



# OXYGÈNE

*Celebrating success 2018-19 Easter Edition*



## Head First

No, it isn't a mis-print, for this edition we have changed the name of our half-termly newsletter. Our Languages team have been so busy this half-term that we decided we should rebrand this edition in their honour. Learning languages and being able to communicate with, understand and respect those from other other cultures is an essential skill in the modern world. I hope you like our play on (french) words with our usual title!

As well as being busy in the Languages department, you will see we have been busy, and successful, on the sports field. Particular congratulations to our Under 13 and Under 12 Rugby Squads who were both crowned County Champions this term. As you can see this Spring Term has been a very hectic one for our PE teams, with county and national competitions, as well as some local, friendly rivalry. We know that competitive sport isn't for everyone but we do know that a healthy lifestyle, fresh air and exercise form an important part of our physical, as well as our mental, well-being. That is why exercise and sport form an important part of life at DHS.

Julia Upton

## *Houses of Parliament*



In order to recognise their work for the school community and to see for themselves how our government functions, students from School Council had the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament. n School Council represent the views of their year groups and throughout the year take on a community project. This has included refurbished PE changing rooms, leading charity work for water aid and the installation of a permanent, quiet, reflective space, all of which have benefitted the whole school. Students had an official tour of the House of Lords and Commons. It was a super opportunity to see how our democracy works and also enjoy some of the sights and sounds of our capital city. Later on in the day they took a boat trip along the Thames, ending up at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich.

## *Rugby: County Champions Year 7 and 8*



# “Have your say”

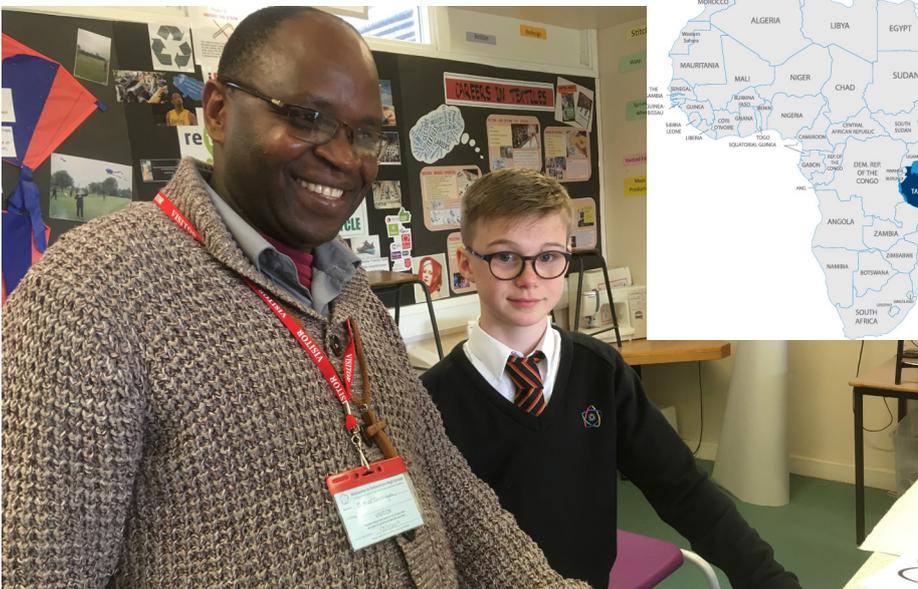


On Monday 18 March, some of our Debenham High School Language Leaders took part in the “Have your Say” Competition for young linguists at Copleston. They competed in pairs and performed their own dialogues, without notes, in front of an audience and judges!

- Congratulations to Ella Bedford, Alfred Scott who won first place in the Year 10 category
- Congratulations to Emily Thomas, Rhianna Melton who were in the top four!
- Congratulations to Alastair Ward and Tillie Moore who came second in the Year 9 category!
- Congratulations to Amber Knowles and Suzie Knock too on their outstanding performances!

We are already looking forward to watching them in the next round - the regional finals !

