

TSLA NEWS



The Second Scoop: Catch Up On All Our Latest News!

Hello everyone! We're back with our second edition, and it's brimming with all the fantastic happenings and important news from our community. We've had a truly fab term filled with excitement and achievement! Get set for captivating updates, inspiring stories, all delivered straight to your inbox every half term in one handy spot!



Remembrance Day

On November 11th, all students honored Remembrance Day with a two-minute silence. Respectfully gathered in corridors, they stood solemnly as a trumpet played "The Last Post," a beautiful and poignant tribute to lives lost in service.



Celebrating Diversity

Inter Faith Week, every November, strengthens UK interfaith relations. At TSLA, we embraced this, celebrating our diverse culture and raising awareness of faith contributions. It promotes understanding and respect among all, enriching our school.

A Message from Our New Deputy Headteacher, Joey Kock

I'm thrilled to introduce myself as your new Deputy Headteacher and contribute to our vibrant academy community. My extensive experience spans many years across various secondary schools, both locally and internationally, teaching a wide variety of subjects. This diverse background has given me a deep appreciation for different learning styles and student interests.

I have also gained valuable insights from time in primary and special education settings, reinforcing the importance of inclusive practices and tailored approaches for every child.

Throughout my career, I've held various leadership roles, including Head of Department, Achievement Team Leader, Senior Leader for Personal Development, and Assistant Headteacher for Learning and Progress.

These roles have shaped my philosophy, emphasising inclusive practices, tailored approaches for every child's unique needs and student needs and well-being.

As Deputy Headteacher, my primary goal is to ensure an exceptional quality of education for all our students. This means creating an environment where every student not only feels supported but is actively encouraged to strive and flourish in all aspects of their development.

We all encourage students to embrace challenges, seeing them not as obstacles but as opportunities for growth and resilience. Ultimately, my vision is to prioritise personal growth, helping students discover their strengths, develop their passions, and build the confidence to navigate their future.



My commitment extends beyond academic achievement; I aim to empower all students to achieve their full potential, not just in their studies, but as well-rounded individuals ready for whatever comes next. This holistic approach means nurturing their social, emotional, and creative development alongside their academic progress.

Read All About It! Our Literacy Drive

Our academy's literacy strategy empowers every student. We are dedicated to encouraging fluent reading through targeted practices. A key focus is explicitly teaching "Tier 2" and "Tier 3" vocabulary, ensuring students grasp complex words crucial for academic success. You will also see keywords on classroom word walls, reinforcing learning.

We champion the immense importance of reading, not just in the academy, but as a lifelong skill. We strongly encourage reading at home; even a few minutes daily makes a huge difference. Don't forget to encourage your child to read this newsletter too!

Christ's College Cultivates Curiosity

Thank you to Christ's College, University of Cambridge, for generously hosting our Year 10 and 11 students on October 21st! Students had a highly insightful and engaging day. They greatly enjoyed the opportunity to explore the beautiful college grounds and learn firsthand about university life, the application process, and essential post-16 academic options.

The visit provided valuable motivation and clarity for their future educational pathways. The talk from the admissions tutor was particularly inspiring, shedding light on required A-Level subjects and financial support available. Our students left feeling well-informed and enthusiastic about the possibilities that higher education offers. We are truly grateful for this fantastic outreach opportunity.



Unlock Your Future: Year 11 Evening of Ingredients was here!

The St Lawrence Academy had its crucial Year 11 Information Evening, a vital event for students and parents navigating the final year of secondary education

This highly anticipated evening offered an unparalleled opportunity to directly engage with subject teachers, gaining valuable insights into academic progress and support strategies. Crucially, a wide array of external providers were in attendance, including esteemed institutions like John Leggott College, North Lindsey College, Bishop Burton College, and HETA, alongside other prominent local companies. This diverse presence ensured students could explore a multitude of post-16 options, from academic pathways to vocational training and apprenticeships.

Year 11 Head of Year, Jade Elston, emphasised the significance of the event: "This evening was absolutely critical for our Year 11s and their families. It is a fantastic chance to have those vital conversations with teachers about mock results and academic next steps.

Equally important was the opportunity to speak directly with colleges and training providers about course requirements and future pathways. We want every student to feel empowered and informed as they make these significant decisions."

Careers lead Tom Purbrick adds, "We understand the importance of clear guidance during this pivotal time. The presence of so many external providers under one roof makes this a truly invaluable resource for planning the future.

We also discussed the recent November mock results, offering tailored advice to support students in their final push."

