

Newsletter

December 2015

As we approach the end of term and look forward to Christmas there is much to celebrate. We have had an incredibly busy term and when I look back I am amazed at how much we have been able to fit in. I hope this newsletter gives you a taster of many of the activities and events in which our students have been involved. In late September we welcomed many visitors to school for our first ever Family Morning. Our aim was to show case all the activities that students can enjoy beyond the classroom. The idea came from the School Council who were instrumental in designing and running the morning. The success of this new venture is a great reflection of the work the School Council are doing under Mrs Longhurst's careful oversight and direction.

Many will know that on 23 September we received a no-notice behaviour inspection from Ofsted. My letter to parents a few weeks ago highlighted the very many positive comments made by the inspector – the full report is now available on the website. My greatest pleasure was that the inspector discovered what we already know – that students at THS are generous, welcoming, articulate and very well behaved, showing a respect for each other and everyone in the THS community. The inspector's decision that the school remains 'Outstanding' for its 'Behaviour and Safety' (Ofsted judgement) is one of which I am very proud.

It was a great privilege to welcome last year's Year 11 to our Awards evening to celebrate their GCSE successes. As we begin to receive data which compares THS's GCSE results to those of other schools nationally we are even more delighted with our outcomes. Our 5A*-C including English and Maths result of 63% in 2015 places us well within the top 25% of schools in Norfolk and, nationally, our results are recognised as being 'significantly above' those of similar schools. On page 4 you will find a much fuller account of the Awards evening and a list of all our prize winners.

Our 6th Form goes from strength to strength – the new Year 12 have settled in very quickly and are enjoying the freedoms and responsibilities of Sixth Form life. We were very pleased that 8 students applied to be Head Boy and Head Girl. After considering written applications and undertaking interviews we were able to announce that the two positions have gone to Callum Perry and Talia Adams, both in Year 12. Callum and Talia are pictured here with members of year 9 celebrating our Ofsted success.



At the end of this term I hand over the headship of THS to Carol Dallas. We are all really looking forward to welcoming Carol and know that the school will go from strength to strength under her leadership. It has been an immense privilege to be headteacher for the past 18 months. I want to thank staff, students and parents for their kindness and generosity towards me and I am looking forward to returning to being Deputy headteacher in 2016.

May I wish you all a very happy and restful Christmas.

Engineering Visit

On Thursday 12th November, Mr Housden took a small group of Year 10 students (Ellen Doughty, Jack Woodbridge, Charlie Neville and Callum Baring) to Aquaterra. Aquaterra is a company that designs oil rigs for other companies that extract oil from offshore areas. There are many processes that a design will have to go through before it's made and sent out to sea to extract oil and natural gas.

The morning was all about introducing us to the sort of jobs we could do when we are older, and explaining what Aquaterra do in each stage of production of one of their structures. Some of the jobs that we were told about included structural engineer, design engineer, computer simulation engineer, ship crew, diver and many more. One of the structures that they have designed is in the sea now weighing about 300 tonnes and has three stories. The company then went on to show us the brief of a model of how they would install one of the structures, as well as explaining a few of the hazards and potential problems associated with it. One of the problems could be dropping a nut or bolt inside the hole that had been drilled to put the structure in to extract the oil or natural gas or, when drilling, having the drill bit break which would cost millions to sort out.



At the end of the presentation there was a competition between the two schools to see who was best at flying a remote controlled helicopter and landing it on a helipad on the oil rig model. All students took part including teachers from both schools. The winner was Callum Baring.

Overall it was an enjoyable and educational day that benefited me as I would like to become an engineer, and gave more more information about the career I am looking to go into.

MFL 'Stars'

Every half term MFL staff nominate students to be included on our 'MFL Stars' board. Reasons for nominations include making valuable contributions in lessons, demonstrating resilience, consistently producing outstanding homework and helping others in the class. This half term we have nominated the following students for recognition:

Miss Curran: Ewan Dalgliesh, Bethany Barber, Macey Utting, Jessica Williams, Jack Arnold, Fenella Davidson, Joe Chapman, Hazel Mhlanga, Georgia Wilkinson, Jack Bardwell, Georgia Cushion.

