

# Newsletter

## March 2016

Dear Parents, Students and Carers

I would like to thank you all for the very warm welcome I have received since my arrival at Taverham High School. It has been such a pleasure to get to know your families and, if I have not had the opportunity to converse with you yet, then I hope to do so in the near future.

As you are aware we had a visit from Ofsted on Tuesday 15th March. They were very grateful to the parents who completed the Parent View Survey and were impressed by our students. The report will be available in the next 14 days and we are looking forward to the outcome.

We were extremely pleased to receive, in February, a letter from Nick Gibb MP, the School's Minister, congratulating the school on being in the top 100 non-selective state-funded schools showing the greatest sustained improvement. I must again commend Mrs Plater, the leadership team and staff for all their hard work last year during a time of transition for the school. We are very optimistic that this trend will continue and the school will grow from strength to strength.

Looking back, it has been a very vibrant and inspiring term with trips to Germany, London and the UEA. I particularly enjoyed the Ragfest which, we are delighted to report, raised £ 10,327.84 . Congratulations to everyone concerned.

Year 11, 12 and 13 have been completing their final pieces of controlled assessment and should be now fully immersed in their revision for the summer exams. We were delighted to be able to transform the staffroom into a Sixth Form Work Area, to give our students an excellent facility for independent study. Students applying to university are now receiving offers; we have been very proud of the quality offers received from Universities and for those seeking alternative vocational pathways. The university offers include many from Russell Group universities in prestigious subjects, including medicine. This really demonstrates that the changes that have been implemented to sixth form guidance and support is starting to really impact on the students' future life chances.

Our work with students in local primary schools continues: we were delighted to welcome Kinsale Junior School pupils to The Garden and I have been very fortunate to visit Drayton and Taverham Junior Schools and meet some of our future Taverham Scholars.

Next term I hope to provide some opportunities for parents to come into school to share some of the developments that we are working on as a leadership team. I am also very conscious that many parents would value some advice and support on internet safety, the new assessment process at key stage 3 and ways to support our children to have a positive mental health; again I hope we will be able to provide this.

I wish you all a very pleasant Easter break

Carol Dallas  
Headteacher

## RagFest 2016

RagFest 2016 was a triumph at THS! Thanks to the involvement of all members of the school and many in the wider community, we were able to honour our pledge to the Teenage Cancer Trust and over £10,000 has been raised in total. This is an incredible achievement and could only have been realised through the imagination and hard work of everyone involved.

The Sixth Form took the lead in kickstarting the momentum for RagFest: the early arrival of the wristbands quickly meant all knew that there would be a festival atmosphere to the week. From netball and dodgeball tournaments and Zumba classes to 'guess the number of sweets in a jar' and 'share the love', many main school Tutor Groups got fully involved. The Sixth Form Tutor Groups took the lead at the lunchtime Market Stalls and shared each lunchtime with a special event. Wednesday and Friday were especially significant as Mrs Kingsley, Mr Taylor, Callum Perry and Tom Birch all agreed to have their heads shaved. We welcomed the local wheelchair basketball team to school on Tuesday and they remained with us all afternoon so that visitors from Taverham and Drayton Junior Schools could try their skills in a wheelchair before they joined us for the judging of the THS Bake Off! The competition for this year's Bake Off was even more intense than last year – teachers and students created the most delicious 'bakes' and it was left to the judging of Richard Bainbridge (of Benedict's Restaurant), Jeanne Webb (WI and former THS member of staff) and Chris from The Kitchenery to make the difficult decision as to whom this year's winners might be. Mrs Longhurst with Yr 12 student, Nick Gabriel, won the accolade!

Thursday evening saw nearly 200 students, staff and parents battle it out to be the winning Quiz and Chips Team. Thanks to the superb organisation by Mr Timbers and his group of Yr 11 and 6th Form musicians, the evening ran effortlessly. Mr Boulter was a revelation as a Quiz Master! Sixth Formers provided 'mocktails' and the jazz group entertained us during supper. Great fun was had by all.

