

Winter Term 2018

Thornaby Academy's official newsletter

The Update



Welcome from the Principal

Welcome to the latest Update from Thornaby Academy. We have had a very busy and exciting start to the Autumn term. Just recently, we hosted our annual Awards Evening to celebrate, in style, the achievements of our students past and present. Stockton MP, Dr Paul Williams accepted the invitation as guest speaker. Dr Williams opened the event by delivering an inspirational speech for all our guests. Mr Steve Walmsley, Mayor of Thornaby presented the PRIDE award to Iona for her outstanding commitment to the Academy and Alfie was presented with the prestigious Principal award for his excellence in overcoming adversity.

This term, our students have also commemorated other local heroes. In September, Tegan laid a wreath at the foot of the airman statue in Thornaby to pay tribute to those who fought and died during the Battle of Britain. Tegan joined local dignitaries such as the Mayor of Thornaby and the Stockton MP in respecting the brave. Our students also took part in the Remembrance Sunday parade in November. They marched alongside local army cadets and veterans to lay a wreath at the cenotaph in Thornaby and show their respects to those who fought in two world wars and subsequent conflicts. The students said that they were, "immensely proud and honoured to lay a wreath on such an important occasion."

This autumn, we celebrated Space Week. Every student in the Academy had the exciting opportunity to study the night sky in the middle of the day from the comfort of our inflatable Planetarium. Pupils from local primary schools joined in too for a tour of our cosmos. The adventure was appreciated by all and led to lots of exciting activities taking place in classrooms to explore our universe further.

In November a group of Year 8 and Year 9 students began work on a 'Meaningful Encounters' programme led by Middlesbrough Football Club. This is an eight week programme which provides these students with the opportunity to explore essential business and enterprise knowledge by delving into the business aspect of Middlesbrough Football Club to develop ideas and solutions that will potentially impact upon the operations and success of the club. One of the students taking part said, "I'm looking forward to learning about how much money the club makes from selling things like match day programmes, tickets, renting out rooms for business meetings and weddings." The programme culminates with a celebratory event at Middlesbrough Football Club's Riverside Stadium where students



will achieve the nationally recognised qualification: Premier League Core Programme ASDAN Award. We wish all of our students taking part every success during the programme.

I look forward to keeping you up-to-date on all the exciting developments at Thornaby in the year ahead. Please visit our website www.thornabyacademy.org.uk to hear about our news and events and remember, you are always welcome.

Donna Butcher, Principal of Thornaby Academy



'Bring it on' Engineering Event

In October, 40 year-8 students attended the 'Bring it on' engineering showcase event at the Beacon of Light in Sunderland. The event was designed to showcase North East Engineering to young people in order to help educate them about the engineering activities which take place in the North East of England, inspiring them to want to be part of it and informing them how they go about becoming an engineer.

The students visited themed zones covering civil engineering, digital technology, biotechnology and automotive engineering meeting and talking with real engineers about the work they do and getting some hands-on experience. Feedback was very positive with comments saying it was the best trip they had been on and discussions on the bus on the journey home centred on what type of engineer they want to be.



Astronomers from Kielder Observatory visit Thornaby Academy

During November we were very fortunate to have two astronomers visit us from Kielder Observatory. Every student studying space as part of triple science

met with the astronomers and visited the portable planetarium where they had a tour through our solar system. Students explored the International Space Station

and viewed the most recent photographs taken by the Hubble Telescope of galaxies billions of light years away. The event was also made available to local primary schools, with Year 5 students from Thornaby Church of England, Village and Harewood primary schools visiting the planetarium and designing, making and testing their own Martian Landers. Reaction was universally positive, and the Astronomers delivered an out of this world experience that the students will never forget.



Romeo and Juliet

Love, death, tragedy: Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet was broadcast live to our year 11 students in November.

The Royal Shakespeare's adaptation of the play included the usual fighting and romance, whilst showcasing modern dance and garage music. The young lovers embody youthful defiance, something

which our students, unsurprisingly, seemed to relate to.

