



**Teesdale School
& Sixth Form**

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022



WELCOME ...to our summer newsletter

I'd like to thank our students and you, their parents and carers, for your support, understanding, resilience, determination and good humour throughout the year.

A school is only as strong as those who study and work in it and those who support all of our endeavours. We are lucky to benefit from a wonderful sense of community and family that makes Teesdale a special place

I also want to formally recognise the contribution of all our staff who have worked throughout the year with professionalism and a determination to provide the best education possible to our students. Year 11 and 13 students have risen to the challenge of completing normal exams for the first time in their secondary school careers and we look forward to celebrating success in August. We should also reflect on the fact that real success is

defined beyond a piece of paper or formal grade in a qualification. Those students who have given their all this year to make the best progress they can, have already succeeded.

We have had many sporting successes against other schools, geography field work, English theatre trips amazing art exhibitions, science clubs and a superb summer concert from the music department. These experiences are priceless for students, and we look forward to more next year.

So, with the sun shining, we anticipate an exciting summer ahead to rest, relax and recharge ready for the new term where students can expect a warm welcome back in September as we look forward to a new academic year full of promise and expectation

Nan Dilling

Head of School

Hello to our soon to be Year 7s

It's almost time for the move to 'big school' - we are so excited to meet you all.

We cannot wait to get to know you all and for you to get to know us and our wonderful school. Don't be nervous: everyone is lovely and you will be right at home from day one.

In the meantime take a look through this newsletter to see all the exciting things students at Teesdale School get involved in - just think, this will be you in September!

Have a fun summer and see you all soon!

Hello!

Fused glass workshop

As part of our after school Art Club, students recently took part in an exciting fused glass workshop.

We worked with practicing artist, Sue Meachen from Glassic, to create a whole flock of birds, using bullseye glass.

We created shapes by carefully cutting the glass as well as adding finer details using glass frit and special glass paints. These pieces

were then fired to fuse the glass together and we were so pleased with the results! As well as birds, we had some very imaginative designs, including a tadpole, a toadstool and a strawberry cat!

Well done everyone!

IMPORTANT DATES for your diary

06 SEP - Back to school

21 OCT - Break up for half term

31 OCT - Back to school

Please keep checking our website and social media channels for the latest updates.



Art star Lewis

Lewis has wowed us this year, not only with his unbelievable drawing skills, but also his perseverance, dedication and commitment to the art course.

Lewis has a fantastic attitude and shows just what is possible with practise and hard work. Lewis is an excellent role-model and we wish him all the best for starting university in September.

MFL star Charlotte

Some people are gifted sports stars, others have a natural musical ability, but in the case of Charlotte Leonard, her superpower is the power to pick up other languages!

Charlotte is undoubtedly an excellent linguist and has gained excellent grades in her Spanish assessments throughout Year 9, however, she has also been dedicated enough to keep up with her French by attending special lunchtime sessions to enable her to become the next TSSC dual linguist at GCSE.

Learning a language requires plenty of hard work but the rewards are plentiful – the ability to communicate with more than 400 million French speakers and 500 million Spanish speakers worldwide opens up all sorts of possibilities for travel, work or leisure.

Congratulations to Charlotte on all her hard work and dedication – you have started down the path of lifelong language learning and the acquisition of skills that will last you a lifetime.



DT star Harry

Year 8, Harry Woods, has been an outstanding ambassador for the design and technology department throughout the year.

Harry has always supported and helped with open evenings and being an exceptional team leader at Technology Club. He is always

willing to go the extra mile and is an inspirational figure to his peers.

We are really excited to see Harry's potential develop further in Year 9.

Well done Harry for being our design technology superstar!



Sixth form news

This term we have been welcoming our new intake of Year 12s, which included visiting Newcastle University for an open day to explore the campus.

One of the tour guides was an ex-Teesdale sixth former, Ellie Wilkinson, who was able to talk about her experiences as a psychology undergraduate.

We also held a day in school to explore many of the important study skills required to be successful in A level studies. There were also sporting activities in the afternoon, including the legendary 'crash mat challenge' that tested teamwork and leadership skills to the max.

