



**Teesdale School
& Sixth Form**

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020

WELCOME ...to our summer newsletter.

As the end of the academic year draws to a close, we pause and reflect on what was, and still is, a time of great uncertainty, loss and sadness. To those members of our school community who have lost loved ones, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Our students and staff have come together and learnt how to adapt to the 'new normal'. Year 10 and 12 students who have returned to school have followed the new rules and enjoyed being back. We have shown that by working together we can adapt and overcome challenges. It has not been easy but together we have overcome these difficulties. Our thanks go to you as parents and carers for supporting us as we try to do our very best for your children.

There is also much to celebrate as some students have shown resilience and fortitude; some sold plants for the NHS, recycled and re-purposed pallets into

all manner of useful items, wrote short stories, developed their art and photography skills and impressed Mrs Swinburne with their culinary expertise. Well done to those of you who have not done anything extra or different or unusual, but who have struggled with the challenge of just managing to get through the stress and uncertainty of these strange days.

Whatever lies ahead in September, we will face it as the kind, creative and generous Teesdale School and Sixth Form community we are all so proud to be a part of.

We wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

Clare Ellis

Head of School

Teachers produce PPE for frontline workers

Alongside the other five secondary schools within the North East Learning Trust, our Head of D&T, Mr Cotterill, produced PPE for frontline workers in their fight against COVID-19.

Using an approved design from Kitronic, Mr Cotterill used a Trust laser cutter to produce protective visors for frontline workers, producing a whopping 3,246 across all six schools in the Trust.

We were delighted to be able to play our part in the fight against the virus and we would like to thank the incredible frontline workers for their tireless efforts and dedication to keeping us safe.



Reduce, reuse, recycle: Uniform bank!

This summer, Influence Church in Barnard Castle, is giving you the opportunity to both donate and receive, free of charge, pre-loved school uniform items including blazers, skirts, jumpers, trousers, shirts, blouses, PE kit, ties and anything else which is clean and in good condition.

The event will take place on
Thursday 6 August
4pm - 6pm

You are welcome to go along and take away any useful uniform items. Volunteers will be on hand to help and advise you and all up-to-date government advice regarding COVID-19 will be followed.

How to donate your pre-loved school uniform:

Items may be dropped off at Influence Church (54 Galgate, Barnard Castle) in the weeks leading up to the event at the following times:

Tuesdays
3pm to 4pm

Wednesdays
9am to 10am

Fridays
4pm to 6pm

Moments Café have also offered to be an additional donation point. Please contact them to make arrangements.

More information at
[facebook.com/storehouse.foodbank](https://www.facebook.com/storehouse.foodbank)

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

IMPORTANT DATES for your diary

Due to the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic, we cannot commit to any fixed school events at the moment. Parents' evenings and other planned events in school are postponed until further notice.

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

Quiz masters!

Over the past four months, each Thursday at 4pm you will have seen our weekly Teesdale 'pub quiz' night over on our Facebook page.

We would like to say a big thank you to Cal Baker, Year 13 and Keira Scott, Year 10 who have put together many of the quizzes that have challenged our virtual quiz goers each week.

Also, a huge well done to Elizabeth Stenlake, Year 10 who was crowned the quiz queen for a third of all the quizzes that we have posted since they started at the end of March.



Success for Grace!

The good news keeps coming for our Year 12 student, Grace Tarpey, who was awarded Poetry By Heart's County Winner for Key Stage 5 last month.

Grace claimed the school stage prize back in February, where much-loved children's author Anne Fine kindly came and guest-judged for us, before progressing to the final stage.

Grace joins several other Teesdale School and Sixth

Form students, past and present, who have succeeded in the much-loved national competition for young people.

Congratulations Grace, we are so proud - the English team are already planning for next year's event!

Lockdown languages

Many of the students at Teesdale School have risen to the challenge set by Ms Howliston to sign up to Duolingo, the free language-learning app, and keep the learning streak going for as long as possible.

One of our Year 7 students, Ollie Linsley, has gone above and beyond the challenge and has so far racked up an impressive 69 day streak of learning. We were so impressed by his efforts that we think he deserves a prize on his return to school.

Can anyone beat a 10 week streak and claim a prize for themselves? If you are up to the challenge, screenshot your Duolingo streak and send it to Ms Howliston at:

lara.howliston@teesdaleschool.co.uk



duolingo



A green vision!

Recently, Teesdale School's overgrown garden was given a complete facelift by nine students from Years 7 to 10.

The students were part of the key workers group in school and all pulled together to clear the weeds from the paths and prepare the beds for use. The students learned to distinguish between the weeds and the useful or decorative plants, finding foxgloves, poppies, mint and even potatoes. In addition each student planted some lettuce seeds to take home and they had a try at making bird feeders from pine cones

covered in peanut butter and rolled in sunflower seeds. Not only was it was great fun, but it was a little messy hanging them from the trees! Every student played their part and they all worked with enthusiasm to transform the area. The recently developed school nature garden is the next area of the school that the group have their sights set on - they've really got the gardening bug!

Summer reading list

We think there is nothing better than sitting down with a good book, whether it be in a patch of sunshine or in the comfiest corner of the sofa - a great story can change even the bleakest of days. So we have put our heads together and compiled a list of truly great reads for you to enjoy - we think there is something for everyone - but if you think we have missed something major let us know what you would add... happy reading!

1. A Fault in Our Stars – John Green
2. Flour Babies – Anne Fine
3. The Lioness Quartet – Tamora Pierce
4. Host – Stephanie Meyer
5. Noughts and Crosses – Malorie Blackman
6. Sleepwalking – Nicola Morgan
7. Divergent – Veronica Roth
8. The Falcon's Malteser – Anthony Horowitz
9. The Hunger Games – Suzanne Collins
10. The Thief Lord – Cornelia Funke
11. Beyond the Deepwoods – Chris Riddell and Paul Stewart
12. The Owl Service – Alan Garner
13. The Book Thief – Markus Zusak
14. Six of Crows – Leigh Bardugo
15. Lord of the Rings – JRR Tolkien
16. Stormbreaker (Alex Rider) – Anthony Horowitz
17. The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy – Douglas Adams
18. Percy Jackson Series – Rick Riordan
19. Mortal Engines - Phillip Reeve
20. The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas – John Boyne



Enter our art competition!

We want you to create a piece of artwork based on something that makes you happy!

During the lockdown we can take time to reflect upon what makes us happy and so many people turn to art to represent the things they love. So, we'd like to see your artistic representations of the everyday beauty around you; this could be your family, friends, pets, your favourite places, sports, baking or anything that you take joy in.

You can use any media of your choice, including but not limited to: pencil, coloured pencil, paints, collage, sewing, photography, etc.

The competition will be divided into two age categories: 11-14 years and 15 - 18 years and into three categories: Teesdale, animals and 'other'.

Submit your entries by emailing a photograph to Miss Richardson at olivia.richardson@teesdaleschool.co.uk by Tuesday 1 September.

Good luck!

Summer seminars

Are you a student in Years 10-13?

Join our Head of Sixth Form, Dr Simon Henderson, for a series of online presentations and discussions on the issues that are hitting global headlines this summer.

Email simon.henderson@teesdaleschool.co.uk for more information.

