



## NORTH EAST PUBLIC SPEAKING CHAMPIONS!

On Monday 18 March, our public speaking team made it into the National Final of the prestigious ESU Churchill Public Speaking Competition for the first time in the school's history.

This is the largest public speaking competition in England and Wales. From over 400 schools, we are now one of the last 12 standing, about to engage in verbal combat against the fiercest orators from all around the British Isles.

Arriving at Dame Allan's School during rush hour was enough to get hearts beating and pulses racing. Max, Lou and Isaac however remained composed and cool, ready to face the might of St Peter's York, Malton School, Callerton Academy, Cardinal Heenan Catholic School and of the host's themselves: Dame Allen's. They, like ourselves, had made it through three heats to reach what was an incredibly competitive Regional Final.

Lou, our Chairperson, impressed the judges with her incredibly personable approach to the role. Max, our speaker, was full of confidence in the delivery of his speech and the answering of some rather tricky questions. Last but not least, our questioner Isaac, who has grown in stature throughout the competition, provided an articulate and thought-provoking series of questions. Together they epitomised the THS team spirit.

Max's speech was centred around the idea of fame and the performing arts. Well, after their performance, these students truly deserve to enter into the THS Hall of Fame themselves!

We are sure you will join us in wishing the pupils well as they take part in the National Final which is taking place at Churchill College, Cambridge University, on Sunday 5 May.

Here is a short extract from Max's winning speech for

you to enjoy:

*Let's start off as any seemingly formulaic speech does. With a rhetorical question followed by a dictionary definition. What is fame? The dictionary defines it as the state of being well known and recognised for your achievements and skills. However, in modern day society, fame should be described as a drug and a dangerous drug at that.*

*Many of the people that are currently 'famous' in our society are addicted to the recognition that fame brings, and let's not forget, it usually brings wealth too, another deadly narcotic. This obsession presents a threat to society in many ways, far beyond the boundaries of my speech to you today in which I will focus on how far fame could be considered to have destroyed the performing arts.*

**Mrs Reid and Ms Duffy**



# WELCOME

Just like that, we reach the end of a wonderful spring term.

Over the past fortnight, our students have achieved some impressive accolades. As you can see from the front page, our amazing Public Speaking team swept to a glorious victory in the North East Final of the prestigious ESU Public Speaking Competition. This is a huge accomplishment for the team and I wish them the very best of luck in the National Final in May.

Our U12 and U14 girls' hockey teams have both been crowned County League Champions; our U12A and U14 girls' netball teams were both victorious in their tournaments and the U12 girls' netball team are League Champions. A huge well done to all who have played this season. It is lovely to see our sports stars thriving.

This week I had the pleasure of watching this year's Senior School musical production, *Oliver! JR*. It was a truly brilliant show and I am so proud of all of the hard work our staff, parents and students have put into it. A special thanks goes to Mrs Shevels, Mr Wing and Mrs Furness, without you our spectacular school productions would not be possible.

As we approach the final term in the academic year, I look forward

to the many special events that the summer term brings. I am particularly looking forward to our Summer Fair in June. With live music, entertainment, food and drink, inflatables, funfair stalls and hopefully lots of sunshine, we hope you can come along on Saturday 15 June and help us make 2024 a year to remember for our school family. As we prepare for the event, we are on the lookout for prizes for a raffle and we would be most grateful if you were able to get in touch if you are able to make a donation.

Whilst our older students will be using the Easter break to ramp up their revision strategies, I hope they can also take the time to rest and recharge before the examination season.

Have a lovely Easter break!

**Mrs K Mackenzie, Head**



## U14 Girls Netball Tournament

The U14A and B netball teams were both unbeaten champions in their respective netball tournaments last week!

Huge congratulations to the girls who have worked consistently all season to keep developing and perform wonderfully well as a squad. We are so pleased with the commitment the girls have shown and the tenacity with which they played.

As well as fantastic team performances there were also some individual achievements which deserve a special mention. Harriet made her THS debut for the B team and Martha, Megan and Ellie C achieved Player of the Match awards respectively for their consistent attacking skills. Player of the Tournament went to Ellie S who was outstanding throughout.

The A team tournament saw Lexie and Anisa being awarded Players of the Match and after an exceptional afternoon Tendai received the Player of the Tournament award.

Well done to the whole Year 9 squad!

