



ASPIRE

Celebrating success 2023-24 December Edition



Head First

In what is a bumper edition following the IT issues of the first half term, it really is heartening to be reminded of all of the amazing, achievements, experiences and successes of this first term of the year. A term which has seen loss of IT, flooding causing students to be stranded as well as ongoing issues following the flooding for a number of members of our community has also seen so many rich and varied experiences for all.

Trips to Normandy and The Lake District, the return of the Tour of Britain past the school as well as numerous curriculum trips such as Art students visiting London and Year 7 to Colchester Zoo have really allowed and encouraged students to explore their learning beyond the classroom.

There have been a large number of events around bringing languages to life, such as the Polyglot Club who have explored so many cultures and languages from around the world. We have had further success in the Dora Love Prize, learning, supporting and empathising with those people who are persecuted in the World.

Our Commemorative Assembly was a highlight of the calendar being able to welcome back those students who performed so well in the examinations in the Summer of 2023. It is always a pleasure to be able see what exciting opportunities and pathways they have taken up upon leaving Debenham.

So as we near the end of term I do want to wish everyone a peaceful and joyous Christmas and to thank all of our community for their support of the school and all of its community in what has been a challenging but rewarding term.

Simon Martin

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Remembrance Day



On Friday 11th November we were grateful to be able to attend a Remembrance service led by Rev Tracey James and Rev Susan Taylor at St Mary Magdalene. Our Senior Prefects gave readings and we reflected upon those lost in conflict. Names were read from the Debenham War Memorial and names were also included of those known to us, allowing us time to pause and reflect and remember sacrifices made for us.

In school our Year 8 and Year 9 students created a range of memorial poppies in their AD&T lessons in September. We collated their work in plastic, material, card, paper and salt dough to create memorials for remembrance around the school.



Activity Days



Activity Days



The next Friends of Debenham High School Meeting will be held on 24th January 2024 at 6.30pm in school. All are welcome, please just turn up, no expectations other than to support your child

Activity Days

During activities week the MFL team took 55 year 8 students to the Opal Coast. We had a brilliant time soaking up the French culture and practising our language. During the visit, we were lucky enough to visit a snail factory (some were even brave enough to try some!), a chocolate factory (slightly more welcome tasters here) and a traditional bakery. We also visited the lovely town of Le Touquet and spent some time (before the torrential downpour!) at a French market.

The students were fantastic and embraced every opportunity to practise their French and get involved in the activities on offer.



Activity Days



Are you ready for Christmas?

I wonder how many times you have been asked that in the last week or so. And are we ever actually ready for Christmas - what would it even look like to be ready? Perhaps when all the presents have been bought, wrapped and labelled correctly? Or when the Christmas dinner ingredients have been bought, prepared and are ready to cook? Maybe when term is finished or your Christmas holiday begins.

In church the season of Advent is all about getting ready for Christmas, you don't need to buy anything but it is about preparing - preparing for the birth of a baby, the coming of the Christ child who changed everything over 2000 years ago. A baby born into poverty, into a family who would become refugees, a family who relied on gifts and kindness from others.



Mosaic of the Nativity from the baptistery of Saint Sebastian's cathedral in Bratislava Slovakia designed by Jesuit Marco Ivan Rupnik

Our world feels like a dark place at the moment - with the cost of living crisis forcing more and more families into poverty and needing to rely on foodbanks, with heart breaking stories of refugees fleeing war and persecution and making such dangerous journeys to keep their families safe.

But, as we told those at our Christingle service, it was into this world that Jesus was born, into a dark and dangerous world, that God sent his own son to be a light in the darkness. For it is when it is dark that we most need a light. Jesus came as the light of the world but he also shares that light with each and everyone of us. We can all bring that light into dark places, we can all share love with others, we can all make our world, God's world, a brighter place. And then we really will be ready for Christmas.

I pray that the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child would be yours this Christmas time and always. Amen.

Year 11 Geography Fieldtrip



Our Year 11 students recently undertook a trip to the beautiful Lake District. This was designed to provide for some of the requirements of their GCSE whilst also serving to show them some real world, less-flat, Geography!



The trip was based at a Field Studies Centre in Blencathra, a beautiful Lake

District building which previously served as a Blencathra Isolation Hospital; offering treatment, seclusion and fresh air for those suffering from tuberculosis. The centre offered clear views, when the rain temporarily ceased, of Helvellyn and Scafell Pike, as well as surrounding glacially-formed landscape.

Whilst there, all students undertook a piece of human fieldwork and physical. The human fieldwork looked at tourism in Keswick and the physical fieldwork looked at measuring the velocity, width and depth of Glenderaterra Beck.

Students also had the opportunity to enjoy some ghyll scrambling and walking within the local area. These Year 11 students worked hard into the evenings completing their GCSE fieldwork and were a pleasure to spend time with.



BookBuzz Programme



This term, as part of our School Library induction, Year 7 students were given the opportunity to order a new free book through a programme called Bookbuzz.

