

Kesteven & Sleaford High School

# NEWSLETTER

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22 Mar 2019

23 Mar	Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver Kit Issue & Check
25-29 Mar	Year 9 Assessment Week
25 Mar	Duke of Edinburgh Award Gold & Silver Deadline
29 Mar	Year 13 EP Revision Conference London
29 Mar	Year 13 Psychology Revision Trip
29 Mar	Year 3 & 4 Tri-Golf
29 Mar	Year 7 & 8 Disco
30-31 Mar	Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze Practice 1
1-5 Apr	Year 10 Assessment Week
3 Apr	Year 13 Parents' Evening at KSHS
5 Apr	Year 7 Warwick Castle Trip
5 Apr	Hockey Finals
5 Apr	LAST DAY OF TERM
23 Apr	FIRST DAY OF TERM

Dear Parents/Guardians,

If your child ever tells you that school's 'just boring' I hope that his newsletter convinces you that we get the balance between hard work, intellectual curiosity and simple fun right most weeks! As an all girls' school we take our responsibilities to inspire students across a wide range of subject seriously and last week, under the organisation of Mr Norris, STEM Coordinator, we made sure that students enjoyed National Science Week with a range of STEM events. My thanks go to local company Grunwald UK and their sponsors PPMA, for a great day last Wednesday in the Year 9 robotics event. Read more in our STEM/Science Week feature.

Last week ended with the silliness of Comic Relief day and this week has seen the Year 11s have a chance to test out the skills they have developed since the mocks in December with a series of subject specific study skills workshops and timed practice in core subjects and subjects of their choice. As GCSE exams get closer it was timely to have a visit from the Inspire Trust who shared advice and tips with all Year 11 students about managing their mental health and wellbeing but also their resilience at this important time.

Mrs J Smith  
Head of School

## SAM RUDDOCK – VISIT TO SCHOOL

We were delighted to welcome Paralympic athlete Sam Ruddock to Kesteven and Sleaford High School on March 13th to deliver an assembly on dealing with the pressure of exams to our Key Stage 4 students. Sam's assembly covered a range of topics including: best prepared, best chance, managing nerves and anxiety, and handling exam pressures.

Sam is an ambassador for the Youth Sports Trust and Inspire+ and delivers inspirational talks across schools. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to hear from such an inspiring role model.

<https://www.inspireplus.org.uk/online/>



# A Week of STEM events and British Science Week 2019 at KSHS

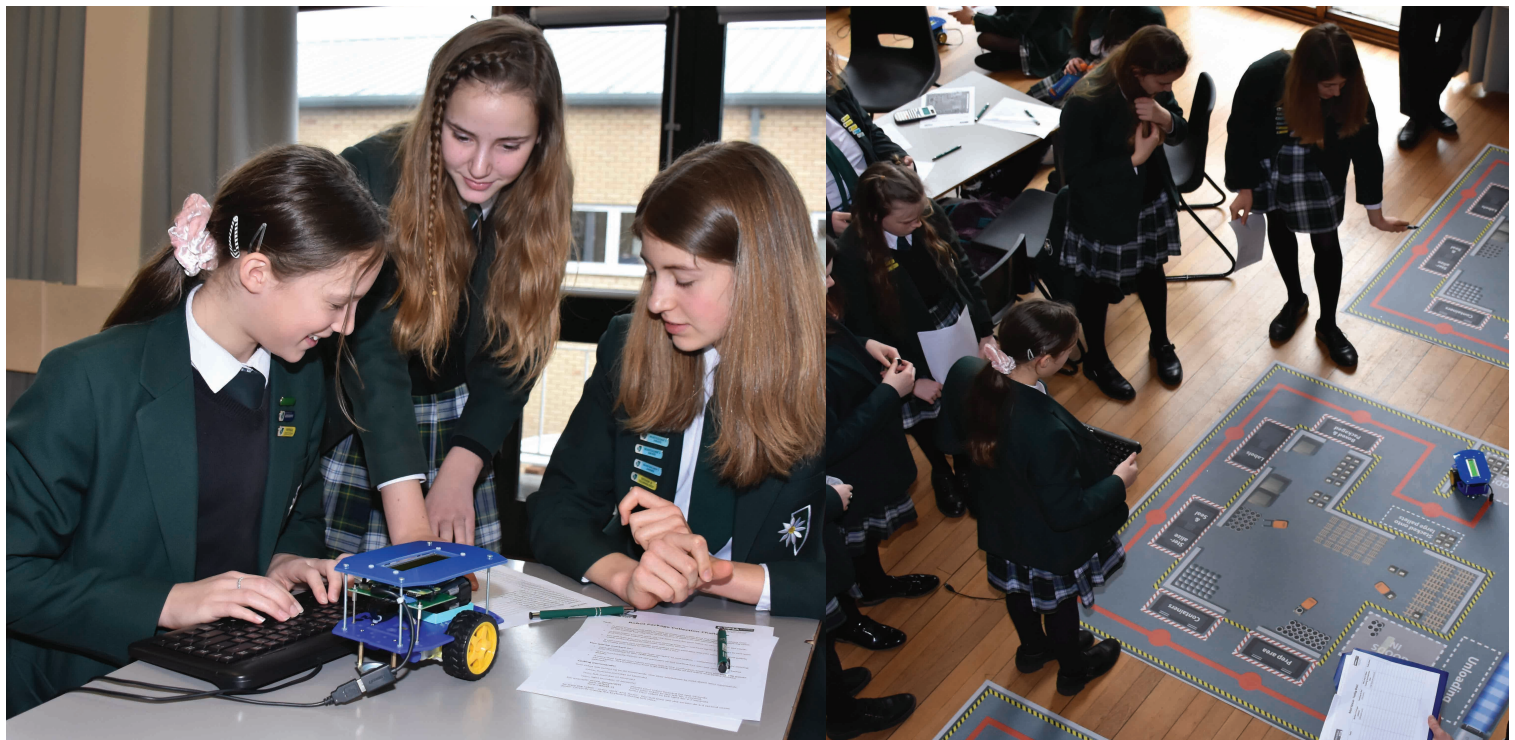
The students of KSHS took part in a range of workshops, trips and activities to celebrate British Science week. This was a fantastic opportunity to allow our students to get hands-on and develop their attributes in STEM subjects (Science Technology Engineering & Maths).

