

SAXMUNDHAM

# voice

The newsletter for Saxmundham Free School | *"Providing a foundation for life"*

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- > Women of the Future STEM Trip
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- > Celebrating Student Achievement
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SAXMUNDHAM  
FREE SCHOOL

*"Providing a foundation for life"*

## Cross Trust Competition Chess Champions 2017!



**SAXMUNDHAM  
FREE SCHOOL**

"Providing a foundation for life"

[www.saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk](http://www.saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk)

Saxmundham Free School,  
Seaman Avenue, Saxmundham, IP17 1DZ

Dates for your

**Diary**

Tuesday 2 January 2018

Lent Term Starts

Tuesday 2 - Wednesday 3 January 2018

Staff Professional Development Days

Thursday 4 January 2018

Students Return to School

Thursday 11 January 2018

Y9 Progress Evening 4.15 - 6.15pm

Thursday 25 January 2018

Careers Fayre

Tuesday 30 January 2018

Parents Open Forum - 9.30am

Tuesday 30 January 2018

Kitchens of the Globe - Scotland - 12.15pm

Friday 1 February 2018

UKMT Maths Challenge Y9 and Y10

Friday 1 February 2018

Harry Potter Book Night for Y4, 5 and 6

Students - 4.15 - 5.30pm

Monday 5 - Friday 9 February 2018

Y11 Mock Examinations

Monday 12 - Friday 16 February 2018

Half Term

## Safeguarding Update:

Should you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact Mr Lees, Designated Safeguarding Lead, or Miss Marsden, Assistant Safeguarding Lead on 01728 633910 or for more information, please visit [www.saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk](http://www.saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk). Saxmundham Free School's named Local Advisory Body Member is Mrs Pastor.

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## Headteacher's Welcome



**Mr Lees**  
Headteacher

As you will see from the many events featured in this edition of the Voice we have had a busy and exciting first term. The students in Y7 have settled very well and have started their journey at Saxmundham Free School with enthusiasm and a love of learning which is always so good to see.

Y11 have just completed their first set of Mock GCSEs in preparation for the exams in the Summer. Their continued hard work and dedication to achieving their very best will stand them in good stead for the Summer exams. Please help the students to maintain their momentum by encouraging them to use the GCSEPod over the Christmas break.

It really has been a fantastic start to the academic year with so many excellent trips, events and enrichment opportunities for students and we will of course finish the term with our 'Make a Difference Enrichment Day'. Students will once again be involved in a host of activities to support the local community and this year we are combining it with support of Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Appeal.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your on going support and to wish students, staff, parents / carers, LAB members, Trustees and members of the local community a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

I look forward to welcoming students back to school on Thursday 4 January 2018.

Mr Lees, Headteacher

To keep up to date with the latest news and events from the school, please remember that you can follow Saxmundham Free School on twitter: [@SaxmundhamFS](https://twitter.com/SaxmundhamFS).

Please also check our webpage for regular updates, and we now have a brand new Facebook page, just search for Saxmundham Free School on Facebook.

# Christingle

We started the festive season with our Christingle Service, which was held at the school.

Thank you to the Rev Andy Wolton for leading the service which raised awareness and funds for the Children's Society. It was a huge pleasure to see so many of our students perform at the service and our thanks go to Mrs Kirk for organising such a lovely event.



## Why should Oracy be our focus at Saxmundham Free School?

Developing speaking skills is invaluable in building vocabulary and improving accuracy in grammar. Students that can express themselves clearly will have increased self-esteem in their ability to communicate, and as a result will find it easier to manage university interviews, work meetings or challenging debates.

Oracy will be launched within tutor time and study skills. As students strengthen their oracy skills through classroom discussions, they are also being taught how to reason. The more adept they become in reasoning through speech, the more likely they are to engage with other subjects that have their foundations in logical reasoning, such as science and maths.

We prepare our students for work experience in year 10 and one of the traits that employers look for most of all is the ability to communicate with people of all levels. Students who have mastered high quality speaking skills will always be at an advantage; confidence inspires confidence, this can go a long way when looking for work experience and at a job interview.



## Kitchens Of The Globe



It was a delight to welcome so many parents / carers to our Kitchens of the Globe event on the 28 November when the theme of the week was Swedish food.

Our next Kitchens of the Globe event is on the 30 January and will feature food from Scotland. Please call the School Office to book a place if you would like to join your son/ daughter for lunch.

# Year 10 GCSE Geography Fieldwork in the London Docklands

On 22nd November year 10 Geography students went to London to view at first hand the urban renewal of the area that they had been learning about in lessons. Whilst there, students undertook the first of two pieces of fieldwork for their GCSE course, this piece looking at how risk was mitigated in urban environments. Students visited 3 contrasting sites around the London Docklands to carry out a range of surveys and collect the necessary primary data for their investigation. As part of the trip students visited The Crystal which is an interactive exhibition that looks at cities of the future, the problems facing them and the technology that is being developed to overcome them. A trip was then taken on the Emirates Airline cable car so students could get an aerial view of the large scale redevelopment of the London Docklands and great views of the rest of London beyond. After lunch students boarded the Thames Clipper river bus service and travelled down the River Thames to Canary Wharf where students got the chance to view at first hand the huge economic regeneration the area has undergone in recent years.



