



The April 2022 Issue



Another term has just flown by and we find ourselves enjoying some Spring warmth just in time for the typically predicted ice for the Easter Holidays!

It has been another fantastic term with a plethora of events and activities, which are all documented in this half-term's magazine - from the success of the inaugural Smithdon Literary Festival in conjunction with World Book Day to the positive feedback received from the primary school pupils who experienced our STEMM students' experiments and displays of wonder on their primary Science Tour.

See the report on another inaugural event - our Smithdon Careers Fair - which was well attended and positively received, as well as the reporters' research on Comic Relief and the support needed for refugees leaving Ukraine, which were the focus of our fundraising efforts on our 18 March blue and yellow themed non-uniform day, raising a magnificent £630.84 in total. Well done to all involved! There are also the many Sports team updates amongst other exciting news to find out about.

As we write, the final preparations for this year's production, Matilda Jr, are in full swing, with a matinee performance for Year 7 and 8 students to enjoy, Year 11 are deciding on what ride to go on first when they get to Alton Towers on Friday for their Rewards Trip and all the staff and students are looking forward to a restful Easter break.

As always, we hope you have a lovely holiday and look forward to seeing everyone back refreshed in April and ready for the challenges of the new term - not least our Year 11s who will have just a few weeks to put final revision plans into action before their GCSE exams begin - we wish you all every success in the term ahead.

SMITHDON IN THE NEWS

An egg-cellent 118 Easter treats were collected and donated to the Food Bank!



After the success of our Christmas Food Bank Appeal, we wanted to keep the message of giving, kindness and charity alive for Easter.

Students and staff have been donating Easter treats, including chocolate eggs, bunnies and chocolate pouches, in the last few weeks so that we could collectively donate them to the Hunstanton Food Bank, which is run by The Trussell Trust.

If we can sweeten a family's Easter and help them to mark and celebrate the occasion with a delicious treat, then we will put on our bunny ears and hop to work at helping them!

We collected 118 Easter treats (21kg of chocolate) and with the help of Harry and Erin in Year 7, we delivered them to the Food Bank to the delight of the hard-working volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who donated and made it possible for us to give back to our local community.

Lily cooks up a Mexican storm!

We are so proud of Lily in Year 9 who attended the Young Chef District Final in Suffolk. Lily had the unique opportunity to prepare her dishes in a professional restaurant!

Lily has done amazingly well to get this far and to go up against 6 other contestants.

Lily is raring to go for next year's competition and we cannot wait to see the delicious recipes that she cooks!

Smithdon High School's first Literary Festival is a huge success!



The first week in March saw the launch of the first ever Smithdon Literary Festival. The week was to coincide with World Book Day. With branding designed by our Head of Art, Miss Phelps, and bunting decorating the library and corridor, the week did have a fun, festival feeling.

The week's activities included visits from authors, Hayley Long and Chris Priestley and EDP chief reporter Chris Bishop; the Carnegie Awards shadowing group launch; a poetry competition; a 500-word story competition and, to end the busy week, a visit from Dr. Claire Wilkinson from Cambridge University.

World Book Day itself saw the teachers and support staff dress up as various book characters. The students were given the opportunity to vote for their favourite costume (though the English Department were excluded from the votes).

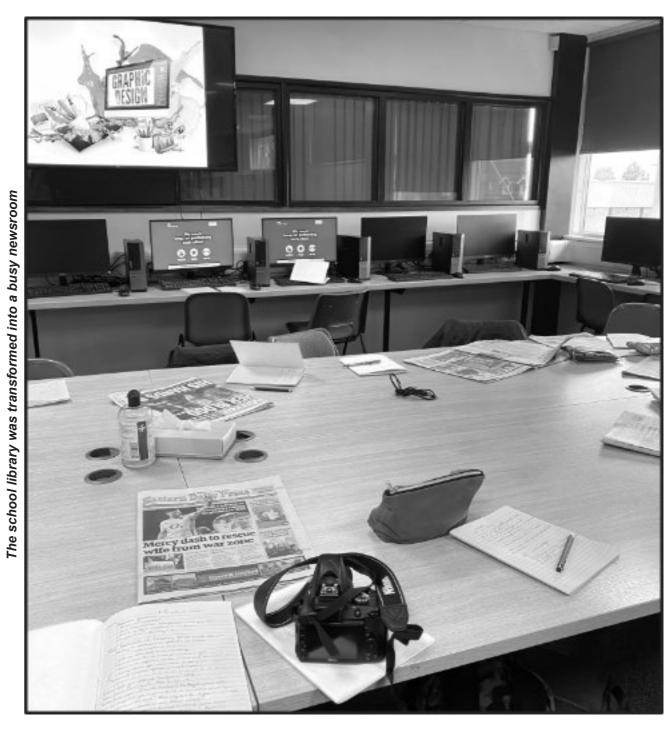
The clear winner was Ms Bazeley-Smith who transformed into a very convincing Miss Trunchbull! We all know that Ms Bazeley-Smith is the total opposite of the scary and nasty antagonist of *Matilda*, which made her costume all the more impressive.

With the success of the week and the great feedback that we received from the students, Smithdon intends to run the Literary Festival every year with extra events, fun and activities.

So, to begin the plans for 2023, which Miss Wright, our Head of English is hoping will be "bigger and louder!"

The Smithdon Literary Festival





Journalism Day

By Kira - Year 9

Happy Smithdon Literary Festival Week!

To begin the celebrations of literature, Smithdon organised a Journalism event; 'chase the story',for a few lucky students in Year 9 who had the opportunity to sign up for it. To begin with, everyone was geared up with the necessary equipment: cameras, notebooks, newspapers and press passes.

Thank you to Springwood High School for the loan of the amazing cameras!



Emily and I were the Feature Writers and enjoyed every moment!

Soon after, we quickly got to work on finding out if the anonymous phone message was true or false.

Was Smithdon really being demolished?

What was the real story?

Everyone took pride in their roles and had to complete many tasks that left no one bored or aimless.

Guided by Chief Reporter of the EDP, Chris Bishop, we learned the path to becoming a journalist and the tasks they take part in daily.



Previous to the event, we were all able to choose which role we'd wish to fill. I really enjoyed having the chance to choose for ourselves, as it made me feel more confident in my role.

We chose between photographer, reporter, feature writer and designer. I personally chose the feature writer role, which I absolutely adored taking part in!

Our photographers took many beautiful pictures of Smithdon High School's buildings, the reporters interviewing staff, and of course the press conference.

The reporters collectively ventured out to interview staff to find out what they knew and to dig deeper and find the real story behind the fake news.

I took part in my own interview and I found this amazing to do, it's the sort of thing that once you've done once you want to do again and again!

The designers immediately got to work on designing the layout for our news page with the excellent guidance of Miss Fairweather and it ended up looking amazing.

