

THiS Week



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

RIPON CATHEDRAL CONCERT

On Saturday 20 January our Prep and Senior Choirs performed at Ripon Cathedral for the Magic of Music concert with St Cecilia Orchestra, conducted by Xenophon Kelsey, MBE.

The invitation to perform came from John Forsyth, MBE, whom I have known, worked and performed with for many years. In fact, our main piece in the concert, *The Lamplighter*, was commissioned and composed by Gary Carpenter in the late 1990s and I featured as one of the singers on that recording with the Liverpool Philharmonic, so it was particularly special to be involved again this time around and to share the music with our THS musicians.

Students from our Prep and Senior Choirs have worked hard on the challenging repertoire in addition to all our usual performances last term and have risen to the challenge in an impressive and professional manner. St Cecilia's is a large and imposing professional orchestra whose playing was evocative and inspiring on Saturday night; it was difficult not to be in awe of the vast array of different instruments on display! Our students took it all in their stride.

In addition to *The Lamplighter*, we performed two



pieces from Andrew Carter's *Benedicite*: *Butterflies and Moths*, and *Grannies and Grandads*. These more light-hearted pieces had everyone smiling, and were a great contrast to Malcolm Arnold's *Grand, Grand Festival Overture* which featured three vacuum cleaners and a floor polisher! The orchestra also treated us to the more familiar *Sorcerer's Apprentice* by Duka, which you will recognise as the soundtrack to Disney's classic animation, *Fantasia*.

With stunning performances all round, a packed Ripon Cathedral and well over 200 musicians performing together, it was a truly magical evening for all involved.

My thanks go to all our Prep and Senior singers, to Mrs Ayling and Mr Wing who helped the Prep children prepare so well, and to Miss Stephens for supporting us on the day.

Mrs Shevels



WELCOME

We have had a busy and fun-filled fortnight at THS.

Pupils have been showing their strengths both in and out of the classroom in recent weeks. Firstly, it has been great to see a number of notable sporting victories for our teams. Our U12A Netball team played exceptionally well against Carmel College, coming away with a 28-3 victory. The U12 Mixed Hockey team worked extremely hard against Egglecliffe School to secure a draw. The U11 Hockey team had three games against Yarm 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams, playing tirelessly to achieve two victories and one draw. The U14 girls had a fantastic 4-1 victory in their hockey game against Yarm U13A. Finally, we saw some great individual results at the Red House Invitational Cross Country Competition.

It is wonderful to see the amount of competitive sporting opportunities students are receiving and how much effort and dedication they are putting into each game. These opportunities build upon the skills we are endlessly developing and reinforcing in lessons, so it is wonderful to see pupils thriving as they are put to the test against strong competition!

It's not just on the pitch where pupils have been busy. Our fantastic staff have led many exciting trips in recent weeks. Last Tuesday, Year 11 students visited the Grand Opera House in York to watch *Macbeth* as part of their preparations for their summer examinations. Tuesday saw GCSE and A-level Drama students travel to Newcastle's Theatre Royal to watch Willy Russell's outstanding musical, *Blood Brothers*. On Wednesday, the ESU Public Speaking competition travelled to the

next round of the competition in Leeds. At the bottom end of the school, Nursery and Reception children explored the Land of Make Believe yesterday and tonight a selection of students will watch the Newcastle Eagles Basketball game! These trips and visits both allow our students to apply their understanding and test their knowledge, but also see their aspirations and learning come to life.

On the topic of trips, our Creative Arts Department has finally been able to share news of their adventure to New York in December 2024. This trip promises to be an amazing experience, giving students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the wonders of New York at Christmas as well as exploring the wealth of creative experiences at Art galleries, Broadway shows and Ellen's Stardust Diner. This will certainly be another Christmas to remember after the success of our ski trip last year.

In recent days I have been involved in the Year 11 Next Steps Interviews which have followed closely from last week's Theme of the Week of *Careers and Aspirations*, and this week's annual Careers Convention. It was amazing to see so many local businesses and universities contribute to the Convention, now in its 18th year, and we thank all delegates for taking the time to help students explore their future career paths. We look forward to working with the many organisations and businesses in attendance again in the future.

Mrs K Mackenzie, Head

U12 Mixed Hockey vs Egglecliffe School

Last week saw a fantastic game of mixed hockey against Egglecliffe School.

It was a very closely fought match with end to end play for the full 40 minutes.

We had great defending from Zinedine and Oliver, with Betsy in goal. Gabriel worked tirelessly in centre midfield and scored our equaliser.

Flo and Grayson created some good opportunities upfront and Tinashe, Oscar and Archer (who made his hockey debut) worked hard to move the ball from defence into attack and feed the ball into the circle.

A great team performance, well done! Players of the Match - Zinedine and Flo.

