

UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH

# THE TCS Tribune

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity



Issue #21 - Spring 2024



## Testbourne Community School

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity



Dear valued Parents, Carers, and members of the community,

Welcome to the 21st 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.

The usual business of the Spring term has been tempered by the increasing daylight hours and the better weather. I think the whole school community benefits from the arrival of Springtime.

One of the key events this term has been the final mock exams for the Year 11 cohort. It is extremely pleasing to see the huge amounts of progress they have made in such a short time. I am sure with continued effort and persistence they will be very proud of their achievements in the final exams next term.

At the beginning of March, parents and carers find out which school they've been allocated for September. Once again, we are oversubscribed, so have agreed to take more than our admission number to save some families from the stress and worry of waiting

for the school place they want. We will still retain a waiting list but, given that there are fewer children in catchment than our admission number, this is a fine testament of the quality of education provided by Testbourne Community School and the wonderful body of students and dedicated staff we have the privilege to have with us.

The term has been full of curricular and extracurricular experiences for our children as always. I've been inspired by the students' cooking in Food Technology, amazed by some of the products in Engineering and Design Technology, have enjoyed looking at some of the artwork in Art and Photography and have revelled in our sporting triumphs and tribulations. I have also managed to get around the school to talk to our students and look at their work in more academic subjects, being completely lost in areas such as Computer Science where children seem to be programming like they have been doing it all their lives. As usual, I and other visitors of the school have been nothing short of extremely impressed with how our students talk about their learning and the quality of their work.

In addition to the usual sporting fixtures, tournaments and GCSE coursework field studies, students have had many opportunities this term. In January, we had an incredibly successful and enjoyable trip to Berlin for our Year 11 students. We also had visits to the Poetry Live competition, the First Lego League Challenge, visits to the Houses of Parliament, an Indoor Cricket Festival, the Design Museum in London, a Rotary Challenge, an Enterprise and Careers fair and a trip for the Year 7 Girls Rugby players to play on the hallowed turf of Twickenham. We have also run a "Dragon's Den" experience and have performed at The Lights theatre in Andover for the Shakespeare Schools Festival. You will be able to read more about all of these and more in this edition of the Tribune. We need to thank all the staff who volunteer their time without pay to make these things happen.

As you know, each half term I write Headteacher recognition letters for two children nominated in each year group for being fantastic examples of the Testbourne Standards of Excellence. With every whole term, I host a small tea party for those in receipt of the letters. This is always a great pleasure and gives me opportunity to focus on children who are very representative of Testbourne students: polite, kind, thoughtful, resilient and hard working.

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

### Autumn 2

- Sam Blackham
- Amber Ball
- Aoife Fuller
- Sam Hunt
- Robyn Hadfield
- Shane van Duren
- Oleksandr German
- Sophia Rowland
- Sam Cruickshank
- Angel Cao

### Spring 1

- Pitsinee Boonleam
- Louie Casey-Brown
- Eleanor Fowles
- Gregory Bull
- Jessica Baker
- Daniel Tegg
- Evie Clarke
- Aly Jarman
- Isla Gray
- Sam Cruickshank

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

- Week 1:** Owen Bishop, Anna Campbell, Austin Cass, Jhuliana Catu, Jack Foster, Robyn Hadfield, Noah Johnson, Devesh Kumar, Emmy Smith, and Mia Watts-Hyde.
- Week 2:** Shea Batchelor, Emily Buckley, Peter Charlton, Alicia Conduct, Millie Green, Francis Harding, Blanka Mzyk, Lucien Twyman, Samuel Wigmore, and Tristan Williams.
- Week 3:** Alfie Bennett, Harry Brown, Ellen Cavanagh, Floyd Collins, Becca Corpe, Bo Dowling, Miko Knapinski, Florence Parfey, Dylan Peacock, and Delilah Poynter.
- Week 4:** Ploy Boonleam, Gregory Bull, Sam Cruickshank, Ore Dagunduro, Freddie Freeman, Hannah Howell, Jasmine Owen, Gabriella Rugila, Vlad Rusmanica, and Bihela Sapumanage.
- Week 5:** Elias Acott, Harry Barlow, Oscar Barton, Agatha Dayman, Freya Dillow, Travis Eckett, Lily Ellis, Anna Glover, Luke Sanderson, and Holly Williams.
- Week 6:** William Allaker, Caidan Clash, Aga Di Giusto, Leo Evans, Mila Howell, Sonny Joyce, Leila Mansbridge, Lilly-Mae Trodd, Reuben Warren, and Emily Webb.
- Week 7:** Miles Cronin, William Fairhurst, Jessica Farrand, Amelia Filmer, Jacob Goodchild, Bernice Goodridge, Harry Hageman, Nico Quiroga, Grace Smeeton, and Alice Wu.
- Week 8:** Rosa Bishop, Libby Ford, Ralphie Godden, Daniel Jarman, Archie John-Smith, Lucas Judge, Caitlin Phillips, Arthur Warne, and Milda Zoromskyte.
- Week 9:** Belle Alderman, Braedon Ashford, Juhi Bunge, Charley Gale, Ronnie Godden, Chelsea Gredzena, Milo Hopkinson, Samuel Hunt, Emily Moore, and Alfie Newman.
- Week 10:** Jasmine Addison, Daisy Ashley, Amber Ball, Tom Cady, Edith Lymbery, Julian May, Daniel Smith, Lyra Stickland, Lucien Twyman, and Oakley Williams.

