



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

It has been an extremely busy few weeks for our DofE pupils, with Bronze, Silver and Gold expeditions all taking place throughout April.

Bronze DofE groups completed their final training hike in mid April, taking a self-led walk through Bedburn and into Hamsterley Forest, putting their navigation and teamwork skills into practice. Reaching the furthest picnic spot, they focused on essential expedition training, learning how to pitch tents and safely use Trangia stoves.

After lunch, they set off on a second, more challenging walk. Carrying heavier rucksacks and tackling some steep uphill sections, the group showed great determination and worked well together throughout.

Silver students took part in their practice expedition in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales during the Easter break, setting off just outside of Richmond in high spirits. Their route took them through the scenic Applegarth Low Wood before continuing into Marske. From there, they made their way down towards Hollins Farm and Low Oxque, successfully navigating a variety of terrain. All groups arrived safely at camp, where they set up tents and settled in for the evening.

Day two proved to be more challenging, with a longer and more demanding route. Starting from Nun Cote Nook campsite, the groups headed towards Marrick, crossing Oxbridge Bridge along the way. Despite the increased difficulty, students showed resilience and determination, rising well to the challenge.

Gold participants completed their expedition, the most challenging over the awards, in the breathtaking Lake District. Despite a forecast of rain, the group were rewarded with sunshine and blue skies throughout much of the trip, creating fantastic conditions for walking.

Groups set off bright and early, travelling to their starting point at the top of Loweswater. The students'



three days in the Lakes showcased excellent navigation skills, teamwork and a consistently good pace. Their resilience and positive attitude were clear to see, particularly given the distance and complexity of the routes. These pupils will now continue working on their Skills, Physical, Volunteering and Residential sections as they prepare for their final expedition in the summer.

It has been an action-packed but rewarding few weeks for our outdoor education provision and we look forward to seeing what our students can achieve in the final elements of their respective awards over the coming term.

Miss Hopkins

WELCOME

A warm welcome back to school for the start of the summer term.

The long summer days have made for a glorious start to term and we have much to look forward to between now and July.

Following a rather busy Easter break, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the staff members, families and children who joined us following the official opening of Riverbank Nursery at Teesside High School on Wednesday 8 April.

The nursery staff have worked exceptionally hard to provide a seamless start for their new starters and the babies and children have settled in wonderfully. It is lovely to see them wandering through the grounds, exploring their new setting with their new friends!

I must also add a welcome note to those new to the Prep and Senior Schools this term, too. It has been lovely to introduce additional pupils to a number of year groups.

Since our return after Easter, our focus at the top of the school has been around examination preparation. Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils are just days away from some of their most important exams and our priority is to ensure they are calm, collected and ready to shine. Our intervention sessions throughout the year have been extremely well-attended and students across these year groups have shown enormous dedication. I hope the examination period is kind to you all and you each have the chance to showcase your

knowledge and talents.

As examination season arrives, we are marking the final days of Year 13 pupils' time at THS and Year 11 students' time in the Senior School with two celebratory assemblies. We also have plans for a Sixth Form Leavers event and Year 11 Good Luck party. Pupils in these year groups have made an incredible mark upon our school and their absence across the study leave period will definitely be felt. We could not have wished for two more outstanding year groups, and we know they are ready to approach their next steps with confidence.

It is this term that our stunning grounds truly come to life and pupils have relished spending lots of their time outdoors, whether through aspects of their lessons, social time, enrichment in Forest School or sporting fixtures. As ever, the PE Department is making preparations for our annual Sports Days - occasions not to be missed! Please save the dates:

Friday 12 June (pm) - Prep School Sports Day

(Wet weather alternative: Friday 19 June)

Monday 29 June (pm) - Senior School Sports Day

(Wet weather alternative: Tuesday 30 June)

I hope you enjoy reading about our first few weeks of the summer term.

Mrs Mackenzie, Head



Swimming Gala

Before the Easter break, we held our annual Prep Swimming Gala, bringing together Cleveland, Victoria and Woodside Houses in an exciting competition for the championship title.

The event featured pupils from Years 3 to 6, each taking part in at least four races, including front crawl, backstroke, breaststroke and relay events.

After more than 25 races, Cleveland House secured third place. With scores incredibly close between the remaining two houses, the overall result came down to the final relay. In a thrilling finish, Victoria House delivered a fantastic performance to claim victory and lift the trophy.