Maisy Flynn, one such student, noted that 'I really liked the modern feel of the play, especially the part where time seemed to stand still when Romeo and Juliet first met - the cast danced in slow motion to show this and it was so cool.'

Our Y11s are studying Romeo and Juliet as part of their English Literature GCSE and really appreciated finally getting the opportunity to watch a live performance of Shakespeare.

Kelsey said 'I'm glad I got to see a full performance live. I feel like I understand the play even more now.'

The Brixton Bard

In October, nine lucky year 7 students met author Alex Wheatle at Durham University.

Alex Wheatle, known as Brixton Bard, passionately told students about how he turned his life around from taking part in

the Brixton riots and spending some time in prison, to becoming a writer and voice of the working class and Afro-Caribbean community.

Not only did these students receive their own signed copy of Wheatle's most

recent novel *The Kerb Stained Boys*, they also took part in a 'black out poetry' workshop, working with Durham University students. Their creative and resilience was a credit to the academy.

Raise Your Game

Thornaby Academy has been given an amazing opportunity to be involved with MFC in the Raise Your Game Programme. A number of Year 9 students have been selected to take part in the Programme, delivered by Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation and Teesside Park.

The programme will run between November 2018 and May 2019, at different venues that include the Riverside Stadium, Teesside Retail Park, Thornaby Academy and Rockcliffe Park.

Through participating in the programme, students will complete the Premier League Core Programme ASDAN Award, gaining essential business and enterprise knowledge by exploring the business aspect of Middlesbrough Football Club. In addition to this

students will collaborate with others on a real life business and enterprise challenge, set by Teesside Retail Park. This aims to develop ideas and solutions that will potentially impact upon the businesses operations and success.

To celebrate the completion of the programme the students will be invited to a Middlesbrough Football Club home fixture and will receive a complimentary ticket.



The Computational Thinking Festival 2018



Thornaby Students Securing Skills for the Future

An amazing morning was had by both staff and students from Thornaby Academy at The Computational Thinking Festival on Friday 21st September 2018. Stockton Sixth Form College hosted a unique series of Computer Science workshops in partnership with BT. They

invited ten high achieving students, who are passionate about Computer Science from Thornaby Academy to attend.

The work shops were led by Tablet Academy along with BT and Microsoft. Working in conjunction with other teams including A-Level students, they designed then created a number of programs using

Python and PiTops which linked hardware to programming. They also constructed the hardware of a PC.

Thornaby students were commended for their outstanding effort and attitude throughout the morning.



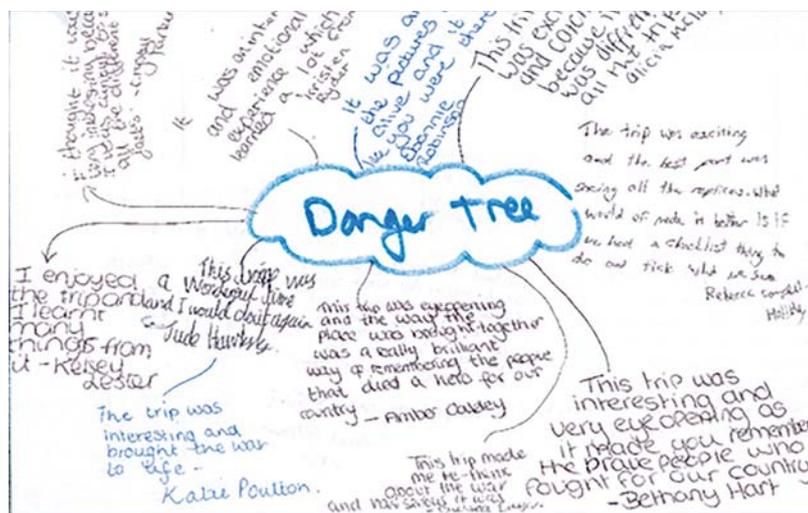
History students visit 'The Danger Tree' exhibition

The exhibition, which marks the centenary of the end of World War One, tells an immersive story of the soldiers who fought and fell.

Colourful oil paintings depicting fields of flowers evoke scenes of poppies that have become symbolic of the war. The skies and flower forms hint at

something less literal and more ominous.

