

# THiS Week



Teesside High School  
*Education as it should be*

## HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-2022

Last Thursday, our school community was deeply saddened by the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Her 70 year reign and lifetime of service will be long remembered. Our thoughts are with the Royal Family at this time. Thank you for your service.



# WELCOME

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2022-2023 academic year!

I hope that you have all had a wonderful return to school, and what a return it has been! It has been fantastic to see the school and all of its activities back in full swing, with assemblies, co-curricular activities, lessons and sports all making a welcome return. Our students have thrown themselves back into their active and varied schedules.

I have loved seeing all of our new students settle into their new school environment and become part of our THS family. On their Induction Day, Year 7 students were able to explore our stunning grounds, make new friends and try team building exercises. Our Year 12 students took part in a scavenger hunt around school! I am excited to see what you all will bring to our school community, and what you will go on to achieve in the upcoming year.

At the end of August, I was delighted to see that our Year 11 and Year 13 students' hard work paid off with an excellent set of GCSE and A-level examination results! Whilst it was sad to be saying farewell to such valued members of our school family, some of whom have been with us since Nursery, I am sure they will go on to achieve wonderful things as they make their next steps in life and we wish them all the very best of luck. Once again, well done, Year 11 and 13!

As we begin the school year, I would like to offer a polite reminder to parents who use our school bus service. We ask you to please be respectful of

where you park when collecting or dropping off your child at the bus stop. Thank you.

Last Thursday evening, I was truly devastated to hear the sad news about the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. She was an amazing Monarch and a much loved leader of our nation and the service she gave to this country throughout her reign has been nothing short of extraordinary. It has been wonderful to see our school community unite to pay our respects throughout the week. On Monday, we all came together to commemorate her life in our whole school assembly. We reflected on the Queen's impressive 70-year reign, her achievements and her fascinating sense of humour. As we close the school on Monday 19 September, I hope that you all take the time to observe the funeral. This momentous occasion has huge historical importance and millions will be tuning in from around the world to mourn the loss of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

**Mrs K Mackenzie, Head**



## Stockton District Schools Netball Tournament

Thursday 15 September saw the first Netball fixture of the year for our Year 11 girls A and B teams at the Stockton District Schools Netball Tournament. With the help of some Year 10 students to fill the teams, they took to the court and really enjoyed the return to the competition.

Our B team enjoyed games against Egglescliffe, Conyers and Our Lady St Bede, making it through to the play off! Our A team finished in second place losing only to Yarm School with victories over Red House (10-3), Egglescliffe (16-0) and Conyers (14-5). Well done, girls. I am looking forward to the rest of the season with this squad!

**Miss Stephens**



## Badminton Club

It has been wonderful to see our sports clubs taking place during lunch time.

Badminton Club runs during Tuesday and Wednesday lunch time for our Year 7, 8 and 9 students.

They have been practicing their serving



skills and seeing who can have the longest rally!

**Miss Turnbull**



## County Hockey Trials

It is fantastic to hear that so many of our girls and boys have attended the first of two County Hockey Trials.

Representing Durham County is the first step towards regional representation and higher.

Good luck on Sunday 2 October for your final assessment session!

**Miss Turnbull**

## Senior School co-curricular opportunities

Last week, our Senior School co-curricular programme was back in full swing!

Our extensive co-curricular programme provides time for our students to engage with specialist staff

to develop their interests and skills.

They were able to choose from a range of activities including Ukulele Club, Astronomy Club, Public Speaking, Forest School, Japanese Club and many more!

Our students were lucky to have a sunny afternoon for their first session of the 2022-2023 academic year!

**Miss Connor**







## Reception children's favourite hobbies

Reception pupils have been telling their friends all about what they enjoy taking part in outside of the classroom.

By doing this, they displayed some amazing questioning skills.

in their busy books and showed us their fantastic writing skills.

They also created some lovely collages

**Mrs Clapton**



## First day in Pre-Prep

Our Year 1 and 2 children had a fantastic first day in their new classroom last week!

up it makes them feel and that they are excited for all of the new things that they are going to learn this year.

Some pupils commented on how grown

**Mrs Hannah**

## A letter from the Queen

Reception and Pre-Prep children wrote a letter to the Queen last term to congratulate her on her 70 years of reign.

They were very pleased to find out that they received a reply which included a letter and a card!

After hearing the recent news of her passing, it makes the letter even more special and it is something the children are able to cherish forever.

**Mrs Hannah**



## Welcome to Nursery

Nursery children have made a brilliant start to the autumn term!

They have been very busy painting, playing, learning and making new friends.

They have made great progress in their



new topics and are excited to see what they will achieve this year!

**Miss Hall**



## Forest School

Our wonderful Reception pupils are always motivated to learn!

Forest School helps them to gain independence and self confidence.

In yesterdays session, the children improved their awareness of keeping safe in the woods using communication and social skills whilst having fun.

It was brilliant to be able to take some time in the great outdoors.

Well done, Reception!

**Mrs Clapton**

## All Aboard

Nursery children have made a wonderful start to their topic this term of *All Aboard*.