Students visited the School Library during one of their English lessons to learn about the activities run in, and by, the Library throughout the school year,

as well as how to find, borrow or request a book. As part of the induction, students chose from one of sixteen books available through the Bookbuzz programme, run by the BookTrust, to take home and keep. We hope Year 7 students are enjoying their free book. We have extra copies of each of the sixteen free books in the Library, should students want to read them. Please see Mrs Foord-Johnson for more details.

Christmas Book Fair & Bookmark Competition



This December we welcomed our half price Christmas Book Fair back to the Library.

Open at lunchtimes in the Library, the Fair featured a variety of books, half off their marked prices, providing students with an excellent opportunity to purchase gifts for

friends, family and of course themselves in time for Christmas.

In celebration of the Book Fair students were given the opportunity to win free book vouchers for the Fair. To win the vouchers we asked students to design a bookmark that we can reproduce and use in the Library, for students that need one for their borrowed books.

We had some beautiful entries, some of which you can see in this photograph.



Anti-Bullying Week 2023



Anti-bullying week was a real success. The theme this year was to 'Make a Noise about Bullying'. We did this by setting up a stand at lunchtime selling wristbands, handing out stickers and encouraging students to have their say on bullying by creating a wall displaying their thoughts on prevention of bullying and spreading some positive messages. The money that we raised selling the wristbands will go towards anti-bullying projects throughout the school in the future. We also invited the school community to wear odd socks for the day to show their support. The peer mentor team presented an assembly to year 7's encouraging them not to be a bystander but to speak up about bullying. We also gave them some advice on who to talk to if they are affected by bullying in any way. Overall, the whole school got involved and made a noise about bullying!

By Ezra, Ariene and Summer Year 9 Peer Mentors



UK Bebras Computing Challenge



Computational Thinking Challenge

UK Bebras 2023



It was that time of the year again and there was much excitement in our school as students entered the BEBRAS Challenge for the second consecutive year. The Challenge is a computational thinking competition and it captivated the minds of many of our students. It provided them with an opportunity to showcase their problem-solving abilities. It is not just a test, it's an adventure that encourages students to think critically and approach problems with innovative solutions.

As a teacher I found that the enthusiasm amongst our students infectious as I watched many of them embrace the challenge



wholeheartedly. The problems presented in the competition were diverse. I saw a lot of creativity and to me it seemed to ignite a passion for logical reasoning amongst our students. From tackling coding conundrums, to navigating complex algorithms, each challenge was a stepping stone for students to hone their problem-solving skills.



What makes the Challenge truly special is the way it manages to move young people outside the traditional classroom learning system box. Students find themselves in a dynamic environment where they can apply theoretical knowledge in a practical setting and it fosters a deeper understanding of computational concepts.

There was a noticeable improvement in our students' problem-solving abilities. As they engaged with the thought-provoking tasks, they were not just answering questions, they were developing a mindset that values critical thinking and embraces challenges. Although it was a test of computational thinking it was pleasing to see our students showed both resilience and enthusiasm. As they navigated the challenges posed by the competition, they were not just participants I felt that some could be future innovators, thinkers, and problem solvers.

Well done to everyone who participated in this year's challenge. Congratulations to the following students who received the 'Distinction Award'.



UK Bebras Computing Challenge

Well done to everyone who participated in this year's challenge. Congratulations to the following students who received the 'Distinction Award'.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Emily Hart	Isla Bush	Ezra Nightingale
Fikemi Bagbenro	Xavi Parker	Sebastian Barker
Henry Carter	Federico Goduti	Amelie Harrison
Amelie McCulloch	Laura McLeish	Alice McMyn
Eleanor Fisher	Phoebe Harvey-Soanes	Ross Folkard
Kate Bhadreshwar	Henry Williams	Harry Tiernay
Theo Stiff	Imogen Harvey	Frank Gongora-Wright
Ethan Hodgetts	Poppy Ryan	Max Smith
Seth Catling	Archie Eastwood	Alex Chattell
Grace Hart (Best in School)	Elba Webster	Lucy West
Daniel Bird	Norah Ward	Noah Wooldridge
Emma Bloomfield	Rocco Matta	Regan Rolfe
William Steel	Keeley Utteridge	Liam Mowles
Zaviai Piper	Florence Rosten	Ashley Lloyd
Harrison Appleby	George Hearn	Matilda Bennett
Iris Archard	Nicholas Linney	Theonie Simon-Hart
Oliver Ratkus	James Palmer	Caitlyn Simon-Hart
Connie Mason	Henry Hawes	Summer Harvey
Joselyne Leeder	Charlotte Mottram	William Taylor
Lily Aylott	Samuel Leech	Malachi Mangan
Oliver Lane	Lola Dod	Keith Allmey
Cate Callaghan	Phoebe Ramsey	Charlotte Pinder
Victoria Coleman	Marcus Linney (Best in School)	George Hart
Edward Allberry	Eleanor Ford	Jack Bhadreshwar
Isla Anstee-Parry	Joseph Scurrell	Delilah Houghton
Alfie Finbra	Bethany Darrington	Johnny Owens
Rose Bolton	Evie Dyer	Toby Kemp
Joseph Mitchell	Theo Wilkins	Jaymee Painter
Poppy Catchpole	Dayah Brunero	Victoria Ademuyiwa
Archie Mallett	Zachary Lambert	Sofina Crouch
Jasper Rendell		Imogen McCartney
Eva Sheldrake		Samuel Hamilton
Charlie Worrall		Beth Stone
Evelyn Barnes		George Skilling
		Wesley Carpenter
		Lila Sharp
		Isabelle Willings

Friends of DHS

Festive greetings from the FoDHS committee. We have so much to share with you!

