

aspire

2012-13 Halloween edition



Head start

Summer has come and gone and we are now firmly back into the swing of things at the start of a new school year. Firstly, a warm welcome to all Year 7 parents and carers to our half-termly magazine celebrating all things great and small at Debenham High School. All students have made an excellent start and we have high hopes for the year ahead. Our first edition already has much to report with news ranging from leadership and literacy, to academic success and activities week. Our students have been giving their all, inside and outside the classroom. At Debenham we believe that success inside the classroom goes hand in hand with involvement in a wide range of activities beyond the classroom. I hope that you enjoy reading about what we have been getting up to.

Julia Upton



Taking a lead

This year we have introduced Student Year Leaders in every year group. We believe that it is not just Year 11 students who demonstrate responsibility and have the ability to lead others. Students nominated themselves for the role but then had to undergo a number of stages to ensure they were right for the job. The selection process included: included speaking for one minute in front of their year group about why they wanted to take on the responsibility; formal voting by their peers; and a final interview with the Head of Year and some Year 11 Prefects. All students who stood for the posts performed extremely well, making it a very difficult decision to select just four. The eventual post holders for this academic year are:

Year 10 Year Leaders: Anna Kinge and Calvin Coe

Year 10 Deputy Year Leaders: Mungo Harvey and Cameron Hogg

Year 9 Year Leaders: Louise Davy and Alex Lee.

Year 9 Deputy Year Leaders: Ellie Howard and Jamian Stephan (absent for photograph)

Year 8 Year Leaders: Paddy Hughes and Poppy Fawkner

Year 8 Deputy Year Leaders: Toby Sharpe and Annie Voller

Year 7 will introduce their Year Leaders later in the year and each year we will re-elect new students for the posts to give others a chance to take the lead. The Year Leaders have already started looking at how they can make a difference in the post with plans for rewards for tutor groups who are working well and charity events for each year group.

The World of Work

Students at Debenham High School have been putting their skills to the test in the world of business and enterprise over the last few months. Alongside the best possible qualifications it is essential that students develop the broader skills that are desirable to employers. In order to have a realistic understanding of what employers are looking for there are a range of opportunities at Debenham to gain and polish those skills.



Henry Mole, Chelsie Prentice, Katie Elliott, Katie Johnson and Alfie Griew at the EBP celebration event.



Ben Ford, Phoebe Atkins, Chloe Hopewell, Rosie Voller and Sophie Hutchinson at Entrepreneur Live

Debenham High School was asked to put on a display of its work related learning and work experience programme at the Suffolk Education Business Partnership (SEBP) celebration event. For the last 20 years they have been bringing employers, teachers and the community together to help young people learn about the world of work.

The five Year 11 students manned the display and met with members of the business community, employers and many other people and groups with an interest in helping young people learn about the world of work. The school also received an "EBP Link Up Award" in recognition for its support for young people to ensure that they are well prepared for employment and to understand the wide range of opportunities that are available to them.

In October the Year 10 GCSE Business Studies students visited London to take part in the Entrepreneur Live conference. Students had the opportunity to hear from a range of young and successful entrepreneurs including Fraser Doherty who founded his SuperJam company at the age of 16. The students have been learning about entrepreneurial skills and qualities and had followed Fraser's story in the classroom, so were excited when they got the chance to meet him in person. Other speakers included founders of Wedge Wellies, Superbeans and restaurant chain Tossed. It was a valuable experience for students to hear about the challenges of starting a business as a young person and it was enlightening to hear about how these entrepreneurs had solved some of the problems they had encountered.

Year 10 students complete two weeks of work experience at the end of Year 10. Current Year 10 students are at the start of the process of arranging placements and completing application forms. These are some of the quotes from employers about Debenham High School students on placement last year:

"It has been a pleasure having him here to do his Work Experience. He has had an outstanding attitude to his placement and is a credit to his school."

"A really great student – she was interactive and communicated well with vets and nurses. Because of her general enthusiasm and desire to learn I felt she gained much from this placement. Everyone enjoyed her involvement and we would look forward to her coming back."

"I see a young man with enormous potential, who is calm, likeable, level headed and I felt compelled to write this letter of recommendation on his behalf."

"He performed all tasks exceptionally well and has been a very good ambassador for Debenham High School. Please send other pupils of this standard."

Puzzle Corner

Word games

Esculent - does it mean?

- a) an anti-freeze liquid
- b) edible
- c) scholarly

Maths mayhem

Which one of the following has a different value from the others?

- A 18% of £30 B 12% of £50 C 6% of £90
- D 4% of £135 E 2% of £270

It's all Japanese to me!

These "triples" of words all translate into the same word in English. Can you translate them?

	(French)	(Spanish)	
(Italian)			
Word 1	sorcière	bruja	strega
Word 2	citrouille	calabazar	zucca
Word 3	phantôme	fantasma	spettro

The Next Apprentice?

This year a group of Year 10 students have decided to be involved in a scheme called Young Enterprise. We have been given the opportunity to set up and run our own real company over the course of a year with the help of a link teacher and 2 business advisors.

