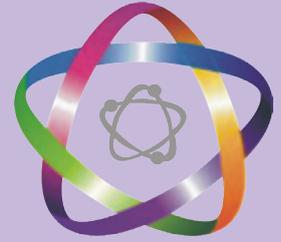


# aspire

2013-14 Summer edition



## Head's Up

As we reach the end of the school year we have waved a sad farewell to our wonderful Year 11 students at their prom, cheered on the efforts and excellence of our students at sports day and toasted the musical talents of those students joining us in September at the Festivities in the Field. There has barely been a week without something going on.

We say goodbye to a number of staff this year, leaving us for promotion or for a well-deserved retirement. I would like to say a formal thank you to Mr Brooks, Mrs Rose, Mr Taylor, Mr Hughes and Mrs Keeble for all their hard work in the classroom and beyond. We also say au revoir to Miss Blackmore and Miss Moyes, teaching assistants who leave us to train to be teachers of Geography and Mathematics.

Julia Upton

## The new guard



Congratulations to our new Head Boy and Girl and their Deputies. Leading the school community next year are: Alex Warnes, Louise Davy, Sid Griffiths and Kate Gilbert.



Congratulations too, to our new Peer Mentors for September. Following interviews with current mentors and Mrs Gridley these students will join the team who support and help those younger students in the school. They will work with Year 7 tutor groups and individuals as they settle into life at High School. These students all receive training in how to communicate effectively with others, how to listen and share advice. They have already shown that they have the skills of empathy and understanding, by being selected for this important role.

# Festivities in the field

We decided to brave the elements again with our summer music concert this year and our good luck charms paid off with a fair (if a little chilly) evening. The evening started with a number created in our Arts workshop with Year 6 students earlier in the term. Over 140 students attended the workshops in dance, art, singing and African drumming. These four workshops then came together for one magical performance at the start of our summer concert. It was lovely to see so many students and parents then stay for the rest of the concert and see a wonderful array of musical talent.





# Geography



Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 all go on a Geography Field Trip as part of their Key Stage 3 studies. The practical application of skills learnt in the classroom puts learning into context and teaches the students the importance of accurate experiments, analysis of results and evaluation of findings. These are, of course, valuable skills to have in life - and even more so if they progress to GCSE Geography studies.



# In Action

While Year 8 students went to Southwold to examine coastal formations, Year 7 students took a trip down the river Gipping to explore the uses of the river and later on in the day, measure the flow and pH content of the river itself. Such active learning of course requires some sustenance (spot the chips and the ice-cream) along the way!!!

