



# The Smithdonian

Smithdon High School Magazine



The Summer 2023 Issue



## Mrs Gibbins welcomes you....

It is hard to believe that I have almost completed my first year as Headteacher at Smithdon - and what an amazing year it has been! This half term has been yet another fantastic one with so many events and opportunities to celebrate students' successes, not least the Year 11 Leavers' Assembly and Prom to formally say our goodbyes.

We have had the KS3 Awards Evening, a plethora of Music and Performing Arts events as well as the Art Galleries - all supported by the skillful (and tasty!) Hospitality and Catering students' efforts.

Summer sports, including Tennis, Athletics and our annual Sports Day have allowed students to display their physical prowess and Duke of Edinburgh's Award students have completed their Bronze and Silver Awards, proudly presenting their experiences to their friends and family.

This week has also seen the French trip to Paris and Rewards trips to Pleasurewood Hills - and I hope students have enjoyed making special memories as we head into the Summer Holidays.

As always, I wish you all a restful break and an enjoyable 6 weeks of summer!

Mrs Gibbins

# SMITHDON IN THE NEWS

## Smithdon's Year 11 prom sees unique vehicles deliver students to their big night out.

Friends and family of Year 11 gathered to greet the Smithdon Class of 2023. The leavers arrived at Knight's Hill in sparkling form, wearing a range of evening dress. From suits and cocktail dresses to full-length gowns, the teenagers wowed the crowds.

A yellow and white colour scheme had been chosen by the Year 11 leadership team, and tables at the venue were decorated with yellow and white balloons.

Ninety-three Year 11 students attended the event where they were joined by many staff members who were keen to celebrate the students' success and wish them a warm farewell by dancing the night away with them.

The evening featured a three-course meal and a disco, as well as a sweet cart loaded with traditional confectionery, plus a photo booth, which allowed the party-goers to commemorate the occasion with photos they could take home.

Mr Chapman, Assistant Head Teacher, said, "It was great to celebrate our students' end of schooling at Smithdon High School."

***There are many more amazing photos further in the magazine.***



## Kira wins award in the annual Hunstanton one-act drama festival!



Hunstanton's One-Act Drama Festival was hosted at Hunstanton's iconic Princess Theatre and featured a packed programme of short one-act plays presented by amateur theatre groups from across Norfolk in competition with each other, across five performance sessions.

Smithdon's Year 10 GCSE drama group performed on the Saturday afternoon with support from their drama teachers, Miss Brown and Mrs Proctor. Kira's intense performance earned her The Ann Munzer Cup for the best female youth actor.

Kira is a keen actress and performs in Smithdon's annual production every year. She is hoping to study Drama at Springwood High School next September when she embarks on her A' Level studies. Her dream is to work in the film industry and we are confident that this talented young lady will achieve her goal.

Congratulations, Kira, on a well-deserved award!



## Adele

### Our Shining Light

On 23 June, we said goodbye to one of our brightest and bravest students, Adele. With saddened hearts, several members of staff and students were able to go to the church to pay our respects. Meanwhile, staff and students at school wore something pink to commemorate and remember Adele's beautiful and joyful spirit.

Those that knew her talk of her infectious giggle, her sense of humour and her resilience - with perhaps a touch of sassiness. Many of us watched her grow up whilst facing her challenges with strength and humour.

Adele was an inspiration to many of us. She is in the hearts of everyone that loved her and we will always remember her lovely smile, unique character and her kind heart.



Adele loved watching the seal show at the school's Pleasurewood Hills trip.

- Awesome and happy
- Drama student
- Easy-going and friendly
- Loved musicals and dance
- Everybody loved her
- Caring and kind
- Always smiling
- Resilient and strong
- Tender and thoughtful
- Youthful and fun!

By Kathryn and Iliana

# PRIDE

## MONTH 2023

Pride month, which is celebrated in June, has always been very important to our school community. It shines a light on LGBTQ+ communities across the world and honours the infamous 1969 Stonewall uprising in Manhattan, New York. During Pride month, the UK comes together to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community in many different ways. From parades and marches to festivals, exhibitions and even drag queen bingo! It's a great way to honour the historical victories of the LGBTQ+ community.

Teaching the next generation to be more inclusive, and to give LGBTQ+ young people the representation they need to feel safe and supported in society, is crucial. In today's diverse and evolving society, it is essential that we work towards creating an inclusive environment for all of our students. By recognising and embracing the LGBTQ+ community within our school, we are striving to create an atmosphere of acceptance, safety, respect and understanding. We hope that making our students feel accepted, supported and loved for who they are, will all have a positive impact on their well-being, as well as their academic success. In the long-term, their self-esteem and self-acceptance will see them through their lives and help them to be good role-models for the next generations to come.



