

THIS Week



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

THS SKI TRIP

In the week leading up to the Christmas holiday, 40 students and 5 members of staff travelled to Sauze d'Oulx, north west Italy, for the much-anticipated THS ski trip.

Leaving just after lunchtime on Sunday 17 December, our coach journey from Teesside High to Manchester Airport and evening flight to Milan was long but stress-free. The transfer from Milan to Sauze d'Oulx saw us head west, past Turin and up the winding roads into the Italian Alps. We settled in the cosy ski village of Sauze d'Oulx just after midnight and headed straight to bed, excited for the week ahead.

We had six days of skiing planned in the Sauze d'Oulx ski resort. Unfortunately, due to the lack of snowfall over the previous week, many of the ski runs and chair lifts were closed but there was still plenty of skiing to be had. During the first three days of skiing we got to know our enthusiastic, expert instructors who helped us get to grips with the ever-changing conditions. In the mornings, some sections of the slopes were solid and icy, while other sections had thicker snow but by the afternoon, the conditions changed. This provided a challenge for even some of our more experienced skiers, nevertheless the expert guidance and teaching from our instructors meant that our students made incredible progress in a short space of time.

After a long day of skiing, we had our three course evening meal and plenty of time to relax in the warm lounge area of our hotel which we were lucky enough to have all to ourselves. The atmosphere during our evenings was lovely, with our students and staff playing cards, Uno, darts, watching films and catching the evening football match on TV. We even celebrated a 16th and 54th birthday with the chef kindly baking birthday cakes for us! On two evenings we had the chance to explore the village of Sauze d'Oulx. The village was very quiet as the ski season there does not officially start until January, however this allowed us to meander through the festive streets, visit souvenir shops and enjoy some hot chocolate. On another night, some of our students visited Sauze Spa, where they had the place to themselves and were able to use the swimming pool, saunas and steam rooms. Great fun had by all despite having to wear black fabric swimming caps!



With the snow staying away and strong winds developing in Sauze, we decided to travel across the border to spend day four and five skiing in Montgènevre, France. Although there was much more snow, the wind started to pick up there, too, which meant many of the chair lifts started to close. Despite this, our students enjoyed practising their skills on different slopes and testing themselves over jumps and obstacles. There was a worry that the winds would be so strong we would not be able to ski on day six but fortunately they died down, and our students spent their final day showing off their skills and enjoying every last moment of their skiing before saying goodbye to their instructors.

After six days of skiing and a 3.00am wake up call to begin our return journey, we had lots of tired looking faces, eager to return home. Thankfully, there were no delays and we arrived back at Teesside High just after lunchtime on Christmas Eve. Lots of miles covered and lots of amazing memories, making our Italian ski trip a huge success!

Mr Williamson

WELCOME

As always we have had a busy start to the spring term!

A warm welcome to parents and pupils reading our first newsletter of 2024 and also to those catching up with our news and events at their visit to our final Open Day of the academic year. I am delighted you have taken the time to come along and learn more about what our school has to offer.

As you can see from the front page, we all enjoyed a wonderful school ski trip in December. It was fantastic to see our students' resilience when facing the challenges of the slopes and watching them make memories with their friends was a joy. Thank you to the staff who accompanied me and planned this memorable experience.

I would like to say a huge well done to our Year 11 and 12 students who sat their mock examinations when they returned from the festive break. I am sure that this experience has helped you prepare for your examinations in the summer.

Our spring co-curricular activities are back with a bang, with a mix of sporting activities on offer. There is Golf at Yarm Driving Range, basketball and gymnastics, or competitive team sports such as netball, hockey and rugby. There are some fantastic creative arts opportunities to dive into, including Sewing Bee, rehearsals for the upcoming

Oliver! Production, Art Club and Crochet, and on the academic front, Japanese, Further Maths, Programming Club, or GCSE Astronomy. There really is something for everyone! Our incoming Year 7 cohort had a taste of these opportunities during their first full visit to the Senior School last week. I hope that they all had an amazing day and are looking forward to the start of Year 7 in September.

On Wednesday 31 January we are hosting our annual THS Careers Convention. This is a superb event which allows students to meet experts in their fields on a one-to-one basis, discovering possible future careers and gather valuable information for future study and career pathways. Please confirm your attendance using the Google Form circulated.

