

The Smithdonian



The Christmas 2024 Issue

WELCOME

Smithdon Head teacher



Welcome to this jam-packed edition of The Smithdonian.

This term has seen a fantastic array of events across all subjects - from the Trust and Rotary Youth Speaks and DT competitions, and the various PE tournaments producing an array of winning and runner up teams to the Performing Arts shows and creative writing events.

The students continue to make me so proud of their talents and their confidence in getting involved in so many co-curricular activities as well as the progress they are making in lessons. The Smithdon Way is alive and kicking every day in all that we do.

I hope you all have a lovely festive holiday and a fantastic New Year.

Mrs Gibbins

Smithdon Head students



Hello and merry Christmas from Smithdon high school. My name is Ethan and I am the current head boy at Smithdon - and gosh we have almost been as busy as Santa and his elves! We have had Christmas concerts, school musicals, games in assembly, Hunstanton light switch on, which some of the cast of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang performed in. These are just a few activities Smithdon has taken part in, and there's so much more going on throughout the school - so why not get involved in Smithdon High School's warm and welcoming family?

Whether you're looking to join our school or already are enrolling, throughout the entire year Smithdon High School has something for everyone. For example, the library has competitions where you write a ghost story or murder mysteries where the winner gets an awesome prize. There are clubs almost every night in the PE and Performing Arts departments and more besides.

Without a doubt, Smithdon High School can get you where you want to be in the future. For example, after high school I would like to go into the performing arts industry, where hopefully I will get the correct qualifications to go on and become a performer in London's West End, and the staff here at Smithdon have helped and more than guided me with information to help me get to where I want to be in the future. I'm sure they can do the same with you. They have built my confidence by encouraging me to perform in the school musicals, where I have obtained the lead role multiple times. This has helped me see the world of stage and live theatre.

Having done the school musicals my confidence was very strong, I then successfully auditioned to be in a professional pantomime company and am now performing with sold out shows almost every day. This is all thanks to the staff at Smithdon; their encouragement and support

has made me get jobs that I wouldn't have got a couple of years ago.

As a Year 11 it means this is my last year at Smithdon and I'm glad I get to share my journey with the public and hopefully to the new students of Smithdon, as I can guarantee a great schooling life for you and your child. Thank you for reading and have a great Christmas.

Hello, my name is Hope and I am Smithdon's current head girl. I aspired to become a head student as Smithdon has played a significant role in moulding me into the person I am today. I took this opportunity wholeheartedly to reciprocate what Smithdon did for me and help make a positive difference to my peers around me.

Reflecting on my journey as head student so far I have been given so many incredible opportunities and experiences. One instance was when I was given the privilege to lay a wreath at Hunstanton cenotaph. This was such an honour and great responsibility, it was such a beautiful tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for others. I participated in a photo-shoot for 'Hello Yellow Day' to promote awareness and support the charity Young Minds. So far, I have also been fortunate enough to have numerous opportunities to improve my public speaking. This has been so beneficial for me as it's a way to push myself out of my comfort zone and has helped me grow as a person.

Next year is quickly approaching, and it's hard to believe that my journey at Smithdon is coming to an end. But as I look ahead to my next steps eager to see what 2025 holds, I hope to continue my education by studying A-levels. I aspire to pursue a career in medicine or psychology, as I am driven by a passion for helping others and I can't imagine a more fulfilling career.

SMITHDON IN THE NEWS

Smithdon students travel the world!

Our students had the chance to explore the world from their classrooms when we celebrated this year's *European Day of Languages*. All year groups took part in the event, which has been staged annually since its launch at the end of 2001, to mark the close of the European Year of Languages.

"The European Day of Languages is jointly organised by the Council of Europe and the European Commission and is always celebrated on September 26," explained Mrs Hawkins, WNAT Lead for Modern Foreign Languages. "Smithdon had celebrated the event prior to this, but this year had the widest range of activities available for students to be involved in, celebrating languages across the world."

The school's themed activities were organised by Modern Foreign Languages teacher Miss Collard. "Throughout the week, students were greeted at classroom doors with Instagram-style 'posts' introducing them to famous landmarks and places around the world, and had the opportunity to take part in a scavenger hunt through the week, as they moved around the school, naming countries in the 'posts' and the languages spoken there. We had a form-time quiz for all pupils to take part in, and teachers wrote the dates in different languages at the start of their lessons on the day. We celebrated staff who speak another language, either as their home language, or as a second language they have learnt themselves."

As well as language-learning, the day promotes linguistic and cultural diversity, with events taking place across Europe. The five-day celebration at Smithdon also included an assembly, which set the tone for the week.

"We presented a whole-school assembly on the importance of learning a foreign language, and how it can help you in your future, both linguistically and culturally. We think it is very important not just to learn languages in the classroom, but to appreciate their impact in the wider world too. These events give us an opportunity to celebrate diversity and culture, and to celebrate how empowering the learning of a second – or third or fourth – language can be. Students sometimes learn more about their teachers too, and can appreciate their efforts in learning other languages themselves."

Article taken from Town and Around



Welcome Year 7!

