

# THiS Week



Teesside High School  
*Education as it should be*

## NEW NETBALL AND TENNIS FACILITY

We are delighted to share photographs of our new netball and tennis facility!

The new courts have been upgraded through the installation of a new multi-sports surface course, laid to the Lawn Tennis Association, the governing body of the sport in Great Britain, and British Standard.

A change in the orientation and an extension of the courts in two directions has made the space suitable for both professional tennis and netball – designed also to meet England Netball requirements.

This extension has taken the playing space to almost 1250m<sup>2</sup>, with increased side run off between courts.

To finish this new upgrade, an acrylic slip resistant coloured surface and new fencing, posts, nets, netball sockets and equipment have been added to the space, creating an incredible facility for our outstanding players to further develop their talents.

Our U13A Netball team was one of the first to utilise our new courts and played fabulously against All Saints, securing an impeccable 52-6 victory.

We are very excited for our students to enjoy this new facility and continue their run of fantastic sporting results.

Parents and the wider community are invited to view the new space at our upcoming Family Fireworks Display on Tuesday 5 November.

**Miss McKeown**



# WELCOME

Students and staff have enjoyed a super busy first half term, with sports fixtures, school events and trips galore.

There have been some fantastic announcements over the last couple of weeks for our students. The Senior School 2025 Christmas Ski Trip to Austria and the Year 7 summer residential trip to Dukeshouse Wood have both been launched and, alongside the countdown to our Creative Arts trip to New York City in December, the atmosphere in school is buzzing with excitement. A reminder to parents that these trips are by no means compulsory; simply an opportunity for students to travel far and wide with their friends and classmates and experience some incredible learning and co-curricular opportunities at the same time. We appreciate lots of opportunities of this nature are put your way during each term; a reminder that a table of upcoming trips and visits for both this and next academic year is available on the school website. I hope this reassures parents and enables you to plan ahead accordingly.

Elsewhere, the PE department has been ever so busy with daily fixtures in netball, hockey and rugby. I am extremely proud hearing reports of not only fantastic skills and scores, but more importantly the outstanding levels of teamwork and sportsmanship on display in each and every game. I hope you enjoy reading this fortnight's match reports, too.

It goes without saying that with such a busy fixture schedule,

our new netball and tennis courts have been put to good use. The acrylic slip resistant surface has been added in recent weeks to finish off our summer refurbishment, ensuring the courts meet both Lawn Tennis Association and England Netball requirements. We are very excited for our students to enjoy this new facility and particularly in the summer months.

A note for Year 11 parents that our Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on Wednesday 13 November and offers a revised approach to enable you to get a sample of Sixth Form teaching - a chance to not only inform, but to inspire our pupils as they consider their next step. Please save the date.

Finally, I would like to give a reminder of our Family Fireworks Display taking place just after the half term break on Tuesday 5 November. From our current sales, we expect record-breaking numbers, so please ensure to purchase tickets in advance - it is unlikely there will be any for sale on the door.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term.

**Kirsty Mackenzie, Head**



## U11 Rugby vs Cundall

Our U11 rugby team enjoyed their first taste of contact rugby this year, as we faced Cundall Manor. It was a topsy-turvy match, with both teams in the lead at various points. The visitors went four tries up before Teesside edged into the game with a few tries of our own. During the second half, the result seemed like it could go either way. However, towards the latter stages of the game, Teesside's energy levels dropped and Cundall took an 11-7 victory. Player of the Match was awarded to Isaac who scored an incredible six tries.

**Mr Williamson**

## Umpiring

We would like to say a huge congratulations to Emilia and Libby who have completed the first part of the England Netball Into Umpiring Award Course. The PE Department is looking forward to helping the girls practise their skills in preparation for their upcoming assessment.

**Miss Turnbull**



## CHRISTMAS SKI TRIP

We were thrilled to announce the launch of our Christmas Ski Trip to Austria in December 2025 earlier this month.