Finally, our writers waited for information from reporters and began writing away delightfully with what they heard.

Eventually, Mr Hirst came to the library for the 'press conference'. The reporters and writers asked their probing questions:

Is Smithdon really being demolished?

What are the plans for the renovations?

After a lot of questioning, we learned that the rumours had been false! The truth was, in fact, that the buildings were going to renovated, updated and modernised.

honestly loved this experience so much, it was definitely one of the best things I've done at Smithdon. I loved how independent we could be with our own questions and by doing things how we wished to do. My favourite part was definitely when I got the opportunity to interview a student

I also loved the personalised lanyards as well, they were awesome!

Please read the news article that we all worked on together, it was a team effort and we are really proud of it.

The designers were lucky enough to get some guidance from Miss Fairweather before working together to come up with a layout and heading. The reporters were busy around the school site, taking photos and interviewing staff.





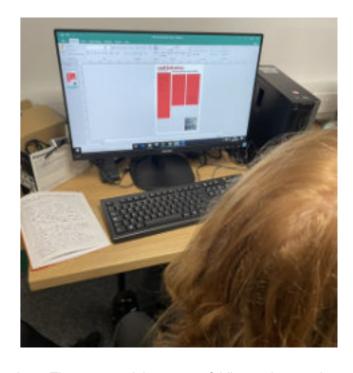












Isobel, Jess, Madison and Lily were the fantastic team of photographers. They captured the story unfolding and roamed the school grounds looking for interesting subjects. They were professional and enthusiastic and managed to capture some great images!

Marcia began putting the article together with the layout that was chosen between the designers, the article written by the feature writers and the photos taken by the photographers. What a team effort!



Mr Hirst was interrogated by the reporters and writers. They asked questions concerning the re-build:

Where would the canteen go?

Will the temporary classrooms be safe and have disabled access?

Will they have access to computers?

How long will it take?

Why is red tape holding up the renovations?

What does it mean for the younger generations?





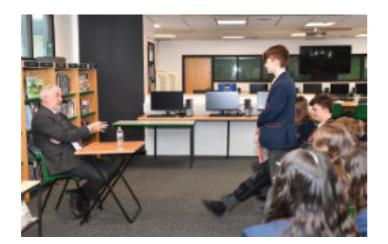
Big "Thank you's" go to: Chris Bishop from the EDP, Miss Roberts for flying around the school with the reporters and photographers, Miss Fairweather for sharing her skills and experience with graphic design and Springwood High School for the loan of the cameras.

The Smithdonian

Special Edition

Red tape holds up school rebuild!

Students question Head of historic Brutalist building



Plans to rebuild a Grade 2 listed High School are being held up by red tape and restrictions.

Headteacher Mr John Hirst today confirmed that plans for a major revamp of historic Smithdon High School, which was built in 1954, are in the pipe-line. In July 2021, Smithdon, which is in the coastal town of Hunstanton, was chosen by the government to be given significant investment to modernise the school buildings, particularly the 75-year old Brutalist school block. But plans are being held up by the Grade 2 regulations, which means permission is needed from the Local Planning Authority to demolish, extend or alter any part of the building. The listed building is one of the most architecturally significant buildings of the 20th Century, designed by renowned architects, Alison and Peter Smithson.

One member of staff, Miss Drewery, remembers her time as a student and the positive support she received when starting in 1995. The support inspired her to study childcare at college. Miss Drewery has returned to the school as an LSA with the desire to help others the same way she was. She said that she had "no clue" about the school's demolition.

The students and staff members we spoke to were unfamiliar with the upcoming plans.

At a press conference with Mr Hirst, our reporters delved into the plans and asked the questions that were on everyone's minds.

What's going to happen education wise?

Where will the students go if the building is out of use?

Where will the canteen be situated? What long term effect does this have on future students?

Mr Hirst was fluent and positive with his answers despite the questions coming thick and fast.

"The changes will be positive, there will be 21st Century resources, it will be

carbon neutral, and will affect future students in a very positive way. Because it is a listed building, it does take a lot longer than usual with the planning and permissions."

Mr Hirst did not deny that there might be temporary classrooms built at at cost of £4 million to house the students whilst the renovations were under way.

"Temporary classes will depend on what happens with the building permissions but they will definitely be better than the current classrooms in that building. The temporary classrooms will have electricity, heating, internet, ventilated windows, disabled access and fire alarms. We could re-house some classes in to the Shaw Building and some classes could even be held in the large library which could be re purposed into a classroom. The canteen and reception will be put into temporary buildings as well. The temporary buildings would be modern with all the up-to-date resources that the students would need. We predict that the renovations will not be completed until 2026 and could cost £30

Continuing with the probing questions, our reporters demanded answers regarding student and staff safety. For example, falling, heavy rubble. Mr Hirst confirmed that multiple fences will be placed up for student safety. Further questions were asked about the safety of the students as the building and renovations take place, and Mr Hirst reassured them that students' safety, welfare and education is the priority.

"The school population will be kept away from the builders and any dangers. There will be some disturbance, but the noisier work would take place when the school is closed."

And if this doesn't confirm enough, Mr Hirst firmly stated that Smithdon High School is not being completely demolished!

Students interviewed were unaware of the rumours. Adele, in Year 9, confirmed she learned of plans to create modern buildings but she hadn't heard rumours regarding demolition. She embraces the new build, stating "Smithdon High School had a positive effect on me, with my confidence, career choice and especially friendships. If I could change anything about Smithdon it would be the crowded halls between lessons."

Grace, another Year 9 student, also welcomes the changes but stated, "Unfortunately the new buildings will not be ready for student use until 2026...and I leave in 2024. It's exciting to look forward to but I hope my year group benefits from the improvements.

Students in Years 10 and 11 shared the same sentiment, with Theo in Year 11 stating, "it's great for the community and for the future of education in Hunstanton, but I wish we were taught in buildings fit for purpose."

Our reporters also spoke to Mr Thorogood, the Site Manager at Smithdon. He played down the rumour of the school being demolished but did confirm that the swimming pool would be demolished and that temporary class rooms were an option.

Fake news, rumours and unconfirmed reports may be making the rounds but what cannot be over-looked and avoided is the Council Planning Notice Proposal that has been placed outside the school.

This does confirm that works are being proposed and that future generations of children that live in the area will benefit from a high school that has roots in architectural history and yet is able to provide a high standard of teaching within a modern, safe and future-proof building.

We are all looking forward to these changes, whether we will be studying here to benefit from the investment is yet to be seen.

Students and staff embrace the new building with its strong foundations; a structure that will not be held up by red tape!

THE CARNEGIE SMITHDON SHADOWERS



As part of the Smithdon Literary Festival, we were proud to launch the 'Smithdon Shadowers', a group of enthusiastic readers, led by Miss Cowles and Miss Taylor, who will be reading and discussing their way through this year's Carnegie shortlist.

