



Teesdale School
& Sixth Form

SPRING NEWSLETTER

April 2020

WELCOME to our spring newsletter...

...which is coming to you under very different circumstances. We are all learning as we go along and we must adapt to a new way of working, therefore, we have launched our 'virtual school' - find out more information [here](#).

I'd like to say a huge thank you to all students, parents and carers for how you have thrown yourself into remote learning. We also want to thank our teachers who are working hard to make sure there is enough for students to do, but not too much work, it's a tricky balance to get right! We are also trying to make sure that there are not lots of pages to print out when ink is in short supply. It's also really important that you take time to exercise, go into the garden when you can, read, cook and, if you really must, play on your Xbox and Play Station!

Before everything changed, one of the lovely things we saw this term were groups of

students stopping to watch the birds in our school nature reserve where snowdrops and daffodils signal the first signs of spring. To have a student say, "Miss, can you see the robin?", brought a huge smile to my face. We live and work in a beautiful part of the world and the mindfulness to appreciate this is something that can bring some comfort as we move towards the summer and some brighter times ahead.

Finally, I'd like to thank our students, parents and carers once again for your continued support as we try our best during this very difficult time. I'd also like to extend my thanks, along with all staff at Teesdale School and Sixth Form, to those in our community and beyond who are working on the front line to care for us all.

Clare Ellis

Head of School

Students get musical for a good cause

This term, talented pianists from Years 7 to 11 entertained an audience to raise money for the End Polio Now charity.

The concert was a collaboration between our school's music department and the Interact Club and featured a range of music from Coldplay and Queen to Einaudi.

The concert was an opportunity to showcase the talents of 15 of our students, most of whom have piano lessons with our piano teacher, Ms Ballantine.

Continued overleaf...





Students put pen to paper

A group of our Year 7 students recently entered BBC Two's 500 Words competition.

Students had to use their imagination to create a captivating 500-word story. Penny, Rosie, Lily and Florence each created fantastic stories which have now been submitted to the judges.

The winners will be announced on national radio soon and we have our fingers crossed that our students will be able to bring home the prizes!



Rowing for gold!

Congratulations to Jacob Windle who won the Under 16 boys' Northern Indoor Rowing Championships earlier this term at Maiden Castle.

He won the first round at the regional school games competition putting him through to the county finals, also held at Maiden Castle. Having won this event, Jacob was invited to attend a performance academy for six weeks before competing in the Northern Championships. Jacob came first with a timed row of 1724, with his nearest rival scoring 1708.

Jacob initially learned to row at Durham Amateur Rowing Club in the Easter holidays of 2018.

Last year, the team he trains with competed at the National Schools Regatta at Eton Dorney and at the National Junior Rowing Championships in Nottingham. This year, Jacob has also competed in a single scull winning both long distance races (5km) in his age category. He also competes in a squad who have just qualified to represent the northern region.

We'd like to say a huge congratulations from all of the PE staff at Teesdale on a well deserved win.

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.



Lizzie's cello success!

Year 10 student, Lizzie Hughes, recently sat her Grade 5 cello exam and we are delighted to share the news that not only did Lizzie pass but she achieved a fantastic distinction - the highest mark possible!

The examiner commented that Lizzie's tone was very clear and mature throughout her performance. Lizzie is an accomplished musician who works very hard playing in the youth folk band, Cream Tees, as well as Durham County Youth Orchestra and Darlington Orchestra.

Lizzie also enjoys her lessons in school with Ms Diment as part of our Durham Music Service Provision. Well done Lizzie - we are all proud of you!

Students get musical for a good cause

Continued from front page...

The money raised will support End Polio Now, a Rotary International campaign to eradicate the spread of polio worldwide through vaccination. Every pound raised is double matched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, meaning that the £320 we raised has the impact of almost £1,000!

We would like to say a special thanks to all of our performers as well as Evie, Jake, Cara, Jess and Chloe who provided refreshments on behalf of the Interact Club and ran the raffle.

Everyone had a great time in the name of a wonderful cause.

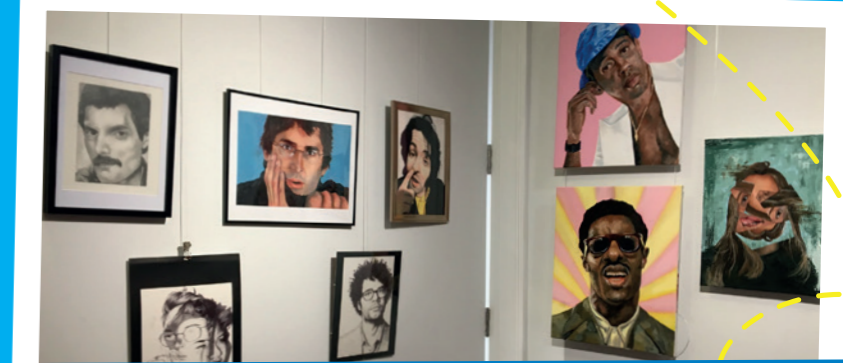
We're on Twitter and Facebook!