## Latest Sports Results Round- up

### Netball

Yr 9 lost to Alde Valley, drew  
with Bungay  
Yr10 lost to Alde Valley, lost to  
Bungay  
Drew with Beccles Yr9,10 and  
11

### Football

Yr7 lost to Bungay  
Yr8 lost to Ben Brit, beat  
Stradbroke and Debenham B  
Yr 9 beat Stradbroke and  
Debenham B  
Yr 10 beat Alde Valley  
Yr11 lost to Bungay

### Rugby

Yr 10 beat Alde Valley

## Transition Enrichment, Wednesday Afternoons.

Each Wednesday a small group of students visit different Primary schools to support younger students within their classrooms or listen to students read. Students visit Saxmundham Primary School, Leiston Primary School, Maidstone Road Infants School and Causton Junior School.

“My enrichment is Primary Transition. We go to Primary Schools to help some of the students. I go to a Felixstowe Primary school and listen to Year 4 students read. It helps them to develop their reading skills. I really enjoy this enrichment because I love listening to the younger children read and I like knowing that I am helping them to improve.” Maddison (Year 8)

“As part of my Wednesday Enrichment I go to Leiston Primary School where I help a Year 5 class with their work. I enjoy going, because I get to know some of the students and help them improve. Sometimes I listen to the students read, but, more often, I work with small groups of students with spellings and grammar. I think it is an amazing opportunity and a good experience. I really enjoy my enrichment and am glad that I have had the chance to take part.” Molly (Year 8)





## “SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES”

**Macbeth**  
by Saxmundham Free School  
at Dance East, Ipswich, 14/11/2017  
Appraised by Lucy Brenchley.

I would like to offer sincere thanks and congratulations to Saxmundham Free School for your wonderful production of Macbeth as part of the 2017 Shakespeare Schools Festival. Students and teachers alike have put hard work, imagination, determination and passion into this production, and were a credit to the school. I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight just a few fantastic moments that you should be especially proud of.

- ❖ A hauntingly dramatic eerie opening instantly engulfed us into a world of murder and ambition. The witches speaking as one was a powerful and effective theatrical device creating suitable tension and an ominous sense of foreboding.
- ❖ The use of live music was used to great effect. Those disconcerting discordant tones through to the surprisingly wonderful choice of 'Isn't she lovely' for Lady M's entrance ensured your audience remained in that glorious state of being kept off-balance.
- ❖ Characters were strong and we always sensed the weight of their words and growing unease as the tragic events unfolded.
- ❖ There was absolutely glorious deliverance of dramatic news. I think I will have "Oh horror, horror" ringing through my ears for quite some time now!
- ❖ So many wonderful ensemble stage pictures artistically formed. Those hideous faces appearing through the table cloth at the banquet placed your audience into the spooked out and surprised shoes of Macbeth brilliantly, whilst the final scene of the moving forest was triumphantly executed.

In short this was a mighty, marvellous murderous Macbeth!

Congratulations to everyone involved in this superb production. I hope to see Saxmundham Free School in the Festival again next year.

Lucy Brenchley.

**“IN SHORT THIS WAS A MIGHTY,  
MARVELLOUS MURDEROUS  
MACBETH!”**

## French Play at Woodbridge School



On Thursday 23rd November Year 10 and 11 went to Woodbridge School to watch a French play called 'Mes Chers Voisins'.

It was a really great experience to go to the Seckford Theatre and watch a play with real French actors.

The highlight was watching Sam and Josh take part in the show. We learnt some new French vocabulary and it really helped with our listening skills.

Grace and Carrie-Ann

## History Transition Event

It was a delight to welcome King John (aka Mr Woolven) to our History Transition Event on the 8 November. We were joined by over 100 Y3 students from Behall, ColdFair Green and Trimley primary schools who investigated real life evidence about King John and put him on trial.



# Student Achievements

## Lewis Bowler

During the half-term holiday, Lewis, along with his Grandparents and some other members of his family went for a weeks holiday to Snowdon to celebrate a member of the families remission from Leukaemia after a stem cell transplant in August 2016. Their wish was to try and climb Snowdon again, having done it many times over the last 50 years. The whole family achieved this including Lewis and his 2nd Cousin of the same age. Not only did Lewis do the climb with great enthusiasm and energy, but he helped and encouraged other members of the family that were struggling, so that they were able to reach the summit.



## Mary, Alice & Esther Watts

A fantastic £180 was raised at a Macmillan bake sale. Mary organised and Alice and Esther baked too. Well done girls.