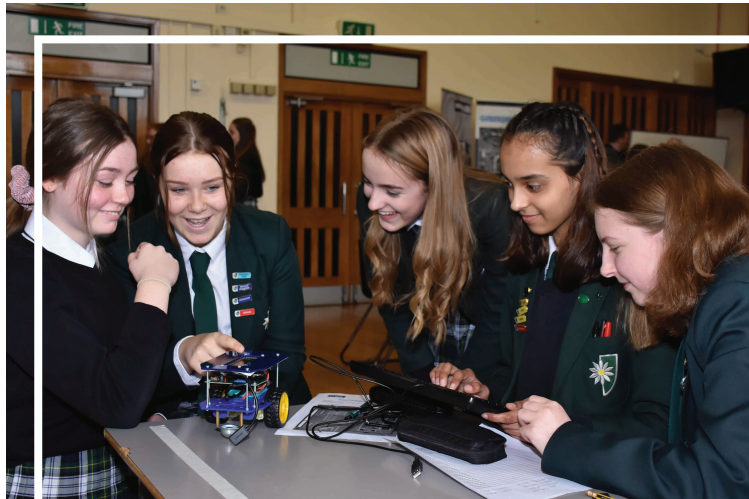
## Monday – Marine Engineers – Year 8

Monday saw Year 8 students take part in the Marine Engineers Pathways workshop. This involved learning about the Physics behind marine engineering, from buoyancy to density and beyond. They were then given the chance to apply these principles by designing and building their own boats to hold marbles. With just an A3 piece of card, some aluminium foil and tape, groups were able to build boats holding over 300 marbles! A massive congratulations to 8F who managed to break the national record and hold 490 marbles in their boat!

## Wednesday – Robotics Workshop with Grunwald UK and Sponsored by PPMA – Year 9

On Wednesday KSHS hosted a STEM day for the whole of Year 9, sponsored by PPMA Best and run by EDT. Students were able to programme and test their own robots, with impressive results. They were given some invaluable careers advice, showing students where a career in Engineering could take them. In the afternoon they were challenged with building rollercoasters, from nothing but card and masking tape, to keep a marble rolling for as long as possible. The students showed problem solving flair, initiative and impeccable communication skills to produce some impressive rollercoasters.

