



Tadcaster Grammar School

'A Culture of Excellence'



# NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Students,

As the end of the autumn term approaches, this is the time when we begin to receive data which examines the attainment and progress of TGS students compared to all students nationally. It is an incredibly important point in the year for us, as it allows staff and governors to really interrogate all aspects of the school's overall examination performance and to evaluate strengths and areas for improvement.

I would like to share with you just some of the headlines from the 2018 examinations:

- The Attainment of TGS students at GCSE was significantly above the national average
- The Progress of TGS students at GCSE overall was above the national average
- The Progress and Attainment of TGS students in English and Mathematics (level 4+) was significantly above the national average
- The Progress of TGS students at A-level overall was above the national average
- The attendance of TGS students was above the national average

As you can imagine, this was great news which we were very pleased to receive, and was improved even further by the school's inclusion in the Sunday Times list of the Top 20 State Schools in the North of England for 2018; this is the second year in succession. I am delighted for our students and staff and so proud of their considerable efforts. It was a great pleasure to see so many of

them return to receive their certificates at our annual awards evening this week. Schools, though, are so much more than examination results. In our 'culture of excellence' we aim to develop the whole person and provide opportunities for everyone to flourish and grow as young adults. I think that this is reflected by the staggering range of things that have been taking place in the school this term and are recorded in this newsletter.....

Have a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Term starts on Monday 7 January 2019.



Wendy Wilson  
Head of School

## Shape Your Future

19 February 2019

5pm - 7pm.

Save  
the  
Date

Over 50 local businesses from the Selby district will be attending as well as local further and higher education establishments. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore future local career opportunities alongside their parents. Information letters will be sent out in January via the school website.



Once again Tadcaster Grammar School is listed in the Sunday Times Top 20 state schools in the North of England 2018-2019.



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**The STAR**  
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## Team Building and Bonding!

Year 7 Residential -

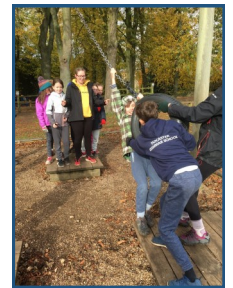
By Mrs Clarke - KS3 Transition

On Wednesday 7th November, 235 Year 7 students travelled to Caythorpe Court in Lincolnshire accompanied by 15 members of staff. After the initial downpour of rain the weather remained dry so the students (and some adults) could enjoy the outdoor activities, these included abseiling, trapeze, giant swing, vertical challenge, climbing, Jacobs' ladder, problem solving and sensory challenge.

On the first evening the students either participated in a quiz night or enjoyed singing songs around the camp fire. On the second evening there was a very loud disco. The variety of food on offer was superb, catering for all dietary requirements, with hot and cold food, and a well-stocked salad bar, which was not only used by the staff. The rooms slept between 3-6 students, all with en-suite facilities. There was over 65 acres of space, with the ability to enjoy both water (weather permitting) and land activities, from high ropes to a giant swing!



The facilities on offer were superb, with a sports hall, football pitch and playing field, superb food hall and shop. There were also classrooms and meeting rooms.



### C1RMI Student Comments

*The residential was good; the giant swing was the best because it was nice and relaxing. We also did abseiling and climbing. The food was good especially the chicken nuggets! The Staff were really nice and supportive too.*

*The residential was quite good. The food was great with a range of options for any allergies or dislikes of food. The staff were very kind and friendly. The activities were very safe, I am scared of heights and if you wanted to stop something they did it straightaway.*

*The organisation of the trip was excellent and overall was an amazing place to visit. The rooms were amazing and very clean. I also liked being independent. Overall it was a fun trip.*

## Christmas in Cologne

Year 9 students studying German were once again given the opportunity to visit the Christmas Markets in Cologne, Germany. The visit was full of festive fun. The itinerary included looking around the stunning Christmas markets near Cologne Cathedral, a trip to a Lindt chocolate museum, an afternoon at a theme park called Phantasieland and an evening visit to a Christmas Market.

*What did the students like the best?*

Melissa said: "My favourite part of the trip was going to the Christmas Market at night".

Harriet : " I really enjoyed all of it but especially the theme park"

Lewis : "I think the best part of the trip was Phantasieland because the rides were great".



