

#TNHAAWAY



December 2023

 TeamNHA

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PROUDLY  
SHARING  
OUR  
NEWS



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



## PRINCIPAL'S POST

I can't believe how quickly the autumn term has passed when we look back on where we were in September. It feels like the academy has continued to move on with a pace and looking back through this newsletter again highlights all the fantastic opportunities that are on offer to our students. Whilst Christmas does bring about an opportunity to take a break and spend it with friends and family, there will always be some who are less fortunate at this time of year and it has been nice that our students have been thinking about this in some of the work they have undertaken.

It would be wrong to not look to the future, and whilst this time of the year does bring about challenges and we are looking to the New Year with a positivity for what will come. We will renew expectations and standards with our students and reiterate to them the importance of attending well and as well as meeting academy expectations around work and their uniform as these are things that make a day-to-day difference in what our students can achieve.

I do hope that you and your families have a restful Christmas and look forward to seeing our students and academy thrive in the New Year!

*Mark Woodhouse*

## HEAD'S HEADLINES

As the term draws to a close it is nice to have time to reflect on the last few weeks. The students have been busy and so much has been happening in the academy. It is always a pleasure to see our students getting involved in extra-curricular activities. The fantastic work of the students in the school panto cannot be overlooked. 5-star reviews followed their outstanding performance - we are so very proud of them and the work they put in to the evening. Well done!

Hot on the heels of the panto came the amazing school Music Showcase. With performances to rival any music festival, we were blown away by the talents of the young people on stage. Congratulations! A huge thank you as well to the supporters, parents, carers and extended families who came into the academy to celebrate our students.

After a busy few weeks, we wish all of our students a restful Christmas break, and a very Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing students back on 4<sup>th</sup> January and wish the Year 11 students well for their mock examinations which start on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

*Emily Thomason*

## CHAIR'S CORNER

This term has been incredibly busy for everyone and time just seems to have flown by since last January. The hard work and total commitment of all the staff at TNHA is a testament to the schools valued reputation in the local community from careers conventions, Remembrance Day services, music festivals, and of course welcoming back the traditional TNHA pantomime live on stage at last after it's recent refurbishment. The production was full of the brightest talented students and staff! There was a feel good factor in the air! The wonderful costumes and the traditional pantomime cow was a sight to behold!

May I wish you all good wishes, health and happiness for Christmas and New Year .

*Helen Warrick-Evans*

# FACULTY FOCUS

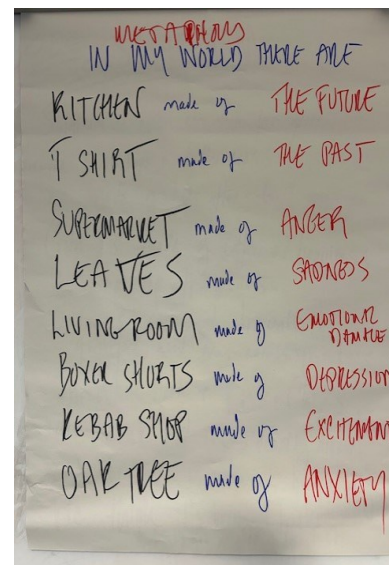
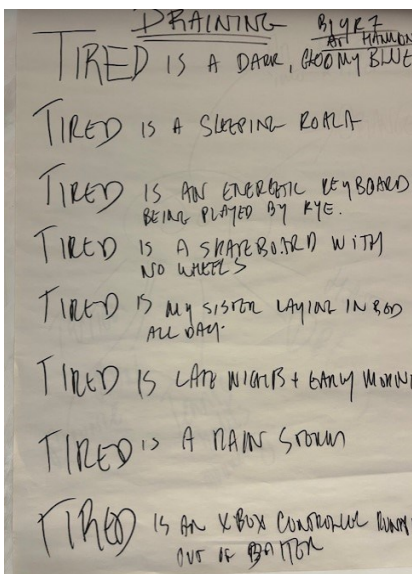
It has been a busy time for the English Faculty this term. At the start of the year, we set students across Key Stage 3 the challenge of writing poems on the theme of 'This is Me' as part of a competition run by Young Writers. We are proud to announce that many of the poems submitted have been selected for publication. We look forward to reading them all when the anthology is published in February.

