The Accolade

The Monthly Celebratory Newsletter from County Upper School

Dear parents, students, staff and governors,

The last afternoon of last term will live long in the memory. As always the atmosphere throughout the whole school assembly was very special but never more so than when the amount raised by Charity 2013 was revealed and that fantastic figure of £14,718 took our total fundraising through the quarter of a million pound mark. It is that special atmosphere, the quality of the relationships, the phenomenal extra-curricular offering and, of course, the excellent teaching which are responsible for our superb results year-on-year. This was demonstrated yet again in the GCSE and

'A' level performance tables which were published this month and reflect, not dictate, the education we offer.

The new term is now well underway with an excellent start in the classroom and an impressive attitude from years eleven and thirteen throughout this month's examinations. Our rich extra-curricular programme has been up and running from day one of the term and auditions for 'South Pacific', this year's musical, are now complete. The Spanish and German Exchanges are underway and there is certainly no time for the 'January blues' here!









Computing and Engineering Success

County Upper wins Co Space

Co Space software has been developed by Singapore Polytechnic and allows robots autonomously to be programmed to perform a simulated rescue mission. Students programme their robots to use sensors to find and collect objects in the environment, avoiding traps, so as to deposit the objects where they are needed. We sent two year nine teams to the BT competition at Adastral Park where they finished first and third. They are now continuing to develop their computing skills in our weekly club ready for the UK Championships later this year. We congratulate Westley Middle School who represented the Academy Trust in the junior competition and also finished with two teams in the top three. Well done to our students: Maisy Allen, Alex Ames, Trevor Cheek, Rosa Dumont, Alex Fayers, Daniel Foulsham, Drew Gillespy, Samson Grice, Joshua Hayden, Eloise Keeble, Sarah Lawrence-Moye, Suzanne Lee, Georgia Mills, Harry Tully and Jessica Welton. We thank Dr Hughes and Mr Balaam for organising the day and running our club.



The Education Engineering team goes to Cambridge

The Christmas period is a busy one for our team as they use the time to make real progress with the practical part of their project. They visited Global Marine Systems Ltd to see their test site in Chelmsford before spending three days at Cambridge University's Engineering Centre with their staff and resources, engineers from the company and Miss Cleaver. The group did extremely well and are on course for the finals day at Easter. Well done to Gideon Blake, Sam Chittock, Thomas Fisher, Olivia Holmes, Jack Smith and Alex Walls and thank you to Miss Cleaver for leading this worthwhile scheme.



The Science Learning Partnership takes off

The Department for Education and the Wellcome Trust have funded a new approach to providing training for science teachers and technicians. Ten regional hubs have been chosen to work with the National Science Centre in York. Suffolk and Norfolk is one hub and The Academy Trust schools, led by County Upper, have been selected to lead it. The first two courses in an exciting programme were run this month and both were oversubscribed. We were priviliged to have Alison Redmore, Director of Science Learning East and Mark Bruhin, Regional Officer with us. It is testament to our tremendous reputation that we have been chosen and we congratulate our 4-19 science team, and especially Mrs Payne, on our selection. It will mean our students and all the pupils across the Trust will benefit from continued high quality teaching which will keep apace with all the national changes. They will also have access to all the modern equipment we are allowed to purchase to keep ahead. This month has also seen courses at our Computing at Schools hub and across Suffolk led by national master teacher, **Dr Hughes**, who we are fortunate to have as our Head of Computing, as well as all the ongoing training provided by our Teaching School Alliance.



The Science, Technology and Innovation Symposium

This prestigious event to celebrate **150 years of UK-Japan collaboration** in this field was held at the **Embassy** of Japan this month. We were delighted to be selected to participate in the day which saw







Professors from Japan lead sessions on creating a sustainable future with their counterparts from Imperial College, Northumbria University and University College London. This was the first forum held in Europe to be sponsored by the Ritsumeikan Academy, an all-through organisation on four sites in Japan. As the oldest state school to link with Japan, the senior school in our Trust and with a national reputation for science, we were privileged to participate. We congratulate Megan Boreham, Patrick Doherty and Tom Hubbard from year twelve who were excellent ambassadors for County Upper, the Academy Trust and the UK. We thank Mrs Browning for accompanying them

Language Exchanges

As the month ends, this year's **German Exchange party are in Bonn** and we will report on this in next month's edition. This month also saw the inward leg of our **Spanish Exchange** and we were delighted to welcome our guests from **Colegio Diocesano Cardenal Cisneros**. During the eight days, the students spent time in lessons with their partners, went to London and Cambridge and enjoyed a range of activities together sharing friendship, culture and language. **We congratulate all our students across years nine and ten** who acted as hosts, together with all those who welcomed our guests into their classes and clubs. We thank **Mr Goodchild** for arranging the exchange.