This Pride month at Smithdon, staff and students ran a number of activities, such as making pronoun badges, collecting pictures of students' and teachers' faces which were put into a flag, and a quiz to help raise awareness in school. We also had Sophie from the LGBTQ+ Project come to visit us at our lunch-time meeting in the library. Many students turned up to speak about what they want from the group and the issues they face.

At Smithdon we help many students to be their authentic selves and others to be an ally; to accept and understand that everyone is a unique individual. We teach our students to be themselves and educate not just themselves but also those around them in all walks of life.

I spoke to staff and students during our Pride celebrations to see what they thought. One student stated that: "I really enjoyed this month's activities particularly the pronoun badge making as it allows us to be addressed correctly! I think this month is very important for us young LGBTQIA+ people because it allows us to take pride in being who we are!"

A staff member I spoke to said that "in a time where the government is making it harder for students who identify as LGBTQIA+ to feel safe in and out of school, I feel it is ever more essential to be an ally, to provide a safe space, advice and support. Not only for students who identify differently but also to help educate the rest of our students so they can interact with tolerance and understanding."

I look forward to seeing the changes in our community by the next Pride month!

By Corey, Year 9 LGBTQ+ Ambassador



# Library

The summer holidays have arrived and with it the excitement of beach days, lay-ins and fun times with our friends and family. Our students have worked hard this year and deserve this break from learning and school-structured days.

Of course there will be students that wish to continue reading for enjoyment throughout the six weeks holidays. If you run out of books to read at home, you can always pop to your local library for free access to books, including non-fiction, manga, fiction and graphic novels. There is also a big collection of the *Reading Well* titles which tackle young people's well-being, mental health and emotions. The collection is recommended by health experts and each public library has a collection that is appropriate for all age groups.

With the sun shining down and the lavender colouring the fields purple, our minds have turned to nature. Our gardens and balconies have been pruned and planted, ready for sun-lounging, BBQ's and paddling pools.

Our library displays this term have been influenced by summer, nature and the outdoors. After *Alice in Wonderland*, we thought the perfect classic book for summer would be *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Published in 1911, the novel has been described as 'the most significant children's book of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century'. Even though the book is over 100 years old, the same message still prevails in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, that our relationship with nature can nurture our emotional and physical well-being.

The author draws upon the cultural connection between childhood and nature, highlighting Edwardian beliefs about the importance of the garden. Other texts from Edwardian times, such as *Wind in the Willows* and *Peter Pan*, also draw on nature, albeit in either an English

village with *Wild Wood*, *Moles Burrow* and *The River* or the Island of Neverland with its lagoons, swamps and jungles.

Dickon, one of the most important characters in *The Secret Garden* is portrayed as a magical person for his understanding of wildlife, in terms of their behaviour and their noises. He shares an affinity with animals and the natural world around him out on the wild Yorkshire moors. He is introduced to the story sitting under a tree playing a wooden pipe, reminiscent of Peter Pan's flute.

In Greek mythology, Pan is the God of flocks, herds and wild animals. He resides in the utopian setting of Arcadia. One of the main characteristics most associated with Pan is his connection to nature because of his position as God of the wild. Dickon, even in his appearance, is linked with nature which is evident in his description, as he looks like 'pieces of the moorland sky'.

Mary and Colin, the other children in the story are both transformed, physically and emotionally by working in the garden together, healed by weeding, planting and breathing in the 'fresh wind from the moor'. The power of positive thinking is also a theme that runs through the book. Colin and Mary and their friendship with each other and Dickon begin to think of good things and have good thoughts. Colin actually wills himself to stand and eventually walk after being bed-bound for many years.

This lovely story (which does undoubtedly have outdated language), has been read by generations and, as with many other classic books, been turned into films and plays on stage.

With local beaches, country walks and an abundance of wildlife - be like Dickon, and have a magical summer.



**Smithdon's writing group will continue in the new academic year and we welcome new members from any year group. Currently the group meet in the library during Monday break-time. The aim is to enter students' work into writing competitions, both local and national, to get your work recognised and published.**

**It is an ideal environment to practise and improve on your writing skills, refine your writing process and receive encouragement and feedback.**

**Ask Miss Taylor in the library for further information.**

**Please read Pippa's entry to the short story, in-house writing competition that we held at the end of term.**

## Writing Group

My name is John and I am a member of The Community.

