



Fringe at Caistor

Read about efforts exploring all things expression.

ARTICLE PAGE SIX



House Plays

Read about thrilling tales of wonderland.

PICTURES PAGE FOUR

Hopping On

As the academic year comes to a natural conclusion, we prepare to bid farewell to our current headmaster, Mr. Hopkins. Here we go into detail on his thoughts and achievements at CGS. by Suzanne Bate 12FC

In 2017, we welcomed, and had the privilege of meeting, our headmaster Mr. Hopkins, and his time with us has now reached its natural conclusion in 2022. Mr. Hopkins reflects on his initial passions of achievement: to ensure this school would “grow from strength to strength. Mr. Hale had done an amazing job over 20 years [and] the idea was to carry on with that trajectory, [while] being mindful of the times”. It is true that Mr. Hopkins has introduced a lot of change to this school. While bearing in mind achieving everything is near to impossible, achievements such as growing the sixth form and the “largest sixth form ever” is the product of his ambition. At every opportunity, Mr. Hopkins

praised his members of staff and their work during the pandemic interrupted environment.

“ Brilliant Bunch

emphasising his passion for the success of this school. A particular enjoyment for him has been exam results day: “seeing students achieving a great deal certainly when they experienced challenges along the way is particularly rewarding”. In addition, there have been some wonderful trips he has had the privilege of being on or providing a helping hand with, these being a great enjoyment of most of the student body.

The modernisation brought upon this school is shown through new buildings and IT adaptations, all which have benefited both students and staff, and in particular the hiring of the Welfare Assistant. All of these have strengthened the school. When asked about regrets Mr. Hopkins confidently said, there are “always more things you can do”, these includes the “encourage[ment of] more students from disadvantaged backgrounds to keep momentum going”. As a student it is evident Mr. Hopkins cares a great deal about everyone with their personal growth and success. He comments that he hopes that individual achievements are seen as more important than the big overall numbers.

What the future holds for our headmaster is that of spending time with his young daughter, as a family orientated man, it is seen as a necessary decision. The education world may have not seen the last of Mr. Hopkins just yet, and potentially the journalism world too. Final words from Mr. Hopkins to the CGS community: “Thank you for being very welcoming. I’m sure Mrs. Buck will do a fantastic job during her year in charge”. Regardless of what is yet to come, there can be no doubt that with “a brilliant bunch of students, staff and trustees”, Caistor grammar School will continue to go from strength to strength.



Sport Spirit All Round

Read the stories of exceptional sport performances by students.

ARTICLE PAGE TWELVE

Staff Changes

Bye Bye Birchy!

By Stella Dean 9y

Unfortunately, Mr. Birch is leaving our wonderful school to enjoy his retirement. Mr. Birch has been working hard teaching hundreds of students each year since 2016- an impressive amount of time handling a wide range of pupils. He has trained many students for their future careers using D&T all the while teaching both GCSE and A level. Before becoming a teacher at our school, Mr. Birch worked in educational management, it's clear that that teaching was the only profession for him, showing his loyalties always lay with those he had the privilege to teach. Our students had nothing but positivity to spread about our Tech teacher. Erin Ingham in Year 8 stated that Mr. Birch "is very passionate about design and technology" and went on to say that "he has even inspired me to take D&T as a GCSE subject, which I never thought I would do" this is something he has done for many other students. Personally, Mr. Birch taught me while I was in year 7, he was a great teacher who made his lessons interesting with his moments of signature sarcasm, one thing about Mr. Birch that I definitely won't forget. He always took time to make sure everyone understood what they were doing and that they were following the instructions correctly even during the COVID 19 lockdown, always being immensely helpful and considerate to the students. His favourite experience while teaching must be meeting students and seeing their willingness to learn and engage during his lessons. He is quick to encourage students on to larger and more demanding projects, his preferred ones being the ones that have the most impact on the community such as helping with disability. Last year, Mr. Birch was heavily involved with

the antics that occurred at the end of the term as well as Project X. In the last three days of the summer term, as some of you may remember, we had five different house challenges. In D&T, we had to design different businesses and create them in a ready-made laser-cut mdf building, and Mr. Birch put in an immense amount of time and effort to help make this possible. Project X was a competition set up by the RAF where you had to design a project to keep an egg safe and Mr. Birch helped our students design these projects- his careful guidance even meant we ended up in the finals! After leaving Mr. Birch is hoping to move towards the east coast, dig a pond for his ducks, get more animals and create a garden so he can grow some plants an ambitious but relaxing use of his newfound time and nothing but expected of our tech teacher. His advice to the next D&T teacher is to "Enjoy it!" It can be remarkably busy but, in the end, it is extremely rewarding, and they should expect pressure from students who want to succeed. His impact on this school has been amazing and on all the students' lives. We will all miss Mr. Birch and his excellent teaching skills but hope he will enjoy his time after retiring just as much as we enjoyed his time working at our school.



Robinson Retirement

By Erin Ingham 8z

After 26 years of teaching at Caistor Grammar School, Mr Robinson has finally decided to put away his whiteboard pens and marking stamps and take open the next chapter by stepping into retirement. Between all of us students, we can definitely agree that he has helped to shape the school community massively with his enthusiastic work ethic and we have been truly lucky to have him! What makes Mr Robinson so interesting (aside from his smarts, dedication, good looks and overall teacherly charm) he is also the teacher of both geography and politics. When asked Mr Robinson couldn't decide which subject he preferred - I don't blame him either! He went on to mention how he loved teaching both subjects to students and how he also enjoys learning about them equally as much, a good teacher clearly knows that learning never ends. Although these subjects don't appear to be the optimum combination to the ordinary eye, it turns out they are intertwined in so many different ways! These include human geography which links in to politicians' choices and opinions (some more well informed than others) and the uproar for environmental change effecting major politicians' campaigns. Only our Robinson could've guessed that such contrary subjects could blend so well and make for such incredible teaching so naturally! When asked about his favourite memory during his time here, Mr Robinson was quick to reply. He told us how he loved sports day - especially when it took place on the school field! He remarked that the "havoc" and "chaos" never failed to cheer him up. As such a long standing member of staff, there is no opinion more well placed than his. "I especially loved sports day on the field because the track was never measured out quite right! Some years, it seemed that runners were breaking records with beyond exceptional times as the track was a few metres too short; other years, the most elite athletes raged as despite their training they were struggling to even come close to their personal bests- something that made me laugh as it became clear the real issue was that they were running extra metres."

But what will he do next? Going into retirement Mr Robinson excitedly gave us some exclusives on what his new life will look like and where we could find him. Mr Robinson told us how he would "like to focus on travelling" in the future and hopefully this new presence of time will allow him to go out to cycle more. "I'd like to try get my golf handicap under 8!", he added as his unmistakeable smile broadened across his face, I guess Mr Robinson's golf skills maybe aren't as perfected as his teaching ones just yet, but don't worry sir, you have plenty of time! Students were eager to tell us just how much we will miss him. One said "We are definitely going to miss him so much, but it's nice to know that he will be taking time to himself after spending so much on us". Another said "He always took time to make sure I knew what I was doing, he helped me so much!" Words from everyone that don't do justice to the appreciation we feel for such an amazing teacher! Mr Robinson finished off by saying, "He would miss his colleagues; especially how supportive they are." and thanked his students for being "A pleasure to teach.". We can assure you that Mr Robinson will be missed and CGS won't be quite the same without him!



