



From the Heads of School

As always in this the first newsletter of the academic year we'd like to take the opportunity to wish last year's Y13 and Y11 leavers the very best for the future. Many of our former sixth formers are now at their respective universities or colleges and are no doubt still recovering from Fresher's week! Once again it's particularly lovely to see so many of last year's Y11 students enrolled on courses at the Hellesdon Sixth Form Centre and we wish them well in their future studies here.

As you're probably aware, a visit from Ofsted was well overdue, and it duly arrived last month. Many thanks to all parents that filled in the online survey as this helps the Lead Inspector get a perspective on your impressions, and an overview of the school as a whole. The team was in for one day and we are delighted to report that the school remains good and safeguarding is effective. By the time you read this newsletter you should have received a copy of the Ofsted report.

Each year we look at whole school performance and identify three key areas that we feel that the school could improve on. This year the 3 areas identified are:

- Accelerate progress of all students
- Improve student approach to learning
- Improved outcomes for disadvantaged students

These will be the main focus for the year, permeating across every department and year group throughout the school.

Unbelievably, half-term is nearly upon us and already we have had to say goodbye to our Spanish and German student visitors whom were at the school for three weeks and one week respectively. There were lots of farewell tears from both groups, not to mention our own students who had clearly forged some lasting friendships!

Finally, we live in a digital age where most communication is now by either text, email or social media, and no doubt we've all sent or received electronic messages which have been open to misinterpretation! Getting the right message across is crucial when we are talking about children's education, so if you feel we haven't communicated something particularly well, please let us know and we will endeavour to put it right.

We look forward to seeing all the students on our sponsored walk: please support our charities with a donation if you can.



Have a good half term break!

Mr Earl and Mr Rolfe
Heads of School



Newsletter

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A-level Art

For us, the Autumn term began with the topic of Collage and Assemblage. This is the art of using pre-existing photographs and images to create something new, layering and manipulating the images to alter their appearance. Students were tasked to go and view the current exhibition up at Norwich University of the Arts, and to create pieces of their own.

This inspired an exploratory range of artwork, enabling us to venture out of comfort zones and try something new and exciting. One student said, "It was a diverse exhibition, full of ideas and extraordinary images. It widened my knowledge of what I consider art to be."

Year 12 A-level Art students



Linder, Elysium 2 (2006)

The term in History

The History Department has already been very busy this year. Our keen Year 7 students have been baking cakes, creating artefacts and researching for their 'Who should be King?' House competition.



Many of our Year 11 students have recently returned from Belgium where they visited the battlefields around Ypres to support their GCSE study of WW1 injuries and treatments on the Western Front. You can see our tweets on the school website under News.



In preparation for the upcoming Dragons' Den competition, Year 8 welcomed Jenni Williams from the Museums Service, who brought in a range of artefacts representing Norwich's industrial heritage. The students spent time working out what they were, and their contributions to our industrial past: knowledge which could give their presentations the edge!



As part of their investigation into East Anglia's links with key figures in Tudor History, the A Level History students spent 20 September in Suffolk. They explored Framlingham Castle - where Mary Tudor raised her standard to claim the throne - enjoying the views, as well as the new slide, from the top of the castle walls. At Framlingham Church they saw the tombs of Henry Fitzroy (illegitimate son of Henry VIII) and the Duke of Norfolk (uncle to both Anne Boleyn and Katherine Howard). The students also visited Orford Castle as an example of a castle interior. Many thanks to Mrs English and the students for an enjoyable day.

Dr Taylor and Mrs Kelleway

Science Fairs

As the new academic year began, planning and preparation for another successful Science Fair was already underway.



Having made a great impression in Science the previous year, 23 enthusiastic Year 8 students were selected to represent the HHS Science Department at one or more of our Science Fair events at Kinsale Junior School, Firside Junior, Horsford Primary and St Faith's Primary, with Miss Allen and Ms McClellan.

Our budding scientists very quickly learnt how to complete a variety of exciting activities and then chose one to master. When visiting the primary schools, they taught the pupils how to do each activity, encouraging them to discover the science behind each one. Although apprehensive at first, our HHS scientists very quickly took to their roles; it was fantastic to see their confidence and passion in action.



Activities ranged from creating a raging tornado - with just water and a bottle - to discovering the array of different colours found within one felt-tip pen. The Year 6 pupils were engaged and fascinated by the activities and clearly enjoyed the chance to ask our students all about life at Hellesdon. We look forward to seeing many of our Science Fair participants in Year 7 next academic year!

