



ASPIRE

Celebrating success 2017-18 Autumn Edition

Head's start

It has been a fast-paced start to the year, with an array of activities taking place in the first half-term. We have, of course, welcomed a new year group and they seem to have settled well, showing enthusiasm and perseverance already in everything that they do. Mrs Jude (née Miss Hood-Wright - congratulations on a summer celebration!) has been very impressed with how they have got involved in school life, including being confident and articulate as tour guides to the Year 6 students, parents and carers on Open Evening.

As we started term we celebrated the success of our departing students. Lots of warnings had been given by the examination boards before the first examination of new GCSE courses in English and Mathematics in the summer but we need not have feared what might lie ahead. Staff in these teams and across the school used their knowledge and expertise to prepare students for their GCSE examinations and we were delighted to be highest state school in Suffolk with 89% of students achieving the new benchmark of Grade 4+ in English and Mathematics. These results, along with all their other GCSEs put the class of 2017 in the top 5% in the Country for progress - the greatest measure of success of a school. See inside for a more detailed celebration of their achievements.

Julia Upton

New Drama Studio

Thank you to staff, students, parents and carers for your forbearance as we complete our extension to the school. This new build has progressed at pace over the summer holiday, this included a new covered canopy for students to socialise in at break and lunchtime - a change to the initial design build in response to feedback from the school's student council. During the October half-term break we will start to knock through to connect the new building to the Science and Music blocks. This will cause some re-rooming of classes but hopefully it will be short-term pain for long-term gain as we aim to complete the new build by the end of the Autumn Term.



GCSE Results 2017

89% Grade 4+ (equivalent to the old Grade C) in English and Mathematics
68% Grade 5 (Strong pass, new government benchmark) in English and Mathematics

We track the progress of our students relative to the progress they make from their starting points. We acknowledge their achievements relative to these starting points. From our GCSE results in 2017 we are delighted to celebrate the achievement of our highest achieving 10 students.

Anna Brueck Seeley	2 Grade 9, 7 Grade A*, 1 Grade 8
Matthew Carter	1 Grade 9, 7 Grade A*, 2 Grade 8, 1 Grade A
Ellie Billington	5 Grade A*, 2 Grade 8, 2 Grade A, 1 Grade B and 1 Grade 6
Josh Bridges	5 Grade A*, 2 Grade A, 1 Grade 8, 2 Grade 7, 1 B Grade
Nathan Austin	6 Grades A*, 1 Grade 8, 1 Grade A, 2 Grade 7, 1 Grade B
Ewan McMyn	5 A* Grades, 3 Grade 8, 3 A Grades
William Bosley	1 Grade 9, 4 Grade A*, 3 Grade A, 1 Grade 7, 1 Grade 6
Max Pinn	2 Grade A*, 4 Grade A, 2 Grade 7, 1 Grade B, 1 Grade 6
Freddie Grover	1 Grade A*, 1 Grade 8, 4 Grade A, 2 Grade B
Joseph Sharpe	1 Grade 8, 6 Grade A, 1 Grade 7, 1 Grade B, 1 Grade 5
Henry Lockwood	6 Grade A, 1 Grade 8, 2 Grade 7, 2 Grade B

We are equally proud of those students who made the most progress relative to their starting point with us in Year 7. The following students deserve particular praise in this regard:

Julie Davy, Emily Tapscott, Emily Bower, Hannah Stephenson, Ellie Fawkner, Anna Brueck Seeley, Connor Goodchild, Lily Turner Smith, Stephanie Rowe, Flo Ludgrove, Nicole Rodwell, Romilly Hughes, Jack Marsh, Ellie Billington, Max Pinn, Matthew Hardie, Issy Rutherford, Joseph Farrall, Izzy Marsden and Matthew Carter.



