



# Hartismere News

Volume 17 No 4: March 2024



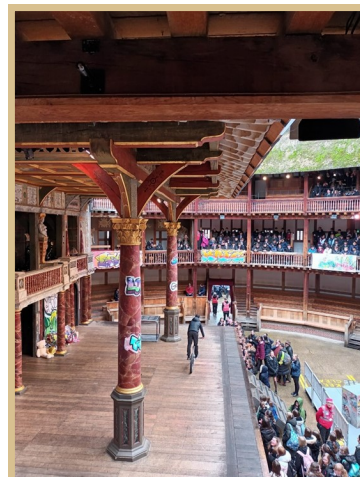
## ROMEO AND JULIET AT THE GLOBE THEATRE ON THE 29 FEBRUARY

The English department took 50 students to watch Romeo and Juliet at the Globe theatre on 29 February.

It was a very powerful performance set in modern London which brought relevance and relatability to the play. Some highlights include Mercutio arriving on stage on an e-scooter, plenty of BMX tricks displayed by a feisty Capulet and Romeo's poison delivered by 'Just Eat: Mantua'!

The students were a credit to the school and were engaged in the whole performance. We hope that it helps to inspire a love for Shakespeare and his language, as well as helping them with their study of Shakespeare at GCSE.

Miss Bennetts



## New York 2024

On 16 February, Mr Graham, Mrs Davy, Mr Lucas, Miss Baker and Miss Rogers took 45 pupils from years 11,12 and 13 on a trip to New York, USA.

Day 1: Leaving from Hartismere in the (very) early hours of Friday, we travelled by coach to Heathrow Airport where we took a flight to Newark airport. On arrival we were taken by coach to the Times Square hotel in the centre of Manhattan, where we dropped our luggage before travelling to the Grand Central station for a quick visit and then the Rockefeller Centre for a self-guided visit to 'Top of the Rock' where we experienced amazing views of New York City at sunset.

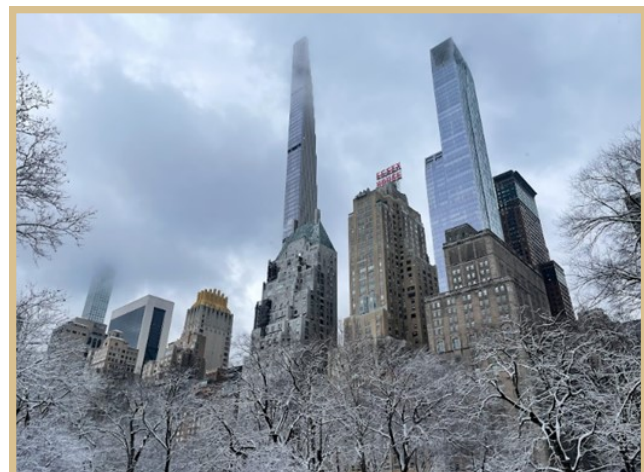
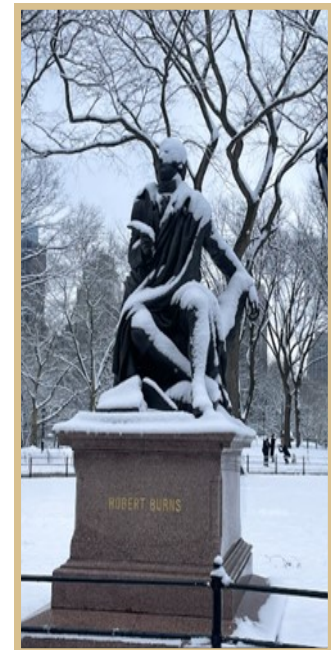


After dinner at 'Juniors', we were all exhausted and happy to return to our rooms for long awaited sleep.





Day 2 started with a 'grab and go' breakfast before walking Central Park which was beautiful in the snow. Pupils had some down time whilst the teachers met some friendly members of the NYPD.





The drama students went for a Stage Door Tour at the Radio City Music Hall, whilst the maths pupils went to MO Math, the world museum of maths and shopping at Macy's department store.



