

The Accolade

February 2013

The Monthly Celebratory Newsletter from County Upper School

Dear parents, students, staff and governors,

On the day that Ofsted presented its report on physical education, we were pleased to be at Westminster as one of four schools nationally to receive the new DfE's sport award at distinction level. The theme for this month has certainly been hosting and we have been delighted to host public speaking, music, history and book mastermind events as well as visits from politicians and our friends from Keio. In turn we have been hosted by the Theatre Royal, and this year's German Exchange partners while students have

benefited from time in Paris, Auschwitz and on this year's ski trip to Italy.

We believe strongly that busy people with a wide range of experiences do better academically and this month has once again seen a wealth of activity in all areas of the curriculum. I remain grateful to the staff who give so freely of their time to provide so many extras for our students, especially those who gave up their half term holiday. As the month ends, we give a particular welcome to those students who will join us in September and we look forward to meeting you and your families soon.

Mrs V Neale



County goes to Westminster

This month **Miss Sharp** and **Mr Marshall** met **Mr Edward Timpson MP** and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families in the Palace of Westminster. He presented them with the new **AfPE Quality Mark for Physical Education and Sport at Distinction Level**. Eight schools in the country received the award, four of those at Distinction level and we were delighted to be one of them and to give our views on school sport to the Minister and his colleagues. As this month again demonstrates, the quality and quantity of sport here, together with the support we offer our partner schools, is phenomenal and this award is just reward for all those who contribute to our vibrant, successful programme of sport.



Westminster comes to County



We were delighted to welcome **Baroness Scott** for her second visit to us. Last year, she spoke to 'A' level Politics students about the work of the House of Lords as part of the Peers in Schools programme. This year, as part of that programme, she was the guest at one of the weekly meetings of our **Politics Society** where she spoke about coalition government and answered questions from students in all year groups as well as giving further insight into the work of the Lords. The students found her to be clear thinking and approachable. She, in turn, was **very complimentary about our school**. This month also saw local councillor **Mark Ereira-Guyer** address the society and take questions on the work of the Green Party. We thank **Ms Rehahn** and our **Captains of Politics** for organising the sessions and thank all who took part.

More successful travel experiences

We have had the **International Schools Award** since 2007 and our many links, together with opportunities for foreign travel remain an important part of the all-round education we offer our students.

The German Exchange

Now in its **forty-sixth year**, our link with the Amos Comenius Gymnasium in Bad Godesberg, Bonn goes from strength to strength. This month saw the outward leg of our annual exchange programme and **students from years nine, ten and twelve** enjoyed meeting their partners. They experienced time with their host families and in school, a programme of excursions as well as some adventurous activities. **The whole group was an absolute credit to our school** and we congratulate them. We thank **Mrs Rossi, Mr Coleman** and especially this year's leader, **Mrs Sauvage** for making the exchange possible.



The STEM/French visit to Paris

Students from **years nine and ten** spent four days in Paris. They saw how **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics** are used throughout the Euro Disney theme park. They also learned about **cultural and historical points of interest in Paris** and were able to practise their French. All the staff described the group as a pleasure to be with. We congratulate all who took part and thank **Mr Bishop, Mrs Browning, Miss Cleaver** and **Mr Marshall** for accompanying the group.



The 2013 ski trip

Our annual ski trip took place during the February half term so that **students from across the year groups** could enjoy a week's skiing. After last year's very successful trip to Oberlungau in Austria, this year we went back to Italy where the snow in Tonali was excellent and **all the students were a real credit** to our school. We thank **Miss Sharp, Mr Hamill, Miss Hamlett** and **Mr Marshall** for this year's experience and congratulate all who took part.



