



## THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE REVIEW

We were delighted to welcome Mr Paul Buckland from the Good Schools Guide to school in September.

The Good Schools Guide helps parents find the best school for their child in their area. It features over 1,000 reviews of both state and private schools, and is described by The Daily Telegraph as: "...highly opinionated: the only guide that offers parents a genuine flavour of what a school is like." The Guide last visited THS over ten years' ago, so it was a welcome opportunity to provide an update to our school review.

Mr Buckland had a rigorous schedule in school that day; he met with Mrs Mackenzie, toured the Prep and Senior Schools and Sixth Form building with student guides, visited a number of lessons (ranging from Reception class, Year 11 Drama, Year 9 History, Year 12 Politics and Year 6 English), met with pupils in a Pupil Voice session and again over lunch, and led a detailed Q&A with staff representatives. He finished the day with a tour of our co-curricular provision, seeing Formula One in schools, boys' football, Chess Club, Craft Club, circuit training and Tycoons in Schools. Mr Buckland is tasked with providing a comprehensive, balanced and assertive view of the school, and, following the review's publication, we are thrilled to share some of his opinions with you:

"Lots of schools throw around the word 'family' but here it feels appropriate. Parents kept telling us that it was an 'extension of family', 'like a family community', and 'when she leaves, I'm going to miss it more than she will'"

In Early Years: "Younger ones have an emphasis on play. We saw a small reception class reading and talking about mothers, then breaking out into a large, bright space to write, model with playdough, paint or use the outdoor play area. Children looked enthused and well supported by the two teachers."

Pastoral care and inclusivity: "Parents and pupils say the emphasis is on nurture over results, and the sense



of support and care is endemic. One student told us he moved to Teesside in Prep as a teacher at his previous school didn't know his name: "That would never happen here."

The last word: "With transformational approaches to learning and strong pastoral support. A nurturing community environment where academic outcomes are not the priority, though still creditable. Ideal for those whose focus is on the bigger picture of how their child grows."

We are incredibly grateful to the pupils and parents who made Mr Buckland's trip seamless and successful. It is without doubt that he saw for himself the values and attributes of our school which we value so highly and hold so dear.

Find out more about our Good Schools Guide review via the latest news section on our website.

**Miss Hockney**

# WELCOME

With just over two weeks of the autumn term remaining, the build up to Christmas is well underway!

The past fortnight has been filled with incredible opportunities for our students, with many trips and guest speaker visits taking place. We have had Annabel Gray, BRIT School alumni visit our Drama students to talk about her amazing experiences, routes into acting and the challenges of the industry. Amy Dalby (Blondie Bakery, Norton) and Ben Draffan (Bagel Bros, Yarm) had a great time judging the THS Bake Off live final last week. Politics students were able to hear from the MP for Middlesbrough, Andy McDonald, and award-winning business woman, Victoria Lynch, gave an impressive Tea-Time Talk to our aspiring entrepreneurs in Prep.

We work each day to inspire our children and young people, but sometimes an inspirational message is better heard from someone outside of school. Working with local businesses, and those running them, helps provide first-hand and 'real world' experiences for our pupils, and this past fortnight we have heard fantastic stories and examples of resilience, innovation and leadership. These experiences fill our classrooms with awe and wonder and give our students a sense of what might come next - the sky is the limit, as our guests have shown.

Today we held our annual Senior School Speech Day with guest speaker, Helen Butters. On a day when we recognise and celebrate academic, sporting and musical successes, it was fantastic to be joined in our acknowledgement by so many parents and guests. It was wonderful to welcome back former students, now enjoying the next stages of their education. We saw prizes and trophies awarded for exceptional progress and outstanding

achievement, alongside GCSE and A-level certificates, in a real celebration of hard work and dedication. A huge thank you to Helen for joining us and providing us with such an inspirational speech, again sharing a story of true grit and determination to make a dream a reality.

I am now looking forward to all of the festive celebrations we have on the horizon. Make sure to come along to our Christmas Market tomorrow from 10.00am-1.00pm. There will be plenty of festive stalls selling beautiful gift ideas and the children have the chance to visit Santa in his grotto.

