



Tadcaster Grammar School

'A Culture of Excellence'



# NEWSLETTER

## Head Lines

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the final newsletter of the spring term! I think you will agree that at times it has not felt much like spring at all!

At TGS, one of our 'culture of excellence' commitments states that we will give students opportunities to 'grow academically, personally and culturally'. We believe that this is achieved by providing students with as many opportunities as possible to have great experiences, not just within the classroom but also beyond.

Recently I have been reviewing all the extra-curricular opportunities which have been made available during this academic year. I counted at least 25 visits, trips and activities already, including, amongst others: Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Skiing visits to France, Austria and the USA, a WW1 Battlefields visit, Humanities visits to Naples and the National Holocaust Centre, Theatre visits, as well as careers events (including our own very successful 'shape your future' evening). The list goes on, and of course does not include the substantial range of weekly clubs, sporting, music and drama activities.

I would like to pay tribute to all my colleagues who, like me, believe these experiences are so important and give freely of their own time to make them a reality. It is their commitment which is so crucial in making TGS the special place that it is.

We hear regular references in the news about the need to improve national levels of literacy. At TGS we have always known that secure literacy skills are incredibly important in determining a person's life chances. For sometime we have been working on our own plans to develop

reading and other key literacy skills for all students across the whole curriculum. Of the many facts and figures recently placed before us I was shocked to see that only 17% of 15-17 year olds read daily. I would like to take this opportunity to ask all parents to actively encourage their children to read regularly. It will make a difference to their chances in school and beyond!

To conclude I was delighted to be informed earlier this month of the students who will be transferring from primary school to TGS in the next academic year. I am absolutely delighted in the continuing confidence shown by parents in us and am really looking forward to welcoming the next generation of students when we meet them for transition events and when they eventually join the TGS 'family' properly in September!

Have a great Easter holiday

Martyn Sibley  
Headteacher



*Happy Easter everyone!*



## In Brief

### Students Learn Life Saving Skills.

Year 10 Child Development group are currently looking at child safety in their lessons...[read more>>](#)

### Naples the Italian City Full of Unique Charms.

Year 11 Geographers were given the chance to visit Naples during February half term...[read more>>](#)

### Why do your Duke of Edinburgh Award?

Build confidence, resilience, skills for work and friendship groups ...[read more>>](#)

### WWI Centenary Battlefields Visit.

Tadcaster Grammar School was given a fantastic opportunity for two year 9 students to take part in a WWI centenary tour ...[read more>>](#)



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# What Happens on a Training Day?



Inset days (Training Days) were introduced in 1988 under a Conservative

government by the minister then responsible, Kenneth Baker, as part of a series of reforms, including the introduction of the National Curriculum. They were originally, and are still occasionally, referred to as Baker Days, because Kenneth Baker introduced the requirement for teachers to attend training in addition to the 190 days previously required.

So what really happens on a training day? Here is a look at what went on during the March training day.

Collaborating for Success or C4S as it's more commonly known started 6 years ago and is now where six North Yorkshire secondary schools train and work together on a specific theme aimed at developing learning and teaching. This year's theme was 'Aim High'.

This year St Aidan's School in Harrogate for Teaching Staff and King James's School Knaresborough for Support Staff were the hosts. The keynote speaker was Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson who is one of Britain's most successful Paralympic athletes. The focus of the speech was to explore the day's theme 'Aim High' in which she discussed the challenges she faced as a young girl and her determination to break through the barriers and low expectations that society had for her. She also discussed what personal success really means and reflected on the transition through various stages of her career, from sport, to politics and as a campaigner for improved access to physical activity, trying to mobilise the most physically inactive generation of young people.



Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson

Following a short break, staff could then attend a break-out speaker's session led by a specialist professional on one of the following: Focused Thinking, Practising what we Preach, Metacognition and Mindset. The afternoon is focused on collaboration in subject areas through subject network workshops. Evaluation forms are filled in at the end of the day, so improvements or amendments/additions can be made ready for future days.