The week culminated in a Festival Gig with the highlight being the staff band's performance of 70's hits – to see Mr Rapley, Mr Eastick, Mr Timbers and Mr Boulter in their tight 1970's lycra sporting huge beards was quite a sight. The female lead singers included Mrs Buckingham ably supported by her group of backing singers and dancers! Finally, when all was over we asked Mrs Kingsley to pull the winning tickets for the Prize Draw marking the end of a fantastic week.

The success of RagFest was very much down to the hard work and planning of Mrs Painter, Mrs Longhurst, Mrs Warwick and Mr Timbers. Our thanks go to them and to absolutely everyone who has supported us in any way, including local shops and companies who donated raffle prizes and other goodies for various stalls and The Café.

We are now looking forward to being able to hand over the cheque to the Teenage Cancer Trust as our support of the amazing work they continue to do at Addenbrooke's hospital. The amount raised is a great tribute to Matthew Long and we dedicate the success of RagFest week to his memory.

See us on Mustard TV <http://www.mustardtv.co.uk/browse/in-memory-of-matthew-norfolk-school-unites-for-fundraising-tribute-to-former-student/>



## Harry Potter Night (at lunch-time)

This was an international event, which we celebrated in the library in February. Students and staff put on the Sorting Hat to be put into the Hogwarts Houses and the cries were palpable whenever Gryffindor was selected, especially when our own Harry was selected for Gryffindor.

Various activities took place, from making eggs float with 'Wingardium Leviosa', creating messages with homemade invisible ink and creating a gas to inflate balloons. Wand dueling was hugely successful, with students selecting a spell or enchantment from the hat to perform, whilst their peers judged the best performance. With over sixty students taking part, we are already in discussion as to what we can create for the next Harry Potter Night.



## Epilepsy Awareness Month

I am a person just like you...

In the shadows of day and night.

In my darkness I must fight.

I will not hang my head in shame, coz this is no kind of game.

When I seizure please don't freak.

Just stay calm and take a seat.

Please do your bit to be a friend.

Try to lend a helping hand.

If you would time me and place me on my side.

Stay by me and the event will subside.

Under 5 should be no trouble, if in doubt call for a double.

Yes I have epilepsy this is true.

But it won't stop me from the things I love to do, for I am a person just like you.

By, Katie Carruth

## MFL News

AS and A2 French and Spanish students went to the UEA to take part in a Language day. Jack Bardwell (Yr 12) said: 'I took part in the AS French speaking revision day and it was nerve-racking to start with as I was on my own but the first ice-breaker activity helped me to meet new people and I even made a new friend. Throughout the day we spoke only in French and went through the AS topics. I found this day really beneficial and it helped me gain a lot of confidence in my speaking ability. It helped me to realise that I am better than I thought!'

Georgina Cushion & Freya Watson (Yr 13): 'We were put into groups and did an intensive oral practice as preparation for the A2 speaking exam. The day was spent with under graduate French students who helped with complex grammar structures and perfecting the skills necessary for success in exam situations. The day was very successful and enjoyable, especially lunch!'

### Year 10 Language Leaders

On Thursday 10th March Olivia Gowing and I taught our group of GCSE students 20 minutes of a German lesson. In this time Olivia and I helped our group to revise by giving one student a list of words, each word with a different amount of points. One student proceeded to make a paragraph of as many points as possible. The class total was 186. This meant that every student got a positive because they got over 150 points. After that the group played a game of bingo based on the German subjects. The winners were Hannah Arman, Hannah Carr and Matthew Samuels. Although the lesson did not go exactly to plan I am sure the students enjoyed the lesson. Alex Parsons

## **UEA School Games Sportshall Athletics**

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Over two days our year 9 and 10 sports leaders and year 7 boys and year 8 girl athletes attended the UEA for the finals of the School Games Sportshall indoor athletics.

