



Tadcaster Grammar school

'A Culture of Excellence'

NEWSLETTER

April 2019

From the Head

Dear Parents and Students,
 Welcome to the final newsletter of the Spring Term. I really cannot believe how quickly this term has passed. As ever, life at Tadcaster Grammar School has been very busy and as we rapidly approach the Easter Break, I would now like to share with you my reflections of the term. This term has had many evening events, including five out of the seven Parents' Evenings for the year and our Year 9 into 10 Options Evening. I am very grateful to parents for the tremendous turnout to all these Evenings this term as they are so important for our young people to support them for their future. We also hosted the 'Shape the Future' Careers Evening which was overwhelmingly popular this year. As I write this, I am also very much looking forward to our ever-popular Spring Festival on Wednesday night.

During the school day, Year 9 had a very rare opportunity to meet and listen to an actual survivor of the Holocaust; Year 11 have all had a second Post 16 meeting; some Year 10 and 12 students have had talks about Oxbridge; some Year 10 students have had inspirational talks by David Wiseman and students in various years have undertaken the Mathematics Challenges. Students have been taken out of school for a variety of practical learning experiences, Drama visits and workshops, Careers events and subject specific examination preparation events. In terms of sporting opportunities, Year 7 have been involved in the Area Netball and Hockey competitions and Year 8 in the Area Netball Tournament. You will read about many other sporting successes within this newsletter. I continue to be very grateful to our staff for giving of their personal time, to ensure students

have such experiences as skiing in Italy over February half term; weekends away beginning the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh award and Football experiences at Newcastle and Ipswich. I wish staff and Year 11 students well as they begin their visit to Iceland with our Geography team and Year 10 students experiencing skiing in Canada during the Easter break.

In February, we were very proud to host the official opening of Field View Learning Hub and know how beneficial this will be to many of our students. I have been delighted to see our community working together under the guidance of our Eco-Schools Group to be part of the 'Great British Clean Up'. This was a huge undertaking by a very committed group of students and staff.

I have also been incredibly grateful to our Equality and Diversity group, who began the long journey towards our new Gender Neutral Uniform, which is being launched to our new Year 7 students in September. Without the dedication of this amazing group, (for over two years), we would not be in this strong position. I would like to thank them all for the time, care and dedication they have displayed. Talking of our new Year 7 students, I was delighted to be informed last month of the students who will be transferring from primary school to Tadcaster Grammar School in the next academic year. I am absolutely delighted in the continuing desire shown by parents to ensure their children join our community. I am really looking forward to welcoming the next generation of students when we meet them for transition events and when they

eventually join the Tadcaster Grammar School 'family' properly in September! I do know that the Easter Break will be a challenging time for our Year 11 and 13 students, but I do wish to reassure them that hard work really does pay off. Parents, please continue to encourage and support our students - the examinations do begin very soon after the Easter Break this year. I very much look forward to working with you during the Summer Term and hope you all have a very happy and enjoyable Easter break.

Wendy Wilson
 Head of School



Diary Dates

Mon 29 April	School Re-opens
Mon 29 April	MFL Oral Examinations Begin
Mon 6 May	Bank holiday (School closed)
Tue 7 May	Year 12 & 13 Art Exam
Wed 8 May	Year 12 & 13 Art Exam
Thurs 9 May	Year 11 Art Exam
Thurs 9 May	KS3 Drama Performance 6pm
Fri 10 May	Year 11 Art Exam
Mon 13 May	A Level & GCSE Examinations begin
Tues 21 May	UCAS 2020 Goes Live
Fri 24 May	School Closes for half-term

Diary Dates  [...read more>>](#)

Great Big School Clean



To help us on our journey to Green Flag status (and beyond) as an Eco-School, we took part in the 'Great Big School Clean'. It was part of Keep Britain Tidy's annual Great British Spring Clean – the largest mass litter pick in the country.

We recorded our litter pick and reported back to Keep Britain Tidy on the following:

How many people took part

How many minutes they picked up litter

How many bags of litter were collected

What type of litter was collected (plastic bottles, aluminium cans or general waste).