Our company is called You.N.G and so far we have elected a board of directors and we are currently researching a number of product ideas. To raise initial capital we have had a cake and jewellery sale and made a great profit of £105. We all thank anyone who contributed to this!

Through participating in Young Enterprise we are hoping we can all develop our knowledge and understanding, skills and attributes in a business context. We hope to accomplish this by improving team work, communication, problem solving, managing risk, creativity, innovation and leadership.

Towards the end of the year, You.N.G will be competing in a series of high profile local and regional 'Company of the Year' competitions.

By Alice Eddy, Rosie Voller and Freya Paternoster



Work-related learning

Students in Year 9 have started on their ASDAN course this year. This is a practical-based course and project work is developed throughout the year to the end qualification. Students complete activities that they have to present in a portfolio of work to accredit their award. As their first project, they set to work on rejuvenating our commemorative garden. Through guidance from Mrs Thomas, Mrs Forster and Mr Voller, they have transformed the space. The green-fingered students were:

Keiley Styles, Alex Warren, Jacob Smith, Emily Gayfer, Willoughby Axtell, Lena Hardwick, Kathryn Stoner, Marshall Farr, Mellisa Crane and Cara Mann.



High School welcomes author

Year 7 were treated to a visit by well-known children's author and illustrator Sally Gardner. Sally has written a wide range of children's books including the multi-award winning *I Coriander*, *The Smallest Girl Ever* and *The Silver Blade*. Sally read from her novels and talked about her journey into literature. This included explaining how she has struggled with dyslexia from a young age. The students listened with interest and queued through lunch to obtain their signed copy of one of her books.



Sports Roundup

Autumn 2012

Students continue to give their all on the field as well as in the classroom. The term may only just have got underway but already we are seeing the results of training and commitment outside the classroom. Here is a round up of some of our results so far this term:

Under-16 rugby - tournament winners
Year 7/8 girls football - won 7-3 vs Sir John Leman, lost 6-0 vs Westley
Year 10/11 girls football - won 1-0 vs Sir John Leman; County ESFA cup, lost 5-2 to Denes High School
Year 8 boys football won 3-2 on penalties vs Benjamin Britten, after game ended 2-2
Year 9 boys football lost 9-0 vs Bungay
Year 10 boys football beat Westbourne 14-0 in ESFA cup, and East Point Academy 3-2 in County Cup
Year 11 boys football beat Stowmarket 3-1 in ESFA and then lost 3-2 vs Ipswich Academy.
Year 11 boys football finished 4th in their six-a-side tournament at Stradbroke, Year 9 finished 3rd.
Tom Godfrey Year 9 and Henry Fowler Year 10 attended football county trials.
Hockey - both boys, girls and mixed teams have won games against other schools.
Table Tennis have competed locally.



Under 16 Boys Rugby - Mr Towler and Mr Germany with the winning team



The Cross-Country Team



Over seventy students from Debenham High School competed in the county cross-country event at The Royal Hospital School on a wet October day. With over 200 competitors in each age category and a top fifty place taking you through to the next round, competition was fierce. The course length varies from 2.5 km to 6km depending on age and is a course over hilly ground near the Orwell estuary. Congratulations to all who took part. Placed in the top 50 were: *Jay Alexander, Jake Conway, Freya Emerick, Thomas Godfrey, Danny Hughes, Romilly Hughes, Iwan Lloyd, Tom Norton, Natalia Petersen, Hester Ralph, Isabella Ralph, Richard Smith, Gus Terry, Jack Millar, William Seccombe, Alice Ager, Freddie Woolhouse-Rowton*

Duke of Edinburgh students have been braving the elements once again on their Silver Practice Expedition. Walking from Aldeburgh all the way back to school!



Congratulations to Jack Partridge who recently won the national Junior British Karting Championships. He is supported by many sponsors outside of school who help him to work towards his dream of competing in Formula 1. Since Lewis Hamilton was a former winner of this competition it may well be written in the stars.



Art in action



Year 11 art students made an early start on Friday 14 September for their gallery visit to the National Portrait Gallery, London. This was the starting point and inspiration for their final portfolio unit on the theme of Portrait and it certainly gave the students lots to think about. Both groups took part in a superb, two hour artist-led workshop and then had the opportunity to work from a range of portraits. All of the work they produced they are now using to develop their final outcome, which is also their mock exam later this term. Here are some of their thoughts ...

"I discovered some interesting artists who I had never heard of before. I particularly liked the BP Portrait Exhibition 2012, where we saw new talent on display"

"We had the freedom to go around in small groups and look at whatever we wanted. This was useful as not everyone wanted to see the same things."

"I learnt that portraits don't just have to be paintings or sketches, they can also be animations and maybe even of your own blood!"

"I thought Marc Quinn's 'Self' was pretty amazing as it's a completely unique idea that probably won't be seen again."

This particular portrait made all the students react in one way or another as it is cast in several pints of the artist's blood and is maintained in a refrigerated unit! The artist makes a new version every five years which shows his own physical deterioration.

"I had a great day, which gave me loads of inspiration for my self portrait."