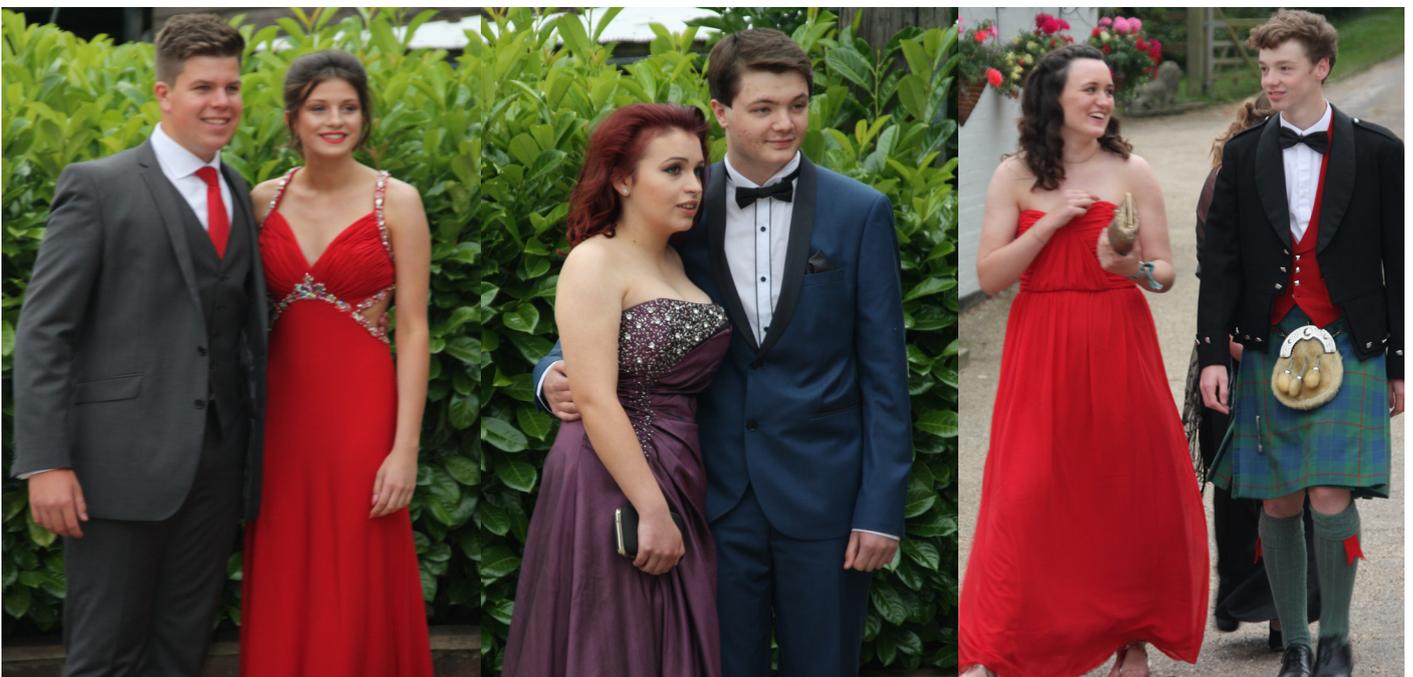


# Manor Farm

Year 11 looked resplendent at their leavers prom, held at Manor Farm, Henley. They have worked incredibly hard for their examinations and deserved to let their hair down (or put it up!). We wish them every success for their next steps and we miss them already.



# Prom



# Sports Day

The sun shone and Year 10 students commented that it was 'the best sports day ever'. Congratulations to eventual winners Austen House (by the narrowest of margins); first place changed hands as the last relay race was completed. Each year we award the Simon Crofts Award to a student who has shown determination, courage and team spirit. This award is given in memory of a former student of Debenham High School who battled ill health during his time at school.  
*Gold: Henry Bullock      Silver: Megan Williams      Bronze: Josh Smith*





**Record Breakers**  
 Senior Girls Discus: Sammy Giles: 15.90m  
 Senior Boys Discus: Jordan Ejembi: 23.20m  
 Junior Boys High Jump: Charlie Aldis: 1.50m  
 Year 9 Boys 400m: Connor Williams: 60.08s  
 Junior Girls Discus: Shannon Evans: 20.72m  
 Year 8 Boys 400m: Tim Leggett: 65.00s  
 Year 7 Boys Relay 3 x 100m: Owens: 45.23s



**2014**



# Mathematical Magic

## Year 7 Competition

On Friday the 11th of July a group of six students attended an annual Mathematics morning. They were competing against four other Suffolk schools in a variety of involved mathematical problems. Despite a late start they quickly caught up and completed the first two problems without dropping a single point. The team of William Chapman, Helena Hines, Lily Hudson, Morgan Manly, Jake Philips and Jake Smith were full of hope and confidence that the next two sessions would go just as well. They did: with 16 out of 20, they came joint top. Securely in the lead, faced the last challenge of building the highest tower from twenty pieces of paper. Unfortunately this was where the team, quite literally, toppled! Naturally we claimed that "We won the Maths!" We will be back next year hungry for victory!

