

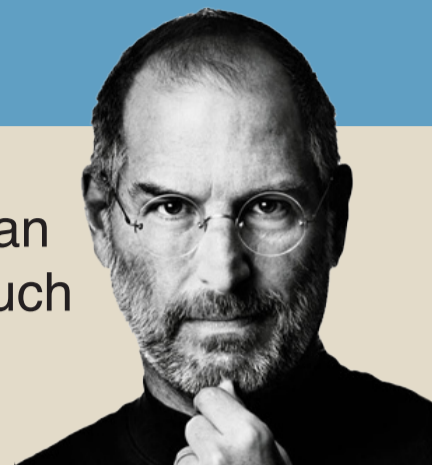


**'ART IN A BOX' EVENT AT LOCAL LIBRARY IS A SUCCESS**

*See Reverse*

**"Quality is more important than quantity. One home run is much better than two doubles."**

STEVE JOBS



NEWS      EVENTS      TRIPS      SPORT      ARTS

**SCHOOL INFO**

**HEADTEACHER**  
Ms Kerry Jordan

**SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM**  
Mr Mike Masters  
Mr John Humphreys  
Ms Sue Lewis  
Mr Richard Cole

**CHAIR OF GOVERNORS**  
Prof Barry Smith

**ADDRESS**  
Queens Road  
Hethersett, NR9 3DB

Tel: 01603 810924  
www.hethersetthigh.norfolk.sch.uk

**NUMBER CRUNCH**

**121**

**SCHOOL DAYS REMAINING THIS ACADEMIC YEAR**

**95**

**CURRENT AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDANCE**

**74.1**

**STUDENTS CURRENTLY STUDYING AT HETHERSETT HIGH SCHOOL**

I hope that you find this issue of Hethersett High Notes interesting and useful. The aim of this publication is to tell you what is going on in the school and show you the range of activities that our students are involved in.

If you would prefer to receive this via email please contact: rcole@hethersetthigh.org.uk

# Author Alexander Gordon Smith runs workshop with Year 8

During November we hosted Alexander Gordon Smith in school. He is famous for the "Furnace" series of stories for young people. He started with a presentation session for all year 8 students about the process of writing books. He talked about his motivation, and the satisfaction that creative writing gives to him. Four workshops followed where students were encouraged to try a creative writing process based around horror stories. They worked through planning the story, developing characters and building settings. Each student now has an outline plan for writing a story which will be submitted to Gordon who will choose the winner.

This visit was part of the school plan to develop improved literacy skills across all year groups.

**The plan includes:**

- Refurbishment of the school library
- Investment in IT equipment
- Installation of an interactive whiteboard and projector so that teachers can use the library space as part of a planned lesson
- Purchase of a software programme called "Accelerated Reader" – more to follow on this in the new year
- Purchase of additional books for all age groups
- Visits by authors and poets to inspire students in creative writing techniques

Mrs Gill, our Literacy Lead, is in charge of the developments. In addition the library is open at break and lunch time to students who are able to take part in a range of activities. ■



Author Alexander Gordon Smith

## Year 9 visit to Scroby Sands and the Time & Tide Museum

Organised by Mr Bignell, our year nine Geography students took part in a visit to two excellent and informative exhibitions in Great Yarmouth. The visit was part of their work to look at the environment, production of sustainable energy and the impact on the coastline of global environmental change. The first part of call was the Eon Scroby Sands exhibition centre. This is an interactive exhibition where students are able to experience real "hands on" exhibits. The

highlight of the visit was the interactive power generator where students had to try and generate by hand enough electricity to power a TV, radio, toy car and fan. Most didn't manage it! Then on to the Time & Tide exhibition where students watched a model of Great Yarmouth be flooded, based on what might happen if the current rate of climate change continues. Overall it was agreed that this was a really informative and interactive visit enjoyed by those who took part. ■



Mr Bignell with students

## Year 7 English celebration event

During December the English department held a celebration event involving parents, staff and students to look back on the excellent standard of work that students had completed in the English "Fiction" homework project. Students read from their work to the group and everyone was able to look through the high quality presentations that students completed. A cup of coffee and a biscuit helped the event feel more sociable and many parents said that they thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to come into school and see the work going on. Future radio also attended and recorded students reading from their work. The recordings will be used as part of the Sundaze radio show. ■

