



ASPIRE

Celebrating success 2019-20 Harvest Festival Edition



Head First

Welcome back to all our Year 8-11 students, parents and carers and a special welcome to all those who have joined us in Year 7. In a round of information evenings at the start of the academic year it has been good to see parents and carers face to face and to share how we can work together over the coming year in the best interests of your children.

We returned from our summer break having celebrated super GCSE results. The day of those results in August saw many smiling faces as students collected their results. It is lovely to see how proud the students are of what they have achieved and for them to realise that hard work really does pay off. As the weeks have passed, we have been able to see the context of those results in the light of the local and national picture. This comparison is not to pitch one school against the other but helps us to recognise the attainment and progress that our students make in comparison to their peers across the country. Our results place us as the highest performing school in Suffolk once more and also in the top schools nationally.

Headline figures were that 80% of students achieved Grade 4 or better in English and Mathematics and 71% a Grade 5 or more in those subjects (the later being the “good pass” that is the new government benchmark). Moreover, our Progress figure of 0.70 (from October indications from the Department for Education) mean that students achieved almost 3/4 of a grade better in every subject than the national average progression. A real tribute to the hard work of all students and staff.

As you know, we don't believe that these results come from the work in the classroom alone. They come from clear and consistent expectations and a school ethos rooted in our Christian Foundation. Our school motto of “To treat others as you would wish to be treated” permeates through much of what we do with students and we hope that in the wide range of experiences and opportunities that life at Debenham High School affords, that students develop a sense of self-belief that shapes who they are as well as what they achieve.

Julia Upton

GCSE Success

In the summer of 2019, students once again achieved results that they can be proud of. Headline figures were:

- 133 students sat 1,280 GCSE Examinations (or equivalent Level 2 qualification)
- 80% of our students achieved a Grade 4 or higher in both English and Mathematics (highest in Suffolk)
- 71% of our students achieved a Grade 5 or higher in both English and Mathematics (highest in Suffolk)
- 40% of our students' results were Grade 7 to Grade 9, or equivalent
- The reported Progress 8 figure 0.70 (which measures the starting points of our students and the progress that they made in comparison to students nationally)

We think that success in the classroom goes hand-in-hand with an enjoyment and commitment to the whole of school life. For those students who were successful academically, involvement in school life and a balance to their learning went hand in hand.



Individual success

We track the progress of our students relative to the progress they make from their starting points. We acknowledge their achievements relative to these starting points. From our GCSE results in 2019 we are delighted to celebrate the achievement of our highest achieving 10 students.

Andrew Driver	9 Grade 9, 2 Grade 7
Emma Burley	7 Grade 9, 4 Grade 8
Glenn Canham	7 Grade 9, 3 Grade 8, 1 Grade 7
Mollie Richardson	7 Grade 9, 3 Grade 8, 1 Grade 7
Ewan Green	7 Grade 9, 2 Grade 8, 2 Grade 7
Rosie Hudson	6 Grade 9, 2 Grade 8, 1 Grade 7, 2 Grade 6
Elise Dix	6 Grade 9, 3 Grade 8, 1 Grade 7
Arlo Foster	5 Grade 9, 3 Grade 8, 3 Grade 6
Naomi Ryder	4 Grade 9, 6 Grade 8, 1 Grade 7
Joshua Goulton	4 Grade 9, 1 Grade 8, 2 Grade 7, 2 Grade 6, 1 Grade 5, 1 Grade 4

We are equally proud of those students who made the most progress relative to their starting point with us in Year 7. The following students deserve particular praise in this regard:

Arlo Foster, Scout Armstrong-Williams, Rosie Hudson, Emma Burley, Leah Skinner, Maisie Keeble, Amelia Pearlman, Alfie Tournay-Godfrey.

Aldeburgh Fieldtrip



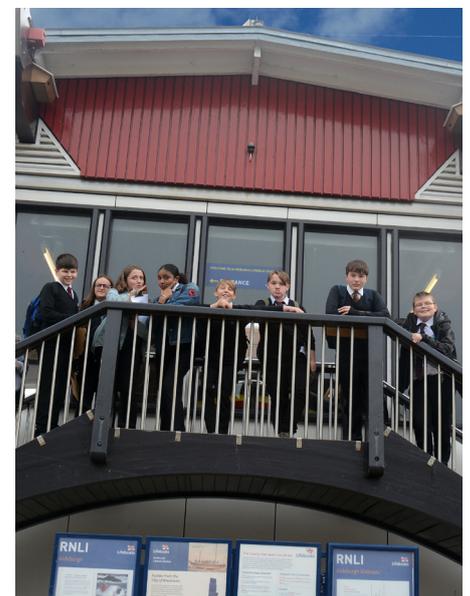
On Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 October Year 9 had a Geography fieldtrip to Aldeburgh for this term's topic of tourism. We were looking at whether Aldeburgh was a honeypot site and to see how this affected the environment.

