

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"

- Monday 5 June 2017
Return to School
- Monday 5 - Friday 9 June 2017
Y9 Exam Week
- Monday 12 - Friday 16 June 2017
Y10 Exam Week
- Tuesday 13 June 2017
Parents' Open Forum - 9.30am
- Tuesday 20 June 2017
Y8 and Y9 Girls' HPV Vaccines
- Wednesday 21 June 2017
Food and Farming Industry Day
- Saturday 24 June 2017
Fun Day and Dog Show
- Monday 26 June 2017
Y11 Leavers' Assembly
- Tuesday 27 June 2017
Kitchens of the Globe - France
- Tuesday 27 June 2017
Visit from Gemma Gibbons (Judo Champion)
- Wednesday 28 June 2017
Computer Science Trip to Bletchley Park
- Thursday 29-30 June 2017
DoE Assessment and CCF Field Day
- Thursday 29 June 2017
Y6 Transition Day 1 and BBQ
- Friday 30 June 2017
Leavers' Ball
- Tuesday 4 July 2017
Sports Day
- Wednesday 5 July 2017
Y7 Progress Evening
- Thursday 6 July 2017
Y10 History Trip
- Monday 10 - Friday 14 July 2017
Learning Skills Week
- Tuesday 11 July 2017
Y9 London Trip
- Wednesday 12 July 2017
Champions Day
- Thursday 13 July 2017
Y6 Transition Day 2
- Thursday 13 July 2017
Friends' Quiz Night
- Monday 17 - Friday 21 July 2017
Summer Enrichment Week

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome back to the final half term of the year. The Trinity term has been very busy so far with lots of visitors to the school and many exciting trips out for the students. We are also in the middle of a crucial time for all our Y11 students as they continue with their GCSE examinations.

I have been immensely proud of all the hard work put in by our Y11 students this term and wish them every success with their examinations. They are well prepared and now is the time for them to shine!

Once the GCSEs have finished we will say farewell to the Y11 students with a Leavers Assembly and BBQ on the 26 June and the Leavers Ball at Woodbridge School on Friday 30 June.

In addition to the GCSEs we are also holding Y9 and Y10 exams this half term which I know the students have been working hard towards. The Y10 students in particular have started coming to period 7 sessions and I would like to thank them for their dedication and thank all parents / carers for their continued support with these sessions.

The next few weeks will be very busy as we welcome nearly 90 new students from Y6 who will be joining us for 2 Transition Days; we see the Duke of Edinburgh students complete their Bronze expedition and the CCF have their annual camp. We finish the term with 2 particularly fun and exciting weeks this year. We will be holding a week of Learning Skills on the week commencing Monday 10 July, with Y10 going on Work Experience, and Enrichment week commences on the 17 July.

To keep up to date with the latest news and events from the school, please remember that you can follow Saxmundham Free School on twitter: @SamundhamFS. Please also check our webpage for regular updates, and we now have a brand new Facebook page, just search for Saxmundham Free School on Facebook.

Mr Lees, Headteacher

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.



**Mr Lees
Headteacher**

Calais Visitors

On Thursday, 18 May, Saxmundham Free School students hosted a group of forty-seven French Y9 and 10 students, and their teachers, from the Collège Les Argousiers, in Oye-Plage near Calais.

Once partnered up, they spent the morning together in lessons and had the opportunity to get to know each other during break and lunchtime together. It was a pleasure to welcome the Calais group, and to see our students enjoying the chance to practise their foreign language skills with their French peers.



Poetry Transition Event

Students from Y7 helped at the Poetry Transition Event for Kelsale Primary School and Coldfair Green. This was an excellent morning full of poetry readings, freeze frames and clay modelling, as well

as poetry analysis. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the event, and we thoroughly enjoyed meeting the schools and staff. I particularly adored clay modelling with our group who made a lot creative models.

Evie Morling



Judo

On 9 May 2017, the Saxmundham Judo Club had a great session with Olympian David Oates.

Molly represented the after school club at the session and loved every minute.

Junior Maths Challenge Results

Students in Y7 and Y8 participated in the UK Maths Challenge which involved solving problems in unfamiliar contexts.

