Issue 158 | 30 September 2026

THiS Week

Teesside High School
Education as it should be

WELCOME

A wonderful start to the Autumn term.

It is hard to believe how quickly the new academic year is gathering pace. With the Autumn Term now in full swing, our corridors and classrooms are once again full of energy, enthusiasm and the familiar sense of purpose that makes our school community so special. It has been wonderful to welcome our pupils and students back and to see them settling into new routines, embracing fresh challenges and making the most of the opportunities ahead.

We began the year with a real sense of pride as we celebrated some outstanding A-level and GCSE examination results over the summer. We are incredibly proud of what our students have achieved and grateful to our staff, families and wider community for the encouragement and support they have provided.

September also gave us the opportunity to open our doors for our Whole School Open Day. It was a pleasure to welcome families into school and to showcase the breadth of experiences available to our pupils. From academic opportunities and co-curricular activities to sport, music, the arts and our extensive enrichment programme, there was plenty to celebrate and share.

As we look ahead, there is already plenty happening.

We look forward to welcoming our Year 7 families to our Year 7 Information Evening on Tuesday 6 October, an important opportunity to share information, answer questions and help families through the transition from Year 6 to Year 7. It can be daunting for some of our children and we are here to ensure that each pupil's transition is as smooth and seamless as possible.

For those considering the next step, our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 15 October will provide an opportunity to find out more about our Sixth Form, the subjects on offer, enrichment opportunities and the pathways available beyond Year 11. Families can speak to each subject teacher, collect informative literature, and speak informally to current Sixth form students about each particular course.

Finally, one of the most anticipated events in our school calendar in the Autumn term is fast approaching. Our popular Firework Display takes place on Thursday 5 November, and tickets are now available. You can buy them via ParentPay or at the main school reception. We look forward to welcoming families and friends for what promises to be another spectacular evening and a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together.

There is a great deal to look forward to this term, and I am excited to see all that our pupils will achieve. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community. I look forward to sharing many more successes with you as the year progresses.

Mrs Mackenzie, Head



A* results

A-Level Results Day 2026 saw our Sixth Form's best results in 5 years!

An impressive 56% of grades were A*-A with 83% of all results being A*-B. These results, whilst impressive to read, do not come without understanding the story behind the figures.

These outstanding results reflect the hard work, resilience and perseverance of our Year 13s during their two years at THS Sixth Form.

The results prove what determination and commitment can bring and we are very proud of the achievements of our Year 13 students. Students have gone on to university courses, gap years and degree apprenticeships. The fact we have such diverse 'next steps' for all students shows how versatile and accepting our Sixth Form environment is, with students able to select the next step in their educational journey that is right for them.

We look forward to welcoming our Year 13 alumni students back to THS on Speech Day.

Mrs Furness





GCSE SUCCESS

At 9am on Thursday 20 August, the first of our GCSE class of 2026 walked through the double doors into our dining room to collect their results envelope. All eyes on one individual as parents and teachers held our collective breath for the big moment. We watched on as a smile crept slowly across the student's face. Relief, elation...!

Over the next couple of hours, many more students passed through our doors for their own big moments. Of course, the emotions weren't always the same, some even preferred to take their envelopes away to open in private. There were tears, happy and sad, but it was a pleasure for us to share those moments with everyone.

We are delighted to inform you that 87% of the grades achieved were grades 9-4 which was much higher than the national figure of 67%.

37% were grades 9-7 (compared with 22% nationally). 46% of our cohort achieved at least one grade 8 or 9 (an A* for those of us above a certain age) and 16% achieved at least 5 grade 8s or 9s.

Mr Glasbey



LAMDA Results

Two of our prep LAMDA cohort undertook their very first LAMDA exams just before the summer holidays.

After many weeks of preparation and dedication, both Amelia and Ibraheem passed their exams with some fantastic results!

They both undertook their Solo Introductory Stage One exam which required them to learn and perform a poem from memory. They then had a mature conversation with the examiner about an item they valued, followed by explaining how to play a game.

They both did exceedingly well. Ibraheem gained a Merit and Amelia gained a Distinction. We are very proud of our learners challenging themselves and achieving such positive results!

