



Tadcaster Grammar School

'A Culture of Excellence'

NEWSLETTER

Head Lines

Dear Parents and Students,

As always the school has been an incredibly busy place since we started back after Christmas. It never ceases to amaze me how much we can pack into such a short amount of time! The content of this newsletter is a stunning reflection of that.

As the New Year unfolds I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the commitments we make to all students as part of our 'culture of excellence'. We want every student to:

- **Behave impeccably and develop 'habits of excellence'**
- **Receive consistently excellent teaching**
- **Be given opportunities to grow academically, personally and culturally**
- **Be known well, included, valued and heard**
- **Feel happy, safe, and be respectful of others.**
- **Have an excellent experience in our Sixth Form**

As head teacher my job is to ensure that we deliver on them each and every day. At times this presents huge challenges and we are not complacent nor are we conceited enough to think that we are always perfect. We do, however, make every effort to continually evaluate and review the service we provide, with the aim of getting better all the time. In this respect it was very rewarding to see that when the national school performance tables published recently, the progress of TGS students was above the national figure for 2017. A wonderful achievement!

Our Sixth Form is a hugely important part of the jigsaw that is Tadcaster Grammar School. Our older students continue to be an absolute asset, contributing hugely to our community.

Amongst many things they mentor others, act as reading buddies, support younger students with their mathematics and are generally superb role models in the way they conduct themselves around school. From the most recent update our students also seem to be incredibly successful in managing their futures judging by the impressive array of offers that they are receiving from Universities and employers!

I am glad to report that the future of the Sixth Form looks bright here judging by the large number of excellent applications we have again received in recent weeks to join us in September 2018. I believe that this is a really special place and I want as many of our students as possible to continue to be part of it post 16.

Thank you to all parents who contributed to the recent Academy consultation; it was much appreciated. This is a big decision for the school and the final feedback paper will be available shortly.

And finally I often speak to students about the importance of respect for our school environment. I have been concerned recently that a minority of students are carelessly discarding their rubbish (particularly plastic bottles) around the site. I would be grateful if parents could support me by reinforcing that this should not be the case. That would be much appreciated!

Have a good half term,

Martyn Sibley
Headteacher



In Brief

Talented Young Musicians

20 year 8 pupils have successfully passed their Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music grade 1 theory exam...[read more>>](#)

U16 Yorkshire Cup Winners

Nine of our Year 11 students were among a successful squad of players at Wetherby Rugby Club who won the U16 Yorkshire Cup...[read more>>](#)

Student uses problem solving skills to raise money

TGS student Matthew 'Siddy' Sidebottom needs to raise a minimum of £30 for four Cancer Charities as part of his VLS Course... [read more>>](#)



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EPQ Presentation 2018



Is it recognised by universities or employers?

The EPQ is awarded UCAS points worth half an A-level and is recognised by universities and employers; a number of leading universities make alternative offers to students undertaking an EPQ.

There is a growing body of research indicating that undertaking an EPQ can lead to improved grades in other subjects.

"To what extent was Margaret Thatcher a Feminist?"



"To what extent has nature influenced robotics?"

What is an EPQ?

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a standalone qualification designed to extend and develop students' skills in independent research and project management. The topic and nature of the project is entirely down to each individual student.

What have the students done so far?

Over the course of the last nine months, our EPQ students have been researching a wide variety of subjects in order to answer their own research question. Each student has created a 'production log' which maps the progress of their project, and they are all in the process of putting their finishing touches to their research report.

Death Penny

WWI memorial found among scrap metal



A First World War memorial plaque, known as a 'Death Penny', was originally discovered back in the Sixties among scrap metal bought by dealer Tommy Stronach, based in Selby. His son Jack Stronach had no idea what it was until visiting the York Castle Museum many years later. It turned out to be one of the plaques given to the next of kin of soldiers who died serving with the British and Empire forces during the 1914-18 conflict.

It was only when Jack visited Tadcaster and recognised the name in St Mary's Church that he knew it belonged to a family from there. These coins are worth £60 to £100, but more importantly are part of a WWI story of a local man. The soldier was Lance Corporal Alfred B Clayton from Tadcaster, who died on March 26, 1918 serving with the East Lancashire Regiment.



Lest We Forget



There was no rank on the 'Death Penny' as everyone's death was as important as each other's. All that mattered was the remembrance of a life lost fighting the war. Apparently Lance Corporal Clayton was originally a gardener and lived in the Bothy at Oxtan Hall Tadcaster according to the 1911 census[Read more >>](#)

EXAM DAY PREP			
 DRINK PLENTY OF WATER	 BE PREPARED	 DO SOME EXERCISE	
 DOUBLE CHECK YOUR EXAM TIMETABLE	 PRIORITISE YOUR TIME	 DOUBLE CHECK YOUR NOTES	
 LIMIT DISTRACTIONS	 DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE RESTROOM		
NO ENERGY DRINKS			
 GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP	 GET SOME FRESH AIR!	 GRAB SOME HEALTHY SNACKS	
 SET AN ALARM	 BE POSITIVE		
TAKE A BREAK & STAY MINDFUL			

Facilities for Hire



Local groups looking for facilities to hire then look no further.

