



**DISS HIGH SCHOOL**  
**END OF TERM NEWSLETTER – JULY 2023**

*"Change in all things is sweet." -Aristotle*

Diss High School will enter a time of change next term as the new Headteacher arrives and the school joins the Enrich Learning Trust. It is a delight to introduce Mr Stopps and also to celebrate the achievements of students this term.

**Meet the new Headteacher**



Mr Stopps will be leaving his post as Deputy Principal of Birchwood High School to come to Diss in September. He is a graduate in Economics and Economic History and has an MA in Education Management and Leadership for Learning. Mr Stopps has a wide background of experience, having taught in schools in London, Kent, Hampshire and Bishops Stortford. He has already visited Diss High a number of times in recent months and the school community is excited to embrace a fresh influx of new ideas.

**Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award**

Mia Somers, Year 13, was invited to Buckingham Palace in May to receive her Gold Duke Edinburgh Award. This is a fantastic achievement, especially at her age, and we are all very proud of her! The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award is for young people 16+ who can gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs for university and job applications. Mia is pictured here in Buckingham Palace Gardens with Ade Adepitan. Ade is a Television Presenter, Journalist, Children's Author and Wheelchair Basketball Paralympian.



**BBC News Day**

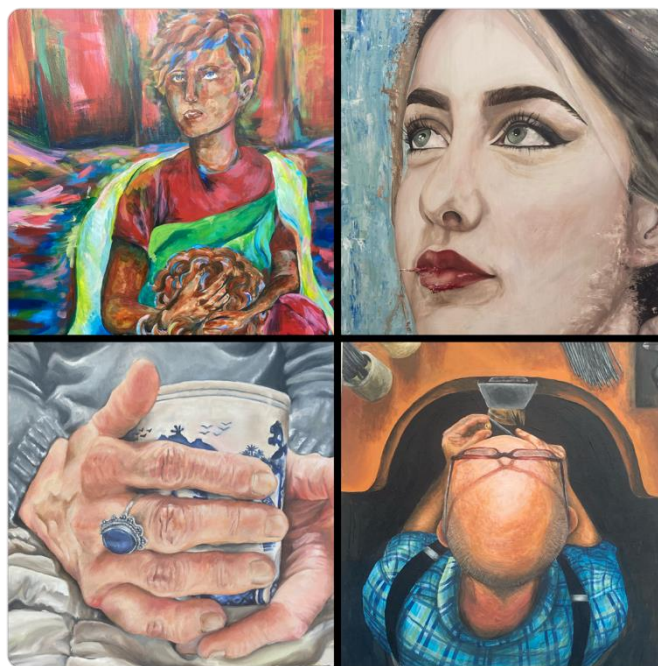


On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 24 budding Year 9s took on the role of BBC journalists for the day creating their own news stories. They had to write scripts and interview questions, as well as conducting the interviews, filming and editing these all by themselves. The work they produced was truly amazing given the tight deadline that they had to meet: giving them only 4 hours to do it all. Well done Year 9 for an excellent day!

## Art



This half term, A Level students, Emma Lidzey, Jessica Reeve, Leah Kidd and Rosalind Breeze were given the opportunity to celebrate and show case their A Level Artwork at Designermakers21 in Diss. They worked alongside resident artists to curate the exhibition and with the help of our technician the students successfully achieved their vision. Not only that all four students gave exceptional speeches on the private view evening where many friends, family, teachers and local people gathered to celebrate their achievements.



While the exhibition was on, our Year 10 GCSE Art students have had the opportunity to walk into town and view the work during their art lessons, a trip to inspire the next generation of DHS artists!

**Donna Marshall Head of Art**





## Library News

The start of this term was National Volunteers week so I treated my library assistants to a breakfast in the library and presented them with certificates to thank them for all their hard work over the year. They have been an enthusiastic and dedicated team and are very much appreciated!



This term has also seen displays for Pride month and Empathy Day which the students have enjoyed browsing.

Library lessons have all been about research skills this term with students using indexes and contents pages to locate information in the fabulous new non-fiction books we have in the library.

