

Taking a fresh look at the world

Students at Smithdon High School in Hunstanton were encouraged to look at the world around them with more "focus" for a photographic competition.

Head of geography Steven Chapman came up with the competition to get students to look afresh at their surroundings after months of lockdown and remote learning.

"In a departmental meeting we discussed how we wanted to inspire students to get out of the house after remote lessons

and at the weekend, to take exercise and also to be aware that geography is all around them," he said.

"One of my colleagues showed pictures of how his garden had changed and another had pictures of how new housing developments impact existing communities."

There were around 30 entries from across the school with a variety of themes, including flooding, erosion and sea defences, and a winner was chosen from each year group.

"We've had a real range, including the 1953 North Sea Flood memorial, landscapes changed by snow, heathlands, farming landscapes, snowdrops as a sign of spring, flooding, weather conditions, fallen trees – a really interesting mix," said Mr Chapman.

"One pupil included pictures of a pre-lockdown trip to London, as a reminder of what awaits us when this is all over and we can start to move around a bit more.

"The contest really caught the imagination of the students and revealed how much they've learned about geographical processes, which they were able to express in their photo descriptions.

"The judges commented on how one of the best things was that this knowledge wasn't something that they had looked up online, but that they had acquired in the course of their studies, and put to good use."

Smithdon is part of West Norfolk Academies Trust, which runs 11 high schools and primaries in the borough.



Year Nine winner Chloe Moulton captured a snowy sunset at Heacham.



Year Eight pupil Adele Carty's photo of a flooded field at Hempton, near Fakenham.



The ruins of a road at Snettisham bird reserve, damaged in the 1953 North Sea Floods, by Year Seven pupil Ella Asker.

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