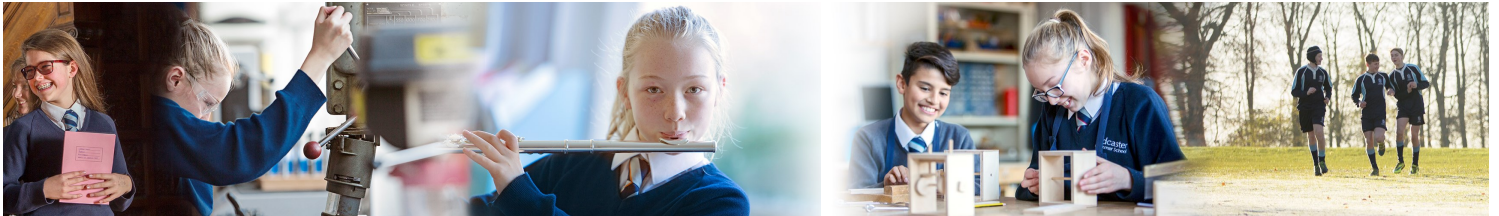




NEWSLETTER

October 2019



It feels very much a privilege to reflect on the last 8 school weeks as our first half term comes to a close. As a new starter to the school I thought it might be useful to share a few initial observations.

Firstly, I have been overwhelmingly impressed with the effort and application students are showing towards their studies. It is a delight to walk around the school and be welcomed into teaching spaces to share in activities and experiences. Year 7 and our Year 10 & 12 students in particular, seem to have managed the transition to their next stage of learning extremely well, with all students in school contributing to our calm and purposeful learning environment.

I feel I also need to thank the staff for their ongoing commitment to the school. 'Going the extra mile' can be regarded as a hackneyed phrase, but the sentiment lives and breathes every day at school. Look no further than the lunchtime revision sessions, extra curricular activities and 'help on request' offered to students.

It has also been wonderful to visit so many of our partner primary schools in the local community to meet the children and staff and to see the links between the schools both within and beyond our STAR Multi Academy Trust.

As I mention when speaking at Year 6 road-shows and open evenings, the contribution and commitment parents show to the school is invaluable in relation to so many areas, but especially attendance, punctuality and

behaviour for learning. I hope you feel a healthy confidence in the school and the work

we do. Equally, if you feel the school has fallen short, that you feel your concerns are valued and responded to. We are, of course, always seeking ways to improve the 'service' the school provides to parents even further. Home-school communication and reporting to parents are areas we currently have under review. We will continue to consult with you on these important areas.

Finally, we are absolutely delighted with the examination results from summer 2019 which are the strongest the school has had for many years (I also understand the vital part parents play at home supporting children through what can be very challenging times during the run up to the exam season). Perhaps more importantly is the attention the school has given those students leaving the school to find the very best destinations, either in higher education, apprenticeships, further education or employment with training levels. I am aware that many families will be considering post-16 options at the moment and would encourage you to fully engage with the school following the recent Sixth Form Open Evening and to consider the excellent offer we have at Tadcaster Grammar school.

I look forward very much to meeting with more of you in the weeks and months ahead. Enjoy the break.

Kind regards,
Andrew Parkinson
Headteacher



Tadcaster Grammar School
'A Culture of Excellence'



TGS are working with the charity Future First to build a school alumni, a network of past students.

Please do stay in touch. Register at:
<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/student/tadcaster>

Contact Details

Please remember to inform the school of any changes to contact details for your child to - Student Records Manager

a.haddock@tgs.starmat.uk

or Student medical

information to - Matron
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.



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The STAR
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
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FUNDRAISING

Your Future Matters



Are you looking for a Sixth Form which is right for you?

After a very successful Sixth Form Open Evening, we are looking forward to welcoming students to the 2020 academic year.

We are committed to providing the highest standard of education and a positive, motivating learning environment for all students. Our Sixth Form offers an extensive range of academic and vocational courses, as well as many extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities. We encourage independent learning, with exceptional academic and pastoral support delivered by our first-rate Sixth Form team. Outside the classroom there are opportunities to play a role as one of the senior members of the school, taking on responsibility and developing leadership skills.

Students who study at Tadcaster Grammar School are hugely successful; with over a third of all students achieving A*-A grades and going on to study at elite Russell Group Universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, with others winning places on high-level apprenticeships.

