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Goodbye Godfrey

“A psychological study of cats suggests that a cat’s ambition is to take over its homes. He never quite took over CGS but he did find a secure place in our hearts.” - Mr Hopkins by Kate Jennings 12RHG

Godfrey, our beloved school cat, has sadly passed away.

Recently, students and staff received a sad bulletin note from Mr Hopkins to let us know that the school cat, Godfrey, had passed away over the weekend. This came as a shock to many students who saw him as an integral part of school life. Despite being an essential part of Caistor Grammar, he belonged to Paul and Angela Warmoth who themselves were very involved in the school’s Music Department.

As a student, it was rare to go a day without seeing Godfrey wandering around the school site.

You’d be able to visit many schools, but I doubt that many had such a unique aspect of the school as a school cat. Godfrey, despite not

technically being allowed inside the school, always managed to find a way in. He sometimes even managed to sneak in to Casterby (or maybe even let in into Casterby with the help of the Sixth Form students of course).

One of my favourite memories is of the teachers’ futile attempts to chase him out of various buildings. Whether it be Mrs Cooke trying to clear him out of Biology or Mrs Newton trying to lure him out from under the seats at reception, he never failed in sneaking his way into the school.

The entire school remembers him very fondly as shown by these stories from the students and staff:

Mr Davey recalls that: “At the Year 11 Open Evening, I was delivering a speech and Godfrey walked in, sat at

the front and just watched me as I delivered a speech. Unfortunately, he didn’t have the qualifications to get in.”

“He came into the Art block as we were having a presentation in GCSE Art and just laid there in the middle of the table.” - Molly Davy (Year 12)

“We were trying to give him strokes and all he kept on doing was rolling around in the mud.” - Beth Crowther (Year 7)

One of Godfrey’s favourite habits

“ Loved by many students

was sunbathing on teachers’ cars, as Megan Riley (Year 8) remembers.

One teacher’s car who Godfrey particularly liked to lay on (much to his dismay) was Mr Croft’s. He also could be very adventurous with him occasionally jumping onto the bag racks and then onto the roof of the Old Building. At lunchtime in Summer, you could almost guarantee to find him sprawled out in the middle of the school car park with students frequently going over to him to pet him.

As you can read, Godfrey was loved by many students and teachers around the school. Whether it is because of his appreciative attitude to strokes or that he was adamant he wouldn’t leave the building, all students will miss his presence in the school greatly.



Julie Wolseley
Caistor Grammar
says goodbye to Mrs
Wolesley

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What a Ball!
CGS Students take on
Forest Pines for the
2019 Sixth Form Ball

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**Sports Day
Victory**
A stunning win for
Ayscough on Sports
Day

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Staff changes

JWOL goes AWOL!

By TOBY Hibbert, 12RHG

After 24 years at Caistor Grammar, Mrs Wolseley is finally saying *satis* to teaching.

During her time at Caistor Grammar School her roles have included: Head of Classics, Head of General Studies, Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Acting Head of Sixth Form and Head of Pastoral. This is obviously an immense contribution to the life of Caistor Grammar and it is hardly surprising that a former pupil of hers, Mr Davey, believes that the school “will massively miss her” and that she has been a “huge part of the emotional character of the school.” Mr Davey (now teaching English) believes that he learned the “fundamentals of language” from her. For her part, Mrs Wolseley believes that this school is unique amongst the eight she has taught at as the staff and students have a “common goal.”

This “common goal” becomes apparent mainly when the students interviewed remember her lessons as both fun and informative, and it is no surprise her department had 75% of students achieving an ‘8’ or ‘9’ at GCSE in Latin in 2018- the highest percentage in the school! Mrs Wolseley personally feels that the study of the Classical world has “breadth and variety” and would like to see it taught more in the modern world as it “makes you think about what we do.” This, she explains, is because the same themes of power and love that feature so prominently in the ancient texts still reverberate today.

Her love of Classics and Latin is partly because the Classical world has the “best stories.” Many students would attest to this: from Caecilius always being in *horto* and learning about the eruption of Vesuvius, Latin

students have been entertained throughout the years with various stories from Mrs Wolesley and the Cambridge Latin Course.

At Caistor Grammar, Mrs Wolseley has seen several changes, including the conversion of Lindsey from a boarding house into English, Maths, Music and Art classrooms. One of the more quirky changes is that the headmaster no longer does an assembly in slippers- something which apparently occurred when Mrs Wolseley first joined. The course she has taught, however, has changed little: students are still learning the Cambridge Latin course and reciting obscure verb endings. Many will still be able to recite *amo, amas, amat...* years after they first came into contact with Latin for the first time. Many Classics students will also recall her love of *Medea* and the furious debates over whether Aeneas or Odysseus is the better hero.

Next year, students will be taught by Mrs Wildman, who comes from a school in Manchester, where she was head of her department and she is now moving to Caistor Grammar. During her retirement, Mrs Wolseley plans to walk her dogs on the beach, catch up with friends and “get beyond page 9 of ‘Teach Yourself Greek’ by John Taylor.” We wish her all the very best for the future and we hope she stays in touch. Mrs Wolseley, we will all miss you. *Satis* from all at Caistor Grammar.



Smy-fall...

By MOLLY Davy 12DS

When the Smy-falls, he won't crumble...

After 7 years at Caistor Grammar, we are sadly saying goodbye to Mr Smy. From September, Mr Smy is beginning his teaching career in Grimsby. With 20 years of experience working in IT support before joining the school, Mr Smy said, “teaching was never something I thought I would enter into as I didn't think I could work with children,” but he believes that the “friendly, family atmosphere,” of Caistor Grammar, along with inspiration from the students and staff, is what encouraged him to start a new chapter of his life at Tollbar Academy, as a Computer Science and IT teacher.

During his time at the school, Mr Smy has been heavily involved with DofE, teaching KS3 and also in co-parenting E.T. (a teddy living in the computing department). He slowly began teaching within the school with

the help of Mr Pearson and has been teaching Year 9 this year. He has also been a form tutor to 7z this year which according to Mr Smy is the ‘best’ form and he says he will ‘miss them all lots.’ He will be particularly missed by his D of E groups who believe his sarcastic encouragement on D of E kept them going for the short distance before they all got lost and disregarded his advice.

He will also be missed by all the sixth formers for his atrocious dancing at the Sixth Form Ball which will always be remembered, all thanks to the Flickr photographs! Mr Smy describes Caistor Grammar as a ‘family’ and we are all sad to see him leave. We wish him every success in the future and we hope he stays in touch. Mr Smy, we will all miss you!



Jackson subtraction...

By MILLIE Leahy 8Z & MEGAN Riley 8Z

Caistor Grammar School is saying goodbye to a hardworking Maths teacher after many years of teaching.

Mr Jackson has been at Caistor Grammar school for 18 years, a few of these working as a KS3 Maths leader. He has been a wonderful colleague for all teachers and will be missed by all members of the school. This is because he plays a large role in the Maths department, supporting and helping students at Caistor Grammar.

Unfortunately, Mr Jackson was unable to take an interview as he was busy teaching his classes; however, we did interview Mr Robinson. We asked him what he admires most about Mr Jackson: “His fabulous teaching and his neat presentations of examples for his students.” He enjoys the students’ willingness to learn and watching them grow more confident in the subject throughout their time at Caistor Grammar School. Also we will especially miss him on school walks, as he is known to bring his dog.

Ava Farnsworth (9y) stated: “Mr Jackson taught me in Year 7 and, he helped me understand new topics –with use from his amazing approach to teaching. Also, I was hoping for his guidance in Year 10 when preparing for my GCSEs but, I wish him all the best for the future!” This shows that he benefitted many students across the school. His witty and sarcastic nature is also remembered by many students.