**Mrs Rodgers**



## U12 and U14 County Hockey League Champions!

Last week saw the final hockey games of the season for the County League and we are thrilled to share that the U12 girls are County League Champions.

The girls have won every game in their league, scored 19 goals and conceded 0.

Another great season for the U14 girls ensured they lifted the trophy for the third year in a row. They achieved an unbeaten run in their league games with 10 goals scored and only 1 conceded. The U12B team thoroughly

enjoyed their games, made good progress and finished 3rd overall. The U13 girls played some competitive games and finished runners up in their league.

We are so proud of you all.

**Miss Turnbull**



## U11 Boys Hockey Tournament

The U11 boys travelled to Leeds University last week to take part in a North East hockey competition against some of the major hockey schools in the region.

The boys were optimistic at the start of the day and a good 3-0 win against Thornhill boosted their confidence. Then came St Peter's who put together a strong performance in their first game. This meant a game with more defending but between Zinedine, Issac, Eshaan and Sydney, the boys held their competitors to a draw, 1-1. They boys then faced Pocklington which again was a tough match that could have gone either way. Jacob scored for THS and with 30 seconds

left, the boys just could not hold on to the victory (1-1). Royal Grammar School proved to be a strong side with good discipline and a keenly awaited match begun. THS took the lead in the first minute which created confidence in the group but some lovely play from RGS brought them back into the game, and taking the spoils 2-1.

Then came King's Priory in the 5th/6th play-off game. THS were quickly 2-0 down despite being on top. The 'never say die' attitude of the boys meant they got themselves back in the game and a strong performance from Indy and Freddie led to a last minute short corner for THS. Jacob's amazing skills helped us take it to shuffles.



## U12 Girls Netball Tournament

Congratulations to the U12A team who have won the Stockton Schools Netball Tournament! The girls were unbeaten all day scoring a tremendous 73 goals and only conceding 8.

The U12B team also had a great afternoon placing third in their tournament. The girls have made fantastic progress and thoroughly enjoyed playing together. Another great, all-round team performance.

Well done to all of the U12 girls on a fantastic first season together!

**Mrs Rodgers**



Isaac saved all three attempts from King's Priory so the boys finished 5th overall out of nine schools.

A really fantastic achievement!

**Mr Thomas**



# STEM Week in Early Years

Last week, Early Years pupils participated in an array of activities to celebrate STEM Week.

At the start of the week, Nursery and Reception pupils learnt all about dinosaurs. They have created dinosaur pictures using a range of 2D shapes and learnt a range of new vocabulary including the words extinct, herbivore and carnivore. They even learnt all about paleontologists and many of the children have decided this is the future career for them!

On day two, the children turned their attention to exploring shadows. They learnt the meaning of the words opaque and transparent before making their own shadow makers. Once complete, they had great fun creating shadows with the torches.

The stars were shining brightly when the children learnt all about stars,

constellations and astronomers on Wednesday. After singing *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* with great gusto, the children created their own constellations experimenting with different shapes and patterns.

To round off STEM Week, Nursery children worked hard at home creating the most impressive models using recycled materials. There was great excitement when the children arrived to school clutching their masterpieces. They loved showing their work to their friends and telling them all about what they had made. As always, we are incredibly fortunate to have such wonderful support from parents who helped their children last weekend.

**Miss Hall and Miss Graham**



## Swimming Achievement

We are so impressed with Tara in Nursery as she achieved her 10m swimming award this week.

Tara was very excited to share her achievement with her friends and

brought her special badge to show everyone.

Well done, Tara.

**Miss Hall**



## Forest School

During their Forest School session, Nursery pupils went on a bear hunt and found not only a bear for the class, but also a bear for George!

Reception children have had a very busy two weeks in our woodland. They had fun catching a star, which was especially exciting as they had been reading *How To Catch a Star* in class with Miss Graham.

For STEM Week, pupils worked hard to recreate the lifecycle of a butterfly out of the resources they found in the woods.

**Miss Hopkins**



# Push Me, Pull You

Pre-Prep children have had an exciting time exploring their IPC unit, *Push Me, Pull You*.

The children tested their ideas about aerodynamics by running whilst holding cardboard.

They held the cardboard in front of them and ran as fast as they could. The children noticed it was harder when they had a big piece of cardboard, they

could feel the air pushing against it as they ran.

This led to a fantastic discussion thinking about streamlining and aerodynamics and how they are used to increase speed.

