

THiS Week



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

RIVERBANK NURSERY

We were thrilled to welcome lots of prospective families to our first Riverbank Nursery Open Day on Saturday 7 February, offering an exclusive preview of the new facility ahead of its formal launch later this spring.

Riverbank Nursery combines the warmth and intimacy of a specialist Early Years setting with the strength, stability and educational excellence of an established independent school.

Extensive building work took place during the latter part of the autumn term, transforming two Prep School classrooms into this beautifully curated Early Years setting.

The result is a light-filled, open-plan layout, with dedicated imaginative and creative play areas, cosy reading corners that nurture early literacy and tranquil sleep spaces that provide comfort and security for the youngest children.

The new nursery benefits from direct access to the Riverbank Garden, an Early Years playground facility with an outdoor kitchen, imaginative role play spaces and room for riding trikes and scooters.

Outdoor learning is central to the Riverbank ethos. Children will enjoy daily access to the school's 22-acre grounds and our well-established Forest School provision.

This will enable even the youngest learners to explore woodland trails, engage in hands-on discovery and develop confidence, resilience and a lasting connection to nature.

We have been working diligently behind the scenes to put the finishing touches to Riverbank and every element of each room has been thoughtfully designed.

We would love to hear from families who wish to visit us and find out more about who we are, what we value



and how we can support your children as they take their first step into Early Years care.

Mrs Williams

WELCOME

It has been a super enjoyable first half term of the year.

It was a pleasure to welcome prospective families to our Whole School Open Day and to officially open the doors to Riverbank Nursery, our beautiful new setting for 0-4 year olds, for the very first time. The event had a wonderful atmosphere and truly showcased the spirit of our school community. A huge thank you to all of our pupils who generously gave up their Saturday to support us - you represented the school superbly and we are incredibly grateful.

The PE department has also been exceptionally busy, both in and out of school, with a packed fixture list alongside big internal events such as Inter-House Cross Country. Well done to everyone who competed in the challenging conditions and a special congratulations to Woodside who proudly claimed victory this year.

A number of our students have been completing their practice Duke of Edinburgh hikes in the cold winter weather, too. I was delighted to receive such positive feedback from Miss Hopkins, who praised students' teamwork and perseverance. It certainly sounds as though they are well prepared for their upcoming final expeditions.

Our recent programme of Tea-Time talks has provided students with valuable insight and inspiration. Leading Education delivered an informative session on university applications, with a particular focus on Oxbridge; Cameron Scriven shared expert advice drawn from

his professional acting career and former pupil Dylan spoke about gap year planning. These sessions have been incredibly beneficial for many of our students.

Last week saw the much-anticipated Tea-Time Concert, where our talented musicians and singers confidently showcased their skills. It was a wonderful celebration of creativity and performance and each individual should be proud of their contribution.

As we head into the first school holiday of 2026, I would like to wish all those travelling on the Geography trip to Iceland an unforgettable experience.

I hope everyone else enjoys a restful and well-deserved half term break!

Mrs Mackenzie, Head



Bronze DofE Training Hikes

Earlier this month, Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students took part in their second training hike, completing a circular walk around Carlton-in-Cleveland, Faceby and Swainby.

The morning started with light drizzle, but conditions improved during the afternoon with clearer skies. The focus of the day was micro-navigation, with this being the students' first self-led walk using RV points.

All groups managed the route well and showed good progress in their navigation and teamwork. A special mention goes to the boys' group of Grayson, Gideon, Archer and Oscar, who completed the route extremely efficiently, demonstrating strong navigation skills and good fitness.

Miss Hopkins



INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

Senior School students enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of Inter-House Cross Country in some very tricky conditions.

These House events rely on the voluntary participation and enthusiasm of our pupils and it was heartwarming to see them compete in their droves, in spite of the awful conditions, in order to earn points for their respective teams.

