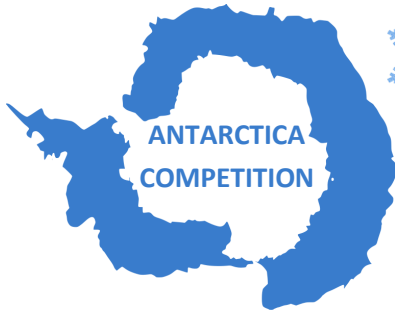


Tadcaster Grammar School NEWSLETTER

December 2020



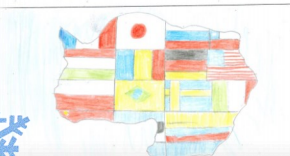
Be Your Best Self



The Geography department have been running an Antarctica Flag Competition with Year 7.

The entries were outstanding, here are the individual winners from each teaching group.

B Leadbetter, Z Baker, T Overfield, B Lumby
E Smith, M Utley, H Whittaker



The winning entry was taken to King Edward Point South Georgia in Antarctica by one of the scientist. The next step will be to set up a skype call with the scientist in Antarctica.



Taylor Overfield
7C2 7G2



Name: Thomas Carr
Class: 7S2
Teacher: KSI
House: Deason

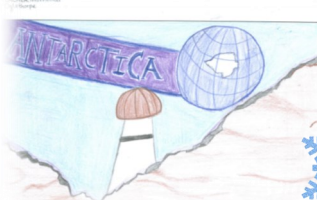
Runner up Thomas Carr



Ethan A. Danson



7G2



Winning entry Ethan Auty



ANTARCTICA DAY 2020

This certificate is awarded to: Tadcaster Grammar School
For designing inspirational flags "in the interests of all mankind."

YOUR FLAG WAS CELEBRATED IN ANTARCTICA!

Location: King Edward Point, South Georgia, Antarctica.

Latitude: 54°16'59"S

Longitude: 36°30'0"W

Date: 7:12:2020

Researcher: Geraldine Wythe

Signed: UKPN Antarctic Flags Team



FUNDRAISING

The House Champions supported this year's Children in Need event with a non-uniform day. The theme was "come as yourself." Well done to students and staff for all your donations. An amazing **£1325.61** was raised! Thank you for supporting such a worthy cause.



In October all of Tadcaster Grammar School Sixth Form participated in the 'Wear It Pink' event. This event was to raise money for the amazing charity 'Breast Cancer Now' which funds life-saving care and research for breast cancer.

"We all felt that raising money for this charity was very important

because breast cancer impacts the lives of so many people, not only those affected by it themselves, but all their friends and family.

This year's 'Wear It Pink' event was especially important because of disruptions to the healthcare system caused by COVID, which resulted in more people being in need of treatment and support for breast cancer."

Despite the usual bake sale not being possible this year we still managed to raise money and spread awareness for this charity. The Sixth Form area was decorated and posters were displayed around school to encourage as many people as possible to wear it pink and donate - and many people did!

An amazing **£88.25** was raised! Thank you from Claudia and Sadie Charity Ambassadors



Poppy Appeal

We raised **£236.29** with the help of our Year reps doing the collections daily in their bubbles.



Classroom to care home. We took on the TES initiative and our Year 7's have sent Christmas star tree decorations with seasonal messages on them to a local care home. With the help of a group of sixth form elves tying the ribbon on them. All done covid safe.



MOVEMBER®

Movember is an annual event involving the growing of moustaches during the month of November to raise awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's suicide.

House Champions Mr Simpson and Mr Middleton raised **£150** for the charity.



The Environment Leaders are investigating how to utilise the school greenhouses. They are looking at growing House Plants, which could be sold to raise funds for school. The plants could also be placed in classrooms to improve air quality and brighten the space!

