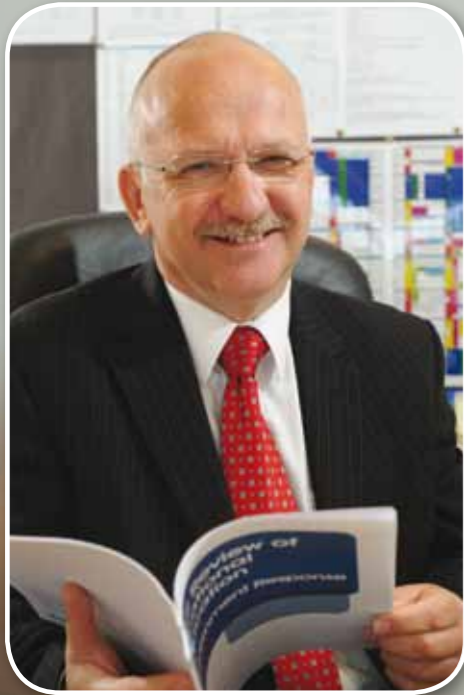


The Messenger

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF THORNTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
A SPECIALIST SPORTS, SCIENCE AND APPLIED LEARNING TRUST SCHOOL





A year at the top:
Headteacher Chris Sampson.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

WELCOME to the summer edition of *The Messenger*.

This publication marks the completion of my first year as Headteacher, which has been a challenging but fantastically rewarding experience.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to all staff for their dedication, professionalism and hard work, and to our Governors, Trust members and Friends of the school for

the invaluable contribution they have all made.

I especially thank all parents who provide the care and support that young people need to make the most of the education they receive here and I would like to thank all our students for their enthusiasm, generosity and effort. Finally, I wish everyone who has taken exams this year the very best of luck!

Chris Sampson, Headteacher

Oliver takes the lead

SIXTH Form student Oliver Johnson has won a Youth Leadership Award through the Bradford Rotary Club, after being nominated by TGS.

Winners of the award must demonstrate strong personal or leadership qualities and the potential to become leaders, for example in the community or in a work environment.

Oliver will now take part in a week-long seminar aimed at developing his personal and leadership skills.

In addition, he has gone through to the interview stage of the BBC's *Junior Apprentice* with Lord Sugar!

Leadership skills: Oliver Johnson, Year 12.

Auschwitz at first hand

TWO Sixth Form students recently had the opportunity to visit the concentration camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland, which processed more than one million people during the Second World War.

The personal approach of the visit helped both students to gain a more personal understanding of the Holocaust beyond the facts and figures contained within the numerous textbooks on the subject.



Vote of confidence

THORNTON Grammar pupils Iqra Qamar, in Year 11, and Kristen Casey and Katie Whyatt in Year 9 were elected to the Bradford and Keighley Youth Parliament in April.

In fact, TGS had the highest number of elected candidates in the whole region, as well as the highest voting turnout of any school. The election day itself was run by 9X, and more than 80 per cent of pupils voted.

All three candidates ran extremely professional campaigns and are now looking forward to their new political careers.

CHARITY CHALLENGE

FOLLOWING the death of their friend and colleague Liz McCleod earlier in the year, 12 female teachers travelled to Bala in north Wales to take part in the annual Bala Challenge, a 20-mile hill walk to raise money for the Pink Ribbon Campaign. During the walk, the ladies had to survive a 'spooky forest', plus torrential rain, thunder and lightning. However, everyone had a fantastic time and they are looking forward to next year's charity challenge.

As a result, a total of £2,936 was raised by students and staff through sponsorship money, cake sales and fundraising parties.



To the rescue: Year 11 pupils.

Firefighters blaze a trail

IN May, Year 11 Young Firefighters took part in their passing-out parade at the West Yorkshire Fire Service Headquarters in Birkenshaw, which involved approximately 100 pupils from nine schools across Wakefield, Leeds and Bradford.

On the day, our pupils demonstrated teamwork, co-operation and trust

during a mock incident at a four-storey building.

