



# ASPIRE

*Celebrating success 2017-18 February Edition*

## Head First

This short half-term always passes quickly, but this one seems to have flown by. Students and staff have returned from their Christmas break refreshed and focused, though with many suffering with the winter germs.

We were delighted to hear confirmation in the validated performance tables at the end of January that we were in the top 10 percentile of schools for academic performance from our 2017 GCSE results. Not only were we the highest school in Suffolk for the proportion of students gaining Grade 4 or higher in English and Mathematics; at 89%, we were also the highest for average attainment across all the GCSE subjects. This placed us 12<sup>th</sup> in the country in The Times School Performance Tables. This success does not just come from a focus on subject knowledge, but from a commitment to the development of the whole child: through Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education; the spiritual life of the school; involvement in clubs and extra curricular activities; and involvement in the school and wider community. A recent government report confirmed what we have always believed: that there is correlation between all these wider aspects of school life and academic performance.

At the start of this term, students and staff moved into our new drama studio and classrooms. Whilst there is inevitable snagging associated with a build of this size, we are delighted with the new rooms, which have created much improved space for Drama and Music and a new home for some Mathematics classrooms.

Julia Upton

## Prayer Space

As part of Epiphany, all students took time out in our Prayer Space. Different stations encouraged students to take time from the busy pace of the world today, to stop and reflect and pray if they wished.



# British Library visit

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January, those in Year 7 and 8 who got an outstanding in English, were awarded with a trip to the Harry Potter exhibit at the British Library in London. We went with Mrs Cane, Mr Rockett and, Mrs Johnson. It took us just under two hours to arrive in Central London and the drive went very quickly, with no hold-ups.

First of all we went to Kings Cross Station to look at and visit Platform 9¾. We had the chance to visit the gift shop there, which was filled with chocolate frogs, wands, house-themed scarves, and much more. After exiting the wonderland of the gift shop, we had lunch outside the station. We had definitely earned our lunch after the long journey!

Next, we went to the Library, where we signed in and entered the Harry Potter exhibit. We travelled to Hogwarts School and went on a voyage through all of the lessons. These included: Divination (the art of fortune telling), Potions, Astrology, and a few more. After the adventure through the exhibit, we decided to look around the library (filled with over 200,000,000 artefacts!). To look at every single one would take all week! We went to see the second largest atlas in the world, the plans for the Magna Carta, and much more.

Finally, we ended the busy day with a three hour journey back to school, where we were collected by our parents! The whole day was a great experience!

We interviewed Mrs Johnson (School Librarian) and asked her a few questions about the best bits of the day:

*“What was your favourite part?”*

*“My favourite part had to be J.K Rowling’s plans of the story. She knew where the characters would have been, and what they would have been doing, all week!”*

*“What was the most interesting thing you learnt whilst on the trip?”*

*“Probably finding out that not only could JK Rowling write amazing stories, she is a brilliant artist too!”*

*“What was your favourite subject in the Harry Potter exhibit?”*

*“I can’t choose just one so it must have to be Potions, and Herbology (The study of plants.)!”*

*“In your opinion, what was the best part of the library itself?”*

*“The best bit, was going into the Sir John Ritblat Gallery, which encased the plans for the Magna Carta!”*

In conclusion, the whole day was a great experience, which we will never forget! We would really recommend it!

Megan Green and Rose Courteen (7C)



