

THiS Week



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS AT THS

We are delighted to inform you of a new website that we have created to benefit the entire Teesside High School community.

At THS, we understand and appreciate the ever growing demands on our young people and, as such, nurturing our students and promoting positive mental health is very important to us. It is also of high priority that we are able to support our students and families when they face challenges in this area.

Over the last few months, we have been working hard behind the scenes to develop a brand new website to promote and support mental health in a range of different ways. The site offers information and resources for children from Nursery to Sixth Form as well as providing a Parent section. The resources that you will find are organised into sections and are age-appropriate for the children, covering topics from anxiety and exam stress to coping strategies and techniques and much more.

Also included on the website are lists of useful contacts that you can have at hand in case you need to contact specific mental health services. Many of these



George, our wellbeing dog, celebrated his two year school anniversary in April.

contacts offer out of hours services; details of which can be found on the contacts page. We hope you find this an outstanding resource to complement the many wellbeing initiatives running in school.

Mental health awareness is essential from an early age in order to reduce any stigma surrounding it, as well as giving children and young people the opportunity to take ownership so that they are in a stronger position to address their feelings head on.

To view the website, follow the link or QR code in your parent email. We are incredibly grateful to Mrs Kennedy for her work on the site and would love to hear your feedback.

Miss Hockney



WELCOME

I hope that you all had a wonderful Easter holiday and are looking forward to a jam-packed final term of the academic year.

After a long break, it is lovely to see the school corridors buzzing once again as we begin an extremely important final few weeks of the year, particularly for those at the top of the school.

This week, we painted the school red, white and blue as we marked the start of our Coronation celebrations. Yesterday, the whole school came together in a special assembly as we discussed the historic nature of the event and what it means for our country. Our assembly re-enacted the entire Coronation ceremony - complete with King (Mr Atkinson), Archbishop of Canterbury (Mr Griffiths), Dean of Westminster (Joseph, Year 11) and Footmen (Satvik and Piano, Year 12). We had so much fun sharing the journey the King will take tomorrow.

Today our Prep School pupils are decked out in red, white and blue for a special non-uniform day and we are all looking forward to our "street party" tea in the dining room at lunchtime.

Keep an eye on our social media platforms for some special photographs from the occasion!

Next week has our older students leaving us for study leave and then the madness of the examination season is upon them. This is a challenging time for all involved and hopefully early preparation has set our students up to succeed well. I know the additional intervention sessions in school over the last few weeks will have helped

provide that important insight into 'hot topics' and examination technique that is so useful come the big day. I wish all our students the best of luck!

I would like to remind you of the Parents v Staff Cricket Match on Friday 23 June at 4.30pm. Please do join us if you can; I know the staff team is full of confidence but I suspect it's more bluster than actual coordinated talent (but don't tell them I said that!). I think it will be a lovely evening of sporting fun and do hope you can either play yourselves or come and support both teams.

With Sports Days, leavers events and well deserved end of year reward trips to look forward to, I cannot wait to enjoy the final school term with you all.

I hope you enjoy reading the first newsletter of the summer term and have a wonderful bank holiday weekend!

Mrs K Mackenzie, Head



County Hockey League Winners!

Following the end of the Hockey season, we have now received the overall County League results for the Junior girls.

The U12 teams gained valuable experience and game play and made good progress throughout the season. A number of girls joined in September and had never experienced hockey before, so it was great to see them picking up the skills and playing some competitive fixtures. The A team finished in 4th place and the B team finished in 5th place. Well done to a number of Year 6 girls who played up into these teams and proved really valuable players.

The U13 girls continued their excellent record in this league. Having won last year, the pressure was on. A number of these players have developed a real passion for the game over the last two years and it is lovely to see them playing for local clubs, as well as being totally committed to the school team. The A team remained unbeaten in this competition and were crowned League Champions for the second year in a row, a fantastic achievement. The B team also demonstrated some very good performances and again played some extremely competitive matches finishing the season as joint winners.