The first thing we did was like a treasure hunt. We were arranged into groups and set off to get our bearings. The sheet had twelve questions on it ranging from the price of a latte to the fine for feeding seagulls, which is £2500 if you were wondering. Our challenge was to get the answers and get back to the teachers first to win a prize. Our groups set off and could be seen rushing down the high-street trying to get the answers right. It was a great activity to do not only because it was fun and helped us to orient ourselves, but also because it helped us start to gather evidence to the main question, is Aldeburgh a honeypot site?

After all the groups had returned we were given our next task which was to complete our environmental, traffic and pedestrian surveys. We did four of each survey in different parts of the town. These surveys were to show the number of people and vehicles that passed in a certain amount of time and to see how this affects the environment around. Considering it was a school day, Aldeburgh was very busy: at one location 37 people and 33 vehicles passed in just five minutes. Our environmental survey showed that Aldeburgh had been negatively impacted by tourists as there was a reasonable amount negative sights, like litter.

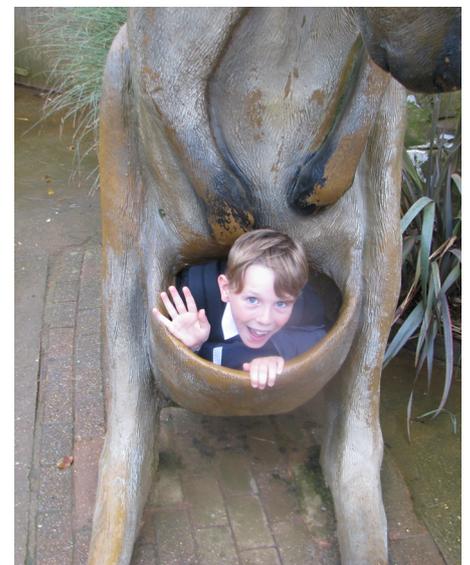
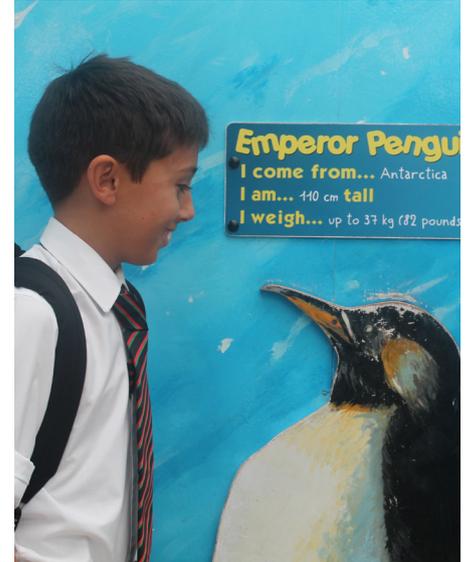
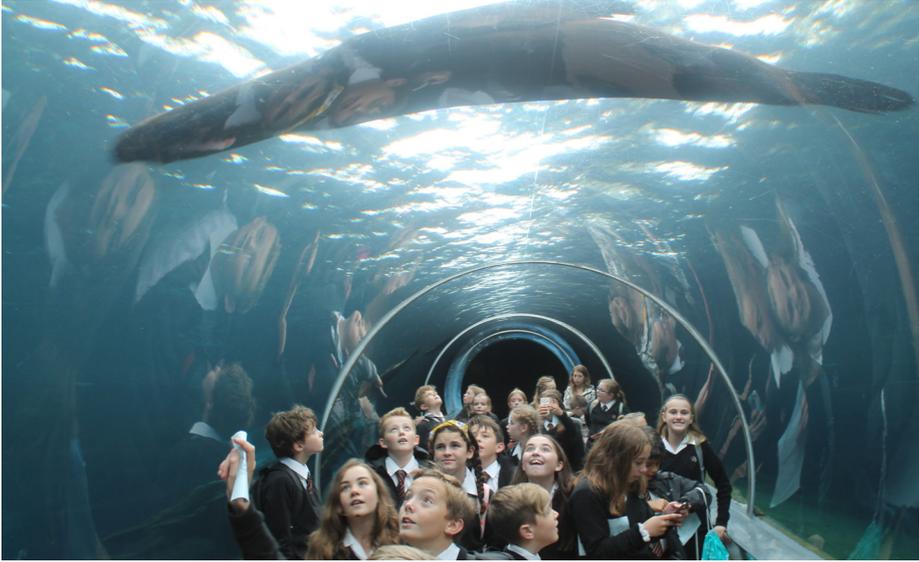
It was a rather cold couple of days but if I'm not mistaken the best cure for that is fish and chips! After a great lunch, we began to finish off our booklets, which included an annotated sketch of our environment. Many of us turned to the beach for our diagram, which was very clean with only a few small pieces of litter; this was probably helped by the large number of litter pickers helpfully available for the general public to use; a good solution! Finally, before heading back to school we had to do a land use classification survey, walking down the high-street and along the seafront to see how all the land was being used.