Another colleague and Maths teacher that we interviewed was Mr Frost. He spoke about Mr Jackson's love for cross-words and agreed that he was a wonderful friend to work alongside. Mr Frost remembers one of his funniest moments with Mr Jackson: “I was taking round a school visitor and all we could hear was Mr Jackson screaming at a student because, they had done something wrong! Luckily, the visitor found this funny.” As well as this, Mr Frost commented: “I will miss his manner and approach to teaching, and of course the friendship that has evolved throughout his time at Caistor.”

Kate Jennings said: “My funniest moment during a lesson with Mr Jackson was, when he wrote on a wall whilst trying to clarify an answer to a student.”

We wish Mr Jackson all the best, and will miss him dearly at Caistor Grammar.



Staff Changes

Caistor to Australia

By ABBY Reece 9X

Sadly, after 4 years at Caistor Grammar School, Miss Dales is leaving and heading over to Australia to continue her life and get a fantastic tan. She has been an English teacher and form tutor for two classes and has enjoyed every moment with them. "I have very much enjoyed being a form tutor to two classes. I have seen them grow up and seen them develop into the best people they can be," she said.

9X, who have been her form group for the past two years, will miss her but also wish her all the best in her next chapter of her life. They have really enjoyed their time with her and are sorrowed that this time has come to an end. A member of 9X described her as: "kind and caring. She is also always there for people when they need it."

She has made many memories with many different year groups; however her favourite memory is witnessing the faces of the classes she has taught receive their GCSE and A level results.

Mr Harris, who works closely with Miss Dales in the English department, speaks highly of her and would describe her as a "force of nature" and says, "she is such an enthusiastic individual, she looks out for her form groups and as an English teacher she is very energetic." There is always a positive thing to say about Miss Dales, whether it's helping people or making people smile. As a member of 9X myself I would express that she is a great listener and very good at helping young teens talk about anything they may be feeling upset about. I will really miss her and all the English help she has given me throughout Y9.

We all really hope she enjoys her next chapter of her life and that she stays in touch. We're

sure she will miss many teachers, staff and students and that Caistor Grammar has changed her life in many positive ways. Thank you Miss Dales for everything you have done for the staff and students at this school. You will be deeply missed by everyone here.



Farewell to Mrs James

By ANNA Bradley 10X

After working at Caistor Grammar for nearly 21 years, Mrs James is leaving the school. Over the years at CGS, she has most cherished working alongside her friends and colleagues who continue to support her since the start of her Caistor Grammar journey. Not only will Mrs James deeply miss her close colleagues within the school office, she will also miss people within our wider community here at Caistor Grammar school. She found everyone who is part of our school's warm community immensely welcoming, helpful and kindhearted.

Overall, she found the role of sending out student reports her favourite (out of many) tasks, as she loves to embrace the feeling of completion after working extremely hard. Due to her hard work, she later takes delight in relaxing and unwinding, which is always well deserved. Whilst sending out reports was one of her favoured activities, she thoroughly found collecting data for reports extremely challenging. This ultimately arrays her extreme dedication to her job, which comes with a variety of positives and negatives.

Leaving the role is allowing her to join a hand-embroidery course for the group 'Embroidery Guild' located in Lincoln. As well as this, it will give her more time to spend looking after her grandchildren who she said, "were quite a handful, as they are aged only 2 and 7!". As you can easily tell, challenging tasks will not be out of her life when she finishes her time at Caistor Grammar. Also, she now has the peaceful, serene opportunity to go on more walks with her retired husband and will be immensely pleased with lots of holidays in the soothing sunshine- as would we all.

Her outstanding work ethic will be truly missed and her key contributions over the last 20 years have been heavily appreciated.



Technician Take Off!

By JESS Hutson 8X

This summer will be the last time Adam Poutney will be at our school. Adam has been a Performing Arts Technician since he left our Sixth Form last year. He is a kind and hard working member of Caistor Grammar School and will be missed by many. He will be moving on to Cambridge University to study History there.

In an interview Adam described what it had been like for him to have been here over the past year. He said, "It took a bit of adjusting to in the first few weeks, especially altering to the staffroom and working alongside my previous teachers."

When asked, what he will miss the most, he replied "I think the camaraderie and rapport between staff and also the students as well. It has always been a really welcoming place and being part of that has been lovely. The family atmosphere here is something that I will also deeply miss."

Further questions were asked and Adam replied in great detail about the time he has spent here at our school. When we asked him what he has enjoyed about being here, he responded with, "Really, getting to work in the Music department with Mrs Thompson, who just cares so much about the music throughout the school. It also been really fun to help with the planning of events like the summer concert and the Easter service. I have also had opportunities to work with really talented musicians, who love what they do, and come into the grand piano room and just play, they really care about music and it's great to hear."

Adam is not the only member of staff changing roles. Miss Naylor will be taking up a new position elsewhere in September of 2019. She has really enjoyed her time being a technician in the PE office but she has stepped up from technician to teaching.

In the time Miss Naylor has been here she has supported all the sports teams that CGS has to offer. From going to cheer us on at rounders to standing on the sideline of netball matches. Miss Naylor has also gotten herself involved in the netball tour which saw many

talented Year 8 and 9s go on. Her optimism and her smile will be missed.

We wish Adam all the best at University and we hope that Miss Naylor will be happy in her new teaching role.



Mr Moloney Steps Up!

By Kuyan Wijayarathna 8X

Mr Joe Moloney, a well-known PE technician, will be changing his role at the end of this term. He is a kind, caring teacher and is always willing to help other people.

Mr Moloney is an interactive person, always talking to his students about the latest sport news and other fun things. His new job will be a PE teacher and will kick in in September.

When asked about teaching students at CGS he said: "I really enjoy teaching here. Over the past 2 years, I have been building up relationships with all the different year groups. Also, I love seeing the successful young athletes in different sports!"

He has helped out in many extra curricular activities, for example starting a girls football club in 2018.

We are all so excited to see him in his new position and we're sure he is too. When asked what he is excited about, he replied, "I am looking forward to having my own year groups and teaching them for the full year. But really, it won't be too bad as it will be quite the same, teaching wise."

As you can easily tell, Mr Moloney is very enthusiastic about his new position and so are

the students. Ethan Beckett in 8X said, "No matter what sport we are doing, from tennis to football, Mr Moloney always makes sure we understand what to do." This gives us more time to enjoy playing a wide range of sports, whilst improving our sporting skills. Additionally, Ethan's opinion states "I think students, from any year group, will appreciate the skills he has".

Another student from 8X, explores his progression from technician to teacher and suggests the progression will be easy for Mr Moloney. The student said, "he demonstrates what it is like to be a teacher even as a technician". Clearly, Mr Moloney is an example of someone who goes above and beyond.

He has really changed the way many students view sports and helped others to realise the same enjoyment he sees in sport. We hope he will continue to change the school for the better and allow others to enjoy what they do in school. From everyone at CGS, we wish Mr Moloney good luck in his new career path and can not wait to be taught by him.



House Plays

Lawyers, lost boys and laughs

By LILLY Bell 9X & HOLLY Bradbury 9X

On Wednesday the 6th of March, an audience gathered to watch the annual spectacular that is the House Play Competition. The yearly event held a mixture of both comedy and classic to the stage and the cast members were excited to perform for their peers, whilst the audience (Year 7 and 8 in the morning and Years 9 and 10 in the afternoon) eagerly awaited the plays to come. In a change from last year, the venue was moved back to the Town Hall where the stage was finally set and the judges were seated. Preparations had been ongoing for weeks before and the actors were finally ready to put on an brilliant show.