Clean Indoor Air

Remove Workplace Toxins	Create Daytime Oxygen	Create Nighttime Oxygen
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Thank you for this amazing hamper which has been kindly donated by Chantelle Byford, a parent of two students at Tadcaster Grammar School .



Martin House
hospice care for children
and young people

We have decided to use this kind donation and give it a little 'festive' makeover to raise funds for a charity very close to a family in our school, Martin House Children's Hospice.

Harry, a Year 13 student recently lost his younger brother. Here is his story and how Martin House helped him and his family.

My Brother 2005-2020

My brother was born with a chromosome 8 abnormality. In practical terms this meant that he was unable to care for himself. He could make noises but could never speak or communicate in a normal way, my family and I would read his body language and the noises he made. His disability affected many aspects of life such as eating and walking, which meant he had to be tube fed and use a wheelchair.

My family first started going to Martin House when I was five and my brother three. It was a place of respite for my parents of the everyday cares and a place for me to just be with my brother. They enabled me to do everything with him there, for example they have a wheelchair fort and so it was accessible for both of us. My brother was also able to go on a speed boat ride during one of his stays.

Not only did we get respite stays throughout the year but they also run a siblings group a few times a year. This was great for me when I was younger as everyone there had a disabled sibling and it wasn't a case of you were on your own. They have a brilliant garden which is great for treasure hunts.

Martin House have the main house which is where I would stay with my brother when he was younger. However Whitby Lodge is the teenage section which is great for letting the teenagers be teenagers, with late nights and a games room. They've started hosting Lodge Fest each year now because many of the teenagers struggle to go to Leeds Fest, as mud and wheelchairs don't mix well.

When my brother died early October, very unexpectedly, his body was able to go straight to Martin House to a cool room they have. This meant we could spend time with his body in a comfortable homely environment. We were also given food and drinks which was such a help as in that state I personally just would forget to eat. That's one

reason Martin House is so great as it feels homely and not medicalised. The staff are always amazing and it is one big family, when we left in the evenings they continued to care for him by closing curtains and checking on him. It was also very personal for them as many of the staff have worked there for years and watched my brother and I grow up. The fact that I could spend that time with my brother's body is invaluable, it was a familiar environment and somewhere safe to grieve.

Martin House offers such an incredible service and I hope it can continue to do so.

My Brother's Story By Harry Shepard



Oglethorpe and Dawson Educational Foundation

Sincere thanks to the OGLETHORPE AND DAWSON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION for their generous annual donation of over £4000 to the following projects and areas:-

- RE Curriculum Team
- Student Development Centre
- Lydia Greengrass expedition to Cambodia
- Field View
- Senior Awards Evening
- Class Readers (English Team)
- Drama
- Chromebooks to Support Remote Learning of Vulnerable Students
- Student Hardship Fund



Wetherby and District foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger in our local area. Tadcaster Grammar School have supported the project for some years now. This year we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our school community.

We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why the foodbank provide three days' worth of nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to the centre in crisis. Wetherby and district foodbank is part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.



10C2 putting their food into the trolley





This week marks the end of our Year 7's first full term at Tadcaster Grammar School and we could not be any prouder. The students have made a fantastic start to life here at Tadcaster and really have fitted in to our school community.

It has been lovely to see them progress on their journey with us and they have achieved so much already. They have been involved in several charity events including the Poppy Appeal, Children in Need, donating to the local food bank and Christmas Jumper Day. The students have got behind every event to show their support for such worthy causes for which we are so grateful .

There has also been some fantastic work in their tutor programme which has included showing their support for Anti-bullying Week and creating Christmas messages for residents in the local care home in Tadcaster.

