



FOR OUR TOMORROW, THEY GAVE THEIR TODAY

On Friday 10 November, we welcomed pupils, staff and guests from across our community to a poignant Remembrance Service in the Main Hall.

A school event which holds huge importance to us as a community and especially for our staff, parents and extended family who have represented us in the Armed Forces both during peace times and in conflict to maintain our right to the freedoms we hold dear.

The service included beautiful readings from Isabelle Davies, Issac Fell, Henry Bradley and Hannah (pictured), alongside two fantastic and moving choir performances. We were also joined by musician Abigail Ferguson who played the Last Post. Mrs Mackenzie's address led us all to think of how painful war will have been and how it is hard for us to appreciate the sacrifices made, as many of us have not personally experienced war in our lifetime.



Following *The Ode*, read by Head Boy Satvik Chhabra, and prayers by Head Girl Lily Jones, poppy wreaths were laid by Mrs Mackenzie, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Mr Mark Wright OBE, Mrs Alison Greenwood, School Governor, and representatives of cadet forces, scouts and guides, on behalf and in memory of our school community and Armed Forces colleagues.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us to remember those who served for us.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

Miss Stephens

WELCOME

Our students have returned to school ready for an exciting half term as we count down the days until Christmas!

Although we have only been back in school for two weeks, we have welcomed parents and visitors through the doors for a number of special events.

Our THS Family Fireworks Display was back with a bang at the end of the half term break and for the third year running, tickets had sold out. Family and friends of THS were able to witness a fantastic display whilst enjoying refreshments and hot food provided by our catering team. Our Pumpkin Competition entries were brilliant and a huge well done goes to our winners Ava and Lottie McCann and Harriet Austin. I would also like to thank one of our parents who made a generous donation to support the event, which went a long way towards the cost of the fireworks.

Last Tuesday, our Year 11 students attended their Sixth Form Transition Day. This day follows our recent Sixth Form Open Evening and gives pupils the chance to find out more about subjects they are considering studying at post-16 and live a day in the life of a THS Sixth Form student. I hope the day was useful in shaping those important decisions as Year 11 approach the half-way point in their final school year.

Last Friday, our school community gathered for our annual Remembrance Service. It was lovely to see many of our friends and neighbours join us. Thank you to Mark White, OBE Deputy Lieutenant of County Durham, and Reverend Matt Levinsohn from All Saints Church who were our special guests on

the day.

On Monday, I travelled to Read School with a group of students participating in the World Challenge trip. The group completed a team building workshop with the pupils they will travel to Norway with in July 2024. And still, our bumper foreign trips and visits list grows - Miss O'Byrne has this week launched a trip for Years 7-12 to the beautiful city of Kraków! You can find out more about this opportunity in the letter circulated earlier this week.

With Christmas just around the corner, we have many exciting activities planned for the rest of the term. With Children in Need Day today, Senior School Speech Day on Friday 1 December, Prep School Nativity on Friday 8 December and many more trips and visits before the big day itself, we look forward to seeing what our students achieve in this busy term.

I hope you enjoy reading the latest edition of our school newsletter. Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs K Mackenzie, Head



U12 Boys Hockey vs Egglecliffe School

A highly successful trip for the U12 boys who played their first outdoor hockey fixture of the year before half term. The boys travelled with a number of Prep School pupils, who proved to be a great addition to the team. A strong start to the fixture saw Teesside on top and the early pressure resulted in goals for Rahul. Gabriel led the attack in the midfield and demonstrated why he should be in the team with his dribbling skills and range of passing. In defence, Zinedine and Oliver played well and kept a clean sheet along with some good saves from Gideon.

Good dribbling from Oscar, who is learning all of the time, playing some lovely passes forward to Grayson and Isaac who caused problems all evening with their passing and selfless play.

The teamwork on display was exemplary and it was really pleasing to see a number of players playing for the team and not simply for themselves; a fantastic quality to have and something which if this team can continue doing, will bring further success. Four goals for Rahul and one each for Grayson and Gabriel. Really well played, boys.

Mr Thomas



U14 Girls Netball vs North Shore Academy

Our U14A girls provided a fabulous display of netball against North Shore Academy before half term.

The girls won 28-2 with the attacking duo of Poppy and Bethea displaying unstoppable shooting. Poppy's stats would rival international players, shooting at a fantastic 83%!

Anisa and Rosie linked up beautifully attacking down the court and the defensive trio of Coco, Tendai and Megan worked tirelessly to keep the opposition score to a minimum.