Carnegie Shadowing is part of a national (and international) reading for pleasure initiative that engages thousands of children and young people in reading the books on the shortlist as part of reading groups in schools and public libraries. Each year young people who take part in the scheme are invited to vote for their favourite books to win the Shadowers' Choice Awards.

So on the morning of Tuesday 1 March morning, a number of enthusiastic readers from Years 7-10 met for a literary breakfast in the library. Over pastries, they were introduced to all things Carnegie - the books, what shadowing will involve, how they can contribute to the award - as well as having the opportunity to discuss books and reading for pleasure with like-minded peers.

Initially, students discussed the 18 long-listed books, sharing ideas about what they thought they would enjoy and what books they felt might take them out of their reading comfort zone. They picked their top books based on the cover - despite popular belief, the cover is actually the best way to first judge a book (obviously after that it's all about the blurb and the content) - and, by the end of the session, left excited for the shortlist announcement and getting their first of the books to read.

The great thing about the shortlist is how diverse the books are. In fact, the Carnegie award often encompasses a broad range of genres and topics. Dean Atta's *Black Flamingo*, for example, which won the Shadowers' Choice in 2020, is a coming-of-age verse novel about identity and the power of drag and it is excellent.

Last year, the Shadowers' Choice award was given to, what is described as 'a tightly crafted series of punchy, often heartbreaking narrative poems', *Run Rebel* by Manjeet Man.

This year, the choice ranges from verse novel *Punching The Air* - a story about a boy who is wrongly incarcerated - through *Tsunami Girl* - a powerful coming-of-age story of 15-year-old Yuki Hara Jones who gets caught up in the March 2011 Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and is told through prose and manga - to *Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town* - a series of short stories about how different small towns are connected in ways that you would never imagine .

16 March saw the 8 short-listed books announced. There was some disappointment as *The Climbers* and *We Were Wolves* didn't make it to the short-list.

Over the next six weeks, the Smithdon Shadowers will be reading the shortlisted books and discussing what they enjoyed, how the nominations compare, and choosing their own favourites to vote for in the Shadowers' Choice.









Chris Priestley

Author and Artist

The self-proclaimed 'creepy book' author and artist Chris Priestley, came to visit and workshop with our Year 7s.

Inspired by the tradition of horror stories, Chris based his workshops on the construction of how to write creepy stories.



Chris asked the students questions to get to the bottom of the idea of what 'creepy' means.

Do you have any phobias?

What creeps you out?

What's the difference between creepy and scary?

Answers such as, spiders, needles, heights, dolls, clowns and murky water were just some of the answers given by the students. Chris was keen to point out that there is a difference between being creeped out by something and being scared of it.

The winter weather was also discussed as a setting for a 'creepy' book.

What is creepy about the weather in winter?

Silent snow

Darkness

Bare trees

Mist and Fog

Sharp-edged Icicles

To some students even Christmas has its creepy elements. They imagined Christmas trees that come alive, enchanted baubles with evil powers, snowmen that come alive to kill and disappearing figures that come back every Christmas intent on vengeance.

They were then given the first sentence of Chris's book, *Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror:*

"The way to Uncle Montague's house lay through a small wood"

The students were then asked to imagine the setting of the story with that one sentence and then discuss what they had imagined the house to look like and what the woods felt like. The students were eager to share their thoughts and almost all of them imagined a house constructed of wood, small and creepy with dense trees surrounding the small cabin-like building

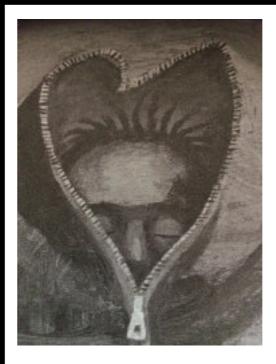
It was then time to start their own creepy story. Chris gave a useful tip, "Write your beginning, the context and the setting and then think about how you want the story to end. Then imagine what happens in the middle to get you from the beginning to the end."

At the end of the session, those that had purchased one of his books, had it signed by the author himself. The library had also bought a selection of his newer books for him to sign.

It was inspiring for the students to hear from someone that had lived in Snettisham, someone that was just like them, who pursued his creative dream and succeeded, working for himself doing something he clearly loves.

Meeting and talking to people that have aspirations and have worked hard in any field, is an important part of educating, encouraging and motivating our students. The message to chase your dreams, no matter how out of reach may seem, is an important one.







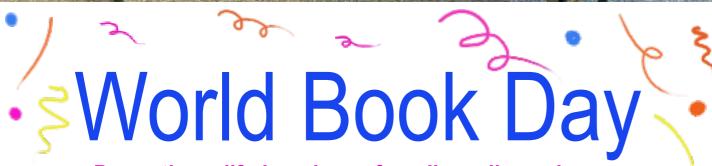
Priestley's illustrations











Promoting a life-long love of reading, all year long...

World Book Day celebrated its 25th anniversary on Thursday, 3 March 2022 and celebrate we did!

All week long, students were engaged in various sessions honouring the written word, and on World Book Day, author Hayley Long returned to Smithdon for a workshop with students in Year 8.

She was greeted by numerous Wallys (who were, uncharacteristically, easy to find), Harry Potters, a Hermoine Granger, Katniss Everdeen, Mrs Trunchbull, Elphaba (the 'Wicked Witch of the West') and even a taco-loving dragon.

Teachers were invited to don their book-inspired attire and they did not disappoint. Students voted for their favourite World Book Day inspired costume. Many were disappointed that the English Department was excluded from the competition, but we wanted to share the glory of reading with all; not to mention, English teachers are notorious for being a little 'extra,' so it was only fair...

Ms Bazeley-Smith's execution of Agatha Trunchbull was truly frightening, uncanny and completely deserving of the grand prize. Students cowered as they saw her and there were whispers of the 'chokey', but Mr Scott ensured there was plenty of chocolate cake available in the canteen.

Honourable mentions go to Miss Fairweather, who dressed as George from David Walliams' *The Midnight Gang*; Mrs B Robinson who dressed as JK Rowling's eponymous Harry Potter; and Mrs Pike, who dressed as Carroll's Mad Hatter from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.









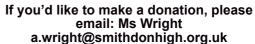


Now, you may be asking, 'Why were there so many Wallys?'

Sure, red and white striped tops are easy to create, but there's another special reason for the abundance of Wallys. Every year, the National Literacy Trust organises a 'Where's Wally?' fun run.

Last year, the English Department participated in the virtual event. This year, Ms Wright and Miss Cowles are taking it a step further. Instead of a standard 5k (3.1 mile) run, they're participating in the London Landmarks Half Marathon (13.1 miles!) to raise money for the National Literacy Trust. Mrs S Robinson, Mrs L Johnson, Miss Bucke and Miss Brown joined the Wally club by donating to the National Literacy Trust.





