

THiS Week



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

STEM WEEK 2021

I am delighted to inform you of an exciting opportunity for your family to get involved in Teesside High School's STEM Week, beginning on Monday, 22 March.

This year, I am pleased to invite you to take part in our whole school **STEM Photography Competition**. To enter, you simply have to submit a photograph which fits one of three STEM themes:

- Home Chemistry experiment;
- Physics phenomenon; or
- My Teesside Tree of the Year.

Photographs are welcomed for each of the following categories: Pre-Prep (Nursery-Year 2), Prep School (Years 3-6), Senior School (Years 7-11), Sixth Form and Staff, and Parent. The closing date for entries is Monday 19 April at 4.00pm.

To enter, please email your photograph to me via sgoodman@teessidehigh.co.uk (Senior School, Sixth Form and Parent entries) or mgriffiths@teessidehigh.co.uk (Pre-Prep and Prep entries). Please attach the photograph and in the body of the email write your name and your House (if applicable), the theme and the category you are entering. You may enter ONE photograph – choose your best! Your photograph may be portrait or landscape orientation, and must be received by the deadline.

There will be three winners selected for each category. Each winner's photograph will feature in our newsletter and on school social media. There will also be a certificate for each winner and every photograph entered will earn points towards the House competition.

We hope you enjoy this opportunity to unite your family's creative and scientific talents!

Ms Goodman



Pictured: Last year's winning STEM photography entries from Joseph Good (top) and Layla Key (bottom).

WELCOME

A warm welcome back to school and to our fortnightly school newsletter!



morning of school on both a Monday and Thursday. Our staff have been trialling this arrangement for two weeks now, with great success.

I am sure I do not need to stress the importance of home testing, and that it is carried out at the right time, effectively and robustly. These efforts, whilst a small inconvenience, truly help to ensure the safety of our school community. They will also allow us to ensure as normal a summer term as possible!

With the summer in mind, it has been an absolute pleasure to see our pupils enjoying the great weather this week; with PE lessons in the grounds, filming for RE projects outdoors as well as the usual fun in Forest School. This, in addition to their full complement of academic lessons, virtual Hustings, School Council meetings, socialising with their friends over lunch, Comic Relief fundraising and everything else in between! I am sure we will never take these 'normal' things for granted again.

This newsletter shows just a flavour of what our students have been up to over the last two weeks and it is as action-packed as ever. We are thrilled to be back doing what we love most.

With best wishes for a great weekend.

Mrs K Mackenzie, Head

Huge thanks to everyone in our school community for their support and patience as we have navigated another hurdle in this very turbulent pandemic - the return to school!

The return of all pupils from Monday 8 March appears to have been as seamless a process as we could have hoped, and it is wonderful to have the children enjoying their usual school routines once more.

Over 96% of the Senior School and Sixth Form body are being tested twice weekly for Covid-19, and this routine will continue for our final week of the spring term. I am sure I speak on behalf of everyone when I pass on my sincere thanks to the volunteer team of parents and grandparents who have visited school almost every day to complete testing with our pupils - we could not have got through the last few weeks without you.

Our testing arrangement will move to its next phase during the Easter holiday, with pupils in Years 7-13 bringing testing kits home to carry out this procedure either the night before or the



Playing to win!

It has been brilliant seeing pupils enjoying being active following their return to school. A variety of bootcamps, pre-season athletics and skills sessions have all been completed this week as we prepare for the sporting summer term.

We are looking forward to the rounders, cricket and athletics seasons commencing after the Easter break.

Miss Turnbull



EARLY GCSE SUCCESS

We are delighted to share with you the outstanding achievements of two Year 11 students, Mazie and Isabelle.

Both Mazie and Isabelle sat their GCSE Mathematics examination early this year - and in quite unusual circumstances, too, as the examination took place just as school was forced to close at the start of January's lockdown.

Both girls received their results earlier this month, an incredible grade 8 for

Mazie and grade 9 for Isabelle!

Mazie and Isabelle will now focus their attention on their GCSE Further Mathematics assessment in the summer.

Well done, girls.

Mrs Mardon



Duke of Edinburgh Award

We have been very impressed with our Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh participants this term; many of whom have overcome the challenges of lockdown to continue working hard on their Skill, Physical and Volunteering award sections.

We have had a range of activities being completed during the

last few weeks; physical tasks such as running, cycling and HITT workouts for this aspect of the award.

For the Skill section, pupils have been producing some excellent looking meals, learning the piano or creating fantastic works of art.

Students have been especially creative with their volunteering activities; teaching

languages over Zoom, litter picking around their local area and shopping for elderly relatives or neighbours, to name just a few examples.