Rawlinson introduced the proceedings with their modern take on "A Christmas Carol", with Pollyanna Patterson (Year 9) leading the way as a funny and relatable teenage Scrooge. With the storyline and title changed, "A Caistor Carol" was ready to score highly and leave spectators smiling. As the play progressed, characters such as 'Alexa' (played by Ava Farnsworth, Year 9) and even Mr Hopkins (portrayed by Josh Hughes, Year 12) featured, a hilarious addition.

Next up were Hansard, with their performance of "Legally Blonde". With this infamously cheesy musical set in the familiar environment of Caistor Grammar School, the play was sure to amaze the judges. The duo of Elle Woods, played by Emily Quill (Year 9) and Warner Huntington played by Harry Giles (Year 9), paired with American accents and the classic line "Oh my God!" left judges and audience alike suitably impressed.

Ayscough concluded the diverse array of performances with a classic production of Peter Pan, reworked with modern humour. Its traditional fairytale setting, witty lines and use

of a Tinkerbell flying around on a fishing rod certainly left the audience laughing, with Mr Harris noting that the creative staging of the play was "very funny". Jonathan Omanbude (Year 9) featured as the starring role of Peter Pan himself, supported by Wendy Darling, played by Catherine Hargreaves (Year 7). The villainous Captain Hook was brilliantly portrayed by Alistair Brookes (Year 10). Once again, the audience witnessed a true example of what makes CGS plays so great, with dazzling staging and hilarious jokes featuring in all three.

They were certainly not disappointed, with Ayscough, Hansard and Rawlinson fiercely battling it out for the title of '2019 House Play Winners.' All of the plays were "really creative" (according to Mr Harris) and Emily Quill, Year 9, stated that, "the effort put in by everyone was a tremendous asset to the school". The moment everyone was waiting for finally arrived: the results. Rawlinson was 3rd place, with a very respectable 73 points. Next was Ayscough, edging just ahead of Rawlinson with 78 points, but taking the win was Hansard's "Legally Blonde" with 84 points. All would agree that the competition was very tight indeed, and all who participated should be proud of themselves. A huge thank you goes to all of the staff who made the day possible: Mr Harris, Mr Robinson, Guy Lyons (Year 12), Mr Poutney and Mrs Thompson, along with the play directors from each house, and to Debra West and Cathy Bennett-Ryan who so expertly judged the competition.



The cast of Peter Pan



Alistair Brookes (Year 10), Emily Quill (Year 9) and Eva Phillips (Year 9)

Behind the curtain...

By AVA Farnsworth 9Y & EMILY Quill 9X

It's a good job there were no mics in house plays, because the nervous jitters from backstage would have flooded the town hall. Warner was nervously fiddling with his wig, Tinkerbell was adjusting her wings and Mr Hale was perfecting his Russian hat. All those weeks of rehearsals were leading up to this moment. What was it like having a starring role in one of the most competitive house events? And more importantly, what was it like for those never reaching the stage at all?

The biggest round of applause would obviously have to go to the directors, who carried the plays all the way through 3 big performances, without getting a single moment in the spotlight themselves. But it was far from fun and games. Maya McCann (Year 12) and Henry Montgomery (Year 12) led their 30 strong cast to victory with Hansard's take on "Legally Blonde", not an easy feat. Maya stated that "Me and Henry were running around the town hall trying to collect props but as soon as the curtain lifted we had confidence in the cast" which just goes to show that hard work pays off. Jyothi Cross, co-leader of the Ayscough House play states that the best part of the play was "watching the Y7s and Y8s go from reading their scripts to fully becoming the characters."

Casting was of course very stressful for both the directors and the performers. Waiting for your name to be on the House board was nerve wracking, and even though the directors told us that every role is important, we couldn't help being nervous. Regarding the auditions, Henry said, "it was great watching everyone stepping into every role and taking on different characters. They were a super group and I was so happy with the way it turned out."

Costumes and props are both important and stressful, being able to make or break any play. They played a vital role in bringing the different shows to life. However, these were sometimes not easy to find. I think it's fair to say that Rawlinson got off pretty easily doing a play filled with school children, except of

course, who can pull off that Russian hat as well as Mr Hale himself? Ayscough, on the other hand, had a play themed around pirates, lost boys, and a fairy thrown in there for good measure. Of course this meant a little more work was needed, and all the credit goes to them as they effectively created Neverland in its entirety.

Despite these nerve-wracking times, the house plays were an opportunity to make amazing memories. Each actor, director and stage hand not only gave something, but took something invaluable away.

Finally, it was show day. The actors were in costume and ready to step into the blindingly bright limelight. Lili Gregory, co-director of the Rawlinson play said that "Although I was anxious, it was amazing to see the play from a different perspective than just the audience. The best part was the fact that everyone enjoyed themselves and had fun". Although the morning performance wasn't judged, we were still tense as it was the first time performing in front of an audience. The adrenaline coursed through us all as we stood and delivered our lines to the Y7s and Y8s. The afternoon performances were definitely the best - everyone was putting in their all in attempt to win over the judges.

The evening performance was the most fun. As judging was over everyone was able to relax just a little, and all the final performances ran smoothly, with props, costumes and joke all played perfectly - fit for a smiling cast and an audience filled with laughter. At the end of that long day, the cast members came together to celebrate their achievements. Yes, the day was stressful, nerve wracking and most certainly tiring, yet every single cast member walked off stage glowing, every director was silently air punching in the wings, and the tech team had a ball singing to "YMCA" when no one was watching. We all worked hard, and that had paid off, yet we still had enough time to have fun!



The plays main characters; Peter Pan, Scrooge and Elle Woods



Hansard's Jayden Cheung (Year 8), Pearl McCann (Year 9), Emily Quill (Year 9), Savannah Bradley (Year 7) and Beth Crowther (Year 7)

Year 7

Conisbrough calls!

By BETH Crowther 7Z

The Year 7 History visit to Conisbrough Castle definitely gave the year group a lot of new – found information. On the 7th of June, an excited group of 11 and 12 year-olds gathered on the bottom court before taking buses to Conisbrough, a Middle-Ages castle which holds the distinction of being the best-preserved medieval castle in England.

Upon arrival, the Year 7s were separated into forms and taken to see different parts of the castle and its history. There were three activities – learning about the people who would have lived in the castle, exploring the walls and inner bailey and exploring the keep. First, the students were taken into the classroom at the visitor centre, where the kind and knowledgeable English Heritage staff had set out a fun activity for them. On each of the six tables, there was a wooden chest. When the students opened the chests, they found a collection of items relating to a specific person who would have lived at Conisbrough during the medieval era. “The hardest item in my group’s chest,” said Hugo Cullen, 7Z, “was a glove, which turned out to belong to the Falconer.” Once the items had been identified, the Year 7s put the people in order of importance, which resulted in a friendly debate over the significance of the Lady’s Maid and the Falconer.

Next, the students were shown an area of the wall which had fallen down in a landslide and

taught about the walls by Mrs Dowthwaite. They were then taken on an intriguing tour of the inner bailey by Mr McTernan. The group were baffled when shown a huge hole in the thick wall and asked to guess what it was. After ‘room’, ‘house’ and ‘bakery’ were mentioned, the answer turned out to be simply... You guessed it... A hole in the wall! The bricks had been stolen by peasants needing stone. Students were also amazed that the (once) Great Hall was home to England’s largest fireplace!

After a packed lunch, during which students sheltered from the rain in the classroom and Keep, the gift shop was open to pupils who had brought money. As I’m sure you can imagine, the small room suddenly was full of people as students raced to purchase items such as mints and wooden swords!

The Keep was, undoubtedly, the most interesting element of the trip. Mr Croft led the group through the tall limestone tower, occasionally interrupted by projections of castle inhabitants, who explained some aspects of castle life. On the first floor, Omar Aldeek, 7X, dropped his pencil down the deep well which men and women would have used to collect drinking water, but was now littered with a combination of litter and money, including three five-pound-notes! The second floor housed a round table, where the Lord of the castle would have had serious meetings with people such as other Lords or even the King.



