

# Newsletter

## July 2015

As we approach the end of term it is a time for reflection and celebration. Looking back so much has been achieved throughout the year; lessons have been learned and plans put into place for the year ahead. I am delighted that Mrs Carol Dallas will be taking up the position of Headteacher in January and am looking forward to working with her.

The term has been one of intense hard work for Years 11, 12 and 13 as they have prepared for and sat their external A Level and GCSE exams. We look forward to the results in August. In the meantime Years 11 and 13 have both celebrated with Proms at Weston Golf Course.



It would be incredibly hard to pick out all the highlights of the year; I hope this newsletter gives a flavour of all the other activities that have taken place. At the time of writing Year 9 are enjoying a week's camping at Hautbois – very active days and not a huge amount of sleep will mean students return tired and weary but we know that all will have had an amazing experience learning new skills, surviving without some of the supports of modern life and living closely with their friends and teachers. I would like to thank all the staff who make this experience possible.

Our student leadership scheme and School Council thrive. A new development for September will be a student led Family Morning when we hope many members of the school and wider community will join us on Saturday 19 September to find out much more about THS from the students themselves. Please put the date in your diary! Our Charitable work continues to expand: East Anglia Children's Hospice and Coaching for Hope have both written to thank the school for the large sums donated from Rag Week: our total stands at £3700 which is a tremendous amount for the school to have raised. Please visit [www.coachingforhope.org/news](http://www.coachingforhope.org/news) for their report. Plans are in place for an even bigger event next February.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking every member of staff, both teaching and associate, for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. The success of THS depends on each and every member of the school and I am very proud to be a part of such a supportive community. I wish all our THS families a very happy and restful summer.

Mrs Plater

## MFL Leaders Complete Their Leader's Award!

Once again, the MFL leaders put in a fantastic performance when they worked with year 6 at Drayton Junior School this month. Not only did they serve up a delicious French breakfast, but they also provided taster lessons in both French and German! Thankfully the weather was kind to us all which meant the pupils were even taught how to play boules outside!



In total, the leaders have completed 6 modules to achieve their award. This has involved researching the customs and traditions of a country linked to the language they are learning, working with younger pupils to promote language learning, preparing and delivering lessons to year 6, providing a food tasting session and designing a cultural quiz for year 7s.

It has been a genuine pleasure to work with such a reliable and committed group of talented linguists. Well done to them all!

This year's MFL leaders were: Alex Lawlor, Grace Piercy, Emilia Hurrell, Jack Rolf-Gokes, Evie Oliver, Leanne Smith, Ellen Flower, Sophie Drummond, Katherine Bense, Jade Causton, Lauryn Flynn, Micheal Connolly, Hollie Draper and

Rebekka Quackenbush.

Information about next year's MFL leadership programme will be circulated towards the end of September for any Year 10s wanting to get involved.

Mrs Goulden

## Jack Dearden

Congratulations to Jack Dearden in Year 12, who took part in the Bedford International Games in the 100 m. Jack broke the record for Norfolk, completing the 100m in 10.68 seconds placing him 9th in the UK for the mens under 20s.

## Trip to Taverham Mill

On Friday 19th June, Aisha, Luis, Shannon, Mrs Gray, Mrs O'Neill and I went to Taverham Mill to learn about the local wildlife. It is situated by an old weir and mill pool on the river Wensum. The site covers 100 acres and is divided into lakes, a stretch of the River Wensum, forest and fenland. First of all we walked (ambled according to Mrs O'Neill) to Taverham Mill. Once we'd arrived, we sat on the benches and had a snack while we waited for the lady. When Paula arrived she took us for an hour and a half walk around the nature reserve. Initially we walked alongside the river where we saw seagulls, swans, blackbirds, crows, blue tits and mallards. As we crossed a wooden board walk, we came face to face with some beautiful, shaggy, female cows. We spent several minutes in a wooden shelter (bird hide) looking through the windows with the binoculars Paula had given us earlier. Then we took a shortcut back, across another boardwalk.



After that, we ate our lunches on the picnic benches. Then, we played in the playground. It was really fun! I swung like a bat on the bars, and Shannon spun around upside down on the spinning wheel. She struggled to stand up straight afterwards!!!

