PORTRAIT

Issue 49
December 23



Respect Resilience Honesty Positivity Happiness Confidence

Portrait December 2023

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Student Leadership

Head Students 2023/24



Emily Ward

Being an external student to TGS, I want to show all students that dedication and hard work lead to success, no matter where you come from. During the coming year, I would like to raise environmental awareness within the school. I believe that students learn best in a school where they feel safe and happy, so I aim to do my utmost to help students have the most positive academic experiences throughout their time at TGS.



Isabella Ludlow

My main goal is to ensure that everyone feels included and listened to not only in Sixth Form but also within lower school. We have an amazing community here at TGS and we should all be thankful to be surrounded by such amazing people. As a head student I will make sure that everyone gets a chance to make a change, no matter how big or small. And most importantly, I wish to spread happiness!



Chloe Forth

I aim to increase the sense of community at TGS, making sure every student has a helpful peer or mentor in the student body they feel comfortable talking to and asking for advice. As well as this, I'd like to make TGS an accessible environment as possible, both socially and physically within areas of the school by giving all students access to welcoming, positive spaces no matter their needs. I also want to emphasise that everyone has a voice at TGS, no matter their identity, and help to increase our awareness and acceptance of all members of our society. It is my goal to be able to say that, after leaving TGS, all students will not only have been enriched academically but will also have a greater understanding of diversity and inclusion which will help us all to be better, kinder people.



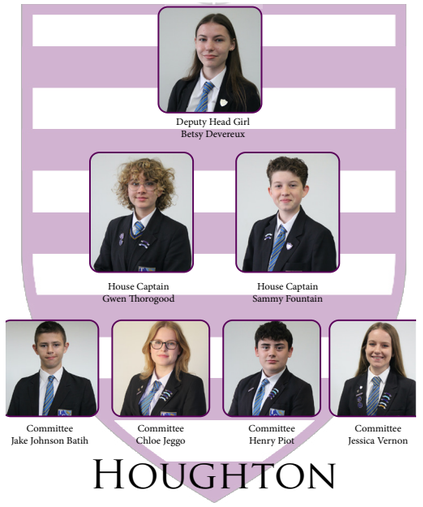
Shania Warren

I aim to ensure TGS is a place that directs ambition and fuels the drive of the students by creating a sense of community which allows support to be accessible to all, no matter their circumstances. I hope to increase the awareness of topics which are not universal experiences to greater the consideration of culture and social diversity whilst simultaneously supporting the members of our local community. With the support of my fellow Head Students, I hope TGS can further promote individualism and covet greatness by increasing the Sixth Form's exposure and expanding on great elements of our Sixth Form to not only improve the experience of our current students but also those of the future. Once I have left TGS to pursue my own future, I hope to be able to look back and not only be proud of the environment I'm leaving but to also have faith that the students that follow will have an experience as personalised as my own.

House Committees



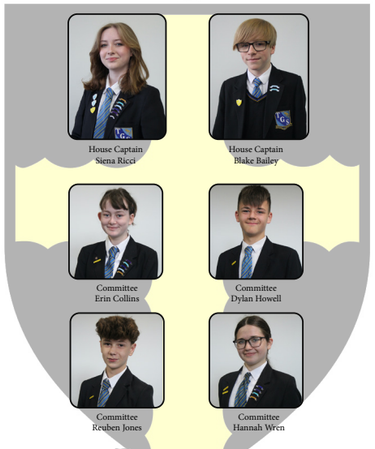
Abbas



Houghton



Chamberlain



Peyton



Tollemache



ABBAS

"Neither rashly nor timidly"

Means we should not rush into an action without pausing to consider the consequences but we must also act boldly in a subtle yet recognised way. As members of Abbas House, we always strive to guide and support our peers around us in a positive and encouraging manner.

Examples of how students in Abbas House will strive to conduct themselves are:

- Standing up for your principles and beliefs in an informed and calm manner
- Being a good friend and citizen
- Getting involved in both school life (competitions, charity work etc) and the wider community
- Have the conviction of character to make your own choices and decisions
- Treating others as you wish to be treated-with kindness and respect.

What a fantastic and resilient end to the first term! I have been delighted to witness so many Abbas students making the most of opportunities that the school offers - House competitions, extra-curricular and supporting our charity.

We have had the opportunity to have two celebration assemblies during this time. A great chance for the House to celebrate success and come together to support each other.

Values:

I am delighted to have received such a positive contribution from students getting noticed and being proud to share their successes and support within the community. All school values were nominated this term, please see below for those that received accolades. (There were many nominations this term which does make it difficult to choose!)

For Confidence; Charlie Clayton, Alex Davie, Mia Tatum, Kyla Dunnett, Charles Spencer Porter, Ollie Bradbury, Archie Bell

For Respect; Leo McLeish

For Honesty; Kimberley Woods

For Resilience; Alex Davie

I urge students to share what they are achieving outside of school so that we can recognise in school how amazing you are! Recent examples include:

Kyla Dunnett, who performs with Theatretrain tend to perform every Year at the Apex in Bury St. Edmunds- She had a solo in the last show and this was her first time singing in front of over 500 people. This year Theatretrains from all over the country and South Africa got together for a show that only comes up every couple of years - at The Royal Albert Hall! It was an amazing experience for Kyla.



Alex Davie - Alex's trophy as received from 3rd Sudbury Sea Scouts in recognition of his exemplary leadership skills.



He is the best patrol leader in the troop.



Archie Bell performed in the Bures Stage Society's production of Dick Whittington. He played two roles, The Ratling and the role of the Sultan's guards as pictured. He has learnt his lines, followed stage direction, helped with many aspects of the production and shown great commitment, and he has been noted as a real asset to the Society. Congratulations!

Lexie Ham passed her basic training with the Cadets early November, she has worked really hard to achieve this.



Competitions -We are still in need of more Abbas students putting themselves forward for our amazing competitions. Every entry is acknowledged. We have, however, had great success with; House Winner - Millie Lee with How Science Works, Overall Winner, Oliver Miller with European Bake Off and Overall Winner, Rosie Turner with Woodland Sculpture. Incredible!

Badges Please see those listed below in recognition for their amazing achievement and success in our most recent Celebration Assembly. The TGS Way celebrates the success of the whole person. I am very proud of those that have achieved the following.

Sport - Jack Hearnden, Ellen Smiles

Commitment to Learning -Maisie Stocker, Dillan Daultry, Milo Brown

Community - Maisie Stocker

Creativity - Faith Byford, Daniel Shields,

Oliver Miller (All 5!)

Head of House Tutee Award

Ava has demonstrated our school values consistently, especially resilience and positivity. She is someone that embraces school-life, from sport to academic - totally captivating the TGS Way. Her thirst to achieve and get involved was evident right at the start of the TGS journey, this accelerated with an outstanding merit achievement and security of the half ribbons including head-teacher commendation.

Merits: Currently at time of writing there are over over 80 students within the House that have achieved 100 merits or more. This is more than this time last year which is amazing!

Our current top 10 are: Leo McLeish, Freya Byford, Rosie Turner, Toby Rendall, Callie Bradbury, Millicent Strolenberg, Hariot Fitzpatrick, Evie Richardson, Forrest Mackay-Morris and Max Wulff.

Charity

We raised money for the Eden Project in Sudbury by organising a raffle for a Halloween hamper! Inside there was a mixed variety, from sweets to a Halloween mask. We raised £113. We wanted to support Eden's in the best way we could, as the youth club itself, is catered towards our age range here at TGS.

Regan Foy - Abbas Charity Champion.

Year 11

Mock examinations fast approach and we have provided target activities in the Abbas House Decide, Commit, Succeed Google Classroom. Use the time wisely over the Christmas break to get a balance of revising and downtime. Get organised with your time and make the most of the support in place. Plan it, own it, do it - get the revision workout up and running!

House Captains Message

Well what a term it's been for Abbas House! There's been such an array of clubs, competitions and other exciting opportunities to take part in this term as I know you all have, and you have all achieved so much for your House. Let's see if all of our hard work pays off in the end of term assembly where we hope to see the red ribbons. I hope you enjoy a well deserved Christmas break. Matt Fairbairn

I am really pleased to say that this first term settling back into school has been fantastic. We have seen huge numbers of student participation in clubs and our prized competitions. It's been a joy to be able to have the opportunity to speak up in assembly and present some vital things based on school life and our charity of the year, Edens project. Also a big well done to fellow Year 11s who have undergone mocks and countless tests to keep preparing us for the exam based year. Merry Christmas everyone. Kaitlyn Anderson

Wishing students, families and our school community a restful Christmas break and a Happy New Year! Mr Oliver



Chamberlain

"To do good, rather than be conspicuous"

Be proud to go above and beyond what is expected of you. Be recognised by your hard work and talent, avoiding negative attention.

Examples:

- Winning House competitions as opposed to merely entering them.
- Consistently meeting the expectations of the school and achieving merits.
- Participating in charity events, Open Evenings etc all whilst displaying impeccable manners.
- Not being afraid to collect awards on the stage.

… And in the blink of an eye, another Christmas break approaches fast and the first term of the year draws to a close. We have had such a prosperous term. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to all of you that have become involved within the school community and represented our house; whether that be via entering a competition or ensuring the school values are upheld out of school and being nominated for a Head of House Values Award. So far this term I have conducted not one, but two, mini celebration assemblies to share our ever-growing stories of success.

At the start of November we had our second Celebration Assembly, to celebrate the success of the students within the house. We had 17 students reach over 100 Merits! Well done to all of you!

Along with merit awards we also celebrated the following students and their success to achieving their badges:

Sport badge: Taylor-Jack Knight and Alesha Andrich

Community badge: Brooke Coffey and Lexi Smith

Creativity badge : Jasmine Griggs, Tallulah-Mae Morris and Emily Campbell

Bronze award - Tallulah-Mae Morris and Henry Bugg

Do not forget to keep working towards your badges - Creativity, Commitment to Learning, Sport, Employability and Community. If you would like help to achieve these badges please speak to your tutor or me - I am more than happy to help you all.

The following students have been recognised for demonstrating the school values this term so far-

Winry Bloomfield - Respect

Winry Bloomfield - Resilience

Rowena Petty - Confidence

Miley Gardiner - Confidence

Manny Haynes - Confidence

Lewis Crawford - Resilience

Belle Bush - Confidence

Well done to all of these students for working hard and making a difference to our school community. There have already been so many value nominations from tutors this term. Please don't forget to let your tutors know what you get up to outside of school. Whether you volunteer or achieve a sporting accolade.

We also have some competition winners within the House -

Woodland Sculpture - Ivan De La Rey

European Bake-Off - Winry Bloomfield and Matthew Dix

How Science Works - Beau Oakley

History Competition - Sophie Brown O'Shea

Our Year 7's, who do not feel so new now, have settled in well to Thomas Gainsborough School life, and our Year 9's are just beginning their journey and after Christmas will be thinking about selecting their GCSE options, which I hope form many a conversation over your upcoming holiday. One piece of advice that I would like to offer is ensure you have chosen the subjects you enjoy! I understand the temptation to select a subject because friends are, however your next two years of education will hinge on your decisions, so please ensure you pick what is right for you.

I love this time of year with the excitement of Christmas and the buzz around school. We have had some fun days over the last week with the Christmas Fayre, raising money for our House charity UNICEF and Christmas jumper day……..



At this moment in time, I do not know which house will be awarded the Chelsworth Cup however, what I do know is that we have represented ourselves with pride. In the New Year, we will focus on undertaking charity events to try and win the Charity Cup at the end of the year, so watch this space for more details.

Thanks once more for all that you contribute towards Chamberlain House.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a super successful New Year.

