

THE TCS Tribune



APRIL 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Valued Members of the Community,

The Spring term is nearly complete as I write this. Today has been a contrast to some of the weather we have faced this term and faced again at the weekend. With daylight hours extending, temperatures feeling warmer and the sun shining, it is starting to feel like summer again.

I welcome you to our second edition of the 'The TCS Tribune'. This is our termly newsletter dedicated to sharing the activities of our incredible school with our wider community. Once again, we have a publication packed with the stories of the incredible achievements of our students and events that have taken place.

Before I go further, I should like to make an announcement of some significance. It is with great sadness that I announce the imminent departure of two extremely long serving members of staff. Miss Jones and Mrs Eagles will be leaving us at Easter having worked for a combined sixty years at the school. In fact Miss Jones has taught at Testbourne for 39 years. In their time, these incredibly dedicated staff have influenced, helped and contributed so much to so many. I am sure you will join me in wishing them great happiness in their future endeavours.

This has been another significant term for the school. We remain focused on the ideals of our strapline: 'Achievement Excellence Integrity' and all it represents. We have been busy working on raising expectations and developing teaching and learning as well as preparing our Year 11 students for their imminent examinations.

In addition to the usual activities of the term, we have had an eventful few week with heating breakdowns, water leaks and snow. I should like to thank parents, carers and the wider community for supporting us through our partial and full closures. We always try to avoid closing the school but sometimes it is unavoidable.

The Spring term has been packed with trips, visits and a huge array of sporting fixtures as always. We have had theatre visits, a mosque visit, drama, dance and music performances, a Year 10 Science trip, a 'Girls in Engineering' day at AWE and an exciting Science and Engineering Day to name but a few. We continue to balance high academic demand with a broad educational experience, providing as many opportunities for personal development and enrichment as possible. I would like to add that we have received some excellent feedback from members of the public, organisers of events and staff at venues who have had nothing but the highest praise for the conduct of our students.

The Spring term has also been very important for us as, after a

hugely demanding selection process, we recruited our new Deputy Headteacher to replace Ms Mendes. After two days and a wide range of activities, interviews and tasks, we

appointed Erin Sudds, an experienced and highly qualified Senior leader who I am confident is going to be a tremendous asset to TCS.

Some of my personal highlights this term have been during parents' evenings and other events where I have had the privilege to interact with our highly supportive and engaged parents. We always survey parents and have a large sample size now. Recent highlights from surveys are that 96% of our parents feel that their child is happy at our school; 98% state that their child feels safe; 95% say that their child makes good progress; 95% state that their child is taught well and 96% state that their child is well looked after. In spite of these excellent outcomes, we still strive to improve key areas as our aim, after all, is Excellence.

The next time I write an introduction to the TCS Tribune will be after our Year 11 students have sat their final exams. There is a parents' evening in the final week of this term to help Year 11 parents and carers understand what needs to be done, and we shall be providing additional information to help parents look after the wellbeing of their children as well as ensuring that they are well prepared and have the stamina and resilience for the relentless exam season. Our motto for this time is 'Be well; Do well.'

My penultimate point is to introduce my 'Headteacher's Special Mention.' I should like to mention Ryan Tigwell in Year 11 for being such a hardworking student, wearing his uniform with pride and a real support to Mr Carrington in Drama.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Happy Easter. We look forward to welcoming your children back next term.

Best wishes,

Mr J Beck

Mr J Beck, Headteacher

TCS – *Achievement • Excellence • Integrity*



DATES & CONTACTS FOR YOUR DIARY

SUMMER TERM 2018

Monday 16th April 2018

MAY HALF TERM 2018

Monday 28th May to
Friday 1st June

LAST DAY OF TERM

Friday 20th July

USEFUL INFORMATION

Testbourne Community School
Micheldever Road, Whitchurch,
Hampshire RG28 7JF

School Office Telephone:
01256 892061

School Named Contact:
Mrs E. Sentance

Community Tel: **01256 892261**
Fax: **01256 896796**

Email: [adminoffice@
testbourne.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@testbourne.hants.sch.uk)

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

WELCOME TO THE TCS LIBRARY

Readathon

We were delighted with the results of our recent Readathon. The year 7, 8 and 9 students who took part raised an amazing total of £1100. Thank you to all the parents, families and friends who supported them. The money will be used to continue improving our library stock.



