

February 09

The Accolade

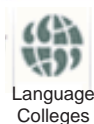
The Monthly Celebratory Newsletter
from County Upper School

Certificates of Merit
What's New?
After School Clubs
Sports News
News
Music
Progress
Achievement
Drama
Responsibility
Awards
Success
Congratulations
Tutor Group Success

Dear parents, students, staff and governors,

On the day we finished for half term we received the news that the Department for Children, Schools and Families had selected us as a language college and a centre for gifted and talented activities. Earlier in the month we successfully passed the biennial audit to retain our Healthy Schools' Status. In the month which also marks the half way point in the academic year, these judgments caused us to reflect on the impressive breadth and depth of external recognition we enjoy and this month's many successes are reported here with reference to our external accolades.

Mrs V. Neale



A HIGH PERFORMING SCIENCE AND LANGUAGE COLLEGE WITH A GIFTED AND TALENTED FOCUS

As a result of our **third Ofsted Outstanding School** award last February, our **value added performance** and the fact that **more than 60% of our students gained five or more A* - C grades at GCSE including English and Mathematics**, we were designated a **High**

Performing Specialist School from September and invited to apply for an additional specialism. We were delighted to learn this month that our application had been successful and that we are now a **High Performing Science and Language College with a Gifted and Talented Focus**. In its letter the DCSF commented on the following strengths: "**International School Award achieved; strong languages department already supporting local schools; strong established exchanges with Germany and Japan; newer links with Italy, Spain and France becoming established; achievement at key stage four and 'A' level well above local and national averages; high quality provision for gifted and talented students successfully in place**". This letter concludes: "finally, on behalf of Jim Knight [the schools' minister], we would like to congratulate you on this **significant achievement**." Well done to everyone in the County Upper community on this well deserved recognition.

Gifted and Talented linguists in Japan



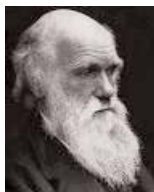
Top GCSE languages students in the country



THE SCIENCE COLLEGE SUCCESSES FOR FEBRUARY

The Darwin Debate

This month sees the two hundredth anniversary of Darwin's birth and the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the publication of his "On the Origin of the Species". To mark these anniversaries, **seventy year ten students** participated in a debate: **"this house proposes that Creationism be taught alongside Evolution**



in the science curriculum". After preparation in both science and religious studies lessons, the debate itself was very lively and interesting with perceptive and intelligent comments from the floor, as well as from the main speakers. Although the motion was heavily defeated, the speakers for the proposition and the opposition were evenly matched. We congratulate year ten, particularly **Holly McGregor, Peter Newton and Charlotte Thomas** who were the main speakers. We thank **Rain Beckles, Chloe Darlow and Alex Whyte** from

our sixth form debaters for supporting year ten and especially **Mr Beales** for organising the whole event.



Science College



Spectroscopy Event

Four PhD students from the University of East Anglia worked with our fifty year twelve and year thirteen chemists on a series of workshops using special state-of-the-art equipment not usually seen at school level. **We were the first state school in the region to be selected and the researchers complimented our students on their attitude, knowledge and team working.** Well done to all fifty of our chemists.



THE PERFORMING ARTS SUCCESSES GO ON

We were the first Suffolk school to obtain **Artsmark Gold** and we have been redesignated every three years since. The Arts are central to the spirit of our school and February has demonstrated this yet again.

The Chamber Concert

We were treated to an excellent evening's entertainment from our chamber orchestra, string orchestra, clarinet choir and flute groups supported by excellent solo performances on trumpet, cello and clarinet from **Rachael Fletcher, Sophie Robertson and Jonathan Soman** and two superb pieces for recorder duet from **Emma and Jessica Cowper**. We congratulate:



Chris Beard
Ellie Blake
Maddy Blake
Laura Bramwell
Tom Chadwick
Evy Coe
Esther Colman
Emma Cowper
Jessica Cowper
Felicity Cox
Jennifer Croydon
Alex Davison
Kimberley Fearnley
Beth Fearnley
Daniel Fletcher
Rachael Fletcher
Catherine Harrison
Sam Hart
Rachael Hopkins
Sarah Johnson

