

## March 2018 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

### More than 97% of students receive their preferred Secondary School on National Offer Day

This year, Suffolk County Council received its highest number of applications from parents and carers indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to be educated at from September 2018 in Year 7. The total was 7,447. Last year it was 7,171. 91.61% of applicants received offers for their first preference school and 97.23% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools. This percentage figure of 91.61% equates to a total of 6822 pupils. It is extremely positive to see that we have been able to offer a preferred school to the majority of applicants this year. We use published national criteria to decide who has priority for places so that the process is fair and clear. We do, however, understand that some families may be disappointed or anxious about the offer we have made. When a parent's preference is refused, we will put their child's name on the waiting list for that school automatically and tell them how they can make an appeal, should they wish to do so. Starting secondary school is an important moment for any child, so the more we can do to make the transition right for the student, the better. Any parents or carers with children born between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2007 and who have not yet applied for a school place should make an application immediately by downloading the CAF1 application form from the council's website: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions)

### Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service calling for new recruits

For the first time in nine years, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is recruiting wholetime firefighters. The application process opened on Thursday 1 March and closes on Thursday 15 March 2018. Anyone interested in applying is urged to respond quickly though, as the application process will close early if 1500 applications are received. Applications are welcome from all Suffolk residents that are 18 years of age or older and reasonably fit and healthy with a combination of strength and stamina. Applications from black and minority ethnic groups and female candidates are particularly encouraged as the service recognises these are groups of society that are currently under-represented. Candidates that are shortlisted from the application process will go through a series of assessments similar to the challenges they may face in the role, along with a formal interview and medical assessment. The opening of the application process follows the popular taster sessions that Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service recently held around the county. The role of a firefighter has changed significantly over the years and it is far more diverse than people might expect. From conducting home safety checks, to talking to people about fire prevention, carrying out water rescues and dealing with road traffic collisions. It is a hugely rewarding role that encompasses a great breadth of work including of course putting out fires. If you think you might be suitable for the role and would like to join a team that puts the community first, I would really encourage you to apply. For more information please visit:

[www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/working-and-volunteering-for-fire-and-rescue/wholetime-recruitment/](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/working-and-volunteering-for-fire-and-rescue/wholetime-recruitment/)

### Great East Run challenge for 50 inactive Suffolk residents

50 Suffolk residents who are currently inactive are being given the opportunity to change their lives. Residents in Suffolk can sign up for a supported run training programme in Ipswich, with the aim of completing the challenge of the Great East Run half marathon on 16 September 2018. Participants will receive an extensive programme of support which will include; advice and guidance by double Olympic long-distance runner Paul Evans; expert weekly coaching sessions; gait analysis and exclusive discounts on running gear at Coes in Ipswich; specialist diet and nutrition support; entry into the Twilight 10k and Great East Run Over the course of 4 months, participants will be supported to develop their stamina, fitness and confidence to take on the 13.1 mile course. The programme which has been developed by Suffolk County Council and supported by Suffolk Sport is open to individuals over the age of 18. Its hoped that the programme will provide an opportunity for participants to embark on a life changing journey, which will see them complete the half marathon alongside 3,500 other runners. We have seen the transformation that mass participation events can have on individuals lives and this programme provides an incredible opportunity for 50 Suffolk residents to take that first step to an active lifestyle and all the benefits this can provide. The inaugural Great East Run last year was a great success with all 3,000 places selling out in a matter of months. To apply for a place on the programme, visit [www.suffolksport.com/ger2018](http://www.suffolksport.com/ger2018) where full details of the eligibility criteria are available, alongside the application form. On application, the programme coordinator will then be in touch directly to discuss the programme in more detail.

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