

The Thomas Alleyne Academy

Issue 1 September 13th 2019



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HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2019-20 academic year. I hope you all had an excellent summer. We have been delighted to welcome our students back to Thomas Alleyne's and we are really impressed with the way they have returned to school. I hope you had an opportunity to read about the superb achievements of our GCSE and A Level students over the summer break.

As always, we have had a busy summer whilst the students have been away. We have been able to invest heavily in our computer systems to enable students to return to over 150 new computers around the school. We have put top-end machines in our computer science classrooms and have upgraded almost every computer in the school. We are confident this will have a positive impact on teaching and learning. In addition we have installed visualisers in every classroom to allow teachers to share examples of excellent work more easily to help students make rapid progress. Teachers will be using these as part of our re-vamped approach to assessment which focusses on quality whole-class feedback.

We have also launched a new focus on mental health and wellbeing across the school. Our students will be taught a range of strategies to promote positive mental wellbeing based on the 'Five ways to wellbeing' promoted by the National Health Service. We will be delivering sessions during form time, in assemblies and through curriculum lessons to ensure our students are able to look after their physical and mental health as they move into adulthood.

CYBER DISCOVERY

We are excited to announce that this year we will again be participating in the Cyber Discovery initiative, the government-backed cyber security training programme. Launched as part of the UK's £1.9bn National Cyber Security Strategy, the programme aims to inspire students in Years 9 to 13 to begin developing the skills that will allow them to pursue a career in the industry.

The programme uses an online platform with hundreds of hours of real-world cyber challenges and teaching to educate teenagers about cyber security skills. Here they will learn about a range of disciplines including digital forensics, penetration testing, programming, defending against web attacks, cryptography and ethics. Furthermore, it will challenge them to develop their problem-solving skills, determination and perseverance.

Students wishing to participate in Cyber Discovery will need to register and successfully complete an initial assessment phase, comprising a range of puzzles, by the

25th October 2019. From here they will progress to the main programme stages and begin their journey.

Any students wishing to register should email Mr Andrews, Head of Computer Science, at andrewsm@tas.herts.sch.uk with their name and email address.

Mr Andrews—Head of IT



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Welcome back!

We hope you all had a wonderful and restful summer. Our Year 13 students have been very busy working and revising and we welcomed our new cohort who have already settled in very well. Firstly, we have some alumni news we would like to share with you. Many of our students graduated and shared their successes with us.

Alumni News

Oba graduated from the University of Kent with a degree in Sociology. He says: "I have been able to secure an interview next month for a support role in a school which involves helping young children with disabilities. I am grateful for the help and guidance which you and every other teacher has provided me with. I would not have been able to

reach as far as I have without the help of staff members at Thomas Alleyne Academy. I appreciate the support over the years and never giving up on me even though I was such hard work!" Congratulations Oba and well done.



Brett: I hope everything is well at Fort Allynnes! Here are some photos of my graduation day! I graduated with a first in Politics, and I'm going on to study for an MA in International Political Economy at the University of Manchester. I'm getting my dissertation published too. It's title was "Social Reproduction in Austerity Britain: a Marxist feminist

critique". I scored 85 in that. So overall everything's gone well my end. All the best to everyone."

Tate: I graduated in Forensic Science and applied for the Accelerated Detective Constable Programme. After a very long and intense selection process with over 300 applicants, I was one of only 17 accepted and am the youngest on this course, but we are all a family and there is great team spirit. I look forward to coming in to talk to the Year 12 soon about higher education!



Aiming High: Year 13

We celebrated with Year 13 on results day this year and were delighted that all of our Year 13 students have successfully secured university places to study the subject that will progress their careers. The courses that they have chosen represent a wide range of disciplines including Biology and Computer Science, Film and Accountancy, Creative Writing and English. Higher Apprenticeship places remain very competitive and we are equally delighted to celebrate the achievement of those students who have secured places with companies to earn and learn in accountancy and business. We wish them the very best in their studies and careers.

Create and Succeed: Year 12

We are pleased to welcome our Year 12 students who have started sixth form lessons and are already learning the important skills necessary to be outstanding A level students. All students are developing depth of knowledge in the traditional academic disciplines of science and the humanities

as well as exploring new subjects like film studies and psychology. Our students are already developing the skills necessary to be successful in the work place. Our lesson delivery enables students to acquire and practice team working and confidence in problem solving and personal organisation.

