

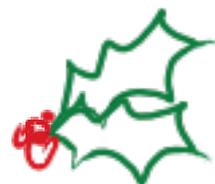


The Smithdonian

Smithdon High School Magazine



The Christmas 2022 Issue





Mrs Gibbins welcomes you....

Welcome to this half term's Smithdonian Magazine.

Without a doubt, the Performing Arts team have been the busiest this half term, with the Smithdon Christmas Concert, the WNAT Christmas Carol Service and this year's musical production of Oliver Junior which were all hugely successful events and I am grateful to all of our parents, governors, staff and local community members who attended to support our students as they presented their talents.

As always this has been a fantastically busy half term with our celebration of last year's GCSE students at the Awards Evening, several PE successes and involvement in a number of cross-Trust competitions, including the Rotary Debating Competition, the first round of the Rotary Cookery Competition.

We have ended this term with our celebration assemblies, where it has been lovely to see the surprise on some students' faces, our Christmas lunches and our collection for the Food Bank - thank you also for your support with these events.

I wish all the students, staff and their families a peaceful and very merry Christmas.

Mrs Gibbins

SMITHDON IN THE NEWS

Food, glorious food...hot sausage and mustard!



On Sunday 27 November, after a long rehearsal, Smithdon's cast of Oliver Jr walked over to join the Hunstanton Christmas Festival. They had been invited by the Rotary Club to perform songs from the annual school production.

The students performed a selection of songs from the show which was the perfect way to showcase this year's musical and the perfect invitation to the community to buy tickets to see the show!

"Food, glorious food" resounded from the stage, giving the audience a taste of the musical talents of Smithdon's dedicated and hard-working students.

Local primary schools also had the chance to see the live production at Smithdon, perhaps inspiring budding singers and actors that will be attending the school in the future.

With Oliver Jr now at an end, the Performing Arts Department are now excited about which production to choose for next year! Announcement pending...



Fun and frolics raises £800 for Children in Need!

The staff and students at Smithdon High School did their bit for Children in Need on Friday 18 November, with a range of fundraising ideas which led to a total topping £800 heading to the charity.

As part of the school's fundraising activities this year, a photo booth enabled students to have their pictures taken within a giant frame featuring Pudsey Bear whilst Ms Bazeley-Smith braved the wet sponge stocks.

Other money-making ventures included a cake stall run by Smithdon's Year 10 and 11 ASDAN students, a second-hand book stall and a bric-a-brac stall run by school council members from Years 10 and 11.

Activities took place during breaks and lunchtime in the school hall, and were open to all staff and students. All year groups also donated to Children in Need by paying to take part in a non-uniform day, with some choosing to wear fancy dress!

Mrs Robinson, organiser of the event, said, "Pre-Covid, we have always had a non-uniform day and various other activities in the past - this is the first time we have properly celebrated and supported for a while though. Nothing has cost more than 50p, as we know money is tight, but we were working on the premise that if everyone gives a little, we can gain a lot."

Headteacher Mrs Gibbins added, "I am so proud of how much our students got involved in the activities, and the huge donations they made, especially in these times of hardship for so many in our community."



Mrs Gibbins and Mrs Robinson enjoying the day with props in the photo frame.



I was lucky enough to go on the Year 7 Norfolk Lakes Trip towards the end of November for three days. I really enjoyed it!

There were so many fun activities to take part in, but I would have to say the giant stand-up paddle boarding activity was my favourite because I love the water and it was very thrilling. The staff made me feel safe throughout all of my activities and were very kind to me.

The food was delicious. Especially the cooked breakfasts, as they gave me energy for the rest of the day. The dormitories were clean and the beds were comfortable. I would definitely recommend Norfolk Lakes as a school trip.

By Pippa, Year 7 book and cat enthusiast.



The Lakes trip was absolutely amazing!

The Year 7 students visited there in cold November and the place was fantastic!

Harlee-Cole reported: the food was yummy, the activities were great, and they even had a juice machine! With Giant Stand-Up Paddle-boarding (G-SUP) and Archery, it was amazing!!!

There was even a film night!

SO DO NOT DELAY, VISIT TODAY!

By Charlie, Year 7 Mario games expert, and Harlee-Cole, Year 7 footballer.



The Year 7 students who didn't go on the Norfolk Lakes Trip participated in a Camouflage Learning workshop. Its aim was to teach us new skills such as: bravery, resourcefulness and rigour.

The staff from *Camouflaged Learning* came in to the school and we played multiple games which taught us these skills. We had to step outside of our comfort zone and be with people who might not be our usual friends. This gave us an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends.

In one game we had to think about everyday objects' purposes in a different way. In another, we had to use different strategies to complete certain tasks. In the final game, we were shown how to use weak, thin sheets of newspaper to create a machine which was like a cog turning, like a bulldozer's wheel. We then got to create and use these machines which was (in my opinion) the most fun.

Overall, we learnt a handful of helpful skills which will help us in the future and gave us an enjoyable, fun chance to be creative.

By Lyra, Year 7 writer and storyteller

CAMOUFLAGED LEARNING DAY

When Year 7 went on the residential to the Norfolk Lakes, I stayed at school with about another 50-60 Year 7 students. We had a very fun day on Thursday because we did something called Camouflage Learning. I won a Bluetooth speaker because I was the best group leader!

