

THIS Week



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

WORLD CHALLENGE

THS students tackled the challenge of a lifetime in Norway this summer.

In July 2024, a group of Year 10-13 students set off for an exciting World Challenge expedition to Norway. The itinerary promised white-water rafting, high ropes courses, hiking and wild camping. However, the trip started with an unexpected twist.

Upon arrival at the airport, we were met with chaos. A global IT failure had grounded flights worldwide, including ours. Stranded for over 48 hours, we passed the time playing games and getting to know each other better. Though frustrating, this delay set the tone for the trip – adventure often comes in unexpected forms.

After the long wait, we finally boarded our flight to Kristiansand, only to discover upon landing that our luggage hadn't made it. We were left with only our carry-ons and whatever essentials we had packed. Though challenging, this setback helped us embrace the minimalist nature of our journey, focusing on the experiences rather than material comforts.

One of the most memorable parts of our journey was wild camping on a remote island off Norway's rugged coast. With no amenities and only the supplies we carried, we set up camp surrounded by crystal-clear waters and towering cliffs. As we cooked meals over open fires and slept under the never-setting summer sun, the isolation of the island brought a deep sense of peace. We explored hidden coves and shared stories around the campfire. It was a rare opportunity to connect with nature in its purest form, far removed from the distractions of everyday life.

Another highlight of the trip was white-water rafting in freezing glacial waters. The rapids were intense, and navigating them required coordination and teamwork. Next, we tackled a high ropes course set in the middle of a dense forest. Whether overcoming a fear of heights or balancing across swaying bridges, each of us pushed past personal boundaries. The sense of accomplishment at the end was profound.

We also had the chance to hike through Norway's stunning landscapes, an experience that left us in awe.



From lush valleys to panoramic mountain views, each trail offered a new perspective on the country's natural beauty. One particularly memorable trek led us to a peak overlooking fjords, making all the physical effort worthwhile.

Despite the initial setbacks of being stranded at the airport and losing our luggage, this World Challenge trip became one of growth and resilience. We learned that adventure is not just about the destination, but also about adapting to challenges along the way.

Norway's rugged beauty and wild landscapes provided the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable journey, teaching us valuable lessons about teamwork, perseverance and the joys of the unexpected.

Mr Atkinson

WELCOME

There is an excitable buzz around school as fixtures, trips and school events leap into action.

We were thrilled to welcome all of our new families joining us this academic year to their corresponding introductory events in the last fortnight, and we hope to see even more new faces in the future due to the success of September's Open Day. From the effort put in by staff to ensure a host of fun activities to our incredible student ambassadors touring families around our school, we received outstanding feedback from prospective parents about their experiences. Thank you to all who came along to support us.

Following on from Open Day, we have a number of exciting events coming up to give a flavour of the days at THS. Our successful Nursery 'Stay and Play' is taking place on Tuesday 8 October, where we will welcome our own Nursery pupils alongside those who can join us in the coming months to partake in enjoyable activities with a special *Room on the Broom* theme.

That evening, we will host parents of Year 6 pupils both from THS and other schools in our local community at our Year 7 Information Evening. This night really does add the finer detail around the transition to the Senior School, and what makes the experience at THS so special.

Elsewhere in school, our sports teams have really started the season with a bang! All of our teams have had some amazing performances so far, but a special

mention must go to our U13 netball team following their 28-11 win against South Hunsley which has landed them through to the next round of the National School Sport Magazine Cup.

Finally, as you will have seen, we recently launched this year's THS Family Fireworks Display. We hope to once again have record-breaking numbers joining us on Tuesday 5 November. We recommend that you get your tickets early to avoid disappointment - tickets purchased for Prep pupils via ParentPay will be placed in book/school bags, Senior/Sixth Form tickets will be made available to collect from Reception within three days of purchase. I hope you can make it for another night to remember!

With best wishes,

Kirsty Mackenzie, Head



Outdoor Hockey

In an impressive first 11-a-side match at Eggescliffe, the Under 14 hockey team demonstrated strong teamwork and skill.

There were notable contributions from the Year 10 players, John, Isaac, Trinity and Jacob, who provided valuable tactical guidance.

Trinity showcased his talent by scoring a well-deserved team goal, and only just missed another due to the ball narrowly going out of play.

The collaboration among Arlo, Harry and Louis was evident, while Noah delivered a solid defensive performance at left back. With Ryan leading as captain, the team embodied a spirited approach to the game with the score finishing 1-1. Well done, THS.

