

#TNHA WAY



The
Nicholas Hamond
Academy



Summer 2026

 TeamNHA

 TeamNHA

PROUDLY
SHARING
OUR
NEWS



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

PRINCIPAL'S POST

I can hardly believe that I am writing this as we come to the end of another academic year. It only seems like yesterday that it was September, and we were looking ahead to what the year might bring.

Reflecting on the year and the many articles featured in our newsletters, I think they clearly demonstrate the incredible variety of opportunities available to students at TNHA. Just as importantly, so many of those articles have highlighted how brilliant our students have been, both academically and as young people growing into the world around them. They continue to demonstrate the skills, values and character that will enable them to thrive and succeed in their future lives.

This newsletter is no different. It brings together the many fantastic opportunities our students have enjoyed this term and shows the enthusiasm, commitment and positivity with which they have embraced them. Given the exceptionally warm weather we have experienced at times, their continued focus and engagement have been particularly admirable.

All that remains for me to say is thank you for your continued support throughout the year. I wish you and your families a wonderful, restful summer break, and I look forward to welcoming our students back in September, refreshed, re-energised and ready for another successful year.

Have a lovely summer!

Kind regards,
Mr Woodhouse

SUMMER CLOSURE



***TNHA is closed to students from
Monday 20th July 2026
to
Tuesday 1st September 2026***



**Please note that we will be operating a staggered start
to the new academic year.**

**Years 7, 10 & 11 will return on Wednesday 2nd September 2026
Years 8 & 9 will join the rest of the students on Thursday 3rd September 2026**

Student timetables will be distributed on return.

We wish you all a lovely summer break!

FACULTY FOCUS

PSHEE & Careers at TNHA

This year has been both exciting and busy for PSHE and careers at TNHA.



Careers

Recently, our Year 10 students participated in work experience placements, which we view as an essential part of their career development. These opportunities help students gain a real understanding of the working world. We are delighted to report that the feedback was outstanding across the year group. Some students have even secured apprenticeship opportunities because of their placements for their post-16 pathways. We hope this experience encourages them to continue striving for success, starting with achieving strong GCSE results as they move into Year 11. We are delighted to share a few comments from students who took part: -

"I worked at The Gayton Primary School. The jobs I did in the 'Reception Class' consisted of helping teach the students and I also got involved with the activities and class performances. This work experience allowed me to understand teaching and the importance of having a good work ethic. I believe that this has given me the opportunity to meet new people, and it has also encouraged me to work harder for the grades I want". (Charlotte).

"I went to an electrical company, during my time there I learnt how to feed wires, fitting plug sockets and connecting them together through various areas in the building I was renovating also how to use different tools. Thanks to my experience I have gained many skills such as better communication . I really enjoyed my week. (Charlie)

"I worked as a landscape gardener which I thoroughly enjoyed as I was able to participate in many different activities such as cutting grass, emptying heavy loads of stone into people's driveways and laying them (which I was very well taught). The company was very impressed with my wide variation of skills and positive work ethic, therefore they offered me a job in the future and an apprenticeship, if I am interested, opening a wide range of opportunities". (Harrison)

We have also strengthened our valued partnership with the University of East Anglia. Students from Years 7 through to Year 10 have taken part in a variety of sessions at the university, and all students will have attended a UEA-led assembly by the end of the academic year. These experiences are designed to show that university is an achievable option for everyone.

However, we recognise that higher education is just one of many pathways. To reflect this, we have offered a wide range of visitors and trips to help students explore all their options. This year, we continued our work with The Jon Egging Trust, supporting one group in Year 8 and two in Year 9. One of the Year 9 groups graduated this year, becoming the second TNHA group to do so. Students have taken part in engaging visits to places such as RAF Marham, 'Inside Out', RLNI Hunstanton and Norwich Airport. The programme focuses on developing key skills such as leadership and teamwork, which are vital for the workplace. The graduation ceremony was attended by local dignitaries, who heard first-hand about the students' achievements and experiences.

Our Curriculum Days have also brought a range of exciting opportunities, with visitors delivering workshops including Amazing Apprenticeships, RAF Marham, first aid training, College of West Anglia, Morgan Sindall, and Kathy Wyatt. Kathy Wyatt is also introducing work experience-style sessions for Key Stage 3 as we continue aligning with Government Gatsby Benchmarks. From a PSHE perspective, we have welcomed contributions from The St Giles Trust, Paula Devaux, the Road Safety Team, author Ashley Hickson and The Joe Dixon Charity.



