



**Teesdale School
& Sixth Form**

SPRING NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

Students supporting local projects

We'd like to say a big thank you to all our students who have been volunteering and helping out in the community – not just this term, but for much of 2020.

Most recently, students have been involved in many projects with the TCR Hub and we are so proud of them all for giving their time and energy to help for some fantastic causes.

Three Year 10 students, Willow Daniels, Mia Dowson and Grace Perkins, have all been involved in working at the Community Café, cooking up a storm and helping to distribute food.

continued overleaf...

WELCOME ...to our spring newsletter

Dear parents, carers and friends,

It's wonderful to be able to write this introduction knowing that all our students and staff are safely back at school; we are delighted to welcome you back!

Our students have returned to school eager and ready to learn. As teachers we thrive on our interaction with our students, so it's fantastic to return to face-to-face teaching. We appreciate that for many of our students and their families, remote learning has been a challenge and I cannot thank you enough for helping to make our virtual school a success.

Once again there is much to celebrate in the achievements and accomplishments of our students both past and present. Mrs Swinburne has been impressed with our students' culinary expertise and our

Heads of Year have marvelled at weekly quiz responses, artwork, and photography as well as the determination of students to do their best.

If you have managed to listen to Dr Henderson's 'Made in Teesdale' podcast you will, no doubt, be amazed by the achievements of our former students. It has been a highlight of my lockdown to listen to their stories.

I would like to finally wish you and your families a very happy Easter and we are looking forward to a full term of face-to-face teaching after the holiday.

Dan Pilling

**Dan Pilling
Head of School**



North Topper Sailors fit for new season thanks to the help of Teesdale School student, Finn Goodman

Finn Goodman, Teesdale School student and member of the RYA Regional Topper Training group, has been busy during lockdown.

Living in a very rural place, lockdown could very easily have been a very isolating experience, but as a young, fit and enthusiastic sailor, Finn was determined not to let the difficulties that society has faced get him down.

Finn has worked very hard, alongside other sailors from across the north, to prepare for the racing circuit and he is in better shape than ever before.

Using the power of Zoom and virtual step counting, training began with circuit fitness sessions led by one of the team member's parents. Having to put up with the choice of 90s rock and 80s classic, Finn and his friend soon decided they needed to step up and lead some of the sessions. Finn has also been part of a virtual steps challenge and is currently working as part of a team bike, run and walk 14,000 miles from Cape Town in South Africa to Magadan in Russia.

As a BTEC Sport student, Finn has been able to connect his love of sailing to his academic studies and has designed and led cardio and abdominal sessions for his sailing friends, his coaches and their families. He has also developed the ability to lead a warm up, main session and a cool down with a regular following on Zoom.

Gaining confidence as a leader and knowledge that Finn can apply to his sports course has been invaluable but perhaps the biggest win is that Finn has selflessly given up his time to help others, giving them a sense of belonging and developing true team spirit. This has also lessened the risk of isolation and mental health issues for himself and his peers during what has been an extremely difficult time for young people.

Well done, Finn!

IMPORTANT DATES for your diary

- 26 MAR** School closes (Easter)
- 12 APR** School reopens
- 3 MAY** May Day Bank Holiday
- 28 MAY** School closes (half term)
- 7 JUN** School reopens
- 19 JUL** School closes for the summer holidays

Debate club

Plans have been made in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Barnard Castle to run the annual debating competition in July 2021.

Teesdale Sixth Form students won the competition in 2018 and were finalists in 2019. Sadly, because of the pandemic the competition could not go ahead in 2020, however, the competition has been given the go-ahead this year! The competition will take place face-to-face in the summer term if possible and, if not, there will be a remote competition in its place. Watch this space!



We're social!

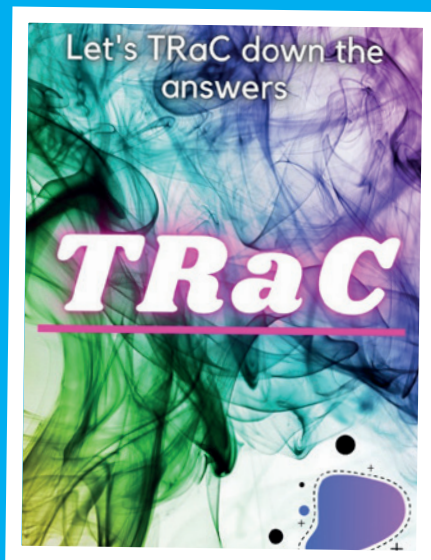
Follow our social media accounts to stay up to date with all of the latest news from around the school!



@teesdaleschool



@teesdaleschoolandsixthform



Teesdale Radio Club

Why did the chicken cross the road? To listen to our TRaC podcast, of course!

For the past few months, students in Years 7 and 8 have been making a podcast for your entertainment. It has a variety of content from piano and ukulele compositions to jokes, interviews and more!

If you're interested in listening why not head over to our school website to give it a listen or maybe you have a hobby or

talent that you want to talk about? If you do, send us an email and tell us all about it - we'd love to hear about your achievements and interests! Or maybe you'd like to join us here on the inside TRaC?

Email julie.bissicks@teesdaleschool.co.uk



Fantastic students supporting local projects

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While the school collected items to donate to the Hub's Care Package Project during the lead-up to Christmas, Tabitha Anstey in Year 10, Isobel Yeadon in Year 11 and Amelia Robinson in Year 9 also helped out at the Hub to sort and deliver the donations. Amelia has also been involved in delivering hot meals to local residents too!

