

THiS Week



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

DISTANCE LEARNING DIARY

I am so impressed with our pupils' approach and attitude to learning from home once again.

Teesside High School students have shown fantastic spirit and expert resilience, approaching their distance learning with confidence. Parental feedback has been very positive; we have taken on board your comments from the first lockdown and boosted our distance learning provision to great effect. We are now delivering almost 6000 live lessons using Google Meet across the school each week, and I know this consistency and live interaction with teachers makes learning from home a lot easier to manage.

Engagement across the school is extremely high; from yesterday's calculations, over 98% of pupils are actively learning from home every single day.

Despite the shock cancellation of most summer examinations, the tenacity shown by Year 11-13 pupils has been remarkable; many have been sitting mock examinations online, invigilated by staff in school. You continue to make us so proud in the face of adversity.

It goes without saying that all of this could not be delivered without a team of enthusiastic staff, who are in school and online every day to assist pupils with their learning, particularly with a keen eye on progress to ensure that no Teesside High School pupil is disadvantaged following this pandemic.

I am super grateful for your support as we adapt to the ever-changing requirements thrown our way!

Mrs Mackenzie

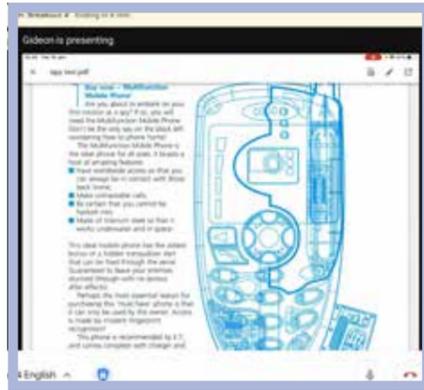


Year 4 English

As part of their usual English lessons, Year 4 children regularly use Drama to explore topics, including activities such as 'becoming the expert'.

In class, children work with a partner to find out about their subject, then plan and perform an interview between a journalist and an expert on the subject in question. This has worked well over a range of topics including becoming dragon experts, unicorn experts and stick insect experts, to name just a few!

It has been wonderful to be able to use breakout rooms in Google Meet to continue this paired work, with



great success. During an activity this afternoon it was great to pop in on Gideon and Evie using the 'present screen' feature to make working together even easier!

I am very proud of just how quickly Year 4 have adapted to their new ways of learning and the independence they have demonstrated in doing so.

Miss Lockerbie



Nursery and Key Worker Forest School

Our Nursery and Key Worker pupils (Prep) have been making the most of our Forest School over the last three weeks!

With new faces in Nursery, our older pupils have enjoyed showing them around the woods and introducing them to the rules and boundaries of Forest School through our woodland conga! A special mention must go to Giavanna who made sure that Priya's first trip to Forest School was particularly fun, showing her the mud

kitchen to great surprise. Giavanna asked Priya to close her eyes and led her up to the kitchen...Priya's look of excitement and delight is definitely one to remember!

Our Key Worker children have also loved their weekly trip to the woods as part of their enrichment and outdoor activity. It has been wonderful seeing our eldest Prep pupils playing and helping our youngest - a real family effort!

Miss Hopkins



It's Shocking!

Pre Prep class are really embracing their new IPC unit of work, *It's Shocking*.

We began with our knowledge harvest which allowed the children to showcase their prior knowledge of electricity. The children came up with naming things which use electricity and also discussed how electricity can be dangerous. Some children even discussed how they think the sun produces electricity. Following this, the children have been learning all about electric circuits and investigating how different circuits can affect the brightness of a bulb. They very quickly discovered that more batteries resulted in the bulb being brighter.

This week our work has taken us a step further and we have been exploring static electricity. There was great excitement during our class Google Meet when we all had our balloons and we were experimenting to see if we could use the balloon to pick up different types of paper. Later this week we are going to making tin foil popcorn using our balloons. Watch this space to see if we are successful!

Miss Hall

MAKING THINGS GO!

The children in Upper Prep 1 are now well underway with their new topic, *Making things go!*

Last week, the children made anemometers and completed tests around the school grounds to investigate the best place to locate a wind turbine. They drafted some excellent reports to explain their preferences, as well as the reasons for rejecting the other sites.

This week our learning has moved onto considering solar energy. The children have learnt how solar panels work and the advantages and disadvantages of solar energy. Over the last couple of lessons they have made solar ovens to see if they would make the chocolate melt. We set up the experiment and, as sunshine was not in abundance, we improvised with a heat lamp to



replicate the sun (see our video on Facebook!) We have also considered why we used cling film, black card and tin foil in the making process, thinking about the importance of reflecting and absorbing the sun's light and insulating the oven. The children were delighted to see that the chocolate had melted and we even more thrilled when they got to taste it!

All of these activities have been completed both in school and at home by our distance learners. We have maximised the use of technology to keep our home learners fully involved and to provide opportunities to collaborate during discussion work.

Mrs Kennedy

Little Red Riding Hood

Last week the children in Reception class looked closely at the story *Little Red Riding Hood*.

The children produced some wonderful writing, Mathematics and topic work both at home and school.



