# Ormiston Denes Diary 14 December 2015





Year 8 Art Homework Insects



Suffolk Young Carers
Bronze Award







**Christmas Concert** 





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### From our Principal ...

We will reflect on 2015 as a year of significant success, celebration, reward, fun and remembrance with very many moments providing our students with unforgettable memories of their time at school during the past year.

During a year that saw over 700 pupil places on over 250 trips and visits, we have plenty to reflect on but it was the events in school that will stand out for many of our pupils as their highlights. These included the privilege of hosting the Holocaust Memorial Day, and leading the service for our community as one of just 70 places in the country to hold an Anish Kapoor commemorative candle.

We achieved the ArtsMark at GOLD standard this year in recognition of the rich and varied curriculum experienced by all our pupils, many of whom participated in our concerts, recitals and gigs, not to mention the hugely successful annual musical production. As I write, rehearsals for *Into The Woods* are progressing very well.

We were equally thrilled to achieve the RE Quality Mark, again at GOLD standard, in recognition of the wealth of experiences and the quality of our RE, PSHE and wider enrichment programme. Speaking of which, enrichment afternoons expanded last year to include nearly 80 different clubs and activities, featuring far ranging activities including Parkour training, calligraphy and the very popular cake club that supports our local residents in care with cake, song and conversation.

In sporting events we have had our most successful year ever, with over 750 pupils participating in competitive sports (an increase of 400 places on the previous year). Along the way pupils secured 10 wins and 19 medal places including the Games Shield for inclusion based sports and wins in years 8 and 10 Table-Tennis Championship, North Suffolk Athletics, U13 Girls Handball, Rugby 7, U16 Futsal and we were the first ever winners of Girls Cricket.

Our alumni gave us much to celebrate as well, with Dan Walker (currently starring in 'Call the Midwife') visiting and our first Head Boy Danny Cook, securing his scholarship at UCFB Wembley to study Business and Media. More recent leavers include our second successful scholar to take the Ormiston Denes/Saint Felix Academic Scholarship, Michael Cross, and we watch with interest the progress of our first ever student to achieve 9 A\* GCSEs, Chloe Raggett.

Pupil outcomes for 2015 saw, overall, an increase on the previous year in terms of attainment, but our improved progress measures tell the real story, reflecting the third year-on-year rise in pupil progress in maths, a rise in the total package of qualifications achieved by each pupil and many individual subject successes including science, geography, art, catering, graphics, photography and Spanish. We have more to do but a dedicated and talented team of staff, who work tirelessly to raise standards in every respect, supports our pupils; as a result we look forward to further improvement this year and every year.

With best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a happy and successful New Year.

Kindest regards.

Peter Marshall





### **Forthcoming Dates for your Diary**

### **Tuesday 15th December**

'Chooseday' Tuesday - University Campus Suffolk Lunch break

### **Tuesday 15th December**

Family & Community Learning Workshop Christmas Decorations 6.30pm - 8.30pm (**SOLD OUT**)

### **Wednesday 16th December**

Study Plus Trip to The Natural History Museum 6.00am departure

### **Wednesday 16th December**

Academy Christmas Lunch 12.50pm - 1.15pm

### Thursday 17th December

Lowestoft War Memorial Museum (Year 8 History) 9.20pm - 10.55pm

### **Thursday 17th December**

Lowestoft War Memorial Museum (Year 7) 11.30pm - 12.50pm

### **Thursday 17th December**

Year 7 Disco 6.30pm - 8.30pm

### Friday 18th December

Text Santa - Christmas Jumper Day

### **After School Clubs**

### **Tuesday 15th December**

Maths Clinic - Room M44 3.10pm - 4.15pm

### **Sports Fixtures**

### **Tuesday 15th December**

U16 Boys Basketball Festival Sir John Leman High School 4.00pm - 5.30pm

### **Wednesday 16th December**

U14 Badminton East Point Academy 3.00pm - 5.45pm

### **Academy Website Update**

A translation facility has been added and can be found at the foot of the homepage.

Should you prefer to see a paper copy of information published on our website, please request this from our Reception, who will be pleased to furnish you with the information required.

### All dates and times correct at time of publishing



### **Lost Property**

Please remember that lost property is kept for 3 weeks only.

Any lost property will be available for parents/carers to view in Reception on Thursday 17 December between 3pm and 4.15pm.

Any unclaimed items will be donated to charity during the Christmas holiday.

# Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Why not drop in for a free breakfast? A chance to have a chat and catch up with your friends.

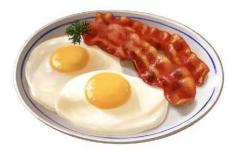
Breakfast is available every day at 7.45am - 8.30am in the dining hall.

Hot food served between 7.45am - 8.15am

Cereals, fruit and yoghurt 7.45am - 8.30am

Cooked breakfast on Wednesday.

All welcome, free of charge.



### **Christmas Week Breakfast Club**

Monday - Beans on Toast/Porridge Tuesday - Cheese on Toast Wednesday - Beans on Toast Thursday - Cheese on Toast Friday - Full Breakfast



Wednesday 16th December - Christmas Dinner Day Thursday 17th December - Fish & Chips Day Friday 18th December - Break only, NO LUNCH

Please note that a full cooked breakfast will be served on Friday 18th December rather than on the usual Wednesday due to Christmas Dinner Day. As always, cereal, yoghurt, fruit, toast, etc, will be available every day in addition to the above.

Merry Christmas from the Catering Staff

### **Children in Need Day**

Pictured opposite is Nabila Haque being interviewed by Mark Murphy from BBC Radio Suffolk. Nabila told Radio Suffolk listeners all about what we had planned for the day. Take your Teddy to Work Day 2 was BBC Radio Suffolk's contribution to Children in Need Day.



Readathon



**Cake Sale** 



### Money raised for Children in Need - A Grand total of £1522.76



The Movember Foundation is a global charity raising money to fund projects focusing on

male prostate cancer, testicular cancer, poor mental health and physical inactivity.

Ormiston Denes Academy supported Movember by selling moustaches and holding a cake sale at break time, a lunchtime karaoke competition which ran alongside a moustache shave when Mr Dougherty and Mr Steel had their moustaches shaved off by barbers from The Gentlemen's Club, Rotterdam Road, Lowestoft.

