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CENTRE PAGES



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Deceiving Appearances

Invisible Theatre, the subtle art of performing in public places and involving ordinary members of the public, seems to be the stuff of great cultural cities of the world Paris, New York and Rome. So it may surprise you that such a piece of theatre has been performed in the streets and shops of Wymondham.

This type of performance is a technique developed by the late Theatre Practitioner Augusto Boal. The premise of the performance is to activate the audience so that they become 'spect-actors' rather than spectators.

AS Drama and Theatre Studies students from Wymondham High decided to put together a piece of Invisible Theatre based on people's perception of teenagers and, specifically, how they dress. The students felt that they were often categorised as 'trouble' if they wore a hoodie down the street. The students wanted to gauge the public's reaction and whether or not the people of Wymondham would look down on 'hoodies', even though they weren't doing anything wrong. The scene took place in a local shop, and the unknowing public actively participated, with some very positive responses.



One spect-actor commented, "Why do people demonise children just because they wear hoodies?" There were other comments from the unsuspecting public who felt that, "They're always hanging around".

The students came to realise how intimidating this garment can be but they also discovered that the public were quick to make decisions about the people wearing the hoodies without real warrant.

calendar

JANUARY			FEBRUARY		
1			1		
2			2	Year 9 Options Evening	
3			3		
4	INSET DAY		4		
5	School opens	Parents' Evening 7W & 8W (postponed in December) will take place today from 5pm to 8pm	5		
6	Sixth Form Presentation Evening		6		
7			7		
8			8		
9			9		
10			10	Y9T and Y Parents' Evening	
11			11		
12			12		
13	Year 12 Parents' Evening		13		
14			14		
15			15		
16			16		
17			17		
18			18	Languages Day	
19			19		Russia Trip
20			20		Russia Trip
21			21	HALF TERM	Russia Trip
22			22		Russia Trip
23			23		Russia Trip
24			24		Russia Trip
25			25		Russia Trip
26	Year 11 Poetry Live, Theatre Royal		26		
27			27		
28			28		
29			29		
30			30		

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 please contact the school office on 01953 602078

From the Head,
Victoria Musgrave



Dear Parents/Carers

May I start this Christmas Newsletter with my good wishes, thanks for all your support this year and compliments of the Season. Christmas is always a wonderful family time of year and so much has been happening at the school over the past few weeks, in the run up to the Festive Season.

In many ways, it has been difficult at Wymondham High over recent weeks, owing to the snow and horrid weather conditions. Students, parents and staff have had anxieties not only about transport to and from the school but our site staff have worked tirelessly to keep the site safe and clear pathways. Our biggest problem has been uncertainty and worry over injury for our students. In the main, behaviour was pretty good, though we did have to send a number of boys home for breaking the snowballing rule. We DO allow snowballing – but only on the field well away from school buildings, so, in spite of some parents' views to the contrary, you can have fun at Wymondham High!

The White Paper...

The change of Government has brought all sorts of uncertainty to schools nationally with Gove's White Paper published on 24th November, 2010. Some parts of the White Paper are welcome but many others mean that our ever-changing educational world is changing yet again and our funding is being cut, which is likely to have a significant effect on our school.

Any parents that may be interested in more of the detail, please feel free to get in contact with me and I will happily email you a copy. My email address is head@wymondhamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk

Student matters...

Last week we had our first Year 11 Christmas Formal Winter Wonderland Event which was organised by the prefects. It was an amazing night with Hog Roast and disco and the students behaved impeccably throughout. I was very proud of them all.

Year 11s are working very hard at the moment and have now completed their mock examinations. We are on course for another successful year in terms of GCSE results. Similarly our Sixth Form (Y12) have now completed their probationary term and are working well and the Y13s have all sent off their UCAS forms and many have offers of places already. We await the Y13 Oxbridge news in the New Year and we have already heard that two of our students from last year have now received offers from the top Universities (after a year out). Congratulations to all. The final deadline for Sixth Form admissions has now passed so anyone who has not applied will be considered as a 'late applicant' and already we have over 400 applications for 200 places. It is wonderful to be popular.

Thanks for all your support with homework, uniform, punctuality and attendance issues; it is having an impact on standards generally in the school. May I close by saying how well the Year 7s have done at the end of their first term at such a big school and wish you all, on behalf of the governors, staff and students of Wymondham High, a very happy Christmas.

Victoria Musgrave

Staff matters...

Some staff changes this term (though not many fortunately) mean that we are saying a sad farewell to Miss J Minns (ICT Teacher), she is going to a promoted post at the King's Lynn Academy. We wish her well and thank her for all her work with students. However, all is not lost because we welcome back Mrs Tracey George (ICT teacher) who left some time ago to go to 'pastures new' but has missed Wymondham High and is back to take on Miss Minns' classes. We also say a temporary farewell to Miss Freaney (Head of Geography) who is taking a term off to go in search of ecological and environmental issues throughout the Globe. She is going to be back with us at Easter and her classes are being covered by two Geography teachers.