Cultural visits

■ This month's **theatre visit** was to see Romeo and Juliet at the Theatre Royal. Students from years ten to thirteen thoroughly enjoyed the production;

■ Our **year ten GCSE music students** were fortunate to see 'Tosca' by Puccini at the Royal Opera House this month;

■ Meanwhile, our **'A' level artists** spent two days in galleries in London broadening their experience of modern art and art history;

■ During half term, we welcomed this year's party from **Keio** and our hosts enjoyed a range of cultural visits with their Japanese partners. As the month ends, the joint group departs for a residential at an activity centre in Edale which we shall report in our March edition.

A busy month for our Historians

We thank our history department for organising this half term's able and talented day; our visit to Auschwitz and a year eleven visit to Norwich.

Heroes and Villains!

The **able and talented day** for year seven students from **Hardwick, Horringer Court, Howard** and **Westley middle** schools took heroes and villains as its theme. Students worked in groups comprising members from each school. They researched figures from throughout history with some groups finding facts to support the figure as a hero while others made the case for the same figure to be a villain. At the end, students practised their debating skills to determine how we should view each of these famous people.

All the students did extremely well and our AS students did an excellent job of helping them. Well done to: **Lucia Bennett, Jack Child, Will Godfrey, Sam Lebbon, Hollie Morris, Beth Soman, Catherine Upton** and **Mark Young**.

We thank **Mrs Middleditch** and **Mr Kemp** for organising the day.



The Holocaust Education Trust Project



This year our **Captains of History, Megan Render** and **Kirstie Wright**, took part in the project which comprised two days in London and a visit to **Auschwitz**. The two girls travelled with Emma Lake from the Bury Free Press and were described as **excellent ambassadors for our school**, praised for their contributions to the discussions and their thoughtful, considered opinions. From the whole group which went out to Auschwitz, **Kirstie was selected to do a reading** at the ceremony at the end of the day which takes place near to the Holocaust memorial in Auschwitz Birkenau with the rabbi who accompanied the visit. The two students are now **making a video diary** which they will use with younger students later this year. Well done to both girls and thank you to **Miss Barran** who accompanied them.

The year eleven conference



This month our **GCSE history students** went to the **Norwich playhouse** to see two productions: **Hitler on Trial** and **The Doctors' Show**. The students extended their knowledge of the topics and were congratulated on their participation. Well done to them and thank you to **Miss Barran** and **Mr Kemp** for making the day possible.

Drama and English continue to flourish

The Celebration of Student Drama

We were delighted to join Ipswich High School for Girls and Thomas Gainsborough High School as the three upper schools to perform in this annual festival at the Theatre Royal. This year's theme was 1963 and we continued with our tradition of preparing the piece through our weekly drama club. However, this year, two of our students working for their **Gold Arts Award from Trinity Guildhall** took on additional responsibility by writing and co-directing our piece respectively. The result was a light-hearted story based around The Beatles, evoking memories of life in the sixties and showcased the acting and dance skills of forty drama club members from across the year groups. We congratulate **Chloe Pynen** who wrote the piece, **Nathalie Fearnley** who co-directed it and the cast:

Ellie Bainbridge
Emma Bradley
Daisy Brown
Georgia Carr
Harry Cowper
Erin Cunningham
Edwina d'Almeida
Lauren Emms
Yukiko Fiji
Gabriele Gelezauskaite
Amilia Graham
Jennifer Gurney
Ashley Hall
Abigail Harrison
Rosie Harvey
Amy Hawkes
Katie Hawkins
Katie Hayward
Philippa Higgins

Toby Jeffery
Hannah King
Chloe Lesage
Chloe Marsh
Sophie Miller
Alicia Mills
Grace Morgan
Tylar Norris
Liana Pennel
Elliot Potter
Phoebe Ransom
Riona Snelling
Katie Tilyard
Shannon Wade
Eleanor Walker
Edmund Walker
Rebecca Wall
Thalia Weavers

We thank **Mrs Stevens** and **Miss Lacey** for supporting the students.