All that remains is for me to wish you a very Happy Easter. We look forward to seeing your children in the Summer term.

Best wishes,  
Mr Jon Beck, Headteacher



## Berlin Trip 2024

Testbourne's recent History trip to Berlin provided students with an enriching blend of history, culture, and introspection. Led by our dedicated educators, they embarked on a journey through Germany's past, visiting iconic landmarks such as the Brandenburg Gate and the Berlin Wall Memorial. These sites served as poignant reminders of the nation's division and eventual reunification, sparking discussions about the importance of acceptance and empathy.

The students also explored significant sites like the Reichstag, where pivotal moments such as the passage of the Enabling Act unfolded. They also visited the former site of the Nazi book burning, now a solemn memorial, prompting contemplation on the enduring value of intellectual freedom. However, the most profound impact came from their visit to Sachsenhausen, a harrowing reminder of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust.

The trip culminated at the Memorial to the Holocaust, where the students paid tribute to the millions of lives lost. Surrounded by concrete blocks symbolizing each victim, they reflected on the dangers of extremism and the necessity of safeguarding human rights.

Overall, it was a very impactful trip, filled with history and discussions on how we can learn from it. It has left us with much food for thought for our lessons back at Testbourne!



# Lego League Challenge 2024

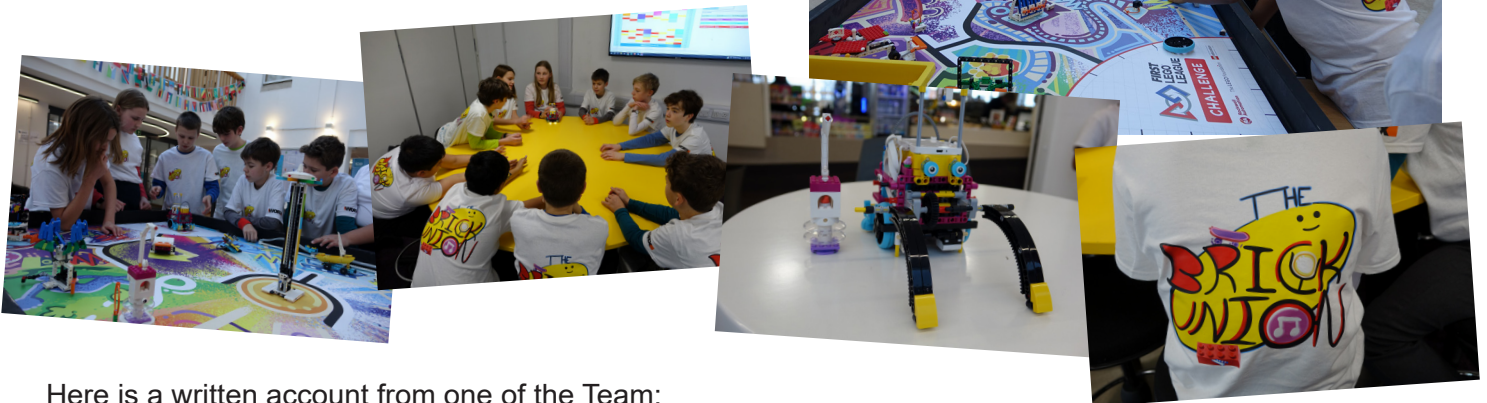
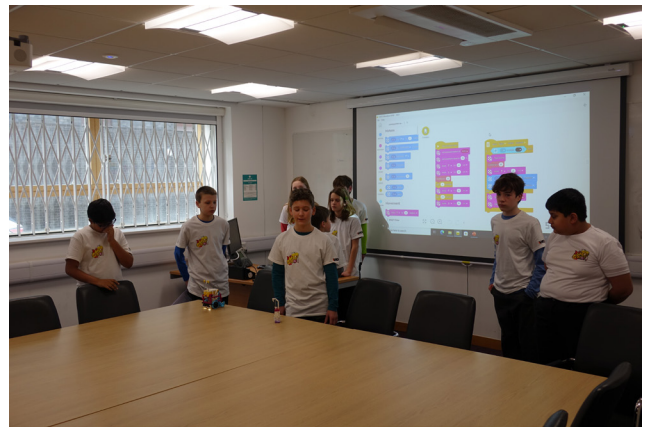
A team of ten students took part in the First Lego League (FLL) Challenge, which culminated in a regional tournament at the University of Portsmouth.

The challenge involved the students designing, building and programming a Lego robot to carry out various missions. In addition, the team had to complete an innovation project to answer the question, 'How can you use technology and the arts to help engage others or increase participation in what you love to do?' The team did this by producing a short film showcasing their hobbies, which included various technical elements such as the use of black & white footage, music, transitions and graphics.

Eight schools took part in the tournament, going head-to-head in three robot mission games. The team then had to present their project to a panel of judges who then quizzed them on the design and build of their robot.

