

IXWORTH ixchange

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

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

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Olympic Athletes Inspire Ixworth Students #Challenge #Commitment



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"It's really important for kids to have role models and be inspired by their stories. All of our stories start at school and from what I've seen and heard today, it's so impressive that pastoral care is so important in this school. Treating each child as an individual is the catalyst to building confidence and being successful."

Marilyn Okoro (Olympian and 4x400m World Championship Bronze Medalist)



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www.ixworthfreeschool.org.uk
Ixworth Free School,
Walsham Road, Ixworth, IP31 2HS

Important Date!

**Thursday 4th
January 2018**

**Students Begin
Term**

Latest News

**Twitter
Facebook
Website**

To keep up to date with the latest news and events from the school, please remember that you can follow Ixworth Free School on twitter: @IxworthFS. Please also check our webpage for regular updates, and we now have a brand new Facebook page, just search for Ixworth Free School on Facebook.

Safeguarding

Should you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact Mrs Bell, Designated Safeguarding Lead on 01359 234050 or for more information please visit www.ixworthfreeschool.org.uk/safeguarding Ixworth Free School's named safeguarding governor is Mrs Chenery-Morris.

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Headteacher's Welcome

It is customary at the end of a term to look back and reflect - and this term has been successful in many respects. There have been fantastic GCSE examination results, fixtures, rehearsals and other triumphs in a wide range of endeavours.

Over the last few weeks in particular, I have spent much time talking to students as I continue to get to know all aspects of our school community. I have been thrilled to speak to students who have been commended by their teachers for their excellent commitment to their work. The students who have their names in the Headteacher's book can be found in the weekly family bulletin. Very many congratulations to each student.



Mr Barrow
Headteacher

This edition of the Ixchange brings stories of visits, events in school and results from our sports teams. There is much to be proud of.

Mr Barrow, Headteacher

Vitec Videocom

On the 23rd of October I went to Vitec Videocom in Bury St Edmunds. I was given the opportunity by The Small-piece Trust. The Trust is an external organisation which runs residential trips on the premises of schools across the country. Vitec Videocom is an international company, run by Vinten. They make high quality camera equipment for big brands like ITV and the BBC. At the factory we were given a tour as well as an insight into future produces and we got to play around with the latest models.

Overall the trip was amazing as I was able to work with staff from Vinten, Jaguar and Land Rover. It was an experience I will never forget.

Ollie Firth Y11

Othello Trip

By Maddie Combes and Jodie Manfield

On Friday the 29th of September, our group of year 11 GCSE drama students headed to London to watch a National Youth Theatre production of Shakespeare's "Othello", based on an adaptation by Frantic Assembly at the Ambassador's Theatre. Lead by Mrs Van Holland, the day was a great success and will undoubtedly provide us with not only the knowledge needed for the exam, but also a vast array of newly acquired skills that can be put into practice in future performances of our own.

Frantic Assembly and the National Youth Theatre have collaborated exclusively to produce their award winning Othello adaptation. The collaboration has resulted in a modern-day take on the Shakespearean classic with the notorious themes of tragedy, loss, love and grief ever present. The typical Venetian attire was abandoned and actors used modern clothing to illustrate their normality and connection with the world. Frantic Assembly also used many aspects of theatre to adapt and modernise the historical piece. Physical theatre was used heavily to add fluidity and additional emotion. It was also used to create responses from the audience, especially leading to the play's climax and cliffhanger ending; leaving questions and doubt in everyone's mind. The director, Simon Patterson, had stated that: 'Our Othello is about urban tension in all its guises'. This was portrayed through the setting of the performance being in a pub, notably in Yorkshire, which created a diverging and youthful atmosphere, mirroring the play's inequalities and conflicts.

An overall incredible performance, we did of course have some particular highlights. Firstly, we can't possibly ignore theatre itself; a highly unique and interestingly designed auditorium made the experience that much more exciting. Lighting and staging were cleverly used to create atmosphere amongst the audience and build tension, therefore keeping us all on the edges of our seats. This was particularly true of the penultimate scene - Desdemona's murder - where the stage ceiling was lowered to give an intense and realistic impression of her lungs losing air along with a severe loss of hope for her survival. Power of character emotions was also displayed through impressively programmed lighting, where the mood onstage was clearly represented through colour. One of our favourite examples of this was the deep red lighting used to not only convey the initial intimacy between Othello and Desdemona, but also Othello's later burning anger - a huge contrast, though cleverly done in both opposing ways. Although all the actors were incredibly talented, we did happen to pick out our favourite characters. Manipulatively cunning, the character of Iago was played extremely well, using his body language, gestures and voice to convey his evil yet intelligent nature. Another favourite of the group's was Desdemona, who convincingly portrayed her innocent, calm nature which juxtaposed that of her husband's. Though ultimately, it was the unique yet genius and well crafted physical theatre that truly blew us away; the choreography selected for both the ensemble and individual characters dramatically enhanced the storyline and successfully demonstrated the key themes of love, jealousy, violence and death that appear throughout Othello.

