

THiS Week



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

'WELCOME WALL' UNVEILED

Region's heritage celebrated as Teesside-themed display is unveiled in Prep

A 'welcome wall' inspired by Teesside's rich history was this week unveiled in the Prep School.

Guest of honour and Mayor of the Tees Valley Ben Houchen was joined by pupils, staff and governors in marking the official unveiling of the school's new 46ft display at a socially-distanced gathering.

The 'welcome wall' celebrates Teesside's proud industrial history and features photographs of the area's former steelworks as well as landmarks from across the region's boroughs, including Middlesbrough's Transporter Bridge, Yarm Viaduct, Guisborough Priory, Roseberry Topping and Stockton's Infinity Bridge.

Mrs Mackenzie, Head, said: "Despite the challenges of 2020, there is no better time for us to build on the positivity and momentum this region has been harnessing in the last few years and share the results of our new Teesside-themed welcome wall.

"Teesside High School has been at the heart of independent education in this region for fifty years. We are passionate about the success of our local communities and extremely proud to draw upon Teesside's rich history in a display which I hope will bring pride to pupils, staff and visitors alike."

Mayor Houchen said: "I was thrilled to be able to unveil the new 'welcome wall' at Teesside High and I'm pleased a project that celebrates our region's rich industrial heritage in such a prominent location within the school was able to be completed, despite the challenges of recent months.



"Teesside built the world and every Teessider is rightly proud of our industrial heritage, but it's not just our past we need to be proud of. Today our region is at the forefront of a clean energy revolution, our engineers are developing the technology to capture carbon dioxide on an industrial scale and scientists right here are creating the science and processors needed to recycle materials that previously would have seemed impossible to reuse.

"These innovations are key to my plan for jobs, and I am sure in years to come students from Teesside High will power our economy working as engineers and scientists across the region."

Miss Hockney

WELCOME

Welcome to the inaugural school newsletter of the 2020-21 academic year.



I am very grateful for your support and kind words since our return to school and our 'new normal'; this is certainly very strange times for us all. I hope you have been pleased with the extensive measures we have put in place to ensure the safety of our entire school community, from parents at pick-up to staff and students in the classroom. Whilst these policies may come and go, or change to reflect up-to-date advice, our commitment to providing all pupils with a curriculum full of opportunities remains.

Whilst I appreciate the national mood is sombre we really must not wallow in Covid-19 measures. We continue to look forward and prepare our children fully for their future. As a school we are not 'battening down the hatches' and riding this out. We are continuing to plan improvements to school facilities and implementing a further focus on teaching and learning to ensure our pupils receive the very best classroom experience. We are prepared for whatever is thrown our way in the next six months and our distance learning provision, established

in the spring term and held as a leading example in the area, will move from strength to strength should it need to go forward.

Our Senior co-curricular provision will be tweaked from next week in order to reflect new government guidance around 'bubbles' but, importantly, a full programme will continue to be offered to all. Not many schools have been able to offer pupils the opportunity to develop additional skills and qualities above and beyond the classroom, and for this I am grateful to our staff for their incredible flexibility and perseverance in the face of changing advice.

We firmly believe that our children are very fortunate to be able to call Teesside High their school but we must also be mindful that we are part of a larger community and have a global responsibility to show care, compassion and empathy to our neighbours and those less fortunate. Next week's virtual Prep Harvest celebration will highlight this further and I hope you enjoy seeing the children's singing and performance from the comfort of your own home. Any non-perishable items you wish to donate to Thornaby Food Bank as part of our Harvest efforts can be left at Reception over the coming week - thank you in advance for your generosity.

With best wishes,

Mrs K Mackenzie, Head



Yash receives Yorkshire Cap

Yash in Year 12 was presented with his Yorkshire Academy cap by the club's T20 captain David Willey earlier this month, after playing in the Yorkshire 2nd XI vs Lancashire 2nd XI at Weetwood.

Yash had the privilege of opening the batting with England Lions batsman Tom Kohler-Cadmore. Facing frontline T20 bowlers, Yash scored 44 runs - a very impressive achievement.

