

Taverham High School

Weekly Newsletter

5.11.21



Inspire, Empower, Achieve.

Week 1: w/c 8/11/21

Week 2: w/c 15/11/21

Message from Becky Ricketts, Deputy Headteacher

It was wonderful last half term watching students return to specialist spaces and teachers being able to be in their own rooms. What has also been lovely is to see our year groups working and playing alongside each other and it has reinforced how important this is in children's development as they look to older role models or seek to support younger students. This week a student, who sometimes struggles with form time, told a member of staff that he had to stay because it was 'ELF Day' and he preferred spending time with the ELFs than having time out of form; I think this epitomises how important it is for our younger students to have that time with their older peers and the positive impact it can have on them.

Next week (11/11/21) we are looking forward to opening our school once again for our Sixth Form Open Evening and hope you will be able to attend. Our ELFs and Diana Award Ambassadors are also busy working with Mrs Sadler and Mrs Killington on activities for Anti Bullying Week the following week.

As a polite reminder, period 1 starts at 8:30 am and students are expected to be in their classroom by this time. I do appreciate the challenges of motivating a teenager to be up and out of the house on time and also the current challenges with road works in the area, but please can I ask that you do encourage and support your child to be in school by 8:25 am so that they are in their classrooms ready to learn. If students are arriving 5 minutes late every morning, they are missing half a lesson every week. Over the course of a term this equates to a day and half of missed lessons and, over a year, over four days worth of missed lessons. Timekeeping is also a key life skill that our students need to develop as they enter the world of work.

I know some parents have expressed concerns about the temperature within classrooms this week and have asked whether the school will allow students to wear coats within the rooms. Firstly, I want to assure you that we do take the wellbeing of our students very seriously and do not want anyone to be uncomfortable due to the environment in which they are working. We do recommend that all students should come into school with layers of clothing. It is advised that the most effective way to protect yourself from the cold is to wear multiple layers which can be added or removed depending on the conditions. Since returning to school some students are continuing to come in with just a school shirt and a coat; we would advise against this and encourage them to attend in layers including the school jumper.

If you are unable to purchase a school jumper or a school uniform item, please contact your child's Head of Year and we will look as to how we can support you with this matter.

Staff have also been advised to only have one window open during lessons and ideally choose a window that is not directly near a student. They will then open all windows during social times to increase ventilation. Unlike last year, we are also no longer having to have all external doors open which means the temperature within the rooms is remaining much warmer than previously. As a school, we are following this guidance from County regarding cooler weather:

- windows are fully opened before rooms are occupied and during breaks
- windows are kept partially open when rooms are in use, windows are selected that are not directly next to work areas/pupils' desks or high-level windows are open fully and low level opened partially
- information has been provided to parents, carers and pupils to dress appropriately for cooler temperatures

I do appreciate that for some students they will still feel the need to wear a coat and as a school we will support this providing that they are dressed in layers and in full school uniform. We will not permit hoodies, other than the ones with the school logo, as either an alternative to a school jumper or as a winter coat. Students will be asked to remove these if they attend school in them. We will also not permit hats, or hoods to be worn up, in lessons. As we are compromising on our coat expectation within the classroom, I politely request that you also support us by not allowing your child to come into school with a non-school uniform hoodie or other non-school uniform items.

We currently have a lot of unclaimed uniform items at reception. If your child is missing anything, please direct them to come to reception to check. Can we also request that school items are clearly labelled and named. We also have some second hand uniform available to purchase.

If you are going to Bonfire Night displays this weekend, I hope that the weather stays kind for you.

Wishing all our families and the Taverham community a lovely weekend.

News from the SEND

The SEN team have really enjoyed getting back into full flow of working with our learners through the various interventions and support we offer. Supporting learners across school varies from settling in our year 7 students to preparing year 11 for the exam season and their next steps to adulthood. Every moment is filled with challenge and success, worry and joy along the journey of academic progress gained from lessons and the emotional learning that comes from changing friendships, evolving personalities and other experiences of adolescence. These emotions felt by learners and their families are all important and yet some are more difficult to think and talk about. We hope that by working together we can equip our children with the resilience and confidence they need to equip them for a successful future.