Some children made wonderful cottages for Grandma to sleep in; Sophie even built an electronic circuit to turn the class dolls' house into a comfortable cottage with lights!

Constance shocked her friends on



Upper Prep Animation

In their online Computing lessons, Upper Prep 1 and 2 have been exploring animation over the last two weeks.

The pupils have been using Lego and the animation app Stop Motion Studio in order to produce a short movie, no longer than one minute in length.

Finished videos will not be ready for several weeks as there has been much to think about before the filming process can even begin!

For example, the room set up is crucial and must be consistent if the films are to have no background 'flicker.' Pupils also created storyboards outlining what will happen in their film before starting.

Pierre has made a promising start. Please click on the link below to view the first few seconds of his movie.

<https://youtu.be/Hg6TjRSmeRY>

Mr Griffiths

Google Meet by disclosing what was hiding behind the front door of her cottage created at home...the Big Bad Wolf!

Mrs Clapton



Enriching our lockdown days

I am sharing a series of enrichment ideas in my Monday Pastoral Bulletin to enhance and support our distance learning experience for students.

Monday is the general knowledge quiz which students can take part in alone or with the family, some have even competed this with grandparents via Zoom!

On Tuesday, pupils are encouraged to pick up a book and read for a while; reading strengthens writing skills, improves memory, enhances imagination and stimulates the brain as well as boosting mood, lowering stress and helping us to relax.

Workout Wednesday encourages students to move more; going for a local walk or bike ride or following a yoga class online.

Thinking Thursday, and a link to a puzzle site with lots of crosswords,



sudoku and word searches to get the brain working and, finally, Fantastical Friday and a veritable rabbit hole of art, architecture and cultural nuggets to fall into and explore; taking a virtual tour of the Eiffel Tower or enjoying an immersive diving experience, for example.

We hope this is a welcome addition to our curriculum and supports students in getting through the challenges of another lockdown.

Well done to all those who have had a go at the activities this week, your emails and photographs have been fantastic to see.

Another way of us being apart, together.

Miss Stephens

CILIP Carnegie Medal 2021

The Carnegie Medal is a prestigious award given to books which are recognised for providing an outstanding reading experience for children and young people. THS has taken part in the school's shadowing group for this award for many years and will do so again this year.

This year's official shortlist will not be announced until March but for those of you looking for some reading inspiration before this, there is a list of this year's nominees on the Carnegie website: <https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/cilip-carnegie-medal-nominated-titles-2021/>

The books always present something different and often bring to our attention some of the best literature currently available. Last year's shadowing group was particularly struck by the story presented in *Black Flamingo* by Dean Atta and he has since received much praise for his work in the national press.

Any students that would like to be part of this year's shadowing group, meeting once a week to discuss the nominated novels, recording their thoughts on our blog and presenting our nominations to the Carnegie judging panel, should contact Mrs Reid.



Escape Room

This week has seen Year 8 completing their End of Unit Assessments. In order to help them to do revision with a difference, they completed an exciting 'Escape Room' activity.

Based on the popular real-life Escape Room, students had to click on five keys hidden in the German virtual classroom and solve clues that provided letters which, when unjumbled, formed a code. Once all code numbers were found, students had to put them into some locked padlocks in order to escape! I was very impressed at all of the budding Alan Turings who were determined to crack the code...and thoroughly revise for their assessments!

We have a busy half term planned in the MFL department. Our Durham University Languages Club students are continuing to join lessons virtually to work on speaking skills with Year 10 and 12 linguists; we are looking forward to hearing Abbie Smith's podcast that she made on her virtual work experience through the Goethe Institute and Year 7 are, this week, embarking upon an Art project which will culminate in them producing their own response to some famous paintings in preparation for our International Week later in the school year.

As ever, we in the MFL department are constantly delighted and feel a real sense of pride in the skills that all of our linguists demonstrate both inside and outside of lessons.

DESIGNING THEIR FUTURE

Having no access to the workshop doesn't stop the Design Technology department at THS!

Over the last two weeks, students in Years 7 and 8 have been working towards an entry for this year's Design Ventura competition. A live brief set by the Design Museum, London, asked pupils to use Yink Ilori as inspiration to design a product which could be sold in their iconic museum shop. Students had to choose a target market of either students, children, design enthusiasts or families, and also had to try to incorporate environmental, educational or social issues into their ideas. As ever, our pupils have produced a fantastic array of concepts from hand drawn designs to 3D models; we look forward to seeing where their entries take them in due course.

Elsewhere in the department, our older year groups have been working incredibly hard with their distance learning. Year 9 students have continued their architecture project

by practising perspective drawing techniques, creating a concept to present alongside their scale model when they return to school. Year 10 pupils have been developing their CAD skills using Google Sketch Up and other applications which help maintain their progress whilst learning from home.

In the kitchen, Food and Nutrition practicals continue remotely. GCSE students have completed trial examination dishes focused around nutrition for the elderly and international street food, whilst Year 10 cracked on with some impressive food science investigations.

Key Stage 3 students begin their Food studies this week and will be creating lasagne and calzone, whilst Year 7 will attempt a ragu sauce. Although we will miss the smell of your creations drifting through the corridors, we cannot wait to see your delicious dishes from home!