Miss Turnbull



U14 County Hockey League vs Yarm School

The U14 girls had a fantastic hockey game against Yarm U13A on Tuesday evening.

Having gone 1-0 down in the first 10 minutes and being on the defensive, THS scored on the break in the latter part of the first half and this gave the girls a real boost and some self belief.

They started the second half with much more confidence and this showed in their game play. They started to work together and gained the upper hand.

With another goal from Rosie and two more from Amelia the girls finished 4-1 up.

They maintain their unbeaten record in

the Under 14 County League and have one more game to play, fingers crossed for another good result. Player of the Match - Amelia.

Miss Turnbull



U12A Girls Netball vs Carmel College

The U12A team enjoyed a friendly netball match with Carmel College last week. It was a great opportunity to try different combinations of players on the court and the girls did not disappoint.

They played with energy and enthusiasm and continued their winning streak with a score of 28-3.

Another great performance from the girls with Player of the Match being awarded to Tinashe.

Mrs Rodgers

Invitational Cross Country Competition

On Monday afternoon, in weather only ducks would enjoy, pupils travelled to the Red House Invitational Cross Country Competition. The course was very challenging, wet and extremely muddy and the rain was relentless.

Nevertheless, all pupils embraced the challenge and gave their best. In the boys' competition, we had some great results. Jacob was super impressive and finished 2nd, with Lewis crossing the line in 5th place, Archer in 8th and Noah in 9th. The top six places from each team are then counted for the overall team competition, so with Arlo, Gabriel and Pierre finishing

inside the top 21, THS finished in 2nd place overall, a great result.

For the girls, Betsy (6th) and Roxie (11th) were our best finishers, with Amelie and Flo finishing inside the top 20, and Anaïs in 23rd. An unfortunate



run in with a bush for Niamh and Fliss rushing to her rescue knocked the girls back a few places, but they regrouped and finished the race in 27th and 28th respectively. Amazing sportsmanship and resilience in tough conditions, well done to all.

Miss Turnbull

Sensational

Pre-Prep have been busy exploring their Art techniques as part of their IPC unit *Sensational*.

They explored optical illusions and were inspired by the work of Bridget Riley, creating their own optical illusion art work using lines and colour.

They then discovered how emotions can be portrayed in art, looking at famous artworks such as *The Scream* by Edvard Munch and *The Mona Lisa* by



Leonardo da Vinci. The children then explored the expressions they could create using a mirror and sketching the changes in their faces.

They used this to create sculptures, using their sense of touch and creating masterpieces!

Mrs Hannah



Forest School

Reception class had lots of fun learning in their Forest School session. The lesson supported the children's play, risk taking and exploration. The children's confidence improves every week with wonderful activities planned by our Forest School Leader,

Miss Hopkins. The children enjoyed returning to classroom-based identification activities which included sorting, classifying and matching leaves.

Mrs Clapton



Great North Air Ambulance

Nursery and Reception's topic *To The Rescue* was brought to life when they welcomed the Great North Air Ambulance Service team to school last week.

The children enjoyed hearing about the work of the Air Ambulance Service and were delighted to meet Miles the Bear! The children heard about how the Air Ambulance is a charity, which needs over £8m a year to continue to run and help save lives across the North of England.

We would like to say a very big thank you to the wonderful Air Ambulance team who kindly gave their time to join us.

Miss Hall and Mrs Clapton



The Land of Make Believe

Nursery and Reception children had a wonderful morning when they headed off site to visit the Land of Make Believe yesterday.

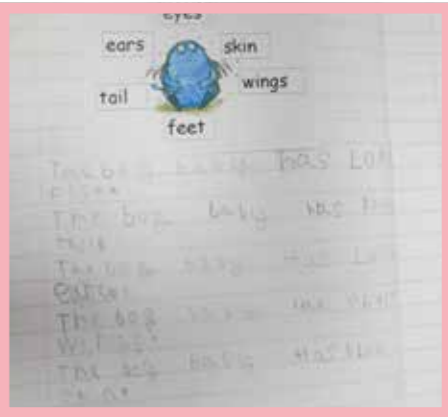
After the excitement of travelling aboard the school minibus, the children enjoyed exploring a range of role play stations.

From firefighters and vets to working in the cafe, building site and home corner, the children showed excellent teamwork skills to share resources and work together. For some of our children this was their first off site visit and it is safe to say it was the perfect venue for a great morning of exploration and imaginative play.

We are incredibly proud that the venue

staff commented on the children's wonderful behaviour during the morning. They are a credit to THS.

Miss Hall and Mrs Clapton



The Bog Baby

The children in Year 1 have been enjoying the fiction text *The Bog Baby* as part of their English work. This week the children used a wordbank and created sentences about *The Bog Baby*.

They worked hard to remember what makes a good sentence and checked their work for capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. They also challenged themselves to add a connective in their work. Well done, Year 1!