Staff Changes

Farewell Miss Thomas

As the year ends, the music and drama departments are sad to lose such an incredible member of the arts family at CGS. Miss Thomas may only have been here for one school year, but her contributions to the school play, concerts and house events, not to mention the countless rehearsals leading up to these have been invaluable. Even so, she is moving on to bigger and better things. After having already secured a music degree before joining us, she now moves on to pursue her career in professional singing and performance. We know Miss Thomas as our lively music technician; however she is also a lover of singing- particularly Lana Del Rey, travel, and going to the gym. She bravely took on the role of music technician at the beginning of the school year and has broken into the school community perfectly given her knowledge of the school from old friends. While Miss Thomas was unable to give us a quote on her time at Caistor (though we are sure it would have been nothing but her signature positivity) we were able to interview Mrs Thompson despite her busy day so she could tell us just how invaluable Miss Thomas is to us. She made no hesitation in gushing, saying: ‘Miss Thomas is just fantastic. She has been brilliant teaching when I have been ill and even more helpful making music with us and preparing for the school play. She is a brilliant and wonderful part of the team and is incredibly experienced and well qualified. We have thoroughly enjoyed having her come to work with us as she is professional and sensible. I wish her every success for in the future and hope has fun with whatever job she chooses!’ Wise words from our head of music and a real insight into just how much Miss Thomas has really done for us! Another A-level music student was also quick to comment on Miss Thomas’s expertise stating “Miss Thomas has been such a big help to our class this year! We are all going to miss her so much and struggle to imagine life without her despite her being here for such a short period of time.” Behind the scenes Miss Thomas turns the cogs

on the music department and has been particularly helpful in the organisation of this year’s up and coming school play ‘Anything Goes’. She has done it all from organising audition scripts to emailing out to everyone looking to audition. It is clear that whoever choose to take on the role next year has big shoes to fill and makes us wonder what we will do without a technician as dedicated and passionate as her! We all clearly see that her future is bright and believe she will do the very best in whatever her future holds. As we give our final farewells to our amazing teacher, musician and friend we all wish her the best of luck!



Tech-ing Out

Millie Spalding 8z

Mr Hutson has worked as a technician for this school for 17 years and I think it’s safe to say we will all be sad to see him go. Heading on into retirement, Mr Hutson wishes to move onto big adventures with his newfound time as he plans to travel more in a motorhome exploring some of his favourite hobbies- like wind surfing, fulfilling dreams that even Caistor couldn’t fulfil. Despite being such an invaluable member of our community now, Mr Hutson has not always wanted to go into teaching alongside our tech department, going to show some of the best things in life happen by accident. Prior to this, Mr Hutson has worked many jobs such as being a tree surgeon, window cleaner and a brick layer. In another school, he even made the woodwind instruments and pianos for their music department- an impressive resume there Mr Hutson! He was first appointed here at Caistor as a groundskeeper and was recognised as an important resource by ex –teacher Mr Clamp. He was eager to step in when the school needed a technician. He tells us that Mr Clamp (his favourite teacher alongside Mr Donnington) trained him up before he left,

and the rest is history for our technician. He tells us he has ‘very much enjoyed my time here. The students here are well behaved, and the best part has been seeing new students arrive each year, as they present a challenge to me, and those who put effort in fill my heart with joy.’ Passionate words from a truly dedicated teacher. Now he gets to share his training with the next technician who is currently being shown the ropes and tells everyone to ‘look out because here she comes’- I guess we can be expecting great things from the future of Technology. We all wish Mr Hutson our best farewells as he has kept the DT block in ship shape while he has been here. Erin Ingham says ‘He was always happy to help out and loved to work through difficult tasks and problems we may face.’ Another student says, ‘he helped another kid when we were in year 7 to clear out his eye because it was filled with sawdust.’ However these words only scratch the surface of Mr Hutson’s true capabilities. We all have our own fond memories of Mr Hutson and as we wave him a final Caistor goodbye we truly wish him the best in all his future endeavours.



Senior Prefects

Alice Robertson 10y

The Spring is a time for new starts -new life- and who is better to do that than a new Senior Prefect Team. After the hustings and the tedious job of counting all the votes, the selection was agreed upon: Raneem Jaibaji (Head Girl), Henry Clark (Head Boy), Holly Bradbury, Emma Cowan, Sapphy Dunn and Kieran Green. After the hustings, each Year 12 student and staff votes for their ideal Senior Prefect Team. The final team are the decided after a set of interviews looked over by the Headteacher (Mr Hopkins), the Head of Sixth Form (Mr McTernan) and the Head of Year 12 (Mr Hay). When asked about it, Holly Bradbury commented that ‘It’s such an honour to become a part of the leadership of the school!’ Meeting weekly with Mr Hopkins, the Senior Prefect Team bridge the space between students and the staff, voicing any concerns, advocating the student voice and enforcing change. In former years, lockers, cashless payment systems and study periods for Sixth Form have been introduced. Even last year, a clothing donation scheme was set up in return that the uniform student years would have an anticipated non-uniform day. She also stated that there is a possible podcast on the drawing board in the future, which may involve the behind the scenes of how the school is run (how votes are organised, what is involved in meetings and the lead up to the Sixth Form Ball). Speaking of the Sixth Form Ball is something of a tale to the ones who have yet to attend, with previous years having magicians, fireworks and impromptu comedy acts, whether purposefully or not. Another Sixth Form (Emily Quill) said: ‘We’re so lucky to have such an enthusiastic and dedicated team to lead us this year. We’re definitely in safe hands!’

A Year 10 student stated, ‘I find the Senior Prefect Team to be beneficial to the communal feel and atmosphere at CGS.’ The main aim for the Senior Prefect Team is to motivate the students and get them involved with the extra-curricular activities they are setting up. Charity work is also a focus of them, with Caistor Food Bank and Children in Need being two of the major charities that they support (Children in Need having an annual non-uniform day and food donations being taken in every Wednesday for the food bank). Overall, the standards for the Senior Prefect Team have gone above and beyond in terms of efficiency and aspirations for what they want to achieve this academic year.



Henry Clark 12DW and Raneem Jibaji 12JK

House Plays

Win Deserved? Let’s Ayscough!

By Hana Ajaz 8Z

A grand throng of spectators had gathered in the town hall with a warm welcome to watch the 3 houses, Ayscough, Rawlinson and Hansard perform in an onslaught of determination. Our annual plays began with lots of prep from the sixth-formers, Mr. Harris, and Miss Thomas; they deserve the loudest cheer! Many of the audience found it ‘ground-breaking,’ and ‘they could feel the swift rush of excitement’. The real question was, who would be crowned the House Play Champions? Did you hear laughter? Then of course Hansard was performing. They had an imposing take on James Bond: Revenge of the RoboFelon. Their ostentatious costumes and jokes brought them out into the spotlight. Mr. Harris exclaims how he thought the ‘Bond-piece was so inventive and wonderful!’ Arriving with a crash from their cymbals, Rawlinson amazed the crowd with their live band. Pollyanna Paterson, a sixth-form organiser for Rawlinson, found the house plays to be ‘difficult but rewarding.’ She loved how the enthusiastic cast ‘seemed to bring their characters alive.’ Bradley Minall played none other than Mr. Hopkins, much to the surprise and laughter from our headmaster. It was the best joke yet; fit for a roaring crowd! With Ayscough as the finale, a surge of curiosity pummeled the crowd. They were up and running, performing Alice in Wonderland, adding a modern twist. Yes indeed, they took on the roles with a proud posture. Erin Ingham (Year 8) commented, “I found the roles to be fun and enjoyable; we performed it to our Caistor family. I’m really happy Ayscough won!” Afternoon plays were soon over. The evening performance was just as relaxed and smooth, as each actor performed their jokes and dialogue on point. It was ‘fun and enjoyable’ (according

to Mollie Grant who is in Year 8). Many had laughed at the jokes from Hansard, grooved to the music from Rawlinson and witnessed an amazing performance from Ayscough. Our wonderful judges, Cathy Bennett-Ryan and Debra West from Caxton plays awarded Ayscough 1st place, Hansard with 2nd and Rawlinson with 3rd. Mr. Harris overviewed that ‘it was great to see a fantastic comeback with a great standard of performance.’ He stated, “Ayscough had it all pulled together, and I personally loved School of Rock.” The day had indeed been exhausting and honestly quite anxious, yet all the 6th formers were (quite loudly) celebrating backstage at the end of the day. Every actor, 6th former and directors were cheering behind the scenes and at the end of the Ayscough celebrations, they were all dancing to Rick Roll as the perfect celebratory dance. All the actors walked off stage glowing with pride, eagerly expecting next year’s house plays.



Behind the Curtains...

