

#TNHA WAY



Easter 2025

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PROUDLY
SHARING
OUR
NEWS



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



PRINCIPAL'S POST

I cannot believe that we are already three months into 2025. Life in the academy continues to move on at pace. This is a time of year where lots needs to be consolidated and especially for our older students as they head toward those final GCSE exams there is lots for them to contend with both in and beyond the academy.

In terms of our other students, there is plenty for them to be involved in. This newsletter highlights this with the poetry work in conjunction with the Sainsbury's Centre in Norwich as well as Health and Social Care curriculum trips to the College of West Anglia plus events like World Book Day, a Western Front Experience our Year 7 Dance Festival. This is alongside the usual diet of creative arts and sports activities that take place, as well as all the regular curriculum-based clubs and interventions that happen each week.

One of the consistencies we continue to reinforce with our students is to strive for the highest standards and the expectations we have on our students are to match these, in all aspects of what they do. This might be in terms of uniform standards, behaviour standards but also importantly work standards. We want our students to achieve well. We are fortunate to have a teaching staff, where the vast majority are experienced, subject specialist teachers. My challenge to the staff is to create effective learning environments using these skills and equally my challenge to the students is to match this by engaging in their learning effectively. If both groups can do this well, then the academic outcomes for our students will be brilliant. We will be spending the coming months ensuring that our students and staff are moving in the right direction to make this happen, with the ultimate aim of seeing greater success for our students.

With hopefully warmer weather and certainly longer days as we head into the Easter break, thank you for your continued support and I wish you and your families a restful Easter holiday.

Mark Woodhouse

CHAIR'S CORNER

With Christmas a dim and distant memory, and Spring now hopefully with us, it's fair to say that attention is now firmly moving onto the Year 11 students, and their GCSE's. Since returning, Year 11 outcomes have been taken on by Ms Ogden who is now leading on and driving the whole school approach to put every student in the best possible place to achieve their potential in their exams. Mr Woodhouse and the SLT are continuing to reinforce the need to continue to deliver really high-quality lessons, which follow the same plan each time, so all the students begin to see the benefit of a clearly defined lesson strategy. Last half term saw the first catch up with all those students who have caring responsibilities at home. The academy, led by the pastoral team, are working in partnership with the Benjamin Foundation to look at the opportunities for these students to get a break outside of school, but also to meet with each other in school to share their experiences. Mrs Seaman and Miss Atkins have taken on this piece of work, and some of the governors were invited along to speak with the students on the day and hear their thoughts, it was a real honour to meet them. The next catch up for these students is on the 4th April, and will now become a regular event. The Governors all wish to thank Miss Seaman and Miss Taylor for ensuring this group of students have been supported, and we are sure that with the backing of Miss Atkins this will continue. Vanessa Farley and I also met with Miss Abrahams and the Student Leaders, they were all a total credit to the academy and themselves. We talked about a wide range of things from homework to uniform and welfare support for the students, the hour and a half flew by, and it left me with a long list of things to follow up on. I have since met with Mr Woodhouse to discuss all the points raised, and we will be meeting the students again in the coming week to feedback, and also gain their voice around which changes, if any, have been a success. I will keep you updated on these areas, as I feel that obtaining the voice from the students and showing them that we, and the academy are listening, but more importantly what they say can lead to change and hopefully improving the school experience and life for them and their peers, is critical.

Year 9 Options Evening was very well attended, with Miss Thomason explaining the process and the student's options really clearly. The gym was then set up like a jobs fair, with all subject areas represented, allowing the students and parents/carers to gain a greater understanding of the expectations of each area. All of the those whom the governors spoke to were positive, and went away with a good understanding of the options available. Finally, can I ask that as parents/carers you continue to support your children, especially those in Year 11, with what can be a stressful time for all. Supporting them to revise, reminding them of the need to be in every lesson on time, and ready to learn. Engaging in lessons and seizing every opportunity the academy are providing to maximise their potential. Equally reminding them that there are many avenues for support in school for them, from their Form Tutor, Head of Year and of course the SSL's, and that none of them ever need to feel they are not able to have someone to talk to about anything which is concerning them. I hope you all have a restful Easter break.

Simon Conner

FACULTY FOCUS

We are delighted to share with you news from our Creative Arts Faculty which includes Art, Drama and Music and catch up on some of their activities so far this academic year.