The top 40% of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate in the ratio 1:2:3. The following students achieved Gold, Silver and Bronze.

Y7

Gold: Thomas Rowe
Bronze: Maddison Gibbons, Charlie Leathers, Grace Denny, Evie Rainford, Grace Woodrow Archer, Jasmine Benham and Kaitlyn Camplin

Y8

Gold and progression to next round: Harry Hitchen
Silver: Jack Heffer and Hayden Ellsmore
Bronze: Lucy Payne, Jessica Girling and Ben Leicester

Easter School

Amazing commitment shown by the large number of Y11 students and staff who came in to school during the Easter Holidays to get ahead with their exam revision.

We look forward to celebrating their hardwork and efforts at our Celebration Evening in September.



Y9 and 10 Trip to the Belgian Battlefields

On the 28 March, Miss Isaac, Mr Woolven and Mrs Swan took some students from Y9 and 10 on a trip to Belgium to look at the war graves and preserved trenches from the First World War. Around fifty students arrived at school at 4:40 in the morning, to then leave for Le Shuttle five minutes later. Once there, they were allowed ten minutes

to look around the Duty Free area before going into the terminal. The coach arrived in Calais and drove through places in France like Dunkirk, until it arrived in Belgium and made its first stop at Essex Farm, an advanced dressing station and cemetery for the allies during the war.

Whilst the students were walking around, one particular headstone stood out for them, and that was one belonging to a fifteen year old boy who died during battle. After looking around, the students were read the popular wartime poem "Flanders Field" by their tour guide which was written by John McCrae a doctor who was working in the Advanced Dressing Station at Essex Farm. The next stop was Tyne Cot Cemetery- another one belonging to lives of lost allies that was roughly the same size as a small village. It is the largest Commonwealth cemetery on the western front that holds over 11,950 headstones. Nearly 70% of the burials belonged to unknown soldiers and those who do not have a headstone have their names engraved on the large white walls of the monuments standing around the grounds (34,870 were recorded). After the students had time to look around, they travelled through what was no man's land to visit the last memorial of the day- Langemark German Cemetery. Roughly 3,000 of the graves belong to students, and the grounds are filled with oak trees (Germany's national tree) that were planted in 1918 and have grown to amazing sizes since. After the German cemetery, the students visited Bayfield Trenches that was the German front line during the war and has now been preserved as a tourist attraction. It was in these trenches that Adolf Hitler fought as a soldier during the First World War. Students ended the day by visiting the Belgium town of Ypres and the famous Menin Gate memorial. Time to explore the town and sample the many chocolate shops was followed by the long journey home.



Framlingham Castle Y7 Trip

On the 16 May Y7 classes visited Framlingham Castle as part of their work in history lessons on Medieval castles. Students completed a series of activities in groups to investigate the defensive features of the castle and also to find ways of attacking it.

We also looked at how the design of medieval castles changed and the reasons for these changes.



Family Fun Day and Dog Show

24 June 2017

from 11am - 3pm

at Saxmundham Free School



Inflatable Assault Course / Archery / Live Music / Welly Wanging / Wet Sponge Throwing / Beat The 'Keeper' / Judo Demonstrations / Tennis / Bouncy Castle / Face Painting / Vintage Tractors / Craft Stalls / Coconut Shy / Plus Much More! / BBQ and Refreshments and...

...A Fun Dog Show - Entries taken on the day - £1 per class
Dog Show opens at 11am Judging begins at 12pm

Visit www.saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk for full details

Year 5 FUN JUDO TASTER SESSION

With Olympic Silver Medalist
Gemma Gibbons

at Saxmundham Free School
Tuesday 27 June
12pm - 3pm
A Fun Afternoon of Judo!

- Judo Related Games
- Fun Activities
- Learn Some Judo Moves
- Meet an Olympic Silver Medalist



CEO of Magnum Photos Inspires Students

On Friday 5 May 2017, we had the pleasure of welcoming David Kogan, the CEO of Magnum Photos into school to talk to Y8 – 10 about his career and Magnum Photos.

