

#TNHAAWAY



The  
Nicholas Hamond  
Academy



February 2024

 TeamNHA

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PROUDLY  
SHARING  
OUR  
NEWS



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



## PRINCIPAL'S POST

Looking through this month's newsletter, serves as a reminder of the variety of opportunities and experiences that are on offer to our students in the academy.

We absolutely understand the importance of their academic lessons and the grades that they will ultimately achieve but there is so much more that we try to support our students with. After all, we want students to eventually leave us not only having qualifications but the skills to be successful in their adult lives.

This is also the reason we reinforce expectations around uniform, punctuality and attendance, as these are all things that are important as our students think about their life beyond a school.

We are fortunate that our students engage well with all these opportunities and we hope that it gives them the all round education experience that is going to be so vital for the rest of their lives.

*Mark Woodhouse*

## CHAIR'S CORNER

As we spring into March with that extra day in February, it's good that we have a little bit more time in the very busy schedule running up to Easter.

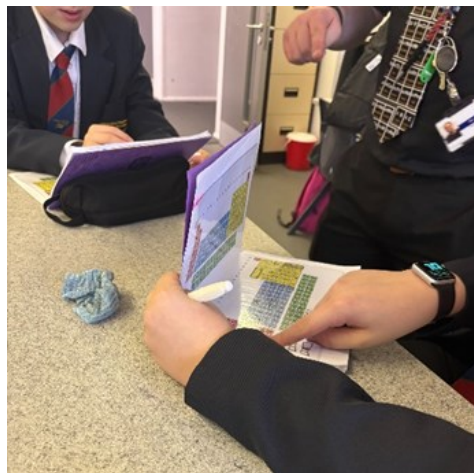
With an increased focus on wellbeing for everyone, taking time out to enjoy more daylight and warmth in the coming months is something we can all look forward too.

So many vibrant learning activities have been taking place in the academy as we can see in this newsletter, as well as the last few weeks of frantically finishing Year 11 GCSE exam coursework and revising for the summer exams, staff and students can all reflect on their achievements and reap the rewards of success.

*Helen Warrwick-Evans*

# FACULTY FOCUS

In Science, this term students have been celebrating Periodic Table Day with KS3 classes looking at elements and their properties, including playing a game of 'periodic table battle ships.'



We have also helped celebrate Mrs Clark's Scottish heritage on Burns Day by looking at Scottish Scientists and their contributions to the world.

In Year 10, students have been working hard towards completing several of their required practicals for their GCSE course, including electrolysis and making salt samples.

For Year 11 students GCSE exam preparation is in full swing, with tailored lessons based on feedback from their recent mock exams. To support students with their own independent revision the department have created a Revision Material Takeaway Menu, where students can 'order' revision activities to help with their own studies. To encourage students we have created a loyalty card where regular engagement is rewarded by 'mini prizes'. Year 11s are also taking part in Science morning meetings, with a particular focus on the required practical experiments.



# LITERARY TALENT

Our Year 8 students welcomed local author and script writer Belona Greenwood who ran workshops on creative writing around 'harvest'.

The students wrote some amazing poems and prose around the subject which is linked to a competition run by the Swaffham Heritage fund with the work being displayed at a literary festival later this year.

The work will be entered into a competition with some of the texts being featured in shop windows in the town forming a story trail. There will be a celebration day on 27<sup>th</sup> April where work will be on display at the Assembly Rooms in the town.



We are delighted to show a selection of their thoughtful and inspiring work: -

*"Swing, swing, swing, the old may swayed around the field,  
harvesting corn ready to sell it for the only thing that made him happy – money.  
But the air changed.*

*He got on his knees, lay down and stared at the sky, seeing shops and people he made happy.  
For his final moments he smiled..."*

*"The bright morning sun came through my window through my leafy curtains.  
I yawned as I opened them and let the brightness fill my room.  
I stuffed some cheese in my mouth and said 'bye' to mother and left".*

*"The moon shone in the deep blue night sky; the wind blew through my hair as  
I took a step forward near a field of corn.  
The corn leaves rustled as I gently place my cold hand onto a stem".*