World Book Day

This term we have had all KS3 students into the library for a World Book Day Quiz which triggered lots of discussion about books. We will be continuing with library lessons for all students next term. Author visit – Abi Elphinstone
We took a group of year 7 and 8 students to Whitchurch Primary School to meet the author Abi Elphinstone. Abi talked about the exploits which have inspired her magical adventure stories, and hopefully inspired our students to write stories of their own. She also signed books and talked to the students afterwards.



Library Furniture

The Library is still evolving to provide the best possible place for students to study and increase their love of reading. Thanks to the generosity of the PTFA, we now have some new tables and extra shelving which is making a huge difference. We also have a superb display of book art from the Art Department.



Book Amnesty

A significant number of books (approx. £2500 worth) went missing from the school library last year before we had a permanent member of staff. If you come across any of these books in your house, please return them to school. There won't be any repercussions! Since November 2017, if your child has borrowed a book from the library and failed to return it, you will be charged for a replacement copy.

Thank you for continuing to support the school library. Reading for pleasure is proven to increase attainment in all academic areas, so your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Mrs E. Bates, Librarian

RE DEPARTMENT NEWS

A group of Year 8 students visited the Medina Mosque in Southampton on 5th February. The trip gave students an insight into the life a Muslim as they had the opportunity to spend valuable time with the Imam and observe the midday prayer.

A student said, "The Mosque trip was a wonderful experience. It was like living the life of a Muslim for a day. The day started with a talk from the Imam. We learnt about the Pillars. After that we ate and went to the local Halal shop".

Another student said, "The Mosque was interesting. A Muslim talked to us and answered our questions. We then watched some Muslims pray. The trip was very educational and fun".

We have a good affiliation with the Mosque and have visited many times, so we were pleased to be able to offer the opportunity once again and our students represented the school well. The trip would not have run as smoothly as it did without the help and support of Mrs Cole, Mrs Eagles and Mrs Hopkins, a special thank you goes to them for their help before and on the day. Thank you Year 8 too for your contributions.

Mrs Brooker
Head of RE

MIKEY SAUNDERS - SOUTHAMPTON FC SUCCESS

At the beginning of the year we were delighted to receive the fantastic news that one of our Year 11 students Mikey Saunders had been awarded a scholarship by Southampton Football Club to join the under 18 squad starting this Summer. This year out of 14 applicants, only 3 places were available, which was the lowest ever so it further highlighted the talent Mikey has for the sport.

During his time at Testbourne, Mikey has worked tirelessly to ensure he devotes equal time to ensuring he keeps up his studies, alongside his dream to play professionally. Mikey is a real credit to his own achievement and portrays a vital message to younger students of how important maintaining your focus on your academic achievement is alongside the hours of training.

On behalf of all the staff at Testbourne, a huge congratulations Mikey on your achievement.

Louise Jenkins,
Oak House Pastoral Support Assistant



STAFF LEAVING

Suzanne Jones - PSHE/RE teacher
Helen Eagles - RE teacher
Ann-Marie Mendes - Deputy Headteacher
Helen Grindley - English teacher

Helen Noble - Maths teacher
Hellen Rampton - TA
Jo Bennett - TA
Leigh-Ann Huntley - Welfare Assistant
Sarah McCann - HR Assistant

SCIENCE - INTRODUCTION

Dr Richard Wilson

Spring term saw Testbourne celebrating British Science Week with a number of exciting activities going on across the Science department. The whole of Year 7 designed and produced a rocket car to participate in the 'Race for the Line' STEM day, in collaboration with the ICT department.

The 'Race for the Line' day was part of a national STEM competition taking inspiration from the BLOODHOUND SSC project, which encouraged students to use their ingenuity to design the fastest possible model rocket car. Five of our Year 8 girls went on a STEM challenge day for Hampshire schools, hosted by AWE in Tadley. They represented Testbourne admirably, finishing up in 3rd place overall, with no assistance from the accompanying teachers. Years 8 to 11 participated in a 'demo day', where all students experienced an exciting or unusual practical experiment during their Science lessons.

The summer term will see our Year 11 students sitting their six Science examination papers, for either GCSE Combined Science, or GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. ELK Science revision sessions for Year 11 will continue to run every Tuesday after school between now and the exams. Revision materials such as specification checklists, equations to learn, the reactivity series and key chemical formulae, are available to download from the Testbourne website.