Lots of new babies in the school, Miss Perchard (English) has a baby girl, Mr and Mrs Harrison (Geography and Maths) a baby son, Dr Kaiser (Science) a baby son and Mr Jones (Music Tech) a baby son as well as Mr Hibbert (Head of English) a baby daughter. Well done to them all!

IN SHORT

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Sporting success 3... an email from Laura MacDonald's parents...

'Laura has been representing Wymondham High as part of the England squad at the 4 day UK School games in Gateshead. She returned with 2 silvers, one in the javelin and also one for the 4x100m sprint relay.

Sporting success 1 Isla Chapman-Hammond

I started tae kwon do 4 years ago, and I started competing roughly three years ago. I'm now a red belt, and have just competed in my biggest competition so far, the IX Tae Kwon Do World Championships. There were 21 countries in total, including: Australia, South Africa and Canada. All of the countries had to take part in the opening ceremony as well as watch a demonstration. I took part in the Red belts Girls Patterns division, all together there were roughly 40+ competitors in this category. I had to perform my pattern 3 times, which is the most I've ever had to do it at one individual competition, after a very nerve racking hour I finally finished. It was all worth it, because in the end I was awarded silver. The nerves and hours of training were definitely worth it.



Isla Chapman-Hammond, Year 10

Sporting success 2 Tom Hunter

Just before breaking up for the summer holidays, Tom Hunter – county tennis player, currently in Year 10, heard that he had made it through to the national finals stage of the 14/u Road to Wimbledon tournament held each year.

Tom took part in this tournament at Wimbledon during a week in August along with 3 other fellow Norfolk players.

Tom had a great experience competing along with a number of top players from around the country. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity and although they mainly use the practice courts for this tournament, Tom got to play on one of the championship courts, court 19, for two of his matches!

He topped the week off by attending a Tim Henman clinic on the Saturday.



This event came hot on the heels of Laura taking the National U17 Women's Javelin title at Bedford in August, so a busy 'break'. South Norfolk Council are now looking at helping Laura with a personal fitness trainer for a couple of sessions a week over at the Wymondham leisure centre. The British Olympic committee are loaning some equipment which will be based over there, rather than in our garage! Hopefully this may lead to opportunities to represent team GB in 2011 as she surpassed the Team GB youth entry standards twice this season. Hence the Wymondham leisure centre link being very handy.'

Henry Periam gets on his bike

Henry Periam from E1 has recently taken part in a bike ride to raise money for prostate cancer. We spoke to Henry about his bike ride and why he wanted to take part.

Henry has been riding a bike since the age of 3 and thoroughly enjoys cycling. Before he completed the ride, Henry did some practise. This involved him cycling twice a week. Henry began his 80km ride from Stoke on Trent. He finished, back in Stoke on Trent, after 4 hours. The ride was challenging but the hardest part was the climb at the end.

Henry and a friend managed to raise over £3,000 for the prostate cancer charity. In raising all this money, Henry has been able to support a close friend who is suffering from prostate cancer at present.

Henry tells us that he would like to do something like this in order to help out with the great cause. This is an excellent achievement and all of Ellis are extremely proud of Henry!

We want to hear from you...

If your child has done something that you think we should know about, then do let us know. You can write to us at head@wymondhamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk, giving us details about whatever it is your child has done. It doesn't have to be a great academic or sporting achievement, it can be about anything that says something positive about your son or daughter.

Why changing times make for interesting times... the first 100 plus days... simon fox



When we speak of leadership, we often refer to the first 100 days of a new post. This period of time is often thought of as a good indicator of what to expect in the long run. For most it is about setting the tone or ethos that they hope to adhere to during their time in the organisation. Some people like to sit back, watch and listen for the first 100 days, making sure that they know everything they need to know before beginning to slowly guide their team in the direction they are heading. If you're an American President it is seen as the period of time in which you can get away with making one or two mistakes, and pushing through Bills that otherwise might not make it into legislature.

I have now been part of the Wymondham High School Leadership Team for just over 100 days, and I can guarantee that those preconceived ideas don't necessarily apply to becoming a Deputy Headteacher in this school. I have to admit, there is little doubt that engaging with students and staff has been essential to feeling like part of the school, and I hope that some of my own views about how we should support young people have come across to them. As for sitting back and taking things in, well neither the students nor the staff give you time for that.

So passionate and excited and interested are they in their school that you are constantly bombarded with suggestions, ideas, thoughts and questions. Equally, with the speed at which Wymondham High moves there are always decisions to be made, and no time to delay in making them. I also have an inkling that if I make too many mistakes or errors the students will pick me up the fastest of all.

