



ASPIRE

Celebrating success 2017-2018 Summer edition

You will notice that the first pages of our newsletter are in quite a different style to usual. Our Year 10 Visual Communications students were set a challenge to create four pages of their own version of Aspire. They had to imagine that as graphic designers they had been commissioned to design the magazine. No fake news allowed, this had to be a real version. I can see me handing the production over to a new team next year!

I can't quite believe we have fitted all our news in this edition, our last edition of the year, it seems we have much to report. From trips and visits, to work inside the classroom, there has been plenty going on at school.

This term we say farewell, and thank you for their dedicated service, to four teaching staff—Mr Moulton, Mrs Cane, Miss Leost and Mr Hanraads, leave us for fresh challenges in new roles locally or in other parts of the country. We wish them all well.

As this glorious summer weather looks set to last (at least until we break up) I wish all of our readers a relaxing summer break.

Julia Upton

Our new Heads

Head Boy, Joshua Goulton

What was your initial reaction?

I was ecstatic when I heard the news of becoming Head Boy as this will look good on my CV and increase my self-esteem.



What qualities do you think make a good Head Boy?

You have to be a good role model, meet deadlines, be confident and be able to speak in front of your peers.

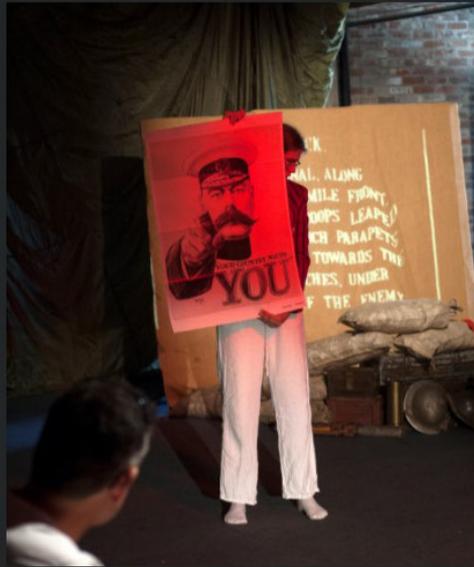
Head Girl, Elise Dix

What was your initial reaction?

I wasn't expecting to become Head Girl. I think I was in a state of shock at first, but after a few days I realised 'I'm Head Girl'!

What qualities do you think makes a good Head Girl?

I am a confident speaker, which is a key value to have as Head Girl or Boy, but you also have to be organised. Also you have to be adaptable to any appropriate task and approachable, so that your peers share their ideas and opinions with you.



Centenary play at Crows Hall

07/07/2018

On Saturday 7 July, Crow's Hall hosted Debenham High School's performance of "Over The Top".

The montage of different theatrical disciplines had a theme World War 1. Throughout the matinee and evening performances the audience were treated to some moving scenes, inspired by the events and media at the time. One friend of the school wrote with thanks after the evening, sharing how the scenes had made her remember her father, who fought in World War I but lost many friends.

Mr Rinaldi once again did an excellent job of conducting and making sure all of the talented musicians performed at their best, creating the perfect ambience to the incredible scenes within the play.

Mr Hardcastle also directed the play superbly, creating a moving atmosphere which the audiences enjoyed very much.

Mrs Wilkinson co-directed and also led all the choreography. Her exacting standards led to some fabulous sharp, engaging performances.

Miss Bolton also led some of the performances, having a drama background herself. Mr Debenham provided the costumes and helped fit them all to size, which was a massive help to the whole production.

Duke Of Edinburgh

16/06/2018

Year 10 have been working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. On the 16 and 17 June 2018 they completed their assessed expedition.

To pass this, they needed to do a 30km hike over 2 days (camping at Worlingworth Village Hall overnight). The expedition was enjoyed by all that took part. Elise Dix said this about her experience:

Explain what you did on the Duke of Edinburgh expedition:

'We walked for 30km with heavy packs on our backs, which contained everything we would need for that night. This included: food, tents, Trangia stoves, clothes and first aid equipment.'