Miss Cowles c.cowles@smithdonhigh.org.uk.















Poems and Visual Art

A literary festival would not be complete without poetry. Dr Claire Wilkinson from Cambridge University was kind enough to bring one of her lesson plans with her to see if our Year 9 and 10 students could tackle a lesson usually taught to undergraduates.

They began with an activity which involved reading four short poems and then putting them in date order by analysing the language and words used.

They were then asked to look at the painting *Landscape with* the *Fall of Icarus* (without knowing the name.) They then took it

in turns to express what they had observed about the painting: the colours, characters, the objects and what they were most drawn to.

Most students were first drawn to the red shirt that the plough man is wearing in the middle of the painting, as it is such a vibrant colour compared to the natural colours of the landscape.

They then noticed the boats and the fading/rising sun. The last part of the picture they noticed were the legs flailing out of the water.

The students were surprised to discover the title of the painting and that the flailing legs belonged to none other than Icarus, the man from Greek mythology who fell from the sky after making wings from feathers and wax and then flew too close to the sun. They discussed how Icarus is nowhere near the half-set sun in the painting therefore his flight didn't really take off or go to plan. It also shows that his fall is just an incidental occurrence, with the ships and work men going about their day and that his drowning is not the main event of the scene.

They also noticed the other figures, the ploughman and shepherd, ignoring Icarus' plight, and therefore came to the conclusion that it represented the indifference of fellow man's suffering.

Several other painters have re-imagined the scene but with lcarus still in the sky, before the fall, and with the plough man looking skyward and watching the tragedy unfold.

It was explained to the students that they can look at poetry in the same way that they look at and analyse a painting. You can look for the hidden meaning and messages within and decipher

what the artist or poet is showing you. Indeed the two art forms, poetry and painting, are closely interwoven. William Carlos Williams, the poet, wrote a poem about the painting and this was compared in the session to the actual painting.

The session was closed with Dr Claire Wilkinson talking to the groups about Cambridge University and how she does a lot of outreach work to encourage students to apply to Cambridge to study English. She explained that they would

not need all top marks at A' Level to apply and that even if they did not reach the agreed marks there is an access programme for those still intent on studying there.

There will be an opportunity this year for students to visit Cambridge University, have a look around the beautiful buildings, talk to current students and get a taste of what life would be like studying in there. There will be more information about this trip in the coming weeks.

Landscape with the Fall of Icarus

by William Carlos Williams



Jan Van Stinemolen

According to Brueghel
when Icarus fell
it was spring

a farmer was ploughing

his field

the whole pageantry

of the year was
awake tingling
near



Simon Novellanus

Joos de Momper



Hans Bol

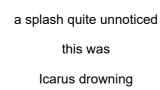
the edge of the sea

concerned

with itself

sweating in the sun that melted the wings' wax

unsignificantly
off the coast
there was





Johann Sadeler



Hans Bol

BOOK REVIEWS

Girl in the window - Penny Joelson

By Lily - Year 8

I read this book over the Christmas break and absolutely loved it! It is very intriguing and had me asking all types of questions from the start. It is based on a girl, named Kasia, who suffers from ME and has witnessed a kidnapping on her street. But nobody can prove that this kidnapping happened, except from the girl in the window across the road.

However, apparently this girl doesn't exist. As the story starts to unfold, more clues start to make Kasia suspicious of what has happened.

I really recommend this book to anybody who may be interested in reading mysteries. The author, Penny Joelson, has also written another two books called 'I have no secrets' and 'Things the eye can't see' which I would also recommend as they have similar, puzzling plots to them.

Can you see me? - Libby Scott

By Sophie - Year 8

Can you see me? Is a story revolving around a little girl called Tally, who is autistic. Tally struggles with her condition and tends to hide it whilst trying to learn who she is and figure out all the emotions she is feeling. 'Tiger Girl' is her mask - it makes her confident and able to be herself.

I would recommend this book for all ages. I think it is perfect for everyone as it can teach students, parents and teachers about autism and what it feels like to deal with the condition at such a young age but also how unique and awesome it can be!



You'll be the death of me -Karen McManus

By Isabel - Year 8

You'll be the death of me is very similar to the other books that Karen McManus has written. One of us is lying, one of us is next and two can keep a secret are all equally as intriguing and exciting to read. These stories keep you on edge and make you want to read more.

You'll be the death of me is about three friends who have gone their separate ways after an incident when they ditched their school field trip. They have a bad day at school and they decide to recreate the day. But it doesn't go as smoothly as intended.

As the book goes through you learn all sorts of things about the characters and their family and feelings. Some keep secrets that lead to distrust with one another. This book gives you a connection to the characters and you can almost picture their voices and whereabouts throughout the book. If you really want to read a good 'keep you up all night book', then I highly recommend this book. It will make you want to read more!



"Music never stops; it is only the listening that is intermittent" Henry David Thoreau

What a busy term!

We have been up to so much in our music clubs, our Year 7 and 8 Ukulele Club have been challenging themselves with new skills and techniques whilst trying to learn *Here Comes the Sun* to welcome in the longer, sunnier days. This is considerably more difficult than anything else that we have learned up to this point as it involves playing chords and finger picking. Our Year 7 and 8 choir have also been busy bringing in the spring while singing....

We were also so lucky to have Mr Maddison, our brass teacher come in and share a bit about his instruments with our Year 7 cohort in assembly. We hope that some of our Year 7 students will pick up a trumpet or trombone and start learning a new instrument. We have been so lucky to be able to offer free orchestral lessons to our Year 7s this year and we want as many to take it up as possible, it is never too late so come and speak to me if you want to give it a go!

We have some really exciting performance opportunities coming up next term so keep your eyes peeled. We are going to be hosting our first ever Peri Recital on 12 May so that parents of peripatetic music students can come and hear their children play. We will also have our big end of year concert and we can't wait to welcome you back into the school to hear it.

One of the most exciting things we have been organising this term is the start of our Junior Orchestra, where we will be inviting students from the primaries as well as our own Year 7s who have been learning instruments, to come and play as an ensemble.

The music never stops and we can't wait to share it with you!

By Miss Miller



Ukulele Clubs are open to Years 7-8 and 9-11.

Hannah in Year 8 gave an impromptu gig in the library and impressed us all. She is hoping that the skills that she learns will help her to later learn to play the guitar!

The Music department is excited to have launched a new comprehensive programme of instrumental and vocal tuition!

We have been able to invest in new musical instruments and highly skilled peripatetic staff to enable a broad offer of tuition for our students.

We also have an exclusive Year 7 orchestral programme. This involves free tuition in brass, woodwind and string instruments. We are hoping that many Year 7 students will embrace this unique opportunity!

Other instrumental lessons, such as, band instruments, singing and piano are also offered for all students at a subsidised rate. The lessons take place during the school day and are arranged on a rotating basis so that students do not miss the same subject lesson each week.

