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NEWSLETTER

No. 1 • APRIL 2014

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The imminent end of term is a time to reflect on all that has happened since January and this newsletter summarises some of the many events and achievements of our school community over the past weeks. I have been particularly delighted by the many occasions when our students have taken the lead and the increasing impact of the School Council. Our students are magnificent ambassadors for the school and the staff show incredible dedication, professionalism and expertise. We truly are a caring community.

Practice, Practice, Practice!

The importance of *practice, practice, practice* is uppermost in the minds of our Year 11, 12 and 13 students at the moment with GCSEs, AS and A2 exams just around the corner.

On this subject, I have been reading a fascinating book recently called *Bounce* by Matthew Syed. As it says in the blurb on the book, *"he debunks many cherished myths – that we can be born brilliant (and that child prodigies prove it); that we are restricted by our genetic make-up; and that social background matters."*

He argues instead that, *"it is practice, not talent, that holds the key to success."* How many times have we been tempted to say: *"I can't learn languages"* or, *"I can't do maths"* or, *"I'm no good at sport"*? This pessimism is often based upon nothing more than a few weeks or months of half-hearted effort. I'm sure there is something for all of us to learn from this!

And finally... spring seems to be here now, the clocks have gone forward and we are anticipating the warmth of summer. I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

FAREWELL...

...to two members of staff who are leaving this Easter. Miss Barnes (ICT teacher) who is re-locating and Mrs Munson (Data Manager) who is retiring after 14 years' service at THS. We wish them well for the future. We welcome new members of staff, Mr Rainbird (ICT), Mrs Taylor (Data Manager), Mrs Chamberlain (English Maternity Cover) and Mrs Duffield (Cover Manager).

STUDENT ILLNESS – A POLITE REMINDER

We are grateful to the overwhelming majority of parents and carers who make sensible decisions about whether their children are well enough to come into school. Occasionally, however, students arrive at school and are clearly not in a fit state to be here. This results in the office staff being asked to deal with illnesses and injuries that have occurred outside school and takes them away from their main responsibilities. Please support us in making sure that your son or daughter is fully fit before sending them to school. Thank you



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

On 4th February Mrs Skarin took a group of year 8s and 9s to the Forum in Norwich to visit the Anne Frank exhibition as part of Holocaust Memorial Day. This exhibition was about Anne Frank's life before the Holocaust. The exhibition was full of photos that Anne Frank's father, Otto Frank, who was a keen photographer, had taken over the years of his children growing up. Here is a short report from one of the students who attended:



The first photos were of Anne Frank's sister, Margot Frank, as a baby. The photos then took us through Margot's life. Further photos showed the life of Anne Frank from a baby to about eleven or twelve years old. There were some photos of the girls together, one of which was of the Frank sisters on the beach. This was my favourite.

The exhibition also included some replica pages of the diary that Anne Frank wrote and a few of her things. There were also a few short videos about young refugees in Norwich. I think I speak for all of us that went that we had a great time and learnt a lot from the exhibition.

TREVYN'S GARDEN

The Year 8 and 9 forms were invited to help clear the weeds from the vegetable and flower beds and do a general tidy up in the garden.



The art students have created some beautiful coloured boards which have gone up on the fence – they have made it look a lot brighter. A huge thank you goes out to all the students and staff who helped out. Without them Trevyn's garden would not have been ready for the Memorial Day on the 19th March. On the Memorial Day students were able to visit Trevyn's garden to pay their respects and

to lay flowers by Trevyn's bench. They left messages of remembrance, tying their friendship bags to the tree and arbour. The garden was a very peaceful setting for students to have quiet time to commemorate Trevyn's life.

We have been planting seeds indoors for the new crops for this season, including tomatoes, onions, peppers, aubergine, celeriac and courgettes. Miss Porter's lab has become a nursery with seed trays all around the room on the window sills. When the plants are strong enough and the weather is a bit warmer, the garden club members will plant them in the garden and greenhouse.

If you are interested in joining the garden club, see Mrs Killington or Miss Snelling (Science Technician) - everyone is welcome. It takes place on Thursdays from 3pm-4pm. We also treat you to drinks and snacks!

