

The Thomas Alleyne Academy

Issue 18 July 4th 2019



this issue

- Duke of Edinburgh P.2
- Karting Club P.3
- Sporting & Student Success P.5
- Art Exhibition P.7
- Sixth Form News P.8&9
- Geography Field Trip P.10
- Upcoming Events P.11

Founded 1558

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Welcome to the latest edition of our academy newsletter. We are currently welcoming students to the exciting next stage of their academic lives. Our Year 11 students returned for a very successful sixth form taster day this week and we look forward to enrolling many of them into our sixth form after they receive their GCSE results. Next week we are hosting our new Year 7

students for their induction day. We have been meeting families over the last few weeks and I am so pleased to hear about the pride students feel about joining our wonderful school. We have also said goodbye to our Year 13 students, who had their leavers prom on Friday 28th June, we wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

In this edition you can read about the various trips that have taken place over the past few weeks, including our Duke of Edinburgh qualifying assessment, the Year 8 fieldtrip to Stevenage Old Town and the sixth form university taster day. You can also read about the many sporting and student success stories we have had, including the District Athletics results and the Year 10 cricket final.

Mark Lewis—Headteacher

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

On Thursday 27th and Friday 28th June our 35 bronze Duke of Edinburgh students completed their final expedition. This year the Year 9 DofE teams have all walked over 70 miles and spent three nights camping to help pass the expedition section of their award. This expedition took place around Cuffley. Students worked in teams to plan their routes, their meals and their expedition aims. The teams walked over 10 miles each day carrying all their kit in very hot conditions. During the expedition they were met several times by their assessors who have passed students and praised them for their determination and good humour. As well as the walking and navigation,

teams had to undertake a project on the expedition. This year teams covered aims that included the human impact on the environment, the pH of soil samples, the type of farming taking place and the use of the countryside for different genres of movie settings.



Following the success of this expedition, we now have 11 students who have completed all sections of their award and we are confident many more will complete the physical, volunteering and skills sections over the coming weeks to achieve their bronze certificate. We are looking forward to taking some of these experienced expedition students through to the silver award next year.

Well done to Alissa Crew, Emma Chapman, Jamie Cunnington, Seth Fox Pearson, Jamie Hickman, Jorja Jay, Olivia Long, Cody Murfin, Emma Radley, Abigail Reed and Leah Shepherd who have now completed their award.

Mr Lewis—DofE Lead



TAPAS

On Monday 24th June TAPAS proudly performed at the Gordon Craig Theatre, as part of the Stevenage Festival. Ms Merser and the company had worked tirelessly to prepare a performance of three songs from the musical "Little Shop of Horrors".

TAPAS gave an outstanding performance and received feedback on their professionalism both back stage as well as when performing (I think we even taught the other schools a thing or two about how a professional company do it!)

Our TAPAS T-shirts gave the finishing touch to a highly polished and truly enjoyable performance.

We could not be more proud of our outstanding company!

Please keep an eye out for more details of rehearsals etc. once we have auditioned and cast our next TAPAS production: Teechers!

Mrs Cowen—Head of Drama

KARTING CLUB

The Thomas Alleyne Kart Club Team went all the way to Rowrah Race Track in Cumbria for the three day Natska National Sprint Competition for the coveted 'S' plate and to compete in the series championship finals on the last weekend of June.

The Friday practice day ensured good testing of the kart set ups. Friday was a very hot sunny day with all the team working hard to get things right for the important two race days.

Over the tense two race days there were some highs and lows, the team pulled together, supported and encouraged one another. They worked extremely hard and received the best possible results.

Molly Nicholas-Biles drove extremely well and in her usual confident style in Class 12, bringing home the double with a first in the Sprint Competition and winning the Series Championship after an excellent year of racing. Well done Molly!

Cameron Kingham ended his Natska career in style in Class 8 by also bringing home the double with a first in the Sprint Competition and winning the Series Championship after another excellent year's racing. Well done Cameron!

In Class 11 we have four drivers in the largest grid of all the classes which provided some exciting racing: Alfie Heaps had a brilliant meeting with his consistent racing style, finishing 3rd in the Sprint Competition and 8th place in the Series Championship.

Matthew Hawkins drove well both days finishing 9th in the Sprints Competition and 8th place in the Series Championship.

Julian Saunders battled a minor engine issue on the second day but fought back gallantly to finish 10th in the Sprint Competition and a well-earned 5th place in the Series Championship.