What is the Duke of Edinburgh Award about?

'It's all about team work, and good communication throughout the group. Our group were very good at talking to each other and keeping everyone informed on everything.'

Why did you choose to do the Duke of Edinburgh Award?

'I personally chose Duke of Edinburgh because I felt that it would be an exciting thing for me to do. It requires you to complete sections such as learning a skill and volunteering, both of which are really rewarding. I felt that it would be fun to do something like this with my friends as well.'

And finally

'For all groups it went really well, we all completed the expedition section of the award and all really enjoyed doing it.'





75m Hurdles



Tug Of War



1500m

Sports section

Sports Day

27/06/2018

On Wednesday 27 June Debenham High School hosted our School Sports Day for students to participate in. It included records in both track and field events. There were also some new events, with records set for the first time.

Year 7 Boys 75m Hurdles	Kiran Brandon	13.69s
Year 7 Girls 75m Hurdles	Rose Courteen	15.68s
Year 7 Super 8 mixed relay	Owens House	3.29m
Year 8 Boys 75m Hurdles	Daniel Bachu	12.50s
Year 8 Girls 75m Hurdles	Tilly Stiff	13.85s
Year 8 Boys Javelin	Ollie Saddleton	27.70m
Year 8 Boys Discus	George Dix	21.90m
Year 8 Boys 400m A	Nico Valentine	1.02.53
Year 8 Super 8 mixed relay	Owens House	3.05m
Year 9 Boys 75m Hurdles	Josh Swinburne	11.97s
Year 9 Girls 75m Hurdles	Faye Poole	14.90s
Year 9 Boys 400m A	Frazer McMyn	59.45s
Year 9 Boys 400m B	Jack Simpson	1.01.78
Year 9 Boys Discus	Dennis Dowsett	28.96m
Year 9 Boys 3 x 100m Relay	Curie House	38.62s
Year 9 Super 8 mixed relay	Da Vinci House	2.58m
Year 10 Boys 75m Hurdles	Tom Morris	11.84s
Year 10 Girls 75m Hurdles	Molly Warnes	14.02s
Year 10 Super 8 mixed relay	Nelson House	3.01m



Summer Awards

As our Summer Awards recognise, we celebrate, with pride the determination shown by students in the classroom, day in day out, to achieve their best and make progress in their learning. Students are recognised for sustained effort and commitment across the course of the academic year. In some cases we celebrate that excellence in one particular subject; in other cases across a range of subjects; and in some for the manner in which they have given to and led others, through their positive example. Our thanks to Mr Matthew Hicks, County Councillor, for presenting the awards.



Bin It!

Bin It! is an award winning roadshow that tackles the anti-social issues surrounding discarded litter. Last year the Bin It! roadshow was a huge success and has just started touring again. The Roadshow helps students realise that it is everyone's job to keep the local areas clean and tidy. The play highlighted the fines given for dropping litter and made putting litter in the bin fun! It also reminded students how long it takes for certain objects/ litter to decompose. After the show Year 7 were set a task of picking up any litter around the school or village and to put it in the nearest bin.



Year 7 Charity Week



Year 7 Charity Week

As you probably know Year 7 Charity week took place in the first week in July. I know I speak for all Form Representatives, Year Leaders and teachers when I say 'thank you' for all the money you put into our pots for our chosen charity, Leukaemia UK.

Leukaemia UK is a great charity which was founded in 1977 and was originally called The Elimination Of Leukaemia Fund. Over the last 40 years they have made ground-breaking changes to people with blood cancer. We really wanted to help this charity because we think a lot of people have lost someone close to them because of some kind of cancer, so we all pulled together to help this charity.