Tadcaster Grammar School is the perfect environment to deepen your study of subjects you studied in Key Stage 4 or to embark upon new courses. We know from experience, and from consultation with our students that if you join us you are very likely to have a rewarding and successful time.

We believe that the Sixth Form is the most exciting time in a student's life. It is a new era marked by significant development, both academically and socially. It is the gateway to your future career, and we look forward to welcoming you to the School.



Two Sixth Form students, Alice and Charlie, have decided to spend their final year at TGS by helping others.

Alice goes on to say :
We are organising a

variety of charitable events over the course of our final year at school in support of Field View, the Children's Ward at Leeds General Infirmary and the charities 'Bereaved Children's Support York', 'SASH' and 'Just B'.

Charlie and I have worked closely with many of the students and staff in Field View and have a close connection with them. We are aiming to raise money to be able to build an outdoor classroom and sensory garden area for them to develop their learning within the school.

As well as this, Leeds General Infirmary Children's Ward, Just B, SASH, and Bereaved Children's Support York are very important causes to us and our families; which is why we are aiming to raise lots of money this year to donate to them, as we wish to give something back to them to say thank you.

We started our fundraising with a raffle where we managed to get approximately 50 prizes donated and raised over £400! We are also looking forward to hosting a variety of other events in school throughout the year to raise as much money as possible and are hoping to get the whole school involved too!



St Chély D'Apcher Visit

By Jessica and Jess Year 13



This summer we had the privilege of going to St Chély D'Apcher (Tadcaster's twinned town) to experience French culture. During our stay, we visited a chateau, an outdoor theatre production, a WW2 resistance museum, along with eating a lot of

great, regional French food! We were able to improve our French whilst engaging with the local residence. It was a truly memorable experience and we want to give particular thanks to the Tadcaster Twinning Association and the Oglethorpe and Dawson Trust who both gave us very generous grants towards the visit. One of the highlights of our trip was spending the day in the Aubrac region, exploring the lovely villages and surrounding countryside, and ending the day with a group meal and live music. We also went swimming in the Lac du Moulinet and enjoyed a picnic kindly prepared for us by the Twinning Association in St Chély. Later that evening, we travelled to le Malzieu to see a comedy play set up in the town square, accompanied by a live orchestra and coloured lights! The few days that we stayed in St Chély were packed full of activities and experiences; it was equally exciting to spend some time with our host families, experiencing everyday life in St Chély and speaking to locals, as well as enjoying the celebration of the town's annual summer fête. St Chély is a beautiful place with lovely people. It was great for us to experience life within and learn from the French culture as well as seeing how people of different nationalities can be so easily brought together!

Field View Learning Hub Update

Year 11 VLS students are working on 'problem solving' which will coincide with helping to raise much needed money for Field View. There will be cake stalls, raffles, sweets in a jar and lots more fun stalls. All this is coming up during November and December.

As well as raising funds for Field View, the students also managed to hold a cake stall and raised a fantastic £57 for Macmillan Cancer support.



A donation of £1,000 has been made by the Dawson and Oglethorpe governors, to Field View. As a thank you for this incredibly kind donation all the key students who work in Field View had a part in baking a cake to present to the governors at their recent meeting.

The students from Years 8,9 and 10 made the cake during their Food Technology Lesson. This was followed by the practical maths skills group who decorated it.



Students working hard making a 'Thank you' cake for the Dawson and Oglethorpe governors.



Restart a Heart Day




Again this year we are delighted that our Year 8 students were able to participate in the Restart a Heart Day. 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. 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 is now 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.



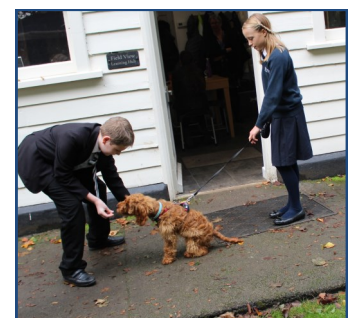
P A W S for thought 🐾🐾

 Bella is a 16 week old Cockapoo who will gradually be joining the team at Field View Learning Hub.

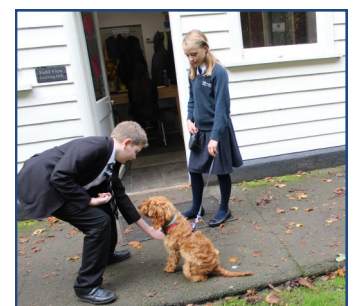
Bella will spend the next academic year training to gain certification as a Therapy Dog; which usually happens after a dog's first birthday.

