

SAXMUNDHAM

# voice

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

> June 2016 Edition

> Y7 Are Cleaning up The Coast

> Commemorating the 'Battle of the Somme'

> French Immersion Day at Norwich City F.C

> UCS Bring Virtual Reality into School

> Olympic Athlete Inspires Our Students



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**

Monday 6 - Friday 10 June 2016

KS3 Exams Week

Thursday 9 June 2016

Y10 MFL Controlled Assessment

Saturday 11 June 2016

Bake-Off Competition at the Bell Hotel Saxmundham

Monday 13 - Friday 17 June 2016

Y10 Exams Week

Tuesday 14 June 2016

Parents Open Forum 9am - 10am

Thursday 16 June 2016

Y8 Geography Trip to Felixstowe

Tuesday 21 June 2016

Y11 Leavers Assembly and KS3 Exam Results

Wednesday 22 June 2016

Y5 Maths Transition Event, Y9 and Y10 Careers Trips  
to Hollow Tree Farm and DofE Information Evening  
for Parents

Thursday 23 June 2016

Y9 History Trip to London and Y6 Transition Day and

BBQ

Friday 24 June 2016

Leavers Ball

Monday 27 June 2016

Sports Day

Tuesday 28 June 2016

Kitchens of the Globe - New Zealand and Y10 Exam  
Results

Wednesday 29 June 2016

CTC Bake Off at Ixworth and Y10 History Trip to  
London

Thursday 30 June - Saturday 2 July 2016

DofE Expedition

Thursday 30 June 2016

Trip to Bletchley Park and Y7 Reports to Parents

Friday 1 July 2016

Y7 Trip to Kentwell Hall

Monday 4 - Friday 8 July 2016

CCF Camp

Tuesday 5 July 2016

Y10 Taster Day at Suffolk One and Summer Concert  
and Art Exhibition

Wednesday 6 July 2016

Champions Day at Woodbridge School and Y7

Progress Evening

Thursday 7 July 2016

Y6 Transition Day

Monday 11 - Friday 15 July 2016

Summer Enrichment Week

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## Headteacher's Welcome



**Mr Lees  
Headteacher**

Welcome to our June Edition of the Saxmundham Voice, which is a fantastic example of all the amazing learning that takes place at Saxmundham Free School.

As we start the final half-term of the year, I am looking forward to another action packed 6 weeks of students engaging in a whole host of events and learning experiences at Saxmundham Free School.

The calendar on the left shows all the exciting learning opportunities available to students, from educational trips, to participating in Cross Trust Challenges. This term there are 3 CTC's: 'The Bake Off'; the 'Summer Concert'; and 'Champions Day', which follows on from Sports Day, where the best of the best athletes from all three schools compete against each other at Woodbridge School.

Students currently in all year groups are involved in end of year examinations, with their results feeding into their final PCP4 Checkpoint and report at the end of June. In order to support students and to emphasise the importance of revising we have purchased revision cards and a card box for all students. I hope that you will be able to support your son / daughter in completing these cards and even testing them on their learning at home. Please see the website below, which enables students to create their revision cards as a PDF, print them out and stick them onto the cards.

<http://www.kitzkikz.com/flashcards/>

Finally, I would like to finish with a short message of thanks to all the students in Year 11 and their parent/carers. These students have been at the school for between one and four years and as they are now fully immersed in their GCSE examinations, I just wanted to take the time to say how proud I am of each and every one of them. Their attitude and preparation for these GCSE examinations has been exemplary and I want to wish them every success in their results and in their futures.

As Year 11 come to the end of their time at the school, Year 10 will now start their Period 7 sessions every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3.55 – 4.55pm; starting with a small snack and a drink before engaging in an additional hour of learning.

Thank you again to all parents/carers and the community in which we work, for all your on-going support.

David Lees

Please remember that you can follow Saxmundham Free School on

twitter: **@SamundhamFS**

Please also check our webpage for regular news and events updates.

Twitter

# Y7 Students are Cleaning up the Coast



Y7 students have collected 22 kilos of litter along 900 metres of the Sizewell coastline, after spending the day preparing the beach for the summer months. This is the second year running that our Y7 students have taken part in a beach clean, after a successful event last year with the local Landscape Partnership Scheme 'Touching the Tide' and the Marine Conservation Society.

On May 25, students joined 'Touching the Tide' in collecting all sorts of litter along Sizewell beach, before weighing it and recording it. The data collection will help to identify local litter trends in comparison with national data collected at beach clean events across the country, as well as help to provide effective solutions to Suffolk's beach litter problems.



