

SPRING  
2023

# REED

STALHAM HIGH SCHOOL - MAGAZINE



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SCI & SNOWBOARD  
AMPEAGO



*Welcome to our first Termly Newsletter, I hope it provides you with an insight into what students have achieved this term. It has been a really busy year so far and there have been a number of developments due to the incredible work and dedication of staff, students, Governors, Trustees and our community.*

**Mr Alastair Ogle** - Executive Headteacher



## Headteacher's Note

*I am a firm believer that there is nothing we cannot solve or improve by working positively together. Indeed, research tells us that the students who make the most progress are those who value education, and are supported in this by all parents/carers, staff and the community in which they live.*

We are continuously focusing on how we can support students to make faster progress and achieve more.

September 2022 saw the introduction of our new Leadership team, who are focussed purely on supporting students at Stalham High School; We have also increased the number of staff working in our Pastoral Team, again providing additional and specialist support to students. To further support our students- and in preparation for the opening of our new SRB unit- staff have received specific training to support students' needs with further training planned for the following term.

I am really pleased to inform you that we will have five more permanent teachers joining us at the start of the Summer Term. These changes will help students reach their full potential and get the results they deserve.

In the last few months, we have also completed a full review of our curriculum. This has resulted in us moving to the two-year Key Stage 4 / GCSE programme, starting from September 2023. We have also introduced Work Experience for ALL of our year 10 students, enabling them to engage in the employment sector and learn about life outside of education.



Our Specialist Resource Base is on track to open in September (name to be announced soon). We have additional developments planned for the whole school including replacement flooring, improving heating system efficiency, new decoration, improved signage and a replacement screen and AV system in the school hall. We are also working on a business plan to enable our community to use our sports facilities at an affordable rate.

I would like to thank all of those Parents and Carers who responded to our surveys. We have taken all suggestions on board and made changes accordingly. Another survey, similar to the one shared in September, will be distributed in the Summer Term so we can monitor our progress and gain valuable insight from our community. There is a great deal to celebrate, as evidenced by the contents of this Newsletter, but as always, there is always room to improve.

*I am really pleased to inform you that we will have five more permanent teachers joining us at the start of the Summer Term.*

I hope you enjoy this Newsletter, we will be building and developing this triannual publication. As we do this, we will be looking for appropriate local sponsors for support. If this is something you are interested in, please get in touch.

On behalf of all the staff, thank you for all of your support.

**Mr Alastair Ogle** *Executive Headteacher*

## English

It's been a busy term for the English department. We've been working with colleagues from across the Synergy Trust to refresh and update our schemes of work. Our new units of work are now in place and all students are engaging with a challenging curriculum that prepares them for GCSE study and beyond! Miss Harrison has done a lot of work on this, and we are very grateful for her efforts. Students are currently studying the following:

