



**Newsletter** 

Issue: 8 | May 2021

Work hard, be kind and smile!



# Headteacher's Welcome



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the latest issue of the Smithdon Newsletter.

There is lots of news in this half terms edition. There are the normal regular features from the Library and the progress of our Gold and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants.

We are also seeing creativity in bucket loads: Year 10 making bottle openers in Technology, Art creating masterpieces and delicious food in Food Technology. Not to be outdone, the History department has had students create some amazing decorated eggs over the Easter holiday.

Charity also plays a big part: we are all looking forward to the NHS Fun Run and have a look at what Florence has done for the Little Princess Charity.

This is just a snapshot of some of the great things our students have been doing this half term. We are now looking forward to better weather and fewer restrictions for the final half term of the year, where we have lots of plans to create lots of memories and smiles.

Keep Safe,

Mr Hirst

Ms Wright joined Smithdon many moons ago as an HLTA and has inspired, encouraged, challenged and made us laugh ever since. From her clever use of language, to 'getting her steps up', she is a whirlwind of energy and enthusiasm!

#### When did you join Smithdon and in what capacity?

Once upon a time, I saw an advert for the role of an HLTA in English. Being American (the secret's out), I didn't know much about the English education system. I had new terminology to learn: GCSE, A-level, B-TECH, etc. After a couple of years of supporting GCSE students, I completed my teacher training. So, what started out as part-time employment evolved into a fulfilling career.

## Why did you want to become a teacher and in particular an English one?

Initially, I never wanted to be a teacher. There was a time when I wanted to be an orthopaedic surgeon, but I'm not really a fan of blood and gore, so that wasn't going to work out. I studied English because I enjoyed reading and writing and it was always a strength when I was at school. Whilst at university, one of my part time jobs included tutoring high school students - and it was then that I knew I was destined to be a teacher.

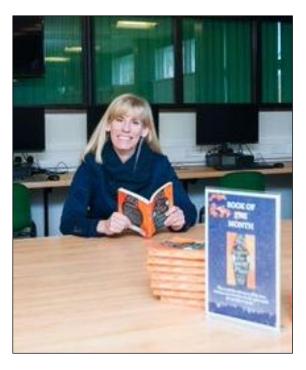
If you weren't a teacher, what career would you be doing? I'd probably be coaching gymnastics. I was a competitive gymnast and I am really proud to say that I coached 2012 Olympic All Around Champion Gabby Douglas when she was young. I also tutored her sister in English!

#### Do you have any hobbies?

I'm not sure if this counts as a hobby or a vocation, but I am an avid supporter of the Philadelphia Eagles American football team. Go Birds. I also enjoy running; on Friday afternoons, I join the Year 11 running club. It's led to a healthy competition within the English Department - who can accumulate the most steps each day.

## What are your top tips for new teachers to survive working in a high school?

- 1. Plan, plan, plan.
- 2. Every once in a while ignore the lesson plan.
- 3. Celebrate success and focus on the positives.





#### What is your all-time favourite book and why?

My favourite book is my next book... it's difficult to select just one as a favourite. The first book that really made me think about writing as a craft is *I am the Cheese* by Robert Cormier. Recently I've read *Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid and *Where the Crawdads* Sing by Delia Owens and I recommend them both for GCSE students and above.

## What has been the most rewarding part of your job?

One of the most rewarding aspects of teaching English is transforming reluctant readers into confident, life-long readers. Every so often I hear from former students who will share their classroom memories with me. I've been at Smithdon for nearly a dozen years now and I've worked with thousands of students.

## What would be your advice to current school leavers?

Ah - the resilient generation. There's been lots of talk in the media that this is the 'lost' generation. I disagree. We've all had our struggles during the pandemic but, on the whole, students have continued to show resilience. Everything in moderation (even moderation).





## With the ever increasing advancement of technology, are you worried that books will become outdated or obsolete?

Books will never become obsolete. E-books are in style and I love my kindle, but there's something special about holding a physical book: the smell of new (or old) pages, the weightiness of it, the dogeared pages...

## How has the pandemic changed the way you teach? Have you learnt any lessons from it?

The pandemic certainly changed the way I taught during lockdown: I became more tech-savvy, learning how to edit and upload pre-recorded lessons. I also became a Google Certified Educator (Level 2 too!) so not only do I implement elements of the G-Suite into my teaching, but I've also become the go-to teacher for Google support. I feel like I'm a walking Google advertisement sometimes.

## Do you see literature and reading for pleasure still relevant in the future?

All media we consume - books, screen, games, etc-starts with an idea which is then manifested in the written form. The last film or series you binged - chances are it began as a book. The speed of life is only increasing so I think that books are even more important and relevant - to remind us to slow down and sayour the moment.



## By Ms Moat





'The impact of the pressure of the pandemic on the psychological wellbeing of the staff has been immense. The traumatic exposure to supporting severe and critically ill patients has certainly taken its toll.'

Mia Elston, Sister, Tilney Ward

As things begin to open up and we all try to understand and adapt to what we think the new normal is going to be like, it seems a good time to reflect on the last 18 months.