Every September we look forward to welcoming the new Year 7 cohort. We really enjoy meeting our new students, all the new characters and personalities, finding new talents and supporting those that need a little extra encouragement. We understand how nerve-wracking it can be to be the youngest students in the school, having to navigate unfamiliar buildings, room numbers and new rules and timetables. The transition from middle to high school can be challenging but the staff (and older students) have been there for them every step of the way.

They have all settled in very well: joining in clubs, making new friends and becoming an integral part of the school community. We have watched them thrive in lessons, build great new friendships and take part in the Christmas performances. It was interesting talking to a few of them recently to see how their Smithdon experience has been so far. The food and new friendships seemed to be the recurring positives - especially the pizza!

High school is very different to primary school as we have to walk to different classrooms rather than sit in the same place all day. I do prefer to go to the different lessons and have a little walk between each class. I have new friends called Fletcher and May, they are really nice. I love the sausage rolls - they are my favourite!

I struggle a little bit with English class as I can get overwhelmed when asked a question but I really enjoy PE when we go into the fitness suite and use the equipment. I also like maths as I like my teacher, Mr Johnson and I like trigonometry.

By Abigale

The best bit about starting Smithdon has been the new friends I have made. Lionel, Abi and Blake are all really nice. Eden has been teaching me coding in the library and I am making some really cool games.

I have enjoyed Science as we have been using microscopes and I like Drama as I get to act and control the lighting.

The food is great! Chicken Nugget Friday is my favourite but I also like the lasagne, Roast dinners and Brownies! Yum!

By Fletcher

The Pizza at break-time is my ultimate favourite! It really hits the spot and gives me the energy for the rest of the day.

ICT is my favourite lesson as it is so much fun. At the moment we are learning about online safety and cyber bullying.

I have made a lot of new friends that I never knew before which is great.

The only bad thing is that I have now sprained my ankle twice in school - one of them when I was going up to collect my rewards badge in assembly!

By Jorgie

I have enjoyed most of my lessons, but especially, English and ICT. Cooking has been fun as we have made flapjacks and pizza toast and both were quite easy to make and were delicious! I have also enjoyed Drama as I didn't do this in Middle School and it is cool to try a new subject. I also hadn't done French before and this has been an enjoyable challenge for me. I really like learning new things. I have been learning coding in the library at break-times and I have created some really fun characters for my games.

I have been going to the after school club, Dungeons and Dragons. I had only played it once before at home but now play it regularly with my brother and Dad as I like it so much. It has also helped me to make new friends from other year groups.

I usually hang out in the school library during break and lunch time, I have friends in there and I create my comics and characters for them to read. I really enjoyed writing my Halloween story for the spooky story-time. Year 7 has been fun and challenging and I have settled into Smithdon well.

By Eden

A Star is Born!

Young drummer Harry in Year 8, has wowed audiences for the second time after being invited up on stage to perform with a rock band!

Harry, one of our talented students, received a second standing ovation after drumming in front of a crowd of hundreds at Lynn's Alive Corn Exchange.

The band behind the *Rock For Heroes* show reached out to Harry's family after he gave an impressive performance at their gig in October last year.

At the time, his dad Paul described it as the "performance of a lifetime", with Harry saying it was a "dream come true to play with a top rock band to a full house".

With Rock For Heroes bringing their show back to Lynn this year, the band got in touch with Harry's parents asking if he could attend as they would give him the chance to do a drum solo. While Harry was always due to watch the show with his family in September, he was not aware that the band would invite him to perform with them again.

"It came as a complete surprise," Paul said. "The leader of the band remembered him from last year - he had a lovely conversation with him."

During the show, front-man Phil Hawkins invited Harry onto the stage and asked him to start playing a beat, with the band soon performing Stevie Wonder's 'Superstition' with him - a song Harry himself did not actually know.

Afterwards, Phil praised Harry's ability and encouraged the audience to give him a standing ovation - saying he deserved it "even more" than last year due to how much he had improved.

"Harry was absolutely elated," Paul said. "I can't get my head around the fact that of all the gigs they do, they remember him from last year. We said last year that it's a chance of a lifetime, and for Phil to say he deserved the standing ovation last time but deserved it even more this time because of how much he had improved was amazing."

He added: "Harry loves performing and to be able to perform at that sort of venue with musicians of that calibre was amazing. It was a wonderful evening and the following day was his first day back at school."

Paul said the support for Harry's musical abilities at Smithdon was "amazing" - where Harry is in the same class with two friends he is in a band with.

The rock band -The Unknown - formed when they attended Hunstanton Primary School and have performed at a number of local events, including the recent 200th anniversary celebrations of the RNLI in Hunstanton.

"They absolutely brought the house down," Paul added. "I always say whenever I watch them play that they may be The Unknown but not for long."

Harry started playing drums around three years ago and also is a vocalist for The Unknown, while he sometimes plays the guitar too.

Asked whether we can expect to see his son perform with Rock For Heroes again in the future, Paul said, "They have already said to Harry whenever we perform in this area, we want you on stage with us. I'm absolutely proud of him, totally and utterly. He's just shown this amazing musical talent. To see him perform live anywhere is a privilege to me. To see him perform at a venue like that - these are experiences he will never ever forget."