### Y7 Fiction writing with a focus on detective fiction

### Y8 The Gothic; Non-Fiction with a focus on The Titanic; Shakespeare's Villains!

### Y9 Fiction writing with a focus on Victorian writers (link to GCSE)

### Y10 Language Paper 1

### Y11 Revision!

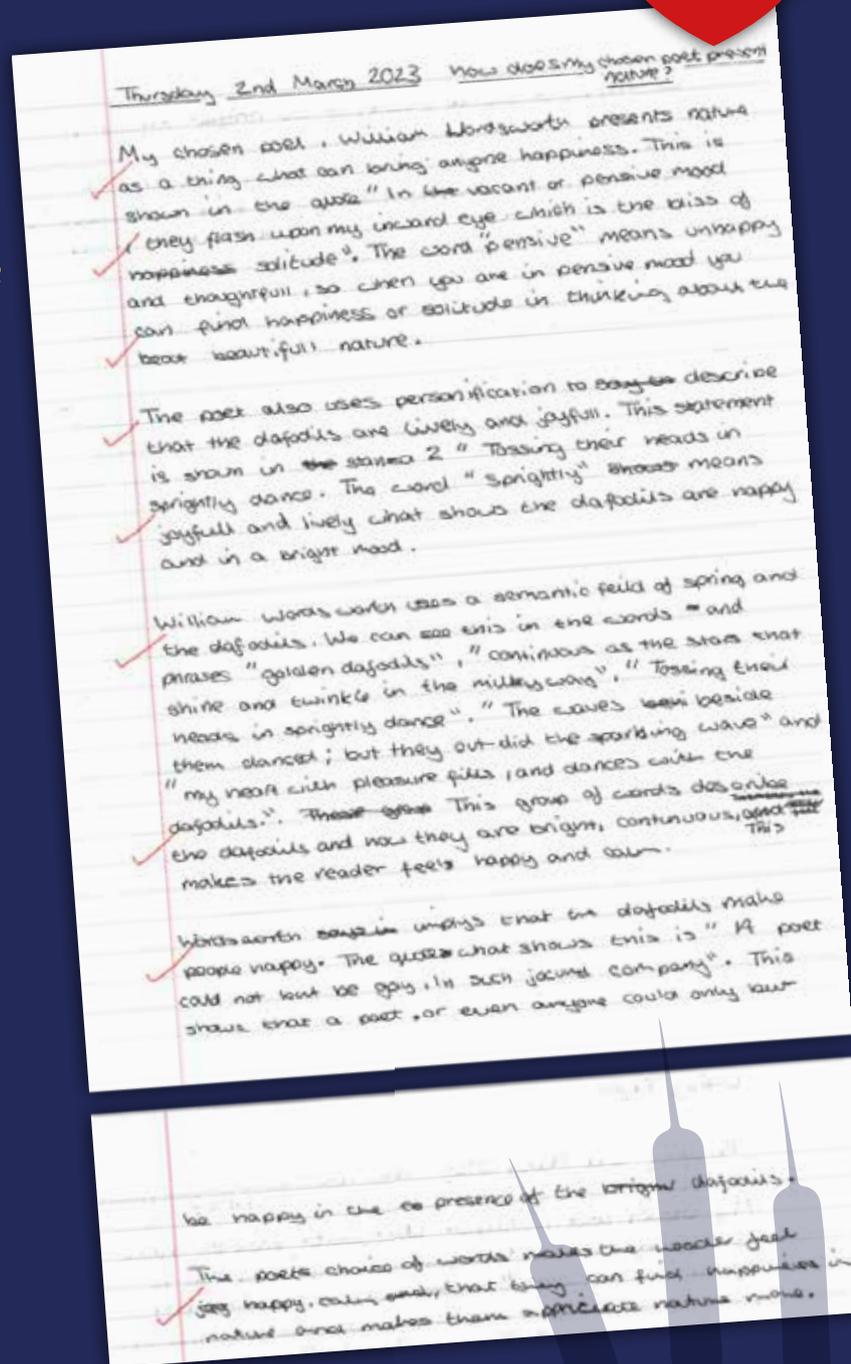
With GCSE exams fast approaching, our Year 11 students are working hard. We are offering revision sessions after school and during the Easter holiday. Communications have gone out to Year 11 parents/carers and students. We look forward to seeing our students make the most of opportunities available to them, especially [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com). We highly recommend that GCSE students use this as their primary source of revision for English Literature and as a very useful tool for English Language preparation. If students have forgotten their login details they should see me ASAP.

We are delighted to welcome three new colleagues to the English department in April. Miss Bygrave, Mrs Yaxley and Mrs Fairchild are all experienced teachers of English and are looking forward to meeting our students and delivering exciting, powerful lessons that take our students to the next level!

Parents/carers often ask us what they can do to help students with their education. I strongly recommend reading aloud at home, students are never too old to read books aloud! Asking your child about their recent English lessons and discussing topics learned is also a powerful motivator, and of course, parents/carers can track homework set on 'Go 4 Schools' to ensure that students are meeting their obligations!

