

# THiS Week



Teesside High School  
Education as it should be

## WINTER CONCERT

A cold December evening greeted our audience this year, but they were given a really warm welcome by our student prefects and shown to their seats ready to start the concert.

We opened the performance with some Mozart from our Senior Orchestra, featuring Benedict on Saxophone and George on Trombone for their first performance with the ensemble. Prep Choir sang to us about *That Spirit of Christmas* with beautiful soaring melodies and a lovely message. Emily treated us to a beautiful, atmospheric Grade 5 piano solo, *Starry Dome* before our newest Prep Band took to the stage. Their renditions of *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* and *Jingle Bells* were ably assisted by Mr Wing and definitely got us feeling festive.

Betha sang *It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas* and it certainly sounded like it with our Prep Strings Group performing *Saddle the Mule* and another sleigh ride, this time, *Alaskan*. All our instrumentalists joined together for the final piece before the interval and played *Up on the Housetops* together. It was wonderful to hear and see so many young musicians working together.

With the charity raffle in aid of the Butterwick Hospice, and refreshments done, we moved on to our audience participation piece of the evening and an even more polished version of the *Twelve Days of Christmas* rang out. Our Senior Strings group



then performed *Air and Dance*; a lilting piece in 6/8 before the spirited and lively dance. Gabriel in Year 6 demonstrated wonderful skill and musicianship by accompanying himself on guitar, singing *Last Christmas* before our Year 10 GCSE music students showcased their developing ensemble skills, playing independent parts together as a band, and singing the very festive *One More Sleep*.

Holly took the lead solo in the Senior Choir's performance of *Somewhere in Your Silent Night* with beautiful harmonies from the different parts, and a lively gospel inspired piece to finish. The full company then sang and played to wish the audience a *Merry Christmas, Everyone*.

Every performer contributed to this special recipe of a really wonderful evening, full of festive music, community spirit, and a generous sprinkling of THS magic. Congratulations to everyone involved on a truly enchanting evening.

**Mrs Shevels**



# WELCOME

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!

As we approach the end of the autumn term, it is amazing to be able to reflect on all of the special moments from the past four months. It truly has been a fantastic term filled with many momentous occasions and fantastic achievements for our pupils.

The last couple of weeks have been as action packed as ever, and topped off with a number of brilliant accomplishments. Our U16 Girls' Netball team became Stockton Schools Premiership League Final Winners, beating their opponents Red House School 40-21. We were joined by five primary schools as we hosted award-winning children's author Onjali Rauf in a wonderful Drake the Bookshop event, and our EYFS and Pre-Prep children gave a fantastic performance of their Nativity, *Shine Star, Shine*.

Last night, I had the pleasure of attending our annual Winter Music Concert. Each year I feel extremely proud of our students as they demonstrate their bravery and talent, with superb performances from across all year groups. It has been a busy time for our THS musicians, with performances at The Butterwick Hospice Service at St. Mary's Church on Monday evening and a trip to visit Dementia Link Services at Yarm Wellness next week.

It has been a pleasure to once again support our local food bank at the Hebron Church in Stockton and the Mission

Christmas appeal, which aims to provide disadvantaged children in our local community with Christmas presents. Thank you all for being so generous at this time of year, it will make a big difference to so many in our local area.

Today has been full of Christmas festivities, with the Senior House Choir Competition, Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day all taking place. I hope that you can attend our Whole School Carol Service on Tuesday 19 December, 12.30pm. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend this year's service as I am travelling to Italy with four members of staff and 40 pupils for an exciting ski trip! Keep an eye out for updates and photographs from the trip on our social media pages, it is set to be one to remember!

Have a wonderful Christmas. I look forward to seeing what 2024 has to bring for all of our pupils.

**Mrs K Mackenzie, Head**



## U12A Girls Netball vs St Michael's Academy

The U12A team have gone from strength to strength and beat St. Michael's Academy by an enormous score of 44-1 last week! The development that the girls have made in the last few weeks has been outstanding.

On the night, the attack of Evie, Amelie, Abigail and Flo was unstoppable! The shooters were on fire and their hours practising putting up shots was clearly evident by the amazing accuracy on display. Player of the Match went to Amelie who was confidently shooting from range. Once again Tinashe was relentless in her work rate as centre and displayed strong tactical awareness.

The girls have been working diligently on their centre passes and managed to effectively use these throughout the match. Our superb defence of Sophia and Betsy turned over countless balls from the St Michael's attack and only conceded one goal which is testament to their discipline and closing down of their opponents.