Having enjoyed the story *The Train*

*Ride*, the children have been busy creating some great pictures.

They have been thinking carefully about the different colours and shapes

they would use and even drew the passengers on their trains.

Great work, Nursery!

**Miss Hall**





# Bake it!

The children in Upper Prep 1 have begun their new IPC unit, *Bake it!*

This unit will predominantly focus on the science of making bread, including the changing states of matter and reversible and irreversible changes.

This week the children have been thinking about yeast and its important role in the bread making process. The children have learnt what yeast is and how when activated with warm water and sugar it becomes ‘live’ and produces carbon dioxide.

With this knowledge, the children were given a yeast challenge to see who could produce the most froth (gas).



The children had to think carefully about fair testing as well as deciding what they would investigate. One of the groups changed the amount of sugar that they used, another changed the amount of water and the final group changed the temperature of the water.

We had some expected and some unexpected results which we have been able to discuss in more detail.

This task was able to support the IPC learning goals of co-operation, enquiry, thoughtfulness and respect.

**Mrs Kennedy**



## Speech and Drama examinations

Huge congratulations to Flo in Year 6 and Poppy in Year 8 who recently both achieved a Distinction in their Speech and Drama entry examinations!

Poppy also achieved a Distinction in her recent Grade 4 singing examination.

Well done, girls!

**Miss Connor**



## Independant learning

On Monday, I was given a special surprise when Oscar arrived at school.

Over the weekend, he had been thinking about what we had been learning in IPC and he completed some extra, independent work!

Oscar baked a loaf of bread and then wrote his process up clearly explaining the science behind each stage.

This is fantastic and it is so encouraging to see children taking responsibility for their learning and being enthusiastic to find out more.

Well done, Oscar!

**Mrs Kennedy**



## Running Club

Running Club is back for another academic year!

We welcome back many regular runners and plenty of new faces. Welcome to Evie, Ella, Ralph, Ethan and Sienna. We continue to be ably assisted by Willoughby and we also have a new helper. Welcome to Martha! Both of our helpers of course used to attend Running Club during their time in the Prep School.

Each week runners will rotate across

several activities, to include Long Run, 1200m Time Trial, Hill Sprints, Intervals and Farlek. Like last year, the emphasis will be on Long Runs, however, this season we will also be placing greater emphasis on the 1200m Time Trial as we aim to smash a few school records!

Good luck to our runners!

**Mr Griffiths**

## LAMDA examination Success

In September 2022, following a Covid-19 enforced break, we were delighted to re-start our Speech and Drama programme. Across the year a group of students have been working hard on selecting, memorising and performing a very wide range of pieces. On Thursday 7 July we were visited by two LAMDA examiners. 27 students from Year 1 to 12 took part in the examination.

At the start of this term we were delighted with the results from LAMDA. 24 students were awarded Distinctions and 3 received Merits. We are very proud of their success and look forward to presenting their certificates when they arrive from the examination board.

We have already started working towards our next set of examinations. If your child would be interested in joining the programme, please email me via; [tcoates@teessidehigh.co.uk](mailto:tcoates@teessidehigh.co.uk).

**Mr Coates**

## The Cleveland Way

Grayson in Year 6 walked the Cleveland Way in the summer holidays and raised over £1,000 for the NSPCC!

He started in Filey and finished eight days later in Helmsley, walking over

110 miles.

It took a lot of hard work and dedication for Grayson to be able to achieve his goal.

This is such a fantastic achievement Grayson, you should be very proud of yourself!

**Miss Connor**





# GCSE Results Day 2022

40% of all GCSE entries at Teesside High School secured the highest possible 9-7 (A\*\*-A) grades this year.

Almost 90% of all Year 11 students secured the national benchmark of 5 or more GCSE passes with 87% of all entries securing the equivalent of A\*-C grades.

Mrs Mackenzie said:

“As a non-selective school, our teachers and support staff work extremely hard to provide opportunities which enrich our students’ education and go beyond the bounds of any curriculum. This allows our students to achieve and exceed their personal potential, both in and out of the classroom.

“Our students have achieved some outstanding results throughout the broad curriculum we offer, as well as in extension subjects such as Ancient Greek. Many of our subjects are celebrating record high grades; 9-7 (A\*\*-A) grades in Further Maths and Ancient Greek, Biology, Chemistry and History to name but a few.

“Congratulation’s Year 11. I cannot wait to see what you will go on to achieve in the next stages of your life.”

**Miss Whitehead**



## Year 9 Drama

Commedia Dell’Arte is a theatre style originating in 15th Century Italy.

Year 9 have been performing characters from this genre, including a very

dubious doctor treating a patient with ‘Fingernailus Brockenus’.

Great work Year 9!

**Mr Coates**



## A tribute to Her Majesty

After hearing the sad news about the Queen last week, History Club decided to pay tribute to her remarkable life and reign by writing eulogies.

Each student included some of their favourite and most interesting facts about the Queen including her love of Corgis, the long list of countries she has visited and her service during WWII.

Some very lovely work was produced – well done everyone!

**Miss O’Byrne**



# Creative Writing

The creative writing group have been looking at story hooks. They have experimented with creating a clear setting, scenario and characteristics in story openings.

