

ASPIRE

Celebrating success 2017-18 Advent Edition

Head First

At the end of the first half-term we had our Church School Inspection. While this took place in the week before the holiday, we only officially received the report during this half-term. We were of course delighted with the grading of Outstanding but were even more pleased with the content of the report and the comments that the inspector made about our Christian character. The full report is available on our website but these few extracts made us very proud of how the school felt to an external eye on that day and which reflects the work that we do:

The depth of the Christian ethos and the extent to which every interaction focuses on the intrinsic worth of each individual lead to outstanding progress and personal development for pupils and adults

Christian values are deeply embedded in the life of the school. All members of the community live out their motto to 'treat others as you would want to be treated' and there is a shared understanding that this is one of Jesus's great commandments.

Strong leadership, which combines high expectations with compassion, ensures that Christian principles are at the heart of policy and practice.

Pupils are known and loved, and as a result they respect and trust their teachers.

A breadth of extra-curricular activities helps to develop pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC); there is a gentle sense of expectation that everyone will participate in something and, as they do, very special relationships are developed.

At the end of a long term, I wish all members of our community a restful and joyous Christmas.

Julia Upton

Friends of Debenham High School

Hi, my name is Rachel and I'm part of the Friends of Debenham High School. I joined in September 2016 when my daughter started at the school. We are out of catchment so I decided I wanted to get involved to enable me to get to know more about the school, the teachers and the social side of being a Debenham High parent.

I'd been part of the PTA at our primary school so was ready and armed for lots of hours taken up by meetings, events, fundraising, raffle prize searching etc. However I'll let you all into a secret..... we meet maybe 4 times a year, we run one large event a year (last year we organised the Family Quiz) and support the school with other events such as the music

and drama performances, providing teas and coffees at open evenings, parents evenings etc, taking it in turns to help at these events.

So.... I'm asking for your help. Currently the group is made up of 6 of us; 2 are staff members, 2 have children at the school and 2 no longer have children at the school. In January our current Chairperson will be stepping down as her children have long left the school and so it's time for some new parents to join us.

We are holding our AGM on January 17th at 7:30pm in the school. We would love to see you there. Even if you can only help once or twice a year, we would love you to join us. Just come along and

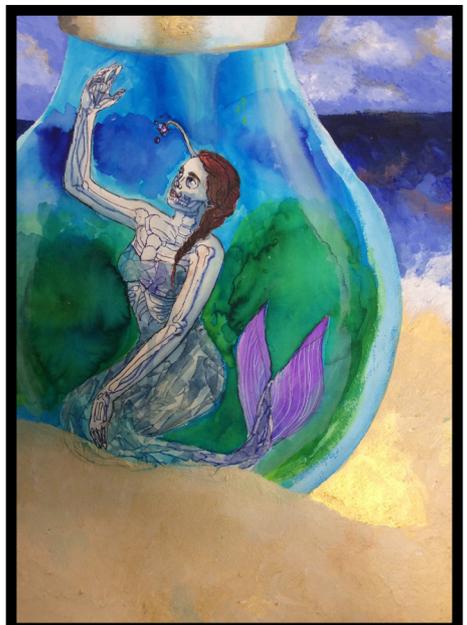
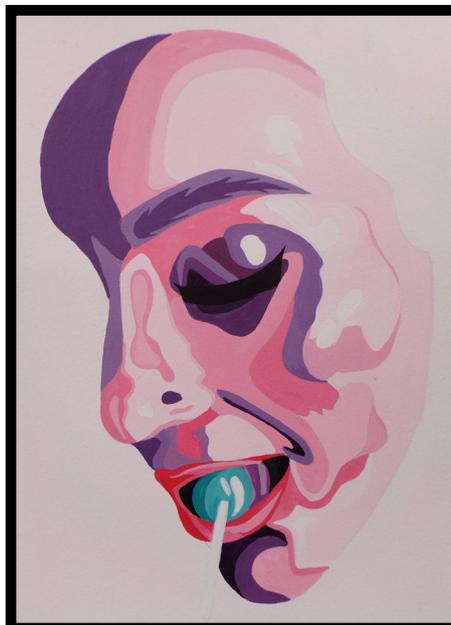
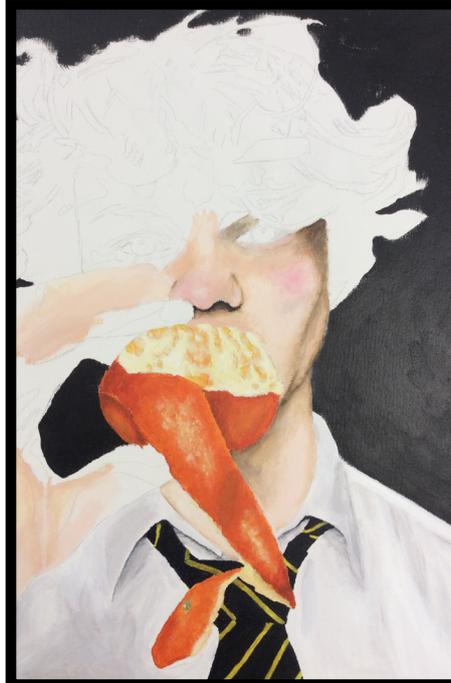


