

THIS Week



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

WINTER CONCERT

A rousing night of festive music was the perfect way to spend our penultimate evening in school.

This year's Winter Concert opened with our Senior Orchestra playing the atmospheric *Winter* from the *Four Seasons* by Vivaldi and *Trepak*, from *The Nutcracker* ballet by Tchaikovsky. Lower Prep Choir sang a familiar favourite of the season, *Silent Night* before 7H entertained us with their own special fusion of songs from *Frozen* and *Wonka*. Bethea treated us to a beautiful, contemporary song *Noel* with Lilia following on the piano with a piece by a well-known 20th century composer, *Nuvole Bianche* by Einaudi.

Our Prep Strings Group performed *Jingle Bells* before being joined by Senior Strings for the final piece before the interval and played *The Snowman* together. It was wonderful to hear and see so many of our young musicians working together.

With the charity raffle in aid of Zoe's Place Children's Hospice and refreshments done, we moved on to our audience participation piece of the evening and the *Twelve Days of Christmas* rang out. Emmeline's monologue of the *Twelve Notes of Christmas* diary entries kept us entertained and painted a vivid picture of what it might be like to receive all of those gifts - I think I would be getting Amazon to return them all! 7T then performed *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy* as a percussion and brass ensemble before our Senior String players took us to warmer climes with a performance of the Main Theme from *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Some nostalgic Joni Mitchell followed with a performance of *River* from Elisa.

Our Senior Choir sang two pieces. We rang in the new with Taylor Swift's *Christmas Tree Farm* and brought back a firm favourite of our Year 13 students, *Mary Did You Know*. The full company then sang to wish the audience a *Merry Christmas, Everyone*.

Every performer contributed to this special recipe of a really wonderful evening, full of festive music,

community spirit and a generous sprinkling of THS magic. Congratulations to everyone involved on a truly enchanting evening and thank you to our warm and appreciative audience; we hope you feel festive, merry and bright!

Mrs Shevels



WELCOME

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As the autumn term comes to a close, it is a great opportunity to reflect and celebrate all of the fantastic moments the past few months have brought. It has been a wonderful term full of special times, memorable trips and events and a lot of hard work from our pupils and staff.

The last two weeks have been packed with exciting festivities, from our Pre-Prep Nativity to our annual Winter Concert and so much more!

Mr Clarke presented 'The THS Christmas Quiz' on Monday which brought a whole range of fun, from asking students to guess which teachers preferred which presents, to seeing who could make themselves look most like a Christmas tree!

Yesterday marked Christmas Jumper Day where everybody enjoyed a delicious Christmas Dinner thanks to our fantastic catering team - they never disappoint! Following on from this, Years 7-13 assembled in the Main Hall to watch the Senior House Choir Competition. Although it was very close, Cleveland took the victory for the most angelic voices this year!

Last night marked our annual Winter Concert. It was a lovely evening that successfully showcased the talent of our pupils across all year groups and demonstrated their bravery for performing to such a large audience. Well done to all involved.

Christmas cheer has also been

prominent in other parts of the school as Pre-Prep pupils performed their Nativity production to proud parents last week. It was a pleasure to watch this alongside our Early Years governor, Mr Charles Atha - it was both hilarious and heartwarming.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all who provided any toy or food donations for Mission Christmas and Hebron Foodbank in recent weeks. I hope you will be super impressed by what our school family was able to contribute to our local community this Christmas. I, for one, am extremely proud.

Kirsty Mackenzie, Head



Speech Day

A huge thank you to all who came along to Speech Day 2024.

Speech Day is an extremely important day for us at THS as it sets aside time for us to celebrate the many notable achievements of our Senior and Sixth Form pupils.

Awards vary from overall academic achievement to individual subject prizes and progress recognition.

We would particularly like to thank our guests of honour, pictured (L-R): Mrs Kirsty Mackenzie - Head, Paula Gardner - Mayoress of Stockton-on-Tees, Councillor John Gardner - Mayor, Rob Tindle - Chair of Governors, Darren Harris - Guest Speaker, Henry - Head Boy and Emmeline - Head Girl.

