



# Head's Newsletter

**December 2017**

## 'A Culture of Excellence'

Dear Parents and Students,

As the end of the autumn term approaches, this is the time when we begin to receive data which examines the attainment and progress of TGS students compared to all students nationally. It is an incredibly important point in the year for us, as it allows staff and governors to really interrogate all aspects of the school's overall examination performance and to evaluate strengths and areas for improvement.

I would like to share just some of the headlines from the 2017 examinations with you:

- Progress of TGS students at GCSE overall (the new progress 8 measure) was significantly above the national average
- Attainment of TGS students at GCSE (the new attainment 8 measure) was significantly above the national average
- Progress of TGS students in English and Mathematics (level 4+) was above the national average
- Progress of TGS students at A-level overall was above the national average
- School attendance of TGS students was above the national average

As you can imagine this was great news which we were very pleased to receive and was improved even further by the school's inclusion in the Sunday Times list of the top 10 State schools in the North of England for 2017. I am delighted for our students and staff and so proud of their considerable efforts. It was a great pleasure to see so many of them return to receive their certificates at our annual awards evening this week.

Schools though, are so much more than examination results. In our 'culture of excellence' we aim to develop the whole person and provide opportunities for everyone to flourish and grow as young adults. I think that this is reflected by the staggering range of things that have been taking place in the school this term and are recorded in this newsletter.....

Have a great Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Term starts on Monday 8 January 2018.

Martyn Sibley  
Headteacher





## Senior Awards Evening

Our Senior Awards evening was a celebration of achievement and success and a wonderful occasion for all involved.

Mr Sibley gave the welcome to students past and present and their families, congratulating them on their achievements. Guest Speaker Liz Lord, Schools Liaison for the Myriad Project, Oxford University, inspired everyone with her special words of advice and wished all our students well for the future. Alicia Fletcher entertained with two fine solo performances and she will definitely be a name to watch out for in the future. Head Students Madeleine McLure and Penelope Meek gave the Vote of Thanks and presented Liz Lord with a gift to thank her for speaking.

Liz Lord presented certificates and prizes to all students and also special Trophies and Shields as follows:

The Joe Lister Trophy for Sporting Achievement – Oliver Riley

Outstanding Achievement in Economics – Oliver Riley

Most Enterprising Female Student – Elissa Wrigglesworth

The Special Award for Design & Technology – Ellie Wilson

The Washington Green Fine Art Prize – Anna Lumley

The Iain Farnsworth Trophy for Academic Achievement – Rhys Evans

The Oglethorpe & Dawson Shield for Outstanding Performance – Gabriel Stephenson

Governors' Shield for Service to the School – Eleanor Dodd

House Leaders' Special Award – Jacob O'Toole and Amy Shields

Director of Sixth Form Shield – Nadia Ahmed





### Former Student Flies In

Lieutenant Luke Wraith certainly made an impression when he piloted his own helicopter and landed at Tadcaster Grammar School.

The former TGS student contacted the school to say that he and his team were in the local area based at Linton-On-Ouse for a time and he would love to return to his roots and speak to Sixth Form students about his experiences since leaving Tadcaster. "I am particularly interested in talking to students about Maths and Physics and the use of these subjects in everyday life, as well as giving students a tour of the helicopter and its workings," said Luke.



Luke left TGS in 2008 to pursue his career with the Royal Navy and made history this year when, as the youngest pilot, he was chosen to conduct the first ever deck landing onboard HMS Queen Elizabeth in his Merlin helicopter.

"We were delighted to welcome Luke back to TGS, and wow what a way to arrive, landing his 15 tonne Royal Navy helicopter in our fields," said Director of Sixth Form Mrs Ros Knapton. "It is wonderful that our past students still feel connected to their TGS family and want to come back and talk to current Year 12 and 13 students about opportunities after school. It gives them a great sense of perspective of how school develops them for the workplace," she added. "We are truly grateful for such a wonderful, unique and informative presentation and tour of the helicopter."

As well as Sixth Form students, there was great excitement amongst younger students, especially Thomas Hathaway-Hogg and Elliot Coombes, who are already taking flying lessons at Linton-On-Ouse with a view to joining the RAF. They were able to speak to Luke and members of the team and get a further insight into life as a pilot.

