



The Smithdonian

Smithdon High School Magazine



The April 2023 Issue



Mrs Gibbins welcomes you....

Huge thanks go to a number of people involved in this half-term's Smithdonian stories!

Starting with Sue Upton and Chris Bishop - for their contributions to the Second Smithdon Literary Festival, including ensuring the creation of an absolutely amazing 'Chase the Story' article - to Miss Taylor, Librarian, and Ms Wright, Head of English, for making the week's activities possible in the first place. I was astounded by the transformation of Smithdon Library in Diagon Alley, which was hugely popular with the students.

Then there is the Science team, where Mrs Soper has provided exciting opportunities for our Year 9 and 10 STEMM students to teach and work with primary pupils to share their love of Science and demonstrate some special experiments, and Mrs Pike staged a Cluedo evening to solve the murder mystery.

The Performing Arts team have worked alongside the Arts Faculty to display the creative skills of many of our students and have provided them the opportunity to experience performance for themselves in a professional environment - or are planning to do so next term.

And, as always, other staff have provided opportunities for students to experience learning outside the classroom - with sports activities, including some winning streaks, and a successful International Maths Challenge to name just two.

I hope you enjoy reading about our students' activities and achievements this term just as much as I have (and I knew about them all already!) and looking ahead to some of the upcoming events after Easter.

SMITHDON IN THE NEWS

Year 7 writers win runner-up positions in national writing competition!

Year 7 Smithdonian writers, Pippa and Lyra, scooped the runner-up positions in the Rotary Club Young Writers Competition. The competition is initially organised into local rounds with the winner going through to the regional round. Last year, Lyra made it through to the national final!

This year's challenge was to produce a story around the theme of *Peace*. If you would like to read the entries by Pippa, Lyra and Rae, please have a look through the February 2023 Issue of the Smithdonian.

When asked how they felt about being the runners-up, Pippa stated, "I feel very proud of myself because I've never come runner up before". Lyra added, "I was very excited. I loved writing this piece so it was amazing to know somebody else enjoyed reading it."

All students are welcome to join Smithdon's writing group on Monday break-times. There is always a writing competition to work towards and enter. See Miss Taylor for further information.



Lyra and Pippa, Year 7 Smithdonian writers.

Hannah raises £3485 for Children's Cancer Charity!

Hannah's years of fundraising for Children with Cancer UK has clearly paid off, once again. Hannah presented a cheque for £3485 to Lady Romney, who accepted the donation on behalf of the charity, which has been working tirelessly since 1988.

The donation will help to fund life-saving research and develop kinder and better treatments for the children. The charity also works hard to raise awareness of this awful disease and how people can help.

Hannah is always busy handcrafting hedgehogs, roses and angels to sell for funds for the charity. Hannah has also recently held a sponsored dog walk and a Christmas raffle.

Hannah, a Year 10 Smithdon student, has been fundraising since she was in Primary school and over the years has raised thousands and thousands of pounds which is vital for this wonderful charity to continue its good work.

We are so proud of Hannah and how she continually uses her creative talents and kindness for the good of others, to help those that need it most.

If you ever see Hannah's roses or hedgehogs for sale around Hunstanton shops or at craft fairs, please buy one: not only will you be helping a good cause, but you will have unique piece of art, lovingly crafted by our wonderful student. Hannah is organising another sponsored dog walk for the 2 July - there is a poster in the school library for more information.



Lady Romney with Hannah and a selection of her handicrafts.

The Smithdon Literary Festival 2023

A Literary Week wouldn't be the same without an author visit! This year, Year 7 and 8 were visited by Sue Upton, the author of the dystopian series, Paper Boats and Butterflies.

The Year 7 workshop was fully interactive and fun! The students were asked to think about a place that they felt peaceful and happy and then to write about it with as much detail as they could, using adjectives and flair.

The next task was for them to learn how to make a paper boat. Some students were already experts and were able to help the others. They had used the paper from their writing to make the boats which resulted in a word-decorated paper boat. They were then allowed to further decorate the boat with illustrations and then hide them around the library! To the delight and confusion of other students, they were found the following week, within books, on top of shelves and peeping out of all corners!



Iris made a fantastic paper boat after a lot of practice!

PAPER BOATS & BUTTERFLIES



The Year 8 workshop concentrated on character development and creative writing and was equally enjoyable and productive. Using a character diagram, the students invented names, backgrounds, personalities and outfits to bring their characters to life. They then spent some time writing a short story that the characters could be immersed in to.

There were some great ideas, funny characters and scary stories. It was a pleasure to watch the students' imaginations ignite and watch their creativity spill out onto the page. It was a lovely day that many enjoyed and I hope our students found some inspiration to continue with their writing.

Thank you, Sue, for a fun and creative day and for your books that you kindly donated to the school library.

