

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

Message from Emily Gaunt (Acting Principal):

This term our students have been developing and displaying our six character values in so many ways. Year 3, Year 7, Year 10 and Year 12 have all had the curiosity to start new phases of their education and take on the challenges this creates with confidence, we are very proud of them. Year 6, Year 11 and Year 13 have shown commitment to their education by preparing for, and taking and learning from their assessments and mock exams. TDA students have shown compassion by raising money for Children in Need and by preparing hampers and shoe boxes of food and toiletries for The Light Project, ICare Community Food Hub and Hostels Housing. All of our students shared their courtesy during our Remembrance Service in November and many have shown their courage in trying a new experience through enrichment activities and trips, such as the Duke of Edinburgh, Combined Cadet Force (CCF) or visits to Duxford. TDA students have also shown their courage by sharing their skills and talent at events, playing for academy teams (our Key Stage 3 netball is very strong), learning a new skill (Year 4 have been learning how to weave) or representing TDA in competitions.



*Mrs Emily Gaunt - Acting Principal*

We look forward to an exciting 2024 across the whole of TDA (TDA Juniors, TDA Seniors and TDA 6th Form).

## In concert at the Cathedral

Five of our TDET schools put on an incredible performance at the Cathedral on 7th December to a packed audience.

The atmosphere was electric, and the performances were truly unbelievable. TDA was well represented by Jeli Novika (vocals, compere), Edie Freeden (piano), Owais Gaibee (piano), Camila Vazquez (piano), Marley Ezeugo (trombone), and Samuel Frederick (trumpet).

Their confidence and dedication to rehearsing their instruments were evident in their outstanding performances.

We couldn't be prouder of them for representing TDA with such maturity.





## A Tall Ships Adventure

In September, our Tall Ships students were proud to be awarded their RYA Level 1 yachting qualification alongside Ken Stimpson Community College before making the mammoth six-hour drive back from Portsmouth to Peterborough. They had a fantastic time on this brilliant trip, making memories to last a lifetime!

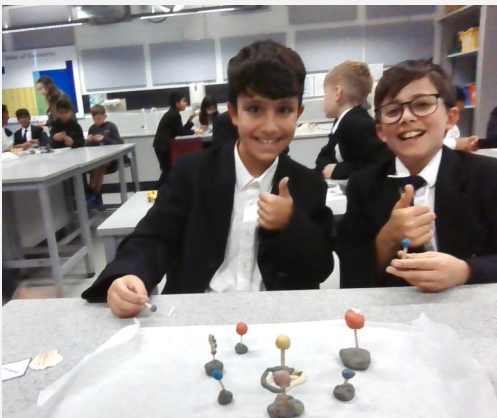
Some highlights included:

- Meeting the sailing crew, including Captain, First Mate and Watch Leader.
- Learning the language of sea, such as bow, fender, port, starboard, halyard, cleat and many more.
- Setting sail in windy conditions to Cowes, with many of students conquering their fears and getting stuck into the many challenges of driving the boat.
- Several students taking the steering wheel and guiding the boat through choppy seas.



## Newton class enjoy a very special science lesson

Our Year 6 Newton class enjoyed visiting the senior academy for their science lesson! They showed great curiosity discovering how shadows are formed when light is blocked by an opaque object. Well done to Sami and Amir who created a mini solar system to explain how shadows are creating night-time, and to Ellis and his group who used plasticine to create a scene from a football game to form shadows.







## Proud Peterborough Citizens

Well done to our team of students, staff and parents who are proud members of Peterborough Citizens. The team met with MP Shailesh Vara and Andrew Pakes, the Labour Parliamentary Candidate, along with other leaders from across the city.

Our student, Stella (Year 10) shared her thoughts about the lack of diversity in the National Curriculum and Jamal (Year 9), along with a TDA parent, spoke about the housing crisis. The TDA team will continue to work with Citizens UK to campaign for progress in both these areas.

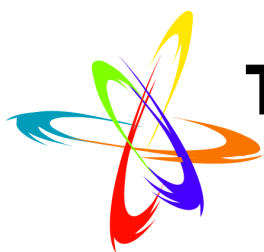
If you're a TDA parent or pupil and would like to help us work towards justice on these campaigns, please contact Kelly Joiner, our Community Lead at [kzj@tda.education](mailto:kzj@tda.education).