Additionally, some of our students are using their volunteering to contribute to their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. The students have been involved with different aspects of the Hub's Care Package Project; donating and sorting and delivering care packages to local residents. Good luck with your DofE's Awards to Year 8's Jasmine, Year 9's Evie Long and Year 10's Evie Arundel, Scott Kesterton, Fin Tunstall and Laila Holliday.

Thank you to our students for your hard work in our local community. It makes a big difference! If you'd like more information about the projects being run at the TCR Hub and how to get involved, [click here](#).



Culinary delights!

Since the beginning of lockdown, students from all year groups have been showcasing their wonderful practical skills, making an incredible range of delicious foods.

Over 50 students have submitted photos of their wonderful creations for the 'Lockdown Rainbow Bake Off' with many continuing to cook each week, sending us photos of their dishes which have been showcased in the lockdown gallery on our school website.

Many students have let us know that they have enjoyed

cooking with members of their family, some have made meals to treat others or have simply cooked to cheer themselves up.

We have even had a group of Year 10 students who have had a 'bake off' over Zoom to challenge their cake making skills. Well done and keep cooking!



Made in Teesdale

Since the start of the national lockdown in January we have been releasing two episodes of our 'Made in Teesdale' podcast each week.

Dr Henderson has interviewed a variety of ex-Teesdale School students who have all gone on to do interesting things in their varied studies and careers. The stories of Ruby Carrington, working in critical care in a hospital in London; Linden Greener, running a restaurant and adapting to the changes in the hospitality industry as a result of the pandemic; Tim Ridgway's work for an animal rights charity; Jo Jones teaching children with significant additional needs in a local school and many, many more episodes have provided inspiration to all those who have listened to them. They have also shown current students how far you can go with determination and hard work.

Episode 6, The Backstreet Boys Reunion special, featuring Nathan Greener, Oliver Smith and Edward Cole 15 years after they recorded their legendary pop video for the Sixth Form entertainment provided a very amusing listen and the boys loved getting back together and recording their memories.

Plans for the podcast to continue after the Easter holidays, with some potential special guests and a focus on specific areas of the curriculum are well under way.

If you'd like to give them a listen, all previous episodes can be found [here](#).

Covid opportunities

Covid has provided challenges that none of us have ever faced before, however, in the delivery of our biology programmes it has provided an opportunity for students to appreciate context whilst studying infection, response and vaccinations.

Year 10 biology students have learnt exactly how vaccines lead to immunity and where multiple doses may be necessary to increase antibody levels in the bloodstream, not to mention how communicable diseases spread and the measures that we must take to avoid this. Year 12 biologists have been watching the pandemic evolve; they have considered data provided about new vaccines, new Coronavirus strains and used their knowledge of monoclonal antibodies to demonstrate an understanding of how the Covid-19 rapid lateral flow tests quickly determine the presence of antigens.

Book reviews by James Williams

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief

by Rick Riordan

The first book in a 5-book series about Greek mythology. Percy Jackson appears to be an ordinary boy, however it turns out he is a demi-god: half Greek god, half human. A satyr by the name of Grover takes him to Camp Half-Blood, where the children of gods are kept safe. He then meets Annabeth, a child of Athena who offers to go on a quest to retrieve Zeus' lightning bolt, the most

powerful weapon ever created. But, while Percy, Annabeth and Grover try to find this bolt, they must avoid monsters like the Minotaur who are trying to destroy demi-gods.



Kane Chronicles

by Rick Riordan

The two main characters, Carter and Sadie, go to the British Museum where their dad destroys the Rosetta Stone and then disappears. Their uncle takes them to his mansion where they learn that the

Egyptian gods are real and that they can summon magic. They then embark on a quest to find their dad. Along the way they make friends, change into birds and fly away and stop a monster from destroying an airport. This is a must-read if you like Egyptian gods.





EXPRESS YOURSELF
North East Festival of Languages
22-26 March 2021



Express yourself

A group of students from Years 8 to 13 have recently had the privilege of meeting and working with some guests from Durham and Newcastle Universities as part of the North East Festival of Languages.

Two of our Year 8 groups received language taster sessions, one in Dutch and one in Arabic. Dr Alex Bellum, Assistant Professor of Arabic at Durham University, was impressed by their 'engagement and their ability'. Within just an hour they were starting to work out some Arabic words for themselves.

The Year 10 students took part in a remote careers session and heard the stories of four different speakers who all use languages in their day to day work right here in the North

East, from a chemical engineer to an INEOS employee in charge of exports of hand sanitising products across Europe.

Our Sixth Form students had the honour of receiving a tutorial on translation theory and techniques from Dr Carlini Versini from the Durham University School of Modern Foreign Languages and they relished the taste of university style of work and ideas. Our students have been inspired to see how languages can not only take them places but also provide them with opportunities too.

Warm Baby Project

Over the past year, staff at Teesdale School and Sixth Form have been creating beautiful knitted items to be sent over to Uganda as part of the Warm Baby Project.

The Warm Baby Project works with a charity in Uganda on this fantastic initiative to provide struggling mothers with warm clothes for their newborn babies. The project calls for brightly knitted short sleeve cardigans and hats in sizes 6 months and over. They may be the only items the mothers receive for their children so it is requested that all items are made in bigger sizes so that they can get lots of use out of them.

The Warm Baby Project also provides knitted items for babies in the UK who are born prematurely. In the UK alone, approximately 60,000 babies are born premature each year and most of these early births are unexpected. Due to the need to be kept extra warm during their time in neonatal intensive care, the project works with hospitals around the UK to provide knitted clothing and blankets. The project has even created wool

banks which are dotted across the country to supply knitters with the materials needed to create these essential woollen items.

This is an absolutely wonderful project and we are so proud of our staff who have been involved.

If you would like to get involved, or learn more, you can visit their website:
www.warmbabyproject.com

