



THS ALUMNI AUTHOR

On Monday, students in Year 10 and 11 benefited from bespoke workshops from former THS student, Dr Louise Powell.

They discussed how to approach narrative and descriptive writing and analysed how big movie giants achieve such compelling storytelling. Analysing the basic structure that Pixar use to scaffold their storylines, students discovered four key elements that can support their creative ideas towards successful writing:

Once upon a time...

One day...

Because of that...

Finally...

These seemingly simple starting points helped students engage with narrative writing in an interesting way and they all worked hard to produce excellent pieces of writing.

Below is an excerpt from Emily Hunter's creative writing piece. She was given the prompt 'an extreme weather event'.

Just the same as ever: stained, crumpled, torn and burnt. The family map, detailing an unknown land, long lost in the memories of our ancestors. And the strange, unexplained weather events linked to the sublime, the unbelievable, the supernatural. It's really just a family myth that our ancestors lived in a land with dragons, the name lost with their names.

Louise also delivered a fascinating Tea-Time Talk all about her time here at THS, the courses she studied at University and beyond. She shared with us the ups and downs of writing, the creative process, and how an amazing chain of events has led to her work being published and produced in many different areas including novels, plays, audio plays and articles for establishments such as the British Film Institute and the BBC. Louise has even dabbled in directing and

producing and it was riveting to hear her speak about her experience in all of these fields.

As someone who is passionate about the Arts, and equally so about her self-professed working-class roots and status, Louise spoke eloquently about how important it is that students continue their studies of Literature, how vital it is to read widely and that students should be encouraged to pick up a pen and write, whenever and wherever they feel inspired.

Louise said: "It was so lovely to come back to Teesside High; thank you for making me feel so welcome! It was an honour to work with the students and I was particularly impressed with the Year 11 top set group - I thought that several of them showed real potential as writers."

I would like to thank Louise for a truly engaging and inspirational afternoon. We are very much hoping to work together again in the future on more exciting projects.

Mrs Shevels



WELCOME

Wishing you all a well deserved half term break!

And just like that, we are halfway through our first term of the 2022-23 academic year. It has been a super busy first term back with a school calendar loaded with events, Prep assemblies, Open Days, theatre trips and sports fixtures.

A huge well done to our Prep School pupils who, as part of their Harvest Festival celebrations, made a wonderful donation to Thornaby Food Bank. Once again, the generosity of both the pupils and parents here at Teesside High School, makes me incredibly proud. A huge thank you to all those who donated.

I would also like to thank former THS student, Dr Louise Powell who joined us this week for our first Tea-Time Talk of the academic year. It was a pleasure welcoming Louise back and hearing about the extraordinary success she has accomplished since leaving us. I hope our students were inspired after hearing her talk. As evidenced during Dr Powell's workshops and through our National Poetry Day workshops, I have no doubt that we have many more successful writers ready to follow in Dr Powell's footsteps.

The second half of the autumn term is always one of my favourites! Not only are we approaching Christmas, which is one of my favourite times of the year, but we have many exciting events planned.

Our annual Family Firework Display takes place on Friday 4

November. Last year's sell out event was a one to remember and I cannot wait to welcome you all back. Numbers are limited and tickets are selling fast so I would recommend you get yours quickly. As usual, this event is open to all, so please invite your family and friends for another fantastic event. Remember to keep your pumpkin lanterns for our competition on the evening.

Future dates for your diary are:- Remembrance Service - Friday 11 November; Children in Need - Friday 18 November; Senior School Speech Day - Friday 25 November and the PTA Christmas Market - Saturday 26 November.

I hope you enjoy reading the 106th edition of our school newsletter which as always demonstrates our fantastic school community and the many opportunities for each and every student. It is clear we have a lot to be proud of.

Mrs K Mackenzie, Head



U16 Girls' Netball

Our U16 Premiership and Championship teams enjoyed league matches last week on Wednesday and Thursday evening.

The Premiership team were really competitive and gave it their best effort despite missing a number of experienced players.

Our Championship team were ferocious, with a blend of players from last year and three new faces - Sona, Ruby and Abbie. They fought out three good games and won two!

Well done to all involved, you were fantastic!

