



THIS TRIP TO ICELAND

In February, Senior School pupils travelled to Iceland to be greeted by exceptionally bright and crisp weather.

Our journey began straight from the airport with a visit to the Bridge Between Continents, where we were introduced to the incredible forces of plate tectonics. From there, we continued to the Gunnhver Hot Springs, witnessing first-hand the raw power of geothermal energy.

After arriving at our hotel in southern Iceland, we settled in and enjoyed the unique experience of staying in such a remote and rural setting.

The following morning, we travelled to Sólheimajökull Glacier to meet our guides and prepare for an unforgettable hike. Equipped with crampons, hard hats and ice axes, we stepped out onto the glacier itself - an experience that proved to be a highlight of the trip for many.

Later that day, we visited the striking black sand beach at Reynisfjara, followed by several breathtaking waterfalls that showcased Iceland's dramatic natural beauty.

The next day began in extremely low temperatures, accompanied by heavy snowfall. Although our visit to Kerið Crater was bitterly cold, we were soon able to warm up and relax in the Secret Lagoon. We then continued our exploration with further waterfall visits and a trip to Thingvellir National Park.

Overall, the trip was an incredible experience for both pupils and staff, filled with unforgettable moments and lasting memories.

Mrs Donovan



WELCOME

A short but super enjoyable second half of the spring term!

The last four weeks have flown by in a flash and we find ourselves at the start of the Easter holidays. Time is a thief!

The sun has made a welcome return to the grounds and the children have truly made the most of the fresh air, lighter evenings and spring conditions.

It is lovely to see match reports from sporting fixtures with blue skies complementing smiling faces - our pupils seemingly relish these opportunities whatever the weather. There have been an array of matches to choose from in this short half term and our teams have represented the school brilliantly, with some fantastic results to boot.

It was an early start this morning for Year 8-11 students visiting Munich over the start of the Easter break. The group will be touring the city's most important historical and cultural sites as well as making trips to the BMW Headquarters, Allianz Arena (home of Bayern Munich football club) and the Olympic Stadium. It is set to be an incredible trip and I look forward to hearing all about it.

Since our return from Iceland during February half term, pupils have enjoyed a range of visits a little closer to home, too. I loved reading about Prep pupils' experiences visiting Locomotion and Hopetown this week - and particularly how both days linked to classroom learning. The purpose of any educational visit is to deepen understanding,

provoke curiosity and encourage interest, and it's clear these off-site excursions have done just that.

Curiosity was at the heart of this year's National Science Week and pupils across the school embraced a wide range of exciting STEM opportunities as a result. As a physicist, I cannot express how rewarding it is to see students demonstrate an inquisitive mindset - questioning both theory and its real-world applications. Mr Glasbey was certainly put to the test in our Senior School assembly! I hope this edition showcases just how enthusiastically pupils have engaged with STEM this half term; I am confident we have some future stars in this field.

Finally, I must say an enormous congratulations to the cast and team behind this year's production of *Sister Act Jr!* What an amazing celebration of music, drama and performance from across the Senior School and Sixth Form. Our students shone in their roles and gave us a show to remember. Well done.

A reminder that we return to school on Wednesday 15 April to a Week 1 timetabling arrangement. In the meantime, have a wonderful and restful break. I hope you enjoy all that this beautiful season and Easter celebration offers.

Mrs Mackenzie, Head



Bronze DofE Training Hikes

On Saturday 7 March, our Bronze groups successfully completed their third practice hike. The groups followed a circular route around the Bilsdale area, starting from Clay Bank.

This hike was designed to replicate the format of their final expedition, with the groups navigating the route entirely on their own. Staff met them only at designated RV points along the way, allowing the participants to take full responsibility for their navigation and teamwork.

All of the groups performed fantastically, demonstrating excellent navigation skills, teamwork and confidence on the route. It was great to see how much progress they have made since their first hike.

With just one more practice hike remaining to further develop their camp craft skills, the groups are well on their way to being fully prepared for the challenge of their final expedition.

Miss Hopkins



U11 HOCKEY VS BARNARD CASTLE

The U11 hockey teams played two highly competitive and exciting matches against Barnard Castle last week, with both teams battling hard from start to finish.

It was a closely contested game throughout for the A team, with momentum shifting between the sides.

Tom, Ethan and Ozzy all worked tirelessly, contributing some excellent play across the pitch. In defence, Alexander was solid and dependable, making several strong tackles to keep Barnard Castle at bay.

Toby also impressed with some great runs with the ball, driving the team forward and creating attacking opportunities.

The standout performer was Arthur, who delivered a fantastic performance by scoring five goals to lead the team's attack.