Another wonderful team performance from this superbly talented group of girls.

**Mrs Rodgers**



## U16 Stockton Schools Netball Premiership League Final Winners

Last Thursday the Under 16 Premiership Netball team set out to play Red House in the Stockton Schools League Final.

We have been training together since the beginning of the year, and have really improved as a team with help from Miss Stephens.

Thankfully it all paid off with us working hard to achieve the fantastic result of us winning 41-20!

We all really enjoyed the game and worked brilliantly well together; it was the perfect end to the season. Well done to RHS who were good competitors throughout.

**Siri, U16 Premiership Captain**

## U12A and B Hockey vs Eggescliffe School

Two excellent performances against Eggescliffe School from the U12A and B Girls' Hockey teams on Tuesday.

The A team, captained by Flo, dominated from the start. Betsy moved to left wing and alongside Evie in the middle, Flo on the right and Tinashe in midfield, they created numerous opportunities to score. They were very well supported by Amelie and Abigail in defence and Fliss in goal. Final score: THS 10-0 Eggescliffe.

The B Team played their best hockey to date and really started working well together and enjoyed the experience of the larger pitch.



## U16 Boys Rugby

The U16 boys had a great hockey game in what can only be described as a monsoon last week. The boys travelled to Norton to play Red House School in a normally tight game. This was no different. The first half was played in Red House's half and there were plenty of opportunities for the boys to score, but unfortunately not taken.

A much more even second half saw chances at both ends. Both keepers made some great saves including a full stretched save from a Rohan short corner. The game ended with a victory for Red House with a score of 1-0.

**Mr Thomas**



well to keep the ball away from Mabel in goal. Final score: THS 4-0 Eggescliffe.

Well done to Darcey, Mabel, Lyla and Harriet who all stepped up brilliantly to play for the Year 7 team.

**Miss Turnbull**





# Christmas Excitement in Nursery

Children in Nursery have been hard at work over recent weeks creating beautiful Christmas cards and gifts.

The pupils have made a number of different tree decorations as well as a Christmas wreath and calendar to share with their families. The children put their mathematical skills to the test by creating their own Christmas wrapping paper using repeating patterns which they used to wrap their gifts.

In addition to this, they have also had lots of fun engaging in some festive role play delivering presents to their friends. Each morning, they have started their day by opening a different Christmas book as part of their book advent calendar and have enjoyed revisiting their favourite festive stories together. Amongst all the excitement, they settled down to share *The Christmas Story* together and learnt about the

true meaning of Christmas. After a wonderful term in Nursery, the children are all excitedly counting down the days until Christmas and we are already looking forward to more fun and learning in Nursery in the New Year.

**Miss Hall**



## Reception Class in Forest School

Reception pupils were magnets to the puddles last week! Puddles hold lots of learning opportunities about the natural world, movement and play.

The class followed Miss Hopkins, Forest School Leader, using OS maps to the playing fields where they enjoyed

a game of North South East West, building strength and agility along the way.

This week the children enjoyed toasting marshmallows around the fire.

**Mrs Clapton**

## Christmas Market

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our annual Christmas Market on Saturday 2 December.

We were joined by many local businesses who had some amazing items for sale. Our Prep Choir and Mr Wing welcomed visitors warmly with their beautiful voices. Little ones grasped the opportunity to meet Santa in his grotto and receive a special gift.

Well done to our Year 11 pupils; they raised the most money for the school PTA with their sweet jar tombola!

**Miss Connor**



## Geometry

The children in Year 1 have been working hard on their Geometry skills this week.

They have explored 2D and 3D shapes by counting vertices and faces.

They have also shown how they can identify shapes within a pattern.

I am very impressed with how much their skills have developed this term.

Fantastic work, Year 1!

**Mrs Hannah**

## EYFS and Pre-Prep Nativity - *Shine Star, Shine*



## Visit to Nursery

Mr Clifford came to visit Nursery on Tuesday to share a story.

The children loved hearing the story of *Cops and Robbers* and had fun wearing the different police hats. Nursery would like to say a very big thank you to Mr Clifford for taking time to read them a story!

**Miss Hall**





## Onjali Q. Raúf visits Teesside High School

Last Thursday, Years 3-6 joined pupils from five local primary schools to listen to an amazing talk from award winning children's author Onjali Q. Raúf.

Many will know Onjali from their study of the book *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, and the talk provided fantastic inspiration for our pupils and visitors, who loved asking questions and having their books signed, too.

