

THiS Week



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

LIFE IN YEAR 7

Our Year 7 pupils have settled into Senior School wonderfully.

The cohort enjoyed a warm welcome on Monday 1 September and have not stopped since! They have been busy getting to know their new timetables and teachers, throwing themselves into the wide range of enrichment activities and even supporting school at our very first Open Day of the year.

Pupils across the year group have been representing school on a regular occasions through our daily sporting fixtures; they loved their first Senior School visit to the theatre to see *Horrible Histories* live and are looking ahead to fantastic trips and visits on offer - to Paris, Rome and London to watch two days of tennis at Wimbledon, to name just a few.

Issac, Casey, Harriet and Sienna shone in their ambassador roles as they represented Year 7 at the recent Year 7 Information Evening. Here are a few snippets of what they had to say:

'The teachers actually care, and they help you grow - not just in lessons, but in confidence too. You're not just a student here, you're part of a big, friendly family.'

'Teesside High doesn't just teach you - it helps you believe in yourself.' - Issac

'Fortunately, thanks to all of the teachers, I felt really settled and I made many new friends. I am involved in many opportunities Teesside High offers such as, hockey, netball and LAMDA which are Speech and Drama lessons and grades.'

'I feel very lucky to be part of the Teesside High family and I am looking forward to the years ahead in this school.' - Sienna

'I didn't want to move to England with my family, I didn't know anyone. Fast forward to now, I am happy and feel so welcome due to this school.' - Harriet

'The lessons are really engaging here at Teesside High and my favourite subject is PE, closely followed by

Geography, but the other subjects are brilliant too!' - Casey

Mrs Connolly



WELCOME

Students have really hit their stride this half term and it has been brilliant seeing them so engaged in everything THS has to offer.

Our PE department has been especially busy, with daily fixtures in netball, hockey and rugby. From Lower-Prep tag rugby to our eldest students competing at District level, it has been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm and dedication. I particularly enjoy reading the match reports, especially those which highlight outstanding teamwork and sportsmanship - values we value dearly at THS.

The Music department has also had a vibrant start to the term. Thursday evening's Tea-Time Concert was a very special evening, offering students the chance to showcase their individual musical talents in an intimate and supportive setting. The level of talent on display was truly impressive. Rehearsals are also well underway for our next school musical theatre production, so keep an eye out for further announcements!

The musical highlight of the half term was undoubtedly the visit from the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir. They led dynamic workshops for pupils across the school before joining forces with our Senior Choir and the local community group, Vocal Collective, for a joint concert in the Main Hall. It was a joyful and uplifting evening and a pleasure to welcome such inspiring performers to our school.

I am also delighted that the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has launched with great momentum

this term. Students taking part in the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards have already undertaken a number of challenging hikes, demonstrating great skill and determination, even through the recent storm!

Finally, I would like to remind you of two of our most popular annual events. The THS Family Fireworks Display will take place on Wednesday 5 November, 6.30pm-8.00pm and tickets are available via Reception (cash only) or ParentPay.

Additionally, the PTA Christmas Market will be held on Saturday 29 November, with an array of festive stalls, tasty treats and Santa's Grotto! Tickets will be available on the door for this event in the Senior School - I hope to see you there.

Kirsty Mackenzie, Head



U14 Boys' Hockey vs Red House

The U14 Boys' Hockey team got their season off to a solid start with a tightly contested fixture against Red House. Both teams battled hard throughout, but strong defensive displays ensured the game ended in a goalless draw.

Gabriel, Henry, Oscar and Archer were outstanding at the back, staying composed under pressure and breaking down several Red House attacks. In midfield, Jacob and Alistair linked up well, showing great vision and teamwork.

Arlo, Harry, Manveer and Ewan provided excellent width and stretched the Red House defence. Up front, Oliver and Grayson made some sharp runs, creating space and chances in a hard-fought match.