During the afternoon we went on a bug hunt. We caught bugs with a cup and a paintbrush. Paula demonstrated how to catch a bug with 'Jeffery the Rice Krispie'!!! After bug hunting, Luis and Shannon made butterfly feeders with cotton wool, sugar water, straws and paper, while Aisha and I made dragonflies with pipe cleaners, beads, and card. Seconds before we left the Mill, Mrs O'Neill and Mrs Grey became very excited. They had spotted a sparrow hawk and, more impressively, a kingfisher.



Lastly we headed back to school, which took about 25 minutes (all uphill and considerably more tiring on our legs!) We got back at around 2:50pm. We took our dragonflies and butterfly feeders home with us. My mum absolutely adored my dragonfly.

Olivia Roper (Year 7)



## Sports Award Evening

Paralympian London 2012 Silver medallist in archery and ex Taverham High School pupil, Mel Clarke, returned to Taverham High for a second time this year to present the awards at the annual Sports Award Evening held at Drayton Old Lodge. It was an evening of celebration when achievement and effort on the sports field, in the classroom and in the community were all recognised. Twelve top athletes in the school produced films showing their achievements ranging from national success in BMX, Karate and Motorcross to swimming and athletics. The overall winner of the coveted Liz Vaughan Sports Personality Award went to Year 12 student, Jack Dearden, for his continued national success in the 100m.



Mel inspired her audience with her story of illness and consequent disability and how she overcame all with a determination and deep desire not to let her severe physical difficulties stop her achieving her goals. She is now women's Paralympic world champion and, following her success in London 2012, is heading to Rio next summer. Her message was that none of us should live our lives with regrets but take every opportunity presented to us – all that is required is commitment.

Also welcomed to the stage was Annie Draper a former Taverham student. Following her success at A level, Annie

has been studying exercise science at university and had the chance to work in Tanzania for a month. In showing us a film of the community work she did in an impoverished part of rural Tanzania she re-enforced Mel's message that commitment to sport opens up opportunities way beyond our imaginations.

Following the Sports Awards evening and in her role as a Sky Sports ambassador, Mel spent a day in school working with year 9 students guiding them towards a 'Living for Sport' local sport based project. Emma Holder, head of PE at THS writes: 'The girls enjoyed a fantastic morning working towards a 'dream, believe, work, achieve' ethic. Mel talked to the girls about her story and the battles she has had to overcome, which truly inspired the students. They took part in various activities which encouraged 5 key concepts of life and sport knowledge, mental toughness, hunger to achieve, breaking barriers and planning for success. The students have taken many ideas away from the visit and will use these ideas to kick start a girls' active programme in September encouraging more girls to become involved in sport and physical activity. Mel has been truly inspirational to the students with whom she has worked; hopefully the students will learn from and use all they have heard to inspire others'. Mrs Plater

## School Council

The school council listened to a presentation by a local charity called "A Wing and a Prayer" who rescue, care for and release (when able) injured wild birds. It was the first experience of public speaking for the two representatives and the council welcomed them warmly, listened intently and then asked interesting and mature questions. Ellen Flower and I then gave an overview of the most popular seven charities suggested by forms and a short discussion followed before voting. The first vote had two clear leading charities, Cancer Research had the most votes followed by 'A Wing and a Prayer'. The council decided they liked the idea of supporting both a local and a national charity so they voted again to decide the split of funds. The results are that Cancer Research will get 75% of the non-school uniform donations and 'A Wing and a Prayer' 25%.

Many thanks to those forms that made suggestions. We intend to keep the list and invite more speakers in to school in readiness for future fundraising events. I would also like to thank form teachers for your support in communicating with your form representative. Ben Knights Year 10

## Handball Tournament

8M took part in the very exciting year 8 hand ball tournament, and even though we didn't win, all form members showed fantastic team spirit and sportsmanship. Form members that played worked together and shared victory and defeat; the rest of the form showed their support by cheering them on. Everyone entered into the spirit of the game and thoroughly enjoyed it. Thanks to members of the PE department for organising the event.

Because of 8M's fantastic attitude and positivity we had our own in-form awards, presented by Mrs Plater, to congratulate 8M on their incredible teamwork.

Well done 8M, I'm very proud of you! Mrs Allen

## THS Expeditions - 2015 Morocco



As you read this a group of 5 intrepid Year 11 girls will be just days away from an exciting adventure to Morocco. We will spend a couple of days acclimatising in Marrakesh before entering the project phase. Here we will be helping a charity for disabled children in a city south of the Atlas Mountains. We will be repairing and redecorating damaged and decaying buildings as well as building new facilities such as playground equipment and tools to help with physiotherapy. Then we head off into the centre of the High Atlas Mountains where our physical challenge will be trekking around Mount Toubkal, the highest mountain in North Africa. We will be camping in Berber villages and getting to know a little about their community and traditions. Finally, we will head back to Marrakesh for some rest and relaxation.

