

Outstanding Teambuilding



On Wednesday 6th November, 240 Year 7 students travelled to Caythorpe Court in Lincolnshire accompanied by 15 members of staff. On arrival, the students (and some adults) were eager to begin to enjoy the outdoor activities, these included, trapeze, giant swing, vertical challenge, climbing, Jacob's ladder, problem solving and sensory challenge. Unfortunately the weather this year was not as kind as in previous visits, but this certainly did not dampen the spirits of the students.

high ropes. Most things I had never done before in my life, but I tried them all and do not regret it! While we were there it was very cold and a bit wet but everyone still had a good time. All the leaders were really kind and always encouraged us to go ahead and do the activities. Personally I enjoyed all of the high rope activities, like climbing or vertical challenge, but I know quite a lot of people who would prefer to have their feet planted firmly on the ground! There was always something for everybody and so everyone enjoyed the trip. Before we went, we picked one friend that we would really like in our activity group and our dorms, so everyone had a friendly face in their group. I will never forget the residential, it was brilliant!"



On the first evening the students 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, and 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. Here is what one of the Year 7 students had to say "I loved all of the Year 7 residential to PGL! It made me more confident, encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone, and introduced me to many new activities. We did everything from climbing to zip wire, and a sensory trail to



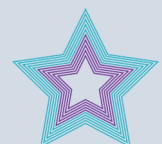
Contact Details

Please remember to inform the school of any changes to contact details for your child. Send these to the 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
web.starmat.uk

RECYCLING School Uniform



The Barn

community.education.youth

School Uniform Recycling Scheme launched at The Barn!

Led by Tadcaster and Rural Community Interest Company and Tadcrafters, and in partnership with Chalks School Shop and our EcoSchools club, this new initiative seeks to take in old uniforms and offer them to students at no cost as a way of recycling clothing. The project will be hosted at The Barn in Tadcaster (formerly Manor Farm Youth Centre) and has already started receiving donations via Pam Chalk. The Barn is on the corner of St Joseph's Street and Leeds Road. Old items of uniform will be repaired and refreshed as needed by Tadcrafters, and then offered to parents through the summer holidays, starting in July 2020.

Please bag up any items your student may have grown out of and either drop off at The Barn or at Chalks school shop.

For more information Contact David Gluck at The Barn Tel: 07905 766831

email david@yorplan.co.uk.



The Tadcaster Grammar School Uniform and Appearance Statement aims to:

1. Identify students with the school and ensure students are aware of their status as representatives of the school.
2. Promote a sense of community and belonging to the school.
3. Engender a sense of pride in, and loyalty to, the school.
4. Enable students to feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance.
5. Not discriminate in any way and promote fairness and equality.
6. Be practical and smart.

recycle week FASHION SHOW

Last year the nation woke up to recycling. This year we're taking action. Most people can recycle glass, plastics, paper and card and metal at home.

79% of all the plastic ever produced is still in the environment 2050 is the estimated date where there will be more plastic than fish in the sea. 60% of UK households are now recycling more than a year ago due to environmental concerns.

We are a nation of recyclers and are recycling more than ever before. In line with 2019 Recycle week, students from each form competed to create a fashion garment made from recycled materials such as card, paper, plastics, newspaper. Each form competed against forms within the same House. The two best forms from each house were then selected to compete against other Houses in a Fashion Show. Students walked the catwalk in their amazing creations and representatives from each form talked the judges through the creative process of making their final garments and also the inspiration for the piece. The fashion show was a great and uplifting event that brought the idea of recycling to the forefront of our minds. Well done TGS Fashionistas!

Recycling. A simple yet revolutionary act, that can change the world.



Eco-Schools Update

This term the Eco - Schools group has been working on achieving the Silver Award where recycling has been the major focus. The group has secured funding from the Oglethorpe and Dawson Educational Foundation to purchase a new plastic bottle recycling bin and this will be ready to go in the dining hall in 2020. A full audit of classroom recycling has taken place and new bins are being upcycled to help improve recycling across the school. The Eco-Schools group has also led an assembly highlighting the problem of plastic pollution and encouraged new Year 7 students to join in the group.