By Erin Ravenscroft 9Y & Maya Smykowski 8Z

The crowds were growing, but behind the curtains, chaos ruled. Wednesday 16th March, the Caistor house plays competition commenced. You could feel the pressure as the most competitive house challenge was chasing the minutes away. The preparation began months before the performance was due, but after countless band rehearsals for Rawlinson, several dance lessons for Hugo Baugh and more costume changes for Tia and Yash than we can comprehend, they were ready. Auditions were held and the 6th formers were forced to make a decision. Rehearsals took place and lunchtimes were sacrificed yet time was still not on their side. Not only could the performers feel the stress but also the 6th formers who helped organise it. Pearl McCann, Year 12, said “We worked well as a group, I was incredibly lucky to have two amazing co-directors. We took equal responsibility and were very pro-active with our time. We were especially successful with organising props and costumes. It was a wonderful experience.” Hansard took on an original script, telling a brand new story. Jason Sedman, Year 13, and Harry Giles, Year 12, created a sequel starring our beloved hero James Bond with, “James Bond; Revenge of the Robo Felon”. During those rehearsals they used warmups and activities to get into the mood of acting, which everyone had enjoyed. Emily Quill said ‘we thought it was so important to not only direct a play, but teach the cast invaluable acting skills; we tried to get the cast to work as a team, so we worked well together under stress’. We asked Hugo Baugh, Year 8, who played the main role as James Bond, to spill the beans, he said “The play went well, I enjoyed my role, and it was a great experience working with everyone else. My favourite part were the dances and activities we did during rehearsals, which helped us to bond and make new friends.” Rawlinson performed first with a classic. Their interpretation of the well-known “School of rock” left the other houses in shock. They incorporated live music, which impressed the judges, although backstage they stressed about the instruments breaking or not working how

they wanted them to. It was certainly a big ask for our wonderful tech team, led proudly by Mr Robinson. A huge thanks goes out to them, without whom the plays would never go ahead. Rawlinson performers were determined to do their best but were also quite anxious as they weren’t sure of how it would go. Some members of Rawlinson would agree “that even though we lost, we tried our best and that’s what counts.” Rawlinson worked hard as they had rehearsals almost every lunchtime with all members going to ensure they did their best. Stella Deans, Year 9, stated that “Running under the stage to get to the other side was very funny as I would keep bumping into people and the walls.” This leaves Ayscough who took the win with their performance of “Alice in wonderland”. Amongst the crowd many would say that this was the best performance. Backstage everyone was having fun quietly and trying not to stress as much, they had plenty of practice and everyone learnt their lines excellently. Yash Vaddaram, Year 9, said that “Being in the play was very fun. My costume was rather unusual and the tights I wore were surprisingly comfortable, but the dress was quite annoying”. Some people said that making sure they had the props they needed at the right time was stressful, but they managed, and even if something had gone wrong everyone knew to improvise. The performers weren’t the only ones who enjoyed the plays, this year was a real crowd pleaser. Mrs Thompson stated “The house plays were a wonderful experience for everyone involved. It was a real showcase of our very talented students and showed a great deal of independence from our 6th formers who helped organise it all.” The other houses had backing tracks while Rawlinson had live music, and the tech team dealt with this challenge amazingly well. Beth Crowther, Year 10, expressed that “It was very hectic, especially with the prop’s backstage. It was hard work.” Needless to say, this year proved tough to judge, with such a high standard of talent on show, and casts full to the brim of enthusiastic students.



Events

Born to Re-wild!

By ELISE Chelotti 7Z

Gardening Club is famously run by some of our environmental enthusiastic teachers, Mrs Porter and Ms Nicolau. In the winter edition, they planted around 40 different plants, but have welcomed many other species since. The different plants that they have planted include foxgloves, poppies, salvia, ferns, violets, upside down daisies and daffodils

The rewilding area has been made by the club, located near Lindsey. The teachers and the members of the club have decided to put this addition to our school site because they think that it is important to make a home to our pollinators, like bees and butterflies, so they can continue serving the earth. The addition of a moth box and bug house has provided a haven for insects in the school, so that they can live in peace without all the fuss and the litter from the outside world. Over time they have seen many more bees and bugs near the rewilding area than anywhere else in the school. The overall goal is to attract all sorts of wildlife

and nature the school site.

The club has grown plants all around our school including around the middle court, down the stairs to Lindsey, the Judy Howitt Garden and near the picnic benches. In the winter, they worked with the site team to make Caistor Grammar School as eco-friendly and as scenic as possible. Other changes they would like to make in the future include filling the entire path to linsey with plants, flowers and shrubs to help the rewilding area, as well as filling up the Judy Howitt Garden with shade-friendly plants, although they are struggling to find some currently. Another big project that the club aims to achieve is to clean up the pond near O7 and sow different plants like reeds, in the hopes of attracting more frogs, as well as frogspawn, newts, damselflies and dragonflies.

Since the creation of Gardening Club and the rewilding area, the school looks much better overall. It is more colourful and eco-friendlier than it was before. Sixth formers, who before

had trapped themselves in the confines of Casterby, can now go outside and study the different variety of plants that we have here, using the wildlife as positive study fuel. When asked how she feels about Gardening Club, Mrs Porter expressed, “I love it. I spend lots of my spare time in my own back garden and so does Ms Nicolau. We really want to spread all our enthusiasm to the students at school. “ She sees that students also enjoy the club, as they like the planting and the watering, stating that “It’s that time of year when all the flowers start sprouting out of the ground, and that the students who planted them feel rewarded and happy that they have made that flower or plant grow.” It is not just a club for Year 7s, it’s a club for everybody and anybody to enjoy.

Many students that go to Gardening Club have stated that it is one of their favourite clubs. It makes them feel calm and contented, and they love the relaxing the time on a Friday spent doing something they love and being with their

friends. There is some immense joy in planting a bulb and watching it grow into a beautiful plant, looking after it from day one and helping to grow more plants because through pollination. In future years, many aspire to have a greenhouse in school again. This was knocked this down a couple of years ago and they hope to build another one to grow the schools’ vegetables for the canteen. This could include cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and even melons, which could help stop the amount of carbon emissions that come from the transportation of the fruits and vegetables used.

Overall, the gardening club is growing into a successful club that will change our school for the better. A request from Mrs Porter is that if you have any spare bulbs, seed, spades, rakes or any other equipment, they would love to have your donation to help create the school a more enjoyable place.



Spellbound Sevens

By TEJAS Prasad 7X

In the late afternoon of Thursday, 3rd February 2022, a group of young, aspiring witches and wizards from Year 7 left the muggle world behind for an exciting evening of magic with their friends.

Led by their esteemed professors, Mr Harris, Mr Cooke and Mrs Jago, the evening began with the Year 7s changing out of their non-magical attire and changing into their new Hogwarts uniforms. Unfortunately, Caistor Grammar School doesn’t have a sorting hat, so our sorting process involved choosing two coloured liquids, mixing them, and being sorted into the house with the same colour as the solution - Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff or Slytherin, as well as the visiting schools of Beauxbatons and Durmstrang.

We began the evening of magic with some secret messages. Mr Cooke asked us questions about the Wizarding World, and we were given the answer written in invisible ink. To figure them out we had to hold the sheets over Bunsen burners, making the ink visible, although we had to be cautious that we did not set the paper on fire, or the answers would be lost. After this, Mr Cooke demonstrated a great magic trick. By mixing water, washing up liquid and gas and then lighting it on fire, he created a towering fire, shocking all the students by holding it in his hand!

By now, everyone was ravenous, so we were led into the Old Hall, which had been decorated beautifully to look just like the Great Hall of Hogwarts. We sat with our houses to enjoy a feast of Chocolate Frogs and Every-Flavour Beans, accompanied with bottles of Polyjuice Potion, although nobody changed their appearances. Well, nobody that we know of...

To conclude the evening, we competed in a house quiz, led by Mrs Jago and the Y9 Literacy Leaders. Although the scores were extremely close all the way through, the Hogwarts Houses were beaten by their guests from France, Beauxbatons.