The Romeo and Juliet project

We are delighted to have been working on this project with Lynn Whitehead from the Theatre Royal who is directing the current production of Romeo and Juliet. Her **final workshop with our students** is next month. However, this month, **Shannon-Marie Clerkin** in year twelve has been involved in the production as part of the ensemble requiring her to dance, sing and act to help create the ambience of Verona in the sixteenth century. Well done!



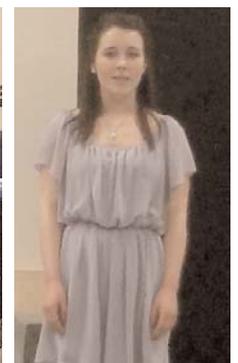
The Western Area Book Mastermind Final



We were delighted to host this event for the Suffolk Libraries Service. Following our own internal heat, **Thalia Weavers** in year nine represented our school. Stepping up to the 'big chair', she proved to be a very worthy finalist, missing out on a place in the Suffolk final by just half a point! Everyone agreed that she was a very entertaining contestant who kept a sense of humour under pressure. Well done, Thalia!

Poetry by Heart

This is a new **national competition** launched by the DfE. Students in years ten to thirteen learn two poems from a set list by heart. One poem must be published before 1914 and one published after 1914. The poems are then recited to a panel of judges. Our English staff were joined by **Mrs Mary McIntosh** from Waterstones and **Mrs Wilcock** from our governing body to judge our own heat. We thank **Mrs Kennedy** for organising the competition and our judges. We congratulate all who took part, especially our three finalists: **Dominique Scoles**, **Will Godfrey** and the overall winner, **Bethany Hall**. We thank **Will Brocklebank** for compering the event.



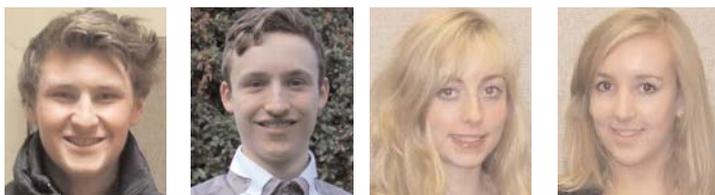
The English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition

We were delighted to host the Suffolk round of this national competition. Joined by the **Mayor of St Edmundsbury, The Town Mayor** and other dignitaries, our library proved the perfect venue for this competition and the judges, led by **Radio Suffolk's Mark Murphy**, acknowledged that they had a difficult job. Our team of **Megan Filkins, Emma Healey** and **Roderick Mansel** represented us extremely well and Megan's speech on the relative merits of film and theatre was very well received. Roderick's questioning on the proposal that everyone should study a modern foreign language was recognised as intelligent and perceptive and **Emma took the award for the best Chairman of the evening** and was adjudged the best Chairman for many years. Well done!



The Cambridge Schools debating competition's national finals

Finals day in the Cambridge Union debating chamber sees the forty best teams from across the entirety of the British Isles compete to be the 2012 - 2013 champions. **For the second year in a row, one of our teams has made the national final, the only Suffolk school to get this far.** We especially congratulate **Sam Harrison** and **Derek Rutter** who made the final but also congratulate **Lucy Emmerson** and **Lauren Warford** who went out against Oakham School in the regional round but who debated extremely well.



ARTiculation Success

We congratulate **Catherine Denby** in year thirteen who, having won the local heat, represented Suffolk in the London and East of England region held at Cambridge. Catherine acquitted herself extremely well and was an excellent ambassador for art history, public speaking and our school!



The Dance and Music go on

Our fast growing dance department is rehearsing for our **end of term show**. This month several of our dancers were in action at the Sudbury Dance Festival. Meanwhile, our musicians continue to participate in twenty-three ensembles each week and are very busy preparing for our **full spring concert**, the **Choral Prom at the Apex** and our performance at **Snape Maltings**.