Late in the game, Gideon made a series of crucial saves to preserve the clean sheet and secure a well-earned draw for the team.

Mr Thomas



U12 SISTERS N SPORT CUP

The Under 12 Girls' Netball team has made it through the first round of the Sisters n Sport Cup!

What a fantastic afternoon of netball from our U12s, who came away with a superb 13-2 win against Queen Ethelburga's in their first-round cup match.

The girls took a little while to get going, starting the first two quarters steadily with identical 3-1 scorelines. However, once they settled, the team really found their stride, linking up brilliantly through the court and putting all their hard work on centre passes into action.

As the game went on, THS dominated play. Their confidence grew with every pass and shot and the connections on court made for some lovely attacking netball. The final score of

13-2 reflected their determination, teamwork and growing flow in the game.

A special mention must go to the team's adaptability as every player gave their best, no matter which position they were asked to play, showing fantastic versatility and brilliant attitudes all round.

Player of the Match was awarded to Florence.

An outstanding start to the cup journey - well done, girls; onwards to the next round!

Miss Hodgson



Grangetown Netball Club - Friendly Fixture

In the build up to the National Schools Netball Competition, our THS squad took to the court for a brilliant evening of friendly match play hosted by our friends at Grangetown Netball Club.

The three-way format gave us the perfect chance to mix things up, try different combinations and push ourselves against some seriously tough opposition. The focus was to put into play and evaluate the structures that we have been working on recently, in an intense situation.

Following this the girls spent time in a classroom viewing clips and analysing moments in the game.

A massive thank you to Grangetown for giving up their time to help us prepare - we are so grateful!

Miss Hodgson

U14 Rugby Annual District Tournament

Our U14 rugby team faced Polam and Ian Ramsey in the Annual District Tournament. The first game was very physical, with some outstanding tackling from Alistair and Oliver. It was a close game, however it finished 5-4 to Polam.

In the second game against Ian Ramsey, THS showed more attacking

threat, particularly with some great ball carrying from Henry, Henry and Oliver. The game ebbed and flowed with both teams taking the lead at various stages but again, it was the opposing team who got the victory with the score ending 8-6.

Mr Williamson





U16 Hockey vs Eggescliffe School

The U16 Hockey team got their season off to a promising start with a well-earned draw against a talented Eggescliffe side.

Trinity opened the scoring in the very first minute, giving THS an early advantage. The goal came from some excellent early play, with George and John’s teamwork excelling.

Isaac in defence was solid throughout, supported by Louis, who consistently cleared the ball with confidence and speed. Jacob made a number of impressive saves to keep the opposition at bay, showing great composure under pressure.

Eggescliffe eventually found the equaliser through a well-worked short corner, bringing the score to 1-1. Despite the setback, THS maintained their composure and continued to battle hard in all areas of the pitch.

It was a strong overall performance and a positive start to the season, with plenty of encouraging signs for the matches ahead.

Mr Williamson

Lower Prep Tag Rugby

A group of Lower Prep pupils had the fantastic opportunity to represent the school at a tag rugby tournament hosted by Barnard Castle School recently.

Over the course of the day, the team played seven action-packed games against a range of schools, including Dame Allan’s and Newcastle School for Boys.

Throughout the tournament, pupils demonstrated excellent skill, enthusiasm and teamwork, scoring plenty of well-earned tries. It was a brilliant day of sport!

Mr Thomas



Upper Prep Hockey Festival

Upper Prep pupils enjoyed a fantastic Friday afternoon at Yarm School in recent weeks, taking part in a fun and energetic hockey festival. Playing in mixed teams, the boys and girls showed great enthusiasm throughout the event.

The atmosphere was incredibly positive, with plenty of teamwork and encouragement on display. Upper Prep pupils demonstrated excellent passing skills and movement off the ball, working together to create numerous goal-scoring opportunities across a variety of matches.

There were some valuable lessons learned along the way and it was wonderful to see so much progress and enjoyment from all involved. A big well done to everyone who took part – a great afternoon of hockey!

