



# The Smithdonian

Smithdon High School Magazine



The March 2024 Issue



# WELCOME

Happy Easter!

Welcome to our jam-packed Spring Term 2 edition of the Smithdonian. As predicted it has been a crazily busy half term.

Smithdon's annual Literary Festival is now a two week extravaganza of events with so much packed in - and I was gutted not to be in school on World Book Day to join the annual fun of dressing up as a new character to support our Library and the National Literacy Trust. I guess I have next year's costume already planned now though!

This half-term also saw a number of students from the STEMM club visit our local primary schools to show off their Science skills in British Science week - and some lucky Year 7s got to experience the preview practice. Mrs Pike also wowed with an experiment in the Hall for the whole school assembly that week.

Year 11s are being rewarded for all their hard work and engagement in preparation for next term's exams, with them now receiving prizes of the week in Geography and Business, to go alongside the Pen of the Week award in English and Mr Ward's Year group "wheel of rewards".

Have a lovely Easter Bank Holiday weekend and spring break.

Mrs Gibbins

## SMITHDON IN THE NEWS

### Smithdon students get fit in new fitness suite



Students at Smithdon High School will be on top form as a new fitness suite has opened on its premises.

Smithdon now has state-of-the-art equipment which will help keep its students fit and healthy as well as help them mentally.

It features both free weights and cardio machines, as well as providing space for other gym-based activities and workouts to take place. Located alongside the school's gymnasium, the fitness suite officially opened its doors after the February half-term break, with the facilities funded by the Opening Schools Facilities programme.

Mr Tilley, head of PE said, "we have a range of gym equipment in our fitness suite, from cardio machines such as rowing machines, cross trainers, bikes and treadmills. We have a good selection of various weights and also weight benches. We have a section in the gym where students can also enjoy Boxercise, yoga and other fitness classes that you may see in a gym or leisure centre."

Mr Tilley added, "OSF is about opening the school facilities to give students access to sporting activities and an opportunity to take part in physical activity. The fitness suite is available for all students and staff at Smithdon to use, and will be available for after-school clubs. In addition, we have incorporated it into our curriculum, so that

students are able to use it in PE lessons. We want to promote leading a healthy lifestyle at Smithdon, and having a fitness suite is the first step to promote this," he continued. "Giving an opportunity to students to access fitness early in life provides them with skills they can use to maintain a healthy lifestyle throughout their lives. Skills such as having control, good form, and how to use the gym equipment effectively, are all useful tools to build confidence, fitness and enjoyment. Also, channelling that stress into fitness is a healthy way to unwind and improve overall health." *Article taken from the Lynn News*

### Woolly friends visit Smithdon!

During March, Smithdon had the pleasure of looking after some sheep from a farm in Shipdham. Dolly and her two beautiful lambs, Delta and Decimal, are Jacob sheep (a British breed of domestic sheep) and spent 5 days with us. This was organised by The Farm and Fork Discovery Trust.

Mrs Dibble, teacher of Food Technology at Smithdon stated, "the purpose of the visit was to increase the awareness of farming in our area and to encourage students to understand the the term, 'farm to fork'. "

Whilst under our care, Year 10 students Bradlee and Zaniah, took care of the sheep. They fed them in the afternoon, cleaned out their pen and monitored them during lunch and break time. Taylor in Year 11 made sure to give them their breakfast every morning.

Dolly and her lambs had visits from our students as well as pupils in Years 1 and 2 from Hunstanton Primary School. They were allowed to ask questions about the sheep and we found out that Dolly is partial to a digestive biscuit and has very loud "baas"!



# The Smithdon Literary Festival 2024

With the end of one year and the beginning of another, the Smithdon Literary Festival is always just on the horizon, with the approach of March and World Book Day. This was our third Literary Festival and we brought back many of the fun events that always work really well.

Journalism Day, Poems and Visual Art, Hunger Games Day and the Author workshop were all on the menu and of course the BIG day itself, World Book Day, where staff and students alike were invited (and encouraged by Ms Wright) to dress up as a book character for the day. Many of the students participated and it was amazing to see so many literary characters roaming the school grounds. The banana definitely caused a stir! Was he from a healthy eating book? We like to think that he was the book cover from *Noah Can't Even* by Simon James Green - our visiting author.