LOOL lessons continue to emphasise the importance of understanding the world we live in and making informed, responsible choices. Students explore topics such as online safety, anti-bullying, substance awareness, mental health, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

As outlined our recent communication, the PSHE curriculum has been updated for next year to better reflect the evolving world our students are growing up in and supporting them in making positive life decisions.

This year, we also introduced 'Unifrog' - a highly effective careers platform - across the academy, with a particular focus on Year 10. Our next step is to expand access to other year groups and invite parents and carers to connect to their child's account. This will allow families to explore a wide range of career pathways together, supported by comprehensive labour market information to help inform future choices.

We have also worked closely with the National Heritage Trust, particularly with Victoria Melody, Swaffham's resident artist, who is leading initiatives to engage young people in the local community. Students have responded brilliantly to her assemblies and workshops, and she has greatly enjoyed working with them. We hope students have benefited from the many opportunities provided. Our aim is to support them in shaping their future career aspirations, while also helping them develop into confident, responsible individuals who can make a positive contribution to society.

Creative Arts

Drama



Our Drama Department has arranged several trips giving students the opportunity to enjoy live theatre productions throughout the year.

These being: -

October 2025 – Sherlock Holmes

Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama students visited Norwich Playhouse to see *Sherlock Holmes*. As part of their course, students must analyse and evaluate live theatre from the perspective of performers, directors and designers. The production offered rich material for exam preparation. The 'Blackeyed Theatre Company' also hosted a post-show Q&A, allowing students to explore design and performance in more depth.

October 2025 – War Horse

During October half-term, 40 TNHA students attended *War Horse* at Norwich Theatre Royal. This internationally acclaimed production, based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo, impressed students with its exceptional puppetry and attention to detail. They gained insight into World War I and the role of animals in the conflict.

December 2025 – Cinderella (Pantomime Trip)

Our annual pantomime trip took over 100 staff and students to Norwich Theatre Royal to see a modern, Norfolk-based *Cinderella*. A highlight for Year 7, the trip also included time to explore the city. Students thoroughly enjoyed the interactive performance and represented the school exceptionally well.

April 2026 – Here & Now

In April, 44 staff and students visited Norwich Theatre Royal to see *Here & Now*, a musical based on the music of Steps. The retro theme excited students, and the performance was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Further trips to see Blood Brothers, Mean Girls, and Peter Pan are scheduled for the upcoming term.

Year 11 students performed extracts from a variety of plays for the scripted element of their GCSE course. Each student was tasked with performing in two extracts from a play written before 2000. Extracts were as diverse as a monologue and group performances from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', duologues from 'Woman in Black' and 'Blood Brothers' and two fantastic group extracts from the brilliant 'Shakers'. Year 10 drama students came to watch the dress rehearsal during the day, giving them insight into the standard expected of them next year. For the final evening performances, family and friends were invited. It proved to be a great celebration of this amazing and unique group of students, and an emotional experience as this was also their final drama performance, after five years together.

Westacre Theatre: For the past few years, we have been lucky enough to give our KS3 drama club students the opportunity to perform our summer production at the Westacre Theatre. This is a beautiful venue, with a small indoor theatre space, as well as an outdoor performance space, which is this year undergoing a re-vamp. The KS3 production for this year took the form of a Shakespeare Festival, using short, abridged scripts of 'Romeo & Juliet', 'Othello' and 'The Merchant of Venice'. Rehearsals started in earnest at Easter and the group worked hard to produce 3 excellent performances on the final night. (Student pictured at a dress rehearsal)



Comment from a member of the audience:

"I felt compelled to let you know how much I enjoyed the 3 plays that I watched at Westacre Theatre. I loved the ambition to put on 3 very challenging plays especially for the age group of performers and the execution was excellent. I was particularly struck by the intensity of the portrayal of Othello. It showed maturity and understanding. But for me the most important thing is simply allowing an opportunity for young people to engage with live performance. Congratulations to all the staff involved and especially the students".