In the end, it was a thrilling match that finished with a narrow 10-9 victory

for the U11A team - a great team effort and an entertaining game for everyone watching.

The B team also played in a tight and competitive match. Joseph, Gabriel and Andrés all made some excellent plays and worked hard to keep the opposition attack under control, making it difficult for Barnard Castle to break through.

Sonny also had a great game, scoring a superb hat-trick to lead the scoring.

It was another close contest, but once again THS came out on top with a 6-3 victory.

Well played to the boys from both schools - it was a really good contest and a great afternoon of hockey.

Mr Thomas



U12 Football

THS started the stronger of the two teams, showing some excellent passing play. Midfielders Arran and Noah combined well to control possession and move the ball with confidence. Their positive start soon paid off when Noah capitalised on a goalkeeping error to score the opening goal.

Thornaby gradually worked their way back into the game, using quick counter-attacks to cause problems. One of those breaks resulted in the equaliser. The hosts continued to press and soon won a penalty after another counter attack. Issac made a superb save to keep it out, but Thornaby managed to find a second goal shortly afterwards to go into half-time leading 2-1.

With work to do in the second half, the boys pushed forward and tried to take control of the game. However, it was Thornaby who struck next with an excellent effort from well outside the box, extending their lead to 3-1.

Despite the setback, THS showed great determination and refused to give up. Eventually the pressure paid off when Noah kept his composure in the box and calmly slotted the ball into the bottom corner to bring the score to 3-2.

With just a couple of minutes remaining, Teesside found their equaliser in dramatic fashion. A poor clearance from Thornaby fell to Arran outside the box and he struck a superb first-time shot that flew into the net to level the match at 3-3 just before the final whistle.

Mr Williamson

Annabel's Tetrathlon Triumph

Annabel in Year 11 has been selected to represent the United Kingdom at the prestigious Pony Club Tetrathlon International Exchange in Australia later this year.

At the age of 16, Annabel is the youngest ever athlete to have been selected to represent her country in this event.

Tetrathlon is a challenging team and individual competition comprising swimming, running, horse riding and shooting. It is widely regarded as a foundation and development pathway for the Olympic sport of Modern Pentathlon.

Annabel will travel to Australia in June, following the completion of her GCSE examinations, as part of an 11-strong UK team. The squad will compete against teams from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland and the United States.

Annabel said: "I have dreamed of representing my country in this event for many years, so to receive the call during February half term to say I had been selected was just incredible.

"The selection process has been extremely tough, involving applications, interviews and selection days. The assessment team considers everything – not simply your performance in the individual events but your proficiency with horses, riding qualifications and, more generally, how well you would



represent this growing sport as an ambassador.

"Balancing the preparation alongside studying for my GCSEs and mock examinations was challenging but the hard work has paid off. I cannot wait to represent the UK and compete on the international stage in Australia this summer."

Annabel is a member of Billingham Amateur Swimming Club, Richmond and Zetland Harriers Running Club and Bedale West of Yore Pony Club, training up to 17 hours each week.

It goes without saying we are incredibly proud of Annabel's achievements. She is a shining example of a truly well-rounded student who embraces every opportunity our school offers. Equally, Annabel is kind, thoughtful and generous with her time and support for both staff and fellow students.

Everyone at Teesside High School is behind you, Annabel, and wish you the very best of luck!

The Pony Club Tetrathlon International Exchange will take place from 30 June to 20 July 2026.

Miss Turnbull

Rugby 7s

Our Year 7 boys delivered an outstanding performance at the annual District Rugby 7s Competition, finishing in an impressive third place after a day of high-energy, skilful rugby.

In the group stage, Teesside faced Our Lady and St. Bede (OLSB) and Egglecliffe. They opened their group stage against OLSB with remarkable intensity, setting the tone for the entire tournament. From every kick-off, Teesside applied relentless pressure, forcing errors and winning turnovers through exceptional ripping and rucking - particularly from Isaac and Issac. Capitalising on this pressure, the team exploited gaps in the defence with powerful, direct running to score a flurry of tries, securing a commanding 9-0 victory.

The team maintained their high standards against Egglecliffe, pinning the opposition deep in their own half through aggressive and well-organised tackling. Isaac, Noah and Sehej took full advantage of Egglecliffe's mistakes to score a series of quick tries and establish a 4-0 lead at half-time. The game ended in a convincing 7-0 win.

These two dominant victories saw the boys progress to the top final group, where they faced stronger opposition in All Saints and Dyke House. Both matches proved to be closely contested, with defences on top and scoring opportunities limited. THS showed tremendous resilience and determination, with standout defensive efforts from Freddie, Issac and Noah, but were narrowly beaten 1-0 and 3-1 respectively.