"This was a wonderful opportunity to get close up and personal to a Royal Naval Team," said Luci Davies, CEIAG, Business and Links Manager. "Students were privileged to have a tour of the helicopter and were encouraged to be inquisitive. There are many careers within the Navy and the 12-strong team demonstrated the many routes into the service. I am extremely grateful to Luke and his team for giving up their time to make a difference for our young adults."





## Remembering the Fallen—We Will Remember Them

Our annual Service of Remembrance, with two minutes' silence and The Last Post, was held on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday. Mr Sibley welcomed all those present saying: "We

come here, as every year, to remember those who have given their lives for our country". He read a poignant letter from a father to his son taken from the book 'Six Weeks' by John Lewis-Stempel. Mr Sibley concluded with the words "We Will Remember Them".



**In Flanders Fields**  
John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.



**We Shall Keep the Faith**  
*by Miss Michael*

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,  
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!  
We caught the torch you threw  
And holding high, we keep the Faith  
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red  
That grows on fields where valor led:  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies,  
But lends a lustre to the red  
Of the flower that blooms above the dead  
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red  
We wear in honor of our dead.  
Fear not that ye have died for naught;  
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought  
In Flanders Fields.



Head students Penny Meek and Maddy McLure read In Flanders Fields and We Shall Keep the Faith respectively. Alex Robinson played The Last Post.





## Time For Fun and Forging New Friendships on Residential

More than 250 Year 7 students and 20 members of staff went to the Kingswood Outdoor Centre, near Doncaster, for a three-day residential visit and had an amazing time!

Students took part in a range of activities to stretch and challenge themselves and to help forge new friendships, including: abseiling, Jacob's ladder, orienteering, archery, nightline (a blindfolded obstacle course!).

Many thanks to all who gave up their time (both in school and at the Centre) to make it happen - especially Mr Solk the trip leader extraordinaire!

"I would definitely recommend our Kingswood residential!" said Year 7 student Emily Halstead. "It was packed full of excitement and fun. The food was really nice and you could overcome any fears you faced. The staff were helpful, caring and kind. My favourite activities throughout our stay were Jacob's ladder and problem solving. Both activities required teamwork, which were good at enabling you to meet new friends and finish the challenge more quickly."

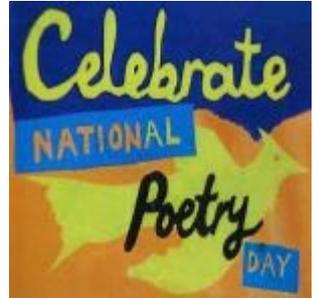




## Celebrating National Poetry Day

Students acknowledged National Poetry Day with a Poetry competition..

All entries were entitled Freedom and there were some awe-inspiring poems submitted by students of all years.



The overall winner of the poetry competition was Year 7 student Polly Whyley with her amazing entry. She is pictured with Mr Sibley at a special presentation and with Year 9 and 11 winners, Katie Redhead and Sophie Shooter respectively.



The winning entrants are pictured below with Mrs Boddy who organised the event and Mr Sibley.





### Successful Futures Project is Resounding Success!

Year 11 Work Experience students were congratulated on their recent success.

Working through the North Yorkshire Business and Education Partnership (NYBEP) on its Successful Futures Project, the students were recently presented with their Certificates by Sharon Maddison, Skills Development Advisor with NYBEP.

“It was an absolute pleasure working with these young men, said Ms Maddison. “They have come a long way and achieved so much. I am extremely proud of them and they should be extremely proud of themselves.”

Also at the presentation were Mr Sibley and our governor Mr David Gluck, who was an employer for one of the boys.



### You Only Live Once – YOLO

Thank you to Stephen Burke with The Invisible Man Theatre Company for bringing YOLO - You Only Live Once to TGS. His performances for Year 9 students on life choices, alcohol, drugs, relationships and e-safety etc. were very well received.





## TGS Homeless Period Project

By Head Students Madeleine McLure and Penelope Meek – Year 13

As the first ever all-female Head Student team, we decided to embark on a slightly unusual charity adventure this year: the Homeless Period project.

Fifty thousand women are living on the streets nationwide without access to sanitary items. Periods are the number one reason girls in developed countries miss school. The instance of depression is three times higher in homeless women than the national average.

These facts shocked us! Not only do we consider female hygiene as vital as having access to clean water, food and shelter, but this is also an issue facing women in our area.

Wherever there is a homeless population, there will be women struggling with little or no access to products to maintain their personal hygiene. This has both physical impacts (risk of infection, toxic shock syndrome and skin irritation to name but a few) and also major mental health implications.