Therapy dogs are championed for their calming effect on students (and staff!). With a huge national drive in schools to promote a mental healthy workplace, Bella will hopefully play her part in improving wellbeing, confidence and self esteem in our young people, in particular our most vulnerable learners.

Although Bella will be primarily based at Field View, over time we hope that she will have a pastoral role for the whole school.



School Dog - Bella



Drugs Where to go for advice.

We know that the majority of young people don't use drugs; research shows that young people's drug use has been declining over the past 10 years, but there's still a small group of young people who get drawn into using drugs; so it's important that parents/carers know where to go for information and support if they need it.

Don't Panic!

If you find out that your child is taking drugs or using alcohol, you might feel angry and upset. However, remain calm and wait for a good time when the anger has passed to talk to them.

Do your homework

Do your research on drugs and alcohol before talking to your child. This will give you more confidence to talk to your child in an informed way. Use reliable websites such as FRANK www.talktofrank.com or call Compass REACH on 01609 777662

Pick the right time

Choose the right time to talk to your child; don't bring it up just before they are about to leave for school or when they've just got in from an evening out with friends. Mealtimes or whilst driving in the car could be a good time or when television news articles or programmes about drugs come on TV.

Be honest

Be prepared to talk openly about your own views on drugs and what you're really worried about.

Don't forget to listen

Try asking your child what they understand about drugs rather than telling them what you know. Get a conversation going. If there are questions you don't know the answers to, look them up together with your child. Make sure your child knows you are there for them to talk to and support them and show them love.

Keep talking

Your child has to cope with many issues as they grow up, including peer pressure. Try to get into the habit of talking regularly with your child about what's going on for them, how they see their life and what's worrying them.

Avoid using scare tactics

Using scare tactics won't help. Simply telling young people that drug use can have fatal consequences rarely acts as a deterrent. Instead try talking about how drugs can affect your mental health and future aspirations.

Set boundaries

Let your child know what your attitudes are towards drug use - make sure they clearly understand the boundaries and expectations you are setting them in relation to their behaviour.

Useful websites

www.talktofrank.com

www.compass-uk.org/services/northyorkshire-compass-buzz/

<https://mentoruk.org.uk/get-the-facts/>

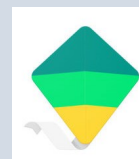
<https://www.themix.org.uk/>

<http://mentor-adepis.org/about-us/>

[Rise Above Digital Hub](#)



Family Link is a free mobile app launched by Google.



With Family Link, you can approve or block the apps your child wants to download from the Google Play Store. You can also monitor their screen time, including checking out how much time your child spends on their favourite apps, thanks to weekly or monthly activity reports. And, you can set daily screen time limits for their device.

Features include-

- * Manage the apps your child can use
- * Approve or block apps
- * Keep an eye on screen time
- * weekly or monthly activity report
- * Set daily screen time limits for your child's device.
- * See your child's location
- * Remotely lock your child's device

Family Link does not claim to block inappropriate content, though some apps do offer their own filtering options.

This app can be used on Chromebooks, when you use Family Link to manage your child's Google account, you can let them sign in to some Google services on their Chromebook. You can also use the Family Link app to choose what websites your child can access using Chrome, supervise your child's app usage and more.

To use Google Family Link, you need the following:

- The Family Link app running on a compatible Android device for your child (any Android Nougat 7.0+ device).
- The Family Link app running on your own compatible device (any Android Kitkat device or iOS 9.0+ device).
- Your own Google Account.

If you don't have the Family Link app it is freely available via the play store. To install tap Create In the top right, follow the instructions on screen to create the account. When you're done, a confirmation will show on the screen.

European Day of Languages



Staff and students had a great week celebrating European Day of Languages. Year 7 enjoyed international breakfasts all week with the Sixth Form linguists picking the winner. Year 8 students had fun doing a QR code treasure hunt and guessing different languages. The European Day of Languages Bake Off was a huge success with lots and lots of amazing entries, well done to everyone who took part. THANK YOU to the Judges: Mr Dunphy and Head Students Connor and Esther.



