



Debenham High School

A Church of England High Performing Specialist Academy



Debenham Parish Council AGM

It is my pleasure to provide my first report for the Debenham Parish Council AGM. My have thoroughly enjoyed my first few weeks At Debenham High School. The positive reputation of the school is much deserved and I have been given a very warm welcome by staff and students alike. My initial priorities have been to get to know people, within and beyond the school, building up relationships, which will lead to even greater success in the future.

I look forward to getting to know more of you in the coming months and years.

Julia Upton
25 May 2012

New Headteacher

The most significant change in the last twelve months has of course been the arrival of a new headteacher, Miss Upton. Mr Crawshaw retired after successfully leading the school over twenty-three years. The school wish him a restful retirement and in a number of events before Easter paid tribute to all he has given to the school and the local community.

Retirement

Mr Clear, Deputy Headteacher, retired at Easter after 28 years of service to the school. He started at the school as Head of Humanities and after promotion worked alongside Mr Crawshaw as Deputy Headteacher for many years. The school gave thanks to his many years of service and commitment to the school and the local community.

Building work

We have now completed the three building projects that were started over a year ago at school. The extension to the dining room almost doubles the space and gives us the opportunity to create a more flexible environment for eating and other events. We have been the victim of our own success since we took on our own catering, rather than outsourcing this to a company, and the high volume of students eating school meals has made the dining room popular, yet rather crowded at times. The extension allows us to work on improving our already impressive, 60%+, uptake on school meals. The new high-specification and purpose-built Science laboratory and extra classroom will allow us to ensure that all lessons are taught in specialist classroom.

Photovoltaic cells and lighting

Our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint continues with both solar panels and energy efficient lighting throughout the school now complete. We can see how much energy we are creating through the panels and the new lighting will help to reduce our energy bills.



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Sad news

Miss Upton attended the funeral of Kay Hollifield. Kay was the widow of former Headteacher of Debenham High School, Arthur Hollified. Kay sadly passed away in April. She had remained a strong supporter of the school, attending our commemorative assemblies and sports days every year and was always interested in the current life of the school. Our sympathy and prayers are very much with her family and close friends.

Primary links

We continue to strengthen our links with our primary schools through partnership working. Creeping St Mary Primary School have now joined our pyramid as they restructure to the two tier system. Recent projects include, a Year 5 Science Day at Debenham High School, a debating challenge for the “task tacklers” group at Debenham High School, purchase of equipment for all the schools, a jubilee collaborative poster – to be created by a student at DHS and then produced to display in all the schools. From September the High School will be increasing its support of Mathematics and Languages with our primaries through staffing across the schools. Whilst this project is only in its infancy it demonstrates our commitment to working together for the benefit of the young people in our community.

Friends of Debenham High School

The Friends meet every term and have an active programme of events in support of the school. I was delighted to attend their meeting this term and hear of all they have planned. If you would like to get involved in their activities, either regularly, or as a one off, then please email Les Wright at les.wright@btinternet.com

Events planned for next year include: Pamper evening, Christmas Fair, Year 11 Prom Fashion Show, Quiz night and a Murder Mystery evening.

Extra-curricular activities

We continue to place importance on involvement in activities outside the classroom, as well as academic success in the classroom. The breadth of activities on offer at DHS is impressive. Here are a few highlights from just the five weeks since my arrival:

- Year 10 Art workshop, inspired by landscape works by artists such as David Hockney
- Year 9 French Exchange return visit (students hosted their exchange partners for a week)
- Three Year 10/11 boys competing in the National Karting Championships
- Year 7-11 students competing in numerous events and fundraising for new kit as the equestrian team
- Year 7-9 wheelchair basketball activity
- Year 10 solo music recital
- Year 7 & 8 house hockey competitions
- Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition on the Suffolk coast



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- Year 10 sports leaders taking a lead in the Primary Olympic festivals
- Year 7 trip to Sizewell Hall
- Year 9 and 10 Health awareness workshops
- Our equestrian team qualified for the National Inter-schools finals
- Our Year 10 archery team won the High Suffolk SSP Under 18 archery competition held at Stradbroke.
- Frank Bright, holocaust survivor, talked about Nazi Germany and his experiences to Year 9 students, who have been studying this in History.
- Numerous music students who passed the ABRSM grades taken over the Easter holidays.