

THE TCS Tribune

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity



CHRISTMAS 2018

Dear Valued Parents, Carers and Members of the Community,

I am delighted to welcome you to the fourth full edition of the *TCS Tribune* as we rapidly approach the end of the Autumn term. 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, there is no shortage of material when it comes to the events that have taken place and the achievements of our students.

This has been a very busy and significant term, punctuated most significantly by the Year 11 mock exams. The Year 11 students have been exceptional in their attitude to the exams, their behaviour and their conduct. In fact, their organisation and acceptance of the routines we use has meant we have even been able to start some exams early. If you are the parent of a Year 11 child, please do echo the positive messages about mocks that I have already given them. The mock exams will provide vital analytical information to help focus targeted teaching sessions and revision strategies for our students through the Spring term and into the summer.

During this term, we have also focused on developing our infrastructure. We have successfully 'ported' our email and website to a testbourne.school address making contacting us and finding us online more convenient. You will have also noticed the new website design, new branding and our video prospectus. These are all part of our vision to provide a professional and corporate image for all users of our site. Additionally, we have installed a new suite of desktop computers in one of our design technology rooms to respond to the demands of the new specifications and provide a higher quality learning experience for our students in this subject.

One of the most momentous occasions in the term has been the much-anticipated handover of the 3G pitch to the school. The pitch is one of the most advanced of its kind, meeting the specifications of FIFA to gain FIFA accreditation. The surface is astonishing and I recommend that parents and members of the

community have a look from the side-lines or make a booking to experience it first-hand. Students have enthusiastically reported their experiences so far. We are looking forward to the official opening of the pitch when the weather improves.

There have been a significant number of events that you can read about in detail in this publication. One that particularly sticks in my mind is our Remembrance assembly. The assembly was largely organised by students who are members of uniformed organisations. It was a hugely respectful occasion with emotive performances and readings by students and inspirational and reflective readings from Mr Lovegrove. There were also specific memories shared by students. The assembly is held every year, involves the whole school and is an extremely emotional occasion. I would encourage any member of the community who has or has had an attachment to the uniformed services to contact the school if they would like to attend. It is a revelation that contradicts much of the bad press young people receive today.

Our PTFA have been very hard at work this term. We are extremely grateful for the support they are giving us in raising funds for a long overdue refurbishment of the PE changing rooms. You may have attended the Christmas fair held on Saturday 1st December so you will be pleased to know that over £3000 was raised for the cause. The PTFA also provided much of the funding for our 'Blue Box' – the new catering outlet in the school.



Testbourne Community School

01256 892061
www.testbourne.school

DATES & CONTACTS FOR YOUR DIARY

AUTUMN TERM

Last day of Autumn Term:

Friday 21st December 2018

*Testbourne will close at the normal time -
3:10pm*

SPRING TERM

Students return for Spring:

Tuesday 8th January 2019

Monday 7th January will be an INSET Day

HALF TERM

18th—22nd February 2019

Last day of Spring Term:

Friday 5th April 2019

INSET Days

Monday 7th January 2019

Friday 15th February 2019

USEFUL INFORMATION

Testbourne Community School

Micheldever Road, Whitchurch,
Hampshire. RG28 7JF

School Office Telephone:

01256 892061

School Named Contact:

Mrs E Sentence

Email: **admin@testbourne.school**

Community Tel: **01256 892261**

**The School Office is normally open
for telephone calls between 8:30am—
4:00pm on each school day.**

I feel extremely proud of what is achieved on a daily basis by our staff and students. We are privileged as a school to have almost exclusively well-behaved students with supportive, engaged and helpful parents. I continue to find myself marvelling at how polite and respectful children are at this school. This was exemplified when we welcomed a rather special guest, Lady Portal, to our school a few short weeks ago. She enjoyed her visit immensely but the thing that seemed to most inspire her was talking to our students. Students welcomed her, did not demonstrate any shyness or unwillingness to engage with her and talked openly about their work. Even though Lady Portal is already a huge advocate of children, she was still incredibly impressed by her experience.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank our team of excellent support staff and teaching staff, without whom, none of the activities in this edition, or indeed learning in the classroom, could take place. Staff work tirelessly to give the best experiences possible to the children in our care. Please do join me in thanking staff if you get the opportunity.