Not that I have minded any of this, the pace and energy of Wymondham High School suit me, and I feel very at home here, more so after three months than perhaps I expected to. On that vein many people have asked me how I am settling in, and how Wymondham compares to my previous school just down the road in Hethersett. I have to admit it is a little like comparing blue and green or chalk and cheese, almost impossible. One of my ex-colleagues suggested it was more like a Premier League footballer moving from Tottenham Hotspurs to Arsenal, but as a Spurs fan I'd probably phrase it the other way! All I can say is that I am glad I am here, and I can't wait to help lead the school into a future that for education is as unsettled as it has been for some time.

With spending cuts on the horizon, and legislative changes outlined in a White Paper that impact directly on our young children there is a real atmosphere of uncertainty across every school in the country. Already Michael Gove and his coalition team have begun making changes, and we now have a much better idea of the new standards we will be asked to aim for. At the same time quangos like Becta and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority have been disbanded. Even our phraseology has been adapted, no longer does 'Every Child Matter' but now we have to 'help every child achieve more'.

With spending cuts on the horizon... there is a real atmosphere of uncertainty across every school in the country...

However I may feel about the strategy of employing a clean sweep across what

came before, the intended sentiment is the same, and that is the important thing. It seems like a long time ago that I first walked through the front door, but there is one thing that my time here so far has shown me. Irrelevant of what happens at Westminster and in the corridors of County Hall the staff here at Wymondham High will work tirelessly to make sure that every child who passes through our doors not only matters, but achieves as much as they possibly can, and I have a sneaky suspicion that the students will embrace the challenge!



Specialism Celebration evening see page 11...

YEAR 11 CHRISTMAS FORMAL

The Year 11 Christmas Formal was a great success thanks to the magnificent organising and design skills of the House Captains (pictured below with Mrs Musgrave), and the impeccable behavior of the students who attended the event. The decorations were inspiring, the hog roast was delicious, the music by Miss O'Hare was raving, and the surprise appearance of Father Christmas put the finishing touches to a memorable evening. Well done to everyone involved.



enterprise

business and enterprise

We were grateful to BP towards the end of last term for running a trading simulation game based on the oil industry. Interestingly a group of GCSE students outperformed one of Sixth Formers. It was a fantastic morning and students of all ages benefited enormously from the experience.

We have established links with Williams Lea, a logistics company on the Gateway 11 Business Park. Tim Bush, a former student of WHS and now a manager at the company showed all our current Year Thirteen Business Students around and explained how the company operates.

At the start of this term school governor Mr Gavin Gilliatt of Carbon Fibre Technologies (also on Gateway 11) joined us to give a fascinating talk on business start ups and enterprise, based on his experience with CFT. It was particularly useful to our new Business Studies students as well as the Year Thirteen economists who are currently looking at 'The Theory of the Firm' in their A2 work.

Finally, I am indebted to another school governor, Mr Julian Gillett for introducing me to the Wymondham Business Forum which I am sure will provide many useful links for the school. Stephen Mears (Head of Social Sciences)

young enterprise... team connect

Young Enterprise's mission statement is 'to inspire and equip young people to learn and succeed through enterprise. It allows a group like us 8 Sixth Form students to get involved in how business works while still staying in education.

Our Young Enterprise business is called CONNECT because our team attended a range of different high schools, but through young enterprise we have been able to unite with each other to form a business.

Our team has decided to produce a cooking set (including a wooden spoon, metal cutters, a rolling pin and a bowl) with an attached recipe book for children aged from



4-7. This allows children to be able to know what is going into their food from a young age – getting children involved with what is going into their food so that they can eat more healthily.

So far we have raised £200 through shares and fund raising ideas like bake

sales. We are still hoping to make more money to fund our product so that we can get it on the market as soon as possible and are currently selling candy canes with the opportunity to post it to your friend via form boxes. We will keep you all updated as things develop...

Check out the school web site for our CONNECT page...
Charlotte Lawrence, Managing Director.

Spanish students

We recently hosted 13 Spanish students who were visiting Wymondham for three weeks on a cultural integration project organised by The English Experience in Norwich. All students were hosted in families and spent their first week attending English lessons in Norwich, alongside trips to local places of interest. The second two weeks were spent following pupils at Wymondham High in the mornings with sport or cultural activities in the afternoon. Many pupils made lasting friends with their English hosts and we hope contact will continue.

A thank you from our Spanish visitors...

Hello to all of you who are reading this short Spanish paragraph, or simply thinking about reading this Spanish report at this moment.

I want to start writing this report just by dedicating you three small but significant words from me, 'Thank you all'. When I say 'Thank you all' it means thanks to everyone here in Wymondham High, students and all the great staff of this very big high school, who have made us feel as if we are at home. Moreover, I would like to highlight the good communication and pleasant disposition of the teachers and coordinators who are helping us to make the most of our experience. I would also like to mention the very nice facilities you have for your students, and it has been a pleasure for all the Spanish students to share them with all of your students.