I am looking forward to seeing what the New Year brings for our pupils.

Mrs K Mackenzie, Head



U14 Boys Hockey

vs Red House

School

Our U14 boys had an outstanding start to the year with a convincing victory over Red House School in their indoor hockey fixture last week.

All of the boys played important roles; John and Isaac were as dependable as ever, George and William both putting their names on the score sheet, Spencer was fantastic back in goal and Monty and Lucas impressed with their work rate and effort.

Well done, boys! It is wonderful to see how much progress you have all made.

Mr Thomas



Tees Valley Cross Country Finals

Last week, we took our six qualified cross country runners to represent Stockton District at Stewart Park.

In typical boggy conditions, our runners demonstrated the same high levels of grit and determination that got them through the previous round.

Oliver, Willoughby, Tinashe and Archer all finished in the top 25 of their races. Meanwhile Martha and Kyle finished

9th and 5th respectively, qualifying for the next round where they will represent Cleveland County at the Inter County Cross Country Competition.

All six runners should be proud of their accomplishments.

Mr Williamson



U14 Girls Hockey

A great performance from the U14 girls who beat a good Egglecliffe side 2-0 on a very chilly night last week. It was a very competitive hockey match but an amazing performance from Roxie in goal stopped Egglecliffe scoring, despite a handful of powerful shots on target.

At the other end of the pitch, Bethea and Rosie both slotted the ball past the opposition keeper. The team's structure and formation improved throughout the game, giving another good result in the County League. Well done to Player of the Match, Roxie.

Miss Turnbull

U12A and B Netball vs Yarm School

The U12 netball teams were fantastic last week with both the A and B teams winning their respective league matches against Yarm B and C.

The A team looked unstoppable and within the first quarter had taken a 6-0 lead. Yarm kept fighting and presented a good challenge for the girls but the attack of Tinashe, Evie, Amelie, Abigail and Flo was too strong for the Yarm defence to stop. It was a joy to watch the fast, accurate passing and effective drives that the girls were making down the court. Once again the shooting accuracy from Amelie, Abigail and Flo was fantastic. The dynamic defensive duo of Betsy and Sophia managed to restrict the opposition to only two goals due to their tight defence and fabulous

interceptions. Another wonderful team performance from the girls winning 14-2!

The B team had a very closely fought match and showed amazing tenacity, with Azwa, Gracie and Skyler challenging for every ball. The team's determination and hard work for each other on the court was rewarded with a one goal victory!

Flossy led by example, remaining calm under pressure when her shooting opportunities arose. We are proud to say that following Isabelle and Sophia making their netball debuts, every Year 7 girl has now played in a league match and the squad is going from strength to strength. A special mention must go to our talented Prep students who also had the

opportunity to play. Emily, Evan and Lallulah demonstrated skills beyond their age and Jocelyn was voted Player of the Match, an amazing achievement against girls two years older than herself!

Mrs Rodgers



Sensational

The children in Pre-Prep have had a very exciting start to their new IPC unit *Sensational*.

The children started to explore their own senses using blindfolds and finding their way around the classroom with the help of a friend.

It was much harder than they thought it would be!

They also took part in a Lego challenge which tested their communication skills.



The children needed to describe to their partner how to build the model as their partner could not see.

It was tricky but very rewarding when they looked and checked that they had managed to build the same models.

Well done, Pre-Prep.

Mrs Hannah



Little Red Riding Hood

Reception class have been learning about the traditional tale *Little Red Riding Hood*.

They have created a story map and have

enjoyed re-telling the story to their friends and learning on how to best structure the story.

Mrs Clapton



Dear Zoo

There was great excitement when a special delivery arrived in Nursery this week.

The children wasted no time in opening the parcel and discovered it was from Zac the Zookeeper with a letter explaining the zoo was flooded and he needed some help looking after the animals! Zac had sent the animals for us to look after along with a copy of their favourite story, *Dear Zoo*.

The children have been busy sharing the story and retelling it in sequence. They all worked together to make a story map and painted their favourite animals from the book. It is safe to say the animals have been in very good hands in Nursery and have been well looked after by the children.

Miss Hall



Gymnastics in PE

Pre-Prep pupils are thoroughly enjoying their PE lessons this term, focusing on gymnastics.

