

Newsletter

September 2015

Welcome!

As we start a new school year it has been a joy to welcome new Year 7 and Year 12 students along with a number into other year groups. We hope that all feel settled and part of the THS community very quickly. The Pastoral and ACE teams are always available to those who are feeling a little unsure in these early days.

We also welcome new staff into the following departments:

Dr Cormack, Mr Patterson and Mr Taylor-Lawrence: English

Mr Davis, Mr Vaudin and Miss Smith: Science

Miss Dimarco and Ms Havunen: MFL

Miss Spinks: Maths

Miss Thornton: PE

Miss Truman: Humanities

Mr Willis: Music

Mrs Flaherty: Business studies (to cover Mrs Robertson's maternity leave)

Student teachers: Mr Kendrick Eriksen (Science), Miss Adams (Music), Miss McGuire (MFL)

THS Family Morning and Open Evening

We are delighted to be able to invite all families to school on Saturday 19 September 10-12pm to our first ever Family Morning. The idea came from our School Council who, with other students in the school, have driven the planning. The Family Morning will complement our Open Evening on Monday 5 October 6.30 – 8.30pm.

The Family Morning will show case many of the activities that students can get involved in outside the classroom often taken from a student's perspective. There will be interactive activities in which younger children will be able to get involved. We welcome all families to the morning, especially those with children in years 5 and 6, even if they do not live in our immediate area.

Open Evening is our annual opportunity for staff and students to open the school to all considering THS as their choice for High School. If you have a son/daughter who would like to be involved in the evening please encourage them to do so and to bring home a permission letter for signing. Again, we welcome all to our Open Evening from Taverham, Drayton, Thorpe Marriott and beyond.

Mrs Dallas, who will be starting as Headteacher in January, will be with us for both events.

Our New Caterers

I hope you have heard that we have a new catering company called VIVE: it is an exciting new venture! The menu is changed, the look of the dining hall and service areas have been much improved, ingredients are fresh and locally sourced and the prices are competitive. In the near future an outside Kiosk is to be installed where students will be able to buy sandwiches, snacks and drinks. We are hoping that we will soon have a cashless system in place which will make buying from VIVE even easier. Sixth formers can now visit VIVE throughout the day and enjoy a coffee while they work, taking advantage of WiFi in the Dining Hall. The staff were lucky enough to experience a 'full service' during one of our training days and enjoyed the meal immensely. Please take the opportunity of visiting VIVE during the Family Morning and Open Evening.

Examination Results 2015: A Levels and GCSEs

Both GCSE and A Level results days were a cause for great celebration at Taverham High School. Our Year 13 students were the first group to be taught at the independent Taverham Sixth Form. As a pioneering cohort they have been exceptional – their involvement in school life has enriched our community and they have shown themselves as role models for the whole school. It is thanks to their initiative that we had our first very successful RAG week in February with nearly £4000 sent to charity. Sixth Formers have helped younger students as mentors and have been fully involved in the music and sport of the school. The Sixth Form prides itself on recognising students as individuals, and giving the support, challenge and guidance they need to progress to the next stage of their lives whether it is employment, training or higher education. Nearly 70% of A level results were at A*-C (including over 30% at A*-B grade) and this means that all our students, who have chosen to go to university, have secured a place at a number of leading universities including Russell Group Universities. Others have gained places in training, employment and apprenticeship programmes. Many students have committed themselves to returning to school to discuss their choices with younger members of the school.



At GCSE the trend of improvement continues – 62% of students secured the crucial 5A*-C grades, including English and Maths. There were some exceptional performances – 33 students achieved 6 or more A* and A grades and nearly all students are now qualified to move onto the next planned stage of their education whether it be here at THS in the Sixth Form or at other colleges of training. On results day both staff and students gathered in anticipation. As ever, the day was full of many smiles, much laughter and a few tears of relief!

German Language Assistant

The Modern Languages department would like to welcome our new German assistant, Clara Busch, who is currently working with all year groups. She has settled in fantastically and all of the pupils are thoroughly enjoying working and practising their German with her.

German Club

A new German club is starting on 23rd September. It will allow anyone interested to find out more about Germany and to enjoy different aspects of German culture and everyday life, including activities, songs, games and sometimes even food! There will also be lots of help on hand if students want to improve their German or ask for help about some homework. It will be run on Wednesday lunchtimes by Clara, Mrs McGuire and Mrs Gerrard in F5 – students from all year groups are welcome!

THS European Week of Languages

To celebrate this year's European Day of Languages the MFL department are going one better and will be offering a full week of exciting opportunities! From Monday 28th September, students will have the chance to try their hand at a new language (Swedish, Russian, Dutch, Italian, Finnish), sample some tasty Italian and Spanish food and take part in a variety of other language/European culture based activities.

There will also be a cultural project competition, details of which will be available soon in assemblies and form tutor time. We look forward to welcoming students to the sessions.

Congratulations to.....

Harley Gowan: The Arkwright Scholarship

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust is a registered charity that administers the most prestigious scholarship scheme of its type in the UK.