I know that staff and students alike are looking forward to the Christmas break so that they can spend quality time with friends and family and recharge their batteries. Staff and students will begin the New Year with their usual zest and vigour so we can all look forward to what 2019 will bring. Please do not forget that the first day of term for students is **Tuesday 8th January** as the Monday is a staff training day.

I should like to conclude by wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back safely in 2019.

Best wishes,

J Beck

Mr J Beck



TCS LIBRARY NEWS

We have had a busy term in the library. Our ten year 8 (now 9) Hampshire Book Award judges completed their participation by attending the award ceremony in Winchester where they met the winning author, Tamsyn Murray, with her book being 'Instructions for a Second-hand Heart'.

Our author visits continued in November when students went to Whitchurch Primary school to meet the acclaimed children's author Emma Carroll.

December has seen the launch of our annual Readathon challenge. This year we are challenging all year 7 students to set robust reading targets and to keep a log of what they are reading for the month. There is an optional sponsorship element, and any money raised will go to the 'Read for Good' charity which provides books and story-tellers to children in hospital. In addition, the school receives book vouchers which can be used



to buy more books for the library.

Thanks to the generosity of parents, the amazing work of the PTFA and the support from staff, the school library is now a vibrant, buzzing room, with over 4000 books for students to choose from. It is heavily used at break and lunch times, with timetabled lessons for year 7 and frequent visits from other year groups. We are working hard to make Testbourne a school that enjoys reading, and appreciate the support that students get at home to help this happen.

Mrs E. Bates, Librarian



Parent Governor Vacancies

Testbourne currently has vacancies on the governing body for a parent governor and for co-opted governors. Parent governors must be parents of children at the school and are elected by parents. Co-opted governors may be parents or members of the community and are appointed directly by the governing body.

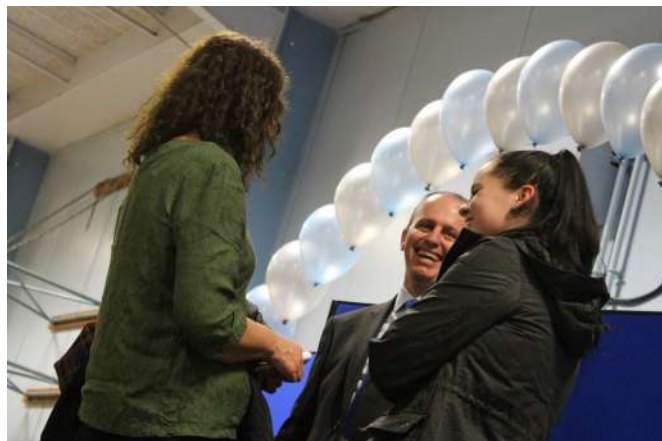
We are particularly interested in hearing from people with a background in engineering and construction, health and care, or business and commerce but if you do not have a background in any of these, please do not let that put you off! We are interested in hearing from anyone who is interested in governance. If you would like further information or to apply, please contact the Clerk to the Governors, Lucy Spence, at the following email address clerk@testbourne.school who will forward further information or arrange an informal discussion with me. You may also like to look at information for prospective governors on the Hampshire County Council website at www.hants.gov.uk/education/governors/govrecruit.htm

The deadline for applications is Friday, 11 January 2019. Please note that these are voluntary positions and that, in line with our safeguarding policies and procedures, these positions will be subject to checking with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). We look forward to hearing from you.

Mrs Penny Horner, Chair of Governors

GCSE Presentation Evening 2018

Wednesday 28th November



The class of 2018 were invited back to school to celebrate their successful achievements in the summer examinations. This was a special occasion for students to catch up with friends, meet their former teachers and share experiences of college so far.

There were over 450 people at this formal ceremony, joined by the Whitchurch Mayor and Mayoress and some of our local councillors. An inspiring and thought-provoking speech was delivered by Tim Fisher on his experiences working as a consul for the Foreign Office.

A number of awards were also presented throughout the evening; Individual Subject Awards, Most Progress, Achievement, Highest Attendance, Governors Award for Effort and Headteacher's Award as well special mentions to the Head Boy and Head Girl. They were presented with glass awards which they can treasure for years to come and remember their achievements.