# Year 11 attend 'Pathways' event

We held the "pathways" event in October and over 260 students and parents attended the evening session. All of the year 11 students and their parents were invited to attend. Each of the local sixth forms (CNS, Wymondham High, Wymondham College, Hewett School and Notre Dame) plus City College and Easton College presented their options to students and then held individual discussions to answer questions and deal with any queries. The purpose was to make

sure that each student was fully aware of the choices they have for the next step and to consider the range of options in front of them. "It answered a lot of questions and now I'm considering different options for the future" said Josh Worley (Year 11). Mr Shepstone who arranged the event said "It was great that so many students and their parents came along to the evening – it proves really useful to focus students on the grades they need as they approach the last few months of year 11". ■

# Preparing for Opportunities

It was a great opportunity for students, school uniform would not need to be worn, there would be many people from a range of businesses and industries, it would be free, and all the year 11 students were invited. Such was the introduction for year 11 students to the "Preparing for Opportunities day" held in October. The whole year group were divided into working groups and allocated a mentor / tutor from business who worked all day with them to polish their skills for getting a job, or securing a place for the next step in their education.

Much of the work on the day was carried out by the Norfolk education industry and commerce group (NEICG) trust.

This is a group of business people who see that students need to develop key skills to help them make the most of opportunities

for work or education, and we agree! The mentors either work in business or have done, and they bring years of recruitment experience as well as a good helping of common sense. Each student was supported in writing their CV and then took part in practice interviews where they were able to practice what they would say about themselves, their skills and why they wanted to take this job / school place.

Obviously everyone got different things from the event but clearly they all enjoyed the experience and feel that it will help them as they take the next step in their career. Well done and thanks to all the students, once again Hethersett students were exemplary in their behaviour and approach. We look forward to carrying out the event with next years group in Autumn 2012. ■

# Pupils and International artists perform at St Remigius

A fantastic concert was held at St Remigius church in Hethersett where some of our students played duets with a range of international soloists. Our chamber orchestra played with some of these international artists and all agreed that the experience was marvellous for the participants and audience. Twenty current and former students took part. The students came from all year groups in school with the outstanding performance from Chloe Peterson who played a duet with Pavel Kolesnikov an internationally renowned Hungarian violinist

This was followed by a masterclass session in school with Professor Shih and the international artists on November 25th.

Students from Old Hall Hethersett, Wymondham College, Wymondham High and Notre Dame school in Norwich joined the event.

Music students played while many more of our students watched the performances, had the opportunity to listen and ask questions of the international musicians.

We are grateful to Douglas Gowan and Norfolk Concerts who organised these two events.

These events were part of our ongoing partnership, with return visits planned for later in the academic year. ■

# Year 11 visit to Norwich Free School

Mr Shepstone organised a superb trip by 7 of our year 11 Citizenship students to the new "Free School" in Surrey Street, Norwich. First on the agenda was a full tour of the school, taking in the classrooms, offices, play area and "behind the scenes" as well as the opportunity to chat with some of the school students. Our group then sat down with Mrs Sidney-Roberts (Principal) and discussed topics including the funding of the school, how students get a school place and the project to set it all up. The time given by Mrs Sidney-Roberts

was very much appreciated and our students gained a very positive impression of Norwich Free School. Lauren Page (year 11) said "The visit changed my mind about free schools - I thought it was brilliant". They will use this experience in developing their GCSE Citizenship coursework. Mr Shepstone said "we chose to go to the free school because it is so topical and represents a significant change in how society supports education. This is a key part of the course that students are taking part in." ■

# Year 10 booster classes at Norwich School

Eight of our year 10 students are now attending booster classes aimed at increasing their chances and their enthusiasm for further education. The classes take place each Saturday morning at Norwich School and are held in conjunction with selected high

schools from across the Norwich area. Subjects they are studying include Physics, Spanish and French. Ben Page (year 10) said "the physics is awesome!" Mrs Wade organises this opportunity for our students. ■

## SPORTS REPORTS

Our football squads have been enjoying notable success with Year 7, 10 and 11 teams, who have all reached the semi-finals of their cup competitions.

