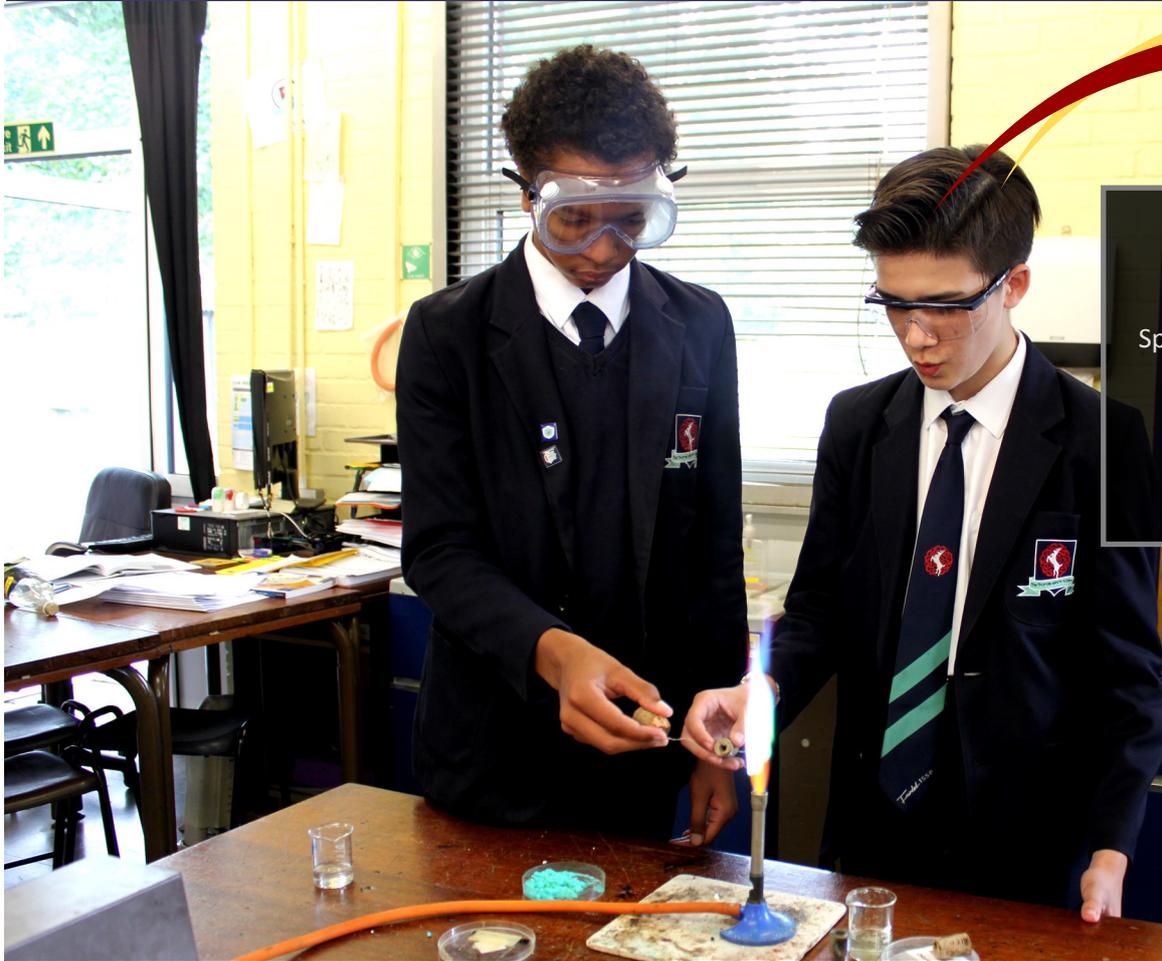


The Thomas Alleyne Academy

Issue 11 March 29th 2018



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Founded 1558

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. Amongst the many successes reported in this edition, I would like to draw your attention to the opportunities our students have been given in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Amongst a wide range of events, we were privileged to be the first school to visit Morrison Utility Services and our students were able to benefit from a fantastic first-hand experience of a STEM employer in our local area.

