



# Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers

### Celebrations

Thank you for your support in all our activities in the second half of the summer term, and thank you to all the students who contributed to the excellent concerts and art exhibition. A special thank you goes to the Tarporley High students who supported the children from our partner primary schools taking part in the junior concert. It was great to see all the teamwork, talent and commitment that went into our celebration of the arts. Well done too to all our students in Years 7-9 who were highly commended, and those who received awards. We sent out 300 Highly Commended certificates, in addition to the 103 awards presented at the Celebration of Achievement evening on Thursday 13th July.

Congratulations also go to our newly appointed Head Students, Angus Crayston and Abbie Whelan, and Deputy Head Students Suki Le Hunt and Thomas Arnold.

### In Memory

This summer, we received the very sad news of the deaths of two former members of staff, Mr David Rowlands and Mrs Ann Wade.

Ann Wade grew up in Liverpool, a city that held an important place in her heart. She taught English and Humanities at Tarporley from 1982 until her retirement in 2006. She was also Head of Careers. In this role she skilfully guided many, many students onto the next stage of their lives. Ann had a great passion for literature and for education, and a lively sense of humour. She loved reading and poetry, and she supported, encouraged and inspired countless Tarporley students over the years. She was a great friend to her colleagues,



especially the teachers in the English and Humanities Faculties. Ann enjoyed a busy and creative life after retirement and thoroughly enjoyed being a grandmother.

David Rowlands grew up in Buckley, just over the border in Flintshire and later adopted Crewe as his home town. He was Deputy Headteacher at Tarporley from 1989 to 1996. He made a key contribution to the popularity, high standards and growing reputation of Tarporley High School during those years. David taught Science and Chemistry to A Level. He was a sharp, analytical thinker, and had a tremendous knowledge of all aspects of the school. From 1996, he continued his dedicated support for Tarporley High as Assistant Registrar until 2002 and remained highly involved in Tarporley life, as a governor. He also continued to coach students in Chemistry for GCSE and A Level. David was a keen sportsman; a cricketer, a Liverpool fan, and a runner. He loved the mountains of North Wales and the Lake District. He was also a tireless fundraiser for Cancer Research.



I know many of you are former Tarporley students and will remember Mr Rowlands and Mrs Wade. I worked with both of them. They were dedicated, professionals and highly skilled teachers. I know how much this school, its students and its community of staff, parents and partners meant to them. David died in May, of cancer, and Ann died in June, also of cancer. They are sorely missed by family, friends and colleagues.



Maths & Computing



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## Buildings

After the tragic Grenfell Tower fire, we have carried out checks on our fire safety in school, and reported back to the Department for Education and our Board of Governors. We are confident that all our procedures are up-to-date and robust. We have also obtained further information about the cladding of the D Block and can assure you that the materials used are not of the same type as those found to be unsafe. The main wall cladding used for the recladding works at the D Block building, is a composite panel recognised by the industry as the fire safe alternative.

In April, we had the good news of success in that our bids for capital grants to fund further improvements to school buildings. These works will include further improvements to fire safety across the whole school, and the re-roofing of C Block and the Sports Hall. In addition, there will be more improvements to the interiors of the D and C Blocks. These works will not be on the large scale of last summer's building work, and we do not expect that there will be any disruption to your child's education.

## Unauthorised Absence

Because of a legal challenge by a parent resident on the Isle of Wight, the process of issuing financial penalties for holiday absences from schools during term-time was suspended this academic year. However, the legal process has now concluded with no resulting change to the law. Therefore, from September 2017, Cheshire West and Chester, in line with other local authorities, will be resuming the issuing of FPN's (Fixed Penalty Notices) for any unauthorised absence of 5 consecutive school days or more, unless there are any exceptional circumstances. All policies and procedures will remain the same as they were before the legal case. Details of the procedures at Tarporley High School relating to term-time absences are published on our website. Please contact the school if you need advice on this matter.

