NEWSLETTER



OXBRIDGE Success

A huge Congratulations goes to five students who have been offered places at Cambridge University and Oxford University. The interviews were stressful because the academics are there to push you and they don't give anything away about if you're doing well or not. However, I actually found the content of the interviews and the assessment, albeit difficult, really interesting

and I also met some lovely people who were all in the same boat.

Overall, I was quite shocked to receive an offer. Mine came through at the end of the day and I'd watched everyone else hear back so I was quite nervous. I think it's important to remember that it is, of course, very nice to get an offer from Cambridge or Oxford but it's only down to a combination of hard work and chance, and

there are also lots of other wonderful universities.

In addition to the Oxbridge success, a further 90 Year 13 students have applied for University and between them have received 450 offers! This goes to prove what a great post-18 provider Tadcaster Grammar School is.

Let us celebrate this success as our Sixth Form ensures our students achieve and excel in life with successful destinations and outcomes.

Applying to Join the Sixth Form

Tadcaster Grammar School has a thriving and successful Sixth Form. We are committed to providing the highest standard of education and a positive, and motivating, learning environment for all students. The exciting process of receiving Year 11 applications to join an amazing and successful Sixth Form has also now begun. Tadcaster Grammar School is the perfect environment to deepen your study of

February 2020

subjects you studied in Key Stage 4 or to embark upon new courses. We know from experience, and from consultation with our students, that if you join us you are very likely to have a rewarding and successful time. We believe that Sixth Form is the most exciting time in a student's life. It is a new era marked by significant development, both academically and socially. It is the gateway to your future career, and we look forward to welcoming a new cohort to the School.



>>read more

Tadcaster Grammar School Toulston, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. LS24 9NB

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<u>@TgsTadcaster</u>





The students from left to right are Sophie Shooter to study Law at Cambridge, Melissa Whittlestone to study Natural Science at Cambridge, Allanah Booth to study Biochemistry at Oxford, Cameron Orr to study Economics at Cambridge and Angus Gibby to study Physics at Oxford.

The students went on to say:

Allanah: I was incredibly overwhelmed, excited, and shocked to receive the offer. From the time I sent in my application, throughout the nerve-wracking (but in retrospect, quite enjoyable) interviews, to the long wait after Christmas, I was holding my breath. But all the time, energy, work and stress which I had repeatedly put into this had actually resulted in something incredible which I have always dreamed about. I am so thankful to everyone who has helped me get this far and I cannot wait to see what a future at Oxford might look like.

Sophie: I was never really sure if I wanted to apply to Oxbridge but all of the encouragement and support we received from staff and the Oxbridge outreach team made me think it was worth a shot.



Employer, Further and Higher Engagement **Event for Students and Parents/Carers** Come along and find out about Apprenticeships, Careers, Further / Higher Education and Volunteering.

5pm - 7.30pm Main School Hall

Careers Fairs are a great way to get inspired and informed about jobs, Apprenticeships, Youth-Friendly Volunteering and Further/ Higher Education programmes. It is never too early or too late to plan your path to a dream job.

NO we CAN

Once the exams are over, the summer can seem very long, so why not take a few weeks out this summer to meet new people, try new things and cover new ground. If you're 16 or 17, NCS is the experience you've been waiting for. NCS brings together young people from different backgrounds and helps them to develop greater confidence, self-awareness and responsibility. It encourages personal and social development by working on skills like leadership, teamwork and communication. NCS is a part-residential experience focused around fun and discovery, combined with a local community project. Participants develop a social action project to deal with a local issue they're passionate about, and spend 30 hours putting the project into action in their community.

NCS is a government subsidised youth programme, participants are only asked to contribute £50.00 >>read more



Debating 👜 beyond the classroom

Friday lunchtimes in Toulston Lodge Hall is where the New Debating Club for Years 11 -13 can be found (or heard!). The students are currently exploring the skills of debate and the current topic is 'Social Media has improved life'.

The aim of the Debating Club is to help students become persuasive speakers, critical listeners, analytical thinkers and engaged citizens.

Debate supports an ability to think on your feet and to formulate a well supported argument for issues.

The club plans to entice greater numbers, initially through the performance of a live topic TBC).

