

#TNHAAWAY



The
Nicholas Hamond
Academy



October 2022

 TeamNHA

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 @TeamNHA

PROUDLY
SHARING
OUR
NEWS



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



PRINCIPAL'S POST

With the clocks going back at the end of the month there is now a real autumnal feel to what is happening in the academy. It is easy to forget that just a few weeks ago we were coming out of a really hot summer with days of sunshine on end. The pace at which things happen in the academy never fails to amaze me!

Students and staff are now well into the routines that they need to be. That said one the areas of focus we will have over the next few weeks will be to ensure that all staff and students can meet the high expectations that have become part of our academy culture in recent times. This is all about helping our students to develop the skills that will make them successful learners not just now but also be successful people in their futures. Our students have been brilliant in taking on this responsibility and we know that they respond to this positively in demonstrating this. This is also reflected in what they are learning and how they are engaging, and whilst there may be lots of uncertainty in the world outside of the academy at the moment, the bit that our students do consistently well is in rising to the challenges that they face.

You will see that there is lots that has happened in the academy over the last few weeks and there will be further opportunities for students to get properly involved in all aspects of the academy over the coming weeks!

Mark Woodhouse

CHAIR'S CORNER

"Don't settle for average. Bring your best to the moment. Then, whether it fails or succeeds, at least you know you gave all you had. We need to live the best that's in us." Angela Bassett

As we celebrate black history month Jay Blades MBE (Repair shop) reminded me that Angela's words speak clearly about the aims we all share at TNHA to be the best that we can be! And that is clearly the message we saw earlier this month as The Director of Learning , Gary Trott and myself toured the classrooms to see how and what is being taught throughout the day. I can remember as a young teacher how terrified I was about visitors in my lessons so I can empathise with the students and members of staff we did visit as we questioned and discussed both about their work and what outcomes they were expecting. It's the fundamentals of learning that inspire us to achieve more on a daily basis and influences everything we do in the future especially when having to make decisions and choices, and the tour showed a wide variety of learning opportunities that the students are being taught. The open evening that followed the next day showcased all of those lessons we saw in their true light to their absolute best from a battle in the trenches in the History department to Macbeth's Three Witches around the cauldron in English. The PE department excelling in sports for all abilities. The Special Educational needs area highlighted a very warm and inviting safe area for the students. There were drama activities and musical renditions throughout areas in the school with a huge turnout for prospective parents for September 2022 even parents of year 5 students for 2023 as they had heard how good the school is!

I've also been busy attending training programmes on Safeguarding making sure I'm up-to-date with this huge area of collective responsibility with regards to making sure all our staff, students and everyone who works within the school on a daily basis understands the importance of their role in keeping children safe in education (KCSIE). It is our duty in and out of school to make sure we are doing all we can to teach our children to be safe and well cared for.

The start of the new term has been exciting and jam packed full of vibrant learning activities. Next term as we run up to Christmas there will be even more!

Helen Warrick-Evans

FACULTY FOCUS

News from our English Faculty

We've had a busy start to the new academic year in the English Faculty and it has been lovely to welcome so many Year 7 students to begin their journey with us at TNHA. This term began with an Introduction to Gothic Literature for Year 7, which has enabled them to study a range of texts from 1794 until the present day and create some impressive pieces from their homework menus. After half term they will be moving on to study a modern novel, 'A Monster Calls', where they will begin to develop their reading for meaning skills in more depth.

Our Year 8 students have been exploring Dystopian Literature over the last few weeks, considering how authors present ideas and questions about society from differing perspectives. As we run a vertical curriculum in the English Faculty, Year 8 will also be studying a modern novel for the second half of the term: 'Noughts & Crosses', a text which reflects some of the topics explored through our studies of the dystopian style.

Year 9 started this term by developing their analytical skills through a thematic unit named 'The Journey', which, similar to Years 7 and 8, has looked at a range of extracts from different texts. Their focus has been to explore structural features and their impact. They will be moving on to their modern novel, the literary classic 'Of Mice and Men', after half term.'