We try to involve as many year groups as possible in the festival and the events. This year we had the challenge of working around the Year 9 assessments and the Primary School Science trips. It was a busy and enjoyable fortnight and we are already looking forward to the 2025 festival!

## World Book Day

World Book Day is a day that the English Department wait all year for! The planning of costumes and the Literary Festival activities seems to begin again after Easter - we all know how time flies and preparation is the key.

It is wonderful that even our students in High School still enjoy taking part, dressing up and being in character for the day. We saw fabulous costumes across all staff departments and the library was buzzing during lunch-time with a spectrum of colour and fun.

We had characters from Harry Potter, Nick & Charlie, Macbeth, Jaws, The Handmaid's Tale, IT, Alice in Wonderland and Dr Seuss. Even the cutest characters from A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh stories made an appearance.

The 500-word story competition was also launched and the students in Years 7-9 have all been tapping away at keyboards writing some wonderful stories. It is exciting to see who will win!



**The English Department in their element!**



**Smithdon staff really got into the spirit of the day. Even the more sportier amongst us!**



**Lady Macbeth is well known amongst the GCSE students! "What's done cannot be undone".**



**We also had characters from farming and healthy food books.**



**Nick and Charlie from the very popular Heartstopper books by Alice Oseman.**



**The Mad Hatter, Georgie, Tigger and a Bridgerton character. Quite an eclectic group of characters.**



**Thing 1 and Thing 2 (Bim and Ben) from Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat.**



**Luna Lovegood and her friends visited from Hogwarts!**

# Journalism Day

With Chris Bishop



**Mrs Robinson did well facing the journalists and their tough questions.**

The third Smithdon Literary Festival kicked off with the fun and exciting ‘Chase the Story’ Event. Chris Bishop, Chief Reporter for the EDP, once again provided a day of investigating, research and writing.

The school library became a busy newsroom which was a hive of activity for the whole day. When the rumour came in that the canteen pizza was doubling in price, there were gasps of horror! We still remember the uproar from last year when the price increased from 65p to £1.25 per slice. Would another price increase cause a protest? How could the canteen justify such a rise in price when the country is struggling in the cost of living crisis? Was this the truth or fake news? The reporters set to work to uncover what was behind this rumour.

A group of reporters immediately went to the canteen to find what information they could. The canteen staff would not answer their questions and so they went to look for Mrs Gibbins, who was unfortunately in a meeting. Mrs Taylor, PA to the head, reassured the reporters that there would be an official press conference later in the day with the Deputy Head, Mrs Robinson.

Back in the newsroom, the writers spent their time researching. They wanted to find out what food had been like back when the school would have first opened. They discovered where pizza actually originated from and they also found out the shocking truth that prisoners got £2.68 per day in 22/23 for their food compared to that those students on free school meals that currently receive £2.41 for their food for the school day.

They thought it was important to speak to those students that are the voice for the students and so the Smithdon Food Champions were invited to come and have a chat with the reporters. Some interesting thoughts were heard and we hope that the Food Champions issues can be resolved in the future.

To help with the design of the article, Miss Fairweather, our IT expert, kindly came along to teach the journalists about page layout and graphic design. The journalists learnt a lot of handy tips on how to design for their target audience.

The time came for the Press Conference. We did a few run-throughs to practise the questions and the etiquette of a press conference. Mrs Robinson, our Deputy Head had kindly agreed to take part and answered the sometimes difficult questions as well as she could. This is always an amazing experience as the questions can evolve into a conversation with the students extending their initial question if they were not happy with the response.

Once they had the answers from Mrs Robinson, they were able to correlate all the information they had gathered. Geo had taken on the role as the writer and designer and so she was bombarded with all the research, photos and information.

After a long day of work, the news team were rewarded - with a slice of pizza of course!

We are always so grateful to the amazing Mr Bishop who guides the whole day and offers his experience and time for free. We are already thinking about next year’s story!



