

Taverham High School

Weekly Newsletter

12.11.21



Inspire | Empower | Achieve

Week 2: w/c 15/11/21

Week 1: w/c 22/11/21

Message from Gareth Yassin, Deputy Headteacher

It's been another busy and exciting week at Taverham, with lots going on both within and outside the classroom.

Work has started to support our Year 11s in thinking about their post-16 destinations. Mr Linnell, Head of Sixth Form, and I have met with more than half of the year group already to make sure they are aware of the options available to them next year as well as to give them a chance to find out more about our own successful and popular Sixth Form Centre. As ever, we have been really impressed with how well researched most students have been and we are delighted that so many are planning to join us in September 2022. Any students who haven't yet had an appointment will be contacted soon to meet with us or Mrs Warwick, our careers advisor, to support their next steps. In a similar vein, we hosted a fantastic Sixth Form Open Evening yesterday with lots of families visiting us to speak with our department staff and find out more about the range and quality of subjects we offer. My thanks to all staff and families who made it such a successful event. As ever, it was great to be able to welcome families on site once again.

Yesterday we also came together, as a community, to celebrate the anniversary of the end of the First World War and to honour members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty. As always, this was a very special Act of Remembrance with the entire school community collecting together in the quad to observe a two-minute silence, bookended by the sound of our brass musicians playing the Last Post and the Reveille. These moments always serve to remind us of how fortunate we are. Our thanks to Holly in Year 11 and Lucy in Year 13 for playing so beautifully.

Year 11 drama students have spent the last few days preparing and recording their assessment pieces for their GCSE. Students worked really hard in preparing for these and Mrs Cornish was delighted with most of the work. The whole year group are working hard to prepare for their mock examinations beginning on 22 November and lasting two weeks. It has been really rewarding this week sitting in a number of lessons and seeing how well students are engaging with the work. The challenge now is for them to mirror this level of intensity and hard work at home in preparation for the exams.

Whilst we fully expect all Year 11s and Year 13s to sit external exams in the summer term, the last few years have taught us to 'expect the unexpected'. It is vital therefore that students take all work, in particular assessment pieces such as mocks, seriously so we are able to build up banks of evidence to support teacher assessed grades if necessary. Over the next few weeks, students in Year 11 should be spending time outside of school **every day** studying independently to prepare for their exams. There are resources on our website [Examination Information | Taverham High School](#) to support with this. As a rough guide, students should be spending approximately two hours each evening studying and eight hours over the weekends. This will allow them adequate 'down time' to relax and spend time with friends and family, as well as ensuring that they put themselves in a good position to succeed.

On Wednesday, Mrs Sadler took a group of Year 10 students to the Eastlands Care Home in Taverham to spend some time with the residents. Our students were excellent, mature ambassadors for the school. Families and staff at the care home expressed their gratitude by welcoming students from the school to visit again whenever they wish.

Next week sees us recognising Anti-bullying week with 'Odd Socks Monday' on 15 November, where students and staff are encouraged to wear mismatched socks to show their support for and to celebrate differences in our community. As a proudly inclusive school, we do a lot to support students who are different to their peers and our best ambassadors in this work are our students, including our fantastic ELF team of peer supporters. You can find out more about this initiative here [What is Odd Socks Day? \(anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk\)](http://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk).

Finally, a reminder please to read the messages below on safeguarding, diary dates and useful contacts/websites. Sometimes these repeating messages can be missed or overlooked as they become 'part of the wallpaper', but they are updated weekly as necessary and are important in terms of keeping you up to date with what's going on at school and where you can go to get help and support.

As ever, have a fantastic weekend when it arrives and thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr Yassin

News from the Social Science faculty

Although the weather has been getting colder, we have certainly been turning up the heat in the classrooms with debate and discussion within Social Sciences. In the last couple of weeks, I have been popping into classrooms to see what students are learning and Year 9 in particular had a lot of discussion around the different contraceptives this week in Personal Development, arguing which contraceptive is the most effective/useful. Some students were very passionate about their views and it was fantastic to see them so passionate and developing their arguments. In RS, students in KS3 have been discussing conflict and war, the purpose of different ceremonies, whether this is a religious thing at all, why people worship and what this really means. Our sixth formers in Philosophy and Ethics have been delving into the question and argument on the existence of God and the ethical theory of Situation Ethics – when is it ok to ignore a rule? Can morality really be better served by the principle of love? Are following rules restricting us from doing the right thing in a given situation? Fantastic discussion from all year groups these past two weeks and a special thank you to Lauren in Year 13 for her amazing revision quiz!

In Sociology our Year 13s have been analysing the different perspectives for crime and were shocked to find out that some sociologists actually think crime can be a good thing! On top of this, we have had lots of students submitting their UCAS applications these last few weeks and wish them all the best of luck with these!

Year 12 psychologists have been looking at different approaches to studying psychology - investigating the weird and wonderful views of Freud, as well as more scientific approaches linked to biology.

Coming up they'll be making brain hats and neuron diagrams out of sweets. Year13 have been studying mental health issues - both diagnostic criteria and treatments of OCD, depression and phobias.

As part of Parliament week, the Sixth Form A level Politics students had a conversation and debated issues with the local MP Jerome Mayhew on Friday 5 November. Teacher of Politics Mr Linnell said, *"the students asked some difficult questions and got some great insight into the role of being an MP."*



Messages and reminders

- **Aerosols:** Following last week's message, 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.
- 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.
- **Social Media:** If you use social media, please do follow our Twitter account [@TaverhamHigh](https://twitter.com/TaverhamHigh) for regular updates and news.
- **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](#)

Celebrations

- Miss Bradshaw would like to thank some fantastic Year 7 students who are currently working towards beating the record for the world's longest paperchain (if you're wondering the record is 790m...they'll be going for a while I think!). The students are Nicole (7R), Ehlana (7R), Emily (7R), Madison (7R), Molly (7A) and Grace (7H).
- Mrs Thaxton and Mrs Church would like to thank our Year 10 Sports Leaders who have helped the School Sports Partnership out on three events so far this year. Staff couldn't have done the events without them, so we really appreciate it and they have been brilliant. Well done and thank you.
- Miss Hollis would like to congratulate Year 11 who have been preparing for their English mocks superbly! Especially 11RM who have been writing some excellent responses to 'Unseen Poetry'.

- Well done to our Year 13 mathematicians this week. They are competing in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. This is a countrywide competition where students must answer difficult maths questions. They are not allowed a calculator or any other mathematical instruments. They tackled this with enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing if they reach the next round.
- Sophie B in Year 11 has become the first student this year to achieve her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award – well done Sophie!

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://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-childrens-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"> • 15/11/21-21/11/21: Anti Bullying Week • 19/11/21: Year 7 and Year 12 tracking published • 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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