

THE TCS Tribune

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity



Issue #15 - Spring 2022



Testbourne Community School

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TCS

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Dear valued Parents, Carers and members of the Community,

Welcome to the 15th edition of the TCS Tribune. This is our termly newsletter, dedicated to sharing the activities of the students and staff in our wonderful school and wider community.

I write this introduction after missing an edition for the first time in the Autumn term. I am thankful that I can write this term's introduction given the state of my health not so long ago.

Once again, the school has faced significant challenges over the past term and, in fact, throughout this year. Covid has caused serious disruption to staffing availability and has left some staff poorly for prolonged periods. The shining light, however, is the way in which the school community has come together to provide a proper education with as little disruption as possible during this term. I have now had the pleasure of

doing some break and lunch duties and going into some lessons so that I have been able to have conversations with our amazing students. I am incredibly proud of the fact that all appears so much like business as usual even in some very trying circumstances for those who have been ill, those who are trying to cover for those who have been ill and those who have faced unavoidable disruption. Lessons have been calm and purposeful, behaviour has been excellent, children have been wonderful at break and lunch, and I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to talk to them again.

The school has once again been superbly resilient throughout this term and the contents of the Tribune are testament to the commitment of our staff and students to maintaining as much normality as possible.

One of the key features of life at school over this term has been the development of the SCoLA building. The impact is already spectacular, even though we are only on phase three of the planned four phases. We now have an appropriately sized canteen, well-appointed classrooms, beautifully glazed and insulated outer walls, new internal configurations and more. The refurbishment will be a legacy that the school community can enjoy for many years to come. Perhaps most excitingly, the menu at the canteen has been getting more like its usual self now they have access to a proper kitchen again. Our catering team did an incredible job using the staffroom as a temporary kitchen for several months, but I know there are several hundred children and staff, including me, who are very happy about a return to the usual menu.

I am sure that there will be challenges ahead as we go into the summer term, but I am always reassured by the incredible work of our staff, our amazing students and you, our wonderfully supportive families. We always welcome your feedback so please keep it coming.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the Easter holidays. In the meantime, I wish your families a safe and enjoyable break, free from disruption.

Best wishes

Mr Jon Beck
Headteacher

Shakespeare School Festival 2022

On Tuesday 9th March 2022, Testbourne's Drama Department took the Year 9 cast and crew of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' to The Lights Theatre in Andover to take part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival. The cast and crew spent the day running technical and dress rehearsals, before nervously waiting to perform. But the nerves turned to smiles as they performed superbly to a very appreciative audience. Among the audience was our own Mrs Suds, who commented;

"I was immensely proud to watch this performance. Our students really owned the stage and brought 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' into the 21st Century. Well done to all of our performers and thank you to the staff who supported this exciting opportunity."

The cast and crew of twenty-three Year 9s auditioned for the production last autumn; since then, they have all committed to rehearsing Tuesdays and Thursdays every week, alongside extra rehearsals during lunch-times and holidays.

The 30-minute production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' set the play within a contemporary festival setting, featuring pop up tents, fairy lights, and glow accessories in combination with costumes which highlighted the festival theme... not to mention some excellent music! A back stage team also helped make sure the play ran smoothly and they deserve full credit in helping the day become such a success.





Each school has an appraiser and our report included the following;

"... I loved the fun and modern take on this classic play. Costumes, set and music helped to create this stylish, colourful festival theme, and to immerse us in the world of the story. I thought all your characters were brilliantly distinct and you had clearly put a lot of hard work into developing them. Through physicality and vocal quality, you helped develop these characters and bring them to life on stage. This was a cool, contemporary 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' from a committed and professional cast..."

So a big well done to all the cast, crew and staff who made this performance such a success!



Testbourne Fitness Gym

The Gym is open Monday to Friday 06:45 to 21:30
and Saturdays 9:00 to 14:00.

The cost of standard membership is £26.00 per month.
Discounts are available for students, over 55s, and joint membership.

On Wednesday evenings we hold a Boot Camp in the
Theatre Hall; this is free to gym members and costs £5 for
non-members. You can book your place here <http://go.testbourne.school/crosscamp>.



SCoLA Update

We are now into the third phase of the SCoLA block re-clad and internal refurbishment works, which started during February half-term and aims to be completed by May half-term.

On the ground floor, a new science laboratory and a science prep room are being constructed. This is an additional laboratory that has been made possible by more efficient use of space during the refurbishment. Next to the laboratory, the old Design Technology computer room will be fitted out with new furniture and new PCs.

On the first floor, two science laboratories and a science prep room are being refurbished. Like in the previous two phases, teaching areas will be bright, well ventilated and will provide a comfortable environment - conducive to learning.