Mr Thomas



U13 BOYS ANNUAL DISTRICT RUGBY TOURNAMENT

Our U13 boys played in the first round of the annual District Rugby Tournament in recent weeks, where they were drawn against Polam and Conyers.

In their first game against Polam, THS started quickly with some strong running from Gabriel and Henry, as well as some slick passing from Alistair and Issac, leading to three early tries. Polam fought back with some tries of their own, however the boys were able to absorb some of the pressure, clear their lines effectively and score two further tries. The game finished 5-3 to THS and Player of the Match was awarded to Gabriel.

The team then faced Conyers in their second match. Again, they started quickly and scored a try with their first attack. From there on, the game became a physical battle with both teams evenly matched. The tackling and rucking from both teams was of high quality, with neither defence relenting. The boys managed to withstand the Conyers attack and won the match, 1-0. Player of the Match was awarded to Issac.

All 14 players played a crucial part in the two outstanding performances and demonstrated all the hard work they have been putting into rugby lessons and enrichment sessions.

Mr Williamson

Year 10A District Netball Tournament

The THS Year 10A team took to the courts for the first time this year at the District Netball Tournament. Although the girls faced some fierce competition in Yarm School, Red House and Ian Ramsey, they fought hard in their three games and showed great sportsmanship, with lots to take forward into the season.

Well done, girls!

Miss Stephens



U16 Girls' Hockey vs Red House

The U16 Girls' Hockey team had a fantastic game recently, where the girls took an excellent 5-0 victory.

All of the girls' performances were outstanding. Rosie was relentless up front, alongside Player of the Match, Tendai, who scored three goals. Both Martha and Megan worked some lovely passages of play down the right hand side of the pitch, both scoring a goal each

In defence, it was fantastic to see the strength in Ellie, Phoebe and Coco's tackling abilities, whilst Betsy was unnerved in goal.

A special mention to Annabel who only started playing hockey last year, but was definitely one of the more accomplished players on the team.

As a team the girls supported each other well and really used the width of the pitch to their advantage.

Miss Stephens



Stay and Play

It was lovely to host another Stay and Play session in Nursery this week, welcoming not only our current Nursery children and their families but also prospective families looking to join us in the coming terms.

It was a wonderful morning themed around autumn, filled with a variety of seasonal activities that everyone enjoyed.

Children showcased their creativity making pumpkin geoboards, explored imaginative play in our Nursery pumpkin patch, crafted beautiful autumn wreaths and had great fun painting autumn trees using broccoli as brushes.



Autumn Trees

Nursery children have been exploring their creativity by creating beautiful autumn tree paintings.

Through a variety of fun and engaging techniques such as sponge painting, finger printing and using cotton buds, the children experimented with different textures and patterns.

They explored colour mixing by blending reds, oranges and yellows to capture the warm tones of the autumn leaves.

This hands-on activity not only allowed them to express their artistic ideas but also helped develop their fine motor skills and understanding of seasonal changes.

Miss Hall



Miss Hall

It was lovely to see families connecting and children engaging so enthusiastically with the activities and the setting.

We are incredibly proud of our wonderful Nursery environment, which provides a warm, nurturing space where children can thrive, explore and develop with confidence.



Water Play

Nursery children have had a fantastic time exploring water play with the marble run.

They loved pouring water through the twisting tracks, watching it flow, trickle and splash its way to the bottom. Using cups, jugs and lots of teamwork, they experimented with speed, direction and flow, all while having a lot of fun!

They demonstrated amazing problem solving and resilience skills when building the tracks together.

This activity was a perfect mix of sensory play, problem-solving and laughter!

Miss Hall



Collecting Conkers

Nursery children have been thoroughly enjoying using conkers to support their learning through a variety of engaging, hands-on activities.

They have practiced their counting skills by grouping and counting conkers, and developed fine motor control and concentration while threading them to create fun conker caterpillars.