Bake off winners

Year 7 winner: Lucie Butterworth

Year 7 2nd place: Ralph Furminger

Year 7 3rd place: Amy Byfield

Yr8-11 winners: Ava and Stella Osbaldeston

Yr8-11 2nd place: Rosie Maguire and Anya McGrath

Yr8-11 3rd place: Anna Davy



New Uniform is a Huge Success

Achieving a gender neutral uniform is a great accomplishment for the whole school community at TGS. In 2017, TGS achieved Stonewall Champion School status which prompted us to further consider equality and diversity for all of our students. We found that most schools in the 21st century have a single uniform for all students, however ours was segregated by gender. The student group decided to do some research, and as a result, went on to submit a proposal to Mr Sibley for the introduction of a new gender neutral uniform here at TGS. Following the success of this meeting, we went on to work with governors, the school shop, the PE department, staff, parents and students to create a more inclusive uniform policy. After many months of hard work we were thrilled to announce that the new uniform would be available starting in September of the 2019/20 academic year and would be compulsory for the new Year 7 students joining us. Along with the physical uniform, we have worked incredibly hard to make sure its presentation and the language used in the policy was also gender neutral. This change is ongoing within the school and we are grateful for the continued support of everyone involved as we strive to make TGS a place that truly celebrates equality and diversity.

We feel the new uniform allows everyone to be included and welcomed into the school. We hope to create a modern sense

of community where students are valued for their personality, their choices, and their achievements rather than being defined by their gender. Many students felt labelled in the Legacy uniform but with the gender neutral uniform we believe students will feel more comfortable and will, overall, be able to enjoy their time at TGS even more. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive school and with this change we continue to support transgender and non-binary members of the school community as well as challenging sexism. This is a great step forward for TGS and we look forward to many more.



Physical Education Update

Physical Education is just as important as any other school subject. PE is praised for its contribution to improved psychological health, for helping to nurture social and moral development, as well as supporting cognitive and academic performance. As we begin a new school year students have been showing off their amazing talents once again -

At the U15 girls' football tournament hosted by Bootham school, our teams were brilliant. We had 5 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss.



It was a close game for the Year 8 girls hockey team against Fulford School; narrowly losing 2-1. It was a great 4-1 win for the Year 10 girls hockey team against Manor Academy.

Year 8 Girls Hockey Team

Year 10 Girls Hockey Team



Year 7 Football Team



Year 10 Football Team



Year 8 Football Team

We had a mixed set of results against Archbishop Holgate's school in the York & District Schools Football League - Year 7 drew 1-1, Year 8 lost 0-5 and Year 10 won 1-0. We saw a great spirit and effort from all the teams. Congratulations also to the Year 10 boys football team, who had a fine 5-3 victory over Rossett School to progress into Round 3 of the ESFA national cup!



Well done to all students who took part in the HIIT workout to support National Fitness Day



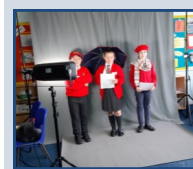
Congratulations to Students from Years 8-12 who successfully passed the FA Junior Football Leaders Award

Primary French Afternoon

Year 6 primary students from Riverside, Appleton Roebuck, St Joseph's and Saxton School attended a French session at TGS. They spent an afternoon learning how to talk about the weather and used the green screen technology to present the weather forecast in French. It was great fun! They were supported by language ambassadors Eleanor Betts, Natasha Gallagher, Allanah Booth, Jess Siallagan and James Mann, as well as the fantastic IT team at TGS who did the filming. The Year 6 pupils had this to say.... *"I enjoyed filming on the green screen and making up my own weather report in French. I liked learning about the different types of weather."*

"I liked when we tried on clothes to describe the types of weather. It was fun and we got to speak lots of French. It was good when we could match the type of weather to the place."

"I thought it was really interesting learning French weather words. My favourite part was when we got filmed and dressed up in different costumes to make a weather report. I learnt some new words like 'soleil' and 'nuage'. I feel a lot more comfortable at TGS and I hope to go there in Year 7."



Diary Dates

Wed 6 - Fri 8 November	Y7 Residential to Caythorpe Court
Mon 11 - Fri 22 November	Y11 Mock Exams
Mon 11 November	Anti Bullying Week
Wed 20 November	KS3 Reading Evening 6pm
Wed 27 November	Y13 Parents' Evening
Wed 27 November	Y9 German Market Visit
Thurs 28 November	Training Day
Wed 4 December	Christmas Lunch
Mon 9 December	St Mary's Church Carol Service 7pm
Thurs 12 December	Yr10 Parents' Evening
Mon 16 December	Senior Awards Evening
Thurs 19 December	Christmas Concert 7pm
Fri 20 December	School Closes (early close)

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