

# TSLA NEWS



## Our third edition marks the halfway point!

We are incredibly excited to bring you the Third Edition of our newsletter! With the year already halfway through, dive into our captivating updates and inspiring stories. We look forward to sharing these highlights with you every half term.



On Friday, February 13th, 15 of our Year 9 R.E. students will be visiting Winterton and South Ferriby Primary Schools. They will lead inspire interfaith assemblies and support classroom activities, brilliantly sharing their knowledge and fostering community spirit. We are incredibly proud of their leadership!



Supported by Mind and Rethink Mental Illness, Time to Talk Day (Feb 6th) was a key theme in our tutor time and collective worship. We are teaching students that small conversations about mental health can build supportive communities and break down barriers.

# Success Starts with Showing Up: A Message from Ms Pattinson, Deputy Headteacher

As we move through the academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on a fundamental pillar of success at The St Lawrence Academy: attendance. Having spent over a decade leading schools in London and Northamptonshire before returning to serve my hometown, I have seen firsthand that the bridge between a student's potential and their actual achievement is consistency. Now that I am back in the community I am so passionate about, I am committed to ensuring that our young people have every opportunity to succeed by being present and ready to learn.

The impact of school attendance on a child's future cannot be overstated. National statistics from 2026 highlight a clear and sobering trend:

When a student's attendance drops to 90%, they are effectively missing half a day of school every single week. Over the course of a school year, this totals four full weeks of lost learning—a gap that is incredibly difficult to bridge, regardless of a student's ability.

At The St Lawrence Academy, we are dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of safeguarding and pastoral care to ensure every student feels supported. To help remove any barriers that may prevent your child from attending, we have a specialised Attendance Team. This team, consisting of Mrs Evans, Mrs Loftus, and Mr Rignall, works tirelessly to support families and ensure that every student can maximise their time in the classroom.



They are your first point of contact for any concerns regarding your child's ability to attend school regularly. Every single day at school is a new opportunity for growth; when a student is absent, they aren't just missing a lesson—they are missing a piece of their future. We are here to ensure bright futures and have a range of support should you need it.

## Mastering the Mocks: One Final Push Before the Real Deal

A huge well done to our Year 11 students for their fantastic focus in option subjects during the recent mocks. Your hard work is truly starting to pay off as we head into the final stretch.

Please note that our final set of mock exams will commence immediately after the half-term break on **Monday, 23rd February**. These are a vital dress rehearsal, as they represent the last formal practice before students sit their actual GCSEs this summer.

Use the upcoming break to rest, but also to refine your revision notes. Success is within reach—let's finish strong!

## Innovating for a Greener Tomorrow

Year 8 took a leap into sustainability on Thursday, 8th January. Stepping away from their usual lessons, the entire year group dived into the Young Green Briton Challenge. The atmosphere was electric as students collaborated to tackle real-world environmental problems. Led by Head of Geography Mrs Scoular, students showed leadership skills and resilience

From eco-campaigns to green tech inventions, the students showed incredible teamwork and creative thinking. It was a day dedicated to "green skills" and empowering our students to have a voice on climate action. A huge well done to all Year 8s for their hard work—the future looks bright (and green) in their hands!



# Slopes, Snow and St Lawrence: Students Gear Up for Gressoney



## A Mountain Adventure Awaits

Excitement is building at The St Lawrence Academy as students prepare for a thrilling journey to the Italian Alps. Thirty-seven students from Years 7 through 10 have booked their spots for the trip to Gressoney, Aosta Valley, departing March 27th, 2027. This marks a special return to the slopes for the academy, with the last skiing trip taking place back in 2016. Organisers are thrilled to offer this group the unique chance to build resilience, learn new skills, and create lifelong memories in a spectacular mountain setting.

