

26th January 2024

Tomlinscote School NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

One of the key threads that runs across all three academies of the Prospect Trust is Careers. This has been a key theme at Tomlinscote in the past week with several talks and presentations to our students:

- ◇ Careers at ISG (Construction/Project Management/Engineering)
- ◇ A horticulture webinar with the RHS Wisley
- ◇ Year 11 linguists welcomed Dr Mara Reis into school on Tuesday afternoon to deliver a presentation on careers associated with languages
- ◇ Several students visited XTRAC Engineering Ltd in Thatcham with the emphasis on engineering

Many thanks to all of the Year 10 families who attended the Post-16 Progression and Work Experience evening on Monday. For those unable to attend - the information from the evening can be found on our school website: <https://www.tomlinscoteschool.com/page/?title=WORK+EXPERIENCE&pid=265>.

Time is flying by and already Year 10 students are beginning to think about the next step on their educational journey.

A reminder that the Year 9 Options Evening will take place in the Main Hall at 7pm on Monday 29th January 2024. It is an event for parents and carers only with students receiving a separate presentation the following morning at 8.30am.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Mr Major

Key Dates

Mon 29th Jan

Year 9 Options evening
7pm Main Hall

Tue 30th Jan

Year 9 Student Options Assembly
8.30am

Fri 9th Feb

INSET DAY

Mon 12th Feb - Fri 16th Feb

Half term

**You are the artist of
your own life. Don't
hand the paintbrush
to anyone else"**



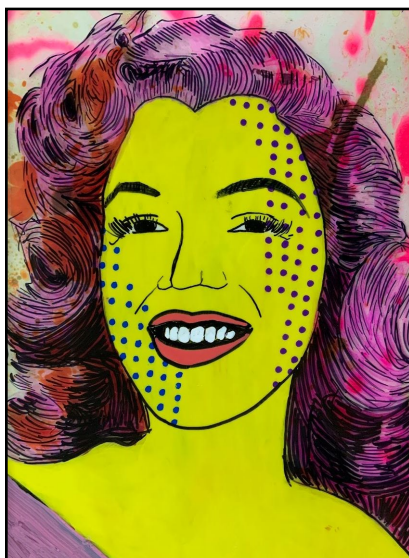


DAY - Year 9

The Creative Arts Faculty arranged a wide range of exciting activities for Year 9 on the theme of Diversity. The day concentrated on celebrating our differences and personalities through the medium of Creative Arts.



Students spent a morning or afternoon in their chosen arts subject. It's clear from their creative pieces that they had a wonderful time having been given ideas to explore and build upon.



"Strength lies in differences,
not in similarities"





Creative Digital Media, Drama and Photography provided great opportunities for students to 'think outside the box' and immerse themselves in something totally different.



"Diversity is the one true thing that we all have in common. Celebrate it every day".

Winston Churchill

Year 9 Diversity Day Year 9 Diversity Day Year 9 Diversity Day

SportsHall Stars



The Sportshall athletics team took part in the district competition on Wednesday 17th January at SJB school. It was a great team effort with the boys team finishing 8th and the girls team finishing 7th.

There were some great individual results with Owen Maxwell and Maisy Roberts finishing 1st in the Speed Bounce. Camellia Harding finishing 1st in the individual 6 lap race and 2nd in the Speed Bounce.

Girls Team:

Madeline, Henrietta, Harriet, Camellia, Maisy, Louise and Daniella

Boys Team:

Christiane, Owen, Louis, Matthew, Riley, Kai, Harvey and Andrew

Congratulations to all of our participating students for engaging so enthusiastically in this great competition.

"SportsHall Competitions are events for school age competitors, that encourage participation and have an emphasis on fun. They are predominantly held indoors in the UK all year round. The concept was created in the United Kingdom by George Bunner in 1976".