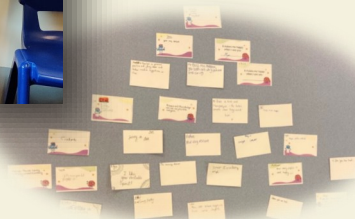
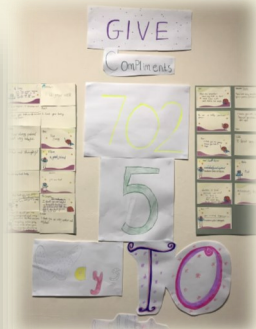
As well as this they have been involved in challenges set by the House Champions, shared their views in the student council via the Year Captains and are now able to use their chromebooks as part of their learning. The atmosphere in period 1 (tutor time) is brilliant and the positive and caring relationships that have been formed by the students and their Form Tutors has been great to see. Students look forward to this time to learn about key events and prepare for their day ahead. This half term we have covered topics such as the International Day of Disabilities, World Aids Day, and Human Rights Day. Some of the materials used were produced by students who are part of the Equality and Diversity Group.

Year 7 have achieved over 16,000 positive points this term which is fantastic and shows their commitment to following our core values. In addition to positive points, this half term we had 'Caught being Brilliant Week' in which Year 7 were awarded this special point by staff both in and out of lessons. The top 10 students with the most points were given a special award. Please remember you can track your child's number of positives via the Class Charts app which records this information.

We wish all of Year 7, Parents and Carers and the Year 7 team a very happy Christmas. Take care and stay safe,
Miss Hodgson and Mr Bass

JAR OF COMPLIMENTS

This half term year 7 and 8 students had the opportunity to participate in a fantastic wellbeing activity. This activity was named the "jar of compliments" and formed part of the SMSC curriculum which we follow as part of tutor time. The activity focussed on 'GIVE' in which students had to write a compliment to each other and then share them with their tutor groups. This was a very heart warming activity in which the students spread kindness to their form group. The students even extended these compliments to their tutors, teachers and year teams virtually. This activity really did impact the students and again helped them understand and practice the five ways to wellbeing we focus on here at Tadcaster Grammar School in the SMSC and Life Skills curriculum. Also this activity was important in developing positive relationships and demonstrated our core values. "Giving" and spreading kindness not only improves other people's wellbeing, but when you give and are kind you are investing in your own wellbeing too.



More information on the five ways to wellbeing can be found here:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/improve-mental-wellbeing/>

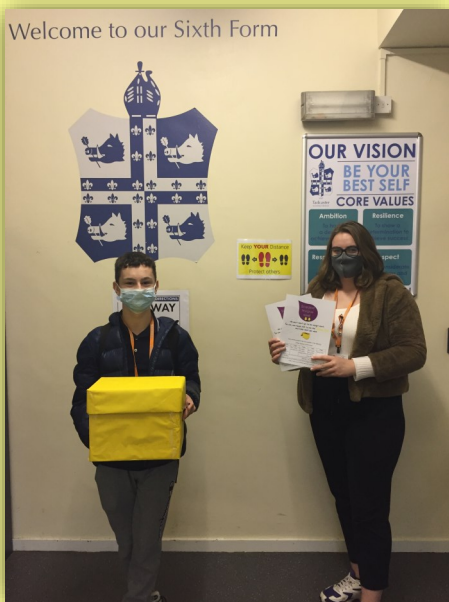
The YELLOW Box Campaign

During lockdown, I found myself thinking how we can help students on our return to school and I wanted to think a little out of the box. I started reading many articles about period poverty in schools and I wondered how much of an issue this was at TGS. An article by the Independent wrote "Schoolgirls take an average of three days off per term because of period-related issues, according to a new poll which found that this was the most common reason for them to be absent. Nearly half of the 1,000 teenage girls questioned across the UK said that period poverty prevented them from doing well at school"

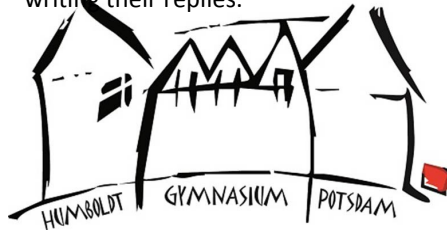
These are worrying figures and there is also a cultural stigma in the UK around menstruation that causes embarrassment and feelings of shame for some girls. I wanted to try and be part of a solution.