## Year 6 visit IWM Duxford

In October, our Year 6 children had a brilliant trip to IWM Duxford to deepen their understanding of the World Wars, the impact of everyday life during wartime and to explore first-hand artefacts.





## East of England Sumdog Maths Contest

We were so proud of our pupils who took part in the East of England Sumdog Maths Contest in October as one of 225 classes participating from 34 different schools.

Within a week, pupils answered 451,903 maths questions correctly, which is an incredible amount of maths practice!

Special congratulations go to Newton class who were 14th place in the competition, the highest from TDAJ – they enjoyed a cup cake treat.

A big well done to the overall class winners across TDAJ; Ayaan, Archie, Hasnain Hasham, Mahnoor, Tobias and Navaeh!



## Exploring the UCP Media & Television Centre

Our Year 11 Media Studies students enjoyed their visit to University Centre Peterborough Media and Television Centre to learn about Post-16 options involving Media, and to have a practice in the TV studio. They did a great job planning out a TV programme and recording it all!

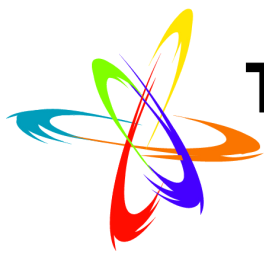
They all took on different roles ranging from camerawork to directing, sound mixing and presenting.

The students loved getting the chance to do some hands-on activities with industry-standard equipment.

It gave them a real taste of what it takes to broadcast a show in real life!







## Peterborough Cathedral Clergy Study Day

In November, eight of our Sixth Form Religious Studies students were invited to Peterborough Cathedral to help lead a clergy study day of discussion and exploration, with over seventy clergy from across Peterborough Diocese.

This event focused on the Church of England's Growing Faith Foundation, which highlights the positive impact on children and young people when churches, schools and families work together.

Our students stood up on stage and asked the Bishop questions about faith, engaged in discussions about issues such as faith, forgiveness and peace, as well as reading out extracts from the Bible and story of Narnia reflecting on the importance of clergies working together.

The students were a credit to TDA and we are so proud of them!



## Learning the secret to songwriting

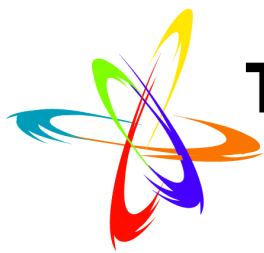
Our GCSE Music students took part in a songwriting workshop with Lex Gibbon, a renowned upcoming artist.

It was a fantastic opportunity for them to learn how to write their own lyrics, chord progressions and melody - and then perform it all in just one day!

They even joined bands with students from Queen Katharine Academy, another academy in our Trust!

The students did a great job and it was wonderful to see them growing and developing their music skills.





## Marking Remembrance Day

Our annual Remembrance Service took place again this year on Remembrance Day, to honour the courageous soldiers who fought and sacrificed their lives during wartime.

Our Cadets played a central role in the service and our Principal Students and Junior academy students gave fantastic readings.

The service was live-streamed to all our classrooms and we were so impressed with the respect our students displayed for this important event.

Our Junior and Senior Cadets, along with Cadets from Queen Katharine Academy, also attended the Peterborough Remembrance parade and the service at Peterborough Cathedral.

We watched a wreath laying from Cathedral Square, marched into the Cathedral for a wonderful service and then marched through the town centre, past the Cenotaph.

Well done to Dawid who carried the banner for the CCF through town, to Iris and Nicole for being escorts for the banner, and to Elia who laid the wreath on behalf of TDA, and a big thank you to the members of staff who gave up their Sunday to support the cadets



### KEY DATES

**TEACHER TRAINING DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)**

Thursday 4th January

**TEACHER TRAINING DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)**

Friday 5th January

**TERM BEGINS**

Monday 8th January

## GOODBYE!

We would like to say goodbye and good luck to:

**Kayleigh Covell, Attendance Administrator;**

**Kyle Granaghan, Science Teacher;**

**Sarah Jhumka, Science Teacher;**

**Karen Leeman, Geography Teacher;**

**Steve Lilley, History Teacher;**

**Joanne Lotfallah, Geography Teacher**

We wish you all the best for the future!

## SOCIAL MEDIA

You can follow Thomas Deacon Academy on:

[Facebook @TDAeducation](#)

[Twitter @TDAeducation](#)

[Instagram @tdapboro](#)