## You Only Live Once



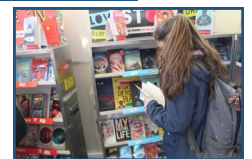
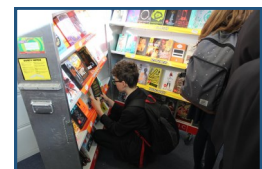
YOLO Theatre company performed two one hour plays followed by a workshop for Year 9 students.

YOLO explores how young people react to pressures around them, pressures to do things and pressures not to. It's hard hitting in that nobody really knows what we are supposed to be doing or saying. Looking at many risk - taking activities YOLO explores the pressure we feel to do things. Why? Because, "You Only Live Once"...

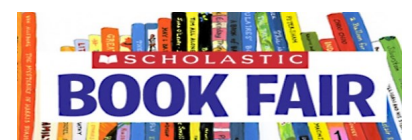
YOLO is designed to allow the audiences to actively, honestly and directly address and discuss topics, in the play and workshop, like alcohol, legal highs, sexting, online bullying, sexual health (inc STI's), teenage pregnancy and online safety, not to mention teen v parent relationships... The YOLO Company visit Tadcaster every Year and is organised by Mrs Henson Skills for Life Leader



## Book Fair Update



A huge *thank you* goes out to all who supported our Book Fair in October. Due to the amazing generosity of Scholastic's commission, we were given over £300 of book vouchers to spend in their catalogue. New books include the *Who Let the Gods Out* series by Maz Evans, *The Crimes of Grindelwald* cinema handbook, and Disney's new *Twisted Tales* series plus many other new titles, which will be hitting the library book shelves in the coming weeks, and we haven't finished spending yet! Happy Reading, and thanks again for your support.



## Lest We Forget

As a school we have remembered the men and women from World War One through a series of events. Forgotten Voices concert was extremely moving with first-hand accounts from WWI and well known songs. All donations from the evening went to the Royal British Legion poppy appeal.

Tadcaster Grammar School paid their respects with one minute's silence on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November. The last post was played; along with readings from Mrs Wilson and Students. Also, Pop Choir students were given the opportunity to sing as part of a choir of 1000. This was another moving event with readings and songs. During VT lessons poppies were produced and special messages were written on them. The poppies were then put on display in St Mary's Church in Tadcaster as part of their Remembrance Day service.

## Forgotten Voices

Forgotten Voices by Jessica Hutchinson

On the 8th of November 2018 members of the school choirs and history students came together for a beautiful tribute to the forgotten voices of WW1 to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.

The evening was an amalgamation of readings from the students and traditional, thought-provoking songs from the war. This intimate event not only gave students a new perspective of such a tragic ordeal, but also, as the performance progressed, led the audience on a journey through the events of the war. The readings were personal narratives from the book 'Forgotten Voices' which gave an emotional, and heartfelt, first-hand account of those on the front line and their families. These heartfelt stories showed the widespread impact of the war and the catastrophic impression it left on the world. It was a privilege to be involved in such a poignant tribute which brought the generations together and reminded everybody of this time in history.

## 100 Years 1,000 Voices

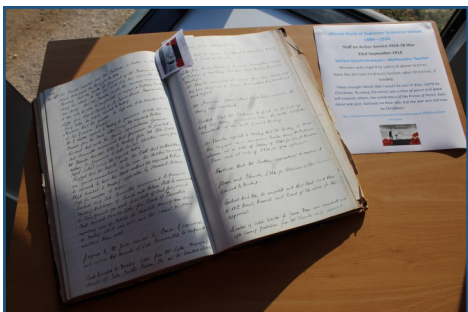
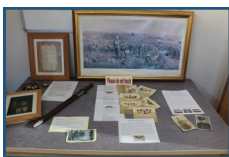
By Milly Rothwell-Wood and Lorna Colling Yr9

On Friday the 9th of November, Pop Choir students were given the opportunity to sing as part of a choir of 1000 other local school children. We arrived at the venue, which was York University, in the morning, and then

practised the performance before our audience arrived. There were 1000 school children taking part in the service with an audience of 25 people from the local area. The Mayor was unable to attend the service; however the Sheriff took this important place. The service started with each school contributing a gift that was special to their school; our school created a book made up from all the names of people from Tadcaster who lost their lives in the war. Throughout the service the story of the war was told by readings from students and songs from the choir. Although we had only practised once with all 1000 members of the choir, the band and the readings, it all came together and sounded beautiful.