Miss Stephens



U13 Girls' Hockey vs Red House School

An amazing start for the U13 girls' Hockey teams as they played their first matches on Monday evening against Red House School.

The A team played some very impressive Hockey, they worked well in attack, linked up together and created some good opportunities which they utilised well. They were also quick to defend and Tendai made some lovely saves in goal for a clean sheet and a 5-0 victory for THS! The B team game was much closer and progress was seen

by both teams throughout the game. Again, scoring opportunities were taken advantage of and the girls should be proud of their 3-1 win!

Well done to all involved, a lovely group of girls to work with.

Miss Turnbull



Year 8 Girls' Netball

Our Year 8 A girls' Netball team played against St Michael's School last week.

All of the girls put in a fantastic performance throughout with some great passing and movement to effectively bring the ball down the court for our shooters, who rarely missed.

Well done to Player of the Match, Lexie, who made her debut for the school as a Senior student and displayed some great footwork alongside amazing shooting accuracy!

Mrs Chapman



U11 Boys' Rugby vs Red House School

Our U11 boys' Rugby team welcomed Red House School for their first Rugby match of the academic year. The boys have been working hard on their Rugby skills in PE lessons and were keen to demonstrate their progress.

In the first half we played Touch-Rugby. In attack, THS passed the ball quickly and with accuracy to score some excellent team tries. Jacob was a stand out ball carrier as he ran in three fantastic individual tries. In defence, THS were aggressive and limited Red House to a few tries with the score at half-time; 7-4.



In the second half the boys got their first taste of a full-contact match. THS remained aggressive in defence with some strong tackling from Ed and Oscar.

In attack, THS continued to move the ball effectively, with tries coming from

Ed, Gideon, Indy, Jacob and Zinedine.

Overall, both teams demonstrated a good level of Rugby that was played with enthusiasm. The boys should be very proud of the result, winning 12 tries to 6!

Mr Williamson



EYFS trip to the Head of Steam Train Museum

Nursery and Reception children arrived at school very excited last week as the day had arrived for their first off site visit of the academic year!

The children travelled by train to the Head of Steam Train Museum in Darlington. Once there, they enjoyed exploring the museum, making their own train ticket and sharing the story *The Train Ride*.

"I had fun looking at the trains. I liked the black train. It was very big. I liked looking at the farm out of the window. There were lots of horses" - Ibraheem

"I liked going on the train and looking out of the windows. I saw cars and diggers. I love diggers. The train went very fast." - Eva

"I enjoyed the train ride. I sat next to Olivia. I saw aeroplanes out of the window. It was lots of fun." - Ava

"I enjoyed going on the train and we had a biscuit to eat. I liked looking at all the trains. My favourite was the steam train." - Rire

"We saw lots of trains and we made a ticket for the ticket collector. I enjoyed looking round with Miss Hall and I had lots of fun. I liked going on the train." - Olivia

Miss Hall and Mrs Clapton



Year 1

Mathematics

Pre-Prep children have been exploring the part whole model as part of their Mathematics work last week.

The children worked with a partner using double sided counters to create their own part whole models.

Our Year 1 children are really enjoying their mathematics sessions and they love the practical hands on activities.

Mrs Hannah



Buildings

Pre-Prep children have really enjoyed their IPC unit *Buildings*, they have moved on from looking at houses to bridges.

The children learnt about different forms of bridges, suspension bridges, beam bridges, cantilever bridges and discussed why the triangle was such a strong structural shape.

They then worked in teams to create their own lego bridges.

They worked together to demonstrate our personal goals of thoughtfulness, communication, resilience and showed impressive team work.

Well done, Pre-Prep!

Mrs Hannah



Autumn in Nursery

Autumn has definitely arrived in Nursery over the past few weeks.

The children have loved being outside collecting a range of autumn treasures which they have then explored and used in a range of activities in Nursery.

They have been busy counting conkers and developing their fine motor skills alongside their mathematical development when using tweezers to pick up conkers and count them into numbered trays.

This was made extra tricky when the conkers were hiding under a giant spider's web! Conker painting was also lots of fun when the children explored colour mixing using yellow and red paint to roll conkers through.

Autumn leaves have also provided a rich resource. From comparing the different colours, shapes and sizes to using leaves to make owl pictures, the children have loved heading off around the school grounds to keep their collection well stocked.

