

# THIS Week



Teesside High School  
Education as it should be

## LEST WE FORGET

The Teesside High School community joined together to reflect and give thanks on Remembrance Day.

Remembrance Day is a very special day in the Teesside High School calendar. Our annual Remembrance Service is well attended by parents, grandparents, local residents, veterans and, of course, governors, staff and pupils. It is a solemn, thoughtful and moving occasion.

Overcoming many Covid challenges, we were delighted to this year present a Virtual Service of Remembrance.

Our pupils came together in their class bubbles at 10.45am on Wednesday to watch the service, reflecting and giving thought to all we have to be grateful for. The school fell silent at 11.00am.

We thoroughly enjoyed virtual vocal pieces from both our Prep Voices (*Remember* by Emily Barden) and our Senior Choir (*Et In Terra Pax* by Greg Gilpin) and thoughtful spoken presentations by Bethea WaMoyo in Year 6 and Euan Wilson in Year 11 gave us the opportunity to appreciate the freedom we enjoy today.

Head Boy Alfie Taylor Clarke led us all in The Ode of Remembrance and Eva Veluppillai, Head Girl, led whole school prayers offering the chance for pupils to join in the Lord's Prayer.

A magnificent Last Post from Lydia Wilson followed by The Rouse signified the start and end of the minute's silence.

The entire service ended with our fantastic virtual school Orchestra performing The National Anthem.

Year 11 pupils Phoebe Croft and Euan Wilson attended school in their air cadets uniform as a mark of respect.

It was wonderful to be together, yet apart, for one of our most significant events of the year.

**Miss Stephens**



# WELCOME

Pupils have returned refreshed and ready for an exciting half term.



Dare I say it? The countdown to Christmas is on!

This half term is always a favourite amongst staff and pupils. Although the days are increasingly shorter with the dark nights creeping in, we always have much to look forward to in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

The Teesside High School Remembrance Service is a much loved and poignant event, well attended by parents, families and people across our school community. In true THS spirit, Covid did not deter our will to commemorate such a special occasion; and I hope you enjoyed the virtual service we emailed home earlier this week.

As I write this, pupils in the Senior School are excitedly scurrying around the corridors making final arrangements for their Children in Need activities, which have been this year delivered in year group and class bubbles. We have seen hockey tournaments, Joe Wicks-athons, homemade merchandise stalls, gaming competitions, runs in the woods and much more. The

charitable spirit of our pupils never fails to amaze me and we look forward to sharing our final total raised with you in the coming weeks.

Indeed, the children involved in the fantastic 'Ben Nevis' climb were this week interviewed as part of BBC Radio Tees' Children in Need coverage, their interview airs later today between 4.00pm-6.00pm on the drivetime show - I hope you can tune in!

And how can we forget? Our pupils are resiliently delivering all of this, alongside their usual day-to-day lessons and co-curricular clubs and challenges, in the midst of our second national lockdown.

I do not take lightly the effects Covid-19 is having on our school community; from increasing and changing work pressures for parents, different routines and once again new policies having to be put in place at school to ensure we are all kept as safe as possible. I am so grateful for your support in these, still, unusual times.

I hope you enjoy reading the latest edition of our school newsletter which once again demonstrates the breadth of provision available across the school. It is clear we have a lot to be proud of.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs K Mackenzie, Head**



## County Hockey

Congratulations to the following Senior School pupils who have been selected to represent their county in Hockey.

Emily and Matty - Year 9

Becky, Finn and Ava - Year 10

Isabelle and Melanie - Year 11

Josh Collingwood and Luke Blackburn in Year 8 attended the first county trial but unfortunately the second trial has been cancelled due to lockdown. We wish them the very best of luck when this is rescheduled.



Upper Prep complete their Five Minute Moves for Pudsey!



Year 7 pupils enjoying their Joe Wicks-athon earlier this week.



Pupils from across the school enjoyed taking part in our usual non-uniform day for Children in Need.