Mr Thomas

GAMES CAPTAINS AND PE SCHOLARS

We are delighted to introduce our Games Captain and Sport Scholars for the 2020-21 academic year.

Games Captain - Rohan

Rohan is currently in Year 13 and studies Biology, Mathematics and Physical Education at A-level. Rohan joined Teesside High School for Sixth Form and, despite such a short time actually spent in school due to Covid, has represented the school in table tennis and won the Under 19 County Championship.

Outside of school, Rohan plays table tennis, and cricket for Wolviston Cricket Club. His excellent attitude towards sport has led to him being awarded the role of Games Captain for this academic year.

Sports Scholars - Millie and Megan

Millie and Megan are our Year 12 Sport Scholars for 2020-21.

Following on from two outstanding GCSE PE results, the girls have both continued the subject to A-level. In addition, Millie studies Drama,

Chemistry and Mathematics and Megan studies Biology and Psychology.

Millie joined us in Year 6 and has represented the school in a wide range of competitive and co-curricular sports. Her efforts were rewarded in Year 11 when she received the Senior Sportswoman of the Year award.

Megan joined THS to start her GCSEs and has since represented the school in a range of sports; she also assisted in the coaching of Prep School Netball last year.

Outside of school Millie plays hockey at Stokesley Hockey Club, and participates in swimming and trampolining. Megan also participates in swimming, plays netball for Headlanders Netball Club and enjoys surfing.

Miss Turnbull



Duke of Edinburgh update

To add to their summer expedition successes, we are pleased to report that our Duke of Edinburgh candidates completed 273 hours of volunteering, 312 hours of skills activities and 299 hours of physical activity during lockdown, all of which contributed to them successfully completing their awards.

Bronze Award - congratulations to:

Afraaz, Isabelle C, Ruby, Olivia, Ella, Callum, Jessica, Maia, Isabelle B, Emily, Ross, Isabelle G, Joshua, Mazie, Zara, Summer, Freya and Euan (not all pictured!)

Silver Award:

Millie, Lexie and Grace.

Miss Hopkins



Our First Day

We wanted to share with you our wonderful pupils' photographs from the first day of term.

Mrs Hannah



EYFS Gardening

Our children have been busy planting flowers in the EYFS garden this week. They found out about the different plants (pansies, primroses and chrysanthemums) and also planted some bulbs. The bulbs are tucked up in their beds resting until spring. The children are really looking forward to watching the plants grow and helping to take care of them each day.



YEAR 1 MATHEMATICS

Children in Pre-Prep have been working hard in their Mathematics lessons this term.

Year 1 pupils have been comparing numbers and using 'greater than' and 'less than' signs.

resources in the classroom and also our wonderful outdoor area to make mathematical statements.

The children have been using

Miss Hall



Year 1/2 IPC

Pre Prep children had a very exciting Entry Point for their unit of work all about *Buildings*. They were given the challenge of creating structures with a variety of resources such as playing cards and cups. Their IPC Personal Learning Goal of 'resilience' was most definitely put to the test but with determination, concentration and perseverance, they did it!

Miss Hall

Walking to Florida

We were delighted to successfully complete our summer fundraising challenge which saw pupils, staff, parents, families and friends of the school walk the equivalent distance from Teesside to Florida.

Our school community aimed to walk 10,740,000 steps over the summer break in order to raise funds for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). The inspiration

behind the charity challenge came from Reception pupil, Joseph, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just one month after his third birthday.

Our final step count topped 11 million steps and it really was a whole school effort which eventually raised over £3300 - a remarkable achievement!

Joseph and his family enjoyed contributing to the challenge, conquering Eston Nab and Lordstones

to help increase the school's step count further.

Joseph's mum said: "We would like to thank all of our family and friends who donated and contributed steps, but a special thanks to all the staff, pupils and parents at THS for all of their support. It was a team effort and we are so lucky to be part of such an amazing school community."

