



# The Smithdonian

Smithdon High School Magazine

A hugely  
successful  
**OPEN  
EVENING!**

A visit from the poet;  
**GILLIAN  
CLARKE**

Meet our new  
Head Boy and  
Head Girl;

**BIG** day out, Sports,  
National Poetry Day,  
Matilda JR and  
more!

Tears, dancing and  
farewells at the  
**CLASS OF 2021**  
Prom



The October 2021 Issue



## Mr Hirst and Mrs Gibbins welcome you...

Welcome to Smithdon High School, Autumn 2021, and our regenerated newsletter: The Smithdonian. Not just a new name but a different feel too! It is a pleasure to see an increase in direct student involvement with the newsletter and, as a result, an even greater showcase of what the students have been getting involved in!

We celebrated a fantastic end to the summer term - with the Year 11 Prom and Smithdon's Big Day Out to Pleasurewood Hills, followed by the Class of 2021 Results Day in August - and have enjoyed a busy and exciting start to the new school year.

This term has already brought the auditions and initial preparations for our production of Matilda; National Poetry Day celebrations, and the official presentation of our new Head Boy, Theo, and Head Girl, Caitlin, along with a hugely successful Year 6 Open Evening and a whole host of new clubs and opportunities for our students. We have also had a successful return to Geography GCSE Field Trips, with the Year 10 coastal trip, and welcomed around 200 energetic Year 4s and 5s for our postponed Olympic Sports Festival.

Read on to find out about what happened in all of those events, as well as the visit of the fantastic poet, Gillian Clarke; our new Year 9 group of Reading Ambassadors; the growing Science Garden and newly developing Nepal Sensory Garden, as well as sporting fixture results and some exciting work going on in lessons every day.

We are so proud of all our students for their enthusiasm and renewed dedication to their studies, as well as their engagement in the opportunities available to them, including taking on student leadership roles and becoming ambassadors to share their experiences with other students.

We are already looking forward to the next edition of the newsletter, to report back on the exciting adventures

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### ***Welcome to our new Year 11 ambassadors!***

Amelia, Thomas, Caitlin, Oliver and Abi have all received their ambassador ties and badges from Mrs Gibbins.

Abi along with Maria will also be contributing with content and interviews throughout our magazines, so please take the time to read what they have to say!



# Q&A

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## Congratulations to Theo and Caitlin, our new Head Boy and Head Girl

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By Ollie



### ***Theo, what motivated you to apply to be Head Boy?***

I wanted to be the Head Boy so that I could help the school become more productive and also build my confidence.

### ***Who inspires you and why?***

Joel Ekperigin is a huge inspiration to me. He is a dancer as well and so I feel that I can connect with him. He has helped me progress with my performing arts and I aspire to be like him in every way.

### ***Why do you think you were given the role over the other candidates?***

I embrace everything with confidence and a positive work ethic. I try my best every time and that is all I can do.

### ***What are your post-16 aspirations?***

I would like to go to D&B dance college so I can pursue my dream of being a dancer. I would like to perform in the West End and I am determined to work hard to achieve my dream.

### ***Caitlin, what gave you the ambition to be Head Girl?***

I wasn't ambitious to be Head Girl at first, however my teachers and friends persuaded me that I would be good for the role. I was encouraged to take one step forward and apply.

### ***Do you have any particular strengths that you think were valuable in the decision to make you Head Girl?***

We all had an equal chance and I am grateful that I was picked for the role. I don't believe that I have anything that is more desirable over the other applicants.

### ***Was there anything that you wanted to change within the school before you got the role?***

I'm passionate about the environment and so I wanted to work with the school to make us more green.

### ***What was your reaction when you found out that you had been successful?***

I was shocked and tearful as I thought the other candidates were exceptional.

### ***Have you enjoyed your roles so far?***

As leaders of the student body, we have settled in well and have the full support of our peers, teachers and families. We both thoroughly look forward to what the future has to offer.





By Mrs Pike

***Planning started back in February for Smithdon's Big Day out at the end of the summer term. Plans changed due to Covid, then changed again, but finally everything was in place and the trips could go ahead.***

After a very tricky year it was lovely to finally organise a school trip and see the excitement on the students' faces as they said they were going – asking loads of questions, such as: do we have to wear uniform? What time do we get there? Are you going on the rides too, Miss?



The last three days of term arrived and the Monday was our biggest day out with students from Years 7 and 8 travelling on five coaches to Pleasurewood Hills. On Tuesday it was the turn of Year 9 and on Wednesday Year 10. With over 350 students travelling in total, it was great to see so many excited faces.

We were amazingly lucky with the weather; with bright, hot sunshine for the three days, plenty of sun cream was needed and students and teachers alike loved the opportunity to cool off on the water rides. Screams and shouts of delight and fear rang out many a time over the three days on the scarier rides.

Unfortunately, a group of students had been unable to attend due to having to isolate; however, they were given the opportunity to go at another time with a free ticket.



***Mrs Carlton and Miss Miller enjoyed the day out as much as the students!***





On the days that students were not at Pleasurewood Hills various activities went on in school. These included sports tournaments, First Aid courses, CV writing, finance information, design your own board game, quizzes and bingo!

Plans are already afoot for the curriculum enhancement activities for next year, so watch this space for more information...

Thank you to everyone who made the last three days of the summer term so much fun!



***“What an amazing day!”***



***“A fantastic end to the year!”***



***Adele had the opportunity to meet and have her photo taken with the star of the show!***

***“It was an amazing day, especially after not being able to go out with friends during Covid”***



***Mrs Nash and Shane having fun on the bumper cars.***



***Year 9 students with Miss Brindley taking a break from the rides and enjoying the sun.***

# OPEN EVENING

By Mrs Chapman



*Ms Moat had a Duke of Edinburgh's Award display, including a tent, photos of expeditions maps and all the information on our very popular and successful youth awards programme.*

The evening got off to an incredible start with a sneak peak of our 2022 school production, "Matilda": pupils sang "Naughty" to a hall packed with over 300 people. Opening statements from Head Boy, Theo Bazeley-Smith and new Year 7 pupil, Darcie Askew, to welcome everyone began the talk, with Mr Hirst then sharing his plans and vision for the school and teasing us all with his story of how he came to own a cannonball from the Spanish Armada. Speeches were closed by Head Girl, Caitlin Wagg, and new Year 7 student, Aaron Nicholson.



Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from our local feeder schools and further afield visited each department, collecting stamps for each of the activities they completed. In Food, pupils made Smithdon High School cookies; in Art, pupils contributed to a paint by number Hunstanton cliffs scene. Pupils and parents were delighted at our French cafe with fresh coffee and homemade madeleines; Science involved a variety of practical experiments to complete, whilst in DT pupils used the new laser cutter to make a range of products. Pupils also corrected Ms. Wright's spelling and grammar in English and identified a variety of artefacts in History and RE.

**Please look out for tickets to our school show; Matilda in February 2022.**



Going around the school, in Geography, pupils were invited to use their map skills to find their house on the map; pupils were challenged to produce a freeze frame in Drama, complete a circus of sports skills in PE, then test their maths skills in a variety of games and puzzles. There was a camp site set up in the Shaw Building, with our students demonstrating all the skills they gained in completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Throughout the evening, pupils completed their "Quest" to find the knights in shining armour, solve the clue and win a 'valuable tool' at the

**Thank you to all our staff and fantastic student helpers, who made the evening such a success: a great time was had by all!**



*Mr Hirst talking to parents.*



*Lily and Isobel in Year 9 made biscuits all through the evening! Our potential students then finished them with icing and edible logos and then were able to enjoy their efforts by eating them!*

**"We had to rush off at the end. I didn't get chance to thank the two girls that showed us around: Tilly and Lilly. They were very helpful, polite and a credit to the school."**



*Saskia and Grace helped with the poetry activity in our refurbished library.*



*Brandon helped with PE department and showed off his basketball skills!*

If you have any questions about transition to Smithdon High School, please contact us:

01485 534541

[office@smithdonhigh.org.uk](mailto:office@smithdonhigh.org.uk)



# Library News

*With the newly-laid carpet and our hard-working site team putting their painting skills to good use, Smithdon Library has never looked better! The transformation has been a gradual process, starting with the build of the award-winning computer suite - which can now be used by the whole school, across all subjects. The library and computer suite are also now open at lunch times for all year groups, and after school every Wednesday and Thursday for Homework Club.*



## Refugees and Speaking for Freedom

We have heard it in the news recently that families have been fleeing from their homes to escape poverty, danger and persecution in the hope of a brighter, safer life. The school library has plenty of eye-opening, insightful novels that are perfect for discussing how and why people have been displaced. They encourage the reader to better understand hardships that refugees face, invite them to explore cultural differences and, most crucially, demand that the reader imagines what it is like to be someone with a completely different life experience.

## Black History Month

Every October in the UK we take time to observe, respect and promote knowledge of black history, heritage and culture. We pay tribute to those historic figures from the world of politics and human rights, as well as celebrating more contemporary figures from the world of popular culture who have embraced those values and set themselves out as role models for the next generation. Young Adult books go above and beyond when it comes to representation, so when you are choosing your next library book, think about looking at some of the books that we have on our shelves that have been influential in this wave of representation. From atmospheric fantasies to realistic tales tinged with everyday issues, there is something on offer for everyone.



# Reading Ambassadors

By Ms Wright

Nothing surpasses being absorbed in a good book. If there were one thing teachers wish they had more time for, it would be reading. Students in Year 9 were invited to apply for the position of Reading Ambassador. This role involves promoting reading for pleasure as well as supporting other students with reading. Interested students completed an application explaining why they are suited for the role. Newly appointed Reading Ambassadors attended a training session complete with juice and pastries and now they are ready to share their love of literature with other students.



*Students who would like to promote reading for pleasure in other ways, such as joining Reading Club or starting a book club, please see Ms Wright, Miss Taylor, Mrs. Robinson or any member of the English department.*

## English...

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### Accelerated Reader

By Miss Cowles

***“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.” Dr. Seuss***

If there is one universal truth about reading it is the above quotation from the eminent Dr. Seuss. It is, quite simply, a fact. If you read a lot, you will learn a lot, and with that knowledge, find so many routes that begin to open up to you in life.

It is with this belief that at Smithdon we encourage students to read. We encourage them to read for meaning, to learn to decode and identify key ideas in texts, but also to read for enjoyment to find pleasure in departing to different worlds from the classroom or the comfort of their own home.

Students in Years 7 and 8 take part in the Accelerated Reader Programme, which focuses on reading for meaning. Students are encouraged to quiz on the books they have read and use these quizzes to celebrate successes, while also setting goals for themselves. These quizzes are designed to help students recall key information and also identify and correctly use vocabulary. As they progress through the programme they see improvements in scores which later feed into improvements in Reading Ages. Teachers celebrate every success with students, from small quiz score improvements to large leaps in reading age.

It is this celebration of reading which feeds into the second edict - reading for pleasure. This year the English department has split its focus to allow us to encourage students to read, not only to jump through academic hoops but also for the simple pleasure a good book can bring. Working closely with our excellent librarian, we are constantly looking for new and interesting texts to hook our students and get them fired up about reading. As Stephen King once said, “books are a uniquely portable magic” and, here at Smithdon, we take responsibility for sharing as much of that magic with our students as we can.



# National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day is an annual, UK- wide celebration of poetry. The theme for 2021 was CHOICE. English classes paused perspective, stopped story and context, retired representation for the day and advocated for more appreciation of the written (and spoken) word. National Poetry Day usurped English lessons on Thursday, 7th October and we celebrated verse. Here's a sampling of what students enjoyed and created:

## A walk

I walk through the streets  
then a bird not big or small  
It lands on the tree next to me  
the green grass spreading miles.  
You walk for days and find a blue ocean  
You sink your feet into the yellow sand  
Then you start to walk towards the sea  
You stop, then the tide goes over your feet  
The cold ocean sea water feels cool  
Then you find yourself at a city  
Noisy, loud, and grimy but the bird isn't there  
Out of nowhere you hear a car horn  
Then you're back where the bird landed  
Green, silent, calm  
The bird twerps and you feel whole

**Aidan - Year 9**

### Choose A Poem! by James Carter

Choose a poem  
choose it well  
one you'd want  
to show or tell

Read it once  
then twice again  
keep that poem  
in your brain

Share it every  
place you go  
share with everyone  
you know

Say it loud  
say it slow  
let that rhythm  
really flow

Ring out every  
single word  
so we're in  
that poem's world

Pick a book  
and just get going –  
time for you to  
choose a poem!