Mrs Gerrard: Harry Kidd, Chloe Denton, Honor Reilly, Harry Wilson, Katie Goldsmith, Portia Collins, Alicia Howell, Matthew Nudds.

Ms. Havunen: Georgia Baker, Olivia Roper, Emily Harpham-Wells, Cieran Rhodes.

Mrs Freeman: Joel Tuddenham, Sacha Chapman, Yasmine Lowe, Charlie Williamson, Morgan Unsworth, Trey Cornwell, Jade Causton.

Mrs Brook: Lucy Nudds, Jack Jones, Claudia Martinez, Charlie Williamson, Isabel Gibbs, Charlie Wooden, Emily George.

Mrs Turner: Coreen Thornhill, Anisha Brown, Abigail Sexton, Lauren Syder.

Miss Dimarco: Jessica Mayhew, Josh Page, Caitlin Green, Emily Broom, Freya Sheeran, Frankie Allen, Laini Dekeyzer, Lilly Snelling, Samira Mirza, Holly turner, Molly Boast, Alex Edmunds.

Congratulations and keep up the good work!

THS Teachers' Run Norwich'!

During the summer holidays Mrs Gerrard, Ms Skarin and Mrs Freeman all took part in the first ever 'Run Norwich' 10k event. It was their first attempt at running a 10k race but all three completed the course with respectable times. Money was raised for Nelson's Journey and for an autism support dog to be trained.

Languages Leadership Programme

The Languages Department are pleased to launch the languages leadership programme for our current Year 10 linguists. The students had to apply for a position and I am pleased to announce that Daniel Lake, Lee Allsop, Alex Parsons, Olivia Gowing, Lauren Fuller, Rebecca Maxim, Molly Craig and Georgianna Lacey-Scane were successful applicants. They are currently working hard on their first project which is to teach Christmas vocabulary to some Year 7 classes in the last week of term.

Engineering Club

In engineering club we have just finished our hand-made pen project and our photo clip project. This process has taken us approximately half a term and we have enjoyed every minute of it. During this process we have been using a variety of tools and technology within the DT block. The next project that we have started is our main project for the year; we are making a pedal car. This will be a slightly longer project than some of our others but will most certainly be our best yet. We began by harvesting useful components from two unwanted bikes that were generously donated. Our next step within this project will be to split into groups that will deal with a main component each, for example, chassis, brakes and steering to name a few.

"I enjoy making my own products outside of my normal DT lessons." – (Daisy Dalrymple Year 7)

"I think that engineering club is fun and we get to make cool things like a pedal car". (Keinan Barber Year 8)

"I think that engineering club is great because I get to make interesting products alongside my friends". (Charlie Annison Year 9)



Graphics Trip



Year 10, 12 & 13 Graphics trip to Norwich University of The Arts on 2nd November.

We were the first group of people to be shown around the newly developed Architecture school at Norwich University of The Arts.

The students described the trip as being "inspirational".

Mr Mitchell is now building links with local and national design companies and universities.

Icing on the cake!

On December 1st, Year 10 Food and Nutrition students finished their Christmas cakes. After baking the cake a few days before, students translated their original designs into spectacular iced wonders. An enjoyable and creative time was had by all.



Creative Writing Competition Winners

During Book Week the English Department held a creative writing competition with the topic: Every picture tells a story. We are pleased to announce the winners: Oliver Gray in year 7 for his story about a school made of cheese; Bethany Arend in year 8 for her description of a snowy Christmas scene; and Hestia Linford-Allen in year 9 who wrote a very original story from the point of view of an ancient cave painting. Congratulations to all three.