Training days are extremely beneficial for all staff especially the collaborative days. Meeting with other colleagues, learning new teaching practices and working together to help with continued professional development (CPD) are invaluable for all staff.

*"Children deserve teachers who are properly supported, and teachers deserve the collaborative professional development that research has shown will really help children in their classes."*

## World Book Day 2018

### Shared Reading experience



To celebrate World Book Day all KS3 and KS4 students were asked to fill in a book review sheet. This was based on their favourite book, fiction or non-fiction that they have read and would recommend to others. The emphasis was on drawing attention to these books so the illustration on the review is as important as the information they wrote. KS4 students are all reading GCSE Literature texts and KS3 are involved in Independent reading projects and have regular library lessons so they all had a book to use for the project. Students were then asked to create a display of these, preferably on their form room door. The best display received chocolates and 25 house points. It was hoped that students would see the importance of literature, and that we can all share the joy of a good read together, thus presenting our reading culture clearly and without compromise.



F9 and W3 share their Book Reviews

## Future Jobs Project

Toulston Hall was the venue for the week long 'Information and Guidance' run by Aspire-Igen as part of the Future Jobs Project. Every Year 12 student had access to an hour long careers meeting that generated an 'Individual Learning Plan.' At the end of the week there was a careers event arranged to capture the aspirations of the Year 12 students. Information providers included University of York, York St John, NHS Teaching Hospitals, Leeds City College University Centre, John Lewis, Leeds University, Leeds Beckett University, Self employment, Local Labour Market



information and Growth sector and Employer Expectations advisors. This event was a key part of the preparation of students for the work experience which commences on the 2 July and as part of our ongoing commitment to ensure all students have access to careers education, advice and guidance.

## Thinking of Oxbridge?



Tadcaster Grammar School once again welcomed Dr Joe Organ, Schools and Publications Officer Brasenose College, University of Oxford

and his undergraduate team. The team included Eleanor Dodd, reading History, and Rhys Evans, reading Maths, both of whom are past TGS students in their first year at the university.

The presentation, delivered to year 10 and year 12 students, explained the complexities of applying to Oxbridge. This included an explanation of the UCAS process with special attention to Oxbridge, advice on how to strengthen applications and an insight into student life.

## Reach YOUR Potential

### SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

On the 8 March Tadcaster Grammar School hosted the first 'Shape Your Future' careers event aimed at promoting local employers and higher/further education establishments to students. The event was organised by Luci Davies CEIAG, Business & Community Links Manager and David Gluck, CEO Tadcaster and Rural, TGS Careers Lead Governor.



Over 29 businesses attended providing a good representation of the breadth of employment opportunities in the local labour market. Students who attended got the unique opportunity to talk to the providers and find out more about the opportunities they were offering. If you would like further information about employment trends in Yorkshire and the Humber <https://careersyandh.co.uk/inspiringyandh>.

## Student's Success

Year 12 Engineering student Daniel Greenwood has been offered a place on an EDT 2018 Headstart course at YCE/375 York Creative



Electronic Technologies. This year the course has been over-subscribed with more than 1,100 students that haven't been lucky enough to be offered a place on the course, so this is a fantastic achievement for Daniel. Daniel was given the chance to apply by his Engineering Design Teacher Mr Dunphy. Following an online application, Daniel was offered a place at York University over three days in July. Daniel was thrilled with the news and thanked Mr Dunphy for inspiring and encouraging him. Mr Dunphy said "Daniel had done extremely well to gain a place, it was a real success".