We want to thank everyone who donated cakes to our sale (including Scout Armstrong-William's Mum for her incredible, Mr Incredible cake!). As well as the cake sale there were a number of events through the week, including karaoke, arm wrestling, water being thrown at teachers (sorry Miss Upton!) and of course non-school uniform day and quiz.

But now for what you have all been waiting for, the total amount of money we raised was an impressive £720.

By Lucy Daly, Year 7

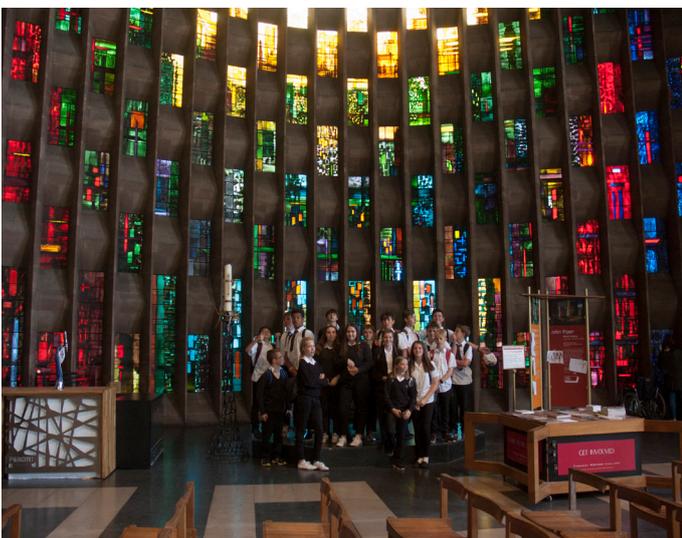


Coventry Cathedrals: Year 8 RE

Students in Year 8 took a trip to Coventry to visit a number of places of worship. They visited the new and the old St Michael's Cathedral. Students then visited a Gurdwara, a Sikh temple. Students saw how Sikhs gather at the temple to pray, including the rituals of their worship.

Students learnt how the ruins of the medieval St Michael's are the consequence of violence in our own time. On the night of 14 November 1940, the city of Coventry was devastated by bombs dropped by the Luftwaffe. The Cathedral burned with the city, having been hit by several incendiary devices.

The decision to rebuild the cathedral was taken the morning after its destruction. Rebuilding would not be an act of defiance, but rather a sign of faith, trust and hope for the future of the world. This has led to the cathedral's Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation, which has provided spiritual and practical support, in areas of conflict throughout the world. Shortly after the destruction, the cathedral stonemason, noticed that two of the charred medieval roof timbers had fallen in the shape of a cross. He set them up in the ruins where they were later placed on an altar of rubble with the moving words 'Father Forgive' inscribed on the Sanctuary wall. Another cross was fashioned from three medieval nails by local priest, the Revd Arthur Wales. The Cross of Nails has become the symbol of Coventry's ministry of reconciliation. The ruins remain hallowed ground and together the two create one living Cathedral.