Language Leaders

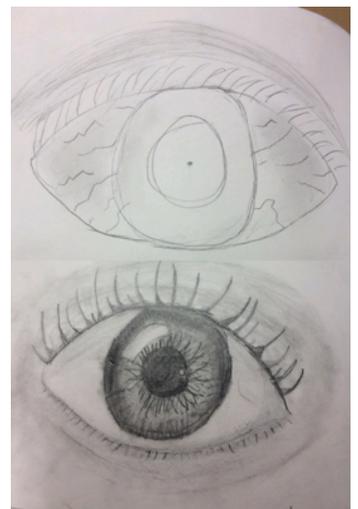
Our new wave of Language Leaders have been selected for the 2017-18 year. These Year 9 students have been chosen for their proficiency and dedication in Languages. As part of their role they will support younger students at lunchtime in their modern foreign language development. Along with this, they will plan and lead language activities with students in our feeder primary schools. Their first task however, was to man the "Fromage et Vin Cafe" on Open Evening. You went hungry and thirsty if you couldn't ask in French or Spanish!



Year 7 Art



Year 7 artists have been expressing their emotions and feeling using colour mixing and paint marks. They are now looking at facial expressions and are making excellent progress with their drawing. Check out the before and after eye drawings.



Year 9 Textiles

Year 9 Embrace project

Year 9 have been experimenting with textiles, exploring the CAD/CAM aspect of the subject, using the sublimation printer, heat transfer press and computerised embroidery machine. Pupils have produced their own fabric designs for a gadget cushion inspired by festivals; a new project for 2017. The first group has really enjoyed the project and they have produced some fabulous outcomes. We cannot wait to see what exciting designs the rest of year 9 create.



Year 10 Visual Communications

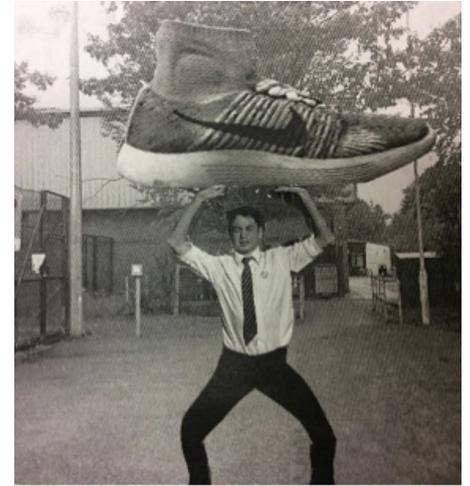
Year 10 support community charity event.

Year 10 pupils studying Visual Communication were asked by Coddendam Country Club to design a poster for their Pink Party which raises money for Breast Cancer Research. The chosen poster design by Tom Baker will be featured on social media and posted around the village of Coddendam. It is a great opportunity for the pupils to work on 'Live projects' set by outside agencies. It is great practice for the real world and a great piece of work for their portfolios. Well done to everyone.

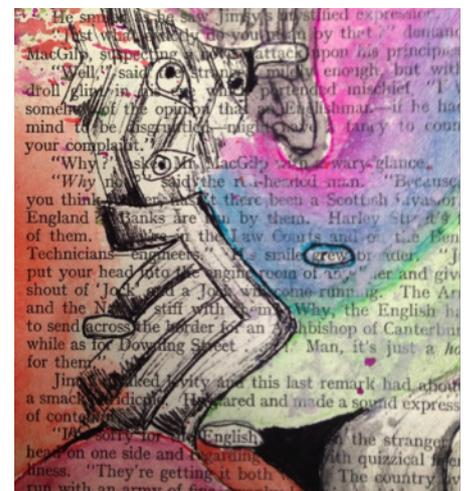
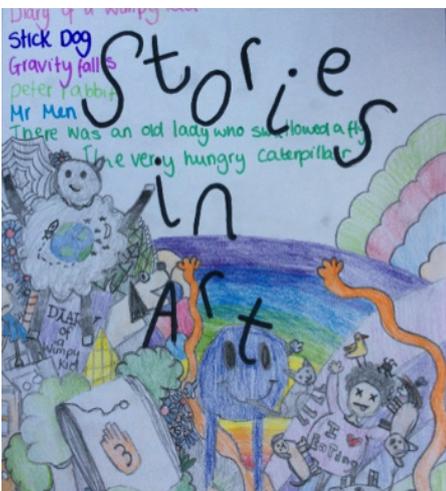


Art: Year 8 and 9

Year 9 Art students are creating photomontages in readiness for their painted surreal final piece. Using their own photographs and objects, the pieces are linked to the students' identities.