In an interview Mrs Jago, she said that the general idea of the evening is “to demonstrate the power of imagination and to remind new students how great it is to keep reading fiction.” She finds it lots of fun to host, and her favourite part of the evening is seeing students walk into the Old Hall, and to be shocked to see it decorated so wonderfully. The students’ favourite parts are usually the quiz or the fire demonstration. In terms of preparation: “It takes about 50 hours of total preparation time, and the planning is usually begun around October/November, even though the event is always hosted on the first Thursday of February. It is very fun and enjoyable to do.” The event has been hosted for the past 6 years, with the exception of one due to lockdown. The topic is Harry Potter because Mrs Jago feels like “it is a great example of modern literature. I also think that lots of students can relate to the stories and characters, and that there is a little bit of the characters in all of us.” For the future, she is considering a Percy Jackson evening, which will be open to all of KS3. If it will be anything like the Harry Potter evening, then it will be undoubtedly wonderful.



STEM Stars

By KEVIN Lin 8Z

On Tuesday 28th June, our team of 14 aspiring Year 8 students and 2 teachers set off to Bishop Grosseteste University in Lincoln, to compete against 4 other schools in the topic of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Once we arrived, we split off into 5 different groups. After a long and exciting day of challenges, 1 of our teams won the overall competition: Team A4, consisting of Kevin Lin (8Z), Austin Priestley (8Y) and Alona Francis (8Z), who will go to the finals in January/ February 2023.

First, we had the robotics challenge. This was a test perhaps for people who are not as good at programming, but otherwise it was quite fun as we programmed robots to act like rovers on Mars, making them stop at obstacles (marked with black tape) using a colour sensor. We also commanded the robots to respond with a sound when they reached a “place of interest”, marked with red and yellow tape. Next, we took part in the diagnostics challenge. This challenge was about diagnosing patients who had suffered an

accident or had underlying medical conditions. We analysed “urine samples” and looked at x-ray scans and brain scans to understand how they work, before successfully diagnosing a middle-aged man and an elderly woman with tuberculosis and diabetes respectfully, as well as learning about some cool medical facts, such as the fact that your brain is surrounded by fluid called cerebrospinal fluid and the machine that measures your heart pressure is called a sphygmomanometer (sfig-moh-ma-no-mi-ter). Lastly, the criminal analysis challenge saw us analyse how criminals effectively steal from people by distracting their victim with something else (such as dropping their keys in front of them) before stealing any valuables they have on themselves. We also looked at how difficult it is to remember what a thief looks like as an eyewitness after seeing them for a brief amount of time; we eventually made what we thought was an accurate representation of one of the teachers after watching a simulated crime using E-FIT software (software used by 90% of the UK’s police forces).

In an interview with Mr Donington, he said that it was “an engaging and informative day” for himself and Mrs Brown, as well as the students. He was “impressed by how they represented the school well” and the fact that they tried extremely hard in all the different challenges. When asked how he chose the students for the competition, he said that he and the other departments (Maths and Science) chose pupils that were “engaged in their subject and who were eager to go on this exciting trip” adding that it was a good opportunity for the 3 departments to work together. Finally, when we asked him if students would get the opportunity to participate again in the future, he said yes as it was “very successful and encouraging” for the pupils that went this year. Personally, I think that the day was a success and well-planned out, and that hopefully students currently in Year 6 and Year 7 will be able to take part in the coming years.



The winning team in action!

Caistor Fringe

On the Fringe of Greatness

By MILLIE Sedaghat 9Y and LUCY Chung 12SM



Edinburgh fringe is a large festival that is a yearly tradition in Scotland as it is such a bright and inclusive festival Mrs. McNeilly and Sapphy Dunn have decided to introduce the fringe to the school whilst having this year's theme as celebrating diversity. The fringe runs over three days of inclusive and fun activities for all which includes: live music- organised by pearl McCann, theatrical performances including poetry – organised by Lucy Chung- and classics plays- organised by Lilly bell and Kieran green

along with speeches and a day filled with everyone's culture when you can come dressed in a way that represents YOU. The Fringe was birthed from a conversation between Sapphy and Ms McNeilly concerning boasting the schools' talents for a good cause and raising money for charity. Dunn's hopes for the Fringe are that we will 'add to the expression of individuals. She believes, that in the light of recent political events many feel that the school is not doing enough. She hopes that this Arts and Culture

festival will demonstrate that the school cares and is doing its part to the best of its ability. Furthermore, that this will be an opportunity to educate people in an accessible way – through art. When asked how she would hope the momentum of the Fringe will be continued, Dunn said through decolonising the curriculum within our school, not necessarily just heading to the board of AQA. She also believes that the clubs such as the Diversity Book club are vital and need to run year to year. The boards

around school being organised by Ms Nicolau on gay history, and the art displays from the competition ran by Ms McNeilly, exist as reminders around the site that the school sees and cares about minority students. She emphasised, a 'big thankyou to everyone involved' and to remember that this is not her Fringe but Caistor Grammar's Fringe, organised by the students, for the students. The effort everyone has put in, across all year groups has been invigorating, and the excitement is palpable.

All the Bright Colours

By PAIGE Leahy-Dale 9Y

You may have seen new artwork around the school, close to the old building, that depicts a variety of gender, sexuality, culture, race, and disability. I spoke to an outstanding artist who is also a contestant for the art competition about these extraordinary pieces of artwork, which are a part of a competition where the students will vote on which artwork they believe is best I spoke to Hania Obaid (12SM) an amazing artist and a contender for the art competition they said "This competition for the Fringe was something new, and since the theme was diversity, it was really easy for me to pick a picture of my friends, because I have made friends from all over the place through this school. It's really great that this school is so diverse." On Tuesday 12th July and Wednesday 13th July, Mrs. Porter will be holding gay history activities in the art room at lunch time (12:10 - 1:00). In addition to showing off students' talent, the artwork displayed throughout the school also makes visitors feel welcome and accepted. By leaving this artwork

up after the fringe, the school will continue to demonstrate diversity, helping others to better understand equality and diversity. It demonstrates how effectively diversity can be represented in art. Art provides us with a framework to use our creativity to invent new ways to reach these audiences so putting this artwork around school is important as it gets the message across. Placing this artwork throughout the school is crucial because it conveys the idea that art serves as a platform to share stories, raise awareness, and celebrate various cultures. As summarised by Hugo Bought (8x) "I think fringe is important because it shows the school is committed to looking at diversity, and I'm looking forward to it because it embraces present and important themes to promote around school." I hope you all come along to admire the work of these talented artists, and appreciate the diverse approach we have taken in our school community.



The main theme of this painting is that your sexuality must NEVER allow others to define who you are.
- Halle Lince 7X



The main theme of this painting is that identity is not set in concrete form.
- Hebe Gabel 10Y



This piece of artwork is expressing that Black Lives Matter!
- Anonymous



This photo symbolises friendship and diversity.
- Hania Obaid 12SM



This photo celebrates diversity and a sense of community.
- Maggie Li 8X

Caistor Fringe

Classical Stuff!

By CHARLOTTE Davey 12SM

Roll up! Roll up! Come see Caistor Grammar school transform into an Ampitheatre, for the first time ever, to host three wonderful Classics plays, presented to you by some incredibly talented Y12 students. Caistor’s first ever Fringe festival will present to you three astonishing performances: Androcles and the Lion on Tuesday, Atalanta and Hippomenes on Wednesday, and Jason and the Argonauts on Thursday.

These plays have been rehearsed in every spare minute and are without a doubt worth seeing. Have you ever had the experience of watching a play in an Ampitheatre? I didn’t think so, so this is an opportunity you won’t want to miss. Our students have spent weeks on end not only practising these masterpieces, but also creating realistic costumes and props to enhance these performances. Bobby Kneale (Y12), a keen performer stated, “The audition process for the school production was something I never wanted to do, so I’ve been really enjoying this chance to act; it is not in front of too many people.” He then added “It’s really important because it is injecting a bit of life into Caistor Grammar, and it will be good to bring a lot of community spirit which is something Caistor Fringe is really good at doing.”

It is important that we recognise the importance of these Classics plays within the busy schedule of activities that Caistor Fringe has to offer, as they add value by providing classical entertainment and expressing a diverse range of themes, such as respect, gratitude and resilience. The selection of these



classical works of art was not just to reflect the talent that our sixth formers have to offer, but also with the aim to teach morality to the school community and stress the intention that Caistor Fringe will create a strong sense of diversity throughout CGS and highlight the always welcoming atmosphere around the site.

