



Tadcaster Grammar School

'A Culture of Excellence'



# NEWSLETTER

## Head Lines

Dear Parents and Students,

As we approach half term, I do wonder where the time has gone! As always, school life continues to be very busy and exciting; it is with great pride that I read this newsletter and see everything that has been happening. Meeting our new Year 7 students and seeing them settle in has been a real highlight for me. The feedback I am receiving from staff about the way the young people have adapted to life at secondary school has been extremely positive. I am delighted to see them really getting 'stuck in' and making the most of all the opportunities that we provide outside the classroom.



Already, however, we are beginning to look forward to our next intake. It has been great to meet so many prospective parents at our 'TGS Roadshows', at our Open Evening in September and when they have visited us during the normal school day. I feel great pride when I hear visitors commenting on the strong, positive relationships they have observed and how calm, caring and purposeful the school feels.

During the last week we have begun to receive provisional National Data from the 2018 GCSE examinations. This allows us to compare the progress that students at TGS made with other schools. The key published measure is now known as 'Progress 8'. A short video on how this works can be found in the 'parents' section on the school website. I am delighted to report that this measure is again looking strong, with TGS students making progress which was significantly better than the national average. I am particularly proud that this is for the fourth year in a row, showing consistently positive progress for our students. The outcomes for Year 13 students in 2018 were also above the National Average at all levels, again enabling students to progress onto their chosen path, be that University, an Apprenticeship or Employment. Congratulations to everyone! Finally, I would like to thank the huge number of parents who have attended a range of

information evenings this term. Whether it has been about visits and activities, or about helping your child to make a good start in Year 7, or on the all-important GCSE and A level courses, your support is very gratefully received. I am looking forward to seeing you at a whole variety of events during the next half term, beginning with our various ways of marking the Centenary of World War One Armistice and concluding with the Christmas Concert.

Thank you so much for all your support. I hope you have a really good half term break.

Wendy Wilson  
Head of School

## Forgotten Voices



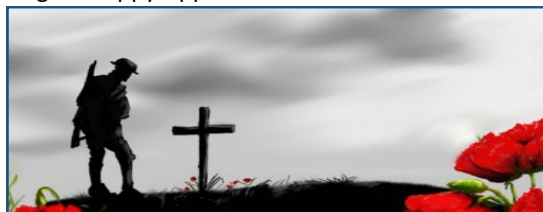
**Please Join Us**

On Thursday 8th November



Tadcaster Grammar School is hosting "Forgotten Voices", an evening of first-hand accounts from WWI and well-known songs. Pop Choir and Chamber Choir are leading the singing on this evening, with readings being given by History and Drama students.

The event takes place at 7.00pm in the main hall. We would very much like parents, friends and family to support this event. There is no charge but we will be collecting for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



Mr Sibley delivers one of six Assemblies marking the Centenary of World War one.

## Careers Event

Save the Date

Shape Your Future  
19 Feb 2019  
5pm - 7pm.

Employer, Further & Higher Engagement event for students and parents.

It is our intention to have upwards of 50 employers on site, drawn from the Selby district, York and Leeds. In addition, we will be inviting key regional partners in Higher and Further Education. Further details to follow.



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Toulston, Tadcaster,  
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Tel: 01937 833466  
[web.tgs.starmat.uk](http://web.tgs.starmat.uk)



**The STAR**  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST  
[web.starmat.uk](http://web.starmat.uk)

## The STAR Multi-Academy Trust

### Update

Nine schools formally joined the STAR MAT just before the end of the summer term. As a consequence, this has been an exciting and exceptionally busy period, establishing the structures, processes and routines which will underpin our organisation going forward.

Above all things, though, we are determined to put learners first, which is reflected in our shared aims:

- \* **Ensure that our children achieve the best possible outcomes.**
  - \* Develop the whole child; personally, culturally and spiritually.
  - \* **Be inclusive; have a particular commitment to our most vulnerable children.**
    - \* Teach our children to live well together and to make wise choices.
  - \* **Ensure that our children are safe from harm.**
    - \* Work to ensure that our schools are enjoyable places for children to learn.

Although it is early days of our journey, we are already beginning to see the benefits that can be gained from all of our settings working more effectively together.

Some of these benefits will be achieved by sharing and aligning the best practice and others through economies of size and scale, so that as much money as possible can be invested in 'front line' services.