## Year 8 Masterclass

Each year there are a series of Maths Masterclasses for gifted and talented Year 8 pupils. The classes run on Saturday mornings and give pupils the opportunity to meet and work with other talented mathematicians. This year William Bosley and Sophie Caves were selected to represent Debenham High School. From code-breaking to origami the workshops aim to fascinate and challenge. Also included is a trip to London to a lecture at the Royal Institute. Mr Hadwen and the two pupils heard how Greeks carried out experiments to understand Maths and its place in the world, and then about the IG Nobel prize.

## Suffolk Maths Challenge Champions

As Suffolk Maths Challenge Champions, Aidan Coe, Harry Fawkner, Matty Carter and Sam Fowler went to London to compete in the UK Maths Challenge Final. 80 teams from Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England participated. The journey began with the 7.35am train from Stowmarket, and despite a lack of faith in Mr Hadwen's navigational skills the team reached their destination in plenty of time. In pairs, the team completed four rounds which tested their mathematical ability, problem solving skills and cooperation. A teacher from another school commented that their team work was the best she had seen. Whilst the team didn't make the final cut they represented themselves well, reaching the final itself was a huge achievement. They celebrated with well-earned McDonalds burger, where they even managed to eat more than Mr Hadwen!



# Frank Bright



Year 9 were lucky enough to use a primary source for their work in History, meeting the remarkable Frank Bright, holocaust survivor. Frank talked about his first-hand experiences from his youth and explained what it was like being a Jew in the Second World War. Students had previously prepared questions that they wanted to ask Frank about his experience. You could not fail to be moved as Frank showed a picture of his school class with markers indicating those who did not survive into adulthood.



# Raspberry Pi

Raspberry Pi, for the un-computer literate, is a credit card size computer that costs only £20.

Up to twenty students have been using their creative skills on a Tuesday after school with these tiny computers and a range of software. Installing the operating system was the first challenge, then learning Scratch or Python programming languages.

Holly and Ryan have created their own computer games.

Holly said 'I created a game by putting different shapes together to make a penguin. You can give him fish and if you touch his face he screams and his health goes down.'

Ryan said 'In my game, 'Underwater Dodging', you play as a fish who has to avoid an angry predator. The longer you last, the faster the enemy becomes!'

In June the club members had support from a STEM ambassador, who helped wire up a breadboard with an LED and attach it to the Pi, then create a program to make the LED flash. Following this start, we hope to progress to controlling a series of LEDs, buzzers and to use switches as inputs, leading eventually to controlling a buggy.

Raspberry Pi will be led next year by Mr Geronimo, our new Head of ICT and Computing.



# Duke of Edinburgh

Twenty two Year 10 students and six teachers covered approximately 26 miles of footpaths, tracks and coast paths from Aldeburgh to Dunwich, with an overnight camp at Knodishall, for the assessed Bronze Expedition. A couple of groups decided that they should add a few extra loops to their journey (Thorpeness Heath and Fens proved to be a bit of a black hole for their map-reading skills) but all groups made it to camp, eventually. The weather was "mixed" at best. Thankfully air temperatures stayed pleasantly cool to make trekking more comfortable, but the groups had to cope with truly torrential downpours that flooded roads and paths and risked soaking them to the skin. However, there was also plenty of sunshine to dry them off again and keep morale high.

Improvements had been made from the practice expedition. Each pupil was prepared with their kit and equipment; teamwork within each group was productive, time keeping was accurate and, despite this expedition requiring significantly longer and more taxing routes, the pupils' fitness and stamina levels had improved. The Assessor was full of praise for each group's spirit, enthusiasm and the camaraderie they showed.



## Year 7 Charity

Year 7 rounded off the last of the charity weeks this year with close to £750 raised for Crossroads, a local charity which supports young people with autism and their families. A Year 7 student presented in assembly about the charity and it was subsequently chosen for their fund-raising work this year. From Inter-House dodgeball, Nerf-shooting, welly-wanging, crossbar challenge, stocks to bake sale, the Year 7s led some wonderful events with all students in the school.

