

#TNHA WAY



November 2021

 TeamNHA

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PROUDLY SHARING OUR NEWS

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



PRINCIPAL'S POST

Despite the colder and shorter days November has been another busy month in the academy. Students have been very much focussed on their academic studies and this time of year is absolutely crucial for our older students, especially the Year 11s, who are now well on the way to completing their courses so they can prepare and revise for the exams they will take next year. What has been impressive is the focus that our students have shown in this and how they have tackled the challenges that they have faced in this. November is also traditionally a month where there is more opportunity to reflect and for students to show their support and empathy for others through remembrance and charitable events that take place in the lead up to Christmas. Again, our students have conducted themselves with the decorum such occasions command showing a more sympathetic set of qualities that are equally important as skills they develop for their future lives.

Mark Woodhouse

CHAIR'S CORNER

One of the statutory responsibilities of governors in schools is to monitor the quality and effectiveness of Safeguarding. At TNH A all governors completed training at the start of the academic year, led by the academy Designated Safeguarding Lead and I was confirmed as the governor safeguarding link. During this term I have attended a Trust forum on Safeguarding, and examined the procedures used at TNH A for ensuring safe recruitment. A national Ofsted review published in June 2021 revealed how prevalent sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are for children and young people and that incidents can be so commonplace children see no point in reporting them. It is important to note governors take their role seriously in exploring this at the academy. As a small part of on-going work being led by the Safeguarding Lead I met with a group of students to discuss these issues. They clearly appreciated what the academy is doing to support them pastorally, were sure about who to go to if they needed help and had a good understanding of the main issues raised. I came away reassured that at TNH A there is proper importance given to the understanding of young people's own perspectives on their difficulties and what may make it hard for them to seek help. When young people feel secure and safe in school, they flourish both academically and emotionally. However, as governors we have a responsibility not to be complacent and we will continue to observe and to question. Research has shown that professionals consistently underestimated the prevalence of online sexual abuse, even when there was a proactive whole-school approach to tackling sexual harassment and violence. In the words of Ofsted "The objective is to create an environment where staff model respectful and appropriate behaviour, where children and young people are clear about what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, and where they are confident to ask for help and support when they need it." This is an objective that we will keep in mind.

Phil Anderson.

TNHA REMEMBERS...

We are now well into our autumn term and November featured Remembrance Day when the country remembered those who fought in the World Wars and later conflicts.

The academy fell quiet at 11am for a two-minute silence joined by those students in Cadet, Scouts, Guides and St. Johns Ambulance Uniforms, who marched out proudly to join the rest of their peers.



Students also reflected on various conflicts by producing 'black out' poetry and a remembrance wall with each poppy noting a thought based around the sacrifice made by our servicemen and women.



Our Year 8 & 9 students joined a workshop facilitated by the Never Such Innocence Charity where they worked with singer & songwriter Otto to write their own song. This was recorded by those students involved and played to the whole cohort on the day. *(Please visit the Youtube link on our website & social media to enjoy the finished product).*

Furthermore, two of our students were given the honour of representing children of servicemen and women at a meeting, via Zoom, with the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Nick Carter, when they asked questions around life after conflict, remembering those who represented our country and life in the military.



We were delighted to take part in the Remembrance Service which took place in the town of Swaffham on Sunday 14 November 2021. Four of our students from TNHA marched in a parade through the town along with military veterans and representatives of other organisations such as the Cadets, Guides, Brownies, Salvation Army etc. They went on to lay a wreath at the memorial in the Town's Square as well as attending the church service whereupon a further wreath was laid. We are, as you can imagine, extremely proud of our young people who honoured 'the fallen' in such excellent fashion.

UNDETERRED BY THE COLDER WEATHER

Despite the weather turning cold and damp as expected this season, we have run a series of trips out of school. Geography students went to Norwich to study various changes and their effects on the surrounding area, as part of the 'human study' portion of their course. P.E students enjoyed a mountain biking trip to High Lodge in Thetford as part of the skills they needed to master and demonstrate.