**Hope was one of the photographers for the day. She had to follow the reporters and pap all the action!**

## The Smithdonian

Special Edition

### School pizza price expected to soar! Students question ‘what’s next?’

**By The Year 9 Journalist Team:** Geo, Miles, Cameron, Evie, Hope, Annabelle, Lola, Reuben, Daisy, Elsie-May, Amelie, Max, Iliana, Harry and Amanda.

Smithdon High School's 2023 pizza-gate wounds were reopened recently when a shock text leaked the possible news that the price of the popular break-time snack was going to drastically increase again. In the financial year of 22/23, the hungry, Smithdon students enjoyed a relatively low price price of 65p per cheesy slice. At the beginning of the 23/24 financial year, this increased to £1.25. Students were disgusted and confused at the almost double price increase. When we asked them how they would feel about paying the rumoured £2.50 from April, the furious students said: ‘Bad quality for extravagant prices.’

This is predicted to quickly become a problem for students who have free school meals as the average daily allowance in the UK is, ‘£2.41 according to the funding rate.’ This means that a student with free school meal privileges will not be able to buy this snack and also have a meal at lunchtime. Combined with the current cost of living crisis, providing reasonably priced nourishment to the scholars at Smithdon is becoming untenable.

Many students that were interviewed said that “prices elsewhere are cheaper and worth the money” as they, “would rather eat their own food if prices keep going up.” Lots of Smithdon students said that the small slice of pizza ‘isn’t worth £2.50.’ When you can get a whole 305g pizza from Waitrose for £1.60!

Even teachers are starting to bring in their own alternatives to the school canteen food. One of the Health and Social teachers said ‘The prices for pizza are disgusting for going up so quickly’. After interviewing teachers that studied at this school they say that, ‘Food used to be a lot cheaper and healthier.’ A science teacher also said, ‘A 100% increase in price is disgraceful!’

Year 9 student Ben, advises other students to get fruit cups at break time. There were reoccurring comments about introducing a pick ‘n’ mix salad bar with protein options included. Although Zaniah stated that “the *Steak Bake* should come back onto the menu!”

Our reporters interviewed Smithdon’s Food Champions who sadly admitted that, ‘we aren’t listened to’ and ‘couldn’t bring change like they believed they could.’

A press conference with Mrs Robinson, deputy head of Smithdon, was held to find out if a member of SLT could shed any light on the situation on the possible inflation of school food prices along with the health of the students. We asked her a series of questions around the subject of the school canteen food and its prices.

Mrs Robinson seemed as shocked as the rest of the school community at the alleged price increase, admitting that with two of her own children



**Mr Duncan was just about to tuck into his pizza from home when he was interrogated!**

attending the school, if prices across the board rise then she would have to seriously think about sending packed lunches from home to feed her children. Her reply to the question of whether the food was healthy enough, she replied that it’s fact that the healthier options do tend to sell better than the healthy options that were offered and that those healthy options did tend to go to waste. Mrs Robinson also admitted that she was not aware that the student Food Champions felt ‘unheard’. She promised that she would be more involved and perhaps have a meeting with them to listen to their concerns.

When contacted, Mr Johnson, WNAT Executive Head Chef, blamed the recent increases on the Covid pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine, which affects the cost of imports of raw materials. Mr Johnson further reassured that the FSM allowance does raise to accommodate the rise in food costs.

But the final comments from the Trusts head chef was that “there will be no increases as it stands”.

With the new financial year imminent it will be interesting to see if the situation changes and forces the Trust to adjust their prices. But for now it seems we are safe. We can eat our pizza without too much damage to our bank balances for now.

**Buon appetito!**

# Author Event:

Simon James Green

On Friday 15 March, we were lucky enough to be visited by author, Simon James Green, an award-winning author of YA fiction. Titles such as, *Noah can't even*, *Gay Club* and *Alex in Wonder Land* have been on our library shelves for a while now and feature a wonderful array of LGBTQ+ characters, at school and in relationships. Simon's comedic style explores the lives of teens and their journeys through getting to know themselves and the world around them.