It was a fantastic celebration of the efforts our students put in during their time at Testbourne. They attended this formal occasion looking very smart and enjoyed talking to their friends, staff and parents.

AMAZING GCSE PERFORMANCE!

The official national school performance tables have now been released by the government with the provisional data for every school in the country. The main headlines are:

Measure	2018 Measure	2018 Hampshire Rank (out of 72 schools)
Progress 8*	0.24 (above average)	11
Attainment 8^	53.7 (well above average)	8
Grade 5+ in English AND Maths combined	60% (well above average)	9

*A measure that takes into account students' progress from their starting points at the end of primary school. Zero is average. Around 17% of schools in England are above average. Each decimal point represents a fraction of a whole grade so the improvement from 2017 is nearly half a grade on average across all students in all subjects.

^A measure that takes children's average point score for their best 8 GCSE grades including English and Maths, a Science, Humanities and/or Language and three additional subjects.

Lest We Forget

Remembrance Service

On Friday 9th November, we held an assembly to commemorate 100 years since “the guns fell silent” at the end of World War I.

The assembly opened with a procession from the Overton Army Cadets and Winchester Sea Cadets. Personal memories of staff and students’ families were shared with the whole school. The readings of



the poem ‘For the Fallen’ and ‘In Flanders Fields’ were very emotional and 11 o’clock was marked by ‘The Last Post’ played by a student, which brought tear to the eyes of many who were there.

Each tutor group presented a handmade wreath in memory of those who died, and these were displayed in school afterwards.

The Remembrance service is a hugely important ceremony for the school and its community. Many of our staff and students have ancestors who fought in the wars and gave their lives for the freedom we all enjoy today. All students demonstrated outstanding behaviour and huge amounts of respect in the assembly.



**£246 was raised for the Royal British Legion
- thank you for supporting!**

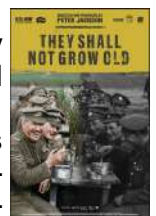
Poppy Display



The History Department have extended the commemorations to mark the centenary by organising some extra poppy displays across the school. Every student created their own tissue-paper poppy for the display in the Kingfisher corridor. The department were absolutely thrilled with all the hard-work and imagination that went into each student’s poppy.

‘THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD’

The new film by Peter Jackson *‘They Shall Not Grow Old’* was shown to all students in Year 10 and 11. The students were amazed by the film and commented that it was very shocking but fascinating to watch.



SSIF Schools' Conference



Twenty Year 11 students attended an inspiring Student conference on Monday 5th November 2018 to help raise their aspirations and help them prepare more effectively for their forthcoming GCSE exams.

The conferences have been established after Basingstoke secondary schools received additional financial support following a successful bid to the Department of Education (DfE). Allocated from the DfE's Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF), the money is being used to further improve GCSE education in the area, enabling more students to achieve good results in their exams. The skills being learnt will also provide the foundations for further academic achievement at A-level and widening training and employment opportunities when students leave secondary school at age 16. Part of the money is being used to give a small number of students the chance to take part in a learning conference. Teachers also attend the conference in order to bring back ideas into school so that all students can benefit from the work being done.

Article written by Amy Mallard & Megan West - School Correspondents



TCS IT UPDATE

IT Manager - Mr J Worth

There have been some significant changes and improvements to the school IT infrastructure, most noticeable of which is the migration of the email platform and addresses to **testbourne.school**. This brings many improvements such as much shorter email addresses, easier login process and the integration of both staff and students on the same platform to make communications easier and give students access to an enterprise email communications system (Office 365) which they would likely come across in their working life.



Investment in improving access to IT and in line with the current needs for Design Technology (DT) has meant that one of our DT rooms has been partially converted to house 24 high performance PCs with large monitors to allow for complex graphic design and modelling. Many behind the scenes improvements have been made to further improve the school's network infrastructure as well.

The school website has been completely revamped to bring it in line with current school standards and to improve access to school information. Further, the integrated calendar on the website is synchronised in real time from school so dates of school holidays, events, etc. are always up to date.

