

# THIS Week



Teesside High School  
Education as it should be

## TRANSITION DAYS!

Following a bumper Open Day last Saturday, attention turns to our upcoming Transition Days on Tuesday 15 June.

As a further touchpoint prior to September, incoming Year 7 pupils will experience an exciting transition day based in the Senior School.

At the same time, pupils in Nursery to Year 5 will enjoy a day with their new Form Teacher in Prep!

The day presents a fantastic opportunity for both current and prospective pupils to meet up with new friends and enjoy a series of creative and inspiring lessons, seeing what the years ahead at Teesside High School will hold.

For Year 7, the day's timetable has been designed to promote a positive and seamless experience ahead of our Year 7 Induction on Friday 3 September. The children will sample lessons in a range of subjects, inspiring curiosity in Classics, Drama, French, Computing and Music, for example. At lunchtime, there will be a chance to participate in an interesting co-curricular activity, including a language taster session in Japanese!

In Prep, our teachers have some fantastic activities in store for the children. They will be challenged to explore their character strengths, take on team building and find out more about IPC topics from September and beyond.

After months of upheaval it is wonderful to be looking ahead to lots of new faces visiting us in the coming weeks. If you have any queries about the day or wish to enquire about your child joining us in September, please do not hesitate to get in touch via [admissions@teessidehigh.co.uk](mailto:admissions@teessidehigh.co.uk)

**Miss Hockney**



# WELCOME

Wishing all THS families a happy and restful half term.



It has been a celebratory end to the half term as we gathered on the field this afternoon to mark our Year 11 pupils' final day in the Senior School.

After their last examination, students cleared their lockers for the final time and headed to the grounds for an outdoor assembly and presentation, complete with Class of 2021 hoodies and beautiful yearbooks collated by Mrs Shevels; these are sure to be looked back upon in the years to come. After a pizza lunch, there was time for inflatable fun and games as well as a few tears, as we all reflected on an unusual two years.

Similarly, our Year 13 students spent their final week in the Sixth Form this week. These pupils have dealt with the extraordinary in respect of their studies and examinations; they truly have coped with things we never thought possible, and their resilience and spirit has been admirable throughout.

We look forward to welcoming a very large number of Year 11s back to THS Sixth Form in September, and wish those

venturing elsewhere and all of our Year 13 students realising their ambitions at university and in their first career positions the very best of luck for the future.

Looking ahead to June, we are all excited to see the return of our annual Sports Days, for which planning started this week. We remain cautiously upbeat that the final five weeks of the academic year will see the most 'normal' a school experience that we have had in almost two years! Indeed, I am delighted to see the return of co-curricular provision such as Choir, Band and Drama Club in the Senior School after half term; our Creative Arts subjects really did bear the brunt of the stringent Covid-19 guidance we had to put in place in recent months and it is wonderful to see this facet of our offering making a comeback.

This week provided an opportunity for the whole school to reflect upon our theme of Inclusion, and I have been so proud of our pupils and their support and care shown to others. Our Prep children produced two really moving videos demonstrating what inclusion means at THS and they highlight our school ethos beautifully. You can see these on our Facebook page.

I hope all of our families enjoy a restful and relaxing half term, hopefully with some sunshine along the way - it's the least we deserve after so much rain!

**Mrs K Mackenzie, Head**



## Forest School

Visits to Forest School have been well-timed recently, as we have managed to dodge the downpours of rain we have been having!

Last week our Pre-Prep pupils took to the woods where they were given the challenge of creating a den. They were given a tarpaulin, three ropes and some pegs. The pupils worked well together to create a den that has managed to withstand the torrential wind and rain we have had over the last week, no mean feat!

Moving on from the den challenge, the children were then given the option to minibeast hunt, continue improving their den or play in the mud kitchen. The pupils loved this independence and thrived off it, creating a makeshift drumkit from the many pots and pans we have accumulated in recent months. The woods is the only place we can get away with making so much noise!

For EYFS pupils, our recent woodland visits have sought to consolidate their learning of different minibeasts. The children have enjoyed looking at and identifying as many insects and creatures as they could find.

**Miss Hopkins**

# DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

With lockdown restrictions easing, we have been delighted to get our Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh groups back out into the countryside for their training hikes and, most recently, their award expeditions.

