

SAXMUNDHAM

voice

December edition

> CTC - Winter Games Results

> Poppy comes to Life at Saxmundham
Free School

> Christmas Events

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



SAXMUNDHAM
FREE SCHOOL

"Providing a foundation for life."



Headteacher's Welcome

David Lees | Headteacher

As we approach the end of the first term, it is an opportunity to look back and reflect on all that has been achieved since September and look forward to the exciting times ahead.

I have been extremely impressed with the way Year 7 students have taken to life at Saxmundham Free School, they really do bring an energy and positivity that is infectious throughout the school. It is lovely to see how the Year 7/8 and Year 8/9 groups have gelled together, resulting in a thriving learning environment which is seeing some fantastic progress being made. Year 10 have just completed their mock examinations and it is with real pride that we can celebrate their levels of attainment in each subject as well as the amount of progress they have made in these subjects since starting at the school. At the time of writing, Year 11 are busy revising for their mock examinations. These exams will give them a real indicator of where they are on their progress journey and what they need to do next to achieve their end goal.

I am very much looking forward to meeting Year 11 parent / carers on Thursday 11 December at 4:30pm in the Daley Hall. This will be an opportunity to talk to teachers and their tutor as students open their results envelope.

It has been another excellent Autumn (Michaelmas) Term at Saxmundham Free School, full of so many trips, events, enrichment activities and wonderful learning. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the following Winter Celebration Events and to wish everyone a truly restful and enjoyable festive season.

- Thursday 4 December 2014 –
Christingle Service at 5pm in St. John's Church (all welcome)
- Friday 5 December 2014 –
Friends of Saxmundham Free School Christmas Fayre 4:15 – 6pm (all welcome)
- Tuesday 16 December 2014 –
Christmas Lunch & Winter Celebration (students only)

Twitter – Please remember that you can follow Saxmundham Free School on twitter: @SamundhamFS. Please also check our webpage for regular news and events updates.

Are computer games a bad influence on teenagers?

By Francesca Patient

Students in Year 7/8a have been studying magazine writing this term in English. For their final assessment, they were invited to write an editorial piece on gaming for the 'Saxmundham Voice'. The winning entry, by Francesca Patient, Year 7, is reproduced below. Francesca, researched, planned and wrote this article herself.

In my view computer games are bad. Children are exposed to violent worlds and may bring those worlds back into their own lives. However, some people argue that computer games help children with severe illnesses by causing a cognitive distraction. Read on to find out what your verdict is.

The killing of a fourteen year boy was a brutal one. Stephen Ford's murder was inspired by a game called 'Crime Spree.' His killer followed him to a London park then beat him to death. Despite this, only a few high street shops took the game off their shelves after the killing. This is a tragic way of showing how a young person's life can be taken over by a violent video game. Yet, still companies are releasing violent, harmful games onto the market.

Many young people feel the urge to buy and play video games as a result of addictive behaviour. I personally know the effect of addiction to game playing. My friend has an addiction to playing Minecraft. Not only does this damage your eyes but it also damages your friendship. Children will stop going out and stay in playing their computer games, which is not good for them.

Furthermore, computer games can lead to obesity and aggressive behaviour. If children are sitting down and playing their computer games all day they will eventually become unhealthy and overweight.

However, it is important to take into account that some video games can be beneficial for some children. Children with severe illnesses, such as cancer, use video games as a form of cognitive distraction. For example, an eight year old boy who kept picking his lip was able to use his hands for playing video games instead. Consequently, two weeks later the affected area had healed. It is important to note that computer games, used well, can have real advantages for people's health.

Overall, I don't think computer games should be banned, but should have much tighter regulation. That way children can still have fun playing games, whilst being safe without violence. What do you think?

Winter Games Results



It was lovely to be able to welcome Ixworth and Beccles Free Schools to the inaugural Cross Trust Challenge Winter Games. A superb event enjoyed by all the students, with every competitor giving their all. The commitment shown in testing conditions underfoot was excellent.