Miss McKeown



U14 INDOOR HOCKEY VS EGGLESCLIFFE

The U14 indoor hockey match between Teesside High and Egglecliffe was a strong contest filled with skill from both sides.

Teesside High's attacking trio of Arlo, Lewis and Harry was particularly impressive, consistently creating goal-scoring opportunities.

Arlo shone brightly, netting a brilliant hat trick, demonstrating his striking prowess and agility. Lewis also made significant contributions, scoring two goals and proving to be a constant threat to Egglecliffe's defence.

Defensively, William, Ryan and Oliver put on a solid performance, showcasing their tactical awareness and excellent tackling skills. Their efforts were crucial in containing the Egglecliffe attack, allowing Teesside High to maintain composure during challenging

moments.

However, the standout performer of the match was undoubtedly Gideon. He was exceptional between the posts, making numerous vital saves that kept Teesside High in the game. His quick reflexes and keen instincts were pivotal against a relentless Egglecliffe offence.

In a thrilling back-and-forth encounter, the match ended in a 5-5 draw, testament to the competitive spirit and skill displayed by both teams. It was a fantastic display of hockey and players from both sides should be proud of their efforts.

Well played, everyone!

Mr Thomas



U15 Hockey vs Barnard Castle

A delightful evening of hockey unfolded on Tuesday as our Under 15s faced Barnard Castle in a friendly yet spirited encounter. The match showcased excellent teamwork and sportsmanship from both sides.

Betsy delivered an outstanding performance, maintaining a clean sheet in goal, whilst the defensive duo of Tinashe and Maisie (making her debut in 11-a-side) showed great chemistry, effectively distributing the ball to wingbacks Lily and Coco.

The midfield trio of Poppy, Anisa and Martha displayed remarkable stamina throughout the match, consistently moving the ball upfield and creating opportunities for our forwards. Their tireless work rate kept pressure on the opposition while maintaining possession.

The forward line of Flo, Megan and Tendai kept the Barnard Castle defence busy throughout the match. Tendai in particular stood out with exceptional stick work, scoring two amazing goals.

The girls finished with a 2-0 victory.

Player of the Match went to Anisa and Coach's Player of the Match went to Tendai.

A fantastic team performance that highlighted both individual skill and collective effort.

Miss Turnbull

U12 Indoor Hockey Tournament

The U12 boys followed up their recent success in Bradford with an outstanding performance at the North of England Indoor Hockey Tournament last week.

The boys commenced the tournament with a strong showing against Yarm, showcasing excellent teamwork. Key contributions from players such as Isaac, Issac and Henry generated numerous scoring opportunities for THS. Despite their efforts, Yarm managed to secure the only goal of the match with just three minutes remaining.

The second game of the tournament saw the team against King's Chester. With standout performances from Gabriel, Ewan, Indiana and Alistair, the team played with resilience, culminating in a hard-fought 1-1 draw.

In the final game against Calday Grange, the score remained tied at 1-1 as both

teams fought fiercely for dominance. As the clock ticked down to the final minute, Jacob seized the moment by executing a brilliant counter-attack. Demonstrating remarkable skill, he dribbled past two defenders before delivering a precision shot into the bottom corner of the net, securing a dramatic victory for THS.

With all participating teams finishing on four points and a goal difference of zero, the U12 boys proudly claimed joint second place overall in the North of England.

This remarkable achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication and sportsmanship.

Mr Thomas



Year 3 and 4 PE

Lower Prep enjoyed some festive fun in PE this week with Polar Bear Crawls, Stuck in the Pud and Naughty Elves vs Santa!

They had lots of fun whilst improving

their passing, catching and fundamental fitness for rugby to round off their block of work this term.

Miss Stephens



U12 Hockey vs Macmillan

The U12s welcomed several new players and put on an impressive display, showing tremendous teamwork and growing positional awareness throughout their match against Macmillan last week.