We are currently investigating the numerous different applications and services that Office 365 provides such as SharePoint and Teams, to help improve teaching and learning as well as student/teacher collaboration. We are also beginning to make use of these new services to help reduce administration workload and allow teams of support staff to collaborate on major school events. Soon we will be making more use of these cloud systems to help support our responsive approach to teaching as well as creating a consistent and cohesive learning experience for all our students.



Initial feedback from students and staff regarding the use of SharePoint and Teams has been very promising. The Headteacher's PA is our unofficial cloud champion and has been working with me to improve and develop new ways of working.

All students can download the full Microsoft Office application suite to their home computers free of charge whilst they are on roll here at Testbourne. To do so, login to Office 365 as normal by going to <http://portal.office.com> and click "Install Office" and select "Office 365 Apps". Please note that the school cannot provide support with any installation issues on personal devices nor can it take responsibility for any data loss, change to computer configuration etc. that could occur as a result.

Please can I ask you to remind your child(ren) that they must log on to their school email regularly as many teachers are sending work via email to students; and some communications (such as exam timetables) are being sent directly to students.

FANTASTIC 3G PITCH NOW OPEN AT TCS

Our amazing all weather pitch is now open and in full use by students and the local community. We are so pleased with the quality of it and how great it looks. It has been a huge undertaking and we have been extremely lucky to get grant funding for the project.



The maintenance specification is very high so it's really important that extra care is taken by all users to look after the pitch and preserve the top quality standard. Correct footwear needs to be worn at all times and it needs to be kept clean of litter and debris.

The pitch is such a huge asset not only for the students but will generate much needed income for the school through local community use.

With support from students, parents and the wider community the pitch will continue to be an excellent sports facility that will be well used for years to come.

School Council News

The School Council have been very busy this term with a re-organisation as well as recruiting new members from younger year groups. Three groups have been set up aiming to improve our life at Testbourne.

Allotment Group:

This term, the allotment group have been preparing for the construction and planting of the new school allotment; due to the Winter Season, the main planning will commence in January 2019. The allotment will be used to produce vegetables and herbs for the school's Food Technology department and a compost bin added for school food waste. Also this term, the allotment group have been working on the tree-planting project, which happened on Saturday 15th December; this was to commemorate the 64 men from Whitchurch who died in World War One, by planting 64 birch trees, lining a pathway in Whitchurch in two parallel lines. Birch trees have been chosen because they are symbolic and are also environmentally friendly as they absorb a lot of pollution.

Eco-Action Group:

The Eco-Action group have also been very busy this term, they have been doing several assemblies to promote their new projects around school. They have introduced Terracycle Pen Recycling, where the students have given each teacher a plastic wallet to recycle old pens; they have provided new bins in the playgrounds which are specifically for plastic bottles only, which can then be recycled. For the classrooms with no recycling bins, new bins are being ordered and those with them have been given new labels, informing people on what can be recycled and what cannot. Furthermore, they have sent out a survey to all students, asking for comments and suggestions on the school's current environmental programme.

Amnesty Group:

The amnesty group are currently preparing to do assemblies in the new term and are discussing fundraising events they want to do and which campaigns and charities they want the school to raise money for.

Settling into TCS Life

Head of Year 7 - Ms L Jenkins

The first few weeks starting at a new school are always one of the hardest things for students to do but I have been so impressed and proud of the way Year 7 have started at Testbourne. 2018



saw a lot of change with the way we focused on transition, from changing the tutoring system, the house system as well as the transition focus. As a school we reviewed everything to try and ensure the transition from Primary / Junior to Secondary was less about change and more about consistent expectations and we have seen the benefit of this difference in approach.

Students arrived in September with fewer concerns about change and more comfort in knowledge. They were ready to succeed by understanding what lay ahead, less pressured by unknowns, more at home in their surroundings and tutors and this has shone through in how quickly the vast majority of students have settled into life here.

Each and every year 7 student has shown me lots of qualities to be proud of, produced some beautiful pieces of work, and represented Testbourne to the highest standard at our recent Lepira event. I frequently tell them how proud they make me as their Head of Year and I look forward to seeing each one develop over the year ahead.

Wellbeing and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

We always try to promote and advocate the school value of respect and of being respectful to each other. The wellbeing group has been established by Mrs Tanner, Head of Year 8, to assist the younger students and offer them support if needed.

