



The Smithdonian



Winter 2025 Edition

Work hard, be kind and smile

Welcome to Smithdon High School

A message from the Head Teacher



Another term at Smithdon and another newsletter crammed with a fantastic selection of the many opportunities our students have chosen to get involved in.

As those of you who attended the opening night of Sister Act are well aware, I continue to be so proud of the students' engagement with the co-curricular activities and competitions (but thankfully don't shed tears too often!). I am also hugely grateful to the staff who give up their own time to organise and run these.

The Head Students, on the following page, sum up what it is to be a Smithdonian far better than I ever could and they have also represented Smithdon fantastically in a number of events this term.

It is just left for me to wish you all a lovely Christmas break and to hope you have a peaceful time with family and friends this holiday.

Mrs Gibbins

Meet Our Head Students 2025-2026

Inspiring leadership, teamwork and excellence.



Head Students, Daisy and Miles, proudly representing Smithdon for the 2025–2026 academic year.

Daisy: Hello! My name is Daisy and I am honoured to be serving as Smithdon High School's current Head Girl. I applied for this role because I have enjoyed my time here at Smithdon so much and wanted to give something back to this special school during my final year.

This year has already been a busy and rewarding one. At the very start of the term, I had the opportunity to meet with our local MP, James Wild, to discuss both our school and the wider community. It was fascinating to hear about plans for West Norfolk - especially the upcoming new hospital.

In October, I had the privilege of delivering a speech to future Smithdonians at our Open Evening. Choosing a secondary school is an important decision and I was eager to share why Smithdon is such a fantastic choice. Although I was a little nervous, standing in front of so many people was a proud moment for me and has really boosted my confidence and public speaking skills.

In November, I was deeply honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of our school at the Remembrance Day service in Hunstanton. The experience reminded me how fortunate we are to live the lives we do, thanks to the bravery and sacrifice of others. It inspired me to make the most of every opportunity - to work hard, be kind and always smile.

As the festive season approaches, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year!

Miles: I feel privileged to belong to a supportive school steeped in modern history. During my school career at Smithdon High School, I have been fortunate to have opportunities that have given me the confidence to become Head Student this year, stage manager for the school production, Sports Personality of the Year, achieve my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and represent the school as a sports ambassador at inter-school and local community events. These have included laying a wreath on behalf of the school on Remembrance Sunday and being part of a student panel for a local housing development project.

I have said many times, "You only get out what you put in," and Smithdon is a place that truly rewards effort.

Outside of school, I am a keen cricketer and both play and coach. I completed the Young Leader in Cricket Award and won the NCB Rising Star Award last year. I am already looking forward to next season and achieving my Level 1 coaching qualification.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SMITHDON IN THE NEWS

Celebrating Achievements and Excellence at Smithdon

Head Students Honour the Fallen.



Miles, Mrs Gibbins and Daisy were proud to lay a wreath at the cenotaph.

Hundreds of local residents gathered in Hunstanton on 9 November to mark Remembrance Day and pay tribute to the bravery of soldiers who gave their lives in service to our country. Among those representing the community were Smithdon's Head Students, Daisy and Miles, who proudly took part in the town's annual parade and service.

The event began with a procession from the United Services Club through the town to the Cenotaph, where the service commenced at 11am under clear, sunny skies. Organised by Hunstanton Town Council, the ceremony drew a large crowd of residents, cadets, dignitaries and local organisations.

During the wreath-laying ceremony, Smithdon's Head Teacher, Mrs Gibbins, accompanied by Daisy and Miles, placed a wreath on behalf of the school community. Their gesture represented the school's respect and gratitude for all those who have served in the Armed Forces. Following the wreath laying, the crowd observed a poignant moment of silence and listened to readings that honoured the courage and sacrifice of the fallen. Reflecting on the event, Daisy said it was "a real honour to represent Smithdon and take part in such an important tradition." Miles added that "standing together with the community to remember those who served was something truly meaningful."

The service was a moving reminder of the importance of remembrance and Smithdon's participation showed the school's continued commitment to honouring history and those who shaped it.

On 11 November, our KS3 students took part in the National Royal British Legion Remembrance assembly, with many proudly wearing their cadets, guides and scouts uniforms. The whole school joined together for a two-minute silence to honour and remember those who have served.

Hunstanton Lights Up!

Hunstanton lit up in festive cheer as local residents and visitors gathered for the annual Christmas lights switch-on. The event drew an excited crowd, eager to start the festive season with music, entertainment and community spirit.

The highlight of the event was a performance by our cast of Sister Act. Adding to the excitement, our very own school band, The Unkn?wn, wowed the crowd with festive favourites such as All I Want for Christmas and Merry Christmas Everyone, along with iconic rock anthems including Bohemian Rhapsody and Don't Stop Believin'. With the Christmas lights now shining bright, Hunstanton is ready to embrace the season in full sparkle!



The Unkn?wn performing, with Udaesh adding Christmas spirit.

During assembly, we watched a PowerPoint presentation about Remembrance Day. It was a very meaningful day for staff, students and members of the wider community. The presentation included a video showing a place filled with many different memorials. It also showed children from a school in Lincoln creating poppy field pictures using wet wipes, which was very moving.



World War I took place from 1914 to 1918 and was a devastating time for families across the world. Many people believed it would be the war to end all wars, but sadly this was not the case.

I created an acrostic poem about Remembrance Day:

Remembrance Sunday always falls on the second Sunday of November.

Eternally, we will remember forever.

Memorial Day for remembering the sacrifice of those who fought in and died in the wars.

Everyone should remember the fallen.

Military personnel marching past the Cenotaph or their local War Memorial.

By the way this happens on the 11th November, when the ceasefire ended which took effect at the 11th hour of the 11th month in 1918.

Remembrance is a special time of the year for people all over the world.

A poppy can be worn to remember and honour those who died in the conflicts.

Nationally, we do 2 minutes silence to Remember them. One minute is a time of thanksgiving for those who had returned, the second minute was to remember the fallen.

Church Services with songs are sung during Remembrance.

Emotions will be strong during this event.

By Pip, Year 7

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A Sweet Success!

On Thursday 26 September, Smithdon held its annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, organised by Miss Brown with the help of our Year 10 and 11 ASDAN students. In the run-up to the day, the students were busy baking tasty treats and creating colourful posters to get everyone excited!

When the big day came, the queues were huge! Students and staff couldn't wait to try the cookie monster cupcakes, banana loaf, red velvet cakes and cookies. It was great to see so many people supporting such an important cause.

We managed to raise an amazing £232 for Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity that helps people living with cancer and their families by providing vital care and advice.

A big thank you to Miss Brown, the ASDAN students and everyone who came along to buy the sweet treats. We couldn't have done it without you!



Miles, Corey, Ethan, Lily, Iliana, Oscar and Marco - our ASDAN dream-team!

