



NEWSLETTER



Supporting Life on Earth



Environment Leaders Beth and Katie have organised for plants to be planted around the school site. Plants are considered a critical resource because of the many ways they support life on

Earth. They release oxygen into the atmosphere, absorb carbon dioxide, provide habitat and food for wildlife and humans, and regulate the water cycle. The team have decided to plant Yellow Rattle. Known as 'the meadow maker' or 'nature's lawnmower', Yellow Rattle is the single most important plant you need to establish when creating a wildflower meadow. Without it, vigorous grasses grow unchecked and smother other flowers. The plants will be planted in the old, empty flower beds outside P block, to get rid of weeds and prepare the soil for the planting of wildflower seeds, which are loved by bees.

As pollinator plants, wildflowers help to support declining bee populations which are desperately needed by our ecosystem. Wildflowers are unlike many popular cultivated plants which often have defective pollen or nectar-producing organs. Flowers with multiple petals will also block pollinator entry to the insects. Planting wildflowers will allow the group to create an eco-friendly area that will also attract birds and other insects. The team are hoping that more plants around the school grounds will brighten up

the surroundings and promote peace and calmness. Constantly seeing and being around plants helps people feel more calm and relaxed, decreasing levels of anxiety and Increasing attentiveness and memory. The Team are also asking for donations of young seedlings and sprouts of any suitable outdoor plants, along with packets of seeds that could be used to help their project.



Horse & Rider

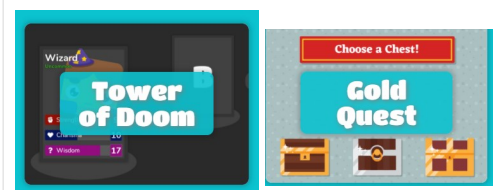
Year 7 student Maisie Forbes competed at Northallerton Equestrian Centre in December in the Eventers Challenge, coming 4th out of 33 on her pony Charlie (or Sonnenstrahl, which is his posh name) Maisie has now qualified for the National Schools Equestrian Association Championships in May 2021 at Hickstead. A great achievement.



FUN in German



In German we have been having lots of fun playing games from 'blooket'. Students have particularly enjoyed 'Gold Quest' and Mrs Baker and Miss Helliwell tried to beat the Year 12 German class to win the most gold! Mr Spence is competing with year 10 in the Tower of Doom game - good luck to all those who participated!



German Pen Friend update: All the letters from TGS have been delivered to students in Germany and the letters were met with huge excitement! More updates to follow on the Google classrooms.

British Informatics Olympiad

Congratulations to the three Year 12 Computer Science students who took part in the British Informatics Olympiad: Charlie, Isobel and Alex. It was a very challenging three hour exam testing coding and problem solving skills.

Where Are They Now?

A new feature to the newsletter as we catch up with ex students to find out what they are doing now.

From TGS to TV Stardom

Ruby Barker is a 24 year old **British actress** and former student at TGS. Ruby is best known for her role in the CBBC's hit fantasy drama, *Wolfblood*. She was born in Glasgow, then moved with her family down to Yorkshire where she attended TGS. Ruby is now one of the leading actresses in the period drama **Bridgerton** which has been a huge hit on Netflix. We managed to catch up with Ruby for a short interview.



Were you a good student?

I was a very good student but I did have my issues at points. I was House Captain of Dawson House, I achieved great grades in Economics, English Literature and Drama and Theatre Studies at A Level. I honestly worked really hard at school because I knew that if I did well, it could help me in the future. Whilst I never went to university or drama school, it's always been comforting to know that I have good grades behind me in case the acting never worked out. A good security net in case it all falls apart.

Where did you do your training?

The one and only TGS. I studied drama under the wonderful Miss Duckworth and Mrs Lindsay. I was rejected from the National Youth Theatre.

What attracted you to begin a career as an actor?

*Watching great films like *Blood Diamond* and comedies like *Tropic Thunder*. My lessons with Miss Duckworth and Mrs Lindsay were a massive inspiration to me, especially the school trips to Hull Truck Theatre and Sheffield Crucible.*

When did you first perform?

When I was 11 I did a commercial for the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Who inspired you?