**2016 - Ecuador & Galapagos:** Our team of 8 adventurers from years 10 and 12 are already planning and fund raising for this adventure of a lifetime. We will be carrying out project work deep in the Ecuadorian part of the Amazon Rainforest where we will be helping a local community develop buildings, trails and other facilities to allow them to operate a sustainable ecotourism project. We will then start our trek stage; on the way we will spend a day white water rafting in the rushing rivers of the Andes foothills. Our physical challenge will be 5 days trekking the ridge of one of the volcano lakes high in the Andes north of Quito. community. Our last major phase, and the highlight for many, will be 6 days on the fantastic Galapagos Islands. Here we hope to see some of the fabulous wildlife that makes them famous and which inspired Darwin's theory of evolution.



**2017** – Destination to be confirmed: Are you in Year 9 or Year 11? Would you like the opportunity of a lifetime visiting an exotic location off the beaten track, making a contribution to a worthwhile charitable cause in a local community, taking part in a physical challenge such as trekking through the desert or mountains? Would you like to learn about a new culture and meet new people?

We plan to launch the 2017 expedition early in the autumn term. If you are really interested, now would be a good time to start planning and raising funds.

When: **July / August 2017**

How long: **About 25 days**

Where: We aim to give you the choice of 2 options:

### 1. **South-West Africa – Namibia, Botswana & Zambia.**



Visiting amazing sites including the Okavango Delta (the best site for elephants in Africa), Sossusvlei (the tallest sand dunes in the world – maybe some dune surfing), Victoria Falls (one of the natural wonders of the World – maybe white water rafting in the Zambesi nearby), a sustainable charitable project in

a local community, and a physical challenge such as trekking through the mountains or desert.



**South-East Asia – Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos.** Visiting sites including sailing among the amazing island mountains of Halong Harbour (a World Heritage site), trekking through some of the wild and mysterious jungles and discovering a range of exciting wildlife, visiting the fascinating temple complex at Angkor Wat (another World Heritage site), and involvement in a sustainable charitable project in a local community.

**How much?** We hope to limit the cost to a **maximum of £3,500.**



**Want to find out more? Please talk to Mr Philp or Ms Friend, THS Expedition Link Teachers**

## Year 9 German Challenge

Year 9R3 were set a challenge in their final German lesson of Key Stage Three to build bridges like the famous Cologne Rodenkirchen Bridge. However, they were only permitted to use the following materials: A Madiera Cake, Dried Spaghetti, 8 Breadsticks, 2 Potatoes and 8 Strawberry laces. The Bridge had to be at least 50 cm long and support the weight of a toy car as it travelled over it! Some of the designs were really good and Connor D, Callum, Greg and Josh Moore won the challenge for design and length – their bridge looked great and was over 60cm long! The second place group was Molly D, Lauren J, Bethany W and Emily G ; however their bridge was only 46cm long! Better luck next time girls!  
Mrs K Brook



## Work Experience Programme at Taverham High School

I have been fortunate to take part in a work experience programme assisting the Modern Foreign Languages Department at THS for the week commencing Monday 6 July. I had studied for my GCSEs at THS before taking my A levels in French, Spanish, English and Business Studies at Notre Dame Sixth Form and when offered the opportunity to try to secure work experience for myself, I instantly thought how much I would enjoy coming back for a visit!

During the week, I led some activities for mostly Year 8 classes, working alongside the class teachers and have helped with displays around Modern Foreign Languages. I also ran a lunchtime Spanish Club for Year 7 students to learn a little bit about Spanish, which proved very successful. We concentrated on number games and the students really enjoyed the class, and even asked if it would run after I had left!

I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would recommend anyone considering a career in teaching, particularly Languages, to take part in such a programme. The staff and students have all been very kind and incredibly supportive and I am very grateful to Miss Curran for giving me the opportunity to return to THS to obtain such valuable work experience in this way.