David Lees, Headteacher at Saxmundham Free School, said: "Beach cleaning is an interesting, hands-on way to learn more about our local litter problems and help students to develop a greater appreciation for our local coastline. The event was such a success last year that we were pleased to take part again this year."



Bill Jenman, Project Manager at Touching the Tide, said: "It's great to see the school following up on our work with them about beach litter last year. It's really interesting seeing what turns up, and very satisfying leaving a clean beach behind."

## Success For Millie in Art CTC



On 21 April, Ixworth Free School played host to the Free Schools Trust Art Exhibition. It was the

latest instalment in the Cross Trust Competitions calendar, which brings the three schools in the trust, Beccles, Ixworth and Saxmundham, together to compete in a variety of disciplines.

A fantastic array of artistic talent was on display from across the three schools, and there were entries from Year 7, right through to Year 11.

The incredibly high standard made the judging panel's job very hard, but in the end they chose their top three and Millie Cartwright-Jones was awarded the Runners Up prize.

Congratulations to all students who had their work on display, and an extra special congratulations to Millie who gained one of the three prizes for her fantastic piece of artwork.

## Kitchens of the Globe

Another fantastic Kitchens of the Globe event in May, saw students and parents enjoying Italian food in the sunshine!



# Somme Commemoration Day



On Tuesday 26 May Y7, 8 and 9 at Saxmundham Free School helped to commemorate 100 years since the Battle of the Somme. The Battle of the Somme, fought in Northern France, was one of the bloodiest of World War One - in total there were one million casualties and it was a turning point in the war with a number of significant consequences. The students were involved in several activities to help remember this event. There was a dedicated TONIC task and



“life of a soldier” activity. The students then entered a KS3 competition where they created a model WWI tank as this battle was the first time the British used tanks in warfare. They had to include their own commemorative message and these will be judged by the humanities team and announced in a celebration assembly.



The students were then brought to the hall

to witness the spectacular performance of the Battle of the Somme from Quantum Theatre.

Based on their highly acclaimed **‘Your Country Needs You’**, this play explored the politics behind the outbreak of the war through to the Battle of the Somme, using sketches and vignettes to follow the fate of a ‘Pals’ Battalion leaving England’s shores for the fields of Northern France. Using original



source materials and interweaving songs, sketches, poetry and prose from the time, the play examined the effects of war on those directly involved at home and at the front. Another example of bringing history to life and teaching beyond the classroom.



# Framlingham Castle Trip



On Thursday 19 May, Y7 and staff from Saxmundham Free School arrived at Framlingham Castle. Framlingham is a magnificent late 12th-century castle, its striking outline reflected in the nearby mere. Surrounded by parkland and estates, it was once at the centre of a vast network of power and influence. Its owners for over 400 years were the Earls and Dukes of Norfolk, the supreme magnates in East Anglia – rich, ambitious and influential both at home and abroad.

The students have been focusing on how castle design changed during the period and the trip allowed students to investigate this first hand. Throughout the day they completed 6 activities to enhance their learning within the

classroom on Medieval Castles, they were able to identify how to attack and defend the castles.

They toured the grounds inside and out and went onto the castle walls. Their questioning and energy throughout the day was superb and it was a great example of teaching outside the classroom. Mr Lees was particularly pleased that a member of the public spoke to our staff and said “ I just want to congratulate you on the behaviour of your students - they were exceptional!”. Well done Y7.

## Young Environmental Communicators Conference



A group of Y9 students visited the University of East Anglia to take part in a Young Environmental Communicators Conference along with students from across Suffolk and Norfolk.

Students were introduced to numerous environmental issues facing the world today in an introductory lecture. Students then focused on the issue of global food insecurity in particular food wastage.

Students worked in workshop groups on this issue and produced and then gave a Pecha Kucha presentation on the issue. The event provided a good introduction to the GCSE geography course and also gave students insight into university life.



# French Immersion Day at Norwich City Football Club

On Wednesday 4 May 2016 all of Y8 participated in a French day at Norwich City Football Club. While we were there we were told how the home teams always had changing rooms in which players can communicate easier with their team mates. However, the away team get the changing room that gives a vibe that they are going to lose!

While we were there we were given a tour of the stadium and educated about who and where different people sit. As we explored the stadium we completed a French activity. We also were fortunate enough to meet a French football player, Tony Andreu, who plays for NCFC. As he was French we asked him questions in French and he responded in French, helping us widen our knowledge and understanding.

Overall, we found the day inspiring and learnt to never give up if you want to achieve in life. The day also helped us with building our confidence in French speaking.

