

THE TCS Tribune

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity



Issue #27 - Spring 2026



Testbourne Community School

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity



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

Welcome to the 27th 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.

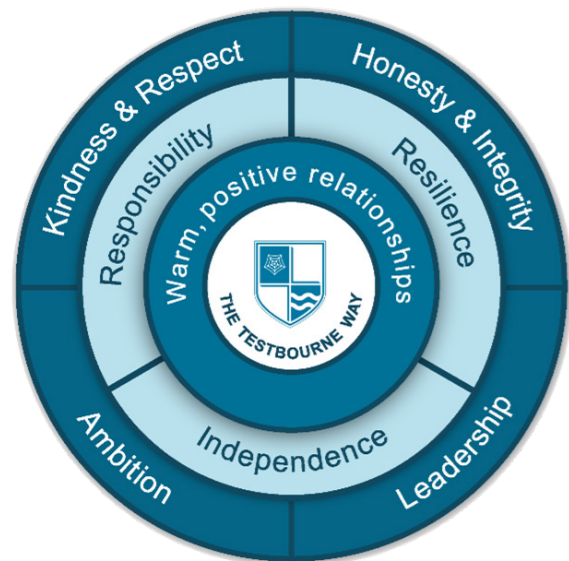
This issue is packed with interesting articles from what has been a very busy term. Highlights included our traditional Year 11 trip to Berlin in January and the Ski trip in Artesina, Italy. In both cases, children represented the school tremendously well, living up to the Testbourne Standards of Excellence. There have been many other trips and visits this term including several trips to the dry slope at Calshot to prepare for the ski trip, field trips, a trip to Oxford University, Poetry Live in Oxford, The Play That goes Wrong, Sparsholt, a Rotary STEM competition and several Duke of Edinburgh training days amongst others. So far this term, more than 500 children have participated in an extra-curricular trip or visit. My thanks go to our dedicated staff and volunteers who volunteer to organise trips and take children on them, often in their own time without any remuneration.

As you know, our Year 11 students are busy preparing for their

GCSE examinations. The year group have been excellent throughout this academic year in both their focus and behaviour. We have enjoyed giving the Year 11 cohort some additional privileges such as their recognition non-uniform Wednesdays, quick access to lunch during mocks and chairs in assembly, the latter of which is tricky for most year groups because of how quickly the Sports Hall or Theatre Hall have to be turned around for lessons. The students have responded well and I look forward to Wednesdays when they have a sixth-form vibe about them. These privileges that, like adulthood, come with associated responsibilities, will be helping them prepare for college and life beyond.

One of my favourite events of the term was our Festival of Cultures Day. This was proposed and organised by our Year 11 students, Chanuli and Oyebola, with the help and support of Ms Cartridge. The day involved celebrating the diverse cultures represented by our children and their families and involved parents, carers, students and staff. Many children chose to wear culturally significant clothing to celebrate their heritage. It was a brilliant day with a fantastic atmosphere, and I am very proud of the students who helped to make it happen.

We have also been carrying out some site improvements this term. The PTFA funded the provision of a new seating area, complete with a fancy surface made from recycled lorry tyres and attractive wooden benching, outside of the canteen. When we raise funds for the PTFA, with our non-uniform days and community events, we are really raising funds that are used to benefit all children at the school. If you are interested in joining the PTFA, please do get in touch.



Finally, as you are aware, each half term, we recognise students for consistently demonstrating our Standards of Excellence by presenting them with a Headteacher's recognition letter. These Standards of Excellence underpin our expectations in the school and are a key component of The Testbourne Way. They are:

- Kindness and Respect
- Honesty and Integrity
- Ambition
- Leadership

The recipients for the Spring term are:

Tabby Allnut
 George Jakeway
 James Davenport
 Sienna Painting
 Grace Routley
 Serafina Foxbatt
 Ben Calvert

Thomas Powell
 Milo Letteriello
 Sophie Mihill
 Oscar Warren
 Bea Thorm
 Demi Dagunduro
 Jess Bracken

Zach Brown
 Charlotte Haddon
 Joy Lebentz
 Daniel Smith
 Jessica Baker
 Alfie Newman

All that remains is for me to wish you a very happy Easter break. We hope that you get the opportunity to spend some quality time with friends and family and we look forward to seeing your children at the beginning of next term.

Best wishes,

Mr Jon Beck





Headteacher



House Recognition Points: Spring Term 2025-2026

Recognition points are awarded when students demonstrate our Testbourne Standards of Excellence:

- Kindness and Respect
- Honesty and Integrity
- Ambition
- Leadership

House	Recognition Points
	21803
	21810
	25269
	20878



Congratulations To All Our Amazing Students!



