


#TNHAWAY



January 2025

 TeamNHA

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PROUDLY SHARING OUR NEWS



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



PRINCIPAL'S POST

January seems to have flown by with the Christmas break and New Year now a distant memory. This time of year, presents a different set of challenges for different students in the academy. Year 11s are hurtling towards the end of their time at school, Year 10s, are now fully embedded in their GCSE and vocational courses, Year 9s will soon be considering their option choices and the Year 8s are being challenged to build on what they have achieved so far and the Year 7s are no longer the 'new' students and as such expectations in every aspect continue to grow.

In terms of expectations, we continue to demand the highest standards from our students, be it in terms of learning, behaviour and uniform. Also linked to this is student attendance. There has been lots said about this in the media over the last six months, and in simple terms the data shows that students who attend regularly and attend well, achieve better outcomes. Every lesson is important, and we encourage students to do all they can to get into the academy and engage with their learning. We are really conscious at this time of year there are lots of illness and bugs going around and so students will not always feel one hundred percent well, but they can still attend, and they can still learn and demonstrating the resilience to do so is another valuable attribute they can develop.

Mark Woodhouse

CHAIR'S CORNER

As I write this the Year 10 Parents evening is running, with 3 of the governors attending, all of which have reported back some very positive feedback, and said what a great atmosphere there was in the Hall.

As an LGB we have been in school since the return after Christmas undertaking visits to look at teaching and learning, attendance and safeguarding. The lessons I have visited showed students engaged in learning, following the teacher and from the work in their books, the new lesson plans are already delivering clear benefits and increased understanding of the subjects being studied.

The Year 11's have undertaken their mocks this month, and we are all looking forward to seeing the results of these, and I know there is a huge amount of work going into getting them all exam ready. It's fair to say outcomes are a measure of how successful schools are, and rightly so, but a safe and settled environment is also hugely important to the students, and in this area the school is still performing well.

Attendance still gives cause for concern, especially in Year 11, who have less than 12 weeks to go before their GCSE's, so every lesson they miss will have impacts on their outcomes. There has been sickness recently, but it's vital that students are in the academy and learning. If there are barriers to students attending school, please speak to your form tutors, heads of year or student support leaders, if there is anything the academy can do to help and support you they will.

The SSL team are running a Young Carers lunchtime drop-in session on the 5th February, I am so pleased this role is being recognised in school, and giving the students a chance to meet with others in a similar situation to share their experiences. Being able to support students and make their school experience a fun and enjoyable one is so important. Lastly, if you haven't completed the survey, can I please encourage you to, gaining your voice is critical in delivering the best experience for your children, as well as ensuring that you as parents/carers are fully engaged with the vision and culture of the school. This survey will shape and inform the future of the academy, so please have your say.

Simon Conner

FACULTY FOCUS

This month we are delighted to welcome news from the PE Faculty who share a taste of their subject.

Past...

Year 11's – 2024

A massive well done to our last year's Y11!

The results they achieved in PE were in the top 5% of the country. We are immensely proud of their efforts!!



Interform Competitions!

In November 2024 the interform basketball competition took place, where form groups across Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 competed against each other to win the coveted basketball trophy. For our Year 7 students this was their first time competing.

Competition was fierce, with lots of baskets being scored. There were joint winners in Years 7 and 8 where teams couldn't be separated.

The winners of the girls' competition were as follows:-

Year 7 - MAT, Year 8 - BFA & BJA, Year 9 - BMU &

Year 10 - GRI. In the boys competition winners were

Year 7 - MAT & SCA, Year 8 - SCO, Year 9 - SBR & Year 10 - JBR.

Well done to everyone that participated!



Photographed - Y8 - BJA winners

Year 10 PE Theory Trips

This year we have had some exciting trips for our Cambridge Nationals PE theory groups. In September our Year 10 students taking PE as an examination subject went on a canoeing trip to Whitlingham Adventure as part of their Outdoor Adventures Activities unit, where they were assessed in the skills required for canoeing. The students learnt about the equipment required, the safety precautions needed, the different strokes used to manoeuvre the canoe and also took part in some team building games on the water. Some even learnt what to do if the canoe capsizes and how to get back into it from the water!



In October they took part in their second trip to High Lodge in Thetford to experience mountain biking. Students learnt how to complete the basic skills such as changing gear and adjusting their seats, moving onto more complex skills such as riding pump tracks, cornering and tackling obstacles. They then finished with a time trial on 'The Beast' course which formed part of their assessment.