My story starts on a completely ordinary day, like any other. Instead of being woken up by the sounds of the trees swaying or birds chirping, I'm woken up by the sound of my older brother Frankie making a racket whilst trying to make porridge. That's the only thing we eat here! Boring, thick, milky porridge. For breakfast, lunch and dinner. I still vaguely remember the days when our mother would make us wonderful breakfasts. I miss eggs on toast and buttery bacon rolls. She's gone now.

I stumble into the kitchen, still half asleep.

Frankie greets me with a look of annoyance. "John! It's nine o'clock! Couldn't you have spared me the trouble of breakfast by getting up at least a bit earlier?"

I ignore him and, with a sigh, I wander over to the window. I take a small penknife and scratch another line on the wall. "Day four hundred and thirty six of being in this prison," I say. I go to place my hand against the cold glass of the window but, as I do, the spacious field outside morphs into a dark room. Sat in there is a tall, dark haired lady. She realises I've seen her and the dark room changes back to a field.

A memory comes back with a rush of colour and shapes as I remember that my name isn't John. My name is Hunter and I am thirteen years old. As this shocking realisation hits, I grab a backpack, shove some clothes and a rope into it, take Frankie's hand and we run. We run and run until our legs give way in front of The Big Wall. The Big Wall is a place that nobody ever dares to go near. With dirty, graffitied alleyways and rats, only the bravest of people dare to go.

I yank a long rope out of my bag and throw the hook on the top of the wall. With some encouragement from Frankie, I nervously start the climb. After what seems like hours, I finally make it to the top of the wall. We both stand up on top of the wall.

There I see her. The same woman I saw through the window at home. She speaks. "I knew I would see you here, boys." Her voice is cold and sharp.

After just a moment of hesitation, I reply, "Well since we've now met, we really should be going."

With just a slight nod of my head, Frankie grabs the rope and flings it over the side. With incredible speed, we both slide down the rope on the other side of the wall. I rip the hook off the side of the wall so she can't follow us.

My name is Hunter and I am finally free.

**By Pippa, Year 7 writer**



Our Reading Ambassadors programme began again this term! Our Year 7 Reading Ambassadors were taken to Hunstanton, Dersingham, Heacham and Snettisham Primaries to read with their Year 5 pupils. Wearing their reading ambassador badges and armed with stickers, reading journals and gifts of books and bookmarks, they represented the school with positivity, brilliant behaviour and maturity. Their teachers from Year 6 loved seeing them in their uniforms and looking smart and grown-up.

We very much enjoyed meeting the pupils - they were very sweet and friendly. We hope that meeting us made them feel excited and confident to join us in September 2024!



On Wednesday 28 June, the Year 10 Geography students took part in their coastal fieldwork by visiting Hunstanton beach.

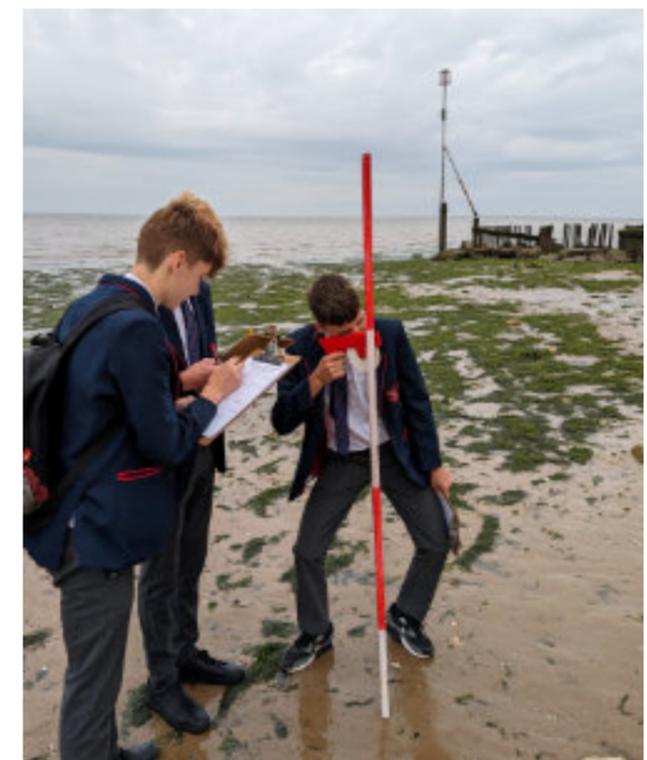
All of the students were involved with: data collection, completing beach transects, a pebble survey, a field sketch of the cliffs and looking for evidence of long-shore drift. These were all done at two different sites - at the foot of the cliffs past the arcade and at the beach near the Oasis Leisure Centre.