There was also a window – seat (or window – bench!) where the Lady and her Maids would sew, read or write. Walking up a set of spiral stairs (and passing a very cold toilet which emptied waste into the Bailey), the roof boasted an incredible view... for those who were not afraid of heights, anyway! The rood also housed a number of things the students were not expecting to find, such as ovens and pigeon nesting boxes. The two ovens were so huge that three or more Year 7s could stand inside them

– a statement proved by many throughout the visit. After a lot of puzzled questions regarding why the ovens were on the roof, the students discovered that, since chimneys had not been invented at the time the castle was built, the only people who would be doused in the smoke would be the bakers. The pigeon nesting boxes were for, sadly, birds which were fated to be stewed for the Lord’s enjoyment. Poor pigeons! After this day of excitement and discovery, the Year 7s climbed back onto the busses tired out.

Whisby goes wild

By IBRAHIM Genty 7Z



From June 12th to the 14th three groups of curious explorers journeyed to Whisby Nature Park armed with only buckets and nets to help them in their search for the beetles, snails, leeches and even scorpions from the depths of the lake. On arrival they were given information of the creatures they would find like stick insects and damselfly nymphs. These were just few of the many creatures on the reserve.

They were then put in groups and they got their boots on and then they assembled at the dipping points and began the search. Many were scared at first but when they got the hang of things they began to grow in confidence and some people even held some of the creatures that they found. They did a figure of eight in the water and pulled out the contents and then slowly and carefully poured the contents into the bucket of water. They then rotated between themselves in group and Hugo Cullen 7Z found a large creature that he could not catch! In no time at all the buckets were becoming fuller and fuller.

Then it came to the difficult task of pouring the contents of the bucket into the sampling tray as they had to try avoiding getting the mud in the clear water. Many groups found many interesting things from Cased Caddisfly Larva to water scorpions. All the creatures came in big or small sizes and none were really the same. As hard as humanly possible they tried to put the creature in the magnifying casing. Many of the creatures were masters of escape like the stick insects and the leeches who ran/ squirmed their way out of being seen.

After filling in a sheet of their findings and naming many of the important details and lots of counting, they were asked to put the creatures back to where they found them. Although being exhausted they thoroughly enjoyed the trip and they all had fun on the journey back.

‘New’ Lands

By Eleanor Rowlands 7X



Every summer, many Year 7 students embark on a trip to the Lake District, or more specifically, Newlands Adventure Centre. This year, they arrived at school for, well, early! They were all ready for a four hour drive on the bus. Evie Chilvers, 7Z said “High ropes was my favourite activity because I overcame my fear of heights.” The first activity some did was Ghyll Scrambling. This included you being in a freezing cold Ghyll and scrambling down it. You slid down ‘slides’, jumped in from high drops, belly flopped into water and ‘penguin jumped’ down. After everyone got out, they were pleading to go back, get dry and showered; later on, it was dinner time; everyone enjoyed the delicious 3-course meal.

After that, it was time for the games. Some did earthball; a giant inflatable ball, which they did keepy-uppeys with, human bowling, a train track (where they had to keep it off the ground, using themselves, and running to keep up with it) and much more.

Early morning, and it was breakfast. Cereal, toast and a full English to begin the day. For many people, it was canoeing and kayaking. Liadan Rye-Leaning, 7Y said “It was

really good and my favourite activity was Ghyll Scrambling because I really enjoyed sliding down the rocks.”

In the afternoon, it was High Ropes. This was where there were many different climbing obstacles. Many students’ favourite was the ‘Tarzan Swing’. This was where you were above the Ghyll and swung like Tarzan (except you were attached to a harness). At dinner time, it was many of the students’ favourite meal of the weekend: burgers. It was now time for the evening activity. The students who did Earthball now did the Games. This happened in reverse, too.

At the end, everyone played one big game of ‘Fishy Fishy’, a game that is similar to Bulldog. In the morning, it was time for a mountain walk up Cat bells. As they descended, they past the ice cream shop, where you could purchase an ice cream such as the following flavours: Vanilla, Strawberry, Chocolate and Thunder and Lightning. Then it was down, back to the Activity Centre, lunch, and back to Caistor for 5:00pm. What a weekend it had been!

Sixth Form Ball

Getting the ball rolling...

By LUCY Krofchak 12AHO and FADWA Al-Moasseb 12AHO

Sixth Form Ball is a way Year 13s can let loose after surviving two torturous years of A-Levels and leave on a high note. The evening saw an array of fancy dresses, fancy suits, and fancy drinks leaving us with a night we can't forget. One Year 13 said it was "the most memorable part of my time at Caistor Grammar and I'm sure I won't forget the night for a long time."

The evening began with the staggered arrivals of the attendees, a few fashionably late, others just late, and was documented by our star photographers Mrs Buck and Mr Shepherd, who served as our own personal paparazzi for the evening.

As always, some arrived in cars that made us all jealous, others made a more subtle entrance, but all with a smile on their faces. Everyone

looked fantastic, although admittedly the show was stolen by Xander blessing us all with his luscious hair blowing in the Scunthorpe breeze.

After a round of photo taking, delicious free mocktails, and rushing around to find friends, the photo shoot began. For an evening, everyone felt like a Kardashian, as Mrs Buck and Mr Shepherd quickly hurried around with their cameras (even managing to sneak on the other side of the camera a few times) Before the meal began, the departing Year 13 were ushered into the garden for one last year photo to cap off their time at Caistor Grammar. Emotions ran high as friends, of up to 7 years, gathered together for their final group picture as a whole year before dinner started.



Sixth Form Ball



...and kicking off the party

By LOUISE Butler 12DS and FADWA Al-Moasseb 12AHO

The food was wonderful, with chicken, ravioli or ratatouille on the menu, and cheesecake to finish. Before and during the meal a magician visited each table to perform some mind blowing tricks, even turning a piece of paper into a block of ice. Following the food and tricks, Mr McTernan gave a heart warming speech, wishing the Year 13 the best of luck, as did each Head of Department through their chosen student of the subject. The speeches were a lovely reminder of the bonds made between staff and student, making the thought that this was almost the end of the Caistor Grammar School journey a bittersweet one.

The sentimentality was soon forgotten as the Sixth Form took to the dance floor to start the unforgettable party. It started off slow and sweet, with a graceful Waltz performed by the Senior Prefect Team but ended quite the opposite, with Mr Brightside playing at maximum volume and even an exclusive performance from Caistor Grammar School

resident singer songwriter, Alex Sedman. Everyone let loose, with many not being able to catch their breathe due to the mixture of dancing and laughing. even the teachers descended to the dance floor to participate with the Macarena.

The night flew by, and before anyone knew it, the time came for an emotional farewell for the Year 13' and for the Year 12s, seeing their not too distant future.

The Ball was a night to remember for everyone attending and certainly met every expectation, even the rather high ones. All our thanks go to the Ball Committee whose hard work and commitment shone through in the triumph that the Ball was.

Another Year 13 leaves after years together, but at least they left with a bang.



Editorials

EnnUi

By EWAN Martin 12RHG

Lost: a little, it'sy-bitsy chunk of my soul. Last seen on the 18th of July, just before the Conservative Leadership debate. May have dropped between the cushions of my living room couch.

