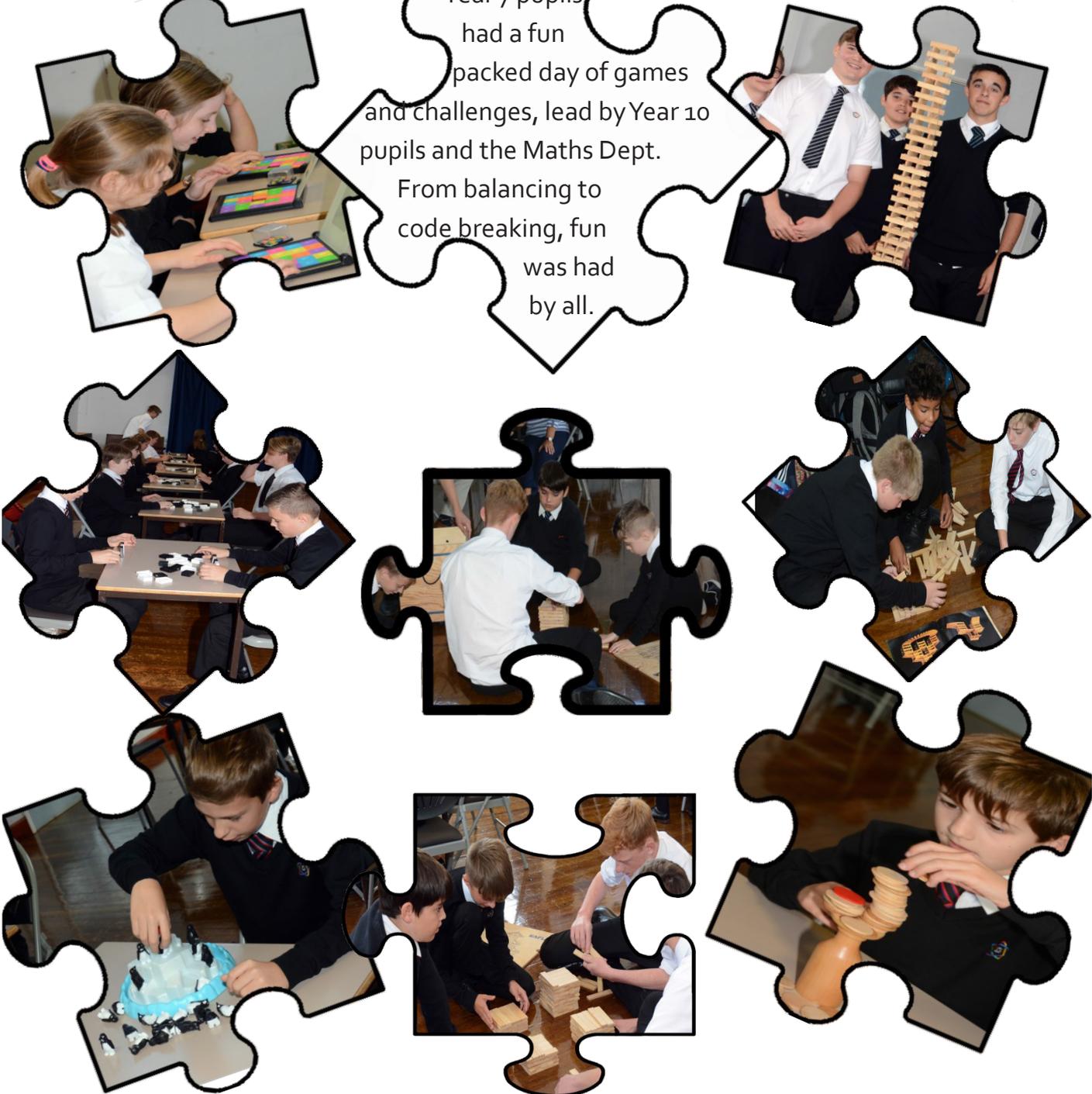


Year 7
Mathematics
Puzzle Day
2018





Year 7 pupils
had a fun
packed day of games
and challenges, lead by Year 10
pupils and the Maths Dept.
From balancing to
code breaking, fun
was had
by all.



Music Success



At the end of the summer term (not dressed up in Santa hats I hasten to add) a number of students took Trinity Music Grade Examinations. Whatever level achieved these represent the result of dedicated practice. Well done to everyone.

