

Taverham High School

Weekly Newsletter

03.12.21



Inspire, Empower, Achieve

Week 1: w/c 6/12/21

Week 2: w/c 13/12/21

Message from Becky Ricketts, Deputy Headteacher

It only feels like a few weeks ago we were writing to you to welcome you back to the school year and now we are already in December. Year 11 have continued to conduct themselves excellently during their mock exam period and whilst it was inevitably a stressful time for them, I hope they are able to use the outcomes and feedback from this experience to support their future learning and revision.

Last Friday we welcomed Noisy Classroom into school to train our students who are involved in the debate club. It was lovely to hear so many discussions, ideas and interesting viewpoints being shared and shaped. Thank you, Ms Hague, Mrs Gardiner and Ms Bradshaw, for organising and hosting the training session.

As you will be aware, we are once again asking students and staff to wear face coverings in all communal areas of the school, except classrooms, as well as on public and school transport. As before, this doesn't apply to students who are exempt from wearing face coverings. This is in line with guidance from the government and is a response to the increasing concern around the new Omicron variant of coronavirus. Please could I ask that you ensure your child comes to school with their own face covering. We are currently handing out hundreds of face coverings each week which is costing an awful lot of money (which we would rather spend on supporting learning) and the disposable masks are not as environmentally friendly as reusable ones. Additionally, getting hold of masks is becoming increasingly difficult and therefore this is not sustainable long term. We are reassured that the best way to stay safe remains to ensure high levels of hand and respiratory hygiene and to wear face coverings.

We are currently experiencing very low numbers of cases in the school community and we are grateful for your support with regular lateral flow testing at home and PCR testing for children who show any symptoms.

While the process still remains that the NHS test and trace team will coordinate any response to positive cases direct with families, I wanted to highlight a significant change which is that if you or a member of your household test positive for, or are identified as a close contact of someone with, the Omicron variant of coronavirus, all members of the household are required to isolate for 10 days.

Could I also remind families that students are advised not to use school transport if they have any symptoms or are required to isolate. A letter went out this week about students completing lateral flow tests prior to their return to school in January. As a polite reminder please can we have your responses, indicating whether your child will be tested at home or in school on 4 January, via the [forms document](#) by 10 December to support us with our planning.

We have had confirmation from the vaccination team that they will not be coming to our school this side of Christmas to complete any Covid catch up vaccinations. As soon as we receive any further information from the team we will inform you.

Our festive Christmas lunch will be held on Wednesday 15 December. If you would like your child to have a Christmas lunch please order via WisePay by Wednesday 8 December. Unfortunately, we will not be able to serve any other food from the canteen on that day but there will be a limited selection still available from the snack shack. Students entitled to the meal allowance are being asked by form tutors if they wish to order a Christmas meal and a note made accordingly.

I have been asked whether we will be partaking in the Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 10 December. We will not as we have only recently had a non uniform day and are conscious of asking parents to donate so soon after the last event. We would however encourage students to come into school on 15 December in their Christmas jumpers as part of our festive lunch; any student can wear a Christmas jumper (and no other sort!) regardless of whether or not they are having a Christmas meal.

Staff are in the process of creating our annual Christmas video for the students but sadly this year we will not be able to share this beyond our school classrooms due to recent events on social media. We remain hopeful that the social media companies will start to put more robust measures in place so that we are able to share more in the future.

On Wednesday 8 December we have our second Parents' Forum which includes a workshop on online safety. If you feel this would like to attend there is still time to book a place either via the forms document or by contacting reception. The event starts at 5:30pm.

Finally, school will end at 2pm on the last day of term. Taxis and buses have been arranged to collect students at the new time.

I wish you all a relaxing and hopefully sunny weekend.

News from the Science Faculty

With the recent COP26 summit, in science we have been tailoring our curriculum for our Year 8s to get them thinking about the impact of their diet on the environment as part of our unit on Digestion. Our Year 9s have completed their most recent work on chemistry and the environment, where they have made cross-curricular links when looking at climate change and how we extract resources sustainably from the world around us.

A small group of Year 7 and 8 students have continued with their review of the Royal Society children's science book and we are looking forward to meeting in January to make a final decision on the winning book.

It has been exciting to see the momentum our Year 12s and 13s have had in getting involved in logging their extra-curricular hours as part of the Youth STEMM awards. This has included supporting open evenings, attending lectures and helping with Year 11 intervention. We already have one student 96 % of the way to their Bronze Award in less than a term, which is a fantastic achievement.

Last half term, a group of year 10s took part in a STEMM competition with host Mark Thompson, UEA astronomer, who broke the world record for the world's longest lecture. They competed against other schools and one team came 8th out of 24 teams. It was great to see the class take their learning beyond their normal classroom lessons.

Students are getting into a good routine with completing regular homework. Some of this science homework is being set on a system called Kerboodle, which is also an online textbook for students and an excellent resource for revision, as well as consolidation of learning from lessons. If parents wish to find out more about this, or if their child is unable to login to the system, they should contact their child's science teacher or Mrs Kent, Head of Science Faculty, who will be happy to help.