Firstly, our school mini-bus fundraising mission continues. Every effort to reach our goal is being made and we are thoroughly grateful for all of your support. We have a new JustGiving page for direct donations, and we will continue with our in-school fundraisers. Our current offering is the annual Christmas Raffle! We have a Fortnum & Mason Hamper, CASH PRIZES and other luxury treats including spa hampers, Moët Champagne, Alcohol and Chocolate Hampers and much, much more. We will look forward to announcing the lucky prize winners in our next issue!

In other news, the very talented Back Stage Crew were very grateful to receive their brand-new polo shirts. Due to success of previous fundraisers, FoDHS was able to make a donation of £200 to facilitate the purchase of a special crew uniform. The school productions are such a team effort and so much work takes place behind the scenes. We couldn't be happier to be able to support the students who ensure it all runs smoothly. A very worthwhile purchase to recognise a group of very skilled students.



And finally, with the spirit of Christmastime approaching (as we are reminded of the importance of both community and charity) we wanted to take this opportunity to share with you why our target is so important to us.

As many of you will already be aware, Debenham High School prides itself on having a wonderfully positive reputation. Our students are high achievers in academia, sport, and the arts. Behaviours and attitudes within the school are OFSTED-rated "Outstanding". Our teaching staff is exemplary. The list goes on... The same, however, cannot be said about our recently decommissioned school bus!

Although staff at Debenham have been determined to find what little remains in the school budget to hire local vehicles and ensure students have access to some out-of-school events, it pales in comparison to the freedom a school bus would bring to that decision making.

We know a cost-of-living crisis is a difficult time to begin a fundraising campaign, every penny counts now more than ever, but let me tell you what this bus means to us:

- It could begin the competitive career of an Olympic sprinter – a student who may have struggled in the classroom but shines on the track.
- It could bring donations to local food banks and inspire our students to begin a life of philanthropic endeavours.
- It could enable a student to embark on obtaining a Duke of Edinburgh award, finding their inner confidence, and blossoming into the best version of themselves.
- It could transport a group of students eager to compete in the Young Enterprise Challenge and motivate their entrepreneurial minds to go forth and create award-winning new businesses of tomorrow.
- And, as in previous years, the bus could also be used by the local community to transport primary schoolchildren, the Scouts and Guides groups as well as our elderly residents and church attendees. Debenham has always prided itself on being a staunch supporter of the local community and offering access to free transport for the betterment of the entire surrounding area brings indeterminate value to so many.

A bus is not just a bus when the passengers have such limitless potential – and we see that greatness in all of our students. We truly believe they deserve to unlock every possible avenue of success and we need your help to ensure they arrive at that destination.

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we are already nearing the halfway mark! We are so excited to continue to work together to make this a dream a reality for the students. Please continue to help us by giving whatever you can.

Thank you for all of your support in 2023. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Dora Love Prize 2023

The Dora Love Prize is run annually by the University of Essex. It is a prize dedicated to Dora Love who was a Holocaust survivor. When she came to England, she settled in Essex and spent lots of time in schools and with other groups of young people sharing her story and highlighting the horrors which hatred, discrimination and persecution can lead to. Dora Love died in 2012 and the University of Essex created a prize in her honour that is yearly awarded to the best project by a school in raising awareness of the Holocaust and the conditions and attitudes which made it possible. Each year has a theme; this year's theme was 'Ordinary People'. The group of students decided to look at the Roma and Sinti victims of the Holocaust, a group of people who are often forgotten about when thinking about the Holocaust but who are also still discriminated against to this day. The group Year 9 students who were involved in the project decided to take action against this. The project looked back to raise awareness of the experience of Roma and Sinti in the Holocaust and other aspects of their heritage and also forward; things which could be done to raise awareness, demystify, tackle discrimination and advocate for positive change.

To our delight, our project won the prize for 2023. Our project covered a range of activities as follows:

Sam, Seth and Sofia delivered an assembly to the rest of the school to launch the project and encourage others to get involved and to be curious and aware. This was at the start of Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month. The assembly focused on the Dora Love Prize itself and Dora's story, but then moved on to the Holocaust and the targeting of Roma and Sinti specifically. We highlighted the activities which we would be doing to celebrate the past and the present.

Jed and Isaac made a film of the story of the boxer, Johann 'Rukelli' Trollman, his triumphs, but ultimately, his persecution and murder. His story came to prominence following the research of his nephew Manuel Trollman. The film will be a legacy piece which can be used in school in years to come to illustrate the persecution of Roma and Sinti by those in the National Socialist regime and their collaborators.