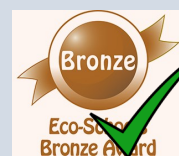
Young people can change the world
Begin your journey to Green Flag Today

Steps to become an Eco-Schools member:

- STEP 1: FORM AN ECO-COMMITTEE
- STEP 2: CONDUCT AN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
- STEP 3: WRITE AN ACTION PLAN
- STEP 4: MONITOR AND EVALUATE
- STEP 5: CREATE AN ECO-CODE
- STEP 6: FIND CURRICULUM LINKS
- STEP 7: INFORM AND INVOLVE

Awards: SOLVER AWARD, BRONZE AWARD, SILVER AWARD

Join the largest educational programme on Earth
www.eco-schools.org.uk
facebook.com/EcoSchoolsEngland



Ten Eco-Schools topics to choose from.

Pick three topics for your first Green Flag. Pick five topics each time you renew your Green Flag.

Your School. Your Choice. Your Action.

Topics:

- MARINE
- BIODIVERSITY
- ENERGY
- LITTER
- WASTE
- TRANSPORT
- WATER
- SCHOOL GROUNDS
- HEALTHY LIVING
- GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Oglethorpe and Dawson Educational Foundation

The Oglethorpe and Dawson Educational Foundation uses the money left by the founders of Tadcaster Grammar School to assist the training of students of the school and to prepare them for future careers; also to give special benefits to the school of a kind not provided by the local authority.

In 1557 Owen Oglethorpe, Bishop of Carlisle, obtained Letters Patent (a Royal Warrant) from Queen Mary to found a Grammar School in Tadcaster. In his Will, Owen left property (acquired from former monastic lands) to endow the school and gave instructions about its buildings and curriculum.

Henrietta Marshall was born in Tadcaster in 1727. Following marriage to one Mr Dawson, she moved away and did not return to her home town. In her Will of 1795 she left an endowment to provide a school for girls and to support poor women in the town. For more than a century the two schools remained as separate institutions supported by the Founders' endowments until, in 1906, they were amalgamated as Tadcaster Grammar School. The money to support the school initially came partly from the Founders' endowments and partly from fees paid by parents although, over time, financial support increasingly came from the local authority, at the time West Riding County Council.

After the Second World War, the local authority took full responsibility for supporting the school, leaving the Founders' endowments as a separate fund. The Oglethorpe & Dawson Educational Foundation is the body which administers this fund.

The Governors use income from the assets of the Endowment for making grants for various locally-related educational requirements, both in Tadcaster and its surrounding parishes:

- Prizes for School Celebration Evenings and House Awards;
- The provision of items such as additional library books, computers and other IT-related equipment and other departmental requirements not supported by central grants, whatever the source;
- Support for individual students to assist in special circumstances, including out of school activities such as field trips and other visits supporting the curriculum as well as cultural, sporting and life - enhancing activities.

In all cases, grants are made because of the financial circumstances of the student; the grant never covering the full cost but, rather, being a limited contribution.

The most recent example of support for the school has been in support of the Just 'B' Bereavement Support initiative, not least the provision of a counselling service to support those students requiring assistance over and above that normally available though the school. This initiative has just completed its second year and is now embedded in the school's operation.

Thank you to Graeme Middleyard, Clerk to the Governors, for this information which is based on a document prepared by Laurence Myers, previous Clerk to the Governors and Teacher for many years at the school.



Toulston Lodge

FESTIVE BAKE OFF

To help get us all in the festive spirit, many of the school staff were involved in a bake-off after school during the penultimate week of term. The staff funded their own baking materials and competition was fierce.

Teams competed for two separate prizes; the technical challenge followed by a sale of their baked items to students with the team taking the most money named as the winner. The £278.83 raised will be given to the school charity committee to allocate to a charity of their choice.

Winners:

Technical challenge: Ms Lattimore & Mr Carr

The most money raised: Ms Lattimore & Mr Carr



A Thank You

I wanted to share with you that I have graduated from Maastricht University with designation cum Laude (highest award) in my LLB.

I am currently studying an LLM in Edinburgh in Corporate Law and next year I shall be working for PwC in London selling my soul to the corporate world and making sure that businesses 'pay the right tax' - their words not mine.

However, none of this could have been achieved without the role that TGS played in moulding me into who I am today.

