

#TNHAAWAY



The
Nicholas Hamond
Academy



December 2024

 TeamNHA

 TeamNHA

 @TeamNHA

PROUDLY
SHARING
OUR
NEWS



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



PRINCIPAL'S POST

You will see through the newsletter, this has been a busy few weeks in the academy! Looking through the newsletter it is amazing to think how much we have crammed into the past weeks alongside the regular lessons that have all continued. We have been pleased to see the students continue to work hard and maintain their good standards, as well as engaging brilliantly in all the opportunities on offer to them.

As we come to the end of the term and think about next year and the new term, we will continue to drive towards and making sure standards are as high as possible in every aspect of the academy. This includes the standards in lessons, behaviour, uniform and attendance. We have been pleased to see that student attendance in most year groups is stronger this year than it was at the same time next year, but there are still bits that can be improved and we will be working with students in the new year to support them in matching these expectations and re-emphasising the impact of attending well.

This is also a time of the year when I find myself reflecting on the progress that the academy is making. For me this has been summed up brilliantly in the last couple of weeks with our Panto and Music Showcase evenings. Seeing how far these performance evenings have come over the last couple of years and seeing the confidence that our students have to do these things is fantastic and it also is a reminder about how great it is that we have staff who can support and facilitate this for our students.

With the end of term and Christmas upon us, all I need to say is thank you for all the support you have given the academy and our students this year, and I wish you and your families a lovely Christmas and all the best for 2025!

Mark Woodhouse

CHAIR'S CORNER

Another Half Term is coming to an end, and with Christmas around the corner, I can barely believe another year is over, but maybe that's an age thing?!

Along with students, parents and carers, a number of the governors attended the pantomime, which as with all TNHA performances was amazing! The musical evening was no less spectacular the following week. Having attended previous shows at academy the commitment of all those who participate is second to none, and the huge numbers attending the Drama club is testament to that.

Some of the new governors attended the academy this term to meet with Miss Thomason and have a tour of the school, as usual the students we saw were working hard and the atmosphere as we walked around was calm and respectful. The recent SEND coffee morning was very well attended, and I know the plan going forward is for this to become more of a regular event, so at the next one there will be a governor in attendance to capture your thoughts.

In my last message I mentioned a survey, this has been overtaken by a Trust wide one which will be going out in the New Year to capture Staff, Student and Parent/Carer Voice. This will provide us as governors, and the academy SLT with valuable feedback around school life for you all, so I encourage as many of you as possible to respond, further information will come out in the New Year. Going forward as a Local Governing Body we will publish termly surveys which will be sent out, these will concentrate on current themes and trends in the academy. We hope this will ensure you as parents/carers have the ability to be heard as often as you can, and we as a Governing Body can listen and respond to any concerns, but equally to pass on praise and thanks where things are going well.

Mr Woodhouse and Miss Thomason continue to work hard on improving Teaching and Learning in the academy, with the aim of raising attainment, and ultimately improving outcomes for the students. Hand in hand with this is attendance, as all the statistics show that when our children are in school, they achieve more. Whilst fines can seem harsh, the need to raise attendance is vital in improving the outcomes for students, so we as a Governing Body fully support the academy in this area. Finally, at each event where you as parents and carers attend you will now always see at least one of us from the governing team coming along. Obtaining parent/carers and student voice is key to our role, so please come and speak with us about anything you have to say about the academy, your child's experiences, or areas you feel can be improved on or concerns in general. There is also a link on the academy website to contact us via email, so please use this should you have anything you want to raise. Merry Christmas, and I hope you all enjoy the festive break!

Simon Conner

FACULTY FOCUS

This month we are delighted to share news from the English and Maths faculties to give a flavour of what students have been studying.