The students were a real credit to the academy on both trips and thoroughly enjoyed the experiences.

Promoting Physical Activity!

Students in Years 7 and 8 were challenged with increasing their physical activity within and outside of the academy. They were taught the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle and encouraged to take part in lunchtime or afterschool sessions. Their reward was a trip to strikes bowling in Kings Lynn where they thoroughly enjoyed bowling and arcade games.



Present...

Cross Country Success

The students at The Nicholas Hamond Academy had a very successful West Norfolk Schools Championships before Christmas, finishing 2nd ahead of some much larger schools. Across all Years from Y7-11, we finished only a few points behind eventual winners, Springwood.



With some excellent individual performances, we had 13 students selected to represent West Norfolk at the county championships in January. These were selected as being in the top 10 in their category from all of the area schools, 8 of whom were ranked in the top 5. Y7's were particularly successful with 7 of our squad getting selected. 12 of those selected went to the Norfolk Championships at Wymondham College this month and all performed admirably against the best runners across the whole of Norfolk.

Interform Dodgeball

Students have been dodging, ducking, & diving this month in our interform dodgeball events. We have seen over 480 students competing over the four days. Well done to all!

Results will be announced shortly in forthcoming assemblies.

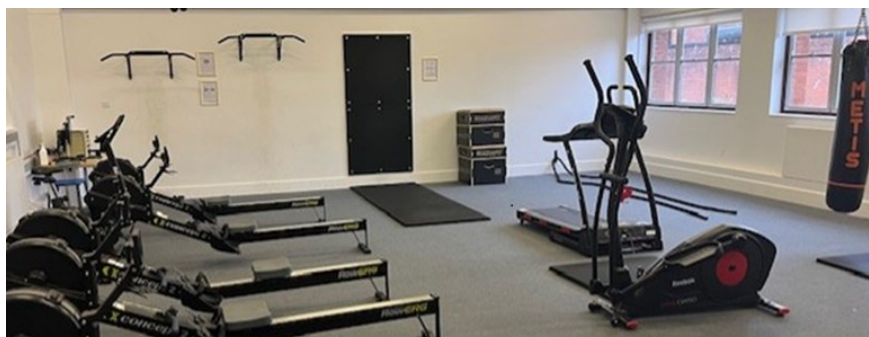


Investing in Facilities

We have been fortunate enough to be successful in some applications for some sports funding. This has allowed the academy to invest in 3 projects:-

Fitness Room

Amongst the exciting equipment we have purchased 6 rowing machines, 3 exercise bikes, 1 treadmill and a cross trainer.



New long Jump area

With work starting this month we will have a much-needed new long jump area, transforming the area to something like the photo to the right.



New AstroTurf Cricket Wicket

We are also excited to have a new cricket wicket being installed at the academy. This will allow us to host cricket games in both hard ball and softball.

Future...

Sports Tour to Holland

We are taking 56 students from across Years 8-10 to Holland. We have 3 boys teams and 2 girls teams.

Whilst on tour students will take part in a training session, a match against local opposition, visit Amsterdam, tour around Ajax stadium and visit a Theme Park!



UK Basketball Finals

On Sunday 18th May we will be running a trip to the O2 in London to see the UK Basketball finals. Tickets are already sold out!

This trip acknowledges the popularity of basketball in the academy with students playing in events from; interform basketball, fixtures against Iceni academy, West Norfolk Competitions and the Junior NBA league.



Physical Activity Week



As part of our whole school physical activity strategy, we are running another TNHA Physical Activity Week. This will take place the week commencing 1st July.

Monday 30th June and Tuesday 1st July are Sports Days and Wednesday is 'normal' lessons with a focus on 'sit less, move more'. Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th are going to be 'collapsed' days, when students will go on their respective trips.