Miss Hockney

Three Little Pigs

Reception class have been thinking about the story of the *Three Little Pigs*.

The children have all decided that they would use bricks if they built a house, as they provide the strongest material.

Great work from Reception class!

Mrs Clapton



Bake It!

The children in Upper Prep 1 have been working hard in their first IPC topic, *Bake It!*

The children thought about the ingredients involved in making bread and have recently completed a Science task where they were challenged to see who could produce the most carbon dioxide from yeast.

Having generated possible investigation questions, the children enjoyed carrying out their investigation,



thinking carefully about how to make it a fair test.

They were all delighted to see the gas bubbles starting to form and Esther and Ellie were crowned our overall champions!

Mrs Kennedy



Year 3 Mathematics

My Year 3 Mathematics class enjoyed taking their learning outside in the last of the summer sun.

The children have been solving problems such as adding and subtracting hundreds and tens using place value charts made from skipping ropes, with shuttlecocks doubling up as place value counters!

Great fun was had by all.

Mr Griffiths



Drama Club

Year 6 pupils have been enjoying Drama Club as part of their enrichment programme.

Drama helps pupils to develop in a multitude of ways; it helps build confidence and develops friendships and numeracy skills.

Drama also helps the pupils to develop tolerance and empathy.

This week in Drama Club we played several classic Drama games. One was called 'Bungalow.' Please ask the Year 6 pupils to teach you the game - we are sure you will enjoy it!

Mr Griffiths



ABLE, GIFTED AND TALENTED

As part of our Able, Gifted and Talented programme, a selection of pupils from Prep School have been invited to a high achieving science club, Whizz Pop Science.

Pupils will have the opportunity to engage in weekly activities that inspire them to be curious and question the world around them. This week, we started with the pepper and water magic trick.

The group has talked about water surface tension and molecules after investigating the pepper and water experiment. We started with a plate of water and added pepper. When we dipped our finger into the water and pepper, nothing happened, except we got pepper on our hands. Then we added a little soap on the end of our



fingers and tried it again. The pepper quickly moved to the edges of the plate. We found out why!

The pepper sits on the water because of the high water surface tension. The water molecules are strongly attracted together. When we add a little soap, we break down this surface tension and the top layer of water molecules very quickly spread out and carry the pepper with them. It was interesting to see what happened when we used less pepper. Maybe you would like to have a go at home!

Mrs Bryson

Year 2 Mathematics

This week the children in Year 2 have been comparing objects and numbers thinking carefully about their mathematical vocabulary.

On Monday, the children worked hard to create number sentences using the objects that they could find on and around the playground.

Having gathered their objects, the

children had to decide from phrases such as 'greater than', 'less than' or 'equal to' in order to make their work accurate.

I was really impressed with how well the children worked together and by the amount of mathematical talk I could hear between them.

Mrs Kennedy

Harvest

Prep children have been busily preparing for our annual Harvest Festival celebration, but this year with a twist as we go 'virtual' for the first of our events this term! Upper Prep children have been singing *True Colours* and refining their use of British Sign Language, Lower Prep are bringing a bit of *Harvest Rock and Roll* to the programme whilst Pre-Prep are helping us to be grateful with *The Thank You Song*. We hope you enjoy this autumnal celebration.

Mrs Shevels



Sketching Club

Lower Prep kick-started their enrichment this term with Sketching Club. They have been working on adding texture and shade to their drawings. This afternoon, the children applied these skills to pictures of apples. They all worked incredibly hard and I am very pleased with the results!

Miss Lockerbie



Harnessing your intellectual curiosity

As last year's Year 13 students head off for Freshers' Week, the next cycle of university applications begins.

Every application we submit to UCAS has to describe exactly what we offer at THS Sixth Form, and we believe we have put together a portfolio of qualifications that helps our students achieve their full potential academically, but also allows their love of learning and enthusiasm for their subjects to be credited as well.