Overall, it was a superb display. Finishing third in such a competitive tournament is a fantastic achievement and the boys should be extremely proud of their efforts.

Mr Williamson



YEAR 7 NETBALL VS CONYERS

Year 7 A and B teams played out some brilliant netball against Conyers earlier this term, with both teams victorious on the night.

The A team were strong, dominating in all areas of the court but circle players Florence, Charlotte, Anna and Jocelyn demonstrated particularly excellent pair work.

Winning all four quarters and captained strongly by Evan, the team impressed with their assertive attack and dominant defence. Lola and Harriet gave 100% throughout and the score finished at 20-5. Player of the Match was awarded to Florence.

The B team took to the court and impressed with their tenacity and work

rate. Thea and Olivia fought for every ball and Lottie and Sienna S made every goal scoring opportunity count.

Sienna M, Ava, Lily and Laura gained good experience and game time, which is really building their confidence in every pass, and a special mention must go to Isabelle who showed versatility playing a number of positions. The game finished 7-1 with Thea named Player of the Match.

These are a great bunch of girls who show lots of potential.

Miss Stephens

County Hockey Tournament

It was a great afternoon of hockey as the U13s took the pitches for the County Tournament at Yarm School.

Two pools were drawn and our first match was against Yarm U12B. We narrowly lost 2-1, with Katie Jensen scoring a great opening goal.

Our second game was against Yarm A which we always knew would be tough. Martha put in a real captain's performance as goal keeper, fending off a barrage of attacks on goal, but sadly they kept coming back even harder and we sustained a further defeat.

This put the team through to the 3rd place play-offs from each pool where we faced Red House School.

Positioning and confidence had grown throughout the afternoon, creating space for passing and driving forward, resulting in a good goal by Yasmin. One goal up, but still feeling the pressure of a couple of counter attacks, with only a minute to go, Faith received the ball from well inside our half and saw the opportunity to take it on herself. Supported on either side, she led the way into the D and took a strike at goal which passed through both the defender and the goalkeeper to secure a 2-0 win.

Well done to all the girls who played with real heart, good spirit and sportsmanship. POM was awarded to a very deserving Martha.

Miss Turnbull



Yoga in Nursery

Nursery children have recently been introduced to yoga, and it has quickly become a much-loved part of their day.

Through fun and engaging sessions, the children are learning simple breathing techniques that help them feel calm, focused and ready to learn.

They have especially enjoyed bringing stories to life through yoga, using their bodies to act out characters and sequences, which supports both their imagination and understanding.

The sessions also include interactive games that encourage movement,

listening and teamwork.

Overall, yoga has been a wonderful addition, supporting children's physical development, emotional wellbeing and confidence in a joyful and meaningful way.

Special congratulations to Olivia and Alara who have been awarded our first Yoga Superstar certificates!

Miss Hall



Special Places

Reception children have been exploring special places and places of worship as part of their RE learning. We looked at a range of different places of worship and discussed why they are important to the people who visit them, thinking about how they can be places for reflection, community and celebration.

The children then shared their own ideas about places that are special to them. We were delighted by the wide range of thoughtful and personal responses, including school, home, church, the zoo, the swimming pool and even the disco in Crete and St Lucia! It was lovely to hear the children speak about their experiences and to see how they value different places for different reasons. This learning helped the children to appreciate that special places can mean different things to different people, encouraging respect, curiosity and understanding.

Miss Graham



Mother's Day

We hope all of our Early Years families enjoyed a wonderful Mother's Day.

Thank you to all of our families for coming along to Bring a Loved One to Forest School, and to Miss Hopkins for helping to make this Mother's Day one to remember.

We hope parents enjoyed receiving their special cards and gifts, and hearing special messages from their little ones.

"I love Mummy because she makes everything better." Mikhail

"I love going to McDonald's with mummy." Manny

"I love my mummy because she loves me." Grayson

"I love mummy because she makes

special things." Alara

"I love playing games with mummy." Ellias

Miss Hall and Miss Graham



Kandinsky

Reception children have been learning about the artist Wassily Kandinsky and exploring his famous concentric circle artwork.

The children enjoyed discovering how he used colour, shape and pattern to create bold, expressive pieces, and were inspired to become artists themselves!

They created their own artwork inspired by concentric circles, but with a special twist to link to our recent theme of love. Instead of circles, the children used repeated love hearts to build their designs, carefully choosing colours and thinking about pattern and placement.