The children have been hard at work developing their skills and learning all about tuck, straddle and pike positions.

They showed wonderful team work



when tasked to complete a range of challenges showcasing the different positions.

Miss Hall



Gymnastics and Trampolining Achievements

We are very proud of Amelia in Pre-Prep for her Gymnastics and Trampolining achievements.

Amelia was excited to share with her friends two very impressive certificates she received.

Well done, Amelia!

Mrs Hannah

Outdoor Education in EYFS

From extension tasks in the classroom to our learning in the woods, we believe that our children learn to reach their potential when they are truly inspired.

Teesside High School's Early Years department takes a joyful approach to teaching and places an emphasis on inquiry-based learning whilst encouraging children to be active and engaged.

Coupled with our woodland, we have opportunities abound for all of our learners. In Reception class, each child is seen and heard and supported by our Forest School Leader and

Class Teacher.

In a small ratio environment staff can nurture and empower children. Our children's innate sense of wonder is the foundation of learning at Forest School. Miss Hopkins crafts



meaningful, multisensory learning experiences which enable creativity, ingenuity and skills.

The children explore and develop complex understandings that engender a sense of self and purpose in the world.

Mrs Clapton



How Humans Work

Lower Prep had an exciting start to their new topic on Monday when they took part in a special exercise class.

They first made a prediction as to how their body might change after exercise then made observations following a quick 10 minute high intensity session. They rounded off the class by taking part in some fun dance activities before returning to the classroom.

The children were able to identify that their heart rates became faster, they were pink in the cheeks, thirsty and some were even feeling a little hot and sweaty following their efforts, which allowed us to consider the body as a machine. One that needs looking after!

The children cannot wait to find out all about how their bodies work and how to look after them properly.

Well done, Lower Prep!

Miss Lockerbie



Microbit Club

Prep children have made a fantastic start to Microbit Club. Alexander and Joseph were our resident experts after receiving their own microbits for Christmas and getting a head start on the group.

The children worked well as a team to

set up the microbits and followed block coding instructions to create different images and text scrolls. Once they had found their feet, they soon had the microbits playing their own tunes and creating a dance game!

Miss Lockerbie

Bring a Loved One to Forest School

If you are interested in finding out more about our wonderful Nursery, we warmly invite you to join us for a special Bring a Loved One to Forest School Stay and Play event.

This event will take place in our Forest School on Thursday 15 February, 1.45am-3.00am, for both current and prospective Nursery pupils (aged 2+) and their families.

During this Stay and Play session you will be given the chance to explore our wonderful woodland and grounds, complete Valentines-themed activities and find out more about life in Nursery at THS. This is a great opportunity to find out more about our 'Excellent' Early Years achievements.

Please contact our friendly admissions team to book a place.

Miss Connor



Young Engineers Club

Our Young Engineers Club began this term and the children have made fantastic progress so far.

They examined a range of local bridges and discussed their structure. They established that many of them use triangles to create strength and support.

Following this the children were challenged to create structures using sticks and marshmallows.

They put a great deal of thought into

their work and produced some amazing results.

Over future weeks, we will continue to complete a series of engineering challenges which will test their thinking skills and develop team-building.

We will also be preparing for the 2024 Science Buddies Engineering Challenge!

Mrs Leck

Think-Plan-Reflect-Repeat!

In our recent Thinking Curriculum lessons, Upper Prep pupils have been considering the term metacognition.

After being introduced to the concept, pupils were asked to come up with a slogan that they thought represented the general idea.

We were all very pleased with think-plan-reflect-repeat.

Pupils then moved on to trying to think metacognitively about their own learning.

Jacob considered his own strengths and weaknesses. He realised that his strengths are: football, PE, Mathematics, scuba diving and golf.

Jacob also described his weaknesses as RE and German.

Year 2 Mathematics

Year 2 pupils have been working hard in their mathematics lessons to learn all about money.

They have used coins and notes and worked well in teams to match values.

A great start, Year 2!

Miss Lockerbie



Mr Griffiths





Newcastle Art Trip

On Thursday 11 January, Year 9 students enjoyed a trip to Newcastle to explore the city's renowned creativity.