Year 11 are busy working on their Component 2 exam title 'Gathering', students have chosen a theme to explore, with lots of exciting ideas such as music, collections and architecture to name a few. Students are honing their skills in their chosen art mediums, with some excellent examples of clay work, acrylic painting, watercolour and drawing ink. During the first half of the year, Year 10 worked on a project called 'Blue Planet', where they have explored the work of several artists and experimented with watercolour, lino printing, mono printing and acrylic painting. Most recently they have studied the work of ceramist Courtney Mattison and responded to her work by designing and making their own coral sculptures using clay. More recently, they began their 'Identity' project, the project is designed to encourage independent learning, where students will respond to the title and build an individual project based on their chosen theme within 'Identity'.



Year 9 explored a landscape project over the Autumn term, where they developed their watercolour painting skills, by using the wax resist method. They also experimented with oil pastels to create a mountain landscape drawing. Over the Spring term students will focus on a portraiture project, they started off by experimenting with charcoal to create abstract portraits in response to artist Guy Denning. Year 8 started off the year by looking at 'Pop Art', researching Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. They explored the comic book style of Lichtenstein and his use of onomatopoeia, and took inspiration from Warhol's advertising. During the Spring term, Year 8 have been looking at the 'Bauhaus art movement', exploring the work of Kandinsky and his use of abstract shapes and links to music.

Our students in Year 7 started off the year looking at Wayne Thiebaud and his sweet treats. Exploring the use of colour theory and complementary colours within his work. Students experimented with oil pastels, before creating their own cake drawing final piece. Most recently students have been studying the artist Henri Rousseau and his themes of the jungle. We have experimented with colouring pencils and biro pens to create animal drawings.

Goodbye to Ms. Morgan - On behalf of all staff and students, we would like to wish Mrs Morgan all the best as she leaves us to have her first baby. Best wishes!

GCSE Drama

Year 10 drama students have made a fabulous start to their GCSE course. They have continued where they left off in KS3, full of enthusiasm and energy. They have been learning about different approaches to drama and about various practitioners such as Stanislavski, Brecht and Boal.



In February they went to watch a fantastic production of 'Dracula', by the amazing *Blackeyed Theatre Company*. They were also lucky enough to get to talk to the cast afterwards. They will be writing about this production in their mock exam later this year. Next year we will be watching Blackeyed's production of 'Sherlock Holmes – the search for Moriarty', in preparation for their final GCSE exam, and hopefully be joined by the new Year 10 group. They have now started work on their devised performances for component 1, which makes up 40% of their final grade. In groups they will create their own, original piece of theatre, which this year they will perform at Westacre Theatre to a live audience of friends and family, in June. We are very excited to see what they will come up with. I have no doubt their work will be amazing. Please come and join us if you can.

Year 9 drama students spent their first term looking at classic scripts, 'Blood Brothers', by Willy Russell and 'Teechers', by Jon Godber. Both these scripts allow students to explore a range of characters and also to explore social issues and themes. This term they have been creating original theatre and characters through the use of open scenes, enabling them to interpret dialogue to create new stories.

Year 8 drama students started the year with a favourite topic, stage fighting. Using their new found skills, students then performed the opening fight scene from 'Romeo & Juliet', with some great results. We then went on to re-visit skills of creating performances from scripts, using 'Our Day Out'. We are currently creating original performances using dialogues as a stimulus.

Year 7 have made an impressive start to their drama careers at TNHA. They have taken part in a range of drama lessons, using both script extracts and improvised scenes. We have been really impressed with the work they have produced!

Recently a group of our younger students were excited to be part of the Swaffham Literary Project, the aim of which is to inspire the young people of the town to create a literary piece with the theme of 'voices' both contemporary and historic to include well known figures from the town's rich history and those of the unknown majority. The project will concentrate mainly on the First World War and feed into the history, drama and literacy curriculum. Thirty students were selected for their aptitude in both drama and creative writing. The project started with a day drama workshop, delivered by two local actors, exploring the experiences of local people during World War 1.



Students then were tasked to write stories, diary entries and scripted extracts, exploring the voices of their created characters.

The work of our students, alongside the work of students from local primary schools, will be displayed around the town, from Monday 21st April to Saturday 26th April. Maps and more information can be found at the Swaffham Library and Museum.