A particular well done to Mazie McKenna, Freya Williams, Rachael Turner and Gracie Dye, who have all finished a section of their award this half term.

Miss Hopkins



Forest School

I would like to thank all of our parents for supporting the children's Forest School learning whilst at home during lockdown.

It was wonderful to see our pupils produce a number of wonderful creations; ice decorations, a forest guardian, nature music and lovely nature mandalas.

Miss Hopkins

Busy Bears!

Nursery children have enjoyed finding out about bears this week, and have painted pictures of their favourite types of bears.

Aubrey decided to paint a picture of a brown bear and a bear cub.

Some children painted polar bears and pandas!

The children looked closely at the colours they would need to create their bears and worked hard on adding detail.

Great work, Nursery!

Mrs Hannah



Mother's Day

We hope our mums enjoyed their lovely Mother's Day treats last week! To follow on from this special occasion, Reception class have been asking their Mummy what makes them happy. There has been some lovely work in our home learning busy books this week.

Mrs Clapton



Elmer the Elephant

This week in Nursery the children have been exploring *Elmer the Elephant* stories.

They have found out lots of facts about elephants and learnt a new song - *Elephants Have Wrinkles!*

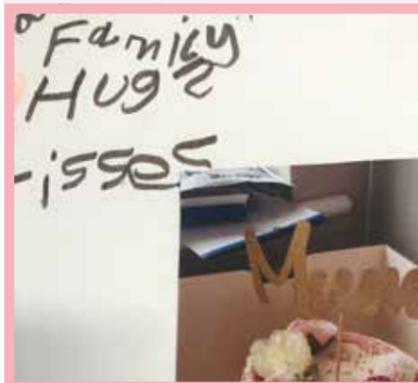
The children loved Elmer so much that they each made their own colourful elephant.

They experimented with colour mixing using paints and had fun mixing blue, red and yellow to create orange, purple and green.



They also made their own elephant face masks!

Mrs Hannah



WELCOME BACK PRE-PREP!

Everyone in Pre-Prep class has thoroughly enjoyed being back together at school.

The classroom has been filled with fun and laughter as we have all been enjoying the company of each other once again.

In our PSHE lesson, we paused to think about how we can remain positive despite these unusual times. We created our own 'Tiny books of positive thoughts'.



Once complete, we popped the miniature books safely in our pockets so whenever we need a little 'pick me up' or a reminder of all the things which we can be positive about, our book is close to hand. There is most definitely a lot to be positive about in Pre-Prep class at THS!

Miss Hall



British Sign Language

Lower Prep have been developing their sign language skills in Music as we look ahead to both British Sign Language Week and school STEM week, where the children are looking at the diversity of people, including those with low vision and hearing difficulties.

Held annually, Sign Language Week is a week organised by the British Deaf Association (BDA) to promote

awareness of issues affecting sign-language users.

I really enjoy using my Level 2 British Sign Language qualification to explore this silent world with pupils.

First, they learn the sign for every letter of the alphabet so that they could then fingerspell their names, one letter at a time. They practised this by doing simple greetings with each other; signing 'Hello, how are

you?' and asking and spelling each other their names.

After singing through the song, *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, the children then learned sign language for this song and will practise multi-tasking of the highest level in order to sing and sign simultaneously! Super concentration - well done, everyone!

Mrs Shevels



Legends

Following on from their work looking at the mythical story of *Icarus*, Year 3 pupils have been discussing the similarities and differences between myths and legends and have recently been introduced to a British legend, **Robin Hood**.

Pupils have enjoyed sharing some of the story together and have deepened their understanding of the characters, including Little John, Maid Marion and Friar Tuck, to name a few. They have enjoyed a range of reading and writing tasks involving the legend and have finished the unit by retelling a short scene that describes where Robin Hood and Little John met for the very first time.

Harriet would like to share her work with you:

As they travelled through the forest, Robin Hood and his Merry Men came to a rushing river. The wide river was surrounded by thick, dark trees - anything could have been hiding in them! It was called Sherwood Forest and it was where Robin Hood and his Merry Men lived.

Robin Hood was wearing a long, brown tunic with lots of layers to protect himself. At the other side of the wide river, he saw a tall, dark stranger with a long, rough beard who looked like



Hagrid from Harry Potter.

Robin wanted to cross the low, stoned ledge but Little John stood in his way and he wanted a fight. He threw Robin a wooden quarterstaff and began to swing the weapon at Robin. The quarterstaves banged together a few times aggressively and Little John swiped Robin into the water. The crowd of bystanders cheered from the riverbanks. "He's drowning!" they shouted.

