

Diss Tributes

April 2019



Message from the Headteacher

There have been plenty of enrichment opportunities for our pupils this term: the BBC Real News Report Day, the Big Bang Science Fair, Women in Science, World Book Day, Spanish Exchange, Peace Conference, Maths Challenge and Visit to Auschwitz to name but a few. Years 11 and 13 are gearing up for exams after Easter and we wish them every success.

World Book Day

The English Department celebrated World Book Day by providing workshops throughout the day. The day included focusing on a range of creative writing aspects: how to create a character; describe a place; writing in role as a fictional character, composing fairytale inspired narratives and writing 140 character Twitter stories for an online competition!

The day included 16 students of a mixed ability range from each year group: 7, 8 & 9, supported by an amazing bunch of talented Year 10 helpers that helped to run the events and nominate best achievement and best effort awards.



All students involved received a certificate for their creative participation and a free voucher for a book! Huge thanks to Mae, Bella, Amy, Kieran, Jessica, Lucie, Miles, Grace, Beth A, Amelia, Poppy and Willow from 10 Austen - you're creative superstars!

Thanks also to all staff that joined in with wearing fancy dress inspired by their favourite characters and novels - it was a successful day celebrating the joy of reading!

Mrs Wells
English Department



BBC Young Reporters Day

On Wednesday 7th March, a group of Diss High School Year 9 students participated in the BBC News Young Reporters 2019 initiative. It was a very enjoyable experience in which students used and developed many skills including: teamwork, research, producing, filming, editing and many more. The topics reported on were chosen by students and covered a varied selection of subject matters: video game addiction; internet hoaxes; pupils' protests over climate change; social media and mental health awareness; and whether it was fair to encourage women to exercise in groups to avoid harassment.

Even though it was a busy and hectic day, everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed it! Students felt they had learnt to work effectively with tripods, cameras and at meeting strict deadlines, such as would be the case in the world of journalism. A student taking part said, "I think it went brilliantly! We got to interview people and it felt like a realistic experience of what it means to be a reporter."

"It was exciting to use the cameras and editing equipment. Also interviewing people was really good for building up confidence and communication skills" said several of the students involved.

Miss Jarocki and Miss Read from the English department were very impressed with the students taking part this year and felt they produced some great stories and worked very professionally together to experience life as a journalist for the day: they were a credit to their year group and the school as a whole. There certainly seems to be some budding journalists in the making at DHS!

Inclusive Zonal Basketball

On 12th March 2019, I took a group of talented and enthusiastic sports students to compete in the regional final of the IZB Eastern Region Competition. As expected from Diss High pupils, they were a credit to the school and their parents.

This competition is an inclusive event with Wheelchair basketball players playing alongside ambulant basketball players. The team worked really well together achieving second place in the competition.

The pupils that had not been in a wheelchair before found that this is much harder than they expected! Sam particularly now has arms of steel as he worked so hard! Praise also needs to go to Rhiannan as her coaching skills were superb. Well done everyone.

Congratulations to Tamsin Wenden, Rhiannan Webb, Riley Kemp, Finn Zaal, Sam Willett & Ben Cohodar.



Big Bang Fair

On Friday 15th March, the Science department took 48 year 8 students to visit the Big Bang Fair at the NEC in Birmingham. This was an opportunity for students to be inspired by new developments in science and learn about some career options available for students studying STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects. Opportunities were available for fun, hands-on activities using equipment that is not usually available in school.

Highlights at this year's Big Bang Fair included a virtual reality RAF flight; maggot racing and handling cockroaches; making slime; and a hands-on demonstration of human body organs. This year's big shows were hosted by the Royal Institution and by the Gastronomer, a TV scientist. There were plenty of explosions throughout the shows and a lot of time was spent explaining the science of 'farts'!



The day was extremely fun; the students were very well-behaved and represented the school exceptionally. They were highly motivated and were involved in as many activities as possible from the moment we entered the Fair until the minute we left.

Sixth Form: #Impact Presentation

The Sixth Form attended an excellent presentation by the emergency services on driver safety. Students viewed first-hand the complex work of emergency services when they attend the scene of a road traffic accident. Ewan Berry volunteered to play the role of the injured passenger and was cut from the wreckage of a car. The presentation's clear safety messages were to ensure young people drive their cars with care, attention and to road conditions.



Maths Challenge

Students from years 8 and 9 recently participated in the Maths Challenge. Special mention goes to Finn Wilcockson, Alex Painter and Logan Sayer who managed to get through to the next round of the challenge, whilst Mia Somers, Bethany Ely, Leah Kidd and Rosie Munnings also achieved excellent scores.

Finn, Alex, Logan and Rosie then represented the school in the Team Maths Challenge at Framlingham College. They competed against other teams from around the county and came in 7th place out of a possible 28, which is a fantastic result.

Congratulations and thanks go to all those who took part.

Diary Dates

Key Dates	
April 2019	
23 rd	Start of term
26 th – 28 th	Bronze D of E Practice Expedition
7 th	Year 10 Sports Leaders Event
9 th	Year 9 Vaccinations
17 th	Year 13 Leavers' Day
27 th – 1st June	Half Term

Eastern Counties Rugby



This year, for the first time, some of our girls were selected to represent Eastern Counties for Rugby: Bee Johnston at Under 15, also Ruby Gaze, Melany Copland and Niamh Somers at under 18 level. All of the girls have enjoyed a successful season playing at Diss Rugby club and their selection was made through various Eastern Counties rugby festivals.

The standard of girls' rugby in the county has increased dramatically over the past 12 months and new players are always welcome at the rugby club. Training takes place, at Diss Rugby Club, on a Wednesday night 7-8:30 pm and there are teams representing all high school year groups.

If anyone would like further information then they should talk to Mr Somers.