The morning was spent visiting the many levels of the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art. Students explored exhibitions such as Michael Rakowitz's *Waiting gardens of the North*, a project which responded to conflict, a collaborative exhibition by neurodiverse artists, work by 20 indigenous artists exploring their links to culture and the natural world and a video by Nigerian Artist Ayo Akingbade.

Lunch was enjoyed in the fabulous new free lunch space overlooking the River Tyne. Students then put what they had learnt about composition into practise to take photographs of the stunning

architecture of Newcastle while walking up to Grey's Monument. Shouts of 'ooh leading lines!' could be heard as we walked up the street. Behaviour was exemplary and all students had a great day, much better than double maths said one! Feedback was as follows:

'A good experience, I learnt lots about different cultures and their art.'

'Great architecture.'

'I really liked the work by neurodiverse people, I'd never experienced anything like that before.'

Mrs Machan



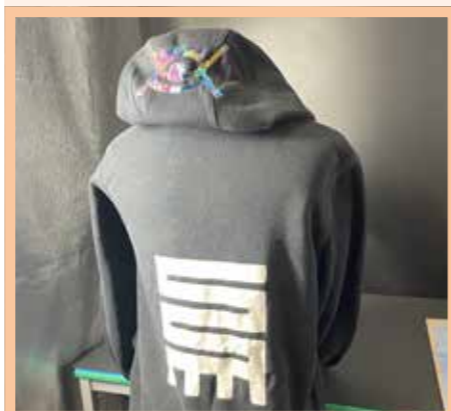
Fashion Design Club

A group of environmentally conscious students have enjoyed their recent Fashion Design enrichment with a focus on sustainable fashion.

The students were tasked with up-cycling some pre-loved clothing into some creative new designs.

They were introduced to a range of fashion drawing techniques and then brought their designs to life by developing their hand and machine sewing skills to construct and decorate their garments.

Mrs Howard and Mrs Clarke



Year 7 Transition Day

Year 6 pupils and those from local primary schools enjoyed a fantastic Year 7 Transition Day on Wednesday 10 January.

The groups loved exploring a range of subjects and getting a feel for life as a THS Senior School student.

A huge thank you to our Year 9 mentors who assisted the pupils at this important time in their transition journey.

Our transition programme allows Year



6 pupils to seamlessly move into Year 7, making them feel confident in their new learning environment before they have even started!

If you have any queries about your child's move to Year 7, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Miss Stephens



Ripon Cathedral Performance

Visitors to our Open Day this Saturday will be able to hear the beautiful voices of our Prep and Senior Choir members, who will be conducting an open rehearsal ahead of their performance at Ripon Cathedral on Saturday evening.

The choir will be performing with St Cecilia Orchestra in Gary Carpenter's *The Lamplighter* - an atmospheric and characterful work based on the poems of Robert Louis Stevenson - and movements from Andrew Carter's *Benedicite*. This is another incredible opportunity for our THS musicians and we wish them the very best of luck in their performance.

Mrs Shevels

Business and Economics

During the autumn term across Business and Economics, we had an increased focus on the quality of students' evaluation and judgements. Using the acronym AJIM (Aim, Justify, It depends on and Most important point), we wanted students to be clear about the direction of their extended answers and what they were wanting to conclude.

The acronym provided students with a structure for their final judgements. This term, Business and Economics

will again focus on the content of longer written responses, but will now consider the selection and development of contextual analysis points alongside evaluation.

Context and reference to case study material within examination answers, both in terms of vocabulary and relevant content, is vitally important to achieving success in Business examinations.

Therefore, congratulations go to Zara Edwards, Beatrice Austin, Ewan

Cooke, Ella McCarthy, Emily Milne, Ruby Chadwick, Joshua Collingwood, Rosie Long, Siri Musunuru, Isobel Pumphrey, Neel Rathi, Holly Williams, George Danson, Sophie Dickinson and Lily Williams.

All of these students have demonstrated within their written work that they have listened to and taken on board the technique to significantly improve the quality of their answers.

Mrs Boothroyd

SO FAR THIS TERM





TEESSIDE HIGH SCHOOL CAREERS CONVENTION

Wednesday 31 January, 6.00pm-8.00pm

Visit our annual Careers Convention to meet over 40 of the region's leading businesses, training providers and universities and find out the next steps in your future career. Aimed at students in Years 9-12.



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