A free taster lesson can be arranged on request.

Please see Miss Miller in the Music Department with any questions you might have.

Smithdon High School

presents



Matilda JR.

After much practice and some delays we were finally able to present our production of Matilda Jr this week. Our production team included students from Years 7 to 11. We have spent many months learning lines, practising songs and dance routines so that we were able to put together the production. The cast have been so committed as they wanted to put on the best production for the audience. In the weeks leading up to the show, students spent almost every lunch time doing dance rehearsals!

As staff we could not be prouder of what the students produced and showed to their family and friends.

The story of Matilda is one that is known by many and that has touched many of our hearts throughout the years. The story of a young girl, her brilliant mind and creative imagination. With the help of her love of books and the power of reading, Matilda overcomes the villains in her story including her parents and the terrifying Miss Trunchbull to be the hero of her own story.

We hope the audience enjoyed the show as much as we enjoyed putting it on and we cannot wait to see you at next year's show.

Stay tuned to the Smithdonian for an update on what we are doing in 2022/2023!

By Miss Miller







Isabel's Matilda Diary



January:

Everyone is having fun putting together what will be a spectacular interpretation of the classic novel and popular movie, *Matilda*. My role within the production is performing as an internationally famous acrobat with dynamite in my hair. For this role, I have had to learn to perfect the round-off skill: running into a cartwheel, landing upright on both feet.

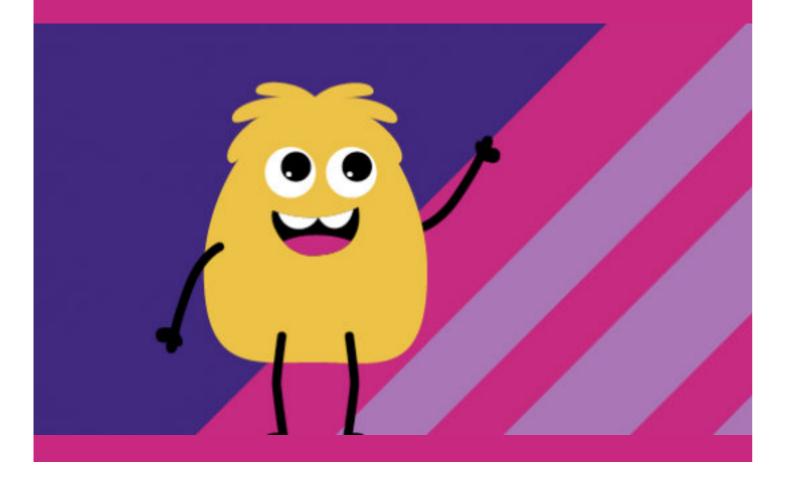
February:

Rehearsals are going well with everyone contributing wherever they can, practising during lunchtimes, after school and at weekends. Everyone has been trying really hard on this show and has put so much effort into making it perfect, on stage and behind the scenes - especially our teachers: Miss Miller, Miss Brown and Mrs Proctor. Our Art teachers have been busy creating oversized but realistic props for our set.

March:

The best part of putting this show together has got to be the opportunity to witness the talent and skills of other students while developing my own. Everybody supports each other and helps others improve something or give them advice. We have an incredibly strong, talented cast and are excited to reveal our production to the public at the end of this month. So Excited!!

British Science Week



Happy British Science Week!

British Science Week is a national celebration for all STEMM subjects! This celebration occurs from 11th-20th March and is a fantastic opportunity for everyone anywhere!

At Smithdon, we deeply value the importance and pleasure of all the sciences - and especially those in the STEMM club. In STEMM, we meet once a week and take part in activities within the subjects of science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine.

For the previous few weeks, we at STEMM have spent hours preparing for British Science Week. We decided that everyone should get to celebrate science, no matter their age.

So, whats better then doing experiments ourselves? Helping younger students do them!

For the past weeks, we've all spent our own time researching, practising, developing and performing our experiments to make sure they're perfect for our visits. By the time it came for us to visit the Primary schools we'd discovered 5 experiments! These ranged all the way from investigating cells within moss, to eruptions of sodium.

My personal favourite was the mini light show!

This experiment showed how light reflects through certain lenses onto card or paper. I loved the way you could add colour within it to change the appearance. I liked the simple complexity within it. Another leader stated their favourite was the chromatography colour

wheel simply because of how much the children enjoyed doing it.

We focused our work around Year 3s and 4s, and from what we all saw and heard they loved it just as much as we did!

We even got thank-you letters from Docking Primary School which was incredibly nice, and funny to read.

All of our leaders within STEMM who volunteered to visit enjoyed going back to their old Primary schools and seeing everything once again. Especially those who got to see their siblings and old friends.

Another favourite thing from the leaders was: "Hearing the crazy theories".

I personally completely agree with this, some of their predictions were incredible, both smart and humorous.

Hearing that, the gummy bears would break from the bags and reach the moon" (Snettisham Primary School) was definitely the ultimate win for me.

This was definitely one of the best things I've done within science and I'm super glad I got to take part in it, as are the fellow leaders.

I hope the kids enjoyed it and take inspiration from it just as much as we did.

Thank you to Miss Soper for the opportunity!

By Kira - Year 9











British

Science

Week



We loved reading the letters from the primary school students, it made us really feel as though they had enjoyed themselves and that we had helped them to learn a bit more about Science!

I feel that making these connections with younger students is essential and important. We can teach each other patience, understanding and kindness but also pass on our knowledge and share skills that we have learnt.

We can make the younger students feel excited and comfortable about coming up to High School and make it feel less daunting and more fun!

thank you for coming to are St school. I really liked putting the gummy bears in a bag and putting Salty water and normal water in the bag. All of the experiments were very fun and all of them helped me learn about growth. I dident really like Sciense but now that we did all of thoses experiments I really like Science. My fajort Student was Ella. I had lots of fun and learned allot. Thank you so much for coming from Lily.



www.britishscienceweek.org is a great website that has free downloadable activity packs, competitions, resources, news, articles and so much more!

Bravo Year 8





Our hard-working Year 8 French students were rewarded for their efforts this term with a French-themed breakfast. The students asked for their jus d'orange, pain au chocolat and croissant à la confiture in French of course!

Mr Crofts, one of our school governors was there to congratulate the students along with Mrs France and Mrs Robinson, our *merveilleuse* language teachers.

Le petit déjeuner était délicieux!

The Year 10 ASDAN group have completed a variety of modules which covered topics, such as finance, religion and beliefs and the environment. Most recently, with the beautiful sun making an appearance, they helped plant the trees that were given to us by The Woodland Trust. They have also worked really hard clearing the jump track!

They all thoroughly enjoyed being outside, learning practical skills and working in the sunshine. This was especially an important lesson for Shane who plans to be a landscape gardener.