Thank you to Drake The Bookshop, who helped us organise this brilliant event, and to staff and pupils at Grangefield Academy, Junction Farm Primary School, The Links Primary School, Preston Primary School and Whinney

Banks Primary School for joining us. It was a wonderful morning!

**Miss Hockney**



## Microbit Madness

Our Prep Digital Leader, Corey, and two of our budding coders were thrilled to open our special delivery this week. 30 new Next Gen Microbits from the BBC!

They cannot wait to join our Microbit Madness and Quick Coding Clubs from January.

**Miss Lockerbie**

## Year 2 - Question and Answer Poems

The children in Year 2 have been thinking about question and answer poems in their English lessons recently. They have practised punctuating questions and statements correctly, thought about how to create verses in their poems and how to include rhyming couplets but choosing their vocabulary really carefully. Having been inspired by the poem *What is Pink?* by Christina Rossetti, the children have created their own colour poems in the same style. All of the children have worked incredibly hard on this work, but I have been especially impressed with Grayson who has really challenged himself to think outside the box.

*What is pink? A pig is pink, Did you see him wink?*

*What is blue? The scenery is blue, What a beautiful view.*

*What is red? My thread is red, By the kitchen bread.*

*What is yellow? Dave's tie is yellow, He is such a friendly fellow.*

*What is violet? The tulips are violet, Admired by the pilot.*

**Mrs Kennedy**



## International Primary Curriculum

The children in Upper Prep 1 are continuing their IPC unit, *900CE*.

They have been considering how information has been passed through history by word of mouth and the limitations with the accuracy of this type of evidence.

The children have considered a range of visitor statements of people visiting Benin City and as a team have taken the information from these statements to

create a map of what they think the city may have looked like. We were then able to compare the maps of each group to see what they had in common and what was different.

The children showed great collaboration skills during this task and produced some great maps.

**Mrs Kennedy**



## Year 3 Conversation Poems

The children in Year 3 have been working on conversation poems, looking carefully at those with a question and response. Having read and analysed the traditional poem, *Who killed Cock Robin?*, the children have had a go at their own poems, focusing on different animals. They were asked to think carefully about their vocabulary choices as well as including prepositions, alliteration and rhyming couplets. All of the children worked really hard on this task and produced some lovely poems. The following poem was created by Thomas.

*What's that screeching noise?*

*It's me said the mini mouse,*

*I'm crawling around in someone's house.*

*What's that booming bellow?*

*It's me said the confident cow,*

*I'm trying to wake up the sow.*

*What's that peaceful purr?*

*It's me said the kitty cat,*

*I'm cosy on this lovely mat.*

*What's that dragging noise?*

*It's me said the slug, I'm as slow as a turtle trying to eat this bug.*



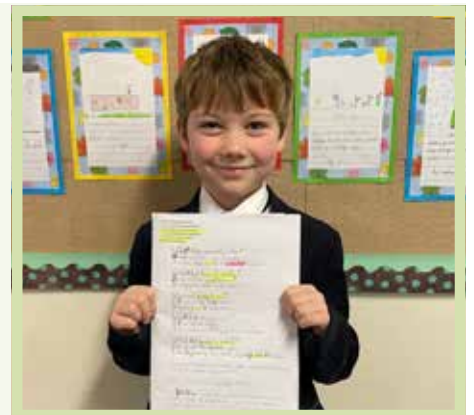
## Nature Observation and Den Building Awards

Some of our Upper Prep pupils have been enjoying a half term of Forest School in their enrichment lesson.

They have battled all elements including snow, wind and rain. Our Year 5 students have loved working on their Nature Observation Award and our Year 6 pupils worked hard on their Den Building Award.

As a treat for their last lesson they enjoyed roasting marshmallows on the fire.

**Miss Hopkins**



*What's that boisterous bark?*

*It's me said the excitable dog,*

*I'm impressing these kids, jumping over the log!*

**Mrs Kennedy**





## Science at THS

The Science department has been busy completing many practicals in their lessons over the past two weeks.

Science Club pupils have been carrying out investigations into the effectiveness of Ineos hand wash and disinfectant spray. This was a valuable lesson for us all about aseptic techniques and the difficulties of avoiding contamination in experiments. Year 7 Biology students have also been reviewing their knowledge of the human skeleton.

