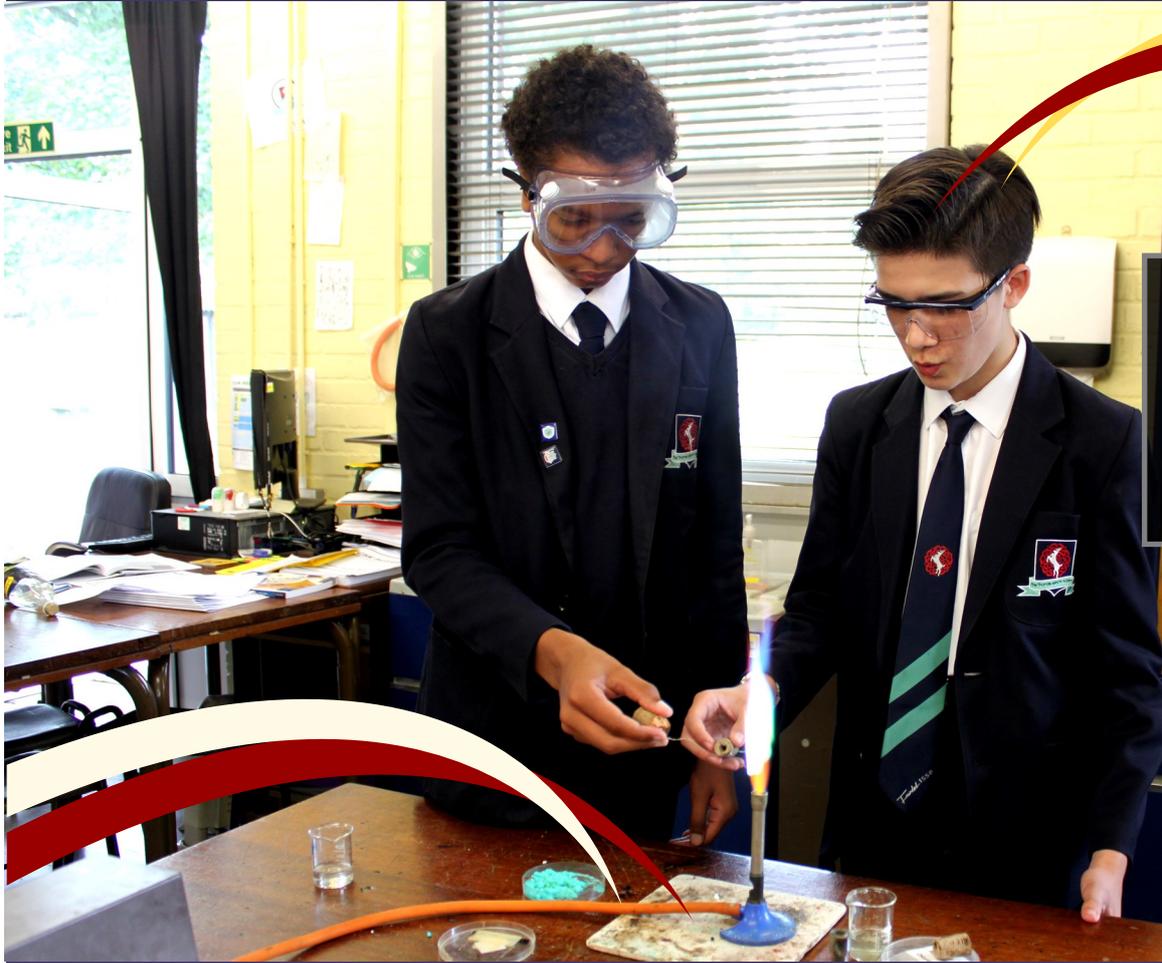


# The Thomas Alleyne Academy

Issue 14 May 3rd 2019



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*Founded* 1558

## HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Welcome to the latest edition of our academy newsletter. By the time this reaches you all many of our Year 11 students will have already completed their Spanish speaking exams and will be busy preparing for their GCSE exams taking place over the next few weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 11 and Year 13 students all the very best for the upcoming examinations. Thank you to the staff and parents who have provided them so much support over

their time at Thomas Alleyne's.

I have been delighted to see the successful launch of Magic Breakfast at Thomas Alleyne's since Easter. We are now able to offer every child in the school a free, healthy, breakfast. If your child has not yet tried our new offer please encourage them to visit the dining hall between 0800 and 0825 to grab a bagel, fruit or cereal to start their day. Research has shown that a healthy breakfast has a positive impact on learning and progress.

