



THOMAS
GAINSBOROUGH
SCHOOL

PORTRAIT



GOODBYE 2020!

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December
2020



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GOODBYE *Mr Lloyd...*

Headteacher since 2012, we wish you lots of luck for the future and thank you for your hard work and dedication to Thomas Gainsborough School!

THOMAS
GAINSBOROUGH
SCHOOL





**Autism
Anglia**

Registered Charity No. 1063717

Welcome to back to TGS- Abbas

Abbas House, it has been such a pleasure to kick-start the new academic year as your Head of House. I have really enjoyed getting to know you all better and working with our tutor groups. It has been excellent to see how well you all work together as a team and shine as individuals. It has been great to witness so many diverse and varied talents that we have as a House- I cannot wait to harness these skills together in time to showcase everything that the students of Abbas House are capable of.

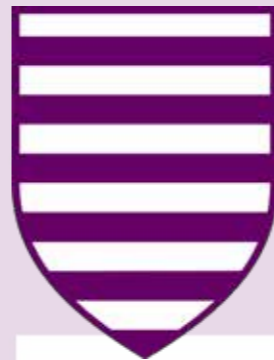
‘Neither rashly nor timidly’ is the motto of Abbas House. I really believe that we need to maintain sight of our motto more than ever as we sail through uncharted waters. We still need to take every opportunity that is presented to us as a House, as a member of our tutor groups and as individuals to work hard and get involved. This will help us to foster the very important skill of resilience that will make us as members of Abbas House and of TGS stronger than ever. I feel that we have made a very good start on this path. Long may it continue.

Merits and competitions are key to our success as a house. So, make sure that you get involved across the board. Take risks, enter competitions that you would not normally consider, put your hand up and answer a question or offer a comment outside of your comfort zone-your involvement and work will definitely pay off! The Values that have been demonstrated from the students of our House this term have been exemplary. Examples of these have ranged from volunteering in Oxfam, successful show jumping competitions, thinking of others and supporting younger students with securing their academic success. The diverse skill base that the students of

our House have shown are second to none and make me incredibly proud to be the face of Abbas. Our two charity events this term have been the ‘Spooky Sweet Hamper’ and our joint charity venture (alongside Tollemache House) ‘Dedicated December’. What luxury item are you going to give up? What is it that you cannot live without? I am giving up cake for two weeks during the run up to the festive period. I’m sure that I will become more resilient after my two weeks are up. It will be more than worth it to raise money for two very worthwhile charities- Autism Anglia and The Bridge Project.

Lastly, I would like to wish all of our staff and students on behalf of Abbas House, a very Merry Christmas. You have all worked so hard and deserve a well-earned rest. Merry Christmas to one and all.

Mrs K Wells



Firstly, in what has been a really challenging term, I am really pleased to report on the resilience of the students in Houghton and their adaptability to whatever new challenge has been thrown at them, whether that is adaptations to their normal school routine, coping with teachers and friends self-isolating, online lessons and numerous Google Classrooms! The very best evidence of this is that, at the time of writing, Houghton students have the highest attendance rate of any house in the school and given the continued restrictions, periods of self-isolation and desire to protect each other and those people at home, I think an attendance rate approaching 96% is remarkable.

Being in school also gives students the best possible chance of earning merits for hard work, academic progress and acts of citizenship in line with the values that Thomas Gainsborough School seeks to promote and it has been a tremendous pleasure (not without its challenges as the nominations have been so strong) to choose weekly winners for our "Values" awards: so, well done to Zinnia McKnight, Hettie Thorogood, Ruth McGrath-Wells, Poppy Birch, Iyla Hesketh, Lucia Bunn, Honey Waygood, Rhapsody Lee, Seb Self, Jessica Vernon, Rory & Ethan Hall, Matthew Rowe and Chloe Cadge for being chosen as winners this term and well done also to all the rest of you who have been nominated by your form tutors. Keep it up please!

Equally impressive has been the effort and application shown by Year 11 students in preparation for and completion of their mock exams in November. All reports suggest that the approach that was taken was calm, resilient, quietly confident and determined and I am sure much positivity will be reported in the forthcoming progress checks, alongside clear next steps in terms of revision, exam technique and application of learning for the new year.

With the current restrictions, much of what the Houghton house committee had planned for this term in terms of fundraising for our house charity, Save



the Children has had to be put on hold, but there are some significant plans in the offing for the new year, including a new sponsored event to "climb" the world's highest buildings on a gym step (more details to follow in the new year).

As the calendar year draws to a close it would be easy, this year of all years to feel tired, down with a feeling of "glad that's over" pervading everything - on the other hand though, and notwithstanding the challenges that 2020 has thrown at us, it has also been a year where we have truly seen the best in people - the new members of Houghton house in Year 7 have settled so well, supported by their fellow tutees, the new skills learned and shared, the willingness to do things for other people are all things that I for one, have seen more of this year and hope to see more of in the future too.

Finally, for this edition, the end of term marks a sad day for Houghton House as we say goodbye to Mrs Wakeman as a form tutor as she begins a very well earned and deserved retirement. I know I speak for her tutees when I say that we will miss her care, attention to detail and willingness to go the extra mile to help a student get on. We are fortunate that we can welcome Miss Dowley as the new form tutor for Mrs Wakeman's group; Miss Dowley has been working regularly with students in JWk this term to establish effective relationships with the students to ensure that continuity of pastoral care and academic challenge.

So, please have a relaxing and enjoyable festive break, stay safe and return in the new year ready to go again in 2021.

Mr M Gibson



It seems a bit late to be welcoming you all back as we are nearly at the end of our first term, but it is great to be back and even better to see so many familiar faces once more! Where to begin?

We won the cup!!



Hopefully you all watched the end of year assembly kindly recorded by Mr Everett and presented by Mr Ponsford. If you did, you will be aware that Chamberlain won the Chelsworth Cup. A bitter sweet moment for myself, as it was the first time since becoming Head of House that we had won the cup and I wanted to share it with you as it is your hard work that enables us to be the best. However, we were all busy with lockdown and our home learning, and therefore could not be in school. Nevertheless, this has hopefully made us more determined to win the cup once more in the future so that we can all celebrate together in the traditional end of term assembly.

Of course, we have hit the ground running, and it surely feels business has resumed to normal, with Chamberlain, excelling in an array of areas. I trust Years 8-11 have all played a crucial role in welcoming the new Year 7s into your tutor groups, as well as getting them accustomed to the routines of the school. To say that it has been a strange time would be an understatement, however I would personally like to take this opportunity to congratulate each single Year 7 in Chamberlain on your smooth, mature transition to Thomas Gainsborough School. I have been overloaded with praise from your teachers, and this has been reflected in your magnificent merit totals. A special mention must go to Matthew Dix of EJU who has already accumulated a staggering 247 merits, closely followed by Keavy Power (KSE) with 218 merits, and Max Freeman (CTU) with 185 merits. It therefore is no

surprise that we have been topping the merit leader board for a significant time now, so all of you please keep it up!

Year 11 has recently completed their mock GCSE exams, and I would like to echo the praise delivered from our senior leadership team regarding the mature and focused approach of the students: they have done us all proud. The focal point will move onto Year 9 shortly after Christmas, as you will have to start the difficult process of selecting your GCSE options. Remember the benefit of the vertical tutoring system; you have Year 10s and Year 11s in your tutor groups who you can seek advice and guidance from, as well as your tutors, class teachers or myself, so there is no need to feel overwhelmed or worried unduly. Now onto our early House success stories, and we have really been embracing the "Get Involved" culture.

I have been in the fortunate position already this term to distribute twelve Head of House Values awards.

These include

6 Resilience awards;

Harry Moule (BRI) Immi Haynes (BRI)
Willow Jones (BRI) Charlotte Turner (KRI) Isla Widdowson (PBI) Scott Norton (BRI),

2 Honesty awards; Esmay Mallindine (BRI) and Samuel Edwards (CTU), not to mention

1 Positivity award for Darcy Fleetwood (KYO),

1 Confidence award for Keavy Power (KSE)

1 Happiness award for Rhys Smith (PBI) and

1 Respect award for Archie Wiffen (KYO).

It is uplifting to hear about your endeavours outside of school that embrace The TGS Values, so please keep sharing them with your form tutors.

We have also seen numerous Chamberlain students enter the TGS Spotlight, including Katy Wainwright (OHA) and Keavy Power (KSE) who have both been outstanding in their performances of singing and dancing.