Lois, Molly and Evie carried out a book review of "Settela's Last Road". This is based on a famous photo of a girl in a headscarf peering from the doors of a train truck as it paused on its way to a concentration camp. reimagines her story. They produced a display for the School Library. The book is now in the library and was the featured book during Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month. The book remains available for students to take out and read for themselves.

Tamzin, Albion and Dan met with Mr Martin, to persuade him that we should commit the school to the Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boaters Pledge for Schools. When we investigated this, we were quite taken aback that there hadn't been one school in Suffolk who have done so. We feel that the repercussions of not achieving to your full potential at school can have such a wide and long-term impact, it is vital that schools do what is within their control to enable change. If we keep doing what we've always done, nothing changes. We didn't feel that's in anyone's interest. We also sent a letter to all the schools in our pyramid to ask them to consider how "traveller friendly" their school is and to consider committing to the Pledge.

We encouraged all (especially Year 7 who were studying pattern at the time) to engage in the 'Friends, Families and Traveller' nationwide competition. Their theme for this year's Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month was 'Weaving Journeys' and they encouraged young people to consider historic patterns and traditional stopping places in Romany Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma, New Traveller, Liveboard Boater and Showmen communities. We submitted our top three entries to their competition. Students submitted artwork based on patterns which were important to them.

Through the wonderful world of Twitter, we heard about an event run by Noreen at Southwark Travellers' Action Group to come and bake (and taste) together. As we couldn't realistically get to Southwark to join in, we got in contact with Noreen and she shared her 'passed down the generations' recipe for traditional soda bread. Students were encouraged to take a recipe and bring their bread to a lunch time celebration. Mrs Schmidt and Mr Burns were the impartial judges and Nick from 7N was our worthy winner. When we visited the Battlefields with Year 9 back in May, we discussed Jack Cunningham, a Traveller born in North Lincolnshire who was awarded a Victoria Cross for his bravery. We were visiting the area of Serre in the Somme, where he saw action and won his Victoria Cross. He was among the range of faces from a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller heritage who were around school in our 'diversity' photo frames.

We also displayed a 'washing line timeline' sweeping across the covered way. This is used to highlight the long history, and migration story of people from Gypsy, Roma and different Traveller communities. It highlighted their rich heritage, but also the long-term barriers, discrimination and persecution they have endured. It also celebrated success such as Eileen Flynn, the first Irish Traveller to become a senator in Ireland.

Jed also led a session on Romany Canting in Polyglot Club, shining a spotlight on the range of dialects associated with the Gypsy, Roma and Travellers.

We finished our celebration of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month with a takeover of the House Quiz Challenge and we tested how carefully students had been listening and how observant they had been. We were pleasantly surprised, especially by 7N, 8A, 9C and 10N who were their year group winners.



Suffolk Skills Show 2023

Earlier this term Year 9 attended the Suffolk Skills show at Trinity Park, Ipswich. They had the opportunity to talk to a range of employers, colleges and apprenticeship providers listed below. It was an informative and interesting day which gave students much food for thought as they approach their GCSE option choices next term. The emphasis, for employers, is on engagement, raising aspiration and fostering ambition rather than recruitment.

The sectors represented included:

Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering	Health & Social Care	Professional Services
Careers Advice	Food & Farming	Public Services
Construction	ICT - Digital & Creative	Retail
Education & Training	Leisure & Tourism	Other
Energy	Ports & Logistics	

Noah is pictured with a plant that he won!



Enterprise Day 2023

All of Year 9 took part in the Debenham High School – Enterprise Day 2023. The challenge for the teams was to create a “sauce” company with all of the associated media, marketing and pricing to win a contract with a major French supermarket chain.

This year we were kindly supported by the award winning local sauce company “Stokes”. Mr Rick Sheepshanks the founder of Stokes joined in on the day mentoring teams, sharing his experiences of business and judging the presentations at the end of the day. It was a fast paced day and all the teams put in an enormous effort to meet all of the deadlines.

The winning team was “Turner’s – A sauce with a twist”



Work Experience

At the end of the Summer term, Year 10 (now Year 11) students embarked upon their work experience placements. Students worked everywhere from shops, cafes, nurseries, primary schools, care homes, factories, laboratories, veterinary surgeries and even on an RAF base.

Feedback from employers was fantastic and Year 10 really did themselves proud in their work ethic, punctuality and positive attitude.

- “Amber has been great - always completing tasks given to her.”
- “Katie was a pleasure to have here.”
- “Elsa was a fantastic asset to my classroom and so helpful. I would be delighted to welcome her back anytime. Her talents in art have been a great inspiration to the children in my class.”
- “Evan was a joy to have working for Binders this week.”
- “It was great to have Charley work with me for the week. Charley was a great help.”
- “During her time with our clients Georgina was observed to be respectful, attentive, kind and willing to support clients...Georgina was a very polite young lady - very friendly...Georgina will be welcome back at any time.”
- “A pleasure to host Fraser who has ambitions to be a pilot in the RAF.”
- “Darcey has been very helpful during a very busy week in school. She has followed instructions well. Darcey is a very friendly young lady who has been an asset this week.”
- “Ellie was the best work experience student that we have had here. She was keen, polite, able, a quick thinker and got stuck in. Customers did not realise that she wasn’t staff!”