A special thank you must be credited to Sapphy Dunn, Kieran Green and Lilly Bell (Y12) for committing wholeheartedly to these productions as the lead organisers, making them even better than you can imagine, and also to Mrs McNeilly for giving up her time to help in every way possible with this exceptional entertainment. We must recognise that enormous amounts of effort and organisation are necessary to turn Middle Court into an Ampitheatre, so I strongly encourage you to make the most of this opportunity, the first ever at CGS.

Diverse Voices

By LUCY Chung 12SM

Since the genesis of the Caistor Fringe art and culture festival, I have been involved with the reading events. This encompasses several performances: BLM and LGBTQ+ readings on Tuesday the 12th of July; Hate speech performances on Wednesday the 13th; immigration readings on Thursday the 14th; alongside a My Story: Monologue by Grace Hutson. These performances are a combination of poetry, short stories and monologues – some of which have been written by students attending Caistor Grammar.

This part of the Fringe exists somewhat as a conclusion to a long year of diversity efforts made by the English department, and as an opening to another year of striving towards inclusion. The aim of these readings is compassion and laying the foundations of understanding on which an even more caring environment can be formed. Many of the performances are extremely sensitive and raw and this open communication about discrimination, and the things that are considered such, are important for all to hear.

Charlotte Davey and I have been working in conjunction to organise these events. As the Mental Elf, Davey has been sifting through short stories sent in by students under the theme of resilience – a rather apt addition to the subject matter of diversity.



Alongside this, I have been running the Year 10 Diversity Book Club, where we have been analysing poetry and prose by diverse authors. I started this group with the intention of showing that English goes beyond the curriculum and that not all authors are straight white men. Many of the readers involved have come from this group, and it is exciting to see how this project has evolved.

I cannot encourage enough that you attend these performances. The work that the readers, and the writers of these pieces have put in is phenomenal and well worth turning up for. The Fringe is a demonstration of the multiformity our school has to offer, the talent and care, that our school has to offer. If you have ever felt like an alien or an outcast, then this festival is here to shout back from the abyss that you’re not as alone in that as you think.

Tugging at Your Heart Strings

By MILLIE Sedaghat 9Y



Pearl McCann, along with Pearl running all the other musical production throughout the ongoing week. A number of well-rehearsed yet complicated string pieces will be played, for the enjoyment of both students and staff on site during this lunchtime. These performances would simply not be possible without the help of these two wonderful musicians. Additionally, we are thankful for the amazing co-operation of performers and soloists, as they will be able to leave a long memory of wonderful music and talent for the first ever Fringe Festival at Caistor Grammar School. It

Within the coming week the Fringe festival will start. The festival is going to be filled with days of music and art for the musical part there is going to be group of musical theatre performances on Tuesday, a wonderful demonstration of the string instruments on Wednesday, and on Thursday many brilliant and talented solo artists will take to the picnic benches and sing their hearts out as the final musical performances. All the musical performances will be at the picnic benches over the course of lunch on Tuesday the 12th, Wednesday the 13th and Thursday the 14th of July. The music played will be a representation of diversity and equality and a be wonderful range of pitch tone and harmony.

On Tuesday 12th there are a number of musical theatre pieces, in which students of all ages will be performing during their lunchtime. It is safe to say that these will be incredible, and that you will most definitely hear some incredibly talented musicians. Wednesday the 13th is the strings performance of which is run by Sue Baker and assistance of

should definitely be an event on your calendar; it represents each and every student in the school and how we are all unique, whether it is the way we sing, act or talk. You may just find out it is something that you love and if all goes according to plan you could be one of the talented musicians performing for us next year. The Fringe music events are something looked forward to by all, and as exclaimed by Harry Giles (Y12) “The process of the Fringe has been enjoyable, and I cannot wait to show the school what we have been working on.” This just highlights how we are all ridiculously excited to see the performers and how much effort has been put into the musical theatre production on Wednesday. This is an opportunity you shouldn’t miss, because it is not only a showcase of the wonderfully talented musicians, we have here at Caistor Grammar School, but also a representation of how music can affect our lives, creating a more diverse society and an unmissable atmosphere.



Editorials

Joe Biden Fever Dream

By Harry Giles 12FC

I stare blankly at my liquid crystal display and smear upwards with my thumb. My arm sways raised and once my eyelids droop closed with the weight of a Monday, I am rudely awakened by the same phone I just swore to put down by gentler means dropping on my head. A snarl imprints on my face along with the red mark on my forehead, and I look down to see 46th U.S. President Joe Biden smiling back at me in the borders of an Instagram post. Never have I found such a moment so confusing. Oddly soothed by Biden’s image, that I would usually be ready to critique on sight of his swooped fair hair – reminiscent of no predecessor in particular—this provoked me. How do we see people in places of power as relatable? Elon Musk goes on a podcast and suddenly he is the hero of any teenager with internet access. If we ignore the benefits he reaps from child cobalt miners, our friend Elon is very amiable. Social media can turn politicians into celebrities *and allows celebrities to voice their politics, may I remind you of Kanye West’s presidential campaign.* Joe Biden has recovered from Trump’s ‘sleepy Joe’ insult, as he kept me very much awake that night. His recent tweet showed the power of media platforms to push familiarity. “Bring down the price you are charging at the pump to reflect the cost you’re paying for the product. And do it now.” Touching words but only words on a screen rather than *Presidential* action. It was only last year that Trump tweeted “I am asking for everyone at the U.S. Capitol to remain peaceful. No violence!” As lovely as it is to hear the voices of those in power saying the right things, if we put our thinking hats on, social media is a frighteningly powerful tool to appear virtuous without action.

Still heavy, sunk into my mattress, so close to slumber, I push valiantly on to watch videos of

silly stories on TikTok. Enticed by a video I check the comments in order to feel proud that other people’s opinions are the same as mine. There instead, I see the big company names. Someone in Ryan Air’s P.R. team somewhere writes quips to appeal to us for our trust. conglomerates are trying to become family friends. At no time is this more the case than during Pride month. It is very difficult to measure the sincerity of companies like Raytheon, who fuel war in over 80 countries, when they express support for the LGBTQ+ community by changing their online image. In an age where equal rights become a commercial holiday because franchises are commodifying representation, it is sadly necessary that brands build a personality. Then I wake up.

It is Tuesday, I must write a self- referential article.



Harry looking cool

Top Banana!

By Amicia Harris 12DW

The recent rise of #Gentleminions flocking to movie theatres in suits to watch Minions: The Rise of Gru has seen cinema take on a whole new form, reviving again in a post-COVID dystopia that has dismantled the film empire of times before. However, has this cinema revolution gone too far? Viral videos on TikTok depict teens in suits storming theatres in their dozens, roaring with applause at the end of the movie, to the obvious disdain of other cinema-goers: this disruption has lead some cinemas to enforce dress codes and ban people in suits from watching the film. Spontaneous trends have quickly risen with the impact of the popular video sharing app, such as the popularity of Binley Mega Chippy and memes of musician Drake, which has arguably given the new sequel more media coverage and promotion than any other film has ever seen, so yes, this could be the nectar to the quickly failing sector of the entertainment industry, transcending film and making Minions a cultural monument. The last Despicable Me film (the 3rd of the franchise) was released five years ago, so children who watched it at the time now find themselves in the brave new world of teenagehood, ironically attaching to a movie that undoubtedly floods them with nostalgia. This is hardly an excuse for the rowdy behaviour that took place over the movie’s opening weekend, while cinemas have reported giving out thousands of pounds worth of refunds to non-Gentleminions, with complaints of teens throwing objects at screens and strolling around buildings jabbering constantly in minion-jargon. Despite this sort of behaviour giving The Rise of Gru the biggest 4th of July opening weekend of all time, raking in a whopping \$219 million in its opening weekend, it could

simultaneously be driving away new cinema-goers and children who may want to feel the same nostalgia in the future, validating much of the criticism towards the #Gentleminions trend.

All this being said, should cinemas embrace the movement, allowing or even encouraging this sort of full on emersion into a specific film franchise, or instead reject it, turning away millions of potential dollars as they have begun to do? I cannot speak on this, but one thing is for sure... if this is the future of cinema, we are certainly in for a bumpy ride.