The pictures trigger an augmented reality, where narrative tells harrowing tales of the fallen, while reminding us of the impact on loved ones.



Remembrance

The 100th anniversary of Armistice Day was marked in school this year with Thornaby Academy's first Remembrance Service for parents and the community. As part of the service, students reflected upon the individuality of the servicemen and women who lost their lives in war. In particular, the students remembered the WW1 deceased who were from Thornaby, creating a carpet of poppies with their names. Student cadets laid wreaths in honour of the fallen and the school choir sang 'Abide with me'. History students shared their very moving poetry, inspired by their visit to the 'Danger Tree' exhibition.



In tutor time, the school council led a class liturgy on Remembrance before students observed a reverent two minutes silence.

School Council

Thornaby Academy is extremely proud to have elected a fantastic student council. After putting themselves forward for the role and delivering a presentation to their tutor group, each form class participated in a vote to elect a council rep. Such is the demand to be part of the council, some tutor groups also have volunteer assistants to support the elected representative. Following training on the difference between operational and strategic tasks, the council agreed a set of priorities they wish to develop during this academic year and created a strategic vision. Since taking on the role, students have assumed responsibility for delivering tutor time activities once a week. They are also busy preparing development plans to present to Mrs Butcher this term. They are a force to be reckoned with!

R.S.V.P.

A fundamental priority for Thornaby Academy is the safeguarding of students and ensuring they are making responsible decisions. National statistics have indicated that teenagers in the UK spend on average 9 hours per day on social media. In order to ensure that our young people are acting legally and fairly, safely, vigilantly and protecting their professional image online, all students participated in the R.S.V.P. project. Every lesson for an entire week, students engaged in activities designed to encourage them to think carefully about their online actions and to ensure they know how to keep themselves safe. As part of the project, the local PCSO delivered a presentation to all students and parents. Students have since led assemblies on what they learned during the week.

Diversity Week

December 3rd marked the first day of 'Diversity Week' at Thornaby Academy. Many departments across the school are involved in the delivery of special workshops on the importance of celebrating difference. In Maths, students analysed the UK census data, English explored diversity poetry, Art led discussions on LGBTQ, Geography explored the cultural practices of indigenous people from around the world, MFL looked at the celebration of Christmas in Spanish culture and Food looked at the origins of certain dishes. Students were also given the opportunity to meet with a speaker from the Sikh Education Centre. In tutor time, the school council are leading a host of sessions on the importance of diversity, linked to the British Values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and tolerance. They have presented on the way democracy promotes equality, the law regarding hate crime and the inherent value of all human life.

Food for Thought

In Food Technology lessons we often include work about other countries and cultures. For Diversity Week we decided to get into the festive spirit by making gingerbread, which originates from 16th century Germany. Ginger root was first cultivated in ancient China, where it was commonly used as a medical treatment, before spreading to Europe.

Y9 students started the week off, by creating gingerbread shapes and decorating them with piped

icing. The food room smelled delicious, and brought many visitors! Of course, we had to taste test them, and myself and the students can confirm – they were delicious!

Mrs K Matthews

Subject Leader of Design and Technology



Celebrating Success at Thornaby Academy



In November 2018, 45 students were joined by their parents, carers, staff and guests to celebrate awards for outstanding progress and achievement.

The evening was opened with an inspiring speech by Dr Paul Williams, MP for Stockton south, encouraging students, staff and parents to continue to 'be fearless' in the words of Stormzy. The comperes for the evening were two year 11 students, Tegan and Isaac. They presented with confidence and were a true credit to the Academy.

Each student had their own reason for being recognised and this was shared in heartfelt speeches by Directors of learning and Subject Leaders.

Particular mention should go to Iona, who received our 'Pride Award', presented by Mayor of Thornaby, Mr Steve Walmsley.

This is awarded to the student who has the most positive points awarded during the year. The final prize of the evening was the Principal's award and this was presented to Alfie, for his outstanding resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

The evening was a delight to be a part of and will be remembered as special memory for all that attended. Well done to all our award winners.