We believe every human being has the right to feel clean and dignified, no matter what their situation may be.

Our campaign to collect female sanitary items for homeless women has been kicked off to an amazing start with a donation from school of more than 800 sanitary products – wow!

Without a doubt, this is an issue that everyone (boys very much included) has to get involved in. Female sanitary items are not a luxury and should not be out of reach for any woman or girl and we need everyone's help to make this a reality! What's more, we hope that by starting a conversation about menstruation, the stigma surrounding periods can finally be removed. Hello 2017!

Any female sanitary items are needed, welcomed and very much appreciated, as well as any small change. Equally vital to us is support and we are very thankful to the students in younger years who have volunteered to run the collections alongside us.

Please follow us at @HeadStudentsTGS to track our progress!





## Year 12 Charity Fundraising—Bake Sales Galore

**Wear It Pink**— Congratulations to Year 12 students who raised the magnificent sum of £330.71 for Breast Cancer Now [@breastcancernow](#) on Wear It Pink Day #wearitpink



**Mental Health Awareness**— Well done to Year 12 girls, working with National Citizen Service [@NCS](#) and calling their project the Northern Creative Scheme, to raise awareness of mental health issues in North Yorkshire. Their bake sale raised the fantastic sum of £211.38 for Lime Trees and Magnetic Arts [@queenofmoths](#)

**Amnesty International**— Another bake sale with Year 12 students—this time for Amnesty International [@amnesty](#) raising the amazing sum of £123.50.





## Inter-House Hat Competition

Hats off to all those who participated in the Inter-House Hat Competition!

There were some fabulous entries and the winning forms were C3CCA, D3ELA, F8AHL, T7JDA, W6CDU, O6SKI. Well done to all and at the end of the day you were all winners!





## Children In Need

TGS celebrated Children In Need and raised the fantastic sum of £1,258.75.

Members of staff dressed as characters from the year they were born and there were some wonderful outfits – Mr Potts as Princess Leia, Mrs Beal as Popeye and Mrs Chauda as Barbie. Sixth Form students donned their onesies and other students dressed in non-uniform wearing odd socks and paying £1 for the privilege of doing so. There was also a cake stall.

Thank you to everyone who got into the spirit of the day. The camaraderie on the day was amazing and we raised a fantastic amount of money for a very worthy cause.





## Tea Time Treat with VLS By Mrs Parker-Starbuck (Life Skills)

A big thank you from Mrs Clark and myself to all those members of staff who gave up their time to help us support the VLS students in developing essential skills for going into the workplace.

It might seem a simple thing writing an email to invite a guest to a meeting, to make buns and drinks, interview them and ask questions and ensure that you have everything prepared, but for these VLS students it is massive.

Some of the students had never made a cup of tea or coffee. Some were

terrified of touching the kettle. Most had no clue how to send an invite, with a target audience of adults.

The students have developed these skills, as well as working as a team, as part of their KeySkill Improving Own Learning. For this KeySkill they



have to also pass an industry standard Food Hygiene certificate.

We really appreciated the extra support all these members of staff gave us and so did the students!





## Jemima Inspiring Others at Inspire North

By Wendy Binns – Publicity Officer TGS

Dozens of inspirational young people were presented with awards in memory of Princess Diana at a special ceremony held recently at Leeds College of Music in Leeds.

I was invited to attend the Inspire North event, by student Jemima Browning, who, not only received a Diana Award herself, but co-presented the awards with TV and Radio presenter Abbie Dewhurst.

I was very honoured to attend and privileged to be given the opportunity to take photographs of Jemima in action and with the various presenters. Also in attendance were Jemima's proud parents and grandparents and Mrs Egan from TGS, who nominated Jemima for the Diana Inaugural Legacy Award earlier in the year. Jemima was one of only 20 young people in the world to be presented with the Inaugural Legacy Award by Princes William and Harry at a special ceremony held at St James' Palace in May.

On this occasion, the Diana Awards were presented by the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire Dame Ingrid Roscoe, gold medallist Hannah Cockroft MBE and musician Danny Jones of McFly as part of the Inspire Series.

The Awards were set up to recognise young people who have demonstrated the qualities of kindness, compassion and service championed by the late Princess. The Diana Awards are supported by her sons the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry.