Simon has a range of workshops that he takes to schools all over the country, usually visiting different areas on a weekly basis. *The Creating Character Workshop* saw the students take part in interactive, drama-based exercises - a great way to develop imagination skills. The Year 7 and 8 groups really enjoyed their time with him and we all learnt a lot in the sessions.

By the end of the workshop, the students had created their characters from scratch. We had a robot, footballers, several angst teenagers and even a character that had an IQ of minus affinity! Simon admitted that writing characters can sometimes end up being partly autobiographical, as we know ourselves more than anybody else.

It was a lot of fun and lovely to see the students enjoying themselves, laughing and being creative. It was a wonderful realisation that writing stories doesn't have to be just about sitting in front of a computer. We are hoping that we can use these types of activities in the future within English lessons when embarking on creative writing.

Thank you Simon for a great day, we look forward to reading your future books and seeing you soon!



Rae answered questions about her character to make her come to life on the page.



Uedashs' character loved Nando's!





## EXCLUSIVE!

### President Snow talks white roses, ambition and betrayal!

President Snow is known for his love of white roses, a symbol of purity and grace, but where did that love come from?

"I introduced this variety of rare roses as they smell beautiful and only bloom in winter. That is why I called them White Snow. They are a hybrid." An insider informed us the truth: 'they conceal the smell of his bad breath!'

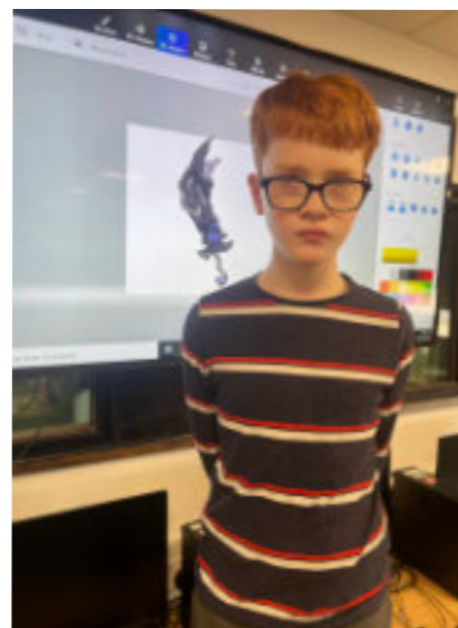
President Snow reacted, "There are rumours that I poisoned my enemies but that simply is not true - I drank from the same cup - and I am still standing!" When asked about the fallout with his family, Snow replied, "Tigris is family. But that cannot get in the way of your dreams and ambitions."

Wise words from President Snow!

## Cyber Security for the future!

We all know that Beetee from District 3 is a technological genius. His designs for military technology and weaponry has won him the favour of the Capitol. After surviving the 39<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> Games, Beetee advanced his position and became a valued member of District 13.

His presence this year has tongues wagging as he is normally quite a reclusive figure. He did spend some time with the tributes teaching them how to design Scratch games, so maybe he is scouting to recruit into the Techno Programme.



## The Gem Game!

District 1 is very proud of it's proximity to the Capitol and of all the luxury goods it is able to provide to the most wealthiest and important citizens of Panem. Their very high standards and talents for producing luxurious products was on show during the games when their most highly regarded goldsmiths and gemologists put on an exclusive demonstration. With the most rarest of diamonds, gold and crystal beads, the skilled jewellers designed and created bracelets, key-rings and earrings.



The **2024** Hunger Games came to the Capitol in a fusion of fashion and survival.

The tributes battled their way through the games in the Shaw Building Garden.

Skills including, knot-tying, fire-building and target practise were all on show for our entertainment. The tributes battled to win their victory prize!

There were moments of tension as the target board was continuously missed, but Darcey pulled it back and together they achieved a score of over 1000 points! The knot-tying exercise tested their abilities to the extreme with the wind against them.

Haymitch, Peeta, Gale, President Snow and the rest of the tributes were eventually successful in collecting their cornucopia of survival items.