Harry Savage Ex Student

Music at TGS



Pop Choir

I joined Pop Choir at the beginning of the term and I have really enjoyed going

every Tuesday. I joined to give me a place to come out of all the school work I have got to do and just sing and be happy. I like that Pop Choir is very encouraging to everyone that joins it and they make it so much fun.

So far in Pop Choir we have done some Christmas songs such as Ring Out the Bells and In the Bleak Midwinter. We have also done other songs such as Somebody to Love by Freddie Mercury and Real Love. The rehearsals are so happy and everyone is so friendly to you and everyone else. On Monday 9th December 2019, Pop Choir went to St Mary's Church to sing some Christmas Carols there. We also sang with the Chamber Choir there too. It was very exciting to sing with them because they are all very talented singers. The carol service was a good opportunity for the choir and it was a lot of fun to sing at.

By Holly Pert, Year 7



Pop Choir singing at St Mary's Church

ABRSM Exam Results

Huge congratulations to the following students who have received their ABRSM Exam Results Autumn 2019: S. Bliss grade 5 piano, J. Hirst grade 5 piano, A. Parkinson grade 4 piano, W. Ackroyd grade 4 cornet - merit, F. Mackrill grade 2 piano, B. North grade 2 piano - merit G. Owens grade 5 theory - distinction, I. Smith grade 3 theory - distinction, E. Horsfield grade 3 theory - merit, R. Brook grade 1 theory - distinction (full marks!) W. Wrigglesworth grade 5 theory with merit.



A STAR at Christmas

A STAR at Christmas brought together 9 schools from the STAR MAT to sing festive songs and form a choir of almost 300 students.

Each school performed a song of their own choice and then joined together for some well-known festive songs including We Three Kings which gives us the lyrics "Oh STAR of wonder, STAR of light"



Annie Jr

Last school year, the music and drama department held auditions for the upcoming school performance of Annie Junior. Gracie Howarth took the leading role of Annie, with Josh Dale playing Mr Warbuckles. Before the summer holidays, the cast read through the script, learnt the songs and started to stage a few scenes.

Back from the Summer break and into a new school year, the hard work began. The cast and teachers rehearsed to make sure every scene was perfect and each costume and prop fitted well. These rehearsals included an all day rehearsal during school time and a dress rehearsal performing to primary school students from the STARMAT. Milly Rothwell-Wood, who was playing a "star to be" said 'the rehearsals were fun and I loved making new friends'.

The show dates were 23rd and 24th October. The audiences loved the two performances and the school received some amazing reviews! Overall, the cast and teachers were very proud of the high level of performance they had achieved, and also got to watch it back during an 'Annie Jr Lunch Party!'.

By Sophie O'Callaghan





Languages Update

Christmas in Cologne

Year 9 students' annual visit to Cologne
 Our trip to Cologne was certainly worth the long journey. We delved into the culture and sampled some of the cuisine, such as waffles, bread, cheese and bratwurst. We all really enjoyed the theme park and screamed our heads off on most rides. We all melted at the deluxe Lindt chocolate we ate at the museum. The markets themselves were beautifully lit up and gave us a chance to buy a few gifts to take home.
 All in all, we thought it was a cultural experience we shall never forget, and thank Miss Halliwell for organising such a memorable visit.

By Chloe Wright, Isla Beresford, Hannah Redmond, Alex Keetley and Ruby Muturi



Language Talk

On the 26th of November, we had the pleasure to welcome two students currently studying Languages at York University. Selin and Alex, presently in their final year, conducted a talk to the whole of our Year 9 cohort and met with some of our KS4 and KS5 students at lunchtime. They spoke about the importance of languages in the current climate, the various skills you gain when studying a language, their year abroad in France and Italy and finally life at university.

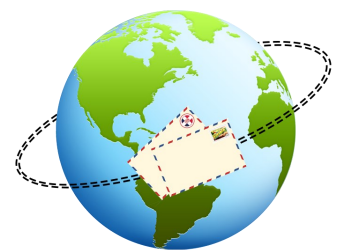


University Competition

Two Y10 students submitted an incredible entry for the Lancaster University Modern Languages Schools Competition. The challenge was to make a creative entry around the theme "Languages to build bridges".