## Deers

Striding through the forest  
Eyes as bright as sky  
The tall, long legged animal stands and stares  
His brown ears slap around when he gallops off

**Lola-May - Year 7**

## Food Chain

The food chain is strange, the food chain is  
unfair, why should they work for food to be  
killed by a bear?

They are bred only to be killed, sold on the  
shelves to be food

Why do we give this world life, just to take it  
away, just to place them on shelves with a  
price?

We don't do it to each other, why do we do  
it to them? Is it because we are at the top of  
the chain or is it because of something else?

**Jack - Year 7**



Is the sand soft? Or is it stony? As the sand squishes  
beneath your feet, stones sting soft skin below.

Trees sway from side to side, people watch the tide. As  
the time tick tocks, waves crash on the rocks.

Waves crash on the steps, unknown creatures are in the  
depths. The tide is out, games on the beach. But when  
waves arrive, swim time it is.

**Jamie – Year 7**

Trees save the world, that's the  
planet earth. It's NOT yours to  
spoil, so be careful what you do,  
because the animals care too.

**Lottie - Year 7**

To my great Nan

Gone to soon  
7th April 2021 was her time to go  
Such a beautiful lady  
Full of love and joy  
Every time I went to her house  
Her face lit up with bliss  
She was so lovely  
Never was she rude  
Always so kind  
I wish it wasn't her time  
Everyone is so upset with her sad news  
Now she will be spread with her cat  
Kitty-kat  
She loved Kitty-kat to pieces  
Had photos of her  
Kitty-kat was her life  
Loved so much  
Oh I wish she was still here  
Such a beautiful lady  
Gone to soon.



Trinity



**Trinity – Year 8**

## Cows

Cows drink water,

We drink milk,

Cows give beef,

We give grey.

Cows eat grass,

We eat food,

Cows look through gaps,

We look through glass.

Cows like hay,

We say hey,

Cows say moo,

We say boo.

**Larissa – Year 7**

The thing most people want, no pain, no harm, just  
peace.

Just me on one single lonely planet.

Silence, tranquillity and forgiveness.

That's all people need to survive in this world.

**Liam – Year 7**

There once was a hen, his name was Ben. He  
was eating yummy corn, then he heard a big  
horn.

So Ben the hen, decided to make a den. Then  
he realised that the horn, was just a large  
delivery of corn.

**Abbie – Year 7**

John Agard's 'More Pointless Questions' allowed us to question the question. Students emulated Agard's style too, posing their own questions to living creatures...

## More pointless questions



Hamster  
Hamster  
Which do you prefer?  
A spaceship of plastic  
Or a field that's  
fantastic?

**Oscar & Oliver - Year 7**



Tiger  
Tiger  
Which do you prefer?  
Strolling circles in a zoo  
Or roaming the tundra, hunting for  
food?

**Bella, Elise & Emily - Year 7**

Goldfish	Red rose
goldfish	red rose
which glass do you	which do you prefer?
prefer?	A vase once used
A bowl of glass	to contain dry flowers
Or a pond that	or a patch of ground
ripples	blooming with briars?
When the winds	Putting such
pass?	questions
Little bird	to a goldfish
little bird	or a bird
which do you	or a rose
prefer?	is pointless I suppose.
A house of wires	

Bess



Bees

What do you prefer?

A box with a lid

Or a hive outside?

Frogs



Frogs

What do you prefer?

A big open pond

Or a small closed up one?

Daisies

Daisies

What do you prefer?

A little pot with dried up

Or a big patch of grass?



**Lillyrose – Year 7**



Tawny owl

Tawny owl

Which place do you prefer?

Watching the night go by in a cage of  
wires

Or hunting in a field with food  
echoing for miles?

**Georgia - Year 7**





# Gillian Clarke

By Maria, Nathan, Daniel and Lindsey

This half term, Smithdon High School has been fortunate enough to have the famous poet, Gillian Clarke, visit the school and talk to the whole of Year 11. It was a real privilege to hear her and also very helpful in our work on our English Literature GCSE. Four lucky pupils were selected to interview Gillian Clarke, the former Welsh Poet Laureate, whose poetry we had studied in Year 10.

Gillian Clarke's poems have often been set as exam pieces and she said how nice it was to be back in a school, talking about her love of poetry. She also mentioned her thanks to her high school English teacher who made the class "write an essay every week" and concluded with wishes of good luck to the whole of Year 11 for our forthcoming GCSEs.



Speaking about her poem, "The Habit of Light," which we had all studied in Year 10, Gillian explained how it was written about her mother after she died and said that her mother would probably be "embarrassed" by the rather vain way that she was presented to the reader; however, Gillian loved being able to create the poem and show how her mother cast an aura of light about her, as well as how it reminded her of home.

When we asked about the writing process, Gillian explained that a favourite part is when she might have "a sudden urge" to write down a first line and she explained that sometimes when she is writing she "just can't stop," and she described the excitement of capturing ideas. Behind her poetry writing, she aims to tell the truth about the way we live, using ordinary language in "word music" to write about normal things. Thinking of "The Habit of Light," we asked Gillian Clarke if she had also written a poem about complete darkness, to which she replied, "I don't think I have but I shall have to consider writing one about that now." It was amazing to think that one of our questions could spark the interest of a famous poet to write another poem.

For Gillian, poetry is a positive force for life, "not an effort, but a purpose," she said, leaving us with an inspiring thought for our future studies and writing, that "anything is possible if you read."

