Issue 159 | 25 November 2026

THiS Week

Teesside High School
Education as it should be

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENGINEERS

Our Prep Able, Gifted & Talented (AG&T) children enjoyed a fantastic working lunch with Sharon Lane, Managing Director of Tees Components, gaining a fascinating insight into the world of engineering.





Sharon challenged the children to think about their perceptions of what an engineer looks like and showed them that engineering offers opportunities for people from all backgrounds. She also introduced them to a range of different metals, sparking curiosity and plenty of brilliant questions.

The children were particularly inspired by Sharon's career journey, from her early days working offshore to becoming Managing Director of Tees Components. Her passion, knowledge and enthusiasm for engineering were truly infectious, leaving our young learners excited to discover more about this fascinating industry and the opportunities it can offer.

Experiences like these help broaden horizons, challenge stereotypes and inspire the engineers of tomorrow.

Mrs Carson

WELCOME

A busy and exciting end to the half term.

It has been a busy and exciting second half of the autumn term at Teesside High School, with plenty happening across our school community.

We started with our annual PTA Family Fireworks Display. This event continues to go from strength to strength, with over 700 tickets sold yet again! Thank you to all our friends, families and those we met for the first time. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

As we move towards the final few weeks before Christmas, our focus remains firmly on the academic progress, wellbeing and personal development of every pupil. Classrooms continue to buzz with activity, and it has been wonderful to see our pupils embracing the many opportunities available to them, both inside and outside the classroom.

The past few weeks have already brought some important moments in our school calendar. From GCSE Options Choice Evening, helping families look ahead to the next stage of their child's education, to our beautiful Remembrance Service and Children in Need activities, we have enjoyed opportunities to come together as a community, reflect, celebrate and raise money to help those less fortunate. We look forward to sharing more about these special occasions in our next newsletter.

One of the things I love most about Teesside High is the enthusiasm with which our pupils embrace school life. Whether taking to the stage, representing their school in a sporting fixture, exploring new interests or challenging themselves in the classroom, there is always something to celebrate. It is particularly rewarding to see pupils supporting one another, developing confidence and discovering what they are capable of achieving.

There is still plenty to look forward to as we approach the end of term. Speech Day on 5 December will provide a special opportunity to recognise and celebrate the hard work, dedication and achievements of our pupils. We also have our Pre-Prep Nativity on 1 December, Winter Concert on 9 December and Carol Service on 11 December, alongside many other festive activities. These occasions are always a lovely way to bring our school community together and celebrate the talents of our pupils.

As always, thank you for the continued support and enthusiasm you bring to our school community. It is this shared commitment that makes Teesside High such a special place to learn, work and grow.

Mrs Mackenzie
Head

Sports Captains

We are delighted to announce our Winter Sports Captains for 2025-26.

Girls' Netball

Year 5/6 - Georgina W

Year 7 - Lydia J

Year 8A - Charlotte S

Year 8 - Isabella B

Year 9 - Faith Mc

Year 10A - Evie S

Year 10B - Kemisola D-A

Year 11 - Miela L

Girls' Hockey

U11 - Emma A

U12 - Eva R

U13 - Thea C

U14 - Besty S

U16 - Grace R

Boys' Hockey

U11 - Arthur W

U12 - Ethan S

U13 - Isaac H

U14 - Alistair J

U15 - Jacob S

U16 - Ryan M

Boys' Rugby

U11 - Seb C

U12 Gregor M and Gabriel M

U13 - Issac F and Noah C

U14 - Henry W

U15 - Oliver M



BRONZE AND SILVER DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Our DofE programmes have commenced and are off to a strong and successful start.

Bronze DofE

Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh programme got off to a fantastic start. A weekend programme started on the Friday evening with students attending their first meeting, where they were introduced to the programme and enrolled onto eDofE, ready to begin working towards their Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections.

On Saturday, the group then headed out on their first training hike, starting at Gribdale Gate car park. Their route took them towards Roseberry Topping before continuing around to Captain Cook's Monument. The students were fortunate to have excellent weather and approached the day with real enthusiasm. They were keen to develop their navigation and map-reading skills, asking questions and putting what they had learned into practice throughout the route. It was a really positive start to their Bronze journey, and the group showed a fantastic attitude throughout the day.