The results were as follows:

Year 7 and 8 Girls

1st - Katie, 2nd - Thea, 3rd - Isabella

Year 7 and 8 Boys

1st - Isaac, 2nd - Manveer, 3rd - Casey

Year 9 and 10 Girls

1st - Tinashe, 2nd - Lucie, 3rd - Annie



Year 9 and 10 Boys

1st - Lewis, 2nd - Noah, 3rd - Archer

Senior Girls

1st - Annabel, 2nd - Martha, 3rd - Lily

Senior Boys

1st - Kyle, 2nd - Rhys, 3rd - Willoughby

Overall House Results

1st - Woodside (13 points)

2nd - Cleveland (12 points)

3rd - Victoria (11 points)

Well done to all involved and a special mention to Woodside who claimed the victory!

Miss Turnbull



U14 Football vs Thornaby Academy

The U14 football team travelled to Thornaby Academy for a competitive 9-a-side fixture and made a positive start to the game.

THS started off strong, moving the ball well with direct passing from Gabriel and lively wing play from Manveer.

The opening goal soon followed when Oliver launched a long throw into the box, which Alistair reacted to quickest, tapping in at the back post.

The boys remained solid defensively, with Henry and Rohan making a number of important interceptions.

Thornaby started the second half strongly and took the lead early on to make it 2-1.

In response, THS switched to a more attacking formation and began to apply pressure. The equaliser arrived when Oliver stepped up to score from a free kick, bringing the score back to 2-2.

From that point on, the boys dominated the game, creating several chances. The winning goal came after a well-worked move, with Archer attacking down the right wing and squaring the ball to Jacob, who showed excellent footwork to create space and calmly slot the ball into the bottom corner, sealing a 3-2 victory for THS.

It was a strong all-round team performance, with Oliver named Player of the Match.

Mr Williamson



U14 and U15 Netball vs Red House

The Under 14 and Under 15 girls took to the court against Red House in a competitive set of fixtures.

First up were the Under 15 girls (pictured), captained by Olivia. The final three quarters were closely contested, with the team showing great resilience and teamwork. Despite their strong comeback effort, the final score stood at 6-9.

Next, the Under 14B team, led by Skyler, faced a challenging first half and were 5-1 down at halftime. After the break, the girls showed excellent improvement, working together far more effectively and demonstrating great perseverance. Their hard work paid off as they narrowed the gap in the second half, finishing with a respectable

7-3 result.

Finally, the THS Under 14A team played against Red House Under 15A. Captained by Tinasha, this was an outstanding performance from the team. Every player contributed, working tirelessly in attack and defence. Their teamwork and determination were evident throughout, earning them an impressive 15-7 victory.

Well done to all the girls for their effort and dedication on the court.

Miss Turnbull

Upper Prep Netball Tournament

Upper Prep girls took part in a series of friendly netball matches against two Durham School teams and a team from Whinney Banks. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to put into practice the skills and tactics they have been developing in their lessons.

The standard of play across all three games was very good. Strong

teamwork and accurate passing allowed for some impressive passages of play. It was clear that the girls are developing a better understanding of positioning and game awareness.

A special mention to Francesca, who was awarded Player of the Match in all three games – a fantastic achievement.

Miss Turnbull



U11 Annual Cross Country Event

Selected Year 7 and 8 students attended the annual Red House Invitational Cross Country event in recent weeks.

Each pupil demonstrated outstanding determination and resilience as they tackled the 2.8km Norton Sports Charity course.

Huge well done to the THS boys who secured an impressive second place and the girls who finished third.

Mr Williamson



NORTHERN SCHOOLS' CROSS COUNTRY

Four Teesside High School students competed in the Northern Schools' Inter-County Cross Country Championships in recent weeks.

Kyle, Annabel, Lucie and Annie proudly represented Cleveland against some of the strongest athletes in the region.

Kyle finished a very impressive 2nd in the Intermediate Boys' race (1st place for Cleveland), whilst in the Intermediate Girls - Annabel placed 2nd, Lucie 4th and Annie followed closely in 6th (all for Cleveland).

As a result of these superb performances, all four athletes have qualified for the National Championships - a remarkable achievement that will see them competing at the very highest level

and representing Cleveland nationally. Incredible!