We all met up for a dinner reservation at the Hard Rock Café followed by an evening at the Booth Theatre for a performance of 'Kimberly Akimbo'.

Day 3 greeted us with beautiful crisp winter sunshine. We Arrived at Battery Park to take a bracing boat trip to view the Statue of Liberty before going to the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration.



We then spent time paying our respects at the 9/11 Memorial before exploring 'Westfields' for some shopping.







The maths pupils then went for a fantastic experience at Spyscape', whilst the drama pupils did some last-minute gift shopping at Macy's.



On Sunday evening, we went to the Wollman Skating Rink, Central Park for some ice-skating.





Day 4: The drama students attended a Broadway Acting/Improve workshop with Broadway and West end actor Mark Evans. After collecting our luggage, we travelled by coach to check- in at Newark International Airport for a return flight home.

Day 5: After landing at Heathrow, we were taken by coach back to Hartismere school. Tired but equally excited to relay our adventures.

Thank you to all the pupils who were a joy to travel with, and thank you for the fantastic staff support, without whom these amazing trips would not be possible.





## CAREERS AND FUTURES FAIR 2024

Following on from National Apprenticeship Week in February, and the more recent National Careers Week which ran from 4-9 March, we held our first ever in-house careers and futures fair on Thursday 14 March.

After some focused preparation in tutorial sessions in the weeks leading up to the event, we were excited to launch what we intend to be an annual event that enhances the school's already well established careers education, information, advice and guidance programme.

All pupils from year 8 to year 13 spent part of their morning in the sports hall where twenty organisations from the world of work and education were on hand to offer information and advice. Year 7 were also invited to take part and we were particularly impressed that so many of them gave up some of their break time to take part as well. There was a business-like atmosphere in the venue throughout the morning. The children took full advantage of the expertise on offer and it was lovely to hear the constant buzz of really focused conversation in every session. The organisations were, without exception blown away by how polite, enthusiastic and engaged the children were in every year group.

If you'd like to see more photographs from the day or find out more about the school's careers and futures programme, please follow our Instagram page @hartismerecareers and search for 'careers information' on the school's website.

Mr R Miller  
Director of Personal Development  
(Careers Lead)





## CELEBRATION OF SCHOOLS MUSIC AT SNAPE MALTINGS

on Wednesday 13 March, musicians from year 8-13 had the opportunity to perform on the world-famous stage at the Snape Maltings Concert Hall, as part of the schools' music festival, *Celebration*. The Concert Band presented jazz-rock classic, 'On Broadway,' as well as Metallica's 'Enter Sandman,' with soloists including Morgan Barber (bass trombone) and Lewis Diggins (guitar). Meanwhile, the Hartismere Quartet (Eric Bremner Lane, Liam Davison, Finlay Seeman and Harry Syrett) performed a piece that they had composed together. Featuring some interesting time signatures (17/8!), the work included spoken text and reflected influences ranging from jazz to metal! It was a fabulous experience: congratulations to all those involved.



**MUSIC EXAM RESULTS**

Daisy Byrne	Grade 3 Saxophone	Merit
Emma Gregory	Grade 5 Music Theory	Distinction
Morgan Barber	Grade 7 Piano	Pass
Joshua Fotofili	Grade 7 Piano	Distinction
Hebe Meldrum-Edwards	Grade 7 Piano	Pass
Jason Li	Grade 5 Piano	Merit
Tabby Ryle	Grade 5 Piano	Merit
Lelia Shirley-Smith	Grade 5 Piano	Pass
Elorah Fotofili	Grade 5 Piano	Distinction
Louis Shirley-Smith	Grade 4 Piano	Pass
Emilia Slater	Grade 4 Piano	Merit
Jacob Slater	Grade 4 Piano	Pass
Astrid Staples	Grade 4 Piano	Merit
Elsie Ponting	Grade 3 Piano	Distinction
Tegan Sawyer	Grade 2 Piano	Pass
Neve Mackenzie	Grade 1 Piano	Merit
Ashleigh Fall	Grade 1 Piano	Pass
Santiago Pacheco	Grade 1 Piano	Merit
Nia Jones	Grade 1 Piano	Pass
Scarlett Leeder	Grade 3 Cello	Pass
Florence Byrne	Grade 5 Flute	Pass
Yafa Arabi	Grade 4 Flute	Pass
Zarina Klass	Grade 2 Flute	Pass
Emily Petty	Grade 2 Flute	Merit
Elsie Ponting	Grade 1 Flute	Merit