Jeans for Genes

This year the school has supported the charity Jeans for Genes. Individually, genetic disorders are rare but together they affect 1 in 25 children born in the UK. Money raised pays for practical day-to-day support, equipment, respite and events which bring families together to help them feel less isolated. Students wore jeans in school on Friday 4 October, along with many other schools and workplaces to raise money for the charity.



A trip to the zoo

Year 7

We have started the year with a number of curriculum trips and visits. These allow students to see in context what they have studied in the classroom. Year 7 have made a fantastic impression with us since they started, no more so than the way that they conducted themselves on their Biology focused trip to Colchester Zoo. They have continued to study adaptations within lessons. We're assured that feeding the elephants was not compulsory!



The Big Quiz

Our fortnightly quiz is now well under way. Students pit their wits against other tutor groups within their year and earn valuable house points which go towards the yearly total. With general knowledge, literacy, numeracy and a picture round each week the questions are varied and challenging. Current standings are:

1st place	Da Vinci House	44 points
2nd place	Nelson House	43 points
2nd place	Austen House	43 points
4th place	Owens House	39 points
5th place	Curie House	36 points

The quiz will be posted on the school website each Friday - see how you fare against your children at home (be warned - they know more than you think!)

Your turn!

Friends Quiz Night Friday 9 November

Come and test your general knowledge skills (and some less academic rounds) against others in our annual quiz evening organised by the Friends of Debenham High School.

Compete as a team of up to 8 and enjoy a ploughman's supper as part of your entry fee. There will be a bar available during the evening. Please contact the main school office if you would like to purchase tickets. Adults £6.50, concessions £3.50.

GCSE 2012

Once again pupils at Debenham High School celebrated excellent results this summer. We were thrilled with the achievements of all students in 2012. This was a hardworking and talented year group who now take up places at local Sixth Form colleges and further education providers in the next exciting stage of their education. Their results give them a strong foundation for further academic and vocational success. Most students take a largely traditional curriculum with subjects such as Science, History and Languages – considered key indicators of success by Universities and many employers.

From 106 Year 11 pupils, a phenomenal 90% achieved 5 A* to C grades.

70% of students achieved at least 5 A*-C grades including English and Mathematics.

Across all subjects 37% of all grades awarded were A* or A.



Elliot Valentine and Amy Butcher

Eloise, Holly and Rosie Tilbrook

Olivia Simmons, Andrew Stoner and
Becky Saxby

We love to hear news of students who have previously been at Debenham High School and delight in hearing about their achievements, having laid the foundations for success with us and our primary partner schools. Students progress to a wide range of post-16 providers after leaving Year 11. Having completed two year courses in A Levels, or equivalent qualifications, across a range of subjects many progress to Higher Education across the country. Below are just some of the Higher Education destinations of former DHS students.

Mathematics, Oxford University
Economics & Social Change, London University
Natural Sciences, Cambridge University
Child Nursing, University Campus Suffolk
Accounting and Finance, Leeds University
Chemistry, Southampton University
English Literature, Bath Spa University
Mathematics, Reading University
Economics, Sheffield University
Business and Marketing, Lincoln University
English Language and Education, Leeds University
Criminology, Criminal Justice Studies, Plymouth University
Archaeology, Cardiff University
History and International Relations, University of East Anglia
History, Royal Holloway University

Ancient History, Nottingham University
Structural Engineering & Architecture, Sheffield University
American Studies and English, Sussex University
Aeronautics and Astronautics, Southampton University
English, Royal Holloway University
Medicine, Nottingham University
English Literature, Royal Holloway University
Art and Design Foundation Course, Suffolk New College
Psychology, Kent University
Business and Marketing, Lincoln University
Physiotherapy, Coventry University
English Language, Sussex University
Education, Social Inclusion and Special Needs, Hull University
Architectural Technology, Anglia Ruskin University
Interior Design, Writtle College

A commitment to literacy

This year we are focusing on literacy within lessons in every subject. (Look in the log book to see our whole school marking policy for literacy.) All teachers, in every subject, are using the same notation to correct literacy. These are contained within the log book. Alongside our focus within the classroom we continue to encourage reading for pleasure outside the classroom. Many students read recommendations from our summer reading list. On their return to school students were asked to complete a book review for something they had read. These reviews were entered into a prize draw and we were delighted with the entries. Eventual winners were: *Freddie Grover who reviewed Ark Angel by Anthony Horowitz, Jodie Mitson who reviewed I, Coriander by Sally Gardner and Charlie Boast who reviewed Blood Red Road - all will receive book tokens generously donated by Browsers Book store in Woodbridge.*



Forthcoming event

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

Wednesday 21 November - special matinee performance for our feeder primary schools.

Thursday 22 November - evening performance

Friday 23 November - evening performance

Come and see our school play this year. Tickets are available from the school office. £5 for adults and £2.50 for concessions.



Activities Week

In the last week of the summer term students from Year 7, 8 and 9 take part in a range of activities to reward them for their hard work throughout the year. They work with students across the years and spend time getting to know each other in a different context. Here are few examples of what they got up to during the week.