Molly Heaps drove out of her socks to finish in 13th place in the Sprint Competition and achieved 11th place in the Series Championship.

Well done all in Class 11.

Ellis De-Cadenet attended his first National Finals as a

novice driver and his hard work and concentration paid dividends with a 4th place in the Novice group. Ellis showed marked improvement with each race and is now a much more confident driver. We look forward to watching him race in the new series.

Sean Conway raced in Class 15 and despite a few challenges on the first day, with a wheel falling off he managed 2nd place in both the Sprint Competition and the Series Championship for his sub class. Sean made the entire team very proud by winning the first ever Natska Martin Speed Memorial Trophy for endeavour. This award is given for the Driver of the Year. Sean, despite not always winning, never gives up and keeps giving maximum effort at each meeting with a smile on his face. Sean is well respected by the other drivers, leaders and volunteers alike who were all thrilled at this very special emotional award. Well done Sean.

For a relatively new and small Schools Kart Team our eight drivers took home plenty of trophies. They all worked extremely hard as a team, helping one another during frantic gaps in racings to ensure their karts were ready for the next race. They all gave their best in their races and never gave up till well past the chequered flag. The weekend highlighted future leaders and budding engineers/mechanics. They are a credit to the academy and we are extremely proud of their massive achievements this year.

If you think you could be the next Lewis Hamilton ,ask about joining the Schools Kart Team—contact Mr Luchies for more information.

Robin Kingham



TRACKING AND RECORDING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



**EMMA BUMPUS
WRITES ON
TRIALLING
A POSSIBLE
SOLUTION**

I work as a personal adviser with YC Hertfordshire, in the Thomas Alleyne Academy, an 11-18 co-educational academy in Stevenage, Hertfordshire. We strive to deliver high-quality careers guidance in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks and the government's commitment to ensuring schools and colleges meet the standards by 2020. The school has been trialling an upgrade package of the free online careers

guidance platform Start which is used by students and teachers in over 4,000 UK schools and colleges. The package is designed to help schools to track and record student engagement with their career development – an important measure for all schools and one that sits at the heart of best practice in good career guidance.



Introduction

As part of the trial, we agreed to focus on Year 10 students and preparing them for options post GCSE. A Year 10 Welcome Evening launch at the beginning of the academic year brought staff, parents and students together to introduce them to Start and how it can develop student career interests and motivation.

Following the introductory workshops in class, students were given logins and got to work exploring their future choices and employability through online modules such as 'Life as an Apprentice', 'Exploring Industries' and 'Employer Spotlights'.

Progress

Completing the online modules was enhanced by students attending a one-day Careers Carousel event in school with workshops on CVs, interview skills, personal

profiles and decision-making skills delivered by our personal advisers. This was followed up by 1:1 guidance interviews so students could record and discuss their progress in the context of their ability, interests and choices. This enabled the school to track and monitor target cohorts.

Tracking student data via Start has helped the school's careers leader collate student job sector preferences and arrange targeted individual and group employer and educational visits. This has developed the school's established employer links and instigated bespoke work placements, which with a breakdown of registered students by year group, has included those engaged and disengaged. Additionally, being able to track 'liked' job roles by gender has helped the school break down certain stereotypes associated within sectors, including STEM, demonstrating equality and diversity.

Gatsby Benchmarks

The package being trialled allows the school to use it to record and monitor student activities and also comes with access to a 'Gatsby Progress Report' which has helped the school evidence the Benchmarks.

Start's tracking tools have enriched the school's stable careers programme (Benchmark 1) by targeting groups and individual students, addressing the needs of each pupil (Benchmark 3). Tailored encounters with employers and employees (Benchmark 5) have developed students' employability skills and activities with experience of workplaces (Benchmark 6) which, when backed up with 1:1 confidential and impartial personal advice and guidance (Benchmark 8) has empowered students with 'access to good-quality information about future study options and labour market opportunities' (Benchmark 2).

In summary, I feel that the programme has led to a more personalised student experience that raises aspirations and promotes equal opportunities. Closer monitoring of student progress and engagement has helped the Thomas Alleyne Academy develop stronger links with parents, employers and support agencies including YC Hertfordshire in helping the school meet their statutory duties around careers guidance.

References

Start www.startprofile.com

YC Hertfordshire www.ychertfordshire.org

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We strive to deliver high-quality careers guidance in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks and the government's commitment to ensuring schools and colleges meet the standards by 2020.