# Mes Chers Voisins

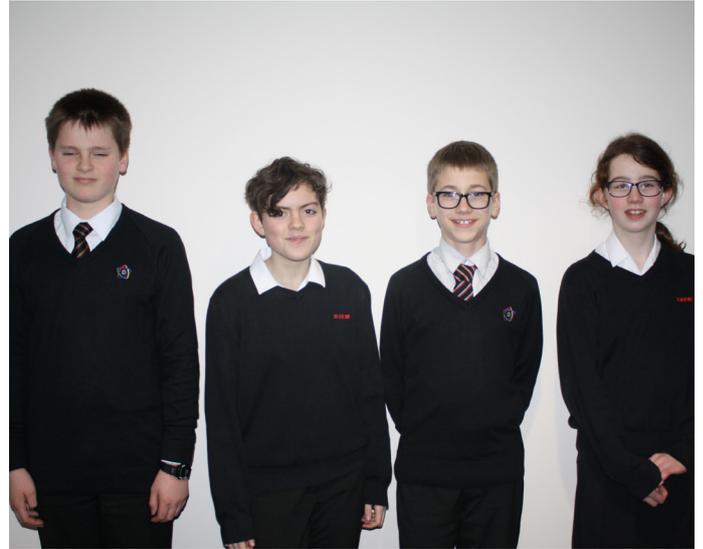


Last week Year 9, 10 and 11 French students were treated to a live performance as part of their studies. Hearing the language spoken first-hand is of course a vital part of learning to speak a foreign language. At GCSE the components of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening are all equally weighted and students have to be able to listen, understand and respond in the target language. Of course with three native speakers as our teachers, students at Debenham High School are lucky to hear the language “spoken by a native” on a daily basis, but our talented performers from a local stage company really brought the language to life in an afternoon of drama. The play was a delightfully humorous collection of different storylines linking teenagers who live on the same street. *Mes Chers Voisins* included lots of student participation and was a real theatrical treat, using relevant French which was enjoyed by our students. As you can see, some students were coaxed onto the stage and became an integral part of the performance.



# Team Mathematics

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January some of the best mathematicians in Year 8 and 9 gathered in the Main hall to compete in the annual junior team Maths Challenge. Each team contained four students, two from Year 8 and two from Year 9. Students worked together over four rounds which tested their mathematical ability, problem solving skills and cooperation. It was great that so many students were applying their mathematical knowledge with such enthusiasm, and their desire and application to perform to the best of their ability was a pleasure to see.



In the end, there was a clear winner, however congratulations to all the participants who were a credit to the school and themselves. Good luck to the winning team as they head off to Framlingham College in March to compete against other teams in the region final. The winning team was made up of: Barnaby Challis, Kathryn Reynolds, Jay Rochford and Nicholas Van Ek.

# Snowflakes and Swagger

Thank you to all those who supported the Snowflakes and Swagger event on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December. This event, organised by retailers Simply Stylist, Meraki Hair and Ruby and the Angel, all situated in Debenham High Street raised money for Debenham High School and St Mary's Church. Students were involved in designing advertising and t-shirts for the event and modelling on the night.

Snowflakes and  
Swagger

An evening of style, shopping,  
fashion &  
refreshments at  
Debenham Church

6pm-9pm  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Purchase your tickets from Simply Stylish,  
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[tammy@simplystylishsuffolk.co.uk](mailto:tammy@simplystylishsuffolk.co.uk)  
Children £5. Adults £7.

Ticket price includes an arrival drink!  
Raising money for Debenham High School  
and St Mary Magdalene Debenham Church.

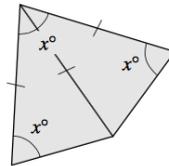
Designed by  
Amelia Lenton,  
Harry Hill and  
Jessica McGuire.



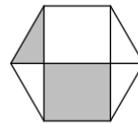
# Love problem-solving? Try your hand at these

On Thursday 1 February, students in Year 9, 10 and 11 took part in the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. This competition consists of 25 multiple choice questions, but don't be fooled, this doesn't mean guessing is easy, there are negative marks for putting the wrong answer! Results will follow in the next edition but why don't you see how you would have got on? The questions are meant to be more straightforward at the start and increasing complex towards the end. Certificate winners will be those in the top-scoring 40% of participants, who will be awarded bronze, silver and gold certificates in the ratio 3:2:1.

