

# THIS Week



Teesside High School  
Education as it should be

## BRING A LOVED ONE TO FOREST SCHOOL

Early Years children and their families were delighted to visit our Forest School for two Valentine's events this week.

On arrival, families were warmly welcomed into the Atrium with refreshments and the children were extremely excited to start their adventure to Forest School.



Miss Hopkins, Forest School Leader, waited with the campfire burning for family members to arrive with their little ones. They enjoyed toasted marshmallows and the children showed their loved ones how to approach the fire safely.

They then went on to create some beautiful Valentine's themed natural crafts using flowers and sticks.



It was great to see so many current and prospective families come along and support this event.

We hope you enjoyed visiting our beautiful woodland!

**Mrs Clapton, Miss Hall and Miss Hopkins**





# WELCOME

We have enjoyed a wonderful first half of the spring term.

After the success of our Open Day in January, it has been fantastic to welcome a number of new pupils to our school community in recent weeks. We endeavour to follow up with each new family after their first week with us, and received this lovely feedback from a new parent to the Senior School: "Our daughter says that the pupils have been so welcoming as well as the members of staff she has met this week. She is the happiest she has been in a very long time which is so lovely to see."

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate our U12 hockey team who were crowned County Hockey Champions last week. These girls seem to go from strength to strength in their sporting abilities and I look forward to seeing them progress more during their time at THS.

Well done to all pupils who joined us for their Scholarship Assessments last week. Despite being a formal and rigorous process, we aim to ensure each student enjoys their experience and feels proud of how far they have come in the application process. There was an exceptional field of candidates this year and I pass on my congratulations to those who were successful.

When we return from the half term break, we have many

exciting events planned. On Wednesday 13 March we will welcome Dr Stacey Emmonds into school for our next Tea-Time Talk. Dr Emmonds is an Associate Professor in Sports Performance at Leeds Beckett University and physical conditioning and performance coach for England Rugby and England Football. Make sure to complete the Google Form circulated to confirm your attendance, this is not a talk you will want to miss!

We are excited to announce that our Senior Production of Oliver! JR will take place across three nights from Tuesday 19 March to Thursday 21 March. Students and staff are working tirelessly in rehearsals to create an incredible production. Tickets will be available soon via our usual TicketSource link - hope to see you there.

I hope you enjoy a restful break.

**Mrs K Mackenzie, Head**



## U15 Indoor Hockey vs Eggescliffe School

Our U15 boys faced Eggescliffe School in an indoor hockey fixture last week. Having played each other on numerous occasions, the boys knew they would be in for a tough game. Eggescliffe started well and scored a couple of early goals. As the first half went on, THS came back into the game with some quick passing through the Eggescliffe defence, allowing Zach to get the first THS goal.

THS took this momentum into the second half and managed to create more chances. Matthew and Seth continued to supply excellent passes around and through the Eggescliffe defence, but now with better movement from our forward players, THS managed to score a further three goals. Despite this, Eggescliffe also maintained their scoring ability to net a few more themselves.

The match finished Eggescliffe 8-4 THS. Goals from Max (2) and Zach (2).

**Mr Williamson**



## U12 Boys County Hockey Tournament

The U12 boys had another good performance at the County Cup this year.

With some really strong teams involved it was hard work against Yarm and RGS Newcastle but the boys demonstrated throughout their games that they had the ability to cause problems.

Good saves by Gideon and some sound defending from Oscar, Zinedine, Grayson and Oliver kept the games competitive.

In the third game against Eggescliffe, the boys knew they had a good chance. An early goal from Gabriel saw them take the lead before being pegged back to 1-1.

Isaac scored in the final five minutes to give THS the win. A good achievement to finish 3rd in such a strong competition.

**Mr Thomas**



## U12 Girls County Hockey Champions

Our U12A girls played in the three-way County Hockey Tournament on a blustery evening in Norton last week.

The first match for the girls was against Red House School. THS started the game brightly and put Red House under constant pressure with some high pressing from Betsy, Evie, Flo and Tinashe. Despite this, the girls failed to capitalise from many chances and short corners with the first half finishing goalless. In the second half, THS continued to apply pressure but with a quick counter attack, Red House broke down the pitch and took the lead. Fortunately, with the final play of the game Tinashe scored from a short corner and rescued a draw. THS faced Eggescliffe School in their second match. Similar to the previous game, THS applied constant pressure and were able to win the ball high up

the pitch. The girls communicated well and passed the ball effectively, leading to a hattrick of goals from Tinashe. The match finished 3-0 which set up an interesting final game between Red House and Eggescliffe; if Red House beat Eggescliffe by four or more goals, they would win the tournament. After a tense watch, Red House won the game 3-0, meaning they finished the tournament with THS tied on points and goal difference.