A wonderful all-round team performance, well done girls.

Mrs Rodgers



U14 Girls Hockey vs Red House School

Our U14 girls braved the storm on Monday evening for their hockey fixture against Red House School. THS dominated the game and played some super hockey.

Despite frightening against the strong winds they worked as a team, creating good opportunities and secured a 4-0 victory thanks to goals from Megan (2) and Rosie (2). A great performance well done to all involved. Player of the Match - Amelia.

Miss Turnbull

Silksworth Ski Slope visit

Students participating in our Italy ski trip in December visited Silksworth Ski Slope on Friday evening. This provided the perfect opportunity to

practise their skills with an instructor before taking to the slopes in just under five weeks.

There were a few tumbles but overall

the students enjoyed themselves and took a lot of tips away with them.

Great work, all!

Mr Williamson



World Nursery Rhyme Week



Nursery have thoroughly enjoyed marking World Nursery Rhyme Week this week.

The children have been busy sharing their favourite nursery rhymes with their friends and taking part in a range of co-curricular activities based on a different nursery rhyme each day.

After sharing *Jack and Jill*, the children designed their own buckets and took part in a mathematical group activity counting out drops of water to match different number cards.



The mathematical theme continued when the children made clocks to retell *Hickory Dickory Dock* complete with little handprint mice.

They investigated floating and sinking having shared *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*, explored different 2-dimensional shapes to make their own buses as part of *The Wheels on the Bus* and made up alternative verses to *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*.

Whilst it is well known that nursery rhymes are a great way for children to develop their language and communication skills, it is safe to say they also provide the perfect springboard for a range of fun educational activities.

Miss Hall



Seeing the Light

Pre-Prep children have been exploring shadows as part of their IPC unit *Seeing the Light*.

They explored the shadows that they could create inside the classroom, moving objects and changing the direction of the light in order to change the shape.

They have been looking at artwork by Andre Kertesz and have taken inspiration by looking carefully at the placement of objects and light and the effect that these have in their own art.

Mrs Hannah



Prep School Junior Road Safety Officers

Junior Road Safety Officers in the Prep School are excited to be leading our road safety campaign *Be Bright! Be Seen!*

As part of the campaign they have created a presentation highlighting the importance of staying safe when walking near roads, especially as it is now darker on mornings and evenings.

The Road Safety Officers will also be selling reflectors in the Prep School Library at break times next week.

Prices for the reflectors are:

- Stars: £2.00

- Zip Clips: £1.00

- Jacket Reflectors: £1.20

Mrs Hannah



The Smeds and The Smoos and Superworm

Reception and Pre-Prep children enjoyed a trip to Vue Cinema last week for a showing of *The Smeds and The*

Smoos and Superworm, and were a credit to Teesside High School.

The children are looking forward to



Diwali

Nursery learnt all about the Hindu Festival of Diwali last week. They created firework paintings, made diva lamps and even created some very colourful Rangoli patterns.

Miss Hall



extending this first-hand experience into their writing and reading tasks.

Mrs Clapton and Mrs Hannah



Gymnastics achievement

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

Vivi was very pleased to share with her friends her medal and certificate that

she has achieved at gymnastics. We are all very proud of her.

Keep up the great work, Vivi!

Mrs Hannah



Upper Prep 1 pinball machines

The children in Upper Prep 1 have turned their attention lately to the Technology tasks in their *Fairgrounds* unit.

Having thought about the potential and kinetic energy involved in a pinball machine, and the role of gravity and air resistance, the children were challenged with making their own game. The children had to consider the design of their game as well as how they might decorate it in order to attract people and make them want to have a go.

I have been really impressed with the children's creativity and can see that some of them have spent a considerable

amount of time making their pinball machine. We have discussed how they could be improved as a way of evaluating their work and are really looking forward to playing each other's games!

The children were able to apply their resilience skills throughout this task, solving problems when things didn't go right first time.

Thank you to all the parents for their support with this challenge.

Mrs Kennedy



Upper Prep 2 pinball machines

Upper Prep 2 pupils have also worked tirelessly to complete some amazing pinball machines for their IPC technology homework.

They used the knowledge they have gained throughout their *Fairgrounds* topic to produce some well-designed and colourful games that would attract and entertain any visitors to a fairground. The children were only given a spring to incorporate in their game and the rest was down to their hard work and innovation.