Year 10 GCSE Drama students have also benefited from using the venue for their Component 1 devised performances. Performing in a professional theatre environment provided students with a valuable opportunity to showcase their own original work in an authentic setting, helping them to develop their confidence, creativity and performance skills. Access to a real theatre space allowed students to fully realise their ideas, make effective use of staging and technical elements, and bring their performances to life in a way that would not have been possible in a standard classroom. The experience encouraged them to think and work like professional theatre practitioners, resulting in a collection of imaginative and engaging performances. Students were proud to share their work with friends and family, who were impressed by the high standard of creativity and commitment on display.

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

Students in Year 8 started the year with a favourite topic, 'stage fighting'. Using their newfound skills, students then performed the opening fight scene from 'Romeo & Juliet', with some great results. They 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!



Art

Year 11 art students have worked hard this year completing their individual projects on a variety of themes, with some amazing outcomes for their final pieces.

In January they started work on their final project, set by the exam board. The students had to research a given topic and then develop an original piece of work, showing their process from concept, through the development stages up to the final piece, which they created over an intense 10-hour, 2-day session. This year's group have demonstrated real talent and originality. We are so proud of their amazing work, with some fabulous final pieces.

In March, we were lucky to have a visiting artist in residence, as part of the Norfolk Arts Festival. Victoria Melody is a writer, performer and comedian and she is developing an original piece of performance art, working with different groups of students to gain insight and ideas through drama and writing workshops.

After last term's exploration of characters and street art, Year 9 students are learning how to create a realistic human portrait. Students began by creating portraits using expressive lines and gestural marks, these exercises build confidence and prioritise time for studying the structure of the face. Developing skill and knowledge of tonal drawings students learnt to draw each facial feature individually, using a mirror to study their own face or using supplied images as reference. Students completed an artist research page of two abstract artists Pablo Picasso and Guy Denning. To develop confidence in portraiture students created an abstract portrait using different facial features from a range of images. Using collage and layering students produced a mixed media collage incorporating drawing skill learnt from previous weeks. With reference to works of Pablo Picasso. Students finally created a gridded accurate tonal drawing of a self-portrait and a drawing of their peers.

After studying aboriginal art last term students in Year 8 have been looking at the Bauhaus Art Movement. Taking inspiration from Kandinsky, students used a pen/pencil to respond instinctively and emotionally to the sound of different forms of music. These exercises helped explain the term abstract impressionism. Selected interesting shapes and lines students created a composition. Developing core art skills such as 'colour theory', using watercolour mixing and tonal blending, students developed understanding of Bauhaus movement, with discussion as to what would be their personal 'movement'. Students took photographs of line shape and form in an architectural context, around school (and outside of school independently). Taking from the shape and line of drawings and photographs students went on to create an abstract painting inspired by the Bauhaus movement and the school around them. After studying the natural wildlife via the artistry of Henri Rousseau along with the works of Eddie Hara, Year 7 students were tasked with creating artwork and sculpture with an environmental message. Developing colour theory knowledge of tones tints and shades, students discussed environmental issues around the world.



Music

Year 11 music students dedicated themselves to rehearsing and performing their ensemble pieces this January, an experience that is both exciting and undeniably 'nerve-jangling.' For many, this was their first opportunity to truly step into the shoes of a recording artist, working collaboratively to refine their sound, balance their parts, and deliver a polished performance under pressure. The process requires not only

musical skill but also teamwork, communication, and resilience, as students learn to support one another while striving for excellence.

With strict time constraints in place, the pressure was certainly on as they recorded their performances. Despite this, our students rose to the challenge with maturity and professionalism, demonstrating their preparation and commitment throughout. As always, they performed brilliantly, showcasing not only their musical abilities but also their determination and positive attitude in what can be a demanding situation.

Following their ensemble recordings, students moved on to performing and recording their solo pieces. This element of the course can be particularly daunting, as it places each student firmly in the spotlight and tests both their technical proficiency and personal confidence. Performing alone requires courage, focus, and a strong sense of self-belief. It was inspiring to see every student embrace this challenge, giving their very best and supporting one another along the way. The standard of performance was impressive, with clear evidence of great effort, perseverance, and a genuine passion for music. Several standout performances highlighted the exceptional individual talent within the group, making this a truly rewarding experience for all involved.

STUDENTS CONTEMPLATE POST-16 OPTIONS

Year 10 students were given the exciting opportunity to visit The College of West Anglia to experience a course they may be interested in pursuing after their GCSEs. This visit allowed them to gain a valuable insight and a real flavour of what studying their chosen subject would be like in a college environment.