Did you know ... ?

Now you can use your school's library catalogue and internet links anywhere.

Every pupil at Taverham High now has their own username and password to get access to their personal library account. This is an excellent way to:



- keep up to date with your loans
- check when books need renewing or returning
- find out what to read next
- do homework using direct links to approved websites
- find out what is new
- get direct access through your smart phone
- find out how to email recommendations to the library
- review and recommend books to others
- use the online journals to support Year 11 and VI Form studies
- check what is available to borrow

It is really easy to access the catalogue through the link on the school's website. You will need to download Silverlight, if you have not already got it, to use at home.

Full details of how to use the library catalogue are on the school's website under **Latest News and Info**.

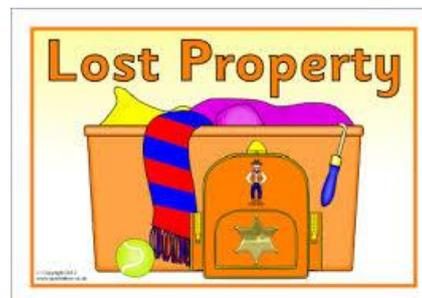
An 11-18 Academy



As we move out of the winter months and into spring, we are pleased to offer our new lunch menus. Commencing after the Easter break we will be offering great choices with lasagne, hunters chicken and stroganoff, as well as many other favourites. Also back by popular demand and with weather permitting, will be BBQ Wednesday. As last year this will be next to the tennis courts.

To find out more about our great menus please look on the THS website.

Please can you ensure that all items brought into school, i.e. coats, uniform, footwear, pencil cases, musical instruments, etc. are clearly named. If anything is then lost, the item can then be very quickly reunited with its owner.



ART STUDENTS TAKE TO THE AIR



Sixth Form art students took to the air to further their 'A/S' level exam preparation. Robyn Seabrook and Jordan Barnaby flew in a Cessna from Seething Airfield to take aerial photographs of the landscape. Despite the conditions being rather hazy, both have masses of information which they will use in their final art exam. Neither student has had this sort of experience before and although nervous, both enjoyed it. What's more neither needed the in-flight sick bags!

TAVERHAM ENTERPRISE TEAM WINS AWARD FOR £50 CHALLENGE

Tuesday 25th March saw two enterprise teams (one from Year 8 and one from Year 12) enter the final of the Norfolk Hospice £50 Challenge competition. Ten weeks prior, participating groups across the City were given £50 each and told to generate as much profit as they could using a range of enterprising ideas. We saw a whole host of activities at Taverham ranging from cake sales, through to made-to-order tie-dye t-shirts and speed stacking competitions. Collectively both groups were able to raise £193.91 in addition to the £50 start up money they received.



The competition final was held at The Start Up Lounge at City College where each group had to present to a panel of four judges all from industry. The presentation was also displayed in real time in the gallery where all other competing groups could watch. Before reaching a decision as to which team should win the competition, judges took into account not only how much money had been raised but also the business ideas and the entrepreneurial spirit of the groups. Both Taverham teams performed exceptionally well but our Year 8 team, 'Keep CALM and Raise Money' really blew the judges away and scooped up the second place award! This saw them coming home with a medal each and a trophy which is now proudly displayed in the trophy cabinet.

Huge congratulations to all pupils involved; they showed excellent team spirit and enthusiasm throughout. 'Keep CALM and Raise Money' are determined to enter the competition again next year: "We all had lots of fun and can't wait to do it again next year where we hope to bring home first place".

SHROPSHIRE NETBALL TRIP



I just want to say a huge thank-you to Ms Secker and Miss Buffini for their time, efforts and enthusiasm displayed during the Shropshire Netball Trip. With snow and rain forecast we were extremely lucky to have a lot of sunshine and only get caught in a couple of short rain showers! The girls didn't seem to mind the weather and they all really enjoyed themselves and had lots of fun participating in the activities and challenges.

