

Message from the Head



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be writing my very first newsletter to you all since taking over as Head of School. It has been a very exciting term and we have lots of activities to share with you below.

We are welcoming lots of new staff to the Douglas Bader School, including several new TA's in both primary and secondary and Mr Vinters into secondary as our new ICT and PSHE teacher.

Please enjoy reading about our activities and events below. I would like to take this final opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas holiday.

Mrs Beasley.

Primary Adventures

This term our primary pupils have been very busy both in and out of school. They have had many new experiences to enhance their learning at DBS. Here are just a few of the great things they have been doing since September.

Hautbois Activity Centre

Every Friday, primary have been heading offsite for some outdoor activities that have included kata-canoeing, zip wire, paddle-boarding, initiative tests, abseiling and archery. *"It is awesome, I was nervous at first but I tried it and I loved it"- AG*

Swimming

We have been going to Hewitt School on a Wednesday to learn to swim. For some of our pupils it was their first ever time in a pool. *"I like swimming a lot, being taught swimming is good for us and it is fun"- CG. "I like swimming under the water"- AD.*

Police Visit

The police brought their car to school and pupils talked to the officers and got to use their handcuffs and sound the sirens. *"It was great when I got to listen to the siren and pretending to be police officers."- JC and AD, They were really nice and I learnt a lot"-SNH*

Rudolf Run

The pupils raised money for Nelson's journey by completing a sponsored walk. *"It's amazing"-BM, "It was nice and we raised money"- AD, "I had fun"- JE.*

Craft Fair

The pupils helped to prepare for the Christmas craft fair. They made bags of reindeer food, reindeer lollies and a snowman's nose game to help raise money to regenerate our forest schools area. *"I love Christmas and I can't wait until we can use forest schools again"- CG.*

Careers

We have a new careers lead at the short stay school. Miss Mordue took on the role in September and has been very busy this term.

It's now that time of year where our year 11s are applying to college or thinking about alternative routes, such as apprenticeships or vocational diplomas. Planning for the future can be a very daunting task, but we, at The Douglas Bader School, are happy to talk through options and help with the application process.

Already this term we have had a visit from City College Norwich and the Army to talk about possible options for our year 11s. Next term we will be having some workshops around apprenticeships, looking at identifying our skills and learning what apprenticeships are all about.

Dates for the diary

Friday 16th December- last day of the Autumn term

Spring term dates

Tuesday 3rd January – Friday 31st March

Staff Training Day

Friday 6th January – School closed for pupils

Spring Half term

Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February
Pupils return to school on Monday 20th February

Exam Preparation

Mock Exams

Early next term, our year 11's will be sitting their mock exams in English, Maths and Science. These exams will give an accurate idea of current predicted grades for college applications. Please take this opportunity to stress the importance of these exams with your child and the importance of completing them to the best of their ability. A timetable will be produced at the start of the spring term.

Revision sessions

These will start from the second week back after Christmas. These sessions are open to anyone in year 11 who is actively engaging in their classroom sessions.

Monday: Maths; Tuesday: Science;

Wednesday: English; Thursday: Art.

If you cannot attend a particular session please discuss this with your teacher and alternative arrangements can be made.

Important Information

School Uniform

A reminder to all parents that we do have a clear school uniform policy at Douglas Bader and across all the Short Stay School for Norfolk bases.

Can we please ensure we have a positive start to the New Year and that all pupils are in correct school uniform from day 1. Our uniform includes; plain black/grey trousers or skirt, white shirt (plain white polo shirts are acceptable), plain black V-neck or round neck jumper and plain black trainers or shoes. No brand logos should be visible on any part of their clothing.

Please continue to support school by checking your child has a full school uniform available to wear each day. Continuous breaches of the school uniform policy may result in consequences as part of the school behaviour and attitudes policy.

School Absences

Please remember to call the school office **before 9:30am** each day if your child is unwell/ not in school.

This is part of our safeguarding policy. In the event of school closure, information will be available via the Norfolk County Council website.

Remembrance Day

On the 11th November, our primary pupils, staff and Mrs Beasley attended the Spirit of Coltishall Memorial Service.

Saelig was very brave and read out a memorial reading and we were able to lay a wreath on behalf of the school, created by Miss Roe and some of our secondary pupils.

The veterans then made their way back to the school after the service for refreshments served by Brodie and Jack. This, as always, was a great day and the primary pupils were a credit to the school.

Christmas Craft Fair

On Wednesday 7th December, we held a Christmas craft fair to raise money to redevelop our forest schools area. Primary pupils made a selection of festive gifts to sell and businesses from the local area were invited to sell their products. We were also very lucky to have Santa join us for the evening. Thanks must go to the Wroxham and Hoveton Lions Club for arranging this. A total of £120 was raised. Well done to Miss Hambling for organising a very successful evening.

#SocialMedia

Keep up to date with what is going on at Douglas Bader by following us on twitter @UETDouglasBader. Here you will find lots of information and pictures of excellent pupil work.



Teacher Feature – Miss Hambling

What is your role? Assistant Base Lead

What is your favourite food? McNuggets

Do you have any hobbies? Dog walking

How long have you been working in schools? 2.5 yrs.

What is your favourite subject? Music