Mr McBride

U11 Boys' Rugby

Our U11 boys had their first taste of full-contact rugby this season when they travelled to Yarm to take on Yarm and Durham School.

The boys thoroughly enjoyed their opening two matches against Yarm B and Durham B. They played some excellent rugby and showed plenty of attacking intent, with Arthur, Chana and Toby all scoring several tries in back-to-back wins for Teesside High.

The third game, against Yarm A, proved to be a much more competitive contest. With more space to work with on the larger pitch, both teams used it well to create some excellent attacking opportunities and score some impressive tries. Despite some outstanding tackling from Oliver, Yarm A just had enough quality to edge the game 5–3.

The boys thoroughly enjoyed their first full-contact matches of the year and are already looking forward to getting back on the pitch for more rugby.

Mr Williamson

U13 BOYS' RUGBY - COUNTY TOURNAMENT



The Teesside High U13 boys represented the school with great determination in the first round of the County Rugby Tournament, producing three competitive performances against strong opposition.

In their opening match against Ian Ramsey, the game started at a fast pace, with both teams battling for possession. Following some excellent defensive work from Teesside High on their own try line, Issac produced a superb grubber kick upfield and managed to regain possession. Quick passing then released Gregor on the right wing, who demonstrated excellent footwork to beat the final defender and score the only try of the match. Teesside High won 1–0.

The second match against Grangefield was another closely fought contest, with both teams displaying excellent tackling and defensive skills. The scrums, featuring Ethan, Eshaan, Gabriel, Issac and Sehej, were particularly impressive. Grangefield opened the scoring before scrum-half Casey showed excellent awareness, taking the ball around the blindside of a scrum and running the length of the pitch to level the scores. Grangefield eventually scored again to secure a 2–1 victory.

The final match against Dyke House followed a similar pattern, with both teams working hard defensively. Captains, Issac and Noah were particularly impressive, making numerous tackles throughout the match. It was another tightly contested game, with Dyke House scoring the only try to claim a 1–0 victory.

Overall, this was a very strong display from Teesside High. The boys showed excellent teamwork, determination and defensive organisation throughout the tournament and should be extremely proud of their performances.

Mr Williamson



U12 & U13 Boys' Hockey

It was a positive start to the season for both the U12 and U13 teams enjoying some valuable warm-up matches against Red House.

The U13s put on a strong performance, with some excellent skills on display leading to a number of chances and goals. Isaac led the way with some impressive individual skills, but also showed great vision to create opportunities for Arran and Freddie. At the back, Eshaan and Noah are continuing to develop their communication and teamwork, while Sehej provided good width and helped to stretch the opposition. Issac also impressed in goal, making some good saves when called upon.

For the U12s, this was their first fixture in senior school hockey, providing an excellent opportunity to experience the demands of playing at this level. There were some encouraging performances, with Andres and Gregor showing good skills on the ball. It was also great to see Ethan continuing to develop and grow in confidence, while Alexander demonstrated that his tackling is already a real strength.

Overall, it was a very encouraging afternoon of hockey, with plenty of positive individual performances and, most importantly, some valuable match experience for both teams. The boys can take plenty of confidence from the fixtures as they look ahead to the season.

Mr Thomas



Year 11 Netball Team Shine at District Schools Tournament

Our Year 11 Netball team produced an excellent performance at the District Schools Tournament on Thursday 17 September, enjoying a lovely sunny evening at Grangefield School.

The team got off to a competitive start with a closely fought opening game against Red House School, finishing 1–1. They then produced an exceptional display against Conyers, running out 12–0 winners. The team demonstrated superb link-up play, with excellent movement from defence through to the shooters and impressive court play throughout.

The final game against Egglescliffe was another closely contested match. Showing great commitment, determination and teamwork, the team secured a 4–3 victory in an exciting finish.

There were some outstanding individual performances throughout the evening. Olivia was named Player of the Match in the first and third games, dominating in defence and driving play forward from the back. Bridgett received Player of the Match in the second game after a consistently strong shooting performance and excellent work both in and around the shooting circle.

Miela provided fantastic leadership as captain, helping to keep the team focused and organised throughout the tournament.