## CHILDREN IN NEED

As always, the generosity of spirit in our school community has shone through today.

Since early October our students have been planning and organising how they would raise the most money they possibly could for Children in Need and, at last, the day has arrived.

More than ever, our wider community has felt the effects of this year with charitable organisations needing our donations more than ever to support the most vulnerable in our society.

This week we have climbed Ben Nevis, walked Coast to Coast, scored penalties, knitted and crocheted, been spooky in the woods, quizzed, jumped around with Joe Wicks, clambered over obstacles and created Candy-grams, all in Covid-safe bubbles in our own school and grounds.

Tasked with the challenge of raising as much money per class and tutor group as possible, our students got busy and they have, as always, amazed us with their creativity, sense of fun and

commitment to the cause.

All of this sits alongside our usual donations for attending school today in non-uniform.

Having tipped the £1000 raised mark in previous years, it looks like this year our efforts will far outstrip these totals, hitting the £2000 milestone by lunchtime. There are many more activities still to come and we cannot wait to see what the final total will be.

We are so proud of the effort and hardwork of our students and the support of their teachers to enable them to make this such a success.

**Update: we are beyond proud to announce that our current total for Children in Need stands at £3151.81! The biggest thank you to our pupils and staff who made this possible - you are all amazing.**

**Miss Stephens**



Upper Prep organised a fantastic duck race to contribute to our grand total. The children chose their favourite ducks, from Beaky Blinders to Quackman and Bobbin!



Elsewhere in Upper Prep, pupils paid to enter a slingshot competition with Mr Griffiths. It was a close contest for the top of the leaderboard.

# My First Day

A very warm welcome to all of the pupils new to Nursery this half term.

We are delighted to welcome William, Sienna, Aubrey, Harper and Aron to the Teesside High School family.

They have had a fantastic start to their time at school!

**Mrs Hannah**



## Remembering in Early Years

Early Years children joined together to make some beautiful artwork and photographs representing the poppy.

The children enjoyed sharing their minute's silence together.

**Mrs Clapton**



## Nursery Busy

### Books

Nursery children have had lots of fun finding out about Bonfire Night.

In class, they made some fantastic pictures of a bonfire and then later explored this theme further at home; in their busy books, they made pictures of all of their favourite fireworks.

The children could all recall how to stay safe on Bonfire Night and talked about this as they completed their pictures.

**Mrs Hannah**



## COMPUTATIONAL THINKING

Children in the Prep School have been taking part in the 2020 Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. The challenge is all about introducing computational thinking to children in a fun and exciting way.

Computational thinking involves using a set of problem-solving skills and techniques that software engineers use to write programs and applications.

Examples of these techniques would include the ability to break down complex tasks into simpler components, algorithm design, pattern recognition, pattern generalisation and abstraction.

Our week was launched on Monday 2 November with a virtual assembly created with the help of the Lower Prep form. In the assembly, they discussed how they would approach different problems, including completing jigsaws and sudoku puzzles, in a logical way.



Officially, the competition is designed for children in Year 2 upwards, but this year our Pre-Prep class worked together in teams, allowing Year 1 to join in with the fun, too.

Nursery and Reception class also joined in, having a go at age-appropriate puzzles, jigsaws and sequencing activities!

Pre-Prep and Prep forms completed the challenge during their Computing lessons this week and are now eagerly awaiting the results.

It has been wonderful to have all of the Prep coming together to celebrate and enjoy computational thinking.

**Miss Lockerbie**



## Holiday Camp

Bookings are now open for our forthcoming Big Adventures Holiday Camp which will run from Monday 14 December to Friday 18 December.

All children from Nursery to Year 6 are welcome to join us for a week of festive fun! We will be heading off on a virtual visit to Santa's workshop, exploring Christmas traditions from around the world and even having our very own Christmas Day!

We received some lovely feedback from parents whose children attended Holiday Camp in half term and would love to see new faces join us in December.

"They have had a fantastic time as always at Holiday Camp! Thank you so much."