It was a great trip and a great chance to learn something new.
Leah Sharp-Ling, Year 9

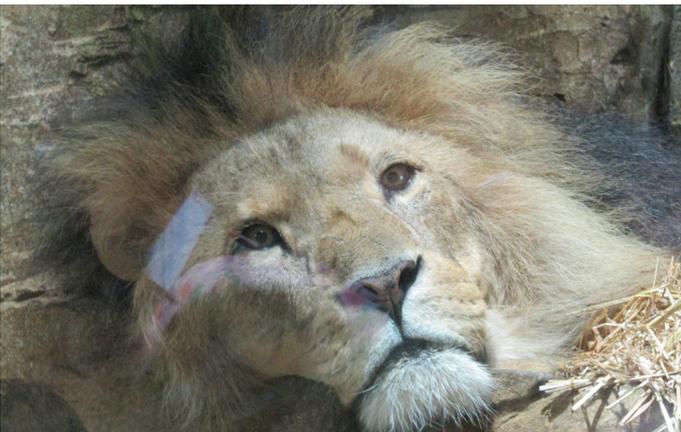


Colchester Zoo

We love the trips and visits at the start of Year 7; they always provide for some amusing photographic opportunities. Year 7 seem to have settled into the school well, showing enthusiasm and purpose inside and outside the classroom. They certainly looked like they enjoyed studying mutation and habitat at Colchester Zoo.



Year 7



Language Leaders

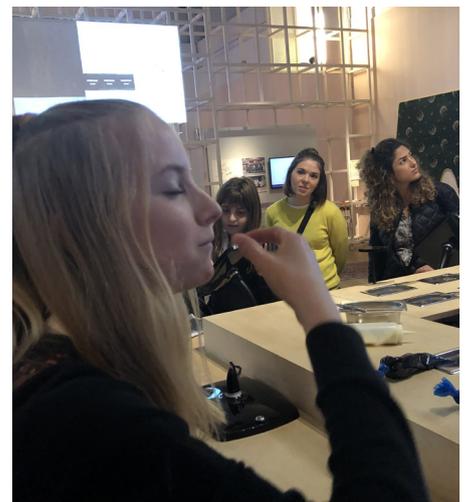
Congratulations to our new Language Leaders. These students will support younger students in the development of their in French and Spanish both at Debenham High and through work with local primary schools.

Megan Green, Lucy Clarke, Sophie Coton, Phoebe Clark, Amelia Bendall, Rose Courteen, James Foreman, Aidan Fleet, Logan Garnham, Freddie Coe, Lucy Daly, Alex Oakley, Anouk Harris, Jessica Hall, Tom Johnson, Eva Khan, Hugo Nudds, Leah Sharp-Ling, Evie Miller, Jasmine Love, Max Kissick-Jones, Laura Panter , Megan Smith, Jack West, Oliver Lankester, Mae Washington , Lola Stallard and Kathryn Wood.