The department is currently organising a trip to see the author Louis de Bernieres speak. More details to follow!

Mr Norris



# SCIENCE



## STEM

The scientists at Stalham High School have been particularly productive this term. The picture to the left shows the school's hall set-up for the lecture delivered to Year 10s during their science lesson on Monday the 13th of March. The STEM Learning ambassador for the East of England, Andy Challen, visited us to deliver a lecture on careers in STEM subjects. Andy is a former fighter pilot and instructor, who now advises and assists the government (MOD) in complex combat air campaigns. Andy discussed with our students the variety of career pathways possible when studying science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics.

He also emphasised to us the importance of understanding that every pathway to success is unique; that we should always view failure as a learning opportunity and use it to adapt and improve our career goals. Andy was impressed with our students' engagement with the lecture. It was evident that the students were moved by the career possibilities of STEM. They clearly took away the fact that employment within this field can cover a much wider breadth than just the "lab coat scientist" stereotype.

### Year 10 biologists

Please see the pictures below for an insight into the Year 10 biologists' most recent required practical. The experiment is called "Investigating the effect of a range of salt solution concentrations on the mass of plant tissue" and is part of their GCSE Biology course. In this practical, students must place 5 different potato tissue samples into 5 different salt solutions. The students must measure the mass of the potato tissue before and after it has been placed in the solution for 20 minutes. Using these results, students were able to determine the direction of water movement and also estimate the concentration of water inside the potato tissue. The investigation required students to practice a variety of scientific techniques as well as collaborating effectively as a team.



### Microbiology

Year 9 scientists have also been busy this term developing their aseptic techniques during a microbiology investigation called "environmental swabbing". The students had to maintain bacteria-free conditions whilst taking swabs from disinfectant-treated areas and untreated areas. The microorganisms from the swab have then been cultured and grown in the Stalham High Science Preparation room. Students have been analysing the results to determine the effectiveness of the disinfectant used.

Clearer results are from Ella F and Phoebe L who have clearly collected a range of bacterial and fungal species from the untreated lab bench. Once treated, only one microbial colony was able to grow on the agar plate.

# UKMT Maths challenge

On Thursday 2nd February, Stalham High School participated in this year's 'Intermediate Mathematics Challenge' through UKMT. The competition is a chance for students to compete against other schools globally. Years 9, 10 and 11 were given the opportunity to test their mathematical prowess on a series of problems aimed at testing both knowledge and logic.

Gold, silver and bronze certificates are allocated based on a percentage scheme, and we are proud to announce that 7 of our students received a bronze award, 8 received a silver award and two received gold!

A special mention must go to Charlie and Bethany who both achieved the best scores in their Year group and also to Ewan, for getting the Best in School award with the highest score across all year groups!



MATHS

United Kingdom  
Mathematics Trust



# Pi Week

During Pi week, students learned about Pi, famous mathematicians, and plenty of interesting math facts! The week includes fun challenges such as drawing the perfect circle, and baking the best Pi(e)- staff and students baked for the title of 'most creative', won by Evie; 'best tasting', won by Caitlin; and 'technical skill', won by Mrs Galloway. Mr Hickinson was disqualified after entering a cheesecake into a Pie contest- but the jury was undecided.



