



WELCOME TO THOMAS DEACON ACADEMY'S SUMMER NEWSLETTER

We've enjoyed a fantastic Summer Term at TDA and I am so proud of our students, who have worked extremely hard and made the most of the many opportunities our academy has to offer. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the highlights of our term in this newsletter.

From sporting events to Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, writing competitions, university visits, helping in our local community and exciting events such as Cultural Day in school, there has been so much for our students to become involved in and it's certainly been a year to remember.

One of the unique features of our academy is our six character values, Commitment, Compassion, Courtesy, Curiosity, Confidence and Courage. These form the cornerstone of our 'character curriculum' and we continue to embed these values through our academic and extracurricular opportunities. It is wonderful to see our students displaying these values every day, continuing the 'TDA Way', to become positive, confident and compassionate individuals.

I'd like to say a huge well done to this year's exam students who have all worked incredibly hard, with outstanding commitment and perseverance which I'm sure will be reflected in their results. Thank you to our teaching and support teams and to our parents/carers and families, who have encouraged and nurtured them through their studies.

A focus for us this year has been honouring our academy and Trust's founder, Thomas Deacon, to commemorate 300 years since his kindness in leaving a legacy to open a school in Peterborough. From our youngest junior pupils to our Sixth Form students, kindness has been a focus for us throughout the year to honour Thomas Deacon's original act of kindness. This culminated in the TDET Act of Kindness Awards, where we celebrated with the other academies in our Trust. Congratulations to our Sixth Former, Ismail who received Overall Student Winner for his work helping a refugee family needing accommodation in Peterborough.

As the 2022/23 academic year draws to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our staff, families, local organisations and wider community who all work so hard to support and care for our students. I hope you all enjoy a fun, relaxing and safe summer break, and look forward to seeing everyone back in September.



Mrs Emily Gaunt - Acting Principal





Honouring Thomas Deacon at Act of Kindness Awards

Congratulations to our brilliant students, Ismail, Aimee and Reshmi, and to our staff member, Bernie Walding who received awards and commendations at the Thomas Deacon Education Trust (TDET) Act of Kindness celebration event.

This was a wonderful evening where academies across our Trust celebrated 300 years since Thomas Deacon's original act of kindness in leaving a legacy to set up a school in Peterborough.



We've been celebrating this milestone across the Trust this year, with students and staff carrying out acts of kindness in our academies and local community. Our academy student winner, Ismail, who also won the overall Trust student award, headed up a group of Sixth Formers to raise funds for a family of refugees claiming asylum in the UK - helping them search for accommodation and set up their house with essential items. Meanwhile, Bernie has put her heart and soul into supporting young people in our academy with SEND, organising productions, trips and opportunities to help these students learn and develop their confidence. Well done to our winners and nominees, and thank you to everyone who has supported our Act of Kindness campaign throughout the year.

TDA wins Milestone Special Eco-Award!

A group of our Year 5 and Year 7 students attended the Eco Awards, hosted by Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT), at the new Anglia Ruskin University building in the city centre.

The students took part in a wild bird conservation talk, seed-bomb making session, pot making, bean planting and a VR headset session with local company Virador, which transforms domestic and commercial waste and recyclables into high-quality raw materials and energy.



We were also so proud to win the Milestone Special award for our overall commitment to eco-development and received a beautiful trophy, certificate and £200 voucher to spend on an outdoor project. A special mention to Daniel in Year 7, who really impressed the judges with his confidence and commitment to the environment!



TDA cinema evening raises £635 for charity

We held a TDA cinema evening to raise money for specialist equipment for the charity Little Miracles, which supports children with additional needs, disabilities and life-limiting conditions.

The theatre was packed and we sold plenty of popcorn, in total raising a brilliant £635! Thank you to everyone who attended and to our dedicated team of staff and students, who stayed late to support the event and to sweep up popcorn!



Sixth Formers volunteer at soup kitchen

A group of Sixth Formers demonstrated their compassion by helping out at the local Hussain Soup Kitchen. The soup kitchen helps homeless individuals, people on low-income, asylum seekers, refugees and people who are lonely and just want a cup of tea and a chat.