YEAR 7 'IN PRINT'

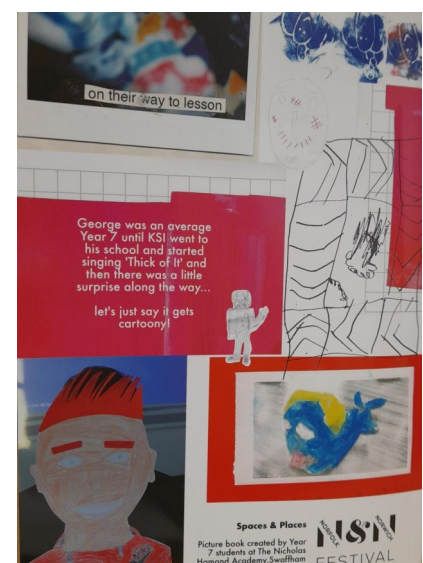
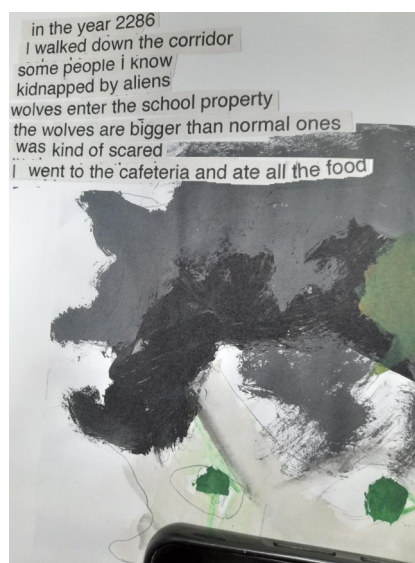
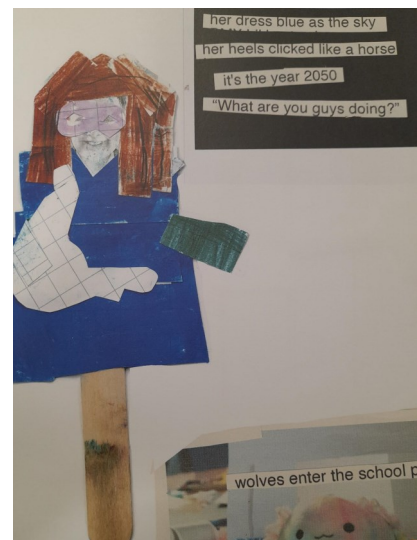
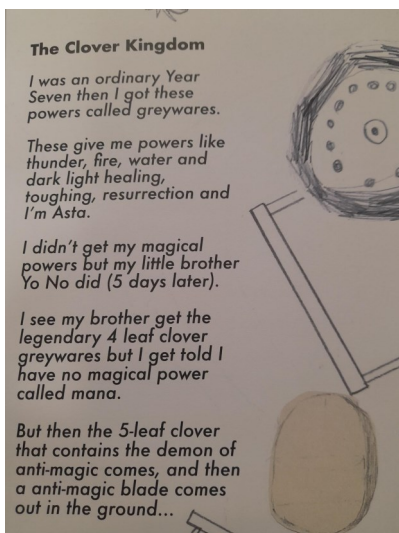
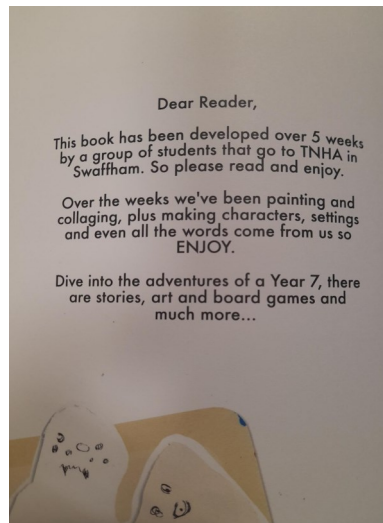
Over a six-week period, two groups of Year 7 students worked with the artist Rose Feather, as a part of the Norfolk & Norwich Arts Festival.

Rose introduced the students to an array of new skills and methods of creating pieces of artwork, with the goal of making a story about 'life as a Year 7 in 2024, at TNHA'. They learnt print making, collage, painting, model making, and photography. They used everything from a fully Digital SLR, to a Polaroid camera, and even a camera that prints images out in dots on a standard till roll! Everyone was free to try everything and to create however their imaginations wanted. Some students even had the idea of projecting images on the white board, and then tracing them to make huge paintings! Rose also introduced them to the idea of 'Mind Palaces', storing memories in different locations, and then creating a physical version of that. We had some really interesting alternate versions of the academy.

After the six weeks of printing, sticking, sculpting, photographing and story making - Rose collected this all up, and edited it into the book they were presented with this week. 100% of the book was the students work, and everyone had a part featured in it. It was an amazing experience, and one the students were not only fortunate to be a part of, but engaged with fully, and have learnt a lot about how they can express themselves creatively.