During the closing ceremony the team were presented with the Core Values Award, which is testament to how well they worked as a team and conducted themselves during the challenge; well done!

A shoutout goes to Worx for sponsoring and printing our Testbourne Lego League's "The Brick Union" team shirts. They were very well received; well done to Harrison B for creating the logo!



Here is a written account from one of the Team:

*On Wednesday 24 January, we took the minibus to the University of Portsmouth for the First Lego League competition. We had spent weeks diving into the challenge of designing, building, and programming a Lego robot for various missions like pulling levers or placing Lego people in specific places on the board. It was hard, but we tackled it head-on, facing competition from other local schools. Alongside the robot challenge, we had to also present a PowerPoint presentation that showcased our creative process, and we also made a video that demonstrated our hobbies.*

*The tournament was amazing! We threw ourselves into the robot mission games and presented our project with enthusiasm. And guess what? The judges loved it! Our efforts paid off big time when we were awarded the Core Values trophy during the closing ceremony. It was a great moment, recognising not just our technical skills but also our exceptional teamwork. The day was filled with excitement!*

# Testbourne's Hot Chocolate Fridays

We are pleased to say that our 'Hot Chocolate Friday' event has been going from strength to strength – albeit in the face of recent issues with the machine which have necessitated it being 'Fruit Juice Friday'! This has not diminished the value that is placed on recognising our students' learning successes. Every week, two students from each year group are nominated for demonstrating exceptional effort in their learning. This means that they have gone above and beyond in how they have modelled our Testbourne Standards of Excellence – Ambitious Learning, Honesty and Integrity, Kindness and Respect, and Leadership.



Each Friday this group of students meets with two members of the Senior Leadership Team to celebrate. For us, this also provides an excellent opportunity to meet students that we may not always have the chance to see regularly, and to find out a little more about them and how they are finding life at school. We are always looking for ways to keep this event fresh and different, and our students are brilliant with their feedback. Look out for a weekly social media post and photos!





## Shakespeare Schools Festival

After a successful rehearsal period in which the students worked really hard, Testbourne's Year 9 pupils recently spent a day at 'The Lights' theatre in Andover performing their show for the Shakespeare Schools Festival. After the tech and dress rehearsals in the afternoon, they performed 'Much Ado About Nothing' to an appreciative audience in the evening. The students looked amazing in their steampunk costumes, and the co-ordinator made some very positive comments about the performance. She also mentioned how well they had looked after the Year 6 students who were also performing that evening and which the our students had taken under their wing.



It was a lovely end to a very rewarding day. All the students should be very proud of their efforts and how they represented the School.





## DofE Bronze Award - Celebration & Update

A record proportion of the 31 Testbourne students who started the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme in 2023 completed their Bronze Award and were awarded certificates on Tuesday 12th March.

Huge congratulations go to the 29 students who successfully made it through two expeditions in the New Forest, and to the 26 who have since completed their Physical, Skill and Volunteering activities in order to gain their Bronze Award. 90% of those who took part in the expeditions persevered to achieve their Award, which is a fantastic completion rate.



Students, parents and other family members gathered to hear tales of the walks, expeditions and other activities that make up the Bronze DofE Award, and to see photos from the 2023 DofE programme. They also admired a video made by Team Razzamatazz, which Testbourne's DofE group is now using to help promote the Bronze Award.

Well done to all the following who were presented with their Bronze Award certificate and badge by Councillor Mark Bishop, Deputy Mayor of Whitchurch, who is also a Testbourne parent:

**Jazz A, Dan B, Zoe B, Freddie B, Tom C, Declan C, Thomas C, Finley C, Leo E, Evie F, Charley G, Eve H, Archie L, Edith L, Dylan M, Eddie N, Connie O, Millie R, Ruby R, Finlay R, Esme R, Lucy S, Daniel S, Emme T, Peter T and Cara W.**

Many thanks to Councillor Bishop for coming along to celebrate with us and a heartfelt thank you to the 2023 DofE leader team – Dr Wilson, Caroline Orange, Andy Key and Tony Reid - and all those who support the DofE Award at Testbourne. This includes Dr Hall who is our Award Verifier, Dave Holmes who was an expedition assessor last year for us, and numerous school staff, parents and members of the community who act as assessors for the students' Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections. Thank you very much everyone.





Additionally, 54 Year 10's began their Duke of Edinburgh's Award journey back in November and have been busy ever since working towards their Bronze Awards.

This term they have completed two muddy day hikes and a First Aid day, as well as some Tuesday evening training sessions.

During the First Aid training, they learned a whole range of skills including how to do CPR, put patients into the recovery position, deal with severe bleeds and use EpiPens. They also learned about sprains and strains, insect bites, blisters, and how to recognise symptoms of hypothermia and heatstroke. Hopefully the DofE teams will now be better prepared for any emergencies they might come across, and be able to reduce the likelihood of more common expedition issues such as blisters and tick bites.



Thanks to lots of new parent volunteers working with the DofE teams this year, we hope to take the biggest Testbourne group ever on expedition. A huge thanks to all our DofE leaders for making it all happen.



