



The Smithdonian

Smithdon High School Magazine



The February 2023 Issue



Mrs Gibbins welcomes you....

Welcome to the February 2023 edition of The Smithdonian. This has been a short term, but with lots going on as always: sporting events, the last of our Tutor evenings, a visit from a Planetarium and more.

The Performing Arts team have built up anticipation for next year's School Production with their announcement of their next musical choice, while music and Arts groups are preparing for the Spring Performance Evening next half term.

The Library have introduced some new ranges of books this term, to encourage students to be engaged readers, with texts that grab their attention but also help them to feel part of our school community with topical issues covered.

Students have also been proud to represent Smithdon in the local community, such as at the recent anniversary of the Hunstanton Floods.

Next half term we have Smithdon's Second Literary Festival Week with lots of exciting opportunities, as well as Comic Relief's Red Nose Day and the International Maths Challenge.

Thank you for reading!

SMITHDON IN THE NEWS

Smithdon High School's Lily wins Rotary Young Chef Competition!



Young chefs at Smithdon High School recently showcased their culinary talents in a national cookery competition.

Seven Year 10 students entered the annual *Rotary Young Chef Competition*, which was open to secondary school students across the country aged 11 to 17. The competition is run annually by The Rotary Club and encourages youngsters to learn cooking skills and enjoy their food.

Mrs Dibble who teaches Food & Nutrition at Smithdon explained, "The competition is a fabulous opportunity for young people who love to cook to show off their culinary skills. The students are given a short brief – cook a healthy meal for two on a budget of £5. There were up to 10 places in the in-school stage of the competition, and I selected seven students from this year's entries. To win a place, students needed to create a menu, time plan, costings sheet and explanation of how their dish met the brief. They then had 1 hour and 40 minutes to prepare, cook and present their dishes, with two winners selected to go onto the next stage. We start with the in-school competition, and then a local heat, then onto district finals, cluster finals and the national finals."

Lily and Bayley were announced as the winners of the first stage, which took them through to local qualifying. Lily - who made it to the district finals in last year's competition - said, "I felt well-prepared and had a clear picture in my mind of how I wanted it to look on the plate, and was happy about how it all came together."



Bayley added, "I started off anxious until I plated my dish, then it was nerve-racking when the judges announced the winners – then I felt relieved to be announced as one of the students going through to the next round."

Members of the judging panel included Smithdon's Headteacher Mrs Gibbins, along with school governor and Rotary club member Mr Crofts, and local restaurateur Eric Snaith.

Lily won the local-qualifying stage of the competition and went on to compete in the local heat which was held at Springwood. The winner and runner-up of the local heat go on to the district final, to be held at West Suffolk College. If successful, they can go to the national finals held in London.

We are proud to announce that the winner was Lily who was runner-up last year! Congratulations, Lily; We know that you worked really hard for this.

Good luck in the cluster heat!



This term, the library has celebrated an early Valentine's Day and LGBTQ+ History Month!

With both celebrations being about love, relationships, acceptance and support; February truly has been a month where, 'love is in the air'.

LGBTQ+ History Month, which was founded in 2004 by Schools OUT UK, is celebrated every February across the UK. This celebration and awareness month is always a chance to shed a light on the history of LGBTQ+ people in the UK.

LGBTQ+ characters are becoming more commonplace, more diverse, and more accessible to readers regardless of their own sexual orientation or gender identity. More and more books for children and young adults feature LGBTQ+ characters, and contain story-lines that discuss everything from coming out, relationships and family issues to how hetero, cis-gendered people can support their LGBTQ+ peers.

Some of these books have even been picked up by streaming services which has led to our students asking for the books in the library. We will always encourage any modern media that gets our students enjoying reading and thinking that books are cool!



LIBRARY



The Gothic Romance Genre

As a genre, Gothic fiction was first established with the publication of Horace Walpole's, *The Castle of Otranto* in 1764. The story takes place in a castle where death and tragedy occur, and the crucially Gothic appearance of a ghostly spirit.