We are grateful to be working with considerate contractors: Greendale Construction, who have been very good at keeping the noise down, especially during our mock exams!



Year 11 Mocks

Year 11 have worked incredibly hard during the March mock exams. The students are now very familiar with the routines and regulations and have met our high expectations throughout. Our superb team of invigilators have commented repeatedly on how well prepared the students are and their behaviour has been impeccable. This was highlighted when a fire alarm went off midway through an exam and the students were absolutely silent throughout the evacuation and adhered to the exam regulations throughout.



Year 11 will now have the opportunity to reflect on their performance in the mocks, identify areas which need further revision and use the forthcoming Easter break to use retrieval and past paper practice to prepare for the final GCSEs. The summer term will go incredibly fast for Year 11 with practical moderation and exams starting in the second week back. We wish them the best of luck for these final few weeks of preparation and look forward to the celebrations later on.

Accelerated Reader

Testbourne is committed to nurturing a love of reading in our students. Alongside providing time in the English curriculum for dedicated Library lessons for all students in Key Stage 3, the provision of extra-curricular activities such as Monday afterschool book club, and mentoring and coaching intervention sessions, we have recently rolled out the Accelerated Reader programme to selected students in Years 7-9.

Having completed online reading assessments last half-term, the students have now been given an individual reading range. These ranges have (thanks to the stalwart efforts of our Librarian, Mrs Bates) been mapped against our Library stock, helping students to choose books pitched at just the right level of readability: not so easy as to be boring, and not so challenging as to put students off!

After reading a book included in the Accelerated Reader programme, students complete a short quiz; their scores on these quizzes help to provide further finesse in their reading range, and allow their teachers to celebrate and reward the students' efforts. Published research from the Education Endowment Foundation suggests that participating in Accelerated Reader over just 6 months leads to students making reading progress equivalent to 9 months' improvement, and we are keen to see our students beginning to benefit from this in helping them to become more confident, fluent and discerning readers.



World Book Day 2022

We focus on the importance of reading every day at Testbourne, but it's always nice to have a particular celebration around World Book Day. This year the library was a hub of activity throughout the first week of March, with break times seeing students making origami bookmarks, and doing wordsearches and crosswords, as well as reading and sharing their favourite books. Around the school, book recommendation posters were displayed, showcasing staff members' favourite books and why students should give them a read.

We were delighted to welcome local author, Jo Clarke, to talk to our Monday afterschool book club about her new book, 'Libby and the Parisian Puzzle'. She gave tips and advice on how to write a mystery story, and left our book club raring to write their own.

On World Book Day itself, students had a book-themed quiz in tutor time, and teachers read out loud from their own favourite books at the beginning of every lesson. Staff also dressed up, much to the entertainment of students.

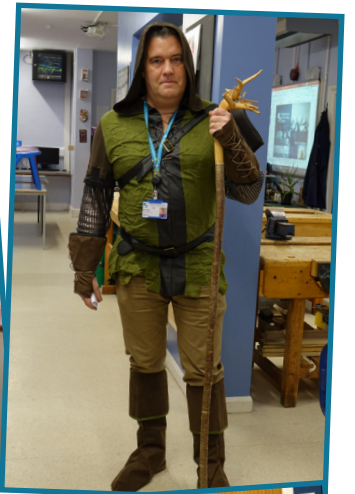
There was also a competition to create a book character from a loo roll, which led to some wonderful and creative entries.

Parents often ask for recommended book lists for their children. We are very fortunate to have a well-stocked school library, and the librarian, Mrs Bates, is always happy to make sure that students find a book that interests them.

A good source of recommendations online is the [lovereadings4kids](https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/) website which you can browse by age:

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>





Duke of Edinburgh's Group News – Spring Term 2022

This year's DofE Award group is the biggest ever, with almost 50 students attending Tuesday training sessions and day walks as part of their expedition training. We have now divided into six teams of students, who are all proving to be fantastically committed to the Award scheme and all the training and activities.

Sunday 6th March saw students and volunteer leaders gather in St Mary Bourne and disappear in various directions for a figure-of-eight shaped walk of 10 miles. The teams did a fantastic job, encouraging each other even when feet were sore towards the end. For some, this was the longest distance they have ever covered, so it was useful distance training to prepare for the expeditions in July and September.

Recent Tuesday evening training has featured route planning and navigation, First Aid, using camping stoves to prepare drinks and a whole meal, and learning about the Countryside Code. Many thanks to Mr Alex Cruickshank for giving up his time to come along and talk to the DofE students about this and about the New Forest.

