



## DISS HIGH SCHOOL

### END OF HALF TERM NEWSLETTER – March 2024

*The DHS Way – 'Work Hard, Be Kind'*

#### **Update from the Headteacher**

Dear Parents & Carers,

It's been a short(ish) but busy half-term at Diss High School. The two biggest developments have been Diss High formally joining Enrich Learning Trust and our recent Ofsted inspection.

We have been working with Enrich since 2022 and they have been an important partner in our school improvement journey. Formalising our membership as of 1<sup>st</sup> March means that we are now properly plugged into an effective network of Norfolk schools whose mission is to learn from and support each other while maintaining each school's unique characteristics. Further information on Enrich can be found at <https://www.enrich-learning.org/>

At the time of writing our Ofsted report has not been published but I can tell you that inspectors commented on how welcoming and polite Diss High students were throughout and it was good for them to see so much of the great work that a wide range of our students are producing in lessons every day. We will share the inspection report when it is available, and its conclusions will form an important part of the next stages of our development.

Listening to student & parent voice is an important part of inspection but it's also an important part of our day-to-day job too. A number of parents and students have expressed a wish to be able to buy black school trousers rather than grey ones for a number of reasons including cost, availability and female comfort. The School Council in particular argued their case very well. As a result, from September 2024 school trousers will be black rather than grey (except for Year 11 who will continue to be able to choose to wear either grey or black). As part of transition students will be able to wear black trousers, if they wish, from after the Easter holidays. Any kind of skinny jeans, leggings, joggers or tightly fitted trousers will still *not* be part of the school uniform regardless of colour. We will also not be allowing students to wear PE kits outside of PE lessons this summer term - black tailored shorts can be worn by any students if the temperature does get high and any student would like to wear an alternative to trousers.

No school is ever likely to have a uniform on which there is 100% agreement, but we hope this minor adjustment makes it slightly more convenient for parents & carers as well as demonstrating to the School Council that they do have an important voice in terms of how the school runs. At Diss High we now have a Staff Council to go with the School Council, but I feel that a Parent Council is the missing link. Therefore, we plan to establish a Parent Council which will meet half-termly as a chance for you to give feedback on how your child(ren)'s education is going and also play a part in our school improvement journey. If this is something you might potentially be interested in joining, please do drop me a line at [head@disshigh.co.uk](mailto:head@disshigh.co.uk)

A big congratulations to all of the students who've been mentioned in this newsletter - it's nice to see how much has been packed into 4 and a half weeks! I hope you and your family have a relaxing break over the next couple of weeks - as Evan Esar once said. "Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket". Sam Stopps.

### Coaching Award!

Well done to Olivia W, in Year 11. She has passed her Level 1 Award in Coaching in Women's Artistic Gymnastics. She has been coaching for a while and working towards this so many congratulations – all the hard work has paid off! Photo supplied.



### World Book Day

Thank you to everyone, staff, parents and pupils, for making this World Book Day week an incredible experience. We had so many activities going on throughout the week, from a Reading Companion in the form of Miss Read's own Frenchie (Ralph), to 'Guess My Shelfie', the Scavenger Hunt, and the two creative writing workshops that took place on the day. Not to mention all the members of staff that dressed up and discussed reading throughout the week. We hope everyone enjoyed it and we are already looking forward to next year.

Jess Read, English Teacher & Assistant Head of Year 11.



## Book Day photos from around the school!



Emma Goddard our Librarian and Teaching Assistant visited all the year 8 English lessons and gifted every student a World Book Day book with the surplus being available in the library for others to help themselves to. Every student had the opportunity to receive a World Book Day £1 voucher too. The 'Guess My Shelfie' was a whole school tutor group competition to guess which home bookshelf belonged to which teacher. Students had lots of fun trying to figure out whose shelf was who's!





Having some fun with Where's Wally?



### Driver Safety Assembly

Andy Natrass from Norfolk Police delivered a safety awareness course for Year 12 to help students think about how they can change their behaviour and avoid bad habits as young drivers and riders, soon-to-be drivers and those likely to be the passengers of young drivers. He focused on:

- Speeding
- Driving under the influence
- Mobile phone use and seat belts
  - Driving when tired
  - Driver inexperience



### **Year 7 Secret Missions! - Be Kind!**

As you are all hopefully aware our school motto is 'Work Hard. Be Kind.'

To try and help encourage this we came up with a 'Secret Mission' competition where the 'Secret Mission' was to 'Be Kind'. The idea was it would encourage pupils to 'Be Kind.' The hope then is that these acts will become second nature and the pupils will continue to do them even when they haven't been set a 'Secret Mission.'

Staff recorded every kind act they saw and then at the end of the 2 weeks we added up the points to see what tutor group had won. We started with Year 7, and they did fantastically well. Between them they did over 400 kind acts. It was amazing how much the kind acts made staff and pupils feel so much better and how appreciated the kind acts were.

We encourage Year 7 to continue to be kind even though their competition is over, as they can now receive positives points on Go4Schools for kind behaviour.