Our annual Winter Concert takes place on Thursday 14 December. This is one of my favourites of the many musical events we hold as it brings such a warm and festive atmosphere to our school community. Tickets can be purchased now via our usual Ticketsource link. This event is quickly followed by our end of term Carol Concert; please do reply by return using the Google form circulated this week - we would love to see as many of you there as possible.

**Mrs K Mackenzie, Head**



## U14 Boys Hockey vs Egglecliffe and Yarm School

The U14 boys' hockey team had a busy week playing both Yarm and Egglecliffe Schools. Against Yarm, the boys put into practice what they have been working on in training and battled a strong team, creating chances and opportunities to score throughout. Player of the Match John had a strong game in both attack and defence and showed his progress with his shooting skills.

The indoor hockey fixture against Egglecliffe School saw two good teams going head-to-head. The boys who played in this fixture last year were on the end of a big defeat so they were out to get some redemption.

Taking an early lead and playing some really nice hockey, THS were in control of the game but some good individual play from Egglecliffe brought them back into the contest. The game ended 7-5 to Egglecliffe.

So much progress has been made from this team.

**Mr Thomas**



## District Cross Country Competition

It was the return of the annual District Cross Country Competition at Preston Park last week.

Many of our students showed real grit and determination to complete the challenging course. Lewis and Flo quickly picked themselves up after becoming victims of the mud, and Martha and Megan pushed themselves to the limit.

Some good performances across



the afternoon resulted in five pupils qualifying for the next round. With fields of up to 90 runners, a huge congratulations to Oliver (4th), Tinashe (5th), Kyle (7th), Martha (8th) and Willoughby (8th) who will all represent the District Team in January.

**Miss Turnbull**



## U12A and B Netball vs Egglecliffe School

Last week saw a fabulous evening of netball for our U12 teams. It was the first match of the year for our U12A team and what an amazing start to the season they made, winning 39-5! The whole team were outstanding and managed to put into practice many of the skills and tactics that they have been working hard on in training.

The attack of Evie, Amelie and Abigail was a joy to watch with fast, accurate passing and wonderful shooting skills on display. Tinashe worked relentlessly in centre court and together with the defence of Flo, Sophia and Fliss, made it almost impossible for the opposition to get a shot on goal. Player of the Match went to Evie. I am excited to see this team progress and see what they can achieve together after such a strong start to the season!



The U12B team continued their winning streak with a nail biting 6-4 score. After some great shooting from Flossy and Emily, THS took the lead the girls defended tirelessly to ensure Egglecliffe could not close the gap. Jocelyn made countless interceptions to break down the Egglecliffe's flow and together with Lalulah, Sklyer



## Year 5 and 6 Rugby

Our Year 5 and 6 boys were back in rugby action, hosting Whinney Banks Primary School for a tag-rugby match. Whinney Banks' overall experience in tag-rugby proved to be decisive as they came out worthy winners.

After the tag-rugby match, THS gave Whinney Banks their first taste of full-contact rugby. This shorter game was played in good spirits and allowed THS to demonstrate their tackling and rucking skills. Overall, a great afternoon of rugby for both teams.

**Mr Williamson**



and Azwa, ensured the defence shut down any Egglecliffe attack. Evan's relentless work rate at centre was too much for her opponent to keep up with and she worked well with Gracie to ensure the ball reached our shooters. Player of the Match went to Flossy. Well done, girls, a great team performance!

**Mrs Rodgers**



## Christmas Trip

There was great excitement in EYFS this week when Nursery and Reception children boarded the school minibuses and headed off on their visit to experience the Christmas Walk at Cherry Hill Garden Centre.

For many of the Nursery children this was their first off-site visit and they had been excitedly counting down the days ahead of the outing.

The children loved seeing so many Christmas lights during the walk and shared with each other which were their favourite. The trip ended with the

children feeding the reindeer before it was time to head back to school. Safe to say it was a very magical morning which supported many different areas of the Early Years Curriculum and provided first-hand experiences for the children.

**Miss Hall and Mrs Clapton**



## Forest School

Reception class enjoyed exploring the stunning woodland yesterday.

They used their problem-solving skills and team work to help each other climb trees and negotiate space.