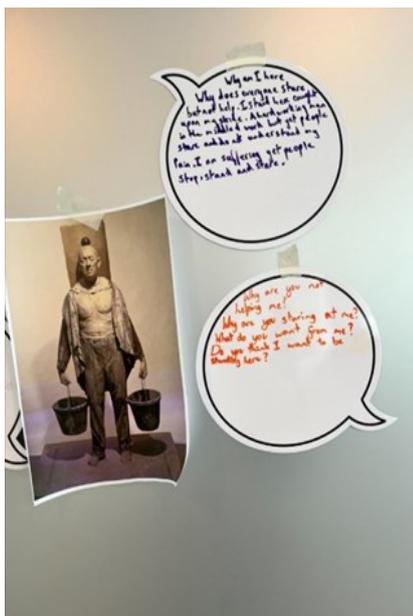
Sainsbury Art Centre



At the start of this half term the English department took a group of our senior students in Year 11 to The Sainsbury Centre of Visual Arts at the UEA to take part in a creative writing workshop.

Students spent time exploring the artefacts in the gallery, writing lune poems and monologues from the perspective of the artworks.

We share an example of their work below:-



“Why am I here? Why does everyone stare but not help? I stand here caught upon my stride. A hard-working man in the middle of work but yet people stare and do not understand my pain. I am suffering yet people, stop, stand and stare.”

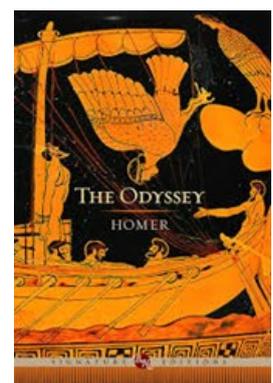
“Why are you watching me art lover? Can you even see me or hear me. Where are your pupils? No pupils, no eyes, no senses, everything dead. I wish I could hear your expressions and set you free but I am not a genie. I only release my secrets to the dead. Are you dead? No! Fine. I will wait!”



Year 7 Study ‘The Odyssey’

Looking to our newest cohort, Year 7 have made a great start to their time here at The Nicholas Hamond Academy. Last half term students read a version of Homer’s ‘The Odyssey’ and used this as a stimulus for their own creative writing. Here’s an excellent example from one of our students:

“Vivid forks of lightning pierced holes through the ink black sky. One after another, frozen piles of waves collapsed over the enraged Scylla. The swirl of Charibdis sent the boat full of men tumbling in every direction. Threatening streaks of thunder emerged closer through the fog, as the eye of the storm moved into view. Low pitched screams of men could thinly be heard over the rumble above.



Her thick silky scales on each of her six heads appeared to be getting more vicious as time went on. Clenching her fists, her arms stretched out grabbing several men and swallowing them whole. Scylla's thick, pointed tail lashed out the unforgiving sea. Her razor-sharp claws were as black as a midnight sky.

Lethal waves crashed up against the wooden boat. What was left of the crew, clung on to the remaining pieces of the sinking ship. Wind whistled wildly through the sails tearing and ripping them to pieces. The men shook as a forty-foot wave came hurtling towards them.

In a blink of an eye, the ghastly wind had sent the men tumbling down to the deep, dark sea. Bang! That's when it all went black. They had been submerged to the depth. They all died. Every hope and dream of the men getting home was squished in a second. Waves crunched the boat in its menacing jaws, demolishing everything in its path. The struggle for survival was real.

Around an hour later, the sun beamed through the sky blasting light that reflected against the sea. Scylla had settled down and it all went quiet. Everything was back to normal like nothing ever happened. Scylla fled back down to the depth of the ocean waiting for her next victim..."

Maths

Students in Year 7 have settled in really well within their maths lessons, getting to know the department and showing off the skills they have learnt in their previous schools. This half term they have been looking at different number types (for example prime numbers), place value and what happens when a number goes into decimals and also negative numbers completely turning all the maths they knew upside down!



In Year 8 students have been travelling around the world converting pounds into different currencies by using exchange rates and conversion graphs. They have also spent time using their Algebra skills to plot equations onto graphs and how to find the equation of a straight-line graph.