Mrs Jukes



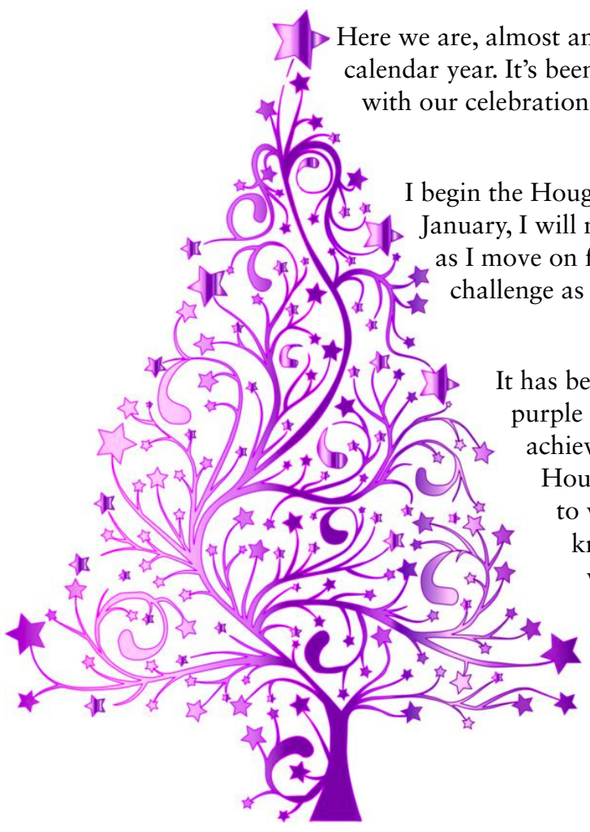
Houghton

"Honour is the Reward of Valour"

"This means that there is benefit in working with and supporting anyone, however challenging the circumstances might be and whether anyone notices or not."

Examples:

- Give up time to support charity events because it is the right thing to do, not because there is any benefit to you personally.
- Offer to help a teacher or member of staff with an Open Evening event as a guide or ambassador because you are proud of your school and want others to know and benefit from it.
- Take responsibility for something even though you are scared/nervous and taken out of your comfort zone.



Here we are, almost another term passed and the end of a calendar year. It's been a busy term and finishing in style with our celebrations in school. New Beginnings:

I begin the Houghton article with the news that from January, I will no longer be the Head of Houghton as I move on from my role and begin a new challenge as Assistant Head at TGS.

It has been a wonderful few years flying the purple flag for Houghton, celebrating the achievement and success of students in the House. I am delighted to have led you to winning the Chelsworth Cup and I know your new Head of Houghton will continue to take you all from strength to strength. I will look forward to watching your success at school.

Since the October half term, there have been many more students reaching this threshold meaning we will be inundated with certificates in our next celebration assembly in January.

We also awarded the following students their half ribbon badges:

Sport - Brody Brooksbank

Community - Eliza Edgeley

Creativity - Nathan Byfield, Brody Brooksbank, Eliza Edgeley, Octavia Ryland, James Gipp

Employability - Billy Dodd, Calum Fairey, Thomas Green

Commitment to Learning - Jasper Young, Oscar Hockley-Castle, Billy Dodd, Will Oliver

TGS Way Values badges were awarded to:

Bronze - Calum Fairey, Digby Thorogood

Silver - Betsie Boon, Scott Carr

Gold - Caz Riceman

TGS 50 badge was also awarded to Emily Harding Payne

I know many of you will have submitted your evidence for badges and I am sure we will have lots more to award in January along with plenty of bronze and even some silver merit certificates.

House Competition Winners

Thank you to all of those students who have submitted entries to our school competitions. All entries are recognised and help contribute towards the Chelsworth Cup.

I'd particularly like to recognise the following students for their winning House entries:

Milly Ryall - European Cake

Brianna Perez, Saffron Cowlin & Jessica Vernon - Languages

Max Green - Wooden Sculpture

Hope Weavers - How Science works

Ben Allard - History

Keep looking out for new competitions next term to enter!

Christmas Fayre

Thank you for your support for the Christmas Fayre chocolate tombola and I look forward to finding out how much we raised for our House Charity, Suffolk Young Carers. Here are a few pictures of the fayre and thank you so much for donations and the support of students and tutors in preparing for the event.



I wish you all a very happy holiday and hope, however you celebrate, that you also find time to relax and enjoy time with family and friends. It has been an absolute pleasure to have been the Head of Houghton and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Peyton

"We persevere, we enjoy"

- We never give up and we enjoy the pursuit of excellence.
- We expect our students to keep trying, even when things get difficult; to overcome challenges by never giving up and to keep a smile on your face, even when things are tough.
- We know things won't always go the way we want them to but we will always work hard and enjoy the challenges we face.

A busy few weeks for the students of Peyton House have seen us run our 'Sweet Pong' charity event for Spaniel Aid and prepare for our annual Christmas Fayre.

The Peyton Committee staffed the 'Sweet Pong' event all week and raised a very respectable £85.00. Huge thanks go to Sienna, Blake, George, Josh, Cory, Dylan, Reuben, Magnus, Evie, Kuba, Sarah and Hannah for all their help and enthusiasm setting up and staffing the event. Thanks also to Mr Chiang, our Peyton house Patron, who kindly sponsored £20 worth of entry tickets that were randomly awarded in one of our recent assemblies meaning 40 more Peyton pupils had a go at winning the sweets!







The same committee members have been busy preparing for this year's Christmas Fayre. This annual event was originally a Peyton event that has now grown to be a whole school fundraiser. Peyton has lots planned including; Sweet bags (supported by 'Dinky Treats'); Santa Hats, Snowman Soup and Santa's Spaniels. Again, huge thanks have to go to all my committee members but a special thank you needs to go to 'Team Wren' (Hannah and Mum!) who have been amazing by supplying a vast number of snowmen for the soup! I am sure the event will have been a huge success by the time you read this.



We have had some real achievements by Peyton students recently too, demonstrating the values we try to instil in our community here at TGS. Imogen Barry has shown confidence by sparing in the Sudbury Home Show in front of an audience with Sudbury Boxing Club; Freya Price has been volunteering at 'Tots to Teens', a clothing/toy/support bank for those in need. She says it has been really busy as Christmas is coming up; Laila McNeill recently came 9th out of 100 in cross-country in Gosfield; and Alfie Lax took part in a Junior Triathlon with National level participants, gaining Bronze in the individual and 1st in his team.

A huge well done to you all, keep it up!

Have a great Christmas break and I wish you and your family a Happy New Year.

Mr Ponsford





TOLLEMACHE

"I trust and am contented"

Trust the verb means;

To hope and expect something is true.
To have confidence in something or believe in someone.

The adjective contented means;

A feeling of expressing happiness or satisfaction.

Examples of how students in Tollemache House will conduct themselves are:

- Having complete trust in your parents/guardians and teachers and listening carefully to their guidance.
- Having faith in your friendships and building relationships based on solid trust.
- Learning to equip yourself with the skills you need so you can live your life contented.

I would like to start by saying a massive thank you to everyone involved in Tollemache. The

students and form tutors have really got involved in everything TGS has had to offer since returning in September.

It was great to see so many students in our House being rewarded for all of their hard work and dedication in our recent celebration assembly, from competition entries, subject ambassadors, ribbons and of course our merit awards. Positivity and hard work seem to be at the centre of everything the students have been doing in Tollemache.

Well done to the following students who have made a great start to the academic year:

- Taylor-Rose Waterson (CHF) 170 merits
- Ned James (JPA) 166 merits
- Sky Wright (LHN) 161 merits
- Madison Jackson (MWA) 146 merits

We also had lots of students achieving their badges.

SPORT

Laurence Heath, Millie Killingbeck

CREATIVITY

Ruby Eves, Amelie Baker, Hannah Tonkins

EMPLOYABILITY

Meadow Brown

COMMITMENT TO LEARNING

Rebecca Walder, India Fance, Lacey Wade

Bo Rulton, Martha Oakes, Millie Killingbeck

BRONZE PIP -Ruby Eves

SILVER PIP - Josh Nicholls, Eadlin Wood

We are always going above and beyond in Tollemache to enter competitions which is brilliant and helps towards the winning of the Chelsworth Cup.

The following students got involved and were the top performers in our House.

- How science works: Ned James
- EDL Bake Off: Alex Morris
- History Event: Alex Szabo
- Woodland Sculpture: Jacob Hibberd

In the battle of the tutor groups in Tollemache it is a 2-horse race between EHO and LHN with only 10 points being the difference. Who will win the tutor group of the year award in January??? Could it be MWA, JPA or CHF that make up the ground and come from behind to take the crown!!

It is always nice to hear from our committee in the Portrait so here are a few words from our House captains Dan Cook and Naomi Clarke.

As Tollemache's House captains, we represent the House along with our other amazing committee members; through promoting competitions and charity events and speaking in assemblies. This promotion informs the Tollemache students about the goings on within the House, and encourages them to get involved, giving us a better chance as a committee to reach our overall goal of winning more trophies and ultimately The Chelsworth Cup this year.

As mentioned above, our committee's goal this year is to win more trophies and especially The Chelsworth Cup. We plan to do this by promoting new competitions and encouraging students to participate and gain merits which is what has let us down in the past on the road to winning the Chelsworth Cup. But not only that, we also would love to win the charity cup this year as well, to achieve this we as a House have already done 2 charity events so far this year, both of which have been really well supported by our students (so a special thank you to them) and there are plans to have a few more later in the year.

We want to thank all of our students so much for all your hard work thus far this year and we hope that this support will continue throughout the rest of the year as we try to claim the trophy.

Charity is something that Tollemache hold close to their hearts and have always got involved in. This year as you know we are supporting the My WiSH charity, who enhance the wonderful care you, your family, friends and loved ones receive at West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust. We are lucky to have Bella Frewin in our House, she has been appointed the person in charge of organising and running charity events in our House. Bella has put together some information regarding charity so far this year below.

So far Tollemache have raised a grand total of £490.42, this has been achieved by running two separate events. During October we sold squares for £1 each and the winner won a good quality football, this quickly raised £67.60. Our second charity event was Movember Madness the moustaches flew out the box raising a staggering £422.82 in just one week, raising money for the My wish charity and was lots of fun! You all looked so good in your moustaches, thank you so much to students and teachers for getting involved



Please keep up this amazing start and continue to WORK HARD, GET INVOLVED and BE PROUD.

Happy Christmas everyone!

TGS CHARITIES

One good deed can change everything

Abbas
Eden's Project

Eden's Project is a youthwork charity that supports ALL young people and helps them achieve their true potential, through mentoring, support and providing positive opportunities. They provide a safe an enjoyable youth centre with activities for young people, an alternative to hanging around on the streets and the dangers that can go along with this. Trained youth workers are available to offer support and guidance at our sessions and they are supported by a strong team of volunteers.

Chamberlain
Unicef

UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence. And we never give up. Every child has the right to grow up in a safe and inclusive environment, to survive & thrive, to learn and to an equitable chance in life.

Houghton
Suffolk Young Carers

Caring for a family member isn't always 'doing something' to help. The impact of caring for someone can often lead to young people being scared, angry or worried about the person and about what is happening now and what could happen in the future.For over 30 years Suffolk Family Carers have been helping family carers of all ages across Suffolk get the support they need to live fuller lives. We provided information, advice and support to thousands of family carers each year.

Peyton
Spaniel Aid UK

In October 2016, we became a UK Registered Charity here for the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of dogs namely but not exclusively spaniels, who are abandoned, stray or otherwise in need of care and attention. We provide and assist in the provision of rescuing, rehoming and fostering of these dogs and treat and care for them where necessary.

Tollemache
My Wish

My WiSH Charity serves the patients of the West Suffolk Hospital, Newmarket Community Hospital and community services in Suffolk. NHS care is second to none, however, its budget is not limitless. With your help, we can support all their services enabling their wonderful staff to go that extra mile.

Sixth Form
The Bridge Project

The Bridge Project was set up in 1995 as a local charity, to assist disadvantaged adults within the community. To this day, we are dedicated to providing a safe, nurturing environment to support those living with dementia, learning disabilities and those experiencing mental health issues. Through our meaningful work, we create opportunities for personal development and building friendships.

2023/24

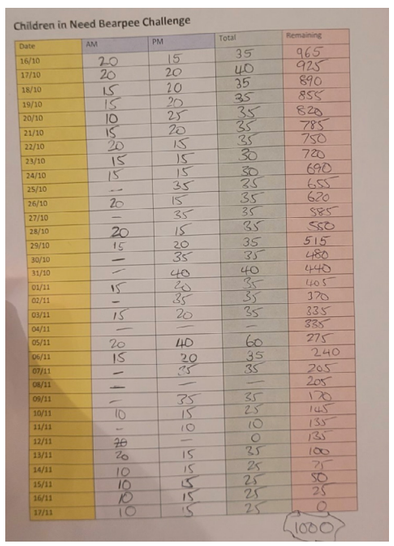
Charity At Tgs

Children in Need Bearpee Challenge



Winry in Year 7 took on the Children in Need BEARpee challenge. She was determined to complete 1000 Burpees between the 16th of October and 17th of November 2023.