We asked our #LitterHeroes in each form to separate the items they collected into

three bags so that as much as possible can be recycled:

Plastic bottles (GREEN BAGS)

Aluminium cans (WHITE BAGS)

General waste. (BLACK BAGS)

Of course, we also love a bit of

competition...so we competed in Houses.

The House that collected the most rubbish won treats for each form!



A Voice From Tadcaster

UK Youth Parliament provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds to use their elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning.

Year 10 student Molly Richardson has been elected as the Central Yorkshire representative, covering Hambleton, Richmondshire and Selby district in the National Youth Parliament.

During Molly's two-year term of office, she will meet MPs and local councillors, organise events, run campaigns, make speeches, hold debates and ensure the views of young people are listened to by decision makers.

Speaking about her election, Molly said: "I am absolutely thrilled to be given such an incredible opportunity and want to truly represent the real voice of today's youth and my own generation. I can't wait to put all the hard work in to get an end result that benefits everybody."

MYPs are politically neutral. They will help to set the agenda for the annual Make Your Mark vote, which will start in August with the final votes being cast in October. In 2018, more than 1.1 million young people took part in the national vote.

During March, Molly attended a conference organised by the Youth Voice Executive for North Yorkshire - a group that gives the opportunity for 11-18 year olds a chance to speak their minds. This group works closely with the youth parliament and decides the major issues that the groups will focus on each year. Following an extensive vote with all the young people involved, this year's focus for the Youth Executive is bullying. Whether that's mental, physical, verbal or cyber bullying, the young people in North Yorkshire want to put a **stop** to it.



Mrs Wilson Congratulates Molly

Volunteers a Credit to School

Four Year 9 students volunteered at the LTA LD Tennis Tournament at the David Lloyd Club in York over a weekend in February and were described as "a credit to the school and, most importantly, themselves."

LD Tennis is played by people with learning disabilities leading to an IQ of less than 95. Most players have additional diagnoses affecting either their cognitive or physical function e.g. autism / epilepsy.

The main role of the volunteers was to support the players whilst they were on court by acting as ball girls/boys. The volunteers also assist the players to stand in the correct place, serve in the correct order etc. The volunteers were also involved in helping to set up the spectator areas, courts (inside and out), get players to and from the correct courts at the correct times etc.

The students were an integral part in the organisation and delivery of well over 100 tennis matches in what was a hugely busy tournament. At all times they showed a

wide variety of skills necessary in the organisation of an event like this; organisation, initiative, patience, communication, empathy to name a few. The students were a credit to themselves and the organisers would not hesitate in recommending their suitability for involvement in similar events



READ ON GET ON

Top tips for parents to help your child discover the magic of reading.

Ask for Recommendations

Ask your child's teacher or librarian for recommendations of books that will get your child excited about reading.

Make sure your children see you reading

You are a reading role model for your child, show them that books are an important part of life.

Comics, graphic novels and magazines all count.

So go with what your children like.

Make reading together achievable and enjoyable.

If it's stressful, no one is going to want to do it! Start off small, by reading together.

Don't force your child into finishing a book they don't like.

Follow your child's interests - there really is a book for everyone.



We are aware that students sometimes add extensions to their google accounts. Whilst we allow this, we have found that some extensions are causing upset.

What an extension is and what to look out for:
Google Chrome extensions are programs that can be installed into Chrome in order to change the browser's functionality. This includes adding new features to Chrome or modifying the existing behaviour of the program itself to make it more convenient for the user.

Why would my child want an extension?

They can be fun, offer customisations, add countdowns to holidays, Christmas etc. and in certain circumstances make the Chrome experience easier by offering shortcuts.

What are the problems?

- They can **occasionally** conflict with Chrome which then stops the chromebook working as it should.
- The majority are free and therefore you get a lot of adverts.
- Some extensions hide code that could install malware (software that is specifically designed to disrupt, damage, or gain unauthorised access to a computer system).

What to look out for.