Their victory prize was a hamper of food: Gale's Squirrel on a Stick, Coal Cookies, Mellark Bakery Lemon Loaf, Nightlock Berries and Capitol Cupcakes.

**Congratulations Tributes.**

*May the odds be ever in your favour!*

# CAPITOL

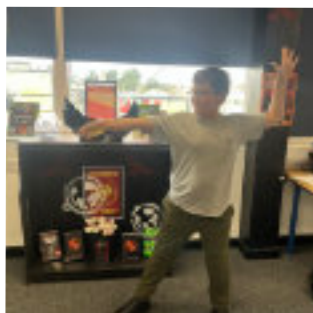
## COUTURE

The Games are not all about survival and winning! Capitol Couture wanted to see who is winning in the fashion war!

Capital Couture took a sneak peak during the games and the after-parties . We saw fabulous outfits and unique designs that truly made our President and the tributes stand out from the crowd.

**Haymitch** has always had his own unique and eclectic style. Some in the fashion world have called it boho, others have described it as 'unkempt'. Capitol Couture can see a new *Tigress Trend* from a mile away. With the classic dolman sleeve and the edgy, baggy silhouette, we can see this ensemble making its way into all of Panems ateliers.

**President Snow** wore bespoke tailoring from *Effie Trinket Designs* - the classic designs from this fashion power-house, incorporate silk, cashmere and Vicuna - fibre from the Llamas in the Andes.



**Gale** showcased an up-and-coming designer that specialises in active-wear. *Venia & Co* launched just last year and District 12 are jumping all over her designs. We see Venia receiving a multitude of design awards in the future!

*Gabriel's Millinery* produces the most fashionable and one-of-a-kind hats in the Capitol. Elevated all

the way from District 8, **Gabriel** has excelled in his craft to become the best hatter in Panem.



**Peeta's** outfit was exclusively designed by *Cato Inc*. The bamboo fabric is ideal in combat as it lets the skin breathe and keeps the body at the ideal temperature in every situation! Make the *Cato Inc*, androgynous and blood-proof jacket part of your capsule wardrobe!



# Year 11

## Rewards

### Geography and Business

By Mr Chapman

This half-term, the Geography and Business Departments have been recognising the achievements of Year 11 by presenting a 'Globe of the week' in Geography and a 'Money of the week' in Business Studies. The globe is a cleverly disguised pencil sharpener and the pound notes are novelty erasers!

These are rewarded for good exam results, students progress between tests, approach to homework and good contributions and attitude in class.

The globes were awarded to Stephen, Thomas, Jess, Summer and Isaac.

The money erasers were awarded to Mia, Charlie, Archie, Taylor, Ryan, Roman and Maisie.

**Well done to you all - not long now until the final exams so keep on track, keep working hard and you will achieve great results!**



**Year 11 will also be enjoying the rewards trip to Alton Towers on the last day of term. We hope they have an amazing day and we look forward to seeing all the photos in the new term!**

# Food and Nutrition

*We have all heard about the ‘cost of living’ over the last couple of years. Over 300, 000 children were plunged into poverty during just one year at the height of the crisis. We have all noticed our shopping and energy bills increasing over the last couple of years. We thought it might be useful to list the eateries that are offering meal deals for children over the Easter break. We have also included a budget friendly family meal recipe for you all to try! A healthy meal to balance out all of the chocolate Easter eggs!*

## **Morrisons**

Get a FREE children’s meal when an adult spends £4.99 or over on a meal. The kids meal includes piece of fruit and Tropicana Kids Orange or Apple drink or bottle of water.

FREE cereal is also available in the mornings

## **Brewers Fayre**

Children can eat FREE breakfast at Brewers Fayre during the holidays, or a ‘kids meal deal at any other time for £4.99. Two children under 16 eat free with each adult breakfast.

## **Bill’s**

Enjoy a meal while your children eat free all day, every day except 8th and 9th April.

## **Dobbies Garden Centre**

Available all day every day (all year round). If you purchase an adults meal, your child can eat for FREE at Dobbies. The meal includes their ‘kids lunch menu’ or pick ‘n’ mix’ meal, plus a drink.

