

THiS Week



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

WINTER CONCERT

Thursday 8 December saw our first snow flurry of the season, which was the perfect weather for our Winter Concert!

Prep and Senior students joined together to perform a whole host of different musical items and really kicked off the festivities in school.

The Senior Orchestra opened with a beautiful performance of the much-loved *Walking in the Air* theme from *The Snowman*, complete with animation in the background for the audience to watch. We continued the film theme with Lower Prep performing *Believe* from the *Polar Express*, before Holly sang a lovely solo, *Put a Little Love in Your Heart*. Year 11 student Joe then treated us to a fantastic traditional character dance from the Royal Academy of Dance ballet syllabus, before our Senior Strings performed two pieces with great professionalism. Our GCSE Music students created a lovely atmospheric ensemble and performed Coldplay's *Christmas Lights* which took us to the interval.

Raffle prizes drawn, it was time for the now-traditional audience participation of the *Twelve Days of Christmas*. This year, we used British Sign Language actions for this well-known tune and had some wonderful volunteers at the front helping everyone along. Bethea belted out the Mariah Carey classic, *All I want for*



Christmas is you and was then joined by three fellow flautists to perform two traditional carols on the flute. Freya in Year 13 fulfilled a long-held ambition of performing a solo and produced an accomplished performance of her Grade 5 piece, *Minuet*. Fellow Year 13 student Yasmine paired up with Year 11 student Max to perform Fleetwood Mac's *Dreams* before the stage was taken over by a brave bunch of staff from across both the Prep and Senior Schools. They sang and played their instruments in their own piece, *The Christmas Song*, delighting students and audience alike with their hidden talents. Our Senior Choir rang out the end of the concert with *Carol of the Bells* before our finale in which the entire company wished all our audience *Merry Christmas, Everyone!* complete with party poppers at the end!

A truly festive and fun evening with high calibre performances all round and a great, appreciative audience. Thank you to everyone who came along to watch and to all the staff and students who contributed to the evening's success.

Mrs Shevels



WELCOME

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!

As we close the autumn term, it is wonderful to be able to reflect on all of the special moments from the past four months. From our Family Fireworks Display to the Christmas Market, musical concerts and poignant services, we have made sure to enjoy each and every moment of this term.

It has been a pleasure to once again support our local food bank at Hebron Church in Stockton and the Mission Christmas appeal, which aims to provide the most disadvantaged children in our local community with Christmas presents. Thank you all for being so generous at this time of year and for those less organised amongst us the final day for donations is Tuesday 13 December.

The last couple of weeks have been filled with student achievements with our U16 girls' Netball team becoming Stockton Schools Netball League Final winners, beating their opponents 35-15; our Senior students were the champions of the English Speaking Union's Public Speaking Competition and our Drama students showcased a fantastic performance of *Jason and The Argonauts* last week!

Last night, I had the pleasure of attending our annual Winter Music Concert. Each year I feel extremely proud of our students as they display their bravery, talent and dedication towards the Music Department. We were also lucky enough to hear the wonderful musical stylings of several talented members of staff. A huge thank you

goes to Mrs Shevels for always producing a memorable show.

Today I am looking forward to watching this year's Nativity, *Everybody Loves a Baby!* It is always lovely to be able to invite parents into school for such a special event. Well done to all our pupils and thank you for coming along to support them!

With only one week to go there does not appear to be any breaks in our festivities or events with Christmas Jumper Day, whole school Carol Service, House Choir Competition and the Big Fat Christmas Quiz. We will be making the most of everything THS has to offer at Christmas.

The children and staff will most certainly deserve a rest, whilst our older students begin their revision in earnest for their January mock examinations.

I wish you all a restful break and look forward to welcoming you back in 2023!

I hope you enjoy reading our last school newsletter of the year.

Mrs K Mackenzie, Head



U11 Girls' Hockey

vs Red House

School

Another exciting game on Friday afternoon for our U11 girls' Hockey team. Four exciting quarters, with good play and teamwork from all involved.

Sophia and Abigail were very strong in defence making it difficult for Red House School to score.

Flo, our Player of the Match, worked tirelessly and was a dominant player throughout.