Despite the overcast weather, the students were excited to be at the beach! Mr Duncan received multiple presents in the form of rocks (Yes, he was delighted!). After working hard, pupils then spent time on the promenade where they were praised for their exemplary conduct by several businesses along the sea front.

After having eaten ice cream, donuts and other sweet treats, they returned to the school for yet more food. The whole point of this was not to fill them full of sugar for their unsuspecting afternoon teachers, but it was to prepare them for their third and final GCSE exam in Geography. Here, they will be asked to talk about their experiences with fieldwork, both down at the beach and also in the classroom. These skills are vital for not only getting a good grade, but also making them well rounded individuals for the world of work and further academia.

**By Mrs Johnson - Teacher of Geography**

# G E O G R A P H Y





## Maisie's Duke of Edinburgh "Expedition Diary"

featuring The Saturday Night Takeaway (and Bob!)

### Day 1

Bob wanted to go on a swing and enjoy the view looking out over the harbour. After quite a lot of time hiking, we realised that we had taken a few wrong turns which gave us at least an extra half an hour of walking! By the time we realised, we had already ended up on the field of a very posh boarding school. Bob wanted to join the school!

We were back on track and started to follow the map. We began to walk around 3 fields enjoying the scenery until we found a small alleyway lined with stinging nettles and thorns. After getting stuck on the branches multiple times, we finally made it to the church letting out a massive screech of joy (Bob was very happy to have a break).

It took us a bit of re-planning, but we soon got back on track and made our way to the campsite where we were surprised to find that we were the second group back.

Whilst waiting for the other groups to return, we set up our tents and socialised with our fellow camp-mates by playing a game of *ninja*. Dinner followed with some laughs and then it was time to sleep.



## Day 2

Once we were all up and awake, we set up our stoves and cooked breakfast. Darcey and Francesca attempted to make pancakes but failed miserably. Afterwards, we took on the first challenge of the day - cleaning the stove. This was difficult for those who had half a pancake stuck to their pan!

We stopped at Elm's Farm Barn after a big walk that consisted of going in too many different directions. Bob needed a rest. We decided to sit on the side of the lane with Bob so he could hear the tractors.

We finally made it to the beach and Bob was very happy as he was off the track that was full of brambles and stinging nettles. So, Saturday Night Takeaway sat down with him to take in the scenery.

We then walked with Bob along the prom until we reached another sandy beach. Bob wanted to get a sun-tan, so whilst the group were eating, he made a rock-bed and chilled out.

After yet another walk, Bob was happy that we were nearly at the destination. Maisie, Darcey and Francesca were getting fed up of Bob. But don't panic! He survived...

We were now just down the road from the camp-site when Bob insisted we stop and take pictures with the statues. We soon realised Bob had grown a pair of arms!

As we waited for the coach we heard Bob say that we were a 'bad team'. We were not happy with him so we decided to peel off his skin and eat him. Until we found ink inside Bob!

The expedition went brilliantly. We had many laughs and many confused faces when we got a little lost, but if we could do it all again, I think we would. Southwold is a beautiful place and I would definitely visit again (not to mention the tasty fish and chips we had when we first got to Southwold, I would 100% go back for the fish and chips!).

# The Hunstanton Drama Festival



On Saturday 1 July, Mrs Proctor and myself took 15 Year 10 students to perform at The Hunstanton Drama Festival in The Princess Theatre. Our students performed "The IT", a play written by Vivienne Franzmann. The IT is about a teenage girl, Grace, who has something growing inside her. She doesn't know what it is - it starts in her stomach but quickly outgrows that and takes over the entirety of her insides. Grace tries to act 'normally', but she is viewed in school as isolated and weird and knows she can't contain it forever.

The play's themes are relevant in contemporary society; many young people are dealing with mental health issues. In 2021, the Mental Health Foundation found that around one in six children are affected by mental health problems. This includes depression, anxiety and conduct disorder (a type of behavioural problem that is often a direct response to what is happening in someone's life). Alarmingly, however, 75% of children and young people who experience a mental health problem are not getting the help they need. Grace's story shows the consequences of trying to battle mental health issues alone. The play is a roller-coaster ride and our students were able to educate, motivate and challenge their audience!

At Smithdon, we deeply value the importance and pleasure of all co-curricular - and especially those in the performing arts. The students worked so incredibly hard during their lunch times and also after school to ensure they were performance-ready! For the previous few weeks, the students spent time learning lines, creating the ensemble work, blocking and rehearsing the play.

