

# Diss Tributes

July 2019



## Message from the Headteacher

The Summer Term is usually a time for many trips and visits and this term has been no exception. This is also a time when we say goodbye to staff who are leaving us. Mr Holsey has worked at the school for some fourteen years, having previously worked with the police. He has truly become a legend in his own lifetime and many, many students have expressed their gratitude for his belief and encouraging optimism for them. We wish him a long and happy retirement. Congratulations go to Mr Riches who leaves us to become Assistant Headteacher at Olive Academy – we wish him every success. Mrs Woollorton and Mrs Evans also leave us this term and we thank them for their vibrant contribution to the Hair and Beauty course. Finally, a fond farewell goes to all our student leavers.

## Wizarding World

On Friday 28th June, fifty Year 9 students visited the Warner Brothers' Studio Tour to help enrich their understanding of their Media and English courses. Students took part in a lesson at the Studio enabling them to see the detail that went in to making the films. During the tour, a number of students enjoyed a simulated flying experience on a 'Nimbus 2000' broomstick! The students had a great day out and represented the school in a very mature and sophisticated manner.



## Inspiring Writing Day

On Monday 8th July, we held an Inspiring Writing day for Years 6 and 7 in the school Library. Visiting fantasy author, Ed McDonald, worked with students on creating interesting settings and characters. At the end of the morning session, students took part in an open mic segment, where they could share their work. We were impressed with the quality and quantity of their writing! Well done also to our wonderful Year 10 prefects who supported the day.

Ed also ran a session on the publishing process for our older students in the afternoon which was very interesting and inspiring.

## Wallace Collection Trip:

On Wednesday 3rd July, Miss Jarocki and Mrs Bond took a group of Year 7 students to visit the Wallace Collection in Central London. When we arrived, we were lucky enough to take part in a creative writing workshop with a focus on myths and legends. Students were shown paintings and artefacts inspired by myths and then went on to produce their own writing in which they created plenty of atmosphere!



## Drama

It's been a busy term for Year 10 and Year 12 as they performed their own devised work for friends and family in two performance evenings. The evenings were both well supported and audiences extremely impressed with the standard of the drama created.

A huge well done to all students involved.

## Little Shop of Horrors

Rehearsals have started for the annual School Production. This year, we will be terrifying you all with our own performance of 'Little Shop of Horrors' originally directed by Howard Ashman with music by Alan Menken. Miss Read and the English department have also started designing posters for us to use when promoting the show.

The story follows Seymour Krelborn. He lives Downtown in Skid Row. Life is hard and Seymour needs a break... his luck starts to change when he buys a 'strange and interesting plant' which captures the attention of the public and the media. Seymour now has fame and fortune - but what price did he have to pay to get it?

Production dates are 6th-9th November and tickets will go on sale in September.

## Performing Arts Academy

Our Academy members performed an 'open air' adaptation of 'Macbeth' on Thursday 11th June. The weather was glorious and the company (including members from Years 7-10) impressed their audience with a creative interpretation of William Shakespeare's play. The piece showcased all the skills the company had learnt and was fusion of music, dance and drama - containing rap battles, physical sequences with lifts, traditional Elizabethan madrigals and drama combining original text and contemporary dialogue. All music was original and composed by the academy members.

Look out for auditions for the academy next year - we have another exciting project lined up!



## Music

Year 9 and 10 Music GCSE students have been working together to create ensemble performances. The students have really excelled at working outside of their usual peer



groups and have learnt a huge amount about themselves as musicians and as team workers. Due to the success of the project we will be continuing the inter-year performing project next year.

A group of year 9 and 10 students have also been taking part in a six week workshop with De'Borah, a professional

singer and songwriter from London. De'Borah is a graduate of the world famous Brit School and has thoroughly enjoyed giving our students an insight into the life of a professional songwriter and performer.

