



## Issue #13 - Summer 2021



Welcome to the 13th edition of the TCS Tribune. This is our termly newsletter, dedicated to sharing the activities of the students and staff in our wonderful school and wider community.

As I write this, I am reflecting on the fact that, for the fourth time in a row, I am producing an introduction to the Tribune in very testing times. The term has certainly had challenges, but it has been fantastic to see the successes in the classroom and beyond. This edition of the Tribune gives you a chance to share in the pride we have for our students and staff.

During this term, we have had some lovely messages of support from parents, and these have been fantastic for raising spirits. These extracts capture the general sentiment:

"It has been an incredibly difficult year for everyone and frustrating that we can't go about our lives in the way we are used to. Throughout these times everyone at the school has done their best to maintain a safe place for the kids to learn and offer support to all the students. You should all be proud of what you have managed to achieve."

"I wanted to drop you a message to share my family's appreciation and gratitude for your handling of the extraordinary circumstances you have had to face this year, due to Covid. Your communications have been informative, reassuring, and honest. You have adapted to the ever-changing requirements put upon you; switching to online learning in a heartbeat and checking in on the wellbeing of our children."

"You and all your staff have done a first-rate job throughout this whole pandemic and I am extremely grateful."

I feel that the school has been as resilient as anyone could hope for during this term. And by the school, I mean the whole school: its staff, students and our parents and carers who have been, with very few exceptions, patient, supportive and understanding. I am very proud to be the headteacher of such an exceptional school community.

We always welcome your feedback so please keep it coming.

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

Best wishes,

Mr Jon Beck, Headteacher



# Kids Karting Fun

## Hosted by Trackstars

TCS Sports Hall - Ages 4-11 - 13th August - 10am - 2pm

TrackStars provide a thrilling time for boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 11. Karts are battery powered, have a variable speed control managed by the operator, remote switch off - just in case - and they are contained within an inflatable track providing protection for the karters and spectators.

- Purpose built commercial vehicles – not toys, unlike other imitations
- Indoor or outdoor depending on weather
- Fully supervised by CRB Enhanced operators
- Medals & Trophies
- Mini Grand Prix
- Presentation for all attending children



**£25 PER CHILD FOR THE WHOLE DAY**

Online bookings via [testbourne.schoolhire.co.uk](http://testbourne.schoolhire.co.uk)



Supporting the event is Juggling Jake! Jake provides a short show and then teaches the children a few of the props, including plate spinning, juggling and the diablo! The children get to have supervised free time on all of it. It really is a truly interactive, fun, learning experience for all involved.

Testbourne Community School

# Modular Bulidings

Preliminary works began on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to set up the site compound in order for the main works to start in earnest on the 26<sup>th</sup> July. There has been a lot of preparation to do by the school, including the decanting of six classrooms and several offices. These areas needed to be totally cleared out ready for Phase 1 of the re-cladding and internal reconfiguration.

During each phase, classrooms will be relocated to three modular double classrooms that have been installed on the school field for the duration of the project. It is a logistical challenge but we are pleased to say the first movement of classrooms happened with minimal disruption to teaching and learning.



The SCOLA project is due to be completed by August 2022.

# New Bus Bay

After some unforeseen delays, Testbourne buses are now using the new The Mill Springs bus bay, located just behind our 3G Pitch with school only a short walk up the path. The new bay, provided by the developers of the estate, will ease congestion at the front of the building and the Micheldever Road junction, which in turn will make it safer to walk or cycle to the local schools.



# Head of Year 7, Ms Jenkins' Welcome

Hello Year 6 and welcome to Testbourne.

I know that unfortunately I have not had the chance to meet many of you in person yet, as sadly we could not run our Transition Day. However, I am very excited at the prospect of meeting many of you during our summer transition week.

I hope you enjoyed meeting your tutors in our meet-and-greet and that those of you in 7-4 enjoyed the video Mr Juddery sent to you.

Hopefully the meet-and-greets we have offered, and the information packs we have sent home, have answered many of your questions around starting with us. However, if you still have questions please do not worry as there is plenty of time, either during the summer transition week or on our first day, for your tutor or myself to answer these for you.

Moving to a new school always brings change but we will give you all the support and help we can to ensure you settle well with us. Remember that though changing school may bring differences, there will also be many aspects which are familiar.

I wish you all a wonderful summer. I look forward to meeting each one of you, and being your Head of Year from September.

