

# Discover More About



DOWNHAM MARKET  
ACADEMY

Friday 25 June 2021

There is a common misconception that the second half of the summer term is a quiet, relaxing countdown to the holidays in schools. I think our school calendar is more packed over these last few weeks than ever before!

In the week after half term, we welcomed an educational consultant to DMA and he visited lessons, spoke to staff and met students and he was very impressed with what he experienced. He particularly commented on how welcoming the students were and the positive relationships they had with staff in lessons.

Year 8 had a day to remember as they immersed themselves in an Ancient Greek day. We are proud to offer this unique experience to complement the classical civilisation, Latin and ancient history courses that we teach in KS3, KS4 and soon-to-be KS5.

Half of year 8 enjoyed their trip to Eaton Vale on Monday and the other half are now looking forward to going on 12 July. Years 9 and 10 have their trips to Go Ape and Extreeme coming up. We're all looking forward to hearing the full reports and seeing photos soon.

We're pleased that Sports Day can go ahead this year although the programme has been modified slightly to remain within Covid restrictions.

Over 100 drama and music students are busy rehearsing each week ahead of our open-air performance at the end of the term. See later in this newsletter for more details and how to book tickets!

A reminder that the school year ends on Wednesday 21 July this year and we start the next academic year on Monday 6 September or Tuesday 7 September depending on your year group.

Mark Eastwood

Senior Deputy Headteacher



# DMA students take to the water

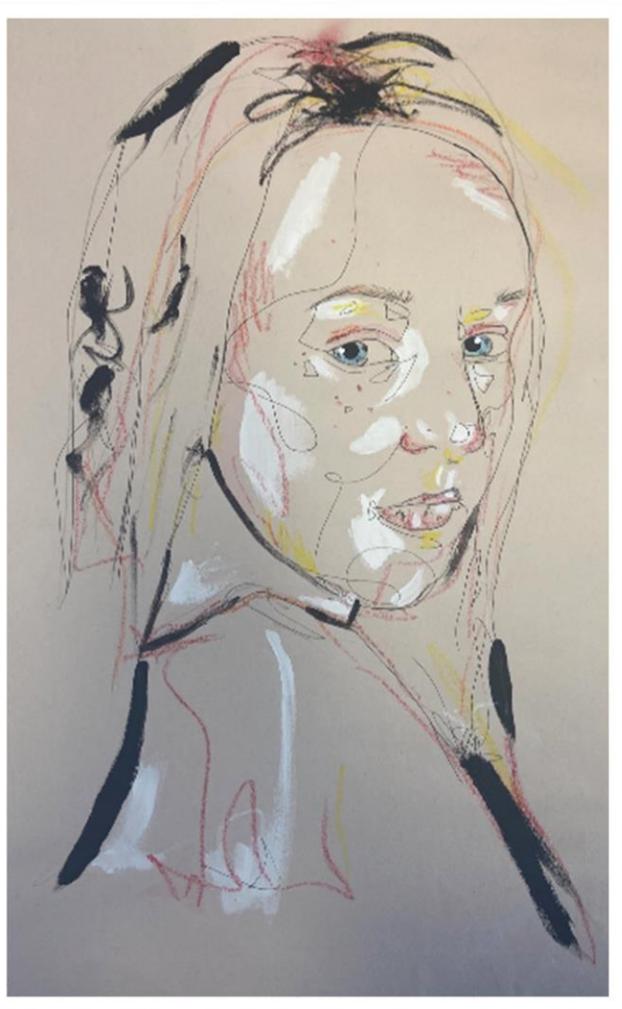
West Norfolk Rowing Club has been delighted to welcome a cohort of Yr7 DMA pupils for a Junior Learn to Row course at the Denver Sluice club. The course is being run by the club's team of volunteer British Rowing-registered coaches and club volunteers, using stable training single boats.

The Junior rowers are learning about technique, safety, boats & equipment and fitness. Those who progress from the course can look forward to crew rowing in the club's double and quad boats, and the opportunity to train for future junior racing events. All the new rowers are enjoying their rowing and even after only 3 sessions, several of the new rowers have removed the support floats.

WNRC captain Nix Marston said "It is great to see a keen group of young rowers start together, supported by their parents. We hope they will enjoy the river and the community spirit of the club, and that this can be the start of a strong association between WNRC and DMA".