The Chamberlain Committee is proving very popular as well this year, with plenty of new faces attending meetings, which is fabulous as it means we can really create marvellous charity events for our house charity, Guide Dogs UK. On the note of charity, we have really surpassed ourselves with our two charity events so far this term, the London-Brighton obstacle course and the change pots. We will be running a raffle outside by Student Services over the week from 7th December – 11th December, 20p per entry for a chance to win a Guide Dogs UK stuffed teddy, as well as a basket of chocolate. More information about our charity events will be on the charity page.

So, after such a ludicrously successful return, I wonder how we can beat this next term? Something tells me we will though!

Wishing you all a very relaxing Christmas when it arrives,

Miss A Alston





It has been a strange start to a school year but one that the students and staff have grasped with both hands. I have been so impressed by the ‘can do’ attitude of our House Committee and by all our pupils in general. The students haven’t let the challenges we have faced stop them which has really demonstrated our House Motto “We persevere, We enjoy”.

Peyton House students have been earning merits by the bucket load and the House Competitions have been even better supported than in previous years. Giving me great hope for the House Cup at the end of this term.

We continue to recognise our students who really demonstrate the Values of Thomas Gainsborough School. Extra special mentions need to be made of: Isaac Jones for the Confidence to take on his first Solo Glider flight, making him one of the youngest solo pilots in the country; and Andrew Cottingham for having the Resilience to complete a charity virtual 24hr Le Mans race. A huge well done to you both!

Earlier this term I was delighted to be able to present last years ‘House Tutee Award’ to Poppy Ayers who really made a huge contribution to TGS in her first year with us. Superb efforts with classwork and homework were coupled with a real drive to get fully involved in school life making her a very worthy winner. I am sure she will continue to demonstrate the ‘work hard, get involved, be proud’ mantra we really strive for here at TGS.

The Storehouse Foodbank in Sudbury is our chosen charity this year. The school has been running a Christmas Hamper appeal this term; thank you to all those who generously donated. We are looking to run a post Christmas, socially distanced silent auction next term and already have a few prizes that have been kindly donated by contacts known to our House Committee. There will be information coming out in January about how you could support this fundraising event by offering a ‘lot’ that could be auctioned off with all proceeds going to support the work of this excellent, local, and very relevant charity.

Lastly, I would like to wish all of our students and staff on behalf of Peyton House, a very Happy Christmas. Let’s hope that the New Year brings a start of the return to normal that we all crave and wish for.

Mr W Ponsford



A big hello and thank you to everyone in Tollemache House.

The Autumn term is always a busy term with students returning to a new year and new academic challenges. After a turbulent year it was great to see you all at school working hard, business as usual.

It was wonderful to see so many of your parents and guardians attending Academic Review Day, back in October. Joining a number of meetings, I was impressed at the mature approach Tollemache students took to their learning, whether those conversations centered around applying for the Sixth Form, booking a careers appointment or settling into a new school.

If you are in Year 9 you may be thinking about what options you will choose and what career path you would like to take. The GCSE options selection process will begin in earnest in the Spring term. Students will have the opportunity to seek guidance and support from their tutors, subject teachers and heads of department about what the course may involve.

Thinking about what the future holds for you can be scary. Having a plan allows you to embrace the challenge. Finding the route to success sometimes can be a difficult road. There are many ups and downs along the road but it is always important to stay positive and remain focused on your goals. When you reach those targets the reward is always sweeter.



Celebrating hard work is a cornerstone of TGS expectations. It was wonderful to see so many of you receive awards and prizes for all your efforts. I have noticed more students are wearing the Tollemache blazer bling. Congratulations, keep working towards your ribbons.

Year 11 has been working hard this term revising and attending interventions were possible. The students' approach to sitting these mock exams has been exemplary, demonstrating to the rest of the school that even under the difficult circumstances, they still remain focused and prepared.

Our Charity event this term has seen us join forces with Abbas house for our charity event, Dedicated December. The premise of the event is to give up a luxury for two weeks at the start of December. Students will ask friends and family to sponsor them for the fortnight. The money raised from Tollemache will go to the Bridge Project, a local charity founded in Sudbury.

Christmas is a time for giving, so what little luxury will you give up to help others in need?

Mrs F Raleigh

Zayed Elzubeir

Jess Barr received a values award for learning to fly a plane recently!

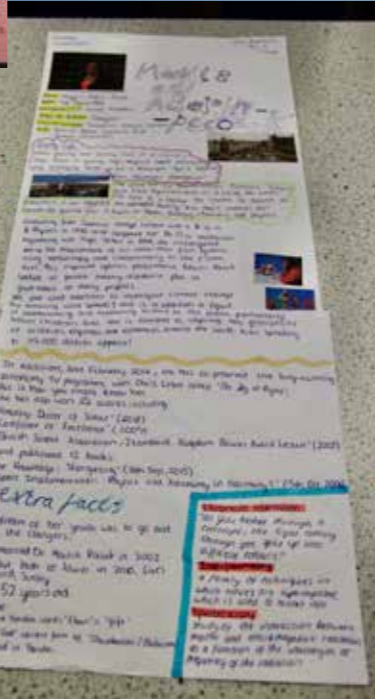
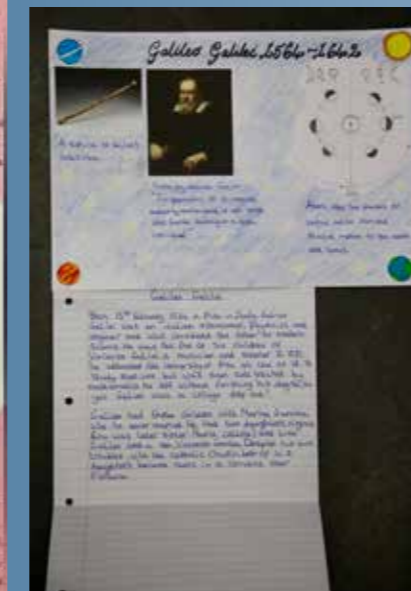


COMPETITIONS

Research a Scientist

For this competition the students needed to choose and research a scientist. They then needed to produce a poster on the scientist, their life and contribution to science. The competition had a large number of high quality entries. It was particularly pleasing to see the range of scientists chosen for the poster. Einstein, Galileo, Stephen Hawking, Charles Darwin, Ameenah Gurib-Fakim and Maggie Aderin Pocock were all featured to name a few.

Top entries for each house were from: Jayden Wright, Keavy Power, Archie Wiffen, Riley Frost and Anna Buthelezi.