**It was a huge honour to have Gillian Clarke visit Smithdon High School and we greatly appreciate the time she spent with us in our school.**





# Science and Nature

By Amelia and Alice – Year 7

We have had a kind man, named Matt from the Papillon Project come to help us with the school's Science Garden. We cut some leaves off the tomato plant to help the sun to ripen the tomatoes.

*Come and join the lunchtime/after school gardening club! Open on Tuesdays, there are a variety of jobs to choose from and you can bring your lunch too!*

*Gardening club is a place where we can learn to help the environment. We have planted mint and other herbs. We are now making compost from leaves and using sunflower stems in the bug hotel. We look forward to seeing you there!*



The potatoes were harvested by Kenzie and Lily-Jean. The Year 9 students entered the 'Solana Seeds School potato growing challenge'. Look out for the results of the challenge very soon!

If you are still interested in joining the Year 9 Youth STEMM award, please see Mrs Soper for a letter.

There will be an after-school STEMM club on Tuesdays, 3-4pm starting after half-term with the **Turning Turbines** where we will be building a 1m diameter fully working wind turbine and investigating how it can be used to charge electrical devices.





A massive “Thank you” to Mr John Sheldrake for his very kind gift: a donation to purchase and protect half an acre of threatened habitat in Argentina on our behalf.

Mr Sheldrake is a former Smithdon High School students, who started here aged 11 in 1954 when the school was a new building! His donation will help to create a permanently protected nature reserve.

**World Land Trust (WLT) is an international conservation charity that protects the world’s most biologically significant and threatened habitats, acre by acre.**

**Through a network of partner organisations around the world, WLT funds the creation of reserves and provides permanent protection for habitats and wildlife.**

In Science, we learn about the impacts of deforestation, this kind gift helps to combat those impacts and protect the world’s most biologically important and threatened habitats.

For more information: <https://www.worldlandtrust.org/who-we-are-2/>



#### Items we still need:

- Bottle Tops
- Cans with the white lining inside
- Cotton Clothing
- Quilt Covers
- Cuttings of herbs or grasses
- Old wellington boots

**If you would like to donate any items, please contact Mrs Bowyer in pastoral.**

Smithdon has received the Intermediate Level International School Award from the British Council. This is in recognition of our broad and balanced curriculum as well as the ongoing links and relationship that we have with the Elite Grand School in Nepal. Mrs Bowyer has worked tirelessly with the help of some of the students to transform one of our gardens into an environmentally friendly, sensory garden.

When we think of environmental gardening, we usually think of creating a garden using natural materials, such as wood and bark chippings. But if we limit ourselves to just these sources then we miss an opportunity for creativity. In using mixed non-recyclable waste and repurposing rubbish that would otherwise end up going to landfill, we can give disposable items a second life whilst having fun and being environmentally friendly.

Our Sensory Garden introduces the philosophy of **reduce, reuse and recycle**. We aim to teach our students to be responsible with waste in what has become a ‘throw away and replace’ culture. Teaching children, when they are young, the importance of helping to save the environment will guarantee that future generations will act responsibly as they teach their children that we cannot continue to bury our waste: it is dangerous; it is polluting the water tables and we are running out of space.



# Year 10 Geography Trip



By Mr Chapman

The Covid-19 pandemic has prevented many school trips, including Geography fieldwork. The Geography department were delighted to take all 70 Year 10 Geographers on their coastal fieldtrip on Wednesday 13 October. Students were accompanied by Mr. Chapman, Ms. Bazeley-Smith, Mr. Duncan, Mrs. Nash-Pay and Miss Drewery.

Our first location was Mundesley where we observed the striking cliffs made of glacial till, deposited after the last ice age. Students sketched and photographed the cliffs as well as measuring the angle of the slope of the beach. We also looked at the effects of erosion on the sediment characteristics found on the beach. Mundesley is facing coastal erosion, making it an ideal place to study the various sea defenses in place along this stretch of coastline.





We visited Sheringham where students listened to a talk on sea defenses by Mr. Chapman, who talked about why Sheringham is heavily defended by a range of coastal sea defenses. Everyone visited Sheringham High Street with most taking the opportunity to enjoy some fish and chips and ice cream.

Our final location was Cley-next-the-Sea with its steep shingle beach and salt marsh, where students carried out more surveys. All the data collected will be used as students prepare for their Geographical Investigations exam which they will sit in the Summer of 2023.

It was a pleasure to take this group of hard working Geographers to these locations, and the department is looking forward to more fieldwork later in the year.







By Mr Ward

It has been great to have such a wide range of co-curricular clubs back on offer now we have fewer Covid restrictions in place and it has been fantastic to see so many students take part in both our lunch time and after-school clubs.

The girls have been setting the standard with great numbers at the netball club and some really good participation in our brand new girls' football and rugby sessions. They are really showing that the 'This Girl Can' attitude is well and truly alive at Smithdon.



Why not come along and join in? Learn something new, be physically active for longer and - most importantly - have fun!



# Fixtures are back!

## Smithdon take part in the National Cup...

It has been a long time since we welcomed another school for a sporting fixture here at Smithdon. The pandemic, along with many other things, took away our opportunity to play sporting fixtures. But now they are back! Ask any of the PE staff, fixtures are one of the best parts of their jobs. It was so good to see fixtures back with the Year 9 boys' football team having the privilege of playing the first fixture. And what a fixture it was – Boston Grammar were the visitors in the National Cup. A formidable opponent.

The boys started well. It was a tough, physical game with both teams putting in hard, but fair, tackles as both teams tried to gain an advantage. Boston struck first as a ball through was calmly slotted past Crossman in goal. Boston had the upper hand in the game but some brilliant defending from the defence ensured Smithdon stayed in the game at the half time break. A fast start was needed in the second half; however, it was Boston who scored again meaning we were certainly up against it. However, heads did not drop and the attitude of all involved was outstanding as we fought back and scored a fantastic goal on the break through Marsden. As it was a cup game we now chased for an equaliser, in doing so we left ourselves more open at the back and ended up conceding a few more goals as Boston's strength in depth came through.



As part of European Day of Languages, the PE Department supported the MFL team by running European Tournaments in a number of different sports.

