

#TNHA WAY




The
Nicholas Hamond
Academy



April 2021

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PROUDLY
SHARING
OUR
NEWS

Determined to be...
'the best that we can be'

PRINCIPAL'S POST

It has been another busy month at TNHA. The students have returned from the Easter break brilliantly and have settled in to focussing on their work really well. As I have eluded to in other communications this half term is always a busy one for our older students who in normal circumstances would be preparing for their final exams. Whilst there are no external exams this summer the way our Year 11s have approached their work, class assessments and course work has been fantastic and they have all risen to the challenges that they are facing with great determination and a fantastically positive attitude. This month's newsletter includes the first, I hope of many, interviews from TNHA alumni. There are many great things that happen day to day in the academy but equally it is lovely to hear how ex-students are getting on and how they recall their time at school.

Whilst the weather, at the moment, does not necessarily suggest summer is around the corner, with lighter mornings, longer evenings and COVID restrictions gradually lifting after a challenging start to 2021 I hope that we can all look forward to better things as we head into the summer!

Mark Woodhouse

CHAIR'S CORNER

There have been some changes to the LAC group in recent weeks with Sue Gattuso resigning her position as a community governor and the acceptance of 3 new governors. More details on the new governors will be communicated to you soon. Throughout her tenure as a governor, Sue Gattuso has displayed her integrity, commitment and passion for education; her active interest in the progress of SEN within the academy has been highly valued by the LAC, as has her willing contribution to other governance duties.

To the LAC it is clear from the attendance figures and from the anecdotal evidence that staff, students and parents have been very positive in embracing the new term. To evaluate this, the focus of the governors during the summer term will be to examine how the academy is evaluating the effectiveness and impact of remote learning on student learning and wellbeing; also, governors will look at how the academy has evaluated the reintegration programme. Governors will be meeting with key curriculum and pastoral staff across the academy and will report back on their progress at the next LAC meeting on 12 May.

Phil Anderson

NEWS FROM OUR YEAR GROUPS

Years 10 & 11

Year 11 are working really hard on their assessments for the overall judgements and we are delighted to note that attendance at intervention sessions with their subject teachers before and after school is excellent. We are hugely proud of their determination to achieve which they have demonstrated throughout the year, but the last few weeks have really emphasised their dedication.

Year 10 students are currently concentrating on their half termly assessments and continue to show the commitment that is reflected in our Year 11s, an attitude that has been fostered early so as to ensure all our students are prepared for their examinations at the end of Year 11.

In tutor time, both Year 11 and Year 10 students have been working on tailored programmes focusing on their future steps, with Year 10 spending time in computer rooms researching the future jobs they could apply for, their entry requirements and what is needed to achieve them. Year 11 have been reviewing interview questions and/or getting their last few applications to further study to their post 16 providers.

Year 7, 8 & 9

Getting to grips with the Romantic era, our younger students are studying the work of the poets of the time such as William Blake, Lord Byron, William Wordsworth and John Keats, spanning from 1800 to 1850. The budding poets are becoming confident in speaking and writing about the main characteristics of the period being:-interest in the common man and childhood, emotions and feelings, the awe of nature, importance of imagination and celebration of the individual.

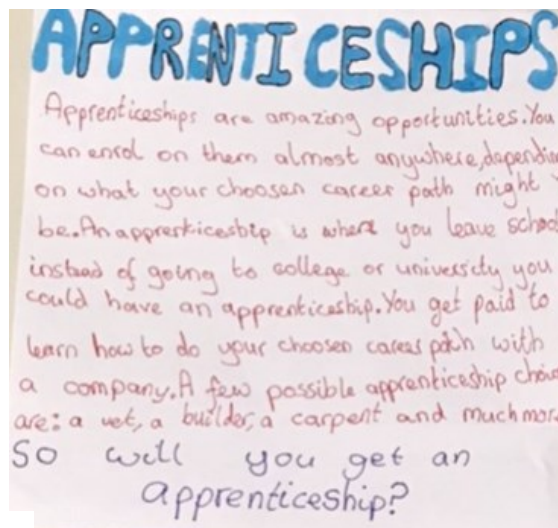
CHALLENGE CUP



'Believe in what you can achieve'

Since the launch of our Challenge Cup, students across the academy are enjoying the competitions and challenges set. These have included designing a poster to advertise apprenticeships to the older students, 'best joke' for Red Nose Day awareness and coming up with a shield and motto to represent their year group.

Here are some of the winners from our Year 7 students:-



I told my wife she was drawing her eyebrows too high....

She looked surprised!

"TOMORROW WILL BE A BETTER DAY"

The next challenge set to all year groups, as part of our Challenge Cup, is to honour the achievements of Captain Tom who set out to walk around his garden to thank our NHS heroes.

One hundred laps later he had raised an incredible £38.9 million. His simple message of hope "Tomorrow will be a good day" inspired millions around the world and brought comfort and joy to so many during the pandemic. He would have celebrated his 101st birthday on Friday 30th April and our students are encouraged to take part in the Captain Tom 100 based on a challenge around the 'number 100'.

The challenge starts on 30th April ending on 4th May and we excitedly await to hear how they mark this wonderful gentleman's contribution to society.



A VISIT TO DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



As ever, talent was on show in our DT Department. Students are using their significant skills to produce some creative work being mindful of safety rules.