In March eighty students went along to Westacre Theatre to see the internationally renowned 'Boxtail Soup' theatre company perform their adaptation of *'The Picture of Dorian Gray'*. Westacre Theatre is a beautiful local venue, and prior to the production students were able to take in the surroundings and enjoy some early spring sunshine. The production itself was fantastic. A mix of physical theatre and brilliant characterful puppetry, it was a great example to students of what can be achieved in a small theatre space with creativity and stage craft.



'This year's summer production in June is an ambitious Shakespeare themed evening of fun and summer frolics *'Silly Bits of Shakespeare...Abridged!'* Students will be performing abridged versions of *'A Midsummer Night's Dream'* & *'Twelfth Night'* alongside extracts from the internationally acclaimed *'Reduced Shakespeare Company's Complete Works – Abridged!'*. Tickets will go on sale in the summer term and will be much sought after ... don't miss out!

Our final theatre visit of this academic year is to see the amazing *'The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe'* at the Theatre Royal in July. Students always love our trips to Norwich, and what better way to see out the school year than a beautiful summer's evening in Norwich at the theatre!

Plans for the next academic year include taking students to see the amazing theatrical adaptation of the Philip Pulman's modern classic tale *'War Horse'* about the trials of WWI, as experienced through the eyes of a horse. Not to be missed in October 2025!

Music

This year has proven to be quite eventful for Year 11. They have successfully completed their initial compositions for submission as part of their GCSE coursework and have also showcased their talents during solo and ensemble examinations just prior to the February half-term.



Currently, Year 11 students are engaged in their second GCSE composition, with the majority opting for the 'Space Brief', which involves creating music for the opening of a documentary focused on 'Space'. To support them in this endeavour, we welcomed David Stowell from the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Service. David, an accomplished composer with a wealth of experience from various projects and performances around the globe, provided invaluable expertise and guidance that the GCSE students greatly appreciated. Year 11 are on track to submit their compositions by Easter and are also preparing for their listening examination scheduled for June.

Year 10 have been diligently reviewing the knowledge acquired during Key Stage 3, establishing links between their previous learning and the requirements for the GCSE listening exam and coursework. They have utilised 'YuStudio' to initiate their first compositions and have started to prepare for upcoming performance opportunities. Year 10 have enjoyed working on different projects so far, with some great skills being demonstrated, and many trying new instruments out to find which one they would like to focus on for their performance exams due to take place next year.

In Key Stage 3, Miss Brown has been diligently working to assist students in making connections between the activities they engage in during music lessons and the transferable skills essential for a successful life. Through their study of music, students are cultivating patience, self-motivation, determination, and resilience, while also learning to collaborate effectively, enhance their communication skills, navigate challenges, and respond constructively to feedback.

Year 9 have engaged in long-term projects this academic year, focusing on Dance Music during the Autumn Term, Film Music in the Spring Term, and Band Projects scheduled for the Summer Term. This approach allows Year 9 students to delve deeper into these subjects, providing them with ample time to develop and enhance their composing and performance skills. They extensively utilised 'YuStudio' to produce their dance music compositions, following a thorough examination of the creation of disco and dance music. In the Film Music unit, Year 9 investigated how music conveys mood, learned to perform several iconic movie themes, and concentrated on the musical techniques employed in horror film soundtracks. The unit culminated in students using 'Garageband' to record their own horror film soundtracks. In the forthcoming unit titled 'What Makes A Good Song', students will first analyse the components that contribute to a song's commercial success, after which they will form their own pop/rock bands and work towards creating a performance of a popular song of their choice.

This year, Year 8 have participated in two music lessons every fortnight, providing them with an opportunity to delve deeper into their creative abilities. They commenced their studies with a unit titled 'I've Got Rhythm' which facilitated their understanding of rhythm in music and emphasized the significance of playing in time with one another. Students then collaborated in teams to compose a piece of 'Kitchen Music', utilising various kitchen objects to produce rhythmic sounds. The subsequent unit, 'Hooks & Riffs', involved an exploration of songs from the 1980s, culminating in whole-class performances of notable 'hooks and riffs', followed by the creation of their own interpretations of the classical composition 'Bolero'. Throughout the Spring Term, Year 8 have concentrated on the concepts of 'Form and Structure' in music, gaining insights into the distinctions between 'Binary, Ternary, and Rondo forms'. In their study of 'Rondo' form, students have been learning to rap and have crafted their own lyrics, which they are now recording using 'Garageband' for their final assessment. In the upcoming Summer term, this year group will dedicate their time to learning and performing Samba music, ideally coinciding with the arrival of sunny weather.