He spoke at length about his incredible career path that incorporated journalism, war zones, helping to launch GMTV, being Managing Director of Reuters and negotiating the biggest TV rights deal in Premier League history.

He then went through a series of iconic and powerful historical images on screen. From the Magnum archives, he explained the back stories behind thought provoking images such as the D-Day landings captured by Robert Capa, the fall of the Berlin Wall by Raymond Depardon and 9/11 by Thomas Hopeker. All the images had interesting angles / stories surrounding the picture and it was fascinating for the students to hear all about these major historical events through the eyes of the photographer.



Live Theatre Performance - 'Jack the Ripper', March 2017, Seckford Theatre, Woodbridge

'Jack the Ripper' may well be one of the greatest and darkest murder mysteries of all time, with not even as much as a clue towards the name of the killer; other than 'Jack', even to this day. Without having a real identity to go on, creating a performance based on the murders would seem a difficult task, but it was something 7 'A' level students did in a mesmerising manner.

The rendition of 'Jack the Ripper' was performed at Woodbridge School by students who had also written and directed the emotive piece. The plot was told by an ensemble of stereotypical 1800's detectives and by the Ripper victims, using a series of powerful non-naturalistic techniques which included dance and puppetry.

The story of the performance described events and facts from police reports and eye witness evaluations, with the ensemble using biographical dialogue as well as song. The piece was highly educational, depicting real events as well as stylised visual spectacles that both shocked and engaged the audience. The violent attack scenes were disturbing, yet sympathetic to the victims; fluid movements between the actors added to the non-naturalistic style and kept viewers gripped.

The 'theatre in the round' staging was very intimate and really pulled the audience into the action because they were almost physically involved, being less than an arms length away from the action itself; this intimacy really gave the cast the chance to create a very strong sense of discomfort amongst the audience.

The props used in the piece were very basic and there were very few, allowing the audience to focus on their significance, for example the main prop was a wooden box on wheels, this doubled as a podium and a desk throughout the majority of the show and the props were used a lot more and moved around rapidly during the musical pieces.

The costumes during the show were very effective but somewhat simplistic with no change throughout the piece, the ensemble wore black trousers, a white shirt and red braces. I think that these costumes worked so well because they were historically correct and really did represent an old fashioned, stereotypical detective.

I think that the actors successfully amazed each and every member of the audience with their sheer talent and skill. The piece itself was written in such an emotionally sensitive way and left me speechless. I would thoroughly suggest that you watch it, this was honestly a flawless performance.

Holly-Anne Holland
Y10 GCSE Drama Student



Whole School Photograph

It was fantastic to see the whole school come together for our annual photograph recently and to see how we continue to grow - over 430 students and staff, all with their best smile for the camera!

Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition:

The morning of Thursday 4 May 2017 saw 20 students in their distinctive Maroon uniforms heading off on an adventure: Their practice Expedition was beginning!

In high spirits each of the three groups set off from different places around Suffolk. The group walking from Walberswick to Aldeburgh over the two days, made good speed and arrived at the campsite with nearly an hour to spare! Their tents were erected and they began cooking before the other groups arrived at the site.



Mr Lees accompanied a group who walked about 5 miles in the wrong direction; almost reaching the start point of the third group. When they eventually arrived at the lunch checkpoint, all of the students were still in high spirits though very tired. After eating plenty of food and drinking lots of water, the group departed to arrive at the campsite within 25 minutes of the first team. Much laughter was shared as this group informed the first group that 'Mr Lees got us lost'.

The third group appeared a little while later and all of the students helped them to erect their tents and to prepare their food; excellent teamwork in practise! The first team finally finished cooking their food at the same time as the third team began eating theirs!!

Day 2 dawned with yawns and groans, pancakes, porridge and fruit for breakfast. By 8:30am all groups were ready to leave the campsite for their second day of exploration of the Suffolk countryside.

As each group of students were collected to return to school the chatter moved away from 'I'm so tired' to 'Do you remember when.....' and a sense of relief was replaced by a sense of achievement and celebration.



Contact us...

We welcome your feedback, news and comments.

Email us: enquiries@saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk



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