All swimmers performed exceptionally well throughout the gala. It was particularly impressive to see our Lower Prep pupils, who had recently completed their 11-week swimming programme, confidently showcasing the skills they have developed. We look forward to next year's gala where Victoria will be defending their title!

Mr Williamson



SUMMER TERM TEAM CAPTAINS

Congratulations to all students holding responsibility as Team Captains for the 2025-26 summer term:

Boys' Cricket

U11 - Ethan Sandhu

U12 - Isaac (pictured)

U13 - Gabriel (pictured)

U14 - Jacob Scott

U15 - Arlo (pictured)

Girls' Cricket

U11 - Angelina Josan

U13 - Jocelyn (pictured)

U15 - Lily Tucker

Boys' Athletics

U11 - Arthur Wheeler

U12 - Casey (pictured)

U13 - Manveer (pictured)

U14 - Archer Hodgson

U15 - Lewis & Noah (pictured)

Girls' Athletics

U11 - Emma Anderson

U12 - Lola (pictured)

U13 - Faith (pictured)

U14 - Tinashe (pictured)

U15 - Annie (pictured)

Rounders

U14 - TBC

U15 - Olivia (pictured).

We look forward to seeing these pupils progress in their roles over the coming weeks and months.

Miss Turnbull



Girls' Cricket

This year has marked an exciting change in the PE Department, with rounders being replaced by girls' cricket to complement athletics sessions.

It has been wonderful to see so many girls embracing the new sport, developing a range of skills and growing in confidence each week.

On Tuesday, a large group of Year 7 and 8 students stayed behind after school for extra training, putting their newly learned bowling and batting techniques into practice.

We have a number of outstanding female cricketers in school and they are adding great strength to the teams.

The girls are thrilled to have been entered into the Tees Valley Cricket Leagues, and we wish them the very best of luck in their upcoming matches.

Miss Turnbull





Nursery Workshop

Nursery pupils have been thoroughly enjoying exploring the new workshop area in the classroom.

This engaging space supports a wide range of learning opportunities, including communication and language development, as well as personal and social skills such as teamwork and compromise, alongside fine motor development. It also supports mathematical development, as the children explore 3D shapes and their properties through hands-on building and construction.

The children have shown great enthusiasm in investigating the resources and have used their

incredible imaginations to bring their ideas to life. One particularly exciting creation was a giant water slide, complete with a swimming pool at the end!

There was even more excitement when the children returned the following day to find a letter from Willow the Workshop Fairy, who shared how much she loves seeing their amazing models and expressed her excitement to see what they will build next.

Miss Hall



Pirate Characters in Reception

Reception children have made a fantastic start to our *Pirates and Princesses* topic, diving into their learning with great enthusiasm and curiosity. The children have enjoyed learning about real-life pirates and some of their traditions, which sparked lots of interesting discussions and questions. They also had great fun exploring pirate language, using new words and phrases during play and storytelling.

A highlight of the week has been creating their own pirate characters. The children used their growing writing skills to describe their pirates, thinking carefully about their appearance, personality and adventures. Each child brought their own unique ideas to their work, resulting in a wonderful range of imaginative and detailed characters. It has been a brilliant start to the topic!

Miss Graham



We Are What We Eat!

Pre-Prep children have enjoyed an exciting start to their new IPC unit, *We Are What We Eat*.

To bring their learning to life, the classroom was transformed into a bustling restaurant, full of energy, creativity and collaboration.

Each pupil took on an important role within the restaurant. Some became chefs, carefully preparing delicious meals, others became waiters taking orders and ensuring their customers

were well looked after. The customers enjoyed choosing from the menus and selecting their own meals. It was a fantastic way to launch the topic and the children are already looking forward to discovering more about food, nutrition and healthy lifestyles over the coming weeks.

Mrs Hannah

Mini Makers

Summer term co-curricular provision is in full swing and pupils across Prep are enjoying engaging in their interests and developing their skills through a range of enrichment activities.

Tuesday's Mini Makers gives pupils the chance to explore their creativity and make a variety of crafts to take home. This week pupils crafted their own spinner toys, using a range of colours to design their own

masterpiece. As the wind caught their creations, they twirled to make different patterns, sparking amazement amongst the class!