find out more about what we do. I promise you won't have to sign on any dotted lines or give up hours and hours of your time. Together we can continue to have a Friends of Debenham group and be able to support the school with the monies we raise.

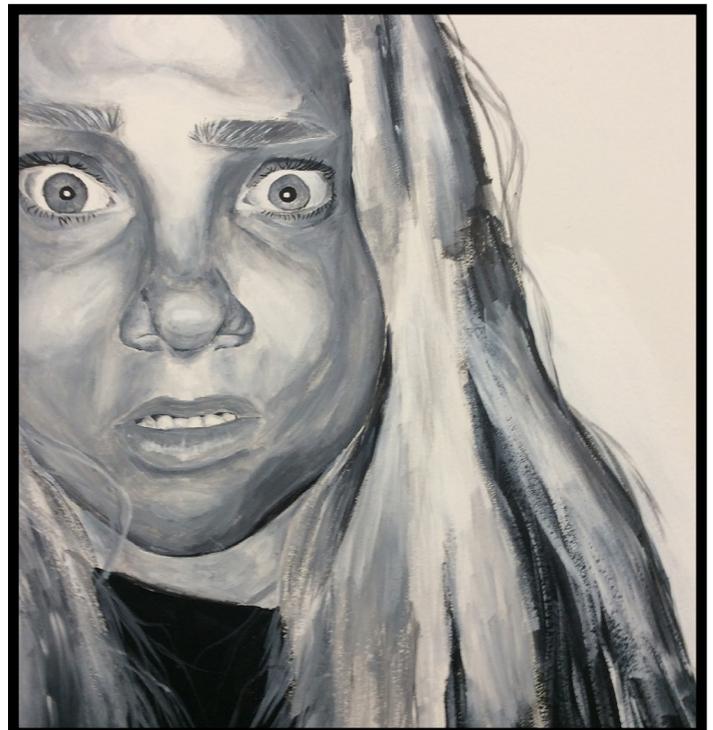
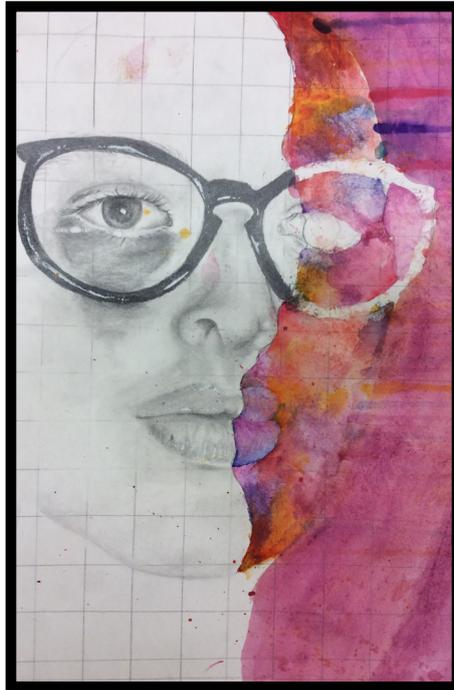
If you would like more information please come along to the AGM or if you are unable to attend please drop us an email to friends@debenhamhigh.co.uk or leave a note with the office.