Students were divided up into different European Countries (Spain, France, Germany and Portugal) with students encouraged to name as many different players in each sport from that country. We also encouraged keeping score in the language spoken by each country.

There was some fantastic football and basketball played by each year group, with great engagement shown by all pupils.





# Smithdon win the match!

# 5-1!

## Match report: Smithdon Vs. St Clement's

Smithdon Year7 football team played their first match for the school on Wednesday 13 October against St Clement's High School.

The boys were nervous as they warmed up but come the start of the match they had settled and were looking forward to playing.

Smithdon kicked off the first half, passed the ball well and looked to apply pressure. St Clement's soaked the pressure up well and got into the match. The first scare came when St Clement's countered and broke the Smithdon back line hitting the inside of the post with the ball flying back out. Smithdon then took the lead. Seal, who hit a long and wide goal kick, provided an assist for Lucas who gambled well, picked the ball up and ran directly towards goal where he beat a player and smashed the ball across goal, hitting the inside of the post and in. The goal provided the confidence for the team to really push on and Smithdon started to take control of the match. Both the defence and midfield were battling well and this led to the second goal. Smithdon won a throw-in in the final third and made full use of it. The throw-in led to a scuffle in the box and the ball landing at the feet of Josh, who had an easy tap in to make it 2-0. The game became a little messy after the second goal with both teams giving away possession and both keepers having to make a string of good saves as well as a goal being disallowed for offside.

### *Half time: Smithdon 2 – 0 St Clement's*

The second half started with St Clement's on top and they took advantage of this. They played some nice passes to create an opening for their strike. Seal produced a good save but the ball fell to their player who just got enough on it for it to roll over the line to make the score 2-1.

The boys didn't let this affect them as they got their composure back and went on the attack. The ball was played down the left wing where Josh cut it back to Jack, who tried his luck from about 25 yards. The keeper seemed to have it covered but only managed to parry it into his top corner, for Smithdon to restore their two goal lead to make the score 3-1.

The game became a bit scrappy, with no team making their possession count or really creating any clear opportunities. Smithdon then saw a very clever through ball from George to play in Lucas, who still had a lot to do. Lucas again drove towards the goal and with some magical dribbling he managed to beat 4 players, get one-on-one with the keeper and he coolly slotted the ball between the his legs to make the score 4-1.

Smithdon took their foot off the gas for a 10-minute spell where St Clement's had a number of good chances with Seal keeping his concentration and pulling off a number of good one-on-one saves to keep the lead intact. Smithdon then finished the game off. Again Seal used his long kick to play Lucas in behind who calmly slotted the ball home to complete his first hat trick and making the score 5-1 to Smithdon.

A great first match for the lads who showed a great team spirit.

*Goal Scorers: Lucas x3, Josh and Jack*

*MOTM: Lucas*

# Q&A

## Sports Leader

*Archie in Year 8 was chosen to help at the Primary Tennis Tournament which was hosted at the KES community tennis centre. Archie has completed the LTA Young Leaders Award so this was a great opportunity for him to put his skills into practice...*



**• Why did you want to take part in the tennis leadership course?**

I really like sports and tennis is one of my favourites. I wanted to be part of this tennis leadership course because in the future I want to become a coach and I like helping others with sports.

**• What did the course involve? (How long was it? Where did it take place?)**

The Leadership course took place at KES. The course was from 9am-3pm and there were 2 sessions: session 1 which was 9-30 - 11-30 and session 2 which was 12-45 - 2-45. We taught and refereed teams from local schools during this time. Luckily this course was not affected by Covid-19.

**• What skills did you learn from the course?**

During this course I learnt lots of coaching skills, such as how to referee a game of tennis, as well as learning how to put up a mini red tennis net, which is a net that children play on.

**• How did you put the qualification to use during the Primary School Festival?**

I used my leadership qualification to help the children that attended play tennis.

**• Are there any other sports you would want to take a leadership course in?**

If I had an opportunity to do another leadership course, such as football or cricket, then I would definitely do it.

# Year 11 Sports Festival

## *Students deliver a fantastic Primary Sports Festival!*

The Olympic Games in Tokyo may have come to a conclusion in August, but the Olympic spirit was still going strong at Smithdon High School as they hosted an Olympic sports festival for nearly 200 Year 4 and 5 pupils from their local cluster primary schools.

The festival consisted of 13 Olympic themed activities that were planned, organised, set up and delivered by 70 Year 11 Smithdon pupils as part of a leadership in PE course. The festival was due to take place in the last academic year but the pandemic pushed it back to this year.

For many of the primary school students, this was the first school trip they had been on since the pandemic began and the fun and enjoyment was clear to see throughout all of the sporting sessions during the day.

Smithdon's Year 11 students delivered some fantastic engaging sessions which allowed the primary students to be active, learn new skills and try new sports as part of the festival. They were able to utilise the leadership, communication and organisation skills learnt during the course to great effect and were a credit to the PE department and the school.

Current Year 10 students will soon begin preparations for the next festival which will take place in July, as we continue to showcase the amazing sports leaders we have at the school.





# Smithdon High School VS Terrington St Clements

By Caitlin Jacob – Year 11 Sports Leader

The Year 8s started the game positively and kept that positive attitude throughout the whole game. From the coaches' point of view, our Year 8s made short, quick passes, which helped them lead up to scoring 16 goals over four 10-minute games. At the end of every 10-minute quarter we came together and had a team chat about what we could do better and I also gave them pointers to help them improve their skills. This also took place while the game was in progress from the side of the court.

Even though we came away from Terrington with the win, it's good to remember that there are always ways to improve the game. An example of this would be that the Year 8s need to be working on their marking and where they need to be on the court. We hope to work on this in the Year 7-9s netball training after school, (held on a Thursday every week from 3-4pm).