Lucy McGonagle

## Rounders

The rounders teams at THS have had a fantastic year in terms of achievements, with Year 7's finishing second in their league, and Year 9's finishing joint first with Norwich High School. Year 8s made it through to the semi finals of their league, where they unfortunately got knocked out by Thorpe St Andrew. Both the U13 and U14 teams won all of their matches in the league, qualifying for the Norwich County Tournament. The U12 Rounders' team recently came third in the Norwich County Tournament, beating Thorpe St Andrew, Framingham Earl, Hellesdon and CNS. They played the finals in awful weather conditions, where they lost to Norwich High School, 5 rounders to 8.

## Dodgeball

Some dodging, ducking and diving took place in the Sports Hall at lunchtime in the Dodgeball tournament, where a range of year groups participated against each other with a good, friendly, competitive atmosphere. Pupils had to pay a £1 to enter the competition and any spare change was donated by the spectators. The money is being raised to help the British Heart Foundation and so far the school has raised £150.

There were some fantastic team performances especially the Year 8 boys beating one of the Year 10 boys' teams in a dramatic group game. Another noticeable performance was the Year 9 girls who consistently performed at a high level to remain unbeaten throughout the groups. All students have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the dodgeball tournament and it was nice to see such a competitive yet pleasant

## Summer Concert

On Tuesday 7th July at 7pm the summer concert commenced. The quality of all performances was of a very high standard. It started off with a bang (literally) from Jake Lay on drums. From there on in the performances kept getting better and better. The finale which had been dubbed the 'Matt Long Experience' started with a mysterious thunderclap, a copious amount of smoke and the melodious sound of Matt Long's guitar. There was not a single person left in their seat at the end of this amazing performance. Overall it was a fantastic success and I am positive that everyone in the audience enjoyed it.



## Taverham Girls Football

We have some fantastic girl footballers at Taverham High School of which many play in the Taverham United under 14's girls' team. As league winners this year they were invited to take part in the Aces National Tournament in Leicester as representatives for Norwich during the weekend of the 27th June.



It was the first time a girls' team from Norwich had taken part in this tournament, the largest of its kind in England. Up against some of the top teams in the country including Wimbledon, Leeds, Oxford, Coventry and Manchester, the Taverham team, having beaten last year's champions Manchester (complete with 3 Man Utd ex academy players) in the Semi Final, lost out in the final 0-1 to Coventry. We are extremely proud of their achievement and are sure they will continue to succeed as they grow in confidence and ability.

## Football-Mad Youngsters at Taverham High School Score for Srebrenica

On Friday 5th June our year 8 footballers took part in a nationwide football tournament to mark the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide aiming to score a victory against hatred and intolerance.

PE staff signed up their pupils to take part in Remembering Srebrenica's '8-3-7-2 Tournament', which aims to unite 8372 young people in 380 schools across the country to play football on the same day - Friday 5th June.

We were told that the winning team would go into a draw to meet tournament ambassador, Bosnia-Herzegovina goalkeeper, Asmir Begović. The Stoke City shot-stopper supported the tournament hoping to encourage pupils to learn lessons from the genocide. Asmir Begović was himself forced to leave Bosnia as a child during the 1992-1995 conflict. The figure 8372 represents the number of individuals who lost their lives during the atrocity in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina in July 1995.

Our winning team at Taverham High School included the following students who were placed into the draw to meet Asmir Begović; Jasmine Snelling, Megan Jay, Mia-Rose Smith, Ben Alden, Samuel Ross, Josh Kirk, Jack Hayman, Daniel Hammond, Kieran Harding, Josh Buttifant, Connor Pickford, Ethan Reid and our referee Harry Phillippo.



Students were picked out of the draw and therefore travelled to London on Monday 6th July to be a part of the remembrance service at Westminster Abbey and to meet Asmir Begović. The students were a credit to Taverham High School at the service in the beautiful Abbey joining in with the hymns and listening gracefully to the memories. They took great pride in meeting Asmir and sharing their successes with him and enquiring about his football plans for next season!!

## Year 7 German Board Game project

After spending a year learning German for the first time, we decided to undertake a project which would make our revision techniques much more creative and fun. Various classes spent three lessons making board games – this was a difficult task as it involved researching, organising and proof-reading the German material to include, as well as designing and making the games. They then had a fun session where they all played each others' games – everybody agreed that it helped them to remember a huge amount of the German we have covered this year and was also lots of fun.



I have been so impressed with the dedication shown by the pupils in making inventive and well-planned games. Some of the pupils spent many extra hours at home making their games look fantastic – the quality of the games and associated equipment they made was amazing. Year 7 should be very proud of themselves – I'm looking forward to lots more projects in MFL next year!