Miss Graham





Pre-Prep Trip to Locomotion

Pre-Prep had a truly fantastic time during their recent visit to Locomotion as part of their IPC unit, *Push Me Pull You*. The trip provided an exciting opportunity for the children to bring their learning to life.

During the visit, the children took part in an engaging workshop where they explored the history of the railway and learned about important local figures who helped change the world through innovation and engineering. They were fascinated to discover how trains have developed over time and the impact they have had on society.

A key focus of the day was understanding forces. The children explored how push and pull forces help trains to move and were particularly

curious about how the trains were brought into the museum. Watching model trains being carefully shunted into position helped them clearly identify these forces in action.

One of the highlights of the trip was the opportunity to step inside a real train cab. The children were surprised to learn that steam trains do not have a steering wheel, but instead use forward and reverse controls to operate. This sparked lots of thoughtful questions and discussion.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the staff and volunteers at Locomotion for their warm welcome, for answering so many excellent questions and for helping to make the day such a memorable experience.

The children were also complimented on their excellent behaviour throughout the visit - well done, Pre-Prep!

Mrs Hannah



Flying Rockets!

The Nursery children had a fantastic time exploring their love of rockets through creative and hands-on learning. They especially enjoyed drawing pictures on the circular windows of their rockets, carefully choosing who they would invite to join them on their exciting space adventures. Their imaginations soared as they talked about where they might travel and who would come along for the journey.

The fun continued with a science investigation, where they experimented to see if they could make their rockets really fly. Using just a couple of cups and some rubber bands, they discovered a little bit of magic. With growing excitement, everyone joined in for a countdown from five, and with a burst of energy, their rockets blasted up into the air, filling the room with cheers and amazement.

They were very excited to take their super rockets home to show their families how they could make them fly!

Miss Hall



World Book Day

Prep School had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day with a cosy bedtime theme.

The school was filled with a calm and comforting atmosphere as pupils enjoyed sharing stories together. It was particularly lovely to see older pupils reading with younger children, chatting about their favourite books and enjoying stories together.

In EYFS, the children took part in a range of book-themed activities, including making bookmarks, creating their own mini-books and role-playing bedtime stories. It was a joyful day that truly celebrated the magic of reading and storytelling in a relaxing way.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to our parent readers, Dr Meehan and Mrs Silva, for kindly giving up

their time to come in and read to the children. The pupils absolutely loved listening to the stories, and it made the day feel even more special. We are very grateful for your support in helping to nurture and inspire a love of reading.

Miss Graham



Year 1 Maths

Year 1 have been busy exploring the concept of measure in their Mathematics lessons, with a particular focus on mass.

The children showed great enthusiasm and curiosity as they investigated the weight of different objects using balance scales.

Working collaboratively, they carefully counted cubes to find out how many were needed to balance each item, demonstrating excellent teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Through this hands on approach, pupils developed a deeper understanding of how to compare mass. They then applied their learning by ordering a range of objects from the smallest to the greatest mass, explaining their reasoning with growing confidence.

It has been wonderful to see their perseverance and cooperation as they tackled new challenges together, well done, Year 1!

Mrs Hannah





Hopetown

Upper Prep enjoyed an exciting and enriching visit to Hopetown in Darlington last week, filled with plenty of exploration.

The highlight of the day was a fascinating workshop on circuits and train signals, which provided a wonderful introduction to their upcoming IPC topic. Pupils engaged enthusiastically, developing their understanding through practical activities and thoughtful questioning.

Beyond the workshop, the children made the most of the fantastic surroundings (and beautiful weather). The play area and Wagon Woods

offered opportunities for play and teamwork, with laughter echoing throughout. Pupils also explored the museum and storage areas with great curiosity, showing genuine interest as they discovered more about the history of railways and engineering.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, combining learning and play and leaving everyone inspired and eager for the topic ahead.

Mrs Bowey



IPC Exhibition

We hosted an IPC Exhibition to showcase the learning of the children from their IPC studies this half term.

Since the start of the spring term, all of the children from Years 1 to 6 have been studying units in IPC linked to the topic of the human body. This event was the perfect way to show the progression of the children's learning and for the children to share their new knowledge with a captive audience.

The children in Year 1 and 2 proudly shared their clay faces that clearly depicted a number of facial expressions and moods. They also showed some of their artwork about optical illusions.

The children in Year 3 and 4 shared their understanding about the skeleton, digestive system, the food groups and their importance on the human body, how the heart rate changes during and after exercise, the parts of the eye, the different teeth in our mouths and the essential role of vitamins in helping us to maintain a healthy body.

