

BECCLES

news at ten

The 6 C's

- > Challenge
- > Community
- > Co-operation
- > Commitment
- > Confidence
- > Celebration

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





BECCLES
FREE SCHOOL

www.becclesfreeschool.org.uk
Castle Hill, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7BQ

Forthcoming events

10 December
Parents' Open Forum

11 December
'Lightening Chess' Event

16 December
School Christmas Lunch

17 December
Y11 Tutor Evening
4.15pm-6.15pm

18 December
PCP2/Year 8 Reports to Parents

19 December
Enrichment Day / End of Term
(Christmas Holidays
commence)

5 & 6 January
Professional Development Days

7 January
Start of Lent Term - Students
return to school

13 January
Friends of Beccles Meeting in
school at 7pm – 8.30pm

*Wishing everybody a
very Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year*

news at ten



John Lucas, Headteacher

It is a busy end to our term at Beccles Free School. Students have taken part in visits to present their ideas on Lowestoft Regeneration Project. They did wonderfully well and were complimented on their confidence as

well as their ideas. I would also like to thank Mr Crowfoot on his leadership of our Remembrance activities. Our students acted with the dignity that the occasion deserved, as we knew they would. It was tremendous to see.

On 18 November 2014 we held a post 16 event at which many local providers were present. Years 10 and 11 spent the afternoon talking to providers and then all Key Stage 3 students and parents were invited to visit if they wished. I have received lovely comments from providers who observed that our students were polite, confident and well informed. As ever they did themselves proud and thanks to Mr Bradley for his excellent organisation.

I would like to commend the approach of our Year 10 and 11 students during their examinations. These are important events which are designed to enable our students to experience what it is like to undertake exams in conditions similar to that which they will face at the end of Key Stage Four.

The Friends of Beccles Free School is a group of parents who raise money for school.

On 6 December 2014 it was the second Christmas Fair; which was a lovely event and raised over £900. I would like to thank all of those who have worked so hard to make events such as this happen. In particular Catherine Johnson, Sarah Carter, Angela Spendlove, Lisa Hurrell, Sharon High, Fiona Cole, Hayley Warnes, Katrina Self, Stephanie Harvey, Vanessa Finch, Tanya Curtis, June Bowgen, Fern Cornwell and Geraldine Harvey. A special mention to Ruth Hubbard who has worked tirelessly and provided the drive, energy and passion which has seen the Friends grow from a small group of 5 interested parents into the vibrant and talented group that it is today.

We are slowly moving into our new rooms as each one is completed. We are currently teaching art, science, design and technology and English intervention in the new rooms. We will have four further rooms in use from January when the works will be complete.

I wish every member of the school community the very best for a bright and successful future. Our school is one that each student deserves - calm, happy, safe and focused upon the learning of our students. Our students are tremendous in their confidence, commitment and cooperation. I am proud to have been able to play some part of the development of their school and I thank all of the colleagues who have worked so hard and continue to do so for the good of these fabulous young people. Enjoy the festive period and have a wonderful New Year.

Mr J Bradley | Head of Upper School

LOWESTOFT REGENERATION PROJECT

A group of students from an enrichment programme came to the end of their work on the Lowestoft Regeneration Project this month. On 25 November 2014, students travelled to Lowestoft Town Hall to present their ideas to the Deputy Mayor. All students conducted themselves superbly, but a special mention must be given to Alice Cushing, Tia Nunn, Katrina Marshall, Charlieanne Elmy and Madeline Bryant who read their plans to the assembled group - great job girls! Who knows, perhaps some of the plans from our students will be used in the final development of the net drying racks area in Lowestoft.

A View from the Principal:



As we fast approach the festive season, the school gears up for all the excitement of the winter showcases, Christmas lunches, celebration assemblies and the growing excitement of what the Christmas holidays will bring. But, this is not the only celebration that will be taking place at Beccles Free School in the remaining weeks of term, as we say goodbye to a very special member of staff...

Since the school opened in September 2012 on a small site in Carlton Colville, Mr Lucas has been our hugely committed and enthusiastic Headteacher. At the end of this term, Mr Lucas moves on to the next stage in his career to become an inspector with Ofsted. He will leave behind an incredible legacy. Along with staff and students, he has built Beccles Free School to be a fabulous example of what education should be.

Mr Lucas has truly delivered the Trust's vision for all students to achieve, learn and make progress in a caring and secure environment. And he has done this on both Beccles Free School sites when a move could so easily have disrupted the huge amount that was achieved at Carlton Colville.

I know from speaking to many parents/carers, staff and students how much Mr Lucas will be missed. He has been a great help to many who have needed it and an inspiration to all. And, as Mr Lucas is the person I began with on the journey of implementing the Trust's Free Schools, I have grown accustomed to his friendship, support and professionalism... I will miss him greatly.

I'm sure you will all join me in thanking Mr Lucas for all he has done for the school and in wishing him all the very best for his future career. His impact and legacy on Beccles Free School will never be forgotten.

Have a fantastic last few weeks of term and a wonderful Christmas and New Year break.

Mr J Crowfoot | Head of Year 7

As the days grow shorter and the evenings are darker Year 7 continue to shine as a beacon of excellence in Beccles Free School. This half-term's highlights have included some fantastic work by a number of girls in the year group on a Lowestoft Regeneration Project with Mr Bradley which was presented to the town's mayor. This was well received and recognised all the hard work by the students.