In times when universities could be basing their decisions on speculative predictions, admissions tutors have told us how much they value the AS examination, which we offer in a range of subjects, as an anchor to show potential. With our new Year 12 cohort, who have not yet experienced the pressure of a public examination, we will be working hard and collaboratively to make sure every student is supported in making progress towards reaching their targets and stretching above and beyond.

We have had great success in making sure aspirations are achievable, as students can learn in the style that is best suited to them; alongside the traditionally examined A-levels, we also offer BTECs in subjects from Applied Science to Criminology. These give students who prefer a more hands-on approach and continuous assessment a chance to progress to university, employment or degree apprenticeships. Even now, when workplaces are not fully open, our students are directed towards opportunities to complete online internships over half-term in careers from architecture to investment banking. All of our Sixth Form students are also taught the skills to complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) if they wish to, and this adds yet another string to their bow. As with the Higher Project Qualification (HPQ), this extended project allows students to challenge themselves and explore areas of personal interest at the highest level

of a full Level 3 qualification. Students learn skills which universities value as much as employers, such as project management and self-evaluation. They study the ethics of different research methods and how to collect, collate and display primary data, as well as academic skills like referencing and constructing a bibliography of evaluated sources. As the EPQ is so flexible, creative students can submit an artefact with a report as their project, which can be anything from a charity fashion show to a screenplay. Students submitting a written report have used it to explore areas which can be outside the curriculum but of huge personal interest to them: from French poetry to costume design; from the depiction of mental illness in Victorian literature to the decline of the high street; from video game violence to the performance of elite athletes.

Not only has working towards an EPQ been shown to improve performance by a third of a grade in other subjects, all of our EPQ candidates receive a lower offer from their universities on the grounds that the EPQ has given them a headstart in the skills universities require, and with all our candidates achieving an A*/A grade, their hard work with their supervisors in putting their passion on paper has really paid off.

Seneca, the Roman historian, wrote that 'by teaching, we learn', and as EPQ coordinator I get to learn so much from our students' deeply-held views and interests being drawn out and allowed to flourish, in a way that helps them onto the next stepping stone of their adult lives.

I cannot wait to see where this year's intellectual curiosity will lead us!

Miss Bird



English mural

Every year, the English Department strives to inspire students to recognise the power of reading. In times gone by, we have organised visits from world renowned authors, theatre trips far and wide and much loved themed weeks. However, this year, due to current circumstances, our approach has become somewhat more decorative but no less effective. After many heated debates regarding the texts that should be the stars of our stairwell and the style of mural that should accompany them, the English department is delighted with the final result and hope students are, too!

Miss Duffy

Drama update

It has been a busy and creative start to term in the Drama Department. Year 12 students have been exploring Tennessee Williams' brilliant *A Streetcar Named Desire*, looking at sisters Blanche and Stella who both love and hate each other in equal amounts.

Year 11 have been investigating themes of Black Lives Matter, Schizophrenia and the Supernatural as they devise their work in groups and Year 10 students have made a great start to GCSE Drama; the consequences of social media posts was just one of the themes of the script *The IT* that we have been exploring.

Mr Coates



RIVERS OF THE WORLD

During lockdown, Year 8 students worked on a project inspired by our rivers, highlighting the prevalent issue of plastic waste.

This project was initially to be part of a larger programme of events with The Rivers of The World initiative, and would have included art workshops and a series of visits. Unfortunately this could not take place during lockdown, however, Year 8 responded with amazing creativity to work at home using their recycled plastic to create an amazing array of sculptures, some of which we hope to display in school in the near future.

As part of the project, their fabulous sculptures were photographed and used by 'Bloomin Art' to create a print. The print can be seen on a board outside Tate Modern, London, until the end of September and is part of Thames River Festival, alongside work produced by schools from around the world. This event celebrates the River Thames with art events, environmental initiatives, heritage and educational programmes.

Mrs Machan

All Boxed Up!

This term, as part of the Senior School co-curricular programme, we have started to make care packages for the children's ward at James Cook University Hospital and Reuben Manor Care Home.

In the current climate, you can understand that we are not able to hold a bake sale or sell items to fundraise as we previously would have.

