

SAXMUNDHAM

voice

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

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- > Cross Trust Competition - Winter Games
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Headteacher

COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE

CO-OPERATION CHALLENGE

COMMITMENT

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

SAXMUNDHAM
FREE SCHOOL

"Providing a foundation for life"

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www.saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk

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

Dates for your

Diary

Wednesday 3 December 2015

Winter Music Showcase - Christingle

Thursday 4 December 2015

Number Day

Tuesday 8 December 2015

Cross Trust Competition - Lightning Chess

Wednesday 9 December 2015

Continental Christmas Market Trip To France /
Belgium

Wednesday 9 December 2015

Parents Open Forum

Friday 11 December 2015

Friends of Saxmundham Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 15 December 2015

School Christmas Lunch

Friday 18 December 2015

Christmas Enrichment Day

Friday 18 December 2015

End of Term

Tuesday 5 January 2016

Students Back to School

Monday 11 - Tuesday 12 January 2016

Y11 SLT Interviews

Wednesday 13 January 2016

Year 9 Progress Evenings

Monday 18 January 2016

Verb Day 3

Tuesday 19 January 2016

Parents Open Forum

Wednesday 20 January 2016

Y11 Progress Evening

Wednesday 20 January 2016

Friends of Saxmundham Free School Meeting

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to our first edition of the Saxmundham Voice for this school year! It has been a really positive start to year with all 49 of our leaving Year 11 GCSE students successfully gaining a place at their Post-16 provision and 100 students joining us in Year 7 from over 30 different primary schools.



Mr Lees
Headteacher

In school, students have been involved in a whole variety of learning opportunities, including two Cross Trust Competitions against Ixworth and Beccles, numerous sporting fixtures, trips, Champions Challenges, Inter-House Competitions and other extra-curricular events.

We have also welcomed over 500 Year 6 students with their parent / carers to our Open Evening and 45 Year 6 parents / carers to our 5 Open Mornings. In addition to this over 200 Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students have attended our transition events in History, PE, Science, English, Maths and Creative. It has been lovely to write 169 Headteachers Praise Postcards to the students who have achieved 100% attendance in the first half term. I am also pleased to introduce Ms Robinson to the Modern Foreign Languages Team.

I hope that you enjoy reading this edition of the Saxmundham Voice as we start our new academic year. All of the activities in and outside of school ensure that the students at Saxmundham Free School develop a love of learning in all that they do, as well as continuing to develop their own 6Cs to Success (Cooperation, Commitment, Confidence, Community, Challenge and Celebration). All of these aspects underpin the ethos of the school, and ensure that Saxmundham Free School is a unique and fantastic place for students to learn.

Safeguarding Update:

Should you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact Mr Lees, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Mrs Gibson, Assistant Safeguarding Lead on 01728 633910 or for more information please visit www.saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk/safeguarding
Saxmundham Free School's named safeguarding governor is Mrs Pastor.

Transition Events

Open Evening and Mornings

We have had a busy start to the year welcoming many Y5 and 6 students to the school for our Transition days and to our Open Evening and Open Mornings.

I was particularly pleased to see so many prospective students and their parents / carers at the Open Evening on the 8 October 2015.

There was a fantastic atmosphere in school that evening, which was in large part due to the enthusiasm and hard work of the 130 current students who proudly stayed late to help with all the activities and talk to prospective students.

The comments on the feedback forms (below) speak for themselves. Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a successful evening.

'This is a lovely School. I was impressed with the student's manners. People are really friendly. I feel that I would fit in here. I don't usually like new places or people but I felt comfortable here!'-Ross Y6

'Brilliant Open Evening, very informative and encouraging for the prospective pupils and reassuring for parents.'

'School looks impressive and clean! The students were all very helpful and gave the school a positive feel.'

'Friendly, relaxed school-our favourite.'

'Great enthusiasm from the students-very informative'



Kitchens of the Globe

Vietnam and Japan

We enjoyed welcoming 30 parents / carers to our Kitchens of the Globe Vietnam meal on the 29 October 2015. Once again our chef, Mr Bounit and his team prepared a fabulous lunch



which included Vietnamese Noodle Soup and Pandan Pancakes. Our next Kitchens of the Globe day is on the Tuesday 1 December 2015 and will feature food from Japan.

NHS event at Trinity Park

On the 22 September 2015 our Y10 students attended a NHS event at Trinity Park; the students had the opportunity to visit a number of careers stands and speak to specialists from within the NHS. The students were then taken to round tables where they were sat with at least one GP and a student from the NHS youth organisation, they were guided through a variety of activities about depression, healthy eating, drugs and general health with their specialists on the tables and then publicly presented their ideas back to each other and the other groups.

Twitter

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

Enrichment

What's been happening this term?





CTC – Winter Games

The second Cross Trust Competition of the year was the Winter Games held at Beccles. This is an endurance competition with students completing a range of skills whilst running a cross country course.

In very challenging conditions students from Saxmundham did amazing well finishing second in most of the age groups, which meant that this year's champions were Beccles Free School. Well done to them and all the students below who took part.