Last but not least...Joseph Deepu, Kitty Shaw, Chloe Deacon and Savannah Makgill in year 7 have all achieved our Bronze Reading Challenge and will receive certificates and badges for their efforts so congratulations go to them!

Enjoy your summer and keep reading!

Mrs Goddard

## Geography and Biology fieldtrip to Dorset

Twenty A-level Geographers and Biologists spent a fabulous three days in Dorset investigating the natural and built environment as part of their course. To collect data for their coursework, Geographers visited the towns of Boscombe and Swanage to investigate perceptions of regeneration, deprivation and coastal management and Studland sand dunes to explore their changes and response to management. The Biologists also visited Studland dunes and Mr Somers' favourite bog on Studland Heath to investigate plant species diversity as part of their A-level course. The trip was completed with visits to some of Dorset's famous features such as Old Harry Rocks, Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door as well as some excellent pebble skimming competitions! The students were great company and worked hard over the three days in some very high temperatures!



### Allotment news

The experiment of planting tomatoes directly into the soil in the greenhouse has been a huge success. Our tomato plants are now 5ft tall and heavily weighed down with a variety of different tomatoes. We are keeping our fingers crossed, that with this great weather, they will ripen before the end of term. In between the tomatoes the pupils have also planted cucumbers and melons and have been learning how to tell the difference between a male and female melon flowers. The first of the onions were harvested and the runner bean support canes doubled up as a drying area for them. Any extra plants, flowers and veg that had been sown were offered to school staff for a donation, raising enough funds to purchase children sized gloves for pupils with smaller hands.



As always with gardening, our attention has turned towards planting for the autumn and the pupils have already planted carrots, sweetcorn and pumpkins allowing the allotment to continue being productive for as long as possible.



### Diss High Games Day

Diss High Games Day was a new innovation this year, devised by Mr Lea and Mrs Adams. Each team of students collected tokens in the first half of the day to help complete a challenge in the second part of the day where House points could be collected. Can they get the egg in the bucket without breaking it?

Good fun was had by all !

### Drama

Hello, My name is Jess Baldwin and I am the newly elected Drama Captain, I am super excited to have been given this role as I have been passionate for performing arts since I was very young and have recently discovered my love for musical theatre, and I cannot wait to inspire younger people to also find the joy in Drama!



Next September, the Drama department are looking forward to launching 'TRECC around the Globe', a new way for KS3 learners to earn rewards and treats for their good work. There is also a Top-secret Lower-School production in the pipeline which Ms Oliver and our KS3 reps (Calypso Raven and Gabriel Noble) will be launching. There are also theatre trips booked, which the department are looking to do more of as well as asking experts into school to work with us!

Lastly, I want to display why I believe Drama is valuable to peruse. Not only has drama helped build my confidence, I feel it has helped shape my personality and has gifted me skills such as, the ability to communicate well. It has given me many opportunities and I have made so many friends during my time doing drama





## Safeguarding Poster Competition

In June Miss O'Neill and Miss Wright ran a safeguarding poster competition where students were asked to create a poster about a safeguarding issue explaining what the issue is, and who and what can help. The 2 winning posters were put up around school to educate other students and pinpoint where they can get help and support.

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who entered, and a massive congratulations to our 2 winners **Katelyn Balster** and **Calypso Raven**!

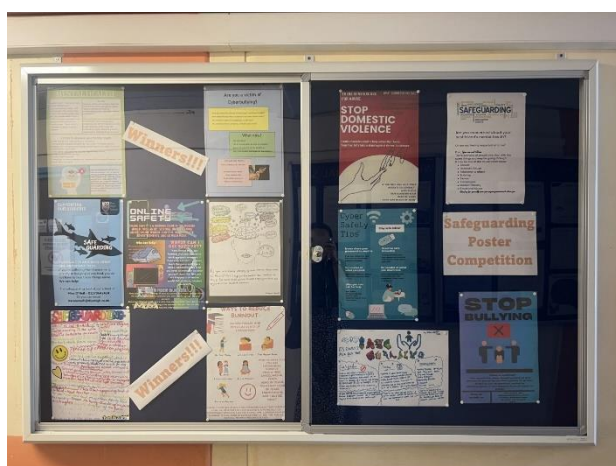
Also, a special mention to our runners up:

Lillian Bailey, Joseph Deepu, Hannah Hillman, Henry-Zephan Asiamah Brobbey, Archie Chrystal, Lola Moss, and Florence Melton.