Dr Richard Wilson

Head of Science

Year 10 visit Science Live!

In January, 30 Year 10 students travelled to Oxford to attend a Science Live! conference.

They enjoyed 5 presentations from a variety of respected Scientists which included topics such as; Computer Science – predicting the future, IVF by Lord Robert Winston, The Strangeness of Ice, Evolution without Fossils and a talk from the AQA Chief Examiner who gave them top tips for their exams.

The students' behaviour was outstanding all day. They listened intently and asked questions. One of the key thinking points that the pupils were left with was: "Why does ice float in water? Does any other solid float in its own liquid?" Try a couple and see for yourself.

Teen Tech Award Update

With a deadline of the end of March, two groups of pupils are working hard to add the finishing touches to their Teen Tech Award entries. Both groups will then have an anxious wait to hear whether we have made it through to the next round.

Crest Awards

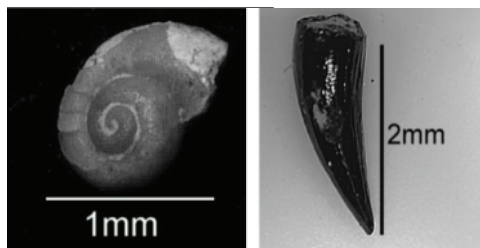
Congratulations to Emile Ivonciute and Holly Gilmour who have received their Bronze CREST awards for projects on 'Emotions' and 'Apollo 11 – The Greatest Hoax in History?' respectively.

Mrs Romain

SCIENCE CLUB

Science club have recently been doing a project on Palaeontology. They have been sieving and examining samples of rock and clay from Dorset's Jurassic coast. They broke up the samples using acid and sieved the residue. The sieved samples were then viewed with microscopes to see if they could find any microfossils. They then used their finds to discuss and try and interpret what it would have been like living in Dorset at the end of the Jurassic period (approximately 152 million years ago). The students had a lot of success, finding tiny fossil snails and crustaceans, as well as tiny fish teeth, crocodile teeth and larger bits of turtle shell. One of the samples we examined was full of fossils; some of the fossils were of creatures only found in freshwater, leading them to conclude it was laid down a bit inland, maybe in a lake, or lagoon. The sample from directly above it had fewer fossils and were mainly of marine animals, suggesting a sea level rise, and maybe prehistoric global warming. The students are now working on writing up and recording their findings before starting their next challenging project. They have discussed what they would like to do next, and the most popular idea at the moment is to build a remotely operated submarine!

Mr Ayling

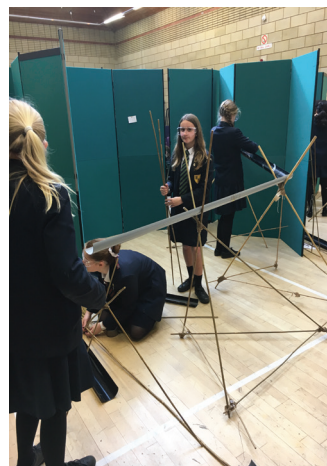


A Jurassic
freshwater snail
Valvata helicoides

A Jurassic
freshwater snail
Valvata helicoides

Year 8 at AWE Girls in Engineering Challenge Day

On Thursday 8th March, 5 Year 8 girls were invited to Tadley to take part in the AWE Girls in Engineering Challenge Day. With a top prize of £500 for the winning school there was a lot to play for.



The girls (Jasmine Peacock, Juliette Rivans, Maddie Walters, Lucy Routledge and Ffion Timmins) had to overcome three challenges and points were awarded for the final product, their planning sheets and completing a mental mathematics sheet.

The challenges were: building the slowest marble run; the tallest weight bearing tower; and making the slowest parachute for an egg.

They did themselves and Testbourne proud coming third in the competition only 3 points behind the winning team.

The day also involved talks from some apprentices at AWE – they offer apprenticeships at all levels - straight from school to degrees in a wide range of disciplines. For more information simply type 'AWE apprenticeships' into a search engine.



RACE FOR THE LINE

Year 7 have been taking part in the Race for the Line Challenge.

This is a project with links to the Bloodhound car which is hoping to break the 1000mph land speed record.