Debating, instead of arguing, can help defuse a rapidly escalating situation. Debating also helps to develop essential critical thinking skills - the ability to make reasoned and well thought out arguments in addition to questioning the evidence behind a particular stance or conclusion. The club is run for students by students and has so far been successful in

generating thought-provoking and logical discussions on issues and questions that young people find most prevalent in their everyday lives.

There is much planned for the upcoming months; one is hoping to compete with other schools as well as just internally. To do this, a team of four of the best debaters would compete with neighbouring schools. Although, for the moment, this still seems

ROAD WISE

On Tuesday 4 February, Year 12 took part in powerful and informative sessions as part of the Drive Alive workshops delivered by NYCC. These were aimed at young people learning to drive or those likely to be passengers of a young driver. Sessions included drink and drug awareness, collision investigation, and learning about the hazards they may face on the roads, both as a driver and a passenger; with the aim of keeping our young people safe on the roads.

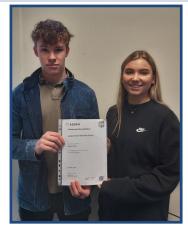


a long way off, we have no doubt, with the way things are going, that this is achievable.

"It's been amazing to see the younger students and sixth formers working together to create arguments and I'm really pleased with the way the club has taken off. From when the idea was first formed, to creating the ground work, to now, when we have staged our first formal debate, I have been excited and nervous in equal parts as I wanted to ensure that what I was creating was the best I could. To see people engaging with, and enjoying, something that has turned from a pet project to a passion for me, has been really rewarding and has made debate; teachers vs students (controversial me incredibly excited to see where else I can take this." Freya McCleary Year 12 Although we have already started, we are welcoming new participants all the time, so if this seems like something you might enjoy then come down on Friday lunchtimes and have a go! (Warning to parents; we are not held responsible for any arguments your children win because of this!)



Congratulations



Head Students Esther and Joe have received accreditation from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust for taking part in the 'Lessons From Auschwitz' project. This is the first step towards becoming 'Lessons From Auschwitz' Ambassadors.

Online Safety

National Online Safety has produced a wide range of free guides for parents and carers on internet safety. These include general advice on how to keep your children safe online, as well as guides for popular games and platforms including Tik Tok, Nintendo Switch, YouTube, Roblox, Fortnight and Minecraft. >>read more



Poetry Competition

During last term we held our annual National Poetry Day competition. Students were fired up by the theme - Speak Your Truth. The entries covered topics as diverse as friendship, war, climate change, deforestation, mental health and the future. A-Level English students shortlisted over a dozen students but the overall winner was Amy Nixon from year 7. Well done to all who took part.

Online Counselling Service for Students



Welfare Leader Sam Walker, a Year 12 student, launched http://Kooth.com during a week of assemblies to all Year groups within the school. Kooth is a free, safe, anonymous and non-stigmatised way for young people to receive counselling, advice and support on-line.

As Welfare Leader, Sam wanted to bring awareness, not only to mental health issues, but anything at all that was troubling young people. He wanted to find somewhere that students could feel safe and talk anonymously to someone other than staff members in the school. Sam felt that the best way to promote Kooth was through speaking directly to students through their house assemblies.

Kooth has an anonymous messaging and Live Chat 1:1 support service. The live chat service is run by qualified councillors. Over 95% of users felt this service was extremely useful and helpful. Kooth is available until 10pm 365 days per year. If you just need someone to understand, or need advice to help a friend, it is good to know there is someone there. Kooth is an emotional well-being platform, accessible through mobile, tablet and desktop and free at the point of use.

We all need support sometime so it's good to know Kooth is always there. Students can pick up a card from any of the House Leaders' Offices with all the details needed to access this fantastic service.





Our Voice Your empty eyes, And blank faces, As you talk about equality, For all the races, But if you stopped, And looked around. Would you see fair ground, For all of us, In all our hues, Or would you see, Discrimination against their race, Telling them to change their face, Why, why have you let this happen, How, how do you not see, That the world I have grown up in, Is telling me not to be me. **By Amy Nixon**

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ

This term in D.E.A.R., each house has been given a different, brilliant novel, chosen to inspire our students in a multitude of ways through the enjoyment of reading. Beyond simply improving vocabulary and reading ability, this selection of texts are being shared in the hope that each form group will benefit from the opportunity to listen to, and discuss, some of the greatest issues of humanity: friendship, loyalty, compassion, forgiveness, innocence, belief, empathy and many more.