Finally, as ever, we couldn't run the group without many dedicated volunteer leaders and helpers. Grateful thanks go to Dr Wilson, Miss Plunkett, Caroline Orange, Andy Key and Dave Holmes for taking on a team each this year, and to Mrs Middleton, Mrs Harper, Sarah Eley, Nicky Smallwood, Vince Bradbury, and Cassie Martin who have all helped us out with training sessions or day walks this term. Thank you all!



PFTA Shelter Fundraiser

The Parents Teachers and Friends Association of Testbourne Community School is nearing the goal to provide students with a shelter for the school playground. With the continued support of parents, carers and friends we can reach our goal soon!

These are the ways you can support the shelter for school fundraiser:

- a donation to our Just Giving Page and if possible we can also claim gift aid on your donation of 25% if you are a UK Tax payer. See the link for more details:

<https://www.justgiving.com/ptfa-testbourneschool>

- to make us all smile further at no extra cost to you if you shop online via Amazon UK you can make Testbourne Parents and Friends Association your designated Charity via Amazon Smile!

<https://go.testbourne.school/amazonsmile>

- via Easy Fundraising, an online shopping website and app that features 4,373 retailers from M&S, Sky, Tesco and Ebay UK to Etsy UK follow the link to set up your login and a link can appear on screen as a reminder each time you browse on a partner retailer – a percentage will be donated to the charity when you make a purchase at no cost to you.

<https://go.testbourne.school/easyfundraising>

If you are unable to donate at this time please consider volunteering with the committee on a fundraising event – email the committee on ptfa@testbourne.school.

Additionally, we are conducting a survey into which potential events or activities might be of most interest to our PTFA community; if you have not already done so and have just a couple of minutes to spare to complete this via the link below, it would be much appreciated.

<http://go.testbourne.school/ptfasurvey>

Do you work for a company or business that Matches Funding? 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.

Thank you very much for helping us make a difference to the experience of children at Testbourne Community School through your support!



*photos used as a visual representation only.

DofE - Volunteering Leads to TV Filming

Volunteering for a charity or in your local community is one element of the Bronze DofE Award, and for Year 10 student Jenny, this has led to being involved in filming for a TV programme. Jenny spends time every week at Furlock Holmes in Whitchurch, looking after the rabbits and other small animals at this rescue centre, for the Volunteering section of her DofE Award. She was asked to go in and be filmed at the end of March for a programme featuring TV presenter - Alan Titchmarsh.

Other students are working at charity shops, helping with Brownies, Cubs and Rainbows, coaching children's dance or sports, keeping their local parks and bus stops clean and tidy, and helping neighbours with shopping as part of their DofE Award. If anyone in the school community is involved with organisations that could take on DofE students in the future for an hour or two's volunteer work every week, for 3-6 months at a time, please get in touch by emailing Mrs Nottingham on s.nottingham@testbourne.school. We would

like to build up a bank of volunteer opportunities as it can sometimes be difficult for students to find them. Many thanks if you can help with this.



Year 7 YKC Crufts Finalist

One of our Year 7 students, Gaby, had a dog competing at Crufts on Saturday 12th March and did very well. To be invited to Crufts they had to qualify first, which Gaby achieved by winning a qualifier last September with her border collie dog, Zola.

Gaby competed in the 'YKC (Young Kennel Club) Agility Dog of the Year' semi-final and in the Under-18 Jumping Class, in the 6-11 years category. It was Gaby's first time at Crufts and she won both her classes! The semi-final win in the YKC arena qualified her for the afternoon's final in the main arena with cameras, lights and around 6000 spectators!

Gaby and Zola did really well and completed the course with big cheers from the crowd: what an amazing experience to be a finalist!

You can watch her finalist run here:

<http://go.testbourne.school/gabyatcrufts>



Gardening Club - First Place Winner

Gardening for Nature club runs on Wednesdays after school for Year 7 students, thanks to parent volunteer Suzie Brown, and staff volunteers Ms Horne and Miss Norris. Recent activities have included planting in the Jubilee Garden, making bird feeders, bird identification and art with nature and gardening themes.

Three members of the Gardening Club - Emily, Jasmine and Susanna - entered in the annual Carl Linnaeus Young Portrait Prize for 8-13 year olds, hosted by the Linnean Society. This year's theme was inspired by the works of John Tyley and required students to illustrate a self-portrait alongside a plant of their choice.

Emily was crowned the winner and won with her depiction of herself covered in ivy and surrounded by bees. The judges thought the design was "bold and original" and that she was a "worthy winner" - a judgement with which we definitely agree! Well done Emily! Emily will receive an art kit and certificate. Jasmine and Susanna will receive a certificate and the Society would love to see the pupils participate in the next competition.