Year 11 Art

Year 11 students should be very proud of their Mock Examination final pieces which are being completed in lessons after their six hour examination. Without a doubt they have produced an incredibly skilled and creative range of work and outcomes. They were working from three themes which consisted of 'Out of Place', 'Food' and 'Fantastic and Strange'.



Year 11 Art



An alternative Christmas Tree?

We couldn't resist sharing with you the Christmas Tree that has been created by Mr Phaup (with the able assistance of Mrs Woods) in Room 22. We have set Mr Phaup the challenge for it to be self-balancing next year. "Kids - please don't try this at home!"



Year 10 Visual Communications

Year 10 pupils studying Visual Communication were asked by Coddendam Country Club to design a poster for their Pink Party which raises money for Breast Cancer Research. The chosen poster design by Tom Baker will be featured on social media and posted around the village of Coddendam. It is a great opportunity for the pupils to work on 'Live projects' set by outside agencies. It is great practice for the real world and a great piece of work for their portfolios. Well done to everyone.



Book Mastermind

Once again Debenham High School is taking part in the Suffolk Schools Book Mastermind Competition. Book Mastermind is a national competition open to students in Years 7-9, encouraging and promoting reading. The competition begins in schools with the winners from each school competing in Area Finals. The County Final includes workshops by leading authors for young people. Last year Emma Burley from Debenham High School won the County Final, receiving a £50 book voucher for herself, as well as a trophy for a year and £200 worth of books for the school.

In our in-school heats competitors were given two minutes to answer 20 questions relating to their chosen book. 2 points are scored for every correct answer and 1 point for a partly correct answer. The maximum amount of points a competitor can receive is 40 points. If a competitor doesn't know the answer to a question they can say "pass" on that question and we move on to the next question. In the event of a tie in points, the number of passes are taken into account.

After a closely fought competition, the winner of the Debenham High School Book Mastermind for 2017-2018 is Anna Cook (7D). Anna's chosen book was *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. Anna scored 38 points out of a possible 40 points. Our First Runner Up is Tirian Axtell (7G). Tirian's chosen book was *Tom Gates – Yes, No, Maybe* by L Pichon. Tirian also scored 38 points out of a possible 40 points, but he passed on one question. We had joint Second Runners Up this year – James Wing (8F) and Caitlin Shore (9C). James' chosen book was also *The Hunger Games* and Caitlin's book was *The Fault in our Stars* by John Green. Both James and Caitlin scored 35 points with one pass. All four students received book tokens to spend at the Half Price Christmas Book Fair. Well done to all who took part over the five days.



French Exchange



Bonjour, nous sommes allés en Normandie le 16 novembre. Après un départ du collège à huit heures du matin, nous avons fait un voyage en ferry d'environ six heures et avons été très chanceux car la mer était calme et avons passé un très bon moment. Je pense que pour tout le monde c'était assez stressant mais extrêmement palpitant de rencontrer nos familles françaises pour la première fois.

Le vendredi matin, nous sommes allés au collège avec nos correspondants et avons assisté à trois leçons en français et après le déjeuner à la cantine nous sommes allés visiter le musée Pegasus. Le musée était très intéressant et c'était très amusant de participer aux leçons en français ! Nous avons ensuite passé la totalité du weekend avec nos correspondants et leurs familles. Certains d'entre nous se sont retrouvés et nous avons tous passé un bon weekend avec chacun des activités très variées.