On Thursday 19th September we will be holding our annual whole academy open evening and our new Year 12 will be expected to attend and help their subject teachers. The Academy will close at 12.20 (end of period 3) and re-open for lessons on the following day at 9.30 prompt for registration. We look forward to seeing as many Year 12 as possible on the evening.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 19th September 2019
Thomas Alleyne Open Evening – all Year 12 (6.00 to 9.00 pm)

Friday 27th September 2019
Annual Macmillan Coffee Morning – all Year 12 and Year 13 baking goods to sell for our biggest charity fund raising event of the year (9.00 to 11.30 am)

Friday 11th October 2019
What Uni/What Career Fair at Olympia, London
All Year 12 to attend – details to follow via email

Tuesday 22nd October 2019
Post 16 Options Evening – Year 12 to assist subject teachers (5.30 to 8.00 pm)

MR WRIGHT & THE SIX NATIONS HOCKEY

After first picking up a whistle in 2013 to umpire my first game of hockey at university, the last thing I expected to be doing six years later was representing England as an umpire in Europe.

During the final week of the summer term, I was lucky enough to be selected to officiate at the Volvo European U16B Six Nations tournament in Eindhoven. As this was my first international tournament, I felt it was best to prepare thoroughly to make sure I performed at my best throughout all seven days. From video analysis of previous games, to fitness training before the tournament, and umpiring some test matches against Scotland, Ireland and Germany for the England U16B squad, I felt sharp and fully prepared before travelling. When the time came, a very early flight from Stansted with two other English umpires was followed by the umpire briefing of tournament regulations at the venue. With a team of 27 umpires, it was important to ensure we were all on the same page before the matches began.

From umpiring domestic tournaments in the UK, I knew it was important to hit the ground running in your first game to show you are at peak performance. My first match was between Spain and Germany – two nations with very good junior teams who showed a great deal of skill. I enjoyed working with one of the Irish umpires and received good feedback on the management of the game and how we interacted with the teams to build rapport.

On the second day of the tournament, I was appointed to umpire Ireland v Netherlands with my roommate for the week from Germany. This match was more of a test as there was a mismatch of skill-levels and therefore it was important that both of us remained focussed throughout the match. With three green cards (2-minute suspension), two five-minute yellow cards and a ten-minute yellow card for a sliding tackle, both me and my colleague wondered how the match had got to that stage. After speaking to one of the umpire managers and looking at some video footage, there were some smaller fouls that both teams became frustrated at that were not being dealt with appropriately which led to further problems – lesson learned, and I took this forward into my next match.

With a week-long tournament, you often find rest days in the schedule as a chance for umpires and teams to recuperate following the first two days of hockey. We used this as an opportunity to see more of Eindhoven and headed into the city for the day. If you ever get a chance to have bagels in Eindhoven, there is an incredible bagel shop that we spend a lot of time in!

Appointments came out for day three – Germany v Ireland with one of the Dutch umpires. After taking on board advice from the umpire managers from my previous game, we set out with a plan to penalise the more subtle fouls appropriately, making sure to communicate our expectations to both teams. Germany won marginally, with both teams walking away happy that no cards had been given. It was a great game of hockey for those playing, umpiring or spectating as we umpired in front of a full Irish crowd sat in the stands!

On the second rest day, we divided up the umpires and officials into three teams and played a triangular tournament of friendly hockey on the main pitch at HC Oranje-Rood. This was great entertainment not only for the officials, but also for the spectating England and Spanish teams who had trained earlier in the day. Needless to say, there is a reason why a lot of us umpire nowadays!

A surprise came with the appointments on day four – I had been moved up to the next age group and had been appointed to the U18B Ireland v Belgium match with another one of the Dutch umpires. We found out after the match that not only one of the umpire managers was watching the game, but an international umpire from the Netherlands who umpired at the Rio Olympics in 2016 was also watching our performance. Both teams played exciting, fast-flowing hockey with the Belgians narrowly beating the Irish to win the game. Sitting down with our umpire manager and the Dutch international umpire afterwards, we spoke about the levels of management needed in a game of hockey and how the game is changing to highlight our sport – protection of skill, ensuring pace to the game and interactions between umpires and players were all key areas that my colleague and I had brought to the match. We couldn't have asked for better praise!

We knew the standings in the U16B competition were close. The appointments came out the night before so we could all prepare appropriately, and I found I had the deciding match between Netherlands and Germany with the 16-year-old umpire from Belgium who had been impressing the umpire managers all week. After play was stopped earlier in the day for torrential rain and a thunderstorm, my colleague and I stepped out onto the pitch for our last time at the tournament. These were the two most skillful teams in the competition which meant we needed to stay focused throughout. This was the closest match of the tournament, with both teams tied 3-3 with two minutes to go after a comeback by the German team. The final play of the game led to a Dutch goal to give them the top spot in the rankings. Both teams and their managers thanked us for a great game of hockey, and we headed into the clubhouse for our 1-to-1 debriefs with the umpire managers. Their feedback was helpful to see where my umpiring currently stands and the next steps going forward throughout the tournament, and the summation of this came to help consolidate the development points ahead of future tournaments and matches.