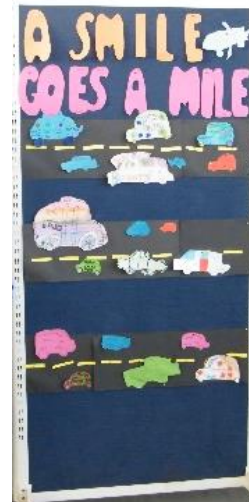
Messages and reminders

- A polite reminder parents are not permitted to drive onto school site unless they have a car park pass or an arranged meeting with a member of staff.
- **Wellbeing and Mental Health Referral Form:** if you are worried about the wellbeing of one of our students, please complete a referral form; this can be used as a self-referral form or as a referral for someone else. It can be found on our school website on the 'students' page and can be accessed via this link: [Student and parent referral form](#)
- **Social Media:** if you use social media, please do follow our Twitter account [@TaverhamHigh](#) for regular updates and news. Also, follow the THS art department on Instagram [@taverhamartdept](#)
- **Aerosols:** please remind your child that they can only use aerosol deodorant sprays in the school changing rooms or outside. Any aerosols seen or used in classrooms or other indoor areas will be confiscated. This is to protect those members of our community who suffer from asthma.
- **Sanitary wear:** should your child need any sanitary wear please remind them that they can pop along to student support or reception/first aid where we will be able to provide them with items.
- **Christmas Fair 16 December 4:30pm-7:30pm:** the Taverham community are invited to attend our Christmas Fair. We have over 50 local makers coming with an amazing variety of creations. We also have three food vans on site for the event so a great chance to have your tea sorted that day! We continue to be very mindful regarding Covid so will have the school well ventilated for the evening and would appreciate the wearing of face masks where possible. We envisage a high turnout so wherever possible we would encourage those coming to walk if possible or park away from the school as parking spaces on site could well be at a premium.
- **Food Bank Fundraising Appeal:** the Sixth Form Leadership Team are organising this year's school Food Bank appeal, with Norwich FoodHub. Students can leave donations in boxes in form rooms, which will be collected on Monday 13 December. Items in particular demand are savoury snacks, dried pasta or rice, tinned meat or fish, tinned fruit, tinned soup, tinned baked beans, tinned vegetables, shortbread, mince pies and confectionery.



Celebrations

- Congratulations to Joe H in Year 9 who is ranked 13th in Great Britain for his age in the 50m backstroke. He also competed in a senior competition with no age category in the men's 50m backstroke. He finished in 38th position from a field of 83 swimmers, ranging in age from 13 to 23 and was the fastest 14-year-old. He also progressed in the men's 100m backstroke from going into the competition ranked 70th to finishing in 54th place. An amazing achievement- well done!
- Ruby J in Year 7 is a junior ambassador for a charity called Friend in Deed and works with care homes. She has been awarded a grant in order to work with our local care homes.
- The ELFs and Diana Award Ambassadors put in so much work for Anti Bullying Week leading on a range of activities. These included form competitions; 'One Kind Word' trees and walls; supporting students to create little bags of friendship to promote positive relationships. It was lovely to see so many students involved and to watch our ambassadors promoting positive relationships and discussing with them the work of the Ambassador Award. They are making great progress on achieving their wellbeing badge. Here are a few pictures of some of the things that happened over the week:



Useful Contacts and Websites

- Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- Thinkuknow: www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- Children's society: www.childrensociety.co.uk
- Ownit: www.bbc.com/ownit
- Just one number Chathealth: <https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/our-services/chathealth>
- Nelson's Journey: <https://nelsonsjourney.org.uk/>
- MAP: <https://www.map.uk.net/>
- Kooth: <https://www.kooth.com/>
- Staying Safe: <https://stayingSAFE.net/home>
- Guide for parents and carers, coping with self harm: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2015-12-01-new-guide-parents-who-are-coping-their-childs-self-harm-you-are-not-alone>

Safeguarding at Taverham High School

The School's Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Ms Ricketts, Mrs Killington, Ms Philpot, Mr Blowers

Emergency contact number: 0344 800 8020

NSPCC-run help line for victims of sexual abuse in schools: 0800 136 663

Dates for the Diary

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8/12/21: Parents' Forum 5:30-6:30pm• 9/12/21: Year 13 Parents' Evening• 10/12/21: Flu Vaccinations Years 7-11• 15/12/21: Christmas lunch• 16/12/21: Christmas Fair• 17/12/21: Last day of term. School ends 2pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5/1/22: Students return to school (week 1)• 13/1/22: Year 9 Parents' Evening• 17/1/22-21/1/22: Year 13 Mocks• 21/1/22: Year 11 Tracking Data published• 26/1/22: Parents' Forum• 3/2/22: Year 9 Options Evening• 7/2/22-11/2/22: National Apprenticeship Week• 10/2/22: Year 11 Parents' Evening• 11/2/22: Year 8 and Year 13 Tracking Data published• 11/2/22: Last day of term |
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