@teesdaleschool



facebook.com/teesdaleschooland sixthform



The reviews are in...

Earlier this term we were incredibly proud to see the work of our talented students displayed at The Witham Gallery in Barnard Castle.

The exhibition was a real celebration of the hard work and dedication of our students. The pieces showcased an eclectic mix of styles ranging from traditional landscape and animal portraits to abstract, mixed-media artwork.

The work on display was created by a range of students across all year groups, including A Level art and photography students. We hope that this year's display was the first of many more to come.

We were very grateful for all the glowing feedback from the exhibition - here are some of the lovely reviews:

"Really enjoyable - a rich diversity of expression and interests - the enthusiasm evident throughout the exhibition and the enormous care taken by students in the creation of their work is inspiring to see."

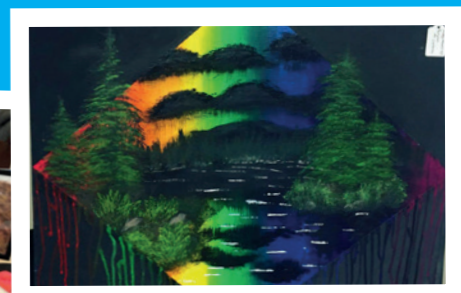
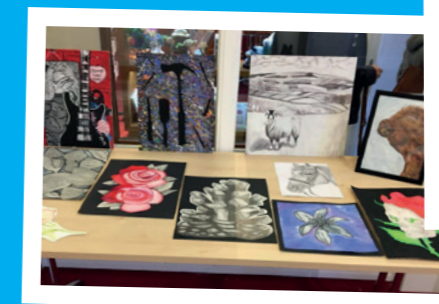
"It was a brilliant exhibition featuring some very talented artists. Love the work of Eleanor Morris."

"Wonderful art display. Beautiful works on varied subjects. You should all be proud. Excellent and well done."

"Stunning exhibition! How lucky is Teesdale School to have such an experimental art department. It was a wonderful exhibition, well done Teesdale School."

"Refreshing to see the work of the young artists of Teesdale - some very talented students - Millie Swinburn you are a star, keep up the good work. Congratulations to one and all for your efforts - enjoy your art! Great also to see photography featured - an essential skill for artists - check out the work of Raphael Mazzucco an immensely talented Canadian photographer and artist for further inspiration."

"An amazing collection of art, what a lot of young talent. Particularly impressed with the dark room photograph. Liked the jelly fish."





Poetry by heart

This term, students explored their poetic talents as they performed in the school round of the annual Poetry by Heart competition.

Contestants from Years 9, 10 and 12 selected two poems to recite entirely from memory, from the Poetry by Heart anthology, in the hope of progressing to the national final held at Homerton College in Cambridge.

Much-loved children's author, Anne Fine, kindly agreed to be a guest judge and our students were thrilled to meet her! Anne was impressed with the level of talent as all students did a superb job in their performances. However, after outstanding renditions of *Porphyria's Lover* by Robert Browning and *Sea Rose* by Hilda Dolittle, Year 12's Grace Tarpey was crowned as our school winner!

Miss Donahue, our competition organiser and English teacher, said: "This a wonderful and unique opportunity for our students to take part in a country-wide competition where they can engage with poetry in a whole new way, going beyond the classroom and stepping out of their creative comfort zones. I am immensely proud of the whole group and what they have achieved over the last few months."

We would like to say a huge well done to the students who took part or supported in some way, and best of luck to Grace for the next round – we are rooting for you!

Sixth Form look into the past...

A group of A level history students attended a seminar at Durham University, delivered by Dr Skye Montgomery - a historian of 'American national identity and foreign relations in the nineteenth century'.

The session explored the ways the north and south weaponised historical memory during the American Civil War and helped answer the question of how Americans arrived at such different understandings of their nation's history. The seminar was particularly important as students study both the causes of the American Civil War and its impact on race relations in the nation as part of their A level syllabus. The historical documents that students read and the discussions that they had provided much food for thought.

Head of History and Sixth Form, Dr Simon Henderson, said: "This is the sort of extra-curricular enrichment that is so important for our sixth form students. It is crucial that they are given such opportunities to explore teaching and learning at university before they go on to become undergraduates in the future."

Teacher training opportunities

Shotton Hall
SCITT
School Centred Initial Teacher Training

Did you know that Teesdale School and Sixth Form helps to train the next generation of new teachers and are looking for new recruits to start in September 2020?

Through the North East Learning Trust, we are a partner of Shotton Hall SCITT, the Trust's very own outstanding teacher training provider.

Trainees start their training at The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee,

before undertaking placements in schools right across the North East.

Applications are now open for primary and secondary courses starting in September 2020 with bursaries of up to £26k available for certain subjects.

To find out about entry requirements and the opportunities available, as well as hearing from people who have taken the leap and changed career visit:

www.shottonhallscitt.co.uk