The School Soul Band was delighted to play at the 'AmnesTea' event at the Diss United Reform Church on Saturday July 13th. They attracted a good crowd of people, all of whom were bowled over by their professionalism and obvious love of performing; payment was kindly provided by Diss Amnesty in the form of lovely cakes and squash!

Also massive congratulations to Nadia Brownsword, who has passed her Grade 8 Voice exam with Merit. A massive achievement. Well done Nadia and thanks to her teacher, Ms Lorenzo-Pierson for all of her hard work.

## DofE

It has been a busy term for the DofE Award in Diss. In early June, the Year 9 Bronze DofE group endured a second expedition of wind and rain, this time in and around St James South Elmham. Despite the poor weather, all four teams completed two long walks, cooked and camped.

In early July, the Year 10 Silver DofE group had their first taste of hills in the Peak District. Beautiful weather helped all twelve students complete 50km of walking over 3 days, not an easy task with a 12kg rucksack. Despite several blisters and sore feet, the groups did a great job and are looking forward to their assessed expedition in September.

The final expedition weekend of term also sees the Year 11/13 Silver group returning to the Peaks for their assessed expedition.

## Year 13 Leavers

Year 13 enjoyed a superb Ball at the Caistor Hall Hotel to celebrate the end of A level study. It has been a hard two years, but everyone has worked really hard so it was a night to enjoy the good times, forget about exams, and say goodbye to friends, as people set off for new opportunities, whether it be travel, university or jobs. Lots of students worked really hard to organise the Ball, with Maddie Gingell and Aimee Buck key to its success. The food was high quality, the play list had been chosen by the Sixth Form and everyone looked amazing, so a good time was had by all. Twelve members of staff also attended to say goodbye to Year 13 - a really enjoyable evening.

We now await the A level results in August - fingers crossed for all our students.

## Science Cambridge Cavendish Laboratory STEM Visit.

32 Year 9 students attended a STEM visit to the Cavendish Laboratories in Cambridge.



This opportunity was aimed at promoting further education in the STEM subjects; on this occasion there was particular emphasis on Physics in the past, present and the future. Students enjoyed the hands-on workshops, career tutorials, university finance presentation and discussion.

The students also had the opportunity to have a tour around the Cavendish building and were surprised to see the actual instruments, desks, photos of so many famous

Physicists, some of which they have studied in the GCSE curriculum (Rutherford, Bohr and Cavendish).

We are grateful to Cavendish Laboratories for their support and financial assistance which enabled this visit.

## Primary Design Technology Workshop

On 24th June, twenty Year 5 and 6 pupils from All Saints Primary School, Winfarthing spent the day in the DT department, making electrical fuse testers. It was a new experience for all of the pupils, using lots of different tools and machinery, including drilling machines, soldering irons and plastic moulding machines. They also made their own circuit boards and soldered them together.

Everyone really enjoyed the day and they now have a much better idea of what's involved in DT at High School.

## Recycle Bottles at Diss High School!

Thanks to RECOUP recycling, we have been supported to trial a bottle recycling initiative. A specifically designed recycle bin has been provided and Anne Hitch from RECOUP kindly came in and presented an assembly as well as two recycle workshops.

Our students positively responded to the new recycling initiative and are eager to support and lead this in the future. The enthusiasm following the assembly and workshops held by Anne was clear to see.



*Students were quoted as saying:-*

*Kevinas: 'It's so great they could come in and support us.'*

*Archie: 'The new recycle bin is very cool.'*

*Sylvia: 'I didn't realise bottles with lids could so easily be recycled and make so many new things.'*

*Mae and Elizabeth: 'I really want to see more recycling happen; I am glad we are doing this.'*

Students will supervise, audit and quality assure the bottle bins until the end of September. As a school we will then

meet to evaluate the success of the recycling scheme. We hope that if students support and avoid contaminating the bottle recycle bins we can expand and continue our recycling project.

Diss High school is committed to supporting efforts to reduce climate change and fully endorse our commitment to recycling.

