



An introduction to TDA Juniors



Welcome

A warm welcome to TDA Juniors (TDAJ), part of the Thomas Deacon Academy. We have an excellent staff team dedicated to ensuring every child succeeds, learns and flourishes. We put high quality teaching and learning at the heart of what we do.



We are able to provide the best of primary education, blended with the best of specialist teaching, resources and facilities available from the secondary part of the Academy.

We aim, not to just prepare children to be 'ready' for secondary education, but to give them the knowledge, skills and aptitudes to excel in the next stage of their education as confident, well-rounded individuals.

We look forward to working with you and your family in the future.

Lucy Burks
Head of Juniors.

Introduction

TDAJ, located in the heart of Peterborough is part of the Thomas Deacon Academy. The Junior School opened in September 2014 in a new, purpose-built premises on the Thomas Deacon Academy site.

TDAJ provides high quality teaching and meaningful learning, within a caring, primary school environment for junior aged children (Year 3 to Year 6.)



We opened with 90 children in Year 3 in September 2014, and in September 2017, the Juniors was at 370 children from Year 3 to Year 6. Children at the Juniors will automatically have a place in the Secondary phase of the Academy when they reach Year 7. This means that Thomas Deacon Academy now offers children the opportunity for an all through education, from Year 3 to the end of the 6th Form in Year 13.

TDAJ has a primary-style day and ethos, with a morning playtime, and dedication lunchtime and children in classes with the same class teacher. We provide excellent pastoral care and have very positive relationships between staff and children.

We aim for high academic standards and for children to become confident, inquisitive learners who are ready to thrive in the next stage of their education.

TDAJ provides a broad, balanced primary curriculum. The curriculum builds upon the learning and progress these children have made in infant school and makes use of the subject expertise and facilities of the Secondary Phase to enhance, enrich and extend the curriculum. Children in TDAJ benefit from expert teaching in a range of subjects from specialist teachers, including physical education and the expressive arts.

Places at TDAJ are offered to children in Year 2 at Queen's Drive Infants and then offered based on distance from Thomas Deacon Academy for children attending other schools.

TDA Values

All members of our learning community follow the TDA values of Trust, Discipline and Aspiration.

Trust

We are honest.

We do what we say we'll do and do not make excuses. We are loyal and have the courage to do the right thing.

Discipline

We never give up.

We remain positive so that we have the strength to persevere with even the hardest work. We expect discipline from ourselves and others: we are respectful, polite and courteous.

Aspiration

We want the very best.

We have an unwavering focus on results and do all we can to create a culture of success. We drive to get better at things that matter.

Facilities and Environment

The Junior building is a new, spacious, light, self-contained primary school, which is separate from the existing Secondary Phase building. TDAJ provides a high quality teaching and learning environment with twelve classrooms, breakout spaces, one-to-one group rooms, a multi-use hall, a technology and computing room, library and large, safe playground.



All classrooms are well equipped and have interactive whiteboards. Children have access to iPads to support their learning. Large corridors act as breakout spaces and are used for small group work. Each corridor has over twenty computers for children to use to help their learning and a room for additional support.

The Junior building has a large hall which is used for assemblies, dance, drama, PE and it is where children eat their midday meal. High quality school dinners are cooked on site in the modern kitchen and many children choose to have a hot dinner each day.

A dedicated computing and technology room provides an additional space for technology, art, science and food technology. The Junior building also has an ICT suite to allow the effective teaching of computing.

Reading is a vital part of the curriculum, and TDAJ has a well-resourced library to support the teaching of reading and to promote a love of books.

Children have access to a large, exciting playground for playtimes, lunchtimes and as part of the learning environment.

The TDAJ Day

The day at TDAJ is staggered with that of the main Academy to reduce congestion at the start and the end of the day.

