

Diss Tributes

February 2019



Message from the Headteacher

We are so pleased to have avoided the snow we endured this time last year! The school is in preparatory mode for examinations and we are encouraging Years 11 and 13 to be revising seriously and regularly. Examinations begin almost immediately after Easter so focus is essential.

Valencia 2019

On Sunday 3rd February, nine A level Spanish students and Mrs Budds travelled to Spain to spend a week in Valencia. The students were all staying with host families and during each morning, attended 4 hours of intensive language lessons at the Españolé Language School. During the afternoons and evenings, they took part in a variety of cultural activities and visits.

The students had already completed an online language test before they went and their first task at the language school on Monday morning was to have a speaking

assessment. This enabled them to be put into the correct group for their level of Spanish. Lessons were 'full on', demanding constant interaction in Spanish, but the degree of progress made over the week was astounding as the students' confidence improved enormously.



The host families escorted the students to school on the first morning but that evening, their challenge was to find their way back to their new homes. Having managed to buy multi journey travel cards, the students negotiated the local bus and metro routes, and thoroughly tested out their language skills.

The week was full of tasting new foods; students tried tapas, paella and 'churros y chocolate' as well as taking part in a tortilla making workshop. Afternoon and evening activities included visiting the cathedral where students climbed several hundred steps to the top of the clock

tower, an evening walking tour of the city, a visit to the Cabanyal fisherman's

district, a visit to the architecturally amazing Arts

and Science park, and a bike ride through the Turia park. Many topics that students have studied in the classroom were brought to life and they will have plenty of experiences to draw upon when they take their oral exams.

The whole visit was a fantastic experience. The students were thoroughly immersed in the language and culture of Spain and enjoyed having the opportunity to travel with just a small group of students and stay with host families.

The MFL department will soon be off on their travels again: a group of year 8, 9 and 10 students will be visiting our partner school in Madrid with the Spanish Exchange at the end of March.



ASDAN Job Centre Visit

On Wednesday 23rd of January, I had the pleasure of taking our year 11 ASDAN students to visit the Diss Job Centre. We were greeted by Karen Bate, the Employment Advisor, who showed the students around the centre and gave a very informative talk about what the Job Centre could offer them post education. The students had prepared some questions which they asked clearly and confidently, they then listened attentively to the answers. They were very interested to hear about some of the schemes they could access such as the National Careers Service, who can offer help with compiling a CV, and Kick Start, who can help with transport to work through their moped loan program. They learnt how they could make themselves more employable, by undertaking some part time or voluntary work whilst still in education and they also found out about the sort of skills future employers may look for. Each student was given a pack full of useful information to take away.

I feel the students benefited hugely from this visit and I was very proud of the way they conducted themselves. They were a credit to the school. – Mrs Palmer

BoxClever: 'Macbeth' and 'Romeo and Juliet' performances

On the 23rd of January, Years 10 and 11 got to watch a fantastic production of their GCSE Shakespeare text performed to them by BoxClever Theatre company.

The day began with the play 'Macbeth', where students experienced a modern warfare take on this classic tragedy. Three actors expertly drifted in and out of a variety of characters, incorporating modern dialogue within the traditional Shakespearean. But our GCSE pupils didn't just sit back and watch: a variety of students were pulled up during the performance and some brave individuals even got to perform lines and combat scenes during the workshop session that followed.

BoxClever then performed 'Romeo and Juliet' to our next group of lucky Year 10 and 11 students. Throughout this version of the play, the use of current and trending musical choices helped students to relate to key scenes and broke down any potential language barriers. The three actors (again, with interchangeable roles) managed quite a feat in the space of one hour and skillfully focused on key character exchanges that are pivotal for the development of the play's plotline.

The workshop that followed the performance was high energy driven and focused on students learning key quotes in an exchange with the actors. Both year groups involved themselves and learnt combat moves which highlighted the theme of violence and opposition which is so central to the play.

For both performances, the staging, costumes and props were minimalistic which helped to emphasise the importance of Shakespeare's language choices. The square staging was really well-thought as it engaged all students with a 360 degree exposure to the actors.

Overall, BoxClever offered amazing, relatable and highly intelligent approaches to staging Shakespeare - a massive hit for students whom benefited immensely from seeing a staged performance of their Shakespeare study text.



Performing Arts

This term in the Performing Arts, GCSE and A Level students have been working exceedingly hard.

In the Drama department, Year 11 have been working towards their exam performance of the play 'DNA' by Dennis Kelly, which took place on Wednesday 27th February. Year 13s also had their exam performance Tuesday 12th February whilst year 10 have been looking at stimuli for their self-devised performances in July.

In the Music department, there have been GCSE coursework performances happening and the Soul Band have been rehearsing for an upcoming performance. The Performing Arts Captains are planning a music concert next term so look out for notices and announcements in assemblies and registration.

In addition to all of this, we are excited to announce that we will soon be launching the 2019 Performing Arts Academy! This will not happen next year as it is a biannual opportunity. This will be a very good opportunity to learn GCSE Drama and Music skills when attending weekly workshops and rehearsals leading to an outside performance in July. Auditions were held after school Tuesday 26th February, 3:30- 5pm.

TSOCC challenge.

A big well done to the 28 students from Years 7-11 who have made it through to the national finals of the Oxford computing challenge. They will now be participating in the penultimate round before hopefully making it through to the top 20 students in the whole country on Wednesday 6th March. Good Luck to you all!

Year 10 Health day

Year 10 Health day took place on the 7th February and students attended a number of workshops throughout the day. Miss Bishop and the Year 12 Drama students focused on peer pressure. Mrs Adams looked at health and relaxation techniques. The Matthew project ran a session looking at Alcohol and Drug awareness, Norfolk Police and Miss Jarocki discussed on-line safety and Mrs Somers discussed healthy relationships.

The Year 10 students were praised by our staff and visiting staff for their willingness to get fully involved in the day.

News from Technology

BTEC Construction students have just completed a unit of work that saw them make the blue benches that have appeared around the school. Congratulations for a job well done - and a thank you to the site team for installing them!

Charity Week Update

The total money raised during the many Charity week events was £4,500. This was split equally between the East Anglian Air Ambulance and East Anglian Children's Hospice. A big thank you to everyone who participated, contributed and donated.



Diary Dates

Key Dates	
March 2019	
7 th	World Book Day
14 th	BBC Real News Report Day
15 th	Big Bang Science Fair
11 th – 15 th	Science Week
20 th	World Poetry Day
27 th	Year 13 Parents' Evening
25 th – 5 th April	Year 10 Exams
26 th March – 2 nd April	Spanish Exchange
April 2019	
6 th - 22 nd	Easter Holiday