

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"

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: @SaxmundhamFS. 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.

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. Saxmundham Free School's named Local Advisory Body Member is Mrs Pastor.

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to our final Saxmundham Voice for this year. It has been a fantastic year which has seen the school continue to grow from strength to strength.

In September we will have over 450 students and we look forward to welcoming all the new students who are joining us from over 20 different primary schools.

As the school continues to grow we have made a number of exciting and excellent appointments to our teaching staff and I know that you will join me in welcoming them in September.

- Mr Becker - Teacher of Humanities
- Miss Swain - Teacher of PE
- Miss Miller - Teacher of Science
- Mrs Sarginson - Teacher of English
- Miss Jillings - Teacher of DT

We will also be appointing 2 new Pastoral members of staff who will not have any teaching responsibilities and will be able to focus full-time on supporting the students. We are sorry to be saying farewell to Mrs Gibson, Miss Robinson, Miss Last and Mr Day who are leaving us to take up opportunities elsewhere, but we wish them the very best for the future.

It has been my absolute pleasure this term to see our Y11 students grow in maturity and to work so hard toward the completion of their GCSE examinations. We marked their time at the school with a fantastic Leavers Ball and assembly and following the receipt of their results in August, I am looking forward to celebrating their success at our Celebration Evening on the 15 September.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Saxmundham Voice as we come to the end of another very busy term with students currently engaged in a variety of exciting Enrichment week activities focused on developing a love of learning.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing Summer holiday and I look forward to seeing the students return to school on the 7 September 2017.

Mr Lees, Headteacher



Mr Lees
Headteacher

Student Leadership Team

We are delighted to introduce you to our new Student Leadership team:

Scarlett Pastor - Head Girl. Year 9 girl, who delivered an excellent speech and campaign to the school, she interviewed very well and has already got a lot of ideas to help inspire and lead the student leadership team.

William Baines - Head Boy, very imaginative hustings video which was inspired by his YouTube blogs which he has been doing now for 2 years. He also gave a very good interview and has a number of ideas to lead and inspire the new student leadership team.

Grace Lloyd - Deputy Head Girl Dale Pearce - Deputy Head Boy

Student Leadership Team

Carrie Anne Pearce - in charge of vulnerable students. Student mentor team.

Jorja Field - In charge of new students at Saxmundham Free School.

Thomas Cracknell - Student mentor program.

Saxmundham Certainly Has Got Talent!

On Thursday 6 July Saxmundham Free School hosted 'Saxmundham's Got Talent', a talent show where students battled it out to be crowned winner of 2017. The show consisted of 20 acts from a variety of year groups from year 7 to year 10, with performances ranging from solo singers, acoustic guitarists and full band performances to dance acts and solo drum performances.

All acts gave a wonderful performance which was almost too close to call, however the act went to an audience vote, who crowned our very own Natasha Cracknell winner of 2017 after performing a rendition of 'Valerie' with guitarist Maddie Salter. As winner of 2017, Natasha will receive a gold super hero's badge, a place on the super hero's trip and a musical recording.

Congratulations also go to Annabel Dye from class 7B who attended the Sizewell Stations Family fun day on Saturday 8 July, which had just over 800 people in attendance. Annabel gave an outstanding performance and was a credit to the school.



Friends Family Fun Day 24 June

We had a fantastic community day on Saturday 24 June at our first Family Fun Day.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this amazing event.



Liam Buggs ITFC Young Fan of the Year



Congratulations to Liam from everyone at Saxmundham Free School as he recently was crowned ITFC Young Fan of the Year!

Sports Day 2017



On Tuesday 4 July 2017 we had our annual Sports Day involving all students taking part in a range of track and field events. This culminated in a fantastic afternoon of sporting achievement as students competed in their 4 houses.

It was lovely to see so many parents at this event cheering the students on and a huge thank you to the Friends of Saxmundham Free School who supported the event and provided delicious cream teas.



Shakespeare Schools Festival



Shakespeare Schools Festival launched in 2000 and has worked with over 100,000 children all over the UK. The company provides schools with all the resources they need to put on a Shakespeare play in a professional theatre. Teacher and cast workshops ensure that the children are fully prepared. This year, Saxmundham Free School is proud and excited to be a part of it!

On 14 November 2017 in the Dance East Theatre, Ipswich, a cast of performers from Saxmundham Free School will perform an abridged version of 'Macbeth' to a full theatre. It will be an experience of a lifetime for the children and their families. Look out for more details to come...