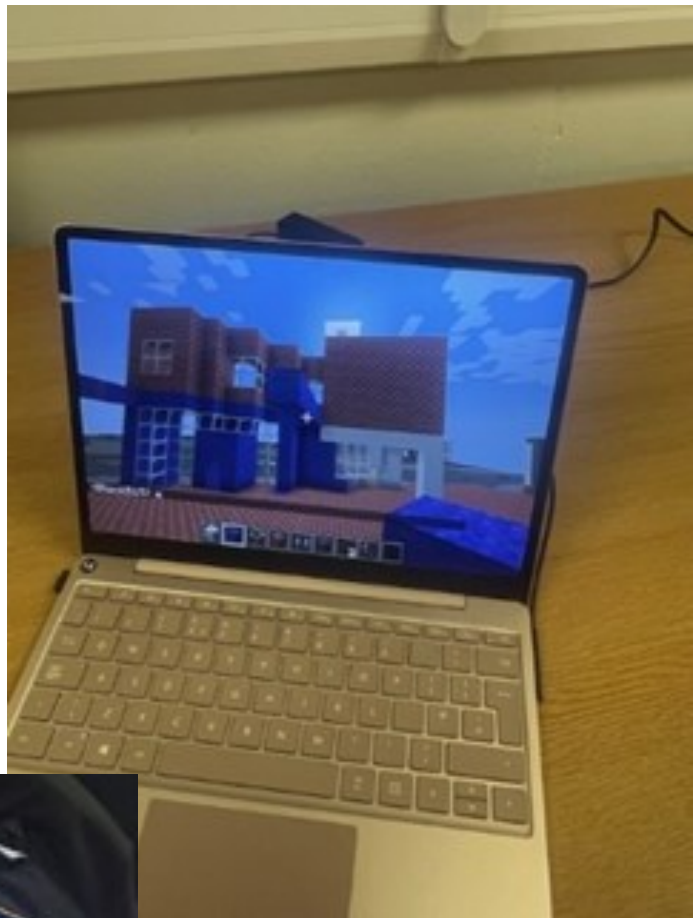
Excerpts from their book entitled 'The Epic Tale of an Average Year 7'



AN HISTORIC MARKET TOWN PROJECT

A group of our younger students have been given an amazing opportunity to take part in an exciting project as part of the Swaffham – 'A Historic Market Town Project' delivered by Breckland District Council in partnership with our academy.

This unique opportunity is tailored for young people in Swaffham, spread across three sessions over three months and is part of a larger regeneration programme in the town.



The aim is for young people to have a voice in how their town centre develops and to appreciate the heritage and history in central Swaffham. Our dedicated team of students have been helping to recreate Swaffham's High Street using 'Minecraft' as a tool for creativity and teamwork!

The idea is to use this beloved game to ignite an interest in architecture and to help the students to express ideas visually, and even influence real-world designs. Participants have also received a password to continue building at home should they wish.

It has proved a very popular project and the students have thoroughly enjoyed their first sessions and to be able to put forward their ideas for the future of our town.

CAREERS & LIFE SKILLS

We welcomed a guest from the 'Talent Foundry' who joined students in Year 9 to work with them on the first of 4 sessions around finances and skills in the workplace, based on a programme of study compiled by Barclays.



This session looked at self-confidence and believing in their abilities, as well as how to take feedback to improve their work. Students ended the workshop by looking at different scenarios and judging what they would do if this was them in the workplace.

Students in Year 7, 9 and 10 have been investigating what different options there are after GCSEs looking at A Levels, T Levels, Level 3 and apprenticeship courses. Students have gone on to complete the questionnaire on the website www.icanbea.co.uk to help them consider what different careers would be suited to their personalities, skills and interests. They have researched labour market information, such as what is the salary for different jobs, what the profession will look like in terms of jobs available up to 2027 and the skills they need to get into their chosen field.

Year 9 have gone on to consider what their best option choices would be for the jobs that interest them (they will pick their GCSE options shortly to follow in their final years at TNHA) and Year 10s have begun to look at the colleges that have courses that support their next steps and the 'all important' GCSE grades they will need to achieve in order to enrol. On the academy website under 'students', there is a whole page dedicated to careers containing lots of useful websites should parents/carers wish to continue the discussion with their child.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

What to do if your child is unable to come to school

There are only a small number of circumstances where missing a school day is permitted. However, we understand that there may be times where this is unavoidable such as illness or medical appointments that cannot be made out of school hours.



