



THE THOMAS ALLEYNE ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM MR LEWIS



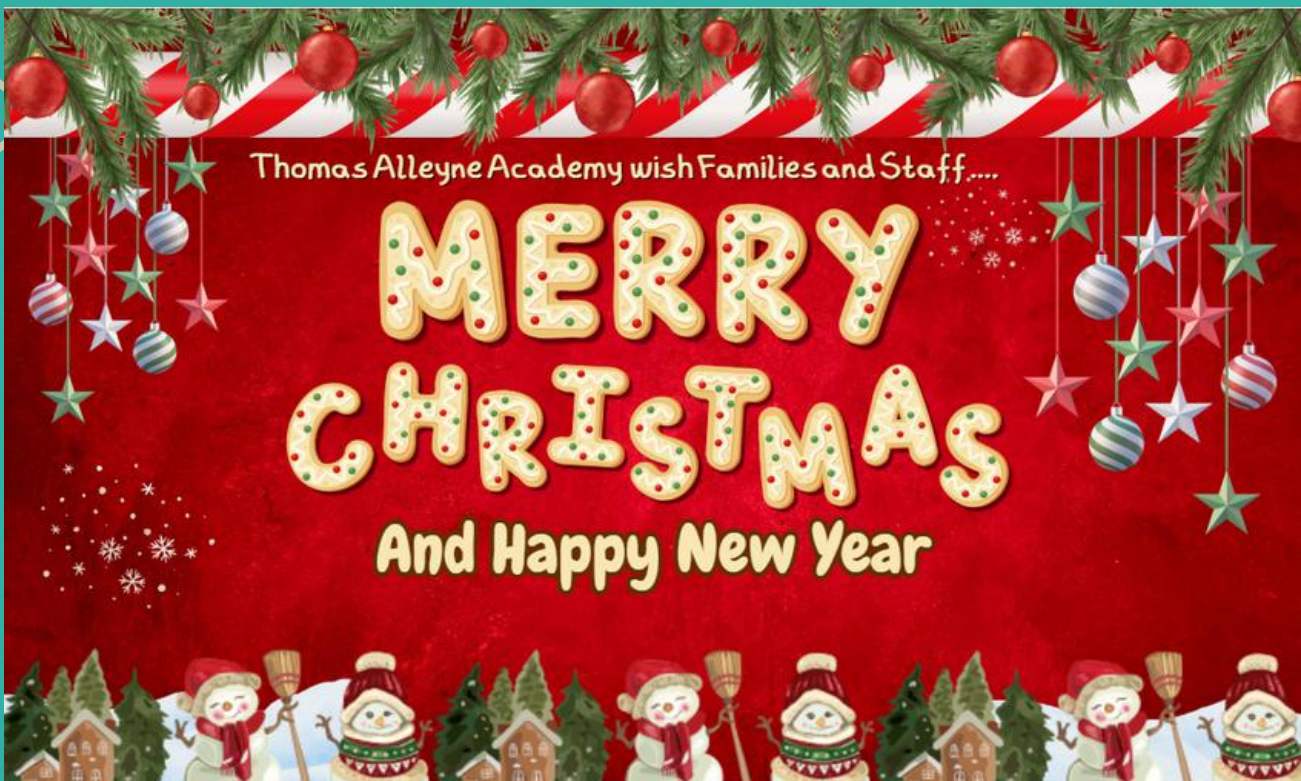
Welcome to the latest edition of our academy newsletter and the last one for 2024. It has been a very successful year for all at Thomas Alleyne's - fantastic examination results in the summer and an Ofsted inspection report this term that we can all be proud of. Well done and thank you to everyone involved in supporting our school.

It was lovely to present our core value badges in assembly this week and well done to all our badge winners. In particular, congratulations to Nadia Gonera, Grace Kelly and Lenny Taylor who have achieved their gold badges.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Colin Cherry, Katherine Humes and Kim McDowall all the best as they move on to new opportunities in the new year. We are fully staffed for the new term and will introduce our new team members to you in due course.

In this edition you can read about the sheer variety of what has kept our students busy over the past few weeks including many trips, activities in school and lots to celebrate!

I hope you all have a happy and healthy Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 6th January 2025.



CELEBRATE OUR STUDENTS



Minh Y10 took his Grade 3 Clarinet Exam and has passed with a Merit, well done!



Kara in Y9 has been dancing in Peter Pan at The Gordon Craig in Stevenage this month - well done for being selected!