The Inspire series travels across the UK to meet, celebrate and empower courageous young citizens in Diana, Prince of Wales' name. As well as receiving awards, during the day the young people received specialised training in campaigning and communication to kick start a year-long social action initiative, with their peers, to tackle social issues, make a change and contribute to a brighter future for themselves and others.

I am sure it was a day Jemima will remember for a long time – I know I will.





## Fixers Fixed it for Jemima

If you were watching ITV Calendar news on 9 November, you will have seen Year 12 student Jemima Browning speaking passionately about her brother Will.

Through Calendar, the programme Fixers brought to our television screens Jemima and Will's story and her hopes for the future.

Taken from their website [www.fixers.org.uk](http://www.fixers.org.uk) Fixers are young people using their past to fix the future. They are motivated by personal experience to make positive change for themselves and those around them. Real people, real stories, real change. Fixers have different

backgrounds, interests and life experiences, and come from every corner of the UK, but they do have several important things in common. They are motivated by a desire to act on an issue that is important to them or a strong desire to help other people. They also have a voice that they want to be heard, whether that's on eating disorders, drugs, offending, cyberbullying or any other issue that is concerning them. Becoming a Fixer allows that to happen. Fixers are heard, understood and respected by others. Fixers choose the issue they want to fix and, using the skills of a team of creative experts, they work out how to make sure their message is heard by the right people, whether that's through a unique film, a leaflet or poster campaign, a website, an event or workshop.

### Here is Jemima's message:

*"My main message is that people with disabilities may need a bit of extra support. But as soon as you give them the key to success, they can go and do anything that they want to do. Over the years I have learnt a lot from my brother Will, 15, who has Downs Syndrome. I think the main thing is resilience. Sometimes, somebody might not think he can do something, but he doesn't let that affect him. He just says 'right – I am going to prove you wrong'". With Fixers, 16-year-old Jemima wants to promote more activity groups for young people with disabilities. Jemima says that when Will was at primary school he was treated exactly the same as all the other children, but as he grew up, it became noticeable that there were fewer and fewer chances for him to excel on his own terms. "I think that was really damaging for him," she says. "He started not to believe in himself and that was very hard to watch." Jemima responded by setting up a swimming club called Stingrays for disabled young people. She explains: "It's important for Will to*



*mix with the mainstream world, but that can still be quite an isolating experience if he's the only person with a disability among lots of people without disabilities. So it's really important for groups like Stingrays to provide them with that little comfort barrier – so they can feel like, 'I am the same as anyone else here and we are all going through the same things'."*

Jemima works in school with other students to promote her good work through Play Unified and they express themselves through dance with instructor June Mitchell-Flynn once a week.





## Year 11 Lads Strike Gold With Going for Gold

When the Year 11 football squad sang Going For Gold by Shed Seven, little did they know that they would receive a personal message from a member of the band.

Rick Witter, lead singer with the York band heard that the lads had played the song on a mini-bus on the way to a match and when they were on their way to play in the National Cup 5<sup>th</sup> Round football match at Garforth he sent them a good luck video message ahead of the game.

“It was really good of Rick to do this especially as the band is on a major tour at the moment,” said PE Teacher George Middleton, whose mum and uncle went to school with Rick at Huntington School.

Unfortunately TGS lost 2-1, but they put up a brave fight with two men down because of injury. A corner goal by the away team was the last kick of the match to secure the win.

**George Middleton (Teacher of PE) (left)**

**Rick Witter (lead singer with Shed Seven) (right)**





## Weatherman Aaron

Year 8 student Aaron Foster loves reading the weather.

Aaron has autism and he uses the weather to let us know how he is feeling. Snow makes him happy!

Imagine Aaron's great surprise and delight when he found out that he was going to BBC Look North studios to read the weather! Not only that, but Owain Wyn Evans and his cameraman came into school to film Aaron and then took him back to the studios. He was accompanied by Teaching Assistants Mrs Hepworth, Mrs Heneachon, Miss Preston and his Mum. Year 10 student Mark Johnson was also invited along.

"Aaron was an absolute superstar," said Mrs Hepworth. "He was calm and acted maturely and showed no sign of anxiety or worry. He did everything that was asked of him without question, remembered some tricky information and could repeat it on cue as the cameraman needed to film parts several times to get the different camera angles needed," she added.