COMIC RELIEF AND





18 March 2022



Funny is Power

The Comic Relief Organisation was founded in 1985 by Richard Curtis and Lenny Henry. Back in the eighties, the images of starving Ethiopian children were all over the TV and in the newspapers. This seemed a world away from the lives that the British people were living. Margaret Thatcher was in power, we were listening to Madonna and watching The Goonies.

That same year, Live Aid raised £50,000,000 in response to the famine in Ethiopia.

And so the bi-annual Red Nose Day was born. The concept was to gather the best British comedians of the day and make the public laugh in the first telethon - a live fundraising event, where people could be entertained, wearing plastic red noses whilst making a phone call to donate to the cause.

Fast forward 37 years and so far Comic Relief, the Red Nose Day and Sports Relief have raised over £1 billion.

After the last two years that we have all been through, it seems more important than ever to use the power of laughter to make a difference. People are leading tough lives here in the UK and of course across the world. We

may not be seeing the hungry Ethiopian children anymore but we are seeing the ravages of war, Ukrainian citizens are being forced to flee their homes and country. They are sleeping in train stations, trying to find safety in countries they have never been to before, losing loved ones, and worrying about those that stayed behind to defend the country they love.

Therefore, we decided that we were going to use Red Nose Day as an opportunity to show the Ukrainian people that we support them and stand with them.

The students were allowed to dress in blue and yellow for a small donation of £1. The Ukrainian flag along with the Comic relief flag were raised high and blowing in the

We are proud to announce that we raised a total of £630.84 which has been shared between Comic Relief and the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Thank you to the students, parents and staff that donated to this very important cause and supported us on this day.











The school library had a book display that included stories about displaced people from all over the world, stories that tell us what it is like to be a refugee, to have to flee your home in terror and the hope of finding a safer life.



A Tribute to Ukraine





We are all aware of the events and atrocities that are happening within Ukraine at the moment. With this knowledge, we have to be aware of what those around us that have relatives and friends in Ukraine, are going through. There will be students and staff who sadly are struggling with the events that are happening daily, or just general fears of what will happen to their futures. So we all must make sure that we're thoughtful, kind and overall respectful of everyone and everything going on.

We must also be aware that Ukraine is not the only country suffering. The Russian citizens did not ask or plan for this. This is all the work of those in a ruling power, and especially Vladimir Putin

Over the past few weeks, we've all heard in the media of invasions and suffering within Ukraine. Due to the Russian leader, Vladimir Putin's, desire to hold power and superiority, it has caused massive conflict. Ukraine has been working towards joining the EU and NATO, resulting in them moving Western and away from Russia.

Putin is unfavourable of this as they are, as he says, 'one nation'. Ukraine has been meaning to depart from Russia for the past few years, yet has always had trouble due to Russia's threats and invasions. For example; in 2014, Russia invaded Crimea, hoping for it to return to Russian power after they gifted the country to Ukraine as a symbol of their brotherhood. This was unsuccessful. However, many Crimeans are siding with the east and with the Russian troops. With all this, Ukraine is still desperate to join NATO and the EU, who too are desperate for Ukraine to join them

Finally, after years of threats and danger, Ukraine finally crossed the 'red line', leading to Russia's invasion. Many soldiers are staying behind in the country to defend it, while the children and often women make their way to refugee shelters and countries.

So, how can we help those suffering?

Well, all throughout the world there are many things we have been doing to help. For example, how did you learn about the war between Ukraine and Russia?

Where have you seen the video footage, the photos and

The media.

Every day hundreds of posts and updates are posted in the news or on social media platforms supporting Ukraine and its suffering people. This has a beneficial effect as it creates representation and awareness and has helped to promote the many charity causes that are aiming to help the refugees that are fleeing their own homes in fear of their lives.

Some great stories of people from all over the world coming together and supporting Ukraine have been posted far and wide, and all of these are absolutely wonderful.

Mayor Gianfranco Tedeschi at Magicabula centre in Cerchio, southern Italy, recently greeted two orphan refugee children with a birthday party at their local school. In fact, that's not the only thing Italy has done.

In the Naples district of Pomigliano d'Arco, over 200 students and staff collectively made an extremely warm welcome for the new Ukrainian refugees, blue and yellow flags in hand.

Another report that the British Red Cross welcomed the Ukrainian children from trains with necessities they'd missed out on recently such as toys, milk and food. Arriving from a further western country, they were not yet attacked but had a constant fear of invasion at any moment.

They were very afraid in Kharkiv. They heard the bombs and thought the roof of our house would fall on their heads.

Those at the Red Cross donated lots of money raised by The Sun Newspapers Ukraine Appeal, allowing them a, hopefully, safe future within Britain.

Roses were given to women refugees on International Women's Day. German people waited at train stations to offer up their spare rooms and homes to refugees. Clothes, dog food, nappies, toys, blankets have all made their way to the people that are in dire need.

However, even with all this kindness, donations and humanity, it's not enough. There are so many people suffering out there. So many people are struggling to escape to safer and accepting countries. So much we still need to do.

Of course, alone it's incredibly difficult for us to do much except share and care. But together there are infinite possibilities. Together we will all stay safe whilst protecting and supporting those who are suffering and displaced.

We all send our love and thoughts to the people of Ukraine. those that have stayed to defend their beloved country and those that have fled across the border away from the bombs to a safer place in this world and for everyone to stay safe.

By Kira - Year 9





The Papillon Project is an educational charity that promotes sustainable living and environmental awareness for young people. We have been working with Matt and Poppy from the project for a while now in our Science garden. So far, we have built seats, planted potatoes, beans and herbs ready for a productive summer.

We are still planting so if you would like to be involved, then come along to the garden on Tuesdays, KS3 lunch time and after school, 3-4pm.











Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award students are beginning to sign off their sections with the deadline being 1st April. The Award is made up of four sections: Volunteer, Physical, Skill and Expedition. To qualify for the Expedition section the participants have to complete their other three sections. We have had some amazing reports come in from various clubs and organisations. Here are some below:

"Ffion is a talented musician who was able to quickly develop her skills on the Ukulele. Ffion has made excellent progress on her goals. Through her time in ukulele club we have worked as a group on learning how to play O Christmas Tree using finger picking, not only was she able to complete this but she was also able to play with a group of players, not just individually. She additionally in her home worked on learning the chords to Somewhere Over the Rainbow. Ffion's goal was to improve her ukulele playing. She did this through developing new skills, prior to starting this she had never done finger-picking, a skill which she picked up quite quickly. She had to learn how to read TAB for this, which is a skill she can continue to develop and work on through her playing. She also increased her confidence in playing chords and transitioning between them."