The children had to include a simple mechanism in their design and also consider the forces that would act on the machines.

Mrs Leck



Electrical quizzes

Upper Prep 1 children have been making some electrical quizzes in their technology lessons.

They were tasked with creating an electrical game, wiring it up correctly so that only the correct answer to the question would light up.

They used this as an opportunity to interleave their learning, basing their

questions from learning they completed earlier on in our unit.

All of the children were successful in this task and enjoyed playing each other's games to test their knowledge.

Mrs Kennedy



Technology lesson

Children in Upper Prep 1 have turned their hands recently to making boats in our technology lesson!

The children have thought about the different places they might see boats in a fairground setting, considering rides to interactive games.

The children were then given the opportunity to design and make their own boats, thinking about the shape of the front to aid its movement through water, the thickness of the main part

of the boat, whether decoration would be added and the potential effect of this etc.

They were also told that they would need to use rubber band power in the form of a propeller to make their boats move.

Obviously, the children were very excited to test their boats! The boys and girls in Nursery were very willing observers to see whether the children's boats would move



Year 5 Girls Hockey vs Queen Mary's School

It was great to see all of our Year 5 girls involved in a hockey fixture against Queen Mary's School last Friday afternoon.

The girls were a credit to the school and it was wonderful to see their skills come to life on the pitch.

Miss Hopkins



Ypres Battlefields trip

History, MFL and English students in Years 8-11 visited the WWI Battlefields in Ypres and the Somme in October.

Led by our legendary specialist guide, Tom, the Battlefields Tour gave our students the opportunity to experience the surreal settings of wartime conflict and to see for themselves what life was like in combat. Our tour included a visit to Sanctuary Wood Museum & Hill 62, Passchendaele Memorial Museum and the Menin Gate where Isabella and Isaac laid a wreath in remembrance of those lost in wars and conflict. Below students share some of their highlights.

Siri, Year 11: *"My favourite part of our Belgium trip was the day where we visited the world's largest cemetery. We were able to learn so much about the different symbols on the grave stones from our lovely tour guide Tom, as well as being able to try and find peoples distant relatives using the directories available. It was so impressive to see how well everything had been maintained. Later, we went into the town of Ypres for chocolate shopping and an evening meal which was a perfect ending to the day."*

Ivy, Year 10: *"For me the highlight was the Passchendaele Museum. Experiencing what the dugouts looked and felt like was an interesting experience. The wax figures made the*

experience seem really realistic!"

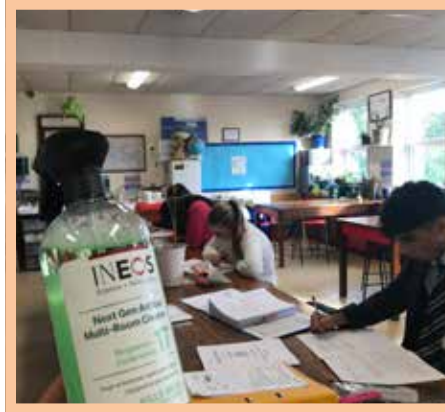
Isaac, Year 10: *"I found it both fascinating and moving that the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate is held every day. To date, there have been over 30,000 ceremonies. Experiencing this for myself was unforgettable."*

Isabelle, Year 10: *"Talbot House was my favourite part of the trip; a clubhouse with the purpose of allowing people to forget about the war. Our tour guide, Tom, brought the stories of the soldiers to life!"*

Lucie, Year 10: *"I learned about the trenches in my Year 9 History lessons but I could never have imagined what they were like in reality. Being able to walk around a trench and experience one for myself was my personal highlight."*

Annabel, Year 11: *"My favourite part of the trip to Ypres was when we visited the Passchendaele Memorial Museum. I loved the part of the museum which was underground, imitating the bunkers from WW1. We were able to explore the rooms of the soldiers and lie down on the bunk beds. Outside of the museum, we walked through trenches which I found really interesting."*

Miss O'Byrne



Ineos products

We were lucky enough to receive STEM products from world-leading chemical producer Ineos in Science this term.

One of their products was a cleaning solution which claims, through use of phytoncides from plants and trees, to produce a unique fragrance technology which provides an enhanced sense of wellbeing.

With such a bold statement, Biology classes were tasked with assessing whether the product actually helps their wellbeing. Students have happily cleaned their desks before settling down to tests or revision work. This week we used Bergamot and Cedarwood. According to Ineos, there's even top-level science behind the choice of fragrance! Fresh, citrusy bergamot and herbal, woody cedarwood have been shown to promote a sense of calm and wellbeing, according to pupils. We will continue to report back!