"Oscar requested that in future he always goes every single day as he 'loves it'. Thank you for all of your hard work."

"Every day Evan has woken up excited and come home super happy. You deserve great credit for the Holiday Camp you have put together."

"The effort that has gone into Holiday Camp is outstanding, Maddie has loved every minute of it."

"She comes home so happy and energetic with lots of imagination and we could not be happier. Thank you to you and the team for making our little girl so happy every day."

**Miss Hall**

# Year 3 Poetry

Year 3 pupils have been studying poetry and have been writing their own versions of the poem *The Magic Box*.

The children have thought carefully about their use of description to enable them to write a poem which creates images by using alliteration, onomatopoeia and expanded noun phrases.

Lyla and Harriet would like to share their work with you.

*The Magic Box*

*I will put in my box*

*The loud scream of a baby's cry,*

*a mean meerkat with soft fur,*

*a horn from a rhino.*

*I will put in my box*

*A white snowman with a melting body,*

*a drip of water from the clean, clear River Tees,*

*a purple grape fallen from the sky.*

*I will put in my box*

*A bang from a fierce thunderstorm,*

*a scary spark exploding from a firework,*

*a fresh, lovely red rose.*

*I will put in my box*

*The sand from Egypt,*

*eight words spoken in Spanish,*

*the hair taken off a really angry jaguar.*

*My box is covered in diamonds and shiny jewels,*

*with McDonalds on the lid and nutella in the corner,*

*its locks are made out of diamonds.*

*I shall fly in my box*

*across the planet,*

*then land on a quiet island with all of my things.*

**Lyla Fox**

*The Magic Box*

*I will put in my box*

*The loud scream of a crying baby,*

*an endangered panda,*

*a tooth from a blue dolphin.*

*I will put in my box*

*A snowman with an orange carrot for a nose,*

*a drip of water from the River Tees,*

*a sweet strawberry.*

*I will put in my box*

*The soft sand from France,*

*three words spoken in French, Spanish and English,*

*the hair from a monkey.*

*I will put in my box*

*A bang from a firework,*

*a scary spark from a lightning storm,*

*the scent from a rose.*

*My box is covered in gold leaves,*

*its lock is made out of white diamonds,*

*the bottom of it is made out of sweets and chocolate.*

*I shall fly around the world*

*with a panda in my box,*

*and drink slushies!*

**Harriet Austin**



## Prep Running Club

Prep Running Club continues to test the stamina of the children, despite the rapidly darkening evenings.

This week the pupils undertook one of our 'Long Runs.' These runs can be challenging at this time of year on the school field as conditions underfoot can be a little squelchy to say the least. During this week's 'Long Run' the lead group were able to complete 5k in a respectable thirty minutes, whilst all runners managed to run multiple laps.

During our run we recorded a short video so that you can get a flavour of the conditions.

Please scan the QR code above if you would like to view part of our session on Youtube.

There are still some places in our Running Club so if you would like to join please ask your child to come and see me. We meet on Monday at 3.45pm and the club lasts for one hour.

**Mr Griffiths**



## GOING GLOBAL WITH UPPER PREP

Pupils in Upper Prep 1 have been working hard in their IPC lessons.

Their *Going Global* unit is now in full swing and the children have been considering imports and exports in more detail.

The children have studied the UK's main imports and exports and have compared them with those of China and Ghana. Some of the similarities and differences were very obvious and some took a little more consideration. Through some great discussion, the children began to appreciate some of the reasons behind the differences and similarities in traded commodities.

The children then looked at a media promotion pack from a major global company and have considered how they promote themselves including how

they make themselves appear more appealing for their target audience. With this fresh in their minds, the children were tasked with producing their own promotion material to promote the UK's main exports.

The children have approached this with enthusiasm and determination and I am very proud of their ideas and creativity. This has helped them to focus on this element of global trade and consider what makes the UK appealing for businesses.

Here are a few pictures of our children proudly showing their work.

Well done to you all, a fantastic effort!