7:40 a.m.	Breakfast Club
8:40 a.m.	Playground gates open - children and parents can come onto the playground. Children are supervised from 8:40 on the playground.
8:50 a.m.	Classroom doors open for early morning work.
9:00 a.m.	Morning register (after this time, children are late) and lessons begin. Morning lessons with a 15-minute playtime.
12:00 – 12: 45 p.m.	Yr.3 lunch time. Afternoon register and afternoon lessons begin.
12:00 – 12:45 p.m.	Yr.4 lunch time. Afternoon register and afternoon lessons begin.
12:30 – 1:15 p.m.	Yr.5 lunch time. Afternoon register and afternoon lessons begin.
12:30 – 1:15 p.m.	Yr.6 lunch time. Afternoon register and afternoon lessons begin.
3:10 p.m.	End of the formal day.
3:10-4:10 p.m.	Enrichment Clubs
3:00-5:15 p.m.	After School Club



There is no vehicle access to the Junior Building. There is pedestrian access via Queen's Gardens, Park Crescent and from Nottingham Way.

If dropping off by car, then please park in the main visitors' car park from the Queen's Gardens entrance and then walk to the Junior Building. This makes for a much safer drop off and pick up. We ask that families help to be good neighbours and do not park, or drop children off on Queen's Gardens.

The gates open at 8:40 a.m. and children can come onto the playground. The playground is supervised at this time and children can be left on the playground or you may choose to wait with your child.

Classroom doors open at 8:50 a.m. and children come into classes at this time and complete early morning work, read or respond to marking in their books.

At 9:00 a.m. the playground gates close and registers start. If a child arrives after this time, then they are late.

Ofsted

The Juniors was inspected as part of the whole Academy in September 2019. We were one of the first schools to be inspected under the new Ofsted Inspection Framework. The whole Academy was graded as good in all categories and good overall, with inspectors making the following comments about the Juniors in the final report:

- Pupils get along well. Many told us how much they value the care and attention of the adults who work with them.
- In the junior school, pupils who find reading difficult get expert help so they can catch up. This support continues for as long as pupils need it.
- Pupils in the junior school study a wide range of subjects. The curriculum in these subjects is well thought out.
- Inspectors saw pupils behaving well and working hard in their lessons and around the buildings in the junior and senior schools.
- Pupils told inspectors that they are happy and feel safe.
- Pupils' work is of a good and improving quality.
- Pupils are confident to speak in lessons. Pupils use knowledge from their previous learning.
- Staff look after pupils well and provide impressive opportunities for personal development.
- Teachers have detailed subject knowledge and make good use of it. They think carefully about what order they will teach individual parts of each topic.

The full Ofsted report can be found on the Ofsted Website (<http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>)

Curriculum

The Thomas Deacon Academy Junior curriculum is designed to be broad, balanced, rich and engaging, while focusing on raising basic skills. The curriculum makes full use of the opportunities provided in the local area and in the secondary phase of the Academy.

Each morning the children have a mathematics and English lesson, an assembly and a playtime.



A range of subjects, including languages in Yr.5, art and PE, are delivered by specialist teachers from the Secondary Phase. All children swim as part of the PE curriculum. The rest of the curriculum is taught through cross-curricular topics based on the International Primary Curriculum, which covers the same objectives as the National Curriculum. TDAJ follows the locally agreed syllabus for RE, taught through an enquiry based approach.

Homework

Homework plays an important part in children's learning at TDAJ and this support is vital in helping children develop their basic skills. Homework in Year 3 is made up of three aspects:

- Reading. Children are expected to read every night for 10-15 minutes. Children have a reading scheme book and a book from our library. We ask parents to make a comment in their child's reading diary each time they hear their child read at home;

- Times tables. By the end of Year 3 we expect children to know their times tables. There is a weekly test and children receive awards as they learn each set of times tables. We expect children to have instant recall of each times table to achieve the award. Children need to spend time practising and learning their tables at home;
- Spellings. Children have a set of spellings to learn each week for a weekly test. Their results are recorded in the children's home-school book, as are the next set of spellings for the children to learn. Children will work on their spellings at school, but will need to practise them at home.



Children in Years 5 and 6 will have Independent Learning Tasks, which are designed to develop self-study and planning skills which children will need for secondary education.