To assist the search parties' efforts, I'd better provide some context. On the date in question, I found myself gazing at the windowpane, caught for a moment by the lullaby of a midsummer evening outside. A sycamore beckoned. Shaking my head, I drew the curtains; there was a debate to watch, and the sunset had been casting a glare upon the TV screen. In the room's new gloom everything a strange scene was brought into light: some budding surrealist on the BBC's Debates and Discussions committee had pitched the idea of having all of the Conservative hopefuls sit on high-chairs with their (awkwardly manspread) Saville Row trouser-legs dangling a foot above the floor. Rory Stewart was the only one of the five to keep two feet on the ground, perhaps in a calculated attempt at symbolism, perhaps because, as my brother remarked, his limbs are too long for common sense and he's part spider.

Taking a last weary look at the sealed curtains, I resolved to try to treat the oncoming pantomime as high drama, but as the script unravelled I began to feel myself waning. Maybe it was the abundance of catchphrases, or all of the overlapping dialogue... Half way through Boris Johnson was asked if he believes that words have consequences. His reply was shifting, half-committed; inconsequential.

The whole broadcast was filled with similarly numbing linguistics – endless interruptions and hollow sentences. *Do words have consequences?* Let's try: Brexit. Brexit. British Exit. The People Want Brexit! *Bee-Rex-It!* **BREXIT!!!** Did that do anything for you? No? Me neither. Odd. Usually, words start off as strangers and with every encounter we get to know them a little bit more. Well, I have been introduced to "Brexit" by a thousand voices, from screaming headlines to back-alley whispers. I've had the pleasure of its company for three years, on every day of them, and I'm absolutely none the wiser. The B-word started off as a stranger and only got stranger from there. What does it mean? Brexit means...

Brexit means... Say a word a thousand times and tell me it means anything at all. These were the kinds of haunts that swirled behind my eyes as they traced the pendulum swings of Jeremy Hunt's leg, moments before we switched to Netflix.

What does that surrender say about me? I'm a politics student, and Mr McTernan tells us after each new set of bewildering *Brexit News* that it's a fascinating time to be a politics student. I know that objectively this is the truth, and that future generations will wonder how it felt to live amongst a constitutional crisis – but on the great, spherical, geopolitical chessboard, I don't even identify as a pawn. I feel like a Ludo piece, standing in for a pawn, squinting occasionally towards the horizon to see what the many kings and rooks are up to now. I wonder why one of them is covered in milkshake, then turn my sights onto a knight submitting his letter of resignation. The moves are being made by hands much larger than my own (Ludo pieces are limbless anyway), and I find myself casting my eyes down from it all to focus on the confines of my own little square, wishing it was B4.

Perhaps I'm just meek. These words might be read as a cowardly insult to the social contract, a celebration of abandoned civic responsibility. Certainly, if you were hoping to find surgical political analysis within the pages of *The Caistor Focus*, I fear you're a bit disappointed right now, and I suppose I'm disappointed too. I can only refute that the lifeblood of politics is the will of the people, and as one of the people, I beg (with all my willpower) to have some different politics to sink my teeth into, and I know I'm not alone. The optimist in me hopes that October the 31st will bring about this new course, that our pallet will finally be cleansed; the realist in me suspects that the only thing served to the nation this Halloween will be sweets, collected by hoards and hoards of trick-or-treaters dressed as Boris Johnson.



Injustice on our Timeline

By GEORGIA Astbury 12RHG

International crises are seldom on our minds as people of the Western world, and we rarely ponder on how life would be outside of a first world country – we face no restrictions, we never worry about what we say, we take almost everything for granted. This is why events like the protests in Sudan should be recognised by us, so that we learn to appreciate the small things in life.

In December 2018, the Sudanese people began a series of peaceful protests against the President, mainly due to his oppressive regime and their failing economy; these protests led the regime and the government to respond with extreme violence, resulting in hundreds of protestors being killed. Much to the delight of the people, President Omar al-Bashir was overthrown by the military in April of this year. But that was just the start.

It soon became clear that the country's power would remain in the hands of the military, and that civilians would not be granted the power they wished for – this therefore resulted in more protests. On 3rd June, the military opened fire on crowds, killing and injuring many of the protestors: this included women and children, many of them facing sexual assault. Since that date, more than one hundred civilians have been killed, with at least 40 bodies being thrown in the River Nile, although this is just an estimate.

An important aspect of this terrible event is the military's decision to shut off all social media and internet access, which subsequently

prevented this tragic story from reaching Western society as quick as it should have done. I think this will resonate with people the most – the fear of not being able to contact your loved ones, or media outlets, making it so much more difficult for people's stories to be heard. Whilst women and children are being attacked, protesters are being silenced with violence, and bodies are going missing, the Sudanese population can do little but wait for this horrific event to be over.

The power of the internet, and the reason for the military's shut down of it, was evident when this story finally reached our social media platforms, which is where many people – including myself – became aware of it. Within days, people's profile pictures were painted blue, with the slogan 'Blue for Sudan' circulating around Instagram as an attempt to show concern for the Sudanese population.

Maybe we should stop these events from only existing in our minds as we scroll past it, glancing for only a second, and start taking them away from our phones – because for Sudan, this oppression was their reality, not just an Instagram post.



Phonie Complaints

By HENRY Clark 9Y

The Summer Term of 2019 has brought many new decisions to the daily life of Caistor Grammar, but the one that has inevitably generated the most discussion is the new ban on mobile phones during school hours. Now, at the first mention of this many of you went straight for your billboards of protest and were ready to stampede throughout the school corridors; however, I say that we shouldn't have reacted to this new proposal so dramatically, and that we should stop to think about some of the benefits that a phone ban could have on us as a community. Rather than reflexively swat away at the ban, we should embrace it with open arms.

So what were the first reactions to the phone ban exactly? Well, we can safely say it wasn't a universally positive response. However, after a period of reflection, a more nuanced opinion of the phone ban was given by 9Y's school council representative, Sapphy Dunn. When asked why she thought the phone ban was introduced, she replied by saying, "I understood why the phone ban was put in place, with the concerns of friendship issues and pupils phoning their parents when a fall-out occurs, when the parents then phone the office and they have no clue as to what has happened, I understand that." I then asked her how she felt the phone ban has benefited the school since being put in place, she continued, "I feel that there are still some issues concerning buses. I have personally got on the bus when I wasn't meant to because I haven't been able to contact my mum. I do feel that having no phones has slightly improved grades however, as Mr Hopkins has shown statistics to give evidence towards this." Finally, I asked Sapphy how she felt the phone ban has benefited students socially. She concluded by saying that it's a little too early to tell.

So, there are some mixed views on the phone ban so far, some more extreme than others. This may be because students don't really understand why the phone ban was put in place. The phone ban was first proposed by Mr Hopkins during a school council meeting due to his concerns over a number of subjects related to the usage of our mobile phones; one of the more predominant concerns being our safety on the school site. We've all done it: you'll be walking around checking your messages, and you won't see the giant step in front of you that has magically appeared out of nowhere, and



before you know it, you're on the floor, hoping no one has seen you. This issue is particularly relevant to us as a school as it's fair to say our school is not exactly built on flat terrain, including the towering stairs that lead the path up and down from Lindsey. So you can definitely see why this is a concern of Mr Hopkins, and there have been a few cases where there have been accidents on sight due to the usage of mobile phones.

What's my personal opinion on the phone ban? Well, at first, my reaction was mixed like much of your responses; however, after much given thought I started to see the benefits of having a site with no phones. Linking in with a safer site, I do believe that without mobile phones people are a lot safer, not just from injury, but from being photographed. I know many people who feel uncomfortable with the thought of someone being able to take their picture without knowing, and then posting it on social media. People may argue that there was a ban previously on not being able to take photos on the school site. Nevertheless, I know people feel even more secure with this no phone ban, and it has lead them to be able to concentrate more on school work and less on the media. While I understand that phones have become a fundamental part of modern life, and that it can be strange to see them disappear, I personally feel that the phone ban is definitely a positive thing that has impacted the school really well, especially in terms of the mental and emotional well-being of students, and has also impacted pupils academically, with them being able to be more focused. So this new policy gets a yes from me.