Flossie and Flo both scored the THS goals, Ella and Harriet made great progress and worked hard up and down the wings and Lyla and Mabel developed their understanding from their time on the field. It was lovely to see their progress.

Also thank you to our team photographer, Ellena.

Final score: 2-0 to Teesside High!

Miss Turnbull



Stockton Schools Netball League Final Winners

On Thursday 1 December, our U16 Premiership team took to the court at Thornaby Pavillion for the Stockton Schools Netball League Final v Red House School.

A thrilling game and an outstanding display of Netball from both teams, the scoreline not really reflecting the ability of our opponents as they competed in all areas of the court.

THS took an early lead, 9-4 up in the first quarter and built on this phase by phase. By half time we led by 19-6 and the final score was 35-15 in THS favour!

This team is a pleasure to work with, and to watch, with strength, depth and experience in all areas of the court.

Great team spirit and camaraderie on

display seeing them crowned League winners. Congratulations, girls!

Miss Stephens



U14 Girls' Hockey vs Egglecliffe School

A fantastic game in miserable conditions for the U14 girls' Hockey team on Tuesday evening. They had a super competitive game against a good Egglecliffe side.

A valuable experience of 11 aside Hockey and plenty of potential moving forwards. Players of the Match were Tendai and Poppy and the final score was 0-0!

Miss Turnbull

District Cross Country Competition

Last Wednesday was a surprisingly dry day for the annual District Cross Country Competition at Preston Park. It is not often we arrive without waterproofs, gloves and hats in preparation for the rain and gale force winds at this competition.

The Intermediate boys were first up, running 5k around the park. The THS team performed well and standout performances came from Kiyan and Oliver, highlighting their excellent fitness levels.

Year 7 students had their first experience of the competition. With over 100 competitors in some races, this is often a daunting task, so it was nice to see pupils supporting and encouraging each other. They found the course a challenge but dug deep.

Niamh was the first back for THS Prelim girls followed closely by Anais and for the Prelim boys Noah and Lewis both finished in the top half of the field.

Next was the Junior Competition (Year 8 and 9) and again we were hopeful for some qualification places as the top 12 finishers go on to compete for the Stockton District. THS students did not disappoint, with Martha finishing 8th and Willoughby 6th.

Finally Veronica and Emily both competed in a competitive Intermediate girls section. Both students gave great performances on what was now a very muddy and slippery course. Well done to all students that competed, this is not an easy challenge and definitely



highlights grit, determination and commitment to the department.

Congratulations to Veronica, Kiyan, Martha and Willoughby who will all now represent Stockton at Stewarts Park in January!

Miss Turnbull



Christmas in Nursery

Christmas in Nursery is always a very magical time of year for our children and staff!

The days get busier with more and more exciting Christmas events and activities taking place and the countdown until the big day is on. As ever, the children have been hard at work and have also been having a lot of fun.

They have been busy little elves in Santa's workshop wrapping presents for their friends. They also put their writing skills to work by remembering to write their name on the tag to ensure the recipient knew who it was from.

The start of December brought the Nursery book advent calendar and each

morning the children find the correct numbered present to open.

Amidst all the excitement, Nursery have made time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and settled down to share the story of the birth of baby Jesus.

The highlight for many of the children has been performing in their very first Nativity play which they have been practising hard for during recent weeks.

As the term comes to a close, it is now time for the children to enjoy a well deserved break with family and friends.

Miss Hall



Nursery Stay and Play

Nursery was a hive of activity during our recent Stay and Play morning.

It was lovely to welcome parents, grandparents and visitors for a morning of Christmas fun.

The children loved making Santa searcher binoculars to look out for the man in red, created some magic reindeer dust ready for Christmas Eve and used lots of glitter and sequins to make some very special Christmas tree decorations.

Miss Hall



Roasting marshmallows

Our Nursery, Reception and Pre-Prep children thoroughly enjoyed their recent Forest School sessions when they wrapped up warm to toast marshmallows on the fire!

The children all listened really carefully to ensure they remained safe around the fire and loved eating the tasty treat to warm up.