Miss Turnbull



Netball League Champions

A big congratulations to our U14 and U12B Netball teams who were crowned League Champions at the end of the spring term.

Both teams had a fantastic season, beating some tough competition. A special well done to the U12B team who have consistently had six Year 6

pupils play up for them, and remained unbeaten throughout the season. Well done everyone!

Mrs Chapman



Year 6 sporting success

A number of Year 6 girls are proving a very exciting group, showing real talent on the sports field.

Last term they were unbeaten in both hockey and netball.

We look forward to working with this promising group as they progress to Year 7 and beyond.

Miss Turnbull

Introducing THS Games Captains for 2023-24

Hi, I'm Finn and I am in Year 12. I am currently studying PE, Business and DT. Sport has always been a big part of my life; I have kicked a ball since I could walk. Throughout primary school, football was my main sport. I had the great opportunity of captaining my school team at a final played at Victoria Park (Hartlepool's stadium).

When starting secondary school I was introduced to hockey which I enjoyed straight away. I started playing County Hockey for Durham from Years 8-11. I also carried on playing football, being selected for Stockton District during my Senior School years. The last few years I've played for my local football team Wynyard FC in the first division and the Norton mens' hockey team. Having recently had knee surgery, I'm recovering and cannot wait to get back to sport. My

experiences will enable me to support students in sport not only when things are going well but also when things are challenging. I'm delighted to be Games Captain and cannot wait to get started.

Hi, I'm Joy and I'm currently in Year 12 studying Biology, Chemistry Mathematics and Psychology.

I have been involved in sports since primary school where I played girls' football. Alongside football from Year 7 to Year 10, I captained my school's netball team where I played as goal defence.

I am currently a part of Mandale Athletics Club where I run 60m, 100m and 200m sprints.

Through my involvement in sport I was able to win the North Youth Development League and help my

athletics club get promoted as well as win Sportswoman of the Year in secondary school for my work in the netball team, football team and school athletics.

I am excited to take on the role of Games Captain and encourage everyone to take part in sports and to find a sport that they enjoy.

Finn and Joy, Year 12



Once Upon a Time

The start of term in Nursery has been welcomed with the start of another exciting topic called *Once Upon a Time*.

The children in Nursery enjoy a broad curriculum which includes both adult-led and child-initiated learning. The story of *Cinderella* has been a wonderful text to support all areas of learning.

In literacy activities, the children have been sequencing the story, retelling the story using puppets and even acting out the story in role play. This has also supported their personal, social and emotional development as the children have worked together and explored the feelings of the characters in the story.

Meanwhile, Mathematical skills have been developed when making pictures of castles using 2D shapes and beautiful clocks to strike midnight. The children even explored the concept of measuring when using non standard units to measure their shoes which led to discussions about longer and shorter as

well as matching when seeing if any one else had the same size shoes.

Counting skills have been further developed when the children created beautiful pictures of Cinderella travelling to the ball in her coach. The challenge for the activity was to count out five jewels for her dress and ten stars to decorate the carriage. This involved the children practising their one-to-one count skills as well as calculation skills when working out how many more they needed. The children were very keen to talk about how kind the Fairy Godmother was to help Cinderella and made their own fairy wands before saying the magic words “bibbity bobbity boo” and making their own magical wishes. What a wonderful week of learning and fun in Nursery!

Miss Hall



Vivi's visit to London

Vivi in Reception presented a talk on her recent visit to London. She invited a wider audience to listen, discuss and ask questions.

Presenting with confidence, she delivered her talk in a charismatic and entertaining way. Vivi talked about King Charles and the decorations in London in preparation for the

Coronation weekend. She described sculptures, spectacular theatre shows and we enjoyed seeing photographs of the dinosaurs in the Natural History Museum. Thank you Vivi for a detailed and confident report on our vibrant capital city.

Mrs Clapton



Our World

Pre-Prep children enjoyed diving into their new IPC unit this week. The children are excited to be looking at *Our World*.

