

# THIS Week



Teesside High School  
*Education as it should be*

## THS CAREERS CONVENTION

We are delighted to invite pupils in Years 9-12 to our annual Careers Convention which will take place on Wednesday 29 January, 6.00pm-8.00pm, in and around the Main Hall.

Teesside High School's Careers Convention is an informative event which attracts over 40 universities, training providers and local businesses in order to provide up-to-date careers advice and guidance to our students. Students in Year 9 and above all have important decisions to make about their future and this event will give them the opportunity to research into the myriad of opportunities that are available.

This is a brilliant opportunity for students to get a particular taste of different areas or careers they may wish to go into in the future. We do hope that you will come to meet the professionals and academics who will be here to provide information on different careers, apprenticeships and courses. We will have representatives from a wide range of sectors and organisations, both employers new to this event alongside long-standing supporters, including: Armed Forces, Accountancy, Marketing, Civil Service, Engineering, Dentistry, Medicine and so much more!

Mr Hannah, Head of THS Sixth Form, will also be available to discuss A-level options and the UCAS process, and we will also have representation from local and national Apprenticeship providers.

For those students in Year 9, this will be the first opportunity to gather information about a broad range of careers which should help to further inform the basis of option choices for GCSE. For students in Years 10 and 11, this is an opportunity to both develop their thoughts on future careers and to start to think about options for post-16 study. Year 12 students should use this event to prepare for the UCAS applications that they will be making in Year 13 or explore

apprenticeship and gap year opportunities. University Admissions Officers will be on hand to offer advice on the background of different universities and the range of courses available.

Networking and gathering contacts amongst the delegates at the Careers Convention, many of whom are new for 2025, will enable our pupils to broaden their knowledge, secure work experience placements, help gain entry to university or secure higher and advanced level apprenticeships.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**Miss Stephens**



# WELCOME

A warm welcome back to all families; I hope the start of the spring term has been enjoyable for you all.

After a long break, it is lovely to see the school corridors buzzing once again as we begin a busy second term. I am extremely proud of our Year 11 and 12 students who sat mock examinations in the first week back. It was very impressive to see the hard work students had put in over the Christmas break and I hope this experience will help in preparation for their 'real' examinations in the summer term!

A wonderful time was had by some of our staff and students at the end of last term, when they travelled to New York City and enjoyed a few days of fun-filled activities and sightseeing infamous attractions. I hope you enjoy reading about their experience. We have a number of exciting upcoming trips this term, including London for Upper Prep and Naples and the Bay of Sorrento for Geography students - both taking place next month.

We also have a range of events coming up - from our 19th annual Careers Convention on Wednesday 29 January to our second Open Day of the academic year on Saturday 1 February. We hope to welcome lots of prospective families through our doors! Registration for this event will close on Tuesday, so please do get in touch should you wish to find out more about our wonderful school.

I am also delighted to announce that on Friday 31 January, some

of our Prep pupils have been selected to attend an Able, Gifted and Talented Working Lunch with Miss Hall and our first visiting speaker, on the topic of International Trade and Foreign Investment. This event is designed to challenge and inspire the pupils as they explore topics that broaden their intellectual horizons and stimulate critical thinking. I look forward to hearing how they get on!

The first few weeks of term have been full of outstanding student achievements, from success in ESU Public Speaking competitions to fantastic wins on the sports field. I am very much looking forward to seeing what the new year brings for our pupils.

**Kirsty Mackenzie, Head**



## Spring Ball 2025

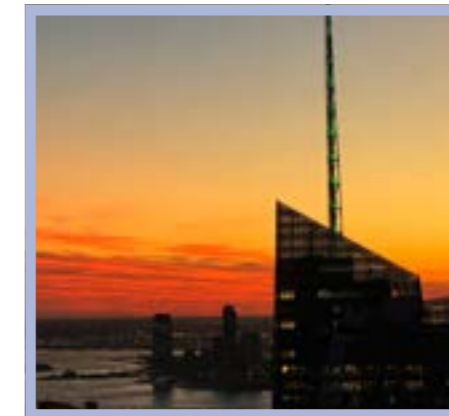
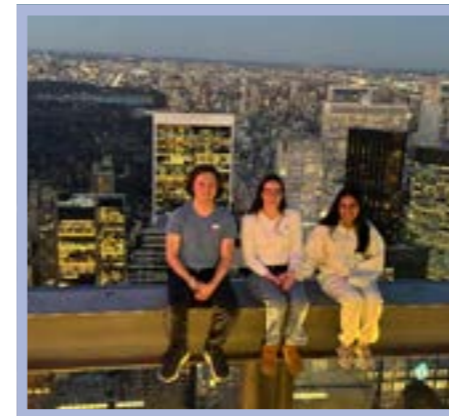
We are delighted to formally invite you to our Spring Ball which will take place in the beautiful Conservatory at Wynyard Hall on Friday 2 May, 7.00pm until late.