Tuesday saw our strong team of sports leaders, officiating and leading the primary students in a range of track and field events. The leaders demonstrated a mature and enthusiastic approach and it was great to see them working well together and encouraging all students competing in the event. Some of our sports leaders even plucked up the courage to dress up as big grizzly bears and went into the crowd to interact with the younger students, waving, dancing and 'high fiving' them. Just when we thought it was all over, the bears then had to compete in their very own sprinting race; this was very funny and the primary students loved it. Well done all!!!!

Sports leaders: Hollie Howes, Beth Alexander, Hannah Bush, Olivia Rope, Chloe Newman , James Greenacre, Karl Brock, Thomas Connolly , Jack Woodbridge , Aedan Oliver , Jordan Forbes, Jack Muskett, Caitlin Pamment, Ellie Craig, Jasmin Snelling, Connor Hunter, Ben Yallop, Zoe Barber, Katie Goldsmith and Laura Flower.

Lewis Ross, from Year 7, was in the finals of the schools games table tennis. He represented the West Norwich and Dereham district along with students from the area. He played extremely well and demonstrated some phenomenal talent. Lewis, having lost only very few games, secured himself a very respectful 7th place. The standard was very high, but Lewis made each of his opposition work hard and placed them under pressure. Well done Lewis!

The Wednesday saw our very own talented year 7 boys and year 8 girls athletics team represent the West Norwich and Dereham partnership in the finals. We were part of the partnership along with Hellesdon High. The students mixed well and the support and encouragement from both schools was fantastic, each and every athlete cheered and roared in every event, spurring on their team mates. All athletes competed extremely well and gave it their all, resulting in some super scores. The outstanding talent led to our year 7 boys securing joint 2nd place, receiving their silver medals, and the girls achieving a solid 4th place. Great work teams and lets prepare for next year!

The athletics team; Caitlin Fox, Alice Ward, Georgia Baker, Charlotte Bull, Anisha Ahuja, Beth Arrand, Evie Atkinson, Alana Boyd, Denzel Musabayana, Josh Knights, Josh Page, Luke Fox, Max Hardy, Jacob Myhil, Danny Adams and Ryan Forbes.

Overall both days were a great success and fantastic days out. Well done to all who took part.

## **Schools Games Swimming Gala**

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Congratulations to Sam Ross (year 9) and Maisie Easter (year 8) for qualifying for the finals of the School Games swimming gala. Sam and Maisie competed at the UEA on Wednesday 2nd March for the West Norwich and Dereham partnership, along with students from other local schools. Maisie achieved an amazing 1st place in her events working extremely hard and putting forward her best performance, demonstrating her advanced swimming strokes. Sam also achieved a fantastic 3rd place, again working extremely hard and giving everything he had. The pair were part of a very successful partnership, which meant that the West Norwich and Dereham squad came 1st overall. What an absolutely talented team of swimmers who thoroughly deserved the win. Well done Maisie and Sam!

## **Netball League Finals**

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Congratulations to the U13, U15 and U16 netball teams on getting through to the Norwich League finals. Each team has been competing against several different schools in the league, but our three select teams are now competing in the finals. The standard from all our teams has been fantastic and all the girls have worked hard, attending training twice a week and showing great team spirit. Well done all.

## **Annual Netball Tournament**

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Huge congratulations to our U15 netball team for coming 3rd in the annual district netball tournament for their age group. It was a long afternoon with 11 teams entered so 10 games to play. Norwich High School were the winning team and Langley the runners up with us following closely in 3rd position. The girls all played fantastically and showed a true level of dedication and competition with a gracious level of sportsmanship. I am sure, with the same level of commitment and sportsmanship next year, this team will continue to achieve great results.

The team included: Chloe Newman, Bethany Alexander, Hannah Bush, Hannah Yallop, Gemma Hampton, Amelia Attoe and Emily Macleod.