## Bronze

During the second week of the Easter holidays, our four Bronze groups focused on their navigational skills on their circular hike around Carlton, Faceby and Swainby. The groups did well to find and follow the public rights of way to complete the route in good time.

The following week, students took to Hamsterley Forest where they focused on campcraft, including putting up their tents, lighting Trangias and cooking a meal, as well as working out how to pack their expedition rucksacks effectively.

After a busy first week of the new term, our Bronze groups returned to the countryside for their final training hike before their final expedition. They started a circular route from Clay Bank, and all four groups had to show focus and attention to detail to ensure they stayed on the correct path. The groups did well and showed great potential for their final expeditions.

Saturday 8 May came around quickly so it was time for our first two groups to finish the expedition section of their award. Both groups coped very well with heavy rain throughout the day, showcasing excellent navigational skills by turning up to the RV points on time. The night brought about nicer weather, and the groups lit their Trangias, put up their tents and had some fun playing with the dogs. They continued with a fantastic spirit into the second day, where they set off early in order to finish by a record 2.00pm. A special mention has to be made to Charlotte who went above and beyond to support not only her group but the other group at camp, too; a real asset to Teesside High.

Later in the month, our final two Bronze groups set off for their final expedition,

with the weather very much on their side. Group D were first into camp, showing exceptional navigation skills by making every RV within five minutes of their estimated time of arrival. Group C also made steady and consistent progress throughout the day and were very pleased to set up their tents. The next morning saw them power through, having a competition to see who could finish first!

A really well done to all of our Bronze DofE groups who have passed their expedition section with flying colours.

## Silver

In the first week of the Easter holidays our three Silver DofE groups took to the Yorkshire Dales for a training hike. All pupils were very excited to get going and enjoyed getting out of the TS postcode. After arriving at Great Shunner Fell, each group practised pacing over 100m and taking bearings as well as dusting off their map reading skills. All groups worked well together and successfully supported each other to the top - they are now working on planning their practise and final expedition.

## Gold

In the final week of the Easter holidays, a very excited group of five girls completed their first training hike in the Lake District. This was the first time the group had walked together and they proved to be a very effective team. In the beautiful spring sunshine their first challenge was to walk up to the top of Red Scree. They took to this challenge with enthusiasm and were proud of themselves when they made it to the top. They navigated the descent in excellent time and then, upon request from the group (as it would be wrong to



go to the lakes without visiting a lake!), we made our way to Ullswater for a paddle to end a very pleasant day.

Later in the term, the Gold group was back in the Lakes to complete their last training hike and mountain skills course. The pupils had an excellent time on the hill and were blessed with beautiful scenery. The groups had an exciting camp on our school grounds that night before getting up bright and early to finish their training in the Yorkshire Dales. The students are now focused on planning their expeditions.

A sterling effort by all.

**Miss Hopkins**



# Spiders and Frogs!

Our wonderful Nursery children have been exploring some of the predators that eat the insects they have been finding out about in recent weeks.

The children found that spiders have 8 legs and lots of eyes, but that some cannot see very well!

They made their own spider, working on their fine motor skills as they cut the shapes for the body and legs. Some of our spiders are large like the red kneed tarantula, but some are small.

They have also been having fun finding out about frogs!

The children were fascinated by the speed in which the frog can use its tongue to catch a fly.

They made their own frog pictures and enjoyed jumping like a frog.

**Mrs Hannah**



## Unwanted books at home?

Thank you so much to Evan and her family for donating the wonderful books she had outgrown at home.

If you have any preloved reads which you would like to see enjoyed by

our children, please do pass them to Reception for the attention of our Reading Coordinator, Miss Hall.

Thank you in advance!



## THS Chickens

Reception children were delighted to accept an invitation to the Biology lab in the Senior School Science department this week. Mrs Kirk explained and gave a first hand experience of the chicks, who hatched just last week. The children were delighted to hold and stroke the chicks, bringing inspiration for artwork and an overall feeling of happiness. Thank you, Mrs Kirk, for such a wonderful experience!

**Mrs Clapton**



# OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY

Thursday 20 May was Outdoor Classroom Day, and Pre-Prep class enjoyed celebrating down in our wonderful woodland.