Students in Year 9 have been working on their Algebra and Geometry techniques this half term. In Algebra, they have learnt to solve a variety of equations, including those involving fractions and brackets, and have also learnt how to represent inequalities on a number line. In the past week they have then been using Geometry to practice how to bisect an angle and a line in half using compasses, and will be looking to put their compass skills to the test in producing a flower of life for display in classrooms before the Christmas holidays.

Year 10 have recently been putting into practice their knowledge of angles, scales and bearings. Students in the B band have looked at how to use scales and ratios to enlarge images of well-known children's characters, whilst the A band have been looking at combining their knowledge of compass directions to bearings.



Our most senior students across the academy have been undertaking mock exams and they have completed their first maths paper and have two further exams to sit after we return in January. Students will be working on their areas for development in lessons to prepare them for the official exams in May, and can use their Question Level Analysis to inform their out of school revision too.

As at 8th December, 273,191 questions had been correctly answered on Sparx Maths since the start of the academic year with 2087 hours having been completed! 216 students have also made a massive improvement on their times tables, which is amazing!

SPARX MATHS

We are continually striving to have 100% of our students in all year groups to complete all of their homework on Sparx Maths. At the beginning of December this percentage was up to 46%, so while there is a long way to go, it is going in the right direction and any support from home to encourage your child to complete the work on there is greatly appreciated. Just before half term we had our first celebration event, 30 students were picked at random from all those who had completed 100% of their homework, where they got to enjoy an afternoon tea one Friday afternoon. We are going to be running a similar event for students again just after the Christmas holidays to help wash away the 'January blues' and give students something to look forward to. Every time a student completes a task on Sparx they can gain XPs and to go alongside this Sparx has bought in a new feature this year where students can see a leader board of those who have received the most in their class, not only that they are allowed to choose their own unique username. The current students top of their leader board in each year group are:-

Jacob the Nipper (Year 7)
Tina the Original (Year 8)
Isabelle the Winner (Year 9)
Jonathan the Fireball (Year 10)
Eva the Kingpin (Year 11)

REMEMBRANCE AT TNHA

As usual we marked Remembrance Day at the academy with a two-minute silence at 11am. We were also delighted to take part in Swaffham's event to honour the fallen. Two of our senior students joined the parade through the town and laid a wreath at the memorial and also at the church.

We are extremely grateful to Mr. Horn, from the Hamonds Education Trust, who recently contacted us with the history around the church plaque and the one in our academy which we are proud to share: -



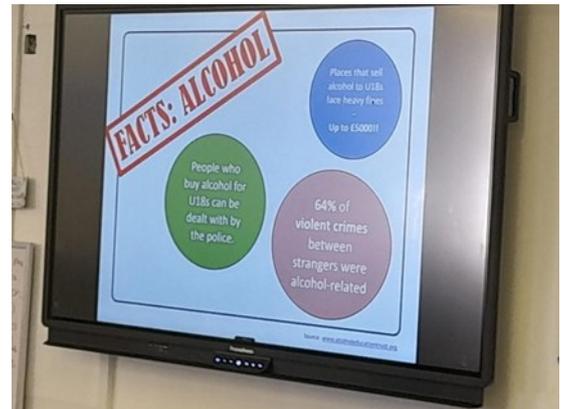
In 1946 the Headmaster at the time, undertook a project for the provision of a memorial to those 'Old Hamondians' who gave their lives in the Great War and their worthy predecessors who fell in the other Great War of 1914-18. Members of the school, parents, 'old Boys' and many friends helped with contributions and as a result a stone tablet now stands in the Parish Church in Swaffham where a wreath is laid each year by students and we are honoured to keep up this tradition.

The marble tablet, which many of you will have noticed and hangs in pride of place in the academy reception area, was also part of same project by the Headmaster, and is inscribed with the names of the fallen heroes of those who used to attend the school.