This evening is designed to support both parents and students in guiding them through their last year at The St Lawrence Academy, ensuring a smooth and successful transition to their chosen future. A huge thank you to everyone who attended. The next set of mock examinations are in January and exam timetables will be released in the New Year.



Celebrating Diversity: Highlighting the Success of the Romanian Culture Club

Our newly launched Romanian Culture Club has quickly become a vibrant and popular addition to our extracurricular offerings, meeting every Thursday after school in EF10 with Mrs Choudhry and Prefect Cristina Pirlea.

Students are actively immersing themselves in Romanian culture, enjoying sessions that included tasting traditional foods, listening to lively music, and learning conversational phrases in the Romanian language.

Mrs Choudhry commented on the club's impact:

"The club is going from strength to strength and is growing each week. The atmosphere is simply fantastic. It is inspiring to see students from all backgrounds enthusiastically embracing Romanian culture. This club truly embodies our commitment to celebrating diversity and fostering global awareness within the academy."

The club provides an inclusive, welcoming space where all students can connect, celebrate diversity, and enrich their understanding of European traditions. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and success demonstrated by our participants!





CCF Expands to Royal Navy

The St Lawrence Academy Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is making history and is immensely proud to host the nation's newest Royal Navy section. Launched in September 2025, the section has quickly recruited 26 dedicated Royal Navy cadets. These cadets are currently immersed in an engaging training program, which firstly masters the basic principles of seamanship.

Cadets delve into the history, culture, and traditions of the Royal Navy and learn vital elementary first aid skills. Their journey has already included exciting visits, notably to the frigate HMS Iron Duke and the impressive P&O ferry, MV Pride of Hull. The section is now eagerly anticipating its inaugural boating season, which is provisionally scheduled to commence on April 1st. The new Royal Navy section represents a fantastic opportunity for young people to develop leadership, teamwork, and an appreciation for maritime life.



Every Day Counts: Unlock Your Potential Through School Attendance

Consistent attendance at secondary school is fundamental to a student's academic success and future prospects. Every day in the classroom offers crucial learning opportunities, building blocks for understanding complex subjects. Missing even a few days can lead to significant gaps in knowledge, making it harder to keep up with peers and understand new concepts.

Research consistently highlights this link. For instance, studies by the Department for Education in the UK often show that students with higher attendance rates achieve significantly better GCSE results. A common benchmark indicates that students with 95% attendance or more, are far more likely to achieve strong passes in English and maths compared to those with lower attendance. Beyond academics, regular attendance fosters a sense of routine, responsibility, and social development. It allows students to engage with their teachers and peers, participate in discussions, and access vital support services. Ultimately, good attendance lays a strong foundation for higher education and successful careers, equipping young people with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in an increasingly competitive world.

Raising Aspirations Day: A Roaring Success!

Igniting Ambition Across all Year Groups

Raising Aspirations Day (RAD) on October 7th, the first of three such events, which ensure a comprehensive approach to guiding students' paths and future visions. Our newest Year 7 students embarked on a purposeful journey with the PiXL Edge Launch, an innovative initiative designed to develop crucial life skills beyond traditional academics. The program focuses on fostering key qualities such as Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative, and Communication (LORIC), which are essential for navigating the modern world and highly valued by employers.

Additionally, Year 8 engaged in a valuable Uniformed Services day, receiving essential first aid training. This practical experience provides insight into vital public service roles while equipping students with life-saving skills.

Year 9 students at The St Lawrence Academy experienced an incredibly impactful day with Humanutopia, the renowned social enterprise. This annual, highly anticipated visit delivered a truly thought-provoking, reflective, and emotionally resonant experience.

Humanutopia specialises in inspiring young people to realise their full potential and navigate adolescence. Through engaging workshops and candid discussions, the Year 9 cohort explored their self-worth, understood the power of their choices, and built stronger, more empathetic peer relationships. The students left feeling empowered, with a greater sense of responsibility and a deeper understanding of the impact they can have on themselves and others. Mr Murray, Head of Year 9, praised the company, noting their "ability to connect with the young people on such a deep level," making the day a resounding success.

Year 10 Aspire at Grimsby Institute!

Our Year 10 students had a fantastic Raising Aspirations day at Grimsby Institute, led by our Head of Year, Mrs Walker. They explored exciting post-16 opportunities, gaining valuable insights into college life and various future career paths. The engaging sessions truly helped students envision their potential and set ambitious goals.