This last year has been extremely hard for everyone. We have seen unprecedented times with Covid-19. However, thanks to organisations like the NHS and those that research diseases, we are now being offered various vaccines and treatment to reduce the chances of serious illness from the virus. When faced with illnesses such as Covid it is important that we all stay fit and healthy, and exercise is one way to do this. Exercise helps our body, our mind and our soul.

At some point in our lives we will all need to use a hospital, and this is likely to be our most local one, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in King's Lynn. At the height of the pandemic The hospital had 220 COVID-19 inpatients in their care.

At Smithdon and as part of the West Norfolk

Academy Trust, we want to say a big thank you to
those front line workers who were faced with Covid-19.
To do this we are going to support the Hospital in the

form of a Fun Run!

Any money raised this year will go to their COVID-19 fund to help support the hospital staff and patients. This year staff have mentioned how their wellbeing and mental health has been important to them and they would appreciate some benches outside to allow them to refresh during their breaks and try to relax.





Let's support the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and say

by doing the following:

- Take part and try to do at least three laps around the field in the lesson you will be doing the Fun Run.
- Discuss with family and friends how they have used The Queen Elizabeth
   Hospital in the past and why they think it is important.
- Talk to family and friends about the last year and the impact it has had on you, them and your local community.

Search the following link to raise money for your Fun Run:



## By Mr Chapman

Students in Year 8 and Year 9 have been studying earthquakes and volcanoes in recent weeks. This topic is usually covered in our Year 8 curriculum. Due to lockdown in summer 2020, students missed the teaching of this extremely popular topic; I knew that we had to make room for it in Year 9.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021, the fissure volcano, Fagradalsfjall in Iceland erupted. The volcano is south-west of Iceland's capital, Reykjavik, on the Reykjanes peninsula. Prior to the eruption the area had experienced lots of earthquakes, an indication that an eruption was likely. A fissure volcano is a crack in the ground where lava emerges in an eruption. Fagradalsfjall had a fissure of about 500-700 metres long. The last eruption there was some 800 years ago.

This is a brilliant example of Geography in the news. Every day places are mentioned in the news related to the Geographical themes that we study in class. The image above shows a BBC news photo of the eruption on 20th March.













**Smithdon** Library welcomed the students back after reassessing the Covid plan and organising the new space.

New LED lighting has been installed, making the room brighter, lighter and inviting. The carpet and paint colour has been chosen and a feature wall is being considered!

The new computer suite is being regularly used, with the students very impressed with the new computers.

The vision is for the library to be a multi-purpose space with zones that flow together and have a purposeful and accessible use for everybody in the school.

The **Accelerated Reader STAR** tests were completed this term giving the students their new ZPD range. We then commenced with Library Lessons in a Covid-safe way. With hundreds of new books on the shelves, it was very exciting to see the students browsing the shelves and choosing their new books!

We have plenty of books in the library featuring representative characters and culturally responsive themes. Diversity, inclusion, acceptance, celebration, individuality, equality, togetherness, solidarity; these are all wonderful words we should be embracing and acting upon.

Or.....

Adventure awaits! In the pages of a book at least! Lose yourself in a magical story, an immersive action tale of bravery and exploration, travel from the comfort of your own home. Explore, go on a quest or exciting mission, escape danger and dream of faraway places that are thrilling, exotic and intriguing.



The CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards

The Carnegie Award winner will be announced on 16 June 2021 – we have all the books that are in the running for the award so why not read a few on the shortlist and decide who would be your winner?

**Shadow and Bone** is a fantasy book, which features a girl called Alina Starkov. She is a mapmaker in a war and discovers that she has powers that allow her to control light. These powers could potentially save her land from the shadow fold; however, she doesn't actually know how to use them since she's suppressed them from a young age. Alina has to be taken to the Little Palace, a place for people with powers known as Grisha, to be taught how to use them. While there, she catches the eye of the darkling. He is the commander of the second army, which is an army full of Grisha. Fitting into life there is hard, and just when Alina gets comfortable, she has to run away. Shadow and Bone is the first book in a trilogy written by Leigh Bardugo. The other books are called Siege and Storm and Ruin and Rising. The trilogy has just been released as a Netflix series too. I am currently watching it, and I think it is good, but I prefer the books and recommend that you read them over watching the series. You can have more imagination with the books as well as more detail. The Shadow and Bone trilogy is connected to the Six of Crows series. I am currently reading the Six of Crows and, so far, it is really good. These books can be read by either teenagers or adults. I convinced my mum to read them, and she loved them. I think Shadow and Bone is a marvellous book. One of my favourite characters is Baghra, Alina Starkov's mentor at the Little Palace. She is the one to reveal an unexpected truth to Alina and to the readers. Another favourite character of mine is Prince Nikolai Lantsov, who is introduced to us in Siege and Storm. He's very adventurous, mysterious and cocky. Nikolai is second in line to the throne, behind his brother Prince Vasily Lantsov, who is nothing like him. unbelievably bad move to make, and it was. It almost cost her all the land that she wanted to save.