UK Parliament Week



We marked UK Parliament Week in school this year with assemblies, a House quiz and activities throughout the week in many different subjects.

In History students considered the impact of diversity and equalities legislation on our everyday lives, in English students looked at MPs maiden speeches and Maths looked at election statistics and results to name but a few of the subjects who brought a parliamentary theme to their lessons.

Students were given the opportunity to learn about and apply for the Suffolk Youth Parliament and we are delighted that Dayah Brunero in 8O has put herself forward for election and has already become a member of the Suffolk Youth Forum.

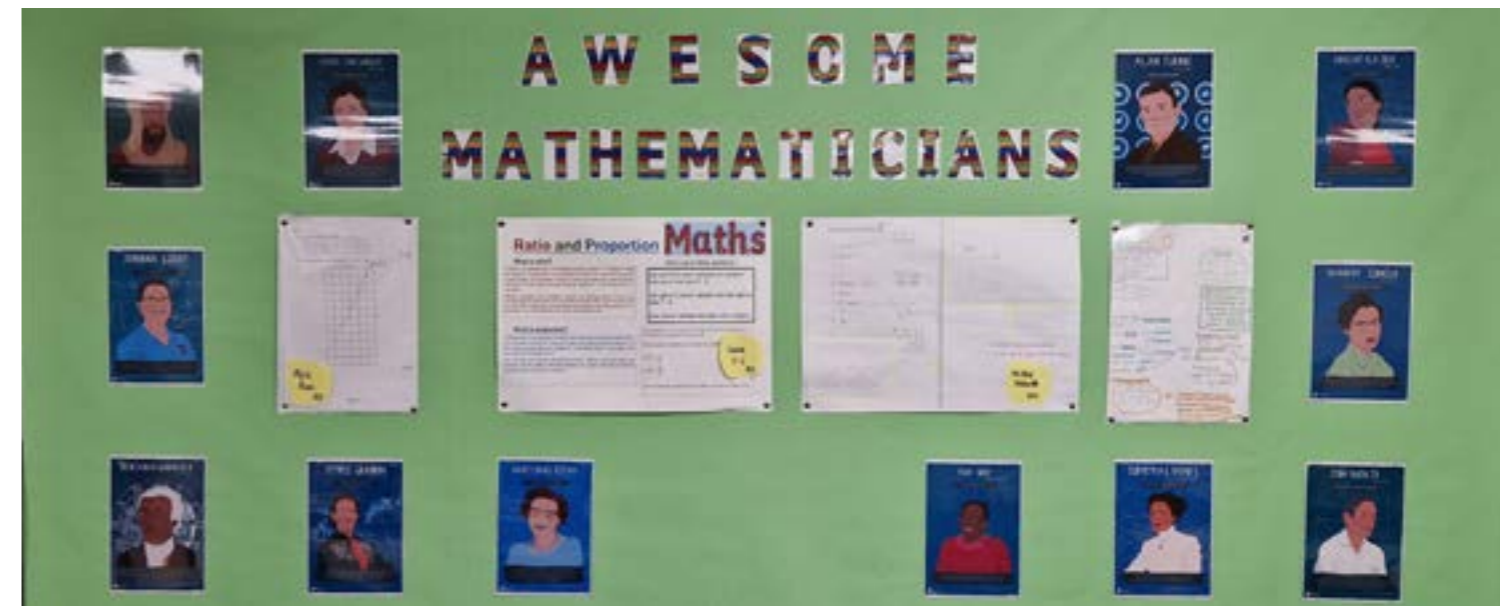
We eagerly look forward to following Dayah’s progress.

Mathematicians of the First Half Term

Each half term the Maths department award a Mathematician of the Half Term for each Maths class. The winner is chosen based on their drive to improve their mathematical skill and the resilience shown when they encounter difficulty. Congratulations to the following students who were our Mathematicians for the first half term:

Year 11	Roman Ainge Dylan Stretch Megan Langley Lexie Gorham Daisy Webster Joseph Webb	Year 9	Felicity Farthing Joshua Laws Amber Otieno Daniel Moody Alfie Rush Jayden Gorham
Year 10	Isabelle Linney Ben Dreher Emily Washington Lyra Rodriguez Londyn Bentley Joshua Collins	Year 8	Federico Goduti Jasper Childs Keeley Utteridge James Oates-Moore Alice Steward Connor Wright
Year 7	Emma Bloomfield Amelia Smith Eva Sheldrake Mollie Pettman Mia Irvine Coby Campbell-Broadhurst		

Mathematicians of the First Half Term



Year 8 ADT Day

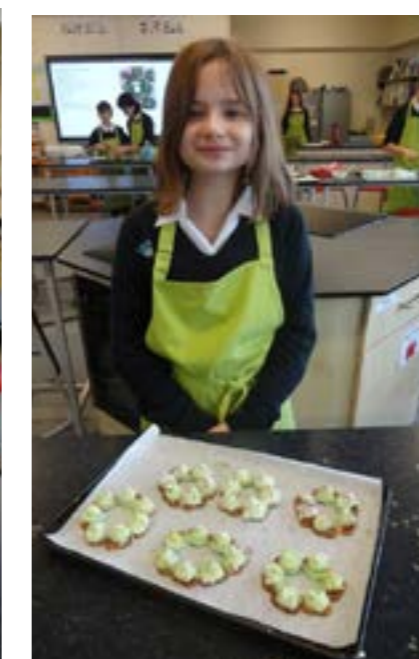
Mrs Makudo and Miss Harley held their Year 8 ADT day (Food and DT) with a group of selected students: Henry Williams, Leila King, Joe Besley, Felix Rees, Fergus Willson, Fred Goduti, Alice Steward & Dayah Brunero.