I listened to the visitors all the time and we had to play a game called 'squadron scramble'. We had to run around the room and then get into a group of the number that was called out to us.

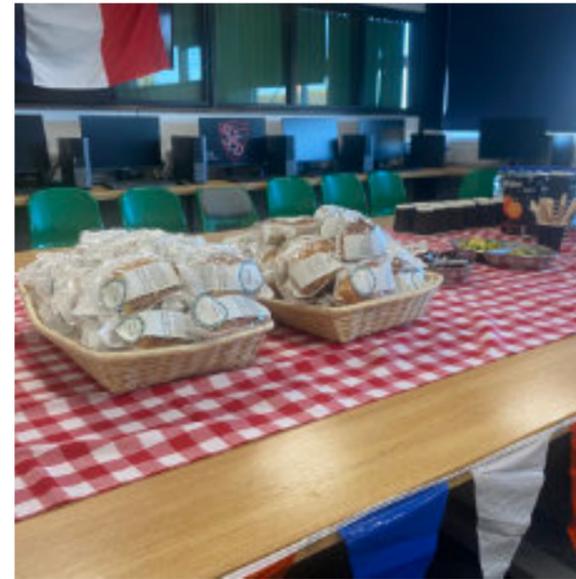
Another game we played was 'the floor is lava'. We had to turn over the tarp and then stay on the tarp and not fall off. If we fell off, we would have to stay on the floor and you lost the round. It was very interesting and fun to play because we had to try and work as a team and it also tested our fine motor skills. Some people got a bit overwhelmed and I think that's fine, they just needed to work on their fine motor skills.

During DT, we made some postcards for the refugees that have had to flee their country because of war. Every postcard we made raises £5 for the refugees which is brilliant!

Another thing that we do for the refugees and people in need is collect for the local food bank in the library (the library is run by the amazing Miss Taylor) and then we will take it to the church in Hunstanton where it can be given out in parcels.

Overall, I think that my time at school (instead of the trip) was very enjoyable and fun!

By Logan, Year 7 computer whizz



Le Petit Dèjeuner Français

The tradition of rewarding a petit-dèjeuner to those students that have worked hard and improved their French skills kicked off with Year 10. Selected students were chosen to come along to the library with Mrs France and Mademoiselle Collard.

The lucky students had to ask for their breakfast in French. With croissants à la confiture and pain au chocolat on the menu. There were plenty of happy smiles and full tummies ready for the first lesson of the day!



Izzy and Erin pondering their choices.



Amy using her French vocab to ask for her breakfast.



Katie and Jake with Mrs France.



Charlie, Joe, Kalem, Isaac and Henry all enjoyed their breakfast.



Teddi helping herself to the delicious pâtisseries.

A **Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens is the best known and most loved of all Christmas novels. With its tale of Scrooge's seasonal redemption through Christmas past, present and future, it is the ultimate feel-good, heartwarming parable. This Victorian literature combines a simple narrative style with Gothic horror - the darker side of human nature mixed with the supernatural. It is also a GCSE text that students begin to study in Year 10, ready for their Year 11 exams. The themes and characters, along with the context of the book, will be analysed until the students know the book inside out!

The Victorians loved the festive season and introduced a lot of the traditions we know and partake in today, including giving Christmas cards and gifts, pulling crackers and decorating Christmas trees. Victorian England along with Charles Dickens' ghostly Christmas Carol, freshly cut holly, Christmas markets vibrant with the sound of carol singers, figgy pudding and sugarplums are so reminiscent of an old-fashioned Christmas that it brings feelings of warmth, comfort and tradition. So, it was these festive feelings that inspired our library's Christmas display of holly, candles (fake!) and Charles Dickens' books.



Mrs Berry loved the Dickensian display so much that she insisted on having her photo taken with it!



The Library

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year"



On 11 November, as a nation, we remembered and honoured the men and women from all wars who served, protected and sacrificed their lives for peace and freedom.

Books, whether fiction, poetry or non-fiction, are a fantastic way to educate children and young people about the significance of these historical events. Conversations about war, death and trauma can be daunting or overwhelming. Books can sometimes help. They can offer new perspectives and discussion points for difficult topics. They can help children better understand complex subjects and offer teachers and parents a springboard for deeper conversations.

Our school library always has a selection of brilliant, thought-provoking books to get our students reading for Remembrance Day.

A new reading group has launched for Year 7 students who would like to improve their reading skills.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 3-4pm in CLS.

You will have the support and guidance of Miss Stewart and Mr Bicknell (and, of course, biscuits!)

A new writing group for Year 7 and 8 has also begun!

Do you like writing stories?

Would you like to enter competitions?

Come along on Monday break-times to the library...

Reading & Writing..

Young Writers' Competition

Reading Ambassadors

Thirteen

A few nights ago on a **red blood** moon, I was walking to my dorm with 21, when I suddenly heard an ear piercing noise coming from a nearby room. Trembling, I ran to unlock the door but to my surprise all I saw were red eyes...

...then I suddenly remembered earlier that day when a small girl came over to me with the same ruby eyes.

Thirteen... She had killed 27. She then turned to me, her devilish eyes staring me down as she whispered "you're next. You can't escape me."

This was the end.

I couldn't escape...

Rae and Chloe, Year 7 wordsmiths.

The Reading Ambassadors Programme has begun again with a lovely group of Year 9 and Year 7 students. The aim for the group is to build mentoring friendships between the two year groups whilst working on and supporting the Year 7 students' reading abilities.