The group is made up of Year 10 students. They have delivered assemblies to KS3 students to educate how to stop bullying and how to be an upstander. They said, "We hope to make all students feel safe both at school and online."

They attended an event presented by representatives of the Diana Award at Bishop Challoner School about how to promote Anti-Bullying in schools.

We have a 'No to Bullying' form on the school website, which allows students to anonymously ask for help from teachers and the mentors.

THE PTFA Christmas Fair

The PTFA Christmas Fair was held on Saturday 1st December and was part of a day of exciting Christmas activities throughout Whitchurch, culminating in the switching on of the town centre lights.

Visitors to the fair were able to enjoy shopping at the many stalls, which were all selling quality gifts and crafts including handmade cards and wrapping paper produced by pupils and staff from the art department.



There was the opportunity to sit and recharge with home-made cakes and mulled wine at the Christmas café before having a spin on the tombola or taking part in the silent auction, which had some amazing prizes in it. This year we were also honoured to have Father Christmas himself at the fair along with his elves, who helped smaller visitors get stuck into glittery Christmas crafts.

Everyone agreed that a fabulously festive atmosphere was created by the school's talented musicians who played throughout the day, including the brass and woodwind ensembles.

Thank you very much to all those who helped to make the fair a great success either by donating prizes, making cakes or being there on

the day. We raised just over £3000!

This year the PTFA is raising funds to help refurbish the PE changing rooms. Having more modern changing facilities will be great for the children and it will also be of benefit to the wider community as the changing rooms are used by visitors to our outdoor swimming pool during the summer months.

If you would like to get involved with the PTFA then please email us at ptfa@testbourne.school



Amazing Support for Great Causes



CHILDREN IN NEED - Friday 16th November

Non-Uniform donations, Staff v Students Netball Match and Cake Sale made a total of **£1,068** raised!

HARVEST FESTIVAL - Friday 19th October

Every tutor group presented their decorated boxes full of donations for the Andover Food Bank; total equated to about **1,250 meals** for local people in need!



Street Dance for Lepra Charity

Leprosy is the oldest known disease in history and is caused by an airborne germ that affects families and communities. It attacks the nerves of the body and causes pain and loss of feeling and disfigurement. Every day, 600 people are diagnosed with Leprosy, of which 50 are children. Last year, Lepra directly improved the lives of 256,000 and reached a further 1.6 million with our health education services.



Each year, Year 7 students raise money for 'Lepra' by taking part in a street dance session as well as holding other fundraising events in their free time for the charity. Last year, Year 7s raised £436 and this year they raised an amazing £1739.82. Some of the personal fundraising events included: sponsored walks; a 25-mile swim; selling homemade lemonade; selling homemade cakes; sponsored silences; organised and took part in 5km runs; kicked a football for 6 miles and danced for 2 hours straight. Two students, Gracie and Willow, both managed to raise over £100 each. Every year, Testbourne is so proud of the Year 7s, and even more so this year, as the current year 7s have raised the most in all the years the event has taken place. The dance leaders also commented that the behaviour and positive attitude of our students was one of the best they have ever seen at any of the schools they have worked in. Well done Year 7!

Mityana 2019

We are pleased to announce that we have selected 14 students to represent the school in Mityana in October 2019. We had our first meeting on 27th November and preparations are now underway for fundraising.

The Mityana ball will be one of the fundraisers and we will keep you posted on dates and how to purchase tickets for this amazing and memorable event.

We are currently planning for 'Bring them Back' where children from Mityana come and visit us here, which will be in January 2019. We will update you in the Easter edition of 'The Tribune' but one thing already on our list is taking them on a trip to London.

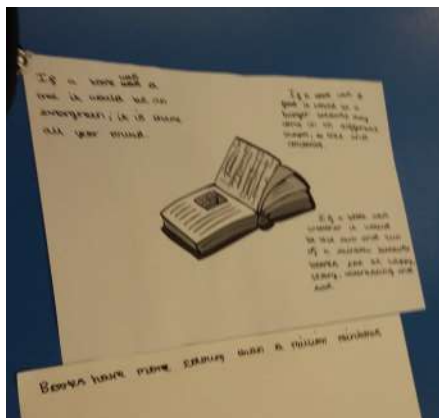
Dodie and I are looking forward once again to organising and implementing the trip and thank you in advance for your support of our students in their fundraising efforts.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Mrs H Brooker and Dodie

National Poetry Day

Thursday 7th October



We celebrated the National Poetry Day by devoting a Year 7 lesson to poems about books. We looked at a poem by Joseph Coelho called 'Books have helped me' and we used inspiration and ideas from this poem and the discussion around it to write our own poems around the theme 'What books mean to me'.