The Christmas Ski Trip will depart on Saturday 13 December 2025. We have provisionally booked 30 places at the lovely Posthotel in Pfunds, a 3-star hotel with various amenities, including a swimming pool and convenient access to a ski bus. Pfunds is ideally located for superb ski areas, offering over 238km of piste, including the fabulous international Swiss-Austrian

cross-border skiing experience at Ischgl (Austria) and Samnaun (Switzerland).

Although all 30 places were taken in just under 40 minutes, if a certain threshold is met for the waiting list, it will mean a further 10 students will be able to come along. Please email me via [rwilliamson@teessidehigh.co.uk](mailto:rwilliamson@teessidehigh.co.uk) if your son or daughter is interested.

**Mr Williamson**

## U16 Hockey vs Eggescliffe

Our U16 hockey team delivered an impressive performance against Eggescliffe, showing great resilience after initially going down 1-0. With crucial saves and solid defending from George, Benedict, Seth, Monty, Matthew and Isaac, the team rallied back. The boys demonstrated excellent teamwork whilst relentless efforts up front paid off. Zach scored the equaliser, followed by Luca netting two more goals, securing a thrilling 3-2 victory for THS.



It was an outstanding performance by the entire squad.

**Mr Thomas**



## U13 Hockey vs Macmillan

Our Under 13A hockey team faced off against Macmillan last week, showcasing themselves as a developing and very exciting team.

This talented group of players demonstrated excellent teamwork throughout the match. While a couple of our attempts narrowly missed the mark by mere centimetres, the buildup play and support in midfield were executed brilliantly.

Our defence was rock-solid, with the team effectively moving the ball between themselves and distributing it up the field. Mabel, bravely stepping up a year to play in goal, made some impressive saves. Tinashe was awarded the Player of the Match for her outstanding performance.

Following this, the B team took to the field. Although this team had never played together before, the girls rose to the challenge, showing significant progress throughout the game. They dominated Macmillan and worked together seamlessly.

Overall, it was a successful evening with the A team securing a 4-2 win and the B team celebrating a 5-1 victory. Well done to all players!

**Miss Turnbull**



## U11 Hockey vs Durham

It was an exciting day for the Under 11 girls' hockey teams as they made the journey to Durham School.

Pupils were brimming with enthusiasm, eager to put their newly acquired skills to the test.

For a number of the THS players, this was only their second time competing on a larger pitch, presenting a new challenge that would test their understanding of the game.

As our A team took the field against a mixed side from Durham, they demonstrated their developing grasp of positioning and the importance of moving the ball wide to utilise the increased space.

While the final score saw them fall to their opponents, the experience was

invaluable, allowing the girls to grow and improve.

The B team game was a tightly contested affair, with the score knotted at 1-1 for much of the first half. However, a tactical adjustment saw Isabella moved into a more advanced position and she responded by scoring a great hat-trick to secure a 4-3 victory for the THS side.

Despite mixed results, the entire experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

**Miss Turnbull**

## U15B vs All Saints

Our U15B team saw our first match on our fabulously refurbished courts, and this obviously brought us all the luck!

It was a great, competitive match for our Year 10 girls against a strong All Saints team. THS trailed at the end of the first quarter 1-3, but the girls dug deep and pulled back to an even 5-5 by half time.

We knew fitness would be important in the end and all of the girls, strengthened by subs Bethea and Shreya, worked their socks off. The match ended 15-5 to THS. Well done girls and a special mention to Ellie and Phoebe who were awarded Players of the Match.

**Miss Stephens**

## U12 Indoor Hockey vs Yarm

The U12 indoor hockey match against Yarm was, for many players, their very first game, and it was exciting to witness excellent teamwork unfold on the pitch.

Despite only starting hockey lessons in September, the boys demonstrated impressive skills and coordination. Their dedication during training was evident as they translated their hard work into effective game play.

The boys took away valuable lessons from the experience, too. They have begun to work together as a team - this is a promising year group with lots of talent. I am excited to see what they can produce in the months and years to come. Well done, boys!