For these Spanish students, it has been the very first time they have been to Norfolk, and for the majority of us, it's been the first time in England. So, because of that, the fact that we are here with all of you, at your school, takes on an even greater importance for us. We have come here to experience your culture but, more importantly your education.

Last but not at least, this has been both a beautiful and a nice challenge for the Spaniards, different culture means different habits, but we are all striving for the same goal: 'ROAD TO EXCELLENCE'.

First there was Namibia...

In July a group of students travelled to Namibia for a biology fieldtrek. The aim of the expedition was to learn something about the wildlife and ecosystems of Namibia and the importance of their conservation.

The expedition, which visited the Namib desert, Etosha National Park and Africat (which works as an animal welfare organisation looking after big cats), was a huge success and was enjoyed by everyone. The highlights included watching out for jackals around camp, seeing the sunrise over the dunes of the Namib desert, the night sky with the milky way and southern cross, seeing flamingoes in the lagoon, changing a puncture in sight of lions in Etosha National Park, staying up in sleeping bags and watching rhinos at night by the water holes, the fantastic nests of weaver birds, swimming in pools in the dry midday heat, learning about the bushmen and murder mysteries around the campfire...

Too many good memories to list.

Thanks to the group for being a fantastic team and not moaning (too much!) about the 6am (or earlier!!) wake up calls. Mrs Lewis.





...and now Morocco

Following on from the success of the biology fieldtrip to Namibia this summer the biology department will be running an 8 day expedition to Morocco in the Easter holidays 2012. The aim of the trip will be to trek in the Atlas Mountains, which are extremely geologically old, and study evolution by looking for fossils (the area is famous for tribolite fossils). The expedition will start and finish in Marakesh, which is a wonderfully exotic city. Students will trek in the Atlas Mountains for several days, camping out whilst luggage and equipment are transported by mules. The expedition is organised by Schools Worldwide and will be aimed at students from Year 9 upwards.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the expedition should pick up a letter from the science department or see Mrs Lewis or Mr Higgins (science). There will be a meeting for all interested students and parents in the North Hall on January 26th at 6.30 pm.

Students respond to need

Charity work is a very important part of life at Wymondham High. During the last year students and staff raised nearly £7000 for such diverse charities as Children in Need, Sport Relief, Adopt an Animal, Leonard Cheshire Disability, LEPPA, Macmillan Cancer as well as animal and environmental charities.

Events have included fashion shows, cake sales, sponsored silence, coffee mornings, fancy dress, and even a sponsored spacehopper event. The recent non-uniform day for Children in Need was turned into a fancy dress event. While students chose to wear a variety of costumes, staff decided it was time to regress to their childhood and don Wymondham High uniform. In all the event raised over £1300.

At the end of November the Shoe Box Appeal finished with a collection of over 300 boxes for the Crisis at Christmas appeal, with gifts going to children in Eastern Europe and Africa. One tutor group managed a record breaking 30 boxes.

'Giving to others with a generous heart is an important part of life; it is important on a young person's journey to becoming a responsible adult. Helping to instil a sense of responsibility is a key facet of education and an involvement in charity fund raising extends beyond Norfolk in order to raise global awareness.' Victoria Musgrave.

In the Sixth Form there are a number of charity committees whose aims are to raise money for local and overseas charity work. Last year the Charity Committee raised £1000 for the local cancer charity Star throwers and £500 for an international charity helping to build a school in Africa. This year the committee will be supporting a Teenage Cancer Trust with the aim of raising £1000 by the end of the school year.

According to Dr Fox, 'Two of the key aspects of fund raising at Wymondham High are that we ensure students learn from each event but also have an opportunity to participate in a fun and engaging way'.

'We are always very proud of our students who work so hard and show such generosity and commitment.' said Mrs Musgrave.



As part of the Sixth Form remit, students join a committee. There are currently 18 different committees to choose from. Students elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and a Liaison Officer. They learn how to run a committee and how to organise events. Among the committees running at the moment are: Amnesty International; Arts; Art and Design; Charity 1 Local; Charity 2 International; Common Room; Debating; Environment; Fashion; Health and Well Being; Higher Education; Engineering, Architecture and Design; Media; Music Promotion; Outdoor Activities; Science; Sports 1; Sports 2; Young Enterprise.

Fashion: our aim is to raise money for a chosen charity through our shared passion for fashion. Last year we put on a fashion show with the summery theme of festivals. With the help of Barclays Bank we raised more than £1200 for The Alzheimer's Society.

You can find more details on the web site at: www.wymondhamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk/sixth_form/committees.htm



Top picture, the shoebox appeal. Bottom two pictures by Hannah Mitchell during the Children in Need day.