**VACANCIES FOR EXAM INVIGILATORS AND READERS FOR EXAMS**

We currently have vacancies for Exam Invigilators and readers for exams on a casual contract. Please complete the non-teaching application form which you will see on the school website under vacancies and return to Mrs G Clay via her email [clayg@hartismere.com](mailto:clayg@hartismere.com).

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. DBS and social media checks are required for all posts. The school operates an equal opportunities policy.





## COMMENDATIONS

### Individual Half Term Totals

Student Name	Form	Points
Poppy Carle	7G	17
Ava Amps	7G	16
Peter For	7G	14
Martha Price	7G	14
Henry Allison-Hales	9F	13
Florence Byrne	10G	13
Scarlett Carter	7F	13
Theo Finch	8E	13
India Furlong	7B	13
Florence Hobson	8B	13
Elise Klass	7E	13
Jessie Laughlin	7H	13

Student Name	Form	Points
Alina Voloshina- Suggate	7G	13
Amber Webb	7H	13
Jay Barnes	7G	12
Lily Beamish	7G	12
Mimi Bower	7B	12
Josh Davis	7A	12
Henry Flatman	7G	12
Michael Norton	7H	12
Emilia Clifford	7B	11
Henry Gant	7E	11
Isabelle Harper	7C	11
Grace Hilton	7G	11
Alfie Redshaw	10E	11
Theia Skipper	7A	11

### Form Order

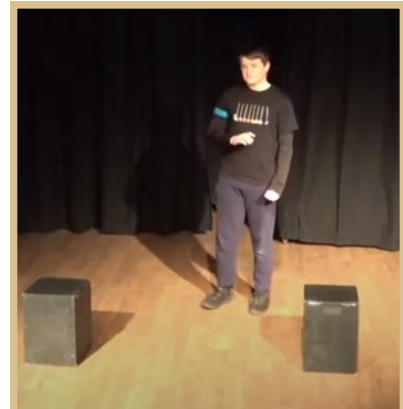
1 <sup>st</sup>	7G	217
2 <sup>nd</sup>	7H	172
3 <sup>rd</sup>	7B	171
4 <sup>th</sup>	7C	170
5 <sup>th</sup>	10A	146
6 <sup>th</sup>	9C	145
7 <sup>th</sup>	7E	141
8 <sup>th</sup>	9A	134
9 <sup>th</sup>	7A	128
10 <sup>th</sup>	10G	127
11 <sup>th</sup>	7F	126
12 <sup>th</sup>	9B	123
13 <sup>th</sup>	9F	122
14 <sup>th</sup>	9G	122

15 <sup>th</sup>	8B	117
16 <sup>th</sup>	8H	117
17 <sup>th</sup>	10B	117
18 <sup>th</sup>	8E	112
19 <sup>th</sup>	8G	112
20 <sup>th</sup>	8F	109
21 <sup>st</sup>	10E	109
22 <sup>nd</sup>	9E	107
23 <sup>rd</sup>	11A	107
24 <sup>th</sup>	11F	104
25 <sup>th</sup>	8A	103
26 <sup>th</sup>	8C	100
27 <sup>th</sup>	10F	98
28 <sup>th</sup>	10C	83
29 <sup>th</sup>	11C	81
30 <sup>th</sup>	11G	78
31 <sup>st</sup>	11E	77
32 <sup>nd</sup>	11B	64

## GCSE DRAMA PERFORMANCES

On Wednesday 7 February, Pupils from the year 11 GCSE drama class performed extracts from their chosen plays to the Edexcel examiner Sue Kilner. Component 2 deals with developing knowledge, understanding and skills in exploring and performing from a performance text. Students interpret this text, rehearse, and refine two key extracts, leading to a final performance. They demonstrate and use a wide range of acting skills to communicate their interpretation in performance.