They were tasked with undertaking some baking challenges: Pretzel wreaths and Puff Pastry Christmas trees as well as some biscuit decorating while the trees baked!

All had a great time, getting into the Christmas spirit with some background music while they crafted their creations! A great morning was had by all involved, although I am sure a couple won't want to see frosting any time soon after consuming their fair share of it as they made it! (No bowls were licked during the making of the products, despite some sterling efforts by individuals, Felix!)

Wreath link: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cztn2HJthRj/?igshid=MTc4MmM1YmI2Ng==>

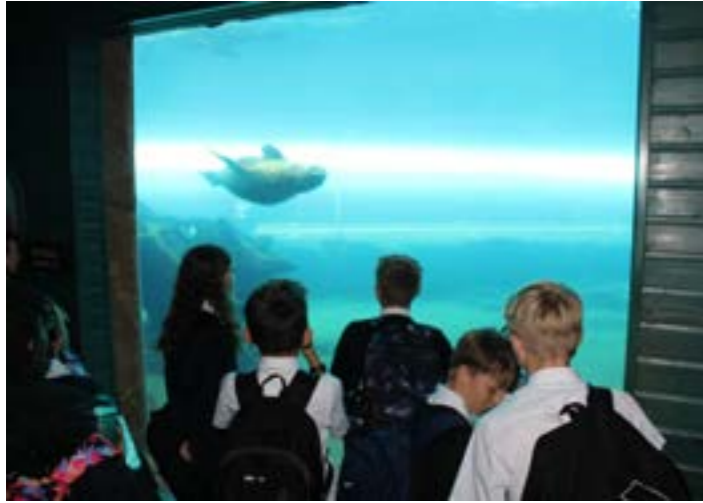
Puff pastry trees: <https://www.jusrol.co.uk/pastry-recipes/christmas-tree-treats>



Year 7 to Colchester Zoo

As part of the year 7 science curriculum, we study classification of animals and how they adapted to their environment. What better way to emphasise this than by going to the zoo and see those adaptations up close.

In September, year 7 visited Colchester zoo as part of their studies into classification and adaptation. The rain stayed away for us again, though some of the animals were hiding from the damp and didn't want to be seen. As always, the fennec fox got the most aaaahs and the spiders the most eughs.



Year 7 to Colchester Zoo



MFL Department

International Bake Off to Celebrate European Day of Languages

It has been a busy start to the year for the MFL teachers and students at Debenham High School.

September was kicked off with a bang on the 26th with students celebrating European Day of Languages with an International Bake Off. This was supported fabulously by the students, over 60 cakes were entered and £160 was raised and donated to the English + Charity - <https://englishplus.org.uk/>



KS4 Subtitling workshop

In October, our KS4 French and Spanish students were very lucky to have Dr Carlos de Pablos-Ortega visit from UEA to run a subtitling workshop. This gave the students a great insight in to how subtitles work and encouraged them to think about their potential futures within this area, whether that is work or study.

French immersion trip 2023

The French immersion trip to Normandy was a huge success. This took place from 30th October to 3rd November. Despite the challenging weather conditions, all 35 French students had a fantastic time and really immersed themselves into the French language. This trip is a superb opportunity for students to build their confidence and their French knowledge. This happens through cultural visits, such as visiting Arromanche 360 cinema, the Bayeux Tapestry and a French supermarket and through onsite activities, such as bread making and learning popular French games.



German event – Sankt Martin

On November 10th Sankt Martin Lantern celebration took place after school. This is its second year running and the turnout was excellent yet again. Students and their families learn about Saint Martin and the story of kindness and compassion, parade their homemade lanterns and sing German songs.

A special thank you goes to the Year 8 performers and the musicians who came in especially for event. A big thank you to all the families who attended and supported the event.



In school clubs and opportunities

As well as all of this, Polyglot Club and the MFL Book Club have been regular, well attended, lunchtime clubs. We still have the German Christmas card exchange, a visit from Ben Box (a highly acclaimed travel journalist) and the Language Leader trip to the primary school to look forward to this year!

Art & Design Technology Department

The AD&T faculty are delighted to welcome twenty one new Year 8 Ambassadors this year.

We were overwhelmed with the quality of applications which included drawings, paintings and even some cakes! We have already welcomed Ambassadors' help with the Big Draw and now with creating our Debenham advent window for the library. Soon they will be doing some baking to help raise money for the Friends of DHS.