The teams agreed to settle the tie by playing an additional 10 minute match. Red House had the first big chance but some quick reflexes from Fliss in goal kept the ball out of the net. Tight marking from Abigail and Sophia in defence allowed our attackers to do their thing and maintain pressure on the Red House defence. Betsy battled well on the



## U12A Girls Netball vs High Tunstall

The Year 7 Netball team played a fiercely competitive match against High Tunstall which resulted in a 26-21 win. After a nervous start the girls found themselves two goals behind and had to respond quickly to ensure that they did not let a strong High Tunstall team run away with the game. The defence made some crucial interceptions which settled the team and the girls played some lovely attacking netball to take a narrow victory.

**Mrs Rodgers**



right side and proved to be the difference between the two teams, scoring both goals in a 2-0 THS win. Huge congratulations to our U12 girls who played some excellent hockey and demonstrated great team spirit to become U12 County Hockey Champions!

**Mr Williamson**



# Valentine's Day

Nursery and Reception children were hard at work preparing for Valentine's Day this week.

Pupils created pictures of those they love and shared who are special to them, made Valentine's candle holders and cards and even made heart-shaped bird feeders for our feathered friends.

It is safe to say there is a lot of love in Early Years and the children hoped that everyone had a very lovely Valentine's Day.

"I love daddy because he always lets me help him make omelettes." - Tara

"I love mummy because I play cars with her." Louis

"I love Toby my dog." - Charlie

"I love grandma because I went in her bath when I was a baby." - Albus

"I love mummy because she lets me have juice in the morning." - Oscar

"I love mummy. I like drawing with her we draw rainbows, unicorns and bunnies." - Isabella

"I love my family." - Sarah

"I love mummy because she hoovers everywhere, even upstairs and on the stairs." - Eleanor

"I like playing with my mummy." - Josephine

"I love mummy because she is my best friend." - Elijah

**Miss Hall and Mrs Clapton**



## NSPCC Number Day

Pre-Prep children had a fantastic time taking part in the Scavenger Hunt challenge as part of their NSPCC Number Day activities.

The children worked as a team to solve the mathematics clues before searching for the missing parts of the key to help

Buddy on his travels. The children were sponsored for this event and had a fantastic time together completing the challenge.

Great teamwork, Pre-Prep!

**Mrs Hannah**



## Sense of Sound

Pre-Prep children explored their sense of sound last week. They discovered that sound travels on sound waves and that the vibrations can be felt.

The children investigated this further by feeling their throat as they spoke, talking through a balloon and looking at tuning forks.

They experimented with how the sounds could be made and were excited to see how sound waves travelled.

They are looking forward to discovering more about the ear!

**Mrs Hannah**



# Pre-Prep PE

Pre-Prep children have been working extremely hard in their PE lessons this half term.

To end their unit of work about gymnastics, they were given the task of working as a team to create a routine which included the different moves and positions they have been learning.

The children showed incredible team work skills as they worked together to

devise some very impressive routines showing different balances, rolls and jumps in abundance.

Well done, Pre-Prep. You are all gymnastic superstars.

**Miss Hall**



## Chinese New Year

Nursery children thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year earlier this month.

They worked together to make a

marvellous dragon which is on display in Nursery to mark the year of the dragon, created chinese lanterns, put their fine motor skills to the test when using chopsticks and even learnt to



## The Bog Baby

Year 1 children have loved exploring the text *The Bog Baby* in English. The children are beginning to create their own story ideas using the structure of the familiar text.

The pupils designed their own *Bog Baby* home and wrote about their creations, sequencing their writing by using *first*, *then* and *finally*. The children also worked hard checking their letter formation, capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. Great work, Year 1.

**Mrs Hannah**

write numbers in Chinese.

Nursery children hoped that everyone had a very happy Chinese New Year!

**Miss Hall**





# Being Human Assembly

This week the children in Upper Prep have taken to the stage to perform the first form assembly of the year.

Linking perfectly to their current IPC topic, *Being Human*, and assisted by Professor Spleen, the children articulately talked Prep School pupils and parents through some of the key systems of the human body.

Within the assembly, the skeletons performed the skeleton dance before being joined by the muscles who were not to be outdone, explaining how they worked in pairs. The digestive system soon sprung into action, showing the children with a piece of ribbon how

long the small intestines actually are! The children also transformed into parts of the heart and blood to demonstrate the complexities of the circulatory system.

