

22nd March 2024

Tomlinscote School NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the final Newsletter of the term and I am really pleased that so many different students are either mentioned in some way in this Newsletter or are featured in one of the photographs. Congratulations to the KS3 Tomlinscote Dance Company who won the "Best use of musicality" award at the Gremlins Competition last week. We have so many great dancers at the school and I am proud that the students did so well. Also, a big well done to the many sports teams who seem to be so successful at the moment; particularly the Year 8 Boys football team who have made it to the District Final at Aldershot again.

I would like to give Mrs Crabtree and the CMP (Community Matters Partnership) a huge thank you. CMP has devised an ambitious careers programme called "RAISE", it involves providing our students with opportunities that will inspire future ambition, build motivation, develop confidence and build skills. Twelve of our students will visit 6 business locations over the next few months and this week they enjoyed Farnborough Airport and UK Connect. The students and Mrs Crabtree thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The term is coming to an end and we break up at 12.30pm on Thursday 28th March. I will produce an end of term letter for next week and also wish everyone a lovely Easter.

Mr Major

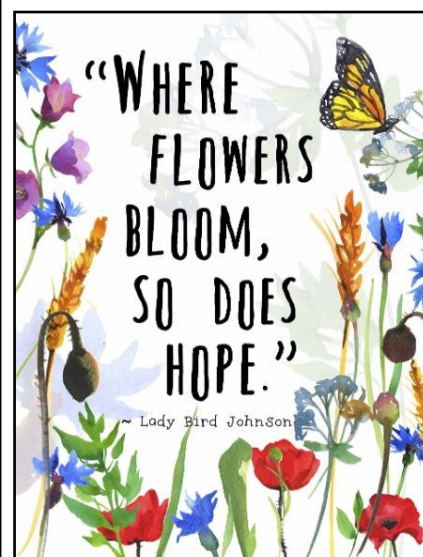
Key Dates

Fri 22nd - Sun 24th Mar
DofE Silver Expedition

Mon 25th Mar - Fri 19th April
Year 10 Mocks

Thu 28th Mar
End of term - 12.30pm

Mon 15th April
Start of spring term





No Gremlins here!

The Tomlinscote KS3 Dance Company recently showcased their talents at the Princes Hall in Aldershot, competing against 11 other schools in the Gremlin Dance Competition. With the theme 'Art in Motion', dancers were encouraged to use famous artists as inspiration for their performances. The Tomlinscote team's hard work paid off, as they were awarded 'Best Use of Musicality' for their performance titled 'One Nation under CCTV', inspired by the work of renowned street artist Banksy.



Gremlin Dance





In an exciting display of ingenuity, a team of Tomlinscote students recently participated in the Fluor Problem Solving Challenge held at the Fluor premises in Farnborough. This year's challenge required teams to design and build a ball launcher and catcher using a range of provided materials such as corrugated cardboard, cups, paper, rubber bands, and tape.

The aim was to launch a ball as far as possible and successfully catch it using their custom-built catcher. Competing against other schools, the Tomlinscote team demonstrated exceptional creativity and problem-solving skills. Although they didn't secure the top spot, their ball launcher achieved the furthest distance among all participants, narrowly missing the catcher by just 1cm.

Congratulations to the Tomlinscote team for launching themselves into the challenge wholeheartedly.



Careers Visit Takes Off!