Congratulations Harry! As ever, we at Smithdon are immensely proud of you and we watch your successes with delight and respect. **Article taken from Lynn News**



GEOGRAPHY



On Wednesday 9 October, Year 10 Geographers embarked on a day-trip to Norwich to carry out their fieldwork. This is an important component of their GCSE studies. Throughout the day, the students diligently gathered a variety of primary data, including pedestrian surveys, traffic counts, and environmental quality assessments. A local police officer, intrigued by our students' work, agreed to complete a questionnaire, and then kindly posed for a few photographs (no arrests were made!). We were thoroughly impressed by the enthusiasm and maturity with which our students approached their work. Their exemplary conduct throughout the day was a credit to the school - **Mr Yeoman**

The Halloween Spooky Story-time

Last year, we held our first Halloween story-time event which was so terrifyingly fun that we decided to make it an annual tradition. This year, we had many more students eager to create their own scary, spooky or horror-filled stories to read aloud!

They spent a couple of weeks writing and editing, either in Ms Faulkner's Creative Writing Club or on their own. Once again, we had a camp-fire to sit around and creepy cupcakes to enjoy.

We were visited by ghosts and bloody-twins that brought gore, nightmares and thrills! The Zombie Grand Prix driver was a great twist on the horror genre!

Chapter 3 of Lily-May's "The Ghosts of Manic Manor" did not disappoint with plenty of blood and murderous ghosts!

We love listening to their stories and we are so proud that they have the confidence to stand up in front of their peers and friends to read their own words.

We hope you enjoy reading a small selection of their fabulous stories - just make sure the lights are on!



The rocking chair had not experienced the warmth of human interaction for seemingly forever, yet the creak in its repetitive, perpetual motion had been echoing throughout the Manor for eternity. The cold, lifeless spirit sat motionless, fixated on nothing but the misty, frigid air. Its eyes were nothing but black holes and their hands emaciated. Its disembodied face was still. Although slightly twitching. There, in that chair, it rests to this day, rocking. Just rocking. In the rocking chair...

By Emily, Year 7



It was a chilling cold winter morning. I was awoken by the sound of whistling in the far distance. Through the misty window and the oscillating pine trees, it was almost as if I could see a man crawling. I limped my way to the kitchen to make myself a coffee. As I picked up my hot beverage, I heard tapping on the window. I thought that I was hearing things because I was tired. As I plodded up the stairs I could have sworn that I saw a figure - cut open just above the abdomen with intestines spilling out beneath its cold blue hands. My face turned pale...filled to the brim with terror. I ran, grabbed the car keys and slammed against the front door, struggling to get it open. After a while it opened and I got into my car and drove away. As I headed to the motorway, I noticed that there were no other cars on the road even though the time was 7am. I drove through the fog and past the trees and then my car came to a stop. My heart sank, I was stranded. In the middle of nowhere. Lost. As I looked in my rear view mirror, I saw a man. He looked hurt. I opened my door to go and help him but once I stepped outside the car he was nowhere to be seen. That is when I felt it. Its cold breath upon my neck. It grabbed me tightly as I tried to fight it off. I was dead. I have been for some time now...

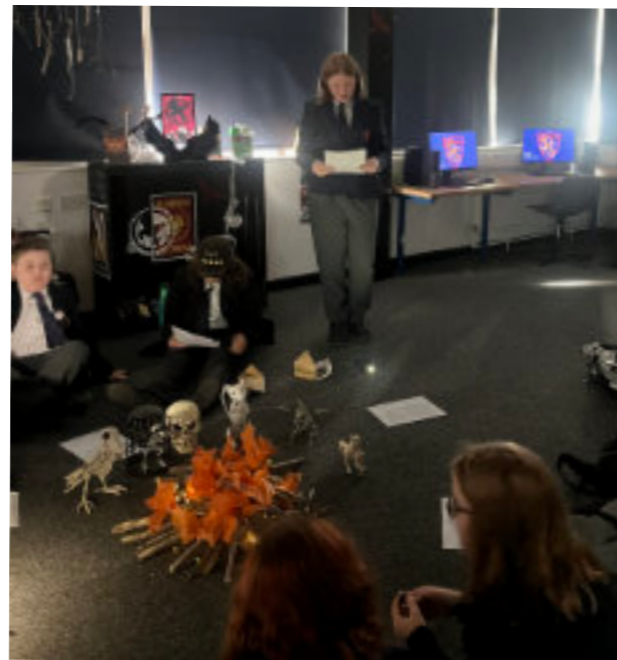
By Kaid, Year 10



One for sorrow
 Two for joy
 Three for a girl
 Four for a boy
 Five for silver
 Six for gold
 Seven for a secret never to be told
 Eight for a tale the stars have spun
 Nine for a gate that can't be undone
 Ten for a river of forgotten lore
 Eleven for a key to the spectral door
 Twelve for a mirror that reflects the night
 Thirteen for a beast that lives in spite
 Fourteen for a realm beyond our reach
 Fifteen for a speech no tongue can teach
 Sixteen for a dream trapped in stone
 Seventeen for the old gods hollow moan
 Eighteen for the abyss that gazes back
 Nineteen for the cosmic formless wrack
 Twenty for a little lambs final verse
 in a universe where shadows converse
 The end of the rhyme
 the start of the dread
 Where not a single word is said
 Don't believe what you see.