## **Hungry Horse**

Children eat for £1 on Mondays and breakfast for free throughout the holidays. Two children can eat free per adult breakfast purchased.

## **Sainsbury’s Cafe**

Children eat for just £1 at Sainsbury’s Cafe. Purchase an adult hot main meal from £5.20, and get a children’s hot main meal or lunch bag for £1. This offer is valid daily from 11:30am until the cafe closes.

# Budget-Friendly Family Meal

## **Tomato and pesto spaghetti recipe**

Serves 4 and under £1 per serving.

### **Ingredients:**

1 tbsp olive oil

330g pack cherry tomatoes, halved

4 garlic cloves, finely chopped

½ tsp crushed chillies, plus extra to serve (optional)

1 lemon, zested and juiced

350g dried spaghetti

¾ x 190g jar spinach and ricotta pesto (or green pesto)

### **Method:**

1. Heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Add the tomatoes, season well and fry for 4-5 mins, stirring occasionally, until beginning to soften and caramelise. Stir in the garlic, chillies and lemon zest, reduce the heat to low and cook for 2-3 mins until fragrant.

2. Meanwhile, bring a large pan of salted water to the boil and cook the spaghetti to pack instructions. Drain, reserving 2 tbsp of the cooking water.

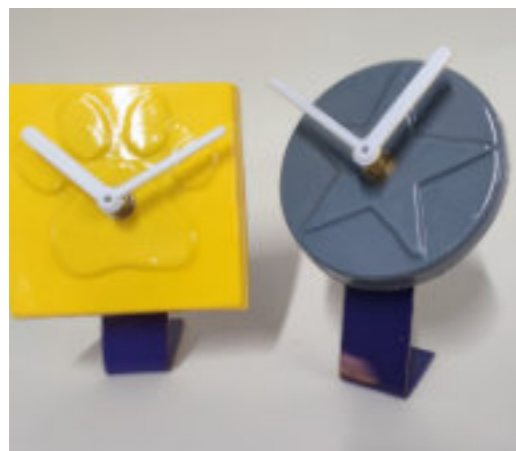
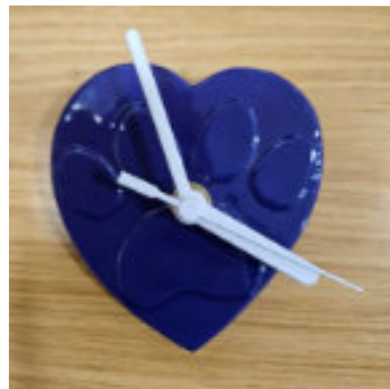
3. Stir the pesto, lemon juice and reserved cooking water into the pasta, using tongs to toss everything together to coat. Toss through half the tomatoes, then divide between 4 bowls and spoon over the remaining tomatoes. Sprinkle with extra chillies to serve, if you like.

**Tip:** Stir through a large handful of spinach per person to help towards your 5-a-day.



# Design Technology

The DT Mini-Makes Club has been busy this year. One of their projects included making these colourful clocks. They were made from a polystyrene sheet by vacuum forming. There will be another club after Easter so if you are interested, ask Mrs Birks for further information.



Erin in Year 9 has been busy at home making a magnificent bird-feeding station out of recycled materials, for one of the school gardens.

This will contribute towards not only the skills section for her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, but also her STEMM award.

Well done, Erin - it looks amazing and I am sure will attract a host of beautiful birds this Spring!



## Smithdon Collectables Deliver Valentine's Surprises!

By Mr Chapman

Our 2023-2024 Year 10 Young Enterprise group, Smithdon Collectables, are celebrating our famous school building, which opened 70 years ago. They are selling souvenirs based on images of the brutalist architecture of the Smithson building, which many architects from across the world visit every year.

The team had a successful Christmas sales period, selling wooden key rings, Christmas cards and bookmarks, featuring images of our famous school building.

The team wanted to bring happiness and kindness to the students of Smithdon High School on Valentine's Day. The cards allowed students to send anonymous messages, as well as writing messages of thanks. The group designed and sold Valentine's cards, in which students wrote messages to other students. They could also pay a little more to send an extra surprise of sweets.

