

Tadcaster Grammar School

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021



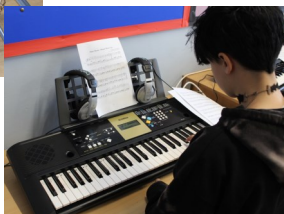
Be Your Best Self

SIXTH FORM HIGHLIGHTS

We were delighted that students have been able to join the Law Ambassador Programme which is linked to BPP University Law School Squire Patton and Boggs Solicitors. The Law Ambassador Programme recruits motivated and enthusiastic young people, with a keen interest in the law or in pursuing a legal career in the future. The programme runs throughout Years 12 and 13, and offers a variety of events and activities aimed at increasing students' legal knowledge and developing the skills required to be a successful lawyer.

Further good news, is that three students have been accepted on the Lessons Of Auschwitz Programme. The scheme will be both educational and rewarding and their final project will be shared throughout the school.

Our Sixth Form Taster Day took place on Thursday 2nd December - students were offered an opportunity to attend a number of A level subject classes as well as completing a House Champion competition which was highly competitive.



In November, we welcomed Elle Zientek, Student Recruitment Officer UK and Europe for Lancaster University. Elle spent the morning in school giving a presentation to Year 12 students about future planning, conducting an interview workshop for Year 13 students with a drop in session at lunchtime.



Applications for entry to the Sixth Form in September 2022 can be made [here](#)

As part of the Year 11 Taster Day, for those students who wanted to explore Post 16 education in a Further Education College. A morning was spent at Selby College hearing about the range of courses offered along with key information to help students transition from School to College. In the afternoon a session to guide students on the application process was delivered by Mrs Lawson from the Careers Department. Activities were planned to help prepare students for College Taster Days later in this academic year.

Diary Dates

Monday 3 January	School Closed - Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4 January	Students only attend school for a supervised lateral flow device test (booked in advance)
Wednesday 5 January	School Fully Open to All students





Back in the summer holidays a number of our students attended NCS programme delivered by

The Leeds United Foundation.



Designed specifically for 15 - 17 year olds, activities provide students with the opportunity to develop their personal and social achievements with new key skills for the future. NCS is broken into four main phases to help give a variety of skills and experiences to showcase for future job, college, and university interviews.

Abigail Wilson who participated in the Summer 2021 programme really enjoyed her NCS experience, "NCS was a fun and enjoyable experience, and it was lovely meeting new people and learning a bunch of new skills I'll need for the future".

Abigail's social action team raised over £700 through different fundraising events which they then used to buy key items to donate to a local food bank.

Once again all students in Years 11 and 12 will have the opportunity to join the NCS programme in Summer 2022.

More information to follow next term.

In the meantime check out the NCS website [here](#) for further information.



HOUSE CHAMPIONS



From the House Champions Team

It has been a busy half-term and the House Champions have enjoyed setting new challenges for our students and staff! At the end of last term we held a rocket competition, to celebrate International Space Week. We loved how students from Years 7 to 13 took up the challenge using physics, research, teamwork and creativity to compete for their House. The competition had two categories; best design and longest time in the air. The winners for best design were 7F2, 8O2/8T2, 9C1, 10O1, 11D1, 13D. The winners for longest flight time were 7O1, 8O2, 9T2, 10T2, 11F2, 13D.

Miss Murrell (Fairfax) enjoyed the challenge of launching all the rockets, however she did end up drenched and several rockets ended their flight early when they crashed into her! Congratulations to everyone who took part!



The weekly House quiz continues and the battle for first place is close! We have had some guest writers this term, which have included our fantastic Sixth Form students and Careers team. The Sixth Form House Captains have helped us organise a Christmas quiz and House Lip Sync battle to celebrate the end of the first full term with a bang!

A huge thank you to Miss Laidlaw (Toulston) and Miss Bignell (Oglethorpe) for their contributions to the House Champion team and students of TGS. Miss Laidlaw is moving on to new projects within school and Miss Bignell is moving on to new challenges elsewhere. We wish them both the best in their future adventures. We would like to welcome Miss O'Connor as Oglethorpe House Champion and Mrs Cooney as Toulston House Champion. Finally, we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the new year!

NHS UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD SOLIHULL APPROACH

Christmas time is FAMILY time!

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD (0-19+ YRS) online course

Module 7: HAVING FUN TOGETHER! (FOR ALL AGES)

Learn all about making the most of your time together!