Testbourne Community School Recognition FRIDAY



Recognition Friday is our weekly celebration of students who consistently demonstrate our school values and show outstanding effort in their learning. It is a positive way to acknowledge success, build confidence and celebrate the achievements of our young people. Each week a different year group is highlighted, with selected students receiving a certificate and a canteen front of queue pass. Below you will find the students who have been part of Recognition Friday this term:

09/01/26



16/01/26



23/01/26



30/01/26



06/02/26



13/02/26



06/03/26



13/03/26



20/03/26



27/03/26



A Refresh of the Testbourne House System

At Testbourne Community School, we are proud of our culture, ethos and the strong sense of community that children experience here. This year marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter as we develop our House System so that it fully reflects our vision: one that inspires belonging, encourages positive community action and provides opportunities for leadership. We are delighted to share how we are shaping this journey and building the House System we want for all students to experience.

Every student at Testbourne belongs to one of our four Houses: Willow (blue), Ash (purple), Oak (green) or Beech (red). These Houses have always provided a structure for friendly competition and shared celebration. Now, we are taking steps to ensure they become an even bigger part of our school culture.

To help us achieve our vision, we are making changes to the House structure within tutor groups. From the Summer term, tutor groups (except for Year 7, who already operate in this way, and Year 11, who are approaching the end of their time with us) will include a mix of all four Houses. This shift ensures that there is a mix of Houses in each group so that students can get to know others in the year group and across the school outside of their tutor group. It also ensures there are equal numbers of children in each House to make competitions fairer. Most importantly, it strengthens the feeling that each House is woven throughout the whole school, bringing students together with a shared House identity.

Alongside this, we are revitalising our programme of House activities and opportunities to build upon our existing House culture. Throughout the year, students will be invited to take part in a wide range of events, activities and opportunities, from sports and creative challenges to academic competitions and charitable initiatives. Each activity will contribute recognition points towards the House Cup, giving students numerous opportunities to showcase their skills and talents and represent their House with pride.

Students will continue to earn recognition points for demonstrating the Testbourne Standards of Excellence of kindness & respect, honesty & integrity, ambition and leadership and these will also contribute to the House Cup competition. We want students to show resilience and independence to step outside their comfort zones, support their peers, challenge themselves and develop their leadership skills. The House Cup will be a symbol of victory, but the real achievement will be the sense of belonging, development of student's teamwork, confidence and the connections with others built along the way.

We look forward to sharing the journey with our families and local community. Throughout the year, we will be celebrating the successes, stories and standout moments from all four houses on our school social media channels. We will also, of course, keep you updated with the points totals and information about the competition to win the house cup.

Thank you for your continued support. We are excited for this new phase of the Testbourne House System and for all the opportunities it will bring to our students.

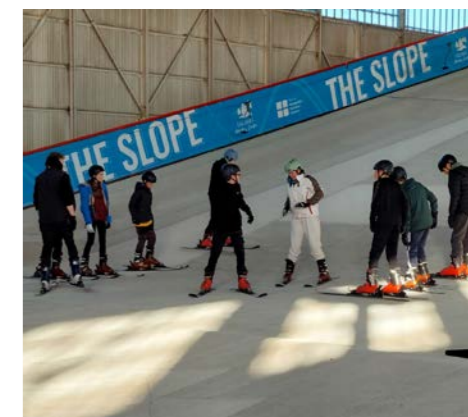
We are incredibly grateful that the PTFA have sponsored the new and impressive house cup.



Artesina Ski Trip 2026

Students enjoyed an unforgettable experience on the slopes of Artesina, Italy, following several weeks of thorough preparation at the Calshot dry ski slope.

Ahead of the trip, our students took part in structured three-hour training sessions at Calshot, where they developed essential skills and built confidence ahead of skiing on real snow. Across all sessions, pupils demonstrated impressive enthusiasm and made excellent progress, with each group showing strong commitment and teamwork. By the end of the training programme, every student was well prepared and excited for the adventure ahead.



This preparation proved invaluable once the group arrived in Artesina. Over the course of the visit, forty students engaged fully with their ski lessons, embracing each challenge with energy and positivity. Here is what some of the students had to say about their experience:

At around 3.30pm, we handed in our money, said goodbye to our parents and finally got on the coach to Italy! We were all super excited and had been for months; I was really hoping all those weeks of never-ending "wall-sit's" were worth it (luckily, they definitely were!). After a fun ferry ride across the channel and a very long 21hours coach ride, we finally got our first glance at Artesina. The snow was at least 2 meters thick at our hotel; it was all very surreal as even though I've skied before, I'd never seen this much snow. Some of my friends had never been anywhere snowy before and were all in awe at how literally everything was covered in snow. -Bethany H