The children also explored mathematical concepts such as comparing size and weight, using language like 'bigger', 'smaller', and 'heavier'.

As part of their creative exploration, they painted with conkers using yellow and red paint and were excited to discover that mixing the two colours made orange. These

activities not only support key areas of the Early Years curriculum but also encourage curiosity, conversation, and collaborative play.

Miss Hall



Helping Beegu

Last week, Reception focused on the story *Beegu* by Alexis Deacon - a touching tale about a small, friendly alien who crash-lands on Earth and tries to find her way home. The children loved getting to know Beegu, drawing her and imagining the exciting adventures she might have on our planet.

Our learning took a magical turn when the children discovered that Beegu's spaceship had crashed in the woods! She even left a letter written in an alien language. After working together to decode her message, Reception realised she needed their help to find her way back, so they drew detailed maps to guide her home.

When the class arrived at school the next day, they were thrilled to see that Beegu had visited the classroom while they were away! Thankfully, they soon found out that she managed to repair her spaceship and return safely to her home planet.

Miss Graham



Pre-Prep Art

The children in Pre-Prep have been thoroughly enjoying their recent Art lessons, where they have been exploring a wide range of new skills and creative techniques.

To begin their artistic journey, the children studied various paintings, learning to identify areas of light and dark. This led to an exciting discovery phase where they experimented with different shading techniques using

pencil. They explored cross-hatching, scribbling, and varying pressure to create darker tones and shadows in their drawings, developing not only their fine motor skills but also their understanding of depth and contrast.

It has been a joy to watch the children express themselves with such enthusiasm and creativity.

Mrs Hannah



Life Science Centre

On Thursday 18 September, Upper Prep pupils enjoyed a fantastic visit to the Life Science Centre in Newcastle.

The trip began with an exciting train journey, during which the children took in the sights along the way.

Our first activity was a fascinating session in the planetarium, where the children learned about constellations and planets. This was followed by an engaging and informative workshop, where they had the opportunity to program space robots, sample astronaut food and watch a thrilling

rocket experiment launch across the room.

For the remainder of the day, the children explored the various interactive zones, experimenting and discovering through hands-on activities.

It was a brilliant day filled with fun, learning and excitement!

Mrs Carson



The Olympus Challenge

Over the course of last academic year, Alexander and Ozzy in Prep School demonstrated their commitment to broadening their knowledge of the ancient world in a co-curricular club - The Olympus Challenge.

Named after the home of the gods, this club took their independent research to new heights.

The Olympus Challenge allows pupils to choose how they would like to explore the ancient world through a series of different guidelines.

Both pupils completed all of the requirements and were awarded their certificates from the 'Classics for All' organisation this term.

Well done, boys!

Miss Malik



Fun in Forest School

It has been a busy few weeks in Forest School as pupils across the school continue to embrace the outdoors, enjoying a range of seasonal activities.

Nursery have been exploring the woodland environment, collecting autumnal treasures such as colourful leaves, acorns and pinecones, whilst Reception have taken on new responsibilities by learning how to use different tools safely.

Further up the school, Pre-Prep, Lower Prep and Bushcraft Club have been developing their fine motor skills and teamwork by using hand drills to create

holes in conkers.

Miss Hopkins



Lower Prep Art

Pupils in Lower Prep have spent their recent Art lessons considering the tomb art of the ancient Egyptians. This ties in perfectly with their current IPC topic, *Temples, Tombs and Treasures*.

Pupils spent time looking at a variety of examples and thinking about what

these pieces told them about life at this time. The children then embarked on creating their own tomb art. Many of the children enjoyed combining figures with animals whilst some took on the challenge of drawing one of the gods with their animal heads.

Mrs Kennedy



Wellbeing Champions

We are delighted to introduce you to our Prep School Wellbeing Champions!

At Teesside High School, we pride ourselves on the quality of our pastoral care. This extends to promoting positive mental health and providing information and support.