They had a fun, magical and cosy woodland session with a great sense of adventure. We believe the benefits of such wonderful experiences are to build self confidence and manage risks.

Pre-Prep children also took part in a Christmas themed treasure hunt. The children worked together in teams reading the clues and solving the problems. Great teamwork, Pre-Prep!

Thank you, Miss Hopkins, for a truly magical experience in our stunning woodland.

Miss Hall, Mrs Clapton and Mrs Hannah

Nativity - Everybody Loves a Baby!





Friction investigation

Lower Prep have been working very hard and enjoying every minute of their investigations about friction.

First, the children played some games of marbles. This was followed by an investigation into which surface would be best for playing the game. They had to think carefully about what they meant by the 'best surface' and worked together to settle on an agreement that the best surface would allow the marble to roll between 1.5 and 2 metres.

Next came the predictions, which surface would be best and what properties did each surface have that made it better or worse for rolling a dice?

The children soon decided that the roughness or smoothness of a surface

determined how useful it would be. Too smooth and the marble went too far, too rough and it would not roll. Out of the choices of carpet, vinyl tiles, polished wood, tarmac, grass and astroturf most of the children agreed the carpet was the best choice.

The next investigations all required 'chopsticks'. The children all tried picking up ice cubes, then ice cubes covered in salt and finally sugar cubes. They used these experiments to help form their understanding of how friction acts on different objects. It was lots of fun!

Miss Lockerbie



Children in Need

movie night

Last Friday, our Prep pupils enjoyed a magical movie night in school to raise money for Children in Need.

The children were able to wear their favourite pyjamas, buy snacks and watch *Nativity* with their friends!

A huge well done to our Sixth Form students who led the event.

Miss Connor



McDonalds debate

This week the children in Upper Prep have turned their attention to some society tasks.

They have considered their own 'wants' and 'needs' and have compared them to those of children in developing countries. They have considered why these are different and some of the issues that children and families face in these communities, and how charities are working to support them.

They have considered the idea of sweatshops and were fascinated to watch some footage from inside some sweatshop factories run by some famous big brands that were familiar to us all. They were able to consider their role as a global citizen and whether by buying these products we are condoning such poor working conditions for people in other parts of the world.

This week, the children have also held a debate, considering whether McDonalds should open in Yarm. I was incredibly impressed with the



arguments that the children had prepared which led to a very detailed debate.

They thought about the issues of traffic congestion, pollution, the aesthetics of Yarm High Street and the impact of litter, to name but a few.

The McDonalds advocates did however have some strong arguments of their own and were able to counterargue the points from the opposition.

At the end of the debate, the children had to put themselves back into their own shoes and vote as to whether they thought McDonalds should come into Yarm. There was a strong majority vote against this which I think surprised a few of our children.

Well done to all of the children for a fantastic debate.

Mrs Kennedy



Forest School

Over the last few weeks, all members of Lower Prep have been learning how to safely use a flint and steel. They first practiced creating a spark, then they learnt how to set fire to a piece of cotton wool. Once the students got the hang of this, they then tried to set the cotton wool alight in as few stricks as possible.

Well done to the whole of Lower Prep who managed this, as this is a skill that takes time and perseverance to master and they were all determined to do it.

Miss Hopkins



Bushcraft Club

In Bushcraft Club, the group have been developing their skills of travelling round the woodland safely in the dark. They came prepared with their head torches and they even brought some glow sticks with them. They enjoyed playing hide and seek and then seeing what patterns they could create out of the glow sticks.

Miss Hopkins

Public Speaking Triumph!

Over this term a group of six Year 10 students have been developing their speaking skills in preparation for the English Speaking Union’s Public Speaking Competition.

The group has learned about the three main roles in a formal competition, Chairperson, Speaker and Questioner, and how to approach each one successfully.

After receiving a selection of speech topics from the ESU, the group decided that the topic of our speech would be ‘Governments should be held to their pre-election promises’.

Alex delivered the speech with great confidence and was praised by the judges for his calm and mature demeanour. Armand was a composed and personable Chairperson, taking control of proceedings and delivering a clear summary of the main points of the speech.