Congratulations

Congratulations to the students who have graduated from Thinking Reading this term

Dominic Cheung (8)
Tegan Allen (10)
Jack Amass (8)

Congratulations to the students who have made excellent progress in Reading Fluency this term

Y10 - Roman Briars, Summer Gooch, Eleah Sealey
Y7 - Aurora Fletcher, Jack Pepper, Bobby Roberts, Jack Duffet



SPORTS NEWS

FIXTURES



Well done to the badminton teams representing Stevenage at the Herts school games earlier this month. Player of the day goes to Lauren, River, Ellie and Hayden



A hard fought game for the U14 girls team with some excellent displays of football. Defensively we dominated. POM Katy M for her outstanding goal keeping!



Netball Christmas Tournament a great turn out for the final training this term today.....



SPORTS NEWS

FIXTURES



Great performance for the year 8 netball team vs. King James (7-7)
POM Emma M



An unlucky result for the Year 10 basketball team but the boys played some brilliant basketball POM was Ollie H he hustled opponents in defence, controlled the pace of attacks and scored a lot of layups!



Thank you to Rio for coming in and delivering a practical workshop to our football players. Followed by lots of questions asked by the students.



SIXTH FORM NEWS



Leah and Georgia Y12 have just been accepted onto this scheme with the University of York which is a 2-year programme supporting students to make informed decisions about higher education through a tailored programme of activities.



Mia completed her pre-admissions interview for Primary Education with Two Mile Ash School (Chiltern Trust) and was successful and received an offer for their degree programme.



Work Experience Students, Hazem, Blessin, Joy and Gabriela students successfully completed a one-week work experience placement with the NHS in Lister Hospital and observed surgical procedures in Anaesthetics, Cardiology, Colorectal and Laparoscopic interventions, ENT, Ophthalmology, Renal and Urology. These amazing placements have enhanced our students' knowledge of person-centred care in hospitals.



UCAS APPLICATIONS TO DATE: 51

University pre-admissions interviews:

Medicine: 3

Primary Education: 2

Adult Nursing: 1

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS:

Biology - 1 (GSK)

Police - 1

The Hill Group - 1

Rolls Royce - Software Engineering - 1

Deutsche Bank - Finance - 1



SCIENCE

Biology + Research + Idea + Formula + Technology

IET The Institution of Engineering and Technology

Faraday Challenge Days



Education

Y8 FARADAY CHALLENGE DAY

Forty five year 8 students took part in the Faraday Challenge competition on 19th November. The students worked in teams to plan, design and create a prototype of a device or gadget that would ease the congestion in a busy railway station.



FRANKLIN WINNERS

Sophie Kent - 1st
Charlie Glanfield - 1st
Freddie Woodhouse - 2nd
Owen Thomas
Kacie O'Rourke
Ollie Robb
Misi Durojaiye
Leo Curcio
Adam Samad
Ayaan Miah
Es Shipp
Peggy Elkington

DARWIN WINNERS

Eva Barfoot - 1st
Emelia Buckingham - 2nd
Elijah Batchelor - 2nd
Jodie Anane
Ciara Horgan
Will Bolter
Luke Sabello
Calie Sanders
Olivia Timbrell
Umaiza Gaffar
Kai Griffiths
Ashton Emery
Harry Umney
Oscar McCullough
Dylan Southgate
Noah Campbell

NEWTON WINNERS

William Drake - 1st
Giulia Dinu - 1st
Jack Patterson - 1st
Ellie Elkingham - 2nd
Melissa Alecu - 2nd
Reece Lindfield - 2nd
Sienna Seymour
Jessica Liverside
Armand Gregus
Faine Johnson
Isobel Hollick
Connie Wilkinson
Louis May
Emma Moldovan
Sully Probyn



ENGLISH

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Going into the Christmas period can be very exciting and busy, so we would like to encourage you to take some time out, when you get the chance, to read.

Whether you utilise our e-library or read a traditional hard copy, listen to an audio book whilst baking or curl up on the sofa to read in silence, read with family or independently, we would love to hear about your Christmas reading when you return. And we will reward postcards for those who complete a book review.

Merry Christmas and Happy Reading,

The English Department



The Young People's Book Prize aims to promote literacy in young people and inspire them to read about science. It also supports the writing of excellent, accessible STEM books for under-14s. Each year, the winner is selected by judging panels made up of thousands of young people at schools across the UK from a shortlist selected by an adult panel.

We are pleased to announce that Thomas Alleynes have been asked to form a judging panel for this years book prize.

The shortlisted books are:



If you are in year 7-9 and would like to be on the judging panel please come to the Science Preproom and sign up! You will need to commit to reading each of the 6 books and filling a short review sheet in for each book.

We will meet on a Monday after school in S6 to swap books and hand completed review sheets in.