SPELLING BEE

The Year 7 students of Mr Plant's form had the exciting opportunity to attend the WNAT Spelling Bee Final held in Smithdon's Library. The event brought together students from the four Trust high schools, creating a competitive atmosphere. Norah, Ronan, and Jacob, represented the school brilliantly throughout the competition. Despite having some very tough words to spell, they approached each round with confidence and resilience, supported one another and consistently gave their very best.

The two finalists, both from Springwood, were spelling their words with precision that there was no other choice but to hold a speed - spelling round.

All participants performed exceptionally well! The event was a fantastic success, with students leaving with certificates, badges, trophies and even a Kindle for the overall Springwood winner.



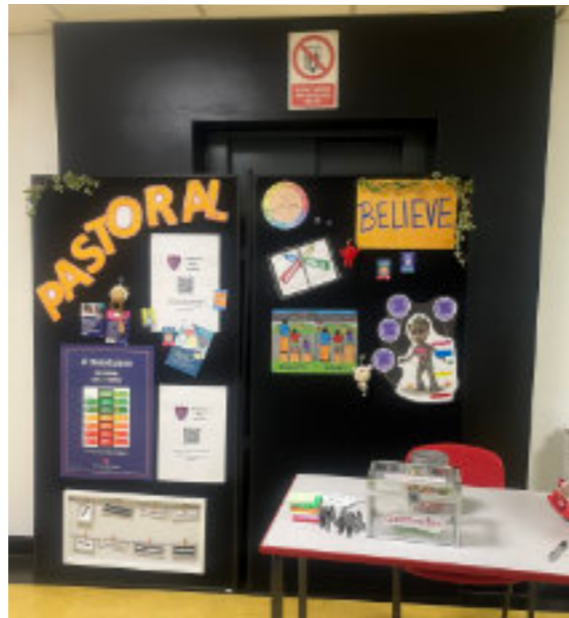
Norah and Ronan with their certificates - we couldn't be more proud of our participants.

Open Evening

On the evening of Thursday 2 October, Smithdon opened its doors, rooms and study spaces to welcome prospective students and their families for our annual Open Evening. The event was a fantastic opportunity to showcase everything that makes our school special - from outstanding teaching and learning to the vibrant extracurricular life that thrives here every day. The evening began with a warm welcome from Mrs Gibbins, our Headteacher, who spoke about the school's values, achievements and ambitions for the future, as well as the exciting announcement of moving from the listed building into our interim building in July for the restoration work to begin in the summer. Families were then free to explore! Guided around the site by our enthusiastic and friendly student ambassadors, who were proud to share their own experiences and stories of life at Smithdon.



Corey showed off CLS and was on hand to answer questions.



Families could meet our lovely pastoral team.

In the Sports Hall, visitors could try out equipment and learn more about the wide range of clubs on offer. Meanwhile, the Duke of Edinburgh group had a tent erected, showing off their adventurous activities and giving families a glimpse of the exciting opportunities and expeditions our students can take part in beyond the classroom.

The History and RPE classrooms were open and welcoming, with our fantastic Humanities teachers ready to chat and answer questions. Visitors enjoyed exploring a wonderful selection of artefacts on display and discovering more about the fascinating topics our students study. It was a great opportunity to see how engaging and inspiring our Humanities lessons can be!

Parents and pupils alike praised the friendly atmosphere, the dedication of staff and the confidence and energy of the students who volunteered as guides. Many visitors commented on how welcoming the school felt and how impressed they were by the opportunities available. Overall, this year's Open Evening was a huge success, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended. It reflected not only the high standards of teaching and learning but also the strong sense of community that makes our school such a special place to be. We look forward to welcoming you back for our transition days next year!



Alfie and Toby enter the realm of strategy and storytelling at Dungeons and Dragons.



Lights, laughter, latitude!

Each department prepared exciting displays and activities to give our visitors a sense of what our everyday lessons are like. The Science labs buzzed with experiments and demonstrations, while the Art rooms were filled with creative work from across the year groups. The English department challenged visitors with a fun five-senses challenge, engaging everyone's creativity and observation skills. Meanwhile, the Geography department hosted a lively game-show-style quiz, complete with strobe lights, adding excitement and a competitive edge to learning. Parents and pupils could also wander around CLS and the library, exploring the wealth of resources and learning spaces available to students. The Dungeons & Dragons and Chess Club were on display in the library, giving our visitors a taste of strategy, fun and teamwork. We were delighted to see our prospective students challenging their parents to a game of chess - perhaps some future teammates to help us bring home gold at the 2026 Trust tournament!

Some of our wonderful students delighted our visitors by preparing freshly baked cheesy scones in the cooking room with Mrs Dibble - which went down a treat! Alongside the tasting, guests were invited to take part in some fun interactive activities, including a "Guess the Kitchen Equipment" challenge and a "Do You Know Your Herbs and Spices?" quiz. The room was filled with laughter, curiosity and the delicious aroma of baking.

In the Design and Technology room, the student helpers designed and produced their own personalised trolley tokens and twisty key-rings using the laser cutter and plastics oven. They demonstrated how to take their digital designs from the computer to the workshop, exploring how modern manufacturing techniques can be used to create unique, practical products. This hands-on activity allowed them to show how in class, students can experiment with different materials, refine their designs and see how our precision tools such as the laser cutter can bring our creative ideas to life.



The English challenge that hit all the senses!



The finished product from the DT demonstration.

Library

Sparx, Story-times and Festive Fun!

The library has been bustling with activity this term! Our *Sparx Reader* programme is well underway, with students in KS3 diving into a wide variety of books. It's fantastic to see our students embracing new stories and challenging themselves to explore different genres.

Year 7 students have settled in wonderfully and are making the most of our library space. Many have been popping in during break times to enjoy a good book, find a quiet corner to relax and get on top of their homework.

Our Halloween Story-time was a spook-tacular success! Students and staff gathered to listen to some thrilling and fun tales, making it a memorable event for everyone involved.

For the festive season, the library was transformed with a Harry Potter Christmas theme, bringing the world of wizards and magic to life. The library has never looked more enchanting! Christmas Story-time was a cosy and magical event, filled with our students fantastic stories and festive treats!



Looking ahead to 2026, we have plenty to be excited about! Plans are already underway for the 2026 Literary Festival, which promises to be a truly whizzpopping celebration of writing, creativity and storytelling! We're also looking forward to World Book Day - always a favourite in the English department's calendar!

Our Year 7 Reading Ambassadors are yet to be chosen to visit local primary schools to share their love of books and inspire the next generation of readers. In addition, students can look forward to the 2026 Trust Chess Tournament, more fun story-time events and the continued growth of our writing group, where our budding authors can explore and develop their creative skills - whilst also having their fabulous work published in the Young Writers Anthologies book. A Book Club is in the works as well!

We're thrilled with the enthusiasm for reading this term and can't wait to see what adventures await our students in the library in 2026!

Spooky Story-time

Spooky Story-Time has now become one of our favourite annual traditions and each year the tales seem to get creepier, funnier and far more spine-chilling than before!

