



## COMIC RELIEF 2022

On Friday 18 March, students took part in a range of activities organised by our Sixth Form pupils in order to raise money for Comic Relief.

As in previous years, we were delighted to support such a worthy cause, this time around free of the restrictions which limited our fundraising efforts in 2020 and 2021. Indeed, this year's fundraising day was the first annual Red Nose Day - and the charity was keen to build on the astonishing £1.5bn raised in its 37 year history.

With the Prep School preoccupied with its busiest STEM Week to date, it was the turn of the Senior School and Sixth Form to demonstrate their incredible charitable spirit and do something 'funny for money'!

The day was a non-uniform day and many students embraced the theme of Comic Relief by dressing up - a special shoutout must go to our Year 7 girls and, for one day only, cast of *Winnie the Pooh* - Amelia, Bethea, Tendai, Ellie, Poppy, Rosie, Lucy and Anisa - who were crowned winners of our fancy dress competition and soon challenged to work out how to split a giant Easter egg eight ways!

Year 12 and 13 pupils organised an array of entertaining activities for the school community at break and lunchtime - although it did seem to be solely the staff at the receiving end of some dodgy waxing (apologies to Mr Thomas and Mr Baker) and some



well-aimed sponging - Mrs Mackenzie, Mr Hannah and Mr Russell all took a bucket of water over the head after a quick auction was organised by our determined students.

A competitive dodgeball competition and penalty shootout made for a lively afternoon in the sunshine and we were delighted to see our grand total come together at the end of a busy day - over £750 raised in just a few short hours. Great work, team THS!

### Miss Hockney



# WELCOME

I cannot believe that we are approaching the end of the spring term.

Time is truly flying by this year and we find ourselves hurtling towards the end of March and the start of the Easter break. It has been amazing to be able to once again engage with our school community through an array of different activities and events. I am sure I speak for everyone when I say the lighter nights and blue skies have made for a welcome sight this week; something which makes me super excited for the final term of the year.

As a woman in the field of science, I was fascinated by the wide range of activities our pupils were able to engage in as part of STEM Week last week. Across the school there was an enormous sense of enthusiasm from pupils and staff alike, intrigued to learn more about the subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and the multitude of different career pathways and opportunities within these fields. As a Physicist, it was brilliant to see our Year 10 pupils engage in a lecture led by Professor Lars Jorgensen - live and sitting beside the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Switzerland! I remember fondly the visit we led to CERN just prior to the pandemic, and this virtual opportunity really brought students' learning to life. I am grateful to our staff for their efforts; STEM Week gave our pupils many unique opportunities to learn new skills that they will be able to take with them throughout their academic journey and beyond.

It was wonderful to round off the week raising money for Comic Relief last Friday, as other members of staff and I found ourselves at the wrong end of a sponging! Although it was very cold, it was definitely worth it. I was so proud of our Sixth Form students for organising a range of activities which contributed to a large amount of the donations we received. Overall, we raised a whopping £764.26 - well done, everyone.

With the last week of term in sight, I am looking forward to watching our Senior School production of *Matilda Junior*. This event will take place on Tuesday 29 March and Wednesday 30 March - our first school production since pre-pandemic times. I know that our students and staff have been working so hard to put on an amazing performance, it will definitely be a night (or two) to remember!

I hope that you have a fabulous weekend celebrating Mother's Day.

**Mrs K Mackenzie, Head**



## U16 Girls' Hockey vs Macmillan

Our U16 girls had an exciting hockey match against Macmillan Academy to finish the season this week.

The game was competitive from start to finish, with opportunities created by both teams.

With solid defending and excellent work from our midfielders, the girls secured a fantastic victory (2-1).

Well done to Amelia who had a great game on her debut for the team, and to Abi who was awarded Player of the Match.

A quick stop at McDonald's on the way home finished the evening on a high!

**Miss Turnbull**



## U12 Girls' County Hockey league winners!

Huge congratulations to our U12 girls' Hockey A team for winning the U12 County Hockey league!