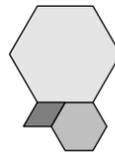
- Which of these is the sum of the cubes of two consecutive integers?  
A 4                  B 9                  C 16                  D 25                  E 36
  - How many of these four integers are prime?  
A 0                  B 1                  C 2                  D 3                  E 4
- 1    11    111    1111
- In September 2016 a polymer £5 note was introduced. The Bank of England issued 440 million of them.  
What is the total face value of all these notes?  
A £220 000 000                  B £440 000 000                  C £2 200 000 000  
D £4 400 000 000                  E £22 000 000 000
  - A kite is made by joining two congruent isosceles triangles, as shown.  
What is the value of  $x$ ?  
A 36    B 54    C 60    D 72    E 80



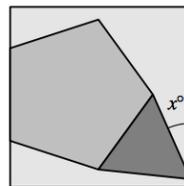
- The diagram shows a regular hexagon which has been divided into six regions by three of its diagonals. Two of these regions have been shaded. The total shaded area is  $20 \text{ cm}^2$ .  
What is the area of the hexagon?  
A  $40 \text{ cm}^2$     B  $48 \text{ cm}^2$     C  $52 \text{ cm}^2$     D  $54 \text{ cm}^2$     E  $60 \text{ cm}^2$



- The diagram shows a rhombus and two sizes of regular hexagon.  
What is the ratio of the area of the smaller hexagon to the area of the larger hexagon?  
A 1:2    B 1:3    C 1:4    D 1:8    E 1:9



- The diagram shows a regular pentagon and an equilateral triangle placed inside a square.  
What is the value of  $x$ ?  
A 24    B 26    C 28    D 30    E 32



- In 2014, in Boston, Massachusetts, Eli Bishop set a world record for the greatest number of claps per minute. He achieved 1020 claps in one minute. How many claps is that per second?  
A 17    B 16.5    C 16    D 15.5    E 15

- A particular integer is the smallest multiple of 72, each of whose digits is either 0 or 1. How many digits does this integer have?  
A 4    B 6    C 8    D 10    E 12

- For certain values of  $x$ , the list  $x$ ,  $x + 6$  and  $x^2$  contains just two different numbers. How many such values of  $x$  are there?  
A 1    B 2    C 3    D 4    E 5

- A list of 5 positive integers has mean 5, mode 5, median 5 and range 5. How many such lists of 5 positive integers are there?  
A 1    B 2    C 3    D 4    E 5

- How many of these four shapes could be the shape of the region where two triangles overlap?  
Equilateral triangle  
Square  
Regular pentagon  
Regular hexagon  
A 0    B 1    C 2    D 3    E 4

# Year 10 and 11 Charity Week



# Year 10 and 11 Charity Week



Thank you to all our Year 10 and 11 leaders who led such an amazing Charity Week. Raising money for Cancer Research, which has sadly touches many lives of the young people we work with, and Project Namibia, volunteering work which will be undertaken by some of our Year 11 students this summer, they did some sterling work for two super causes. As ever, the week is about raising money, raising awareness but also having fun with other members of the school community. The staff are still in shock that they lost the basketball!!



## Year 8 and 9 Charity work



James Chapman, Suzie Knock, Melody Mangan and Rhys Kennedy



Namicha Jackson, James Salisbury, Tom Ward and Amelia Adams

Our Year 8 and 9 Student Leaders with the final funds raised in their Charity Week last term. Well done to all for leading such a super week.

## Reverse Advent Calendar

It was a busy term for charity work, as we thought of others who had less than ourselves at Christmas. Mr Molton and 9D led the whole school in collecting items for Families In Need. Following their success of doing so in just their own tutor group last year, this year we filled the minibus.



# Where are they now?

We like hearing about the future destinations of former students. Here is news from some of our leavers in summer 2015, who have now headed off to university. As our careers week this week has shown, there is a world of opportunity out there.

