

# THiS Week



Teesside High School  
*Education as it should be*

## FOREST SCHOOL

The start of the new academic year has brought fresh excitement and muddy boots as our Nursery and Reception children have begun their weekly Forest School adventures.

These outdoor learning sessions have quickly become a highlight of the week, with children full of smiles and stories as they explore the woodland.

Forest School provides a unique opportunity for children to learn and grow outside the traditional classroom setting. Through hands-on experiences in our beautiful school grounds, children develop their physical coordination and understanding of the natural world. Whether they are building dens, hunting for minibeasts or engaging in cooperative play in the giant mud kitchen, every activity helps to build curiosity and teamwork.

Our dedicated outdoor space is thoughtfully designed to inspire exploration, creativity and connection with nature. Surrounded by trees and natural materials, the children have the freedom to learn in a setting that truly brings the curriculum to life.

Already, the children have been noticing the first signs of autumn, from the turning leaves to the cooler breeze, sparking plenty of conversation and curiosity. There has been great excitement about what the coming weeks will bring, especially the hunt for conkers!

It has been wonderful to see our youngest pupils settling into school life with such enthusiasm and how Forest School plays a big part in that journey.

We look forward to a full year of muddy hands, happy hearts and all the learning and laughter that Forest School brings.

**Miss Hall**





# WELCOME

As the new academic year commences, it has been lovely to hear classrooms and corridors come to life once more.

A big welcome back to all of our families, particularly those who are new to our school community and those considering THS, who may be reading this edition on Open Day.

The autumn term has had an exciting start with trips to Rome and Paris launching, and visits to Austria, Iceland and Munich all on the horizon.

The end of August saw our fantastic Year 11 and Year 13 students receive their examination results. Thanks to the hard work of staff and students alike, we celebrated a 100% A-level pass rate for the seventh consecutive year, with 60% of examination entries being awarded the highest possible A\*-B grades.

This set of fantastic results was mirrored by our GCSE students just a week later. An impressive one third of students achieved five or more of the highest possible grades (9-7), equivalent to A\*\*-A and the cohort on the whole secured pass rates well above national and local averages. Both results days were incredibly proud occasions.

It has been a real pleasure to appoint a new set of Prefects across the Senior School and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each of them on their well-deserved positions. Their leadership and character stood out clearly during the selection process and I am confident they will rise to the challenges of their new roles.

Indeed, if you are touring school as part of our first Open Day of the year, our Prefects will be your tour guides for the morning. We hope you enjoy hearing about their experiences.

I am also delighted to announce the appointment of Ed in Year 13 as Head Boy. Ed's exceptional academic ability and unique commitment to school life make him an excellent choice. Yasmin takes on the role of Performing Arts Captain, bringing creativity and a passion for the arts, while Rhys has been appointed Games Captain, reflecting his dedication, leadership and sportsmanship. I look forward to seeing these students thrive in their roles, helping to further shape a vibrant and supportive school community.

Our autumn term calendar is already filling up with lots of things to look forward to. If you wish to look ahead and ensure important occasions are diarised, please visit our website where you will find all of the information you need.

Save the date for our popular PTA Family Fireworks Night on Wednesday 5 November. Tickets will go on sale on Monday 22 September and are available for visitors to purchase on Open Day, too.

I hope you enjoy reading the first newsletter of the term.

**Mrs Mackenzie, Head**



## Coast to Coast

We are so incredibly proud of our Duke of Edinburgh Young Leaders who, to celebrate finishing their Sixth Form studies, took on the challenge of walking Coast to Coast in July - 192 miles over 15 days, starting in St Bees, Cumbria, and finishing at Robin Hood's Bay.

They experienced all kinds of weather along their way, from walking in torrential rain in the Lakes to scorching heat during a heatwave when they reached North Yorkshire.

These students were absolutely fantastic role models to all students taking part in their DofE award last year, and as this achievement shows, their determination and enthusiasm for exploring the world around them is truly remarkable.

**Miss Hopkins**



## U14 vs U16 Netball

With important games looming in the coming weeks, our U14 and U16 netball teams took to the court for a friendly game last Wednesday.

