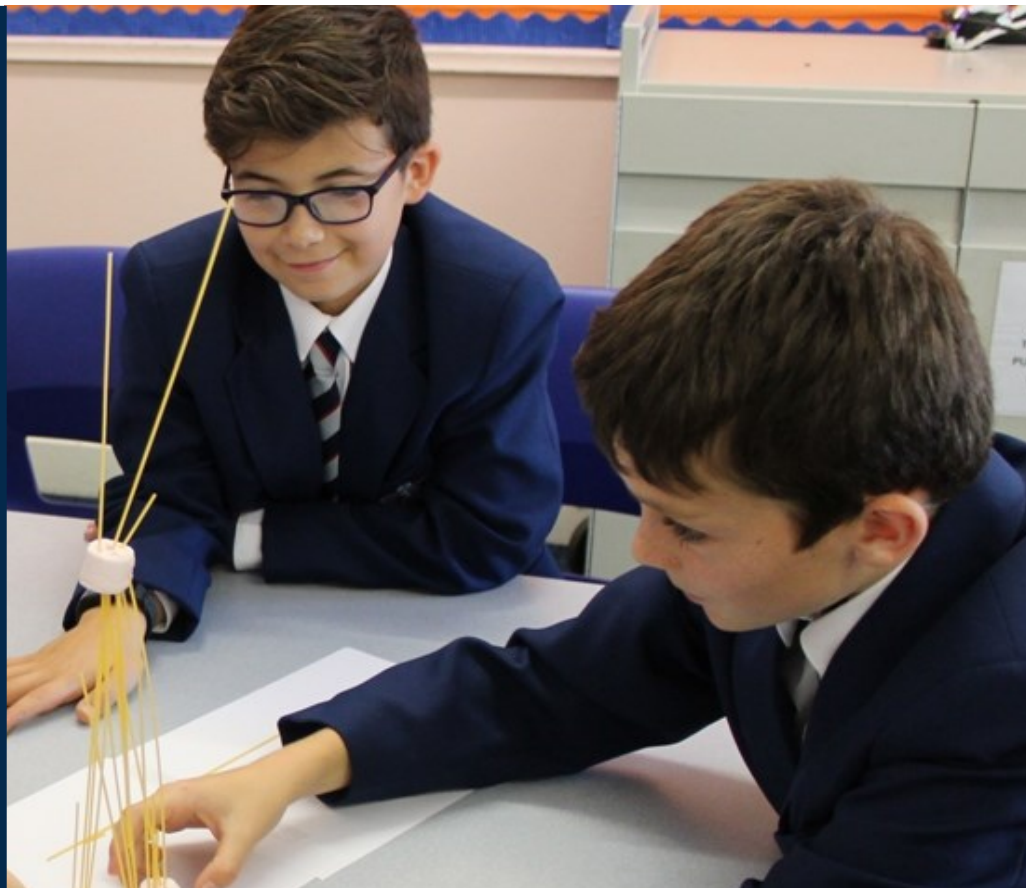




1557

Be Your Best Self

FEBRUARY 2022



NEWSLETTER

In Brief

Antarctica Flag Competition
Year 7 Geography students entries

Sixth Form Highlights
News from the Sixth Form

Physical Exercise and Mental Health
Exercise has proven to improve mental health

House Champions Update
Meet two new members of the team

ECO schools
Working towards Green Flag accreditation

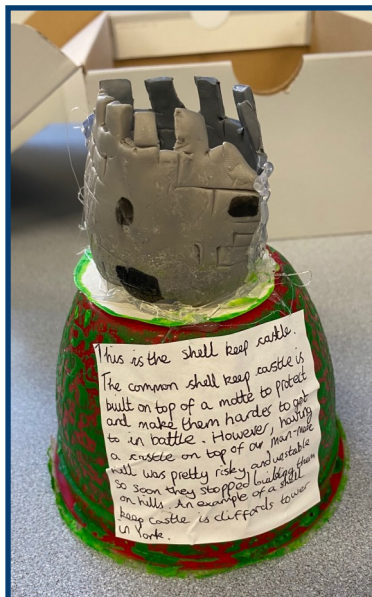
Goodbyes
We say Goodbye and thank you

Where are they now?
Catch up with former students

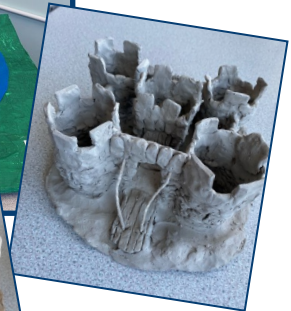
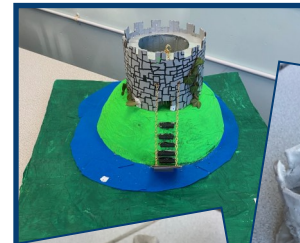
CASTLE CREATIONS



Our amazing Year 7 Students have been showing their creative side by producing some excellent examples of historic castles for a homework project they were set.



This is the shall keep castle.
The common shall keep castle is built on top of a motte to protect and make them harder to get to in battle. However, having a castle on top of a man-made wall was pretty risky and unstable so soon they stopped building them on hills. An example of a shell keep castle is cliffsfort tower in York.



The History department is also running an historical fiction competition. Students will be writing a fictional story based in a period of history and the winning 5 entries will be entered for a national competition. The results will be featured in our Easter Newsletter.



The Geography department has once again been running an Antarctica Flag Competition with Year 7 students. The entries were outstanding, here are the results.



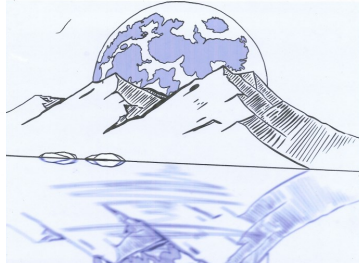
Winning Entry - DJ -7G1

The winning entry was taken to King Edward Point South Georgia in Antarctica.

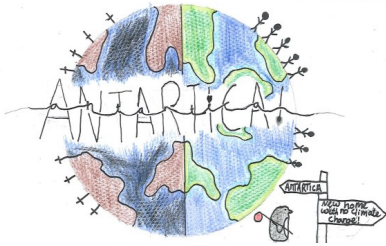
Below we see the scientist with the winning entry.