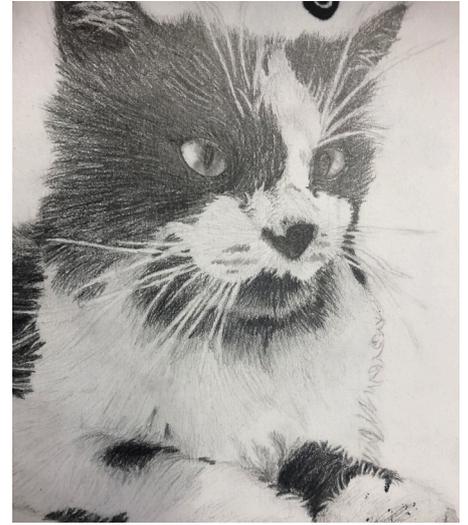
Art, Design and Technology Trip: V & A Museum

Last week Year 8 enjoyed a day out in London with the Art, Design and Technology department. We spent the day at the V&A visiting exhibition rooms in small groups. Students had the chance to visit the current food exhibition which showed ways in which food is grown, produced and eaten. Students also visited textile and fashion displays, photographic exhibitions, the Japanese Art room and the 20th Century Design room amongst others. We were delighted with the focus students showed and how well they interacted with each other, the exhibits and members of the public.



Art: Summer sketchbooks

We were delighted to see KS3 students' summer sketchbooks in September. What a lovely way to record memories and ideas. Students had a look at each other's' work over a lunch time and were presented with prizes by Miss Upton in a Lower School Assembly.



Year 10 and 11 Art

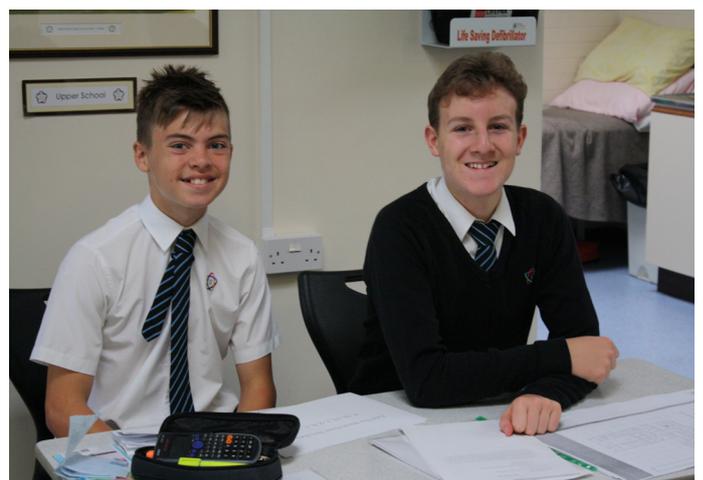
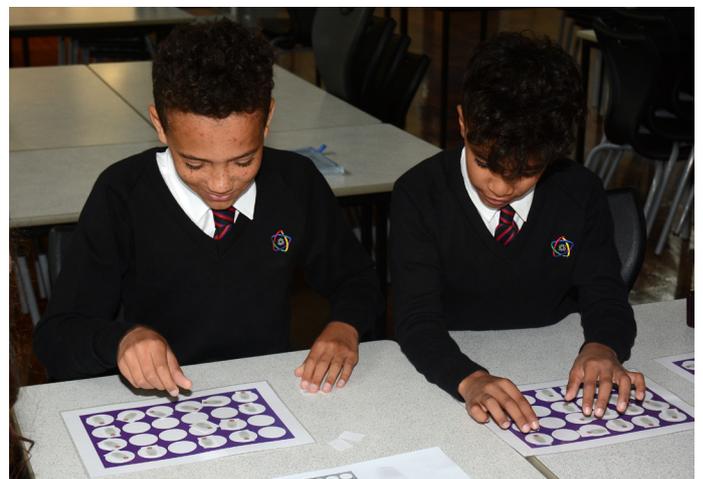


Year 10 and Year 11 Art students have been out on trips gathering images and sources for their coursework projects. Year 10 students enjoyed a sunny day out in Felixstowe where they took photos and completed drawings at Landguard Fort and Felixstowe Ferry. Year 11 students spent a day in London looking through collections at the V&A and the Natural History Museum.