They have been working hard this week in teams of 4 to produce the most aerodynamic car possible from a standard shaped piece of foam. The pupils had to work within strict parameters to ensure that the rocket engine would fit correctly.

Pupils were able to add modifications, such as fins and spoilers, but if they fell off they would be disqualified.

Three Rocketeers from RAF Odiham visited school on Tuesday 20th March and during their Science lessons Year 7 were able to watch their rocket propelled cars be set off and their speeds measured using accurate light gates.

The noise and sparks from the rockets when launched were amazing and led to an exciting display with pupils hoping their car would be the fastest.

The winning car was made by Team Bush Campers from the T-band side of the year which had a winning time of 61.2ms – the equivalent of 36mph. It was a very close competition with the slowest rocket car having a speed of 96.7ms.

The winners will now travel to RAF Odiham on Tuesday 16th April to take part in the Regional Finals. We wish them luck with this and who knows they may even make it to the National Finals in June.

Congratulations Year 7!

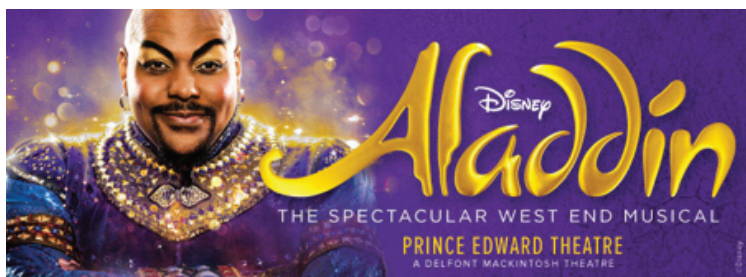


MUSIC NEWS

Magical Carpet Ride

Year 7 students were treated to a magical carpet ride when they had the opportunity to visit London's West End to see 'Aladdin' the musical. The trip was so popular that we filled it and more the day after offering it out to students. Fortunately we managed to arrange a second trip to ensure that everyone got the opportunity to see the musical.

The show was very well received by Year 7 students who have been studying Aladdin as well as other musicals within their music classes. The show is based on the animated Disney version and had all the toe-tapping classic songs including 'Friend Like Me' and 'A Whole New World' written by Alan Menken but with the glitz and glamour of the West End stage. The scenery was breath-taking with an impressive cave of gold and treasures, mind-blowing special effects including a flying carpet that used drones which created a huge talking point. All this as well as all the lavish costumes made this an impressive show. The genie was hilarious and definitely stole the show for us.



www.facebook.co.uk/TestbourneMusic

Andover Young Musician Competition

On Thursday 8th February, two of our most talented musicians competed in the Young Andover Musician of the Year.

They were up against other musicians from local secondary schools in and around Andover such as Harrow Way, Winton Academy and John Hanson schools. The competition was held at St. Mary's Church and was kindly sponsored by the Rotary club and other local organisations. Laura Leigh was runner up in the classical category with a stylistic and expressive performance of a Chopin Nocturne, and Eddie George came first in the 'popular' category with a performance of an original composition. They both received cash prizes of £50 and £100 respectively to help them aid their future studies in music.

Congratulations to both students!

Mr Lester

DRAMA NEWS

Keep Calm and Carry On

Despite the faulty heating, the Year 11 showcase of scripted performances were well received from the appreciative (and wrapped up) audience. This was their last chance to practise before their exam the following day and all the students performed really well (as they did for the actual exam). A great deal of hard work and effort really paid off!

Mr Carrington



DANCE SHOWCASE

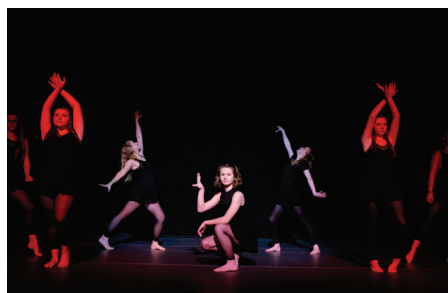
On Wednesday 17th January 2018, BTEC, GCSE and KS3 dance students at Testbourne School made a great start to 2018 by performing a range of dances as part of their Dance Showcase.