Jason Bland, Charlotte Haigh, Emma Holland, Megan Gilfoyle, Elizabeth Rowntree, Bethan Evans, Zac Willems and Chloe Mouatt all attended Fairweather Green Fire Station one afternoon a week for two years to achieve their BTEC Certificate in Fire & Rescue in the Community.

Celebration of our achievements



Prize winners: Deputy Headteacher Clive Truelove with Adam Gill, Year 8, Tanatza Kubare, Year 9, Ashleigh Mel-Evans, Year 8, and Chloe Savage, Year 10.

IN May, we held our first Key Stage 3 Summer Celebration, which was designed to acknowledge and celebrate the effort and achievements of students across the whole curriculum.

Staff nominated students whom they felt had made outstanding effort throughout the year in their subject, or who had achieved above and beyond their expectations. As a result, two students in every year group and for every subject were put forward to receive prizes.

The celebration, which was extremely well supported by family members and friends, was a rousing success. Mr Sampson addressed the audience and Mr Truelove read the names of each student who received a prize.

THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC VALUES WILL GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO INSPIRE PUPILS OF ALL AGES TO BE THEIR VERY BEST



GET SET FOR 2012!



EQUAL TO THE CHALLENGE

Our Platinum and Gold Young Ambassadors have led assemblies at our partner primary schools based on the Olympic and Paralympic Values using Get Set resources. In addition, they have spoken to more than 60 young leaders at a Leadership Academy, in an event organised by our sports partnership. Assemblies promoting Olympic and Paralympic Values have been undertaken with all year

groups within school and these will be followed by specific assemblies that will focus on each of the values in turn. Meanwhile, pupils, staff and non-teachers are working hard to gain qualifications in coaching and officiating so that we can expand the range of activities available within our school and local community. Through our House System, we have established

four, student-led House Olympic Organising Committees to develop a wide range of House Olympic and Paralympic House competitions for pupils in the run-up to London 2012. Furthermore, the female members of the PE department are in the process of developing a range of Olympic and Paralympic-based resources to be used in our partner girls' school in Bangladesh.



Rowing for success: Chiku Tambala and Josh Bolger with Tamara Vaughan, Danielle Shuttlewood, Abi Hartley, Shannon Hopps and Leah Turner.

A positive influence

WITH the Olympic Games coming to this country in 2012, schools and colleges across the country have been given the opportunity to become a part of this global event and use the power of the Olympic Values to inspire pupils of all ages. Our school motto of 'Committed to Excellence', combined with the Olympic and Paralympic Values, will inspire our pupils to be the very best they can be. By joining the Get Set movement, it will enable us to pull together academic and sporting excellence, use our Young Ambassadors to better effect within school, develop our sports partnership and International Inspirations links with our school in Bangladesh, and enhance our coaching and officiating capacity.

Olympic values: Tamara Vaughan.

What are the Olympic and Paralympic Values?

They are about much more than sporting excellence, and include:

- respect – fair play, knowing one's own limits, and taking care of one's health and the environment
- excellence – how to give the best of oneself, on the field of play or in life, taking part, and progressing according to one's own objectives
- friendship – how, through sport, to understand each other despite any differences

The Paralympic Values, which are based on the history of the Paralympic Games, the tradition of fair play and honourable sports competition, are:

- courage
- determination
- inspiration
- equality

Lasting legacy

Thornton Grammar School is committed to ensuring all pupils are 'Committed to Excellence', and will use the inspiration of London 2012 to help with this aim. In our run up to the Games, pupils will:

- have increased opportunities to take part in Olympic and Paralympic events, organised and run via student House Olympic Committees
- understand how the Olympic and Paralympic Values can be inculcated within everyday life, making them better able to meet future challenges
- be able to become young leaders within Sport, Mathematics and Modern Languages

- gain leadership, coaching and officiating qualifications and be signposted towards community and school clubs, leaving a lasting legacy within school and the local community
- visit our partner school in Bangladesh to further spread the message and values of the Olympic and Paralympic movement.