After the performance, we travelled to the restaurant and enjoyed a lovely meal, conversing about the performance we had just watched. We can safely say that it was enjoyed by all and that it had an overall lasting effect on everyone. There were some diverse views on which was the best part of the play and which scenes were found to be the most effective. However, it gave us all some inspiration for the devising element of our Drama GCSE coursework, and it certainly gave us plenty of aspects to discuss in our final live performance review examination.



Olympic Athletes Inspire Students



Students enjoyed an inspirational visit from two Olympic athletes –sprinter Rion Pierre, and track and field athlete Marilyn Okoro, on 5 December. All students gathered in assembly to hear Rion and Marilyn speak about their journeys into sport, before spending the afternoon learning training techniques with the athletes.

Rion Pierre and Marilyn Okoro both shared their experiences as Team GB athletes and the challenges they have faced in their sporting careers. Both athletes have competed on an international level at the World Athletics and Junior Athletics Championships, taking bronze medals in their respective sports. Rion was a Team GB athlete for the London 2012 Olympics whilst Marilyn won bronze in the relay team at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Students were inspired with stories of the athletes' determination, strength, dedication and commitment, and they learnt how these skills are essential for life at school and beyond. Rion and Marilyn also hosted a 30 minute training session with each year group, where students practiced some Olympic training exercises.

Speaking at the event, Marilyn Okoro said: "It's really important for kids to have role models and be inspired by their stories. All of our stories start at school and, from what I've seen and heard today, it's impressive that pastoral care is so important at Ixworth Free School. Treating each child as an individual is the catalyst to building confidence and being successful."

Rion Pierre said: "For me, it's about responsibility. I've got children of my own and I see the part that role models play in their lives. It's very humbling to be in a position where kids can look up to you as a positive influence."

Mark Barrow, Headteacher at Ixworth Free School, said: "We all had a fantastic day with Rion and Marilyn; we would like to thank them both for taking the time to visit our school and for inspiring students with their passion for athletics."



My First Term Back at Ixworth

My name is Sam Barber and I'm in Year 9. I will be talking about my first term back at Ixworth Free School.

Firstly, there is the Brilliant Club. This is where students from across the school have been recognised for having the potential of getting into the most selective universities in the country. These students – including myself, have been put forward to be part of the Scholars programme which helps these students gain additional skills. I have loved working with the university lecturers and really enjoyed the first day at UEA in Norwich. I have also had my success in Science recognised and was invited to sign the Headteacher's book.

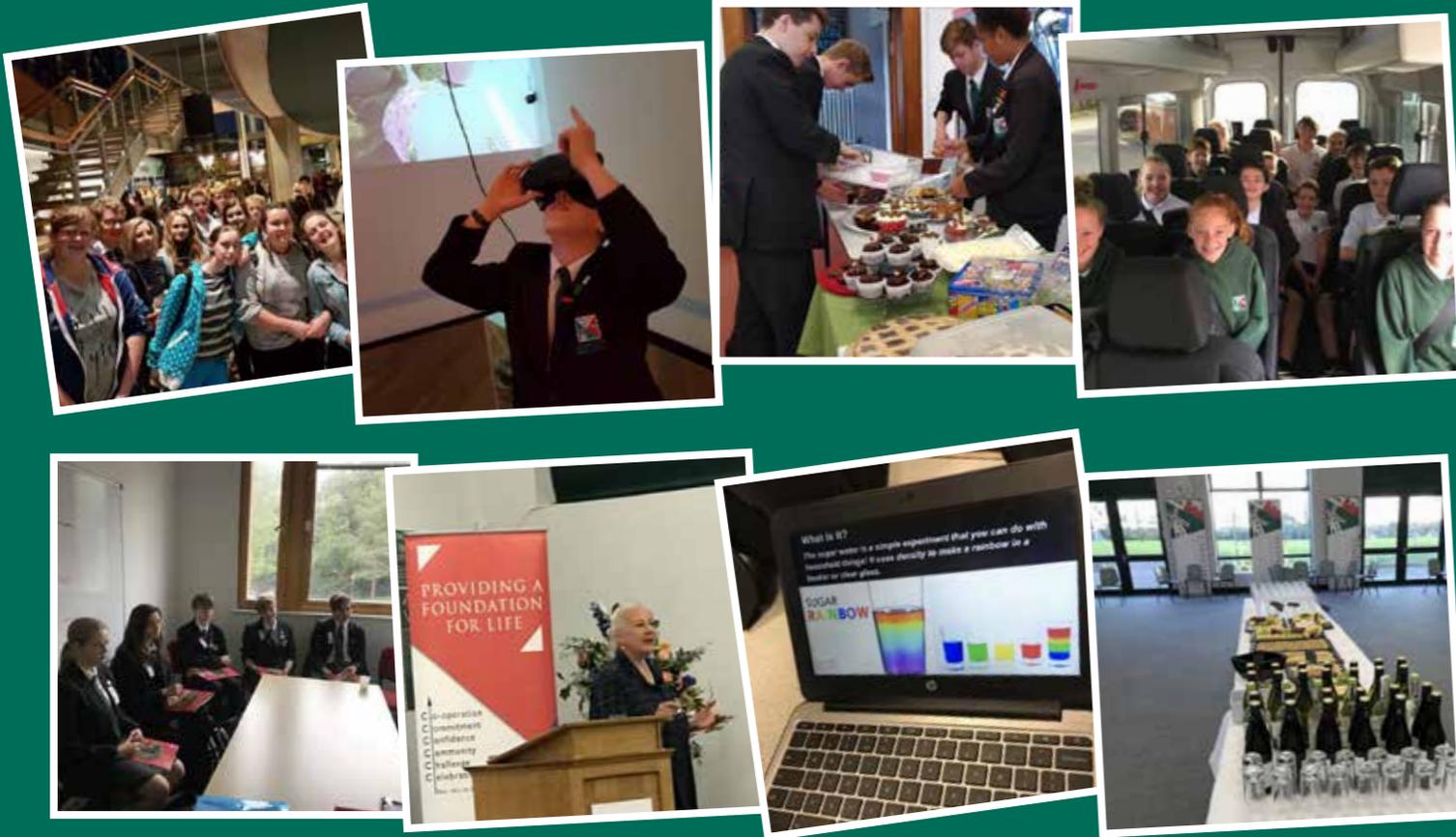
Secondly, the school has held multiple events for the students and for families and friends. We have raised money through cake sales and have run events with local primary schools.