WORLD BOOK DAY

2023

World Book Day is an annual event that schools and libraries across the UK love to celebrate as it not only celebrates books, reading, authors and illustrators, but it also gives us a chance to dress up!

Smithdon saw a diverse range of costumes around the site! The staff and students alike took the chance to be a book character for the day. Wednesday Addams, the Queen of Hearts and Cruella were just some of the amazing characters that had jumped off the page to visit Smithdon.

Smithdon's fabulous Art and DT Departments teamed up for World Book Day and their theme of choice was the Roger Hargreaves series of Mr Men and Little Miss

books which have featured in all our childhoods since the 1970s. As you can see, they all used their creative talents and skills to whip up some beautiful costumes for their Little Miss characters. It's great that the whole school community came together for this day and that teachers from all departments got involved.

We also managed to raise money for The National Literacy Trust. This amazing independent charity is dedicated to supporting literacy in schools, families and communities, to raise literacy levels across the UK in young people and children.

Thank you to everyone that supported this day and made a donation for their child to wear a costume.



All the staff got into the spirit of the day, with Mrs Dibble bringing a ray of (Little Miss) Sunshine.



Silas from The Graveyard Book or is it Charles?



The Geography Department dressed to impress! Mr Chapman was 'Around the World in 80 Days' and Mrs Johnson was Napoleon!



Minecraft Steve also turned up - luckily Minecraft has published gaming books!



Poor King Duncan! We all love a homemade costume.



The journalism team with Chris Bishop

Journalism Day

After the success of last year's *Chase the Story* day, we brought it back this year, along with Chris Bishop, journalist extraordinaire who leads the day with professional expertise, as well as entertaining us with his interesting stories of royals, headline stories and the mayhem that comes along with chasing the story.

The day began with an introduction into Chris' career path before the big 'tip-off' interrupted the morning and caused the excitement of delving into the truth.

As Journalism Day coincided with World Book Day, there were plenty of students in their wonderful WBD costumes which led us to the story. The tip-off was that uniform was being abolished and that Mrs Gibbins, Smithdon's Headteacher, was being paid a backhander of £1000 to put it into motion!

The Year 9 students who had signed up for this experience were either reporters, photographers, designers or the writers. All the roles had to work together to bring the information they had gathered throughout the day to create the final article.

The reporters interviewed students and staff including Ms Walker, the Deputy CEO of the Trust. The photographers, armed with Springwood's cameras, papped the action.

Miss Fairweather kindly gave up an hour of her day to teach the group the basics of graphic design, page layout and target audience to make the final article eye-catching and organised.

The writers had the important job of turning all the notes and interviews into an article for you to read. We hope you enjoy the final piece!

'Thank-you's': Chris Bishop - for giving up your time and bringing our students a carefully considered and well-formed experience. Miss Fairweather - for bringing her graphic design expertise to create an interesting lesson. Miss Roberts - for organising the students, running around with them and teaching them how to hold a press conference. Ms Wright - for guiding the writing. And not forgetting the fabulous Springwood photography students who trusted us with their cameras once again!



Jamie had a very busy day as a reporter interviewing students and staff and lead the press conference with Mrs Gibbins.

The Smithdonian

Special Edition

Head teacher sets a £1000 challenge to Smithdon students!



Mrs Gibbins was questioned at a press conference over allegations of back-handers! (dressed as Wednesday Addams)

Smithdon High School Headteacher, Mrs Gibbins, set students a £1,000 challenge. She said a non-uniform day on 17 March would raise money for Comic Relief. She added, 'Last year's non-uniform day which supported Children in Need raised £817.80, but I'd like to raise £1,000 for Comic Relief on 17 March.'

It will help to publicise how charitable our students are and the proceeds will support the community,' she added.

During the press conference, Mrs Gibbins addressed rumours surrounding the uniform. Because of the success of World Book Day costumes, many speculated that uniforms would be abolished. Students complained about uniforms including clip on ties, long skirts and lack of options during the hot summer months.

While there are 'no plans to dispense with the uniform entirely,' according to Mrs Gibbins, the school uniform is an important factor to the sense of community. In this age of anxiety, students do not have to worry about what they wear to school.

When asked about the option to wear shorts in the summer months, Mrs Gibbins openly considered this as an option and 'something to look into.' Another common complaint from students is the clip on ties. Students want the responsibility of wearing a proper tie. When asked, Mrs Gibbins responded, 'Clip on ties are an easy option. Regular ties come with risks. They carry a risk of neck injuries or choking.'

Mrs Gibbins defended the uniform policy, stating 'I'm not changing the uniform policy' though she did acknowledge she may be prepared to compromise on shorts in the summer, due to excessive heat and lack of air conditioning across the site.