The academy has secured an action-packed, "all-inclusive" itinerary to ensure a stress-free experience. The package covers every essential: return coach travel, lift passes, and full equipment hire including ski suits. Students will enjoy five days of professional tuition tailored to their specific ability levels. Off the slopes, the group will stay at the Hotel Halldis with a fun-filled schedule featuring karaoke, pizza nights, and swimming. A full-board meal plan ensures everyone remains well-fed and energised for the busy days ahead on the mountain.

Led by PE Teacher and Head of Year 8, Mr Eddie Wraith, the trip prioritises safety through a partnership with Interski, experts with over 42 years of experience. Whether complete beginners or advanced skiers, students will receive professional instruction in a secure environment where helmet use is always mandatory. With the payment plan currently in motion and the parents' information evening that took place in January to finalise details, the countdown is officially on for these students to conquer the Italian peaks!

## Students Explore Careers During National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week (February 9th-13th) offered students diverse career insights through a targeted schedule of events. The week opened with a Year 8 assembly and a maternity taster day for KS4 students at Scunthorpe General Hospital. Mid-week highlights included a Year 9 RAF assembly and a hands-on Fire Service experience for Year 7. These sessions successfully integrated practical industry knowledge into the "character and futures" curriculum.

The latter half of the week featured a North Lindsey College Careers Cafe and a "Next Steps" event for Year 10. Friday concludes with a Year 11 Sports Science assembly hosted by the Iron Foundation. Throughout the week, guest speakers from John Leggott College and local services showcased professional pathways within the community. These activities provided students with the essential information needed to make informed decisions about their future career paths.



## Ready, Aim, Lead: Lt Allen Qualifies to Launch New Shooting Program at TSLA CCF

Lieutenant James Allen CCF serves as the School Staff Instructor for The St Lawrence Academy. Since joining the TSLA CCF in 2023, he has become the unit's backbone, ensuring safe, rigorous training and managing MOD and school equipment. At 23, his leadership was recognised with the prestigious Lord-Lieutenant Award. Recently, Lieutenant Allen completed a short-range course, qualifying him to conduct training on the academy's air rifle range and MOD ranges up to 25 metres. He plans to launch these range activities in the near future.



# Setting Sail for Success: TSLA Royal Navy Cadets Make Waves

The TSLA CCF Royal Navy section has enjoyed a truly remarkable inaugural period, marked by high-profile visits and exceptional conduct. The cadets recently had the unique opportunity to tour HMS Iron Duke, one of the Royal Navy's formidable Type 23 frigates, as well as the MVS Pride of Hull, a cornerstone of P&O's North Sea fleet. These visits provided a first-hand look at the contrast between frontline military operations and large-scale maritime logistics.



Throughout these excursions, the students were a resounding credit to the academy. Their discipline and keen interest did not go unnoticed, earning them formal compliments from the commanding officers of both vessels. Such high praise from seasoned naval professionals highlights the maturity and dedication these young individuals bring to the program.

Back at the academy, the cadets are diligently mastering the core foundations of naval life. Their curriculum covers a wide breadth of maritime expertise, including the rich history and traditions of the Senior Service, elementary seamanship, and the complexities of naval ranks and rates. They are also beginning to tackle the "Rules of the Road," the essential regulations that ensure safety and coordination at sea.

Beyond their technical training, the cadets have become prominent ambassadors for the academy within the wider community. They recently represented the academy at two prestigious church services, standing tall in the presence of the Lord and Deputy Lord Lieutenants of Lincolnshire. This impressive start has fostered a deep sense of camaraderie and pride, setting a high standard for the section as they prepare for future practical, water-based exercises.



# Tanks, Tech, and Teamwork: Cadets get Hands-on with Britain's Most Advanced Hardware



The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) recently demonstrated why it remains the premier launchpad for the next generation of engineers and tech-innovators. Ten senior cadets swapped their desks for a high-octane STEM camp, bridging the gap between classroom theory and front-line reality. This immersive experience highlighted the vast opportunities available within the military, proving that science and mathematics are the true engines of modern defense. Supported by an elite range of providers—including the Royal Marines, Royal Signals, REME, and the Heavy Armoured Corps—cadets were granted hands-on access to some of the most technologically advanced equipment in the country.