Once again, we gathered around the glowing 'campfire', the lights dimmed low and the room filled with that perfect mix of excitement and nervous giggles. One by one, students shared their eerie, imaginative stories, each tale twisting tighter than the last - from cult village vibes to sneaky cats. The students leaned in, drawn to the flickering glow, while Reggie sat at the front and whispered, "My scare-ometer is officially high!"

Just as we were starting to relax, a soft creak echoed across the floor. Creepy music caught our attention. Heads turned toward a dark shape gliding between the book cases: a tall, shadowy figure draped in a black cape, the iconic scream mask hiding its face. He paused just long enough to make every eye follow his slow, movements, then vanished behind a row of shelves. The timing was perfect - a collective gasp rippled through the room, followed by laughter and applause. It was the ultimate spooky surprise and added brilliantly to the atmosphere. A heartbeat later, the figure stepped back into the dim light - and the mystery was revealed: it was Corey from Year 11, perfectly timed and fully committed to his Scream costume! His dramatic entrance gave us all the fright of our lives!





Emily, Chloe, Aurora, Abigail, and Bella wrote some spooktacular stories that we hope will appear in the next Young Writers Collected Stories book!

Of course, no Halloween celebration would be complete without treats! Students tucked into sweets and cupcakes. The event ended with smiles, laughter and perhaps a few lingering goosebumps. Everyone left the library inspired with ideas for next year's stories - and most definitely full of sugar! We hope you enjoy reading a selection of their spooky tales!



The Sun Holds All

Ruth had thought that the village would be charming.

By the time she arrived, the sun was high and merciless, revealing every flaw. The villagers moved with unnerving precision - smiling too broadly, carrying basket of herbs, fruit...and small wrapped bundles she hadn't noticed at first. Children darted past her, laughing, their bare feet stained dark red, like dried clay.

Her friends followed the villagers into the meadow, eager for the festival. Ruth lingered, uneasy. The air smelled faintly metallic - iron and something else. Blood, she realised.

In the meadows centre rose a massive tower woven from branches, pale flowers and - faces. Faces pressed gently among the blooms, skin waxy, lips fixed in soft, unnatural smiles. Some eyes were sewn shut. Others stared open and empty.

A little girl approached Ruth with a garland, her small hands streaked crimson. "it's time" she said. Her voice was sweet but her eyes were hollow.

Ruth tried to step back, but the villagers closed in - hands warm, firm, unyielding. She was guided forward, drawn toward the tower. The garland was set upon her head.

Sunlight blazed overhead, bleaching the world white. Ruth's chest tightened; her vision blurred. The faces in the tower shifted. Mouths opened in silent screams. Fresh blood slicked the petals, running through the woven branches like veins. The coppery scent thickened in her throat.

A villager stepped forward, holding a ceremonial knife. Its blade glimmered wet, stained dark. They pressed it to her wrist and sliced.

Her blood spilled onto the petals below. Her scream dissolved into the villagers laughter

Then the dancing began.

Hands joined. Skirts twirled. Feet stamped the soil in frantic rhythm. Their eyes shone with a wild, feverish joy. Every spin drew Ruth closer to the tower. The flowers weren't flowers anymore - they were soaked and curling, pulsing with blood. Faces shifted within, some freshly joined.

Branches scraped her skin, tearing it. Her fingers brushed a face still warm, flesh soft beneath her touch. She recoiled - but the circle tightened, pushing her forward.

Her friends were among them now, their smiles fixed, eyes glassy and bright. Ruth realised they had already been absorbed - body and will - into the ritual.

A boy spun past her, laughing, his hand dripping red. Another villager drew the knife across her thigh, carving a thin ribbon of blood that fed in to the roots of the tower.

The dance quickened. The air filled with heat and song and the smell of iron. Blood and petals clung to Ruth's skin. Branches wound around her limbs, pulling her into the structure. The faces turned towards her, mouths twitching, whispering soundlessly.

And still the villagers danced - laughing, singing, radiant in the sun. Ruth's blood flowed into the tower, joining the countless before her. Her scream broke through, raw and desperate, but it was swallowed by the music.

The garland grew heavy, soaked with blood. In a polished basin nearby, her reflection stared back - eyes wide, mouth curved into a smile that wasn't hers.

And in that blinding, jubilant sunlight, Ruth understood; there was no darkness here.

Only celebration.

Only daylight, ritual.

And the slow, beautiful consumption of everything she had been.

Bella - Year 9



Integration

When the grizzled man died in the forest, no one came to claim him. He lay there for days, twisted at the base of an old birch tree, eyes wide open to the branches above, as if still trying to understand how it ended.

The animals left him alone. Even the flies kept their distance. The earth accepted him quietly - no thunder, no wind, just a slow softening of flesh. Skin sloughed away; bones sank deeper. And within dampened soil below, the fungi stirred.

White threads of mycelium reached up like holy hands praying to God, delicate and hungry. They slipped into his mouth, into his ears, into the hollows where his eyes had been. The brain, though rotten, was still buzzing with fading charge. Memory. Identity. Warmth, slowly dimming.

The mycelium moved through him like breath, mapping the corridors of what he had been: the curve of his jaw, the stories lodged behind his teeth, the ache that had lived for years in his left shoulder. They found his memories scattered and half-rotten: his mother's face, the glint of a lake at dusk, a name that he had whispered only once. The boundary between body and soil dissolved. The fungi threaded through root and nerve alike until there was no telling which belonged to whom. Molecules once organised into human thought were now entering the slow, decentralised intelligence of the forest floor. Within the skull, threads coiled through softened tissue, forming networks not unlike the neural paths they replaced. His brain became a new link, a temporary host for information transfer - and perhaps some echo of him translated into the system.

It was not resurrection, not in any theological sense. It was integration. And next time you walk in the forest, just remember, they know you're there.

Bethany - Year 9

Trick

"Trick or treat!" they shout in unison as the bronze handle of the door twisted then opened. "oh wow! What cute witches!". A woman with a light brown bun and a knitted pink jumper opened the door. She held out a bowl of sweets. Evie picked a strawberry lolly. Amy picked a blue raspberry sour sweet. Norah picked a coca-cola flavoured sweet. They smiled and turned, walking down the driveway out onto the street.

The three girls approached a house with a huge spider on the roof, skeletons on the ground and bones scattered everywhere. The door opened eerily before they even have time to shout "trick or treat". They yelled "trick or treat" anyway.

"I choose trick" a sinister voice replied before shoving the girls inside and slamming the door.

The girls screamed, suddenly feeling like insignificant mice instead of bold witches. But only two voices rang out through the darkness. Amy was nowhere to be found.

A blood curdling scream rang out from the darkness followed by muffled sobs. They stopped abruptly. "Amy? Amy!" the two girls screamed until their voices were hoarse. Daylight crept through the windows.

Meanwhile in a different room, Amy was lying face up on the carpet, her eyes wide with terror. A woman with a light brown bun and a pink knitted jumper was towering over her.