This has always been a successful programme. It can be used by Year 9 either for the volunteer section of Bronze Duke of Edinburgh or for their own personal development.





Smithdon Remembers

Smithdon was proud to honour all those that sacrificed their lives during war-time to defend and protect our nation.

Our whole school assembly, with our students looking smart in their group uniforms, was held to commemorate and remember the people that bravely fought for the future generations they would never meet, as well as soldiers killed and wounded in recent conflict and those who serve in the emergency services and face the dangers of terrorism. Their sacrifices give us the freedom to live the lives that we do today.

Students also went around the form classes to sell poppies, badges and wrist-bands to raise money for The Royal British Legion which supports serving and ex-service personnel.



Jess in Year 10, joined in the parade and ceremony at Tower Gardens in Kings Lynn where there was a Spitfire flyover.



Mrs Gibbins, along with Head students Tommy and Olivia, joined the parade to the Cenotaph for Hunstanton's Remembrance Day Service.

Design Technology



Our KS3 students had the opportunity to take part in the DT mini-makes club which is held half-termly. The first club was focused on making beautiful poppies for Remembrance Day.

First, the students created a drawing of a poppy using computer software, then they sent it to the laser cutter. This cuts the design from acrylic. They then shaped their designs using thermo-forming equipment. Finally, the poppies were assembled using wire to hold the buttons to their flower shapes and the wires were covered with a shrink wrap sleeve. Ms Wright even came along and made a poppy!



Ms Wright, Angel, Florence, Emmie and Sidney all had the chance to make these beautiful poppies in time for Remembrance Day.

Class of 2022

Presentation Evening

By Mr Chapman



The Year 11 Prize Presentation and GCSE Certificate Evening took place at Smithdon on Tuesday 22 November. This was the first school prize presentation for three years!

Around 200 people were present, including students from the Class of 2022, their parents, staff, school governors, representatives from Hunstanton Town Council, the Hunstanton Heritage Centre and members of Hunstanton and District Rotary Club.

All students received their GCSE exam board certificates, which were presented by the Hunstanton Mayor, Councillor Maureen Howard. Twenty subject awards were introduced by Assistant Headteacher, Mr Chapman and were presented by our Headteacher, Mrs Gibbins. These awards were based on nominations from subject staff.

Each award winner received a glass trophy, which included a plaque with details of their award. Chair of Governors, Mr Crofts, presented the awards for the two students with the highest GCSE progress scores and the two students with the greatest GCSE achievement scores.





A number of special awards were also presented, including the Clare Shield for English Language, the Connie Martin Award for English Literature, the Hall Exhibition Foundation Endowed Prize for Mathematics, the Hunstanton Round Table Award for Physical Education, the NHS Shield for Health and Social Care and the Clare Shield for Art.

Awards recognising further achievements included the George Raines Memorial Award for Sport, the Hunstanton Lions Prize for Service to the School and its Community and the Pastoral Leader Award. Two awards were presented by Mr Greyson, the current President of Hunstanton and District Rotary Club. These were the Rotary Award for School Values and the the Rotary Young Citizen Award.

Congratulations to our award winners: Lindsey, Lucy, Freddie, Caitlin, Nathan, Harry, Ashley, Kyle, Kai, Harry, Amelia, Ella, Daniel, Katie, Maria, T-Jay, Rory, Caitlin, Charlee, Theo, Jasmine, William and Jessica.



Every year, Smithdon students and staff take part in the Children in Need Day. We think up new ideas or challenges to raise funds for this very worthy charity.

Friday 18 November was no different. And yet it was different - notably in the increase of the amount of 'soaked to the skin' teachers walking around than usual! Students and staff arrived to school, in onesies, spots, colours and of course the regulation teenage uniform of hoodies.

We had a cake stall - managed by the Year 10 ASDAN group, which boasted long-lines and was an instant sell-out by the end of the first break - an emergency supermarket dash to replenish added to the excitement of the day.

A bric-à-brac/book stall was also managed by the students, with a range of items for sale, all at bargain prices.

But, the talk of the day, the ultimate not-to-be-missed event, came from a different direction: the stocks.

Ms Bazeley-Smith bravely (and perhaps a little regrettably) put herself forward to be drenched in front of the entire school. Students paid a 'worth-it' £1 to throw wet sponges or even just squeeze the sponge over Ms Bazeley's head.

The more sensible among us hoped that she had brought spare clothing and a towel.

Well done Ms Bazeley: your dedication to raising funds for charity has no bounds!

In the end, this enjoyable day raised an impressive £817.80 - an increase of nearly £600 compared to last year.

I can't help but wonder though, how much can we thank Ms Bazeley for this impressive increase?





GCSE Design and Technology



Our Year 10 GCSE Design and Technology students began their course by making metal bottle openers!

Some great designs were turned into functional tools. The GCSE DT course is a great opportunity for those students who enjoy working creatively and practically whilst learning technical skills.



Smithdon High School's Young Enterprise Team - Homemade Treasures - launched their new company in the school assembly on Monday 21 November. This new initiative will see ten entrepreneurs from Year 10 run the company throughout the school year.

In recent weeks, they have formulated ideas for products to sell, and have been selling shares to investors. With finance secured, they are starting production and will market their product at events, trade fairs and they even hope to further their trade online.