24/7 ONLINE COURSES
WWW.INOURPLACE.CO.UK

North Yorkshire families enter the access code NYFAMILIES to gain free access

Wear it pink 2021
Over £170 raised thank you.

SIXTH FORM

A huge well done to our Sixth Form who 'Wore it Pink' raising over £170 for Breast Cancer Now charity. Breast Cancer Now Wear It Pink Day is one of the biggest fundraising events in the UK.

SPORTING SUPERSTARS

As students go about their daily lives at TGS behind the scenes we find a plethora of outstanding sporting talent.

BRITISH CYCLING

We managed to catch up with Tilly, a very modest 'Elite' Year 8 cyclist. Tilly is a member of the Clifton Cycling Club, which is based

at York Sports Village. Tilly has been cycling competitively with the club for over four years. Tilly cycles on road with her club and also at the velodrome in Manchester. She cycles 3-4 times per week, with each session usually lasting two hours. Tilly was introduced to Clifton Cycling Club through a friend and was interested to try it out. After an initial session at Clifton, she was invited to try out at the outdoor velodrome. Tilly immediately loved it (despite being a little nervous when going high up the sides at fast speed!) she then joined the club, and has gone from strength to strength. At first, Tilly just did a session on a Saturday but quickly progressed and joined the development squad. She goes to the velodrome in Manchester once a month and has moved through two levels during her time there. Two years ago Tilly received the award for most improved girl. Tilly goes on to say 'Cycling is not only a really fun sport to do, but it is a great way to stay fit and healthy. There are so many different elements to

cycling, including BMX, track, road, mountain bike, cross and many more, so there is something for everyone. I have also made lots of friends at the club'. Tilly is definitely a young star we will be keeping track of during her school journey.



RUGBY UNION

Our next sporting superstar we managed to catch up with is Year 10 student Joe.

Joe has just joined the Leeds Rhinos Scholarship Squad for 2022!



Here is Joe's story so far - I started Rugby Union when I was around 5 years old and at that time I lived down in Dorset playing for North Dorset RFC, as



I got older (10 years old) I moved up to Yorkshire to be closer to my family. My grandad is a big Castleford Tigers fan and that's who introduced me to rugby league. I now play for Leeds Rhinos, Castleford Lock Lane RLFC,

Wetherby RUFC and I play for school. At Lock Lane our team is very successful and 8 of our players have been offered scholarships from elite grade rugby league clubs. At Leeds Rhinos the training is very intense, we train twice a week at the moment and do 1 hour gym work and 1 hour rugby work every session (which I really enjoy); it is a big step up from club level. One of my goals is to play for Yorkshire RFU. It is only early days on the pathway for me but in the future I want to progress into the Leeds Rhinos u18 academy which could possibly lead to 1st team rugby.

FOOTBALL

Many students strive to be professional footballers, here we catch up with two of many throughout our school family who are on their way to that dream. First we meet Year 8 student Oliver. Oliver is on the team for Leeds United Academy.



He follows a training programme three times a week, with each session being around two hours. Oliver started playing football when he was 3 years old, he has been with the Leeds Academy since he was 7 years old. Matches are played on a Sunday against teams from all over the country, including Arsenal, Tottenham and Chelsea in London; Glasgow Rangers and Aberdeen in Scotland; and Cardiff and Swansea in Wales. Oliver goes on to tell me; 'I hope to achieve my goal in the future, by continuing to work hard and always do my best and give 100% every game. When I am older my dream has always been to play for England and of course my team Manchester United. I would love to travel around the world with football; going to places like Madrid in Spain and play against teams in Italy.



SPORTING SUPERSTARS

UPDATE

A huge congratulations to former student Will Hollings who made his professional debut for Doncaster Rovers last week.

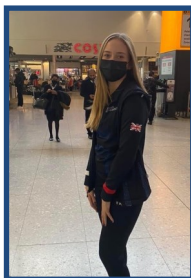
FOOTBALL

Our second student hoping for a first team call up is Year 10 student Bailey. Bailey is currently playing football for Doncaster Rovers.