Mini Makers is all about fostering creativity and teamwork and it is wonderful to see the children supporting each other and working together. We look forward to seeing what they are busy making next week!

Mrs Hannah

Nursery Garden

Nursery children are making the most of the great outdoors, embracing every opportunity to learn and play in their beautiful garden.

They have been enjoying water play, which is not only lots of fun but also helps develop important teamwork and collaboration skills.

Shared books support early literacy, while construction toys and the outdoor kitchen encourage creativity, problem-solving and imaginative play.

We are incredibly fortunate to have direct access to such a wonderful space, where every corner offers new experiences and learning opportunities.

Miss Hall





Upper Prep Residential

It's an exciting few weeks in Prep as two residential visits take place for Years 3-6, the first of which saw Upper Prep travel south to explore LEGOLAND Windsor and Warner Bros. Harry Potter Studios this week as part of their IPC topic *Fairgrounds*.

Upper Prep had an unforgettable trip to London, packed with excitement from start to finish. The adventure began at the Lee Valley White Water Centre, where the children tried their hand at paddleboarding and tackled a fun-filled obstacle course.

The following morning, everyone was up bright and early, ready for a full day at LEGOLAND Windsor Resort. The day kicked off with a round of crazy golf, sparking some impressively competitive spirit. Next came a highlight of the trip: a roller coaster workshop. Here, the children explored the science behind rides, learning about forces such as gravity and momentum before designing and building their own LEGO roller coasters. It was a

fantastic, hands-on experience that linked perfectly to their IPC learning.

The final day brought a magical end to the trip with a visit to Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter. During the tour, the children were captivated by the intricate set designs, detailed costumes and impressive technical effects used in the films. Seeing the behind-the-scenes creativity up close left everyone amazed.

It was a truly memorable trip, filled with learning, laughter and new experiences - one that the children will be talking about for a long time to come.

Mrs Carson



Forest Adventure Holiday Camp

On Friday 10 April, Forest Adventure Holiday Camp pupils enjoyed a wonderful spring day outdoors, making the most of the fresh air and beautiful woodland surroundings.

The children had great fun exploring the forest, building dens and getting creative in the mud kitchen. There were plenty of opportunities for adventure too, with pupils swinging on the rope swing, relaxing in the hammock and climbing trees with confidence.

A highlight of the day was the chance to take part in camp craft activities. Pupils worked together to build a fire safely, which they then used to toast hot cross buns, roast marshmallows and prepare hot chocolate and warm squash.

It was a fantastic day full of creativity, teamwork and outdoor learning, with beaming smiles all around.

Bookings are now open for our camps in May half term and the summer holidays. Easter sessions were fully booked, so don't miss this opportunity to join us.

Miss Hopkins



Xylophones

Pupils in Lower Prep have been working on a DT project which tasked them to design and make their own xylophones as part of their IPC learning.

In the last newsletter, we shared some photographs of the children cutting and sanding their wood in the Senior School DT workshop. We are now delighted to be able to share the children's completed projects!

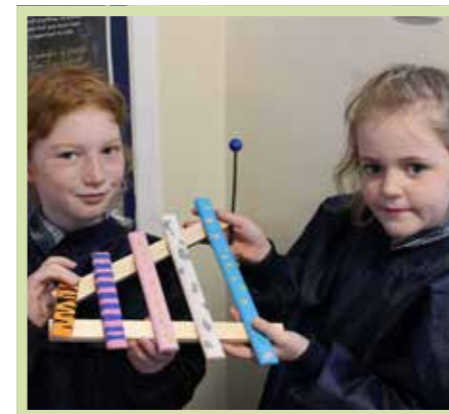
Since visiting DT, the children have applied their chosen designs to each bar of their xylophones and have added a protective coat of mod podge so that



they can play their instruments. They have also worked carefully to assemble their xylophones, using velcro dots so that the bars could successfully vibrate to make the sounds.

The children have worked with care and enthusiasm throughout this project and we have all been delighted with their completed work.

Mrs Kennedy



Earth Day

Forest School was buzzing with energy last week as Pre-Prep and Prep pupils rolled up their sleeves to care for our woodland as part of Earth Day 2026.

The children took great pride in clearing the forest, learning along the way to spot the difference between man-made and natural materials.