Lundi nous avons eu une visite guidée de Caen et pique-niqué dans le château de Guillaume le Conquérant avant de faire un peu les magasins l'après-midi. Il faisait assez froid mais très ensoleillé. Mardi matin nous sommes allés en car au Mont Saint Michel où nous avons passé la journée même si quelques-uns sont tombés en panne à l'aller, nous nous sommes tous retrouvés pour un excellent déjeuner au restaurant. C'était délicieux. La visite de l'abbaye était fascinante et la vue de tout en haut du mont vraiment magnifique!

Pour notre dernier jour, jeudi, nous sommes allés à pied à la Batterie de Merville, juste à côté du collège pour une visite guidée très émouvante. Nous avons découvert en visitant les 4 bunkers aménagés, comment le 9ème bataillon de Parachutistes Britanniques avait neutralisé la batterie le 6 juin 1944 avant le débarquement. L'échange a été une expérience très enrichissante pour tous et nous avons vraiment hâte d'accueillir et de retrouver nos correspondants en mars prochain !

Ella Bedford



French Exchange



Inventive Radios



GCSE Engineers have been designing and making radios. They have soldered together PCBs and then made casings for the radios using a combination of plastic, wood and metal. The radios are really eye catching and made to a very high standard. Well done to the engineers; they have made an outstanding effort.



Food Technology

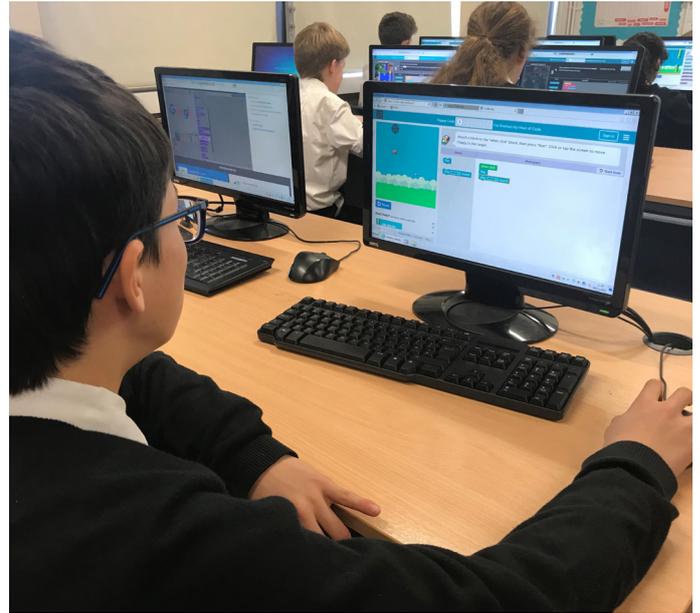
Year 7-9 Cookery Club have been beavering away over the last few weeks, making their own miniature Christmas cakes and other festive fare.



The Hour of Code

For the third year running, Debenham High School joined millions of students around the world to celebrate the 'Hour of Code' from December 4th-10th. This initiative, organised by code.org, is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn programming.

Years 7 and 8 had the opportunity to join the event during their Computing lessons. Everyone was extremely excited and focused to complete their tasks. Themes ranged from Minecraft, Google Logo Design and even Wonder Woman! There was healthy



competition amongst the students to see who could finish the activities first. It was also good to see them helping each other complete the coding tasks. There was a real buzz during the lessons!

Students thoroughly enjoyed the activities and some even said that they will carry on with the tutorials at home in order to further improve their programming skills. It was so good to hear students saying how much they enjoyed coding and that it was not as difficult as they thought it would be.

Anti-bullying Week



As part of the peer mentoring scheme, our peer mentors play an active role in raising awareness of bullying in our school. As part of this work a number of Year 9 students were involved earlier this term in the revision of the schools anti-bullying policy.

