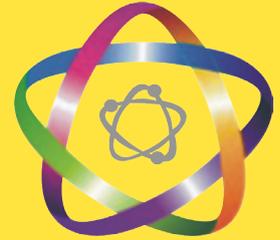


aspire



2014-15 Easter edition

Heads Up

This half-term has once again been a busy one and one in which we are celebrating national recognition as one of the best non-selective state schools in the country. Last week we heard that for the second year running we have received an award from the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust for our place in the top 10% of schools across the country, based on our GCSE results. We will receive this accolade in Cambridge in May.

This half-term we have also been asked to contribute as a case study to the Education Endowment Foundation. This group have become a renowned centre for educational research in the last ten years and their findings have been used both nationally and internationally. After examining national statistics on school achievement we have been one of five schools asked to form a case study on excellence in attainment for all students. This forms part of the government drive to "close the gaps" ensuring that students from all backgrounds can achieve their potential. We are delighted once again that the results of our students and the hard work of our staff have been recognised with such an accolade.

Of course we endeavour to combine excellent academic attainment with the development of the whole child. I hope you enjoy reading about what we have been up to in this Easter edition.

Julia Upton

Diversity week

We held our bi-annual Diversity Week before half-term. In this week we focus on the wider development of all students. The aims were threefold:

1. To raise awareness of different groups within society – gender, race/religion/ethnicity, disability (physical and mental), sexuality, age
2. To celebrate and understand differences
3. To prepare for life in Modern Britain – promoting tolerance, freedom, respect and being responsible for the way we react and respond to others

Alongside a focus on all forms of diversity within lessons there were activities and workshops to make students think. These included: Wheelchair basketball; Travellers - exploring the myths; What you say makes a difference - the language of tolerance; Disability awareness; ASD - understand more; a Belief carousel - including Islam, Buddhism, Christianity and Humanism; Islam - life as a Muslim in Suffolk and not all Muslims are terrorists; and a Community Lunch for the elderly. The last of these was organised and conducted by our Year 10 and 11 students (with some food supplied by our wonderful catering team). As a follow up three students have recently played for the residents in Coopersfield Care Home.



Duxford Imperial War Museum



Year 9 students visited the Imperial War Museum on a cold March day as part of their studies of warfare in the 20th Century in History. Students explored atmospheric exhibitions and discovered historic artefacts. The museum is set within a historic site - students learnt about Duxford's role in the First World War, Second World War and the Cold War.



Talents in Mathematics

UK Maths Challenge – Regional Final

On Thursday 26 February 2015, Nathan Austin, Alex Shore, Rory Coe and Jake Phillips went to Framlingham College to compete in the regional final of the schools team Maths challenge. As defending champions they were under pressure, however they coped with this performing well. The event consisted of four rounds which tested their Mathematical knowledge, problem-solving skills as well as how well they cooperated as a team. The competition was extremely close throughout the day, with every point being vital to the final result. In the end the team finished a very creditable 2nd out of 15 teams from around Suffolk and Essex. The team now must wait to hear if they have qualified for the national final as one of the highest scoring runner-ups, either way their performance was a credit to them and the school.



Intermediate Mathematics Challenge - Individual Event

Congratulations to all students who took part in this competition. A particular well done to Jack Nelson, Aidan Coe (best in school) and Alex Shore - all Best in Year. Aidan and Alex have qualified for further stages in the competition.

Year 11

Gold: Jack Nelson, Matthew Cross and Isabelle Mowles

Silver: William Magnall, Megan Williams, Giles Sohi, Hannah Lockwood

Bronze: Alex Warnes, Elizabeth Barrell, William Everitt, Jamian Stephan, Suzanne Davison, Joseph Ferrier.

Year 10

Gold: Aidan Coe and Poppy Fawkner

Silver: Emily Walczak, Charlie Boast, Benjamin Schulpher, Harry Fawkner, and Jessica Hazelwood

Bronze: Ellen Heath, Leah Golding, Anna Keeble, Hannah Champion, Paddy Hughes and George Carter.

Year 9

Gold: Alex Shore

Silver: Matthew Carter

Bronze: Ellie Billington, Marcus McMyn, Daniel Hughes, Tom Norton and Sophie Caves

Much Ado About Nothing



On Wednesday 11 March Year 9 watched a funny take on William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. A talented group of actors came in and showed us their take on scenes from the play, with their own comedic style. Students were asked to give characteristics for each character, and the actors did what they said with hilarious results.