Bailey's football journey started at Tadcaster Albion where he was spotted and took up a place at Leeds United. The club offered Bailey a contract but he choose not to accept and went to play for York City. Bailey played at York for three years until the club folded and he had to leave. Bailey was then offered a trial at Manchester City, he was now 11 years of age. This would have been a huge step for him and his family. The club would have paid for the move to Manchester, including a house for his family along with private schooling for Bailey! After much thought Bailey decided it wasn't for him and was asked to play for Doncaster Rovers. Bailey has been at the club now for three years. He is currently playing with the u16s where he is coached by ex Chelsea and Leicester player Frank Sinclair. Bailey hopes to get a scholarship and be playing for the u18s . After that he would love to make the first team.



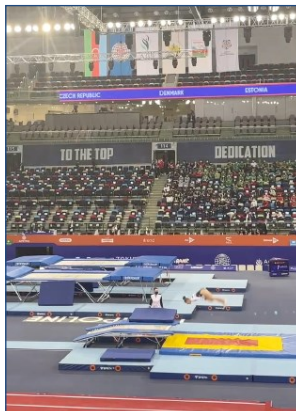
TRAMPOLINING



Year 10 student Emily recently competed at the World Trampoline Championships for Great Britain. This was her second world championships and to get there it took years of hard work.

Before getting to compete for Great Britain Emily had to train several times a week and compete in national and international competitions.

Emily started trampolining and DMT (double mini trampoline) when she was 9 years old after loving to play on her garden trampoline. Since being young competing for her country was always a target of Emily's and it is great that she has been able to achieve it twice. The World Championships 2021 were in Azerbaijan, Baku and Emily was placed 5th going into the finals then came out 7th in the world.



This is just a small number of students whose success we have highlighted. We wish them all good luck in the future, and hope to feature more students in our next newsletter.

 THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD
UPDATE

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.



Hundreds of students enjoy and gain a great deal from the Duke of Edinburgh scheme here at TGS. This has been expertly led over the last couple of years by Dave Sanderson. Although the last 18 months have made elements of the scheme more difficult to deliver, Dave has continued to promote and support students to complete their award. However Dave is hanging up his walking boots at the end of this term to move on to new projects. We would like to thank Dave for his commitment to the award at TGS and we are pleased to report he will still be supporting some of our expeditions. In January Kris Pennock, our second in Physical Education will take over from Dave. We wish him well in this role. Kris is looking forward to working with our new cohort of Year 9 students who have just embarked on the scheme.



Where are they Now?

Join us as we catch up with ex students to find out what they are doing now

From Taking Advice to **GIVING IT**

Former student Jamie Benn decided he wanted to help others. After starting in the retail banking sector Jamie discovered one area of business that was often confusing and hard to get the best deal as a client, was your mortgage. Savings rates were so similar between banks but mortgage rates were vastly different. Jamie wanted to understand why this was the case and was given the chance to step into the market full time to learn the business.

What year did you attend TGS? *I was a student at Tadcaster from 2004 - 2010.*

Were you a good student? *The majority of the time, I certainly had my moments but the subjects I enjoyed had my full attention, my concentration in the subjects I didn't enjoy let me down though!*

What is your profession now and what attracted you to it? *I'm a financial advisor, something I started the journey to straight after school on a gap year to university. I did intend on attending university after my gap year but after some success in the banking industry I felt university didn't offer the same value as the industry experience I gained. I love my job as I'm self-employed so can help people when they need it most, from mortgages and investments, to estate and tax planning. All sounds very boring but to individuals they are the biggest financial moments in their lives and often a helping hand goes a long way which keeps my work interesting and different every day.*

Who was your greatest mentor? *My parents! My mum worked in the government her whole life without a degree and worked her way to the top. My dad was self-employed and retired young after starting off in some of the poorest suburbs, he managed to help his family and friends personally and financially.*

What are you proudest of in your career?

Finding the time to do qualifications while working full time. It seems like there are always more exams to do and it's tough to



be successful while dedicating so much time to them, so I'm proud I found a way. I made a plan to travel the world a few years ago which means I'm still educating

myself and working my way towards the top qualifications in my field. I haven't stopped despite the option to and in the future I hope the hard work will pay off.

What do you value most and why?

Friends and family. When you have a busy schedule you find the small group of people that are loyal to you in the same way you are to them. Sometimes I can't find the time to meet people or have to cancel with work, the fact they still keep me around and want to see me is a testament to them and their values. I've had times in my life when I've earned the most money, but had no time to enjoy it, and I didn't have the happiness I had at the times when I wasn't earning.

What powers you through the day?