## Bishop Darlington of Kagera



We were absolutely delighted to welcome Bishop Darlington to our school this month. The diocese has a long-standing connection with this region of Tanzania. We are hoping to set up communication between teachers from our school with teachers in his local area. As we showed him around the school it was a humbling reminder that our education system does provide incredible facilities and resources in comparison to many in the world.

# World Challenge

We have two groups of students planning trips to Tanzania in Summer 2020 and Summer 2021. All students have already started actively fund-raising for their trips, working in their teams, supporting each other. Year 9 pupils had bake sales and raffles at the Options Evening and Year 8 Parents' Evening, raising a total of £450. Other pupils have been baking and car washing for family and friends at the weekends. Year 10 pupils also sold delicious cakes at the Year 10 Parents' Evening, raising £200.



Maisie, Emily, Frazer and Daisy in Year 10 held a Tea Dance in the school hall, with live music from a saxophone sextet, cakes and, of course, lots of tea. This raised £500. This followed on from the very well-received Valentine roses delivery service at school; with sales of nearly £300. Year 10 are well on their way to raising their funds. Look out for quizzes, more cake sales and even a tractor rally in the future. They still have a long way to go, but are determined to get there.



# Book Mastermind: Area Final

In December, as you may remember, we held our in-school heats of the Book Mastermind Competition. The winner of those heats was Edith Smith (7D), who went on to represent Debenham High School at the Area Finals on Wednesday 13 March at Sybil Andrews Academy, Bury St Edmunds.

Edith competed against ten other schools in the Area Final. In the first round of the competition, Edith chose to answer questions on the book "Heroes of Olympus - The Mark of Athena", by Rick Riordan. In the second round, Edith and the other contestants, were asked a series of general knowledge questions.

It was a closely fought competition, in which Edith did very well in round one, as well as going on to win the general knowledge round. Her combined score was just short of making it through to the County Final. Congratulations to Edith for her success in Book Mastermind and thank you to everyone who took part over the course of the competition this year.



Edith and the nine other contestants in the Area Final



Edith and supporters Alice Blackburn (7D) and Anna Cook (8D)

# World Book Day



On Friday 8 May, Debenham High School took part in World Book Day. As well as every pupil receiving a £1 book token, there were lots of different activities going on around school throughout the day. This year we asked students to bring in any used books from home that they no longer read. These books were collected on the day and twelve boxes of books were taken to Tools with a Mission in Ipswich who will send the books abroad for us, to communities in need around the world.

Students and staff were encouraged to raise money by coming to school dressed as a book character to support Book Aid International, a charity that seeks to ensure all communities have access to books and resources for the Library. Prizes were given to students who were judged to have the best costume in four different genres: Sci-Fi and Dystopian, Fantasy/Adventure, Classical and Historical Literature, Modern Literature. The winners of the £15 Amazon Gift Voucher in each genre were as follows:

Polly Cox (10C) - Classical and Historical Literature genre

Camilla Easton (7E) - Fantasy/Adventure genre

Isis Smith (9F) - Sci-Fi and Dystopian genre

Izzy Fairey (8F), Phoebe Clark (8F), Amelia Catling (8D), Imogen Kennedy (8G) and Lucy Clarke (8D) (aka The Teletubbies) - Modern Literature genre.

As you can see a few of the staff got involved too (winners Mr Geronimo and Mr Cook).

Thank you to everyone who took part in the World Book Day events. Overall the school raised £571.77 on World Book Day, which was split equally between Book Aid International and purchases for the Learning Resource Centre.



# World Book Day Quiz

Also on World Book Day students were invited to take part in our 7th Annual World Book Day quiz during lunchtime. Students (in teams of three) were asked questions on popular books and authors. The winning team was Dragon Boys: Aidan Fleet (8E), Dylan Gidden (7D) and William Cooke (7D), who each received a £10 Amazon Gift Voucher. The runners-up were Team Red: Hayden Scanlan-Baker (8G), Anna Cook (8D) and Phoebe Clark (8F), who each received a £5 Amazon Gift Voucher. How would you have fared on the questions?

