


#TNHA WAY



March 2024

 TeamNHA

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PROUDLY SHARING OUR NEWS



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



PRINCIPAL'S POST

This month feels like it has gone by in a flash. In the academy this half term has been not quite five weeks, and whilst some will be pleased at the short time between half term and Easter, in reality we are trying to cram what we would normally do in 7 or 8 weeks into less than 5 weeks. That said as you will see from the newsletter it is filled with lots of opportunities that our students have had access to through these weeks and as always it has been brilliant to see them engaging with all that has been on offer.

It is also the time of year where we are heading towards lots of change. With winter giving way to spring and summer there are the changes we see all around us. In the academy our Year 11 students are making their final preparations not only for their exams that begin after the Easter break, but we are also preparing to welcome our new Year 7 cohort to the academy through the summer term, in readiness for them starting with us in September. For both these groups of students (and probably their parents as well!) this is a time where there is likely to be plenty of nerves about what lies ahead but also, I hope a sense of excitement about what it might all lead to. For our Year 11s it will be about their futures once they are through their exams and for our new Year 7s it will be about all the opportunities that will be on offer to them when they join us in September.

The end of the month also signals the clocks moving forward and with this a move to longer and brighter days which hopefully means moving positively into the warmer spring and summer months and with that all the brilliant opportunities that the summer term brings!

Mark Woodhouse

CHAIR'S CORNER

As we spring forward an hour on Easter Sunday we look forward to eating vast quantities of chocolate after starting that diet in January!

Good Friday is the most somber day for Christians around the world as they mourn Jesus' crucifixion. In contrast, Christians celebrate the most joyous day of the year on Easter Sunday, when they celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.

The egg is an ancient symbol of new life and rebirth. In Christianity it became associated with Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection. The custom of the Easter egg originated in the early Christian community of Mesopotamia, who stained eggs red in memory of the blood of Christ, shed at his crucifixion. As such, for Christians, the Easter egg is a symbol of the empty tomb. The oldest tradition is to use dyed chicken eggs!

The modern custom in the Western world is to substitute decorated chocolate, or plastic eggs filled with sweets such as jellybeans; as many people give up sweets as their Lenten sacrifice, individuals enjoy them at Easter after having abstained from them during the preceding forty days of Lent.

So, I hope you all enjoy the Easter Eggs and time to refresh, so we can look forward to the summer term of hard work and determination at being the best we can be!

Helen Warrick-Evans

FACULTY FOCUS

This month's faculty focus is Creative Arts. It has been a busy year for the team at TNHA so far - and there is lots more to come!

In the autumn term we welcomed a new cohort of fabulous year 7 students, and amongst them we have a brilliantly talented selection of artists, musicians & actors.

You will no doubt remember the biggest ever Christmas Panto and Musical Evening at the end of December. Both events were amazing fun for everyone and a real showcase of talent by our actors and musicians! We look forward to hearing what is in store for us this year during the 2024 festive season!



Drama



Students are currently busy rehearsing for the summer play. This year, building on the success of previous years, they have decided to take on an extremely ambitious project: 'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller. This will be performed in Westacre 25th & 26th June (more details will follow) and we are all very excited to see the finished product. Various props have been arriving at the academy together with trips out to hire various costumes from the Norwich Theatre, all adding to the anticipation of what is to come.

Alongside the play, another group of drama students are sharing their talents by delivering workshops to primary students in preparation to create some work to share with their parents and carers at Westacre's outdoor stage.

Our youngest cohort in Year 7 have been exploring a play on the topic of 'bullying' and developing skills in creating a performance from a script, whilst those in Year 8 & 9 have been devising their own work from 'Open Scenes' (scripts that give dialogue but no context).

We have been lucky enough to offer a plethora of trips out of school, led by the Director of CARTS, for our students to enjoy. We have visited various venues such as the Playhouse Theatre, Westacre Theatre and the Theatre Royal, and these continue with a visit to Cambridge Arts Theatre in May to see 'The 39 Steps' and London's West End to see Harry Potter & the Cursed Child!