The next step will be to set up a Skype call with the scientist in Antarctica.

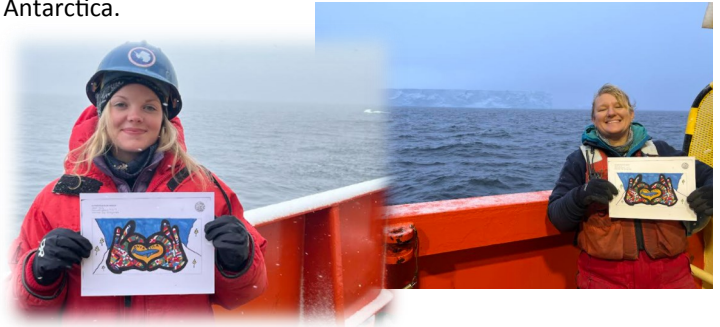
The runners up...



Oscar 7s-1

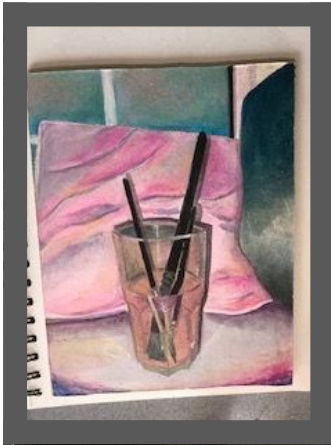


Sophie 7t-2

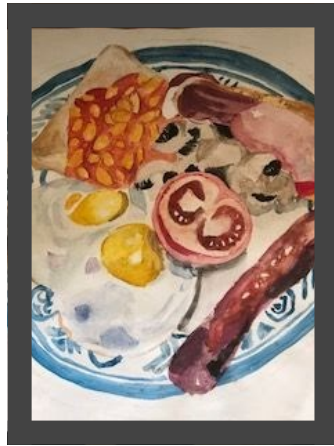


Sixth Form Art Gallery

This term our A level Art students have been exploring the theme of environment and have produced some very exciting and diverse work.



Suzy Year 12



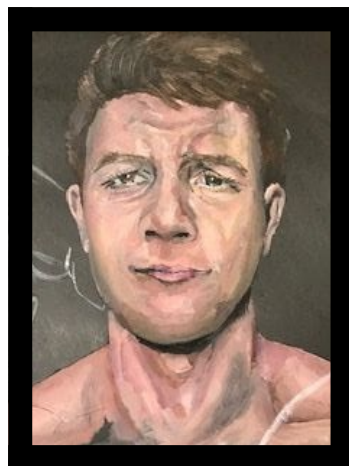
Abi Year 12



Suzy Year 12



Emily Year 13



Pippa Year 13



Ella Year 13

FUNDRAISING



In 2021 former student Dan Greenwood sadly passed away after a long fight against cancer. Dan lived life to the full, he was a great friend and a true inspiration. He passed away at Martin House in 2021 aged 20.

In his memory, and with the support of Dan's family, we decided to raise funds for Martin House who cared for Dan and his family and who still offer ongoing support. The total raised was £1596.80 collected from Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas card donations and a staff raffle, what an absolutely amazing amount!



We received this message from Martin House ;
We are so grateful that you have chosen to support the hospice in this way, your fundraising will make such a difference to the lives of the children and young people we support at Martin House, so it really is a fitting tribute to your former pupil. With your help, we can continue to provide expert hospice care to families across West, North and East Yorkshire, remaining with them on their journey and giving their children the best possible chance at life. We've started 2022 facing another challenging phase of the pandemic, and as always, we're constantly reviewing how we can best deliver our vital care to children and young people, and support families, while keeping both them and our staff safe. One thing the last two years has underlined to us, is how important planned respite breaks are to families. It gives everyone a chance to recharge their batteries and enjoy some quality time together to relax, so we are working very hard to ensure we can safely continue to provide this vital service, while adapting to changing government guidelines. It's your support that helps us to give families this precious time – for parents to just be 'mum and dad' instead of full-time carers, for brothers and sisters to have

SIXTH FORM

HIGHLIGHTS

some 'me' time, and for their poorly child to enjoy activities with the assistance of our expert care team.

Thank you once again for helping to make a difference to the lives of the families we care for, helping us to be here when they need us most.

Michelle Ford

Regional Fundraiser (North and East Yorkshire)

We also have a strong connection to Martin House because of the support they offered Harry Shepherd and his family another former student. Harry's brother Tom regularly visited Martin house for support and passed away in October 2020

LAW AMBASSADORS - students in Year 12 and 13 are continuing with the course which is run by BPP Law School. This term they have had a workshop on Street Law and are now working to produce presentations that will be shared with students in school.

LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ - Three students successfully applied for this amazing experience to learn more about the horrors of the Holocaust as well as listening to the words of a survivor. Dominic W, Elizabeth H and Jennie F found the experience moving and informative and produced the resources used by the whole school on Holocaust Memorial Day.

MORE THAN A NUMBER

Come to me you happy citizen of the world, who lives in that land where there still exists happiness, joy and pleasure, and I will tell you how modern day common criminals have turned a people's happiness into unhappiness, changed its joy into everlasting mourning - destroyed its pleasure forever. Come to me you happy citizen of the world, where your life is assured by human morality and your existence guaranteed by law, and I will tell you how these modern day criminals and common bandits have crushed the morality of life and annihilated the laws of existence. — Zdzislaw Gadowski

"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." - Elie Wiesel



Jennie chose to do a piece of digital artwork for her Holocaust project which has been shared around school.

The students also produced an assembly that was shown to the whole school.



CRIMINOLOGY - Year 13 students were visited by three local magistrates to explain what happens in the magistrates court, they then did a mock trial taking the roles of everyone in the court from the Ushers, the victim and offender, including the role of magistrates themselves. They all said it was invaluable in understanding their course.
SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE - The Senior Maths Challenge is open to Year 12 and 13 students. Isobel Y (Year 13) achieved best in school.



We would also like to acknowledge Charlie R, a Year 13 **Further Maths** student, who completed a complicated proof (way beyond the scale of the Further Maths A Level itself), following a discussion about infinity and limiting values as a pre-cursor to unveiling L'Hopital's Rule (used to evaluate indeterminable limits).