You can see her progress here, she completed an impressive 60 burpees in one day! So far she has raised over £200. If you wish to donate you can by going to her justgiving page here.



Braving the shave for MacMillan



You may remember from the last edition that two of our Year 12 students were 'Braving the Shave' for Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of Jake's Mum.

Jake lost his Mum in January, so wanted to do something to make her proud.

Jake and Freddie had their lovely locks shaved off in October and so far they have raised an amazing £3266 for Macmillan.

You can still make a donation by visiting their fundraising page.



Charity Events

Movember





Movember is an annual event involving the growing of moustaches during the month of November to raise awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's suicide.

Tollemache sold stick on moustaches during break and lunchtimes to raise awareness as well as raising over £420 for the charity.





World Aids Day



We sold red ribbons during break and lunchtimes to raise awareness and each Tutor group had a red ribbon to write messages on before tying onto Yibi's tree.





Yibi's Story

Yibi was an African street child who was born with HIV having contracted it from his mother, his mother passed away from AIDS and was discarded by grandparents living on the streets. "They didn't really want him because they were so frightened of AIDS and he was always ill"

He was placed into an orphanage, where he met the Reverend David Matthews and his wife Joan who brought Yibi back to Boxford and adopted him.

Yibi attended Great Cornard School when well enough and took over 40 pills a day.

"He was blind in one eye and only had 40% hearing but he kept smiling through his pain and was a really remarkable boy."

He passed away at age 16 in 2006 and his ashes were placed under the tree situated just outside the school main gate.

Normandy Trip





On Monday 16th October 50 Year 9 students eagerly gathered with their cases at TGS to await the arrival of our coach which took us to France, our first visit post-covid!

Students, alongside Mrs Frid, Miss Derry, Mrs Crawford, Mr Oliver and Mr Chiang, spent 5 days at La Grand' Ferme in a rural part of normandy in Northern France and during their stay they were immersed in the French language and culture. The animateurs (instructors) conducted every aspect of the week in French, including the initial welcome, the fire drill instructions, the activities, the timings and even mealtimes. If you wanted more bread, you had to ask in French!

Following a long day travelling on Monday, students spent Tuesday within the grounds of la grand' ferme. After a traditional French breakfast of bread, croissants, pain au chocolat and chocolat chaud, they had fun completing activities such as bread-making, a scavenger hunt and aéroballe (basketball on trampolines) - really good fun and a very good workout!

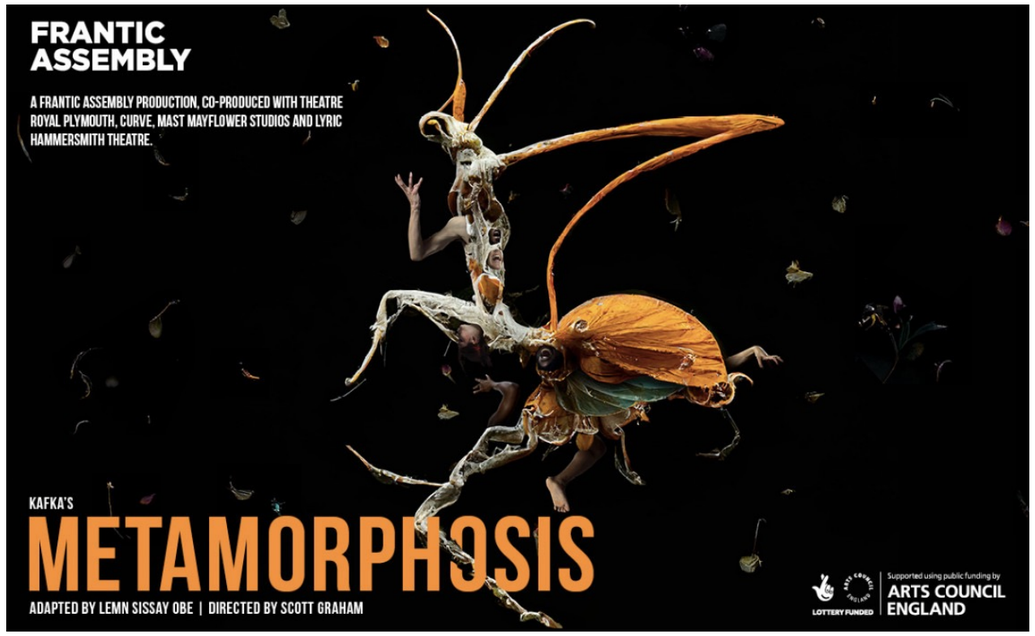
Wednesday was market day and the first task was for students to search the marché de St Hilaire for various items, shops and prices. Following this, each group was given €15 to buy ingredients for their lunch and together they made an array of filled baguettes and salads. Miam Miam! Following the market we then headed to Le Mont Saint Michel where we were able to spend time admiring the incredible views of the island, the abbey and the bay - we even had time for a little souvenir shopping. Upon our arrival back at La Grand' Ferme dinner was served and this evening was escargots. Well done to all students and staff who tried this famous French delicacy!

On Thursday we headed to La Saffrie, a farm run by a man called Tony and home to 40 goats. Here we were told (in French!) all about the different goats, what happens in the different seasons and some of us were even treated to a tasting session - fresh milk, squirted straight from goat to mouth! After a picnic we were introduced to some of the products made with the goat milk, including cheese, soap and shampoo and we were given an opportunity to make any purchases to take home. In the afternoon we headed to Bayeux where we saw the famous tapestry. Here we were able to step into the engrossing story of the conquest of England by William, Duke of Normandy in 1066, told in a 70 metre long embroidery. Fantastique!

After a very early start on Friday morning we made our way home, full of wonderful memories of our trip. Students enjoyed an exciting week, full of language and culture, and for all, an opportunity to explore new ventures. Bravo!



Drama Theatre Trip



On the 8th of November we went to see the play Metamorphosis at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester. It was performed by Frantic Assembly, an international physical theatre group.

The play is about Gregor Samsa, who is a travelling salesman. He wakes up one day to find that he has transformed into a giant insect. His family is disgusted with him, especially when he is no longer able to earn an income. Gregor eventually dies after deciding that he is a burden to his family.

In our drama class before going to watch the play we worked on finding different ways to show the transformation of turning ourselves into this bug. It was very fun to do and was an interesting piece to work on.

I thought the play Metamorphosis was amazing and I was really drawn to the setting and how it was presented with the lighting, which helped to show the characters' movement and what they were representing. In parts of the play we heard voice overs of the characters thought tracking, mostly from the past. I thought this helped show a contrast, especially between Gregor's life before and after becoming the bug. The way the play was presented with physical movement and effective lighting helped present the transformation of Gregor becoming the bug. It was a very interesting and compelling performance.

By Keavy Power (Year 10 Drama student)

TMJ Trip

Students had a great time at the visit to TMJ Manufacturing, where they were introduced to the fascinating world of automation. Witnessing cutting-edge machinery, processes and advanced Technology in action left a lasting impression on the students, sparking their interest in the intersection of technology and manufacturing.





It was truly an eye-opening experience that not only broadened their understanding of current unit of work and a modern industrial process, but also ignited a love for technology.

The visit to TMJ Manufacturing provided an interesting and engaging platform for students to witness firsthand the incredible capabilities of automation in the manufacturing industry.

The seamless integration of technology and innovation displayed during the tour not only captivated the students, but also inspired them to consider future career paths in this dynamic field and business. By demonstrating the real-world applications of automation, TMJ Manufacturing effectively fostered a deeper appreciation for technological advancements and their potential impact on society.



Portrait December 2023

Good Food Show Trip



A small number of Food students attended The Good Food Show at NEC Birmingham for the day. A fun day was had by all, the highlight was watching Nadiya Hussain from The Great British Bake Off demonstration in the Big Kitchen. Some students were even lucky enough to meet the lady herself grabbing a signature and a photo! A special thanks to Mr Chiang for driving the minibus there and back but he seemed to enjoy all the free samples and variety of food available, I think we all managed to buy a few gifts for Christmas for family and friends. All students behaved impeccably and gained plenty of inspiration from the visit.

'Nadiya demonstrated that nice tasting, healthy food can be prepared quickly at home.'

Matthew Dix





'I learnt that it isn't difficult to experiment with different foods out of your comfort zone'

Keeley Partridge

Portrait December 2023

Discovery Day at Gainsborough House







Sixth Form students were given the opportunity to participate in a Discovery Day run by the National Gallery at Gainsborough House Museum in Sudbury on 15th November. The aim of the day was to engage young people, regardless of background or experience, with art whilst developing their confidence and ability to express their opinions, thoughts and conclusions through the art of public speaking.

During the day students were invited to look at and discuss with professionals the various exhibitions on Thomas Gainsborough, Cedric Morris and Rebecca Salter. They were then put into small groups where they had to produce a 5-minute presentation on the pairing of 2 pieces of work. Through discussion, mind mapping and further research students created a script for their part within the group's presentation. Josepha Sanna the National Gallery Articulation Project manager gave students tips on the 6 P's for public speaking

Projection

Pace

Pause

Pitch of your voice

Passion

Practise

Dr Steven Parissien executive director of Gainsborough House gave students valuable feedback and was delighted by their courage.

I would like to thank Thea Reeve, Lana Cook, Freya Upton, Evie Potter and Zarar Rahman for all their hard work on the day.

Miss Nichol

Year 7 Pantomime Trip

What a great start to the festive season - taking over Bury St Edmunds' Theatre Royal for our annual Pantomime trip.

This year we saw the production of Snow White - featuring some of our very own TGS students and Dame Dusty who took a real shine to Mr Gault.







Panto Stars

Parker Nunn, Harry Sinclair, Archie Bell and Lyla Brasier all Year 7 students performed in the Bures Stage Society's production of Dick Whittington. They are played the part of the Ratlings; who are the Queen Rat's henchmen, Parker and Archie also played the role of the Sultan's guards.

They committed to many hours of rehearsals since September and performed in 4 performances on the 7th, 8th and 9th of December.

They learnt their lines, followed stage direction, helped with many aspects of the production and showed great commitment, they are a real asset to the Society. Also Sixth Form students Finn and Jake Morris starred in the production, Jake as Idle Jack and Finn as Scupper, great lads who not only did a fantastic job acting but also offered encouragement to the younger actors, a real credit to TGS.







Lest We Forget

Many of our students demonstrated our TGS Values on Remembrance Sunday, showing respect by marching in parades around the area.



Year 7 Bella Woods



Year 8 Eloise Howard, Year 10 Mine Baykur



Year 8 Petru Toader



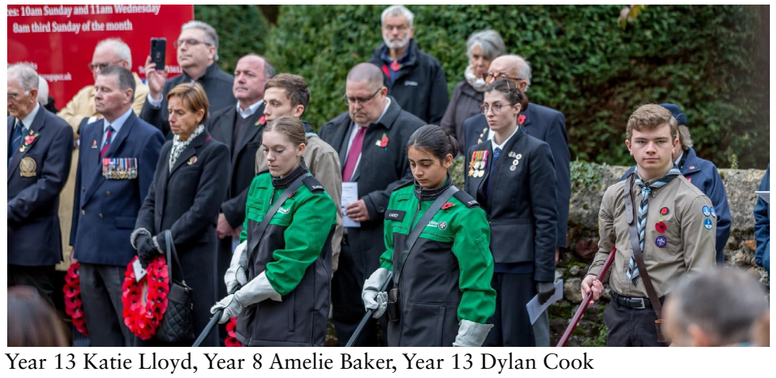
Year 8 Arthur Allen playing the last post



Year 7 Freya Byford



Year 8 Amelie Baker



Year 13 Katie Lloyd, Year 8 Amelie Baker, Year 13 Dylan Cook



Year 9 Lexie Ham





Year 9 Lexie Ham, Year 10 Corren Duke,

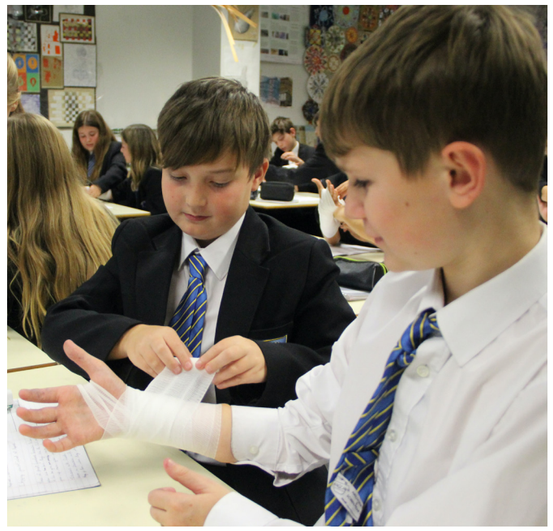


Year 7 Jamie Thacker

Portrait December 2023

KS3 Enrichment Day

KS3 Enrichment Day took place in November with students learning more about the 3 aspects of PSHE: Sex & Relationships, Living in the Wider World & Health Living.