Both teams displayed phenomenal energy from the first to the last whistle. It was a great opportunity to look at strategy and set play with an incredibly

coachable set of girls. The game swung from end to end, never more than two goals difference throughout. Eventually, the U14 girls ran out winners by the narrowest of margins, the final score being 19 - 18.

This will be a really exciting season for both teams and we are really looking forward to what is to come.

Players of the Match were Olivia, Lexie and Katie.

**Miss Stephens**



## Multistage Fitness Test

There have been some fantastic achievements in this term's multistage fitness test, which all students from Years 3 to 11 take part in.

This year, we have seen 56 improvements over last year's results, with some impressive performances.

A special congratulations to Annabel, John and Kyle for scoring above level 12

- an incredible achievement!

Equally impressive was the progress made by students who have advanced an entire level since their last test. Well done to Edie (Year 4), Isabelle (Year 10), Annabel (Year 11), Phoebe (Year 11) and George (Year 11) for their hard work and dedication.

**Miss Hopkins**



## Sixth Form

### Enrichment

In recent weeks, Sixth Form students have had the opportunity to step outside of their comfort zones at Rock Antics, where they have explored the world of climbing. With little prior experience, it was fantastic to see everyone embrace the challenge and give it their all.

Throughout the session last week, students developed both their climbing and problem-solving skills, whilst also learning valuable lessons in perseverance and teamwork.

**Mr Thomas**







# First Day Back!

It was all smiles from our Nursery and Reception pupils as they started a new chapter at THS.

It was lovely to welcome back some familiar faces and say hello to new ones as the new academic year begins. This is a huge milestone for the little ones and we hope they enjoyed their first day as much as we did.

**Miss Hall and Miss Graham**



## Mark Making

Nursery children have been exploring mark making, engaging in one of the earliest stages of writing and self-expression.

Through activities such as drawing with crayons and making patterns in sand, they are beginning to understand that they can make intentional marks that represent their ideas, feelings or

observations.

This exploratory process supports their fine motor development, hand-eye coordination and creativity. It also lays the foundation for early literacy, as children begin to associate marks with meaning.

**Miss Hall**



## Nursery PE

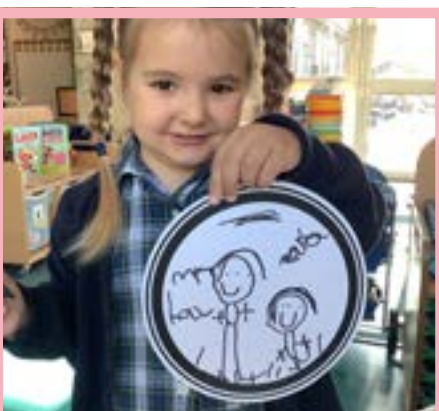
It was a week of firsts for many of our Nursery children at the start of term and that was no different when they enjoyed their first PE lesson.

There was great excitement as the children excitedly opened their PE bags to find their new PE kits.

Once changed, the children loved exploring some PE equipment whilst developing their movement skills. They crawled through the tunnel, jumped on the coloured footsteps, rolled along the mats and climbed over the apparatus.

After a wonderful first lesson it is safe to say Wednesday afternoons are going to be lots of fun in Nursery as the children develop their physical skills in structured PE lessons carefully delivered for EYFS.

**Miss Hall**



# Celebrating Families in Reception

The topic in Reception this term is 'It's Good to Be Me,' and this week in PSHE, pupils have been focusing on families - a theme that links to celebrating what makes each of the children special.

The children shared their thoughts on what makes their families unique, speaking with such pride and love about the people who mean the most to them. From favourite activities together to the little things that make home life happy, their reflections were filled with warmth and joy.

These conversations helped the children to celebrate not only their own family but also to respect and value the differences in others.



## Elmer the Elephant

Nursery children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the colourful world of *Elmer the Elephant*. The beloved story has sparked a wide range of engaging activities that support learning across multiple areas of development.

To strengthen fine motor skills, the children used tweezers to pick up small objects and match them to the correct colours, just like Elmer's patchwork.

In the creative area, the children crafted their own adorable 3D Elmers, proudly displaying their unique designs.

As part of their learning journey, pupils also discovered fascinating facts about real elephants - including the exciting new knowledge that a group of elephants is called a herd!

