

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"

Ofsted Rated 'GOOD'
with Outstanding Features



**SAXMUNDHAM
FREE SCHOOL**

"Providing a foundation for life"

www.saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk

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

Dates for your

Diary

Thursday 29 March 2018

Enrichment Day and Last Day of Term

Monday 16 April 2018

Staff Professional Development Day

Tuesday 17 April 2018

Students Return to School

Wednesday 25 April 2018

Y5 English Transition Event 9.30am - 11.30am

Thursday 26 April 2018

Y7/8 UKMT Maths Challenge

Y8 Progress Evening 4.15pm

Tuesday 1 May 2018

Parent Open Forum 9.30am

Wednesday 9 May 2018

Y5 Science Transition Day 9.30am - 11.30am

Y7 History Trip to Framlingham Castle

Thursday 10 May 2018

Y10 Progress Evening 4.15pm

Monday 14 - Friday 18 May 2018

Y7 Examination Week

Tuesday 15 May 2018

Kitchens of the Globe - Poland 12.15pm

Wednesday 16 May 2018

Chef for a Day Transition Event 3.30pm - 5.15pm

Monday 21 - Friday 25 May 2018

Y8 Examinations Week

Monday 28 May - Friday 1 June 2018

Half Term

Safeguarding Update:

Should you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact Mr Lees, Designated Safeguarding Lead, or Miss Marsden, 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.

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Headteacher's Welcome

It has been another very busy and exciting start to the Year. The Y11 students have had their second set of Mock examinations and are well prepared and working hard towards their GCSEs which start in May.



**Mr Lees
Headteacher**

We have had an Ofsted inspection this term and I am delighted that we have maintained our 'Good' Rating with outstanding Leadership and Management and pastoral support. You should have received a full copy of the report via ParentMail or it is available on the Saxmundham Free School website.

We have had lots of primary school students into School this term for some exciting Transition Events including our annual Harry Potter Night and Science Experiments with Y4 and Y5. I am delighted that we will have over 100 students joining us in Y7 in September which will bring the total number of students in the school to 500. We are currently recruiting additional staff and I will let you have further details in due course.

I am looking forward to becoming the Headteacher of our sister school in Beccles after Easter. I will however continue to be in Saxmundham School every week and with my outstanding leadership team in place I am confident that there will be no significant impact on Saxmundham Free School.

I hope you have a relaxing and peaceful Easter break and I look forward to seeing the students back in school on Tuesday 17 April, when hopefully the weather will have warmed up!

Mr Lees, Headteacher

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](https://twitter.com/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.

History Trip to Arras and the WWI Battlefields

Students had a long, but very exciting day in France on the 21 March and this date was a theme that many of the students carried forward into the visits of the cemeteries, monuments and sites in and around the battlefields of Arras during World War I. The group of 34 students behaved superbly and with respect at all times. They were able to question and respond with their own feelings to what they saw and experienced whilst remaining positive and having fun.



At each visit, graves and memorials were identified with the date 21 March 1918. It was obvious that this date 100 years previously made each of the thousands of graves resonate with meaning and significance. The French National Remembrance Memorial and Cemetery at Notre-Dame-de-Lorette saw us reviewing 20,000 French graves and the memorial to 20,000 with no known grave. It was also the site for the Ring of Remembrance opened in 2014 to the 600,000 known casualties of this northern sector of the Western Front from all the nations involved in the combat.



We moved on to the German Cemetery of Neuville St.Vaast and its plain and simple layout of 10,000 plots; each the grave for four soldiers. Here the affect of World War 2 was also identified in the replacement headstones for Jewish soldiers whose names had been removed in 1940 yet had died for Germany in World War I.

We then moved onto the Arras Memorial to the Missing from the Commonwealth; this named another 40,000 military personnel. However, there were also the graves of 4,000 British and

Commonwealth servicemen and another grave with the date 21 March 1918. Arras was also the chance for a bit of free time and a walk around the historic and beautiful town centre and squares.

Yet even this became the backdrop to the visit to the Wellington Quarry, where we came to understand the destruction and violence that led to the graves and memorials in and around Arras.



