

July 2021

BECCLES chronicle

SET Beccles School is a proud member of the Seckford Education Trust

The newsletter for SET Beccles School

What's inside?

- > Welcome
- > Assistant Heads of School Roundup
- > Introducing Trust Assistant Headteacher
- > Summer Enrichment Week
- > Science
- > Enrichment
- > Forge
- > The Careers Section



SET
BECCLES
SCHOOL

Head of School's Welcome

Important Date!

Wednesday 1 September 2021

Start of term for Year 7 –
Induction Day

Thursday 2 September 2021

Start of term for Years 8-11

Students begin Michaelmas Term

Cover image -
Practical, creative work
in the Drama Studio

Latest News

Twitter
Facebook
Website

To keep up to date with the latest news and events from the School, please remember that you can follow SET Beccles School on Twitter: @SETBeccles. Please also check our website for regular updates, and our Facebook page, just search for SET Beccles School on Facebook.

Safeguarding

Should you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact Mrs H Philpott, Designated Safeguarding Lead on 01502 718850 or for more information please visit www.becclesschool.org.uk/for-parents/guidance-information/safeguarding/ SET Beccles School's named safeguarding trustee is Mr R Lane.

It hardly seems possible that a whole year has passed since joining SET Beccles. Whilst my first year has been somewhat atypical; Covid testing, Covid bubbles, lockdown, remote learning and Teacher Assessment Grades to name a few, the strong team here at Beccles have not allowed this to stop or slow our progress against our improvement plan. I wish to use this as an opportunity to reflect on a few of our key achievements;



Mrs H Philpott
Head of School

- Team time launch – students now experience a 40-minute small group tutorial programme, building confidence and resilience within our learners.
- House system launch – building on the existing house system used in PE, this now sits across the whole school, introducing an element of competition and ownership, with older students supporting those further down the school. This has created a cultural change in the school, with students looking out for each other and offering support and care.
- Curriculum review – Y11 GCSE blocks have been restructured to enable students to achieve and make the greatest possible progress next year.
- Curriculum review – For our Y10 GCSE students new subjects have been offered to meet the needs and wishes of our students; BTEC Child Development, BTEC Public Service and AQA certificates.
- Teaching and Learning review – focused Professional Development offering consistency for students and evidence-based training to staff.
- Approval and launch of Forge Beccles, our Cognition and Learning Specialist Centre.
- Extensive enrichment programme including the successful installation of our polytunnel, offsite work at the local Forest School and an impressive range of onsite activities and workshops.
- Successful in-school transition for our new Year 7 cohort, we look forward to this very happy, polite and eager to learn group of young people joining us in September.
- Restructure of our student support systems in school, offering additional interventions and support opportunities to maximise student engagement and achievements.

So, what is next; I look to September with enthusiasm and excitement, we have some excellent new members of staff joining us. All adding not only strength to our teaching team but also many extra skills and talents we look forward to incorporating across school.

- I have started to discuss a school production with the Creative Arts team, we have many incredibly talented young people who we cannot wait to let loose on the stage!
- Student Leadership, the launch of many different opportunities for our students to develop and expand their leadership skills;
 - Team buddies,
 - Sports leaders,
 - Peer supporters,
 - Subject ambassadors,
 - School council.
- Outreach opportunities; we have been very limited this year due to Covid restrictions, we have big plans to offer extra-curricular clubs and experiences to our students at SET Beccles and to local young people in KS2. We also very much look forward to working more closely with our local primary schools, learning how we can support them in the delivery of their curriculum.

From September, as restrictions ease, we hope to welcome visitors into school to see the warm, focused and supportive environment we have created at SET Beccles.

Mrs H Philpott, Head of School

Termly round-up from our Assistant Heads of School

What a fantastic two terms it has been! It has been an interesting start to our journey here at SET Beccles since both joining in January. Starting a new school as Assistant Head of School during a global pandemic was always going to be more demanding, especially when it was announced the country was going back into another National Lockdown and schools would be closing. Teaching students remotely, who we'd never met before is not quite how we'd envisaged the start of the term, however, lockdown came with some advantages, it gave us the opportunity to pick up the phone and build relationships with our school community, making welfare calls, doing home visits and supporting both students and parents during such a challenging time for all. It was evident that another National Lockdown had a detrimental effect on a lot of young people, and due to that we recognised that as a school we needed to embark on a journey of change to support our students in their transition back into education on site. It has been a fantastic opportunity to focus on the pastoral support and network we offer our students at SET Beccles and have written pastoral programme to nurture whilst embedding our school ethos and the 6Cs.



We have over 15 feeder primary schools this year and planning our recent transition days for our newest students joining and having them in school, has felt like we have been moving closer to a sense of normality and further away from the restrictions of COVID-19, although it was a shame we were limited by the restrictions on the programme we could offer, we still felt it were important that the students experienced what it was like to be at SET Beccles. It was a brilliant few days, full of subject challenges, house challenges, science experiments and a mini Olympics! There were lots of smiling faces all eager and raring to start their journey in September - we look forward to welcoming our class of 2026 this September.