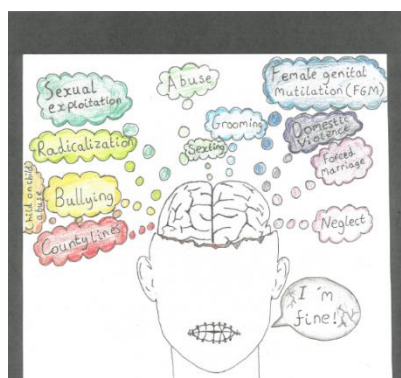
All the posters are on display outside room 16 in the B-Block corridor!

Thanks again 😊

A few of our runners and up winners collecting their prizes!



Our poster displays and the two winning posters by Calypso Raven and Katelyn Balster!



### **Restart a Heart newsletter**



On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July, Year 9 students were offered the opportunity to undertake 'Restart a Heart' training. 130 students successfully completed the CPR and defibrillator training course and were awarded certificates. Qualified First Aid trainer Ali Pursehouse kindly led the sessions to help students understand what to do in an emergency. Well done to all in Year 9 who completed the course!

### **GCSE Geography fieldtrip to Sheringham**

Over two days, 80 students from Year 10 visited Sheringham in North Norfolk to investigate the impact of coastal management on coastal landforms and processes. Students carried out a range of fieldwork techniques to investigate beach profiles and the impact of groynes on the shape and height of the beach as well as identifying the different coastal processes acting upon the coastline. Students worked hard to collect their data and showed excellent teamwork skills to coordinate tasks. There was even time at the end of the day for chips and ice cream!

### **Royal Navy does Ready Steady Cook**

The Royal Navy came to Diss High School on 13th June to share information about careers and do a Ready Steady Cook activity with year 9 and year 12 students. Everyone enjoyed their session and learnt a lot about what the Navy does.



### Year 12 English Visit to UEA Archives

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, Year 12 English students visited the University of East Anglia with Mrs Bond, Mr Hurley and Miss Johnson. Whilst there, the students had the opportunity to access the archives and to view the original manuscripts for *The Power* by Naomi Alderman, giving them an appreciation of how novels are written and redrafted. They also got to experience a little of life on campus and listen to a talk about pursuing a humanities degree which can lead to many varied careers including advertising and marketing, journalism and teaching to name but a few. Our students were complimented by university staff on their behaviour and their willingness to engage with the materials in the archive which we hope will inform their wider reading and inspire them in their future studies.



### Royal Geographical Society's Young Geographer of the Year competition

Eleven students from Years 7 & 9 are taking part in the Young Geographer of the Year competition.

Each year the competition has a different geographical theme. The theme for this year is 'A



blueprint for the future' which challenges young people to come up with innovative ways to tackle some to address problems in areas such as food production and supply, energy and sustainability, water security, resources, population growth, economic crisis, transport, travel, urbanisation, risk management, trade, environmental management, and biodiversity.

The group have spent time discussing these problems and are currently researching potential solutions to tackle them. The final piece of work, which they will complete over the summer holidays, will involve a poster presentation examining and illustrating their ideas.

The competition is a nationwide event, and the winners will attend a special awards ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society in London. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to seeing their entries!

Mrs Nolan and Miss Riseborough



### **Rosalind Breeze – Highly Commended in the Young Norfolk Writing Competition**

Creative Writing Club has gone from strength to strength this year and we are thrilled to announce that one of our writers, Rosalind Breeze in year 13, has been shortlisted for the Young Norfolk Writing Competition with her poem 'She'.

