

SCHOOL NEWS

Taverham High School
An 11-18 Academy
Inspire | Empower | Achieve



MARS – 28067 EARTH – 27772 NEPTUNE – 27792 JUPITER – 28414

ISSUE 13 – 13/12/2024

DIARY DATES

16/12/24 – Tracking Point 1 published to parents via MCAS
18/12/24 – THS Christmas Fair
20/12/24 – Last Day of term – Students finish 1:10pm
21/12/24-06/01/25 – Christmas Holidays
07/01/25 – Term Begins (Week 2)
16/01/25 – Year 9 Parents' Evening (online)
20/01/25-24/01/25 – Year 13 Mock exams
22/01/25 – Year 11 Poetry Live trip
22/01/25 – Parent and Community Event
23/01/25 – Year 10 Trip to Macbeth
28/01/25 – Year 11 visiting speaker: Action Jackson
30/01/25 – Year 9 Options Evening
04/02/25-06/02/25 – Year 11 Hospitality Practical GCSE Exams
05/02/25 – Community Music and Movement Event 10:20-11:20
06/02/25 – Year 11 Revision Evening

SAFEGUARDING AT TAVERHAM HIGH SCHOOL

The School's Designated Safeguarding Leads – Ms R Ricketts, Mrs G Killington, Mrs A Reynolds, Mr S Blowers.

Emergency contact number: 0344 800 8021

NSPCC– Run Helpline for Victims of Sexual Abuse in Schools: 0800 136 663

Wellbeing and Mental Health Referral Form:

If you are worried about the wellbeing of one of our students, please complete a referral form; this can be used as a self-referral form or as a referral for someone else. It can be found on our school website on the 'students' page and can be accessed via this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/jwPTKVYnYz>

ATTENDANCE

House attendance:

Mars 92.5%
Jupiter 93.8%
Neptune: 93.8%
Earth: 92.9%

93.2%

If your child has an appointment during school time, please call 01603 860505 or email office@taverhamhigh.org with the name of the student, date and time of the appointment. Students will make their own way to reception to sign out to be collected by parents/carers.

SPORTS NEWS

Our U12 Girl's Football team played an amazing game against Hethersett Academy. The scoreline was close throughout but we narrowly lost in the last 5 minutes making it 3-2 to Hethersett!

Well done to Molly for both her goals, and thank you to Molly and Jade for having a stint in goal! ⚽⚽



A fantastic display of skills from our U13 Girl's Football teams who played in a festive tournament on Wednesday, both teams not losing a game throughout and some wonderful football played! Well done girls!! ⚽⚽



HOUSE VOICE

Early Rewards Lunch

The winning house of the early reward lunch will be announced next Thursday during morning briefings. Jupiter is currently in the lead, but can they be overtaken? There's still time for students to earn house points by joining the house scavenger hunt, completing club loyalty cards, and showing the four house values in class and around school.

Let's see who comes out on top—good luck, everyone!



House Quiz

A huge thank you to our Earth House Student Leaders for organising the quiz—it was a fantastic event!

Congratulations to Jupiter House for winning the quiz and edging closer to the top spot.

SIXTH FORM

NEWS

Christmas spirit has been in full swing this week. It was lovely to see several of our Sixth Form students enjoying the Christmas Lunch on Tuesday with key stage four. The festivities continued Thursday lunchtime with Sixth Form students and staff joining the main school for a Christmas singalong. A big thank you as well to our Sixth Form students who organised the food bank collection, you truly represent our core value of compassion

A Level Geography students had a visit from Chris Page at ITV who gave a talk on Climate Change this week. Not only did students benefit from hearing about such an important issue they have been studying, but it also gave them the opportunity to find out about potential careers in the field. Some Year 11 students who have applied for Geography at Sixth Form were also able to attend this enrichment experience. Thank you to Ms Reding and the Geography department for facilitating this. Looking ahead to next week, on Monday, all Year 12 students will have an Apprenticeship talk by the Pathways to Work Advisor from Norfolk County Council. This will take place during their period 5 enrichment lesson and provide students with information on the range of apprenticeship opportunities available after Sixth Form.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mrs L Robertson
Head of Sixth Form



STUDENT VOICE

Yet another busy and successful week at our Sixth Form on the run up to Christmas! First of all, congratulations to all the Art and Photography students for completing their mocks! We have such a thriving creative community at Taverham, it will be great to see all the pieces displayed. Also this week, we have had our Christmas dinners, which has been a fulfilling treat for all the school, as well as the collections for the food bank in Form groups.