The Sixth Form Play



It is a school tradition that the sixth form chooses a play and produces it from start to finish. Students from both years twelve and thirteen come together entirely in their own time to rehearse under the direction of a fellow student. This year the sixth form chose **Luigi Pirandello's play, "Six Characters in Search of an Author"**, written and premiered in 1921. The comedy is without acts or scenes and the audience is involved in this play within a play from the minute they arrive.

We congratulate all those who took part:

Aidan Campbell, Harry Cowper, Edwina d'Almeida, Nathalie Fearnley, Chloe Fox, Louis Gooden, Ashley Hall, Beth Hall, Ashley Nayler, Zoe Parsons, Ella Price, Riona Snelling, Beth Soman, Jade Taylor, Eleanor Thomas and Ed Walker. We especially congratulate the producer, Seb Perez, and the director, Shannon-Marie Clerkin.





Our Patron of Reading's first Academy Trust day

World-wide storyteller and author, Patrick Ryan, ran his first day for our Trust schools this month. The day included an excellent training session for staff teaching across the 4-19 age range. Our sixth formers were trained to help younger pupils in the Trust schools with their reading and wider literacy skills. In the main sessions, one hundred and twenty pupils from the Trust schools enjoyed interactive workshops which developed their literacy skills in an imaginative presentation. Mr Ryan's renowned ability had all the pupils spellbound and included everything from fairy tales to Shakespeare. All those involved were fully engaged in the workshops and learned a lot whilst having fun and gaining confidence. Well done to all who took part and thank you to Ms Thomas and Mrs Loughton who arranged it.



More Debating Success

Commonly known as Oxford Schools, the Oxford Union Schools Debating Competition is the largest British Parliamentary schools-level debating competition in the world. We entered two teams into the regional round and both debated extremely well. Forty-four teams competed in the round, one of twelve held across the country, and we are delighted that Michael Bartram and Eleanor Thomas made the national finals day held at Oxford University in March. Well done to Michael, Eleanor, Will Burns and Paul Anders who represented us so well and thank you to Mr Coleman for preparing them.



The Sport Report for January

With over forty clubs each week, a full programme for the Academy Trust and fixtures from the very first day of term, our superb extra-curricular sporting offer goes on. Half term sees our annual ski trip and beginners have been having some dry skiing lessons this month. No wonder we have the Department for Education's PE Quality Mark with Distinction!

Sports Leaders in Action

This month some of our leaders ran the Western Area year seven and eight indoor athletics championships. We were pleased to host the two evenings and our leaders ensured the event ran smoothly as well as making excellent time keepers and scorers. We congratulate:

Ethan Bartholomew, Chloe Bentick, Beth Bradshaw, Toby Carr, Hannah Curwen, Holly Davies, Alba Saenz De Villaverde, Emily Fisher, Tom Ford, Katie Hopkins, Georgie Pailes, Ellie Martindale, Wesley Roper, Modupe Sobanwa, Tom Spetch, Katie Tilyard, Christy Williams and Jess Yallop.



The U16 Eastern Region Netball Finals

Once again our team made the regional finals and played extremely well in a full day of matches. They were placed fifth in the East. Very well done to the whole squad:

Molly Bedford, Ellie Brian, Chloe Cunningham,
Gabrielle Deora, Rosie Hudson, Charlotte Orriss,
Grace Stoten, Emily Thomas and Jenna Webb.

The Western Area Trampolining Competition

We were very pleased to host this year's competition which saw teams from across West Suffolk compete for



one of two places to progress to the Suffolk final. Judged on the difficulty and on the technical performance of their routine, the teams rose to the occasion. With four students per team, we entered our top two boys and top two girls and were pleased to finish as runners-up, thus qualifying for the county championships. Well done to: Alice Codling, Tom Ford, Zoe Hall and Wes Roper.

