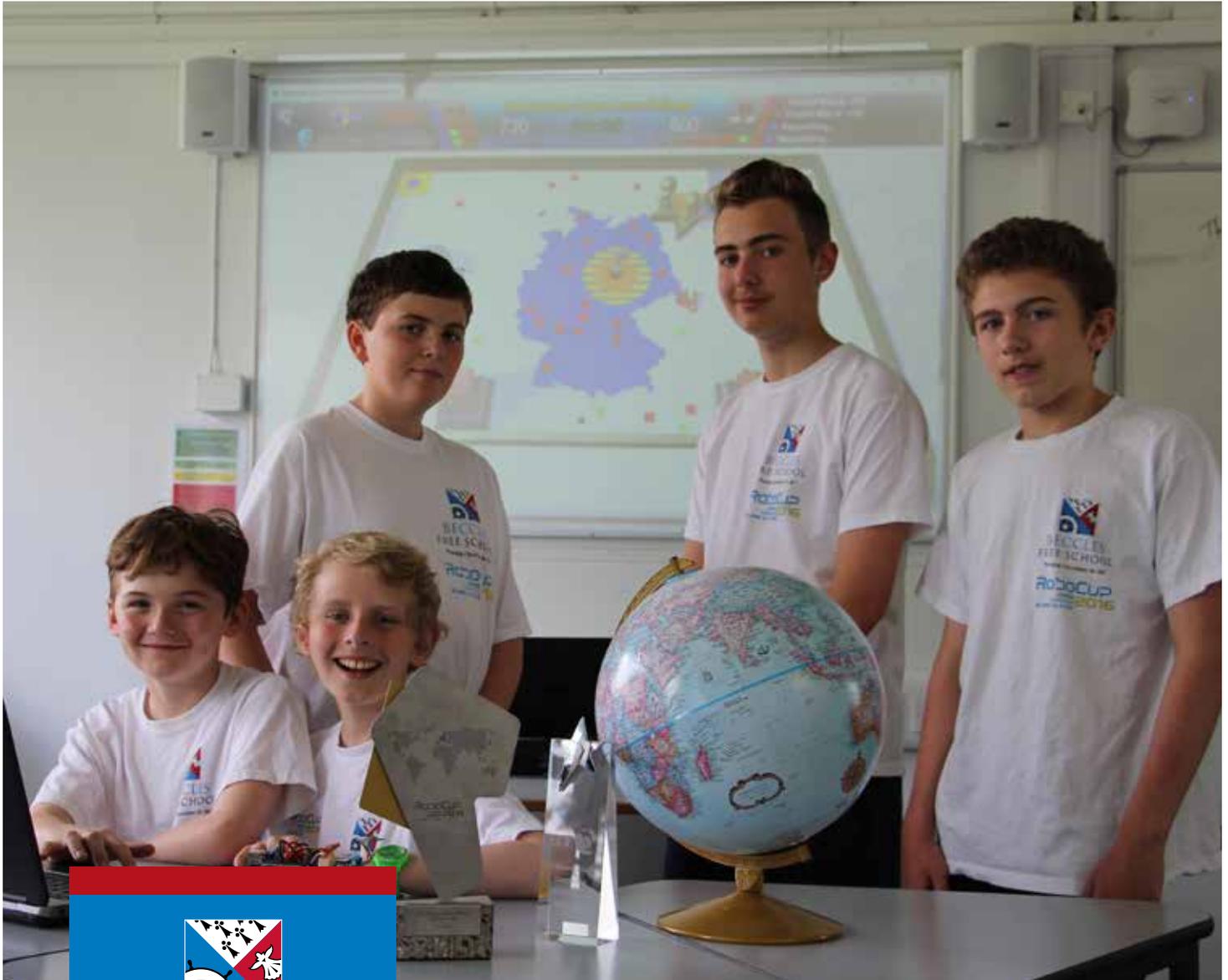


BECCLES chronicle

Beccles Free School is a proud member of the Seckford Foundation Free Schools Trust

The newsletter for Beccles Free School | *"Providing a foundation for life"*

- > RoboCup World Champions 2016
- > Growing Together Challenge
- > Science Museum Visits Our School
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- > Cirdan Trust Sailing



BECCLES
FREE SCHOOL

"Providing a foundation for life"

**Beccles Free School are
World RoboCup Champions!**



**BECCLES
FREE SCHOOL**

"Providing a foundation for life"

www.becclesfreeschool.org.uk
Beccles Free School,
Castle Hill, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 7BQ

Dates for your

Diary

5 and 6 September 2016

Professional Development Days

7 September 2016

Students Return to School

Thank You!

We just wanted to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who has helped with fundraising for the school over the past 12 months. Your contributions have helped our students be involved in many enriching activities.