During Period 1 form time activities all Sixth form students have had an assembly on coping with exam stress which was presented by the Wellbeing team. The students have also had sessions on personal safety including information on relationships.

PHYSICAL EXERCISE and Your MENTAL HEALTH



As we start 2022, lots of us are beginning new exercise programmes in an attempt to start the year healthier. While many people have increased their exercise levels since lockdown began, many of us have got used to being in the house and have got out of the routine of exercise and being physically active.

Exercise is proven to improve mental health by reducing anxiety, depression, and negative mood and by improving self-esteem and cognitive function. Being physically active means sitting down less and moving our bodies more. Many people find that physical activity helps them maintain positive mental health, either on its own, or in combination with other treatments. This doesn't have to mean running marathons or training every day at the gym.

Managing stress, anxiety or intrusive and racing thoughts – doing something physical releases cortisol which helps us manage stress. Being physically active also gives your brain something to focus on and can be a positive coping strategy for difficult times.

Better self-esteem – being more active can make you feel better about yourself as you improve and meet your goals.

Reducing the risk of depression – studies have shown that doing regular physical activity can reduce the likelihood of experiencing a period of depression

Connecting with people – doing group or team activities can help you meet new and like-minded people, and make new friends.

Even if you're not suffering from a mental health problem, regular physical activity can still offer a welcome boost to your mood, outlook, and mental well-being. Children and young people aged 5-18 should:

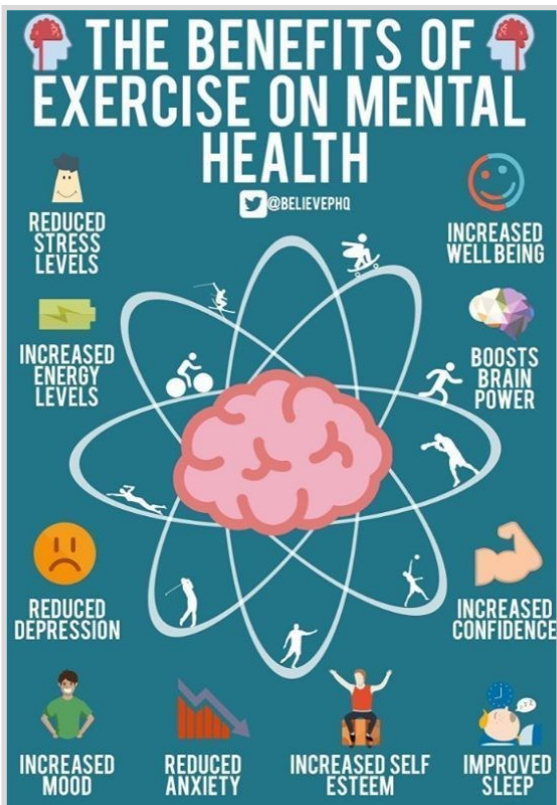
- Aim for at least 1 hour of moderate or vigorous intensity physical activity a day

- Take part in a variety of types and intensities of physical activity

- Reduce the time spent sitting or lying down

Above all, exercise and physical activity should be fun! As well as PE lessons, there are a wide variety of extra-curricular activities available for students to take part in at lunchtime and after school.

Below are just a few of the amazing extra curricular activities available.



There are many studies which have shown that doing physical activity can improve mental health. For example, it can help with:

Better sleep – by making you feel more tired at the end of the day.

Happier moods – physical activity releases feel-good hormones that make you feel better in yourself and give you more energy.



Statistics UPDATE

Since returning to school after the Christmas break our students are now ranked 17th out of 1,974 schools nationally on questions completed in Hegarty Maths. With a whopping 11,2871 questions answered, 85% of them correctly! That is 9,5752 questions answered correctly, giving us a national ranking of 15th. Students have clocked up a total of 2,640 hours of learning (9th ranked nationally) and there have been 2,190 pieces of staff feedback (7th ranked nationally).

A huge congratulations goes to the following students who are top ranked in the school for questions answered correctly:

- Year 7 - S Whalley (667)
- Year 8 - L Schofield (365)
- Year 9 - L Cain (376)
- Year 10 - A Proctor (226)
- Year 11 - P Whyley (928)

Singing Lessons - *My name is Kelsey I have recently started singing lessons in school. I do singing because I love and really enjoy doing it. Singing lessons have really helped me with my confidence.*

Lunch Time Extra Curricular Activities				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pop Choir	Big Band	Jam Club	Jam Club	Years 9,10 & 11 Book Club
Eco-Committee	The 200 Club - MFL	Languages Film Club	Y11 Basketball	Year 7 & 8 Book Club
Equality & Diversity Group		Y10 Basketball	French Penpal Club	Film Club
			Year 8 Drama Club	Year 7 Drama Club
After School Extra Curricular Activities				
Girls Football (All)	Year 7 and 8 Hockey		Years 9, 10 & 11 Hockey	
	Boys Football		Concert Band	
			Boys Rugby	

*We have a fantastic group of Year 7 and 8 girls and boys who come to **Hockey Club** every Tuesday after school and are very committed and doing really well.*



This term we welcomed two new House Champions: Mrs Cooney for Toulston and Miss O'Connor for Oglethorpe.

'I am thoroughly enjoying my new role as Toulston House Champion; it's a great opportunity to work with our fantastic young people and develop resources and competitions to help and motivate them. In particular, it has been really inspiring to work with the E&D Group and the Eco Group this half-term and I'm really looking forward to what the rest of the year will bring.'

Having spent a restful Christmas holiday catching up on our reading, we started the term with some recommendations from the 'House Champion Book Club' and ended the first week back with a house quiz about the benefits of reading! We had some lovely discussions with students who had read the books we recommended or wanted more information.

We have also been invited by our amazing students to spend time with them in some of the clubs which are run at lunchtime by staff. We have had the privilege of visiting the Equality and Diversity Group this term and have been learning about LGBT+History. The Equality and Diversity Group has produced some fantastic presentations and a House Quiz to educate us all and to enable us to be positive role models. The club runs on a Monday in S11 and has students from Year 7 to Year 12 working together collaboratively, supervised by Miss McKenzie. The Eco Club runs on a Monday and can be found in L10 run by Mrs Thompson. It has some fantastic ideas for whole school competitions. The first one will be launched just prior to the half-term holiday .

