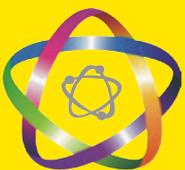


A S P I R E



Head first
Parents and carers will know from my letter last week that we are looking forward to starting our latest school improvement project, the drama extension. We hope that the project will be complete by Christmas 2017, though of course working round school holidays for the noisiest parts of the build always tests the builders to their limits. Have a look at the plans, which are displayed in the foyer next time you visit school. It was lovely to be able to share our Easter thoughts and prayers with the Bishop of Dunwich, Bishop Mike Harrison this week, as he led the school in the Easter assemblies. Having met Bishop Mike on his pilgrimage from Dunwich to Bury St Edmunds, it was lovely to have him return to the school once more.
Julia Upton

Recipe for a perfect teacher

First take a pinch of respect
Next add a dash of guidance
this will make the mixture smile
Add a pinch of kindness
and a spoonful of hope
Stir with good humour
for added respect
Stir in a jug of challenge
in order for understanding problems
Bake well until the summer holidays
and serve with intelligence.

Ellie Keeble
Year 7

During Lent, the Bishops of Dunwich and St Edmundsbury tackled a pilgrimage from their two corners of the county, Dunwich, out on the east coast, to Bury St Edmunds. Many of you may have followed their progress through their blog <https://walkingtogether2017.wordpress.com/page/2/> as they met with members of the local community, discovering the identity and uniqueness of Suffolk and connecting with people from all walks of life along the way. They started out at Dunwich holding an extraordinary Eucharist with a congregation of over 100 people gathered on the beach. Of course much of the original village of Dunwich is now under the sea, having once been a thriving coastal port, as well as place of significant spiritual interest. Bishop Mike, Bishop of Dunwich, presided over the congregation about a mile from where Felix of Burgundy, the first Bishop of Dunwich, would have led the Eucharist in the 7th Century. This point though, is now a mile out to sea. On their sixth day, Bishop Mike Harrison and Bishop Martin Seeley called at the school to talk to some students, and then a few of our students, along with Mr Molton, joined them for the next stage of their journey.



World

Staff and students got into character once more for this day to champion the importance of reading and raise money for those with less access to literature. We raised £527 on the day, with half of the proceeds going to World Book Day charity and half being used to widen the range of literature on offer in our own school library. The prize for the most original and impressive outfit had to go to Mrs Foord-Johnson, our Learning Resource Centre Administrator. Can you guess who we all were?



Book Day



Cross country success - past and present

The school is celebrating the success of one current and one former students in the National Cross Country Championships held a few weeks ago. Tilly Aldis in Year 8 and John-Jack Millar, a leaver in 2014 competed in this competition. We have been chatting with Tilly and John-Jack about this incredible success.

After leaving Debenham John-Jack studied A Levels in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, History and Physics for his full A levels, with an Extended Project Qualification, AS Critical Thinking and AS General Studies on the side. He achieved A*, A, A and B in his four main subjects. John is now a student at the University of Bath and says.

"I have no idea what I hope to do when I leave Uni, aside from something I enjoy. In the week I run at least 70 miles a week, with two runs a day during the week and two gym sessions. This comes to somewhere between 2 - 3.5 hours a day. I still belong to Ipswich Harriers Athletic club and compete for them across the country.

Some other highlights from my running this year have been: 17th at University Cross Country Competition; and 2nd at the Senior Boys Steeplechase at the National Champs and English Schools last year, with the latter race being 2km in which I came second after losing my shoe in the first 400m, going back to retrieve the shoe and throw it from the track to not impede other athletes, then going from the back of the field to second with one shoe on. The race is found here actually: <http://www.runjumpthrow.com/videos/19345>. This also meant I got an interview and a double page spread in Athletics weekly in the the young athlete section for the issue on December 1st 2016."



Tilly Aldis in Year 8 is having a super year with her running. She trains two or three times a week at Ipswich Harriers and does local training runs in between. At the County Cross Country Championships on 8th January at Heveningham Hall, she won the race becoming Suffolk County Under 13 Girls Champion. This has gained her the honour of representing the East of England in the London Virgin Mini Marathon in London on April 23rd. Tilly has also been doing the British Cross Challenge, which takes place in various locations across the UK. She finished 7th overall in this series of races.

