

SAXMUNDHAM

voice

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

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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

Friday 16 September 2016

Annual Celebration Evening

W/C 19 September 2016

1:1 Interviews for all Y11 students with parents/carers

Tuesday 20 September 2016

Y11 Controlled Assessment Fieldwork

Y10 NHS Careers Event at Trinity Park

Thursday 22 September 2016

Y11 Success Evening - Core Subjects - 4.15pm - 5.15pm

Chateau de Warsy Information Evening - 5pm - 6pm

Monday 26 - Friday 30 September 2016

Cross Trust Outward Bound Trip

Monday 26 September 2016

European Day of Languages

Tuesday 27 September 2016

Kitchens of the Globe - Persian Theme - 12.15pm

Dutch Xplore Students visiting School

Friends of Saxmundham Free School AGM

Wednesday 28 September 2016

STEM Enrichment Day for Y6 Students

Thursday 29 September 2016

Y11 Success Evening - All Subjects - 4.15pm - 5.15pm

Friday 30 September 2016

Friends of Saxmundham Free School BBQ and Bingo

Monday 3 October 2016

Mygo CV Writing and Interview Skills Workshop

Tuesday 4 October 2016

Mexican Creative Enrichment Day for Y6 Students -
9.30am - 11.30am

Tuesday 4 - Friday 7 October 2016

DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition

Thursday 6 October 2016

Open Evening

Monday 10 - Friday 14 October 2016

Open Mornings - 9am - 10.30am and 11am - 12.30pm

Tuesday 11 October 2016

Y11 Geography Controlled Assessment

Thursday 13 October 2016

Harvest Festival Assembly - 2.55pm

Y7 Settling In Evening - 4.15pm - 6.30pm

Friday 14 October 2016

Y11 Geography Controlled Assessment (Catch-up)

Students Break for Half Term

Monday 31 October 2016

Students Return for Michaelmas Term

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Headteacher's Welcome



Mr Lees

It is with great pleasure that I write to you at the start of our fifth school year at Saxmundham Free School. As a school so much has been achieved in such a short space of time, with an excellent Ofsted Inspection in May 2014 and this year we are officially full in Year 7!

It has been a fantastic start to the new academic year. **Headteacher**

We have welcomed 120 new Year 7 students to the school and we now have almost 400 students in Years 7 to Year 11. It really is an exciting time, yet there is still much more to do as we use the 6Cs to success of Community, Co-operation, Commitment, Challenge, Confidence and Celebration to prepare all students to achieve their very best.

I am also delighted with the GCSE results achieved by our departing Year 11 students. There were some outstanding individual achievements some of which I have highlighted below, with our headline measures showing considerable improvement from 2015. GCSE performance has increased by 11%, which has been achieved with fewer students and a lower ability group. On entry into Year 8 when Saxmundham Free School opened Year 11 students had an average points score of 24.2, this made our Year 11 cohort the weakest in the county; compared to the national expected average points score for students of 27.33. Despite this challenge, progress for English and Mathematics is strong and attainment levels continued to increase.

I am particularly pleased that attainment for disadvantaged students increased to 60% achieving 5A*-C including English and Mathematics. **This makes us the third highest performing school in the whole of the county for this group of students.**

- 44% students achieved 5A*-C
- 96% students achieved 4A*-G
- 40% students achieved 5A*-C including English and Mathematics
- Students made expected progress in only 4 years at Saxmundham Free School



Katie Lee achieved 10 GCSEs at grades A* to C, including three A* grades in Mathematics, Geography and GCSE Law which she studied during the schools' enrichment programme. Katie, who is determined to become a lawyer when she's older, is now at One Sixth Form College in Ipswich where she'll study History, Biology, Psychology and Mathematics at A level, before embarking on a Law degree.

Millie Cartwright-Jones made incredible progress at Saxmundham Free School, achieving 8 GCSEs at grades A* to C despite arriving at the school with a very low starting point.



Millie has exceeded expectations in progress for all 8 subjects, achieving 5 levels of progress in 5 of her 8 subjects and is looking forward to studying Health and Social Care at One Sixth Form College in Ipswich in September. Through the school's enrichment programme, Millie has also earned her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, as well as spending time coaching and participating in judo.

Aeryn Jeffery achieved one A, four Bs and five Cs at GCSE. She is now heading to Thomas Mills High School in Framlingham where she'll be studying Biology, Chemistry, Psychology and Mathematics at A level, with the aim of working in medicine when she's older.



For more information please visit our school website at www.saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk We are also tweeting about all the things we do at Saxmundham Free School. Please follow us on Twitter @SaxmundhamFS.