Here's what some of our Year 7s had to say:

"I enjoyed writing my own poem because the lesson gave me lots of good ideas!" George

"This gave me a good introduction to writing poetry." Joseph

"I enjoy writing my own poetry anyway, but this helped me to think of other ideas." Emily

Mrs B Harvey, Literacy Co-ordinator



German Club

German club is open to students in Year 8 who have started learning German this year. Students from other year groups are also welcome to attend. Year 7 students may wish to carry on using the German they learnt in primary school. Year 10 students can consolidate their German by helping to teach younger students.

The club takes place on Thursday lunchtimes and is currently run by Anna Jay who is an MFL prefect. She prepares plenty of fun activities every week and the year 8 students really appreciate all her work and encouragement. Anna uses a whole host of resources including online activities and games she has made herself.

Anna says:

"As an MFL Prefect, I run a German club once a week for the Year 8s who began learning it this year. Through activities and fun worksheets, I help the younger students revise and extend their knowledge of the language. We do quizzes, word searches and interactive games, which I hope helps them develop the same passion for the language that I have".

A Year 8 student commented, *"I like German club because I can talk to people with similar interests!"*

Huge thanks and congratulations to Anna for all her hard work and enthusiasm. It has been a real pleasure to watch the high level of engagement and enjoyment shown by the students who attend the club.

Mr D Jones, Head of MFL





Silk Mill Visit

Students from Mrs Bennion's Design & Technology Group recently made a visit to Whitchurch Silk Mill as part of their studies. The design brief was to design and make promotional materials for the Silk Mill. Students researched promotional materials from various companies before designing an advertising poster and gift bag which were well received by the Silk Mill.

During their visit, students were given a tour of the facilities and were able to understand the weaving process and how silk is made. They completed a research task and particularly enjoyed looking at the large water wheel, used to power the machinery. *Mrs L Bennion*



Big Bang Competition Through to the Final!

More STEM success two groups of students from Year 9 and 10 entered a project into the Big Bang Competition Regional Heats and have now been selected to represent the South West at the National Big Bang Competition. This will be held at the NEC in Birmingham on 13th and 14th March 2019. The teams will be expected to produce a stand to present their ideas as well as presenting their projects to judges and the visiting schools over the two days as they bid to win the competition.

Congratulations to Mia, Elyse, Lauren, Henry and Martynas for their hard work to reach this stage and good luck for the finals.

Mrs S Romain, *Teacher of Science*



Girls in Engineering

On Friday 9th November, thirty Year 9 students took part in an engineering programme as a part of the Government's Year of Engineering. This trip was organised in order to encourage young students - in particular female students - to consider pursuing a future in engineering. Girls were particularly targeted because only around 7% of engineering graduates are female in the UK.

At the event, organised by local MP Kit Malthouse, students took part in 4 sessions, each with a duration of 30 minutes, completing various challenges, aided by several different companies who attended the event, who also gave inspiring talks. Some of these companies included: Ocado Engineering - who are currently the world's leading food shopping company, Dyson, Xtrac - a company that makes 4WD systems and gearboxes for rally cars, William's Racing, Thatcham Research, Thames Water and RE Aviation - an aircraft engineering company based in Whitchurch. The students also got the opportunity to talk to the company representatives about work experience and possible careers within the companies.

AWE - Inspiring Lecture!



A Year 9 Science class were visited by two graduates from AWE (Atomic Weapons Establishment) who delivered a highly engaging lecture on forces, and launched a challenge for students to participate in. Four students from the class will now be selected to compete in a challenge against other schools. We will keep you updated but here is what Jasmine had to say about the visit:

"Having the AWE Graduates in for a science lesson was a great experience. The topics they mainly focused on were aerodynamics and hydrodynamics. They made sure everyone was involved and engaged. We used a plan, test, evaluate and re-test model to improve our paper aeroplanes. They also carried out a few experiments which involved the science behind drag

and thrust. After the experiments they explained the science in a way we could all understand. It was a really good lesson!"