**Mrs Hannah**



## Ingleby Barwick Library Visit

Nursery and Reception children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Ingleby Barwick Library to end a wonderful term.

As always, there was great excitement as they boarded the minibuses and

once at the library they enjoyed exploring the books and sharing many stories together as well as spending time with the librarians, who kindly explained more about how the library works.

We would like to say a very big thank you to the staff at Ingleby Barwick Library who were so kind and helpful during our visit.

We hope to visit you again soon.

**Miss Hall and Miss Graham**



## Mathematics Fun in Pre-Prep

Year 1 children have had lots of fun exploring measures in Mathematics.

They used cubes and paper clips to measure objects in the classroom, deciding on the unit of measure by thinking about the size of the object.

The children worked together well and discussed their results comparing the objects they had measured.

**Mrs Hannah**







# Prep School STEM Week

The children in the Prep School enjoyed the return of our annual STEM Week. This year we followed the theme of 'Time', set to coincide with British Science Week.

Children from EYFS to Year 6 experienced a wide variety of different activities around the theme and the smiling faces on the photographs demonstrate how much they enjoyed these moments of awe and wonder.

Pre-Prep children had lots of fun exploring evolution and designing new ways for humans to survive. These ideas ranged from extra eyes to stretchy arms so that we can reach objects and pull us to safety! The children enjoyed using thermometers to measure the temperatures of different hot drinks and observing the effects of different types of cups on the temperatures over time. The week progressed by looking into metamorphosis, with a particular focus on the life cycle of a frog. Towards the end of the week, the children considered their amazing brains and the connections that occur within the brain to help us learn new things. The children were let down by the typical British weather and despite making some lovely sundials, were unable to test them due to our cloudy skies!

The children in Lower Prep enjoyed welcoming visitors from The Links Primary School for a time capsule-themed primary liaison event. The children engaged in a hands-on workshop that embraced their creativity, problem solving and innovation skills. They had the opportunity to brainstorm, sketch and design their own futuristic inventions,

from incredible gadgets to ground-breaking solutions to everyday challenges. These inventions were then all bundled up into a time capsule for both schools to be buried in their school grounds. The children also loved taking part in a jelly experiment and making biodegradable plastic in the Food and Nutrition kitchen.

Upper Prep welcomed Isaac Bamfield, a civil engineer and Senior Project Manager for AtkinsRealis. Our older children and AG&T pupils were able to find out about his work, his opportunities of working abroad with Qatar Rail, the possible routes into this career and the personal skills required for this field. Upper Prep also welcomed children from Junction Farm Primary School to take part in a 'Stem-o-saurus' dinosaur themed primary liaison event. The children created scaled footprints of different dinosaurs before measuring their stride length and calculating their leg length, height and moving speed. These children also had the opportunity to make their own water clocks as well as preparing entries for the Leaders Engineering Award; a national competition to present designs to provide solutions for everyday problems.

These activities are by no means exhaustive but provide an overview of how the children spent STEM Week 2024!

**Mrs Kennedy**



# Year 6 Transition Bowling Trip



We were thrilled to organise an evening Transition Trip for our Year 6 Prep pupils and those children joining THS in Year 7 from schools in our local community.

The children enjoyed two competitive games and the chance to get to see their friends once more, following our first Transition Day in January.

It was great to see pupils mixing so easily, enjoying some downtime outside of school and making memories with new school friends. These visits really do help ease any potential worries

ahead of the move to the Senior School.

The next step is for the cohort to come together once more for their final transition visit on Thursday 13 June - before an exciting start in September!

Huge thanks to the staff who assisted in this visit.

**Miss Stephens**

## Lower Prep Coding and Computers Assembly

Earlier this week, Lower Prep performed their class assembly on the subject of computers and coding.

Pupils have all worked incredibly hard and learned a complicated script full of interesting facts about the history of computing and the importance of computers in everyday life.

Great work, Lower Prep!

**Miss Lockerbie**

## Historical Fiction

Year 6 pupils are currently writing a piece of historical fiction set in Denmark in the 1940s at the height of World War II.

In this section, Lalulah is working on her description and she is aiming to build a sense of suspense as she contrasts the comforts of home with the daunting prospect of the mission her character is to face in the forest.

We hope that you enjoy reading it.