William Bosley 9C



I really enjoyed the play workshop and I think it will really help me in my future work on Shakespeare. I think it was such a good way to teach pupils about Shakespeare because it was fun and we were able to join in.

Izzy Marsden 9C

I enjoyed the Shakespeare play. I was expecting something very different, but it was funny and interesting and I liked the way they involved the audience too. I thought that putting a modern twist on it made it easier to understand.

Issy Rutherford 9F

One of the best afternoons I've ever had. It was very entertaining and I was interested the whole time. I also thought it was a very engaging way to learn about Shakespeare. Overall, absolutely incredible.

Freddie Grover 9G



Year 7 Geography Fieldtrip

Year 7 Geographers study CBD and Redevelopment in Ipswich.

All Year 7 students embarked on a fieldtrip to Ipswich. They visited three areas, the Waterfront, the Central Shopping district and Christchurch Park. The field work investigation compared the changes that have occurred in each zone, measuring the environmental quality at each site and considered the potential improvements or changes to each areas. Students worked collaboratively conducting questionnaires and land-use surveys to collect their primary data to use in the classroom on their follow up work.



Resistant Materials: Design and Make

Students in Year 11 were given a brief to design and make MP3 speakers. They completed their project from initial design ideas to finish and evaluation in just one term. Students had free reign of materials and techniques. This project models the skills needed for AS Product Design and Engineering, which many of the group are going on to study next year.



WW1 Community Art



The WW1 sketchbook project is still in full swing, with Year 8 tutees about to pass on the collection to Year 7. Students have the opportunity to take home a sketchbook, dedicated to remembering WW1, and add to the pages using any materials they choose. An art pack accompanies each sketchbook and students are encouraged to get input and help from parents and family members. The sketchbooks contain work from members of the local community as well as staff at Debenham High school and students from every year group. If anybody wishes to book out one of the books, please contact Mrs Carr for more information. lcarr@debenhamhigh.co.uk

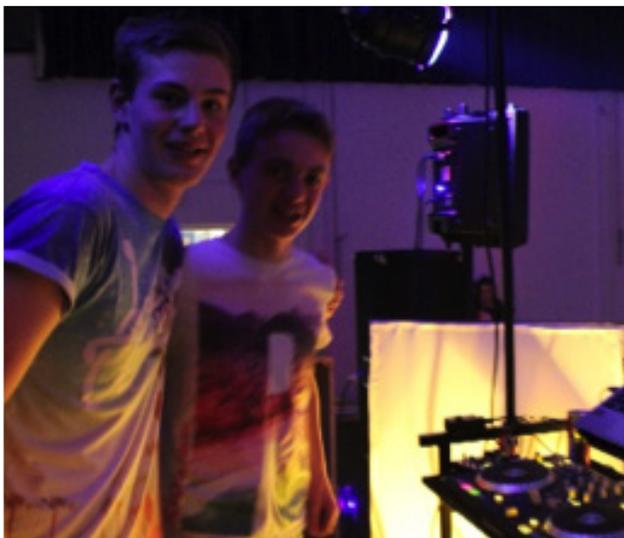
Well done to everybody that has contributed so far.

- factory workers
- public transport
- police women
- post offices
- weapon makers
- clerks
- cooks
- telephonists
- mothers.



Young Enterprise Tenner Competition

Four teams of budding entrepreneurs have participated in the Young Enterprise Tenner competition; a four week programme where they set up a business, advertise, sell, promote and complete financial records. Each team is given £10 per person to turn into a profit. Many congratulations to the determined and successful efforts of the four teams involved.



Ryan Pooley, Nathan Lock, Harrison Barker, Ben Richardson and Nathan Gooding: the team who organised the very successful Year 7 and 8 disco and turned their £50 into £222.95.



Jade Norman selling Handmade luxury dog treats at Jimmy's Farm. The product range included Cheesy Bacon and Sweet Potato Super Booster. Jade demonstrated super customer service skills.



Harry Fawkner, Eleana Norman and Annie Voller set up Blinders. They decided to run a 'blind auction' in aid of Debenham Uniformed Groups. They contacted businesses and used excellent skills of persuasion and negotiation to get a wide range of donated items. Blinders turned their £10 into a magnificent £490 and would like to thank all of the businesses who supported them.