Mr Williamson and Mr Thomas



U11 Football Tournament

The U11 boys enjoyed a great afternoon of football in a recent tournament.

THS won the first semi-final after some excellent play between Joseph, Ozzy and Toby, with Ethan making several important saves to keep us in the game.

In the final, the boys were outstanding again. There was some great attacking play and footwork from Arthur and

Tom, while Alexander and Andrés put in a solid defensive performance at the back.

It was also fantastic to see Gabriel and Seb transferring what they have learned in lessons into their match play.

Well done, boys - a brilliant team effort!

Mr Thomas

U13 and U14 Netball vs St Michael's Academy

The U13 team put on a fantastic performance from the start, with Katie earning Player of the Match through her mid-court dominance.

Ava and Jocelyn linked well to defend, whilst Lucy grew in confidence with each minute giving the shooters little space.

Charlotte and Katie were great in midfield, allowing Yasmin to really assert herself against a strong opponent to supply Lyla with good opportunities to shoot. The girls finished with an excellent 11-2 victory.

The U14 girls faced a fierce side. Skyler put in a really strong captain's performance, leading the team from the first whistle. Alongside Skyler, Evangeline and Elise played well to provide Emelia with good opportunities to shoot and score. A well earned Player of the Match went to Emelia.

Elise grew in confidence with her interceptions as the game progressed and Gracie made some good runs to create space, whilst Isabelle worked her defender to open the space in the circle for Emelia. The game ended in a respectable draw.

Miss Stephens





Children's Mental Health Week

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, Nursery children thoroughly enjoyed sharing the story *In My Heart*.

The book provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to explore and develop their understanding of language linked to different feelings, such as happiness, sadness, excitement and calmness.

Through thoughtful discussions, the children confidently shared their own emotions and talked about times when they had experienced these feelings.

They especially loved reflecting on the people who make them feel happy and safe.

To celebrate this, the children created their own beautiful hearts, filling them with drawings of the special people in their lives who bring them joy and comfort.

Miss Hall

'My heart feels happy when I'm here with

you Miss Hall and my heart is never sad.'

Jaxx

'My heart is broken when my tummy is poorly, but it is better when I am with mummy, daddy and Bo.'

Arlo

'My heart is sad when people don't say kind things but if people say sorry it's fixed. My heart is happy when I'm at Nursery playing with my friends.'

Alara

'My heart feels sad when I can't play with the train tracks but happy when I'm cuddling my mummy.'

Tommy



EYFS Police Visit

Early Years pupils had a special visit from a local Police Community Support Officer, bringing their topic *To the Rescue* to life.

They learnt all about the important work of the police, thoroughly enjoyed trying on items of uniform and even had the chance to speak to another officer via the walkie talkie back at the Police Station!

A very big thank you to the team Cleveland Police for kindly giving up their time to support our children's learning.

Miss Hall and Miss Graham



Valentine's Day

Nursery and Reception pupils celebrated Valentine's Day through lots of fun activities.

The children in Nursery worked incredibly hard to create their very own personalised Valentine's cards, counting out hearts to develop their mathematical skills and designs to enhance their creativity, experimenting with textures, shapes and patterns

It was wonderful to hear them speaking about their families and friends with such warmth and excitement.

One of the highlights of Nursery celebrations has been creating our 'Boxes of Love'. The children decorated their own special boxes and filled them with love before safely tying them up with a special ribbon ready to give to the people they love.

Reception pupils have been celebrating 'love' through a range of thoughtful and creative activities ahead of Valentine's Day this weekend. They also carefully made cards for their loved ones, writing

heartfelt messages inside and drawing pictures.

In Drawing Club, the focus text has been *Love Monster*, which has led to meaningful discussions about accepting others for who they are and the importance of spreading love and kindness.

Miss Hall and Miss Graham



Pre-Prep Assembly

Pre-Prep enthusiastically shared their learning with family and friends with a joyful and confident Form assembly.

They shared their learning about Aesop and his timeless fables. The children introduced the audience to the story of *The Grasshopper and the Ant*, retelling the tale with enthusiasm and clear understanding of its important message about hard work and preparation.