In addition the Year 9 team is top of their league (unbeaten so far).

As well as team successes there have been some great personal achievements among students. These include:

**JOSH DENNY**  
selected for Norfolk County football

**RIVER MORRIS**  
**LOUISA SUTHERLAND**  
**ISOBEL PAGE**  
selected for the Norfolk Stars squad

**SOPHIE ROCK**  
**MEGAN BIRD**  
**JACOB COTTON**  
running for Norfolk County team

**TOM FOX**  
**BEN PAGE**  
playing badminton for Norfolk County

# Fantastic first result from Year 9 rugby squad

Our rugby squads are coached after school by a qualified rugby coach from Crusaders rugby club in Little Melton.

The first game of the season was held on the 1st of December at Crusaders rugby club. We were up against a formidable and well recognised rugby school, Thetford Academy. As a result of illness we had a squad of 14 players up against a well drilled 15. Despite that though our team got off to a great start and by half time were leading 27-0. The second half was a much more even affair as our players tired with the extra effort

required of them. The final score was 32-5 so we "drew" the second half. There were many great performances but outstanding among those were Lewis Kenworthy, Jack Kemp, Robin Johnson and Charles Calder.

Mr Jehan and Mr Brook supported the team and were full of praise for the commitment, skill and team play shown by all our players. The Thetford teacher, Mr Southam (formerly a teacher at Hethersett High) was also full of praise and our Crusaders coach remarked that one of our tries was the best he had seen all season! ■

## Norfolk Schools showjumping competition

Our team of girls (Paige Staff, Isobel Staff, Georgia Gooch & Georgia Hyde) did the school proud and were unbeatable. They all held their nerve against some very stiff competition to secure first place, receiving beautiful sashes, rosettes and medals. Georgia Hyde rode one of Paige's ponies in the first class, pulling off some amazing turns as they secured the fastest time in the class against over 40 competitors.

Paige again in the next class received the fastest time against even more competitors, pulling off a turn no one else dared to even think of. Both Isobel Staff and Georgia Gooch rode consistently well, achieving a clear round to enable them to go forward into the jump off gaining very respectable times, to allow the team to fly into the lead. Well done to the team – a fantastic achievement!

## 4 Schools Carol Service

December 5th

St Remigius Church Hethersett

Among the many groups performing from each school were our Chamber orchestra made up of 15 students. In addition Chloe Peterson played a cello solo. The church was full or parents and friends from all 4 schools. Head of Music Mr Brook said "once again it was great fun to join up with the other schools and to enable students to show off their development to staff from the junior schools who taught them in the past. The students from all of the 4 schools sounded really good and it was a very enjoyable evening". ■

## Christmas Concert

December 8th

St Remigius Church Hethersett

Another evening of excellent music and entertainment with many highlights. All the major ensembles performed – choir, chamber orchestra, wind band, wind ensemble, drum club, various soloists, poetry reading and students of Mr Davies (our drum teacher) who performed an original composition called "Bish Bosh". 50 students performed supported by 7 "roadies" who seamlessly set up the staging. Kerry Jordan (Head teacher) said "it is great to see so many students involved. The quality is as good as ever and the music staff have once again done a really good job in organising and producing this concert". ■

# Art in a box event at local library

In July 2011 the GCSE art students and scientists from the John Inness Centre were asked to consider the question, "How will GM (Genetic Modification) influence the future of our planet?"

Their visual responses are contained in a series of 28 wooden boxes that went on display at the Hethersett Library for three weeks at the end of November through the beginning of December 2011. The library staff were very keen to host the exhibition. One visitor to the exhibition in the library commented "I was impressed by how knowledgeable the students were on their subject".

This is the second year this successful scheme was run in collaboration with the Norwich BioScience Institutes. "Science & Art in a Box" is one of the many community events created and organised as part of an established 'Educational Events' programme at Hethersett High School & Science College. ■



Pupils with work on display