The first thing me and my friends did when we got to our hotel, was jump around with our mouths hanging open at the metre high snow that seemed to stretch on forever. Snowballs were being thrown in every direction as the teachers tried to calm everyone down. We finally managed to drag our stuff into the hotel and were assigned our rooms, and everyone was buzzing as they explored the hotel and got their first taste of the hotel's hot chocolate. We unpacked and chilled for a bit before we headed to dinner. After that, we went to get our skis, boots and poles and realised what we would be lugging around for the next week. We then put it all in the boot room and went to bed. - Molly W

That night I had what might have been the best sleep of my life! We woke up very early the next morning and were outside, ready for lessons by 8.30. I was put in the advanced group as I've skied quite a few times before; we went up the magic carpet twice just to make sure everyone could ski and then headed up the chairlift. On the first day, it was very funny as a girl in my group had her ski fall off on the chairlift, and she had to get off with 1 ski on. Luckily someone brought it up for her, otherwise she might have had to walk down. As funny as that would've been, it might've slowed us down a little. - Bethany H



Heading to breakfast on day 1, the conversations only had one topic - skiing. After everyone had eaten, we got our gear together and headed to our lesson. It started with our instructors checking if we could snow plough or not, which was good because it enabled them to see who could go up the nursery slopes yet or not. I was able to go up the nursery slope quite quickly! That was our first day of skiing. The next day was the same, breakfast, excitement and getting our gear, but this time we were able to start doing some turning on the slope. I actually adjusted to this quite well (if I do say so myself) so we were soon able to do it without falling over...kind of. - Molly W

On Tuesday evening, we had a pizza eating competition with unlimited pizza. I was disappointed in myself as I only ate 6 slices and 1 girl in my year managed 15! A year 10 boy claimed the Testbourne record with a respectable effort of 19 pieces. One evening we went to Prato Nervosa (a resort near ours) to go tubing. It was so fun! We caught "air" a few times and went really fast! Dr. Wilson and Mr. Spaul went down together and somehow ended up going over the hill at the end that was meant to slow people down! Another evening, we went to a nearby outlet shopping center. We all bought loads of sweets and chocolate! I also bought a nice pair of shoes that were pretty cheap. - Bethany H



The third day of skiing was different, in the morning we went on the nursery slopes but in the afternoon, we were able to go on our first chairlift of the trip! It was very exciting and was so fun going down our first proper slope. The next couple days went by so quickly. I didn't even realise how quickly we were all progressing until I looked back at when we were all on the nursery slopes. Over these couple days we managed to go down some blues and even some reds! This was such a huge achievement, and my instructor did so well with coaching us down them all. - Molly W

Throughout the week, Thursday was my favorite day by far. It had snowed even more the night before and there was lots of fresh powder. My group only had 5 people at that point, and I knew everyone which was quite nice. We had a speaker that day, and our instructor, Vanessa, took us down lots of fast black runs while listening to some great tunes. We did lots of powder skiing that day and I really improved my skiing in powder. We even began to learn to ski backwards! On Thursday night we also went night skiing at Prato Nervosa, and my group did some big jumps. I'd never really done jumps before so that was super fun! In total, we did eight hours of skiing that day. We were all exhausted, but it was so worth it! - Bethany H

The last day of skiing.... This was understandably quite a sad day; it was our last day skiing, and everyone was kind of in a bad mood as we got our stuff for the last time. We greeted our instructors for the last time. As we started skiing, everyone lit up and it felt like the first day again. Full of excitement and people chatting. We were going up and down slopes when... we went down a black! It was so exciting and our instructor was so proud of us, it felt like the most amazing outcome possible had happened. Everyone was buzzing as we stared at what we had just come down. Then, just like that, we had to start packing. After saying goodbye to our rooms and the resort, we got on the coach and started our journey home. It all went by so fast, yet I made the most amazing memories and would go again in a heartbeat. - Molly W



As we were all so tired, the drive home seemed to go a bit faster than the way there. It was my friend Molly's birthday the day we got back, so we put up some banners and made sure she wore her party hat on the ferry for everyone to see! Although I've eaten enough pasta for a lifetime and was exhausted for a week, the trip to Artesina was incredible! If I could, I'd sign up again in a heartbeat. I couldn't have imagined a better way to spend half term than doing a sport I love with all my best friends. - Bethany H



Our students represented the school's values exceptionally well, consistently demonstrating resilience, independence and responsibility both on and off the slopes. We would also like to say a big thank you to the commitment and support of the staff who accompanied the group, students enjoyed a well organised, enriching and memorable week in the mountains.

Outstanding Achievement in National Equestrian Dressage

A huge well done to Molly, who proudly represented Testbourne School in the National Schools Equestrian dressage competition in January.

Molly delivered a confident and composed performance, finishing twenty second in a very large and highly competitive field. This is an excellent accomplishment and a true reflection of her dedication, skill, and passion for the sport.

