



DISS HIGH SCHOOL
END OF TERM NEWSLETTER - JULY 2022

Covid, hot weather and threats of thunderstorms – we have lived through it all this term. However, plenty of good things have been happening too.

A smorgasbord of extra-curricular events and activities

Leaver's Ball 2022.....AKA The Prom!!!

The day of the Leaver's Ball arrived looking a bit gloomy, but luck was with us and by 6pm the sun was out, and the weather was lovely. It was amazing to be able to hold the Ball again, as due to covid we haven't had a Ball since 2019!! As usual we held the Ball at Applewood Hall, Banham Zoo. Miss Lucas and Miss Read and I spent the afternoon blowing up balloons and trying to ensure it looked nice for the students. The incredibly well-dressed students arrived on tractors, motorbikes and army vehicles. Lots of parents and relatives turned up to see the students in and to take photos.



The students' behaviour was impeccable, and they were a real credit to their parents and the school. They really seemed to have a great time talking and dancing the night away. So much so that come the end of the night all you could hear were chants of 'one more song....one more song!!!' It was a wonderful evening of celebration, tinged with emotion, having seen them grow during their five years at DHS.

Good luck for the future class of 2022! It's been amazing (well most of it!!!)

Miss O Neill and Miss Lucas

Year 12 fieldtrips – Geography and Biology

Year 12 Geographers and Biologists spent three days in Dorset collecting data for their Geography Non-examined Assessment (NEA) and Biology fieldwork at Studland sand dunes and the town of Boscombe. They were based at the youth hostel in the village of Lulworth near Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door where they spent their free time exploring. Students also visited Old Harry Rocks, the coastal town of Swanage and Agglestone Rock, known locally as the Devil's Anvil!

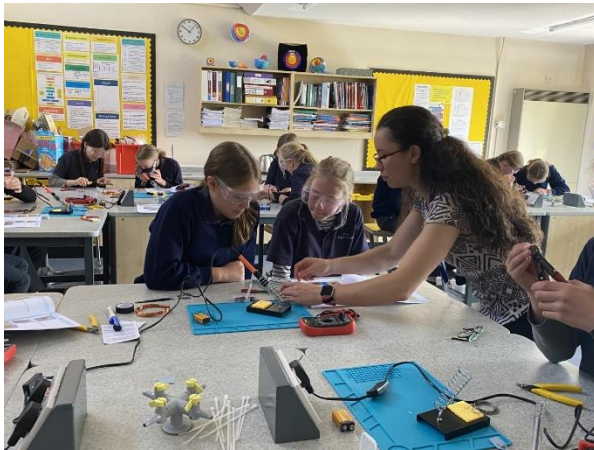


Year 10 fieldtrip to Sheringham

Over two days, approximately 90 Year 10 pupils visited the town of Sheringham to investigate the impact of sea defences on coastal landforms. Pupils carried out beach profiles, sediment analysis and collected data on the physical processes that influence the coastline too. Despite a busy day, everyone managed to find time for chips and an ice-cream!



Engineering Day



This half term, year 7 and 9 students were involved in an exciting Women in STEM morning with TTP, the technology partnership for Cambridge. Year 7 students investigated how electricity and magnetism works, while learning how to solder their very own metal detectors. Year 9 students applied their energy knowledge to build the slowest vertical marble run made from recycled materials.

Learning from the professionals...

Ten students from years 7 to 12 visited Diss Allotments to see how experienced gardeners grow a wide variety of vegetables, fruit and flowers. They tried to identify as many different plants as possible, learning to recognise some of the foods they can buy in the shops in their growing form. Bernard was a lovely host, and it was a very interesting and enjoyable visit.



Courtyard Garden

This year, a small group of year 7 students took it upon themselves to revamp a small courtyard within the school. They created a small wildlife garden by planting colourful and nectar rich plants in borders and derelict bathtubs. They also designed a bug hotel with the help of Mr. Veil in DT club and at lunch time. They painted picnic tables and created a couple of tile mosaics to brighten up the area. It is an ongoing project and they have worked hard in order to make a haven for themselves as well as wildlife.



Congratulations to: Connor Eadie who became the U15 boys Norfolk County Champion a few weeks ago in shot and javelin. What an achievement!

Sixth Form News

The summer term is always a busy time in Sixth Form. Following the mock exams, a new Sixth Form Committee was elected. They have quickly established themselves under the leadership of chairperson Finn Wilcockson, organising a school-wide celebration for Pride with almost £400 raised for Mind Out, the LGBTQ mental health service. They have also organised an inter-form sports competition for Year 12 and an end-of-term BBQ with live music from two talented Sixth Form musicians, Leah Kidd and Benji Filmer.

We have also launched the UCAS process with Year 12 who have attended sessions with Lincoln University and with UEA.

The Terrence Higgins trust has visited us to present and advise on sexual health, and a number of super-curricular sessions have been organised by Miss Bradford including one with Austin Daboh from Atlantic Records and another with Kathleen Harris, a top London lawyer.

Many Sixth Formers have enrolled in the Zero Gravity mentoring scheme with a view to gaining expert advice on applications and interviews.

Finally, the Sixth Form Induction Conference on July 11th was attended by prospective students who enjoyed subject taster sessions and a tasty buffet lunch in the shade of the trees around Uplands House.



Sixth Form barbecue with Mr Benstead as Chief Chef.



To all our staff moving on to pastures new at the end of this term – we send our thanks and very best wishes. Two of our long serving staff are retiring : Mr Benstead above and Mrs Kemp (left). Mr Benstead has been an amazing form tutor, teacher and mentor to hundreds of children. Mrs Kemp has been a kind (and long-suffering) midday supervisor for over 23 years. They fully deserve a well-earned retirement, and we wish them long life and happiness, and thank them for all they have contributed over many years.

KEY DATES

The new school year begins for students on: **Tuesday 6th September**, though Year 13 do not return until Wednesday 7th September.

Term Dates:

Autumn: 6th September 2022 to 16th December 2022

Half-term: 24th – 28th October 2022

Spring: 4th January 2023 to 31st March 2023

Half-term: 13th – 17th February 2023

Summer: 18th April 2023 to 21st July 2023

Half-term: 29th May – 2nd June 2023

May we wish you a restful summer break.

Dr J Hunt