Mr Yassin's Christmas songs at lunchtime has also contributed to the charity, the singing participants donated to the foodbank. The Sixth Form Student Leadership team helped with this event, and it was a huge success, with the entire main hall singing by the end of lunch! All donations and contributions to the foodbank have been highly appreciated. I hope everyone has a lovely Christmas holiday and I look forward to the beginning of a new term!

Josie S, Deputy Head of School
Sixth Form Leadership Team



EVENTS

Chris Page - Geography talk

On Tuesday the Geography department had a guest speaker in to talk to the A level geographers (and some lucky Year 11's). Chris Page is a meteorologist and weather presenter for ITV focussing on the Anglia region and came in to talk to students about university and careers utilising Geography, and the benefits of the subject to future employers.

Chris discussed Climate Change in his talk, a key concept in the Geography curriculum at THS. It features prominently in topics like 'Water and Carbon' at A Level and 'The Challenge of Natural Hazards' at GCSE, while also underpinning the entire curriculum and shaping our future. Chris' talk reinforced many of the ideas we discuss such as management and mitigation of climate change. As well as ideas surrounding feedback loops and impacts of climate change at a variety of scales. Students found the talk really insightful as well as getting to talk to someone who makes real predictions about the weather and has used his Physical Geography degree to forge a career. We really enjoyed welcoming someone of local fame into the department and hopefully Chris will come back and talk to us again in the future.



Lego Therapy

For the last three weeks students working in Lego Therapy sessions have been designing games made with Lego. They had to work collaboratively to design the game concept, rules and objective. I was so impressed with one of the designs I decided to contact Lego Customer Services to tell them all about it.

Mrs J Gray - Assistant SENCO



Year 10 Apprenticeships talk

On Monday 9 December our Year 10 students had an assembly from Sophie Allan, Pathways to Work Adviser on behalf of the Department for Education, to talk about apprenticeships. Apprenticeships are one of the many fantastic options available to students when they leave school and are becoming increasingly popular with students who are looking at their next steps after school and are eager to jump straight into the world of work and get earning and learning. Further details and resources regarding apprenticeships are available from The Amazing Apprenticeships website <https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/>



St Giles Education - Understanding gangs and county lines for parents and carers in Norfolk

On Thursday 30 January 5:00 - 6:30pm St Giles Education are inviting parents and carers in Norfolk to join them for an online awareness-raising session. This is to help parents/carers recognise the signs and indicators that young people are at risk of becoming involved in gangs, exploitation and violence, as well as to advise on how to have conversations about these issues and where to seek support. Visit their event page for more information on the session: <https://tinyurl.com/mvry9axa>.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

Art

Last week, Year 11 Art students completed their final coursework piece over a two-day exam. Sixth Form students completed their three-day exam for their coursework outcomes. There were some fantastic outcomes and we are looking forward to the final outcomes at the end of the year and another amazing exhibition. Recently, Sixth Form students were given the opportunity to take part in a life modelling enrichment session. The students gained a lot from the experience, and this will help support their progress as artists.

Design & Technology

In Design & Technology, we are nearing the end of the second rotation of projects in KS3, students have been very creative with their design and practical work. Hopefully, they will be taking their completed projects home to share, it is great to think that what they make in school can be used to start discussions about the subject and the learning that's been taking place. Year 11 and 13s are well into their NEA (non-exam assessment, or coursework) and they will be starting to manufacture their final designs soon after the Christmas break. For GCSE students, the department offers additional after school sessions on a weekly basis: Wednesdays for D&T, and Thursdays for Engineering. We encourage all students to attend and hope they take advantage of the opportunities available to achieve the best they can. With Year 9 choosing their options soon, students are encouraged to talk to their subject teachers in lessons to find out about all the different subjects the Design & Technology department offers.