I don't feel like it's a sprint, more like a marathon and the only way to keep going is to keep your head up and focus on the positives!

What advice would you give to your younger self? *Start early, make a decision based on what you enjoy and even if you don't have an end goal, do things that will give you value in areas you enjoy. You are only able to see so far into the future but a person who is passionate about their job and has shown a willingness to exceed the normal expectation will succeed in the long run.*

Interacting & Learning

Here we catch up with ex TGS student Jack Venable—a Trainee Solicitor, currently in his third seat within the Commercial division.

What year did you attend TGS?

I was a student at Tadcaster from 2007 - 2013

Were you a good student? *Of course!*

Did you enjoy your time at school, what is your favourite memory?

I really enjoyed the ski trip to Italy in sixth form - I ended up making a lot of new friends, many of which I still see today.

What is your profession now and what attracted you to it?

I am a trainee solicitor - I went in to law as it is a great mix of interacting with people and learning new things. During my training contract, I will spend time in all of the firm's departments which will enable me to provide legal advice on numerous areas of Law. I have a (BSc) in Economics along with a Graduate Diploma in Law.

Who was your greatest mentor?

Mr Mills and his economics lessons! They were so inspiring and helped me to where I am today.

What are you proudest of in your career?

I assisted with a multi million pound restructure and purchase of a financial business which was amazing.

What do you value most and why?

My Friends and family - they are always there for support when I need it most.

What advice would you give to your younger self?

Find out how you learn best and tailor your revision to what suits you.



Where are they Now?

Join us as we catch up with ex students to find out what they are doing now

I Did it! SO CAN YOU

Former student Chris Drake takes us on his journey from 'bad boy' to company director.

When I started at Tadcaster I was originally living in Leeds and getting into all sorts of trouble. It was then that my dad decided enough was enough and I moved to Tadcaster. This was a massive culture shock for me. Moving from a school in Leeds to Tadcaster Grammar School was like moving to a different country. I remember my first day well, I refused to wear the blazer because I thought it looked ridiculous, instead I wore my jacket and a baseball hat, these were soon removed, much to my dislike. There were a few students (pretty much all) that looked down on me because of how I spoke and dressed and probably my attitude towards them and the teachers didn't help. My first week I think I was involved in many fights, not my proudest moment, but as far as I was concerned, I had a reputation to uphold, tough lad from a council house and a rough school. I felt the other students had no idea how easy their lives were in comparison to mine.

Eventually I started to settle in, making a few friends, but 'bad lads' attract bad people so in hindsight they probably weren't the best group for me to become friends with. I hated school and did not want to be there and tried my best to be expelled but this did not happen. I spent most of my lunchtimes, doing physical detentions in the gym, running up and down attempting the "beep" test. I think I spent at least one detention with every teacher I had!

By Year 11 I had really made myself known to all the teachers, even the ones who didn't teach me. I was known for being quite angry. I still had an attitude, and I didn't care who I hurt by trying to be

the most ruthless student in the history of Tadcaster Grammar and the girls loved a bad boy. Looking back now I certainly am not proud of any of my behaviour.

Obviously, by the end of Year 11 I couldn't wait to leave, I had some fun times but as far as education was concerned, I was done. Time to work, but with no qualifications.

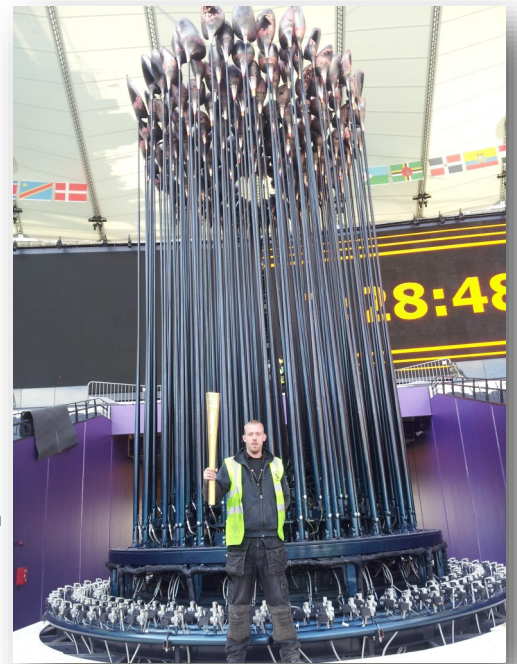
There were many, many jobs. I did warehouse work, kitchen work, bar work, anything that gave me enough money to go out. I was living for the weekend. This went on until I was 20, I must have had as many jobs as years I was alive. I then met a girl (now my wife) who became pregnant. This was massive! At the time I wasn't working at all and we were living back in Leeds. Suddenly I had to grow up, fast.