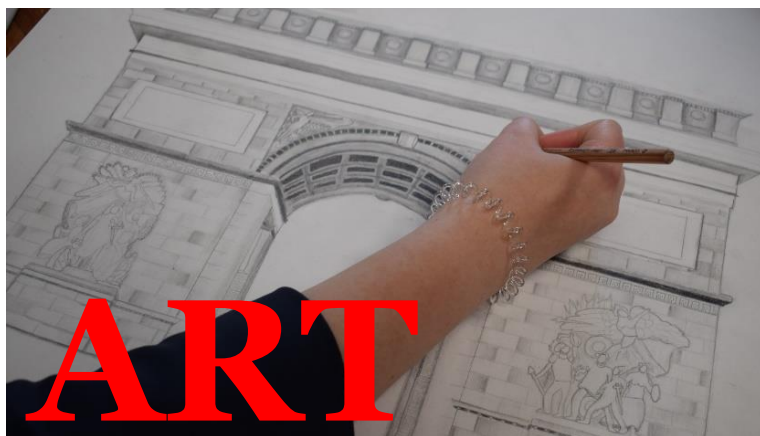
At the end of the netball game, we chose a player of the match and Terrington did the same, then we gave "3 cheers" to Terrington and one for excellent play; at points in the match it was neck and neck with the score line but Smithdon managed to pull through and win.

**A massive well done to Terrington St Clements.**

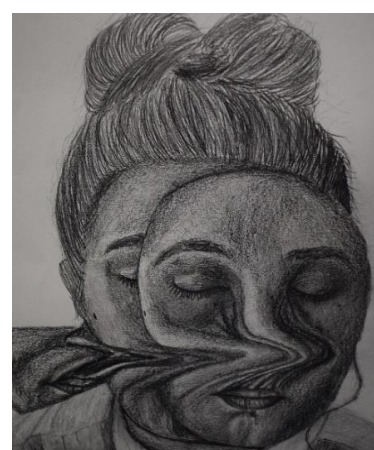
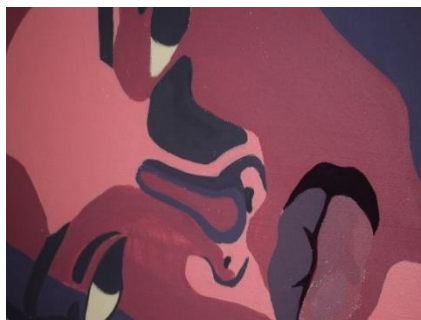
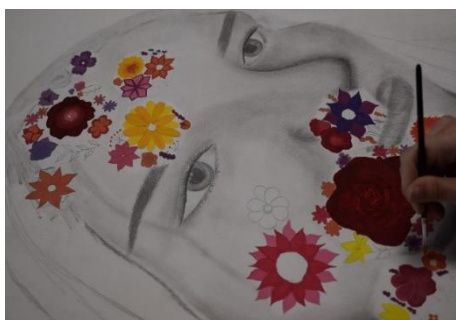
## *Smithdon 16 - Terrington 8*



**Congratulations Rhenaya for winning Player of the Match!**

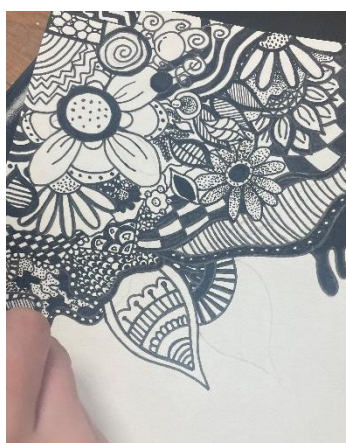


With the departure of the Class of 2021, we can now proudly show you some of the GCSE Art work that was produced by the **Year 11 leavers**. Ella, Morgan, Isla, Emily, Natalya, Millie and Mia completed and entered these pieces for their final exams. The pieces are 'Snapshots' of their work. These are just a few of some of the amazing pieces of art that these students should be very proud of. They worked consistently hard and learnt that putting in the effort and staying focused pays off!



**Year 9** have begun work on their Automatic Drawings. This is a method which allows the artist's hand to randomly move over the paper, thus expressing the subconscious. This spontaneous approach is associated with Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism.

Here are some great examples with nature being the main source of inspiration for our super-talented students.





Welcome back to the Performing Arts Department! We are so happy to have students back in class and back to doing practical lessons! Covid was especially hard on Music and Drama as many of the restrictions in place stopped us from being able to run clubs safely.

Since returning to school we have been able to start up many of our old clubs as well as and start some new ones. See our co-curricular timetable below and feel free to come out to any of our lunch time or after school clubs. We are so excited to be offering activities such as our Ukulele Club, Keyboard Orchestra, Dance Club and Drama Club.



# Drama and Music


By

Miss Miller

We have also had some amazing new equipment in our departments for students to take advantage of!

In Music, we have a brand new class set of ukuleles that the Ukulele Club and Year 8s and 9s have been enjoying using in lessons.

In drama we have installed four new state of the art lights, allowing us to create much more elaborate and creative staging and lighting for the students in class. We were even able to host the West Norfolk Academies Trust Spelling Bee final and utilize these lights to put on an amazing show!

 <b>Smithdon High School's Performing Arts Co - Curricular Timetable</b>					
	Monday 1	Tuesday 1	Wednesday 1	Thursday 1	Friday 1
Lunch	KS3 Dance Club - Drama Studio		KS3 Choir - A20 KS4 Dance Club - Drama Studio	KS3 Keyboard Club - A20	KS3 Matilda Singing - A20 KS4 Matilda Singing - A20 KS4 Music Revision - A19 KS4 Drama Revision - A17
After School			Matilda Rehearsal - Drama Studio	KS4 Music Revision - A20 KS4 Drama Revision - A17	
	Monday 2	Tuesday 2	Wednesday 2	Thursday 2	Friday 2
Lunch	KS3 Drama Club - Drama Studio	KS3 Ukulele Club - A20	KS3 Choir - A20 KS4 Matilda - Dance - A21 (Scheduled)	KS3 Matilda Singing - A20	KS3 Matilda Dance - A21 (Scheduled) KS4 Matilda Singing - A20 KS4 Music Revision - A19 KS4 Drama Revision - A17
After School			Matilda Rehearsal - Drama Studio	KS4 Music Revision - A20 KS4 Drama Revision - A17	
	Colour Coding:	Drama Clubs	Music Clubs	Matilda	Dance Club

It has been a busy half term in Performing Arts and we are so excited to give you an update on this year's school production of Matilda Jr.