Characterised by an ominous and foreboding atmosphere, along with dark characters and events, Gothic fiction has flourished and branched off into many different sub-genres in the centuries since its first creation and initiation into mainstream storytelling.

As female characters and their brooding heroes (or anti-heroes) began to dominate the Gothic genre, (especially after the publication of the Brontë sisters' novels, *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* in 1847), Gothic romance became the genre-defining plot of love stories published in the decades that followed.

Another form of romantic prose was the Gothic novel, *Dracula*. Written in 1897, it is a masterful example of doomed love entwined with supernatural elements. Take a more modern example... the *Twilight* series was written over 100 years later, and yet the genre still intrigues audiences: it sells books and ultimately transfers their ill-fated loves to the big screen.

So if rom-com stories and light romance novels are not for you this Valentine's Day, why not read something that conveys deeper meanings? Explore a different type of world through your imagination and read a story that gives a very different and unpredictable twist to the usual romance story.

Smithdon High School Literary Festival 2023

27 February - 3 March

Featuring: workshops with author Sue Long; 'Chase the story' with Journalist Chris Bishop; an Art and Poetry lecture with Cambridge professor Claire Wilkinson; Harry Potter activities; Carnegie shadowing; the 500 Word writing competition and the World Book Day costume competition!

It's that time of year again when we are consumed by all things literary! With the arrival of World Book Day comes our annual Literary Festival.

Chase the Story is back! This very successful and enjoyable day will have another rumour to chase, our photographers and reporters will find the truth! But what will the story be?

The library will become Diagon Alley! This is a new event we are very excited about - wand-making, butterbeer drinking, spell creating - that's enough (Chamber of) secrets!

We are anticipating another successful week of fun, writing, creativity and inspiration.

Watch this space for photos, news and, of course, the final *Chase the Story* article!

Rotary Young Writer Competition

Smithdon's writing group provides an opportunity for our imaginative and literary students to put their creative skills to the test. If you are interested in joining the group, please see Miss Taylor for further information.

The group has been working hard on their stories for the last few weeks to be able to submit them to the Rotary Young Writer Competition. The theme that they had to work with was Peace.

Please take the time to read our Year 7 entries.

Good luck to all students that submitted their stories!

Peace

By Pippa, Year 7 Smithdonian contributor

Inner peace is freedom of the soul,
Better than being in an endless black hole.
Inner peace is when calm takes over stress,
And you are no longer an unorganised mess.
Inner peace is when your mind finally stops,
When it runs and races 'til the penny drops
Inner peace is when you stop thinking of the past,
And your future finally comes into grasp.
Inner peace is when happiness is dominant,
And you know the calmness is permanent.
Inner peace can be hard to find,
But when the time comes you can really unwind...

Peace

By Rae, Year 7 poet

Peace is as simple as reading a book,
Peace is easy, plain and good,
Peace can be found anywhere,
Peace can be the love you feel,
Peace could be the friendships you make,
Peace can be as easy as one plus one,
Or A B C.
Peace is for everyone and can always be shared,
No matter what happens peace will find a way,
Just think about that blessed Christmas day,
In the trenches of World War One,
Even then peace could find a way.
Even back then,
if you try hard peace will come to you,
But you can always bring it too,
The laughs and the love,
The forgiveness and the hope,
The perseverance and triumph,
Can find its way to you,
So will you choose to share it?
Or keep it to yourself?
Only time can tell the future of events,
So listen to my words and follow step by step,
Let them guide you,
Let them show you.

Peace

By Lyra, Year 7 creative writer

The first time I noticed the change was when I got back from school one day. The sun was bright and happy, perfect for a game of fetch. Nine years ago, one year old Leo would be so excited to play. All I would have to do was pick up the battered green tennis ball and Leo would be running around my legs; tongue out, not patient at all. This time, he wasn't.

I picked up a red ball from the corner of the room and held it up, expecting Leo to come running over. He barely twitched an eyelid.

"Leo." I called. Nothing. I tried tempting him with treats but all he did was wake a little before going back to sleep. I gave up.