Year 7:

Faith & Values

Looking at what 'faith' and 'values' are and where they come from and being able to say what values they hold.

What's My Job?

A range of different employers visited classrooms where students had to ask questions and discover their jobs
Learning new careers options, skills used and pathways

First Aid

How to manage and support someone who is bleeding - including the use of bandages, asthma & allergies.

Year 8:

Families

Being able to identify different types of families along with the roles and responsibilities of people within them.

Mental Wellbeing

Looking at what resilience means and ways to develop resilience.
Talking about how people cope with loss and bereavement and where they
can get support

Labour Market Index

Understanding what LMI means
Looking at different jobs and careers available now and what might be

Year 9:

Drugs & Alcohol

Understanding the law, signs, risks and impact of drugs and alcohol and sources of support for concerns

Healthy Relationships

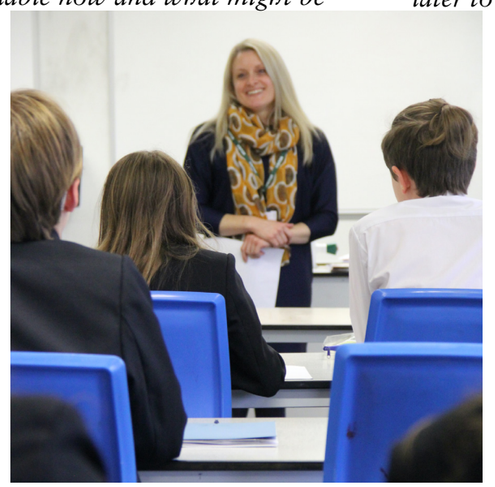
Looking at what a healthy relationship is - including friendships
Understand the implications of peer pressure and sexting and knowing where they can seek support

Future Planning

An introduction to the Morrisby website and how this can be used to explore different careers and pathways - students can then use this later to support with their Option choices









Careers

This half term during Enrichment Day in November our Year 7 students enjoyed the "What's my Job" event where we had some interesting guests in for students to question before trying to guess their professions.
A Magician, Occupational Therapist Lecturer, Magistrate, Florist, Marketing PR consultant, Cyber Security expert and Life Coach all took part in the event.
As students often think quite narrowly about their choices, the purpose of this activity is to broaden their outlook and encourage them to think more imaginatively about their future choices.





On Friday 8th Dec we had a Health and Social Networking event in the main school which involved professionals working in a variety of health and social care roles such as Psychology, Radiography, Speech and Language, Nursing, Foster Care support and more.
80 students mainly in Year 10 but some from our 6th form moved around the room asking questions and finding out more about these roles, the skills required and routes into the profession.

After Christmas we have two events in the calendar, our mock interviews (15th Feb) with Year 10s and some 6th form students looking for interview practice and speed networking (15th March) with Year 8 students designed again to introduce them to a variety of professions to give them ideas for the future. If you are free on either of those dates and would like to take part and share your knowledge of your career and workplace with our students please get in touch with Mrs Osborne on kosborne@tgschool.net.

We were very sad to lose Ms Perkins this term, we miss her and her dog Barney very much. Ms Perkins worked tirelessly to find meaningful work experience for hundreds of students over the years no doubt having a huge impact on their futures.



Alumni Story

I am an ex student who went to the Airport College at Stansted.

My 2 years at college were brilliant, I met some new friends, and just overall loved learning everything about the industry. It was very different to school. I learnt a lot and studied many courses which dived deeply into aviation. I had some lovely teachers; however, I don't think they'll ever top Miss Barfield. Also, during college, I had a little part time job working at Waitrose, which was also great fun and provided me with lots of working experience before I went full time working. Due to studying during COVID I didn't get to go on many trips at college, but I did visit Jet2 at Stansted for a day during my last year. Now college came to an end, and I got graded – Distinction, Distinction, Distinction. Me and my family were very proud of my achievement, and I was praised highly by the teachers at the college. This grade allowed me to get a good job in the industry. After going to a job fare with the college during my final year, I was very interested in joining a private airline called Titan Airways. They aren't your usual day to day airline, which really interested me. So, once I left college I applied for job within Titan, which was involving sorting the aircraft paperwork and documents. After a successful interview, I got the job and started on the 22nd August 2022. Right from the first day I knew I was working for the right company; every day was a different day, and I am hoping to stay here for a long time. After a year I was asked if I would like to move up a role and be a trainee buyer/purchaser. I gladly excepted and I have to say, aviation is a very expensive industry. I now have a lot more responsibility, especially when one of our aircraft's are grounded and me and my team must be lightening quick in finding and bringing a part for the aircraft back to Stansted. I have been in this role for a month now and I am enjoying it a lot. Also, back in February I got asked to carry an aircraft part all the way out to Muscat Oman, so that our aircraft could fly again. It was an amazing opportunity; I flew out of Heathrow on a Wednesday and flew back on the Friday. I stayed in a nice hotel which had a pool.

Lastly going to TGS was the best school I could've gone to; I learnt so many life lessons. However, I would love to thank Miss Barfield for everything she did for me, she taught me many life lessons, and helped me get on the current path I am on. I will be forever grateful. She made sure I got that 5 in maths, with all the extra lessons and support in class.

Harry Gregory



Portrait December 2023

Food Fantastic

What a start to the year, busier than ever. As always a massive thank you to our incredible technicians Mrs King and Mrs Pearl for providing support to both staff and students. Wishing staff, students and families a wonderful, restful, happy and very merry Christmas and New Year.

Key stage 3

This term Mrs Spinks, Mr Bentley, our new Technology teacher Ms Fernandez and I have been at the helm delivering food lessons to our Year 7, 8 & 9 students during their first rotation in Technology. As always it has been a pleasure to see students progress through the department, building confidence in their skills and simply enjoying the process of cooking and eating their results of course! Skills learnt including 'coating' with Year 9 to produce chicken goujons and wedges, bread making in Year 8 to produce pizza and bechamel sauce making for macaroni cheese. Year 7 have been perfecting their knife skills with fruit salad and ending with a delicious bolognese. All this alongside theory that helps students understand where their food comes from and the principles of healthy eating and nutrition. Our new rotation at the end of November has welcomed a new set of students and Ms Ashton returns to the Food department for the coming weeks.







Key stage 5:

Our lovely Year 12 students have the advantage this year of having the expertise from 2 teachers. Ms Alston has joined the Food department employing her Food Science degree to teach all the nutritional aspects of our Diploma whilst I continue to teach the coursework and practical elements. The students have hit the ground running, building on their GCSE knowledge and practical skills. As part of their Year 12 work they are covering Unit 1 for their course which includes the completion of selected coursework briefs. Students have chosen a spa brief and childrens menu for a restaurant. In order to support and help inform their choices we took a trip to Stoke By Nayland Spa and Resort and spoke to their Head Chef Jon, which was incredibly informative. We also received a tour of the spa as neither student had experienced this before. It helped them realise the importance of atmosphere and the sensory qualities to achieve relaxation. It was a lovely way to spend the afternoon and we all left feeling inspired. We are also planning a trip to a local primary school to further understand how planning for a children's menu takes place.



Key stage 4

In GCSE Food and Nutrition students have made a cracking start to the year, so much so I appointed 3 new subject ambassadors just a couple of weeks into the new year! Matthew Dix, Lucia Bunn and Zinnia McKnight join our Year 11 ambassadors Sophia Longhurst, Lucy Miller, Lucy Wallace, Jacob Rose, Joe Bellward, Tyler Coombe, Roisin Clancy and Olivia Large. All of these students gave up their time and supported the department in a very successful Open Evening in September. With the term rolling on there are other students showing their ability and dedication who I hope will be happy to join our other ambassadors to take over from Year 11.





Year 10 have now completed their first unit on Food Safety and begin their learning journey into Diet, Health and Nutrition. Practical creations have included lamb koftas, spring rolls, chicken goujons, wedges and homemade mayonnaise, a meal for a young child and a seasonal chicken, partridge, bacon and leek pie thanks to the Bunting family for supplying locally sourced partridge for our students to cook with.

Year 11 have completed their first piece of Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) and are now on to their final piece of work which is worth 35% of their overall grade. They have been given 3 topics to choose from including seasonal foods, family cooking on a budget and festivals or occasions from around the world. To introduce these tasks we prepared, cooked and taste tested locally sourced foods that are in season now including whole fresh mackerel, mussels, mixed game and a variety of fruit and vegetables. We then went to the other extreme of using frozen and tinned ingredients and followed Tescos '5 meals for £25' feature to introduce considerations for cooking on a budget. Staff from around the school have contributed to their knowledge and understanding of festivals and cuisines from around the world to our Food students. Mr Chiang, Ms Fernandez and Mrs Hurtado have all offered to lead small group workshops on specific cuisines to teach students traditional dishes and methods of cooking from around the world, these will take place in the coming weeks.



MFL



Alex Morris in 9G1 German did some additional homework research, following a discussion in class, about the German cultural icon that is... the Ampelmann.

Super research and presentation!



On Wednesday 8th November, a group Year 9 STEM students took part in this competition which is organised by GCHQ. They had to work in teams to compete against others nationwide for the NLC 2023 trophy - awarded to the winning team at the GCHQ headquarters in Cheltenham. The tasks were language-based puzzles, where they had to demonstrate quick-thinking, code-cracking and puzzle-solving skills.

Our students were a credit to TGS, they enjoyed the competition and scored hundreds of points. We look forward to taking part in more national and international language competitions during the coming year. Get ready to take part!
Mrs Hurtado-Read
MFL Coordinator for KS3





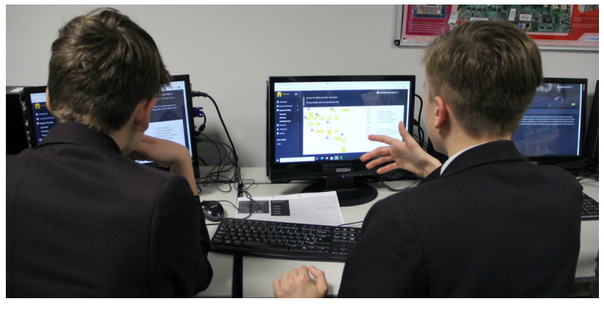


"I competed in the National Language Competition, and I must say, it is very fun, once you get the hang of it. The puzzles are challenging, and for me, that makes them even more interesting, as I am quite a completionist. They are in multiple languages, and the format of each one is different, so you don't know what you are getting yourself into until you click on the challenge. Lastly, a tip for you: don't think literally. Also, consider what the title could mean, that often helps you work out what you need to do!"

Thomas Blowers

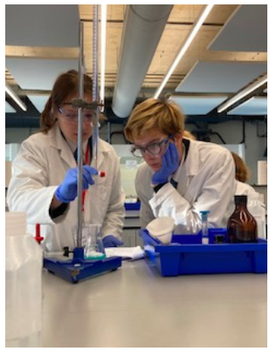
"My experience at the National Language Competition was highly enjoyable. The login process was easy, and the challenges posed by the puzzles really engaged my critical thinking skills. It was a refreshing opportunity to explore and attempt tasks outside of my usual 'comfort zone'. The teamwork amongst my friends and I made the experience even more fulfilling as we supported and helped one another throughout. Reflecting upon the competition, if given the chance to redo it, I would prioritise dedicating more time to my own puzzle to ensure its completion. I wish we had more time because unfortunately, my evenings were quite packed with other commitments such as clubs and activities on Wednesday and Thursday, therefore limiting the time available. Nonetheless, overall, it was a great experience and I am sure that the future year nines will enjoy it and have fun as well."