Upper Prep children showed how well they had learnt about the complexities of the major systems in the body. They gave very detailed explanations to their audience and impressed everyone with their understanding on some tricky biological subjects. We were all particularly impressed with Ozzy's working model of the heart, so much so that Mr Williamson wants to borrow it to show his Senior students!

We were absolutely delighted with the support that the children received. The Prep Hall had a fantastic buzz in the air and the event provided a real celebration of learning. Thank you to everyone who came along. We hope you all learnt something!

Mrs Kennedy



Prep Careers Fair

On the afternoon of Thursday 12 March, pupils from Years 2-6 participated in an inspiring Careers Convention.

We were delighted to welcome 13 delegates representing a range of professions, including a Surgeon, an Architect, an Environmental Health Officer in the Army, a Designer, an Accountant, an Engineer and more.

Each delegate provided an engaging and informative activity for the pupils to complete as they moved around the hall, enabling them to gain a valuable



insight into different career paths. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and the pupils gained a great deal from the experience.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our wonderful delegates who generously gave their time to attend and support our school.

Mrs Carson and Mrs Kennedy



Mars Day!

On Tuesday 3rd March, pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 participated in a live online session in celebration of Mars Day. The session focused on the European Space Agency and its role in going to the Moon as part of a new era of lunar exploration, working in partnership with countries around the world.

The presentation explored the process of travelling to the Moon, including the technology and equipment required for such missions. The pupils were both inspired and fascinated by the insights shared throughout the session

Mrs Carson





Prep School STEM Week

Last week, Prep School children celebrated STEM Week and its national theme of 'curiosity' through a wealth of learning opportunities which aimed to provide moments of awe and wonder.

Nursery children had a fantastic time taking part in STEM Week as they worked towards their Star Crest Award, designed by the British Science Association. Throughout the week, they explored a range of exciting hands-on activities. The children learned about rainbows and worked together to create a giant Nursery rainbow, searching for different coloured objects during a rainbow hunt in their classroom. They also investigated magnetism, enthusiastically searching around Nursery to discover which objects were magnetic.

During outdoor learning, the children enjoyed a rainbow hunt in nature and took part in a mini-beast hunt, carefully observing the tiny creatures they could find. To finish the week, they created moving rocket pictures, experimenting with simple mechanisms to make their rockets move. The children showed great curiosity, teamwork and excitement as they explored science, technology, engineering and maths in fun and creative ways.

Reception class also worked hard on a number of activities to complete their Star Crest Awards. One of these was School Spotters, where they learned about where our school is in the wider context of the solar system. In Useless Umbrella they investigated a range of materials to discover which were waterproof, not waterproof

and absorbent. The children enjoyed making predictions and testing their ideas! In Crater Creators they investigated the moon's craters by throwing pretend meteoroids into sand to create their own craters. They then measured their size and carefully examined the surface they made.

During Constellation Counters the children looked at different constellations and created their own patterns of stars. They then moved on to use junk modelling materials to design and build their own rockets, showing fantastic creativity and problem solving skills. In Forest School they completed Animal Adventures where they investigated minibeasts and looked closely at their habitats. As part of their space learning they explored the properties of the different planets and practised naming them all through a very catchy song, which the children thoroughly enjoyed and are probably still singing to this day!

The children in Pre-Prep had a very exciting start to the week, learning lots of information about space and considering what sort of vehicles are the best for the moon. They were inspired to make their own lunar transport using a range of construction materials. There was also a nautical theme on one day as the children thought about how boats floated before investigating the work of a marine biologist. The

children thoroughly enjoyed learning about Ada Lovelace, the first computer programmer, as well as making birds nests using a range of different materials. The week was rounded off with an exciting quiz on a range of scientific subjects.

In Lower Prep, the children thought about how birds build their nests by heading out into the school grounds. They were given a peg to use as a beak and had to try and collect their nest materials and build their nest using only their 'beak'. The children were confident when collecting suitable materials to use however appreciated how clever birds are as they found it incredibly challenging to build the nest using only their beak!

The children also took on the roles of spies and investigated the Caesar Cipher Code Wheel, encrypting and decrypting secret messages. This was



challenging at first but the children persevered well and were successful in this task. The children were particularly enthusiastic when they were challenged with investigating whether toast always landed butter side down to try and prove or disprove Murphy's Law. The children also had the opportunity to investigate some less well know inventors and scientists, finding out about their lives, inspirations and inventions.