As we break up for Easter, I would like to take the opportunity to wish Anna Hamboulides, Sarwat Jahan and Lesley Thompson all the very best for the future as they leave us for new opportunities. I know that many students and parents have worked closely with these colleagues, and Sarwat and Lesley have played significant leadership roles in our pastoral and Special Educational Needs teams over a number of years. Their experience, professionalism and commitment to our school will be missed by us all. We are fully staffed for the summer term and we will ensure all new staff introduce themselves to you in our next newsletter.

I hope you all have a happy, healthy and safe Easter break and we look forward to students returning on Tuesday 17th April at the usual start time of 0830.

Mark Lewis—Headteacher

MORRISON UTILITY TRIP

I had the pleasure of taking a group of 20 Year 10 students to Morrison Utility Services for a STEM day. The students had a jam packed day that began with a talk from the HR Executive about Morrison Utility and the variety of career opportunities in the utilities' industry.

Students then put on their protective clothing and visited a substation. The students learnt about how the substation worked which reinforced the curriculum content on transformers. The students were accompanied by two of the companies' apprentices and were able to ask questions about career opportunities in the utility industry.

The second activity was a competition for the students. They had to plan, design and cost a new development. They were all assigned a role in the team and had specific tasks to complete. The students had to problem solve, overcome setbacks and work in a team to complete their design within the time limit. All students worked really hard and there was very little difference between first and second place.

The trip provided a great opportunity for students to see science in action, to develop their work related learning skills and to explore what it is like to complete an apprenticeship.

Ms Bailey—Head of Science



NEW LEAD DSP

As we bid farewell to the wonderful Mrs Thompson I thought it useful to introduce myself. I have worked at TAA for the past 5 years, as the inclusion manager and deputy DSP with many students and parents. However, there are several of you that don't know me, our paths may not have crossed.

I will continue to be the inclusion manager, yet I am also taking on the role of Lead DSP, Safeguarding.

If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding of your children or others that attend TAA please contact me. If there are any students that have concerns I am located in the inclusion room - if you are unsure a member of the pastoral team will be able to help you.

I look forward to working in this role as the lead, of which I have deputised for the past few years. I have big shoes to fill, yet I know I have learnt from the best.

Safeguarding of our young people is paramount; I am passionate about the importance of this role.

Mrs Dowle
Inclusion Manager
Lead DSP



SPORTING AND SCHOOL SUCCESS

Year 10 boys County dodgeball champions.

Last Tuesday saw eight Year 10 boys follow up on their success from the district dodgeball competition back in November. They competed against 5 other schools across the county, with a point draw against The Reach Free School after all the matches were played. One final playoff match was held for the winner of the competition. Both teams drew two play off games with lone players still standing on each half of the court, however the final 'winner takes all' match saw our boys victorious, winning gold medals and the title of Herts School Games champions.

Adam McAree, Daniel Carter-Bell, Mina Habib, Joe Howell, Tom Jeffries, Jonah Knell, Will Cant and Jareese Daniel.

Well done boys!

Mrs Humphrey



Music Exams

We are delighted to congratulate the following students on their recent music exam results:

Taylor in Year 10 who passed his Grade 1 piano with a distinction.

Abigail in Year 8 who passed her Grade 2 guitar with a merit.

Mixed Martial Arts

Congratulations to Seth Fox-Pearson who graduated to blue belt in his Mixed Martial Arts class on the 15th March.

Congratulations Seth, a fantastic achievement for you!



THE BIG BANG STEM FAIR

On Wednesday 14th March, a coach load of Year 9 students visited The Big Bang STEM Fair at the NEC in Birmingham.

This was an opportunity for them to see what education and career paths are available to them in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. There were hundreds of companies and organisations on show, with many activities available for students to take part in – ranging from designing a unique jelly candy and having it 3D printed, to trying out the pilot seat of an RAF fighter plane. Harison Taylor participated in and won a virtual reality roller coaster competition.

There was a live dissection of pig organs, a crime scene to forensically examine, and a box of mosquitoes to put your hand in to see how tasty you seemed to them!

It was also an opportunity for the teachers to make connections with organisations who are able to provide STEM opportunities within school for our students – watch this space to see what we can organise!

The students were all incredibly well behaved and excellent ambassadors for our school – well done Year 9!

Mrs Maddox



HOME LEARNING ACHIEVEMENTS

Here are a couple of exceptional Year 7 Home Learning projects that were done for Science.