## Asdan Trip



One of the modules on the Asdan course is to study Culture and Beliefs, and with that in mind, it was decided a visit to St Edmundsbury Cathedral for the culture combined with a visit to Bury bowl was the perfect end to the summer term.

The Year 9s and 10s had a guided tour around the Cathedral and learnt about the history of the Cathedral, symbols and the Christian martyr St Edmund. This was followed by some very competitive games of bowling, especially between the staff and students.

Without exception, all the students' behaviour was exemplary, which made for a very pleasant and relaxing outing.

## Finnbar's Force



This year our School has decided to raise money for a local charity, 'Finnbar's Force', who have supported a year 9 student, Callum Doe, who was diagnosed with a brain tumour earlier in the academic year. The charity provides support and activities for children and their families, as well as raises money for research into childhood brain tumours.



We had a day of fundraising that included non-school uniform, bake sales and an exciting Fun Run which evented in many students going home blue, orange and very exhausted due to the coloured paint, bubbles, obstacle course and other challenges. The current total raised for this charity is over £2000 and we look forward to Callum making a presentation in the near future.

The new Sixth Form Committee also successfully ran their first event this half term. A BBQ in the summer sunshine with some terrific tunes in aid of Finnbar's Force was held.

Special thanks to Guy McGarr for cooking all the meat in the canteen, and to Mr Benstead for his incomparable BBQ skills. The next events from the Committee will be to welcome the New Year 12 to Diss Sixth Form.

## Year 12 Dorset trip

On the 18th June, Year 12 Geography and Biology students went to Dorset to carry out their fieldwork for their A-Level Non Examined Assessment Unit. On the first day, the group worked at Studland Dunes, where Geographers and Biologists conducted their data collection, wading waist deep through heather to get the exact position for the ranging poles, before heading to the Swanage Language Centre, just in time to catch the England game.

On the second day, students split into 3 groups: one group spent the first half of the day to undertake questionnaires on Boscombe High Street and the seafront; one Geography group investigated the management of the coastline at Swanage; and the Biologist group headed towards Agglestone rock where they decided that standing in a bog would be an excellent idea, as well as looking at the biodiversity of plants in the area!. Their morning was finished off with a clamber on Agglestone rock. After some free time, everyone then headed to Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door, where Mrs Nolan and Mrs Adams discussed the formation of the landforms in the area.

On the final morning, students set out to Purbeck Point to see 'Old Harry', a sea stack. After viewing this fantastic formation, they set off home, with the expectation of hard work to follow: writing up their data collection and NEA.



## Spanish Exchange

Following our visit to Madrid in March, on 14th June we welcomed the Spanish students from Colegio San José del Parque to Diss. Our students were all very excited to see the friends that they had made earlier in the year. In the same way that visiting Madrid was very different for our students, the Spanish students found Diss a completely new experience. They were amazed by the countryside and couldn't believe the size of our school field (in Spain they only have hard areas and astro turf).



The week began with a visit to Norwich where we saw the cathedral, the castle and had time for shopping. Sunday was a family day and thanks must go to all the parents who organised a whole range of activities to entertain our guests.

On Monday, the Spanish students had their first taste of school. They attended some lessons and also took part in a Bake Off style competition, where pairs of Spanish and English students competed to make the best Victoria Sandwich. The day finished with a thrilling rounders match. The Spanish students found that some school rules are the same in both schools (no mobile phones!) but that other things are different - the Spanish students don't wear uniform and call their teachers by their first names. Over the next couple of days other trips to London, Cambridge

and Sheringham were organised. Trying to explain beach huts was a whole new language challenge as was the temperature of the sea! In London, we went on the London Eye, a Thames River Cruise and posed outside Buckingham Palace. After school, many of the students got together and played football matches and hosted BBQs. The staff from SJP commented on how welcome they had felt.



The whole exchange has been very successful and the students have benefited enormously from the experience. They have seen the benefits of using their language skills in real situations; they have learnt about cultural diversity; and most importantly, they have had great fun. As several students commented, 'this was the best school trip ever.'