In Upper Prep, the children enthusiastically participated in a range of Lego engineering challenges, ensuring their creations met the design briefs whilst allowing a great deal of creativity and team work. As a maths-inspired activity, the children considered how it was possible to age a shark beginning by creating a graph based on the class's own ages and heights. It was interesting to learn how a similar method has allowed scientists to be able to approximate the ages of sharks in the oceans. The children completed some scientific enquiry to learn more about the role of a marine biologist and dug deeper into the life and work of some famous inventors. As a very topical issue, the children considered AI and whether they really thought that machines could think!

Throughout the week, all of the children had the opportunity to take part in some of the live sessions presented by a number of different national organisations to support British Science Week. BBC bitesize presented a Horrible Science style session where the children were able to learn more about light and through a range of tasks were able to explore light sources, how light travels and how the moon orbits the Earth. Other live

sessions included an aquarium visit by the Ocean Conservation Trust, a virtual trip to a dairy farm to see how technology supports the work of the dairy farmer and a Discovering Darwin session which was broadcast live from Westminster Abbey, exploring the links between beliefs and science. Some of our older children also took part in a 'Step Into' Careers event which explored various aspects of life in an NHS profession.

A final highlight of the week was the children's attendance at our Prep Careers Fair.

This gave all of the children the opportunity to engage with a variety of different professions, through interactive activities and by talking to the people who work in these fields. The children were able to get a glimpse into what working in these professions entails.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of the experiences the children were given last week but a flavour of what STEM Week is all about. We hope that the children enjoyed their hands on experiences and used these opportunities to develop their personal skills as well as furthering their knowledge.

Many thanks to all of the staff who helped to provide the children with such a memorable and engaging week - it was certainly one to remember!

Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Carson

Upper Prep visit to Senior Science

Upper Prep pupils visited the Senior School for their second 'Senior Science Challenge' lesson this half term.

In this lesson, students learned about basic properties of materials and the difference between conductors and insulators. They were then given 18 different materials and a whole host of complex scientific equipment and were challenged to work out which materials were the best conductors and best insulators.

Students were fully in charge of their own experiments and had to decide from a range of relevant and 'red-herring' equipment to figure out the most accurate results.

Students developed logical thinking along with important scientific skills that will serve them well in the Senior School, including method design, presentation of results and consideration of safety requirements.

They all worked incredibly hard and had a fantastic time discovering what Science is like for older students. I was incredibly impressed with their confidence and enthusiasm!

Mr Russell



Senior STEM Week

The Senior School also ran a number of exciting activities and competitions to mark STEM Week.

Students and staff were given the opportunity to ask their own questions, with some fantastic contributions from across the entire school body. These were then collated and put to a vote, and I was put to the test in Monday morning's school assembly! Some of the questions included: Why does hot water freeze faster than cold water? How do Scientists cure diseases? What would happen to me if I fell out of a spaceship? Is there life like ours on other planets?

During lessons, students from Years 7-10 then each completed a different challenge, designed to stimulate curiosity and deeper thinking. These covered a range of themes, including Space, Forensics, Bridge Building and a Careers-themed escape room!

Students from all year groups also had the opportunity to create their own scientific model for a STEM Week competition. The competition featured a deliberately open-ended brief that prompted a range of creative and

imaginative entries. You can read about the winning entries on page 17...

Staff shared 'Scientific fun facts' with students every day during form time, prompting thought and discussion for the day ahead.

Science is all about curiosity. It is what drives understanding, development and innovation, promoting engagement and breaking down barriers. We hope that, through a very busy STEM Week, students feel particularly engaged in their Science studies, and encouraged to take their learning further.

Mr Glasbey



World Book Day

Our wonderfully imaginative students in Years 7-10 recently proved that literature can be both creative and deliciously funny when turning their eggs and potatoes into famous literary figures, all whilst showcasing their linguistic flair through brilliant puns.

Highlights included Marley's Roast by Grace and Eshel in Year 10, a Dickensian masterpiece with a crispy twist; Joey the 'Starchy' Stallion by Year 7's Ava Lambert, galloping straight out of a classic tale; and Gabriel Hammill's Year 8 entry, Moby Chip, which had everyone whale-y impressed. The competition celebrated creativity, humour and a love of language - clearly our students are egg-cellent storytellers!

Ms Duffy



House Drama

Our annual House Drama competition certainly did not disappoint this year with all 3 house blocks putting up a good (and dramatic) fight to win the title of best House.

Each House had members ranging from Year 7 to Year 13 and this helped all teams show off their acting prowess to the esteemed judges; Mrs Mackenzie, Miss Stephens and Mrs Connolly.

Each round had one underlying theme, improvisation, and it was clear to see that every team had been practising due to the comedic value and timing, inventive ideas and collaboration from all team members. Rounds included a party guessing game, a props round where teams had to improvise a scene using one prop given to them, plus a staff round where staff members had to act alongside students. A massive

well done to Mr Russell, Mr Thomas and Miss Malik who stepped up on stage and took part in this round. Each team was extremely grateful for their willingness to take part.