In the darkened school library, zombies, ghosts and murderers roamed free. Around the camp-fire, the students listened intently to every creak of the heavy library door and every whispered word that sent chills down their spines - despite the warm glow.



By Bethany, Year 8

The Bloody Twins

In a town that wasn't that big at all but with something always going on, more and more people were going missing by the day. The police had not found out who had been taking the innocent lives. Whoever it was, they were ruthless, violent, heartless monsters. Every single time a crime happened, the blood moon always rose. Every. Single. Night.

There was a new family in town. They were innocent until one of their daughters, Emily, fell asleep one night. She felt different, as if she had been knocked out cold. A few hours later, she awoke in a cell that seemed abandoned, rotting and damaged. Emily tried to get up until she realised that she was chained to the ground. That's when she heard a voice loudly say, "BROTHER! BROTHER! Our prayer has awoken...when can we feast on this... thing?". The voice was loud and booming and sounded hungry. The other voice calmly spoke, "Wait brother, why feast on them now when we can wait?". The twin brothers looked at Emily before taking out a knife, dripping with blood. The calm brother named Harvest approached her and asked "you wouldn't mind if I kill you slowly and painfully, would you?"

The twins smirked at each other before they lunged at Emily, ripping her to bits. She screamed and that was her final ever sound.

By Emily, Year 8

The Ghosts of Manic Manor - Chapter 3

You wake with a quick cold start, shaking and colder than normal. You feel all the guilt of all the years of rotting rage filling your cold dead body, once again. You walk the empty cold halls of The Manor looking for a new victim to damn for all eternity.

Meanwhile, at midnight, five unwitting teenagers break in to explore The Manor and this would lead to their demise, a grand fatal mistake. They set up camp in the ballroom, one of the best rooms for terrifying victims as you can watch over them from the shadows. One of them leaves the room alone to explore, vulnerable and perfect for the kill.

You follow her, staying out of sight and waiting for the perfect time to attack her. The girl is alone, and scared, ready to be damned. The walls transform into mirrors surrounding her in endless reflections, driving her mad until an axe parts her head from her body. Her body slumps to the ground, covered in fresh, red blood.

By Lily-May, Year 9



Ethan, Mrs Robinson and Hope represented Smithdon at the Hunstanton Cenotaph.



Smithdon Remembers

Remembrance Day is an opportunity for the nation to unite, remember and pay tribute to those who have died in wars around the world since WW1.

At school, we take this opportunity to show our respect. Mrs Gibbins led a Remembrance assembly, where a minute silence was held. We also held a minute's silence at 11am along with the whole country. The students involved in Cadets and Scouts were invited to wear their uniforms for the day and they all looked really smart and dignified.

Mrs Robinson, along with Ethan and Hope, our Year 11 Head Students, attended the Remembrance service at the Hunstanton Cenotaph, representing the school community proudly.

"They walked with the parade through the town, attended the service at the Cenotaph, and laid a wreath on behalf of Smithdon High School for all those former students who had died in the wars. It is a huge reflection of British Values and the Smithdon Seven Statements – remembering all those who have fought and died for our country, supported the armed services in terrorist and other incidents, all placing others' lives and security ahead of their own." said Mrs Gibbins

Ethan and Hope also visited the form rooms in the mornings selling poppies, badges and wrist bands which raised £73 for The Royal British Legion - the country's largest Armed Forces charity which supports serving and ex-service personnel.

Leading up to Remembrance Day, Ms Faulkner's creative writing group spent some time working on The Young Writers poetry Competition, *Lest we Forget*. It was also opened up to her Year 8 English class who enjoyed writing their own acrostic poetry. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we did.

Trenches

The fearless soldiers wait in the trenches for the war to begin

Remembering that they could die anytime soon

Eagerly waiting for the war to start to get it over and done with

Never forget the ones who have passed

Cover to protect

Hold memories of loved ones in your heart

Enjoy when you can

Starvation occurring every day

By Chloe



Soldiers

Screams heard from afar

Over the fields

Lie soldiers

Dying in agony

In the trenches

Everyone cries

Remembering the soldiers who have died

Sadness brings tears to our eyes

By May

Remember

Remember your loved ones

Everybody fought for us

Many lives were lost

Every soldier we shall remember

Many guns fired at war

Bullets through bodies

Everybody fought at such a young age for our future

Remember them all

By Connie

Remember

Remember your loved ones

Everybody who fought for us

Many lives were lost

Every body saved lives

Many guns fired in war

Bullets through bodies

Everybody fought at such a young age

Remember those who fought for us

By Ella



Remember Them

They won us the battle

Risking their lives

Living in terrible trenches

Some with protection as little as knives

Remember

Remember remember the people who fought

Even though they may be gone

Make them alive in your heart

Everyone is in it together

Memories flood my heart

Beginning to the

End

Remember

By Sienna

Colonels to soldiers, both important

Every letter written goes to the heart

Just think of the smiles they will receive

So sad to see them part

Now this poem ends

With a little note

Remember them

And every word I wrote

By Isabel

Remembrance

Remember the soldiers that fought in the war

Expect the times when the war happened

Memory

Every soldier never came back as the same

Memorise memories with your family

Believe they are in a better place

Each of the soldiers that died are always watching over you

Remember to never forget they sacrificed themselves for you

Always remember them

Never forget them

Continue to live your life

Every soldier lived his life to the fullest

By Abi



Soldier

Silence to remember the fallen

Orders from the sergeant

Leaving their faith behind

Dead bodies fill the land

Imagine being safe right now

Empathy fills their families hearts

Ripped and ruined uniforms

By Izabella

Soldiers

Screams heard from the field

Over the hill

Lay lifeless soldiers

Dying in agony

Infinite lives lost

Entering a dangerous battle zone

Realisation on their faces

Sadness in their hearts

By Leo and Nathan

CSI:

Murder Investigation



The latest KS3 Science Event was held on Wednesday 20 November with the theme of CSI - can you solve the murder?