All cards and sweets were delivered on the morning of Valentine's Day by members of the Young Enterprise team.





8-17 March  
British  
Science  
Week  
2024



# COMIC RELIEF DAY



*Every two years we celebrate Red Nose Day, the biennial charity event that raises funds for children facing poverty.*

*The School Council, with the help of Miss Ruskin, baked a feast of delicious goodies, with staff members also donating cakes and brownies to sell at break and lunch time in the canteen.*

*Overall we raised nearly £400 with the bake sale and the non-school uniform donations.*

*Even the banana costume from World Book Day made an appearance!*

*Thank you to everyone that donated and bought the delicious cakes.*

*During British Science Week 2024, a group of Year 8 and 9 students visited eight local primary schools, taking and delivering a variety of experiments all linked to this year's theme 'Time'.*

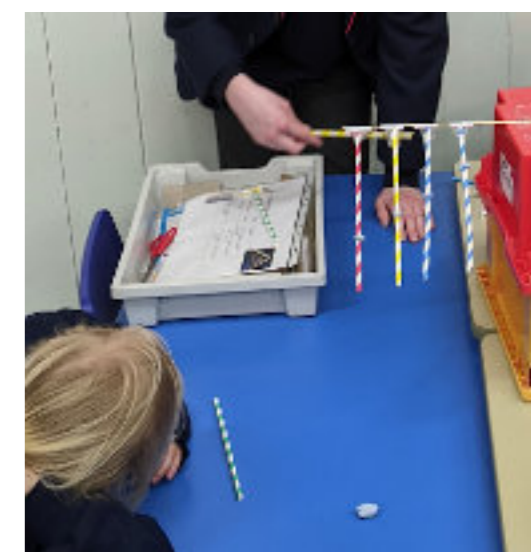
We had planned a range of experiments, from sundials to chromatography and pendulums.

The group spent several weeks after school researching, planning and then practising the experiments beforehand. We then practised delivering the science workshop to our - Year 7 students before taking it to Year 3 pupils and in some schools Year 4 as well.

The primary school children enjoyed getting involved with the experiments, creating sundials of their own and gaining new knowledge about science.

One of the many experiments was the pendulum experiment, where the children got to play around and experiment with adding weight onto some straw pendulums at different heights, to see how long they swing for and to create different patterns.

**By Alex, Year 8**





By Miss Miller

Another half-term has come and gone and despite it being just a short one, that certainly hasn't stopped us from achieving a lot! At the very end of the last half-term our Year 7 band, The Unknown, visited Springwood High School to compete in Battle of the Bands. Our band performed amazingly well! The whole audience was clapping and involved. The Unknown managed to come third, beating some of the sixth-form and college students. We could not be more proud of Sam, Harry and Udaesh for their amazing work. They are so talented and a joy to watch.

Congratulations to the The Unknown - we are all so proud of you!



## *“Truly Scrumptious”*

We have announced the next Smithdon School Musical!

We are so excited to start preparing for the classic story of ***Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!***

Some of us adults may remember watching the musical film as children - it may even still be a staple in your home now - and singing along to all the fabulous songs and enjoying the beautiful costumes. The Junior version is based on the record-breaking West End production and features an amazing score.

The auditions for performers and back-stage crew will be held on Friday 19 April. We are hoping to see many students there, of course those that have been involved before but also it would be great to see some new faces! It is an amazing experience and if the rave reviews for Frozen Jr are anything to go by, we are sure that this production will be even better! We can't promise a flying car, but we can guarantee lots of fun and big applause.



### **Performances**

On Tuesday 19 March, our brand new Show Choir headed to the King's Lynn Corn Exchange to perform in the event School's Make Music, hosted by the Trinity Rotary Club of King's Lynn. It was an amazing opportunity to perform on a big professional stage. Smithdon opened the show by performing 4 songs, including, If Only You Would Listen from School of Rock, Revolting Children from Matilda, Six from Six, and Seize the Day from Newsies. The singers learned all of the songs and choreography, and many of them had never performed on stage before. They are already buzzing about their next performance.

