



PRE-PREP NATIVITY

This year's Nativity performance of *Whoops-a-Daisy Angel* brought together our school community for a heart-warming afternoon.

From the moment the first notes were sung to the final bows on stage, the children shone with confidence, enthusiasm and a genuine sense of togetherness that captured the spirit of the season perfectly.

Every pupil, from our youngest Nursery children to the oldest members of the cast, played a vital part in creating a performance that was both moving and memorable. The entire hall was filled with proud smiles as the children sang beautifully, filling the room with clear, joyful voices. Their expressive storytelling, careful enunciation of lines and wholehearted engagement transported the audience straight to Bethlehem.

One of the most striking aspects of this year's production was the way our older pupils supported and guided the younger children - a touching reminder of the strong bonds that run throughout our school.

The older children were wonderfully attentive, offering gentle encouragement, helping with costumes and cues and reassuring our Nursery stars as they took to the stage. In turn, the younger pupils rose to the occasion with wide-eyed excitement and courage, delivering their roles with great charm.

The children's teamwork and warmth toward one another were evident in every scene. Whether they were singing in chorus or acting out their roles, they worked seamlessly together, showing care and pride in the shared experience.

It was a beautiful way to begin the festive season and a moment we will cherish long after the final song has faded.

Mrs Hannah



WELCOME

As 2025 draws to a close, it feels timely to reflect on a year that has brought Teesside High School and its pupils a remarkable level of success.

It is a sentence I could not have imagined writing eighteen months ago.

Let us not overlook the reality - this has been a year of significant challenge. We have seen a 20% increase in school fees through VAT, the loss of business rates relief, rises in the national living wage and changes to the national insurance threshold. Each of these, individually, would require thoughtful adaptation. Combined, they have created a landscape unlike anything we have experienced in recent memory.

In such a climate, schools like ours must be more flexible, more innovative and more scrupulous. Never have we had to examine our business model with such precision, or act with such determination to ensure we protect what matters most: the education and wellbeing of our students.

History teaches us that times of extreme challenge are also times of opportunity and reinvention. The last challenge of comparable scale was, of course, the Covid pandemic. It demanded agility, courage and creativity. During those months and years, THS not only adapted - we excelled. Our success was not accidental. It came from a shared belief that no challenge is too great when we remain united behind our purpose.

That same belief carries us now.

This year, Teesside High School became the only independent school in Teesside to be acknowledged at the highest level by our inspectorate, ISI. We were judged to meet all inspection standards - an exceptional achievement in itself - but to also meet the prestigious 'significant strength' benchmark. Only around 15% of private schools nationally receive such recognition.

In February, the Department for Education named Teesside High School the best school or college in Teesside for the progress students make at A-level. The league table placed THS in the top 2% of providers nationally and inside the top 100 schools or colleges in the UK for this measure.

In performing arts, we proudly maintain a 100% Distinction rate in LAMDA examinations. In sport, our pupils are delivering results which will write their

names in the Teesside High School history books. Through Duke of Edinburgh, 40 pupils earned their prestigious Bronze and Silver awards - and so inspired by their outdoor education pursuits, four Year 13 pupils completed the Coast to Coast challenge.

We remain committed to academic excellence, but also to kindness. To high standards, but also to understanding. To the belief that every single child can flourish when they are challenged appropriately and supported wholeheartedly. We are so incredibly proud of our students and the thoughtful, curious, resilient, independent and ambitious young people they are becoming.

My warmest thanks go to all parents and families for your support this year. None of what we have accomplished would be possible without you.

I hope you enjoy a peaceful and restorative Christmas break, and I look forward to welcoming you back for what I hope will be an equally exceptional 2026.

Mrs Mackenzie, Head



SUCCESS AT THE STOCKTON DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION

Teesside High School students put on an amazing performance at the Stockton District Cross Country Competition last week.