Therefore it would be amazing if you could donate anything that you think would be nice to receive in a care package. Some ideas that the students

have thought of are:

- Colouring and puzzle books
- Felt tip pens, gel pens, colouring pencils
- Stationery items
- Nail polishes
- Bath and shower gels
- Hand creams
- Small table top games
- Fluffy socks

Merits

What a fantastic start to term we have had in the Senior School! This year the number of merits awarded have increased by a staggering 56.4% from the same time last year and in the last two weeks alone 2941 merits have been awarded to Senior School students. Every student has received at least two merits for their hard work and excellent commitment to learning.

A special mention must go to the following students who have received the highest number of merits in their year groups. Congratulations to you all.

Year 7

Holly (34) Scarlett (31) James (27) and Finn (27)

Year 8

Roman (21) Esme (20) and Emily (20)

Year 9

Alexa (29) and Yaseen (26)

Year 10

Ebony (20) Sophie (20) Archie (16) and Ashley (16)

Year 11

Catherine (28) Freya (27) and Afraaz (22)

Mrs Conroy

- Wool or cotton to make crafts
- Traditional sweets
- Playing cards.

We will place a box in Reception for any kind donations and ensure that the items are quarantined and sanitised before we place them in the care packages.

Thank you in advance for any support you are able to give us.

Mrs Conroy and the All Boxed Up team

THIS WEEK PHOTO GALLERY



Nursery children have been exploring different ways to create their artwork. They have used different materials and are now trying to create pictures using their hands!



Reception class have been painting some wonderful portraits this week.



Year 7 students have been developing their initial ideas for Memphis-inspired patterns in DT this week. They will be using these ideas and designs to create laser-cut acrylic windows for their table lamps.



Eshaan and Darcey have been working incredibly hard in Mathematics and have been awarded Mrs Kennedy's Maths Wizard certificate. They have challenged themselves, shown great resilience and have completed their classwork with growing confidence.



Evan in Pre-Prep proudly shared her Couch to 5K medal in class last week.



Nature Club enjoyed celebrating the Autumnal Equinox. Feasting on blackberries and noticing that the leaves are turning brown, by the time they headed back into school at 4.00pm there was a definite chill in the air. Farewell summer, hello autumn.



Thank you for your support with the children's phizz-banging Roald Dahl Day costumes! We raised over £150.00 for the author's Marvellous Children's Charity.



Making up for a summer term spent in lockdown, Year 11 students completed a quadrat ecology study in the September sunshine.



Year 12 Biologists have been continuing to develop their A-level practical skills whilst studying Biological Molecules. Today they were using a colorimeter as part of a practical to quantitatively determine the reducing sugar content in fruit juice.

UPCOMING EVENT



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

**TEESSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
YEAR 7 OPEN EVENING**

Thursday 8 October, 6.00pm-7.30pm

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www.teessidehigh.co.uk

Register now to attend our Year 7 Open Evening

Although it may seem like the academic year has only just started, we are very proud of our active transition programme which makes your child's journey to our Senior School a very seamless progression indeed. At the heart of this programme is regular touchpoints to ensure you as parents are informed and guided every step of the way.

Our Year 7 Open Evening is for both THS parents and those in the local community exploring our Senior School for their child's next step.

The informative event will start at 6.00pm; please report to the Senior Student Entrance upon arrival. Refreshments will be served prior to a short presentation, giving you an insight into life in the Senior School. Key staff will be on hand to answer your questions, including staff responsible for pastoral support, our Senior Leadership Team, some current pupils and form tutors. Due to restrictions around numbers, we kindly request that children do not attend with you, and we politely ask that all guests wear face masks inside the school building and sanitise their hands upon entry.

Although this year will look somewhat different, rest assured that we are working hard to ensure your child has access to lots of exciting opportunities to make their transition to Senior School a happy and successful one.

Please note, attendance at this event will be by registration only.

Please contact admissions@teessidehigh.co.uk to reserve your place.

Mrs Mackenzie



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