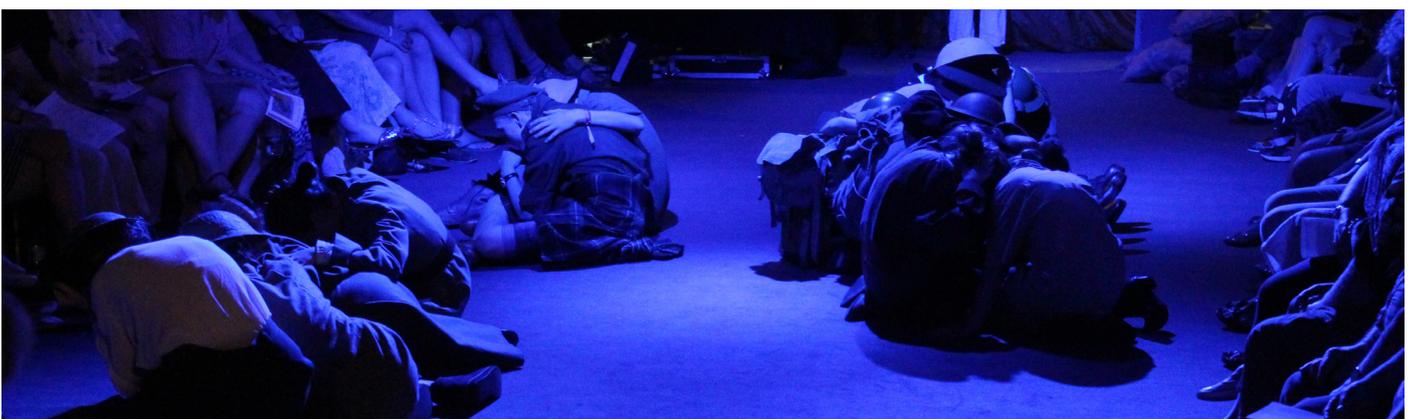


Coventry Cathedrals: Year 8 RE

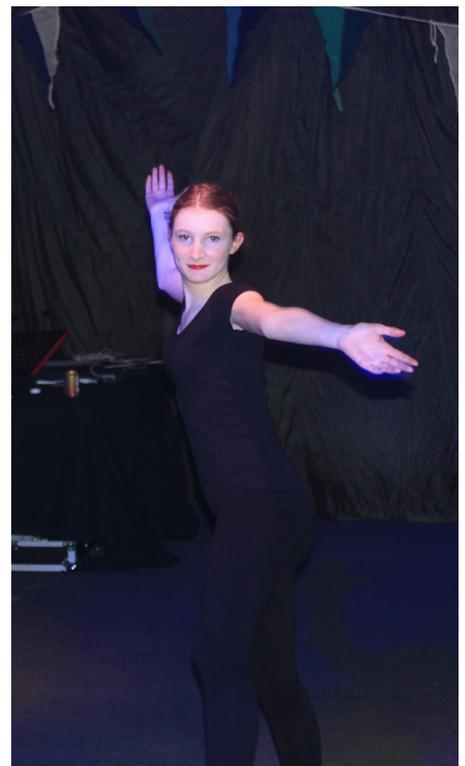


Over the top

This year, our summer production took a slightly different focus. In order to commemorate the end of the First World War, our Drama, English and Music department decided to show a montage of materials from the time. With Dame Vera Lynn, World War 1 poetry and some Blackadder it was an evening of light and shade. Audiences were moved by the students' performances, taking them back to a time that we must never forget.