As we head towards Halloween



Reading Challenge - October half term

In order for the children to become successful readers, it is important they continue to read and enjoy books during the break. The challenge comprises nine tasks which are appropriate for the age of your child. These vary from visiting a bookshop, reading a non-fiction book to reading a set of instructions for a toy or game and following them. The nine tasks are detailed on your child's bingo sheet which they will be issued with at school. All the tasks are designed to be enjoyable for your child to complete and completion of each task should be marked with a simple tick in the relevant box on the bingo sheet.

I very much hope your child will want to take part in this and help their House to be victorious with the most number of completed entries.

Your child will be issued a bingo sheet at school and all completed entries should be returned to myself by Wednesday 2 November. Thank you!

Miss Hall



pumpkins have also been a hot topic of discussion in Nursery.

The children have learnt a pumpkin counting song in their mathematics activities and were delighted when Miss Hall gave them all a handmade pumpkin gift to celebrate the season.

Miss Hall



Bake it! - IPC Exit Point

This week has marked the end of Upper Prep 1 and 2's IPC unit, *Bake it!*

Over the last 6 weeks, the children have worked incredibly hard to learn all about the science of bread including, the ingredients, how to activate yeast, reversible and irreversible changes, condensation and evaporation, solutions and suspensions to name but a few!

The children have also considered celebrations around the world where bread takes a key role, and the reasons and issues surrounding food waste and shortages. The food shortages sparked great discussion as the children found the statistics so shocking. They naturally moved their discussion towards the consideration of what we can do as global citizens to help reduce this problem.

No bread topic could be completed without a practical task, and the

technology task did not disappoint us! The children surveyed the Prep School and then found suitable recipes to make at home, designing their own company logo along the way.

It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the children's learning with their parents and the school community. The children spoke confidently about their learning and of course our visitors were treated to some VERY tasty samples!

Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who attended this event and for their lovely, positive feedback to the children. Your support throughout this unit of study has been invaluable as always.

Thank you!

Mrs Kennedy



U12 Girls' Hockey

We hosted two super competitive matches on Wednesday evening for the U12 girls' Hockey teams against Red House School.

There were a number of pupils playing their first ever fixtures for the school! It was lovely to see their progress and confidence grow throughout the evening. Thank you for all of the parental support on the night.

Miss Turnbull



Baptism

This week, the children in Pre-Prep have welcomed Reverend Matt Levinsohn from All Saints to talk about baptism.

The children have been thinking about this as a way that people are welcomed into the church family.

Reverend Matt was able to share some video clips of real baptisms with the children who were then able to compare an infant baptism to an adult baptism.

They were interested to learn why infants have godparents and why adults do not and were fascinated to watch the adult being fully submerged in the pool.

They were also able to learn the purpose and significance of the celebration of baptism.

The children have previously considered the symbolism of the different elements of baptism, such as

the candle, the water, the godparents, the white christening gown, the cross etc and were able to see these in a real-life context through the videos shown in this visit.

Many thanks to Rev. Matt for joining us.

Mrs Kennedy



Music lessons at THS

Music lessons are very much back with a bang with many students taking up an instrument in the last few weeks. We have had several demonstrations from our visiting Music teachers and lots of excited students as they try out new instruments.

Most recently, we have welcomed our newest member of the teaching team, Mr Hibbard, to visit some Prep and KS3 Music classes to share his knowledge and expertise on all things brass. This included live demonstrations of playing well

known themes on the trumpet and trombone, discussions on the many musical styles brass instruments lend themselves to as well as mini workshops with students successfully producing their first notes on the trombone. It was a lot of fun!

There are many opportunities to learn all musical instruments at Teesside High School and to play them in a variety of ensembles with your friends. Lessons are £16 per week for individual tuition, but this cost can be halved if you and a friend would like to learn in a lesson together.



Prep Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our Prep pupils' Harvest Festival last Friday, and to Reverend Matt Levinsohn for providing our prayer.

Our student leaders were also able to proudly make a generous donation to Thornaby Food Bank.

Thank you all for your generous donations over the recent weeks!

Miss Connor



There are also a limited number of instruments available to borrow free of charge, so do not let the expense of buying a new instrument be a barrier to your musical development.