The Spring Ball will enable parents, family members and friends of the school as well as students in our Sixth Form (18+) to come together in their finery and enjoy an evening of dinner and dancing.

This event forms a significant part of our PTA fundraising for the year, enabling us to realise projects which will benefit our pupils and the wider school community.

To find out more, please visit our website. To book tickets, please visit ParentPay or get in touch with the school office.

**Miss McKeown**



## TEESSIDE HIGH TAKES ON NYC: A TRIP TO REMEMBER!

On Saturday 14 December, 12 excited students from Teesside High set out for NYC.

Due to missing luggage, the trip began with a quick shopping trip before heading to the Museum of Modern Art. We explored incredible artworks from the 20th and 21st centuries, with Mr Atkinson particularly excited to see Vincent van Gogh's *Starry Night* in person. The afternoon took us on a long walk to admire the stunning architecture of the Guggenheim Museum before delving into more artwork.

The evening brought one of the trip's biggest highlights: a spectacular production of *Back to the Future: The Musical*. After an unforgettable performance, we wrapped up the night with dinner at the Hard Rock Café, returning to the hotel exhausted but exhilarated.

The following morning students took part in a Broadway workshop led by a cast member from *Back to the Future!* Meanwhile, Sixth Form pupils enjoyed a trip to Madame Tussauds to see the famous waxworks. That evening, we dined at Ellen's Stardust Diner, where our waiters - Broadway performers between jobs - sang and danced as we ate. It was an incredible experience!

After dinner, we took a scenic stroll along The High Line, a transformed railway line running above Manhattan. It was

the perfect place to take in the city's dazzling lights.

Tuesday morning took us on a more thought-provoking journey to the 9/11 Memorial. Students had the opportunity to reflect on the events of 2001 and witness the beautiful space dedicated to remembering those who lost their lives.

Later in the morning, we boarded a cruise along the Hudson River where seeing the Statue of Liberty up close was a highlight for many! After the cruise, we headed back to central Manhattan to take in breathtaking sunset views from the Top of the Rock.

Our final day arrived all too quickly, but not before one last incredible experience - ice skating in Central Park! While some of us wobbled around like Bambi on ice, others glided effortlessly, but everyone had a fantastic time.

Our farewell dinner in Little Italy gave us a chance to explore another side of the city before heading back to the hotel to prepare for the long journey home. Laden with Christmas shopping and cherished memories, we returned to England after an unforgettable adventure.

**Mrs Machan**

# Under 12 Durham County Hockey

On Sunday, a number of our Year 6 and Year 7 pupils attended County Hockey trials held at Egglecliffe School.

This was the second round of trials, specifically aimed at those pupils who have shown excellent progress in the sport since September.

We are delighted to report that joining Isaac and Gabriel, who participated in the first round of trials, will be Issac, Martha, Harriet, Yasmin, Ewan, Henry, Alistair and Katie - all now a part of the Under 12 Squad.

Well done to all who have attended the



## New Netball Captains

We are pleased to announce that Florence and Laura in Year 6 have been awarded the roles of Prep School Netball Captains!

Congratulations to both of these talented individuals for their dedication and leadership both on and off the

court.

The girls are looking forward to an exciting season starting on Friday against Whinney Banks Primary School. Good luck for all your matches, Flo and Laura!

**Mrs Rodgers**

trials and if not successful this year, please keep working hard, your time will come.

We now have 17 students across the age groups representing Durham.

Your hard work and dedication is commendable and we look forward to seeing your continued progress in hockey.

**Miss Turnbull**



## U14 Netball vs Grangefield

The U14 team had a resounding victory against Grangefield last week, winning 15-0.

