

THiS Week



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

HAPPY HALF TERM!

A rather unusual - but no less enjoyable - half term draws to a close.

As we approach a week away from school without the usual distractions a half term holiday would bring, it is a great time to reflect on the last six weeks - and what an unusual six weeks it has been.

With just a day's notice to close the school to all but key worker children, I must start my introduction with enormous thanks to the Teesside High School staff team, who have adapted to the numerous enforced changes since Christmas.

We all had a taste of 'working from home' last week when the school suffered what we hoped would be a small gas leak. I must say, after just one day I had a renewed respect for parents juggling their usual day-to-day jobs and home learning! Your support has been unwavering this half term and for this, I am so grateful.

Repair work to fix the faulty pipework at the front of school continues. The site staff have worked so hard, day and night in often freezing conditions, to get to the bottom of the issue. Half term should give us the chance to ensure a return to normality at the front of school.

The snowy weather has provided a somewhat more enjoyable environment for our key worker children, who have revelled in the grounds this week. It is wonderful to hear them having such a fun time at school and we all long for the day, hopefully in the not too distant future, when our fields, classrooms and corridors echo with the sound of pupils once again.

I await the Prime Minister's announcement later this month with my fingers crossed for a phased return from Monday 8 March and it goes without saying I will stay in touch to update you as soon as we know more.

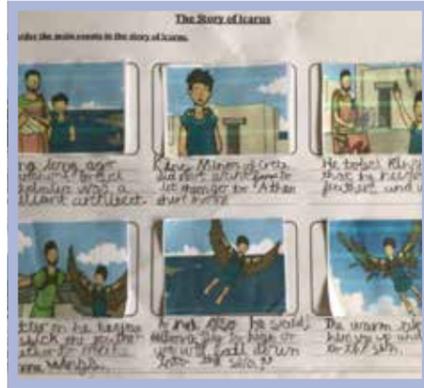
Wishing you a wonderful and restful break.

Mrs Mackenzie



Greek Myths

In English, Year 3 writers have immersed themselves in the Greek Mythological story of Icarus and have completed a range of reading and writing tasks to deepen their understanding.



So far, the children can accurately retell the main events and can share their insights into the characters' thoughts and feelings.

children and they cannot wait to write their own version. I wonder if King Minos will lock them in the Labyrinth or if they will be chased by a minotaur?

This story has proven popular with the

Mrs Bryson

Happy Valentine's Day!

Nursery children have had lots of fun exploring Valentine's Day this week.



They shared some lovely stories, their favourite being 'Guess how much I love you' by Sam McBratney.

I love my Mummy lots because she does everything - Alfie

The children then made love hearts for their loved ones and thought about why they loved them. They drew pictures and wrote messages, before attaching their creations to the EYFS fence so that they could be shared with their families at home time.

I love my Mummy lots because she puts her work things on by herself - Evie

I love my Mummy and Daddy lots because they give me lots of cuddles - Harper

I love my Mummy and Daddy lots because they like snowflakes - Maddie-Bee

I love my Mummy and Daddy lots because they draw with me - Aubrey

I love Mummy because she gives me ice lollies - Sienna

I love my Mummy, Daddy and Ronnie lots because we go to the beach together - William

I love my Mummy lots because she gives me milk - Priya

I love my Mummy because we hug together - Aron

See more comments on our EYFS blog.

Mrs Hannah



Able, Gifted and Talented

On Friday 12 March, our Prep Able, Gifted and Talented (AG&T) children will experience a Q&A session with Beverley Goodall, who has twenty years' experience in the accounting sector and, in 2018, set up AbacusBean to follow her dreams of running her own practice.

Pupils will have the opportunity to have a discussion with Beverley about her career route and success story with an aim to raise their awareness and aspirations for their own successful futures.

We look forward to sharing this event with you very soon.

Mrs Bryson

DLotW Award

Congratulations to our Distance Learner of the Week award winners for the first half of the spring term!