Elodie Limer
Rebecca Littlechild
Sophie Maddock
Harriet Mills
Jessica Nelson
Peter Newton
Harry Palmer
Catherine Pape
Zoe Pollard
Alice Rathbone
Sophie Robertson
Rosie Salmon
Helen Slade
Jonathan Soman
Millie Stanton
Harry Stone
Katie Thomas
Rebecca Wagner
Eleanor White
Beth Whymark
Peter Wilcock
John Young



West Suffolk Young Musician of the Year

All our students who took part in this month's heats acquitted themselves very well and we especially congratulate **Daniel Bayliss, Emma Cowper, Catherine Harrison** and **Eleanor White** who won their class and will appear in this year's final along with last year's winner **Jonathan Soman** and **Harry Lengyl** from our swing band, brass ensembles and choirs.



The Swing Band in the community

Our ever popular and talented band continued its community involvement with a performance for charity in Great Whelnetham on Valentine's Day. **As one Great Whelnetham resident wrote: "I was told they were very good but I have to say they were more than good, they were absolutely brilliant. The band was brilliant and the singers were brilliant; please thank them from me for a really excellent evening." Well done.**

An Evening of Monologues

In a new venture, twelve of our sixth form students treated us to an evening of contrasting and thought provoking monologues from a range of plays. Performed in costume, the recitations enabled the students to demonstrate the power of

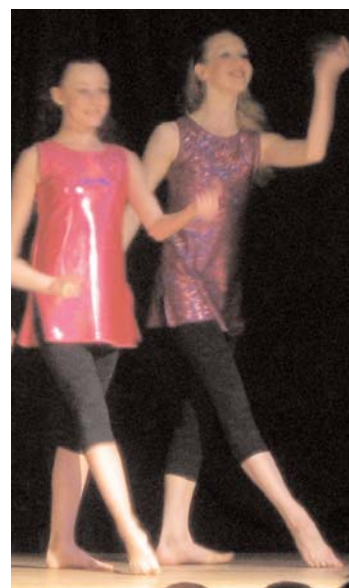


the spoken word to a very appreciate audience.

Well done to: **James Barker, Hannah Blofield, Hazel Breeze, Jessica Byrne, Katherine Engall, Josh Foster Brown, Josephine Harrington, Cally Musgrove, Benjamin Prosser, Emily Ruddock, Nicholas Snelling** and **Louis Williams**.

Our dancers win through at the Sudbury Festival

Three of our dancers took part in the Sudbury Festival at half term and **took one of the three top spots in all their classes**. We congratulate **Annie Parkinson, Steph Stanton** and **Katie Thomas** who took **first place** in the Tap and Modern Troupe events. Steph and Katie were **first** in the modern duet and song and dance trio as well as **second** in the character duet and **third** in the modern trio. In the solo classes, Katie was **second** with her own choreographed piece and Steph was **third** with her modern piece. Well done girls!



Individual Successes

■ We congratulate **Helen Slade** in year nine who has passed her **grade 6 Broadway** exam gaining a **distinction with honours**



■ We also congratulate **Rachael Fletcher** in year eleven who has been accepted on to the **Eton Choral** course this summer.

■ **Daniel Bayliss** in year thirteen has been selected by the internationally renowned jazz musician, **Gilad Atzmon** to assist him in running the Global Music Foundation's annual summer school alongside teachers from The Conservatoire. **This is a huge honour for any musician but exceptional for someone of Daniel's age** and we are very proud of him.



■ **The University of the Third Age** celebrated its twentieth anniversary with a special day entitled "The Magic of Music - Why it does us good" The day ended with a celebratory dinner at which **Sophie Robertson** and **Catherine Harrison** provided the musical entertainment and were highly praised.