### Are you connected with organisations that can provide volunteering opportunities for students?

All students taking part in their Bronze DofE Award need to spend at least three months volunteering for at least one hour per week. Lots of Testbourne parents already help with this by providing opportunities in organisations in which they are involved, but sometimes it's difficult for students to access these. If any of you are involved with any conservation or community groups, sports clubs, youth organisations such as Cubs or Rainbows, charity or community shops, or any other voluntary organisations that regularly need volunteers and can take Year 10's (aged 14-15), please do get in touch. If you are available to help, please email [s.nottingham@testbourne.school](mailto:s.nottingham@testbourne.school).

- Mrs Nottingham, DofE Award Manager

## Year 11 Mock Exams Results Morning

In March, Year 11 completed their second round of mock exams in preparation for the summer. Students had a taste of the real exam experience, developing their familiarity with the exam rules and regulations, with our excellent team of invigilators on hand to help students complete their mocks successfully. On Thursday 21st March, Year 11 had a mock results day, where they were able to collect an envelope with their mock results, predicted grade, and attitude for learning. This was a great experience for students, as they could experience what it will be like to get their exam results in the August and find out whether they have achieved the grades they need for their post-16 study choices.



To help prepare for the summer exams, subject teachers have run Enhanced Learning & Knowledge (ELK) sessions during each week of the Spring term. Over 75% of Year 11 students have attended ELK sessions, revisiting key information and concepts to help them become more confident for their final exams. For students who opted for practical subjects, the spring term has seen them working hard to complete their coursework so it can be marked and moderated in ahead of the deadlines for final submission to the exam boards.

Well done to all our Year 11's for the hard work they have put into their studies – it was brilliant to see lots of smiling students on mock results day. We wish our Year 11's the 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 and have free access to GCSEpod revision videos by logging in with their school Microsoft account.



## TCS Mental Wellbeing Department Update

Thank you to everyone who joined us in commemorating Children's Mental Health Week, which took place from February 5th to 11th, under the theme 'My Voice Matters'. Your participation and collective effort truly made a difference in raising awareness and fostering dialogue around mental wellbeing.

A special shoutout must go to all who contributed to our Dress to Express non-school uniform day and generously donated £1! Your support not only helped raise vital funds but also served as a visible reminder of our commitment to prioritizing mental health within our school community.



This year's theme, My Voice Matters, encouraged us to reflect on the power of our voices in advocating for mental health awareness and support. As part of our activities throughout the week, each tutor group engaged in meaningful discussions, reflecting on what it means to use our voices to uplift and support others. From standing up for others to speaking out against injustice, our students demonstrated a profound understanding of the impact of their words and actions.

The CAMHS PACE event, which took place on Monday, March 11th, offered a valuable opportunity for parents, carers, and professionals to come together and explore various aspects of young people's emotional health and wellbeing. Attendees had the chance to participate in specialist workshops covering topics such as Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Tourette's Syndrome, supporting autistic children, and more. Additionally, information stands from local and national organizations provided valuable resources and support. It was a fulfilling event that equipped participants with knowledge and strategies to better support the mental health needs of young people in our community.

## Rainbow Accessory Day

On Friday, 23rd February, Testbourne Community School was awash with vibrant colours as students and staff wore their rainbow-themed accessories alongside their school uniforms. From colourful hats to funky socks, everyone came together to show their support for this important cause.

We want to extend a massive thank you to everyone who participated, donated, and helped make Rainbow Accessory Day such a resounding success. Your enthusiasm and commitment to equality inspire us all, and we're incredibly proud to be part of such a supportive and inclusive community. A special shoutout goes to our Equality and Diversity student group who worked hard to raise the profile of key national and international events across Testbourne.



Let's continue to celebrate our differences and strive for a world where everyone is valued and respected. Together, we can make a difference!