Thank you to...The Swan House Inn, Beacon Bingo, Adventure Island, The Old Bank Tea Rooms, Marina Theatre, Steven Couting, The Seagull Theatre, Birds Eye, Tally Ho Tea Rooms, Rosies Beauticians, Beccles Snooker Club, Polimoon, M and H Plastics, Roys Store, Beales Store, Posh Pigs, Parravanis, QD Commercial Group Holdings LTD, The Three Cooks, The Bear and Bells, Wine Vaults Bar and Restaurant, The Co-op, Gillingham Swan, Medieval Banquets, The Three Tuns, Emerald Auto Services, Brand of Beccles, Richardsons Family Bowl, Kessingland Waterfront Restaurant, The Sail Loft, Vanessa Nicholson, O & C Butchers, The Florido Family, Sam Chenery-Morris, Aidan McHugh, Penny Arbuthnot, James Wellesley-Wesley, Toscana Restoration, Two Magpies Bakery, Sam Cutting and Dr Cawley.

Safeguarding

Should you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact Mr Ward, Designated Safeguarding Lead on 01502 718850 or for more information please visit www.becclesfreeschool.org.uk/safeguarding
Beccles Free School's named safeguarding governor is Mrs Chenery-Morris.

BECCLES chronicle



**BECCLES
FREE SCHOOL**

"Providing a foundation for life"

Headteacher's Welcome

In terms of the 6Cs, Challenge has been at the centre of Beccles Free School work this past term. Year 11 are to be congratulated on their excellent attitude and commitment to the huge challenge of GCSEs. The Leavers' Ball and Barbeque were fitting ways to celebrate the departure of a wonderful group of students who have given so much to their community.



**Mr Youngman
Headteacher**

Clearly the Seckford Foundation Free Schools Trust is deeply committed to ensuring that all students are given the best opportunities in their learning. To that end we are delighted to welcome Miss Sadler and Mrs Bojang who are joining our French team, as well Mr Butler who is to become part of the exciting learning team in Science. But the challenge in the Trust has always meant something more than just qualifications. From sailing a 22 metre yacht with the Cirdan Sailing Trust to taking on the best of the world in computer programming, Beccles students have excelled.

Whilst it is sad to be saying farewell to Year 11, it is also exciting to see students join us from a wide range of primary schools and participate in diverse learning activities. 15 students in year 9 have worked hard over the past term in training, in conjunction with Waveney Youth Council, to become Transition Ambassadors. Kindness is at the heart of this school community, and the students are deeply committed to making sure the new students make a great start.

One thing that makes Beccles Free School such a wonderful place to be is the tremendous support from the community. On the left of this page, there is a list of some of the wonderful organisations and individuals who have supported us in fundraising over the past 12 months. Added to that there is the continued growth and support of Trustees, Parents' Open Forum and Friends of Beccles. Homework, groupings, Enrichment activities, library facilities and resources have all improved because of the input of parents and carers. Every day you can see Trustees, parents or carers in school helping contribute to the life of the school, whether its spearheading the transformation of the library or running Enrichment sessions, from jewellery making and gaming, to sculpture and gardening. Finally thank you to Mr Miles and the gardening team for all their hard work in garden. It's growth and richness reflects this school.

Have a lovely summer

Nigel Youngman

Trinity Term 6Cs Headteacher Award Winners



Celebration

Rufus has responded to the phenomenal challenges and pressures of competing in shooting competitions. He received a gold medal for coming 1st in the National Sea Scouts shooting competition. Rufus is now committed to taking his shooting further and looking to compete and face more challenges.



Community

Sam and Nye have both applied their debating and speaking success in order to help and support their community. From political canvassing to seeking fundraising from local businesses, Sam and Nye have sought to use the power of speech to support fellow students.



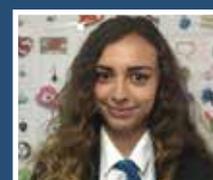
Commitment

Lily is committed to leading students at Beccles Free School in our quest to become an Eco School. It is an inspiration to have such an important aspect of school life being led by a student. A great deal of work awaits!



Confidence

Tom has drawn from the opportunities available from life at Beccles Free School. He fully embraced the wonderful opportunity of sailing with Cirdan Sailing Trust and received the 'confidence' award in recognition of the way he developed through the programme, achieving the Competent Crew Status.



Cooperation

Libby demonstrated the importance of being a team player in Sports Day and Champions Day. Like a number of students, Libby stepped in to compete in a multitude of events to help score points. Perhaps most significantly, she twice competed in a relay, immediately after an 800 m to help support a friend.