"When we got to the BBC Aaron was again calm and mature and didn't get star struck unlike most of us adults who were with him!!! Owain kept asking me if Aaron was doing okay and if it would be alright to ask him to take part in a few more things? I said that Aaron was having the time of his life and was showing no signs of anxiety and loving every second so please feel free to film away!!! Aaron and

his mum, and indeed all of us who took part in Friday's event had an amazing time which we will cherish and never forget. It was amazing, and we are so very grateful to Mr Potts and to the BBC for giving this hugely positive experience to Aaron.

The effects of this day will last a lifetime for him as it was a day filled to the brim with joy and happiness, which we can remind him of and draw upon whenever he is feeling low (heavy rain showers.) I was so proud of him for his calmness, maturity and endurance in what was a long day."





## TGS Seeks Former Students to Inspire New

Tadcaster Grammar School is seeking former students who can inspire the current generation to academic success and career confidence.

TGS is one of 900 state secondary schools and colleges across Britain that has worked with the education charity Future First to harness the talents and experience of alumni to support current students through 'old school tie networks.'

The school wants to contact former students in established careers and recent leavers in further education, alumni who live nearby and those who have moved away.

Future First's vision is that every state school or college should be supported by a thriving, engaged alumni community that helps it to do more for its students. More than 200,000 former students nationwide have signed up to stay connected with their old school. They're motivating young people as career and education role models, mentors, work experience providers, governors and fundraisers.

Martyn Sibley Head Teacher said: "We signed up to Future First's scheme straightaway. I believe that this is a really exciting initiative! Our former students have gone on to achieve amazing things. We really want to hear from them, hear their stories and re-connect them with the TGS family'.

Christine Gilbert, Executive Chair of Future First and a former Ofsted Chief Inspector, said, "Every state school student should have the opportunity to succeed in life after school, regardless of their background. If students see 'people like me' have succeeded, they are more likely to believe they can too. They work harder and have higher expectations of success. We want more schools to see the benefits of using their alumni as a powerful resource."

Luci Davies, Business and Links Manager at Tadcaster Grammar School is waiting to hear from former students on [l.davies@tgsch.uk](mailto:l.davies@tgsch.uk). Former students can also register with Future First by clicking the "For former students" link on the website [www.futurefirst.org.uk](http://www.futurefirst.org.uk).

Other state schools or colleges wishing to register with Future First should click the "For Schools and Colleges" link.

For further information about Future First, visit [www.futurefirst.org.uk](http://www.futurefirst.org.uk), contact Press Officer Sue Crabtree on [sue.crabtree@futurefirst.org.uk](mailto:sue.crabtree@futurefirst.org.uk) or call one of the team on 0207 239 8933.

### TGS First Cricket XI 1957:

Back—Mr Cook, R Hall (scorer), Routledge, Carr, Bradley, Swift, Wilstrop, Headmaster

Middle—Webster, Walker, Ralph, Fim, Gilpin, Wallis

Front—Vatts, Rollinson





## Where Are They Now?

By Wendy Binns (Publicity Officer for TGS)

The story 'Where Are They Now' in the October Newsletter, featuring Michael Robinson, Luke Tillett, Chris Johnson and Sarah Strand was very well received and it is always a joy to report on students' achievements and tell their stories.

I was delighted to receive an email, from Australia, on World Teachers' Day to make contact with Mrs Weatherill and Mr Ward:

*As today is World Teachers Day, I wondered if you could possibly forward this email on to Mrs Weatherill and Mr Ward.*

*I'm not sure if you would remember me, but I was Alison Kane back when I was a student at TGS (94-99). Mrs Weatherill, you were my form teacher for Years 9-11 and Mr Ward, you used to call me "Citizen Kane, the sweetest girl from Rotherham".*

*I'm currently a Business teacher in Queensland, Australia! I know, I know.... Alison Kane ... a teacher!!!! And trust me, I often think that it's karma when I get a challenging student.*

*But I often think back to how you both were as teachers and reflect on the way you built relationships with students and handled different situations and I would like to think that both of you have influenced me and my teaching style. I know I wasn't the easiest student (especially in Year 9... but girls are particularly awful in Year 9 aren't they), but I always enjoyed your lessons, even if both of you could scare the ..... out of me!*

*Anyway, I guess I'm just writing to say thank you for the amazing job you did, and I'm sure, continue to do. The students at Tad are lucky you are both still there.*

*Kindest Regards,  
Alison Gadsby (nee Kane)*

"It was a wonderful surprise to hear from Alison after all these years and I am so pleased that everything has worked out for her," said Mr Ward.