Our students feel it is important to fund raise for a variety of charities, local, national and international, and also both women's and men's health charities. This is just one of many fund raising events students undertake during the course of the year here at Ormiston Denes Academy.







### **KS4 Gig Night on 26th November**











Photos from a wonderful evening of entertainment.

### **Sparrows Nest Garden Remembrance Day Service**

On behalf of the academy, students and staff attended this special service. Some students wore their respective cadet corps uniforms in order to represent those corps as well as Ormiston Denes Academy.

During the service, student Fern Robertson read "In Flanders Fields" and Joseph Wisher read "Why we Wear a Red Poppy".

The wonderful poppies you see pictured were made by Amy Barwood, Art Technician, and were planted in the memorial garden by herself, students Alice McClean representing year 7 students, Sam Shawcroft representing the Lowestoft Air Cadets, and Craige Hume representing the local Army Cadets.



A poppy cross also produced at the academy was laid.



Following the service, our students visited the Lowestoft War Museum also situated in the Sparrows Nest Gardens.

Students have been discussing Remembrance Day and the origin of the traditional red poppy in Skills for Learning sessions.

Mr Marshall, Principal said: "I am intensely proud of our students once again, who have represented themselves, the academy and our community with great pride and integrity. It is pleasing to note that our pupils fully appreciate the significance and importance of the remembrance services. This year, I was particularly pleased to see some of our students wearing their cadet and other service uniforms both in school and in services as a mark of respect, which they did with great dignity."

Mrs J Durrant - Marketing & Communications Officer

### Remembrance Day - Written by Ashlyn Manning (8MLE)

For the first lesson in our First World War topic we learnt about the history of the 11th November. This is when we remember all the soldiers who gave their lives for us in the First World War and





We then created a display for the History corridor which could remind people why we wear poppies at this time of year. Also in the lesson



Mr Rowbotham showed us a website where we could trace our relatives. This lesson really showed how important this day is and why we should never forget why our ancestors gave their lives for us.



In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below. We are the dead, short days ago We lived, felt down, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved, and now we lie In flanders field.

Take up our quarrel with the foe; To you from failing hands we throw The torch; be yours to hold it high, If ye break faith with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow IN FLANDERS FIELDS.

John McCrae

#### WHY DO I WEAR A POPPY?

Why do I wear a poppy?
I'll tell you if I may,
Because I believe remembrance
Is not only for one day.

I wear it for the fallen, And for those falling still. For those who come back broken In body or in will.

For the parents, spouses, siblings Where bereavement takes its toll. Whose pain will never leave them, It eats into their soul.

For the wino on the corner, Of his old life nothing's left. Now he wishes when in battle He had died a hero's death.

For the lad who loved a kick-about In the park with all his mates, But now his legs are held together With pins and metal plates.

For the selfless men and women Whose final journey home Is in a Union flag-draped coffin On comrades' shoulders borne.

For all those marching proudly In Remembrance Day parades. My poppy's worn in gratitude For the sacrifice they made.

Anne Starr

### **Year 8 Art Homework - Insects**



Our year 8 art students were briefed to select a task under the theme of 'Insects' for their autumn term homework. Their individual and very creative outcomes are used as part of their classwork for assessment; encouraging development of ideas and independence.









Miss A Barwood - Art Technician

### **Congratulations**

### **Charlotte Harker**

Congratulations to year 7 student Charlotte who has recently come first at the Sixth Annual Retroskate Gala held in Great Yarmouth a few weeks ago.

She entered the 12 and under category and beat last year's achievement of second place.





### **Congratulations to Luke Barton**

Year 7 student Luke has just become second in the country for swimming 1,500 metres. Luke swims for Lowestoft & Oulton Broad Swimming Club and has featured in our newsletter before. The Lowestoft Club Championship recently took place at Waterlane Leisure Centre in Lowestoft, and Luke's achievement will be added to the British Gas swimming website shortly.



Well done Luke!

### **Energise Your Future event at Great Yarmouth College**

We took eight year 10 girls to the Energise Your Future event held at Great Yarmouth College on 12th November. Energise Your Future, brought together education and the energy industry, showcasing the innovation behind the sector. The students got involved with different activities. As a team building exercise they built a tower with the Mason Trust who is creating the new careers website 'icanbea', then a couple of the students had a go at bending tubing to a guided shape with Proserv. While this activity looked easy when carried out by the crew manning the stand, the pipe was quite hard to bend! Sharmaine Fielding (10NBA) completed the exercise perfectly and won a small reward!





The students had the chance to speak to Seajacks, 3sun, ECITB, Opito, and Gardline

among others, they gathered information about apprenticeships and employment opportunities for their future. It was a very inspiring event.

Mrs C Ladbrook - All Together Guidance Professional



### **The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra rehearsal**

On Friday 27th November a small group of students had the opportunity to attend The Marina Theatre in Lowestoft to watch

the afternoon rehearsal, prior to the evening performance, of The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO).

This was a wonderful opportunity for students to watch a prestigious world renowned orchestra performing, and appreciate the dedication and professionalism of the musicians involved.

Students got the chance to see and listen to the orchestra practising pieces from their 'Gala evening of Magnificent Movie Magic,' with music from iconic films such as The Magnificent Seven Overture, The Godfather, Jaws, Lord of the Rings, Pirates of the Caribbean and Dances with Wolves, to name a few.

The students were really impressed with the performances and thoroughly enjoyed this





exciting experience, especially having the opportunity of listening to film music that they all recognised. Our thanks go to the Marina Management and Friends of the Theatre for allowing our students this opportunity.

Ms J Mayo - Projects Manager

### Alumni - Katy Stringer

Katy Stringer is a youth worker with DreamworX, our local youth project. (See facing page). She attended Denes High School from 1999 to 2002. Here's Katy's story:

I was quite a live wire at school and very 'hypo'. I did backchat the teachers a little. However, most of the teachers liked me, and always found the time to help and support me through good times and bad. I had Mr Gascoigne as my form tutor and he was amazing. Always very funny and would always go out of his way to keep me on the straight and narrow.