We had a mixed result for the tournament. The standard of netball was really high this year. The two Y9 teams fought well together despite some players being less experienced, having not represented the school team. Team two made it to the semi-finals

whilst team 3 came last in their league, although spirits remained high. The Y8s played really well as a team, again with a few girls less experienced than others, and still managed to come home with the winners' trophy for the plate league.



On Wednesday 19th of March the ELF Team were available at the school disco held in memory of Trevyn. In such difficult circumstances, it was a lovely evening. The ELF Team sold little bags of friendship to raise money for

Nelsons Journey the organisation selected to receive money donated.

We were also available on hand for the Year 7 Progress Evening where we greeted and helped parents to find their way around the school and introduced them to the teachers.

We are shortly coming to the end of a very successful year working together as ELF's in and around the school. We hope that next year's team enjoy the experience as much as we all have. Year 9s will be able to apply to become part of next year's team after Easter.

The ELF Team



At THS, the safety of our students is a high priority. With over 1000 students arriving and leaving the site at the start and end of the school day, our aim is to minimise traffic movement on the school site at these times. This is why the sign on the school gates requests parents to not bring vehicles on site between 07:30 and 16:00.

The only exception to this are situations where student mobility issues necessitates them being collected as close to the school entrance as possible. We hope that you understand our reasons for requesting that in future, parents and carers make arrangements to collect students off school premises

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Across the Sixth Form thoughts are turning to the coming examinations, with AS exams starting just four weeks after Easter and A2 exams shortly thereafter. Most subjects are using past examination papers and mark schemes to help students develop writing style and exam technique.

Most Year 13 students have now had all their offers in from universities and are in the process of visiting universities and making firm and insurance choices. Some students will be completing their EPQ presentations after Easter and submitting their coursework for the additional AS level. The Sixth Form Prom has been booked for Drayton Old Lodge on Friday 27th June, and Taverham Year 13 students are also looking to hold a curry evening before they go on study leave. Year 13 students are also encouraged to join the THS Alumni group on Facebook where they can keep in touch with past and present students and find out about school events and job opportunities.

Year 12 students have had several presentations this term on themes ranging from road safety to university finance and mental health. Add to this psychology conventions, business competitions and a trip to Poland and it shows the range of opportunities on offer. In the summer term they will be attending a Higher Education Convention at the University of East Anglia, where universities from across the UK will be on hand to discuss courses and opportunities. I will also be offering a higher education evening to parents to discuss student finance and the whole area of applying to university. The Sixth Form Committee are also looking at a summer event for Year 12 students.

We are expecting a record number of students joining the Sixth Form from September 2014, including a number of students from schools across Norwich. We are bringing in a number of new A level subjects including Health and Social Care and Philosophy and Ethics and are launching a brand new Level 2 pathway. This is a one year course designed for students who achieve at least 2 GCSEs at grade D. Invitations for our induction days (30th June and 1st July) will be posted after Easter. These days are a chance for students to gain a better understanding of sixth form study and finish with a free barbecue where applicants can meet with current sixth form students and teaching staff.

I am currently finalising the sixth form curriculum from September so that all students can follow a programme of study appropriate to their ability and their aspirations. Mrs Longhurst and Mrs Robertson will be working with me on aspects of sixth form management and together we hope to be providing students with the best sixth form experience in Norfolk.

Paul Rapley

CLASSICAL STUDIES YEAR 8

Well done to 8LCL 4 and 8RCL4 for some very creative homework. The work has been produced within our scheme about mythology. Some pupils made medallions to commemorate modern flight as well as recalling some of the key points from the Daedalus and Icarus myth. Pupils have also produced some scrolls as part of their study of the Trojan War stories.



Taverham Students Remember the Holocaust



Every year in order to preserve the memories of the Holocaust, the Holocaust Educational Trust take sixth form students from around the UK to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau - the infamous Nazi labour and death camps during the Second World War. In February, students from Norfolk, including ourselves, took part in this "Lessons from Auschwitz Project".