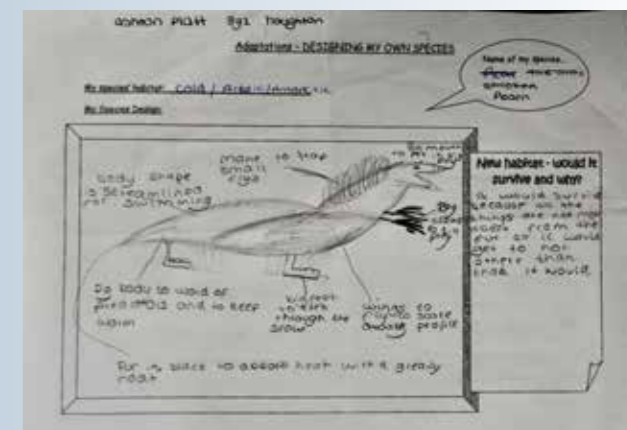
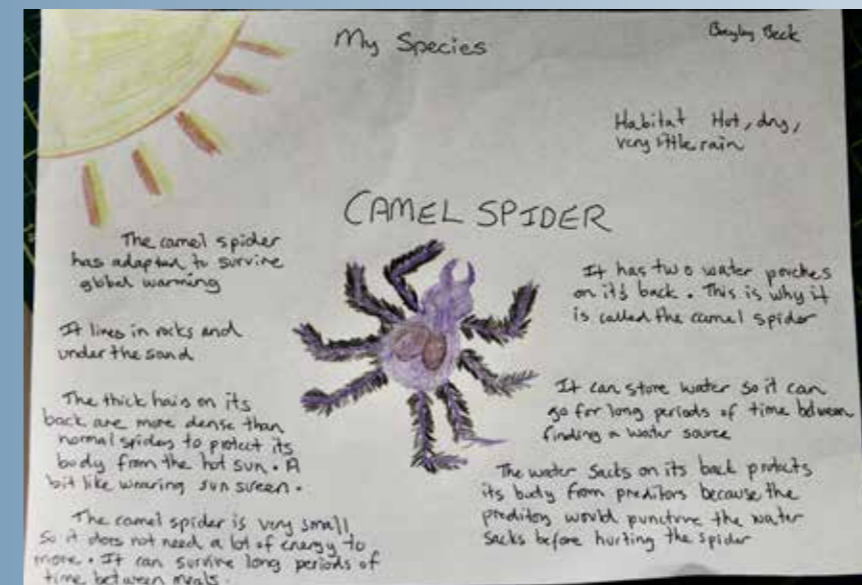
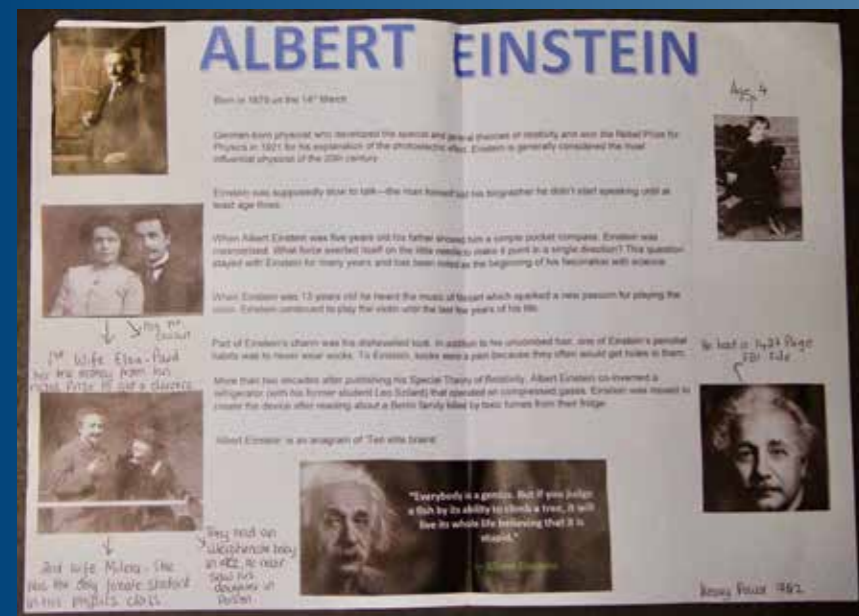
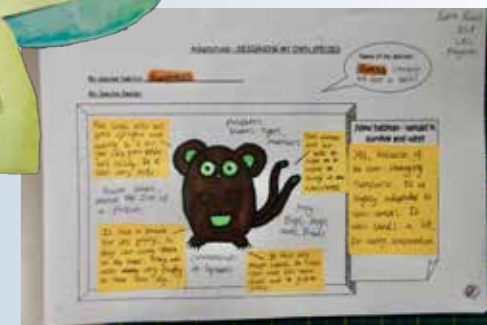
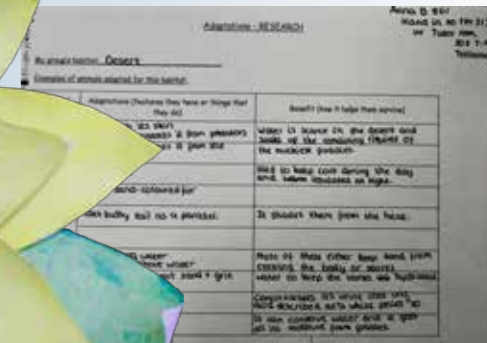
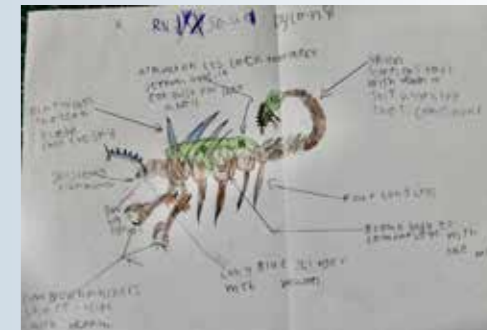
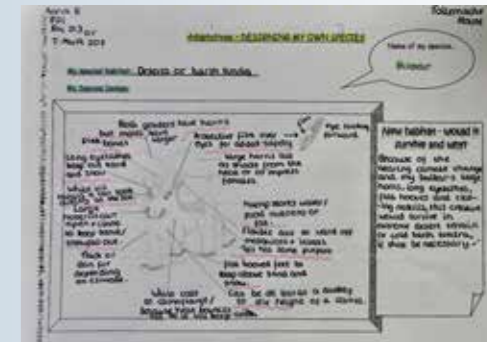
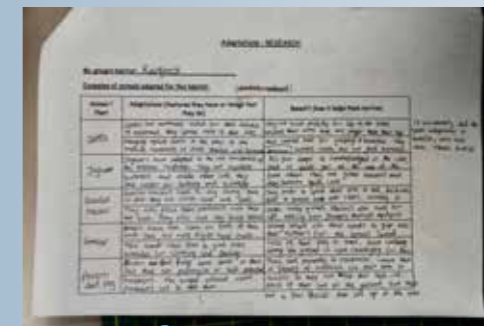
Biology week

This competition was set to celebrate Biology Week and highlight the wonderful world we live in. The competition was to design a habitat and creature that would survive in our ever changing planet. This certainly allowed the students' imagination to fly, from giant insects to aliens and bacteria that could digest plastic. The information and imagination that went into the entries was amazing culminating in over 80 different designs to look at.

This was a very difficult decision, so with some help from fellow scientists a winner was organised and several special awards handed out too.

Best House entries were from: Matthew Fairbairn (Abbas), Dylan Flowers (Chamberlain), Ashton Platt (Houghton), Siena Ricci (Peyton) and Anna Buthelezi (Tollemache).

We were delighted with the competition and all your efforts, thank you. Please look out for another competition next year!



Remembrance Poem

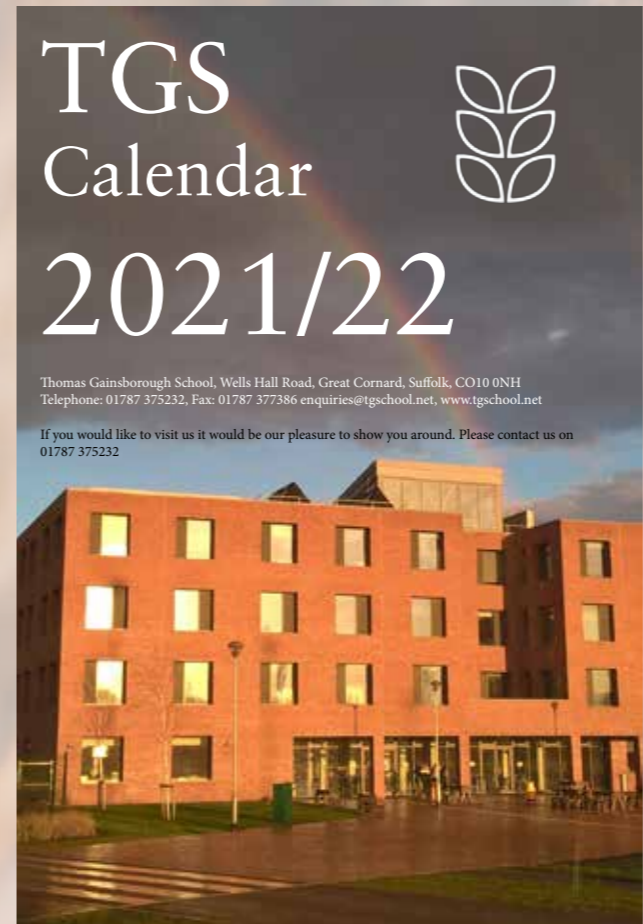
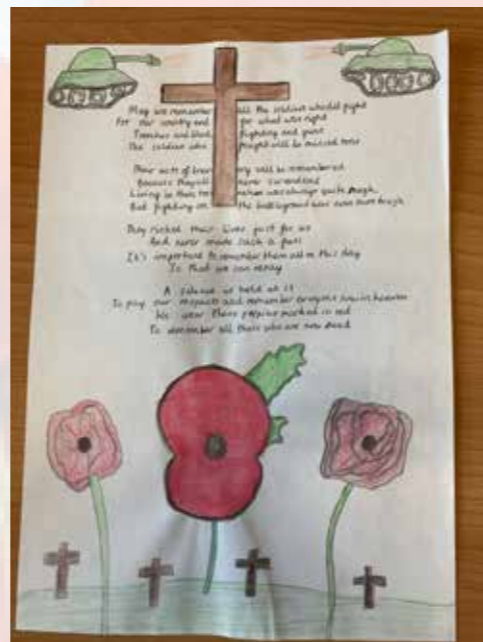
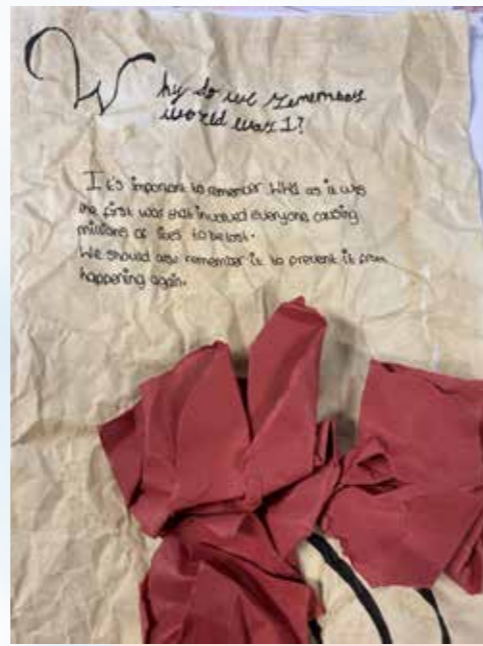
The History Department ran a competition to go alongside the school's work on Remembrance as part of Theme of the Fortnight. The competition was to reflect on why it is important to still remember World War One 102 years later.