A great start to the year!



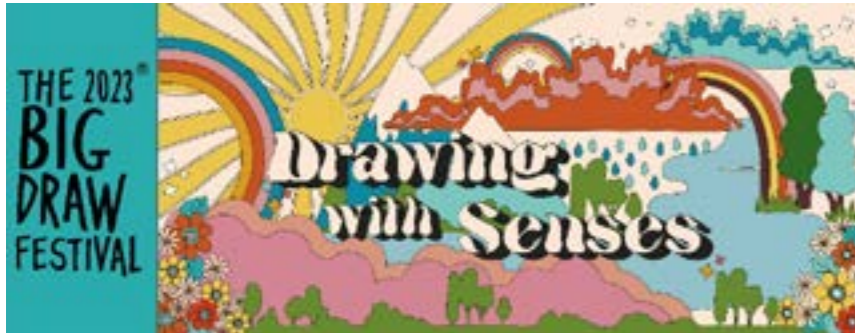
Every Wednesday lunch time the Textiles Room fills with creative fashion and textiles enthusiasts keen to undertake some exciting projects.

Two of the projects for this half term coincidentally have involved upcycling socks. During October we made Autumnal decorative gourds, followed by Christmas decorations for Debenham Church.

Thank you to all our staff and parents who donate fabrics and haberdashery to keep our Textiles Club fully equipped.



The Big Draw 2023



We were lucky to have our Year 8 AD&T Ambassadors help us with the Big Draw this year. They led a range of lunch time activities for our 'Drawing with the Senses' themed week. Students ate and drew pizza, drew objects from bags just from touch and made giant flowers to add to a group display.

We were delighted with the form competition results where each student had to draw a sweet from touch, smell, appearance and of course from taste!

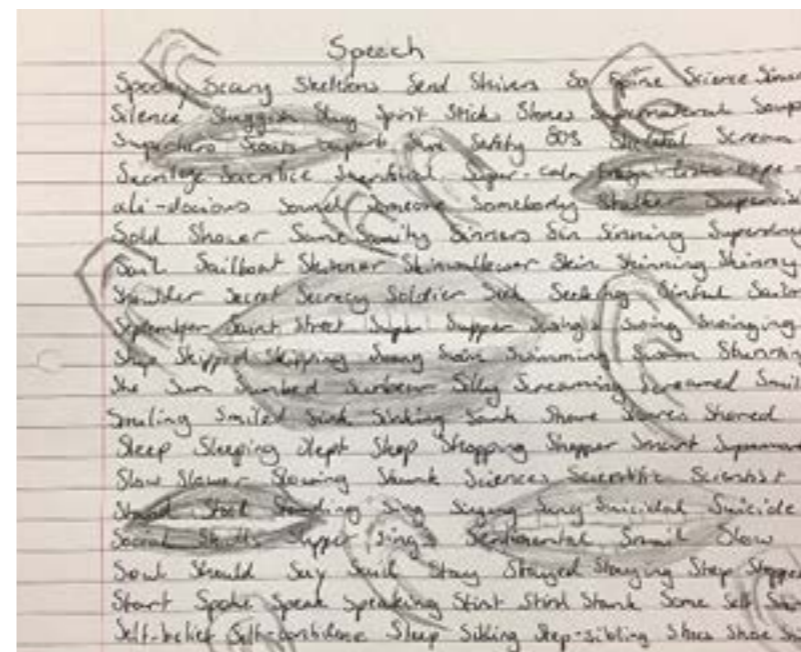
Finally, we would like to congratulate



everybody who entered the individual Big Draw competition with a range of stunning art works based on the five senses. We were blown away by the high standards and have enjoyed displaying the art works in the school. We hope you all enjoyed your well-deserved art themed prizes!



The Big Draw 2023



Debenham Shed



Over the last 6 weeks Tim Warnock (School Chaplain) has been working with 2 students on a very special project.

Tim, Casey and Wesley have been visiting Debenham Shed where they have been restoring a bench for their Uncle who recently passed away. The boys have had an incredibly tough year, with the loss of their uncle, amongst a host of other things. Debenham Shed kindly donated the bench and Tim has been working with the boys on restoring it to its former glory.

What is most amazing is that the boy's uncle, who was a well-known artist in the area,

had a favourite spot to paint and hang out in the village of Debenham. The family spoke with the landowner who has kindly agreed for the bench to be placed permanently on this hill, so the family and wider community can pay their respects.

It's been an honour to support the lads in this way, the bond they have as brothers has been strengthened as they worked on this hands on project together. We're so grateful for the school and our partnership with them, as well as Debenham Shed who have welcomed the boys with open arms.



Sports Roundup



The U 16 boys table tennis team won the HSSSP tournament

The U 16 girls table tennis team came 2nd the HSSSP tournament



The Year 8 boys table tennis team came 3rd and the Year 7 team came 5th

Y11 netball team played in the HSSSP netball tournament against Thomas Mills, Alde Valley, Hartismere Fram College and Bungay



Sports Roundup



All teams have been involved in some County cup and National cup games. friendly 11-a-side, 6-a-side and some Futsal fixtures this term.