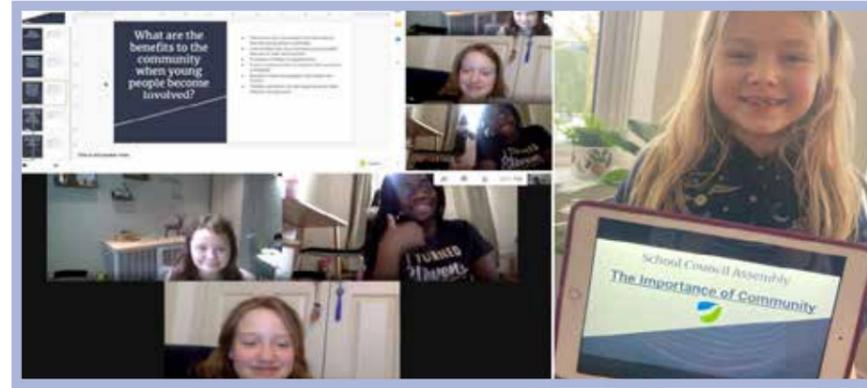
w/c 11 January - Ellie Charlton and Oliver Mash

w/c 18 January - Bethea WaMoyo and Megan Humble

w/c 1 February - Martha Shakesheff and Grace Dye

w/c 8 February - Harriet Austin and Isobel Machan.

Mrs Harrington



PREP SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our Council representatives are continuing to work hard despite the current challenges of lockdown.

Prep School Council met recently to discuss the importance of community. This discussion included the benefits to both young people and communities when young people become involved, how we can help our school community and how we can extend this to help and support our local community. The children were tasked with preparing an assembly that we will hopefully be able to deliver either in person, or virtually, later in the term.

1 spent time sharing their thoughts. It was fantastic to see that Harriet had been busy adding to our presentation having discussed some of her ideas at home with her mum. I am very impressed with these girls, they have made a super start to creating an informative and inspiring assembly and we are looking forward to seeing the ideas of the remaining members of the Prep School Council before completing a final edit of our presentation.

Later, the class reps from Upper Prep

Mrs Kennedy

The Invisible String

After sharing the book *The Invisible String* in their Guided Reading lesson, Reception and Pre-Prep children thought carefully about which people are special to them and who is on their 'invisible string'.

They thought about friends and families, especially those which they are unable to see at the moment.

The children all took from the story the lovely thought that, even if people



Upper Prep IPC

Upper Prep 1 class is continuing their IPC unit, *Making Things Go!*, with enthusiasm. Having completed lots of work on solar and wind energy, this week we have turned our attention to tidal energy and the benefits of this form of energy production for island nations such as the UK. Ryan has worked incredibly hard to produce this lovely poster to showcase his learning, explaining clearly how tidal energy produces electricity and how the gravitational pull of the moon affects the tides. Well done, Ryan, super work!

Mrs Kennedy

are not near, they are still with us.

Evan, Eemaan and Phyllis then each created a beautiful string to show all the people who are special to them.

Mrs Clapton and Miss Hall



Addressing STEM subject statistics

As the offers continue to come in for our university applicants, it is interesting to look at the figures released by UCAS every year and reflect on these with our own students, who are about to encounter what they mean in reality.

Laura in Year 13 is applying to read engineering at university. In her personal statement, she said: "My interest in engineering was sparked a few years ago watching Grand Designs: an eco project that involved building a brick arch as the roof of the house. This had to be calculated; it needed to support itself and not fall, stressing its balance. Soil was placed in the centre of the arch to provide insulation; it had to be carefully tipped on either side at the same time. The amount of precise engineering fascinated me. Whilst looking around various building sites on work experience, I observed how infrastructure was developing. It was really interesting to see the groundworks like the sewers being built, invisible at the end but key for the building to work and remain stable. Inside the site office I learnt about all the different plans and shadowed an architectural technician. I arranged houses, roads and green spaces on a model site paying attention to the positioning of trees. I started designing a two storey house on AutoCAD 2016 learning about the importance of positioning. Both these days gave me an insight into construction.