Theatre Visit

On the 3rd of December a group of staff and pupils went to the Theatre Royal to watch a performance of An Inspector Calls. This was a dramatic production of a GCSE exam text and the theatre was packed with young people. Despite some 6th formers never having read the text, we were all engaged with the production and the Year 11s present felt that seeing the play would help considerably with their work in class. This was a thoroughly enjoyable night out and a good time was had by all.

Thanks to Ms Amis for organising the tickets and to all parents/guardians who acted as taxis.

Mrs Prochera/Mrs Barber

Celebration of Achievements Evening November 2015

It was a great joy to welcome back to THS the 'Class of 2015' and to share in their successes along with their parents and families, staff past and present, Governors and our Guest Speaker, James Korolus. James was a student at THS and achieved excellent GCSE and A Level results before heading off to University College London to study Economics. He graduated with a First Class Honours degree and is now working as a Finance Forensic Investigator. James reminded our students that no challenge in life is too great as long as we are committed to finding solutions and the way through and that, although school days bring fantastic memories, life in the future can and will be just as good; there is so much to look forward to. Mr Taylor had put together an engaging programme of photos, spoke warmly of all his happy memories of the year group and then invited Mrs Garwood, our Chair of Governors, and James to present the certificates, awards and trophies. Tutor Groups were back together for one last time and all had to be photographed at the impromptu photo booth.

The results of this group of students were impressive. 34 Certificates were awarded to students who gained 6 or more A or A* grades at GCSE: amazing! Jack Bardwell was our overall Achievement winner this year; he achieved 7A* and 3 A grades at GCSE and Distinction* for ECDL. The sporting success of this year group had already been celebrated at our Sports Award evening - it was a pleasure to award the Contribution to Sport Shield to Jack Stubbs for his commitment to football, cricket and American football including refereeing within the school and wider community. Leila Touhami was awarded the Performing Arts trophy for her outstanding work in Music and Drama and Bronwyn Sellick was the worthy winner of the MFL Trophy. The Jarvis Award is given to students who make excellent academic progress irrespective of ability and have made a significant contribution to school life. This year the trophy is shared by Talia Adams and Hollie Sheppard, both of whom achieved excellent GCSE results, but also gave so much to the school through their leadership in the PE department and their involvement in gymnastics coaching. The Jope Cup is the oldest cup in the school awarded for outstanding service to the THS community and, this year, this prestigious award was made to Callum Perry who has been a quite outstanding ambassador for the school over so many years as well as being involved in charity and community work within the local area.

Mrs Plater



Achievement Winners 2015

Subject	Achievement	Effort
Maths	Matthew Hazelwood	Charlotte Bargeman
English	Callum Sutch	Lewis Hastings
Biology	Matthew Hazelwood	Jack Stubbs
Chemistry	Bronwyn Sellick	Elizabeth Penwill
Physics	Kate Dallas	George Bennett
Double Science	Jack Bardwell	Harrison White
French	Jack Bardwell	
German	Erin Guyton	
Spanish	Charlotte Wilson	
Business Studies	Lewis Goodall	
Economics	Callum Sutch	
Engineering	Harley Gowen	
Electronics	Joe Clarke	
Graphics	Fern Attoe	
Food Technology	Kiril Stefanov	
Child Development	Annabel Brown	
Philosophy & Ethics	Jack Bardwell	
Resistant Materials	Lewis Hastings	
Art	Esther Harvey	
Drama	Callum Perry	
Music	Charlotte Greenace	
Geography	Owen Gooch	
History	Camilla Weston	
PE	Georgia Sutton	
ICT	Toby Bardwell	
Attendance	Camilla Weston	
Jarvis	Talia Adams & Hollie Shepherd	
Jope	Callum Perry	
Effort & Progress	Chanel Twiddy	
Service to Sport	Jack Stubbs	
Contribution to MFL	Bronwyn Sellick	
Performing Arts	Leila Touhami	
Academic Achievement	Jack Bardwell	



Sixth Form

Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to Matthew Long in Year 13, who sadly passed away on 12th November. Earlier this year Matt was diagnosed with Lymphoma and began a long period of successive rounds of chemotherapy at Addenbrooks Hospital in Cambridge. Earlier this term it became clear that his treatment had been unsuccessful, upon which he returned home to Norwich. Matt faced the seriousness of his illness with a level of bravery and good humour which belied his years. His contributions to musical events whilst at Taverham were memorable, and he was a popular and well liked member of the school community and the Sixth Form in particular. The school won't be the same without him. He will always be missed and never forgotten. He leaves a brother, Jason, who is in his final year at the University of Keele and we wish him every success.

