



# A year at Saxmundham Free School...

Welcome to this very special edition of the Saxmundham Voice, which is the first one ever to be written, edited and produced by our students.

They have put together this edition to give you an insight into what a year at Saxmundham Free School looks and feels like.

Hopefully you are reading this because you have an interest in joining our school and the next few pages will help to answer some of the questions you might have about starting a new high school.

I look forward to seeing you at our Open Evening on the 8 October 2015, but for now I will hand you over to our student editorial team!

**Mr Lees (Headteacher)**



## Student Takeover Edition!



**SAXMUNDHAM**  
FREE SCHOOL

*"Providing a foundation for life"*

## What are the lessons like?

What is your favourite subject? Whether you enjoy honing your maths skills, expressing your thoughts through writing, music or art, or having a kick about on the pitch, there is always something for you to do and enjoy at Saxmundham Free School. Below is an explanation for some of the subjects we have here...

### **Creative**

These subjects require you to show your creative flair in three different classes; **music**, where you can show off your passion for writing or playing music; **art**, where you can add a splash of colour to your brand new masterpiece; and **Technology**, where you can design a new project, cook up a wonder or carve a product, all in 3 hours!

### **English**

English at Saxmundham Free School is a little more advanced than what you're used to at primary school, but it's still fun! We analyse books, write scripts, and sometimes read out our work to the class, or the whole school. We have in-depth discussions almost every lesson, but we still have the good old basics, reading, writing and spellings.

### **PE**

Don't expect a kick about every lesson in PE at Saxmundham! We learn and play everything from hockey to dance, from basketball to gymnastics, and athletics to dodgeball! Oh, and not forgetting football!

### **Languages**

Bonjour! Do you like languages? Learn brand new words, pronunciation, and structure in almost every lesson, plus have real conversations and explore languages in real life situations. J'adore MFL!

### **Maths**

In maths, we have covered many different areas including: algebra, sequences, angle facts, decimals, percentages and fractions. These lessons are fun and, although they are a bit more challenging than at primary school, the teachers make them easier to understand. On top of this we also have school trips that involve maths like the trip to Banham Zoo, where we followed a maths trail around the zoo.

### **Science**

Our Science topics have included things like the pH scale, soils, metals, sound and light waves and beach litter (see the trips section for more details). The teachers we have make science lessons very enjoyable - even for people who don't usually like the subject!

## Making friends

Even knowing that I had people in my class that were going to the same school as me, I still felt a little nervous about joining high school and making friends. I knew that my friends who were going to a different school alone found it terrifying. Whether you are alone or not, making friends here is so easy. At the moment, our school is smaller than others, and this affects our social habits. It's so amazing here as everyone knows our names (even the teachers), and everyone is so friendly. It was so easy settling into lessons, even if I didn't know everyone!

At the beginning of Year 6, I attended one school, and then in that October, I moved to a completely different school in the area. Up until Year 7, things were cool, as I had made new friends. Then when I moved to Saxmundham Free School, most of my old friends were already attending this school. I was worried and scared that they had moved on and forgotten about me, and because I had missed out on so much, it definitely seemed that way at first. But within the first week, I was able to catch up, and we were as good as best friends. This is how easy things can be if you come here. I know you will feel welcome here.



By Grace in Y7

## Student Roles



Imagine being like a teacher, with all the responsibilities of an adult. At Saxmundham Free School, you can be just like a teacher, but still be a child, with our student roles system. You can be a student ambassador for the day (everybody will get a chance to do this), where you help the school office and be like a worker for the school; Prefects, who you've probably all heard about, and are allowed to be like mini (maybe not so small) teachers, and who do some tasks day to day; and the king and queen of all student roles, the Head Boy and Girl, who have similar tasks to prefects, but represent the school a lot more. Oh, and who could forget being a student at Saxmundham Free School! Even if your job is only small, you still represent the school in more ways than one.

By William in Y7

## PSHE

PSHE is a subject which we do not get tested or levelled in. We cover many topics like anti-bullying, alcohol, puberty, anti-smoking and sex education. We usually make things like posters, collages and leaflets at the end of a topic.

## Drama

Drama is when we get to express ourselves through acting. We write scripts and monologues, then we act with already written scenarios and ones that we have made up ourselves. Sometimes we even have set character traits.

## Humanities

Humanities is just a formal word for 3 subjects - History, Geography, and Philosophy and Ethics (aka RE with a few differences). These subjects are not ones that you would come across too much in primary school. They are also really fun and we sometimes make models in history. The only homework we get from these subjects is every half term and we either do a History or Geography project.

## Teachers

Our teachers are not quite like your primary school teachers as we have a different class and teacher for each lesson. The teachers are all very kind, are approachable and helpful; our teachers are really just like an extended family. You can have a favourite teacher. For example my favourites are part of the maths team. Our teachers treat us like adults and always push us to do more.

