

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"*

- > New Funding for Multi Sports Area
- > Fantastic Progress 8 Results for Beccles
- > Sailing Excellence with Cirdan
- > Dementia Friends Project
- > Wi Visit Prefects. Prefects Visit WI!
- > Kit Design with England Rugby



BECCLES
FREE SCHOOL

"Providing a foundation for life"

**Beccles Free School are one of
the top schools in the County
for Progress 8 performance!**



**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

16 - 27 October 2017

Half Term

30 October 2017

Students Return to School

6 - 10 November 2017

Y11 Mock Examinations

28 November 2017

Kitchens of the Globe

30 November 2017

Cross Trust Competition - Winter Games

4 - 8 December 2017

Computer Science Education Week

7 December 2017

Cross Trust Competition - Lightning Chess

7 December 2017

Beccles Free School Showcase

7 December 2017

CCF Presentation Evening

12 December 2017

School Christmas Lunch

13 December 2017

Y11 Progress Evening (Mock Results)

15 December 2017

End of Term

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



**Mr Youngman
Headteacher**

It was a joy to see that five years' hard work has paid off. Naturally I have written to each of last year's students to congratulate them. Their success means that Beccles Free School was the highest performing school in the Beccles and Bungay area. But what do these results mean for current students?

Following the results, I met with subject leaders to look carefully at where there was success and where improvements are required. One of the strengths of the school is its ability to adapt the intervention plan to support each individual student. Consequently a new intervention plan is in place with additional sessions, Period 7s, revised courses and personal mentoring planned for each student. As half term begins, the new Year 11 are revising for their mock exams in November and attending additional workshops in school over the holiday. Inspired by the previous cohort, this year's students are equally ambitious.

Life at Beccles is much more than just exam success. It has been a pleasure to see students embrace the diverse opportunities available in Enrichment, from African Dancing and Coding to Gardening and Sailing.

Four hundred and fifty years ago, the Seckford Foundation was set up to cater for the young and the old. At Beccles Free School we believe passionately in helping our young people feel part of and contribute to their community. I am proud of the work that our Dementia Awareness team are doing and look forward to an exciting Intergenerational project next term where students will work with local sixth formers and primary school students to host a "Muncheon Mingle" for the community in partnership with Waveney District Council. Young and old come together to listen, learn and laugh.

Nigel Youngman



Local Charity and Sport England funding confirmed for Multi Sports Area renovation

Sport England, the leading body for Sports funding in the United Kingdom have agreed to support Beccles Free School in funding the renovation of our multi sports area. Their grant, combined with the generous support of Friends of Beccles and private donors mean that we are nearly there in raising the funding required. Thanks to wonderful support from Beccles Townlands Charity, we are now in a position to proceed with the development.

Renovation of the courts will bring netball, tennis and basketball courts to the school at a standard that meet the demands for competitive play. We look forward to local clubs being able to hire the courts and so not only bring wider sporting opportunities to our students, but also greater access to facilities for the local community.

The fundraising was spearheaded by our parent and carer group, Friends of Beccles. Their hard work over the past twelve months made it possible for them to donate £3000. If you would like to get involved in Friends of Beccles, let the reception team know. Parents and carers are a rich part of life in the school, from running events like Quiz and Chips and Halloween discos, to involvement in Combined Cadets Force and the library.

We look forward to coming together to celebrate the opening of the courts and enjoying sport with the community.

Beccles GCSE results 2017 reflect excellent progress for all

The latest publication of the GCSE results confirm Beccles Free School's success, exceeding national expectations across all areas. The excellent performance at Progress 8 puts the school in the top of the County for progress.

| Measure | Beccles Free School | Suffolk Average | National Average |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Progress 8 | 0.46 | -0.01 | -0.03 |
| Attainment 8 | 46.7 | 44.4 | 44.2 |
| English and Maths Grade 5 and above | 42% | 39.8% | 39.1% |
| Ebacc | 24% | 16.3% | 19.5% |

The Progress 8 measure shows how much progress a Year 11 GCSE student has made since the start of secondary school and is designed to ensure schools are pushing each student to reach their individual potential. The score of 0.46, the highest in the Beccles and Bungay area, means that on average students are achieving half a grade above national expectations across 8 subjects.