Our Headteacher group meets fortnightly and we are working hard to establish and build capacity across the Trust; particularly in the areas of teaching, learning and the curriculum. The good news is that we start from an excellent base line with overall trust outcomes at KS1, KS2 and KS4 in 2018 being above the National Average. The Trust Board now meets half termly and has established two committees (Education and Resources). The Trust Board plays a crucial role in steering the direction of the Trust and holding myself, governing bodies and headteachers, to account for the success of each school. They have also already had the great pleasure of visiting all schools themselves and have hosted two 'welcome to governance' sessions for all our governing bodies.

For further information about Trust developments please see our website at: [web.starmat.uk](http://web.starmat.uk)

Martyn Sibley  
Chief Education Officer



## Lessons From Auschwitz

By Katie Bohl and Jamie Rainton

Two sixth form students were given the opportunity to take part in the Lessons from Auschwitz programme, this involved attending seminars and visiting the concentration camp for a day. Katie and Jamie were selected after submitting applications explaining why they wanted to take part in such a worthwhile programme. They were accompanied by Miss Hodgson who took part in the seminars and the visit to support the students. Below is an account of their visit.

Upon approach to Auschwitz we were horrifically shocked at how discreet the evil appeared to be. In the hot sunshine the blocks appeared pretty with large healthy plants outside. However nothing could prepare us for the heart breaking things we were about to see. Our guide told us that many feel "the sun is never truly shining in Auschwitz" ...[read more>>](#)



## Life Saving Skills



### One day you could save a life!

Again this year, we were delighted that our Year 8 students were able to participate in the Restart a Heart Day which was on Tuesday 16 October 2018. Students learnt how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

If someone suffers a cardiac arrest, their chances of survival double if CPR is immediately commenced whilst waiting for the emergency services.

Yorkshire Ambulance Service organise the event and the British Heart Foundation (BHF) provides the schools with free manikins. Nationally, the event is organised in partnership with the Resuscitation Council, BHF, British Red Cross and St John Ambulance. It has been running since 2014 and for the first time this year it will be a worldwide event. In this country alone, it is hoped to train more than 200,000 people.

Many volunteers (900 across the country) give freely of their time to support schools in facilitating the day. Their work is tremendous and we extend our thanks to them.

If you would like to find out more about the charity that supports the project the link is <https://www.yascharity.org.uk/>



Thank you to the staff and Volunteers



Students learning the Life Saving skills of CPR



## My DofE Journey

The time has now come for David Aspinall to hang up his School walking boots and settle down to a well earned retirement. Fly fishing, working on his allotment and still plenty of walking are top of his list. David would like to share his time as Duke of Edinburgh coordinator with us:

My involvement with the Duke of Edinburgh award began in the early 80's when, as part of the civilian instructor team at 2434 Squadron ATC at Church Fenton we were looking at bringing in other activities for the cadets to take part in. It really took off in 2008 as a result of Nicola Glaswell an IT teacher, seeking to re-establish the award and looking for volunteers to help deliver the Bronze award. In those early years we could possibly attract 20 – 30 Year 10 students, who were trained after school...[read more>>](#)



## Sixth Form News

### Science Park Residential

Once Students are 16 they can do their Gold DofE programme. They spend 12 months on the Volunteering section. For Physical and Skills they must spend 12 months on one and six months on the other. The qualifying expedition will be for four days and three nights (plus an acclimatisation day) and should take place in 'wild country' (plus a practice expedition prior to this). The big difference at Gold Level is that students also do a residential section – staying away from home for five days and four nights doing a shared activity with people they don't know. It's great fun and a real chance to do something different! Two sixth form students, Georgia and Harriet, attended a residential at the Liverpool Science Park as part of their Gold DofE. Below are the comments received about the two students:

"Two of your students attended our 5-day residential trip to Liverpool Science Park over their summer break and I wanted to

let you know what a pleasure they were to host. They were grateful and enthusiastic throughout the whole week – a true credit to your school. Our director, Dr Natalie Kenny, has signed off both Georgia and Harriet's DofE Gold residential."

"Georgia and Harriet were a delight to teach and we would happily welcome more students from your school."

## Law School Programme

Eight Year 12 Students have been successful in gaining a place on the two - year BPP University Law School Ambassador Programme. The launch night was held on Tuesday 23 October at the offices of Addleshaw Goddard Solicitors in Leeds. Everyone was very excited about the opportunities on offer and they are looking forward to joining up with the Year 13 group on the first workshop of the year looking at street law.