Katie showcased newly-developed stick skills up front, scoring multiple goals, whilst Darcey and Thea provided excellent support, consistently moving the ball upfield. Ava was a strong midfield presence, Lalulah and Sophia displayed solid defensive work and Lottie showed great promise in her debut as goalkeeper.

The girls went home with a 4-1 victory and most importantly, big smiles all around.

Miss Turnbull



U13 NETBALL VS ST AIDAN'S

The U13 netball team has gained the remarkable achievement of making it to the semi finals of the Sisters n Sport National Netball Shield.

In an impressive quarter-final match against St Aidan's, the girls took to the court with determination and showcased their skill with a resounding 24-10 victory.

The first quarter ended with a commanding score of 9-2. Amelie's shooting was flawless and this set the tone for the game.

The girls' energy continued to shine through as they entered the second quarter, with a dynamic display of teamwork among Flo, Evie and Tinashe in the centre court. Their fluid passing created numerous scoring opportunities, allowing the team to maintain their lead. St Aidan's did respond, scoring three goals early in the second quarter.



However, our tenacious defensive unit, led by Sophia and Betsy, rose to the challenge and effectively shut down their scoring, limiting St Aidan's to just those three goals.

During the final half of the match the girls were all able to take to the court and try numerous combinations. Flossy came on as GS and Skyler as WD and it was wonderful to see the progress they have made this year.

We are so proud of the commitment and teamwork that these girls have shown to reach this point and cannot wait to see them take to the court in the semi finals in the new year.

Mrs Rodgers

U13 Hockey vs Macmillan Academy

An exciting 7-a-side hockey game took place last week as our U13 hockey team celebrated an outstanding 3-0 victory against Macmillan Academy.

The girls controlled the game from the start, displaying excellent ball movement across the pitch. Despite their dominance, Macmillan's outstanding goalkeeper kept the score to just 1-0 at half-time.

After a strategic team talk, our girls adapted their play, moving the ball more swiftly in the circle and positioning shots toward the far posts to outmanoeuvre the keeper.

With Amelie and Abigail being rock-solid in defence, Tinashe tirelessly working in midfield, Betsy, Flo and Evie with amazing attacking, and finally Skyler having her first ever experience in goal, the girls could not



U12 Hockey vs Egglecliffe

For the B team (pictured), this outing marked the beginning of their hockey journey, with many players experiencing their first competitive games. Indy, Jayden and Corey exhibited great composure on the ball, whilst Euan, Eshaan and Freddie pushed forward on attacks, Sidney's passing helped maintain possession.

Meanwhile, the A team demonstrated resilience and teamwork. Isaac, Henry and Gabriel displayed fantastic defending whilst Alistair, Ewan and Isaac upped the ante on the offensive front, culminating in a 3-0 victory for the boys. Notably, Manveer made his debut in the A team, seamlessly fitting into the fast-paced environment.

Mr Thomas



have deserved the win more!

Miss Turnbull



Pre-Prep Nativity

Last week, Pre-Prep pupils took centre stage in a heartwarming and festive Nativity performance, marking the start of the holiday season at THS.

The well-anticipated annual Pre-Prep Nativity production took place in front of proud families. With wide eyes and excited smiles, the children took to the stage full of giggles and nerves. They eagerly looked around trying to spot their loved ones in the audience, but composed themselves well as the piano began to play.

Pupils sang their hearts out to an

array of songs such as *Knock, Knock* and *Plodding Along to Bethlehem*, performing the actions they had learnt. It was an extremely enjoyable afternoon for all who attended and the children loved every second of it. In Eli's words, it was 'the best Nativity ever!'. Thank you to all who came along, we are very grateful for all of your support.

Miss McKeown

Santa's Grotto

There was great excitement in Nursery when the children arrived to discover Santa's Grotto.

They instantly explored the provision and were busy little elves helping Santa to deliver all the presents. During their play, the children have been

demonstrating wonderful teamwork skills, friendship and communication and language skills whilst incorporating festive language.

The words "ho, ho, ho Merry Christmas" are frequently heard in Nursery!

Miss Hall



Creative

Christmas Tree

Nursery children have been busy little elves and have worked together to create a vibrant and imaginative Christmas tree!