On Monday Feb 10th we will discuss all of the reviews and choose our favourite book before submitting our results on Feb 14th.

The winner will be announced at a special awards ceremony in March.

Dr Ward



ACTIVITIES

Y7 CAROL CONCERT AT ST NICS CHURCH

On Friday, December 13th the whole of Year 7 took part in a carol service at St Nicholas Church in Stevenage.

Students engaged in a mixture of readings as well as singing classic and contemporary Christmas music in the 1 hour service.

A special mention to some excellent readers that Miss Humberstone had selected beforehand and Mr Wright was very impressed with the choir that led the singing to the rest of the congregation in a rousing and galvanising manner!

Thank you to all staff that helped supervise and walk the students to and from the church over the morning.

Well done to all of Year 7!

Kind regards
Mr Wright
Head of Music



ACTIVITIES

Y9 INTER-FORM DEBATING

Last week Year 9 participated in Inter Form Debating. Topics included a ban on boxing, the cost of space travel and attitudes towards capital punishment. During form time, students prepared arguments surrounding their topics and developed their writing skills by forming their debates. This builds on the personal development focus that Year 9 students have, curating a portfolio across the year to track their progress. Things came to a head when students went to the main hall to debate against another form as either the proposition or the opposition.

All the debaters showed huge courage, delivering their ideas in front of their form groups and there was a sense of real determination to be the victorious side. Winners for each debate as well as the 'most valued debater' (M.V.D.) can be seen below. The winning teams will receive a prize and certificate and there is an additional something for the M.V.D.

MONDAY

Winning team: 9D1

Most Valuable Debater (MVD) Nicole Kingston

TUESDAY

Winning team: 9F3

MVD - Freddie Moore

WEDNESDAY

Winning team: Y10: Amogh Nagarajan, Phillip Nyantakyi, Nancy Carter, Ruby Lee, Emma Robson, Tadeea Aparaschivei

MVD - Ruby Lee

THURSDAY

Winning team: 9N2

MVD: Zoraiz Taj



Y10 A CHRISTMAS CAROL

It was a real delight to welcome back the Quantum Theatre Company, who yet again gave us a brilliant interpretation of Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol'. The students enjoyed the production, one student said it looked 'amazing'. With only 3 actors, they had to be ingenious and creative with the production, which was full of energy. The students' reactions were lovely to see.

A great way to start the countdown to Christmas and support our year 10's with their English Literature text study.

Ms C Harvey
Head of English



ACTIVITIES



Y12/13 WATKINS HALL FARM TRIP

A level environmental science students enjoyed a trip to Watkins Hall Farm, although the cold weather we enjoyed sampling the different areas that the farm had to offer. We completed multiple different tests such as: soil sampling, testing oxygen concentration in the pond and transects using quadrats on two different sites, we also got to learn key information about the farm and the agricultural methods they use to maintain sustainable practices.

Ruby Geary
Y13 Student



GCSE DRAMA SHOWCASE

On Thursday night, we held our first ever GCSE drama showcase to allow a small group of parents to come and watch an abridged version of "Blood Brothers". This is their set exam text and one of the best ways to explore it is to practically get up and perform the scenes. Mr Matthews and the drama students had been working hard on these scenes for most of the term and this was the chance for the drama students to show their skills in multi-rolling and character building. There were some outstanding moments of character work from all of the students showing a real understanding of the characters of Mickey & Eddie, which in turn created scenes that were impossible to look away from. A couple of the students really showed professionalism in taking on extra roles at the last minute to fill in for missing students. At the end of the night, we also had a performance from a group of Btec music students to show what they had been working on. They performed a version of "Creep" by Radiohead which allowed them to show off their skills, not only on vocals, but on guitar and bass as well. A special mention goes out to Neve Dunleavy, who had not only performed in 3 scenes during "Blood Brothers" but then came back on stage to perform with the music group.



All the students can be extremely proud of what they showcased and fingers crossed, we can persuade them to do it again at some point.

Miss E Baker
Head of Drama





ECO COMMITTEE

This term at eco club our team has been hard at work improving our avian biodiversity by finding spots to place our brand new bird houses, alongside creating new homes for Swifts in our more hard to reach areas. Alongside planting trees at Shephalbury Park - it's been a busy term at eco club.

Continuing from our work done last term our team have been finding safe and accessible spots for our bird houses. Made from suitable wood types and careful yet sturdy wood made from non-pressure treated hardwood, these new bird houses have been scattered towards the back of our schools field in the more wooded areas. We hope this attracts a larger variety of bird life to our school grounds and encourages new species of not just birds to frequent our school grounds.