We are looking forward to an exciting autumn term with many extra-curricular opportunities planned including: The Lesson from Auschwitz project; a partnership with Northumbria University working on a 'migrated archives' project; and the continuation of our partnership with St. Christopher's school in Kenya.

Year 7 girls' futsal

This year the Year 7 girls futsal team have played in multiple competitions including making it through to the Durham County Schools FA Girls Futsal Finals at the Beacon of Light. They represented the school very well and trained weekly.

We are hoping for more games and tournaments next year - well done girls!

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

Athletics round up

We have had a busy half term with athletics. There have been competitions for all year groups to attend at the newly refurbished Shildon athletics track.

Year 7 and 8 were out in force trying out the skills they have been developing in their PE lessons and this was followed by a separate competition for Year 9.

District athletics attracted a number of our students and many were successful in gaining selection to the County Championships at Jarrow in mid June. Special congratulations goes to Imogen who was selected to represent the county in long jump following a huge jump of 3.99m, Rory who competed in the 3000m, and Ollie who competed for South West Durham at 1500m.



Students visit Durham Uni

Eleven students attended a sequence of six 'Languages Detective' sessions provided by Durham County Council and Durham University - to celebrate they were invited to a reception at Durham Town Hall followed by an afternoon at the University.

On arrival at the historic Town Hall we were treated to an authentic Spanish meal. As we ate, Councillor Watts Stelling gave an address in praise of the young people on their curiosity and commitment to investigating how studying languages can open doors in life. Once plates were cleared, we settled into the state-of-the-art lecture theatre and heard from Mia, an undergraduate student originally from Teesside, about her journey from language novice in Year 7 to studying Spanish and Italian at Durham.

Mia's lecturer then took over and led a fascinating discussion on Hispanic identity within the English speaking world illustrated by clips from the Disney films 'Coco' and 'Encanto'. Our final activity was a Cluedo style murder mystery in smaller seminar groups but the twist - all of the clues were in different languages. Our group confidently worked out who had committed the murder by a process of elimination.

Finally the Head of the MLAC (Modern Languages and Culture) department of the university, in full ceremonial robes, presented all of the groups with their certificates of attendance. As we headed home we all agreed that we would continue to run the Language Detectives after school club.

Netball

A number of girls have been attending netball club all year and continue to do so after school on Tuesdays. There have been a disappointing number of fixtures, but we are ever hopeful that the league we normally participate in will resume in September. We have enjoyed the opportunities that have been open to us this year.

Cricket

Isla Milroy continues to impress all of the staff in the PE department with her cricket prowess. She has been attending County Cricket development days and recently played in a match against Northumberland - well done Isla.



Tennis court refurbishment

Our tennis court area is looking amazing. after being re-fenced, re-surfaced and re-marked.

We can now use the surface and it provides us with a much needed hard court area.

Still to come are some new basketball hoops and football goals to complete the project.

History star Violet

Congratulations to Violet Schaible for gaining a fantastic mark on her end of Year 8 history exam! In particular, her response to the question 'Explain why the English civil war broke out in 1642?', was a fantastic answer and secured her one of the highest marks in the entire year group!



Star bakers!

Well done to Grace Perkins and Willow Daniels who made the most amazing cake for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The girls produced the cake and decorated it entirely independently showing incredible care, skill and patience!



Food star Finn

Finn Goodman is our food preparation and nutrition food star.

He has a fantastic attitude to every aspect of the subject and produces utterly delicious dishes which show great skill, thought and care.

No only is Finn a great cook, he is an outstanding team player and is always encouraging and supporting anyone who needs a boost.

Well done Finn!



Year 7 debate gets heated

Year 7 have been studying life in Victorian Britain in English and have taken part in a class debate on the topic of child labour. 7A spoke strongly, with half of the class tasked with being in favour of child labour and half against it. After an excellent range of arguments from both sides, it was decided by Miss Lavery and Mrs Raine that the team arguing against child labour had the strongest arguments. Well done, 7A!