"I was delighted to receive the email from Alison on World Teachers Day," said Mrs Weatherill. "It is always wonderful, as a teacher, but also as a person, to realise that you have made a positive impact on a young person's life. It was also funny to think that her photo was on the board in the lab until very recently!"

I made contact with Alison and asked her to tell her story for this edition of the Newsletter.

*When I left in '99, I went to York College and undertook an NVQ3 in Business Administration. After a couple of years, I found myself working for the MOD at Imphal Barracks in York. I loved it there, but desperately wanted to live overseas and happened to see an article in the Sunday Times (aged 22), which stated that it cost the same to study in Australia as it did in London, when the cost of living was factored in.*

*So I went to Griffith University in Brisbane and took a Commerce degree. The MOD had given me a sabbatical for three years and I had every intention of returning to York, but in the end, I loved Brisbane too much. I actually did my Post Grad Teaching qualification as a means of getting a permanent visa for Australia (with no intention of actually being a teacher) but on my first prac, I fell in love with teaching too.*

*My husband is in the RAAF so we've lived in Canberra for a couple of years, but are back in Brisbane now. I currently work as supply for a few schools in the area, as we have a little girl (almost two years old) and I'm not ready to go back to full time work.*





## Former Student To Fulfil Lifelong Ambition

A lifelong ambition to work with animals in Africa is about to come true for former student Rebecca Hawkins from Tadcaster.

Rebecca Hawkins, 20, will fly to Zambia in the New Year with the organisation African Impact and work as a volunteer with the Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Orphan Care Project there. She will combine this project with lion conservation and community work. Working closely with African Lion and Environmental Research Trust (ALERT), Becky will also be involved in ground-breaking lion conservation in Africa.

Becky is very excited about fulfilling her dream and hopes that ultimately these invaluable experiences may lead to a permanent job in Africa:

"I cannot believe I am going. "It hasn't really sunk in yet!" said Becky. "I love chimpanzees and I am so excited, but I couldn't have done this without my Mum and Dad. I owe them a massive thank you," she added. Becky will spend one month with each project, but she is also looking forward to all the extra adventures on offer. "I have the opportunity to go bungee jumping off Victoria Falls and kayaking – how amazing is all this – it is all a dream come true!"

Danny Middleton, Destination Manager with African Impact says that Becky will fit in really well to life out there. "Her passion for wildlife certainly comes across strongly and this type of project is perfect for someone with that passion," he said. "Our projects are certainly a two-way thing – the positive impact that we make in protecting Africa's wildlife and offering education to underprivileged communities can also be a life-changing experience for volunteers like Rebecca. I have no doubt she will make a real difference."



Becky recently played the lead role of Snow White with Tadcaster Theatre Company . Current Year 8 student Sophia O'Callaghan also took part in Snow White and the Several Dwarfs as Agent Scarlet.

Unfortunately, Sophia broke her elbow a couple of weeks before opening night. A visit to The Works in Leeds resulted in the injury. However, in true professional style Sophia was determined that the show must go on. With her pot coloured scarlet Sophia was the perfect Agent. Well Done!





## Girls Smash It at York Schools Cross Country

By Mrs Collinson (Teacher of PE)

Fantastic news!

Both the Year 7 girls' team and the junior girls (Year 8 and 9) WON the York Schools Cross Country event.

The Year 7 girls had a team total of 32, with our first five runners finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The team finishing second had a score of 100, so basically we smashed it! Twelve schools and 120 runners took part – what a fantastic result! The junior girls won with a score of 104, again with 12 schools and 108 runners competing – another fantastic achievement!

Year 7 boys finished 4<sup>th</sup> with a score of 114. The junior boys finished 8<sup>th</sup> out of 14 schools, with a score of 225.



Year 7 Girls were: India Chesters (2<sup>nd</sup>), Isabella Devereux (3<sup>rd</sup>), Emily Arnold (4<sup>th</sup>), Sophie McLure (11<sup>th</sup>), Ellie Harrison (12<sup>th</sup>) – these were the five counters for our team score of 32 (pictured above). The rest of the team were Darcie Richardson, Lily Priestley, Abi Sadler and Darcie Kirk.

Junior Girls (Year 8 and 9) were: Harriet Gibson (Year 8, 4<sup>th</sup>), Lucy Atkinson (Year 9, 12<sup>th</sup>), Lucy Gaskin (Year 8, 19<sup>th</sup>), Jess Flint (Year 9), Grace Stevens (Year 8), Chloe Hall (Year 9), Cherie Akpoguma (Year 8), Lucy Kemp (Year 8) and Rosie Hicks (Year 9).

