



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

The Spring Term of 2024 has been an exciting time, full of extra-curricular activities that complement our academic curriculum and give our students the opportunity to broaden and build on their character.

This newsletter offers a selection of some of the events which have taken place and I hope it gives you a flavour of how TDA students have shown their curiosity, commitment, courage, compassion, confidence and courtesy.

The Spring Term has truly been a memorable start to 2024 and we look forward to the coming months as our Year 6, Year 11 and Year 13 take important assessments and exams, before taking a courageous step into the next phase of their education in September.

I wish all students and their families a peaceful, relaxing and fun break. Happy Easter and Eid Mubarak,

*Mrs Emily Gaunt, Acting Principal*



*Mrs Emily Gaunt - Acting Principal*

## TDA's incredible production of Beauty and the Beast

Students from across our school put on a fabulous production of Beauty and the Beast. The audiences were blown away by the professionalism of the cast, the amazing singing and acting, as well as the scenery and lighting. Mrs Gaunt, Acting Principal, said: "It was truly fantastic, an absolute joy and a good night out with my family!" Thank you to all the students and staff who worked so hard to put this together!





## Well done to our Cadets!

Well done to our Cadets for taking part in the Senior Cadet Instructors Course (SCIC) at Beckingham Training Camp! Three Cadets from Year 11 and two from Queen Katharine Academy's Sixth Form practised:

- Skill at Arms (SAA) – Revision sessions
- Navigation
- Drill and Turnout
- Field Craft
- Military Knowledge



The Cadets were required to produce and deliver a high standard of lessons to achieve a good grade, attending the course with a positive attitude and ready to develop their skills, while upholding the Cadet Force's values and standards.

They all completed the course successfully and are now qualified to train junior Cadets under supervision of a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer. Great work everyone!

## Curiosity and compassion in wildlife project

Our students demonstrated our character pillars of curiosity and compassion when they worked with Bovis Homes to enhance the wildlife-friendliness of a new housing development at Orton Copse.

Olivia, Nathan, and J.J. took part, learning about the housing development and the importance of community planning. Together, they planted hundreds of spring flowering bulbs, adding a burst of colour to the area.

We're sure the new residents will be delighted by the display when their flowers bloom in spring!





## Students create Ramadan display board at hospital

Ten of our Year 7 and Year 10 students created a special Ramadan display board at Peterborough City Hospital, with the aim of teaching people all about the significance of Ramadan, its traditions, and the importance of community unity during the holy month.

On behalf of TDA, the students donated 150 Qurans as a way of supporting the community, which will be distributed to individuals of diverse backgrounds, promoting cultural understanding and religious tolerance within our community.

They also explored the hospital's chaplaincy facilities, broadening their understanding of diverse religious services available to patients and visitors.



## Former student Jack inspires TDA Cadets

The end of February saw a special day at TDA as we welcomed back one of our own, Jack, who shared his wealth of knowledge and experience with our Cadets!

Jack's Cadet career began in 2010, eventually reaching the prestigious rank of Sergeant Major. Following his time at TDA, he pursued a university degree where he gained a scholarship from the Army to fund his studies. He underwent training at Sandhurst to train as an officer, and today proudly serves as a Captain in the Royal Anglian Regiment of the British Army.

Our Cadets were fascinated, asking plenty of questions. Jack recounted his experiences in the army, from the rigours of basic training to the adventures of travel and sports fun. We thoroughly enjoyed hearing about Jack's insights into army life.





## Our students delivered speeches to the council!

Our student Community Ambassadors, along with Eye Primary's School Action group met with Citizens UK and local leaders to work on their mission of improving housing in Peterborough. Well done to Daniela (Year 9), Luiss (Year 5) Maram (Year 6) Fatima (Year 4) and Aiza (Year 3) for their fantastic speeches.



The team also met with Adrian Chapman, Executive Director of Place and Economy, alongside Rob Hill, Service Director for Housing and Communities, at Peterborough City Council. They continued their housing campaign by asking the land development company AEPG to commit to allocating 30 per cent of new homes as affordable housing at the East of England Showground development.

Well done to everyone involved, for their dedication and remarkable work!

## Sports teams do TDA proud!

Well done to our U13 Girls Indoor Cricket Team, who won their match with King's 124-74. It was a great all-round team performance, with particularly good fielding skills.

Our Year 8 Boys Cricket Team played in the final of the Peterborough Schools Cricket Cup against King's. It was a very close game but TDA narrowly won by 11 runs. On the way to the finals the team won matches against St John Fisher, Arthur Mellows, and Hampton Gardens.

We are very proud for you all for your commitment to your training, and your dedication and enthusiasm in matches.





## Sixth Formers help at city soup kitchen

We're very proud of our Sixth Form students from our Academy and Queen Katharine Academy, who helped serve food at Hussain Soup Kitchen at Westgate Church Hall, Peterborough.

Students helped to set up tables and chairs, served hot food, hot drinks and desserts. The soup kitchen serves hot food to anyone who needs it, and the students chatted as they helped, bringing much needed friendship and laughter to members of our community who are homeless, hungry and/or lonely.

Well done for everyone involved for your time, and for your compassion for making a difference.



## Peterborough Youth MP elections

We're thrilled to announce that three of our outstanding students stood as candidates for the Peterborough Youth MP elections among nine others vying for the positions this year.

Students Amelia from Year 10, Amelia from Year 8 and Farrah from Year 7 dedicated lots of time and effort to envisioning a better world and wrote powerful manifestos that reflected their aspirations for positive change.

These students truly reflect our six character pillars, showcasing qualities of integrity, resilience, and compassion. We couldn't be prouder!

Their campaigns were screened during tutor groups where students voted. Well done to you all for running very professional and carefully planned campaigns.



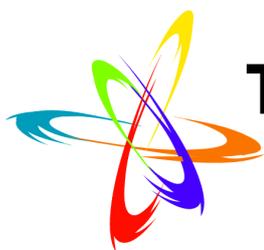
## Year 10s make their own pasta!

Our Year 10 students made fresh pasta for a lasagne using the pasta machine in their Food Technology lesson.

This is a high-skill dish that they did a great job learning how to do. It was a fun experience for them and they thoroughly enjoyed it.

Next up was ravioli and tagliatelle!





## Year 7s build robot for Lego League

Nine of our Year 7 students participated in the First Lego League South Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire regional competition at Indra Park Air Systems.

The students had built and coded their own robots to complete missions. They competed four times against different teams, being judged on their teamwork and a presentation to engineers, as well as answering some challenging questions about their robot design from judges and other teams. They also enjoyed their own factory tour!

Overall, TDA had the third highest score in the knockout rounds and were awarded a trophy for 'Professionalism'. Each student came away with a medal and are getting their ideas ready for next year's tournament!



## Juniors visit TDA's Science labs

Year 6 pupils from TDAJ visited our senior academy to take part in an exciting practical science lesson. Their task was to extract DNA from kiwi fruit. We always enjoy visits from our Junior academy pupils - great work everyone!



## KEY DATES

TERM ENDS— Thursday 28 March 2024

TRAINING DAY— SCHOOL CLOSED -  
Monday 15 April 2024

TERM BEGINS FOR STUDENTS -  
Tuesday 16 April 2024

MAY BANK HOLIDAY - Monday 6 May  
2024

TERM ENDS FOR STAFF AND  
STUDENTS - Friday 24th May 2024

## GOODBYE!

We would like to say goodbye and good luck to:

David Orwin – Teacher of Science

Neal Umney – Teacher of IT

We wish you all the best for the future!

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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