

SAXMUNDHAM

voice

See what life will be like when you join Saxmundham Free School!

Special Student Takeover Edition

Making Friends Is Easy At Our School

How Will You Get To School?

Plenty Of Trips And Competitions

Food, Glorious Food

What Is Enrichment?

Rated 'Good' with 'Outstanding' features by Ofsted

GCSE Results are Above National Average!



SAXMUNDHAM
FREE SCHOOL

"Providing a foundation for life"

What's it like at our school?

Welcome to this very special edition of the Saxmundham Voice, which has been written, edited and produced by our students. They have put together this edition to give you an insight into what a year at Saxmundham Free School looks and feels like.

Hopefully you are reading this because you have an interest in joining our school and the next few pages will help to answer some of the questions you might have about starting at Saxmundham Free School.

We have an excellent Ofsted judgement with the school being rated 'Outstanding' for Leadership and Management and 'Outstanding' for Behaviour and Safety. Our GCSE outcomes were excellent in 2017 with 89% of students achieving a 4 (C) in English and 73% in mathematics. Our English and mathematics results are significantly above National and overall 65% achieved a grade 4+ (C+) in English and mathematics, this is a 28% increase on 2016 and high when compared to other local schools.

I am delighted by these results, as it clearly demonstrates the impact that Saxmundham Free School can have on students who are with us for 5 years. Your son/daughter will be in very good hands academically when they join Saxmundham Free School.

As we are about to start our 6th year we continue to go from strength to strength, in September 2016 we were oversubscribed and with a high birth rate in Year 6, we are filling up for September so please make sure you apply early to avoid disappointment.

We know that transport can be an issue for many families and we have therefore expanded our bus routes this year, if however you are still worried about transport, please contact us as we are always reviewing our provision.

It will be great to welcome you personally to our Open Evening on Thursday 28 September at 5.30pm, or at our Open Mornings that run all week from Monday 2 – Friday 6 October, but for now I will hand you over to our student editorial team!

David Lees (Headteacher)



What are the lessons like?

What is your favourite subject? Whether you enjoy honing your maths skills, expressing your thoughts through writing, music or art, or having a kick about on the pitch, there is always something for you to do and enjoy at Saxmundham Free School. Below is an explanation for some of the subjects we have here...

Creative

These subjects require you to show your creative flair in three different classes; **music**, where you can show off your passion for writing or playing music; **art**, where you can add a splash of colour to your brand new masterpiece; and **Technology**, where you can design a new project, cook up a wonder or carve a product, all in 3 hours!

English

English at Saxmundham Free School is a little more advanced than what you're used to at primary school, but it's still fun! We analyse books, write scripts, and sometimes read out our work to the class, or the whole school. We have in-depth discussions almost every lesson, but we still have the good old basics, reading, writing and spellings.

PE

Don't expect a kick about every lesson in PE at Saxmundham! We learn and play everything from hockey to dance, from basketball to gymnastics, and athletics to dodgeball! Oh, and not forgetting football!

Languages

Bonjour! Do you like languages? Learn brand new words, pronunciation, and structure in almost every lesson, plus have real conversations and explore languages in real life situations. J'adore MFL!

Maths

In maths, we have covered many different areas including: algebra, sequences, angle facts, decimals, percentages and fractions. These lessons are fun and, although they are a bit more challenging than at primary school, the teachers make them easier to understand. On top of this we also have school trips that involve maths like the trip to Banham Zoo we had where we followed a maths trail around the zoo.

Science

Our Science topics have included things like the pH scale, soils, metals, sound and light waves and beach litter (see the trips section for more details). The teachers we have make science lessons very enjoyable - even for people who don't usually like the subject! Plus, if you really really love Science like we do! You can join the STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) that runs during Enrichment on a Wednesday afternoon.

Drama

Drama is when we get to express ourselves through acting. We write scripts and monologues, then we act with already written scenarios and ones that we have made up ourselves. Sometimes we even have set character traits. Every year we have a 'School Production' which we rehearse for during Enrichment Time and then perform to over 1000+ people on its 3 day run. Last year the play was 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

Humanities

Humanities is just a formal word for 3 subjects - History, Geography, and Philosophy and Ethics (aka RE with a few differences). These subjects are not ones that you would come across too much in primary school. They are also really fun and we sometimes make models in history. The homework we get from these subjects is every half term and we either do a History or Geography project.

Teachers

Our teachers are really excellent. They are different to Primary School teachers, as you have a specialist teacher for every subject, which might sound daunting, but is actually the best way to learn. The teachers are friendly and supportive, but they will push and challenge you. Their role is to enable you to achieve the best grades possible, and sometimes this is tough going, but when you look at the results it is worth it in Year 11.