Mrs Davy  
Coordinator of Drama & Theatre Studies







## Hartismere School



### GCSE component 2: Performance from text

The 2024 GCSE Drama Group present extracts from:

*The Approach* by Mark O'Rowe (2018)

*Bombshells* by Joanna Murray-Smith (2004)

*Teachers* by John Godber (1985)

*Baby Girl* by Roy Williams (2008)

*Mrs Klein* by Nicholas Wright (1988)

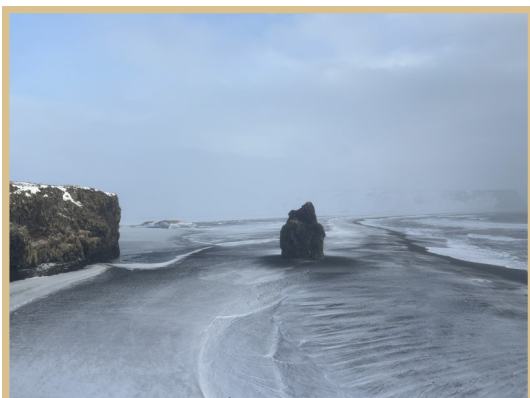
*Curious incident of the Dog in the Night-time*  
by Simon Stephens (2014)

*The Donahue Sisters* by Geraldine Aron (1991)

*East* by Steven Berkoff (1975)

## ICELAND 2024

Flying into Iceland and being able to see the erupting fissure was incredible and set the tone for a fabulous four days. Everyone had a fantastic time, despite temperatures reaching -9 with a wind chill of even colder! Our days were filled with visiting stunning waterfalls, a retreating glacier and the black volcanic beach as well as walking between the Eurasian and North American plate. The Sky Lagoon at sunset was a real highlight especially with the awe-inspiring view in the quiet sauna. We definitely all had fun at some of the local geothermal pools and most of us had a go at the cold plunge pools as we wanted an authentic Icelandic swimming experience. We all enjoyed waiting for the geyser to erupt and despite trying to remain vigilant, it still took many of us by surprise. Walking round the top of a very windy crater was a little bit scary but navigating the way down was easy as most of us slid down on our bums! Hotel Viking was an interesting hotel and the food was good, despite some very odd choices in decor. All in all a very successful trip and I am already looking forward to taking a new group of students to Iceland in 2026! Mrs Hudson







## SIXTH FORM: A level league tables

Performance tables for schools in England were recently published by the DofE. We were very pleased to see how well last year's A level students performed.

School	Average points score
St Benedicts Catholic School	36.52
Hartismere School	36.31
Farlingaye High School	36.21
Thomas Gainsborough School	35.35
Northgate High School	34.32
Thomas Mills High School	33.83
Kesgrave high School	33.24
Abbeygate Sixth Form College	33.15
Copleston High School	33.06
Sir John <u>Lehman</u> Academy	32.9
One Sixth Form College	31.44
Thurston Community College	31.15

Our year 13 students have now sent off their applications for university places for courses as diverse as biomedical science, international management, illustration, operating department practice, music, law, nursing, physics and many more. We were thrilled that four of our students have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge universities for courses in medicine, maths, theology and geography. Two students have received offers for degree apprenticeships where they will be paid a salary while also earning a degree. All of the students are working very hard now towards their A level exams and we wish them every success.

## FRIENDS OF HARTISMERE SCHOOL

The Friends of Hartismere would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped at the wonderful production of 'Sister Act' in March. If you're interested in helping out, and/or joining the Friends, you can email [friends@hartismere.com](mailto:friends@hartismere.com) or there is a new Facebook group 'Friends of Hartismere School' you can join. We've been so pleased to welcome new members to our Friends group, the aim of which is to support the children, raise some money and create connections with our Hartismere families.

