



THE THINKING CURRICULUM

Teesside High School is proud to deliver a unique, curriculum-enhancing programme, designed and built by Assistant Head and teaching and learning specialist, Mr Adam Meyerhoff.

Providing students with the opportunity to develop the skills they need to become successful lifelong learners, equipped with the independence, initiative and self-sufficiency required to thrive in today's world is given the utmost importance at Teesside High.

Mr Meyerhoff has taught across the globe, in schools in countries such as Singapore, and is passionate about pupils becoming effective learners, with a deep personal awareness, a repertoire of technical learning skills and an understanding of their personal and social responsibility in a globally interconnected world. It is within this environment where our next generation is expected to showcase a wide repertoire of independent skills such as critical analysis, working effectively within teams (that are often spread across the globe) and to understand not only how to think but also consider why they and others think in the ways they do. Simply learning to pass examinations, without an understanding of why concepts work and how they are applicable to the real world, is not enough.

Mr Meyerhoff said: "Understanding The Thinking Curriculum might initially sound challenging, but for me its principle is very simple. I am passionate about pupils not simply being taught how to pass exams. Spoon-fed pupils who walk away from years of lessons with little understanding about what they are being taught, and how it can apply to them in their futures, will not thrive in today's society. I want my pupils to challenge the information they are given, to present their arguments clearly and concisely, to learn how to analyse information (and its origins) and effectively internalise this and become efficient at revision, skilled in proofreading and with the ability to make informed choices about their learning. These skills will not

only set them apart in education and in employment, but it will prepare them for a successful future in an increasingly socially conscious and interconnected world."

Pupils in Year 3 and above at THS are engaged in the Thinking Curriculum, and in both the Prep and Senior School this year pupils have a specific Thinking Curriculum lesson as part of their fortnightly timetable, cultivating creativity, challenging their logic and supporting analytical thinking. Pupils are then taught and encouraged to apply these developed skills across the broader curriculum, for example, using their critical thinking skills to explore vested interest in a History source, and the same tools to find weaknesses in the results of a particular Science experiment.

Mr Meyerhoff will be meeting parents and discussing The Thinking Curriculum as part of our Open Day event. We look forward to sharing why we believe this programme will set our pupils apart in the years to come.



WELCOME

A very warm welcome to the first THS newsletter of the 2023-24 academic year, especially to those who are reading this at our Open Day and Coffee Morning.

I hope that you have all had a wonderful return to school; what a return it has been! It has been great to see the school and all of its activities back in full swing, with assemblies, co-curricular clubs and sporting fixtures all making a welcome return. Our pupils have enjoyed getting back into their busy school routine, and I have loved seeing all of our new students settle into their new school environment and quickly become part of the THS family.

At the end of August, I was delighted to see our Year 11 and Year 13 students' hard work pay off with an excellent set of GCSE and A-level examination results. Whilst it is sad to be saying goodbye to our Year 13 cohort, some of whom have been with us since Nursery, I am sure they will go on to achieve great things at university and in their degree apprenticeships.

Our autumn term calendar is full of exciting events for our school family and wider community, so the following serves as a little series of save the dates!

We cannot wait to welcome back the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir on Monday 2 October. Tickets can be purchased via our usual Ticketsource link, which can be found on our website or social media.

We are delighted to invite Year 6 parents to our Year 7 Information Evening on Thursday 5 October. This event marks the start of the exciting transition journey for Year 6 pupils.

Following this we have an autumn-themed Nursery Stay and Play event on Tuesday 10 October for any little ones (2+) who wish to come along and participate in some fun crafts with Miss Hall.

Then, on Thursday 12 October, we will host our Sixth Form Open Evening, giving those at the top of the school the opportunity to explore what THS Sixth Form has to offer.

As a final note for your diary, we are busy making plans for our Family Fireworks Display, which will this year take place during the half term holiday on Friday 3 November.

Mrs K Mackenzie, Head



U16 boys rugby vs Red House School

The boys have had a busy start to the sporting season, already playing a number of hockey and rugby fixtures and practising these sports in enrichment.

Our U16 boys' rugby team enjoyed their first 7s match of the year against Red House School on Tuesday.

It was a very close game, with excellent tries from Saul and Ewan helping to secure a 10-10 draw.

We look forward to seeing more from these boys, who show fantastic potential, throughout the year.

Miss Turnbull



Netball success

At THS we love to celebrate our pupils' achievements outside of school.

Congratulations to the girls below for working really hard in the last few weeks to gain places in the following squads:

Amelie - South Durham and Cleveland County Development Programme

Evie - South Durham and Cleveland

Development Programme

Yasmin - U17 North East Regional Squad.

We look forward to seeing how the girls progress in their training and beyond.

Miss Hopkins



THS Sports Awards

Last week, the PE Department led an assembly to celebrate the commitment, talent and hard work of our Senior School sportsmen and women.

Congratulations to our winners:

Zach - Junior Sportsman of the Year, **Amelia** - Junior Sportswoman of the Year, **Ewan** - Senior Sportsman of the

Year, **Katie** - Senior Sportswoman of the Year and **Roxie** - Rising Star Award.

We were thrilled to award last year's Games Captain, Maia, the 2023-24 Sports Personality of the Year award. Unfortunately, Maia could not be with us on the day as she has progressed to Leeds Beckett University, where she is



Evie's netball journey

We have loved following Evie's impressive netball journey throughout recent years.

Evie started playing netball at Grangetown Netball Club, progressing to Manchester Thunder and, most recently, she has been selected to represent Scotland's U17s.

We are extremely proud of you, Evie, and wish you the best of luck!

Miss Connor

studying Business Management with Marketing and continuing her training with Leeds Rhinos U21 squad.

Well done to all of our nominees. We look forward to sharing more sporting success throughout the 2023-24 academic year.

Miss Turnbull





Summer Reading Competition

Woodside House has been crowned the winning house in the Prep School Summer Reading Competition, with Woodside pupils reading the most number of books.

Harriet and Sidney, Woodside House Captain and Vice House Captain, were delighted to receive their certificate.

Miss Hall



All About Me

Nursery children have been very busy at home completing a very special mission of choosing five special things about themselves to share with their friends.

They came to school after the weekend clutching their All About Me bags which were bursting at the seams with photographs and objects.

They loved using their speaking and listening skills when sharing these with

their friends.

A very big thank you to all the Nursery parents who, as always, helped the children with this activity.

Miss Hall



People of the Past

Pre-Prep children had a wonderful time exploring their IPC *People of the Past* entry point.

The children had been busy researching facts about different figures from the past. They worked in groups, developing their communication and collaboration skills as they found and recalled the information.

They then used this to create a Living Museum, and our EYFS pupils were invited to visit each group. The Pre-Prep children were able to explain all about themselves. We were fortunate to have Albert Einstein, Vincent van Gough and even Queen Victoria in the room with us!

Mrs Hannah

Listening Ears

In their phonic sessions last week, Nursery children put their listening skills to the test to see how many different sounds they could hear.

They were very excited today when they headed out into the garden armed with their giant listening ears.

They heard many birds, an aeroplane

and some builders hard at work.

Great work, Nursery!

Miss Hall

Forest School

Reception and Pre-Prep children had a wonderful return to Forest School this week, and enjoyed spotting the seasonal changes since their last visit.

It was lovely to see the children using their skills to work as a team and support each other as they explored our beautiful woodland.

They particularly enjoyed visiting our new fairy village area!

Mrs Clapton and Mrs Hannah

Reading achievement

During the holidays, Archie in Pre-Prep received a medal from his local library for reading six books.

It is lovely to hear that our pupils are

developing their reading skills even in the summer break.

Great work, Archie!

Miss Nicholls



Architecture Workshops

Last week, children in Lower and Upper Prep enjoyed some impressive architecture workshops.

Upper Prep completed two workshops to support their new IPC unit, *Fairgrounds*. The first saw the children working together to build a giant roller coaster track, stretching from the top of the climbing frame all around the hall and then back up to the other side of the climbing frame. The children started their workshop with just six short pieces of dowel and four elastic bands. They each completed a pyramid and then joined theirs with two others. By inserting three longer pieces of dowel, the children were able to create short sections of the track. Little by little each of the tracks were added together to create one long track which the children were then able to twist and adjust the height using some giant pyramids as support.

The second workshop saw the children creating a giant Ferris wheel. They applied the skills they had developed in the first workshop to create giant structures that were then attached to a central pole to create the wheel. The real excitement came after lunch when the wheel was turned upright and the children were able to take it in turns to spin the wheel. Watching this rotate was very satisfying and amazing to think that it had all been created from dowel and elastic bands.

Later in the day, Lower Prep took part in an Egyptians workshop to support

their IPC unit, *Temples, Tombs and Treasures*. They again started with the same materials and embarked on making square based pyramids that they then combined with their friends to create a bigger pyramid. Once the skills had been developed, the children worked with much larger pieces of dowel to create one giant pyramid which, once complete, the children were all able to sit inside.

These workshops provided a perfect link to our IPC units but also gave the opportunity to develop a number of additional skills such as resilience, imagination, teamwork and cooperation, problem solving, listening and fine and gross motor skills.

Thank you to Martin from Architectureworkshops.org for his expertise when leading these sessions.

Mrs Kennedy



Temples, Tombs and Treasures

Lower Prep pupils have made a fantastic start to their learning in IPC.

Here the children are starting the process of mummifying bananas. This will allow the children to visualise the process and gain a greater understanding of the purpose of

Egyptian mummification.

They will return to check on their bananas periodically throughout the topic and we cannot wait to see the end result!

Miss Lockerbie



Prep School Enrichment

Prep School co-curricular activities are back with a bang! Especially in our Able, Gifted and Talented activity, Whizz Bang Science.

Pupils across our Prep School are fortunate enough to be able to choose from almost 30 different activities, running at break times, lunchtimes and after school. Our activities include Football and Martial Arts for pupils in Years 1-6, along with Running Club, Netball, Fencing and Badminton for our sportier pupils.

We also have Choir, Band, Ukulele and Strings group for the musically minded, along with Chess, Junior Maths Challenge and Pick and Mix (IPC activities) for those who like thinking and problem solving. There are so many opportunities available! Please ensure that your son or daughter are signed up to a minimum of two activities where possible.



Oriental Museum

Lower Prep pupils visited the Oriental Museum in Durham on Tuesday to enrich their learning about their new topic, *Temples, Tombs and Treasures*.

The staff were fantastic and had the children fully engaged in exciting learning opportunities throughout the day.

First, the children became archaeologists. They inspected, drew detailed diagrams of, measured and speculated about what each Ancient Egyptian artefact may have been, drawing upon evidence.

Next the children completed a museum challenge. They worked in small groups to explore the exhibits and add to their knowledge of artefacts and daily life in Ancient Egypt.

After a quick lunch, the children were straight back to it, this time finding out about the resident mummy. They had to use their archaeology skills again to find out the key information about who the mummy is and where she came from.

Finally the children learned about mummifying a pharaoh using role play. Sonny had great fun pretending to pluck out Alexander's eyes and replacing them with pickled onions - gruesome!

Lower Prep greatly enjoyed their day and were super ambassadors for the school, well done all!

Miss Lockerbie



Fairgrounds

Upper Prep 1 pupils are enjoying their new IPC unit, *Fairgrounds*. They commenced their unit with an interactive Entry Point where they were tasked with making a ferris wheel from a selection of craft materials.

The aim of our Entry Point is to provide a hook into our new topic and enthuse the children for their upcoming learning. This was certainly true of this activity and the children worked well collaboratively with their partners and showed great resilience in this task, which proved more challenging than initially thought.

Mrs Kennedy

Year 5 explanation text

Year 5 pupils have worked incredibly hard over the first ten days of school to produce some effective explanation texts. The purpose of their text is to tell you how something works and they had to incorporate genre features, causal conjunctions and relative clauses. The children also worked hard to make interesting and challenging word choices to enhance their writing. Can you spot the causal conjunctions and relative clauses?

The Arcade Hack by Noah Clarke:

Do you waste all your precious money on arcade machines? Then you should use the amazing Arcade Hack. Then

you won't have to spend all your valuable goods to try and get prizes that are not even that good.

You probably don't know how to use this awesome device. So you must press the ruby red button and watch the mind boggling experience. Then the machine will get you every jackpot in the arcade!

If somehow, you still haven't got enough tickets, this clever machine will keep on multiplying the amount of tickets you have gained until you have enough tickets. (Warning) If the device starts malfunctioning, press the ocean blue button and everything will start

shutting down (don't panic though it is very normal). Although you may be kicked out, at least you're safe.

In further detail, when the arcade machines run out of tickets press the emerald colour button on the back of the contraption. Then the gadget will automatically make your ticket receipt the exact amount of tickets needed to get every single toy or thing in the arcade.

Even though this mechanism, that is magnificent, is extremely hard to get hold of, it is really one of the most useful tools on the entire planet!

Miss Lockerbie

Why choose Teesside High School?

We hope our visitors to Open Day this Saturday receive a lovely THS welcome, and enjoy their time meeting teachers and current pupils.

Teesside High School is a small school that focuses on the needs of the individual child, through a warm and nurturing ethos. We set our sights high in our academic aspirations, but equally, we believe that the education of a child outside of the classroom is just as important as it seeks to build character, resilience and life-long skills. We do this through sport, music, drama and the Duke of Edinburgh Award, to name just a few strands of what we believe education is truly about.

We do not select by academic ability, focusing more on what your child can do. We passionately believe that this leads to a much more diverse and inclusive school community where each child can experience a real sense of belonging. In small classes, we deliver an outstanding teaching and learning experience.

Recent feedback:

"Our daughter has had the most incredible first two weeks and we couldn't be happier with the start that she has had! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Teesside High for the impeccable start to

our daughter's school life here! We have never seen her as happy, determined and focused in her education as she has been this week. Also a big shout out to the catering staff as she says the food is magnificent and is certainly a highlight of her day." - Year 7 Parent

"Teesside High School just feels like a second home to me. There's no place like it." - Student

"Our son is really happy at the school and it's lovely to see him thriving there. It is just what we wanted for him." - Parent.

Thank you to our current families for supporting us this Open Day, it is much appreciated.



Fashion Design Club

Students in our Fashion Design Enrichment Club took part in a paper modelling challenge with a focus on adding shape to garments.

They had lots of fun sharing and

developing ideas as part of a team and created some fantastic newspaper dresses.

Mrs Howard and Mrs Clarke



GCSE and A-level Results Day

We celebrated some wonderful GCSE and A-level results in August.

Almost a third of all Year 11 pupils secured 5 or more of the highest possible GCSE grades (7-9), equivalent to A*-A, and the school recorded an improved overall GCSE pass rate despite a return to pre-pandemic grading. It is wonderful to see so many of our Year 11 progress to THS Sixth Form, creating a bumper Year 12 cohort this year.

Year 13 students secured a 100% A-level pass rate for an impressive fifth successive year, with pupils securing places to read degree courses such as Medicine, Law, Biochemistry and Politics and International Relations, to name just a few.

Miss Hockney



100% Distinction Grades in Drama

Prep and Senior School students have recently celebrated their latest LAMDA results from the summer term.

Our students' hard work more than paid off and we celebrated 100% Distinction across the board! We are beyond proud of our LAMDA students and look forward to seeing where their next examinations take them...

In Drama, we have also welcomed our new Head of Drama, Mrs Furness. She

is already teaching Year 7 to Year 13, co-running the school production with Mrs Shevels and is also introducing a new Drama Club called TYT (Teesside High School Youth Theatre) during enrichment. Mrs Furness is incredibly impressed with the level of skill she has seen so far by all of her Drama students!



Upcoming Art Competitions

We are super excited to be offering a variety of Art competitions to pupils this term.

Our Art Club students will have the opportunity to submit designs that could be used at the Biennial Lumiere Festival in Durham. Students will submit designs for a light installation named 'Paint the Castle'. Designs submitted could be chosen to illuminate Durham Castle! Fingers crossed that we can see some of our students' designs at this spectacular art event.

Two House competitions will also be running this term. A Christmas card design competition will see the winner's design printed as our school Christmas postcard (entry deadline: Friday 10 November). We also have a

National competition in collaboration with Classics where students will be asked to design an artwork entitled 'Time and Memory in the Ancient World'. All students entering will be awarded House points with winners also receiving a prize. The best entries for the Art and Classics competition



Year 11 RE - Religion and Life

Year 11 students put their teamwork skills to the test in RE this week.

They had to retrieve knowledge from the Religion and Life unit in preparation for their first assessment of the year.

The winners were Emily, Ruby and Abbie who managed to match all the questions to the correct answers in an impressive 11 minutes!

Miss O'Byrne

will also be entered nationally with a chance to win a share of £250.00 and have their work published.

Both competitions are open for pupils in Years 7-13.

Mrs Machan



Sixth Form Team Building

THS Sixth Form students had an excellent morning of team building at the start of term.

Students were tasked to make spaghetti and marshmallow towers during form time.

Staff have loved seeing our new cohort looking extremely grown up in their

business suits for the first time, and I am delighted to begin working with the group in my new role as Head of Sixth Form.

Mr Hannah



A-level Biology

Year 12 A-level Biology students have been carrying out biochemical tests for starch, reducing sugars and non-reducing sugars.

Whilst our Year 13 A-level Biology students have been consolidating their understanding of the biochemistry of aerobic respiration by completing a respiration dominoes loop game.

Mrs Jackson



SO FAR THIS TERM



Year 12 History

Year 12 students have made a fantastic start to their History A-level.

They created these giant, detailed timelines on the life and reign of King Henry VII.

Timelines create an amazing visual representation which is especially helpful for students when revising.

Keep up the great work, Year 12!

Mrs O'Byrne





YEAR 7 INFORMATION EVENING

Thursday 5 October
6.00pm-7.30pm



Teesside High School
Education as it should be



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 12 October
6.00pm-7.30pm



Teesside High School
Education as it should be



Teesside High School The Avenue, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-On-Tees TS16 9AT
T: 01642 782095
E: info@teessidehigh.co.uk
W: www.teessidehigh.co.uk