The whole experience will be lots of fun and our children will be able to learn and practice lots of new skills. They will be given an opportunity to engage with and develop an appreciation of Shakespeare, increase their confidence and self-esteem, experience the world of a professional theatre, and work with others to form a Shakespeare Company. Through workshops provided by the festival co-ordinators, and alongside other schools, the children will practise working as a team, communicating using a variety of dramatic techniques, learning about characterisation, and being creative.

This is an opportunity not to be missed!

Creative Writing and Reading Challenge Enrichment

On Wednesday 21 June, we had the pleasure of a visit from local author Rebecca Taylor, who has written a trilogy of books for children.

She talked about how she first began writing, what and who inspired her and answered the many questions students asked. The places she has visited around the world; and her love of the environment have been a huge inspiration for both her writing and the illustrations in her books. Rebecca brought in samples of her illustrations which appear in her books, and our talented students enjoyed creating their own drawings. The students were both inspired and encouraged by what they heard.

The reading element of the enrichment sessions has given the students time to talk about the kinds of books they enjoy and to share recommendations with each other - we always need something new to try.

Every Wednesday the students have been working on developing their own creative writing skills, learning new forms of writing. In poetry they have learned how to write such forms as Haiku/Tanka, and Pantuns, and a strategy for turning a prose passage into an effective poem. In prose they have learned how to structure stories using the Freytag model, and how to create their own models. They also learned to focus their writing with ten-sentence stories, and even six-word stories.

The quality of the writing students have produced has been of a consistently high standard, and often truly outstanding. Each student has grown in confidence, and we hope that they will all continue to write.

Y10 History Trip

On 28th June Y10 history students went on a trip to London. The coach left Saxmundham Free School early in the morning and took them to North Greenwich Pier. They boarded the Thames Clipper river bus service which whizzed them up the River Thames in style, past many of the famous landmarks to Waterloo.



Here students visited the Imperial War Museum where they looked round the Cold War Galleries, amongst others, to link in with the unit they are currently studying in lessons.

Students then also had a tour of the London Dungeons which takes a gruesome, and at times scary, look at the History of London and the rest of the UK. This also included the History of Medicine which is a unit that students will be covering in Y11. Those that made it out of the Dungeons alive then boarded the Thames Clipper to begin the journey home.



Y9 Politics Event

Access Community Trust hosted an event at Sam's Cafe in Lowestoft for students from Suffolk Coastal and Waveney schools. The day was designed to raise students awareness of local politics and political issues that affect them.

Y9 students that have recently been appointed to the student leadership team had the chance to question local politicians from a range of political parties about the recent general election as well as a range of local issues.

Students then took part in a workshop to investigate an issue they felt strongly about and to explore how they could make a difference and get involved in the political process.



Harry Hitchen Suffolk U13s Cricket Tour

Harry Hitchen took part in the U13s cricket tour in June. The tour consisted of three matches. In the first two, both against Buckinghamshire, he took three wickets in each, but it was in the third match, against Berkshire, where he particularly excelled. Suffolk won this match largely due to Harry's bowling figures. He took 7 wickets off just 6.3 overs, for only 14 runs. A fantastic achievement, and a huge congratulations to Harry from all of us at Saxmundham Free School.



Judo Taster Day with Olympian

Primary school pupils across East Suffolk visited us for an action-packed judo workshop from Olympian Gemma Gibbons, on June 27. The London 2012 Silver medallist shared a range of judo skills such as break-falling, pins and grappling, during a series of drills with Year 5 pupils from Saxmundham, Easton, Wickham Market, Snape, Coldfair Green and Benhall Primary Schools as well as our own Saxmundham Free School students.

During her visit Gemma also held a question and answer session with the pupils, where she spoke about her experiences of the London 2012 Olympic Games and what's involved when training as a professional sportswoman. Speaking at the event, Gemma Gibbons said: "It has been really great to be here at Saxmundham Free School today. The primary school pupils, a lot of whom have never done judo before, seemed to really enjoy the sessions. It was great to hear lots of laughter and see a lot of young talent too."

A huge thank you to Gemma for coming along to teach the students, Saxmundham Judo Club for helping to run the sessions and to all the primary schools for attending.



Contact us...

We welcome your feedback, news and comments.

Email us: enquiries@saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk



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