*By Evelyn Blowers and Rosaria Piret Y8*



## UCS Demonstrate Virtual Reality in School

On 27 April 2016, the GCSE Computer Science students were visited by two UCS members of staff who demonstrated virtual reality to them. Most of the students were able to participate in a rollercoaster virtual reality demonstration with the rest of the group watching.

It was very interesting for students to see each others' reactions as those experiencing the virtual reality were convinced what they were seeing was real. Unfortunately after an hour the UCS staff had to leave, but the group was buzzing

with excitement even after they left. The UCS staff will be visiting us again soon with other exciting demonstrations related to the learning of Computer Science. Similar experiences can be had at the UCS Stem School during the summer; head to this website to find out more <http://stemsuffolk.co.uk/stem-activities/summer-stem-weeks/>

*Miss Moe*



## CCF Become Standard Bearers

It was lovely to welcome members from the Saxmundham branch of the Royal British Legion into school recently to further develop the partnership between them and our CCF students.

They were in school teaching our CCF students how to become standard bearers for Saxmundham.

# Olympic Athlete Inspires Saxmundham Students



Students at Saxmundham Free School enjoyed an exciting visit from Olympic volleyball player Rachel Laybourne. Rachel met with students in Y7 to 9 to talk about her experiences and achievements as a professional volleyball player, as well as demonstrating her skills on the court.



David Lees, Headteacher at Saxmundham Free School, said: "We are so thankful to Rachel Laybourne for taking the time to visit and share her exciting sporting journey with us. Students have all felt very inspired and motivated to pursue their own sporting dreams, particularly those currently in Year 9 who will be studying GCSE PE next year."

Rachel is inducted in the England Volleyball Hall of Fame, after representing Great Britain in more than 95 international matches as well as competing in the London 2012 Olympic Games. Rachel's visit to Saxmundham Free School was part of the Sky Sports 'Living for Sport' project, which encourages a range of world-class athletes to visit schools and share their inspiring stories with students.



## The 'Language of Business' day

On Monday 23 May, Y9 students took part in an activity run by the University of East Anglia called "The Language of Business". This day was aimed to increase our knowledge of different French speaking countries and their cultures. Each group had the challenge of designing a food or a drink product and launching it into a French speaking country of their choice. To do this we had to



research and gather information on our chosen country to ensure our product would sell and make a profit, thus making the business viable. We learnt many different business skills and the important role that having an additional language plays when trading and doing business with companies from other countries. This visit also enabled us to see how achieving a French GCSE would be useful for us when applying for different jobs in the future.

*Chloe Hall, 9B*

### Notice!

The Sunflower Montessori Nursery School in Middleton are celebrating 25 years with a party for all past and present pupils on Saturday 2nd July at 1pm at Causeway Farm. More info available from their Facebook page or ring Lucy on 01728648352.

# Cross Trust Debating Competition Wednesday 11 May 2016

*KS3 TEAM- Renee Trotter Noxon, Grace Lloyd, Sasha Newman and Giselle Patient.*

*KS4 TEAM- Campion Mitchell-Cotts, Jamie Roberts, Szymon Bojarczuk, Edward Paulley.*

The debate team from Saxmundham Free School had to prepare arguments for an organised debate and then had a blind debate on the day. The KS3 team were given the topic "This house believes that teenager internet usage should not be restricted" and they needed to prepare arguments for the proposition team (which is agreeing with the statement) and then questions for the opposition team (which is against the statement.) Each



team took it in turns to present their speeches and then were questioned by their opposing team.

The Upper School teams debated the motion: "This house believes the United Kingdom should remain in the European Union". At the end of the four speeches, opposition questioner 1 and 2 each asked at least one question. Their questions related to what the speaker had said. The questioning section lasted for a maximum of two minutes. Any of the four team members from the proposition side answered the questions. Round 1 was Saxmundham vs Beccles, with some superb arguments deconstructed and presented by both teams. Beccles won the round by 1 point. Round 2 was Saxmundham vs Ixworth, the Upper School team put up a battle of rounds, where arguments of the EU were bounced backwards and forwards between the two teams with Ixworth winning by just 1 point again. The students then had to put forward their two best orators for the blind debate, the Upper School were given the statement "We agree



all long haul flights should be banned in the UK." Two students from each team were given thirty minutes to prepare for a second debate. Their speeches were three minutes.

The Lower School topic was "If they were in charge of the UN what changes would they make for the world." They were competing for overall debater of the day, where Jamie Roberts came very close to being rewarded first place for the Upper School. Overall it was a superb experience and a display of higher thinking which could have matched any University Challenge or Oxford vs. Cambridge debate.



## 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](http://www.saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk). Saxmundham Free School's named safeguarding governor is Mrs Pastor.

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