

# THIS Week



Teesside High School  
Education as it should be

## BEST IN TEESSIDE!

Teesside High School has been named the best school or college in Teesside for student progress.

As you may have already seen from school social media, I am beyond thrilled to announce that the Department for Education has revealed that A-level pupils at Teesside High School make more progress than at any post-16 provider in Stockton-On-Tees (pictured), Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Darlington and Redcar and Cleveland.

A Progress Score evaluates how much better a student performs against what is expected given their prior examination results. This means that whatever a student's starting point, they will achieve more at THS Sixth Form than anywhere in the Tees Valley.

The league table outcome places Teesside High School in the top 2% of A-level providers nationally, and in the top 100 schools or colleges in the UK. We are the only school or college in the Tees Valley to have its Progress Score measure rated as 'well above average' at 0.42, meaning pupils, on average, achieve A-level results almost half a grade higher than their predictions suggest.

We are absolutely thrilled to be ranked as the best performing post-16 provider in Teesside for student progress. We have always taken huge pride in our value-added results and to be one of the best providers in the UK is a huge accolade for our school, and is testament to our post-16 set up.

Our students work just as hard as the incredible staff team behind them every step of the way; I am so so proud to lead this school and celebrate this outstanding achievement with our THS family.

**Mrs Mackenzie**



# WELCOME

As the first half of the term comes to an end, we have many positive things to reflect on following a busy few weeks.

Students from across the Prep and Senior School have been enjoying an array of exciting trips and visits in the last two weeks. Prep pupils took a trip to London last week, where they visited the British Museum to enhance their knowledge around their current IPC topic *The Good, The Bold and The Brave*, and also enjoyed a lovely meal and an outing to see *Mrs Doubtfire* at the theatre.

In addition to this, Senior School students had a fantastic time in the sun on their excursion to Italy! The trip consisted of enhancing pupils' knowledge of earthquakes, volcanoes and coasts, alongside exploring beautiful places such as Pompei, Vesuvius, Sorrento and Capri. It was definitely a trip to remember.

Other parts of school have also been a hive of activity in recent weeks. Our Nursery Stay and Play event last Tuesday was filled with new faces! It was lovely to see how the children interacted with each other and how quickly they settled into the Nursery environment. Thank you to Miss Hall and Mrs Candler for organising such a wonderful event.

Moving further up the Prep School, Isabella in Year 6 has achieved an amazing 1st place in the Year 5-6 solo category in The Society of Heads Poetry Recital Competition 2024-25 - a national independent school poetry competition. Isabella is a brilliant example of the kind

of pupil we have here at THS; motivated, confident and will always rise to a challenge. I cannot wait to see what she will do next!

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Hannah, John and Isaac in our Public Speaking team. After their hard work writing and performing their speech at Dame Allan's School last week, they made it through to the North East finals of the ESU competition. We are all rooting for them in the next round.

Finally, as you will have seen on the front of this newsletter, we are delighted with our fantastic achievement in the Department for Education league tables! I would like to say a huge thank you to our parents for their ongoing support and for the messages of congratulations this week.

Wishing you a restful half term break.

**Kirsty Mackenzie, Head**



## U12A Netball vs Ingleby Manor

Tuesday evening was a demonstration of perseverance from the U12A team as they played Ingleby Manor. The girls found themselves trailing by 6 goals at the end of the first quarter. They could easily have given up at this point but instead returned to the court after the break with renewed determination!

Lalulah, Faith and Harriet were instrumental in defence, making vital interceptions, while Yasmin delivered an outstanding performance as GA, consistently managing to get free against a tough opponent.

Katie and Evan demonstrated fluid passing and great teamwork on centre passes, effortlessly distributing the ball to Florence and Yasmin in our attacking circle.

A special mention goes to Ava and Emma who made their debut appearances for the A team. The girls really stepped up and demonstrated remarkable progress throughout the match.

By the final quarter, the U12A team had significantly reduced the deficit and all was to play for. The whole team continued to work hard for each other and the game concluded with a Teesside victory!

**Mrs Rodgers**

## UPPER PREP VS CUNDALL MANOR

Boys and girls from Upper Prep enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of hockey and netball against Cundall Manor on Friday 7 February.

The U11A team enjoyed playing a fantastic afternoon of netball, with teams displaying wonderful sportsmanship.

The THS team continues to develop with every game, and it was wonderful to see the girls improve their positional play on court this week.