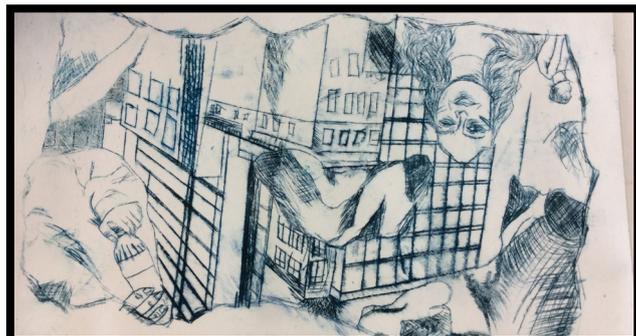
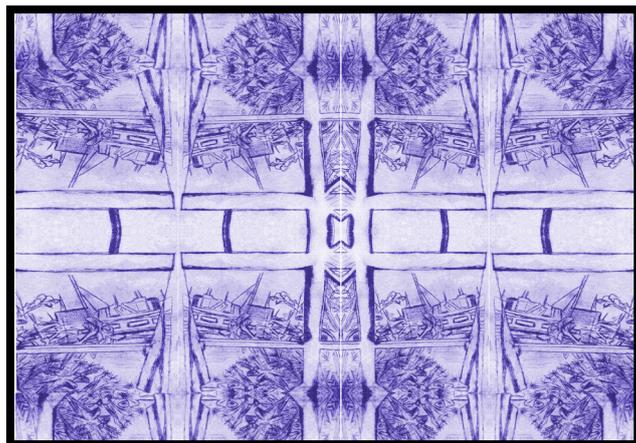
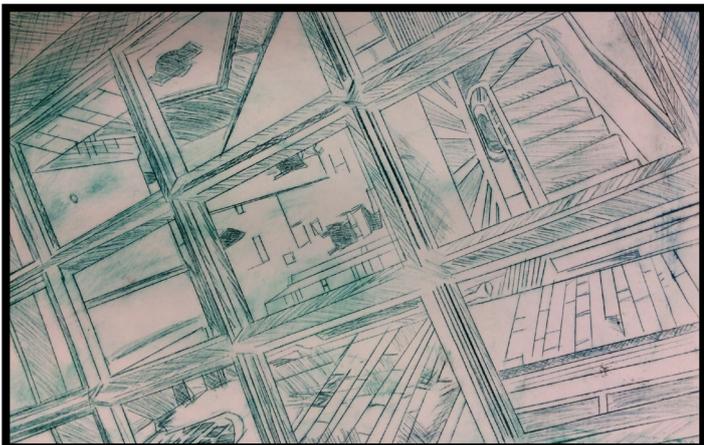
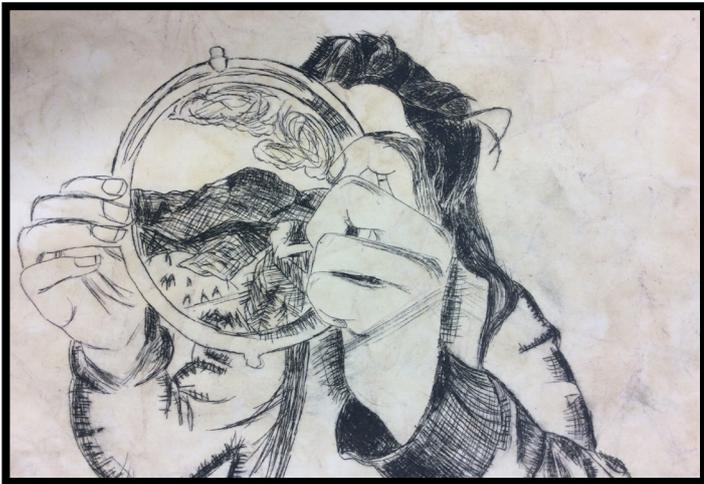
To further their involvement within the school community, our Peer Mentors did a fantastic job promoting Anti-Bullying week and this year's message "All Different" 'All Equal' by asking Staff and Students to celebrate their differences and share what makes them unique. This was then displayed on a giant mobile phone in the new covered way.