Top of the Bench

Daniel Foster Y9, Lydia Brownlow Y9, Oliver Pfeiffer Y10 and Njeri Chege Y11 competed in the Top of the Bench Heats competition by the Royal Society of Chemistry at Bayer Crop Science. This was a science investigation day where students received hands on experience of working in a state of the art laboratory. Our team won an interactive quiz against a host of other schools from the East of England, demonstrating excellent scientific knowledge – well done!

Physics Olympiad Success

Eight Year 13 physics students recently sat paper one of this year's British Physics Olympiad competition. The students - Andrew Bell, Liam Carter, Chris Davis, Adam Dougall, Gabriella Johansson, Will Oakes, Sam Paterson and Kingsley White – performed very creditably and were all awarded 'certificates of merit' for their efforts.

Fundamental Physics

On the 7th of December, physics students from Years 12 and 13 travelled to Cambridge to attend the third lecture in the Cambridge Physics Centre 2010/11 programme. In a highly entertaining talk, Professor Malcolm Longair of the University's Cavendish Laboratory demonstrated the experimental methods behind six of nature's fundamental constants, including the speed of light, 'big G' (the gravitational constant), and the charge carried by electrons. The party was accompanied by Mr Higgins, Mrs Oakes and Dr Thistlewood from the Science Department.

Go4Set

We are pleased to confirm that funding has been secured to run a Year 8 Engineering project in the New Year. Year 8s interested in being part of the team should fill in a questionnaire and return it to Mr Higgins to aid the selection process. We are still hoping that funding will be secured for a similar project for Year 10s, more news to follow.

NSEW

National Science & Engineering Week starts 14th March 2011. Year 9s will be taught on the cross-curricular theme of 'Communication', and all year groups will be offered lunchtime workshops by various departments.

Specialism Celebration Evening

Last half term, the Science and Art Specialisms jointly celebrated the past year of gifted and talented achievements with an evening event bringing together students with parents, professional scientists and artists. Students showcased their work and had the opportunity to explain their work to guests. We were very happy to welcome the right honourable Dr Ian Gibson as Guest Speaker, who provided us with both entertaining and thought-provoking reflection on the link between our 2 Specialist subjects.

Feedback from guests and students suggest the event was a great success, with guests particularly impressed by the confidence and eloquence displayed by students. We are now planning a Celebration Evening for Summer Term 2011: keep your eyes peeled and your diary free!



KS3 Science Club is now running on a weekly after-school basis. Interested students should speak to their science teacher for more information.

Wyendeavour

Crunch Time for Bronze DofE

On Friday 10th September, 52 students and a contingent of staff travelled to Theberton, 3 miles south-west of Sizewell. It was great to see no crying parents this time; instead they were cradling bottles of champagne ready for a weekend without their little cherubs! As this was the assessed Expedition, it was crunch time for our Bronze D of E candidates...

After the driver completed the tricky manoeuvre of reversing a 70-seater coach down a narrow lane, the students piled off and started a preliminary check of their kit. There was a scream, then deathly silence broken only by the shout of 'my rucksack!'. Due to overfilling of the coach, surplus rucksacks were loaded into staff vehicles, which the individual checked, yet failed to notice her bag sitting in the passenger seat of Mr Higgins' car. Having discovered its whereabouts, there was a tearful reunion between rucksack and owner that would rival the film Casablanca.

Before the weekend started it was brought to our attention that whilst we were away there would be students who would be celebrating their sixteenth birthday in a field, in a tent and without a shower. We felt it was our duty to ensure that this was not overlooked; having mustered the students we presented Laura McDonald and Declan Hazel with a lit match to blow out, followed by birthday cake for all whilst being serenaded by their 50 comrades with a rather raucous Happy Birthday.

As the evening drew to a close some students decided it was time to hit the hay and get some well needed shut-eye, others had a midnight meeting with Black Shuck (the Black Dog of Death). As we wandered through the woods in absolute darkness, the students and indeed many of the staff were unaware that a pair of eyes were following them...

As the students' eyes became accustomed to the light, we initiated a small experiment whereby the students created flashes of light in their mouths using nothing more than a sugar cube! We arrived back to the campsite around midnight with the air still buzzing with chatter about our moonlit walk in the woods. The experience the students gained in the last camp was evident as the night walkers returned to a silent campsite without a murmur to be heard. Instead of hearing mumbles and rustling at 4.30 in the morning like last time, it appeared that the students were grabbing every available minute of sleep before the day's activities began. Mr Milliken was dutiful in his 6.30 alarm call.

It was like a scene from Night of the Living Dead as slowly our fearless adventurers stumbled out of their tents and shuffled towards to the village hall for a much needed bite to eat to set them up for the day. Having eaten their fill of breakfast bars, porridge and the odd bowl of pasta, our students headed back to break camp and prepare themselves for the day ahead. Meanwhile the staff sat down to multiple cups of tea followed by a plateful of bacon and egg-bread. A huge thanks must go to Miss Robinson who catered so well on this weekend and the previous practice expedition. They say an army marches on its stomach; we were about to put that to the test!