## Hannah Lumb

Hannah recently qualified for the British schools Judo championship in Sheffield in March next year, where she will represent Saxmundham Free School. Hannah got a gold in her weight group and had two other contests in the next group up.



## Abigail Dunnett

Abigail Dunnett along with her friend Marta were entered into a poetry competition at the end of the last school year at Langer Primary and they have both been short listed for prizes, they have been invited to attend a workshop with a local poet and an award presentation at Halesworth Arts centre.

## Guy Comber

Guy attended the Suffolk Armed Forces event at Felixstowe. He acted as a representative (public relations) for Felixstowe Volunteer Coast Patrol Rescue Service and showed fantastic confidence in his role.

## Dudley Cartwright-Jones

Dudley has been awarded his fixed wing model airplane certificate - British Model Airplane Association.

# Lest We Forget

To commemorate Armistice Day the students and cadets from Saxmundham Free School took part in acts of remembrance within the communities of Saxmundham and Kelsale.

Acts of remembrance were held at the Saxmundham memorial on Saturday the 11th and at St Mary and St Peter's Church, Kelsale on Sunday 12th, which saw high numbers of the local community attend.

This year saw some firsts for Saxmundham free school. For the first time we saw a diverse mixture of cadets parade together from different youth organisations. On Saturday the combined cadet force were joined by cadets from 1379 (Leiston) squadron Air Training Corps and St John Ambulance. In addition our head boy, William Baines came down to represent Saxmundham Free School and laid our wreath on our behalf.

In addition, this year cadets from Saxmundham CCF, LCpl Rowan-Mitchell-Cotts, Cdt Tanisha Hall and Cdt Craig Ling, carried the F-Group and Saxmundham standards, performing acts of homage with precision and professionalism. For the Sunday remembrance service in Kelsale we were joined from youth organisations from across the area. The sight of sea cadets, scouts, guides, brownies, police cadets and St John Ambulance cadets was a proud and respectful sight.

There was a proud sense of community amongst everyone, as for a few short moments we all came together to remember those who gave their lives so that we could live ours. We will remember them.

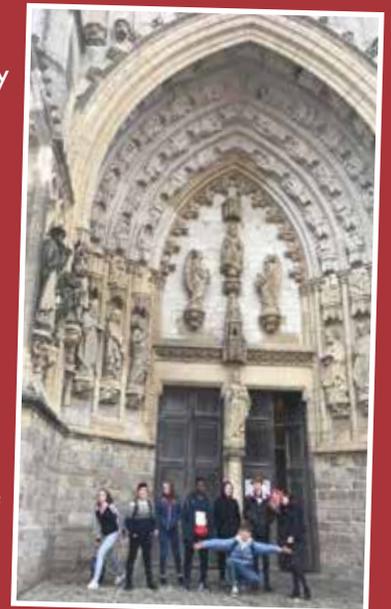
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Saxmundham CCF

Craig Ling commented "It was a proud moment and I was glad to play my part in the parade".

## Trip to Montruiel sur Mer

On the 6 December 40 students went to Montrueil Sur le Mer for a cultural trip. They travelled to France via the Channel Tunnel and the first stop was a tour of a French chocolate factory, where students learnt about the chocolate making process and had a demonstration of how many different popular types of French chocolates are made. Students also got a chance to sample the products and buy some from the shop to give as Christmas presents (or eat themselves!). They then travelled to the historic medieval town of Montrueil where students had a tour of the town walls, completed French activities and then had some free time to explore the town centre on their own. The town is a popular tourist destination with French people as its history stretches back to Roman times, was a major centre of industry in medieval times, was the head quarters of General Haig and the British Army in the First World War and was the setting for the well know musical Les Mesirables. Before returning to the Channel Tunnel students had the opportunity to visit a shopping complex in Boulogne where they could purchase French items to bring home and have an evening meal.



# Girls STEM Trip



On the 29 November five girls from Y10 went to UEA for a Women of the Future Conference. The girls had a great day listening to inspirational women from the field of STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) including Dr Emily Grossman and Dr Manjit Dosanjh who works at CERN. The students also had the opportunity to speak to a variety of STEM career exhibitors.

A brief highlight of comments from students can be seen below.

- "The day was very inspiring and fun. I hope to have more opportunities like this"
- "I have a better idea with what I want to do with my future and what road to take"
- "Today has been very useful and I hope to do more similar in the future"

# CTC Chess Success

Many congratulations to the Saxmundham Chess Team who won the Cross Trust tournament by a narrow margin of 6 points.

There was an excellent atmosphere in a very time challenged tournament. Saxmundham students were fantastic ambassadors for the school. Thank you to Ixworth Free School who were excellent hosts.

Morgana Wilkinson was joint top player in Year 7, Petra Colchester was top player in Year 8, Kacper Sleboda was top player in Year 9 and Rowan Mitchell-Cotts was top player in Year 10.

The Christmas carol singing on the way home did not quite match the standards set in the tournament!



## Contact us...

We welcome your feedback, news and comments.

Email us: [enquiries@saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk)



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