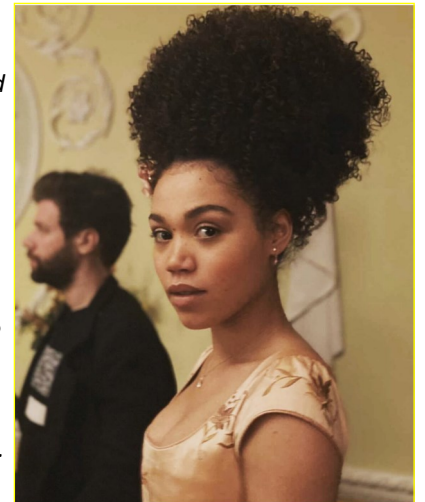
Viola Davis, Kirsten Dunst, Whoopi Goldberg, Queen Latifa, Sophie Okwendo, Jodie Comer, Jennifer Lawrence, Nicole Kidman...the list goes on.

How did you become involved in *Bridgerton*?

*I'd recently changed agent, and moved to Curtis Brown. *Bridgerton* was one of the first castings with CB. I got the script for episode one, and was like oh my god, I have to do this show. I self taped from home before being recalled, then I met the showrunner and writer Chris Van Dusen, the producer Betsy Beers and the casting director. I did the casting, left in a huff because I thought I'd messed it up. A week later I got a call asking for another tape, which you can watch on my instagram @rubybarker*

Why did you want to be involved in this production?

I loved the script, it was so fresh and the female characters were so powerful. I loved Marina's fire.



Who do you look up to (as an actor/director/etc.)?

I loved Stanley Kubrick, Lynne Ramsey, David Lynch, Francis Ford Coppola, Lisa Bruhlmann, Denis Villeneuve. If you want to be an actor, my advice would be to watch as many films as you can and watch the director's commentaries and 'making of' documentaries.

What advice would you give to your younger self / students thinking of following this career path?

Be wise with your money.

What do you do when you're not doing theatre?

When I'm not on stage or in front of a camera, you will find me at the indoor bouldering gym with my friends.

What have you learned about yourself since you became a celebrity?

That I'm surprisingly calm about it all.

In addition to her latest role as Marina (a cousin to the Featherington sisters) in *Bridgerton*, Ruby has also played her first lead part in an independent feature film, 'How To Stop A Recurring Dream', which is set to be released soon.

I think we will be seeing a lot more of Ruby in the future.



Taking the PLUNGE



We have been lucky to catch up with another ex TGS student, who has a very different story to tell. Faye Preene 26 enjoys cold water swimming as a hobby and a way of clearing her mind. Faye

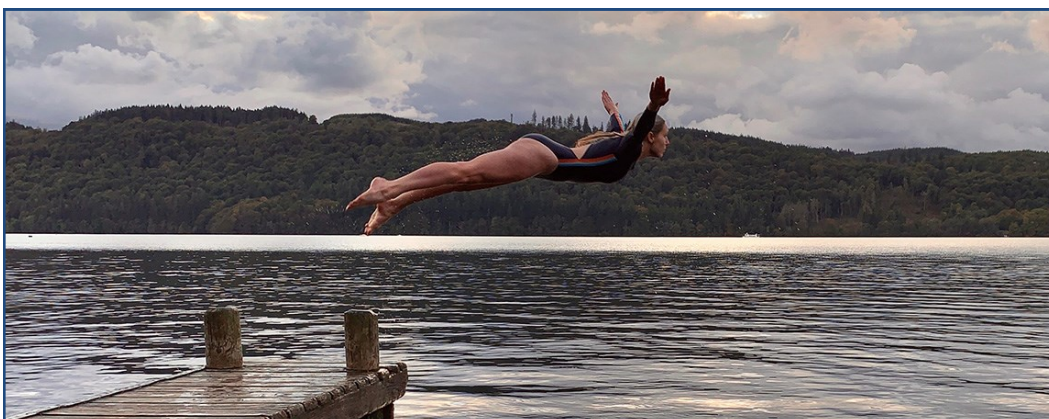
tells us about her extreme hobby.

What career path did you take on leaving school?