The team were ultimately runners-up, missing out by just two goals on goal difference. Although understandably disappointed, they should be extremely proud of the way they played, and they were unlucky not to finish as tournament winners.

A fantastic team performance and a very promising start to the season. Congratulations to all of the players — we look forward to seeing what the rest of the season brings!

Squad: Emelia, Olivia, Niamh, Lucie, Libby, Miela (Capt), Emily, Esther, Eshel, Grace, Bridgett

Miss Stephens



6th Form Pickleball

This half term, our Sixth Form students have been making the most of their sporting enrichment programme with a fantastic opportunity to take part in weekly Pickleball sessions at David Lloyd, travelling there every Wednesday afternoon.

The sessions have included learning the rules and understanding the game, followed by fun games, mini challenges and activities over the net. It has been lovely to see students getting involved, integrating with one another and working with a variety of different partners.

The Pickleball sessions will continue until the October half term, when a new sporting activity will be introduced.

Our Sixth Form students have also been invited to take part in a range of sporting enrichment sessions throughout the week. Some students have even taken the opportunity to support and help coach younger pupils during their training sessions.

These are all great experiences for our Sixth Form students, helping them to develop their confidence, teamwork, communication and leadership skills while enjoying a variety of sporting opportunities.

Miss Turnbull





Full Steam Ahead: A Fantastic Start!

What an extraordinary start to the new academic year it has been in Pre-School! We could not be prouder of how brilliantly our youngest learners have taken their first steps into school life.

Transitioning into a new routine can be a big milestone, but the children have settled in remarkably well—filling our classroom with bright smiles, boundless curiosity, and early friendships that are already flourishing during free play and shared discoveries.

This term, our adventurous young explorers have launched right into our exciting topic, "All Aboard!", diving headfirst into the world of land, sea, and air transport. From building intricate tracks to discovering how different vehicles work, the topic has sparked fantastic conversations, imaginative role-play, and creative storytelling across the setting.

Alongside our core topic learning, the children are fully immersing themselves in our rich curriculum enrichment program. Every week brings a wonderful variety of specialized experiences designed to nurture the whole child:

Forest School: Building confidence, resilience, and a love for the outdoors through hands-on exploration in nature.

PE & Yoga: Developing dynamic physical coordination, spatial awareness, and calm mindfulness.

Music: Exploring rhythm, voice, and melody in vibrant, interactive sessions.

To add even more excitement to our daily routine, our structured end-of-day clubs have been an incredible hit. Whether the children are strengthening their fine-motor skills and finger strength at the energetic Dough Disco, or putting their engineering hats on to design complex towers in Construction Club, there is always a new interest to spark their enthusiasm.

We are immensely proud of our outstanding Pre-School provision and the warm, nurturing environment our team creates to ensure that joy and learning go hand-in-hand every single day.

Miss Hall



Reception Drawing Club

Children in Reception have had an amazing start to their Drawing Club adventure as part of their Literacy work.

The children have fully immersed themselves in the story of The Hundred Decker Bus. They have created their own characters, settings and exciting adventures. Using their written code they have brought their wonderful imaginations to life and enjoyed seeing their ideas develop on paper.

They have also been working hard on their pencil control and developing their recording skills. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they share their ideas and begin to put their imaginative stories into writing.

Well done Reception! We are so proud of the fantastic start you have made to your Drawing Club journey.

Mrs Hannah





Treasure Islands

It has been a wonderfully busy and exciting start to the year in Pre-Prep. Our new International Primary Curriculum (IPC) unit, Treasure Islands, is already inspiring fantastic learning.

The children have been putting their problem-solving skills to the test as they searched for clues in a pirate scavenger hunt, created their own pirate maps, and explored key map features such as keys, continents and symbols.

Across our provision areas and in clubs like Young Architects, the children have been designing, building, role-playing and collaborating to create impressive models and imaginative structures.

We also loved our first Forest School session with Miss Hopkins and George, the school dog. Exploring the woodlands together was a real highlight, and the children are already looking forward to their next adventure outdoors.

We cannot wait to see what exciting learning opportunities the coming weeks will bring.

Mrs Beverley







Pre-School PE

Our Pre-Schoolers have been having an amazing time in PE!