Throughout the Autumn Term, Year 7 dedicated their efforts to grasping the fundamental principles of music within their 'Building Bricks' unit. During this period, students enhanced their understanding of musical elements, traditional staff notation, and note durations, while fostering a sense of community, mutual respect, and the ability to provide constructive feedback to their peers. In the Spring Term, Year 7 shifted their focus to developing Keyboard Skills, delving deeper into musical notation, familiarising themselves with the names of the keys on the keyboard, and recognising the significance of proper finger placement, posture, and positioning while playing. Students engaged in individual, paired, and small group performances, with many expressing enthusiasm for attending Music Club during lunch breaks to refine their renditions of 'Für Elise' and 'We Found Love'. In the upcoming summer term, our youngest year group will embark on a unit titled 'Just Play', where they will have the option to concentrate on learning either the guitar or ukulele, participating in numerous whole-class performances of popular songs.



POETRY AT THE SAINSBURY ART CENTRE

A group of students from KS3 were given the opportunity to work with poet Hannah Jane Walker developing their skills in both writing and performing poetry on the topic of the environment in line with their current exhibitions based around the question: 'Will the sea survive us'? Students wrote their poems over a series of workshops both in school and at the centre as well as performed them for each other. We are delighted to share some of their insightful work:-

Whispering Willow

I am a weeping willow
I hear the sound of passers by
I see time passing and I feel concerned.
I know the direction of the wind
people forget that I can hear and I am living too.
I want to tell you, you can always stand by me,
and I will stand by you.

I am a weeping willow
I am treated like I am not a living thing.
A lump of wood. My whispers not listened to.
My words lost on the wind.

I want to be treated like I am living.
I want to tell you, you can always stand by me,
and I will stand by you.

Health and Safety Notice.

Our environment is dying
while our seas are crying.

The sea levels are rising.
The polar bears penguins and other animals are crying.

Our ice caps are melting.
People's homes and memories vanishing.
Our planet is our home and our everything.

We are destroying our life giver without logic.
Soon our beautiful world will be underwater covered in litter.
Take action, take action before its too late.

We still have time to make a world a better place.
If we work together, stop arguing and listen to each other.

Thank you for listening to this health and safety notice.
People protest on the streets trying to change the world
But the world still crumbles while we protest.

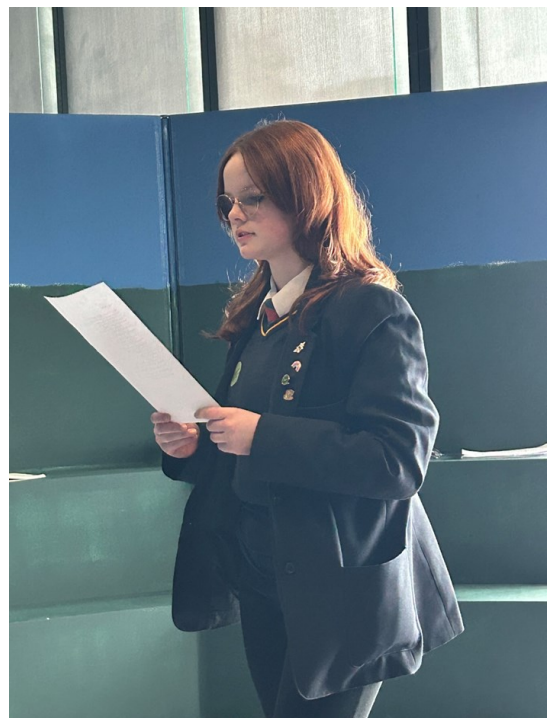
A Mother Otter and her Child

I wonder why.
What happened to me
and my little silky otter
I wonder why.

I wonder why
I felt it go cold as a frosted flower.
My heart shattered glass.
What happened to me
and my little lamp.
I wonder why.

I wonder why
I felt sudden warmth too hot.
A fiery sun in a starless sky.
What happened to me
and my little smooth otter.
I wonder why.