Academically I was a bright girl. However, with my personality shining through, other aspects of life always seemed to come first in my priorities. I achieved quite a few goals in the last two years. My favourite subject was Art with Mr Hills. He was an amazing teacher and allowed us all to flourish. I felt most at home in the art class. We had project work to go into Barclays Bank on London Road North to celebrate Lowestoft and its history and we even made the newspaper (myself and two other pupils that I'm still good friends with made the big picture)!

When I was in year 11 I decided I really wanted to be an Interior Designer as I had recently decorated mine and my mum and dad's bedrooms. I had been told by friends and family I had a talent for it, so I thought I could do that as a job. I left and continued education on an art course at Lowestoft College, but due to personal circumstances I didn't complete the course. However, Lowestoft College wasn't to get rid of me that easily ...... I joined a course, BTEC Diploma in Care, and thrived in placement volunteering with Millennium Volunteers. I had found something I really enjoyed doing and I realised that I was a very people-orientated person.

I continued with my education with The Prince's Trust 12-week Team programme and became employed by them in 2005, in which I then found my passion for youth work and how good it felt to help others as I had been helped by my Youth Worker at Millennium Volunteers. I then received the Student of the Year 2005 -2006 Award. This was an amazing achievement out of 8000 students. Afterwards, I thrived in education and completed my A level in Health & Social Care, and got high grades as I worked so hard even though I was pregnant through the first year and coping with my first child in the second. I have now achieved a Diploma in Youth Work Level 3 and am still, at only 29 years old, continuing to better myself in education. I am currently in the second year of a degree in Supporting Including Learning Practice.

I'm very proud of my achievements, and Denes High School is where it all began. So if you ever feel low or unsupported talk to a teacher – they're there to help and support you just like they did me. Even though I was challenging every step of the way, they never gave up on me. I would like to thank one particular teacher, Mrs E Hicks. She was determined to get through to me, and tried telling me time and time again that I was worth something and that I could achieve anything I wanted. (Even though I didn't listen at the time). She had faith in me. Thank you for what you did Mrs Hicks, you're an amazing teacher.

Our thanks and best wishes go to Katy.

Thanks also to Mrs Ladbrook, All Together Careers Professional, for the introduction to Katy.

### Signpost Gunton



Signpost Gunton was set up by Gunton Baptist Church in 2008. The idea was to support the people in the local community and provide them with services that they could use for the whole family. In which they run three projects within the charity: East Suffolk Foodbank, Give & Take Project & DreamworX Youth Project.

### **East Suffolk Foodbank**



East Suffolk Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's UK-wide Foodbank network. This helps local churches and communities to open Foodbanks, **food bank** providing emergency food to thousands of people nationwide every year. Foodbanks help to prevent family breakdown, housing loss, crime and mental health problems. The Foodbanks also take time to listen and signpost people

to further support. The East Suffolk Foodbank has very friendly volunteers and works hard to support the local areas of North Suffolk.

Ormiston Denes Academy supports East Suffolk Foodbank and each tutor group has been filling their own box with items ready to be collected by Phil Riley, Project Manager of ESF, at a series of assemblies to be held in the last week of the Autumn term.

### **Give & Take**

The project is called Give & Take and it supplies furniture, generously donated by the general public for free, to those in need in the community. The people in need are usually identified by voluntary and statutory community organisations, such as Children Centres, and referred to the project for support. With the present high level of depravation the project has seen a significant demand on its services.

### **DreamworX Youth Project**



DreamworX has been running since 2008, and provides more than one service for young people of the local community. It was an early intervention project for young people aged 9 - 13 years, and started as a Detached Youth Project, later developing into Youth Clubs in 2010 due to feedback from young people after small projects had been delivered. The local young people wanted to be

part of club/night activity where they could participate in activities where there were no expectations, no uniforms, and no obligation to attend, and somewhere they could come and participate in activities they chose and integrate with others. These clubs are called Drop Ins and we run three a week.

Gunton Baptist Church - Tuesdays 6:30pm - 8:00pm (School Years 5 & 6)

Boston Lodge Youth Club - Thursdays 6:30pm - 8:00pm (School Years 5 & 6)

Boston Lodge Youth Club - Friday's 6:45pm - 8:15pm (School Years 7, 8 & 9)

The project has blossomed over time and we now have a 14+ Young Leaders Volunteering Programme which provides young people the opportunity to volunteer within the local community, or in a placement of their choice or to support the young people in the drop in within the project. These volunteering opportunities provide them with qualifications with Passport 4 Independence and experience in many activities.

The project also works within schools providing years 5, 6, 7 & 8 with Passport 4 Independence qualification's in emotion needs and volunteering. This gives young people who aren't accessing the project the opportunity to do so via their school, with the support of staff and DreamworX Youth Workers. 11

### **Junk percussion workshops at Somerleyton Primary School**

A small number of Year 9 students have been involved in a Junk Percussion transition workshop with Somerleyton Primary School. Following an initial introduction for Somerleyton KS2 students they were tasked with thinking about the noises that various items of junk may produce, and then create their own musical instrument made out of a household item that would otherwise be thrown away.

We then visited Somerleyton Primary school with year 9 students and one of our music teachers, Miss Curtis, and delivered two workshops to all of KS1 and KS2 students. Miss Curtis started with some warm up exercises and then introduced the instruments and rhythms in a really fun and interactive way. The results were great, and very VERY loud! Our students really enjoyed working with the younger students on this joint activity and, by the looks on their faces, the primary school students really enjoyed the experience too.

This is just one of many ad-hoc transition activities that are requested by our local primary schools, in addition to the numerous transition activities that already take place within the academy on a yearly basis.





Ms J Mayo - Projects Manager

### **Movement of vehicles on Ormiston Denes Academy site**

Please note that between **3.05pm** and **3.20pm** there is a no movement of vehicles policy on this site for health and safety reasons. The barrier at the front of our driveway will be in place during this time. Parents who still wish to collect students from the academy grounds are welcome to arrive early and use our car parking facilities where available, but will need to arrive before 3.05pm. During this time, we ask that you do not drive to the barrier, but remain stationary until 3.20pm.