I left Tadcaster Grammar School in 2013 following sixth form. These were 7 years that I will forever cherish for all the right reasons. I am so fond of my years spent at TGS. I went on to study Paediatric Nursing at Northumbria University which I thoroughly enjoyed. This led to me working as a school nurse and dealing with sexual health, covering several deprived High Schools in Newcastle. It was during this time that I began to realise that many of the young people I was helping were describing situations which mirrored that of grooming and exploitation. I couldn't believe what I was hearing, as the weeks went by, the fire in my belly ignited! I returned to university and studied a Masters in Public Health where I specialised in Child Sexual Exploitation. Following this and since then, I have been working in Cumbria as a Child Exploitation practitioner for the children's charity Barnardo's. I work with children and young people aged 10 – 18 years who are being, or have been exploited, both sexually and criminally.

What attracted you to cold water swimming?

I have always loved water, be that being in it, on it, beside it or listening to it. Moving to the Lake District alone was a big move but one that I was positive about due to spending so much time here throughout my life; it was a home away from home. I don't really care for the city and I would much rather spend my time outdoors away from the 'rat race' culture. Growing up I spent a lot of time with my family on Lake Windermere. We loved nothing more than getting out on the lake water skiing and wakeboarding. When I reflect I realise that I have spent a lot of time in open water, without ever realising that in the future it would play such a big part in my day to day life.



Do you find that going out for a swim helps you with your wellbeing and work focus?

Outdoor swimming has hugely helped me with my job. Helping young people who have been abused is emotionally demanding and it's really important that I leave work at the door. During the moments that I am in the lake it is an escape. An escape from anything that is going on in my life, be that good or bad. I am in the moment alone with my feelings. I'm not racing around at work, not checking my phone, not keeping on top of daily tasks and not overthinking. In the water my body is weightless and I feel detached from what is going on in my life. It forces you out of the state that you are in and it puts you in the present moment. I feel relaxed and calm, more at ease than anywhere else. When you swim outside it brings your attention back to the things that are going on around you.



What age did you start?

Towards the end of studying my Master's degree in 2017, I moved to the Lake District. It was during the first few weeks of moving here that I had a draw to the water. I was alone in a place where I knew the lake better than I knew the people. I headed down to the lake for a swim one morning and bumped into 4 other women having a swim and the rest is history.

How often do you swim?

I try and swim most days. I would say that on average I swim around 4/5 times a week.

Where do you swim?

I mainly swim from the shore of Lake Windermere, my main swim spot is just a 1 mile walk from my cottage. During the weekend or during summer evenings after work, I like to swim in different places. These tend to be clear blue tarns which are high up in the mountains. Waterfalls can be particularly special places to swim too.

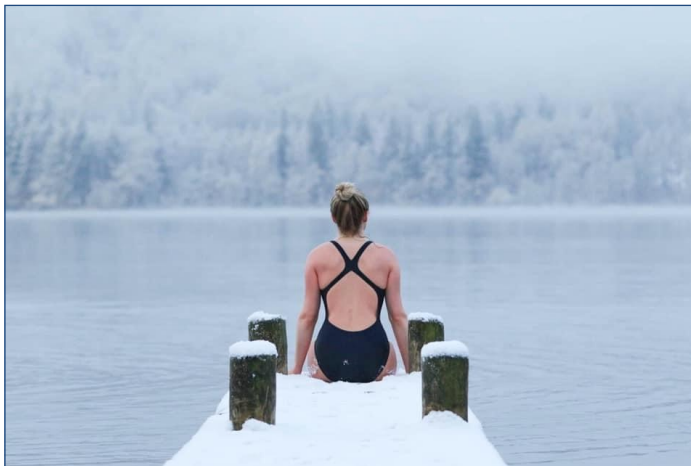
What are the most extreme conditions you have swam in?

Throughout the winter I try to swim in the ice as much as possible. Swimming in ice is a magical experience. From the mental strength it takes to the sound of the ice cracking. You usually have to axe out a hole or 'ice channel' to get in. Ice swims tend to be more of a matter of staying still in the water rather than swimming.

Where are they Now?

What are the benefits of cold water swimming?