Thank you also to our local Whitchurch Co-op who have donated £150 for building a new raised bed for the garden to plant vegetables and flowers.



Testbourne Eco Group - Recycling

Members of TCS Eco Group have been busy focusing on waste and recycling this term. They have organised new red recycling bins for the playground to recycle crisp, biscuit and sweet wrappers under a Terracycling scheme, and plastic bottles and cans in the local council's recycling. We are particularly proud to be supporting Terracycle as the waste collected earns money for local charities.

Please be mindful that these bins are being sorted by the Eco Group members so we do not want any waste not pictured on the bin's posters.

On top of this, we are also taking part in Greenpeace's National Plastic Count, where we will be asking students to count the amount of plastic they throw away at home for one week. Results will be collated and form part of a national survey to inform future laws in England.



PE Round-up

Rugby

With the first full rugby season since 2019, it was great to see so many turning up to training and playing in matches. We have had a great rugby season that concludes at Easter.

The Year 7 and 8 teams have both entered the district 10-a-side competitions and played well at both. The Year 8 tournament was a one-off day and they finished 4th after some really tough games. The Year 7 competition was spread over a number of weeks where they finished 2nd having tied in 1st place across the two weeks: an amazing achievement for a team with so many rugby debutants. The Year 7s have also had a couple of friendlies where they beat Harroway and narrowly lost to a strong Wellington Academy.

Congratulations should be given to the two captains who have done their job of leading and organising the teams brilliantly. Well done, Kit (Year 7) and Thomas (Year 8).

The Year 9 & 10 teams are full of experience but, given Covid, have only just been able to play their first fixtures. Both teams impressed in these. Both entered the recent 7-a-side competition at Andover Rugby Club, where the Year 9s went unbeaten all day and were deservedly crowned the district champions. The Year 10s only lost one of their games to finish 2nd overall: great work from both year groups.

In other news, congratulations should go to Isaac and Ollie for getting into the London Irish Academy this year which is a real honour for them. Good luck with that for the rest of the year boys!

After a successful rugby season, we will return in January '23. We look forward to seeing you there.



Girls Football

The U13 Girls Football team started their league campaign in January. Sporting the new Testbourne Football Kit, the girls came away boasting of a 5-1 win against Rookwood with a hat-trick by Maggie!

The girls then beat the team at the top of the league 2-0 on Tuesday. The whole team were excellent; well done to all those involved!



Netball

Since the end of January, Year 7 and 8 students have been travelling across the Test Valley area attending a host of netball matches against local schools. The schools include John Hanson, Harrow Way, Rookwood, Test Valley, Winton and the Clere.

Both teams started off well, winning their games against John Hanson B teams. They then met some tougher competition and had to dig deep to show their determination and teamwork skills throughout the weeks. The season ended with an away fixture at the Clere. The Year 8s had a fantastic victory with a 5-nil win and the Year 7s lost with a final score of 7-1 to the Clere.

Well done to all our players in the squads!

Tutor Competitions

During the latter part of this half term all KS3 tutor groups have had the opportunity to take part in tutor competitions. These involved many sports and activities including netball, football, touch rugby, capture the flag and boccia. Points were awarded for several areas, not just for the final scores! Each tutor group had the chance to score points for their teamwork, their organisation skills and for showing fair play as they participated in each the events.

Next Term

Summer sports will start after Easter Holidays and we look forward to seeing you at all our clubs, these will include rounders, athletics and cricket. No sign up is required, just turn up and play!

Red Nose Day 2022

Red Nose Day is an ongoing campaign to end child poverty throughout the world. The organisation funds programs which help keep children safe and healthy while providing them with support and education. As such, we at Testbourne wanted to do our part in supporting and raising money for the charity.

Year 7 wore red during their 'Active Mile' fundraiser. We held Just Dance Competitions in the lower school during break and lunchtime, and we had a Tell-a-Joke Competition that was judged by Mr Ralls.

We had over sixty Year 10 students participating in a netball tournament to raise money for Red Nose Day. Self-named team 'Purple Grapes' were the overall winners, but a big well done goes to all who took part in the tournament! Together, they raised over £50 for RND. We also owe a big thank you to Mrs Vallance and Miss Yacoby for umpiring.

We also held a staff bake sale during our INSET day. In total our staff raised over £180 with cakes, cookies, coffee and tea! Thank you to the staff members who baked these tasty treats, and all the generous donations!

Overall we raised around £350 for Red Nose Day: thank you all who donated!



Year 7 Art - Ukrainian sunflowers



Testbourne Community School



www.testbourne.school



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