Please note that the above times apply to week one Wednesday. For week 2 Wednesday the barrier times are **2.25pm** to **2.40pm**. On the last day of this term Friday 18th December the barrier will be down at **12.50pm**.

There is a no drop off policy on the Ormiston Denes Academy site and we encourage all who travel by car to drop off at a nearby road which is a short walk from the academy.

We encourage the use of public transport where possible for all journeys where walking/cycling is not suitable.

Should you require more information, please contact Reception.

### Suffolk ••• Family Carers Living Fuller Lives

### **Suffolk Young Carers - Bronze Award**

Ormiston Denes Academy has just been awarded the Suffolk Young Carers Bronze Award. To celebrate receiving this award, we held a celebratory buffet lunch for 30 young carers on role and their parents and guardians.

In order to achieve Bronze, the academy signed a pledge for support and hold regular liaison meetings with Suffolk Young Carers' support worker who ensures that school policies explicitly refer to SYC support. Regular themed assemblies are also held and a dedicated webpage has been added to the school website.

A young carer is somebody aged between 9 and 15 years old who cares for, or is affected by, a family member who has a physical disability, a long-term physical illness, a mental health problem or a problem with the misuse of drugs or alcohol. It is essential that young carers receive support from school as they are a vulnerable group who sometimes experience difficulties in education. Ormiston Denes has identified their young carers and offer support to assist in increasing attainment levels and attendance.

Claire Fraser-Lin, Young Carers Project Manager, said: "I was delighted to attend the Young Carers event at Ormiston Denes and to see so many young carers and their parents there! The school has achieved so much in a very short space of time. By reaching Bronze on the Young Carers Schools' Award they have shown their commitment to supporting this vulnerable group; I look forward to seeing them achieve their Silver very soon!"

"Our worker in Lowestoft has been funded by the Department of Education who value the ground-breaking work Ormiston Denes is committed to."

Claire added: "All the parents I spoke to were really impressed especially when I explained how unique this event was!"

The academy is now working towards a Silver award which will place them first in the area to do so. James Lowden, Designated Safeguarding Lead and a Director of Learning, said: "We are incredibly proud of the work and levels of responsibility which our young carers demonstrate on a daily basis. This award marks the start of our continued efforts to ensure



that our provision strives to remove barriers to learning for these young people."

### **Sponsored sky dive by Rae Duffy**



Brave Year 11 student Rae Duffy did a sponsored sky dive to raise desperately needed funds for Ravensborne Flyers, connected to Ravensborne School, in London where her severely disabled cousin goes to school.

Rae's cousin Grace was born with many disabilities. She is now 7 years old and has been attending the Ravensborne School where staff there have been exceptionally supportive.

Rae had always wanted to do a parachute jump, and after much thought she decided to book up with UK Parachute Services who operate from Beccles Airfield.

She said she felt extremely nervous when she jumped from the plane. "I was so nervous; I just shut my eyes and fell...!" Describing her experience, Rae said: "It was amazing. Unreal. I felt really proud of myself."

Rae raised £300.00 for Ravensborne Flyers.

Rae, is in Endeavour House. Head of House, Ms Collis said: "We are all very proud of Rae and her wonderful achievement".



Mrs J Durrant - Marketing & Communications Officer

### **World Sailing Champion, Sam Brearey, to mentor Ormiston Denes Students**

We are pleased to announce that Sam Brearey who works with Dame Kelly Holmes Trust will be working with two of our students in the AQA Unlocking Potential programme.

Two students who had shown real commitment and dedication to improving their achievements and life chances were nominated for AQA's Unlocking Potential programme earlier in the year. We have recently been informed that their nominations were successful!

AQA Unlocking Potential is run jointly with the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust, and the programme motivates and inspires, providing young people with eight months of dedicated support from high-achieving athletes. This support includes in-depth mentoring, and our students will be planning and delivering a project of their own in our local community.

Continued on next page ...

Continued from previous page ...

About Sam Brearey ... (Courtesy of <a href="https://www.damekellyholmestrust.org">www.damekellyholmestrust.org</a>)

Sam was always sporty in school, representing them across multiple disciplines including rugby and hockey. He played county rugby for three years before deciding to take his sailing more seriously. Sam has been sailing his whole life, and has won numerous titles across various different classes.

In 2007 he won his first major title, the 420 Junior European Championships, and in doing so became the first, and to date the only British team to do so; after this he was asked to go Olympic sailing and quickly jumped up the performance ladder, quickly finding success as a member of the 'Olympic Development Squad.' He then postponed his Olympic dreams to focus on his education, graduating from university and moving to the fireball class, where he won the Inland National title and is the current European and World Champion. In 2011 Sam was shortlisted for Essex Sports Personality of the Year and is currently training for his campaign towards the 2016 Olympic Games.

Sam wants to give back into sport, and help deliver the opportunities that he was fortunate to have when he was younger. Having seen sport have a direct, positive influence on his own and others' behaviour, social skills, confidence and life skills, Sam wants to make sure that as many young people as possible have the same help and support. Sam currently works as a Sports Development Officer for Lee Valley Regional Park, where he is engaged with community sport right through to elite sport and the

Photos © Team Allen 2015



legacy planning of four Olympic Venues. Sam takes a large amount of intrinsic satisfaction from seeing young and disadvantaged children enjoying sport at all levels and is keen to continue his involvement with young people and sport.

Sam also has a huge interest in the mentoring of young athletes and does a large amount of coaching and guiding of young sports men and women, helping motivate them and guide them towards their own success. Currently he supports and is an ambassador for numerous projects up and down the country, helping to support young and aspiring athletes to achieve their goals. He plays a key role in their development and in guiding them to excel. He is also a Sporting Champion for the East of England, helping to ignite the passion of young people in Britain ahead of London 2012.

We will be reporting in more detail during January 2016.

Mrs J Durrant - Marketing & Communications Officer

### **Table Tennis - North Suffolk Games Competitions**



Congratulations go to our year 8 and 11 table tennis teams on their 1st place wins in this year's North Suffolk School Games competitions.

The year 8s placed at East Point Academy and narrowly beat Pakefield High in the final. Well done to the team: Fran Catchpole, Ellie Shephard, Holli Dewhurst and Destiny Jones. Ormiston Denes hosted the year 11 competition with year 11s narrowing winning on points to East Point

Academy. Congratulations to the team: Megan Franklin, Sophie Overy, Nicole Fisher and Eimute Litvaityte.

