

WELCOME TO THOMAS DEACON ACADEMY'S WINTER NEWSLETTER

*So here it is, Merry Christmas
Everybody's having fun
Look to the future now
It's only just begun.*

The above is the chorus from the well-known Christmas hit by Slade, 'Merry Xmas Everybody', which was released almost 50 years ago in 1973!

Christmas is a wonderful time to be with friends and family and to ensure, 'everybody's having fun'. Please click [here](#) for a video message from the Dean of Peterborough, which celebrates the meaning of Christmas. There is a clear focus on 'having fun' but, maybe more so now than ever, the message makes us pause and reflect to consider those who are maybe not as fortunate as we are.



Rick Carroll, Executive Principal

The 'TDA Way' comprises our six pillars: Confidence, Commitment, Courtesy, Compassion, Courage and Curiosity. These are rooted in the TDA ethos, culture, and vision and are a key focus in our character education. In line with the Dean's video message we need to consider how we can support others - we need to show even greater 'compassion'. I am so proud of all the wonderful charity events our students and staff support - many are detailed within our newsletter. As part of our continued celebration of 300 years of Thomas Deacon, please enjoy the wonderful accounts of so many Acts of Kindness.

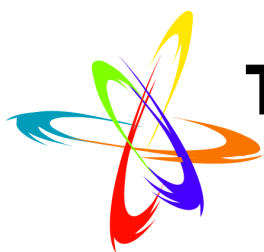
Well done to all our students for making great progress so far this academic year. Thank you to staff and parents for the continued guidance given to all our young people. As Slade sang: 'Look to the future now, it's only just begun'. For us at TDA, by working together, 'shoulder to shoulder' we can ensure in 2023 our core purpose becomes a lived reality:

"To ensure that each student acquires the necessary knowledge, skills and character to make a positive contribution to society and 'thrive' as a global citizen."

Merry Christmas,

Mr Carroll





Students perform in TDET Carol Concert

A big well done to all the students who took part in the Thomas Deacon Education Trust (TDET) Christmas Concert at Peterborough Cathedral.

We had beautiful piano solos from TDA students Owais and Edie, as well as performances from our senior rock band and brass ensemble. There were also readings from our Principal Students and performances from students at other academies in our Trust.

All students performed brilliantly, with such confidence, energy and enthusiasm, and we're so proud of every one of them. Peterborough Cathedral was a beautiful setting and we all had a fabulous festive evening!



Remembrance Service honours past soldiers

Our Remembrance Day service on 11 November honoured the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedom. Thank you to our Cadets and Principal Students for their fantastic participation in our ceremony.

Our students and teaching and support teams watched the service via live stream, which included video footage remembering the stories of our past students who fought and died in conflict.



This year we are celebrating Acts of Kindness across our Trust in memory of Thomas Deacon. We took the time across all seven of our Trust academies to honour the courage and kindness of the soldiers who fought and sacrificed their lives for our freedom.





Award-winning students celebrate achievements

Well done to students Izzah, Ghulaam, Saher, Aiste and Ismail, who attended the 5th annual Muslim Council of Peterborough Awards to celebrate their progress and achievement in learning, and their community and charity work.

The students listened to speeches, including one from Scott Hudson, Chief Executive of Thomas Deacon Education Trust, about the Academy's six character pillars of Curiosity, Commitment, Courage, Compassion, Confidence and Courtesy, which the students have represented throughout their time at TDA.

We are all incredibly proud of their efforts - they are great role models for our students to aspire to!



An amazing £700 raised at Book Fair

It was fantastic to see students enjoying our Book Fair. This was a great experience with lots of students demonstrating our character pillar of Curiosity by browsing and buying new books, and enjoying having the freedom to choose their own book to buy and keep. Some chose old favourites, while others had the courage to try new authors or genres.

There was a great buzz surrounding this event which, as well as encouraging a positive attitude to books and reading, also raised nearly £700 to spend on new library books at TDA!





Colour Run fun for Year 7

Some of our Year 7 students had great fun participating in the Colour Run, at Milton Country Park near Cambridge, which involved getting absolutely covered in powdered paint! After the run, students took part in lots of other activities including clip and climb, archery, smoothie bikes, and mini-golf - what a great day!



BBC visit for Years 7, 10 and 11

We were excited to welcome the BBC to our Academy to mark their BBC 100 centenary celebrations - for 100 years of the BBC!

Years 7, 10 and 11 were excited to take part in this opportunity, which focused on sharing inspirational journeys through the power of storytelling.

Members of the BBC team shared their inspiring stories and experiences, and our students and teaching team had the opportunity to share stories about themselves.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this event and made it such a success.





Award for TDA's catering teams

Well done to everyone on our catering team at both our junior and senior academies, and at Thomas Deacon Education Trust for their hard work in achieving the Food Smart Bronze Award!

We take a huge amount of pride in providing a varied, healthy menu, with meals freshly prepared on-site using high-quality, locally-sourced seasonal produce. Our catering teams do an outstanding job preparing and serving food to thousands of students each day.

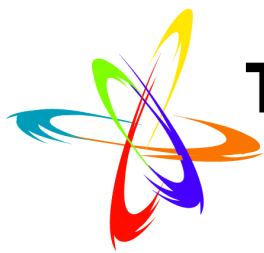
This award, which is in partnership with Healthy Schools Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, is a brilliant result that reflects 18 months of hard work.



Students organise donation for local charity

A big well done to our students Rabiah and Ghulaam, who got our collection for the charity Light Project Peterborough off to an amazing start by organising an enormous donation from PropertyLine estate agents. Thank you to our students for displaying our character value of compassion, and to everyone for this amazing act of kindness!





Drama fun for Years 11, 12 and 13

Our Drama students from Years 11, 12 and 13 enjoyed a workshop with Eastern Angles Theatre Company.

They listened to a play called Patient Light and

completed tasks based on events in the play.

They also enjoyed listening to a talk on career paths into the Performing Arts industry.



Mental Health Awareness Day

We had a fantastic event for Mental Health Awareness Day, organised by our fantastic catering manager.

This was a great chance to make students aware of the help and support available to them and of opportunities to talk to people for help if they need to.

Thank you to our fantastic team for making this event happen.



KEY DATES

TRAINING DAYS - SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday 4th January 2023

SPRING TERM OPENS

Thursday 5th January 2023

HALF TERM

Monday 13th February to Friday
17th February 2023

LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM

Friday 31st March 2023

GOODBYE!

We would like to say goodbye and good luck to:

Nicola Hobbs, Assistant Librarian

Heather Sargeant, Teaching Assistant

We wish you all the best for the future!

SOCIAL MEDIA

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