They started off by exploring their local environment looking at the different features. We had a wonderful walk around our school grounds taking photographs of areas of interest - the pond, the woodland, the river, the field, the astro turf and tennis courts.

When we returned to the classroom the children discussed the different areas, thinking about them as natural or man made features. They then went on to think about the areas they would show a friend who had not visited our school before.

Mrs Hannah



Andy Goldsworthy

Pre-Prep children have been finding out about the artist Andy Goldsworthy as part of their IPC unit, *Our World*.

Andy Goldsworthy is a British artist who creates sculptures and land art in urban and natural settings.

The children were amazed when looking at collections of his work and took inspiration from this to create their own art work. They collected natural materials and worked with a partner to create a temporary piece of art. As the outdoor artwork would

be disturbed by animals, people or the weather, the children discussed the best way to keep and record their work.

They each took their own photograph of their art work working on their technology skills, too.

Great work, Pre-Prep!

Mrs Hannah



Phonics in Nursery

At Teesside High, we follow the Song of Sounds Phonics Programme which begins in Nursery. This highly engaging, child centred and enjoyable way to teach phonics plays a vital role in ensuring the children quickly learn to read and write during their time in Pre-Prep. The letter in Nursery this week has been ‘L’ which in the words of Nursery children is “lions love lollipops, L, L, L”. This led itself wonderfully to a cross-curricular activity incorporating physical development and expressive art and design as the children created their own lion lollipops.

Miss Hall

Early Years Forest School

Heading down to Forest School is most definitely one of the Early Years children’s favourite activities.

Exploring the world around us and learning outdoors is a crucial part of the EYFS curriculum and the stunning grounds at Teesside High provide a magical environment for the children

to explore.

This week, the children quickly noticed how much the woodland area had changed over the Easter break with the wild garlic in full flower and the leaves beginning to appear on the trees. They had a great time finding hidden paths within the woods and

showed excellent teamwork skills when working together to see where they led.

Watch this space to see where our adventures take us next week!

Miss Hall and Mrs Clapton





Prep Wellbeing Champions

The Prep Wellbeing Champions are helping to set up a wellbeing area in our grounds, and spent their last session creating some lovely painted rocks to dot around the space.

We thought about the kinds of positive messages that could be useful in this space and the children came up with things such as 'be yourself', 'you are never alone', 'hope' and more.

They then turned their messages into colourful designs which will help brighten up our woodland wellbeing area once it is completed.

In the coming weeks, the children will be helping with some more crafty projects so that we can enhance this space and make it an alternative and welcoming area for our young people who want to relax or discuss their mental health.

Mrs Kennedy



Treachery at Traitors Quay

Rehearsals are now into their second week for the Prep School's summer show - *Treachery at Traitors Quay*.

Without giving too much away, the play is set during the Second World War and centres around the five Dawson children, who are evacuated to the countryside.

Whilst living in the countryside they realise there is a spy in their midst! But who? Can the children solve the mystery and crack the case? You will have to join us in school for the show at the end of term to find out!

Mr Griffiths



Roots, Shoots and Fruits

Upper Prep 1 and 2 children are well underway with their new IPC unit, *Roots, Shoots and Fruits*.

As the unit title suggests, this unit will focus heavily on plants, considering their anatomy, habitats, life cycle and more.

This week the children have enjoyed exploring our local area to begin to identify some of the tree and plant species that are growing in and around the school grounds. We found some of the species easy to identify due to their distinct shape, colour or smell but for the less well-known species, we turned to technology to help us in the form of the leafsnap app.

Through these tasks, the children have been able to apply the personal learning goals of enquiry, communication, thoughtfulness and respect.

The children will now be able to use the information that they have found, alongside their observations, to compare different local locations and habitats.

This is a very practical unit and we look forward to sharing more of our learning over the coming weeks.

Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Leck



Forest School Holiday Camp

In the Easter holidays we had a very fun two days packed full of woodland adventures at Forest School Holiday Camp.

The children enjoyed the independence of choosing their activities at the start of the days and rounding up all the equipment they required.

This group in particular loved exploring the woods to see what minibeasts they could find in their view finders and making popcorn and pancakes on the campfire. Keep your eye out for more information about Forest School Holiday Camp in May half term!

Miss Hopkins

Big Adventures Holiday Camp

Big Adventures Holiday Camp is back! The children had an action packed first day of Easter Holiday Camp. They made the most of the wonderful weather and glorious sunshine by exploring our school grounds and heading off to Forest School. The children all enjoyed toasting marshmallows on the fire and collecting natural resources which they used to create a nature inspired Easter egg.

Day two saw a trip to Newby Hall. They enjoyed a garden workshop with the gardeners who are responsible for keeping the gardens looking so impressive, explored the adventure

play, completed the trail in the fairy woodland and finished the day with a ride on the miniature train! The beautiful spring sunshine was perfect for a full day out exploring.

On day three, our pupils did not let the weather dampen their spirits as they excitedly explored the school grounds to complete a treasure hunt. They also enjoyed an afternoon party.

Thursday was the final day of Big Adventures Holiday Camp and pupils were back on the road for a busy and super fun day at Monk Park Farm. They enjoyed feeding the lambs, exploring the petting barn, riding the barrel train and tiring themselves out

with a bounce on the giant air pillows. We are already looking forward to our next camp in the summer and hope to see lots of you there!

Miss Hall



Pearl of Africa Children's Choir

On Friday 28 April, our usual Choir Enrichment slot had two very special visitors; Leonie and Annet.

Annet is the Headteacher of the school in Uganda which is attended by the children from the Pearl of Africa Choir and she and Leonie are visiting schools in our area to help organise the choir's next tour. She gave a presentation on what life is like in Uganda, what happened during Covid and what the choir has been doing since.

We were amazed to find out that schools in Uganda had to close for two full years during Covid as they had no online provision for lessons, so everyone had to stay at home.

Annet told us about how our previous fundraising has supported the work of the choir and of the Molly and Paul Foundation.

Annet taught us a song in Swahili which was about thanking God for the children. The whole of Years 3-8 joined

in with learning the song and sang it so beautifully! Students then had an opportunity to buy some handmade Ugandan crafts and I am so pleased to say that we bought almost all of their stock in just ten minutes, raising a fantastic £155.00 for the Foundation.

We are very excited to be welcoming our special guests back to school again in October for a full day of workshops and a concert in the evening - watch this space for more details!

Mrs Shevels



A hair-raising experience!

Year 7 Physics students were in for a shock when investigating static electricity in recent lessons.

Using the brand new Van de Graaff generator, they were able to observe first-hand how electric charge can build-up and how it can cause their hair to spread out and stand up if the charge has got nowhere to flow to. Pierre was

amongst many who volunteered to step up on an insulated block and put their hand on the dome to allow themselves to be 'charged up'.

Hopefully it was a 'positive' rather than a 'negative' experience for these bright sparks!

Mr Edwards



Shoebox Theatre

As part of our broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum at THS, Year 8 students study The Grimm Brother's *Hansel and Gretel* in Drama. They learn and perform extracts from the script, applying their learning in practice.

We then look at set design, now an important part of GCSE and A-level Drama and Theatre Studies. All students were set the challenge of designing and making a Shoebox Theatre to show their design for one scene from the play.

As last year, there was some amazing work produced, another example of the brilliant creativity in our school. Judging was very hard, but we were pleased to award six designs as our shortlist as pictured. Well done, Year 8 and keep being creative!

Mr Coates



Superleague Netball experience

Libby in Year 7 continues to develop her passion for netball.

Following a busy season of her playing for THS and Darlington Headlanders, Libby went to a Superleague Netball match in April, between Leeds Rhinos and Saracen Mavericks.

This was to be a very exciting game as both teams were battling it out to chase the top four teams in the table. Libby was chosen to be the ball mascot for the game. This amazing experience included going courtside with the umpires and taking the ball out for the first centre pass.

It was a thrilling match with some brilliant attacking and defensive play from both teams and it was a nail-biter of a finish with Saracen Mavericks winning by just one point. At the end of

the game, Libby met all of the players, received their autographs and had her photograph taken with the team. Libby said: *It was inspirational to see elite netball up close and the whole team were lovely!*

Miss Turnbull



Duke of Edinburgh

The end of the spring term saw our Duke of Edinburgh expedition programme back in full force and pupils focusing on their Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections.

First, our eight Bronze groups took to the Cleveland Hills and completed a circular route around Swainby, Faceby and Carlton-in-Cleveland.

Our two Silver groups went to the Yorkshire Dales to complete their last practice walk before their practice expedition in the Easter holidays.

Well done, all!

Miss Hopkins

House Drama Competition

In the second year of our House Drama Competition, the judges chose Victoria House for their second win! Teams competed to score points based on the criteria of team work, creativity and entertainment.

Last year the event fell in the middle of our successful ISI inspection visit - a week in which the school, like many others, was dealing with an internet outage. However, as part of the school's Excellent grading, inspectors commented that House Drama showcased THS students cooperating and collaborating to an extremely high and professional standard.

This year, teams began by advertising fictional products such as 'A Magic

Money Tree', a 'Write Your Own Dreams Pen' and a 'A Coronation Collect and Keep King Charles III Rainbow'. Further topics that the teams were asked to improvise around, without any planning or rehearsal, were 'Tik Tok is overrated', 'Super Mario Brothers is the best film ever' and 'Why is the England Womens' Football Team better than the Mens?'.

It was fitting that the event took place during the school's theme of the week, Bravery. We enjoyed 12 brave improvisers on our stage and a special mention must go to Cleveland House who had a number of late substitutions to their team.

However, there can only be one winner, and at the end of the event our head judge, Ms Jackson, Speech and Drama Teacher, once again crowned Victoria as House Drama champions.

Mr Coates



From Nursery to Sixth Form, Maia's journey at THS

Maia in Year 13 is our school Games Captain, and she joined us at Teesside High School in Nursery (15 years ago!). We recently interviewed Maia about her time at THS before she flies the nest for university and beyond.

Which three words would you use to describe Teesside High School?

Family, supporting and fun!

What has it been like being at THS for your full time in education?

I have not only received an amazing education, but I think I have become a well rounded individual. I feel as though Teesside High has taught me vital attributes that aren't just part of a curriculum – learning how to be professional, how to compete in today's corporate world, how to speak to people and be courteous and articulate – how to make an impression.

It made sense to stay at THS throughout my education because I have such great relationships with my teachers, they know how I learn and I've received great one-to-one support. I don't think that I would have done as well anywhere else.

How has THS helped you become who you are today?

The main thing I would say school has helped with is my confidence. I used to be scared to stand up in front of people and talk, but now it doesn't phase me. My Games Captain role has definitely helped me with this. There are so many opportunities to be involved in here, and I have not been afraid to have a go at anything. It's true that those opportunities teach you different skills, and different things about yourself, and that's what makes THS so special.

How have you found the continuity throughout the school?

I have found the continuity at THS really good, again that's down to the relationships we have with our teachers. They made moving throughout the school really easy because they knew me as an individual. During both my transitions from Prep to Senior and Senior to Sixth Form I felt really comfortable as I knew who I could speak to if I needed anything.

How did you find those transitions?

During my transition from Prep School to Senior School I felt nervous and thought it was going to be a really big change. In fact the transition was really smooth, I wasn't afraid to put myself forward for new things such as co-curricular activities and sporting fixtures.

My transition from Senior School to THS Sixth Form was again really smooth; Teesside High School just feels like a second home to me. There's no place like it.

What is your greatest achievement at THS?

I was really proud of my GCSE results, as I achieved higher results than I thought I would. I sat my examinations just after the Covid pandemic, and it's thanks to the school for providing such a good online learning experience that I was able to do so well.

As Games Captain, how did THS help you with your love for sport?

In the Prep School, part of the co-curricular provision involves visiting coaches – and this started my love for netball. I have been playing netball since I was six years old for Grangetown Netball Club. I have represented the club in every age group during the last 11 years and have had many successes, including the U14s National Competition, where we placed 7th in the country. I currently train with the Leeds Rhinos U21s squad.

There are lots of opportunities for sport at THS, competitive and non-competitive, including athletics, rounders, hockey, gymnastics and badminton. This wide variety helped me try new sports that I might not have played in a different school.

What are your plans after Sixth Form?

I would like to go to the University of Leeds to study Business Management with Marketing and continue to train with Leeds Rhinos while I study.



Spring Masquerade Ball

Just before the Easter break, parents, staff and Governors enjoyed an evening at Wynyard Hall for our Spring Masquerade Ball.

The night was full of delicious food, raffles, music and dancing and it was great to see the THS community come together to end the spring term on a high.

A huge thanks goes to our Headline Sponsor, Inspire Finance Management and our Drinks Sponsor, Toll Bar Garage for their support.

Miss Connor



Advertising in THiS Week

As you are aware, our school newsletter is distributed to all parents at Teesside High School, and we also send hard copies to prospective parents and those in our local and wider community, too.

The back page of our newsletter is sometimes used to promote school events such as musical productions or Open Days, but the space is also available should a local business wish to advertise their products or services.

For a small fee, your advert could be seen by hundreds of THS parents and friends of the school.

If you wish to find out more, please contact me via shockney@teessidehigh.co.uk - it would be lovely to hear from you!

Miss Hockney

Meet our new Governor, Dr David Macafee

Firstly, hello to all current and future pupils and parents of Teesside High School. I commenced work as a Governor in April 2023, and aim to support our excellent teachers in nurturing the talents of every pupil. I would like to see the school thrive in all areas with everyone looking forward to each school day, developing positive lasting friendships and pupils leaving after A-levels equipped with the skills and confidence to live fulfilled lives. I also hope that we can create a culture which makes THS the foremost school in the region to work as a member of staff – be it in the classroom or in any other role.

Born in Northern Ireland, I went to a local Grammar School before attending Eastbourne College on the sunny South Coast. My medical training was at the University of Nottingham with ongoing surgical training in the Midlands and Northern England. I have been a Consultant

Colorectal and General Surgeon of Childhood at South Tees for 11 years with most of my work at James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough; some at Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

For most of those years I held senior educational leadership roles delivering the highest quality medical education to 500 postgraduates, 200 undergraduates and our consultant trainers each year. Achieved with a great team, we consistently secured a national top quartile position in the annual GMC training survey. I have a Masters in Medical Education and have always been passionate about education whether in medicine, sport or life skills.

I'm married to Vicky (a medical consultant), and we have two children, one of whom is at THS. It was the warm welcome, wide ranging opportunities and excellent pastoral

support which made it easier for our son to decide on THS.

My outside interests include Tennis and Squash in the Cleveland Leagues or Stokesley Hockey Club training at Macmillan Academy. I enjoy Photography and Golf in the drier months of the year. If you spot me around the school at an Open Day, please do stop me as I am always keen to meet pupils, parents or members of staff.





Shaping a **future.** Joining a **family.**

In a happy and caring environment, Teesside High School pupils are inspired to achieve great things both in and out of the classroom.

We combine small class sizes, inspirational teaching and outstanding pastoral care to nurture, support and challenge every individual. As well as achieving exceptional academic progress, our pupils enjoy a rich and varied co-curricular and outdoor education programme, enriching their school day with sporting, musical, artistic and nature-based activities.

Our inclusive philosophy is unique; making our school a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Book a tour by calling **01642 782095** or emailing **admissions@teessidehigh.co.uk** today.

www.teessidehigh.co.uk



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