In this edition you can read about the TASA talent showcase that I had the great pleasure of attending, some fantastic work experience that one of our Year 10 students, Alexandru Stemate, had the opportunity to take part in and on page 3 you can find information about how you can volunteer in the Thomas Alleyne library.

I hope you have an enjoyable bank holiday weekend.

# MAGIC BREAKFAST FOR ALL!

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Magic Breakfast was launched on the first day back after the Easter holidays and we are now serving breakfast to between 120 – 150 children and staff every morning. We have warm bagels, a choice of cereal and a selection of fresh fruit available every morning from 8am in the dining room, free of charge to anyone who wants it. From 8.20am we are hoping to have bagels available on the gate for students to grab on their way in.

We are very grateful to the local businesses who have expressed an interest in supporting our breakfasts, especially our local Tesco on the High Street, who will be providing fresh fruit three days a week. TASA have very kindly provided the funds to purchase a large freezer for us to store the bagels in - thank you to them for their generosity.

If any parents would be interested in helping serve the breakfasts or providing fresh fruit please get in touch with us – [wards@tas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:wards@tas.herts.sch.uk)

Dr Ward & Mrs Pike



## TASA DOES TALENT

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Talented students and staff showed just how amazing they are at the recent Talent Showcase, organised by TASA. It was a very enjoyable evening watching singers, musicians, dancers and magicians.

The following students took part;

Faith Bennet,	Amber Webb
Lexi Heffer	Eden Searle
Iona Ward,	Seth Fox -Pearson
Maddie Smith	Anna Baska
Amelia Edgar	Ella Bhandari
Taylor Dean	George Redmond
Jess Baker	Alissa Crew
Emily West	Miss Cooper- Brown
Samira Agoulmine	Ms Levett
Caitlin Batchelor	Mr Fox
Kadie Whitelaw	

TASA is Thomas Alleyne's version of a PTA, organising fun events raising money for the little things that a school budget can not stretch to.

This year TASA has supported The TAA Roses (cheerleaders) by contributing towards the cost of training venues and stunt mats, and supported the Magic Breakfast by paying half the cost of a freezer.

It is hoped that the next event will be very soon - a fun karaoke evening for parents, students and staff—so look out for details.

Mrs Hayman—TASA Chair

# NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

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I applied for the chance of working with The National Portrait Gallery because it is my personal future goal to work as the curator of a museum, therefore any insight and experience into the backstage of a collection is more than welcome, and The National Portrait Gallery more than delivered.

The first day was for induction. We were given a tour of some of the departments and briefly met the people working in each, after which we were shown the Gallery's main collection as well as their ongoing exhibitions (Martin Parr- Just Human and Elizabethan Treasures). Afterwards we had a meeting with the Gallery director and our supervisor to brief on the week's timetable.

Throughout the rest of the week I worked in many of the Gallery's departments, starting with Pictures, where we were taken to the special collections storage to see the original photographs. During this day I also helped to catalogue loan papers and got to write an entry about one of the artists for the Gallery website. I also had a day in the restoration department, where I was talked through the process of x-ray scanning a painting, patching fading paint and all to do with working with taking care of the paintings. Later on, I was taught about how to handle and apply gold foil

by the frame restoration team.

I also joined other departments such as Learning and Families and AV, as well as a few smaller departments that simply are not recognised enough. Adding to that, I consider that the greatest thing I learned during the week is just how interlocking and diverse museum work is, how many unknown opportunities there are, and just how essential they are to the workings of the Gallery. There is a great sense of teamwork and collaboration throughout the Gallery, attributed to each department being essential and relying on others.

During the time there we also had a few workshops organised by the Gallery staff, for example, the HR team held a lesson on employability and what they are looking for in an employee, as well as what volunteer work can help in getting into the field and an overview on how to write a good CV. These workshops combined with the work experience itself made for a greatly enjoyable and priceless experience, which I would recommend to anyone interested in the fields of art or museum work.

Alexandru Stemate

## PARENT VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

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Calling all parents and carers!

Do you have some spare time on your hands? Could you be a volunteer at TAA Library?

We are extremely fortunate at TAA to have a well resourced and well staffed library which is of benefit to all of our students in Years 7-13. The library is also the home of a number of reading programmes organised for our students. We are looking for parents/carers who

could volunteer on a regular basis to help with a range of tasks, including: supporting a student book club, supporting a reading mentoring programme and carrying out some general library duties.