Looking ahead; there are some exciting opportunities in the not so distant future; the launch of our Student Leadership Programme, with Team Captains and the launch of our new School Council. We are excited about this, as it will allow our students to have a voice and help shape the school for the future.

We look forward to the opportunity for students to do some outreach work with primary schools (covid permitting) once we return in the Autumn and the return of the school production/performances.

Miss Goode, Assistant Head of School - KS3

Mr Willgress, Assistant Head of School - KS4

Introducing our Trust Assistant Headteacher for Teaching & Learning:

My name is Mrs Isaac, and I am the Trust Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning. This term I have had the privilege to work closely with the team at SET Beccles. Our aim is that students enjoy a purposeful learning environment in all lessons and that all teachers are leaders of knowledge in their specialism, planning and delivering rigorous lessons. At SET Beccles our curriculum is more than just a series of lessons, it is a rich tapestry woven together. Our teachers build strong positive relationships based on mutual respect with all students, enhancing their learning opportunities and experiences.

Our curriculum is a knowledge based and vocabulary rich model, and I have had the pleasure to be able to visit students and staff in their lessons every day. Students are confidently answering questions and want to thrive lesson to lesson. This term we have re-set the homework policy and introduced project homework's for year 7 and 8. I cannot wait to showcase these once they are completed. Please do see the website for the updates around homework.

Staff have been developing their own professional development needs this term and have been involved in a number of subject specialist developmental courses. Mr Rednell has had the history curriculum brought to life by Christine Counsel, Mrs Smith has been involved in a curriculum content course led by the Geographical Society and our English team have spent the day immersed in Shakespeare. Alongside individual bespoke training for staff we have a fortnightly whole school training session, focused on enhancing our whole school Teaching and Learning.

It has been so rewarding to see the Trust Lead Practitioners coming into SET Beccles again, as the restrictions have begun to lift. These subject experts have been able to directly impact the content for specific subjects and this has a positive outcome for the delivery of lessons and outcomes for the students. Developing staff and their own knowledge of the subjects they deliver is hugely valued and an integral part of the teaching and learning at SET Beccles School.

Libby Isaac - Trust Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning.

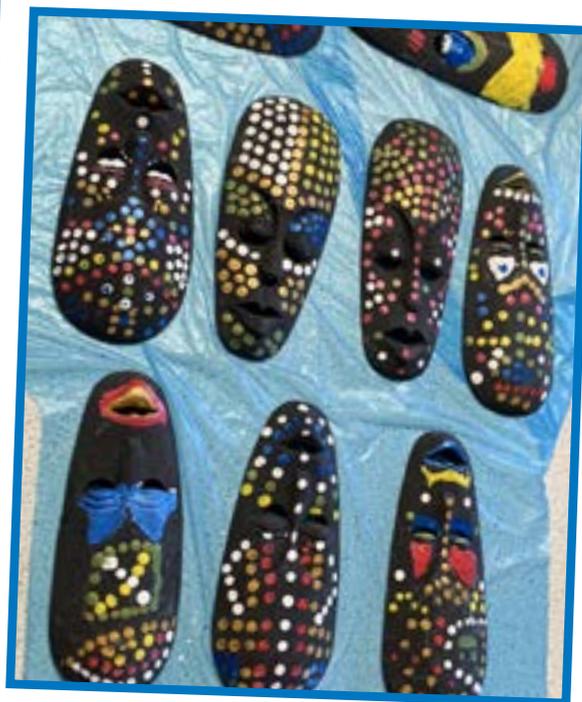
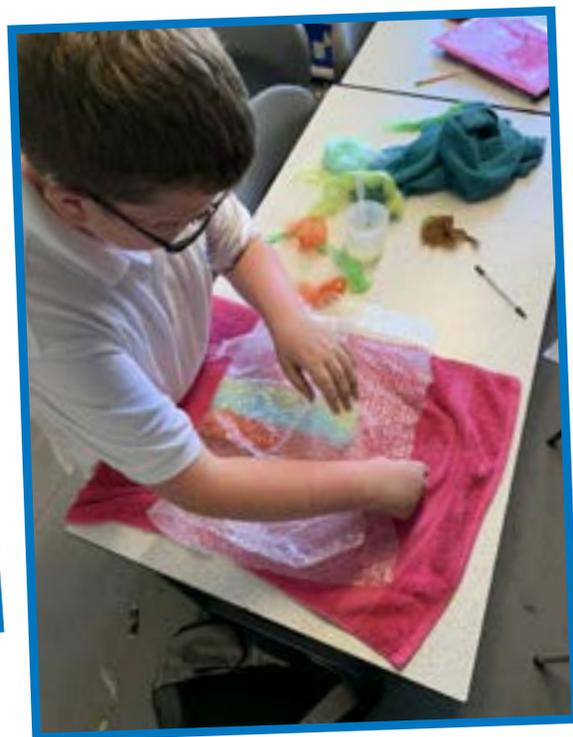


Summer Enrichment Week 2021

It was amazing to be able to have Summer Enrichment Week back again this year!

