

Tadcaster Grammar School

NEWSLETTER

October 2020



Be Your Best Self



WE are so proud of YOU! Year 7

The past seven weeks of the first half term have flown by, particularly for our new Year 7's who are now firmly part of our Tadcaster Grammar School family. The young people have adapted so well to life in secondary school and the Year 7 Team could not be prouder of the fantastic start that they have made.

Their very first day was different to the normal first day of secondary school but, nonetheless, the students had a fantastic fun filled day, which included a special event planned by Mr Solk. The Mission: *Anything is Possible* event involved Year 7's being spilt up into three teams (Tigers, Gorillas and Sharks). They then took part in a series of team building activities to earn points for their forms and houses. This now seems like a lifetime ago. The students have bonded and grown so much over this past half term. Our Year 7's have been nothing but positive and polite since starting school, their commitment to the school values has been amazing, with them earning 6719 positive points to date. Many students are well on their way to earning their lapel badges, which demonstrate our core values. We were overwhelmed by the number of applications received from Year 7 students to become representatives to, or year captains on, the Student Leadership Team. This shows how keen they are to make a difference at Tadcaster Grammar School.



The students have also made a great start to their lessons with many students being recognised for their contributions to their subjects both in and out of the classroom.



The students have said they absolutely love being in year group forms which has allowed them to make lots of new friends since joining the school.

In tutor time (period 1) students have participated in lots of different activities, including writing a letter to their Year 11 self. Other activities include a weekly quiz and learning about key topics from the SMSC curriculum, such as Black History Month and National Poetry Day. The students are taking part in DEAR (drop everything and read) where they are all reading *Running on the Roof of the World*. They are also enjoying taking part in virtual assemblies. Students have been looking at Five Ways to Wellbeing and are working on their personal development both in tutor time and through the Life Skills programme, which aims to promote student wellbeing.

The students have also experienced the house ethos at Tadcaster Grammar School and have learnt about their houses through the House Champions. They have been very keen to take part in the house competitions, including the redesigning of house shields.

A Year 7 student said to us '*the highlight of my lockdown was getting in to Tadcaster Grammar School*' and this has stuck with us, as they really have thrown themselves into secondary school life and their eagerness to get back to learning and to start their new school has been a pleasure to watch.

As the Year 7's move around Toulston, our own mini Hogwarts, we see so many students being polite and helpful to both staff and students.

They have adapted so well, in this huge transition to secondary school, which wouldn't have been possible without the amazing support from parents, staff and Year 7 tutors.

The Year 7 Team is so proud and privileged to be working with such wonderful young people and we cannot wait to watch them progress on their journey with us at Tadcaster Grammar School. Well done Year 7!

Miss Hodgson and Mr Bass

MIXED ABILITY MATHEMATICS



Year 7 students have successfully finished their first

half term of Maths learning, for the first time in a long time at Tadcaster Grammar School, in mixed ability classes. They have followed a specially designed scheme of learning alongside a focus on 'Maths talk'. Increased use of visual approaches to representing Maths content have helped to support the learning in the first seven weeks on topics including ratio and proportion, and fractions, decimals and percentages. As they begin the next half term they will be excited to learn what their new groups are as they move into streamed ability groups and embark on the next steps of their Maths journey at TGS.



Year Captains

Congratulations to the new Year Captains for 2020-21



Year 7 Bethany & Jacob



Year 8 Will & Lucie



Year 9 Hattie & Natasha



Year 10 Chloe & Lars



Year 11 Gabriel & Connor

LET THE COMPETITION BEGIN

The House Champions have had a fabulous start to the new school year, instilling the sense of fun and competition into the TGS House system. Combined with the new Recognition System, students are awarded points for taking part in the 'House Challenges'.

The first job was to establish the Student Leadership Team. House Captains, Student Leaders, Form Reps and the newly developed role of Year Captains are now in post and are looking forward to representing the whole of the student body this academic year.

The next challenge from the House Champions, looked at the **History of the Five Houses**, and how that could be developed into House Shields and House Mottos. Mrs Brett, the School Librarian, dug into the archives to uncover lots of interesting historical facts about the TGS House system. Calcaria originates from the Latin for limestone quarry, Dawson is named after Henrietta Dawson born in 1727, Fairfax is named after Sir Thomas Fairfax, who built Toulston Hall in 1603, Oglethorpe was one of the original houses named after Bishop Owen Oglethorpe, and Toulston was originally farming land before the hunting lodge was built during the reign of Elizabeth I.

Numerous entries were received and the House Captains and Student Leaders had the onerous task of choosing a winner for each house.