The judges found it hard to decide on a winner, but the coveted 1st place went to Cleveland house (an early birthday present to Mr Williamson) who outperformed their peers and made the whole audience laugh along with them, showing true teamwork and outstanding Drama skills. A huge well done to all involved!

Mrs Furness



Artist of the Month

We are delighted to share that the Artist of the Month for March has been achieved by two Year 7 students, Isabella and Alia.

All of the year group have worked hard to understand the work of Expressionist artist Franz Marc and the quality of work was so high that it was hard to choose just one artist!

Mrs Machan



National Careers Week

National Careers Week took on the theme of 'Own Your Future' earlier this half term.

The week offered our students a chance to focus on careers guidance and education, to help them understand, realise and fulfill career goals and feel more confident about their future and what they can be doing now to prepare for this.

We kicked off with an assembly which focussed on where careers inspiration

can come from, how to access this, what skills and qualification we should be working on and specific key stage targets towards being career ready.

This was followed up each day with a shared webinar link for a range of careers, from careers in health and wellbeing to business, from science and education to construction and eco architecture.

The Monday saw Year 8 students

engage in a live Languages in the Workplace webinar, and Year 9 spent the Thursday focussing on careers in the NHS with the national 'Step Into' careers day.

Alongside our existing careers programme in PSHE, engaging Tea-Time T+alks and annual Careers Convention, we hope this week was a welcome addition to the programme.

Miss Stephens



Bless Our Show: Sister Act Jr. Shines on Stage!

This week, Teesside High School proudly brought the vibrant and uplifting Sister Act Jr. to life in a production that truly celebrated the talent, dedication and spirit of our students.

From the very first rehearsal to the final curtain call, the cast and crew demonstrated exceptional commitment, embracing the energy, humour and heart of this much-loved musical. Featuring songs that are both heart-rending and foot-tappingly addictive, the production challenged students musically and dramatically, yet they rose to the occasion with confidence and enthusiasm.

Telling a story of friendship, acceptance and community, the show explored themes that were not only portrayed on stage but clearly reflected behind the scenes. A strong sense of 'sisterhood' developed across the cast, with students of all ages supporting each other as they tackled choreography, lines and complex vocal pieces, including singing in Latin!

Particularly impressive was the growth seen in our younger performers, many of whom were taking part in their first school production. Their confidence blossomed throughout the process, while our more experienced students showcased their versatility by stepping into roles very different from those they have played before.

The performances themselves were met with an overwhelmingly warm

response from full audiences across all three nights, with standing ovations that were richly deserved. Among many highlights were the outstanding portrayals of Deloris Van Cartier (Martha), Eddie Souther (Aiden), Mother Superior (Issy) and Mary Robert (Hannah), whose performances captured both the humour and heart of the show and left a lasting impression on audiences.

Our nuns had character, humour and grace as they delivered song after song while Curtis (Willoughby) and his gang (Alice, Lily, Anna and Jacob) provided us with genuine tough-guy terror and cheesy comedy. This talented ensemble brought every scene to life with energy and commitment, while the backstage team worked tirelessly to ensure smooth scene and costume changes, demonstrating that success on stage is always a team effort.

Beyond the performance itself, this production highlighted the remarkable ability of our students to balance their many commitments. Alongside rehearsals, they have continued to excel academically, compete in sporting events and represent the school in a wide range of activities - an achievement that deserves special recognition.



We are incredibly grateful to the staff behind this year's production and as Mrs Mackenzie said in her closing remarks, the Creative Arts Department goes from strength to strength.

Sister Act Jr. was more than just a show - it was a celebration of creativity, teamwork and student achievement. We could not be prouder of everyone involved and look forward with excitement to next year's production.

Thank you to everyone who came along to support us.

Mrs Shevels

Spring Ball 2026

We are grateful to the many parents and members of our school community who have booked to attend this year's Spring Ball at Wynyard Hall on Friday 8 May. Ticket sales will close this weekend - this is your last chance to buy tickets!

On the night itself, we will be running a charity auction, with proceeds split between the PTA and Parkinson's UK. Mr Clifford, one of our Pre-Prep parents, explains here why Parkinson's UK was the charity partner he put forward, when the Ball's planning was in its infancy.

I am grateful to Mrs Williams, Mrs Mackenzie, Miss Hockney and all the organisers of the THS Spring Ball, for kindly agreeing to adopt Parkinson's UK as their 2026 charity partner.