The children worked on their early tennis skills, using bats and balloons to boost their hand-eye coordination. They also showed fantastic teamwork during our energetic parachute games, taking turns and encouraging one another.

Our ambitious Pre-School curriculum is further enhanced with specialist-led PE, music, yoga, and Forest School adventures, providing rich outdoor learning alongside creative and physical play every week.

We are incredibly proud of our Pre-School, where high levels of care go hand-in-hand with inspiring experiences designed to prepare every child for school and a lifetime of success!

As one parent recently shared "the learning environment is on another level. The quality and variety of experiences provided for the children are fantastic. Sessions such as PE and Forest school, and the everyday learning opportunities give the children a really broad and exciting experience. There is a clear focus on high quality education, while still making learning enjoyable and engaging".

Miss Hall



IPC in Action

The children in Upper Prep have turned their attention recently to some science investigation work as they continue to work through their IPC unit, Bake it!

The children have considered the reaction that takes place once yeast has been activated and were thrilled to see the huge amount of carbon dioxide bubbles that were produced. Having seen this reaction first hand, the children worked in groups to plan their own investigations to see how changing one of the variables affected the amount of carbon dioxide froth that was produced. Some children changed the temperature of the water, some the amount of water whilst others changed the amount of sugar or the amount of stirs.

The children made careful observations and measurements before drawing a conclusion from their investigation. Our IPC curriculum follows a series of thematic units, allowing the children to develop knowledge across a number of the foundation subjects. This was one of the Science Tasks and made links to the carbon dioxide produced in the bread making process.

Alongside the lesson's learning goals, the children were also able to apply some of the IPC's Personal Learning Goals. These provide an integrated opportunity to develop the children's soft skills that they will need throughout their academic journey and beyond. In this task the children's cooperation, communication and enquiry skills were on show as they worked through this task together.

I was very impressed with the children as this was their first practical investigation of the year. It has fuelled the children's enthusiasm for the other practical work that they will be completing.

Mrs Kennedy







Explorers and Adventurers

Lower Prep had an exciting start to their IPC unit, Explorers and Adventurers!

We began by looking at a map of our school and discussing what the different symbols and the key meant. We then became explorers and headed outside to explore the school grounds.

As we travelled around, the children were challenged to work out where we were on the map at different points.

They showed fantastic curiosity and used their map-reading skills to help them find their way!

Mrs Carson







A Delicious Start to the Term: Upper Prep at Pizza Express!

Upper Prep kicked off the new term with a mouth-watering experience! During our very first week back after the summer break, the children headed out to Pizza Express to kick-start the topic, Bake It.

The visit provided a hands-on introduction to the world of baking and food preparation. The children became master chefs for the morning creating their very own personalized pizzas. The highlight, of course, was sitting down together to enjoy the delicious results of their hard work.

While their pizzas were baking in the ovens, the children dived into learning about the wide variety of ingredients used in everyday cooking. They discovered some fascinating food facts along the way—including the amazing revelation that there are over 14,000 different types of mushrooms in the world!

The learning did not stop there. Once back at school, Upper Prep built on their culinary adventure by holding a bread tasting and evaluation session. They sampled a wide range of breads from around the world, practicing their evaluation skills by comparing textures, crusts, and flavours.

What a tasty and inspiring start to our new topic.

Mrs Bowie



House Poetry

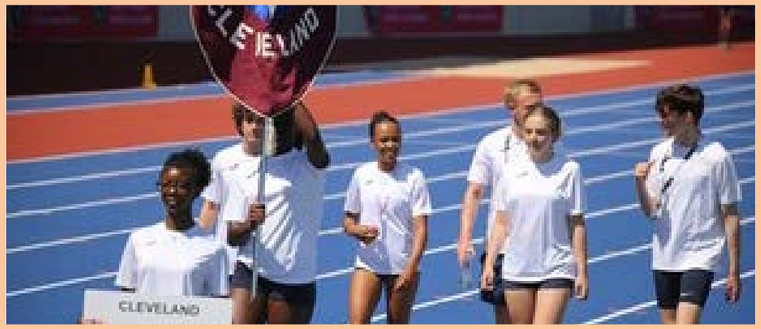
This half term, each Prep House has been working hard towards the exciting House Poetry Competition.