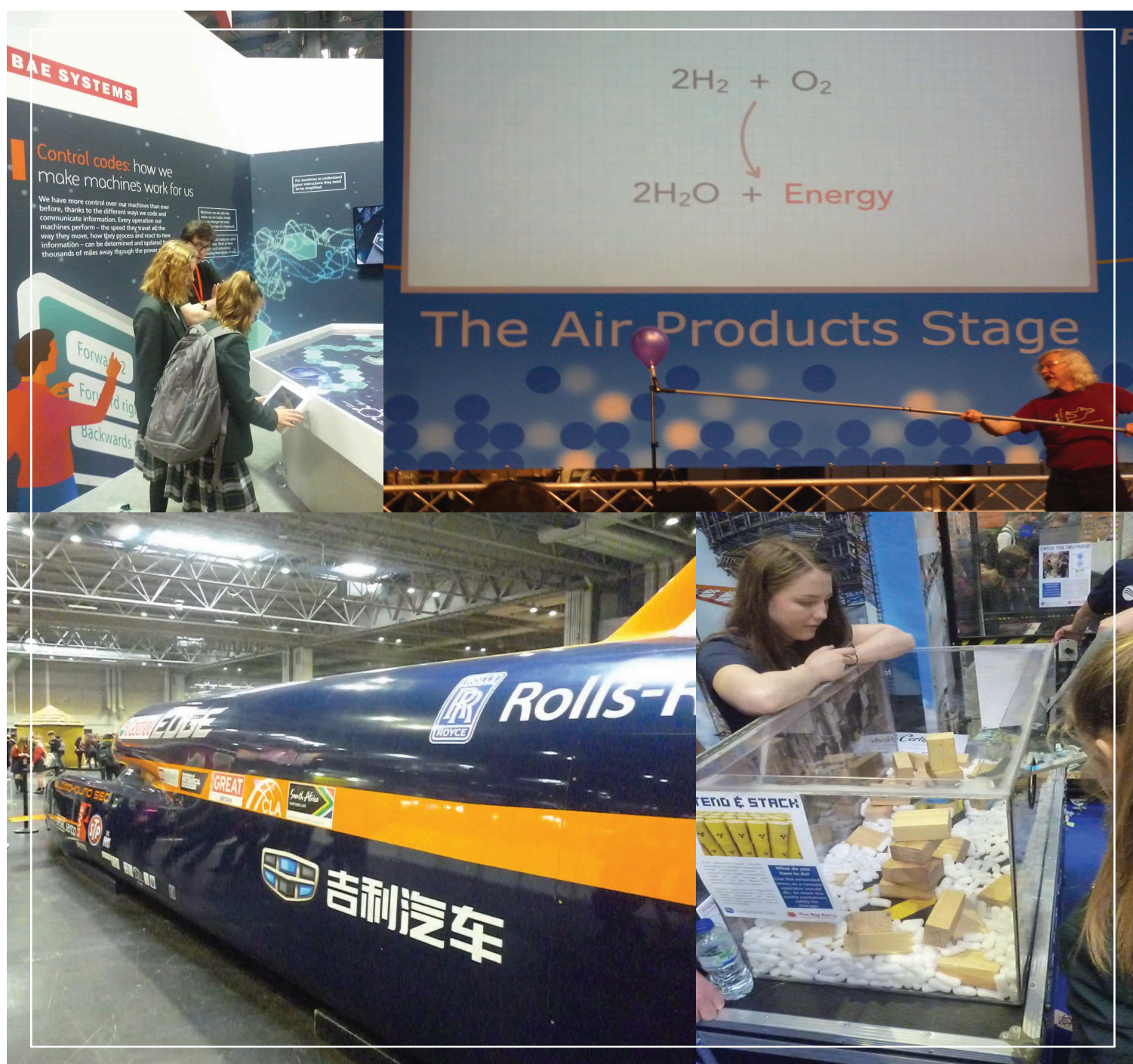




## Friday – Visit to the Big Bang Fair – Year 7

The week finished with a joint KSHS and CGS trip for Year 7 to the Big Bang Fair at the NEC in Birmingham – the nation's largest Science and Engineering fair for students. With a range of live shows, workshops, stalls and plenty of ways to get involved the students had a brilliant day out. Robot chefs, the world's fastest land vehicle, giant insects and drones were just a few of the things on show. All visitors were incredibly complementary about the behaviour, creativity, enthusiasm and aptitude of our students. Needless to say we are proud of how they have represented the school this week. Students still wishing to get involved with Science week can, by entering the poster competition. This year's poster competition is to produce a poster about journeys. Students can hand their completed poster to their Science teacher, by Friday 29th March, for a chance of winning a prize.

<https://www.britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/poster-competition/>