”

Emma Bumpus is a personal adviser with YC Hertfordshire

29

Career Matters
June 2019 / Issue 7.3

SPORTING NEWS & STUDENT SUCCESS!

Athletics

Congratulations to all the students in years 7-10 who competed at the District Athletics competition on Wednesday 26th June 2019 for coming 6th out of 15 schools. Thomas Alleyne finished the highest school in Stevenage on the results table, with some exceptional individual performances, 15 medals won and 2 TAA records broken.

Year 7

Girls Relay Team (Lola Thomas, Anna Osadolor, Tasha Booth, Adelaide Koramoa) - Bronze
Anna Osadolor - Silver for 200m - Broke her own record she set earlier in the year!
Regan Grant - Silver for 100m
Ollie Carr - Bronze for 1500m - Broke the school record that was set by T.Carr in 2014!

Year 8

Eloise Howard - Gold for 100m
Olivia Traczykowska - Bronze for Javelin
Luke Bradley - Gold for 100m
Mackenzie Ellis - Bronze for Javelin
Henry Purvey - Bronze for 200m

Year 9

Leah Shepherd - Bronze for Shot

Year 10 Cricket Final

The big day had finally arrived. After a wet and wild summer, the cricket final was upon the Year 10 boys from Thomas Alleyne's. They were stir crazy after a hectic schedule; rained off, cancelled and finally rained off. No games played but we still made the final, an achievement in itself.

The team had –prepared diligently; fielding was on point, catching was great save a few drops every training session from Siva, and batting was getting better every session. Charlie Cox and

Year 10

Simona Thorpe - Bronze for 100m
Jayden Ingham - Silver for 100m
Sivaprasad Sureshbabu - Silver in long jump

Everyone that took part should be very proud of their contribution to the team #TeamTAA

Rounders

Congratulations to the Year 10 Rounders Team for finishing 3rd at the district tournament, bringing home a bronze medal. The team - Kayleigh Cook, Ruby Howell, Luisa Agoulmine, Annie Billings, Megan Knott, Abbey Luhman, Sophie Davidson, Jade Ainge and Molly Heaps.

Martial Arts

On Sunday Charlie Smith-Shears completed his '1st Dan' grading in Martial Arts. This grading is 5 1/2 - 6hrs long, and will be the 29th belt that Charlie has earned, having worked through 9 colours and their 'senior' colours, black belt and 8 coloured 'tags'. Congratulations Charlie.

Music

Congratulations to George in Year 10, who has passed Grade 2 Cornet with merit!

Arman Ali must be commended for their commitment during these sessions, putting in the time to improve.

So here it was, Stevenage Cricket Club looking glorious on a warm summer's afternoon, with no chance of cancellation. Our first game of the season—preparations were made on the outfield, with the boys catching and fielding like demons and swooping like eagles to collect the shining leather, fizzing the ball back into Oli's gloves. When Nobel arrived, we were relaxing and ready

Continued on next page

to prove ourselves the best in District.

Mo lost the toss, we were put into bat, which I think the boys wanted. Strolling ominously out to bat was the dominant pair of Vishnu and Mo, looking startlingly confident. This didn't pan out however, with the pair missing a few and falling to their external teammate and arch nemesis. That brought out the nervous Arman, who played some glorious strokes before also falling.

The oppositions heart sank as the next batsman walked in however, the regal Oli Vits in his full kit putting the fear of Sachin Tendulkar into their hearts. Swashbuckling sweeps and pulls abound, he amassed 33 before falling to the widest possible ball.

This just brought together the pair of Siva and Jo, beautifully placing shots and piercing the gaps, running well between the wickets and destroying any hopes Nobel had of winning the match. Siva was so confident he was picking fielders and offering catches, knowing they would not dare to catch them. With 25 and 28 runs respectively, they succumbed to the bowling and gave our last batsmen the final over. Very gracious. Andrew came out to face two balls, hitting arguably the most dominant and best shot of the match,

straight to the fielder and ending nought not out. Elliot, at the other end, sat on his bat and watched, playing a vital role in our batting performance.

At half time, we knew only poor bowling would cost us, and our opening pair of Ethan and Vishnu ran through the overs keeping it very tight. Nobel knew they were beaten, when the next bowlers to come on were Danny and Mo; no rest for the wicked. Audible squeals and sighs as the boys ran in made it clear there was a touch of fear in the air. This pair ran through their better batsmen, taking two and three wickets respectively, all bowled. Amazing pace and precision from the Swing Kings. We knew we had the game and our boys who didn't play externally had the chance to shine. First Charlie Cox, dropping a difficult caught and bowled chance to the dismay of the team. If anyone deserved a wicket for his commitment to the team it would be him. That just brought Arman and Elliot into the attack, and with a mixture of wides and vicious, laser guided bowling they finished off a hapless Nobel batting line up.