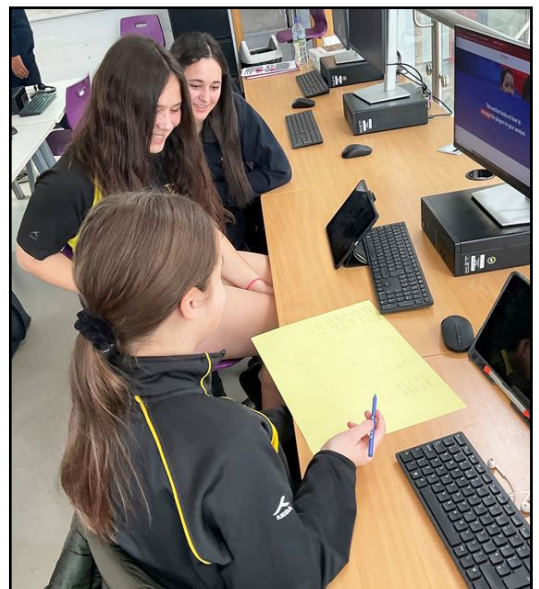
Twelve students from Tomlinscote School visited Farnborough Airport and UK Connect this week as part of the RAISE Careers Programme. The programme gave the Year 9 students an in depth unique opportunity to visit these two dynamic local organisations. At Farnborough Airport students had a tour of the airfield including a drive on the runway as well as visits to an aircraft hanger, the passenger lounges and crew facilities before a trip to the fire station. A range of careers and jobs at the airport were highlighted to the students from engineers working on the Gulfstream aircraft to the skills needed for customer services for the airport's prestigious passengers. Students also heard about developments in aviation including the use of vegetable oil and other plant matter to fuel jets. After lunch, kindly provided by the Airport, students visited UK Connect which provides Wi-Fi and other connectivity solutions for customers. Students had to pass through strict security to the site and were introduced to developments in artificial intelligence where UK Connect has developed technology for face and equipment recognition to improve safety in the construction industry. Students had a tour of the operations room which included live screens showing satellite positions across the globe and new ideas of how to use low earth orbit satellites to improve connectivity. Students then donned hi vis vests and built their own Wi-Fi network using a portable receiver, generator and router. UK Connect has kindly offered students the opportunity to be interviewed for work experience in this dynamic company. The RAISE Careers Programme has been devised with CMP (Community Matters Partnership) to offer an ambitious programme of visits to businesses. Students showing potential and aspiration were invited to apply for the programme.



Tomlinscote students pitch in well!

Monday, March 18th, was an exciting day for Year 9, 10, and 11 students at Tomlinscote School, as they participated in the FA Playmakers course facilitated by Chelsea FC. This unique opportunity provided students with a comprehensive introduction to the world of football coaching, combining theoretical knowledge with practical hands-on experience. Throughout the morning, participants dove into questionnaires and quizzes designed to deepen their understanding of football coaching's background, as well as the importance of planning engaging training sessions. Armed with newfound knowledge and confidence, the students spent the afternoon putting their skills to the test by delivering pre-planned coaching sessions. The FA Playmakers course offered a wealth of valuable insights and practical tips to help aspiring students excel in both planning and executing successful training sessions. Students received expert guidance and feedback from experienced professionals, ensuring they came away with a wealth of knowledge. Tomlinscote is proud to announce that all participating students who completed the 1 day programme passed the course and have earned their FA Playmakers badge.

Through partnerships with organisations like Chelsea FC and involvement in initiatives such as the FA Playmakers course, it is fantastic that our students are being offered these opportunities.



Students fall for production HOOK, Line and Sinker!

Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Drama students from Tomlinscote School enjoyed an uproarious and enriching evening at the New Victoria Theatre in Woking, where they witnessed the Mischief Theatre Company's production of 'Peter Pan Goes Wrong'. Filled with slapstick, farce, wordplay, and endless silliness, the play offered a fresh and funny take on J.M. Barrie's beloved classic.

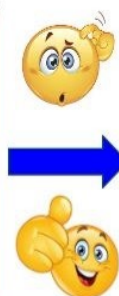
There were plenty of laughs as students and staff enjoyed the relentless comedic mishaps unfolding on stage. The performance provided a welcome opportunity for students to relax and immerse themselves in the world of live theatre. While the focus of the evening was enjoyment and entertainment, the outing also marked the beginning of an educational challenge for the students. As part of their GCSE Drama curriculum, they must now analyse and evaluate the performance, dissecting the various elements that made it such a successful production.

In the coming weeks, Tomlinscote's Drama classrooms will be filled with lively discussions as the students delve into the intricacies of 'Peter Pan Goes Wrong.' As a culmination of their analysis, they will have the opportunity to recreate some of the play's key moments in class, adding their own unique perspectives and talents.