In other matters year 12 students have settled in well, and numbers in the sixth form have further grown as several students who started at alternative providers made the decision to return to Taverham. Mock examinations take place for both year 12 and 13 early in the Spring term before we invite parents in to discuss progress. Several students have now started a basketball club which meets Monday lunchtimes, and if any other students would like to form a club or society they should speak to either their Head of Year or me as soon as possible.

Year 13 students are in the midst of UCAS and applications and researching apprenticeships. We are pleased to report a record number of 'early' applications for Oxbridge and undergraduate courses in medicine and dentistry. Mrs. Painter (Head of Year 13) has worked tirelessly to organise mock interviews with admissions tutors and feedback on personal statements to support our students. The final deadline for applications to be received by UCAS is 15th January but students must have their applications completed before this deadline to allow tutor references to be added.

The window for applications to Year 12 in September 2016 is now open and will remain so until early into next term. We have had a good number of applications so far, including applications from students currently in year 11 in a number of local schools. I would urge students considering Taverham Sixth Form for September 2016 to submit their applications as soon as possible in order for interviews to start early next year. If students find certain subject combinations are not possible, due to the current blocking structure, please could they also add this to the application. If it is possible to change subject blocks to accommodate clashes I will do so.

Finally I would like to formally announce the appointment of the Head Boy and Head Girl for 2015-2016. Callum Perry has been appointed Head Boy and Talia Adams as Head Girl. I am sure these two students are already known to most of the school due to their involvement in extra-curricular events. Talia and Callum will now start working within the Sixth Form and School Councils, and will soon be speaking to all students in assembly about how to make the most out of their time in school.

Paul Rapley

K.A.V.E

As we enter into our second academic year of the KAVE (kinaesthetic, auditory, visual education) programme the cave has gone through yet another transformation. It started life as a woodland cave covered in green camouflage, turned into an underwater cave with its very own resident puffer fish and has now become a space cave! We are expecting an Alien invasion any day!

The KAVE has been designed to help our students with their creative writing and over the Autumn Term we will be introducing Slow Writing (based on Didau's creative writing ideas). The students will be encouraged to climb inside the cave to help them describe what they can see, hear, feel, smell and touch. Using this new technique, the students are expected to open each sentence in a different way and use a variety of sentence structures, initially with support from prompt cards, to ensure that their writing is interesting and creative. Many schools have adopted this approach and they report that, once these techniques have become engrained, the students then apply the same skills to all of their literacy based subjects across the school.



Sportshall Athletics

On Wednesday 2nd December our Year 8 mixed indoor athletics team competed in the Norfolk Schools Partnership event, held at Taverham High after school. The event was made up of 4 teams, to include Reepham, Hellesdon and Neatherd. All competitors had to complete in a carousel of field events, as well as track events and relays. A very strong team of Sports leaders from our own Year 10 cohort took charge and helped organise and lead each activity, offering encouragement and support to all competitors. The atmosphere was a very positive and fun place to be, demonstrating high levels of performance. This resulted in our Year 8 Girls team coming 1st in the competition and securing a place at the county finals next term. Equally our boy's team put in a very solid performance coming in 3rd place, meaning overall we came 2nd in the competition. Massive congratulations to our team of enthusiastic athletes and a huge thank you to our reliable and efficient Sports Leaders. Year 7's have their competition next week on Thursday 10th December so we hope for a repeated successful performance at their event.