On the topic of the avian landscape our team of eco prefects have contacted the action for swifts Hertfordshire after a visit from Wilder Schools Herts And Essex suggested we applied some swift houses/bricks to our schools to make it harder to reach high up areas. A swift is a medium-sized aerial bird, which is a superb flyer. Sleeping, eating, bathing and even mating on the wing (while flying), Swifts rarely touch the ground. Upon contacting action for swifts they were able to assess our school grounds and find suitable spots for the houses to go. Make sure to keep an eye out for these incredible birds around our school's site.

Finally, our team went on our first expedition to Shephalbury Park to assist the council in planting trees in the area to help increase biodiversity by encouraging new species to come and frequent the park. The team used a unique technique called a Miyawaki Micro Woodland, a Micro-wood is a small area that has been dug and planted with many elements found in a mature forest or woodland - rich soil, native fungi, beneficial shrub plants, smaller trees, and large towering trees. This unique type of forest was first pioneered by Japanese botanist Dr. Miyawaki. Our team over at eco club were hard at work digging holes, placing plastic covers and laying down mulch mas to help these saplings eventually flourish into towering trees.

In conclusion this is what our team has been up to over this very busy half term. From bird boxes and swift conversation to tree planting our team is also ready for whatever tasks come our way.

Gabe Field
Year 12 Student



ECO CLUB IS EVERY MONDAY
IN C19 AND OPEN TO ALL
YEARS





For the first time ever we have a group of Year 12 students completing their gold award at Thomas Alleyne's. As part of their award they have to attend a 5 day residential experience with other young people they have not met before. In the October half term Jack, Charlie and Joel all completed an outdoor activity residential course. Jack has written the short account of their experience below.



For our DofE residential section we went to the Brenscombe Outdoor Centre where us and 15 other 16-18 year olds. I found it was a great opportunity to meet new people whilst pushing myself out of my comfort zone, especially when we were playing card games and talking in the evenings, after the DofE leaders left it was really nice that everyone actively chose to try and socialise.

My favourite activity was rock climbing on the cliff faces of Brenscombe and learning how to b-lay. Joel really enjoyed kayaking, Charlie said he did not because he got soaked and me and Joel kept destroying everyone else in all the races and games. We all felt it was a great opportunity for developing skills and having fun and would recommend the gold award to any students who enjoyed silver and bronze.

Jack Robinson
Year 12 Student



ATTENDANCE

The below students were also invited/attended the 100% attendance pizza lunch on Wednesday and Thursday this week:-

Edie Miles 7D1
Leo Bull 7N1
Archie Kingston 7D2
Deniz Balkay 7D1
Lexie Millward 7F1
Deanna Holton 7N1
Daisy Bird 7N1
Moriah Roberts 8F1
Aramis Das 8D3
Donna Sallis 8F2
Lola Billany Connell 8D3
Freddie Woodhouse 8F1
Riya Roopesh 8F2
Samuel Holton Fox 8D2

Leah Muschett - 9F3
Arvin Kandola 9F1
Lily Farmborough 9f3
Jake Parker 9D1
Andrei Gologan 9f2
Nabeel Faouazi 9F2
Jessica Farrier 9F1
Keagan Cooper 10F1
Eddie Sampson 10F2
Leonard Wilkinson 10D2
Cailen Gould 10F1
Ada McDowell 10N3
Sophia Cant 10F1
Evelyn Lewis 10N2

Aarna Sharma 11N2
Asha Desarkar 11F2
Daniel Humphreys 11F2
Jane Griffin 11D1
Louis Marshall 11D1
Joe Dobbin 11N2
Laurena Dawkins 11F1



Christmas Hamper winners for 100% attendance:

Maya Gregus Year 10

Arvin Kandola Year 9

Harrison Lewis Year 8

Amelia Peacock Year 7

Ritjshua Bradley Year 11



MCR PATHWAYS

MCR PATHWAYS: MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR LOCAL YOUTH

MCR PATHWAYS

Since the start of this academic year, MCR Pathways has been making incredible strides in supporting young people across local secondary schools, including TAA!

Through our mentoring programme, we've connected dozens of students with volunteer mentors who share their interests, hobbies and career aspirations. These mentors have been meeting weekly with students during school hours, providing guidance, encouragement, and a positive role model to help them navigate challenges and build confidence.

The impact has been transformative. Students have reported feeling more motivated, supported and optimistic about their future, while mentors have found the experience deeply rewarding.

However, the demand for mentors is growing, and we need your help!

If you're passionate about making a difference and have an hour a week to spare, please consider becoming a volunteer mentor. Whether you're a professional, a hobby enthusiast, or someone who wants to give back, your time and experience can change a young person's life.