Mr Wright was last man out, to the sizzling Moore, taking two wickets in his last over. The game itself was played in fantastic spirit with plenty of the teams knowing each other, no animosity and plenty of laughs. Huge credit to all the boys, and to Nobel, so the boys will receive their deserved McFlurry next week.

Mr Bagshaw





KS3 & KS4 ART & DT EXHIBITION

**MONDAY 8TH JULY 2019
5-6:30PM**

D BLOCK SEATING AREA

Please come and view some of the amazing work our pupils have created this year! This is our third exhibition and we will also be displaying some of the Year 11 Design Technology projects

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Take Pride! Sixth form Ball - Friday June 28th 2019

I was delighted to meet and greet our Year 13 students and A level staff at our annual sixth form ball. This year our celebrations were held at Ware Priory, Ware, Hertfordshire, which is a delightful location set in beautiful grounds next to a medieval building. Our students were all beautifully dressed in evening outfits ready to celebrate the end of the exam season and moving on. Most of them have secured places at Russell Group universities whilst others have chosen and secured places on higher apprenticeship schemes in accountancy and finance. Our thanks go to the Science and Maths team for their support of the evening. We look forward to celebrating with our leavers on results day. Our sixth form students are a testament to the school values that they embraced at an early age. I am sure they will continue to carry forward a desire to aim high and be successful throughout their lives. I reflect with genuine pride that Thomas Alleyne has given them a forward thinking education and has therefore prepared them for a world of tomorrow that we do not yet fully understand. Their confidence and ability to question and challenge what they do not see as right and just will enable them to contribute to positive change in any community in which they exist.



Create and Succeed! Sixth Form Taster Day - Tuesday July 2nd

We were delighted that so many of our Year 11 students who have applied to join sixth form were able to come along to Taster Day and try out new subjects as they continue the process of choosing what to study in sixth form. Our thanks go to all A level staff for the delivery of some exciting lessons that gave students a real taste of what academic life in sixth form is all about! In addition to taster, lessons there were also advice sessions delivered on careers and alternative subjects that students will be able to study through our partnership with other local schools. We look forward to seeing students on GCSE results day and sixth form enrolment on August 23rd. For students who will be on holiday during the enrolment period there will be an additional session on September 3rd. Please contact sixth form on 01438344341 if you are unable to make enrolment day. In the photograph our Head Boy, Max, and Head Girl, Lottie, are talking to our new cohort about study skills, the roles and responsibilities of being a sixth form student and welcoming them all to the sixth form community.



Aim High! Alumni news!

Our heartfelt congratulations go to ex Thomas Alleyne student, Tyerone Trotman, who has just graduated with a First Class Honours Degree in Law and is about to take his next steps with Goldman Sachs on a New York based training scheme where he is completing an internship. Very well done!

Undergraduate Taster Day – University of Hertfordshire

On Wednesday 26th June, our Year 12 English Literature students attended an Undergraduate Taster Day at the University of Hertfordshire in English Language and Linguistics. We all travelled together via train for a 15-minute journey and caught the Uno bus to the De Havilland Campus. The university has two main campuses and it is easy to travel between both sites. After our introductory session from the School of Humanities, we all attended lectures and seminars delivered by Dr Sam George (Senior Lecturer in Literacy) and Dr Kaja Franck (PhD in lycanthropic literature) on the Big Bad Wolf and lycanthropy - how folk and fairy tales have shaped our understanding of the natural world with interactive tasks. Further lectures on Monstrous Werewolves and Benevolent She Wolves were also delivered exploring literary representations of the wolf. Students were given literary extracts and advised how to analyse the text and discuss the implications of storytelling. The afternoon was spent talking to student ambassadors about their journeys and how they chose to study their degree courses, student finance and budgeting and university life. Please see below some testimonials from our students:

Courtney: “Finding out how students cope with independent study, part-time jobs and workload was enlightening. It was great to have information from current undergraduates on how they chose their second year modules and options.”

Zain: “Speaking to university lecturers and ambassadors was insightful, visiting the lecture theatres and working in the study rooms allowed us a glimpse of the type of study we would be expected to do at higher education.”