Mrs Hannah

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Nursery children were hard at work preparing for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch last weekend.

After sharing the story of Owl Babies, the children created their own pictures of the three little owls.



They also were busy making bird feeders which they hung up outside and binoculars to help them with their bird spotting.

They then set to work at their very own bird watching station which



they have created at the window in Nursery before heading off round the grounds armed with their trusty binoculars to see how many different birds they could spot.

Miss Hall



Being Human

The children in Upper Prep 1 have recently started their new IPC unit, *Being Human*.

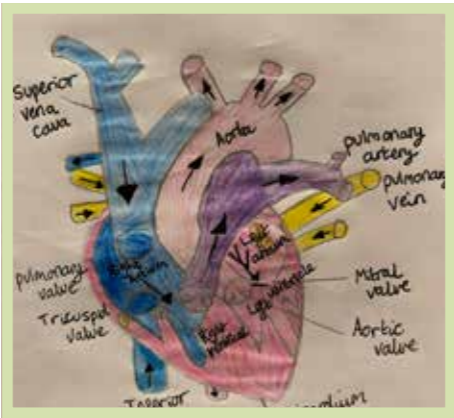
This unit will allow the children to look more closely at the various systems within the human body as well as giving them the opportunity to consider their interdependence.

This week, the children have considered the circulatory system and its importance in keeping us alive.

The children were fascinated to learn about the different stages of the system as well as how many times our hearts beat in a day.

The children were then challenged to apply some of our personal goals to work collaboratively in order to put together a short drama to visually show how the heart works.

It was an exhausting session being a blood cell or a heart valve but the



children rose to the challenge! They are looking forward to sharing their drama with parents during our IPC Exhibition on Wednesday 14 February.

The final part of the task was to draw a diagram of the heart and to answer some questions to show how much they had learnt. I am sure you will agree that Lola's diagram (pictured above) is excellent, as was all of the children's work.

We have also considered the respiratory system this week and will soon be moving on to learn all about digestion, the practical of which could get very messy!

Mrs Kennedy

Football Boot Appeal

Miss Hall would love to receive donations of unwanted football boots in any size and any condition before Friday 16 February.

If any pupils or families would be willing to donate a pair of boots, they would be very gratefully received by the

pupils and staff at The Source of Light Nursery and Primary School in Uganda. Miss Hall is doing this generous work in memory of her late friend and would be very appreciative of your support.

Miss Hockney



Scaling New Heights!

Our Prep Young Engineers have enjoyed our recent tower building challenge. Armed with only paper and sellotape, they were tasked with creating the tallest and strongest tower possible. The tower also had to be able to stand independently when complete.

The children thought about other structures that we had examined and determined which ideas that they could use to build their own towers.

If there are any engineers within our THS family that would be willing to come along and chat to our pupils, please contact us as we would love to hear from you.

Mrs Leck



U11 Hockey vs Yarm School

The U11 boys have started their hockey fixtures strongly with some great results against a number of Yarm teams.

Against a Yarm 3rd team the boys won 5-0, with Jacob scoring three, and Isaac scoring two goals in his first ever hockey game. Freddie and Indy were strong players on the wing with Eshaan and Zinedine strong in defence.

Against the Yarm 2nd team the boys earned a solid 5-1 victory. This time Freddie and Gabriel were on the scoresheet alongside Jacob and Isaac once more.

Then came the Yarm 1st team. THS went down 3-0 early in the game, but some great saves from Issac and some inspired play from Jacob, Gabriel and the rest of the boys saw the team draw 3-3.

Outstanding hockey from the boys and some really great results.

A team to watch out for in the future. Well done, boys!

Mr Thomas



Little LifeSavers Charity

We would like our Prep children to benefit from a free 70 minute lifesaving skills session offered by Little LifeSavers Charity.

The charity is volunteer-led and has been in touch since our initial enquiry to express that it is desperately looking to expand its volunteer pool in this area to be able to fulfil booking requests.

The charity has asked if we could pass on the following details to our parent community, in the hope that future volunteers may come forward.

Mrs Hannah

Could you help Little LifeSavers?

The volunteer process is very straightforward and is all online. It takes just 3-4 hours of your time to complete, and you do not need previous CPR experience. The charity provides full support and equipment. You will need an enhanced DBS certificate which is registered with the Update Service. If you don't have this, then the charity can apply for it for you for a small, one-off contribution of £12.00.

Volunteering can be great fun with friends, and it is a brilliant way to give back to the community and feel good.