So now our students are in bubbles and the way we operate in school is slightly different, I thought it important that all young girls have easy access to sanitary products, should they find themselves in need. With the help of Toulston House Captains Eleanor Betts and Adam Burton, we decorated boxes in yellow so we could develop a common language young girls could use if they needed to access the products. Then we have located the boxes around school in year areas and designed posters to put up in the toilets to raise awareness. It has been good to hear from Year Leaders that students are accessing the "yellow box" and we are helping to support these young girls stay in school.

By Ms Laidlaw House Champion



Year 8 were given the opportunity to join a German Pen Friend club and they have recently received their letters from our link school 'Humboldt Gymnasium' in Germany. As far as possible, the students have been matched with peers in Germany who have similar interests to them and the German team hope that they will make life-long friends. The lucky 27 Year 8 Students received beautifully presented letters from Germany and have been excitedly writing their replies.



The entire Year 10 cohort have also been given the opportunity to write to their counterparts in Humboldt Gymnasium and we hope that new and lasting international friendships will be forged.



Christmas Cards



This November, KS3 students were encouraged to explore how Christmas is celebrated in another country by creating a Christmas card in another language. This event was part of a national competition organised by Routes into Languages which is a consortium of universities working together with schools and colleges, to enthuse and encourage people to study languages. Before we sent the cards away for the national judging, our language ambassadors decided to award some prizes to the following students for their fantastic efforts.

Joyeux Noël (France) from Mathilda Whitaker **(1st place)**

Geseënde Kersfees (South Africa) from Paige Beverley **(2nd place)**

Fröhliche Weihnachten (Germany) from Anna Proctor **(3rd place)**

To all, *bonnes fêtes* and *frohes Fest* from the Language Team!



Faith in Schools

Here at TGS we are so lucky to have Leeds Faith in Schools (LFIS) as part of our Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE) programme. The team always provides insightful, imaginative, creative and out there lessons!

Last Christmas we were filled with the joy of '5 Gold Rings' based on 'The Cube' as hosted by Phillip Schofield. This year due to COVID-19 the fabulous team could not be with us in person. The team put together multiple videos based on the real meaning of Christmas- one clip the team are dressed as the three wise men, then the next in a football kit in a field! The best clip was perhaps Joel hitting the crossbar twice in a row for the football challenge. At this point I bet you are thinking what on earth does football have to do with RPE- well everything is the answer! Not only do you worship idols- footballers; go to a place of worship- the stadiums; sing hymns, 'Footballs coming home'; wear religious dress, the football kit, but you come together in support of a common goal- mind the pun. Some people even class football as a religion.

Leeds Faith In Schools have the dynamic of RPE and the world around us down to a fine art. Always, the team provides Ethics- the E to our RPE. As we are a non faith school it is important for those without or questioning faith to explore the value and meaning of key topic areas through the eyes of others. At the end of students' time at TGS, the intent for students is to know that people are different, think differently but know that that is ok. Equally that you can see parallels between other people and yourself, so that you can engage in meaningful and insightful conversations. The values of respect and responsibility play key roles in RPE.



Something to keep at the heart of your moral actions in such a difficult time. Having belief or no belief, the students really saw the value of reflection and positivity through action based work. This led to really heartfelt discussions as students volunteered to speak about what they have done and are doing to help others in the pandemic.

The LFIS team led us beautifully through the real meaning of Christmas from a Christians' view point. Many people get lost in the materialism of Christmas and LFIS reemphasized the fact that Jesus died for humanity's sins, that through this act humanity was able to join once again with God. The team used the John Lewis advert, 'Man on the Moon', to beautifully illustrate this message. How people can be excited about presents but then we should remember those who might not have anyone and we should reach out to show love and support.