There were over 300 entries and the judges said that Ros' poem was 'moving, amusing and inspiring.' Ros received a certificate recognising her achievement at the National Centre for Writing in Norwich on 9<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **'She' written by Rosalind Breeze**

She glows in the misery,  
Pumps it into adrenaline, curb stomping,  
Bottle throwing, cracks in the glass,  
It tears in her throat and rips in her lungs  
It bursts through her skin, nearly translucent  
Strikes a resounding thump like a headache.

She groans and moans and stutters,  
Slurs her words like a knife through butter,  
As smooth as can be,  
She worries at her teeth, bites at her nails,  
Pulls out her hair and crushes plastic bottles,  
She chews at her tongue and fiddles with her pockets,  
She simmers with dissonance.

She attracts disaster like a hurricane,  
Burns down buildings, lighter sparks,  
Great waves over small towns,  
Caverns in the ground,  
Fault lines and telephone poles,  
Lightning to a tree.

She yells in return to men on the street,  
Whistles when they whistle, screams when they scream,  
Flips them the bird and doesn't care who sees, she reads;  
Horror and crime and romance and classical,  
A voracious appetite fit to devour,  
She absorbs what it says so she can spit it all back,  
Takes jobs in history, picks up the slack.

She always overdressed, big coats and tall shoes, before she leaves,  
She puts one more thing on,  
Costume jewellery, rhinestones, wedding rings, always demanding,  
Perfumes and flowers and shiny new phones,  
Wigs and dresses and beach front homes,  
She eats fashion magazines for breakfast,  
She swipes credit cards and debit cards and gift cards and drops cash.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Form



The new Sixth Form Committee have been busy this half term. They recently delivered an excellent presentation to prospective Sixth Formers on Induction Day which included a Wes Anderson-inspired video produced by George Selby, Film student and this year's committee chairperson.

The committee organised another very successful band night, showcasing more of the terrific musical talent in the school. Performing in the first half were Jess Baldwin in Yr 10, Tom Arbin and Joe Denty Yr 9, Charlotte White Yr 9, Katy Goddard Yr 12, Leah Kidd Yr 13, and Soren Green & Kieran Ready Yr 12. The second half of the show was an entire set from The Write Offs, an awesome guitar band comprised of Sixth Formers Haydn Gardiner, Robin Selby, and Benji Filmer. The Committee are currently planning a welcome BBQ for our new Year 12 students in September.

## Goodbyes



We say goodbye this term to Dr Butler, Mr Gull, Ms Meyer, Mr Harrison, Mr Greenwood and Mr Cole. We thank them all for their input to the school but in particular we thank Mr Cole who has worked at the school since 1985 and is widely known by generations of youngsters as 'the Legend'. Not only has he been a talented sportsman and teacher but his wise pastoral skills have been part of his legend. We wish him a well-earned retirement.

And of course I, myself, am retiring and the zimmer frame is on order! It has been my privilege to meet some amazing and inspiring young people. I wish all current and future generations at Diss High the greatest success and healthy, happy lives.

## **TERM DATES for pupils 2023-24**

### **Autumn term**

- Wednesday 6 September - Friday 20 October 2023
- *Half-term holiday: Monday 23 - Friday 27 October 2023*
- Monday 30 October - Wednesday 20 December 2023
- *Christmas holiday: Thursday 21 December - Wednesday 3 January 2024*

### **Spring term**

- Thursday 4 January - Friday 16 February 2024
- *Half-term holiday: Monday 19 - Friday 23 February 2024*
- Monday 26 February - Wednesday 27 March 2024
- *Easter holiday: Thursday 28 March - Friday 12 April 2024*

### **Summer term**

- Monday 15 April - Friday 24 May 2024 (Monday 6 May is a Bank Holiday)
- *Half-term holiday: Monday 27 - Friday 31 May 2024*
- Monday 3 June - Friday 19 July 2024

We all wish you a very pleasant summer break.

Dr J Hunt - Headteacher