What's stopping you?

For more information on becoming a volunteer mentor with MCR Pathways, please visit <https://mcrpathways.org/>

Here's what students at TAA have to say about their experience of mentoring:

My mentor is just so positive! Her positivity is so helpful. Knowing that I have her really helps with me wanting to be at school ~ Year 10 student, Thomas Alleyne Academy

My mentor helps to make me more confident in myself. He encourages me to try harder, to reach higher etc in lessons. He encourages me to do better, reminds me that I can do better, helps me to believe in myself. ~ Year 11 student, Thomas Alleyne Academy

I feel like I have become more social. I'm always excited to see her. I leave feeling so happy. ~ Year 10 student, Thomas Alleyne Academy

We have spoken heavily on how I can build up my confidence, motivation and self esteem as these are the things that I tend to struggle with most out of everything. My mentor has given me methods and ways I can help try and boost all of those things which has turned out to be a massive help as I am now able to come to school confident and ready to learn each and every day ~ Year 11 student, Thomas Alleyne Academy



FUNDRAISING

ADVENT RAFFLE

Congratulations to the following student winners of the advent raffle who won chocolate treats ...

2nd December

Year 7 - Teagan Edwards

3rd December

Year 8 - Louis Forbes

4th December

Year 9 - Tynan Sealy

5th December

Year 10 - Eddie Parnell

6th December

Year 11,12&13 - Charlotte Lengthorn

9th December

Year 7 - Amber McGibbon

10th December

Year 8 - Nicole Dorney

11th December

Year 9 - Katy Miller

12th December

Year 10 - Milo Mellett

13th December

Year 11,12&13 - Tommy Kelly

16th December

Year 7 - Max Douglas

17th December

Year 8 - Cody Cartwright

18th December

Year 9 - Em Chick

19th December

Year 10 - Emma Bartram

20th December

Year 11,12&13 - Freya Moore



Team TASA would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us by purchasing virtual Advent Raffle tickets, which raised just over £300.

It was exciting for us to discover each day's winner chosen using <https://wheelofnames.com/>

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope you are able to continue supporting our events in 2025!



FUNDRAISING



HAVEN FIRST



Thank you to parents and staff for bringing in donations for the Haven First Collection.

We managed to fill the minibus with items and the charity was very grateful for all items that will be distributed before Christmas.



Y12 & 13 WINTER WONDERLAND TRIP

Yesterday we joined up with other schools in the group to visit Winter Wonderland in London.

The trip was fantastic - watching the students learn to ice skate, develop their confidence, helping each other, picking themselves up when it had gone wrong! The development of their independence in Oxford Street and the culture capital was also great. Our students were exemplary in their timings, all were back before the meeting time.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

20th - Break up for Christmas
Students Dismissed at 12 midday

TERM DATES FOR 2025/26
ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Important Term Dates for your Diary -

Christmas Holidays
23rd December-3rd January 2025

February Half Term
17th - 21st February 2025

Easter Holidays
4th - 22nd April 2025

May Half Term
27th-30 May 2025

Summer Holidays
18th July - 5th September 2025

JANUARY

6th - First Day of Term (week 2)
8th - Y13 Parents Evening, 3-7pm (no early close)
9th - Y9 Options Information Evening, 6-7pm
10th - Y10 & 11 - Macbeth Workshops
14th - Early close for Parents Evening
(Y9-11 1.20pm/rest of school 2pm)
14th - Y8 Parents Evening (online)
21st - New York Parent Information Evening, 6-7pm
23rd - Y12 Wayfinder Day, UoH
29th - Y10/11 Theatre Trip, Dear Evan Hansen
29th - Y8 HPV Vaccinations
30th - Y8 Regional Faraday Challenge Competition

FEBRUARY

5th - Early close for Y7 Parents Evening
(Y9-11 1.20pm/rest of school 2pm)
5th - Y7 Parents Evening (in person)
6th - Y11 and Y13 Group Photos
11th - Y9 DTP/MENACWY Vaccinations
11th - School Performance of Bugsy, 7-9pm
12th - School Performance of Bugsy, 7-9pm
12th - Y11 Geography Field Trip to Stratford
13th - Y11 Parent Info Evening (support with exams), 6-7pm
14th - Break up for Half term 3pm

To keep up to date with everything Thomas Alleyne please make sure you follow one of our social media channels, where you will find up to date useful information.

If you have any good news stories or an achievement your child has received outside school we would love to hear about it, please email andrewsa@tas.herts.sch.uk

[Term Dates and School Calendar](#) available on the website

SOCIAL MEDIA