Maia Diss



Royal Society of Chemistry
Top of the Bench Competition



On the 17th October 2023 TGS entered a team on four students into this year's Royal Society of Chemistry top of the bench competition, a chemistry competition for 13-16 year olds. The team consisted of Thomas Blowers (Year 9), Lexi Smith (Year 9), Digby Thorogood (Year 10) and Naomi Clarke (Year 11).

The first round was an online quiz that had to be answered as a team. Whilst the structure of the quiz was multiple choice this did not make things any simpler and the round was challenging. It was very pleasing to be told that the team had made it through the first round and were invited to the University of East Anglia campus to compete in the degree level Chemistry labs of the University.

On the 29th of November the team travelled to the Norwich Campus and took part in round two, an analytical chemistry round that relied on the teams successfully completing a series of practical analysis tasks against the clock. The state-of-the-art undergraduate labs were a fitting setting for the teams to compete against approximately 25 other schools from the East Anglia region. The team were able to use chemistry equipment of far greater sophistication than that available at a high school.

"The task really took us out of our comfort zone, but it was a fantastic experience" Naomi Clarke.

Unfortunately, only one team could make it through to the national final in Edinburgh. TGS wish Sheringham High School the best of luck against the best that the rest of the country can offer.

Health & Social Care
Speed Networking

On Friday 8th December, we were fortunate to have a number of professionals from the Health And Social care sector attend to speak to students to inform them of their roles and responsibilities and the path they followed in achieving their career goals.

Students were engaged and enjoyed the opportunities to speak to different professionals, sparking curiosity and attributing to students aspirations.





Portrait December 2023

Book Mastermind









Following a postponement in July the interschool book mastermind competition was finally completed. Hosted at our own Thomas Gainsborough we had two competitors from Newmarket academy, Horringer Court, County Upper, Westley Middle and Breckland school. After the initial book round 2 contestants scored 20 out of 20. In the general knowledge round nursery rhymes proved problematic. Finally congratulations went to Perry Lunn winning by 1 point for TGS. Rosa Williams from Horringer came second and 1 point further behind Emily Head took third place for TGS. All contestants performed well and deserve a round of applause.

Portrait December 2023

Competitions

Be Proud and Get involved

At Thomas Gainsborough School the students pride themselves on their House name and colour and are encouraged by their tutors and Heads of House to do the best they possibly can in order to make their House the most successful.

Entering competitions and fundraising is part of TGS life and earns the students merits as well as earning valuable House points.

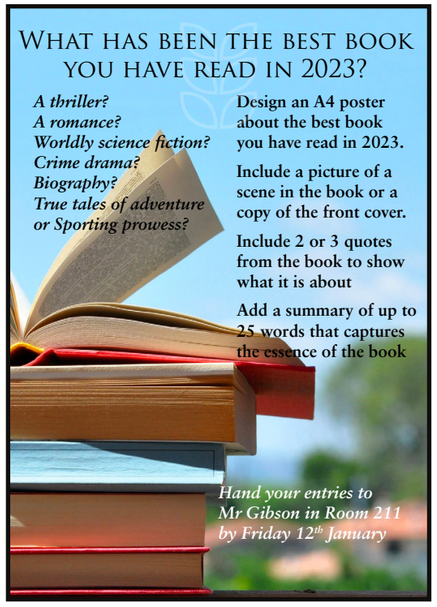
It has been another busy term for House Competitions, and a huge well done to everyone that has entered.

We are always astounded by the amount of entries we receive for each competition; looking at each entry is a joy.

These are the competitions running over the festive break, so if you have a spare moment to create an entry, we would love to receive it. A great way to earn merits over half term.

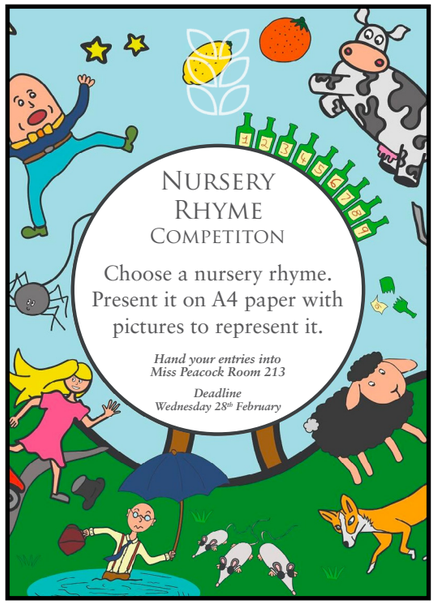
Well done again for all students who have entered a competition this term, you have done yourselves, your Heads of Houses and the school proud!











Competitions

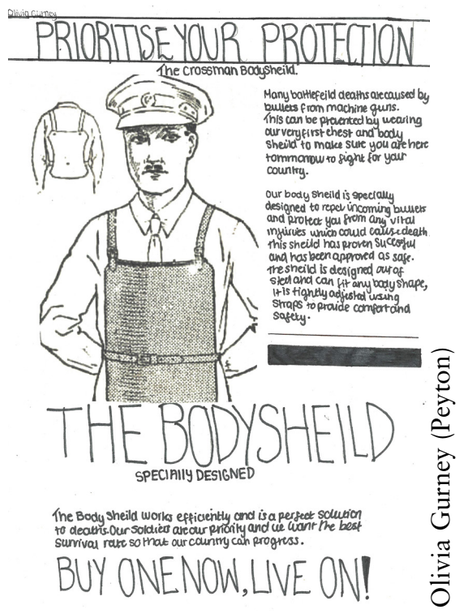
History Competition
Advertising and the First World War

This year's competition asked students to design an advert for a product linked to the First World War, in the style of the time, typically using many more words than a modern advert would.

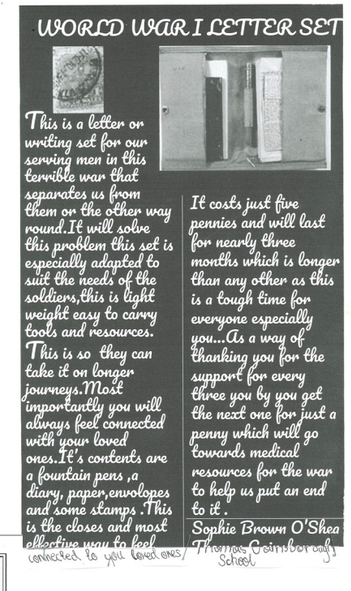
Over 90 students submitted entries with a huge range of originality and imagination. The winning entries are submitted to a national competition and we hope that our success of 2023, when three students won prizes can be repeated.



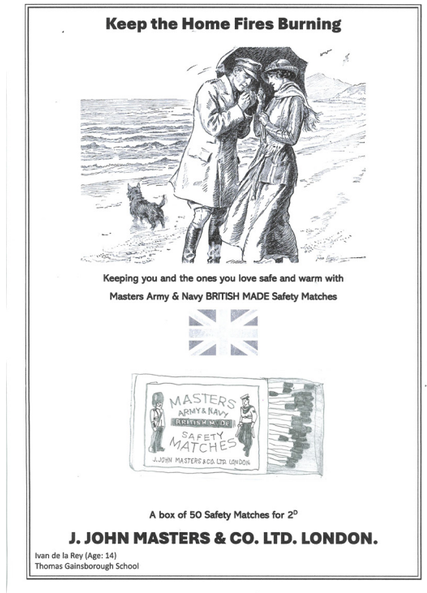
Jessica Lock (Abbas)



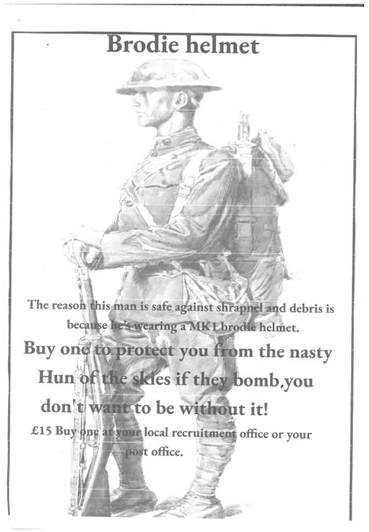
Olivia Gurney (Peyton)



Sophie Brown O'Shea (Chamberlain)



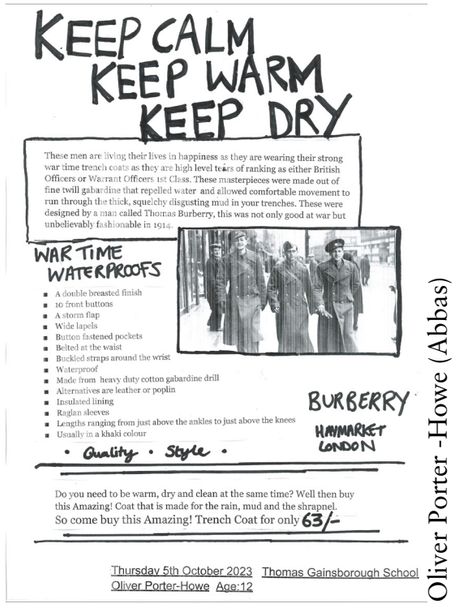
Ivan deLa Rey (Chamberlain)



Charles Spencer-Porter (Abbas)



Elsie Hills (Peyton)



Oliver Porter -Howe (Abbas)

Here are some of the entries.