Mrs Gerrard

## CoPE Challenges

On Friday 19th June, a group of 5 Year 10 students went for a walk on a public footpath as part of their CoPE challenges. Hollie Clarke explains what they did in her own words:



Walking the Marriott's way

We left school and we walked down Fir Covert Way to Marriott's Way and picked it up towards Reepham where we looked out for the items on our scavenger hunt. After we had been walking about 1 hour we stopped for lunch under an old railway bridge. Once we had eaten we decided it was time to walk back. We saw loads of black birds, we saw a slimy slug. We made sure we took all of our rubbish with us. We also didn't go in any of the fields. We enjoyed the experience of walking out in the countryside and taking notice of the nature around us.

Mrs N Davies

## Maths Competition

On Wednesday 24th June four Year 8s (Laura Flower, Zoe Barber, Jamie Waldron and Samir Touhami) took part in the Norfolk Maths challenge. It was held at Thorpe St Andrew High School and there were 17 schools from all over Norfolk competing. The competition worked in two stages each having three rounds. In the first stage there were a mixture of team and individual challenges and Taverham ended up winning with 33 points, which was 6 more than the team that came second.

In the next stage, we competed against two different schools: Lynn Grove and Downham Market. This stage involved more individual question rounds, and less teamwork, but we still managed to draw with the other two schools all scoring 36 points.

The points for the first two stages were combined for all 17 schools with just the top three teams qualifying for the final stage to compete against each other. The team qualifying in first place was Lynn Grove with 76 points, second place was Downham Market with 73 points and the final spot went to Reepham with 70 points. Unfortunately Taverham narrowly missed out with a total of 69 points, 1 point away from qualifying. A very respectable fourth place.

We thoroughly enjoyed the day and we even got special 'Norfolk Maths' shiny pencils! We would like to thank Mr Gerrard for taking us and for buying us Twixes!



## Meeting Michael Morpurgo



On 30th June we were extremely lucky to be able to take five students to OPEN to meet Michael Morpurgo. He was visiting Norwich as part of the Young Norwich Arts Festival and told us about his inspiration for the wonderful books he writes. Every one of his books is inspired by a real event or person, someone he may come across who has their own tale to tell, that Michael then develops into his own story. He was inspired to write War Horse after talking to a World War 1 veteran, Wilf Ellis, sitting by the fire in his

local village pub. Wilf talked of things to Michael that he had never spoken of to his family, of his experiences in the war. Another veteran in the village, Captain Budgett, had worked with horses during WW1 and he told Michael of the respect and closeness that existed in those terrible circumstances. We heard how Michael used these conversations, and his research at the Imperial War Museum, to write this wonderful book, that has become a play and a film too. After the talk we were all thrilled to meet him and shake his hand.



## Athletics

The school's athletics teams have had a really successful year, with students from all ages qualifying in the Secondary School Athletics Competition, held at the UEA. The students who qualified were invited to attend the Norfolk School's Athletic's Finals on the 30th June and the 6th July, where we finished 4th out of 8 schools.

Following on from this, the Year 7s had a Championship District Athletic's event, which was held at Thorpe St Andrew on the 7th July. The squad consisted of both boys and girls and all students battled away to win as many medals as possible. The girls' squad finished 2nd overall and the boys' quad finished 4th overall. Taverham finished a well deserved 2nd place and, although we didn't win the trophy, students came away with bronze, silver and gold medals, as well as a lot of smiles!

## Sports Day

On the 3rd July this year's Sports Day took place. With beautiful weather participation was high with a very positive atmosphere throughout the day. All track and field events were performed with maximum effort despite it being such a warm day. The individuals not taking part in the athletics were able to participate in wider activities such as netball shootout, darts, hoopla and the climbing wall in order to score points for their forms.

We had several records broken at this year's Sports Day including Year 8 girls' 800m and 300m by Katie Goldsmith and year 8 girls' Javelin by Portia Collins. Year 8's Samuel Ross broke the boys 300m record alongside Tyler Parker and Matthew Nudds who broke the year 9 300m record. Matthew Nudds now holds



the new record at 42.35 seconds. The last record was broken by year 10 Emily Mace in the 200m with a time of 27.34 seconds.

The whole event was competed in a positive manner and was a big credit to all the students at the school. Results will be given in the final assembly of the year; each student who participated in any event should be proud of their efforts in gaining points towards their form total.