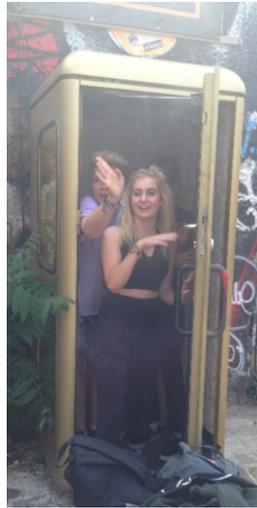


Year 8 students have been mixing Art, literature and cultural studies in their 'Stories in Art' unit. They enjoyed looking at Japanese artists Hokusai and Murakami to help them develop their drawing and printing styles. Students have then created prints and illustrations inspired by their favourite book.



Art: Year 11 in England and beyond

We ended last academic year with a fabulous trip to Berlin with Year 10 students. We saw some incredible Art whilst we were there, both in galleries and on the street. We also had a chance to create our own art works with the help of some Berlin street artists. And we won't forget our visit to the smallest club in Europe where a few Art students got to experience a Spice Girls party!

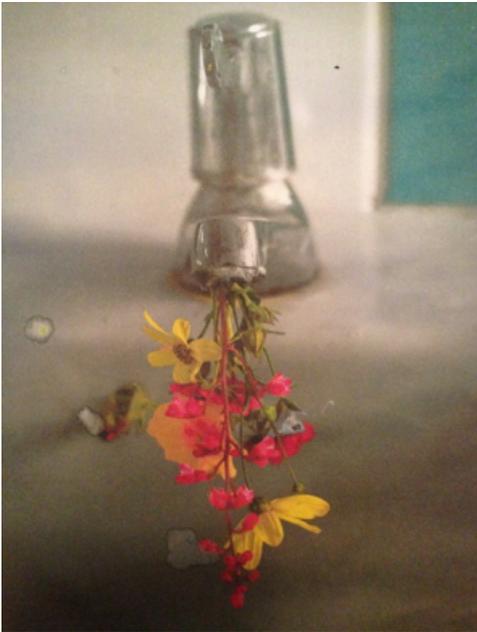


Back in England and on to the new academic year, Year 11 Art students visited Shoreditch to look at the street Art our capital offers. We were blown away with the quality and variety of work.



Art: Year 10 and KS3

Year 10 students have made a great start to GCSE Art and have produced some very high quality work.



Leah Skinner



Jess Way



Charlie Williamson

We visited Ipswich to gather our visual research for our theme of 'Out of Place' and the students have worked with the images in photoshop to create new Art works.