We also have some exciting trips planned for the New Year. In February, Year 11 get the chance to hear from some of the poets they are studying at Poetry Live in Norwich. Year 8 will soon be receiving letters inviting them to a trip to the Globe Theatre in London to watch a performance of Romeo and Juliet and Year 9 will have the opportunity to watch a performance of Blood Brothers at the Kings Lynn Corn Exchange.

In class students have been working hard, with Year 7 students focusing on exploring the gothic genre, Year 8s have been focusing on the dystopian genre and Year 9 have been studying Malorie Blackman's *Boys Don't Cry*. At KS4 both year 10 and 11 have been studying the poetry from the power and conflict anthology as part of their GCSE English Literature course. Year 11s also have opportunities to further improve their grade by attending after school revision sessions every Wednesday.

As well as this, we were lucky to welcome to the academy award winning young adult writer Simon James Green. Simon's novels often feature awkward teenage central characters and include - *Noah Can't Even, Gay Club, Boy Like Me and Alex in Wonderland*. Simon spent the day with groups of Year 9 students delivering creative workshops on how to build characters. Students were up on their feet taking part in a mixture of drama based activities to help them consider the backstory of their characters.

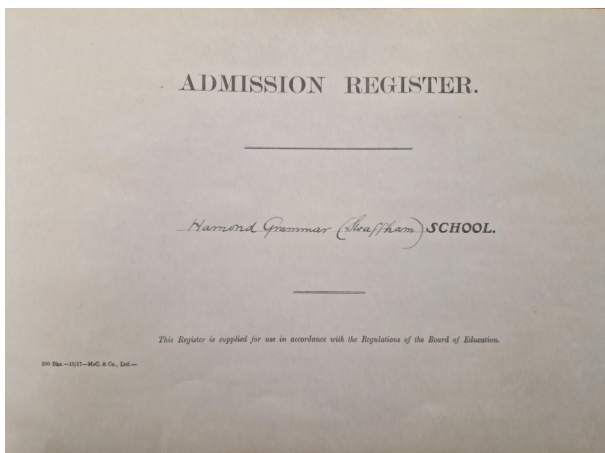
Year 7 enjoyed writing workshops with Norwich based poet Lewis Buxton exploring various themes in their sessions.



# WHAT A FIND!

It was with delight that one of our History teachers found, lurking in the back of his cupboard, an admissions ledger from the old Hamonds School from 1918. The entries are all handwritten and documents when students were admitted and left roll for varying reasons.

Many local people will know that the school in Swaffham was opened after the Lord of the Manor, Sir Nicholas Hamond, left what was then, the princely sum of £1,000 to build and endow a school for boys which was first built, shortly after his death in 1725, on the Campingland behind the church. The school moved from the original site in 1896 into the town with room for 32 boarders and by 1922 had 130 boys on roll with 30 boarders. This later became the town's VI form.



1. Date of Birth Month Year 11 06	2. Place of Birth County Borough or County Norfolk	3. Occupation of Father Farmer	4. Place or places of previous education during the five years preceding admission Clewchurch Elementary School
5. Date of Admission Month Year 3 18	6. Date of Leaving Month Year 7 24	7. Particulars of any exemption from Tuition fees (a) Total exemption Granted from (Date) 1 25	8. Particulars of any Public Examination passed or Certificate obtained while in the school, with date. None.
9. Position on Leaving Granted by (Date) H. K. (Date)	10. Particulars of any Public Examination passed or Certificate obtained while in the school, with date. None.	11. Date of Resignation or Release of P. T. in the School. None.	12. Remarks None.
13. Teacher or Day School Day	14. Scholarships or Exhibitions for further education None.	15. Place of further education Jeweller	16. Occupation taken up after leaving Jeweller