"Have you lost something?" jeered Little John nastily dangling Robin's necklace from his staff.

"Get up and move faster!" yelled Robin's men.

The water gushed rapidly as the men continued their fight. Robin pushed Little John down into the water but he got up and with one final swing of his staff, he forced Robin off the edge into the noisy waterfall.

Eventually, Little John was the right hand man of Robin Hood.

Mrs Bryson

Sci-Fi Stories

Recently, Year 6 English pupils completed a unit of work that saw them write their own Sci-Fi stories.

All of the stories followed a similar pattern, in that the two central characters encountered an alien being but escaped with their lives, only to be accused of lying when they reported the story!

Events twisted at the end of the pupils' work upon the discovery of a 'token' left behind by the visiting creatures. We hope that you enjoy reading a short section of Anisa's work.

As it was becoming dark, when the street lights started to glow. That's when the 'iconic duo' also known as Mya and Blake snuck out to their secret treehouse, in Okaly Woods. Quietly Mya and Blake snuck across the trail path into the woods. They bolted through the woods and climbed to their treehouse. They wanted to watch the sunset, because it was the first pink moon in several years. Mya and Blake accidentally fell asleep. One hour later when the wind was whistling and the trees were dancing in the wind, Mya woke up, "Blake! Wake up we fell asleep!" shouted Mya. As Blake woke he looked around and said, "Oh no, my mum's gonna kill me we better run back." As excited as they were that they saw the first pink moon in ages they had to run home as fast as they could. Blake insisted that they get home fast or else they would be in trouble.

Mr Griffiths

MAKING THINGS GO!

In Upper Prep 1, the children are rounding up their *Making Things Go* unit with an art study of impressionism.

The children have researched the style of this type of art and have learned about some of the famous artists of this period.

They have also looked at many examples of the works of these famous artists. Linking this piece of work with our previous learning, the children



have taken local inspiration and have produced some impressionist pictures of Redcar's off shore wind farm.

The children have loved using the oil pastels to add their colours and have produced some fantastic pieces of work.

Mrs Kennedy



A warm welcome to Prep!

The return to school allowed us to say a lovely warm Teesside High School welcome to new pupils Seb, Maisie (pictured), Monty and

William.

The last two weeks have been super busy as we have resumed our Covid-secure tours of school.

We look forward to welcoming some new faces after the Easter break, too!

Mrs Williams

AG&T events

Our Prep Able, Gifted and Talented pupils had the opportunity to speak to Beverley Goodall virtually through Google Meet last week. Beverley has twenty years' experience in the accounting sector and, in 2018, set up AbacusBean to follow her dreams of running her own practice. Pupils had 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.

This event was very well received. The children were able to reflect on a range of our school curriculum areas in a real-life context by asking Beverley relevant questions. We extend our gratitude to Beverley for taking the time to inspire our children.

This week, pupils had an opportunity to 'meet' Jane Armitage, managing partner at Jacksons Law Firm. Jane was recently named Tees Businesswoman of the Year.

Mrs Bryson



School Council

In this new feature, Freya in Year 11 explains the Senior School and Sixth Form's Student Council priorities for the coming weeks and months.

Following the formation of a new team of school councillors after the Christmas break, we have been hard at work brainstorming ideas to focus on this term. We continue to work to raise funds for new seating areas outside in the foreseeable future, hopefully some of this money can come from the Senior School enrichment £10.00 fundraising challenge!

The environment and recycling is very important to us all, and we are going to continue to improve upon last year's changes in school, which included a new printing system, the introduction of a sandwich bar (when Covid restrictions allowed) and the increase in recycling bins around the school site. We are aiming to drastically reduce the amount of harmful waste we generate, and are working with the site team to make this possible.

We also warmly welcomed any suggestions from students to improve the system of 'lockdown learning' in the midst of home schooling. Year group and form social times continued until our return to school and were



really welcoming, and pupils were encouraged to get involved with the activities on Miss Stephens' weekly pastoral bulletin. Now we are back, it has been great to see everyone and our next School Council meeting will be Thursday 18 March.

Our council is made up of:

Eva Veluppillai and Alfie Taylor-Clark (Year 13) (Chairs)

Issy Blackburn (Year 11) (Treasurer)

Scarlett Stephens (Year 7) (Secretary)

Freya Williams - me! (Year 11) (Press Officer)

Holly Newman - Year 7

Annabelle Dailey and Rosie King - Year 8

Dylan Shehade, Holly Smith and Rajpal Singh - Year 9

Jennifer Dodd and Charlotte Sowerby - Year 10.