Year 7 Puzzle Day



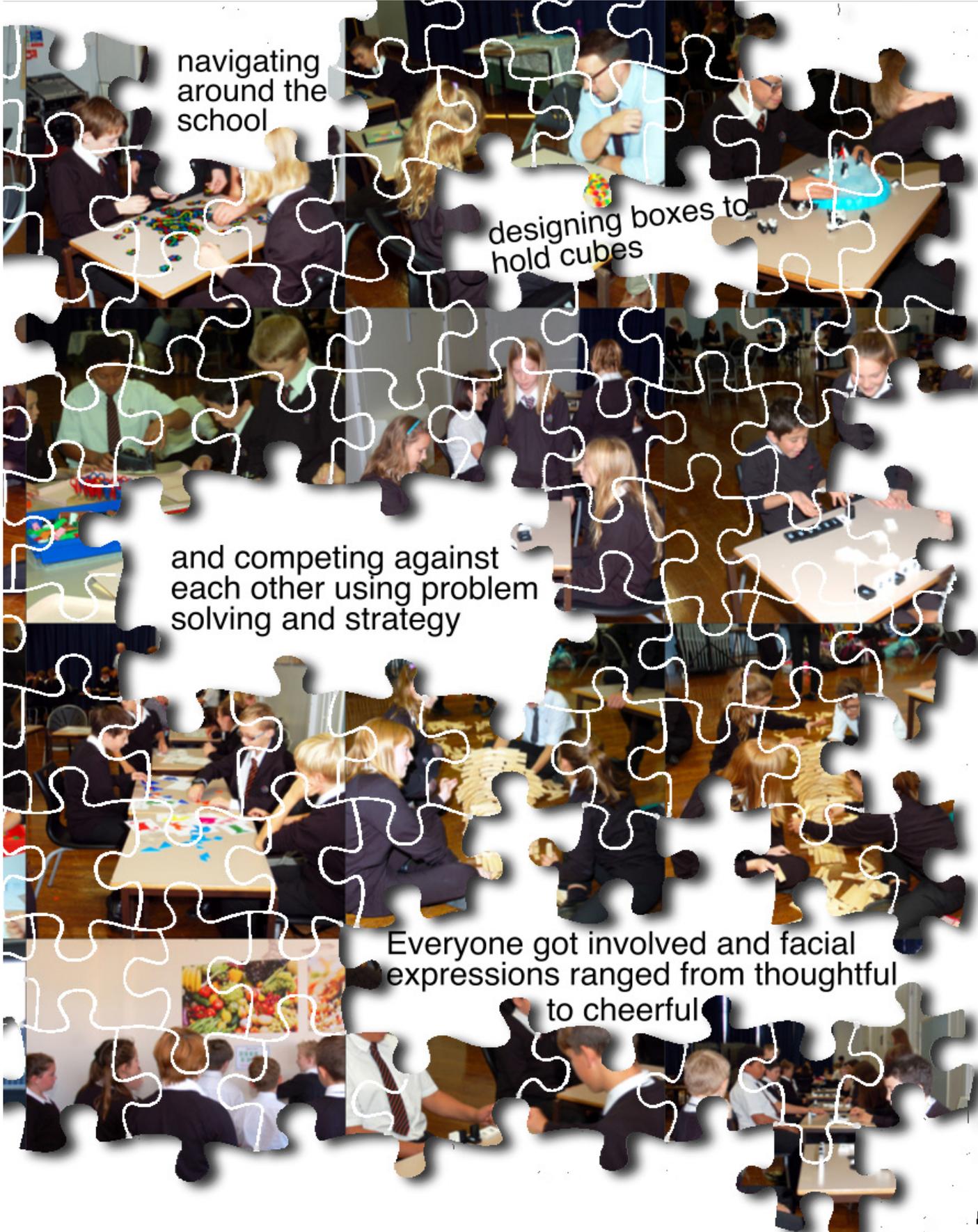
What takes
135 Year 7s,
29 year 10s
and 5 maths
teachers?

Yes you've worked it out, the annual Year 7 Puzzle
Day.

The 22nd September
was filled with
activities involving
solving number
puzzles

creating
3-D
structures

Year 7 Puzzle Day



navigating
around the
school

designing boxes to
hold cubes

and competing against
each other using problem
solving and strategy

Everyone got involved and facial
expressions ranged from thoughtful
to cheerful

Iceland Trip

Day 1- After a very early start and a short plane journey, which for some was a new experience, the packed itinerary began. Our first stop was the Alfgja Rift Valley which marks the constructive boundary between the Eurasian plate and the North American plate. We continued to the Blue Lagoon – a man-made lagoon, blue in colour, heated by geothermal power - to enjoy a swim and a traditional silica face mask.