Year 10 Physics students have been investigating static electricity. They learned why a charged balloon will stick to an uncharged wall, due to charges being induced on it. All Year 10 Biology students have been developing their GCSE practical skills by investigating osmosis in potato cylinders. They weighed potato cylinders before and after placing them into different concentrations of sugar solution for 20 minutes. The students then calculated the change in mass and percentage change in mass of the potato cylinders, they represented their results graphically and wrote a

scientific conclusion, explaining why some potato cylinders lost mass and some gained mass due to osmosis. Year 11 Biology students have been studying reproduction in flowering plants as part of their GCSE studies. They dissected a lily and were able to identify the male and female parts.

**Mrs Kirk, Mrs Jackson and Ms Goodman**



## Speech Day

Huge thanks to all who came along and helped us celebrate the many notable achievements of our Senior and Sixth Form students as part of Speech Day 2023. Helen Butters gave an excellent speech on how she braved rowing across the Atlantic Ocean with three of her friends, showing our students that anything is achievable when you put

your mind to it.

Particular thanks to our student leaders and guests of honour (L-R): Head Boy Satvik, Head Girl Lily, Guest Speaker Helen Butters, Head Kirsty Mackenzie and Governor Charles Atha.

**Miss Connor**

## Light up a Star Service

Senior Choir students sang their hearts out at Butterwick Hospice Care's Light up a Star service on Monday.

They sounded absolutely wonderful, performing pieces at the start of the service as well as providing a beautiful backdrop for the hanging of specially dedicated stars on the Christmas tree.

Many students then added their own star for a loved one on the tree, making this occasion especially poignant and meaningful.

We look forward to being a part of this special event in the years to come.

**Mrs Shevels**



## Classics Art Competition

This House competition required students to produce a piece of artwork in the medium of their choice on the theme *Time and Memory in the Ancient World*.

It was inspired by a national competition run by the University of Cambridge's Classics Department.

We were very impressed by the entries. Poppy Brion in Year 9 (pictured below, left) was chosen as the winner for her piece inspired by Roman mosaics and

the flow of time.

Entries submitted by Anisa Ditta (pictured below, right), Ava Jeavons, Hannah Sanderson and Isabella Alden were highly commended by the judges.

**Miss Malik and Mrs Machan**



## Bebras Computing Challenge

At the start of half term, all students from Year 2 up to Year 13 took part in the Bebras Computing Challenge. Our pupils performed excellently, and a special congratulations goes to ten of our Senior School students who each achieved a Gold certificate. This means that their scores put them in the top 10% in the four oldest age groups in the UK Bebras Competition, and they now get the chance to take part in The Oxford University Computing Challenge.

**Miss Lockerbie and Mr Bradbury**

## Artists of the Month

Congratulations to Florence Rennison and Sophia Easton for their fabulous Keith Haring-inspired artworks, making them both Artists of the Month for December.

Year 7 have been learning about colour theory and mixing as well as how to use acrylic paint. Their paintings are inspired by The Pop Art Movement and the work of social activist Keith Haring.

Students were encouraged to present their own social message through art. Florence has explored how all people should be treated equally regardless

of their gender identity, whilst Sophia's work looks at acceptance of different genders and identities.

**Mrs Machan and Mr Duncalfe**







# Christmas Festivities

Today there were many Christmas festivities taking place around school.

This morning we held the highly anticipated Senior House Choir Competition. Since coming back to school after the half term break, each House has practised a song of their choice to perform in front of Mrs Mackenzie, Mrs Williams and Mrs Shevels.

It was a tough competition, but a huge congratulations to this year's winner,

Victoria.

Our whole school enjoyed supporting Christmas Jumper Day and loved eating a delicious Christmas dinner made by our wonderful catering team.

Wishing all THS families a lovely Christmas!

**Miss Connor**



## Learning Lunch - Julie Liddell

On Monday we had the pleasure of welcoming Julie Liddell, founder and MD of Still Human, to talk to our Sixth Form students as part of our Learning Lunch series.

Julie spoke about her educational and professional journey which led her to creating Still Human, shared her personal life lessons and completed a 10 minute stress and mindfulness workshop with a super engaged group.

A huge thank you to Julie for taking the time to visit us.

**Miss Hockney**

# SO FAR THIS TERM



## Toby Shellard - *Pretty Woman*

Toby Shellard visited school on Wednesday to discuss his interesting and exciting musical theatre career since graduating from ArtsEd.

Toby shared stories about his current

tour of *Pretty Woman* and tips on audition technique.

Thank you for a great talk, Toby!

**Mrs Furness**







# TEESSIDE HIGH SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Saturday 20 January, 10.00am-12.00pm



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