1. Date of Birth Day Month Year 22 1 19	2. Place of Birth (a) Borough or (b) Urban District or (c) Rural Parish Watton	3. Occupation of Father Jeweller	4. Place or places of previous education during the five years preceding admission Soham Grammar School
5. Date of Admission Day Month Year 3 4 21	6. Date of Leaving Day Month Year 4 6 21	7. Particulars of any exemption from Tuition fees (a) Total exemption Granted from (Date) 2 20	8. Particulars of any Public Examination passed or Certificate obtained while in the school, with date. None.
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# WE REMEMBERED ...

Each year at the academy we remember the fallen from the World Wars and more recent conflicts and this year was no different.

Our students honoured our military heroes by taking part in various events both in the academy and the community. The whole academy fell silent for two minutes, including those students who proudly wore their various cadet, cubs, brownie uniforms etc., on the Friday at 11am after learning about the reasons behind the marking of this moment and just why we remember!

*On the eleventh hour  
of the eleventh day,  
of the eleventh month....*

*We shall remember  
them*



You may recall that our very talented students wrote a song called “We Remember” and they were invited to the Church Service in the town to sing this to the congregation.



On Remembrance Sunday itself, two of our most senior students joined in the march in Swaffham laying a wreath at the memorial in the town centre and then another inside the church, above the plaque, honouring those from the Swaffham Grammar School who sadly perished in the World Wars.



You may have noticed that our window opposite the road also suitably marked the occasion!



# CURRICULUM DAY

We held our first curriculum day of the academic year on 12<sup>th</sup> December where our students are taken off their usual study programme and given the opportunities to explore topics relevant to their age group to include:- apprenticeships, festivals, parties, clubbing and drugs, knife crime, pornography, road safety, interview skills, R.E., trade unions, mansphere and misogyny, T-levels, life skills, first aid, the dangers of sending intimate photographs, how to choose options, puberty, careers, drugs and the law, gambling, danger of social media, STEM learning session with personnel from RAF Marham, P.E. & healthy lifestyles & relationships. Most of these sessions were delivered by outside providers who are experts in their field.



# CHRISTMAS AT TNHA

It's here at last... Christmas is just around the corner. At TNHA we have been celebrating the festive season in a number of ways.

## Swaffham Lions Christmas Party

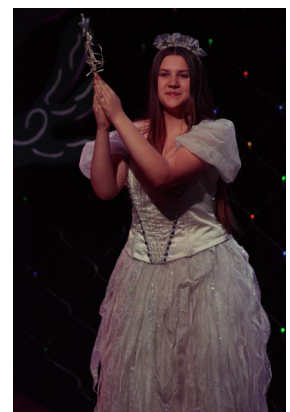
As has become the tradition at this time of year the academy opened its doors to the Swaffham Lions who hold their yearly Christmas Lunch at the academy for those who may otherwise find the season a little lonely. Our catering staff volunteered their time to cook for well over a hundred guests and our minibus drivers, who usually collect students, gave up their time to ferry folk back and forth to the academy and home. We are very happy to be part of this wonderful day embodying the spirit of true kindness.



Many of you will have come along to our two special evenings being the Panto and the Musical Evening. Both events were sold out and an enormous success. The students enjoyed performing proudly in front of a live audience of family, friends, staff and guests from the community.