The Holocaust Educational Trust is a registered charity in the UK, the aim of which is to "educate young people of every background about the Holocaust and the important lessons to be learned for today". The Trust ensured that the Holocaust was taught in schools as part of the national curriculum for History, so that the younger generation

remembers the atrocities committed during the Holocaust. The "Lessons from Auschwitz Project" takes this even further, allowing students to meet with survivors and hear first-hand accounts of what it was really like. Two sixth form students are selected from each sixth form/college, and around 150 students participate each time.

We attended an outreach seminar in London, briefing us on our project and our trip and we listened to a survivor from Hungary tell her story of Auschwitz. We met with the other students coming with us and our group educators. Our visit to Poland involved a visit to the town of Oświęcim, which the Germans called "Auschwitz". We saw the site of the former Great Synagogue and met with Rabbi Marcus, who would be accompanying us to the camps. We learned that, as a result of the Holocaust, the Jewish community had disappeared from the town, forever changing it. Only one Holocaust survivor returned to Oświęcim: Szymon Kluger. With his death in 2000, the old Jewish



community was brought to an end. We proceeded to the camps, learning about the atrocities committed against Jews, Gypsies, Roma, Sinti etc. At the end of the day, a service was led by Rabbi Marcus. We all laid candles at the monument, and poems, passages and prayers were read, solidifying this place in our memories. Throughout the day, one quote resonated in our minds: "Those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat it". At our Follow-Up seminar, we discussed how the visit had affected us, and we planned our Next Steps Project wherein we, in whichever way we choose, relay the lessons from Auschwitz and the Holocaust, ensuring that the memory lives on in the next generation. In completing the next steps, we will become ambassadors for the Holocaust Educational Trust.

It is our wish, as Ambassadors for the Holocaust Educational Trust, that the Holocaust never fades from peoples' memories, and the lessons from it are never lost.

Written by Rhys Daley and Sam Strowger, Sixth Form students at Taverham Sixth Form.

DT COMPETITION

On Friday 14th March, four students from years 8, 9 & 10 entered a DT competition at the Hewett School. The students were picked to participate in the community's event to show off their technical skills.



Each team had to make a lever mechanism to lift the tennis ball out of the box and onto the target. The teams were told that the tennis ball acted as a radioactive meteorite. This meant that the chosen team member had to be at least 150cm from it when using the apparatus. There were three different levels- foundation, intermediate and advanced.

All the teams had the entire day to complete their portfolio, which had to include evidence of team work and the other ideas that they went through to get to

their final idea.

In the end, the winners of the foundation level were THS Year 8 team (Jodie Stimpson, Lily Bennett, Lee Allsop and Samuel Horrobin). The winners of the intermediate level were THS Year 10 team (Adam Brunger, Ben Foster, Morgan Baker and Joe Hall). Also, the overall winners were THS Year 10 group.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT – MRS S BARKER



Norfolk
www.think.norfolk.gov.uk

I would like to take the opportunity to inform parents and carers about some of the content of our Personal Development lessons so far this year especially as we have had several visitors into lessons to enhance the curriculum.

The Year 7s have had lessons about Road Safety delivered by Richard Wiseman from Norfolk County Council. They have also had a visitor from the Jigsaw Programme, Sara Plastow, who discussed cyber bullying.

We have been fortunate enough to be able to host another visit from Norwich City College's Drama Department to deliver part of the Year 7 curriculum. The drama covered the problems students face on journeys whether walking, cycling, or travelling in cars. It also dealt with peer pressure and the importance of taking responsibility for one's own actions.

The Year 8s have been made more aware of Internet safety after a visit from our CPSO Ellie.

Bekky Short from The Red Cross has done some work with the Year 9s on the topic of Refugees and Asylum seekers. This lesson aims to dispel some myths and stereotypes about Refugees and Asylum seekers. It also looks at the contribution that Refugees have made to British business and culture.



Year 11s have had some lessons delivered by the Matthew Project on the topics of alcohol and drugs, as well as some lessons aimed at young drivers, again delivered by Richard Wiseman. From the reaction of our pupils they have found the sessions interesting and thought provoking. All our visitors comment on the excellent behaviour of our students and on their willingness to contribute to the lessons.