School uniform in the UK has been a hot topic for decades. We have seen male students going into school wearing school skirts, protesting for the right to wear shorts in the Summer months. There have also been debates over the costs that parents face with every new term and every new child. But why does the UK demand a standardised uniform when so many other countries do not? When did this tradition begin? The very first written reference to a uniform for boys in UK education was in 1222, when the Archbishop of Canterbury mandated that students wear a robe-like outfit called the 'cappa clausa.'

Contrary to popular belief that school uniforms sprang from the private schools of Britain, they actually began life at charity schools in the 16th Century. The impoverished "fatherless and other poor men's children" attending the Christ's Hospital boarding school in Horsham wore blue long coats, along with yellow stockings. That uniform hasn't changed since Tudor times! Unlike most schools in the UK the uniform is still provided to all pupils free of charge. Not to feel left out the tutors also have to wear a similar version of the uniform. The long blue coat became so famous that these institutions in London came to be nicknamed 'Bluecoat Schools'.



Grace, year 10 student, was interviewed by Smithdon reporter, Jamie.



Ms Bucke with her friends in the navy uniform that was standard at Smithdon in 1987!

Fast forward to 2023 and school uniform is still a tradition that has lasted over the centuries. Therefore surely there must be benefits to the idea of this conformity?

Agatha, a Smithdon student, spent 11 years being educated in Italy where a school uniform is not required. When questioned on her thoughts on now being expected to wear a standardised uniform, Agatha replied, "I like wearing a uniform, it means I do not have to think about what to wear every day and takes the stress out of my morning". Grace, a Year 10 student, stated "I would prefer to not wear a uniform but I can see the benefits of uniform and so I tweak mine with the boots that I wear."

Ms Bucke who is not only a Smithdon Pastoral Manager, but also an ex-student of the school, remembers the uniform when she attended over thirty years ago, "The tie was the only thing we had to buy from the school. The girls were not allowed to wear trousers until I was in Year 10. Most students didn't break the uniform policy as it was quite flexible in that we only had to wear certain colours but we did express ourselves in how we wore our ties. When I was at school you had to wear the 'skinny' side of the tie showing with a very thin knot."

Asked if she would have preferred to have not worn uniform, Ms Bucke replied, "I think there were times when I was at school I would have liked to wear my own clothes. On reflection, however I would say I am glad I wasn't allowed to as the stress and pressure of not wearing the same thing or whatever was 'in' at the time would have been a lot to deal with. As an adult I would prefer to have some kind of uniform so I wouldn't have to think about what to wear every day. But I do like our uniform and think it looks very neat and smart."

With other students being asked their opinions on the current uniform, there were many similar comments. Many wanted to be able to wear shorts in the Summer, others worried about the financial burden on their parents when they grow out of particular items. But mostly the general student opinion was that they liked not having to think about their outfit choices for the day, that it reduces peer pressure and bullying with everyone being on the same level playing field. Feeling equal and part of a community that is proud and united was also important to them. **The Smithdon Seven**, a set of beliefs that were re-worked in September 2022, also reinforces the idea of pride and of unity ... 'we take pride in the presentation of ourselves and our work.'

Those few students that said they felt the need to rebel against the conformity of restrictive choices on a daily

basis, felt that their individuality wasn't being recognised and that their self-image was damaged as they couldn't express themselves through their clothes and appearance. But, as Agatha also stated, "I can express myself in other ways".

Thinking about the costs of uniform, Smithdon does offer a Learner Support Fund which helps with the costs of uniform for those that are struggling or on a low income. Many schools across the UK do offer this type of support for their students. Therefore uniform doesn't have to be expensive. White school shirts can be bought from supermarkets that sell clothing and as long as the required black shoes are not trainers or branded, then they too can be purchased at a relatively low cost.

In fact it could also be argued that by wearing a uniform, the students' own clothes will not suffer as much wear and tear and need replacing regularly. Knowing that some of the students wear £200 tracksuits out of school, any parent would agree that they wouldn't want the cost of replacing an expensive item of clothing that had been damaged at school.

The jury is still out as to whether school uniform benefits our children's education or if it is an indulgence in tradition that many in this cost of living crisis just feel they cannot prioritise. What do you think? Should parents be free to choose their children's clothes without government interference? With school uniform being steeped in a history of charity, conformity and rebellion, it doesn't look like the regular uniform of blazer, shirt and tie is going anywhere soon. Tweaks might be in the pipeline but it does seem that the positive message of 'pride in school community' and of course, an easier morning for most of us, is definitely here to stay.

The odd non-school uniform days which are used to raise money for charity are a good time to express individuality, albeit in an appropriate fashion! Last year, the Comic Relief day raised £631 and the Children in Need event raised £818. Smithdon does pride itself on being charitable and instilling a sense of community and compassion in their students. But Smithdon is also a traditional institution that is willing to update the uniform policy in a way that makes their students look smarter. The uniform was re-designed 5 years ago from black, back to the original navy and grey, with hints of the Smithdon red.