We are incredibly proud of her success and the commitment she shows in everything she does. Well done Molly.



Year 9 Options Evening

On Wednesday 25th February, Year 9 had their Options Information Evening. This is always an exciting time, where Year 9 students and their families get to find out more about the key stage 4 options process and the subjects on offer to study during Years 10 and 11. A talk about options and how students can make their choices was given by Dr Wilson and Ms Cartridge in the Theatre Hall, whilst subject teachers were on hand in the Sports Hall, promoting their subject and sharing some of the exciting things that students will study if they choose to study it next year.

We are proud to offer a wide range of exciting options subjects at Testbourne. Our Year 9 students can choose from the following subjects this year:

- Art
- Art Photography
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Design & Technology
- Child Development
- Engineering
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- Health & Social Care
- Drama
- Music
- Physical Education
- History
- Spanish

Students are guided to follow one of two pathways to support their learning:

Students on the Russell pathway can choose from:

- Geography or History.
- French or Spanish (language continued from Year 9).
- Two other options subjects to study.

Students on the Open pathway can choose from:

- One of Geography, History, French or Spanish (language continued from Year 9)
- Three other options subjects to study.

All students must also pick two reserve choices, in addition to their main choices, in case it's not possible to allocate them to one of their first choices subjects when classes are timetabled.

Allocations of option subjects will be confirmed with students in the summer term, with students receiving a letter of confirmation via their tutor.

For more information about the options process, including a link to the Options Information Evening slides and Options Information booklet, please visit our website: <https://www.testbourne.school/home/students/options/>



Festival of World Cultures Day

On Friday 27th February, our school came together for a vibrant and inspiring Festival of Cultures, and what an incredible day it proved to be. The celebration began in Tutor Time, where students learned greetings from around the world. This set the tone for a day filled with curiosity, respect, and cultural pride. Throughout lessons, students took part in a wide range of cultural activities that helped them explore and appreciate the rich diversity within our community.

One of the major highlights of the day was the fantastic cultural fair held at lunchtime, organised by our Equality and Diversity group. The hall was full of energy as students and staff visited stalls showcasing delicious food from around the globe. Dishes from South Africa, Italy, South America, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom filled the space with amazing aromas and flavours. Students also enjoyed opportunities to write their names in Thai and line up for stunning Henna designs, beautifully created by one of our very talented Year 11 students. Our canteen joined in the celebration as well, offering a special menu inspired by foods from different cultures, which was enjoyed by many across the school.

Adding to the excitement, a proactive group of Year 9 boys organised a World Cup football tournament that ran throughout the day. Students signed up, were placed into different countries, and competed in a friendly and good spirited event within their year group. The tournament brought plenty of fun and teamwork, and it was brilliant to see so many students getting involved. The entire day was a wonderful reminder of the diversity, creativity, and unity that make our school such a special place to be. A huge thank you to every student, volunteer and member of staff who helped organise, participate in, or support the Festival of Cultures. Your enthusiasm and contributions made the event truly memorable.



Year 10 Army Day

Our Year 10 students recently welcomed a visiting team from the Army for an engaging and informative careers presentation. The session highlighted the wide range of roles and pathways available within the armed forces, giving students a valuable insight into the many opportunities a military career can offer.

After the presentation, students took part in an Elite Skills Workshop. Working in teams, they tackled a series of leadership, problem solving and communication challenges designed to push them out of their comfort zones. These activities not only provided a deeper understanding of military training but also helped students to build important transferable skills that will benefit them in any future profession.



Geography Trip - Southampton

This January, our Year 10 GCSE Geographers wrapped up warm once again as they headed to Cultural Quarter in Southampton to carry out their fieldwork. Over five separate visits, each group braved the cold and wet conditions to investigate whether the regeneration of Cultural Quarter has had a positive impact on the local area.

In preparation, students explored news articles about the redevelopment and analysed historic photographs to understand how the area has changed over time. Once in Southampton, they completed environmental quality surveys and took photographs to support their conclusions.

Back in the classroom, students analysed their findings to decide whether the evidence supported or challenged the hypothesis. If you know a Year 10 geographer, ask them what they found out!

Despite the wintry weather across all five visits, the students were impressively resilient, focused, and worked extremely well throughout. Well done Year 10 for your effort and enthusiasm!"