## Uniform

As we approach the end of the school year, I want to say a big thank you to students who are wearing their school uniform smartly and correctly, and to parents and carers for the important part we know you play in this. I appreciate that uniform items will need to be replaced over the summer. Please may I draw your attention to the uniform list and give a few reminders. Apart from one plain earring in the lobe of each ear, no other piercings are allowed to be worn in school. This means that if you allow your son or daughter to have any piercing done in the school holiday, this should take place well in advance of September, so that it can be removed for school. Skirts should be worn at a sensible length for school, 10cm above the knee is a guide length, and be school styles, not tight-fitting tube-like styles. Tights must be grey, not black. Trousers should be in a traditional school fit and style so that shirts can be tucked in and stay tucked in. Thank you for your support in this.

## Goodbyes

At the end of this term, we are saying goodbye to several exceptional members of staff.

Mrs Holme who has been a teacher at Tarporley High School and Sixth Form College for 38 years, will be retiring this summer. Mrs Holme began her career here as a teacher of English and Humanities in 1979 when Mr Wrigley was the Headteacher. Since that time she has taught many, many students in KS3 Humanities and throughout the age range in English, where she has been a key member of the Faculty. She played a leading role in establishing vocational learning in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form at Tarporley, and for many years was in charge of vocational qualifications. From 2001 to 2009, she was Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. In both these roles she made a big contribution to providing support for young people of all abilities to find enjoyment and success in their learning and to leave school well-equipped for the world of work or further education. She has always believed very strongly in the achievement of every single student and has worked tirelessly to ensure this. You might think that 38 years is an exceptionally long time to be part of a school community, but this is not the whole story. Mrs Holme was also a Tarporley student, starting her secondary education here in 1969, and becoming Head Girl in Year 11, which was then called the 5<sup>th</sup> Year. She has many memories of the school as it has grown and changed over the years. We wish her a very full and happy retirement, and look forward to hearing from her about life after Tarporley!

Mrs Jones, who has taught French and German here since 2009 will be leaving us to take up the post of Languages teacher at Christleton High School. Mrs Jones is also well-known to students and parents as Assistant Year Leader to Mr Hutchinson's year group. As a member of our very hardworking Languages team, Mrs Jones has encouraged and supported language learners from Year 7 through to A Level, with unstinting enthusiasm and commitment. She has also been a key player in many visits abroad to enrich students' experiences of language and culture.

Mr Johnson was appointed as Head of Chemistry at Tarporley in 2010 and will be leaving to take up the post of Teacher of Chemistry at Ruthin School. Under his leadership, we have seen Chemistry grow in popularity at A level, and students of all ages and abilities enjoy and achieve in this subject. I know that students respond very well to his expertise and passion as a chemist, his skills as a calm, unflappable teacher and his belief in young people. He has held the post of Acting Second in Science during Mr Gillard's recent absence.

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We wish Mrs Jones and Mr Johnson every happiness and success in their new jobs, and we are delighted to welcome Mr Gillard back in his role as Head of Science.

I should also like to thank several members of staff who are moving on: Miss Edge (Maths), Ms Spencer (Psychology), Miss Cullen (Languages), Mrs Doughty (P.E.), Mr Caulfield (English), Miss Woodward (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Randles (Teaching Assistant).

Although he is not leaving us, Mr Hutchinson will no longer be Year Leader from September. His year group will start year 10 with Miss Blackhurst as their Year Leader, and they have been informed about this change. Mr Hutchinson has been involved in Pastoral leadership at Tarporley since 2004 and he has been a superb Year Leader for 11 years. In this role he has supported very many students throughout their time in the school, from year 6 at the Conway Centre right through to the year 11 prom. I have lost count of the number of times that parents have contacted school to express their appreciation for his dedication and told us how much his support has meant to them and to their child. On behalf of our school community I would like to thank him for his outstanding service to the school community. Mr Hutchinson started at Tarporley in 2000 as a keen teacher of Humanities and Geography, and his enthusiasm for his subject is just as strong today. He will continue to play a key part in the Humanities Faculty and the Geography Department.

We will be welcoming several new members of staff next term. I know they are all looking forward to starting in September.

Thank you for all your support for your children's learning this year, and for your partnership with us. Good luck to all those students who will be receiving A Level and GCSE results in August. There will be teams of staff to support you in school on both those days. May I wish all members of our school community an enjoyable and a safe summer.