The competition took place on Wednesday 3 December at Norton Sports Complex and saw 34 of our Senior School students take part.

The races ranged from 1.8km to 3km and, finally, a 5km run. Despite the cold conditions, Teesside High School students displayed outstanding grit and spirit. Their hard work and resilience was admirable and each individual should be extremely proud of themselves.

The Intermediate Boys' race saw Kyle in Year 11 storm to victory with an exceptional 1st place finish, closely followed by John in Year 11, who

secured an impressive 4th.

In the Year 10/11 girls' race, Annabel in Year 11 delivered a commanding run to take 1st place, while Annie in Year 10 followed with a strong 8th place finish in a competitive field.

We are delighted to share that these four athletes have qualified to represent the Stockton District in the next round of the competition, taking place in January.

Congratulations to our runners on their achievements and best of luck as they progress to the next stage!

Mr Williamson



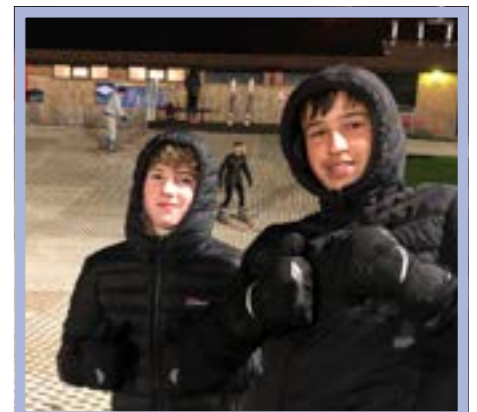
Dry Ski Slope

In order to prepare for this month's highly anticipated ski trip to Austria, Senior School pupils had the opportunity to hone their skills at a dry ski slope. This gave them the chance to brush up on their technique and gain some extra confidence before their exciting adventure. Students are buzzing with excitement as they prepare to leave tomorrow morning.

The trip promises a range of thrilling experiences for the pupils. The cross-border skiing experience between Ischgl (Austria) and Samnaun (Switzerland) will surely be a highlight of the trip, offering stunning alpine views.

For many of the students, this trip is an unforgettable experience that will provide lifelong memories. Be sure to keep an eye on our social media pages, where we will be posting updates and photographs throughout the week to share all of the action with friends and family back home.

Mr Williamson



U15 Indoor Hockey vs Red House



Our U15 boys took on Red House in a closely fought indoor hockey encounter that showcased quality passing, strong teamwork and disciplined defending from both sides.

From the first whistle, each team moved the ball intelligently and created several promising opportunities, only to be denied by two in-form goalkeepers who kept the scoreline tight throughout.

a similar pattern - end-to-end play, committed defending and chances at both ends - but neither side could find a winner. In the end, a 1-1 draw was a fair reflection of an evenly balanced contest.

Teesside were the first to find a breakthrough. After sustained pressure, Arlo produced an excellent finish to put his side 1-0 ahead. The lead, however, was short-lived as Red House responded quickly with a well-worked equaliser of their own.

It was a strong all-round team performance from Teesside, with every player contributing to the result. A special mention goes to Gabriel, Isaac and Issac, who stepped up impressively to play in the U15 squad.

The remainder of the match followed

Mr Williamson

Kyle sets Club Record

Kyle in Year 11 continues to excel in his athletics outside of school and took part in the York 5K Race earlier this month.

Athletics Club U17 record with a time of 15 minutes 33 seconds.

Despite challenging weather, Kyle's performance was incredible and he smashed the Darlington Harriers &

Such an amazing achievement - well done, Kyle!

Mr Williamson and Mr Thomas



Netball Dresses

We are absolutely delighted to announce the arrival of our brand-new netball dresses, which are proudly modelled above by our talented team captains. These new designs combine both style and comfort and the girls are thrilled with how modern they look.

A huge thank you goes to Brunel Group for their generous sponsorship. We are incredibly grateful for their contribution.