Shakespeare Schools Festival



November 27th was performance day for the cast of Testbourne's entry into this year's Shakespeare Schools Festival. A steampunk version of *'Much Ado About Nothing'* was about to get its first public showing. The day started with a couple of rehearsals and then at midday we left the school and prepared for the first highlight - lunch at KFC! A well needed intake of sustenance that would keep us going throughout the day (that's my excuse anyway). Tech and dress rehearsals were then held at our venue for the day – 'The Lights' theatre in Andover. The staff couldn't have been more helpful and the cast were well behaved. Entrances and exits were ironed out, sound levels checked and every-



one 'found their light' ready for the evening show.

We then had a couple of hours to spare, so after watching the Dress rehearsal of Icknield school's production of *'A Midsummer Night's Dream'* (and very good it was too), we had a bit of spare time before meeting back at six to find out the running order for that evening. Nerves were definitely starting to show (no bad thing) as we made our way into the auditorium to find out who was going when - we had the honour of starting the evening's entertainment!

Back to the dressing room for a few last notes and then to setting props in the wings. Nerves were definitely now kicking in and we had to wait until the introductory speech had been completed before the curtain went up!



Any nerves then seemed to disappear as the students did themselves, and the school, proud with their rendition of *'Much Ado'*. An appreciative audience showed their approval with a fine applause and then it was time to relax. We watched Icknield perform again and then the Shakespeare School's director gave a glowing appraisal of our efforts.

All too soon it was over, and an elated cast made their way home. I would also like to mention that we had Nick and Elliot help with the filming (alongside Pete Hallmann), making a recording of our dress rehearsal.

A huge well done to all the cast and a thank you to the Maskers Theatre Company who helped supply the costumes.

Now, on to next year!!

Mr J Carrington, *Head of Drama*

Music Showcase - 13th and 14th November



GCSE Music students performed a variety of ensemble pieces in their music showcases held in the Theatre Hall. It is always a great opportunity for students to build their performing skills and have the experience of preparing for a live performance in front of an audience. They didn't disappoint with some incredibly accomplished performances and top marks being awarded to Year 10 and 11 students. All students who performed received feedback in order to help improve

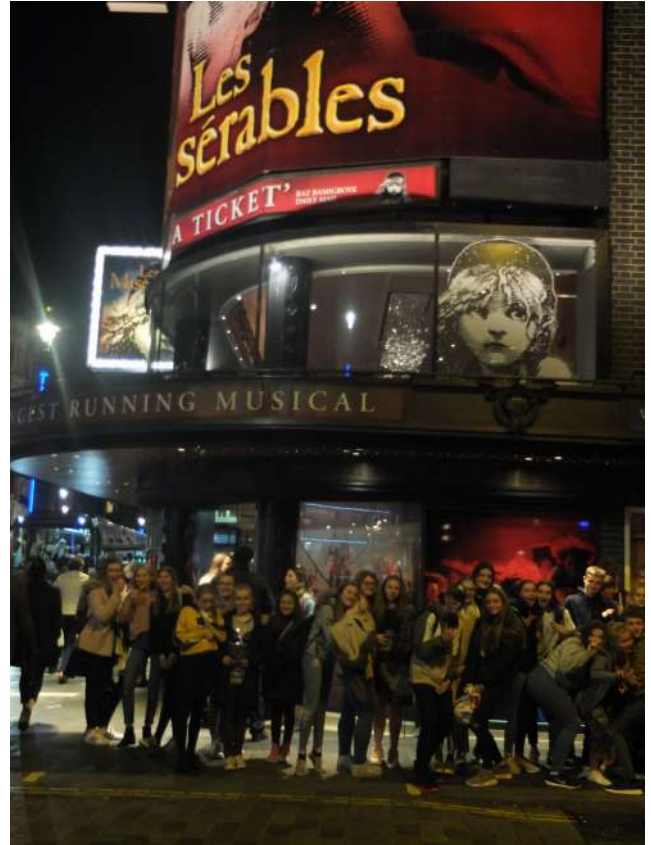
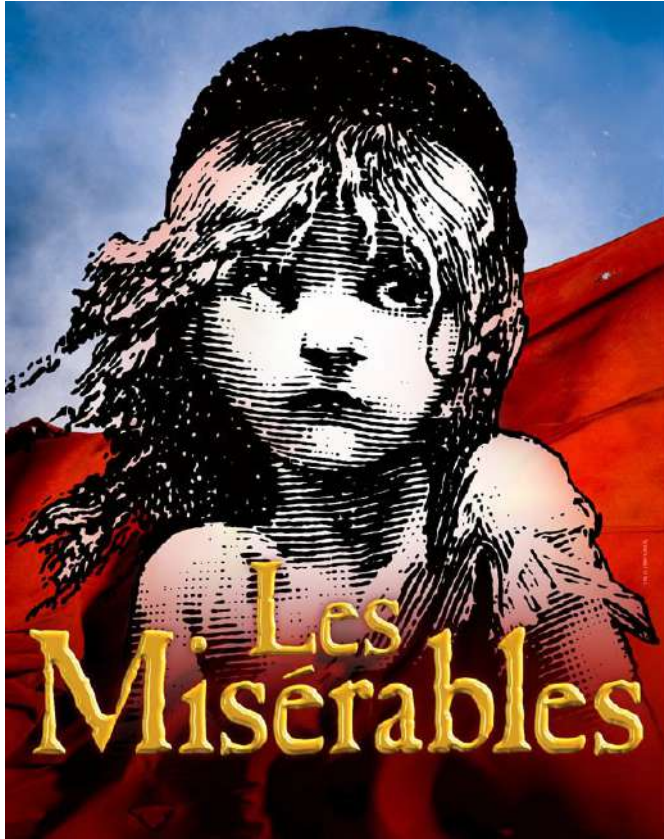
their skills ready for their final GCSE coursework submissions. Well done to all students who performed and thank you to all those who attended.