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- The Duke of Edinburgh Assessors, including our very own Mr Harrison, had one last chat with our candidates before they embarked on the first leg of Day 1.
- Spirits were high as group by group they made their way down the hill. Thankfully most groups managed to navigate the right way out of the gate, left or right?
- It was a tough one!! Due to the nature of the assessment it wasn't long before the accompanying members of staff with each group were picked up to allow the groups to continue independently. They were on their own...
- As the day progressed we checked on the groups from time to time, ensuring that they kept themselves well fed and watered. Bribery and corruption was rife with the promise of jelly babies ensuring that the candidates continued to put one foot in front of the other. One by one, the groups began to round the final corner and wander wearily through the gates of the village hall. Sighs of relief permeated the cool evening air as rucksacks were taken off, the feeling of achievement around the camp was tangible.
- After a brief head count it was time for budding Jamie Olivers and Sophie Dahls to rustle up some culinary delights for their walking groups. The all too familiar smells of Pot Noodles and pasta with tomato filled the air as the students enjoyed a well deserved meal before settling in for the evening.
- Once again Miss Robinson came up trumps with the staff evening meal, a gargantuan amount of fajitas were piled onto a groaning table. The staff didn't need telling twice to start loading up their plates. A number of people I think were almost guilty of running to be first in the queue, myself included! It was only half way through the meal that we realised the smell of our dinner had reached the campsite. Looking over our shoulders it was like something from Oliver Twist, with faces pressed up against the windows. Sadly, the staff didn't burst into a song and dance but this is something we will work on for the next expedition!

A couple of our groups became 'geographically misplaced' for short periods of time...

Having demolished our dinner it was then time to celebrate the third and final birthday of the weekend, Mr Howes, last year's Cover Supervisor and current PGCE Student graciously accepted the birthday cake in front of him and the room fell silent. Nothing needed to be said – it was a chocolate cake!!

Our final night was coming to an end. Slowly the staff made their way back to a silent campsite with just the grumbling of Miss O'Hare's dog, Pug, interrupting another silent evening. It was only at this point we realised that Pug had an intense dislike for anything bigger than him, being a Jack Russell-cross-Chihuahua with small-dog syndrome. This meant that anything bigger than a trainer was treated with great contempt, including our willing volunteer groundskeeper Nick whose ankles are luckily still in one piece!

Quicker than we would have liked, Sunday morning reared it's head and it was time to get up. Straightening hair and applying make-up were the priority as our cohort of female students set about their preparation with business-like efficiency. Needless to say the only appearance the lads were concerned about was that of their breakfast!

The final part of the weekend was underway. With tents packed into rucksacks and water bottles filled to the brim, our groups departed the village hall with a look of great determination on their faces.

Many of the walks on the second day took our groups right past Sizewell power station, with its famous golf ball. In the interests of health and safety, Mr Oxbury felt the only right thing to do was to test the quality of the ice cream and softness of the ground by basking in the sun and checking off the groups as they walked past. Mr Milliken and Dr Neequaye did a sterling job of picking up and ferrying staff around the area allowing staff to meet their groups at waypoints on their routes. A couple of our groups became 'geographically misplaced' for short periods of time but were able to get themselves back on track with the minimum of fuss, and without input from their supervisors.

As the staff arrived back at the village hall, we began to see the walking groups cresting the hill with merely a hundred yards to go before they could rest their weary feet. Murmurs of 'never again' and 'I think my feet are gonna fall off!' soon turned into 'I can't wait to do the Silver Expedition' and 'it was tough but really worth it'. Staff were surrounded by a sea of ear-to-ear smiles as the Wymondham High candidates had finally completed their Assessed Bronze Expedition.



Thanks must go to all the Volunteers who gave up their weekend to supervise the groups. Without you, this weekend would not have been possible.

Miss Wheeler who gave 100% and never stopped smiling despite it being her first camping experience and not being able to access Facebook for a period in excess of 48 hours!!

Miss O'Hare, who was determined in her morale raising efforts, and First Aid expertise. As previously mentioned Miss Robinson for her culinary and general expedition expertise, Mr Higgins and Mr Cooke whose sense of humour and dedication to the weekend was greatly received by all.

Also to Mr Milliken who, with military precision, planned and executed this weekend after weeks of preparation, and to whom we all thank.

On a final note, the candidates truly deserve the last mention; the students conducted themselves flawlessly over the weekend showing a great amount of teamwork, effort and above all the core elements of the Duke of Edinburgh ethos. Members of the public throughout the weekend commented on the politeness and happiness of our students which served as a testament to their dedication to the scheme. We are incredibly proud of all of you, and look forward to the completion of the Bronze Award moving on to Silver.