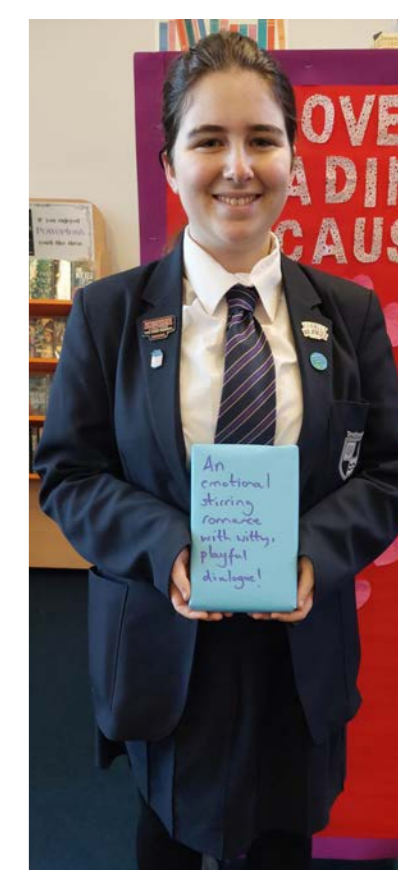
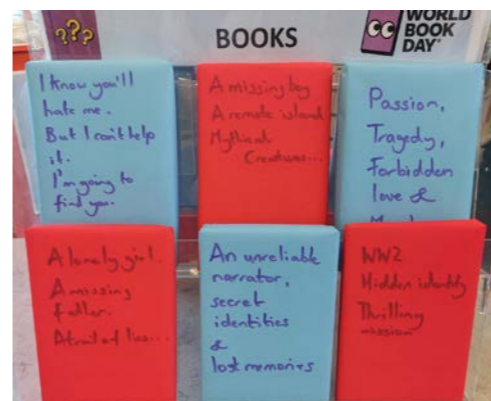
World Book Day 2026

This year's World Book Day focused on the theme Reading for Pleasure and the simple joy of having fun with a good book.

Throughout the day, staff shared their favourite books with pupils and talked about what they enjoy most about reading. Students also heard advice from this year's World Book Day authors, who discussed recommended reads, the kinds of books they would like to explore more, and how they make time to enjoy reading in their daily lives.

In the library, students were invited to reflect on what they love about reading and take part in a special lucky dip activity. They selected books based only on a short description, adding excitement and mystery to their choices. This proved to be incredibly popular, with many students eager to discover something new. Every student received a one pound book token, which can be used to buy one of the special World Book Day books or as part payment towards another book of their choice.

We hope this encourages everyone to continue exploring new stories and celebrating the pleasure of reading.





Berlin 2026

On 21 January 2026, our Year 11 students travelled to Berlin with British Airways for a three day educational visit that supported their Germany Depth Study, an important part of the GCSE examination. The trip offered a powerful blend of history, culture and first hand learning that brought the classroom content vividly to life.

The group began with a guided walking tour through some of the most significant sites in the city. Students visited the Reichstag, explored the moving Holocaust Memorial, discovered daily life in the former East Germany at the East German Museum and viewed the historic Olympic Stadium. The evening continued with an immersive virtual reality experience, followed by a journey to the top of the iconic TV Tower in Alexanderplatz, where students enjoyed remarkable views across the city skyline. The second day started with a visit to Checkpoint Charlie, one of the most famous crossing points between East and West Berlin during the Cold War. Students then toured the Hitler Story Bunker exhibition to deepen their understanding of the final days of the Second World War. That evening the group returned to the Reichstag, this time to explore the impressive glass dome which symbolises transparency in modern German government and provides panoramic views over Berlin. The final day was spent at Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. This full day visit offered an unforgettable and deeply reflective learning experience, helping students to understand the scale and impact of the events they have studied in class.

The visit gave students a powerful sense of connection to the events they study and helped deepen their understanding in a way that classroom learning alone cannot achieve. Many commented that seeing these historic sites first hand will strongly support their preparation for the GCSE exam.



National Schools Shooting Championships

A huge well done to Gemma, Tristan, and Aidan who represented Testbourne School at the National Schools Shooting Championships in Cannock.

All three students demonstrated impressive focus and composure throughout the competition. Gemma achieved an excellent sixteenth place in the ten metre Senior pistols, while Tristan secured twenty second place in the ten metre Intermediate rifles. Their strong performances contributed to a fantastic team result, with Testbourne placing eighth in the team rifle competition. This was a memorable experience for all three students and an outstanding achievement, especially as they only shoot occasionally and were competing against athletes on the Olympic Shooting Pathway who train every day.

We are incredibly proud of their commitment, determination, and the way they represented our school. Well done to all three students on this remarkable accomplishment.





Bronze DofE Celebration for Year 11s

A happy celebration was held on Tuesday 17th March to present Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award certificates to 41 students, now in year 11, who had started the programme in the autumn of 2024.

A large audience of about 150 students, parents and siblings saw photos of the expeditions and training walks and heard about the triumphs and challenges experienced by the seven teams of students. Fun at the overnight campsites and the relief of completing their expeditions were frequent highlights!