Norah - Year 7

Who Done It?

One windy night, the power cuts out.

Pitch black.

I stand frozen as the clock strikes midnight.

Tick. Tock. Tick. Tock.

A door creaks - the one that was half open - and moves slightly. Then, a creak from the floorboards upstairs makes me turn. The open window rattles, creaking ominously in the breeze, which rustles through the leaves. I stare at the staircase leading into the pitch-black hallway above. A shadow disappears around the corner - something with a tail.

I hear a sudden crash from upstairs, something has been knocked over. I climb, the stairs cautiously. When I get up there I see a small silhouette with what seems to be four legs. The clock chimes 3am. It has been 3 hours since this started! I think to myself "this must be a nightmare, I'll wake up any second". I was wrong of course.

When I head back downstairs, the door creaks again. I look around and see the flick of a tail go around the corner.

I am confused for a second but then I realise what is going on. It just a black cat. Meow.

Abigail - Year 9



Rainforest Heroes

Every action counts for rainforest protection!

Smithdon successfully raised an incredible £120 through our recent Rainforest Raffle, contributing directly to the purchase and protection of precious rainforest land in the Amazon and the Congo. This achievement reflects the school community's commitment to supporting global environmental efforts.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the Environment Committee, whose members generously gave up their break and lunchtimes to sell the raffle tickets. Their dedication and enthusiasm played a vital role in making the fundraiser a success. There were also some brilliant prizes up for grabs for both staff and students. Abby in Year 8 was especially excited - after buying 15 strips of tickets, she walked away with four prizes! The biggest thanks, however, goes to everyone at Smithdon who bought tickets or donated the prizes.

Year 10 Business Studies students held a fantastic sale during lunchtimes, offering a wide range of items including golf balls, jugs and ornaments. Many students and staff came along to browse and buy, raising valuable funds for the Rainforest Trust. The event was a great success, and a big thank you goes to everyone who supported the sale and helped make a difference for rainforest conservation.

The students ran the sale as a sustainable enterprise, up-cycling unwanted items and giving them a new purpose. They raised £20, which will be donated to the Rainforest Trust — something we can all be proud of. By turning old items into real support for rainforest protection, we've shown that small actions can create meaningful change. Together, we truly can make a difference. Thank you to everyone who helped protect our rainforests.

Rainforest Trust UK helps protect threatened rainforests and the animals that live in them. They work with trusted local groups to buy land or make sure it becomes a protected reserve, often involving local and Indigenous communities. This helps stop deforestation, protects endangered species and even helps fight climate change by keeping forests intact. We can be proud knowing that our support helps protect these forests and the incredible wildlife that depends on them, making a real difference for the planet.



RAINFOREST TRUST ·UK·

Smithdon High School

This donation will be enough to permanently protect

19 acres of the Amazon, the world's largest tropical rainforest

This donation will help Rainforest Trust and local partners to permanently safeguard 20 million acres of the Amazon in Brazil and surrounding regions. This vital work will provide a safe haven for at least 70 threatened species and secure the territories of 150,000 Indigenous people. By doing so, we will pull the Amazon back from the tipping point and safely lock up more than 6 billion metric tonnes of CO₂ equivalents, helping to diminish the global impacts of climate change.

Issued December 2025



Rachel Travers
Chief Executive Officer



Endangered Ariel Toucan
By Margaret Aebischer and Stuart Shutterstock



RAINFOREST TRUST ·UK·

Smithdon High School

This donation, when doubled, will be enough to permanently safeguard

59 acres of Endangered Bonobo habitat

This donation will help Rainforest Trust's work with Rainforest Foundation UK and local NGOs to establish 740,000 acres in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as the Oshwe Local Community Forest Concessions. As well as the Endangered Bonobo (pictured), there are three species targeted by this project that are currently not protected in any National Parks or Nature Reserves: the Vulnerable Fire-bellied Wolf's Monkey, the Endangered Golden-bellied Mangabey, and Teleogramma monogramma, a Cichlid fish.

Issued December 2025



Rachel Travers
Chief Executive Officer



Bonobo
By Muhammad Asif

On 7 November, twelve of our Year 10 students participated in the annual Rotary Technology Tournament at KLA, competing against local schools including KES, KLA, Springwood and Marshland. The tournament challenged students to think creatively and practically, with teams divided into three categories. Our students entered the Foundation (KS3) and Intermediate (KS4) challenges, showcasing their skills in design, engineering and teamwork.

The task this year was particularly demanding: students were required to design and construct a vehicle capable of clearing debris from a gutter, with Intermediate teams also tasked to reverse their vehicles out after completing the task. The Rotary Club organisers commented that this was the most challenging brief they had ever set, making our students' achievements all the more impressive!

Throughout the day, students demonstrated exceptional collaboration, problem-solving and technical skill, while enjoying the hands-on experience of turning their ideas into functioning machines. Their hard work and dedication paid off spectacularly, with our Intermediate teams finishing 1st and 3rd overall, proudly bringing home their trophies and celebrating a well-earned success.

This experience not only highlighted the students' engineering abilities, but also their creativity, perseverance and teamwork - reflecting the best of our Design & Technology GCSE course.

DT Rotary Champions!

Engineering excellence on display at the Rotary Tournament.



Year 10 winners William, Josh, Finn and Tyler with their well-earned trophies!

Hospitality and Catering

The Great Onion Challenge

The Year 9 Hospitality and Catering students have been busy in the kitchen, testing out inventive ways to stop the tears when chopping onions. Alongside more traditional tricks, like chilling the onions, they also experimented with some unusual approaches - including holding spoons in their mouths and even donning helmets!

The activity brought plenty of fun and laughter, while also encouraging students to think creatively about problem-solving in food preparation. It also demonstrated an important lesson: cooking isn't just about the final dish. Preparation, attention to detail and trying different techniques are essential skills in the culinary world. By exploring creative solutions in a hands-on way, our students are developing practical abilities that will serve them in both professional kitchens and everyday life. Students also learned that onions make us cry because, when cut, they release a gas that reacts with the moisture in our eyes to form a mild acid - triggering those unwanted tears. By experimenting, laughing and learning, the students gained both practical know-how and a deeper appreciation for the science behind the food they prepare.



Who says goggles are just for the pool?

The Art of Italian Cooking



Less is more: fresh pasta, rich tomato sauce, perfect results.

Our Year 10 students have been truly inspired by the simplicity of Italian cuisine. They have discovered that Italian cooking is not just about ingredients - it's about quality, balance and letting the natural flavours shine. From perfectly Al dente pasta to fresh, tasty sauces, the students learned that sometimes less really is more and that careful selection of ingredients can transform a dish.

They have also been exploring the importance of presentation. Italian dishes are as much a feast for the eyes as they are for the palate! Simple touches, like a sprinkle of fresh basil, a drizzle of olive oil or the careful arrangement of colours on a plate can elevate a meal from ordinary to memorable. Through the hands-on cooking experience, our students have developed an appreciation for the traditions and techniques behind Italian cuisine, learning that great food comes from passion, patience and respect for each ingredient.



