

SCHOOL NEWS

ISSUE 37 – 22/07/2025



MARS – 80450 EARTH – 80250 NEPTUNE – 77811 JUPITER – 79119

DISCOVERY

DIARY DATES

22/07/25 – Last Day of term– students finish at 1:10pm

23/07/25 – Summer Holidays commence.



03/09/25 – Autumn Term Begins for Year 7, Year 11 and Year 12

04/09/25 – Autumn Term Begins for All Year Groups

SAFEGUARDING AT TAVERHAM HIGH SCHOOL

The School's Designated Safeguarding Leads – Ms R Ricketts, Mrs G Killington, Mrs A Reynolds, Mr S Blowers.

Emergency contact number: 0344 800 8021

NSPCC– Run Helpline for Victims of Sexual Abuse in Schools: 0800 136 663

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:

<https://forms.office.com/r/jwPTkVYnYz>

ATTENDANCE

House attendance:

Mars 92.2%

Jupiter 93.5%

Neptune: 92.3%

Earth: 92.1%

92.3%

If your child has an appointment during school time, please call 01603 860505 or email office@taverhamhigh.org with the name of the student, date and time of the appointment. Students will make their own way to reception to sign out to be collected by parents/carers.

HOUSE VOICE

We've had amazing final weeks in student leadership – with a record number of applications for the roles of Head of School and Head of House. Interviews are well underway.

On Wednesday last week, we hosted our third Friend Indeed event which works to bring older people and younger people together socially. The Year 10 prefects supported craft and story cafe and were highly praised by the Friend Indeed Team.

Mars House has earned the most house points this year and was rewarded yesterday with early lunch and a free cookie to celebrate their incredible achievement. Well done to all Mars students for your hard work, teamwork, and resilience throughout the year!



VALUE OF THE WEEK DISCOVERY

Students who have displayed the value of discovery are:

7R – Neve A

7R – Lyla R

7S – Arthur G

Well done to you all!

BLICKLING HALL PROJECT

Over the past few weeks a small group of our Year 7 students have been lucky enough to visit Blickling Hall. The focus of the project is a mix of environmental and historical experiences.

Students have been involved with Elissa and Andrew who have organised a range of activities. Students cleared a pathway to make it accessible to visitors, using hand tools to clear a substantial path of overgrown weeds, they worked particularly well as a team, communicating well with each other.



On another week they got to visit the Mausoleum, Andrew was able to give them a lot of historical information about how this unusual shaped building came about.



Last week our Year 12 students were off timetable for Pathways Day to explore a range of post-18 options. There were collective talks on university and apprenticeships and students were then able to select from a range of workshops on areas such as employability skills, impressing at interviews, student life, gap years and personal statements. Speakers included the University of East Anglia, University of Suffolk, University of Hertfordshire, Norfolk County Council and local entrepreneurs, as well as alumni. The day was followed by a UCAS parents briefing to go through the application process and how best to support your children/wards through this. A further parent briefing will be held next academic year focusing on student finance.



One of my objectives this year was to incorporate the Sixth Form more into the wider school community, and I feel we have made great strides with this. Sixth Form students are now part of the house system, they have tutored GCSE students, led paired reading with KS3 students, organised and run lunchtime clubs and supported at community events to name just a few. This is something we will continue to develop over the next year with the introduction of our new committees. A big highlight of the year was RAGFest where the whole school community came together, led by the Sixth Form, to raise money for Leeway. Two of our Year 13 student leaders came back this week to present the cheque to Leeway for £3,884. This is a truly outstanding amount so another huge thank you on behalf of the whole Sixth Form team for your support raising this.



It has been a pleasure to lead our Sixth Form this year and to see our students grow and flourish. I look forward to seeing many of you on results day to enrol into Sixth Form and then welcome our new cohort of students in September. I hope you all have a wonderful summer break.

Mrs L Robertson
Head of Sixth Form



WHO'S IN CHARGE?

There will be a fantastic opportunity in the autumn term to work in partnership with our Family Support Team at Norfolk County Council. We will be hosting a parenting programme called "Who's in Charge?" – a supportive project designed for parents and carers of young people who display challenging behaviour at home.