Day 2 – In the morning, we took a tour of the Hellisheidi geothermal Power Station, the second largest in the world. Next, we visited Seljalandsfoss Waterfall and, due to natural undercutting of the basalt cliff, we could take a breath-taking walk behind the waterfall before travelling to Skogafoss waterfall to take in a different view of the natural land features from a viewing platform at the top of a staircase up the side of the cliff. Finally, we explored the frozen tongue of the Solheimajokull glacier with a walk using crampons and ice axes. The grand sheet of ice with its ridges, ice sculptures and deep crevasses was without doubt one of the highlights of the trip. Our accommodation for that night was a set of traditional log cabins that slept three people each at Farm Hellisholar.



Day 3 – We began by visiting Reynishverfi, a black volcanic sand beach to see the basalt cliffs, caves and columns created through erosion and weathering. We continued along the coast to Dryholaey's natural 120m arch feature where we saw puffins as well as arctic terns and guillemots. Iceland is home to one of the largest colonies of puffins globally. Following that, we called into the Eyjafjallajokull Volcanic Eruption Visitor Centre to watch a short video displaying the effects of the 2010 volcanic eruption on a local farm and their responses and recovery. Following this video, we had the opportunity to experience an earthquake in a simulator. After dinner at The Hamburger Factory, we relaxed in the Laugardalslaug open air swimming pool and Jacuzzis.

Day 4- We took a scenic walk through Thingvellir National Park down the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the separation between the Eurasian plate and the North American plate which is moving southwest at about 2.3cm per year. Mid-morning, we stopped at the Efsti-Dalur dairy farm for homemade ice cream. In the afternoon, we witnessed The Great Geysir, where hot springs erupt from the earth and, after waiting in position for 10 minutes, eventually got a group picture with the geyser erupting behind us.

Iceland Trip



Later, we took a trip to Gullfoss, a double waterfall located in the canyon of the Hvita river. Our last stop on the Golden Circle was the Kerid volcanic crater lake. Formed over 6,500 years ago, it is 55m deep, 170m wide and 270m long. After dinner in the Rossopomodoro Italian Restaurant, we were given free time to shop in Reykjavik.

Day 5 – After some last-minute shopping in Reykjavik city, we visited the Perlan landmark, a futuristic building that holds the city's naturally heated water reserves to take a last look at the city from above. We then boarded our transfer to Keflavik Airport for our flight back to Gatwick.

It was a truly amazing experience valued by everyone who went and it was interesting to see all the theory we have learned in class this year, in real life scenarios. A big thankyou goes to Mrs Farrell, Mr Molton and Mrs Wilson for making it possible.

Helena Hines, Year 11



David Shelton visits Debenham

On Tuesday, 10 October, award winning author and illustrator Dave Shelton, visited Debenham High School. Dave was primarily in school to run workshop sessions with Year 7 students. He spoke about how a love of drawing and doodling as a child led him into a career writing and illustrating books. When asked about the best piece of advice he could give to aspiring authors and illustrators, Dave replied, 'You should never give up. You may not be the best illustrator or writer in your class, but if you persevere and continue to write and illustrate, you will get better and you are more likely to achieve your goal than those that give up.' Dave also spent the lunch hour meeting students and signing books. Dave's books, 'Thirteen Chairs', 'A Boy and a Bear in a Boat' and 'Good Dog, Bad Dog', are available to borrow in the Learning Resource Centre.



Food Technology

Food Technology Refurbishment

During the summer holiday we completed refurbishment of the Food Technology room. It has been 24 years since this room was given a face-lift. I wonder if our own kitchens would have lasted quite as long? Mrs Turner and all the students have been very excited by the new room and we love the lime green accent throughout the room!



Kenton Food Hall

Year 10 students started the year with a visit to Kenton Farm and Food Hall. Here students got the opportunity to tour the farm and view the sustainable methods being utilised. Students then had the chance to use their skills in the catering outlet at the Hall. They prepared meatballs with meat from the farm. By all accounts they were delicious (if a little messy in production).