We look forward to sharing more updates with you soon.

Freya



Work experience - can you help?

Could you offer a THS Sixth Form student a careers chat, shadowing or work experience opportunity?

As a THS parent, one thing which you all have in common is your success in your own professional field. Now that our Sixth Form students are preparing themselves to enter the world of work, we are trying to expand our work experience database. We currently have a range of providers willing to offer from a day to a week, either of simple shadowing or of more hands-on experience, but in the pandemic we are more than happy to be able to offer a telephone chat or a video call about the work you do.

With a broad spectrum already on offer, from medics to florists to photography, we hope to be able to support every child's aspiration and every employer's need to have a workforce with the necessary soft skills, possessing not just academic qualifications but the experience and personal qualities to make them workplace-ready.

If you feel that you are able to be listed as a potential contact, please contact info@teessidehigh.co.uk

Miss Bird

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

We are delighted to announce that March's Artist of the Month is Callum Shove in Year 11.

Callum has taken full advantage of lockdown to use his preferred medium of spray paint, battling adverse weather conditions in Teesdale to complete his final piece for his Identity Project.



Callum's thought provoking and sombre piece looks at the idea that our identity is made up of the memories we leave behind in the hearts and minds of those that love us.

Mrs Machan



Speaking Shakespeare

Year 8 are busy preparing their performances for the English Speaking Union's Speaking Shakespeare competition.

THS has a history of success in this competition, having reached the finals in previous years.

Students are asked to prepare and deliver either a monologue or duologue from a Shakespeare play of their choice; they must perform this with no props to enable them to focus on the impact of the words and the way they are spoken.

Our students are currently grappling with lines from various plays from *Hamlet* to *Romeo and Juliet* and our school grounds are providing the perfect space for them to practise.

We look forward to sharing their success with you in the near future.

Mrs Reid



International Week

In French, Year 7 students have been completing artwork and descriptions for their exhibition during International Week in June. Natalie has described a painting by Edward Hopper, entitled *Automat*. Here is her version of that painting, together with her description in French.

J'ai choisi le tableau de Hopper car c'est vif et j'adore le chapeau. Au centre on peut voir une chaise noire. Sur la gauche il y a un radiateur jaune. Dans l'ensemble je pense que c'est très profond. J'aime aussi la lumière.

Frau Butterfield



Pantastic!

Enrichment activities got off to a great start, with Year 7 getting stuck in to their *Pantastic* rehearsals. We have started costume fittings and audio recordings, and are making the most of our lovely outdoor space to create interesting, natural backdrops and sets.

Mrs Shevels



Arts Awards Certificate

We are very proud of our Year 7 and Upper Prep students following their success in achieving their Arts Award Discover certificate.

This involved rhythm and percussion work, group composition and class performances as well as designing and building our own percussion instruments. It is fantastic that the Music curriculum was able to evolve

to suit the ever-changing restrictions in relation to practical music making, allowing all children to continue their progress in this subject and gain formal recognition for their hard work.

Mrs Shevels



Welcome to the THS family!

We have some lovely, albeit belated, baby news from our Senior School.

With a slightly unusual start to the spring term, this is the first formal newsletter opportunity to share with you the safe arrival of baby Zara Conroy, born on 8 December, weighing 6lb 3oz.

Sending our congratulations to the Conroy family at this special time.

Mrs Mackenzie



Castle Project - Year 7 students impress in History

Year 7 students have excelled in their Castle Project, which they completed over the February half term break.

Students had to use all of the learning that they had completed on castles over lockdown (why they were built, where they were built and why, how and why they developed

over time) to create their own models of castles.

Some students completed their project using their art and craft skills, some through baking and some through an electronic medium such as Minecraft or Fortnite.

Mr Meyerhoff



YEAR 12 DRAMA

As part of their A-level Drama and Theatre course, students have been making a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text (*The Maids* by Jean Genet) using the techniques and working methods of a theatre practitioner (Steven Berkoff). I asked Stella how she has found the project and, more broadly, the course so far.

What has been your favourite part of the project so far?

I am really enjoying working on reinterpreting a piece of theatre in the style of a practitioner. It is exciting to see how we can change the script and style to make it a totally new performance, but still with its roots in the original script.

What has been the biggest challenge for you?

It has been challenging to do the practical aspects online - however, we still made it work!

How has your knowledge of Drama/Theatre developed across the year?

I have learned about many aspects of staging and the methods and influences of different theatre practitioners that I was unfamiliar with at the start of the year. It's been so interesting!

Do you think you have developed any wider skills that you can use elsewhere in life?