She represented Suffolk at the Intercounties Championship at Loughborough at the weekend, finishing first for Suffolk and 37th overall. All the runners in this race are the best 8 from each county in the UK. On the 18th March, she represented the school in the Junior Girls (Year 8 and 9) English Schools Cross Country final at Norwich. She came fourth in the regional Anglia Schools Final at Northamptonshire, although she still has another year in this age group.

Baking again...

This time the KS3 Cookery Club have been making some Easter treats. The club meets every Thursday after school - the smells as you pass are tantalising.



STEM event at BT Adastral Park

In support of British Science Week BT Adastral Park hosted a series of events to give young people the chance to find out more about the exciting stuff that goes on there and gain hands-on experience with activities relating to the STEM subjects such as “splicing” a fibre optic cable, coding and communications. 60 students from across Years 7 – 10 attended the event.

Each session started with a visit to the Innovation Showcase area which hosted themed environments (factory, hospital, home, bank, shop). Students saw the latest innovations and technologies from around the world that will transform these industries and environments. This included banks’ use of facial recognition to enable bank staff to know who they were talking to and “palm vein recognition” to improve security and technology to help families monitor elderly relatives living alone.

Students also saw an example of “Li-Fi”, the super-fast and light-based alternative to Wi-Fi that has been found to be capable of sending data at 100 times the speed of existing wireless connections.



Mathematics Brilliance

Students from Debenham High School have been competing against the best in the country in the next round of the UK Mathematics Challenges. Following the rounds conducted in school (the first stage of this national competition) some students have progressed to the International Rounds, where they compete against others from across Europe.

Students who reached the next stage from Year 11 to Year 8 were: Alex Shore - Daniel Hempstead - Rory Coe - Jake Phillips - Abu Al-Amin - Alfie Tournay-Godfrey - Elise Dix - Ewan Green

As a result of his impressive performances, Jake Phillips in Year 10 has been invited to one of the UKMT Summer Schools. Despite Debenham High School's considerable success in mathematics, Jake is the first student from the school to be invited to this elite group. Students in Years 10 or 11 in the UK who are among the top 1.5% of scorers in the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge are selected and invited to attend one of the summer schools. Just 48 students across the country in Jake's age group are invited to take part in demanding and stimulating sessions, solving mathematical problems. They are joined by a group of senior students who have previously attended a summer school.

Book Mastermind : Area Finals

“Emma Burley wins the Northern Area Final of the Book Mastermind Competition”

On Tuesday 14th March, Debenham High School hosted the Northern Area Final of the Suffolk Schools Book Mastermind Competition. Several area schools were in attendance including Farlingaye, Stradbroke, Pakefield and Sir John Leman High Schools. Our winner from the in-school heats, Emma Burley (9C), represented Debenham. There were two rounds to the competition. In the first round competitors were asked a series of questions on a book of their choice and in the second round general knowledge questions. Emma's chosen book was *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster. Emma scored a total of 25 points out of a possible 33 points with no passes, which put her in first place. Emma will now go on to compete at the Suffolk County Final on 5th May.



Emma being presented with her certificate and prize by Maxine Williams of the Suffolk Schools Library Service.

Music success

Congratulations to all the students who passed their graded music examinations at school in March. Well done to:

Grade 8 : Jodie Mitson, baritone horn

Grade 6 : Izzy Woodhouse, clarinet; Millie Lenton, flute; Molly Weir, flute; Bailey Rockett, flute; Ellie Billington, singing

Grade 5 : Ellie Billington, flute

Grade 4: Daisy Rockett, clarinet; Tabitha Euston, piano; Lily Hudson, piano

Grade 3 : Martha Hitt, violin; Zoe Hurst, cornet; Issey Graham, saxophone; Freddie Grover, trombone

Grade 2 : Jess Culley, clarinet; Imogen Burchell, violin; Flora Fletcher, saxophone; Ellen Fairey, flute; William Chapman, trombone; Mia Francis, french horn; Lucy Wootton, trumpet

Initial : Theo Jeans-Cunard, piano

L'échange entre DHS et le collège Kastler...

...continue en Normandie ... avec notre séjour à ... Merville-Franceville Plage !