"Similarly in Physics, I enjoy seeing the theory shine through in practical lessons; taking values from an oscilloscope, performing a calculation before plotting a graph. When I discovered that the calculation wouldn't work for all my values due to the limitation of $\ln(x)$, I had to evaluate what data I was measuring and then



repeat the experiment. I love using prototypes and experimenting until I can succeed with a design or a project."

I asked Laura about her thoughts on the fact that, while the number of girls studying STEM subjects at A-level has narrowly overtaken boys nationally, those studying engineering at university will still find 81 men on the course for every 19 women.

"Engineering is still perceived as a male profession," Laura said. "It is still not commonplace to see women out on building sites with hard hats and boots. I was conscious that more males than females apply to study engineering, but THS Sixth Form has strong female role models and representation in STEM subjects is high. In fact, most of our STEM subject teachers are female. I think school has certainly encouraged me to apply for engineering. I feel very positive: even if only 8% of engineers in the workforce are female, I'm not intimidated, it actually encourages me to help redress the balance".

I recalled asking an academic, when I was an undergraduate myself at Durham, about female representation in the department, and being told there were plenty of women involved in the department - as cleaners and secretaries! Surely times have changed, and our students are moving into a more gender-balanced undergraduate experience?

Read Miss Bird's full blog on the school website - available now.



THS Sporting Challenge

We have had some great entries to the THS Sporting Challenge this half term.

It has been lovely to see entries from our youngest pupils in Pre-Prep to our oldest students in the Senior School and Sixth Form.

For our points challenge we have Joseph Jackson leading the way for Pre-Prep; we were really impressed to see Joe taking on Roseberry Topping - via his stairs at home!

Poppy Brion is top of the class in the Prep School with her sporting picture, online workout and for also climbing Roseberry Topping inside.

Oliver Mash is beating his Senior competitors by completing 10,000 steps for seven days; Oliver enjoyed this challenge so much he has managed to achieve 10,000 steps for 14 days straight!

Georgia Taylor is impressing in the tricky plank challenge with 2 mins 32 seconds, and Ben Graham has most burpees in one minute - 34.

A special mention must go to Isobel Leighton who has impeccable burpee technique!

Well done everyone, it's great to see you all progressing with your training at home.

Miss Turnbull

VIRTUAL MUSICAL

Music and Drama Departments join forces!

Following in the footsteps of the many high quality virtual events produced at THS throughout this pandemic, Mr Coates and I now face a new challenge of creating a virtual musical production in place of our usual show in March.

After much consideration, we decided on *Pantastic*, a musical version of the well-known and much-loved *Peter Pan* story. Students in Year 7 will soon be hard at work learning a specially abridged version of the script and songs and will begin filming their parts in the coming weeks. Having developed our use of technology more than ever before this year, we are again reaching even further to explore the many different ways in which we will need to record and edit the students' acting and singing together to form this very special show. Using various platforms such as Google Meet, iMovie and Audacity, plus a whole host of



screencast technology to capture the very best of the rehearsals and performances in lessons, it's not just the students who are on an enormous learning journey this year!

With the help of Mr Connor's digital expertise, this promises to be a wonderful production for all to enjoy. Join us as we go on an adventure with Peter, the Darling children, Tinkerbell and Hook, a crew of pirates, some lost boys and even a man-eating crocodile! The virtual curtain goes up on Friday 26 March, 6.30pm, via a private link to parents.

Mrs Shevels



Art Update

Students are making great progress in Art this term. In Year 7, those drawing animals have taken advantage of the ability to use their own pets as models, something we could never do in school - as much as I might like a classroom full of cats and dogs, we might not get much work done!

Students in Year 11 are working hard to complete their portfolios. Some have a house full of art materials but others have had to be inventive when deciding how to best complete their work. Many are successfully using a variety of drawing and painting apps such as Adobe Sketch and Procreate to produce art in a different way. I am proud of how hard they are working to produce creative and original work.