The girls have made amazing progress throughout the season and have thoroughly enjoyed each game. Well done also to our U12B and U13A girls' teams, who both finished in third place in their respective leagues.

**Miss Turnbull**



## Prep House Cross Country Competition

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in their annual House Cross Country Competition on Monday.

Everyone was super excited to compete both individually and for their House team.

The Year 5/6 boys results were as follows: 1st - Woodside, 2nd - Cleveland, 3rd - Victoria.

The Year 5/6 girls results were: 1st

- Woodside, 2nd - Cleveland, 3rd - Victoria.

Individual results placed Hala in 1st, Flo in 2nd and Eleanor in 3rd, whilst Pierre, Grayson and Louis secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd for the boys respectively.

**Miss Hopkins**

## U11 Hockey vs Red House School

It was a lovely afternoon for our U11 teams playing hockey in the sunshine against Red House School last Friday.

The girls played four quarters and gave it their all; chasing down

every ball and showing real grit and determination, resulting in a great victory. Well done to Player of the Match, Flo.

Unfortunately a number of absences

depleted the boys' team but they enjoyed a competitive mixed development game after combining with the RHS boys.

**Miss Turnbull**





# Mother's Day preparations

EYFS and Pre-Prep children have been busy preparing for Mother's Day this week.

Nursery and Reception pupils have been thinking about how very special their mummies are and the different ways they can say 'thank you' to them.

They made the most beautiful cards and gifts and also recorded some very heart warming messages. We have had some wonderful descriptions but in summary, the children are proud to have such beautiful, funny and happy mummies!

The EYFS department is really looking forward to sharing a fun-filled craft session with our pupils' loved ones today.

In Pre-Prep, the children in Year 1 have been writing fact files about their mum and making flowers for them.

They thought specifically about the things they would like to say 'thank you' to their mums for, and all of the activities they enjoy doing most with them.

Everyone in EYFS and Pre-Prep would like to wish our families a very Happy Mother's Day this weekend!

**Miss Hall, Mrs Clapton and Mrs Hannah**



## Jewellery makers

Nursery children have been making some beautiful jewellery this week.

This supported their phonics work as they have been focusing on the letter 'J' - and it was also a great mathematics activity, too!

From counting beads, sorting them according to different colours and shapes and measuring the correct length of the string, the children did a fabulous job.

Who knew learning could be so much fun!

**Miss Hall**

# Bundles of fun!

EYFS and Pre-Prep pupils enjoyed a busy and fun-filled STEM Week last week, taking part in an array of different activities.

They started each morning full of enthusiasm and ideas for their enterprise task to help raise money for charity.

They also explored growth and new beginnings with a focus on the life cycle of a butterfly, and chicks hatching.

The children also created amazing artwork in the style of Kandinsky using a variety of media.

They even managed to fit in some Red Nose Day races on their Forest School visit with Miss Hopkins!

**Mrs Hannah**



## Forest School

In Forest School this week, our Nursery and Pre-Prep children were delighted to see that spring had officially sprung!

The sun was shining, the birds were singing and the wild garlic was out in

full force in the woods.

The pupils loved their first trip of the year round the whole woodland. For some of our Nursery children, this was the first time they had completed our full circular route.



## New beginnings

EYFS and Pre-Prep enjoyed their first-hand experience of new beginnings with a visit from Mrs Kirk, our Senior School Biology teacher.

We are so fortunate to be able to build on the children's existing knowledge with our cross-phase links.

Thank you, Mrs Kirk, for lots of fascinating information about the process from egg to chicken!

**Mrs Clapton**

Reception pupils also had a special lesson this week where they made a beautiful tag for their mums for Mother's Day.

**Miss Hopkins**



# Prep STEM Week round up

As I sit and reflect on this year's Prep STEM Week, I am finding it incredibly hard to pick out specific highlights.

The children in the Prep School had an immensely busy programme of activities and enjoyed many opportunities to take on new challenges, work collaboratively with a host of different children and learn something new and exciting from our visiting speakers.