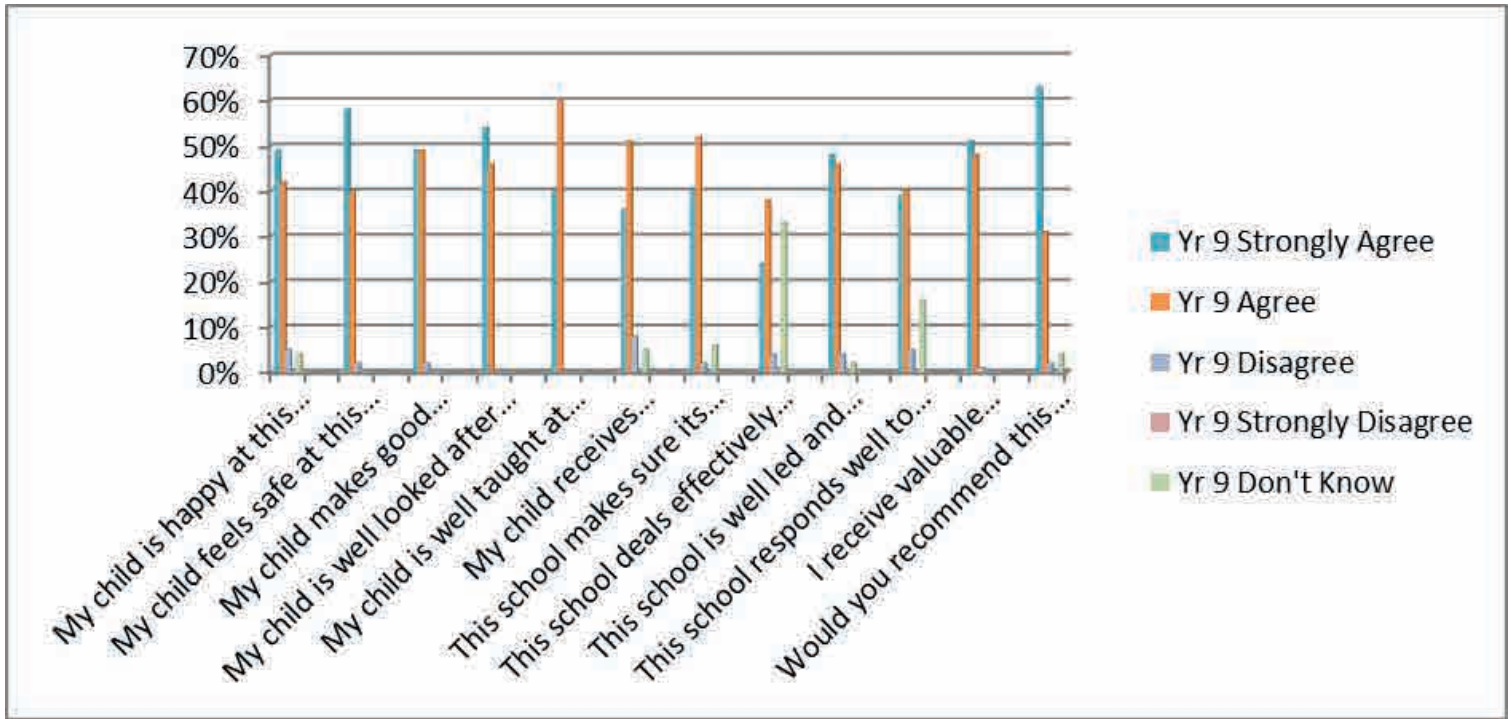


# Parents' Evening Feedback

A huge thanks to all parent of students in Years 9-11 who have attended evenings in the past few weeks. We are always especially grateful to those of you who take the time to give us feedback on your daughter's experience of school via the questionnaires. These largely ask the same questions of parents that Ofsted ask during an inspection visit, as well as seeking views on particular areas of school life we are working to develop. We have asked you to complete these each parents' evening for several years now which means we are able to track trends as well as particular commendations or concerns from each cohort.

A copy of the questionnaires are attached along with the newsletter if you would like a reminder of the questions we asked.

## Year 9 Parents' Evening Survey Findings



We received 96 surveys from our 106 Year 9 families. In addition to a range of lovely comments one parent raised the issue of the amount of homework their child received. Do please always contact your daughter's tutor if you feel that time spent on homework is excessive for your child. We very much believe that school work, hobbies and family time should be balanced and sometimes we find students being perfectionists or placing undue demands on themselves in their homework completion.