After the sessions students expressed how much they had enjoyed their learning. For Year 7 this was a completely new experience. For year 8 this was their second instalment from LFIS. These are some comments from the students.

'I didn't think RPE would be fun as it wasn't in primary school, but it is totally different at TGS and one of my favourite lessons, It is more than just religion, it is RPE!'. - Year 7 student

'I feel really grown up studying RPE, even though I am not religious I now fully understand why it is important that we learn about other people, we did a lesson on identity and I found I was very similar to a religious person'. - Year 7 student.

'I remember the LFIS lesson last year as I got to hold the gold hoop for one of the tasks, this lesson was even better- I love football so this was the best bit'. -Year 8 student.

'I really enjoyed this lesson, my family are religious and my RPE lessons allow me to express what we do as a family. I feel I can share my thoughts in class'. Year 7 student.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the world's leading youth achievement award and is an integral part of our enrichment curriculum at TGS. The Duke of Edinburgh Award ensures students gain essential skills, experience, confidence and resilience to successfully navigate adult life. The school is a licensed centre and offers all three levels of the award. We offer Bronze and Silver to all Year 9 /10 students and Gold in Year 12. Now that the Duke of Edinburgh experience is able to run in a fully COVID secure way, we would like to invite students in these year groups to watch this introductory video and sign up to this wonderful experience via ParentPay.

For more information, please contact Mr Sanderson at DofE@tgs.starmat.uk



FIELD VIEW UPDATE

Our Year 11 students have been hard at work in Field View creating a range of wooden products to sell, as part of their Fundraising Enterprise Project. These have been made using recycled wood and then transformed into a range of pieces that can be used all year round. The current total is a magnificent £92.

It has been a great uplifting experience for the Y11 students (and the Field View staff) to have created the items and received such a wonderful response.



Products currently available - Bug Hotels and Wooden tea-light candle blocks

The funds raised from this will go towards the Spring Enterprise Project and the Asdan Garden Course that the students are undertaking at the moment.

This is a continued project and will be running into the New Year with additional products available to purchase.

Thanks to the Field View team, Mrs Heneachon and Mrs Clark for all their work over this very different school term.



By Eleanor Betts Year 12

For a week during November, I was lucky enough to attend the PeaceJam Pan-European conference that was created with the aim of an inclusive Europe. During this five day period, I took part in a large variety of workshops and Q&As that focused on a multitude of different topics; Equality, Environment, Immigration, Personal Wellbeing and Education. Due to the pandemic, this year's event was held online but it meant that many more people could attend from all over the world. I had the opportunity to take part in an assortment of conferences with some incredible guests. One of the first sessions I went to was the Equality Q&A with Lavinya Stennett (Founder of The Black Curriculum) and the Rt. Hon. Stuart Lawrence (motivational and public speaker and member of the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust). The main theme of the session was 'How to Initiate a Discussion about Race in School and Work', and so many fascinating suggestions were raised. I learnt a lot from this group session and am really looking forward to sharing everything with the Equality and Diversity Group and implementing the advice from the conference in our work within school. I attended many other sessions such as a Q&A with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Jody Williams. Williams is an American, political



activist who was awarded the prize in 1997 for her work in banning anti-personnel landmines. We were all so inspired by her work and she left us questioning what changes we could make, whether that was locally, nationally or internationally. I have so many ideas about how to tackle issues in my community and am really grateful for this opportunity to have been able to hear from so many people who are already campaigning for change. During the conference, everyone was placed in a 'family group' which included a mix of ages and people from all around the world. We shared what we had learnt from each day of the conference and were able to discuss all the ideas we had and the changes we wanted to see in the world. I found this session so interesting because each person in my group was from a different country and so it really broadened my perspective of life across the globe and the different things that people face from day to day. I have taken so many things from the conference but to put it briefly, I would say that I have developed a much wider understanding of the diversity within every community, culture and country. With that understanding comes a lot of

responsibility to speak out and educate others and that is something I look forward to doing more of in the future. PeaceJam is an incredible organisation that holds events like this annually to inspire young people all over the world. I hope that next year the conference will be held in person so I can meet all of these inspirational people face-to-face and continue our journey to making Europe (and the rest of the world) a more inclusive place.