We received a huge number of entries and were really impressed with the quality. Students had really reflected deeply on the significance of the war. We received some beautiful poems that showed off students' creativity along with historical knowledge. The winning entry by Ruby Marsh (Tollemache, Year 10) stood out to us due to the local connection and personal touch to soldiers who sadly lost their lives.

Other House winners were: Russell Gonzales (Abbas), Matthew Dix (Chamberlain), Jessica Vernon (Houghton) and Maisie Windhaber (Peyton).

Well done to everyone who entered!

Ruby Marsh



Excellence: for each, for all

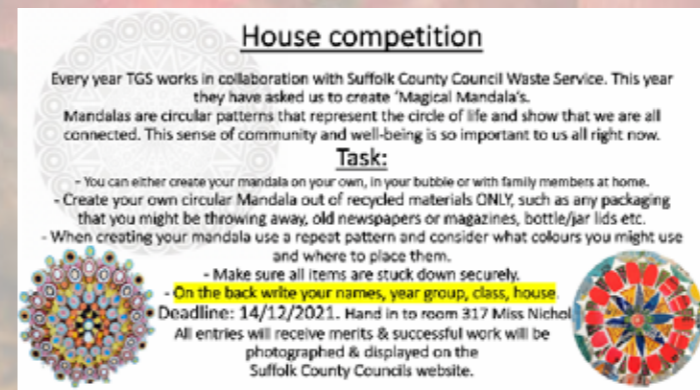
Our TGS calendar competition is still running. We have had some fantastic entries but would like more!

With Winter approaching, as well as the Christmas holidays, take this opportunity to get out and take some photos!

This is a great chance to see your work in print. The calendar will be available to buy next year.

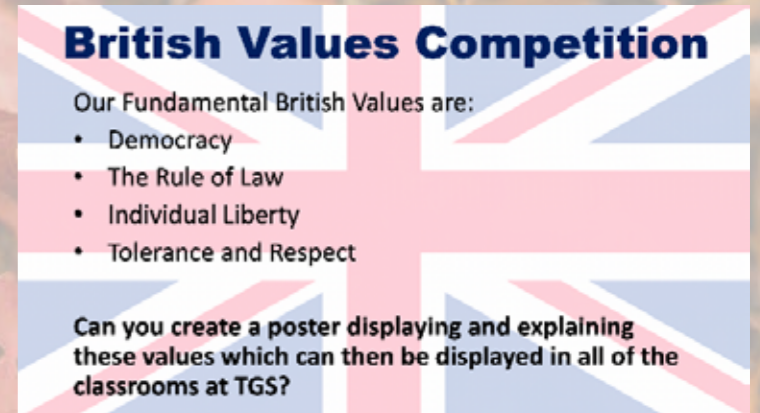
Send your photos of the seasons to jhilson@tgschool or mclaxton@tgschool.net by February half term.

Good luck!



I hope many of you have entered the Magical Mandalas competition using recycled materials only - we will feature photos of these in our next edition. In the meantime there are some competitions till running:

- TGS Calendar competition - send in a photo which represents a specific season or month
- Design a British Values poster - advertising the fundamental British Values to be displayed in every classroom
- NHS Careers competition - where you are challenged to create a job advert for one of the NHS' many career paths





The European Day of Languages (EDL) is celebrated across Europe on the 26th of September every year. It aims to promote the rich linguistic diversity of Europe and raise awareness of the importance of lifelong language learning for everyone.

This year, at TGS, the Languages Department ran 3 competitions to celebrate the linguistic variety in our school and our love for languages. We had a European Food Market, The Great European Bake-Off and 'English as an Additional Language Stories.' We were overwhelmed by the quality of the entries and found it very difficult to choose the winners for each competition. Here you can find the pictures of some of the best entries.

I have also chosen the entry from Charlotte Gallaza in SVI as an excellent example of the stories behind every student or teacher whose first language is not English. The students who entered this competition shared excellent ideas about how and why learning a second language is important and they have worked really hard to improve their English language skills.

What it's like to speak two other languages

Both my parents are full Filipino and my mum moved to England to start a better life, with my dad following. I was born in England: Cambridge on October 13th 2006. When I was 1 year old and 18 months my grandpa had offered to let both my brother and I stay in the Philippines and take care of us as my grandfather wanted to get to know and spend time with us. My parents were going to decline the offer as they wanted to take care of us here in England but my parents ended up taking us to the Philippines as they were in a complicated situation, they wanted to make sure our life here in England was going to be the best for us.

Growing up in the Philippines was the best decision my parents made for me personally. It benefited me a lot. My first language was Filipino (Bisaya is one of the 120 to 187 dialects spoken in the Filipino language which is the one I speak). Surprisingly I had thought I would lose my understanding of the language and no longer remember to speak it. Luckily, I have a big obsession over Filipino shows and movies. From there, I was still able to remember words and phrases. When I moved back to England at the age of 4, my parents enrolled me into a primary school which was Pot Kiln Primary School. I don't remember being scared when I went to school in primary and I also don't remember having difficulty learning English. I caught onto it pretty fast.

Growing up in England was great at times. It was completely different to me, and although it was hard to understand, I got it in the end. I have a friend who also moved here; we would sometimes speak in our own language because we didn't want others listening to our conversation. It became a problem for us, our classmates would be upset with us as they thought we were speaking about them and they would tell us not to speak in our language; I do admit that I did speak about them in secret but we barely did so; I told my mother about this and her face immediately changed into a face of worry. She told me that I shouldn't talk Filipino at school because they wouldn't understand. Although it upset me, I listened to her and only spoke English at school and Filipino at home. Unfortunately speaking English all the time caused me to lose my accent and understanding of Bisaya.

I appreciate my parents a lot for giving me these countless opportunities that I have here in England. Although I love it a lot more

in the Philippines, this country can give you much more. They gave me a chance to have a better future; a chance to learn to speak English so that in my future, I can speak to others around the world and make friends.

I don't exactly know what I want to be yet but it's good that I know how to speak two languages as I can communicate to other people in my future job/career. I think it's a great thing to know more than one language. It can benefit a lot. Not only does it look good when you're applying for jobs but it gives you a chance to communicate with other people and find new friends you can find similarities with.

My advice is to take your time to learn a language. Be devoted and enthusiastic to learning it. Learn about the culture, read, sing, watch shows/movies about the language. Slowly over time your vocabulary will expand.

Maraming Salamat! (Thank you very much!)

These photos are of me and my family and photos of me growing up in England.