The students - Emily, Kira, Madison, Maisie, Grace, Jessica, Tegan, Jess, Lily-Jean, Taylor, Ethan, Charlie, Layah, Hannah and Brooke, were amazing! They chose to use a non-naturalistic style to really show the audience the issues that were presented in the script.

It is so important to take part in these incredible opportunities so the students can see how the theatre works and it's fantastic that the community are able to see how talented our students are at Smithdon.

On the morning of the performance, we met outside the theatre for the technical run and all students seemed excited but also very nervous! Once we got inside they were able to run sections of the play on the raked staging - some of whom had never seen or used this before. Technical runs do take a long time to complete and our students only had an hour to run through as much as they could. They were about to present their work to a panel of judges!

They were all impeccably behaved, despite the nerves kicking in! Once the technical run was over they only had a short break before it was show time in front of a live audience and the judges! They sat patiently in their dressing room and waited for the "Smithdon High School 5-minute call". Deep breaths were taken and then they made their way up to the wings.

The heartbeats started...

...and our wonderful students turned instantly into an ensemble... and they nailed it! We were so proud watching from the wings; so proud of those who have performed many times and so proud of those who had never performed on a theatre stage before! As a collective they supported and helped each other throughout rehearsals and on stage; they were a true ensemble.

**It is also with great delight that we can announce, Kira was awarded Best Youth Actress in the Ann Munzer Cup!**

**By Miss Brown - Teacher of Drama**



Mrs France and Mrs Robinson, our wonderful teachers of MFL, celebrated the success and efforts of their Year 7 and 8 French students with their traditional petit déjeuner reward morning.

As with every reward breakfast, the students were expected to ask for their breakfast in French, with prompt cards to help them if they got stuck.

This is always such a lovely way to start the day, with a great atmosphere and delicious croissants and pains au chocolate on offer. The students left with smiles on their faces and a sense of achievement for being invited to the breakfast.

Well done to those that worked hard in their French lessons this year.

Toutes nos félicitations!

# Petit déjeuner



# Science

It has been a really busy half term in the Science Department with various events going on. Here is a recap of what we have been up to!

Year 10 took part in the National Scientific Thinking Challenge, which is an online challenge created by the Chemistry Departments of seven top universities: Bristol, Newcastle, Durham, Oxford, Manchester, Southampton and Warwick. Our students did amazingly with several gaining Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates.

Mrs Soper took a group of Year 8 students to the Norfolk Science and Technology Challenge Day at the Hewett Academy where students joined groups from other schools across Norfolk to complete a variety of STEM tasks, which all students thoroughly enjoyed.

In July, another group of Year 8 students were able to participate in the 'UEA Bringing Science event to you' at Springwood High School. They were able to experience: programming robots, secret message writing and looking at migrating animals amongst other tasks. Students also had the opportunity to ask the University students what it was like being at University.

Elsie stated "The activities were quite fun, especially the secret messages!"

Within school Mrs Pike held the final KS3 Science Event of the year. The weather was kind so we were able to build and fire water rockets and also do the favourite coke and mentos experiment. Mrs Pike is already planning the events for next year so look out for posters and dates of the events!

The Garden Club has been in full swing with everything that we have planted growing really well. Huge thanks to the students for all the weeding and watering they have done this half term. The produce looks fabulous. Thanks also go to the fantastic Year 10 Asdan group who planted lots of flowers this year that are making the garden look bright and colourful - they are attracting the bees and insects for pollination.

**By Mrs Pike - Head of Science**

# Performing Arts

To say it has been a 'busy term' for Performing Arts would be an understatement! It was music that began the term with the wonderful Art Exhibition, Collaborate. Our musicians were there throughout the evening to perform for the visitors and to provide some musical ambience. This was also the first time our new Student Arts Council was in full swing, greeting people, accepting donations and giving tours of the gallery. It was so lovely to see our students taking the opportunity to interact with the local community.



On Sunday 25 June we had 20 students perform at the Hunstanton Carnival. Despite the hot weather, our Frozen Jr cast were absolutely amazing, performing on the stage a selection of songs from Frozen. The public were so impressed with their talents that we received lots of lovely feedback and excitement about Frozen Jr.