THS Talent Show

The pupils at THS revealed their hidden talents last week for the annual Talent Show. The 17 acts involved were put through their paces during the auditions which culminated in being shortlisted for the Talent Show. The wide variety of acts included a comedian, gymnastics, dance, singing and live music. All of the performers worked extremely hard and deserve recognition for their efforts during the evening.

The show was well received with great performances from all of the acts leaving the judging panel, made up of staff and students, with a very challenging task to decide who would emerge victorious. This year, three acts tied on points leaving the judges to confer and decide who would be this year's overall winner. After a few minutes of discussion Joel Childs was announced the overall winner of the Talent Show with his 'rocking' performance of 'Sweet Child 'O' Mine' on electric guitar. When Joel was awarded the trophy and asked how he felt about winning Joel commented 'I'm ecstatic'.

Our pupil comperes provided great entertainment on the evening and conducted the show in a professional manner that rival Ant and Dec. The pupils who took part demonstrated commitment to purposeful practice sharing their talents with the audience and providing good all round entertainment. I would like to thank everyone involved in helping to make this year's Talent Show such a success congratulating everyone who took part, both on stage and behind the scenes to make the night happen.



The evening concluded with a tribute to Matthew Long who was last year's winner of the Talent Show. Many of you will know that, very sadly, Matthew Long died a few weeks ago. Matthew was a lively, talented pupil who gave so much to THS especially through his involvement in Music. Matthew performed in numerous concerts, over the years, and was a true showman. On the evening Matthew's peers made a fitting video montage of his memorable performance highlights from last year's show with confetti cannons firing off at key moments in tribute to what had become known as 'The Matthew Long Experience'. I thank everyone who supported the show and donated generously on the evening with all the proceedings going to the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Mr Timbers (Head of Music)



UK Senior Maths Team Challenge

On the 24th November, four sixth form students, two from year 12 (William Card and Matthew Hazelwood) and two from year 13 (Luke Edmunds and Thomas Munt) took part in the Senior Maths Team Challenge at CNS. Over 20 schools took part in the competition, with schools coming from across the region to compete. Throughout the competition participants are only allowed to use a pen and paper (no calculators allowed!). The maths competition involved three different rounds: the group round, the cross-number round and the relay round.

The group round involves answering 10 difficult questions in 40 minutes, with the 10 questions being split between the team of four.

Both the cross-number and relay rounds involve the group splitting into pairs to work on questions. A cross-number involves solving across and down clues to complete the puzzle (just like you would with a crossword); they are given 40 minutes to complete it. Some of the clues can only be answered once other clues have been completed. The relay involves solving questions quickly, with four questions to be answered in just eight minutes (with bonus points available if they are solved within six minutes). Questions can only be solved once the answer from the previous question is known.

The team came a respectable 14th with the score of 109/180 being a marked improvement on the previous year. The event was an enjoyable experience, with the maths being challenging and interesting and everyone working well as a team. Hopefully next year the school will continue its upward curve of results in the competition, with some of this year's budding year 11 mathematicians getting their first opportunity to have a go at the competition.

Luke Edmunds 6E

Maths - Kangaroos??

There were so many kangaroos. Red kangaroos; grey kangaroos; two thousand and fifteen in total, all lined up in a perfect pattern. Intimidation tactics - it was horrifying. This was the terror of the UKMT senior maths challenge's kangaroo round, the second round of questions. All of the year thirteen further maths class tackled the first round, achieving excellent results all around. However, I was the only person in the group to scrape a score high enough to get into the next round, with at least one other individual only barely missing out.

The competition consisted of a set of complex, difficult mathematics problems that each candidate had an hour and a half to answer. At the end of the time allotted, everyone filled in their answer on a multiple-choice sheet that definitely didn't make it any easier. Each of the twenty-five questions in the first round had a different twist that made them separate from a normal A-level question. An example is one of the first questions; we had to realise that a set of straight lines referenced had infinite length in both directions otherwise the question was impossible. To make things more challenging, nobody was allowed to use a calculator. In one question, I tried (and failed) to find the square root of a ten-digit number. As it turns out there was a much easier way to solve that one.