I managed to get a job in retail, a decent, proper job! The boss was an extremely angry Scotsman, he started to teach me a lot about life and work and especially respect. He had his issues from life but had made quite the success of himself. Could I do the same? After a few months I was promoted to supervisor. Then, one day the boss came in and said he was leaving, he handed me the keys and off he went. I had no idea what I was doing but I knew I was going to give it my best go. And I did until the owners decided they weren't making enough money and had to close. I was genuinely gutted, I had just started to find my way in life.

I was then contacted by my uncle (an electrical manager) saying there was an electrician looking for a labourer. I remember knocking on the door my first day to be greeted by a monster of a man with hands as big as my head! He was frightening and intimidating. But I now knew how to treat people with respect. I'm not going to say the journey was easy because it was far from it. Many of my friends and family asked me why I stuck at the job, but this guy was good, and one of the best electricians around. I learned very quickly that the attitude I'd had for so many

years was not going to get me very far anymore. I spent 5 years labouring for him. It was very hard. Then, one day, he asked me if I'd like to go to college. This was the best thing to happen to me since my children were born! Of course I was nervous, I didn't do terribly well at school so the thought of going back into education frightened the life out of me, especially as I was now 26!

I settled in really well. I had to resit maths,



English and IT. Which again, looking back, if I had listened to my teachers at school I would have passed these in Year 11. Work was now going from strength to strength. We had started doing work for a local company called Stage One Creative Services. This was amazing. Our first job was upgrading a fuse board while they were rehearsing with "Walking With Dinosaurs", there's something quite strange about seeing velociraptors running around. The more time we spent there, the more jobs they were inviting me to help on. In 2011, we built a stage for Neil Diamond and I was asked to go out to Belgium to help install it! What an opportunity this was for me.

During 2011 we started building something that would become so iconic everyone would know about it. In the back yard of Stage One we had started wiring "Betty".

Where are they Now?

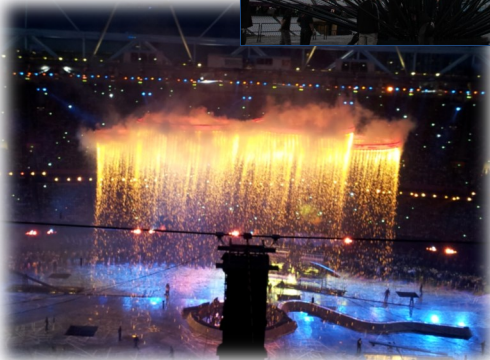
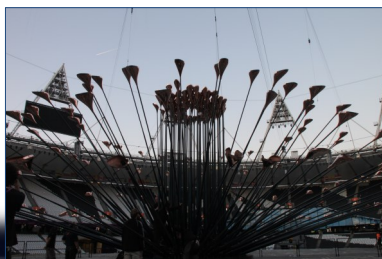
Join us as we catch up with ex students to find out what they are doing now

"Betty" was the codename for the 2012 Olympic cauldron. It was built in Yorkshire then had a police escort all the way to London. I was given the opportunity of a lifetime, to install the Olympic Cauldron in



London! We spent weeks working nights, building it and rehearsing with it. This was all top secret with only a handful of

people outside of Stage One who knew what we were doing. The night of the opening ceremony was one of the proudest moments of my life. We were under the stage as "Betty" was lifted into place and did what it had to do. Listening to the crowds when it worked was so emotional and what a party we had in the stadium after.



Since then I have worked on jobs in Russia, Barcelona and Switzerland!

Eventually my boss retired, this was a sad day for me, as I had come so far with him. Once again I didn't know what I was going to do. I had a few electrical jobs for different companies but none felt right. So I made the big decision to set up on my own. And I haven't looked back since. My business is going from strength to strength and I'm even looking to employ more people. And what's more, Stage One heard I had set up and I have started doing bits for them again.

I would say to my younger self - stay focused, listen to your teachers and work hard. Focus on what you want and go and get it. No one is coming to save you, so get up and get it done. I feel very fortunate to have been offered the opportunities that I have. I look back and think what an absolute idiot I was, especially during my school days, throwing my education away. All people wanted to do was help me.