Amicia looking ace

Stopping sexism

By Amelia Beard 7z

As prices are rapidly climbing, the average woman is suffering more than the average man due to lack of gender pay equality. According to Full Fact, men earn 9.1% more money than women on average and inflation doesn’t seem to be a big problem for them. This issue needs to be fixed before things get even worse. Many women in law (around 84%) believe that real change will not occur in their working life and that it will be the next generation who will experience equality. This is a lot of people who have given up! A lot of people who have fought for change and never found it! A lot of people who think it will not happen for them! Therefore, things need to change. A reliable source (Next 100 Years) tells us that we are still 86 years away from true change. One of the reasons for this slow improvement is the fact that 62% of professionals think that it is not a priority and doesn’t matter as much as other things. In today’s society, equality has improved massively because people who are different can be themselves without being scared. Although sometimes there is still discrimination in some places and this needs to stop.

Women aren’t only suffering with money but with other things too. The image in some people’s minds is that women are weak and need a man to help them, but this isn’t the case. Women aren’t all like this and most of them can be very strong and independent. Thinking that all women are the same is where sexism starts and expecting all women to be weak, is not good. Nobody is the same so categorising them into one group is basically saying that they are. Even when people try not to be sexist because they aren’t doing anything, they still let it continue.

In job interviews, some questions and statements have been banned due to sexism. For example, “Would you be willing to flirt with customers to close a sale?”. Although the

law is preventing it, it can’t help people’s outlooks. Also, a study published by Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found both male and female managers are more likely to hire a man over a woman even when the candidates have similar skill sets which is unbelievable! This isn’t just aimless prejudice. This could possibly ruin someone’s life.

Before I end my subject, there is just one more thing that needs to be said on this subject. In a perfect world nobody would be discriminative, and everybody would be fair but sadly this isn’t a perfect world and we can’t help that. But there is one thing we can do. Whatever we can. We can treat everyone equally and never judge a book by its cover. This is the next step towards a perfect world.



Amelia looking cheerful

The Elephant in the Room

By Jonathan Omonbude 12JK

On the 9th of June in Raipal village in the east of Idea, 70-year-old Maya Murmu was completing her daily routine by collecting water by the riverbanks. Little did she know that a six foot eleven, 5-ton Indian elephant, was maliciously waiting to jump out of nowhere and trample her to death on that Thursday morning. And malicious this elephant was, as the escaped female from Dalma Wildlife sanctuary, refused to even let Maya rest in peace for one night. The elephant in fact travelled over 100 miles to generously attend Maya’s funeral, before flinging her from her funeral pyre, trampling her again, and disappearing into the night. The almost unbelievable story of the capricious elephant and its unquenchable thirst for violence and disrespect, immediately started to gain traction on social media the week after, especially on TikTok, with thousands of people posting videos making fun of and satirising the incident. This course of events is heavily reflective of the society we live in, especially on the internet.

The constant influx of information, and in particular bad news, that we have at our fingertips has spread people to two polarising sides of the spectrum of caring a great deal about many issues and events, or caring little about any. Simultaneously, America is at its most divided point since its civil war, with a shopping lists worth of keystone issues, whilst people are making memes about an old lady being trampled by an elephant; twice. It is thus important to take a moment to reflect on whether this frame of thinking is healthy and if it should continue to be normalised. Becoming desensitised to the sad things that happen in the world is undoubtedly sad and slightly problematic, not just in ensuring adequate sympathies for the people and families involved in the incidents, but also in just maintaining a level of empathy in general as human beings. Just imagine, experiencing

the death of a beloved family member, then witnessing violated and trampled again at their own funeral, then opening your phone just to see people online mocking the whole event; it would be demoralising. However, bad and sad news will never truly stop. The internet provides a forum for this bad news to be spread constantly and for us as people to be constantly exposed to this bad news. The absence of humour and comedy completely in these situations would probably leave us with a very depressing reality and outlook on life. Like all things, balance seems to be the answer to this topical issue. Comedy as a tool for coping with bad news is surprisingly effective, and implore anyone to find humour in a bad situation they might be in. However, it is important to never forget the real problems that might be unfolding and implications of a joke they may tell.



Jonathan looking dapper

Trips

Year 7 Trips– Shakespeare and Insects

By Lydia Middleton 7z & Susanna Squire 7z

During the morning of the sixteenth of June, the entirety of our Year 7 classes travelled by bus to watch Shakespeare’s Midsummer’s Night’s Dream performance at the Louth Riverhead Theatre. Many of the Year 7 particularly enjoyed the modern twist; certain characters used headphones, iPods, and phones. This would have been completely unthinkable when the play was written; it was more relatable and easier to imagine, as if it were set in a more modern time. Suzi Squire (7z) “my favourite element to the play was the ‘Modern twist’ because it was smart and engaging”. The music in between the scenes was an interesting choice, and made people laugh, especially when the actors danced to the songs as well. The play was well performed and made us laugh a lot as Maximus (7x) said, “The few scenes with Titiana and Bottom, with the donkey head, were my favourite because it was extremely

humorous, which demonstrated Shakespeare’s capacity, and how well he wrote and mixed different genres”. Personally, my favourite moment in the play was when Bottom was acting, the play within the play at the end. This was my favourite moment because the way he flailed his arms around, he lit up the whole room with laughter, and it was the most expressive scene. We went with the English department, and we interviewed Mr. Davey about it and here’s what he had to say- “overall, the play had a fair balance of comedy and seriousness, it was well staged for kids, and I found it very entertaining... My favourite character outside of the performance is Bottom because it makes fun of arrogant and big-headed people in a fun way, while also giving a good character. But Lysander in the play did an exceptionally decent job, and performed the role well, capturing his character, as needed”. Overall, it was an enjoyable time for all of us Year 7’s.

On the 14th-15th June 2022, Year 7 took a trip to Whisby Nature Park in Lincolnshire. 7x and 7Y went on Tuesday the 14th of June as a group, while 7Z went on Wednesday 15th June. We did lots of exciting activities that we all thoroughly enjoyed. Together we went Pond-Dipping which was a particular favourite of ours. When we did Pond-Dipping, we used fabric nets to catch water bugs. Sadly, we did not find many fish, as they were further in the lake than we could reach. Grace Hutson, 7Y, said “The Pond-Dipping was good because it was fun to find all the creatures.”. After that, we did Bug-Catching and Creature-Analysis, and the activities were completed in teams of five or six. Then we went back inside to the lab to classify the creatures we found. There were lots of interesting catches, such as Duck Leeches, Great-Water-Boatmans, Pond Snails, Ramshorn Snails, and lots more. We ate our lunch on a circle of logs, which had a pleasant view of the lake. We enjoyed

spending time during our lunch break exploring around the area and chatting with our friends. It was a nice break, but we wanted to carry on. Maximus Sedaghat, 7X, told us that his form started the day by learning about the subcategories of insects, and then did the Bug-catching activity. Sadly, the group found no water scorpions, which disappointed Max as this is what he had been looking out for. Elisha Turner, 7Z, told us “I really enjoyed the Pond Dipping activity because we found some really interesting species and it was quite satisfying to classify them”. Overall, the best activity was clearly the Pond Dipping, since the majority of students said they enjoyed this activity the most. It was an amazing opportunity to learn lots of new things and find lots more information about the creatures that live there. We would love to go again and see if we could find more creatures and properly explore everywhere Whisby has to offer.