Important message for Parents and Carers

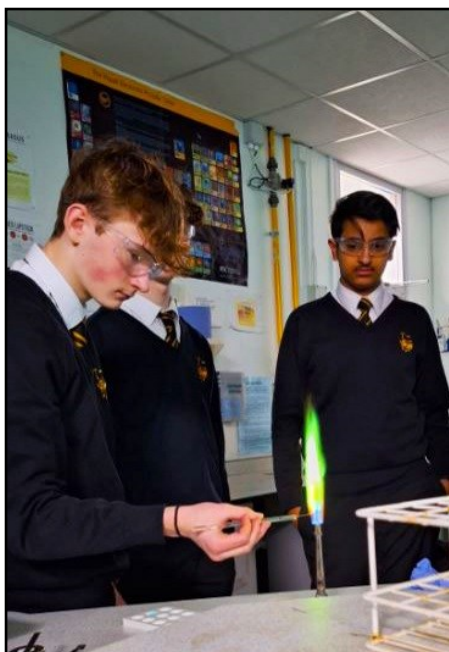
Year 9 Students

Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio Final School Booster and the Meningococcal ACWY Vaccination.

e-consent must be completed by today Friday 26th January 2024

Vaccinations are scheduled to take place on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd February 2024.

Details including the e-consent link can be found on the school website under Parents & Carers, Letters & Forms.



LITHIUM



SODIUM



POTASSIUM



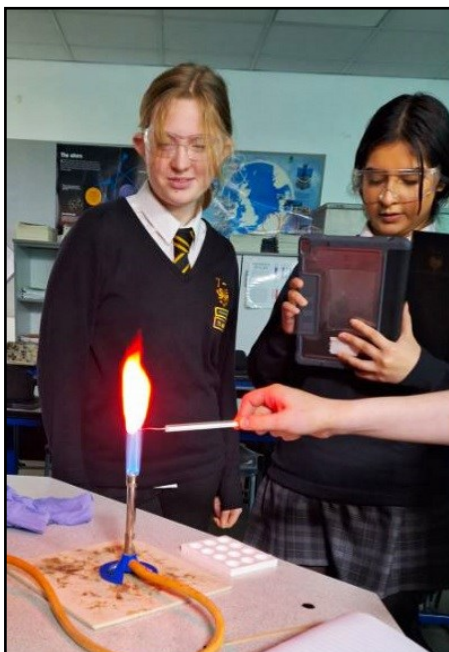
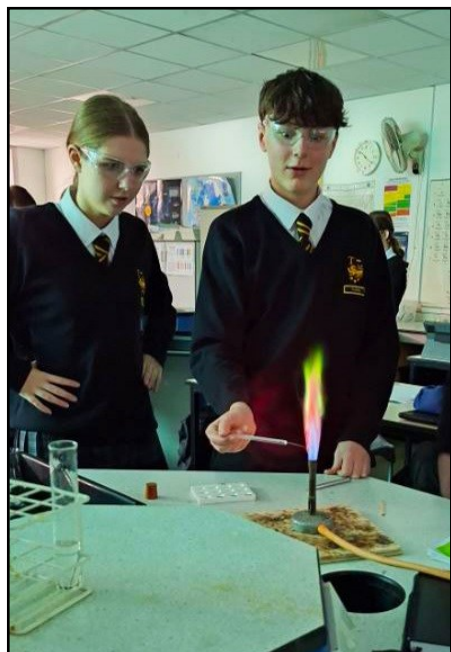
CALCIUM



COPPER

Flamin' Brilliant!

"A flame test relies on an unknown chemical being placed into an open flame. Depending upon which colour of light is emitted by the chemical as it is put into the flame, a scientist can then use the colour emitted to determine the type of chemical present". With this in mind, Year 11 Chemistry students set about establishing what chemicals produced what coloured flame. Students dipped clean wires into a sample of compounds then placed them into the flame from their Bunsen burners. They then observed and noted the beautiful array of colours. The chemicals of choice were Lithium, Sodium, Potassium, Calcium, Copper and Magnesium. The lesson was over in a flash!



Getting into gear!