We are already making plans for next year and hope to be able to take even more students. Letters have already been sent out electronically but if you have missed it, copies are available from your language teacher. The deadline for applications and deposits will be the end of September.

## Health and Social Care trip

The year 12 Health and Social Care group has been working very hard this year and so decided that a reward was needed! They chose to visit Cosmos restaurant in Norwich to enjoy a wealth of different cuisines. They all had a great time and managed to sample almost everything on the menu...everyone left enough space for pudding though! The trip gave the students the opportunity for lots of discussion outside of the classroom environment, whilst developing their awareness and appreciation for authentic foods from around the world.

## Climate Committee



During this school year, a group of year 10 students have set up a Climate Committee within our school; the ambassadors for this group - Mae Clark, Erin Aldous and Amy Adshead are extremely passionate about making a positive, environmental impact within Diss High School and have a myriad of ideas to be put into place!

The committee has attracted great interest from not only Year 10s, but also by a group of dedicated students from Year 7 who began a bottle recycling scheme within school with the help of Mrs Glaister. These students have come together and started creating an 'Eco Friendly Study Space' from a once unused courtyard within the A block; as well as this they are aiming to organise an Eco-Week for the upcoming school year!

They hope to get all year groups involved and are currently holding further meetings and conferences for students as well as teachers. Furthermore, the Year 10 students are aiming to inspire the younger year groups and get them involved in setting up their own environmental groups to carry this movement forwards.

They have set up an instagram page @climatecommittee and post regular updates of events and projects to be involved in! The courtyard that the students are voluntarily working on after school is going to be transformed into an eco-friendly, wildflower garden that will eventually grow produce (fruit and vegetables) to sell for profit/charity money to the staff. Any donations would be very much appreciated!

## Year 8 Primary school Art workshop

Art students in Year 8 visited Diss Junior School as part of their 'Art Leadership Award'. During their two days at the Junior School they delivered an intensive mixed-media tile making workshop to the Year 5 cohort. The workshop provided the primary school students with a creative insight into the inspiration behind their recent exhibition 'Holy Cow: Art from the Indian subcontinent'. After studying at length some of India's fascinating cultural and artistic practices, the Year 8 students delivered an exciting and innovative workshop in direct response to their cultural programme of study, which is an amalgamation of contemporary approaches to Indian art and some of the most radical vehicle illustration of our time.

During the workshop, Year 5s were asked to create tiles in response to the dynamic truck art and traditional patterns and motifs found across India. After exploring traditional symbols, motifs and patterns, students had just 6 hours to create a low-relief sculpture in the form of a mixed-media tile. The physical and kinesthetic experience of working collaboratively and with versatile media enabled the students to experiment with tactile materials such as mod-roc, graffiti, wax resist and collage and demonstrated how, through careful observation of displayed artworks, imaginative and inspired art can be the result. The contrast between 2D and sculptural relief is an interesting and thought provoking aspect of the students' finished works. The finished tiles will be showcased in the Corn Hall next academic year. These works, it is hoped, will engage onlookers and ultimately celebrate the diversity and richness of India's prolific visual and cultural heritage.





## Sports Day

On another sunny and incredibly warm day, Wednesday 17th July saw our annual school Sports Day, in which the entire school took part in various events to see which House would be victorious in the House competition. This has been our busiest year of competition to date, with close to 100 Sporting House Competitions throughout the year from Football to Dodgeball and CrossFit to Volleyball. It has been a brilliant year seeing all of our pupils fully involved.

All these competitions have added points to their House's overall score on the day. The final house events were held in the morning of the 17th, where Years 7 and 8 played corner ball, Year 9 played team run rounders and Year 10 played rounders.

The day was filled with an abundance of glitter, face paint and soaked teachers as the Year 10 students ran a range of stalls during the break following the House events. All fundraising (over £500!) has been split between 2 chosen charities - Finnbar's Force and Cancer Research. As well as this, students bought innumerable ice creams and sweets to 'fuel' themselves for the challenging events to come.

