



### WELCOME TO THOMAS DEACON ACADEMY'S SPRING NEWSLETTER

I remember my parents saying to me the classic phrase; 'the older you get, the more quickly the years pass by'. I would often look skyward when hearing this but, as I progress in years, teaching and leading TDA, I do feel this is actually true! Since Christmas, our time back at TDA continues to be very positive but it does feel like only yesterday we returned from the summer holidays - and now we are at our Easter break!

Time in school is so important; time missed from school can't be replaced. I continue to be very proud of the vast majority of our students who display such a positive attitude to learning and wonderful character traits, and this newsletter showcases our fantastic student population. We are still (nationally) not back at pre pandemic levels of school attendance, and for many students there are genuine reasons for this. Please support us to ensure each student achieves our core purpose, and help them to show **commitment** by aiming for 100 per cent attendance. It is only with this **commitment** that each student can spark their **curiosity** and learn from the wealth of opportunities at TDA, as we all work in partnership to:



*Rick Carroll, Principal*

'Ensure that each student acquires the necessary **knowledge**, **skills** and **character** to make a positive contribution to society and 'thrive' as a global citizen'.

Thank you to all staff and parents for working so hard, showing **compassion** and supporting our students to navigate the demands of school life and to thrive from the opportunities we offer.

An important development this term has been our first Café Connections parental engagement event. It was great to see so many parents attend, demonstrating their **curiosity** and **commitment** to what happens at TDA. The purpose of this group is to encourage parents and carers to have a 'voice'. Listening to parents helps us to support our approach with 'student voice' and 'staff voice'. When we all work together and support each other, we can really ensure an impressive collective outcome is achieved.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter, and I wish you and your family a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break.





## Celebrating Thomas Deacon at Peterborough Cathedral

We celebrated our namesake, Thomas Deacon's legacy to education at a commemorative service at Peterborough Cathedral with other academies in our Trust, Queen Katharine Academy and Gladstone Primary Academy, as well as Thomas Deacon Foundation.

We were so proud of our CCF (Combined Cadet Force) who were a key part of the service, and of our Head Students for their inspirational reading. Our cadets laid a wreath on Thomas Deacon's memorial, and it was wonderful to have this opportunity to reflect on the unique history of our Trust.



## Café Connections event a success

Our TDA Café Connections event, for parents/carers with children at our Junior or Senior academies, was a huge success.

Following a welcome from Principal, Rick Carroll, our Academy Committee Members, Chris Walford and Jabeen Shafee, spoke about our new Parent Forum. Catering and Operations manager, Michael Dove, and Senior Catering Manager, Sarah Bucknall presented about nutrition and cuisine-related activities. The refectory team then provided delicious refreshments and parents visited stalls attended by teams from each year group, SEND, Enrichment, Refectory and Data.

Thank you to those staff who supported this event. Parents were complimentary about meeting staff and the support they received. We also had six parents sign up to our Parent Forum, which was fantastic. We hope to host the next TDA Café Connections in June 2023.





## Sixth Form students present to Citizens UK audience

Our Sixth Form students joined 135 delegates representing 19 other organisations from across the city at the recent Citizens UK assembly evening.

They expertly presented the results of our recent Listening Campaign with students, parents and staff, which aimed to gather opinions on community action projects. They presented brilliantly, with courage and confidence.

The final vote for community action projects went to crime and safety, homelessness and housing, and tackling racism in schools. Great work everyone!



## Duke of Edinburgh awards

We had a wonderful evening celebrating students achieving their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh awards.

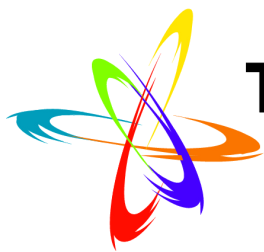
We hosted more than 100 guests, who were inspired by guest speaker, Mr Ed Walker MBE talking about how compassion and courage have helped him set up his 'Homes for the Homeless' charity.

Our Year 10 student, Owais entertained the guests with his immaculate piano playing and Year 11 students Grace and Lily-Jane welcomed our guests in French and British Sign Language.