Year 7: Colchester Zoo



Year 7 pupils went on their annual 'Adaptations and Feeding Relationships' field trip to Colchester Zoo. Activities included feeding giraffes and lorikeets, comparing our speed with some of the fastest predators and testing out strength against a (cut-out) tiger. As well as looking at the variety of animals and how interdependence links them together, they produced some excellent posters on display in the science corridor.



Year 7: Colchester Zoo



Activity Days 2017

During the last three days in the summer term students chose from a vast array of activities. There are trips and visits around the UK and beyond, as well as activities within school. During these days staff interact with students in a different context and students enjoy trying something for the first time, often out of their comfort zone. As part of these days all Year 7 enjoy a residential experience as a whole year group.



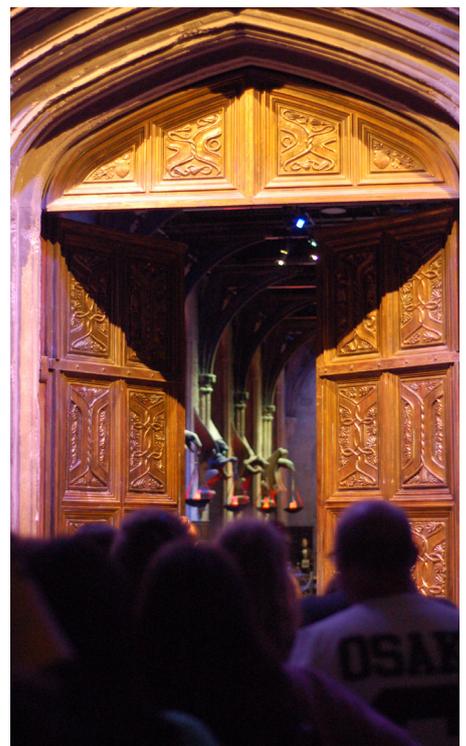
Year 7 Residential



Forensic Day



Harry Potter Studios



Activity Days 2017



Karting



Riding



Sailing



Crafts and Warhammer



Year 9: Fieldwork in Aldeburgh

The whole of Year 9 visited Aldeburgh to study the coastal town and investigate whether Aldeburgh showed evidence of being a honey-pot site. A honeypot site is a resort that receives so many tourists that it can have a negative impact on the environment and community.

On arrival we were given a treasure hunt challenge with 12 questions to answer in 45 minutes, which was great fun. We had to use teamwork, geographical skills and our knowledge of Aldeburgh to solve the clues in the quickest time. We were part of the winning group and won 2 free portion of chips at lunchtime, which were greatly received!

During the day, we were set various tasks, including land use surveys, environmental quality surveys, traffic and pedestrian surveys, public questionnaires and field sketches. We also had to design our own individual originality data, such as local business owner interviews, which we conducted independently. Over the next few weeks, we will now write an individual response to the hypothesis, which will include presenting and analysing all of our research. This really was a super trip which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

Ella Bedford and Suzi Halliday 9F



Player profiles

Isabella Wilson

Congratulations to Isabella Wilson in Year 10 who has been selected for the Suffolk County Netball talent academy. After five rigorous trial sessions, she was offered a place and now trains weekly with the squad in Bury and at the Royal Hospital School.

We wish her luck with the intensive 15 hours a week home training programme, as part of the England Pathway programme.



Josh Goulton

Josh represented Debenham High School at the Suffolk School Golf Championship at Hintlesham Hall. 55 players, from 19 different schools took part.

We are delighted that he came 1st in the Under 16 section. He played 5 over gross (5 under his handicap). He will now be cut and playing off 8.5. He also came first for his division and won a rather impressive cup and a glass trophy.