Charlotte Gallaza



CHARITY

Chamberlain Charity Events

London-Brighton Obstacle Course:

After a disappointing year last year, which saw lockdown dramatically reduce the amount of money raised for our charity, we started in September determined to accomplish better things. This year, Chamberlain House are raising money for their charity, Guide Dogs UK. The first fundraiser of the year was the hugely successful London-Brighton obstacle course which is quickly turning into an annual event. The aim was to complete 76 laps of an outdoor obstacle course designed by Miss Alston and Mr Richards, as this measures the distance from London to Brighton which is approximately 47 miles. We had an overwhelming turnout, made even more special as the weather was not on our side! Students from all five houses were taking part completing laps to ensure the challenge was completed. Although there has never been a year where we have not covered the distance, this year was truly extraordinary. Rather than covering the distance from London-Brighton, we ended with a distance from London-Southampton covered, which measures approximately 82 miles, raising over £550. A massive thank you to all staff and students who participated. You have really set the standard for next year.

Change Pots:

Change Pots are another long-standing Chamberlain House favourite when it comes to fund raising. It was proving increasingly difficult to create a charity event due to the second lockdown restrictions implemented on November 2nd, so the Change Pots were the obvious solution. Instead of an interhouse event such as London-Brighton, Change Pots featured only Chamberlain students as it was run as an interform competition. The aim was for each registration group to raise as much money as possible by bringing in loose change or other monetary donations to win a hamper of treats from Miss Alston. Change Pots were running for two weeks from Monday 13th November to Friday 27th November, and in that very brief time, over £300 was raised for Guide Dogs UK. The winning registration group was BRI, raising over £90, followed by KSE who raised an equally impressive £72.

Raffle:

The last charity event from Chamberlain this term is the Guide Dogs Chocolate Raffle. Each lunchtime from Monday 7th December, students can enter a prize draw to win a basket of chocolate with a Guide Dogs UK teddy. There is a runner up prize of a paw print keyring also, which has kindly been made by Chamberlain tutor, Miss Harte. The stall will be set up outside the Student Services entrance from 1pm, and each entry only costs 20p – you can enter as many times as you like!

Good luck to all who are planning on entering!



Abbas 'Spooky Sweet Hamper'

Firstly, a massive congratulations to Oliver Sharp (Year 7) who won the 'Spooky Sweet Hamper' that raised £35.00 in total for Abbas' House Charity- 'Autism Anglia'. The students of Abbas' Committee worked tirelessly over a two week period promoting the 'Spooky Sweet Hamper' during breaks and lunchtimes. Well done to the Abbas Committee Members- your hard work certainly paid off!

I look forward to our future successes after the Christmas break!



Food Bank Donations!



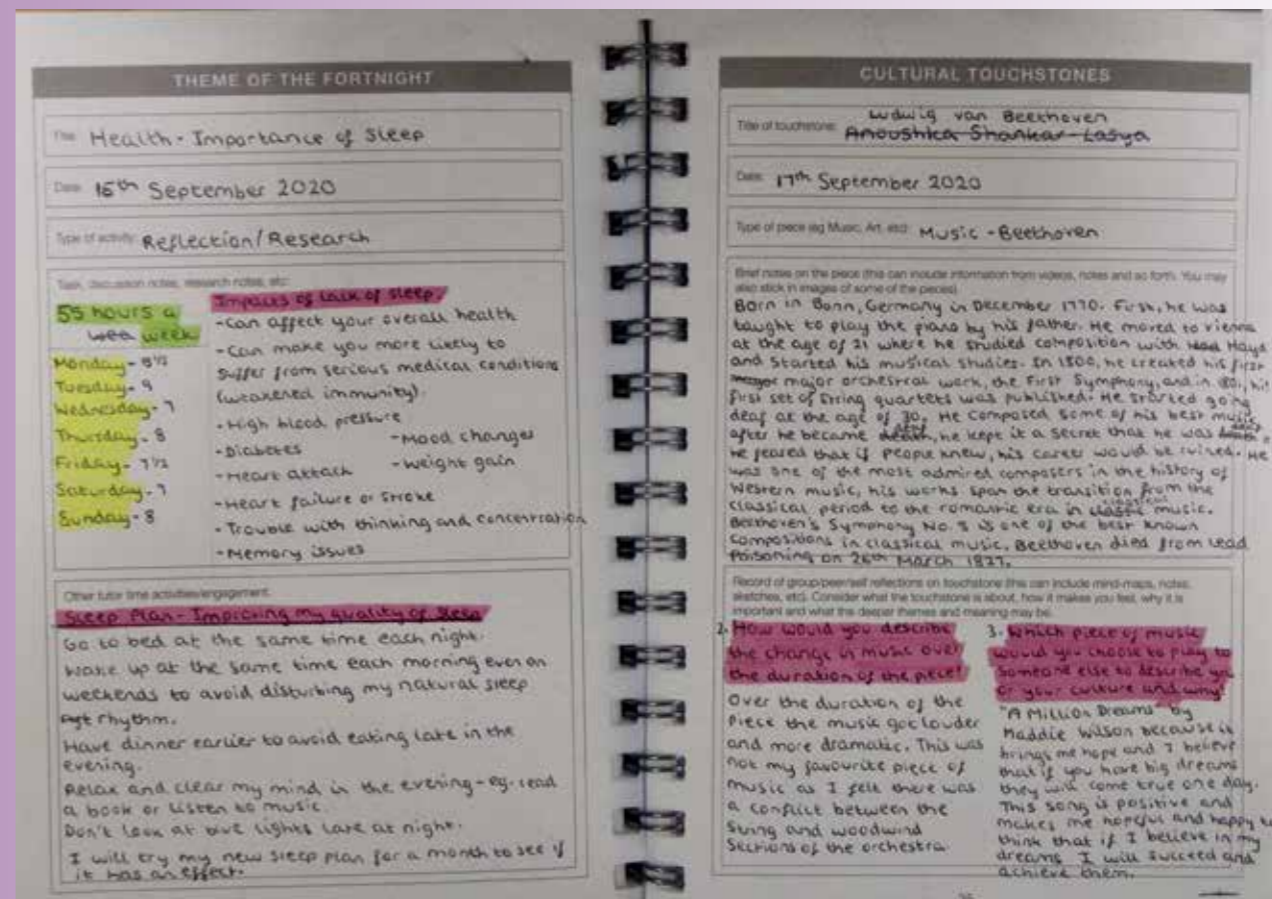
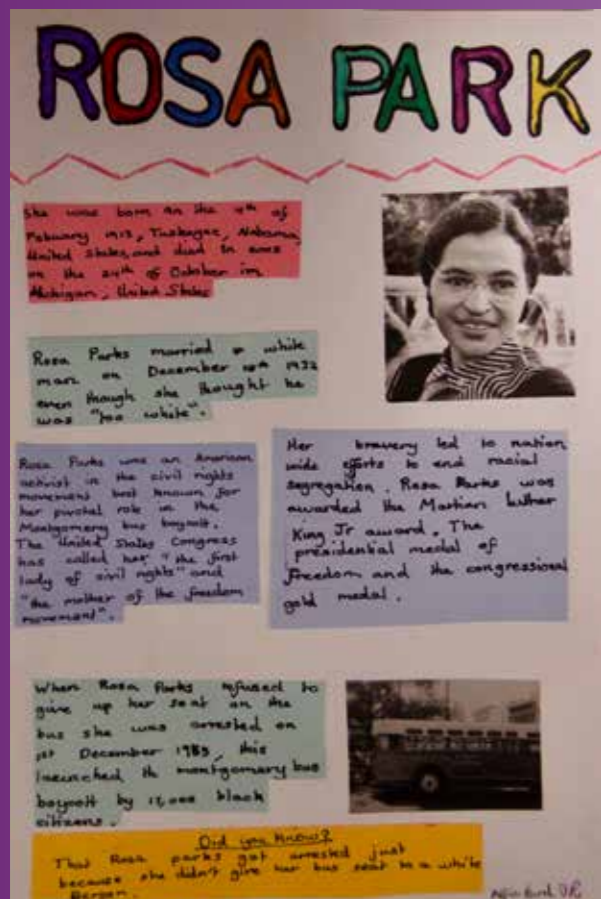
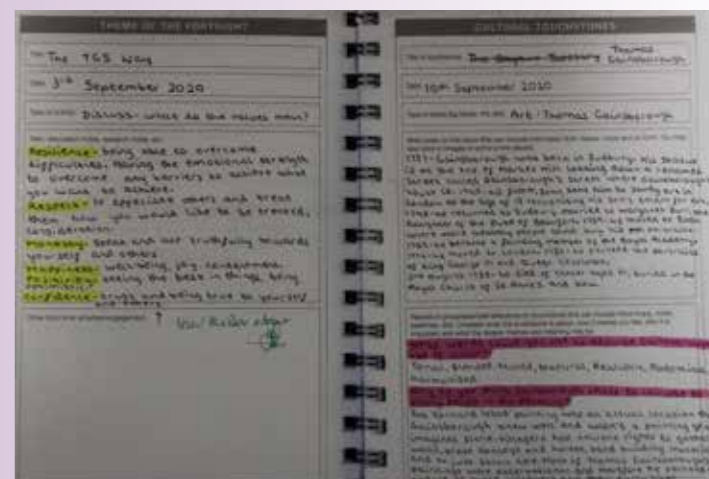
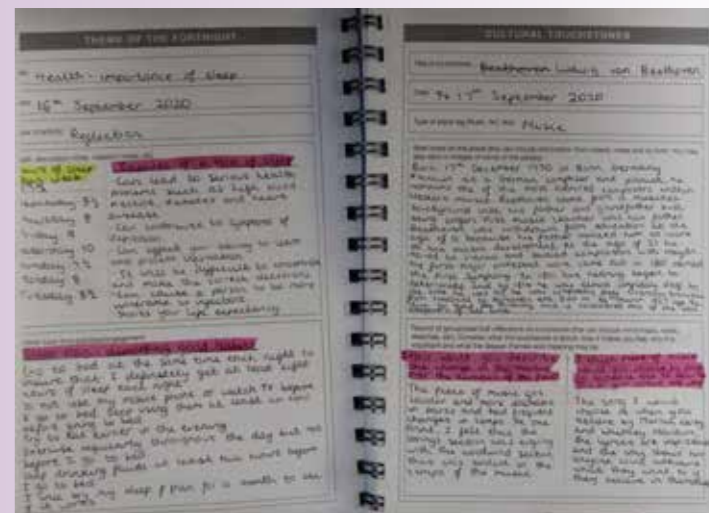
This has been a very difficult year for many local families due to the impact Covid continues to have on the country. With the arrival of the Festive Season more financial pressure has been put on people and as a School community we feel privileged to be able to support in a small way by helping the local food bank. Staff and students have been so generous with their donations to the Storehouse Foodbank which is based in Sudbury. We hope the contributions go a little way in helping those in need to celebrate Christmas.