D.E.A.R. is a whole-school strategy with the philosophy that, at exactly the same time every week, we all 'drop everything' we are doing and read! In the past, we have encouraged students to bring in their own books and read independently during this time, but we thought we would try something new this time; shared reading can be so valuable, especially for those who struggle to engage with books. Our experience tells us that all it can take is a spark of engagement, and we are prepared to persevere, especially with something we feel so strongly about. Below are the books that each house will be reading:

Calcaria - 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell Dawson - 'The Tulip Touch' by Anne Fine Fairfax - 'Hoot' by Carl Hiaasen Oglethorpe - 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne Toulston - 'Refugee Boy' by Benjamin Zephaniah Wharfe - 'Stone Cold' by Robert



Wouldn't it be wonderful if parents could also engage with these wonderful stories? Teatime talk just got deeper!

I Love my Job!

By Gaynor Cockcroft (GTA-Autism Team)

Teaching assistants are in the privileged and somewhat enviable position of being able to work closely alongside students on a one-to - one or small group basis. This enables us to role model, convince and encourage interaction between peers, facilitating group work and co-operation so that our students may integrate as fully as possible in all aspects of learning in our school community. We micro-differentiate to ensure that learning is not lost, we slow the pace, reassure, reinforce, repeat and rephrase.

Under the guidance of, and working closely with, some simply amazing class teachers, we adopt a holistic approach to supporting our students so that they might achieve to the best of their ability, become resilient, confident, independent individuals who have a love of learning for life, are more confident to interact with their peers, learn that trusted adults can be relied upon and feel better prepared for life beyond school. It is imperative to have a good sense of humour for many reasons, not least to be able to fully enjoy the amazing wit of some of the wonderful characters that we have the privilege of working with (notice that word privilege again?)

The truth is, we **are** privileged. What teacher wouldn't want to spend so much quality time on a one to one basis guiding the learning of their students? I hope that the support we provide in class, not just to the students we work with directly, but the extended support we try to offer to the other students in the room, might free up a few valuable minutes of teacher time so that they are able to have more in-depth conversations with other individuals or groups. I hope our presence affords

In Reach of the Prize

The Student Investor first round challenge finished last Friday. 6490 teams of 4 took part in the event, including over 20 teams from TGS. Each team had the opportunity to invest £100000 in shares and bonds over a 16 - week period.

One team from TGS, named the FortniteKidZHD, consisting of 4 Year11 Economists, have now reached the Semi-Finals. The ultimate prize is an all expenses - paid trip to Wall Street. (TGS previously won in 2004 and 2018) We wish the students, Owen Price, Seb Rowe, Oliver Porteous and Sam Fielden, the very best of luck in the next round.



them a fraction of the luxury of time that we enjoy. I don't think I have ever laughed so much, or cried so much, in any other role I have ever had. And I love it. I love my job. I treasure my knowledgeable colleagues who offer the most amazing advice and support, and my managers who skilfully and tirelessly guide and support our team. The people I work with are tenacious, empathetic, compassionate, patient, conscientious and, above all else, put the wellbeing of our students central to everything they do.



FIELD VIEW U P D A T E

The students who attend Field View have been extremely busy since returning from the Christmas holidays. The ongoing Towns Project has now moved onto Rural Areas. As part of their Life Skills alternative ways to learn, the students are visiting Askham Bog Nature Reserve and Jackdaw Crag in Boston Spa. Students from Years 8, 9 and 11 are looking at habitats. They have been pond dipping, where they made their own fishing nets. They have also been making measuring sticks to measure the water depth as part of their mathematics learning.



Students pond dipping Following a Mental Health and Wellbeing course, Baking for Buddies has been launched. Students have a Theory lesson followed by a practical lesson which leads onto an AQA certificate. The Enterprise Project has moved onto Upcycling with the focus being on wood. The students' practical tasks are making planters for the garden, and bug hotels! Seeds have been planted which will hopefully grow to plants that can be used to fill the planters. Field View have formed links with the local charity shop in Tadcaster, and the Tadcaster Volunteer Car Service. Any helmets received at the shop will be given to Field View to fill with plants and then



returned to the shop to sell, to help raise money for Cancer care.