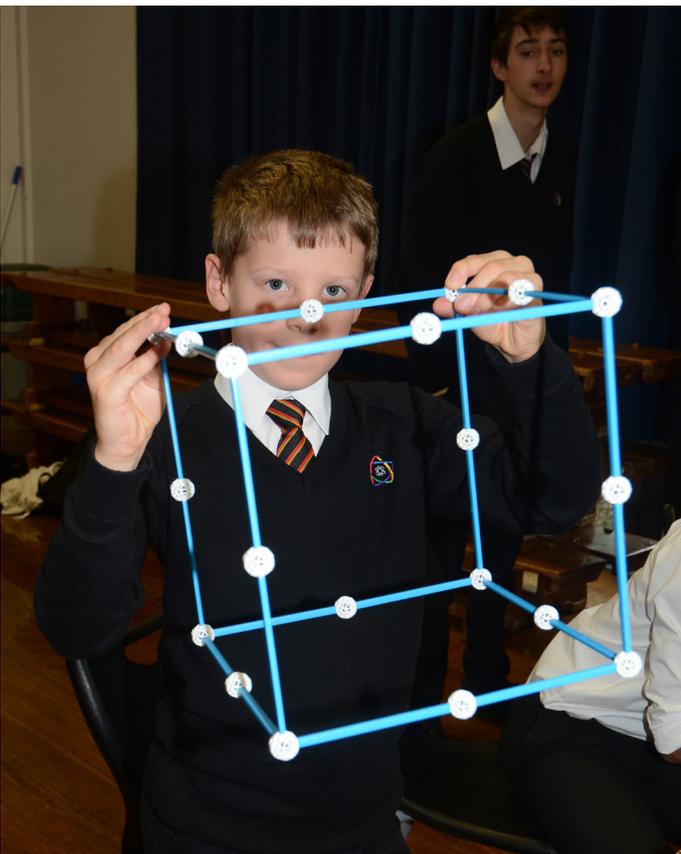
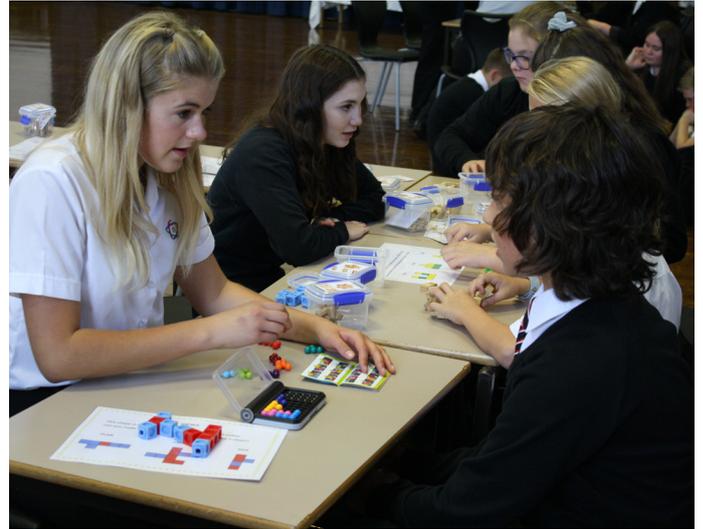


Year 7 Puzzle Day

Year 7 had to have their wits about them, soon after their arrival at High School, as they were put into small groups to see if they could work together to problem-solve and apply logic to a range of different mathematical challenges. Students in Year 10 led the activities, showing their ability to develop skills in others, as well as themselves. Mr Daly, our new Head of Mathematics, introduced some new activities this year and flexed his mathematical muscles!



Year 7 Puzzle Day



Summer residential



Munich and Berlin



We started our trip at the lovely hour of 01.40am - when we boarded the coach and set off to Gatwick. Despite our early awakening, as soon as we dropped off our luggage, we got straight into our first day of activities in Germany. We started in Munich, the home to the NSDAP, much more commonly known as the Nazi party. On our first day we walked the route of the Munich Putsh, Hilter's failed attempt to take over the Bavarian Parliament with a show of strength, which took us all over the city. On our way we came across a variety of different memorials, which gave us a more vivid picture of the disturbing events which occurred during the Nazi control of Germany. On our second day we continued to explore the city and then enjoyed a very German dinner in a very German beerhall, with some very interesting entertainment.

On our third day we said farewell to Munich and set off for Nuremberg. We visited the museum which is housed in one of Hilter's unfinished stadiums. Nuremberg is most infamously remembered as the home of Hilter's massive rallies, the biggest being the annual rally in 1937 where an estimated 100,000 people were present. In Nuremberg we also found remnants of the beginning of more Greco-Roman imperialistic buildings, which were a planned feature of Hilter's main goal: the 3rd Reich, his 1000 year empire. Nuremberg is also the founding place of the Nuremberg laws, which include legislation denying all Jews the right to German Citizenship. Next stop Berlin.

On our first day in Berlin we travelled to the Reichstag to explore the memorials surrounding it, which were in much greater frequency and boldness than the ones on Munich. It makes you think, where are the memorials in England that apologise for our mistakes? We then visited the Holocaust Memorial. It was an experience which is difficult to describe, but certainly reminds you to be grateful for what you have today. We then, after a wonderful dinner opposite the Reichstag, climbed to its roof to enjoy a view of Berlin and some USSR graffiti.