A special mention must go to Phyllis, making her debut performance with the A team. Player of the Match was awarded to Florence for her exceptional shooting, and Coach's Player to Olivia for her effective marking and numerous interceptions.

Both teams showed great spirit and determination, making for an exciting and competitive match. At half time the score was even at 7-7 but with all to play for the Teesside girls displayed great determination to win 16-12.

Meanwhile, the boys enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of hockey. The visitors came out strong, quickly gaining the upper hand with a couple of early goals that set the tone for the game.

Despite this rocky start, our team showed impressive stick work and determination, gradually clawing their way back into the contest.

Their perseverance paid off, with the team scoring some fantastic goals and demonstrating their developing skills on the field. However, the team ultimately fell short, with the final score ending at 5-3 in favour of Cundall Manor.

Well done to all players for their hard work and commitment on the pitch. Keep up the great effort!

**Mrs Rodgers and Mr Thomas**



## U15 Netball vs Conyers

Last Thursday saw Year 10 back on the netball court after a short break to face a strong Conyers team.

A close first quarter saw the girls three goals down and Conyers strode ahead to a comprehensive lead in the

second and third quarters.

The girls pushed back to win the final quarter 5-2, but in the end Conyers took the victory. A solid performance from the girls, well done.

**Miss Stephens**



# U12 County Hockey Tournament

The Under 12 County Hockey Tournament took place on a sunny afternoon, providing an excellent opportunity for the players to showcase their skills.

Due to illness and injury, there were last-minute changes to the team. A special thank you goes to Ava and Mabel for stepping in and supporting the team when they were needed most; their contributions were invaluable.

In the first game against Red House, the team demonstrated significant improvement since September. Katie, playing as a striker, scored, showing her growing confidence and better stick work. She skillfully beat the defenders with Faith supporting her on the left and Mabel on the right. Harriet was outstanding in midfield, making



relentless runs and tackles that helped maintain control of the game. Yasmin and Erin worked well together in defence, making excellent tackles. The team won the match 2-0 and Harriet was named Player of the Match for her exceptional performance.

The final match against Yarm was highly competitive, with both teams working very hard. Ava, who stepped in as goalkeeper for the afternoon, made some saves and grew in confidence as the game progressed. The match was intense, with end-to-end action. Katie made a fast break, skillfully taking on all the defenders to score an equaliser. However, Yarm managed to score again, bringing the score to a final 2-1.

Harriet was once again named Player of the Match for her outstanding efforts throughout the tournament. The team finished in second place, and the girls should be proud of their achievements and the progress they have made.

**Miss Turnbull**

## Isaac's Football Triumph

Isaac in Year 6 and his teammates at Middlesbrough FC competed in the National Tournament Pulcino D'Oro national qualifier earlier this week.

There were 24 football teams from across the country taking part, including Manchester United, Aston Villa, Newcastle United and Celtic.

I am pleased to report that Isaac and

his team won the entire competition, remaining undefeated all day.

They were the only team to qualify for the international final of the competition to be held in Italy in June.

What an incredible achievement, Isaac - a huge well done from all at THS.

**Mr Williamson**



## Umpiring Course

Libby in Year 9 has recently completed her Into Umpiring Course for netball and is currently practising for her practical assessment.

Libby has recently umpired for the THS U12A and B teams and demonstrated great knowledge and implementation of the rules.

We look forward to supporting Libby through her umpiring journey and hope she will continue to thrive in this area.

**Mrs Rodgers**



## U13 COUNTY HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday afternoon, the Under 13A team had an exciting showdown against Yarm at the County Hockey Tournament.

THS faced off first against Yarm B. Despite a slow start, the team soon found their rhythm, showcasing impressive teamwork and skill.

With great determination, they surged ahead, securing a convincing 4-1 victory.

In what turned out to be the decisive match of the day, THS met Yarm U13A.

This nail-biting encounter saw both teams battling fiercely for possession. Despite their hard work, Yarm scored

from a corner, and Teesside couldn't find the equaliser against a formidable Yarm goalkeeper.

Tinashe's outstanding stick work earned her the title of Player of the Match, as she created chances seemingly out of thin air.

Finishing as runners-up, the girls have now qualified for the Area Finals Tier 1 at Durham University.

Well done, team!

**Miss Turnbull**

## U12 Hockey County Cup

The U12 boys' hockey team showcased their talent and resilience at the recent 7-a-side County hockey tournament.