The eight girls finishing in the top 20, all received letters inviting them to training and to represent the Area at the North Yorkshire Championships in January.

Three boys also finished in the top 20 receiving letters: Tom Miles (Year 7, 9<sup>th</sup>), Will Stott (Year 7, 11<sup>th</sup>) and Connor Hirst (Year 9, 16<sup>th</sup>). Andrew Hirst (Year 10) also deserves a special mention. He is in my form, so I persuaded him to come to make up an Inter Boys team. One of the other boys dropped out on the day and, therefore, we had no team to count, but Andrew finished 18<sup>th</sup> and just missed out on a letter (Top 15 for Inters) and was racing against Year 11s.

Mr Sibley met with the successful students recently to congratulate them and to let them know how proud he is of their achievement.





### PE Sporting Star Weekly Award

From September 2017 the PE Faculty has been nominating students for this new weekly award. Each week two students are presented with a specially designed water bottle and receive five house points for their achievements. This term's winners are:

Week 1—Ethan Newiss and Molly Newton; Week 2—Ben Jones and Charlotte McRoyall; Week 3—Harry Tinker and Eve Hastie; Week 4—Connor Elson and Olivia Turnbull; Week 5—Benjamin Pumfrey and India Chesters; Week 6—James Tucker and Natalya Aspinall; Week 7—Theo Wilson and Caroline Kilkenny.





## News In Brief

### Burnley



Thirty-seven Year 7 students went to watch the Premiership game - Burnley v Stoke City. Despite it being a very cold, wet and windy night in Burnley, the students were fantastic. They went on the pitch prior to the game to shake a giant shirt as the players entered the pitch. Burnley won 1-0!



### W2RSO Stockeld Visit

Students from Mr Solk's tutor group went on the annual Christmas visit to Stockeld Park. The students showed their skills on the ice rink and then went for fish and chips at the Wetherby Whaler!



### CPD Handball

Team PE staff had the opportunity for some Handball CPD recently. It was delivered by Bill Baillie, the coach to the 2012 Olympic Men's Handball team! His knowledge and experience ensured it was a rewarding course.



## Cycling All the Way to the Top

Joe Waterfield is aiming to cycle all the way to the top.

The Year 8 student may be only 12 years old, but he is already the recipient of six cycling trophies and numerous medals.

Joe began cycling at the tender age of nine. He is dedicated to the sport. He absolutely loves cycling and trains four times a week, becoming faster and stronger all the time.

As a member of Clifton Cycling Club Joe's achievements this year are phenomenal. He recently won the Under 12s White Rose covering Sheffield, Halifax, Wakefield, York, Leeds and Bradford, the North East Youth League Racing at Middlesbrough and Hetton and the Barnsley and Stockton Town Centre races, with a second place in Doncaster. Joe also competed in the GHS National TT in Peterborough setting a personal best of 28 mins.

Joe regularly rides Manchester Velodrome in the ACT Track League and took victory in the Summer Track League at York Velodrome over the Summer.

For the time being Joe is just enjoying his sport, but we are sure at TGS that he will be a name to watch out for in the future.

Well done Joe and good luck for the future!





### Talented Tadcaster Swimmers Going From Strength to Strength

The Gala Secretary at Tadcaster Swim Squad contacted Mr Sibley to make him aware of the many talented swimmers within the squad who are students at TGS.

“I just wanted to let you know about the great success of Tadcaster Grammar School students at the Yorkshire Swimming Association Winter competition. Alex Chesters, India Chesters and Tabitha Browning all competed at the age group (U13) competition with Alex and India both achieving finalists places. Tom Carswell, Alex Heard, Chloe Foster, Ben Digby, Abby Parkinson and Gemma Parkinson all competed at the senior competition, with Alex gaining several finalist places, Tom achieving gold, silver and bronze medals and Abby receiving gold and two silvers.”

India and Abby also competed at the North East swimming championships recently, with Tom, Alex, Abby and Gemma all competing in the junior/senior competition the following weekend. Joe and Megan Burnell were also at the Yorkshires competing for City of Leeds Swim Squad.

“You have some incredibly talented swimmers in your school going from strength to strength and it would be lovely to celebrate.”

Mr Sibley met with the students, congratulating them on their success and reading out the email from The Gala Secretary in recognition of their achievements. Haribos all round!