*Her quaint-looking cottage was nestled in the background. It exuded a sense of warmth and comfort, with soft, inviting lighting spilling out from its windows. The gentle crackling of logs burning in the fireplace added to the peaceful ambiance of the surroundings.*

*Ahead of her laid a treacherous path, slick with moisture and dotted with*

*decaying foliage from the barren trees that surrounded her.*

*The dense forest canopy blocked out any sunlight that might have penetrated through, leaving a thick, sombre veil draped over the woods.*

*She thought to herself and remembered what her mother said. Run!*

**Mr Griffiths**



# Oliver! JR Production

Tuesday 19 March to Thursday 21 March saw our highly anticipated *Oliver! JR* production take to the stage.

An audience of around 500, a cast of 23, 78 bespoke cast t-shirts, three wonderful performances, three enthusiastic partner primary schools, one large, tasty Dominos pizza order, plus lots of Victoria Sponge and 'Rosie Lee': that's how our *Oliver! JR* production shapes up in numbers, alongside what has felt like infinite rehearsal hours! But what's the real story of this show?

Based on the iconic literary work, *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens, the musical adaptation *Oliver! JR* was written by Lionel Bart and first opened in London in 1960. It has since seen revivals, remakes, and transformations, including into a TV talent show, *I'd Do Anything*, which was fronted by Lord Andrew Lloyd-Webber in his national search for the next leading lady, Nancy. Despite being full of tunes, glorious tunes, the London that is portrayed by Dickens, and not shied away from by Bart, is a dark, grim existence, full of hunger, desperation, crime and abuse.

Our cast have taken on ambitious choreography, complex harmonies and have all worked incredibly hard. As with all of our shows, the cast becomes like a mini family within the wider school, forging friendships across year groups and building their confidence enormously whilst doing so. Every year,

they do all of this while maintaining their studies, representing the school in sports tournaments, competing in House events, upholding positions of responsibility around school and this year, even passing their driving test!

What a talented and dedicated bunch! There are too many stand-out performances to mention, with audience members saying it was the best school show they had ever seen and demonstrating their admiration with three standing ovations! We are incredibly proud of them all.

We are, as ever, grateful to the wider school team for their support with putting on the production: site team, admin office, IT, DT and Art, catering staff and of course, the many teaching staff who gave up their time to attend on the evenings and serve refreshments. We really could not do this without all of you.

A special mention goes out to Preston Primary, Whinstone Primary and our Upper Prep pupils whose collaboration and contribution to our shows was hugely appreciated and admired by everyone.

The question on everyone's lips now, is....what are we doing next year?

**Mrs Shevels and Mrs Furness**

## Year 11 Drama

Last week our Year 11 Drama students completed their scripted examination which is worth 20% of their final grade. Sam, Ruby, Anya and Kate all performed to such a high standard and Annabelle

designed and created an excellent set! I am very proud of them all. Roll on Results Day in August to see how they fared!

**Mrs Furness**



## Random Acts of Kindness Rewards

This week, a selection of students were treated to a hot chocolate and delicious brownies at Serino's Deli.

These students have shown random acts of kindness throughout the term, which we believed deserved a special reward.

We love to make our students feel 'seen' when they continuously show kindness on a daily basis.

Keep up the good work!

**Mrs Connolly**



# STEM Week

Last week, Senior and Sixth Form students participated in an array of activities to celebrate STEM Week.

Year 7 students enjoyed learning about fish! From watching their own tank, to helping fish migrate in Dutch canals with the Fish Doorbell webcam. They also carried out a crime scene investigation following a murder at Hogwarts. Year 8 students made copper sulfate crystals, linking together some of the work they have been exploring on acid reactions and separating techniques. They also

completed an 'Iodine clock challenge', experimenting with different volumes of the solutions to see which team could get the colour change closest to 118 seconds. Year 10 students were consolidating their learning on the human transport system through examining hearts. Year 12 students developed their dissection skills for the practical component of AS Biology.

**The Science Department**



## North East Festival of Languages

It was an exciting week in the MFL department last week as students celebrated the North East Festival of Languages. On Monday morning Year 8 were treated to pain au chocolat and brioche in the dining room while they took part in a 'Where can languages take you?' webinar organised by the British Council.

The students listened to a range of speakers explaining how language learning in school can open up a world of opportunities as it is a transferable skill. It was particularly interesting to hear from Maura who works for GCHQ who told us that they were looking for people speaking Mandarin, Russian or Arabic to join the agency. These languages can be learned 'ab initio' at university if you have an A-level in

a different language such as French and German. She also mentioned that the linguists at GCHQ receive additional payments as language skills are in such high demand!

