



# DISS TRIBUTES

## December Edition

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This is always an exceptionally busy term with lots of visits, the school show, mock exams, sixth form charity week and plenty of dedicated study.

As we approach the festive season – it is a good time to thank everyone who contributes to the vibrant life of the school.

May I wish you a most enjoyable break.

#### LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Over four successful nights Diss High School students performed the musical 'Little Shop of Horrors' which plays homage to the Hollywood B films of the 1950s and early 60s. It tells the story of a nerdy florist, who finds his chance for success and romance with the help of a giant man-eating plant. George Selby and Amy Adshead played the lead roles, ably supported by the principal cast.



The musical was a sell-out success and congratulations go to the teachers Amy Bishop and Richard Beckett for their production and musical direction.

#### LITTER PICK

When School Council students suggested running a litter pick in Diss town, there was an overwhelming response of students volunteering.

Our pupils were eager to encourage people to respect and care for their environment.



So on Wednesday 6th November, Diss High School completed a litter pick, taking different routes from the school down to the Mere in the town centre. All of the teams worked extremely hard and collected a record amount of litter.

## PEACE CONFERENCE

In October, Miss Narkiewicz took a group of youngsters to a Peace Conference held at Archbishop Sancroft High School. The conference is part of the wider Peace Project, affiliated to and run by the local Rotary Club. The aim of the project is to teach students about conflict resolution, communication skills and to equip them with the skills to run their own Peace Project in school. Diss students prepared and gave a presentation on their plans to help raise awareness of mental health issues in school.

## SILVER DOFE EXPEDITION

The Year 11 expedition to the Roaches and Hope Valley area of the Peak District was, thankfully, nowhere near as wet as July's expedition to the same area! However, the teams did have their map skills put to the test on the morning of the second day when heavy fog descended. As well as making navigation tough, it also meant staff had a hard time finding groups. Both teams performed brilliantly as they worked together to complete walks totalling almost 50km in 3 days. At the finish point, the students were tired but still smiling, with the Green team's expedition inspired rap a particular highlight. Well done to all involved and I hope that many students will sign up for the Gold Award next year.

## TOP OF THE BENCH

A team of four students came second in the regional heat of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench competition. In celebration of the international year of the periodic table, Erin Aldous, Ellie Olander, Logan Sayer and Finn Wilcockson submitted a poster entitled 'Why Group 5 is Great' and were shortlisted for



the regional heat at Briar Chemicals on 22nd November. During the day, students worked in the research laboratories on a range of practical tasks. All four students had an enjoyable day, engaged very well with the tasks set and represented Diss High School with pride.

## BANHAM ZOO

The Year 12 Travel and Tourism group spent an afternoon at Banham Zoo collecting information for their assessment on a local Travel and Tourism attraction. Students toured the zoo, recording examples of how the zoo appears to different types of visitor (as well as looking at the animals). The students then listened to an informative talk about Banham Zoo as a business, how it manages its income and its future plans for development.

## A LEVEL TRIP TO DUNWICH AND SOUTHWOLD

The Year 12 Geography group got their first taste of A Level fieldwork on the Suffolk coast in mid-October. Students scrambled over dunes at Southwold, measuring the profile and vegetation at different points. Then in Dunwich, the group collected data on the

pebble beach, focusing on the morphology of the shingle ridge and the changes in sediment size and roundness with distance from the sea. Since the trip, students have been busy presenting and analysing their data using a variety of statistical techniques.

### SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CAKE SALE

Early in the term, the Science department made cakes and sold them outside the Library to raise funds to enable the school to send unused Science books to schools in Africa who are desperately in need of text books. The sale was a great success and the books have been despatched.

### YEAR 9 BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

This term Year 9 have been looking at both the local and national business environment. At the beginning of November, the students walked into Diss to investigate the different types of businesses that can be found in the town. They compared the Heritage Triangle area with Victoria Road and discovered some interesting observations. In the last few weeks we have looked at Government policy, employment, exchange rates and how Brexit may effect UK trade in the future.



### YEAR 9 ASDAN BAKE AND SWEET SALE

The Year 9 ASDAN group have worked really hard this half term to raise money for Children in Need. Working together as a group they planned and carried out a Bake and Sweet Sale. Sweets, kindly donated by members of staff, were sorted by the students and bagged attractively. They then took to the Food Tech rooms with gusto and cooked up a storm, baking batches of delicious cookies and fairy cakes. The sale at morning break on the 20th November was a total sell out and when added to the profit made by selling sweets and biscuits at the School Show, they were able to donate a grand total of £170 to a very worthy cause.

A big well done to everyone involved.

### YEAR 13 BUSINESS BTEC EVENTS

Year 13 Business BTEC students have to plan, organise and run an event as part of their coursework. One group of four (Jacob Wales, Aaron Noller, Liam Last and Max Carter) organised the Year 7 Disco. This involved everything from liaising with the site staff to booking the hall, planning the playlist, organising refreshments and



selling tickets. They also had to look at technical aspects like sound and lighting.

The Disco took place on Friday 6th December and was hugely successful. The Year 7 students had a great time and the staff present were very impressed with the organisation. The event made £380 for Charity Week—a record for the Year 7 Disco!

Another group of four (Millie Ewing, Gemma Hubbard, Declan Jennings and Joanna Rednall) also organised the Charity Auction. This involved collecting over 70 lots from local businesses and also learning how to use our online bidding system via the auction website.



The auction took place on Monday 9th December with a professional auctioneer from Gazes, Ed Taxil-Webber. This year we had a record number of online bids as well as a good turn out of enthusiastic bidders on the night. The students produced an excellent catalogue as well as a presentation, showcasing the lots. Refreshments were available throughout the event. The total raised was over £1000—a magnificent effort!

Both groups worked incredibly hard to make their events successful and are delighted with the total amount raised which will all go towards the Sixth Form Charity Week total.

## DIARY NOTES

Date/Time	Event Details
Wednesday 18th December at 1.15pm	School closes for the Christmas holidays
Monday 6th January 2020	Beginning of term
Thursday 9th January 2020	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Thursday 23rd January 2020	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 28th January 2020	Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Day
Tuesday 28th January 2020	Year 9 Girls' HPV Vaccinations