CURRICULUM DAY

November saw the first of our Curriculum Days for the year across the academy. Curriculum Days are days where students do not follow their normal timetabled lessons, but instead have sessions based around PSHE and careers topics, appropriate to their age group. These days are run to compliment the tutor time and LOOL lessons students experience and prepare them for life in modern Britain.

We believe it is crucial to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that enables our students to develop in many diverse aspects of life and to build confidence and resilience. This will in turn allow them to be prepared for their adult lives and to engage with society. We saw many guests join us for the day who ran very informative and interesting sessions on topics such as:- healthy lifestyles, sessions with staff from RAF Marham, drugs and the law, gambling, careers, first aid skills, life skills, study skills, knife crime, apprenticeships and road safety to name just a few.



IT'S CHRISTMAS!

Student Performances

Our drama and musical students put on two amazing shows for parents/carers and families. Not content with one theme, the drama club staged their own abridged version of Snow White, complete with full beards, followed by Aladdin along with snakes and panto dames.

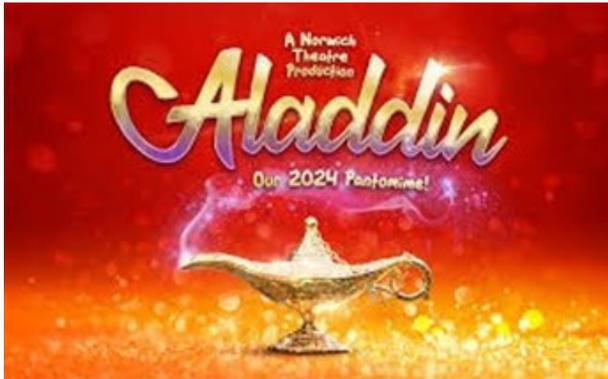


However not to be outdone - our music students showcased their talent in an event which saw over 20 spectacular performances. The evening was full of songs from across different genres of music, with some amazing renditions of Christmas classics thrown in. Year 11 GCSE Music students presented the evening and provided laughter and entertainment with some Christmas-themed jokes too.



Swaffham Lions

We were also delighted to support the Swaffham Lions by hosting their Senior Citizens party at the academy, with our staff volunteers preparing and cooking the meal and our minibus drivers ferrying passengers to and from the event. It is always a joy to see so many people enjoy a meal together during the festive season which can otherwise be a lonely time for some.



A large group of excited students from across the academy were taken to Norwich Theatre Royal to see the pantomime Aladdin. They also had a chance to do some last-minute Christmas shopping before the big event!

On the last day of term, those in our most senior year are off to the Winter Wonderland, to enjoy good food and exciting rides amongst many other attractions to get them in the mood for Christmas! The trip is a reward for their excellent behaviour, good attendance and positive attitude to learning.



IN OTHER NEWS...

Student Panel

When we interview for new staff at the academy, we often ask for a student panel to take part in the process. When doing so recently we had a particularly excellent group who did a wonderful job and asked some very well thought out questions!



Careers at TNHA

November has been a wonderfully busy month for careers in the academy. Belinda, our careers advisor, has visited to work with our Year 11 students each Monday. The goal is to ensure they have applied for the right courses for their next steps after GCSEs. The University of East Anglia have been in working with a small group of our younger students for their 'Make it Count' project, which is helping their metacognition skills.



The Jon Egging outings for groups of Year 8 and Year 9 students have commenced and they have been to RAF Marham for various fun activities. Year 10 have also welcomed Jamie Hall as a guest speaker who spoke to the students about his career in media and his path to success. It was a wonderful talk and Jamie has offered to do a smaller workshop with students who are keen to go into this field in the future.