At the county finals our U13s won two games and lost two, giving them a third place win.

With new table tennis tables arriving at the academy, we look forward to more players taking the opportunity to take up this popular sport and represent ODA at future events.

Mrs P Sutton

### 'Strictly' update



Introducing our youngest supporter!

Mrs Manning (Enquire House Base Pastoral Support Officer)'s granddaughter, Maisie, was over the moon that Mr Bright was able to ask his daughter, Kellie Bright, to sign a photograph for her.

But the cherry on the cake was receiving a tweet

directly from Kellie on Sunday 15th November.

Maisie votes for Kellie every Saturday and was very excited to watch the performance live from Blackpool Tower Ballroom.

Mrs Manning said Maisie went to bed as one very happy and excited little girl.





### 'Strictly' Update

Last weekend saw the final five celebrities battle it out for a place in the final this Saturday. Kellie, who danced an American Smooth to 'Let's face the music and dance' with her partner Kevin Clifton, received 39 points from the judges.

Kellie battled through the pain barrier to make it through to the semi-final. She has been on painkillers after suffering a hip injury during training so it makes her reaching the semi-final an even bigger feat.

For the final, Kellie will be performing her Stars Wars themed Charleston again, along with her Tango from week 1.



We wish her every success.

Ormiston Denes Academy is following Kellie and 'Strictly Come Dancing' on Twitter @bbcstrictly @kelliebright76

### Waveney Youth Council awarded "Young People of the Year" in Stars of Lowestoft & Waveney Awards

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The Waveney Youth Council (WYC) was formed in 2009 to help young people of Waveney have a voice and to enable them to make a difference in their community, and allows young people to discuss local and national issues and concerns and identify potential projects to tackle these issues. They work in partnership with organisations and service providers such as Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council, Police, health providers, MP for Waveney, UK Youth Parliament, Lowestoft Rising, Lowestoft Vision, Access Community



Trust, The Suffolk Assembly of Youth (SAY) and Community Action Suffolk. The Academy has always been actively involved in the Youth Council, with students and former students taking on some of the main roles in the Youth Council. We were therefore delighted to hear that the Youth Council has just won the "Young People of the Year" award in the Stars of Lowestoft and Waveney Awards organised by Archant.

\*\*\*\*

Picture courtesy of Waveney Youth Council

Message from Principal, Peter Marshall:

"Absolutely fantastic to see so many Ormiston Denes Students, both
 current and recent leavers, being celebrated and rewarded for their
 contribution to the Waveney Youth Council. It is clear that with the dedicated
 support of rising stars like these, Lowestoft is in safe ands. #LowestoftRising"

### **East Suffolk Foodbank**

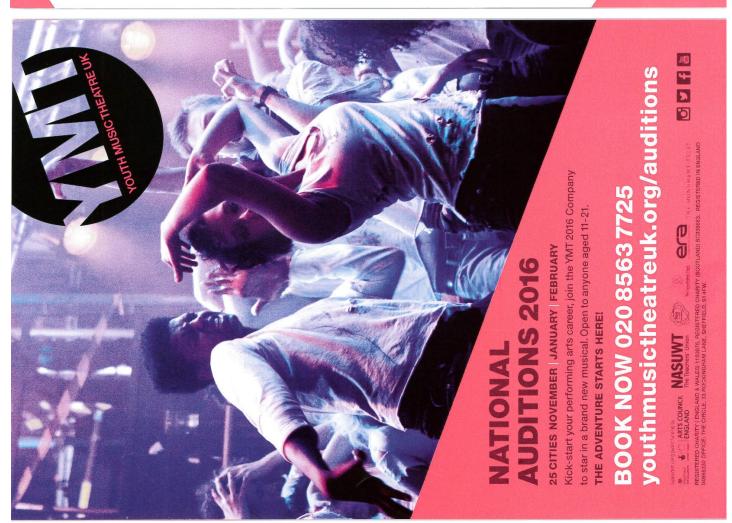
\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Over the past half term students have been bringing in food donations to go to the East Suffolk Foodbank. Each tutor group had a box in which to collect the food, and also had the opportunity to decorate their box prior to donating it. Over the course of the week Phil Riley, Project Manager at the foodbank, will be



coming into the academy to collect the donated food. Pictured left is Phil receiving donations from Enquire House.

Anyone wishing to find out more information on the work of the foodbank can do so at <a href="http://eastsuffolk.foodbank.org.uk/">http://eastsuffolk.foodbank.org.uk/</a>



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ARC CAMBRIDGE	6 CARDIFF ROYAL WELSH COLLEGE	16 NEWCASTLE FAMOUS 4.15
JUNCTION		20 BIRMINGHAM
ADDICT DANCE STUDIO	GATEWAY EDUCATION	20 LONDON 4
BRISTOL	& ARTS CENTRE	LYRIC HAMMERSMITH
BREWERY STUDIO AT THE TOBACCO FACTORY	7 LEEDS NORTHERN BALLET	21 HULL PARK STREET ARTS
COLCHESTER MOTION DANCE STUDIO	7 PLYMOUTH BARBICAN THEATRE	21 LONDON 5 TOYNBEE STUDIOS
OXFORD PEGASUS	13 DUBLIN LIFFEY TRUST STUDIOS	
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### Family & Community Learning - Accelerated Reader



The Accelerated Reader programme that is currently running in school for all students was highlighted by this workshop, run by our Library Manager, Mrs Ames and also

Ms Dickinson.

We also had two ambassadors

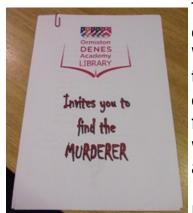
join us from the University of East Anglia, Helen Galer and Holly Pritchard. The idea of this programme is for students to choose specific books in the library, read, take an online quiz, then gradually work up through the levels. The evening



was very well organised and the families went away having worked alongside their son/daughter on the reading programme.

Parents were able to log in on the computers, as well as watch a short film on the subject. There was also a selection of books to look through. As one of the new workshops held here at Ormiston Denes Academy, it made a very successful evening.