Music

Our youngest students in Year 7 have been continuing their learning using ukuleles and guitars, as well as having some sessions on rapping and playing drums using chairs. They have all taken part in a performance assessment where they have shown how effectively they can work in a group and stay in time with each other. This includes performing to their peers and then practicing their ability to give each other constructive feedback. Students in Year 8 have been formulating their own raps to create a 'Rondo form' composition to round up the learning which they have been doing surrounding 'Form & Structure' since January. The students have been using 'Garageband' on the iPads to record their raps, and have then been mixing their compositions using some effects on their voices for added originality. Year 9 cohort have been learning about what makes a song commercially successful and then have been choosing their own song to devise a performance of as a band. Students have been using the drum kits, bass guitars, electric guitars and keyboards for this - there has also been some impressive singing and rapping from some of our braver musicians.



Turning to our more senior students. Year 10 have been working hard to devise performances to showcase in the summer term. They have made excellent progress, particularly for students who only started learning their instrument at the beginning of this academic year. They plan to tour some primary schools in the summer term, as well as to participate in performances at the Norfolk Show. Students have continued to also work on their compositions skills using music technology. For this they focus independently and utilise the skills gained from learning the theoretical side of music to create their own original piece of music in any style of their choosing.

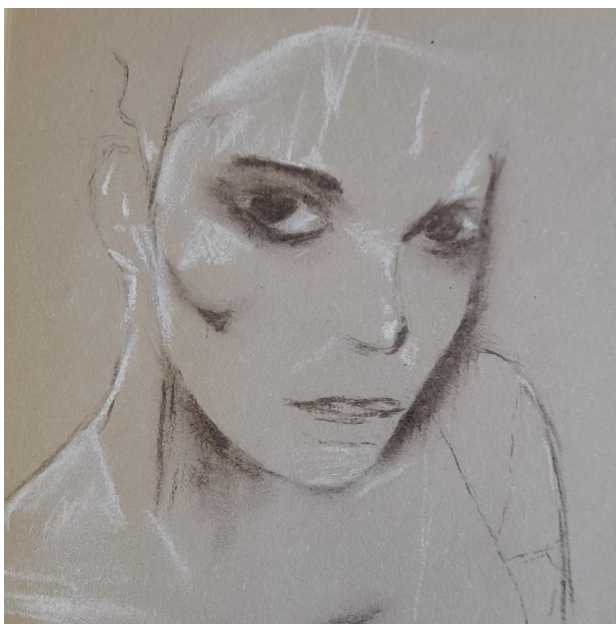
Students in their final year with us (Year 11) have now completed their solo and ensemble performance for GCSE exams and have worked really hard. Although they were nervous, some fantastic performances were completed and the students were superb at supporting each other throughout. They now be working solidly over the next few weeks to complete their composition coursework before the final focus towards their written exam in June.



Art

In Art our students in Years 11 & 10 are working on independent projects exploring chosen artists and developing their own original art work. We are unfortunately unable to share these fantastic pieces as they are part of their GCSE examination content.

At KS3, art students have been developing skills in use of colour, looking at various topics including portraits and Aboriginal Art and we are delighted to give you a flavour of their efforts.