If you think that you may be able to help, please email Sherry Sanderson, School Librarian, for more details:  
[sandersons@tas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sandersons@tas.herts.sch.uk)



# SIXTH FORM NEWS

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## Aim High



On Wednesday 24th April, our first day back after the Easter holidays, we started period 1 with a very exciting workshop in the main hall

from a guest speaker from Fortuna Finance, Financial Planning Advisers. We wanted students to see the opportunities available in the finance sector apart from chartered accountants, and to look at other sectors of the industry such as corporate and investment finance, loan officers and public accounting to name but a few. The student teams were in groups of 10-12 and played a 'Discover Risk' finance game. The group with the highest score won. There certainly was a competitive element and the students enjoyed acting on behalf of the 'client' portfolio making investments. The workshop helped students to understand the importance of the role of financial planning in everyone's lives, realise some of the opportunities available to them in the world of financial planning, practise people skills of talking, listening and persuasion (communication is key), practise problem solving skills to analyse different information and make crucial planning decisions. All students were given links to careers websites that we will be accessing during our timetabled careers and higher education sessions starting next week. [www.ciistepforward.co.uk](http://www.ciistepforward.co.uk) (Chartered Institute of Insurers), <https://www.ciistepforward.co.uk/member/register> Free for students to register and membership includes: Access to sector reports, research and information, excellent professional body to belong to for student, CVs and work experience opportunities.

## Be Safe

In the afternoon, we welcomed another guest speaker, Paul Connelly, Corporate Fleet Driving Instructor and BNI Director/Consultant for Beds and Herts (Business Network International). Paul delivered an interactive workshop to students with virtual driving presentations. Driver safety and how to ensure value for money from driving lessons were key themes. The interactive sessions were certainly lots of fun as students were able to experience a range of things that might impede their ability to judge speed and reaction time. Paul's approach was certainly very informative for those considering learning to drive and for us experienced drivers who have children wanting to learn. We hope to welcome Paul back in the summer term when he will return with more advice and guidance about passing the theory and driving test.

## Degree Apprenticeship Success

We are delighted to announce that Lewis in Year 13 has just secured a 3-year degree apprenticeship with British Aerospace. 130 applications were shortlisted to 12. Lewis did very well in completing all sections of the application, Skype interview, group assessment day and challenges. Congratulations Lewis and well done!

## Higher Education, University, Student Finance and Career Options Post 18

Our extracurricular enrichment trips to What Uni?/What Career? at Olympia last September, the National Apprenticeship Show at Milton Keynes in March and our most recent visit to the UCAS Fair at the Excel in London will have provided students with enough information to start making informed decisions about post 18 progression. Students should spend the summer holidays visiting at least

three universities. University Open Days are essential for students choosing to attend in September 2020. These are bookable online via individual university websites. ([www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com)) In September, students will be writing their draft personal statements and applying to UCAS. ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)) It is the practise at TAA that all university applications are submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> December. Submitting early applications demonstrates good time management skills with the advantage of students receiving conditional offers before the actual UCAS deadline. This structure allows students to concentrate on their final exams in the Spring Term 2020. The deadline for applications for Medicine and Veterinary Sciences is 18.00 on 15th October 2019.

## Higher Apprenticeships

There are several levels of apprenticeships available to post 18 students: Levels 3 and 4,

Higher Apprenticeships, are the most suitable for students completing a Level 3 qualification. Visit: [www.gov.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships), [www.amazingapprenticeships.com](http://www.amazingapprenticeships.com) and [www.ratemyapprentice.com](http://www.ratemyapprentice.com)

Completing A Levels successfully will enable students to access degree apprenticeships (where A Level grades or UCAS tariff points are required) where the employer pays all university and tuition fees. The application processes are complicated involving several stages including online applications, psychometric testing (numerical and verbal reasoning), group assessment days and a final interview. We will be helping students practise these online assessments to ensure every chance of success and gaining the all-important interview, including mock interviews. From our successful alumni students who visit and regularly keep in touch, we are confident that we offer the right advice and guidance in a timely manner and give students the perspective to understand what their next steps and choices are.

# STUDENT SUCCESS

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This Easter Tom D'Gama in Year 8 spent a week in Portugal with the England U13 Roller Hockey team. It was a fantastic opportunity to play with other boys from all across the country, ranging from Manchester to Herne Bay. He trained every morning and afternoon followed by a match in the evening against different Portuguese teams. The week concluded with an Easter Tournament and awards ceremony.





## Upcoming Events

**Friday 10th May 2019**

Year 11 Leavers' Assembly

**Monday 13th May 2019**

GCSE Exams begin

**Wednesday 15th May 2019**

Year 7 PGL Information Evening (6pm)

**Thursday 16th & Friday 17th May 2019**

DofE Practice Expedition

**Thursday 23rd May 2019**

Parent Forum

**Friday 24th May 2019**

Fun Run & last day of term

### FOR PARENTS/STAFF PLANNING ON SELLING THEIR HOUSE

If any parent with a child at the school or an employee of the school sells their property through Hunters estate agents Stevenage, they will donate £100 from their fees back to the school (as a charitable donation) upon completion of the sale. Further to this, the seller will also receive a £100 discount as well. All the seller needs to do is to make one of the sales team aware of this offer.