Each pupil contributed their own creative touch, carefully decorating the boxes with glitter, sequins and colourful pom poms.

Excitement filled the air as their masterpiece began to take shape, resulting in a beautiful, one-of-a-kind tree that reflected their shared creativity and festive spirit.

Miss Hall



Reading in Year 1

In Pre-Prep, pupils have fostered a love for reading.

The children are immersed in a delightful mix of fiction and non-fiction books, exploring stories that spark their imaginations and expand their knowledge of the world.

It is truly heartwarming to witness the joy they find in reading, whether they are lost in a fantastical adventure or discovering new facts.

Equally special is the way our young

readers work together, sharing books and discuss their favorite stories. This collaborative spirit helps build both their reading skills and a sense of community.

It is wonderful to see how reading is not just a solo activity but a shared experience, one that cultivates a lifelong love of learning and exploration.

Mrs Hannah

Letters to Santa from Reception

Reception children were brimming with excitement last week as they discovered a letter from Santa in the class post box. The children were thrilled to each receive a certificate, explaining they were on the nice list.

They also enjoyed writing letters to Santa, sharing their Christmas wishes and gratitude. It was a magical morning!

Miss Graham



Reindeer PE

As the term draws to a close and the excitement of Christmas continues to build in Nursery, the children thoroughly enjoyed a Christmas-themed PE lesson, where they engaged in imaginative play by transforming into reindeer!

With little antlers and wide smiles, the children loved using red balloons, symbolising Rudolf's iconic red nose, which they tossed and caught with increasing precision.

This playful approach not only fostered their physical coordination and motor skills but also created a festive and engaging atmosphere, blending holiday cheer with purposeful developmental activities.

If Santa is in need of any wonderful reindeers to help pull his sleigh, our Nursery children are certainly ready to lend a hand!

Miss Hall





Rudolph Run!

Prep School was full of festive fun as pupils took part in the Rudolph Run around our school grounds, raising an outstanding £1440 for Teesside Hospice.

Pupils made an outstanding effort on the run, where they ran all around the school grounds, including in and around the forest and school field. Although it was a cold day, the children put hard work into their run and the staff were amazed with their incredible ability!

Well done to Erin in Year 5, Gia in Year 3, Isaac in Year 6 and Thomas in Year 4 who all placed 1st in their categories. Well done to all who participated and thank you for such an amazing effort in raising money for a charity that helps our local community in so many ways.

Miss McKeown

Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

I am delighted to share the results of the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge, held in November, and extend our warmest congratulations to all the children who took part.

Well done to Amelia, Aubrey, Francesca, Georgina, Alexander, Lucy, Alia, Laura, Thea, Eshaan, Emily and Lola for earning Certificates of Distinction

for scoring within the top 25% in the school for their age categories. In addition to this, pupils Emily, Lola, Noah, Alexander, Joseph, Betsy, and Raffie achieved a Gold Award for scoring in the top 10% nationally. Well done everyone!

Miss Lockerbie



What a Wonderful World

Having explored a variety of Geography and Science tasks in this unit of work, the children have recently turned their attention to clouds.

The children have been learning about the different types of clouds and how they are formed. They were interested to learn about how many different types of clouds there are and how they form at different altitudes. They have also considered which types of weather that these different types of clouds can bring.

We watched a video to look at how it was possible to create a cloud in a bottle and this is something that many of the children are eager to complete at home over the Christmas break.

We have also learnt about how cloud coverage is measured using the Oktas scale. The children have created their own measuring tool and have taken their readings each day for a week. Luckily for this time of year, we have seen a range of cloud coverage, even seeing some clear blue sky last week.

Mrs Kennedy

Geology in Upper-Prep

As part of the children's learning in Science, they have been learning about different types of rock.

Having taken part in an excellent 'Geology Rocks' workshop whilst on their recent trip to The Sill in Northumberland, the children are now confident to name the three rock types.

This IPC task allowed the children to consider the properties of the different types of rock in more detail. We have been learning about weathering and erosion and in this task the children considered which rock was most likely to be affected by water.