THEME OF THE FORTNIGHT

Returning to school in September saw our PSHE programme return, Theme of the Fortnight. The purpose of Theme of the Fortnight is to broaden the education on offer to all our students, teaching them content not always stipulated by the government's national curriculum. We introduce a range of topics relevant to students on their transition into adulthood as well as including events or functions occurring in the wider world and strategies on how to improve mental or physical health and wellbeing. Theme of the Fortnight is underpinned by our Enrichment Days, which span the academic year also. After each holiday, we always resume with our Theme of the Fortnight: The TGS Way, which is where we started in September. This gives students the opportunity to reflect on their time away from school and share with their tutors and peers how they are upholding the TGS Values in the wider community. As a fellow Head of House, we love to hear about how students are merging school and home life together, and this frequently culminates to a Head of House Value Award being awarded. We have also covered our first health and wellbeing topic of the year, The Importance of Sleep. This was designed to assist students settle into the routine of school once more after an extended period

away from school due to lockdown and was very successfully received. Following on from our health and wellbeing topic came UK Parliament Week, which gave students an insight into how the TGS Student Parliament operates, but also what individuals can expect when they are of voting age. This was supported further by the sixth form lead Mock General Election, which provided students with an experience of what it is like to vote. The TGS Way was the immediate focus after half term, and then Remembrance last week which is always an emotional time for staff and students alike. We are currently studying Friendship & Bullying, looking at how vital good friendships are, leading on to Appreciation in the run up to Christmas. This year, we have included pages in every planner so that students can record their Theme of the Fortnight work. They are found at the end of each two-week cycle. Please share your exemplary work with Miss Alston, as she awards merits for outstanding work, as well as requiring copies of your work to be displayed on the Theme of the Fortnight notice board located on the second floor. Exemplary work has been included, and remember, please share your exemplary work to receive awards next term.

	Week Beginning	TOTF
Autumn 1	01.09.2020	The TGS Way - School Values
	07.09.2020	The TGS Way - Resilience
	14.09.2020	Promoting Health - The Importance of Sleep
	21.09.2020	Promoting Health - The Importance of Sleep
	28.09.2020	Black History
	05.10.2020	Black History
	12.10.2020	UK Parliament Week
Autumn 2	19.10.2020	UK Parliament Week
	02.11.2020	The TGS Way - British Values
	09.11.2020	Remembrance
	16.11.2020	Remembrance
	23.11.2020	Friendships & Bullying
	30.11.2020	Friendships & Bullying
	07.12.2020	Appreciation
Spring 1	14.12.2020	Appreciation
	04.01.2021	The TGS Way - Honesty
	11.01.2021	The TGS Way - Respect
	18.01.2021	E-Safety
	25.01.2021	E-Safety
	01.02.2021	Your Ambition, Your Future
	08.02.2021	Your Ambition, Your Future
Spring 2	15.02.2021	The TGS Way - Happiness
	22.02.2021	The TGS Way - Happiness
	01.03.2021	Escape Through The Pages
	08.03.2021	Escape Through The Pages
	15.03.2021	Celebrating British Science
	22.03.2021	Celebrating British Science
Summer 1	29.03.2021	The TGS Way - Positivity
	05.04.2021	The TGS Way - Confidence
	12.04.2021	The TGS Way - Confidence
	19.04.2021	Mental Health Awareness
	26.04.2021	Mental Health Awareness
	03.05.2021	Mental Health Awareness
	10.05.2021	Modern Issues - Youth Concerns
Summer 2	17.05.2021	Managing Your Money
	24.05.2021	Managing Your Money
	31.05.2021	The TGS Way - Engagement
	07.06.2021	The TGS Way - Engagement
	14.06.2021	Celebrating Cultures
	21.06.2021	Celebrating Cultures
	28.06.2021	Olympics
Summer 2	05.07.2021	Olympics
	12.07.2021	Goal Setting



FINDING THE BEAUTY IN MICROSCOPIC STRUCTURES WITH

The Protein Art Project

Thomas Gainsborough Schools Protein Art exhibition

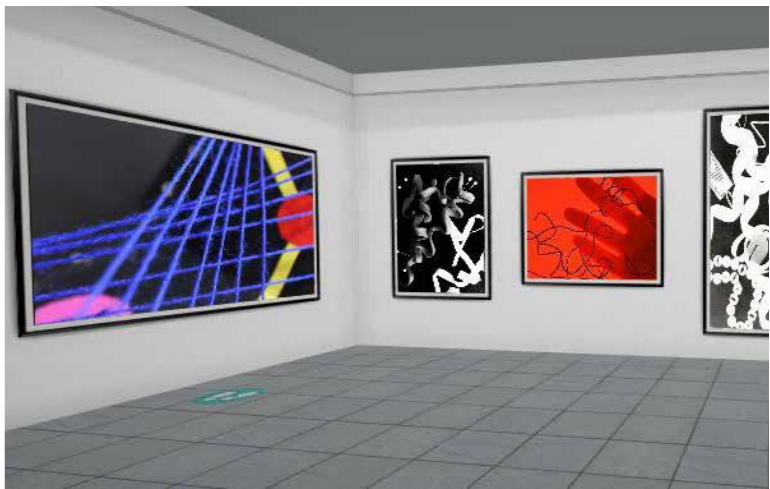
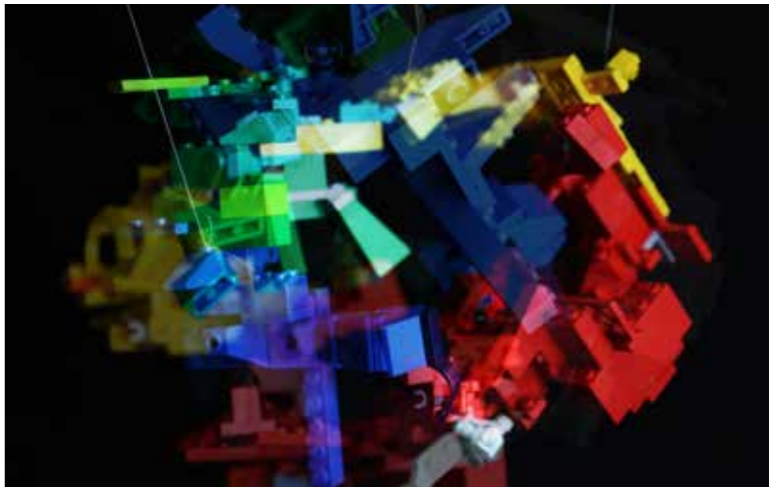
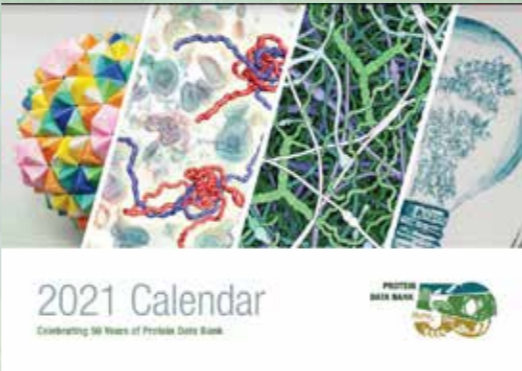
Students from key stage three through to Year 13 have been exhibited in a collaborative art exhibition exploring the beauty of protein structures, in collaboration with a world leading science institute.