Well done to the following students for achieving their Bronze DofE Awards:

Ted Barker, Emilia Baxter, Olivia Bown, Susanna Benedetto, Sophie Burton, Ben Calvert, Ruby Forrester, Jacques Fortune, Fin George, Bertie Golding, Olly Griffiths, Skye Hadley, Abi Harper, Edward Hollis, Maisie Howard, Thomas Jesshope, Evie John, Ahmad Khawaja, Oliver Kocev, Agatha Mather, Sophia Meehan, Gemma Orange, Flo Parfey, Reuben Parfey, Nathan Partridge, Eva Pitt, Lola Pyle, Ashleigh Rademeyer, Oliver Rippon, Bihela Sapumanage, Ava Selwood, Owen Selwood, Lacey Stickland, Olivia Stocker, Joe Sutton, Callum Taylor, Will Thomson, Will Waite, Leah Wonnacott, James Wycherley and Sophie Zealley

The audience also heard from Dr Wilson, Mrs Cooper and Andy Key, who are all volunteer leaders for the DofE group. The three leaders had all completed at least one DofE Award themselves in the past, and spoke about the impact their experiences have had on them. Mrs Cooper spoke movingly about the importance of "saying yes" to opportunities that you are offered, and of how several "pivot points" have sent her life in new directions, starting with achieving her own Gold DofE Award whilst helping with a Bronze Award group.

Thank you very much to all the team leaders from last year - Dr Wilson, Caroline Orange, Andy Key, Jamie Howell, Craig Wilson, Mike Hart and Tom Rippon. Thank you also to Hannah Heywood, Tony Reid, Ian Wonnacott, Dr Hall, Mr Spaul and Mrs Cooper who have also played a valuable part in supporting the DofE group last year. Numerous school staff, parents and members of the local community also act as assessors for the students' Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections, which the group really appreciates. Thank you very much everyone.

Mrs Nottingham, DofE Manager



Year 11 Exams Update - March 2026

To help prepare for the final exams, subject teachers have run weekly Enhanced Learning & Knowledge (ELK) sessions throughout the spring term. Over 90% of Year 11 students have taken responsibility for preparing for their exams by attending ELK sessions during the spring term. In recognition of the positive attitude demonstrated by our Year 11s, they have had several non-uniform days on Wednesdays throughout the spring term. This recognition of their hard work was also intended to give students a taste of the additional freedoms they will experience when they leave school and go onto their college studies, apprenticeships and future employment.

In March, Year 11 completed their second round of mock exams in preparation for the summer. The mock exams gave students another chance to practice their exam technique and developing their familiarity with the exam rules and regulations, whilst our excellent team of invigilators were on hand to help students complete their mocks successfully. Year 11 students had a second mock exam results day prior to the Easter break – this provided updated attitude to learning, mock and predicted grades to use in support of their college applications.

As the spring term drew to a close, many of our Year 11 students worked hard to complete coursework and practical assessments. In Art and Art Photography, finishing touches were added to portfolios. Final dishes were prepared, cooked and beautifully presented in Food Preparation & Nutrition. In Design & Technology and Engineering, some incredible designs were realised, bringing portfolio ideas and technical drawings to life.

Well done to all our Year 11s for the hard work this term. We wish our Year 11s the very best of luck for their final exams in May and June.

For more information about the summer exams, please visit our school website. Year 11 students can find lots of useful revision resources on the subject pages on SharePoint, including knowledge organisers, past exam papers and mark schemes. Students also have free access to GCSEpod revision videos which they can access by logging in with their school Microsoft account.





Children's Mental Health Week -

This year, for Children's Mental Health week, Testbourne focused on the theme: This is My Place. During this week, students had assemblies based on this theme and completed tutor activities. Students could also participate in a 'treasure hunt' which was hugely popular. Students collected letters from certain members of staff and then had to try to spell out a word/phrase that was linked to Children's Mental Health Week. A huge well done to all students who took part and who helped to promote this year's theme.



Celebrating Our Testbourne

On Monday 9 February we were delighted to welcome Henry, a former Testbourne student who is now studying at the University of Manchester. He delivered an engaging and inspiring assembly to our students, sharing his journey from secondary school to university life. A huge thank you to Henry for returning to Testbourne and for motivating the next generation. We are incredibly proud of his achievements and look forward to seeing what he does next.



A Greener TCS: 704 Trees Planted

We are delighted to share that Testbourne Community School has received a certificate from Skoolkit recognising our contribution to reforestation. Skoolkit, in partnership with Winterbottoms and Ecologi, runs a fantastic sustainability scheme that plants a tree for every school blazer purchased. A huge thank you to our families for supporting this initiative and helping to create a positive environmental impact.



Chemistry Challenge at Oxford

On Tuesday 13 January four students travelled to Oxford University to take part in an exciting Chemistry competition. Throughout the day they worked as a team to solve a fictional murder case and complete a timed chemical reaction, using key scientific techniques such as chromatography, pH testing and rates of reaction. Our students showed fantastic focus, teamwork and problem solving skills. It was a brilliant experience and an inspiring look at Chemistry beyond the classroom.



Safeguarding Fayre

On January 28th we held a Safeguarding Fayre which formed part of our ongoing commitment to parental and carer engagement. The evening was especially helpful for many of our Year 7 parents who are navigating the challenges of mobile phone and social media use among their young people. The event took the form of an informal drop-in session, giving parents and carers the opportunity to meet our safeguarding and pastoral team and explore information stands covering key topics including sexual health, vaping, exploitation and healthy lifestyle. Parents and carers with specific concerns are encouraged to contact us through our dedicated email address: staysafe@testbourne.school.



New Outdoor Seating Area for Our Students

A massive thank you to our amazing Parents, Teachers and Friends Association. Thanks to their fantastic fundraising efforts, we were able to transform an area that was previously out of action into a vibrant new space with fresh seating for our students.

The improvements were completed over the February half term, providing our students with a brand-new place to socialise and enjoy their lunch. We are very grateful for everything our PTFA does for our school community.

Jewellery Club

Jewellery Club runs every Thursday after school from 3.10 pm with Ms Horne in Room 44. It is a friendly creative space where students can let their imagination flow. All materials are provided, and students can try new techniques, build skills, and explore their own artistic ideas in a calm and supportive environment. The club encourages creative independence while helping to grow confidence and ambition. It is a wonderful place to relax, design, and create.



Visit to Berehill Care Home

Our Year 11 Health and Social Care students enjoyed a valuable and meaningful visit to Berehill Care Home in Whitchurch as part of their coursework on understanding care settings. During the visit, the students took part in a variety of activities with the residents, including colouring, bracelet making, dipping strawberries in chocolate, and a lighthearted Guess the Movie Star game.

Throughout the afternoon, they demonstrated maturity, enthusiasm and kindness. We are extremely proud of the way they represented the school and very grateful to Berehill Care Home for welcoming us so warmly.



New Recognition Badges

We are delighted to announce an upgrade to our recognition point system with the introduction of brand-new recognition badges, crafted in-house by our talented Design Technology team. Students will soon be able to earn bronze, silver, gold, and platinum badges as they collect recognition points throughout the year, offering a visible and celebratory way to acknowledge their achievements. Many children are now in receipt of bronze badges for 100 recognition points or even silver badges for 200 points. Congratulations to them all!

The badges themselves have been expertly produced using specialist polymer metallic sheets with two colour laminates. Our Testbourne badge was carefully redrawn using CAD software before receiving final approval. The design was then copied, tessellated and precisely laser cut from the chosen materials. Each badge has been finished with a pin and clip on the back, allowing students to wear their award with pride.

This project highlights the skill and creativity within our Design Technology department and provides our students with a high quality, meaningful symbol of their hard work and dedication.



Izzy R Reaches Number One in the World on Languagenut

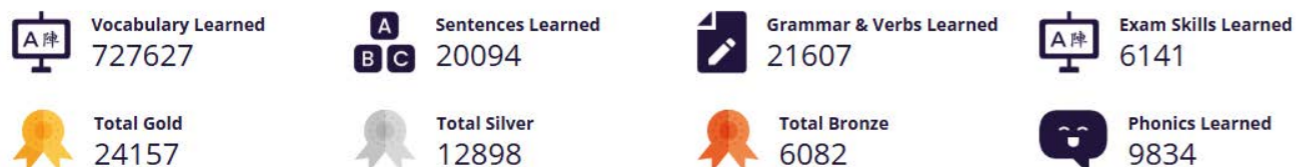
We are incredibly proud to celebrate an outstanding achievement by Year 11 student Izzy, who has reached the number one position on Languagenut across the entire world. With more than five million users on the platform, rising to the very top is an extraordinary accomplishment and places Izzy among the most dedicated and successful language learners globally.

Izzy has always demonstrated exceptional drive, independence, and resilience in her French studies, but this achievement elevates her hard work to an entirely new level. Her perseverance, curiosity, and commitment to continuous improvement have set a remarkable example for others, and the MFL department could not be prouder. Bravo et félicitations to Izzy for this incredible success.

We would also like to congratulate all our pupils who give their best to their Languagenut tasks each week. Your enthusiasm and effort make a real difference. Keep up the amazing work, linguists.