We look forward to showcasing these beautiful new dresses in action as the girls gear up for an exciting series of matches ahead!

Miss Hopkins



BOYS NORTH INDOOR HOCKEY FINALS

Following their success in the North East Indoor Hockey Competition on Tuesday 2 December, our U12 boys travelled to Rossall School in Lancashire to take part in the U12 Boys North Indoor Hockey Finals.

The team faced strong opposition throughout the day, playing King's Chester (loss), Yarm (loss) and Calday Grange (draw).

Despite tough fixtures, the boys showed outstanding determination and teamwork. Isaac worked tirelessly in goal, while Freddie, Isaac and Arran drove forward with some excellent attacking play. Noah, Sehej and Max

put in a solid performance in defence, helping keep the team competitive in every match.

Their hard work paid off with an impressive 3rd place finish across the entire North of the country - a fantastic achievement and something the whole school can be proud of.

Mr Thomas

House Hockey Competition

Year 8 and 9 students enjoyed two competitive House hockey games this week.

Woodside showed great skill to secure a victory in the first game, while Victoria bounced back to win the

second with solid defence. Cleveland showed great effort throughout, making it an exciting and competitive afternoon of sport for all.

Mr Thomas



Year 9 Success

We are proud to share individual sporting achievements for two students in Year 9.

Evie D was recently selected to play badminton for Durham in the Anglo/Scottish U14 and U15 Tournament in Newcastle, where she played marvellously.

Elsewhere in the year group, Evie S was named U14 Black Grangetown Athlete of the Month, earning herself a place in the Leeds Rhinos U14 pathway. Well done, girls!

Miss Hodgson



Christmas activities in Reception

Reception children have been full of excitement as they embarked on a range of Christmas-themed activities.

Each pupil brought in a Christmas decoration from home to add to the classroom Christmas tree.

The children took great pride in choosing the perfect spot for their decoration, creating a tree filled with memories and individuality.



Festive Fun in Nursery

The magic of Christmas started early in Nursery, with the children having fun decorating the classroom Christmas tree and making special cards at the start of the month.

The pupils all thoroughly enjoyed choosing decorations which they carefully hung on the tree. With the lights twinkling and the decorations carefully placed, the children enjoyed sharing *The Nativity Story* with their friends.

For their Christmas cards, the children used a shaving foam marbling technique to create the trees. They swirled paint through the foam, forming unique, marble-like patterns. Once these had dried, the children added glitter and sequins, infusing their designs with a touch of sparkle and festive magic!

Miss Hall

The classroom also transformed into a bustling postal service this festive season, where the children were busy acting as hardworking postal workers, packing up parcels, writing thoughtful letters and delivering Christmas gifts.

Miss Graham



Polar Express Day

Nursery had a magical time celebrating their Polar Express theme day, inspired by the children's growing fascination with trains and the excitement of Christmas. They eagerly wrote their name on the tickets before 'boarding' the Polar Express, then warmed up with cups of homemade hot chocolate!

The children spent time drawing wonderful pictures of the Polar Express but the biggest surprise came during their woodland adventure in Forest School that afternoon, where they discovered a hidden basket of Believe Christmas bells!

Miss Hall



A Town Called Christmas

Early Years pupils had a truly magical morning last week, as they ventured to ARC to watch *A Town Called Christmas*.

The show was wonderfully heartwarming, full of festive storytelling and songs that had the children completely captivated from start to finish.

For some of our pupils, this was their very first time visiting the theatre, which made the experience even more special. It is such a privilege to share moments like these with the children.

We were incredibly proud of how respectful, engaged and beautifully behaved the children were throughout the trip. Their enthusiasm and appreciation added to the festive magic of the morning.

We returned to school feeling extra festive after such a joyful performance and it was a delight to experience this together.

Miss Graham



Playing Violin

Pre-Prep pupils had an exciting visit from Mrs Ayling last week where they were able to find out about the violin and explored the different sounds that can be made.