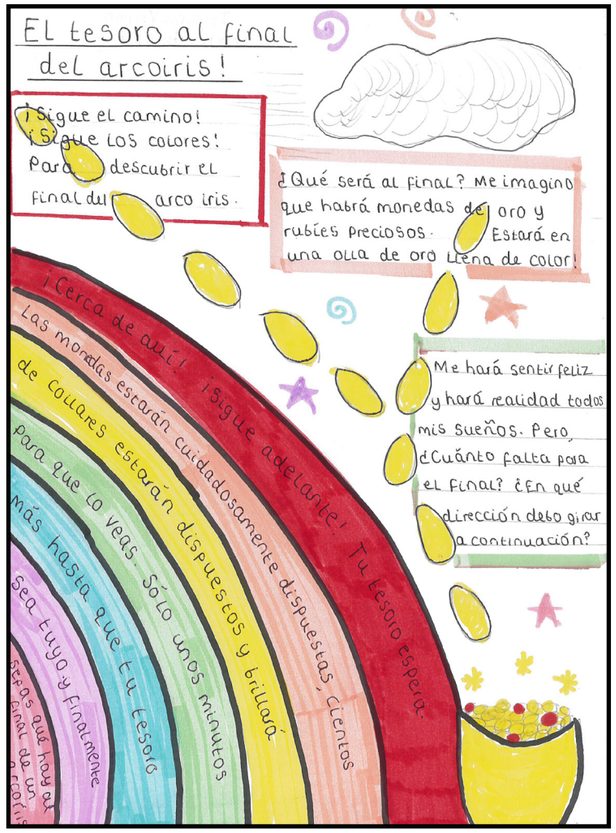
Portrait December 2023

Competitions

European Day of Languages Writing Competition



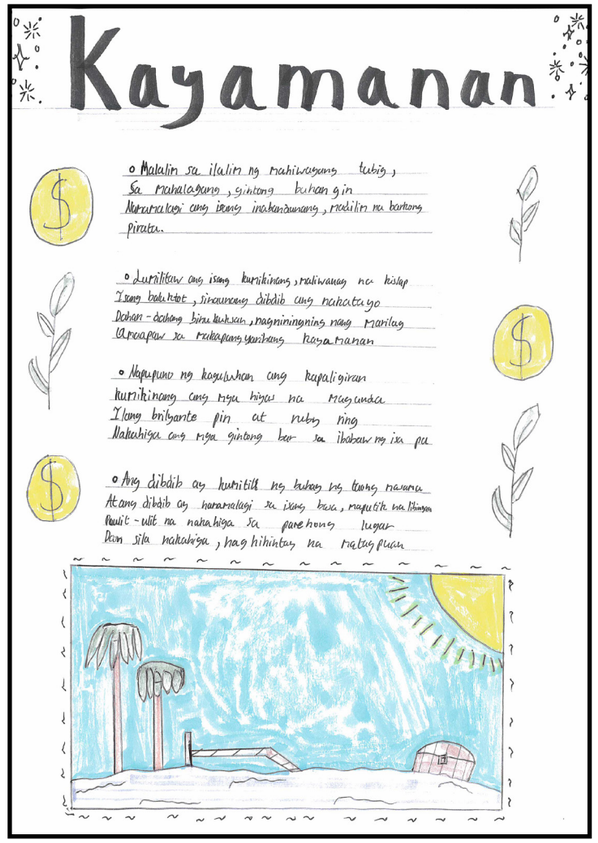
Here are the winning entries



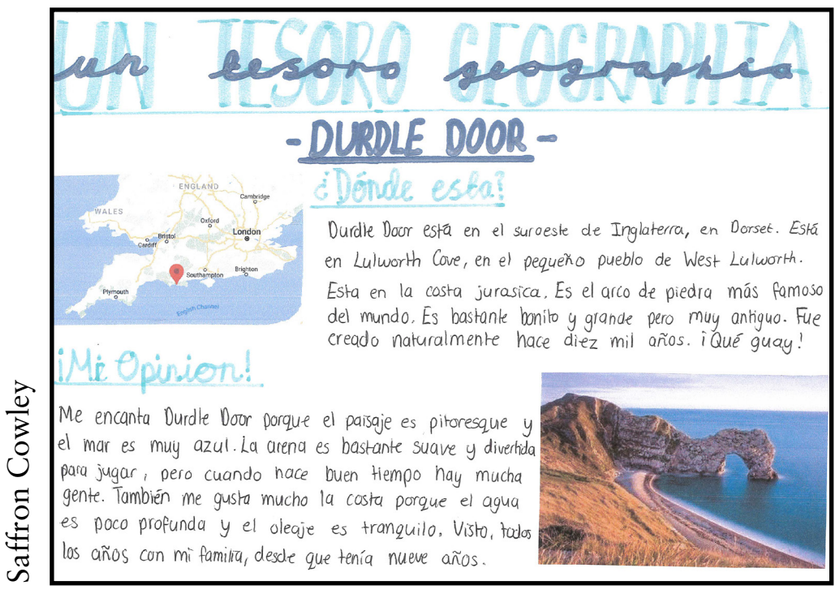
Jessica Vernon



Summer Simpson



Brianna Perez



Saffron Cowley

Portrait December 2023

Competitions

Book of the Term

AD 9s3 You vs the World, the Bear Grylls Guide to Never Giving up

YOU vs THE WORLD THE BEAR GRYLLS GUIDE TO NEVER GIVING UP

Whoopee! I really enjoyed this book. It was so easy to read, and because each page was either emphasised in bold black and white like a chalk board or each paragraph was illustrated to show exactly what it was about. I couldn't wait to turn each page to see his next topic of conversation. And that is exactly how this book has been written; it's a conversation, full of questions and answers, opinions and thoughts about all sorts of stuff.

My favourite part was all about teamwork and how teams depend upon three main concepts: namely that each member of a team is unique with their own skills and ideas, that the whole point of being in a team is to share a goal with someone else, and that by being generous to allow someone else to shine means that everyone wins.

You can read this book for yourself, You can even read it for, or to someone else. And the little snippets and comments are so appropriate to us; to the here and now.

One of his main points is about anxiety and hesitancy. But, he does explain simply how to manage these and then use them to your advantage. How to use this benefit and never give up, otherwise known as NGU. He talks about kindness to ourselves, and to others, to people, to nature and the environment around us. It is always the little things which turn out to mean the most.

FING

Fing is a book written by David Walliams where two people (Mr and Mrs Meek) have a child named Myrtle, Myrtle is a horrible, disobedient, spoiled brat. She hits her parents and screams MORE, MORE, MORE! and her parents obey her every need because they are very shy and on edge.

All these characteristics make none of the characters very likeable at all (unlike all his other books like Gangster Granny) and makes it very hard to read the book, eventually the daughter doesn't know what else to ask for so she asks for a Fing (a word she made up) so the mum and dad try to find what Fing is and once they do the dad goes out to find one, it takes him a month and he nearly dies but once he comes back it turns out that they found one in the pet shop.

That also makes the book hard to read because he went through a lot of effort for nothing so the whole part of him going out is just a waste of paper and ink. The daughter then says that she doesn't want another one because they're boring so that means that they have to take it back somewhere but the new Fing eats the one from the pet shop and then goes on a rampage and takes Myrtle back to the jungle and the parents don't really care at all so they go home and eat some biscuits and a few years go by and they see Myrtle on tv and since they now know where she is they write a notice in the book they found the information about the Fing and that's the whole book finished.

I usually love reading books by David Walliams but this one did not meet my expectations.

Jacob Hibberd

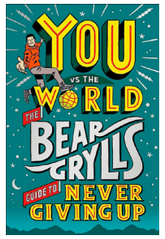
7 Tollemache JPA

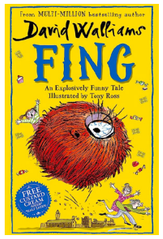
Book of the Term
Autumn

Choose one of the following books to read.

You vs The World -
The Bear Grylls Guide to Never Giving Up

Fing by David Walliams



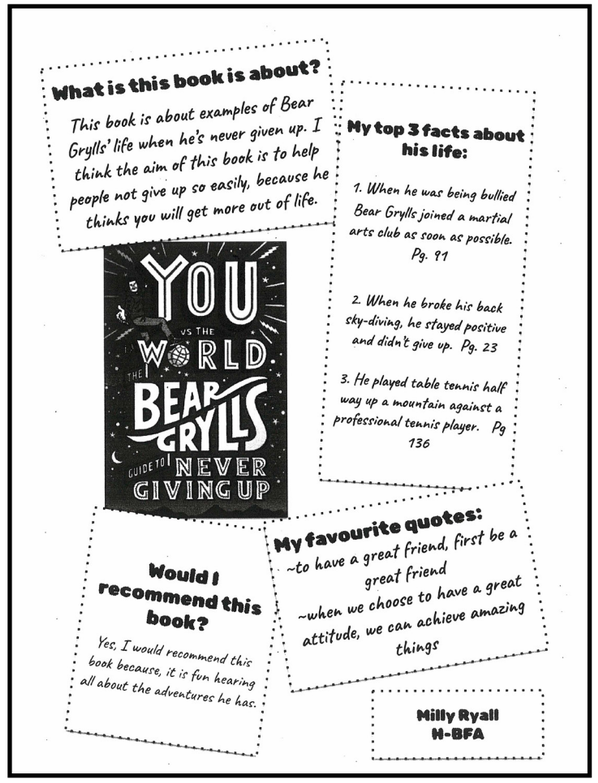


- Read the book
- Write a Review
- Earn Merits

Lots of brilliant entries in for this term.

Bear Grylls Never giving up and Fing proving popular choices.

Bear Grylls from the reviews proving particularly inspirational. The competition winners for each house are Alex Davie Abbas), Isabella Davie (Chamberlain), Millie Ryall (Houghton) and Jacob Hibberd (Tollemache).



David Walliams –

Book Review "FING"

Isabelle Davie 9g1 – having read FING I have perhaps outgrown Mr Walliams' brand of humour. Each page bursts with description, almost to the point whereby the "rule of three" becomes common place, the norm, or dare I say it: ordinary. His style of writing reminds me of epic theatre in that each page bursts with magnificent adjectives and imaginative horrors just waiting to consume any lingering character and demands the provocation of opinions.

So, this review is from a slightly older viewpoint rather than that of a primary school reader, whom I'm sure would love this book. It is filled with mild toilet jokes; his bum/poo anecdotes and all the funny words are there to be enjoyed, especially when linked with the superb Tony Ross illustrations of characters and weird animals from the Monsterpedia, much like the Crunkletoad which looks like a weird frog faced snake, or even the Helephant which flies by whirling its trunk and steers using its tail.



Portrait December 2023

Winter Showcase

Earlier in December TGS held their annual Winter Showcase. It was an event full of music, dance and drama and featured some exceptional Christmas jumpers from our students. It was lovely to see so many students participate in this event, many of them for the first time. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at our school musical 'Back to the 80s' in February 12-15th 2024. Tickets will be on sale in the new year.

























Portrait December 2023

Christmas at TGS





Christmas Lunch









Christmas Fayre







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Christmas at TGS







Christmas Jumper Day









Portrait December 2023

Christmas Tree Festival



Tree Decoration Competition Winners

1st Leanei De La Rey - Tollemache
2nd Nuala Raleigh - Peyton
3rd Ellia Forimsey - Chamberlain
4th Rosie Turner - Abbas
5th Seth Ward - Houghton

For a number of years Thomas Gainsborough School has been involved with the Christmas Tree Festival run by the Sudbury Rotary Club. This year the festival kicked off on 6th December at the new Sudbury Arts Centre on Market Hill.

More than 70 individuals, families, churches, schools, charities and community organisations took part in this year's festival, which is the first major event at the newly refurbished venue.

Proceeds raised during the five-day seasonal celebration go towards the rotary club's chosen charities for this year, including the East Anglian Air Ambulance and the Kernos Centre in Friars Street.

Being a careers champion I wanted to raise the profile of careers in the Visual Arts and asked students to reflect this within their decorations.





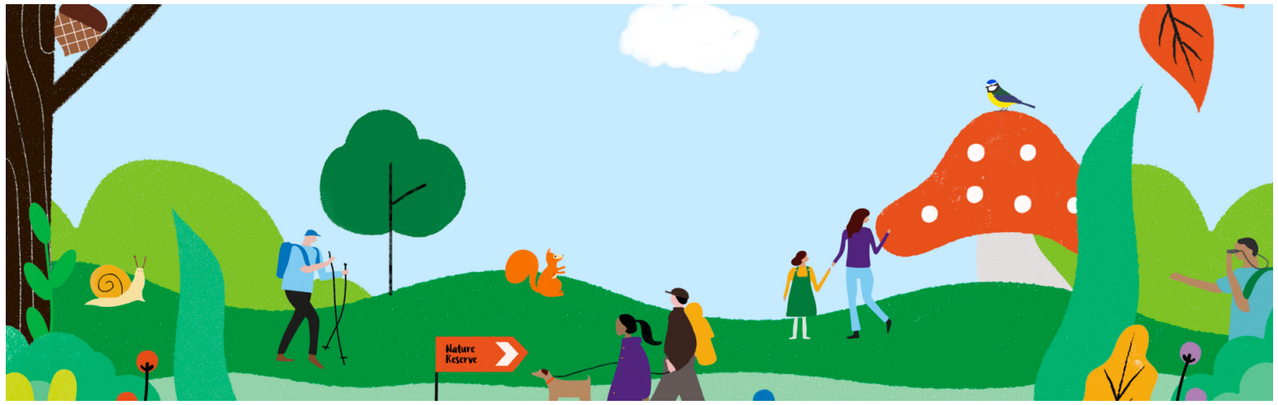




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Big Wild Walk

From the 16th to 30th of October the Eco Committee set a challenge to walk 200 km all together to raise money for The Wildlife Trusts. Students were invited to join them and raise money for the Trust.



The total combined kilometers walked was almost 700km and here are just some of the photos taken of the walks.

If you wish to make a donation to help us reach our fundraising goal please go to

https://thewildlifetrusts.enthuse.com/pf/tgs-eco



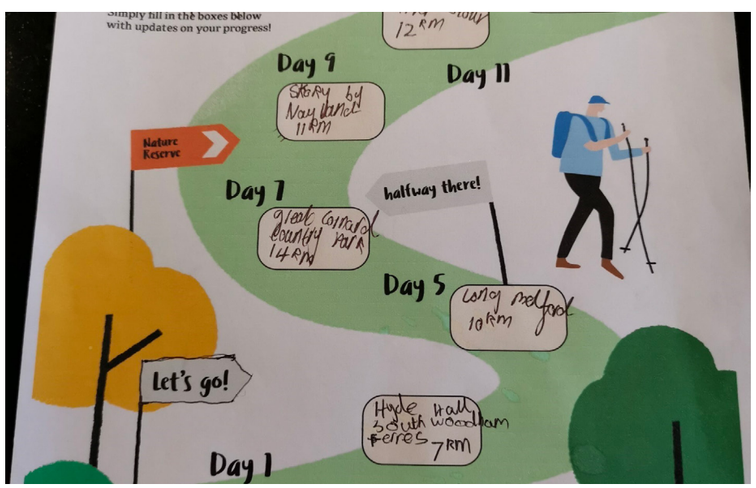
Year 11 Tyler walked almost 50km which took him as far as the sea.