**Headstart has been established for more than 23 years as a charitable trust providing hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) activities and engineering taster courses to encourage young people into technology-based careers.**

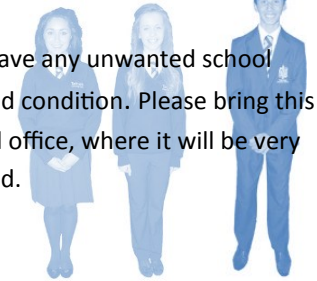
## Uniform Reminder

As always the majority of our students wear their TGS uniform with pride and look incredibly smart. However there are always a few issues that we need to alert parents to, just in case you are led to believe certain items have suddenly become school uniform! Black trainers of any sort with or without a logo are not school uniform. Please ensure your child is wearing black school shoes.

Earrings - a pair of plain or gold studs. NO hoop earrings. Students will be asked to remove all non school uniform jewellery immediately and it will be confiscated. This includes any facial piercings these are not allowed. Hoodies and sweatshirts if worn in school will also be confiscated.

**Full School Uniform is an expectation all year round.**

Finally if you have any unwanted school uniform in good condition. Please bring this into the school office, where it will be very greatly received.



## Keeping in Touch



Tadcaster Grammar School  
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TGS are working with the charity Future First to build a school alumni, a network of past students. We would like to invite all Y11 and Y13 students to join. what is the alumni about and reasons why you should sign up...[more info>>](https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/student/tadcaster)

**Please do stay in touch. Register at:**

<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/student/tadcaster>

safety of others or damages the bus, will not be tolerated. The school in conjunction with the bus companies reserves the right to apply bus bans. These can be permanent if the behaviour is extremely dangerous, impacts on the safety or wellbeing of others, or has been repeated.

## Contact Information

### Emergency Contact Information:

Please advise any changes to your contact information to [a.haddock@tgsch.uk](mailto:a.haddock@tgsch.uk)

### Medical information

Please inform the School of any changes to your child's medical information please contact [j.chauda@tgsch.uk](mailto:j.chauda@tgsch.uk) throughout the Academic Year.

### e-portal

If you do not have a password to log into e-portal, please contact our Network Manager [s.south@tgsch.uk](mailto:s.south@tgsch.uk).

## School Information

The school works in partnership with our bus operators to promote bus safety and pleasant journeys to school for all our students. Sadly sometimes the behaviour of a minority of students on some of the services falls short of our expectations. Please know that poor behaviour on school transport, most especially behaviour that impacts on the

**BUS SAFETY**  
It's a shared RESPONSIBILITY

### Compass BUZZ

is launching a new innovative text messaging service called BUZZ US for young people aged 11-18. Young people across North Yorkshire

will be able to text **07520631168** regarding any Mental Health and Wellbeing issues and receive advice, support and signposting from one of our Wellbeing Workers. contact any member of the school's Care and Guidance Team for more information.



# Sports Updates

## U13 Area Hockey Tournament

- 1st - Queen Margaret's with 18 points
- 2nd - Tadcaster Grammar with 16 points
- 3rd - Bootham with 9 points
- 4th - All Saints with 8 points
- 5th - Joseph Rowntree with 6 points.



TGS U13 Hockey Team

## Out of School Achievements

Congratulations to Year 11 students Oliver Hawkhead and Alex Hartley after winning the BARLA Yorkshire Cup Final 2018 with their team Hunslet Warriors under 16's. The final was played at Featherstone Rovers Ground - LD Nutrition Stadium - against Castleford Lock Lane, with Hunslet winning 16-6.



Alex Hartley and Oliver Hawkhead

## Swimming Success for TGS Students

*We were informed by Tadcaster Swim Squad of some fantastic news -*

Two students from TGS Tom Carswell and Abigail Parkinson were selected to swim at the Edinburgh International Swim meet including the British Championships. This is one of the most prestigious swimming competitions in the calendar as it is a qualifying gala for European Championships. Although the swimmers were competing in the junior competition they were swimming alongside such champions as James Guy, Adam Peaty and Freya Anderson. The event was compered by Rebecca Adlington.