L'échange français était une expérience très excitante. C'était très utile vu que nous nous sommes améliorés en Français, mais nous avons aussi renforcé nos amitiés qui avaient déjà commencé lors de la première visite ici à Debenham en novembre. Nous avons quitté l'Angleterre jeudi 2 mars et avons fait un voyage de douze heures. La première journée que nous étions là, nous sommes allés à l'école, qui était une école très jolie juste à côté de la maison de nos correspondantes. Nous y avons ensuite passé la journée en assistant à tous leurs cours et il faut dire qu'apprendre l'Espagnol en Français a été extrêmement difficile ☺. Le week-end, nous avons passé du temps avec les familles de nos correspondants et certains d'entre nous se sont retrouvés et sont allés faire du shopping dans Caen. Lundi, tout le monde, y compris les Français, est allé au Mont Saint Michel, qui est une belle île ; ce qui était une visite incroyable – même si le vent était terrible. Mardi, nous sommes allés à Caen pour faire une visite guidée de la vieille ville et nous avons eu un tour du château et de l'église avant de faire du shopping dans l'après-midi. Mercredi, nous avons visité La Batterie De Merville, qui était extrêmement intéressante car nous avons appris plein de choses sur ce qui s'est passé en juin 1944. Dans l'après-midi, nous avons déjeuné avec nos familles françaises et puis certains d'entre nous se sont retrouvés et sont allés à la plage ensemble jusqu'à la fin de l'après-midi. Les garçons français et anglais avaient prévu de se retrouver pour jouer au foot. Dans l'ensemble, l'échange français était incroyable et j'ai certainement gagné des amis pour ma vie.

Par Elise Dix et Poppy Simpson, ainsi que Emma et Léa, leurs correspondantes.



J'ai adoré aller à Caen car la région est très belle et nous avons tous passé un très bon moment tous ensemble avec nos correspondants puisque c'était sympa, les familles nous ont bien accueillis et on a tous très bien mangé...les macarons étaient trop bons ! Les deux meilleurs moments étaient quand on a passé la journée au Mont Saint Michel et aussi quand nous nous sommes tous retrouvés le week-end entre Français et Anglais car nous avons joué tous ensemble sur la plage. La journée à l'école était très intéressante vu que c'est tellement différent de notre école. Les élèves français prennent leur temps pour manger le déjeuner à la cantine !

Will et Zach Flatt



Year 11 Food and Nutrition

Year 11 students of Food and Nutrition have been adding the finishing touches to their final products. Their hard work has clearly paid off - they look good enough to eat!



Year 11 Food and Nutrition



BAE Systems Education Roadshow

Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed a session from the BAE Systems Education Programme Roadshow - delivered in partnership with the RAF and the Royal Navy.

In the first part of the Roadshow they learnt about drone technology and the many uses that they can be put to for both the military and civilian use. They then looked at computing and control systems that all modern technology is built around.

In the final part of the show they were introduced to “Nao” an autonomous, programmable humanoid robot developed by Aldebaran Robotics. The robot has shape and facial detection and recognition, sound source location using 4 directional microphones, obstacle detection and distance estimation using sonar telemeters plus many other features. I one of these will appear on many Christmas wish lists.

It was a great event to promote STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) subjects to the students.



Catering at DHS

We were delighted to be asked to be featured in a corporate catering publication earlier this term. Around 60% of our students eat a hot school meal, more than in most secondary schools, a tribute to the high quality and variety of products delivered by our team.



Diversity week

Our biannual Diversity week was a chance to learn more about ourselves and other people, be that through exploration of our own sense of self, in mindfulness and yoga workshops, or through hearing those speak from other faiths or those who live with a disability. Students were given the chance to ask questions and interact with those from our rich and diverse society in an open and safe environment.



Sports reports ...

Skiing

Debenham High School have had their first fixture against Woodbridge this term. The students had timed races and then their best time was counted. Mia Francis finished 1st, with Lewis Fulcher 2nd and Charlie Bagnall 4th. Well done to all team members who have gradually improved their times.

Swimming

For the first time in its history, Debenham High School won the HSSSP swimming gala. We had some consistent performances. Catherine Odell and Rhys Hughes 1st in 50m freestyle and Year9/10 girls relay teams winning freestyle and medley relays (which included 6th form teams). Other members of the team finished either 2nd or 3rd and beat Hartismere, Thomas Mills, Bungay and Alde Valley overall.