"We chose to construct, play and sing a medley of all our favourite French songs to represent how languages build bridges. We both strongly agree that French is an important part of us, for it helped build who we are today, and we are truly grateful for that moment when we began our learning journey in Year 7. We have discovered that learning a language is not just about learning vocabulary so that if you go on holiday you can ask where the nearest restaurant is, it has provided us with so, many more attributes: self-discipline, motivation, communication, patience, enjoyment, being pragmatic and most importantly - a totally new perspective on culture and knowledge of our diverse world." *By Eve and Naomi*
 We wish them the best of luck.

Bonne chance les filles!



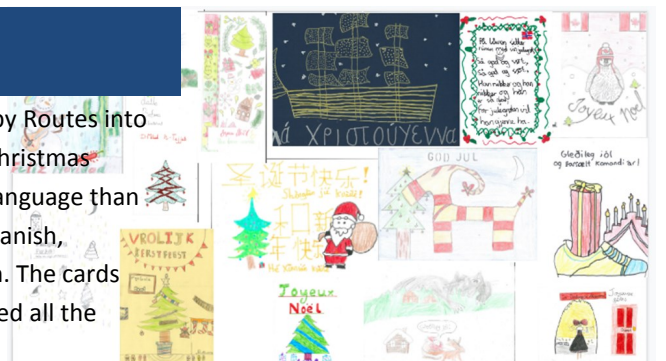
Year 8 Penpal Links

Our Year 8 students have received some mail this half term from the Collège du Sacré Coeur in St Chély d'Apcher, Tadcaster twin town. They have enjoyed finding out about their penfriends and written some lovely replies where they introduced themselves and answered their penfriends' questions.



Christmas card Competition

Our KS3 students were invited to enter a national competition organised by Routes into Languages. They were asked to create a Christmas card that reflects the Christmas traditions of a country. Their card had to include some words in another language than English. The entries received included the following languages: Maltese, Danish, Norwegian, Spanish, Filipino, Dutch, Icelandic, Greek, Swedish and French. The cards produced were such high quality that our Language Ambassadors rewarded all the entries with a certificate and a Christmas Treat.



Be a Sports Journalist for a day

Students from Year 9 and Year 10 were treated to a sports journalism workshop, led by leading sports writer on the Times and Author Rick Broadbent. Rick was originally invited to come and speak as an enrichment opportunity to inspire students who were interested in either sports or journalism (or both) and to give them a taste of what skills they would need to be a sports journalist. He offered to do a workshop on elements such as report writing, commentary, interview skills and the chance to ask questions about his career.

Rick, a former student at Tadcaster, left in 1986 and went on to study English at University. He has been a sports journalist on The Times for 15 years and has covered events including the Olympic Games, the World Cup, Six Nations Rugby, Formula One and



Wimbledon. He has interviewed hundreds of stars from Usain Bolt to David Beckham and Lewis Hamilton to Jonny Wilkinson.

Rick has also written lots of books. After the 2012 Olympics he worked with Jessica Ennis-Hill on her Sunday Times best-selling autobiography 'Unbelievable' and has been a winner at the British Sports Book awards. He has twice been shortlisted for the prestigious William Hill prize and has been nominated as sports feature writer of the year by the Sports Journalists Association. Topics of books range from football and boxing to the escapades of a maverick zookeeper who rides a Harley Davidson and rescues orang-utans and chimpanzees! >>[read more](#)

Congratulations

Congratulations to Emily Lock in Year 8 who has just returned from competing for Team GB in the World Junior Trampoline Championships in Tokyo! Emily finished in 10th place which is a remarkable achievement. Mr Solk, Head of Faculty: Physical Education and also her Form Tutor said, "We are all very proud of Emily and her achievements out in Tokyo. She trains intensely for many hours each day (including weekends) and through this dedication, to be able to say you are 10th in the world is a fantastic statement. Emily always has a smile on her face and I know she will continue to work hard to improve further. Well done Emily."



LEEDS FAITH IN SCHOOLS

We have had the privilege of welcoming Leeds Faith in Schools in both KS3 and KS4 lessons. This is the first time a Church group has visited Tadcaster to spread some Christmas cheer and impart specialist knowledge.

