

Taverham High School
Weekly Newsletter
22.10.21



Inspire, Empower, Achieve

Week 2: w/c 1/11/21

Week 1: 8/11/21

Message from Gareth Yassin, Deputy Headteacher

In a flash, the first half term of the year is behind us, and what a half term it has been!

Firstly, thank you to everyone involved with our school community for making it such a productive one. As previously reported, students returned to school in September with a positive mindset in general and this has continued through the half term. We have seen incredible support from families who have understood how hard our colleagues are working to provide in-school learning alongside online learning for those isolating at home, recognising that this is leading to considerably greater workload for teachers. We have carried out Year 13 mock exams (the outcomes of which will be reported home after the half term break) and were really impressed with the mature attitude that the cohort showed throughout the exam period. Students will have received really valuable feedback by sitting these exams and it is vital that they work consistently over the coming weeks and months to fill any gaps in knowledge they have identified.

On Tuesday we welcomed Eleanor Wasserberg, UEA Creative Writing MA graduate and author of *Foxlowe* and *The Light at the End of the Day*, into school to host a Year 9 Gothic Horror creative writing workshop. This was in partnership with Norwich School and proved really successful.

On the same day, a group of our Year 10s took part in the STEMM showdown competition – part of the Norwich Science Festival and run by the Youth Stem Award. This was a really successful competition and we look forward to working more closely with the Youth Stem team as we develop further our science, technology, engineering and maths programmes.

On Wednesday, it was fantastic to welcome families back into our school for the first time in too many months for our slightly delayed Open Evening event. We have received lots of lovely, positive feedback from many of the 400 or so parents who visited us and, unsurprisingly, the stars of the show were the students who represented our school community so well. We have so missed being able to host events on-site, but you will understand that we are continuing to be careful about which events are live and which are hosted online in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. In this vein, can I encourage all Year 11 families (and any families of students who would benefit from revision tips) to visit the school website ([Revision | Taverham High School](#)) where you will find a guide to aid revision. Additionally, the Taverham High channel on YouTube

has some subject-specific revision guidance videos from our leads for English, maths and science. This information is in place of our planned Year 11 Revision Event and is designed to help prepare students for their forthcoming mock exams. Year 11 students should be spending considerable time revising over the half term break to ensure they achieve as well as possible in these exams.

Finally, to cap off a busy week of activities, the English department took a group of Year 9s to the theatre in London to see a stage production of *Woman in Black*, the Gothic themed text they are studying in class – it's great to be able to offer these experiences once again.

Year 7s have had 7 weeks being taught in mixed attainment groups and, as you know, sat assessments throughout the half term to allow us to set them more accurately where appropriate. After half term, from 1 November, students will be grouped into attainment sets for maths and science, and in other subjects will be in more mixed attainment groups with a slightly higher and a slightly lower attaining group in each of Spanish and German on each side of the timetable (L and R). These groups have been put together very carefully by heads of subjects and the pastoral team. I would ask that all families support us by allowing these groups time to settle in before raising anything other than major concerns. Timetables will be updated on MCAS by Friday 29 October ready for a fresh start in November, so please do check these so students know where to go for lesson 1. I had hoped to make these changes earlier but unfortunately high levels of student absence earlier in the term due to Covid has rather delayed this process.

Although Covid cases nationally in schools are peaking we, as a school, are seeing fewer cases daily having seen a flurry earlier in September. As such, after the half term break, students will no longer be expected to wear face masks whilst in school (although, of course, they are still welcome to should they wish to). We are still regularly liaising with the public health team and, should the number of cases increase in school or in our local community, we will review this and let you know of any changes necessary. Similarly, we are continuing to review the temperature of classrooms as the outside temperature drops. I would remind all families that it is important that we maintain high levels of ventilation and therefore please ensure your child comes to school with suitable layers beneath their school uniform on chillier days. Thank you for your ongoing support as we react to the daily and weekly changes locally and nationally.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a restful and safe half term break. We look forward to seeing you on the other side!

News from the Maths Faculty

It has been a busy first half term in the maths department. We are very lucky to have welcomed an experienced teacher, Mrs Crane, to join the department. We will shortly be losing Mrs Grigg, who will be starting her maternity leave early in November; we would like to wish her all the best.


Year 7 have settled in well and spent most of the half term studying transformations and averages as well as completing their induction tests and CATs (cognitive ability tests). They will start next half term in new maths classes, grouped by ability. Years 8, 9 and 10 have all been working well and have recently completed an assessment on the material they have been studying. Year 11 have shown a mature approach to the start of the year and are responding well to the demands of their final GCSE year. Mock exams are in the not-too-distant future; we have had a practice run of a mock in lesson time with them to help them to prepare.

Year 12 have made a fantastic start, really impressing us with their attitude and excellent work ethic. It was lovely to see them so well prepared at the start of the year. Year 13 are continuing with their hard work. They sat a mock paper in September and will be building on all the work they have done in Year 12. The famous 'Ritangle' competition has finally started! Ritangle is a national maths competition aimed at teams of sixth form college students running over approximately 10 weeks in the autumn term. The sixth formers have been

keen to get started with the questions and continue the success we have had over the last few years. If you would like a glimpse of the sorts of questions they have to answer please follow this link: [Ritangle: questions](#)

Finally, it was great to see so many parents and pupils at the Year 6 Open Evening. We had a busy time playing different maths games, including probability horseracing and multiplication grand prix (a great one to try at home to support times-tables – just google it!).

Messages and reminders

- **Social Media:** if you use social media, please do follow our Twitter account [@TaverhamHigh](#) for regular updates and news. 
- **The READY trial:** please see attached with this week's newsletter, the READY trial information
- **Wellbeing and mental health referral:** 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 [Student Support page](#) and can also be accessed via the following link: [Student and Parent referral form](#)
- **Parent Forum:** our first parent forum of the year is on Wednesday 3 November, focusing on Year 7s and how families can support their children with numeracy and literacy, as well as introducing our PiXL approach to personal development.

Celebrations

- A very simple and heartfelt thank you and congratulations to all of the many volunteer helpers who made last night's Open Evening such a success. From the Sixth Formers and Year 7s who spoke so beautifully after Dr Harris addressed families, to the many students who volunteered so enthusiastically to support departments in showcasing their work and the ELFS and prefects who showed families around and answered the plethora of questions that interested visitors ask. Thank you also to the parents and Trustees who offered their help to promote the school and, of course, to the very tired and yet enthusiastic staff who stayed in school until 9pm in the last few days of a busy half term to make sure the school was able to showcase itself for our prospective families. Thank you all: you are what makes our community so special.

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">• 1/10/21-31/10/21: Black History Month• 1/11/21: Term begins (week 2)• 3/11/21: Pastoral Open Surgery 4-5pm• 3/11/21: Parents' Forum 5:30-6:30pm• 5/11/21: Years 9, 10 and 13 tracking data published• 5/11/21: Flu Vaccination Years 7-11• 8/11/21-12/11/21: Tomorrow's Engineers Week• 11/11/21: Year 12 Open Evening• 11/11/21: Act of Remembrance• 11/11/21: GCSE drama rehearsal | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 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• 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 |
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