The technical curriculum was as diverse as it was demanding. Cadets mastered state-of-the-art tank driving simulators, operated sophisticated bomb-disposal robots, and tackled complex cyber-coding challenges to plan a strategic hostage retrieval operation.

Beyond the digital realm, our cadets applied mechanical engineering skills to repair electronics on Land Rover Defenders and studied the Watchkeeper drone before designing their own unmanned aerial vehicles to meet rigorous mission specifications.

A standout highlight was an exclusive visit to the Bovington Tank Museum's specialist workshop. Here, among over 300 historical and modern icons, cadets were given the rare privilege of climbing inside the Challenger 3, the British Army's most cutting-edge battle tank. The experience wasn't just about machinery; it was about the lifestyle of elite professionals.

While navigating rugged terrain during night exercises, cadets were fueled by a field kitchen where they "ate like kings," experiencing the camaraderie that defines the Armed Forces. With a particular focus on high-level careers in the Marines and cyber security, the camp proved that a military pathway offers far more than just discipline—it offers a world-class education in engineering. For any teenager looking to combine logic with adrenaline, the CCF provides the ultimate head start. Between a classroom and a cockpit, the program ensures that today's inquisitive students become tomorrow's visionary leaders in global defense technology.



# Your Future, Your Choice: A Successful Year 9 Options Evening

We were delighted to welcome so many families to our Year 9 Options Evening on Thursday, 29th January. The atmosphere in Westaby Hall was buzzing, demonstrating a shared commitment to supporting students during this pivotal transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4. It was wonderful to see such strong engagement from our community throughout the evening.

Following the formal talks, families spoke directly with staff to explore our pathways. With more options available than ever, students have an incredible breadth of subjects to choose from, including Triple Science, Geography, History, Art, Textiles, Photography, and Engineering. This variety ensures every student can tailor their education to their unique interests and long-term ambitions.

We are also proud to offer vocational and performance-based subjects like Performing Arts, Sport Science, and Health and Social Care. This expanded curriculum provides a genuine breadth of choice for our students' futures, whatever they may entail. By providing these varied opportunities, we aim to empower every individual to build a foundation for success based on their personal strengths.

# Award Winning Author Visit: A New Chapter for the Library



We're still buzzing with excitement following the incredible visit from award-winning author Anthony McGowan on Thursday, 5th February. Our academy's community gathered in Westaby Hall for an "Audience with..." session that was anything but ordinary.

McGowan, the 2020 CILIP Carnegie Medal winner for *Lark*, captivated the room with his signature wit and candid storytelling. He spoke passionately about his latest works, including *Dogs of the Deadlands* and *The Beck*—which has recently been shortlisted for the 2026 CILIP Carnegie Medal. His ability to blend gritty realism with profound emotion truly resonated with our students, proving his reputation that "no one is ever bored in an Anthony McGowan talk."

This event coincides with a fantastic new era for our school library. We are thrilled to officially introduce Miss Sadler, our new librarian, who has transformed the space into a vibrant hub of activity.

Whether it's students hunting for the next book in McGowan's *The Truth of Things* series or simply finding a quiet corner to get lost in a new world, the energy is unmistakable. It is wonderful to see the library busier than ever, filled with students truly enjoying the love of reading.

A huge thank you to Anthony McGowan for sparking such incredible literary enthusiasm. With Miss Sadler's guidance and fresh shelves to explore, our library's bright future has only just begun.



# TSLA SEND & INCLUSION

## Level Up and Recharge: New Inclusive Clubs at St Lawrence

We're excited to introduce two new after-school clubs at TSLA that reflect our commitment to inclusive, student-centred enrichment.