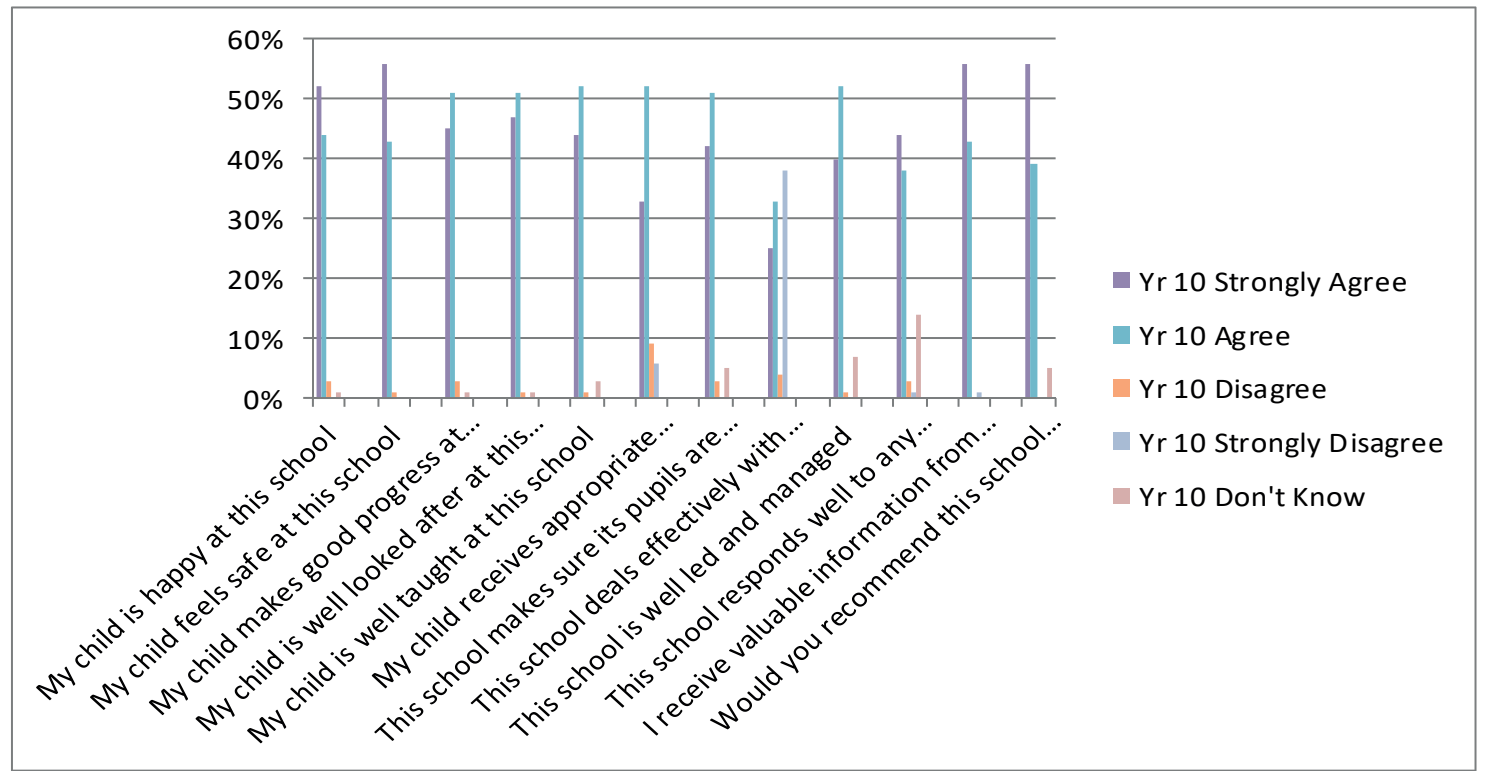
## Year 10 Parents' Evening Survey Findings

We received 73 returns from our 128 families.

Year 10 seem our most positive year group overall with a wide range of really positive comments.

One parent did query the frequency of assessments especially given that Year 10 are soon to undertake their formal assessment week and how the assessment information was used. Those comments are noted and will be addressed at our next Subject Leaders' meeting.

Another parent asked about Spanish being an option at GCSE or languages being optional. Unfortunately we have no plans to introduce Spanish in the near future but future staffing decisions will bear this request in mind if it is something an increasing number of parents are interested in. Simply put our current MFL staff have French and German as their first and second languages. As a selective school we expect all students to follow the Government’s Ebacc curriculum which means that all students pursue a modern foreign language up until the end of Key Stage 4. This curriculum keeps future academic pathways open to students for as long as possible and it is often acknowledged as a good decision by returning students who opt for an increasing number of international placement courses at university. Our decision is regularly reviewed as part of our annual Trust wide curriculum review. If you would like to influence this further please do get in touch.