There have been plenty of opportunities to come along and play in competitive and perhaps not so competitive fixtures.

Year 10 Boys

The Year group have been really well attending the club on a Wednesdays, and the difficulty is trying to keep everyone happy and involved with some games! The 'develop' team, played in a memorable 6-6 draw with Thomas Mills, where the game went from 3-0, to 5-5, and then two late goals. Included in this was a 40 yd effort from Max Bernstein! The same side went over for a 6-a-side tournament at Hartismere, winning a few and losing a few of their 6 matches, and enjoying the nature of the games throughout.



We are hoping to play Pakefield in the County cup before the end of the Autumn term break, and have been very busy in the National cup. The side beat Claydon and Stowupland 2-1 in the first two rounds, and then overcame Thorpe St Andrew from Norwich 4-2 AET in the third Round. This is a school with close to 2000 pupils, so this was a huge achievement! They are preparing to play the Plume school from Chelmsford in Round 4. Congratulations to Archie Hubert and Kieran Langley, who again will be representing Suffolk schools U15 this season.

In the indoor Futsal area qualification, the team of Charlie, Archie, Henry, Riley, Kieran and Freddie qualified again for the County finals next term, beating Hartismere, Thomas Mills, Stowupland and Stowmarket.

Year 9 Boys

Attendance and commitment has been disappointing from the side so far, meaning fixtures being cancelled. The smaller group who have been kept played Hartismere in a friendly 6-a-side at Home, and played with good spirit and determination.



Sports Roundup

Girls Football

We are blessed with some outstanding Girl players here at Debenham, who mostly play out of school for various teams, including Debenham. It has been wonderful to see how their results have been this term so far:

U13

The girls have managed to qualify through their indoor Futsal competition, with a dramatic final 3 second goal in their area qualifying tournament. This meant they also qualify again for the finals, well done to Katie, Clem, Freya, Immy, Flo, Phoebe and Ellie.

The girls also played really well to beat Hartismere 6-0 in their County cup first round, and will now play Pakefield next.



U14

The Year 8 and 9 side played East Point Academy in their first round game, and win 4-2 on Pens, after finishing 1-1 after normal time.



U15

The side enjoyed a 6-0 win vs Hartismere in their County cup first round, and followed up with an 8-0 win vs Alde Valley



U16

The side have enjoyed an excellent run to date in the ESFA cup, defeating Alde Valley 6-0 in the First Round, a walkover vs Northgate. They then travelled to Soham Village college in the third round, and came away with a comprehensive 6-1 win. Next was Thorpe St Andrew school from Norwich in Round 4. This is a school we had previously played twice in the past two years, losing 6-0 and 6-1. We travelled in hope, but with only 11 players available we knew it would be a tough afternoon!



The Girls were immense though, battling hard against a very high standard of opponent. They looked threatening, and contained the home side to only a few chances. Sophie then pounced on a mistake to score with only 5 mins to go. The Girls hung to record a 1-0 win. They now play Beufort school from St Albans in the last 64 teams in the country, a great feat considering the size of our school compared to some of our opponents, especially Thorpe with a school of around 2000.

They will play Stowmarket in the county cup, where they have already won their first round match vs Alde Valley, 6-0.

Sports Roundup

Netball

The term started with a tournament for all age groups. This was a good way to "get back into" at the start of the year and to see some year 7's playing. It was a chance for the students to play in different positions and prepare for the forthcoming fixtures this term. The year 7's and 8's have then had a triangular fixture against Thomas Mills and Alde Valley. They were triumphant in all four games. Most notable was the Year 8's winning 19-2 against Thomas Mills.



Hockey

We have had a mixture of tournaments for all age groups in hockey. We have generally combined year groups together to form KS3 teams and KS4 teams. This has been an excellent opportunity for everyone to put their practice into match play and have all shown a big improvement. They are working together well as teams.



Badminton

Four U14 girls went to a tournament at Thomas Mills. They played well and enjoyed themselves. They came fourth. Well done to Emily, Beth, Flora and Maicy.



Sports Roundup

X-Country

We took 50 Students to RHS for the first round of the x-country. It was a very wet and muddy course but everyone ran really well in all age groups. 16 have qualified for the next round in January.



Sports Roundup

Badminton

Well done to Torbyn, Ashley, George and Max who won six games out of six in the u14 area badminton competition, held at Bungay. This perfect record saw the team qualify for county finals and it was all done without the help of Ellis!



Lovely to see 18 students, across all year groups, play in a friendly fixture against Hartismere. Some good play was on show and all games were played in a really good spirit. Hartismere did though come out as victors, in a very tight encounter.

Dodgeball

A number of students, from Years 7 and 8, have been attending Dodgeball club this term and it was great to see a number of them represent the school in competitive matches.

The Year 7 and 8 dodgeball team against Thomas Mills



The Year 7 and 8 Dodgeball team who played in the partnership tournament held @ Bungay.

Year 7 Futsal Team

The Year 7 Team who played in the County Cup match against Hartismere



Debenham High School



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