## Year 8 Handball

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The famous Taverham Handball competition this year has been yet another great success. Well done to each form group for engaging and competing every lunch time in the inter-form tournament. The level of handball has been very high; it has been superb to see every single form mixing, supporting and helping each other, on and off the court. A massive well done goes to forms S, M, T and E for securing a place in the finals. However, our winning team was form M, 2nd position went to E, 3rd to S and T gained 4th. Regardless, the level of handball from all has been very high.

Also, thank you to all the staff that have come down and helped, supported and team managed. The atmosphere in the sports hall every lunch has been buzzing!! Lastly, again a massive thank you to all the sports leaders who have been reliable, knowledgeable and refereed every game to a good standard. Roll on next year!

## Football

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The year 10 A football team have reached the final of the U15 County Cup after beating Reepham High School in the semi-final 3-2. Two goals from Jack Muskett and a single goal from Owen Dearden won the tie. The team are also unbeaten in the league after 4 competitive fixtures and have a quarter final in the City Cup to look forward against Sprowston High School.

The U14 girl's football team continue to impress as the season nears its end. Having already reached the last 32 in the National Cup, the girls have now reached the final of the County Cup after a comprehensive 5-0 victory over Sprowston in the semi final. Goals from Tiegan Robinson (23 for the season), Maya Lawlor, Abbie Cushion and Georgia Baker (plus 1 o.g.) saw us comfortably home. They now await the winners of either Thorpe St Andrew or Flegg High, either of whom could prove to be tough opponents. As well as displaying a high level of performance, the team also plays the game in the right spirit making fixtures an enjoyable experience. It is also worth mentioning that 8 of the team also represent the school in the Year 9 boys 'C' league, such is their talent.

## Year 11 Football

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We are possibly heading for our most successful year as a team. This year our year 11's have won 2, drawn 1, losing 3. Although this does not sound very successful we are looking to win more games this season than any in the past. The boys have never let me down always managing to get a full team out. Even though they have not been a successful team in winning terms they have always played with a smile on their faces, playing the games in the sporting manner in which school football should be played. Well done gents; one game to go let's hope we finish with a win!

## Students To Grow Seeds From Space!

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THS will be one of up to 10,000 schools to receive a packet of 100 seeds from space which they will grow alongside seeds that haven't been to space and measure the differences over seven weeks

We will be studying the effects of zero gravity on seedling development. We are expecting the seeds to arrive in mid April to be planted the second week back after Easter. Miss Smith's form 7R will be monitoring the growth daily but the seedlings and monitoring display will be visible to all pupils who are taught in S2.

## Student Success

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On the 17th January, I entered a competition at the Eastern Shotokan Karate Association (ESKA). It was a KATA (a sequence of moves) competition. I entered the three events open to me which were Individual Kata (Heian), Individual favorite Kata (Tokui) and team Kata (3 people synchronized movement). I received gold in all three events and as I had the most golds on the day for an individual competitor. I also received competitor of the day.

Shannon Marment 7V



## Kinsale Junior School Gardening Afternoon

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As a school we were really pleased to welcome a group of 15 Year 5 students to Taverham High School. The focus of the afternoon was around using Trevyn's Garden, supporting the Year 5s with an outdoor learning experience. The children were involved in a range of activities including pond dipping for mini beasts. All the children were fascinated by what they found wriggling about in their nets & surprised to see so much life; they planted plants which will enable them to see the life cycle of a butterfly and made bug hotels to take back to school. Students were supported in the garden by 3 of our Elf Team. Everyone's Listening Friend is our peer coaching project where older students help and support younger children in the school. There were also 2 students who were from Year 7 & 2 from Year 13 helping with the afternoon.



The Kinsale children thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon – rating it a 9/10. We look forward to the next group coming to visit!