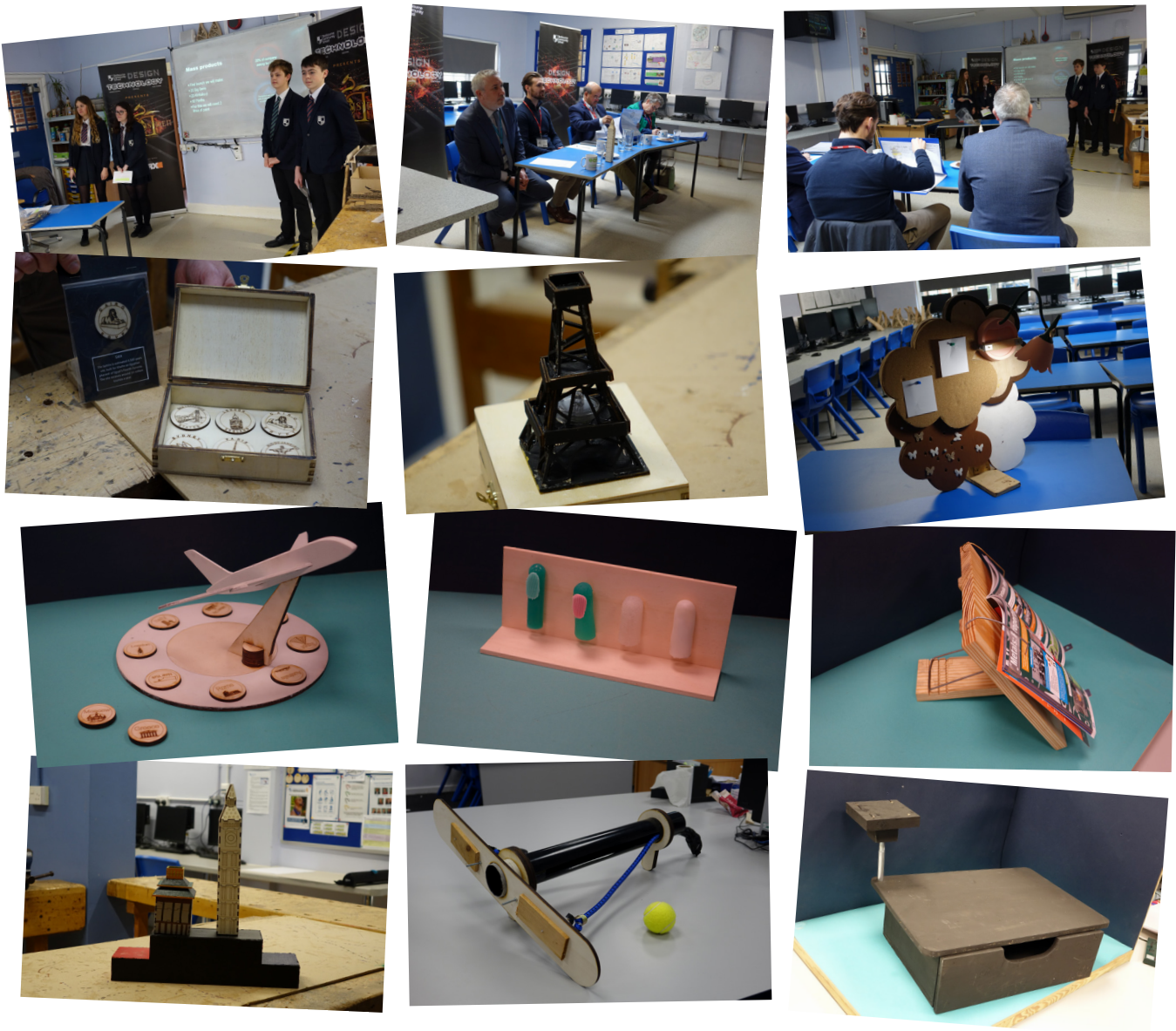
# Design Technology GCSE - Dragon's Den

For the past two months, Design Technology GCSE students have been diligently crafting their projects, drawing inspiration from the structure of GCSE coursework to ready themselves for the upcoming exams in June. The themes the students explored were Caring for Animals, Travel Souvenirs, and Working from home.



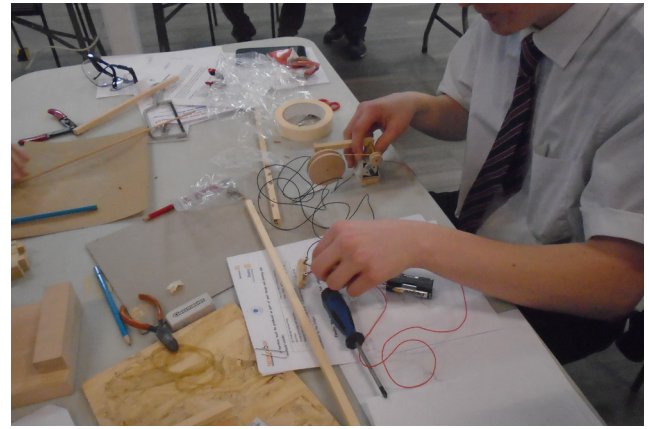
With valuable support from Nikki Yates from Andover College in finding external experts (thank you, Nikki!), our students were able to face a 'Dragons' panel comprising Victor Becerra from Portsmouth University, Helen Perry from Andover College, graphics and product designer Danny Kirkpatrick, and our very own Mr Wingfield – Testbourne's Business Manager. After watching the students' presentations, the Dragons delved into the proposals and assessed if they hypothetically wanted to invest in their ventures. They scored each presentation, product, and folio out of 10, as well as giving informative feedback for each category.

Their insights meant the world to our students; it was an amazing experience for them! Thank you to all our 'Dragons' for your support, and well done to all our participating DT students!



## STEM BCot Visit

On Thursday 14th March, eight Year 10 students took part in the annual Rotary STEM competition at Basingstoke College of Technology. Students had to solve the challenge of delivering supplies from one end of a cable bridge to the other. Students were given a range of materials to help them, including a motor, battery, and spar wood, as well as methods of fixing the parts together. Students also had to produce a range of technical drawings and a design portfolio. Teamwork, communication, and technical skills were all vital in the successful completion of the challenge. Students worked in teams of four and all were able to contribute to realising their final solution.



The competition was judged by a team of engineers and STEM ambassadors from industry. The mayor of Basingstoke was in attendance and part of the award ceremony. Testbourne's teams came both 2nd and 3rd in their category and all that took part fully enjoyed the experience, coming away with a greater understanding of STEM and the role it plays in shaping our future.