The students had a wonderful and engaging day, during which they were able to explore a wide range of subject areas. These included Photography, Engineering, Mechanics, Construction, A Levels, Hairdressing, Media Make-up, Sport and Uniformed Services. This variety ensured that every student could find something that matched their interests and future aspirations.



Throughout the day, students were fully immersed in hands-on activities and practical sessions, giving them the chance to develop new skills and build their confidence. They were highly enthusiastic about the experience and responded positively to the opportunity to learn in a new setting. Many students commented that the visit helped them to think more clearly about their next steps and future career pathways. Overall, it was a very worthwhile and inspiring experience that has supported students in making informed decisions about their post-16 choices.



IT REALLY IS ROCKET SCIENCE...

A team from RAF Marham worked in collaboration with our Year 8 students to deliver an exciting and hands-on STEM project, with a particular focus on aerodynamics and the key factors that influence how far a rocket can travel.

Throughout the sessions, students explored concepts such as air resistance, thrust, and design efficiency, applying their knowledge to build and test their own model rockets. This practical experience allowed them to develop problem-solving skills, think critically about how small adjustments can impact performance, and work effectively as part of a team.



The enthusiasm and engagement shown by all students was fantastic, with many demonstrating curiosity and determination as they refined their designs and aimed to achieve the greatest possible distance. The opportunity to work alongside RAF personnel added an extra level of excitement and inspiration, giving students a real-world insight into how STEM skills are applied in professional settings.

Overall, it was a highly successful and enjoyable experience, leaving students motivated and eager to learn more about science, technology, engineering, and maths.

PRIDE, EXCELLENCE & TEAM SPIRIT

A team of Year 7 and Year 8 girls recently travelled to Hunstanton to take part in an exciting softball cricket festival held at Glebe House. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for the girls to experience a series of fun and competitive matches, while also representing the academy with pride and enthusiasm.

Throughout the day, they played against several schools from across Norfolk, showcasing not only their developing skills but also their teamwork, determination, and positive attitude.

There were some outstanding individual and team performances, with players supporting one another and building confidence with each game.

A special mention goes to Ziva and Nicole, who were named players of the tournament for their superb bowling and excellent catching, helping the team to secure a number of important wickets.

Well done to all involved - an excellent achievement!



BRINGING SCIENCE ALIVE

A group of our science students travelled to Thetford Academy to take part in the University of East Anglia's (UEA) 'Bringing Scientists to You' event, an exciting day designed to inspire young people through 'hands-on' scientific experiences.

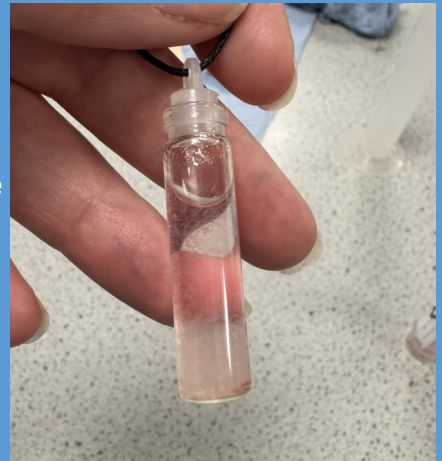
The students took part in a range of interactive workshops, giving them the opportunity to explore different areas of science while developing valuable teamwork, problem-solving, and practical skills. One of the sessions saw students become robotics engineers as they learnt how to programme LEGO robots and compete in a race challenge. The activity encouraged students to work collaboratively, using computer skills, logical thinking, and communication to complete the task successfully.

The group also stepped into the world of genetics by extracting DNA from a strawberry. Through this practical experiment, students discovered more about the science behind DNA and how genetic information is studied. They also developed their scientific method skills by carefully measuring liquids and following laboratory procedures.

Students had the opportunity to work alongside members of the pharmacology department, where they created their own hand creams. This workshop introduced them to the science of formulations and explored how everyday products are carefully designed and developed for different purposes.

Another fascinating session focused on Earth as a habitable planet. Students explored what makes our planet suitable for life and used their problem-solving skills to consider alternative survival options on other planets. The activity encouraged them to think creatively about space, environments, and the future of humanity.

The day provided students with a unique insight into the many possibilities within science careers and allowed them to experience real-world applications of scientific ideas. The event was a fantastic opportunity for students to build confidence, develop new skills, and see how science can shape the world around them.



IN OTHER NEWS...