This welcome donation will contribute to the fund raising commitment I took on when my Mother was diagnosed with Parkinson's late last year.

Whilst there is no cure for Parkinson's, my dear old Mum has been lucky. She was 80 when she received her diagnosis and the fantastic medical treatment she has received since is keeping the worst of the symptoms at bay and ensuring that she continues to enjoy an excellent quality of life.

Not everyone is so fortunate. Those with Parkinson's can experience severe neurological issues which may manifest as tremors, slowness of movement or rigidity. It is most common in people over 60 but can affect those under 50 and, in thankfully rare cases, symptoms can be experienced by sufferers in their 20s and 30s.

My reaction to my Mother's diagnosis was to try and do something positive. As I didn't possess the aptitude to study

medicine or science after school, I am devoting my energies to raising much needed funds for Parkinson's UK, the national charity that supports sufferers, their families and research.

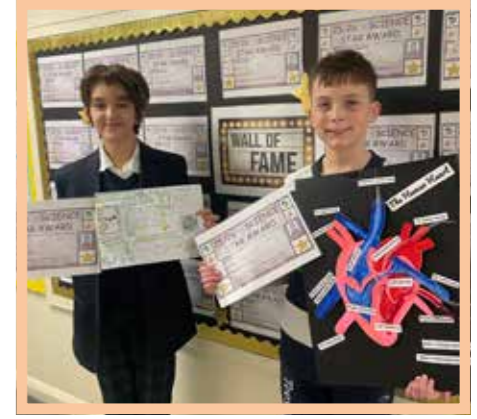
On Sunday 13th September I'll be undertaking the Great North Run which, having run it for the first time last year and loudly proclaiming I'd never do so again, I know will be a challenge. In fact, anyone who knows me, or who's ever clapped eyes on me at drop off or pick up, will agree that'll be a challenge.

In addition to rinsing my family and friends for donations, I'll be organising a number of fundraising events ahead of race day including a BBQ garden party, a quiz night and a charity auction.

If you're unable to attend the Ball but are keen to support Parkinson's UK, you're welcome make a donation via the link below or feel free to contact me directly if you can donate an exciting item or experience for the charity auction.

<https://ajbellgreatnorthrun2026.enthuse.com/pf/john-clifford#qrCode>

Mr Clifford



STEM Week Competition Winners

As part of STEM Week, students were invited to enter a scientific model competition.

The brief was to create a 3D model on anything within Science that took their interest, be that atoms, cells, the solar system, the brain or a whole host of other possibilities!

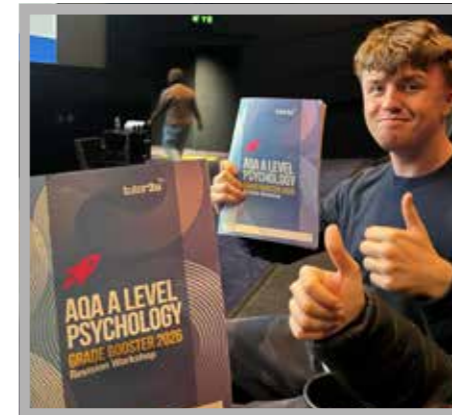
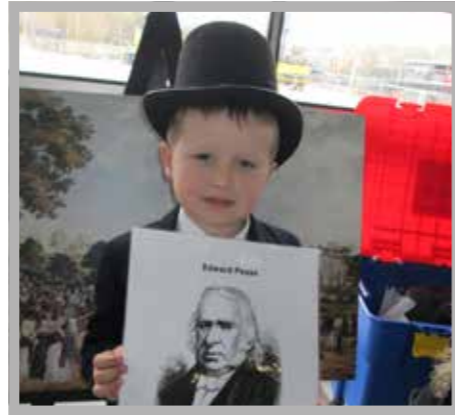
After careful deliberation, the Science department chose two very well-deserving winners. Lyra in Year 7 created a beautiful display about plant cells, showing she has carried out in-depth research and carefully considered the best way to display all the organelles in an eye-catching yet scientific way.

Ozzy in Year 6 constructed a glorious model heart, including functional pumps that send oxygenated and deoxygenated blood through the relevant chambers!

Both students put so much effort into their entries and we were blown away by their dedication, hard work and creativity!

Mr Russell

THIS WEEK PHOTO GALLERY



LAST CHANCE TO BUY TICKETS!



Spring
BALL

at Wynyard Hall

FRIDAY 8 MAY 2026

7.00PM

THREE COURSE DINNER, DRINKS & DANCING
£65PP OR £600 FOR A TABLE OF 10
TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA PARENTPAY

in partnership with



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