If your child is going to be absent for unavoidable circumstances, please telephone the academy's absence line on 01760 726169 by 8:30am. You will need to give your child's name, tutor group and reason for absence. Any documentation relating to absence (e.g.: a doctors certificate or medical appointment letter) should be emailed to the Attendance Officer via: tnh-attendance@atrust.org.uk

If your child is absent from school for more than one day, please keep us informed each day. If your child is absent and we have not been informed, we will record the absence as unauthorised. If there is continued unauthorised absence, we will conduct a home visit and may involve the Safer Schools Police Officer.



Top Tutor Groups Attendance

20th - 24th January 2025

This week's top Tutor Groups

7 – ODA 97.21%

8 – BJA 98.48%

9 – MLL 95.34%

10 – JBR 96.84%

Attendance linked to outcomes

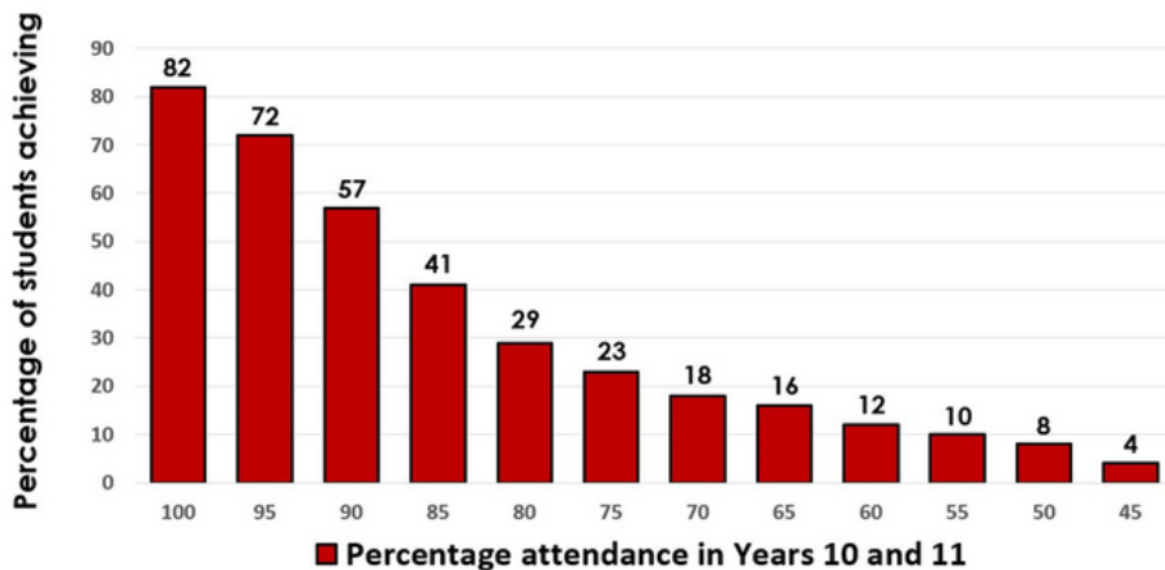
Those students that achieve the national target of 95% attendance have minimal learning gaps. This means that they are likely to do well in examinations, achieve their full potential, have better job opportunities, develop good mental health and develop strong friendships within school.

Research also suggests that students meeting the national expectation for attendance have an 81.5% chance of achieving 5+ GCSEs, grade 5-9 including English and Mathematics.

ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW



Chances of 5+ GCSE 5-9 grades including English and Maths



IN OTHER NEWS

Carpentry Skills on Show!

Our carpenters in Year 11 have shown their skills by producing these excellent pieces of work which will count as part of their Design Technology Coursework. (They are almost too nice to sit on!).

They are currently on display in our foyer giving all the chance to admire the hard work and amazing flare shown by our senior students.

Great work!



Dates for your Diary - February & March 2025

26th February - Year 11 Evening 4pm to 7pm (details to follow)

6th March - Year 9 Options Evening 4pm to 7pm (details to follow)

28th March - Staff Training day (TNHA is closed to students)



Half term

17th to 21st February 2025

Students return to Week B of the timetable