Music news

Folk music workshops

The music department has been working with Music at the Heart of Teesdale, alongside professional folk musicians, in a series of workshops, learning and developing a tune 'Honey Moon' from a local collection dating back more than 100

years. We've been working on aural skills and learning by ear rather than from notation and practising playing together as a bigger ensemble. Twenty students have taken part who will be showcasing their playing at our summer concert.

Music star Beth

Year 12 student, Beth, is quite simply an exceptional and gifted musician...

To put into words what she has achieved this year would be impossible! An accomplished singer, pianist, organist and cellist, Beth has made outstanding musical progress. In school, Beth is a driving force in Chamber Choir, and accompanies the main school choir in rehearsal each week. She is also an outstanding role model for our younger musicians and singers - we are so fortunate that she is here with us!



Turrets Youth Theatre Seniors present 'The Bacchae'

This term some of our talented students have been working towards a performance of Euripides' Greek Tragedy 'The Bacchae', which took place on 29th June at The Witham, Barnard Castle to a sell-out audience. Feli, Max and Sam in Year 7, Chad in Year 8, Alice and Ethan in Year 9 and Amelia in Year 10 all had acting roles, while Tabi in Year 11 was involved in leading and directing the production. Turrets' next production will be a Winter Spectacular, on 8th Dec. If any students are interested in joining Turrets, please see Mrs McGrath or look on The Witham website.

Teesdale Community Music Festival – A Level Recital

As part of the Teesdale Community Music Festival, run by St Mary's Church, our A level music students performed a lunchtime recital. Harriet, Beth and Kirsty each played some of their exam repertoire as well as some own compositions – the talent and musicianship shown by these three students is something we are incredibly proud of, and we know they each have a bright future filled with musical opportunities ahead of them.



Play Every Day in May

17 of Teesdale's finest musicians and singers took on the challenge to Play Every Day in May – a music department initiative to build on good practice habits.

A special mention must go to Ellie, Thomas, Rose, Owen, and Poppy in Year 7, James in Year 8 and Nate in Year 9 who all managed a full 31 days of practice – we're so impressed with their dedication.



PRIDE

We recently celebrated Pride where students learnt about diversity through a range of different, fun activities.

We celebrated our diversity by creating a huge ceramic heart decorations. Students worked hard to create a variety of individual designs, with some incorporating the colours of the different flags. Staff also made a ceramic heart whilst learning about LGBTQIA+ flags and history. We celebrated the importance of being individuals and learnt about different lifestyles.



The week culminated in the first Teesdale Pride festival. Selling cakes and crafts, students



raised money for the Just Like Us charity and enjoyed listening to a very jazzy brass band. PCSOs and members of the GSK community joined us to inform students about diversity in the workplace. Well done everyone!

Science star Joseph

Our Science Star of the Year is Joseph Waldock of Year 8.

Miss Moks says: "Joseph goes above and beyond with every aspect of his science work and has made superb progress in his understanding and knowledge this year.

Joseph is a very driven student, who asks excellent questions and is an incredible support to other students within the class. He is a superstar!"

Nom nom!

Year 10 have made an excellent start to their Asian project.

They have been researching the cuisines from different countries, carrying out primary research to see what their target market would like them to make and then have produced some outstanding dishes. We are really looking forward to seeing your coursework next year!