There is not one day that I have regretted going swimming. It becomes a routine, one that I know so well and my mind is addicted to the feeling that you get after you have been swimming in cold water. The huge natural high is so prominent. I feel as though someone has injected me with happiness, given me five coffees and stuck a smile on my face from ear to ear that lasts for the rest of the day. The cause? Endorphins. I work as a child sexual exploitation practitioner and I have found that heading to work filled with lots of these neurotransmitters allows me to feel energised, level headed and composed. I think that the release of endorphins also links to the decrease in my stress response. Getting into cold water naturally evokes your body into a mode of stress because it is out of our body's comfort zone. Our response to any stressful situation is an increased heart rate and blood pressure, hyperventilation and the release of stress hormones. Interestingly, repeated immersions into cold water diminish this response. It highly reduces our response to stress as you are voluntarily shocking your body into this through getting into cold water routinely. Simplistically, cold water swimming can prevent you from



COVID restrictions start to lift, I would recommend waiting until the Spring to take your first dip!

Below are some tips to consider :

NEVER SWIM ALONE. Buddy up with an experienced swimmer or find yourself a local swim guide.

CHECK THE WEATHER. High rain fall, wind chill & gusty conditions can all have an impact on the experience and turn even the

most idyllic swimming location into a high risk spot.

KNOW WHERE YOU ARE SWIMMING. Good entry and exit points are extremely important to enable you to vacate the water quickly & efficiently. In addition, not all bodies of water are permitted to swim in and some have specific issues relating to biosecurity.

GET IN SLOWLY. Control your breathing and enter the water slowly to reduce the risk of cold water shock.

KNOW YOUR LIMITS. As swim guides will say "don't be a hero". Wear neoprene if you feel you need it. Stay in as long as feels comfortable **TO YOU**. It's better to get out feeling you could have stayed in longer than stay in too long and suffer the consequences.

DRESS QUICKLY. Make sure to pack plenty of easy to put on warm layers. Afterdrop and hypothermia are a real risk during the colder months & wind chill can accelerate the cooling of your body when out of the water.

TAKE A HOT DRINK. A warm drink and something tasty to eat is a great way to warm your body gently from the inside.

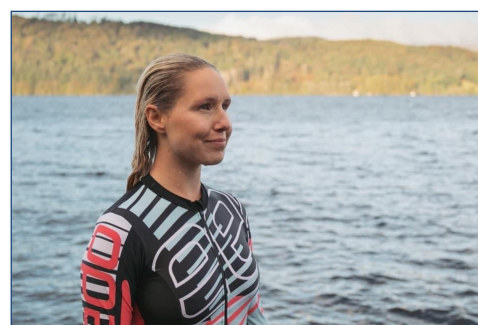
DO YOUR RESEARCH. There is a huge amount of information out there and far more useful points than what can be covered here. [The Outdoor Swimming Society](#) and [Outdoor Swimmer](#) are great resources to get started, as well as the [RNLI](#) & [RLSS](#).



overreacting and over-stressing to relatively minor threats that our day to day lives throw at us. I have unquestionably found this to be true and I feel that it allows me to detach from work life a lot better. Cold water also has many physical benefits such as it increases your immune system through producing more white blood cells as well as increasing circulation.

What advice would you give to others wanting to take up this hobby?

2020 saw a huge increase in the popularity of outdoor swimming. It's wonderful to hear of the many people who have been enjoying the benefits from embracing and immersing themselves in their local body of water. However, outdoor swimming and particularly cold water swimming is not without its risks and for anyone looking to start, or those considering seeking out the cold water experience once



Are you an ex student
of Tadcaster Grammar School?

Or...

Do you know an ex student who maybe interested in sharing their life experiences since leaving the school?

If so, we would be delighted to hear from you..

please contact us via email or telephone 01937 833466
r.miller-noble@tgs.starmat.uk
or h.lawson@tgs.starmat.uk



Tadcaster
Grammar School

Be Your Best Self

ICE Bauble Challenge



Well done to everyone who contributed to the Ice Bauble Challenge. Thanks to Mrs Lattimore and her two lovely helpers for her guidance on the making of these amazing pieces of Ice.

REMOTE LEARNING



Keep Learning... Apart but together

Families

The most important thing to think about is the wellbeing of you and your family, please do not lose sight of this. Having a routine can help with wellbeing. Try to embrace the opportunities this may provide. Learn to cook, play a board game, keep fit together. See it as a gift to spend time with your amazing children.