Challenge

Ben responded to the huge challenge of crewing the Faramir with Cirdan Sailing Trust with aplomb. By the end of the week, Ben exercised the level of commitment and maturity equal to staff. He was utterly focused, grasping this opportunity to explore a potential career.



RoboCup Academy with Kessingland Primary

The Robotics champions at Beccles Free School have been sharing their expertise with younger students this year, at an after school coding club. After winning the National Robocup competition in June 2015 and

then coming second in the World Championships in China (they went one better this year, but more on that later!), the students were keen to give back to the community that had supported them so much in helping to fund the trip to China. The coding club is held weekly at Beccles Free School, with a different primary school each coming in for five sessions, the latest of which was Kessingland Primary Academy. Over the five sessions, students taught the Primary School pupils the co-space coding programme that the team used in the RoboCup. They learn different aspects of coding each week, building up to having robot battles against each other at the end of the programme.

Year 7 National Parks Projects

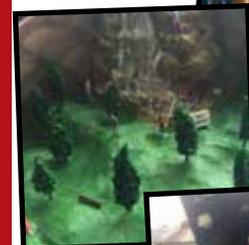
A key focus raised by Parents Open Forum has been for Beccles Free School to engage students with creative homework. All students and parents are now able to access their homework through Showmyhomework. So it was wonderful when The National Trust praised Year 7 students' homework design projects, saying they "Look amazing". Below are a few examples of their own National Park designs.

Growing Together Challenge

A team of our students have entered the growing together challenge - a competition set up by The Beach and Ipswich Building Society, designed to get young people learning all about gardening and planning for the future.

Our team have been developing the garden at the school during their weekly gardening enrichment club, and the results are absolutely stunning!

Award winners will be announced in the summer... fingers crossed.



London's Science Museum comes to Beccles and inspires local students



The world-renowned Science Museum in London came to Beccles Free School in May, inspiring local students of all ages with a series of interactive science shows. After a day of shows on Thursday May 12 for all students at Beccles Free School, the school welcomed 180 pupils from five local primary schools within the REAch2 Academy Trust for a second day of shows on Friday May 13.

The team from the Science Museum inspired students with performances on the wonders of bubbles, slimy materials and launching a rocket to Mars.

Nigel Youngman, Headteacher at Beccles Free School, said: "We have been delighted to share such an exciting educational opportunity with students at Beccles Free School and we're pleased so many local primary schools could join us too. The Science Museum has a real talent for bringing the subject to life and getting young people excited about how science works.

"We're very thankful for the Science Museum's visit to us and we hope the exciting shows will inspire students to consider science as an option for further study or a future career."

Kenny Webster, Head of Learning Operations at the Science Museum said: "The Science Museum Group's Outreach team takes live interactive shows and workshops into schools, communities and festivals in the UK and abroad to make science more fun, engaging and accessible. We are delighted to be at Beccles Free School this year."

REACH2 Academy Trust Executive Principal for East Anglia, said how delighted he was to be working in partnership with Beccles Free School on developing stronger educational community partnerships. Simon said: "I am thrilled that all five REACH2 academy primary schools in Beccles and Lowestoft were invited to the Science Museum shows at Beccles Free School. At REACH2 we are committed to providing exceptional opportunities for learning and Beccles Free School have, most graciously, given our pupils a brilliant opportunity in science. We look forward to hosting their senior students in the coming months, as we further our work together across East Anglia."



We are extremely keen to host the Science Museum again in 2017. Primary Schools interested in joining in should contact Nigel Youngman or Simone Field.

Charlotte Wins CTC Art Competition

In April, Ixworth Free School played host to the Free Schools Trust Art Exhibition, part of the Cross Trust Competitions calendar

A fantastic array of artistic talent was on display from across the three schools, and there were entries from Year 7, right through to Year 11.

The incredibly high standard made the judging panel's job very hard, but in the end they came to the following decision:

1st Place – Charlotte Lanham – Year 11 Beccles Free School
Runners up – Maisie Seaman (Year 7 Ixworth) and Millie Cartwright-Jones (Year 11 Saxmundham)

Congratulations to all students who had their work on display, and extra special congratulations to Charlotte who won the competition against some very good entries.



Café 11

Good food is at the heart of life at Beccles. No matter whether it was fuelling holiday revision sessions or ensuring a hearty start before the exams, it was vital Year 11 started with a great breakfast at Café 11.



Beccles are Debating Champions!



In May, we hosted the newest addition to the Cross Trust Competitions calendar, Debating. We were delighted to welcome students from the other schools in the Trust, Ixworth and Saxmundham into the school to debate topical issues such as the EU referendum and internet usage for teenagers.