Senior Prom 2026

The senior prom, held at Knights Hill in King's Lynn, provided a memorable setting for this year's celebration. Students arrived in an impressive array of vehicles, from elegant cars to eye-catching rides, each one adding to the sense of excitement and occasion as they stepped out looking truly spectacular, ready to dance the night away. Dressed in their finest outfits, the students embraced this special evening with style and confidence, creating a wonderful atmosphere filled with laughter, music and celebration.

It was a truly special occasion, giving everyone the opportunity to come together one last time, reflect on their journey at TNHA, and mark the end of an important chapter in their lives. The evening was filled with joy, pride and a strong sense of friendship, as students made lasting memories with their peers and staff.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

A huge and heartfelt well done to our incredible Duke of Edinburgh students, whose dedication and commitment to volunteering have truly shone through.

Together, they have achieved an outstanding total of 884 hours of service - an inspiring accomplishment that reflects not only their hard work, but also their generosity, resilience, and desire to make a positive difference in their communities.

We are immensely proud of them for embracing this challenge with such enthusiasm and for setting such a fantastic example to others.



SPORTS & ACTIVITIES WEEK

After two fiercely contested days of track and field events, students showcased outstanding determination, talent and sportsmanship, resulting in a number of TNHA records being broken and some incredibly close battles between the forms. Once all the scores had been totalled, the winners of each Year Group competition were:

- Year 7: PSE
- Year 8: JFO
- Year 9: MBL
- Year 10: CSH

A huge 'thank you' goes to our Year 10 Sports Studies students, who did a fantastic job officiating and supporting events throughout the competition. We also celebrate the impressive number of new records set during the event:

Year 7: 800m, 1500m and Discus

Year 8: 800m

Year 9: 100m, 800m, Long Jump and Triple Jump

Year 10: Shot Put, 200m, 1500m and Long Jump

Congratulations to all competitors for their incredible efforts and achievements, helping to make this year's Athletics Championships one to remember! *Pictured are a few of the medal winners!*



Later in the week, students had the opportunity to take part in a range of exciting trips and activities beyond the classroom, choosing from a variety of experiences designed to suit different interests and abilities.

Adventurous students enjoyed taking to the water with kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddleboarding sessions, while others tested their skills and teamwork through multi-sports activities, indoor laser tag and the challenge of an outdoor assault course.

For those looking for a more relaxed experience, a scenic walk through Sandringham Park provided the chance to enjoy the outdoors, while a visit to Banham Zoo allowed students to learn about a wide range of fascinating animals. Other popular options included ten-pin bowling and the adrenaline-fuelled excitement of combat paintballing.

These trips provided memorable experiences, encouraged students to try something new and offered valuable opportunities to build confidence, resilience and friendships outside the school environment.



THE TNHA JOURNEY BEGINS

We were delighted to welcome our incoming Year 6 students, who will officially join Team TNHA in September.

Alongside their parents and carers, they attended a lively transition evening, where they had the chance to meet their new tutors, connect with current student leaders, and get to know members of the wider school community. Students enjoyed taking part in a range of 'fun activities' with their new form groups, helping them to begin building friendships ahead of the new term.

For parents and carers, a variety of informative workshops were available, while the Year Team and members of the Senior Leadership Team were on hand to answer questions and provide guidance on the transition process and expectations at the academy.

Recently, this cohort also spent two dedicated days with us, experiencing life at TNHA first-hand. These sessions allowed them to become familiar with their new environment, leaving them feeling confident, prepared, and excited to return in September.

WELCOME

A HEARTFELT THANKS

We were honoured to be invited by our local Waitrose and Tesco stores to join in their token appeals. We are extremely grateful for this support from both supermarkets, along with the local community who supported both appeals, both of which will benefit our students greatly!

Waitrose have kindly donated £500 to be used towards improving outdoor spaces where students can relax and eat, improving emotional wellbeing, adding to their opportunities to recharge and in turn improve focus, enhance memory and problem-solving skills when they return to class.



Tesco have awarded us the sum of £1,500 which will be used to expand the range of extra-curricular activities we offer as well as ensuring the reading materials are regularly updated in our well-used, popular library.