We are looking forward to seeing their confidence and skills continue to grow on the next hike.

Silver DofE

Our Silver DofE programme is now in full swing. It began with a meeting to plan the pupils' Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections.

Their first training hike took them to the Yorkshire Dales, starting at Surrender Bridge and following a loop to refresh their map-reading skills and learn how to take and walk on a compass bearing.

It was great to see their enthusiasm for learning and how well they absorbed the information.

After lunch they put their skills into practice with a self-led walk to Healaugh, which they completed in very good time.

A fantastic start to their Silver journey!

Miss Hopkins



From Drama Club to Film Festival

A full circle moment for us in school and more specifically, the Drama department.

Back in January 2025 we welcomed Carl Wilson-Downie, who starred in Gladiator 2. He joined us for a talk discussing how Hollywood movies, Disney Plus and HBO came knocking at his door.

Amongst the crowd of eager Drama students listening to Carl was alumni student Hannah. Hannah attended the summer film club ran by Carl and produced some short films.

We are delighted to report that one of the films Hannah created (and starred in) has been shortlisted in the Tees Valley International Film Festival under the category 'Best first time films'.

We are immensely proud of Hannah and feel privileged that Drama and the Arts played a fundamental part in her time with us here at THS.

Mrs Furness





Railway Adventure

The Reception children had a wonderful time on their recent visit to Hopetown, where they stepped back in time to discover how people travelled by train in the past and learned about the important role the Stockton and Darlington Railway played in the development of rail travel.

The children were captivated by the interactive displays and thoroughly enjoyed dressing up and taking on the roles of train drivers and passengers.

It was lovely to see their excitement as they imagined what travelling by train would have been like in the past.

Another highlight of the visit was exploring the Victorian kitchen play area. The children delighted in taking on different roles, serving tea and cakes and welcoming customers, bringing their learning to life through imaginative play.

Throughout the visit, the children's behaviour was wonderful. They showed great enthusiasm, asked thoughtful questions and demonstrated a genuine curiosity about the past.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the staff at Hopetown for making our visit so enjoyable and memorable.

The children had a fantastic time and returned to school full of excitement about their railway adventure!

Miss Hannah



Little builders, big dreams

Pre-Prep students have thoroughly enjoyed after-school clubs such as Woodland Explorers, Street Dance, Young Architects and Little Singers.

A particular highlight from Young Architects saw our Reception and Pre-Prep children take on a bridge-building challenge.

Working in teams, they problem-solved how to structurally support their bridges over water, discovering that a central pillar helps keep them upright.

They also explored the real-world functions of their structures, discussing whether they were built for cars or pedestrians. Beyond the classroom, it has been wonderful to see photos and hear all about the amazing projects children have been creating at home!

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch our new International Primary Curriculum (IPC) topic, "Buildings."

Throughout this unit, we will explore different materials, architectural structures and discuss buildings both locally and around the world. The children will even get hands-on experience crafting their very own clay houses. We can't wait to share their progress with you.

Mrs Beverley





Bringing learning to life in Pre-School

Our little learners have been getting into the Halloween spirit with a whole host of hands-on, pumpkin-themed learning!

After falling in love with the story of Christopher Pumpkin, the children let their creativity shine by making their own pumpkin pictures and taking their mark-making skills to the next level by drawing and painting directly onto real pumpkins.

Fine motor control was put to work as little hands carefully tapped golf tees into pumpkins before stretching rubber bands across them to create clever pumpkin geoboards.

The mathematical excitement continued as everyone explored concepts of size and weight while comparing all kinds of different pumpkins, before bringing it all together by setting up their very own pumpkin patch out in the garden.

Miss Hall







Forest School

Our Reception children enjoyed a magical Forest School session inspired by the much-loved story Room on the Broom.

Using their imaginations and the natural environment around them, the children stepped into the world of the witch and her helpful friends.

Working together, they helped to create a giant broomstick big enough for the witch and all her friends to join her on their adventures!

The activity encouraged the children to share ideas, work collaboratively and get creative as they explored the story in an outdoor setting.

It was wonderful to see the children bringing the story to life through imaginative play, developing their teamwork and communication skills along the way.

Their enthusiasm and creativity made for a truly magical Forest School session!

Mrs Hannah



Lower Prep reaches for the Stars!