Each week the House Champions have been gathering in the bus park, to welcome students into school, through the Archway of Ambition, the Route of Resilience or even the Rope of Respect - have you been one of those lucky students?



Archway of Ambition



Rope of Respect

This has served to reinforce the Recognition values we uphold everyday in TGS (and create a positive start to the school day).

Apart but Together is the theme of the next House Champions challenge, reflecting upon the school operating in Year bubbles, but still being together as a school community. We look forward to bringing more challenges, team spirit and house pride to all of TGS as the school year progresses.

To keep up to date with all the Houses follow us on Twitter



European Day of Languages!



The Language Faculty organised two weeks of activities to celebrate the European Day of Languages. This event is a great occasion to reflect on the richness and diversity of the world that surrounds us.



In form time, the students completed an escape room, virtual trips and competed in a quiz, winning points for their Houses.

During their lessons, the KS3 students discovered how languages are born and why there are so many of them, more than 7000 languages actually! They also learnt a bit of Welsh, Finnish or Catalan. Finally, the whole school was encouraged to make a creative representation of a country and the Language Ambassadors had the tricky task to choose the worthy winners.

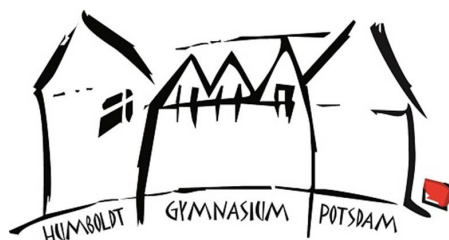


Results of
the European Week of Languages
Competition
CONGRATULATIONS!
 1st place: Naomi Lee
 2nd place: Alexander Thompson
 3rd: Alexander Summers
The Language Ambassadors



Year 8 students are currently signing up to a penpal club which is due to be launched by the German Team.

The school we are linking with is Humboldt Gymnasium in Potsdam. Keep a look out in upcoming newsletters for updates.



Caught being

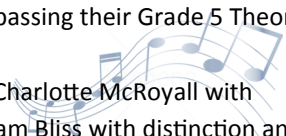


Over the summer Anna Proctor has been training every week with York Athletics Club. She has run 5k at Temple Newsam and trained at York University track and York Racecourse. Anna ran a mile in under seven minutes and 5k in 24 minutes. Fantastic!



A huge congratulations to the following students for passing their Grade 5 Theory in Music.

James Hirst, Charlotte McRoyall with distinction, Sam Bliss with distinction and Lorna Colling with distinction.



Year 11 student raises £375!

Year 11 student Abigail began volunteering at Tadcaster Library in May 2019 as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award, starting with her Bronze then moving onto Silver. When the Library had to close in March this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, Abigail decided to carry on volunteering for the library in a different way.

Inspired by a friend, Abigail started sewing face masks and selling them, with profits going to the Library. She offered a range of sizes and fabrics and with a professional look and finish, the masks were in high demand and the project soon took off.

Abigail said, "It felt good to be able to put something back into the Library who were helping me with my Duke of Edinburgh Award"

The Library has now reopened and the volunteers and committee were delighted to hear that Abigail has raised an impressive £375, which will go towards replacing all the seating in the children's area.



FIELD VIEW UPDATE

Over the summer, Field View staff were busy putting their thinking caps on to come up with a practical learning idea that would help to re-engage their key students after such a long absence from school life and routine, due to Covid.

We had a lightbulb moment and came up with a master plan - The ASDAN Garden course!

Since September, the KS4 students who access Field View have embraced this new project with great energy and enthusiasm. They are looking forward to creating a new outdoor learning environment that will be a valued extension to the practical learning hub of Field View. The course that the students will be working towards achieving will be a beneficial curricular extension to the VLS course they are already completing.

The students are also busy supporting our ongoing enterprise projects and are currently creating wooden mini bug hotels and wooden planters using recycled materials. More details are to follow in the next newsletter for anyone who may be interested in supporting our enterprise - purchasing these items.

Due to limited resources, we are always appreciative of any support our community can offer us in helping to realise our projects. If you may have any surplus basic garden equipment, tools or unwanted gravel, paving, etc., please contact us via email (k.heneachon@tgs.starmat.uk).

We would also like to say a big thank you to the amazing students we have been working with from September. Their hard work and enthusiasm since returning this Autumn, has shown great maturity and attitude to their learning. Keep on 'Being your best self'! Well done!