A poignant, tiring, challenging and emotional day that saw the students expressing themselves with a growing awareness of the impacts of this historic time. Certainly the very reason for any educational visit. The final act was almost the end of the trip; our bus driver, ex-military and a veteran of the Falklands, commented on the impeccable behaviour, respect and also openness and good humour of the group "Simply the best!"



Saxmundham Free School maintains G

Saxmundham Free School is celebrating after maintaining its 'Good' result from Ofsted, following a recent inspection on 20 February 2017. The report covers 'Leadership and Management', and 'Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare'. Ofsted inspectors praised Saxmundham Free School for its high quality of education, with students achieving top 7, 8 and 9 grades (equivalent to A, A* or higher) in August 2017.

The report says: "All groups of pupils, including disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities, are making good progress. Inspectors praised the 'exceptional' progress students have made in GCSE English. The Ofsted report says: 'high-quality pastoral care underpins much of the school's work.' and praises the 'good sense of community, where everyone knows you, and staff and pupils are committed to each other's success.'

David Lees, Headteacher at Saxmundham Free School, said: "Our Good Ofsted report is testament to the hard work and commitment of our staff and pupils. We are proud to maintain our Good Ofsted and we aim to build on our achievements going forward."

Commenting on David Lees' leadership qualities and the plan for him to become Head of both Saxmundham and Beccles Free Schools, the report says: "The school's high aspirations of pupils and staff" and states that "Trust leaders acknowledge your proven leadership." Suitable plans are in place, it



Good Ofsted with Outstanding features

February. It has maintained the 'Good' grade it achieved in 2014 and has again been recognised for Outstanding qualities in the School for its high aspirations and expectations of students and staff. GCSE results have risen significantly with many

capabilities, made good progress." Year 11 students achieved half a GCSE grade higher overall than other students nationally. The school's ethos, founded on the trust's '6 c's' to success of cooperation, commitment, confidence, community, challenge and celebration, is well known. Pupils are friendly." Parents also praised the School and said they would recommend it to others.

commitment of our teachers and staff for providing a purposeful and stimulating environment for our students to learn and

the Schools from April, the report praises how he has 'set the tone for the school's high aspirations, and for the equally high standards, for Mr Lees to build on the good outcomes and continue to secure further improvement.

Yellow Fish News



Following our recent visit to the school, Groundwork has continued to develop the Yellow Fish campaign in partnership with the Environment Agency.

There are a range of exciting events being planned for the summer months, including wildlife walks, electro-fishing demonstrations and community awareness campaigns.

The Environment Agency and the Essex & Suffolk Rivers Trust will be engaged with us on this campaign to improve the quality of the river environment by delivering the key message of Only Rain Down The Drain. Yellow Fish will be stencilled around surface water drains throughout the town to emphasise and consolidate this message.

Water pollution from towns has resulted in high phosphate levels in the River Fromus, which impacts generally on water quality and the diversity of wildlife. Plastics pollution has a further impact on the birds, animals and invertebrates all along the river.

Students from the school have been invited to become River Detectives, to monitor and record what they see along the river. Whilst the project is in its development stage we are limiting the number of River Detectives to 50 initially. Once the full project is launched then the numbers will be open ended.

You can follow progress on Twitter @groundworkeast

Kitchens of the Globe

We have had two fantastic Kitchens of the Globe this term. First, we celebrated the food of Scotland and most recently we have eaten Lebanese food. It was a delight to welcome so many parents / carers into school to enjoy the amazing food offered in our Restaurant. Thank you to Ashley Spragg and his team who work so hard to provide all staff and students with fresh, healthy, food every day.



Enrichment

Let's Bake Enrichment,

From scones to sausage rolls, the Let's Bake enrichment have been extremely busy baking as well as learning about health and safety in the kitchen and the importance of a healthy diet and nutrition. We also had an invaluable talk from Ashley (the school's Chef Manager) about catering as a career.

Reuse, have Fun and help the Environment Enrichment Activity

Do it yourself reusing projects are always cool, especially when you can turn what you don't need any more into something new, unique and useful.



The students have been designing and making a range of useful products, either from objects which are often thrown away, or to help encourage others to think about the environment.