The term ended with our spring concert, Smithdon Salutes Broadway at the Hunstanton Town Hall. This was a night dedicated to all things musical with performance ranging from solos to our bands and choirs. Concerts are one of the most fun parts of being involved in music at school and our students love every opportunity to make new memories and to get up on stage. Look out for all the pictures and reviews next half-term.

We can't wait to see what the summer term holds and to see you at our summer concert in July!

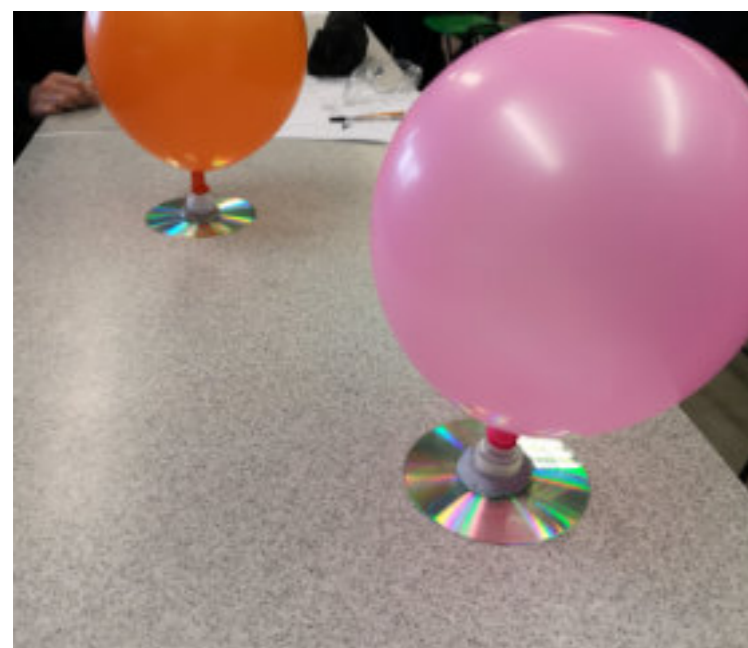


In February we had the National Space Academy come into school to do a Space to Learn masterclass with some of our Year 10 students. They brought in a space suit that had been used on the International space station and we were able to touch a piece of moon rock. The students created hovercraft's and rockets and witnessed whoosh rockets go across the classroom. They were also able to hear about various different careers involved in the space industry, from the people who make the space suits to the astronauts themselves.

On the same day our KS3 Science event ran after school with the theme of designing and racing dragsters! The students were very creative with their dragsters and loved being able to race them against each other in the hall.

We look forward to the next KS3 science event: date and theme to be announced!

**By Mrs Pike**



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

It can sometimes be difficult to know whether to send your child to school if they have had a bad night or have woken feeling poorly. Do they need the day off or will they feel better once they have had some breakfast?

The Department for Education has noticed that since the Covid pandemic, children are staying home more often, when they actually are well enough to attend school. When it is difficult to tell, there are some really helpful resources. Search for: NHS school illness guidance - is my child too ill to go to school?

They have examples such as if your child has a mild cough or cold and a runny nose but no fever, then they are fine to come in. If they have conjunctivitis or a sore throat but with no fever, they are also fine to come in. If they have a temperature of over 38 degrees, they need to stay home until the fever has settled down and seek medical advice if you are worried.

It is so important for children to be in school, not only for their academic learning but also for their well-being, friendships and social skills.

Hopefully in the new term, the winter viruses and bugs will decrease and we can all enjoy coming to school in the warmer weather.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

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

Year 7: Miss Miller

Year 8: Mrs Mortoza-Cowles

Year 9: Miss Soper

Year 10: Miss Fairweather

Year 11: Mrs Phelps

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

**Phone: 01485 536123**

**Text: 07935 059774**

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

# Get in touch:

Phone: 01485 534541

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

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

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

We hope you all have a restful  
break and a lovely Easter and  
we look forward to seeing you  
all back on 15 April.