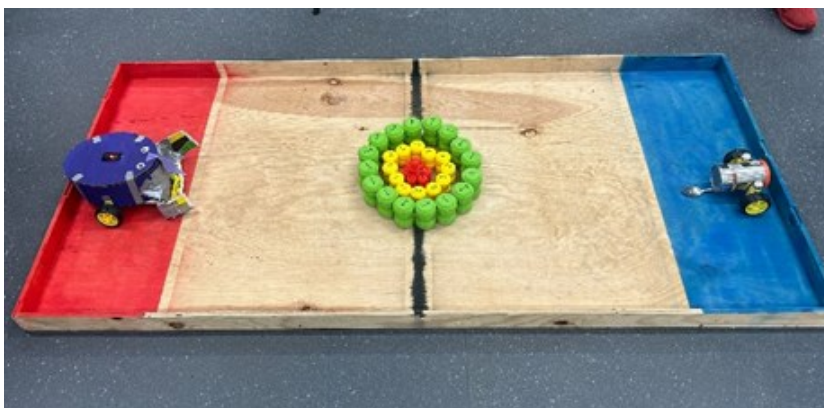
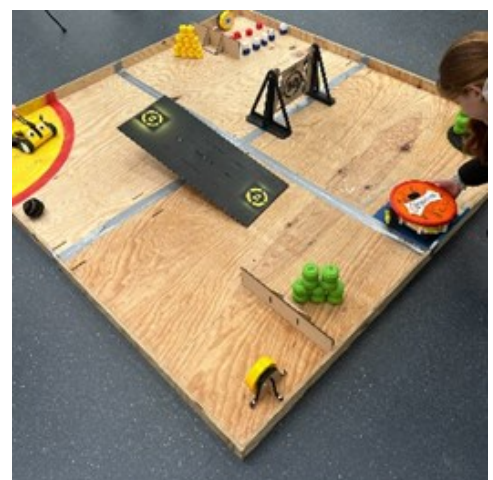


ENGINEERING AT ITS BEST!

Two teams of intrepid engineers one from Year 8 and the other from Year 9 took part in the 'scrap bot' competition at the University of East Anglia.

Each group have spent the past two months creating a robot out of recycled materials ready to take part in a series of challenges set.

We are absolutely delighted to report that our Year 9 Team, with 'Robert the Robot' came first out of 12 groups from various schools and our Year 8's came fourth! They all worked incredibly hard together and we are extremely proud of them. They can be seen here making final tweaks to their 'bots' and putting them through their various paces.



Continuing the theme of engineering, students were invited on a trip out of school by the PA Foundation via the Jon Egging Trust. The group were tasked to make an eco-car after being provided with a wooden car model, wheels, lolly sticks, mini propellers, colouring pens and use of some hammers, saws and glue guns.

In groups of three and four they were given a brief - (a country, along with information on rainfall, sunshine hours, the physical geography etc.) and some planning information sheets as well as a Blue Skies employee!

Each group had to choose which energy source they were going to use (solar, hydroelectric, wind or geothermal), design features of the car, and explain why it was ingenious and how they worked as a team. Following lunch they were given a tour of the ingenious innovative products the PA foundation had supported and then had to present their eco car idea to the other groups. The eventual winner was judged by the PA foundation staff.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Meet our newly formed Year 7 Student Leadership Team 2024! Over the last few weeks our junior students have been busy writing applications to be part of our student leadership team. We shortlisted a group of applicants for interviews and then appointments were made for two Student Heads of Year, two Deputy Heads of Year and two Student Representative for each form group.

The standard of applicants this year was very strong, with excellent ideas and confidence shown from many students during their interviews. Winners were announced during our Year 7 assembly and each given a badge to wear with pride on their blazer, which represents their position.

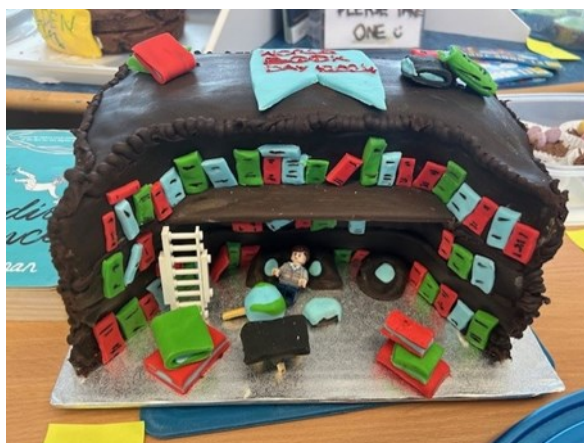
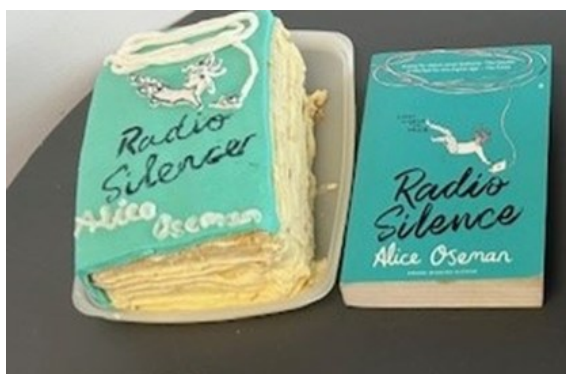
We are really looking forward to seeing what ideas and projects this confident and intuitive group of students can bring to the student leadership team. Well done to all!