Twenty Five years ago, the churches in Leeds came together in response to the Faith in Leeds report to establish Leeds Faith in Schools to share the Good News with teenagers across the city. From working with a handful of schools in the beginning they now have youth workers working across approximately 15 high schools and academies in Leeds. "We hope to be good news to the high schools of Leeds whom we serve by delivering Assemblies, RE lessons, PSCE lessons and mentoring groups as well as running lunchtime clubs, Christian Unions, after school activities and sports coaching. Our work is values-led and contributes to schools' SMSC responsibilities.

During Year 7 and Year 8 lessons students

learnt about the importance of Christmas and the gifts that Jesus received at his birth- Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. The lesson is also themed on the game show 5 Gold Rings. Students need to complete quiz rounds to locate key pictures- such as the star at the top of the Christmas tree and words in song lyrics. The pressure was on to get the gold ring in the correct place! Students who managed this received a chocolate as their prize. At the end of the lesson all students received a 'mini present' to hang on their Christmas tree, to remember their day with Leeds Faith in Schools.'



Year 11 Triple Scientists have had two sessions, one on mission and evangelism and one on the persecuted Church. The sessions directly match the GCSE exam specification. During these sessions, students have time to reflect upon others who are not in the same fortunate position as themselves. Also how people throughout history have been persecuted for their beliefs and how people of faith help to care for others. Opens Doors is a Church organisation who help those in need; real life stories were shared with the groups and reflection time given. The other session focused on how and why Christians take part in mission work and the rationale behind this rooted in scripture.'



Mobile Phones in School

reminder

Just a quick reminder for parents about the rules regarding mobile phones in school. We understand that you will want your child to have a mobile phone with them when they are in school, especially when you factor in that some of the transport providers issue e-tickets and our students can be travelling for quite some time to and from school. However we have very clear rules about phones in school. Phones must be switched off and in school bags other than when they need to be taken out on the bus park at the end of the day. Very occasionally, staff may allow students to use the technology on their phones, such as the camera or the calculator, but this is only at the teacher's instruction and under supervision. If you need to contact your child during the school day we would ask that you ring the school; this is vital if you believe your child is unwell. We have had occasions when a child has used their phone to contact their parents to inform them they are not well and the school has been unaware. If a student is found to have their phone out around school it will be confiscated. If this happens on more than one occasion we would ask that a parent collects the phone. Students are aware that if they were to use their phone in an unsafe way in school, such as photographing or videoing fellow students, they run the risk of being issued further sanctions.

Uniform Reminder

We would like to recognise the large number of students who wear our school uniform with pride every day and look smart. However, as the term draws to a close and we approach the new year, we thought it important to flag up a few uniform reminders. During the winter can we ask you as parents, to encourage your children to wear a school coat and remind you that hoodies, sweatshirts and zip up sports tops cannot be worn as a substitute for a coat; even if your child insists that they can. These items will be confiscated. Similarly, when it comes to footwear, we expect students to be wearing school shoes - any trainers, including black trainers with or without a logo, are not to be worn. When it comes to jewellery, just a reminder that no facial piercings are allowed and students are only allowed to wear one pair of silver or gold studs in their ears. Finally, following on from the letter about the new school uniform, we encourage students to move into the new uniform by September 2020 - from this point Chalks will not be able to stock the legacy uniform. Thank you for your support with this.

Senior Awards Evening



The Senior Awards evening took place on Monday 16 December, where we celebrated

the success of students who achieved GCSE and A level results this summer. It was lovely to see so many students returning to School. We were also privileged to have as our guest speaker ex student Charlie Taylor who currently plays football for Burnley FC. Charlie was scouted at the age of 9, his dream was to play for Leeds United, where he made his first team debut for the club at the age of 17. Charlie admitted how much he loved school and went on to speak about the importance of being ambitious, determined and being the best version of yourself possible, all of which underpin our School vision. Congratulations to all the award winners recognised during the evening.



EXAM CERTIFICATES

NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION

Following the Senior Awards Evening, certificates are now available for students who were unable to attend the evening, by collecting them 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 it 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](#) 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.**

Field View update

Update from the Field View Team - We have been very busy in Field View planning and preparing for our busy Christmas week festivities. Two students in Year 10, who take Food Technology and are working towards AQA units, cooked and served Christmas dinner for their peers and staff in Field View. Also, students from Year 8 and Year 9 have been baking for a Christmas party, where they invited other members of staff from school, to present their work.