Highlights of the game included the teamwork in attack which was outstanding, with Esther, Eshel and Bridgett coordinating brilliantly to maintain pressure and secure the win.

Player of the Match went to Emilia due to her exceptional ability to intercept the ball, which disrupted the opposition's plays effectively.

Well played, girls!

**Mrs Rodgers**



# U13 INDOOR HOCKEY VS EGGLESCLIFFE

The U13 boys' indoor hockey team kicked off the new year in style with an impressive victory against Egglecliffe School.

From the first whistle, the boys displayed their determination and skill. Grayson set the tone early by finding the back of the net twice, giving the team a confident lead. The defence, anchored by Gabriel, Henry and Oscar, held firm, making crucial stops and maintaining pressure on the opposition.

Goalkeeper Isaac also played a pivotal role, executing a series of excellent saves that denied Egglecliffe any clear-cut chances. As the game progressed, Oliver contributed to the scoreline with a beautifully orchestrated team goal, highlighting the squad's cohesion.

As the match neared its end, Archer continued to put in a commendable performance, laying the groundwork for Alistair, who finished the game

with a remarkable hat-trick. His three goals were a testament to his skill and positioning on the field, helping seal the team's impressive 6-2 victory.

Overall, it was a fantastic start to the year for the U13 boys, demonstrating their potential. The boys will look to build on this momentum in their upcoming matches!

**Mr Thomas**



## U13 Netball vs North Shore

The U13B netball team played North Shore in a thrilling match that kept us all on the edge of our seats. Straight from their victory over Ingleby Manor, our girls were ready and eager to take on the challenge.

The game started with an intense first quarter, ending with our team narrowly in the lead at 4-3. The second quarter saw North Shore making a strong comeback, levelling the score to 5-5.

However, the THS girls showed great determination and teamwork and with impressive, high pressure shooting from Florence, we finished the game with a 8-7 victory.

Player of the Match went to Katie for her exceptional contribution on the court, turning over numerous North Shore attacks. Congratulations to the team for their hard fought win!

**Mrs Rodgers**

## U12 Netball vs Grangefield

Last Tuesday evening saw the U12A team play Grangefield A.

The team showed great progress in their performance with an impressive 17-0 win. The girls have worked hard on their movement skills, and this

is starting to pay off. Player of the Match went to Lalulah for her amazing work as both Goal Keeper and Goal Shooter.

**Mrs Rodgers**





## Holiday Camp

Big Adventures Christmas Holiday Camp took place at the end of last term and was as popular as ever.

The week was filled with festive cheer and excitement as children kicked off their Christmas break in the most magical way.

They began the week exploring the enchanting Holmside Park, with its wintery charm and attending a spectacular pantomime performance of *Cinderella*, where laughter and excitement filled the air.

The children enjoyed a Polar Express theme day where they boarded a magical train ride that took them on a journey filled with festive fun, themed challenges and treats. They also enjoyed a seasonal Christmas Forest

School, where they got to engage in outdoor holiday crafts and activities. The grand finale was an action packed Holiday Camp Christmas Day, filled with surprises, gifts, making this Christmas break truly unforgettable for all the children who attended.

Plans are already coming together for our next Holiday Camp which runs from Thursday 10 April to Wednesday 16 April. Bookings for THS pupils will open on Monday 3 March and one week later for external children. We look forward to welcoming the children for another action packed week!

**Miss Hall**

## Nursery explore Ocean Treasures

In Nursery, pupils have been exploring the magical world of *Ocean Treasures*! They started the topic with the lovely story of *The Rainbow Fish*, learning about the importance of kindness, sharing and being a good friend. Together, the children worked as a team to create a giant rainbow fish, which was lots of fun!

The fun continued with a number of activities before the children took time to think about what makes them a good friend. The children all agreed how important it is to share, work together and make everyone feel special - just like the Rainbow Fish!

**Miss Hall**



## Wintery Weather

The cold winter weather is providing wonderful hands on learning experience for Nursery. They are enjoying wrapping up warm and learning outside!

There was great excitement when they discovered the water they left out overnight had frozen and formed different letters and shapes.

The fun continued when the children observed how bubbles changed in the cold weather. They noticed the bubbles started to freeze as they floated in the winter sunshine.