Congratulations to Ixworth on their excellent victory. The lasting memory for me was the fantastic running by the Year 9 student from Ixworth on the last leg, he was amazing – 'like a machine'. Our training for next year's event starts tomorrow!

Thanks again, hope to see you soon for the next event.
Mr Baillie, Mrs Reed and Mr Renwick

RESULTS:

Year 7 Girls: 1st- BFS 2nd- IFS 3rd- SFS

Year 7 Boys: 1st- SFS 2nd- IFS 3rd- BFS

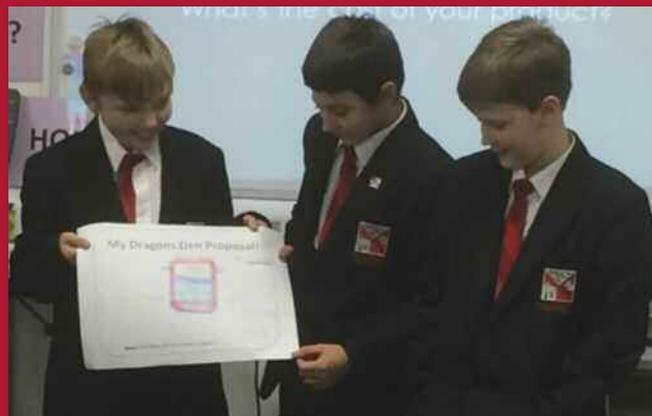
Year 8 Girls: 1st- BFS 2nd- IFS 3rd- SFS

Year 8 Boys: 1st- IFS 2nd- BFS 3rd- SFS

Year 9 Girls: 1st- IFS 2nd- BFS 3rd- SFS

Year 9 Boys: 1st- IFS 2nd- BFS 3rd- SFS

Student Take Over Day



Friday 21 November 2014 was National Student Take Over Day and Chloe O'Dwyer and Aimee Winter (Year 9) "Took Over" the planning and teaching of Year 7 Resistant Materials.

They planned a Dragon's Den activity where they asked Year 7s to look at existing Dragon's Den products and mind map the inventions they could think of.

The girls were very creative with their suggestions and the Year 7s came up with fantastic ideas for new products including a flying iPhone and a walking talking coffee machine.

Each student had lots of questions to think about when designing including what their products unique selling point was and who were the target market?

The girls completely took over with all the planning and the running of the whole lesson and did incredibly well. The year 7s were so engaged and enthusiastic with the Year 9 girls and what they were teaching. It was so nice to see.







Student Focus

Jenny Roberts

A Focus on our 6Cs Confidence

Well done to the students who have been awarded a Saxmundham Super Hero badge this month. At Saxmundham Free School we believe that confidence is a key to success. Students are expected to:

- With the help of appropriate staff, develop confidence in their abilities and a belief in themselves and what they can achieve;
- Have high aspirations and the confidence that they can achieve those aspirations;
- Have the confidence to ask questions, find out more and report anything which is stopping them learning, achieving or making progress.

To help boost the students' confidence the school had a week of activities focusing on Anti-Bullying from the 17-21 November 2014. Safe places were created around the school during break and lunchtimes and the students made badges with their own anti-bullying slogans which students and staff wore all week.

A number of students took part in the Big Sing at Snape Maltings on the 28 November 2014. This was a special event which comprised of a Friday Afternoons songbook in recognition of the Britten Centenary. This has taken Britten's arrangements of folk songs as a starting point, and included new works commissioned from an eclectic group of composers, whose influences range from classical and folk to jazz and Indian music. We were very excited for our school choir to be a part of this international event broadcast live to over 15 countries which will help to build their confidence in performing to the public. To view this fantastic event please go to fridayafternoonsmusic.co.uk/watch-live and select 12pm Aldeburgh Music.