On our final day we visited the Berlin wall and had a little break from our German GCSE Course to have a look at the Cold War. Although the wall fell 28 years ago, you can still see the difference between the East and West of Berlin. We also had a very disturbing insight into the Stasi when we visited a museum in its Berlin HQ. To end our final day we walked along some of the East Side Gallery, which was a refreshing taste of freedom after a day of learning about such an oppressive regime.



Summer residential



Swimming in thermal lakes and waiting for lunch - geo-thermally cooked of course!

The Azores

The Portuguese islands of the Azores made a very exciting destination for an educational and inspirational Geography trip for Year 10 students. The Azores islands were created at the junction of three tectonic plates and are now host to many spectacular geographical characteristics. The lush green forests, bubbling hot springs and lava tubes were just a few of the many exciting things we were able to see.

After our flight from London Heathrow to Lisbon, we then caught a connecting flight to Ponta Delgada. The locals made us feel extremely welcome and were very good hosts. Our tour guide for the week, Eduardo, was knowledgeable, energetic and good fun.

We visited Furnas Lake Interpretation Centre for an interactive exhibit on the local watercourse and land use. We walked around Furnas Lake to witness evidence of volcanic activity. Here, local restaurants use geothermal energy to cook food in pots buried beneath the ground. We enjoyed a traditional Cozido lunch, an Azorean meal, slow cooked in the hot geothermally heated ground: a selection of chicken, pork, beef and vegetables slow cooked in the earth. After lunch, we walked into Furnas village to see geysers and thermal vents and brightly coloured rocks from mineral deposits. Later that afternoon we visited Terra Nostra Botanical Gardens and got the opportunity to explore the traditional plant species of the Azores followed by use of the large thermal pools. These were extremely hot and coloured by the rich iron and mineral deposits. We felt lucky to have a guided tour of the Gorreana Tea Plantation, only one of two located in Europe. Here we learned how tea is picked, dried and prepared using traditional machinery before having the opportunity to taste different types of teas.

Another highlight was Lagoa do Fogo, a crater lake atop the central ridge of the island offering spectacular island views and an extensive nature reserve. Not far from here, after a short drive along the hydrangea filled roads, we had the opportunity to visit and walk around a local geothermal energy plant and learn about how HEP is made and used on the island. Ending the day at the Caldeira Velha; a waterfall and natural hot springs, this was a relaxing way to appreciate the different types of volcanic rock and how geothermal energy is used across the island. The next day, after a short ride along the coast, we stopped at the Volcanic and geothermic observatory. This was followed by a renewable energy forest trek – forested area in the hills above Ribeira Grande in the centre of Sao Miguel. We followed the river valley via tracks and a metal walkway suspended above the river, past waterfalls to view two HEP plants.

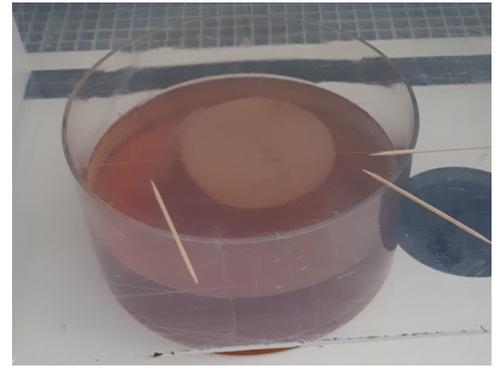
It wouldn't have been a trip to the Azores without a whale watching tour. We were incredibly lucky to see quite a few whales in their natural habitat. Sadly sea sickness was problematic for quite a few students and Mrs Wilson was delighted that she took the decision to accept seeing photographic evidence only!

Our final day was spent visiting Sete Cidades which is one of the seven natural wonders of Portugal. The blue and green lakes are situated in one of the largest volcanic craters of the Azores. Thank you to Mrs Wilson, Mrs Farrell, Mr Hadwen and Year 10 for making this an adventure to remember.