Here are two examples set in a school, with cowardly characters, trying to escape their own inhibitions and the building!

*Love. Like a flurry of butterflies swimming within the brain. Hallways so full of people seem desolate without the presence of the one you love. The brain, a world full of walls that tower infinitely and shut others out, seems to melt and crumble with the throb of your heart. But not for me ... Like being trapped in a prison cell, I desire to take action and be free of the walls that hold me hostage. I am trapped in a life sentence built of my own insecurity. There he was.*

By Hattie Martin

*Every obstacle appeared to target me, pluck me from my contempt and drag me into chaos. My vision, smeared across my eyes like damp ink on a page, the product of my exhaust. My eyes had gotten lazy, but not as lazy as my radical steps, which usually took me forward, but never where I needed to be. The only thing I could rely on was my desperate breath, weighing me down like rocks in my pocket. But I’m breathing. I’m alive. Sometimes, that is enough.*

By Joseph Good

**Mr Clarke**

## Astrophysics

At the end of last year in GCSE Physics, Year 9 students looked to the stars, as they covered the Astrophysics topic.

Constellations are star patterns that often link to Greek myths and legends. However, the stars are rarely next to each other 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 close together due to their orientation to the Earth.

Students in 9H, at the time, showed this by producing 3D constellations

## Year 7 Induction Day

Our new Year 7 cohort had a wonderful Induction Day on Friday 2 September.

They were able to explore our grounds, make new friends and try team building exercises.

They have now had a fantastic start to the autumn term by exploring new activities and making the most of their new school environment!

**Miss Connor**





# A-level Results Day 2022

We are delighted to be celebrating an outstanding 100% A-level pass rate for the fourth successive year!

54% of all examination results secured impressive A\*-A grades, with our students heading off to top universities including Oxford, Cambridge and Durham.

In addition, almost two thirds of examination results achieved high grades (A\*-B), allowing our students to progress to their favoured university destinations, chosen careers and higher apprenticeship courses.

Mrs Mackenzie said:

"Huge congratulations to our fantastic Year 13 students for their outstanding examination results.

"Once again, our A-level results rival some of the most selective schools in the region, highlighting the excellence of our personalised learning environment and small class sizes. Our wonderful staff have worked closely with our A-level students to help them to achieve over and above their desired grades.

"It is this focus on excellent teaching and learning which was highlighted so strongly in our recent Independent Schools Inspectorate report – where Teesside High was graded to be Excellent across the board.

"These results have enabled our students to secure places at some of the best universities in the country, studying highly competitive courses such as Medicine, Languages, Mathematics and Music to name but a few.

"Whilst we are sad to be saying farewell to such valued members of our school family, some of whom have been with us since Nursery, I am sure they will go on to achieve wonderful things as they make their next steps in life and we wish them all the very best of luck.

"Once again, we hope each and every pupil is very proud of what they have achieved."

**Miss Whitehead**



## Sixth Form PE

Year 12 and 13 students had a lovely afternoon playing Volleyball during their PE lesson.

Sixth Form PE lessons allow our students to continue to build upon skills such as teamwork whilst also maintaining their fitness.

It was fantastic to see both year groups work together and really test their Volleyball skills.

Well done all!

**Miss Connor**



# Year 12 Induction Day

As part of their Induction Day, Year 12 students took part in a scavenger hunt around our wonderful school grounds.

Items they needed to find included taking a selfie with a SLT member, performing a Nursery rhyme with an instrumentalist, and riding a (stone) lion!

We hope that you all have settled into our Sixth Form and are excited for the year ahead!

**Miss Bird**



## House Assembly

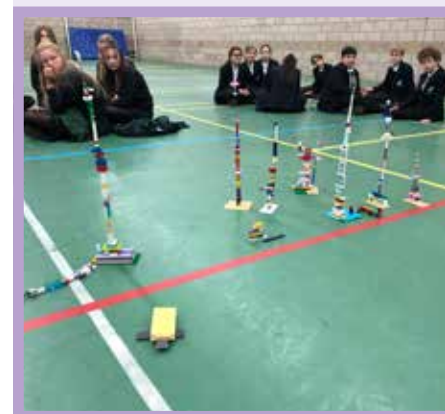
The first House Assembly of the year is always a great opportunity to build on our students teamwork skills.

Yesterday morning, Woodside House completed a series of Lego building challenges. Well done to the Year 8 team who managed to build the tallest

tower in two minutes.

Sixth Form students built the tallest tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows in the Victoria House Assembly!

**Mrs Reid and Mrs Little**



## Year 12 Business AS Results

Although the summer holidays may now seem a distant memory, our Year 12 Business students received their AS results in August.

For Business, the AS course content forms part of the full A-level course and therefore provides our Sixth Form students with a valuable opportunity to consolidate their learning within the subject.

It equips them with sound subject knowledge before they progress into the second year of the course.

A special congratulations go to Emilie Wright and Maia Bausor who both exceeded their target grades.

Well done!

**Mrs Boothroyd**







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# TEESSIDE HIGH SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Saturday 24 September, 9.30am – 12.30pm



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