Junior Rules

We have high expectations of behavior at the TDAJ and have four very simple rules which all children are expected to follow:



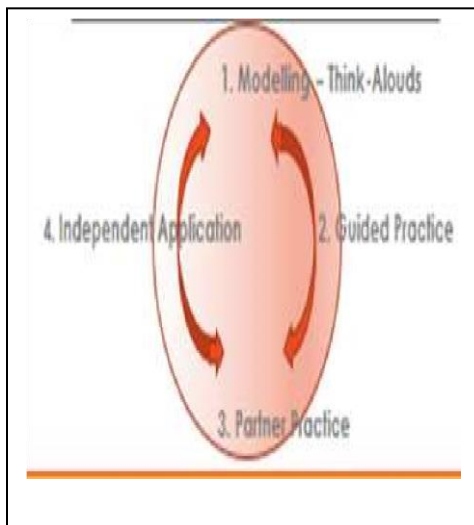
Power Teaching and Learning

All of our Literacy and math's lessons are delivered through the power teaching model.

What is Power Teaching?

A model which provides all teachers with a structure for **how** they deliver their lessons. The learning that is planned for each lesson depends on the group of children and their needs. The model works on the theory that we **learn 95% of what we teach** to someone else.

There are 4 parts to the lesson shown in the diagram below.



Modelling: the teacher shows the children what they will be learning that lesson. This lasts a maximum of 5 minutes and the children are actively listening only.

Guided practice: the teacher guides the children through the learning using their voice only. The children are doing what they are told to by the teacher.

Partner practice: the children work together in pairs to complete activities which relate to the learning from the modelled and guided parts of the lesson.

Independent application: the children apply their learning from the first three parts of the cycle independently.

Catering

The standard of the catering at the Thomas Deacon Academy Junior is very high. The Junior building has a state-of-the-art modern kitchen and all meals are cooked in house. Currently, around two thirds of children choose to have a hot meal. There is always a choice of two hot meal options, a hot or cold dessert. The cost of a meal is currently £2.30 per day. We encourage all families who are eligible for free school meals to take up this entitlement.

Payments to School

Payment for school dinners, educational visits, music lessons etc., are made via our secure online payment system 'ParentPay'. ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available. Parents will have a secure online account, activated using a unique username and password which will be issued to you from the school office; you will be prompted to change these, and to keep them safe and secure. If you have more than one child at our school, you can create a single account login for all your children.



Uniform

The Thomas Deacon Academy Juniors uniform for Year 3 and 4 consists of:

- Dark blue jumper or cardigan (with TDA logo)*
- White shirt/blouse or polo shirt
- Black trousers or skirt
- Black shoes (not trainers or canvas)

In Year 5 and 6 children wear a blazer replacing the jumper and the addition of a Junior TDA tie.

Alternative Summer Uniform – From Easter

- Yr.3/4 Girls - Summer dress navy and white gingham check (Knee length) White socks; sensible shoes
- Yr.3/4 Boys - Black school shorts; white polo shirt; short sleeved white shirt; sensible shoes

PE kit

- Black polo shirt (with Thomas Deacon logo)* □ Black shorts or tracksuit bottoms.
- Trainers

* Items only available through the Academy Shop.

Houses

Each child will be part of one of the six Houses in the Thomas Deacon Academy, but remain in their own classes with their regular teachers. The Houses system allows children to have their views heard through the House Council system, take part in competitions between Houses and to join with older students for special activities or events.

Enrichment Activities

TDAJ offers a range of clubs run by specialist staff to support different areas of the curriculum. A variety of clubs are offered to the children for example:

- Football club
- Multi skills club
- Netball club
- Gymnastics club
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) – this club gives children the opportunity to work on cross curricular projects involving science, engineering, technology and maths.



Children can also have 1:1 instrument lessons during the day from peripatetic music teachers based in the Secondary Phase. Currently we have children who have piano, violin, brass and guitar lessons. There is a charge for peripatetic music lessons, but these are subsidised.

Before and After School Club

There is a before and after school club at TDAJ providing child care on site.

The Breakfast Club is open from 7:40 a.m. each morning. The Breakfast Club will provide a healthy breakfast and activities for children. There will be childcare each afternoon from the end of school 3:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. The After School Club will offer safe and stimulating child care, with an after school snack.

There is a charge and booking policy for the Breakfast and After School Club. Please see a member of the Junior Administrative Team if you wish to use either of these clubs.