Before we left the service every one of the 1000 students was given a "wish for the world" poppy that was previously written by another school student. We had all filled our poppies earlier that day with a wish we wanted to come true in the world, and ended up with one another's wishes. It was a very special day out where we all remembered those who gave their lives for our country.

Many thanks to the students, parents and staff who have donated family artefacts for our WWI and TGS display. A large number of students have seen the display and were amazed by the stories told.



## Shared Curriculum Event

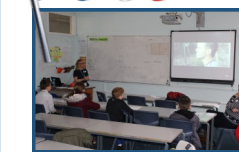
On Friday 16th November children from some of the STAR Alliance primary schools attended a shared curriculum event with the Modern Foreign Languages department at Tadcaster Grammar School, led by Miss Pinder.

The children were a bit nervous on arrival as they weren't quite sure what to expect, but their confidence grew and grew throughout the session. They loved tasting crêpes, listening to French music and trying on fancy dress costumes (the boys especially loved the dresses!). By the end of the session they could all confidently give their opinions on the three topics and justify them using a variety of appropriate adjectives.

Thanks go to Mrs Butterworth as well as super sixth formers Jess, Alannah and Lucy for helping by running the food and fancy dress workshops.

The children who participated said it had been "amazing", "really brilliant", "loved it", "I really want to come back again".

Everyone had a great afternoon and loved receiving their participation certificates. Well done especially to James, Buddy and Cesca who won the 3 workshop awards!



## Foodbank Hampers

Once again we are supporting the Wetherby Foodbank this Christmas. House groups made some amazing hampers. The generosity of students and parents has been amazing.

Thank you!





# La Saint Nicolas

By Allannah Booth Y12

Every 6th of December in the North of France, children are visited by Saint Nicolas, a wise, bearded man in a long robe, and are gifted sweet treats if they have been kind and well-behaved throughout the year. Luckily, our Year 12 French class were good enough to receive gifts from our very own Saint Nicolas and were able to learn about his story.

Saint Nicolas was a real person who lived in the 200s-300s. Because of his kind and generous nature, he was given the title *Protector of Children*.

We were visited by our very own Saint Nicolas on the 6th of December in the form of Madame Butterworth. Although she lacked the beard and robe, she certainly didn't scrimp on the treats to give us. We started the lesson off by listening to a song typically sung during La Saint Nicolas which told the story of the children and the butcher. We were all rather shocked when the children were killed, as we didn't expect something quite so intense. However, for me this emphasized the purity and greatness of Saint Nicolas and explains why he has a whole day dedicated to him. Next, we

celebrated with hot chocolate and homemade brioche children. This is a very common, and very delicious, delicacy which is made and eaten during the holiday and we were instructed to dip it into our hot chocolate which made it all taste so much better.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our taste of the holidays in France and look forward to whatever Madame Butterworth throws us into next! I personally believe we should take a page out of France's book and celebrate this wonderful and warming holiday along with them on the 6th of December.



## Chef Led Workshop

Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition Students were lucky enough to take part in a Chef - led workshop at York University, kindly funded by a grant from the York Agricultural Society. They spent an exciting day, with Executive Head Chef Andrew Wood of York University, in a professional kitchen making a three-course meal showcasing some high level

practical skills. The dishes included Starter: Ricotta and Wild Mushroom Ravioli, Pickled Mushrooms and light emulsion. Main course: Mackerel, Pesto Dressing, Beetroot and Potato Salad with Watercress. Dessert: Poached Pear, Chocolate Mousse, Pistachio Tuiles, Italian meringue.



## Physicists

A group of Sixth Form Physicists travelled to Salford University to see a series of exciting lectures from famous Physicists including Simon Singh. The topics ranged from how to make sure aircraft don't fall out of the sky when lightning strikes to making fusion power with the most powerful lasers in the world.



## Global Entrepreneurship Challenge

Congratulations to Ethan, Jess, Luke and Henry from Year 12 for their amazing efforts at the very first Entrepreneurship Challenge for Yorkshire. The students got to experience first hand a real insight into the world of chocolate at York Cocoa Works with a presentation, tour and chocolate tasting. The students were also given the opportunity to make their own chocolate lollipops. Throughout the day the students were challenged to create the chocolate of the future and, following a working lunch, created their idea and presentation for the judging panel. All of the students contributed to the presentation in front of the other schools and judges. Comments from colleagues from other schools were positive about the work ethic of our students.