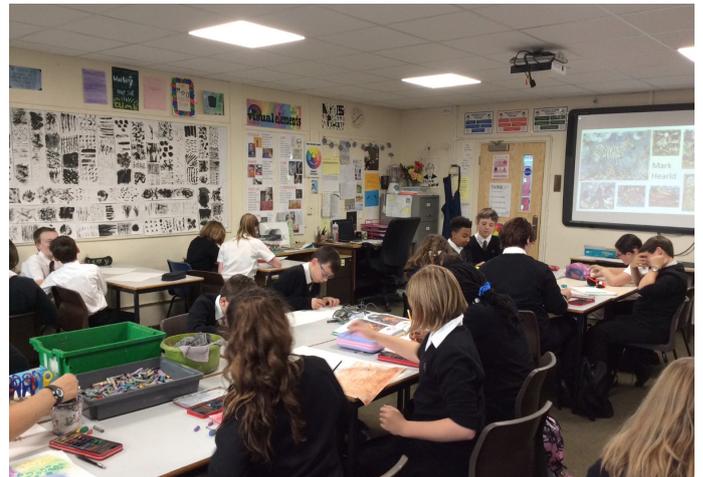
Textiles experiment - vegan leather!

Industry professionals and even couture designers have trialled making a material from the waste product of fermented tea production. Kombucha leather is the by-product of this activity that can be, through a variety of processes, turned into a leather-like substance, which can be sewn, molded and manipulated. This material is 100% sustainable, biodegradable and vegan. It is grown in a solution of tea and vinegar over a series of weeks. This is something we are hoping to expand with the GCSE Textiles students in the academic year. With thanks to the Science department for their help in this experiment! Watch this space for further developments in the coming months.



Art Club and Year 9 Art

Key Stage 3 Art club has got off to a magnificent start with students coming in to pursue their own work as well as taking part in the workshops provided. The students have helped prepare journals for the Big Draw competition and will soon be looking towards Christmas activities and crafts. Art club is every Tuesday in Art room 6. Year 9 students have been making tools to draw with as well as completing detailed gridded drawings. A great mixture of creativity and skill.



Green Team Update

There has of course been much in the news of late, with regard to the stewardship of our planet, with the climate change demonstrations in London. Students at Debenham have been showing that the best positive social action starts with a change in our own local habits. As we learn in the bible, although God gives us "*all things richly to enjoy*," nothing is ours. Nothing really belongs to us. God owns everything; we're responsible for how we treat it and what we do with it. While we complain about our rights here on earth, the Bible constantly asks, what about your responsibilities?

The Green Team has been working hard to improve our school environment and to reduce our environmental impact. New recycling bins will shortly be placed in our shared spaces around school and some new recycling bins will be available in classrooms. Students will be responsible for emptying their classroom recycling and we are partnering with one of our local primary schools, Bedfield, and Terracycle to offer additional recycling for other materials such as crisp packets, food pouches and even empty Pringles tubes!

The team has further grand plans for this year, including an educational visit to the "Energy from Waste" facility in Great Blakenham, implementation of litter reduction in our environment and various other waste reduction initiatives.



Sports Action: Netball

Our sports teams have been making the most of the light evenings with an array of fixtures at the start of the school year. Students have been enjoying building skills together, playing and winning.



Year 8 Netball Team came 3rd in the HSSSP netball tournament beating Thomas Mills, and Bungay, but losing to Alde Valley and Hartismere.



Year 9B Netball Team played in the HSSSP netball tournament against Thomas Mills, Alde Valley, Hartismere and Bungay

Year 9A Netball Team beat Thomas Mills but lost to Alde Valley in a fixture hosted by Thomas Mills.



Year 10 netball beat Sir John Leman and Bungay, but lost to Hartismere at the HSSSP tournament. They also played a fixture against Thomas Mills and Stradbroke winning both games.



Year 7 first matches



Year 7 Netball Team's first fixture for Debenham High School against to Thomas Mills & Alde Valley

Year 7 Football

Year 7 Boys have kept Mr Cook very busy on a Monday evening this half term, with over thirty boys regularly attending football club. By the time half term arrives, all of these students, regardless of ability would have represented the school in fixtures against other schools. Let's hope this level of commitment continues throughout the year and that all of the boys continue to enjoy training and representing the school.

Results so far:

Debenham vs Stradbroke 11- 0

Horringer Court Middle School vs Debenham 0-2

Thomas Mills vs Debenham 3-6



Table Tennis

Debenham Table Tennis Squad

Under 16 Girls 2nd

Under 16 Boys 3rd

Under 13 Boys A 3rd

Under 13 Boys B 5th
in HSSSP Tournament.



Suffolk Schools Cross Country

Hours of footwork on the road and across the fields paid dividends with some excellent results in the Suffolk Schools Cross Country at Royal Hospital School. Congratulations to all.