Early in September we held our auditions and set our cast list. We were so impressed by the number of students who came out and showed interest in the show. We are especially proud of our KS3 students who have joined in record numbers to participate.



# Matilda JR.

## *The Musical*

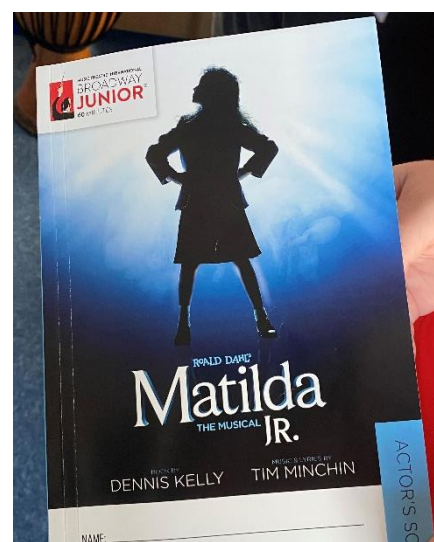


***Tegan and Summer in Year 9 are our choreographers for the show. They both attend dance lessons out of school so are very experienced and trained.***

We were asked by the school to do a special performance at the Opening Evening for incoming students and our cast did not disappoint. In less than two and a half hours the students not only learned how to sing the song 'Naughty' from the show, but also learned an entire choreographed routine to go along with it.

Despite it being many of our students' first performance, and in front of a much bigger audience than expected, they were all stars!

The students have been coming to after-school and lunch time rehearsals and been working really hard to continue learning the songs, dances and script so that they can give you all a special performance in February. Watch this space for updates on the show, including cast interviews, set and prop development, show details and so much more!





# ASDAN

Our Year 10 and 11 ASDAN students have started the new academic year with full force! They have been gardening and litter-picking, hosting coffee mornings and testing their survival skills, as well as learning about personal finances, setting budgets and careers.

ASDAN is such a diverse and varied programme of practical and fun activities, that there is something for all levels of students and offers a widely recognised qualification for those that complete the programme.



*The Year 11 ASDAN group have transformed everyday items into natural looking objects that fit perfectly in to the sensory garden.*

## ASDAN host the Macmillan Coffee Morning!



*Freddie and Callum made the teas and coffees for the staff.*



*Our Head Boy and Head Girl, Theo and Caitlin, with Mrs Brown.*

For the past few years, our ASDAN class has hosted the Macmillan Coffee Morning. This year they were able to invite more staff members than last year. They got to work by decorating the library with balloons and the Macmillan colours as well as setting the cake table.

The staff that were not teaching were able to come and join the students to support them and the charity. We were joined by our Head Boy and Head girl, Theo and Caitlin, to represent the student body. It was a lovely atmosphere! The students made sure the tea cups were filled and the staff had a nice break, chatting and eating cake.

The staff got involved too! Mrs Featherstone baked and decorated the most beautiful cupcakes that were devoured as soon as they were laid out! Mrs Brown baked Vegan banana bread, delicious chocolate cupcakes and the most decadent millionaire's shortbread. We are so proud of our students: their attitude and their kindness is inspiring.



**£158 was raised for the charity!**

**Thank you to everyone who came along, baked,  
drank tea and donated.**

# Charity

## Helping our local community

Every year leading up to the Christmas holidays, the staff and students at Smithdon organise a collection for the local Food Bank. We understand that people are in need and struggle all year through, but the support is needed even more so over the Christmas period, with the extra pressure of buying gifts and Christmas food. Therefore, we are beginning the collection as soon as we get back to school after the October break.

Any item would be welcome, but please see the list below for the most needed items at the moment:

- Toiletries
- Laundry products
- Washing up liquid
- Breakfast cereal
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned meat
- Tinned spaghetti
- Squash
- Toilet roll



**Please bring any donations to Miss Taylor in the library.**



# Modern Foreign Languages

By Mrs France

## Smithdon celebrates the European Day of Languages!

On Monday 27 September, we celebrated European Day of Languages in all departments of the school. European Day of Languages is an international event which is marked across all the countries of Europe every September - it celebrates the diversity of different languages and cultures, to promote greater intercultural understanding.

We are very lucky to have some talented linguists at Smithdon and three of our wonderful bilingual students had been recorded speaking in their mother tongues as part of our whole school assembly. Many teachers also greeted their classes in a new language and pupils answered their names in the register by using a foreign word for 'hello'.

During the day, there was a European Landmark Quiz, where staff in all departments had displayed one or more of a selection of quiz posters in their classrooms. Prizes and certificates were later awarded to those who managed to get the highest number of correct answers.

The PE department was very involved during the day, hosting a European football tournament, with teams wearing coloured bibs which represented the countries' flags. *Bravo, M. Ward!*

Following on from the very successful and popular French café which the MFL department ran on Open Evening, food was at the centre of things again on European Day of Languages, with a themed menu on offer in the canteen at lunchtime. Some of the new tastes were: Ravioli from Italy, Pork Schnitzel from Austria and Lihapullat from Finland.

Thanks to everyone in the school for helping us celebrate the diversity of Europe and the richness of its languages.

***Merci tout le monde!***



## Our Language Assistants have arrived!

At the beginning of October, in Modern Foreign Languages, we were delighted to welcome the arrival of our two language assistants:

**Mme Bonjour** for French and **Frau Helmas** for German.

They will be with us for the whole of this school year, helping our pupils improve their confidence in French and German, through helping in the classroom, working with small groups of pupils and helping our GCSE students become more fluent in their speaking. We are very lucky to have them both with us.

Mme Bonjour and Frau Helmas will also be running after-school clubs, where we can find out more about French and German culture and become involved in some fun activities, such as games and films. Check the KS3 & KS4 Co-Curricular Timetable on the school website for details or ask your MFL teacher.