A few weeks later, I returned from school to a table laid with a steaming pot of tea, my favourite biscuits (chocolate of course) and my parents sitting with solemn faces.

There were many tears. They told me that "Leo's days are numbered".

That night I cried myself to sleep.

After another torturous day at Eastwood High School, I came home to a silent house. Usually, as soon as I came home Mum would yell at me to take off my 'filthy shoes' because she had "just cleaned the floor". However, this time there was silence.

I went to see if Leo wanted a treat, but there was only a faint outline of a Leo-shaped mark in his empty bed. Mum and Dad were both sitting on the sofa with sad, mournful faces. I shook my head defiantly, as if I could change what had happened. My parents didn't need to say where Leo was. I knew. I burst into tears and fell to the ground in a sobbing, crumpled heap.

I loved Leo. I loved him with all my heart. This couldn't be happening. It was all a dream. I squeezed my eyes shut. I opened my eyes, hoping to be in bed, wrapped up tightly in my duvet. I saw the same scene I had closed my eyes to, the one I had hoped was a dream.

It took a lot of convincing me that Leo was happy now. In a safe place. He'd had bone cancer and had been suffering silently for two years. Now he was safe, free of pain, where he could eat as many treats as he wanted.

We decided to sprinkle his ashes in the meadow behind our house, it was always his favourite place to go for walks. Together we would run through the meadows. I picked out some hydrangeas to lay in memory of him. Hydrangeas represent peace, especially after death, so I knew they would be perfect.

As we laid the flowers and sprinkled the ashes I could almost feel Leo's presence; I knew he was there, watching over me.

That night when I was going to sleep, a new bright star appeared in the sky, brighter than all the rest. I knew it was Leo.

People and animals always pass away one day. When that happens, you have to remind yourself that they are at peace somewhere full of their favourite things. It is sad but when they are older, they can suffer from pain and when they pass away, their suffering ends.

Performing Arts

It's been a relatively quiet term in the Performing Arts Department after such a busy and successful Christmas!

After lowering the curtain on Oliver JR we wasted no time in choosing the next school production. At the end of last term we had a fantastic cast party and announced that the next school musical will be...

Frozen Jr!

We can't wait to start auditions in the Spring term and announce our new cast. Look out for the audition dates if you would like to be a part of this fabulous production.

Latest Performances

We have been busy rehearsing during our clubs for a *Valentine's Day Special*. Throughout the last week we have been posting on the music page various performances from students across the school, and of course they are all songs about love!

Please check them out and enjoy! The performances can be found at:

<https://sites.google.com/smithdonhigh.org.uk/music/home/student-performances?authuser=0>

Clubs

We have also set up a brand new clubs timetable for next term as we are returning to single lunches. This has meant that we are able to have even more on offer for our students. Please have a look at the timetable on the website and maybe try one of our clubs. They include: Choir, Orchestra, Ukulele Club, Keyboard Club, Dance Club, Drama Club, Just Dance Club, Karaoke Club and Jam Session Club.

Arts Council

Launch Alert! The brand new *Smithdon Student Arts Council!* The council will focus on: student voice, event planning, promotion and student leadership. Students who are involved in any of the arts across the school should keep their ears peeled for an announcement about this exciting new opportunity!



Smithdon High School Alumni

We like to hear from our former students, and find out what they have been doing since they left. Our featured former student, Aidan Gollaglee left Smithdon in 2010. He excelled in Maths and is now helping others to teach and lead in Maths!

Memories of School

I have fond memories of all the good and the bad. The good would be the Mathematical inspiration that was Mr Skipper; the exceptionally talented PE teacher Mr Allsop and counting to 10 in different languages whilst stretching; chatting to the wonderful ex-headmaster Mr Little on the way to and from school in the mornings; winning regional cross country events; somehow winning a golf tournament (the trophy is still proudly displayed in my cabinet); the football team going undefeated for two seasons in a row and our basketball team facing off against Gaywood Park girls' team for one of the best matches we played. I still remember Mr Rushton laughing incessantly at me falling over and fighting for the ball with one of the girls.