Round two stepped it up a notch further. In this dreaded sequel, things got stupid. The contexts of several questions were some ridiculous scenarios only a child could dream up, albeit with a mathematical spin on them. Alongside the aforementioned army of kangaroos, there was a queue of twenty-five people who were all either completely honest or disgusting liars. Entrants had to calculate how many liars there were based on what they all said. There were a lot of areas of maths brought together in each question, making it hard to spot the right route through to get each answer. Additionally, this part wasn't even multiple-choice.

Overall, it was great fun and I really enjoyed it. It was a challenging but welcomed set of exams that I would highly recommend to anybody hoping to carry on with maths in any way after sixth form. I'd also recommend it to anybody who maybe isn't planning on doing that but enjoys maths nonetheless and ends up taking further maths at A-level. I'd love to attempt this trial again. 10/10

Daniel Jervis, 6T

Congratulations to James Morrison

At the Broadland Community Heart Awards ceremony in October we were delighted to learn that James Morrison (yr 9) was recognised with the prestigious award of 'Young Person of the Year' in honour of all he contributes to his family and the community despite some challenging medical conditions. Well done James

Youth Female Triathlete of the Year

On Saturday 28th November I was lucky enough to be awarded Youth Female Triathlete of the Year from my triathlon club, Tri-Anglia. Over the course of the season, since May when I did my first race racing against adults, I have competed in six different races, including one long distance running race in Barcelona and five triathlons which were a mixture of pool based and open water swimming including one relay triathlon in Nottingham. I won my age group in three of the five triathlons in my regional races. In order to complete and compete in my races a bit of training had to be done. I train up to 5 times a week, doing two open water swim training sessions (in the summer), two pool training sessions, 1-2 running sessions and one cycling. I not only compete in my triathlons but I volunteer for the club and help out at many events I also support my friends and family at different races across Europe.



Abbie Willett Year 11

World Maths Day returns!

After a gap of nearly 2 years, World Maths Day returned in October. We in the Maths Department have missed it. This year over 6 Million students joined worldwide from over 20,000 schools in 159 different countries. Globally they raised enough money to help Unicef send 33,000 disadvantaged students to school.

World Maths Day is the world's largest education event where children, aged 4-18, compete in real time against other children from around the world playing mental arithmetic games online. World Maths Day encourages children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to have a go at Maths in a fun, interactive and accessible way. The philosophy behind World Maths Day is to get children around the world as excited about Maths as they are about sport.

Some of our pupils practised and competed at a very high standard. Here are a few of our best competitors:

Zoe Barber, Year 9, came top in four different levels. She managed an amazing top score of 85 questions answered correctly in 1 minute. Year 7 pupil Brooke Abbott came top in two levels. Her equal first place with Zoe on Level 5 was excellent. The girls didn't take on the 1st positions – Hayden Sutch in Year 9 achieved over 50 correct answers at Level 3. Emily Thurtell and Guy Nevard, from Year 8, both deserve a mention for their participation and high scores.

As you can see from the table below, our pupils at THS exceeded both the National and World averages. Well done to all who participated.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
School Top Score	85	51	51	41	32	24	16	13
	Zoe Barber	Zoe Barber	Hayden Sutch	Brooke Abbott	Zoe Barber & Brooke Abbott	Zoe Barber	Laura Flower	Laura Flower
National Average	31	22	19	11	6	3	2	1
World Average	37	26	22	14	8	3	2	1

The Maths Department

Sports Leadership

Being a sports leader has already provided lots of opportunities and enjoyment this year, ranging from helping out at sports clubs in and out of school, to events held at Taverham High. On Wednesday 2nd December, the Sports Leaders helped host the year 8 indoor athletics event, by measuring, counting and timing different events, and then announcing the winners at the end. We worked with pupils from 3 other high schools, encouraging and supporting them during the event. This event was not only enjoyable for the year 8s, but for the sports leaders as well. As sports leaders, we have also been given the opportunity to attend the Norfolk Young Coaches Academy training day, which will help us progress as leaders, and improve our confidence.