We have the provisional dates of:

25/09/25
02/10/25
09/10/25
16/10/25
23/10/25
06/11/25
13/11/25



Parents/carers would need to attend all of the sessions, 10:00am-12:30pm. One parent/carer from a family would be welcome to join us. This is a free project, spaces are limited. If you would like to know more about this please contact our Student Support Team on 01603 861757.

ELF TRAINING

28 Year 9 students spent 3 mornings completing their Elf Training. We had speakers in from Nelsons Journey, The Samaritans, The Police and The Matthew Project. Our students were trained in listening and communication skills, to help them support the Year 7's when they transition to our school.

Three or four Elf members will be allocated to each Year 7 form. They will visit one form time per week, running small activities to initially help the Year 7's settle into high school.

They will be involved in events such as Anti Bullying week and World Mental Health Day raising awareness and generally being a support to other students in school.



DANCE WORLD CUP

We are incredibly proud to share the fantastic achievement of Kida, along with her fellow dancer Bethany H, at the prestigious Dance World Cup. Both students had an unforgettable experience as they competed on the world stage, showcasing their exceptional talent and dedication.

Kida's performance, alongside her group earned a well-deserved 11th place in the world! This remarkable achievement reflects not only their individual hard work but also their commitment to teamwork and excellence.

We are so proud to see our students represent their craft at such a high level. Congratulations to Kida, Bethany, and the entire dance group for their incredible performance!



NORWICH CASTLE KEEP TIME CAPSULES

We're excited to share news from last year's time capsule project at Norwich Castle. As part of the Castle's renovation, students were invited by Mr Williams to submit items representing themselves or their school. One THS item was selected: congratulations to Henry S in 9V, whose green and yellow polymer clay bracelet, inspired by Norwich City and bearing his name, was chosen by the Castle's committee—a fantastic achievement!

Earlier this term, we attended a special event where all three time capsules were revealed. The day included presentations, a behind-the-scenes tour, and the official placement of the capsules. Henry had the honour of placing the first capsule into the Castle wall—a proud moment for him and for THS. Well done, Henry!



Images courtesy of Norfolk Museums

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

Art

Year 9 pupils have been involved with a project to produce flags and poetry based on the theme "River of Hope". Work was displayed at the forum during the N and N festival and is now being taken on tour.

More information about the project can be found by following this link below: <https://activateperformingarts.org.uk/whats-on/event/river-of-hope/>

Design and Technology

Even though we are at the end of year the students in KS3 have been working hard to complete their projects which has been particularly impressive. Year 10 Design and Technology, Year 10 Engineering, and Year 12 Product Design students have successfully started their NEA projects. This work contributes towards a significant amount of the final GCSE grade. There are some really interesting ideas coming together. Students have been really well focussed in lessons.

Mr Eastick & Ms Shirinian both ran well attended revision sessions for Engineering and Hospitality & Catering just prior to the exams. We have been really impressed with the attitude of the students in Year 11 across all of our subjects this year and hope they get the results they need to progress onto their next steps.

Radio controlled car club has proved popular this term. Mr Appleby has had a good number of RC vehicle enthusiasts taking part in weekly sessions that have included drifting, racing and fixing challenges! Look out for more on this in September. Food club has again been well attended with students baking some wonderful creations to take home. Ms Shirinian has spotted some super keen, future star bakers amongst the students.

We recently met the new Year 7 intake for transition day where students were excited to be in the D&T workshops for the first time and had fun making some simple key fobs or gravity racers to take home. We were also pleased to be part of the Year 5 STEAM day where students from the feeder schools competed to make the best stomp rockets!

We hope that the students have enjoyed their Design and Technology lessons this year. We look forward to teaching you all again after the summer break or seeing you on results day!



PE

On Friday 4th July, we held our annual Sports Day which saw hundreds of our students competing in a range of events from track and field athletics to football, badminton and various other activities. This year felt like a really phenomenal year with so much hype and enthusiasm buzzing around the school. Loads of dancing, face painting and students having a really positive day. A HUGE thanks to all our student competitors who engaged in the day and created a fun, and inclusive environment for all.

Special shout out to James L and Ben S, our Victor Ludorum winners for the best overall performance! Congratulations to Mars, our winning house!

The PE department really hopes everyone found some enjoyment in the day and we are excited for next year.

AND FINALLY...

And like that, another school year has passed! So this will be the final newsletter of the year.