Our mud kitchen is always a popular area, where the children can demonstrate their new skills.

**Mrs Clapton**



## Compass skills

Reception class have enjoyed learning about direction and early compass skills.

The children learnt the basics of the four cardinal directions before moving on to using the compass.

Once they were comfortable with the basics they moved on to navigating across the school field.

Thank you to Miss Hopkins for her expert guidance, the children will make wonderful DofE students in the future!

**Mrs Clapton**

## Pre-Prep Scientists

The children in Pre-Prep have enjoyed playing the role of scientists this week, exploring day and night.

They discovered that because the Earth turns slowly on its axis, it can be day and night at the same time. When it is daytime in the United Kingdom, it is nighttime in other countries on the other side of the globe.

They explored playing the role of the sun and turning the globe to see which

countries would have daylight and which would be night.

The children worked together as a team, exploring what happened and discussing what might happen if we are closer or further away from the sun.

**Mrs Hannah**



## Five Currant Buns in a Bakers Shop

Nursery love to sing a range of number songs to support early mathematical development. Last week their favourite song was Five Currant Buns in a Bakers Shop!

The children brought this to life using props and thoroughly enjoyed taking it in turns to be the baker and the customers.

Counting, number recognition, number sequencing, calculation and subitising skills were all in full swing.

**Miss Hall**



## Christmas Big Adventures Holiday Camp

Plans are in place for our forthcoming Christmas Holiday Camp which takes place for three days from Wednesday 20 December to Friday 22 December. We have some places remaining for Wednesday and Thursday for children from Nursery to Year 6 (open to both THS pupils and those from the wider community) to join us for two magical Christmas themed days of fun. Please email Miss Hall directly ([rehall@teessidehigh.co.uk](mailto:rehall@teessidehigh.co.uk)) to enquire.

**Miss Hall**





# International Primary Curriculum

Recently, Upper Prep 1 have commenced their new IPC unit, *900CE*.

In this unit, the children will be considering different civilisations, including their societal hierarchy and their beliefs. This week, we have turned our attention to the Mayans and the children have been fascinated to learn what life was like at this time.

One of the tasks that the children completed linked to the religious beliefs of the Mayans. We considered what a typical religious event may have looked like and then worked in groups

to re-enact this. The children took on their roles as the king, priests, dancers, ball game players etc and as a class, we were able to piece together what this religious event might have looked like. We were also able to think about why dancing, prayers, speeches and games may have kept the Mayan people in favour with the Gods; a very important consideration to avoid human sacrifice!

**Mrs Kennedy**

## Letters to Santa

The children in Year 2 have been thinking about persuasive writing lately, in particular persuasive letters.

This week, the children have been excited to write some letters to Santa to persuade him why they deserve their presents. They used some lovely expanded noun phrases to describe the gifts they would like and included some

questions for Santa. They finished their letters with a wish for others to show Santa how thoughtful they were. The children were excited to take their letters to the franking machine so that they could send them off to the North Pole.

**Mrs Kennedy**

## Tea-Time Talk - Victoria Lynch

On Tuesday we welcomed award-winning business woman Victoria Lynch to speak with our aspiring THS entrepreneurs. Victoria is Managing Director of her company Additional Lengths, as well as brand creator for Remi Cachet. Her entrepreneurial skills began at just thirteen years old and now with over thirty years' business experience, she was keen to share her journey and give advice.

Victoria was extremely engaging and explained how her business began, developed and grew into a global success. She described the challenges she faced along the way, and how through hard work and determination, she was able to overcome them. It was also interesting to learn how her business has needed to adapt and evolve over the years to meet changing demands. We were fascinated to learn how she has made her business sustainable, and hear about her charitable work.

The talk was extremely well received by both children and their parents who left feeling truly inspired!

If any of our wonderful THS family would be interested in becoming a speaker within our Tea-Time Talk programme, please contact me for more details.

**Mrs Leck**



# Temples, Tombs and Treasures

On Monday, Lower Prep pupils invited their parents, teachers and Upper Prep friends to find out what they have learned in their IPC topic.

The children chose an area of learning, compiled slideshows and collected



artefacts and posters to set up a 'pop-up museum' in their classroom.

