9th February 2024

Tomlinscote School
NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Newsletter this week includes the names and pictures of many students who have participated in school events or been praised in some way for their positive actions. I particularly like the Acts of Kindness Awards as this is a key character value that we continually highlight at the school. Congratulations to all the students who are named.

Half term is a busy one for 120 students and 17 members of staff who are off to Italy for the Year 10 Ski Trip. We hope they enjoy the experience, have fun and have lots of snow!

Some parents have enquired about the term dates for 2024-2025. These are now available on our website, under the Parents & Carers section.

I hope that you have a lovely half term break.

Mr Major

Key Dates

Mon 12th Feb - Fri 16th Feb
Half term

Mon 19th Feb
Year 7 Enrichment Day

Tues 20th Feb
Year 7 Enrichment cont'd P1 & P2

Thu 22nd Feb
Year 9 Progress Meetings (in school)

Mon 26th Mar
Parental Forum 7.00-8.00pm
Main Hall

Wed 28th Feb
Year 9 Enterprise Day

German Exchange
Thu 29th Feb - 7th Mar

"If you want to conquer the world. You best have dragons".

Year 8 Acts of Kindness

Congratulations to the students detailed who have been nominated by their peers to receive the Act of Kindness Awards for this half term.

Orla - 8X
For being a great friend, always making everyone feel included and helping others.

Jack - 8H
For being a good friend and always being there for help.

Jack - 8H
For being kind, funny and for helping others with their work when they're stuck.

Adam - 8M
For always being so friendly and willing to help when asked.

Aimee - 8R
For being considerate and always thinking of others.

Javier - 8P
Javier is a very kind individual and always helps his friends in need.

George - 8G
For always being friendly, positive and helping out whenever he can.

Thomas - 8K
For standing up for his values and helping to prevent bullying.

Gianna - 8L
She is always smiling, she is kind and lovely to talk to and always willing to help others.

Fatima Khawaja - 8Y
For always being really helpful and kind to her peers.

ACT OF KINDNESS

ACT OF KINDNESS

A sign of the times

Amy from Year 10 has set up a tutor time sign language club as part of her Bronze DofE Award.

In the first few weeks of the club, our 22, Year 8 students have learnt how to sign different greetings, introduce themselves, ask how someone is feeling and sign their names. They have also learnt to sign the school name and the different subjects they are studying. This week students moved onto family signs.

The club will run for 6 weeks at a time, the plan being to roll it out to the whole of Year 8 over the rest of the year. The students are really enjoying it and are benefitting from learning a life skill that is highly sought after. Huge congratulations to Amy for having the determination and commitment to imparting her knowledge to fellow students.

On Tuesday 6th February, 45 students took part in the Premier League Inspires Challenge Inter-School Final. These students have been working with our Chelsea FC mentor to prepare and develop ideas for a social action project around the theme of "Inside Matters, keeping up the conversations on Mental Health".

Groups presented their ideas to each other and a panel of judges scored the presentations using the following criteria:

1. **Is it impactful?**
2. **Is it realistic?**
3. **Do they understand Social Action and how they could make their idea work.**

All students delivered fantastic presentations which showed how hard they have worked on their projects, some of these students have never presented in front of an audience before and have shown great perseverance and courage to overcome their nerves.

The winning project was created by Jake, Aleyna and Noah who will travel to Stamford Bridge later this month to represent the school at the Intra-School Final against other London and Surrey schools.

We wish the team good luck!

PE STARS

January/ February

Congratulations to our Star Performers.

Well done, keep up the good work.