Teesside kicked off with a confident start, securing a solid victory over RGS with a score of 2-1, demonstrating extremely strong defending.

However, the momentum shifted in their second match against Yarm and

third match against Dame Allen's, where Teesside faced tough challenges and unfortunately came up short.

Determined to end on a high note, the boys rallied for their final game against Red House. Their combined efforts paid off, leading Teesside to a well-deserved 1-0 victory.

Overall, Teesside finished equal second place in the tournament - an



## Former Pupil Success

Two of our former pupils, Maia (pictured) and Evie have been extremely successful in their netballing journeys since leaving THS.

Both girls excelled in their sport at school and played netball at an extremely high level. Maia served as school Games Captain during her time in the Sixth Form.

Evie is now representing the Leeds Rhinos NE U17 team and Maia the Rhinos Next Gen squad.

Evie made her Premier League 1 debut for Grangetown Netball Club this weekend, a side which Maia captains.

Well done, girls!

**Miss Turnbull**



impressive achievement that reflects their hard work, teamwork and skill.

**Mr Williamson**

# Stay and Play

Nursery was a hive of activity last week when we hosted our hugely successful Stay and Play event.

We welcomed current Nursery families as well as those looking to join us in the coming months for a morning of fun with a Valentine's theme.

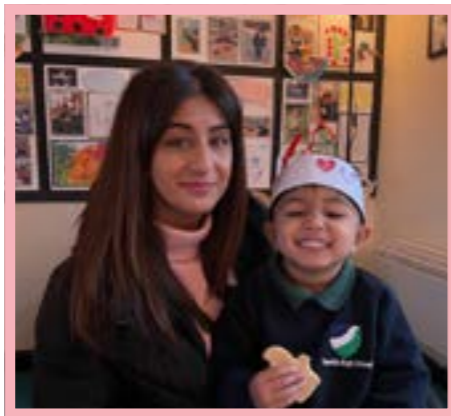
The children had a great time making valentine crowns, finding coloured hearts hiding in Nursery, cooking up a storm in the valentine texture kitchen



and sharing stories together.

We would like to extend a very big thank you to all those who took the time to join us and hope you enjoyed your experience of Nursery life as much as we enjoyed having you.

**Miss Hall**



## Pre-Prep Music

Pre-Prep pupils have been working hard in their Music lessons.

Last week, they started exploring composing melodies and playing them on the keyboard.

The children came up with a rhythm,

assigned notes to it, worked out where they were on the keyboard and played them for the class.

Such an amazing effort!

**Mr Wing**



## Random Acts of Kindness

Pupils in Nursery have been marking Random Acts of Kindness Week. Being kind is one of our school values and the children have been showcasing how incredibly kind they are.

When I have spotted Random Acts of Kindness, the children have been rewarded with a kindness token. Flopsy, the listening bunny in Nursery, is safely looking after the tokens and is also listening out for children being kind!

**Miss Hall**



# A Week of Love in Reception

Last week in Reception, we embraced the theme of love in so many wonderful ways!

Reception pupils read *Love Monster* and had thoughtful discussions about sharing with our friends and how it makes us feel when we do the right thing for others.

The children showed such kindness and understanding in their conversations!

We also worked hard on our writing, practicing the tricky word "love" in lots of different activities.

Our creativity shone as we made love wands to spread kindness and joy around the classroom. One of our favorite activities was making beautiful Valentine's cards to give to

someone special. The children also enjoyed writing about all the things they love, from family and pets to their favorite toys and activities. It was a heartwarming week filled with friendship, creativity and kindness!

**Miss Graham**



## Wassily Kandinsky

Pupils in Reception have been focusing on the work of Wassily Kandinsky, the pioneer of abstract art. The children enjoyed creating Valentine's themed works of art

inspired by the very famous 'Squares with Concentric Circles'. Just like Kandinsky, the children thought very carefully about which colours to put next to one another. Everybody had a



## History of Flight

As part of our IPC unit, the children in Pre-Prep have been diving into the exciting world of aviation by learning about the history of flight.

From the first hot air balloon to the groundbreaking achievements of the Wright brothers, the children have been discovering how humans dreamed of and eventually achieved flight.

Armed with craft materials, the children built their own models of flying machines, selecting the materials and exploring new ways to join and create their own models of flying machines.

We are very excited to see the finished results.

**Mrs Hannah**

fun and creative morning and cannot wait to proudly display their work in the classroom!