**Mr Thomas**



## U13 HOCKEY VS RED HOUSE

In their first league match, the A team showcased impressive stick skills and teamwork, creating numerous scoring opportunities.

Despite occasional sluggishness, they dominated the match, securing a 5-0 victory. Goals were scored by Betsy, Flo and Evie, with captain Betsy being named Player of the Match. Amelie and Sophia were strong in defence, making sensible decisions and executing effective hitouts.

The B team had a closely contested and competitive game, with good play

from both sides. Flossie, Skyler and Fliss worked well together up front, whilst Abigail was strong in defence, supported by Azwa in the first half and Gracie in the second. Mabel made some good saves in goal, leading to a 2-1 victory. Fliss was named Player of the Match.

**Miss Turnbull**

## Y10 A&B Stockton District Schools Netball Tournament

Our A team started with great gusto beating Red House 11-2, with Helena voted Player of the Match having created lots of the play through the centre of the court.

They continued with strength giving a commanding performance against Ian Ramsey, a 17-3 victory and Tendai dominating defence here to win her player of that match. It came down to the last game against Conyers. Unfortunately we just could not find our rhythm and lost the game 10-5, Anisa running tirelessly to be awarded

Player of this Match. A great all round performance for the girls; well done!

The B team also had a strong start beating Grangefield 4-2 with some nice passing once they had settled. Next up was Ian Ramsey and another win, this time without conceding, 6-0. Our third game saw us face a strong Eggescliffe A team, and it just seemed the ball would not go into the net, despite lots of good play and possession, an 8-5 loss. Finally, we finished with a flourish with a win against Red House, 5-3. These players

## U12A Hockey vs Red House

The U12A team demonstrated significant progress in their recent league match against Red House.

The standout performance of the match was Martha's impeccable goalkeeping, as she maintained a clean sheet with several crucial saves. Erin and Yasmin formed a formidable defensive duo, whilst Faith and Darcey showcased relentless effort in midfield.

Upfront, Captain Katie exhibited strong stick work and superb movement securing two goals. Faith added to the tally with a goal, sealing a 3-0 triumph.

**Miss Turnbull**



are developing all of the time and we are very keen to see them thrive this season.

**Miss Stephens**



# Nursery Stay and Play

Nursery was a hive of activity at our recent Stay and Play event.

Taking the theme of *Room on the Broom*, the children decorated witch's hats, made their own magic wands, painted using a broomstick and their imagination, and had fun in the witch's cauldron water play. Alongside this, the children enjoyed exploring our indoor and outdoor nursery provision,

improving their fine motor skills through pumpkin play. It was lovely to welcome both current nursery families as well as those who are looking to join us in the coming months. We very much hope that everyone who came along enjoyed their time in Nursery.

**Miss Hall**



## Autumn

Children in Reception have enjoyed observing the changing of the season in the past few weeks. The children enjoyed reading *Little Acorn* and *The Leaf Thief* and discussing seasonal changes they have observed. They have enjoyed a range of Autumn-themed activities, including making some beautiful sun catchers which they have proudly displayed on the Reception window.

**Miss Graham**



# Forest School

We have not let the recent wet weather stop us having fun in the woods!

In Bushcraft Club, pupils enjoyed a session in the rain where they were tasked with putting up an emergency shelter, where they later shared stories. Nursery and Reception made autumnal recipes in the mud kitchen. Year 1 continued to work on their fire badge,

learning which size sticks would be best to start a fire and how best to lay a fire. Year 2 pupils have been working on their cooking badge, refreshing their knowledge of using a flint and steel.

**Miss Hopkins**

## Year 1 Maths

The children in Year 1 have been working hard in their mathematics lessons.

They have been looking at adding using part whole models and bar models to show addition sentences.

It was lots of fun working out problems with our friends.

**Mrs Hannah**

## Nursery PE

Nursery continue to enjoy their dedicated weekly PE lesson and have recently been practising their ball skills.

The children are rapidly becoming experts in throwing and catching and

they are always very keen to take me on in goal for a penalty shoot out.