By William and Carrie-Ann

Making friends

Even knowing that I had people in my class that were going to the same school as me, I still felt a little nervous about joining high school and making friends. I knew that my friends who were going to a different school alone found it terrifying. Whether you are alone or not, making friends here is so easy. As a small school (it will never be bigger than 600 students) it really can deliver that personal touch, which means that you will always feel supported! It's so amazing here as everyone knows our names (even the teachers), and everyone is so friendly. It was so easy settling into lessons, even if I hadn't of known everyone!

At the beginning of year six, I attended one school, and then in that October, I moved to a completely different school in the area. Up until year seven, things were cool, seeing as I had made friends, but then when I had to come up here, most of my old friends were attending this school. I was worried and scared that they had moved on and forgotten about me, and because I had missed out on so much, it definitely seemed that way at first. But within the first week, I was able to catch up, and we were as good as best friends. This is how easy things can be if you come here. I know you will feel welcome here.



Student Roles

Imagine being like a teacher, with all the responsibilities of an adult. At Saxmundham Free School, you can be just like a teacher, but still be a child, with our Student Leadership Programme. You can be a student ambassador for the day (everybody will get a chance to do this), where you help the school office and be like a worker for the school; Prefects, who you've probably all heard about, and are allowed to be like mini (maybe not so small) teachers, and who do some tasks day to day; Library Ambassador, House Captain, and the king and queen of all student roles, the Head Boy (William Baines) and Girl (Scarlett Pastor), who have similar tasks to prefects, but represent the school a lot more. Oh, and who could forget being a student at Saxmundham Free School! Even if your job is only small, you still represent the school in more ways than one.

By William



Trips

Our teachers want the best out of us and to learn as much as possible and to do that, we can't just sit in classrooms, writing until our hands fall off! To encourage us to get out and about, the school organises lots of trips, and I mean a lot. I have had about six trips so far in year seven, with more to come before summer! These trips can include beach cleans, trips abroad - maybe to France or Germany - or trips to the zoo. All our trips are based on education, such as the beach clean (Science), Banham Zoo (Maths) and lots more. But what are school trips without the fun? Our trips are always fun, even if they are educational! These trips help with real life situations, rather than just revising five years for GCSEs. I definitely think that if you decide to join, you will love the trips.

By Grace



Enrichment

By Grace

In our school, the teachers encourage us to make choices of activities that will prepare us for everyday life, and help us to learn outside of the classroom. This is called Enrichment and it takes place every Wednesday afternoon for two hours. Our school trades in ordinary lessons for more practical activities that will 'enrich' our understanding of other useful skills! We at Saxmundham Free School are lucky to have this, as well as our other Cross Trust schools.

The type of activities you can get involved with include: School Production, Duke of Edinburgh, Grow it, Cook it, Eat it, CCF (Combined Cadet Force) Young Enterprise, Song Writing, Art Therapy, Sports of the World, Running Club, Lego and Minecraft, Outdoor Adventure, Dance, GCSE Computer Science, Coding, Swimming, Debating, English Speaking Board Examinations and many, many more!



Cross Trust Competitions

Saxmundham Free School is a part of the Seckford Foundation Free Schools Trust, along with another two schools, Ixworth Free School and Beccles Free School.

Between our three schools we have regular competitions, we call these Cross Trust Competitions (or CTCs for short). CTCs involve many different subjects in school, for example, below are some of the competitions we do:

World Book Day (English), Fame Lab (Science), The Trust Bake Off (Food Technology), Summer Showcase (Music) and Chess (Maths / P.E). All of these competitions are great fun to take part in, and its good to compete against the other schools.

And... the biggest CTC of them all, Champions day!

Champions day is different to the rest of the challenges. After all three schools have had their individual sports days, the two winners from each event will then go and compete against the winners from the other two schools. So the top 100m runners race against each other at Woodbridge. It is an amazing day of real sporting excellence, with each school trying to be crowned the 'Champions of Champions Day!' I am delighted to tell you that Saxmundham Free School have won it for 4 of the last 5 Years

By Scarlett and Emma



Restaurant



We are privileged to go to a school with such clean and high quality eating facilities that we can rely on to provide us with sizable and nutritious meals. These are a few of the things students thought about our restaurant:

'I love the variety of food available and how nice it is!' - Finley Y9

'I don't think that the fact you can't have packed lunch's is a bad thing as there is such a variety of food available.' Lleyton Y10.

'I like how friendly the kitchen staff are.' - Natasha Y8

'The food is nice and the restaurant is clean' Max Y8



This is just a small number of compliments the students of Saxmundham Free School have towards our fabulous restaurant and we don't doubt that these thoughts will soon be your own.

By Alex and Barney