My time in Drama has developed my creativity and teamwork, which are required in order to be a theatre maker, and these are definitely skills that are valuable in all aspects of life, too.

What is learning Drama/Theatre during lockdown like?

I enjoyed being able to still practise some of the performances over a video call, although it was difficult to be in sync when there were wi-fi problems!

We made the most of it by pushing through and also doing lots of theory work; our at-home rehearsals and the theory have definitely been beneficial now that we are back in school.

Many thanks for your contributions, Stella.

Mr Coates



Year 8 Battle of Jericho!

Year 8 students have been taking advantage of the glorious weather and grounds this week to represent their own version of the Battle of Jericho during their RE lesson.

Some groups have re-enacted battles whilst others have completed interviews and even a gameshow!

I am looking forward to seeing the finished products very soon.

Mr Thomas



THIS WEEK IN PICTURES



This week's Prep School Photo Gallery page is dedicated to World Book Day, and the fantastic efforts you went to from home to enter our competition, where the children were invited to decorate a potato in the style of their favourite book character! There were some incredible entries; winners are announced below.



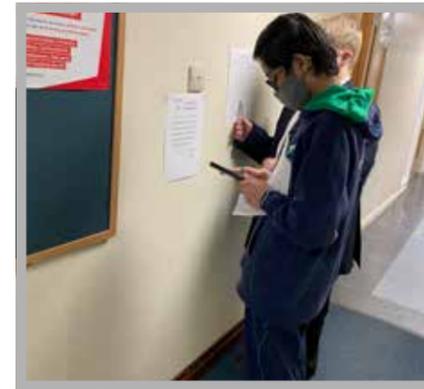
Well done to our Early Years winning and highly commended entries; Joseph Jackson and Sophie Finn respectively. In Pre-Prep, Lola (winner) and Darcey (highly commended) were delighted to receive their certificate and book token prize. Eddie claimed the winning prize in Lower Prep, closely followed by Roxi as highly commended.



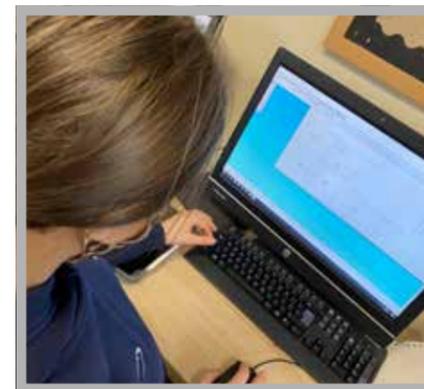
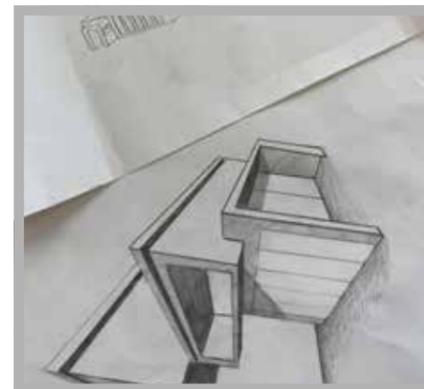
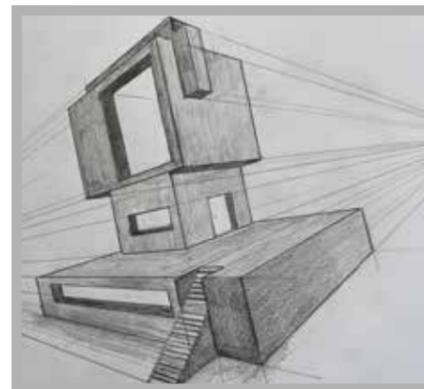
In Upper Prep, Ellie Charlton (winner) and Poppy Brion (highly commended) were thrilled with their prizes. Overall, the competition was a huge success and really captured the imagination of our pupils, even when learning from home.



Year 8 students have been exploring light in Physics; their homework was to make a pinhole camera. Oliver brought in these photographs today demonstrating his learning - excellent work!



Year 8 students are reviewing their understanding of percentages in Mathematics. They carried out a very competitive treasure hunt this week, working out tricky percentages of amounts and percentage increase and decrease.



Year 10 students are very happy about being back in the DT classroom. Its practical nature allows them to progress their architecture project using workshop machinery. This week, the students have been finalising ideas for their De Stijl building concepts, creating some lovely hand-drawn ideas and using 2D Design to plan a scale model for laser cutting production.



Teesside High School
Education as it should be



**TEESSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS...**

Pantastic

FRIDAY 26 MARCH 2021

**AVAILABLE ONLINE
FROM 6.30PM**



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