This was an amazing experience to have, especially meeting new people from across Europe from as far as Bulgaria and as near as Scotland. My takeaway message to anyone in sport would be to keep your options open. I didn't think I would be umpiring when I started playing when I was younger, but there are always other options in sport, whether it is coaching, officiating or playing. When preparing for the tournament, I relied on some close friends of mine in the sport to help with my preparation and to

give me honest opinions at times. Make sure you take the opportunities put in front of you and learn from them and the people around you, that is the most important thing in anything you enjoy doing.

Mr M Wright



(Above) The English contingent of umpires for the tournament



(Above) The team of officials from the tournament – umpires, umpire managers, technical officials, tournament directors



(Above) Umpiring England U16B v Germany U16B in test matches before the tournament

TASA

TASA is our Parent and Teacher Association, Thomas Allynnes Supporters Association. Every student, all their parents and guardians, all academy staff and governors are members of TASA and are asked to support events to raise money for the extra things that help to make the academy the special place it is.

Team TASA is a small group of people who organise events designed to be fun and also raise money for those little extras which benefit the students. However there is always room for more volunteers. There are only a few meetings each year as most communication is done by group email, so the main time commitment is spent being at the events. If you would like to join Team TASA, or would like more details, please email admin@tas.herts.sch.uk. It really does not take up as much time as you would think!

Last year TASA contributed to buying a large freezer to enable the Magic Breakfast to be set up which allows everyone at the academy to have a free healthy breakfast each day. TASA also contributed to the TAA Roses Cheerleading team for the cost of training facilities and mats. The TAA Roses have gone on to win awards. Student parliament and staff ask Team TASA for support and all requests are considered.

This year, in addition to providing refreshments at all parents evenings and running a tuck shop at Sports Day, the following events are in the calendar. Please support TASA by encouraging your children to attend the events aimed for their year as events cannot take place without enough interest. Form tutors inform students, posters go up around the site, newsletters advertise upcoming events and information is on the website, so you can't miss it!

Fright Night - Friday October 25th

A disco for Year 7 students. A prize for the best three costumes, and the best three carved pumpkins. There will be a tuck shop, and various scare dares to add to the fun.

Snow Ball - Date to be arranged

A Christmas Disco for Year 8 students with tuck shop.

Spring Ball - Date to be arranged

A Spring disco for Year 9 students with tuck shop.

Talent Showcase - Date to be arranged

For students in all year groups.

Mrs Hayman—TASA Chair

SPORTING SUCCESS

Congratulations goes to our Year 12 student Charlie Grayson, who competed in the Baldock 5k 'rat run' on Sunday 8th September, beating last year's position by coming 2nd overall with an amazing time of 18 minutes 5.8 seconds!





Upcoming Events

Wednesday 25th September 2019

Year 8 HPV1 Vaccinations

Tuesday 26th September 2019

BBC Music Day

Friday 27th September 2019

Macmillan Coffee Morning

TERRACYCLING!

Don't forget to bring in your pringles tubes, crisp packets, pens, batteries, nut packets and popcorn packets. Currently we have raised over £80 for the school from the donations, keep them coming!

BREAKFAST CLUB

Magic breakfast is running again this year, starting at 7:45am in the dining room every morning. Come and get your FREE bagels, cereal and fruit to fuel your mind and body for the day ahead!

****Reminder****

Breakfast club will be starting at 8:45am on Friday 20th September due to a late school start.

The Thomas Alleyne Academy

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Volunteers Needed!



School Admission Appeal Panels

We are looking for panel members to hear appeals for school admissions. By volunteering your work could really make a difference to children, parents and schools in Hertfordshire

- Expenses for travel and subsistence reimbursed
- Full training provided
- Regular and occasional work
- Getting involved with your community



If you are interested please contact us for an informal chat or for an information pack*

Telephone: 01992 588 548

Email: school.appeals@hertfordshire.gov.uk

We particularly welcome enquiries from traditionally underrepresented groups including BAME candidates, disabled people and members of the LGBTQ+ community

* Please note that if you wish to apply questionnaires within the pack must be completed and returned to us by Monday 4 November 2019.