**Miss Graham**



# Trip to London

Last week, pupils in Upper Prep travelled to London for an action packed residential trip.

This trip supported many different curriculum areas, including their current IPC topic, *The Great, The Bold and The Brave*.

Having deposited our luggage, our first stop was the British Library. We had time to look around some of the exhibitions before taking part in a 'Voyage into Maps' workshop. During this workshop, the children were astounded to learn how many exhibits that the library is responsible for including the four and a half million maps! They considered the audience and purpose of maps and had the opportunity to consider the different viewpoints and styles, namely birds eye view (oblique view), satellite view and symbols. They also visited the Treasures Gallery where they were able to consider the bias of maps and also create their own group map by selecting their favourite artefacts. The final task required the children to work in groups using one of the library's map exhibits and match it to one of six different people. The children had to think carefully about what the map told them and how the information led them to their decisions, giving reasons and explanations.

Following the library, the children enjoyed a meal at Pizza Express before heading to Shaftesbury Avenue theatre to watch *Mrs Doubtfire* the musical. This proved to be a highlight for many of the children and staff alike. Viewing the show from fabulous seats, we chuckled our way through the performance being thoroughly entertained.

Day two took the children to the British Museum. In IPC, the children have recently studied the Greeks and so were delighted to be able to see Elgin's marbles displayed in all their glory. The children completed a VR Parthenon

tablet tour, helping them to look more closely at the marbles and understand more about what the different friezes show. Through the VR resource, they were also able to see where they would have fit in the Parthenon building in Greece.

The final visit was a trip to the British Science museum where the children took part in their *Power Up* workshop. This took the form of a giant gaming room where the children were able to appreciate how computer games had evolved over time. Many children loved to be able to explore the games that the teachers used to play and even conceded that some were better than what they have today!

Our final stop was a meal at Angus Steak House where the children were able to refuel before heading back to collect our luggage and walk back to catch our return train.

The children behaved impeccably during our visit, navigating the tube with maturity and approaching the workshops with interest and enthusiasm. They looked after each other and made the most of this opportunity to learn beyond the classroom. We were very proud of all of them and have enjoyed hearing what they enjoyed and learnt from the trip.

Here is a comment from one of our pupils to show our adventure to the capital:

*"I loved the maps workshop, it showed me lots of ways that maps are used that I didn't know about before. I enjoyed the Parthenon tablet tour because of all the amazing ornaments and marbles, and how on the tablets we put the pieces together to make their original part. I used to like history a lot less, but now I am interested!"* - Joseph

**Mrs Kennedy**



## The Society of Heads Poetry Recital Competition

We are delighted to announce that Isabella in Year 6 has been awarded first place in a national independent school poetry competition.

Isabella claimed the top prize in the Year 5-6 solo category in The Society of Heads Poetry Recital Competition 2024-25.

Judges were extremely impressed with her performance of *The Magic Box* by Kit Wright and made several comments praising her confidence throughout the recital; clear, expressive diction and movements and a style which

interacted with the viewer.

Isabella said: *'I am so happy that I have won this competition. I worked so hard and rehearsed a lot so it really feels like it all paid off. I hope that I can compete in other poetry competitions like this one soon and explore different styles and ways of performing.'*

**Mrs Williams**

## Writing Workshop Reminder

I would like to remind Year 5 and Year 6 parents about our Writing Skills Workshop, taking place on Tuesday 4 March at 4.30pm.

We greatly value the home school partnership that plays such a pivotal role in enabling us to ensure that your child fulfils their potential. As part of this, our Writing Skills Workshop is designed to help you support your

child's writing development.

This session will provide valuable insights into the key writing skills children need to develop in order to meet or exceed the expected standard in Year 6, along with practical strategies to assist them at home. You will also have the opportunity to see the types of activities and lesson formats we use to enhance their



## Olympus Challenge

The Olympus Challenge Club stretches and challenges Prep School pupils by introducing them to topics outside of the curriculum and encouraging further independent study.

Pupils are required to demonstrate an understanding of the style in which ancient myths are written, accurately translate Latin or Ancient Greek into good English, creatively respond to a topic or element of ancient life of their choice in a medium of their choice and investigate an object in a museum either in-person or online.

Isabelle and Alexander have enjoyed learning Latin, ancient Greek and writing their own versions of Odysseus' encounter with the Cyclops.