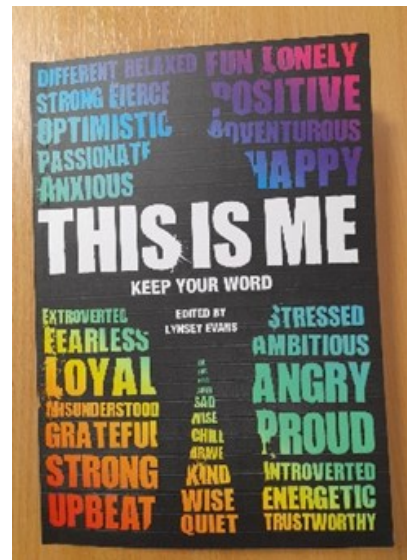
*"It was a bright, sunny day with fewest clouds in the sky.  
It was so quiet even the quietest animals' footsteps would fill the surrounding air.  
Tractors exhausts popped and cracked as they drove past carrying the  
newest crops that were harvested".*

*"Ceres was the goddess of corn but now her statue lives on the  
Buttercross in the centre of Swaffham.  
Hundreds of years ago, her daughter Proserpina was born  
with luxurious red, curly locks and skin as radiant as the sun"*

Still on the theme of our talented writers a group of our Year 9 students are now published authors!

A selection of their poetry has feature in a book entitled 'This Is Me' edited by Lynsey Evans.

We are also very proud of these poets and therefore wanted to share just a few snippets from their verses: -



*"I'm fearless but always scared,  
Confident but always stressed,  
I don't always succeed,  
But I keep trying,  
But I can't always fail,  
So, I'll keep trying..."*

*"In the depths of our hearts, emotions reside,  
A sympathy of feelings, an ocean so wide.  
Joy dances in the sunlight on a hot summer's day.  
While sadness weeps silently in shades of grey.  
Love, a gentle breeze, whispers through the air.  
Fulling our souls with a warmth beyond compare."*

*"I am incomplete until I taste the salt on my lips  
Or until I feel the wind in my hair  
Or my toes in the sand.  
I am a girl who feels alive when a sunset takes over the sky  
When I look above to a gradient of oranges and reds  
In these moments the work pauses and reality stops".*

*"These are the bricks that built me,  
My family fills me with joy,  
May family is the cement that keeps me together,  
I hope we live with each other forever"*

*"Unbreakable hope  
Will not give up until done  
Still persevering  
Always focusing  
Full of chances to improve  
Possibilities".*

# YEAR 11 EXAM PREPARATION

A huge congratulations to the Year 11's. We gave out the mock exam results recently and there were some fantastic performances!

The GCSE exams are nearly upon us and students only have a few weeks left. Please encourage your child to keep up their revision programme (we have copies of revision timetables available for parents and carers if you would like one) and use their revision guides, exam questions and websites to prepare. After school interventions are running and all students are invited to stay behind at the end of the day and join in.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>

*This link is 'live' in the digital version of the newsletter and can also be typed into your browser.*

Attendance REALLY MATTERS. Attendance has a huge impact on exam performance. Students with an attendance of 90% or more, on average perform 0.1 to 0.7 grades better than expected (they perform ABOVE their target grades). Please encourage your child to attend 100% of their lessons between February half term and May.

## UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

### Reminder of expectations

We have had a drive on uniform standards across the academy. Thank you for your support in sending your child to school in the correct uniform and maintaining these high standards. As a reminder, the following rules apply:

**ONLY** black leather school shoes, or plain black trainers are allowed. Students not in correct footwear will be asked to borrow shoes. Please do not ask us to make allowances (unless there is a medical reason).

Blazers **MUST** be worn.

Ties are a compulsory part of the uniform. If your child has lost their tie, we will lend one until you are able to purchase a new one.

**LEGGINGS ARE NOT PART OF THE UNIFORM.** Girls should wear school skirts or school trousers (slim fit/regular). Skinny fit trousers and leggings are not appropriate. Students wearing these to school will be expected to change into the correct uniform. SSL's will lend uniform to students and they will be expected to wear it.

Please note, **NOSE STUDS/RINGS** are not permitted in the academy. They pose a health and safety risk in subjects such as PE. Clear retainers will be given to students arriving in piercings. All jewellery **MUST** be removed for PE. This is a safety matter and is not negotiable.