## The Norfolk Show

On Wednesday 28 June we were fortunate enough to be able to take select students to the Royal Norfolk Show. They were there to perform piano pieces on one of the stages and to take part in the Grand Sing in the Grand Ring with Gareth Malone. The students really enjoyed performing and loved hearing all the other musicians that were there performing. The Grand Sing was an event put together by the Norfolk Music Hub where over 3000 students were invited to sing 3 songs in the Grand Ring. It was a lovely atmosphere and such a good opportunity for the students to work with Gareth Malone.



## Hunstanton Drama Festival

The Drama Department was busy the following weekend at the Hunstanton Drama Festival. A selection of Year 10 GCSE Drama students performed The IT. Our students did so well with 4 nominations including Best Youth Theatre Piece. Taylor was nominated for Best Youth Male, Emily was given a special mention and nominated for the Shakespeare Cup, and Kira was nominated for Best Youth Female and WON! We could not be more proud of how the students represented Smithdon, especially coming out for another weekend performance.

## WNAT Community Music Week

The week of 3 July commenced the WNAT Community Music Week held at Springwood High School. On Monday night we had our transition orchestra perform 4 songs. Our music managed to hold off the rain and it was lovely for the students to get to meet and hear the other transition orchestras from different schools. Our transition orchestra consists of students from Heacham Junior, Snettisham Primary and Smithdon. We would love to have more students join, so if you play an orchestral instrument, please do let Miss Miller know and she can give you more details.



## WNAT Vocal Celebration

We continued our performances at Springwood with the WNAT Vocal Celebration. For this event there were almost 300 students from across the Trust primary and secondary schools. Each school performed their own songs and then all came together to sing a song called Working Together.

This event had a lovely atmosphere and again it was great for our students to get to see and hear what is happening at the other schools. The little ones certainly seemed to enjoy the Frozen songs.

## Smithdon Summer Concert

Bringing us to the end of the academic year was the Smithdon Summer Concert - Smithdon's Got Talent. We had over 60 students involved including: Art, Music, Drama and Dance performing to 150 people. The Cookery Club was even involved by making delicious canapes for the audience to enjoy. Students covered a range of musical styles and performance, and we even got to invite some of our Year 11 students back for one final performance. These concerts are so important to our school atmosphere as they give us the chance to showcase and celebrate the work of our amazing Smithdon students. I can never express the pride I have in the children when they confidently perform in front of so many people!

***Keep your eyes and ears peeled for a whole new series of events and concerts in September and we can't wait to see you all at a Smithdon concert soon!***





Artist: **RAFAEL GÓMEZBARROS**



Year 7 have been busy creating their next art installation. Inspired by the fifty-centimetre long ant installations by Rafael Gómezbarros, the students have started to replicate the insects that have adorned the outside of public buildings and have been installed in museums since 2007. The sculptor's intention was to address the plight of millions of displaced people due to war and strife.

Their bodies were made up by assembling two human skull casts with resin and fibre glass. They were then treated with sand and charcoal. The legs were made with the sticks from Jasmine trees. The effect is impressive if slightly creepy!

"We have been using balloons covered in paper mache to make the bodies of the ants. We have begun painting them ready for the legs to be added which will be made from sticks.

The artist made them to remember the refugees who lost their lives during all the wars of the last fifty years. I can't wait to see them installed but it is weird that he used human skulls!"

**By Oscar, Year 7, comic creator**

# COLLABORATE AND VISION

Year 11 GCSE Art work was proudly put on display in Hunstanton's Town Hall for friends, family and the public to view. The turnout was amazing and this was a fantastic opportunity for 2-years worth of hard work to be showcased and brought to the community.

The local exhibition named *Collaborate*, was then followed by another open exhibition along with other young artist's from across West Norfolk. The exhibition featured a wealth of different media and was entitled *Vision*.

The exhibition was held in St Nicholas Chapel in Kings Lynn and again was open to the public to view. More than 80 pieces of work were on show and included: drawing, painting, sculpture, printing, mixed media, photography and digital. All the work was from: GCSE Art, Photography, Craft and Design and A' Level Art and Photography.

We wish our students the best GCSE results in August - you truly deserve it!





The 2023 Year 11 Leaver's prom, took place at Knight's Hill Hotel in King's Lynn on Thursday 29 June.

93 students attended the event along with many of their teachers. A yellow and white colour scheme was chosen by the Year 11 Student Leadership Team and the tables were decorated with balloons. An appropriate laminated ticket was produced as a souvenir of the event.



# The 2023 Prom

By Mr Chapman



Arrival was at 6.30pm, with many families watching the students arrive in various vehicles with some impressive cars, including two limousines.

Other arrival-vehicles included motorbikes, a fire engine, farm vehicles and a tractor!