More Cross Country Success

This month saw some of our runners compete in the Suffolk round which leads to selection for the Anglian Schools competition. We congratulate Michael Bartram (1st), Holly Davies (4th), Mikayela Sealby (15th), Jacob Freeborough (20th), Nick Scott (21st), Joshus Hayden (31st) and Matthew Le Poidevin, who has a bye into the next round.

Basketballers' prestigious selection



With our Basketball Academy now training players across the age range, we are delighted that four students have been selected to attend the U15 Regional Performance Centre, the first step on the England Basketball National Team performance pathway. We congratulate Stanley Blinco, Joshua Orugboh-Kershaw, Nnaemka Uzor and Harry Wicks on their selection. Four from one academy is a remarkable achievement and we commend their commitment and thank Coach Johnson and Coach Beddow for all the support and training they provide.

Horse riders gain their certificates

Following a series of after school sessions, we congratulate the following who gained their **Certificate of Advanced Riding Skills** from Barrow Stables: **Molly Bedford, Ella Bullen, Lucy Dolton, Isabella Graves-Haylock, Molly Lay and Ryaan Rodgers**. We thank **Mrs Lay** for organising the event.

Our skiers are ready!

In preparation for our annual ski trip at half term, the beginners in the group have had a series of lessons at the Suffolk Dry Slope in Ipswich. We thank **Mr Marshall** for arranging this important pre-trip programme and congratulate all the participants who have done really well:

Pablo Angell
Hannah Cornish
Will Dixon
Tom Ford
Charlie Goodchild
Tom Gould
Joe Greenslade-Cross
James Hollings
Harry Hughes

Caitlin Jameson Melissa Kennedy Jacob Kersey Lydia Miranda Isabella Proctor Wesley Roper Bradley Sandry Will Selfe Christy Williams



The Academy Trust Basketball Club

As part of our well established weekly 4-19 sports programme, on Friday evenings we run a mixed basketball club for pupils under twelve. The sessions work on the players' fitness, basketball skills, team play and also include fun activities. On average, forty children take part each week and the sessions are run by Coach Beddow and our students who serve as basketball leaders. As they started their second term, the participants reflected on how well their skills are developing, their increased confidence and the new friends they have made. Well done to all who come and to our sports leaders. We thank them and Coach Beddow for giving up their Friday evenings.



The Academy Trust Netball Festival

This month saw all the weekly sessions continue across the Trust schools. One of the sports given a particular focus this half term was netball culminating in a festival here at the end of January. Well done to all the pupils who participated from **Horringer Court** and **Westley** and thank you to

our sports leaders who did an excellent job of running this event: Suzannah Brawn, Chloe Cuningham, Alba de Saenz Villaverde, Rosie Hudson, Ella Jackson, Lydia Miranda, Chloe Mitchell, Charlotte Orriss, Mikayela Sealby, Deanna Stephenson and Chloe White.



Academy Trust Cup Stacking

This month has also seen our Trust Sports Co-ordinator start a new club at Barrow. Cup stacking teaches and practices a number of skills and the children have had great fun progressing from three cups to twelve cups in no time!



Fixtures

Under 14 B Netball v Stowupland	Won 13-6
Under 16 B Netball v Stowupland	Drew 13-13
Under 14 A Netball v Mildenhall	Won 28-1
Under 15 A Netball v Mildenhall	Won 26-1
Under 14 A Netball v KEVIS	Won 22-13
Under 16 A Netball v St Benedict's	Won 31-3
Under 16 Girls' Hockey v Newmarket	Won 5-0
Under 16 Girls' Hockey v Sam Ward	Drew 0-0
Under 14 Girls' Hockey v Debenham	Drew 1-1

U16 Girls' Basketball v Kesgrave Won 68-22 U19 Girls' Basketball v Shoeburyness High School Won 47-36

Sports Personalities

Congratulations to this month's winners:

Year 9 Mikayela Sealby and Joshua Orugboh-Kershaw





Year 11
Alex Gardiner and
Filie Brian











The Duke of Edinburgh Presentation Evening

Exactly forty students completed their awards in time for our presentation evening. **Parents and students** enjoyed a video of some of the Duke of Edinburgh award activities and refreshments before certificates were presented. With **just over a hundred students** taking their qualification with us, it takes a **huge team of staff** to run it and the evening also allowed us to thank them. We congratulate:

Bronze Award

Jodie Ashman **Peter Barron** Skye Brook **Georgina Buttery Lucy Clark Chloe Cunningham Lucy Dalton** Isabella Graves-Haylock **Liam Halls Digby Hayden** Fiona Hills Rebecca Holmes Rosie Hudson **Dulcie Keeley** Gemma Kitchin Matthew Le Poidevin **Ruth Middlehurst Zoe Parsons** Jack Porter Joshua Reeder **Guy Rodwell Alex Slater Edward Spurling**

Silver Award

George Bishop-Apsey
Gideon Blake
Rowanne Bramwell
William Burns
Connor Foster-Brown
Christopher Fox
Damien Halls
Suzie Lane
Roderick Mansel
Ruth Newton
Rachele Ober
Ella Price
Edmund Walker
Ritchie Warren

Gold Award

Igraine Brook Robert Kimpton Philippa Strachan

Igraine, Robert and Philippa will be presented with their awards by a member of The Royal Family later this year.



The Silver Dof E Night Hike

Following last month's successful hike by our gold group in preparation for their expedition, the silver group undertook a night hike this month. **Nineteen students** split across two evenings undertook the navigation around Hardwick Heath. All did extremely well and we congratulate them all. We thank the four staff who made it possible.



Success for our Latin Beginners' Group

Five of our **year nine** students who began the course in September have passed their level four graded test set by the Cambridge Latin Course with 'flying colours'. Well done to: **Olivia Humphreys, Suzanne Lee, Rhiannon Steele, Jessica Welton and Lydia Williams**. Our before school groups continue for both beginners and those studying GCSE and we remain grateful to **Mr Hopkins** for running them.



The RS day in Cambridge

Four students from our year twelve 'A' level Religious Studies group attended a challenging and thought provoking Philosophy & Ethics conference at Cambridge University. They attended lectures on issues such as euthanasia, utilitarianism and life after death. They threw themselves into the discussions and made intelligent contributions to the various debates. Well done to Marcus Breeze, Chloe Fox, Maddie Goose and Lydia Marshall. We thank Mrs Kingston for arranging the day and accompanying the group.



Performing Arts' successes for individuals go on

■ We congratulate **Liam Halls** in year eleven who was in the chorus of 'Aladdin', this year's **pantomime at**

the Theatre Royal. In total, Liam did forty-two performances in December and January and was one of only four boys selected from over seventy young people. Well done, Liam, we are very proud of you.



■ We were pleased to learn of more success for our students in graded music examinations this week:

Ben Amroota Matthew Ashworth Evie Carter Daniel Foulsham Beth Soman Thomas Spalding violincello Grade 4 Merit
guitar Grade 1 Merit
violin Grade 4 Merit
piano Grade 4 Distinction
flute Grade 5 Distinction
bass guitar Grade 1 Merit













■ Laura Robinson's success in dance continued with her selection for the World Ballroom and Latin Championships in Paris. Laura was placed 18th in the world in the U19 youth championships and was the third placed from Great Britain. Well done, Laura on another fantastic achievement.



■ Our musicians undertook a large number of engagements in the town to support Christmas events. Here are just two of the letters of thanks.

Dear Mrs Davids

I just wanted to say a massive thank you for being part of a very special day in the Arc on Saturday. Everyone remarked how wonderful your students were. The standard of the music was incredibly high and the students were so personable.

It was a wonderful event to be part of and thanks to your fantastic efforts, we raised £850 for the Hospital's Beat It prostate cancer appeal.

In total around £2,000 was raised for four charities. A brilliant amount – so thank you all very, very much.

Kind regards and thanks again. Dave Gooderham

Dear Mrs Davids

I wanted to write and thank you hugely for allowing your lovely musicians to come here to perform on Sunday. The music was absolutely perfect and all of your students were a real credit to the school, as always. It makes such a big difference to our event to have live music and we were thrilled to be joined by such amazing standard musicians, thank you very much indeed. Both the string quartet and the jazz group were so well received by the guests at our Pantomime Gala and they look forward to seeing your musicians at the Theatre Royal each year for this event.