They also had a treat of a little performance from some of our Year 2 students who have been learning to play the violin!

Mrs Hannah



The Gingerbread Man

Reception pupils have been focusing on the traditional tale *The Gingerbread Man* where they have been exploring the story, including singing along to the musical version of the story with great enthusiasm. They enjoyed learning a range of new vocabulary linked to the tale and used it confidently in their discussions and play.

One of the highlights was imagining new and creative ways to reinvent the story. The children came up with some wonderfully imaginative ideas, including inventing a new character, 'The Cheese Man', which linked perfectly to our phonics focus on the digraph 'ch'. Their creativity shone through as they developed their own characters and storylines.

Throughout the week, the children also enjoyed a variety of crafts and activities in provision that linked to the story.

Miss Graham





Rudolph Run in support of Teesside Hospice

On Friday 28 November, pupils from Years 3-6 took part in a sponsored 12 Days of Christmas-themed scavenger hunt and Rudolph Run to raise funds for Teesside Hospice.

Working in teams, pupils moved around the school grounds complete with red noses and antlers locating all 12 themed clues. The event combined physical activity with problem-solving and was met with plenty of enthusiasm from everyone involved.

The winning team included Tom, Raffie, Gabriel and Joseph, followed by Arthur, Teddy, Andres and Mehreen in second place, and Viviana, Ozzy, Sonny and Angelina in third.

Congratulations to the pupils who raised the most sponsorship - Raffie and Amelia in Lower Prep and Millie in Upper Prep.

Thanks to the collective efforts of all pupils and their families. The event raised an impressive £905 for Teesside Hospice.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and took part.

Miss Hopkins



Primary Maths Challenge

Upper Prep students recently took part in the Primary Maths Challenge, where they faced some tricky questions that truly tested their problem-solving skills and perseverance.

Each student worked hard and received certificates in recognition of their efforts.

A particular congratulations goes to Alexander, who earned a Gold certificate for his outstanding performance.

We are incredibly proud of everyone who participated. The enthusiasm and determination shown by Upper Prep was truly impressive. Well done to each and every one of you!

Mrs Bloomfield



Lower Prep Assembly

The children in Lower Prep recently took to the stage to perform their annual form assembly.

In IPC, the pupils have been working incredibly hard to learn about the Ancient Egyptians and Sumerians so there was no surprise that this was the theme of our assembly. The children took on the roles of the gods and goddesses, scribes and townspeople to share a little snippet of what life was like in these ancient civilisations.

No assembly would be complete without some music and the children did not disappoint as they raised the roof with catchy songs.

Whilst sharing some important

information to showcase the children's learning from this unit, there was also an underlying message about the importance of showing love and respect to others and how we should learn from the past to help shape our future.

The children made me incredibly proud as they performed on the stage and I know that they also had lots of fun having an audience. Many thanks to all of the parents and families for coming to support the children and for some amazing costumes.

Mrs Kennedy

Bushcraft Club

As part of their co-curricular club, Bushcraft pupils in Prep have been extremely busy working together to start a fire, perfect their camp craft

and cook garlic bread.

The dark nights and wet weather does not stop them from having lots of fun!

Miss Hopkins



Author Visit

On Thursday 27 November, the children from Years 3 to 6 were fortunate enough to attend an author event.

The event was organised by Drake the Bookshop and featured award-winning author Sophie Kirtley.

The children listened attentively as Sophie spoke about the inspiration behind her books and they even had the opportunity to work together to create their own story as one big group.

Pupils then attended a book signing where they spoke to Sophie and asked any burning questions they may have had.

Sophie was truly inspirational and many of our pupils were motivated by her enthusiasm and passion for writing.

Mrs Carson





Winter Concert

Wednesday 10 December saw the Teesside High School community gather for one of the most anticipated events of the year - the Winter Concert.