1. Which FICTIONAL character is said to be the author of 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them'?

2. In the Hunger Games Trilogy, the country of Panem is divided into 13 Districts and the Capitol. Each District is responsible for producing goods of a particular industry to serve the growing needs of the nation. What industry is District 12 responsible for?

3. Who wrote the classic novel Dracula?

4. In the 'Mortal Instruments' book series by Cassandra Clare, what is the name given to the warriors dedicated to ridding the earth of demons?

5. 'Hard Luck', 'Cabin Fever', 'The Long Haul' and 'Dog Days' are all books in which comic series?



- Answers
1. Newt Scamander
  2. Coal Mining
  3. Bram Stoker
  4. Shadowhunters
  5. Diary of a Wimpy Kid



# Pen pals



We enjoy writing to our pen pal. It helps us develop our French skills even more.-Eva Khan and Megan Green 8C

I have been honoured with the opportunity to have a French pen pal. I think this is a very good opportunity for me to make new friends and have more connections across the globe.. It is a good idea for students to learn more and understand the language we learn and to put it into use more often.- Logan Garnham 8F

I love having a pen pal because it is amazing to communicate with someone from another country.- Amelia Bendall 8G

It is nice to have a pen pal in France because it is nice to see into their culture.- Jasmine Love 8G

It is good having a pen pal because you get to find out the way they live their life differently to us.- Megan Smith 8F

It is interesting having a pen pal because you learn more and you can see the different styles of writing. I enjoy it and learning about them is exciting.- Annabelle Carter 8C

I think it is really good and cool because we can communicate with other people in an other language and learn new things.- Tom Oakley/Hugo Nuuds 8D

I love having a pen pal; we now have friends in a different country and language is the only barrier that we have begun to knock down.- Phoebe Clark 8F

I enjoy the experience of having a pen pal as you get to learn what they get up to and their experiences- Charlie Denny 8F



## *“Ticket pour l’espace”*

On Tuesday 19th March, Year 6 pupils from SRH joined our students in Year 7 and 8 to enjoy “Ticket pour l’espace!” The play was enjoyed by all. Well done to Logan Garnham and Ronnie Irvine who joined in the fun! And well done to Will Boyle who engaged so well with the actors! A great performance!



## *Language leaders*

Year 9 language leaders have been communicating with their French partners on Social Media!

*“Salomé is very nice and has good music tastes!” Milly B.*

*“I am in a group chat with Gabrielle and two other students from the Collège Kastler. We have been using emails and Whatsapp. Gabrielle loves singing, DIY and spending time with her friends! I have been telling them about myself and my hobbies, which include video gaming and watching motorsports” Luca B.*

*“My partner and I have a lot in common because we both love dancing! So we get on really well” Amber K.*

*“My partner likes swimming and so do I. We also found out that we both enjoy the same show on Netflix! It really does not matter that he’s a boy and that I am a girl; it is great to be able to communicate online with a French person as we both get to practise our languages!”*



## *Year 6 Liaison Day*

The Art department recently welcomed Year 6 students and challenged them to make garments out of recycled materials. The students worked in groups; their enthusiasm and creativity was evident throughout. We enjoyed their fashion show of new school uniforms and sportswear and were very impressed with their work alongside their attitude to learning new things. We look forward to seeing them again soon.



## *Wonderful waste-free woodlands*

Key Stage 3 Art Lunch Club have been given the opportunity to create woodland creatures for the Suffolk Show. This year's theme of 'Wonderful waste-free woodlands' is all about the problem of plastics and litter in the environment. How can we reduce plastic waste in the first place? discourage litter? and encourage litter picking? - all to help protect wildlife and our natural environment.