Having taken a starting weight, the children immersed their rock samples in water - one igneous rock, one metamorphic rock and one sedimentary rock - and then reweighed each of them at ten minute intervals. They were delighted to see that their investigation had worked and that the sedimentary rock was the most porous

and had increased in weight the most. Having these results, the children were then able to conclude the reasons why this rock was the most porous.

The final challenge was to see whether any of the rocks would be affected by freeze thaw weathering. The children were very pleased to see that one of the sedimentary rocks had split in two from the effects of the freezing and thawing.

Mrs Kennedy



The Thinking Curriculum

Prep School pupils have completed their first unit of Thinking Curriculum work. The focus this term has been to improve their ability to work as a team. Pupils have developed collaborative skills through a range of different activities across each area of the Prep School.

In Upper Prep, the children have worked with peers beyond their friendship groups to build their resilience and ability to compromise.

This has seen them identify common ideology with peers to form the premise of a political party as well as using their communication skills to complete a blind drawing activity.

This has been mirrored lower down the school with children in Lower Prep enjoying lessons such as developing their ability to debate as a team, and in Pre-Prep, the children have worked in groups to design a toy to bring to market.

Year 6 Shakespeare

Year 6 pupils have been exploring Shakespeare through descriptive writing recently. As part of their studies, they tackled an exciting challenge: describing the eerie and chaotic battlefield of Macbeth. This allowed them to showcase their growing mastery of English, using ambitious vocabulary and a range of figurative language techniques. Here are a few extracts of their fantastic work:

We were outnumbered by thousands but we knew we'd put up a fight. The dank air fell around me engulfing the battlefield. Death, destruction, dilemma. My comrades were lions pouncing at their prey. Slowly, the trees swayed, while the rain hit us like arrows.

Isaac Hammill

It was silent again. Nothing to be heard. No life to be seen. Just crimson stained earth as far as the eye could see.

Lottie Lane

Lightning struck; the two enemies crashed together. This was the start of something that should have never happened, and that something was war.

Alia McGonnell

Mrs Reid



Mr List



Hungarian Orchestra

On Wednesday 4 December, some of our musicians attended a concert by the Hungarian Radio Orchestra at Middlesbrough Town Hall.

This professional orchestra is currently on tour performing two programmes of amazing repertoire and we were treated to such an inspirational evening of music.

A pre-concert talk was held in the Fire Station building, with the piano soloist, Jeneba Kennuh-Mason and conductor who shared insights into their understanding of the pieces we would hear, their respective musical journeys and of their favourite pieces to perform.

We took our seats in the concert hall itself and an expectant hush fell as the lights dimmed. First we heard a short piece just for orchestra by Zoltán Kodály, a Hungarian composer who invented his own method of teaching music using sol-fa which is still widely used and highly respected today.

Next, came a piece which is for many, the highlight of the programme, Rachmaninov's second piano concerto. Fiercely difficult for the solo pianist, this lush, romantic work features soaring melodies, complex and chromatic harmonies and wonderfully rich orchestration. Jeneba Kanneh-Mason was flawless. We learned in the pre-concert talk that this is her favourite concerto to play, and that she has been playing it since her late teens.

Following the interval we heard the similarly iconic 7th symphony by Beethoven. Widely recognised as one of Beethoven's best works, the four movements are filled with dance-like rhythmic interest and development, with occasional chromatic writing typical of his style and a rare but important dynamic marking of *fff* - very, very loud!

Our students were utterly transfixed by the music, following the conductor's instructions to 'listen with your eyes' and spoke enthusiastically after the performance on how the music made them feel. It '*made my brain tingle*' and '*gave me goosebumps*. *The synchronised movement of the violin bows was mesmerising*. *The music was so uplifting, you felt like it was picking you up out of your seat.*'

As always, our students were impeccably behaved and were fantastic ambassadors for our school with members of the public commenting on how nice it was to see young people at such a high-brow concert. We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and are already looking forward to our next classical concert.