Enjoying beautiful 57 acre grounds, laid out in lawns, flower beds and trees. Facilities are available to hire during the evening, weekends or during school holidays. These include the school halls, function areas and the many sporting facilities.

For more information on facilities hire, including cost and availability please contact Ms Val Jones 019370837644 or email v.jones@tgsch.uk

Sports Updates

Cross Country Champs

Y7 Girls representing York and District
I Chesters (finished 17) *E Harrison* (finished 30)



E Arnold (finished 41)

Y8 Girls representing York and District
H Gibson (finished 37)

Y13 Boys representing York and District
J Tucker (finished 12th)



Football

U14 Boys Football County Cup

Richmond 1 TGS 1

Tadcaster win on penalties! Through to the semi-finals.

Y7 Boys 5 a-side North Yorkshire Final narrowly missed out on qualification to the next round!



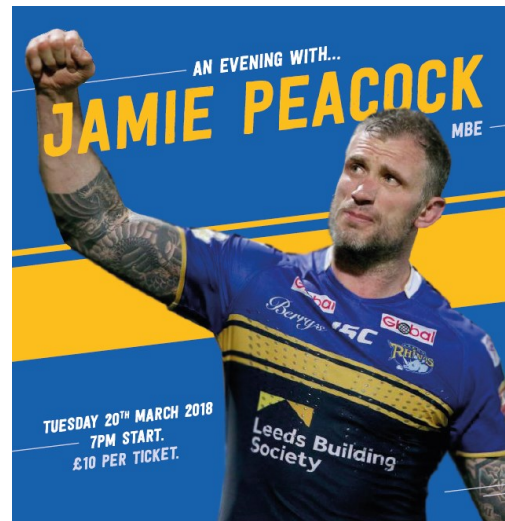
Basketball

U14 Boys Archbishop Holgate 8 TGS 34

U16 Boys Joseph Rowntree 45 TGS 51.

The U16 basketball squad got through to finals night after winning all but one of their league matches. Unfortunately Fulford were too strong on the night

and they ended up finishing 3rd which is still a great achievement with a relatively small squad. Thanks to all the players that have played this year: Morgan Clarke, Jack Santon, Jack Scott, Joe Lunan, Jenson Yorke-Hadley, Kit Furfinger and Ben Humphreys.



COME AND JOIN US AT TADCASTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR AN EVENING WITH THE RUGBY LEGEND THAT IS JAMIE PEACOCK MBE.

Jamie will be sharing some of his favourite stories from his illustrious Rugby career as well as sharing his 'No White Flag' talk which touches on the importance of leadership, goal setting, self-belief, attitude and honesty!

As the evening falls within Sport Relief week there will also be various fundraising activities happening during the evening!

How do you spend your weekends ?

Here's how one student filled his.....

Hello my name is Alex Whitewick and I am a Year 10 Student. On Sunday I joined a group of friends on a charity walk around the Knavesmire at York. The weather was pretty grim, we had snow and sleet and it was very cold but that didn't put us off as we knew it was all for a good cause. Here is my story behind the event -

A friend of my mum's owns a Dog Rescue Centre in Collingham. She has close links with one of the workers who comes from Romania. Unfortunately whilst driving his van he had a collision with an articulated lorry which ended up with him receiving severe injuries and taken to hospital. Sadly he lost a limb, but thankfully he is now recovering well. My friends and I came up with the idea of a Sponsored walk to help raise money for him to help with his recovery.

We managed to raise the fantastic amount of £2,500.00.

I hope you appreciate my news of how I filled my weekend and helped others out



Supporting Charities

Non uniform day on Friday 2 February raised the fantastic amount of **£800.79**

This money will be shared between 4 fantastic Cancer Charities



Thank you for your support.

Diary Dates

21 February	Maths GCSE Mock Exam
22 February	Maths GCSE Mock Exam Y13 English Visit to Paris
23 February	Maths GCSE Mock Exam
28 February	Y10 Ski Visit Parents' Info Evening
1 March	A Level Music Solo Recitals
5,7 & 8 March	Y9 Holocaust Visit
8 March	English Lit GCSE Mock Exam. Y8 Parents' Evening
9 March	Staff Training Day
12 March	Y13 History Visit Dublin
14 March	Y9 Vaccinations
21 March	Y7 Parents' Evening
23 March	Non Uniform Day
29 March	School Closes for Easter Y10 & Y12/13 Ski Visit

Diary Dates  [read more>>](#)