## Fundraising

Sixth Form Students held their annual 'Wear It Pink' day in aid of Breast Cancer. The charity is among a group that the sixth form choose to support each year. The total amount raised will follow in the Christmas Newsletter.



Year 12 Student Charlie, held a raffle in aid of the Children's Ward at York Teaching Hospital. The ward is close to Charlie's heart as his younger brother was treated there. Charlie wanted to raise money for the Ward to hold a party for all the Children on Christmas Day. Charlie managed to raise the outstanding amount of £950!



## Attendance Matters

### When 90% is not enough

If you were awarded 90% in a test or an examination you would be celebrating this result - however when it comes to a school attendance of 90% or below - it is a real concern. In fact, once a student's attendance falls below 90% they are classed as a persistent absentee. Excellent attendance is the key to student success. It is widely known that there is a direct link between student attendance and student outcomes, especially in final examinations. We want all students to aim for significantly above the 90% threshold to ensure the best outcomes. As a school, we begin to monitor student attendance very closely when it drops below 92%. With this in mind, can we please remind parents that we cannot authorise holidays in term time. We also ask that if your son or daughter is absent from school, you ring the school and leave a message for our Attendance Officer, stating the reason for the absence and when you hope they will return. Please take time to talk about our handy

advice poster, that you will find below, on attendance with your sons and daughters. It is full of important facts about attendance. Finally, our advice about attendance to parents is simple - we understand that students do experience ill health, but do encourage your child to return to school as soon as they can after an illness. If you have to book medical appointments during the school day, please try to ensure your child attends school for part of the day. If you begin to have concerns about your child's attendance and require support, please contact the school as soon as possible so that we can put some support in place. Above all, we want to support all students to have aspirational attendance targets of above 97%.

### attendance MATTERS

<p>If you have only 10 days of school (either authorised or unauthorised), your attendance will only be:</p> <p><b>94.7%</b></p>	<p>To have the best possible chance at school, you should be in school at 8.35am, in your Period 1 lesson at:</p> <p><b>8.40am</b> and ready to start learning</p>	<p><b>ATTENDANCE MATTERS</b></p> <p>Research suggests that 17% of students who miss a GCSE grade drop in achievement</p>	<p>Current Attendance</p> <p>Exceptional 100% Attendance</p> <p>Very Good 96% - 99%</p> <p>Potential to improve 92% - 95%</p> <p>Must improve 92% and below</p>
<p>At Tadcaster Grammar School, we consider 92% or below:</p> <p><b>Serious risk of Underachievement</b></p>	<p>For every minute that a student is late to school or a lesson, or misses a day, they are <b>losing learning time</b>. This will significantly affect their progress.</p>	<p>Better Attainment Better Achievement Better Life Opportunities</p>	<p>The STAR</p>

## Winners Visit New York

Four Year 13 Students who beat 8,300 rival teams to win an investing competition enjoyed a once in a life time, all expenses trip to New York. The visit has been shared with us.

### New York Student Investor Blog

After we arrived in New York, the first evening we were there we went on 'The Ride'. This is a double decker bus that has 3 rows of tiered seats facing sideways out of one side of the bus which is made completely of glass. Along the tour around New York there are actors that perform for you whilst you are on the bus – this was a really different experience than the usual bus tour and we found it very entertaining. Despite the rain, the two tour guides were able to make sure that the mood on the bus was good and we all thoroughly enjoyed our first taste of the streets of New York. After The Ride we were all fairly tired after our journey over and headed back to the hotel ....[read more>>](#)



# Sports Updates

## Inter House Cross Country

As we begin a new School Year, Team PE have had their annual Cross Country Competition. Cross Country is a sport that can divide a school group instantly; those who enjoy the sport and have a high level of ability, contrasted with those who do not enjoy continual running; as they just don't see the benefit of it. Cross Country is a sport that is all about fitness and stamina; two elements which can have a positive impact on a child's cognitive function outside of PE. Running burns more calories than any other physical activity! Cardiovascular health is greatly improved through running by increasing the heart rate and working the heart muscles on a regular basis.

House group winners this year were – Year 7 Dawson, Year 8 Wharfe and Year 9 Oglethorpe.