Mr Thomas

Durham County Selection

After two days of trials, the following students have successfully gained their place in the Durham County Hockey Squad:

Isaac Hammill, Gabriel Hammill, John Macafee, Gideon Green, Zach Fothergill, Flo Brion, Poppy Brion, Anisa Ditta and Tendai Kushamba.

Miss Turnbull



U13 NETBALL VS EASINGTON

The atmosphere for the U13s first match of the season, a Sisters N Sports National Shield game away to Easington Academy, was fiercely competitive.

Easington started the game quickly, taking an early lead with three well-executed goals. However, the Teesside girls were undeterred and soon began to find their rhythm. The defensive duo of Abigail and Sophia turned over the Easington centre pass and this proved to be the turning point. The formidable twins were intercepting passes with remarkable determination and by the end of the first quarter we had taken a 7-5 lead.

In the shooting circle, Amelie and Flo were nothing short of outstanding.

keeping the scoreboard ticking over throughout the game. The starting centre court trio of Evie, Fliss and Tinashe demonstrated excellent teamwork. Skyler and Fliss, who rotated positions throughout the match, added versatility and depth to the team's performance.

The girls' resilience and determination shone through and their hard work paid off as they secured a convincing 29-14 victory.

Mrs Rodgers

U16 Hockey vs Red House

This match was played in wet conditions with continuous rain throughout. It was the first game of the season, and THS completely dominated. Despite numerous attempts, excellent work by the Red House goalkeeper prevented us from scoring.

Outstanding performances were noted, with Tendai and Anisa being named Players of the Match and Annabel



making a great debut, showing strong work in midfield.

Miss Turnbull



U12 Hockey

The Under 12s enjoyed their first hockey game of the season this week. Our Under 12B team (pictured) faced off against Macmillan's Under 12A team, while our Under 12A team took on Macmillan's Under 13B team. For many of the girls, this was their first experience of competitive hockey.

The B team had an action-packed game with significant progress from both sides. Mabel played exceptionally well in goal, making several impressive saves. Emma, Ava and Zahra grew in confidence as the game progressed. Lalulah made some excellent tackles in defence, while Lola and Olivia demonstrated good teamwork upfront, successfully moving the ball up the pitch.

The A team quickly settled into their positions and played cohesively as a unit. The forwards, Katie, Darcey, and Lottie, supported by Harriet in midfield, worked the ball well between each other, creating numerous opportunities. Katie's stellar performance included scoring three goals, securing the win. Erin, a Year 5 student, played solidly in defense alongside Yasmin, who was also experiencing her first game. Both made several excellent tackles. Martha, utilising her knowledge from football goalkeeping, made some crucial saves.

Overall, it was a positive learning experience for all of the players. The match provided valuable insights, setting a strong foundation for the rest of the season.

Miss Turnbull

Year 11 Netball Stockton Schools



The recent Year 11 netball tournament was a bittersweet occasion, marking the final competition for the girls as a cohesive team.

Throughout the event, the dedication and spirit of the players shone brightly, even amid a mix of competitive results.

The tournament featured a series of challenging matches, showcasing the girls' hard work and determination on the court. Although the final outcomes varied, each game reflected their unwavering commitment to improvement and teamwork. Notable performances included a close game against Red House, where the team demonstrated their skill by leading in the first quarter, igniting hopes for a victory. Ultimately, despite falling short in the final score (6-3), the game highlighted the girls' potential and resilience.

Key players stood out during the tournament. Yasmin earned the Coaches Player of the Tournament,

emphasising her exceptional performance and contribution to the team's dynamics. Additionally, Scarlett and Ivy showcased impressive shooting skills, consistently converting opportunities into points. Lydia's gritty defense was commendable, as she successfully kept pressure on the opponents throughout the games, cementing her role as a reliable keeper.

The tournament results (IRS L 6-2, Conyers D 5-5, Northfield L 6-4, RHS L 6-3) underscore the competitive nature of the event. While the scores reflect some tough losses, they also reveal the learning experiences that will pave the way for future improvement.

Congratulations to all the girls for their incredible effort and dedication—your passion for the game was inspiring!

Miss Stephens

U12 Netball vs Dame Allens

The U12 netball team played their debut match in a highly competitive fixture against Dame Allan's in the Sisters N Sport National Shield.

The girls showcased an incredible effort against their opponents, with Katie displaying relentless energy at centre. Yasmin's work in attack was lovely to watch, and created numerous scoring opportunities for our shooters

of Emily and Florence. In defence, Lalulah, Harriet and Faith have started building a nice connection. The final score was a loss of 5-8 with the team displaying great competitiveness and sportsmanship. The girls will now go on to play in the Bowl competition, and we look forward to watching this new group of players develop.

