

# Review

## Festive Carol Concert

On December 16th, the music department held their annual carol concert at St Mary's Church in Reepham. An array of performances took place including the school orchestra, brass group, choir, drama club and soloists. There was also the opportunity for the congregation to take part in traditional carols to get everyone into the spirit of the season.

It was lovely to see such a great turnout from parents and staff giving the students the opportunity to perform to a packed church and share what they had been working on throughout the term. It was a great success and we are looking forward to our next performance opportunity.

Mrs Peace, Music teacher



## UK Future Chef 2026

January 12th saw Reilly and Hector making their way to Cambridge Regional College to take part in the local finals of the Springboard UK Future Chef 2026 national cooking competition.

This saw pupils from schools in Norfolk and neighbouring counties enter pupils to prepare, cook, and serve two dishes of restaurant quality. Judges included a chef lecturer at the college, representatives from the Royal Navy catering team and David Mulcahy, chair of Springboard UK and vice chair of the Craft Guild of Chefs who later praised both Reilly and Hector for their technical skills and organisational ability.

Hector and Reilly were required to create their own recipe and to provide detailed costings of their dish. They also had to adjust to working in a fully industrial commercial kitchen, adjusting their cooking methods, equipment, and timings as a result. On this occasion, we

were unable to progress further, but having such a high level of competition and being the first time Reepham High has taken part, it was a learning curve for us all.

In passing, as well as congratulating both pupils, we must also thank their parents who were also in attendance, who have also endured pasta and pork chops on multiple occasions over the last month!

The competition, which was open to all our GCSE food pupils is an excellent introduction to the style and quality of food required at GCSE level. Many of our key stage 3 pupils are given an opportunity to 'plate up' their food, which we encourage them to do. Whilst the KS3 rotation is short, such activities ensure we showcase our pupils' abilities at all levels, as well as to enthuse and promote hospitality and product design as future career options.

Mr Baxter, teacher of Food and Nutrition



## Mighty Mussels

Reepham High School was one of just 200 schools across the UK to receive some of the rope-grown fresh mussels donated by Offshore Shell, RT Shellfish, the Fishmongers' Society and the Food Teachers' Centre. When we say 'fresh' we should specify that we received them 48 hours after they'd been harvested, even after a delay due to the stormy weather!

Our pupils produced the classic moules marinière, and there was very little left after multiple second helpings.

The aim of the Mighty Mussels programme is to encourage pupils to use mussels, understand where these come from, seasonality and sustainability issues, source of protein, as well as to support the shellfish industry and to experience the taste and versatility of seafood.

Mr Baxter, teacher of Food and Nutrition



## Portrait Project

In Art, students explore an exciting range of techniques and media throughout Key Stage 3, developing the skills and knowledge needed for progression to GCSE and A Level studies.

In Year 9, students have been working on a portrait project, with a current focus on dry point etching (see image, top right). Dry point etching is a printmaking technique that uses fine lines and expressive mark-making to recreate an image. This process

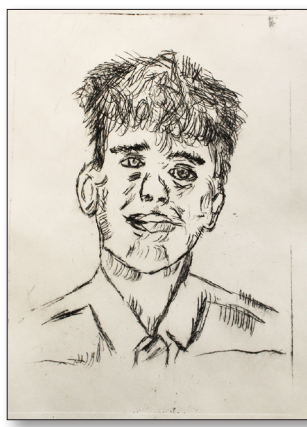
has been used by many renowned artists, including Rembrandt, Lucian Freud and Paula Rego, who was recently celebrated in an exhibition at the Castle Museum.

For students, this is an excellent process for accessing and developing drawing skills through an alternative approach, helping to build confidence and independence.

The versatility and success of dry point etching are further developed at GCSE, where students select their own subject matter to explore and recreate (left).

This journey culminates at Reepham College, where A Level students specialise in their chosen area, refining their skills and producing highly personal and independent outcomes (lower right).

Ms Lee, Art and Photography teacher



## Getting Ready for the Slopes

Year 10 and 11 students have been working incredibly hard during their ski lessons at the Norfolk Snow Sports Club as they prepare for their upcoming half-term trip to Italy.

Their progress has been fantastic, with students confidently skiing faster, learning to turn and stop - alongside a few amusing falls along the way, including one tumble from the travelator!

It won't be long now before they're putting their skills to the test on real snow in the Dolomites.

Mrs Greig-Thompson, PE teacher



## College News

### Taster Day for Transferring Applicants

This half term, the college hosted a dedicated taster day for transferring applicants from Sheringham sixth form, offering students an opportunity to experience college life first hand ahead of their transition.