With Summer approaching, will we begin to see male high school students unashamedly wearing shorts? Will this be a triumph after decades of protests or just a sensible decision to make them more comfortable?

2023 really is a year of change and progress!



Ms Walker, Deputy CEO of the Trust, didn't escape the questioning of the roaming reporters!

The DAILY PROPHET

Diagon Alley comes to Smithdon!

Over 25 years ago, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was published and the world went mad for the boy wizard who lived under the stairs in Privet Drive.

Subsequent stories about 'the chosen one' were just as popular. Movies, merchandise, theme parks and a London studio all followed. The wizardry tale of bravery, revenge and love is still popular and one of the most-issued book series in Smithdon's library. And so we thought we would bring a touch of magic in the form of Diagon Alley to the library during Literary Week. Ollivander's opened up for wand-making; Mrs Pike had the lease on Mr Mulpepper's Apothecary where she demonstrated the witch's



brew potion; HoneyDuke's was open for business to sell chocolate frogs, Bertie Botts Beans and Jelly Slugs. Barmaids Crystal and Darcie were behind the bar of the Three Broomsticks, serving Butter-Beer and the gorgeous

cupcakes that Mrs Featherstone whipped up! Diagon Alley also had a Chessboard Chamber and Scribbulus for chess-playing and Harry Potter themed colouring for those that just wanted to sit and enjoy the atmosphere. Professor Trelawney (Miss Cowles) took over Flourish and Botts for spell-making and poetry-writing.

It was such an enjoyable experience for everyone and we hope to make it bigger and better next year, perhaps based on another popular book series!

Thank you to all those that helped and supported the day.

Expecto Patronum!



OLLIVANDER'S HOSTS MUGGLE WAND-MAKING!

Ollivander's wand shop made history today when it opened its doors to both muggles and wizards for a very special event in which all were welcome to create their own unique wand!

Pom-poms, feathers, paint, glitter and sequins brought their wands to life and made them sparkle. Magic was in the air and creative juices were flowing.

Lumos!

PROFESSOR TRELAWNEY PREDICTS A MAGICAL DAY!



ENCHANTED CUPCAKES ARE A SELL-OUT!



HONEYDUKE'S CHOCOLATE FROGS HAVE ALL HOPPED AWAY!



DEATH-EATERS INVADE DIAGON ALLEY!



HANNAH IS ON HER WAY TO HOGWARTS!



MUGGLES CREATE THEIR OWN WANDS!



Students Writing

Teddy

Teddy was a pet cat. A really naughty, spoiled pet cat. He slept ALL day and had all the toys he could ever dream of. Teddy's owners really thought he was clever but he actually only had half a brain cell. It was the size of an atom. I'm only joking! Teddy knew how to play with his toys and which way his dad was going to sneak up on him. He tried to eat human food and when he wasn't eating, he was most definitely playing or sleeping (or both at the same time).



One day, Teddy got awfully curious about the outside world. You see, he wasn't allowed to go out because he is a really expensive rag-doll that someone would definitely sneakily snatch. Also, there's a large probability that he would get lost immediately. None of these reasons mattered to Teddy though, as he was blinded by the thought of freedom. Will he escape into the big wild world?

The next time Teddy's mum opened the balcony door just slightly, he wriggled his big paw into the surprisingly minuscule opening and, very slowly, Teddy opened the balcony door. The smell of the salty sea air and the sickly smell of greasy chips rushed into his nostrils. He breathed it in. Finally, Teddy mustered up the courage to step onto the balcony....

He jumped. Teddy was falling, the ground rushing to meet him. Months of tumbling off his vast cat tree had trained him for this moment. He stuck the landing. Teddy found himself on a small patch of grass. He wandered around until he found a big wall. To the average person it would have been chest height, but it towered over Teddy, like prison walls keeping him in.

He began the climb. He was exhausted as he got to the very top. He fell over the other side and woke up with a jolt. Teddy found himself in his older sister's bed. He accidentally scratched her almost immediately.

By Pippa - Year 7 Creative Writer. The Blue Peter Amazing Authors competition entry

Lucas the superhero wakes up and stretches his arms. He shouts to his butler "get me some food!" Butler hands Lucas his freshly made breakfast. "I need to go save the world" he says with a big yawn. "How do I lose some weight?" he asks whilst rubbing his rotund belly. "you could stop eating so much unhealthy food".

Lucas is superhero and he also loves football. But he is very fat.

"Lucas, you need to go save the world, someone is in trouble!" the Butler exclaims.

"I will try, but I am too heavy to fly anywhere." Lucas reply's sadly.