Drink coasters were made from old wooden pegs, pencil cases have been made out of plastic bottles, animal inspired clocks and pencil holders have used up left over materials, and bird boxes have provided a place for birds to nest.

Within the next couple of weeks, the group will also be completing their leaflets, which encourage people to think about the environment and the impact that humans have on it.

Girl's Rugby

Rugby is one of the fastest growing sports for girls in the UK. Saxmundham Free School has multiple amazing rugby teams for girls and boys in years 7-10. If you decide to join one of the teams, there are opportunities to play games against other schools and participate in tournaments with multiple teams from local schools all over Suffolk.

Recently, the Y7 and 8 team and the Y9 and 10 teams took part in two rugby tournaments. One took place at Beccles Rugby Club and one at Ipswich Rugby Club.



Our two girls teams did absolutely brilliantly with winning results all round. The girls played other great schools that have beaten them in the past, such as Beccles, Copleston, and others.

The girls had great strategies

that led them to victory. A Special Congratulation to Safiyeh for scoring multiple tries.

Well done Saxmundham.

Olivia Lloyd (Y8)

Y4 and Y5 Students Experimenting with Science

It was a pleasure to welcome lots of Y4 and Y5 students to our science evening on the 21 March. Students had the opportunity to dissect a heart and we definitely spotted a number of budding young scientists!



Sports Results

Football results:

Yr 9 boys came 2nd in the Area competition
Yr7/8 lost 4-3 and 4-0 to St Felix
Yr9/10 beat St Felix 2-0 and 3-1
Yr8/9 girls came 3rd in the Area competition
Yr11 boys beat Debenham 3-0
Yr 8 boys came 4th in the Area competition

Boys Rugby

Yr7/8 beat Alde Valley 45-40
Yr9 came 3rd in the Area competition

2018 Dora Love Prize Presentation Evening

Wednesday 24 January 2018, 5pm, Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall, Auditorium A, University of Essex, Colchester Campus
The Dora Love Presentation Evening is an annual event in honour of Dora Love, a Holocaust survivor and Honor Graduate at Essex. Schools across the region present entries in the form of readings, art, film, poetry, performance and music, culminating in the award of the 2018 Dora Love prize. Well done to students from 9A who took part in this competition and thank you to Mrs Thompson for her work in supporting them.

Student Achievements

Abigail Dunnett

Abigail in her free time attends the Pauline Quirk Academy of Performing Arts and also CBM theatre school. She was been lucky enough to have been chosen with a few others to perform as a choir at the Spa in Felixstowe with the Vocal Quartet G4. Well done Abigail.

Brandon Barclay

Brandon ran into the sea on Christmas morning to raise money for St Elizabeth Hospice in Suffolk. He raised a total of £95. Well done Brandon!

Callum Lenson

During the heavy snow, when roads had been cut off from the main village road for a few days, Callum was out helping grit the side roads so that neighbours had a better chance to get out onto the main road!

Hannah Lumb

Hannah attend an England judo development squad assessment day on 14/1/18 . It was a long tough day with the assessment lasting for six hours across all judo and fitness disciplines. Hannah has now been invited to attend their squad. This will involve monthly training sessions around the UK. This is an amazing achievement and shows considerable hard work and dedication.



Guy Comber

Guy gave up time on Christmas Day 2017 to assist with the St Elizabeth Hospice Christmas Day Dip in Felixstowe.

Guy was on duty with Felixstowe Volunteer Coast Patrol Rescue Service from 07:30am on Christmas Day morning to approx 11:30am and was responsible for watching the 'dippers' to ensure they were safe and look for signs of distress, checking people in and out of the water and providing support where necessary. Guy was fully prepared to enter the water if necessary.

Natasha Cracknell and Josh Uren

The Shine a Light concert went fantastically well. Tash and Josh sang and played their hearts out. The Market Hall was packed out. £815 was raised which will be divided between Macmillan cancer support and Marie Curie.

We are so incredibly proud of them, and I'm sure I can I speak for Josh as well as Tash when I say that were absolutely thrilled to have been involved in such an amazing event. Tash was full of nerves as well as adrenalin and wanted to get back on the stage after their set was finished.



Contact us...

We welcome your feedback, news and comments.

Email us: enquiries@saxmundhamfreeschool.org.uk



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