We received some fabulous entries from all three Houses, showcasing fantastic actions, superb volume, clear pronunciation and outstanding teamwork throughout.

A huge congratulations to Woodside House, who were crowned winners following their brilliant performance of *Please Do Not Feed The Animals* by Robert Hull.

Our House competitions have been fiercely contested across the year and we look forward to seeing who will be crowned our Champion House in this week's Prep School Celebration of Achievement event!

Mrs Carson



Tinashe takes bronze at the English Schools Athletic Finals

In July, Tinashe travelled to Birmingham to compete at the Alexander Stadium in the English Schools Athletics Finals, taking on the very best young athletes in the country.

On what was an incredibly hot day, Tinashe had qualified for both the 100m and 200m. However, she decided to focus her attention on the 200m — and what a decision it proved to be!

In the heats, Tinashe produced an impressive performance to finish second, securing her place in the 200m final later that day.

The final was fiercely competitive. Drawn in the challenging Lane 8, Tinashe ran a strong race, holding her own through the bend before hitting the home straight and being pushed all the way by the athletes around her.

As she crossed the finish line, Tinashe was neck and neck with another girl, leaving everyone waiting anxiously for the photo finish to be analysed.

Then came the announcement…

Tinashe had won the bronze medal in a fantastic time of 24.88 seconds!

It was a brilliant achievement and one that she should be incredibly proud of. To compete against the best school athletes in the country and come away with a national-level bronze medal is something special.

And what makes the achievement even more impressive is that Tinashe's main sporting focus is football. Athletics is not her primary sport, yet she was still able to step onto the biggest stage, compete at the highest level and produce a performance good enough to earn a place on the podium.

A fantastic achievement, Tinashe — English Schools bronze medallist!

Miss Turnbull



Celebrating Graded Music Exam Success

Congratulations to some of our musicians and music scholars who are celebrating success in the graded music examinations they completed recently.

Libby passed Grade 6 Violin at the end of Year 10, a considerable achievement which is equivalent to an AS Level in Music.

Alexander, now in Year 7, passed Grade 5 Clarinet with Distinction and is excited to be working towards the difficult higher grades.

Also in Year 7, Andres made an impressive start to his Cello playing by passing Grade 1 with Distinction, while Joseph achieved a super hat trick of Distinctions in Grade 3 Cello, Grade 4 Piano and Grade 5 Theory!

We congratulate all our musicians and look forward to their future performances, notably Alexander and Libby who are both members of the acclaimed Tees Valley Youth Orchestra and are already working on some very challenging repertoire for their next concert in November.

Mrs Shevels

A Trip to Ripon Workhouse Museum

Our Year 8 students had a fantastic opportunity to step back in time and experience life in Industrial Britain during a visit to Ripon Workhouse Museum.

The morning focused on crime and punishment, with students taking on roles to dramatise the arrest and trial of the infamous Sinkler brothers. They then discovered the harsh realities of life for prisoners in Ripon's Liberty Prison.

The adventure continued at the courthouse, where students once again became characters in a historical trial.

In the afternoon, we visited the Workhouse, where students took on the role of Guardians, deciding who was "deserving" of help and who was "idle."

A huge well done to everyone who got involved and helped make the day such a memorable experience!

Miss O'Byrne











Career Horizons

Our Sixth Form students attended the UK University and Apprenticeship search event at St. James' Park in Newcastle for their first Sixth Form trip of the year.

The purpose of the trip was for our students to attend an exhibition aimed at helping students choose which university or apprenticeship is right for them.

Year 12 and 13 students got to meet a host of universities, HE institutions and apprenticeship providers from all over the UK. All students saw the benefits of the day, with some students even following up on contacts and associates after the event to progress talks in starting apprenticeships.

Mrs Furness

THS Sixth Form Open Evening

We were delighted to welcome so many families to our THS Sixth Form Open Evening!

From inspiring speeches, informative presentations, subject displays and highly engaging conversations between families and teachers, it was a busy evening and we hope everyone who joined us enjoyed it as much as we did.

Mrs Furness

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