In Shadow and Bone, I found it very frustrating when Alina stopped running away from the Little Palace and returned to seek something that she and the darkling both wanted. I thought it was an

I never really enjoyed reading and always preferred films and shows, but these books brought out a whole new level of enjoyment for me and I actually quite like reading books now. I would one hundred percent recommend these books and hope that someone else will find enjoyment for them just as deep as mine is. I would rate Shadow and Bone a nine out of ten!

By Caitlin – Year 9



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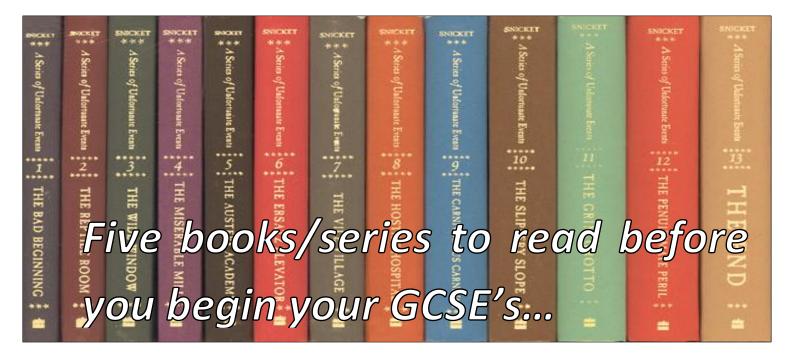
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**Charm and Strange** by Stephanie Kuehn explores the story of Andrew Winston Winters. Convinced he's the victim of a family curse and expecting at any moment to transform into a wolf, Win is battling with both the pain of his past and the isolation of his present.

The narrative switches back and forth between the present where Win has been exiled to a remote Vermont boarding school in the wake of a family tragedy and the past where a terrible secret lurks. Consequently, I found myself unable to put the book down as I wanted to know more. What happened in that fateful long-ago summer? What is the truth behind the secret he shared with his siblings? What is the tragedy that affected his family? What is the family curse? When will he transform into a wolf? WILL he transform into a wolf? I don't think I have ever been so desperate to reach the end of a novel as I was with Charm and Strange. Even when struck with a sense of dread as I found myself putting the various pieces together, I still HAD to know.

I highly recommend this book even though it is intense and might be a hard read for some, it is relevant, heartfelt and so very gripping.

By Miss Cowles – English Teacher



## By Jake - Year 9

#### A Series of Unfortunate Events

If you are interested in stories with happy endings, you would be better off reading some other book! In this book, not only is there no happy ending, there is no happy beginning and very few happy events in the middle. The Baudelaire children are orphaned when their parents are killed in a fire and sent off to live with the deadly Count Olaf who has some schemes up his sleeve.

The series itself is full of heartfelt moments, tension, suspense, family and great characters. The settings add more to the story along with the mystery of what is happening behind the scene.

### The Lord of the Rings

The Lord of the Rings is a fantasy novel series that takes place in Middle Earth. It is the sequel to *The Hobbit*. The story begins when the dark Lord Sauron returns. This results in the fellowship being created as they begin their travels.

The world building is on another level the characters have amazing arcs and the action sequences add a new level to the story.

#### The Hobbit

60 years before *The Lord of the Rings* happened a dragon lived in the lonely mountain the last dragon Smaug. He took the home of the dwarfs and stole the Arkenstone, a powerful artefact. So the thirteen dwarves, one hobbit and a wizard travel to defeat the dragon.

The story is interesting; the book ties up loose ends from *The Lord of the Rings* that aren't explicitly explained. You meet new and interesting characters that all have interesting personalities.

#### **Harry Potter Series**

Harry Potter is a young wizard child whose parents were killed by a dark lord. He was sent to his aunt and uncle's home before he went to Hogwarts, a magic school. Once a year he has to fight the dark lord.

The books are very different from the films. There are characters, places and events that did not happen in the films. One such example is a background character, Peeves the poltergeist, a prankster who works with the Weasley twins on occasion.

#### Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Charlie Bucket is a simple child in a small house in the city where the factory of Willy Wonka, a famous candy man, has his main factory. One day a contest to find five golden tickets is held by Wonka and the winner gets a prize.

The way Roald Dahl describes the settings, characters, events and the songs added to a great plot makes this one of the best books I have ever read!

### Podcasts...

The Guardian Books Podcast: Teenage and children's authors.

https://www.theguardian.com/books/series/books+booksforchildrenandteenagers

Tutor Doctor: Support for home-learning.

https://www.tutordoctor.co.uk/blog/2019/july/tutor-doctors-top-podcast-picks-for-teen/

Raising teens: Covering topics such as relationships and self-esteem.

https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/raising-teens-podcast/id1167024470

Just Breathe: Parenting your LGBTQ Teen.

https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/just-breathe-parenting-your-lgbtq-teen-