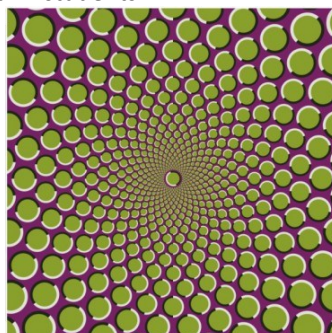
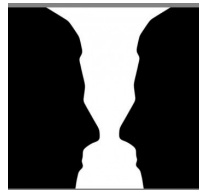
Mrs Clark and Mrs Heneachon



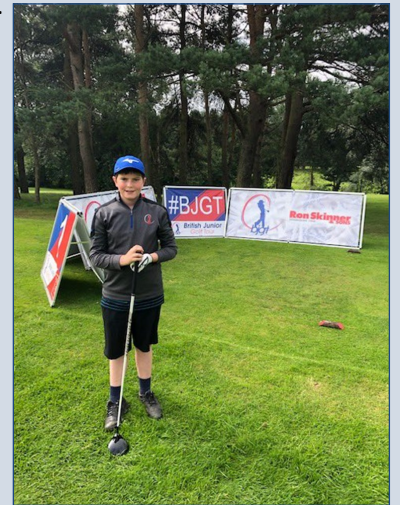
BUILDING Skills for Life

Students in Year 7 have embarked on their RPE course as of September. This is where we merge the learning of Religion (R) Philosophy (P) and Ethics (E). The students have been tackling concepts that they might not have ever thought of before. Such as, in Philosophy and Ethics lesson looking at illusions to show different people's perspectives and beliefs, coupled with ultimate questions- why are we here? What created the two atoms for the Big Bang? Diving head first into A Level concepts and exploring the full use of our brains and inquiring minds!

RPE builds the skills of practitioners to evaluate, inform, debate and inquire all the skills needed to be a leader, a team player, a researcher and a reflective practitioner. The RPE team are looking forward to building these skills for life with our Year 7 students.



Year 8 golfer - Max Hollinghurst is a member at Wike Ridge Golf Club and has been playing really well through the summer which has seen him invited into the Yorkshire Junior Academy. Max recently played in a European Junior Event in Cheshire at Pryor Hayes and his score of 79 was good enough to secure him 2nd place.



Hockey player Jamie has been selected for the England Hockey North East Performance Centre, which is the regional step on the EH player pathway. Only 36 boys from the North East of England have been chosen. Also, he has been invited to the National Age Group Squad trials for the u16 age group, the initial stage of this takes place at the Lilleshall National Sports Centre over three days in half term.



EQUALITY & DIVERSITY



Hello from everyone in the Equality & Diversity group! We are still meeting this year although we've had to adapt a little for the time being! We are currently over 20 students all in Years 7-13, we

cannot meet as a lunchtime club as usual, so instead we are meeting after school every Tuesday using Google Meet!

The Equality & Diversity Group are committed to campaigning for equal rights and celebrating diversity and inclusion for all our TGS community. For over 5 years we have been raising awareness for important issues, working with students, staff, parents and governors to make TGS a better and fairer place for everyone. We have done this by changing to a gender-neutral uniform, delivering assemblies and staff training on important issues such as homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying, celebrating important events such as Black History Month and attending (pre-covid!) York Pride - to name a few!

So far this term has been busy, exploring and celebrating a wide range of events that allow us to understand our own and other cultures: the European Day of Languages in September was a great way to learn more about how European languages and cultures are so closely linked to our own. National Poetry Day on the 1st October had the theme of 'Vision', where we were exploring identity and heritage along the idea of 'I Come From...'. October also celebrates Black History Month and so we have been learning a lot about amazing black role models in all areas of society and understanding more about why Black Lives Matter. All of this links in with this term's Five Ways To Wellbeing theme of 'Connect' where we have been reflecting on how we connect with ourselves and each other for our health and wellbeing - a concept we are already tuned into in the Equality & Diversity Group - we are all connected and are happier when our connections are stronger!

We have already been planning and getting ready for some exciting events next term. November and December bring Anti-bullying Week, International Men's Day, International Day for Persons With Disabilities, World AIDS Day and Human Rights Day, as well as lots of fundraising for different causes such as Children In Need, the Poppy Appeal and the annual TGS support for the local food bank at Christmas time. Next term's Five Ways to Wellbeing theme is 'Give' and the Equality & Diversity Group are proud that the TGS community is a kind and caring community.

Also next term, we are excited to introduce a new way to 'Give' - we will be starting a new E&D Advice column in newsletters to help and support our TGS community. We want to be able to help with information and advice to support students dealing with issues around identity and inclusion - and what support is available at TGS and beyond. More details about this will be coming soon...!

Finally, if you are interested in joining the Equality & Diversity Group please email Miss McKenzie p.mckenzie@tgs.starmat.uk - all students are welcome!