**Mrs Kennedy**



## Arts Award

Our Upper Prep students, along with Year 7, have been working hard towards their Arts Award Discover certificate this term, as part of the Covid-adjusted Music curriculum.

Pupils have created their own junk percussion instruments and used them to learn and perform samba and funk rhythms together in their classes.

We are enjoying learning about professional percussionists and are looking forward to receiving our certificates in the coming weeks.

**Mrs Shevels**



## Year 2 English

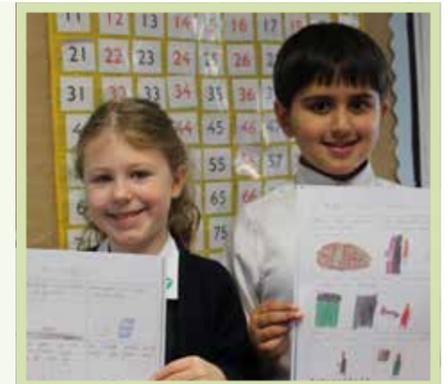
This week in English, children in Year 2 have been thinking about instructions and how to give clear instructions using imperative verbs.

They have been working really hard and were tasked to create a poster to

instruct people on how to be more eco friendly.

I was impressed by their ideas and think that we have some eco warriors for the future!

**Mrs Kennedy**



# Katy Perry visits English!

Year 11 enjoyed an impromptu singalong in their English Literature lesson this week.

As part of their preparation for the unseen poetry element of their final examination, students were asked to consider the connection between songs and poetry.

Katy Perry's *Roar* and *Firework*, as well as Taylor Swift's *Red* and Sam Smith's *Too Good at Goodbyes* were used to

practise their skills of analysis and also as a reminder that literary techniques exist beyond the pages of their GCSE set texts.

The English department also reports that there are some future singing stars in the Year 11 cohort!

**Mrs Reid**



## ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Louie Irvine in Year 8 who is our Artist of the Month for November.

Year 8 have been discovering how to draw portraits this half term, learning about proportions as well as improving their understanding of shape and tone.

While Louie struggled at first he showed an excellent ability to follow

feedback and persevere in order to create his pencil portraits, which are shown above.

Well done, Louie.

**Mrs Machan**

## Are you a poet?

An opportunity has arisen for aspiring poets in our school community between the ages of 16-18 to be heartily rewarded for their talents.

Tower Poetry is running a competition for this age group to potentially win between £3000 and £5000 for writing a poem on the theme of 'The Key'.

To find out more details please come and see a member of the English Department.

**Miss Duffy**

## Warhorse

Year 8 students are currently studying Michael Morpurgo's novel *Warhorse*. In this, Joey, a cavalry horse, narrates his experiences of the First World War to the reader. As part of their study, students were asked to write a poem from Joey's perspective lamenting the death of his friend, another horse, in battle. They have composed some very thoughtful and well crafted pieces.

**Mrs Reid**

*Incomparable*

*The other horses would be foolish;*

*To race with you,*

*To compete with you.*

*Not many could be classed as perfect,*

*But you could be.*

*Unnecessarily, you were taken,*

*For a cause that was supposed to be great.*

*Great, doesn't mean endless agony.*

*Does it ?*

**Siri Musunuru**



## THE GREAT GERMAN LANGUAGE CHALLENGE

Over half term, Year 8 students completed the Great German Language Challenge. Part of this challenge was to cook a typical dish from a German-speaking country.

We were delighted to receive several photographs of very tasty-looking food from a number of Year 8 students. Some of their food has already been shared on social media and you can see more culinary delights from other Year 8 students above.

Elsewhere in the Department, we have been very lucky this year to be able to establish links with Durham University. From this week, Year 10 students will be working on their speaking skills via Google Meet with Languages students from Durham. We hope that this will be a very fruitful project that we can build on to encourage our students to look at where languages can take them in the future.