## German Assistant

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Since the start of the Spring term, we have been very lucky to have another German assistant in the MFL department. Kirsten Schaefer is currently studying to become a teacher in Germany and has been working with students to improve their German. She has made a huge difference especially with the GCSE and A-level students who have seen big improvements in their ability and achievement and she has also made lots of resources which will be used by all staff in the department to enable us to continue her good work for years to come. Kirsten was previously a student at the Gymnasium am Turmhof, our partner school in Mechernich and accompanied our exchange trip to visit the school in March. She has been a great asset to the department and we will be sorry to see her leave.

Thank you Kirsten!

## German Exchange

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The German exchange took place from 7th – 13th March, to mark the 33rd year of the partnership between Taverham High and the Gymnasium am Turmhof, Mechernich. Thirty-eight students and four members of staff took part and all had a fantastic time. Pupils were matched with an exchange partner and lived with a host family for the whole week, spending the days either at school or on day trips, including visiting a science and adventure museum and visiting Bonn.

'The skills and understanding I gained from the trip were amazing. It really helped improve my German. Additionally, the teachers were kind and were there if you needed them. The families who accommodated us were really kind and would help you with your German if you were stuck.' David Horrobin, Year 8.

'I would definitely go again next year, and would recommend it to others.' Ben Spencer, Year 8.

'The German exchange was a great experience that gave us an amazing opportunity to embrace German culture. We were able to create many memories, experiencing German food, academic life and speaking German.' Chloe, Abbigail, Sam, Emily and Hannah, Year 10.

'The German exchange 2016 was an incredible experience.' Morgan, Year 8

'If anyone intends to do GCSE German, this is not a trip to miss.' Megan, Year 8.

Well done to all of the pupils who went on the trip and thank you to the staff who accompanied them – Miss Curran, Mr Timbers, Miss Ash and Kirsten Schaefer, our language assistant. The trip was a huge success and we are looking forward to the return visit in June – watch this space!

Mrs Gerrard

## Will Clarke - England Trials

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For me this was a great experience, giving me the opportunity to express and develop my skills and knowledge about the wonderful game of Football. I knew that I had to be on my game, listen intently and give a good account of myself. I knew this was a great opportunity for me to play for England. Approximately 2 weeks later I found out that I had been accepted into the next phase.



## Academic Enrichment

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Since half term members of the sixth form and years 10 and 11 have been enjoying talks by visiting university academics. The first was by UEA researcher Leo Sitia. He spoke about his work on antibiotic resistance and the fight against 'superbugs'. The talk was fascinating, giving an insight into the process of initial laboratory-based medical research and the new field of nano particles. The following week Nathalie Thurston – a lecturer in PE at the UEA – gave an invaluable talk to students considering higher education and employment in PE. She explained the different paths that students could take and the targets that they should be setting themselves to access the most prestigious courses: all the students left inspired. This Friday (11th March) we will be visited by Dr Lawrence Napper who lectures in Film Studies at King's College London; he will speak about what universities are looking for in UCAS applications and what it is like studying film at a highly respected institution. There will be one more visitor, after Easter; Dr Doug Cowie from Royal Holloway University of London will be talking about studying Creative Writing. He will also be giving a special session to the AS Creative Writing group after school.

## MFL 'Stars'

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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: Joshua Knights, Reece Quinn, Maddy Lynchy, Matthew Pearce, Tommy Stone, Ellie Vicary, Louis Wakefield, Abbie Cushion, Brandon Allen, Wesley Nkala.

Mrs Freeman: Max Kelly, Hannah Morris-Jones, Yasmine Lowe, Hannah Holm, Elle O'Donoghoe, Hannah Yallop, Georgina Moore.

Ms. Havunen: Hannah Freeman, Tommy Toth, Jessica Howard, Hazel Mhlanga.

Mrs Gerrard: Ethan Lawrence, Sophie Weatherly, James Burrows, Ben Spencer, Ellie Sparkes, Claudia Martinez, Oliver Bool, Tom Gamson, Lauren Fuller.