We most definitely have some PE sporting superstars for the future in Nursery at THS!

**Miss Hall**



## World Space Week

Reception had a great time celebrating World Space Week last week.

The children enjoyed singing a fun song that taught us all of the names of the planets in the solar system. They were sad to learn that Pluto was now only considered a dwarf planet and we were shocked to learn how many earths would fit inside of the sun because it is

so enormous!

I was so impressed by the space-themed art that each of the children created for their Busy Books this week, too. Thank you to the Reception parents for your support with this at home.

**Miss Graham**





# Harvest Festival

Huge thanks to all families who donated so generously to our annual Harvest Festival.

It was a lovely assembly, opened by Evan and Eshaan, who welcomed parents warmly to the occasion. The children sang beautifully, and it was great to have Reverend Matt Levinsohn from nearby All Saints Church come along and provide the prayer.

Your generous donations of food were promptly delivered to Thornaby Food Bank, a cause we have supported for many years now. The items were gratefully received, particularly in the run up to Christmas.

**Mrs Williams**

## Lower Prep Exit Point for Material World!

Since the start of term, Lower Prep students have explored different materials and their properties, testing for absorbency, conductivity of heat and electricity, magnetism, and strength.

The children completed a project designing an accessory or piece of safety equipment for a bike and creating their own prototypes.

Pupils shared their understanding and invited parents to join in with some of the experiments.

It was wonderful to see so many parents attend and to witness the children buzzing with excitement as they shared what they have learned.

**Miss Lockerbie**



## Lower Prep MFL activities

Lower Prep children are learning German in their MFL lessons this year. At THS we follow the German with Felix and Franzi course from the prestigious Goethe-Institut. The Goethe-Institut facilitates international cultural exchange and promotes access to the German language.

In Lower Prep German lessons, a frog called Felix Frosch and a duck called Franzi Ente engage the children with fun and dynamic language lessons. Each chapter introduces new vocabulary and grammar through a wide range of activities, songs, videos and games.

This term the children have learned greetings, numbers, animals and colours in German. Wunderbar!

**Ms Wesson**

# Exit Point for Bake It!

Last week, the children in Upper Prep welcomed their parents and families to their Exit Point for their IPC unit *Bake It!*

This was an ideal opportunity to showcase the children's learning from across the unit. They explained to our visitors how yeast works, the properties of the three states of matter, how evaporation and condensation works, how to make bread, which countries suffer from famine and the location of different types of bread from around the world. This is just a flavour of the information that the children were able to share and is by no means an exhaustive list.

For one of the international tasks, the children baked some bread at home having chosen a recipe from somewhere around the world. The

children's bread was proudly on display and gave the parents and grandparents the chance to taste their delicious creations. Mrs Mackenzie had the very tough job of judging the competition but, after much deliberation, crowned Angelina the overall winner for her mouth watering Brazilian cheese bread. Alexander was placed a close second for his delicious Swedish cardamom buns.

We were really impressed with the variety of breads on show and also how articulate the children were in sharing their scientific and international knowledge.

**Mrs Kennedy**



## Toi et Moi

In French this half term, pupils in Upper Prep have been learning how to describe themselves in French in the unit 'toi et moi'.

They have learnt to introduce themselves in French and give details such as how many brothers and sisters they have and where they live. This week, pupils created a minibook to present all of the new vocabulary that they have learnt. I have been very impressed with their French accents and their enthusiasm.

Next half term our topic will be 'Poly

Glot va au Maroc' where we will be learning all about Morocco.



## Digital Leaders drop-in session

Prep Digital Leaders hosted their first drop-in clinic during morning break, offering support pupils in Year 3, using iPads in lessons for the first time, and students new to THS more generally.

Their mission? To help everyone get up to speed with the various applications used in Prep lessons.

They did a fantastic job guiding their peers through Google Workspace apps, Boom Reader and TT Rockstars.

A big thank you to our Digital Leaders for their dedication and teamwork!