BAKING INSPIRED BY BOOKS

We never cease to be amazed at the talent shown by our students. As part of the celebrations for World Book Day the Learning Resource Centre ran a competition to find the best baker who could represent the theme of a well-known book.

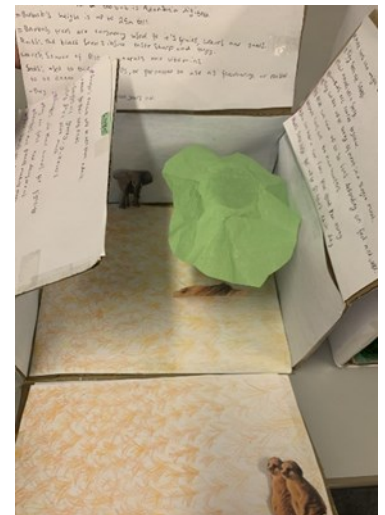
The results were simply outstanding and we were astonished at the fantastic range of artistry and baking skills on show. The joint winners were Bethan - Yr 9, (*Radio Silence*), Amelia - Year 10 (*Library*) and Rhys - Year 11 (*The Hungry Caterpillar*).



IN OTHER NEWS...

Biomes in a Box

Class 8a were set a Geography homework task of creating a 'biome in a box'. Their efforts were truly excellent and demonstrated clearly their understand of the topic. We are proud to show a selection of their work.



Learning with LEGO

A group of our student have been introduced to 'LEGO-Based Therapy' which is a social development programme that uses LEGO activities to support the development of a wide range of social skills within a group setting.

Playing with LEGO in a therapy setting promotes social interaction, turn-taking skills, sharing, collaborative problem-solving and the learning of concepts. It can be used to target goals around social skills, language and motor skills. It also sets up a positive opportunity for guided social problem-solving to help develop social skills that can then be used in other situations.



Orienteering on a Sunny Day

On a rare bright and sunny day this time of year, 147 of our Year 8 students visited Holt Country Park to complete an orienteering course as part of their P.E curriculum. Using maps their task was to use their navigation skills to find 10 points within the park in teams.



Attention to Attendance



PUNCTUALITY MATTERS!		
MINUTES LATE PER DAY DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR		APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF DAYS TEACHING LOST IN A YEAR
5 mins	EQUALS	3 days
10 mins		6 days
15 mins		9 days
20 mins		12 days
30 mins		18 days

Breakfast for the 'Best'

Year 11 students, nominated by staff, as being 'extraordinary' during a week (for example attending after school interventions designed to help them prepare for the forthcoming GCSE examinations) are treated to a rather special 'take away' breakfast.



Cake Sale – Race for Life



A team of staff are once again supporting Race for Life and are busy raising funds in memory of a well-loved member of the TNHA family lost to this horrific disease.



Students will be able to purchase a cake at lunch, with cash, should they wish to support their efforts (and purchase a little treat), during lunch on Thursday 18th April in the Main Foyer.

AND FINALLY...

We wish you all a lovely Easter break
(and hopefully some good weather to enjoy)!



Our last day of term is Thursday 28th March.

Students will return on

Monday 15th April

to

Week A of the timetable.