Field View Learning Hub

We are writing to you to inform you of the amazing amount of money raised for Field View by us as part of our coursework for the VLS course.

Field View is a wonderful place that has helped a wide range of students at Tadcaster Grammar School. We are very grateful to have such an amazing place for students to go to and learn in a bespoke environment. We hope that, over time, Field View will expand and become an even more enjoyable place to be.

Over the last half term we were set the challenge of raising money for a charity of our choice. We chose to raise money for Field View Learning Hub, as it is based in our school and we knew it would make a difference. Field View are planning to build an outdoor learning area, where practical lessons can take place. In the garden, they would also like to make an area where they can grow fresh ingredients to use in the Field View kitchen. They would also love to build a sensory garden.

We raised money through a form quiz that was sent out for all to participate in, with each form entering donating their loose change. We also ran a non-uniform day and students and staff donated to participate.

The reason we raised this money is for the last part of our CoPE Certificate of Personal Effectiveness Level 2; however we also enjoyed supporting our school community to enable them to be even more inclusive.

We would like to thank all of the students, parents and teachers for all of your donations and support and getting involved with helping us raise money for Field View.

The grand total made was £885.69.

By Rion and Sam (Year 11)



Christmas hampers



A BIG THANK YOU to all staff who have donated to the Christmas hampers. A special Thank you to Mrs Hubbard for organising and distributing the hampers to families in the community .



Another Big Thank you to Mr Dunphy and the Communications Team for donating a Fortnum and Mason Christmas hamper worth £225. This will be raffled with all proceeds going towards Field View 'Supporting our Students'



Fortnum & Mason Hamper



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 to Ms McKenzie who coordinated the collection.



Sport England Training programme



Tadcaster Grammar School is pleased to be part of phase 2 of the Secondary Teacher Training Programme funded by Sport England. Sport England are investing £13.5million of National Lottery funding into a Secondary Teacher Training programme designed to provide teachers with access to professional development, as well as

put students' enjoyment and whole-school outcomes at the heart of PE and school sport. While some youngsters have a great experience of PE and sport at school, others don't and the research shows that this can put them off being active for life. Lots of people have bad memories of being picked last for a team, or just feeling really uncomfortable in PE lessons. This programme is designed to stop that happening. It will help schools and individual teachers design a wider range of opportunities to increase young peoples' enjoyment of sport and PE; which gives them a much better chance of being active in later life. It will do this by giving teachers the resources and training they need to engage all students in physical activity, regardless of sporting ability.

So what has happened so far

Mr Solk, Head of Faculty: Physical Education, said "I am pleased to report that we have made some considerable progress already in such a small period of time. Students have completed a PE questionnaire which has provided valuable feedback regarding the PE experiences within and beyond the school. It has been re-assuring to see that the students believe they value PE and enjoy their experiences. Naturally, there is always room for improvement, whether it is with certain groups of students or with certain activities. It is our intention to use the small allocation of money from Sport England wisely to increase further a positive PE experience for as many students as possible so that they can lead healthy, active lives."

YST GIRLS ACTIVE

Six girls from Year 9 were selected to take part in the Girls Active training delivered by the Youth Sports Trust. This powerful day provided these students with a toolkit to return to school and make a positive impact on the provision for girls within PE at Tadcaster Grammar School. They are currently meeting every two weeks and developing an action plan.



Game of Our Own

Three girls from Year 9 were selected to take part in the Game of Our Own workshop delivered by the Youth Sports Trust and the FA. This training, with a girls football focus, is aimed at increasing the participation of girls in football at Tadcaster Grammar School. The 3 girls are currently looking at ways they can do this.



The PE staff took part in the British Dodgeball Teachers Workshop to provide them with some key ideas in this emerging sport in schools. The aim is to introduce this inclusive sport at different times of the year(whether for participation or through to excellence) with an opportunity to enter the inaugural National Schools Championships in June 2020.