Did you break the Code?

Here is the solution

SDWP EO PDA
WJOSAN PK
HEBA, PDA
QJERANOA WJZ
ARANUPDEJC?



WHAT IS THE
ANSWER TO
LIFE, THE UNIVERSE
AND
EVERYTHING?

The answer that was needed was... 42! (look it up if you're confused!)

All those who managed to decode the question but didn't answer it, got one House Point.

Those who actually answered the question (and got it correct) got awarded 3 House Points.

The House that got the most correct answers was.....**Rowling!**
They have been awarded another 100 points.



Lost & Found

Lost property will be displayed on tables outside Student Reception from Monday 25th - Thursday 28th March. Any students who have lost items should come and take a look.

Items remaining after this time will be collected up and donated to the Tomlinscote Uniform Swap Shop.



Tomlinscote Team Results

Tomlinscote Year 8 Boys Football	v	Ash Manor 	 Score 7 - 2	Scorers Jay Coombs - 4 Jamie Robertson - 2 James Mayne - 1
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Player of the Match - Jay Coombs (+ Squad!)

Having only found out their opponents for the Quarter Final on Wednesday, the Year 8s hosted Ash Manor. Another slow start, saw a mistake gift possession to the tricky Ash Manor winger, whose cross was parried by Ethan MacLennan, only to be tapped in to give the visitors the lead inside the first minute. A swift response was required, and Tomlinscote quickly restored parity when Indy Miles' corner was headed home powerfully by Jamie Robertson, who leapt like a salmon to out-jump the defender in the 7th minute. A tense half of football saw both teams create half chances, but no-one was able to maintain any control over the match, to see the score level at half time.

The second half started with Tomlinscote weathering the Ash Manor storm for the first five minutes, before a quick throw from Robertson saw Jay Coombs break through the defensive line to lift the ball over the outcoming keeper from the edge of the box to give Tomlinscote the lead. Five minutes later, Robertson played a lovely through ball to find Coombs to extend the lead. The cushion of a two goal lead was quickly erased, however, when Ash Manor broke through to make it 3-2, and demanded a response from the Tomlinscote boys. This they did as they restored the two goal margin just a minute later, when James Shroseybury played an absolute beauty of a ball through to Coombs, who once again lifted the ball over the keeper to complete a priceless hat-trick (and the fourth consecutive Tomlinscote hat-trick!) to break the Ash Manor resilience. A free-kick on the edge of the box saw Luca Hannaway mis-hit the shot to the back post, but the ball was brilliantly kept alive by Robertson who headed it back into the mix where Dan Dixon was unlucky not to score with a snapshot against the bar, only for Coombs to snap up his fourth of the match from close range. The Tomlinscote players put the game beyond any doubt with a goal for second half sub, James Mayne who was played through after an elaborate dribble from Hannaway to finish with a fine shot. The match was finished in style with another Robertson header, this time finishing after Dixon had hit the bar for the second time in the half, one minute from time. Tomlinscote travel to Salesian on Tuesday for the Semi-Final.





Tomlinscote Team Results

Tomlinscote U16 Girls Football	v	Court Moor School 	 Score 3 - 2	Scorers Sianna Hegarty (pen) Evie Smith - 2
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Players of the Match - Millie Vallance & Ciara Hegarty


The Under 16 Girls hosted Court Moor in the League on Monday night, looking to bounce back after consecutive defeats. A strong start from the visitors saw Tomlinscote struggling to maintain possession of the ball early on, but as they grew into the game, they were able to exert more pressure on the Court Moor back line. Both sides looked for opportunities for a strike at goal, without creating anything meaningful, until a Court Moor defender barged into the back of Branwen Hopkins just inside the box – PENALTY Tomlinscote! Sianna Hegarty coolly stepped up and placed the spot-kick beyond the Court Moor keeper's reach into the bottom corner, to give Tomlinscote the lead, somewhat against the run of play. The lead, however, was short-lived and with almost the final attack of the half, Court Moor earned a deserved equaliser with a one-on-one past Connie Gimblett in the Tomlinscote goal.