Everyone enjoyed the evening which included a three-course meal as well as a lively disco. Special attractions this year were a sweet cart with lots of old-fashioned confectionery and a photo booth with props which was kept busy throughout the evening. This allowed students and staff to take home a souvenir of the event.





It was great to celebrate our students' end of schooling at Smithdon High School! All the staff at Smithdon wish them a lifetime of success and happiness.





## The Year 11 Celebration Assembly

Smithdon High School celebrated the successes of Year 11 on the morning of Tuesday 20 June. Our smartly dressed students enjoyed a light breakfast in the hall before gathering in their form groups for one final form-time with their tutors.

The celebration assembly started at 9.30am and it was great to see so many parents joining us for the event. Mr Johnson opened the assembly by praising the students for the way in which they had approached Year 11. Mr Chapman talked about the students' varied achievements since they joined the school in 2018. He was delighted to present the Senior Student Leadership Team with certificates to recognise their contribution to the school community.

Year 11 tutors Miss Wright, Miss Rham, Mrs Pike, Mrs France, and Miss Fairweather each spoke about their form groups. Each student received their achievement folder from their Pastoral Manager, Miss Green. This contained certificates and awards that students had gained in their time at the school, as well as a reference written by their tutor. Mrs Pike then presented a gift to Miss Green to recognise and thank her for all her hard work, care and dedication to the Year group.

Mrs Gibbins closed the assembly by wishing the students every success for their future. She also thanked parents and teachers for all the support that they had given students. Mrs Gibbins joined the school in 2018 and was delighted to teach some of the same students in Year 7 and Year 11. At the end of her speech, Mrs Gibbins invited Year 11 to leave the school and take advantage of all the opportunities which life will bring them.

**By Mr Chapman**

# Sports and Games

*The PE department and the sports leaders have been very busy this term with fixtures, festivals and Sports Day.*

## Town Athletics

Smithdon took over 40 athletes to compete in the annual Town Athletics Competition at Lynn-sport. This saw us competing against 7 other schools in athletics.

The Smithdon team did very well as we came 4th overall. Year 7 came first from their year group. Well done to everyone who was involved!



## Tennis

Smithdon hosted the West Norfolk Tennis competition which took place at the Hunstanton LTA grass tennis courts. The courts were set up as if it was Wimbledon-ready.

Six schools joined in the action with some amazing tennis being played. Smithdon came 2nd overall and we hope to make this an annual event from now on. Also, a special mention to our guests - Mrs Gibbins, Mrs Robinson and Mr Corder for making an appearance.





## Beyond the Baseline

The Summer Term saw the return of the Beyond the Baseline leadership course. The course was again led by ex-professional tennis player Jade Windley, who delivered 3 two-hour sessions to our Year 8 sports leaders. Session 1 saw students develop their leadership and communication skills through some tennis based sessions. Session 2 saw the leaders work in small groups to plan and practice delivering a tennis session. Session 3 gave the leaders the opportunity to deliver their planned tennis session to groups of Smithdon Year 7 students.

All leaders worked fantastically well over the 3 sessions, showing great leadership, teamwork, communication and organisational skills and Jade was very complimentary of how the leaders conducted themselves throughout the course. Well done to all involved!



## Primary Festival

At the end of June our annual Primary School Sports Festival took place at Smithdon. Over 240 Year 3 and 4 primary school students from local schools arrived on site for a day of sporting activities that were all planned, organised and delivered by over 80 of our fantastic sports leaders in Years 9, 10 and some returning year 11s. In total there were 17 different activities on offer. Activities ranged from Football to Lacrosse, Netball to Mini Tennis and even some relays.

All groups were sensational in delivering their sessions, ensuring that all the primary pupils had a fun day experiencing the school and the wide range of different sports on offer. Feedback from staff at the primary schools was all very positive. Even the rain stayed away!

We look forward to running the festival again next summer.



**Faith, our Year 7 champion, was the top girl at the annual Royal Yachting Association Regional Championships at Grafham Water in June. Faith was 1st female in the 4.2 Topper Fleet and 3rd overall. She is super proud of her achievement. Faith's mum stated, "The conditions were tough, nobody likes sailing when there isn't much wind, so it was very challenging."**

**Well done, Faith. As ever we are so proud of you and we love hearing news of all your sporting adventures outside of school.**

# SPORTS DAY

Sports Day was again a massive success as it saw students from Years 7-9 battle it out to see which House would reign supreme. On a very busy day of events, an incredibly large number of students took part in track and field events with plenty of fantastic sporting performances.

