

# THiS Week



## THSS SKI TRIP 2025

During the first week of the Christmas break, 39 students and five members of staff travelled to Pfunds in south-west Austria, for the much-anticipated THS ski trip.

The adventure began with an early start on Saturday 13 December, where students departed from Manchester Airport to Memmingen in Germany.

On arrival at the resort, students collected their skis, boots and helmets before settling in for the night.

Thanks to heavy snowfall a few weeks prior to our trip and plenty of sunshine, skiing conditions were excellent. During the first few days, students quickly built strong relationships with their enthusiastic and expert instructors, who adapted sessions to suit our wide range of abilities. Our days began skiing in Samnaun, Switzerland, before many groups took the long chairlift back over the border into Austria, giving students the unique experience of skiing in two different countries.

After long days on the slopes, students enjoyed visits to the local supermarket, stocking up on sweets and snacks, before returning to the hotel for evening meals prepared by the wonderful chefs who looked after us throughout the week. Students also made full use of the hotel swimming pool, enjoying volleyball matches and relay races.

In the final few days, students explored Ischgl on the Austrian side of the resort, enjoying new slopes and modern chairlifts. By this point, progress was clear: several groups confidently tackled red runs, while the most advanced skiers sampled black runs.

After six action-packed days of skiing, there were many tired faces as we headed home, ready for Christmas. Thankfully, the journey back was delay-free and we arrived back in England on time, enjoying a well-earned McDonald's stop and a three-hour singalong on the coach journey back to school.

With countless ski miles covered and many



unforgettable memories made, the Austria-Switzerland ski trip was a huge success.

**Mr Williamson**

# WELCOME

We have had a busy start to the spring term, with much more to look forward to.

Firstly, I want to say a huge well done to our Year 11 and 12 students who started their spring term sitting their mock examinations. I appreciate it must have taken a lot of hard work and dedication through the Christmas break to prepare so thoroughly, but I am very proud of each of you.

Over the holiday, Senior School pupils enjoyed a fantastic skiing adventure, where they took to the slopes in Austria and Switzerland. It looked to be a great time and I loved reading Mr Williamson's account of the unforgettable trip. The fun does not stop there with amazing trips to Iceland, Munich, Berlin and Paris only a few months away! In addition to these international visits, there have already been some great educational experiences a little closer to home this term, from bringing History to life at Darlington Hippodrome to Classics conferences at Newcastle University.

Students from Years 9-12 also had the opportunity to start looking into a variety of different post-school pathways at the 20th THS annual Careers Convention. We welcomed over 45 local businesses and training providers, who all offered expert advice to our students. Parents who attend this event tell us the experience is invaluable for their young person.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming prospective families through our doors on Saturday 7 February for our

Whole School Open Day, where they will have the opportunity to experience what makes Teesside High School so special. This event will also mark the first time Riverbank Nursery opens its doors and I am delighted to share this exciting milestone in our school's history with you.

Whilst on the topic of exciting upcoming events, I am thrilled that we will once again be inviting you to join us for the Teesside High School Spring Ball 2026 for an evening of dinner and dancing. This much-anticipated event is a key part of our PTA fundraising efforts for the year, whilst also raising money for our chosen charity partner, Parkinson's UK. Tickets are available via Reception (cash only, please) or through ParentPay. I look forward to seeing you there and thank you as ever for your continued support.

I hope you enjoy reading the first school newsletter of 2026.

**Mrs Mackenzie, Head**



## U12 Netball vs South Hunsley

The U12 Netball team worked extremely hard in their competitive Sisters n Sport Shield fixture against a very strong South Hunsley side earlier this term.

South Hunsley made an impressive start to the match, taking a 5-1 lead by the end of the first quarter.

Despite this early setback, the girls showed great resilience and determination, continuing to work hard throughout the game and never giving up.

Emily was deservedly awarded Player of the Match for her excellent performance in attack, while a special mention goes to Florence, who showed outstanding commitment and bravery by playing the full match despite suffering a painful fractured finger.

A great effort from all involved - well done, girls.

**Miss Hodgson**



## U16 BOYS HOCKEY VS RED HOUSE

In their first hockey match of 2026, the THS U16 boys faced Red House in a competitive game.

The match began in a scrappy fashion but strong defensive work from George and Isaac effectively shut down any danger.

As the first half drew to a close, the boys were awarded a short corner. John's initial strike was well saved, but Angus reacted quickest to the rebound to fire home the opening goal.

Accurate through-passes from midfielders Angus, John and Ryan paid off when Trinity latched on and unleashed a powerful first-time finish

to make it 2-0.

Just minutes later, Trinity was on hand again, reacting sharply to a goal-mouth scramble to add his second of the match. In goal, Jacob delivered a solid performance throughout, making several important saves.

The match finished 3-1 to THS - a well-earned victory with every player contributing. For his two-goal performance, Trinity was named Player of the Match.

**Mr Williamson**

## Year 8 and 9 Indoor PE

Year 8 and 9 boys spent the start of their spring term PE lessons in the fitness suite, where they were set a number of physical challenges.