A few words of inspiration from Mr Young about not panicking, options and being on their toes saw the second half start in much the same vain, before Court Moor made some pressure pay with a goal through the middle which Gimblett got a hand to but could not divert around the post. This didn't deter the girls, however, and good work down the right saw the ball fall to Evie Smith inside the six-yard box, and after what seemed like an age, she tapped the ball home for the equaliser. Just two minutes later, excellent work from the impressive Sianna Hegarty, playing in a more advanced role, saw her beat three players before setting the ball back to Smith near the penalty spot. Smith made no mistake, taking the shot on early and sending it first time with a lovely strike just under the bar to give Tomlinscote the lead for a second time in the match. The girls weathered the final pressure from Court Moor and continued defensive solidity from Players of the Match Millie Vallance and Ciara Hegarty saw out a deserved win for Tomlinscote.

Tomlinscote Boys U15A Football	v	Court Moor School 	 Score 4 - 0	Scorers Oscar Abbotson - 2 Ewan Talbot - 1 Alex Jefferies - 1
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Player of the Match - Fergus Swift

Tomlinscote Year 7A Girls Netball	v	Weydon School 	 Score 22 - 1	Players of the Match Caitlin Hughes Claudia Yu
Tomlinscote Year 8A Girls Netball	v	Weydon School 	 Score 26 - 5	Players of the Match Eva Scott Eloise Wellington


Tomlinscote Year 8 Football	v	Salesian College 	 Score 3 - 1	Scorers Jamie Robertson - 1 Jay Coombs - 1 Luca Hannaway - 1
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Player of the Match - Luca Hannaway & Dan Dixon

The Year 8 Boys Football Team travelled to Salesian College to "host" the Semi Final of the Aldershot & Farnborough District Cup on Tuesday. It was essential to get off to a sharp start against a confident side from the division below so when Salesian hit the bar from a free-kick inside the first minute, alarm bells started ringing. Fortunately, Ethan MacLennan saved the ball as it dropped on the line! The team grew into the game and started to play their football and press the Salesian back line. It was exactly this pressure that resulted in Dan Dixon pinching the ball from the centre back to slot in Jamie Robertson to open the scoring with a shot from the edge of the box – 1-0, time to relax a bit we hoped! Salesian continued to press, however, Tomlinscote played their own game and grew into the game eventually earning a corner which Luca Hannaway delivered towards the penalty spot for Jay Coombs to leap like a salmon and power a header into the far corner. The hardest half-time team talk ensued – "2-0 up and the next goal is vital, do not let them back in to the game boys"... four minutes in and the Salesian winger, now playing in a more central role drove through the midfield to drive a shot from distance which deflected off the leg of Sam Bush to nestle in the top corner to bring Salesian back into the mix. Game on!! All credit to the Year 8s though, they regrouped and as the rain fell, the impressive Hannaway capped his midfield supremo performance with a fine snapshot after a late arrival in the box following more good work by Dixon on the edge of the Salesian box. It was then a typical cup tie for the remaining ten minutes with both sides having spells of good possession in and around the opponent's box. At the final whistle, despite the rain, the team were elated. The squad has successfully reached their second District Cup Final in two years, to be played after Easter at The EBB Stadium in Aldershot.

Tomlinscote U12 Boys Football	v	Weydon School 	 Score 2 - 3	Scorers Caden Mephram - 1 Luke Glassar - 1
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Player of the Match - Bobbie Ruffles



Inter House Badminton


Monday 25th March

3.15pm - 4.30pm

All years and abilities welcome

The competition will involve staff and students.

Bring in your PE kit and make your way to the Sports Hall for a great time!


Year 7 Easter Bake Off





Year 7 students bravely stepped forward and accepted the challenge to represent their Houses in the Year 7 Easter Bake Off Challenge.

Marked on timing, hygiene, teamwork, taste, and appearance, students really did an Eggstraordinary job and presented some wonderful bakes.

As ever, staff went above and beyond and marked on all of the set criteria.

Congratulations to the individually placed students and all who entered the competition for their respective Houses.