"Kira is welcome to continue to participate at Parkrun in the future and if she decided to volunteer with us in the future (e.g. DofE Silver Award) I suspect she would be an asset to the volunteer team and also gain much from this. Kira has attended Hunstanton Promenade Parkrun consistently over several months. Initially she approached the Event Director to request that she would like to run each week to complete the Physical component of the DofE Bronze Award. She has attended the Parkrun in a variety of weather conditions and has even been known to turn up on occasion when the Parkrun has been cancelled due to the poor conditions. This demonstrates Kira's perseverance and commitment to her DofE award and I suspect she is just as determined in the other aspects of the award she has completed. As a team we wish Kira the very best going forward and hope she continues to attend our Parkrun and enjoy the benefits it provides. Well done Kira.'

"Isabelle is a positive asset to the Reading Programme. I am very proud of how Isabelle has been pro-active and a reliable ambassador. Isabelle has been a Reading Ambassador since 9 November 2021 and has been volunteering with the same Year 7 student. She has had to establish a good mentoring role with her student. Isabelle has been punctual, mature and efficient. Isabelle consistently fills in the reading journal with constructive

remarks and encouraging comments. Isabelle is a fantastic role model and has been focused and engaged with her student. Isabelle learnt to take on this role with maturity and a sensible, helpful attitude. She has been happy to take on other students that didn't have an ambassador that morning, which does take skills of decision making and helping a younger student feel comfortable and safe."

The Year 9s will soon be starting their training with the following dates in the dairy:

Dates for Duke of Edinburgh we have provisionally booked in - these may change:

Sat 23 April 9am to 12pm - Training at Smithdon

Fri 20 April 8.30am - 21 May 4pm - Training at Smithdon including camping (times TBC)

Thurs 9 June 8.30am to Sat 11 June 4pm - Assessment Expedition (times and location TBC)

If you need any info about your child's Award please visit their Google Classroom for up to date information.



Those students that had signed off at least one section by 18 March were rewarded with breakfast. They received certificates and were congratulated by Ms Moat, Mrs Robinson and Mrs Gibbins.



This has been a great term for the PE department. Our after-school clubs were well attended and we participated in lots of fixtures and tournaments. All of our students represented Smithdon proudly, with enthusiasm, dedication and dignity.

FIXTURES HIGHLIGHTS

Football:

Overall we had a good run with the football teams across the Year groups - all proudly competing in County Cups. Years 7 and 8 had a successful run, getting to the quarter finals before being knocked out and the other years getting to the second round. The mixed Year 7 & 8s made a debut and played very well but were knocked out in the first round.

Netball:

The netball team played some great fixtures this year: tough ones, but they all learnt and never gave up as they all finally started to play cohesively. There were some great team spirit, which was reflected in the goals they achieved. With a great turn out from after school clubs, I am sure we will be better and ready for next year.

Rugby:

The Year 8 boys made their debut this year against KES. They put everything in they have learnt from their PE lessons and after school clubs: they fought and came away with a victory. Well done boys! Looking forward to seeing you all compete next year.

Also, a big shout out to the girls' rugby players - Caitlin, Chloe, and Lily who have been attending West Norfolk Girls' rugby team following attending rugby after school with Mrs Carlton. The PE department wish you all the best!

RUGBY

Smithdon walked onto KES' rugby pitch ready for victory. Everyone got ready and the match began.

With a great pass, Smithdon scored a try. This led on to another brilliant pass and Smithdon scored again. A gap in KES' defence left enough room for a player to get through and Smithdon scored another try.

Nearing half time, KES got their heads together and barged through Smithdon's defence, making the score 3-2 to Smithdon by halftime. Everyone got back into position again and battled for the final try of the day.

Right as the whistle blew to resume the game, Smithdon ran through and scored another try. However, KES used the same tactic, bringing the score to 4-3. Smithdon took possession and ploughed forward through KES' line of defence. Despite being tackled by multiple opponents, Smithdon's player stayed on his feet and continued running, streaking ahead of the opposing players, scoring a try. 5-3 for Smithdon, then KES scored another try. This was a close match.

One of Smithdon's fastest players pushed us across the try line with his 4th and final try of the day, just as the final whistle was blown.

Smithdon won 6-4.

What an adrenaline-fuelled game!

By Seb - Year 8

SPORTS LEADERS



A big "Thank you" must also go to our Sports Leaders, who have been brilliant this term. They have been volunteering by refereeing games for the school's football and netball teams and for the Smithdon Cluster Primary School tournaments. Without these leaders, these games wouldn't go ahead, so thank you so much.

2022 SUMMER TERM

We have so much to look forward to going into the Summer Term. We will be getting ready to teach Tennis, Athletics, Rounders and Cricket and all preparing to participate in competitions. We will also be getting ready for our Summer Term after-school clubs - so watch out for more information.

We also have our Primary School Festival, where over 100 primary school pupils come along to Smithdon High School to take part in various sports which our Year 10s will be running. They have been spending time planning and trialling their sessions with their peers during PE lessons to make sure they are all ready and prepared - and, more importantly, to make sure the primary school pupils will all have fun.

To end the term, we will be celebrating a fantastic year of sporting competitions and fixtures by competing in our very own Sports Day. Students, make sure you pay attention in your PE lessons next term - there are loads of school records just waiting to be broken!

Smithdon's First Careers Fair



We were so very excited to open the doors to invite a host of post-16 providers and businesses for our first careers fair which took place on the evening of Tuesday 22 March. There was a real buzz as the 200 plus students and families arrived for the event.

We had pre-booked talks from Springwood, the College of West Anglia and Norfolk Pathways and Apprenticeships running throughout the evening giving details of courses and application methods in preparation for the choices ahead, and to meet the staff that work in the establishments.

In the school's main hall we had over 25 businesses set up stalls and activities for our guests to visit, to talk about career paths; apprenticeship and job opportunities; what our local companies do; how they do it and for who! It was a very interesting evening and the vast array of professionals available to talk to, who were experts in their field, offered a unique experience to learn first hand what happens behind the doors of these companies.

We are extremely grateful to all of the exhibitors that included Holkham Hall, Palm Paper, Searles, The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, RSPB, Emcor, SJP Solicitors, Vertex Architecture, Pointz of Interest, National Citizen Service, The Norfolk Agents, Radio West Norfolk, Titchwell Manor and Erics, the Army, Arms Care, MTS, Bespak, Allen Tomas Financial Management, Norfolk Constabulary, the RNLI, the fire service and the NHS!

Highlights included the fire engine parked outside the hall, fully accessible with the whole crew from our amazing local fire station; free massages and an opportunity to practice acupuncture with Pointz of Interest; name the logo game with the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport; using the mic with Simon Rowe of Radio West Norfolk; trying on police safety gear; pond dipping with the RSPB, in fact there were so many highlights we can't list them all!

Most exciting of all is the relationships that have developed through this which will see us working more closely with these businesses to give our students more experiences and more opportunities in the future.