It was an inspiring and truly impactful day, equipping our Year 10s with the motivation and clarity needed to achieve great things as they look ahead to their GCSEs and beyond.

Year 11: Mocks, Minds, and Making Moves!

For our Year 11 students, this Raising Aspirations Day was strategically timed to provide crucial, immediate support for their critical next steps. With final exams looming and post-16 decisions on the horizon, the day was entirely dedicated to mock exam feedback and college applications. Students had invaluable, dedicated time to thoroughly review their mock exam performance, gaining clear insights into areas for improvement directly from their teachers.

This focused feedback is vital for refining their revision strategies. Simultaneously, expert guidance was on hand to help them navigate the often-complex college application process. From understanding different course options to perfecting personal statements and meeting application deadlines, this targeted support is absolutely vital as they prepare for their final exams and confidently transition into their chosen future pathways.



Share Your Story: Inspire our Next Generation!

Are you a former student of The St Lawrence Academy with an inspiring journey to share? We know our alumni are achieving incredible things, and we'd love to hear all about your post-academy adventures! Whether you are excelling in your career, pursuing further education, making a difference in your community, or have overcome significant challenges, your story can truly motivate our current students.

Please contact Mr Stainton jstainton@tsla.co.uk and let us know what you're doing – we'd be thrilled to feature your experiences in a future newsletter and showcase the diverse paths our graduates take. Your journey could be the spark that ignites a dream in one of our aspiring students!



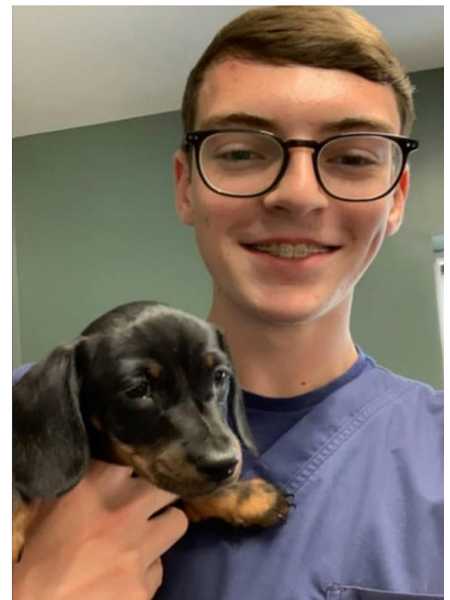
Harry Poma: From Year 10 Work Experience to Qualified Vet

We are thrilled to share the inspiring success of alumnus Harry Poma. Many remember Harry, who began his journey with work experience at a Brigg veterinary surgery in 2017 while in Year 10.

This early exposure was pivotal. Harry dedicated his Saturday mornings to the Old Courts team, gaining invaluable practical skills and foundation.

After five years of hard work and study at The University of Liverpool, we are immensely proud to announce he has graduated as a fully qualified Veterinary Surgeon!

Harry's journey is a powerful testament to the importance of early work experience in shaping future success. His dedication and kindness will ensure his patients and clients are in excellent hands.



Nada's Next Chapter: TSLA Alumni Secures Prestigious Forrester Boyd Apprenticeship!

We are immensely proud to celebrate the success of our fabulous former St Lawrence Academy student, Nada. Nada was an incredibly hardworking and dedicated student during her time with us,



We are thrilled to see that dedication pay off. Following her A-levels at John Leggott College, she secured an amazing achievement: a prestigious Accountancy Apprenticeship at the firm Forrester Boyd

Working at a firm is a testament to her commitment and academic excellence. Congratulations, Nada, on securing this fantastic and well-deserved professional opportunity! We wish her the very best as she begins her career! Her success story is an inspiration to all our current and future students.

TSLA SEND & INCLUSION

Introducing Our New Assistant SENDCos!

We are thrilled to announce two wonderful new members promoted within our SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) team: Mrs Charlotte Atkinson and Miss Ellie Wright, who will be stepping into the roles of Assistant SENDCo!

We recognise the vital importance of high-quality SEND support and provision for all of our students. To meet the needs of our SEND student population, we have invested in increasing our team's capacity and expertise.

Charlotte and Ellie bring passion and valuable experience to our academy. They will work closely with the SENDCo and staff to ensure every student with identified needs receives the tailored provision required to thrive academically and personally



SEND Community Connects: Sharing Supporting and Sipping Coffee!



We warmly welcomed all parents and carers to join us at our SEND Coffee morning on Thursday 4th December. In a relaxed and informal environment, they connected with each other and with members of our dedicated SEND team. These gatherings are a fantastic opportunity for our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) community to share experiences and discuss effective strategies for supporting our students.