Mrs Rodgers



U12 Rugby vs Red House

Our U12 boys had their first taste of senior competitive rugby as they welcomed Red House last week.

From the kick-off it was clear both sets of players were relishing the opportunity of a full-contact match, with crunching tackles going in all over the pitch. In particular, Alistair, Henry, Indy, Issac and Max demonstrated eagerness and fearlessness in the tackle. Despite Teesside holding strong, Red House moved the ball accurately and quickly to score three tries.

In the second half, both teams kept the same high intensity. Red House scored two early tries before Teesside came back towards the end of the game to score two of their own. A very entertaining game that was played in high spirits that finished 5-3 to Red House (POM Isaac).

Mr Williamson



WINTER SPORT TEAM CAPTAINS

We are delighted to share our 2024-25 Winter Sport Team Captains and look forward to seeing them progress in their roles.

Boys' Hockey

U11 - Isaac Hammill, U12 - Gabriel Hammill, U13 - Grayson, U14 - Ryan; U15 - John Macafee; U16 - Seth Holland.

Rugby

U11 - Issac Fell; U12 - Jacob Harrow; U13 - Oliver; U14 - William; U15 - Louis Main; U16 - Matthew Charlton.

Girls' Hockey

U11A - Lola Bartle, Deputy: Erin Harrow; U11B - Sienna Sharma; U12A -



Katie Jensen; U12B - Mabel Rennison; U13A - Betsy Scanlan; U13B - Skyler Jowers; U14 - Flo Rennison; U16 - Tendai Kushamba.

Netball

U11A - Evan Smith; U11B - TBC; U12A - Yasmin Ali; U12B - Emma Scales, U13A - Amelie Rodgers, U13B - Florence Rennison, U14 - Emilia Holder, U15A - Anisa Ditta, U15B - Ellie Stephenson, U16A - Yasmin De-Roche.

Miss Turnbull

U13 Netball vs South Hunsley

The U13 Netball team put on a spectacular performance in the second round of the National School Sport Magazine Cup against South Hunsley.

The girls came out strong, with Evie, Tinashe, Amelie and Flo leading the attack in a manner that proved to be unstoppable for South Hunsley.

Defensively, the THS girls were equally formidable. Sophia and Fliss disrupted the Hunsley attack, while

Betsy and Skyler made numerous interceptions, showcasing their skill and determination. The team's efforts paid off, as the first quarter ended with an impressive 12-2 lead.

The shooters delivered an outstanding performance throughout, with Flo, Flossy and Abigail all making significant contributions in the circle. Amelie was awarded Player of the Match due to her shooting accuracy of over 80% and her impressive 20-goal tally.



Hockey vs Yarm

In an intense indoor hockey match, Teesside High School faced off against Yarm School, with players showcasing determination and skill throughout the game. Both teams created plenty of scoring opportunities, but unfortunately, Teesside's efforts often hit the post or were saved by the Yarm goalkeeper. George shone in the second half, netting two goals, while John and Isaac impressed with their precise passing. Angus, Monty, Will and Lucas worked tirelessly on the pitch, contributing to a commendable team effort. George in goal had an impressive performance, too. Despite the hard-fought performance, the match concluded with a 6-2 victory for Yarm.

Mr Thomas



The match concluded with a resounding 28-11 win for the U13 team and displayed the versatility and adaptability of this fantastic squad.

Mrs Rodgers

Early Years Trip to Hopetown

Nursery and Reception brought their topic *All Aboard* to life when they headed off on the train to Hopetown Railway Museum on Tuesday.

The platform at Eaglescliffe station was buzzing with excitement when the 9.36am service to Darlington pulled in.

Once settled in their seats, the children enjoyed a game of 'I spy' and made sure to show their tickets to the ticket collector. In no time at all we pulled into Darlington North Road Station ready to explore Hopetown.

The children had fun looking at the different trains and took part in a

hands-on workshop which took inspiration from the book *Faster, Faster Little Red Train* by Benedict Blathway.

The fun did not end there as the children boarded the return service back to Eaglescliffe. It's safe to say it was a wonderful adventure which for many of the children in Nursery was their first ever off-site school trip.

Miss Hall



The Naughty Bus

There was great excitement in Nursery this week when the children arrived to discover a gift had been delivered to our classroom. The children opened it without delay and there were squeals of delight when we saw it was The Naughty Bus from the story we have been enjoying.