The students had an excellent week completing a variety of activities in and outside of school. These activities included: Pleasurewood Hills, Forest School, Golf, Baking, Sport, Archery and VR Space Experience.

The term was ended with a celebration assembly and team challenges to compete for the final few house points of the term. Well done to Blyth for winning overall!



Science

Year 6 Transition Day

It was really lovely to meet our soon to be new year 7s on the Transition Days in June. They showed promise as young scientists. The students worked in teams to carry out two different experiments. In one class the students used the separation technique, chromatography, to work out the mystery in a forensic themed problem. The other class made a lot more noise. They answered the question of how much force it takes to discharge a party popper. We were very impressed with their use of scientific language when reporting their findings. They used the new vocabulary expertly and they also made calculations to convert between units of mass and weight with ease.

Year 8 Plane Flying Challenge

Year 8 spent the end of the summer term designing and building paper aeroplanes that would be the most aerodynamic. They then took to the skies (the planes not the students). Oliver Filshie achieved the furthest mean distance at 11.53 m, Oliver Trotman achieved the longest flight



at 8.86 m/s, Shannon Callaghan's plane flew the furthest at a whopping 10.25 m and Laila Suleiman had the plane that moved at the quickest speed. It's lovely when the students can use something as simple as a paper plane to investigate a concept in Physics.

Year 9 Extremophiles

Year 9 studied the biodiversity topic at the end of the summer term.

This included using quadrats and line transects to calculate the population of daisies and plantain on the school field. They also learned about organisms that are able to survive in extreme conditions – in a niche environment. Using microscopes,



students went on the hunt for tardigrades, also known as 'moss piglets'. Tardigrades can survive for up to 30 years without food or water. These students had a closer look at some moss to see if they could observe them in their natural habitat.



Enrichment at SET Beccles School

Year 7 UEA Game Changers Outreach

A group of Year 7 boys took part in the UEA Game Changers outreach in the Trinity term where they had the opportunity to take part in workshops with UEA ambassadors to learn about university as well as what it is like living and working at university.

For taking part in the event students were awarded a medal and certificate for their achievements.

Youth Sport Trust Active in Mind Project

During the Lent and Trinity term a small group of Year 8 students were invited to take part in the Active in Mind project funded by the Youth Sport Trust. The aim of the project was to improve student well-being and self-esteem through peer-to-peer support.

A team of student leaders were trained by our athlete mentor Jade Windley (professional tennis player) to then lead a series of sports sessions to their peers. Sessions included: team building, parachute games, dodgeball, capture the flag and trampolining. Every session was thoroughly enjoyed by all and a massive well done to the student leaders: Millie, Jonathan, Mia and Jess.

Mr H Neale, Enrichment Coordinator



Forge at Beccles

We are delighted to see our new purpose built cognition and learning centre being completed over the summer. We welcome our new students and staff to the centre and look forward to working alongside the main school. Our purpose is in our name. We intend to build strong and successful students who are ready to embrace young adult life independently. Throughout the year we will keep you updated about this part of school life. We will be working closely with our colleagues in Saxmundham and Ixworth. Our collaboration will ensure students across all the centres will get the very best they deserve. We look forward to sharing our journey with you...

Careers Update

With a trained Careers Leader and a Careers Advisor embedded in the school's team, time has been dedicated to understanding and capturing just how each of the Gatsby Benchmarks have been included in day to day school life, and how we can now do even more to ensure every student is equipped with understanding of opportunities and career pathways that are right for them.

Immediate attention was focused on Benchmark 8, with personal guidance through one-to-one careers interviews being offered firstly to all Year 11 students to help with Post-16 choices, and then all Year 10s to help them organise their thoughts, understand their strengths and use their final year to reflect constructively on these to help inform their future choices.

The stable careers programme required for Benchmark 1 is now approved and will be rolled out in full from September. It will be a packed programme that embeds careers in the curriculum to contextualise, personalise and localise the potential pathways. There's an early focus on understanding career management skills and building on these from Year 7. By the time students reach Year 11, the programme will have given them encounters with employers, inclusion in projects that help them evaluate their skills, dedicated events to focus on choices and transitions, informative assemblies, plus access to information and expertise that helps them discover who they are, what their goals are and how to achieve them.



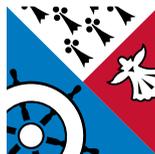
To end the 2020/2021 year, work experience is being brought to Year 10 in school with some inspiring activities, a diverse line up of speakers and facilitators who demonstrated different job roles and some fun and games too.

Jenny Stockman, Careers and Mentoring

Contact us...

We welcome your feedback, news and comments.

Email us: beccles@seckfordeducation.org.uk



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