Year 10 Oliver enjoyed the local scenery walking his dog over 11km



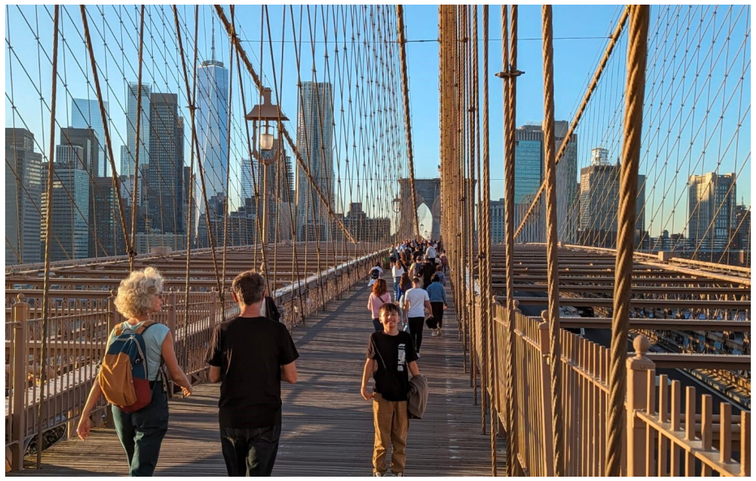
Year 13 Emily walked 55km in beautiful Bordeaux in France.



Year 7 twins Billy & Harry walked 77km over various locations.



Year 7 Byron did a very wet & muddy walk of 7.km



Year 8 Rory walked 105km around New York in a 7 day period.



The Impacts of Christmas

Our Eco Committee presented an assembly on the effects of Christmas on the environment and National Tree Week.

What does our planet go through during Christmas?...
10,000 tonnes of plastic packaging is thrown away
2 kg food waste = TV for 2 hours or fridge for 8 hours
25 million Christmas puddings wrapped in plastic
Two thirds of people buy too much Christmas food
Each artificial tree = 88 lbs of CO2
Enough wrapping paper to go around the globe 9 times!
1 in 10 unwanted christmas presents ends up in landfill



National Tree Week



The Woodland Trust donated 345 trees to our school and many students have been busy planting them in around the school grounds.

Trees help reduce the risks & effects of flooding by…

Interception - slows water from reaching rivers

Transpiration - absorb & release water

Reduce erosion - roots hold soil together



Trees also help the planet by…

Absorbing carbon dioxide

Providing habitats for wildlife

Making shade & nutrients for other plants

3 words that help us understand how we can support the reintroduction of forests

Deforestation- when forests are cut down

Reforestation- when forests are restored

Afforestation- when forests are added to areas where there were not forests recently

The search engine that plants trees.

Why use Ecosia instead of Google?

Ecosia uses its profits to plant trees and every search with

Ecosia actually removes about 0.5 kg of CO2 from the atmosphere. This means that, if Ecosia were as big as Google, it could absorb 15% of all global CO2 emissions.

Facts

100% of profits for the planet which you can verify as Ecosia have transparent finances.

Free chrome add-on

A tree is planted approximately every 45 searches

Zero carbon footprint

There are around 1600 students at this school , so imagine if for every search you do for a piece of homework, or on Chromebooks at school, you can help plant a tree.

How many trees could we plant? 177.7 trees weekly, 7,111 trees over the school year

Sport Leaders



TGS V St Benedicts

A new group of students have volunteered their time and skills to train as Sport Leaders. 31 students will be attending training on Thursday sessions plus, when they have a little more experience, supporting events at central venues and at schools running activities for primary school groups.

Alongside these training leaders, Thomas Gainsborough also has 18 girls who play for the school team and have offered to help promote girls football, training as referees, football activators, coaches of primary school girls (a regular fixture now on Wednesdays after school) and as we progress through the school year, organising and running a girls football tournament. If you're interested in joining them, please contact Mrs Dalton (ldalton@tgschool.net).

At the beginning of October, two of our amazing leaders, Isabel and Millie, refereed half of the 41 matches held at The New Croft, supporting over 100 primary school children having an amazing morning of football.

U16 Boys Football



TGS V St Benedicts

Match Report

The game started with both teams not really putting their foot on the ball and playing as we both played long balls for the majority of the first 15 minutes.

TGS made it 1-0 with a piece of individual brilliance by Luke Mallinson who performed a lovely flick over a defender before striking the ball past the goalkeeper. TGS then made it 2-0 not too long after the first but early on in the second half, St Benedicts got a goal back which was scrappy and with claims that the goalscorer was offside. The second half was like the first with barely any good chances for either team resulting in TGS deservedly winning 2-1

U14/U15 Netball



The U15 team played their next game of the season versus Breckland - who brought two teams over to TGS. The weather turned and the whole team played some very good netball given the conditions. Emily Lawrence could not miss in both games, shooting very very well. We have speed and energy on the court with Heidi Jones and Zinnia McKnight, and the cool calm defending from Lucia Bunn - to name a few, but all the girls played their part and TGS came out winners in both games.



U12 Girls Football



TGS V East Bergholt

COUNTY CUP - 6-1 LOSS

Match Report

On the 8th November TGS took 12 Year 7 girls to a match against East Bergholt.

We played well and got very muddy, however by half time we were down. A penalty was awarded to us and was scored but was disallowed as the goalie was off her line. The other team didn't have as many chances in the second half and we had more chances. East Bergholt scored another 2 goals and we scored 1 from a run down the wing and goal by Winry Bloomfield. Even though we lost we had fun, gave it our best shot and represented TGS.

U13 Boys Football

TGS V MILDENHALL

Match Report

The Year 8 football team travelled to Mildenhall for their County Cup Match on 29th November. On a very cold evening we were concerned it may have been called off but the 3G pitch coped well.

The game started brightly for TGS with plenty of possession and solid defence limiting Mildenhall to one decent chance that was brilliantly saved by Archer Ward. TGS continued to press forward and broke the deadlock on 17 minutes when Charlie Nicholson found himself in possession in the box and fired into the far corner to give TGS the lead. 4 minutes later Evan Frost broke down the left, opened up his body brilliantly and slotted home across the keeper to double our lead. We went in at half time with a comfortable 2-0 lead.

Half time was brief due to the cold and Mildenhall managed to rally during this short time. 5 minutes into the second half Mildenhall found a route back into the game with a well worked, pacey goal and 7 minutes later levelled up with a second. TGS could have imploded at this point by rallied well to firm up in defence. And the last 15 minutes proved decisive. Logan Brooks-bank managed to get TGS's 3rd goal to restore the lead in the 55th minute and then Noah Martin came up with a great lob to secure a great 4-2 win and a 3rd round fixture against Stowupland next term.

Well done Year 8!

U13 Girls Football



County Tournament At ITFC

Match Report

The U13 girls football team travelled to Ipswich Town Football Club, to play in a county wide tournament. There were two groups and the top school from each group went though to play in the final. TGS started well, in their first game, some solid defending and some clinical finishing saw TGS win. This was to be the story for the majority of the games; however we were out played in two games, managing a draw in one and unfortunately a loss in the other, and we finished in second place in the group. Izzy Manning in goal, Winry Bloomfield and Isabel Bird were the standout players, however enjoyment was had by all the players, and we look forward to the next game verses St Benedict's later in the term.

Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form News

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Model United Nations

We are very proud of the 15 Year 10 students who were invited to participate in the Model United Nations event on Tuesday 28th November. The students got to discuss and debate a variety of issues, ranging from Space ownership, Current Conflicts, the Environment, and CyberSecurity. Luke was commended for his work representing Pakistan and Tom for debating global issues.

Going to the Model United Nations was great! It was really fun because I got to represent a country and debate important global issues with other students. I learned so much about how the UN conducts its meetings. It was a little nerve-wracking at first, but once I got into it, it was really enjoyable.

Tom

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Sixth Form Open Evening

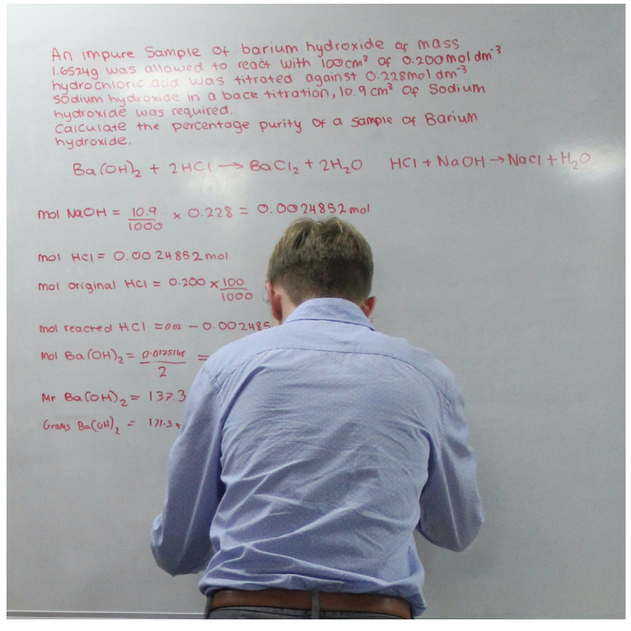












Our Sixth Form Open Evening was a fantastic success with over 200 students and families attending from a range of Suffolk and Essex schools. The Sixth Form students, alumni, teachers and post-18 providers enlightened our prospective students, with an insight into what subjects we offer, alongside the supercurricular opportunities and personalisation of all aspects within TGS Sixth Form .

There were also some fascinating insights from our Head Students and Year 12 students during the main presentations, which added to the TGS experience and has encouraged more than 130 applications in the first couple of weeks. It has been an absolute privilege to meet many of the applicants already, and I am looking forward to meeting many more in the coming weeks.

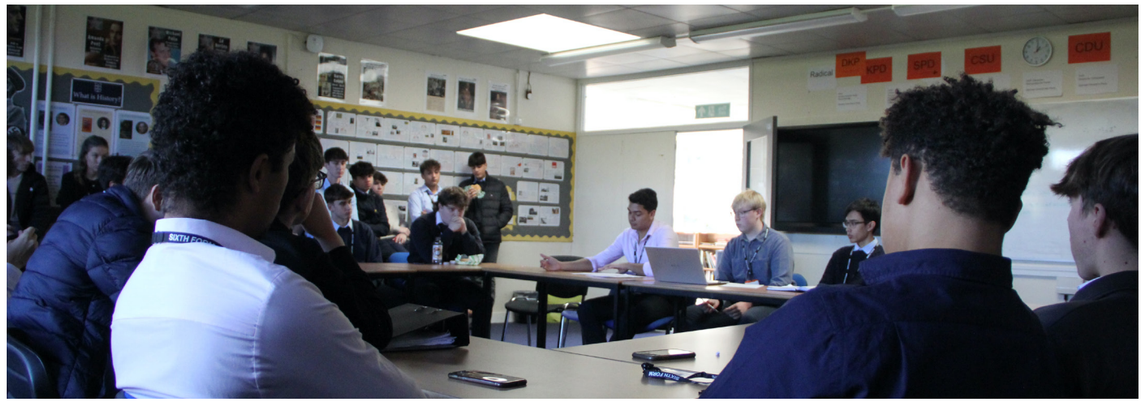
Thank you once again to everyone involved.

Portrait December 2023

Sixth Form Debates









Year 13 Oliver organises regular debates during lunchtimes in Sixth Form. Students are invited to attend to offer their opinion and ask questions to the panel.

Topics have included

'Should the Monarchy be Abolished?'

'Has Feminism gone too far?'

'Should all illegal drugs be legalised?'

The most recent topic was

'Is freedom of speech protected in the UK?'