Whilst most extensions are harmless, it's the adverts and pop ups of an extension being installed that can cause upset. We can police extensions and block certain ones, but, this is not something we want to do, as most are harmless and they can be fun and useful. We can't, however, police the adverts that pop up, as this is not in our control. Sometimes, the adverts just pop up or they can open a new tab in a browser to direct the user to a website. We would ask parents to be vigilant and keep an eye on what their child is installing. If you notice any extensions that may be inappropriate or create inappropriate pop ups or adverts, then please contact us on the email below and we will look into it. commsteam@tgs.starmat.uk



Revision Apps can help!



Gojimo Revision is the free app that helps you pass examinations. It is the UK's most popular revision app used by 1 in 3 GCSE and A Level students!



Forest Stay focused, be present. Forest is a popular productivity app that helps people beat their phone addiction and manage their time in an interesting and pleasant way. Users can earn credits by not using their phones and plant real trees around the world with the credits.



imindmap Offering you more flexibility than ever to release, capture and develop your greatest ideas with visual thinking. Make use of Mind Map, Radial Map, Organisational Chart, Brainstorm, Fast Capture, Time Map and Presentation View to ignite your creative thinking and unlock your greatest potential.



Memrise is a language platform that uses flashcards as memory aids, but also offers user-generated content on a wide range of other subjects. Memrise has official courses in 16 languages and its combinations.



Quizlet is the easiest way to practise and master whatever you're learning. More than 30 million students study with Quizlet each month because it's the leading education and flashcard app, that makes studying languages, history, vocabulary and science simple and effective.

Please don't forget getrevising.co.uk it is so useful for getting revision really going!

Easter Holidays Study Support

Following the success of the supervised study sessions in our ILC on Thursday evenings, we will be opening the ILC for a number of days over the Easter break for Year 11 to access a quiet and supervised space to revise in. Students will need to bring their revision materials with them and will be required to sign in and out with staff who will be based with them in the ILC....[read more>>](#)

The ILC will be open from **10.00am to 2.00pm** on the following days:

Tuesday 16 April - Thursday 18 April

Tuesday 23 April - Thursday 25 April



Year 13 and Year 11 Key Dates

13 May Start of A Level (GCE) and GCSE examinations

24 May Study Leave –this means you only need to come in for your examinations but lessons and teachers are still available for revision

14 June Year 11 Celebration Assembly in period 3

24 June Year 11 Alton Towers trip . Year 13 Celebration Assembly

26 June Year 13 Prom

28 June Year 11 Prom

National Contingency Day

Wednesday 26 June is National Contingency Day for GCSE and/or GCE examinations should sustained national or local disruption arise during the June 2019 examination series. This contingency day for GCSE and/or A Level (or equivalent) examinations has been put in place "in the event of widespread, sustained national or local disruption to examinations during the June 2019 examination series" This decision is not a school one and applies to **ALL** candidates in **ALL** schools in England and Wales.

Gold Success at DofE



Year 13 Student Holly Russell has just successfully completed Her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, and this is how she did it...



Holly, who has previously completed her Bronze and Silver Awards, was unsure if she should go for the triple and attempt Gold. Holly found the Silver Award very challenging, but, with support from a friend, she decided to go for it. The Gold Award is made up of the following sections; Volunteering - 12 Months, Physical / Skills - One section for 6 Months and the other for 3 Months, Expedition - 4 days and 3 nights, Residential -5 days and 4 nights.

For the Volunteering section Holly continued helping at her local youth club, which she has been doing since starting her Bronze Award,- giving up at least one hour a week to help others. For the

Physical activity you need to choose any sport, dance or fitness activity – in short, anything that requires a sustained level of energy and physical activity. Holly attended a Pilates Class at the gym every Monday evening. The Skills section is all about developing practical and social skills and personal interests. By choosing to develop a particular skill you are not only developing a new talent but you will also boost your self-esteem, develop practical and social skills and learn how to set, and rise to, a challenge. To complete the Skills section Holly attended a Mindfulness course that was run after school by Senior House Leader Nicola Weatherill. Holly continued practising out of school. For her Expedition section, Holly had to plan, train for and complete an unaccompanied, self-reliant expedition with an agreed aim. She had to do the correct training and at least one practice expedition, a qualifying expedition (the one that is assessed) and a final presentation in order to complete the section. Holly's expedition took part in the Yorkshire Dales. It involved walking eight hours for 20-60km, depending on the routes, per day. Unfortunately, the weather was poor, making it even more challenging. Results show that the key attributes employers looked for are leadership, teamwork, self-motivation, communication, confidence, consideration and the ability to learn - all of which you gain from doing the DofE Expedition section alone.