Moving onto our Key Stage 4 students, Year 10 are spending the whole term studying their 19th century novel, 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. They are currently midway through reading and exploring the text, developing their critical analysis skills to meet the needs of GCSE.

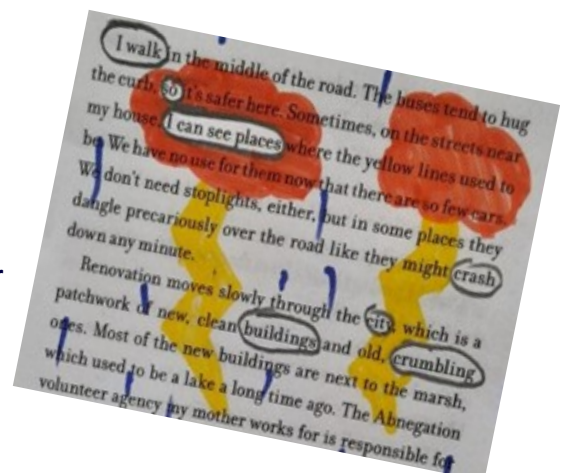
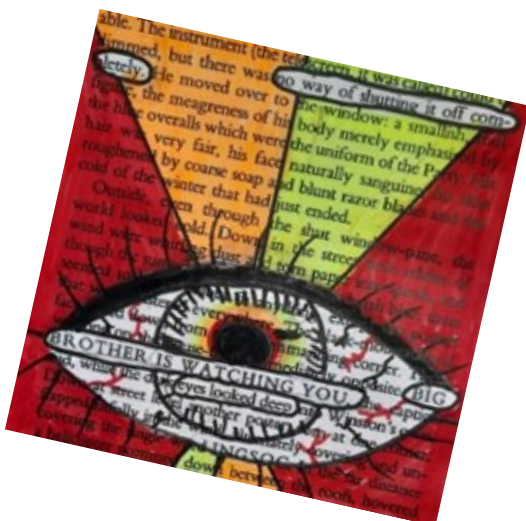
Our Year 11s have been working hard to complete their studies on 'Macbeth' and have just begun to prepare their final Literature set text, the Poetry Anthology from AQA, focusing on the Power & Conflict cluster of poems. Many of our Year 11s have also begun to attend Revision and Intervention sessions run by the Faculty - Miss Findlay is running our Stretch & Challenge revision skills sessions on a Wednesday lunchtime, plus intervention sessions are taking place on Tuesdays after school.

It's also been a busy time for our extra-curricular clubs and activities, with our Shakespeare Club, run by Mrs Barber, performing extracts from Macbeth during the recent Open Evening and our Reading club going strong. We are looking at setting up a Debate club in the Faculty too, and keep your eyes peeled for our new English Ambassadors, making their debut around the academy soon!

Finally, we would also like to welcome Mrs Zappala to the English Faculty. An experienced teacher of Years 7 to 13, she joined us in September and has been a great asset to the team.

National Poetry Day

Examples of
'blackout poetry'
from our Junior
students
(redacting words
from a text and
coming up with their
own poetry!)



CARING FOR OUR PLANET



A group of our students were lucky enough to take part in an Arts Council funded workshop exploring the impact of climate change on rural communities organised by our CARTS faculty. The leader of the sessions reported that they showed a real compassion for farmers and rural communities - with a great deal of love for nature. She added that they were an incredibly compassionate and astute group - asking a lot of really excellent questions.

Quotes from the workshop:-

“In the distance birds chirp and bushes shiver. To the side of me - pure, clear water flows down a stream. It's bliss. I love my world - in big ways and in small ways. And I think - I just wish everyone could experience exactly what I'm seeing”.

“The stars in the sky stared down at the earth below it. And it was only here, now, that I realised how peaceful it is. How peaceful it could be. Comforting, silence filling the air - no sounds of engines whirring, people talking, just the sounds of the earth. It could be like this all the time”.