On Wednesday, our GCSE engineering students were invited to XTRAC Engineering Ltd in Thatcham to see their engineering operations for designing and making industry leading competition gearboxes for NASCAR, Indy and Formula 1 to name but a few.

Students were met by Engineering director Mr Stuart Croot, who welcomed them with a presentation of the company. This was led by graduate engineers who proceeded to show the students around all the operations of the company from design to manufacture in their state of the art facilities. Students quizzed the graduates on their experiences and were able to see first hand what processes and quality go into cutting edge engineering.

The experience was invaluable and students could see in practice the theory they had learnt in the classroom with Mr Jones. Mr Croot also highlighted schemes on offer to get into the industry with apprenticeships and graduate schemes as well as offering work experience for Year 10 students through their website. This was such a worthwhile, rewarding and eye opening trip which gave our students a fantastic insight into the world of engineering.

Tomlinscote students would like to say a big thank you to Mr Croot and the graduate engineers who gave up their time for the benefit of our students and to Mr Daniel for accompanying the trip. A return visit is already being planned for next year!



NO TO HATE

On Wednesday 24th January, 12 History students from Year 9 were invited to participate in a Holocaust Memorial Education Event at Chelsea FC's training ground in Cobham.

This opportunity came about through the partnership between Tomlinscote School and the Premier League Inspires program, delivered by Chelsea FC Foundation in school.

The Foundation is committed to delivering educational projects around the theme of equality, diversity and inclusion. The School's Education Department delivered this special event as part of their 'No To Hate' campaign. The Chelsea Foundation celebrates diversity in their club and their local communities and wants to be a "leading force" in the fight against all forms of hate.

The 4 topics covered were:

- Pre-war Jewish life
- Life during the Holocaust
- The impact across football and sport
- Modern Antisemitism

As part of the event, students received a carousel of workshops and team building challenges. This really was a fantastic opportunity for the students that they thoroughly engaged with.



Careers News

Year 10 Work Experience Programme

Many thanks to all of the Year 10 families who attended the Post-16 Progression and Work Experience evening on Monday. We hope the information was useful and that students have hit the ground running in terms of organising work experience. For those unable to attend, the information from the evening can be found on our school website: <https://www.tomlinscoteschool.com/page/?title=WORK+EXPERIENCE&pid=265>

A reminder that it is the student's responsibility to secure their WEX placement, but we have lots of in-school support to help them. Each tutor group is currently being trained on the Grofar platform which is where students submit their placement details once they have something secured. Every Year 10 student also has a scheduled one to one appointment in school with the WEX team between now and February half term.

If you have any questions regarding WEX then please contact either Miss Livesey or the WEX team directly on: wex@propsecttrust.org.uk

Careers Insight session - Careers at ISG (Construction/Project Management/Engineering)

Over 60 students were lucky enough to meet a team of 5 employees from ISG on Monday afternoon. The team came to talk to students about their company and about an exciting new project they are working on in Windlesham. ISG are a large construction firm who fit out offices around the country, offer engineering services, and construct large scale projects across all industry sectors. Previously, ISG has worked on Lord's Cricket Ground, Kew Gardens and the 2012 Olympic Velodrome. Locally to Tomlinscote, 'Project Apple UCB' is a large scale project that ISG are currently building, this will be a research and development facility for neurological sciences to develop innovative treatments. Construction began on this project back in January 2022 and is due to finish this summer 2024.

Interested students got to hear about the variety of roles at ISG through a short introductory presentation from the team followed by a series of 'career speed networking' activities with each volunteer. Students had the autonomy to be able to ask as many questions of each volunteer as possible and find out a huge amount about the different roles within this company.

It was an amazing experience and was so successful that there is a second session for another 60 plus students after February half term. A huge thank you to the team at ISG for putting on such an interactive and varied session for our students and we look forward to having you back again in a few weeks' time!