During Remembrance Day on 11 November 2014 a number of Year 7 students helped me with the whole school assembly at the end of the day and were confident readers in front of a large group of their peers.

The whole year group continue to work hard across the curriculum and get really involved with their enrichment activities on Wednesday afternoons which is a pleasure to see.

We continue to welcome new students into our year group and school community. Once again they are already part of the whole life of the school and embrace its challenging yet supportive culture. This is a great credit to them, our existing students as well as all of the staff in school.

As the Christmas holiday approaches the students, and staff, should enjoy a well-earned rest and return in 2015 ready for the challenges of the Lent Term.

Careers & Colleges Fair

TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2014

For the first time in its short history, Beccles Free School welcomed over 15 institutions to its inaugural careers and colleges fair. Parents and students were invited to speak with a range of colleges, universities and representatives from the armed forces to discuss their plans for post-16 education. The afternoon was met with great excitement and interest from all parties and it was good to see our Year 10 and 11 students making informed decisions about their futures.

Our visitors were extremely complimentary about the students, describing them as a credit and in some cases stating this was the best school they had visited. Well done to all of you who attended, you did yourselves proud as you always do.

Mrs R Hubbard | Chair, Friends of Beccles

Thank you to all who supported the Christmas Fair on Saturday 6 December 2014. It was a really successful afternoon and enjoyed by students, staff, parents and members of the local community.

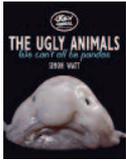
There were many generous donations of raffles prizes, bottles, crafts, gifts and cakes. Thank you also to the many students who gave up their time to help or sing in the choir.

If anybody would like to join our group please contact the school office for details.

The Friends of Beccles Free School wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Science trip to Snape Maltings



Years 7, 8 and 9 had an interesting morning participating in the LabLive Science Spectacular at Snape Maltings. The show brought to light how everyday objects are

made of amazing materials, designed to have specific properties. BFS students were high profile when it came to answering scientific questions about fantastic materials and their uses. We were also taken on a voyage of discovery into the world of the less fluffy and cute endangered animals on our planet. Several of our students competed on stage against other schools to imitate animal skills, make model animals out of playdough or to be "attacked" by sticky secretions. Much fun was had by all! Big thanks go to the students and all of the staff that supported this event.

Ms C Wiggins - Subject Leader for Science

Remembrance Day 2014



On Tuesday 11 November 2014 the whole school observed Remembrance Day. There were various activities throughout the day including

two minutes silence as a whole school at 11am, various pieces of artwork and literature on display through the school as well as poppies being sold for the annual appeal.

In the afternoon Mr Crowfoot led the whole school in remembering not only the 100th anniversary of the Great War but also those who served in conflicts since 1918. Students from all year groups read out the thoughts of those involved in some of these events. It was a fittingly thoughtful and respectful end to a day of great significance.

contact us...

We welcome your feedback, news and comments... e-mail us at enquiries@becclesfreeschool.org.uk or on Twitter [@BecclesFS](https://twitter.com/BecclesFS)

Mr G Mutimer

Head of Lower School



It has been an excellent term for Years 8 and 9. Despite the upheaval of the move to the new site and ongoing building works our students have conducted themselves fantastically. I have also been incredibly impressed with the maturity and professionalism shown by the large number of Year 8 and 9 students that have so willingly given up their free time to support the school. Of particular note are those that worked so hard to make our Open Evening such a success, whose efforts were highly commended by many of the visitors on the night. Also noteworthy are those that have lead tours for prospective students and parents and given up breaks and lunches to sell poppies or run the snack bar. Finally, thank you to the students that have represented the school in sporting fixtures who have worked hard and should be as proud of themselves as we are. Well done to you all and keep up the hard work.

Winter safety

With the dark mornings and evenings upon us we would like to remind parents and carers of some winter safety tips when walking to school and returning home:

- ✳ Walk with a friend or with a group of friends
- ✳ Keep to a safe route that parents and carers know about
- ✳ Walk directly to school or to your home
- ✳ Have reflective strips on clothing and/or bags being carried so that you are visible to cars
- ✳ If cycling to school make sure that you have lights on your bicycle
- ✳ If you notice any suspicious individuals report them to your parents/carers and school

Severe Weather Arrangements

As we approach the winter months please be aware that in the event of severe weather all information relating to how the school may be being affected by the weather can be accessed via a permanent link on the front page of our school website to the Suffolk County Council School Closures website. As we use this service, we do not alter our own website for this purpose. Suffolk County Council School Closures website is directly accessible on <http://schoolclosures.suffolk.gov.uk>. In addition to this service announcements will also be made on Radio Suffolk.

It is our intention at all times to do whatever we can to keep the school open. Parents/carers should note that our staff come from a long distance to work with us, and it might be that the transport situation means that we may have to run shorter hours or close because staff cannot get in. However, please note that the default position for the school is 'open'. Therefore unless the Suffolk County Council School Closures website says otherwise, we are open!



BECCLES
FREE SCHOOL

www.becclesfreeschool.org.uk
Castle Hill, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7BQ