The sheep on the toilet is amazing in terms of the detail right down to the production of the miniature newspaper with articles about sheep. This was made by George Redmond.

Thomas D'Gama created the middle sheep called 'Tim Sheep' instead of 'Tim Peak'!

The purple sheep was exquisitely made by Sarah Hammond.

Ms Flanagan



(Below) 'Tim Sheep' by Thomas D'Gama

(Above) George Redmond's sheep



(Left) Sarah Hammond's sheep

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Welcome to the fortnightly Sixth Form News. Here you will find everything that has been going on in our fantastic Sixth Form Department and any upcoming events/dates that you may need to know about.

Independent exploration: Exploring the world of work outside the class room. We aim to provide learning outside the classroom that enables our students to make positive and aspirational decisions about their futures choices. All our enrichment activities in sixth form are intended to develop reflective skills that enable learners to understand who they are and how they can make a difference, not only to their world but the community in which they live. I hope you enjoy reading our latest news.

The National Apprenticeship Show- Arena MK



Mrs Newbery and I were delighted to take all of Year 12 to this important event on Tuesday 13 of March. Since 2015 there have

been 1.2 million new apprenticeship starts and government reforms will continue to increase the quality and quantity of apprenticeships. The National Apprenticeship Shows are an excellent way for young people and parents to meet employers who are offering a range of fantastic opportunities for students to gain vocational experience and higher qualifications. The advantage of the show is that every interested party is under one roof looking towards the workforce of the future. The exhibition contained not only exhibitors but many workshops and seminars aimed at helping students make decisions and manage the process of applying.

The British Red Cross First Aid Training



Everyone can learn simple First Aid! We were delighted to welcome, TS, from Red Cross training on Wednesday 21st of March to deliver a session to all of our senior students in Year

12 and those who are considering making applications to train in health care settings. Congratulations go to those students who will receive a school core value badge for 'stay safe' and a certificate of completed training.

Global Perspectives- Looking Forward Abroad?

We were delighted to welcome Mark Huntingdon from 'A Star Future' who delivered an enlightening presentation on the advantages of studying at under graduate level abroad. Our students are now fully informed regarding how to choose a country, a subject, and how to make and fund their applications. I was delighted that some of our students could quickly see the advantages of not only studying abroad for their own personal development but could equally see the longer term impact on aspiring careers at a global level. <https://www.astarfuture.co.uk/> (Study in Europe, Australia, Asia, USA).

Mrs Newbery and I wish everyone a peaceful and warm seasonal break.

Mrs Lewis, Head of sixth form

ADECCO JUNIOR TOP TALENT

ENTERPRISE ADVISER NETWORK CASE STUDY

Junior Top Talent triumph for Thomas Alleyne students

Thomas Alleyne is a secondary school in Stevenage, Hertfordshire. They joined the Enterprise Adviser Network in November 2016 and were matched with Stuart Smith (Senior Manager) and Carly Oliver from Adecco (Stevenage branch).

It was soon established through an audit of the school's existing careers provision that some Year 10 students, specifically those at risk of becoming NEET, were in urgent need of an intervention. Working with Deputy Head Mel Cook, Stuart and Carly designed a new programme, 'Adecco Junior Top Talent', to support a select group of Year 10 students.

The purpose of this intervention was to:

- Raise students' understanding of the local jobs market and skills needs (Gatsby Benchmark 2)
- Address the needs of individual students (Gatsby Benchmark 3)
- Provide encounters with employers and employees (Gatsby Benchmark 5)

Stuart and Amy and an extended team from Adecco visited the school on a regular basis to **help improve students' CVs, interview techniques and confidence when talking about themselves and their talents to adults.**

The programme required students to juggle their training sessions and adhere to deadlines, giving them a taste of a real workplace, and culminated with them applying for a job provided by Adecco with a CV and covering letter.



The two winning students were announced and presented with awards at a careers-themed Year 10 assembly led by Mel Cook, featuring the Hertfordshire LEP Local Labour Market video followed by a presentation from Stuart on what employers look for in their new recruits.

Adecco generously provided a £25 gift voucher to the joint-winners, as well as a week's work experience at the local Adecco office and a **day at Luton Airport to experience the range of careers on offer.**

Stuart Smith said, "This is the second time Adecco has completed 'Adecco Junior Top Talent' and I feel it was certainly a more enhanced experience for the students compared to our first cohort.