## *Back to college?*



The Art department staff enjoyed a Saturday workshop in Norwich where we had the opportunity to share ideas, skills and projects with teachers from around East Anglia. We are all practising artists within the department and are always looking to extend our work further in order to inspire and stretch our students within the school. Can you spot them with their projects?  
Mrs Carr

## *Opportunities behind the scenes*

It is not just on the stage that students get involved in the dramatic life of the school. Thanks to the government grant, when we completed our new Drama Studio we were able to install a new lighting and sound rig. This is controlled from a booth in the studio and effects can be pre-programmed and then managed using an iPad. In order to succession plan, in February Year 7 and 8 students were given the opportunity to sign up to join the Technical Drama Team. The aim was to train four students to operate either the lighting or sound equipment for all the in-house shows and events. The training has been lead by George Rogers (Year 10) and Joshua Hawkins (Year 8). The trainees started by being taught the theory side of the course before moving on to a more practical approach, using and setting up equipment. They have tested out their skills in the recent Year 11 Drama Examinations and will now start planning for the Summer Production. We look forward to seeing what skills Tom Harvey 8D, Eddie Holmes 7C, Charlie Denny 8F and Finn Booth 7G learn.

## Rugby round-up

We have had a very busy month at the end of the season with our Under 12, Under 13 and Under 14 squads all playing in tournaments at Lowestoft and Yarmouth RFC. Each squad secured enough points to enable them to progress to the County Final with both the Under 13 and Under 12 squads coming top of their pools.

At the County Finals the Under14 squad were up against some tough opposition during their final games and just missed out on the bronze medal by one try. Next the joint Under 13 and Under 12 squad had a very exciting afternoon of rugby at the Under 13 final. We met Hadleigh in the final and at two tries each it was the end of the game. A great result that meant that we are joint Under 13 County Champions.

Finally, it was the turn of the Under 12 squad. Some of the players had played the previous week in the Under 13 final and were able to assist the squad in organising our plan for the games. We won our pool and went through to the semi-final, only to discover that we were playing Hadleigh once again in the final. A close game with very good play from both squads, but Debenham won, crowning us Under 12 County Champions. Well done to all the players for their team work and support for each other throughout the tournaments.

We have one final Under 12 game against Thomas Mills to end what had been a very successful season.

## Handball

On Wednesday 27 February both a boys and girls Under 13 and Under 15 team took part in a competition held at Hartismere High School. The standard in all of the competitions, from all four teams was pleasing, with good decision making and tactical awareness on display. Although all four teams performed well, it was the boys and girls Under 15 teams who were victorious and as a result will represent the locality at the County Finals, to be held after Easter.

## Indoor cricket

The Lady Taverner's Indoor Girls competition is always a good, popular event, which sees schools from across the local area compete against each other for a place in the County Finals. The team, which was only assembled a few weeks before the competition, performed very well in the first stage of the competition, beating Hartismere, Bungay and Thomas Mills. This saw them set up a play-off against Framlingham College to decide who progressed to the county finals. The team performed well but were ultimately beaten by a very strong Framlingham team. Well done to the girls on a silver medal, especially after very few practices.



# Football

## Year 7

Year 7 football club has been a very popular club over the course of the year, with 20 students regularly attending training on a Monday after school. Many of these students have gone on to represent the school in matches against Hartismere and Thomas Mills. It has been great to see so many students involved in this team and hopefully their enthusiasm and commitment will remain next year.



## Year 8 Football

Regular attendance by a core group of players has been pleasing to see, not only in this half term but the school year as a whole. This has seen a number of students make progress in their game play, which has contributed to the team making improvements as a whole. This improvement was seen when they comfortably beat Thomas Mills and narrowly lost to Stradbroke (4-2), a team that beat them convincingly last year.

## Year 9 Boys Football

The team have sustained how they left off at the end of 2018, maintaining their levels of togetherness, commitment and performance to continue to play some attractive football. Despite losing to Redbourne Upper School in Round 6 of the National Cup, they bounced back strongly to beat Farlingaye 4-3 in Round 3 of the County Cup. They then followed this up with a strong performance, coming back from 1-0 to beat Copleston in the quarter finals. This win has set up a semi-final match against St Joseph's School.

