

# #TNHA WAY



## June 2021

 TeamNHA

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PROUDLY  
SHARING  
OUR  
NEWS

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

# PRINCIPAL'S POST

June would normally signal the end of Year 11s finishing their exams and the start of summer, although as has been much of the case for the last 15 months this has not been a usual month. The weather has been less kind than we would like it to be, but that has not stopped the academy moving back to more normal ways.

The students have coped with moving back to learning in faculty areas and the new one-way system incredibly well and as we progress through the rest of the term we will continue to make further minor changes to prepare our students for, hopefully, a more normal 2021/22. The weather and COVID have not also stopped lots of the good things that go on in the academy, one of those being the National School's Sports Week which helped reinforce the message of how important exercise is in being not just physically but also mentally healthy.

As we head towards the end of term we are encouraging our students to continue to work as hard as they have been and can so they can utilise all the time that they have left this academic year.

*Mark Woodhouse*

# CHAIR'S CORNER

Any reflection on the last academic year is dominated by the impact of pandemic and how it has changed personal circumstances for everyone, often with tragic consequences for individuals and families. Despite this, education establishments across the country have seen their whole communities come together to minimise the impact on their young people. At THNA this has certainly been the case. The Governors recognise the continued effort of all staff and have been impressed with the resolute and positive approach displayed by parents/carers and students as the academy has reopened.

In recent weeks there have been several visits by Governors to the academy, all with a specific focus; these will continue through until the next LAC meeting on 7th July. The initial feedback from these visits has been overwhelmingly positive and a summary of the outcomes will be minuted at that meeting.

*Phil Anderson*

# NEWS FROM OUR YEAR GROUPS

*(Our student leaders have contributed to this section giving their news from each of the year groups they represent)*

**Year 7:** This month has been a busy one with many history groups getting to grips with the Tudor era. Our budding scientists have been studying the 'amazing' human body and the function of the circulatory system including 'hands on' practice.



We have also enjoyed the most recent challenge cup activities, each form competing against the other to see which could line up the quickest and in the most sensible fashion at the end of break and lunch. This was eventually won by 7-CSM but was very close call and every class did extremely well.

**Year 8:** The Year 8 students have been very busy in the last few weeks. Sports clubs have started for both boys and girls and they have been a lot of excitement about it on 'the corridor'! The girls have been enjoying their football and the boys have been talking about cricket non-stop. There is also the much anticipated chatter about the Fun Run to take place shortly.



Students have also become very competitive in the 'Challenge Cup Friday' competitions that are taking place. In the last few weeks, this has included flying paper aeroplanes to see which ones flew the best, with each form picking their favourite, before the final race to find the ultimate champion!

Finally, applications for the Student Leadership team in Year 8, have come in thick and fast, with many students applying. Staff will be looking through these applications soon, to see who will be shortlisted for positions within the academy.

**Year 9:** Year 9 forms have been competing in various different challenges over the last few weeks. These include paper tower building to see who can produce the tallest tower (demonstrating team work and resilience) and the 100 challenge for what would have been Sir Captain Tom's 100th birthday.



Students came up with various different ways to do 100 of 'something'. One of our favourites was a form group who balanced a book on their heads for 100 seconds (easier said than done!)

**Year 10:** Our Hospitality & Catering students made pizza from 'scratch', baked and decorated cupcakes and made spinach and ricotta tortellini. (Very tasty!) In Travel and Tourism students have been researching and making posters about seaside resorts in our own county of Norfolk and the 7 appeals of destinations; natural features, visitor attractions, arts and entertainment, sightseeing, transport links, facilities and accommodation.



Our artists have been focusing on the theme 'identity'. One student chose to draw Anakin Skywalker/Darth Vader, he was chosen as the picture shows the identity of his alter ego. This was an innovative idea because he shows the pain and emotions of a Jedi in Star Wars and it represents how he changed as a person.

**Year 11:** As we come to the final few days left at the academy many of us are reflecting on our time here and what the future may hold for us. We are thinking about all the changes that the academy has seen over the past few years and the memories we have made.