The not so good would be me coming to school in a skirt to protest the fact boys couldn't wear shorts, being late to school almost every day because I had a job in the mornings and generally not being motivated to study for exams!

I would describe myself as a student that could certainly have made more of my time studying at school – I was fortunate to achieve good A-level grades in Maths, Further Maths, Biology and PE.

Living and growing up in Hunstanton in an area and family of low aspiration made it difficult to really make the most of school. I was receiving free school meals and lived in a low-income household. I loved learning but had no interest in examination success. It is a combination of these and my experiences at Smithdon (both good and bad) that have driven me to find the success I have. So much so that I am now very heavily involved in shaping Maths Education across the UK. I am sure during my sixth form years I was somewhat a difficult student to manage at times.

What jobs you have done since leaving school?

Since graduating Loughborough University with a degree in Mathematics, I have worked for General

Electric in Aerospace Project Management before receiving the Institute of Maths Scholarship to support me in embarking on a career in Maths education.

After completing my NQT year in Hackney, London I became KS4 Maths Lead in Greenwich, London for one year before then taking on a role as Head of Department for three years at a Grammar School in Sidcup. I then progressed to Lead Practitioner and leading CPD in Secondary and Post-16 Maths Education for one year, before taking over the London South East Plus Maths Hub. I now am part of the Senior Leadership Team at a school in Southwark, London and oversee delivery of the government-funded Maths Hub Programmes as well as running subject leadership training for teachers on behalf of the National Council for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics.

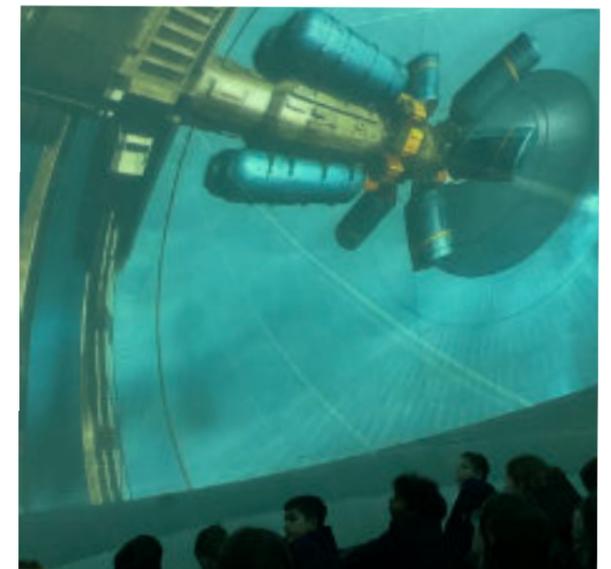
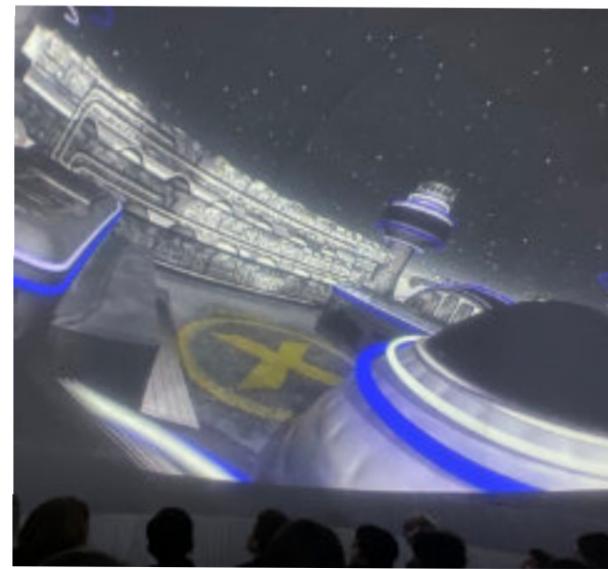
In my current role I lead on Primary, Secondary and Post-16 Maths improvement for the London Boroughs of Bexley, Lewisham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Greenwich and The City.