Archer recorded the highest number of press-ups completed in one minute, while Oliver achieved the fastest time over a 250m row on the rowing

machine. Alistair claimed victory in the ski-sit challenge, and most impressively of all, Manveer held a plank for over five minutes!

Well done to our new record holders and to everyone who took part.

**Mr Thomas**



## Inter-District Cross Country Competition

Lucie and Annie delivered two excellent performances at the Inter-District Cross Country competition last week.

Competing in a highly competitive field that included one of the country's leading British Inter Girls runners, both athletes demonstrated excellent determination throughout the challenging 3.5km course.

Lucie settled into a strong rhythm early on, sitting in 8th place after the first lap, while Annie followed closely in 12th.

Lucie maintained her position through to the finish, crossing the line in 8th, while Annie showed great resilience to move up one place and finish 11th.

We wish the girls the very best of luck as they progress into the Inter-County event on Saturday 7 February.

**Miss Hodgson**





## Forest School Fun in Nursery

Nursery children have been enjoying a range of activities in Forest School, from hide and seek to bird-watching!

The children were very excited to take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch last week.

They put their fine motor skills to the test as they designed and decorated their own binoculars, ready to head out during Forest School to see how many birds they could spot.

Back in Nursery, they also enjoyed using our special birdwatching area by the window, where they were able to watch for visitors from the garden.

The children had lots of fun creating the most imaginative birds in the

creative area, making a colourful display to celebrate their birdwatching adventures.

**Miss Hall**



### Nursery Obstacle Course

Nursery have had an amazing time in their dedicated PE lesson this week, taking on the challenge of completing the Nursery obstacle course.

The children were full of energy and enthusiasm as they moved through each part of the course, putting their rolling, crawling, climbing and jumping skills to the test.

It was wonderful to see the children encouraging each other and celebrating their successes as they worked their way around the obstacles.

The lesson was a fantastic way to develop their coordination, strength and confidence, and everyone had lots of fun taking part. Well done Nursery!

**Miss Hall**



## To the Rescue!

Nursery children have been having great fun kicking off their new topic, *To the Rescue*, by transforming themselves into superheroes!

The children loved making colourful superhero masks and used their imaginations to describe, in their own

words, the amazing powers they would have. Some superheroes could turn everything pink and sparkly, others could fly high like Spiderman and one even became a superhero train driver!

**Miss Hall**

## EYFS Supertato

Nursery and Reception pupils have been thoroughly enjoying the story of *Supertato*.

The children in Nursery showed great enthusiasm for the book, drawing amazing pictures of the characters and carefully adding their own creative details alongside practising their mathematics skills through counting potatoes and subitising the naughty evil peas.

Reception pupils produced some excellent writing inspired by the book, including thoughtful book reviews and imaginative character work.

It has been wonderful to see their love

of the story reflected so clearly in their writing and creativity.

**Miss Hall and Miss Graham**



## Number Bonds

Reception pupils have been working incredibly hard in Maths as they begin to record their learning in written form.

The children showed excellent concentration as they used concrete resources to explore and work out number bonds before carefully recording their answers.

I have been particularly impressed with their developing number formation, where they have been taking great pride in writing their numbers accurately.

It is wonderful to see their confidence and focus growing so early on in the Spring term.

**Miss Graham**

## Pre-Prep IPC

The children in Pre-Prep had a fun and exciting start to their new IPC unit, *Sensational*.

Pupils created an obstacle course and explored moving around, under, through and over the different objects. They then had to try doing this blindfolded!

This was a great way to explore how important our senses are and also a fantastic team working experience as they helped and guided their partners around the course.

Well done, Pre-Prep!

**Mrs Hannah**





# Able, Gifted and Talented Programme

This term, Able, Gifted and Talented pupils had the opportunity to spend a couple of days with former professional footballer, David Wheater.

Mr Wheater led a football coaching session with Prep School boys, providing great feedback from their games and expert advice that the boys could take away.

In addition to this, Mr Wheater also hosted a talk for Prep School and Senior School students. He spoke to the pupils about his career in football, including his experience of representing England. He also highlighted the importance of adequate sleep and maintaining a healthy diet for those aspiring to

pursue a career in football.

The pupils were particularly fortunate, as Mr Wheater brought along his football shirts and an England cap, which the children were able to try on.

They were also given the opportunity to ask a range of insightful questions.

The talk was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we are extremely grateful to Mr Wheater for giving up his time to speak and work with our pupils.

**Mrs Carson**



## Lower Prep Art

The children in Lower Prep are currently studying a range of different artists, all who have some link to the human body to correspond with their current IPC unit.

Pupils have considered the work of neurodiverse artist Stephen Wiltshire, also known as the human camera, thinking about his incredible talent of being able to draw images from memory from one look at a cityscape. Using this knowledge, the children looked closely at the shapes and textures of the Sixth Form building before drawing it from memory.

The children have also considered the work of disabled artists, Ian Parker and Tom Yendell, thinking carefully about how these artists use their mouths and feet to hold their art equipment. They soon realised how tricky this was when they had a go!