We have had some amazing work from learners working together to share their knowledge about Remembrance Day and the thoughts it provokes, creating a lovely display for one of our nurture room boards.



Some of our learners have been on the trip to London to see Woman in Black with the English team. They have returned from this full of inspiration and excitement.

We are also grateful to have received some additional resources to expand our laptop bank. These machines are shared amongst learners with SEN across school that need this equipment to access their learning.

Our thanks go to all parents who contributed to our review of SEN provision. We were delighted to receive so much positive feedback and are working on ways to make sure all learners and families access the support they need for a successful experience of secondary education.

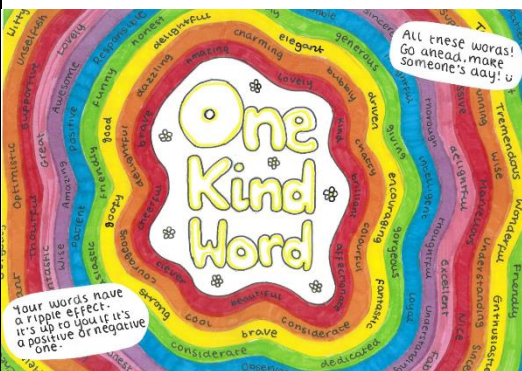
Take care, all

Best wishes

Becky Dixon

Messages and reminders

Anti-Bullying Week takes place w/c 15 November. The theme for this year is 'One Kind Word'. There will be a presentation shown in form time to highlight anti-bullying and to show how kind words can spread positivity.



Additionally, Monday 15 November is Odd Socks Day, created by the Anti Bullying Alliance and first held in 2017. We would like all students and staff to wear odd socks on this day to be able to express themselves, celebrating their individuality and what makes us all unique. Students are also encouraged to make a small donation to the Anti-Bullying Alliance, which will be collected during form time.



Lucy Potter Deputy Head of Sixth Form Leadership Team

- A polite reminder that parents are not permitted to drive on to the school site unless they have a carpark pass or an arranged meeting with a member of staff.
- **Social Media:** If you use social media, please do follow our Twitter account [@TaverhamHigh](https://twitter.com/TaverhamHigh) for regular updates and news. You may have seen on here that we have had issues with the school's telephone system this week; my apologies for the inconvenience this has caused.
- **Aerosols:** Wherever possible please encourage your child not to bring aerosols into school as they can trigger asthma for some people. Similarly, it is essential that these are not sprayed in classrooms or other enclosed areas.

Celebrations

- A huge congratulations to Katie H in Year 8 who on 24th October competed in the Norfolk County Championships Gymnastics competition and came away with the Gold medal for her floor routine, Gold for Vault, Bronze for beam and a Bronze medal placing 3rd overall. She will now be competing at the Regional Finals in Ipswich on 14 November. A fantastic achievement!
- Following our Year 6 Open Evening we received amazing feedback from our prospective parents and students. A recurrent theme was praising the students who supported in lessons and the Prefects,

ELFS and Sixth Formers who provided tours. There are too many to mention individually but we are so proud of how you conducted yourselves on the evening- you were a real credit to the school.

- Our ELFs and Diana Award Ambassadors who have created the amazing Anti-Bullying 'One Kind Word' posters.

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://staying-safe.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"> • 5/11/21: Year 9, 10 and 13 tracking data published • 11/11/21: Year 12 Open Evening • 11/11/21: Act of Remembrance • 11/11/21: GCSE drama rehearsal • 12/11/21: GCSE component 1 exam • 15/11/21-21/11/21: Anti Bullying Week • 19/11/21: Year 7 and Year 12 tracking data published | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19/11/21: Non-Uniform Day • 22/11/21-3/12/21: Year 11 Mock Exams • 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 |
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