Mrs Shevels



Future Chef Competition

Ivy, Anisa and Noah have been hard at work in recent weeks practising and perfecting their dishes in preparation for the local heat of this year's Springboard FutureChef Competition, which took place last week at Darlington College. The standard was really high and the competition was tough.

Our students worked diligently and the food they prepared and presented was fantastic. We are super pleased to share that Ivy and her 'Spanish chicken' dish won the heat and Ivy will now represent the region at the next round of the competition in Sheffield in January!

Mrs Howard



Shakespeare Week

It was a veritable feast of drama, literature and laughter!

"If music be the food of love, play on..." And so we did, for an entire week, as our school transformed into a Shakespearean stage during Bardolatory Week. Students and staff alike donned their figurative ruffs (and the English Department, their t-shirts) to celebrate the life and legacy of the Bard himself, William Shakespeare.

The week began with a most rousing assembly, delivered by myself. I argued convincingly why studying a man who lived over four centuries ago still matters today. From inventing over 1,700 words we still use ('bedazzled' and 'swagger' are his!) to creating drama that rivals even the best of today's soap operas, Shakespeare teaches us not only about love and



ambition but also about the very essence of being human.

Inspired by my speech, students threw themselves into a whirlwind of activities. Workshops galore offered everything from an introduction to Shakespeare's life and times to tackling the lover's dilemmas in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to drama-based revision sessions of *Macbeth*.

We didn't stop there. Shakespeare's tales leapt from page to screen with screenings of our favourite Bard-inspired movies. And let's not forget the pièce de résistance of the week – Shakespearean-themed snacks! Students nibbled on 'animal bones' (Twiglets) and 'Starbursts' (berries) while sipping on MilkShakes-peare, raising money for charity with every delicious sip.

As the week came to a close, we were left with the distinct feeling that Shakespeare's words are as alive today as they were in the Globe Theatre all those centuries ago.

Ms Duffy

Mission Christmas and Foodbank Update

All donations for Hebron Foodbank and Mission Christmas were both delivered and collected on Wednesday.

We are ever so grateful for your generosity to these charities; altogether you have donated over 450 food items

and 200 amazing children's gifts.

This will go such a long way at this special time of year.

Thank you so much for your kindness.

Miss McKeown



Senior House Choir Competition

Senior School students enjoyed an exciting House Choir Competition yesterday, where Cleveland House took the victory!

All students and staff in each House made a tremendous effort in this year's annual Senior House Choir Competition.

Cleveland took the stage first with Mr Williamson directing their rendition of *Fairytale of New York*. Using unique props and re-enacting a scene from *Love Actually*, everybody was very impressed! The three judges, Mrs Mackenzie, Mrs Shevels and Mrs Williams, explained how it was great to see every single person singing along and enjoying themselves.

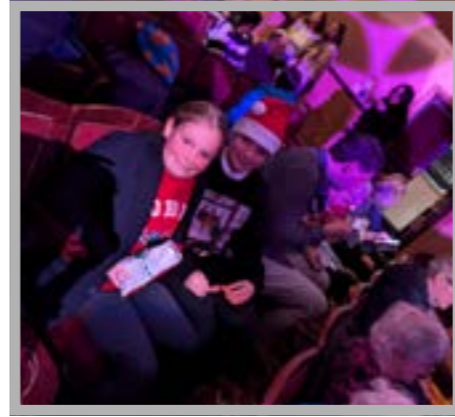
Victoria rose to the challenge next when Mr Thomas directed a fantastic version of *Do they Know It's Christmas*. Students and staff sang their hearts out and had a fabulous time while doing so!

Finally, Woodside got up to sing. Although it was Mrs Rodgers' first time directing the choir, Woodside put on an impressive show with multiple instruments and festive costumes. They performed a mash-up of *You can't stop the beat* and *All I Want for Christmas is You*.

Although it was a close call, Cleveland took the victory this year! Well done to all who participated.

Miss McKeown

THIS WEEK PHOTO GALLERY



SAVE THE DATE



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

TEESSIDE HIGH SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Saturday 1 February, 10.00am-12.00pm



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