

16th December 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

It's the most wonderful time of the year..... and what a year it has been! We have certainly had two calendar years unlike any that have gone before. However, it is testament to the fortitude and dedication of the children, families and staff that we have remained so resolute in our commitment to providing the very best we can for all the pupils here at Tudor Grange Worcester.

It was with a combination of relief and excitement that we were able to go ahead with this year's KS4 and 5 Awards Evening in the Cathedral to celebrate the achievements of our children. Despite the disruption of the past 12 months, we also saw a phenomenal number of students being presented with their Duke of Edinburgh awards. Earlier in the term we successfully held our 5k run on a beautiful Friday afternoon, raising £500 for the British Heart Foundation; as well as holding a Remembrance Ceremony led by our CCF and attended by all of year 7. *(Photographs of the events are available at <https://www.worcs.tgacademy.org.uk/gallery>).*

Since then, the challenges we have all faced with community infection rates has meant we have had to cancel the Annual Winter Fayre and postpone the school show '*Little Shop of Horrors*' (new dates to be confirmed for the spring term). However, the introduction of an online raffle was a spectacular success with £850 being raised – an absolute record – and possibly the way to do it in the future! These funds will go towards the two charities chosen by our students in the SAS Dragons' Den competition: The Worcestershire Community Foundation and The Loss Foundation. Our 15 SAS Swimmers completed a charity TGAW Swimathon and raised a further £32 swimming 6.3 km in the process. Thank you for all your support with these events.

The Sixth Form hustings resulted in the appointment of our new Sixth Form cabinet. Made up of students from Year 12 they are: Isabella Strickland (Head Girl), Harvey Lewis (Head Boy), Issabelle Obrey (Head of Cabinet), Kelly Clark (Diversity and Wellbeing Officer), Nancy Bailey (Beyond the Classroom Officer) and Rebecca Woodman (Student Voice). It is a privilege to have witnessed these fine young people grow up into such wonderful ambassadors for the Academy and role models for our younger students.

It's really does feel a lot like Christmas here at the Academy with two Christmas trees, a giant inflatable Santa and Christmas music in the restaurant. Our Christmas Jumper Day raised £477 for Save the Children and everyone has enjoyed Christmas Lunch and Crackers today. Our College Competition to design a School Christmas Card again resulted in high level entries which were subject to a lot of debate amongst the judges. Congratulations to Maggie McKay (1st), Evie Vernon (2nd), Chloe Smith (3rd), Sarah Ettridge (4th) and Charlotte Passey (5th). Chloe Talia was awarded the Principal's choice, and highly recommended awards were given to Lilly Adams, Evie Johnson and Evangeline Reynolds for their magical, festive designs.



The Christmas Hamper College Competition resulted in the donation of 47 hampers. Ashe were the winning College. All the hampers will be distributed to people in our local community, care homes and the Food Bank. Thank you all for your support and of course to Ms Dewe for driving this fantastic initiative for the second consecutive year. It is important to us that we support our neighbours as much as possible, encouraging and inspiring our students to be thoughtful, giving, responsible citizens.

In other news, we have just completed the rankings for next September's Year 7 with the Local Authority. There were almost 500 applications for our 210 places; it's wonderful so many families want to be part of TGAW. As you can see there is an increased demand for school places and it is great to hear that the Council Cabinet have recently approved the creation of a new 600 place secondary school in Worcester to be run by an Academy Sponsor. If you would like to contribute to this announcement you can submit a response on line at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/newsecondaryschool until 23rd January.

Finally, I feel I can quote Ed Sheeran's Christmas song on the basis that he has family connections in Worcester. Along with Elton John he sings:

*I know there's been pain this year, but it's time to let it go.
Next year, you never know, but for now, Merry Christmas.*

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from everyone here at TGAW. We hope you find peace, health and happiness with a generous helping of festive spirit.

Yours sincerely



David Butler
Principal