## Classical Studies Educational Visits and Update

As I mentioned in my last bulletin about Classics at THS, we have been able to visit the British Museum as part of the GCSE and A2 courses. Pupils were able to see some of the artefacts which they have been studying such as the Parthenon Frieze. In the autumn term we shall be visiting the Roman site of Caistor St Edmunds and Colchester as part of the GCSE controlled assessment unit. Well done to all the students for the commitment and enthusiasm they have shown this year, including the Year 8s as this has been the first year that we have been able to offer Classics to the whole of the year group in the lower school.

I am currently in the process of organising another trip to run next summer. We shall be visiting Roman sites of architectural and archaeological interest and the trip should be of benefit to pupils in Year 8 who will be studying Classics or French next year as well as next year's Classics GCSE and AS groups.

Mrs S Barker

## Science Camp Article

Every year the John Innes Centre holds the year 10 science camp, a week long non-residential course based in the Norwich Research Park. The Norwich Research Park is a large collection of scientific institutes, such as the John Innes centre, the Sainsbury laboratory, the genome analysis centre and the institute of food research. This year I was lucky enough to be one of the three Taverham students who got to attend.



The first morning was an introduction to the camp, where we got to meet with the other students attending and go on a tour of the centre. In the afternoon we got straight to work in the lab, and did many experiments including extracting DNA using liquid nitrogen and constructing phylogenetic trees. The second day was focused on synthetic biology, the field at the cutting edge of biology, which is essentially focused on programming and engineering plants using genetics. We got to do experiments such as modifying bacteria to become a different colour using a golden gate reaction. We then were

lucky enough to have a video conference with some researchers in Nairobi, Kenya.

On the next two days, the most interesting part began: the work experience. On Wednesday I was working in JIC's crop genetics department. I started the day by helping to modify a plasmid to make a bacteria produce a specific protein. This protein was linked to ageing in wheat, and studying it may allow the development of wheat plants that contain far more nutrients such as zinc and protein. In the afternoon I then went to the field trials site and took part in a survey of wheat mutants, to see how fast they had aged.

On Thursday I was again working in genetics, this time working at the genome analysis centre (or TGAC), a separate institute from JIC which sequences and analyses genomes for other scientists, private companies and the government. I got to help with the whole process, from quality controlling samples of DNA and RNA, to constructing a library and setting up the analysers, which cost around £500,000 each.

Finally on Friday we had a tour of the JIC historical collection. This contained many books, drawings and letters, such as a book dating back to 1511 and a letter from Charles Darwin which we got to hold. We also visited the bio imaging department, where we got to prepare samples for electron microscopes and see the final result. I then got a chance to see what the rest of the 13 students had been doing on their two work experience days and got to hear two talks by scientist about their work.



The whole week was an amazing experience, especially the chance to do real experiments with scientists, working on projects at the edge of human knowledge. I would definitely recommend anyone with an interest in science to attend this camp, or one of the other events held by the John Innes Centre, as it is a brilliant introduction into the world of science, and being a scientist.

Thomas Briggs Year 10

## Diary Dates

03.09.15	8:35am	Term starts for Year 7's
03.09.15	10.35am	Terms starts for Year's 8-11
03.09.15		Year 12 Enrolment am
03.09.15		Year 13 Enrolment pm
04.09.15		Year 12 Induction day at UEA
07.09.15		Year 12/13 Teaching begins
19.09.15		Family Morning 10:00-12:00pm
29.09.15		Year 10 Parents information evening
05.11.15		Year 6 Open Evening 6.30-8.30pm
20.10.15		Year 7 Settling-in evening
22.10.15		School closed to staff/students
23.10.15		School closed to staff/students

## Silkscreen Printing

On 12th June, a small group of year 8s went on a trip to do silk screening at a place called 'Print to the People'. We were greeted by Jo, who told us what we would be doing. We had all designed a Picasso-style drawing on a transparent overlay and we transferred it onto a square of mesh material stretched onto a frame by putting it into a machine which shone UV lights onto it. We could then see a faint image of our drawings. We then went into a different room and sprayed the frame down with a hose and the image showed up a lot clearer. While doing this, the mesh created tiny spaces so that ink can be forced through. After choosing the colours we then had to put our frames into a kind of vice that held it against the table with a thin transparent piece of plastic underneath. We put a blob of paint at one end of the frame and pulled a squeegee from one end to the other to push ink through the holes. We used the plastic to see how it would turn out on paper and once we were happy with it, we moved the plastic away and replaced it with paper.