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**c** Useful Websites:

https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/emotional-health/children-young-peoples-emotional-health

https://thebeyouproject.co.uk/resources/

https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/

https://youngminds.org.uk/

https://www.teentips.co.uk/resources/

https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/resources/online-courses-and-learning-for-children-and-teens/

www.natgeokids.com/uk

www.tate.org.uk/kids

www.harpercollinschildrensbooks.co.uk/free-teaching-resources-activities/

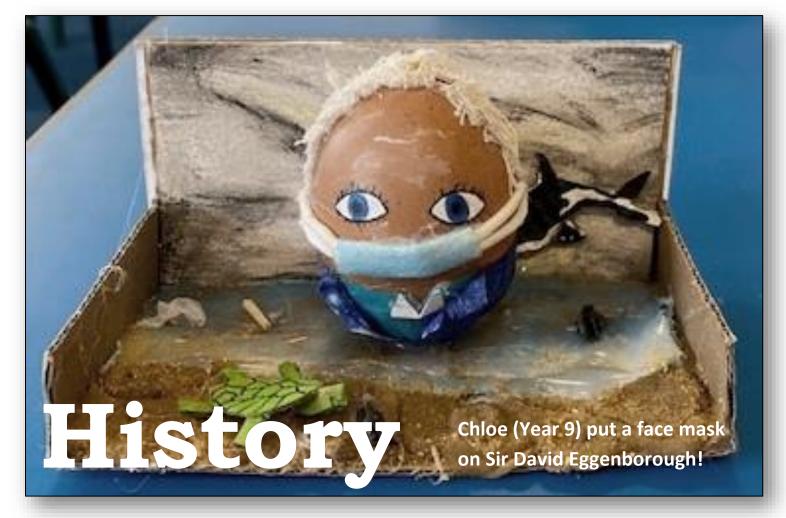
www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/kids-cooking

The Norfolk County Council Libraries have now reopened, albeit with restrictions in place. Reservations for books that are not stocked in your local library are free for school children to order in! Please see Miss Taylor or your English teacher to pick up a joining form for your local library to access eBooks and audio books.

Hunstanton Library has moved premises to Valentine Road, Hunstanton.

https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries





## Easter Challenge - Be a Good Egg!

The entries received were *Eggcellent* and it was very hard to choose a winner! Well done to all the students that entered, we were so impressed with the detail and effort put into each one and we are so proud of you all!

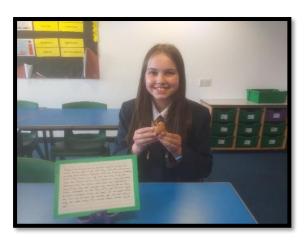






Evie (Year 7) chose Marie Curie, the scientist, who amongst other things, helped to find treatments for cancer. Evie (Year 8) chose Florence Nightingale, the English social reformer and founder of modern nursing, as her inspiration for this well made little egg-box! Trinity (Year 7) constructed a lab for Alexander Fleming, the Scottish physician who discovered penicillin. Ffion (Year 8) made a wheelchair for Stephen Hawking, the English theoretical physicist and author. Isabelle (Year 8) decided to create Amelia Earhart, the American aviation pioneer.







Gracie (Year 9) chose Eggabeth Schuyler Hamilton, a socialite and philanthropist who aided the creation of our national financial system. Angel (Year 7) created Nelson Mandela, the South African political leader and philanthropist with Lego. Jessica (Year 8) – Eggy The Eagle; Ski jumper and Olympian! Ethan (Year 7) Sir Isaac Newton who was an English mathematician, astronomer, physicist and theologian, who also discovered gravity when he saw a falling apple whilst thinking about the forces of nature.







Winner!



Teddi – Year 8

Congratulations on your impressive historical egg creation! James Brindley was one of the most notable engineers of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century!



In this rotation, Year 7 have been learning about the importance of having a rainbow of vegetables in our diets to ensure that we are getting all the vitamins and minerals needed for our bodies to function properly.







Isabel, Evie and Ella made colourful and nutritious vegetable couscous. They cut up their vegetables and followed a recipe to create this delicious dish independently. Couscous is a type of North African semolina granules that is made from crushed durum wheat and is a good source of fibre. It has a neutral flavour like many wheat foods and so it is usually served with vegetables, lemon, herbs and nuts.



The students have been looking at why we need protein and fats in our diet and what food items are a good source of both of these nutrients. With this in mind, Year 8 have created homemade pizza that includes protein (cheese and meat) and fats (cheese and oil).

Eris shaped her pizza into a lovely heart shape, whilst Thomas stuffed his one with cheese. Theo covered his pizza with sweetcorn. They all had different ideas for their own individual pizza but all three looked super delicious!





Year 9 students looked at food and dishes from different cultures, ranging from traditional Italian food to Chinese cuisine. In response to this they created a Chinese-inspired chicken stir fry, using a wok to get a real authentic experience of cooking cultural dishes.



Reece, Chloe and Robyn created their dishes with fresh vegetables using a wok, which is a traditional cooking pot used in a variety of Chinese cooking. It originated from China in the Han dynasty where it was first used to dry grains!





