Tadcaster Grammar School

NEWSLETTER





CLICK HERE — To access

the amazing Art website

As we welcome our new Student Leaders team for

2021/22 we ask: Why is student leadership important

in school?

STUDENT It's important LEADERSHIP students to

It's important for

experience leadership opportunities during their schooling, to learn the art of building relationships within teams, defining identities, and achieving tasks effectively. It also provides an opportunity to learn to identify and display effective communication and interpersonal skills.

Leadership is a skill for life, and all students are given regular opportunities to be involved and strengthen their skills. Student leadership helps improve our school and enables young people to realise their potential. It builds the necessary skills, confidence and motivation for students to engage directly in the wider improvement of the school and, in particular, in the improvement of the learning experience. Student leaders are resourceful, dependable problem-solvers who are not afraid to contribute their ideas and stand up for their beliefs. They are continually looking for opportunities to contribute and give back to their community while growing as individuals.

Each year students are given the opportunity to apply for many different roles within the Leadership Team.

The application process involves students filling in an application form and getting a staff reference. They will then be short listed and asked for interview.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Be Your Best Self

Head Students are interviewed by the Director of Sixth Form and the Chair of Governors. This year the Year Captains were asked to produce a short presentation on why they would be a great Year Captain and what they would like to achieve in the role.

Meet the team- Head Students





Claudia and Molly



Rowan and Asher Sports Leaders



Charity Leader





Year Captains

Emily and Ferdie Year 7 Emma and Daisy Year 8 Charlotte and Issy Year 9 Charlie and Amelia Year 10 Polly, Emma and Dan Year 11 Harry and Elizabeth Year 13

Sixth Form Mentors Jenny Year 12 Eleanor Year 13 Lucy Year 13

Congratulations to everyone!

House Captains



CALCARIA - Ben and Michaela



DAWSON - Annabelle and Thom



FAIRFAX - Abigail and Finlay



OGLETHORPE - Gabriel and Tom



TOULSTON - Harriet and Sophia

KEEP CALM AND WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

Welcome to our new Year 7 cohort

We are so proud of how well our Year 7 students have settled into life at TGS. It has been wonderful to see relationships develop with their form tutors and their peers over the first half term. Some Year 7 students have already been awarded with our lapel badges, which represent our core values, and there are many more to be handed out over the next week. This is a fantastic achievement and testimony to the hard work and enthusiasm the year group has shown.



Staff across the school have commented on the exceptional behaviour and attitude of the students in their lessons and around the school. It has been heartening to see so many Year 7 students want to get involved in our student leadership programme, as either form reps or the Year Captains, so that they can be a part of Student Voice and make a difference to the school community. There have been lots of clubs launched for Year 7 students including: after school clubs in PE; Jam Club; Pop Choir; Drama Cub and many more for students to get involved in and make new friends.





Year 7 Year Captains Emily and Ferdie

We have also managed to include lots of opportunities for team building through the various house competitions that have been launched. At the beginning of term the students took pat in a Personal Development day which ended with each form group competing in the tug of war. This week 7F2 received a special prize from

Mrs Alderson

-Literacy Lead

Teacher which
included a
lesson off
timetable to
take part in a
fun quiz as a
reward for



reading the most books collectively during the summer transition reading challenge. It was a lovely way to celebrate their achievements.

Finally, we wanted to make you aware, that we have also launched a Year 7 buddy programme. We have trained our Sixth Form Students to help mentor and support Year 7 students throughout the year. This has been successful so far and the feedback from both Year 7 and Sixth Form students has been amazing. We hope to continue to run this over the year and help our students transition into secondary school as smoothly as possible.





Year 7 Buddy Programme

We cannot wait to see the students continue to grow and develop in all aspects of their school life here at TGS. We would like to thank you, our parents and carers for your continued support.

We wish all of Year 7 a restful and well deserved half term break.

Miss Hodgson and Mr Bass



YOUTH CAFE

A new afterschool youth cafe has been set up at The Barn in Tadcaster. The cafe is not run by TGS, but is staffed by many of our young people, and overseen by David Gluck and his staff. Over time David hopes that as well as being a great place to go to after school, it will provide work experience for a good number of our young people.