We are also very thankful for the students and parents that joined us on the evening and took the opportunity to engage with the businesses and attended the talks.









Elite Skills Academy with the Army



On Friday 11 March all of Year 9 and 10 took part in sessions with Corporal Paul Flynn and his team to complete some Elite Skills with the Army academy.

Students were put into teams and set challenges to complete. These challenges included getting the team across barrels, using only two different sized planks, along with necessary supplies -without touching the ground!

Another challenge included trying to collect an emergency water supply that is on a tower within an exclusion zone equipped with only a piece of rope and a tin helmet.

The next challenge involved constructing wooden poles and a rope into a method of transferring supplies from one base to another.

The fourth task was to move tyres from a selection of three cones in specific orders.

All of the activities were designed to build confidence and develop mental and physical attributes including teamwork, leadership, communications skills and problem solving.

Students really enjoyed the experience and watching their skills develop throughout the sessions was fantastic.

A talk was given at the end of the session giving an insight into the many careers available in the army, along with first hand accounts of the different routes.







Get in touch!

Contact the Careers Lead: Ms S Fairweather if you have any career related questions.

Including to book a one-to-one appointment with our level 6 careers adviser or if you require any further information on post 16 choices or future employment.

s.fairweather@smithdonhigh.org.uk

Norfolk Youth Parliament and Make Your Mark.

By Mrs Pike

Just before February half-term, all students were able to cast their democratic vote in the Norfolk Youth Parliament and Make Your Mark votes. After a week of form-time learning about democracy and the Youth Parliament, they heard from the candidates.

They reflected upon and voted for the issues that they would like to see as priorities by their elected representatives,

Make Your Mark gives all young people across the country aged 11-18 the chance to have a say on the biggest issues facing young people. The results of the vote decide what the UK Youth Parliament should campaign on in 2022-24.

Across the UK 434,492 young people cast their vote with over 780 schools, colleges and youth groups taking part. The issues that were voted on are in the picture to the right. Here in the East of England 11636 votes were cast with Health and Well-being gaining 2810 votes and Jobs, Money, Homes and Opportunities gaining 2291. Covid recovery had the least number of votes at 620.

Along with the Make Your Mark vote we also took part in the elections for the Norfolk Youth Parliament, which take place every 2 years. During their term of office the Members of Youth Parliament work with their MPs, decision-makers, councillors and local youth groups on the issues of greatest concern. They are able to give young people a voice lobbying for change and organising campaigns. They also get the chance to go and debate in the House of Commons.

Not only will these results be used nationally, but will also be used by Norfolk County Council to build up a picture of priorities of young people locally to then build and develop services, so every single vote really does make a difference.

The candidates this year were the following:

Charley from Springwood Sixth Form

Ewan from Springwood Sixth Form

Zyad from Springwood Sixth Form





The winning candidate:

A former Smithdon student!

Ewan was duly elected the member for Northwest Norfolk.

Ewan was a student at Smithdon High School before going on to Springwood High School to study for his A-Levels, so it is a fantastic achievement for a past Smithdon Student.

Congratulations Ewan - a well deserved win and we look forward to seeing all the campaigning and work that you do in the future.

Thank you everyone who took part in the elections, those that voted and those that helped to organise it.

"Education is key"

James Wild. MP for North West Norfolk

Springwood High School opens its doors to the new Sixth Form canteen!

A beautiful sunny Friday morning saw the official opening of Springwood High School's new Sixth Form canteen. Set within its own building with views of the field, it is the perfect retreat for the hard-working students to re-fuel and relax before carrying on with their studies.

Students, trustees, governors and staff from across all the Trust schools gathered in the peaceful sunshine to await MP James Wild, along with Mr Johnson, Springwood's Headteacher, to come along and cut the ribbon.

James Wild made a speech in which he praised the new building and reinforced the message that education and the resources and facilities that we can offer are important.

Mr Johnston claimed the canteen as the Trust's Sixth Form canteen, reassuring the younger students that it will be there for their use, if and when they decide to choose the Sixth Form as their future preference. He thanked James Wild and Smithdon's Headteacher, Mr Hirst, for all the work they put into the bid for the governments major investment grant, as this helped to secure the funds for the canteen building.

The canteen can host over 100 students, with booths, long tables and bar-stool style seating inside and then picnic benches outside, acing the field. It consists of a kitchen area, toilets and even an office.

Hassan, a current Sixth Former and past Smithdon student, said that he was enjoying the new canteen; that it was ideally situated and the food was "delicious".

The ribbon was cut to much applause and then we were allowed to enter and browse the inside. Two Springwood students played a piano duet, which was both entertaining and impressive!

The visiting students were served by current sixthformer's, with a range of drinks, chips and pizza twists.

There was a jubilant mood inside. James Wild interacted with the students, asking them questions and answering any that the students had - while the students sat and conversed with each other - it was lovely to see the different primary and secondary Trust schools engaging with each other.







Caitlin, our Head Girl and Oliver, one of our Year 11 ambassadors came along to the opening of the canteen to represent Smithdon and see for themselves the new facilities that will be on offer to our Year 11 leavers.









Thank you to the businesses that continue to support our weekly Attendance Raffle prize draw.

The £10 Amazon gift voucher is presented to a student from each year group who have achieved 100% attendance and punctuality in school the previous week. When this rolls over, there is a chance to win even more!

Excellent attendance pays off!









ATTENDANCE MATTERS

As we head into the summer term the weather (hopefully!) warms up and we all start to spend more time outside (which is great for increasing our Vitamin D). However this can also mean we see cases of heat exhaustion leading to time off school. Here are some top tips to help avoid this:

•drink plenty of cold drinks, especially when exercising

•take cool baths or showers

•wear light-coloured, loose clothing

•avoid the sun between 11am and 3pm

These will all help prevent dehydration and help keep cool. Please remember to bring a water bottle to school to ensure you're drinking plenty.

Raffle Winners this term:

Year 7: Freddyboy, Ryan

Year 8: Callum, Ebony, Kateryna, Aiden

Year 9: Zav, Phoebe, Lola, Chloe, George, Alfie

Year 10: Sam, Oliver

Year 11: Jessica, Isabella, Daniel, Joey

Well done to the forms with the best attendance this half term:

Year 7 - Miss Soper

Year 8 - Mrs Dibble

Year 9 - Miss Phelps

Year 10 - Miss Cowles

Year 11 - Mrs Charlton-Trewick

To report a student's absence, please use one of the following methods:

Phone: 01485 536123

Text: 07935 059774

Email: attendance@smithdonhigh.org.uk

Get in touch...

Phone: 01485 534541

Email: office@smithdonhigh.org.uk

Website: www.smithdonhigh.org.uk

Twitter: @smithdon_high

Happy Easter!

Enjoy your break, be safe and we will see you all on Tuesday 19 April.