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UPDATE

All the food that has been so kindly donated by our school community has been collected by the Wetherby Foodbank volunteers. Thank you to Ms Laidlaw House Champion and Claudia and Sadie Charity Ambassadors for all their help and organisation.



A Note from the Head

I hope you have enjoyed this newsletter. As usual it only represents a snapshot through a keyhole of all of the fantastic work the school has been engaged with over the last half term. I'd like to start by acknowledging the superb effort from all of our fantastic students and staff this half term. I often mention our four student values in these communications, but students' commitment to being **RESPONSIBLE** and **RESILIENT** has been awe inspiring. Thank you also to parents and families. Please be assured that all staff genuinely empathise with the challenges of parenting during the current pandemic. I hope you feel that you have been well supported by the school.

With regards to the pandemic; to quote a government phrase, we seem to be coming out of the tunnel, but we are still in it. It's heartening to see the national vaccination programme starting and the Department for Education being more transparent about summer 2021 examination expectations, for example. We look forward to the day when we can open up the school site fully for all year groups to enjoy. I also feel we may be able to adopt practices which make the school experience more effective which we have learned since March. For example, online parents' evenings and restructuring the internal timings of the school day to better suit learning.

TGS is a very special place around this time of year as we all reflect on a year gone by and the one to come. Although most of our normal seasonal activities have been curtailed, our school community spirit lives on.

Whatever you are doing and wherever you find yourself over the forthcoming break, on behalf of all of the staff at school I wish you seasonal greetings.

Kind regards,
Andrew Parkinson

Farewells & Thank yous

We would like to say thank you to Mrs Jess Ryan and Mr Jonathan Bliss for their time as school governors for the past four years. Hello and welcome to Mrs Sue Quirk and Mr Ewan Merer as they join us as new Parent Governors. Our very best wishes to Ruth Pechey and Steve Lupton as they leave us for new adventures at the end of this term.

Ruth has been a member of the Tadcaster Grammar School community for quite a while(!) and has held a number of roles, as well being a Tadcaster Grammar School parent! A key member of our Learning Support and English Departments, Ruth has made a tangible difference to so many learners over the years, most notably some of our most vulnerable young people. We will miss her greatly. Steve leaves our Maths Team after coming to our rescue and covering a number of posts over the last few years. He has really supported the school and our students. Good Luck Steve. Thank you both so much for your service to the school.

We also thank Charlotte Blackledge, who joined us last year in Art covering maternity leave, and has done a wonderful job. We are pleased to say it isn't goodbye as Charlotte will return in the New Year to join our cover team. And finally all the very best to Pam McKenzie and Katy Mitchell for their imminent arrivals!

Breaking News

Christmas Hamper Raffle has been draw and won by Mrs Rayner, a fantastic £133 had been raised to support the fantastic work done at Martin House Hospice

Christmas Lunch was a little different this year but still as amazing. A TGS Christmas Bite was produced, which consisted of roast turkey and all the trimmings in a soft roll, followed by a 'Christmas cupcake'. Over 650 take away meals were produced for students and staff! A huge thank you to Mrs Broadhead and her team for all their hard work.



Food hampers are now ready to be distributed to our school community. Thank you to Mrs Hubbard and school staff for all their generosity in helping others to have a good Christmas.



Season's greetings

Below is our beautiful Christmas Card designed for the school by Emily Parkinson, Pippa Russell Eleanor Armstrong, Ella Earnshaw and Eleanor Salkeld.

We wish everyone a Happy and safe Christmas and look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 4 January 2021**.