The Sudbury Festival

We congratulate all our dancers who took part in the Sudbury Festival during half term. Once again, they all achieved a high level of success especially in the Troupe Dances and also had the chance to meet West End star Kerry Ellis who presented a cup. Well done to our dance teacher, **Mrs Stoten** and to: **Katy Bent Marshall, Sarah Burns, Jessica Carnegie, Charlene Moulds, Paris Moulds, Leanna Pennel, Ella Price, Phoebe Richards, Danielle Stanton, Grace Stoten, Emily Thomas** and **Eleanor Trent**.



The Aldeburgh Young Musicians' Workshop



Four of our students are already Aldeburgh Young Musicians: **Tilly Dalglish, Liliana Luongo, Ashley Nayler** and **Imogen Ridge**, following in the footsteps of former student, **Emma Cowper**. We were therefore chosen to **host a workshop day** to encourage other local musicians and to introduce them to the AYM programme. The result was a day of practical music exploring different genres and styles thinking particularly about melody, harmony and rhythm. Following small group work creating different pieces of music, all the pieces were combined into one distinctive new work. We congratulate our students who were selected: **Lewis Allum, Sarah Burns, Hannah Curwen, Gabriele Gelauszkeite, Amy Hawkes, Eleanor Martindale, Phoebe Ransom** and **Alastair Smith**. We thank **Miss Green** and our existing Aldeburgh Young Musicians for organising the day.

The West Suffolk Rock and Pop awards

We were pleased to support Suffolk's County Music Service and other sponsors by **hosting one of the workshop days** which culminate in an awards night at The Apex. Year nine students worked with **Sam Robson** from Industry Education in Music and Britain's Got Talent Finalist, **Sam Kelly**, on all aspects of rock and pop music. They were extremely complimentary about the musical abilities and enthusiasm of our students. At lunchtime, Sam Kelly performed a set of his songs to a packed hall and the whole day was a huge success. Well done to:



Ethan Bartholomew
Stanley Blinco
Maddy Bray
Joe Brown
Ben Chittock
Rebecca Cobbold
Hannah Crown
Tom Davies
Emily Fox
Keira Gibson
Hannah Grass
Abi Harrison

Elisabeth Hoblyn
Teruha Iiyama
Melvina Knappett
Murrie Kybird
Matt Lister
Jack Lune
Ellie Martindale
Ella McKeown
Katie Miller
Lydia Miranda
Grace Morgan
Aaron Parnell

Elliot Potter
Bella Proctor
Liam Schofield
Emma Smith
Thomas Spalding
Chloe White
Christy Williams

and thank you to **Miss Green** and **Mr Jarvis** for organising it.

The West Suffolk Young Musician of the Year



The voice and piano heats took place this month and we were well represented at both. We especially congratulate **John Young** who won the **piano** level three competition and **Beth Soman** who won the level three **voice** class. Both will now compete in the Young Musician final at The Apex in July. **Riona Snelling** and **Esther Colman** were given runner-up highly commended places. The brass, strings and woodwind heats take place in the next few days and we will report on all our competitors in all five sections in our March edition.



Another successful month for sport

The Eastern region netball championships

Once again we represented Suffolk in the regional finals this year. Our U15 team had knocked out our U16 team to reach this stage earlier in the year and so played a year young in these championships. With four of the squad on the German Exchange and two taken straight to the venue en route back from Paris, we should have been completely outplayed! However, the County spirit came to the fore and the team played exceptionally well to finish fourth. Very well done to:

Molly Bedford
Ellie Brian
Sophie Clarke
Chloe Cunningham (captain)
Lydia Marshall

Kate Nash
Deanna Stephenson
Grace Stoten
Emily Thomas
Jenna Webb



The Suffolk badminton finals: we are U14 champions!

Following on from the success of our U16 team last month, both our U14 boys' and girls' teams represented West Suffolk in the county finals. Both teams were a real credit to our school and we especially congratulate the girls' team who were crowned Suffolk Champions. Well done to: **Georgia Carr, Holly Davies, Emily Fisher and Alba Saenz de Villaverde**. We also congratulate the boys' team of **Ed Allen, James Bentley, Ali Reid and Alistair Smith** who were beaten into third place by just two points.