Year 7 Inter-House Cross Country Winners



Year 8 Inter House Cross Country



Year 7 Football Team



Year 10 Hockey Team

### Winners



Year 9 Inter House Cross Country Winners



### Extra Curricular activities

Netball and Football had over 100 students taking part, which was fantastic to see. The Year 7 boys football team played their first match together, narrowly losing against Barlby. Other teams in action were Year 8 and Year 10 footballers, along with Year 7 and Year 8 Netballers. They all played fantastic games.

The Year 10 Girls Hockey Team played their first game of the season against Manor School, winning 2-1.

### Out of School Achievements



**Ballet Dancer Izzy**, who attends Northern Ballet, was recommended to go to Rambert Summer School

during the summer holidays. This was a fantastic achievement! Look out for Izzy in The Nutcracker at Leeds Grand Theatre.



Look out for **Dancer and Performer Year 7 Student Evie** who has successfully auditioned for Beauty and the Beast at The Carriageworks Leeds.

Year 10 Student Tom has just been accepted into the **U15 Welsh Football Team**.

Year 11 hockey player Cara was selected for the **U15 North of England Hockey Squad**.

Mrs Wilson Congratulated all the students on their amazing achievements.

**HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**  
BINGLEY - SKIPTON - TADCASTER - YORK

**BOOK NOW**

*"Ella loved her day, she's very keen to do it again."*

**COACH GUNN**  
BASKETBALL

**AUTUMN HALF TERM 2018 BASKETBALL & MULTI SPORTS CAMPS**  
For boys and girls aged 4-13 (Pre-School to Y6)  
Everyone welcome - all abilities catered for from beginners to experienced players

**COME ALONG & JOIN US...**  
Relaxed, fun atmosphere with lots of skills, challenges & games throughout the day.

**Wednesday 24th Oct (Basketball)**  
Harden Primary School, Long Lane, Harden, Bingley, BD16 1LJ

**Tuesday 30th Oct (Basketball)**  
Archbishop of York's CE Junior School, Copmanthorpe Lane, Bishopthorpe, York, YO23 2GT

**Wednesday 31st Oct (Basketball)**  
Greatwood Community Primary School, Pinhaw Road, Skipton, BD23 2SJ

**Thursday 1st Nov (Basketball) & Friday 2nd Nov (Multi Sports)**  
Tadcaster Grammar School, Toulston, Tadcaster, LS24 9NB

TIME: 9am - 4pm (8.30am Early Drop Off/4.30pm Later Pick Up at NO EXTRA COST). COST: £20 per day

**COACH GUNN BASKETBALL**  
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ASSISTED BY GUEST COACHES  
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BOOKING FORM & MORE INFO ON REVERSE

## Lettings and Facilities



Tadcaster Grammar School are now working with Tadcaster Swimming Pool Trust to introduce a new ground management scheme to provide accessible facility bookings to the community. We offer an extensive range of facilities for hire over two sites in Tadcaster. We can accommodate requests from clubs, businesses, individuals and groups. Our aim is to improve the community's health by increasing community engagement in sport and activities....[read more>>](#)



## Update Contact Details

Please remember to inform the school of any changes to contact details for your son/daughter to - Student Records Manager [a.haddock@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:a.haddock@tgs.starmat.uk) or Student medical information to - Matron [j.chauda@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:j.chauda@tgs.starmat.uk)

If you subscribe to Letters Home via the school website, please also remember to update your preferences if you change your email and also check that you are subscribed

in order to receive letters and information for your child's current year group ...[read more>>](#)

## Diary Dates

Wed 7 Nov	Y7 Residential Visit
Thurs 8 Nov	Forgotten Voices Concert
Mon 12 Nov	Y11 Mock Examinations
Thurs 15 Nov	Training Day
Mon 26 Nov	Y9 YOLO day
Wed 28 Nov	Y9 German Christmas Markets Visit
Thurs 6/ Fri 7 Dec	Y11 Mock Art Examination
Wed 12 Dec	Christmas Lunch Drama Showcase
Thurs 13 Dec	Y10 Parents' Evening
Mon 17 Dec	Senior Awards Evening
Tues 18 Dec	Y11 Photographs
Wed 19 Dec	Christmas Concert Y12/13 Break up for Christmas
Fri 21 Dec	School Closes For Christmas Early Close

**Diary Dates** .....[read more>>](#)

# Free School Meals

Are you entitled?

Do you think you could be entitled to Free School Meals? For more information please contact [v.hubbard@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:v.hubbard@tgs.starmat.uk)