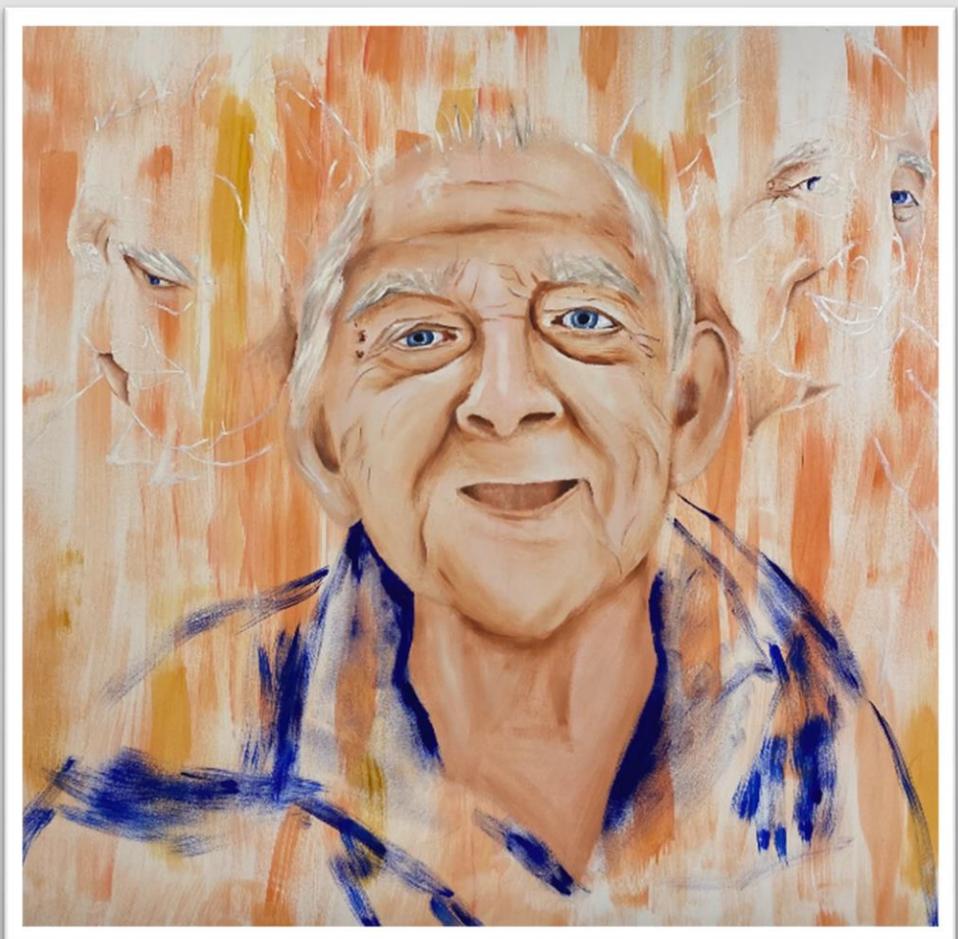


# Norfolk Art & Design Competition 2021



Well done to Aeryn Nicolls and Leila Whitehead, both in Year 13 at Athena Sixth Form College, who were shortlisted in the Norfolk Sixth Form Art and Design Competition. Their work is below and other shortlisted entries, can be seen on this [link](#).

Mrs Turnbull & the Art Team



# χαίρετε – or Greetings!

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June, year 8s immersed themselves in all things ancient Greek in a day dedicated to learning about the lived experiences of the ancient Greeks. The ancient Greeks have given us an alphabet frequently used in Maths and other scientific subjects (Covid variants!), a love of drama with the first tragedies and comedies performed in ancient Athens, and left us a legacy of symbols, stories, and ideology which is always at least on the periphery of our lives now. The year 8s, through a series of different sessions, were asked to delve into what it would have been like to be an ancient Greek and where our modern experiences collide or differ.

Pupils explored the layout of an ancient Greek house using archaeology from the ancient site of Olynthus to reconstruct how the Greeks designed and lived in their houses.

They investigated ancient Greek drinking parties (symposia) by examining scenes painted onto Greek vases. The Greeks loved to decorate their cups and bowls too which has left us with fantastic evidence of symposia, painted onto various drinking bowls, vessels and cups. Pupils were also given the opportunity to design their own kylix (drinking cup).

Pupils looked at the Greek relationship with their gods by learning ways the ancient Greeks could interact with their gods. Pupils considered how the Greeks used to bury marble statues of random limbs and parts of the body in the hope the gods would mend broken bones and cure illnesses. They re-created core moments of animal sacrifices in freeze frames and conducted their own libations (offerings of liquids like wine, water and honey). The oracle of Delphi was also discussed and her famously vague advice.

Pupils worked with the Greek alphabet – progressing from writing out the strange new letters to writing their own names in it, learning ancient Greek gods' and goddess' names in the Greek alphabet and putting English words into it also. The final challenges in this lesson saw pupils learning some ancient Greek words, including Miss Hopley's favourite 'οἴμοι' which is translated as 'Woe is me' on Wiktionary but could quite easily be the noise you make if you drop something on your toe.