Homemade Treasures even has its own bank account. The team hopes to make a profit when the company is wound up in the summer term.

The first products that the business will produce are a range of Christmas decoration craft-sets.

The students will work with the link teachers, Mr Chapman, Mrs Dibble and Mrs Birks, and will receive further support from their Business Adviser, Mr Crofts.

Smithdon High School is grateful for the support of Pat Trimmer, the area manager for Young Enterprise for Norfolk and Suffolk, who invited Smithdon High School to join the Young Enterprise Scheme this year.

Look out for further news on Homemade Treasures as the school year progresses!



Joe, Ffion, Ellakha, Mia, Jake and Mia are our Year 10 Young Enterprise Team. They have all worked hard to create the business and the amazing products.

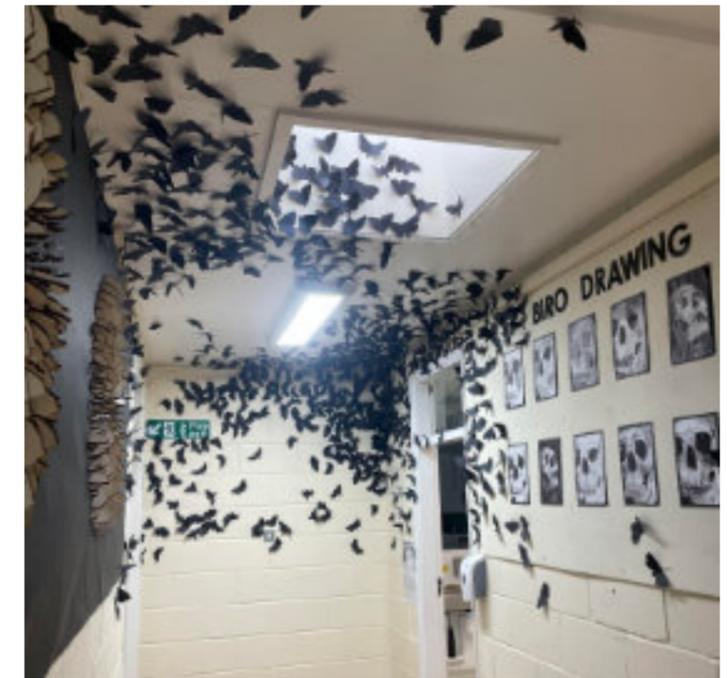


Make your own Christmas decoration craft set!

£5 for each set

A perfect gift for someone creative or to add a homemade-style decoration to your collection that can be brought out year after year.





AN INSTALLATION BY YEAR 7

Inspired by the work of Carlos Amoraes.

Before the industrial revolution, the typical English moth was light-coloured. This meant that it was difficult for birds and other predators to see them against light-coloured trees or clean walls. Once industry had spread across northern England, the coal that was burnt covered the countryside with black soot. A new dark form of moth emerged.

This black moth appeared suddenly and soon took over the population of moths in industrial areas. But then the population declined just as quickly as it had grown, following the the closure of coal mines.

Pollution levels dropped, clean air laws were introduced, and the sootiness that prevailed during the 19th Century disappeared from the cities.

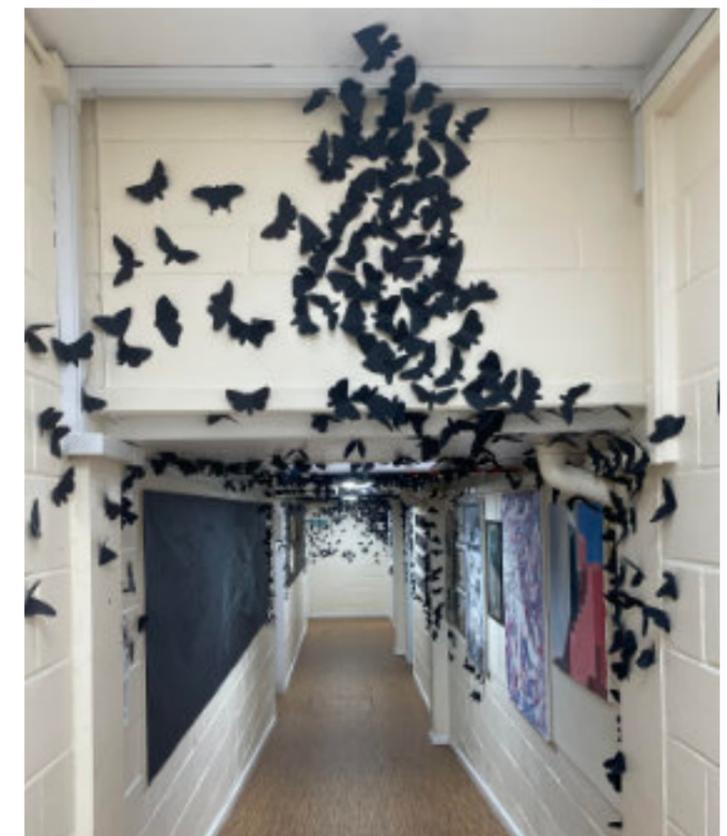
And so, just as quickly as the black moths emerged, the

lighter ones made their dramatic return along with the cleaner conditions. Biologists have predicted that the dark moths will soon be extinct.

The Year 7, 'Black Cloud' moth installation in the Art Department pays homage to those beautiful dark creatures that were born alongside England's industrious machines. Out of the darkness and dirt, came beauty.