HOUSE CHAMPIONS

UPDATE









At Tadcaster Grammar School we are proud of our House system and our five Houses: Calcaria, Dawson, Fairfax, Oglethorpe, Toulston. This additional layer of community within our school enables students to forge bonds across all year groups and strengthen their sense of identity, through their contributions towards House Competitions throughout the year. This year we have four new house Champions; Mrs Parker-Starbuck (Calcaria), Miss Hitchon (Dawson), Miss Murrell (Fairfax), Miss Bignell Oglethorpe), and Toulston continue with Miss Laidlaw. We would like to say a big thank you to last year's House team for all their hard work in shaping what it means to be a member of each House.

As a House team we are really excited to see what the year brings and hope to promote healthy competition between houses through a wide range of activities. Our new student House Captains will help us to continue to develop each House's identity and the sense of pride of both staff and students to be a part of their House. The House Champions greeted students and staff on their return to school by bringing back the Bridge of Resilience that the previous House team kindly left for us, and it was wonderful to see our students wholeheartedly join us in celebration!



Students and staff have missed the excitement and social aspect of whole school events due to Covid, so this year the new House Champion team decided to start the year with a bang!

After lots of discussion and inspiration from the Tokyo Olympics we decided to create our own House Olympics. Classic, beloved events such as egg and spoon, book on head, ball between knees and relay made a comeback and, like all top sporting events, a promotional video was produced celebrating the skills of the House Champion team! Students and staff then competed for their House, with much cheering and tactics being discussed! Year 7 tutors and students even added in an additional warm up and stretch session to ensure that they were ready for the tough competition they were about to face! Great fun was had by all, especially Miss Bignell who lost her voice from all the cheering for her house and expert commentary on the megaphone!



The weekly House Quiz has returned in earnest and the leader board is changing each week! This term there has been a mixture of general knowledge and themed quizzes to reinforce the valuable learning and reflection that has been taking place through the Period 1 Personal Development co-curriculum. We especially enjoyed creating the themed quiz for European week of Languages with our wonderful MFL team, which included some special appearances by our staff to show students the wide range of languages that are spoken within our community.

It has been a busy half-term and as this goes to press we are finding out the results of our Space Week competition, which we look forward to sharing with you in the next newsletter! Have a wonderful half term break, and we'll see you in November!

ROYAL SOCIETY YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOOK PRIZE 2021

Every year the Royal Society invites schools and youth groups to take part in judging panels across the UK, to pick the winner of the Young People's Book Prize. This is the first year that Tadcaster Grammar School has taken part. We have a judging panel made up of students from Year 7 through to Year 9 (students have to be 14 or under). The judging panels receive a free set of shortlisted books, all aimed at enthusing and exciting children about science. The shortlist, compiled by a panel of adults, is made up of the following titles:

100 Things You Need To Know About Saving the Planet.

Agent Asha: Mission Shark Bytes.
I am a Book. I am a Portal to the Universe.
I Ate Sunshine for Breakfast.
Inventors.

Under the Stars.

Our students will be looking at the books in detail over the coming term, and taking part in experiments based on the science within the books. We are just at the beginning of this new adventure and look forward to sharing our experiences and our decisions with the school community over the coming School



BACK TO BUSINESS

By Miss Laidlaw -

Teacher of Business & Economics

Following student feedback and a judges final

My Year 10 GCSE Business students took part in the festival challenge as part of their first unit of the course - understanding the nature of business.

Every year, hundreds of discarded tents and sleeping bags are left behind at Leeds Festival and fortunately many charities are there to take advantage of this and help those who are homeless within the region.



The Festival Challenge is designed to get students thinking like an entrepreneur and how they can upcycle items often found at festivals. This year the students were provided with tin foil food trays, paper straws, plastic cups and cotton balls.

Their challenge was to design and create a unique product that could be used at a festival and to prepare a presentation to pitch their idea to their peers.

The students teamed up and worked together, to a time limit, to meet the brief.



