



**DISS HIGH SCHOOL  
END OF TERM NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2022**

These are uneasy times: Covid remains very present, and world news is disturbing in many ways. It has been heartening to see so many parents digging deep and ensuring a steady presence at home.

**What happens now with Covid?**

It is difficult to view the scrapping of free lateral flow tests as anything other than unwise when infection levels remain so high. However, if we can no longer easily test, common sense must prevail. It's important to know and recognize all of the symptoms of Omicron. Symptoms like high temperature, sore throat, runny nose, headache, and fatigue *could* be COVID. Whether they are or not – the sensible thing to do is to recognise that if your child is not well, they should stay home until they feel better, and their temperature is normal. We are reviewing the wearing of masks early next term.

**Deputy Lieutenant for Norfolk Lt Col Ian Lonsdale with students from Diss High School on their allotment**



The sun shone for the above visit by Lt Col Ian Lonsdale. Parents will be already aware that Diss students have created a school allotment to grow produce for their local food bank. They have transformed a derelict area of the school grounds in conjunction with the Papillon Project, an educational charity which works with secondary schools and sixth form colleges in Norfolk to inspire young people to grow their own food for themselves and their local community. The Deputy Lieutenant visited the school as students planted 32 native tree saplings from the Woodland Trust on behalf of Prince Charles, to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. Our grateful thanks go to Mrs Glaister who organised this special visit and has supported the project throughout, along with Ms Smith, Dr Brading and Mr Holmes.

### **Getting back into wider curriculum activities**

It has been good to see the school beginning to emerge from the dearth of trips and activities due to the pandemic. Below is a sample:

- Mrs Bensley has resurrected her sixth form trip to Athens for the Classical Civilisation students.
- Geography will be off to Dorset, as well as day trips to Norwich, Winterton, Banham, Sheringham and Dunwich
- Year 11 tutors have taken their groups bowling.
- The English department has taken large groups to different theatre productions – Frankenstein was well received - with more on the way.
- Miss Jarocki and Miss Read ensured BBC Young Reporter Day was a success for Year 9 pupils
- World Book Day involved Year 7 in creative writing workshops organised by Miss Johnson and Mrs Bond
- Year 10 Health Day, organised by Mrs Adams helped students acquire crucial functional health knowledge
- Planning for the next Sail France trip is well underway.
- Miss Kelly is heading up the Camp Kenya Expedition again this summer.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions are fully up to speed with huge interest from many age groups, ably led by Dr Busby.
- The Papillon Project continues to inspire pupils and a group in Year 7 are going to create a new biodiversity area in one of the quadrangles.
- Travel and Tourism students have enjoyed visits to Cambridge and Thorpe Park

### **KS4/5 Bystander Intervention Programme, 'Step In/Speak Out'.**

This interactive theatre presentation explored peer-on-peer abuse and the societal pressure that prevents students from being inactive bystanders and was shown this term to Years 10,11,12 and 13. It aimed to empower pupils to safely intervene when faced with potential violence against women and girls (VAWG) situations and other forms of violence or discrimination, as well as giving the students the confidence and knowledge on how to report it. It also explored how to approach friends and peers who are displaying problematic behaviour, as well as friends who may be victims of domestic violence. Feedback from students about the quality of the presentation was most positive.

### **Dates for the diary:**

Year 10 Parents' Evening – 21<sup>st</sup> April

Half Term – 30<sup>th</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Year 7 Parents' Evening – 8<sup>th</sup> June

Year 10 Careers Day – 24<sup>th</sup> June

Sports Day – 7<sup>th</sup> July

Year 11 Prom – 7<sup>th</sup> July

Summer Term Ends – 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Autumn begins – 6<sup>th</sup> September

May we wish you a very pleasant and relaxing Easter break.

Kindest regards

Dr J Hunt

Headteacher