Mae Washington 6th



Tilly Aldis 3rd



Megan Green
From 172nd in Yr7 to 49th in
Year 9 - great progress



Ethan Crane 29th



Alec McKay 8th



Jake Hayward 13th



Luca Barricella 8th

House Cross Country

As a pre-cursor to the Suffolk Competition, earlier this term, all students took part in the House cross country races, held in their PE lessons. Results are published here, with all students competing earning points for their houses.

Congratulations to the following:

Winners: Year 7- Da Vinci,

Year 8 - Nelson,

Year 9 - Owens

Overall winners: Nelson (by 1 point!!!)

Year 7	
Da Vinci	1939
Curie	1828
Nelson	1751
Austen	1643
Owens	1629

Year 8	
Nelson	1955
Owens	1657
Austen	1651
Curie	1483
Da Vinci	1405

Year 9	
Owens	1397
Da Vinci	1374
Curie	1268
Nelson	1211
Austen	875

Football



Under 14 Girls

The side played Westbourne away in their Round 1 National cup fixture. Although this is mainly a Year 9 competition, our side is mainly made up of Year 8 girls. The team put an outstanding performance together to see off their opponents 5-3, with three goals from Alanna, and one each from Laura and Lucy Bowden. The girls play Claydon at home in the next round.

The Under 12 side play their County Cup game vs Sir John Leman school on Tuesday 15 October, and the Under 13 girls have Northgate after half-term in their National cup fixture.

Training for all year groups is on a Monday 4-5pm, all are welcome!

Year 9 Boys

The side enjoyed some success in drawing 3-3 with Stradbroke in a friendly, against a team they had not won against before. In the Hartismere 6-a-side competition, they lost to Hartismere, drew with Thomas Mills and Alde Valley 'B', winning verses Diss and Alde Valley 'A'. The boys have Archbishop Sancroft school at home on Friday 18 October.



Year 11 Boys

The side faced Hartismere in a friendly, losing 2-1, with our goal from Sam Palmer. They face a tough fixture in the first round of the National cup against Kesgrave on 9th October.

Football

Although we are very proud of all players that represent the school in football teams across the year groups and genders, a special well done and recognition needs to go to Alex Oakley, Lucas Brittain (both Year 9) and Seth Carroll-Chambers (Year 10) who have been selected for the County squads this year. This is a fantastic achievement and one that all three boys should be proud of.

Ordinarily these achievements couldn't be bettered but unfortunately for these three, Nico Valentine in Year 10 is honing his skills at the next level, national representation. At the end of July Nico was selected to attend an England Under 15 training camp. This was just reward for Nico who adopts a mature, focussed and down to earth approach to the game that he clearly loves. His commitment to football and his academic study both is outstanding and he is clearly an inspiration to students across the school. Ipswich Town are lucky to have him on their books and England clearly saw something in July as he has been invited back for a second training camp in October, taking place at St George's Park. We wish him well.



Year 8 Football

Although not reaching the numbers that the Year 7 boys have managed, the Year 8 boys have also made a really pleasing start to the year with close to twenty coming out to training most weeks. This has given Mr Cook one or two selection headaches but seeing this many wanting to play at the club and represent the school is great.



The majority of the twenty got a run out in a 1-1 draw with Hartismere while in an away fixture against Thomas Mills a strong performance from those selected saw them chalk up a 9-0 win. Let's hope they put in another good display when they go to Pakefield in Round 2 of the National Cup.



Year 10 Football

Having won the County Cup in the past two seasons and made the last 32 of the National Cup, the Year 10 team have set the standard for the rest of the school. Part of the reason for this success is the dedication



and commitment shown to training sessions. This has once again been the case this year with the majority of the squad turning up most weeks to refine skills and develop tactics. The only change this year, has seen students lead the sessions which gives them some leadership experience in front of their peers.

Results so far:

- Debenham vs Hartismere 8-1 (Friendly)
- Debenham vs Thomas Mills 8-4 (Friendly)
- Debenham vs County Upper 12-2 (National Cup, Round 2)



Cricket



It might seem a bit strange talking about cricket in the Autumn term, but a number of our students have been nominated to attend the MCC coaching clinics during the winter months at Framlingham college. We will await to see if they have been successful at gaining a place after they attend the trials in early November.

Thanks to our sponsors

Would you like to contribute to the continued paper publication of our newsletter?

While we are ever-conscious of the impact on the environment it is still important that students can bring home a physical copy of our newsletter to share with you what they have been up to. We are very grateful to our sponsors for their contributions to this legacy. If you would like to make a contribution (and/or advertise here) then please contact Mrs Norman jnorman@debenhamhigh.co.uk for details.



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