As always, demonstrations will be provided ahead of these lessons. Good luck to our budding chefs!

Miss Storey

Distance Learning in Drama

It has been a busy start to the term in Drama, where schemes of work have been adapted to ensure our pupils maintain momentum whilst learning from home.

In Year 7, students have been exploring how to write and perform a monologue. Here's an example of an amazing performance that we have been analysing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pusU90ov8pQ&t=94s>

Meanwhile, Year 8 have been working on a virtual performance script called *Quarantine Scenes*. This play, written and designed to be performed online, is a collection of scenes of life in lockdown. One imagines how our pets might talk to each other online!

Year 9 students have been investigating our fantastic resource

of Drama Online. Specifically, the National Theatre's production of *Peter Pan*, featuring amazing performances and design.

Design has also been a key feature of our work in Year 10. Dennis Kelly's *DNA*, our key text, was first designed and performed at the National Theatre and we've been learning about these Original Performance Conditions (OPC).

Year 11 GCSE Drama students, meanwhile, have been getting to grips with their Component 2 performance texts. These will include extracts from *Blood Brothers* and *The Dumb Waiter*.

And finally, Year 12 A-level Drama and Theatre students have been working really hard adapting the text *The Maids* using the ideas and vision



of key British Theatre Practitioner, Steven Berkoff.

A great big well done to all THS Drama students for their engagement and creativity - you really are a pleasure to work with!

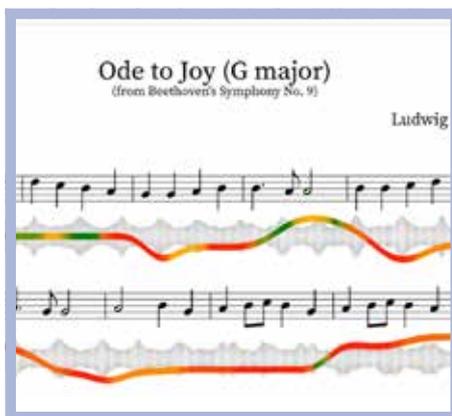
Mr Coates

MAKING MUSIC

Senior Music students have been getting to grips with a range of new software programmes and applications that allow us to continue incorporating practical music making even whilst at home.

KS3 classes have enjoyed exploring a wide variety of links to activities through Mrs Shevels' new Virtual Classroom, allowing them to use virtual instruments, compose melodies and experiment with creating chords as well as develop important music theory skills.

We have also been exploring Noteflight, a web-based music notation software that can be used in so many different ways to aid the musical development of all our students. This is similar to programmes we already use in school but is easily accessed by students at



home and links seamlessly with Google Classroom, making it the perfect tool for online learning during these challenging times.

We can set performance pieces to be rehearsed and recorded for assessment, set composition tasks that are differentiated to the individual ability with helpful starting points and the scores produced are so professional that they can even be submitted for formal examinations such as GCSE Music and the BTEC Extended Certificate in Music Performance.

Mrs Shevels and Mrs Connor

Update from PE

GCSE Sports Studies have demonstrated a mature and responsive start to 2021.

Having invested a conscious amount of time to revise over the festive break, we put this revision to good use during a remote topic mock examination, allowing students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of Paper Two's Psychology content. There were incredibly pleasing results all round. Callum, Zara and George all scored over 90% and Maia excelled with 100%.

The students also worked tirelessly before the Christmas break to complete their NEA coursework. Mr Thomas and I are incredibly proud of their engagement and effort as we continue to study and progress through Paper Two content looking at Commercialisation and Socio-cultural Influences.

A-level Physical Education students also continue their hard work from home.

Rohan and Adrianna are finishing off the 'Violence in Sport' element of the course and are looking at the final parts of their coursework, now applying aspects of the theory work in order to improve any weaknesses identified in the analysis section.

Year 12 students, Liam, Millie, Millie and Megan, have all made a fantastic start to the two year course and appear to be really enjoying the content. Last week they completed a mini mock examination and the results were excellent; well done and keep up the hard work.

Miss Turnbull



Duke of Edinburgh - Against the odds!

Despite working from a distance, our intrepid Duke of Edinburgh candidates continue to make progress with their Awards.

To Christmas we were delighted to have fulfilled all classroom training sessions with Mountain Activity Company and Miss Hopkins, only needing to postpone two of our scheduled hill training sessions which we will reorganise once it is safe and appropriate to

do so.

The Skill, Voluntary and Physical sections of the award continue in earnest and it has been fantastic to see our students take advantage of the DofE With A Difference offer and 'blend' their programmes.

Some have switched their volunteering to support younger siblings with online learning, Physical has become GPS-tracked bike rides and

runs in their locality and Skills embrace online learning of instruments, dance and languages. Bravo to our candidates!

Particular well done to those who have finished their first three month sections; Lydia Wilson (Bronze Physical/Volunteering), Thea Poole (Bronze Skill/Volunteering) and Maia Bausor (Silver Skill). Well done and keep up the good work.

Miss Stephens