I hope you all have a very Happy New Year, and warmest thanks again.

All the best, Emma Suckling

Certificates of Merit

We congratulate the recipients for January

Year Nine

Maisy Allen William Allingham 2 Alex Ames Ben Amroota Eden Ashton Matthew Ashworth Toby Avis Harry Barker 3 Rebecca Belcher Max Bent-Marshall Molly Bonnett Sophie Brinkmann 3 Rhianna-Jo Burns Ellen Burrows 2 Evie Carter 2 Charlotte Casson 3 Trevor Cheek 2 Ebony Chilver Chloe Chopping Madeleine Clarke Laura Clements Christopher Cogan Kieran Coleman Jack Collins 2 Zak Cooke Benjamin Cooper Samuel Creed 2 George Cremen-Merrill David Csontos 2 Lauren Curry Olivia Dalton Joseph Daniels-Sitch Jake Davies 4 Skve Dawes Rosa Dumont 4 Alana Edgeworth Jack Emmerson 2

Year Ten

William Ashwell
Chloe Bentick
Bethan Bradshaw
Joseph Brown
Sophia Cassells
Connor Chapman
Neevie Clarke
Francesca Corley
Erin Cunningham 2
Angela Freeman

Matthew Exell Alexander Fayers 2 Daniel Foulsham 2 Connor Fox Oliver Froud Drew Gillespy 2 Jenny Grierson Elleigh Griggs 3 Charles Hall Joshua Hall Katherine Halliday 2 Samuel Hill 3 Curtis Hughes 2 Olivia Humphreys 2 Ella Jackson 2 Neda Jarasunaite 2 Charlie Jones 2 Megana Juceviciute 2 Eloise Keeble Lottie Kent Elliot Lambert Meghan Lark 2 Suzanne Lee 2 Jay Little 2 Sarah Lockyear Callum Mackie Joshua Macrow Megan Manfield 2 Jack McGaley 3 Katie Miller Katrina Miller 3 Georgia Mills Aidan Mott Chloe Noble Yasmin O'Farrell 2 Rhys Owen Rhys Palombo Benjamin Pamplin

Toby Gardiner
Michaela Gotts
Tom Gould
Abi Harrison
Briony Haselwood 2
Murrie Kybird
Chloe Le-Sage
Eleanor Martindale
Farrah Myers
Eric Navarette
Aaron Parnell

Chenise French

Lewis Powell Maya Price Francesca Priestley 2 Oliver Pyle 2 Ethan Radford Jamie Reid Oliver Riddick Kieran Rigby 2 Jake Robinson Hannah Robson Joshua Rogers-Webb Jacob Ross-Howden Zachary Rush 3 Thomas Scopes Nicholas Scott 2 Mikavela Sealby 4 Nicolas Searle Rebecca Severy 4 Cara Singleton 3 Bryony Smith 6 Ruby Smith 2 Emily Smith 2 Rhiannon Steele 2 Madeleine Swane 2 Jessica Tansley 2 Jasmine Tebbit 3 Harry Tully Jodie-Anne Underwood Paris-Rose Wade Thomas Waldock Ruby Wappett Harry Wicks 2 Ben Wilkinson 2 Erin Willans De Frias 2 Lydia Williams 2 **Daniel Young**

Sofie Parsons Stephen Perry Natasja Pinches Marcel Podpora 3 Elliot Potter Thomas Render Charlotte Rigby Isabella Scott Emma Smith Daniel Wallis 3 Imogen Watts Harriet Westley 3

Tutor Group Success

We congratulate this term's and this month's winners

Attendance Certificates of Merit Quiz

9 S 9 P 9 P/R 10 P 10 L 10 J 11 O 6 PN/HL

Year 11 have had their practice examinations so their Certificates of Merit resume next month.

THANK YOU COUNTY UPPER!

During the holiday, we were very pleased to receive a huge number of compliments for both our contribution to Christmas events in the town and, unsurprisingly, for Charity 2013.

Here are a few from the main charities we supported:

