

THE TCS Tribune

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity



Issue #20 - Autumn 2023



Testbourne Community School

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity



Dear valued parents, carers, and members of the community,

Welcome to the 20th edition of the TCS Tribune. This is our termly newsletter dedicated to sharing the activities of the students and staff in our wonderful school with our wider community.

As usual, during this term, school has been busy for staff and students alike. The Tribune helps us share some of our work with you.

We were happy to welcome children and parents of our potential new intake into the school for both Open Evening and our Open Mornings. Once again, the feedback was very positive with parents commenting on how calm and orderly the school is along with the focus seen in lessons. We very much enjoy hosting visitors as it is an opportunity to give people an insight into our work, culture and ethos. The open events culminated in us being over-subscribed for Year 7 entries in September 2024. We look forward to welcoming those allocated a place to our school in our transition events from March next year onwards.

This term is also the time in which we present the GCSE certificates to our previous Year 11 cohort. We changed the format slightly this year so that the event was a little less formal and so that we could maximise the time available for parents and alumni to chat to each other and staff. This seemed to be well received and we had an excellent turn out of parents and alumni. It was lovely to catch up with them and to learn a little about their experiences in college and beyond.

Another key event this term is the PTFA Christmas Fayre. The Christmas Fayre is the first thing that I attend each year that starts to make me feel like Christmas is only around the corner. As usual, our wonderful volunteers did a fantastic job organising the event and selling refreshments. There were lots of different stalls from Testbourne students, local businesses, staff and more, and they all had a busy day. I would like to thank our wonderful PTFA who put so much effort and thought into raising money for the school to benefit all students. The money they raised helped us to buy things like our new canopy, our laser cutter, picnic benches and so much more. They raise thousands of pounds each year to help buy equipment and facilities that would not otherwise be possible. If you think you could give some time to the PTFA, please get in touch using admin@testbourne.school. You too could be part of the fabulous team of parents that contribute so much to our school.

You will be aware that we were visited by Ofsted inspectors this term. We are very proud of our school and our wonderful students and were pleased that Ofsted would finally inspect us after 13 years and several changes of framework. We look forward to sharing the detail with you when the report becomes available to us. The timeframes for this can be quite long, especially when there is a school holiday soon after inspection, but we hope we will be able to do this sometime in January.

As you know, each half term I write Headteacher recognition letters for two children nominated in each year group for being fantastic examples of the Testbourne Standards of Excellence. With every whole term, I host a small tea party for those in receipt of the letters. This is always a great pleasure and gives me opportunity to focus on children who are very representative of Testbourne students: polite, kind, thoughtful, resilient and hard working. This term I have had the additional pleasure of presenting GCSE certificates to three Year 11 students, who sat GCSEs in their heritage language during Year 10. They were rightly very proud of themselves and all three achieved Grade 9 in their heritage language – no mean feat even for those fluent as they must be competent in reading, writing, listening and speaking in order to do so well.

This term's Headteacher recognition letter recipients for the autumn term are:

Summer 2

- Nicolas Quiroga
- Alaia Wells-Mariezcurrana
- Jack Franklin
- Agatha Mather
- Mia Watts-Hyde
- Tom Stephenson
- Ashleigh Horne
- Lee Hunter

Autumn 1

- Tyler Cope
- Bo Dowling
- Harrison Brown
- Rosa Bishop
- Samanta Hmelnika
- Callum Taylor
- Molly-May Paddock
- Luke Sanderson
- Claudia Lewis
- Henry Lloyd

Additionally, you may be aware that we have Hot Chocolate Friday. This event is a weekly recognition event for students who have demonstrated exceptional effort in their learning that week and in modelling the Testbourne Standards of Excellence. So far, the recipients of hot chocolate Friday have been:

Date	Year 7		Year 8		Year 9	
22.09.23	Grace Harper	Max Whittingham	Tom Dutton	Megan Edmonston	Abi Harper	Callum Taylor
06.10.23	Erin Hayes	Henry Edwards	Morgan Mason	Amy Robinson	Teddy Barker	Agatha Mather
13.10.23	Erin Hayes (absent 06/10)	Henry Edwards (absent 06/10)	Lilianna Banks	Harrison Brown	Oyebola Adeniyi	Betty Diomande
20.10.23	Isaac Gaskell	Grace McLeod	Caitlyn Smith	Gethin Ridge	Asha Torrens	Toby Wicks
03.11.23	Olivia Hollis	Tyler Cope		Jess Sutton	Daniel Tegg	Gemma Orange
10.11.23	Erin Inker	William Robinson	Evie Dae	Anshe Hande	Maisie Cavanagh	Bertie Golding
17.11.23	Tia Trodd	Jacob Clifton	Alaia Wells-Mariezcurrana	Daniel Smith	Alexis Westwood-Atkins	Shane Van Duren
24.11.23	Bethany Horobin	Ewan Ralph	Oyin Bada	Nicholas Dowling	Jess Baker	Ben Calvert
01.12.23	Eden Banks Wild	Sam Blackburn	Freya Berry	Alfred Morgan	Ava Selwood	Fred Lomax
08.12.23	Violet Golding	Charlie Learmont-Pollock	Ava Golding	Ed Verney	Juno Jacobs	Nathan Partridge

Date	Year 10		Year 11	
22.09.23	Izzy Randall	Ryley McDonald	Jasmine Acott	Jake Ackers
06.10.23	Freddie Hamiton	Cate Bull	Nadine Frampton	Toby Bell
13.10.23	Molly May Paddock	Luke Sanderson	Edie Berry	Sam Bentley
20.10.23	Oskar Thornton	Lily Ellis	Lola Buddin	Charlie Ashley
03.11.23	Leon Cruickshank	Grace Young	Felicity Court	Howie Bird
10.11.23	Rose Billingham	Owen Kelly	Emma Barretto	Orson Brown
17.11.23	Ethan Burniston	Evie Clarke	Georgie Brown	George Brunt
24.11.23	Charlie Ball	Matilda Barton	Lola Buddin	Tom Cady
01.12.23	Owen Kelly	Charlie Day	Zoe Bishop	Howie Bird
08.12.23	Aly Jarman	Sophia Rowland	Poppy Butler	Freddie Burke

Christmas can be a magical time of year but is also fraught with difficulties for some. If you are suffering from financial hardship, we do have access to a very small emergency fund. Should you wish to request assistance, please email Lauren Cartwright, Pastoral and Safeguarding Support Manager, l.cartwright@testbourne.school in the first instance.