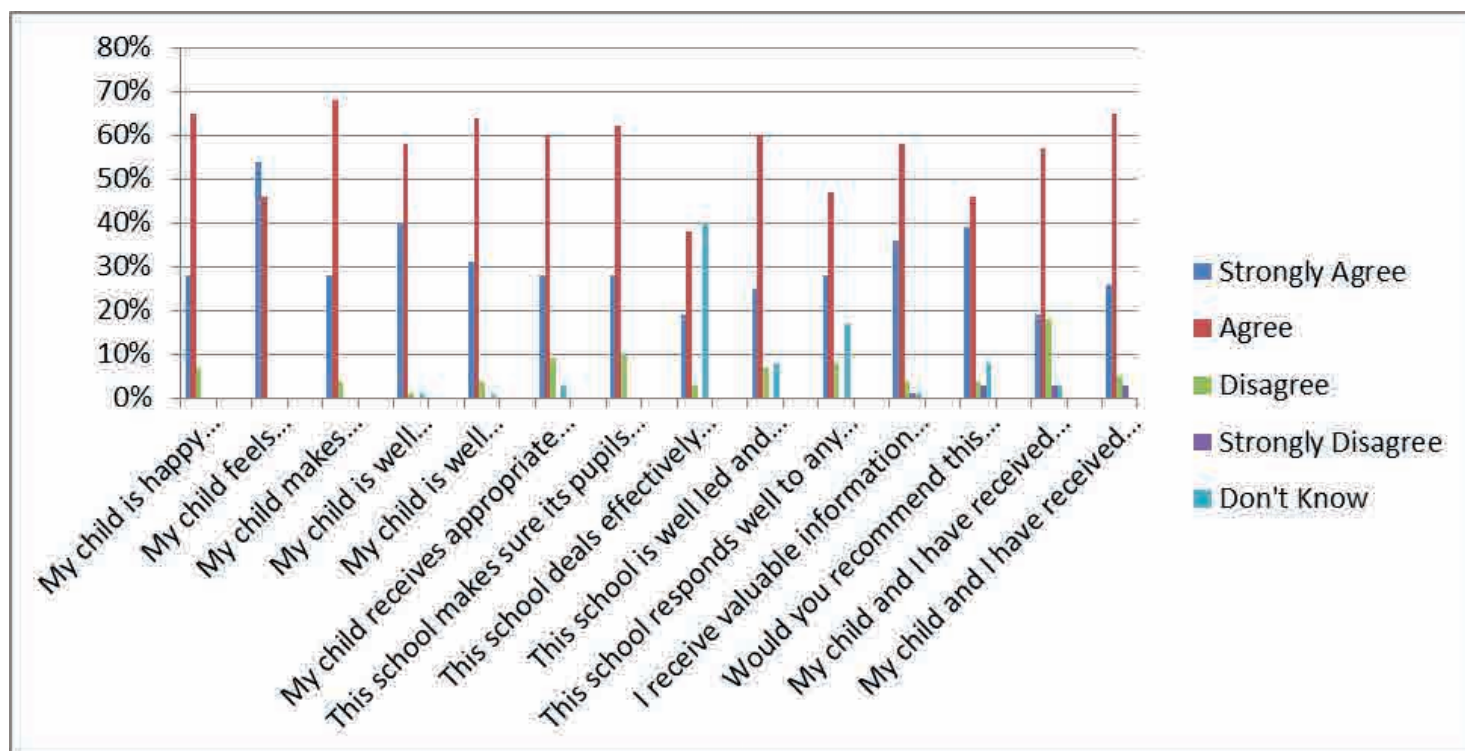
## Year 11 Parents’ Evening Survey Findings

We received 119 returns from 131 Year 11 families.

Parents in both years 10 and 11 commented on adjusting to our new online communication App, with some very pleased to have smartphone updates but a handful asking for paper based communications, one specifically for details of after school revision sessions. We do offer hard copies of communications to any parents who request information in this format, this is given out routinely via form tutors; it does rely on the student of course to hand the information over to parents and can quickly become out of date. Revision sessions have previously been printed in the newsletter too but please don’t hesitate to contact the school if there is something specific required.

One parent raised queries regarding school funding and what they referred to as the ‘merger with Carre’s’. The two schools joined together in a Multi Academy Trust four years ago and both have since benefitted from the collaboration this affords. Both schools are still 2 separate schools however with separate operational school budgets. I’m delighted to report that despite undeniable underfunding from central government the High School is in good financial shape: careful management of the staffing budget, purposeful and genuine collaboration as part of the Robert Carre Trust (especially at Sixth Form level) and strong numbers joining the school year on year place us in a financially robust position as we plan ahead for next academic year and beyond.

Other themes from the questionnaires included the sixth form options counselling sessions and homework versus revision tensions. Please be assured that at this stage of the year homework set is absolutely focused on examination preparation. Please trust in staff to set meaningful tasks. Whilst conscientious students wish to progress with their own revision programmes, examination preparation tasks (perceived as homework by students because they have shorter teacher set deadlines attached to them) are just as important a part of their preparation and enable teachers to assess progress against key areas of the syllabus or sometimes direct students' own revision most purposefully.



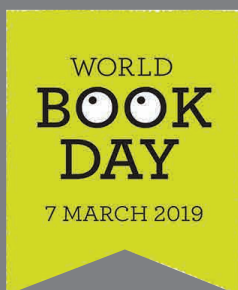
We have taken a slightly different approach to sixth form options advice meetings this year. This is a result of feedback from parents last year on GCSE results day when students were disappointed if they hadn't met the entry criteria for certain A level courses. The Head of Sixth Form, at whichever base school your daughter has nominated, will have met with each student in recent weeks and discussed alternative course options with students whose mock results suggest they may like to have a Plan B in mind as well as a Plan A. Whilst we are mindful that this may be a tough conversation to have at this point in the year we also want to make sure that students and their parents receive the most practical advice in a timely manner. It also helps us plan course provision well in advance. For the first time this year we have additionally sent a summary of meeting discussions home for parents' information.

Some parents commented on individual issues concerning their child. As the surveys are anonymous please do get in touch if there is a specific issue.

And finally thank you for the lovely comments sampled below. I can't tell you how much they mean to staff who are always hoping that their efforts are paying dividends!