I want to start today by thanking everyone who has made this year such a successful and enjoyable one. Included in those thanks are, of course, you as parents/carers who have supported us so consistently this year as we have tried to provide high quality education for your children/wards. As Headteacher, I hear horror stories from colleagues around the county of how the vast majority of their time is spent dealing with unreasonable and irrational complaints from families, taking their time away from what really matters; our students and their experience in school. I feel so fortunate that the very few complaints I've received this year have almost all been rational and considered and have focussed on genuine issues that needed resolving without drama or threats. When we get things wrong (and we do, occasionally, because we're human), it's important that we know and that we are given the chance to explain or change things, so thank you for holding us to account but in a measured and constructive way.

Our students, your children/wards, have been terrific this year. Excellent fun, as always, interested, engaged and polite, and almost all of them have got it right every single day this school year. In education there's an adage that we spend 90% of our time dealing with the 10% of students who aren't getting things right, and only 10% of our time supporting the 90% who are. We are really fortunate at Taverham that way more than 90% of our students get it right all of the time, so this is really a thank you to those students, the quiet, unassuming students who hold doors open for my colleagues struggling down corridors laden with piles of books, offer to help hand things out in class, never miss a home work deadline, join in on sports day and help their peers when they are struggling. We see you pass your spare pen to another student so they don't have to admit that they've forgotten theirs. We hear you say thank you when someone hands out a worksheet in class. We appreciate you being ready to work quickly and without fuss. You are the reasons that we love coming to work everyday and the thing that keeps us going when we've still got a pile of exam papers to mark and it's already 11:30pm and our eyes are starting to sting. Thank you. Keep being you, keep doing everything right, the rewards will follow in time.

I need to thank my colleagues who work tirelessly everyday to provide five hours of high quality teaching to every student in every subject. If this was all they did it would be more than enough to deserve my gratitude, but when you add in duties, lunchtime clubs, after school clubs, extracurricular visits and trips, residentials, lesson planning, marking, feedback, revision sessions and generally looking out for students all day everyday it becomes a wonder that they are still standing at the end of a week! We have virtually no colleagues leaving Taverham this summer and this is a testament to our fantastic students and the support we get from families and the community, but make no mistake, my colleagues work themselves ragged everyday to make our school a fantastic place to learn and I couldn't be more proud and appreciative.

This year has been one of both consistency and change. Our expectations of the young people we work with have remained high as they have for a number of years now. This is the bedrock on which our school sits. Our rules are simple and reasonable and we work hard to apply them consistently and fairly. This isn't always easy but it's something we strive for everyday. We aim to be consistent in our application of policies around things such as student absences and, while this might not always prove popular, we believe by being consistent and transparent it allows families to make informed decisions about whether or not to send their children/wards to school. As a result of this, our attendance, as a school, has been one of the highest in the county this year and I must give special praise to our Year 7s who have attended more than any cohort before them - keep it up and you'll achieve great things! Inevitably, and importantly, there have been changes too this year. Families have recognised that my stance on uniform has leant more towards safety whilst allowing for some self-expression. As a parent to three school age girls, I accept that appearance and self-esteem are intrinsically linked, and that having higher self-esteem can only be a positive thing in terms of achieving well at and feeling a part of school. There are of course limits to my generosity in this respect, as those with hoop earrings, dangly earrings or untucked shirts have found this year, but we will continue to communicate our expectations clearly to all next year and attempt to walk that line between uniformity and conformity, and individuality and self-expression to support the young people we work with.

Another significant change this year, and students have noted this in the feedback we received to the student questionnaire earlier this term, has been the level of active participation expected of them in lessons this year. There is still some way to go with this, and so it will continue to be an area for focus in our teacher training next year, but the days of being able to coast through a lesson and contribute very little are certainly becoming a thing of the past and I'm grateful to colleagues and students for raising their games in this respect.

We've also seen a huge increase in extracurricular opportunities both within and outside of school, something noted by both students and families in the recent surveys. We are aware that trips and visits have been a little skewed towards KS4 and KS5 students this year, and this is something for us to work on, but it's pleasing that so many of our students have been able to access some of these opportunities to make lifelong memories with friends.