Despite not winning, the students won in many other ways. They have proven their creativity, teamwork and business acumen to deliver a confident, professional presentation to industry experts.

## Sixth Form Updates



Eight Year 12 Students have been successful in gaining a place on the Law Ambassador Programme. Everyone was very excited by the opportunities on offer and are looking forward to joining up with the Year 13 group on the first workshop of the year, based on street law .

Year 12 students attended a 'Getting into University' Conference at Elland Road. The three - hour conference gave students an invaluable experience as to what was needed to get into universities, apart from the grades. There were lots of tips, advice and support.



Year 13 students, who are hoping to go into medicine, spent over three hours with Dr Mahadev from MediPrep going through the interview process they will experience to secure that valuable place. Advice and support will be given from now until results day to ensure success. The students should be very proud as they absolutely demonstrated that they are the future for our health service.



## SPORTS Updates

### Rugby By Mr Betts



This term the boys' rugby teams have seen a

resurgence in training on a Wednesday night after school as well as playing an increasing number of games throughout the term.

The numbers at training have been approximately 30-40 across year groups 7 to 10 and the focus has been handling skills and contact situations.

**Year 7** have had two tournaments against various teams including, Rosset, Manor, Joseph Rowntree's and York High. As yet they are undefeated and have shown commitment to straight, hard running to commit defenders and then passing to supporting players. The squads are still developing and I am indebted to Mr Carr from Wetherby Rugby Club for his support on Wednesday evening training.

**Year 8** have had one tournament in Leeds, where they came up against some very strong teams. However, their determination

to never give up and focus on continually recycling and moving the ball, saw them gain a lot of credibility from all the opponents they played. They will have more games in the New Year; so the more training the better.

The number of Year 10 students training and playing is higher than in recent years.

However, with the number of Year 9 players decreasing, we have amalgamated the teams. The **Year 9/10** team has played one York tournament and a full game against Fulford School. In both sets of games they have excelled with their determination, control and handling. The floodlit game against Fulford was a draw and the return match in January / February 2019 is hotly anticipated. Again, I am very grateful to our sixth formers, Henry Acland and Ben Humphreys for their support with training. After Christmas, the matches will increase and I hope the school rugby teams continue to enjoy the games and show the commitment we have seen this term. Finally, many thanks to all the parents who have supported us at matches.

*Merry Christmas and happy New Year.*



**Year 9/10 Rugby Team**

### Netball

Rosie Maguire (Year 7) and Molly Newton (Year 10) have been selected for the North Yorkshire County Performance Netball Programme.

### Football

Extremely proud of our Year 7 B - Team. The students had a long journey to Teesside to face Laurence Jackson School in the National Cup. After a hard fought game, in horrendous conditions, our boys eventually came out on top 2-1!



## Mobile Phone Use

### We would like to remind parents about the use of mobile phones in school :

We understand that parents appreciate the security that mobile phones offer families, especially when students travel a distance to get to school. As a school, we also appreciate the technology that phones bring to our classrooms, but we have some very clear rules around their use in school.

Student phones must remain in school bags and be switched off during the school day.

The only exceptions to this are when, in a lesson, a member of staff instructs a class that they can use the technology on their phone, such as the camera or calculator, and on the bus park when students need to retrieve their e ticket or need to phone home.

There are sanctions for phones being out of bags or being used in school. We hope this acts as a deterrent, as sometimes phones can be used by students to engage in bullying behaviour, especially via social media platforms. Recently, we have had incidences where students have contacted parents directly, using their mobile phones, perhaps to tell home they are not well.



Please can you remind your sons and daughters that this is not allowed, as it causes real issues in terms of the safeguarding

of our students, as it may mean we are unaware that a young person is unwell and is not appropriately supported in school. If you are worried about your child, please can you always contact the school via the main office, who will be happy to support you.