“This is all within the grasp of life, it is between my palms. Rich, fertile soil clutches onto the billions of life and cells it contains, including me”.

“They always say that nature is worth more than money. Now I truly understand it. But when I open my eyes, I see what we have now. New life, suppressed by greed and tyranny of mankind, never taking this planet and nature itself into consideration”.

Feedback from the students:-

“I could've just kept writing and writing - I didn't know how much I had to say”.

“No one's ever asked me my opinion on things before - I didn't know that I cared so much or that what I thought mattered”.

“It's made me realise that small differences can make a big change”.



How 'Green' is our town?

Following on from the formal launch of our recycling programme you may well have seen groups of junior students out in the town undertaking some geography fieldwork. The unit of work was designed to encourage them to think carefully about their environment around them and consider the question 'How Green is Swaffham?'

After collecting data on traffic, litter, environmental quality and asking the opinion of members of the public, they will use this information to undertake further study on the topic.

BAKE OFF WITH A EUROPEAN FLAVOUR!

You will be aware that we consider languages an important part of our curriculum and were therefore delighted to celebrate European Languages Day giving our students the chance to sample some of the wonderful food from various countries.

Our celebrations culminated in a Cake Competition and the entries were nothing less than amazing with so much effort and culinary skill on show. It was, as you can imagine, extremely hard to pick a winner nevertheless the winning entry was entitled 'Together, one World' with runners up being the 'Day of the Dead' and 'The Eiffel Tower'.

If they all tasted as good as they looked there was certainly some delicious exhibits to try!

Valuing all
languages in
Europe



PROUDLY SHOWING OFF OUR ACADEMY

**OPEN
EVENING**

We threw open our doors for an exciting evening just before half term in order to welcome potential students for September 2023 and their parents/carers and what a busy evening we had!



There were all sorts of demonstrations and information on various subjects on offer, from witches in English classrooms, sparks flying in Science, wooden Christmas trees in DT, a photobooth in MFL along with various props from different countries, boogie bounce in PE to puzzles in Maths to name but a few. Our students and staff were on hand to answer questions, entertain guests with drama & music skills and to have the opportunity to be able to show off their academy to everyone attending.

For those who also wished to encounter TNHA on usual working day, tours were on offer on three of our Open Mornings.



What did our young Visitors think of us?

"I can't wait to start high school, it looks like so much fun"

"The students were really helpful"

"All the staff and students were really nice"



"I loved all the lessons and meeting the teachers & students"

"The activities were fun"

"I really enjoyed the boogie bounce and P.E"

"I loved Drama and Art"

Why am I looking forward to joining TNHA?

"Because the classrooms are amazing and the teachers I met are great"

"Every student is proud of their school and I want to join this amazing school community"

"Because I know I will be welcomed and happy here"

"I think it is a nice and inclusive place"

"Meeting new people and playing in sports teams"

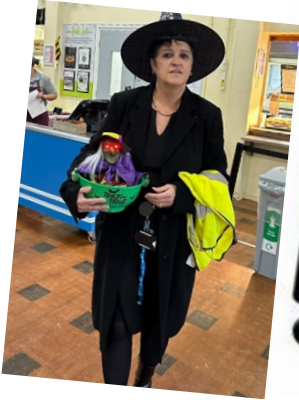
"To get better at multiple subjects and discover new things"

"Design Technology so I can make things and take them home"

"Making new friends and being the best I can be"



AND FINALLY...



Treats on offer in the Lunch Hall!



Did you notice our Halloween window facing the street?



Now that the clocks have been turned back with the resulting darker nights, and after the excitement of Halloween, we cannot help but turn our thoughts to Christmas and the opportunity afforded to staff and students alike to see the pantomime at the Theatre Royal in Norwich.

Coaches will depart in early December taking a large group to see Jack & The Beanstalk which is an old favourite "Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum, the annual panto looks like fun, Be you young or be you old, Come and see Jack's story unfold!"