Take care, Ms Jenkins



## Denim for Dementia Day

On Friday 14th May, Testbourne took part in "Denim for Dementia Day".

Dementia has touched so many of the lives of Testbourne students, staff, and the wider community. We wanted to support the Alzheimer's Society to "Unite Against Dementia."

To fundraise, students and staff were encouraged to wear denim for the cause. There were also extra optional competitions to take part in, including the "Wear the Most Denim" competition in each year group. There was a wonderful atmosphere in the school with so much double (and even some triple denim!) everywhere.

Testbourne Community School raised an amazing £1,035.60 on the day! I would really like to take this opportunity to say a massive well done and an enormous thank you everyone who supported this incredible charity.

Unfortunately, this year, we could not hold a "Cupcake Day" cake sale and competition due to Covid restrictions but we hope to include "Walk for Dementia" and "Cupcake Day" to our "Denim Day" next year – watch this space!

TCS has played a little part in helping the Alzheimer's Society take on dementia and put a stop to it, in any way they can! With our continued help we hope that it is possible to one day win the battle against dementia.

Michele Horner



# TCS Transition Week

We are excited to announce that, during the week of 23<sup>rd</sup> August, more than 75% of our incoming Year 7 students will join us for a fun-filled week of activities. One positive that has come from the pandemic is the government's offer of funding for the specific purpose of providing a summer school programme, focusing on transition. Although a week of activities cannot make up for more than a year of disruption and periods of school closure, our aim is for students to experience the following:



- Development of social skills such as team building, leadership skills and communication.
- Experience of practical subjects that would not have been possible during school closure.
- Development of problem-solving skills through activity challenges.
- Building a community with fellow students and TCS staff.

The week will commence with a rotation of eight interactive and practical sessions, delivered by our TCS teachers. Students will have the opportunity to engage with a practical science experiment, make a useful object in design technology, and hone their performance skills in music and drama. Students will also have two Maths and two English sessions to support with any gaps in knowledge.

The second half of the week will be facilitated by WiseUP, an activity provider, and will see our Sports Field turned into an outdoors activity centre! On Wednesday, students will experience The Hub Challenge, which is a series of team-building and problem solving activities, designed to get students working together and engaged with outdoor learning. On Thursday and Friday, students will try their hand at some bushcraft activities, archery and an assault course.

It has been disappointing that our usual transition activities, such as Open Mornings and Transition Day, have not been able to go ahead this year due to national restrictions. We are, therefore, really excited to have the opportunity to meet so many of our incoming students during the summer before they join us in September.

If you have any queries regarding transition, please email [transition@testbourne.school](mailto:transition@testbourne.school) at any time.

Mrs E. Sudds, Head of School

## Music at QMC

On the 21<sup>st</sup> June, two Year 9 students visited Queen Mary's College in Basingstoke to take part in a Basingstoke Schools Arts initiative. The project involved rehearsing and then performing a cover version of the song, 'Rather Be' in the recording studios of the Music Department at the college. Each school/college from the area had specific lines to rehearse and record, with the choruses multi tracked and recorded by all vocalists.

The students found it to be an enjoyable experience and it was wonderful to be able to make music with others.



# Year 11 Leavers Assembly / Shirt Signing

Friday 4th June provided us with the opportunity to say a fond farewell to our Year 11 students at our Leavers' Assembly 2021.

This was a very enjoyable ceremony with all students receiving a certificate of graduation and some prestigious awards. Below is a list of our award winners; congratulations to them all.

- » Headteacher Award: **Ben Wingham**
- » Head of School Award: **James Littley**
- » Head of Year Award: **Charlie Reynolds**
- » Governors Award (Community Award): **Tom Lamb**
- » Deputy Headteacher Award (Mr Hall): **Grace Roche**
- » Assistant Headteacher Award (Mrs MacAulay): **Jasmine Peacock**
- » Assistant Headteacher Award (Mrs Gray): **Lillie Roper**
- » Assistant Headteacher Award (Mr Wilson): **Emma Cornelius**



The event provided an opportunity for a final farewell after a challenging exam period during which the Year 11 students all conducted themselves exceedingly professionally. We wish them good luck in moving forward and their future endeavours, as well as encouraging them to keep close all the memories they have made whilst at Testbourne.