Best wishes

 **SARAH LEE**  
Headteacher

### Year 10 Work Experience June 2017

From Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 184 Year 10 students successfully undertook work experience placements. The students sourced a fantastic range of placements from across the region, and some even managed to secure placements as far afield as London, Kent and Scotland. The placements included many local businesses such as; primary schools, hotels, retail businesses, solicitors, veterinary surgeries, and engineering companies. A few notable

placements included; Visa, Amnesty International, Houses of Parliament, Manchester United Football Club, Siemens, Shell UK, Bentley, Airbus, Barclays, and the NHS. During the two weeks staff enjoyed visiting students to see how they were getting on, and it was great to receive so much positive feedback from employers and students alike. I would like to thank Year 10 parents for their support in sourcing the placements and completing all the necessary paperwork. I would also like to thank the students for rising to the challenge and representing the school in such a professional manner. Well done Year 10!

Mrs Rowlands

Work Experience Co-ordinator

### Year 9 & 10 D of E expedition

Pictured are some of the 42 students from Years 9 and 10 who recently spent a weekend practicing for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award expedition.



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## The Spanish Spelling Bee - by Maisey Brown

I first learnt about the Spanish Spelling Bee in one of my Spanish lessons. Miss Pizzuto said that we were going to do a spelling bee, where we would have to learn 50 words in Spanish, learn the Spanish alphabet and then spell as many words as we could in 1 minute. We practised them in class and then I took the sheet home and practised a lot.

On the day of the Spelling Bee competition, I got the highest score in my tutor group with 12 words correctly spelt. The highest two people from each tutor group then did another round against the rest of Year 7. We had another 50 words to learn, so 100 in total. In this round, I spelt 13 words correctly and came highest in my year group.

Miss Pizzuto then told me that I would be going to Manchester to compete in the Regional Finals! There were only three of us who got through; two of us were spelling in Spanish (me and Erin Murray) and one was spelling in French (Evie Halsall). We were given a third set of 50 words to learn, so 150 in total! When we got to Manchester, we signed in and went into a big hall, where they gave us an introduction and explained how the regional final would work.

We then got split up into different groups; 2 Spanish groups, 2 French groups and 1 German group. There were about 30 students from different schools in each group. We got taken to our allocated classroom, where we waited until the judges were ready and then we got started. I was in the middle, so I kind of knew what scores everyone was getting! After I had had my go, we waited until everyone else had finished their turn and then had to wait for the judges to see who had got through. Four people from my Spanish group (me included) went up against the 4 winners from the other Spanish group, and the top 4 out of 8 would be going through to the National Finals. I had my go against the other 8 Spanish students, and once everyone else had had their go, we went and had a break, where we were provided with refreshments whilst the judges decided who had won.

The judges didn't tell you what score you got. After refreshments, we went into the hall where they announced the results. Spanish was 2<sup>nd</sup> and my name was called out first and then I had to go up in front of everyone to spell again. I came 4<sup>th</sup> and received a medal, which meant that I was through to the National Finals in Cambridge. Of course, this meant that I had yet another 50 words to learn; 200 words to know off by heart and spell!

I practised lots and lots and on the day of the Spelling Bee, my mum and I drove down to Cambridge where we went to the university and signed in. I did some last minute practice before we went into the hall, where we got split up into our languages. We went to the Spanish room and, before we entered, we got a programme and I was third to last out of everyone for Spanish. I had my go and then at the end, they said that there was a tie-breaker. We had to wait until the judges had got the

final results and then we went into the main hall, where the scores were read out.

I didn't come in the top 4, but we figured that I must have just missed out, because all the words I had were long and from the new sheet, so they were difficult to remember and spell!

I came about 7<sup>th</sup> out of 62,000 though, so I was pleased with that. I had a great time doing the Spelling Bee and I really enjoyed it!



## Yr 11 Prom

Year 11 Prom took place at Vale Royal Abbey at Whitegate, on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. It was a really lovely evening and the students were absolutely fantastic.