To find out more, please contact Mrs Shevels, Director of Music.

Mrs Shevels

THS Celebrates National Poetry Day

On Thursday 6 October, Year 7 and 8 students celebrated National Poetry Day with an engaging online workshop led by Mark Grist, an internationally acclaimed poet, storyteller, educator and rapper.

The brief was relatively simple: to write a powerful poem about something the students loved or something they hated.

Ideas covering both were in plentiful supply and after sharing their feelings towards a range of topics: sprouts, social media and war to name but a few, the hard work began in earnest.

Creativity and concentration were in abundance as the students drew on their knowledge of poetic techniques and took on board Mark's sage advice: if their poems did not mean anything to them, then they would mean even less to the reader. Thankfully, the students were indeed inspired and produced a range of powerful poems which expressed their thoughts and opinions about the world in which they live.

Below are a few top picks:

Books give you wings,

Your eyes pull the strings,

Words fly off the page,

Stories performed on the mind's stage.

*From the Narnian wardrobe to
Hogwarts Train Station,*

*To other magical places of author's
creation,*

*There are all types of stories to spark the
imagination - Anu, Year 7*

Everyone is different,

Should all be treated the same.

Words are like a bullet,

They can cause a lot of pain.

Black skin or white,

Eyes of brown or blue,

The same type of heart,

*And the same words can hurt too -
Shreya, Year 8*

Miss Duffy

County Hockey

Well Done to the following individuals who have been selected for County Hockey after two competitive but successful days of trials.

Zaman, Roxie Affleck, John Macafee, Seth Holland, Ed Mogie, Sam King, Oliver Mash, Rohan Vagadia and Josh Collingwood.

Miss Hopkins

County Hockey: Anisa Ditta, Amelia



Pilot Theatre Company

After a very successful trip (brilliantly organised by Mrs Reid!) to see Pilot Theatre Company perform *Noughts and Crosses* at York Theatre Royal, we were delighted to welcome a member of the company into school to work with our GCSE Drama students.

Following the visit, Oliver sent us the following feedback which reminded us of how lucky we are to work with such brilliant students at THS:

"It was a delight to meet the Year 10 and Year 11 Drama students of Teesside High School. I was impressed by the commitment and creativity of the students to their studies, and how they explored challenging contemporary issues which affect young people today.

"Connecting their experience of seeing live theatre with a practical workshop in the classroom, enhanced their understanding of their set text and enriched their appreciation of contemporary theatre practice. As a company dedicated to making work for, by and with young people, Pilot Theatre is always thrilled to be able to support the creative learning of students. We would love to collaborate with your school and students again." - Oliver O'Shea, Creative Associate, Pilot Theatre

Mr Coates



Seasonal Crafts Club

Students in Seasonal Crafts enrichment Club have been busy creating themed tealight decorations using glass paints and pens to add designs to simple glass jars.

The girls first created a design all about themselves, then went on to produce additional jars with Halloween or Christmas designs.

When lit with a battery operated tealight the patterns and art work really

come to life!

Next we will be making our own beautiful poppy brooches for Remembrance Day and then it will be operation Christmas!

Mrs Shevels



History Club

This half term in History Club students got creative and made timelines of their lives so far.

Anu made hers in the shape of a jigsaw puzzle while Rafay displayed his as a road map and Izzy created a giant paper chain!

Some exceptionally imaginative ideas and excellent effort by all.

Well done!

Miss O'Byrne



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

Groups A-G took part in their first Bronze Duke of Edinburgh hike this term!

The groups completed a circular route starting at Gribdale Gate car park.

They then ventured to Captain Cook's Monument, Hanging Stone and Roseberry Topping.

The groups developed their navigation skills including learning about grid references, contour lines, estimating

time and identifying what the different symbols meant on the map.

Well done to all students involved, a

great first hike!

Miss Hopkins



Why do we have Black History Month?

On Monday, Mr Meyerhoff led an assembly on the importance of Black History Month.

'Why do we have a Black History Month - there is no White History Month?', 'to celebrate Black History Month is divisive', 'we already learn about Black History within History lessons, why have a separate month for it?'. These are just a few of the common phrases that have doubtlessly been raised amongst students across the country this October, the month Black History is celebrated. The assembly this week sought to move from the traditional narrative of Black History and consider the answer to these questions.