Recycle this Newspaper!

By EMMA Cowan 9Y

As we sit in our warm safe homes, it's easy to look at activists such as Greta Thunberg (the inspiring Swedish eco-warrior who, at just fifteen years of age, has kick-started an international environmental movement), and applaud the change and awareness she has brought into the lives of people all around the world. Yet, as the Earth moves slowly but surely closer to an irreversible climate emergency now is not the time to sit back and applaud their work but to look past the media's superficial obsession and act yourself before it's too late.

As our daily life continues we can sometimes struggle to focus on the dangerous changes to our climate and understand its major impacts and consequences. The saying "*out of sight, out of mind*" really does come into play here; the first stage of grief may be denial but we must move past the mourning of our planet and prevent what has not yet happened. As we become more aware of this we should try to act, even in the smallest ways.

Often, it can seem hard to understand how eating less meat or taking a reusable bottle to school can help stop the polar bears in the Arctic dying, so we don't do it, thinking it will make so little a change we might as well carry on as before, and I will be honest and say I had fallen into the trap of thinking I can make no change until I watched "*Climate Change: the Facts*" (David Attenborough's BBC documentary which carried an important message for us all). As I sat there I realised that I had to do something instead of sitting at home feeling thoroughly depressed about



the death of our planet, so I did. I've signed petition after petition to help prevent the use of plastic toys by fast food companies or the use of palm oil when far less harmful oils could be used in its place; I've done litter picks and eaten less meat and I've tried to avoid plastic bottles. Forget sitting around, I'm taking a stand, in any way I'm able. But I'm not here to preach about my minor achievements, I'm here to ask you, the reader, to stop nodding your head and agreeing that something should be changed and actually act. As our country becomes one of the first to pledge to stop contributing to climate change by 2050 it shouldn't be hard for you to pledge it yourself too. We are all citizens of the world, and the planet needs us to prove it.

You may not even live to see the change you cause by trying to avoid palm oil or planting trees (or recycling this newspaper!) but you should feel satisfied that you have tried, empowered that you and millions of others want to save the planet and stop ignoring the problems that will one day affect us all. So be more like Greta Thunberg and help save the planet we are blessed to call home.

Trips

Battlefields

By **FRANCESCA Hannath 12AHO**

It would be ignorant to think that any of us could ever comprehend the magnitude of World War One and the effect that it had upon Europe and its people, but this is no excuse to not make an effort to try. On the 10th of May, a group of Year 12 English students, accompanied by Mr Davey and Mrs McNeilly, headed to France and Belgium for three days to widen our knowledge on the topic of World War One and the power of literature during and after the War.

One of the most moving experiences of the trip was visiting the Menin Gate in the beautiful Belgian town of Ypres. Every night at 8.00pm, regardless of weather, Ypres commemorates the fallen ones with a sounding of the “Last Post”, a minute of silence and the laying of a wreath. The gate bears the names of more than 54,000 soldiers. It is unbelievably touching, but mixed with the sound of trumpets was the sound of children laughing and messing about, not truly understanding the meaning of why we were there. It’s a harsh truth, but it became clear to many of us that it is becoming increasingly more difficult to keep the memories of the War alive. This is where the importance of literature became clear. Through violent depictions of battles and autobiographical poems that speak of suffering the soldiers experienced, we can keep the memory alive, which is the exactly what the service at Ypres aims to represent.

Though the “Last Post” was striking, what I remember most whilst reflecting upon this trip, are the moments of deafening silence, particularly in memorial sites. They are

undoubtedly beautiful places, particularly Vimy Ridge which pays tribute to the effort of the Canadian soldiers. The white marble pillars of the monument dominate the French landscape and watching solemnly over the land is a statue of Mother Canada. It acknowledges the 11,000 men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force killed in battle. They have no known grave.

On the last day we paid a visit to Fricourt German Cemetery. There are rows upon rows of black crosses, without flowers. 17,000 German soldiers were buried there. It was very tranquil and evoked a real sadness amongst the group. Many of the crosses are shared between two soldiers, but the most distressing thing was the communal graves, where the remains of 11,970 soldiers lie. It was an extremely sombre place, more so than others, possibly due to the fact that it seemed like it was lacking in love and nurture. Despite this, an important thing to notice was the flag that stood with pride in the graveyard. On one side you will find a German flag, on the other is the flag of France.

The battlefields really is an experience like no other. It provokes reflection and allows us to commemorate the courage of those who fought in World War One. I know I speak on behalf of everybody when I say this trip will always have a special place in our hearts.

Thank you to Mrs McNeilly and Mr Davey for coordinating the trip, and to our wonderful tour guide Dr David Nunn (and of course Keith the bus driver).



Year 12 students at Vimy Ridge

A Not So Civil Trip

By **GEORGIA Astbury 12RHG & LUCY McDonald 12RHG**

Political splits are nothing new to us in this modern age, and the English Civil War was no different.

Classed as Britain’s deadliest conflict, its importance should not be forgotten, as Parliamentarians and Royalists battled it out over whose influence should be greater. The significance of the Civil War is stressed by the National Civil War Centre, where our year eight students travelled to Newark, a vital town during the battles, to discover the ins and outs of this event.

In April, the pupils from 8X, 8Y, and 8Z boarded the coach and headed for the museum, ready to throw themselves into an interactive day filled with educational workshops as well as entertaining re-enactments. This included scenes such as Charles I’s trial and his infamous execution.

Speaking to Sophie Bishop, Afeef Hadi, and Ollie Taylor, the beheading scene was described by Afeef as “interesting yet funny.”

The students also thoroughly enjoyed learning how to load a musket gun and how to injure someone with a pike – hopefully these new skills won’t be exercised at home! Ollie seemed particularly keen, referring to the weaponry demonstrations as “really fun and informative.”

Another activity that the students were thrilled to take part in was identifying gory wounds on mannequins, and deciphering the weapon which was used to inflict them; a task they wouldn’t have had the opportunity to engage in within the confinements of the Manning building. Sophie revealed this as she stated that from this trip, she “learnt more than in a classroom,” due to the hands-on experience that she encountered – this is important for those who learn through physical interaction as well as learning in a classroom environment.



By Jayden Cheung, 8Y



TRIPS

Bronze Voyage!

By FAREEDAH Saalwu 10Z

On the chilly morning of June 8th, a group of Year 10 students set off from the comfort of their homes to brave the reality of the Lincolnshire Wolds. We, as adventurers, set course at 10am with a light drizzle to accompany us – albeit not the best conditions – but it did not deter our navigation skills or our spirit! Unfortunately, the day got worse with strong winds and an even stronger rain, bullying us throughout the trek causing the terrain to become even more treacherous. I can account for at least one fall during the day (in their defence it was said to be ‘really slippery’). Yet we all soldiered on and many managed to reach the campsite in good time, some even earlier than expected.

The students who arrived in the Walesby Woodlands Caravan and Campsite had a friendly welcome from not just the DofE supervisors from our school, but the staff and students from St James Secondary School in Grimsby as well! This gave our tired Year 10s the opportunity to not only share horror stories between groups over the campfire, but between schools as well. Due to the wakeup call from the Practice Expedition, meals being cooked by us were not expected to be the standard of The Ritz or The New York Palace Cafe. Miles Peck, member of the Silver Team, made his own “speciality” of readymade pasta and tomato sauce with cooked American sausages to the disgust of fellow teammates: Savannah, Cindy, Delphine and I. The motto being thrown across campsites and tents was: ‘if it’s edible, it’s good enough for me’. After enduring the hard tasks of scrubbing burnt pasta from the bottom of the pots, people slowly retired to their makeshift homes for the night. By 10pm, not a single sound could be heard from the tents

(beautifully pitched by the way)...aside from the occasional giggle and a snore, of course.