By William and Carrie-Ann in Y7

# Enrichment...

By Grace in Y7

In our school, the teachers encourage us to make choices of activities that will prepare us for everyday life, and help us to learn outside of the classroom. This is called Enrichment. For two hours on Wednesday afternoons, our school trades in ordinary lessons for more practical activities that will 'enrich' our understanding of other useful skills! We at Saxmundham Free School are lucky to have this, as well as our other schools in the Trust.

The type of activities you can get involved with include:

**School Production**  
(half a year)



**Duke of Edinburgh**  
(from Year 10 onwards)



**Grow it, Cook it, Eat it**





**CCF** (from Year 9 onwards)



**Young Enterprise**



**Song Writing**



**Art Therapy**



**Sports**



**Running Club, Lego and Minecraft, Outdoor Adventure and many, many more!**



## **Trips**

Our teachers want the best out of us and to learn as much as possible and to do that, we can't just sit in classrooms, writing until our hands fall off! To encourage us to get out and about, the school organizes lots of trips, and I mean a lot. I have had about six trips so far in year seven, with more to come before summer! These trips can include beach cleans, trips abroad - maybe to France or Germany - or trips to the zoo. All our trips are based on education, such as the beach clean (Science), Banham Zoo (Maths) and lots more. But what are school trips without the fun? Our trips are always fun, even if they are educational! These trips help with real life situations, rather than just revising five years for GCSEs. I definitely think that if you decide to join, you will love the trips.

**By Grace in Y7**

## **Saxmundham Free School Restaurant**

We are privileged to go to a school with such clean and high quality eating facilities that we can rely on to provide us with sizable and nutritious meals. These are a few of the things students thought about our restaurant:

- 'I love the variety of food available and how nice it is.' - Finley Y8
- 'I don't think that the fact you can't have packed lunch is a bad thing as there is such a variety of food available.' Leyton Y9.
- 'I like how friendly the kitchen staff are.' – Natasha Y7
- 'The food is nice and the restaurant is clean' Max Y7

This is just a small number of compliments the students of Saxmundham Free School have towards our fabulous restaurant and we don't doubt that these thoughts will soon be your own too.

**By Alex and Barney in Y7**



## Cross Trust Competitions

Saxmundham Free School is a part of the Seckford Foundation Free Schools Trust, along with another two schools, Ixworth Free School and Beccles Free School.

Between our three schools we have regular competitions, we call these Cross Trust Competitions (or CTC for short).

Cross Trust Competitions involve many different subjects in school, for example, below are some of the competitions we do:



World Book Day (English), Fame Lab (Science), The Trust Bake Off (Food Technology), Summer Showcase (Music) and Chess (Maths / P.E). All of these competitions are great fun to take part in, and it's good to compete against the other schools.



There are also sports games and tournaments throughout the year for those who would prefer, for example, there are Netball Tournaments, Cross Country Events, Football Matches, Rugby Games.

### **And... the biggest CTC of them all, Champions day!**

Champions day is different to the rest of the challenges. After all three schools have had their individual sports days, the two winners from each event will then go and compete at Woodbridge School in their winning event against Ixworth and Beccles Free School to try and be crowned champions!

We hope to see you win a Cross Trust Challenges of your own one day!



**By Scarlett  
and Emma in  
Y7**

## Twitter



Saxmundham Free School

@saxmundhamfs

1,139  
Tweets

78  
Following

273  
Followers

Tweets:



@saxmundhamfs

Saxmundham Free School has a great twitter account full of information and updates on all that has been happening in and around school.



@saxmundhamfs

Mr Lees (The Headteacher) regularly updates and posts pictures to the school's page to show you what's going on.



@saxmundhamfs

Our twitter feed includes information and images about trips and outings, lessons, exams and much, much more!



@saxmundhamfs

To access our school twitter feed, all you need to do is visit our website homepage ([www.saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk](http://www.saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk)) and click the twitter icon.

**Follow us @saxmundhamfs**

## Community

Saxmundham Free School may not be the biggest in size, but the key priority for our school is community, part of our six Cs to success. As small as we may seem, we treat each other as one big family. For example, if you needed someone to talk to, you could speak to a teacher as they are always, whoever they are, easy to approach and speak to. As Year 7s we were the newest addition to SFS, it was sometimes a bit difficult to talk to anyone, as we knew nobody, but once we were settled down we could speak to any of the teachers with ease. We soon all became comfortable with them, put our trust into them and could get help with what we – or a friend – needed.



If an act that is considered to be based around community takes place, a Hero Badge may be awarded. A community based act can range from helping a friend, to volunteering, to helping tidy up a classroom. Helping the community can also mean helping people in the neighbourhood or town. This can vary from bag packing at the local supermarket, to making our coasts a better and cleaner place to be. Lots of children tend to help with assemblies as well as the teachers and our work can make a big impact as it is made into a presentation that you can listen to and enjoy.

Maybe this will get you a Hero Badge?

**By Rosie and Renee in Y7**

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

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**Save the date!  
Open Evening  
8 October 2015**