Field View Learning Hub

Over in Field View, both students and staff are really happy to have the Learning Hub open for all year groups to enjoy again during break and lunchtimes. The sense of community amongst everyone is a wonderful sight. The students have been enjoying a range of activities available for them, including board games and boccia. The chance to sit and chat has also been of great support and a confidence booster for many of our vulnerable students. The new option for our KS4 students who attend Field View - 'Preparing for Adulthood' has had them looking at budgeting and developing independent living skills. We are looking forward to when we will be able to start our 'out and about' visits, working on further 'Learning for Life' skills in the local community.'

By Mrs Heneachon

RECYCLING School Uniform

In partnership with Tadcaster Grammar School, Chalks School Shop, and Tadcrafters Local Social Enterprise, the Tadcaster and Rural CIC, run a second hand school uniform recycling project.

The idea was inspired by students from Tadcaster Grammar School's Eco Club and is aimed at reducing waste by upcycling old uniforms that have been grown out of or not needed anymore.

Donations of old TGS uniform, including shoes and PE kit, can be left at The Barn or at Chalks School Shop. They are then washed

and made good by volunteers, before being offered to parents over the summer break, in time for the new school year in September.

Items are always available in an emergency at any time during the year The service is free of charge and donations are always greatly welcomed.

Please contact David Gluck to find out more at The Barn on 01937 830524 or davidgluck@tadcasterandrural.co.uk



Tadcaster Grammar School Uniform Upcycling project





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 once again. The volunteers from the foodbank were also overwhelmed with the amount that had been donated and said that the schools generosity would help over 70 local families this Christmas. 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. The amazing hampers produced by each form were judged with a winner from each Year group shown below -



Year 8 Winner 8D2
The Year 8 students in D2 had all written messages and stuck them around their hamper.



Year 12 Winner Toulston



Year 9 Winner 9O1



Year 13 Winner Oglethorpe



Year 10 Winner 10O1

Once again thank you to students' parents' and carers for all your contributions and giving many many families a wonderful gift for Christmas.



Year 7 Winner 7T2



Year 11 Winner 11C1



Year 8 Winner 8D2



Recognition Awards

Congratulations to all students who have received a certificate of recognition this term.



Career Corner

Unlock YOUR potential

The weekly careers focus had a special festive twist to it on Wednesday 15 December. Following in the footsteps of the BBC programme "Inside the Factory", students in Years 7 to 12 received a live talk and virtual tour by Shanal Patel, CEO of British Christmas Jumpers.

It all started with an email requesting information for the careers focus slide from Mrs Lawson, in the Careers Department. The team at British Christmas Jumpers were more than happy to help and offered the opportunity of a live link up.

The weekly career focus is a form time activity delivered through the Student Bulletin, featuring a different career sector or job role every week.

If you would like to get involved with a careers talk please contact Mrs Lawson at h.lawson@tgs.starmat.uk

The Natural History Museum's famous T. rex gets a festive makeover from British Christmas Jumpers!



**FUTURE
ME** 

Help over the Christmas period



School holidays can be pressure points for many families because of increased food and childcare costs and reduced incomes. In response to this issue, the Department for Education is providing local authorities with funding to coordinate a holiday programme offer combining provision of healthy food and enriching activities for children and young people who get benefits related free school meals.

**BOOK FREE CHRISTMAS
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
TODAY!**

**Head over to feastive.org to
browse through activities
which are offering free
places to children on
benefits-related free school
meals this Christmas!**

Families can book their children on to activities across the county where they will also receive food - the list of activities can be found [here](#) You can find all the activities that are offering free places to children on benefits – related free school meals this Christmas. To see events in your area click on the district, select the event you want to book, then use the contact details or website listed to book direct with the provider.

northyorkshiretogether.co.uk

There is other local support available for families such as [Household Support Fund](#) and the [Local Assistance Fund](#)

You can claim a Household Support Fund e-voucher payment if you meet the eligibility criteria of getting means-tested help to pay your council tax bill through the council tax reduction/support scheme and you have a child under the age of 19 living at home with you.