### Family & Community Learning - 'Murder in the Library'



This fun workshop was held on the evening of Tuesday 8th December. We had a number of people attend this event in the library, where clues were given to everyone to find out who the unfortunate victim was. We had the use of computers and the extensive range of books.



Everyone that attended thoroughly enjoyed this event, which was planned and organised by our Library Manager, Mrs Ames. The first two

people to work out the mystery were our ambassadors from the University of East Anglia, who correctly identified the victim as being Elvis Presley!

NEW WORKSHOPS COMING SOON IN 2016. WATCH THIS SPACE!!



Mrs J Whitehead - Family & Community Learning Leader

### **Nativity Scene**

Year 10 students Lilith and Francisca have been busy over the past three or four weeks working on their book sculpture.



Inspired by Mr Clint Hall, our Assistant Custodian, who had taken an interest in another sculpture in the library, the girls set to work on a nativity scene. As you can see, they used old books, card, and printed paper to help with their design. Lilith made the stable and stars. Francisca made the characters, background and the main star.



Francisca said she is very proud that the sculpture is on display in the library. Lilith is relieved that the 'secret' is now out as her fellow students had been continuously asking her what she was working on!

Mr Hall was happy to unveil the nativity scene which will remain on display in the library over the Christmas period.

Mrs J Durrant - Marketing & Communications Officer

### **From the Library**

We have been very fortunate to have been awarded a grant by the Foyle Foundation which has enabled us to buy lots of new books for the library. These are books for 'reading for pleasure', and I have already bought lots of new stock to re-vitalise our fiction section and also some general interest non-fiction. These will be appearing on our shelves in the coming weeks. Watch this space....

The Christmas season is now upon us and I would like to thank Francisca and Lilith for their beautiful paper sculpture of the Nativity (see above).

We have now received the recording of Lucy Kimble's winning 'Spooky Story' from Zeb Soanes. It is a wonderfully chilling and atmospheric rendition of Lucy's story, Road Killer, and will be available for students to listen to via the Google Drive.

Finally, can I appeal to all students to return their library books when they have finished with them. We have quite a lot of outstanding books and need them back so that other students can borrow them. Students can be assured that we are always pleased to have books returned, no matter how overdue they are.

Wishing all students, staff and parents a very Happy Christmas from Mrs Ames and Mrs Lee in the Library.

### **Inspire Visit to the Soup Kitchen, Norwich**

A group of students from Inspire House, Ormiston Denes Academy, volunteered their services to work at the soup kitchen in Norwich on 2nd and 9th December 2015. Food was donated and prepared by Britten Court, a care home belonging to Care UK and also donated by our Ormiston Denes' kitchen.

A variety of volunteers were present; one lady worked with the prison service whilst another was



a student at the UEA studying International Development. Having distributed the food bags and assisting with giving out hot food and drinks, the students then mingled and chatted with the homeless people. One gentleman was interested in having updates on the news whilst another, Simon, shared his story. Having lived abroad for a few years he returned to Britain in June and personal circumstances led to him becoming homeless. He currently lives in a car and spends the day going to local charitable organisations having food, drinks and showers. He said that getting a job was out the question because employers aren't interested if you haven't got a fixed address.

On the first visit we took up some warm jumpers for anyone who would benefit from an extra layer of clothing, and these were soon distributed.



One gentleman came up and asked whether we had any coats, as he only possessed one and, with sleeping out in wet weather, it soon became wet and cold and uncomfortable to wear. This gentleman very graciously said that he wasn't going to take any food as he was able to have a hot microwave meal each day and there were more needy than himself. As a result of this request, we came back into school and asked for donations of unwanted coats and jumpers from staff, and were able to take several up on our second visit. These too were also well received.

Initially, some students felt slightly intimidated but felt more confident as soon as we started giving the food out.

We all commented on how interesting it was to see people who have nothing, supporting and caring for each other. It made us all aware that we should be grateful for what we have and it is definitely an experience we would like to repeat on a regular basis.

We would like to thank Mrs Calver, PSO for Inspire House, for organising this, Ms Mayo for driving the mini bus, all the staff who came to support, and to the students Tyla Jo Marr, Lauryn Milsom, Jordan Lindsay, Nathan Langley, Ethan Hornby, George Leech, Jayden Finnigan and Amelia Baxter.

Ms J Mayo - Projects Manager



If you are between 13 – 24 join the **'C Card Scheme'** for helpful advice about relationships and contraception.

For further details please see Mrs Read in the safeguarding office (next to room 21).



### Lowestoft Christmas street entertainment. 6th and 13th December







Students entertained local shoppers and overcame any nerves, giving a professional performance.

### **Make Your Mark Update**

As detailed in our last Denes Diary, our students have engaged in the UK Youth Parliament Make Your Mark agenda consultation, and the three top issues to take forward to National level were living wage, mental health and curriculum for life. These issues were actually the top three voted for by the whole of the Suffolk area.

There was a slight difference in the national Make Your Mark top three results, these being living wage and curriculum for life, but also transport (making transport cheaper, better and accessible for all), with mental health being the fourth issue, and tackling racism and religious discrimination being the fifth issue. In November members of the UK Youth Parliament, including former senior student Nathan Bowkett MYP, sat in the House of Commons to debate and decide on which of the top five issues will become their campaign for next year. The UK-wide campaigns for this are going to be tackling racism and religious discrimination with a devolved (England) issue of mental health.

Ms J Mayo - Projects Manager

### ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL What have we been doing for you?

### **Enquire**

Since our last update we have organised fund raising events for Children in Need and Movember, as detailed in the newsletter. We are now organising our final fundraising event for Text Santa, with a number of events taking place in school. A Christmas jumper day, Christmas bake sale, and candy cane messages are planned to hopefully raise a lot of money for this charity, which supports the work of MacMillan Cancer Support, Make-a-Wish UK and Save the Children.

### **Endeavour**

We are working on 'Projects', where the team has £300 to spend on enhancing students' experience in the academy, with options chosen and voted for by students in our house. The shortlist of options has been sent to all Endeavour tutor groups to allow them to vote for their favourite options. The most popular option was to spend the money on sports equipment, and we will now work with the PE department to make sure this goes to best use.