We dragged the squeegee over the frame again and pushed the remaining ink back to the top of the frame and took the piece of paper out. It then had to go on the drying rack and we repeated that until we all had at least six pictures each.

It was really messy and even though we were wearing aprons, most of us still got paint on us.

Leah Tomlin

## Archaeological Dig Trip for Year 9

On the 15th of April, a group of year 9s were invited by Cambridge University Archaeological department to join them in Brundall, to be involved in an archaeological dig, digging some test pits in the area.

The day began with a talk in the church from Carena Lewis, who was one of the main archaeological experts on the Channel 4 programme 'Time Team'. She gave a very in-depth and interesting talk to us about what we needed to do; how to use the tools that we needed, the importance of what we were doing and why we were doing it. Our research and digging was going to help the University to build up information about medieval settlements and how they were formed and settled.

We all gathered outside one of the buildings and were separated into groups, and with an adult supervisor we were sent off to collect our equipment and hunt for our test pit site. Generous people from the village had offered up their gardens for us to come and excavate in, I don't think they quite knew what they were getting into! The first day mainly consisted of marking out the one meter square pit that we were instructed to dig, cutting the turf into twelve and lifting it off onto the plastic sheeting along with the layer of top soil. We were then digging down every ten centimeters. Each of these layers were called 'contexts' and we had to record all that we found in each context, photograph it and draw the pit and any features we found, including the colour and type of soil.



The next day we were able to get straight on with the digging. Two members of the group were on digging duty, two were on sifting duty, being careful to catch any interesting finds. We recorded what we were doing in our context log books and photographed each layer. Once we had dug down as far as possible, everything was recorded and all the finds cleaned and bagged up. We then had the difficult task of backfilling and re-turfing our pits, under the watchful eyes of the homeowners!

The final day was spent at Cambridge University. We had lectures on what we can find out from our archaeology about medieval settlements and how to write our essays. We were also given more facts to include in our reports that we were to write at home and at school. Our reports were then to be sent off, back to Cambridge, to be marked and graded for us. We also had a lecture about applying for university. We were then given a tour around one of the University colleges by a student.

It was a very enjoyable experience being involved in these three days, one that has been very beneficial for my understanding of the subject and I was able to learn something new and unusual. I would definitely recommend this trip to others in the future!

Molly Craig 9V

## Year 9 History Visit to the Somme Battlefields

On the 19th of July 67 students from year 9, arrived at school at 4 am to take a coach to the Euro Tunnel to take us to France. We were going to be visiting the battlefields of World War One. Our first stop, after having departed from the Euro Tunnel, was a British Cemetery situated in 'no man's land' where we learnt from our guides about the initial day of the battle of the Somme and the advances and losses made on both sides. In addition to this, we also learned about the strategic plans of the British and their attempts to advance into German territory. Having explained about individual acts of selflessness and bravery of the British infantry,



our guide then took us to a British cemetery which stood as a sign of remembrance to those whom lost their lives on that first morning of the Somme. As we began to walk around the cemetery, although small in size, it enabled us to understand the significance of the sacrifice of the infantry after hearing about the horrific ways in which the soldiers were killed and, how some, were never found. Surrounding the cemetery, sat a host of wild poppies which bore an overwhelming significance to the remembrance of the Somme as it was, as if each poppy represented each life lost, remembering the dead on all sides.

Our next stop was the Canadian memorial for the Newfoundland regiment near Beaumont Hamel. It was named after the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, which had provided one battalion of 800 men to serve with the British and Commonwealth Armies. Its tragic part in the action of 1st July 1916 is remembered through this memorial park. The site is also a memorial to all the Newfoundlanders who fought in the First World War, most particularly those who have no known grave. The park does, nevertheless, also preserve the memory of the men of the many other regiments from the French, British and German Armies who fought and died on this part of the Somme battleground. Having heard about the attack on the German lines, we then were shown some of the trenches in which the soldiers lived for much of the duration of the war. Walking through the trenches, it was hard to imagine the constant artillery fire and shelling as the, now, serene park stood as a marker of its past and a reminder to the future.