Mrs Kirk



GCSE Drama

Year 11 GCSE Drama students have been completing their Component 1 Devising examination.

Both groups created their pieces from scratch, having based their performances on the examination board stimulus, "What's the point of having a voice if you're gonna be silent in those moments you shouldn't be?" (*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas).

Our groups created some very provocative and emotive pieces looking at speaking out against bullying and asking for support before it is too late.



They performed to our Year 10 GCSE Drama students who seemed very impressed with the pieces, giving them an insight into how hard they must work ready for their future examination.

Now it is onto the written element of the Component to finish the remaining 30% of the entire 40% that this Component is worth.

Mrs Furness



Duke of Edinburgh

At the start of the half term break, Silver Duke of Edinburgh students travelled to the Yorkshire Dales to start training for their Silver Expedition.

Their first hike saw them first complete a small circular route where they brushed up their navigation skills, learning how to take a bearing with a compass and understanding when it is important to use them.

In the afternoon our pupils then completed their first self led walk, they were more than up for this challenge and enjoyed the remoteness of the Yorkshire Dales. These pupils will now concentrate on

their Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections during the winter months.

Last weekend, our Gold Duke of Edinburgh students took to the Lake District to start their Gold DofE journey. Their first hike was the most



Christmas Card Competition

Senior students were tasked with creating the front cover of a traditional Christmas card in any media of their choice.

The winner of the KS3 competition is Mia Clarke in Year 9. Our overall winner is Beatrice Austin in Year 11 (pictured above).

Well done to all our students who entered the competition, you have all gained valuable House points!

Mrs Machan



challenging they had completed so far as it involved some tricky terrain to make the summit of Blencathra. They worked hard to ensure each other were safe and were delighted to find snow at the top.

Miss Hopkins

Enhancing the Lives of Stroke Survivors

Former student Catherine Guo is looking for volunteers over the age of 80 to help enhance the lives of stroke survivors. See the information below if you would like to participate.

I am a student researcher from Durham University's Department of Psychology, working with Dr Kathleen Vancleef. Our research group is currently recruiting volunteers over the age of 80 to help take part in a NHS visual perception test to improve the lives of stroke survivors.

Understanding the Issue

After a stroke, simple tasks like reading, recognising loved ones, or crossing the road can become daunting. These difficulties are known as visual perceptual deficits, affecting how the brain interprets what our eyes see. Our goal is to identify these deficits and help stroke survivors regain their quality of life.

The Visual Perception Screening Test

Our research centres around a visual perception screening test that explores how the brain processes visual information. By understanding these processes, we can pinpoint specific challenges faced by stroke survivors and provide tailored treatments.

Seeking Healthy Volunteers

We're looking for healthy volunteers to establish a baseline for our test. This baseline will help us assess the extent of

impairment in stroke survivors.

Participation Details

Participating is simple and takes around 30 minutes. You'll be asked to complete tasks such as

- Copying a geometric picture
- Identify matching shapes from a list
- Matching a word to a picture
- Counting the number of objects on a page

This study has gained ethical approval from the Durham University Board of Ethics and ensures your safety. We'll also be giving out chocolate and tea as a thank you for your help!

Criteria for Participation

To join, you need to:

- Be over 80 years old
- Have no history of neurological/psychiatric conditions.

Your participation can make a real difference in the lives of stroke survivors! If you have any questions or want to join our study, please contact me at catherine.y.guo@durham.ac.uk



Science Club

Our co-curricular Science Club students have been working on a design project this term. They started with looking at the versatility of Lego using the classic Lego duck set to see how a few simple Lego pieces can create a huge range of models.

They have also been completing a project on paper airplanes. They have researched the world record winning designs, and have also designed their own using a range of materials

This week was their final test flights. Not quite world record distance, but far enough to need long tape measures!

Mrs Kirk



SO FAR THIS TERM



Christmas Craft Fair, All Saints' Church - Saturday 18 November

All Saints' Church are holding a Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 18 November, 1.30pm-3.30pm.

This is a fundraising event to raise

money for their young people to go to Mexico in March to build a house for a family in need. They would be more than grateful if you could pop along to support such a worthy cause.



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

Christmas Market

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER
10.00AM-1.00PM

Teesside High School, Main Hall
Adults - £2.00, Children - £1.00



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