The purpose of the showcase was to give Year 11 BTEC students the opportunity to perform their exam work as well as all students to gain valuable experience of performing in front of a paying audience. The Year 11 groups choreographed their own pieces based on the choreographer Bob Fosse, who is well known for his unique jazz style in films such as Chicago. The Year 9 GCSE Dance students performed two dance pieces based on professional dance works they have been studying as part of their course. One piece was a vibrant production based on carnivals and samba parades. In contrast the other was a mature and emotional piece based on the 2005 London bombings. Year 10 students showcased their contemporary dance skills in a strong and powerful piece which was an amalgamation of what they have learnt in their lessons. As well as group pieces, there were also lovely solo performances: Megan Silverwood performed a beautiful Ballet solo, Darci Butler performed a passionate lyrical contemporary solo, Josie Owen gave a strong contemporary solo, and Katie Bilton blew us away with an Irish solo!



The students worked extremely hard to put on the dance showcase through extra rehearsals and full commitment in every single one of their lessons. It was a very successful evening, and for me as the Dance Teacher here at Testbourne it makes me tremendously proud of the talent and dedication we have here.

Miss Parry



Photos by Jon Ball www.solidimagery.co.uk

YEAR 6 MFL LANGUAGE TASTER DAY at Testbourne

Testbourne MFL Department was delighted to welcome 95 Year 6 pupils from three of our feeder primary schools for a Language Taster Day recently.

The pupils had the opportunity to learn a little culture and language in three sessions provided by Testbourne teachers and teachers from the primary schools.

The pupils worked in groups with children from other primary schools where they were able to make new friends and learn how to work with others in a team.

The activities on offer were Greek numbers and maths with Mr Anastasios Michalakis, from Testbourne; Russian alphabet and “code breaking” with Mr David Jones from Testbourne; and German food tasting with Mrs Grit Robinson from St Mary Bourne Primary School.

Everybody worked really well all day and made many positive comments in their evaluations. "It was really fun and I learnt a lot. I really enjoyed the Greek maths and finding my name in Russian and Greek. It was nice to see a bit of what it will be like when I come in September" – Asha Hails, Longparish Primary School. "MFL Day at Testbourne rocks" – Millie Hunter, Overton Primary School. "I'd say it was amazing ... you should go to this fantastic school. The teachers are really nice!" – Ali Sefton, Overton Primary School. "It was amazing and fun learning different languages and about food from Germany" – Maisie Annals St Mary Bourne Primary School.

I don't know if the free food on offer had anything to do with it, but the German session seemed to be the most popular overall! ... Do Gummi Bears really count as food?

A huge thank you to all the Year 6s, their accompanying teachers and helpers, and to the teachers who provided workshops.

David Jones
Head of Modern Languages



MITYANA 2019

TCS is pleased to announce that TCS will be visiting its partner school in Mityana in October half term 2019.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students and members of the community to be involved in a rewarding and meaningful cultural experience.

This is such an important time for our communities in Uganda and the UK as the uncertainties caused by the impending Ugandan elections in 2020 mean that the exchange programme will have to be re-evaluated after the 2019 visit.

Further details will follow in due course.



NON-UNIFORM DAY AT TCS

Non-uniform day for Sports Relief was a particular success. We would like to thank students, parents and carers for ensuring that although students had the flexibility to choose not to wear their uniform they were still dressed appropriately for school and were reliable in making their donations.

Year 11 students had a netball match against staff at lunchtime for the same cause and also generous donations have been made.

We raised
£889
for Sports
Relief

PE NEWS

GIRLS' BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Hosted by Rookwood School on Wednesday 24th January, Testbourne girls competed in the annual Andover Schools Basketball Tournament. Separated into exclusive year 7 and 8 teams the girls played games against Rookwood, Winton and Harrow Way.

Despite their lack of experience and opportunity to practice together as a team the girls demonstrated enthusiasm and determination and equipped themselves very well against their more experienced opponents, gaining valuable court time and developing their understanding of the rules and tactics as well as improving in their ability to pass and shoot. Well done to all involved.

YEAR 7 & 8 GIRLS' RUGBY FESTIVAL

Tuesday 6th February saw the second of the rugby festivals organised for this age group, hosted by Basingstoke Rugby Football Club. With the format being very similar to previous festivals, the girls were divided into groups and combined with other schools to receive some expert coaching from both the coaches from the England Rugby School Programme and Basingstoke Rugby Club, before competing against the other schools in a tournament for the second half of the afternoon.