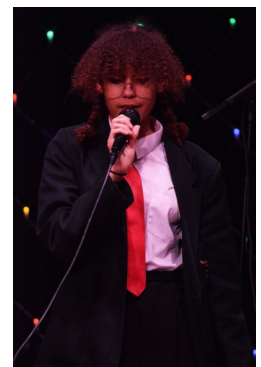
### Christmas Pantomime

Our Panto entitled 'Happily Never After' was a little different to the norm (a group of villains – The Evil Queen, Jafar, Malificent, Cruella de Vil and King Rat) decided that they had enough of the 'Happy Ever After' tradition and led by Cruella cast a spell which meant that the people of Pantoland found that their lives and traditional stories took a strange turn for the worse! The RockavoX choir were invited along and sang a great range of traditional Christmas songs along with one which caused lots of smiles about a turkey who was keen to promote the virtues of a 'veggie Christmas!'



## Musical Showcase

Our musical showcase returned for another year highlighting the amazing talent we have here at TNHA. Two hours of music was performed by our students in various forms with much enthusiasm and passion on display. Students not only sang and played instruments but some also contributed to photography, sound, lighting and technical support throughout the evening - the showcase provides opportunities for students to get involved in all aspects of the show. A special mention to our Year 7 group of singers, who performed for the very first time. Although, understandably nervous, they performed beautifully for the audience. It was a lovey way to celebrate another fantastic year in the Creative Arts Department and we look forward to being 'wowed again' next Christmas!





## Christmas Card Competition

We have had some truly excellent entries to our Christmas Card Competition and would like to thank all who entered using various mediums such as photographs, hand drawings and computer programmes, making it a truly difficult task to choose first place! There will be prizes for all entrants.

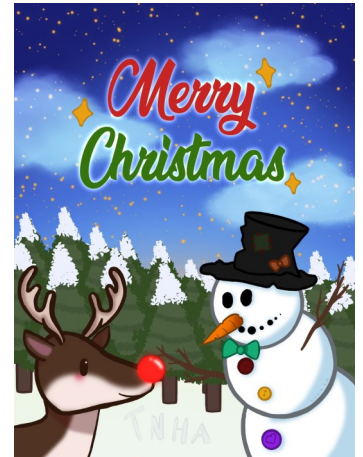
Our winner was the card designed by Bethany in Year 8. This will be sent along with our good wishes for the season to all our parents, carers, primary schools and our community links. Well done Bethany.



Aleksandra - Year 7



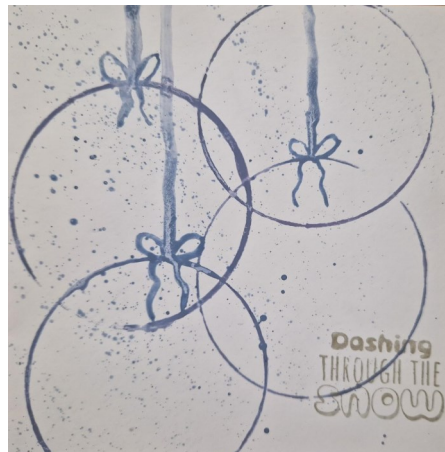
Jack - Year 8



Lucia - Year 8



April - Year 8



Bethany - Year 8

## Mid Norfolk Foodbank Christmas Appeal

Times are tough for many at the moment and this is particularly the case at Christmas. We were proud to support the Mid Norfolk Foodbank with Christmas donations in order that they can make up some 200 parcels for those in need who may otherwise go without festive treats which many of us take for granted. We wholeheartedly thank those that were able to donate.



### Christmas Window

When passing the academy don't forget to look up to enjoy our Christmas Window!



We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year.  
The last day of term is  
Wednesday 20th December 2023  
students return on Thursday 4th January 2024

## **TESCO** Community Grants

Should you find yourself in Tesco, Swaffham, in the New Year, please add the blue token you receive on payment from the cashier (or on the top of the self-service tills) into the box for TNHA. This should be in the store from mid January until the end of March 2024. The funds, provided by the Tesco Scheme, will be used to improve materials in the Learning Resource Centre to support after school clubs, to inspire students to love reading and provide opportunities to keep expanding horizons.

*Don't forget to follow us on our social media platforms for more news as it happens at TNHA!*

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