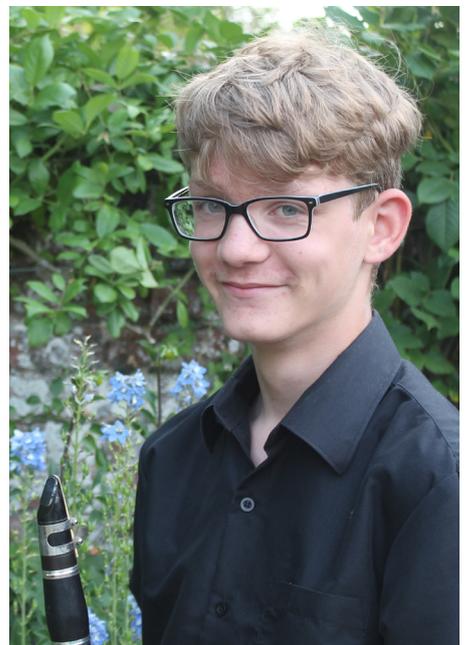
Over the top



Music at Crow's Hall



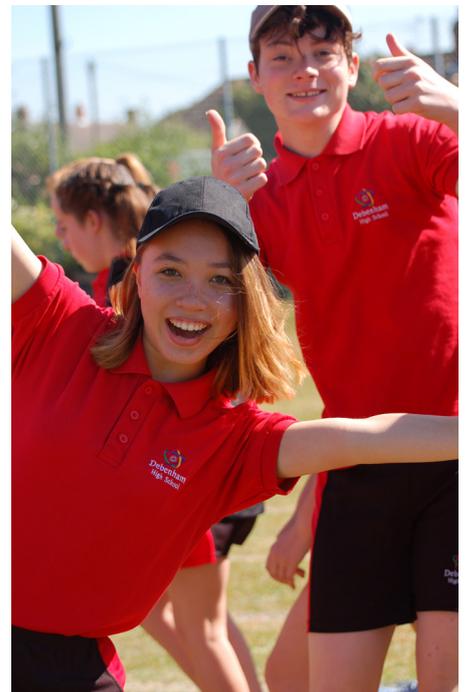
Our thanks, once more, to Mrs Caroline Spurrier, for allowing us to use her grounds for the music and drama of our summer production. Our musicians entertained our matinee and evening audience in the most beautiful of settings.



Music at Crow's Hall



Sports Day



Sports Day

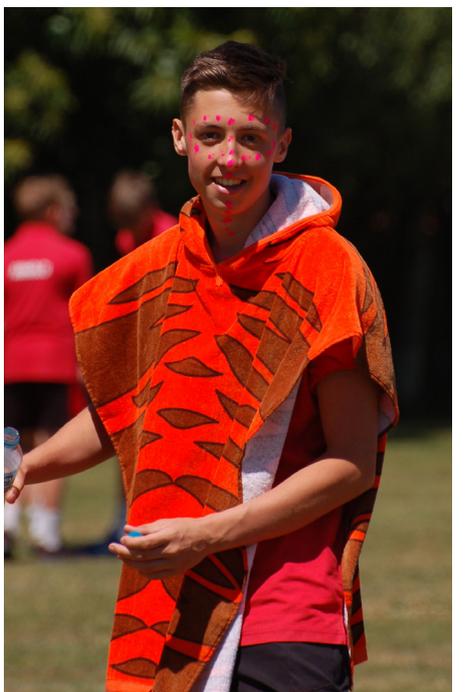


SPORTS DAY RESULTS 2018

- 1st DA VINCI 1847 points
- 2nd OWENS 1751 points
- 3rd NELSON 1628 points
- 4th AUSTEN 1555 points
- 5th CURIE 1505 points



Sports Day



Sports Day



Sports Day



Above: Victorious Da Vinci House Captains: Willow Ainge, Poppy Simpson and William Halford-Thompson
Below: Simon Crofts Award: 1st, Samuel Corsie, 2nd, Molly Richardson, 3rd, Jonny Hughes



World Challenge

Year 11 students have finally completed fund raising, trekking training and camping skills and we are ready for our Namibia challenge! During our trip we will be completing challenging treks and visiting a local school where we will complete building work. Thanks to the share of charity money raised by the students of Debenham High School earlier this year, we will be able to buy more for the school when we arrive and also contribute to their local economy. Good luck to all the team!



Women's Tour of Britain

It might have been fleeting, but on 13 June, the whole school turned out to watch the Women's Tour of Britain cycle past the school. Passing at high speeds, it was over in a flash, but the build up, including one police officer who entertained the crowds, was worth the wait.



Portraiture



Year 10 Art students are working very hard to complete their portrait paintings for their coursework unit. It has been lovely to see their skills grow this year and these final pieces really show how much hard work they have put in. It's been great seeing students at lunch times and after school in this hot weather working to finish these to a quality far higher than you might expect to see from Year 10 students. Great work and we look forward to seeing what they produce next year!



Food and Farming

A group of Year 8 students enjoyed the annual Food and Farming day at Hollow Trees Farm near Hadleigh. It was a great day to meet people from a wide spectrum of food and farming related careers and learn more about where our food comes from and all of the people involved from field to fork.

They learnt about combine harvesters, rape seed oil, met some livestock and how virtually all of the bananas on sale are of the same variety "the Cavendish", which is currently under threat from disease.