To achieve the Gold Award, you need to complete an extra section – the Residential. This involves spending five days and four nights away from home on a shared activity with people you've never met before. Holly went to the Brecon Beacons to take part in a walking and yoga retreat. She was responsible for making her own way there, cooking and cleaning, along with having an amazing time. The highlight was getting up at sunrise to do yoga! Assessors sign off a report after each section is complete. Holly has now been invited to receive her Gold DofE Certificate at Buckingham Palace in May.

The DofE is all about going the extra mile – gaining new skills, pushing yourself physically, helping others and exploring new territories. At the same time, you'll gather friendships, experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.



Incredible Partnership

By Vicci Wells **National Lead- Inclusion at the Youth Sports Trust**



I wish personally to highlight an outstanding student who attends your school - Jemima Browning. Jemima attended the national YST with her brother Will. This conference had over 700 delegates from schools all over the UK. Amanda Spielman, from Ofsted, opened the event by sharing how PE and School Sport plays a valuable role for all students. Within this conference, Will and Jemima facilitated a workshop for practioners (Head Teachers/Heads of Departments) around how young people can create social change. I have worked with both young people for the past two years through various Youth Sport Trust/Special Olympics projects and continue to be inspired by the incredible work both continue to do for others.

Jemima in particular quite simply blew me away yesterday with how confidently and articulately she spoke to a room full of adults that she had only just met. Thank you so much for enabling Jemima the opportunity to attend yesterday. I just wanted to express my sincere gratitude and thanks. Jemima is a remarkable young woman and represented Tadcaster Grammar School incredibly well yesterday, and I am sure you are very proud; as are



we all at the Youth Sport Trust.

Year 12 Student Jemima with brother Will an ex student at Tadcaster.

Rotary Leadership Awards

Congratulations to three sixth form students who have successfully interviewed for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. All the students interviewed extremely well and will make ideal Awardees.

The successful applicants were Sam Deal, who will be sponsored by Rotary Club of York, plus Luke Travena and Reuben Hillyard who will be sponsored by York Vikings Rotary Club.

This leadership programme gives young people hands-on challenges to grow a variety of skills. They can gain exposure to leadership scenarios, explore problem-solving strategies as part of a team, discuss and apply creative approaches to leadership, build confidence in yourself, meet new people and make lasting friendships, and learn how to arrange youth activities and community service projects locally and internationally.

Sports Update

Congratulations to the Year 9 Hockey Team who won the Area Tournament.
Year 7 and Year 8 girls were runners up in the Area Girls Football Tournament



Year 9 Hockey Team



Year 7 & 8 Girls Football Team



Well done to the Year 9 football team who were crowned league champions after a 5-3 win over Fulford School. It was a great game, played in the right spirit by both teams!



U14 NORTH YORKSHIRE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS! We are immensely proud of the team who won all 3 of their games in the final.

Match Day Experience

Year 8 and 9 students were given a fantastic opportunity of a match day experience - a tour and football session on the practice pitch at Ipswich Town Football Club. The students were able to 'access all areas' during the stadium tour. On a glorious, sunny day the students were put through their paces on the training ground and then formed the guard of honour as the players entered the pitch for the game between Ipswich Town and Hull City. An experience of a lifetime was had by all.



Ski Courmayeur

By a Year 8 Student

Over February half-term, 42 (including me) Year 8 students took a 24-hour coach journey to a ski resort called Courmayeur in the Aosta Valley in Italy. The Mont Blanc tunnel was definitely a favourite part of the visit as it was a signal that our 24 hours on a coach was nearly up. Our conditions were amazing whilst we were there: for the first 4 days it began to become a bit slushy as we came off the mountain but Interski was great and moved our lesson timings to fit with the snow. On the fifth day, we had lots of lovely fresh snow, so it was pure powder on the sixth. The hotel was so friendly and the food there was magnificent. The rooms were small but they were clean and tidy and that was all we needed as we were there to ski. The TGS and Interski staff were outstanding. This visit has given me so many life lessons; it has strengthened my friendships and helped me make new ones. It has not only helped with my friends though, it has also helped with my languages (Italian). As a Year 8 student, I believe I have just experienced the best

week of my life and I would definitely encourage anybody out there unsure of whether to go or not, to definitely go for it if you can.