Parents

You are not expected to be the teacher, or to suddenly be an expert in fifteen different subjects. We are aware that many of you will be working from home. Be supportive and encouraging of the effort your children are putting in.

Students

Staff are setting work because they care about your education, but more importantly they care about YOU. Please do not stress or worry if you cannot do the work. Drop your teachers an email; if they are fit and healthy they will get back to you with some help.

For more information, clarifying what to expect from remote education [>>> read more](#)

Many of us are away from school at this time, working remotely at home. Everyone is trying hard to stay connected in some way. Staff and students are adapting and finding ways to make learning even more accessible. We are all in this together, and although not with you in person, you are all in our thoughts....

Top Tips from the Student Leadership Team

- * Try to start a piece of work first thing in the morning.
- * No one can work all the time, taking short breaks regularly helps you stay focused.
- * Always have a glass of water with you whilst you are working.
- * Try to stick to a routine.
- * Write key points in your books and set timers for your tasks.
- * Clear your working environment of distractions.
- * Keep active, exercise daily if you can.
- * Talk to your teacher if you are struggling.
- * Keep in contact with your friends.
- * Challenge yourself and set yourself goals.
- * Find a new activity or hobby for when you have finished your school work.

The coronavirus outbreak may have caused worry and uncertainty throughout the globe, but there's no point driving yourself stir crazy while locked away at home. By choosing to teach yourself a new skill, your time during lockdown could not only be over before you know it, but you could also significantly benefit your life as well.

Learn First Aid: A brilliant general life skill; which is a great addition to a CV [>>> read more](#)

Learn to touch type: Learning to touch type will speed up essay work so no more excuses to avoid homework. Learning keyboard skills improves accuracy and can help with decoding and sight-reading skills for children and adults. [>>> read more](#)

Learn a language. Duolingo is a free to download, language learning app. You can spend as little as 10 minutes a day perfecting your Spanish, French, German, Japanese or even Latin. [>>>read more](#)

Headspace: Take the first step on your journey toward a healthier, happier life. Learn to meditate with Headspace. [>>>read more](#)

Couch to 5K: "Couch to 5K" is a free program that takes people from their couch to running a 5K race in 9 weeks. [>>>read more](#)

Surprise yourself - just because you don't doesn't mean you can't.



LEARNING IN LOCKDOWN

There have been a plethora of thought-provoking and inspiring articles written regarding all aspects of education, since schools were forced to change in nature from March 2020. At the centre of everything are the students. Here we capture these unprecedented times from the students' perspectives.

I enjoy remote learning but miss lessons and help from the teachers in person . I am managing my day okay - starting at 8:40 with form and ending at 3:00 on my last lesson. I would rather be in school but I am lucky to have my chromebook and the support of teachers to work from home with. I like live lessons because you get to see your class and subject teacher and have an easier opportunity to ask questions about the task. If I get confused or stuck on the work set, I know that I can email or class-comment a teacher and they will get back to me. Thank you Nina Year 7

At home, I am easily able to access the work posted on Google Classroom, and the teachers are always available every lesson via email. I find the work much easier when teachers are explaining things during the lesson - I think that there should be more live lessons on Gmeet. It is also a nice way to catch up with my friends and teachers, as I have not seen them in a few weeks. Overall, I think that all my teachers have done a great job in making this new, unfamiliar way of learning as close to normality as possible! Laura Year 7

I am handling working at home quite well and usually manage to get the work done. I kind-of like working from home though because I am able to talk to my brother and sister while I'm doing the work and I think I prefer working from home even though I don't get to see any of my friends. The live lessons are ok but I prefer the lessons without them because I find it easier to just do the work by myself . Isobel Year 7

I love the live lessons! I would much rather be in school though. Lydia Year 7

I would prefer to do more live meetings because I like seeing my teacher and classmates! I think I would rather be in school but out of school is sort of ok . Charlotte Year 7

I have been in school it is ok but I do miss my friends a lot because it is a lot different to how it was when we were not in lockdown . I have had a Covid test in school it was not that bad , the worst part is it going up your nose, the mouth part was not that bad . Year 7 Student

At the minute I am in school and it is really good. I find it so much easier to work than at home where I can get distracted very easily. There was one day which was a snow day and I had to do my work at home and it was ok, I managed to do my work fine and easily but for me being in school is so much more of a better place to do my learning! Thank you. :)) Lucia Year 7