There was a great buzz around the classroom as groups developed their creativity, problem solving and communication skills. The pitch soon became quite the Dragons Den style approach, with students questioning the viability of others' creations!

decision (Miss Laidlaw), the winning team were Safety First, Style Next. The team was made up of Freya, Emily, Rubie and Jasmine and the pitch was "Our stylish jewellery range allows you to feel safe and fashionable during your festival adventures".



The girl's creations included a GPS tracking

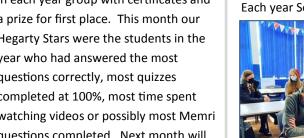
bracelet and alarm necklaces. "I was very impressed with the idea and the professional way in which the students



presented their ideas and worked together".

A hegartymathsSUPERSTARS

This year Maths have taken their homework online. Each month we will be rewarding the top five Hegarty Stars in each year group with certificates and a prize for first place. This month our Hegarty Stars were the students in the vear who had answered the most questions correctly, most quizzes completed at 100%, most time spent watching videos or possibly most Memri questions completed. Next month will be a different challenge. We will keep you updated through forthcoming newsletters.



🙎 hegartymaths Super Stars 🥦 🦊

| , | | | | |
|--------|-----------|-------------|--------------|---------|
| Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 |
| | Paige B | Charlie S | Jasmine Q | Luca F |
| | Daniel N | Anna W | Laura Barker | Kara S |
| | Bethany P | Isobel D | Bobby Wardle | Polly W |
| | Natalie G | Hugo P | Finley S | Will S |
| | Kieran C | Charlotte H | Richard M | Orla C |

1113 CONSPIRACY

My name is Harry,

I am a spyhunter, a codebreaker, a mathematician. I work with British and American Intelligence, if they call me in you know they are in trouble.

On Thursday 7th October the Cipher Challenge launched.

Each year Southampton University runs a coding challenge for UK secondary schools and



Sixth Form students. The challenges can be tackled by teams or individuals and this year we have five teams participating with a range of ages from Years 10-13. The ultimate prize previously has been a trip to Bletchley Park for an awards ceremony but there are ten missions for the teams to complete before then. It was fantastic to see the year groups collaborating and the competition is definitely heating up in school, Mission 1 complete.



Students Flying High in Memory of Uncle

Two amazing Year 11 students Archie Hick and Ruby Simpson chose to tandem skydive in aid of charity to raise money for St Gemma's hospice. Archie's uncle and Ruby's God father Mark Hick sadly lost his battle with pancreatic cancer last September. Mark was cared for in his final days at St Gemma's.

Archie and Ruby, along with a family friend raised in total over £2,500!

Tandem skydiving provides the experience of a lifetime

and is a great way to raise funds for a good cause at the same time. It also allows you to experience the thrill of freefall skydiving without any extensive training. Archie and Ruby were kitted out in a jumpsuit and special dual harness. They were also given headgear and goggles. After a short briefing, the students jumped harnessed to the front of a fully qualified parachuting instructor from 15,000ft. From this height, they enjoyed one whole adrenaline-fuelled minute of freefall reaching terminal velocity at 120mph.

Once Archie and Ruby boarded the aircraft, it took less than 15 minutes to reach skydiving altitude which is 3 miles above the dropzone. The instructor opened the parachute at around 5,000ft and Archie and Ruby enjoyed around 5 minutes under canopy taking in the spectacular views before landing back on the dropzone. Ruby goes on to say 'It was only when we were in the air that we couldn't quite believe we were actually doing it! It was an unforgettable experience, despite our ears popping really badly and taking a while to return to normal. There was a real rush of adrenaline when we landed - it was an amazing thing to do'! They had both just turned 16 which made them just old enough to

do the skydive. They did it in memory of their uncle Mark which was fantastic.





Personal Development TGS

Our commitment to providing the best possible education and experiences for all of our students has returned in earnest this half term! Here's what we've been up to.

Upon our whole school return on Friday 10th September, our students undertook a full day of enrichment activities designed to get them

'school ready' and provide them with opportunities to reflect on the previous



school year and their aspirations for the year ahead. The fantastic programme of events, organised collaboratively by the Personal Development team and our wonderful staff, saw our students engaging with team building in their forms; personal reflection activity, discussing career aspirations, coming together as a year group for an assembly and reliving their Primary Sports Days in TGS Olympics with the House Champions!