They demonstrated that they are now very knowledgeable about the Ancient Egyptian and Sumerian civilisations and our visitors were all impressed by their work.

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

**Miss Lockerbie**

## Overcoming your fears!

Year 6 have been working really hard recently on stories that focus on overcoming fears! Their stories are broken up into four parts. The first part sees a conversation between our central character (this is the character who has developed the fear) and one of their parents. Our character is desperate to quit an activity that they take because something terribly embarrassing recently happened, but the parent wants the child to persevere because the activity has already been paid for.

This was a tricky section for the pupils to write. Not only did they have to punctuate all of the direct speech correctly, but they also had to follow their reporting clauses with an adverbial phrase to give the reader a clearer picture of the characters' movements as the conversation was taking place. In Gabriel's version, his character Jeff recently missed a penalty kick.

*"Mum, you know how I made a joke of myself taking that woeful penalty and humiliating myself in front of my whole team," Jeff said, whilst solemnly staring at his feet.*

*"So next time you will practise and do better," soothed mum, as she took a seat.*

*"But I don't want there to be a next time," blurted Jeff, his eyes wet with tears.*

*"Oh but Jeff, I have paid for the rest of the season, you have to go," calmly spoke mum, as she handed Jeff a tissue.*

*Jeff blew his nose and whimpered, "But all of my teammates will laugh at me."*

*"No they won't, and anyway you're going and that's final," mum said sternly as she stood back up.*

*"Please mum! What if my manager never plays me again," pleaded Jeff, still holding his mothers hand.*

## Revolting Recipes

Year 5 children visited the Senior School Food and Nutrition department, where they enjoyed a brilliant Roald Dahl Revolting Recipes lesson.

The group was tasked with designing Enormous Crocodile-inspired bread, and demonstrated some impressive skills to follow a recipe carefully and make a wonderfully creative loaf.

**Mrs Howard**



*"No, you're going," mum replied, her face red with anger, "and that is that!"*

*Suddenly, Jeff's mind flashed back to the horrors of 2 hours earlier ...*

*Jeff had played well for most of the match and they were 6 minutes into stoppage time. Jeff played a through ball to his teammate and best friend Al. He was definitely about to score but he was shoved down... "penalty!" Shouted the referee, pointing to the spot. The manager called the players over and they all agreed that Jeff should take it. Jeff walked to the penalty spot. He began his run up - the crowd silenced - he hit the ball with lots of ferocity, it should have gone in, but the striped, yellow ball flew over the bar. The referee blew his whistle- it was all over. None of his teammates said unlucky or nice try, they just ignored him. Even Al didnt talk to him.*

**Mr Griffiths**

# Year 8 Workhouse Museum visit

On Friday 17 November, Year 8 students stepped back in time to experience life in Industrial Britain at Ripon Museum.

Our morning was based around crime and punishment. Students got into character to act out the arrest and sentencing of the notorious Sinkler brothers, followed by the punishment trial where they found out the gruesome details of the awful punishments inflicted on those in Ripon's Liberty Prison.

Then it was off to the courthouse where students had to get into character once again as they acted out a historic trial. Findlay played the judge, Faris was the defendant, Eshel was on defence and Arlo was prosecuting.

In the afternoon, we visited the Workhouse! After a look around, the students had to put themselves into the shoes of the Guardians of the Workhouse to differentiate between the deserving poor and the idle! Grace and Oliver gained their sympathy while Esther and Rosie were turned away to fend for themselves!

Well done to all students who were involved and made the day such a brilliant experience.

**Miss O'Byrne**



## Photography Enrichment

In Photography enrichment this term, students have been capturing images in order to create a collage depicting the grounds, with unusual angles from both inside and outside of classrooms and

buildings.

They have spent time designing and creating some fantastic collages and I am so pleased with all of their work!

**Mrs Stannett**



## Newcastle Eagles Basketball trip

On Friday night, a mixture of boys and girls from Years 7-9 travelled up to Newcastle to watch the Eagles play basketball at the Vertu Motors Arena.

There was lots of excitement on the way up and the match certainly did not disappoint! From watching the warm ups, seeing the size and skills of the players, enjoying the end-to-end game and being impressed at the skill level on show, all students had an amazing time. What a great experience to be so close to such a high level elite sport.