Chair: Kerry Baker

Secretary: Diana Acaster

Publicity: Suzanne Wateridge

Treasurer: **we have a vacancy for a treasurer so why not get in touch!**





## REMEMBER PARENTPAY – OUR PREFERRED METHOD OF PAYMENT

Parent Pay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24-7, safe in the knowledge that the website has been security checked by many local authorities and uses very high internet security standards.

Have you changed your username and password to something you will easily remember? Select "My profile" to do this. If you have more than one child at the school, merge their accounts so you can pay for everything in one place.

Please contact the school office on 01379 870315 during normal school hours for more details.

## BUS PASSES

The bus companies have asked us to remind families that all students must carry a bus pass for their allocated transport. Students may be refused travel if they do not have the correct pass.

The insurance provided by Suffolk County Council for students' safe travel only covers them for travel on the bus named on their pass.

## HARTISMAIL, WEBSITE AND MORE

We would like to remind you about the different ways Hartismere contacts parents, and how you can use the website and social networks to keep informed and up-to-date.

Our preferred way of routinely contacting you is via email. We call it HartisMail. We use this to inform you about important information and any school news.

You can register for HartisMail by creating an account on our website. This has the added benefit of granting you access to additional sections of the website.

To register, you need to:

- create an account on the school website at [www.hartismere.com/Account/Signup](http://www.hartismere.com/Account/Signup).  
(You can skip this step if you have already registered.)  
Ask your child to enter their username and password when prompted.

Most emails we send home are posted on our website, as well as updates, information, and announcements. New content is added to the website daily. To keep up with everything that is going on at Hartismere you can also follow us on Hartismere's official Facebook page and X.





## BEGINNING AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

If parents are picking up and dropping off their children at school and in Eye, please could we ask that they are mindful of people in the local area? Local residents have experienced cars blocking driveways and other access points, including on the Castleton Grange estate. Please do park and drive with consideration for everyone in our community.

There is no permission for use of the hospital car park for drop-offs or pick-ups. Disabled parking spaces are, of course, for people with mobility difficulties.  
Thank you for your support.

The Local Authority is responsible for arrangements concerning school buses and this is managed through the service [SuffolkOnBoard](#). It is recommended that, where possible, pupils and students walk or cycle to school.

Please remember that students should only travel on the bus to and from school that is clearly identified on their bus pass, otherwise they risk causing overcrowding and other safety problems.

The insurance provided by Suffolk County Council for students' safe travel only covers them for travel on the bus named on their pass.

## SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

The Senior Designated Professional for Safeguarding in school is Mr Geoff Luxton. The alternate Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Claire Jones.

Any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of the pupils should be taken directly to either Mr Luxton or Mrs Jones directly and without delay.

A copy of the Safeguarding Policy and all other policies are available via the link on the school website. If you type "Policies" into the search bar at the top of the page, a list of all policies is shown.

### Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership

If you are worried about the welfare or safety of a child, during the holidays for example, you can contact Customer First on 0808 800 4005 (24 hours). There is a great deal of information on the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership website: [suffolksp.org.uk](http://suffolksp.org.uk)



## SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SHOP

We usually have a small stock of second hand uniform which has kindly been donated by parents. If you would like to purchase any items please email us with your size enquiry to [uniform@hartismere.com](mailto:uniform@hartismere.com) and we can let you know if we have any of the items available in stock.

If you would like to donate any items of school uniform that no longer fit, please drop them into Pupil Services.