Congratulations also to Abigail Woodhouse who entered the Grade 5 piano class at the Suffolk Festival on the weekend of 6th October and in spite of the fact that she is in Year 7 and up against many older pianists, she won! Many congratulations, Abigail; we are very proud of you.

Mr S. Rinaldi (Head of Music)

Suzie Knock	Baritone Grade 4	Leigh Dennis	Clarinet Grade 8	Oscar Mason	Cornet Grade 2
Zoe Hurst	Cornet 5	Tabitha Glasse	Flute 2	Mia Walker grade	Flute 3
Joseph Perry	Flute 4	Kathryn Reynolds	Flute 5	Bailey Rockett	Flute 8
Charlie Flatt	French horn 4	Isis Smith	Piano 2	Samuel Corsie	Piano 2
Abigail Woodhouse	Piano 5	Hayden Scanlan-Baker	Piano Initial	Beth Leach	Saxophone 3
Flora Fletcher	Saxophone 3	Issey Graham	Saxophone 4	Tom Morris	Saxophone 5
Polly Cox	Saxophone 5	Joel Etchingham	Saxophone 5	Sophie Coton	Singing 2
Lucy Daly	Singing 3	Polly Cox	Singing 4	Rhianna Melton	Singing 5
Samuel Denny	Tenor horn 3	Imogen Burchell	Violin 3		

St Mary's Church: Year 7

In the last few weeks, all of our Year 7 classes have been to visit St Mary Magdalene's Church in Debenham as part of their RE lessons. The students were warmly welcomed and had another chance to meet Reverend Susan Bates as well as to explore the building and its surroundings. Students were challenged to reflect on why it is a place of significance for many people and learn about some of the key features in the Church, as well as learning about some of the history of the building.

Mr M. Cobbold (Head of RE)



World Challenge: Namibia

Our inaugural World Challenge expedition to Africa was incredible! We took a super group of students at the end of their GCSEs to an amazing country. After raising money for the past year and a half, students threw themselves into every challenging situation in Namibia. After a few days of trekking in the vast beauty of Spitzkoppe, we moved on to a local primary school to complete three days of hard work in order to improve the conditions of the school soup kitchen. Everyone loved the time spent with the local children and it was fascinating to learn a bit more about their lives. We spent our last few days on safari and camped at a watering hole which was visited by numerous animals throughout the night. It was an experience none of us will ever forget! We are excited to be launching our Tanzania 2020 expedition to current Year 9 and Year 10 students and can't wait to start the next adventure.

Mrs L. Carr and Mrs S. Smart



Year 8 Art and Design: Harry Potter

To start the school year 8 students undertook a project in Harry Potter learning about how all the different subject areas (Art, Food, Textiles, Graphics, CAD/CAM and Resistant Materials) were used to create the film sets for the infamous films. Students visited the studios to see props and artwork used in the films. Students then completed their own independent project influenced by what they had learnt from their visit.

Mrs J. Newman (Head of Art, Design and Technology)



Year 9 Geography Fieldtrip

Year 9 Geographers were lucky enough to conduct their fieldwork investigations in unusually warm sunshine in Aldeburgh in October. The focus of their investigation was to find evidence to either support or disprove the hypothesis 'Aldeburgh shows evidence of being a honeypot site'. Students took the opportunity to learn new research methods, gathering both qualitative and quantitative data. They conducted environmental surveys, traffic and pedestrian surveys, tourist questionnaires and land use mapping. Additionally they were given the opportunity to carry out their own originality; which for some consisted of interviews with local business owners or calculating the percentage of houses used for holiday rental. We were blessed with fabulous sunshine and of course the opportunity to sample the infamous fish and chips and ice cream shops!

Mrs J. Wilson and Mrs L. Farrell (Heads of Geography)



Charity work : 9C take the lead



On Friday 28 September students from 9C, assisted by some other Year 9 volunteers, sold homemade cakes and biscuits at break and lunchtime to take part in the Macmillan Coffee Morning, raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Students worked extremely hard and we were able to raise £110.05. Thank you to all those who brought in baked goodies, bought cakes and gave up their time to sell items.