Strawberries and Fallon

By Hebe Gabel 10y

On Monday morning Caistor’ wonderful yr10s and yr12s set of to London to arrive at Wimbledon. It was a beautiful sunny day, and everyone was awestruck with the electric atmosphere. They were tired but, they were ready and keen to learn and watch some outstanding feats of sport. Miss Buck, Mrs Ellerby and Mr Moloney took the lucky students on Monday morning, and they arrived at 10:30, however they had to get up early as the coach left Caistor at 4:30! The long coach journey wasn’t an issue as many were brimming with excitement for the day ahead. Throughout the day, they had traditional strawberries and clotted cream, with the exciting game ahead. They were on court two and spectated the exciting game between Cristian Garin (Chile), versus, Alex de Minaur (Australia), the game was extremely close, but Garin eventually won after a 5-hour match. Garin, became the fourth Chilean man to reach a Wimbledon quarter final. At the match, Garin quoted “Ive Been Working hard all my life to be in this position and its dream for me to be here at Wimbledon” Ayla Jafri, a year 10 tennis enthusiast, said “The Atmosphere was absolutely amazing” and “it

was the best experience ever”. After the first game, they went to the Henmas Hill to watch the centre court game, Nadal won! Some lucky students even met him! And, most excitingly, students got the incredible opportunity to meet Jimmy Fallon, who hosts the famous American tv show “The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon’, in which hundreds of celebrities have been on such as Michelle Obama, Kim Kardashian, and Will Smith. This one in a lifetime event left the students feeling overwhelmed with excitement. So, a few of our students could not resist grabbing a quick picture with him. After a quiet night in the premier inn, they then did a stadium tour of Tottenham, a multiuse destination for football, rugby and concert. They had a ground-breaking tour of the football club and saw the trophies of this historical arena. One student even reported her excitement when finding out that guns and roses had played there. The all walked round taking pictures of the stadium and shared their excitement to social media. After a long journey back, all felt tired but thrilled with the exciting trip that was absolutely sure to leave them with a lot of memories and pictures.

Year 9– Outdoor Pursuits

By Hebe Gabel 10y & Susanna Squire 7z

The outdoor pursuits trip was an exciting adventure for the Year 9s, they arrived at school early in the morning, with a suspended three-hour coach journey, with lots of singing! It took place in Hollowford, Castleton. A walk to Hollow fords centre is where our Year 9s met their instructors. They had an long and exciting weekend of hiking up hills, orienteering, each of these benefitting team building, making bonds and trust. A weekend packed full of activities such as abseiling, raft buildings ad ziplining, all in their designated groups. Teachers and supervisors never saw students without a smile or laugh. Caving seemed to be a popular activity among year 9s. They all greatly enjoyed the range of food, such as the delicious ice-cream that they all ate gleefully. The students had a wonderful opportunity to build bonds between their peers and enjoy challenges and make memories they will never forget. The facilities were amazing, with a game room, movie room, table tennis, air hockey and plenty of places to enjoy time with friends. At the end of the weekend, there was a general knowledge quiz for the teams . Students enjoyed activities where they got to work as a team, one saying, “It helped us focus

and we did better than when we were doing individual things”. When doing the Weaselling activity (crawling through very small spaces in rocks), one member of a team got stuck in one of the smaller spaces. The other team members had to talk them through exactly what to do to get round the corner and out of the crevice. This is only one example of the many signs of great teamwork from Year 9. The instructors were useful because they “Encouraged people to have a go, but they weren’t too pushy” (Stella Dean, 9Y) which meant that everyone had a great time as they were comfortable but pushed farther than they thought. A lot of great lessons were taught, which included leadership and listening to each other to get a task done. It was a really valuable trip for them all and on they are going remember for a while. It seems like it was an amazing trip for the Year 9s, they had fun joining in as a team and spending their weekend outdoors having fun. The weekend was well enjoyed and lots of year 9s would really love the chance to go again in the future. And we are sure that future years will love as much as they did!



Trips

A Humid Trip

By ALFIE Smith 10Z

Beginning way back in October, a selection of Year 10 students began their Bronze DofE journey. This entails completing four sections in six months, a physical section, a skill section, a volunteering section and an expedition where they work on a chosen aim. In these six months, students attended weekly sessions where they learnt the skills required to undertake their expedition, such as map reading, campcraft and equipment organisation. After a few months of these sessions, the students finally embarked on their practise expedition on the 14th of May where they would learn vital lessons, ready for their assessed expedition. The weather was extremely hot with almost no wind which made this a struggle, however the students pushed through to the campsite. Although being extremely warm, there were heavy showers in the morning, creating a difficult environment to take down tents and starting the day off with a poor mood making it more mentally challenging

throughout the day. Despite the fact some groups got lost, everyone eventually made it to their destination safely. Between this and their final expedition, the students reflected on the mistakes they made on their practise and rethought what was essential, practicing skills that they struggled with. Taking to the Wolds once again on the 11th of June, students took part in the assessed expedition they had been training for. On this expedition the students were much more prepared and knew what was needed for it to be successful, this created a much happier environment overall. The weather once again was hot, but no heavy rain this time, only light showers in the evening. All groups passed and gathered lots of information for their aim. Once the expeditions were finished, groups had a couple of weeks to produce a presentation on their aim and present it to Miss Dodsworth and the rest of the groups, they then received feedback on their presentations for future reference.



Take Cover

By ALFIE Smith 10Z

Also beginning in October, a selection of Year 12 students began their Gold DofE. This involves completing five sections, a physical activity to encourage fitness needed for the final expedition, developing a new skill, volunteering, a residential team activity and an expedition where they walk for 5 days, focusing on their aim. The residential section of the award is left for the participants themselves to organise, this could be many things as long as they stay for 5 days and sleep 4 nights. The aim of this is to meet new people and use teamwork to create new bonds. Two sections take six months each and one takes twelve months if they have done silver, or sixteen months if they skipped straight to the gold award. Those doing Gold also attended weekly meetings and revised the skills they had already had whilst diving into more detail. Once again after a few months they embarked on their practice expedition in

the Peak District, from the 20th to the 24th of April, climbing two major mountains, Jacob’s Ladder and Kinder Scout. The conditions were harsh, there were blazing temperatures and strong winds, resulting in purple team having to take cover in a storm shelter. One group got lost early on, lowering morale and giving them a difficult time, however they still managed to learn useful skills, especially on how to effectively use a compass and what food would be better not to take next time. Despite the setbacks both groups made it, all be it three hours late to the campsite. The groups are yet to do their assessed expeditions, but we wish them all good luck and hope the experience is much easier this time around. Both groups struggled however are very proud of themselves, Emily Barton 12FC said, “It was challenging at times, but we all had fun at the end!”



Sun, Sand, and Seals

By MAEVE Carey 12SM

At the end of February 2022, the Year 12 A-level geography students went on a field work trip to the beautiful rural area of Cranedale. The trip was intended to enhance the Year 12s field work skills, in gathering primary data and manipulating the data they uncovered. They spent 2 days at the facility and travelled to places like Skipsea, Hornsea, Flamborough and Mappleton on the nearby coast. They looked at beach and cliff erosion and deposition as well as coastal defences and management, they got to look at sea defences such as sea walls, groynes and extra drainage; as well as this they looked at why these defences were needed by looking at the developed area of Mapleton. Year 12s commented on how nice the facilities were especially in the food they provided them at breakfast, lunch and dinner (with pudding). Kieran Sharpe, who Mr Kay calls a ‘competent geographer’, described it as “a good experience to learn new skills while bonding and making friendships with people I’d never talked to in our year”. One of the geography students that went on the trip said how much more knowledgeable they are when writing their planned methodology, and they feel much more confident now they have to do their own independent collection and analysis of data. Although the weather was bracing to say the least, it added character to the trip and helped the year 12s to appreciate the conditions that geographers often have to work in. Despite all of this, for year 12 students, the highlight of the trip was the rogue seal at Hornsea, who they all described as “very cute”.