Buzz Books

Thanks to our recent Tesco blue token appeal, the academy has given each student in Year 7 a book which they have chosen themselves from this year's 16 chosen Bookbuzz titles. The Bookbuzz Programme, is run by the BookTrust, which is the UK's largest children's reading charity, and transforms lives by getting children and families reading. OECD research shows that, children who read books often at age 10, and more than once a week at age 16, gain higher results in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who read less regularly.



For this reason, we believe that it is important to encourage students at TNHA to read regularly for pleasure. We hope the students enjoy their book and read more frequently, which will help improve their wellbeing, spark interesting conversations and inspire creativity.

Year 11 Revision Evening

The Year 11 students have had a great start to the year and have been working hard to prepare for their GCSE Examinations. They have sat their first round of mock exams and are preparing for the next round of exams after Christmas. Having sat these, the results will provide vital information to the students and teachers on the required focus for the summer exams.

In order to support our senior students through the build up to their main examinations we welcomed them, along with their parents and carers, to a Revision Evening at the academy.

This focused on exam techniques, providing the students with tools to 'revise smart', along with sessions on effectively using mind maps and flash cards. Parents and carers were given information to allow them to have a better understanding of how to support their child.



Dancing to Success

It is always wonderful to hear our students' interests and achievements both inside and outside of school. Ellie in Year 7 is a prime example. She recently attended a dance competition at the Blackpool Wintergardens where she entered and won all six events.

To 'top this off' she then came second in the UK Championships. What an amazing accomplishment we are very proud of her. The photo she has shared shows just a few of the trophies she has won so far!



JOIN OUR
FILMMAKING
WORKSHOPS IN...

SWAFFHAM

Open to any young person 10 -16.

The workshops are free of charge to everyone.

Learn new skills in filmmaking, acting, camera operating and editing.

The workshops are funded by North Pickenham Windfarm Community Fund from the Norfolk Community Foundation.

11th, 18th, 25th of January & 1st & 8th February.

10am - 3pm each day.

Swaffham Community Centre, The Campingland, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7RB.

Scan this QR code to find out more and sign up:



Supported by
Norfolk
Community
Foundation



We are happy to support these local events available to students via Norfolk Community Foundation and Swaffham Council.



If you are 11-18, studying or living in Swaffham, passionate about making a difference and want a platform to shape the community, please get in contact to find out more information on the Youth Council.

 COMMS@SWAFFHAMTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK

COPING AT CHRISTMAS

The added pressures of Christmas can be tough, but it's important to know that there's always someone you can talk to...



Call 111 & select option
2 to speak to the NHS
Mental Health
Response Service 24/7
[Nhs.uk/mental-health](https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health)



Call MIND's Mental
Health Helpline 9am to
6pm, Monday to Friday
on 0300 102 1234
[Mind.org.uk](https://www.mind.org.uk)



Under 35's can
Call: 0800 068 4141,
Text: 88247 or
Email: [pat@papyrus-
uk.org.uk](mailto:pat@papyrus-uk.org.uk)



Text "SHOUT" to
85258 to contact the
Shout Crisis Text Line,
or text "YM" if you're
under 19
[Giveusashout.org](https://www.giveusashout.org)



Call 116 123 to talk to
Samaritans, or email:
jo@samaritans.org for
a reply within 24 hours
[Samaritans.org](https://www.samaritans.org)



Mental Health Forum &
Chat for men from 5pm
- midnight every day.
Call or WhatsApp: 0800
585858
[Thecalmzone.net](https://www.thecalmzone.net)

Seasons Greetings

This year's TNHA Christmas Card was designed by Abbie in Year 7. As always, we have difficulty in picking a winner of the yearly competition as all entries were truly excellent. If you are unable to access the link on your device, please visit the front page of our website where the electronic card is featured.

Merry Christmas from students & staff at TNHA



Lastly, we wish you all a Wonderful
Christmas

and a Happy New Year.

We break for the Christmas
holiday on Friday 20th December 2024.

Students return on Monday 6th January 2025
to Week B of the timetable.