Muntons Visit



On the 2 July, 13 Year 8 students travelled to Muntons in Stowmarket. When we arrived, we were greeted by our guide Ms Joanna Perry who led us to the reception where we collected our hi-vis jackets for the tour. We firstly walked round the back of silos so we could get a better view of the whole factory. We discovered that there is a wildlife walk and when the people who work there have a break, they sometimes play a game of golf on the large grass area! We went into the conference room where we had a presentation. We also were allowed to go into the bakery room where they develop new recipes which include malt. Before we were allowed in, we had to put a hairnet and jacket on (we all looked amazing!). In there we tried a chocolate biscuit which contained malt and a chocolate biscuit that didn't. We also tried a fruit punch that contained malt. An apprentice talked to us about her role and her career path. It was a super day, which gave us much food for thought about the career paths available in this industry.

Abi Last, 8F



Independence Day



On Wednesday 4 July, the school took part in its second annual Independence Day: a day with no questions asked during lessons and a greater emphasis on students solving their own problems. In-school research for the initial Independence Day two years ago showed that, on average, 30 questions were being asked per lesson, and that 555 questions were asked over a series of 18 lessons. A large proportion of these questions were: what's the date? Shall I write this title here? Can I have a pen?

The aim of the day was not to discourage students from asking probing questions and being inquisitive, but to shift the emphasis from immediately asking questions to thinking first: could I solve this problem on my own? The students were encouraged to rephrase questions into statements and theories, which actually resulted in many students formulating the answer in the process. This was all with a view to equipping our students to go out into the wider world, ready to independently problem solve.

Before the day, Year 7 Set 1 in English made a video about what independent learning meant to them, which was shown in assemblies and form times. On the day itself, students took part in a form time activity looking at what makes an independent learner, inside and out, and then teachers tested their independent capabilities. In Science, Mr Rockett's Year 7 group were given a method in a previous lesson and faced the challenge of independently carrying out the experiment. In Year 8 Maths, Mrs Thomas' group were busy practising being independent even before the day and in Year 10 English, students were coming up with independent interpretations of poems and competing to complete individual revision tasks of 'A Christmas Carol.' There was also a prize for Independent Learner of the Day: well done to Sarah Harrison, 10E, 'In Maths Sarah worked at a pace beyond others, she is always prepared to see how she can stretch and challenge the work we do, help others and test her skills without teacher input. She does ask when she needs, but before this has always explored every other option first.'

Many thanks to all staff and students who helped to make this day a success and the message at the heart of it shall continue: 'Be independent and see how much you can achieve.'



Sizewell Hall: Year 7 RE Trip



In June, Year 7 students spent the day at Sizewell Hall, a Christian Retreat, as part of their RE studies. This day allows students to consider the meaning of spirituality and what that means to them. They take time to stop, reflect and be at peace with who they are and those around them. Students learnt how those who visit the Hall, take time in a similar way. Activities are led by Mr Yaroslaw and Matt Levett, Leader from The Forge Church.



Sports Round-up

Under 13 Boys Cricket

The team have performed very well this summer, putting in a number of strong performances in both competitive and friendly fixtures. On the competitive front, the team beat Thomas Mills, Hartismere and Alde Valley in the area competition to see them through to "Chance to Shine" County Finals. With a number of the team missing due to a school trip, they did well to finish in 6th position

Friendly results: Won against Thomas Mills, Hartismere and Stradbroke; 3rd in Kwik Cricket Competition held at Bungay.

Under 12 Boys Cricket

Friendly results: 2nd in Kwik Cricket competition held at Bungay; beat Hartismere.

Under 15 Boys Cricket

The team were drawn against two strong teams, St Benedict's and Thurston, in the group stage of the county competition. In both games, led by strong performances by captain Nick Haynes, the team played well to chase down 141 to beat St Benedicts and then 135 to beat Thurston. This saw them progress through to the quarter finals where they played a strong Hadleigh side. The teams score of 113-8 wasn't quite enough as Hadleigh chased this down for the loss of only 3 wickets.