## CREATIVE ARTS



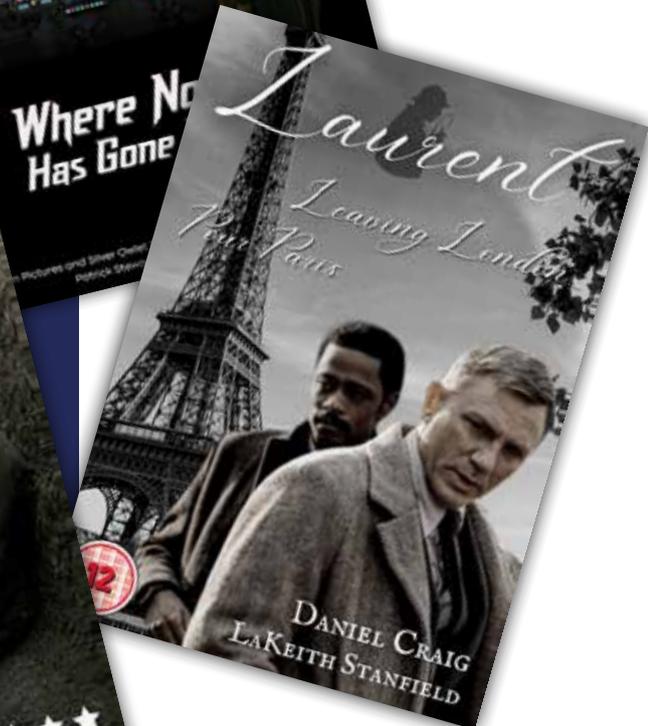
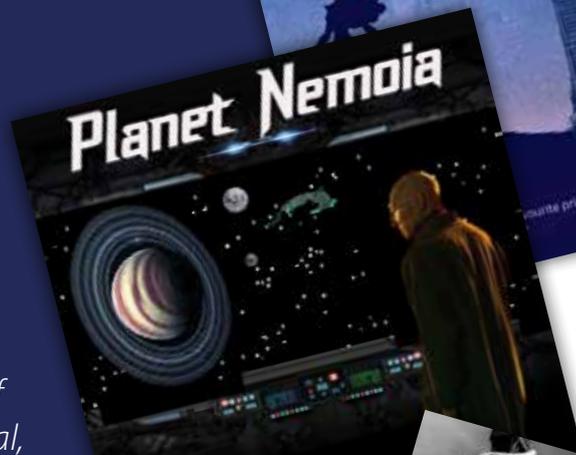
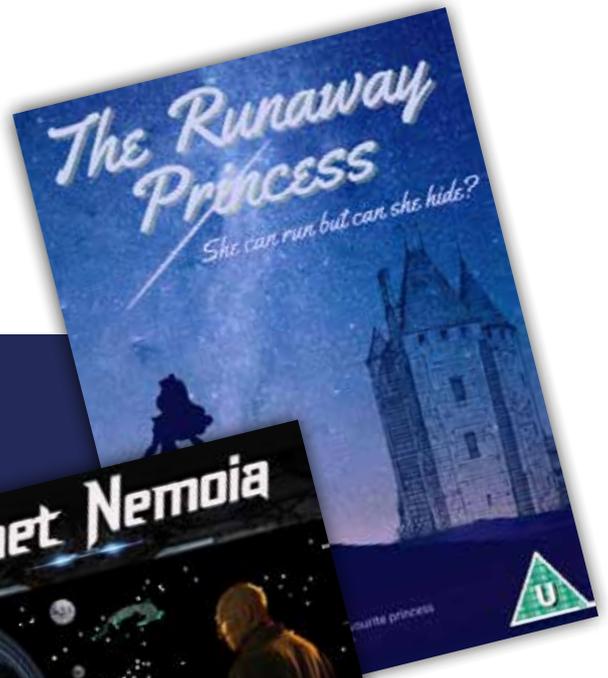
## Theatre Trip

Tuesday 21st February saw the first theatre trip for the new GCSE Drama group!

Year 9 Drama students, with some Year 8 and 9 students from Drama Club, went to the Playhouse Theatre to see 'Teechers' by John Godber. Year 9 have been exploring this play - a comedy set in a secondary comprehensive - and it was great to see on stage what we'd been reading and experimenting with in class, with non-naturalistic devices such as multi role-play and direct address. It was a bonus for the students that two characters came into the auditorium and spoke to the audience before the show started. This minimalistic production was fun to watch and a brilliant learning tool for further exploration and discussion: a great starting point for evaluating live theatre.