## Maths

MARCH A LITTLE BIT OF MATHS EVERY DAY					JustMaths	
Convert the below fraction to a % $\frac{3}{8} 37.5\%$	The hypotenuse of a right-angulation of triangle is 13 cm long. One of the other sides is 5 cm. How long is the third side?	I have 6 red pens, 4 blue pens and 3 green pens. What fraction of the pens are green?  3/13	What is the value of: $(\sqrt{3})^2$	5 Without a calculator work out £2.37 × 12 £28.44	Without a calculator $\frac{3}{5} \times 420 252$	Whats the smallest even number that can be used with the following digits?  5 4 8 3 3 4 5 8
How many numbers less than 100 can you list that are "one less than a square number?"  *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *		Simplify $2x^2 + 2x^2$ $4x^2$ $4x^2$ $x \times x \times x + p + p$ $x^3 + 2p$	Estimate $ 8.6 \times \sqrt{64.99} $ $ 4.34 \times 4.1 $ $ 8 \times 64 \times 4.1 $ $ 6 \times 64 \times 4.1 $	True or False?  22 is a factor of 11  False 22 is a multiple	The dimensions of a fish tank are 50 cm by 32 cm by 20 cm. 32000 The tank is three quarters full with water. How much water is in the tank? 24000 cm. 3	
Write 1111 in standard form	Write £16:80p:£2.40 in its simplest form 1600:80:240 20:1:3	How many faces does a square based pyramid have? 5	Calculate: $\frac{3}{4} \div \frac{4}{5} = \frac{15}{16}$	Calculate the area of the triangle.  4 cm  3 cm	2 7 1 Find the 11th ter Explain how you know 87	umbers is given as 2 17 22 m of the sequence. 5n-3 6 is not in the sequence. 199-175-8 n 18 nota 5 whole numb
Write down the value of 32°P.	23 Solve 5x - 2 > 6 + 3x 2x > 8 3c > 4	Calculate: $1\frac{3}{8} \times 2\frac{2}{5}$ $\frac{132}{40} = 3\frac{6}{26} \cdot 3\frac{3}{6}$	What is the value of $n$ ? $5^{4} \times 5^{4} = 5^{8}$ $0: 4$	Al, Bob and Cath share some money in the ratio 1:3:5. If Bob received £75 how much did they share? 25 s 9	3 5 of an	45. [15   15   15   15   15   15   15   15
C=Som 29 A circle with a diameter of 10cm is split into quarters. Calculate the area of one quarter? $\frac{1}{4} \times 25 \text{ T}^2 = 16.6 \text{ cm}^2$	Write 32 ×10 <sup>6</sup> in standard form $3.2 \times 10^{7}$	31 What number is halfway between -4 and 11? 3.5		BER: The laths is to	•	

Did you test your knowledge on 'A little bit of maths every day'?

Here are the answers to the equations – how many did you get right?

MARCH	A LITTLE	BIT OF MA	THS EVERY	DAY 🔫	Just	Maths
What is the value of the 6 in the number 1063? 60	Five "things" weigh a total of 4 kilograms.  2009 Four of the "things" weight 600 grams each.  What is the weight of the other "thing"?  16009		Write in its simplest form $\frac{28}{70} = \frac{2}{5}$	What is ? $\frac{2}{7} \div 2 + \frac{1}{4}$	What is 40% of 20?	Whats the missing number? 520 = 3,546 4066
Calculate 21.8 × 1000 21800	Work out 25 × 15 375	What is exactly halfway between 0.1 and 0.6? 0:35	the wire. ISOan left		Calculate $96 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ ILLL	Work out 0.25 + 0.4 0.65
Write 0.27 as a percentage 27%	What is the lowest common multiple of 8 and 15?	Round 7.67 to one decimal place 7.7	Calculate 10 + 7 × 2 24	Dawn has twice as many cousins as Emma.  Emma has 4 cousins.		How many minutes in one and a quarter hours?
Write the first 6 prime numbers. 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13	Write down two numb	AND RECOGNIZED WATER STORY OF THE PROPERTY OF	What is 0.165 + 100? 0.00165	Calculate 17 × 5 <b>8</b> 5	Write down an example to show that the following is not correct:  The factors of an even number are always e factors of 6 are 12.3 16.  1 and 3 are odd.	
List all the factors of 24	How many minutes between 15:25 and 17:10? IOS 15:25-16:00 35 16:00-17:10 70	Write 8675 to the nearest 1000 9000			best way "do Math	to revise

Simplify 2a³b × 5a²b³	Write 2.89 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> as an ordinary number	Solve 3x - 5 = 16	Simplify $\frac{5m^4 \times 3m^2}{m^2}$	Solve (x + 2)(x - 3) = 0	There are 792 litres of oil in Vays oil tank.  He uses 18.7 litres of oil each day.  Estimate the number of days it will take him to use all the oil the tank.  13  Paul bought a new car. The value of the car was £15,000.  In the first year, the value of the car depreciated by 18% each yea.  Work out if Paul's car lost more than half of its value by the ead of the years.	
8 Work out 130% of £120	Work out 0.4 x 12	10 What is the highest common factor of 22 and 14?	Three numbers have a mean of 12 and a mode of 10. What are the numbers?	Write  24.7 × 10 <sup>4</sup> in standard form		
Factorise 3y + 6	16 A "thing" is reduced in a sale by 20%. The sale price is £80. What was the original price?	4.00	Simplify m² + m²	Expand x(x - 3)	What is the surface area of the prism?	20 cm
What is the area of a circle with a diameter of 10 cm?	Work out $\frac{3}{5} + \frac{2}{3}$	Work out (without a calculator) 123 x 12	25 Simplify 4x <sup>2</sup> + 2x + 3x + 8	26 Work out 35% of 800	27 Simplify 3(m + 4) - 2(4m + 1)	Change 3.5 metres to millimetres.
What is? $\frac{3}{5} of 80$	Given the perimeter is 45cm, calculate the	x + 4	REMEMBER: The best way to revise maths is to "do Maths"!			