New Business

Young Enterprise Excitement

Poppy Mascull 10Z

Young Enterprise is a national charity that works with young people, teachers, influencers and volunteers to ensure a sustainable future for all young people. The company's aim is to reduce youth unemployment and to support young people in understanding their external potential, aside from education; Young Enterprise want this generation to live their life to the fullest through learning and having opportunities to come together that they might not have had before. Regarding Caistor Grammar School, a group of Year 12 students worked together to support this charity and everything it has to offer by forming Terra Vitrum. The students involved created terrariums, which are glass containers incorporating wildlife; they then sold them to raise money for charity in a number of places. The first venue for selling the terrariums was at the Freeman Street market, and then at Caistor marketplace too. The team even sold terrariums as Valentine's Day presents! On Saturday 5th March, they continued to sell their products, but this time at an even further site, St Stephens in Hull. Fundraisers were set up to raise money for Young Enterprise too. On Wednesday 6th October, the group held an event full of fun activities in the Old Hall; you could play Mario Kart on the Nintendo Switch, guess how many sweets are in the jar, guess the name of the teddy, participate in a cup toss, do a general knowledge quiz or try your luck at the raffle! On Wednesday 10th to the 24th November, there was a PS5 FIFA 22 tournament. People from a range of year groups participated and had lots of fun playing the famous football game, whilst the money raised goes towards a good cause. The business has helped this team and external students come together and the group

made it to regionals. Even though they didn't quite make it to nationals, Terra Vitrum managed to win the Best Company Award and the award for Best Customer Service! This is an incredible achievement and has given so many people wonderful opportunities to get involved and support Caistor Grammar School's projects. Their Marketing Director once stated, 'With every great business comes humble beginnings', which was an inspiring statement to the associates of Terra Vitrum. The staff members and students are unbelievably proud of the group's hard work, and we hope to see some more terrariums being sold in the future! Anahita, a member of Terra Vitrum, was interviewed about her experience. She states she felt 'a lot of excitement' when she first started attending Terra Vitrum. There were a number of opportunities, including meeting new people, learning how to run a business, regardless of the fact young people don't often have that prospect. Moreover, the team gained knowledge about budgeting and had a fun time throughout this process. Anahita found working with a new group of people 'daunting' but it was a very 'welcoming' environment as she got to explain the product to customers who weren't intending on buying one, and then sometimes they would buy 3 or even 4 of the products after speaking to them. No wonder this group won the Best Customer Service Award! Anahita claims she would definitely do this again because you can do pretty much anything, and it was very a very beneficial and also sociable experience. Caistor Grammar School hopes to hear from the Terra Vitrum team soon! If you wish to get in touch or see their social medias, Terra Vitrum are on Instagram and TikTok, (@terravitrum.ye).



Caistor Construction

Poppy Mascull 10Z

Caistor Grammar School will soon be introducing a new building, Grove House! For years, the school has used the portacabin buildings, (P1, P2 & P3) as classrooms for the students. They were used for geography, history & Latin lessons, but over this timespan the buildings slowly began to weaken, and the school was adamant to make a positive change for the students and teachers. Improving Caistor Grammar School's layout would create an encouraging learning environment and benefit everyone. Therefore, the staff embarked on a change for the better, introducing the new building! The funding for the new building originated from a bidding from the government, where you have to apply for money regarding individual projects. In total, the school received a grant of £1 million from the CIF (Condition Improvement Fund). Our local MP, Edward Leigh, even raised questions in the House of Commons about the funding. Mr Hopkins, the headmaster, states that he thinks the new improvements to the school are, "brilliant" and that it was a long time coming. Caistor Grammar School has three courts, (top court, middle court and bottom court), which have a rotor for the students to play ball games, socialise there and much more. Unfortunately, the new building had to replace bottom court so it could be installed. However, it offers many opportunities for students, including becoming a modern languages block. Therefore, the Manning building will cater for geography and history lessons. This school teaches three languages, which are French, German and Latin. With the installation of the new block, students will be able to learn the history of the ancient world, its civilisations, its language, alongside French and German culture. As well as the new language building, Caistor Grammar School's funding was also responsible for replacing the roof of the gym and the Manning building, incorporating new,



cleaner skylights to the ceiling & obviously demolition of the portacabins. The construction of the new building began mid-May/ in the Easter holidays and should hopefully be finished by the last week of the summer term, ready for new modern languages classes. The block will be named 'Grove House', after a previous building that replaced P2 a long time ago. Staff and students are excited for Caistor Grammar School and hope to see many more improvements in the future.



backofthenet

THE SPORTS SECTION OF CAISTOR FOCUS | SUMMER 2022

Rawlinson’s race to victory



By ANNA Miroshnikova 8Z

Another year of records demolished and a roaring success amongst the houses as this years sports day occurred on the 17th of June 2022. With this event being taken away from us for two years, for many, this was their first real sport’s day, and they were without a doubt prepared to win. The weather shone down on the track and reflected the student’s performance as Elizabeth Lingard (Year 7) broke through the finish line on the first event of the day, the 100m with an unmatched time of 13.25s, breaking a record set in 1997. This really set the standard for the day and excitement rose for the students and teachers. Drums banged whilst hands clapped for the participants that passed by the stands. House spirit was evident as faces, and legs, covered in yellow, blue and green stood right

near the barrier, cheering on their peers to increase the chance of taking that house cup. Numbing legs and faces red like the track didn’t stop the runners who could hear the booming cries from the crowd pleading them to run a little faster. Many of the days races were neck on neck battles; however, this wasn’t the case for Mollie Grant (Year 8) who took the lead from the start and finished with an unprecedented time of 5:30.19s for the 1500m, beating the 2008 record by 12 seconds. We asked Mollie, “How did you feel when they read that you broke a school record?” She answered, “It was so unexpected when people started complimenting me but when I realised it, the atmosphere was great. My teammates definitely helped me when they applauded for me.” Although Rawlinson came out on top, each

house too took their individual wins. Hansard found themselves in a strong position as Alice Fearn (Year 10) took the starting position of the 800m and 1500m. Following her victories from earlier this year in the cross-country County Championships, the Superzone athletics competition and her success in the London Marathon she made 2 school records that cover the 800m with a time of 2:24.78 and the 1500m with a time of 4:53.75s, both of which hadn’t been broken in over a decade. Our school community can entirely agree that this day is one of the most adrenaline-driven and entertaining annual events we do, and the support and encouragement of Year 12 students further added to the days atmosphere. Thanks goes to all the staff that made this possible, and we can’t wait for more of the same next year.

Superzone Success

By ANNA Miroshnikova 8Z

Superzone comes upon us once again and as always, our students did not disappoint. Gold medals hung round some very happy pupils’ necks walking back into school. Samuel Krofchak (Year 7) in particular won 3 gold medals in the 4x100 relay, long jump and high jump in which he broke a record with a massive 1.40 metre jump. His peers cheered him on and were so excited when he managed to score a great win during the relay. Our two Year 7 1200 metres athletes, Matilda Waterhouse and Ryan Hailstone, both achieved gold in their events, and Matilda even went two for two, winning the 800 metres race aswell. A third gold medal also came her way later in the day when the Year 7 girls team also won the 4x100 relay, which pushed our team into an even better position in

the competition. A big win for the Lingard family as both Elizabeth Lingard (Year 7) and Beatrice Lingard (Year 9) brought home gold in the 200m sprint. Another success story is that of our fabulous Alice Fearn, who achieved a Superzone record time in the 800 metres and 1500 metres. Many of our Year 7’s and 8’s brought back multiple golds and made our school very proud. One of our students felt “on top of the world” when they succeeded to cross the finish line first. The positive environment that filled the stadium caused many a victory for our competitors, leading to Caistor Grammar School eventually winning the competition, defeating 7 other schools. We can’t wait to return next year to smash more records and hopefully bring back more medals and records.



Caistor conquer the county cup

By GRACE Hutson 7Y

On the 27th April, 15 ready and raring boys from years 10 and 11 went to Sleaford to play in the county cup final against Bourne Grammar School. There dream of beating Bourne came true as our CGS team came away as champions. The final whistle gave CGS victory, as we won the match 3-1. The first goal for CGS was in the 37th minute and was a free kick goal taken by Lucas Dawson (Year 10) from 25 yards away. Just 20 minutes later CGS struck again, as the 57th minute saw a goal from Rhys Smaller, in his first touch of the goal after coming onto the pitch. At this stage in the match, the CGS boys were on fire with our third goal coming this time from Charlie Nickells who scored a tap in which had been set up for him by Ethan Holmes-barber. In a game which the boys and Mr Moloney will struggle to forget, things were getting tense as Bourne shoot and score in the 76th minute. After Bourne’s impressive shot, spirits did not waver and it only made our CGS team more determined than ever to come out on top. Following the goal from Bourne the CGS team continued to fight to make their dream of winning a reality and did not let the goal from Bourne stand in their way. At the end of the game the players player was named as Charlie Nickells after his fabulous goal in the 65’ minute and an impressive performance throughout. Each one of our team gave their best possible performance, though Mr Shutes would like to congratulate in particular our three Year 10 goal scorers, calling their goals ‘an impressive achievement in an U16 competition.’ After the outstanding success Mr Moloney was extremely proud of the students, and is glad their hours of training meant Caistor Grammar School could win the title of county champions for the first time in many years.