Our week began with the arrival of astronauts, scientists, aliens and black holes to name a few, with a huge variety of outstanding space-themed costumes to really get our week started. The children considered the growth of space exploration by completing footprint activities, building lunar landscapes and competing to be the first to locate the lunar landing sites. We linked up with other schools around the country to take part in Mars Hour whilst working in groups to create our own Martian villages. Our knowledge of space was enhanced further as we welcomed Professor Chris Newman into school to hear about his career in space law. We were all fascinated with the information he shared and came away feeling even more enthused about an already mesmerising topic.

Throughout the week, the Prep children had the opportunity to take part in some coding activities and also an exciting robotics project. The Upper Prep children thought about how to calculate the age of a shark and put this theory to the test by applying it to themselves and their peers. Mrs Leck and I were very impressed that Upper Prep 1 were able to complete a particularly challenging satellite design mathematics investigation to explore the different and most effective ways of packing the space equipment. Lower Prep were also very creative when presenting their understanding of the phases of the moon!

Pre-Prep children learnt more about the growth of buildings and were amazed to see how quickly a skyscraper could be built, before trying to build their own structures. They also explored animal growth and completed a special paper plane and rocket experiment. They also thought about the

importance of healthy eating and exercise so that they can grow into healthy, strong adults.

As part of our week, we thought about the growth of veganism and it was lovely to be able to welcome some of the children and staff from Oxbridge Primary School to join us for this session. We were treated to some fantastic vegan foods before exploring the history of veganism and completing some discussions surrounding our theme.

Our week was also significantly enhanced by some inspirational speakers. In addition to Professor Newman, we were joined by Gemma Brotherton from Komatsu to learn more about the growth of their business and the development of their hybrid diggers. Lesley Wratten was our final visitor who was able to share how she built up her successful telecommunications business, Lemon, from very humble beginnings. She was also able to share some of the key considerations and personal skills and qualities needed to grow a thriving business, including the importance of a growth mindset.

We concluded our week by considering the growth of technology. Having considered the huge advances in technology over the last 100 years, and viewing some predictions of how technology is predicted to develop in the future, the children created their own technological products, thinking carefully about their purpose, materials and design.

It is hard to believe that this is simply a summary and not exhaustive of our week's activities, however, I hope that this has provided an insight into what our children have been exploring. We are very proud of the children's efforts, resilience and their determination when faced with many new challenges. We hope that the children have enjoyed the week as much as the staff, and that they will remember STEM Week 2022 with fond memories!

**Mrs Kennedy**



## Grow a £2 Challenge

As part of the Prep School's STEM week programme, pupils were challenged to work either as a group or individually to see how much they could grow £2 by using their entrepreneurial skills. Evie shares her group's fantastic efforts below...

*On Sunday, Esther, Isla and I baked horse and dog treats for local stables and dog owners. We raised over £150.00 for a Ukraine refugee camp and completely sold out of all of our treats.*

*As part of a STEM Week challenge we came up with the idea to sell dog and horse treats. We spent all of Sunday in the kitchen baking. We found a recipe online that we thought would be quick, cheap and easy. The treats were both £2 for a bag. The horse bag contained*

*honey, molasses, oats, carrots and apples and the dog bag contained oats, flour and peanut butter. There were three horse treats per bag and four dog treats per bag.*

*We advertised what we were doing on social media and received lots of nice comments saying how much people's horses and dogs loved our treats. We have raised the most money in Prep so far!*

**Evie, Year 5**

## House Singing Competition

The Prep School children recently competed in the Inter House singing competition.

They had only had a few weeks to practise their songs which they performed really well.

The competition was hotly contested but Cleveland were crowned the winners by our judges, Mr Wing and Mrs Shevels.

I was really proud of the children for managing to sing in two parts which is no mean feat.

Congratulations to all of the Prep children for entering into the spirit of the event and singing brilliantly!

**Mrs Kennedy**

## Postcards of Kindness

The children in the Postcards of Kindness club are enjoying writing their messages to the people in the community to help brighten their day.