Our student focus for this month is Jenny Roberts in Year 7. Jenny Roberts has had to undergo extensive hospital treatment at Ipswich Hospital and has recently been selected to be one of their 'Inspirational People'. This project aims to

show children going through the hospital process images and stories about other 'Inspirational People' who have previously been through the experience.

The School Room at Ipswich Hospital said: *"In the Schoolroom of the Hospital Paediatric wards we have vibrant and stimulating displays. One of our boards we decided to dedicate to the celebration of some of the amazing people who we have had the honour of teaching. Thus the idea of 'Inspirational People' came about."*

Jenny is one of those young people who is inspirational to all of us. Despite huge difficulties she continued her daily living as normally as she could – which, of course, included coming to school.

We often use her as an example to inspire other pupils to achieve their best. Well done Jenny! "

If this wasn't inspirational enough, Mr Lees also received the following email last month:

*"Dear Mr Lees,
As an old woman living alone I am extremely fortunate in all my neighbours, but none more so than Jenny Roberts, who from time to time helps in my garden but has recently taken to providing me, about once a week, with excellent tasty meals which she has cooked herself. This has been greatly appreciated.
Sincerely,*

Ruth Bond"

We are immensely proud of Jenny who has been awarded a Saxmundham Hero Badge this month.



Student Reading Mentors

and I would really, really, really
LIKE to live in a tree house, so he
built one for us?

What was the answer is? Of course. It's a
The tree house is connected to the main house
by a wooden walkway that wiggles across to the
main hallway. We have a dangly rope bridge
down to the ground. (There are wooden stairs
too, but the rope is a lot more fun.)
There is even a small porch. Zak is there
and a big porch. Then there's me, Tilly - I'm
at a big porch at all. Oh, and I want



Student volunteers from Year 8, 9 and 11 have recently become 'Reading Mentors'. The aim of this project is to support Year 7 students who struggle with reading and provide them with one to one support to improve both their understanding and enthusiasm. We hope to support key students to improve their reading ages and by extension to provide them with a solid foundation in reading by the end of their first year of secondary school.

The mentors all volunteered for the project and have displayed tremendous willingness to help their peers. They have received training in supporting other students to learn to read, in which they showed great maturity and commitment.

Mentors have been 'matched' with a Year 7 student to whom they provide one to one support in sessions which take place every Friday. In the sessions mentors work intensively with their mentees to help them choose and read a book. They have developed skills in helping students break down difficult words and are also able to support them with their wider understanding of the text.

These skills in 'decoding' and comprehension are vital for students to be able to access the secondary school curriculum, and enjoy the pleasure of being a life-long reader.

The year 7 mentees have been extremely enthusiastic about having an 'older student' to support them and sessions have gone well. One year 7 commented in a feedback sessions 'I want to thank my mentor for being patient and kind and funny and for helping me'. This was after just two sessions!

We are hoping that all the Year 7s will improve their reading age by the end of the year. This complements our work on ERIC (Everybody Reads in Class) and will help those students that find reading difficult to enjoy this aspect of life at Saxmundham, as well as enable to them to make progress across the curriculum

Our reading mentors are: Sophie Appleton, Lauren Childs, Megan Gayler, Mominul Hassan, Emily Hogben, Campion Mitchell-Cotts, Chloe O'Dwyer, Edward Paulley, Lewis Pinion, Jemma Reynolds, Tammy Mitchell-Cotts and Alexandra Paulley.



In January we will be expanding our use of ParentPay in the hope that this will make matters simpler and easier for all. We will no longer accept cash or cheques in school and we will ask that all school trips, peri music lessons etc are paid using the ParentPay system that we currently use for the payment of school lunches. A new 'Payment item' will appear in your Parent pay account detailing the relevant trip etc and the amount to be paid. Further details will be sent to you once the system is launched.

Christingle

Thursday 4 December at 5pm



On Thursday 4 December 2014 we will be holding a Christingle Service at St John's Church Saxmundham from 5pm. The service is to celebrate the work of the Children's Society and the efforts made by them to bring light and hope to children living in poverty.