The Protein Databank of Europe, part of the Wellcome Trust, along with the laboratory of molecular biology in Cambridge catalogue one third of the proteins mapped in different species from across the world and add them to a vast data bank which is free for the public to view. Each year they run an art project using the proteins as the stimulus for pieces of art in different media, and publish a calendar featuring the work which is seen across the globe in different research groups. This year, TGS has taken part for the first time and has been prominently exhibited in the virtual exhibition, and a piece by Charlie Coot (Year 9) being selected for the calendar.

The exhibition was officially opened to the public on the 4th of December, and features work from various schools in Cambridge and other areas, with TGS becoming the first representative from

Suffolk. The project began last autumn, with a visit for some of the students involved to the laboratory of molecular biology on the Addenbrooke's site in Cambridge and a tour of the labs, including a look at the large electron microscope used to view the samples. This was followed by sessions by the science team led by Mr Cameron, and then a sequence of lessons in art to develop responses. The media used by the students ranged from acrylic on canvas to wire modelling, to backlit wax sculpture, assemblages in lego and chemical photography.

We are extremely proud of the way that the students have engaged with this project, and have been complimented on their work by the Protein data bank and the other schools involved. This year's entries will begin before Christmas, and we are sure that the outcomes will again be outstanding.



Year 7 VOLCANOES



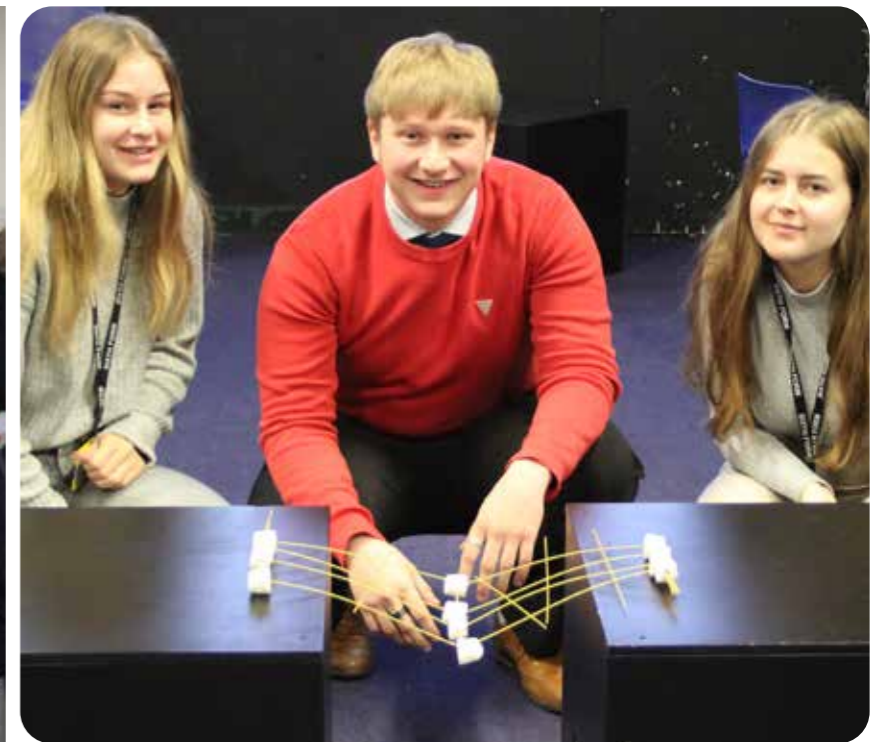
PHILOSOPHY

In Year 7 Religion, Philosophy and Ethics we have been learning about the reasons why people believe in God. The students were given a challenge of designing a poster to answer the questions “Did God design the world.”

Here are some great examples of the beautiful work the students produced.



ENRICHMENT *Day's*



On the 2nd December we had the second of our Enrichment Days and this one was for Key Stage Three students only.

Students in Year 7 studied skills and qualities through an online bespoke virtual tutorial. This session guided them through the key aspects needed for certain career paths and helped them to understand their own strengths and weaknesses. They also looked at emotional health and how to understand their own thoughts and feelings as well as how to recognise positive relationships and address stereotypes.

Students in Year 8 has their eyes opened to the world of financial security through budgeting and the risks of gambling. They were also introduced to StartProfile, an online resource that allows students to identify their skills and qualities ready for the numerous career paths ahead of them. Students also focussed on puberty, friendships and bullying.

Students in Year 9 had quite an intense day. They looked at County Lines and were made aware of the risks and dangers of getting involved and were also made aware of the 'signs' that may indicate people are involved and what to do about it. They went on to study the effects of alcohol and the impact of addiction before being visited by the school nurses to focus on contraception and STIs.

Feedback from staff has been overwhelmingly positive about the maturity of the students in all year groups and how well they engaged in class discussion tasks set.

We look forward to planning our next Enrichment Day on 10th February 2021 for all year groups.



On November 5th we launched the first of our Enrichment Days for this academic year. These days are detimetable so students do not follow their usual lessons but are fully engaged in topics that will prepare them as they grow and mature in their time at TGS and into adulthood.

Students in Year 7 were fully focussed on topics from the 'Living in the Wider World' curriculum. They explored skills for the world of work, looked at TGS Values and Diversity in the world around us and were introduced to an online careers platform called 'Start Profile' which aims to help them understand their skills and qualities and their strengths and weaknesses in order to look at possible career options for the future.

Students in Year 8 also grasped the values of diversity but their other two lessons focussed on the 'Mental Health and Wellbeing' curriculum. They looked at managing emotions and identifying

signs of poor mental health along with the impact of social media on mental health and developing digital resilience.

Students in Year 9 experienced a varied day. They tackled inclusion and extremism before looking at ways to look after their emotional wellbeing, followed by 'consent' from within the 'Intimate and Sexual Relationships' curriculum.

Students in Year 10 also took part in a range of topics from looking at challenges as they move through adolescence from the 'Mental Health and Wellbeing' curriculum to the laws, risks and implications surrounding drugs and alcohol. They were also taught interviews skills and techniques to prepare them for Sixth Form, college and apprenticeships applications in the future. We were really fortunate this opportunity was still able to run virtually and would really like to thank all the local employers who got involved to support our students' development. It must

not go without mention how impressed the employers were of our students' mature approach.

Students in Year 11 experienced a day that will really support them over the next couple of years. They focussed on elements of the 'Drugs and Alcohol' curriculum and looked at stress busting in preparation for their mocks and exams in the summer. They also spent time with the nurses who taught them about the importance of both contraception and consent. Once again, the nurses were really impressed with our students' maturity and response to the sensitive topics.

Overall, the day was very successful with high standards of work produced followed by lots of positive feedback from students and staff alike.

HEAD BOY & HEAD GIRL

Since being elected Head Boy and Head Girl in March, we have implemented many positive changes, working closely with the Sixth Form and, more recently, lower school parliament and committees.