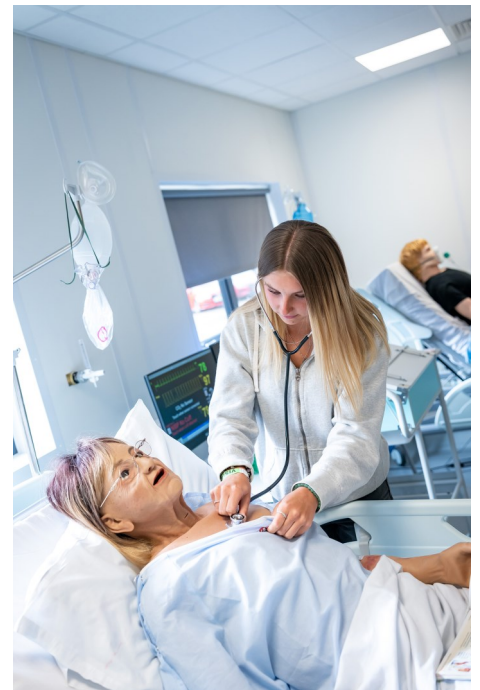
I wonder why
where did the paper white snow go
the crystal frost
What happened to me
and my graceful otter.
In the water, high as Everest
I wonder why.



EXPLORING THE FUTURE

Students studying Health & Social Care were given the opportunity of visiting the College of West Anglia for a 'hands on' event where they could explore the world of nursing and healthcare gaining an insight into vital medical skills.

One of the sessions emphasised acting quickly and decisively with confidence in emergency situations such as the need for CPR. Students engaged enthusiastically and were grateful for a realistic, informative and positive experience giving them a real awareness of careers in this field.



A ROUND UP OF OTHER NEWS



A Chance to Dance

In order to enhance our dance offer for our students, we welcomed three Dance Companies to the academy to work with our youngest cohort specialising in different forms of dance.

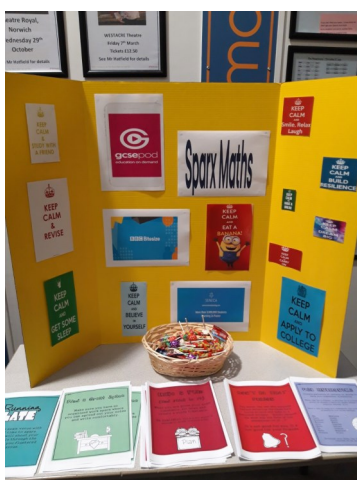
Students were able to experience hip hop, street and musical theatre in a two hour workshop with experts in the field and they enjoyed the opportunity to learn new skills.

Sharing Stories

Our students were thrilled to share stories and engage with younger children on recent visits to local primary schools. It was a truly wonderful experience being able to bring the books 'to life' for all to enjoy.



Supporting our Senior Students



As you would expect at this time of the year our most senior students are putting huge efforts into the exam preparation. They are working incredibly hard in order to achieve the best grades possible. Recently parents/carers and students in Year 11 were invited into the academy to gain insight on how best to prepare for the upcoming summer exams, and learn more about the support available to both students and parents/carers during what can be a stressful period.

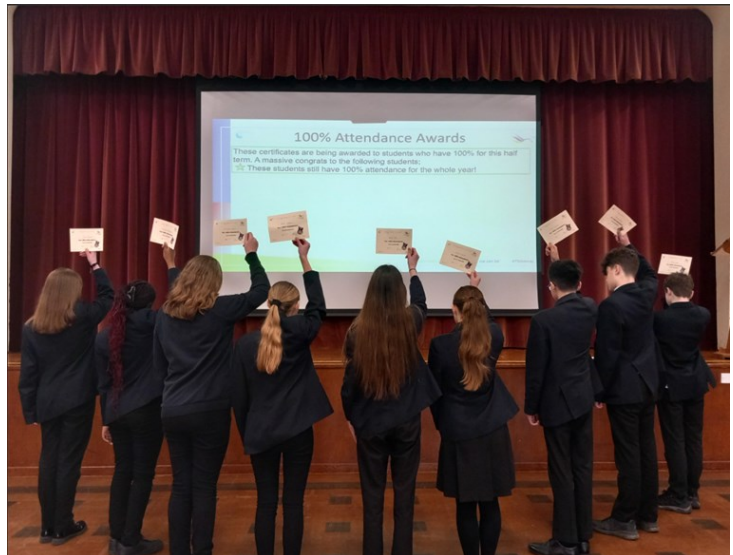
In addition to meeting with teachers, we organised for a range of support services to be available to include the 'Cup OT' wellness and therapy service, who were on hand to speak about the best ways to support students emotionally and mentally up to and throughout the exam period. Staff from the SEND department were also present to discuss any specific needs and questions.