For me, the greatest impact that lockdown had made has been missing the social aspect of school. We are lucky to have such a lovely school community full of friendly peers and teachers and I miss immersing myself in the extra-curricular clubs and activities. In particular, I miss the school concerts: they are so enjoyable to be a part of and I'm always astounded by the pure talent at our school. It will be an even more joyous event next time we have a school concert - that's for sure! Naomi Year 11

Overall I think that online learning is going better for me as a year 12. I am always doing work in my frees when learning at home and I don't get distracted at all. I would love to do more Gmeets in the form of an actual lesson however, as some of the concepts in my subjects can't be explained via a loom video or powerpoint. The future is really uncertain . Year 12 student

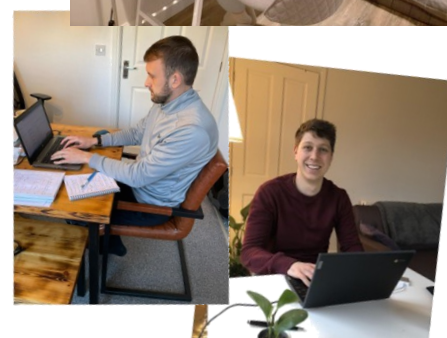
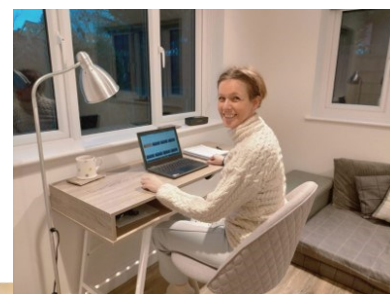
I would say coronavirus has had a relatively large impact on my studies and the way I've been learning from home, both in a positive and negative way. It's been increasingly more difficult to stay motivated when lockdown confines you to pretty similar consecutive days and the need to be more organized has definitely proven to be a challenge during this time. During the first lockdown we did no online schooling

due to cancelled exams, this time around I have had to learn what ways worked best for me for online schooling, something I am still trying to figure out. However, on the plus side, this need to be more organized has somewhat improved my organisational skills and I would say my attitude towards work outside of school at home has definitely improved. I do feel less dependent on teachers from this experience, knowing that I have been able to learn parts of content without the amount of guidance which I was expecting I would need! Year 12 student.

As the Coronavirus pandemic continues to evolve, it is important to also check in on our teaching staff. Teachers have experienced a significant increase to their workload due to the sudden move to online learning. The response from our teaching staff has been magnificent.

This is a once in a life time event, we can do this together.

Staff working from home. Still smiling!



During the Autumn term the TGS Maths department invested in Hegarty Maths, an online learning platform that would ensure that the outstanding teaching and learning that happens in school could continue in remote learning situations.

All students were introduced to the platform whilst in lessons and many classes did some practice activities, all were as "Hegarty ready" as they could be.

Since 4th January all Maths lessons in KS3 and KS4 have been based on Hegarty Maths. Students make use of short teaching videos to make notes and write examples in their exercise books. They then complete a quiz to test their learning. Their teacher is online during this time and can be contacted to ask questions if necessary or Hegarty Maths can provide more video tuition. The next day their work is checked by their teacher, helpful feedback is provided to improve understanding just as it would be in a lesson in school.

Further to this students are starting to have access to MemRi tasks which are individually generated by Hegarty Maths to provide some on going revision of earlier learning. The engagement shown by TGS students with this resource is astounding.

Hegarty Maths is used by more than 1.6 million students in nearly 2000 schools across the country. During the period of time since 4th January we can report that:

- TGS students have recorded the 4th highest amount of time learning with Hegarty Maths.
- TGS students have completed the most MemRi tasks.
- ◆ TGS teachers have provided the most feedback to their students.

Our students deserve a huge amount of praise for the resilience they have demonstrated buying into this new way of learning. Every day the Maths department is looking to improve the lesson experience for their students. Hegarty Maths has been a learning curve for both students and teachers alike. Recent feedback from students about learning with Hegarty Maths has been overwhelmingly positive.



Richard Branson

"I am able to get help if I am stuck on a question and there are many resources on the website to help with revision and extra learning."