With the unpredictable weather we are currently experiencing, our first job was to make a shelter! After learning how to tie knots and secure our cover we were all set for whatever the weather.

discovering, experimenting, learning about and connecting to nature and engaging in adventurous activities - and Outdoor Classroom Day was the perfect occasion to celebrate this further!

**Miss Hall**



## Mental Health Awareness Week

There was great excitement in Pre-Prep class last week when the children entered the classroom to find some little gifts waiting for them on their desks.

Upon closer inspection, the children discovered a little Worry Worm to support their work on Mental Health Awareness.

The children have learnt about the importance of sharing worries to ensure their minds are as happy and healthy as possible.

**Miss Hall**



## Year 1 Writing

Year 1 have been very busy writing beautiful letters to Mrs Williams. They have been telling her all about what they have been doing in class and have invited Mrs Williams to come and join them to see how hard they are working. The children are very proud of their certificates of achievement in recognition of their great work.

**Miss Hall**

# Limericks

In English, Year 4 children have begun exploring nonsense poems, specifically by Edward Lear and Lewis Carroll.

They began their work by looking at the structure, rhythm and rhyme scheme in some classic Edward Lear limericks and then worked to create their own limericks.

We hope you enjoy reading a sample of the children's work.

*There was a Young Girl from Yarm,*

*Who always went to the farm,*

*She bought some tomatoes,*

*And also potatoes,*

*That crafty Young Girl from Yarm.*

Sophia Egbo

*There was an Old Man with an ear,*

*And everything said he could hear,*

*But once he got deaf*

*And got hit by a chef,*

*That unusual man with an ear.*

Florence Brion

The children will complete their study of nonsense poems by studying *Jabberwocky* and *The Jumblies*, before writing their own narrative poem using nonsense words and phrases!

Miss Lockerbie



## Author visit

This week our Upper Prep pupils have virtually welcomed an award-winning author into their lessons. Jenny Valentine has written many books and her work has been published in 19 countries.

The children enjoyed finding out more about Jenny and her most recent book, *A Girl called Joy*. Many of us are now looking forward to reading our very own signed copy of the book. Thank you to Drake the Bookshop for organising a wonderful afternoon for us.

Mrs Bryson

# GLOBAL ISSUES

Children in Upper Prep 1 have been learning about deforestation and how this is a global issue which affects everyone on the planet.

They have considered what deforestation is and the reasons as to why so many large areas of land are cleared of trees.

They have also been learning what we can do on both a personal and global scale in order to help to reduce the amount of trees lost through the process of deforestation. They were particularly able to relate to actions such as only printing final documents rather than printing drafts and also



how we work to reduce paper use in the school setting. The children were also able to cast their minds back to the more recent Australian bush fires as a specific, natural example of deforestation.

I am sure that the children will be much more mindful of this issue now they have learnt how damaging this process can be.

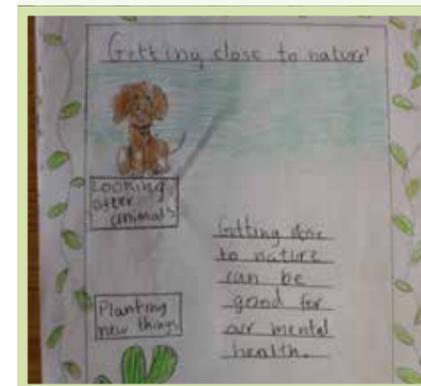
Mrs Kennedy

## Growing vegetables

Upper Prep 1 are continuing their activities as part of their current IPC topic, *Roots, Shoots and Fruits*. The children are in the process of growing a range of vegetables, flowers and herbs at home, and in school have been growing some cress seeds. The children were amazed by how quickly the seeds grew and are now looking forward to tasting the cress next week! We are also waiting with eager anticipation to see whether our recently potted potatoes are going to grow.



## Mental Health Awareness Week - Prep pupil posters



# Inclusion Week

This week we promoted inclusion and raised awareness of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) through our whole school Inclusion Week.