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**Miss Hall**



## Year 1 Library Adventure: Exploring the World of Books!

The children in Year 1 have been having a wonderful time exploring the library as part of their English lessons.

Each child was given the chance to choose three books from the library - books that sparked their interest and curiosity.

Back in the classroom, the learning continued as the children worked together to sort their chosen books into two main categories: fiction and non-fiction. This activity was a fun and engaging way for the children to begin understanding the difference between stories and books that provide information.

But the exploration didn't stop there!

The children also took a closer look at the unique features of non-fiction writing. They examined things like headings, labels, pictures, and diagrams, learning how these elements help convey information clearly and make non-fiction texts easier to understand.

It has been a fantastic opportunity for the children to develop their literacy skills while enjoying the wide world of books.

**Mrs Hannah**



## Time Travelling in Pre-Prep

The children in Pre-Prep have had an exciting and engaging start to their IPC unit, *Time Travellers*. This unit is designed to help our young learners explore the fascinating concept of history - not just from a global or national perspective, but from a very personal one. It encourages the children to reflect on their own past and understand the significance of personal milestones in shaping who they are today.

The adventure began with the children thinking about their own histories, exploring moments that hold a special place in their hearts. They were invited to share stories and photographs of important events in their lives.

The children not only shared their special photographs and memories, but they also practiced active listening and asked thoughtful questions about each other's events.

**Mrs Hannah**

## Drawing Club

Reception children have been captivated by *Tiddler* by Julia Donaldson, which has been a highlight of our *Ocean Treasures* topic this term so far.

In Drawing Club, their imaginations soared as they came up with inventive ways to rescue Tiddler from the net and shared plenty of giggles while brainstorming how to sneak *Tiddler*

past the shark.

Inspired by the story, they also created artwork featuring their favorite fish from the book. Reading *Tiddler* sparked meaningful discussions about the moral of the story, with the children sharing thoughtful ideas about the importance of honesty.

**Miss Graham**





## Science and Nature at Magna!

Lower Prep embarked on an exciting adventure to the Magna Science Adventure Centre near Sheffield which enhanced their learning in two fascinating IPC topics: *Feel the Force* and *Active Planet*.

The day was packed with discovery, fun and hands-on learning opportunities that brought their studies to life.

The children were thrilled to explore Magna's engaging exhibits, starting with an impressive light show and a captivating presentation on the history of Sheffield's renowned steelworks. From there, they ventured into interactive rooms dedicated to the elements of Air, Earth, Fire and Water, where they experienced the power and wonder of nature and science in action.

Pupils then engaged in an enjoyable and educational workshop where they stepped into the role of geologists, sorting rocks by their properties and

examining their unique characteristics.

The excitement continued as they created chemical reactions to simulate volcanic eruptions, giving them the chance to act as volcanologists. By observing and analyzing the eruptions over time, the children gained a deeper understanding of the dynamic forces shaping our planet.

The trip to Magna reinforced key scientific concepts and inspired curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. The students returned to school buzzing with new knowledge and unforgettable memories.

**Miss Lockerbie**

## Festival of the Kings

In recent weeks, Upper Prep have been learning all about Epiphany or the Festival of the Kings which is celebrated in January in France.

The students learned about the Galette des Rois - a traditional cake served on in France, inside of which a small

figurine is hidden.

Upper Prep students had great fun making and decorating their crowns to mark this important cultural celebration.

**Ms Wesson**



## The Great, The Bold and The Brave

The children in Upper Prep have recently begun their new topic in IPC, *The Great, The Bold and The Brave*.

Having created some super sketches of ancient Greek and ancient Roman buildings for their Entry Point task, they have begun to think about the ancient Greeks in more detail.

This week, the children have looked at the city states, in particular a comparison between Athens and

Sparta. They were interested to find out how different their lives would have been if they had lived at this time.

Pupils finally completed maps to show the location of some of the key city states of ancient Greece.

**Mrs Kennedy**



## Poetry in Year 3

The children in Year 3 have been working really hard in English to learn about the Japanese poetry style of haikus.

They have considered their strict three line structure and have become experts at counting the number of syllables in each line in order to make

sure their work matched the rules for this type of poem. As is traditionally the case, the children have created their own haikus about the seasons and have completed some extremely impressive work.

Well done, Year 3!