All three schools in the Seckford Foundation Free Schools Trust achieved excellent results with Progress 8 scores between 0.45 and 0.48. Graham Watson, Director of the SFFST said "The Progress 8 scores are testament to our strength of teaching in key subjects like Maths and English, our small and friendly school environments, and the variety of enrichment opportunities available for all students."

Performance in English and Maths is key to the success of students. At Beccles Free School, students achieved significantly above national expectations. Students in English achieved nearly a grade above national expectations, a huge achievement.

| | Beccles Free School | National Average |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| English Progress 8 | +0.90 | -0.03 |
| Maths Progress 8 | +0.33 | -0.02 |
| English Language Grade 4 and above | 79% | 64% |
| English Language Grade 5 and above | 64% | 48% |
| English Literature Grade 4 and above | 76% | 64% |
| English Literature Grade 5 and above | 58% | 49% |
| Maths Grade 4 and above | 67% | 64% |
| Maths Grade 5 and above | 42% | 45% |

These results provide a great foundation for future success. A warm congratulations goes to the students and staff. Equally, it is important to once again thank parents and carers who supported the Revision Champions programme, making that link between learning in school and at home.

Lily Taylor, from Lowestoft, was delighted with her GCSE results, particularly her grade 9 (equivalent to an A**) in English language, which she worked really hard to achieve. Lily also achieved a grade 7 in English literature, a grade 8 in maths plus four A*s, one A and one B. Her favourite subject is geography, which she's looking forward to studying at A Level at East Norfolk College next month, as well as studying biology, maths and law. Lily joined Beccles Free School in Year 10 and was Head Girl this year.

She said: "I've had a great experience at Beccles Free School, everyone has been really supportive and my two siblings are looking forward to starting school here in September."



Thomas Thornton, was thrilled with his grade 6 in English literature, grade 5 in English language, grade 7 in maths plus four B's and two C's. Thomas is hoping to become an engineer after studying maths, physics and chemistry – his favourite subjects – at A Level at Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form in Norwich.



Sailing Excellence with Cirdan

More students have excelled at sea and achieved qualifications with the Royal Yacht Association.

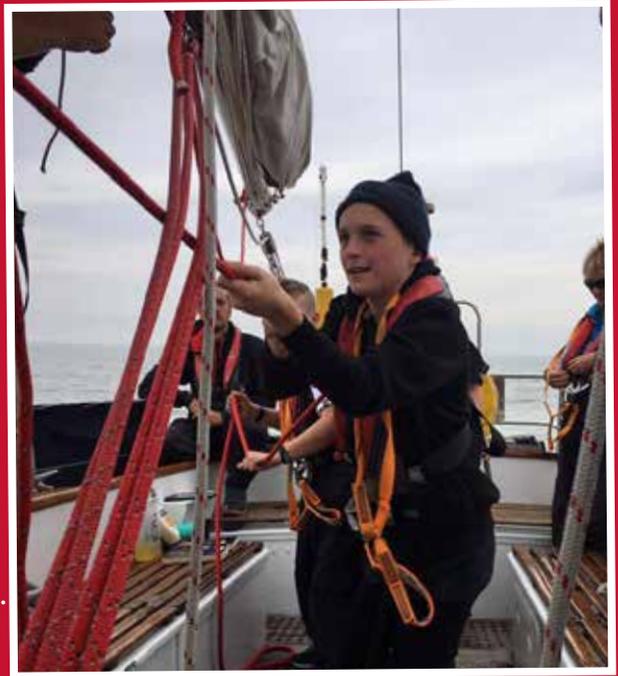
A group of 13 students returned from a week of sailing with the Cirdan Sailing Trust. This is the third year a crew has participated thanks to funding from Cirdan and the Norfolk boat, as well as support from the school, parents and carers.

Once again a number of students achieved Competent Crew Status, an internationally recognised qualification from the Royal Yacht Association that means students are able to crew on boats. Other students also achieved the Start Yachting course.