**Miss Malik**

learning experience.

I warmly welcome you to bring your child along, as this will be a fantastic opportunity for you to engage in their learning journey together. If you have not already done so, please complete the Google Form circulated to confirm your attendance.

**Mrs Reid**



## Trip to Italy

After a long journey our first stop was to refuel and enjoy the first of many pizzas.

We then enjoyed a fantastic first day exploring Herculaneum. Pupils learnt about the ancient Roman town and how it was destroyed when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79AD.

The second day started with a choppy ferry ride to Capri. Pupils explored the



island and enjoyed icecreams.

The next day we climbed Mount Vesuvius. Pupils learnt about plate tectonics in a breathtaking location with incredible views of the Bay of Naples. This was followed by a trip to Pompeii where we walked in the city's streets and learnt about life there before it was buried under a thick carpet of volcanic ash. Pupils then enjoyed a game of football on the beach under the backdrop of the volcano.

On our last day pupils explored Sorrento. We finished off our amazing trip with one last pizza before we headed home.

**Mrs Donovan**

## German House Competition

Year 8 students have been building up their superpower of being able to speak German and recently took part in a House competition to invent and describe a superhero.

I was really impressed with the high quality of this year's competition, in particular the creativity and the

complexity of the language used to describe the superheroes.

Well done to Abigail from 8T and Gracie and Sophia from 8H who were overall winners and also to Oscar, Lucas, Rosie and Elina who were runners up. Wir sind sehr stolz auf euch!

**Frau Butterfield**



## ESU finalists

We are delighted to share with you the news that our Public Speaking team has made it to the North East Finals of the ESU Churchill Public Speaking competition.

They faced fierce competition last week in one of the toughest second rounds the school has ever competed in.

Congratulations to Isaac, Hannah and John, we are incredibly proud of you!

**Mrs Reid**



## Little Shop of Horrors Interviews

Stage Manager for the show, Libby in Year 9, interviewed some of our cast members at a recent rehearsal. Here's what they had to say:

*"I think the show is going very well so far because the dances are getting smoother and we are working on really nice harmonies in songs. I play one of the Urchins, Ronnette. I like this role as it is very involved in the show. I think every year we improve and this year will be better than the last. I am excited to see the plant puppets because we've never had a puppet of this size before so I'm excited to see how it will work and look. I have been in the school shows since Year 7 and I really love and enjoy being a part of them so that is why I auditioned for this show. I am expecting my costume to be in the style of streetwear because the Urchins traditionally are dressed in streetwear so I assume our show will be the same. My favourite show to participate in has to be this one because I have more involvement and have already been a fan of Little Shop of Horrors for a long time." - Grace*

*"In this show, I play Audrey 2, the blood eating plant. I feel happy, excited and shocked that I got this role. I think the show is going excellent because the dances and blocking are being done and people are trying their best. I like my role because I am singing backstage out of sight with my microphone on and Audrey 2 has always been my favourite character. I am most excited for when we actually perform the show in front of an audience because I think performing in front of people brings out everyone's best and makes it more exciting. I think that this show could be better than last year's 'Oliver!' if people put in the effort and try their hardest. I was inspired to do the show again this year as Little Shop of Horrors is my dream show to perform. I'm looking forward to this show because we have a live band and a plant puppet." - Bethea*



## Science Star Awards

Every week, teachers in the Science department have been nominating the students who have gone above and beyond in their Science lessons and awarding Star awards for outstanding achievement, progress and effort.

The pupils who have been awarded Star awards this week are Jose in Year 10 for his excellent performance in assessments, Zara in Year 11 for her amazing effort in and out of school, and Emily in Year 13 for her outstanding creation of Biology displays.

Well done to all, keep up the good work!

**Mr Glasbey, Mrs Kirk and Mrs Jackson**

## Year 12 Geography Trip

The sun shone earlier this month for Year 12 Geographers who had a fabulous day in Redcar. They visited

the local town to investigate coastal landforms and processes as well as coastal management strategies, and,

of course, made time to have fish and chips and a lemon top, too!

**Mrs Donovan**



# THIS WEEK PHOTO GALLERY



# UPCOMING EVENT

IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH



# Spring BALL

*at Wynyard Hall*

FRIDAY 2 MAY, 7.00PM-LATE  
THREE COURSE DINNER, DRINKS & DANCING  
£60PP OR £550 FOR A TABLE OF 10  
TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA PARENTPAY



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