In Prep, Felix and Franzi are continuing to help Prep pupils with their German lessons. This term, children are

learning to talk about colours in German. They are proving popular with the whole Teesside High community and are being kitted out with knitted items. Thank you to Emmeline, Holly and Emily in Year 9 for the purple scarves and to Mrs Fenny for the German flag scarves. They will be able to keep lovely and warm through the cold winter months now!

**Frau Butterfield**



## University offers

Students in Year 13 have begun to receive university offers for 2021.

Excited anticipation is growing as students see their potential futures branching out in front of them.

Teesside High School Sixth Form pupils benefit from mock interviews with academics in their field as well as internal support with application forms and personal statements. Hanah, one of our international students, followed our lockdown distance learning programme despite being in a different time zone, including joining assemblies at 11.00pm via Google Meet!

Hanah has been predicted three A\* grades and is applying for Chemistry at university. She said: "I am waiting to hear whether I've got an interview at Magdalen College, Oxford. I know they only take four people a year for each subject so it's a long shot, and one of my friends here in Teesside High School Sixth Form is applying to the same college for Psychology, so we're both in the same boat and can share our nerves."

"I've already had offers from Leeds, York and Durham which was a boost. Next week I have an interview at Imperial College, London, so it's really important to get lots of practice in advance so I can think on my feet if I have to. I'm also applying to a university in South Korea, the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, which has its own quite different application process. I've been really lucky to have experienced staff on hand who can help."

Elsewhere, students have received offers for Medicine and Psychology following the earlier UCAS deadline. Other pupils are working towards their submission on Friday 15 January and we look forward to sharing their success with you.

**Miss Bird**

# THIS WEEK PHOTO GALLERY



Children in Reception made sparklers to mark Bonfire Night. The class talked about how to handle sparklers safely by wearing gloves and putting them into a bucket of water when they have fizzled out!



Year 7 students have excelled in their English homework - Mrs Drew is super impressed! They were asked to create a model showing their interpretation of the main character from the novel Skellig. They were asked to be creative with their methods and to decorate their models with quotes. Scarlett was awarded first prize for her incredible life-sized model.



Pre-Prep class had a wonderful time at Forest School last week. They found a very special message in the woods inviting them to explore the 'Magical Kingdom'! Fairies had been along and left them a task to complete, leaving little house doors to get them started.

Iliana has been awarded a Maths Wizard certificate for her effort and determination when adding two digit numbers using column addition.



Last week's Senior team challenge was to build a tower which would support a heavy object from materials found in and around the classroom - students had great fun testing their skills! The winners in 7T (centre) built a tower at 1.19m which supported a textbook for ten seconds.



Pupils in Whizz, Pop Science Club had lots of fun when Abigail and Sophia delivered their investigation this week. They started by asking the group if they would be able to blow up a balloon without using their mouth. They proved their peers wrong and demonstrated how baking soda and vinegar mixed together creates a gas, carbon dioxide, and this inflated their balloons!



Whilst Chicken Club is postponed for the time being, a few trusty volunteers continue to take care of our feathered friends.



Ava was working from home in isolation and she typically sits next to Rajpal as her shoulder partner. When working independently during a lesson on data and graphs, she was placed with Rajpal so that they could work together as they usually would. Mrs Harrington took this picture after hearing Rajpal say 'it feels like you are really here'.



# BIG ADVENTURES HOLIDAY CAMP



October half term; Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays

Teesside High School runs an action-packed and fun-filled Holiday Camp for young children during the school holidays. Our Big Adventures Holiday Camp pupils love the wide range of activities we offer, led by qualified and experienced Teesside High School staff.

Based in the Prep School, using our full facilities and grounds, we offer: ■ Woodland School sessions ■ Sports Days ■ Cinema experiences ■ Party games ■ Super scooter races ■ Movie making ■ Trips and visits ■

We love seeing new faces join our exciting holiday programme.

Please contact us to enquire about availability for the next Holiday Camp; call **01642 782095** or email **INFO@TEESSIDEHIGH.CO.UK**

**WWW.TEESSIDEHIGH.CO.UK**



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