Adam Oxbury



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artdepartment

The Autumn term is always a very busy, yet exciting time for the Art Department, where staff welcome new A Level students and Year 10 students who have opted to study GCSE Fine Art or Art Textiles.

Most students by now will have met our 2 new art teachers who have joined the department, but I would like to take this opportunity if not a little belatedly, to formally welcome Mrs Pinnington and Mrs Hill who have been fantastic additions to the art team.

Upon returning back after the summer holiday, the Art Department was fortunate to display its latest addition of a purpose built darkroom for the GCSE Fast-track Art Photography students. This has increased the department's facilities and offers students the chance to learn traditional dark room developing techniques as well as using contemporary digital media such as Adobe Photoshop.

On Tuesday 5th October, 80 budding and enthusiastic Year 9 Fast-track Art Photography students and Year 10 GCSE Fine Art and Art Textiles students and department staff (accompanied by the ever dependable Mr Harrison as chief First Aider) visited the beautiful, atmospheric and scenic North Norfolk coast. They visited Holkham beach and Wells-next-the-Sea to draw, record and sketch the beautiful and distinctive landscape/seascape to inspire their first coursework project entitled the 'Environment and Natural Form'. The Art Department is again hoping to hold its annual 'New Beginnings #3' exhibition of work undertaken on this theme around the end of March 2011, so parents – watch this space!

After returning from the half term break in November, Year 12 Fine Art students and a selection of Year 10 and Year 13 Art Textiles students embarked upon the department's third enrichment art trip to the Curwen Print Studios in Cambridge. The centre is a well renowned and respected printmaking studio, which in the past has made original and reproduction prints for the likes of artists Rolf Harris and Paula Rego.

Two professional artists/tutors, specialising in dry point etching, collograph prints and mono printing, were on hand to tutor students in the numerous and exciting techniques required to make the highest quality, experimental prints. Students used their own etchings and collographs inspired from school based workshops. The prints students produced on this trip were vibrant, colourful and full of expressive marks, which in turn will make fabulous additions to student's GCSE, AS and A2 projects.

National success!

On the 1st September, the Art Department were told that a selection of students ranging from KS3 to KS5 had been successful in the School Artists' latest national competition called True Colours. I am pleased to report that 28 students work has been selected by a panel of contemporary artists led by Susie Hodge to feature in a series of portfolios to showcase Britain's school students' creative talents. The portfolio is scheduled to be published on 31st December 2010 and we await the panel's decision on which school submitted the best selection of artwork. The first prize is £1,000 and the best 10 students will win a canvas of their winning entry. See the righthand panel for the names of students selected.

What's happening in Art...

Wednesday Week 1 and 2: Junior Art Club in MO3 with Mrs Pinnington and Miss Maynard from 3–4pm.
Monday Week 1 and 2: Y10 Art Fast-track Photography with Mrs Elkins from 3–5pm.
Wednesday Week 1 and 2: Y9 Art Fast-track Photography with Mrs Elkins from 3–5pm.
Monday – Friday: GCSE and A Level support sessions with department staff from 3–5pm.

The selected students are:

Laura McDonald, Year 11
Alexandra Roots, Year 12
Dan Heap, Year 13
Ben Palmer, Year 11
Gabrielle Jackson, Year 11
Adam Land, Year 13
Georgia Morter, Year 11
Nicole Rance, Year 12
Emma Traynor, Year 13
Lauren Garwood, Year 9
Kebbe Mybe, Year 11
Saskia Kerr, Year 13
Joy Banyard, Year 9
William Barrett, Year 11
Katharine Waldron, Year 13
Danielle Leaver, Year 10
Michael McShane, Year 11
Zoe Read, Year 10
Gustaf Jackson, Year 12
Ellie Sharp, Year 11
Rachel Stringer, Year 12
Evie Calaby, Year 11
Patrick Croughan, Year 12
Laura Freedman, Year 11
Matthew Dodd, Year 11
Hazel McShane, Year 9
Charlotte Gee, Year 9
Charlotte Barrett, Year 10

In the next newsletter I hope to provide you with an update regarding the 'True Colours' competition entry. I will also be able to update you with the 'new' creative developments that are happening across all key stages.

Coursework Deadlines

GCSE ('I, Me and Mine'): Friday 11th February 2011
AS ('Rhythmical Structures' and 'Objects & Viewpoints'): Friday 18th February 2011
A2 ('Image & Identity' practical work): Friday 17th February 2011

Rugby termly report

This half term has delivered some very promising results for Wymondham High. We have played 13 fixtures losing only two. Although the year 7's have not played any 15 man fixtures, the numbers attending training every Tuesday is pleasing. They have been working on basic skills preparing them for full 15 man rugby. They attended the 12-a-side Norfolk County Emerging schools tournament on the 24th of November and came first. They won all 5 games and did not have a try scored against them. Congratulations to those boys, not only for winning but for their impeccable behaviour on and off the field.