All that remains is for me to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing your children in 2024.

Best wishes,
Mr Jon Beck
Headteacher

Open Evening 2023

Our annual Open Evening, held in September, is a very busy event every year. Hundreds of parents and students come to see the fantastic offer here at Testbourne Community School, and we were delighted earlier this term to host another busy and successful evening.

Over 300 visitors came to see the Departments, and the Prefect team and Year 10 helpers were kept busy showing parents and students around the site.

Some highlights of the evening were:



- In the Science Department, visitors experienced some of the exciting practical experiments our students carry out while at Testbourne. There were wave demonstrations, flame tests, dry ice experiments, and a rat dissection, as well as acid experiments and electricity kits on hand.
- The History Department challenged visitors to correctly name the famous historical person from clues and facts about them. They also had food items from different time periods and challenged visitors to place them in the correct chronological order.
- PE had a classroom showing the practical fitness theory we teach at Testbourne, and showcased the huge range of extra-curricular and sport we offer. They also had a range of fitness activities that visitors took part in to achieve the highest score.

At the end of the evening Mr Beck gave a talk in the Sports Hall for more than 200 families; we were delighted so many people could join us for the event. Thank you also to the huge number of staff and students who worked so hard to show off our wonderful school – we really appreciate everything you do.



Open Mornings 2023

In the first week of October we held our very popular Open Mornings. These provide a chance for prospective parents and students to visit the school and see lessons in action. Year 9 students took the visitors on tours around as many lessons as possible, and it was a joy to see so many different subjects all being taught by our experienced and skilled teachers.

We welcomed nearly 120 families into school for a tour of the site and to see lessons, and all the visitors got a chance to speak to staff before or after the tours. In January we will be inviting existing parents to have a tour of the school so please watch out for this invitation soon!

Exams Results 2022-23

We are proud of the achievements of the class of 2023 and commend these students on their excellent GCSE and BTEC qualifications. So many of our students moved on to college and apprenticeships this September. Three quarters of students achieved a 'standard' pass of grade 4 and above in both English and Maths combined in 2023. Over 15% of students achieved the top grades 9-7 in both English and Maths. This is an incredible achievement when we know that these children have been impacted both by the pandemic and the re-alignment of results to 2019 levels.

One in six students achieved at least one of the top grade 9s in their GCSEs, whilst 87 grade 9s were awarded to students across all subjects. Of these top grades, over half were in English, Maths or Science subjects. This is in addition to many other students who made great progress from their starting points during their time at Testbourne.

Many subjects, including Biology, Chemistry, Combined Science, English Language, English Literature, Design Technology, Drama, French, Geography, Maths, Music, and Physics, are celebrating pass rates above 75% with their students.

To prepare our current Year 11 for their exams, Enhanced Learning and Knowledge (ELK) revision sessions will begin in earnest in the New Year. Each subject area will provide a programme of weekly support on key topics in preparation for the final exams.



Presentation Evening 2023

Wednesday 22 November 2023 was a special evening for our Testbourne Alumni. Now studying as Year 12 students at various colleges, our former students returned to Testbourne for an evening to celebrate their achievements and collect their GCSE Certificates. The evening was introduced by Mr Beck and Mr Alderman, and students then signed to collect their GCSEs. There was also a chance to speak to the many staff who came to find out more about the further studies their ex-students have gone on to take. A selection of canapés and drinks rounded off a wonderful celebration of hard work and achievement from our class of 2023. Good luck for the future to all!





Carol Concert

The Testbourne Carol Service took place in All Hallows Church, Whitchurch. It is a special event in our school calendar and this year we joined members of All Hallows choir to perform our own Testbourne version of the Nine Lessons and Carols service that originated at King's College Cambridge in the 1920s.

The service started with a beautiful, unaccompanied first verse of Once in Royal David's City, by three talented Year 7 singers. They were then joined by our two school choirs, our school orchestra and the All Hallows choir. Our musicians and singers filled the beautiful church with sound. Our readers told the traditional Christmas story eloquently, leading the service to the next musical item with calm and poise. The Testbourne orchestra was supported by our visiting music teachers, school music teachers and a school governor.

All the students worked very hard learning the traditional carols in the run up to the event and provided a very polished performance on the evening. We all enjoyed a mince pie at the end courtesy of Testbourne's PTFA. Well done and thanks to all those involved in the Carol Service.



Remembrance Day - Testbourne

On Friday 10 November, Testbourne Community School held its Remembrance and Armistice Day two-minute silence to commemorate those who had fallen in conflict. This was the culmination of a week of reflection and commemoration in year group assemblies. These were led by Dr Hall and provided an opportunity for students to reflect, thinking about those who have fallen, the sacrifices made by so many, and the importance of peace, kindness and tolerance in society.

The two-minute silence was held at 11am, during the morning break. In the playground, a group of Cadets lowered their standards, our visiting Brass teacher, Mr Grace, played 'The Last Post' and Dr Wilson read the famous lines from Binyon's 'For the Fallen':

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them.*



Remembrance Day - War Memorial Park

On Sunday 12 November, representatives of TCS attended the Basingstoke Service of Remembrance at War Memorial Park. The service brought together members of the community with representatives from many groups including Scouting organisations, the Armed Services, and the Royal British Legion, who all took part in the parade. TCS proudly stood united with the community at the Basingstoke Service of Remembrance, as Isla Gray, Emma Barreto, and Lottie Harrison from Year 11, exemplified our collective gratitude by laying a wreath at the memorial on behalf of everyone at TCS.



Photo by Sean Dillow

Photo by Sean Dillow

Testbourne's Hot Chocolate Fridays!

We are pleased to say that since its launch at the beginning of the academic year, our 'Hot Chocolate Friday' event has been going from strength to strength. Every week, two students from each year group are nominated for demonstrating exceptional effort in their learning. This means that they have gone above and beyond in how they have modelled our Testbourne Standards of Excellence – Ambitious Learning, Honesty and Integrity, Kindness and Respect, and Leadership.

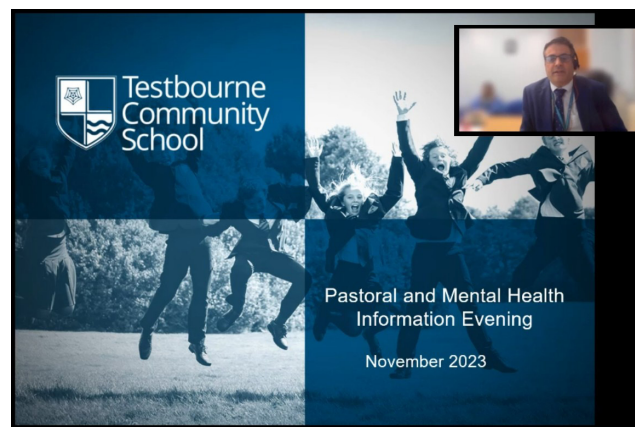


Each Friday this group of students meets with two members of the Senior Leadership Team and celebrates with a mug of hot chocolate. For us, this also provides an excellent opportunity to meet students that we may not always have the chance to see regularly, to find out a little more about them and how they are finding life at school. Look out for a weekly social media post and photos!



Pastoral Evening LIVE EVENT

Last month Dr Hall and Mrs Day led an online Pastoral and Mental Health Information Evening. The aim of this session was to outline some key information about our pastoral support, including explaining who does what in the team and how best to communicate with us. This session also provided further details around our Mental Health strategy, our values, and approach to Mental Health and pastoral support. Resources were also signposted that can be helpful for parents, carers and students. A recording of the Teams Live event, as well as the PowerPoint used, is available from the Safeguarding page of our website: <https://www.testbourne.school/home/about-us/pastoral-care/safeguarding/>. These materials can be found in the 'Safeguarding Information Evenings for Parents and Carers' section.



MINDKIND

Year 8 and Year 10 participated in the #BeeWell survey this month.

#BeeWell is a programme that aims to understand the issues that matter to young people through an annual wellbeing survey delivered by secondary schools. All schools in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton have been invited to participate. The results are anonymised and combined so that schools, voluntary agencies, local government and health agencies can act on what young people are saying and make positive change. Well done to Year 8 and Year 10 for taking part!



Due to the success of last year's workshop, On Thursday 30 November, The Molly-Rose Foundation delivered a parent workshop on mental health and how best to support the young person in your life. The feedback, once again, was extremely positive and we urge parents and carers to attend these information evenings if you would like further guidance in supporting the mental health of your child.





News from the PTFA

It's Christmas time!

Christmas came early this year, as the Testbourne PTFA Christmas Fayre opened its doors on Saturday 25 November to a fantastic reception from the local community. The day was a huge hit, providing lots of festive fun and Christmas cheer!

Prizes for the ever-popular Raffle were generously provided by businesses across Hampshire, including: 3Parts Cocktails; Amanda Outridge Hair and Beauty; Bombay Sapphire; Burnaby Stores; Caviste; Create the Ripple; Dever Springs Trout Fishery; Hampshire Fitness; Hardy's Plants; Hawk Conservancy; Kings Arms Gin; Kudos Coffee; Longdog Brewery; Morrisons; Motorola; No1 George Street; Ravensburger; The Bel and Dragon; The Garden Editor; The White Hart (Whitchurch); Toni Hair; Watership Down Inn; Whitchurch Barbers; Whitchurch Silk Mill; Wild Rose Florist; and Wilson & Sons Greengrocer.

A massive thank you to all whose support helped to make this fantastic event happen, from members of the PTFA, to stall holders, parents and carers, students, teachers, local businesses, and of course our wonderful community. We couldn't have done it without you!

We're thrilled to share that the Christmas Fair made a total of £3,223, which will go towards rebuilding funds for more school resources and enhancing the areas around the new playground shelter for the students.

The fundraising was made possible, in part, by match funding from Adele Thorogood via Barclays, adding an extra £1000. To find out more about match funding, read on to see how you can help the PTFA.

Fundraising News

Following a very successful fundraising year in 2022/2023, and the installation of the playground shelter in the Summer of 2023, the PTFA were back in action to raise funds in support of new projects for the school.



O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree

This year, Testbourne PTFA was kindly selected as the charity to be supported by Whitchurch Christmas Trees. This presented a wonderful opportunity for the PTFA to receive a much needed boost to funds.

On Saturday 2 December, a small army of PTFA volunteers, teachers and parents delivered 200 trees around Whitchurch, bringing with them much merriment and festive cheer. This Herculean effort raised a total of £3008.

We would like to extend huge thanks to Whitchurch Christmas Trees for supporting our charity and to all of our volunteers who gave so generously of their time.



How you can support the PTFA

If you'd like to do more to support the PTFA, here's how you can help:

- Time / Skills – if you can offer your time or skills to support the fundraising efforts of the PTFA, please contact the PTFA team on ptfa@testbourne.school.
- Just Giving Page – make a donation and, if possible, we can also claim Gift Aid on your donation of 25% if you are a UK Taxpayer. See the link for more details: <https://www.justgiving.com/ptfa-testbourneschool>.
- Match Funding – does your employer offer Match Funding? Maximise your fundraising efforts by securing pledges to match donations made to the PTFA. Please get in touch if you would like more details – the school can provide a letter of support that you can present to your employer to help with your donation.
- Easyfundraising – make money for the PTFA whilst you shop online! Sign up via <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and visit our Testbourne Parents Teachers & Friends Association page.
- For more information about the PTFA, check out the PTFA page on the school website <https://www.testbourne.school/home/parents/ptfa/> or join the PTFA Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TestbournePTFA>.

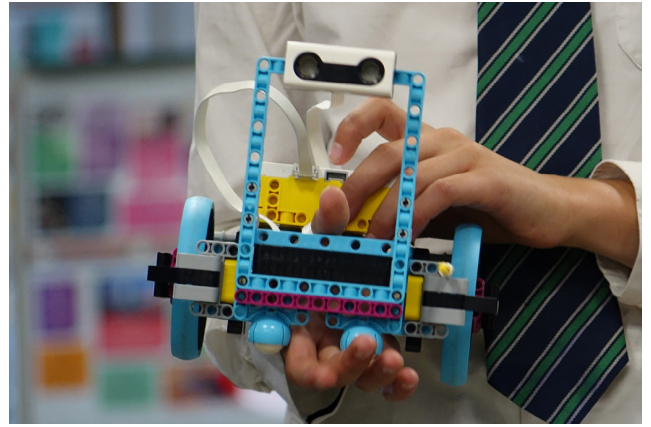
Thank you to you all!

FIRST Lego League Challenge

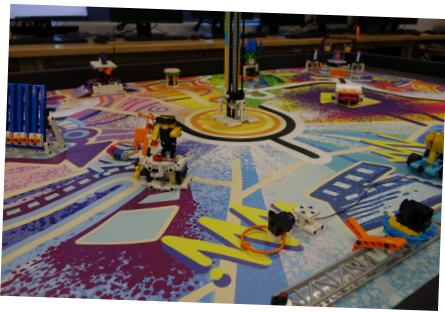
This term ten students have been taking part in the First Lego League Challenge. The challenge is a global STEM programme for teams of young people, to encourage an interest in real world themes and develop key skills that are crucial for their future careers.

Students work together to explore a given topic, which this year is based on the arts and the use of technology. The four elements of the challenge are:

- Robot design - design and build a Lego robot.
- Robot game - programme the robot using coding to compete missions.
- Innovation project – identify and research a problem, design and create a solution and present their project ideas.
- Core values – work on and demonstrate core values of teamwork, inclusion, impact, innovation, discovery and fun.



The challenge culminates in a regional competition taking place in Portsmouth in January 2024, where they will compete against other schools. We wish the team the best of luck!



Hampshire Book Award 2023

This year we had 12 students taking part in the Hampshire Book Awards. They had to read all six books that were on the shortlist! After reading them, along with other students from across Hampshire, they voted for their favourites and their votes helped decide which book would win.

Our student judges recently had the opportunity to meet virtually with the winning author, Liz Kessler, who won with her book *When the World Was Ours*. Liz spoke about the real-life story of her father, who inspired the book, and answered questions from students about her writing and her new book *Code Name Kingfisher*.



The students should be congratulated for challenging themselves to read and critically appraise all six books, and for representing our school so well at the voting event. Mrs Bates was very impressed with the commitment and superb behaviour of this year's judges.

TeenTech Trip

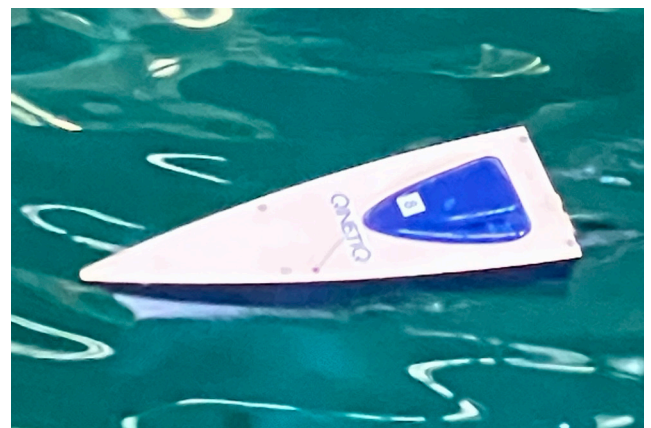
Ten Year 9 students were involved with the TeenTech Hampshire event held at Hampshire Court Hotel. At the event, the students engaged with STEM ambassadors from various scientific fields and businesses. Students had to innovate within the field of health technology and design an app for their idea. Testbourne students asked some very interesting questions to the professionals at the event and came up with some fascinating ideas.



The students also met Alex Lewis, a British man who contracted a rare flesh-eating bacteria in 2013 that caused him to lose his limbs and part of his face. He has since learned to walk, drive, and kayak with prosthetics, and in 2019 he climbed Ras Dashen, the highest mountain in Ethiopia. The students went on to say they were inspired by his achievements.

STEM Club

In our latest challenge, fifteen schools in our area were invited by QINETIQ to create the fastest and most agile remote-control power boat.



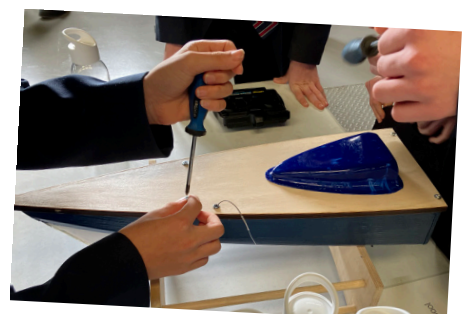
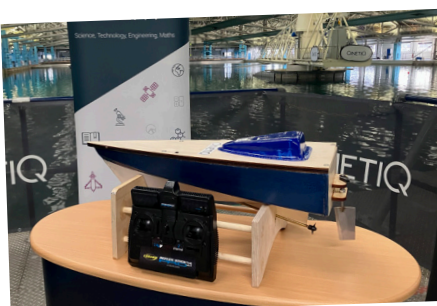
The process began in May when we started to get together some initial ideas for hull designs. By late June, we were almost ready to begin progress on the electronics side of the boat. Unfortunately, due to supply issues these components only arrived in October! This gave the STEM team just one week to test and build the powerboat, but with teamwork and dedication we managed to get our boat ready in time for the race.

Five of our STEM Prefects were able to represent Testbourne at the competition. We arrived at the highly-secure centre which houses the largest indoor testing pool in Europe and which was where the races would be taking place... AND WE WON!

Despite some parts failures during the event, we pulled through to claim victory in our final race! Also, during the free-for-all when they turned on the wave machine, we managed to capsize and even sink the boats of the opposition, which was extremely memorable.

All in all, we had a great time developing and racing our powerboat (christened the TCS Bounty): it was one of my most enjoyable experiences of my time at Testbourne.

Article by Daniel Jarman, Year 10 STEM Prefect





A Great Start for the Year 10 DofE Group

This year has seen the biggest ever group of students embarking on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Testbourne. Fifty-five students signed up to take part following an information evening for parents and students in October, and the first DofE sessions took place in November.

The DofE programme runs every year for students in Year 10 and is a great way for participants to develop self-confidence, learn new skills and have fun whilst working together on new challenges. Employers respect the DofE Award scheme, as they know that young people have to put in lots of effort to gain an Award.

Our new DofE students are now busy with activities that will count towards their Bronze Awards, from participating in a variety of sports for the Physical section of the Award, to spending time in charity shops, animal shelters and as leaders/coaches for younger children for their Volunteering section. The Skill section is equally diverse, with students learning languages (including British Sign Language), cookery, crochet, woodwork, engineering and playing musical instruments. They can choose from a huge variety of activities, as long as they are in addition to those they do anyway at school. Expedition training starts in January, with day walks, First Aid training and two expeditions to come before the end of the school year.

Six new adult DofE volunteers have joined the existing leader team this term to help run the group. A huge thank you to them all – in addition to Tuesday evenings, day walks and expeditions, some of our new leaders will also be undertaking First Aid and outdoor leadership training, to make sure we can get as many students as possible through their DofE Award over the next seven months.

Well done to all the students for making such a good start, and thank you to our amazing leader team for giving up so much time to make DofE at Testbourne happen.

Any enquiries about DofE at Testbourne, please contact Mrs Nottingham s.nottingham@testbourne.school.



Theatre Trip

In an unforgettable theatrical outing, nearly 90 Year 9 students embarked on a trip to London's Duchess Theatre to watch the superb comedy, "The Play that Goes Wrong". The students really entered into the spirit of the play and were in stitches as they watched the 'amateur' production go spectacularly wrong. Behaviour was excellent and, at a time when 'theatre etiquette' is being questioned nationally, our Year 9s set an excellent example of the right way for an audience to conduct themselves. A great night out was had by all!



History Visitor

Testbourne's History Department was visited in November by David Allen, a World War One historian and collector. He shared his collection with Year 9 classes and explained how each of the items would have been used. Each session ended with students being able to touch items which would normally only be seen behind glass in a museum. It was an extraordinary opportunity!



Road Safety Week Visit

During Road Safety Week, PC Claridge and PC Lucas of the Roads Policing Unit visited our school to share invaluable insights on the dangers of the road, emphasising the crucial roles played by motorists, passengers, and other road users. Students had the opportunity to discover their inspiring journeys into law enforcement and gained a first-hand understanding of road safety from seasoned professionals.



PE and Other Sporting News

Boys Football - Year 7

The Year 7 squad have made a really encouraging start to their fixtures this year. Training has been very well attended, making selection a tricky process with so many keen to play. There have been some very good results: a tight 1-0 victory over The Clere school as well as a very entertaining end-to-end 7-4 defeat to Wellington last week. The squad have been captained well by Samuel O, and a real positive atmosphere and encouraging environment has been created for the team to play in.



Boys Football - Year 7 (Development)

Testbourne managed to put in two teams into the Development 5-a-side competition this year, which speaks for the amazing amount of students who are playing for the school teams.

On a tough evening, they played against a lot of good opposition from John Hanson, Test Valley, Harroway and The Clere with mixed results. The two teams finished 5th and 6th, the highlight of the night being a screamer from 20 yards from Rudy Kitchener. Well done to all involved.



Boys Football - Year 8

The Year 8 team's start to the season can best be described as a bit like "the curate's egg" – good in parts!

We were drawn away to Purbrook Park School in Portsmouth in the first round of the Hampshire Cup. A lengthy journey followed by a short warm-up meant we started the game a little "under cooked". From the start, our back four of Liam H, Greg B, Harry D and Alfie M along with our wide players Greg B and Harrison B, had to work extremely hard to cope with the almost freakish pace of the Purbrook striker, who made Usain Bolt look like a jogger! Luckily, Harry G in goal was able to save anything their striker managed to get on goal.

This rear-guard action could not survive for ever, and as our midfield trio of Zach B, Sam H and Leo C began to advance forward with more possession, we were caught finally on the break by the striker who managed to squeeze the ball into the corner despite Harry G's best efforts. He repeated the feat about five minutes later when he rifled home a shot into the top corner which no one would save!

Oscar A, who ploughed a lone furrow up front, exchanged passes with Leo who shot from distance to get a goal back; the Purbrook keeper hardly saw it, so had no chance. Purbrook broke forward and from a corner their Southampton Academy centre-back, who was moved into midfield to counter Leo, scored from a corner.

Testbourne showed real resilience to provide Leo with two more shooting chances which resulted in two more goals, leaving their goalkeeper totally dumbfounded. Then Purbrook replied before Leo hammered home another shot to make the half-time score 4-4.

The second half began with a plan to nullify the striker who had his hat-trick already, and the plan worked well as he did not score in the final half. Harley S came on to add some more fire-power up front, but he dutifully dropped back into midfield to help Leo deal with the Academy player, who now began to control the game completely. Sadly, we made three defensive errors, each of which cost us a goal, and despite our best efforts playing against a very strong wind, we could not really create the quality of chances we did in the first half. So Purbrook ran out winners 7-4 and we wish them luck in the next round.

Boys Football - Year 8 (continued)

The following week saw us play a league game at Harrow Way in Andover. Sadly, the heroics of the previous week could not be repeated as a gusty wind and a very strong attacking unit from Harrow Way proved too much for us. Again, the boys struggled on manfully, with Archie B on the wing and Harry M making encouraging debuts. This team could be so much more of a force if we had time to train together; sadly, match commitments have got in the way.

Boys Football - Year 9

The Year 9 squad has had a good season so far with a few more games to decide their league positions. They have had some great results beating Winton Academy in the county cup on penalties, Ethan L saving all of their penalties! In the next round they were beaten by Hounslow 2-1.

In the league, they beat a very tough Wellington Academy side 3-2 in their away match with a fantastic performance from the entire team. The return fixture is still due to be played, as well as one more game against Harrow Way. Unfortunately, they lost both home and away to John Hanson.

Bertie G has captained the team excellently and all 16 in the squad have contributed with resilience and determination.



Girls Football - Year 7

The Year 7 team has been fantastic since forming at the start of the academic year. We have a large squad of girls who are showing a lot of promise for the future.

During this term, the team has taken part in the Basingstoke Schools District 6-a-side league, held at Brighton Hill Soccer Centre. The whole team has played superbly, and we are so proud to say that they WON the league matches and the final! Never losing a game and only drawing two matches out of eleven, they proved that they had the right skills, motivation, and energy to get the job done in style!

Our Year 7 team also participated in the Andover Secondary Schools Tournament held at John Hanson Community School in November. The team played so well, displaying excellent skills and teamwork, and finished in 2nd place out of all the other Schools in the District, narrowly missing being crowned tournament winners on goal difference.



Girls Football - Year 8

The Year 8 team also finished in 2nd position at the same Andover District Football tournament, winning all their matches in their respective age groups and missing the top position by goal difference as well! Next year we hope to finish top! Notable performances were put in by Ella P, who scored nearly all of the team's goals, and also Bethany H who played up a year group in goal.

Girls' Football training for all years will continue after Christmas with the addition of an exciting opportunity for our Year 9s to take part in the FA 'Game On' Football programme designed to support secondary schools to engage girls in curriculum physical education through a life skills approach, using football as the vehicle. The curriculum training is complimented by peer leadership training for girls' football activators, who will be given the tools to deliver extra-curricular opportunities for their peers. More details will follow in the New Year.



Girls Football - U13's Hampshire Schools County Cup

Like the U13 Boys and U16 Girls, we were drawn against the might of Purbrook Park School from Portsmouth in the first round of the Hampshire Cup. This time they travelled to us; however, with so much illness and injury about, we struggled to get a full team together. In the end the team were mainly Year 8 while the opposition were Year 9 – and much bigger and very physical.

Not having a goalkeeper was a major setback, and Casey N deserves real credit for donning the gloves and stepping up to “take one for the team”; fortunately for Casey (and, as it turns out, Testbourne), Holly W agreed to take over at half-time. Our back four of Ava L, Eden L, Holly and Emily M had their work cut out with the much bigger girls from Portsmouth. It took the opposition 15 minutes to break the deadlock, but they finally began to use their strength and power and although the back four, and our midfield of El P, Aimee D, Samara M, Emelia B and Celeste V, helped out along with striker Eva R, we struggled to cope. More goals went in and the half time score was 6-0.

At the break, we set about reshuffling the team. Casey went to striker, Emilia and Eva went into the back four and we played with five in midfield. These changes worked and we opened the scoring in the second half with Casey swivelling on the turn to smash the ball low into the bottom corner after good work from Aimee, Celeste, Samara and El. We did not manage to repeat the feat as the opposition manager reshuffled his defence to ensure it was difficult for us to score. During the second half Purbrook managed to score another three goals, despite Holly making some excellent saves.

These girls deserve credit for their application, enthusiasm and resilience and, with more players to come into the squad, the future is looking good for these girls.

Girls Football - U16 Hampshire Schools County Cup (2nd Round)

Our Girls U16 team were our last team in the County Cup competition and we faced a strong opposition in the form of Thornden School. We fielded a full team but, sadly, it was apparent from the start of the match that Thornden had travelled with their sights firmly set on winning and progressing to the next round: they played to win! They were a strong team with several players being involved in the Southampton FC academy. We did have a couple of fast breaks, with notable skills from Sophia R and Poppy D. Additionally, Sophie S played with resilience in the centre and Maisie R made a number of excellent saves in goal.

The girls should be proud of their efforts in both matches. We are proud of them for their participation and excellent attitudes.

Girls Rugby - KS3 Rugby Club

Since September, we have been running a weekly Girls' Rugby club which has been enjoyed by girls from Years 7-9. The club is open to girls from all year groups, and we welcome beginners as well as experienced players. Our club has also run alongside rugby being taught in PE lessons at Key Stage 3 and we have had several girls attend the club after experiencing and enjoying this new activity. Our focus is to encourage the girls to learn the basic skills as well as develop their understanding of rules, whilst introducing contact rugby in a safe and enjoyable way.

Earlier in the term we were lucky to have two Basingstoke Rugby Club coaches come and lead a session at Testbourne, which was a fantastic opportunity for our girls. We plan to travel to Basingstoke Rugby Club next year and take part in the Basingstoke Schools development sessions that they organise.

The weekly club will continue after the Christmas holidays, with the hope of entering the Hampshire Schools Rugby development festival in March as well as playing some friendly games against other local schools.

Finally, we are excited to be taking forty pupils to Twickenham Stadium to watch the Red Roses versus Ireland as part of the Six Nations Tournament in April 2024. All tickets have now been allocated and further details regarding this trip will be sent home to the pupils attending next year.

Year 7 Inclusion Games CCO

For the last couple of years Rookwood have invited us to attend a Year 7 Boccia and Dodgeball Tournament. This is a participation event and pupils were chosen so that they could experience a fixture representing Testbourne. The team of eleven played well in both boccia (a target sport like bowls) and dodgeball. Dodgeball was the most popular sport on the evening and the pupils from both schools fought to the end, with the final score RW 28 – TCS 26.

Boys Rugby - Year 8 Tournament

The Year 8 squad started their season with a triangular tournament at Harrow Way. The three teams were TCS, the hosts, and John Hanson; our first encounter was against John Hanson. The team were led magnificently by Morgan M, who was technically the best player in the tournament, showing a full array of attacking and defensive skills, punching (not literally!) way above his weight. He was ably assisted by Greg B and Gethin R in the half-back roles, and Ted Verney at No. 8 who ran at everything and tackled like his life depended on it. Unfortunately, we lost this first game 5-0.



We next played against Harrow Way. Still the resolve did not falter: Morgan again led by example, serially winning the ball from the HW boys. As confidence grew, so did the willingness to run at the opponents: we managed to be more of a threat to the HW team, culminating in our only score when Dylan crashed over for a score, and received an inadvertent bang on the head as he ploughed his way through three giants to dot the ball down over the line. Cue massive celebrations!

Netball - Trip

Back in September, Mrs Vallance and I had the privilege of taking eighteen Year 10 and 11 students on a netball tour to PGL Boreatton Park, Shropshire. This was a joint trip with another local school in the Andover area. The girls played netball against several schools, and in between matches had the opportunity to challenge themselves by attempting different adventurous activities. These included 'the giant swing', a zip-wire, indoor climbing, and the trapeze.



During the first evening the girls had a lot of fun at a campfire, singing songs and interacting with students from other schools. On their final night they all joined in with a silent disco, which they absolutely loved! One of the highlights of the weekend was a talk about mental health and the positive impact that sport can have on individuals' health; during the session there was a competition and they asked for one student from each school to attempt to hit a golf ball into a cup. Caitlin P was brave and put herself forward to have a go and she won! The school was rewarded with a £20 Amazon voucher, which we plan to spend on something netball related!



There were separate netball tournaments for each year group and, after several games, both Testbourne teams made it through to the semi-finals. This was a very proud moment for we teachers to witness: some of our Year 11 students had never played before and watching them develop as players over the weekend was brilliant! Unfortunately, neither team made it through to the final, but the Year 10 team missed out by just two goals after some excellent shooting from Ella F and Caitlin P. Overall, it was a fantastic weekend, which included great netball, great food, amazing staff, including Billy our guide leader, and fabulous students! Hopefully this is a trip that we will be able to run again with a new group of students in the future. Well done to all!



Netball - Year 9

It has been a solid season for the Year 9 team, who have improved on the court this year. We have had a very consistent group of nine players who are very flexible when needed to play different positions on court. Good wins against Wellington and Winton and two very good games against The Clere and Rookwood have all helped to build the team's confidence. Some solid shooting from Gemma O and Skye H this season has seen us shooting lots more goals per game. Lots of consistency has been shown from our mid-court players of Eva P, Eva R, Sophie B, Chanuli WW and Olivia B. What has the biggest impact this season is our defence of Emily P and Jess F who have worked so well together, gaining lots of interceptions. We are looking forward to this team moving up to Year 10 next year.

Match Results:

TCS 2 v The Clere 8
TCS 9 v Winton 6
TCS 8 v Wellington 6
TCS 16 v Test Valley 12

Still to play:

Test Valley and Harrow Way B.

Netball - Year 10

The Year 10 team have had a stronger season this year. Although the girls have not won many matches, their standard of play has improved significantly against past performance. Most games have seen a very close result between the two schools competing.

The girls have improved as a team, showing greater accuracy in their passing, timing, movement and shooting ability and they should be very proud of what they have achieved. We are looking forward to seeing them play as Year 11 students: well done, girls!

Results:

TCS 5 v The Clere 8
TCS 19 v Rookwood 22
TCS 10 v Winton 13
TCS 15 v 20 John Hanson B
TCS 5 v 31 John Hanson A
TCS 15 v 14 Wellington

Netball - Year 11

What a five years it has been for our Year 11 team! Many of the girls have been playing netball for the whole time they have been at Testbourne. It has been an absolute pleasure to coach and manage the team throughout! Every year they have grown stronger as individual players, and they are fantastic role models for our young teams. This year, Katie S and Poppy D have shot some fantastic goals in the attacking end; centre court has been controlled with consistent play from Esme R, Isla G, Holly T, and Emma B. They have all been backed up with our strong defence of Sophie S, Claire J, and our newest team member Sorina A-C. Well done girls: we are so proud of what you have achieved!

Match Results:

TCS 11 v Wellington 17
TCS 21 v Harrow Way 15
TCS 11 v John Hanson A 17

Team Table Tennis

Testbourne entered two teams into a recent team competition. Both teams were very competitive and played a number of close games against John Hanson and Harrow Way. The A team, ably captained by Aly J, managed to finish in 3rd place behind some great players from the two John Hanson teams. The B team, captained by Owen B, played hard against all teams but only managed to pick up the one win against Harrow Way. Bailey R was fantastic on the night, winning most of his matches. Well done all!



PE Stars of the Month

Each month all members of the PE team nominate students from their classes who have consistently demonstrated Testbourne's core values of Achievement, Excellence, and Integrity within their school PE lessons or in extra-curricular sessions (at school or at external clubs). We are currently in the process of awarding the November students. Below are the nominated and award winners from each year group for September and October. Well done to you all!

PE Star of the Month: Curriculum - September

Year 7	Erin Inker, Evan Hinton, Alana Stafford, Grace Waite
Year 8	Ava Larsen, Sophie Brown, Leo Maltby, Morgan Mason, Chloe Forsey
Year 9	Mansi Murtala, Freya Dillow, Florence Parfey, Bertie Golding, Nathan Patridge Frazer Longster
Year 10	Miriam Fisher, Tom Smallwood, Tom Williams, Owen Kelly
Year 11	Millie Ranger, Sonny Morris, Ed Vallis, Sorina Avran-Cerbu,

PE Star of the Month: Extra-Curricular - September

Year 7	Oliver Jackson, Samuel Oram, Grace Waite, Ruby Chafer
Year 8	Samara Martin, Issy King, Holly Walker
Year 9	Emily Pamplin, Aimee Davis, Ethan Lewis, Jess Farrand
Year 10	Kate Hearn, Heidi Walters, Gabriel Clifford
Year 11	Thomas Clarke Bo Hadley, Sophie Sappleton, Connie Oram, Tom Cady

PE Star of the Month: Curriculum - October

Year 7	Harry Hageman, Alana Stafford, Chloe Rimmer, Belle Alderman, Charlie Learmont-Pollock
Year 8	Issy King, Freya Berry Oyin Bada, Dallas Harcup
Year 9	Miles Cronin, Thomas Robins, Pheobe Beckell, Jasmine Brown, Owen Selwood
Year 10	Sam Dias, Luke Freeman, James Rampton, Fraser Rimmer, Aly Jarman
Year 11	Lottie Harrison, Nadine Frampton, Alex Parfitt, Tom Cady

PE Star of the Month: Extra-Curricular - October

Year 7	Thomas Webster, Charlotte Wicks, Isabelle Heaver, Maariyah Watts
Year 8	Leo Crick, Eloise Dyer, Holly Williams, Holly Walker
Year 9	Jayson Akaffou, Jessica Farrand, Gemma Orange, Eva Pitt
Year 10	Ella Flitter, Sam Davies, Tajay Samunda, Poppy Taylor, Gabriel Clifford, George Webster
Year 11	Emma Barretto, Bo Hadley, Isla Gray, Henry Lloyd

Outside Successes - Ethan Lewis

Ethan has been playing ice hockey for the Basingstoke Junior Bison ice hockey club since 2016. In the summer of 2023, Ethan was selected by his Basingstoke club coach to attend an event which showcases talent for the pathway to representing the England Ice Hockey Under-14 team. Eighty ice hockey players were selected to attend, selected on an ability-based point-scoring criteria.

Since then, Ethan has travelled to Nottingham and Sheffield to attend further England trials. These are early morning 6am starts and ten hour days. The trials include strength and conditioning, classroom sessions, and on-ice drills and games. The numbers of successful players are reduced throughout each trial. Ethan has been working extremely hard and is currently still in the selection process, with thirty-five other successful players, who are also on the pathway to represent the England Under-14 ice hockey team in Finland in 2024.



Outside Successes - Lillian Miller

Lillian competes at a National level in aerobic gymnastics throughout the year, and is currently in the 12-14 age group category, competing in the individual routine and trio classifications. Recently, she attended her final competition of 2023 in Wales at the Welsh Aerobic Championships: she received a gold medal in the individual classification and a silver in the trio, which reflects the commitment and hard work she puts into her many hours of training throughout the week.



Throughout the year, Lillian has achieved a silver medal at an international competition in individual and trio, and at the British Championships a 4th place in individual and silver in trio. This requires commitment and hard work during the hours of training in order to reach the level of skills, accuracy, strength and fitness required to achieve these results.

Lillian continues to train throughout the year with only a few days off over Christmas; she is very much looking forward to the 2024 season and seeing what that brings.

Testbourne is very proud of your recent achievements Lillian, well done!

Outside Successes - Andover Swimmers

Sam H, Toby W, Archie W and Katie D all swim for Andover Swimming Club. This month the club held a 50m club championship event in which they all took part.

Sam H finished in 1st place in the freestyle, backstroke and butterfly races and, 2nd in the breaststroke race. Toby W finished in 1st in the breaststroke, 2nd in freestyle and backstroke and 3rd in the butterfly race. Well done boys an excellent set of results for both of you in the under 12s category.

In the U16 category, Archie W performed exceptionally well, finishing in 1st place in all events while over in her competitions Katie Dyke finished 4th in freestyle, 5th in breaststroke, 6th in backstroke and 4th in butterfly. Well done to all 4 of you, keep up the good work!

National County Team Champs

Over the weekend of 7-8 October, I was fortunate enough to swim at the National County Team Championships. The coach trip to the event in Sheffield was set to be a long one – but luckily we were able to stop at Loughborough swimming pool for a two-hour swim to break the journey! During the swim, we practised relay changeovers, dives, short sprints, turns and underwater skills in preparation for the next day. The pool is where three-time Olympic Champion Adam Peaty trains. After the swim, we were back on the coach for a shorter stretch of journey, until we arrived at our hotel in Sheffield; the whole travel took approximately 5 hours.

For dinner that evening, we went out for an Italian: I had a very tasty lasagne, though lots of us were cautious about eating too much the night before the big competition! After eating, I had a chance to make firm friends with some of the other 15 year old competitors in my hotel, chatting over everything from gaming to what our greatest achievements were in our swimming careers. We woke up at around 8am the next day and ate breakfast at the buffet (I had to drink a few coffees to wake myself up!)



After breakfast, we all walked to the Ponds Forge Aquatics Centre. Quite a crowd was gathered, with people wearing face paint, horns, wigs and various other fun costumes. The crowd really got involved, resulting in everything being extremely loud during every single race!

This was my first time swimming at such a significant venue, but despite the size my teammates and I managed to have both a fun time and put in some good performances.

Individual:

100m Breaststroke – Time: 1:15.51

- Place (overall): 11th

100m Butterfly – Time: 1:04.06

- Place (overall): 7th

Relay split times:

6x50 Freestyle

- Time: 27.21

4x50 Medley (breaststroke)

- Time: 33.94

Hampshire ended up ranked a very respectable 14th out of the twenty counties in Division 1.

Article written by Rijul Bhowmick, Year 9

TCS Christmas Lunches!

The festive cheer echoed through Testbourne's canteen as we hosted our joyous Christmas lunches (one of our favourite events of the year!) Our dedicated team of teachers and support staff lent a helping hand, ensuring each student received their meal, drinks, and dessert. With a classic turkey roast and a delicious Christmas pudding, the atmosphere was filled with festive merriment as students wore their Christmas hats, pulled crackers and listened to classic Christmas music. Our final Christmas lunch day also took place on Christmas Jumper Day, adding to the holiday spirit.

A big thank you extends to our outstanding catering team, whose expertise and tireless dedication played a pivotal role in turning our Christmas lunches into a resounding success!



Testbourne Community School



www.testbourne.school



01256 892061



Micheldever Road, Whitchurch, RG28 7JF