## Year 10 Sparsholt College Visit

Year 10 were invited to the Enterprise Higher Education and Apprenticeship Fair at Sparsholt in March; all the year group were able to mingle and chat to potential employers and had an opportunity to ask questions about their future options and careers. There was a wealth of stands, including representatives from the police, RAF, AWE, and different Universities: this was a great experience for our students, and they all enjoyed being able to consider what their next steps will be after TCS!



## English Trip - Houses of Parliament

Recently, a TCS Year 8 English class had a school trip to the Houses of Parliament! They were toured around the iconic buildings many rooms, amazed by its historic architecture. They also had a very engaging Debating Workshop where they practised how to express and argue their thoughts and views. The highlight of the day came when their local MP, Kit Malthouse, stopped by to chat and answer their questions about politics. All in all, it was a wonderful day!



## English Trip - GCSE Poetry Live

'Poetry Live!' is a touring study-conference arranged in concert with the exam boards. Authors of some of the set poetry texts perform readings of their work, with the aim of bringing the poems alive off the page and helping students to explore modern poetry. This year, Testbourne students were offered the chance to join hundreds of pupils from other schools at the conference at Oxford's New Theatre.

Poets such as the Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, Imtiaz Dharker, and the legendary John Agard performed many of their poems. They also introduced students to new poems they had not studied before and talked about the context and connection they felt to their poetry. There were also talks from GCSE examiners, who explained common misconceptions and mistakes that many students make, and how students can improve their critical writing about poetry.



## 'The Play That Goes Wrong' Theatre Trip

Our Drama GCSE Year 11 students recently embarked on a journey to London's Duchess Theatre to witness the award-winning comedy, 'The Play that Goes Wrong.'

Attending a live performance is needed for their GCSE course, and the students thoroughly enjoyed this madcap farce with its humour and well-crafted chaos. They were thoroughly entertained by the comedic performances and expertly timed mishaps throughout the show, making it a memorable and enjoyable experience for all.



## Geography Trip - Southampton

The Year 10 GCSE Geographers wrapped up warm and visited the Cultural Quarter in Southampton in January to complete some very chilly fieldwork! The students were looking to see if regeneration in the Cultural Quarter has had a positive impact on the locality.

Students prepared for the trip by reading news articles about the regeneration and annotating old photographs of the area. Once in Southampton, they completed environmental quality surveys and took photographs. This data was then analysed back in the classroom. If you know a Year 10 geographer, ask them if they accepted or rejected the hypothesis! Well done Year 10 for all your hard work!



## News from the Library

Our library has been busier than ever this term, with Key Stage 3 literacy classes giving students the chance to explore the wide range of books available to them, and the library continues to be used as a very popular space during social times. New displays of books have included titles to support Children's Mental Health week in February, and an exciting array of dragon-related fiction to highlight the Lunar New Year.

World Book Day was marked by students creating book cover designs for their favourite reads, bringing their personal touch to literary classics and contemporary titles. Don't forget that the Sora app is free and gives access to e-books, audio books and magazines, and is available throughout the Easter holiday.



If you are spring cleaning and come across any "lost" library books in your child's bedroom, please ensure that they are returned to school as soon as possible. There is currently a large number of overdue books that other students are waiting to read.

# PE and Other Sporting News

## Football Girls Y9 & 10

Our Year 9 and 10 girls formed a team and took part in the U16 Girls' six-a-side tournament on the 6th February which was hosted here at Testbourne. They played very well and finished in 2nd place overall: well done on a super team effort!

### Match Results:

- Testbourne v John Hansen 2: 1 - 0 win
- Testbourne v Harrow Way: 2 - 0 loss
- Testbourne v Wellington: 2-1 win
- Testbourne v Test Valley 2: 4 - 0 win
- Testbourne v Test Valley 1: 4 - 1 win
- Testbourne v Wellington 1: 0 - 0 draw
- Testbourne v Winton: 1 - 0 win
- Testbourne v John Hansen 1: 1 - 1 Draw



## Netball - Year 7

### Match Results:

- Testbourne 4-9 Harrow Way
- Testbourne 4-8 The Clere
- Testbourne 13-2 Wellington
- Testbourne 4-11 Rookwood
- Testbourne 5-10 John Hanson

Thank you to all the girls for being so committed to training before Christmas and also this term with matches too. They really have developed their match play well over the last few months.



## Netball - Year 8

There was a really good turn-out in the build-up to the league starting, so we have been able to field two teams, one in the league and one playing friendlies. This arrangement has helped to build the girls' confidence in match play.

### Match Results:

- Testbourne 14-1 John Hanson C
- Testbourne 24-4 Rookwood
- Testbourne 10-1 Winton
- Testbourne 17-3 Harrow Way

The Year 8 A team have won all their games and finished at the top of Division 2 and will therefore be promoted to Division 1 next year. Well done girls.

We are grateful for the girls' commitment since we started training last September. Because they play together so regularly now, they have really improved in all aspects of their game. We are excited to see what happens in Year 9.





## Rugby Boys - Year 7 & 8

The Year 7 and Year 8 rugby teams had a great season that saw returning players and brand-new players joining the club, with some of them getting their first experience of competitive rugby.