Aside from this work, I do talks for the Institute of Mathematics Scholarship Programme and visit schools to do free consultations and support their departments in delivering improvement.

My message for current students

No matter where you come from, no matter who you are surrounded by, make the most of every experience. You will learn from both the good and the bad and be all the better for it. Set yourself high expectations and work towards them. I will always regret not making the most of my opportunities when I was younger, don't live life with regrets!

Set yourself goals and don't be afraid to ask people for guidance on how to achieve them! Norfolk can be an isolating place, but you will gain experiences that many others will not. You have the opportunity to build on your initiative and independence. It is how you deal with adversity and challenges that will make you proudest.



PLANETARIUM

On Tuesday 17 January we were lucky enough to have a planetarium in school from Immersive Experiences. All of Years 7 and 8 had the chance to experience the planetarium, along with the VAR headsets. Sessions were split into two sections with 25 minutes in the Dome and 25 minutes with the headsets. When using the headsets the students were able to see inside the international Space station and to also look at Earth as if they were on the station.

From seeing a spacecraft dock onto the International Space station to how to eat and exercise whilst on board, the virtual reality headsets really did make it feel real. Whilst in the dome, the students watched a film of what it would be like on the planets in our solar system in the future if we had colonised them. From extreme sports on Uranus to mining on Mars, being able to see the projection on the ceiling was stunning. All the students really enjoyed the experience. We would like to thank Immersive Experiences for this amazing opportunity.

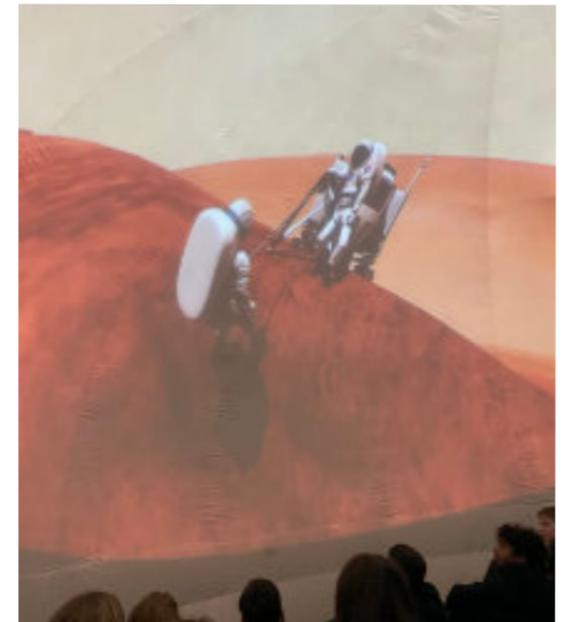
By Mrs Pike, Head of Science

We visited the Planetarium (in the gym), which is a vast orb that you can go inside. A video about the solar system is displayed on the walls, making it seem like we were actually there!

I really enjoyed the experience, it was very descriptive and interesting. Did you know that Mercury's surface is FOUR times hotter than boiling water? I bet you didn't!

After watching the video, we were set up with virtual reality headsets. We got to see MORE videos! I watched one about how a huge asteroid destroyed all the dinosaurs. It was really cool and I enjoyed every second of it.

By Pippa, Year 7 Smithdonian writer



The PE Department Newsletter

Cross Country

Nine of our students represented Smithdon at the Norfolk Cross Country Championships at Wymondham College. The race had more than 100 runners in each age group, with Year 8 and Year 9 boys being the most popular with over 130 runners running against some experienced club runners. The Smithdon students were fantastic and they should be especially proud, considering they ran a new course, with not only more runners but also further distances.



A special mention to Faith who qualified through to the next round where she ran for Team Norfolk in the Anglian Cross Country Championships. Faith was superb and finished 8th for Norfolk. Smithdon and the PE department are so proud of you.

Badminton

The KS3 Badminton team travelled to KLA and KES to compete in the boys' and girls' West Norfolk Badminton Tournament. The boys did brilliantly, with Taylor winning all of his games and Archie, Freddie and Chester playing amazingly to ensure the boys finished top of their tournament.