Parents enjoyed seeing photos and videos of the students' skills carousel, which included first aid, pitching tents, rucksack packing, map reading and Trangia cooking, as well as photos of their Bronze, Silver and Gold expeditions. What a fantastic evening!







## Imperial War Museum visit for Cadets

Our Year 8 and 9 Cadets had a fantastic trip to the Imperial War Museum in London.

They enjoyed this unique opportunity to learn about the military in World War Two and other conflicts. They particularly enjoyed the Extraordinary Heroes exhibition in the Lord Ashcroft Gallery, showing compassion and respect while learning about the fallen heroes of military history.

They all asked lots of great questions about the gallery's displays. It was a fantastic trip and we were very proud of them all for brilliant behaviour.



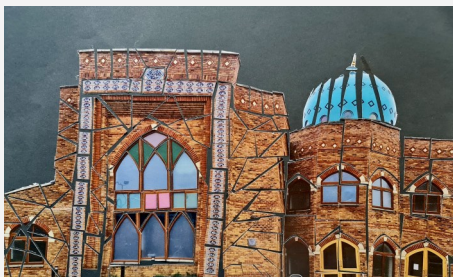
## Students and staff win art competition

Well done to two of our students who celebrated fantastic achievement in a local art competition!

Erin in Year 12 came second place in the 13-18 category with her black and white artwork of the cathedral, winning £100, and one of our Year 8 students received third place, winning £50. Their work will be displayed in the new hospital opening at Hampton.

Our art teacher, Mrs Lomas, also came third in the adult competition with her beautiful forest and still life artwork - winning £150! Her work will also be on display in the new hospital.

Well done to you all!





## Cambridge University offers for three students!



A huge well done to our students Mia, Tamearon and Halimah in Year 13 who have all been offered a place to study at the University of Cambridge!

This is an incredible achievement and the culmination of a lot of hard work, resilience and determination.

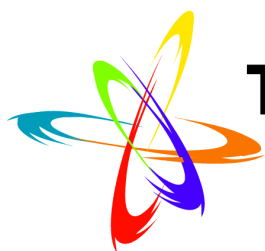
Thank you to their parents/carers and to the staff who have supported them. We're so proud of you all, massive congratulations and best of luck in your upcoming exams!

## Rapper Xidus Pain visits TDA

Our students have been working very hard on their music this term.

They enjoyed a series of workshops with visiting rapper Xidus Pain and professional producer JP, creating some fantastic lyrics! This was part of a project with Peterborough Music Hub and three other Peterborough schools, and ended with a fantastic performance at New Theatre Peterborough to a packed theatre. There were a variety of musical performances from TDA including a rock band. It was a great experience for all the students, well done to you all!





## Higher Education Fair

Our joint Higher Education fair with Queen Katharine Academy went brilliantly, with 400 Year 12 and 13 students attending from both Sixth Forms.

There were 20 universities and employers for the students to engage with, including Cambridge, Nottingham, Newcastle, ARU Peterborough as well as Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the NHS.

The atmosphere was buzzing, the students were keen to ask questions about their future and found the event really useful.



## Tree planting in Central Park

Well done to our Year 7 and 8 students who worked alongside Aragon Direct Services to plant 30 trees in Central Park.

It was a beautiful day for it. We left messages to be discovered in the future by writing on the bottom of the support stakes, and also buried a time capsule under the trees.

We also found time to squeeze in a quick litter pick too!



### KEY DATES

**TRAINING DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED**  
- Monday 17th April 2023

**SPRING TERM OPENS - Tuesday 18th April 2023**

**MAY DAY - Monday 1st May 2023**

**KING'S CORONATION BANK HOLIDAY**  
- Monday 8th May 2023

**HALF TERM - Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2023**

**TERM ENDS FOR STUDENTS - Tuesday 18th July 2023**

### GOODBYE!

We would like to say goodbye and good luck to:

**Reece McGookin** - PE Technician and Cover Supervisor

**Andrew Taylor** - Assistant Subject Leader for English

**Helen Payne** - Specialist Teaching Assistant for Disabilities

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