A Recipe for Success

2025 Rotary Young Chef Competition

Our budding chefs put their culinary talents to the test as they competed in this year's Rotary Young Chef Competition, showcasing their impressive skills and creativity.

Smithdon hosted the local heats on Thursday 27 November, where ten of our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students took on the challenge of preparing a healthy, two-person dish - on a budget of just £6! With only one hour and 40 minutes to plan, cook and plate their creations, the pressure was on!

"The students get one hour and 40 minutes to create their dish and serve it ready for judging," explained Mrs Dibble. She was joined by School Governor Mrs Parry and our Deputy Headteacher Mrs Robinson.

Remaining calm in the heat of the kitchen, Jessica was crowned the winner after impressing the judges with her lemon-crusted, pan-fried chicken breast, served with homemade pasta in a creamy sauce. Grace secured the runner-up spot with her chicken souvlaki - Greek-seasoned chicken on flatbread with fresh salad.

Jessica's victory means she will represent Smithdon in the District Final at West Suffolk College in Bury St Edmund's this February. There, she'll compete against top young chefs from across the region for a coveted place in the National Final and also the chance to win

a cookery trip to Tuscany. King's Lynn Rotary Club will sponsor her journey, covering the cost of ingredients as she prepares for the next round.

"The competition is extremely important," said Mrs Dibble. "It boosts the competitors' confidence, gives them a chance to show off their skills, and helps them become more independent. It's also something they can proudly add to their CVs, setting them apart from other students."

With creativity, skill and plenty of determination on display, this year's competitors proved that Smithdon's young chefs are truly cooking up a storm.



Jamie really spiced things up!

FROM CLASSROOM TO BROADWAY!

This term, our students have been fortunate to experience a variety of extraordinary theatre productions, including *Hamilton*, *War Horse* and *Wicked*. Each show offered a unique and unforgettable experience, showcasing the incredible diversity of live theatre. Although each production was very different in style and story, the students enjoyed them all immensely. They returned from each trip buzzing with excitement, sharing their favourite moments and reflecting on the creativity, talent and hard work that went into every performance. These theatre visits have not only provided unforgettable memories but also offered valuable insights into the power of storytelling and the magic of live performance.

HAMILTON...



From the moment the curtain rose, *Hamilton* was full of energy, powerful music and impressive choreography. Some of the students were already familiar with Alexander Hamilton's story, so it was fascinating to see his life brought to the stage in such a modern and creative way. The mix of rap, hip-hop and traditional musical theatre styles kept the audience engaged and made this part of history feel fresh and exciting!

For some of the students, it was their first time seeing a professional production. After the show, we had lively discussions about our favourite songs, characters and the clever way that the musical blends history with more contemporary culture. The trip was not only entertaining but also educational, showing how history can be explored through the arts.

Hamilton tells the story of Alexander Hamilton, tracing his rise from humble beginnings to a key figure in the American Revolution and the early United States. Written by Lin-Manuel Miranda, who drew inspiration from Ron Chernow's biography, the show has won 11 Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Since its Off-Broadway debut in 2015, it has become a worldwide phenomenon celebrated for its innovative storytelling, unforgettable music, and diverse cast.

WAR HORSE...

On 6 November, we went on a trip to London to see *War Horse* and it was honestly one of the most incredible theatre experiences we've ever had. From the moment we entered the theatre, you could feel the anticipation in the air. We were all wondering how a story about a horse could be brought to life on stage!

When the lights dimmed and the first scene began, we were completely mesmerised. The puppetry was astonishing - the way the horses moved and seemed so real. You could almost forget they weren't actually real animals. The actors' performances were so powerful and emotional that we found ourselves completely absorbed in the story. Some scenes made us cheer and others had some of us on the verge of tears. It was amazing the way the show depicted the bond between the boy and his horse. It was touching and heart-wrenching. The combination of music, lighting and puppetry made the battlefield scenes intense and unforgettable. Miss Brown and Mrs Proctor even had a little bet on who and how many students would shed a tear! Darcie was the clear winner, leaving the theatre with a tear-streaked mascara face by the end!

After the performance, we all discussed our favourite parts on the coach ride back. Everyone was talking about the puppets, the moving story and how the actors made you feel like you were really there. Overall, the trip wasn't just about seeing a play - it was about experiencing an amazing story in a way you can't get from a book or a movie. *War Horse* is something we'll remember forever and we feel really lucky to have seen it live. Every single student absolutely loved the show!



WICKED...

I really enjoyed the *Wicked* trip. We started by getting on the train, which was very quiet. I was surprised when our ears popped while going through tunnels. When we arrived in London, we took the Tube to a dance studio where we learned some choreography for *One Short Day* from *Wicked*. However, there was a twist. We were trying to make our way to the Apollo Victoria Theatre to watch *Wicked*, but we went to the wrong theatre and got lost. Fortunately, Ellie's quick thinking solved the problem, and we got back on the Tube to the correct theatre. Overall, I really enjoyed the trip and had a great time. It was definitely one of the best shows I've ever seen. I thought the show was fantastic and I was especially impressed by the clever use of lighting and stage effects. The way the set transformed throughout the performance made the world of *Wicked* feel truly magical.

Pippa - Year 10

SISTER ACT JR.

After months of rehearsals, the cast of Sister Act JR delivered their vibrant performance to primary school pupils, families, friends, students, school staff and local residents. They showcased not only their talent, but also the strong bonds built over years of school productions. The stage was beautifully set with large stained-glass windows - special mention to Mrs Birks for building these! They instantly gave the school hall the atmosphere of a miniature cathedral, creating an immersive backdrop and the collection of nuns habits sourced from Southampton added a level of style worthy of a professional stage!

Geo lit up the stage as Deloris. Her vocals were powerful, expressive and full of character - she carried the disco-inspired numbers with confidence and fabulousness! Another highlight was Toby's solo performance, *Lady In The Long Black Dress*, cementing him as a rising star. His voice held the audience effortlessly, as he gave us a few chuckles with his suave moves as the Casanova! Darcie, as the sassy nun, stole every scene she wandered into - at this point, it's almost certain she's already been canonised as the patron saint of comedy timing. The gangster troupe, led by Leo, delivered plenty of laughs with their dramatic swagger; they were equal parts threatening and adorable, like a pack of puppies trying to act tough!

Harry took on the love-lorn song, *I could be that Guy*, it was super impressive considering he's usually rocking out with the school band The Unkn?wn. It was a brilliant chance to see a different side of his talent. As the show reached its finale, the reveal of the nuns in sparkling sequin habits delighted the audience - a joyful, glittering surprise that felt perfectly *Sister Act*.