Below are the Year 7 results.

5 <sup>th</sup> = 7EB	720 Points
4 <sup>th</sup> = 7DM	740 Points
3 <sup>rd</sup> = 7GR	800 Points
2 <sup>nd</sup> = 7LR	830 Points
1 <sup>st</sup> = 7ER	840 Points

The photo below is of the winning tutor group 7ER!!

After the Easter Holidays we will run the competition for Year 8.

From Karen O'Neill, Senior Pastoral Leader & Designated Safeguarding Lead.





### British Science Week

As this year's British Science Week's theme was Time, the year 7s were given the task to try and create a method of timing 10 seconds. They were given scrap paper, Sellotape, clamp stands, a small ball, and a stop-clock to use as a reference during building. In 20 minutes, they ended up creating different versions of marble runs, each trying to get as close to 10 seconds as possible!

Thank you to science teacher Emma Hartley for organising the week and to Ellie Boyd and Clare Jacobs for help in obtaining all the photos.

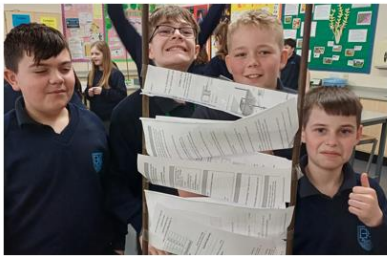


### Pop Rockets!

Wednesday lunch time students from all years came together to set off pop rockets. We set off our makeshift timers after filling them with different paints to make a collaborative piece of artwork from their splat patterns!



More Science lesson time fun!



Horrible Science Quiz time at lunch in the library!





Some of our Science Quiz winners who beat the teachers!

This is where various years competed against each other and a team of scientists answering questions from the Horrible Science series of books. Congratulations to our fine year 7s from 7EBO for beating the scientists. Later in the week our science staff managed to defend their honour and win against the year 8 teams and well done to the upper school with their obscure trivia!



### Training for Duke of Edinburgh

The sun shone for the silver DofE training day in Thetford Forrest in March. They had a lovely day developing their navigation skills. Further Bronze and Silver practice will take place over April and May and the assessed awards over June and July.

Dr Busby, Head of Year 9 & DofE Co-ordinator.





### **Geography Field Trip**

Photo below from the Year 12 field trip to Stratford, London studying the perceptions of diverse spaces. From Vicky Nolan, Head of Geography.



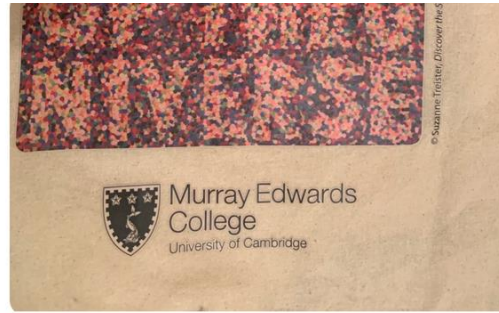
### **Creating Writing News**

It's been another busy term at Creative Writing Club. Congratulations to Alice D, in Year 8, who was the runner up in the Murray Edwards College Daisy Goodwin Flash Fiction Competition with her story, 'The Lost Queen's Skeleton.' Alice had a wonderful and inspiring afternoon in Cambridge when she went to collect her prize and rub shoulders with famous authors and artists, including Dorothy Byrne and Daisy Goodwin.

We have also had lots of entries for the Young Writer's Competition on the theme of catastrophe, and we hope to see these pieces published soon. The winners of the club competition on the theme of love are Olivia B and Lillian B. Both win an Amazon voucher.

Creative Writing Club is open to all years and runs at lunch every Thursday in room 60 with Mrs Bond.

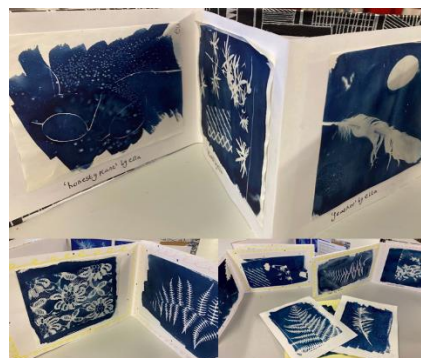
Photos below supplied.



### **Art – Additional Studies**

Year 8 Additional Studies students have had the exciting opportunity, this term, to create their own sketchbook full of Cyanotypes. Cyanotype printing, first discovered in 1842, is a form of photographic printing that produces a blue coloured print. The students initially found their inspiration from natural forms, finding leaves and plants from around the school site. They have investigated the cyanotype process and created a range of individual responses. In order to display these beautiful cyanotype prints students made hard-back, fold out sketchbooks in which they mounted and displayed their work, along with instructions, drawings and notes about the process. Creative experimentation and excellent outcomes for all. Well done Year 8.

Su Nichols, Art & Design Teacher.





### **A tasty treat!**

Just to finish on a picture shared by our canteen, our February promotion was John Dory Loaded Chips!



### **TERM DATES for pupils 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 half term break.