A trip seeing 3 coaches full of students will be making its way to see Dick Whittington at the Theatre Royal in Norwich in early December. This has certainly turned out to be one of our most popular events and students will be sure to set off full of excitement and anticipation to see this classic 'rags to riches tale'. No doubt they will return with the 'Christmas Spirit'.

A VISIT FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

As always, we are delighted when visitors ask to meet us and our students. We were very pleased to welcome back Cllr. Judy Anscombe, Mayor of Swaffham, who was joined by Cllr. Graham Edwards on his first visit. They toured the site with Student Leaders eager to show off their academy and answered various questions of interest to the local councillors.

Feedback from the visit was extremely positive and it is evident that we are absolutely demonstrating that we are determined to be the best that we can be and doing a great job of it! We would invite you to follow our social media platforms on either Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, to be kept informed of just some of the wonderful things that we are so very proud to share at TNHA.

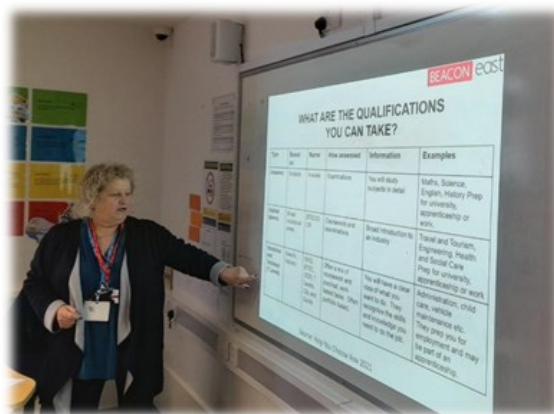
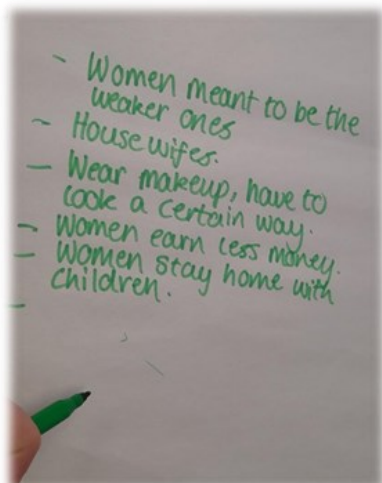


ENJOYING 'A DIFFERENT DAY' AT TNHA

The last day of November saw the first of our Curriculum Days for the academic year. Students followed an alternative timetable for the day based around PSHE and Careers topics, appropriate to their age group. We welcomed many guests into the academy to deliver bespoke sessions to our various Year Groups some of these included STEM activities with members of RAF Marham working in teams with giant meccano to build a communications tower with satellites and an enclosure in a tight timeframe. Other students focused on their future learning in a session delivered by the College of West Anglia looking at where their education may take them once they reach post 16, with our students in their final year receiving careers advice from an independent advisor together with interview and CV skills. The Network East Anglia Collaboration Outreach Group also worked with students on aspiring to university.

Amongst the most serious topics discussed on the day were the danger of drugs and alcohol where students encountered a session with the Matthew Project with others learning about healthy relationships and abusive behaviour including investigating harmful perceptions promoted by social media.

The day was an opportunity to enable our students to develop in many diverse aspects of life and to build confidence and resilience preparing them for life in modern Britain in preparation for adult life and engagement in society.



WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT!



We would like to say an enormous 'thank you' to everyone who took part in our annual non-uniform day in support of Children in Need filling our charity buckets on entry to the academy.

As always, this was a great success and we are proud to add to the total raised by this extremely worthwhile charity!

Finally, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has brought in donations for our student-led charity drive to make up Christmas Cheer Boxes for the care homes in the town. If you still wish to donate please do so by Wednesday 8 December. This will give us a chance to organise delivery. Students can hand in gifts to their form tutor or alternatively bring them in to our Main Reception. We believe that it is truly wonderful that our students have chosen to 'keep things local' this Christmas supporting some of our most vulnerable and valued members of the community.