TOP TRUMPS House Champion Edition



TOULSTON: Mrs Cooney

YEARS at TGS	12
CREATIVITY	96
PROBLEM SOLVING	92
LOVE of KARAOKE	100
ABILITY to do a BURPEE	-11
TOP TRUMPS RATING	★★★★★

TOP TRUMPS FILE
Areas of responsibility in school include all things **Environmental**

'Taking on the role as Oglethorpe House Champion has already been such a rewarding and fun experience. As a sixth form teacher, this role has allowed me to get involved with the events occurring and students across all key stages at Tadcaster Grammar School. The overlap between the House Champion role and my role as Student Leadership/Voice Lead, has also been hugely beneficial as many of the students' ideas are shared through the student council and can be used on a whole school level by turning them into house competitions. I'm looking forward to what the rest of the year will bring.'

TOP TRUMPS House Champion Edition



OGLETHORPE: Miss O'Connor

YEARS at TGS	2
AMBITIOUS	95
SWEET TOOTH	99
OBSESSION WITH PIGS	100
LOVE OF ESCALATORS	-5
TOP TRUMPS RATING	★★★★★

TOP TRUMPS FILE
Areas of responsibility in school include all things **Student leadership**

at Tadcaster Grammar School. The overlap between the House Champion role and my role as Student Leadership/Voice Lead, has also been hugely beneficial as many of the students' ideas are shared through the student council and can be used on a whole school level by turning them into house competitions. I'm looking forward to what the rest of the year will bring.'

FUTURE ME Career Corner

Unlock YOUR potential

Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week
7th to 13th February 2022

During the 15th Annual National Apprenticeship Week 7 -13 February, various events took place to inform and highlight to students, in all year groups, the benefits and opportunities of apprenticeships, as a route into a successful career. The week kicked off on Monday with the weekly careers focus featuring Amazing Apprentices, followed on Tuesday with a whole school delivery of an Apprenticeship assembly,

tailored to each key stage of education. The weekly career lunchtime drop-in sessions became apprenticeship drop-in sessions for those seeking an apprenticeship at the end of this academic year. Students in Field View participated in a live workshop from the The Institute of Grocery Distribution which showcased the different roles of apprentices in the Grocery distribution sector.



Work Experience

It's back! After an absence of 2 years, the Sixth Form Work Experience programme returns 4 – 8 July 2022.

Can you or the company you work for offer a placement for a Year 12 student? To register your interest click here

For further information about apprenticeships and supporting your child into an apprenticeship, access the following free guide [The Parents' Guide to National Apprenticeship Week](#)
To coincide with National Apprenticeships Week 2022, Alex Burghart, Minister for Skills, wrote to students and parents about the opportunities and benefits apprenticeships can bring to young people.

[Letter to students](#)
[Letter to Parents](#)

Other useful information
[NAW 2022 Toolkit](#)



This year our school has made the decision to work towards [Eco-Schools](#) Green Flag accreditation . We previously achieved the Eco-Schools Bronze Award in 2019 and aim to build on the excellent work achieved then by our eco-committee.

Eco-Schools began in 1994 and is the largest educational programme on the planet (there are currently 70 countries delivering the Eco-Schools programme around the world), in England it is operated by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. The Eco-Schools programme focuses on empowering young people to lead environmental education and action. It does this by providing a simple, seven-step framework that gives students a voice, which allows them to plan and implement environmental projects in their school, local community and beyond. We have already set up our eco-committee with a number of dedicated students from across all year groups but we are always keen for more participants so if you think your son/daughter would like to join please do encourage them to do so or contact me.

There are multiple reasons we have decided to embark on the journey to Eco-Schools Green Flag. Firstly, our planet (and all life on it) is already beginning to feel the catastrophic effects of climate change, plastic pollution, biodiversity loss and a myriad of other environmental challenges. In our school we don't want our student-body to avoid, ignore, shy-away or cower from these challenges, this will not help. Instead, we want to openly discuss the problems we all face and tackle them head-on together. Through this approach, we hope to make a positive difference now, whilst empowering our students with the knowledge and skills they need to continue making a positive difference as they grow to become leaders, decision-makers and educators themselves. This year our committee has chosen to focus on improving the school grounds, reducing litter and increasing its biodiversity. We have plans to revamp the greenhouses, complete a litter pick house competition and create bird boxes and rewilded areas on the school grounds, amongst many other exciting ideas. I hope you're as excited about our Eco-Schools journey as everyone at school is .

If you would like to find out more, or get involved, please feel free to contact me directly.

Miss Thompson - Eco-coordinator l.thompson@tgs.starmat.uk



ENABLE
SUSTAIN
THRIVE

Time for something new? Gain new skills and explore the exciting and emerging opportunities in sustainability!

Join our **FREE** online training course centred around all things sustainability to **develop your skills** and **explore the opportunities** in this emerging and diverse industry. Whether it's economics, product design, marketing or the natural environment, explore what interests you, gain some new knowledge and get support to progress onto further training or employment!

The course is being delivered over 8 sessions, with staggered start dates in February and March. You can choose to either complete the course over 8 weeks (1 session/week) or 4 weeks (2 sessions/week). All sessions will be held online via zoom. You will also receive 1:1 support to help you find other training and employment opportunities that fit your interest.



Scan the QR Code or visit our website at projectwildcic.com/est/ to find out more!

To get involved, contact Lucy by phone **07476 060 789**, or email lallis@projectwildcic.com

To be eligible you must currently be unemployed, not in full time education, 18+ and living in North Yorkshire or York. The EST project is funded by the European Union and the Adult Skills Funding Agency.

Environmental Leadership

Hello, we are the Environmental Leaders at TGS!

As part of our school Eco Group's mission to achieve the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award, we are beginning to tend to our school grounds in areas such as the greenhouse, pond and gardens so that they can be used and cherished. We are so blessed to have such amazing school grounds and we hope that our efforts will increase biodiversity, improve the environment, and enhance the general wellbeing of students.