### **Bloomin' Marvellous**

For the bloomin' marvellous project we have come up with some great ideas. We have planned on having a competition taking place after Christmas, and we are hoping to have a shield made of flowers at the front of the field with all of the different house colours (including red) put into it. We will start up an enrichment after Christmas where students can help us to make the school look brighter and more colourful. If you are a student with lots of ideas, please contact either Nerice Flatt or Savannah Graves with them ideas.

### **Inspire**

Inspire are currently working on Academy Promotion, Tours, Rewards and Skills 4 Learning. We are working with our ambassadors to create a Vivo blog and to remodel the student intranet. Helping us to do this is Mr Gatley who will help us to put our ideas into reality for the blog and the student intranet. We are also allowing our ambassadors to conduct tours for people who are visiting the Academy. In addition to this we are going to be running the East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) £50 challenge. This will take place in the New Year. Finally, our next rotation will be inter-house competitions. There will be a wide variety of competitions running throughout the academy which will suit every individual student.

### **Venture**

We have currently been working on two competitions, one which will be for the whole school and the other just for Venture, we are now in the process of discussing the competitions and getting them up and started, after we will start gathering ideas for projects, which we hope you guys can give us ideas for.

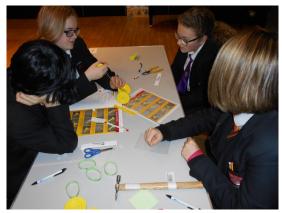
### **Bakery Project**

Students are still going out to Britten Court during enrichment and recently decided that they would like to be able to take some presents to the elderly service users on their last visit before Christmas. To raise money to buy the presents they organised a bake sale and a car wash, with a total of £85 being raised. The presents have now been purchased, wrapped and waiting to be delivered on Wednesday 16th December, along with some Christmas cakes.

### **Other Important News**

We recently held a Christmas Fayre alongside our Christmas concert. There were games to play, decorations to sell, cookies to decorate and refreshments to be bought. We raised over £50 for the East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH).

### **Lowestoft Engineering Project Launch - STEM Event**



The Academy has been invited to participate in the new Lowestoft Engineering Project, a partnership between the Royal Academy of Engineering, The Ogden Trust, Suffolk County Council and Lowestoft Sixth Form College. All of the secondary schools in Lowestoft have also been invited, along with a number of the local

primary schools. Students

from the local secondary schools recently undertook their first STEM challenge at the launch event for the project, held at Lowestoft Sixth Form College. Students had





to make and test model wheelchairs and annotate posters. Although there were no overall winners, our students got complimented on their hard work, ideas and enthusiasm. We look forward to undertaking further activities as the project progresses.

Ms J Mayo - Projects Manager

### **Transition Programme**

As part of our transition programme, primary schools have the opportunity to come into school and use some of our specialised facilities. We have recently welcomed



students from Northfield Primary School who have been in to work in our Catering classrooms. During the course of their time with us students cooked some very tasty looking pasta in a tomato, cheese and vegetable sauce.

If you have any queries regarding transition please contact Ms Julie Mayo at the academy.

### **GSCE Drama and PSHE Days**

### **Drama**

### **16th November**

The GCSE Drama students visited The Seagull Theatre for a workshop with professional actor/writer/director, John Hales. The students are currently preparing extracts of 'Blood Brothers' for their GCSE performance so were keen to develop their performance skills under his guidance. Through a variety of practical activities, they were challenged to think about their role, and others', and also



consider what could be added to the performance that isn't in the text. A great time was had by all, and two hours definitely flew by! On the way home they asked if they could go again, but John was invited to their final performance so hopefully he will see all of their hard work pay off!

### **20th November**

Some of our students went to St George's Theatre in Great Yarmouth to see the play 'Bouncers' by John Godber. It is a comedy which requires four talented actors who have to multi-role (play more than one character) throughout. The students experienced many humorous moments, with a serious undertone of the comment being made about ordinary people in society.

### 23th November

We had a visit from Chris Morris, software designer for 'Limelight' stage lighting, and participated in a stage lighting workshop. Students were able to learn how to use the software, and put their designs into practice on the stage.

### **30th November**

Students experienced a practical workshop from professional drama specialist Steph, who has her own theatre companies in Suffolk. She helps students to understand the importance of taking ownership of the character, and worked with each small group to help them to develop their work further.



### **PSHE**

### **18th November**



This took place during Anti-Bullying week, a national initiative to tackle, and prevent bullying. Students across the years explored issues around the theme of bullying, such as respect, equality & diversity, relationships, expectations of others, cyber safety and what love means to different people. In a lead up to this day, year 9s were an audience for a performance called 'Chelsea's Choice' by Alter Ego Theatre Group who devise & perform Theatre in Education. The performance was based on a true story which

explored the issues of internet grooming and sexual exploitation. It had a powerful impact on students, and staff alike. Year 10 also saw a presentation from Crimestoppers called 'Fearless'. This was all about peer pressure, and gang violence, and how to be confident enough not to get drawn into that culture. Our next PSHE day is on 4th March and is careers themed. Students will be experiencing a range of activities to get them thinking about their future, and how they will get there.

Our thanks go to Access Community Trust, Suffolk Constabulary, The Terrence Higgins Trust, Heart of the Matter, and Dreamworx for participating in the day and offering our students some really interesting and informative workshops and presentations.

26 Mrs L Catchpole



### **NEC Wheelchair Masters at the Olympic Park**

On Friday 4th December, a group of year 8 and 9 PE students were taken to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and witnessed some of the best wheelchair tennis ladies in action! It all started at the early hour of 5.50am during the sunrise, when the eager students piled onto the coach. We set off for a trip of (roughly) three hours. Firstly, we wandered around the park for a while until we approached the Velodrome, whilst taking





many photos we enjoyed watching some fantastic people practise their talent of cycling. We embarked on a small hike up a hill to view the BMX Course.