A revision stand offered advice and resources on how students can revise effectively and ways in which parents and carers can assist in their efforts.

Attending to Achieve

Many congratulations to the 74 students who have achieved 100% attendance so far, this academic year!

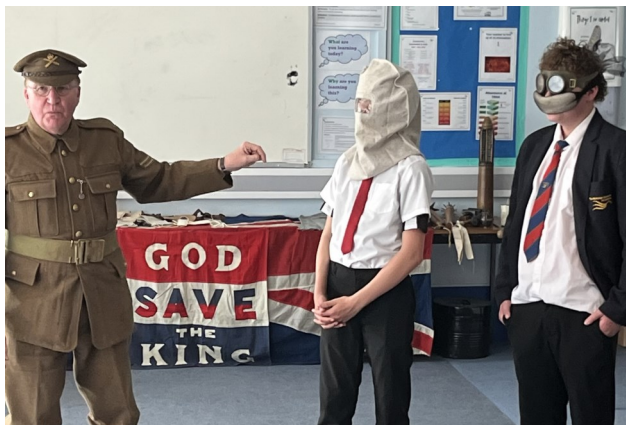
This is a fantastic achievement and a real testimony to the dedication of the students and parents/carers.



Bringing History to Life

Year 8 were lucky to have a 'visitor from the trenches' of the Western Front in the form of Cpl. Knight ('Khaki on Campaign'). Cpl. Knight delivered 4 sessions on 'life for Tommy Atkins' (a slang name for the ubiquitous British soldier) in the Great War which covered aspects such as uniform, washing, food, and warfare.

The students had the opportunity to try on uniforms and equipment from WW1 and the Victorian period as well as trying on the British army's rather fashionable winter uniform consisting of a greatcoat or a sheepskin coat. They even got the dubious privilege of trying on some reproduction WW1 gas masks to see just how difficult life on the Western Front would have been. In the words of Cpl. Knight, the students laughed, cringed, were shocked and fully engaged and involved throughout.



Dressing our doors for World Book Day

Classroom and office doors around the academy were 'dressed up' with the theme 'Who lives behind this door?'. Entrants included '101 Dalmatians', 'Dracula', 'Charlie (and the Chocolate factory)', 'the Tiger who came to Tea' and 'Harry Potter'. The winning design was from 7ABU with a 'Where the World Ends' themed door.



Reaching Dizzy Heights at the University of East Anglia

A group of Year 7 students were invited to the UEA to experience a little of what is on offer. They joined a creative writing workshop by author Ashley Hickson-Lovence who is a novelist, poet, literary critic, and Lecturer of Creative Writing. 'Wild East' is his first young adult verse-novel, and was partly inspired by his time as a secondary school English teacher, his own move from London to Norwich, and tutoring a group of asylum seekers at an Arvon retreat. TNHA student, Hadley, won a signed copy of his book for delivering a fantastic piece of work. As well as the academic experience students also had a chance to see what sporting activities were on offer to include the climbing wall!



Duke of Edinburgh Skills

Students set on achieving their Duke of Edinburgh qualification have been practicing how to use stoves whilst keeping safe and hygienic whilst cooking outside. A group of students led by our Duke of Edinburgh Leaders were invited to bid for funds on offer from the Swaffham Lions in a 'Lions Den' event. We are pleased to report that they were lucky enough to be awarded £750 towards their equipment etc.



East Anglian Air Ambulance



We were delighted to have the opportunity to take a group of students to learn more about one of the most important charitable resources we are privileged to have in our region. From road traffic collisions to cardiac arrests to medical emergencies their specialist doctors, paramedics and pilots bring their advanced skills, equipment and medicine directly to the side of the patient giving them the best chance of survival.

Taking to the Skies

We are always surprised and in awe of our students' achievements and this young lady is no exception. Keen to become an airline pilot Amber, in Year 9, saved her money in order to take part in a flying lesson with a qualified instructor to include taking off and landing. When in the air she was able to fly the aircraft herself under instruction. The experience has certainly not dulled her enthusiasm and she is currently waiting to book another session after saving up more of her earnings. Very well done Amber - what an amazing ambition!



***The academy is closed to students
from Monday 7th April
returning on Tuesday 22nd April
to Week B of the timetable***