Yet the ending carried real emotional weight. For the Year 11 students, this was their last show and the tears were impossible to miss. There were

hugs and the collective realisation that some of these performers have been in every production since Year 7 and their final bows were met with well-deserved applause and admiration. The Year 7 extras also deserve a special mention. Though they had smaller roles, they threw themselves into every moment with enthusiasm and confidence. It was great to see the next generation of performers beginning their journey, and there's no doubt we'll be watching many of them take centre stage in the years to come.

Behind the scenes, the staging crew and lighting team worked with remarkable precision. From smooth scene changes to lighting cues that hit exactly on beat (even during the disco moments), their hard work made the whole performance shine - literally. Miles, Sid and Oscar's professionalism helped lift the entire production to a higher level and ensured every cast member had their moment in the spotlight.

A huge thank you must also go to Mrs Proctor and Miss Brown, whose dedication made the entire production possible. They gave up countless hours - and probably a fair amount of sleep - guiding rehearsals, adjusting staging, organising costumes and keeping the whole operation running smoothly. Their hard work, patience and passion for the arts were evident in every detail of the show and the students clearly benefited from their unwavering support and commitment.

Overall, the performance was a delightful mix of comedy and musical talent. Geo's stunning voice, the strong ensemble work, the glitter-covered finale and the emotional significance of the evening made this final night of Sister Act JR one to remember. No pressure, of course, but we're all already excited to see what the 2026 production will bring!



The henchmen in full boiler suit mode



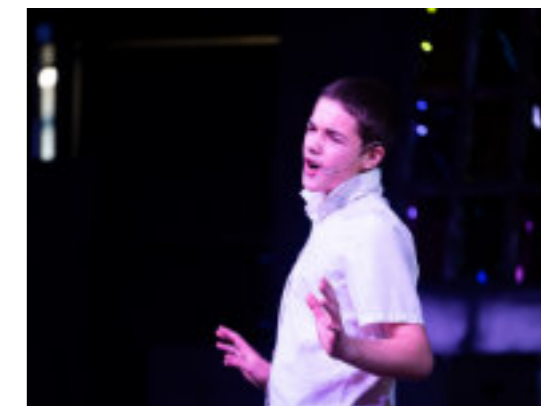
Leo's gang: swagger and chaos



Love-lorn and law-abiding: Harry as Eddie steals the scene!



The perfect mix of heart and sparkle



A big moment: Toby's first solo on stage



Mother Superior has entered - played brilliantly by Rae.



The Dynamic duo!



Alfie shines as the priest!

Christmas Festivities



WANT Christmas Carol Concert

St Nicholas Chapel in Kings Lynn was filled with festive cheer as the Smithdon Choir, together with primary and high schools from WNAT, performed a wonderful Christmas carol concert. The evening featured delightful renditions of *All I Want for Christmas* - featuring Geo - *The First Noel* and *Deck the Halls*. The audience joined in for the grand finale, singing *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. The event was made even more special by the presence of the Sheriff of Norfolk.

The concert brought together the local community in the spirit of the season, showcasing the talent and enthusiasm of students across WNAT schools.

A Festive Celebration at Hunstanton Town Hall

Our school Christmas concert at Hunstanton Town Hall was a night to remember! The talented cast of Sister Act JR filled the hall with energy and joy as they performed a selection of their show-stopping songs. Our very own school band, The Unkn?wn, got everyone in the festive spirit with a fantastic set of Christmas classics.

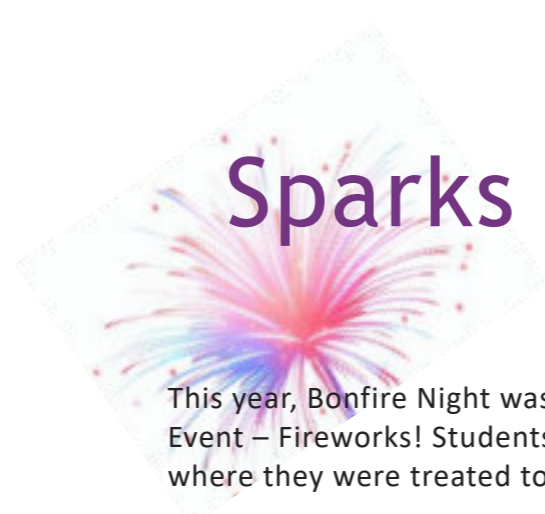
Special musical highlights included Harry and Ellie's charming duet of *Baby, It's Cold Outside* and stunning solo performances from Geo and Darcie, showcasing their GCSE pieces with remarkable skill and confidence. Of course, the choir stole the show with a magical performance that had the audience completely enchanted. It was a truly wonderful evening, celebrating the talent, creativity and holiday spirit of our students.



Christmas Jumper Day!

Our Christmas Jumper Day was a wonderful celebration of festive spirit and togetherness. The corridors were full of colour as students and staff proudly wore their Christmas jumpers, from classic designs to funny and creative ones. The day brought lots of festive fun to our school and was a great way to spread cheer while celebrating the countdown to Christmas.

Sparks Fly at Science Event



This year, Bonfire Night was celebrated in the Science Department with our latest KS3 Science Event – Fireworks! Students signed up to join Mrs Pike for this exciting co-curricular activity, where they were treated to a range of spectacular demonstrations.

Students watched Mrs Pike perform woosh rockets and cannon fire, explored flame tests to see the stunning colours produced when metal ions are heated and enjoyed experiments like floating t-bags and burning icing sugar. The evening concluded outside with sparklers, a perfect finale to a fiery evening of science fun!

Harper said, "I really enjoyed changing the colour of the flames; I found the way it worked really cool. But I found the fire breathing experiment both mesmerising and fun to do! All you had to do was blow into this tube and a large flame appeared! At the end of this amazing activity we did sparklers, which was a great way to finish. I would always recommend this Science event to future students and maybe teachers!"

Lexi-Mai commented, "I really liked when we went outside to do the sparklers. I would love to do it again next year!" Reggie added, "I liked changing the fire into very cool colours - my favourite was the green flame! I also liked the t-bag flying experiment, where you grab a teabag, cut the top off and take out the tea, then cut the bottom off and shape it into a cylinder. You then set it on fire and see if it flies into the air!"

Alex said, "I really enjoyed the Fireworks Science event that was held after school - it was so much fun! I especially enjoyed doing the sparklers outside and changing the colours of the flames. Thank you!"

Our KS3 Science Events give students the opportunity to try experiments that we don't normally have time for in lessons, showing that science can be enormous fun. Keep an eye out for posters for future KS3 Science events!



Lighting up learning: students explore the science behind fireworks with Bunsen burners.



The Year 11 Prize Presentation and GCSE Certificate Evening took place on Tuesday 25 November at Smithdon, celebrating the achievements of the class of 2025. We welcomed back the students with their families. Smithdon staff and our governors joined together to congratulate and recognise the hard work and resilience shown by the students over their years here. The event marked the final presentation in the current school hall before the upcoming refurbishment of the Grade 2* listed buildings.