Food club will continue after Christmas on selected dates. Students can sign up for these sessions via Wisepay with a £1 contribution towards the cost of ingredients. The sessions that have run so far have proved very popular with students making all sorts of yummy goodies!

Drama

Miss Andrews and a group of Year 7 students have spent several weeks rehearsing and preparing for a performance of Ernie's Incredible Illusions. The students have been working really hard to prepare for their performance today, and we wish both cast and support the best of luck for today. Stage Door drama club has welcomed an influx of new members, and they are currently working on "Scenes From The Musicals" in readiness for the Spring Concert. It is not too late to join them, they meet in the studio on Friday lunch times. Year 10 are busy rehearsing for next term's production of Twelfth Night, which will be followed by an abridged performance of Blood Brothers scheduled for the end of the summer term.

Meanwhile, Year 11 are preparing for their practical GCSE exam. As part of their written exam, they are required to review a live production and we are eagerly anticipating the forthcoming trip, more details will be available soon!

Music

Year 7 students have completed their Wallace & Gromit performance and will now learn how chords create harmony and support melodies. They're exploring chord construction, identifying major and minor tonalities, and using chord sequences to enhance texture in their music. In Year 8, the focus has been What Makes a Good Song? Students have explored catchy melodies, hooks, riffs, and song structures like verses, choruses, and bridges, analysing how lyrics interact with music. Year 9 students have worked on music with repeated patterns, such as hooks and riffs, performing pieces like Uptown Funk, Shape of You, and Seven Years. They've been assessed and taken part in peer feedback.

In Year 10, students have performed solo pieces to prepare for their performance assessment, practising regularly and updating their performance logs. In the new year, they'll start Conventions of Pop, studying popular music from the 1950s to today. For Year 11 the focus has been on the Development of the Concerto (1650–1910), solo and ensemble performances, and refining compositions for final assessments. Year 12 Music Technology students have been mastering digital audio workstations (DAWs) and honing skills for creative projects. Year 13 students have been learning mixing and mastering techniques by remixing the multitrack of Bohemian Rhapsody. They're also producing the Christmas track. Mr Yassin showed everyone how it is done!



PE

There have been a lot of extra-curricular clubs and sports activities this term, including the popular Fitness Friday activities. This term has seen another group of students successfully complete their Couch-to-5K challenge. Students took part in the park run at Sloughbottom Park in Norwich recently. Well done to all who took part.

Congratulations to James L, who has been competing in the Norfolk Sportshall athletics league competition. The league consisted of three matches and James has won the All Rounder Champion for 2024. In January he will be competing in the County Championships and hopefully the regional finals. We wish him good luck in the championships and for his future in athletics.



AND FINALLY...

Well, it's undeniably beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Taverham High this week! We've had the full range of Christmas jumpers on display from both students and staff – some very stylish and subtle, others appropriately outlandish and gopping (as my mother would say). The two Christmas lunch sittings were, as ever, a lovely time for our community to come together with colleagues providing table service for students as they chatted and sang along to Christmas tunes. My thanks to the catering team who did a fantastic job in getting all the meals prepared and out in time and to all my colleagues who helped make the two lunchtimes such a lovely occasion.



In a similar vein, Thursday lunchtime saw the end to our Christmas food bank collection and Christmas song singing in the gym. Another really fantastic occasion that allowed all interested students, from all year groups, and staff, to come along and enjoy some time together as members of this community. Can I offer my sincerest apologies to anyone who was unfortunate enough to be stood near me as I droned tunelessly through the ten songs we sang.

As I write this around forty-five students are enjoying Christmas markets across Germany as part of our annual trip. My thanks to Ms Havunen for coordinating the trip and to all colleagues who have given up their time to offer this opportunity to our students.