Carlos Amoraes, a Mexican artist, created such moth installations, which he called Black Cloud. He used thousands of black paper moths affixed to the walls of large interior spaces in Spain.

As you can see, the Black Cloud installation is dramatic and beautiful. Maybe if you were to walk down the corridors and listen closely, you could hear the faint whispering of fluttering wings.





Smithdon presents

The Christmas Concert



Another term has come and gone in the Performing Arts Department and it has just flown by! It has also been one of the busiest terms we have ever had.

We have been fortunate to have lots of performance opportunities this year..

One of our Year 11 students, Sophie, performed piano at the GCSE awards evening and wowed the crowds with her playing!

We have also spent the entire term building up to our Annual Christmas Concert and it was a huge success! The evening began with our Junior Trust Orchestra playing a selection of Christmas songs for the audience. The orchestra is made up of students from Heacham Junior, Snettisham Primary and Docking Primary, as well as students from Smithdon. We also had a sneak peek of this year's musical, Oliver Jr.

Throughout the evening we heard beautiful performances from our choirs, ukulele clubs, drama club, soloists and even an original rap from one of our Year 10 BTEC students. We were so happy to welcome everyone into the school to celebrate the festive season!



If a Christmas Concert wasn't enough this term, we also put on our school Production of Oliver Jr!

We performed two matinee performances to seven local primary schools and then two evening performances for the students, parents, staff and local community. The students were absolute stars and show-cased their amazing talents and skills, bringing in rave reviews from all the guests.

On the Thursday evening performance, there was an extra special presentation. Two of our Year 11 students, Fallon and Jake, have been in every Smithdon show since they began here at Smithdon! As they will be leaving Smithdon next year, this was their last school production. Along with the other Year 11 cast members, they have been an absolute asset to the Performing Arts Department and they will be sorely missed. It was quite emotional to present them with a special certificate and medal, in honour of their commitment and hard-work. To watch their talents and confidence grow over the years, has been thrilling and had made us all very proud.

We are so lucky and grateful to have students as committed as ours!



Reviewing the situation; the Smithdon High School Christmas production of Oliver Jr.

By Miss Cowles, book-obsessed English teacher.

The Smithdon Performing Arts team just keeps going from strength to strength. Each year the Performing Arts staff and numerous willing students achieve the impossible, creating memorable performances time and again.

This year's production of Oliver Jr was no different. The cast was energetic and performed each number, be they solo or ensemble, with gusto. The action was played out on a simple and functional set, making adept use of the limited space along with a series of minor props, produced by the art department, and projected images which helped bring Victorian London to Hunstanton. The casting of major roles was inspired, with Jake in Year 11 at his most humorous and entertaining as Fagin. Supporting him were Kira in Year 10 perfectly cast as Nancy, Ellie in Year 8 as the Artful Dodger, Gracie in Year 11 as vicious Bill Sykes and in the title role of Oliver was Martha in Year 8.

One thing was evidently clear, this was not just an exceptional school production with some of the best singing and dancing performed, but a true labour of love. From the hours or rehearsal facilitated by the Performing Arts team and the donations of clothes and props from generous benefactors, Oliver Junior demonstrated what can be achieved on very little time and money and heaps and heaps of dedication.

Please, Sir, can I have some more?

Whilst Oliver Jr was in production, we also had a selection of Year 7 students performing at the WNAT Cross Trust Carol service at St Nicholas in Kings Lynn. They performed a variety of traditional and modern Christmas songs, with approximately 200 students involved and 500 guests!

In the last week of term, the Performing Arts Department took approximately 85 students to the Princess Theatre in Hunstanton to watch this year's pantomime, Cinderella. There was plenty of laughter and joy and it was great getting into our local theatre and watching a live performance.

This has certainly been a busy term, and we are all looking forward to a nice Christmas break. We are so excited to see you next term with more concerts and events.

On the opposite page is a piece of work from two of our Year 9 students. They have been studying rap music and have written a Christmas rap that is too good not to share! Enjoy!

Have a very merry Christmas!

By Miss Miller, music teacher and Performing Arts enthusiast.



The Perfect Christmas For Me

This is Christmas, what's on your wishlist?

When you're older, you'll miss this!

**You used to open presents under the tree
that's when life was free.**

**Some people say the future is a mystery
and the past is history
and the present is a gift.**

**Come round at Christmas and I'll lift
the family on my own**

**to put the angel on the tree
that's the perfect Christmas for me**

**This is the perfect Christmas for me
My beautiful wife smiling at me**

**My little kids saying "Daddy,
look what the elf's done to me!"**

How silly was he not to believe it was really me!