Here are the next questions for you to work out – the answers will be in the next Newsletter.

MAY A LITTLE BIT OF MATHS EVERY DAY					JustMaths	
What is 238 ÷ 7?	Calculate 50 x (36 ÷ 6)	What is the missing value? ? = 942 - 395	What is 6 ÷ 0.3 ?	Calculate 5 - 14	Unde cuts 4 metres of ribbon into three pieces. T length of the first piece is 124 cm. The length of second piece is 1.65 metres. Work out the length of the third piece.	
A toy shop orders 11 box contains 6 bags of marbl mark How many marbles does	es. Each bag contains 45	Calculate $\frac{57}{100} - \frac{43}{100}$	What is ? $1\frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{5}$	What is 6 ÷ 0.25 ?	How many vertices does a cuboid have?	work out 150 × 12
What is 12.007 - 7.8 ?	Calculate -7 - 12	17 Lara chooses a number greater than 20 She divides it by 2 and then adds 6 She then divides this result by 4. Her answer is 4.5 What was the number she started with?		Calculate	Calculate 3.9 + 12.042	Work out 4 + 1
What is Which two numbers multiply together to equal 1  5 million minus 150,000 ?  22  Which two numbers multiply together to equal 1  5 million.  200  2,000  5,000  50,000		What is 894 - 89 ?	Round 8 486 to the nearest thousand.	Calculate 0.2 × 10	Put these numbers in size order (smallest first) 0.78 0.607 5.6 0.098 4.003	
What is 25% of 1800?	What is 1089 - 100?	Calculate 15% of £120	REMEMBER: The best way to revise maths is to "do Maths"!			



## By Mrs Soper

Mattie, Jacob, Ruby, Zaniah, Matthew, Rhenaya and Chloe getting ready to plant strawberry plants, onions and beetroot!

Now more than ever it seems we are realising that being outside in nature can have a very positive impact on our health and wellbeing. To make better use of our outside space at Smithdon we are developing a garden in one of the quads (large courtyard spaces). This garden will act as an outdoor Science classroom, allowing us to teach curriculum content such as plant biology, soil nutrients and composting, attracting and identifying insects, caring for the wider environment and sustainability, in a space where we can make direct observations, take samples and measurements and conduct experiments. It will also help to support and further develop our new Knowledge Rich curriculum with Year7 and Year8 students.

Our Food Technology teacher, Mrs Dibble, will use the garden to help her students develop a better understanding about where their food comes from, to grow and harvest ingredients that they can use in the kitchen.

I hope that other co-curricular links can also be made with other design technology subjects and the Art department.

From September 2021 we will be one of the North West Norfolk schools benefiting from the support of The Papillon Project. This is an educational charity that promotes sustainable living and environmental awareness for young people in Norfolk, to inspire young people to grow their own food for themselves and their local community. Their mission is to help rehearse the next generation to know how to grow their own food so we can all start to live in a world that is greener and far more sustainable.

We are delighted to be getting the help, guidance and advice from Matt Willer, the founder of the Papillon Project, to make the garden the best sustainable space it can be for our students' enjoyment and education. Students will benefit from lunch clubs and after school Cocurricular opportunities, outdoor Science lessons and hopefully a sense of pride and ownership for the space they help to change and improve, and the produce they grow.

Alex Child has kindly given us three tractor tyres from Doubleday Group to recycle into raised planting beds. These have already caught the students' attention and instigated discussion about recycling and the scale of modern farm machinery and will hopefully help to engage students in future activities.

We have had great support so far from Moulam and Horn, giving us a fantastic deal on hand trowels for the students to use. A few tonnes of free topsoil was also generously donated by local businessperson, Mr Steven Johnson and kindly moved and delivered by Mr Justin Aldis.

A group of Year 8 students have planted potatoes for the Solana Seeds UK Schools Potato Growing Challenge. Last year we were awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Skin-finish and Quality for our first lockdown-grown potatoes that did not quite get all the care they needed. We are aiming to improve on that this year with the help of our fantastic new growing space in the two raised beds built by our site team this year.

A Year 7 Science group have grown their own sunflowers from seed, to compete for the tallest Smithdon sunflower of the year; these are now 30-40cm tall and almost ready to plant outside.

http://www.thepapillonproject.com/about-the-project/







In my Science class we have planted sunflowers and we are having a sunflower competition to see who can grow the tallest sunflower. I like planting sunflowers because it is calming. I think having a school garden is a good idea, because it is a place where you can relax and have fun and it is a place where wildlife can roam. Being in nature can also relax and calm people down.