Our coffee mornings are incredibly popular, offering a friendly space to chat, share insights, and network with other families. This particular session also featured Donna Ford from the ASET team, who joined us for an informal chat specifically around ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder). It was a valuable chance to gain insights directly from SEND professionals over a warm cup of coffee. We believe in the power of shared knowledge and community support,

Empowering Every Student: New Tools for Wellbeing and Focus

We are excited to announce a significant step forward in our commitment to inclusive education: every classroom now has a universal sensory pack to support all learners. This initiative promotes a welcoming environment where every student can access tools to support their wellbeing, engagement, and independence.

These packs contain a variety of resources chosen for their ability to help students stay focused, calm, and ready to learn. Key items include sensory fidgets, coloured overlays to aid reading, and self-regulation cards with emotion prompts to assist with communication and emotional management.

While these tools offer particular benefits for our SEND and EAL students, their universal availability normalises the use of support strategies for everyone. By providing immediate access to these resources, we are empowering students to actively manage their sensory needs and emotional states. This fosters greater independence, improves focus, and ensures every young person can access the strategies they need to thrive and engage fully throughout the academy day.



The Gift of Giving: Our First Reverse Advent Was a Massive Hit!

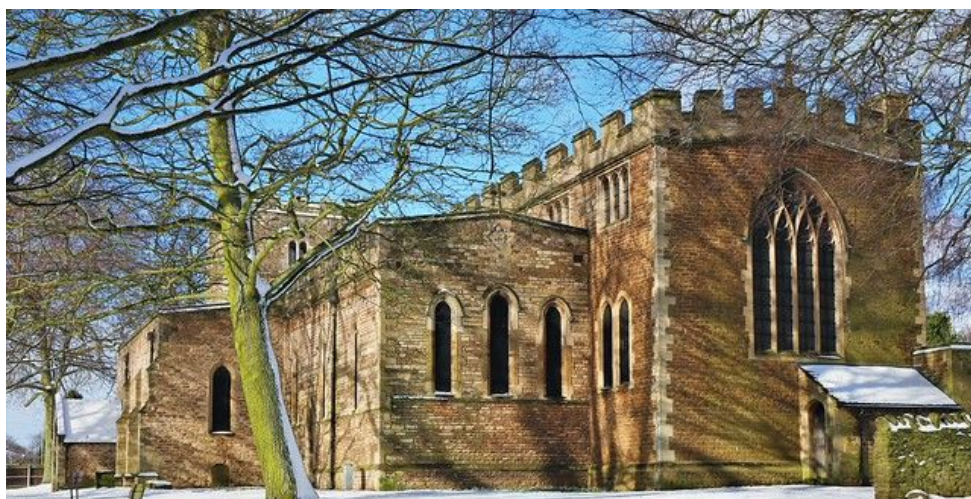


What an incredible success our first-ever Christmas Reverse Advent Calendar initiative was! From December 1st to the 19th, every tutor group has participated in this wonderful effort.

To clarify how it works: instead of opening a door to take out a chocolate, we challenged you to add an item for the food bank into your decorated class box each day. We loved seeing your boxes, beautifully covered with festive Christmas wrapping paper and pictures!

And don't worry—while supporting the community, each tutor group still had a traditional chocolate advent calendar so students could enjoy a sweet treat daily!

We want to thank you for the overwhelming generosity and community spirit shown. This new Christmas tradition has been a fantastic success, competing for house points and supporting our local food bank at a critical time.



Festive Success: St Lawrence's Church Christmas Services Delight Students

The special Christmas services at St Lawrence's Church, which have been taking place this week have been a resounding success. All students walked down by year group to participate in these beautiful services, which were led by Rev. Philip Brent and Mrs Letherland. The school choir inspired everyone by leading traditional Christmas carols, creating a truly festive atmosphere.

Each service included reflective candle lighting, and our House Leaders reverently brought the nativity figures to the front. Additionally, heartfelt prayers were read, making this a truly community-focused event. It was wonderful to see Parents, Carers, and members of the wider community joining us for these special occasions.

Sleigh What?! Christmas Break is Almost Here!

Please note that we will be closing for the Christmas break at 12:10 pm on Friday, December 19th 2025.

We wish everyone a much-deserved and a very enjoyable break! We look forward to welcoming all students back on **Monday, January 5th 2026**.



**The
St Lawrence
Academy**