Eight students from Years 7 to 10 at each of the three Free Schools were tasked with preparing and researching arguments, both for and against, on topical issues before debating them in front of their peers at the competition. In the closest Cross Trust Competition to date, just one point separated all three schools, with our Beccles team narrowly winning the prestigious 'Cross Trust Shield' for their excellent debating skills and well-researched arguments. A fantastic performance from all three schools.

As well as the overall prize, Nye also collected the individual prize for the best debater in the lower school, congratulations Nye.



Y11 Leavers BBQ



The weather was kind enough for us to have our Year 11 leavers BBQ - A lovely chance to say good bye with governors and staff.



Cirdan Trust Sailing

A group of students recently had the fantastic opportunity to undertake a weeks sailing off the Norfolk Coast with with the Cirdan Trust. After a succesful week last year with some of our students, a new group of students were invited along this year, to learn everything that it takes to sail a boat. Working together in very tight areas, means that the students learned a lot about co-operation, teamwork and their own strengths and weaknesses. A hugely rewarding week, and one which will undoubtedly help the students as they prepare for exams in the next few years and then the world beyond Beccles Free School. Check out the film of the trip on our website.

Farewell from the Principal...

As my time leading the Seckford Foundation Free Schools Trust nears its end, I wanted to take the opportunity to say my final goodbye to the Beccles Free School community in my final article for the Beccles Chronicle.

Five years ago, we embarked on a journey to open Beccles Free School and what a journey it has been!

Developed from a desire in the community for opportunity and choice in education, and spurred on by the enthusiasm and vision of those in the original proposer group and the Seckford Foundation, Beccles Free School finally got approval to open its doors in September 2012. Originally on a site in Carlton Colville, a few miles away from Beccles, the school flourished and became so embedded in the town in the two years on its first site that members of the community asked me if the school could stay there permanently. I could not have asked for more of an endorsement of what we set out to achieve than that.

Of course we had to move into Beccles and began life on our permanent site in September 2014, soon after joined by the new Headteacher Mr Youngman. The school has gone from strength to strength over that time, with students winning the international RoboCup coding championship, becoming debating champions in the Trust, setting up 'egg-citing' science projects for local primary schools, and embedding themselves in the Beccles community joining the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations, remembrance services and being part of the local youth council - to name but a few highlights. The students have done so much in the way of achieving the "6Cs to Success"!

Not only have students and staff been achieving lots, but so have parents / carers and governors! I want to thank the 'Friends of Beccles Free School', and the governors of the school, for all their wonderful work supporting the school through their own events and presence at formal school events. The school is here because of the community, and it is a central element of our vision to have the community continue to be a core part of the life of the school, now and into the future.

So much has been achieved throughout the time the school has been open, it would be very difficult to recall every moment in this short article. Therefore, it is perhaps fitting that instead of looking back I would like to look forward by taking the opportunity to wish Mr Youngman, all the staff, students and community all the very best for the future. I leave the Trust with a heavy heart, but I know I could not leave the school in more capable hands.

Good luck and best wishes for the future to you all.

Dr Cawley
Principal and CEO of the Trust



World Champions!



Our fantastic RoboCup team have been crowned junior World Champions after defeating hundreds of school teams globally at the RoboCup 2016 World Championships. The world-class computer coders, in Years 7 to 9 returned from

the RoboCup in Leipzig, Germany, with their trophy

earlier in July.

This is the second year that Beccles Free School have represented the UK in the RoboCup competition, after achieving second place at the competition hosted in China last year. The 2016 team, who called themselves Tempest, were thrilled to beat teams from Japan, Taiwan, Portugal and China this year as well as a tough match against Croatia in the final.

Johann Don-Daniel, the robotics team lead at Beccles Free School, said: "We are completely amazed at the exceptional achievement of our RoboCup team, and we are so proud that they have brought home the junior world champions trophy. The team work incredibly well together and have shown fantastic dedication in preparing for the competition."

Nigel Youngman, Headteacher at Beccles Free School, said: "We are all so proud of the students' world-class achievement, they have done incredibly well."

"Subjects such as science, technology and mathematics are becoming increasingly important to address the UK's skills gap and to prepare young people for the modern world of work. It is brilliant to see students at Beccles Free School excelling at STEM subjects and developing a passion for skills such as computer coding, as highlighted in 2015 where 83% of students achieved their maths GCSE."

Overseas concert debut for Beccles Student



Rose-May Simpson, (Year 7) has enjoyed a memorable trip to Belgium to play her guitar in front of crowds at a World War One memorial concert.

The concert was organised by a local bar owner, after he found the remains of two Australian World War One soldiers on his land. The concert was to commemorate the soldier's lives and to bring the local community together in their memory.

Visit to Cambridge University



A fantastic and inspiring trip for our students visiting Cambridge University, to

learn about University life and what it takes to study at Cambridge.