The evening opened with an atmospheric performance from the Senior Orchestra, who set the tone with a rich and confident sound playing *Joy to the World* and *Deck the Halls*.

This was followed by Year 11 GCSE musicians then stepping into the spotlight, delivering an ensemble piece on handbells.

Vocal music featured strongly in the concert with the Senior Choir and Prep Voices, while the Prep Orchestra impressed, featuring students as young as Year 2.

Equally captivating were the Year 7 Form Group performances, each bringing their own energy and character to the stage.

The Year 10 GCSE students demonstrated strong technique and maturity, performing with sensitivity and poise with a specially arranged performance of *Birds of a Feather*.

Audience participation was met with enthusiasm from all, with a festive pantomime favourite complete with lively actions. The concert also celebrated individual excellence, with superb solo performances from Poppy, Aiden, Hannah, Gabriel and Alexander.

The evening closed with a final singalong of *Merry Christmas, Everyone* that brought together the spirit of collaboration, creativity and togetherness that defines music at Teesside High School.

Mrs Shevels

Speech Day

Many thanks to everyone who visited school for Speech Day 2025. It is very important to us at THS to celebrate the many achievements of our Senior School and Sixth Form students. It was wonderful to see so many returning pupils and their families.

From a speech delivered by Mr Charles Atha (governor) to outstanding musical performances and presentations on

students' lives since leaving THS, it was a fabulous day.

Particular thanks to our guests of honour, pictured (L-R): Ed - Head Boy, Councillor Stephen Richardson - Mayor of Stockton-on-Tees, Kirsty Mackenzie - Head, Captain Emma Henderson MBE - Speaker and Charles Atha.

Miss Stephens



Charitable Giving

The Teesside High School community has come together to donate over 1600 Christmas gifts and food items to disadvantaged families across Teesside this December.

Earlier this term, we launched our annual charitable giving campaign in support of Mission Christmas and The Trussell Trust Foodbank, based at Hebron Church in Stockton. Since then, staff, students and families have gone the extra mile to provide timely support to families in our local area.

In the Senior School, a fiercely contested House competition saw pupils from Cleveland, Victoria and Woodside Houses bring in food items in their droves. Victoria House emerged victorious with an impressive 374 donations, closely followed by Cleveland House with 324. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

Miss Stephens



Institut Français

Students in Years 9-11 recently travelled to London to visit the Institut Français - an organisation which promotes French language and culture and encourages cross-cultural exchanges from both sides of the Channel.

The day began with a workshop about the film *Au revoir les enfants*. The film is semi-autobiographical and was the winner of the 'Golden Lion' award at the Venice film festival in 1987. The workshop took place entirely in French and the students were very engaged and were excellent ambassadors for Teesside High School, the teacher commented that the students were 'sage' which means very well behaved!



After a short lunch break we watched the film at the 'Ciné Lumière'.

Next, we visited Bute Street which is a street in London known as 'Little Paris'. The students had some free time to explore the area and they noticed many people speaking French in this area of London. They enjoyed a bite to eat at Suzette crêperie before returning home.

Mrs Blyth



Creative Writing Workshop

The THS English Department recently welcomed one of its most talented alumni back through its doors.

We were lucky enough to have Dr Louise Powell - published author, poet, filmmaker and playwright - deliver a series of creative writing workshops to KS3 and KS4 students.

It was an interesting and educational afternoon for all.

Ms Duffy



Velocity 7: Our Journey in STEM Racing

We are Velocity 7, our school's STEM Racing UK team. This year we have been working hard to design and build our racing car using CAD, testing and plenty of teamwork.

We have learned lots about

engineering and problem-solving.

A big thank you to our sponsors, Stockton Round Table and Synesco for supporting us this season.

Velocity 7



THIS WEEK PHOTO GALLERY



SAVE THE DATE



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

TEESSIDE HIGH SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Saturday 7 February, 10.00am-12.00pm



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