Handball

The Boys Under 13 Handball team qualified for the County Finals in Lowestoft this term. They played Ormiston Denes, losing 8-6, they then played Copleston and lost 11-6 and, finally, they also lost to the eventual champions East Bergholt. All members of the team improved over the day and can be proud of coming 4th in Suffolk.

Year 7 Rugby

The final game of the season saw the undefeated squad head to Thomas Mills. At the start, it was obvious we had not played for a few weeks and both our passing and rucking on the tackle were not as sharp as usual. Within the first 20 minutes Thomas Mills had scored 2 tries. We managed to score twice just before half time, the score being 10 – 10 at half time. The second half was a different story, forwards and backs working well together giving us the opportunity to score another 4 tries. Final score Debenham 30 Thomas Mills 10. Well done and still undefeated! Try scorers Rhys Jones, George Dix, Will Elliott and Ollie Saddleton.

Hockey

Under 14 Boys hockey v Hartismere

Under 14 Boys hockey v Thomas Mills

Under 13 Girls/Boys lost to Hartismere and Thomas Mills

Under 15 Girls hockey v Thomas Mills won 4-3

Under 16 Boys Beat St Joeseph's College 6-1

Netball

Under 15 A v RHS B won 25-20

Under 15 B v RHS C won 33 - 11

Under 15B v Bungay U16 Won 20-17

Under 12 v Bungay won 22-3

Under 14 v Bungay won 36-3

Under 13 v Bungay won 24-2

Under 12 A v Hartismere A Lost 12-8

Under 12 B v Hartismere B lost 11-3



... and in pictures



DHS SKI TEAM
Samuel Corsie, Charlie Bagnall, Joe Bagnall, Lewis Fulcher, Nick Van Ek, Mia Francis, Millie Clark, Amelia Adams



DHS U13 Handball Team
Back - Frazer McMyn, Jack Simpson, Josh Swinburn, Fasayo Tukur
Front - Charlie Bagnall, Fred Mallet, Nick Van Ek, Luke Davies-Stokes, Louis Hyde



DHS Swim Team



Under 12 Netball



Under 15 Netball, featuring Josh Easter



Year 7, Rugby

Sports reports ...

Football has been tremendous this term with the Year 7,9 and 11 Boys Football teams into the County Semi-finals.

Year 7 Boys Football

The Year 7 Boys Football team are currently putting in some excellent performances and scoring lots of goals! In the friendly against Bungay they recorded a 14-1 victory and they then took this a step further in the County Cup Quarter Final where they put 15 unanswered goals past East Point Academy. The semi-final against Farlingaye after Easter will no doubt be a lot tighter affair.

Year 8 Boys

Attendance at training continues to be excellent, with 25 boys turning up on a regular basis. A number of these boys then represented the school in a 5 a-side competition held at Debenham where one of the three Debenham teams was victorious. There was also another good win for the year team as they beat Bungay 10-0.

Year 9 Boys

The Year 9 team have excelled this half term and after putting in a real gritty performance against Pakefield they secured themselves a spot in the County Semi-finals with a fantastic 5-2 victory. Kesgrave await in the semi-final where another fully committed performance will be needed. Away from the County Cup the team had a narrow defeat against St Benedicts but a win over Hartismere.

Under 13 Girls Indoor Cricket Team

It was a great achievement for the team to beat both Hartismere and Bungay in the area competition and this saw them progress through to the County Finals held at Inspire Suffolk. The standard here was always going to be a lot higher but the girls acquitted themselves very well and made some real progress over the duration of the tournament. This saw them win their last game against Thurston and finish a very creditable fourth in the county.

Under 15 Girls Indoor Cricket

After putting in an impressive display in the area competition, the team travelled to the county finals in high hope of silverware. Competition was good and with all three teams in the group having won a game each, it went down to the total number of runs scored in the two games played. Unfortunately, the team lost out on a spot in the final by 9 runs which meant they competed in the 3rd/4th place playoff. Wanting to put in a good performance having missed out on the final sport, they did so and convincingly beat County Upper by 46 runs to finish third in the county



... and in pictures



Year 9 Boys, Football



Year 7 Boys, Football



Year 7 Boys, Football



Under 15 Girls, Indoor Cricket



Year 9 Boys, Football



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