To celebrate World Space Week, the children in Lower Prep were invited to let their imaginations soar in an exciting rocket-themed art competition!

From colourful drawings and vibrant paintings to imaginative models and digital creations, the children were encouraged to think creatively and bring their own rocket designs to life.

The challenge was simple: get creative, dream big and show us your imagination through art!

The most outstanding entries will be selected to feature in a Space Gallery, with the talented young artists also receiving a special prize from the European Space Agency.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our budding space explorers to combine creativity with a curiosity about the universe. We may have some future astronauts, engineers or space scientists among us!

Mrs Carson







International Pen Pals

Our International Pen Pals club is in full swing and the children are excited to have completed their first letters.

Through our International Primary Curriculum (IPC) connections, we have managed to link up with GEMS School in Kathmandu, Nepal and we will be communicating with some of their students over the next term to learn more about their lives and culture.

Having introduced ourselves to our new friends, we will be telling their students more about our school and our local area. We are looking forward to seeing how different our lifestyles are but also identifying any similarities between the children, despite being nearly six thousand miles apart.

This is an ideal way for the children to develop their writing skills in real life context but also highlights the importance of our IPC in providing opportunities to develop global citizenship, respect and understanding.

We look forward to receiving our letters from Nepal in the coming weeks.

Mrs Kennedy





Green Careers Week - Exploring the World of Wildlife and Conservation

As part of Green Careers Week, the children had the exciting opportunity to take part in a live online lesson exploring the fascinating world of wildlife and habitat surveys!

We discovered how scientists and conservationists work hard to protect our natural environment by studying wildlife, plants and their habitats.

The session introduced us to some of the key skills involved in carrying out wildlife surveys, including observing carefully, identifying different species, collecting information and using scientific methods to understand the world around us.

We also heard fascinating insights from leading conservation organisations, including Butterfly Conservation, NatureScot and the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI), who shared how their work helps to protect and preserve nature.

The children were encouraged to think about the important role they could play in looking after our planet and discovered that a future career in conservation could involve anything from studying butterflies and identifying wildflowers to protecting habitats and helping endangered species!

It was a fantastic opportunity to spark curiosity, develop our understanding of the natural world and inspire our future environmental scientists, wildlife experts and conservationists.

Mrs Carson



STEM Skills Day

Our Prep Able, Gifted and Talented (AG&T) pupils enjoyed a fantastic day of discovery and problem-solving at Locomotion Museum in Shildon taking part in an exciting STEM Skills Day.

Through a series of hands-on workshops, pupils explored engineering, using Meccano to design and build their own creations, learning about railway safety with Nomad and developing their logical thinking and creativity through a pattern-based workshop led by Durham University.

There was plenty of enthusiasm, teamwork and brilliant thinking throughout the day, with the children proving to be fantastic ambassadors for our school.

A special congratulations to Penny, who received a certificate from Durham University in recognition of her superb work during the workshop.

It was a brilliant opportunity to develop new skills, meet real engineers and discover just how exciting STEM can be.

We may have some future engineers in the making!

Mrs Carson





THS goes to Paris!

Recently a group of year 8 and 9 pupils had a fantastic opportunity to spend a long weekend in Paris.

The pupils were wowed by the beauty of the Sacré-Cœur and Notre Dame Cathedrals and had some free time to explore the shops and restaurants of the lively Montmartre area. On the way back to the hotel in the evening we also stopped at the Louvre museum to admire the pyramid lit up at night.

The following day we started the day in the Sewers museum, definitely an unforgettable experience!

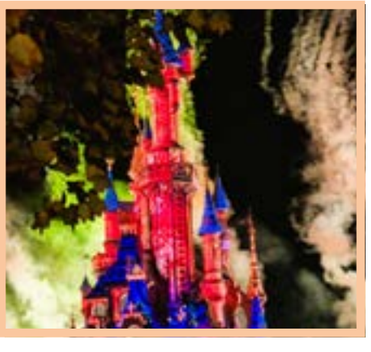
Following that we went up the Eiffel tower to experience the panoramic views from the top. On our descent we spent some free time in a pop up food market before walking to Trocadero for a different view of the Eiffel Tower before our Bateau-Mouche trip on the Seine to admire the sites of Paris from the river.