During Period 1 this half term, tutor groups have largely been focusing on the themes of identity and culture through reflection and exploration of cultural celebrations such as European Week of Languages and Black History Month. Sixth Form have also been reflecting on future plans and aspirations; and continuing the Year 12 tradition of 'Wear it Pink' fundraising for Breast Cancer Now. Our tutor teams have been instrumental in leading our students through these incredibly important developmental discussions, supporting them to explore their individual identities and that of the form group as a whole. They have now begun to translate their identities into visual art to display proudly in their form rooms.



Next term will be a busy one with several opportunities for us to reflect more about others as we raise awareness on important issues including Armistice and Remembrance; Anti-Bullying Week, International Men's Day, International Day for Persons with Disabilities and Human Rights Day. In addition to this we will also be fundraising for national and local causes such as Children in Need, Wetherby Foodbank and Christmas Hampers as we think about others during the coming festive period.

Miss McKenzie has returned from maternity leave and the TGS Equality & Diversity Group will now be able to meet together in person. Now that bubbles have been 'popped' we are able to run the group as a lunch time club again, meeting on a Friday lunch time in M27. Our aim is to make TGS a more welcoming and accepting place where everyone feels safe, respected and happy. All students can join any time and can be involved as much as they want! Just email Miss McKenzie if you are interested: p.mckenzie@tgs.starmat.uk

A SHOWCASE OF TALENT

In the absence of being able to host a real life ART exhibition, the Art Department have created their own website to

showcase the amazing work of the students.



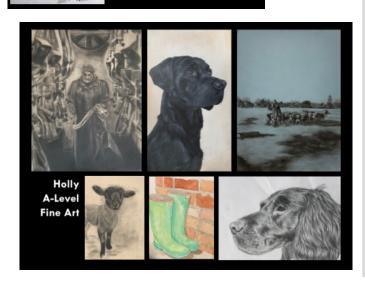
Below are just a few examples of the amazing work the students have produced.

Click here to view the complete website.





Evelyn









Central Marketplace

WE ENCOURAGE

EACH OTHER.



Please help yourself to hand sanitiser



Face coverings are encouraged



Swapshap

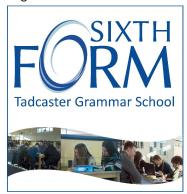
We encourage avoiding close contact with others



"The Sixth Form Centre has an undoubtable sense of community; the professional atmosphere within the centre allows students to work effectively, yet it doubles as a perfect social area for events and during break times, when we can have a chat over a hot chocolate"

Year 13 student

The Sixth Form Centre has had a make over during summer. The social area has been re-painted with an addition of some new furniture! The centre has also welcomed a new sign at the front of the building.



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING took

place on Thursday 7th October and was a huge success! We had a large number of students and visitors attend to see the subjects we have on offer. Parental and student feedback was positive with comments on how enthused our students are and how many opportunities are available to students outside the classroom. Our prospectus is available here. Applications for Sixth Form 2022 is now open and available here.



SIXTH FORM FRESHERS FAYRE

At the beginning of term our Year 12 and Year 13 students attended our Freshers Fayre to sign up for our extra curricular activities, students are already getting involved with many leadership roles including charity work, mentoring and our very successful law ambassador programme which we are delighted to be able to join again this year.

Leaders are Readers



Reading Leaders Programme

This will be the second year that we have delivered a Reading Programme to encourage reluctant readers. The support will be delivered by volunteers from our Sixth Form. It involves regular reading with a struggling/reluctant reader, to improve their confidence, fluency and understanding. It is a great opportunity for our Year 12 students to develop an understanding of reading skills and strategies. They will also learn how to mentor effectively and plan sessions which is a great opportunity for enrichment beyond their study choices. We have 35 Year 12 students who have signed up to be part of the programme. Our biggest cohort ever. Their induction training has now begun. They will then be dedicating time to an allocated Reading Buddy in selected form times. They will be supported throughout their

They will be supported throughout their time volunteering to help their reluctant reader. This will hopefully result in reading progression for their buddy. The Reading Leaders will receive a TGS certificate to mark the key skills they have acquired.