**Miss Lockerbie**

**Mrs Blyth**





## Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

Year 9 students were equipped with enthusiasm and a spirit of adventure as they embarked on their DofE expedition last weekend!

The weekend marked the exciting commencement of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award for the 2024-25 cohort, with 20 eager Year 9 pupils

embarking on an adventure across the scenic North Yorkshire Moors.

The pupils set out on a circular route that challenged their navigation skills and endurance. The weather was remarkably cooperative, with clear skies allowing for visibility that stretched for miles. Throughout the hike, pupils demonstrated determination and teamwork. Their keen interest in learning how to read the map was evident as they navigated the course. It was a really good start to their expedition training.

**Miss Hopkins**



## Year 7 Information Evening

Our Year 7 Information Evening was a wonderful occasion, with both current families from Prep and many prospective families visiting to find out more about our Senior School experience.

It filled us with joy to hear Year 7

students Gabriel, Alistair and Katie bravely speak to the audience about their move to Year 7, sharing how they have settled in so far. We are very proud of them all, well done!

**Miss McKeown**



## GCSE Food and Nutrition

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students kicked off their practical sessions this year by learning the complex skill of portioning a whole chicken.

Stock was made from the carcass, the wings and legs were transformed into a tasty herby Mediterranean tray bake and one of the chicken breasts formed the basis of a spicy chicken enchilada dish. The remaining chicken breast has been frozen in preparation for a chicken parmesan practical next half term.

This series of practical sessions provided the students with a rich opportunity to develop their food preparation skills along with learning opportunities surrounding nutrition and food safety

**Mrs Howard**



## Year 10 & 11 Trip to London Galleries

A Day of Art and Design in London.

Early on Wednesday morning, 30 THS students boarded a train bound for London at 7.35am. The journey was a smooth one with all students settled in for the ride. Upon arriving at King's Cross, the group split into two to pursue different artistic experiences.

Design and Technology students, accompanied by Mr Duncalfe, headed to The Design Museum. Here, they explored exhibits that showcased innovation and creativity in design, offering valuable insights for their coursework. The group then headed to the V&A museum to explore the Design 1900-now exhibition and other exhibits at the museum, collecting images and inspiration for their future design work.

Meanwhile, Art students, led by Mrs Machan and Mrs Clark, made their way to The National Gallery. The highlights of their visit were the renowned David Hockney exhibition, a display that captivated students with its bold use of colour and modernist techniques, and the emotive scene portrayed in The Execution of Lady Jane Grey by Paul Delaroche.



The next stop on the Art itinerary was The National Portrait Gallery, a key visit for Year 10 and Year 11 students. For those studying portraiture and identity projects, the gallery provided an enriching experience. Students observed a wide array of portraits and were also able to view the submissions for the prestigious Herbert Smith Freehills Award 2024.

The group then enjoyed a brief stop at the Royal Academy of Arts, where students had the opportunity to explore the Michael Craig-Martin exhibition, an artist they were currently studying in class, making the visit especially relevant to their studies. All were enthralled by the bright bold paintings.

The day culminated with a visit to The Frameless Exhibition, a unique immersive art experience. In four galleries, students were able to 'step inside' 42 masterpieces, experiencing the works of celebrated artists such as Cezanne, Kandinsky, Dali, and Van Gogh in a whole new way.

**Mrs Machan and Mr Duncalfe**



## UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

Last week, selected students from Year 11, 12 and 13 sat the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge.

The Senior Maths Challenge is a 90 minute challenge with 25 multiple choice questions. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think.

We are excited to announce that 3 Bronze Certificates, 5 Silver Certificates and 1 Gold Certificate were awarded.

A special mention goes to Ed (pictured, on GCSE Results Day) in Year 12 who gained full marks and received a Gold Certificate.

This outstanding result has once again qualified Ed for the prestigious British Maths Olympiad Round 1 which takes place in November.

**Mrs Turnbull**

## Year 8 Ripon Visit

Year 8 students had the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the life of Industrial Britain during a visit to Ripon Museum last week.