Miss Ravinet

SHIELD



SHIELD attended Norwich Pride over the Summer. This year was the biggest attendance at a Norwich Pride event yet for the city. Next year we're hoping to create our own Hellesdon Pride t-shirts and run an LGBTQ+ positive campaign at the school in June.

Active Kids

Thank you to everyone who collected and sent or brought in Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers for the school last year. We collected 5,000 vouchers, which we were able to swap for new equipment for Food Technology.



We will be collecting again this year. We really appreciate this support from staff, students and parents, which helps us to provide new equipment each year.

Miss Johnson

Young Carers

HHS has been working with the Norfolk Young Carers Forum to build support and understanding for young people who have a variety of caring roles outside school. We have developed a Young Carer Agreement which is available to read on the school website at www.hellesdon.net/young-carers/

On 12 October we held a staff training session where two of our students with caring responsibilities at home shared their experiences and perspectives. It was eye-opening to hear how many young carers there are in Norfolk and beyond, how long it can take for such roles to be recognized, and about the potential impacts on young people's lives.

Therapy dog of the year?

Inca, the HHS Pets As Therapy dog, is one of six finalists for PAT Dog of the Year! Read more and cast your vote via www.hellesdon.net



Freedom

Freedom. Some have it, some wish they had it, some think they have it.

Being locked in a cage can be better than being free in a city;

Blood that is spilled can be thought of as pretty.

Freedom of thought, freedom of body, freedom of speech.

Do whales sing for freedom when they're stuck on a beach?

Do dogs howl for less freedom when they're out on the street?

Freedom is raging on like a blazing heat.

Burning some.

Cooking food, when time come.

To those who need it.

You need to heed it;

Throw away your sorrow and be ready to feed it.

It will burn though chains,

Bring freedom to your name.

Be ready to start

A brand new part

Of your odyssey,

Riding flame,

On your A game.

Nowhere to go,

Nobody to feed.

Freedom is your steed.

Now be ready.

The flames stay steady.

Will you?

Anon.

Welcome back to school, everyone! Here are a few reminders for literacy:

- Please make sure you have a reading book for English and tutor time if you are in Years 7-9, and just for tutor time if you're in Years 10-11.

- Reading is also set as homework in Years 7-9: at the very least students must finish one book per half term and take an accelerated reader quiz on it.

- Remember to put your book suggestions on the 'suggestion tree' in the Library.

- Finally, please remember to bring your glasses to school.

Have a great half term!
Ms Evans



German Exchange

To kick off the amazing 2017 German exchange, 20 Year 9 students went to Eaton Vale for our first ever meeting with our visitors from the Kaiserin-Auguste-Viktoria-Gymnasium in Celle.



We broke the ice with a 'Find someone who...' activity, where we had to talk to everyone to find a person in each category, before playing games like Uno and charades. Other group activities with our partners followed, including raft-building (quite a few people got soaking wet as they fell in!), canoeing (we also got a little wet), and a few ball games. After a snack, some did a 'night line' activity, or orienteering, which was quite hard in the pitch black, but we had fun anyway! Eventually we made it back to the main building for dinner. Some took photos or played more games; we said our thank-yous and goodbyes... until tomorrow.

In order to experience English school and hear the language, our guests joined us for a couple of lessons one morning, and went on some visits of their own around the region. But we all drove up to the North Norfolk coast together on the German coach. On arrival in Blakeney, we had amazing views of the sea, and lots of colourful boats. A few minutes later, we were travelling across a calm sea on the *Seals Express*, until we came to an island of seals. It was so much fun. There were seals of many different sizes, and one was even waving to us! After the boat trip we hopped back on the coach, to go to Wells-next-the-Sea for fish and chips on the quay. After a look round the town we had to go home, but it was an amazing day!

After the great trip to Blakeney Point, we all joined up with our German friends, whom we walked or drove back to our homes. We all did different activities: Adelaide took Ricarda, Hendrick and Finn to the park; Sophie baked cakes; Harry took his guest to McDonald's. When we asked, sitting around the table, what they had enjoyed, they said 'everything', and all very kindly gave us presents from Germany. We hope to meet again in April 2018 when a return visit is planned!

Adelaide Coe and Daisy Pearce

Visitors from Spain



On 18 September, a large group of Spanish students from Vigo came to find out what school is like in England. They experienced the way we learn, and in doing so they were able to practise their English. The school arranged stuff like discos and we were able to socialize outside of school.

