

# Diss Tributes

May 2019



## Message from the Headteacher

External examinations are now well underway and we wish all our students all the very best. Watch out for news of our next school musical – preparations have already begun.

## Winning Dance Squad

Huge congratulations to Diss High Dance Squad who won the South Norfolk Partnership Dance Competition and will now go on to perform at the opening ceremony of the Summer Games. The girls have worked fantastically hard since Christmas, rehearsing weekly and putting in time over the Easter holidays to produce a stunning medley of Street Dance. A massive thank you to Leah Edwards in Y11 who choreographed and trained the girls over the last few months. The girls and Leah take all the credit managing the whole project themselves from putting the group together, sourcing and mixing their music, organising rehearsals and then absolutely smashing it on the day!



# Spanish Exchange



Just before the Easter holidays, 11 students from Years 8,9 and 10 flew to Madrid to take part in this year's Spanish Exchange. Our partner school is called San José del Parque and it is in a suburb to the northeast of the city.

Having found out who their host families would be back in February, it was both very exciting and a little nerve racking for students when they arrived at Madrid airport to be met by them. However, everyone was quickly reassured by the incredibly warm welcome we received.

The next day we all met at school and everyone had had a good first evening. One of the many differences that our students experienced was that most of the Spanish students live in apartments and many of the apartment blocks had swimming pools. Another big difference was the daily timetable: school starts at 9.30 and finishes at 5pm with lunch from 1.30 to 3pm. Many students had 'merienda' (a small snack) after school and their evening meal was often not until 10 or 11pm!!

On our first full day in Madrid, we visited the city centre and saw all the major sights, including the Royal Palace and the Plaza Mayor. We also tried 'chocolate y churros' before making our way to the Bernabeu Stadium, home of Real Madrid.

The following day, we met up at school again and everyone took part in a cultural quiz before visiting Madrid Zoo. Here, students were challenged to complete a quiz with the final tie breaker question requiring an answer to be written in Spanish. The announcement that the prize was a signed Real Madrid football shirt was an added incentive for all the students to complete the quiz. Rosie Munnings was a very well deserved winner.

On Friday, we visited the historic town of Segovia which is famous for its Roman aqueduct and beautiful castle and was once the capital of Spain.

Over the weekend, the Spanish families arranged many activities for our students including a visit to the amusement park. The sun shone and everyone had a great time. It was also an opportunity for the students to really get to know their partners and host families.

On Monday morning, we once again all met at school and the students had the opportunity to go swimming at the school's sport centre before we set off for Alcalá de Henares, home of one of the oldest universities in Spain and where Miguel de Cervantes was born. We were accompanied by Alejandro, one of the Spanish teachers, who gave us a guided tour before taking us to a very old tapas restaurant for lunch. (Another difference noted by our students is that all the Spanish teachers were called by their first names!)

Over the course of the week, it was fantastic to see our students growing in confidence and integrating more and more with their Spanish counterparts. Some of the best language was practised during football, basketball or FIFA games. Doing everyday activities like eating breakfast together and watching films and TV is where students learnt the most.

Our students were amazing and were complimented by families and teachers on their behaviour and willingness to get involved in the exchange. I was extremely proud of all of them.

On the last day, students were sad to be leaving but we are all now looking forward to June when we will welcome the Spanish students to Diss.

While the Spanish students are here, there will also be a meeting to launch next year's exchange. If you think that you might be interested in taking part in 2020, this will be an opportunity for you to meet one of the Spanish teachers and to find out more information. Students in Y7 have already had a presentation about the exchange and parents will be invited to the meeting as well, so look out for more information in the school bulletin.

Mrs Budds



Rosie with her shirt signed by Bale, Modric and Ramos.

## Year 7 Science



The Science department has been very impressed with the level of effort and commitment that students in year 7 have shown towards their Science work this year. In conjunction with the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), students have been celebrating 150 years of the Modern Periodic Table, thanks to the scientist Dmitri Mendeleev.

Students in 7X2 produced and presented an assembly about Mendeleev's achievements. This was followed by a number of special Mendeleev lessons for Year 7 where students completed a periodic table Quiz, with prizes being awarded to the top two scorers for each year 7 science class. Congratulations to our top scorers! Their achievement and photos are displayed on the Mendeleev celebration board located in the science department.

Mrs Glaister

### Bronze DofE Expedition

#### Bronze DofE Practice Expedition 26-28 April:

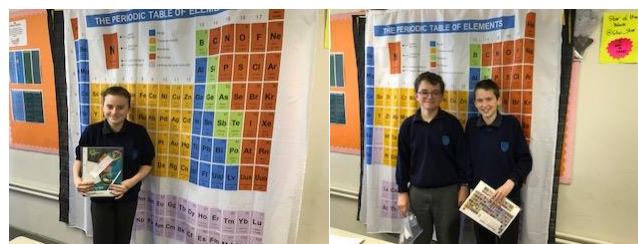
This year's DofE season kicked off in April with a cold, wet and windy experience for the 28 Year 9 students in four teams who set off on their first expedition in north Suffolk.

The conditions made the two nights camping and two days walking a real challenge as waterproofs and emergency shelters were put to the test. Despite this, we were really impressed with all of the teams, who managed to keep a positive attitude throughout, showed great resilience and (mostly) excellent navigation and camp-craft skills.

Next half term we look forward to better weather as we embark on the assessed expedition.

#### *Our Winners:*

*The highest quiz mark was awarded jointly to Keane Beckham and Hamish Teare in class 7X2.*



*Other winners from each year 7 science class included: Oscar Chamberlain, Joe Chappie, Tamara Riches, Oscar Maguire, Josh Steele, Harrison Fountain, Zach Murphy, Megan Calver, Megan Ramsey, Tihanna Ballantyne and Nikola Mirecka. Well done to all our winners.*



### Diary Dates

Key Dates	
June 2019	
3rd	Start of term
4 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 9 and 10 Geography Fieldtrip To Sheringham
10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 12 Geography and Biology Trip to Dorset
14 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Spanish Exchange Students in Diss
24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 Sports Leaders event
26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Intake Evening
July	
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sixth Form Conference
10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 Careers Day
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day
25 <sup>th</sup> July- 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Half Term