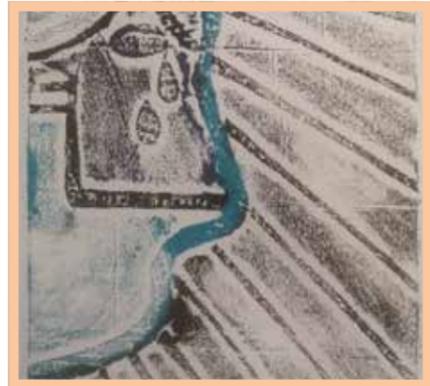
Students across the school learnt about a range of needs and how they can impact people in their day-to-day lives. This helped remind us all to be mindful of others and what we can do to help our friends and classmates.

As part of the week, Pauline Wright from Daisy Chain delivered two assemblies about Autism. This prompted some excellent questions

from pupils in both the Prep and Senior School.

Mrs Shevels also taught our Prep pupils elements of British Sign Language and they performed and recorded *What a Wonderful World*, signed throughout. This is a beautiful and moving performance and can be found on our school Facebook page.

**Mrs Fletcher**



## RIVERS OF THE WORLD

Students in Year 9 were delighted to be able to take part in a live workshop with the artists from Bloominart.

The workshop was part of the second phase of this exciting project, which last year saw pupils creating sculptures from waste materials. These were translated into a large-scale collaborative print and exhibited outside of the Tate Modern in London as part of the Thames Riverside Festival.

It was amazing to be able to take part in a live workshop this year, which saw our future GCSE Art students learning

the new technique of Collograph. Inspired by the river of our twinned city in Beirut and the artist Hundertwasser, students created print plates using foil tape and a variety of found materials.

We cannot wait to see the finished collaboration which will be subsequently developed and exhibited at Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF) and the Thames Riverside Festival.

**Mrs Machan**



### Artist of the Month

We are delighted to announce our Artist of the Month for May; Emily Banks in Year 9.

Emily's portrait (above) explores the affect of social media on body confidence and associated eating disorders.

This is part of an extended project where Year 9 students explored the issues caused by food in our society. Students created a variety of work based upon issues ranging from animal cruelty to fairtrade.

Emily's work is a fabulous example of this project and the wonderful work created.

**Mrs Machan**



## YEAR 9 PHYSICS STARS

This term in Physics, Year 9 students have been looking to the stars as they work through their GCSE Astrophysics topic.

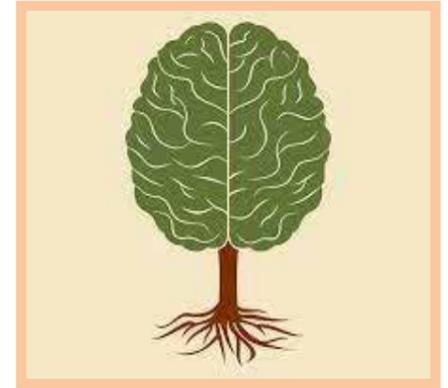
Constellations are star patterns that often link to Greek myths and legends. However, the stars are rarely close together and are often many light years away from each other (a light year is the huge distance light travels in a year). The stars only seem clustered together due to their unique orientation to the Earth.

Students showed this by producing 3D constellations on a card, where the

length of each straw was cut to scale, to show the difference in light years from Earth where they were actually located. Tilting the card showed how the recognisable patterns change significantly.

Macey, Max, Kiyan and Elisa are pictured with their constellations, which included Orion, Cassiopeia and part of Ursa Major (The Plough).

**Mr Edwards**



### Drama enrichment

Every Friday afternoon a small but highly creative Year 9 ensemble gathers together. Their mission? To produce a short performance called *Sprouting, Reflections on the teenage brain*. Congratulations to Alexa, Emily, Emmeline, Joe, Kasey and Ruby for a brilliant sharing of a sneak peek from the show with our Open Day visitors on Saturday - you had some brilliant feedback from our guests!

**Mr Coates**



### 3D Design

Year 10 3D Design students have started a project this week based around insects, and they have been using resources borrowed kindly from Biology to take some macro photography. This will then be studied for pattern, colour and texture in upcoming lessons.

**Miss Storey**



# BIG ADVENTURES HOLIDAY CAMP



Information for July-August 2021 coming soon!

October half term; Christmas; Easter and Summer holidays

Teesside High School runs a packed and fun-filled Holiday Camp for young children during the holidays. Our Big Adventures Holiday Camp pupils love the wide range of activities on 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**

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