The following day was spent in Disneyland where the pupils had the opportunity to experience the full magic of the parks including the fireworks and light show in the evening.

On our final day we had a lovely cultural experience when we visited the Musée de l'Orangerie, home to Monet's famous waterlily paintings. We then had some free time in the Marais district for shopping before our flight home.

The trip was an excellent experience for all, the opportunity to visit one of the most famous cities in the world as well as practising a little French.

Mrs Blyth





Musicians shine at Autumn Tea Time Concert

Our talented musicians, including Year 11 GCSE music students, took to the stage for a memorable Tea Time Concert, marking a crucial milestone in their academic journey: their final performance recordings for submission.

The audience was treated to a wide variety of music throughout the concert. A standout highlight was the performance by the now well-established Year 11 piano trio, Emilia, Libby and Miela whose seamless collaboration and expressive playing demonstrated months of dedicated ensemble practice alongside outstanding individual solo pieces from across the cohort.

Special mentions go to Gracie, who delivered a captivating vocal solo that filled the hall, Martha who played a beautiful piano solo, and Andres, who performed a stunning rendition of Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake on clarinet.

Congratulations to all our musicians on performing with such poise and artistic excellence!

Mrs Shevels



High ropes and cold water...

Our Year 11 students recently returned from an unforgettable, action-packed residential trip to Carlton Lodge Activity Centre in North Yorkshire.

Stepping away from their GCSE preparation, the cohort spent their time developing team-building skills, conquering personal fears, and bonding as a year group through a series of demanding outdoor challenges.

The trip was designed to build resilience and confidence ahead of a crucial academic year, and our students rose to the occasion remarkably. From scaling the high ropes to navigating the centre's private lake, the energy and determination on display were truly inspiring.

The students threw themselves into a packed schedule of adventurous activities, pushing past their comfort zones and working together to succeed.

Whilst raft building & kayaking they worked in teams, students had to design and build functional rafts using barrels, planks, and ropes. The ultimate test came when they launched their creations onto the Carlton Lodge Lake.

While some teams successfully paddled across, others enjoyed an accidental swim—but everyone finished with huge smiles! Meanwhile on the High Ropes Challenge students tested both physical balance and mental fortitude, students tackled the high ropes, climbing elements, and the exhilarating 100m zip wire. It was fantastic to hear the cheers of encouragement from the ground as classmates supported one another to reach the top. Whilst problem solving the group faced complex team challenges that required clear communication, leadership, and patience.

The Carlton Lodge trip is always a milestone for Year 11, but this year's group was wonderful. Seeing students who are usually quiet at school take the lead on the water, or watching classmates talk each other through a tricky climb on the high ropes, reminds us of how much they grow outside the classroom. They were an absolute credit to our school community.

We would like to extend a massive thank you to the dedicated team of instructors at Carlton Lodge for hosting us and keeping everyone safe, as well as to our school staff who gave up their time to accompany the trip.

The grit, teamwork, and positive attitudes shown by Year 11 at Carlton Lodge are exactly what they need to carry forward into their exam preparation this year. We are incredibly proud of them all!

Miss Stephens

Mission to Mars!

Throughout the first half term of Year 9, our young Physicists carried out a Mission to Mars project.

In this topic, they followed a story where they were the main characters, piloting a colonisation mission to the red planet!

Over 6 weeks worth of lessons, they studied the themes of Launch, Landing, Communication, Survival and Exploration, where students were given jobs such as rocket pilot, engineers, safety officers and satellite technicians.

Each lesson students were incredibly eager to find out who had been assigned what job!

Students touched on new GCSE concepts such as force diagrams, terminal velocity and electromagnetic waves, to help prepare them for their upcoming GCSE studies. As part of this, they completed a wealth of fun practical activities.

They began the year by designing and launching bottle rockets where they got a 2 litre bottle and put fins and points on it to make it more aerodynamic, then investigated speed of falling by dropping different amounts of cupcake cases and timing their descent.

They also developed research skills by deciding on the best fuel to launch a rocket, designing a satellite to help communicate with Earth, and figuring out how to tackle the environmental problems that make living on Mars difficult e.g. including a gym for regular workouts due to the effect of weaker gravity on bone structure.

Written by Mr Russell, Henry Reid, Lucy Cairns, Oliver Blore and Henry White

SAVE THE DATE



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