Our Sixth Form Community Committee has begun work on the Eco Schools project, starting the planning process and beginning the environmental review. This is being implemented through assessing the current environmental state of TGS and creating an environmental plan based upon this data. We are adhering to Covid-19 guidelines by planning to carry out these reviews and meetings in small 'bubbles', when it is safe to do so. We are hoping that we will be able to complete as much of this project as possible throughout these strange circumstances by adapting to the challenges faced. The steps that we are taking now will ultimately gain the school the Eco Award, showing the improved environmental sustainability of TGS and the local community. Additionally, there have been proposals for a vegetable garden to begin work very soon, with links being made with the community on how this can be sustained and tied in with local groups. Please contact Miss Hilson for any further information on this or any ways in which you can be involved with this exciting project. Or visit the Eco Schools website <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/> for more information.

Following feedback from parents, guardians, carers and students, our academic committee have proposed taster sessions for Years 10 and 11, to ease the transition period between the lower school and the Sixth Form. This would be both teacher and student led, giving two unique perspectives on subjects, further creating a comfortable environment for GCSE students to be welcomed into our Sixth Form. Furthermore, the academic guide is being finished and will be shared soon, giving the voice of our students to everyone wanting to join TGS sixth form.

We soon hope to begin talks between Sixth Form committees and lower school committees to increase the interconnectedness between our committees. This will allow us to create whole school events (Covid-19 permitting), and raise the profile of TGS throughout the community for all the excellent work put in by everyone. As always, please contact us if you have any questions or concerns, and we will do our best to help you as best as we can.

Congratulations to everyone within the TGS for having an amazing start to this year. Your perseverance and positivity are always inspiring! We wish everyone a merry and safe Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Milly Wingate and George Dunn



UEA University of East Anglia

VIRTUAL LITERATURE WORKSHOP WITH UEA

Literature students in Years 12 and 13 participated in an online workshop on Thursday 26th November. The session was led by Dr David Nowell-Smith of UEA, Senior Lecturer of the School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing. The focus of the workshop was to present and explore a method for responding to previously unseen texts, something that constitutes a significant component of our Literature students' final exams. The doctor's approach was to focus on 'big picture' elements first, like form and structure, before moving on to diction, recurring images and motifs and finally very specific examples of vocabulary. It was positive to see that this reinforced our approach to teaching these skills in our own lessons and insightful to listen to some of the doctor's specific views of these technical elements.

The text used in the session was an interesting choice. It was 'American Sonnet for My Past and Future Assassin' by Terrance Hayes, published as part of a collection that was written during the first one hundred and fifty days of the Trump administration. Offering some striking imagery, loaded with contemporary contextual relevance and some brutal language choices, it was an ideal way to test analytical skills and provide a taste of potential, early challenges studying Literature at university. This kind of experience can be very valuable and we intend to take further opportunities to engage with the subject at degree level as the opportunities arise.



The last weeks and months have seen the US Presidential Election, conflict between state officials and pro-democracy protestors in Hong Kong, as well as an enormous surge of political outcry in the wake of events in Minneapolis USA. In the UK, political decision-making in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic continues to govern our daily lives, and trade negotiations with the EU have reached their final weeks. Politics has never been more important.

“Just because you do not take an interest in politics, doesn’t mean politics won’t take an interest in you.” – attributed to Pericles, 5th century BC.

This week TGS held its very own democratic process - a Mock General Election. Sixth Form students created four ‘party political broadcasts’, as representatives of the four main English political parties and launched a competitive poster campaign. The videos were shown to every form group, and every student was given the chance to vote.

Instead of the usual ‘cross in a box’, this election used a system of preferential ranking, such that the result could be counted under three very different electoral systems:

The UK uses a pluralist system - called ‘First Past the Post’ - the candidate with the most votes wins the seat, and the party with the most seats forms the

government. When electing the London Mayor, however, we use a majoritarian system called ‘Supplementary Vote’, where voters list a first (1) and second (2) preference. This system ensures that the candidate elected has a majority (50%), which often isn’t the case under FPTP. Lastly, a complex system called ‘Single Transferable Vote’, used in Malta and elections for the NI Assembly. Voters rank candidates 1-5 in order of preference, and an unique vote quota is calculated, such that the resulting ratio between votes and seats is proportional.

Counting is well underway and we can confirm that one party has won under both FPTP and SV. We hope the experience has not only encouraged political engagement and debate, but also provided the voters of the future with a greater understanding of the tools of change.

With thanks to;

Charlie Wilson, Poppy Curran, Fergus Dark, Nadja Bearn, Lucas Gold, Ella Morcombe and Alex Quinn



To support Men's mental Health month these band of merry men grew their facial hair. They raised a total of £51.80 for Movember a charity aimed at raising awareness of Prostate and Testicular Cancer as well as mental health and suicide prevention.

Thank you to all those who donated to such a worthy cause.





This half term started with the Mock Interviews for Year 10s, which due to Covid 19 were carried out virtually this year during our enrichment day on the 5th November. 158 students took part, shared between 20 employers, each spending at least 10 minutes in their interview. Although students were nervous, we had very positive feedback from the employers who all said they were very impressed with the majority of students they saw.



Unfortunately due to some employers having to cancel and some students unwell or isolating, 114 students were unable to conduct their interview in November, therefore will be invited back during the next enrichment day (10th February 2021). We feel it is important all students have this opportunity to practise their interview skills before they apply for their first job. Feedback received from employers will help them grow in confidence and where necessary, focus on areas where they need to improve.

A number of Year 10 and 11 students have arranged one-to-one sessions with me to talk about their options after GCSEs. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, we were forced to cancel our "Progression Fair" in October. However, West Suffolk College arranged lunch time sessions to answer any questions students had and videos and information about alternative options were shared with students via email at the beginning of October. If Year 11 students or parents have any further questions about Sixth Form and college options please email Mrs Osborne.

We are delighted to announce that 13 students in the Sixth Form, interested in pursuing a career in medicine, will be starting a 6 week workshop with West Suffolk Hospital in January. This programme will introduce them to a number of different professions such as midwifery, paramedics, speech and language therapists as well as give them a general introduction to the NHS and what it can offer them. We have also had a physiotherapist from West Suffolk Hospital talk to our Sixth Form BTEC students studying Forensic Investigation during lesson time which was a great opportunity for them to gain from her knowledge and learn more about her profession.

Sixth Form students have also enjoyed listening to Professor Tin Minshall (Professor of Innovation and Head of the Institute for Manufacturing) who is part of the Speakers for Schools programme that enables students to listen and learn from a number of inspiring individuals.

The Careers Department wishes you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and look forward to a time in 2021 when we can get work experience up and running again along with employer visits and engagements.

TGS CHARITIES

One good deed can change everything

Abbas Autism Anglia

Provides care and support to autistic children, adults, and their families in East Anglia.



Chamberlain Guide Dogs UK

Our ambition is a future where every person with sight loss has the confidence and support they need to live their lives to the full.



Houghton Save the Children

In the UK and around the world we make sure children are safe and healthy. We support them to learn, grow and become who they want to be.



Peyton Storehouse Food Bank

We give emergency food bags to local families and individuals in crisis through a referral system, partnering with a growing number of agencies in Sudbury and the surrounding areas.



Tollemache Dementia Cafe at the Bridge Project

Decaf is a free drop in groups that offers vital support to people with dementia and their carers. Come and see us, make new friends and enjoy tea and cake over games and conversation.



2020/21

SPRING TERM 2021

Tuesday 5 January - Friday 26 March 2021

Half term: Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February 2021

Non Pupil Days: Monday 4 January 2021

SUMMER TERM 2021

Monday 12 April - Tuesday 20 July 2021

Half term: Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June 2021

Non Pupil Days: Monday 19 July and Tues 20 July 2021



Stay Safe



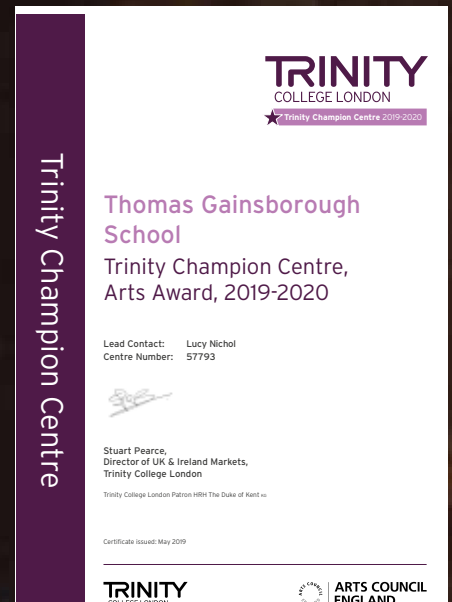
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If you would like to visit us it would be our pleasure to show you around. Please contact us on 01787 375232