The assembly was brought to life through expressive storytelling and wonderful teamwork, showcasing the children's growing confidence in speaking and performing in front of others.

Pre-Prep also treated us to two lively songs, which were sung with great energy and big smiles all round.

It was a lovely celebration of their learning and a proud moment for everyone involved. Well done, Pre-Prep!

Mrs Hannah



Pre-Prep IPC

As part of their IPC unit, *Sensational*, Pre-Prep pupils carried out a hands-on investigation to answer an intriguing question: 'Do we need one sense or two in order to taste?'

To explore this, the children bravely volunteered to wear blindfolds while tasting a variety of foods, seeing how

this affected their ability to identify flavours.

The investigation sparked discussion about how our senses work together and the children were fascinated to discover just how important our sense of smell is in helping us taste.

Mrs Hannah



Bushcraft Club and Woodland Explorers

Pupils from across Pre-Prep and Lower Prep have been loving their co-curricular provision in Forest School.

Pre-Prep have been exploring the forest, playing Capture the Cone and learning how to safely start and maintain a fire, whilst Lower Prep continue to work towards their Growing Level Cooking Award, cooking a tasty treat and proudly sharing it with

their classmates.

Both of these clubs have also had the opportunity to roast marshmallows on the fire which is always a lovely end to their sessions!

Miss Hopkins



Able, Gifted and Talented Programme

Prep AG&T students participated in an online workshop in celebration of National Storytelling Week recently.

The session was led by Alin Kamara, a master storyteller and award-winning performer. He introduced the children to rhyming patterns and explained how

rap is structured around bars with four beats.

The children then composed their own rap inspired by the theme of superpowers!

Mrs Carson



Upper Prep Biology

Upper Prep students made their way across to the Senior School laboratories this week to develop their Science skills.

The session tested pupils' precision and anatomical understanding by dissecting chicken wings! The group also had the chance to see a real heart in person and show off the knowledge they have acquired through their IPC topic, *Being Human*.

Spending time in the Senior School allows our younger pupils to experience a natural extension of their learning journey.

By becoming familiar with the environment, teachers and some elements of the curriculum, pupils gain confidence and a sense of belonging, making their transition to Year 7 extremely seamless indeed.

Mr Russell and Mrs Bowey



Year 4 and 5 English

Year 4 and Year 5 have been working extremely hard on their writing in recent weeks.

Year 4 pupils have been studying the text of *Harry Potter* by JK Rowling, exploring the magical world and memorable characters within the story.

Meanwhile, Year 5 pupils have immersed themselves in *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien.

The children have produced their own imaginative narrative pieces inspired by these texts, demonstrating creativity and an increasing awareness of audience and purpose.

They engaged very positively with this unit of work and incorporated a wide range of imaginative and effective

elements into their final pieces.

We are incredibly proud of the progress they have made and the effort they have shown throughout this topic.

Mrs Carson



Alexander's Musical Achievement

Alexander in Year 6 has successfully secured a place in the Tees Valley Youth Orchestra, the flagship ensemble of Tees Valley Music Service and one of the largest youth orchestras in the UK, due to his exceptional clarinet skills.

Regularly performing some of the most challenging repertoire written

across all musical genres, the orchestra regularly fill local venues and tour Europe bi-annually.

This is a fantastic achievement demonstrating his considerable musical dedication, both in and out of school. Well done, Alexander.

Mrs Shevels



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day has been celebrated throughout the Prep School, providing all pupils with a clear understanding of how to stay safe online.

Pre Prep enjoyed learning all about Artificial Intelligence and how to use it safely.

They began by exploring what AI is and discussing where we might see it being used in everyday life. Together, they created some very important guidelines.

They then put this to the test by inventing a wonderfully random robot description and were amazed when the AI created an image that matched their imaginative ideas so accurately.

It was a fun and thoughtful lesson that helped the children understand both the excitement of AI and the importance of staying safe when using it.