**Christmas isn't real but the myth goes on
because we carried the spirit for long.**

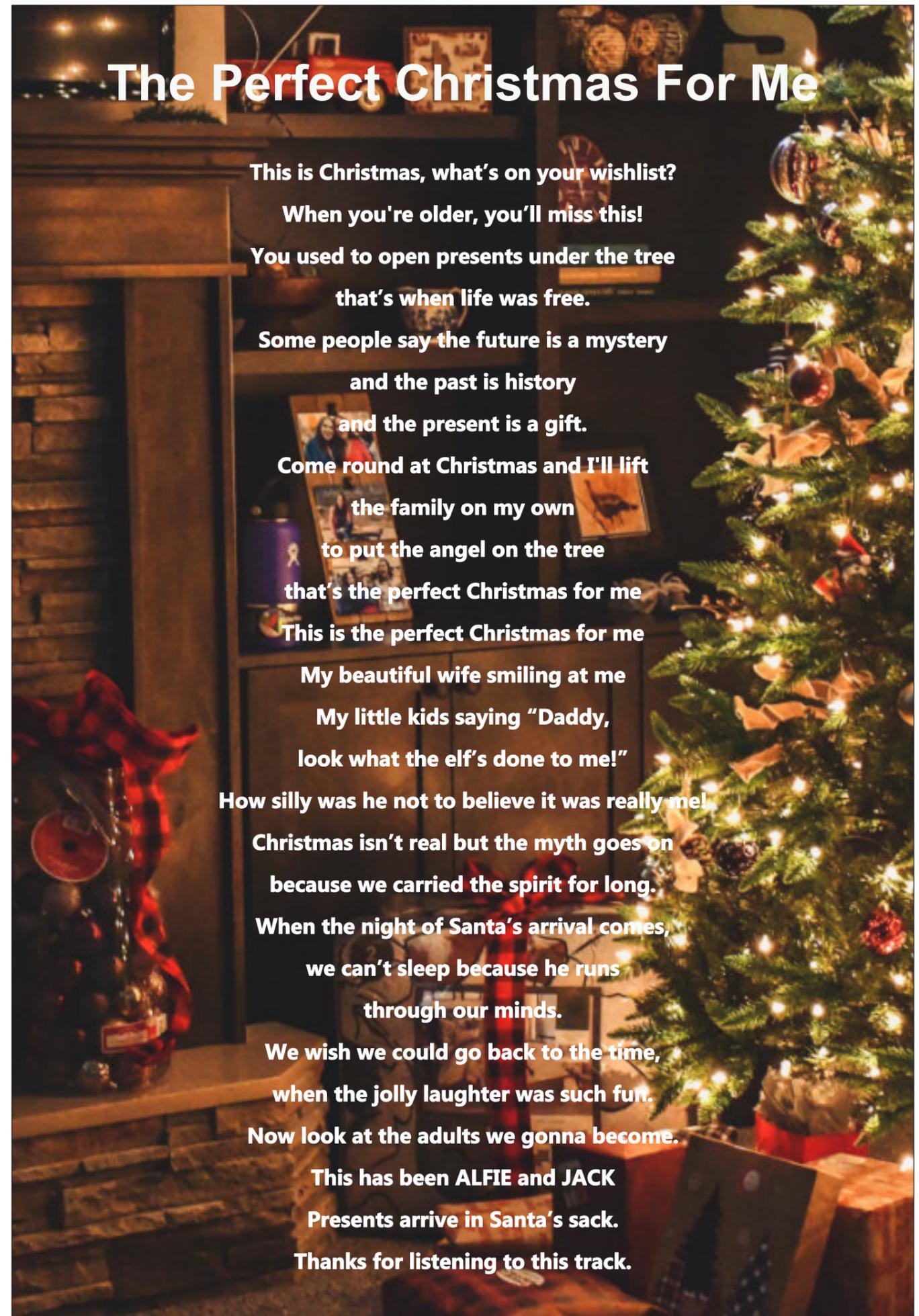
**When the night of Santa's arrival comes,
we can't sleep because he runs
through our minds.**

**We wish we could go back to the time,
when the jolly laughter was such fun.**

Now look at the adults we gonna become.

**This has been ALFIE and JACK
Presents arrive in Santa's sack.**

Thanks for listening to this track.





By Mr Tilley, PE Teacher

Sports Education - Football Referee Course

Sports Education is a new way for you to develop skills, confidence and develop the understanding of the sport. Next term you can learn how to become a football referee!

Sign up by completing the Google Form - this is a 5 week theory/practical course to become a football referee and this will cover:

- The importance of a referee.
- The rules of football and how the referee enforces them.
- Using football games to practise the skills.

On completion of the course you will receive a certificate and a whistle. Also there will be opportunities for you to gain experience by refereeing school football games and also primary school football tournaments in the future.

Please speak to Mr Tilley for more information and keep your eye out on Google Classroom for the sign up form.

After school clubs

Please see the new timetable for after-school clubs beginning in the new year. We offer new sports each term for you to try, develop your skills and, most importantly, have fun.

We have added Badminton on Mondays and 'Alternative sports' where we offer Dodge-ball, Kin-ball and Lacrosse (something new each week for you to try).

It is already the end of 2022 and the end of this term! I am so proud that we have celebrated so many sporting successes at Smithdon.

Badminton

The KS4 badminton team came first overall in the West Norfolk tournament. The girls team were brilliant, winning 11 out of their 12 games. The boys team held their own to ensure that Smithdon came away with first place. It is the first time Smithdon have won the tournament since it was started back in 2009! Well done everyone!

Basketball

The Year 9 girls showed some fantastic skills and determination during the basketball tournament. They lost their first two games but they didn't give up. They worked together as a team and played some lovely basketball skills and managed to win their last two games. Winning 2 of their 4 games, they finished 2nd place overall. Well done girls!

Fixtures in the New Year

Hopefully we can continue to celebrate even more success in 2023.

We have KS3 basketball, badminton and table tennis for you all to showcase your skills and represent Smithdon High School.