The day was carefully structured to give a realistic and welcoming insight into what the college has to offer. Students took part in a range of mini lessons across different subjects, allowing them to sample teaching styles, engage with staff, and get a feel for the expectations of A Level study. Our senior student team led guided tours of the college, which helped applicants familiarise themselves with facilities and feel confident navigating the college environment.

At lunchtime, students were joined by current college students, providing an informal and supportive space to ask questions and hear honest reflections about college life.

All students attended a talk by the College Director, who outlined the college's vision, values, and commitment to supporting students through their next stage of education. Overall, the taster day was a valuable and positive experience, helping transferring applicants feel informed, welcomed, and excited about the opportunities ahead.

### Bullseye Start: Our First-Ever House Darts Competition



This half term saw the launch of our very first house darts competition, and it hasn't disappointed. What began as a simple idea quickly gathered momentum, turning into a week-long buzz of practice, friendly rivalry, and growing confidence across the student body.

Throughout the week, practice boards were in constant use. Lunchtimes were filled with students perfecting their throws, sharing tips, and encouraging one another. For some, it was their first time picking up a dart; for others, it was about refining technique and staying calm under pressure. Across all houses, the atmosphere was focused but fun, with plenty of laughter mixed in with serious concentration.

The final competition arrives in the last week of half term. This house event has brought students together, strengthened house identity, and has given many the chance to shine in a new way. As our first house competition, it set the bar high and judging by the enthusiasm already building, it certainly won't be the last.

### Year 12 Work Experience Planning

Year 12 students have been actively engaging in work experience planning in preparation for their two week placement in July. This important stage of the process has focused on helping students explore career pathways, secure appropriate placements, and understand the expectations of the workplace.

Students have been supported to research industries aligned with their interests and future aspirations, make professional contact with employers, and complete the necessary planning and safeguarding checks.

These early steps are helping students to approach their placements with confidence, purpose, and a clear understanding of how the experience will support their personal and academic development.

The two week work experience will provide students with valuable insight into the world of work, allowing them to develop employability skills such as communication, time management, and professionalism, while gaining first-hand experience in a real working environment.

Current confirmed placements include: Norwich Law Courts, Saxon Air, Broads Authority, Norwich Aviation Centre, Alan Boswell Group, Aviva, National Trust, Jimmy's Farm & Wildlife Park and Reepham Dental Centre.

Bank of England

Reepham College hosted a Bank of England Ambassador who gave a talk to Economics students in Year 12 and 13 entitled an "Introduction to Financial Services".

The role of the Bank of England was discussed as well as the functions of different types of financial institutions including commercial and investment banks, the role of digital technology and career pathways.

The talk was very informative and gave an excellent insight into the Bank of England.

Mrs Iwanczyk, Economics and Business teacher

### Year 12 Trip to Law Courts

A group of Year 12 Law students from Reepham College visited Norwich Crown and Magistrate Courts to watch court proceedings, to see in action what they had learnt about in the classroom.

In the morning the group went to the magistrates courts to see a case involving a defendant who had not turned up to a previous hearing and another who was charged with offences outside an asylum hotel.



This case proved very dramatic when the defendant became ill and the whole court was evacuated! After lunch the students visited the Crown where they were able to sit in on a murder trial whilst the pathologist gave her evidence surrounding the cause of death which was fascinating.

Our law students are part way through studying the topic of the English legal system and this was a fantastic opportunity to see first hand how the courts work and the roles of judges, magistrates, solicitors, and barristers as well as the many other roles involved in the running of courts such as court clerks, parole officers and legal experts.

It proved to be an eye opening and interesting visit and all the students impressed with their smart dress and mature attitude.

Mrs Almond, Law teacher

### St Martins Christmas Appeal

The Reepham College Council have been busy organising and putting together sock donations for the St Martins Socks for The Homeless Christmas appeal Home - St Martins.

In total, 33 socks were assembled, each sock containing the second sock plus a combination of useful toiletries along with some chocolates and sweet treats.

All ten tutor groups took part and contributed generously, a massive well done and thank you to everyone!

### Student Council Recycling Initiative

Following their successful Socks for the Homeless Christmas campaign, the College Student Council have turned their minds to the environment and green issues.

Each tutor room has been given a container for the purpose of collecting paper/card/plastic bottles and cans for recycling, with colourful posters to remind everyone.



A rota will ensure that bins are emptied regularly using the grey and black bins in the car park. Additionally larger bins are to be positioned in the foyer and upstairs in the seating area.

A Valentine's Day bake sale is also being arranged for Wednesday, 11th February, at break and lunch time, with all proceeds being donated to charity.

Miss Larcombe, KS5 Student Manager