The students all had a brilliant time! They investigated the stomach contents of the victim and completed food tests on the contents!

Finding and identifying a bloody footprint, looking for and identifying fingerprints and looking for blood splatters was also part of the investigation.

The budding CSI operatives all donned their aprons, shoe covers and gloves to scour the crime scene. They really were amazing!

At the end of the evening there were several suspects put forward - and then a huge cheer when the murderer was announced...

It was Romesh Clark who had brutally murdered Clarissa Morgan!

Look out for the date of the next KS3 event with posters in the New Year! - **Mrs Pike**

Hospitality and Catering

By Illana, Year 10



The Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students have begun their GCSE course with all things PASTRY! An important part of cooking in sweet and savoury dishes.

This term we have tried a mixture of sweet and savoury recipes and have learnt different types of pastry - from scratch. During the first lesson we made the pastry and stored it in the fridge. In the next lesson, we rolled the pastry out and made the filling to finish the dish. The types of pastry we have learnt to make is shortcrust and puff pastry.

The savoury dishes we have made include ham and cheese quiche and sausage rolls. The sweet dishes were lemon meringue pie which my mum loved! Piping the meringue is a high skill technique and it was fun making swirls and patterns with the piping. A great tip we learnt was to add a pinch of salt to the meringue to make it stable when we whisked it. We tested it by turning it upside down which made me nervous. I preferred the cinnamon swirls as they were delicious and I didn't think I even liked cinnamon.

I chose this GCSE course as I love cooking at home and would like to cook as my future career. I would like to become a head chef and possibly have my own business. I like baking mostly so I could potentially have my own bakery after going to college to further my studying or hopefully find an apprenticeship.

Next term we are focusing on chicken, and the different types of dishes. I have a lot experience with cooking chicken and I am very good with the health and safety aspect of cooking with chicken so I am looking forward to this, especially making a curry!

Golden Ticket Rewards

The *Golden Ticket Rewards* events took place for the first time this academic year with the aroma of hot chocolate and warm pastries filling the library. Just like Charlie in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, who was desperate to be a winner of that shiny ticket that promised a sweet prize, our students worked hard to gain enough points and a 100% attendance record to win an invitation to the celebratory morning.

The chosen students spent form-time with their pastoral managers having a relaxed breakfast and chatting with their friends. Mr Ward also visited to congratulate them and sneak a pastry!

We will be running these rewards regularly through the year so if you haven't had the chance to win this term, work hard and you could be in with a chance of winning!



It was a privilege to reward 15 students in Year 10 and 11 with 100% attendance and top achievement points with a 'golden ticket' to enjoy a celebratory breakfast of hot chocolate and all the trimmings, along with chocolate pastries. It is a lovely way to end the half term, celebrating their success - **Miss Green**

We rewarded 15 Year 9 students all with 100% attendance and the highest achievement points as well. We all met in the library for chocolate pastries, hot chocolate and a nice chat. It's so important to celebrate the positives the students achieve as well as dealing with behaviour as it gives them, and us staff, a positive boost at the end of the year and shows the students that we do see and acknowledge their achievements - **Ms Bucke**

We had 15 Year 7 and 8 students on different days to celebrate their progress at Smithdon.

They all had 100% attendance, but we didn't just choose the highest reward points. We handpicked the students with the help of the form tutors, to include the students that go above and beyond out of the classroom as well as within the classroom - showing the Smithdon Way.

We had hot chocolate with marshmallows, orange juice and chocolate twists. We chatted and played games, including discussing how they would like our next "Golden Ticket" celebration to look - **Mrs Collins**

As a school, we have shown our support for the anti-racism initiative, *Show Racism the Red Card*, for a few years now. The cause was launched in 1996 when the then Newcastle United goalkeeper, Shaka Hislop, became involved with an anti-racism charity in Newcastle. The charity has gone from strength to strength and now promote art competitions, Black History Month Events, Islamophobia Awareness Month and educate the Football community for the next generation of fans to become active allies.

Mr Ward, our assistant head said, "All students were invited to be involved from each year group by wearing red to raise awareness of the importance to stand up against racism in society. Students were asked to wear their red PE T-shirts for the day in support of the charity. We have an equality pledge at school to which our students can sign up to be a part of and wear their badges with pride."

Mr Ward also led a whole-school assembly ahead of the event. On the day itself, the students took part in a range of activities linked to combating racism in society. The day raised £96!

"We need to listen. We need to learn. We need to speak up. We will not be silenced. Together our voices are stronger."