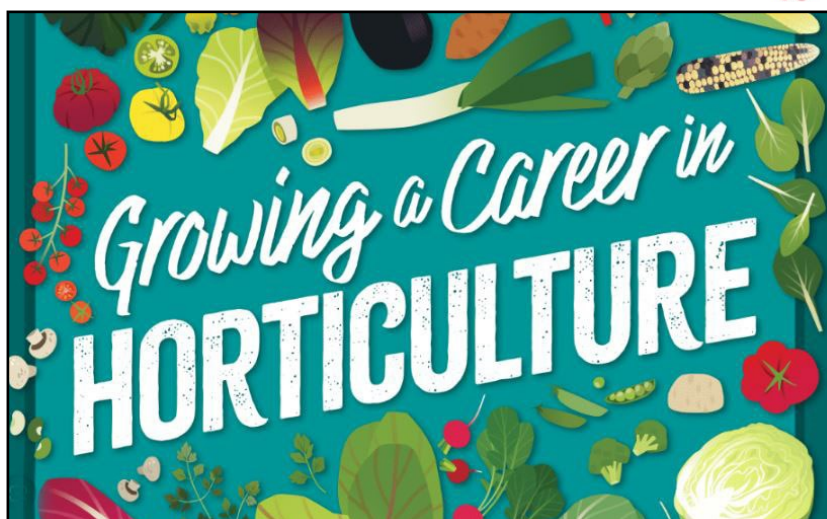


Careers Insight session - Careers in Horticulture

On Wednesday morning, interested students took part in a webinar with the RHS Wisley regarding careers in Horticulture. The team provided students with an understanding of the variety of roles within horticulture and at the RHS gardens around the country. Students received a fascinating insight into the different jobs involved at sites like RHS Wisley and how people had got into these roles.

Each volunteer talked through their daily roles and responsibilities and some of the weird and wonderful things they get asked by visitors to the gardens!

Careers News cont'd



Careers Insight session - Careers associated with Languages

Year 11 linguists welcomed Dr Mara Reis into school on Tuesday afternoon to deliver a presentation on careers associated with Languages. Dr Reis has had very varied experiences throughout her career and she shared these and her 'CV' with the Year 11 students.

Dr Reis began by highlighting the value of what learning a language does to our overall brain development and how useful this is for all sorts of activities. She then talked about the value of learning a language for future pathways and next steps. Dr Reis was very open with students about her experiences during her career spanning from translation to her work supporting dentistry and healthcare. As a speaker of 5 languages, it was a fantastic opportunity for students to see how what they are learning will help them in the future; no matter what career path they end up on!

We would like to send our thanks to Dr Reis for volunteering to come into school to talk to our GCSE students.





Congratulations to Amir Sultan in 9P for winning the 'House Competition' last week.

He came up with a fantastic invention for the elderly and the judges were really impressed with his eloquent explanation of his idea.

As a result of his winning idea Pankhurst has been awarded 100 House Points.



If you find yourself at a loose end this weekend why don't you get involved in the RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch' 2024. You will be helping them to understand how birds are faring in the nations gardens. Download the Guide just above the Robin!

Big Garden Birdwatch is back

Join half a million nature lovers this January and help us understand how birds are faring. Together, let's make it count.

What is Big Garden Birdwatch?

Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring.

[RSPB Birdwatch Guide](#)



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attend today

and achieve tomorrow.

Attendance Matters



100%

• 0 DAYS

0 LESSONS
MISSED

99%

• 1 DAY

6 LESSONS
MISSED

98%

• 3 DAYS

18 LESSONS
MISSED

97%

• 1 WEEK

30 LESSONS
MISSED

96%

• 1.5 WEEKS

45 LESSONS
MISSED

94%

• 2 WEEKS

60 LESSONS
MISSED

93%

• 2.5 WEEKS

75 LESSONS
MISSED

92%

• 3 WEEKS

90 LESSONS
MISSED

90%

• 3.5 WEEKS

105 LESSONS
MISSED

**MAXIMISE YOUR POTENTIAL
ATTEND SCHOOL EACH DAY**

Important information for Parents and Carers

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION
13-19

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday