



THE PEARL OF AFRICA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

On Monday 2 October we were very excited to welcome some special visitors from Uganda.

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir have come to the UK on tour again for the first time since 2019 and we are very fortunate to have secured a full day of workshops with them, plus a fantastic evening concert.

The day started with a rousing assembly featuring songs, dancing and drumming in Swahili and English. Everyone from Nursery to Sixth Form were enraptured and I think everyone found it difficult to sit still! Aunty Annette, one of the Headteachers from one of the schools in Uganda, spoke to us about the children's normal lives back in Africa. She told us about their 5.00am starts for school and how sometimes they are in lessons until very late at night. Annette described the living conditions and diet of the children and we found out how excited they are to come to England and have lots of food that we often take for granted, but are real treats to them, such as chicken, cakes and sweets.

Students in Years 6-9 all had small group workshops and developed their drumming, singing and dancing skills, which were incredibly fun, loud and exciting for



all. Our Senior Choir then performed to our visitors, and their choir leader, Gloria, commented on how good our choir is, and was very impressed with how quickly they picked up new harmonies for the Ugandan song she taught them.

Miss Hopkins then treated our visitors to a visit to Forest School for hot chocolate, marshmallows and fire-making, complete with the company of our school dog George. This, along with our choir's performance, was one of the highlights of their day. Lovely lunches, biscuits at breaktime and a hot meal at tea time meant that the choir had tons of energy, ready for their incredible performance in the concert. We welcomed a warm, appreciative audience who rose to a standing ovation at the end; very well deserved!

Students said they were very glad the choir had come from another country to visit us and the excitement and buzz around the day was tangible. They were friendly, fun, good dancers and great footballers and we really hope we can continue this link and bring them back again next year. Thank you to everyone who supported the workshops and concert; we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

Mrs Shevels



WELCOME

The week was off to a wonderful start thanks to the cheer of the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir.

We always like to get the week off to a positive start with a vibrant and uplifting assembly - and the Choir raised the roof with their incredible talent. It was a pleasure to have them back in school after a few years' absence due to Covid.

Since the last time the newsletter was published, we have welcomed many prospective families into school - the majority at our first Open Day of the new academic year. The school was buzzing with excitement and our student ambassadors shone in their roles. We received some wonderful feedback from our visitors, quite rightly stating our students were a credit to our school.

This was only made more clear following the arrival of Mr Buckland the very next week - a journalist from the Good Schools Guide. Mr Buckland was visiting to see everything we value so dear at Teesside High, and to write a review for the esteemed publication. Our students met him in lessons, on the corridor, in a Pupil Voice exercise and over lunch, where they answered his questions with great insight. Their pride in the school was humbling, and an honour to hear. I look forward to sharing the review with you in due course!

My Good Schools Guide grilling was preceded by a visit to Billingham Forum Theatre with

our GCSE and A-level Drama students. As part of their course they are expected to evaluate a live performance and we watched *The Woman in Black*. I hope my persistent screaming at an incredibly life-like production was not too off-putting for our budding drama professionals!

I'm excited to see the release of the tickets to one of the highlights of the autumn calendar. Our annual THS Family Fireworks Display is always a sell-out event and we are expecting record numbers through the door once again.

We recommend that you get your tickets early to avoid disappointment - tickets purchased for Prep pupils via ParentPay will be placed in book/school bags, Senior/Sixth Form tickets will be made available to collect from Reception within three days of purchase.

Mrs K Mackenzie, Head



2023-24 Sports

Captains

Congratulations to the following 2023-24 Sports Captains:

Rugby Captains:

U11 - Jacob Harrow, U12 - Oliver Morris, U13 - Lewis Orton, U14 - Spencer Hankinson, U15 - Matthew Charlton, U16 - Ewan Cooke.

Boys' Hockey Captains:

U11 - Zinedine Zaman, U12 - Oliver Morris, U13 - Ryan Milne, U14 - Isaac Graham and John Macafee, U15 - Zach McCluskey, U16 - Rohan Vagadia.

Girls' Hockey Captains:

U11 - Harriet Austin, U12A - Flo Brion, U12B - Felicity Lane, U13A - Anais Moseley, U14A - Poppy Brion and Amelia Zaman, U16 - Lucy Mulcrone.

Netball Captains:

U12A - Evie Shields, U12B - Flossie Rennison, U13A - Libby Shevels, U14A - Tendai Kushamba and Anisa Ditta, U14B - Megan Bates, U15 - Ivy Rennison, Championship - Ruby Chadwick, Premiership - Siri Musunuru.

We look forward to seeing what the academic year brings for our sports teams!

Miss Hopkins

U11 Boys Rugby vs Red House School

Our U11 boys travelled to Red House School for their first fixture of the year on Friday 22 September.

They faced three different Red House teams in full-contact rugby. The boys have been working hard in lessons on their tackling and defensive shape, which they demonstrated effectively



in all three games they played. Each THS player tackled hard and with good technique to limit the Red House teams to only a few tries.

On the attacking front, THS scored many tries, whether it was from the agile runs of Jacob and Indy or the straight and powerful runs of Benjamin and Gabriel. The boys worked effectively as a team, played each game in high spirits and each one of them thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Mr Williamson

U14 Girls County Hockey Tournament

Six U14 girls' teams entered from across the county for a very exciting afternoon of hockey last Thursday. A great standard was set from them all.

THS were drawn against Barnard Castle School and Yarm School B in the group stages. The girls had an excellent first game against Yarm School B for a 1-0 victory (goal from Anisa) and a 0-0 draw against a very strong Barnard Castle School side. They therefore finished the group stages joint winners, however went through to the semi finals in second place on goal difference. This meant a semi final game against the winners of group B.

From Yarm they travelled to Egglecliffe to play Yarm School A in the semi final - a good game but unfortunately a loss.

The girls then played Egglecliffe School in a super competitive play off, securing a 1-1 draw - this meant the dreaded penalties!

Poppy, Tendai and Anisa were very brave and volunteered for the THS penalty flicks. Roxie was in goal and made some excellent saves, after a very tense 10 minutes THS secured the victory, meaning a 3rd place finish in a very competitive tournament. The team will now go forward to the

U13 Girls Netball vs Conyers School

Yesterday the U13 girls made a fantastic start to their netball season. A great whole team performance secured the girls a 10-8 victory against a very strong Conyers side. The girls' resilience and determination shone through as they overturned a 4-1 deficit from the first quarter following an amazing start from the opposition.

Player of the Match went to Emilia due to her amazing defending and interceptions and coach's player was shared between Libby and Eshel for their relentless work rate.

Mrs Rodgers



Yorkshire and North East Girls Tier 3 Finals on Tuesday 10 October.

Miss Turnbull



International Week

Nursery fully embraced International Week and travelled around the world in a week by learning about a different country each day.

Their first port of call was Italy where they learnt all about the Leaning Tower of Pisa, identified the colours of the Italian flag before using red, white and green pasta to create structures with spaghetti. They also designed their own pizza toppings and answered the register with a cheerful "buongiorno".

The next stop on their travels was a short journey to France. The children compared the Eiffel Tower to the Leaning Tower of Pisa, made necklaces using the colours red, white and blue and tucked into tasty croissants for a snack.

The longest journey of the week saw

the children travel all the way to Australia. They studied aboriginal art and learnt about different animals which call Australia home.

The penultimate stop on the round the world tour was a trip to Mexico where the children designed coloured sombreros and greeted each other with "hola".

At the end of the week they managed to squeeze in a quick stop at the Arctic to learn about polar bears before returning to England. What a great week our Nursery children had!

Miss Hall



Swimming achievement

Pre-Prep children were very proud of William this week.

William brought his swimming certificate into school to share his

achievement with his friends. He is now able to swim five metres!

Well done, William.

Mrs Hannah



A visit from Mrs Ayling

Pre-Prep children were very lucky to have Mrs Ayling visit this week.

She gave a violin demonstration and impressed all of the children with the songs she played. The children were keen to discover more about the string instruments and discovered the names of the different parts and how they make their sounds.

The children then tried to play the violin themselves, a fantastic and exciting morning.

Thank you very much Mrs Ayling for coming to see us!

Mrs Hannah



Gratitude in Reception

Every day Reception children take a few minutes to show gratitude, an important part to building resilience.

After reading the story *My Mum*, the children discussed why they are grateful for their Mum.

Niamh, Isla, Abigail are grateful for hugs, Verity and Ibraheem are grateful for Mum's cooking, Eva is grateful for

stories, Wareef is grateful for Mum's smile and Ava is grateful for big kisses!

Thank you to all of our THS mums, you are the best!

Mrs Clapton



The first signs of autumn

Nursery and Reception children have been busy over the weekend seeing how many different autumn treasures they could find. They all arrived at

school with their treasure bags and busy books full of items.

The children loved sharing with their friends what they found and have



Friendships, caring and sharing

Nursery children have been looking at music that explores the concept of friendships, caring and sharing.

Last week the children had the chance to explore different instruments such as shakers, bells, and a big instrument called a cajón.

They have all enjoyed singing along and playing music together creating wonderful sounds.

Miss Hall

been busy counting conkers, printing autumn leaves and learning some very catchy autumn songs.

Mrs Clapton and Miss Hall



Fairgrounds

The children in Upper Prep 1 are enjoying their current IPC unit, *Fairgrounds*.

The children are currently working through a number of Science tasks, learning about a range of different forces that act on fairground rides.

This week, the children have been considering rollercoasters with loop the loops.

To illustrate the concepts of centripetal forces, the children took part in an activity which provided lots of

excitement for the children.

They went outside and swung a bucket upside down to see whether the water would fall out.

Much to the children's disappointment that I stayed dry, they enjoyed having a go themselves and then learning about

the forces that kept the water in the bucket.

Mrs Kennedy



LAMDA certificates

Congratulations Prep School pupils on receiving your certificates for your wonderful LAMDA examination results in Verse and Prose or Acting at the end of last year.

100% Distinctions go to Constance, Jocelyn, Eshaan, Sienna and Iliana and Isabella and Issac (absent on the day of the photograph).

Ms Jackson

Year 6 Journalists

Our Year 6 writers have been busy working as journalists in recent weeks. They have had to report on a rather macabre case involving the occult, a rather gruesome murder and several heroes who of course saved the day. Pupils had to include all of the features of a newspaper report, to include headline, byline, photograph, reported speech and quotes from eye-witnesses. They also used the subjunctive form when commenting on the story as shocked journalists. We were particularly proud of Sidney's piece. We hope that you like this sample from his work.

As an experienced journalist of 25 years I have never seen a case as horrific as this. If I were you I would stay indoors and avoid roaming the streets at night. If not this will give rise to more egregious murders. If I were to wish for only one thing it would be to stop horrendous crimes like this one. I hope no one is as brainwashed and deranged as the triumvirate. I suggest everyone beware of suspicious activity for your own safety. Will these murders stop?

Mr Griffiths



Musical Enrichments

Prep School pupils have been enjoying Choir and the newly-introduced Ukulele Club.

Pupils in Prep Choir are working hard to learn and sing some beautiful songs together.

We have students from Year 1 all the way up to Year 6!



In Ukulele Club, pupils have been learning all about the instrument, and have loved playing songs as a group.

Mr Wing



Year 3 performance poetry

Children in Year 3 have been working on an English unit based on performance poetry.

They have looked in detail at Maya Angelou's poem *Life doesn't frighten me*, a poem written to encourage children to be brave and have courage to face their fears.

The children have looked at the poetic features and have considered how this poem could be performed by adding intonation, changing their facial expressions, adding actions and using clear voices.

Having performed her poem, and taking this as inspiration, the children were tasked with writing their own *Life doesn't frighten me* poem, adopting the same style and structure.

I was very proud of their efforts and look forward to hearing them perform their own poems this week.

Mrs Kennedy

Year 5 performance poetry

Year 5 pupils worked hard last week to create their own poems to perform. They first analysed the poem *From a Railway Carriage* by R. L. Stevenson, then explored different themes based around a train journey for their own writing. The children worked on creating similes and metaphors to suit their theme and tried to fit these into their writing while still maintaining a clear rhythm. Here is one of the fantastic pieces of writing produced (and all in less than an hour!).

From a Christmas Railway Carriage
by Emily Bennett

*In dusky, silent winter fields,
All of the knights collect their shields,
A sad and creepy scarecrow sings,
The hopeful tune of lonely kings, In our homes we sing out clear,
Warm words of joy,
And know there's no fear.
In bed at night,*

*We listen for,
Padded footsteps,
At the door,
On a cold Christmas night, there was an old elf,
Who sat so joyful on the shelf,
As Santa walks by with a glow,
Can you hear him walking slow?*

Miss Lockerbie

International Week

On 26 September each year, schools across Europe celebrate the European Day of Languages.

It is an opportunity for everyone to celebrate the importance of being able to speak a different language and the opportunities that they can provide. Here at Teesside High, the MFL Department ran a week of international events, to give students as many opportunities as possible to explore the rich world of different languages and cultures. The week began with an international quiz during assembly time, where the whole school came together to see how much they knew about the world and its languages. Well done to our Year 12 students who won the quiz.

On Tuesday, 9T were lucky enough to take part in a virtual event organised by the British Council and GCHQ, where they found out about where languages can take you in future careers. It was particularly interesting to learn that by studying French and German, people can be recruited by GCHQ to learn other languages and work within the

security services and how useful it is to study an MFL at A-level combined with STEM subjects for furthering careers in engineering and science. They were also fascinated to hear from someone who had grown up as bilingual and how that had offered them a range of opportunities upon leaving school. Ms Wesson also ran an Italian language taster session where we learnt how to say some Italian tongue twisters.

Later in the week, Years 7-11 alike had fun with some foreign language karaoke singing favourites from their MFL lessons, such as *Quelle est la Date de ton Anniversaire* and *Fliegerlied*. Students also had the opportunity to learn Japanese with Miss Ignirri on Thursday and the week finished with Year 11 students learning Russian with Mrs Blyth. We also ran an MFL Bake Off competition and received some stunning winning entries. Well done to Ava in Year 10 and Hannah in Year 9!

Frau Butterfield



Artists of the Month

We are delighted to announce that there are two Artists of the Month for September, as we could not choose between them!

Congratulations to Rosie Martin and Mia Clarke.

Year 9 students have been looking at the work of illustrator Georgina Luck. They have been practising her techniques using watercolour and fine liner by creating a pastiche of her work.

I think you will agree that Rosie and Mia have created particularly successful illustrations of a seagull and a refreshing drink.

Mrs Machan



Chilli Harvesting

This week the Biology Department have been harvesting chillis, very carefully.

The chillis have been chopped and frozen and the seeds are being dried ready to plant in the spring.

The GCSE and A-level Biology syllabus both include sections on farming, so it's invaluable to gain experience some of the highs and lows of horticulture.



Hopefully parents and staff who were given chilli plants have had some success.

We would love to see your photographs.

Mrs Kirk



The Thinking Curriculum

Year 11 students quite literally put their thinking caps on in their Thinking Curriculum session this week, in a bid to improve their discussion and debating skills.

There were some very lively and heated discussions as students put their new skills to the test.

Great work, Year 11!

Miss O'Byrne

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

Last Sunday saw the start of our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh 2023-24 expeditions.

Luckily, the sun was shining and the groups showed our mountain activity

leaders just how good their prior knowledge of map reading was.

They completed the circular route from Captain Cook's Monument, passing Hanging Stone, up to the top



of Roseberry Topping.

I am looking forward to future expeditions with this cohort!

Miss Hopkins



The journey from Year 11 to THS Sixth Form

We are one month into an action-packed autumn term and it seemed a good time to catch up with our new Year 12 cohort, who began their lives as Sixth Form students just four weeks ago.

Dylan, Emmeline and Henry all progressed from Year 11 at THS to THS Sixth Form, and they shared their views on life at the top of the school...

Dylan said: *"Being a Sixth Form student at THS is great, I'm really enjoying it."*

"The level of independence we have is fantastic – we are not constrained, we have lots of freedom around our studies and we are trusted to make use of our spare time wisely."

Dylan studies four A-level subjects; Art, Mathematics, Physics and Psychology.

"The lessons are less of a student-teacher dynamic, which is often the case in Senior School, and more conversational and discussion-based. The course content is engaging, and really challenges my intellectual curiosity. I feel like I can ask questions beyond the curriculum without disrupting the lesson for the wider group – we're all keen to understand what we are being taught and expand upon this further."

"There is a difference between support and independence. As a sixth form student, you are almost guaranteed independence anywhere, but it is almost impossible for any other sixth form to match the support offered at THS, purely due to our very small and comfortable year groups sizes. Here, we are a community and the school is filled with such intrinsic warmth and cosiness."

Emmeline, who chose to study Latin, Mathematics and Physics at A-level, said: *"We are supported but not spoon fed."*

It increasingly feels like we are not being taught to pass exams, but to challenge ourselves and really explore what we are learning.

"I thought the workload in Year 12 would be a huge step from Year 11 but I've found it manageable and not as intense as I was expecting. Free periods are really good to sit and go through your notes and make sure you are on top of your studies, so you don't feel overwhelmed."

"There's always co-curricular time to really allow you a break from your studies, too."

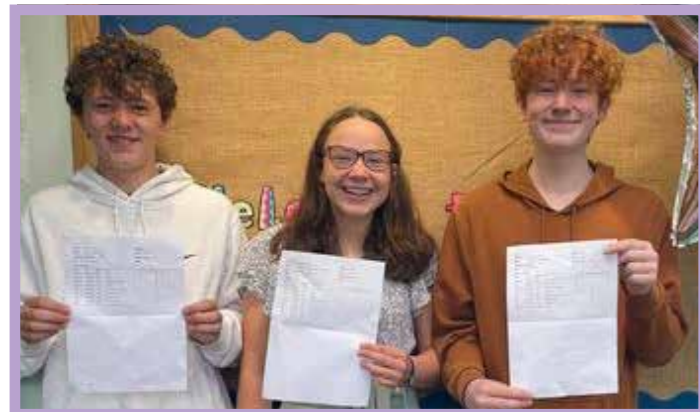
Henry originally chose to study at another sixth form college, but returned to THS last week to study Drama, English, History and Physics.

"The support from teachers here is unparalleled, and I know that from my own experience. In lots of colleges you have to simply support yourself, and you might not know where to go for advice or guidance. Here, you get the perfect balance. You can work on your own, collaborate in small groups, speak to your teacher outside of lessons for further challenge or assistance. The small classes mean it's easier to ask questions, without interrupting the flow of the lesson for everyone else."

"It doesn't feel like I ever left!"

Year 11 pupils and those at schools in our local community are warmly invited to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 12 October from 6.00pm.

Miss Hockney



SO FAR THIS TERM





THS FAMILY FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Friday 3 November, 6.30pm-8.00pm

Adults £6.00, Children £3.00

Tickets on sale now from School Reception or via ParentPay.



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