For our final stop, we visited a forest which was a memorial site for the South African regiments who fought alongside troops from Britain and other parts of the Empire. Our guides explained to us that after the battle had been won, there was only a single tree left standing in the area where we were known as Delville Wood (called Devil Wood by the soldiers), it is now known as 'the last tree' although the whole wood has been replanted. This allowed us to understand the sheer ferocity of the fighting that took place between British and Empire troops and Germany and the loss of life that became a product of that fighting. During this however, the South African soldiers kept a baboon for company, his name was Jackie. During the fighting on the front, we were informed that Jackie was not only utilised as a companion but also a helping hand to the soldiers when needed, passing them bullets and other ammunition. This, for me, brought home the comradeship in the South African trenches and how even 100 years ago, we still valued friendship above all else.



Following our talk we held a memorial service for the lost soldiers, laying a wreath at the 'last tree' and reading the poem; 'Dulce et Decorum est', and the citation read at all remembrance services (They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them or the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them) as a mark of respect to all of the soldiers who fought in the War.

Walking back to the coach we approached a cemetery which held thousands of graves of not only British but Commonwealth soldiers as well. This in itself provided us with a small image of the mass of men that died as a result of the Battle of the Somme and for many of us, it was the knowledge that there were so many more cemetery's just like this one that brought home the sacrifice and bravery of the men

who gave up their lives for ours.

The experiences and memories from the trip are second to none and help to build a wider view of the Battle of the Somme and the soldiers which fought in it.

Georgianna Lacey-Scane 9V

## FAREWELLS

This summer we say farewell to a number of teaching and associate staff

Four staff are retiring. Mrs Sue Sides has been at THS for nearly 30 years teaching RS to countless numbers of students. All remember her, first and foremost, as an outstanding and inspirational teacher. Over the years, results at GCSE Religious Studies and Philosophy and Ethics have often been the best in the school; this is a reflection of Sue's commitment to each and every student and her desire that all should achieve highly. Sue was a Head of Year for many years caring passionately about every student in her care. She was also a member of the leadership team where her wisdom and insight were valued by all.

Mme Dominique Menot joined THS in 2000. She has been a vital member of the MFL Department teaching French to students from Year 7 through to Year 13. Having a native speaker within the school has been a huge asset. Many students will remember her for trips to France both on the French Exchanges and on the Yr 8 cultural trip to Paris. All who joined her on those trips will know that every detail was organised with great care, down to the last ice cream! We will miss her hugely.

Mrs Jane Turner also joined THS in 2000 to teach French and Spanish in the MFL Department. Her quiet presence in the classroom has nurtured a lifetime interest in languages for many; her contribution to the MFL department will be missed. Jane has also been part of successful Film activities during Curriculum Enhancement weeks introducing many to a much more eclectic range of film.

Finally, Ms Birgit Griem, has been the backbone of our work with dyslexia students. For many years she worked within school guiding and helping students with dyslexia. This work has spread to an outreach role recently within the Dyslexia Outreach Service which provides training and support to those working with dyslexia students throughout the County. Her contribution to the lives of many students and their families within Norfolk has been immense.

We wish all four a long and happy retirement

Mrs Rosemary Worsley is leaving THS after 13 years in the Art department. Many students speak of their gratitude to Mrs Worsley; she has introduced them to many approaches to art and then guided them through their own work, carefully advising and drawing on her own considerable expertise. Mrs Worsley has led countless trips to local and London galleries and museums. She leaves us to pursue her own career in art – we wish her well.

There are a number of staff moving to new responsibilities. Mr Norris has already left THS moving to be Assistant Head teacher at Stalham High School. All will thank Mr Norris not only for his excellent teaching but for his work in raising the profile of Literacy throughout the school community. Mr Johnson is moving to another Norfolk school to continue teaching Maths and to be a Head of Year. Miss Sharma is moving back towards London to be closer to her family; Miss Richards is also leaving to be closer to her family in the North West.

We would like to say goodbye and thank you to our 'Teacher training' colleges: Mrs Watson (History), Mr Wolsey (DT) and Dr Romans (Science) have all successfully completed training and have been appointed to teaching jobs in Norfolk and beyond. Mr McCleary (LSA) will be leaving to join the Teacher Training scheme to become a History teacher – well done Tom! Mr Nash (LSA) is also leaving us to become a Cover Supervisor at a local school.

Finally quite a few staff are getting married over the summer holidays – we send our congratulations to Mr Robinson, Miss Ayres, Miss Creasy, Miss Holder, Mr Monsey and Miss Price.

Mrs Plater