David Lees
Headteacher

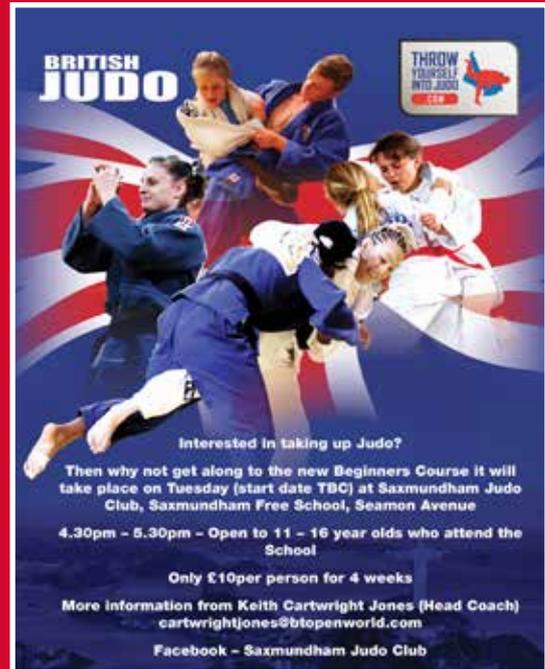
Open Evening and Open Days



On Thursday 6 October 2016 from 5.30pm – 8.30pm we will be holding our annual Open Evening for Year 6 students from all over Suffolk to join us. This is an opportunity for parents / carers and students to experience life at Saxmundham Free School, engage in a whole host of learning activities

and to see why Ofsted gave the school outstanding for leadership and management, and behaviour and safety, with a good judgement overall. There is also the opportunity for parent / carers and students in Year 6 to join us on one of our Open Days that run from 9am to 10.30am and 11am – 12.30pm on Monday 10 – 14 October 2016.

I really would urge prospective parent / carers and students to come and see the school running on a normal day and experience a school focusing on every student achieving their potential through a culture of high academic, personal and social expectations and aspirations.



At Saxmundham Free School we are really privileged to have an excellent Judo club operating from the school on Tuesday evenings. We have a good number of students from the school attending the club and I would urge parents/ carers of new students to come along and have a go. Keith is the main instructor and a fantastic advocate for Judo and the school, hence the high number of students involved. Judo is a type of martial art and the club enters lots of competitions both locally and nationally. Students of all ages can attend; please see the picture above for more information.

Kitchens of the Globe - Persian

Tuesday 27 September 2016 is our first Kitchens of the Globe event for this year. These are always excellent events and an opportunity to join with your son/daughter for lunch and to experience an amazing array of food and Persian cooking. Please contact the school and come and join us at 12.15pm on Tuesday 27 September.

A Focus on our 6Cs

This time it is Celebration



Each newsletter I would like to focus on one of our 6Cs to success. For this edition I would like to start with 'Celebration'. At Saxmundham Free School students are expected to:

- celebrate the successes they have experienced in school and out;
- support others to be successful and celebrate when they do achieve and make progress;
- display behaviour that encourages themselves and others to strive to achieve more success;
- have pride in the achievements of the staff, fellow students, school and wider community.

In school students are rewarded in numerous ways; this could be through receiving verbal or written praise, to being sent a praise postcard or achieving a Saxmundham Hero badge in our weekly assembly. We feel that it is really important to recognise success and celebrate with students at every opportunity. I know that a number of students have already received 'Praise Postcards' in their first week back, and I am sure that you will join with me in celebrating with your son / daughter. I am also very interested to celebrate students achievements outside of school, therefore please do keep staff at school informed of any achievements outside of school, so that we can celebrate this in school.

Lunchtime Sports Clubs

Monday

Girls Football (All Years) - CLA
Inter House (All Years) - DRE

Tuesday

Boys/Girls Dodgeball (Y9 &10) - TBA
Girls Netball (Y9 &10) - HRE
Inter House (All Years) - DRE

Wednesday

Boys/Girls Dodgeball (Y8) - TBA
Girls Netball (Y7 &8) - HRE
Boys Football (Y9 &10) - DRE

Thursday

Boys/Girls Dodgeball (Y7) - TBA
Inter House (All Years) - DRE

Friday

Boys Football (Y7 &8) - TBA

A Look at our Enrichment Offer

Wow! Enrichment at Saxmundham Free School has just got even better in 2016/2017. This element of the school day provides a fantastic learning experience beyond the traditional curriculum and allows opportunities to further spark interests in students, discover their talents and develop a love of learning for life. This term students are engaged in CCF (Combined Cadet Force); DoE Bronze and Silver (Duke of Edinburgh Scheme); Dance,

Computer Science GCSE; Coding and STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths); School Production; Theatre Prop and Set Design; English Speaking Board Examinations; Grow it, Cook it, Eat it; Sports of the World; Horse Riding; Photography; Sewing; Languages from Around the Globe; Lego Minecraft; Choir & Songwriting and Cross Country!!!



Safeguarding Update:

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

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