This time, Thomas Alleyne and Adecco staff worked together to provide a more engaging and comprehensive course. We had a dedicated space for students and access to a computer room when needed. The students also had a work schedule in their main timetables which ensured a stronger attendance rate.

From a personal point of view I have seen a drastic change in the confidence of many of the pupils, who were very nervous to begin with. I look forward to working with the next cohort of students soon and seeing how they develop themselves from day one."

Head Teacher Mark Lewis says, "...the work we have developed as a result of the connection Adecco provided has been extremely successful. What started as a series of workshops for some of our more challenging year 10 students has now evolved into a 'Top Talent' programme which is now so popular that we have to run an application process with our students prior to being enrolled on the scheme.

Our Enterprise Adviser, Stuart, has been amazing, bringing his colleagues in to support us and working with us in a wide range of different ways. We have now sought to expand this type of approach with other year groups enabling us to **progress with the Gatsby benchmarks**, specifically making links with STEM employers in our town such as Airbus and GlaxoSmithKline. This project has undoubtedly helped galvanise our school and local community into action."

A student from the programme says, "I feel really lucky to have been part of the programme with Adecco. I have found it really interesting to work with Stuart and Amy because they know what employers are going to be looking for in my CV and in an interview. I feel much more confident about the future now."

Junior Top Talent is just one of the many initiatives being run by Adecco on a local level. The company also runs a national work experience programme that equips students with essential soft skills as they start their career journeys. Contact your local branch for more information.

Powered by

Hertfordshire **CAREERS & ENTERPRISE**
Local Enterprise Partnership COMPANY

In partnership with





Upcoming Events

Thursday 28th March 2018

Last day of term

Monday 16th April 2018

INSET day

Tuesday 17th April 2018

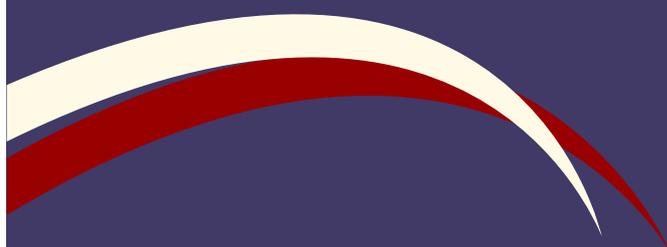
Whole school return

Wednesday 18th April 2018

Year 10 Parents Study Skills Workshop (time TBC)

NOTICE

We're currently in the process of renovating our pond, if you could give 4 hours of your time on Saturday 5th May please email Anne Wellings—wellingsa@tas.herts.sch.uk. If there are any gardeners out there gardening over Easter, if you're splitting good plants and throwing them away, please pot them up and save them for us to plant around the pond! Any help is much appreciated.



The Thomas Alleyne Academy

1 High Street

Stevenage

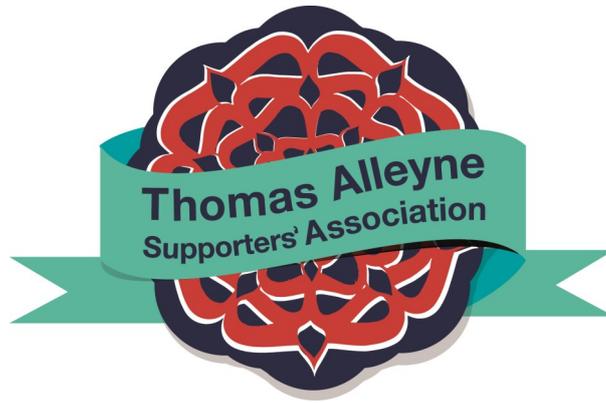
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Thomas Alleyne Supporters Association (TASA)

Thomas Alleyne Supporters Association (TASA)

What is TASA?

TASA is a group of parents, ex pupils and staff who volunteer their time to organise fundraising events for the academy.

What does it do ?

Events organised by TASA are created to be fun for the students whilst also raising money to buy items suggested by Student Parliament, to benefit everyone in the academy community. In addition to raising money, it fosters a community spirit. Four events have been planned for this year; Year 7 Fright Night, Year 8 Snow Ball, a Talent evening for all year groups, and whole school Summer Fair.

TASA also provides refreshments at parent's evenings for a small donation and a tuck shop for Sports Day.