**Miss Hall**

To build on these discussions, the children then had the opportunity to practise their drawing skills by creating beautiful family portraits.

This activity has been a wonderful way to strengthen our sense of identity and belonging, while also reinforcing the message that every child and every family is special. A fantastic celebration of 'me' and of the people our pupils love most!

**Miss Graham**

## Living Museum

Pre-Prep children have enjoyed a busy and exciting start to the new school year, diving straight into their learning with energy and enthusiasm. One of the highlights so far has been their engagement with our new IPC unit, *People of the Past*.

The children demonstrated fantastic teamwork as they explored the lives of significant historical figures.

Working collaboratively, they selected individuals who captured their imaginations, conducted research and shared their findings with one

another, supporting and encouraging their peers every step of the way.

Their hard work culminated in the creation of a wonderful 'Living Museum.' In this interactive experience, Reception children were invited to visit and learn about key historical figures. By pressing buttons, visitors could hear fascinating facts and stories brought to life by our young historians.

It was a truly inspiring way to bring history into the present and a brilliant example of active, imaginative

learning in action.

**Mrs Hannah**







# Lower Prep IPC

Lower Prep completed a carousel of activities for the Entry Point to their new IPC unit *Temples, Tombs and Treasures*.

The activities included entering a tomb to look at artefacts, uncovering artefacts buried in the sand and jigsaws that they had to put together before interpreting what it told them about life in Ancient Egypt and Ancient Sumer.

An engaging start to their IPC studies!

**Mrs Kennedy**



## Young Entrepreneurs

Prep co-curricular provision is now in full swing and Young Entrepreneurs Club began the term with enthusiasm.

This club will be working hard over the next term to create and prepare a host of different Christmas crafts and products that will be on sale at our PTA Christmas Market on Saturday 29 November.

This week, the children had fun making some gift tags using buttons to add 3D detail. Their ideas ranged from Christmas trees and wreaths to Rudolph baubles and will look lovely attached to any Christmas gift.

**Mrs Kennedy**



# Upper Prep Photography

Last week, Upper Prep pupils had the chance to explore the world of photography in a special lesson that took them outdoors and sparked their creativity.

The class focused on an important photography technique known as the 'rule of thirds' which helps photographers compose more interesting and balanced images. After learning how to imagine their photo split into nine equal parts using two horizontal and two vertical lines, the children practised placing their subject off-centre to create more dynamic and eye-catching pictures.

Armed with cameras and devices, the

children explored the school grounds with a photographer's eye, capturing trees, buildings, flowers and the River Tees. It was a fantastic opportunity to see familiar surroundings in a completely new way.

Everyone enjoyed the chance to be creative while learning a new skill and there were some truly impressive photos taken. We may have a few budding photographers in our midst!

**Mrs Bloomfield**

## Lower Prep Forest School

Lower Prep pupils thoroughly enjoyed their first Forest School session of the new academic year.

As part of their outdoor learning, they explored the woodland environment and observed some of the seasonal

changes taking place.

They noticed, for example, how the leaves had begun to change colour and fall from the trees, marking the transition into autumn.

**Miss Hopkins**



## Prep School Council

This week, Prep School Council held their first meeting.

They are aware that the School Council plays an essential role in making sure our school is a positive, inclusive and an engaging place for everyone.

They are looking forward to key roles such as listening to student voices, organising events, promoting positive change and representing the student body.

This brilliant team will be extremely influential and will work brilliantly together. I am excited to see how they will improve our school community.

**Mrs Carson**





# The Teesside High School Learning Difference

Our unique ‘THS Learning Experience’ provides a framework for all lessons that enables deep, meaningful learning and excellent student progress. Here, you can read more about what lessons are like in school.

The cycle begins with the ‘Big Picture,’ where teachers assess prior knowledge to guide the lesson and explicitly share learning objectives. Students are encouraged to ask their own questions to foster independence.

Next, in the ‘Interact with New Material’ phase, students are introduced to challenging content through active engagement, not just lectures. Teachers present new material in various ways, such as through videos, demonstrations and group discussions, keeping explanations concise to maximise active learning time.