In the greenhouse, our plan is to grow vegetables, and we will use this produce in Food Tech lessons and in school lunches. **We are in desperate need of supplies such as compost, rakes, bamboo canes, and more.** If you are interested in helping us on our journey, **donations would be greatly appreciated.** Please contact l.thompson@tgs.starmat.uk for queries.

Thank you, from Naomi and Charlotte Year 12



SPORTING SUPERSTARS

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



Running for Yorkshire

Year 8 student Rosie has gained selection to represent North Yorkshire Schools at the English Schools' Cross Country Championships.

Rosie started out running at Temple Newsam Junior Park Run to help her burn off some energy. From there it was cross country where Rosie excelled and became a three peat county champion winning the North Yorkshire Schools Cross Country title in Years 4, 5 and 6. By this time Rosie was a member at Wakefield Harriers, training with the endurance group up to three times a week.

Much of Rosie's recent training has been geared towards the Yorkshire County Cross Country Championships at Kiveton Park in January. Rosie finished in 5th place on the day in what was a tremendously talented field of young athletes. A moment to remember in that the top eight finishers qualified to run for Yorkshire at the National Inter-Countries Event in Loughborough in March.



Having come down from the moment of winning her first county vest Rosie had no time to rest and was back out running the day after preparing for the North Yorkshire Schools' Cross Country Finals on the 15th January at Risedale School near Catterick. Competing with girls in the year above in a combined Year 8 & Year 9 girls

race would always prove tricky but Rosie put in a great run to finish in the 3rd place gaining selection to represent North Yorkshire Schools' at the English Schools Cross Country Championships in Kent in March. This is an outstanding achievement for Rosie, we will be following her journey with an update in our next issue.



Journey to become a Golf Professional



We managed to catch up with young golfer Max a Year 9 student.

Max first picked up a golf club aged 8 on a family trip to York Golf Range. This was by pure chance, although Max was already interested in a

range of sports. Max quickly became keen on the game.

Aged 9 Max started having individual and group lessons, again at York Golf Range. By the time he was 10, Max had started playing in mini golf competitions, winning a number of them. Max then went on to join a golf club where he started to play in full course golf competitions.

Max decided it was time to stop playing other sports competitively and fully concentrate on golf. By the age of 12 Max was having huge success ;

***Won Moor Allerton Junior Open, and 2nd in two other Junior Opens.**

***3rd in Leeds District Union Junior Order of Merit.**

***Selected for Yorkshire Under 15 coaching squad.**

***5th in Yorkshire Under 14 Championships.**

***Qualified for British Junior Golf Tour Championships.**

***9th in British Junior Golf Tour 11-12 years Order of Merit.**

***Qualified for Junior European Open Finals.**

***Qualified for World Stars of Junior Golf.**

Aged 13; In 2021, Max built on this success, although his year was disrupted by two wrist injuries, one coming at the peak of his season, which saw him having to withdraw from the England Under 14 Championships. Despite this, he managed many good results through the year.

The 2020 Junior European Open finals week had been delayed by COVID to November 2021. This is the most testing event in junior golf in Europe. Max qualified by having the lowest score across the whole country. The finals week sees top Under 18s playing over 5 rounds at two courses in Spain. Sky Sports record the event and show highlights. Max was the youngest competitor. This was a fantastic experience and his first experience of playing abroad. All competitors were presented with a personalised trophy by Sky Sports presenter Nick Dougherty.



Max qualified for World Stars of Junior Golf, this again due to Covid had to be postponed, until June 2023. Max is hoping to travel to Las Vegas for this event which in the past has seen competitors from over 50 countries.

Max is totally dedicated towards becoming a golf professional. He practices usually 7 days a week. Max is based at Leeds Golf Centre, but practices at a number of golf ranges and courses. Max has recently changed his main coach to Nick Huby at the world renowned Pete Cowen Golf



Academy in South Yorkshire. Max also works with top putting coach Lee Sullivan at Formby Hall, specialist golf fitness instructor Jamie Greaves, well known golf performance coach Karl Morris of The Mind Factor, and the very knowledgeable sports nutritionist Phil Holmes of PH Sports Nutrition, as well as the Yorkshire coaches.

DANCE WORLD CUP



Here we have been lucky to catch up with students passed and present!

Firstly Two Year 10 students Erin and Ava, who are very

excited to be representing Team GB at the Dance World Cup later this year in San Sebastián, Spain, with their dance school: Lisa Marie Performing Arts. Both girls have trained at the school since they were very young and have lessons in ballet, tap, modern, contemporary, acro and commercial dance to name a few.

This year the school decided to enter for the opportunity to represent Team GB for the first time. Students were invited to perform solos, duets and two group dances for the entry. They needed to make the top 4 places in the country to qualify for the World Cup Finals in June. Erin came 11th with her modern routine to Moulin Rouge and Ava secured one of the top four places with her commercial routine choreographed by ex Tadcaster Grammar School student, Alexa Williams. Both of their group dances in jazz and commercial qualified too, securing a spot at the Dance World Cup.

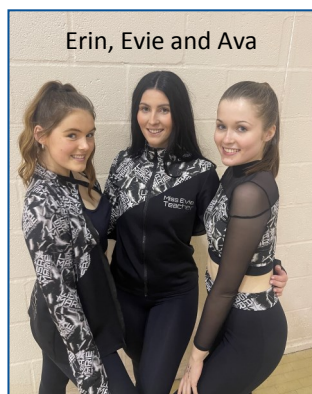
We managed to catch up with Alexa who left Tadcaster in 2018; 'On leaving school I started a two year course in Performing Arts at CAPA College in Wakefield. During my time at CAPA College I had many fantastic opportunities such as performing at Move It, Can You Dance and I was also chosen to perform in a select group for the British Council in London. I left CAPA College in June 2020 with a Level 3 Diploma in Musical Theatre plus Dance and Drama A Levels. Alongside attending CAPA College I also continued my training at Lisa Marie Performing Arts School in York, an excellent dance school which I had attended from the age of seven. During the last two terms of CAPA I attended auditions for Performing Arts



Year 10 Students Erin and Ava

colleges to progress to the next stage of my training. I was offered places at Wilkes Academy, Addict Dance Academy and Performers College in Essex. I decided to accept the offer from Performers College as I had previously attended their Summer School and loved the experience. I am now in my second year of their Degree course in Musical Theatre but I still visit Lisa Marie Performing Arts when I am back to attend occasional classes, run workshops and just to keep in touch!