The girls' badminton team had a couple of Year 7 students making their debut after doing so well in the after-school clubs. Faith and Chloe played really well together and started to win some points throughout the tournament. Bonnie and Isabel played a great singles game which added points to the girls' team. The girls finished 7th, which meant with combined scores from boys and girls, Smithdon finished 3rd overall in the tournament!! Well done, Smithdon!



Basketball

Year 10 Girls

The Year 10 girls started slowly in the first game, however after this they started to improve game by game and by the end of the tournament were playing some good basketball, especially on defence.

The girls came 5th overall in the tournament.



Year 8 Girls

The Year 8 girls played superbly. It took a while for them to grow into the game, as they realised how competitive it was against other schools. However when they did they played some brilliant game-play.

They came 7th out of 9. Well done, girls!



Year 7 Girls

The determination the girls had throughout the tournament was amazing. They didn't stop, even when they were up against strong teams. They managed to win three games, drew one and lost two.

Overall they came 3rd. Well played girls!



Year 8 Boys

This was a very competitive group with 10 teams entered from the West Norfolk Schools. The boys were very competitive and held their own. Josh was awarded the shot of the tournament, when he scored a buzzer point to win against Marshland B team. The whole hall stopped and watched the shot go in, as Marshland was a team to beat.

Overall the boys came joint 5th with KLA. Well done!



Coming up....

When we come back to school after half term, we have a multitude of sporting fixtures, events and much more...

Football and Netball fixtures are back, so if you would like to come along then please attend one of the after-school clubs or speak to a member of the PE department.

We are hosting the Girls' Football Primary School Festival in March to celebrate International girls' football.

During lunch time we will be running house sports and competitions so that you can gain points for your house, which could make a big difference when it comes to sports day!

The 1953 Floods



On 31 January 1953, 70 years ago, a devastating North Sea flood caused catastrophic damage and loss of life in what became one of the worst peacetime disasters of the 20th Century.



On that fateful night, residents in King's Lynn, Hunstanton, Snettisham and Heacham stayed in their homes as the storm raged and became more and more terrifying. Unfortunately, many people died when the water inundated the sea walls and the flood defences. A lack of preparation worsened the effect of the storm, and caused the huge scale disaster. The emergency response was initially led by the community itself, and the majority of search and rescue was done even before the government got involved.

People climbed onto their roofs in the high winds to try to escape the water that was lapping around their houses and flooding the streets. Neighbours were helping each other in knee deep water, and trying to protect their belongings from the extensive flooding, moving furniture out from the water, trying to save their homes, families and pets. The villages and their residents were overwhelmed and scared.

Finally, when it was over, families were left without homes and power. Village halls became a refuge for them with people and businesses donating blankets and food. One dairy farmer remembers delivering milk through windows. People even came from afar to help and sight-see the devastation for themselves.

And although that night felt the full force of nature, what also came out of the traumatic scenes were stories of acts of pure heroism.

Firefighters plunged into the deep water to help trapped residents, and fishermen used their boats to help people to safety. Strangers helping each other to safety with courage and

selfless acts. Sadly, some heroes became the victims themselves whilst battling to save others.

Reis Leming - an American airman who was based at RAF Sculthorpe - was in the cold, deep water for eight hours trying to rescue people. His perseverance saved 27 people in Hunstanton. Mr Leming, who could not swim, eventually collapsed from exposure. His bravery earned him the George Medal. He returned to America a month later. He is honoured in Hunstanton and you may have even seen his name on a street sign.

Along the east coast, 307 people died and 46,000 livestock were lost. 24,500 homes were flooded and millions of pounds of damage was done.

This year the 70th anniversary of the floods was marked at a service in Hunstanton. Attending the memorial service was Alex Kilpatrick whose father, Freeman Kilpatrick was awarded the George Medal for his bravery during the tragic event. The 67 Special Operations Squadron (an American unit based at Mildenhall) also attended the event that saw flowers being laid at the memorial in Hunstanton.