The children have been taking it in turns to look after the bus and have made their very own bus models putting their fine motor skills to the test to cut out the wheels and draw the passengers.

Miss Hall



Pre-Prep Music

The Pre-Prep children had a wonderful musical visit from Mrs Ayling this week.

Mrs Ayling showed the children her violin and they also had a try at playing one themselves.

Mrs Hannah



Pre-Prep Trip to Souter Lighthouse

The Pre-Prep children were very excited about their first trip of the term. To further their learning in the IPC unit *Treasure Island*, the children visited Souter Lighthouse.

Pupils were able to use some of the geographical terms learnt in lessons to describe the landscape, and they had an amazing time exploring the rock pools and looking for sea creatures.

The children then enjoyed a tour of the first purpose built electric lighthouse in the UK. They found out how the lighthouse worked and the way lighthouse keepers lived in the past.

They even managed to climb the 72 steps to see the half light near the top of the lighthouse!

We would like to say a big thank you to the staff and volunteers at Souter Lighthouse for helping us and answering all of our questions.

Mrs Hannah

The Runaway Train

Last week, Reception pupils enjoyed focusing on *The Runaway Train* in their Drawing Club sessions.

The children used their creativity to come up with ways to redesign the train so that it could overcome obstacles on the track and some pupils even wrote the word 'go' to make the train go even faster!

Pupils also enjoyed making 2D shape pictures inspired by the story and learning about the different parts of a train and what they are for.

Miss Graham

Water Play

Nursery pupils have been hard at work in water play this week.

The children have been developing

their mark making skills using water and paintbrushes outside and I have seen amazing progress in their problem solving and teamwork skills

when exploring how they could transport the water using guttering.

Miss Hall





Cultural Creations

The children in the Cultural Creations club are having a great time exploring a range of different crafts from around the world.

Each week, we focus on a different country, learning something about them and how/why the craft activity links to this part of the world. So far, the children have enjoyed practising their origami skills, making Guatemalan worry dolls and dream catchers.

It is lovely to see the children

interacting so well within the club and enjoying some creative downtime at the end of a busy day.

I am sure we will have more projects to share with you but here are our worry dolls from this week!

Mrs Kennedy

Forest School Awards

Over the last two weeks, pupils from Nursery to Year 8 have been enjoying their time in Forest School.

Year 1 pupils have started their Fire Skills award and have enjoyed the story of 'Fiery Fox', who teaches them all about fire safety. Year 2 have started their first Woodland Cooking Award, and in readiness of cooking on the fire, whittled sticks for toasting

marshmallows. Year 5 pupils started on their final Nature ID badge where they had a refresher session on trees and developed their knowledge of coniferous and deciduous species. Year 6 pupils have started an exciting project for their Environmental badge, where they have started to clear an area for hedgehog houses!

Miss Hopkins



Duolingo

By popular request, we now have a Duolingo club in the Prep School.

The children are engaged in learning a range of languages including Japanese, Spanish, German, Swedish and Irish, on top of their MFL lessons in school.

We have enjoyed sharing our knowledge, including some funny phrases, such as 'I am a refrigerator!'

The children encourage each other to maintain their learning streak, with Joseph at a whopping 237 days and Alexander at 176 days!

A superb achievement.

Miss Lockerbie



Thinking Curriculum

Learners in the Prep School have made a great start in their Thinking Curriculum lessons this academic year.

The Thinking Curriculum aims to give children a greater understanding of themselves as learners and provide them with a toolkit for how to approach some of the more challenging aspects of their studies in future years.

In line with the Thinking Curriculum in the Senior School, the year is split into three themes: Developing My Thinking, Developing Myself as a Learner and Working as a Team. The Developing My Thinking unit of work focuses on the metacognitive skills we hope to develop in our children to help them understand how to approach a task whilst the Developing Myself as a Learner unit provides them with the tools to execute this approach.

Across the Prep School we have started

the year with our Working as a Team unit and the children across Pre-Prep, Lower Prep and Upper Prep have all been working on the skills required to be a team player and to work collaboratively on a common goal.

In Upper Prep, the children have been working with peers they may not regularly work with to produce a group advertising project for a new food item they have designed. They have needed to delegate, communicate and problem solve as a group to get to their final project. We have been delighted with how they have applied themselves to the challenge and with the quality of work each group has delivered.