How can I help ?

- You could support TASA by encouraging your child/children to attend the events.
 - Put your spare change in the pot when having a cuppa at parents evening.
 - Attend some of the events if appropriate
- You could consider joining the event planning meetings. New parents are always very welcome and it may not take as much time as you think; we have one planning meeting before each event which lasts approximately an hour, and then as much time as you feel you can offer to support each event. Or you may like to support a single event, that is pertinent to your child's year group.

If you would like more information, please contact Mrs Hayman through
admin@tas.herts.sch.uk



Garden
House
Hospice
Care



S
H
FASHION
W

Thursday
24th May
7.30pm

Knebworth Barns
SG2 1AX
£20 a ticket

includes
fashion show,
guest speakers,
stalls, a glass
of prosecco
on arrival
and nibbles

For more information:
Danielle Swinburne

01462 679540

danielle.swinburne@ghhospicecare.org.uk

Sign up online

www.ghhospicecare.org.uk

Registered Charity 295257



@GHHospice
Garden House Hospice





OPEN CASTING CALL!

Modest! Management, the team behind acts such as One Direction, Little Mix, JLS, and 5 Seconds of Summer are holding open auditions for singers OR songwriters to be part of an exciting new project launching in 2018. We are seeking males and females aged between 14-18.

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

Simply film a video of yourself* singing and upload it to YouTube.

Snap a selfie (headshot) and email it along with a link to your video to:

talent@modestmanagement.com

(Include your full name and D.O.B and contact info)

*If you are solely a songwriter, please feel free to send audio only.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES

BY 23rd April 2018.

GOOD LUCK!

Modest!

www.modestmanagement.com

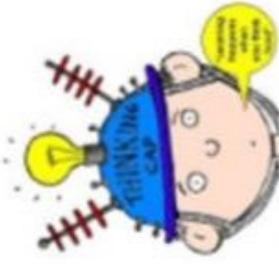
A parents' guide to revision

Three common techniques that are least effective forms of revision:

- 1) Highlighting
- 2) Re-reading texts
- 3) Re-writing notes



Whilst these techniques may give the illusion of a lot of work being done, we believe these strategies are far more effective methods of revision.



Revision timetable

Possibly the most important role as a parent in revision is ensuring the revision timetable is stuck to. Pin it up somewhere visible (e.g. on the fridge) and talk about revision with your child. Each revision session should be 30 minutes & then change to another subject. Build in time for meals and breaks to watch your favourite TV shows. And make sure they don't work too late.

Low stakes testing

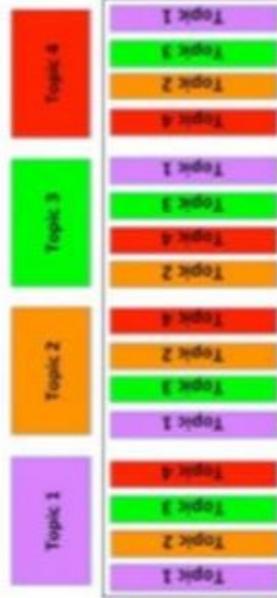
This has been proven to be a highly effective method to aid memory, sometimes known as retrieval practice, parents can play a vital role. By quizzing your child, giving them short tests where the result doesn't matter will help them remember the things they get wrong. Similar to how you remember that question from the pub quiz that nobody knew.

Why not challenge your child to see who can remember the most facts?



Interleaving

Rather than cramming, revision topics should be spaced out in 'chunks'. This has been proven to help memory. Each chunk should be 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes break. This is known as interleaving.



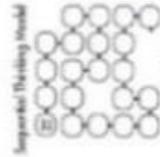
Transforming

Imported Thinking Model



As it says at the top of this page, re-reading or highlighting text is actually a poor way to revise. A far more effective method is to transform a piece of information from one form into another.

Sequential Thinking Model



Web



Spider Map



Online revision

There are many really useful online revision resources many of which now have apps which can be downloaded for free. Here are some of the ones we recommend your child should be using:



The basics

Make sure music and TV's are off and phones are out of sight. Just having phones visible will be enough to distract your child from revising.



Limit distractions



Find a nice space to revise in



The more you put in the more you get out



Create and use a revision planner



Get on with your work early!



Revise, Repeat, Remember