With birds chirping, the smell of bacon and Lincolnshire sausages in the air and the crisp cool Sunday morning dew dripping onto our faces it’s safe to say that we had a natural awakening from Mother Nature herself. Having tea made, breakfast eaten, tents pitched and bags packed by 8am, we had a simple first task of waiting for the briefing done by Dr Wilton and the litter check from Mrs Sharp to allow us to finally complete our expedition. Fuelled by the shift in weather conditions, we were eager to get sorted and back on our way through the Lincolnshire Wolds. Once the thumbs up had been sent by staff members, the explorers ventured off into the wilderness.

While completing the second half of the course, fewer errors were made allowing majority of the groups to arrive at their end point by 4pm or earlier; to the delight of the assessors and supervisors (the same cannot be said for our new allies from St James). As the groups parted ways and returned home – with remnants of McDonalds in their hands – the memories made over the two days are some that will stick with them forever. Ella Clark, a member of the orange group, stated ‘I hated it, but I loved it’ and further explained that although ‘rain, arguments and cold’ put a damper on her energy, she would ‘definitely’ do it all over again purely down to the entertainment that the great outdoors can bring.

I am positive that all of Year 10 will agree with me when I say that the Duke of Edinburgh expedition gives us a great understanding to our English wildlife and without it we wouldn’t be where we are today.



Give a hoot, don't pollute!

By PEARL McCann 9Y & SOPHIE LeGood 9Y

Every Friday, Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg encourages student strikes to persuade the government to undergo action against climate change. She is extremely influential to everyone, especially teenagers as she has inspired many secondary schools around the world to take action by striking from school for a few hours on a Friday morning for climate change. Now our very own CGS is also becoming involved in its own environmental activist group. Year 8 and 9 students were astounded by the enthusiasm presented by the children and staff of Caistor Primary School in regards to needing urgent change and spreading Greta's vital warnings around the whole world.

Mr Nick McCann and three students from the school came to discuss the important matter as they felt that the three schools in Caistor desperately need to join forces and begin to make a change. In the assembly climate change was passionately discussed and they spoke about small ways we can change our lives in order to prevent it for many years to come such as taking shorter showers, reducing the amount of single-use plastic you purchase and eating less meat are all viable options to make your difference. These minor acts – if completed by everyone – can make a major change in our environment today. Mr McCann avidly spoke in his section of the presentation, “Awareness around this topic is

absolutely vital- it helps get the ball rolling so we can actually make a difference!”

In early February three members of Year 9 accompanied students from Caistor Primary and Caistor Yarborough to Systematic Print Management. All parties were given an insight into ways that companies can reduce their carbon footprint by saving energy, recycling and using less plastic. All the students from the schools also contributed ideas for a logo to represent environmental change with the purpose of it being spread around Caistor and make the message clear. Quoting Ava Farnsworth, she stated, “I really admire the fact that companies are trying to be more eco-friendly and that they let every student get involved with making the logo.” After a vast debate the group eventually agreed on a name and logo ‘GO2’, representing the main issue- epitomising the pollution of our natural atmosphere with Greenhouse Gases, specifically CO₂.

Since this informative trip, budding advocates from each year group at our school have met to discuss this important issue, wanting to join the fight in preventing global

destruction and help spread awareness around the local community. But how are they going to do it? Many ideas were raised but primarily reducing the use of single use plastic in our school canteen as those plastics fill our oceans with impurities, thus affecting the population of our already endangered animals, is the greater issue. Another issue raised was aimed at mainly the younger year groups as their naivety means that paper and reusable plastics are not put in the correct bins- the CGS segment of GO2 wants to make it more obvious around the recycle bins so people know what actually goes into them!

We can win. We can win the epic battle before it's too late. We, as one, can make a difference but we need you to get involved. So why not bring a water bottle to refill? Or have a shower instead of a bath tonight? Even a tiny change can aid in the protection of the environment for better. It's up to our generation to brighten our future.

So get involved and join GO2!



By Jayden Cheung 8Y



Year 8 students protesting for environmentally friendly changes

Individuals

Palace Party

By Caitlin Miller, 10z and Eleanor Wood, 10y

After ten years of helping out with the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme (DofE), Mrs Leaning has finally received the recognition she deserves. The 24th of May found Mrs Leaning on the doorstep of Buckingham Palace, waiting to meet the royals and receive an unexpected award.

In March, Mrs Leaning was the recipient of an email informing her that she was invited to Buckingham palace. Upon receiving this email she was in a state of disbelief and at first thought it to be spam. After the initial shock wore off she realised that it was a genuine invitation so, despite her dislike of London, she decided to attend this event as it was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

The process of her being invited was relatively simple: every year one person from each region (Lincolnshire being in the East Midlands) who has helped in the DofE scheme is invited to the Gold award ceremony. Mrs Leaning believed she was invited in recognition of her recent DofE fundraising. She was however unaware that this was not just a ceremony for the young individuals who had completed the Gold DofE, but one in which she would receive an unexpected honour.

From a young age she loved the outdoors and, although unfortunately she did not have the opportunity to complete her own DofE, was an avid explorer of the outdoors. She frequently went on walks and went backpacking in the lakes and Snowdonia independently by the age of sixteen. Her involvement in the DofE began ten years ago with a one day course which enabled her to supervise the expeditions. Over the years, she has supervised both bronze and, more recently silver expeditions, as well as assisting with the initial training when possible.

She has supervised roughly twenty-five expeditions and has greatly enjoyed the experience, going walking while waiting for the groups to arrive at checkpoints.

The day finally came and Mrs Leaning dressed and ready, entered the grounds of Buckingham Palace. The event was highly formal, with everyone dressed to impress. Sadly the awards ceremony took place in the palace grounds and not in Buckingham palace itself so we were not able to get a firsthand account of what the inside of the palace looks like. However Mrs Leaning describe the gardens. "It was pretty much a large park, different to what I was expecting". The garden, rather than that image in everyone's head of a large elaborate ornamental garden was simply like a private Hyde Park: trees, a lake and the occasional sculpture, refined elegance in its definition.

Groups of fifty gold award winners at a time went forward to receive their awards, accompanied by their regional representative. When it came to the turn of Mrs Leaning's group, she was in for a shock. After the gold DofE participants had received their awards, she was handed by Tamzin Outhwaite (an actor from Eastenders), an award for ten years of service to the DofE. As well as this Mrs Leaning had the opportunity to meet Prince Michael, Princess Sophie and Prince Edward.

We are all immensely proud of Mrs Leaning for this most recent achievement, just another one in a long list of contributions she has made to the local community and school; including fundraising for the DofE, and food collections for the Scunthorpe Food Bank.



Jyothi Cross at the international speaking competition held in London, with various other com-

Speaking 'Cross the world

By Amelia Terry, 10z and Kiana Matthews, 10y

Year 12 student Jyothi Cross has recently participated in the ESU Speaking Competition. Ever since Jyothi first walked through the gates and into Caistor Grammar School she showed a passionate interest in public speaking; she participated in her very first speaking competition in Year 7, with her most recent experience in the school being winning the Year 11 House Competition. After winning our own competition, Jyothi set her sights on the even more prestigious ESU Public Speaking Competition. Here, she partook in a gruelling three rounds, all culminating in the final in Cambridge. When she unfortunately came second, all hope seemed to have been lost. Her saving grace came in January, when she received a phone call offering her the opportunity to represent England in the International Public Speaking Competition. It was with high hopes that our Jyothi began her week long adventure in London.