I have known Ava and Erin for a number of years and have watched their amazing progress at Lisa Marie Performing Arts. I was asked to choreograph a commercial solo dance for Ava to enter and we found out in December that Ava had qualified for the Dance World Cup in Spain. Both Ava and Erin will also be participating in two group dances so this is huge achievement for all the students and the teachers at Lisa Marie Performing Arts. I feel very proud to have choreographed a dance that has been

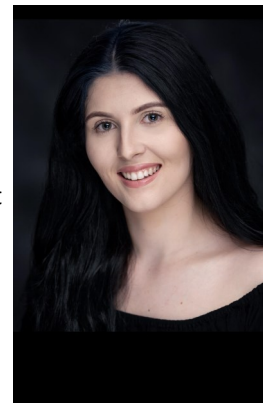


Erin, Evie and Ava

selected, as choreography is something I particularly enjoy and hope to develop more in the future.'

Another former student is also involved in this amazing achievement. Evie Salkeld left Tadcaster Grammar School in 2016 after completing her A-levels in Chemistry, Biology and Psychology. Throughout her time at school, Evie also trained multiple times a week at the Lisa Marie Performing Arts school in York and started her first job as a student teacher there in 2014. Her further education took her to complete a Diploma in Musical Theatre and Dance at the Midlands Academy of Dance and Drama in Nottingham, graduating with a Distinction in 2020, completing her last 6 months of training online during the Covid-19 pandemic. In October 2020 Evie returned to work at LMPA as a Dance Teacher and now teaches over 20 hours a

week in all genres of dance as well as choreographing for their competition teams. In October 2021 LMPA entered the qualifying rounds to represent Team England in the Dance World Cup 2022 in Spain, also known as the Olympics of the dance community.

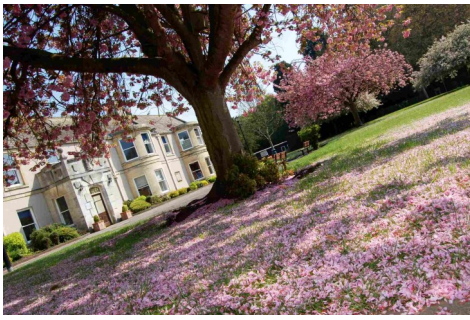


Evie Salkeld

Lisa Marie Performing Arts were thrilled to have qualified with 6 routines to represent Team England in June 2022 making them the first team from North Yorkshire to qualify. The qualifying routines include a 'Jazz Duet' choreographed by Evie and multiple other routines. Evie is very proud of all of her students and is so grateful for the support of Tadcaster Grammar School over the years.

At present the Dance School are busy fundraising for the Team GB uniform, costumes and entry fees.

Their annual show is at York Barbican on Sunday March 6th.



TIME TO SAY GOODBYE & THANK YOU

As we prepare to break up for half term we will be sadly saying goodbye to two members of staff who are moving on to new chapters in their lives. Both these people have always put the students first in everything they have done, and will be greatly missed by everyone.



Firstly we say goodbye to Claire Duckworth.

After an incredible 22 years at Tadcaster Grammar School we say farewell to Claire. In September 2000 Claire joined TGS as a

teacher of Music and Drama and has made an outstanding contribution to school life ever since. Following her time as an Assistant Head of Year, Claire set up and led the highly successful A level Theatre Studies course and then proceeded to Head of Drama - and most recently has also been Associate Assistant Headteacher. Over the years, Claire has led a wide range of initiatives including teacher research in dialogic talk, the Shakespeare in Schools project and the Mindfulness in Schools project which all our students benefit from in Year 7. Claire has been highly influential in developing teaching and learning across school, establishing and leading the Teacher Learning Communities which have provided first class CPD for staff for many years. Her significant expertise was clearly recognised beyond TGS through her roles working with North Yorkshire County Council as an Advanced Skills Teacher and then as a Specialist Leader in Education.

Perhaps for students, her most memorable impact will be the wonderful opportunities to perform in a host of her impressive school productions, with hits like 'Guys and Dolls', 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' and 'Annie Jr' to name but a few,



or the countless theatre visits where students could enjoy watching inspiring performances locally, in London, Stratford upon Avon and even further afield in Spain. Her energy, enthusiasm and expertise have proven infectious with many of her students being inspired by their study of drama to pursue careers in the arts.



Although she will be hugely missed at TGS, we thank Claire for her superb dedication to our community and wish her every happiness as she begins her exciting new journey.

We are also saying goodbye to Deb Clark. Deb is a valued member of the Field View Team.



The opening of Field View

Here is a message from her close friend, and colleague Kim - *'After 12 years at Tadcaster Grammar School, working within the Learning Support Department, our amazing colleague Deb Clark has made the heartfelt decision to hang up her TGS apron and take on a new professional*

challenge elsewhere.

Being 'school' Mum to many of the students of the Field View crew (and previously Rose Cottage), Mrs Clark has worked tirelessly to champion the successes of key students lucky enough to have been supported by her; building their resilience, self-esteem and skills for life. It has been an extremely big decision to leave a role she has taken such pride and dedication in and we shall miss her amazing positivity and hugely infectious fun personality.

We wish her all the very best in her new adventures and will hold fond memories dear. Thank you, for being such a fun, crazy and inspirational person.'

During her time at Tadcaster, Deb was the key support for an amazing young student named Flora. Flora's mum sent the following message -

'Debs - we would like to thank you for all your stellar support for Flora while she was a student at TGS. We always felt 100% confident in your care and knew that you would go the extra mile, think outside the box, and stand firm where it was needed, in order to provide the best educational experience for her in spite of her complex needs. Flora flourished because you cared, and you gave her a fantastic platform from which to go forward. You are gifted and dedicated and we are thankful that you were her TA, and that you remain a family friend. We all hope your next adventure will be amazing. Sally, David and Flora.



Flora and Deb at the Year 11 Prom



REWIND

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

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



Former student Lucy Allis tells us how she changed her career path thanks to the advice from her tutor at university. Lucy attended Tadcaster Grammar School from 2009 - 2014 staying on into sixth form until 2016.