The Year 8's have got off to a good start, where they beat St Clements (46-0) comfortably in their first game. They had the opportunity to show some good running and handling skills. They have also beaten last years' Norfolk County champions Fakenham (24-8) and Kings Lynn Academy (37-0). These three wins put them into the quarter final rounds.

The Year 9 team have played 3 games winning convincingly against Diss High School (59-0), Kings Lynn Academy (50-17) and Methwold (72-0). This age group are fortunate to have good strength in depth having an A and B team. Hopefully these performances will continue until April when they will tour Northern Ireland.

The Year 10 team have been really busy having played 5 games and winning 3. They have beaten Cliff Park (29-0), Great Yarmouth (50-0) and Thorpe (26-5). They lost to Langley and Fakenham in the 2nd round of the Daily Mail Vase Cup. They must wait until December to find out if they go through to the quarter finals. They too have strengthened their squad with new members turning up to training.

The Year 11 team have played 2 games winning comfortably against Wayland Community High school and Neatherd High school to whom they lost twice last year. This is an excellent turn around result for Wymondham.

A first for Wymondham was a girls' U16 match against Sir John Leman High School where the girls acquitted themselves well to win 15 points to 5. These girls have been training every Friday for the past 8 weeks and have shown great potential.

New rugby kit

We have been very fortunate to receive a set of rugby shirts, courtesy of Mr Mike Walden of Wynsport. This donation is a fantastic gesture and now means our teams will look as smart as our results have been so far this year! Wynsport, located at Unit 23 Penfold Drive in Wymondham, are the main stockist of our school PE kits. They specialise in sports training equipment and running shoes, but offer a vast range of sportswear to kit out any aspiring athlete!

I would like to extend my thanks to Mike for his generosity. The new kit really means a lot to us as we continue to improve rugby at Wymondham High. Our results so far this year show an improvement on last year and with continued large numbers at training the future is looking very bright! Mr Simms



South Norfolk School Sports Partnership (Wymondham Cluster) KS1 Multiskills Festivals

In November we had approximately 250 Key Stage 1 students from our 'feeder primaries' participating in our 2 annual Multiskills Festivals at Wymondham High School.

The children, on both occasions, had a wonderful morning trying out a range of activities including long jump, football skills, javelin, curling, target throw, volleyball, speed bounce and sprinting.

These sessions were delivered by 2 groups of our Year 10 students who are currently training for their Sports Leaders' Level 1 Coaching Award.

It was initially quite daunting for the children, aged between 5 & 7, many of whom had never been at an event on this scale before. They were faced with new activities which were designed to both challenge and inspire them and they were working in mixed groups with children from other schools. However, our Young Leaders quickly helped to overcome any fears or concerns of their younger counterparts. Within minutes the smiles on the faces of the KS1 children and the look of sheer determination bore testimony to the excellent coaching, the gentle encouragement and the great enthusiasm of our high school leaders.

The mornings concluded with each child receiving a certificate from our student leaders to mark their achievement plus 2 children from each of the primaries being presented with a gold multiskills medal for their courage and performance (2 of the Olympic values) on the day.

I was delighted to pass on the very generous feedback from the primary school staff in relation to our high school students. They were extremely impressed with the maturity and skill with which the leaders conducted the event, the delivery of their activities and also the kindness and care with which they treated the younger students. It was also mentioned by several accompanying teachers that it had given them new ideas as to how to enrich their own PE lessons in school.

Congratulations and well done to all of our Year 10 leaders, not only were they a credit to the school and their parents, but they made a lot of young children very happy.

artgallery

End of year 'Showcase #2' exhibition...

At the end of the summer term the Art Department held its annual 'Showcase #2' exhibition which was exhibited in the updated Wyndham Arts Centre in Beckett's Chapel. This was the art department's major exhibition of the year and underlined all the fantastic work that was achieved by our fine art, art textiles and art multimedia students.

The exhibition private view was held on Thursday 15th July. On a warm summer's evening over 115 students, parents and staff all crammed in to Becketts Chapel to celebrate the vibrant array of work produced by students at Wyndham High School. We had the pleasure of having Mrs Musgrave and local artist Clarissa Upchurch as guest speakers to formally open the exhibition of final pieces from A-Level students and selected GCSE students.

Feedback received from the exhibition was incredible and outlines how important it is to exhibit work in the local community. Our thanks go to Arts Centre staff and in particular Arthur Lucas who helped organise the exhibition.

Our 'Showcase #3' exhibition will be held from Tuesday 12th July to Monday 18th July 2011 at Becketts Chapel.



Artwork from top to bottom:
Danielle Leaver, Ellie Sharp,
Katherine Waldron, Laura McDonald
Gustav Jackson, Charlotte Barratt