GERMAN AND KEIO EXCHANGES ARE A HUGE SUCCESS

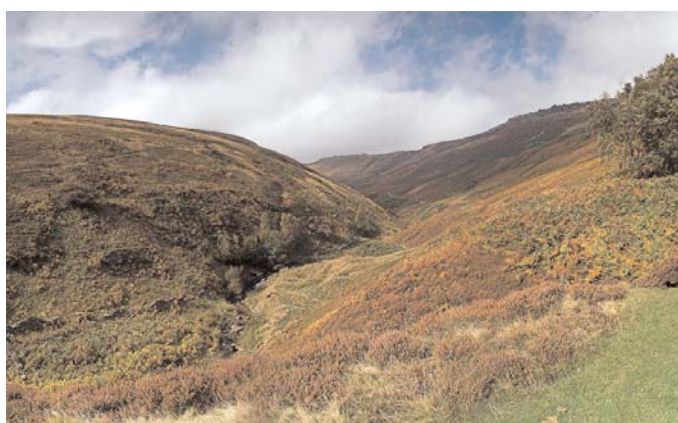
We are one of only two Suffolk schools and the only one in West Suffolk to have an **International Schools Award** and our work has a strong international dimension all year round.



■ This month saw the first leg of our 2009 German Exchange. The annual exchange is the **oldest state school link in the country** and over thirty students from years nine, ten and twelve went out to Bonn for nine days to stay with their host families from the Amos Comenius Gymnasium. The group enjoyed another excellent trip with our German partners who provided a range of unique experiences for us. **Well done to the students who participated and thank you to Mr Goodchild, Mrs Rossi, Mr Coleman and Miss Walls for accompanying the trip.**



■ February also sees us greet our Japanese visitors from Keio. Our links with Japan go back almost forty years and, again, are the strongest and **oldest of any state school in Britain**. Students from years ten and twelve hosted this year's group and the programme included the established residential at an outdoor centre in Edale. The visit was a huge success and we congratulate all the students. We thank **Mrs Browning** and **Mr Stewart** for accompanying the group.



POETRY DAY FOR SOME TOP ENGLISH STUDENTS

Our new DCSF status recognised that our existing provision for gifted and talented students is broad, deep and an integral part of our curricular and extra curricular programme. This month some of our top year eleven students benefited from the **"poetry live" conference in Cambridge**. As **Holly Rush** wrote: "The group listened to six of Britain's best poets including Simon Armitage and John Agard. It was an enjoyable day and the students learned about the thoughts and ideas behind the poems. The poet, John Agard, interacted particularly well with the audience and left everyone smiling!" **Mr Dean, Mrs Kennedy** and **Mr McWilliam** praised the group for their response to the day. Well done to them and thank you to the staff for arranging it.



Some of the participating students

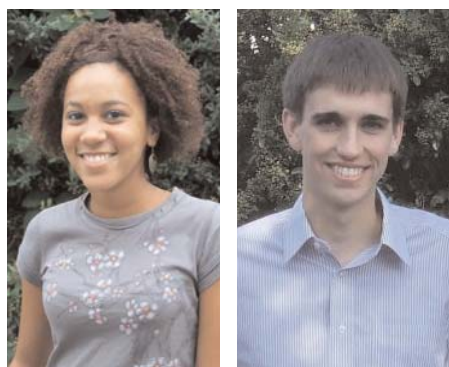


DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING ENJOY A SUCCESSFUL MONTH

So many of our activities contribute to us gaining the **Education Extra award at distinction level**, year on year, and again we were the first Suffolk school to receive it more than a decade ago. The hugely popular Debating and Public Speaking Society has featured strongly in our extra curricular programme throughout this time and thanks to **Mr Coleman, Mr Beales** and, especially, **Mr Dean** it is currently going from strength to strength. This month we congratulate:

education **EXTRA**

■ this year's Chairman of the Society, **Rain Beckles** and Head Boy, **Alex Whyte**, who have debated very successfully this month in both the East of England competitions making it through to the second round of the English Speaking Union competition and the Cambridge competition where they were runners up.



■ **Peter Newton, Isabel Tennant, Charlotte Thomas** and **Kate Welby** from year ten who formed our team for the regional round of the **University of Cambridge's International Competition for Young Debaters**. Only ten teams win through to the Finals Day in April and our team is to be congratulated on being the **only state school in the Eastern Counties** on reaching that finals day. Well done!



■ our public speaking team's for this year's **Rotary Club Western Area Upper Schools' Public Speaking competition**. The twelve schools can enter teams for both the year nine and the year twelve competition. Our year nine team of **Sam Harrison, Elizabeth Rose** and

Rebecca Swan won the competition and our year twelve team of **Laura Anders, Tom Mason** and **Adam Swan** were runners up to Thurston Community College in a very close competition. Well done to both teams.



PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY



We were the first Suffolk school to obtain the **"Investors in People"** award and we have been redesignated every three years, most recently in November 2008 with no points for action. We believe in investing in all the people in our community and encouraging them to give something back. There were lots of examples of both this month including the following:

■ we congratulate **Thomas Bedford-Carrick** in year nine for his work on behalf of **Serving In Mission in South Africa**.

Thomas gave a presentation to his middle school about the organisation and this month went back to **St Felix Middle School** to be presented with a cheque for the charity which was the result of the fund raising done after he had inspired the pupils there. Well done Thomas!



■ We have supported **Mr Tate**, our assistant headteacher, through the **National Professional Qualification for Headship** and congratulate him on having been awarded the qualification this month.



■ **Mr Bishop** was a student here and this year we have welcomed him back to complete his teacher training. This month it was confirmed that he will start as a full-time teacher here in September. It was also the month that he was selected to be the new **Captain of the Suffolk County Cricket First XI** as well as continuing to captain the Bury St Edmunds first team.



SKI-ING, CYCLING AND ARCHERY KEEP US FIT!



It is well known that physical exercise is essential to keep us healthy and so it is no surprise that our provision of sport and exercise was well scrutinised before we were re-awarded **Healthy Schools' Status** this month. February saw opportunities for students to exercise, have fun and enjoy new challenges in all the usual clubs but also in skiing, cycling and archery.

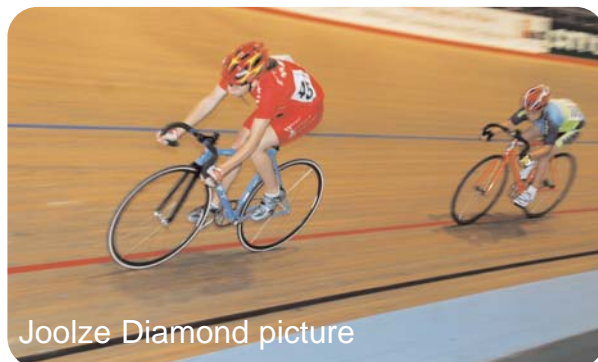
■ The annual ski trip

This trip takes students from years nine through to twelve skiing in a different resort each year. The 2009 trip saw over thirty students ski in Mittersall in Austria. All the students participated enthusiastically, making good progress and behaving as excellent ambassadors for our school. We thank **Ellie Blake, Katy Drummond** and **Johnny Williams** who, as the most senior students, helped the younger members of the party and acted as exemplary role models. We also thank **Miss Sharp, Mr Golding, Miss Lymburn, Mr Stewart** and **Mr Marshall** for giving up their half term to accompany the group.



■ Cycling with a British Coach

Alison Lilley the **Eastern Region Coach for British Cycling** is to work with just eight schools across the East of England and we are delighted to have been **selected as the only Suffolk school to participate in the programme**. Both in lesson time and after school, students ride bicycles provided by British Cycling and learn all the skills needed for **off road events, BMX and mountain biking competitions and time trials**. The programme is great fun, excellent for keeping fit and hugely popular. Thank you to **Miss Sharp** for working with Alison to provide this opportunity.



Joolze Diamond picture

■ Archery course hits the target!

Fifteen students from all years were selected for an after school archery course this month. The group has made fantastic progress, really enjoyed the training and kept fit. Thank you to **Miss Holton** for accompanying the group.



ANOTHER BUSY MONTH FOR SPORT



Even though we are awarded Sportsmark with flying colours each year, it is still amazing to reflect upon what our PE department offers week in and week out.

A number of fixtures and the East Anglian Cross Country competition were postponed because of the weather but we congratulate all those who took part in competitive sport as well as those who participated in the visit to an international netball match this month.

■ Indoor Cricket Final

Our girls indoor cricket team have progressed to the County final as the Bury St Edmunds School Sports Partnership Champions. Well done!