This renowned competition saw her competing against fifty-three competitors from fifty-one countries, one of which being her Ukrainian roommate, who she still keeps in contact with. The week saw Jyothi participating in bonding activities such as bowling, as well as educational workshops on everything from body language to eye contact, including a workshop in the famous Globe Theatre.

Thursday morning Jyothi was yet again busy preparing another speech. This time she was given the quote "Lie has speed but truth has strength", and once again exceeded expectations and learnt throughout the day, with more later.

Thursday afternoon brought Jyothi to a round of impromptu speeches, with only three minutes to prepare. The competition was judged by the voice of the male English Siri, who speaks to people all around the world, everyday through their phones.

Armed with the knowledge gained in the workshops, she had just fifteen minutes to prepare a speech on a randomly selected topic, in this case, purpose. Of course, Jyothi chose

to spend three minutes contemplating the purpose of a pot of hummus.

For those who are curious, there are in fact two purposes of a pot of hummus: the first being representing the developing middle class, and the second being representing the melting pot of society- it is composed of ingredients from around the world.

Sadly, Jyothi came 7th, narrowly missing out on advancing to the next level by one place. However, she still talks to her Ukrainian roommate and did exceedingly well considering there were 53 competitors from 51 different countries, coming seventh is an astounding feat and deserves to be recognised. As well as meeting lifelong friends and having a great time, Jyothi said it was one of her best experiences related with public speaking she had had so far, and Caistor Grammar offers her congratulations for her achievements.

Roughly a week ago, she also gave a speech at the ESU Centenary Celebration and plans to do future volunteering there. During her gap year, she also plans to work on public speaking in primary schools around Caistor and Grimsby areas, since she believes that underprivileged areas deserve a chance to experience public speaking, where they otherwise might not have. Jyothi feels passionate about encouraging young people to get involved in public speaking, citing the massive increase in effort and attainment that stems from the confidence boost. She wants to get actively involved in the local community, and improve these children's life through public speaking and help them discover their passions, as she discovered hers. She hopes to be a positive influence in this area, and perhaps help make small changes, to children in areas where opportunities may be far lower than those available in other places.

She advises all those who may be hesitant to try public speaking that "Everyone can speak and has ideas, and can do it, you just need to put yourself out there. Body language is key and so is confidence. You need to show people yourself, not just read from a script".



backofthenet

THE SPORTS SECTION OF CAISTOR FOCUS | SUMMER 2019

Ayscough leap, the others weep



Sports Day Streak

By ALSTON Rodrigues 10Z

The annual school Sports Day on the 21st of June brought a wealth of success for a select few pupils and plenty of enjoyment for all. Throughout the day, our energetic students competed in a series of Track and Field events.

The day began with the exhilarating event of the 100m dash with a breathtaking finish, with Adrian Natividad (Y10) clocking a mind-blowing time of 11.67 seconds. Despite individual feats, Ayscough dominated the day, breaking a significant amount of records. When revealed, the points told a story themselves highlighting the determination and energy the students conveyed with Ayscough coming 1st with a grand total of 688 points with a close fight for 2nd position, with Hansard posting 602

points and Rawlinson ever so slightly exceeding them with 609 points.

With ideal weather and the sun flooding the stadium, the students took their marks. Every single student expressed a lot of exuberance and delight. Tensions ran high and as each and every competitor, exceeded themselves during the day, in order to achieve PBs and bring their respective house's glory.

Amongst the euphoric victors, there were several record breakers such as Henry Cullen who obliterated the 800m record with a time of 2.05 minutes. Henry also devastated the 1500m record when he received a time of 4.29 minutes. Ayscough have also uncovered yet another part of the Alice Lingard (Y9) package as following her success in 2018, she also

performed exceedingly well this year breaking the record for Long Jump, soaring through the air and jumping a distance of 4.46m.

Unlike the previous year, Field and Track records were shattered in 2019 with a grand total of 5 records being broken. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by each and every member of the school community, with all the pupils creating an excitable and enjoyable atmosphere. Although every participant performed to the best of their ability and should be extremely proud of their achievements, it appears that Mr Markham's army of astounding Ayscoughians continue to march on.

We are exceptionally grateful to all the staff that made the day possible, and we can't wait for more of the same next year.

Superzone Success

By CHARLIE Lugsdeen 10X

Caistor Grammar, 2018 Superzone champions, travelled to King George V stadium on June 27th and went to put their athletic ability to the test again. Were they to win? Of course they were! Starting at a prompt 10:15 AM, our students were excited and prepared to bring home the victory (again). Our students ranging from Year 7 to Year 10 competed against five other schools in their league and fought eagerly for a shot at glory against the arch nemesis of KEVIGS who stole away the unbroken record of victory back in 2016. After battling throughout the day and claiming wins in individual events, Caistor Grammar snatched up the win once again and added another trophy to the collection. Years 7 and 8 performed spectacularly but however did not win the league for their year and gender.

However, when it came to Year 9, with a total of eight wins, they won the league for both boys and girls, absolutely blowing expectation for such a talented year out the water. Furthermore the Year 10 boys also achieved a victory in the boys' league which all in all led to a landslide CGS victory.

They kicked off the day with a bang and a win by Louie Osborne in the year 8 boys 1200m who dominated the race throughout, and David Maw in the shot put event. We also achieved two second places early on the track in the Year 10 1500m by Henry Cullen and the Year 7 1200m by Alice Fearn who each performed at a stupendous ability. Alice Lingard, an eager athlete for Scunthorpe athletics club, won two events including the 200m and long jump, and

played a part in the Year 9 girls relay success, running the third leg at astonishing speed.

On that glorious day new talent in year 7 was unearthed and presented to our PE teachers when David Maw launched a 3kg shot putt 8.41m and secured a victory in that event, demolishing competitors who compete outside of school events. Furthermore, a young Maisy Watmough showed her power in shot putt and also took away the gold medal for CGS.

With young athletes like these, a promising superzone future is definitely within reach for Caistor Grammar School in the years to come.

English Schools Cross Country

By HUGO Cullen 7Z

After their success in the County Championships Cross Country it was time for a small group of students to embark on a journey to Leeds on the 16th March to compete in the English Schools Cross Country Championships. Athletes included in this were: Henry Cullen (Inter Boys), Ella Macpherson (Inter Girls), Joel Cottingham (Inter Boys First Reserve) and Thomas Christie (First reserve for the Senior Boys). Alice Fearn 7z came 20th in the Anglian Championships but unfortunately her age is not represented at English Schools.

When they arrived, the weather was not in their favour, it was raining hard and the ground was so muddy they could hardly stand. Henry Cullen said 'before the race, I was extremely nervous yet excited'. He also stated that it was very hilly so it made the race much harder to run. We also asked him about how his teammates did in this race. He responded, "I think they did very well as they all managed to make it around the gruelling course whilst still holding their positions."

We asked Alice Fearn, 'how do you feel about not being able to go to English Schools this year, because of your age?' She said, "I was quite disappointed when I found out because I had worked so hard to get there, but next year I am willing to try again." We also asked, 'how are you going to get yourself there?' She told us, "I am going to train twice as hard and use my teammates to get quicker."

Joel Cottingham in Year 11 was also amongst our high performing athletes in the Inter Boys as he represented Lincolnshire schools with Henry Cullen and the other competitors. Joel Cottingham and Henry Cullen have also had a variety of successes throughout the Cross Country season. This gave our school a slight advantage as all of our athletes have a very experienced past in long distance running. For example, on a cold wet Saturday morning, Henry Cullen, Joel Cottingham and a team of runners travelled to Stamford to run an incredibly challenging race. It was neck and neck between friends, Joel and Henry, then down the final hill, Henry burst into an unstoppable sprint and Joel was pipped to the post. Their friendship has fuelled their running since meeting here at CGS and they both have very bright futures ahead of them, if they continue to harness their brilliant athletic ability.