Recently, we have been completing many classroom exams which have helped to determine our final grades. We all feel differently about leaving the academy, some of us feel excited, some nervous and sad with others having a mixture of emotions. We are all optimistic of the future and are looking forward to the career paths we may take and what our further steps may be. All of us will be going our separate ways but the memories and friends we have made will remain with us for a lifetime.

We hope that we have left a positive legacy behind and we would like to wish the younger students a successful time at TNHA. We would also like to say a massive 'thank you' to all of the students and staff that have made our time at the academy the best it could be!

Quotes from Year 11 students:-

**"Everyone has experienced both good and bad moments and I'm so glad to have been a part of this big lovely family."**

**"Every day is new and the challenges we have faced have shaped me along with the help of the school."**

**"Throughout my time at The Nicholas Hamond Academy I have developed as a person."**

## CLASS OF 2021

As the final year draws to a close for our Year 11 students we wish them well on the next stage of their journey. They have worked extremely hard during their last weeks with us for several weeks completing 'in class' assessments and coursework that will go towards their final Teacher Assessed Grades.

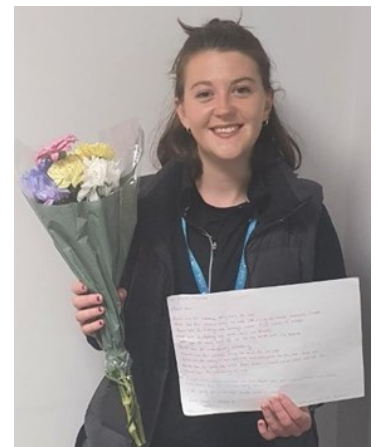
When we started this process back in March, no one really knew what challenges we would face in doing this, but it is to the credit of the students that they have tackled these challenges head on. They have worked diligently, with purpose and have shown a positive attitude in some very difficult circumstances.

The staff who have worked closely with these students during the past few months have all been impressed with the way they have approached the end of their time at the academy. This has been all the more impressive given the constant disruption that they have had to their education over the last couple of years due to the Covid pandemic.

Staff received some lovely and heartfelt 'thank you' cards from students. Students also brought in presents for staff and here are just two of the gifts received.



Miss Tilbrook was thrilled with her flower bouquet and letter of thanks, whilst Mrs Warnes felt her gift would be extremely useful at the academy gate, where she welcomes students each morning with a smile, regardless of the weather!



(Many smiles were evident at the Year 11 celebration assembly).



We have also received some wonderful comments from our parents/carers and we are delighted to share a few of these:-

"I would appreciate it if you could pass on my thanks and appreciation to ALL staff members, 'Y' has had an incredible and interesting (due to Covid) time at TNHA. We have seen him grow into the young confident young man he now is. Many thanks to everyone who has had some part in 'Y's' High School path".

"We have four children at TNHA including one in Year 11. They have all received not only an excellent education but also excellent pastoral care throughout their time with you. I know that this takes hard work and dedication from a team of staff. Thank you to you all for everything that you have done and continue to do for our children".

"Please pass on my thanks to this member of staff - she is a wonderful person and I would like to thank her personally for all she has done for my daughter".

## SETTING SAIL IN SCIENCE

Inspired by HMS Queen Elizabeth embarking on her first operational deployment, Year 8 students were given the task of building 'ships' that could hold as large a mass as possible whilst still floating. The winning model held a very impressive 250g.

Photographs of the project are now on their way, via the wife of a serving member aboard, to place around the 'real ship' itself which is the joint largest & most powerful vessel ever constructed for the Royal Navy.



Students learnt that the aircraft carrier weighs 65,000 tonnes and has a top speed of 25 knots, her flight deck is 290m long and 70m wide (enough space for 3 football pitches). Certainly a great feat of engineering!

## PRIDE PERSONIFIED

You may well have seen our students 'out and about' participating in the Keep Britain Tidy's Great Big School Clean (part of the campaign's million-mile mission).

Donning high-vis vests and armed with litter pickers, gloves and bags they ensured that the area outside the academy was free from any rubbish.



Also keen to show their pride in the academy were a group of students who cleared areas around the site itself as part of the 'Achieving and Contributing' unit of the Prince's Trust Achieve Programme.