Whole School Languagenut stats:



Testbourne Success at the Rotary STEM Competition

This week, three teams of four students represented Testbourne at the annual Rotary STEM Competition held at BCoT in Basingstoke. The event brought together schools and colleges from across the area for a challenging and rewarding day focused on engineering, design, and problem solving. Our four Year 9 students and eight Year 10 students were tasked with designing and manufacturing a battery powered vehicle capable of pushing wooden blocks, and for the intermediate level, retrieving them through a tunnel. As part of the competition rules, students were not permitted to receive any assistance from staff. Instead, they relied on their own creativity, communication, technical skills, and teamwork.



Throughout the day, teams were able to test and refine their vehicles right up to the final judging session. Following a high level of competition, we are delighted to report that Testbourne achieved first place in both the Foundation (Year 9) and Intermediate (Year 10) categories. This is an outstanding accomplishment and reflects the hard work, determination, and ingenuity demonstrated by all three teams. Students were presented with their certificates and trophies and had the opportunity to meet and be photographed with the Mayor. Judges and event staff commented on the exemplary conduct, positive attitude, and commitment of our students, who represented the school with pride throughout the day. We extend our congratulations to all of the students who took part. Their achievements and approach to the competition were a real credit to Testbourne.



Engineering

Workshop Safety

Students studying Engineering now complete a workshop safety course in year ten. This important part of their learning helps them develop the independent skills needed when working with a range of machines and hand tools during the manufacture of different products.

Before beginning any practical work, students complete a detailed safety and competency workbook which prepares them to manufacture their drill bit holder with confidence and care.

Year 10 Practical Project

Students in year 10 have been hard at work manufacturing a hobbyist paper roller as part of their Unit One practical assessment. This has been the most complex and sophisticated product attempted since the Engineering qualification was introduced four years ago.

To create the various components, students have used a wide range of manufacturing processes including work on the centre lathe, filing, cutting, measuring, marking out, drilling, and producing internal threads. Alongside these traditional workshop skills, students have also been developing their CAD CAM abilities through Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacture.

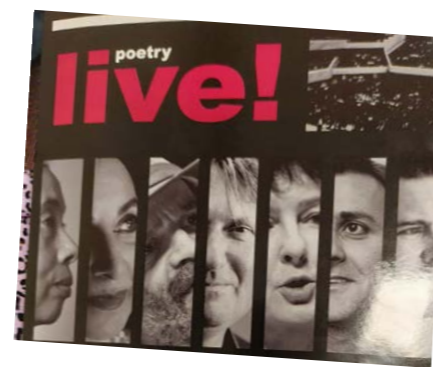
In addition to the practical work, each student is required to complete a supporting portfolio. This includes detailed explanations of how each part was made, along with ongoing evaluations of their progress and the quality of their finished components.



English – Poetry Live! Trip

A group of Year 10s and 11s went to Oxford to see Poetry Live! On Friday 6th February. Students were lucky enough to see poets such as Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage, Imtiaz Dharker, John Agard - and many more - all read and performed some of their poetry. Students also gained some valuable insight from an examiner who provided some top tips on how to answer the unseen poetry questions.

“Poetry Live was a very helpful trip, as it was very interesting seeing how different poets interpreted poetry, and read them out differently. I particularly enjoyed Carol Ann Duffy’s poems, War Photographer and Warming Her Pearls, the latter was especially good as it highlighted a part of society I had never really considered before. The examiners tips for exams were also very useful, and I will be sure to follow them in the future!” – Agather M - Year 11



Sustainability at TCS

Testbourne Unplugged

The Earthwise group recently did an audit of the school on a Friday afternoon. They found there were computers and lights left on in various locations. Our initiative 'Testbourne Unplugged' aims to remind students and staff to turn off appliances when they are no longer in use, especially at the end of the day. Each classroom has an A5 poster placed in each classroom to encourage this behaviour change.

Sustainability in Year 9

Our Year 9s have recently been learning about sustainability. The topic covered sustainable food, net zero, fast fashion and sustainable cities, amongst other key elements of sustainability. The students finished the topic by designing some beautiful sustainable cities! Well done Year 9, for your brilliant engagement throughout.



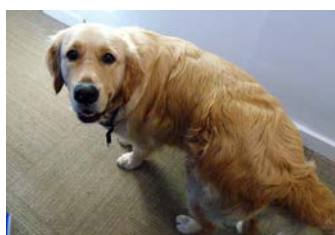
- Switching off the lights
- Shutting down the computer
- Turn off the projector



Climate Unity Conference

Members of the Earthwise group had the opportunity to join a virtual climate conference one morning in January. Around 4000 other students also attended this video conference! It included learning about animal conservation from the David Shepherd Foundation, finding out how the Forest Green Rovers are the 'greenest football club in the world' and hearing from the Final Straw Foundation about the Solent's Seahorses. Students engaged well and designed some lovely seahorse habitats. It was a great opportunity for the students to hear about the creative ways different organisations are trying to support the environment and find solutions.





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