## Media

*Year 10 GCSE Media Studies students have been studying the conventions of film posters and exploring the features of a variety of genres. Students used their image editing skills to produce posters for imagined film titles that demonstrate their understanding of generic conventions. They are very professional, I'm sure you will agree! - Mr Norris (Assistant Headteacher)*



# Computer Science

Year 9 Computer Science students have been dismantling and rebuilding PCs in their Computer Science lessons. The students have been an absolute credit to themselves and the school; demonstrating team work, perseverance, problem solving and enthusiasm!



TECHNOLOGY



# Food Technology

It has been a very busy time in the Food Department this term. Hats off to our Year 11s who created some incredible dishes as part of their NEA work for their GCSE practical exam. Unfortunately we cannot show their work at this time, but the technical skills, cooking methods and overall presentation has blown us away!

This term has seen a wide variety of dishes being made, ranging from Year 7 pizza toast and Year 8 fruit crumbles and high fibre flapjacks, to Mediterranean breads, walnut breads and choux pastry in Year 9. Miniature Pavlovas, fish 'n' chips and crumble breakfast bars were a staple in Year 10. Students have worked hard to complete a range of dishes that demonstrate a wide variety of skills and the use of different kitchen equipment. Well done to all the students who have taken part over the last term, it has been wonderful to see your creativity and independence develop and flourish!





# History

This Spring, Wild in Art are partnering with Historic Royal Palaces to bring a trail of Coronation benches to the Tower of London and Hillsborough Castle and Gardens to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty.

Stalham High School has entered this national competition and students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been designing their own Coronation benches, inspired by the values they wish to define the new era of the reign of King Charles III. Out of over 200(!!) entries from our students, four have been shortlisted to submit to the competition.

The fifteen winning designs will be brought to life in collaboration with artists and displayed at the Tower of London and Hillsborough Castle and Gardens in Northern Ireland and the winning schools will be offered a VIP class trip to visit the Tower of London and see their benches in position at the famous royal palace, where they will remain throughout the Coronation celebrations before being gifted back to the schools as a permanent reminder of this historic year.



# Eco-council

We are incredibly pleased and proud to announce that Stalham High School now has an Eco-council. After reading through lots of applications, Mr Youngs has chosen a group of amazing students who will drive forward positive environmental change within the school and wider community. In our experience, students care deeply about environmental issues and have a strong desire to actively protect our planet. Creating an Eco-council has already empowered our students to make a difference and we have a lot of exciting events planned, ranging from taking part in the Great British Spring Clean at the end of March, to enhancing the biodiversity of urban areas through tree planting projects.

One of the first things we needed to create was a logo; Students were tasked with designing a logo in tutor time and there were some stunning results, like this one from LiLi in Year 7.

We look forward to keeping you updated with the wonderful work the Eco-council are doing in future newsletters.

# THE LIBRARY CHESS TOURNAMENT



STARTING  
20/02/2023

NON-PLAYERS WELCOME TO WATCH

#CHALLENGESTALHAM

## Chess Tournament

This term saw the launch of our very first Chess tournament, sixteen students entered and after a week of games, Jake W was declared the winner! Many students are already practicing for next term's challenge.



## New Library system

After a period without a librarian, we are proud to announce that the library is back up-and-running as it should be with a new cataloguing and shelving system to match! The new library helpers have been fantastic in helping Miss Spencer organise the 5,000 books in our collection to get the space ready for library lessons.

# RUGBY



## U13s Rugby Tournament

The boys enjoyed a trip to North Walsham Rugby Club. A tournament was held with multiple schools from across the County. Fantastic development has been shown from all involved. Top attitude shown too! Onto the next one!



## U14s Rugby 7s Tournament at Gresham School

Despite the snow, the boys had amazing success at this year's Rugby 7s Tournament.

Undefeated and finishing top of our group, the team now progresses to the semi-finals with our next match being against Gresham School in the Cup competition!!



## UEA U13s Girls' Football Tournament

Year 7 and 8 girls enjoyed a series of 5-a-side games against other local Norfolk schools on Wednesday. This was part of a football tournament held at the UEA in honour of International Women's Day.