In preparation for this, unbeknownst to students, a mini-social experiment had been undertaken within school in the previous two weeks - tutor groups had been asked to name five important historical figures from History. They were asked this without any context to the question and were asked not to give the question much thought, just to name the first five that came to mind. An interesting mix of historical figures were given ranging from Pythagoras to Abraham Lincoln, to Malcom X, to Julius Caesar, to Martin Luther King, to Thomas Edison to Florence Nightingale.

In the assembly the reason for this was revealed - the historical figures were presented on the projector screen to the students but presented firstly with just the white historical figures shown; students were asked to try and find any commonality between them apart from the fact they were all white. Students struggled to find any common thread that tied them together - there were world leaders, mathematicians, inventors, scientists, medics. In short a plethora of different figures, all famous for various different reasons.

Students were then presented with images of the black historical figures that had been mentioned, namely Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks. When asked to find a common thread that tied these

figures together, answers were almost immediate - they were all important figures in the Civil Rights Movement. We discussed what this tells us about how Black History is taught; that the historical figures that are taught about represent a narrative of Black History being only a history of a fight against slavery, repression and inequality. That the traditional narrative ignores the great historical figures from the black community that have contributed as greatly, and in just as many fields, as those white historical figures that were originally considered. What is the reason for this? Why were no black mathematicians mentioned? Why no black scientists? Why no black medics? The answer could only be a lack of education and knowledge. This is exactly the reason why Black History Month is celebrated - to celebrate the rich tapestry of Black History that is not confined solely to a fight against inequality.

In order to stress this further a number of the figures that were mentioned from tutor groups were displayed individually, all of whom the majority of the student body recognised. Alongside them, black historical figures were displayed who were arguably as significant, the knowledge of whom was far less consistent to put it mildly. For Abraham Lincoln, why do we not know about Frederick Douglass? For Julius Caesar, why is Septimus Severus not as well known? Why does Florence Nightingale's story carry more common knowledge than that of Mary Seacole? Thomas Edison had the idea of the light bulb, but why is Andrew Latimer ignored?

To return to the original question posed: 'Why do we have a Black History Month - there is no White History Month': the answer had become clear.

Mr Meyerhoff



Senior House Rugby

The start of the week saw the first of many House Sports competitions as our Senior boys played Rugby for their Houses.

The boys showed real grit and each boy who played should be very proud of themselves!

The results were as follows:

Senior Rugby: 1st - Cleveland, 2nd - Victoria and 3rd - Woodside

Junior Rugby: 1st - Woodside, 2nd - Cleveland and 3rd - Victoria

Well done!

Miss Connor



Sixth Form House Netball

On Wednesday, Sixth Form students played Netball for their Houses to see who could be overall victorious.

There were many competitive matches and students showed great teamwork skills and determination.

The final results were: Woodside -



1st place, Victoria - 2nd place and Cleveland - 3rd place.

Well done to everyone who took part!

Miss Connor

Macmillian Cancer Support

Huge well done to our SEND Department who raised a whopping £547.80 through their raffle and bake sale for Macmillian Cancer Support.

Combined with our Sixth Form students' Coffee Morning total, we have raised £700 overall!

Congratulations to Arlo and Rachel who won the treat hampers.

Miss Connor



Drama Showcase

We ended September with a festival of Drama! It was brilliant to welcome an audience back into our fantastic Drama Studio for our Key Stage 4 and 5 Drama Showcase.

Year 10 students started the evening by sharing short scenes from *Noughts and Crosses* - work they had developed to a very high standard within their first month of their GCSE Drama studies.

We then turned to Year 13 with their performance of *Two* by Jim Cartwright. This piece was developed using the working methods of Theatre



practitioner Steven Berkoff and had some excellent audience feedback.

Three Year 11 groups closed procedures with their fantastic performance/design work on Component 1, Devising Drama. This work was influenced by the Theatre Company Splendid Productions, who

we were delighted to welcome into our school back in March.

A brilliant set of performances and a very proud Head of Drama!

Mr Coates





TEESSIDE HIGH SCHOOL FAMILY FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Friday 4 November, 6.30pm-8.00pm

Adults £5, Children £3

Tickets on sale now from School Reception or via Parentpay



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