We aim to develop a lasting legacy of pupils with coaching, officiating and leadership skills, in a wide range of sports and activities. We also hope that pupils will be able to understand how the Olympic and Paralympic Values can have a positive influence within their own life.



A broad canvas: Year 7 pupils Owen Wormsley, Zarina Gresswell and Ruhaniwah Zamir.

PUPILS STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT

THIS year, 16 of our pupils have been involved in the Stand Up, Speak Out initiative. As well as visiting local primary schools, eight pupils were invited to Bradford University to speak at the Rosa Parks Symposium, where they gave a first-class presentation to more than 150 people on the subject of Equality Through Intergenerational Learning. Congratulations to Phillipa Hadwen, Sophie Powell, Holly Savage, Louise Leighton, Ethan Milner, Tristan Ambler, Mihir Joshi and Tamara Vaughan.

Creative collaboration

PUPILS in Year 7 recently took part in an extra-curricular project with artist-in-residence Viv Owens on the subject of internet safety. Focusing on a wide range of ideas, including cyber bullying, the pupils produced collages of images, which they developed using Photoshop. Each pupil then created their own painted canvas based on their Photoshop work.

Home cooking on the menu: Nada Al-Agbari and Joseph Dracup, Year 9.



Culinary delights

PUPILS in Year 9 have tasted success with the new Jamie Oliver Home Cooking Skills BTEC course. The course, which is equivalent to half a GCSE, focuses on practical planning and evaluating skills, hygiene, safety and healthy eating, and offers students a flavour of exam work.

So far, pupils have produced a range of dishes, including chocolate beetroot brownies, chicken fajitas, fish dishes and mouthwatering puddings. In a recent competition, Nada Al-Agbari and Joseph Dracup became the first students to whisk away Top Salad Chef of the Day awards.



In the premier league: Harry Williams, Ryan Whitfield and Hashim Malik.

SOCCER SENSATIONS

BOYS' football at Thornton Grammar has achieved real success again this year. The Year 7 team, under new manager Arsene Fletcher, won the Bradford League with some outstanding performances, including Captain Harry Williams in defence and Ryan Sykes at centre midfield.

The Year 9 team successfully defended their league crown, ending the season unbeaten after scoring 24 goals in six games, with Sam Wright once again creating a strong impression. The Year 8 team also made it through to the quarter final of the Bradford Cup, before losing against Challenge.

Fighting fit

THORNTON Grammar School has two rising stars in the field of martial arts. Courtney Rivers-Gallagher is a Black Belt 2nd Dan, who has been representing her club and England, achieving two first and two third-place finishes in this year's internationals. Meanwhile, Ayran Gornall who is currently an Orange Belt, has been practising Aikido for the past four years. We wish both pupils the best of luck in their forthcoming international tournaments.



High flier: Courtney Rivers-Gallagher.

Girls score in sport

GIRLS' sport at TGS continues to go from strength to strength with Year 7 and 9 winning the Netball Central Venue League and Year 7 finishing runners-up in the Marley Football Competition. In netball, Megan Waterhouse and Georgina Holmes delivered consistently good performances, Leah Turner and Katie Wardman made an outstanding contribution, while Sophie Powell and Sonal Mistry showed most improvement. In football, the players have grown in confidence and demonstrated excellent team spirit. Once again, Leah Turner dominated the defence, while Victoria Clay scored an impressive number of goals. The girls beat Hanson 1-0 in the semi-finals before losing to Buttershaw in the final.



Unstoppable: The U13 rugby league team.

Rugby team tastes victory

THORNTON Grammar School's U13 rugby league team proved unstoppable, and unbeaten, on their way to winning the Bactive Bradford League Shield, with their closest rival left 16 points adrift by the final whistle. After a convincing win against St Bede's in the semi-final of the Bactive League Cup, TGS lost to Appleton Academy, 18-24, in the grand final. New links with the local Youth Services and Bradford Bulls should have a positive impact on the quality of the school's rugby provision.