Charity Days



In October we celebrated *Hello Yellow Day!* An otherwise grey Autumn day was brightened with all shades of yellow in support of Young Minds, which raises awareness of mental health issues in young people. The students and staff were invited to adorn clothing or accessories in yellow. We were able to donate £1 each to the cause, and activities were held across the day which helped us to raise £95.

Ms Bucke, one of our lovely pastoral support managers organised the event and said, "there were lots of activities the school took part in – an assembly about Young Minds and mental health, lesson starters

to promote positive mental health for tutor time and for each lesson and a photo booth during lunchtime."

This event has become a regular fixture on our calendar as we are aware of how important it is for our youngsters to have good mental health and support for when their mental health is struggling.

"We have taken part in Hello Yellow every year for at least three years and before the lockdown," Ms Bucke added.

"It's a really fun day, with the 'yellow' bringing a smile to everyone's face. These events are so important for the students to raise vital funds for Hello Yellow, should they ever need support from them, and to show children and young people they are not alone with their mental health."

Smithdon holds a Fundraiser!

By Nadia, Year 11

As a school community, we are proud to be able to support various charity awareness days. The annual Macmillan Coffee Morning is a day we have hosted for five years. The ASDAN students have been involved since the very first coffee morning. They are always eager to help and it also helps towards their award credits.

Every year, along with their teacher, Miss Brown, they spend weeks planning, discussing, organising, designing and baking. It always begins with a discussion on the importance of the coffee morning, what it is raising funds for and how the money can help a cancer patient. Of course, Macmillan are raising funds all year long to help those affected by cancer. We have all known somebody that has struggled with the disease and if you would like to find out more about the charity or how you can be involved in raising funds, please contact:

[Macmillan.org.uk](https://www.macmillan.org.uk)

contact@macmillan.org.uk

On Thursday 26 September, The ASDAN students at Smithdon held a fundraiser to raise money for *Macmillan Cancer Support*. The three different ASDAN groups worked together along with staff and their family and friends to run the coffee morning. Many got involved: staff and students provided the cakes that they had either made themselves or bought ready-made. There had already been a 'cake survey', which helped us to decide what types of cake the customers would prefer and to work out how many cakes we needed so that we wouldn't run out - we wanted to raise as much as we could!



What we did...

As a group, we worked together to improve our teamwork skills. This took a lot of planning. We worked out who did which task and we helped each other out when needed. On the day of the coffee morning, we used our communication skills to help the people who wanted to donate and buy a cake. We also used our communication skills to make the event work. We did this by sending emails, making posters and inviting members of staff. While running this event we had an amazing outcome. We raised a total of £232 which we were very pleased with!

Did You Know?

ASDAN is an alternative GCSE course that helps students develop life skills that will be needed in their future. Whether this be for future career choices or independent living. ASDAN uses relevant and motivating courses to encourage the individuals to continue achieving and developing new skills or improving on their current ones. Miss Brown and Miss Victoria are our wonderful teachers and they helped us to organise the fundraiser.



Miss Brown said, "Cakes were provided by staff, students and family members. We were blown away by how generous everyone had been. We can not thank everyone enough. We don't know how many attended the event, but we only had a few cakes remaining at the end of our lunch session, so we see that as a huge success. All staff and students did a phenomenal job running the event. It is important for students to understand how to put on an event and to be able to focus on the steps needed to make it successful. It allows students to blossom in environments that they wouldn't normally have access to and assess the skills that may have been hidden. It is also important for the students to have ownership of their projects. The students really blew me away with their preparation, their enthusiasm, and their understanding of how important charities like Macmillan are. I am a very proud teacher."

Feedback received!

"I think the Macmillan coffee morning was well organised and very well attended by lots of people wanting to buy some treats. There was a really nice mix of cakes, biscuits and other delicious things and because the pricing was consistent no matter what you wanted to buy it made it easier for the customer and for those running the stall - it made it quicker too! I like that there were plates available too so we weren't left with chocolate cake melting in our hands. It was really good and I think you should do it weekly!"

"I feel you all did an amazing job organising the Macmillan Coffee Morning. I really enjoyed it. There was so much choice of delicious cakes to choose from and all the students were so welcoming. Thank you for the invitation and well done on the fantastic amount of money raised."

"You have all worked so hard to organise this event for charity. It is such a worthy cause and it is amazing that you are raising awareness and money for the charity. We are all so proud of you all. The millionaires shortbread was delicious and was an amazing amount of money you raised!"

Sports and Games



Badminton

Our KS4 badminton competed in the West Norfolk Badminton Tournament. The girls team did really well coming 2nd overall. The boys team came out on top and finished in first place, only losing just one game. They will compete in the county finals in the New Year- Well done to all!

Year 10 Rock Climbing

Our GCSE Year 10 students visited Lynnsport to take part in a rock climbing activity as part of their practical moderation. They learnt different knots so that they could climb safely and also how to belay their partners as they climb and abseil down safely - they put a lot of trust in their partners.



Cross Country

The Smithdon runners were on form this year as all of our 12 runners came in the top 15 in their respective age groups. A massive well done to Daisy, Faith, Eloise, Indie and Daisy who came in the top 5 and secured their place in the next round in January.