This week, Eleanor has received a reply from 86 year old Mrs Pearson to thank her for her postcard.

Abigail has also received a photo of her postcard being delivered to some local carers.

Both of these girls were delighted to hear how well their postcards had been received.

**Mrs Kennedy**





# Senior STEM Week round up

The Senior School Science department embraced this year's theme of Growth with a wide range of activities, both in and out of lessons.

Year 10 students stretched their experiences beyond their studies with a visit to Leeds for a day of Science Live lectures, led by academics such as Lord Professor Winston and Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, the presenter of the *Sky at Night*. They also attended a Zoom lecture from within the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.

Year 9 pupils investigated diet and growth by investigating the energy content of food whilst Year 8 looked at growth in science knowledge by looking at developments in immunology.

Both Year 7 and 13 have been studying plants, so set up bean seeds for a long term House competition; who will grow the tallest bean? Year 13 students have also been cloning some of our favourite plants, so when they head off to university they will have a cloned plant to remember their days in the

Science department!

Outside of lessons, students had the opportunity to design the slowest falling helicopter, turn copper to gold and, of course, visit the chicks to marvel at their rapid growth from fluff to feathers.

In form time, students enjoyed a range of activities from a general knowledge science quiz, puzzles on the ever-expanding list of elements and the chance to develop their literacy skills through comprehension tasks and wider reading on a huge range of topics; from women in science to the bubonic plague.

We would like to thank our students for their endless enthusiasm and participation!

**Mrs Kirk**

## Year 7 Drama

Year 7 Drama students have started exploring Physical Theatre and looking at the work of the New York based theatre company *Push*.

Starting with individual chair

choreography, they have been building towards whole class performances.

Again, the focus and creativity of our students continues to amaze me.

**Mr Coates**



# Tea-Time Talk - Paula McMahon

Friday 18 March saw a packed Prep Hall with standing room only for our most recent Tea-Time Talk, this time with Paula McMahon.

Paula is a civil engineer specialising in Design, Construction and Project Management. She is the current holder of the Tees Businesswomen Lifelong Inspiration Award and European WICE Lifetime in Engineering Award.

Paula spoke enthusiastically on the subject of 'Growth' which was the theme of British Science Week and fitted in perfectly as the culmination of our own STEM Week in school. She shared many of her own experiences as a female engineer and gave our

students lots of tips and useful advice on how to get to where they want to be in their own future careers. Students and parents asked thoughtful and interesting questions in order to learn more about the different roles in engineering as well as what exciting projects are happening now. It was wonderful to see so many budding engineers and their families taking this opportunity to learn more about a very exciting field of work.

**Mrs Shevels**



## Newton's Laws of Motion

Sir Isaac Newton's Laws of Motion have been around for centuries, but there is no harm in still checking them out. That is exactly what Year 9 did recently, using trolleys, weights, ramps and speed gates.

Year 9 pupils are pictured investigating Newton's 2nd Law ( $F = ma$ ) with a trolley and set of pulley weights on a desk. They found out that the greater the force that pulls on the trolley, the greater is its acceleration.

However, the more the mass of the trolley for the same force and the acceleration reduces.

With the toy cars on the ramps, they found out the initial and final velocities using our new light gates to calculate the acceleration.

Not surprising the girls saw a greater acceleration on the steeper ramp.

It is a good opportunity to mix theory with practice in the Physics Department laboratories, now that



## Bronze DofE

Over the past two weeks our Bronze DofE cohort has been developing their campcraft and navigation skills.

Pupils got to explore the fantastic scenery of Hamsterley, starting in the village and using careful navigation to find their way to the middle of Hamsterley Forest.

Once there, they tested their campcraft skills by putting up a tent for the first time and setting up a tranga for the first time. After lunch, they then headed off again in their groups to further develop their navigation skills.

I was really impressed with the students' pace. Well done to all five of our groups!

**Miss Hopkins**



social distancing restrictions are easing. Well done, Year 9, on proving Newton's Laws are still correct in 2022!

**Mr Edwards**

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