We have worked really hard this year on engaging with our community - whether through this newsletter, through social media, by inviting current and future students and families into community events or through our work with local care homes. The proverb, variously attributed to African or Native American origins, "it takes a village to raise a child" is certainly one that our school believes in and I have lost count of how many parents/carers I've spoken to this year to reiterate that their child/ward is best supported by us working together as a team rather than in opposition to one another. That's where we're at our strongest and most influential and, thankfully, almost always you've agreed. We will continue to grow this area of our work in 2025/26 alongside our rewards and house system which help give our students a sense of belonging and purpose to getting things right in school.

Finally, we have continued this year to increase our focus on the importance of literacy and reading in determining the future success of children. As I have written before in this newsletter, the average reading age demand of a GCSE exam paper is now 16 years. This means that, regardless of how much 'stuff' your child/ward knows when they hit their GCSE exams in Year 11, if they cannot read at the level expected of a 16 year old, they will not be able to access the exam paper well enough to show their full potential. For this reason we have increased the volume of reading interventions we offer and have invested heavily in assessing and reporting chronological reading age. If your child/ward has any spare time this Summer holiday (and if they are lazy toads like mine, they will!) please please please get them reading! It doesn't matter whether they are reading books, graphic novels, online articles or any other texts, as long as they are reading regularly and a range of styles of writing. They haven't got to love it, but they do need to do it!

Our school continues to be one we're all very proud of and this is a collective effort from all involved. Next year, we will continue to push forward, wanting more from students and ourselves, and needing your support with this. In the meantime, I hope you all enjoy a restful and recharging summer break, whether you're holidaying or just not having to drive children out of their bedrooms at 7am to catch a bus or get in the car. The change in pace of a school holiday can sometimes feel like a break in itself! From Tuesday 22nd July until Wednesday 3rd September, the school will be closed to families and students with the exception of the A-level and GCSE results days on the 14th and 21st August (9am-11am). Only Years 7, 11 and 12 will return on the 3rd, with all years returning on Thursday 4th September. While we look forward to seeing students returning after the holiday, right now we're looking forward to a few weeks of sunshine and bbqs and spending time with the friends and family we ignore during term time.

All the very best

Mr G Yassin
Headteacher



Useful Contacts and Websites

- **Young Minds:** Resources to help young people care for their mental health, empowers parents to support them: www.youngminds.org.uk
- **NSPCC:** Support and tips to help you keep children safe: www.nspcc.org.uk
- **Thinkuknow:** Helping you to better protect your children online: www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- **Children's society:** Advice pages offer help on a range of topics for young people. www.childrenssociety.org.uk
- **Ownit:** Help, support and advice on how to be safe online.: www.bbc.com/ownit
- **Just one number Chathealth:** Secure NHS approved text messaging service.: <https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/our-services/chathealth>
- **Nelson's Journey:** Support children and young people following a bereavement.: <https://nelsonsjourney.org.uk/>
- **MAP:** Ensure young people have the access to information, advice, counselling and support they need.: <https://www.map.uk.net/>
- **Kooth:** Access support from other young people and professionals.: <https://www.kooth.com/>
- **Staying Safe:** Help keep people safer from thoughts of harm and suicide: <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>
- **The SEND and inclusion team:** Information about how to support children and young people with SEND. Call the SEND and inclusion support line on 0333 313 7165 [The SEND and inclusion team - Norfolk Schools and Learning Providers - Norfolk County Council](#)

enrich
learning

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Benjamin Foundation



Carers Matter Norfolk
SUPPORTING YOUNG CARERS & FAMILIES

FREE YOUNG CARER EVENTS

Join us for a packed programme of exciting summer events just for Young Carers!

Take a break, meet new friends, and enjoy fun activities in a relaxed and supportive space. From outdoor adventures to creative workshops – there's something for everyone!

Don't miss out – sign up today!
Places are limited.

-  Lingwood Care Farm – Tuesday 29th July 10am to 12 noon (ALL AGES)
-  Sailing @ Hunter's Yard, Ludham – Wednesday 6th August 10am to 3pm (AGE 8 PLUS)
-  Carlton Marshes – Thursday 14th August 10:30am to 12:30pm (ALL AGES)
-  UEA Campus Trip – Thursday 28th August 10 am to 2.30pm (AGE 14 PLUS)

BOOKING



Scan the QR or go to:
<https://forms.office.com/e/9Xt7ymkNAT>



DON'T MISS OUT!