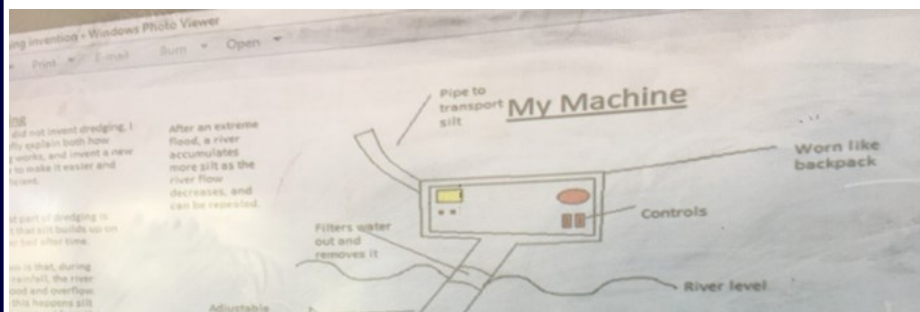
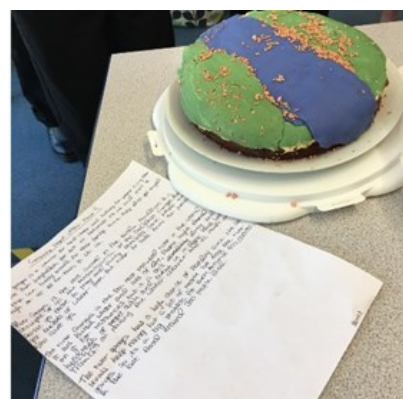
We think you will agree that these young people are certainly excellent role models.



## GIFTED GEOGRAPHERS

Our Year 7 geographers were eager to showcase their home learning recently after being given a selection of tasks to complete from units on either 'Landscapes' or 'Globalisation'.

Many of the students created imaginative and thoughtful pieces of work. These ranged from designing a machine to dredge the bed of river (depositing the sediment on the flood plain (creating more fertile areas for crop growth), to baking a cake to represent a river landscape (which no doubt was as tasty as it was informative).



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

TNHA students have been continuing their practice towards the next stage of their Bronze Award which is the long anticipated Camping Expedition in a few weeks.



They have been ensuring their map reading, tent pitching and stove lighting skills are well developed, with plenty of practice, so that this event is successful as well as fun.

We look forward to hearing about their forthcoming adventure.



# SUPPORTING ARMED FORCES DAY

Eager to support Armed Forces Day staff devised a series of lessons in science with a 'military' theme including engineers who were set the difficult task of constructing a bridge that could support the weight of one military vehicle (a chocolate bar in this case).

They had to apply their previous science knowledge, thinking about which forces would be acting on the bridge and in which direction.

They then had to consider how they would construct their bridge and avoid losing supplies in the 'river' below. To make it even more challenging they were not allowed to use any glue, sticky tape or blue tac during the construction process.



Meanwhile, military cadets attended the academy in their uniform to show support for our armed forces. They looked extremely smart and suitably proud!

## WELCOME ABOARD

Finally, we welcome a further community governor, Helen Warrick-Evans to our Local Academy Committee, completing our team. Please see below her biography:-

"My first "real job" was working for the BBC Further Education Schools and Radio and television broadcasting back in the days where the adult literacy programmes and new cooking series were starting. I was a very young Administrative Assistant organising events.

I then went onto study for a Bachelor of Education degree in Dance/Music/ Art Design and technology Secondary Education. I taught in Hertfordshire and Essex as Head of Drama and Head of Technology Faculty for many years. I then went to Spain on the Costa del Sol and taught at three International Schools teaching English and Theatre Arts International Baccalaureate reaching Deputy Headship level before I retired.

Swaffham has always been a very special place in my life over the past 16 years as my in-laws spent more than 30 happy years here in retirement. So Swaffham drew us back to retire ourselves. I am a keen Amateur Dramatic member of the Swaffham Players spending the lockdown recording plays and our weekly play readings which has kept us all entertained. My passion is making sure all students and staff have a happy and vibrant experience of their never ending educational journey in life.

I feel privileged to be working alongside the TNHA team and bringing my experiences to help forge a bright and positive future for all".