Students learnt a wide range of nautical elements: knowledge of sea terms; rigging and sails; sail handling; ropework; fire precautions and fighting; personal safety equipment; man overboard drills; meteorology; helmsmanship and other elements.

Meanwhile, it was exciting to see one of last year's participants further develop his passion for sailing. In the summer the school supported Ben Bale (now in Year 11) with his application for a bursary from the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club. Ben was fortunate to be generously sponsored by the RNSYC and took part in a RONA sailing expedition.

Success demands responding to challenges. Ben did so and duly received the Scott award. This led to Ben taking part in a weekend tall ship boat race on a 75' yacht, competing against 50 other boats off the South Coast. Ben's team came second and his aspiration to work on boats is getting closer and closer to becoming a reality.



WI visit Prefects. Prefects visit WI!

Earlier this term we were delighted to welcome members of the Beccles WI to our school to show them round and enjoy lunch, writes Mia and Talia (Year 11 prefects). It was a great opportunity to show them life at Beccles Free School and to share stories and experiences of education.

In return, Mia and I were invited to speak at the Women's Institute Beccles Branch meeting. It was fascinating to be able to listen to women from across the area joining together to talk about the community and discuss what needs improving. We gave a speech about Beccles Free School and our favourite aspects of the school and its community.



Perhaps the most valuable part came afterwards as we talked over coffee and cake! Members had many questions about our schools and lives as young people. It was a chance for us all to have a better understanding of our communities.

As Prefects we are delighted that the WI would like to stay in contact and explore more ways that we can work together and learn from each other.

Talia Francis Gilks and Mia Hopson.

NB Judith East, President of the Beccles Branch of the Women's Institute wrote to say how the prefects are "delightful students and a credit to the school".

Dementia Friends Project



The 6Cs are at the heart of the school: Co-operation, Commitment, Challenge, Confidence, Celebration and Community. Enrichment gives students the opportunity to develop the 6Cs in a different context. Each Wednesday a group of 15 students have been involved in an exciting Dementia Friends project.

Dementia Friends is a national initiative run by the Alzheimer's Society. The Dementia Friends website answers the question what is a Dementia Friend saying "A Dementia Friend learns a little bit more about what it's like to live with dementia and then turns that understanding into action".

At Beccles Free School this has meant fifteen students getting involved in a project with St George's House. Each week the students plan activities and then visit residents to talk, listen, give manicures and take part in different activities.

Helen Pentney leads the programme and has celebrated the impact the project has on residents and students alike. Students were given guidance from Helen Pentney in how to behave and expectations. Careful planning has meant the students have been able to make new links and share stories breaking down stereotypes of the young and the old.

England Rugby Deliver in Beccles

With half of Year 10 students studying GCSE PE or Dance, it is vitally important that we continue to broaden the sporting opportunities available to our students. Consequently we are proud to be part of the RFU CBRE All Schools Programme. This powerful national initiative brings three significant benefits to the students.



Firstly England Rugby are supporting us with one hundred hours of professional coaching. This is ideal training, not only for the students but for staff. Boys and girls are being given the chance to discover and develop their rugby skills.

CBRE All Schools is generously supported by Canterbury as an Official partner who deliver bespoke kit design workshops for every school in the programme. Three year 9 students had the opportunity to visit their offices in Ely, Cambridgeshire and design our own rugby kit, supplied by Canterbury. The high quality kit will help give students pride.

Finally, it is important to recognise the strong existing links with local clubs. Diss Rugby club have provided training during Enrichment sessions on Wednesdays for a number of years. The CBRE initiative has given this work an important boost, with a team of girls travelling to Diss to participate in the Girls Rugby Development Day.

The benefits of rugby are neatly summarised by Angel Griffin in Year 9 “ Rugby Enrichment is a chance for students to learn skills in rugby and fitness. We get the chance to mix with people from all years and have a good time. We have also been developing our fitness through rugby specific fitness training.”



Open Evening 2017

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents / carers and students to our recent Open Evening, thank you all for coming and experiencing some fantastic examples of what learning at Beccles Free School looks like. It was lovely to see the Y6 students interacting with our own Beccles students and getting fully involved in all of the activities.