As a Mental Health First Aider, I will provide the children with training to develop their skills so that they feel equipped to support their peers within the Prep School, as well as completing some practical, craft style activities to use as an aid in both 1:1 and drop in sessions.

Mrs Kennedy





The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir

School was filled with music and laughter last week as we welcomed the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir from Uganda for a truly special day of cultural exchange and celebration.

The choir's visit began with a series of interactive workshops, where our Upper Prep, Year 7 and Year 8 students had the chance to learn traditional Ugandan songs, dances and rhythms.

Beyond the performances, it was the quieter, more personal moments that made the day so meaningful. Over shared meals, our students and the choir members connected through shared curiosity about each other's lives.

In the afternoon, our friends from Uganda visited our Forest School, where they roasted marshmallows around the fire with Miss Hopkins.

The day culminated in a stunning

evening concert, where the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir took to the stage in front of a packed audience. Our new Senior Choir opened the evening and special guests Vocal Collective sang too. The powerful harmonies and joyous spirit brought the house down.

Thank you to all staff, students, host families and, most of all, to our guests from Uganda for sharing your culture, your music and your hearts with us.

We are very proud to have raised in the region of £1800 and are very grateful for your generosity in supporting the work of this important foundation in Uganda.

Mrs Shevels

Horrible Histories Theatre Trip

On Friday 19 September, Year 7 and 8 students headed to the Durham Gala Theatre for a lively performance of *Horrible Histories: Gorgeous Georgians and Vile Victorians*.

The show brought to life colourful characters from Britain's past, from daring highwaymen and Georgian kings

to Florence Nightingale and Queen Victoria herself.

Students were kept entertained with stories of mystery, mischief. It was a fun, memorable way to experience history!

Miss O'Byrne



Life Beyond THS

On Monday 29 September, Sixth Form students interested in studying Zoology at university were paid a visit by Mr Matthew Dods who has a degree in the subject.

This industry-focused visit was the first of many talks planned for our current and prospective Sixth Form students, as part of the Life Beyond THS series.

Matthew shared great insights into the highlights of his degree, tips on where to apply and advice for writing an impressive personal statement.

Matthew proved that Life Beyond THS is going to be a great edition to the Sixth Form experience.

Mrs Furness



German Roadshow

On Thursday 2 October, we were delighted to welcome the Directors of German for Cambridge and Durham Universities for a morning of linguistic and cultural discovery with our Year 9 and 10 German students.

The morning began with an assembly about the importance of languages and how studying German can give you the edge in the jobs market. Germany is the UK's biggest trading partner within the EU and the study of languages at GCSE or A-level makes you stand out to universities and colleges no matter what subject you want to study, as someone who is good at communicating and someone who is open minded and tolerant of others.

Finally, we heard from a third year student of German and Portuguese from Cambridge who is currently on his year abroad studying at the University São Paulo in Brazil. It was really useful to hear first-hand experience of studying languages at university.

We then had two workshops led by our visitors. Dr Charlotte Lee from Cambridge, ran a workshop about the Tag der Deutschen Einheit (German Unity Day).

Dr Alexis Radisolgou from Durham ran his workshop about putting language under the microscope and examining it in different ways, using the Grimm's fairytale of *Little Red Riding Hood*. We examined the choice of language and why the authors chose certain words and locations for their story.

Thank you so much to Dr Lee and Dr Radisoglou for their time and giving us an insight in German beyond the classroom and the opportunities that learning a language can bring.

Frau Butterfield

Year 12 Geography Trip

Year 12 Geography pupils thoroughly enjoyed taking part in their river case study fieldwork recently. As part of their A-level curriculum, they visited several key locations along the River Tees, where they had the opportunity to observe and investigate first-hand the physical and human impacts of precipitation.

Throughout the day, students conducted a variety of measurements and data collection activities. The trip provided valuable practical experience to support their classroom learning and helped deepen their understanding.