Healthy Selfie

How do you stay active? Run? Cycle? Swim? Social game of badminton? Play for a local sports club? Walk the dog? Whatever it is, in the hope of promoting a culture of exercise at Tadcaster Grammar School, please take a selfie when doing your activity. Start the New Year with some exercise! What physical activity are you doing today? Snap yourself in action! Upload on the following social media platforms:

Twitter - tag @HealthySelfiePE and #tgshealthyselfie
Instagram - #tgshealthyselfie



Girls Football  Great to see so many students at the after school football club!



A note from the Head

What a fantastic term, and how quickly it has passed. Fifteen school weeks have simply flown by. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter which gives a brief overview of some of the fantastic activities that have taken place since we started the term, in the sun, back in September.

One of the most satisfying elements of our work in school is hosting visitors during, and beyond, the working day. These include prospective parents and children, local headteachers and representatives from business and education. It is wonderful to hear their feedback about our school, all noting the calm purposeful learning environment, how polite and committed our students are and the overall friendliness of our community. It is also an absolute pleasure to walk the school daily and see our fantastic students engaging in their learning and contributing to our community. I recently escorted a visitor from another Academy Trust around the school and, as a typical snapshot of school life, we saw sixth formers forensically processing a crime scene, year 7s reviewing a baked product they had just made, year 8 practising elements of a core text on the tennis courts at full voice, an assembly led by students concerning equality and diversity, a key stage 4 practical Physics lesson, a rugby match on a very cold, frosty pitch and design work in art using the medium of clay. Wonderful!

Thank you to all parents who recently engaged in the survey about relaunching the school vision and values statement. This was an exercise which canvassed the views of all students, parents, staff and governors about the need to recapture what the school represents, its values and expectations. The overwhelmingly popular statement following on from this research exercise was:

Be your best self, be:

Ambitious; Resilient; Responsible;

Respectful to yourself and others.

The full version of the school vision and values statement, is published on the school website.

I mentioned in the October 2019 newsletter that home-school communication and reporting to parents are areas we have under review. The school moved to a new on-line management system in September and we continue to work to allow parents access to information about their children which will keep you up to date about attendance, progress and behaviour for learning.

It would take several pages to recount and describe all of the fantastic co-curricular activities that have taken place this term. These really do add to the vibrancy and quality of our 7-year school experience and have included, to mention only a very few, sporting events, a wonderful school production, foreign travel, guest speakers, cultural visits and residential at home and abroad. I'd like to thank parents for their support of these activities, as well as all the teachers and associate staff who give their time so freely to organise and staff them.

Student leadership has also been a strong feature this term. It is very inspiring to see students of all ages actively engaging with activities which contribute to school life and offer opportunities to develop leadership and management skills. Of particular note are the house student leadership teams and form reps, the student parliament, our equality and diversity group (recently re-awarded Stonewall accreditation) and the ECO group which is making significant progress with the school sustainability agenda.

The festive period seems to be a very special time at school. It is a time to regroup and reflect upon the work over the last term and to look forward to the challenges and opportunities which 2020 will bring. For example, Year 11 have recently received their mock examination results after working so brilliantly over a challenging 2-week exam period and many Year 13 students are now receiving university offers through the UCAS system. Life moves on so quickly and it's important that we are mindful and take time to reflect, celebrate and plan.

Whilst writing, may I offer another thank you to parents for your fantastic support of the school. Sometimes it's the small things that parents do to facilitate the bigger events which add so much to the school experience; from collecting together ingredients for a food technology lesson (sometimes I'm sure at the 11th hour after being informed on the evening prior to the day they are required!), delivering and collecting students to and from sporting events, ensuring school uniform meets standards, and your attendance at school events. 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.

May I extend my very best wishes on behalf of the school to you all for the festive season and new year to come.

Andrew Parkinson
Headteacher

Shape Your Future Careers Event 10 March 2020

Information letters will be sent out in January via the school website.

Save
the
Date

Diary Dates

Monday 6 January	School Re-opens
Wednesday 8 January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 9 January	Year 9 Options Evening
Wednesday 22 January	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 29 January	Year 8 HPV Vaccination
Friday 14 February	School closes for Half Term
Saturday 15 February	Sixth Form RE Visit to Rome

Diary Dates

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