The ‘Construct Meaning’ phase is where students earn their understanding. They work together on challenging tasks, talking and thinking through difficult concepts in order to reveal, confront and correct misconceptions. This encourages students to wrestle with concepts and see the value in

grappling with challenges.

Finally, students ‘Apply Understanding’ by using their new knowledge in more demanding, unfamiliar contexts, such as through presentations, debates or extended writing.

The cycle concludes with ‘Review’ allowing students to reflect on their learning, the progress they have made and identify their next steps for taking this learning deeper.

The ‘Learning Experience,’ coupled with our ‘Thinking Curriculum,’ helps students become passionate, active and independent learners. It is a school-wide commitment to teaching students how to think, not just what to think, preparing them for a world that values independence, initiative and adaptability.

**Mr Meyerhoff**

## GCSE Geography Fieldwork

Year 11 pupils enjoyed completing their physical Geography fieldwork in Stokesley last week.

Fieldwork is a key feature of GCSE Geography and pupils waded along the River Leven and measured the width,

depth and velocity of the river.

They will use their data to investigate whether river discharge increases with distance downstream.

**Mrs Donovan**

## Upcoming Trips

We are delighted to share details of two exciting school trips that have been launched recently.

The Modern Foreign Languages department is delighted to offer an exciting opportunity for all students in Years 7-12 to take part in a linguistic and cultural experience in Paris as well as the chance to spend a day in Disneyland. This will take place from Friday 16 October to Monday 19 October 2026.

In addition to this, the Classics department is thrilled to offer the chance for students from Years 6 to 12 to take part in an exciting trip to Rome, Italy, from Monday 15 February to Thursday 18 February 2027. The trip will provide pupils with opportunities to visit the must-see sights of Rome as well as sites of historical significance, some of which feature on the specification for the Latin GCSE examinations in 2027, 2028 and 2029.

Details for both visits have been circulated to the relevant year groups. Visit our website to find out more!

**Mrs Blyth and Miss Malik**



## Speech and Drama

Welcome back to our LAMDA students!

I am delighted to share that THS pupils achieved a staggering 100% Distinctions in their recent examinations. We are so proud of each and every one of our students who have worked extremely hard to produce exceptional performances. Achieving a Distinction is no easy task and therefore the pride our students should feel is justified.

In the summer we said a heartfelt goodbye to the wonderful Ms Jackson who worked tirelessly with her LAMDA pupils across the Prep and Senior schools. We hope she is enjoying a very

happy retirement.

As we head into the autumn term I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new LAMDA teacher, Mr McBride. Mr McBride has already begun lessons with gusto and students have been impressed with his calm, professional nature and supportive atmosphere in lessons.

We currently boast 37 LAMDA students from Prep to Sixth Form and this year is sure to be another one to celebrate!

**Mrs Furness**



## Amazing Musical Achievements

We are delighted to announce the recent achievements of our Music students and scholars.

Libby in Year 10 was awarded a Merit in her Violin Grade 5

Emilia in Year 10 received a Merit in her Cello Grade 4

Miela secured a Pass in Piano Grade 4

Faith in Year 8 completed her Piano Grade 3 (Pass)

Freddy in Year 7 achieved a Pass in his Cello Grade 1.

**Mrs Shevels**

## Student Leaders

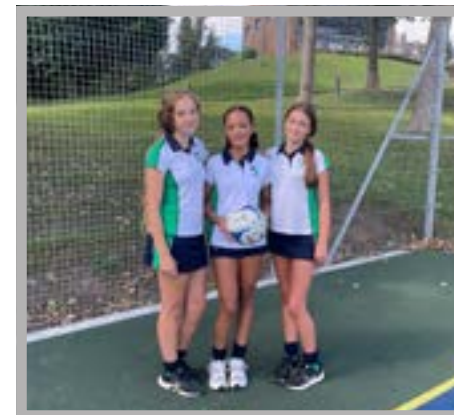
Huge congratulations to Ed, Yasmin and Rhys who have been appointed Student Leaders for 2025-26.

**Mrs Mackenzie**





# BACK TO SCHOOL



# THIS WEEK PHOTO GALLERY



**SAVE THE DATE**



  
**YEAR 7  
INFORMATION  
EVENING**  
Tuesday 7 October, 6.00pm-7.00pm



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