Basketball

Many of our Basketball teams competed in the local schools' tournament. The Year 7 boys team played very well and came 5th overall. The Year 8 boys team had some tough games as the quality of basketball was high, and they finished 6th.

The Year 8 girls team were on fire as they scored the highest amount of points on the night and came away winning the tournament. Well done girls....



Sports Leaders

Our sports leaders have been busy with officiating, coaching and leading in some of the primary schools' sports tournaments from cross country to rugby; cricket to football. They all did a fantastic job and made themselves proud.



Next term...

Next term will be a busy one as we have the next round of cross country, KS3 badminton tournament, county football games and lots more fixtures...

Performing Arts

By Mrs Barnes

The Christmas season is always incredibly busy for the Performing Arts Department but we wouldn't have it any other way! We have had many weeks of rehearsals, late nights and of course, the many performances. It feels like the start of the new academic year (and the warmer weather) was so long ago now but back in September Mrs Proctor took a group of performing students from the school production to watch Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at the Theatre Royal Norwich. Students were extremely inspired by what they saw and how they could apply it to their own production. Watching a professional production is always exciting and we love to be able to give our students those opportunities to go into the city and take in the atmosphere.



Last term, the Drama Department gave the cast of the school musical the amazing opportunity to go see Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at Norwich Theatre. It was so much fun to have the evening with so many of the friends that I have made from being a part of the school musical and as for the show we had an amazing view and all together a great time. The show was funny and I'm so happy that I got to watch it - **By Rae, Year 9**

In October, I took a group of Year 10 and 11 GCSE Music and Drama students to see the musical, *Come From Away* at the Theatre Royal Norwich. This is the story of the planes that landed in Gander Newfoundland after 9/11 and how this rural Canadian community came to support all of the "Come From Aways" Students said they found it sad, but funny and inspiring. They thought the production and the way the show was set was very cool and they loved the music!

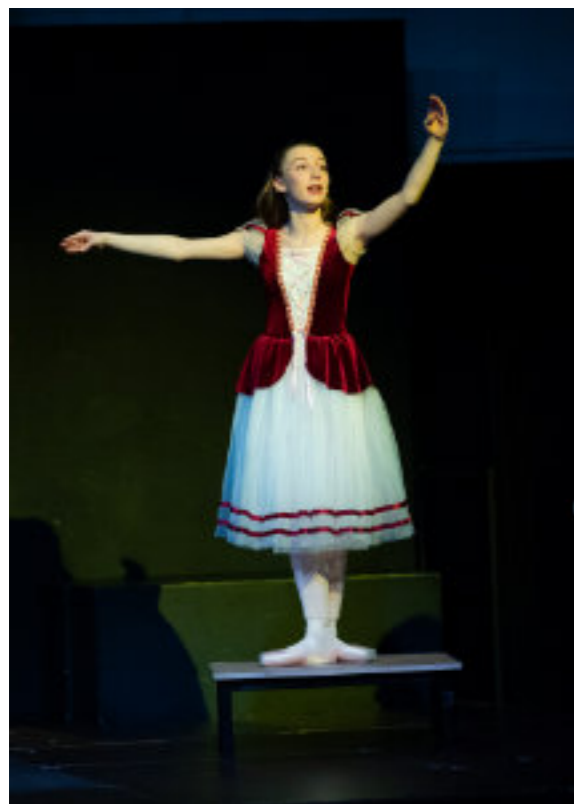
As part of our Trust wide, musical instrumental teaching scheme, we welcomed our local primaries, as well as our own Smithdon students, to take part in an afternoon of 'musical playing together', ending with an amazing performance for their parents.



We quickly rolled into the December performance season. On 1 December, we had a Sunday rehearsal for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr. The cast of the show then went and performed at the Hunstanton Light Switch On. In addition to this, our Year 8 band, The Unknown, completed a 30-minute set of Christmas and Rock music and even did an interview with the local radio station!

Show day finally came around when we performed 3 shows of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr, including one to the local primary schools and our current Year 7 students. The students have worked so hard to put on this production and they have made everyone really proud.





Ellie was perfectly poised and elegant as Truly Scrumptious.



The comedy duo, Darcey and Geo were hilariously funny as the lovey-dovey Baron and Baroness of Vulgaria.



The Potts family were brilliantly cast! Harry had us laughing with his dancing, the Potts children, Alfie and Lyra showcased their amazing singing voices and Ethan acted, sung and danced his way through perfectly as the inventor, Caractacus Potts.

After the school production, we had concert week with our school choir performing at the West Norfolk Academies Trust Christmas Carol Service at St Nicholas' Chapel in King's Lynn - along with hundreds of other students from across the trust.

On Thursday 12 December we hosted our Annual Christmas Concert at the Hunstanton Town Hall with over 50 students participating from all year groups, welcoming in the community to enjoy some Christmas joy.

We finally made it to the last week of term when our choir went out to visit 2 local care homes and sang Christmas songs with the residents, hoping to bring some festive happiness to their day.

On Wednesday 18 December the choir travelled to the Forum in Norwich to take part in an event where they sang Christmas songs for 45 minutes for local shoppers and passers-bys. Our choir has certainly been busy!

To end it all, the Performing Arts Department will take 80 Year 7 students to the Hunstanton Panto, Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. This is an annual trip and always so much fun and a great way to celebrate the end of term.