- Very happy with the school
- Very happy child. Thank you very much
- We would like to thank the school and your staff for the support & compassion that has been shown to our daughter following the diagnosis of a serious illness – the teachers have been exemplary in their support at such a difficult time
- I am extremely pleased with her progress. My daughter is very happy and well settled
- A really good balance between striving academically and wellbeing. Always feel very welcome
- I cannot praise the school enough for the support they have shown my child

- Very pleased with my daughter's progress – she is very happy at school and attends lots of extra-curricular activities. Thank you to everyone
- I have seen massive improvement in my daughter since moving from the last school to this one. Although she hasn't been the easiest student and has required support we have always had this in huge measures and I would like to thank the school for all it continues to do for her
- We are delighted with our daughter's progress so far, many thanks
- Thank you for enabling our daughter to realise her potential
- I cannot recommend this school highly enough
- We are so pleased with the fantastic progress our daughter is making and would like to thank each and every member of staff for the opportunities and their dedication
- Our daughter has recently had some issues regarding confidence and getting 'stressed' we cannot speak highly enough of the pastoral care she has received and the feedback we have been given. The teachers this evening have also reassured our daughter (and us) that she is doing well and not to get too hung up about targets
- My daughters are really enjoying their time here. They are being encouraged and supported to be the best they can be



## Library News Read all about it!

This hugely popular event was celebrated throughout the school with various book inspired activities. Staff shared a shelfie: inspiring their students to maintain a lifelong love of reading for pleasure by displaying a self-portrait of themselves reading a favourite book. Within the library, a weeks' worth of library books were borrowed during the day, with students going on a blind date with a book; selecting a book without first viewing the cover and therefore extending their reader development by having a book they might not ordinarily choose. National Book tokens were also distributed to students, redeemable at participating bookshops.

Preparations are well under way for the inaugural SLEAFORD TRI-SCHOOL LIT QUIZ. Three teams from each of Sleaford's secondary schools will be testing their literary knowledge against each other in a succession of themed rounds on Thursday 28th March. This event is inspired by the global kid lit quiz that our students have proudly participated in for the last few years.

There will be a Scholastic book fair in the library from Wednesday 27th March to Monday 1st April. A mobile bookshop

packed with over 200 new titles, prices starting from £2.99. Every book sold will help us to get more free books for our school library. World Book day tokens can be redeemed at this event.

All students, parents and guardians are reminded that library books are issued for a two week period, after which they must be returned. Books can be renewed up to two times, after which, the book will need to be returned to the library. We do not operate a fine system for overdue books, and encourage all students to borrow responsibly, however in the event of a book being lost or damaged, we do make a replacement item/charge request.

Mrs C Gibson, LRC Manager

"Wherever I am, if I've got a book with me, I have a place I can go and be happy"

J K Rowling



# COMIC RELIEF DAY



Every year game-for-a-laugh teachers are prepared to humiliate themselves in front of a student audience in order to do their bit to raise funds for Comic Relief! In addition to student organised bake sales, sporting competitions and a non-uniform day, staff took part in a Wii Dance competition last Friday lunchtime charging students 20p a head to wonder at their dance moves! Thanks to the students on the charity committee of the student council for organising the fun!



Mrs Smith and Mrs Fairhead back to their 80's roots



Miss Shales and Miss Beckitt with their 'Frozen' sequence



Miss Grindey was Sandy from 'Grease'



The PE department showing everyone how it's really done



The staff Comic Relief Wii Dance team

# Duke of Edinburgh Award

## Important Dates:

- Sat 23 March 2019:Silver Kit Issue & Check at KSHS
- Sat 30 & Sun 31 March 2019:Bronze Practice Expedition 1
- Sat 27 to Mon 29 April 2019:Silver Practice Expedition
- Thu 2 & Fri 3 May 2019:Bronze Practice Expedition 2
- Sat 11 May:Drop-In Day at Carre’s



One of the D of E volunteer staff supervisors is doing the Marathon des Sables 6 marathons in 6 days across the desert in April this year raising money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association and Médecins Sans Frontières (UK). Please could you consider donating to one of his Justgiving pages (links below):

- [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sunnysardesai](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sunnysardesai)
- [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sunny-sardesai1](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sunny-sardesai1)

I would like to wish him all the very best of luck from the D of E team at the Robert Carre Trust.