Year 7 opened the season with a fixture with Harrow Way (away). In an exciting encounter where the lead fluctuated between the two teams throughout, it was only fitting that the match finished with six tries apiece. Oscar W was a force throughout, Issac G ran with real purpose, and Noah R at scrum half and Will R at fly half provided the structure which enabled Testbourne to score some excellent team tries. Special mention needs to go to Dylan R for his last-ditch tackle and James M who ran very straight and very powerfully.



The Year 7's participated in a ten-a-side tournament hosted at John Hanson. They finished in second place with wins over Winton and Harrow Way, and a loss to a massive John Hanson team. Oscar W again led from the front, backed up by Noah R at scrum half and Will R. Issac G and Tomos C ran hard and straight, but star of the show was the twinkle-toed Oscar McG who looked every inch the dazzling outside half of the great Welsh teams of the 1970s!

We also had a combined Year 7 & 8 game against Harrow Way, which was hosted at Testbourne with some great rugby from both teams. This was epitomised by captain Morgan M, who showed great levels in both attack and defence. This game was won by Testbourne with eight tries to three.



The season culminated in the Sevens tournaments hosted at Andover Rugby Club. Both Year 7 and Year 8 entered a team. The Year 7's grew into the tournament and were undefeated in their last three games (against John Hanson 2's, Harrow Way and Winton), but unfortunately they had lost their first two games to John Hanson 1's and Wellington. Noah R showed blistering pace and great decision making at crucial times in games; well done!

The Year 8's won this competition last year undefeated, and this year they matched that result again going undefeated! They won 4-3 against John Hanson 1's, Wellington, and Harrow Way; most impressively, they were run-away 6-1 winners against John Hanson 2's. Again great credit should be given to the whole team, but a standout performance came from Dallas H on his first experience of this event, with some great tackling and a number of tries. Well done again!



Unfortunately, we may not have played quite as many times as we would have wanted to due to weather and cancellations, but we look forward to welcoming the boys back in 2025 to hopefully get back to our full fixture list.

## Rugby Boys - Year 9 & 10

We have had a very stop start season with the Year 9's and 10's with a few showing a lot of commitment to training but not necessarily having enough for full size games. It was great, therefore, that we got to enter the Rugby Sevens competition at Andover, alongside the TCS Year 7's and 8's. Some of the Year 9's had to play up in the Year 10 team, so great credit must be given to these students: Ollie and Thomas R, Quentin B, and Ben C.



We started against Wellington from Tidworth, who had some huge players; TCS took the ball into contact too often and could not out-muscle the giants from Wellington. On the one occasion we did manage to wrest the ball from them, Quentin B scampered away to score our try. Next up came red-hot favourites John Hanson; again, we struggled against much larger boys who were also much more skilful. Ollie and Tom R tackled manfully, punching well above their weight, but again we carried the ball into contact too often and were not strong enough to hang on to it.

Our final game was against Winton: finally, we managed to move the ball away from the bigger boys. Alfie S kicked astutely, turning defence into attack, and Will H ran powerfully and used his speed and foot work to good effect in scoring a fine individual try, allowing us to emerge victorious. The outstanding performer was Ashley P, who tackled well above his weight and was a real force both with and without the ball. Ashley also scored tries, winning this correspondent's vote for MVP of the tournament.

The final standings were:

- 1st – John Hanson
- 2nd – Wellington
- 3rd – Testbourne
- 4th – Winton

## Rugby Girls U12 - Trip to Twickenham

Our PE department were thrilled to learn that we were nominated by Basingstoke Rugby Club to attend a girls' 'Love Rugby' event funded by the RFU last Thursday. We were nominated for demonstrating the RFU Core Values, engaging with a local rugby club, and for our hard work in developing the girls' game. We were able to take twelve Year 7 pupils who were selected on the basis of their attendance at our weekly Girls' Rugby club. The event consisted of a development festival at Richmond Athletic Ground in the morning, followed by a girls' showcase event inside Twickenham Stadium on the pitch in the afternoon. There were thirty schools taking part in the event which saw 400 young girls



playing rugby! It was an amazing day: the girls really developed their confidence and contact skills, and there were lots of tries scored! The girls also had an opportunity to meet and put questions to Amber Reed, a Red Rose who has 67 caps for England. All in all, it was a very special day where lifelong memories were made.

## District Cross Country at Testbourne Year 7 and 8

Testbourne hosted the District Cross Country Competition back in January. The picture shows the Year 7 Girls' squad just before they ran; they weren't looking quite so pristine when they finished! The weather was mixed, with spells of rain and sun; the ground was muddy in parts, but all students worked hard and tried their best on the hilly course. There were four individual races, and Testbourne had a few runners who finished in top ten spots!



Year 7 Girls: Sophia M finished in 2nd place, Emily G in 8th and Grace S came 10th.

Year 7 Boys: Leo OB finished in 9th place, Noah D in 15th and Oscar B in 17th.

Year 8 Girls: Celeste V won the race and was supported by Lily G in 3rd place, while Alaia WM also finished in a very respectable 7th place.

Year 8 Boys: Archie B finished 1st followed by Harry P in 15th place and Ifan S in the 21st spot.

Well done to all!