I would like to introduce you to the new Hospitality and Catering course being taught to Year 10. We have got off to a great start with the students looking smart and professional in their Chef whites, skull caps and striped aprons. I wanted to join in with the class's highly professional look but jazzed it up with a bright pink apron!

So far the students have enjoyed making minestrone soup and practising their knife skills by dicing and cutting their vegetables - julienne style.



They have also made cottage pie and honed their piping skills with a decorative mash topping. Alongside this, the students have been gaining knowledge in their theory lesson on how the structure of the hospitality and catering industry works, the different types of establishments and how to get the high accolades and awards for being the best in the industry.

# Food and Nutrition

By Mrs Dibble



We are looking forward to many more practical lessons which will include delicious savoury and sweet dishes. If you walk down the Pendall Building hallways on a Friday Week 1 don't be surprised if your mouth starts watering and your nose is twitching due to the magnificent smells coming from C29!

We also have a Cooking Club after school on a Wednesday where we practise different skills and will be cooking foods from other countries – please come and see me for more information.







class of  
2021







# Class of 2021

By Mr Knott

Smithdon High School students celebrated their final moments together in fine fashion with a well-deserved prom at Knights Hill back in July.

After months of uncertainty culminating in a 7-week period of intense evidence gathering, our wonderful Year 11 students were finally free to kick back with their friends and dance the night away.

The evening began with extravagant cocktails on arrival (non-alcoholic of course!), followed by a wonderful 3-course meal (including brownies) provided by Knights Hill Hotel. Once the formalities were out of the way it was then time for students to get down and boogie to classic dance floor tunes such as "Sweet Caroline" and "Mr Brightside" before congregating on the dancefloor one last time to form a long dancing chain. All this, at the end of an evening that really captured the spirit of these fine students.

With almost 90 students in attendance and 20 staff at the event, it really was the evening that we had all hoped for. As the final students left for home the success of the evening was summed up in the words of the last student to leave the hall: "What a day!"

**A big thank you to all those that helped but especially Miss Green for her organisation and Mrs Broughton for her support.**





# School Attendance

Research has proven that there is a high correlation between school attendance and academic performance and success. A missed school day is a missed opportunity to learn. Poor attendance and absence from school is often the greatest single cause of poor performance and achievement and has serious implications for later outcomes. Therefore, here at Smithdon, we want to recognise, celebrate and reward 100% attendance.

Every week all students are entered into a raffle for an opportunity to win a £10 voucher – one student (with 100% attendance and punctuality for the week before) in each Year group has the chance to win! If the randomly chosen student doesn't have 100% then the voucher rolls over to the following week.

## **This terms winners are:**

**Year 7** – Bailey, Lottie, Martha, Kate

**Year 8** – Libby, Jack, Isabel, Callum, Ella

**Year 9** – Dylan, Summer, Erin, Oliver

**Year 10** – Nathan, Shelby

**Year 11** – William, Harry, Daisy, Kallum

Well done to the following form groups for the best attendance in their year group this half term:

7 - ACo

8 - AMo

9 - LRu

10 - JHo

11 - RCh

It can be difficult to decide whether or not to keep your child off school when they are unwell, especially in the wake of Covid and the current Super Cold. If your child has no temperature but has a cold, headache, and/or ear ache then the medical advice is to give pain relief and send them to school. We will contact you if their condition worsens and they need to go home.

If you do make the decision to keep them at home and they are feeling better during the day, they can come into school later. There are two registration sessions in a school day, am and pm - **every session counts!**

Thank you to parents/guardians for reporting absences; a reminder that you can now report absence in three ways:

Phone: 01485 536123

Text: 07935 059774

Email: [attendance@smithdonhigh.org.uk](mailto:attendance@smithdonhigh.org.uk)

IF YOU'RE 13-19 YEARS OLD  
TEXT YOUR SCHOOL NURSE  
07520 631722

WE HELP YOUNG PEOPLE  
WITH ALL KINDS OF THINGS LIKE...

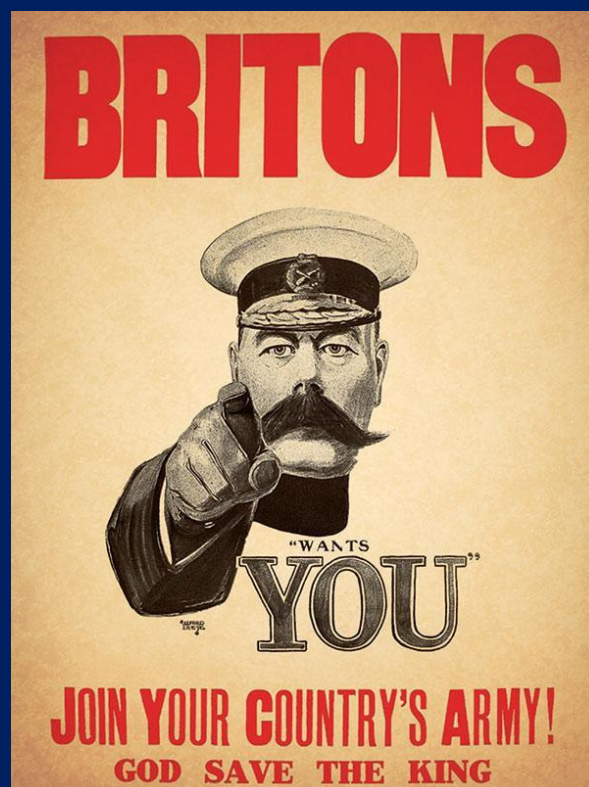
RELATIONSHIPS  
MENTAL BULLYING SELF  
HEALTH ALCOHOL HARM  
HEALTHY EATING  
DRUGS SMOKING

*Text us for confidential advice & support*



# The Smithsonian

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needs you!



If you would like to be involved,  
please speak to Miss Taylor  
in the library.

## *Get in touch:*

Smithdon High School

Downs Road

Hunstanton

PE36 5HY

T: 01485 534541

Email: [office@smithdonhigh.org.uk](mailto:office@smithdonhigh.org.uk)

Website: [www.smithdonhigh.org.uk](http://www.smithdonhigh.org.uk)



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**Work hard, be kind and smile!**