Music Trip - Les Miserables

On 1st November, a group of GCSE Music students and girls from Bella Voce had an amazing opportunity to see the musical, *Les Miserables*, in London.

Even though it was a late evening trip, students were thrilled to experience the West End performance!



Girls' Netball Success!

The netball season has been running since September and culminates at the end of December. This season has seen 3 leagues being played with year 9, 10 and 11's taking part.

As we go to print, the season hasn't quite come to an end, the weather had been very kind to us at the start of the season but we are finishing with a bit of a wash out!

Year 9's started off the season very strongly winning their first 4 games against Test Valley, Wellington, Rookwood and The Clere. They then came up against a very strong John Hanson team and came across their first loss of the season. A 15-4 win against Winton as their penultimate match has seen a very strong season from the girls with Daisy Marks being given overall players' player and Poppy Target with most 'player of the match' awards from other schools.

Year 10's have had a mixed season. There have been lots of students attending training making selection a very tricky process. The first game of the season saw a win against Test Valley but then close games against Wellington, Rookwood and John Hanson ended in defeat. Their penultimate game was an 8-all draw against Winton. Players' player went to Ellie Loxton with Tanwen Hales receiving most 'player of the match' awards from other schools.

The year 11 league has seen a different format this year with a mini-league being played and 2 matches at each venue in order to save time taken away from studies. Matches have seen wins against Winton and The Clere but narrow defeats to Rookwood and John Hanson.

Thank you to all the girls who have regularly come to training and given up their time after school. We look forward to the year 7 and 8 leagues starting after Christmas.

Mrs L Vallance and Miss V O'Shea, *Teachers of PE*

Year 7/8 Girls' Rugby Team Update

On the 1st of November, a team of 16 girls from Years 7 and 8 travelled to Winchester Rugby Club to represent Testbourne Community School in the Hampshire Rugby Finals. The girls had to adapt very quickly to play full contact rugby, which involved learning to scrum and tackle. Every girl was not afraid to get stuck into the game even though some had never played it before.



In the first round, we played against Noadswood School (4-4), Westgate School (4-3) and then Perins School (4-2). These were all close games and we are very proud of every player for trying their hardest.

In the second round, they played against Priestlands School (6-2) and Westgate School again (3-2).

All the girls behaved well as collective team-players whilst having a fantastic day and learning many new rugby skills.

Well done girls!

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity

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