Smithdon was proud to attend the ceremony and pay our respects to the heroes, the victims and the survivors of this awful tragedy. They will always be remembered and honoured.



Maisie and Harry, seen here alongside the head students of Hunstanton Primary school and James Wild MP, represented Smithdon at the 70th anniversary memorial service.

PE Co-Curricular Clubs Timetables

**SMITHDON HIGH SCHOOL
PE CO-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE -
SPRING 2**

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - 15:00 - 16:00

MONDAY
Alternative Sports
JTI & YII Leaders
Sports Hall

Tuesday
Netball
JTI & CMC
Gym/ Netball Courts

Wednesday
All Years
Football - JTI, CMC - Field

Thursday
Girls' Rugby - NCA - Field
Boys' Rugby - DWa, Cmc - Field

Friday
All Years Girls' Football -
Field
DWa, CMC & AWR

PLEASE BRING KIT & REGISTER

**SMITHDON HIGH SCHOOL
PE CO-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE**

LUNCHTIME CLUBS - 12:20 - 12:55

MONDAY
KS4 BASKETBALL
Sports Hall

Tuesday
GCSE PE REVISION - D.08
ALL YEARS BADMINTON -
SPORTS HALL

Wednesday
KS4 BASKETBALL - SPORTS HALL
KS3 FOOTBALL - GYM/ FIELD

Thursday
ALL YEARS BADMINTON -
SPORTS HALL

Friday
KS4 BASKETBALL - GYM
KS3 DODGEBALL - SPORTS HALL

PLEASE BRING KIT & REGISTER



Our Young Enterprise - Homemade Treasures - have been hard at work again; designing, planning and producing some new, amazing products to sell.

Their latest designs are Easter-themed and ideal as a gift for a loved one. They will be available at parents evenings or by contacting:

Mrs Dibble, Mr Chapman or by emailing
ye@smithdonhigh.org.uk



There will be a range of different styles to choose from and each product will have a chocolate egg inside your chosen design!

LGBTQ+ Group
All Year groups are
welcome in the
library!
Monday
lunchtimes

Hunstanton FREE Youth Groups



Youth Group: Mondays (term time) 4.15pm – 5.45pm

This group session is open to anyone in Years 3-7 (Ages 8-12)
Plenty of activities and games to get involved in!
We kindly request mobile phones are not used during this group.

Hang Out: Mondays (term time) 6pm – 7.30pm

This session offers a safe place to meet up with friends and chat.
Open to Years 8 and over (age 13-17 years)

VENUE: The Basement, Hunstanton Town Hall, PE36 6BQ

Healthy snacks and water will be provided free of charge.
We plan to develop a low-cost shop for different snacks in the future.
Due to allergies food or drink cannot be brought into the sessions.



For further information, please contact
angela.teague@benjaminfoundation.co.uk



Many thanks to Ørsted for their grant through their East Coast Community Fund to help us extend our support for young people in North West Norfolk.

The Benjamin Foundation
www.benjaminfoundation.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1124936
Company Number: 3825425

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Poor school attendance can negatively impact upon your child's academic, social and emotional development.

90% attendance may seem high, but this is 19 days of school-time which equates to nearly 4 weeks across a full year!

This is why attendance impacts on student progress.

The image to the right can help us put into context how much learning time is lost:



Raffle Winners this term:

Year 7: Luke, Josh, Harvey, Tina

Year 8: Jack, Jamie

Year 9: Bonnie, Charlotte, Charlie

Year 10: Angelina, Lola, Joey, Dominic

Year 11: Robyn, Samuel, Shelby, Erol

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

Year 7: Mr Wells

Year 8: Mr Corder

Year 9: Mrs Dibble

Year 10: Mr McQuaid

Year 11: 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

The background is a solid red color. Scattered across the surface are several heart-shaped cutouts made from paper. Some are solid red, while others are white with red outlines. The hearts are of various sizes and orientations, some appearing to be layered or overlapping.

**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
restful break and we look
forward to seeing you back
on 20 February!**