### Change Is Life

*Change is the wind that comes and goes,  
The hand that grips us tight.  
When the everlasting sunlit sky,  
Is replaced by dark moonlight.*

*Change is the leaf that falls from a tree,  
As the seasons pass us by.  
The sights, the sounds, the smells, all different,  
Like a beautiful butterfly.*

*Change is the ball that keeps on rolling,  
Its destination in sight.  
The paths we take may differ a little,  
But no route is wrong or right.*

*Change is the notes we write on our stave,  
The music is always unique.  
It plays out our life from low to high,  
Singing the happiness that we seek.*

*Change is the branch that connects us all,  
Stretching from young to old.  
Its leaves grow green then red then brown,  
Then die out as the winter unfolds.*

*Change is the Earth that keeps on spinning,  
Gravity holding us down.  
The stars, the moons and the planets shine  
bright,  
As the world spins around and around.*

*Change is something that's unpredictable,  
Inescapable and strong.  
Within its fear grows beauty and grace,  
And the love we've had all along.*

*Change is life.*

**Poetry Competition Winner  
Holli Mead Year 9**



# EXAM CERTIFICATES

NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION

Following the Senior Awards evening, certificates are now available, for students who were unable to attend the evening, to collect in person from school. Students are strongly advised to collect their certificates at their earliest convenience, as they will be needed for further education and employment applications in the future. Students no longer at Tadcaster Grammar School can collect certificates from the Main School office during office hours. If a student is unable to collect their certificate in person they can nominate a sibling or parent to collect on their behalf. In this instance, the person collecting must have a letter from the student authorising them to do so or a

completed certificate collection request form. [>>print here](#)  
Year 12 students need to collect their certificates from Mrs Tomlinson in the Sixth Form Office.

**Exam certificates are lifelong documents and once collected should be kept in a safe, memorable place. Replacement certificates are only available from the Exam Boards.**



**Director of Sixth Form Award - James King**  
This student is a highly talented Economist, Mathematician and German linguist, who was exceptionally motivated and determined. However, there is one factor that stood out. As a student with true grit and determination, when in Year 12, he overcame a number of health issues and remained determined that he knew he wanted to succeed and continued to come to school day in, day out, work hard in his independent study periods and still help the school community selflessly. His endearing nature, his positivity and his motivation were quite truly inspirational to his teachers and peers.  
**Governors' Shield for Service to the School - Penny Meek & Maddie McLure**  
**The Iain Farnsworth Trophy for Academic Achievement - Joe Torsney**  
**The Oglethorpe & Dawson Shield for Outstanding Performance - Euan Inglis**  
**Outstanding Contribution to Modern Foreign Languages (French) - Poppy Wilson**  
**Outstanding Contribution to Modern Foreign Languages (German) - Lydia Hall**  
**Special award for Computer Science - Jacob O'Toole**

**Drama Prize - Sophie Shooter**  
**The Joe Lister Trophy - Connor Dunckley**  
The Joe Lister Trophy is awarded annually to a student in Key Stage 4, who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of sport.  
**The Washington fine art Prize - Amy Lewis**  
**Wharfe House Shield – Henry Acland**  
**Oglethorpe House Leaders Award - Ben Jones.** The Oglethorpe House Leader award this year goes to a student who is genuinely respected by everyone who meets him.  
**Special House Leaders' Shield - Alice Haynes**  
The young lady who is the recipient of the House Leaders Special Award is an example of perseverance, selflessness and excellence. She has always risen to the challenges presented to her and has done this with a positive attitude and consideration of others.



## Senior Awards Evening

The Senior Awards evening took place on Monday 17 December. It was lovely to see so many students returning to School. We were very lucky to have ex - student Lieutenant Luke Wraith who joined us as our special guest speaker. Luke left Tadcaster Grammar School in 2008 to pursue his career with the Royal Navy and made history last year when, as the youngest pilot, he was chosen to conduct the first ever deck landing on board HMS Queen Elizabeth in his Merlin helicopter.

Trophies and Shields that were presented during the evening included -  
**Calcaria House Shield - Georgina Vicente**  
The House Shields are awarded to a member of our House who has shown determination through adversity. However we interpret this award, it is always quite humbling to see how our young people cope with the cards that life deals them. In this case, this fabulous young lady has had a real rollercoaster ride of ups, downs, twists and turns along the way. She has shown true resilience and has become someone who we can all be proud of.



Georgina Vicente



James king



Ben Jones



Alice Haynes

## Diary Dates

Mon 7 Jan	School Re-opens
Thurs 10 Jan	Year 9 Options Evening 6.30 pm
Mon 14 Jan	Year 13 Mock Exams Begin
Mon 21 Jan	Year 12 Mock Exams Begin
Wed 23 Jan	TRAINING DAY
Fri 22 Feb	Half Term

Diary Dates

...[read more>>](#)