What is your favourite memory of school?

I loved being part of TGS, and my favourite memory is definitely playing Delilah Strict in the school musical Zombie Prom - I'd always loved drama and musicals in particular, but this character was just so much fun to play that the memory has stuck with me!



What path did you take on leaving school?

After leaving school I went to the University of Exeter to study drama. While I was there, I was the musical director of Spotlights Show Choir and starred in several shows including 'It Should a Been You' and 'Sherwood'. I also turned my hand to costume design and designed costumes for 'Hamlet', 'Bonnie and Clyde' and 'Singin' in the Rain'. This was one of the first times I started to think about resourcefulness and making things myself rather than buying them to reduce the environmental impact of the production, but little did I know that that would heavily influence my future career! After graduating with a first-class

degree, I moved back home and had a year out while I tried to figure out exactly what I wanted to do. During this time, I started a blog about the environment called Waste Makes Waste, which I worked really hard on and continue to run now. Eventually, I decided that I cared more about climate change and sustainability than anything else, so I should try and make a career out of it. There was just one problem - I didn't have any qualifications. So, I embarked on a Masters degree in Sustainability Studies at the University of York, which I finished in September 2021. During my degree I also started volunteering for an environmental not-for-profit called Project: WILD C.I.C. Over the summer I then did an internship with them which then became my current job! This is definitely not where I would have seen myself when I left school, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

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

My official title is Sustainability Projects Coordinator, but that covers a range of things. Most of what I do is linked to helping people understand and access sustainability, like creating courses for people to join us on or designing new services to help businesses understand their sustainability. But I also work on a range of other projects that involve going into schools, working with communities and creating products. I was attracted to this particular job because it gives me lots of flexibility and allows me to work on the projects that are most important to me.



Who was/is your greatest mentor?

My greatest mentor was one of my tutors at the University of Exeter. She always encouraged me to follow my passions and change course if something didn't feel right. She also supported me through my dissertation, and wrote my reference for my Masters, so I am very thankful for her support.

What are you proudest of in your career? *I am most proud of my swift change from one career path to another, because it was one of the scariest things I've ever done. Having only ever thought of theatre as my career, realising that I needed to learn new skills and gain different knowledge was a real challenge, especially because a lot of my peers were people who had studied science for a lot longer than me. Despite the anxiety I had about this, I gained a distinction in my Masters, which assured me that I am qualified for the job I now have!*

What do you value most and why?

I value the supportive team I have around me, both in my job and in the environmental community as a whole. The climate crisis gives people a lot of anxiety, so it's really important to have support from each other.

What advice would you give to your younger self?

To follow your passions, even if your passions change as you get older!

**Lucy Allis, MA Sustainability Studies
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REWIND

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

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A TALL STORY

We have been incredibly lucky to catch up with former student and entrepreneur Matt Dixon. Matt attended Tadcaster Grammar School from 2006 - 2014.

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

School was always a tricky one. Because I loved parts of it. Seeing friends and having a laugh at lunch and then some classes were great. I used to really enjoy the creative classes such as D.T, Graphics, Art and Business but when it came to the more core classes such as Maths and the Sciences, although I did well in all my subjects I never particularly enjoyed them. But I think that's ok really as it helped focus my goals on the areas I did enjoy as well as building the life lesson of doing a job properly even if you don't particularly enjoy it. My favourite memory and its a bit of a daft one, was Mr Watson in English never smiled, or not around me anyway. But me and a class mate did a project which involved re-enacting a poem in a dramatic fashion where we opted to speak in American accents. It was the first and only time I saw Mr Watson crack a smile!

What path did you take on leaving school?

I always felt that school advisers were pushing students to go to university or further education to build their understanding of the world before they tackled a real life job. But for me I knew I wanted to be my own boss and would work harder to build something myself than working for anyone. It was never an idea that Head of Sixth Form at the time Mr Carr supported too strongly I am afraid to say but I had some good teachers, Miss Laidlaw (Business) Miss Thomas (Business) and Miss Elliott (Graphics) who all encouraged that idea and gave me the extra bit of confidence



to go out and take on the challenge. Working for yourself certainly isn't easy and most definitely wasn't the

end of my education. I am learning new things everyday and coming across new challenges that I have to overcome. But I always feel a huge sense of achievement when I work through these

and a plan comes together.

When I left school I didn't know exactly what business I wanted to go into but knew I wanted it to be something to do with interiors and art. So for the first couple of years after leaving school I began by buying and selling antiques, learning from mistakes and focussing my ideas on the sort of business I wanted to develop. I studied two online university courses in my spare time in Interior design and Photography. Because these were subjects I had a strong passion for, it made the learning very easy and I took a huge amount away from these to help form my company.

At the very beginning on my 18th birthday I was given £1000 from my mum and dad to spend as I wanted. Instead of buying a car I decided to invest the money in antique pieces and thus the addiction was born. Over the last 8 years I have pushed myself to build an interior design company that specialises in supplying antique furniture and artwork to private clients and Interior projects around the UK. I was a bit of an anomaly in the antiques world

entering it at the age of 19! Especially when most other people were 50 plus. This got me recognised and through the use of social media and other online tools I was able to build a good reputation for buying and selling quality unusual items.

I started out simply storing furniture in my mum and dads' garage! Safe to say they were relieved when I found my first storage building situated in an 18th century stables. This age appropriate backdrop allowed my items to stand out and helped continue to build my online presence. After four years in addition to the stables I also rented a 40ft container and very soon after had to rent a second one to store all of my stock as I had started buying furniture from all over Europe which would arrive every few months on a lorry. At times it made for some very hard days lifting tonnes of furniture but I loved it. The big job was



then to sell that quantity of furniture before I headed back out on the hunt which at times left me extremely tight for money. In the end though it worked out very well as a little under two years ago I opened my first physical showroom in an old chapel in the market town of Malton. The timing couldn't have been worse however as within three weeks of opening the doors we had to close them again for the first lockdown! Safe to say we felt that we had planned for everything but a global pandemic was not on that list!