## PE FIXTURE RESULTS

<b>Year</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Opposition</b>	<b>Result</b>
U16/Yr 11	Hockey	Debenham	Loss
U12/Yr 7	Netball	Stradbroke	Loss
U13/Yr 8	Netball	Stradbroke	Win
U15/ Yr 10	Hockey	THMS	Draw
U12/Yr 7	Basketball	Debenham	Win
U14/Yr 9	Football	Stradbroke	1st + 2nd
U13/Yr 8	Football	Stradbroke	2nd +3rd
U12/Yr 7	Netball	Debenham & Thomas Mills	Win
U14/Yr 9	Netball	Debenham	Win
U14/Yr 9	Netball	Thomas Mills	Win
U16/Yr 11	Rugby	County Finals	1st=
U14/Yr 9	Handball	Omnibus Games	Win
U14/Yr 9	14Handball	Omnibus Games	Win
Yr9-11	Basketball	Omnibus Games	Loss
U16/Yr 11	Badminton	Partnership Tournament	2nd
Yr7/8	Boccia	Omnibus Games	Draw
U16/Yr 11	Hockey	Harleston Sancroft	Loss
U13/Yr 8	Hockey	Harleston Sancroft	Draw
U14/Yr 9	Netball	Thomas Gainsborough	3rd
U19	Netball	Thomas Gainsborough	1st
U16/Yr 11	Netball	Thomas Gainsborough	9th
U14/Yr 9	Rugby	County Finals	1st
Yr7/8	Cricket	Thomas Mills	2nd
Yr 7-9	Orienteering	Omnibus Games	1st
U15/ Yr 10	Football	Ipswich High School	Won
U12/Yr 7	Football	Ipswich High School	Draw
Yr7-10	Table Tennis	Omnibus Games	1st
U12/Yr 7	Football	Alde Valley	2nd
U12/Yr 7	Football	Alde Valley	2nd
U13/Yr 8	Rugby	East Bergholt	Win
U15/ Yr 10	Rugby	East Bergholt	Loss
U15/ Yr 10	Netball	Thomas Mills	Draw
U16/Yr 11	Netball	Thomas Mills	Win
U13/Yr 8	Rugby	County finals	W2 D2 L2
U16/Yr 11	Football	Debenham	Loss
U16/Yr 11	Hockey	Thomas Mills	Win



## Spring Term Sports Clubs

A reminder of our spring term sports clubs - students can come and try something new or continue to develop their existing skills.

# Spring Sports Clubs

In addition to our 'Sports Clubs' we will be offering an 'Active Lunch Loan' system, you will be able to borrow sports equipment to use during your lunch time (from the corner of the tennis courts)

Monday <small>PE Dept Meeting</small>		Tuesday <small>Active lunch loan: ERO</small>		Wednesday <small>Active lunch loan: AHO</small>	Thursday <small>Active lunch loan: SPA</small>		Friday <small>Active lunch loan: SPO</small>
Lunch <small>(1.15-1.45pm)</small>	After School <small>(4-5pm)</small>	Lunch <small>(1.15-1.45pm)</small>	After School <small>(4-5pm)</small>	Lunch <small>(1.15-1.45pm)</small>	Lunch <small>(1.15-1.45pm)</small>	After School <small>(4-5pm)</small>	Lunch <small>(1.15-1.45pm)</small>
<b>Y7-11 Table-tennis</b> <i>(dance studio)</i> AFL  <b>Y12 &amp; 13 Basketball/ Badminton / Futsal</b> <i>(sportshall)</i>	<b>Y7- 9 Football</b> <i>(astro)</i> SPA  <b>Y7- 9 Rugby</b> <i>(field)</i> AHO  <b>Y7- 9 Netball</b> <i>(courts)</i> DCO  <b>Girls Cricket</b> <i>(sportshall)</i> CPA  A-level PE Revision ERO  GCSE PE Revision (H3)SPO	<b>Invitational Club</b> <i>(dance studio)</i> AHO  <b>Girls Fitness</b> <i>(fitness suite)</i> SPO  <b>Y9-11 Badminton</b> <i>(sportshall)</i> SPO	<b>Cheerleading</b> <i>(dance studio)</i> PFA/ ERE	<b>Y8 &amp; 9 Fitness</b> <i>(fitness suite)</i> DCO  <b>All years - Lyrical and Contemporary Dance</b> <i>(dance studio)</i> RBA  <b>Y7-9 Hockey</b> <i>(astro)</i> ERO  <b>Y9-11 Basketball</b> <i>(sportshall)</i> SPO	<b>Y7-9 Badminton</b> <i>(sportshall)</i> AHO  <b>Y10 &amp; 11 Fitness</b> <i>(fitness suite)</i> AHO  <b>GCSE PE/A Level PE/WJEC catch up/PE detention</b> <i>(C2)</i> SPO  <b>Just Dance</b> <i>(dance studio)</i> ERO	<b>Zumba</b> <i>(dance studio)</i> RBA  <b>Running Club</b> <i>(field)</i> CAG	<b>Y7 &amp; 8 Basketball</b> <i>(sportshall)</i> SPA  <b>Y10, 11 &amp; VI form Table-Tennis</b> <i>(dance studio)</i> AFL  <b>Y7 Fitness</b> <i>(fitness suite)</i> AHO  <b>Y11 WJEC Revision</b> ERO (E3)