Mrs Brook: Sam Forster, Ben Faulks, Billy Harvey, Tyler Mills, Harry Stanger, Caitlyn Fox.

Mrs Turner: Eli Ellis, Jack Jones, Harry Wilson.

Miss Dimarco: Lydia cooper, Lewis Makin, Katie Doughty, Elise Cooper, Ethan Jones.

Congratulations and keep up the good work!

## Media Students visit to Warner Bros Studios

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On Tuesday 12th January a group of Media Studies muggles from years 12 and 13 visited the Harry Potter Experience at Warner Bros Studios.

Students explored iconic sets used in the Harry Potter series while sampling Chocolate Frogs and (non-alcoholic) Butterbeer. It was incredible to witness the scale and craftsmanship that went into the creating some of the most recognizable and fantastical props and settings; from the great hall of Hogwarts to the Hogwarts Express, Diagon Alley and the array of flying Quidditch brooms.



Students left the studios with plenty of ideas and inspiration for their own upcoming media productions and hopefully a greater understanding of the many roles and possibilities open to those who study and wish to work in the media industry in the future.

## Reminders

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Parents and carers are reminded that students should not be dropped off or picked up from the school site. The site is very crowded and additional cars make it a hazard for all pedestrians. If dropping off in Beech Avenue please can drivers be very aware of other road users: bikes, cars and pedestrians.

## Cyclists

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We always want to encourage cycling but would ask that parents regularly remind students about safe cycling. Local residents sometimes tell us that THS students are cycling in large groups down busy roads when they should be single file. Similarly, some are cycling on pavements creating a danger for pedestrians. If cycling in the dark, please ensure that high visibility clothing is worn and lights are used. Finally, we would encourage all to wear a helmet.

## Engineering Club

We have made great progress in making our full sized pedal car. To make sure we can overcome any problems whilst making the pedal car we decided to make a model of it. Over the weeks, we have started to make this model; each member focussing on a different process of the model. By creating a model we will be able to create the full-scale version with ease and without wasting any materials. Over the term more people have joined engineering club which has made problem solving easier and difficult issues have been solved. We hope to finish this model soon and start to make the full sized model.



## ZOMBIE CSI

With Zombies being a current popular theme in fiction (and teacher's enjoying a challenge during Rag



Week), students were alerted to the possibility of a zombie virus affecting adults in school and asked to be on the lookout for symptoms. These ranged from headaches and forgetfulness to clumsiness and disorientation. Reports of teachers' symptoms came into the library and we were able to narrow down the victims to those most often suspected. Our science technicians prepared samples of 'blood' to test for the zombie virus. We were surprised to see both



Mr Rainbird and Mrs Barker had the virus and the student

scientists needed to check the antidote samples and deliver the correct antidote to the teachers, or they would not have a pleasant half-term holiday. Bernie Theobald and Lizzie Jepp did an excellent job, assisted by Leo Dixon and our teachers have survived the outbreak!

Parent Support  
Adviser (PSA)

Working in partnership with



Parenting can be hard and sometimes things can get tough. As a parent/carer you want what is best for your child.

As your Parent Support Adviser I am here, to listen and support your family to deal with issues or concerns you may be facing. I may not have all the answers but together we can explore ways forward.

A Parent Support Adviser can:

Meet to talk where you feel most comfortable

Help you see what you are doing well as a parent

Give you hints and tips about general parenting issues

Find Services and other Agencies available to help you and your family

Aid and encourage good attendance

Foster positive relationships between home and school

my contact details are:

Lynsey Butterfield

07884 653267

[lynsey.butterfield@benjaminfoundation.co.uk](mailto:lynsey.butterfield@benjaminfoundation.co.uk)

### Dates

3pm Thursday 25 March:	Term ends
8.25am Monday 11 April:	Summer Term begins
4 – 7pm Thursday 14 April:	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Monday 2 May:	Bank Holiday Monday (school closed)
30 May – 3 June:	Half term