Mr List

Baking in the Senior School Food & Nutrition classroom

For the Technology Task of our *Bake it* unit, the children in Upper Prep headed over to the Senior School kitchen to have a go at making a simple loaf of bread with the help of Mrs Howard.

We only used a few ingredients, however, the children worked well together to make a dough that they

could then have a go at kneading. We decided that this kneading process was hard work but were pleased to see that the bread dough had risen before being baked.

The children were able to apply and relate their prior learning from their science tasks to this activity, understanding that their yeast had



Olympus Challenge

Last week, an enthusiastic group of Year 5 and 6 Prep School students embarked on the Olympus Challenge.

In this lunchtime club, pupils will study a range of topics and be able to choose areas of the ancient world that they are interested in to investigate further.

Pupils excelled during their introduction to Latin and are looking forward to producing creative responses to Greek and Roman culture.

Miss Malik

been activated to produce carbon dioxide gas that helped the bread to rise.

The children have now been tasked to bake some bread from a worldwide destination of their choice in order to showcase their skills and flavours in our Exit Point.

Mrs Kennedy





Go Ape!

Year 7 students embarked on a team-building adventure at Go Ape, Dalby Forest.

Facing their fears and dangling from the trees, pupils showed incredible bravery and camaraderie throughout the day.

It was amazing to see how the different groups supported and encouraged one another, learning more about each

other in the process. The fantastic singing on the minibuses to and from the forest added to the fun atmosphere, making it a truly unforgettable experience.

This super bunch of students made the day even more special with their positive attitudes and willingness to try new things.

Overall, it was a fantastic day filled with laughter, challenges, and a sense of togetherness that will surely be remembered for years to come.

Miss Stephens



International Week

KS3 students have been using their Thinking Curriculum skills this week to make keypoint plus tools in MFL lessons to explore the benefits of learning a foreign language.

The areas we discussed included travel, arts and culture, future study and

employment opportunities as well as the benefits to memory, cognitive and life skills.

Research has shown that for each year of additional MFL instruction, there is an improvement in examination results.

Ms Wesson

An Inspector Calls

Years 10 and 11 students visited Darlington Hippodrome on Wednesday to watch J.B.Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*.

The plot focuses on taking responsibility for your actions, allowing your perspectives to change and to treat everyone equally, no matter what social standing they come from.

Students watched excellent performers exemplify these themes, but also witnessed an award-winning set and were impressed with the level of detail that the production team had gone into to recreate a 1912 Edwardian home.

This trip is to eventually help our students write about *An Inspector Calls* successfully for their GCSE English Literature and GCSE Drama examinations.

A great trip all round!

Mrs Furness



Open Day Music

Whole School Open Days allow our musicians to demonstrate their skills and share their progress with us by performing a wide range of pieces for our visiting guests.

This term, we featured many of our music scholars, GCSE and Sixth Form students.

Faith, a Year 7 Music Scholar, and Bethea and Lilia, who both achieved Grade 5 last term, all played pieces on piano from their examination repertoire.

Gabriel, also a Year 7 Music Scholar, accompanied himself on guitar and sang *Starry, starry night* by Don McLean, which was composed in 1970 after McLean had read a book about the life of Van Gogh.

Hannah sang pieces from her recent Grade 1 Musical Theatre examination. *Truly Scrumptious* and *My Favourite*



Things, and Bethea sang *You don't own me* recorded by Lesley Gore in the 1960s.

We enjoyed listening to our Sixth Form students who had prepared solo and duet pieces for the event. Joe and Benji sang *Need You Now* with some lovely harmonies, followed by a clever mash-up version of *I Feel Pretty* and *Unpretty*.

I am always grateful to all our musicians for giving up their time and preparing so many high quality performances for us. Make sure you pop into the Main Hall during the next Open Day to hear more!

Mrs Shevels



Sixth Form Meal

Our first Sixth Form Social was held at Al Forno, Ingleby Barwick, last week.

This was an excellent opportunity for students to bond and mingle outside of the classroom.

We are now all looking forward to the next social event... Hallowscream at York Maze!

Mr Hannah



Cleveland Philharmonic Choir

On Saturday 16 November at 4.00pm, Cleveland Philharmonic Choir performs its first concert at Teesside High School, and it's one not to be missed!

Tickets are £15 for adults and £5 for children and students (£1 booking fee).

We do hope you will join us for a splendid evening of music!

Joan Carter, Concert Manager



Artist of the Month

We are delighted to announce our Artist of The Month for September is Jose in Year 10, for outstanding work using aperture to photograph grasses in the school grounds.

Mrs Machan

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



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