All clubs are mixed gender & all year groups unless specified

After School: Students must get changed into their PE kit for these sessions.  
Lunch: Students do not need to get changed however they must wear training shoes for these sessions

## Rugby festival success

Congratulations to the U14 and U16 boys rugby teams who finished first and joint first respectively in their Suffolk Rugby Festivals at Ipswich School in January and February. The U14's won all their games against Farlingaye, King Edward's and Stowmarket with Alfie L and Josh leading from the front with some deft footwork and handling. The boys have really developed as a team this year so this was a fitting reward for their efforts! The U16's secured three impressive wins against Hadleigh, St Benedicts and Debenham. A 17-17 draw rounded off an excellent day for the boys as they shared first place with Farlingaye. There were some great performances across the team with Malachi, Morgan and Leon setting the tone with their determined and powerful play. Well done to all involved!



U14 Boys Rugby



U16 Boys Rugby

## County Netball Competition

We arrived at Thomas Gainsborough with three teams U14, U16 & U18 for the first ever state school county competition. Every state school in Suffolk was invited and this year 24 teams attended. Both the U14's and U16's played in two pools and the U18's played a straight round. The U14's played 5 other schools in their pool and won all but one of their games which took them into the semi-finals. They took to the court and played Farlingaye: their game was incredibly close and they were goal for goal from every centre pass. Unfortunately the whistle blew and it wasn't in our favour and we lost by one goal. The U14's therefore came 3rd out of 12 schools and narrowly missed out on the finals by one goal. An outstanding achievement, well done! The U16's had a challenging day and they showed great perseverance and courage and developed as a team throughout the afternoon. The U18's showed outstanding play throughout all their games, moving ball-side and tipping the balls out of the air. They turned ball after ball and created skillful passages of play to goal. They were unbeaten all afternoon which means they are state school champions for 2024! Well done to all involved!

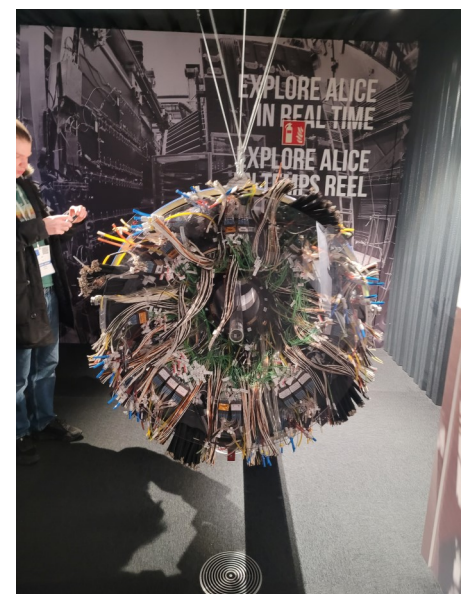


U18 Girls Netball



## CERN TRIP

On 26 February an excited bunch of year 13 students embarked on the bi-annual Hartismere physics pilgrimage to Geneva in Switzerland to visit the home of particle physics, the large Hadron Collider at CERN. Due to phenomenal demand we were unable to secure our normal summer dates but the snow-capped mountains provided beautiful scenery and the lack of tourists made it far easier to get about the city by tram and bus. The group visited the ALICE (A Large Ion Collider Experiment) detector and the main control room for CERN, they learnt about the engineering and computing challenges at the forefront of scientific research and also how theoretical physics lights the way for the experimental physicists to design experiments in their quest for a grand unifying theory. Aside from physics the group visited the Red Cross Museum, learnt about the work of the UN, did their own particle accelerating at a bowling alley, enjoyed traditional Swiss fondue and completed science themed escape rooms (in French!). Overall a great trip to a fully international city that prides itself on political neutrality and cutting edge scientific research.