Year 7: Lauryn, Claudine, Tandy, Skye, Chloe, Stuart, Alex, Malin, Charlie

Year 8: Maisie, Danica, Molly, Vicky, Dale, Justin, Dan H, Rowan

Year 9: Yasmin, Jasmine, Angel, Evie, Archie, Aidan, Brandon, Liam



Halloween Bake Off!



On Saturday 31 October 2015 a number of students entered a Halloween Bake Off competition at the Bell in Saxmundham. Many thanks to Jonny Nicholson at the Bell and to Waitrose who also sponsored the event. Once again the judges were amazed at the level of skill and creativity of the students. Congratulations to Taryn

Howard who won first prize and to Amy Rowe and Alice Cosgrove who were well deserved runners up.



Cross Trust Challenge Poetry Event

The first Cross Trust Competition for all students belonging to The Seckford Foundation Free Schools Trust was linked to National Poetry Day. The competition held across all three schools had the theme 'light' and produced some amazing entries. The judging is taking place as we go to print and I will bring you news of the winners in our next edition of the Saxmundham Voice.

Congratulations!

To Owen Barker for achieving a 'Highly Commended' for his poem 'I wonder why' which he entered into this year's Suffolk Young Poets Competition. From the 1695 entries Owen was one of only 10 Highly Commended, a fantastic achievement of which we are all very proud.

Celebration Evening

Exam Results

Thank you to all parents / carers and students who attended our Celebration Evening on the 18 September. It was a delight to see our special guest Mr Joel Semakula present so many well deserved awards to our current and past Y11 students.

Particular congratulations go to:

- **Tom Lee and Tamarisk Mitchell-Cotts** who received the **Award for Outstanding Progress**
- **Alexandra Paulley** who was awarded the **Seckford Foundation Cup**
- **Jorden Bagstaff** who received the **Watson Cup**

Many thanks to Mr Joel Semakula for his fascinating and inspirational speech.

It was a great pleasure to witness students at Saxmundham Free School celebrating their GCSE results this summer.

Whilst we are well aware that the headline statistics (at 30% 5+A*-C grades with English and Maths) are not where we would like them to be, there were a lot of wonderful results to celebrate and share with students.

Students in Year 11 last year were only with us for three years and on entry were 45% and 55% below where they should have been for their literacy and numeracy levels (respectively) when compared to other students nationally. Despite their low starting points, our students did amazingly well to complete five years of education in this time. **Strong results were achieved across a wide range of different subject areas with A*-C Art 77% A*-C PE 75%, Chemistry 63% A*-C, Biology 59% A*-C, French A*-C 51% and Physics 100% A*-C** (with a smaller cohort). Despite all the challenges, students have made **Nationally Expected Progress in only three years at Saxmundham Free School, which is fantastic and as Headteacher I am extremely proud.**



Careers Fair and Post-16 Evening

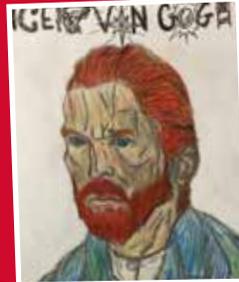
As part of our Aspire Programme and Post-16 pathways provision, we held a Careers Fair and Further Education Evening on the 14 October 2015. This was an excellent opportunity for students to meet employers from a wide variety of careers and training providers, to discuss career options and to encourage students to aspire to be the very best that they can be. We would like to extend our thanks to:

Army/ Karen Beard - **BT/** Ellie/ Higher Apprentice - **Charity Sector/** Judi Newman - **Early Years/** Maria Owen, Sutton Heath Childcare Centre - **Event Management/** Laura Locke, UCS Course Leader and Senior Lecturer - **Pharmacist/** Sarah Galley - **Solicitor/** Sara Eaton, DWF, Head of European Division (heading lawyers and translators) - **Suffolk Young Farmers/** Tori Lugsden - **Catering/** Nick Bounit - **Creative Technology/** The Cut, Rob Vaughan (including IT) - **Construction/** Tim Lock, Willmott Dixon (and careers in civil engineering) - **NHS/** Tracey Whale (wide spectrum of careers) - **Nuclear/** Roger Barge EDF Energy

The evening event involved post-16 providers from Woodbridge School, Farlingaye, Thomas Mills, Otley College, Suffolk One, North Suffolk Skills Academy, Lowestoft College, Lowestoft 6th Form and Alde Valley Academy, who all gave a short presentation about the opportunities and successes in their sixth form to students and parent / carers.

Art and Design

I find it is always a real pleasure to walk around lessons and see students learning in a whole variety of ways. Over the last few weeks I have taken a particular interest in Art. Last year students in Art & Design GCSE performed fantastically well with 77% achieving an A*- C grade; so I have included some photos of the work that I have seen, to share with you the creative talent that I have the privileged to witness each day at Saxmundham Free School.



Aspire Programme - Year 7 PEP Photos

Every student at Saxmundham Free School will complete and own a Personal Education Plan (PEP). They will write their PEP with their Form Tutor and use it to celebrate their achievements, highlight areas to work on and strategies to help, as well as looking at post-16 and career aspirations. The PEP will then be developed throughout the student's time at school; reflecting and reporting on their educational journey. I would like to welcome our 100 Year 7 students to Saxmundham Free School. The photos show their PEP photographs and career aspirations.

