



Newsletter

21 June 2024

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TOLL BAR
SIXTH FORM





Mr Whittle

It never ceases to amaze me what our talented students are capable of.

Take Aidan Wright, for example. The Year 10 student has had his first novel 'The Legends of Ace Ford' published and he hosted a talk, book reading and workshop to inspire our Year 7s (more details in this newsletter).

Congratulations to Aidan and his family, who must be extremely proud.

Then there's Grace Hanley who, by changing her routine, who smashed her target of walking an extra 100 miles in May to raise money more than £1,000 for local charity Foresight.

I love hearing stories of achievement by our students.

Talking of which, I am really looking forward to seeing our performance of Matilda at the Parkway Cinema and Theatre in Cleethorpes.

The shows are at 7pm on Wednesday 26 and Thursday. The last few tickets are available from [Matilda The Musical](#).

We created a new Performing Arts department only last year and this is the first big opportunity for students to showcase their talents. I am excited about how far it has come in a short space of time and our future offer.

You may have seen we are hosting, in addition to a Year 6 Open Evening on 17 September (5.30pm – 7.30pm), Open Mornings on 25 June and 17 July (9.20am until 11.10am), and a Summer Drop-In on Tuesday, 9 July, 5pm until 7pm.

They are all aimed at parents of Years 4 and 5 to ensure they have plenty of opportunities to meet our fantastic students and staff, see our first class facilities and hear about our amazing enrichment opportunities.

The Open Mornings are a chance to experience the school during a normal day. We're proud of our teaching and learning environment and the great opportunities we have to offer.

We've completed the GCSE exam calendar. Students' conduct and attendance has been excellent throughout.

Breakfast clubs before exams have proved popular and the special boosters before each exam have been successful.

I would like to thank my staff for their organisation and support of our students. I hope parents feel we have done what we can, though we are always looking to improve further.

Finally, I was proud to see sixth former Will Jones question the Prime Minister as part of Sky's 'Battle for Number 10' debate, broadcast live from Grimsby Town Hall.

His contribution, posted by Sky News on X and seen by tens of thousands of users, is [here](#). Will spoke on behalf of all young people and was a credit to himself, his family and Toll Bar Sixth Form.

Thank you for reading the newsletter.

Mr N J Whittle
Principal



Student's charity walks

A student has helped a charity celebrate its 25th birthday by raising more than £1,000.

Grace Hanley (13) committed to walking an additional 100 miles in May by changing her daily routine, refusing the 3-mile lift to and from school and completing extra-long dog walks.

Father Phil said her initial aim was to raise £300 and complete the challenge over the month but it was achieved by the 18th, with Grimsby charity Foresight benefitting.

“My wife Rachel and I are extremely proud of her,” he said.

“This fundraising was an idea Grace came up with and she chose to support Foresight in Grimsby.

“She has witnessed the amazing work they do to allow their beneficiaries to lead a life that some could take for granted.

“It just so happened the fundraising fell in with the charity’s 25th anniversary so it was wonderful timing.”

Mr Hanley is a trustee of the Grimsby charity and he said it was “heart-warming” the Academy was recognising Grace’s achievement.

Principal Nigel Whittle congratulated Grace.

“This is a fantastic example of some of the volunteering and charitable work our students do which often goes under the radar,” he said.

“The newsletter’s a great vehicle to help celebrate achievement and I’m pleased to recognise Grace’s wonderful effort.”

Foresight meets the needs and requirements of disabled individuals, their families, and carers in North and North East Lincolnshire.

It offers a wide range of services and activities, from learning and training to leisure, sporting, and social activities.





Duke of Edinburgh

Last weekend marked the third and final expedition weekend for our Bronze qualifying students this year. All students worked hard and pushed through the challenges presented to ensure they made it to the finish line together. All these students should be proud of themselves and their achievement but must make sure they now log and complete this section on their E-DofE portal along with the other sections. Support sessions will still be on to assist with this on a Friday.