## ECO TREE PLANTING

25 members of Eco Council along with Mrs Ballam, Mrs Stannard and Mr Jenner planted 50 trees at the end of the playing field on Tuesday 30 January. The trees have been planted to commemorate King Charles II's coronation last year.

The trees were donated to the school by Suffolk Tree Warden Network who give free trees to anyone who has a site with permission. Contact your local tree warden if you have a site and would like some free trees. We mulched the trees with Woodchip kindly donated by Nick Bobby, local tree surgeon.

We planted a mixture of Oak, Cherry, Crab Apple and Hornbeam, and used the theory that trees of the same species can communicate and look after one another through electrical signals that travel through the mycelium on their roots, therefore planting small groups of the same species next to each other.

The students worked very hard and really enjoyed themselves, even the litter pick that we did to tidy up the whole area afterwards!

Thanks to all who helped.







## SEVERE WEATHER

If there has been severe weather overnight a decision will be made by 7:45am whether the school is to close. You can find out if the school **is closed** by:

Checking the school website - [www.hartismere.com](http://www.hartismere.com)

Receiving an SMS text alert ( more info at [www.hartismere.com/sms](http://www.hartismere.com/sms) )

Telephoning (01379) 870315. A message stating that the school is closed will be heard before any further options.

**Please note** we will only post messages if the **school is closed** or **partially closed**. We will **not post any messages** if the **school is open**.

Occasionally a bus may be delayed, and this can happen for a variety of reasons. Pupils will know the approximate time when their bus usually arrives at the pick-up point. Sometimes it may take up to 30mins for the bus company to be notified of the delay and, if appropriate, arrange for a replacement bus and driver. The normal instruction to pupils therefore is to wait at the pick-up point for this length of time. However if there is bad weather it is a matter of judgement of pupils and parents whether this time is too long. Clearly in very cold, snowy conditions children should not be waiting this length of time.

Parents should discuss this with their son or daughter and make arrangements so they know what to do if they have to return home when a bus fails to appear, particularly in severe conditions or if the school has to close early during the school day. It is important to make sure they have a house key or there is a relative or neighbour they can go to if parents are out at work.

In the unlikely event that the weather deteriorates **during the day** and would make the journey home from school hazardous, then school buses may be called early. We suggest that parents, particularly those who are likely to be at work, discuss the matter carefully with their son or daughter and have a plan in place so that pupils can return safely home, or to a near neighbour, until parents arrive home.

## Visits to school & dropping things off...

If you are dropping something off for your child such as dinner money, forgotten PE kit, packed lunch or homework for example, please take it to Mrs Lawrence in the Pupil Services Office. This is located just inside the entrance to the Sports Hall. Please remind your child that they should go there to collect it. If they do not know that you are bringing something in we will attempt to get a message to them.

If you are coming into the school for any other reason such as a meeting with a member of staff, please remember to report to Reception and sign in.



## **DATES OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2023- 2024**

### **Autumn Term – 2023**

**PD Day Monday 4 September**

**Tuesday 5 September – Years 7 and 12 return**

**Wednesday 6 September – All year groups**

**School ends for pupils Friday 20 October**

**Half Term - Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October**

**PD Day Monday 30 October**

**School Ends Wednesday 20 December**

### **Spring Term - 2024**

**PD Day Wednesday 3 January**

**Pupils return Thursday 4 January**

**School ends for pupils Friday 16 February**

**Half Term - Monday 19 to Fri 23 February**

**School Ends for pupils Thursday 28 March**

### **Summer Term – 2024**

**PD Day Friday 12 April**

**Pupils return Monday 15 April**

**Bank Holiday Monday 6 May**

**PD day Tuesday 7 May**

**Half Term - Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May**

**School Ends Friday 19 July – pupils leave @ midday**