Miss P. Samuels (French and Spanish Teacher and Tutor of 9C)

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



Students in Year 9 and 10 went with Mrs Keeble to Royal Hospital School, representing the school at an Anti-Bullying Conference. During this visit the students worked with others from a number of different schools and have brought back further ideas for how they can work with younger students and get all students to think about this important message.

French Speaking Assessment

Some students in French, really got into the spirit of their first Speaking Assessment.

Well done to Primrose Legge, Antonia Airey, Hannah Reynolds, Abbie Wright, Daisy Lord and Ruby Jaynes.



Year 10 Fieldtrip: USA



Year 11 Geography students visited the USA for seven days at the end of Year 10. We visited almost everything the West Coast has to offer. After an 11 hour flight from London Heathrow Airport, we arrived in Las Vegas, where the stifling 47 degree heat hit us immediately. We then had a few hours of much needed rest, before walking along part of the 4 mile long Strip, visiting the Bellagio fountains and Venetian hotel. We experienced the contrast between the fun and multi-cultural city of San Francisco, the neon lit skyline and desert features of Las Vegas and the iconic Los Angeles. We visited some of the world's most beautiful breath-taking natural scenery, including the jaw-dropping Grand Canyon at Desert View, South Rim, one of the Natural Wonders of the World. We were in awe of the immense erosional landforms and spectacular Colorado River flowing through the 277 mile canyon.

The trip also included a visit to the Hoover Dam, with a full tour of the generator plant. The sheer scale of this dam was something we were not prepared for. Day 4 consisted of us visiting the Calico Ghost Town in San Bernardino County: one of the few remaining original silver mining towns in the Western USA. Unfortunately due to the various forest fires in Yosemite National Park, we were unable to visit the area on the next day of the trip. However, instead we had a surprise day trip to Los Angeles, where we walked along the world famous Hollywood Boulevard and caught sight of the Hollywood sign in the distance. We also spent time at Santa Monica beach and pier to the west of LA. Our last two days were spent exploring the stunning Muir Woods near San Francisco, where we were able to appreciate the Giant Sequoias, standing up to 258ft tall. We were fortunate to have a guided tour of the city, where we walked along the Golden Gate Bridge and used the city's tram system. Overall the trip was an amazing experience for everyone.

Luke Bower (Year 11)



Year 9 Art: Surreal Shoes

Year 9 students are off to a stunning start with their Art project about Surrealism. They have been altering shoes they have brought into home to turn them into weird and wonderful sculptures. What great imagination and skills!

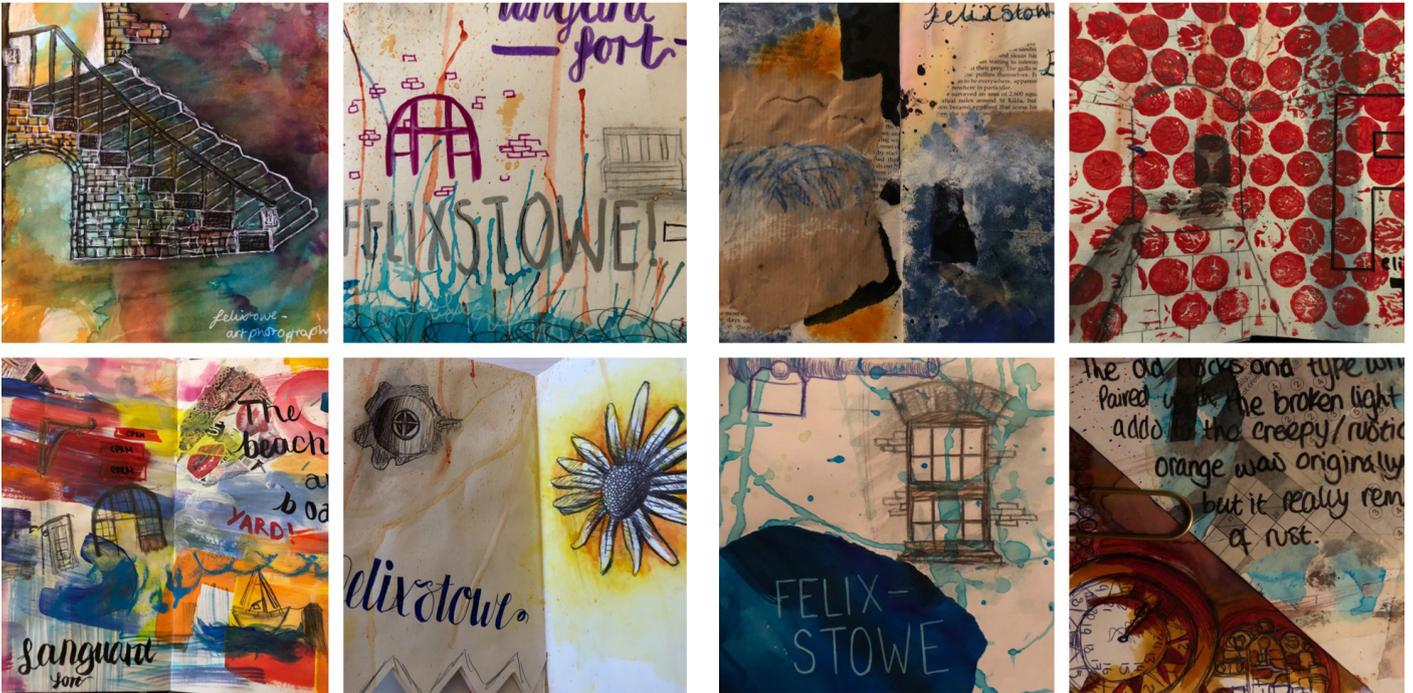
Mrs L. Carr (Head of Art)