First Prep School Silver Readers

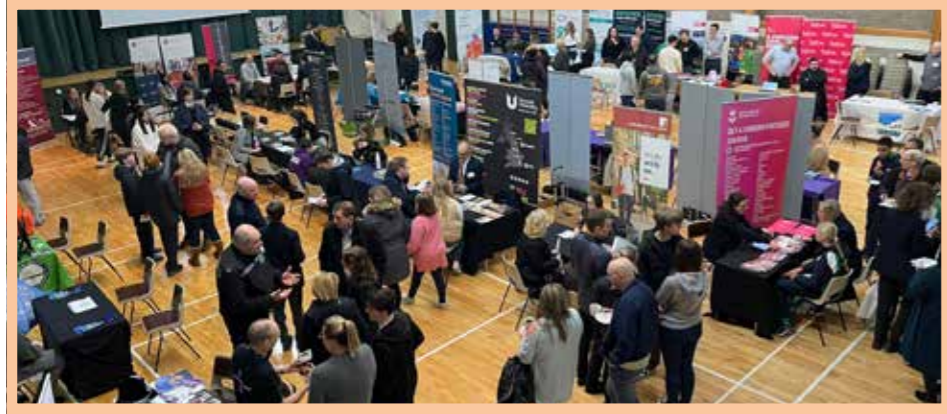
This week we crowned our very first silver readers in the Prep School.

Huge congratulations to Niamh and Joseph who were presented with their certificates in assembly. Niamh and Joseph have been regularly reading at home as well as in school and are now working hard to become Gold readers.

Watch this space for future Silver readers in the coming weeks - we have a number of children who are very close!

Miss Hall





Careers Convention

We were delighted to host our 18th annual Careers Convention with a record number of universities and businesses in attendance on Wednesday evening.

This is an informal marketplace-style event which was attended by over 70 delegates representing nine universities and some of the region’s leading employers.

The event aims to provide students with access to representatives from a whole host of careers, from Medicine to Engineering, Accountancy to Dentistry, Law to Policing and much more.

Many universities and educational providers also attended including Teesside, Newcastle, Durham, Leeds, Sheffield, York St John and the Northern School of Art.

The evening enabled students and their families to meet experts in their fields on a one-to-one basis, discover a huge range of possible future careers and gather valuable information on the opportunities available to them in our local area.

Thank you to all of the delegates who contributed to the event; your expertise and guidance is invaluable to our school community and we look forward to working with you again in the future.

Miss Hockney

Discovery Church Event

All Saints’ Church are hosting their next Discovery Church event on Sunday 11 February from 3.13pm-4.45pm.

This month’s theme is ‘How big an adventure are you up for?’.

To book your place please visit the All Saints’ Church website.

Miss Connor



Blood Brothers

GCSE and A-level Drama students visited Newcastle’s Theatre Royal to watch the Willy Russell classic *Blood Brothers* on Tuesday evening.

None of the students had seen the show before and it was fair to say that there were jumps, a lot of laughs and a fair amount of tears (and that was just from me!) when watching the performance.

A great performance with a great bunch of students!

Mrs Furness



Classics Lectures at Newcastle University

Undeterred by Storm Jocelyn and the prospect of a wet and windy Newcastle, Year 11 and 12 Classics students enjoyed a range of lectures at the university last Wednesday.

They conducted themselves exceptionally. When asked what they had learnt or found interesting, the pupils asked the following questions. The list below reflects the range of topics that were on offer.

Luke: *“Did you know Spartans used war to control population growth?”*

Max: *“Did you know that the core instrument of an ancient Greek chorus looked like a double recorder?”*

Ed: *“Did you know the ancient Greeks consulted the dead about the future (nekyia)?”*

Emmeline: *“Did you know Cicero preferred using stereotypes over rational arguments in his speeches?”*

Zack: *“Did you know there were seven grades to the Mithras Cult?”*

Ben: *“Did you know that Athenian oligarchy deemed multiculturalism a negative attribute for a society?”*

Annabelle: *“Did you know that Christianity was originally a ‘cult’?”*

Miss Malik



Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Congratulations to Holly, Archie, Joe, Emily, Dylan, Elisa, Emmeline and Yaseen who have all completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

These pupils showed real grit and determination in their Award expeditions and were very committed to their Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections, often completing more weeks than were required.

It is great to see the majority of the group now working towards their Gold DofE Award.

Miss Hopkins

Charitable Giving

We would like to congratulate Eleora in Year 5 and Anaïs in Year 8 who are continuously volunteering their time to help some fantastic causes.

The girls have been creating sleeping bags for homeless people through Nite Light CIC, singing at residential homes (as they volunteer through Catalyst) and pushing some residents around the ice at Billingham Forum.



SO FAR THIS TERM





We deliver advanced, life-saving treatment to the people of our region at the critical moments that matter. We keep families and communities together by **saving lives.**



38

call-outs per week
on average



100%

reliant on
public donations



£8.5m

to fund our life-saving
service

Anybody could need our help, but we can't continue to save lives without your support.



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