On Wednesday, Year 12 French students travelled to Northumbria University in Newcastle to take part in a French taster session. The students were fully immersed in the language as they heard a lecture about history in French film and in particular how the Holocaust has influenced French cinema. They also took part in a seminar on the subject of fast fashion where they put their interpreting skills to the test.

It was a great experience to meet the lecturers at the university and gain an insight into life as a language student.



## Choose Your Futures Event

20 Year 9 students enjoyed the opportunity to explore a range of exciting future careers at the Choose Your Future event at Teesside University last week.

They experienced workshops in Politics, AI, Games Design, Psychology, Media, Sport and much more.

They relished the chance to be more independent and explore life on a university campus.

**Miss Stephens**



The next exciting opportunity from the MFL department is going to be a trip to the Loire Valley in April 2025. We are looking forward to the opportunity to exploring the sights of the beautiful Loire region and giving our students the chance to speak French with natives!

**Mrs Blyth**



# Inter-Schools Classics Quiz

Last week, 11 amazing students willingly gave up their Saturday to attend a Classics Quiz at Newcastle High School for Girls.

Each category contained around 8 to 10 other teams. This was the first quiz since 2019 and the first time THS has attended.

I am very proud of all of those who took part. Particularly our Key Stage 3 Myth and History team who came third, our Key Stage 4 Latin team who came second and our Key Stage 5 Myth and

History team who came first!

A highlight of the day included a teacher from another school complimenting our winning team on their humility.

A special thank you to Ms Ignirri for joining us on the day.

**Miss Malik**



## Artist of the Month

Congratulations to our March Artist of the Month, Isaac Graham in Year 9.

Students in this year group are working on a series of projects which reflect the areas studied at GCSE. Having completed a Fine Art project last term, January saw students embarking on a new photography project which kicked off with a visit to Newcastle.

Students have used their photographs of Newcastle's amazing architecture to experiment with a range of creative Photoshop techniques. Isaac particularly impressed us with his eye-catching final images.

**Mrs Machan**



# House Competitions at THS

The House system here at Teesside High offers many competitions and opportunities for students to engage, compete against one another and develop an array of skills.

There are several sporting opportunities, alongside problem-solving tasks and creative arts competitions. The opportunities continue to grow every year and we are always impressed at how our students show commitment, bravery and a sense of healthy competition when taking part.

Sport is always fiercely contested and this year is again gearing up to be another closely-fought competition. Students have already competed in hockey, rugby and netball at both a Junior and Senior level. The summer term will see students compete in rounders and come together for Sports Day, which always takes centre stage at the end of term.

December saw yet another impressive House Choir competition where Queen, The Darkness and Survivor all made an appearance in the Main Hall. We are sure the original artists would have been impressed with our students' quality vocals and entertaining dance moves!

The spring term saw Mrs Reid's chickens preparing for the latest competition to join the House calendar: the egg drop challenge. Students had to work together to produce a vessel for their egg to be dropped from a height and survive the fall. It was wonderful to see all year groups working together, using their imaginations and engineering skills. It was 'cracking' fun!

World Book Day provided a great opportunity for an inter-House quiz with a large number of subjects hosting rounds linked to books for students to engage with. From guessing the city famous texts were describing, to seeing how many sit ups you could do while Ms Duffy read from famous sporting autobiographies, it really reminded our students of how books are part of every subject.

Currently House Photography is well underway and a good number of entries have been sent in already. The theme voted by our cohort this year is 'animals'. The deadline for this competition is on Friday 19 April and all entries receive one merit to be added to their House totals. The winner of this competition will see their photograph selected to be on the cover of staff planners along with 10 merits - so send your photographs in. Good luck!

The summer term will also see the return of the House Drama competition; we look forward to seeing what our thespians have in store for us this year. There truly is everything to play for and we will hopefully see many more students put their best foot forward and show real courage and determination for their House.

**Mrs Reid, Mr Thomas and Mr Williamson**



## Sixth Form Volleyball Competition

It was a super competitive start to this term's Inter House sport in the Sixth Form Volleyball competition.

The results were as follows:

1st - Woodside

2nd - Victoria

3rd - Cleveland

It is always great to see our older students take part and win points for their House.

**Miss Turnbull**





Teesside High School

# SUMMER FAIR

*Celebrating*

125 years

of the **FSA**

**Saturday 15 June, 11.00am-2.00pm**



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)

