



## DISS HIGH SCHOOL

### END OF TERM NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2022

*'One kind word can warm three winter months' (Japanese Proverb)*

A great deal of our focus this term has been on the importance of kind words and kind actions. We hope the seasonal break will be full of these for everyone.

#### **Library news – from Mrs Goddard**

It has been a busy half term in the Library. The beginning of term saw the arrival of the Bookbuzz books for year 7s which were met with much excitement. Along with the free book I issued, each pupil was given a series of challenges which, if completed, would be rewarded by positives, stickers and prizes! Many of the year 7 students have been taking up these challenges and I was thrilled to be able to award Raisya Yazed (left) and Kitty Shaw (right) with special Library pens for completing all 12. A big well done to them!



The challenge is still open, including the 'Redesign the front cover of a Bookbuzz book' competition, run by BookTrust which could win entrants books for themselves and books for school. There is plenty of time to get involved!



Recently, I sent out a request for volunteers to be pupil Library Assistants and was really pleased to see so many pupils turn up for our inaugural meeting. Today we met again to go over some of the skills required which were tackled with much enthusiasm and accuracy. I am looking forward to getting them settled in and trained up: I think they will be an excellent team!

During lunch times, I have had many pupils turning their hands at repurposing our old books which are no longer in good enough condition to borrow with some impressive results. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

#### **Sixth formers meet Natalie Haynes**

Whilst Sixth Form Classics students were busily planning for our Athens trip in April, we were invited to an intimate audience with Natalie Haynes at Norwich Cathedral, hosted by Norwich School. It was a fantastic opportunity to gain an insight into the ancient world and their myths and was highly enjoyed by all. We were all a little star-struck by the Radio 4 celeb too! Massive thanks to Norwich School for hosting.





### Computing Challenge

The Bebras Computing Challenge is organised in over 50 countries and asks questions that focus on computational and logical thinking. Students across the school took part the Bebras Competition during their Computing lessons from 7<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November, and have been given certificates with their results. Students who scored in the top 10% of the UK have been invited to compete in the Oxford University Computing Challenge, a tremendous achievement! This year, more students than ever before have achieved this accolade; 12 Year 7s, 8 Year 8s, 5 Year 9s and 8 students from GCSE Computer Science classes. Special recognition is given to Connor Clements who scored 188 in the Junior Challenge, Grace Cook who scored 162 in the Intermediate Challenge, Joe Chapple who scored 184 in the Senior Challenge and Damien Lemke who scored 156 in the Elite Challenge.

### Trip to the University of Suffolk

This month, sixth form students studying A Levels in English or Media and Film Studies were invited to the University of Suffolk in Ipswich for a taster day. They enjoyed taking part in two seminars led by university lecturers, one on screen writing and the other on Othello. The seminars were an excellent chance for students to experience their subjects being taught at a higher level and the lecturers were friendly and engaging, leaving students and staff with free gift bags and a wealth of new resources to explore in our lessons back at school. The students were complimented on their subject knowledge and their exemplary behaviour.



### Creative Writing Club

It has been fantastic to welcome new members to Creative Writing Club this term. We have students from main school and sixth form, and it is great to see the year 7 writers learning from the year 13s. This term we have covered topics including the ghost story, setting, characterisation and animal stories. We meet every Wednesday in room 60 - all welcome! Please speak to Mrs Bond if you are interested in joining us.

### Allotment Club



The allotment group have been busy this term, the pumpkins grown last term were carved into Halloween creations.



The once large beds have been subdivided to make it easier to grow a greater range of fruit and vegetables and thanks to the work of one student we now have some colourful signs for them. Some of them have already been planted with shallots, onions, broad beans and peas in the hope of an early harvest next year.

The pupils were also surprised to find a napping hedgehog in the greenhouse under the pots. A lot of time was spent choosing a more suitable sleeping spot that session !

### Health and Safety in the Kitchen

This term year 10 catering students have been learning about health and safety in the kitchen and combining skills to make a high level dish.



They have recently made lemon meringue pies, learning about blind baking, gelatinising and whisking methods. They have produced some fantastic high level dishes. We can't wait to see what their final outcomes will be next year! Well done year 10!



### Geography – Royal Geographical Society Youth Micro-lecture event hosted by Norwich School



Rosie Dove, Isla Kidd and Maja Hochecker took part in the first Youth Micro-lecture event organised by the Royal Geographical Society at Norwich School. The theme of the evening was 'people, planet and partnership' with each participant talking for seven minutes on a geographical issue of their choice, along with other students from Norwich School and Attleborough Academy.





Isla and Maja spoke on the relationship between hazard vulnerability and gender inequality and Rosie on the hidden story of Venezuela's resource curse. The presentations were fabulous and reflected superbly their hard work and excellent geographical knowledge. They also navigated very well the tricky **questions** from members of the audience afterwards!

### **Sixth Form Festive Fundraiser**

After a very busy Autumn term at Diss Sixth Form, we reached Festive Fundraiser week. As we have in previous years, in 2022 we raised money to support East Anglian Children's Hospice. We had various fabulous dress-up costumes (film and TV characters below), car washing in freezing temperatures, and numerous successful cake sales. The festive quiz evening was well attended, with Mike Benstead returning as compere. The 'I'm a teacher, get me out of here' event saw eight teachers consuming foodstuffs that can only be described as revolting to a packed school hall. The edgy 'Squid Games' event pitted teachers against one another with pie-in-the-face consequences for those who failed on a task. The karaoke was, as ever, hugely successful with a selection of wonderful songs given interesting interpretations by school staff. In January we have the 'Teacher Bake Off' episode to look forward to. Thanks to everyone involved and everyone who made a donation – we couldn't do it without you.



## **Goodbyes**

We say goodbye this term to Mr McPhail, Head of History who has been at the school for some twenty years. We will miss his wit, solid teaching and Geordie accent. He leaves with every good wish from the school. Miss Haley, Mr Hintridge, Miss Sherman and Ms Kaschner also leave us this term. We thank all of them for their contribution to the life of the school and wish them well in the future.

## **Term Dates:**

**Spring:** 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

*Half-term: 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023*

**Summer:** 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

*Half-term: 29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023*

May we wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Dr J Hunt  
Headteacher