## January Senior Cross Country

Ollie G, Celeste V and Archie B all represented Andover in the senior competition earlier this year. Archie was competing against many of his club-mates and finished strongly in 6th place. Celeste looked relaxed and comfortable all the way around and finished in 19th. Both students were running against athletes who were a year older than them and so they will get the opportunity to run in this competition again next year. This race was the first district event that Ollie had competed in; he remained focussed and showed excellent resilience and should be proud of his achievement. It was great to be able to be there on the day to support all three students.



On the 5th March, eight students from Testbourne took part in the Hampshire Schools Cross-Country Championships at Down Grange. It was a sunny day, but the conditions of the course were very tough, with the amount of mud leading to very slippery conditions. Testbourne finishers included the following Year 7 students: Emily G who finished in 57th, Sophia M in 79th and Grace S in 90th. Unfortunately, Leo OB was unwell on the day and was unable to run. Hopefully he will have another opportunity next year. In the Year 8 race, Archie B finished in 3rd place, Celeste V 10th, Lily G 102nd, and Alaia WM 105th. Well done to you all!



Finally, massive congratulations must go to Archie who was selected to represent Hampshire in the English Schools Athletics Championships in Pontefract. He had a fantastic weekend and enjoyed his first experience representing Hampshire. This is a massive achievement for a Year 8 student; well done Archie, we are very proud of you!

## Upcoming National BMX Races

We are excited to have recently found out that James M races BMX at a very high level. He is currently ranked No.2 in the country, 19th in the World, and recently came 7th in a European Cup round in France! We wish James the best of luck for his upcoming National races, taking place in the summer term in the North of England.



## Overton U13s Rugby Team

Overton U13's rugby team won the Hampshire Shield in a closely-fought match away from home against US Portsmouth. They all played incredibly well and we are especially proud of the thirteen members of the Overton squad who are TCS Year 8 students.



## Year 8 Girls Activators

After participating in the live launch on the 16th of January, this group of Year 8 pupils have committed to complete the Girls' Football 'Game On' programme sponsored by the FA.

Every other week they take part in a workshop delivered at Testbourne, designed to develop their skills in coaching, and marketing their own brand. They have learnt how to plan a coaching session and even designed a TCS Girls' Football logo to use to market an upcoming event.

They hope to invite approximately fifty girls in Year 5 to enjoy an afternoon of football with us. For completing the workshops, they will all receive a certificate and some FA-funded Go Lead clothing.



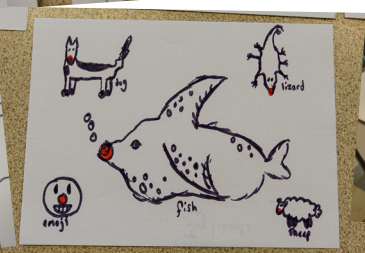
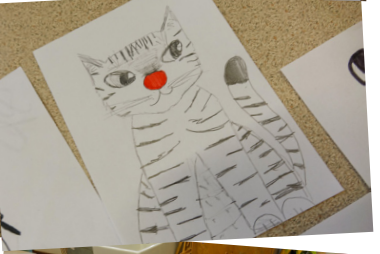
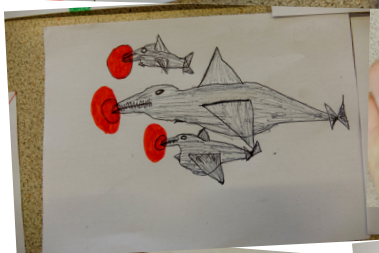
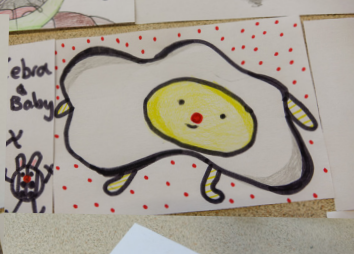
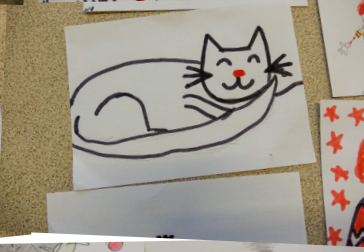
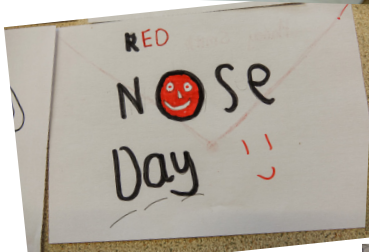
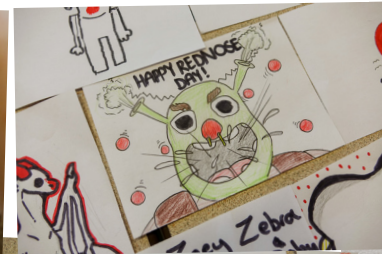






# Red Nose Day in the Art Department

On Friday 15th March it was Red Nose Day. RND is important as it raises awareness, funds, and community engagement to tackle poverty and improve the lives of children and families in need. TCS's Art Department used their starter activities, inspired by celebrating Red Nose Day to create characters with red noses, adding an extra touch of creativity and fun to the cause!



# Testbourne Community School



[www.testbourne.school](http://www.testbourne.school)



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