Freedom of speech has been a matter of debate in democracies for ages; luckily, in the sixth form, we had the same debate this Wednesday. One side presented the argument that freedom of speech was well protected in the UK and the other side presented the idea that the freedom of speech was in fact not well protected in the UK. Both sides presented some incredibly significant arguments, it included the argument that the British people did not really have enough freedom of speech as they often tend to shy away from talking about topics such as immigration and homosexuality, as people with more conservative views tend to think that there would be considerable backlash. Other elements, such as dismissal of Suella Braverman from cabinet, pro-Palestinian protests, and the authority of the government to issue regulations on freedom of speech were also considered by both sides.

The most interesting argument was that of absolutist freedom of speech and to what extent that would be favorable and where we could draw the line between freedom of speech and nuisance as a society. The right of the government to issue regulations to control the freedom of speech of the masses was a strong point as it was seen as something that faced a lot of scrutiny from the audience. Lastly, there was a vote which resulted in a victory for the side that argued that freedom of speech was not protected well enough in the UK as we saw that a substantial proportion of the audience were sympathetic to the fact.

Zarar Rahman Year 12

Look out for the next debate in 2024.

New Pilot Programme



We have teamed up with local business, Addvantage 4U, to offer essential employability skills such as resilience, perseverance, motivation, ambition, teamwork, problem-solving, tolerance and respect.

The scheme, which is sponsored by Sudbury-based opticians Wardale Williams, will also play a pivotal role in academic achievements and overall life success.

Mr Alexander said: “We are really excited about this opportunity to further strengthen our fantastic careers offer and links with local employers, and to enable our students to be as prepared as possible for their next steps.”

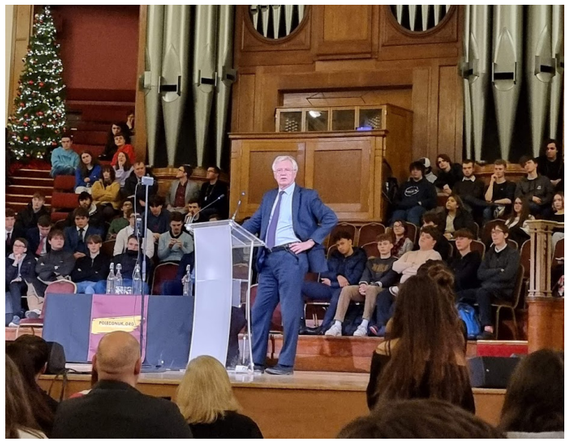
The pilot programme will run until April 2024 with 19 lower sixth students taking part. They will all receive individual reports and a tailored personal skills development programme.

The partnership is aimed to further strengthen the bond between the school and local businesses with many TGS students already working in part-time jobs or having secured permanent positions upon graduation.

Jonathan Foreman, owner and managing director of Wardale Williams, said: “As a former pupil of Thomas Gainsborough, I experienced first-hand the challenges young people face when navigating the complex path to success.

“In the 1970s, we did not have the privilege of mentorship and guidance to develop crucial decision-making skills. Today, as a 60-year-old business owner, I am delighted to give back and make a difference in the lives of the next generation of our local community by sponsoring this programme.

Politics Conference





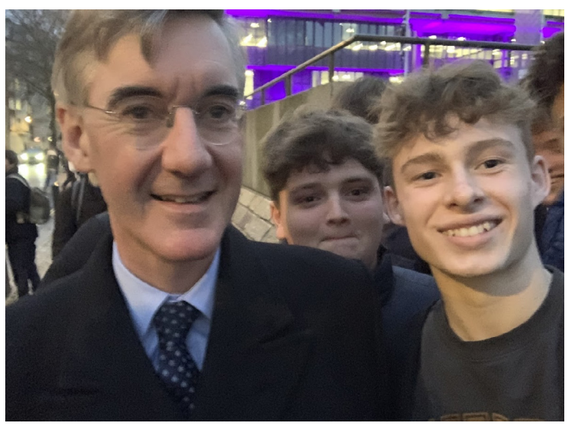
Year 12 and 13 politics groups were given the opportunity to visit the Methodist central hall in Westminster London to listen to the views of various political figures.

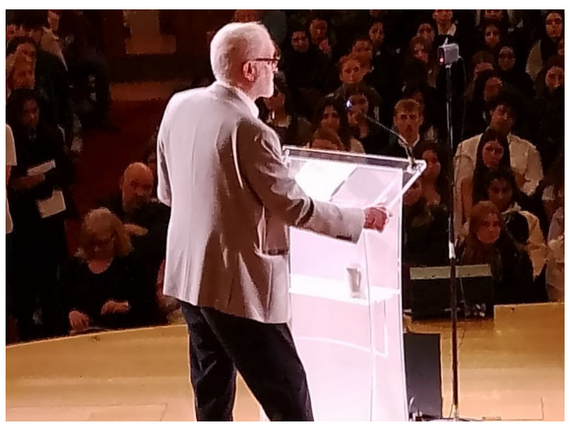
After a short train journey we heard the first speech by Jeremy Corbyn. Jeremy was obviously popular among the young audience and received rapturous applause. However the general consensus was that he spoke too quietly and in an unimpressive manner. Following Corbin was Labour MP Emily Thornbury. Emily made a shorter, more concise argument and was complimented on her hair. It was clear by the reduction of the audience that many had come only to see Jeremy Corbyn

Following a short break for lunch we listened to labour MP Jess Philips and a few more labour MPs followed by a representative of the SNP. Although clearly passionate, the message of the SNP representative was perhaps not as well suited to an English audience as to a Scottish one.

Finally the day finished with the Tory MPs. David Davis and Jacob Rees-Mogg enjoyed a marginally larger audience than Sajid Javid perhaps owing to the quasi celebrity status of Mr. Rees-Mogg. Following an impressive speech by David Davis and a heartily booed speech by Jacob Rees-Mogg many in the audience again had clearly got what they had come for and left. We stuck it out however, suffering a halfhearted attempt by Sajid Javid to win his dwindling audience before taking the train home.

Overall the day was considered an educational and general success by everyone who went. Many insights were gathered into the characters who run our nation and a selfie was acquired with Jacob Rees-Mogg.





Staff Spotlight



Miss O'Beirne
Student Support Manager
SENDCo

Sadly Miss O'Beirne is leaving us at Christmas to embark on a new chapter of her life. We wish her all the best!

1. How long have you worked at TGS?
Nearly 16 years

2. What is your greatest achievement to date?
My son Nolan, he's just turned 18 and he's awesome.

3. What 3 words would you use to describe yourself?
Thoughtful, loyal and creative

4. What would you like to achieve in the future?
I would like to travel

5. Who or what inspires you?
My mum continues to be a great inspiration to me, she died nearly 18 years ago but still has a positive influence on my life.

6. What would your perfect day look like?
Sunshine, dog walk, coffee, music, family, friends and food

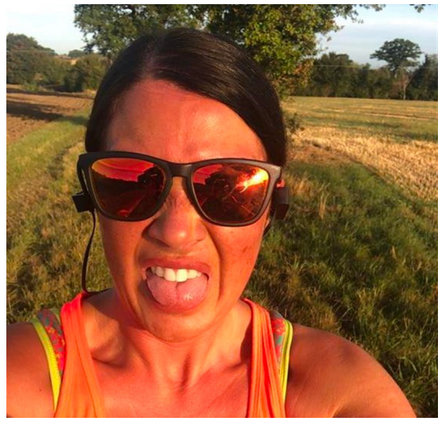
7. What are you most thankful for?
Some very special people and relationships in my life

8. What advice would you give your 11 year old self?
Don't worry about what anybody else thinks of you, if someone is mean to you it says more about them than you!
Be brave and have fun, say yes to all opportunities.
You can't control everything- chuck it in the bucket!

9. Name 3 people you would like to invite to dinner and why?
Stevie Nicks because I love her voice and Fleetwood Mac.
Gordon Ramsey so he could cook. I'm also curious to see just how sweary he is in real life.
Peter Kay simply because he'd be such good fun and keep us all entertained

10. Name 5 things on your bucket list
See the cherry blossom in Japan
Go to Glastonbury
Volunteer abroad
Crash a wedding
Get more tattoos



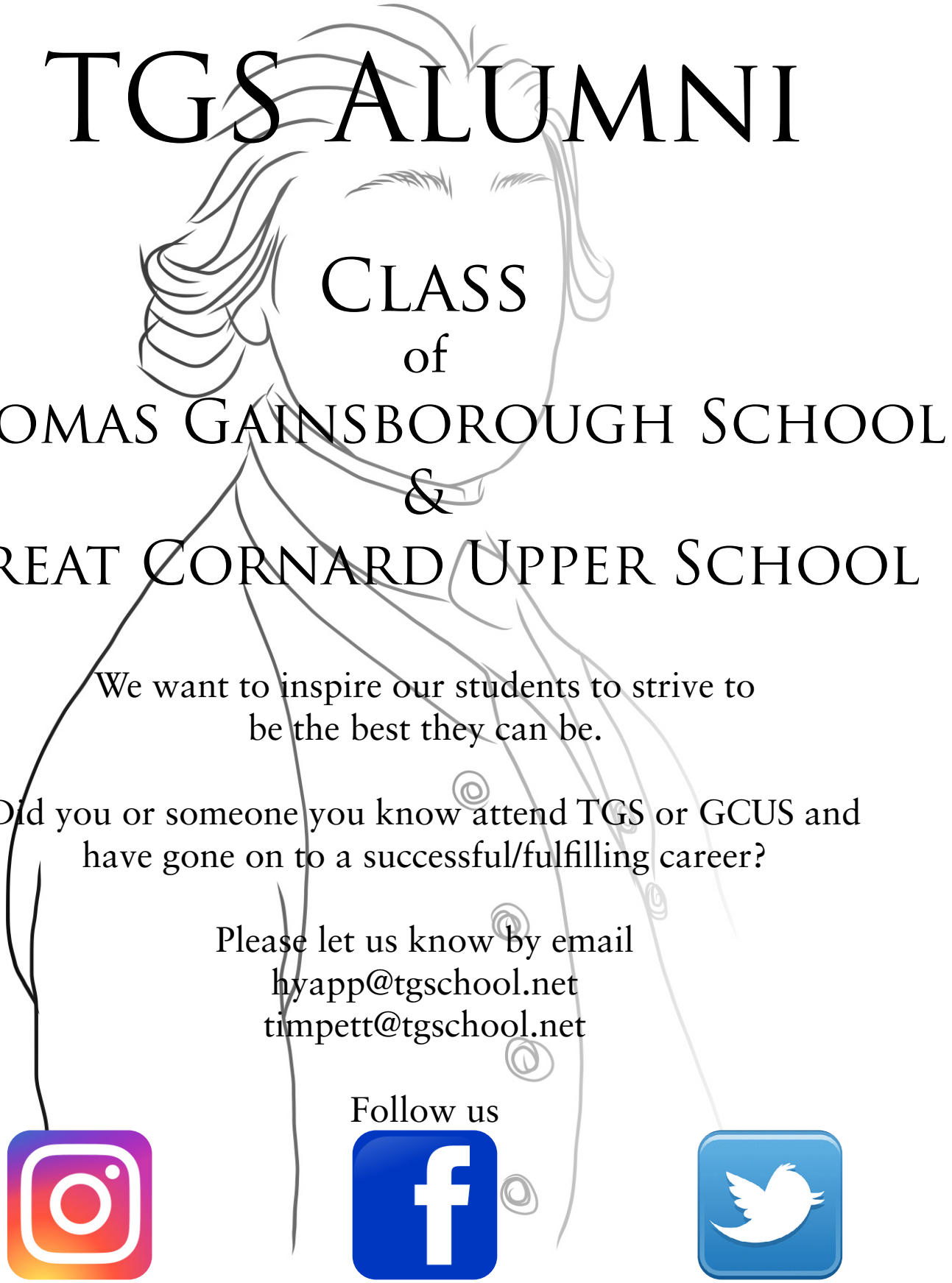









TGS Alumni



Class of Thomas Gainsborough School & Great Cornard Upper School

We want to inspire our students to strive to be the best they can be.

Did you or someone you know attend TGS or GCUS and have gone on to a successful/fulfilling career?

Please let us know by email
hyapp@tgschool.net
timpett@tgschool.net

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