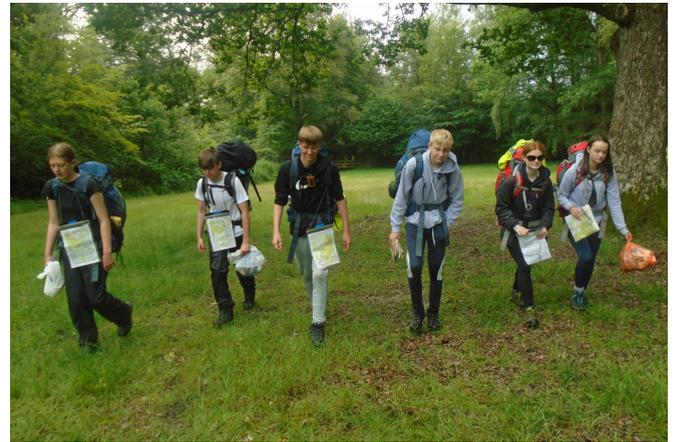
After the Assembly, the good weather held and the anticipated shirt and book signing took place in the sunshine. Students were delighted to see we had a barbeque, prepared by our canteen staff, and a hired ice cream van that also had flavoured ice slushies. The positive atmosphere was overwhelming and the afternoon was full of emotion, laughs and goodbyes. It has been an honour for many of our staff members to watch these students grow into young adults.

Overall, they have been a brilliant year group and we have enjoyed getting to know them over the years. They have consistently demonstrated our school learning qualities of respect, integrity, courage in learning, ambition, responsibility, diligence and leadership. We wish them all the very best in their future.



# Duke of Edinburgh Award

Testbourne's DofE group were out in the New Forest for a weekend at the end of June, completing their training expedition and returning with tales of fierce ponies and cows encountered, deep swamps that had to be waded or avoided, and times when they were a little lost! A great weekend was had by all, including a wonderful evening and night at Ferny Crofts campsite, with marvellous meals cooked on camp stoves, games, and lots of chat of their time spent walking in the forest.



The DofE group meets every Tuesday evening from January to September, with the aim of supporting students in Year 10 (going into Year 11) to complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Award involves students completing four sections of activity – Volunteering, Skills, Physical and Expedition.

This year's group have done an amazing job of persevering despite the January to March lockdown (when we had to meet online instead of in person), and the recent disruption with some students needing to self-isolate. From the students who signed up back in December 2020, we have a core group of 31 Year 10s who are doing well and completing sections of their Award. We look forward to their assessed expedition in September which will involve two days of walking and an overnight camp, with the teams being independent and leading themselves through any obstacles and challenges along the way. Well done to all students involved, and a huge thank you to the wonderful volunteer leaders who give up so much time to support the students with their DofE Awards.



Moreover, a huge congratulations must go to the Year 11s who took part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award during their Year 10 and the start of Year 11. They coped fantastically well with lockdowns, the cancellation of meetings and activities, and with changes to how we could run the DofE Award. Of 30 students who originally signed up, 22 persevered through the six months of lockdown and took part in the assessed expedition in October. They also continued with their other DofE activities including volunteering in their local area in roles from sports coaching to working with youth organisations and charity shops. So far, 13 students have completed their Bronze Award entirely and will receive their certificates and badges on Results Day. Well done to Ffion, Gabbie, Daniel, Lydia, Harrison, Lucy, Will, Evie, Anushka, Jasper, Poppy, Louisa, and Catrin. Along the way the students learned outdoor skills including map reading and campcraft, and developed leadership and teamwork skills. Well done to all!



# Hampshire Book Awards

This has been a strange year in the library, so it was a great joy to be able to have a "sort-of-normal" judging event for the Hampshire Book Awards in June.

Our team of eleven Year 8 judges had diligently read the six shortlisted titles and gathered on the judging day in the school library, ready to discuss the books and try to persuade the rest of the panel to vote for their favourite.

Once the votes had been cast, we joined schools across Hampshire online to do a book-themed quiz and watched the live count-down to announce the winner. Congratulations to Daven McQueen, author of the winning title: 'The Invincible Summer of Juniper Jones'. We look forward to an author event with her later this year.



# Amelia Gray Triple Jump Champion

Testbourne has our first ever English Schools Triple Jump champion!! Amelia Gray won the English Schools intermediate girls' Triple Jump in Manchester on Saturday 10th July. She jumped an amazing 11m 99cm, which ranks her 2nd in the UK. She has now been asked to represent England at a competition in September.

Amelia trained very hard all through the winter even when times were hard and lonely due to Covid but must be super proud that it has all paid off for her.

Well done Amelia.