Chloe Newman and Hollie Howes

THS Expeditions

What is a school expedition? It is definitely NOT “just a holiday”. Yes, we will have fun; we will do and see enjoyable things. However, an expedition involves a lot of hard work, challenges, team work and contributing to others.

How long is a school expedition? It is not just 3-and-a-bit weeks in an exotic country off the tourist trail. It is 18 months to 2 years of planning, fund raising, preparing and training – to ensure we get the most out of the opportunity. It will involve regular meetings, group development days, fund raising activities both as individuals and groups. It will also include a 3 day training weekend where you will get the chance to practice skills like camping, cooking, trekking, navigating, purchasing supplies, managing budgets, team leading, assessing and managing risks – as well as many other skills that may be useful to you in future life.

Shouldn't students be focusing on their GCSEs and 'A' levels? Well yes – but that is why we launch expeditions 18 months to 2 years in advance. That gives students at least 15 months to plan, prepare, raise their funds, have their jobs and sort out passports and visas before focusing all their attention, for at least 3 months, on revision and preparing for exams.

Surely it costs too much for 'ordinary' families to afford? We don't think so. Many of our past 'expeditioners' have raised 100% of the funds themselves – without relying on the 'bank of Mum and Dad'! If students have the desire to take part they will find a way of raising the money. The Expedition Company and School Staff have a wealth of experience and a plethora of ideas for fundraising, earning money and hitting the financial targets. We will do our best to help you throughout – but we won't (indeed can't) do it all for you.

Expedition 2016

Ecuador & Galapagos

We are well down the road to planning and preparing for this fantastic opportunity. We have our team, we have had numerous meetings and much of the funds have been raised. It is not too late to join – you have just made it really hard by restricting the time you have to prepare and raise funds.

Expedition 2017

Botswana & Zambia

We have recently launched the 2017 Expedition to Year 10s and Year 12s. We have a fantastic itinerary to Botswana and Zambia which includes visiting the World famous Victoria Falls. It also includes trekking in the Kalahari Desert and the Zambesi River Gorge, wildlife safaris to the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park – the best place in Africa to see wild elephants – and a week long project building homes for elderly, disabled or other disadvantaged people in a remote Zambian village. Oh, and then there is 'white water rafting' and a 'meet the elephants' experience.

We already have a team of a dozen or so students signed up for this. There is still plenty of time to join this Expedition. Things are just beginning to really get under way with development meetings every half term – this will help with planning, fundraising ideas and finding out about the country, its customs and what we might do. Don't forget, it is your expedition; you will lead most of the activities from planning, to booking and budgeting. If you are interested in joining us please speak to Mr Philp or Mrs Robbins.



Expedition 2015

Morocco

If you want to know what an expedition is really like – read the report of our Morocco 2015 Expedition on the School website (/ Enrichment / THS Expeditions).

The report tells a little of the excitement and thrills, the highs and lows, and the things we learned and experienced. It tells of the contributions we made to those less fortunate than us, the challenges we encountered – emotionally as well as physically, and the friends we made.

Just think, it could be you next time.

Classical Studies

The Year 11 GCSE Classical Studies group has been involved in two trips this term. We visited the castle at Colchester to look at the legacy of the Romans and, more recently, we visited Caistor St Edmunds to look at the Roman remains there. These visits are vital for our pupils to gain first hand experience of the sites and evidence in order to develop their understanding of the GCSE topics.



Classical Studies group 8L1 have been working hard to produce some fantastic collages in the style of the artist Sarah Fanelli. Pupils have dug deep at home to bring in some resources in order to make the lesson a success. We have also had the help of Year 11 Art Leaders who provided the templates for the collages. Their work will be on display in the atrium during the spring term.



Criminology Conference

On Wednesday 25th November 6th form sociology students headed to London for the Phillip Allen Events annual Criminology Conference at the Emmanuel Centre, Westminster.