#### By Ruby – Year 7



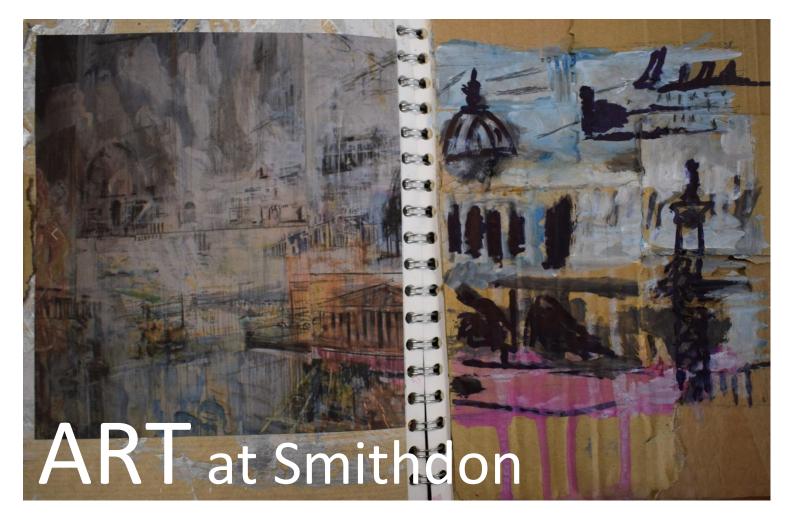




In Year 7, we have been growing sunflowers in Science. It's been very fun watching our sunflowers grow. Next week we will be planting them in our school garden! We have a competition to see whose will grow the tallest. We are all very lucky as a school to have a quiet place to go, and in the summer we would do outdoor activities, or just sit outside in the fresh air. The school canteen and Food Tech will also find it easier to receive fresh vegetables or fruit, instead of purchasing masses of vegetables, which is more expensive for the school.

#### By Niamh – Year 7





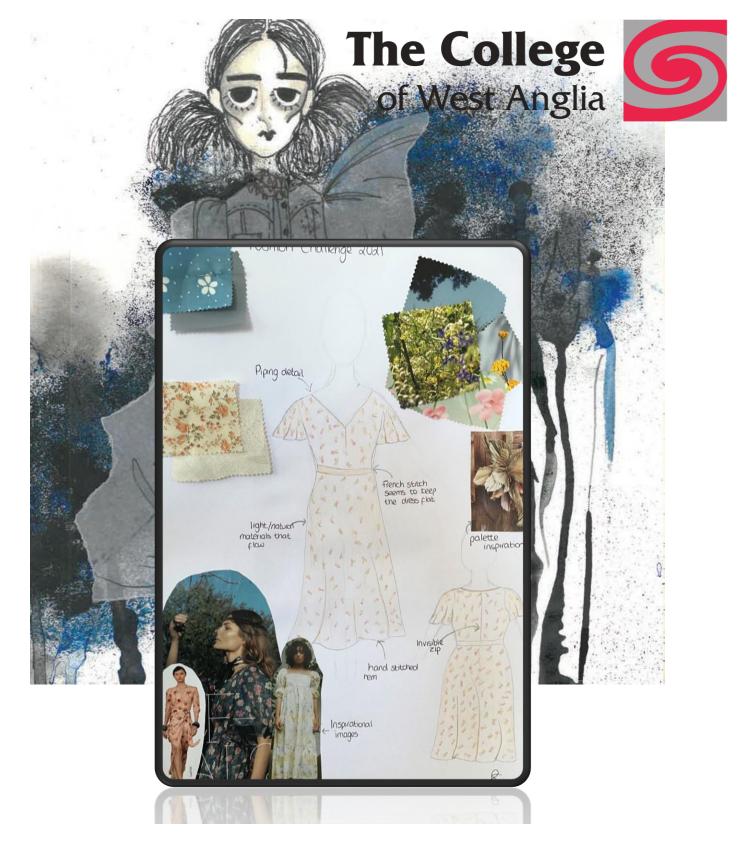
Theo, Tiah and Jess have produced truly amazing and creative coursework. The title 'Structure' was initially given to them to base their work around and they used their imaginations and skills to extend this project into how they translate STRUCTURE into a final piece.





This display is made up of the work of 48 Year 8 students chosen at random. They are Lino prints as parts of students' Typography project and are inspired by the artist Jasper Johns, who the students studied during the most recent national lockdown.





Phoebe, one of our Year 9 students, has entered the **2021 College of West Anglia**Fashion Challenge!

## What was the brief?

To design a post-lockdown party dress. The inspiration must come from the influences of nature, made from a printed fabric or a combination of printed fabrics.

Phoebe's design of a floral, floaty summer dress would be perfect for a post-lockdown BBQ!

Well Done, Phoebe and Good Luck!





"When a child loses their hair to cancer or another condition, we'll be there with a free, real hair wig to help restore their confidence and identity. We won't stop until the research that we fund ends childhood cancer forever. Promise."

Florence in Year 7 did a remarkable and selfless thing on the 5 May 2021. She went along to the hairdressers in Hunstanton and had 18" of her beautiful, long hair chopped off!

She had been growing it for a very special reason: to donate it to The Little Princess Trust, who will use the strands to make a wig for a child who has lost their own hair due to cancer treatment or another condition.