Suffolk Champions at Basketball too!

Both our U16 and U14 squads qualified for the finals' days held this month. Our U16 team were crowned Suffolk Champions for the third time in four years while the U14 girls were runners-up. Very well done to both teams:

U14 Girls Squad: Chenise French, Brittany Hoggett, Abbie Holloway, Elena Holloway, Shinai Turner, Harriett Whitbread and Jess Yallop.



U16 Girls Squad: Jo Brawn, Amber Cartin, Emma Greenwood, Zoe Hall, Kyra Harvey, Rosie Hudson, Amy Maddock, Katie McClengahan, Bethany Millard, Amy Stone and Harriet Welham.



The Western Area U14 Rugby tournament

In a closely fought contest, we were delighted to finish third and to **qualify for the Suffolk plate competition** later in the season. The boys put in a spirited performance and their conduct was exemplary so that their coach **Mr Hamill** commented that he "could not have been prouder of them." Well done to:

Luke Alford, Toby Carr, Max Cunningham, Ben Hart, John Mann, Cierran Mortlock, Finn Patterson, Ryan Pickley, Marcel Podpora, William Selfe and Tom Spetch



Cross Country

Our runners were again in action this month participating in the South of England Championships held at Parliament Hill. Well done to **Holly Davies, Matthew Le Poidevin, Jacob Freeborough and Christy Williams**. Meanwhile, **Michael Bartram** won the inter-boys race at the Anglian Schools Championships.

Sports Leaders in demand

Danny Harrison, Luke Patterson, Robert Pettitt and Harry Shapland were selected to referee the Western Area U12 boys and girls football finals at Westley School this month. All four were excellent: well done!



OTHER FIXTURES

Hockey

U14 Girls' v Sam Ward Drew 1-1
U16 Boys' v Thomas Gainsborough Drew 1-1

Netball

U14 v Stowupland Won 11-3
U16 v Stowupland Won 11-6

Basketball

U19 Boys' v Shoeburyness Won 75-35

Sports Personalities of the Month

We congratulate those selected for February:



Year 9

Ryan Pickley and Charlotte Rigby



Year 10

Jordan Allen and Megan Taylor



Year 11

Suzie Lane and Douglas Sands

Individual Success

■ We congratulate **Tomas Jonaitis** in year eleven who earned his 9th Cup grading in **Taekwondo** this month and **Cameron Sealby**, also in year eleven, whose **hockey** success was reported in the Bury Free Press this month.

■ We especially congratulate **Nadine Basson** from last year's year eleven who was the first recipient of a new award by West Suffolk College. Nadine was selected as the Sports Academy performer of the term. Well done, Nadine!

The Olympic Legacy programme goes on across the Academy Trust

This half term the focus has been on basketball and **Coach Johnson** now goes into our Trust schools, **Barrow primary, Horringer Court middle and Westley middle**, weekly and also runs additional sessions for the especially able and talented basketballers. The progress so far culminates in year four/five competitions run by our sports leaders next month. Well done to the large number of participants.

TUTOR GROUP SUCCESS

We congratulate this month's winners:

ATTENDANCE		CERTIFICATES OF MERIT		QUIZ	
Year 9:	9R	Year 9:	9P	Year 9:	9N
Year 10:	10K	Year 10:	10P	Year 10:	10J
Year 11:	11J	Year 11:	11J	Year 11:	11L/N/P/S
				Sixth Form:	6HE

Geographer of the month



We congratulate **Modupe Sobanwa** who has been chosen by the department as its geographer for February.