The children and adults were reminded at the end of the assembly how to ensure that they were keeping their bodies healthy.

Well done to all of the children for a great assembly.

**Mrs Kennedy and Mr Griffiths**



## Prep Music Visitors

As part of their *The Magic Flute* topic in Music, Upper Prep welcomed Ruth from the Royal Opera House and Tom from Tees Valley Music Service earlier this week.

The workshop was filled with fun warm-ups, and the students managed to gain great insight into the story

from the perspective of being an opera director.

The pupils' engagement was fantastic, and we cannot wait to show parents everything we have been working on very soon!

**Mr Wing**



## Pick and Mix Club

The children in Pick and Mix Club have recently enjoyed exploring acids and alkalis. Having explored this new vocabulary and taking a look at the pH scale, they were eager to test a range of different substances to see where they came on the scale.

Having tested each substance using litmus paper, the children had to try and work out what each substance was. Some of them, like vinegar, gave us a huge clue due to the smell, however some were a little more tricky, with bicarbonate of soda catching out all of the children!

The children loved completing this practical science activity as part of their co-curricular provision and are excited to what we will be exploring next time.

**Mrs Kennedy**



# Ask an Engineer!

Last week, as part of our Prep AG&T provision, pupils held their first online 'Ask an Engineer' session.

They welcomed Claire Collins, Senior Nuclear Engineer within the Radiation Physics and Shielding team at BAE Systems Submarines.

Claire gave an extremely interesting presentation about how she became an engineer, her current role and responsibilities, as well as showing the children some of the projects she has worked on. The children were extremely excited to learn more about the importance of nuclear power and the impact it will have on future energy production. We were also amazed to find out the sheer scale of each submarine and the fact it takes a minimum of ten years to build each one.

The children asked some amazing and challenging questions and Claire was extremely impressed by their thoroughness and keen interest. She

was also pleased to note that there were quite a few girls present within the talk, too! We would love to hear from other engineers who would be interested in speaking to our pupils. Please do get in touch!

**Mrs Leck**



## IPC Exhibition

This week we hosted our much anticipated IPC Exhibition. This event brought together all of the children from Year 1 to Year 6, all of whom are currently studying IPC units linked to the human body. Parents were invited to share the children's learning and to see the progression through the different mileposts.

Year 1 and 2 showcased a lovely art gallery of their optical illusions as well as some super clay face models. Having considered the senses in detail, the children tested their parents to see if they could guess the smell of a number of different tubs.

Year 3 and 4 were on a mission to give their parents a full MOT! They had their eyes and ears tested as well as being shown how to look after their teeth. Some of our AG&T children demonstrated some excellent micro bit coding skills to round off some

very informative presentations from our milepost 2 children.

Not to be outdone, Year 5 and 6 also presented a host of information. They performed their heart drama to help visualise the circulatory system, tested parents to see whether they could name the bones and explain their functions, showed a visual demonstration of the digestive system as well as discussing inherited characteristics and the debate of nature versus nurture.

Some of our Upper Prep children also showcased some of their learning from their previous units, *900CE* and *Fairgrounds*, the children sharing their learning about forces, the most appropriate method for making shadows look scary for a ghost train ride, presenting their pin ball machines and explaining the structure of Mayan society. These examples

## NSPCC Number Day Success

Prep School children have recently taken part in the NSPCC's Number Day to help raise valuable funds for the charity's work.

The children had lots of fun completing sponsored activities as well as having a themed non-uniform day.

The children in EYFS made a super number garden and the children in Years 1 to 6 completed a challenge to find the missing key to unlock the door and find Buddy.

We are absolutely delighted to announce that we raised a massive £1,107.10.

A huge thank you to everyone for their generous donations!

**Miss Lockerbie**



are by no means exhaustive but demonstrate that the children had a busy hour, showcasing their learning to their attentive parents. We received lots of positive feedback about the event, with one parent commenting 'I can't believe they know so much at such a young age. Their confidence to explain their learning is excellent.'

Thank you to everyone who supported our event. We hope this has given an insight into our IPC curriculum which is so highly valued at THS.

**Mrs Kennedy**



# Public Speaking Success

For the first year we took two teams to the second round of the ESU Public Speaking North East Final and returned triumphant.

Depleted in numbers but not in spirit, we headed to Abbey Grange Church of England School on the outskirts of Leeds to speak on the topics of free will versus fate and the relevance of the National Anthem in today's society. Lou, as Chair for both teams, was witty and warm in her addresses and Isaac, the THS questioner, grew in confidence as the round progressed, prompting a series of thought-provoking responses from the opposition.