We continue our partnership with Tadcaster Swimming Pool Trust to improve health and fitness.



t6 LEAGUES

MARTIN HOUSE CHARITY LEAGUE

6 A SIDE LEAGUE

Thursday Nights 19.00 - 21.00

£30 per team, per game
FA Qualified Referees
Live online league fixtures & results

Percentage of the leagues profit is donated to Martin House Hospice

Team registrations contact Luke
bookings@tadcasterpool.org.uk

t: 01937 833001
e: bookings@tadcasterpool.org.uk
www.tadcasterpool.org.uk

HPV Vaccine



All girls in the UK are offered the human papilloma virus (HPV)

vaccine from the age of 12 up to their 18th birthday. It helps to protect them against cervical cancer which is the most common cancer in women under the age of 35 in the UK.

The Childhood Immunisation Team, North Yorkshire were in school on Monday 18 March 2019 to deliver another session for our Year 8 girls.

For more information about the HPV vaccination, please visit: www.nhs.uk

Testicular Cancer



April is Testicular Cancer Awareness Month. Testicular cancer is the most common cancer in men aged between **15 and 45**. In most cases the outcome for men with this cancer is positive, but to achieve this it is important to know the facts and take action early.

For more information and advice on how to check yourself please visit:

www.uk.movember.com
www.orchid-cancer.org.uk

Mental Health

Mental Health Awareness Week 2019 will take place from Monday 13 to Sunday 19 May 2019. The theme for 2019 is Body Image – how we think and feel about our bodies. Body image issues can affect all of us at any age. The good news is that we can tackle body image through what children are taught in school, by the way we talk about our bodies on a daily basis and through policy change by governments across the UK...[read more>>](#)



EVERY Day Counts

When 90% is not enough

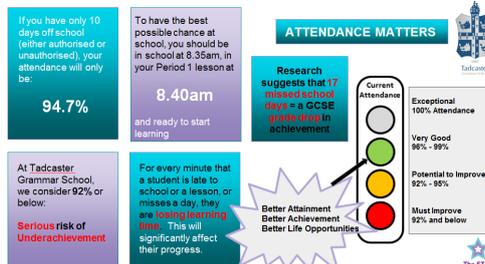
We have had a focus on the importance of attendance in House Assemblies. Students were reminded of the relationship between school attendance and attainment. An attendance rate of 90% over the course of a school year equates to four weeks of lost learning and over five years this totals half a year of missed schooling. Research suggests that 17 missed school days a year equals one GCSE grade DROP in attainment. Put simply **the greater the attendance the greater the attainment.**

We set every student, every tutor group and every House attendance targets to be reviewed and students whose attendance was 100% were recognised in a prize draw in their assembly. We want all students to aim for significantly above the 90% threshold to ensure the best outcomes. As a school, we begin to monitor student attendance very closely when it drops below 92%.

With this in mind, can we please remind parents that we cannot authorise holidays in term time. We also ask that if your child is absent from school, you ring the school and leave a message for our Attendance Officer, stating the reason for the absence and when you hope they will return.

Finally, our advice about attendance to parents is simple - we understand that students do experience ill health, but do encourage your child to return to school as soon as they can after an illness. If you have to book medical appointments during the school day, please try to ensure your child attends school for part of the day. If you begin to have concerns about your child's attendance and require support, please contact the school as soon as possible so that we can put some support in place.

Above all, **we want to support all students to have aspirational attendance targets of above 97%.**



In Brief

Student to Enter Parliament

Year 10 student has been elected as the Central Yorkshire representative in the National Youth Parliament...[read more>>](#)

Progress 8 explained

Government's way of measuring how students make progress ...[read more>>](#)



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