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

♡♡ We should all be more like Sam! ♡♡

After an incredibly short, yet incredibly brave battle with a brain tumour, Sam sadly passed away just two weeks after his 18th birthday, leaving behind a heartbroken family and countless friends whose lives will never be the same. A proud former The Nicholas Hamond Academy alumnus, Sam built friendships at school that would last a lifetime. Many of his closest friends were from the same year group, and the bonds they formed in the classrooms, corridors, and on the sports field only grew stronger over the years. Those friendships became like family and remained a testament to the kind of person Sam was. Anyone who had the privilege of knowing Sam will remember his infectious smile, his sense of humour and his incredible zest for life. He had a remarkable way of making everyone feel welcome and wherever Sam was - there was always laughter.

To honour Sam's life, raise awareness and support the vital work of The Brain Tumour Charity, you are invited to come together for a fun-filled day at the Swaffham Town Football Clubhouse - a place Sam loved. Let's celebrate Sam's life the way he would have wanted; surrounded by friends, family, laughter and community, while helping to fund research and bring hope to families facing the devastating impact of brain tumours.



FUNDRAISING COMMUNITY EVENT
IN MEMORY OF **SAM KEEBLE**

IN SUPPORT OF **THE BRAIN TUMOUR CHARITY**

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST 2026
GATES OPEN AT 12 - 23:00
FIRST CHARITY GAME KO AT 12:30

QR CODE: SCAN ME TO DONATE

ACTIVITIES: DJ, LIVE MUSIC, RAFFLE, LIVE AUCTION, FOOD VENDORS

Together for Sam. Together for a cure.

♡♡ We should all be more like Sam! ♡♡



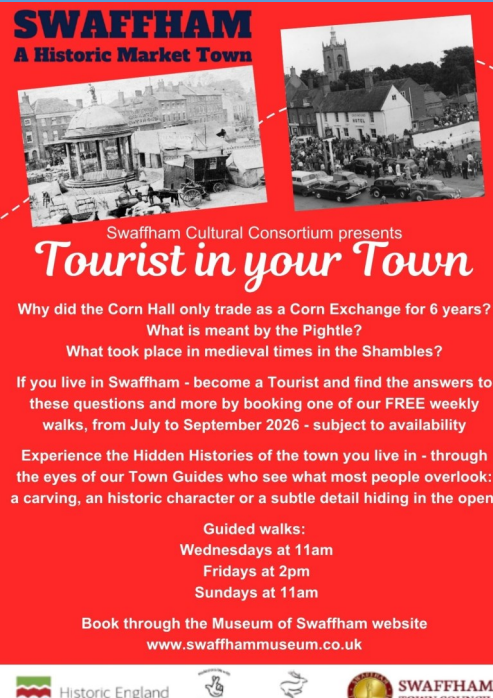
SWAFFHAM RUFC
UNDER 16s BOYS RUGBY
STARTING 3RD SEPTEMBER FOR SCHOOL YEAR 11

TRAINING THURSDAYS 6:30-7:30PM
MATCHES ON SUNDAYS
NORTH PICKENHAM ROAD, SWAFFHAM, PE37 7QX.

JOIN THE TEAM
GET ACTIVE, PLAY RUGBY.

TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT

YOUTH@SWAFFHAMRUGBY.CO.UK



SWAFFHAM
A Historic Market Town

Swaffham Cultural Consortium presents
Tourist in your Town

Why did the Corn Hall only trade as a Corn Exchange for 6 years?
What is meant by the Pightle?
What took place in medieval times in the Shambles?

If you live in Swaffham - become a Tourist and find the answers to these questions and more by booking one of our FREE weekly walks, from July to September 2026 - subject to availability

Experience the Hidden Histories of the town you live in - through the eyes of our Town Guides who see what most people overlook: a carving, an historic character or a subtle detail hiding in the open.

Guided walks:
Wednesdays at 11am
Fridays at 2pm
Sundays at 11am

Book through the Museum of Swaffham website
www.swaffhammuseum.co.uk

Historic England, Heritage Fund, Breckland, SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI



We are incredibly proud of our students, both past and present, and we are keen to reconnect with our alumni from The Nicholas Hamond Academy (formerly Hamond's High School).

We would love to feature our former students in the alumni section of our website, celebrating the achievements and successes you have accomplished since leaving us.

If you are happy to take part, this would simply involve completing a short questionnaire about your journey, career and experiences.

By sharing your story, you will help inspire our current students and show them the many exciting paths they can take after leaving school.

We look forward to hearing from you and celebrating your success.

Please contact: tnh-office@attrust.org.uk