Nico Valentine

Nico's first season at Ipswich Football Academy came when he was just 7 years old and since then he has trained and played with them on a consistent basis, training at least twice a week and playing games at the weekend. Over this time Nico has worked with focus and motivation to develop his skills and game understanding and he now performs with a high degree of technical ability. This technical ability has been seen in great abundance recently, with him putting in two outstanding performances for the school in tough games against East Bergholt and Farlingaye.



Netball and Hockey



Sports reports

Hockey

Under 15 Boys v Copleston Lost 2-0

Under 13 mixed v Thomas Mills lost 6-3

Table Tennis

The U16 Boys & Girls teams qualified for the County Finals in November by beating Hartismere in the High Suffolk School Sport Partnership round of the competition. The Under 13 boys came 3rd in their competition.

Cross Country

A huge congratulations to Tilly Aldis, who came 1st in Junior Northern/Mid Suffolk Area Cross Country. Other highly notable results in the Intermediate group were Franek Ouko 9th, Maddie Wood 9th, Rob Wing 16th.



Franek and Rob



Lucy



Maddie



Tilly



Under 16 Boys Table-tennis



Under 16 Girls Table-tennis



Football

Football: Year 10

The Year 10 side have started the season in fine form, demolishing Alde Valley 12-0 in the 1st Round of the ESFA cup, scorers were Seb Norton (3), Kieran Pooley (2), Toby Dean (2), Nick Haynes, Will Newcombe, Tommy Paddy, Emre Altintop, Sully Manto. In the next round they are away to Attleborough Academy on the 2nd November.

In a friendly vs Thomas Mills, the boys played some really good football in controlling the game, winning 3-0 with goals from Kieran, Jaime Rico and Seb. They also entered a 6-a-side tournament at Hartismere, beating Alde Valley, drawing with Bungay, and losing the other 3 matches in close games.

The Year 11 boys side have also started their ESFA cup campaign with a convincing win, this time 7-0 vs Archbishop Sancroft from Norfolk. Goals from Harry Hooper (2), Barney Vingoe (2), Alfie Burnett, James Davies-Stokes and Tom Potter sealing the win. They next play Thomas Middlecroft school from Lincolnshire at home after half term.

The girls teams are already out of the ESFA cup after drawing some good opposition in their first round matches. The U14 side lost 7-0 to King Edwards, while the U15 side lost 8-6 to Chantry in a very exciting and pulsating game! Despite being 4-1 down at half time, the girls did bring it back to 5-5 at one point. Well done to outstanding efforts, particularly from Sarah Harrison, Ashleigh Muttock, Molly Warnes, and to Lucy Clarke for bravely volunteering to go in goal!

The U16 side lost 6-2 to Copleston High School, despite taking the lead through Sarah (who also scored our other goal). The girls battled very well against a side who will probably go far in this National competition.

Congratulations to Kian Darwell-Taylor from Year 11 who once again has made the Suffolk schools county Under 16 side this year.

Football: Year 8 Boys

Beat Thomas Mills 11-1 in round 1 of the National Cup and then produced an outstanding performance to beat last Year's county winners, East Bergholt, 4-2 in round 2. Also won the HSSSP 6 a-side Football tournament, winning all 6 games, conceding 0 and scoring 18.

Continued with their fine run of form, beating Farlingaye in Round 2 of the County Cup. This was particularly pleasing as this was the school who beat us in the semi-final last year.

Football: Year 9 Boys

Won the HSSSP 6 a-side football tournament, remaining unbeaten in the process. Beat Thomas Mills 5-2 in a friendly, with Ashton Darwell- Taylor scoring twice.

Those players who hadn't played much football this year were given the chance to represent the school in a three way tournament against Saxmundum and Stradbroke. The Year 8 team drew one and won one of their games whilst the Year 9's lost 2-1 to Stradbroke and 1-0 to Saxmundum. These results however weren't important but 25 boys representing the school was.

Football: Year 7 Boys

In their first competitive match for the school the team played well but come out narrow 4-2 losers to Thomas Mills



Sports teams in action



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