Mrs Bowey





Music students explore the Power of Rhythm Ahead of Hallé's Eroica Performance

THS musicians stepped into the world of composition with a workshop dedicated to rhythm last week.

Students explored how different types of rhythms can bring energy and excitement to music. They learned how changing the beat, repeating patterns, or placing emphasis in unexpected places can make a piece more interesting.

With award-winning composer Ben Lunn, students explored how to develop a simple rhythm into whole pieces using techniques such as augmentation, retrograde, diminution and sequence. By working together, they layered different rhythms on top of each other and transformed basic ideas into rich, lively pieces.

The Middlesbrough Town Hall Crypt was soon filled with creative mini-compositions. Ben encouraged students to keep improving their work and to push their ideas further.

Later, these ideas came to life during a pre-concert talk and evening performance. The concert featured internationally renowned cellist Jan Vogler, whose playing told powerful musical stories.

Students listened carefully to how

Edward Elgar uses subtle changes in rhythm and flexible timing to deepen emotion in his music.

After the interval, they heard Ludwig van Beethoven's groundbreaking Eroica Symphony. Having explored rhythm in their workshop, students could recognise how Beethoven builds large sections of music from short, simple ideas and surprising accents.

The concert was an inspiring experience, helping students connect their own creative work with the skill and artistry of professional musicians.

Mrs Shevels



Easter Egg Raffle in support of Cancer Research

THS is once again coming together to support Cancer Research UK through our annual Easter Egg Raffle. This much-loved event has been running for the past three years and continues to be a wonderful way for our school community to support an important cause.

Last year, thanks to the generosity of parents, staff and local businesses, we raised an amazing £1,400. We are hoping to build on this success again this year and make an even bigger difference.

The raffle will include a range of Easter eggs and chocolate hampers, with all proceeds going directly to Cancer Research UK, helping to fund vital research and life-saving treatments.

Raffle tickets will be available to purchase via ParentPay from Monday 2 March until Friday 20 March. Tickets will also be on sale during the school production of *Sister Act* between Tuesday 24 March and Thursday 26 March.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and generosity. Together, we can help make a real difference.

Mrs Bell



Tea-Time Talks

Senior School students have been given fantastic opportunities to attend 'Life Beyond THS' talks, this half term.

The first of these talks began with Leading Education, who gave expert guidance on how best to approach Oxbridge, Imperial College and other university interviews with confidence.

This was then followed by a 'Drama Beyond THS' talk, where the students were provided with great insights from Cameron Scriven about his professional acting career.

Finally, we were delighted to welcome former pupil Dylan back to school, where he spoke on the topic of gap years. Dylan has spent recent months travelling across South America and Europe and shared his experiences



with pupils, including where he visited, how to plan a successful gap year and practical tips for making the most of such an opportunity.

Mrs Furness



Half Term Music Update

Musicians across the whole school have been delighting us with several lovely performances this half term.

Throughout the recent Open Day, they entertained our visitors with a wide range of pieces in different musical styles performed on piano, cello, guitar, clarinet, violin and singing.

In addition to this, the recent Tea-Time Concert saw mainly GCSE Music students who were making full use

of the opportunity to record their performances as part of their GCSE coursework submissions. It was a delight to also hear from some of our younger musicians as well as our music scholars.

Well done and thank you to all our talented musicians for their hard work and for sharing their enthusiasm with us.

Mrs Shevels



STEM Racing

Two THS teams competed in the regional final of STEM Racing (formerly F1 in Schools) earlier this month - 'Velocity 7', made up of Year 9 students Kemisola, Gracie, Elise, Azwa, Abigail and Sophia and 'Vitesse', made up of Year 10 students Sam, Noah, Connor and Oliver.

Both teams had to race their cars against other teams, submit an engineering and design portfolio and marketing portfolio, and present to a panel of judges.

Velocity 7 had the fastest car on the day and the team was highly commended by all of the judges.

Overall the day was a great success and all students learnt a range of new skills throughout the competition.

Thanks so much to all of the businesses who sponsored the teams.

Mr Duncalfe



THIS WEEK PHOTO GALLERY



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