In the afternoon, there were competitions within year groups such as tug of war and penalty shoot outs, giving students the opportunity to try to win some more points for their Houses.

As well as the House Cup, a Victrix Ludorum award was handed to the outstanding athlete of the whole year within a year group:

Year 7- Ashton Baldwin and Madeleine Jilley

Year 8- Malachi Flowerdew and Ellen Smith

Year 9- Riley Kemp and Lulu Hurley

Year 10- Matthew Munnings and Mae Clark

When it came to the final results, there was a buzz throughout the Houses, waiting in anticipation to see who would come out on top.

This year was so close to being Walcot's first House Cup victory, but they were narrowly pipped by Skelton who retained the Trophy.



This year's athletics events saw a number of new school records, some of which have stood for over 14 years.

Our new records have been set by:

Sacha Guy 200m

Jayden Durham 800m

Madeline Jilley 200m

Tamara Riches Long Jump and Hurdles

Darcie Martin Javelin

Rosie Munnings 800m and Equaled Long Jump

Italia Flowerdew Discus

Malachi Flowerdew Hurdles

Riley Kemp equaled High Jump

Owen Fensome Hurdles

Our top points scorers on the day were:

Year 7- Ashton Baldwin and Tamra Riches

Year8- Malachi Flowerdew and Rosie Munnings

Year9-Riley Kemp and Mia Somers

Year10- Owen Fensome and Mae Clark

Parents can now request to follow the PE department on Instagram @disshighpe for latest news, sports reports and fixture information. They will be asked to confirm their child's name and year group upon requesting to follow.

## Scratch Programming



Six of our year 7 students travelled to the UEA to experience their first secondary scratch programming challenge. The day consisted of two parts: a blind programming challenge and a game element, for which our students had been working incredibly hard to produce a game that met the retro design brief of the competition at lunch and in their own time over the last few months.

There were over 40 teams taking part from schools such as Framlingham College, Wymondham College, Norwich school, Wymondham high and many more schools across the county. It was recognised throughout that we had brought the youngest competitors by far with our Year 7 students competing against predominantly Year 9 students.

After the events of the day, there was a tense wait for the winners to be announced: one of our teams won the overall competition and the other teams had special mentions.

I am hugely proud of their efforts and know they took a lot away from the experience. Well done to all that took part.

## Geography Sheringham Trip

As part of our GCSE geography fieldwork, we went to Sheringham to discover how coastal management techniques had affected landforms and whether they were effective at preventing natural erosion processes.

To do this, we decided to collect our data at the defended and undefended coastlines at Sheringham, a beautiful seaside town located to the West of Cromer. We did this by using various sampling methods to collect data on the beaches. This allowed us to answer our overall inquiry question: 'How have coastal management techniques affected landforms at Sheringham'. We decided to carry out our investigation at the defended and undefended sections because we were then able to compare the differences in the landforms.

There were many methods that we used to collect data. For example: beach profiles, sediment sampling, wave counts and by taking photos.

When we came back from our trip, we analysed, presented and evaluated our data using dispersion graphs and drawing our beach profiles. Overall, we were able to conclude that the defensive techniques were effective and had a positive impact on protecting landforms which supported our hypothesis.

## Diary Dates

Key Dates	
<b>September 2019</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Start of term for years 7-11 and year 12 enrolment
5 <sup>th</sup>	Start of term for year 13
13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	DofE Silver Assessment
26 <sup>th</sup>	European Day of languages
<b>October 2019</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 7 Tutor evening
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Life after year 11
4 <sup>th</sup>	Camps International Expedition meeting
8 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Fatal 4 Presentation
9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 8 Art trip to Sainsbury's centre
10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 7 Open evening
16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 Art trip to Sainsbury's centre
17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 8 trip to Magdalene Odundo exhibition
21 <sup>st</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term