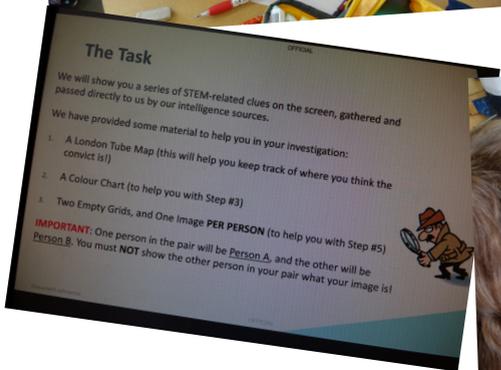
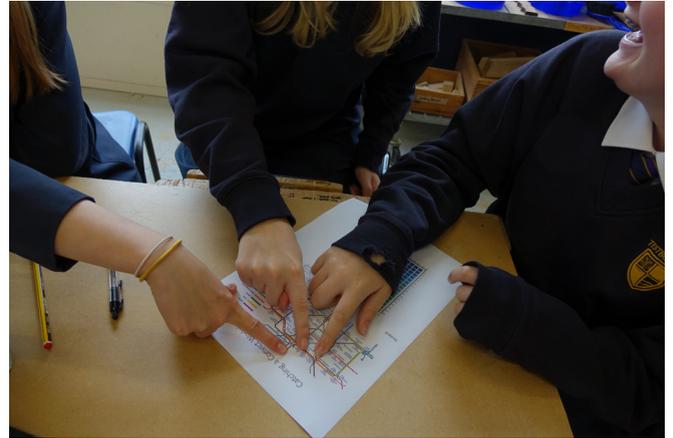


# STEM Day

Testbourne STEM students attended EBP South's Inspiring STEM Fair Schools virtual event, during which they took part in activities such as the 'Imagination and Creativity Challenge', 'Guess My Job & Panel', watched experiments, and problem-solved.

The event aimed to engage young people with STEM businesses within their local area, enable young people to recognise local STEM businesses they could work for, and help young people engage in STEM subjects in school.

*"For the STEM challenge day we spoke with people who worked at AWE (Atomic Weapons Establishment) which works with the Ministry of Defence. The challenge was to design a robot that was able to collect samples that were contaminated with either Alpha, Beta, or Gamma radiation. We had to calculate the speed required as well as the best materials and how it would safely collect the samples. We then had to feedback our designs to the AWE STEM ambassadors. There was a Q&A session where we were able to find out about their qualifications, career paths and what they liked about their jobs. We then investigated flood prevention and learnt about the different methods used to stop flooding around the coast; the best method was using the 'wave return'. We investigated code breaking and finding solutions to hunt down a criminal using different clues. We were able to ask lots of questions about STEM and careers and learnt a lot about these different subjects."* - Mimi Painter



# Olympic Games Week

To celebrate the forthcoming summer Olympic Games, Years 7 & 8 took part in an inter-form competition based on Olympic and Paralympic activities. Students were trying to replicate the Olympic Values of excellence, friendship and teamwork in everything that they did on the day. In tutor groups they had to pick teams to take part in baseball, rugby 7s, boccia and seated volleyball. All students were excellent, especially in the sports where they had had no prior experience. Congratulations to 8-1 and 7-1 who took the gold medals in their respective tournaments.



## Rounders

Despite having to keep to bubbles, thus reducing after school practice time, we have had a very good turnout for Rounders Club. We have even managed a few fixtures against other schools!

The Year 7s had a match against Harrow Way and, for a first match, were totally fantastic: they beat Harrow Way 13-5.

Our Year 8s also played Harrow Way and lost in a tight game. 12-9 was the score but they didn't disgrace themselves and all their extra training at home helped.



The Year 10s have played Harrow Way and Test Valley, beating both schools. Half a rounder was the difference in a tight HW game, but they won by 7 against Test Valley.

Thank you to all the girls who have turned out for training and matches.

## Cricket Fixtures

Having had a turbulent term with some students not being available and fixtures having to be postponed due to isolations, it was a great pleasure to have the Year 7 & 8 teams playing against John Hanson in a friendly cricket match. Both teams fielded students who had never played a competitive cricket game before but they all showed amazing enthusiasm and determination to do the best they could.

Unfortunately, both teams lost in the end, but there were some stand-out performances from Daniel Silverwood in the Year 8 side and Luke Sanderson in the Year 7 team.