The day consisted of students

stepping into roles to dramatise the arrest and sentencing of the notorious Sinkler brothers and exploring the Workhouse.

**Mr Meyerhoff**





## Y10-13 Heathers: The Musical Theatre Trip

On Thursday 17 October, Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form students attended a fantastic performance of Heathers, the musical at Stockton Globe.

Throughout the show, the main characters and all of the supporting cast held our attention with fantastic choreography, powerful vocals and great characterisation. The live band were exceptional, showcasing both skill and sensitivity whilst supporting the fabulous singing.

We noticed how different vocal techniques and instrumentation were used at various points to highlight and increase the sense of drama, which is a typical and considerable strength of the musical theatre genre. Harmonies were belted out with wonderful clarity of sound and both solo and ensemble numbers were delivered sensitively, bringing many to tears at various points in the narrative.

Whilst many of the show's themes are mature in nature and deal with many difficult issues facing young people today, such as body image, homophobia and bullying, there are very strong positive messages, too: it's okay to ask for help; everyone feels inferior sometimes; true friendship and loyalty are important. There's a lot to be said for just being a normal teenager!

We all thoroughly enjoyed the performance and came out raving about the show's many highlights. For our Music and Drama students, they now have another brilliant live experience to draw upon when preparing for their GCSE coursework and examinations.

**Mrs Shevels**

## Olympiad Physics Challenge

Last week, a number of Year 12 and 13 A-level Physics students completed the BPHO Physics Challenge. The highly difficult paper stretched students beyond the regular curriculum content and challenged their problem solving

skills to the maximum. I am delighted to say that our students took to this challenge with enthusiasm and determination! A big well done to all who took part.

**Mr Glasbey**

## A message from

## THS Badminton

## Club

*THS Badminton Club meets in the Sports Hall on Wednesday evenings during term time from 6.30pm to 8pm.*

*We play social badminton for fun and enjoyment and would love to hear from any parent of current or past pupils, as well as members of staff, who would like to join us.*

*Come along for a free, no obligation, trial session.*

*For more details, please contact Gwenda Lyn on 07773 338026 or Sue on 07479 203643.*



## Halloween Movie Marathon

Year 11 and Sixth Form students enjoyed a Halloween-themed movie marathon night on Thursday.

All students put on their cosy clothing and settled down with a night of jump scares, laughter and fun. They started by watching *Shaun of the Dead* which was centred around an electronics salesman from London and his roommate, whose lives are disrupted by a zombie apocalypse.

The students then immersed themselves through elaborate dances and rock songs into *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, which was a huge hit!

Everybody then enjoyed pizza and soft drinks whilst discussing their favourite parts of each movie.

It was lovely to see all of the students mix so nicely and it was an extremely enjoyable night for all. What a great way to round off the term for our Year 11 students and an excellent warm up to this evening's Hallowscream trip for Sixth Form.

**Mr Hannah**



## Othello

Year 13 English Literature students made a trip to watch *Othello* performed by the Elysium Theatre Group.

The performance was magnificently acted and certainly provoked some strong opinions about the main characters' behaviour.

This will prove extremely useful when students are writing about the context of production and reception in their A-level examinations.

**Ms Duffy**

## Year 12 River Tees Geography Trip

Year 12 A-level Geography students enjoyed a day of fieldwork in the sun last week.

They investigated the potential for

flooding along the River Tees and flood management levels at various points across the area.

The trip came with great timing given

the amount of rain the day previous, making the trip hugely worthwhile.

**Mrs Donovan**



# THIS WEEK PHOTO GALLERY





**SAVE THE DATE**



# **THS FAMILY FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

Tuesday 5 November, 6.30pm-8.00pm

Tickets on sale now from School Reception or via ParentPay

Adults £6.00, Children £3.00



Teesside High School The Avenue, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-On-Tees TS16 9AT  
T: 01642 782095  
E: [info@teessidehigh.co.uk](mailto:info@teessidehigh.co.uk)  
W: [www.teessidehigh.co.uk](http://www.teessidehigh.co.uk)