Freya Constantinou 7H

Kieran Way 9Q

Athena Govender 9R

David Kirkpatrick 8P

Lucy Hardy 7H

Sophia Dell 7K

Joshua Frith 10G

Ethan Fuller 7X

Noah Darby 7X

Aidan Swartz 8K

Harrison Ward 10M

Omar Khatib 11R

Ben Brooks 11R

Harry Harrison 11R

Ellie Searle 10P

Sophie Stubley 10X

Joshua Brucal 11P

Freya Mistry 8L

Jessica Hart 7P

Rory Kerr 9Y

Shane Udhin 7R

Poppy Burrows 7M

Dylan Pay 9G

Holly Hyde 7Y

Thomas Flood 8R

Holly Wedlock 9Q

Harvey Berridge 7G

Heather Galbraith 9L

Sebastian Garlick 9Q

Ayhan Simsek 8X

Sophie Jefferson 10R

Tamir Zeevi 8X

Fletcher Tobin 11M

Spencer Pay 7P

Andrew Head 7M

Joshua Grove 11P

Cohen Marshall 10M

Rebecca Kelly 8Q

Skye Austin-Burrows 11X

Luke Baker 8Q

Thomas Double 8L

Zoe Snelling 8Q

Jay Prince 11R

Sophie Randall 11R

Jack Simmons 9Y

Mohammad Al-Waheib 9M

Hannah Dyer 9L

Ben Prince 9K

Lily Gersbach 8Y

Noah Pepin 11M

SATRO STEM Problem Solving Challenge 2024

Regional Heat 2 – Tomlinscote School

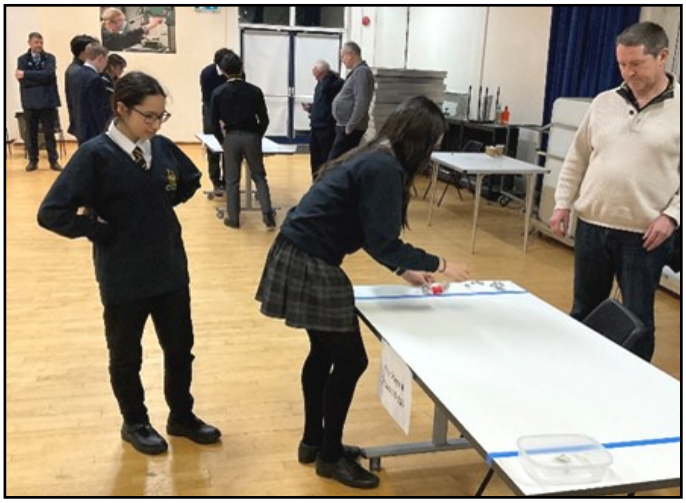
On Thursday 1st February, Tomlinscote students took part in the annual SATRO STEM Problem Solving Challenge in the school's main hall. Teams from local schools at all key stages were invited to undertake an engineering brief which had to be designed, modelled and tested.

Students were given 90 minutes to complete the task and present their ideas to the judges who are volunteer engineers from industry. Well done to all the students who took part in the event and congratulations to our KS4 team who came Runners up in their age group. Hopefully their design will be enough to get them to the regional final as one of the best placed heat runners up teams. Details of the task have to remain 'under wraps' until the remaining heats have taken place.

"Teams of six students in Key Stage groups take on an unseen problem solving challenge testing their STEM and work skills".

KS4 Team
Jasper Kelly
Natasha Hill
Matthew Bradshaw
Omkar Munde
Alicia Bezek
Yasmin Neale

KS3 Team
Patrick Mescha
Henri Botha
Duncan Davies
Shaivi Udhin
Zalan Javorszki
Kieran Way



Ms Hobbs and Mrs Allen, in the LRC, took a group of students to a Fantasy Exhibition at the British Library. Students had a real adventure, taking both the minibus, train and underground to get there! Having arrived early, they got to look at some free exhibits of the Magna Carta and Sacred Texts dating back a thousand years!

Then onto the Fantasy exhibition! Students saw old manuscripts, first editions, movie clips, author interview videos, along with Gandalf's staff from the Lord of the Rings movies, a Warhammer game set up to play, the first edition of Dungeons and Dragons, a full deck of Magic The Gathering cards and one of the dresses used in the Wicked Stage Show!

The adventure reached its final destination with a visit to the Harry Potter Platform 9¾ Shop at King's Cross. Having bought all the Hedwig toys and sweets available, they were duly shared amongst each other on the train home. A truly 'out of this world' experience was enjoyed by all.

LRC BRITISH LIBRARY TRIP!