Alongside some strong individual performances from some of our more experienced players, such as Carla Doel, **Ffion Timmins and Lucy Routledge**, I was very impressed with the development of Lottie McIver, who is now playing regularly for her club and demonstrated not only an improvement in her knowledge and understanding of the game but also a new confidence in her ability as a player and she was able to demonstrate impressive leadership skills both on the pitch and during the team talks.

A special mention must also go to Amanda Donovan from year 7, who encouraged by her teammates put in a fearless performance, which resulted in Amanda being voted players' player by her team, and won herself an England Rugby Shirt as a reward. This team have a very exciting future in rugby and I can't wait to witness their future achievements.

Team: Izzy Gent, Carla Doel, Charlotte Varn-dell, Jodie Buckner, Lucy Burd, Lottie McIver, Leonie McGann, Ffion Timmins, Erynn Jones, Lucy Routledge, Ruth Barber, Amanda Donovan

YEAR 9 & 10 GIRLS' RUGBY FESTIVAL

The same event for the older age group, again hosted by Basingstoke, took place on Tuesday 20th February. Lead from the front by Captain Jena Hodges and with a equally strong performance from Carys Graham, the team logged an impressive winning score line against all teams they played against. With some of our usual players unable to **attend**, we were able to take some less experienced, but nonetheless super enthusiastic, players with us and I was impressed with their commitment in the contact situation. Sophie Pym and Rebecca Cristofaro showed some fearless tackling, while Michaela Appleton and Sophie Meyrick dazzled us with their fancy footwork. Solid performances too, from our regulars, Tanwen Hails, Vicky Goldsmith and Amy Lloyd who ran in a number of tries between them as well as teaming up well with the others to create an impenetrable defensive line.

A thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding, not to mention fun, afternoon for all involved, with the prospect of some of these girls joining a club to further develop their passion for, and understanding of, the game! A massive well done to all involved!

Our twitter feed is @TestbournePE,
our website is www.testbourne.hants.sch.uk>
News and Activites> Sports News

BOYS' FOOTBALL

YEAR 7

- 27th Feb: lost 3-1 v Test Valley
- 6th Mar: drew 2-2 v Harrow Way

YEAR 8

- 1st Mar: game v Test Valley postponed (snow)

YEAR 9

- 8th Mar: won 3-0 v Test Valley

There are more games coming up in the weeks before Easter – please check the PE notice-board carefully.

GIRLS' NETBALL

YEAR 7

- 7th Mar: lost 18-6 v Rookwood
- 21st Feb: won 5-1 v Winton
- 7th Feb: won 15-8 v Wellington

YEAR 8

- 7th Mar: won 14-7 v Rookwood
- 21st Feb: won 17-7 v Winton
- 7th Feb: lost 15-7 v Wellington

NETBALL ROUND-UP

The year 7 and 8 Netball season is drawing to a close with just one match left to play.

The year 7 team have had wins against Winton (5-1) and a huge win against Wellington (15-8) with some fantastic shooting from Ella Barron and Issy Daborn. They drew against Rookwood school (4-4) and have lost to Test Valley and The Clere.

Year 8's with some fantastic shooting from Layla Mountjoy and Imogen Allison have had wins against Test Valley (11-5), Winton (17-7) and Rookwood (14-7) but lost out to strong sides from Wellington and The Clere.

Thanks to all the girls who attend training on a regular basis and special thanks to Sports Captains Olivia Picton and Molly Wateridge for their help at practices.

Mrs Vallance

NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CONTACTING US

We are fortunate that the vast majority of our parents and carers are extremely courteous and helpful when contacting us to express concerns. Our supportive families have been a tremendous selling point when trying to recruit staff in what is a very challenging environment. There are a small minority, however, for which this is not the case. We have a duty to safeguard staff and look after their wellbeing. With this in mind, we have launched a new Code of Conduct for contacting the school. The Code of Conduct is nothing that would not be expected in any mutually respectful and professional environment and will not need concern most of our parents. For reference, however, it can be found on our website. A new complaints procedure will follow in May when Governors have approved it. We greatly appreciate your co-operation and support as it helps us to assist you as efficiently as possible.

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity

Mr Jon Beck BSc (Hons), NPQH. Headteacher, Testbourne Community School

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