Working brilliantly as a team, the children transported their discoveries using wheelbarrows and trolleys, turning hard work into an adventure. Their teamwork, curiosity and commitment to protecting the environment was incredible to see - the woods have never looked better!

Miss Hopkins





Munich 2026

At the end of March, a group of students from Year 8 to Year 11 embarked on an unforgettable school trip to Munich.

The visit proved to be both educational and engaging, offering a powerful blend of history, culture and fun activities that left a lasting impression on everyone involved.

Our knowledgeable tour guide, Nigel, played a key role throughout the trip, bringing the city's history to life as he guided us around Munich's most significant sites. One of the most moving experiences was our visit to Dachau Concentration Camp. Walking through the site and listening to the stories shared during the tour was deeply emotional and provided a sobering reminder of the past. It was an experience that encouraged reflection and helped us better understand the importance of remembrance.

We also had the exciting opportunity to visit the Allianz Arena, home of Bayern Munich. The guided tour took us through the players' dressing rooms and the conference area, giving us a behind-the-scenes look at one of Europe's most impressive stadiums. For many students this was a definite highlight of the trip.

Another fascinating stop was the BMW Museum, where we learned about the development of automobiles and advances in technology. The exhibits showcased both historic and modern

vehicles, demonstrating innovation and engineering excellence.

At the Olympic Park, we explored the legacy of the 1972 Olympics and learned about the Cold War context, including the tragic Munich Massacre. This added another layer of historical understanding to our trip. We also delved into Munich's political past, learning about the Munich Putsch the White Rose Resistance, and even visiting the site of the old Nazi headquarters.

Overall, the trip to Munich was incredibly rewarding. Students gained a deeper understanding of history while also enjoying memorable experiences with their peers, making it a truly valuable and unforgettable journey.

Miss O'Byrne



TH'Oscar Winners

TH'Oscar awards have been presented to Arran, Bailey and Alice in Year 7 who all performed an outstanding monologue from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Students had to learn the script fully, block the monologue themselves and direct it on their own, too - no mean feat! To do this at such a young age is extremely impressive.

In Year 8, Ewan and Faith received awards after creating realistic and challenging roles playing characters trapped in a dystopian Britain in *The Party Drama*. Ewan and Faith's characters challenged the hierarchy within a whole group drama and used their knowledge on democracy, *1984* and other world events to push back against a system designed to brainwash citizens.

Finally, Year 9 students Tinashe and Elise were deserving winners after performing an extract from Dennis Kelly's *DNA*, where they consolidated all of their skills and hard work over the last two terms to perform a thought-provoking and believable performance.

Well done to all.

Mrs Furness



Theatre Trip

Both prospective and current GCSE Drama students, as well as those studying the subject at A-level, had the opportunity to visit Darlington Hippodrome to see Darlington Operatic Society's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* this week.

The show was packed full of colour, as expected, alongside outstanding vocals and amazing choreography.

The trip was a social trip to form new bonds and relationships between those already studying Drama and those who have opted to study it next year.

Studying Drama is more than simply attending lessons. The classes feel more like families, with an enormous

amount of trust involved, and trips like this cement bonds and friendships whilst allowing our students to see first-class productions which further enhances their analysis and examination techniques.

Here's to many more productions with this fantastic set of students!

Mrs Furness

Year 10 Business

Year 10 Business students have recently started their final topic for this year, Business Operations.

They have been learning about Job and Batch Production and what better way to understand the difference between these two production methods than to actually experience them!

Students were tasked with manufacturing dice by following three stages of production, specifically, cutting out the template, folding along the lines and gluing the template together.

Students manufactured their dice according to their allocated production method. Those using job production completed all three stages of production at their own pace to produce one die at a time.

In contrast, those using batch production worked in groups of three with all students working to produce one die each, but with the requirement that no-one in the group could progress to the next stage of production until everyone had finished the current stage.

Students really enjoyed the practical



LAMDA Results

We are celebrating another outstanding set of LAMDA examination results.

From March's examiner visit, our students recorded an incredible 86% Distinction rate, with the remaining 14% of entries awarded Merits.

Our talented pupils should be extremely proud of their efforts.

We are sure more success will follow in the next examination series in June!

Mrs Furness



focus of the lesson, which also helped to secure their understanding of this topic.

Mrs Boothroyd

THIS WEEK PHOTO GALLERY



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