The *TSLA Nurture Club* runs every Tuesday and Wednesday from 14:40-15:40 and offers a calm, welcoming space for students to relax, recharge, or get organised. With a 'homework/revision zone' equipped with chromebooks and a 'calm games corner' for gentle board games and low-pressure socialising, the club is designed to support wellbeing and build confidence in a quiet, structured environment.

Alongside this, our *Minecraft Education Club* invites students to collaborate, create, and explore in a safe digital space.

Held in WF01 on a "two weeks on, one week off" cycle at 14:40, the club uses Minecraft to develop teamwork, problem-solving, and digital literacy in a fun and inclusive way.

Both clubs are open to all students and especially support those with SEND, SEMH, or EAL needs.



### Improving Communication for SEND at TSLA

Thank you to all families who took part in our recent parent SEND questionnaire. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us strengthen our provision and ensure every child and every parent feels supported.

A number of parents shared that they were sometimes unsure about the best way to contact school regarding SEND queries. In response, we have created a dedicated email address to make communication clearer and more direct:

[send@tsla.co.uk](mailto:send@tsla.co.uk)

Parents and carers can now use this address for any SEND-related questions, updates, or concerns. The inbox is monitored by our SEND and Inclusion team, ensuring messages reach the right staff quickly and consistently.

### Coffee and Chat

We warmly welcomed all parents and carers to join us at our SEND Coffee morning on Thursday 12th February. In a relaxed and informal environment, they connected with each other and members of our dedicated SEND team. These gatherings are a fantastic opportunity for our SEND community to share experiences and discuss support.

A colorful promotional graphic for the TSLA Nurture Club. It features a lightbulb, a pencil, a globe, a paper airplane, and a book. The text reads: 'TSLA NURTURE CLUB', 'A CALM, INCLUSIVE SPACE WHERE EVERY STUDENT IS WELCOME.', 'HOMEWORK/ REVISION ZONE', 'A quiet area with Chromebooks available for completing homework, revising, or getting organised.', 'CALM GAMES CORNER', 'A relaxed space to unwind with gentle board games and low-pressure social activities.', 'COME ALONG ON A TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY 14.40-15.40PM', and 'See Miss Wright / Mrs Atkinson or Mrs Choudhry for more information'.

# TSLA SPORT

Treasuring Everyone, Transforming Community

Enrichment opportunities are fundamental to the holistic development of our students, and within the PE department we are incredibly proud of the breadth of opportunities we offer beyond the classroom. These experiences not only enhance physical wellbeing but also build confidence, teamwork, resilience and aspiration.

One of our standout successes last term was the North Lincolnshire Schools Cross-Country Competition, where we took 48 students from Years 7 to 11 to compete. Three students – Luca, Elysian and Scarlett – qualified to represent North Lincolnshire at the Humberside Schools event, with Elysian going on to achieve an impressive 13th place in the Year 8/9 girls' race. These achievements highlight both commitment and sporting excellence within our Academy.



Alongside our regular clubs and fixtures, we are running several transformative enrichment projects. Partnering with Active Humber, we aim to foster positive experiences that encourage lifelong physical activity. Through the Next Generation Project, 14 students attended weekly PE lessons at The Pods. This successful initiative was even featured on BBC Look North, highlighting our alignment with Sport England's £250 million investment to tackle the UK's inactivity epidemic.

We are proud to participate in the AQA Unlocking Potential programme. Four of our students are currently working with Olympic swimmer James Kirton to build a winning mindset and raise future aspirations.

Furthermore, we have launched the Barclays Girls' Football initiative, providing 14 KS3 students with specialised sporting opportunities.

Looking ahead, our extra-curricular dance students are preparing for the Secondary Schools Dance Showcase at The Baths on 19th March. This will be a fantastic opportunity for them to perform and share their hard work with the wider community.

We wish you all a GREAT half term and welcome all students back in the Academy on **Monday 23rd February** at 8.15am!