FOOTBALL



## Under-14s boys' football

Our under-14s boys' football team came out on top of a thoroughly entertaining fixture at home to Aylsham High. There were goals galore for the Stalham team who won 7-3!

Plenty of top quality goals from both teams. Well done to all involved for demonstrating a great attitude and displaying sportsmanship throughout.

# Panathlon Ten-Pin bowling Challenge

On the 23rd February, a group of Year 8s took part in the Panathlon Ten-Pin Bowling Challenge against North Walsham, Aylsham and Fakenham. Everyone did extremely well and Stalham came third, getting bronze medals and certificates!



# Charities week

Charities week 2023 was a massive success! Using their voting skills, students decided on which teachers they wanted to see Gunged and Sponged! Also available were: penalty shoot-outs with Mr. Vincent and Mr. Messenger; teacher face-painting; Man Vs. Food; 10p Roll; Guess the sweets in the jar; Luxury Hot Chocolate and A League of Their Own. The fantastic week was of course for good causes, and the fun and madness helped raise an incredible £1,164.51!



EXTRA CURRICULAR



# Brilliant club

Year 9 students with 'The Brilliant Club' had the amazing opportunity to visit St Catharine's College at Cambridge University in February. The day included a university-style talk, and a campus tour, checking out the dorms, common areas, libraries and dining hall! Everyone was a credit to the school, offering up insightful questions and really getting involved in the university experience!



# Ski Trip

During the February half term, 62 of Stalham's adventurous students travelled 26 hours by coach to Italy for the 2023 ski trip! 5 hours of skiing Monday-Friday was followed by evening activities which included snow biking/ sledding down a mountainside; an Italian pizzeria; a shopping trip in the town of Cavalese and an awards ceremony on the Thursday. Students were given certificates by their instructors as well as awards from staff including 'The Gemma Collins Award', 'The Bermuda Triangle Award' and 'The Mary Poppins Award'. Everyone really leaned into the growth mindset and worked really hard, powering through the sore legs and feet and came away having skied at three different resorts!





## Whole-School Personal Development Day

Stalham High School will be taking part in multiple trips on the 20th April as part of the School personal development curriculum.

The Year 7s will be visiting Bletchley Park to learn all about Alan Turing and the Enigma machine used to help us end WWII.

Year 8 are staying in school and will either be working with Smallpiece Trust on a STEM Flight engineering challenge, or working with Norwich City Community Sports Foundation on their Inspires programme which focuses on teamwork, resilience and communication skills.

For Years 9 and 10, an exciting range of events are scheduled in London. Students are given the choice to join one of three different schedules. Sporting London features a tour of the Natural History Museum followed by a cycling tour of London. Creative London includes a guided history of Art tour at The National Gallery followed by lunch at Trafalgar Square and then a visit to the Tate Modern art gallery. Cultural London features a guided walking food tour of the East End of London, sampling food along the way.

Students are very excited to be able to develop key life skills and explore new places.

## Drama

Blood Brothers by Willy Russell, Wednesday 28th June: "Few musicals have achieved quite such acclaim as the multi award-winning Blood Brothers. Bill Kenwright's production surpassed 10,000 performances in London's West End, one of only three musicals ever to achieve that milestone. It has been affectionately christened the 'Standing Ovation Musical', as inevitably it brings the audience cheering to its feet and roaring its approval" (The Daily Mail).

This event will be open to all Year 7 and 8 students, and Year 9 Drama students again. Details to follow shortly.

## Brilliant Club Spring Graduation

The Brilliant club will be attending a graduation event with Mr. Vincent at the University of Essex in May to celebrate their hard work during The Scholar's Programme.

## Colour Run for Autism Awareness

On the 27th April, Stalham High School will be hosting its very own Colour Run to raise money for The National Autistic Society. Students getting involved are asked to bring an old white t-shirt that they don't mind getting dirty and colourful and are encouraged to raise money for the charity!



## Stalham High School

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