SMITHDON HIGH SCHOOL PE CO-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE - SPRING I	
AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - 15:00 - 16:00	
MONDAY All Years Badminton JTi & YII Leaders Sports Hall	
	Tuesday All Years Alternative Sports JTi & CMc Sports Hall
Wednesday All Years Football - JTi - Field Basketball - DWa - Sports hall	
	Thursday Girls' Rugby - NCa - Field Boys' Rugby - DWa - Field Sports Education* - JTi - Sports hall *please sign up
Friday All Years Girls' Football - Field DWa, CMc & AWr	
PLEASE BRING KIT & REGISTER	

SCIENCE

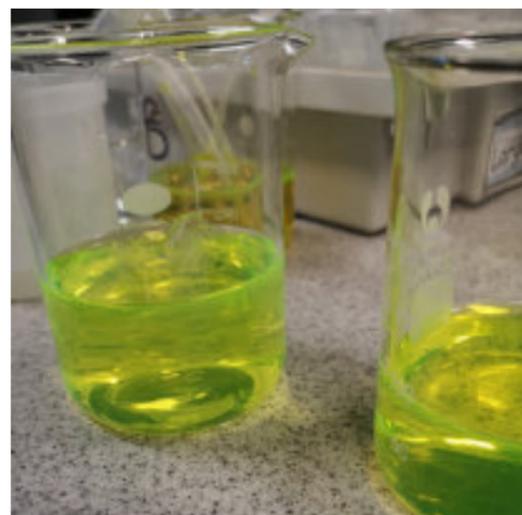
On Wednesday 9 November, the Science Department held their first Science event of the Year. It was lovely to welcome new students and returning students to our practical extravaganza!

There was no theme this time for this event but the students had the chance to participate in the following experiments: disappearing worms, rainbow fizz, chemiluminescence, hand-warmers and fire extinguisher, which were all new ones to try.

During the fire extinguisher experiment, several students adjusted the method to ensure the foam went further. A great time was had by all and the biscuits and squash soon vanished at break time!

'Scientific Cluedo' is the name of our next Science event which will take place on Wednesday 22 February. Look out for posters and a sign-up sheet in the New Year!

By Mrs Pike, Head of Science



Seb, Kash, Charlie and Isabel debated the topic Technology at the Rotary Club, Youth Speaks evening. They worked hard on their topic, and practised for hours to make it sound confident and well presented and thought out.

We are so proud of them. They were confident in front of all the other schools and they worked together as a team to give a good presentation of their thoughts and ideas.

A big "Well done" to Sheringham High School that who won in their first visit to the competition.

I was selected by the English department along with two other students in Year 9, to take part in this year's debate competition. This was an amazing opportunity to be chosen to take part and a huge confidence booster for me and I am sure it was too for my classmates.

There were four schools that we competed against and they all had very compelling arguments for their topics. They were all very confident when talking about their views and opinions.

I think that our Smithdon debate team made an impact on the audience with our argument on whether 'technology' has become necessary for instant communication. Charlie was our Chairperson, Seb was our Proposer and I was the opposer. Kash was our backup and emotional support in the final days before the competition!

We spent weeks and weeks working together to make our speeches perfect with the help of Miss Roberts, who gave us all of the information about the competition. We then all had to practise together and get our timing correct and try to meet the fifteen minute target time to get a higher score.

I would like to thank the Rotary Youth Speaks Debate Club for setting up the debating competition. I would also like to thank Springwood High School for hosting, and also Miss Roberts for helping us to perfect our speeches. Lastly thanks to the English department for selecting us to take part in the competition.

By Isabel, Year 9 debate team representative.

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

By Jess, Year 10 Youth Commissioner

The YAB is a group for young people between the ages of 11-19 (or up to 25 with learning disabilities), who can voice their own and collective thoughts about the local community that they live, study, work and play in.

I personally wanted to join the YAB because I wanted to meet new and pro-active people that want to make a difference in their local area and for their community.

Recently, I went on my first residential with some other young people from both the West Norfolk and Breckland YAB's.

Apart from me, there were other students from Marshland High School and I quickly made friends with them. We began our trip by taking part in team building activities, such as canoeing... one of the boys fell into the water which was quite funny! The next day we did harnessed activities like tree-trekking and also the tree-top drop. Although some of us were scared of heights, we all still had good fun.

The YAB meet in the school library every Thursday over lunch-times. They usually bring snacks, so pop by and say 'hello!'



Who are YAB?

We are young people who live or study in West Norfolk.

Each year we ask young people in West Norfolk about the issues that matter to them.

We then take action through campaigning, lobbying, advocacy, hosting events and commissioning services.

We work with adult professionals in our community to ensure that young people have a say in decisions that affect them.

Young Commissioners:

Members of the YAB are called Young Commissioners.

We meet regularly and work together to make a positive difference in our communities.

Young Commissioners can take part in training, attend residential and have the opportunity to meet other young people and make new friends. There is never any cost, and food and transport are provided.

W E L L - B E I N G

Anti - Bullying

Our Anti-Bullying Hub is held in A8 at lunchtimes. You will see me in there sometimes and also the other Anti-Bullying ambassadors. There are 16 of us! We are all friendly and supportive and are here to help. We have been trained by experts from the Diana Award Anti-Bullying Team. We work towards badges so that we can help you more. At the moment our focus is well-being, which is important for everyone.