Year 10 'Cake Off'

THE GREAT BAKE OFF YEAR 10

1 hour and 20 minutes to create your 'Carnival' themed bake

All washing up must be completed and equipment put back into cupboards correctly

Start time: 9.10am
Finish time: 10.30 am

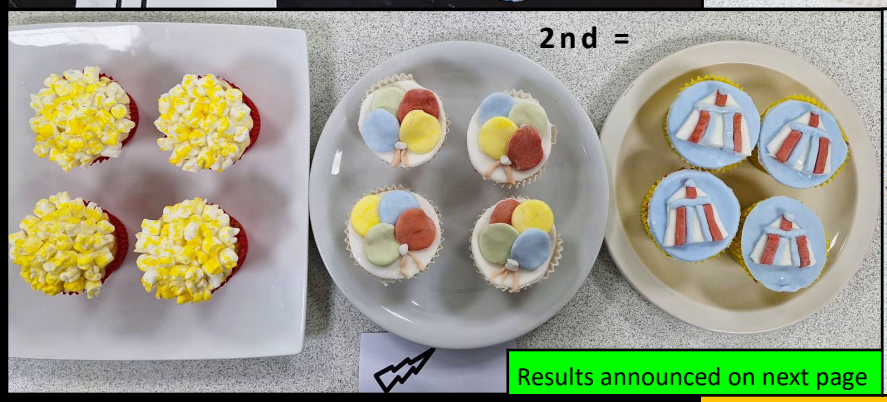
Good Luck

Scoring: Timing, hygiene, teamwork, taste and appearance!

2nd =

1st Place

2nd =



Results announced on next page

Year 10 Bake Off Results

For the individual Bake Off Competition

1st Erin and Imogen 10H

2nd = Mia and Hannah 10R

2nd = Arabella and Isabella 10Y

For the overall competition (the total score for each house)

1st Pankhurst

2nd Mandela

3rd Hawking

4th Rowling

5th Attenborough

Careers News

Careers Insight Talk- Careers associated with Law

On Wednesday afternoon, Tomlinscote welcomed back one of its former students, Dayna, and a parent, Sophie, to talk to interested students regarding their careers in Law. Dayna left Tomlinscote nearly 10 years ago and it was wonderful to hear how she has been getting on since leaving us. Dayna is now a qualified solicitor in Dorset for Ellis-Jones and came back in to talk about her route into her career in law. Dayna did a Politics and Philosophy Degree at University and used this to carve out her legal path.

She had lots of tips about routes into Law (not just the traditional uni/degree route) and gave students numerous top tips regarding these differing routes.

Our second speaker, Sophie, started with the traditional university route, like Dayna, and studied both British and European law which also gave her the opportunity to spend a year of her degree abroad, in Europe. Sophie has now branched out with a company called Thales into contracts and she was able to give a good insight into how she used law to get into what she currently does.

This gave students a different dimension and an understanding of how one particular thing can lead to opportunities in other areas that they may not have even considered. She also brought along a load of goodies from the company that students could help themselves to at the end which went down a treat! Thank you both, Dayna and Sophie, for giving up your time to come and inspire our students!

Tomlinscote Team Results

Tomlinscote U12 Boys Basketball League	**V**	**Ash Manor School**	**Score 20 - 22**	**Player of the Match** Luke Bush
Tomlinscote U16 Girls Football	**V**	**Weydon School**	**Score 0 - 6**	**Players of the Match** Evie Smith Connie Gimblett

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Year 11 Yearbook

We are excited to launch the Yearbook for 2024 Tomlinscote leavers! A letter has been sent to all parents with details of how to purchase a copy of the Yearbook and payment is available through Parent Pay.
Please get your orders in before the deadline next month so that your child doesn't miss out.
The Yearbook Committee have nearly finalised the design and content – a huge thank you to all students and staff involved.
Mrs Whelan, Assistant Head of Year 11.

Please note that the 2024-2025 term dates/INSET days are now on the school website.

Tel: 01276 709050

email: office@tomlinscoteschool.com website: www.tomlinscoteschool.com

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

AGE RESTRICTION 17+

(although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a fake date of birth)

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

UNDER 18

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.

IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.

INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.

RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you *do* allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

CENSORED

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

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#WakeUpWednesday