Lucas the superhero was once very strong. But over the years, the food, the celebrations, the fame and the eventual boredom, has led him to become a very BIG superhero. Even the special lasers that shoot from his heart to destroy his enemies, has stopped working as it cannot penetrate through the fat around his heart.

So Lucas the superhero goes back to bed to dream of lunch.

By Lucas - Year 8 football lover



Bob stares through the pub window watching the football match on the TV screen inside. Words and numbers on the screen mean nothing to him as Bob had never been to school. But the football players were everything to him. It is now getting dark and soon the drunks would be leaving the pub. Bob had to get home. He moves himself away from the window and tears his eyes away from the football match. Then, unwillingly he trudges home - or to what he calls home, others would think it a pile of junk.

When Bob gets home and lays down staring up at the stars, he thinks "will it ever be possible to follow my great passion and become a great football player? Or does my current situation make dreams impossible?" He slowly drifts off to sleep with thoughts of stardom and fame in his mind.

The next morning, Bob awakes, hungry and cold. He hadn't eaten yesterday and today was going to be much the same. But at least he had his dreams to comfort home and give him hope.

By Harry - Year 8 running enthusiast

One Way Street

A burst of bright light woke me from my sleep. What was going on? Who was I? Where was I? A million questions flooded my head. All of a sudden I felt a sharp pain consume my arm. Then everything went dark. That's all I remember about my first experience in the outrooms. The outrooms are always dark, dark for a reason. A reason I will never know. All I know is I am now 3612 4154.

The Corridor

The first thing I could see as my eyes flicked open was a man. He was tall, bulky for a matter of fact. His eyes shone bright red. Not in an overly pleasant sort of way. He grabbed me by the wrist and dragged me out of the dorm. By this point I knew the drill. Head down; mouth closed. I worried that if I didn't something would happen.

The man walked me to a large iron door. It creaked open, leaving a small gap for me to slide in. The door then shut. I was left in a dark room. Suddenly a huge TV turned on. All it said was to follow the upcoming rules...

Rule one: Keep quiet, no talking, no screaming, no crying. No interactions.

Rule two: When you are instructed to do something, do it.

The screen suddenly switched off and a red light turned on. Without warning a voice came through the speaker: "Enter the next door on your left. You will sit down and write your feelings so far." I did as I was told and walked through the open door. When I walked into the room the first thing I noticed was the two average men standing motionless at the exits of the room. In the centre of the room stood a table and a hard metal chair. I walked to the table where a pile of paper sat and a pen. I sat and wrote for a while then when no one was looking I grabbed a sheet of paper and shoved it along with a pen under my white lace nightgown then quietly exited the room.

I ran back to my small room. I then continued to take out the pen and paper and lay it on my small wooden desk by my bed. After that I grabbed a pair of scissors and began to cut out a rough shape of a crow. That was my symbol. After that I began to make friends with what we called "Jail Mates".

My nickname over time became black crow. This was a symbol of being lost as I am the only one out of everyone who cannot remember their past. I can only focus on my future.

My future belongs outside of the grey walls here. I know deep down I am not here as a coincidence. I know deep down I am more than they tell me.

I do not believe I am only 3612 4154.

By Rae - Year 7 creative writer



The yoto Carnegies

The Smithdon Shadowers waited for weeks in anticipation to find out which seven of the long-listed books had made it through to the shortlist. On 17 March we found out!

As always, there was a little bit of disappointment with the final seven. Marcus Sedgwick's offering, *Wrath*, did not make the cut. But we were pleased that *Medusa* was on the list, with its intriguing cover and vibrant illustrations throughout. This is a favourite for many of us.

The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2023 has an all-female shortlist, featuring first time, short-listings for critically acclaimed authors *Jessie Burton*, *Patrice Lawrence*, *Sita Brahmachari* and *Manon Steffan Ros*.

The Smithdon Shadowers will be having regular meetings where we can share our excitement in reading and discuss these superb books in the coming months.

The winner will be announced and celebrated on Wednesday 21 June at a live and streamed lunchtime ceremony at The Barbican, hosted by Lauren Child, creator of *Charlie and Lola*. Our Shadowing Group will watch this live whilst having a little party!



The Shortlist:

Needle - *Patrice Lawrence*

I Must Betray You - *Ruta Sepetys*

Medusa - *Jessie Burton*

When Shadows Fall - *Sita Brahmachari*

The Light in Everything - *Katya Balen*

The Blue Book of Nebo - *Manon Steffan Ros*

The Eternal Return - *Clara Hart*

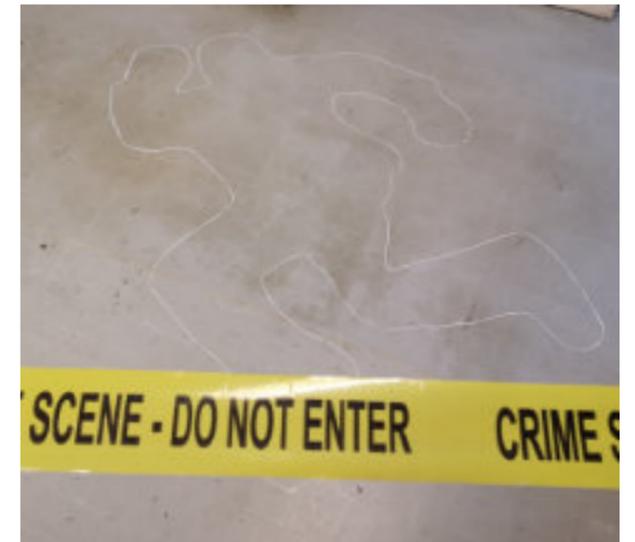
Katya Balen was the award winner last year with our shadowing group's favourite, *October, October*. So it will be interesting to see if we love her new offering just as much.

If you would like to join the group, there is still time as we have until June to read all/most/some of them. Of course Miss Cowles has read most of them already! There is no pressure to read every single book, but if you would like to have fun discussing books and watch some author talks on the books, ask Miss Taylor for further information.

The latest KS3 science event took place on 22 February. The theme for this event was Cluedo. The students taking part had to try to work out who the murderer was and which weapon was used, just like in the classic board game.

The activities ranged from chromatography, which is a technique that matches the pen with the writing on the notes; testing soil for pH; dusting for fingerprints and matching them up with the suspect's fingerprints; and also using the microscopes to look at fibres.

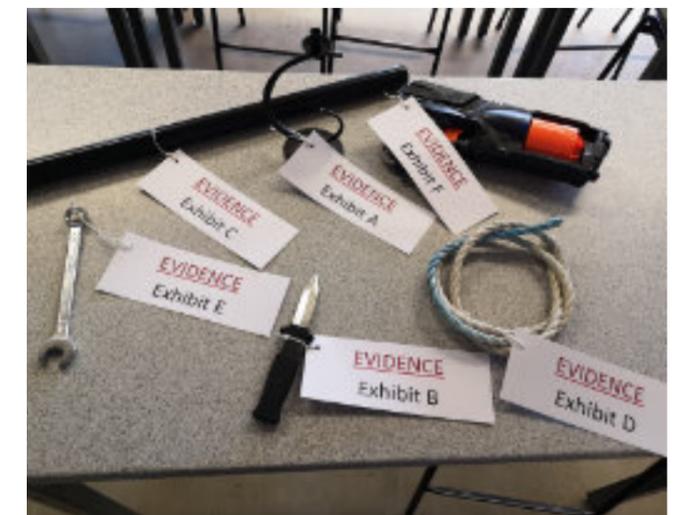
The students loved being able to participate in all the different activities and discovering who they thought the murderer was! (It was Mrs White)



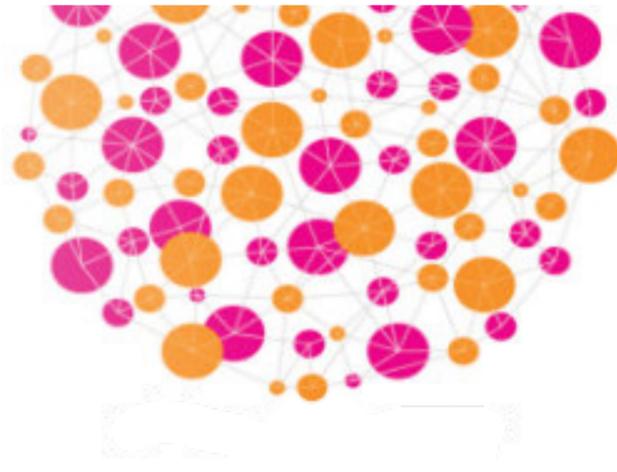
CLUEDO

We are excited to plan the next event which will be on 3 May – look out for the posters for more information and don't forget to sign up!

By Mrs Pike, Head of Science



10-19 March British Science Week 2023



During British Science Week, we have been busy visiting Year 3 and 4 students at seven local primary schools. A group of Smithdon Year 9 and 10 students planned, prepared and delivered five interactive and fun science activities.



Insight Discover is a school-based programme which we have been proud to be involved with for many years. Our students follow Insight Discover from Year 7 to Year 8 and aim to develop key skills to support them in their academic work. In addition, the programme provides students with the opportunity to explore different possibilities open to them in the future and consider the pathway they need to take to reach their goals.

During the programme, our students visit the University of Cambridge, and work on a series of projects before graduating at the end of Year 8. This year our participants not only visited the University but also the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology for the initial launch of their Insight Discovery journey. They had a fun day with team building and public speaking activities!