Well done to:

Martha Rodger, Amelia North, Maddison Hill, Lottie Green, Lucy Sowter, Rose Rijo, Anns Rijo, Cheryl Adeyinka, Owen Wheatley, Matilda Cuthbert, Lily Wardle, Ivan Boyd, Austin Emslie, Toby Allison, Luke Neal, Cole Jarvis, Jack Newby, Elliott Stanforth, Norik Ahmeti, Morgan Stratton, Luke Johnson, Max Ward, Oliver Hanley, Lyla Mandela, Maja Bruce, Noah Furness, Ilyn Lin, Emily Robinson, Hannah Collins, Jasper Barnbrook, Jack Walton, Brayden Schubert, Harry Butterfield, Isaac Hayles, Chiazio Chukwuemeka and Finley Nicklin .



Matilda tickets

The last few tickets remain for our production of the West End smash hit Matilda the Musical.

Our first big production in years will be performed by students at the Cleethorpes Parkway Cinema and Theatre next Wednesday (26th June) and Thursday.

It follows the creation of a new Performing Arts department at the school, led by Co-Director of Arts Gemma Carter.

“We held auditions for the roles in September and rehearsals started shortly after,” she said. “They’re going really well. We visited the Parkway and the students were so excited to see the theatre space. It has all made it seem very real.”

The set will arrive and be constructed on Tuesday with a full dress and technical rehearsal the following day ahead of the public shows.

“We are all very excited,” said Gemma. “The students have been absolutely fantastic to work with, showing a real dedication to learning their lines.

“We promise the audience an energetic, dynamic, exciting, family friendly show with lots of fun.

“It is part of our ambition to build Performing Arts at the Academy to be the best in the area and, hopefully, this is just the start.”

The lead role will be played by 11-year-old Sophie High. “I’m really excited,” she said.

“It’s the first time I will have been on stage acting and singing, though I have been dancing for with CLS Dance Studio for eight years.

“I just want it to go really well and everyone who comes and watches has some fun. “It is stressful but I’m sure it will be worth it.

“We’re having great fun in rehearsals and I can’t wait for people to see it.”

She was given the role after a tough audition.

“There was a lot of competition and eight got through to the final round. I found out when the cast list was put up and was thrilled to find out I was going to be Matilda.”



Matilda production

Principal Nigel Whittle said students and staff were looking forward to the show. "It's a huge team effort to put on something as big as this and I am excited about going to watch our exceptionally talented students," he said.

"It's caused a real buzz around the school and this is a great showcase for our relatively new Performing Arts department.

"We hope people will support our students and snap up the remaining tickets."

The production is based on Roald Dahl's 1988 book Matilda, with music and lyrics by Tim Minchin.

Tickets for the two shows, priced £5, are available from www.cleethorpes.parkwaycinemas.co.uk or by following [this link](#).



The cast from Matilda (left to right, back) Niamh Gardner, Romilly Pirie, Sophie High, Sofia Reeves, and Freddie Gardner and (front) William Rowe, Georgia North and Jess-Mae Whittingham.



Meet the author

We are very excited and proud to share that Aidan Wright, in Year 10, has released his first novel! It is entitled “The Northern Travels” and is the first book in a fantasy four-part series called “The Legends of Ace Ford”.

Aidan’s dream job is to be an author and he has taken the leap. Aidan spent seven months writing “The Northern Travels”, when he was just 13. One year on, he has already finished writing the second book in the series, entitled “The Grey Mountains”, and isn't long off finishing the third, “The Goblin's Sea”.

The story follows the adventures of Ace Ford and his four companions, Libbie, Jim, Becky and Austin, who are all orphans in a San Diego orphanage. The five head to the beach on a typical summer's day, only to have their entire lives flipped upside down. They wake up in a peculiar kingdom, only to discover that it is controlled by a mysterious, wicked empire, ruled by an evil god. Aidan's first novel is available to buy from all major booksellers under his pen name A.T. Wright and it is suitable for all ages.

To celebrate this amazing achievement, we organised for Aidan to hold a workshop, held in our Library, with some of our year 7 pupils who also love reading. Aidan began by reading aloud a couple of the chapters from his book. The Year 7 pupils then took pen to paper and drew a picture depicting what they thought one of the scenes and the characters from the book would look like. The workshop concluded with Aidan answering questions about his journey to become a published author.

Aidan has plans to hold similar workshops at local primary schools.