All the students received their GCSE certificates and there were also 20 subject awards presented by our Headteacher Mrs Gibbins, with our Assistant Headteacher Mr Chapman highlighting the importance of recognising the students' hard work.

Award winners included Charlie (History), Isabel (Hospitality and Catering), Bethany (Rotary Young Citizen), Ethan (Lions Prize for Service), Niamh (Pastoral Leader Award), and Ruby (Mayor's Award for the Smithdon Seven). Endowed subject awards went to Thomas (Connie Martin Memorial Prize for English Literature), Matthew (Clare Shield for English Language), Amber (Clare Shield for Art), Reece (George Raines Memorial Award for Sport), and Bonnie (Hunstanton Round Table Award for Physical Education). The award for best overall results was presented to Freddie who also received the subject award for Business. The evening was particularly special for Harley who was awarded the first ever Hunstanton Heritage Centre Award for Geography - a bespoke trophy made by Langham Glass and engraved with his name.

The evening concluded with refreshments and photo opportunities, giving everyone the opportunity to reconnect and celebrate their successes and to wish them every success as they move forward into the next stage of their education and future careers.



It was wonderful to welcome students back to celebrate their achievements.

FIRST AID

Learning Lifesaving Skills

This term, our Year 10 Health and Social Care students, along with the whole of Year 9, successfully completed their First Aid training. This valuable opportunity was fully funded by Hunstanton Town Council, whose support enabled students to gain essential life-saving skills and the confidence to respond in an emergency. The students learned and practised a wide range of essential first aid skills, including abdominal thrusts, bandaging wounds, the recovery position, managing anaphylaxis and administering an EpiPen, using an AED, performing CPR and carrying out a full Primary Survey. Lily-May in Year 9 was excited to have learned how to administer an EpiPen, though she admitted that performing CPR was surprisingly tiring on the hands!

"Events like this are massively important, completing the course allows students to learn life-long, valuable skills, and boost their CV, having a bigger impact on the students' aspirations, attitudes, and behaviours in and outside school. "This is an element of the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) Curriculum," continued Ms Moat. "This qualification has helped them with their GCSE subjects, such as Health and Social Care, their Duke of Edinburgh Awards, PSHE Curriculum, Science, and Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN)"It also provides the local community with many more qualified people in first aid – a vital thing, considering the current crisis the NHS is in".



Hunstanton Mayor Cllr Cynthia Easeman joined the training, with her guide dog Gem keeping a watchful eye.



Joe and Archie learned CPR - heroes in training.

Debate in the Digital Age

Teams of students from the WNAT high schools gathered for the local round of a public speaking competition organised by the Rotary Club of Kings Lynn. This year's event, hosted at Springwood High School, featured students from King Edward VII Academy, Springwood High and St Clement's High. Competitors tackled a range of challenging topics, including animal testing, the effects of social media on mental health and the pressures created by Year 6 SATs.

Smithdons representatives - Harry, Zane and Harrison - delivered a strong presentation on the use of smartphones by children. Their debate explored both the opportunities and the risks that phones present to young people, from educational benefits and communication to concerns about screen time, safety and wellbeing.

Although the overall winners for the second year running were the team from St Clement's High School - whose speakers examined the ethics of animal testing - Smithdon's students were praised by their teachers for their teamwork and thoughtful engagement with an issue highly relevant to modern family life.

Autumn Adventures!

Year 10 Smash Their DofE Practice...

In October, our fantastic Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh students headed to Thetford Forest for their Silver Practice Expedition - and what an adventure it turned out to be!

Over two days, the group trekked through autumn woodlands, navigated forest trails and the occasional muddy puddle, carrying everything they needed on their backs. Despite the chilly October weather (and a few soggy boots along the way!), everyone showed brilliant teamwork, resilience and determination. From map reading to cooking on camp stoves, students put their skills to the test and learned plenty along the way.

Their positive attitude and teamwork never wavered. From navigating woodland trails to cooking meals on a gas stove, everyone rose to the challenge and supported each other every step of the way. It was a brilliant opportunity to build confidence and prepare for next year's qualifying expedition and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements. The expedition tested their endurance and resilience, but it also brought plenty of laughs and new friendships. By the end, every student could be proud of what they'd achieved - and of the memories made along the way.

A huge well done to all our Year 10 adventurers! We're confident you'll excel next June as you all take on the Southwold expedition!

Fun Fact: The Duke of Edinburgh Award was started in 1956 by Prince Philip to help young people challenge themselves and try new adventures. Today, it's a global programme helping millions gain skills, confidence, help their communities and have amazing experiences! The programme offers a sense of adventure through volunteering, physical activities, skill-building, and expeditions.



On the move: Year 10s tackling the countryside on their expedition.



Learning, exploring and adventuring together!

Forest School Fun

Learning, playing and exploring together

As the seasons change, our Forest School sessions have been filled with new sights, sounds and adventures! During autumn, the students have enjoyed exploring the colourful leaves, collecting conkers and pine-cones and learning how nature prepares for the colder months and how animals get ready for hibernation. We've enjoyed cooking a variety of foods over the fire - from warming curries to pizza wraps and even noodles.

For Halloween, we explored seasonal traditions and nature in creative ways. The children made shrunken apple heads by carving apples and cooking them gently over the fire. We also examined deer and rabbit bones, turning them into a "Too Late Petting Zoo" display - a light-hearted way to learn about animal anatomy, habitats and the forest ecosystem.

In November, we marked Remembrance Day by creating leaf poppies, using fallen autumn leaves to build natural artwork. We also made clay pots and candles. We melted the wax over the fire and used small holes in the ground as moulds. It worked brilliantly, giving the candles a really rustic, earthy feel and we

were all so impressed with the results.

The conker heads captured the essence of Forest School - using natural materials and a bit of imagination to create something fun and characterful. Activities like this build our students creativity, fine motor skills and a sense of connection with the woodland environment. It also shows how we can turn simple finds like conkers into expressive little woodland creatures, making the forest feel even more alive. We also found leaves on the ground and had to match them to the trees.

Our play has been just as lively: the students have loved the games such as hide and seek, capture the flag and sardines, which have helped build cooperation and strategy and of course run off some energy! Favourites like the zip line and rope swing continue to be popular every week! Even as winter sets in, we're wrapping up warm and lighting the fire to keep cosy and continuing to enjoy our outdoor learning. The groups have continued to show fantastic teamwork, problem-solving skills and a growing appreciation for the natural world around them, no matter the weather!



This is a perfect example of the playful, hands-on creativity that Forest School encourages.



Turning forest finds into festive friends!

Our Trip to The Playground

In October, the Year 7 students went on a trip to The Playground in Waterbeach and it was a really fun day. At the start of the day it was very rainy, but luckily it soon stopped. We were all excited and a bit nervous about the activities.