Baking for buddies

The students have also been given the fantastic opportunity to visit Nuzzlets, which is an animal - assisted therapy centre. Nuzzlets provides a completely unique seasonal opportunity for students to enjoy being amongst animals and appreciate the natural world /wonders of nature first hand. Each visit provides a range of differentiated/appropriate experiences for the students. Animal assisted therapy may: Increase communication skills, raise self-esteem, reduce anxiety and loneliness, improve interactions with others and improve motor skills and balance. Stroking animals can also encourage movement and interaction.

Bella, the beautiful Field View Therapy Dog, is due to start her training and will gradually be introduced to more students. Finally, the Year 11 VLS group have been fundraising to get an outdoor house classroom.



Bug house hotel ready for its first visitors

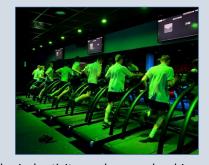


Preparing the planters

The outside of Field View is still in desperate need of re-developing /landscaping. Any help with this project would be greatly appreciated.

Physical Activity Primes the Brain for Learning

Your child can experience many benefits, physically, mentally and emotionally, as a direct result of their participation in some form of PE, and a higher level of participation can lead to greater rewards.



Physical activity produces endorphins (chemicals in the brain) that regulate mood, pleasure, and pain. An elevated mood can contribute to an "I can do it" attitude which goes a long way as students approach new tasks as challenges, not obstacles. Every child is entitled to a rich, broad and balanced curriculum, where physical education is a critical element. Physical Education is about what takes place in school curriculum timetabled time and which is delivered to all pupils. Students in Year 11 follow a programme of activities in their Physical Education lessons on Thursday afternoons at a variety of local sports facilities out of school. These are: Tadcaster Swimming Pool, Tadcaster Sports Centre and The David Lloyd Health Club in York. The feedback from the students indicates that they really enjoy the opportunity, it introduces them to new sporting activities, it helps improve their health and fitness, and it provides a pathway for them to see the type of facilities available for them to join in the community. >>read more



A Dream Job

I have been very fortunate since June 2019 to be a member of the teaching staff at Tadcaster Grammar School teaching Girls' PE. Ever since I was at primary school, my ambition was always to become a PE teacher and to be able to share my passion with others. To teach it every single day is an absolute joy, especially here at Tadcaster Grammar School. From day one I was made so welcome, not only by staff but also the students at Tadcaster; it felt like I had worked here for a year already! As I settled in, and got to know my teaching groups, it was easy to be able to form a good rapport with the students due to their work ethic and attitude; so we could get started straight away.

As an NQT, I had the support, and the opportunity, to set up new clubs at the school; including Girls' cricket club, dodgeball club and rugby club; as well as rugby sessions for SEND students. It has been so rewarding to see that so many students are willingly getting involved in these clubs

(another reason why I love teaching PE!). Although my time at Tadcaster is coming to an end, I could not have asked for a better start to my teaching career. I can honestly say that I have fallen in love with Tadcaster Grammar School; not only because of its calm surroundings, but due to the overwhelming support of the teachers and the students and their daily commitments to the values of the school; i.e 'being their best self' every single day. I would like to finish by extending an enormous thank you to all those who have been part of my time at Tadcaster Grammar School and echo that I could not think of a better school to have started my teaching career at. I have learned so many more skills and attributes that I can take forward in the next step of my journey.

Hopefully, Tadcaster Grammar School, this is not the end of our journey.

By Katie Thompson (Teacher of PE)

Sporting Stars

Congratulations to the following students who have excelled in PE: Lucy Atkinson - for her Grade 9 in the recent Mock Paper (71%) Noah Ward - For his outstanding start to PE since September and his role as captain of the school football team. Buddy Taylor-For his outstanding start to PE since September and his role in development the Year 7 basketball team. Ellie Marchant-For her progress in PE and her contribution to extra-curricular activities.

Harry Sanderson– For his outstanding attitude to both core and examination PE and his practical video for his coursework. Libby Osborne – For her excellent effort and attitude in PE and her valuable contribution to the Girls Active project. Ian Gaskin-For his progress and effort in PE and contribution to extra-curricular activities. Congratulations, also, on your success in Cross Country. Good luck in the North of England Finals representing North Yorkshire!