If you would like to donate to Florence, please use the link below. All proceeds will be used to cover the cost of making the wig. They do cost several hundreds of pounds to make and are then given to the child for free. Well done, Florence, we are so proud of you and your caring and generous nature!

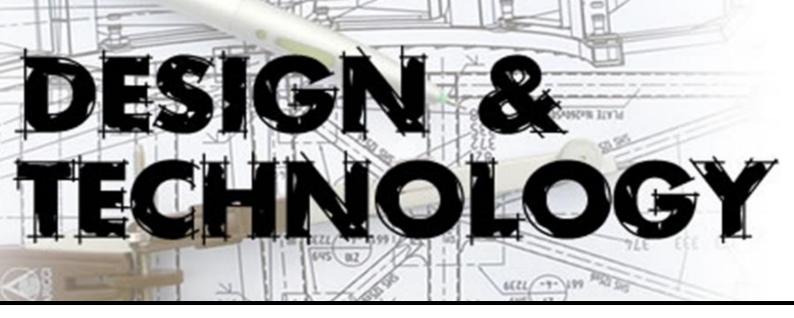
https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/FlorenceBirks?utm\_source=Sharethis&utm\_medium=fundraising&utm\_content =FlorenceBirks&utm\_campaign=pfp-email&utm\_term=6f2a1fa775c64833b2fcf8dc4644107a.



Before...



After!



This term, Year 10 have been focusing on metal work. They have been making hanging basket brackets and bottle openers made from steel. They had to design a template using CAD and then mark it out onto a blank rectangle of metal. The students were all given a standard rectangle of steel of identical size to work from.

They marked out their design with a centre punch and then used a hacksaw to cut away waste, followed by a drill to shape the bottle opener notch and files to shape and smooth the design. Finally, they used an emery cloth to finish it. The only power tool used was the drill for the hole. Everything else was done using hand tools.

The hanging basket bracket started as one long length of steel. Students had to mark it out and cut into two pieces, file to make the ends smooth and safe, then mark out and drill mounting holes. Next, they had to bend one end to make the L shaped bracket and use a scroll bender to make the other into the curly bit. They then riveted the two parts together by hand.

The students are now working on a BBQ fork, ready for the summer!



























After a challenging year, we are up and running again planning expeditions. We have never had a busier time than this year with organising expeditions for 50 students from Year 11 and Year 10 Silver Award Participants, and Year 10 and Year 9 Bronze Award Participants. We have dates in the diary for the week beginning Monday 12 July to fit in all four expeditions. Due to Covid these are reduced expeditions and will only involve two-day walks, but with the training and previous experience of the participants we are in no doubt that they will do well!

Look out for letters coming out and remember you must have completed your Volunteer, Physical and Skill sections by June 18th to be allowed to qualify to do the expedition. So get as much evidence on eDofE as you can for us to sign it off and gain further certificates and the limited edition Achievement Award for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Well done to Chloe (Year 10), Chloe (Year 9), Caitlin (Year 9), Louise (Year 9) and Jordana (Year 9) for completing their Volunteer, Skill and Physical sections already to be awarded the Achievement Award.

And well done to the Year 10 Silver participants, Thomas and Maria, for completing two sections with only their twelve-month section left to do.

To help you with some ideas for evidence, these pictures are what some students have been doing:







A huge, "Well Done" to our Maths students of the term!

Sophie Year 7, Evie Year 8, Chloe Year 9, Thomas Year 10 and Ella Year 11.

They received certificates and shiny new badges to wear!

## Pen of the Week

"The Immortal Instrument"

Celebrating Year 11!



#### **Mrs France**

Connor has a real talent for creative writing which spills over into his literature work.

#### Ms Wright

Naylin is a consistent, reliable and focused student and has a great understanding of language.

#### **Mrs Carlton**

Sequoia has made great effort in the class assessments and has completed some impressive intervention work.

#### **Miss Cowles**

Jess has been working extremely hard and has achieved positive CAGs.

#### Miss McKay

Joshua has made great progress this term. He has made great effort in revision and in challenging himself. Commendable efforts during CAGs.









This term's Co-Curricular PE clubs have had great attendance – despite the rain!

The students have been able to take part in a range of different sports including: golf, tennis, cricket, rounders and track. Mr Knott also holds a running club after school on Fridays for Year 11 students and teachers! The running club will be opened up for all students when it is safe to do so.

The new timetable for the last few weeks of this academic year will be published shortly...







# How to stop CYBERBULLYING



LOG OFF the site where the bullying is happening.



BLOCK EMAILS or messages. Don't respond to them.



SAVE THE MESSAGE or email and show an adult.



TELL SOMEONE you trust.

## Get in touch:

Smithdon High School

**Downs Road** 

Hunstanton

**PE36 5HY** 

T: 01485 534541

E: office@smithdonhigh.org.uk

W: www.smithdonhigh.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter for daily updates and photos of what's happening @smithdon\_high

#somethingshappeningatsmithdon

## We hope that you have a restful break, be safe!

Thank you for taking the time to read our Newsletter.

If you would like to be involved, submit any work or produce any content, please contact: <a href="mailto:m.taylor@smithdonhigh.org.uk">m.taylor@smithdonhigh.org.uk</a>

Work hard, be kind and smile!