**Mrs Kennedy**

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

Over the holidays, when I was taking some time to rest and recharge my batteries in preparation for another busy term, I reflected on the importance of maintaining positive mental health and the many facets of life that can be impacted if we neglect to prioritise this important element in our busy daily schedules.

Here at Teesside High School, we are very proud to have a wealth of different opportunities, resources and staff to support, develop and promote the wellbeing of all of the students in our care.

As we start the new year, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind all students and parents, old and new, of our school mental health website; found at the link below as well as on the noticeboard section of Edulink. This provides many resources to promote mental health and wellbeing and we hope that there is something for everyone.

Please do get in touch if there is something that you would like to see on this website so that we can continue to support everyone in our school community.

<https://sites.google.com/teessidehigh.co.uk/mentalhealth/home>

**Mrs Kennedy**





## Formula One in Schools

The Teesside High School F1 in Schools Competition team set off early on Thursday 12 December for the regional heat at Newcastle University.

The team, named 'Speed X' is made up of Year 10 students George and Daniel, Year 9 students Noah and William and Year 8 student Oliver.

The day started off with setting up their pit display and submitting their car to scrutineering. The boys were tasked with four separate judged tasks and the racing.

All of the team performed excellently, explaining their work with confidence and enthusiasm to all the judges.

The team won the Judges Choice

award which is awarded to the team that all the judges agreed impressed throughout the whole competition.

Overall the day was a great success and everyone competing learnt new skills throughout the competition. We look forward to competing again next year!

The team would like to thank our sponsors: Mustoe Engineering, XL Precision Technologies, Mimi's Embroidery and Print, and County Print.

**Mr Duncalfe**

## ESU Speaking Shakespeare Competition

Congratulations to Anu and Isabelle in Year 9 who have progressed into Round 2 of the ESU Speaking Shakespeare Competition. Both students gave impressive performances and we look

forward to watching them compete against a range of other North Eastern schools next month.

**Ms Duffy**



## TH'Oscars

TH'Oscar award season is back and underway following some fantastic work from our Drama students.

A big well done to Manveer, Gabriel and Sidney (pictured) in Year 7 for their work in the Minefield Drama; Abigail, Grayson and Rohan in Year 8 for their Physical Theatre performances; and Emilia and Isabelle in Year 9 for their scripted assessments exploring Stanislavski.

These students have worked extremely hard and we are very proud.

**Mrs Furness**



## Sixth Form Physical Education

This term, pupils in the Sixth Form have been engaging in a series of activities at David Lloyd on Wednesday afternoons.

The sessions have provided an excellent opportunity for students to partake in both swimming and the increasingly popular sport of pickleball.

In the indoor pool, several pupils have opted for swimming, demonstrating commendable skills as they complete lengths. Notably, Tilly has excelled in her technique, consistently racking up numerous lengths. Additionally, students have enjoyed the outdoor pool, where they have participated in various swimming games, fostering teamwork and enhancing their aquatic skills.

On the other hand, a group of pupils has chosen pickleball, which is rapidly gaining recognition as one of the most popular racket sports globally. The students have relished the opportunity to learn the fundamental rules of the game, finding the experience both exciting and physically demanding. The combination of strategy and agility required in pickleball has provided an effective workout while promoting an enjoyable competitive spirit among peers.

**Miss Turnbull**

## Murder on the Orient Express

Whodunnit? Well, our GCSE and A-level Drama students discovered exactly who did when they watched the classic Agatha Christie mystery *Murder On The Orient Express* at the Newcastle Theatre Royal.

Students were treated to a first class set complete with train effects, suspenseful acting and a tense atmosphere to top it all off. A great night out was had by all.

**Mrs Furness**



## Duke of Edinburgh Young Leaders

Joe, Emmeline, Emily and Dylan have all successfully completed their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh awards and have almost completed their Gold through completing sections of Skill, Physical, Volunteering and residential activities.

These young leaders interviewed for the role and have subsequently taken on the important responsibility of guiding and mentoring other DofE participants in both the Bronze and Silver Award.

Emily, Emmeline, Joe and Dylan share their enthusiasm and knowledge through attending DofE meetings to aid in route planning, coming along on hikes to help support with navigation and they also have a small group of Bronze and Silver candidates which they mentor through their Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections.

Well done, team!

**Miss Hopkins**



# 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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