Maisy Palmer, Tallula Francis and Lucy Turmel – set up an upcycling business called Maylu Renew, selling a wide range of interesting and creative products. The photograph shows the girls trade stand at Jimmy's Farmers Market. Tallula says " The programme has been thorough enjoyable and I would recommend it to those in younger years who may get the opportunity in the future"

The Computing Club is an after school activity that runs every Tuesday in Room 20. The aim of the club is to enhance students' computing skills over and above what is being covered in the computing curriculum. The club is attended by students from various year groups with different interests and skills. So whether you are an expert or a novice we have something for you!

The club offers different activities – from computer hardware to programming and even computer games. Some students attend the club to further hone their programming skills. We cover programming languages ranging from VB.NET to Python and even Javascript. Scratch is also being used by younger learners.

Speaking of Scratch - those who are interested in developing their gaming skills are also in for a treat. However, we don't just play on-line games but we develop computer games. A group of students have started designing their own games which we hope to enter in this year's BAFTA Young Games Designers' competition in June. The competition is aimed at those who are interested in how games are made and have begun to explore on-line games. The competition is divided into two categories: 'Game Making' and 'Game Concept'. If you are more into computer hardware we have got things going for you as well. Mrs Davison, one of our IT technicians, provides most valuable help in this area. Looking at what's inside a computer or installing an operating system are just some of the activities that take place in the club. Some have also tried resuscitating non-working computers!

Raspberry Pi is one of the activities offered in the club. For the non-techies, Raspberry Pi is a credit card size computer which can be bought for less than £30. Plug it in your TV and keyboard and you will have a functioning computer which can be used to write programs and perform all sorts of other computing tasks. We recently purchased new Raspberry Pi units so if you are interested to know more about this little, yet powerful device, come along next term to discover more about what the club offers.



Spring Music Concert



Our Spring Concert was another successful event for our musicians. With so many accomplished performances it is hard to name a few but particular congratulations go to all those who played a solo or duet.

Ellie Billington played Jacob's Theme from Twilight.

Mariah Dighton played Waltz by Weber
Nathan² played Sabre Dance by Khatchaturian
Gina McDonald played Chopin Prelude in E minor

It was a magical night.



Rugby reports



Year 9/8 Rugby Tournament at Woodbridge 17 March 2015

With a squad of players with mixed experience the competition was tough. We played teams from King Edward VI, Thomas Mills, Holbrook, Thomas Gainsborough and Hadleigh, the last of whom who went on to win. Our team's best game was against Holbrook winning with style. Marcus McMyn was named our player of the tournament with strong competition from Tim Leggett, Barnaby Long and Rhys Hughes. At the end of the tournament we were ranked 5th best school in Suffolk.

Year 7 Rugby Tournament at Woodbridge 25th February 2015

We had the opportunity to put all our training to the test at the Under 13 rugby tournament held at Woodbridge Rugby Club. We played against squads from Bungay, Ormiston Denes, Hartismere and finally Thomas Mills. We have never won against either Thomas Mills or Hartismere but were able to do so with some excellent work from the forwards which gave the backs some running space to score. Player of the tournament was Nick Haynes with a very notable performance from Felix Ramsden, playing his first game, who scored three tries.

Year 11/10 Debenham v Thomas Mills

This was the final game for our senior squad. Hopes were high but Thomas Mills have, in the past, proved to be very difficult opposition. The first half was very close with only with 12 points each. As the second half progressed the forwards pressed up with the ball and the backs supported to run in two quick tries. A great team performance, players of the game being Adam Whayman, Billy, Apps, Tom Godfrey, Ben Jepson and Harry Trott. Final score Debenham 41 Thomas Mills 24. A great result!



Sports Round-up

Netball

Year 7 and 8 girls netball won the HSSSP tournament with both teams unbeaten.

Cricket

Girls U13 and U15 indoor cricket teams won the HSSSP tournaments progressing to the county finals. The girls Under 15 came 4th in the county finals.



Hockey

U14 boys won HSSSP In2Hockey tournament and progress to county finals on Monday 23rd March.

Boys Football

Year 7 came 4th in the HSSSP tournament and the Year 8 team came 3rd.

Golf

The Under 18 boys golf team of Ben Morris, Joseph Farrell and Josh Goulton came 4th in the Suffolk Schools team golf event at Hintlesham Golf Club on Monday 16 March. 18 teams entered and Josh Goulton scored 42 points to help Debenham achieve such a high ranking in this competition with many older competitors.



Follow our sporting exploits on twitter @DebenhamHigh