Certificates of Merit

We congratulate the recipients for February:

Year 9 Melody Abbott 4 Oliver Amps 2 Ben Atkins Ethan Bartholomew 4 Thomas Bastow Courtney Bayliss Chloe Bentick 2 James Bentley Sam Berry Stanley Blinco Hollie Bowden James Bowling Bethan Bradshaw Dylan Brown Ella Bullen Sarah Burns Toby Carr Benjamin Chittock 2 Kiran Chohan-Jones Neevie Clarke 2 Gianni Clempson	Rebecca Cobbold Alastair Coe Courtney-Jade Coleman 2 Patryk Con William Cooke Wharton Sophie Cooper 2 Francesca Corley Hannah Cornish 2 Hannah Crown Max Cunningham 3 Hannah Curwen Holly Davies 3 Demi Donnelly 2 Cameron Elsworth Joshua Emerson Lauren Emms William Farrant Emily Fisher 2 Katie Foulds Emily Fox Jacob Freeborough	Chenise French 2 Yukiko Fujii 2 Toby Gardiner Gabriele Gelezauskaite Emily Gibbs 2 Keira Gibson Charlie Goodchild Tom Gould Kira Green Joe Greenslade-Cross Connor Gutsell Jack Hailstone Kate Hardy 2 Callum Harrison 2 Abi Harrison Benjamin Hart Katie Hayward Hannah Hitchcock Elena Holloway Abbie Holloway 4 Jade Hooper	Katie Hopkins 3 Ashleigh House 2 Teruha Iiyama 2 Caitlin Jameson 2 Dominique Johnson Jacob Kersey Murrie Kybird 2 Chloe Le-Sage Rafaela Lima Jack Lune 3 Chloe Manning 3 Bronwen Mansel 6 Eleanor Martindale Ellie-Mae Mason Ella McKeown Katie Miller 6 Sophie Miller 2 Aiden Millington Lydia Miranda 4 Grace Morgan 2 Jamie Morley 2 Tiana Murray 3 Alex Murrow 2	Georgie Pailles Chloe Parsons Elizabeth Patten Finn Patterson Natasja Pinches Elliot Potter Phoebe Ransom 2 Cameron Redden Shannon Reddy Thomas Render Charlotte Rigby Ben Robshaw Owen Roche Bethany Rolfe Alba Saenz De Villaverde 4 Bradley Sandry 2 Katerina Scourse Will Selfe Tiger Simmonite Alastair Smith Emma Smith Marti Smith 2	Modupe Sobanwa 4 Thomas Spalding Thomas Spetch James Stark Sofia Stavrakakis Ethan Stevenson Amber Stringer Edward Turner Nnaemeka Uzor Shannon Wade 3 Sophie Wall 3 Imogen Watts 2 Thalia Weavers 3 Harriet Whitbread 2 Emily-Ada Wilding-Smith 3 Victoria Wilson Samantha Wilson Jessica Yallop 2
Year 10 Lewis Allum 2 Ben Amoss Jasmine Ashton Scott Betts Gareth Borrett	Ellie Brian Imogen Clifton 2 Madeleine Dempster Marion Denby 4 Abbie Ellis Alice Elsom 2 Jordan Finlayson	Luke Gardiner 2 Conor Harris Samuel Harrison Courtney Holder Dulcie Keeley Chloe Marsh Finn McCormack	Russell Medcalf Abigail Nunn Christian Oldfield 3 Ben Palfrey 2 Adam Redgrave William Render Jake Royal	Emma Sheen 2 Max Simpson Elliott Smith Todd Sparrow Alexandra Tooke Ashley Trent Harriet Upton	Leah Vermeulen-Cole Harry Wagner Ben Wright 3
Year 11 Michael Bartram Jessica Carnegie	Louise Chartron Evangeline Courtier Harry Cowper Edwina d'Almeida	Patrick Doherty Megan Filkins Christopher Fox Oliver Heard	Emma Healey James Homer Melissa Kennedy Liliانا Luongo	Ben Mannell Roderick Mansel Imogen Ridge Douglas Sands	Riona Snelling Alex Walls Georgia White