We will listen to you, take statements and pass the information about unkindness and bullying on to the appropriate staff members. We will offer support for those who have been bullied. Please come along if you need to speak to us, don't be worried or afraid.

By Charles, Year 7 Anti-bullying ambassador



Food Bank

Thank you to everyone that donated items to our annual Christmas Food Bank collection. We completely understand the struggle that everyone is going through this winter, so we are even more grateful to you all for your kindness and generosity that helps us to offer support towards our local community.

As always the Food bank volunteers appreciated every single tin of beans and every packet of pasta - it really does make a difference.



LGBTQ+

Our LGBTQ+ groups have been getting creative this half-term!

Badge making and gingerbread people decorating in the library has seen new friendships form across the year groups.

It is important to us as a school for our students to have a welcoming environment, somewhere they feel supported, heard and celebrated; a safe space where they can learn from each other, discuss the topics close to their hearts, and to express their pride.

Monday lunch-times in the library:

Week 1- Years 7, 8 and 11

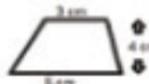
Week 2- Years 9 and 10



Pippa in Year 7 helped to deliver the collection.

DECEMBER... A LITTLE BIT OF MATHS EVERY DAY

JustMaths

Calculate $2\frac{3}{7} - \frac{4}{7}$	A square has a perimeter of 40m what is its area?	Solve $5x - 3 = 2f$	Without a calculator, work out $486 \div 18$	Work out 150% of 300	What is the 3rd square number multiplied by the 2nd cube number?	Write 126 as a product of its prime factors.
Shares £80 in the ratio 4:7	Calculate the area 	What is the percentage increase from £480 to £600?	Write as an improper fraction $3\frac{6}{15}$	Write 100 500 in standard form	Jasmine can decorate 37 cakes every 5 minutes. She works for 7 hours a day. Estimate the total number of cakes she can decorate in one day.	
A car will depreciate by 20% its original value every year. After how many years is it worth less than half its original value?	Expand $4x^2(x - 1)$	What information must be given to describe an enlargement?	Factorise $x^2 + 8x + 15$	Think of a number between 0 and 20. Add 22 to it. Multiply by 2. How does your age ... its dark but IFF then a break ... its Christmas!		
Helen & Nicola share some money in the ratio 1:3. What fraction of the total does Helen have?	Write 0.0378×10^4 in standard form	Calculate $4 + 3 \times 5 - 1$	MERRY CHRISTMAS!	Round 0.269 to the 2 significant figures	The perimeter of the triangle is 64 cm. The sides are in the ratio 6 : 5 : 3. Calculate the area of the triangle.	
What number is halfway between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{4}$	Mal and Chris share some money in the ratio 2:2. Mal has £25 more than Chris. How much do they share?	How many prime numbers are there between 0 and 100?	REMEMBER: The best way to revise maths is to "do Maths"!			

DECEMBER... A LITTLE BIT OF MATHS EVERY DAY

JustMaths

What is 0.2 as a percentage?	$\frac{5}{7} - \frac{1}{7}$	Work out $368f - 6f$	What is 3% written as a fraction?	Work out $405 \div 15$	Work out 6×0.25	List all the common factors of 24 and 36
Calculate $-5 + -9$	Can you make a square number by adding two prime numbers together?	What is 2% written as a decimal?	Simplify $\frac{6}{15}$	Round 3769 to the nearest 100	What is the 3rd square number multiplied by the 2nd prime number?	
What is 0.28 written as a percentage?	Calculate $-12 + -4$	What is the smallest even number that can be made using the digits? $8 \quad 7 \quad 4 \quad 1$	Rob gave Chris £40. Then Chris borrowed £30 from Rob. Later Rob lends Chris £60. Who was out? What amount do they owe?	Work out $1022 \div 7$	Convert 15cm to mm	
Work out 54×1.25	Calculate $9 - 6 \div 3$	How many prime numbers are there between 0 and 100?	MERRY CHRISTMAS!	Round 0.269 to the nearest tenth	Mal is writing all the counting numbers from 1 upwards. She stopped after writing twenty seven digits. What was the last number she wrote?	
Convert 4506g to kilograms	Think of a number between 0 and 20. Add 22 to it. Multiply by 2. How does your age ... its dark but IFF then a break ... it's the holidays!	REMEMBER: The best way to revise maths is to "do Maths"!				

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

When making New Year's resolutions consider that small changes can make a big difference. Things that can help your child be more prepared for school:

- Pack their bag the night before
- Set the alarm clock five minutes earlier
- Create a morning and bedtime routine

Creating these new habits will give your child a good start to the term and help them be in school on time and ready to learn.

Have a lovely Christmas!

Mrs Cummings, Attendance Officer

Raffle Winners this term:

Year 7: Maisie, Mollie
 Year 8: Jack, Poppy, Lottie, Liam, Summer, Emily-Jane
 Year 9: Florence, Ella, Sophie, Erin, Charlotte
 Year 10: Agatha, Taylor, Reily, Stephen
 Year 11: Brandon, Leon, Viktorija

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

Year 7: Mrs Johnson
 Year 8: Mr Corder
 Year 9: Mrs Dibble
 Year 10: Miss Ruskin
 Year 11: Mrs Evans/Ms Wright

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

Twitter: [@smithdon_high](https://twitter.com/smithdon_high)

**We hope you all have a
very Merry Christmas
and we look forward
to seeing you back on
4 January!**