<i>Mia Allard</i>	<i>College of West Anglia</i>	<i>Veterinary Nursing and Applied Animal Behaviour</i>
<i>Willoughby Axtell</i>	<i>University of Suffolk</i>	<i>Computer Games Design</i>
<i>George Billington</i>	<i>Harper Adams University</i>	<i>Mechanical Engineering</i>
<i>Blayn Bosworth</i>	<i>Birmingham</i>	<i>Civil Engineering</i>
<i>Megan Bridges</i>	<i>King's College, University of London</i>	<i>Classical Studies</i>
<i>Joseph Bullock</i>	<i>Warwick University</i>	<i>English &amp; Film</i>
<i>Zachary Burgess</i>	<i>De Montford University</i>	<i>Marketing</i>
<i>Joe Burnard</i>	<i>Coventry Univeristy</i>	<i>Computing</i>
<i>Chloe Connell</i>	<i>University of Surrey</i>	<i>Nursing Studies (Registered Nurse - Children)</i>
<i>Ben Cooper</i>	<i>Portsmouth University</i>	<i>Politics &amp; History</i>
<i>Suzanne Davison</i>	<i>University of St Andrews</i>	<i>Chemistry</i>
<i>Elle Eglinton</i>	<i>Nottingham Trent University</i>	<i>Business</i>
<i>Harry Ellis</i>	<i>Portsmouth</i>	<i>Sociology</i>
<i>William Everitt</i>	<i>Edinburgh</i>	<i>Mechanical Engineering</i>
<i>Bethan Feeney-Howells</i>	<i>University of Northumbria</i>	<i>Environmental Science</i>
<i>Kate Gilbert</i>	<i>University of London</i>	<i>Economics</i>
<i>Georgia Hedley</i>	<i>University of Kent</i>	<i>Criminology</i>
<i>Alice Hill</i>	<i>University of Suffolk</i>	<i>Nursing</i>
<i>Eleanor Howard</i>	<i>Sheffield Hallam</i>	<i>Psychology</i>
<i>Victoria Huband</i>	<i>University of Sussex</i>	<i>Film Making</i>
<i>Bethan Humphrys</i>	<i>University of Lincoln</i>	<i>Media Production</i>
<i>Beth Jacobs</i>	<i>University of Sheffield</i>	<i>Psychology</i>
<i>Max Kadera</i>	<i>Birmingham University</i>	<i>Accounting and Finance</i>
<i>Charlotte Kissick-Jones</i>	<i>King's College London</i>	<i>English</i>
<i>Alexander Lee</i>	<i>University of East Anglia</i>	<i>Economics</i>
<i>Hannah Lockwood</i>	<i>York</i>	<i>English/History</i>
<i>William Magnall</i>	<i>Sheffield</i>	<i>Financial Mathematics</i>
<i>Ella Marsden</i>	<i>University of Sussex</i>	<i>Psychology</i>
<i>Erin Mead</i>	<i>Kingston University</i>	<i>Criminology</i>
<i>Frederick Miller</i>	<i>Kingston University</i>	<i>Auitomotive Engineering</i>
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<i>Rachel Saxby</i>	<i>University of Sussex</i>	<i>English Language and LInguistics</i>
<i>Rhianna Scase</i>	<i>University of Reading</i>	<i>Econmoics</i>
<i>Giles Sohi</i>	<i>SouthamptonUniversity</i>	<i>Aeronautics and Astronautics</i>
<i>Poppy Valentine</i>	<i>Leeds Beckett University</i>	<i>Business Management with Marketing</i>
<i>Eleanor Webb</i>	<i>UEA</i>	<i>Childhood Studies</i>
<i>Megan Williams</i>	<i>University of Sheffield</i>	<i>Medicine</i>

# Christmas Lunch

Can you imagine serving 700 for Christmas lunch? That is just what our catering team did in the last week of term. They managed to serve everyone between 12.00pm and 2.00pm. Quite a feat. There were plenty of smiles and empty plates!