Afterwards we went to watch Wheelchair tennis where Lucy Shuker and

Jiske Griffioen battled it out to win the title! It was a very competitive game which ended in defeat for Britain's own. The beginning set finished 6-6 and the tie breaker ended with the Dutch Woman winning 7-3. And unfortunately the English lady lost. Following the match, we participated in a carousel of activities (to do with tennis). It consisted of how hard you could hit a tennis ball, how long you can keep a rally up and trying to play tennis in a wheel



chair. We also walked to see many things such as the Olympic Rings and the Orbit tower. Also the Olympic Rings. Our final stop was the Olympic Stadium, which we



viewed from a distance. There were many toilet trips and lots of walking however it was fun. We are very grateful that we got the opportunity to take part in such an amazing experience, it was a privilege.

Written by Mollie Murrant and Ellie Wilson Year 8 PE Superstars

### **Discovering Democracy Award**

Ormiston Denes Academy is one of only 19 schools to receive this award.

The award recognises secondary schools that create a positive culture of citizenship and democracy, and help develop youth participation in society.

Funded by the Cabinet Office and supported by HM Government, the award celebrates and shares the success of schools that go further in equipping their students with the skills and knowledge to play a full and active part in society, through high quality teaching, student voice and social action projects. The award is judged by a panel of young people and sector experts.

The vote is judged on four themes and against 11 specific criteria:

### Voter registration, Knowledge of democracy, Student participation, and Student-led social action

During our daily Skills for Learning sessions students participated in a whole school general election. They were able to analyse and discuss party political manifestos and consider their points of view and consider how their policies may or may not impact them as individuals, young people and members of the wider community. This culminated in a whole school parallel election that was carried out in real time.

Another activity was the UK Youth Parliament consultation and their agenda items for 2016. 781 students at Ormiston Denes participated in discussion, debate and decision making. The key agendas voted for within academy were mirrored by the national outcome.

Our certificate will be given to us at a presentation event to be held at a later date.

Mrs J Durrant - Marketing & Communications Officer

### **National Youth Takeover Challenge**

A small group of students recently had the opportunity to participate in National Youth Takeover Challenge, along with other schools in Lowestoft and Beccles. During the morning the students had the opportunity to have input into the planning and delivery of a real life training and entrepreneurial project for young people, with Access Community Trust, at the old Sam Hooks Sports building on Bevan Street. This building has been purchased by Access Community Trust and is being turned into a café and enterprise lounge, due to open next year. Students looked at various aspects of the building, including decoration, possible fixtures and fittings, food and drinks to sell in the café and what facilities could go into the building.

During the afternoon students went to the new Council Riverside building and were involved in a project looking at future developments in our local area. Working in various mixed-school groups, students had the opportunity to be part of a controversial fictional planning application, working as either the developers, the protesters, the planning team or the council.

The students really enjoyed the day and were a credit to our Academy. Our thanks go to Access Community Trust, Waveney District Council and the Youth Council, for putting on a fantastic, interesting and informative day.

Ms J Mayo - Projects Manager

## **Hey YOU!**

### Do you know about our Ormiston Denes Text Santa preparations?

You can order candy canes to send to students and teachers with a personalised message attached!



50p each



Sweet treats & sweet singing in the entrance hall.

## Join in with all of the festive fun and raise money for good causes!

Christmas Jumper Day is 18th December. Raise money for good causes and wear a cool jumper. Do your bit in a Christmas knit for *at least* £1!





### **Mentoring at Ormiston Denes Academy**

We have a number of mentoring schemes in place in our academy. Among these are two that you may not have heard of. The STEM Accelerator Mentor scheme and Lowestoft Rising schemes have both just started to take on mentees.

### **STEM Accelerator**



STEM; Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths are subjects that support entry to employment in many future and local careers. Our students are able to volunteer to have a mentor, who will meet them termly during the academy year and carry out online mentoring via a secure platform known as "Brightside." This programme is currently open to year 10 and 11 students who can complete a form to put themselves forward. "Mentoring is at the heart of STEM Accelerator

supporting all aspects of the programme. The mentor will steer young people towards the other elements of the STEM Accelerator programme and encourage their active participation.

One-to-one mentoring with a business mentor allows young people to gain first-hand experience of the working environment as well as find out more about career opportunities. For employers, mentoring provides the opportunity to engage with young people and to reflect on meeting skills gaps of the future."

Another part of the programme is an exciting free STEM school that will run during the academy holidays at Lowestoft College in collaboration with UCS. We are hoping to bring you more news of this school in the New Year.

### **Lowestoft Rising**



Lowestoft Rising comprises a group of five public sector partners LOWESTOFT - Suffolk Police, Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner's office, Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council and NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group (known locally as Health East) - which work together in a new and unique way.

We have been offered the opportunity through our links with Lowestoft Rising to have business mentors come into the academy and mentor our students. Starting with just a few students we intend to grow this programme across the academy. The mentors that Lowestoft Rising provides have all been trained by Access Community Trust and have been checked against the new criminal records - DBS check.

Lowestoft Rising mentors can be people from business or industry who have built up a wealth of experience in their chosen field. They will come into the academy and meet students on a regular basis, during school time. Students and mentors will be able to discuss achievements and areas of concern in and out of school, career ideas and aspirations and a range of other subjects.

Our Heads of House are able to identify students who will benefit from mentoring and match them with a suitable mentor. If your child is chosen to be part of the cohort of students who are mentored in this way you will receive a letter from Mrs Ladbrook, our academy careers 31 advisor.









### **Venture House 'quiet achievers'**

Venture House treated their 'quiet achievers' to melted snowmen!



This was a seasonal treat in recognition of their repeated, positive behaviour on a daily basis.







### **The Hour of Code**

The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries.

Ormiston Denes Academy has signed up with Hour of Code.

The 'Hour of Code™' is a nationwide initiative by Computer Science Education Week ( <a href="https://csedweek.org/">https://csedweek.org/</a>) and <a href="https://code.org/">Code.org</a>) to introduce millions of students to one hour of computer science and computer programming.

All KS3 students at the academy engaged with this initiative last week.







Roast turkey with stuffing, local chipolatas and gravy (£2.30) or Chick pea wellington (£2.30)

(both served with roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts, carrots and peas)

or

Roast turkey and cranberry baguette (£1.50)
followed by
Christmas pudding
or
Yule log

Served in the canteen on Wednesday 16th December from 12.30 pm to 1.15 pm