Athletics: Under 15 Super 8s

This event saw quite a remarkable performance as both the A and B team finished in the top two places of the first, local stage of this competition. This meant that the boys and girls A team made it through to County Finals, held on the same day as the Under 13 competition. Once again all athletes performed to their best and this saw the girls team finish in a fantastic 3rd position and the boys in 6th.



Athletics Round Up

Arthur Hollified Athletics

Both the Under 13 and Under 15 teams were successful in the competition held at Thomas Mills on the 26 June.



Under 13 Super 8s Athletics

Both the A and B teams put in a strong performances at the area competition held at Thomas Mills. The Boys A team, who were particularly dominant, won by over 200 points, seeing them through to County Finals. The girls A team came close to joining them here but narrowly missed out to Stradbroke, finishing second, only 9 points behind.

At the County Finals, held in Bury St Edmunds, the boys once again put in a strong performance but they had to settle for silver, missing out on top spot by only three points. Nonetheless, this was a fabulous achievement.



Sports Round Up

Under 14 Boys Cricket

The Under 14 boys cricket side were crowned County Cup winners on 5 July, after a really tight finals day at Woolpit Cricket club. To reach the finals, the side played Hartismere (won by 8 wickets) and Stowmarket (won by 10 wickets) in their group games, and then defeated Sir John Lemman in the quarter-final, winning by 8 wickets. In the semi-final, Debenham played Castle Manor and reached 148-8 in their 18 overs, and then restricted their opponents to 52 runs in their innings, winning by 96 runs!

In the final they played Hadleigh, who had earlier defeated Thomas Mills in their semi-final. Batting first, Hadleigh scored a competitive 126, with good bowling from Luke Attwell, James Fishendon, Woody Hilton, Harry Panter, Riley Clarkson, Harry Rogerson, Gruff Harries, Josh Swinburne and captain Charlie Bagnall. Special mention to Frazer McMyn for his superb catch on the boundary to dismiss one of their batsman. In our reply, Debenham started slowly and steadily, with Luke Attwell and Josh Horsup accumulating runs. Despite keeping wickets in hand, the run rate was starting to creep upwards and we still needed 50 runs from the final 6 overs. However, fine hitting from Josh and Woody got us over the winning line, hitting a boundary off the first ball of the last over to win the trophy. Many congratulations to all the team on this fine achievement, especially considering four players were from Yrs 7 and 8.



Girls cricket

Both Under 12 and 13 teams played in a friendly Kwik cricket tournament at Bungay in June - the Year 7 team won the event and the Yr 8 team finished 3rd.

In the 'Chance to Shine' competition, the Under 15 side, consisting of Yr8/9 girls, played and beat Hartismere by 6 wickets, but lost to eventual winners Thomas Mills. Top scorers for the afternoon were Molly Warnes and Evie Marsh.



Sports Awards and Leaders

This year's Sports Awards on 4 July 4 was attended by over 230 parents, carers and students celebrating our sporting success over the year. We had various nominations placed around the school over the preceding two weeks and winners were revealed on the night. We welcomed Merv King, professional darts player, to help give out the awards and play a game against some of the students. Upper School Sports Personality was won by Bea Trott. Below: Merv King pictured with Sports Leader of the Year Seb Norton & Lower School Sports Personality of the Year Jess Menzies.



Sports Leaders

Throughout the Summer Term, our Year 10 Sports Leaders have been teaching small groups PE at our local primary school in Debenham. They have taught a range of sports to pupils from Year 2-6, and have really enjoyed this opportunity to test their organisation and teaching skills in this environment.

This will count towards the 10 hours of teaching time they need to pass the course. Pictured are some of our leaders who helped at the KS2 Sports day held on Thursday 12 July, officiating with the track and field events.



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