# Debenham's Got Talent



# Colchester Castle

Year 7 visited Colchester Castle with a focus on the practical side of the work they have carried out in class. Year 7 have been studying the Norman Conquest and the importance of castles in defence and later the dominance over the Anglo-Saxons. The castle's keep is the largest ever built in Britain and the largest surviving example in Europe. When this is combined with excellent interactive displays and a "hands on" approach to artefacts, the whole year group had an amazing day making the most of what the castle has to offer.

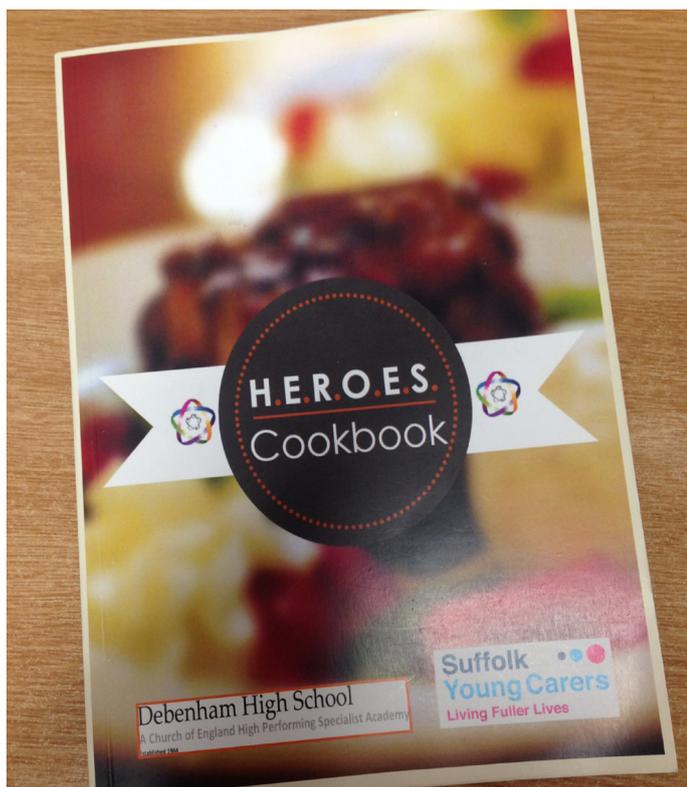


Each group were able to experience a guided tour, multimedia displays and free time to explore the castle's artefacts. Several students made the most of the opportunity to dress in period costume and great fun was had alongside their learning. The pupils behave impeccably and the staff received many compliments from members of the public who were also visiting the museum. The castle is an excellent place to support the children's learning this year. Year 7 put their knowledge of the Romans to good effect when participating in an excellent tour of the whole castle, from its origins as a roman temple to its use as a residence and museum. The tour took the children on a journey from the castle's very foundations to the keep and towers.



# H.E.R.O.E.S.

A few of our Year 10 and 11 Young Carers (who go by the name of H.E.R.O.E.S.) made some delicious cakes to raise money for their year group's charity week in aid of: Namibia and Cancer research. Recipes were taken from the HEROES Cookbook which was put together back in October 2015, our HEROES wanted to produce a cook book which has a variety of recipes that are nutritious, easy to make and can be made on a budget. As a group, they are aware that a lot of young people cook family meals when their parents and carers or siblings are unwell. As you can see from the photos, their lemon drizzle, brownies and non-bake fridge cakes proved very popular. One parent made an incredible, scary but delicious cake!



# Sports reports



Hockey: Under 12 Mixed  
Beat Thomas Mills 9-1

Pictured below. The Year 8 Boys Football Team had an excellent run in the Under 13 English Schools' Cup, making it through to the last 32 where they faced Longsands Academy from Huntingdon. The game itself was very competitive, with both sides being well matched. Despite falling behind Debenham came back strongly and with five minutes to go were leading 2-1. Unfortunately, Longsands equalised and went on to win the game 4-2 after extra time. All of the players involved were congratulated for their efforts and the manner in which they represented the school. They showed heart and pride whilst winning and in defeat. The resilience of the team was shown a week later however when they returned in action to beat King Edwards School 6-0 in Round 3 of the County Cup. This sees them through to the quarter-finals.