Mrs Machan

Food and Nutrition

It has been an exciting couple of weeks for our younger Senior students in Food Preparation and Nutrition. After their rotation from DT, they have all started to put their new skills to the test within their own kitchens at home.

For many of our Year 7 students this is their first taste of food preparation skills and we have had a lot of enthusiasm on our virtual lessons as they develop their basic cutting techniques. This was strengthened in their first practical when making a ragu sauce, a staple for many family meals.

In Year 8, students have learnt about different types of protein, building on their food science knowledge. They then completed two practical lessons focused on the safe preparation of meat. We are sure their lasagne dishes were a wonderful winter warmer for their families!

Year 9 students have been continuing their studies whilst travelling virtually around the world, exploring different dishes and ingredients from various countries. This week the students have been making their own fresh pasta and thinking about how we can add natural colouring to dried pasta



and, interestingly, the theories around where pasta actually originated; was it Asia or Italy?

Miss Storey

PODCAST PERFECT!

Back in October, Abbie in Year 12 took part in a 'Virtual Work Experience' through the Goethe Institute where she made a podcast with other A-level German students from around the country.

Together with her fellow podcast creators, Abbie interviewed Nick Brumsack, a bilingual journalist who works interviewing footballers. Abbie's podcast has now been published and can be heard on the Goethe Institute's website here:

https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/m/spr/unt/kum/dfj/pod.html?wt_sc=UK_SagsMirPodcast

Abbie's is Folge #4 Deutsch und Sport.

In addition, Abbie also recently attended Cambridge University's Undergraduate Conference in German Studies where she took part in a range of workshops in English and German, a drop-in session for Sixth Form students to find out about life at university studying a language and a Q&A session on possible careers. In her own words, Abbie said: "There were talks from different undergraduate students about topics that they were interested in, such



as: jokes during the GDR; exploring different literary texts (including one by Goethe which was fascinating!); Queer culture vs. Fascism; German colonialism and the role of women during Nazi Germany. There was also a film screening of *Auf den zweiten Blick* (2012), which was directed by Sheri Hagen, who then took part in the conference to give an inspiring keynote speech about the film and her personal experiences as a woman of colour in the film industry."

Lower down the school, students in Years 7-9 have been preparing for our forthcoming international week which has been re-scheduled for June, designing their own superheroes and creating their own versions of famous paintings. We cannot wait to share with you the outstanding work that our Teesside High School linguists are completing at the moment.

Frau Butterfield

Year 11 RE

Year 11 students have embarked upon their studies of the theme of 'Religion, Crime and Punishment'.

Students have been involved in some great philosophical questions such as 'What are morals and how do we judge if something is immoral?', 'Are all criminals evil?', 'What are the aims of punishment?' and 'Can corporal punishment ever be justified?'

Students have needed to consider many philosophical viewpoints including moral realism and moral antirealism, Kantianism and utilitarianism and metaethics.

The culmination of this led students to take part in a decision-making exercise where they were placed in the role of a member of the Sentencing Review Board of individuals who had been found guilty of committing various crimes during the English Riots of 2011.

Students had to consider the role that each individual had taken within the riots, the severity of the crime and what their aims would be in punishing these crimes.

They then held a debate about the decisions made by other groups and whether the punishments decided would be agreed upon by religious groups.

Excellent and mature work by Year 11, well done.

Mr Meyerhoff

Drama

I am pleased to share a few visual updates from some of our work in the Drama Department.

Here you can see Year 10 design work on our set text of *DNA*, monologue rehearsals with Year 7, *Quarantine*

Scenes video extracts performed by Year 8 and examples of Year 9 crocodile junk modelling inspired by the National Theatre's production of *Peter Pan*.

Students in Years 11 and 12 also continue to

work hard on their assessed pieces.

My thanks again to our wonderful Drama students for all their hard work this half term.

Mr Coates