I was extremely nervous about what this would mean for my business and it humbled me in a way I never expected. From a business that was constantly developing over six years this was the first time I was at a point where I was totally out of control and financially stretched more than I had ever been before. Thankfully however my online presence that I had built over the years, was busier than ever and with everyone stuck at home this meant people were looking at home improvements. With antiques being more popular than ever for their quality, sustainability and their unique nature it meant thankfully TallBoy interiors continued to grow and we knew the shop would be there when life returned to normal, but for the moment online was working well so I focussed all my time on that.

The most recent stages of my business have been within the last twelve months, I have taken on a 4000sqft warehouse in addition to the showroom in Malton, which is also doing well now we can actually open the doors! My fiancé has started working with me to help build my second business TallBoy Home, which is all about creating and sourcing modern homewares for all interiors, upholstery which we offer on all of our pieces as well as for clients and hopefully, in the not too distant future, we will be looking to produce our own range of furniture. All inspired by traditional designs and methods of construction as well as being sustainable and made right here in the UK.

I love what I do so I know that I will never have any regrets on the choices I made from school, because no matter how successful the business is, it is my passion and it is what gets me up on a morning



TallBoy interiors which is all about putting antique and mid century furniture into homes across the country to make the interiors unique and personal to those that live there. Spending time travelling, seeing new people, new places, amazing buildings and handling incredible furniture were the main attractions of the business and it hasn't disappointed. I get to hunt for stock in privately owned country estates and the thrill of not knowing what I am going to find makes me feel a bit like a modern day treasure hunter!

Who was/is your greatest mentor?

Genuinely my family. I never looked up to a celebrity or another person that I wanted to emulate. I looked to my family who have had great careers in their chosen professions but they all had challenges in life to overcome but they got on and worked through them to come out better at the other side. That value was instilled in me from an early age even if they didn't realise it. My Grandma P would allow me to be creative doing artwork and not getting down if it didn't quite turn out right. Her constant support and opinions on everything my Sunday football league when I was younger to my business today is always welcomed. My Grandad D worked on projects with me in his garage and would go with any idea I came up with. My Grandma D showed me how to care for others and gave me the moral compass to always do the right thing, and my parents showed me it was ok to turn away from convention and have conviction when going for something. They were there for every idea I have had and yes sometimes they would share their opinions which may result in raised voices but it was always love and care that motivated their views.

What are you proudest of in your career?

I am most proud of the fact that I have created a successful business while staying local to Tadcaster and keeping relationships with my closest friends and my Fiancé who I have been with since the



first year of sixth form. I literally have no regrets and all the decisions I have ever made have been two fold, to build my business but also to keep me happy. Cliché maybe but there is no point doing something if you aren't happy doing it.

What do you value most and why?

I suppose I value most my freedom. I know that I am the only one to blame if something goes wrong but for the same token I know it is purely down to me to make something happen which gives me great motivation. The fact I am my own boss, although not giving me a huge amount of free time means I can manage my time to make the most out of life, be it being with friends, going on holiday or just having a cosy day at home with Geena and our puppy.

What advice would you give to your younger self?

Do the best you can at school to give yourself as many opportunities as possible in life but don't fret if it doesn't all go your way as life is what you make it. Also have the conviction to go out there and do what you love. Don't do what others expect of you and trust in your own ideas.

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REWIND

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

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MY DREAM CAREER

Here we catch up with former student Conor McGilligan who attended Tadcaster from 2005 - 2012.

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

I did enjoy school, I would probably say that my favourite memory was captaining the school football team for a fair few years, that was pretty special.

What path did you take on leaving school?

On leaving Tadcaster I went to Sheffield University to study as a PE teacher, but later realised that it wasn't for me. I was lucky to go travelling, after saving up some money, which was a fantastic experience and something I would highly recommend if you are able to do it. I later did a Masters in Broadcast Journalism so I could find my dream career.

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

I am now a Multimedia Editor for Leeds United Live. I started a YouTube channel and saw the job advertised and thought, yeah, that looks like it would be ideal for



What are you proudest of in your career?

Separate to my career I started a YouTube channel when I was travelling in Australia. I picked up my phone, put it on a dodgy table and started talking into a camera about Leeds United. Three years later I am nearly at 20,000 subscribers. I've had some incredible opportunities, interviewing ex-players, and meeting managers along with travelling.

What do you value most and why?

I'd have to say my family, they are always there for advice and help. There have been points where I have questioned what I have been doing.



They have always offered me reassurance and guidance, which I am hugely grateful for.

What advice would you give to your younger self?

Goodness, where do I start? STOP WORRYING. Everything happens for a reason, cliché, but it's true. I'd also encourage my younger self to not care about what others think. If it was up to me, I would have started my YouTube channel in Year 10! But I was too scared about what my mates thought.

Also, I'd have listened more in Spanish, when you travel and see the world you really appreciate different cultures. You have free education, use it wisely.

me, and It is and I love it.

Who was/is your greatest mentor?

I'd have to say my parents, they're incredible and have always supported me.



BE EXAM READY

We have been lucky to welcome Richard McCann into school to talk to students, ahead of their GCSE exams. Richards mother Wilma became the first victim of Peter Sutcliffe, The Yorkshire Ripper. Richard came to talk to Year 10 and 11 students about resilience, believing in themselves and overcoming obstacles in life as they take the next steps in their educational journey.

Here are nine things students could be doing to become 'Exam Ready'; always remember it's the small extras that add up and make all the difference to help improve performance.

The recommended revision time equates to 3-5 hours revision per day, with weekends off!

1. Pick up a revision planner and use time well.
 2. Attend school every day and if you are struggling, speak to a teacher or other member of staff.
 3. Attend some extra lunchtime and/or after school sessions.
 4. Ask for more feedback from teachers to make sure you are "getting it" and improving!
 5. Record subject/target areas and stick to them.
 6. Visit the 'KS4 One Stop Shop' on the school website and use the subject tabs for advice.
 7. Visit useful revision websites and use existing revision notes! Getrevising.com
 8. Use time well in school- especially Life Skills lessons
 9. Take regular breaks from revision and have things to look forward to.
- There are daily Extra Sessions available for students at lunch time and after School.
- The AC/DC club is in the ILC every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 3.05pm- 4.45pm giving an opportunity to do private study, and get support and advice from Miss Naylor, Mr Fox.