Mrs Donovan



Able, Gifted and Talented Theatre Trip

Able, Gifted and Talented Drama students had the pleasure of being invited along to the Darlington Hippodrome for an all access tour, both front of house and backstage.

The theatre guide informed the students of the history of the Hippodrome, the restoration project the theatre underwent 10 years ago, secrets of how the magic of theatre happens on stage and even some ghost stories!

Visits like this offer our students a valuable insight into the wide range of careers available in the field of Drama and help to broaden their horizons. We are incredibly grateful to Darlington Hippodrome for the opportunity.

Mrs Furness





Duke of Edinburgh

Saturday 27 September marked the start of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award for 16 enthusiastic pupils.

The students headed out to the Cleveland Hills to begin their training for the expedition section of the award. During the day, pupils began developing key navigation skills, including understanding map symbols and contour lines, how to orientate a map and how to calculate route timings. These essential skills will support them as they prepare for their assessed expedition later in the year.

Working in small groups, the pupils



demonstrated excellent independence and teamwork, successfully navigating themselves to key landmarks such as Hanging Stone, Roseberry Topping and Captain Cook's Monument. It was impressive to see them taking the lead and applying what they had learned so quickly. A strong and promising start to their Duke of Edinburgh journey – well done to all involved!

Miss Hopkims



U14 Stockton District Rugby Tournament

The U14 Boys' Rugby team played in the final round of the Stockton District Rugby Tournament. With a team mostly consisting of Year 8 students, the boys faced a big physical challenge. The three matches saw them play Dyke House, English Martyrs and Our Lady and St Bede. In all three matches, captain Oliver led the team by example and with effective communication. In attack, both Henrys carried the ball well, with Gideon and Oliver scoring great tries. In defence, Alistair and Oliver put in many outstanding tackles. Despite the determination and efforts of the team, the difference in size and physicality proved to be too much on this occasion. Player of the Tournament was awarded to Oliver.

Mr Williamson



U14 HOCKEY VS EGGLESCLIFFE

The U14 boys continued their excellent run of form with another confident and composed performance this week.

Issac stood strong in goal, making several key saves to keep the opposition at bay. In defence, Henry, Manveer and Oscar were solid throughout, calmly dealing with pressure and breaking down attacking moves. This solid defensive foundation allowed Gabriel, Alistair and Archer to push forward and support the attacking play. Their movement and passing helped create space and opportunities for Oliver and Grayson up front. The team were rewarded with three well-worked goals, showcasing their understanding of space and timing in the final third. The scorers were Grayson, Henry and Alistair. It was a strong all-round display and a real testament to the progress the boys have made in recent weeks. With confidence high and momentum building, there is certainly more success to come. Well played, boys!

Mr Thomas

U14 Girls' County Hockey Tournament

The U14 Girls took part in the County Hockey Tournament at Yarm School on Tuesday 23 September. The team faced some competitive opposition and worked hard throughout a challenging afternoon of matches. Evie played a key role in defence, staying composed under pressure and helping to limit the opposition's chances. There were also some promising attacking moments, with Betsy, Flo and Katie making a few good breaks up the field and looking to create space. The team managed to finish in third place - a great team effort, well done.

Mrs Croslegh



U12 Hockey vs Red House

Our U12 boys put in an excellent display in their first competitive outdoor hockey match as a group, showing great promise and teamwork. It was fantastic to see the boys applying the skills and tactics we have been working on in lessons. From defence through to attack, there were countless positives to take from the performance. Issac, Casey and Aaron all delivered standout performances, showing real composure and skill. Meanwhile, Max, Eshaan and Ethan showed growing confidence and made important contributions throughout the game. Whether it was strong defending, smart passing in midfield, or sharp attacking play, the boys demonstrated a fantastic attitude and a real team spirit.

Mr Thomas



THIS WEEK PHOTO GALLERY



SAVE THE DATE



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 16 October, 6.00pm-7.30pm



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