Max proved a formidable Questioner, showing a real ability to ask questions that got to the heart of the subject at hand.

The team were delighted to win, going through to the next round in the early part of next year. I am sure they will rise to the challenge that the next stage of the competition will bring.

Mrs Reid



Forest School

Our Senior Forest School enrichment group loved having their campfire treat in their session this week.

They enjoyed telling stories to each other whilst warming up around the fire. They were also delighted to be accompanied by our school dog, George!

Miss Hopkins



History Club

When designing his coat of arms, a medieval knight had to follow several strict rules.

To begin with, a knight was only allowed to use five basic colours - purple, blue, red, black and green. He was also allowed to use two metal colours - gold and silver. Each colour represented a different quality/strength.

There were even strict rules when selecting the colours for a pattern. For example, you could not put a metal next to a metal or a colour next to a colour!

History Club has been busy designing their own heraldic coat of arms over the last few weeks. The end results were fantastic!

Well done, everyone!

Miss O’Byrne



Jason and the Argonauts

A group of 14 intrepid actors have recently taken on the challenge of re-telling this Colossus of Adventure!

On the day before the performance, five of the cast were sick! I am delighted to say that all but one were able to fight through a cornucopia of virus’ and perform to both our Upper Prep and a wider public audience. Great resilience team Drama!

Feedback from one of our parents; ‘The students produced a fantastic live performance last night. The students were witty and confident and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. It has given our child great confidence to be involved with and they’ve loved being a part of it.’ Another wrote; ‘We just wanted to share how much we loved the show last night! Loved the interaction and alternative theatre approach - very creative indeed!’

Cast feedback included,

‘I loved the teamwork - if anyone was struggling - the rest of us were there to rush in and support them.’

‘I was told that all the actors looked and sounded very confident and were funny.’

‘The play taught me how to improvise and that I am very good at working with anyone and everyone.’

‘The interaction with the audience was really what made the show unique - totally different to anything I have ever performed before.’

Our congratulations to all involved and a big thank-you to our lovely audience for being complicit in our work.

Mr Coates



Rewards Trip

34 of our Year 7 and 8 students have been awarded with a trip to Station 5 Brunch and Bistro during lunch time this week.

This term, our staff have been specifically looking out for kind manners amongst our students. The students who received the most merits for their manners travelled to the top of the avenue for a hot chocolate and sweet treat.

We look forward to taking more of our students next week. Well done, all!

Miss Connor

Scrapbook Making enrichment

During enrichment this term, students in Year 8 to 10 have been making a Christmas scrapbook. They have recorded events happening in school such as our Shoebox Appeal, Mission Christmas, Foodbank Appeal, Christmas trips, Christmas trees, our Christmas Market, Christmas Jumper Day, House Choir Competition and form secret santa!

Students have also recorded how they celebrate with their families and loved ones. They enjoy having Christmas dinner with family, going to light switch ons, watching Christmas films, putting up the Christmas tree, shopping and of course presents!

They also wrote a poem about Christmas:

*Christmas at Teesside High is a fun filled event full of smiles and laughs,
From the Christmas Market to reindeer embroidered jumpers,
Looking forward to Christmas at my grans gaff,
Christmas boxes filled with wonders.
On the last day we have lots of fun,
The Christmas dinner leaving you full to the brim,
Wrapping presents for your mum,
The whole school is singing a hymn.
Having fun with your friends,
Saying goodbye,
Yet the fun never truly ends,*

*Watching the snow descend from the sky.
When we are having fun, we must remember
there are less fortunate people this December!*

Mrs McKenna





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WHOLE SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Saturday 21 January, 10.00am – 12.00pm

Teesside High School combines a family-style environment, small class sizes, inspirational teaching and outstanding pastoral care to nurture, support and challenge every individual. As well as exceptional examination results, our pupils enjoy a rich and varied co-curricular and outdoor education programme, enriching their school day with creative, sporting, musical and nature-based activities.

We believe our school is a unique and wonderful place to learn and grow. Visit our Open Day on Saturday 21 January, to find out more. Call **01642 782095** or email **admissions@teessidehigh.co.uk** to register for an appointment.

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