Badminton Under 16 County Champions: Ben Evans, Rob Wing, Matthew Walker and Jake Phillips  
The Under 16 Boys Badminton squad became county champions this year, by beating King Edward VI School, East Bergholt School and Sir John Leman School in the finals held at Woodbridge School. The boys only lost 1 of their 15 matches all morning. They now will represent Suffolk at the regional competition in March.



Follow our sporting exploits on twitter with @DebenhamHigh



# Indoor Athletics Success



Indoor Athletics County Finals: The Under 15 Girls were Runners-up in Suffolk  
Charlie Williamson, Millie Finbow, Sarah Harrison, Emily Anderson, Tilly Aldis & Susie Halliday



Indoor Athletics County Finals: The Under 13 Boys were 3<sup>rd</sup> in Suffolk  
Alex Oakley, Josh Oxborrow, Peter Jardine, Jake Hayward, Charlie Smith, Nico Valentine  
& Hayden Scanlan-Baker

Under 15 Boys and Under 13 Girls both came a very respectable 6<sup>th</sup> place.



Follow our sporting exploits on twitter with @DebenhamHigh



# Sports Round Up

## Handball

Under 13 and Under 15 boys handball teams beat Hartismere in recent friendly matches

## Football

Under 16 Boys football lost 2-0 to King Edward VI School from Bury St Edmunds in a competitive and close game. Some of the squad will play in a tournament at Hartismere this Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, organised by Norwich City FC.

The Boys Under 15 team play away to Pakefield in their County game (5th Feb).

Under 16 Girls Team are through to the quarter-finals as Thomas Mills withdrew (they must have heard how good we are!)

The Under 14 Girls play Northgate on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.

## Cross Country

Congratulations to Franek Ouko, Maddie Wood and Tilly Aldis, who have been selected for the Suffolk schools cross country team to take part in the East Anglian event in March. The school have never had three members make the team, well done to all of them for all their hard work in achieving this excellent honour.



## All Schools Festival, Stowmarket Rugby Club

On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 the Year 7 Rugby Team participated in the All Schools Festival. Only two other teams braved the muddy conditions for the tournament, with Debenham drawing Stowmarket High School followed by Stowupland High School. The weather was particularly challenging for what would be the first match of rugby played by many of the boys; but their enthusiasm, their resilience and general good sportsmanship were a credit to both themselves and the school. Stowmarket were up first and the Debenham side dominated the game early on, with excellent support play up front from Jack West and Luca Barricella. Newton Lord (captain) provided excellent direction on the pitch and this created many opportunities that allowed Ben Risby to score one of many tries. Debenham won the game 7 tries to 2.

Stowupland proved to be a more experienced side, with many of their players honing their skills with Stowmarket RFC. There was also a distinct advantage for Stowupland in the size of their forwards. Undaunted the Debenham boys met the ferocity of each Stowupland attack with a rugged determination to not let them score, but unfortunately their forwards were to drive Debenham over their own try line several times. Newton Lord shared his captaincy in the second half with Luca Barricella in order to drive the team forwards. The boys pulled together with some outstanding work by Callum Howells, James Walsh, James Foreman and James Fishenden to allow Ben Risby over the line twice. It was great experience for the side who were tenacious in attack and defence to the last whistle, unfortunately losing 5 tries to 2.

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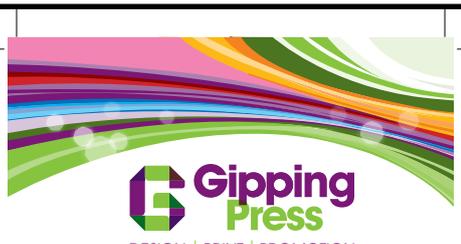
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