With the field events taking place in year groups in the morning, the day finished with the whole school spectating the track events and kept well refreshed by the ice cream van that had a large queue of students waiting for ice creams all afternoon. The crowd was busy cheering on our athletes all afternoon, mixed in with some singing and dancing to motivate the competitors.

School records were also broken! Congratulations to all the students for their record breaking efforts.



*The results at the end of the day saw Moore house crowned Sports Day champions. Year group and overall results can be found below:*

	Year 7 Girls	Year 7 Boys	Year 8 Girls	Year 8 Boys	Year 9 Girls	Year 9 Boys	Total	Overall Position
MOORE	87	93	91	115	93	117	596	<b>1st</b>
REDGRAVE	97	79	95	82	96	114	563	<b>2nd</b>
FARRAH	108	89	91	65	93	94	540	<b>3rd</b>
ENNIS-HILL	58	100	66	108	113	90	535	<b>4th</b>

*Well done to the following students for gaining the most individual points and winning the Victor and Vixtrix Ludorum awards:*

Year Group	Victor Ludorum	Victrix Ludorum
7	Fletcher	Leah
8	Joshua	Anya and Abbie
9	Seb	Bonnie

*Well done to the following students who also broke records during the day:*

Student	Event	New record set
Faith	Year 7 Girls 1500m	6m 14 secs
Leah	Year Girls 800m and Year 7 Girls long jump	3m 2 secs
Mercedes	Year 7 Girls 200m	33.34 secs
Bonnie	Year 9 Girls 200m	30.74 secs
Rhenaya	Year 9 Girls 800m	56.74 secs



Jessica, Hannah, Taylor, Mia, Izzy, Isaac, Thomas, Joe, Jess and Maisie

## Meet the new Year 11 Leadership Team!

Last week, Miss Green, Mr Chapman and Mr Ward had the pleasure of conducting interviews for our new Year 11 Head Students for next year.

All the students we interviewed did very well and made it a very difficult decision for them!

They argued and discussed and argued again.

And after lots of deliberation, we are proud to announce that our new Head Students for next year are:

### Izzy and Isaac

Because they were so impressed with the quality of the interviews, they decided to appoint Deputy Head Students!

Congratulations to:

### Tom and Mia

We know that you will be amazing deputies and will help and support Izzy and Isaac in all they want to achieve for the school and the students.

We are also pleased to announce the students that will be the new Yr 11 Student leadership team:

**Hannah, Jess, Maisie, Lily-Rose, Jessica, Joe, Taylor, Mia**

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Another academic year has come to an end. We have said *farewell* to Year 11 and we look forward to welcoming the new Year 7 cohort in September for another busy year of learning and fun.

Good attendance at school will always be important to us and something we will always strive for although we do understand that absence can be unavoidable. Students who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and inevitably do less well in exams. This is something we want to avoid as we want our students to reach their potential and have the best education we can give them.

We hope that our parents and carers feel comfortable enough to speak to school staff about any worries their child may have. We have a fantastic and supportive pastoral team who will offer help and advice. In many cases, a meeting or chat with a familiar teacher or staff member can help to reassure our students and their families about their concerns. If there is a more long-term issue, please speak with our pastoral team who will do their best to work with the family to help their child achieve a good attendance rate.

Yearly Attendance	Yearly Days Missed	Yearly Learning Hours Missed	Learning Hours Missed Over 5 Years
100%	0	0	0
97%	6	30	150
95%	10	50	250
90%	20	100	500
80%	40	200	1000
50%	100	500	2500

### Raffle winners this term:

Year 7: Freddie, Noah, Maysie, Jazz, Jamie, Harvey

Year 8: Isla, Ben, Harry, Archie, Lucas, Bella, Caiden

Year 9: Aaron, Max, Matthew, Darcey, Niamh, William, Nancy

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

Phone: 01485 536123

Text: 07935 059774

Email: [attendance@smithdonhigh.org.uk](mailto:attendance@smithdonhigh.org.uk)

# Get in touch:

**Phone: 01485 534541**

**Email: [office@smithdonhigh.org.uk](mailto:office@smithdonhigh.org.uk)**

**Website: [www.smithdonhigh.org.uk](http://www.smithdonhigh.org.uk)**

**Twitter: [@smithdon\\_high](https://twitter.com/smithdon_high)**

**We hope you have a restful and fun summer.**

**Stay safe!**

**We look forward to seeing our students:**

**Year 7 on 6 September**

**Year 7 and 11 on 7 September**

**All students on 8 September.**