Science Club

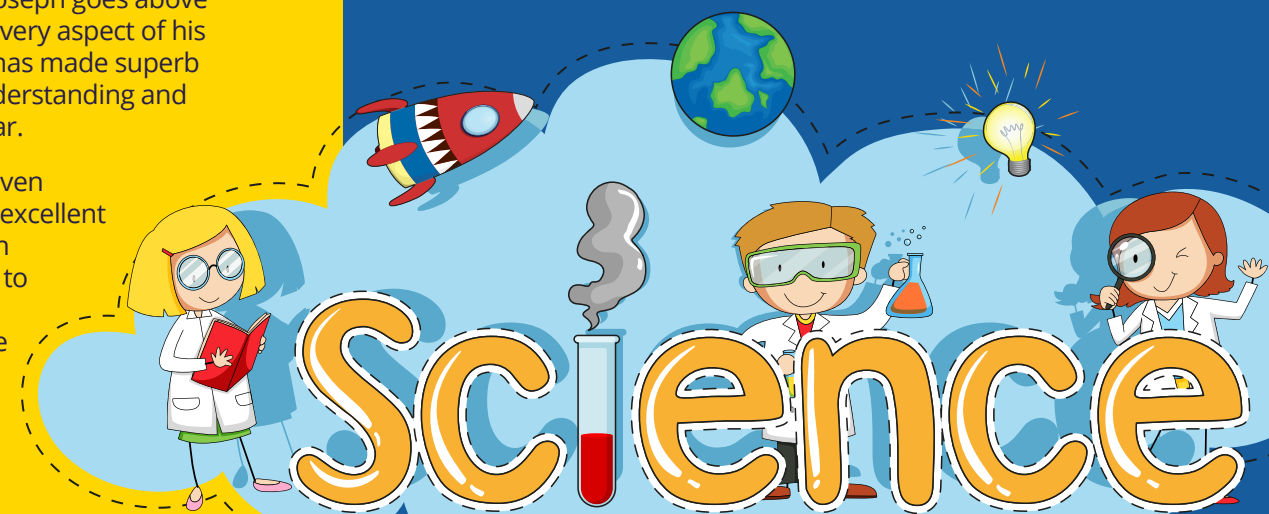
Science Club have had an excellent year meeting each Tuesday after school with a merry band of Year 7 and 8 students who join us each week.

Activities have covered many different aspects of science...

Across biology we have learned to use microscopes, for chemistry we have studied chemical reactions and using Bunsen burners, and for physics we have investigated forces and electrical circuits.

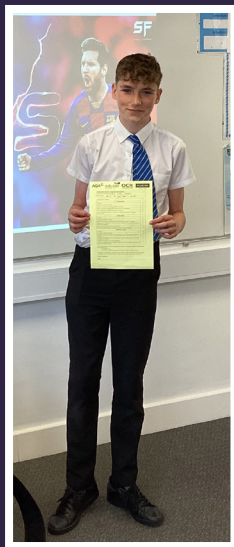
We've also done some engineering including designing and building bridges, towers, and even parachutes.

There have been lots of experiments exploring new and different angles of science and learning about weird and wonderful things. We've even had a go at making our own sparklers, and learned how indigestion tablets work!



Speaking and listening star Ollie

Ollie Linsley wowed Mrs Turner and his classmates this half-term with his wonderfully engaging speaking and listening speech on a much debated topic in football: 'Who is the better player, Messi or Ronaldo?' The performance even included audience participation and a demonstration of a celebration. Well done, Ollie. Your passion and confidence shone through!



Neeve's photo skills

We have loved watching Neeve grow in confidence in her photography classes this year.

She has created some fantastic pieces, especially drawing attention to things which often go unnoticed. One particular highlight was having her work displayed in a regional exhibition at Bowlees Visitor Centre. We are so proud of how far she has come; as well as being a fantastic photographer and role model, she is a real team player and always willing to help and support others. We would like to wish Neeve the best of luck with her HND in photography at Bishop Auckland College.



Plants on the Edge

Plants on the Edge is a project delivered by Teesdale Special Flora Trust to engage more people with our area's unique plants and to address the steady decline of the Teesdale flora.

Upper Teesdale is considered to be one of the top five botanical sites in the UK. A type of metamorphosed limestone which is found here, known as sugar limestone, weathers to form coarse thin soil which is favoured by many rare plants.

Our first Teesdale School session was a trip to Moor House National Nature Reserve with artist Sara Cox. We walked towards the reservoir and stopped to draw what we found on the way. We found using magnifying glasses really useful as some of the flowers were so small. This also helped us capture tiny details. We added colour and shape using soft pastels.

Next, we took our drawings back to the classroom to develop them further using wire. We took inspiration from the plants we found on our trip and used the wire to draw. We also explored using different techniques, such as knitting and crochet, to represent the textures and movement of the grass and earth beneath. We were careful to capture the whole plant, focussing on the roots and leaves as well as the stunning flowers. Excitingly, the next time we will see our work will be as part of an exhibition at the Witham in August to raise awareness in the wider community.