Last Friday a group of Year 9 and 10 students went to Snettisham Primary School where we demonstrated different Science experiments for British Science Week.

I built a Diode Circuit using conductive and insulating play-dough which was connected to batteries using wire, so they could light up LED's. Our record breaker was 22 LED's! We also used a data hive to measure the voltage in the circuit. We all had a great time and the children said they loved it a lot.

By Erin, Year 10.

We focused our experiments around 3 factors: temperature, charge and light intensity. We attempted to incorporate a data-hive in every experiment. We came up with ideas such as squishy circuits and exploring with microscopes!

For one of our experiments, we focused on static electricity! To do this, we created a build up of static using many different materials, such as cloth for example, and rubbed it very vigorously onto a plastic film.

While the Year 3 and 4's waited for the electricity to build up, they rubbed balloons on their jumpers or hair. (This was definitely their favourite part!)

When everybody was ready, we threw the plastic films in the air and followed it underneath with the balloons. Due to the static electricity created, it would either stick to the balloon, or float above it in the air!

The Primary students loved this experiment and so did we!

By Kira, Year 10.





United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

Intermediate Mathematical Challenge

Every year, Smithdon students from across both Key Stages are selected to enter the UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) Maths Challenges.

At the beginning of February this year, our top set students in Years 9 and 10 were selected to participate in this year's UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge.

"The Intermediate Mathematical Challenge is a 60-minute, multiple choice competition aimed at students across the UK.

It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

The problems are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with experience". (UKMT)

The thresholds for certificates this year were:

71+ - Gold

55+ - Silver

42+ - Bronze

I am pleased to announce that we achieved:

Four Bronze awards in Year 9: Macey, Aidan, Isabel and Aaron.

Three Silver awards in Year 9: Kash, Lewis and Harley.

Congratulations to Kash for achieving the Best in Year 9 award.

Five Bronze awards in Year 10: Charlie, Tegan, Ellakha, Agatha and Joey.

Two Silver awards in Year 10: Riely and Mia.

Congratulations to Roman for our only GOLD award that earned him a place in the next follow-up round, the Hamilton Mathematical Olympiad.

Congratulations to Roman for also achieving the Best in School Award.

A huge well done to all of those that took part and congratulations to those that received a certificate.

We're very proud of you all! - Mrs Evans

APRIL ... A LITTLE BIT OF MATHS EVERY DAY JustMaths

1 6 pens cost £1.26 3 pens and 1 pencil cost 85p What is the cost of 1 pencil?	2 What is 50×70 ?	3 What is $0.8 + 100$?	4 Write down a fraction equivalent to $\frac{4}{5}$	5 What is $136 + 4$?	6 What is the missing value? $\frac{\quad}{\quad} = 942 + 395$
7 Calculate $\frac{7}{20} - \frac{3}{20}$	8 What is $1\frac{3}{4} + \frac{2}{5}$?	9 What is $12 + 0.5$?	10 How many faces does a cuboid have?	11 Work out $44 + 1$	12 Chris is thinking of a number. He adds 3 to the number and then multiplies by 2. He then subtracts 10 from the result and divides it by 2. The answer is 8.5. What number was Chris thinking of?
13 What is $4.007 + 7.18$?	14 Calculate $99,165 - 1281$	15 Calculate 71×46	16 Calculate 7652×31	17 work out 24×12	18 What is $673 - 89$?
19 Calculate $48 + 404$	20 Calculate $50 - (49 + 7)$	21 What is $133,456 - 12,999$?	22 If $n = 33$, what is $3n + 12$?	23 Mal buys 5 boxes of oranges. She pays with a £10 note and receives £3.60 change. How much does 1 box of oranges cost?	24 Calculate 15% of £84
25 What is 20% of 1800?	26 What is $989 + 100$?	REMEMBER: The best way to revise maths is to "do Maths"!			

How many can you get right? Watch this space for the answers in the next Smithdonian edition.