# Sports Day

Although we have had many challenges this year, it was brilliant to be able to hold Sports Days in the last week of term. Each year group took part in athletics events, some playground races (which were particularly entertaining), and a tug of war tournament. All the scores were added together to crown one ultimate Sports Day House as champion. With the winners only being decided by two points, Beech won the House Athletics Championship!



	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
1	Beech	1 Ash	1 Ash	1 Beech
2	Ash	2 Willow	2 Beech	2 Oak
3	Willow	3 Oak	3 Willow & Oak	3 Willow
4	Oak	4 Beech	4	4 Ash

The final result across the school are as follows:

**517**

**515**

**470**

**454**



In third place were Willow, and Oak took fourth place. Well done to everyone who showed great commitment and ambition to perform at their best in all of their events, even in the exceptionally hot weather.

Pictured are Jess and Zac who are the year 10 Prefects for Beech House.





# Hampshire County Athletics

## Years 9, 10 & 11

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June Hampshire held their County Athletics Championships at Portsmouth Athletics stadium. Testbourne had three students who were nominated to take part: Charlotte Vickers (Year 9 800m), Arran Topham (Year 11 Long Jump) and Amelia Gray (Year 11 Triple Jump).

The morning session was for Year 9 students; Charlotte practically ran out of her skin and finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place in a time of 2.24.1, a second ahead of second place. She led from the start and her focus and determination did not fade throughout the race.

Amelia and Arran performed in the afternoon. Unfortunately Arran struggled to time his take off and recorded three no jumps during this competition. However, I would like to say well done to Arran because during his five years at Testbourne he has represented our school at both District and County level in a number of events, including 100m, 200m and the Long Jump and should be incredibly proud of this.

After a long wait, Amelia had her opportunity to jump: her performance was 'outstanding', and not only did she finish in 1<sup>st</sup> place but she also gained a new personal best of 11m 97cm. Her jump was nearly 30cm more than the winner of the boys' event. As a result of this jump, Amelia was selected to represent Hampshire in the English school's competition which was held in July.



## Years 7 & 8



This year's championships were held at Southampton on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. Testbourne had a selection of athletes in both Year 7 and 8 who took part on the day.

The students included Year 7 Poppy Taylor, who won the girls 1000m in a time of 3 minutes 10 seconds; this was an exceptional performance by our Testbourne student. She was 7 seconds clear of the second-place runner and was only 3 seconds of the 'Overall Record' for this event: she is a very talented young lady.

Other Year 7 performers took part in the boys' events. Sam Davies and Aly Jarman ran in the 150m race, finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> place and 6<sup>th</sup> place respectively. Tom Smallridge finished in 9<sup>th</sup> place in the 600m. Ethan Burniston and Daniel Jarman finished in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> places in the 1000m event.

In the Year 8 events, Freya Hodgekiss finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place and Zoe Bishop finished in 7<sup>th</sup> in the girls' 100m, and Isaac Hodges finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in his 100m heat.

Dan Silverwood ran only his second 300m race and recorded a PB time of 45.5 seconds, taking 5<sup>th</sup> place, while Peter Thompson performed in the 1500m under the very hot sun and finished in 10<sup>th</sup> place.

One of the last field events of the day was the Year 8 boys' long jump. Participants included Testbourne's Ollie Spinks, who jumped 4m 28cm and finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place, and Jake Walker who jumped 3m 86cm and finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place.



All of the Testbourne students were a credit to the school, supporting each other in the individual events as well as cheering on the students from our other local schools; I was very proud to be their team manager at the event.





# Roller Disco

## Hosted by Disco Skate Club

TCS Sports Hall - All ages welcome - 30th July - 6pm - 9pm

Family roller disco hosted by Disco Skate Events. Suitable for ALL ages and abilities. Price includes skate and pad hire.



**£6 PER PERSON!**

Online bookings at: [go.testbourne.school/rollerdisco](https://go.testbourne.school/rollerdisco)

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# Learn to Skate

## Takes place before the Roller Disco

TCS Sports Hall - All ages welcome - 30th July - 4pm - 5pm

A great, fun introduction to roller skating. We will help you find your feet in no time! You will need to bring a sports top water bottle, a cycle helmet, and be ideally in shorts and t-shirt as skating uses around 600 calories per hour!



**£5 PER PERSON!**

**AND PAY ONLY £3 TO JOIN THE MAIN EVENT**

Online bookings at: [go.testbourne.school/rollerdisco](https://go.testbourne.school/rollerdisco)

# Year 11 Leavers Day



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