“We identify, inspire and nurture future leaders in Engineering and Technical (as opposed to aesthetic) Design. We do this by awarding Arkwright Engineering Scholarships, through a rigorous selection process, to high-calibre students in year 11. Our Engineering Scholarships support students through their A Levels and encourage students to pursue Engineering or technical Design at university or through a higher-level apprenticeship and to take up careers in the field.”

Last year Harley Gowan, a THS Engineering student in Year 11, applied for a scholarship from the Arkwright Scholarship Trust to support his engineering studies. He successfully passed an aptitude exam and was subsequently invited to attend an interview, in which the panel were very impressed with Harley’s work and attitude.

Congratulations to Harley for passing the Arkwright interview and being a Recommended Candidate, a considerable accolade in its own right and showing that he has the potential for a future career as a leader in Engineering or Technical Design.



Teigan Forster and Max Threadwell in 8R and Shannon Marment and Jadzia Molloy in 7V

These four students have been selected to represent England and the Traditional Shotokan Karate UK at the 23rd SKDUN World Shotokan Karate Championships in Serbia in October. Quite an achievement!

Communication with parents/carers

In order to improve the effectiveness in that way that we communicate, we are planning to use the website and Progresso for as much communication with home as possible. Only essential correspondence will be sent home in school bags.

Our website contains a News and Events listing; this is regularly updated with information about the many exciting things that happen in school.

We are now on Twitter ([@TaverhamHigh](#)).

Parents can locate the link to this via the front page of our website. Here you will be alerted to all up and coming events, Newsletters, information that has been posted on the website, and updates on achievements of people in the THS community. The Newsletter is issued twice a term.

Where a reply is required, hard copies of letters will still be sent home to parents. A notification that such a letter is in students’ bags will usually be given via the Twitter feed. If you have not already done so, please arrange with the school office for a Progresso log-in; in this way parents/carers can keep abreast of their children’s progress including access to reports. It is our intention that an email link will be up and running, through Progresso, in the not too distant future. Many thanks for your continuing support of THS.

Clubs taking place in the Library:

Monday	Homework Club	15:00 – 16:30
Tuesday	Chatterbooks	12:55 – 13:15
	Homework Club	15:00 – 16:30
Wednesday	Graphics Club (creating comics)	12:55 – 13:15
	Homework Club	15:00 – 16:30
Thursday	Homework Club	15:00 – 16:30
Friday	Board Games	Lunchtime
	Crafty Club	15:00 – 16:00

Coming Soon...

8th October - Poetry Picnic for National Poetry day.

12-16th October THS Book Week - ‘Every Picture Tells A Story’

Shakespeare Schools Festival 2015

I am delighted to announce that Taverham High School will once again be participating in the Shakespeare Schools Festival this autumn. It is a huge event with over 35,000 performers taking part at theatre venues across the country. This will be the fourth time our school has attended and our chosen play this year is Othello.



The festival gives students the chance to perform an abridged version of the bards work on a theatre stage to an audience. Part of this unique experience is the opportunity for the students to attend an actor's workshop at the performance venue, enabling them to gain an insight into the mechanics of live theatre.



As this article is going to press our year 11 students are working hard, attending regular rehearsals in preparation for our big night which takes place on October 12th at the Playhouse Norwich.

Tickets are available from the box office. Hope to see you all there. Kate Cornish Head of Drama

English News

It has been an exciting start to the year in the English Department.

Firstly, congratulations and a thank you must go to Year 7 for their enthusiasm in their entry assessments. New Year 7 English groups will be announced soon!

September has seen the start of the new GCSE English curriculum and there are some exciting and challenging activities and tasks ahead for Year 10 as they embark on their journeys to GCSE success – why not challenge yourself and aim for grade 9, as the A* grade will be now known.

Year 11 have started working towards completing their final controlled assessments and are striding towards preparing for their GCSE exams. Remember to make a note of all dates for controlled assessments in order to prepare as much in advance as possible.

In KS3 for Years 7, 8 and 9 we are now using the new 'assessment without levels.' Students will receive their new assessment grids from their English teachers and will work with staff to chart their progress, working towards progress that is secure, exceptional and beyond.

Budding novelists of Taverham! Dr Cormack has set up Creative Writing Club. If you have an idea ready to flow, or are simply interested in experimenting with creative writing then don't miss this opportunity. Years 7,8,9,10 will have their club on Tuesday 3pm-4pm, whilst Years 11, 12 and 13 are invited on Mondays from 3pm-4pm. If you are interested please see Dr. Cormack in E6.

Finally, the English department are pleased to announce that we have some amazing trips to the Theatre Royal lined up for students this year. Year 11 will have the pleasure of An Inspector Calls and Year 7 and 8 will be able to get into the festive mood early on Tuesday 15th December whilst watching the Panto. Please see your English teacher for more information on up and coming Theatre trips.

If you have any suggestions for activities, texts or trips, it would be great to hear from you!

Reminders

Please can parents not drive onto the school site, either to drop off or pick up students, unless given permission to do so by the school. The site is very crowded and we do not have the capacity for extra parking.

We expect all students to be in the correct uniform. There are clear guidelines on the website and all students brought home letters last term reminding parents/carers of our expectations. One concern is that a few girls are purchasing trousers which are not tailored and hence are too tight around the ankles. Students will be asked to replace these trousers.