This is such an amazing achievement. Well done Aidan!





Celebrating achievement in MFL

Year 8 students who scored 90% and above in their most recent French assessment were rewarded with certificates, biscuits and achievement points. Vice Principal Mr Thundercliffe spoke to students about the relevance of learning languages for their future career and employment.

Deputy Curriculum Leader Mrs O'Donoghue said their linguistic skills are very strong. She has invited them to attend an after-school Spanish club so they will have the great opportunity to learn another language with the possibility of continuing with GCSE Spanish in Year 10.



Many congratulations to these students for their hard work and commitment towards Foreign Languages.

Merci beaucoup!

¡Muchas gracias y hasta pronto!

Primary school visits

Miss Pullen has been to Holton-le-Clay Primary School last week working with the Year 5s making wire and clay bugs. They have been studying insects and used their knowledge to create 'fantasy bugs'. The children thoroughly enjoyed their workshops and produced some fabulous work!



Miss Pullen then went on to visit Enfield Primary School this week to work with Years 3 – 6.

Year 5 Did Mixed Media paintings based on the Rainforest

Year 6 Logo Designs based on their new schools

Years 3 & 4 made clay donuts for Mrs Trunchbull's snack box inspired by their Drama workshop with Miss Carter.

What a fabulous experience for the pupils and Miss Pullen, they all had a fabulous time – check out WTBArts Instagram .



Duke of Edinburgh scheme message

The Academy's received a certificate from the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme highlighting students' contribution to volunteering over 12 months was 273 hours, equivalent to a social value of £1,441. Congratulations to those students and here's the message:

"We're celebrating Volunteers' Week this week and we're delighted to share with you a certificate celebrating your DofE group's volunteering and impact.

For those organisations with young people who completed the Volunteering section between 1 April 23 and 31 March 24, we're sending Social Value certificates that recognise the number of completed volunteering hours.

You might remember from the release of our recent annual statistics, this year DofE participants gave a huge 4,725,825 hours of volunteering in communities all over the UK.

We know volunteering changes lives for the better – that's why it's an integral part of the DofE programme. It's more than just giving your time; we hear thousands of stories from young people about how their DofE volunteering helped them develop a passion for a cause or learn new skills that set them up for their future.

We're so proud of all the young people dedicating their time and energy to volunteering and we're so grateful for the time you dedicate to supporting young people through the DofE programme."



Updating details

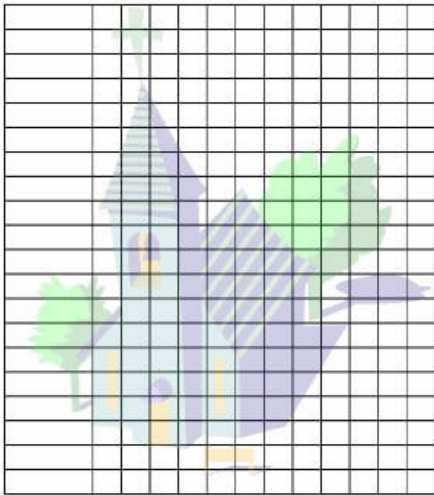
We have noticed the contact details for some of our students are out of date. Please could any parent/carers who have moved address or changed numbers to contact the academy on enquiries@TollbarAcademy.co.uk to inform us and we can update the details on our systems.

This will help us when sending information out via our Sims InTouch system.



Attendance

Attendance Chart



When reporting your child absent from school, please contact the main academy number on 01472 500505 and choose the attendance option. If the line goes to answerphone, please leave the name of your child, year and form and the reason for absence. You can also email to @Tollbar Attendance with these details or alternatively use your Sims app.

Please do not contact Heads of Year team directly as they are often teaching and do not get an opportunity to inform the attendance team. This delay often causes us to contact you notifying you your child is absent and asking for the details. We do require a specific reason to enable us to correctly code our registers. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Year 11 Art exhibition

We are having our Year 11 Art exhibition in our Conference Centre on Tuesday 25 June from 3.30pm to 5.30pm.

Please come along to see the amazing artwork they have produced! This is open to all families, especially those that are thinking of taking Art as their GCSE options to showcase what we can do.