All Different
All Equal
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Out of Place : Year 10 Art

The Year 10 students have made an excellent start to the GCSE course and have now completed their final prints related to their theme of 'Out of Place'. Students have also photoshopped their work to create interesting repeat patterns.



Sporting exploits Down Under

Ben Clarke, Year 9, has just returned from Australia where he has been representing Great Britain in Speedway Cycling. Ben was picked for the Test match against Australia and qualified for the Under 18 World Individual Semi-finals. As well as competing above age in the Under 18, Ben also qualified for the Under 16 World Final.

Here's Ben (bottom row, second from right) and the GB Junior squad after their match at Murray Bridge.

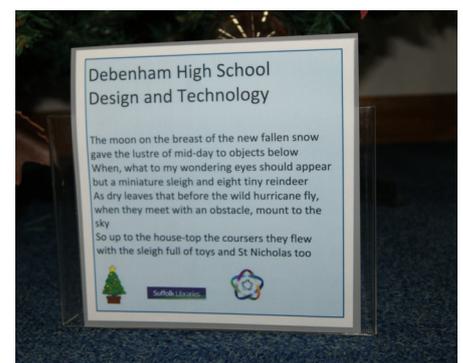


Christmas Trees



Staff and students have been putting their creative and scientific skills to good use in designing, decorating and Christmas trees this Advent season. First in this edition is the Year 11 decorated tree which was presented in the Stowmarket Christmas Tree Festival. Students studying Graphics Products had the opportunity to use their CAD skills to design and produce baubles for the Debenham High School tree at the Stowmarket Christmas Tree Festival. The theme for the tree was a verse from the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas' by Clement Clarke Moore. The pupils embraced the project and created some beautiful decorations.

The tree can be seen in Stowmarket Library until 2nd January 2018.



The UK's future leaders in Engineering honoured

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust has conducted its annual award of prestigious Scholarships to future leaders of the engineering profession. 425 sixth form Scholarships were awarded this year at Ceremonies in London and Edinburgh.

Arkwright Engineering Scholarships act as a beacon to the most talented STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) students in UK schools and help to ensure that high-potential young people stay engaged in the engineering careers pipeline, in the critical 16 to 18 age range.

Debenham pupil James Denny applied for a scholarship whilst in Year 11. The process involved sitting a 2 hour exam that tests how you creatively apply your technical knowledge to develop innovative solutions real-world engineering problems. Based on this he was selected for interview and was then awarded a scholarship.

Scholars are assigned a mentor who can provide advice and guidance about future study and career development. They also give technical advice to help with projects. Arkwright also offers enrichment events with their partner companies.

James' engineering interests lie in sailing and he is currently manufacturing his own carbon fibre tiller extensions.



Suffolk Skills Show

In October the whole of Year 9 attended the Suffolk Skills Show at Trinity Park. This event allows the students to meet a wide range of employers based in Suffolk and find out about careers that they may not have considered or even heard of. There were opportunities to have a go at a number of activities including floristry, sound mixing and digger driving. They even met ex-Debenham students on some of the stands who have now embarked on their own careers.



Construction Award



Congratulations to Alfie Burnett, Year 11, who recently won an award at Otley College. Alfie was awarded the "Endeavour Award" for his consistent hard work and progress during Year 10.

Netball and Hockey



Under 14 Mixed Hockey

Under 15 Mixed Hockey



Under 16 Mixed Hockey

Sports reports



Under 14 Girls Hockey



Under 16 Girls Netball

8th in the County
Netball Finals



Year 8/9 B team lost to
Stradbroke Year 9 A team 24-4

Sports Round Up

Football

Despite being knocked out of the various National cups at Under 13/Under 14 and Under 16 the girls are preparing for their County Cup appearances after Christmas. The Under 16s will host Thomas Mills, whilst the Under 14s will play away at Northgate. There will also be various 6-a-side appearances from our sides at the tournaments we host. The attendance from the girls after school on a Monday has been really encouraging, especially from Year 7. We hope this continues and we welcome all abilities and ages to these sessions on the MUGA on a Monday from 4-5pm.

