

# TVA NEWS

NEW YEAR EDITION - February 2014

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## NEW YEAR, NEW ACHIEVEMENTS!

### TVA Hosts Debate Mate Competition

Welcome to our Winter newsletter.

You will see that the theme running through many of the stories in this edition is one of "aspiration". You will get a sense of the ambition that we have at Top Valley for our pupils whether it be **competing and succeeding in national competitions**; working with our local internationally renowned Universities and high profile businesses and other professionals; or our **Commando Janes'** girls showing the initiative to take control of their own futures and then teach the lessons learned to other pupils. All of these opportunities support in very real ways our desire to **broaden our pupils' horizons** and plan for a **positive future** for themselves.



This February, TVA hosted the first round of the annual Debate Mate 'Urban Debate League' which saw Top Valley Academy, Bulwell Academy, Nottingham University Samworth Academy and Redhill Academy up against each other in two rounds of **peer-to-peer debates**.

The Urban League is run by international education charity 'Debate Mate' whose aim is to allow pupils from a variety of backgrounds to be empowered to take part in effective peer-to-peer debate monitoring.

*"Both our year 7 and year 9 teams were using political and moral arguments for issues such as reintroducing the death penalty. The experience of debating against other schools has given them a taste for competition:"* said Miss Iles.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> place to History pupils in national photograph competition

Congratulations to the TVA History department who have been awarded **two runner up places** in a travel company photo competition for 2013.



In January we presented a £400 Spica Chair to the Children's Occupational Therapy Ward at Nottingham QMC Hospital



### BREAKING NEWS!

Senor Straw is currently putting plans in place for the first full round of our Spanish Exchange with our partner school in Murcia. Over thirty Spanish pupils will be coming to Top Valley Academy in March on a cultural and school exchange with our year 10 Spanish students. For an opportunity to take part in our return visit in June, please see Senor Straw for details.

# Higher Education Support

At Top Valley Academy we offer advice and support for all our pupils to allow them to make the best decision for their future after TVA.

As well as seeking advice from TVA teachers, pupils can also turn to a variety of **outside sources** in partnership with our school:

## Shoosmiths E-Mentor Scheme:

12 Year 11 pupils have been assigned mentors from Shoosmiths, a **law firm** in the centre of Nottingham.



Award winning law firm Shoosmiths have been providing **regular emailed contact and advice** to our pupils over the last few months. On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, the Year 11's were invited to the Shoosmiths' office to meet with their mentors for the very first time.

KS4 Achievement Leader, Mr Taylor, said: *"It's a fantastic opportunity and experience for our pupils to seek advice from people outside of school. Everyone really enjoyed themselves and I know the pupils are looking forward to continuing to build upon the great relationships they have made with their mentors so far."*



## NTU visit

14 post-graduate students who are studying 'Career Guidance' at NTU also came to discuss with our Year 10's their plans for when they leave the Academy.

It is hoped this project will form a strong connection with the University and allow for possible **visits to NTU's campuses in the future**.

## KEY DATES:

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February -

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February -

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March -

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April -

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April -

Monday April 7<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>

Half term Holidays Begin

School Returns

Inset Day

Performing Arts Showcase

Performing Arts Showcase

Easter Holidays

## Year 11 Girls become Commando Janes'

After the success of the Commando Joes' scheme, which was introduced in April 2013, the fun and fitness training has now been implemented into a brand new scheme for Year 11 girls.

'Commando Janes' will involve nine of our **Year 11 girls**, who will come together to share their experiences with younger pupils and make a difference.

The girls will also be donning **military style uniform**, similar to that in place by the team at Commando Joes'. The uniform will signify their commitment to the scheme and help the younger children to identify those who are available to help them.

Jenna, 15, said: *"It's made me more patient and confident and has helped us all feel more positive about ourselves because we get the chance to help people."*

The Commando Janes' and Mr Morgan will also be showcasing their programme to **head teachers and politicians in London** in the next few weeks.



**Top Valley Academy wishes to see all pupils and parents/carers for Year 9 and Year 10 Progress Evening:**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 4pm-7pm**

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