We did lots of challenges that we have never tried before. We crawled under nets, climbed steep walls, jumped over water, jumped in ditches, ran through obstacle courses and swung on ropes. I tried to climb up a rope, but it was really hard and it hurt my hands! Some people were very scared and there were a few tears, but everyone was encouraged and helped to try their best. We all supported each other and worked together to complete the challenges. We had lunch on the coach, which was nice because we were very tired after all the activities.

By the end of the day, we were muddy, exhausted and very happy. It was great to get to know more people in our year and make new friends.

Thank you to the teachers and the staff at The Playground for an amazing day - it is definitely a trip we will always remember!

Bella - Year 7



Smithdon Sailors Shine at National Championships

Five young sailors from Smithdon and Snettisham Beach Sailing Club braved tough conditions and fierce competition at the ITCA Topper Autumn National Series, turning in an incredible performance - including two stunning podium finishes for siblings Toby and Faith.

The event took place at Draycote Academy, Faith and Toby's second-claim club, where they are now in their third winter training programme. It attracted many of the best junior sailors from across the country. Despite the organisers describing the weather as "borderline sail-able," five of the six scheduled races were successfully completed thanks to the determination of the race team and safety crews.

For Harriet (Year 8), Emma (Year 9), and Daisy (Year 8), this was their first experience racing at national level - and all three rose to the challenge.



Beaming with pride! Toby and Faith earned those medals!

Competing in the 4.2 Fleet, Daisy showed incredible determination, completing every race and finishing an impressive ninth overall - and fifth girl out of 32 boats - a remarkable debut at this level.

In the larger 5.3 Fleet, which featured 73 competitors, Harriet placed 49th and Emma 60th, both finishing the regatta with big smiles and a fantastic sense of achievement.

The weekend's biggest headlines, however, belonged to Toby and Faith, who both delivered exceptional performances in the highly competitive 5.3 Fleet.

Faith sailed brilliantly to take third overall, finishing as top female and winner of the 15-year-old age group - an outstanding result in such a talented field. Toby went one better, claiming his first-ever overall event victory after finishing third last year. He dominated the fleet, winning three of the five races "by an absolute country mile," and collected titles for first male and first in the 14-year-old age group.

Even more impressively, his triumph came just a week after a visit to A&E in Ipswich, where he was treated for a dislocated knee sustained during a race at Royal Harwich Yacht Club. Despite a week on and off crutches and under strict physio care, Toby returned to the water with determination - even calmly resetting the joint himself after a recurrence before his penultimate race - and went on to win both of his final two races!

Both Toby and Faith were supported throughout the weekend by their GBR coach, Steve Irish, who also guided them at the World Championships earlier this summer. It was an inspiring weekend for all five sailors - a showcase of skill, resilience and true Smithdon spirit on the national stage.

Children in Need

Bake, Donate, Celebrate!

This year's Children in Need Day was a fantastic success! Our students took part by wearing non-uniform for the day, each donating £1 to support the important work the charity does for children and young people across the UK.

A special highlight of the event was the incredible bake sale organised by Miss Brown and the Year 10 ASDAN class. The group worked hard to prepare and present a huge selection of cakes, cookies and a multitude of sweet treats, all of which proved extremely popular with students and staff alike. The queue was huge at break time! Their effort, enthusiasm and teamwork played a big part in the day's success and their colourful posters made sure everyone knew about the event. In addition to the bake sale, we held an exciting *Teachers vs Students* event in the sports hall, where both teams faced off in a series of competitive games! The activities included badminton, curling, a penalty shoot-out and archery, giving everyone plenty of chances to get competitive and cheer each other on. The atmosphere was electric, with cheers, laughter and plenty of friendly rivalry. Despite a strong effort from the students, the teachers claimed victory! The whole event was great fun and added to the spirit of the day.

What is Children in Need?

Children in Need is a charity that helps children and young people across the UK who are facing challenges like illness, disability, poverty or difficult family situations. The money raised goes to projects that give them support, opportunities and a better chance to reach their full potential.



Marco and Miles: turning sweet treats into serious sales!



Thanks to the combined efforts of our non-uniform donations, bake sale and inclusive sports activities, we raised an incredible £512 for Children in Need! This amazing achievement just shows the generosity and wonderful community spirit of our students and staff and we are proud to support such a meaningful cause every year. A huge well done and thank you to everyone who took part - your support truly makes a difference!



Mr Corder proving that style matters more than accuracy in badminton.



Mr McQuade making archery look equal parts heroic and hazardous.



Precision? Strategy? Mr Tilley prefers pure vibes.

Boogie Nights

The KS3 School Disco on Thursday 14 November was a fantastic evening full of music, dancing and fun! Students came together to celebrate with friends, showing off their best moves. The lively tunes were supplied by Party Starters, who had everyone dancing - but nothing topped the moment the Macarena came on, the dance floor exploded with students and even Mr Plant couldn't resist joining in, proving he somehow knows every single move!

There were plenty of sweets and drinks available to buy throughout the night and everyone appreciated the chance to have a treat while supporting a good cause. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised a brilliant amount of money that will go towards helping the School Council develop new projects to benefit all our students in the future. We are also delighted to share that a portion of the funds raised will be donated to *Children in Need*, supporting an important charity that helps children and young people across the UK.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, helped organise or supported the event - it was a fantastic evening and a great example of our school community spirit!

Smithdon's Tree-mendous Success!

Smithdon is delighted to announce that our entry in this year's Hunstanton Tree Festival earned a fantastic third place finish in the children's category! Our team's creativity and teamwork were on full display as we transformed our tree into a vibrant celebration of everything that makes Smithdon unique. Our colourful tree, adorned with pages from last year's newsletters, brought to life the energy, creativity and variety of school life at Smithdon - celebrating our achievements while proudly highlighting the rich diversity of our community in line with our Diversity Pledge.

From the early planning stages to the final decorations, the project brought students and staff together in a wonderful burst of imagination. We're incredibly proud of everyone who contributed - whether through crafting decorations, helping with the setup, or taking the time to go along and vote. Placing third among so many beautifully designed trees is an achievement we're all celebrating. A huge thank-you to the Hunstanton Tree Festival organisers for hosting such a joyful community event. We're already looking forward to next year!



Attendance Matters

Winter is here and cold and flu germs are circulating, making it even more important to keep your child healthy. Regular attendance is essential for learning, but sometimes staying home is the safest choice - for your child and the whole school community.

When to Stay Home:

Fever, vomiting, or diarrhoea

Persistent cough or significant cold symptoms

Flu-like symptoms

Tips to Stay Well:

Wash hands frequently with soap and water

Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing

Encourage a balanced diet, plenty of water and adequate sleep

Dress warmly and stay dry in colder weather

We appreciate your help in keeping our school community healthy. Together, we can help everyone stay well and keep learning on track this winter!

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

Year 7: Mr Mcquade

Year 8: Mrs Wheeler

Year 9: Ms Wright

Year 10: Mrs Robinson

Year 11: Mr Corder

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

Facebook: Smithdon High School

We wish you all a very Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year!
We look forward to welcoming
you back on 6 January 2026!