# IN OTHER NEWS...



## 'Flipping good fun...'

We were delighted to be invited to the annual pancake day race organised by the Swaffham & District Lions on the Campingland in the town.

Returning victorious, our students proudly showed off their rather unique trophy!

## Budgeting with Barclays

We are always very lucky to welcome the team from Barclays who deliver 'life skills' to students. This particular session involved helping to understand money habits, the difference between 'needs and wants', how to plan for future purchases and understanding budgeting.



My budget: student sheet

Income		
	Total income	
Expenditure		
	Total expenditure	
Balance		
Savings		

© Barclays 2017

## Learning Leadership Skills

Guests from the Jon Eggings Trust joined students for a session on leadership.

The group particularly enjoyed considering what skills and attributes would be needed to lead a team mission to space.

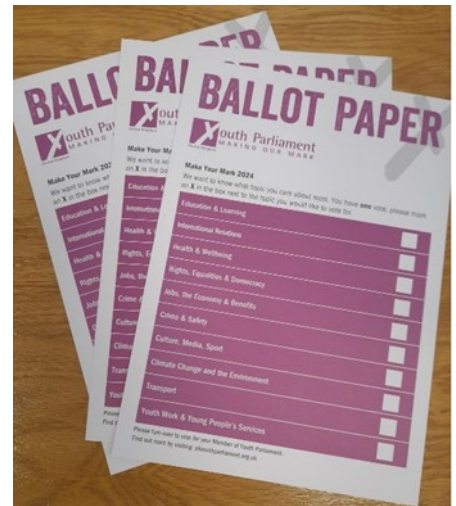


## UK Youth Parliament

Students have been given the exciting opportunity of voting to elect members of the UK youth Parliament and choose the areas they feel most important (this is the largest consultation of 11–18-year-olds in Europe).

Members meet twice a year at the Annual Conference and the House of Commons Sitings. They also have the chance to be involved in regional campaign meetings and events.

Formed in 2000, the parliament has 369 members, who are elected to represent the views of young people in their area to government and service providers.



## UK Maths Challenge

Our mathematicians took part in a maths challenge run by the UK Maths Trust. Four classes took part from Years 9 & 10.

The use of blank paper for rough work was allowed but no squared paper calculator or measuring instruments! The questions were arranged in order of difficulty with the harder questions towards the end. They were designed to challenge thinking and solving interesting problems.

Our congratulations go to Navitha and Oscar who achieved the highest marks within their respective Year Groups and Kallum who gained a Bronze Award.

## Shakespeare at The Globe

Our Year 8 students were given the fantastic opportunity of visiting Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London to watch a performance of Romeo and Juliet.



They will be studying the text of the play this year and being able to see a live performance of the play will no doubt greatly aid their understanding.





## Safe use of social media and mobile phones

There has been a noticeable decline in the number of students using their mobile phones in lessons. Thank you to our students for working with us to ensure the academy remains a safe place.



We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the potential problems caused by social media misuse. Please remind children of the dangers of sharing images with friends, the seriousness of online bullying and malicious messaging, and the need to stay safe online.

There is more advice for parents at [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

*This link is 'live' in the digital version of the newsletter- it can also be typed into your browser.*

## Attendance Matters

It can sometimes be difficult for parents and carers to know when to send their child to school if they are a little 'under the weather'.



As we are all aware good attendance is crucial in order to achieve and this guide may help.



Academy Transformation Trust

**THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF**

**WORLD BOOK DAY**

**MAKE A CAKE, PIE, BISCUIT, BREAD OR ANYTHING EDIBLE INSPIRED BY A BOOK FOR A CHANCE TO BECOME ...**

**TNHA 'WORLD BOOK DAY BAKE OFF CHAMPION!'**

**THERE'S ALSO CHANCE TO WIN SOME BOOK RELATED PRIZES!**

**BRING ENTRIES TO THE LRC ON THURSDAY 7th MARCH**

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

**#TNHaway**

Academy Transformation Trust

**WORLD BOOK DAY**

**BOOK EXCHANGE**

**TAKE PART IN OUR BOOK SWAP FROM 4TH - 8TH MARCH IN THE LRC**

**BRING A BOOK - TAKE A BOOK**

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

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