Well Done to all and keep up the good work!



### Rugby Success for Oliver, Sam and Kyle

Congratulations to Oliver Field and Samuel Little who were recently awarded scholarships with Leeds Rhinos Rugby League team and to Kyle Davies for his recent success with a scholarship with Wakefield Trinity.

The Year 10 boys, who all play for Wetherby Bulldogs, have worked really hard this year. Their dedication to the sport of rugby has really paid off and their parents are extremely proud of their achievements.

Oliver and Sam attended the launch night and were presented with a shirt from Rob Burrow, retired English professional rugby league footballer, who spent 16 years playing for the Leeds Rhinos in the Super League, before retiring this year. Their scholarships run for two years, after which, if they are successful, they will hopefully be signed into the Academy. They will be training two evenings per week alongside their normal training with Wetherby Bulldogs, who this year won the Division One League title.



### Reading Matters for Reading Leaders

A celebration buffet took place in the ILC for our Year 7 Reading Matters students. Here they are showing off their Certificates of Achievement with their Year 12 Reading Leaders. Well done to all and many thanks to our Year 12 students for making a difference.





## Raising the Roof at Ainsty Carols

TGS hosted the annual Ainsty Carols in the Main Hall.



The TGS Concert Band and Pop Choir conducted by Miss Buckley and Miss Caine were joined by children from Riverside Primary School for an afternoon of festive music and song.





## 'And They All Sang' And More!

The annual Community Christmas Service held at St Mary's Church in Tadcaster and hosted by students from Tadcaster Grammar School, was the best ever and worthy of note.

'And They All Sang' was a festive celebration not just through song. Students excelled themselves through their singing, drama, the playing of instruments and much more. Several narrators told the Christmas story which included angels, shepherds and inflatable sheep!



The Pop Choir and Chamber Choir were in fine voice and there was some exceptional solo singing



from India Chesters, Phoebe Cook, Darcie Kirk, Sophia O'Callaghan and Eleanor Blundell. A quartet of Sixth Form students Alicia Fletcher, Erin Wilson, Lawrence Jeffrey-Parkinson and Jordan Bennett singing The Angel

Gabriel from Heaven Came a cappella was particularly stunning and you could have heard a pin drop in church. Eleanor Briggs gave a confident performance of Silent Night played beautifully on her flute and there was fine accompanying on the piano by Alannah Shaw.



Conducted and accompanied by Miss Buckley, Miss Caine, Mr Dalton and Mrs Hainsworth on the organ, the programme included traditional carols with the congregation invited to join in.

In attendance were the Deputy Mayor of Tadcaster Don Mackay, Headteacher Martyn Sibley, members of staff and governors, parents, grandparents, members of the Church and the community, all showing their support for an evening which can only be described as inspiring.

Reverend Canon Sue Sheriff welcomed all to the evening and gave thanks at the close. "You never cease to surprise and delight me," she said. "A massive thank you to all of you for an outstanding evening in celebration of this wonderful time of the year, which

could not be achieved without the dedicated staff members at the school," she added.



## Christmas Concert Showcases Students Many Talents



Our Christmas Concert was a festive delight showcasing the many talents of our students.

Those taking part included the Concert Band, Big Band, Pop Choir, String Group, Chamber Choir, Saxophone Ensemble and Jam Club. There was an excellent piano solo from Angus Gibby, playing Chopin's Nocturne in C# minor.



Thank you to Miss Buckley, Miss Caine, Mr Dalton, Mrs Hainsworth and Mr Hainsworth for all your hard work to make this wonderful concert such a success!





### A Festive Feast on Christmas Jumper Day

It was a festive feast all round as Christmas Lunch coincided with Christmas Jumper Day.

Maggie and her team of elves in the kitchen served up a scrumptious lunch and were helped by members of staff who entered into the Christmas spirit. Anyone for chocolate sauce from Mrs Carroll?

The total amount raised on Christmas Jumper Day was £460.84 with that amount being donated to Save The Children.





## Hampers Help Those In Food Crisis

Congratulations to everyone who helped to put together more than 50 food hampers for Wetherby & District Food Bank. Students presented the hampers to Trustee Neil Ripley and volunteer Simon Ellen. Mr Ripley said: "Thank you so much to everyone who has donated and decorated the hampers – they are superb!"





**WE WISH YOU ALL A  
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**School Re-opens Monday 8 January, 2018 (Week 2)**