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For the third year running, Tarporley Sixth Form magazine, 'Term,' won six awards at the prestigious Shine Media Awards in London, held at Stationers' Hall by St Paul's Cathedral. Out of over 200 schools, our awards were for: Best Cover (Highly Commended), Best Photograph (Highly Commended), Best Overall Editorial Content (Highly Commended), Best Artwork, Best Business Strategy and a special award of 'Most Promising Reporter.'

Broadsheet journalist Simon Heffer and Carey Sedgwick, Director of Casella Productions hosted the awards, along with Terry Mansfield from Hearst Corporation (publisher of many leading magazines including Elle, Cosmopolitan, Esquire). We also received personal messages from Managing Director of Conde Nast (publishing house of Vogue, Glamour, GQ) and Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London. It really was a prestigious occasion!

If schools were "Nominated" then they were in the top six schools nationally in that category, and if they were 'Highly Commended' they were in the top three schools nationally, so our awards were great accolades. Our winning photographers (Hannah Ashdown, Isabella Ashdown, Megan Lester) will receive a day's experience at Getty Images Hulton Archive in London as their prize; Eilidh Bodfish was also given the Special Award of 'Most Promising Reporter' and her prize involves spending a day at 'Print Week,' working with journalists in the city, perfecting her craft.

Editor, Bethany Farrell stated, "We are so proud of our magazine and worked tirelessly on making this edition artistic and stylised. With a central theme of equality and acceptance, our articles include topical, informative and satirical pieces. This year we entered new categories such as Best Business Plan so we are delighted with our success and recognition. We already entered for the SHINE Awards 2018 and look forward to new Year 12s joining our Editorial team"



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### ley Sixth Form College Year 13 Prom

Our Sixth Form Leavers Prom was yet another outstanding success. Held at Peckforton Castle, the Sixth Form College sent their Year 13s off in style. At the end of a very busy exam season, the hard working students were finally able to relax and let off some steam; following a meal and a presentation of awards, they danced into the night. This has been an outstanding group of students who have worked extremely hard and enthusiastically throughout their time in Sixth Form. They had a night to remember, thanks to the hard work of so many people, and we are now looking forward to celebrating their success on results day in August.



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## Science Enrichment

Year 7 spent a fantastic day during Curriculum Enrichment Week learning all about Space. They made water rockets which were sent up to space (well nearly!!), created a new alien species, designed space suits, built telescopes to spot the planets and built space landers to safely transport a space egg.

The students were enthusiastic and a pleasure to work with. There were some excellent questions asked during the day and some amazing creations observed.

Year 8 spent a day investigating the 'murder' of Andy the caretaker in the Forensic Fun Day.



Which Year 8 tutor committed the crime? It was up to our budding criminologists and forensic scientists to find out!!!

The students analysed blood spatter, fingerprints and hair samples found at the scene of the crime.

They conducted DNA fingerprinting, and used chromatography to analyse pen samples used on an incriminating note.

The reports students produced at the end of the day were brilliantly thought through using all the evidence collected throughout the day.

## Holiday Dates 2017-18

| Autumn Term 2017   | Spring Term 2018   | Summer Term 2018  |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b><br/><b>School Closed INSET Day for Staff</b></p> <p>School is open for students from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October</p> | <p>School is open for students from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</p>  | <p>School is open for students from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May</p> <p><b>School Closed Bank Holiday Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b></p>                                      |
| <p><b>Half Term</b><br/>30<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> November</p>  | <p><b>Half Term</b><br/>19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February</p>   | <p><b>Half Term</b><br/>28<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June</p>   |
| <p>School is open for students from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</p> <p><b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b><br/><b>School Closed INSET Day for Staff</b></p>  | <p>School is open for students from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March</p> <p><b>School Closed INSET Day for Staff Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b></p> | <p>School is open for students from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July</p> <p><b>School Closed INSET Days for Staff Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July</b></p> |
| <p><b>Christmas Holidays</b><br/>23<sup>rd</sup> December – 7<sup>th</sup> January</p>   | <p><b>Spring Break including Easter Bank Holidays</b><br/>30<sup>th</sup> March – 15<sup>th</sup> April</p>  | <p><b>Summer Holiday</b><br/>23<sup>rd</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> September</p>  |

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