APRIL ... A LITTLE BIT OF MATHS EVERY DAY JustMaths

1 Work out $\frac{2}{11} \times \frac{1}{3}$	2 Share 200 in the ratio 3:2	3 Work out (without a calculator) $125.2 \div 41$	4 Simplify $4g + 2e - 3 + 2e + 8$	5 Work out 70% of 120	6 Simplify $(2x^2)^3$	7 Write 4.78×10^{-2} as an ordinary number
8 I buy a "thing" in a sale that has been reduced by 15%. The sale price is £102. What was the original price?	9 Write 3.87×10^{-4} as an ordinary number	10 Mal got 32 out of 80 on her maths exam. Write this as a percentage.	11 Simplify $\frac{8m^2 \times m^3}{4m^3}$	12 Expand $(x + 2)(x - 3)$	13 Calculate $5 \times 10^4 + 3 \times 10^4$. Give your answer in standard form.	14 Write 1104 as a product of its prime factors.
15 Work out 30% of £14	16 Work out a) 0.4×0.8 b) $0.3 \div 0.2$	17 Work out $148 \div 11$ without a calculator	18 What is the median of these numbers? 3 12 1 11 3 14 13 13 8 5	19 Write 3.45×10^{-4} as an ordinary number	20 A "thing" increases from £40 to £120. What is the percentage increase?	
21 Factorise $4p^2 - q^2$	22 Calculate x	23 	24 Evaluate $3^2 + 5^2$	25 Simplify $(x^2)^{-2}$	26 What is the volume of the prism? 	
27 What is the circumference of a circle with radius 5cm?	28 What is the midpoint between (2,9) and (10,13)?	29 What is $\frac{3}{25}$ of 50	REMEMBER: The best way to revise maths is to "do Maths"!			



Performing Arts

By Miss Miller, Teacher of Music

Well, we have certainly been busier this term!

On 22 February the Drama Department took students from Years 9-11 to Norwich Theatre Playhouse to see Blackeyed Theatre's production of Teachers.

Teachers tells the story of both terrifying teachers and hopeless students at a school that has failed its OFSTED visit, all through the eyes of 3 Year 11 students. The message at the heart of the story is that the arts, and especially drama, should form an essential part of the school curriculum. It also attempts to demonstrate the effect that exposure to the arts has on young people. Our students loved the opportunity to be in a professional theatre watching this production. As a school we have regularly studied the play, so for students to see it in action was really meaningful.

Throughout the term, with the changes to the school timetable we have been able to offer even more clubs and opportunities! Have a look at our clubs timetable on the Smithdon website and try something new!

We finished off the term with a Spring concert celebrating the Arts with 'A Night of Cinema and Stage'. Students were represented from across Art, Music, Drama and Dance and we were fortunate to have our seasonal Cookery Club make lovely treats for the evening. It was a huge success and our students represented the school wonderfully. We will have one more concert in July so we hope to see you there!

We are also excited to announce the audition date for our next musical, Frozen Jr. If any students are interested in participating, please attend a meeting in the music room on Thursday 20 April at lunch-time. Let us know if you are interested in auditioning for a larger role or just to be in the chorus. The auditions will take place on Wednesday 26 April at lunch-time in the music room.

Student Council

As you may have seen on the Performing Arts clubs' timetable, there is a new Student Arts Council. This is a student leadership opportunity where you will have the opportunity to plan events, choose event themes, choose charities to support, and so much more for the Art, Music, Drama and Dance events throughout the school year.

If you are interested in joining the Arts Council, please email Miss Miller: a.miller@smithdonhigh.org.uk and answer the following questions by 29 April:

Why would you like to join the Student Arts Council?

What types of events or activities would you like to plan if you were on the Student Arts Council?

Would you like to represent Art, Music, Drama or Dance?

Once you have emailed your answers, you will hear from Miss Miller about whether you have been successful and when the first meeting will be.

SMITHDON CHESS TOURNAMENT Tuesday 18 April

Do you enjoy playing chess?

Want to compete against fellow students?

Check your school email for the google form to sign up (Years 7-10 only)

LGBTQ+ Group

All Year groups are
welcome in the
library!

Monday lunchtimes

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

It happens every year, as soon as the winter weather breaks and the temperature starts rising as spring approaches, you come down with a cold.

It's understandable that people are more likely to venture outdoors in the spring months than in the winter - when the weather has warmed up a bit, but is still cool enough to encourage the spread of cold viruses. To try and avoid catching a cold and also to help your immune system fight off the virus, take the following precautions:

Drink plenty of water.

Wash your hands often with soap.

Eat a balanced diet.

Get plenty of rest.

Enjoy your Easter break! Get plenty of fresh air and exercise and we look forward to seeing you back, refreshed and rejuvenated.

Raffle Winners this term:

Year 7: Sidney, Callum, Rhodri, Fletcher, Anya

Year 8: George, Larissa, Emily-Jane

Year 9: Reece, Archie, Florence, Oliver, Thomas, Nancy

Year 10: Lexie, Ethan

Year 11: Imogen, Connie, Ruby

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](https://twitter.com/smithdon_high)

Spring of Hope

Spring is the time when there is no dark land, when the earth is so bright.

You wake with the twitch of a hand.

Spring is when animals are brought to life, when the lambs and chicks find themselves in trouble and strife.

Spring is when the flowers bloom, when daffodils and snowdrops eradicate gloom.

Hope and joy is all around; people's happiness is a wonderful sound.

By Pippa, Year 7

We hope you have a restful break and we will see you all on 17 April.