Year 10 Boys' Football

Despite convincing wins vs Thomas Mills and Alde Valley, the boys lost their Round 3 ESFA cup fixture 4-1 away to Attleborough High, despite taking the lead through Charlie Hill. They are due to play Pakefield away in the county cup in January.

Year 11 Boys' Football

The boys travelled to Chelmsford in Round 3 of their National Cup competition to play Shenfield High School. The side were missing four regular players due to injury which was always going to make this a challenge. Full credit to the whole squad that travelled and certainly put in a really high level of effort and commitment. A debut for Samuel Hazelwood and a return after a season out from Daniel Jones meant we were competitive throughout the game. Despite taking the lead through James Davies-Stokes, we lost 4-1.



Badminton

Our various squads travelled to both Thomas Mills and Bungay to play in our partnership events to try and qualify for the county finals in January. The Under 16 side of Jake Phillips, Ben Evans, Matt Walker and Ryan Keeble won their event comfortably. The Under 16 girls finished runners up, and due to mock exam commitments this meant we took a Year 10 side of Emily King, Mollie Richardson, Molly Warnes and Emma Burley. They came up against a very strong Bungay team but this bodes well for their participation next year.

The Under 14 boys team of Will Botwright, Dennis Dowsett, Toby Arbon and Tom East finished 3rd in their event, whilst the Under 14 girls, again consisting of some Year 8 girls due to the French exchange, finished 4th. Well done to Fern Berry, Ella Haynes, Evie Marsh and Lilianna Mayhew.



Sports Round Up



Under 16 Boys' Table Tennis
2nd in the County Championship

Luke Davies-Stokes
James Davies-Stokes
Jake Phillips
Mather Walker

Table Tennis

The Under 16 Boys and Girls teams qualified for the County Finals in November by beating all teams at the High Suffolk School Sport Partnership competition. They competed in the County Finals at St. Joseph College in Ipswich. The boys played well and won most of their matches but unfortunately St. Joseph College beat them on count back and they finished runners-up. The Girls played Copleston and King Edward VI School to become runners-up in their competition, which is an exceptional result as it was the first time the school had entered a girls team.

Under 16 Girls' Table Tennis
2nd in the County Championship

Nerys Feeney-Howells
Helena Hines
Bea Trott
Mia Hyde



Hockey Results

Under 14 Mixed v Thomas Mills 4-4, Copleston 0-2 lost, St Joseph's College won 3-0
Under 13 Girls v St Joes lost 7-0
Under 15 mixed beat Thomas Mills 6-2
Under 14 Girls v Hartismere lost 2-0, Thomas Mills won 1-0
Under 16 Mixed v Thomas Mills won 4-2

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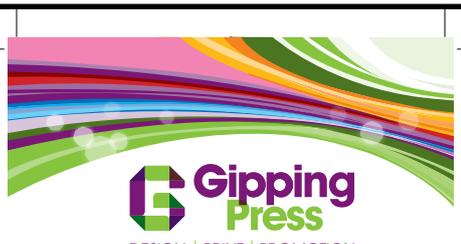
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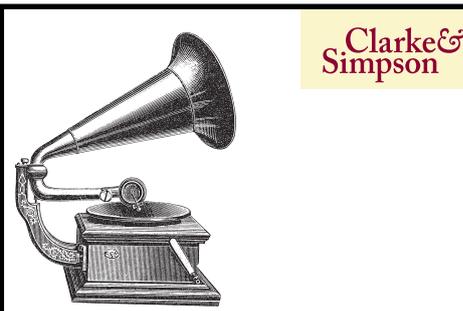
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