On a less festive note, Year 11 students and families received their mock exam results this week and had parents' evening. For some this will have been a very positive and encouraging experience and a chance to identify the smaller areas of the curriculum that perhaps warrant a little more attention over the next few months. For others, the experience may have been a little less positive, highlighting the need for significant work over the coming weeks. Please ensure your child/ward takes note of the messages Mrs Birkin and Ms Webb gave out in assembly, to seek any help they need from colleagues and parents/carers and try to stay positive. From my perspective, I want only to say that it's not too late! Looking back will do no one any good, but there's still a long way to go to the final exams and my experience is that there are always students who turn things around from this point on. Inevitably, almost always, young people get what they deserve on results day, there are rarely any surprises for us, so it's up to them now to decide what will be in that envelope in August. How much your child/ward puts in from now, in terms of hard work and focus, will directly influence how successful they are. Please support however you can and let us know what we can do to better support as well. The recent mock exams offer students precise and accurate information to help guide their revision over the Christmas break and beyond, so please do encourage your child/ward to keep up their learning as much as possible around the festivities.

Congratulations this week go to Olivia G in Year 7 who won the Anglia Area Ballroom and Latin dancing championship earlier in December, beating dancers from Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex in her age group. In doing so, Olivia beat the two girls who placed higher than her last year and has qualified for the national championships in Blackpool in April! Such an incredible achievement, we're really proud of you for your resilience and determination – well done. Whatever happens in April, we know that you will seize the opportunity and give it your best shot. Remember, we want to celebrate any and all successes that we can, so please keep these coming in to celebrations@taverhamhigh.org.

We are continuing to see a very small number of students flouting our uniform rules, most notably coming into school in tracksuit bottoms/joggers, wearing hoop earrings and wearing trainers that are obviously logoed and/or colours other than black. Please can I ask for your support with this? These students really stand out and, after Christmas, if necessary, I will need to find ways to deter this from happening, so I would rather it was nipped in the bud before young people leave their homes in the morning.

I won't now write to you again before the Christmas break, as Miss Ricketts will be writing to you next week with the final newsletter of the term. Therefore, I will take this opportunity to thank you all for your incredible support this term and wish you all a very restful break, full of family, friends and all things that bring you joy.

Best wishes,

Mr G Yassin
Headteacher



Useful Contacts and Websites

- **Young Minds:** Resources to help young people care for their mental health, empowers parents to support them: www.youngminds.org.uk
- **NSPCC:** Support and tips to help you keep children safe: www.nspcc.org.uk
- **Thinkuknow:** Helping you to better protect your children online: www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- **Children's society:** Advice pages offer help on a range of topics for young people. www.childrenssociety.org.uk
- **Ownit:** Help, support and advice on how to be safe online.: www.bbc.com/ownit
- **Just one number Chathealth:** Secure NHS approved text messaging service.: <https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/our-services/chathealth>
- **Nelson's Journey:** Support children and young people following a bereavement.: <https://nelsonsjourney.org.uk/>
- **MAP:** Ensure young people have the access to information, advice, counselling and support they need.: <https://www.map.uk.net/>
- **Kooth:** Access support from other young people and professionals.: <https://www.kooth.com/>
- **Staying Safe:** Help keep people safer from thoughts of harm and suicide: <https://staying-safe.net/home>
- **Guide for parents and carers, coping with self-harm:** <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2015-12-01-new-guide-parents-who-are-coping-their-childrens-self-harm-you-are-not-alone>



Expand your reading adventures! Students - Scan the QR code to download the eReader app and access your school's library anytime, anywhere! Students will receive training at school, but feel free to log on now!



Community Christmas Craft Fair

at Taverham High School
Wednesday 18th December
4.30pm - 7.30pm

Makers Market: 50 local makers
Pop-up tea shop
Charity Tombola
food from
Churros and Chorizo

free parking

free entry

Taverham High School
Beech Ave, NR8 6HP

Understanding gangs and county lines for parents and carers in Norfolk

Inviting parents and carers in Norfolk to join us for an awareness-raising session to help recognise the signs and indicators that young people are at risk of becoming involved in gangs, exploitation and violence.

Join us online
Thursday 30th January
17.00-18.30PM

[Register Here](#)

Or visit our event page
for more information

<https://tinyurl.com/mvry9axa>