Individual Placings

1st - 7L Alyssa and Jessica (rainbow/arch)

2nd - 7H Jacob and Lolly (circle)

3rd - 7X Milana and Ellie (diamond)

Overall

1st - Mandela

2nd - Hawking

3rd - Rowling

4th - Pankhurst

5th - Attenborough



1st

Amelie Petford
Spring flowers after showers

House Competition

The latest House competition was a Photographic challenge. Focussing on the theme of spring, students submitted some truly beautiful photographs.

The winners are detailed below with a special mention to some of the other fantastic entrants.

1st: Amelie Petford, 9R, Rowling

2nd: Izzy Turner, 9Q, Attenborough

3rd: Quinn Wiltshire, 8L, Mandela

Francisco Belga, 7R, Rowling - Blossoming tree

Amberley Wilcox, 7Q, Attenborough - Red sky

Indianna Baron, 7P, Pankhurst - Robin



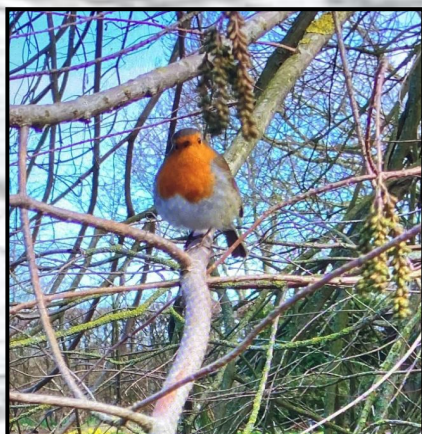
2nd

Izzy Turner
Funny Bunny

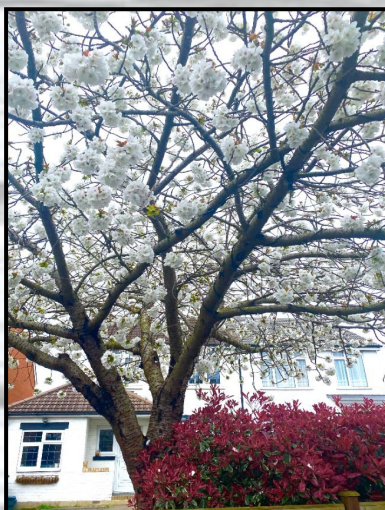


3rd

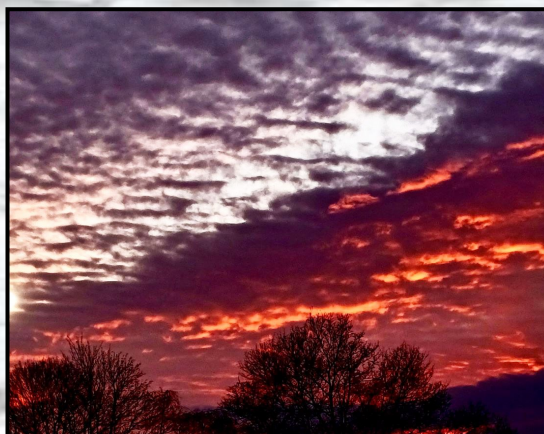
Quinn Wiltshire
Bloomin' beautiful



Indianna Baron
A tweet picture



Francisco Belga
In full bloom








Amberley Wilcox
Fiery Farewell

Fortnightly Thursday

House Competition

 Fortnightly Sporting Challenge Table-Tennis Results 				
				
				
2nd place 84 points	4th place 42 points	3rd place 64 points	1st place 113 points	5th place 23 points
PERSEVERANCE	CHARACTER	COMMUNITY	EXCELLENCE	PROGRESSION

Thursday 18th April Crossbar Challenge				
How many times can you hit the crossbar ? (Outside A-block/playground)				
				
PERSEVERANCE	CHARACTER	COMMUNITY	EXCELLENCE	PROGRESSION

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS

Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS

Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

4 LISTEN ACTIVELY

When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or 'teenage angst' – or to assume that they'll simply 'get over' whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS

Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES

If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS

Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here: you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

9 PROVIDE RESOURCES

It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



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