"Hegarty is really helpful. It's easy to take down notes and understand, I also like the feedback that gets left on each individual task by my teachers."

If you have any questions or feedback that you would like to share about the Maths remote learning provision then please feel free to email your child's Maths teacher or Mr Mckie m.mckie@tgs.starmat.uk

Building an Internal Cathedral

A Monologue by Molly Richardson Year 12

I think I'm going to invent my own calendar. I mean, it's not like a fundamental principle such as time means anything anymore. I might as well be a submarine operator during the Cold War, Or be living through a 24 hour arctic winter. I wonder, How many days have I gone to bed thinking "I'm going to be ever so productive tomorrow", Only for the day to dawn and me just to not feel like it? I swear I must have listened to more music than ever before, And I finished all my Christmas books an age ago.



And then there are the weekends, A nice break from work. A chance to sit at the same desk in the same room and contentedly contemplate with interlocked fingers. Luckily one does not see themselves in third person, Else, we'd constantly be lamenting over

how ridiculous we look.

People say that I will miss this sheer boredom,

But I doubt that I will.

In my naivety I feel like I understand too succinctly. 😊

I adore solitude to be quite honest, But I blame isolation that I am frequently reminded that there are feelings I will never experience, Lives I will never live. Yet, that only makes me more angrily aware of my own insignificance. I suppose I shall miss imposed seclusion. It starkly highlights everything.



If you asked me for advice, I would refuse.

Despite my attempts to the contrary, I am a pessimist at heart, But that shouldn't arouse your disapproval.

So, a recommendation, Which is quite different to advice. Think freely.

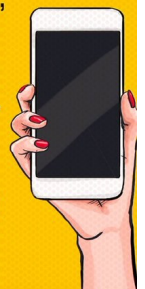
Illustrate your life.

Be glad it is not a bright cold day in April and the clocks are not striking thirteen.

So, Imagine and extrapolate, Appreciate, if you can, And contemplate with great frequency. After all, reflection, however unstructured or spontaneous can only be constructive.

And life is all about building.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK IN ON your strong friend, your busy friend, your happy friend, your "seems to handle everything well" friend.



KEEP IN TOUCH

Don't be afraid to ask for help, we are all still here for you if you need us!



There are many projects being set up to eliminate food waste. Families within our school community have been using these projects and wanted to share with other families how amazing they are.



The Real Junk Food Project is an organisation that uses food that would otherwise have been discarded from supermarkets, restaurants, and other independent food suppliers to produce meals that are sold on a 'pay what you want' basis. These meals are produced in different 'pay what you want' cafes around the UK. This project is the UK's largest environmental charity redistributing surplus food from right across the food industry. Between April and June 2020, the project intercepted nearly 2 million meals.



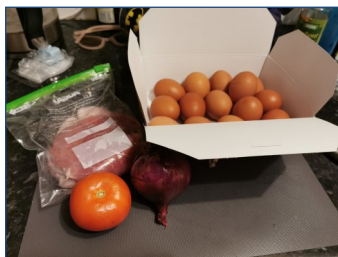
One family who has used the Junk Food Project said, 'This has changed the way I shop for my family. We are trying different foods and eating much healthier, whilst we are also helping the environment. The volunteers are always very helpful and the process is so easy.'

The quality of the items is amazing. You receive a large variety of fresh & frozen products that we as a family would not purchase in everyday supermarkets because of their high prices.

This is a fantastic idea, selling products on instead of throwing them away and helping families.

I have been completely overjoyed and quite taken back with what I have received. I shall most definitely be buying again.

What a pleasure this was to find. The Real Junk Food Project is great and my family and I are thrilled to be involved with this project.



More information available [here](#)

Another project is **Too Good To Go**. Every day, delicious, fresh food goes to waste at cafes, restaurants, hotels, shops and supermarkets just because it hasn't sold in time. Too Good To Go lets you rescue a 'Magic Bag' of this food so it gets eaten instead of wasted. You won't know exactly what's in your order until you pick it up - it's all part of the surprise. Great food at great prices, served with a side of environmental kudos.



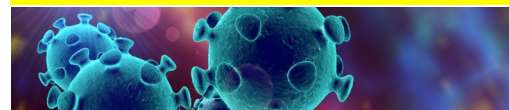
One family received tins of beans and tomatoes, bread buns, pears, yoghurts, potted beef and chicken poppers for £3.