After a minibus journey evaluating other people's driving on the M11, we arrived in Stratford for the tube journey to Westminster. The tube journey was quick and delightful. Once we arrived we walked to the Emmanuel Centre to settle in our front row seats.

We had the opportunity to listen to lectures from criminology experts from universities around the UK and a convicted murderer with a 99 year sentence talk about his experiences in prison. Talks included recent terrorism, crime myths, whether prison works or not, prison conditions and London Riots. Students were encouraged to get involved using the hashtag #crimcon and use platforms such as 'socrative' to give our views on modern day crime prevention and reform methods. Dr Micheal Fiddler showed us how people in prison may feel watched even though they aren't by making students stand in a large circle around the auditorium and raise their hand if they felt they were being watched (demonstrating the idea behind a panopticon), which included the majority of the Taverham students.



Following the conference, we walked back through central London at dusk with tour guide Kieran where we took a group selfie in front of Westminster Abbey. We had a little free time at Westfield Shopping Centre to indulge in some shop-til-you-droppin' and munching on McDonalds – shout out to Kieran for the vouchers!

Overall, the experience contributed greatly to our understanding of criminology and crime and deviance, which will undoubtedly reflect our achievements in our exams next year!

Kieran, Lauren, Amy and Sophie.

Anti Bullying Week 16 Nov – 20 Nov 2015

The Elf Team ran a competition with each of the Year 7 forms promoting Anti Bullying Week. They completed an activity around raising awareness which was then displayed to the rest of the school. Judging was completed by Mrs Plater and Head of Year Miss Buffini who awarded chocolates to the winning form 7V.



Year 7 Lunch Club

The Year 7's have been meeting weekly on a Wednesday lunchtime accompanied by two of the Elf Team, Miss Buffini and staff from Ace.

This is a chance to build positive friendships, get to know people better and support each other. The students involved really enjoy eating together and are looking forward to a Christmas meal.



Shakespeare Schools Festival 2015

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the pupils, parents and staff that attended the year 11 performance of Othello at The Playhouse on October the 12th. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, our production was one of 4 abridged plays performed at the venue on that night as part of a nationwide festival celebrating the work of our most famous playwright. The cast worked to a tight rehearsal schedule and their dedication really paid off on the night.

I am extremely proud of their efforts. Next year marks 400 years since the great man's death and the festival will be part of a series of events at The Globe, Stratford upon Avon and major BBC productions to be televised throughout 2016.

I am looking forward to taking part in the festival next year as it is such a positive way to kick start the autumn term.



End of Term Reminders for Parents and Students

Please can all parents and carers ensure that any new **uniform** purchased over the Christmas holidays conforms to the school's uniform regulations, especially checking that girls' trousers are plain black and tailored, not skinny fit or in a jeans or canvas-type material. Shoes should be plain black and polishable.

If students are delivered to school or picked up by car, parents are reminded that all **drop-offs and pick-ups** should be off the school site.

Now that the mornings and evenings are very dark all students who **cycle** to and from school should have lights with them. We would also encourage them to have some sort of reflective or high-vis garment to wear to ensure they are seen by other road users. Students walking to and from school should take great care, too.

Staff Updates

As we approach the end of another term we have a few staff who are leaving us for new areas of work. Kirsten Watkins, one of our Science technicians, has received a promotion to be the Senior Science Technician at the Hewett Academy.

Bryony Bushrod, Victoria Marriott and Emily Hardy, all LSAs, are both moving on to new areas of work. Bryony will take up a position at Taverham Hall School, Emily is moving into work with pre-school children and Victoria is to be a Teaching Assistant in an Infant School.

We wish them well and send our very best wishes.

Our congratulations go to Mrs Robertson on the birth of her baby daughter, Nora, to Mr Boulter on the birth of his second daughter, Tilly, and to Mr Blowers on the birth of his son, Teddy. All are doing well. Mrs Burgess returns from her maternity leave after Christmas.