The students served people in our community from different faiths, cultures and backgrounds, volunteering on a sunny Saturday and giving up their free time to help others. They served food, made cups of tea, assisted with desserts and helped to clean the room. Well done everyone!



Celebrating diversity of cultures at TDA

This term we celebrated our Cultural Day 2023. Students and staff were invited to come into school wearing their traditional cultural clothes and took part in a day of activities to learn about the different cultures within our school community. Activities included a fashion show, gum boot dancing show, making carnival masks, and an African drumming session. We had an absolutely fantastic day, a massive thank you to everyone in our school and wider community for helping to make it such a success!



Spanish fun for Years 7 and 8

Our Year 7 and Year 8 Spanish groups enjoyed their enrichment opportunity at the Olive Grove restaurant in Staffordshire.

They were totally immersed in the Spanish language and culture from the doorstep, from the displays in the restaurant to the accessories, decorations, music and food.

They had fun ordering their meal in Spanish and showed a great attitude to learning - well done everyone!



DofE expedition for Year 9

Our Year 9 Bronze DofE students approached their combined training and expedition this term with commitment and resilience.

They began by practicing map reading and compass work, First Aid, Trangia cooking and safety, pitching tents and rucksack preparation. They then walked from Collyweston to Sacrewell Farm, where they camped overnight before walking to Bretton - over 20km in total!



Staff DofE hike to commemorate Thomas Deacon

A group of 15 TDA staff members took part in our annual Duke of Edinburgh staff training in the Peak District. They set themselves the challenge of completing 300km over a weekend to commemorate the 300th legacy of the Trust's founder, Thomas Deacon.

They began their challenge by cycling a combined distance of 75km on a bike ride around the Derwent reservoir on a Friday evening. On Saturday, the team aimed to walk a combined 225km around the dales and hills of Hope Valley.

Each staff member completed an average of 16km, despite the hot weather, and in total the team cycled and walked 328km!

Despite sore feet and aching joints, the team took great delight in reaching the 300km milestone in memory of Thomas Deacon.





Year 12 trip to ARU

A group of our Year 12 students, as well as four Year 12 students from Queen Katharine Academy, went on a joint trip to Anglia Ruskin University Chelmsford's School of Medicine. They enjoyed a tour, a talk from one of the lecturers, practiced practical skills with replica skeletons and CPR mannequins, and met a current third year medical student. It was a very informative day and students really enjoyed it.



Student Voice charity meeting

A group of our junior and senior Student Voice representatives met this term in the boardroom at our central Trust office to discuss fund-raising ideas for next year and which charities they would like to support.

Each year, our students choose one local, one national and one international charity to support the following year. Our Student Voice group produces a shortlist, then students across our academies have a final vote. The group did a great job discussing and listening to each other's points of view - well done everyone!



KEY DATES

STAFF TRAINING DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED -
Friday 1st September 2023

AUTUMN TERM OPENS - Monday 4th
September 2023

HALF TERM - Monday 23rd October to
Friday 27th October 2023

TERM ENDS FOR STUDENTS - Wednesday
20th December 2023

GOODBYE!

We would like to say goodbye and good luck to:

Faheema Naulla - Health and Social Care Teacher, **Steph Harrison-Smith** - DT Teacher, **Julia Gaze** - English Teacher, **Catherine Ward** - Maths Teacher, **Bernie Walding** - English Teacher, **Emma Baker** - Performing Arts Teacher, **Alex Izycky** - Head of Humanities and MFL, **Ockie Vermaak** - DT Teacher, **Natalie Johnson** - HLTA, **Eugenio Garcia** - Teacher of MFL, **Viviane Simmonds** - Specialist Teaching Assistant, **Kate Jagovkina** - Teaching Assistant, **Nicola Stevenson** - Exams Administrator, **Leanna Hall** - Teacher of English, **Lauryn Phillips** - Teaching Assistant, **Danielle Holden** - Medical Needs Supervisor, **Sofia Ali** - Teaching Assistant, **Andy Baldock** - Senior IT Technician.

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