

Taverham High School

Weekly Newsletter

10.12.21



Inspire | Empower | Achieve

Week 2: w/c 13/12/21

Week 1: w/c 04/01/22

Message from Gareth Yassin, Deputy Headteacher

I will start with the disappointing news and get that out of the way. With much sadness we have had to cancel the Christmas fair planned for next Thursday 16 December. There has been an awful lot of work gone into planning the event, ensuring festive refreshments are available, liaising with 50 stallholders and catering providers; it was shaping up to be a fantastic community event and a lovely way to celebrate the end of the year together. Alas, we have, once again, been bested by Covid and, with cases of the new variant increasing nationally, it seems most sensible to cancel this event to keep everyone safe. Looks like I'll have to shop elsewhere for Mrs Yassin's presents! We hope we may be able to coordinate a similar event in the spring term but perhaps with a less 'Christmassy' feel!

The forthcoming week will start to feel decidedly Christmassy in places, with the ever-popular Christmas lunch on Wednesday. We hope as many students as possible will come to school in a Christmas jumper to help create some festive cheer – a reminder that even if they are not eating the Christmas lunch, students are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper and there are no donations required for this. On Friday, school will finish at 2pm after an extended form time where students will be partaking in Christmas quizzes and similar celebratory activities.

Our thanks for all your contributions to this year's school Food Bank appeal, organized by the Sixth Form Leadership Team. It's not too late if you have items to bring in – sixth formers will be collecting all the donations 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.



This week has been another fantastic week at school. Students remain focused in lessons even as we approach the end of term. Due to the standard increase in seasonal illnesses that we are seeing at the moment, there has been a slight increase in covered lessons this week, with teaching staff giving up lots of their time to support classes by teaching additional hours.

I am grateful to all staff who have helped out in this way this week, as well as to students who have behaved maturely and considerately in supporting colleagues who may be teaching unfamiliar topics or in different rooms – a real community effort.

On Wednesday evening we conducted our second Parent Forum of the year, with workshops on GCSE English, GCSE Science, GCSE Maths, Internet Safety and Preparing for Sixth Form. My thanks to all families who attended and to staff who gave up their time to host the workshops.

After the Christmas break, the Year 9 options process starts properly and throughout January there will be opportunities for students and families to find out more about the subject choices available to them. This will start with the options booklet which will be followed up by Parents' Evening for Year 9s, then finally our options evening event in early February where families will get to discuss courses with teachers. We are hopeful that this will be a face-to-face event, but will of course keep families updated as we get closer to the date.

In a similar vein, after Christmas, I will be putting the options blocking pattern together for next year's Year 12 A-level courses. Could I remind all Year 11s that if they are considering joining our fantastic and high-achieving Sixth Form in September, they need to hand their application form in before Christmas and choose us as their first-choice destination, to guarantee that their preferred combination of options will be considered in planning.

As ever, I hope you have something lovely planned for the weekend and that you are all safe and well.

Mr Yassin

News from the Global and Historical Faculty

Currently, students are studying a broad range of topics in humanities subjects, ranging from rainforest ecosystems in Year 8 and weather and climate in Year 7 to the rise of Hitler in Year 10 history. Walking into these lessons is a really rich and varied experience at the moment and I often spend longer in these lessons than intended, for that reason.

In modern foreign languages this week has been an incredibly busy week with Year 11s undertaking their oral assessments. Understandably, and completely normally, some students have found this experience unnerving and challenging but, as always, they have generally risen to the challenge and the MFL department are so pleased with how hard students have worked to prepare for these assessments.

In Computing, we are in the process of putting the final touches to a fantastic 'Girls in Computing' event in collaboration with Aviva and local businesses – there's even a rumour that R2D2 will be putting in an appearance! More news to follow!

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.

Celebrations

- Continuing our coverage of the rowing successes of Will B in Year 11, last weekend he travelled to Hampton to race in the Small Boats Head. Incredibly, but unsurprisingly, Will won his race at J16 1x single scull! The entry included many high-profile schools and clubs with a total of 39 entries. Well done, Will!
- In November, some of our Year 7s took part in the 'Bebras challenge' during their computing lessons, which is a world-wide challenge that introduces logic and computational thinking. All students applied themselves really well, producing some great scores. Bebras award a gold certificate to the top 10% of scorers nationally and this group achieved seven of those, so a massive well done to Cody J, Elspeth H, Ethan L, James R, Douglas Y, Abe W and Isaac C. Isaac was also awarded the highest score in the school - with an amazing 183 out of a possible 200! These seven students will now be invited to the Oxford University Computing Challenge which takes place in February - so good luck to them if they choose to take part.

Useful Contacts and Websites

- Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- Thinkuknow: www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- Children's society: www.childrenssociety.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">• 10/12/21: Flu vaccinations Years 7-11• 15/12/21: Christmas lunch• 17/12/21: Last day of term. School ends 2pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5/1/22: Students return to school (week1)• 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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