Northyorks.gov



We have just received this lovely message from the team at Wetherby Foodbank and would like to share it with everyone -

I've been asked to contact you regarding yesterday's collection for the Wetherby and District Foodbank. To be honest, we are stunned! It was amazing! It's all been weighed and comes in at an incredible 838.1Kg. We think it's quite possibly the largest single donation we've ever had - most certainly the largest we've had this year. It's a remarkable effort from all your pupils, parents/carers and staff. Please pass on our most heartfelt thanks to everyone involved.

Please could you also remind pupils, parents/carers and staff that we are here and able to help anyone who may find they're struggling to afford food. We cover a wide area including Tadcaster and many surrounding villages and in these times of increasing bills and uncertainty, we're keen to make sure everyone knows we are here.

Many, many thanks again,

Emma Tinsley

Volunteer Marketing Coordinator



A Note from the Head

Although our normal extensive array of seasonal celebrations has had to be amended and reformatted this year again due to our current Covid-19 system of controls, the atmosphere around school is wonderful. It was delightful to see all students enjoying (a staggered) Christmas lunch this week. The virtual prize giving and Christmas Concert were also super events.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the school, especially regarding helping us with the provision and wearing of face masks, influenza and Covid-19 inoculations, twice weekly home testing using lateral flow devices and the forthcoming asymptomatic testing during the first week of school in January 2022. The pandemic appears very much still with us and control measures in school are likely to remain in place for many weeks to come. I am so pleased that we have been able to stay fully open and to offer a full curriculum experience to all students this half term. Our commitment remains as ensuring all students and staff are safe and supported in school. I hope that the communication you receive from school about operational issues is clear and timely; we do understand how important it is to share key information as soon as possible to allow families to plan.

I must also take this opportunity to thank our superb school staff for their work since September. Against many challenges, our staff have kept the vision and values of the school alive and have prioritised putting the needs of all our outstanding young people first.

Finally, wherever you find yourself over the next few weeks, on behalf of the Tadcaster Grammar School governors and staff I wish you all the very best for the festive season.

Andrew Parkinson
Headteacher

OFSTED Parent View

Parent View gives you the chance to tell OFSTED what you think about your child's school.

Parent View asks for your opinion on aspects of your child's school.

By sharing your views, you'll be helping your child's school to improve. [Give your view now](#)



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. Sincere thanks to the foundation for their generous annual donation to the following projects and areas:-

Still Art Project.
Careers Employability Project.
Stonewall Champion School membership fee.
Student Wellbeing Area.
5 audio digital interfaces to allow musicians to record themselves performing their coursework live as part of their GCSE submissions.
Motivational Speakers for KS4.
Selection of new books in the library.
Leeds Faith in Schools.
Student Hardship Fund.
Theatre in School Production.
Senior Awards Evening.

Thank You!

It's time to say Goodbye

On the 4th October 1982 **Sue Cole** joined Tadcaster Grammar School as a Science Technician to cover a maternity leave.

Bye!

A vacancy then came up in the Main Office or 'Enquiry Office' as it was originally called. Sue moved into the office, but as more and more figures regarding student performance were needed the frantic noisy office was not the place to do a calm job, so it was time for Sue to move again. She moved out to become the Data Manager, which she did for around three years. Then it was all change again as a vacancy came up for an Exams Officer. Sue took on the position with her usual skill and accuracy, but soon learned what a huge learning curve this would be, and still is! Sue then decided it was time to step back and 'retired' for a couple of months, before returning to become a permanent fixture again in the Exams Office. After a staggering Thirty Nine Years Sue is now ready to hang up her pens and pencils and take a well earned break. Sue will be missed dearly by everyone but we wish her lots of luck as she starts the next chapter of her life.

We are also saying goodbye to **David Harris**. After sixteen years of fantastic support of our school, especially our Drama and Music teams, David is moving on to new projects. Over the years he has ensured we all have been suitably lit and have sounded good at a plethora of events from Open Evenings to Senior Awards. David has also been the creative genius behind many set designs for our school productions, as well as building them! Who could forget the amazing sets of Annie and Little Shop of Horrors!! We all wish David every happiness. We are also saying farewell to our Site and Facilities Manager **Neil Gill**. Neil has been at Tadcaster Grammar School for 20 Years, keeping the school up and running. We wish Neil a very happy retirement. After over seven and a half years of amazing service to TGS, **Rachel Miller-Noble** is parting company with us and moving on to pastures new. It is hugely exciting for Rachel but very sad for us to see her leave. She has been such a fantastic colleague in many different roles over those years, including Teacher of Maths, House Champion and Student Voice Leader.