Lots of good memories to take away, as well as feeling inspired ahead of their basketball lessons after Christmas.

**Mr Thomas**



# A Christmas Carol

Last week, the Christmas festivities started early for some year groups with a trip to see *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens at Middlesbrough Theatre.

Year 7 students, who have just started their studies of Dickens and his famous literary works, were transported to a spooky Victorian London for a matinee performance, whilst Year 11 students grasped the opportunity to revisit the story of Scrooge's transformation in preparation for their English Literature mock examination in January.

A huge thanks to Mrs Reid for organising both trips and to the staff who accompanied each year group.

And so as the term comes to an end, in the words of Tiny Tim, 'A Merry Christmas to us all; God bless us, everyone!'

**Miss J Duffy**



## THS Bake Off - Live Final

We welcomed two special guests to school last week to judge the live final of the THS Bake Off competition and to host a lunchtime talk to pupils. Amy Dalby is the 'Blondie Baker' and Ben Draffan is the founder of Bagel Bros in Yarm. Both have a super interesting story to share with our students about their career paths into the food industry.

Amy was a finalist in Gordon Ramsey's Future Food Stars and Ben worked as a manager in the celebrity chef's London restaurant, before setting up his own business. Both Amy and Ben are fantastic entrepreneurs whose local businesses are going from strength to

strength.

THS Bake Off finalists were tasked with making Amy's very own blondies and their bakes this morning were delicious. The final judging was very close indeed. 'Star Baker'



## Seniors to Seniors Enrichment

A lovely group of Year 10 and 11 students have been visiting the residents of Timothy Hackworth Court during their Seniors to Seniors enrichment on a Wednesday afternoon.

The group have been offered a wide range of activities by the residents and are enjoying getting to know them.

They have made felt pigs in blankets, a range of origami designs and painted some intricate designs on rocks scavenged from the beach.

**Miss Malik**



was awarded to Sophia and the 'Hollywood Handshake' was awarded to Noah, with Sophia, Abigail and Gracie coming very close runners up!

Huge thanks to Amy and Ben for their time inspiring our students.

**Mrs Howard**

# F1 in Schools

On Tuesday, 11 students were selected to compete in this year's F1 in Schools competition. They formed two teams, Riverside Racing and Ayreodynamic.

Students had to create a team identity, find sponsors and develop a model F1 car to compete against other schools.

Riverside Racing were sponsored by XL Precision Technologies and Ayreodynamic by North Yorkshire Physiotherapy. The teams made the trip to Newcastle University's Engineering department to compete in the North East Regional Final.

Both teams did extremely well, winning all their races on the day. They presented their work and portfolios

to the judging panels and each made a formal presentation about their team and car.

Both teams made the shortlist for multiple awards and Team Ayreodynamic won the award for best team identity.

Our students had an excellent day learning about the competition and what Newcastle University has to offer for future engineers. We are looking forward to competing again next year.

**Mr Duncalfe**



## Joining the dots in science

Phoebe in Year 13 found some interesting fungi in the woods and brought it in to show younger students. Year 10 pupils have inadvertently been studying osmosis in microorganisms by observing the growth of microbes on diluted blackcurrant squash but not on concentrated squash. Year 9 students have been learning the characteristics

of fungi using "fun" yeast and athletes foot soft toys. All of these exciting finds have helped older students review past topics and allowed younger students to look ahead at exciting future topics. We love to use nature to expand their thinking and join the dots.

**Ms Kirk**



## Annabel Gray, BRIT School alumni

Last week was a busy week for inspiring visitors in school!

On Tuesday, Drama pupils enjoyed hearing from Annabel Gray, BRIT School alumni.

Annabel talked candidly about her amazing experiences, routes into acting and the challenges of the industry, and gave students great tips on how to succeed in stage school and in auditions.

**Mrs Furness**



# SO FAR THIS TERM





# Winter Concert

Thursday 14 December, 6.30pm

Tickets can be purchased now via our  
usual Ticketsource link.



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](mailto:info@teessidehigh.co.uk)  
W: [www.teessidehigh.co.uk](http://www.teessidehigh.co.uk)