## Year 10 and 11 Boys Football

Both Year 11 and 10 boys completed their season matches this term. The Year 11 side took on Thomas Mills in a friendly and lost a competitive fixture slightly unluckily 2-1. Our goal coming from Abu. In the County Cup, they lost a crazy, free-scoring game against Bungay 9-4, starting 1-0 in front, falling 4-1 behind, before pulling it back to 4-3 at one point! Bungay reached the last 32 schools in the National competition so this was certainly no disgrace. The Year 10 team played Hartismere, and despite missing many players due to a school trip, managed to win 3-2, with goals from Louie Hyde, Dennis Dowcett and Sam Palmer. These look like being the last games this season, and unfortunately due to early cup exits this has limited the amount of games both sides have had. We would like to thank both squads for this enthusiasm and efforts, and in particular the Year 11 boys for all their service over the past five years.

## Year 7 and 8 Girls Football

The Year 7 and 8 girls have been really superb at attending training on a Monday evening since the start of September. They played Thomas Mills in a friendly match a few weeks ago, and enjoyed the experience of playing some competitive games. We will repeat this experience on the last session on April 1<sup>st</sup>, which will assist their preparations for next season.

# Diversity week



Jill and Barry Anderson from Bury Bombers Wheelchair Basketball Club visited us during Diversity Week in February. A selection of students across all year groups took part in hour-long sessions and both Jill and Barry showed the groups how to use the wheelchairs and combine those skills with trying to control a basketball! As usual Jill and Barry did a fantastic job with the students and all left the session with smiles on their faces and an understanding about how skilful wheelchair athletes are.



# Hockey



Year 7 girls A & B hockey  
lost 1-0 and 4-0 to Thomas  
Mills

Year 8 girls hockey lost to  
Hartismere and drew with  
Thomas Mills.

Year 7A & B lost to Thomas  
Mills and Hartismere.



Under 14 Mixed Hockey lost  
3-2 to Thomas Mills

Debuts from Drew, Freddie  
and Sonny

# Hockey



Under 15 Mixed Hockey  
beat Thomas Mills Year 10  
4-1, but lost 4-3 to Thomas  
Mills Year 11

Girls Under 14 Hockey  
Runners up Emerging  
Schools County Finals



Boys  
U14 Hockey 3rd Emerging  
Schools County Finals



# Climbing

Some of our GCSE students in Year 11 have opted for climbing as one of their practical choices. The group of 17 students have travelled to Stowmarket crag for a 6-week course; learning the various climbing and belaying techniques that form part of their final GCSE grades. All the students took to the new skills really well, and soon picked up the techniques. They have now completed their assessments and they have done exceptionally well.



# Badminton

At the start of the term, both Under 16 boys and girls teams won their respective area tournaments and progressed to the County Finals, held in Ipswich. Some really good quality matches followed, where the boys finished runners up. Well done to Year 11: Ben Evans (captain) and Rob Wing; and Year 10: John Turner and Rory Atkins. Ben has also been selected as part of the Suffolk Under 18 Inter Counties tournament team,



where 33 counties meet up in Nottingham and spend 4 days playing and training. Congratulations Ben!

The Girls squad were fantastic as well, and came away crowned County Champions! This was a brilliant achievement and the first for the school girls team, following the success of the Under 16 boys last year. Team: Emily King (captain), Mollie Richardson, Emily Walker and Alex Ransome. Captain Emily remained unbeaten throughout the afternoon!

# Indoor Athletics

We have had a tradition at Debenham for producing really outstanding Athletics results in various competitions. The winter indoor athletics gives our students the opportunity to perform track and field events in a fast and exciting format. Both Under 13 and Under 15 boys teams travelled to Newmarket to compete in the finals afternoon, after winning their respective local indoor events. Both teams gave a really good account of themselves, excelling against bigger schools from the rest of the county. Both teams finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall which really bodes well for the approaching summer events. Well done to all.



# Under 12 and 13 Girls Football



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