Lucy Gaskin - For her progress and effort in PE and contribution to extra-curricular activities. Congratulations, also, on your success in the Cross Country. Good luck in the North of England Finals representing North Yorkshire. Louie Hare - For his progress and effort in GCSE PE and his contribution to extracurricular activities. Annie Knipe - For her consistent

performances in tests and her extra curricular activities commitment.

Healthy Selfie

active? Run?

Cycle? Swim?

Social game of



Year 8 Dodgeball Club



Girls Rugby Training

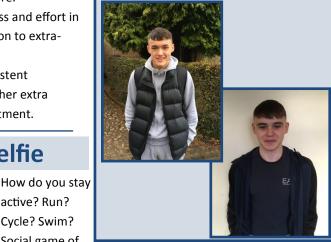
CONGRATULATIONS

Well done and Congratulations to Year 12 student Andrew Hirst on receiving his North Yorkshire County Colours for Hockey!



Congratulations to both Will and Tom in 07 Preceiving their scholarships with Doncaster Rovers Football Club. We

are very proud of their achievements and look forward to watching their progress.



badminton? Play for a local sports club? Walk the dog? Whatever it is, in the hope of promoting a culture of exercise at Tadcaster Grammar School, please take a selfie when doing your activity. What physical activity are you doing today? Snap yourself in action! Upload on the following social media platforms: Twitter - tag @HealthySelfiePE and #tgshealthyselfie Instagram - #tgshealthyselfie

Lettings and Facilities

Tadcaster Grammar School is working with Tadcaster Swimming Pool Trust to introduce a new ground management scheme to provide accessible facility bookings to the community. We offer an extensive range of facilities for hire over two sites in Tadcaster. We can accommodate requests from clubs, businesses, individuals and groups. Our aim is to improve the community's health by increasing community engagement in sport and activities....read more>>

Fitness Classes are £6.00 per class with the first class **FREE**! Membership is available from **£23.75**

S P O R T RELIEF 2020

SPORT IT'S GAME RELIEF ON

A week of fundraising and physical activity is planned for Sport Relief 2020 (Mon 9- Friday 13 March).

The highlight will be an 'Evening with Jamie Jones-Buchanan' the Rugby League legend. On Monday 16 March, Jamie will be sharing some of his favourite rugby stories and career highlights. We will also be holding a raffle and auction with some incredible prizes. Our aim is to exceed the £3000 we raised in 2018.

AN EVENING WITH

Jamie Jones-Buchanan

Monday 16th March 7pm

Tickets £10

Jamie will be sharing som of his favourite stories from his illustrious Rugby

career.

Come and Join us at Tadcaster Grammar School for an Evening with the Rugby legend that is Jamie Jones-Buchanan.

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As the evening falls within Sport Relief week there will also be various fundraising activities happening during the evening!! Parents and Students can buy tickets through parent pay. Members of the public can buy tickets in person from the main school office.



Tadcaster Swimming Pool Westgate, Tadcaster LS24 9AB Tadcaster Grammar School Toulston, Tadcaster LS24 9NB



FITNESS CLASS TIMETABLE

TA	DCAST	ER SWIM	IMING P	DOL
	9.00 - 9.45	9.45 - 10.30	19.30 - 20.30	20.00 - 21.00
uesday	Aqua Fit	Aqua Fit		Gym Circuits
vednesday			Aqua Zumba	
hursday	Aqua Fit	Aqua Fit		Gym Circuits

	18.00 - 18.45	19.00 - 19.45	19.45 - 20.3
Monday	Legs, Bums & Tums	Body Tone	
Tuesday	Coming Soon	Coming Soon	Kettlercise H.Core2.0
Wednesday	Power Pump	Kettlercise*	
Thursday	Yoga	Advanced Yoga	

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I DON'T KNOW HOW TO REVISE !

How many times do we hear students say they don't know how to revise?

Exams are a part of school, whether we like it or not! How well we do in our GCSEs can affect our future prospects – in education and in life. So, how can we prepare for them? By revising of course. But what's the best way to revise? We have put together some helpful tips for both students and parents.

3 easy steps to REVISION:

1. Review the topic/content - quickly read through the text book and/or your exercise book (using the key points boxes) or use other physical/online revision resources.

2. Use it/ Produce something - make a poster, concept map, revision cards, quizzes.... Try to do this from memory and then use notes/text books to fill in any gaps.