Sixth Form Reading Buddies

A big thank you to all the Sixth Form students who have become Reading Buddies for our

new Year 7 students.



Career Corner

Unlock YOUR potential

University and Apprenticeship Fair 2021

Having missed out on the event being postponed back in July, 44 Year 13
Students finally got the opportunity to attend the University and Apprenticeship Fair in Leeds. The students had an opportunity to engage one-on-one with exhibitors to help plan for their next steps after Tadcaster Grammar School Sixth Form.



Help your child to explore their **Future**

As part of our commitment to prepare TGS students for a rapidly changing world, we are delighted to announce that we have signed up to the recently launched new version of Start – an innovative digital careers platform. Start will help your child to explore and prepare for their future career as well as develop their personal profile that will support their transition through education and into employment. During next term students in Years 9, 10, 11 and Sixth Form will receive details of their personal login with Years 7 and 8 joining in the Spring Term. Furthermore parents and carers can access the platform too. Start will be integrated into both Life Skills lessons and Tutor Time. Further information to be shared with parent/ careers next half term. start 😢

Understand how their skills, interests and subject preferences link to jobs and industries.

Start will help your child to:

- Make more informed decisions at key moments of choice.
- Undertake and record experiences that will enhance their future employability.
- Create a profile to evidence their employability, build a CV and prepare for Interviews.

A Note from the Head

Our Autumn term so far has been superb. Despite the challenges that the pandemic continues to present us on a daily basis, I'm delighted that the school has remained fully open and offering the complete curriculum to all year groups. I'd like to thank all our fantastic students for their responsibility and resilience since September which has ensured we always have a calm, purposeful and safe environment in which to learn and enjoy each other's company. Our outstanding staff team has also continued to work over and above to consider the needs of students first.

Our key priority remains as working within the bounds of the current government guidance for schools to ensure all students and staff are safe and supported whilst ensuring the school stays fully open. Returning to year groups working in 'bubbles' with the associated rigid restrictions on the curriculum and extra-curricular activities and/or partial/full school closure and a return to remote learning are highly undesirable control measures which we need to continue to work together to avoid at all costs. Thank you to parents and carers for your support as ever.

This term we have seen the return of all practical activities in, for example, design & technology, science and food & nutrition. It is so heartening to hear wonderful sounds emanating from the music classrooms and to see students enjoying the full range of PE activities. We've enjoyed a superb hugely oversubscribed Open Morning where we opened our doors to the community, and a similarly highly successful Slxth Form Open Evening. All year groups are very focussed on their learning at the moment, notably Year 11 & Year 13 as they approach their mock examinations. The UCAS procedure for university application is now open; it all comes around so quickly.

If I could please ask you to continue to support the school by carrying out twice weekly (Wednesday & Sunday) asymptomatic Covid-19 lateral flow tests and reporting positive cases via the school website?

Enjoy the half-term break.

Andrew Parkinson Headteacher



Social media can be fun, exciting, even helpful. But for some, one of the biggest pressures they are facing today is to look perfect on social media, and constantly checking if they get enough "likes" to look good.



A free online safety guide on Social Pressures linked to Likes'.

'Likes' are a simple way for users to show that they like a post on social media. This could be anything from photos and videos to status updates and comments. The feature is widely used on several social media platforms and is extremely popular on Instagram and Facebook. It is often used by children to measure the success of their social media post and gauge opinion. However, it can also bring a number of social pressures, particularly if users start to question their own levels of popularity.

In this guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as self-esteem damage, addiction and competitiveness.

Click here to view



EUROPEAN WEEK OF LANGUAGES



Once again the Languages Department put together a fun filled week for everyone, starting in form time with a Virtual Trips Quiz! During language lessons students had the chance to be a judge in the Eurovision song Contest, which was great fun. During film club which is on during lunch breaks on a Monday—Thursday, students watched a film in a 'surprise' language. The final event was the International Bake off. This was once again a huge success.

After much deliberation the winners were announced -

1st-Ben B Year 9, 2nd-Emma B Year 8, 3rd-Katherine M Year 7.



Thank you for celebrating all languages

A bientôt! Bis bald! پھر ملیں گے