Our talented Year 11 students are busy producing their final pieces as part of their DT coursework. Seen here are two rather amazing seats (together with lighting) and a tool box – all made from oil drums. Wow!



PIZZA PIE



A truly wonderful aroma wafted along the corridor emanating from the Food Technology room signifying students busily making pizza. They were incredibly proud of their creations and they were indeed a match for many a pizza parlour!

The modern pizza evolved from similar flatbread dishes in Naples, Italy, in the 18th or early 19th century. Enjoyed in all its forms pizza



is a dish enjoyed by many including those who wish to make a healthy version. Follow this link for more details: https://foodnetwork.co.uk/search/?q=10-ways-to-build-a-healthier-pizza&utm_source=foodnetwork.com&utm_medium=domestic

INTERVIEW FROM THE ALUMNI ARCHIVE

Name: Gemma

Current Role: Solicitor

(Our alumni are asked to answer the following questions for our students).

When did you attend The Nicholas Hamond Academy (former Hamonds High School)? I came straight from the Middle School in Swaffham (then called South Greenhoe) into Year 8 in September 2002 and left in July 2006 once I had completed by GCSEs.

What were your challenges at school and how were these overcome? I think any teenager's worst enemy is themselves – a complete lack of confidence and worrying what others think of you. You're made to feel pretty rubbish by external influences - you look at others and see how 'popular' they are, how 'good looking' they are, and wonder how they have it so 'easy' when you don't. There's no easy way to overcome that feeling, but what helped me was having a few really great friends who felt the same as I did, so I didn't feel on my own. You won't believe me, but trust me, the older you get, the less you care about all that 'high school stuff'. Don't be a person who in the future regrets spending so much time worrying about what others thought of them at school. It genuinely does not matter, 'you do you' and you're doing fine.

What were your successes? I was very lucky to get through High School and come out the other end a happy teenager. Being a teenager is really, really hard. You have no idea who you are or what you're supposed to do from one day to the next, let alone what the next six or seven decades of your life are going to have in store for you. You have to navigate and manage the bullies, the crushes, the best-friend fall-outs, your own hormones, the teachers, your home life and also pass your GCSEs. That's way too much for any person, let alone a teenager. So, if you leave High School having tried your best to get half-decent grades and end up with a smile on your face, then you have done really, really, REALLY well.

What were your most memorable moments during your time here? I was in Year 10 (I think) and probably thinking about my UCAS application for Sixth Form. My English teacher, stopped me in the corridor one day and said that I should go and do what she always wanted to do, but never did – go and study Law. I didn't really pay that much attention as I felt I knew what I wanted to do, but it clearly stuck with me as that conversation was ultimately the reason I gave that a shot. I also remember the 'fads', which looking back were pretty ridiculous (gel pens, typing rude words on calculators (you know what I'm talking about!) and gooey aliens - look them up).

What has been your experience/career path since leaving school ? I went straight on to Sixth Form and studied Biology, Chemistry, English and Politics, dropping the latter in my AS2 year. I always wanted to be a Doctor (hence the Science-y subjects!) and I did get two interviews, but was rejected by both of the Uni's. I had to decide whether to take a gap year, get some work experience and try again, or go and study something else. My desire to experience the next stage of adulthood overshadowed my wish to pursue a career in Medicine, so I looked through the options on UCAS Extra, saw that the University of East Anglia was offering spaces in Law, remembered what the teacher had told me the year earlier and I thought 'why not?'

I drafted a completely new Personal Statement in about half an hour, got it across to the Law School and the rest is history. After my 3 years at UEA, I left with a Law degree. I decided that I did want to continue studying Law, so I went to Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge to study the Legal Practice Course for a year. When I left in 2012, I got a job in a law firm as a typist and I worked my way up to a fully qualified Solicitor three years later. I've now been practicing Law for 5½ years. A snap decision made by me well over ten years ago and a lot of hard work, starting from the bottom, resulted in a great career.

What is your advice for our students currently studying at TNHA? Listen to those who tell you how important education is – because it is – so keep working hard. Putting in the effort now will set you up for wherever you want to go next. If you need help, ASK FOR IT.

Opening an envelope and seeing 'bad' grades does not mean you're a failure. Deciding not to go to Uni does not mean that everyone is 'disappointed' in you. Education is a lifelong journey. Sure, it's better to try your best when you're in school, but you can always re-sit exams, go to night classes, do work placements etc. to get your education back on track if you regret not trying hard enough in those four or five years.

Focus on being brave. Believe in yourself. Stick up for those less fortunate than you.

Be a good person and do your homework. It will pay off in the end.

#TNHA WAY



A CHANCE TO INSPIRE

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Did you attend The Nicholas Hamond Academy (or previous Hamonds High School) and can answer "YES" to the following?

- ♦ Do you have a career as a health professional, in law, the fire service, the police service, the military, teaching or any other interesting field?
- ♦ Are you a small/large business owner e.g. graphic designer, builder, engineer, artist, hairdresser etc?
- ♦ Do you feel you could be a role model to our current students, sharing your experience of training, higher or further education and the workplace?

TNHA is looking to expand our network of alumni, from those that have sat in the very same classrooms and have achieved success in their chosen career, to inspire our students. If this is you - please contact us via [Email: office@tnha.org.uk](mailto:office@tnha.org.uk) for further information.

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