Finally, Lower Prep has also studied the work and style of Julian Opie and created their own images, taking inspiration from this style of work. They have produced fantastic work and should be proud of their ability to understand a wide variety of art.

**Mrs Kennedy**

## Bikeability

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils took part in Bikeability training as part of their PSHE provision, developing essential skills to help them cycle safely and confidently.

Year 5 pupils completed Level 1, focusing on building confidence and core cycling skills in a safe and controlled environment. They learned how to control their bikes effectively, start and stop safely and develop good awareness of their surroundings.

Year 6 pupils expanded on these foundations by completing Level 2, where they put their skills into practice on the roads. Led by qualified instructors, pupils learned how to navigate junctions, signal clearly and make safe decisions in real life cycling situations.

Throughout the sessions, pupils showed excellent focus, enthusiasm and a strong willingness to support one another.

**Mrs Hannah**



## How Humans Work

Lower Prep pupils are thoroughly enjoying their new IPC unit, *How Humans Work*. They recently turned their attention to the digestive system.

The children loved a recent practical lesson, where they replicated the digestive process by breaking up a number of foods including cereal, bread and bananas and mixing them with water to show what happens when food is chewed in the mouth, followed by adding orange juice to replicate stomach acid. The chyme was then squeezed through a pair of tights to show how digested food moves through the intestines to create a waste product.

This was a fantastic way for the pupils to visualise this process whilst experiencing some fun, hands-on learning!

**Mrs Kennedy**



## Learning about Switzerland

Upper Prep French pupils have been learning about Switzerland in their recent lessons.

The class have been following Polly Glot through her travels around this multilingual country, discovering details about the languages spoken and the sports which are popular in

Switzerland.

Pupils then produced their own poster in French encouraging people to visit Switzerland. The pupils have learnt lots of information about this diverse country.

**Mrs Blyth**



## Horrible Histories

On Friday 23 January, Year 7 students headed to the Darlington Hippodrome Theatre for a lively performance of *Horrible Histories: The Concert*.

The show brought history to life as William Shakespeare attempted to create the greatest show on earth, only to be interrupted by a host of troublesome historical figures including Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria.

Things became even more chaotic when Death appeared, followed by ambitious characters such as Boudica and Cleopatra, all competing for the spotlight. Packed with humour, catchy

songs and audience participation, the show was a fantastic opportunity for students to engage with history in a fun and memorable way.

At the end of the show, the students had a chance to meet and chat with the two writers of the show Ben Ward and Claire Wetton, who were particularly interested in our feedback given that this was the first ever performance of the show!

**Miss O'Byrne**

This competition inspires students to express their passion, ideas and imagination through the medium of performance, while simultaneously developing fundamental oracy skills.

Good luck, both!

**Ms Duffy**

## Classics Conference

Senior School Classics students spent the day at Newcastle University on Wednesday 21 January, where they travelled back in time to Ancient Greece and Rome.

Students attentively listened to a wide variety of lectures, covering topics from the history surrounding arguably Rome's harshest dictator to how women were depicted on ancient Athenian pottery.

This was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to enhance their Classics knowledge and provide further context to their learning.

**Miss Malik**



## Year 9 Art Trip

As part of their Architecture Project, Year 9 pupils set off on a trip to Newcastle's historic Quayside last week.

The opportunity to experience contemporary art in Baltic's Gallery could not be missed.

Pupils found a variety of exhibitions very stimulating, ranging from *A Joyful Parasite* with interactive elements and sculpture to *For All at Last Return* which explored how human activities affect marine life.

Students then put what they had learnt about composition into practise to take photographs of the stunning architecture of Newcastle while walking up to Grey's Monument.

Shouts of 'oooh leading lines!' could be heard as we walked up the street.



The spring term will see students exploring post-processing techniques and honing their skills to produce a range of creative photographic outcomes.

**Mrs Machan**

## Teaching Personnel

Sixth Form students were joined by Kyra and Hannah from Teaching Personnel in recent weeks, who delivered a bespoke workshop surrounding interview technique.

Students learned about different models for interview techniques, how to draw on their skills and experiences and had lots of opportunities to practice.

The session aimed to prepare Year 12 and Year 13 students for their upcoming university and apprenticeship interviews, alongside providing them with skills for future workplaces, too.

We have many more inspiring talks taking place this term.

From guidance on devising top university applications to insights into planning a gap year, there is something for everybody.

If you wish to register your attendance at these talks, please email Mrs Furness.

**Miss Stephens and Mrs Furness**

## English Speaking Union

Huge congratulations to Jacob and Martha in Year 8 following their selection to represent Teesside High School in the second round of the Performing Shakespeare Competition, led by the prestigious English-Speaking Union.

## First TH'Oscar Winners of 2026

Year 7 students have just completed their first ever assessment in Drama where Eshaan, Arran and Isabella stood out for their work in the Minefield and Mime topic.

Year 8 winners this term were Lalulah, Jacob and Katie for their

excellent work in Physical Theatre and finally, Year 9 winners were the talented Gideon and Lily who wowed their classes with their monologues, which were performed in the style of Stanislavski.

**Mrs Furness**



# 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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