Mrs M Walker  
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

## Spotlight on Sport

### Year 7 Netball



Year 7 Netball team after their 27-1 win against Walton Girls

Results				
Age Group	Opposition	Date	Score	Result
Volleyball				
U15	KSSA	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March @ Carre’s	First of three rounds played	Green team joint 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Yellow team joint 3 <sup>rd</sup> place
Netball				
Year 7 A & B	St George’s Academy	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March @ home	Postponed	
Year 7	Sir William Robertson Academy	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March @ Sir William Robertson Academy	Postponed	
Year 7	Walton Girls	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March @ Walton Girls	27-1	Won
Year 8	St George’s Academy	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March @ St George’s	Postponed	
Year 8	Priory Ruskin Academy	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March @ Priory Ruskin Academy	Postponed	
Year 9	St George’s Academy	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March @ St George’s	Postponed	
Year 9	Priory Ruskin Academy	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March @ Priory Ruskin Academy	Postponed	



Upcoming fixtures		
Age Group	Opposition	Date
<b>Volleyball</b>		
U15	KSSA	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April @ Carre's
<b>Netball</b>		
Year 7 A & B	St George's Academy	TBC
Year 7 A & B	Sir William Robertson Academy	TBC
Year 7 A & B	KSSA tournament	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March @ Walton Girls
Year 8	St George's Academy	TBC
Year 8	Priory Ruskin Academy	TBC
Year 9	St George's Academy	TBC
Year 9	Priory Ruskin Academy	TBC

## Student success

### Mia (8L) - National Judo

Mia entered the AJA National Championship in Judo 8 months and 6 days after breaking her arm and after only 6 weeks of full training. Not only did she show the resilience to do this but she also won the silver medal and re-qualified for the National squad to go to take part in Holland in May.

## GROWTH MINDSET NOMINATIONS

4th to 15th March 2019



Staff are invited to nominate students who have demonstrated a Growth

Mindset in the past few weeks. This might have been in lessons, in clubs, in tutor time or simply around school.

Please note we already award bi-annual subject badges and merits for good academic work, effort and improvement. These Growth Mindset nominations recognise those who show resilience (academic or otherwise); who aren't afraid to get things wrong and learn from it; those who have a go, take themselves out of their comfort zone or show that even if a task is tough they will persevere.

Subject area	Student being nominated	Tutor Group	Staff nominating
Computing	Isobel Coles	10A	Mr S Mulligan
Computing	Emily Morris	11MLM	Mr S Mulligan
Drama	Hazel Francis	11KG	Mrs T Thomas
English	Lucy Chapman	11NP	Miss G Walters
English	Daisy Couture	11KG	Miss G Walters
English	Paris Dunmore	11KG	Miss G Walters
English	Charlotte Gill	11KG	Miss G Walters
English	Isobel Turner	9W	Miss G Walters
English	Ola Turner	8W	Miss G Walters
Food	Emily Sadler	9L	Mrs J Pankhurst
French	Isabelle Hanwell	8F	Mr A Shivas
French	Isabelle Hazelwood	8F	Mr A Shivas
French	Ash Iszatt	8L	Miss A Beckitt
French	Annie Jenkins	9F	Miss A Beckitt
French	Alexia Johnson	10F	Mr A Shivas
French	Emily Morris	11MLM	Miss E Shales

French	Leah Wardle	10W	Mr A Shivas
German	Alice Booth	11NP	Mr L Rooke
German	Tamzen Brenton	11NP	Mr L Rooke
German	Abby Couchman	11KG	Mr L Rooke
German	Holly Davidson	9A	Mr L Rooke
German	Sarah Durham	10A	Mr L Rooke
German	Isabella Field	10A	Mr L Rooke
German	Hazel Francis	11KG	Mr L Rooke
German	Lexi Hepplewhite	10F	Mr L Rooke
German	Nelly MacArthur	10F	Mr L Rooke
German	Milly Pepper	9L	Mr L Rooke
German	Jazmin Randall	9L	Mr L Rooke
German	Ella Rippon	9L	Mr L Rooke
German	Hannah Speight	10W	Mr L Rooke
Head of Year	Holly Marshall	8L	Miss R Grindey
History	Holly King	11JC	Mrs E Constantine
History	Jasmin Sleight	11MC	Mrs E Constantine
Maths	Grace Addison	7A	Mrs H Megginson
Maths	Rachael Aldridge	7A	Mrs H Megginson
Maths	Emily Burkitt	7A	Mrs H Megginson
Maths	Grace Durrant	7A	Mrs H Megginson
Maths	Olivia Gronow	11MC	Mrs H Megginson
Maths	Jasmin Sleight	11MC	Mrs H Megginson
Maths	Emily Sunman	11MC	Mrs H Megginson
Maths	Martha Thorogood-Bos	7W	Mrs H Megginson
Maths	Niamh Turner	7W	Mrs H Megginson
Maths	Reese Ward-Walters	7W	Mrs H Megginson
Maths	Eleanor Webster	7W	Mrs H Megginson
Textiles	Lucy Davis	13F	Mrs B Fleming
Textiles	Lucy Forrester	10L	Mrs B Fleming
Textiles	Emma Kopp	10F	Mrs B Fleming
Textiles	Megan Skelton	10W	Mrs B Fleming
Textiles	Evie Smith	10W	Mrs B Fleming