From all of us in the Performing Arts Department, a big thank you to all of our performers for giving up their time and working so hard and to their families for supporting them and us in every way. We hope that you enjoyed watching all the performances We are exhausted but still excited for 2025 and all the fun, mayhem and success that it will bring!

Merry Christmas from all of us!



Forest School

A small group of Year 7 students have spent their first term attending the weekly Forest School sessions. Each week brings a new set of tasks to complete and skills to learn, campfire snacks to enjoy and various weather conditions!

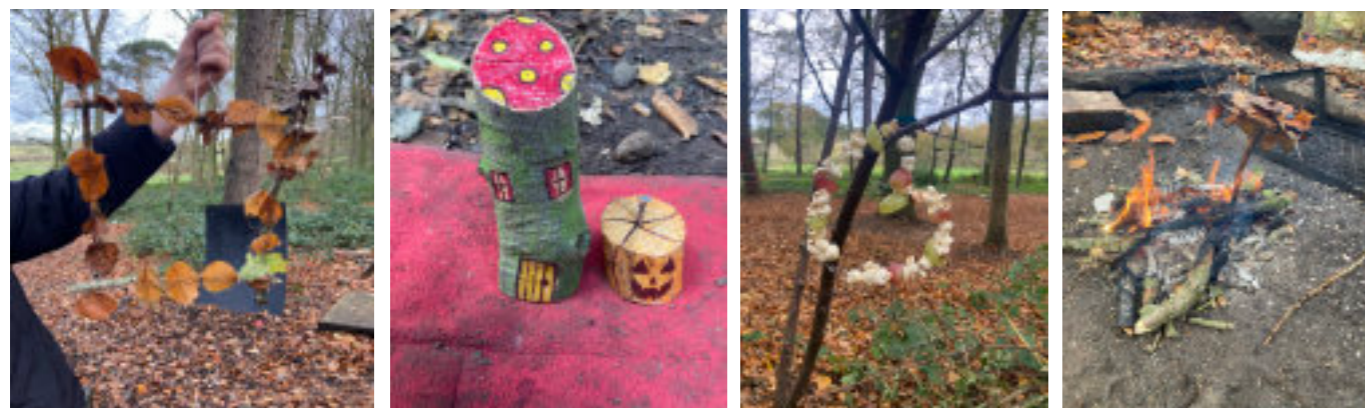
Muddy boots and the smell of campfire smoke is a tell tale sign of a forest school attendee but alongside these are smiles and joyful conversations. Many of the children that access forest school flourish in the woods and we see their confidence, independence and social skills growing with each session.

Working together is a huge part of Forest School. The children tend to the fire, hunt for firewood, plan and build new resources for themselves and other forest school groups to use. Of course, there are also many games that are better with a team, such as Capture the Flag, Hide and Seek and Tracker, in which the 'animal' leaves a trail of flour for the 'trackers' to find.

Creativity knows no bounds in the woods and the children have sawn, whittled, hammered and glued to produce fairy houses, mighty mushrooms, woodland frames and Christmas decorations. They have also taken inspiration from Andy Goldsworthy to create beautiful works of art using leaves, pine cones and other natural treasures.

Lastly, the food. Oh, the food! Pizza wraps, noodles, popcorn, crumpets and more, all with added smokey flavouring. Delicious! And for the last week each term, a sweet treat. S'mores, marshmallows and other sugary goodness. All lovingly cooked by our wonderful Forest School staff and students.

Despite the rain, wind, and freezing cold, the children are always keen and thoroughly enjoy Forest School. We love to see their curiosity for the natural world and are incredibly proud of them. It is a joy to see them playing and learning in such a wonderful environment. - **Miss Thrower**



Attendance Matters

Attendance continues to be a focus this year for Smithdon: we are currently below the national average and are working hard to improve. There is a huge amount of data showing that the more time students spend in school the better their mental health, social development and academic results.

Year 7 have led the way all term with the best attendance. The forms with the Highest Attendance per Year group are 07KHO, 08ABA, 09BRO, 10VSO, and 11NCA.

At the end of last half term 116 R3 rewards were given out for good attendance (96% or more) and 177 R4 rewards were given out for excellent attendance (100%). Over the coming weeks more rewards will be issued for continued good and excellent attendance and seen on the app.

We have issued 7 Fixed Penalty Notices in line with Norfolk County Council guidance alongside many supportive conversations and meetings to work to improve student attendance.

It can sometimes be difficult to decide if your child is well enough to come to school. The NHS have issued guidance to support parents, this can be found at NHS Guidance.

Thank you for your support and have a great Christmas.

Well done to the forms with the best attendance this term:

Year 7: Miss Howlett

Year 8: Ms Wright

Year 9: Mrs Robinson

Year 10: Miss Soper

Year 11: Mrs Carlton

To report a student's absence, please use one of the following methods:

Phone: 01485 536123

Text: 07935 059774

Email: attendance@smithdonhigh.org.uk

Get in touch:

Phone: 01485 534541

Email: office@smithdonhigh.org.uk

Website: www.smithdonhigh.org.uk

We hope you all have a
restful break and a very
happy Christmas.

We look forward to seeing
you back on 7 January.