Sonny and Max were both outstanding as Speakers, delivering sophisticated speeches with charm and charisma.

We could not be prouder of both teams and are delighted that THS Team A are through to the Northern Final to be held in Newcastle in March. Dare

we dream? Are we fated to win? Who knows?

A small extract from the winning speech: *"Ladies and gentlemen, I have something to confess. My name is Max, and I am a reformed Potterhead. Why am I telling you this? Well, when I first saw the speech title, "There is no such thing as free choice", my first thought was of the great Albus Dumbledore and his wise words to Mr Potter, "It is our choices... that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities." But then I remembered that, while Dumbledore may be one of the wisest characters in literature, he was created by one of the more contentious authors of our time. Thus, I decided to dig a little deeper..."*

**Mrs Reid and Ms Duffy**



## Macbeth at The Grand Opera House

At the end of January, Year 11 braved the floods of York to witness the Shakespearean tragedy *Macbeth* which was being performed at The Grand Opera House. The play had been adapted to suit the needs of GCSE study and used the comedic presence of the porter to highlight the key moments of the text. After a short and snappy

performance, the students were then invited to take part in a question and answer session with the actors and director. THS students asked a number of probing questions to which the answers will hopefully illuminate their study of the Bard!

**Ms Duffy**

## UK Maths Trust Intermediate Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 31 January, a selection of Year 9, 10 and 11 students sat the UK Maths Trust Intermediate Maths Challenge. This prestigious competition is a good way for students to test themselves and their mathematical skills. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think.

The results have recently returned and we are very pleased with the success of our mathematicians. All students will receive a certificate for participation and some of our students will receive Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates.

Bronze Certificates - John Macafee and Rohan Vagadia

Silver Certificates - Isaac Graham, Lou Sauron and Max Affleck

Gold Certificates - Rhys Orton and Edward Mogie

From all the entries across the country, the top 1,800 are invited to take part in the next round. We are excited to announce that Ed has also qualified for the Maclaurin Mathematical Olympiad which he will complete in March. Good luck, Ed!

**Mrs Turnbull**



# Centre For Life Trip

Year 11 and 12 Biology students enjoyed a trip to a Genetic Engineering Workshop at the Centre For Life in Newcastle.

The workshop was led by a scientist from the Centre For Life and students were excited to learn that the laboratory they were using was part of an on-site research facility where scientists were conducting important research into genetic diseases.

Students followed a protocol to insert plasmid DNA containing a modified bacterial operon and GFP (Green Fluorescent Protein) gene into bacterial

cells. They also learned how to use good aseptic techniques to streak out their genetically modified bacteria onto agar plates.

The students have left their bacteria to incubate at the Centre for Life and we are looking forward to receiving photographs of the genetically modified bacteria soon.

**Mrs Jackson**



## Artist of the Month

We are delighted to announce our Artist of the Month for January is Elodie Walker in Year 10. Year 10 GCSE students have been experimenting with creating portraits in a variety of media, including white pencil, lino printing and oil painting. Most of the students have not experienced oil paints before so this was an exciting new journey in their art education.

We are proud of all the students with their achievement in this media but Elodie's painting is particularly fabulous!

**Mrs Machan**

## House Cross Country

Well done to all students who participated in our House Cross Country Competition on Thursday.

We saw a lot of determination to push through the challenges of the course in heavy rain, and pupils showed great encouragement to their peers.

Year 7/8 Girls - 1st - Tinashe, 2nd - Amelie and 3rd - Anaïs.

Year 7/8 Boys - 1st - Lewis, 2nd - Noah and 3rd - Arlo.

Year 9/10 Girls - 1st - Yasmine, 2nd - Martha and 3rd - Amelia.

Year 9/10 Boys - 1st - Kyle, 2nd - John and 3rd - Willoughby.

Year 11 and Sixth Form - 1st - Daniel, 2nd - Will and 3rd - Dylan.

**Miss Hopkins**





# SO FAR THIS TERM







Teesside High School  
*Education as it should be*

# TEA-TIME TALK WITH DR STACEY EMMONDS

Wednesday 13 March, 4.15pm-5.15pm

Dr Stacey Emmonds is an Associate Professor in Sports Performance at Leeds Beckett University and physical conditioning and performance coach for England Rugby and England Football, travelling the world with the teams.

We welcome all students from Year 5-13 and their families to join us in the Dining Hall for this exciting event. Please complete the Google Form circulated to confirm your attendance.



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