*Abby competed in the 50m free and was the 3rd fastest 14 year old on the day, which was no mean feat considering the level of competition.*

*Tom was competing in 50m and 100m free, 50 and 100m fly and 50m back. As well as achieving some fantastic new Personal best*


*times he qualified for the Junior 50m final finishing 7th overall. This was an amazing result and the highlight of his career so far.*

Not quite so prestigious but equally important to the swimmers involved another group of students competed at the recent Yorkshire Swimming Championships held in Leeds and Sheffield over 3 weekends in February and early March. There were some absolutely fantastic results in individual events as well as team events with many medals won. Indi Chesters (Y7) - Finalist in 6 events Alex Heard (Y13) - Finalist in 7 events Tom Carswell (Y12) - 3 x Silvers 1 x Gold Gemma Parkinson (Y11) - Finalist Abigail Parkinson (Y9) - 1 x Gold, Silver & Bronze



L-R Tiago Melo, Alex Chesters, Indi Chesters, Lucy Atkinson

## Supporting Charities

**Sport Relief 2018.** What an amazing week of fundraising and physical activity. We decided this year to put on as many different fundraising opportunities to give us a greater chance of raising as much money as possible. Across the week we had different fitness sessions each day during VT for students and staff. We held a fun-run on Wednesday lunchtime, we also had a non-uniform day on the Friday. The highlight of the week has got to be the **'Evening with Jamie Peacock MBE'** rugby league legend. Jamie delivered his 'No white flag' talk and shared some of his favorite rugby stories/career highlights. We also had a raffle and auction with some incredible prizes, including: An **AFC Bournemouth shirt signed by Lewis Cook, a Burnley FC shirt signed by Charlie Taylor, signed Leeds Rhinos ball** to name but a few. This evening alone raised a fantastic £1629.40. Our grand total for the week was an outstanding **£3236.73**. Well done to everyone involved and thank-you  for your support.

## Term Dates 2018/19

AUTUMN TERM 2018	
Monday 3 September	Y12 Enrolment
Tuesday 4 September	Y7 Start
Wednesday 5 September	Whole School
Friday 26 October	School Closes for half-term
Monday 5 November	School re-opens
Friday 21 December	School closes for Christmas
SPRING TERM 2019	
Monday 7 January	School re-opens
Friday 22 February	School Closes for half-term
Monday 4 March	School re-opens
Thursday 11 April	School Closes for Easter
SUMMER TERM 2019	
Monday 29 April	School re-opens
Monday 6 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 24 May	School Closes for half-term
Monday 3 June	School re-opens
Friday 19 July	School closes for Summer

## TGS Equality & Diversity Group

**Aim:** To celebrate and promote equal rights, multiculturalism, respect and inclusion for everyone!  
If you are interested and want to find out more email/speak to Miss McKenzie

## TRAINING DAYS 2018/19

Thursday 15 November 2018
Wednesday 23 January 2019
Wednesday 20 March 2019
Friday 12 April 2019
Monday 22 July 2019

## TGS Stonewall Group

**Who We Are:**  
Students passionate about protecting and promoting LGBTQI equality and diversity at TGS - we believe in the Stonewall motto "Acceptance Without Exception".

**What We Do:**  
**Appreciation** - We are all equal and celebrate our diversity  
**Education** - Raising awareness and knowledge about LGBTQ issues  
**Communication** - Campaigning for positive change at TGS

**Join Us!**  
**ANYONE** is welcome - speak to/email Miss McKenzie, Mr O'Neil or Miss Hodgeson for info and next meeting details!

## Upcoming Diary Dates

Monday 16 April	Staff Training Day
Thursday 19 April	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Thursday 26 April	VPA Spring Festival 7pm
Thurs/Fri 26/27 April	Year 11 Art Exam
Monday 30 April	Year 12 Visit Oxbridge
Monday 7 May	Bank Holiday School Closed
Friday 11 May	Big Band Pie & Pea Supper
Monday 14 May	A Level & GCSE Exams Begin
Friday 25 May	School closes for half term