More information available [here](#)

@TooGoodToGo_UK The app that lets you rescue delicious food so it doesn't go to waste. Download Too Good To Go and see what needs rescuing near you.



Lateral Flow TESTING



Since the beginning of January Tadcaster Grammar School has committed itself to in-school lateral flow testing for both students and staff.

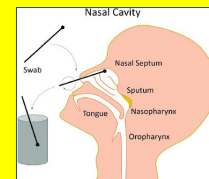
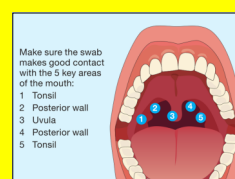
A workforce has been set up comprising of both school staff and volunteers who are ensuring the safety of all within school. Students accessing school provision have been tested twice and staff are currently being tested twice a week to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone in school. Toulston Hall has been set up to fully accommodate all the safety requirements. Following a simple procedure, test results are available within 30 minutes, so offering re-assurance that the school is a safe place to be.

The facility is prepared to expand when the school reopens, following government guidelines, and will offer a very efficient method of testing, ensuring that the school environment is safe.

All students who have been tested so far, have done so in a mature professional way. They are given continual support throughout the procedure to alleviate any fears or concerns they may have.

Can you help?

We are looking for volunteers to be part of the testing workforce when the school fully reopens. Comprehensive on site training will be given. Please contact Liz Hartley for further details e.hartley@tgs.starmat.uk



A Note from the Head

What a fantastic newsletter. It always lifts my spirits to read about all the superb activities our wonderful students have been involved in.

It's been an interesting half term. Lockdown 3.0, remote learning, on site Coronavirus testing and snow. Just a note on the latter. Making the call on a snow day is never easy; I hope you have found the early notice useful. One positive is of course that it never snows in a Google classroom, so learning can continue despite the weather.

I was intrigued this week when watching a video presentation from a number of Tadcaster Grammar School alumni who are now working across the nation and beyond. Our school vision champions the idea of 'Being Your Best Self'. I was amazed at how these ex-students encapsulated this with their confidence, modesty and enthusiasm. Brilliant.

I need to say again how much all school staff have appreciated your wonderful support in the current lockdown. I also hope that if you have had an anxiety or query you have quickly found a voice in school with which to discuss it. Let's hope the government gives us all a realistic roadmap to get every single student back into school at the earliest possible opportunity. We miss you all so much.

Looking ahead to the next academic year, we will be asking for parents' and students' views about developments such as the future of parents' evenings, the timings of the school day and other issues in the weeks to come. The school never stops.

Enjoy the half-term break if you are fortunate enough to have one and I hope to be writing about our return to full opening as soon as possible.

Kind regards,
Andrew Parkinson



Hello from everyone in the Equality and Diversity group! We are still meeting this year, although we've had to adapt a little for the time being! We currently have over 20 students from all year groups. We cannot meet as a lunchtime club as usual, instead we are meeting after school every Tuesday using Google Meet! The 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/carers and governors to make TGS a more comfortable, inclusive and fairer learning environment. If you have any current issues remember

you are able to access help from your teachers and you can also email tellus@tgs.starmat.uk.

If you are interested in joining the E&D Group please email Miss Bignell z.bignell@tgs.starmat.uk All students are welcome!

*New beginnings
are on the way.*

*Hold on Life
will get better.*

Autumn Term 2021

Monday 6 September - School re-opens
(Training Day)

Friday 22 October - School closes for half-term

Monday 1 November - School re-opens

Friday 17 December - School closes for Christmas

Spring Term 2022

Tuesday 4th January - School re-opens

Friday 18 February - School closes for half-term
(Training Day)

Monday 28 February - School re-opens

Friday 8 April - School closes for Easter

Summer Term 2022

Monday 25 April - School re-opens

Monday 2 May - May Day Bank Holiday

Friday 27 May - School closes for half-term

Monday 6 June - School re-opens

Friday 22 July - School closes for Summer

Training Dates 2021-2022

Monday 6 September 2021

Wednesday 6 October 2021

Friday 18 February 2022

Monday 25 July 2022

Tuesday 26 July 2022