They found school life here in England very different from in Spain. For example, their school is more relaxed as they are able to call their teachers by their first names and they don't have to wear uniform. It was beneficial for us as we were able to practise our Spanish and learn about their culture. Overall this was a fun experience for all of us and we hope to see them again soon.

Tara and Daniela



We would like to thank all students, parents and teachers for their continued support and generosity at our PTA events. Profits are used to purchase additional equipment for students. This past year, we have made a substantial contribution towards the shelters in front of the School.

The start of the new school year sees the return of many of our popular events:

First, an Indoor Car Boot sale on Saturday 28 October at HHS. Come and browse the stalls for bargains. The Indoor Car Boot runs from 10am-12 noon.

A few weeks later is the Christmas Market on Saturday 18 November. Begin your Christmas shopping by coming along to the School, where plenty of local businesses will be displaying seasonal gift ideas. The Market is open between 11am and 3pm. To get us truly in the festive spirit, we will also be treated to Christmas songs from a local choir.

For further information about these events, please contact us at: pta@hellesdonhigh.norfolk.sch.uk

You can also follow the PTA on Facebook: Hellesdon High School PTA, Twitter: @PTAHHS, or via the School website at www.hellesdon.net

Results Day

Our students achieved excellent results again this year, putting our Sixth Form in the **top 25% nationally** for consistent examination success over the last 3 years. It also means that the vast majority of students gained places at their first-choice universities. On Results Day it's always great to see many smiling faces, as students collect the results of all the hard work they have put in over the previous year. A number of students exceeded their targets by some distance, with A* and A's across their subjects: brilliant results. All students should be congratulated on their results, and we wish them the very best as they head off to University or into Apprenticeships or employment.

Enrolment Day

Our new Y12 students were enrolled on their courses on 6 September. It was nice to welcome our Y11 students back to study at Hellesdon, and great to have a large number of students from other schools join us, too. All students have now settled on their chosen courses and we wish them well as they embark on Post-16 study: a real step up from GCSE, as some are finding out, in terms of workload and expectations! We look forward to supporting and challenging all our students over the coming term.

Y12 v Y13 Football

The new Sixth Form Committee (made up of the Senior Students in Y13) have been busy organizing a series of events that will run over the next few months. The first of these was a football match played in great competitive spirit on 2 October. This was very well supported by Sixth Formers and students from other year groups. The match saw Y13 triumph and win bragging rights with a 7-2 victory which did not reflect the hard work of the Y12s. Special thanks to Tom Rampling of Y12 who refereed the game very professionally. I look forward to the next meeting of the two teams. I am also informed that the girls will be organizing a series of matches – I look forward to watching!

Important Dates

- Wed 1 November: Open Evening (2018 entry). 7pm talk in the Main Hall, repeated at 7:45pm.
- Mon 27 November: Sixth Form Taster Day.

From all the Sixth Form Team: have a very restful half term.

Mr R Taylor
Director, Hellesdon Sixth Form

Rugby Development

This year has seen the founding of the Hellesdon High School Rugby Academy: a hand-picked group of Year 8 and 9 pupils who have shown good potential, dedication and attitude towards representing the school. They took part in a pre-season training session, and train regularly with our Head Coach James Brooks, Director of Rugby at North Walsham Rugby Club. Since the academy began, the improvement in extracurricular participation and performances in school fixtures has been clear to see.

Participation in Year 7 rugby training has increased so much that the squad is the biggest it's been in my time at Hellesdon. The team represented the school brilliantly at their first tournament and are improving every session. The Year 8s had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity not only to attend a Leicester Tigers match, but also to be coached by their staff before the game. There was a surprise as the pupils were invited onto the pitch at half-time for a picture with first team wingers Adam Thompstone and Jonah Holmes:



All groups have shown great potential in rugby lessons and the interest in joining teams at the weekly tournaments has been extremely high. I hope this continues and that students will join local teams to experience the many benefits the sport has to offer.

Basketball



Our first match of the year was at Sprowston on 4 October. It was a really long game with an awful first quarter where we just could not score! Then the tide turned and the rest of the game was great: the Angels did some really tough defending... and scored some good baskets, too, winning 30-12.

A good start to the season! Angels of the Match: Ellie Durrant and Chloe Webb.

Mrs Yardy

For continued updates on fixtures, results and anything PE, please follow us on Twitter @HHSPEDept