■ Sports Personalities of the Month

We congratulate those selected for February:

YEAR 9

Alex Cranix and Amy Drummond



Year 10

Sophie Baxter and Hendrik Koopmans



Netball

U19 Netball vs KEUS

Won 20-16

National Success

■ We congratulate **Leighanne Robe** in year ten who this month was **selected for the U17 training camp for the England Women's Football Squad**. Leighanne trained for six days at the **Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre** during half term. This is a huge achievement for any student but especially for one who is two years young for the squad. We are all very proud of Leighanne - well done!



■ **Alex Cranix** in year nine and **Lizzie Harrison** in year eleven were **two of three West Suffolk athletes** selected to compete at the **England Athletics Championships** in

the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham this month. **Alex** came **fourth** in the U15 boys' high jump and **Lizzie** came **fifth** in the U17 womens' high jump. Both are a year young and should be very pleased with their performances. County is proud of you both: well done!

■ After successful trips to Nottingham and Sheffield the **Bury Bombers Wheelchair Basketball Junior team** are currently sitting in second place in the National Junior League. Well done to: **Lauren Exell, Jordan Hughes, James Newton, Sam Pennell, Richard Trumpess** and **Samuel Walls**.

Suffolk Success

■ We congratulate **Charlotte Codling** in year ten who won a gold medal at the Suffolk County Gymnastics Championships and became the **Suffolk Senior Champion**.



■ We also congratulate **Andrew Kimpton** in year twelve who competed in the **Norfolk and Suffolk County Swimming Championships** and gained a regional qualification time for the East of England championships in the 800m freestyle event. Well done, Andrew!

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

We congratulate this month's recipients of Certificates of Merit:

Year 9

Chelsea Ardrey
Jennifer Barker
Thomas Bedford-Carrick
Kelly Betts
Ellis Blyth
Liam Borley
Harry Boulter
Sian Bradshaw
Samuel Brown
Esther Colman 2
Laura Couves
Katie Cross

Tameka Drayton
Lucy Emmerson
Lauren Farrell
Michaela Frost 4
Jessica Gaskell 2
Roisin Halls
Daniel Hawkins 2
Rhiann Hickman 2
Charlotte Hoggett
Chloe Holloway
Connor Honeybell 2
Jordan Hughes
Aaron Hull
Bradley Humphries

Eden Kirin
Poppi Knight
Matthew Last 2
Charlotte Leaman
Shaun Leeks
Oliver Leighton
George Lines
Courtney Mackie
Glenn Macloughlin 2
Abbie Mophew
Harry Alfred Palmer
Ceres Pap
Ryan Pettit
Harry Raven

Laura Rourke
Hannah Sainsbury 2
Alice Shelton
Fiona Smee 2
Camilla Stanton 2
Lauren Stephenson
Harry Stone
Minh Thu Saggars
Amber Vale
Rebecca Wagner
Ryan Wagner
Emma Winward

Year 10

Shannen Ainsworth
Roxanne Alcock
Sophie-Alice Baxter
Madeleine Blake
Alice Bowers 3
Glenn Brame

Roseann Brand
Ellis Broadwood-Smith
Jamie Buchan
Ty Chaplin
Hugh Cornish 2
Joseph Edis 2
Elizabeth Fearnley 2
Heather Ford
William Glass

Fredrik Koopmans 2
Hendrik Koopmans
Andrew Lines
Jordan Manning
William Nunn
Raegan Palmer
Joshua Pearson
James Poulton
Matthew Sharpe

Carla Smith
Megan Taylor
Nicole Trumpess
Scarlett Ward 2
Sadie Warren
Dannielle Williams 2
Joshua Wright

Year 11

James Brown
Matthew Buckle
Sean Cole
Emma Cowper
Jessica Cowper
Joshua Curry

Elizabeth Harrison
Yasmin Hempstead
Megan Howard
Vicky Lovick
Laura Nicol
John Parr
Elizabeth Pascoe
Adam Pearce

Nadia Roberttse
Helen Robinson
Jacob Stasiak
Holly Spampinato
Sam Warren

TUTOR GROUP SUCCESS

We congratulate this month's winners:

ATTENDANCE

Year 9: 9T
Year 10: 10L
Year 11: 11T

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Year 9: 9J
Year 10: 10P
Year 11: 11L

THE QUIZ

Year 9: 9O
Year 10: 10N
Year 11: 11K
Sixth form: 6DN/DU