3. Past papers + mark schemes - access and attempt past paper questions related to the topic and use the mark scheme(s) to help with any tricky bits - 'bounce' between the two.

Where do I start?

Break the subject into easy - to - approach chunks/topics. e.g. Biology - Easy, review each of the 18 topics in turn. Some can be done together ...

e.g. RE - two big sections, Christianity and Islam, these sections can also be subdivided to make the revision easier. e.g. English Literature (An Inspector Calls) - break the text into Characters, Themes, Chapters etc.

Use the schools 'One Stop Shop' for further and subject specific advice.... <u>Read more>></u>

A Note from the Head

It is wonderful to read this newsletter and to reflect upon a very productive 6 weeks in school. Thank you to those parents and carers who shared with me their views about the school during the recent Parents' Evenings and other after-school events. Such feedback is very useful as we start to look towards planning for the next academic year.

Much of our leadership time this half-term has been used hosting visitors to the school who have been assisting us in our school improvement journey. It is always interesting to gain the views of such professionals. TGS also continues to work with our trust partner schools to develop the student experience across the STAR MAT. At TGS, we are particularly interested in developing our excellent curriculum offer even further and to ensure all students receive the very best learning experience within and beyond lessons.

Looking towards the end of their 7-year experience, our Year 13 students have been busy planning for their next stage of education and/or employment (during this half term). We have been delighted to see an exceptionally high level of offers for apprenticeships and university applications, including one of the highest rates of Oxbridge offers in recent years. Year 11 are also well focussed in the run-up to their summer examinations, with many taking advantage of lunchtime and after - school revision sessions. We have been working with this year group to model sustainable methods of revision; including mindfulness. Please remember our 'One Stop Shop' revision area on the school website which is an excellent resource published by our own teaching staff.

Thank you for your support during our 5-day trial last month when we were using slightly different timings during the school day. Our current 50-minute lunchtime is, of course, vital for our co-curricular activities and to allow all students appropriate time to eat, so the intention would not be to change this. We have, however, brought back the use of school bells to indicate when a lesson should end by and to signal both 'transfer time' and the formal start of the next lesson. This has significantly minimised lost learning time.

I also need to inform you that Martyn Sibley has recently announced that he will be retiring from his post as STAR MAT Chief Education Officer at the end of the academic year. Martyn has given many years of service to Tadcaster Grammar School, Sherburn High School and latterly the STAR MAT and we wish him well for his retirement. Ian Yapp, the headteacher at Riverside Primary School, has been appointed as CEO from September 2020 as a temporary role for the 2020/21 academic year.

Finally, after many expressions of concern from parents about safety on the road outside school, we are informed that NYCC Highways will be imminently conducting a long-term road safety review. We are hopeful that the council will respond with measures that ensure students and parents are safer when entering and exiting the school.

I look forward to meeting more parents and carers next half term.

Regards

Andrew Parkinson Headteacher



Law Ambassador Programme

Y12 Students have been lucky to attend the Law Ambassador programme that runs at BPP University Law School in Leeds. The law and business school, support students and give them an insight into a possible career in Law, Accountancy or Business.

R E M E M B E R TO UPDATE



Please remember to inform the school of any changes to contact details for your child on the 'My Child at School'

system. You can check that the school has your correct contact details, and submit any changes.

To do this, click your name in the top right hand corner of your screen. Once you are logged in, click Contact Details. Check all your details and amend as necessary. Click the Save button if you have made any changes.

The submitted amendments will then be sent to the school for final approval. Thank you for helping to keep contact details correct and up to date. To update student medical information, please contact - Matron j.chauda@tgs.starmat.uk

If you subscribe to Letters Home via the school website, please remember to update your preferences if you change your email, and also check that you are subscribed to the correct groups.

Diary Dates

Monday 24 February	School Re-opens	
Tuesday 25 February	Year 12 Parents' Evening	
Friday 28 February	Band Night at The Barn	
Tuesday 10 March	Careers Event 5pm	
Friday 13 March	Non Uniform Day	
Monday 16 March	An Evening with Jamie	
Thursday 19 March	Music Recital Evening 6pm	
Thursday 26 March	Year 8 Parents' Evening	
Friday 27 March	Training Day	
Friday 3 April	School closes for Easter	
Friday 3 April	Year 11 Visit Iceland	
Tuesday 7 April	Year 10 Ski Canada	

Diary Dates