Sadie and Ryan: “We all agreed the day was a great insight into the way undergraduates study at university. The first-hand information

we received from the ambassadors was so helpful. They talked to us about the A-levels they studied, how they chose their degrees and what living in halls feels like. There are so many clubs and societies available and we did not realise that university campuses are like mini towns with shops, banks, cafes, doctors and dentists all on site. In addition, the sports halls and facilities are state of the art. It was a great day.



Medical Mavericks – Year 10 Careers in the Health Sector

There are over 350 careers in the health sector and today our Year 10 and Year 12 students experienced some of the roles and jobs available via alternative routes. Tom Warrender, Founder of Medical Mavericks, has been bringing real hospitals to schools for over 10 years. Our students experienced what it is like to be a pathologist, a sonographer, use an ultrasound machine to see if they are growing any taller and try their hands at keyhole surgery. They also took ECGs and looked at eye diseases through special glasses. Sam and Elizabeth, our Medical Maverick experts, were totally amazing in instructing and inspiring our students today and we thank them sincerely. Our students were talking about the event all day and some came back for a second chance so they could use all the equipment. Thank you Medical Mavericks!



STEVENAGE MUSEUM ALLEYNES EVENT

Thomas Alleyne's School - 460 Years of Educating Stevenage's Children

Stevenage Museum will be holding a Lunchtime Learning talk all about the history of our Academy on Friday 12th July, from 1:00pm - 2:00pm. The speaker will be Richard Stephens, former student and former Chair of Governors, and author of "An Innings Well-Played, the Story of Alleyne's School, Stevenage 1558-1989", one of Stevenage Library's most requested books (with copies also available in the Academy Library).

The talk will look at what we know about Stevenage's oldest school, but also at some

myths and misunderstandings. Who was Thomas Alleyne? Which are the oldest buildings? How has the school survived for over four centuries? There will also be some items on display to illustrate the school's history, including copies of the 1946 Memorial Edition of the School Magazine, published to commemorate the former students who gave their lives in the Second World War.

Entrance to the talk is free, and you are encouraged to bring a packed lunch. For more details, please contact Jo Ward, Museum Curator, tel 01438 218883, or email jo.ward@stevenage.gov.uk

YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

An investigation into the function of Stevenage Old Town.

Year 8 students were honing their fieldwork skills last week as they completed an investigation into the function of Stevenage Old Town. Students collected primary data by recording land use along the High Street, carrying out a traffic count and asking visitors to complete a questionnaire to find out the purpose of their visit and how far they had travelled. During lessons this week we have been collating this data, using a variety of methods to present the information, analysing and drawing conclusions as to what these results teach us.

Fieldwork is an important aspect of Geography and being competent in these skills will support students should they go on to study Geography at GCSE, where Year 10s investigate coastal management at Walton on the Naze, and Year 11s the impact of the Olympics on regeneration of Stratford in London.

The Geography department was extremely impressed with the enthusiasm of students when completing this work and the polite manner in which they conducted themselves when talking to members of the public. As a department our aim is to inspire students to investigate the world, locally and globally, around them and fieldwork enquiries challenge students to think why our physical and human world is the way it is. We hope to be able to offer further opportunities to do so in the future.

Mrs Sweeney



Coffee Morning

at
The Thomas Alleyne Academy
for
Parents and Carers of Students
with ASD

*Meet Members of the
Learning Support Team*



*Talk to other
Parents*

9.30 - 10.30

On

Friday 5th July

WITH GUEST SPEAKER—DONNA HANSEN FROM DSPL₂



Upcoming Events

Friday 5th July 2019 -

Year 11 Prom

Monday 8th July 2019

Year 8 Transition Evening

Wednesday 10th July 2019

Y8&9 HPV2 Vaccinations

Thursday 11th July 2019

Secondary Transition Day

Monday 15th-Thursday 18th July 2019

Holland Trip

Wednesday 17th July 2019

Sports Day

Friday 19th July 2019

Last day of term (11:45pm finish)

YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

Whether you work in a school or have school-aged children yourself, you'll know the importance of a good school library – and not just for learning. Studies show that reading for pleasure doesn't just give children an advantage academically; it can improve their wellbeing too.

Nominate a school to win below, and if your entry is picked, not only will your chosen school be able to refresh their library for generations of children to come with our massive **£5,000/€5,000 National Book Tokens prize**, you'll also take home **£100/€120 of National Book Tokens just for you**. The more nominations your school receives, the higher their chances of winning – so don't forget to share on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

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