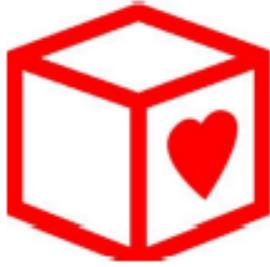
**HUNTERS**  
HERE TO GET *you* THERE

The Thomas Alleyne Academy

1 High Street  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire  
SG1 3BE

01438 344 344 ph  
www.tas.herts.sch.uk

ISSUE 14 MAY 2019



# The Red Box Project Stevenage

**Problem:** In the UK, some young people in our schools are finding it difficult to access menstrual products.

**Result:** Tearful panics in the loo. Wadded up toilet roll. Anxious embarrassment. Missed lessons. Missed education.

**Solution:** Individuals from the community sponsor and stock a red box filled with sanitary products and spare pants. The Red Box will support disadvantaged young people throughout their entire period.

The box is kept at school with the pastoral team. Plain paper bags are included for discretion. Of course, our schools are already on the case and stock a limited supply of menstrual towels to cover emergencies, but what makes this project special is that we aim to ensure enough supplies to get them through their entire period.

## Want to take part in The Red Box Community?

This is an informal group of friends, colleagues or neighbours who sponsor a red box in a nearby school. Backed up by some light fundraising, this is a simple, affordable way for the community to work together to solve a straight forward problem.

## Would you like to help in other ways?

- Donate to our 'GoFundMe' fundraising page. The price of one coffee would support one young person through their period
- Donate in kind. Add a packet or two of normal flow with wings sanitary towels to your grocery shop or run a collection for us – The Thomas Alleyne Academy donation box is based in reception.
  - Donate via our Amazon Wishlist
  - Fundraise!

This is a simple scheme, made with love for the young people in our community.

## Why?

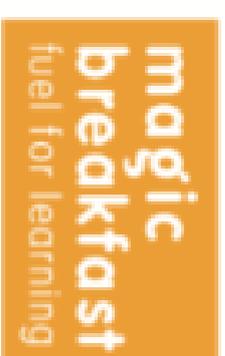
We believe that a young person's education shapes their future and their dignity is our responsibility.

For more information please contact Gerry at *The Red Box Project, Stevenage*

[theredboxprojectstevenage@gmail.com](mailto:theredboxprojectstevenage@gmail.com)

*The Red Box Project, Stevenage on Facebook. @RedStevenage on Twitter*

**STOP PRESS:** Great News! The Government have just announced that they intend to fund free sanitary products within schools from September 2019! However, we are not there yet, so in the meantime The Red Box Project volunteers continue to quietly ensure that no young person misses out because of their period. We hope you will join us. Thank You 



## **FREE 'Magic Breakfast' for ALL Students!**

When we return to school after the Easter break we will be introducing a fantastic new free breakfast provision! A delicious, healthy breakfast will soon be available every day, offering every student great fuel for learning.

**Research has shown that students who have a healthy breakfast achieve more at school – make sure they don't miss out!**

A range of tasty food including cereals and top quality bagels will be on offer to all students, free of charge! More details will follow soon.

**Open to *all* students, and it's totally free!**

If any parents/grandparents/carers would be able to volunteer to help at breakfast, please email [Kbailey@tas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Kbailey@tas.herts.sch.uk). We would really welcome your support.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

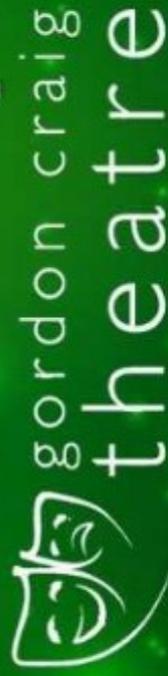


A BRAND NEW MUSICAL

# ARMADIA

WRITTEN BY SHAUN PARKER

23. 06. 2019 @ 7pm



For availability and booking enquiries: [www.gordon-craig.co.uk](http://www.gordon-craig.co.uk) Tel: 01438 363200 EU / Concessions available

TICKETS NOW ON SALE



A BRAND NEW MUSICAL

# ARMADIA

WRITTEN BY SHAUN PARKER

12. 07. 2019 @ 7.30pm

CAMBRIDGE  
JUNCTION

For availability and booking enquiries: [www.junction.co.uk/armadia](http://www.junction.co.uk/armadia) Tel: 01223 511 511 E12 / Concessions available