We hope you all have a wonderful half term break, from everyone in the Equality & Diversity Group.



Tadcaster Grammar School Careers

FUTURE ME

EXPLORE The Home of Big Questions

Explore is an innovative digital outreach portal from the University of Oxford. As the 'Home of Big Questions' it aims to engage those from 11 to 18 years with debates and ideas that go beyond what is covered in the classroom. Big questions tackle complex ideas across a wide range of subjects and draw on the latest research undertaken at Oxford. Explore aims to realise aspirations, promote broader thinking and stimulate intellectual curiosity.

Want to explore more Sound good?

[Dive in!](#)



Saturday 7 November: 11:00am - 15:00pm

The essential event for school leavers is going virtual. Speak to top universities and companies in real-time, get expert advice and benefit from one-to-one support to help you kick-start your future. [Register](#)

Useful links for Carers/Parents and Students

for the latest information on school leavers options and opportunities:

- nationalcareers.service.gov.uk
The National Careers Service website provides careers advice and information on a wide range of jobs, training course resources and funding.
- careersbox.co.uk
Free online library of careers related videos, news and information.
- amazingapprenticeships.com
Advice and information about Traineeships, T levels and Apprenticeships.

A Note from the Head

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter. As always, it can only represent the smallest snapshot of the fantastic work which goes on at TGS every lesson, every day.

Looking back in my diary to the weekend before school opened in September, I wrote down the following three bullet points as guiding principles for our work in school this half term after a very unique and irregular period of time since March:

1. Students and staff safe and supported
2. Students to fully reengage with their complete curriculum
3. Teaching, learning and pastoral support to be the highest quality under the Covid-19 restrictions

Reflecting on these principles, I am so proud of the work our students and staff have managed to complete over the last seven weeks in very challenging circumstances. The school has worked brilliantly as a community and we have collectively overcome the restrictions on our 'normal' school life resulting from our current Covid-19 operational plan. We have also all tried to uphold our core staff values of:

Students considered first
High expectations - no limitations
The right curriculum experience for each student
The best support for each student

This half-term has taken us into many areas of unknown territory, including looking at alternatives to our traditional face-to-face events. You may have seen our superb Year 6 and Sixth Form 'virtual' information evenings, as well as our first ever global live broadcast on YouTube. You will be aware that we are operating in physically remote year group 'bubbles' around school. This means the staff have had to move between up to 6 teaching areas in a day. No mean feat when you realise that our 2 most distant teaching areas (not including PE spaces) are 227 paces apart!

A special 'well done' must go to our wonderful Year 7 students who have collectively managed their transition into the school with admirable responsibility and resilience.

Thank you for your support and confidence in the school. We do empathise with the challenges of being secondary school/sixth form parents, even in the most regular of times. I hope you feel we have lived up to your expectations.

Andrew Parkinson
Headteacher

We've Gone Virtual!

We would like to give everyone a feel for our amazing school! Our web page gives you an insight into the exciting opportunities awaiting the young people, along with useful links to help you get a real view of our school. [>>read more](#)

We also held a fantastic live Q&A session with our amazing Year 8 students who were catching up with Year 6 students live in their classroom! Answering all those questions they were to nervous to ask the teachers.

Learning gets a whole new meaning at Tadcaster Grammar School **Sixth Form**. View one of the leading Sixth Forms in the area [here](#).

REMEMBER TO UPDATE



Please remember to inform the school of any changes to contact details for your child on the 'My Child at School'

system. You can check that the school has your correct contact details, and submit any changes.

To do this, click your name in the top right hand corner of your screen. Once you are logged in, click Contact Details. Check all your details and amend as necessary. Click the Save button if you have made any changes.

The submitted amendments will then be sent to the school for final approval.

Thank you for helping to keep contact details correct and up to date.

To update student medical information, please contact - Matron
j.chauda@tgs.starmat.uk

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

FACE MASK REMINDER

PLEASE remind students to bring a **new FACE MASK** in **EVERY DAY**. Check blazer pockets and bags especially on PE Kit days!



We all must do it to get through it.
Thank you





Vacancies

Examination Invigilator Vacancies

We at Tadcaster Grammar School are looking to expand our team of people to invigilate (oversee exams according to strict regulations), this will take place during the mocks exams and in the main summer exam season. You would have to be available during these periods and also for training. It is a paid position but only for the hours worked. If you feel you have the right attributes, and are interested in this vital position or know someone who may be, and would like more details, please contact Mrs Carol Langford-Smith Examinations Manager either by email: c.langford-smith@tgs.starmat.uk or by ringing direct on 01937 837676

We look forward to welcoming students back into school on Monday 2 November.