Finally, there is the school production. Students put their names forward and auditioned. This year's show is Peter Pan the musical in which I play the part of Mr. Darling. Rehearsals run during enrichment on a Wednesday afternoon and continue after school. The final production will be amazing!

Hopefully this has given you insight into what has been happening so far for Year 9. Please check out Twitter account if you would like to learn more about the school.

Sam Barber; Year 9

The Term In Photos



Farewell to...



"I have many happy memories from working at Ixworth. From fun runs to world book days, there's never a dull moment. I would like to thank all of the students who have thrown themselves in to everything PE, from consistently turning up to practices, representing school and taking the opportunities that have come their way. I have loved watching you grow, and to be part of your successes has been a pleasure. Please continue to challenge yourselves & improve, and never ever think you have a ceiling, you can do anything if you work hard!"

I move on to a school quite a lot closer to where I live which has links to my local Hockey club, and I look forward to the challenges ahead.

I genuinely wish all of the staff and students at Ixworth success & happiness!"

Mrs Field



"I will miss all of the people at Ixworth Free School during my year of my maternity leave. In my year and a half here I have got to know the students in my classes well and seen them develop in so many positive ways, not just in terms of maths. I have particularly enjoyed getting to know my year 7s this year and I look forward to seeing how they have progressed when I come back.

It goes without saying that I will miss the other teachers, especially Mr Beales, and that I will pop in for a catch up whenever little Annabelle lets me."

Mrs Nicol

Sporting Successes This Term

Year 9 Netball:
6-2 victory over County Upper

Year 8 Football:
2nd in the West Suffolk Boys' Football League

Year 11 Netball:
21-8 victory over Mildenhall

Hyde Hall Visit



At the start of term, forty-six lucky Year 7s went to RHS Hyde Hall Garden in Essex. Mr. Budden, Mr. Pitcock, Mrs Campbell and Mrs. Bass came with us.

After a safety briefing we were split into two groups. During the day, we visited the new Global Vegetable Garden (which has been featured on TV). We tried some cucamelons (which look like a miniature melon but taste like a cucumber) and we learned about different edible plants from various countries across the world. In the Education Centre we designed our own gardens and were given a talk about plant hunters, such as Tom Hurt-Dyke.

"All the exotic plants were fascinating and the views were stunning" – (Jenna)

"I thought it was inspiring and helped you to improve your garden" – (Libby)

We also had the chance to take our own herb cuttings which we were allowed to take away with us. The staff at Hyde Hall were very knowledgeable, co-operative and helpful. We were fortunate that it stayed dry (until the bus journey home).

Thank you Mr. Budden for organising such a wonderful day out and giving us a great experience.

Written by: Katie Muir And Jenna French

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who attended our fantastic Christmas Fayre and a huge thank you to the Friends of Ixworth for all their hardwork in masterminding such a lovely event.



School Choir Get In The Christmas Spirit!



The school choir has been getting into the Christmas Spirit nice and early with rehearsals and two fantastic performances at very festive events.

Firstly, a quartet of Y11 girls from the choir had the fantastic opportunity to sing on the main stage at the Bury St. Edmunds Christmas Fayre on Friday 24th November. On a very busy evening on Angel Hill, they did themselves and the school proud with their performance.

A week later at the School Christmas Fayre, the whole choir sang, and performed as soloists and in various groups throughout the event.

Contact us...

We welcome your feedback, news and comments.
Email us: enquiries@ixworthfreeschool.org.uk



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