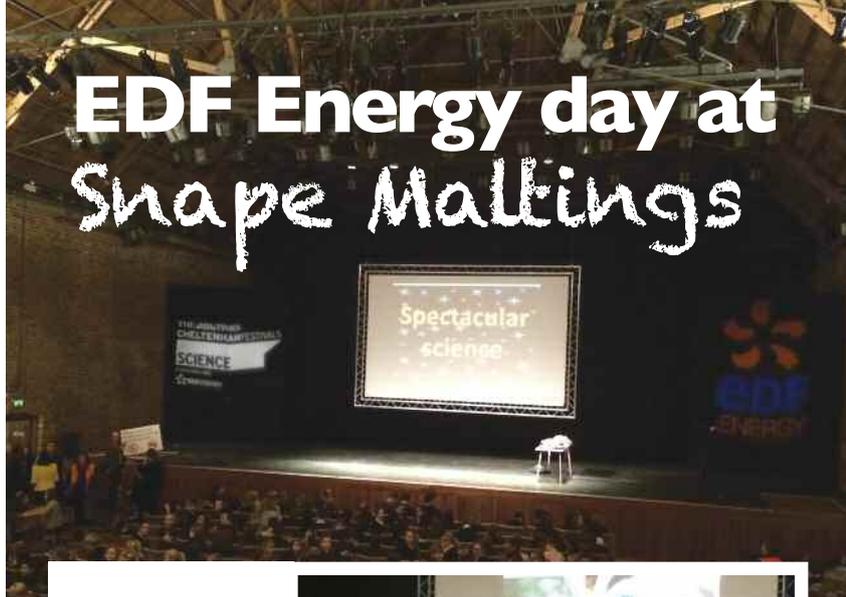
Some of our students will be singing and reading in the service and there will be a special performance from the staff choir. Please come along to the service and helps us raise awareness of the fantastic work of the Children's Society.

Y10 Trip to the Anna Airy Exhibition

On the 24 November 2014 the Y10 Art group went to the Waterfront at UCS to see an exhibition by Anna Airy, war artist. An exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War, through the works of Anna Airy. Anna Airy was one of the first women officially commissioned as a war artist and was recognised as one of the leading women artists of her generation.

An artist of international standing Anna Airy was also very active in education and promoting young talent. She taught at Ipswich Art School and on her death endowed the Anna Airy Award for promising young student artists. Ipswich Art Society, of which she was the president, has organised the Anna Airy Award Exhibition for the past 50 years and it will be on display in the Waterfront Foyer, UCS from the 13 November to 1 December 2014.

As past president of the Ipswich Art Society our own Mr Casey gave a lecture on the life and works of Anna Airy and the students were able to view some of Anna Airy's works.



On the 26 November 2014 the whole of KS3 went to the EDF energy day at Snape Maltings. Students spent the morning in the auditorium and had a presentation on endangered animals and material science.

"There was a big stage and a huge screen with a powerpoint on. On the powerpoint it said the names of all the schools who were there and when it said Saxmundham Free School everybody from the school cheered very loud" said Evie Salter Year 8.

The students voted the Blobfish the "Ugliest Animal in the World".

By lucky coincidence when 3 students were chosen to go onto the stage Champion Mitchell-Cotts Year 9 was chosen from Saxmundham Free School together with a student from Beccles Free School and one from Woodbridge School. How fantastic to have a student from 3 Seckford Foundation Schools on stage at this event!

Lab live Review by Charlie Taylor in Saxmundham Free School (Year 8)

We all went to Snape Maltings today and watched Lab Live it was very interesting as we learnt about animals in danger and also the sometimes boring stuff, wasn't boring, as we learnt it in a fun way! The one thing I would ask them to change for next time, was to make it a little shorter as we sat for a long time. However, it was still a really fun school trip, even if there wasn't any refreshments in the interval. Thanks for taking us.