The Actors of Dionysus conducted sessions on the ancient Greek theatre and Euripides' play *Trojan Women* where students explored what it would have been like to attend an ancient Greek theatre and how to act in groups as choruses in Greek drama.

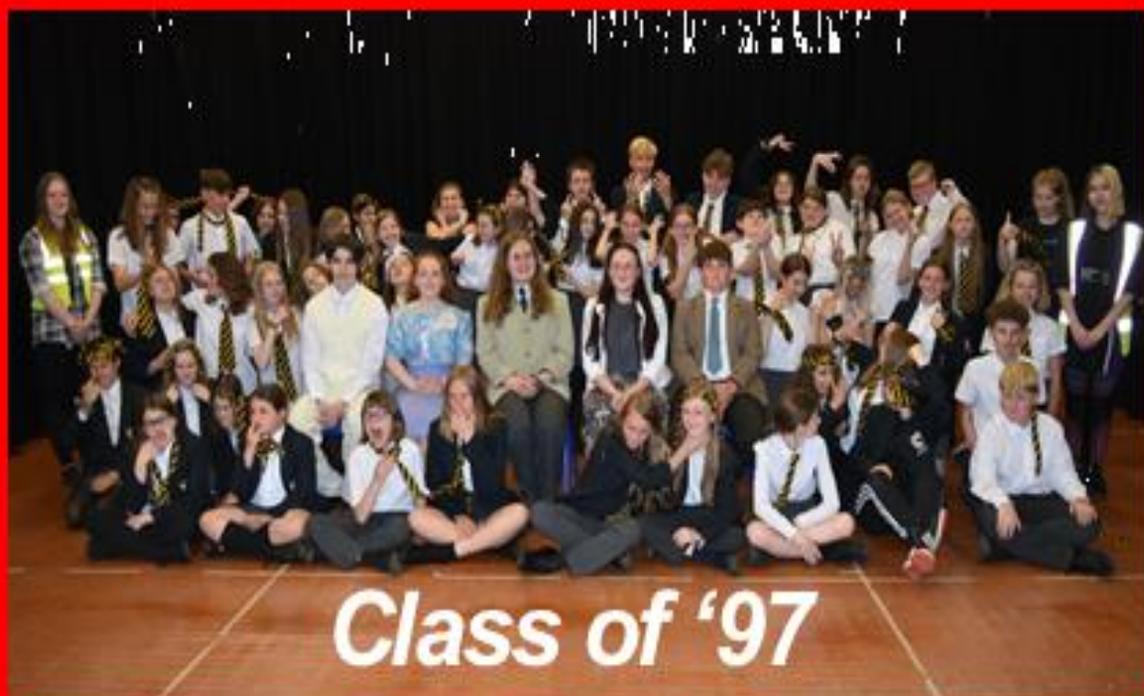
Overall, it was a wonderful day for all involved – staff and pupils alike – who all threw themselves into discovering the ancient Greek world. Inspired students can find many opportunities to study the Ancient World at Downham Market Academy, whether in class in Latin, after school in twilight Latin classes currently offered to Year 8, 9 and 10, GCSE Ancient History and upcoming Archaeology club (from September 2021) and A level Classical Civilisation (from September 2022).

Miss Hopley (Head of Latin) & Mrs Hyde (Head of History)



Downham Market Academy *presents*

***education  
education  
education***



***Created by The Wardrobe Ensemble - Performed by Downham Market Academy***

***Athena Sixth Form College Outdoor Theatre  
Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th July at 6pm***

***Adult £6 Child £3***

*Please bring your own camping chairs or picnic blankets*

***Tickets can be purchased on ParentMail***



# Farewell Year 11

The last day of Summer Term 1 was a very important day for our Year 11s. It was the day when their academic journey through Downham Market Academy came to an end. After all the really awful weather that we had all been putting up with over the weeks before, it could not have been any better on that day.



When the year 11 students came in little did they know that they would be receiving a reminder of who they were when they arrived at DMA with their pictures of when they were in year 7 being given to them. Form tutors gave them a form based celebration with an early morning cream tea and nibbles.

The kitchen staff had worked extremely hard to create a fantastic array of food for the students for their Leaver's BBQ which took place after lunch break. The uncertainty about the Non-Alcoholic Pimms disappeared very quickly and the batch that had been prepared was finished pretty darn fast. The pulled pork, burgers and sausages were a proper treat, and the pudding options were awesome.

After the BBQ students enjoyed football or rounders, signing shirts and spending time with their friends for the last time in school before they all move on to further big adventures in either Sixth Form or in College. The day ended with a short Leaver's Assembly that gave them a final goodbye from Downham Market Academy.

Mrs Collins, (Head of Year 11)