Year 10 and 11 Art Trips

Year 10 GCSE Art Field Trip to Felixstowe

Year 10 GCSE Art students have captured some beautiful photos whilst in Felixstowe, and the journals they created, both on the trip and back at school, already show their individuality and flair for Art. An exciting start.



Year 11 GCSE Art Field Trip to London Galleries

Year 11 students got creative when photographing the Art works at Tate Modern and the Saatchi Gallery. A great day out helped to inspire the students for both their coursework and their upcoming final exam project early next year.



Church Schools' Cathedral Service

Fliss Long, Harry Rogerson and Kathryn Reynolds represented the school with pride at the Annual Service held in Bury St Edmunds Cathedral. The theme of this year's service was

I am the gate.

I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find food. John 10: 9

Jesus said, "Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you."

Luke 11: 9-10



Cross Country Success



**Jake
Hayward**



**Maddie
Wood**



**Alice
King**



**Mae
Washington**

At this year's Mid/South Suffolk Cross Country trials Debenham High School fielded a team of 46 students. With 20 Year 7s and the rest of the team across the four other year groups, confidence was high. The highest Year 7 in the minor races was Sam Adams finishing in 17th place and through to the next round. Some of our best performances came from Tilly Aldis with a fantastic 3rd place in her first year competing in the Intermediate age group. Jake Hayward, in Year 9, running in the Junior event finished in a fantastic 8th place. Another pleasing performance came from Year 9 student, Alice King finishing in a brilliant 10th position. Both Jake and Alice can add this to their achievement of being a member of the County Hockey & Netball Team respectively. Year 11 student, Maddie Wood, finished with an impressive 11th place in the Inter girls race. Other notable achievements came from Mae Washington, Lucy Daly, Peter Jardine and Alec McKay. Over 20 students qualified for the next round in Woodbridge in December.

Football and Netball



Year 7

Football club has regularly seen close to 20 students attend training on Mondays after school. In their first competitive game for the school, the team had a very convincing 12-1 win against Thomas Mills. They also performed well to finish third in a 6 a-side competition held at Hartismere.

Year 8

In their first game of the season, and playing in a new formation, the team had a nail biting 4-3 win over Thomas Mills. This was a thoroughly entertaining game that could have gone either way. The team have also been in county and national cup action but unfortunately lost out on both occasions. In the National Cup, they were beaten 6-1 by a good Langley team and in a closer county cup game they were on the wrong end of a 2-1 score line.



Year 9

The reigning county champions made an impressive start to their cup defence by beating Thomas Mills 10-0 in very windy conditions. The team also scored ten goals against Hartismere in the National Cup, eventually winning 10-2. This has seen them through to Round 2 where they play Stowupland. In the 6 a-side competition held at Hartismere, another good performance saw them finish second to Thomas Mills.



The Year 7 netball team made a fantastic start to their 1st year by winning the HSSSP Tournament. They won 3 games and lost one.

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