

A photograph of a group of young people at a social event, possibly a school dance or party. In the center, a young woman with curly hair and a blue top is looking upwards with an open mouth, appearing to be in conversation or reacting to something. To her left, another young woman with blonde hair is looking towards her. In the foreground, the back of a young woman's head with long brown hair is visible. In the background, a hand is raised, pointing upwards. The lighting is warm and slightly blurred, creating a candid, social atmosphere.

THE TCS Tribune

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity

Issue #19 - Summer 2023



Testbourne Community School

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity



Dear valued parents, carers and members of the community,

Welcome to the 19th edition of the TCS Tribune. This is our termly newsletter dedicated to sharing the activities of students and staff in our wonderful school with our wider community.

As usual, during this term, school has been busy for staff and students alike. We have had various trips and visits, a group of children successfully completing their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award expeditions, some students completing their Silver Award expeditions, a music showcase, lots of sports fixtures, some of our students and staff attending Hampshire and English Schools level events, and much more that you will be able to read about throughout this newsletter.

Summer term is always extremely busy and exciting. We had two days of Year 5 students in school at the end of June. The children had a wonderful time and the feedback was almost exclusively very positive. Many of the comments were about the wonderful group of Year 9 students that acted as chaperones, guides and provided reassuring counsel on each of the days. If you are a parent of one of the Year 9 students involved, you should be very proud. They were fine ambassadors for the school.

We welcomed Year 6 students on their new intake day during the first week of July. It was wonderful to see them all, our largest cohort ever, and to have an opportunity to chat to many of them at break and lunch. This year, we have 201 children joining us from more than 20 primary schools. This inevitably means there will be some children who are the only person from their primary school or perhaps one of a small group. I was particularly impressed by these students who were brave and kind enough to make new friends and just as impressed by those from the larger feeder schools who were so welcoming to the more isolated children. We also welcomed parents of Year 6 students for our new intake information evening. The evening was well attended and we hope that everyone went away with the information they needed.

I would like to thank dedicated members of our PTFA who attended the events to sell cake and drinks and second-hand uniform. The PTFA raise thousands of pounds each year to help buy equipment and facilities that would not otherwise be possible. Their most recent contribution is an impressive canopy for our playground that will provide shelter from the sun and rain for some of our students. If you think you could give some time to the PTFA, please get in touch using admin@testbourne.school. You too could be part of the fabulous team of parents that contribute so much to their school.

There have been many exciting events this term. A favourite of mine is the Prom. The Year 11 students were brilliant throughout their exams and their leavers' event, and this exceptional behaviour and conduct continued at the Prom. They looked incredibly glamorous as they arrived and it was lovely to chat to them in a slightly different context now that their time with us has come to an end. They had a fantastic evening and, in my experience at least, hold the record for being the most energetic and enthusiastic dancers. We look forward to seeing our Year 11 cohort on results day for ice creams, coffees and celebrations.

Another favourite event of mine is our annual Prize Giving held just before the end of term. I love the formality of the evening, welcoming students, staff and parents to the lovely Winchester Guildhall and having a fantastic event celebrating students who really embody our Testbourne Standards of Excellence. It was a wonderful evening.

Every 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. The students are always a delight to talk to and really brighten my day. This term's Headteacher recognition letter recipients for the first summer half term are listed below, along with all other recipients for the year:

Autumn 1

- Eden Larsen
- Ted Verney
- Benjamin Calvert
- Aimee Davis
- George Robinson
- Lily Ellis
- Grace Hitchcock
- Isaac Hodges
- Lucy Walters

Autumn 2

- Emily Piszton
- Oleksii Bilanov
- Ava Selwood
- Nathan Partridge
- Alfie Stickland
- Ruby Tatum
- Eva Kelly
- Michael Norman
- Tom Cady

Spring 1

- Devesh Kumar
- Lily-Joyce Betterton
- Fred Lomax
- Jaimi-Lea Bruckshaw
- Samuel Wigmore
- Saskia Burnett
- Angel Cao
- Oliver Tempest
- Ruby Lavender
- Rowan Phillips-Smith

Spring 2

- Francis Harding
- Ilona Khafizova
- Alfie McDonald
- Charlie Ball
- Molly-May Paddock
- Declan Cann
- Alexandra Rolfe
- Madi Noakes

Summer 1

- Morgan Mason
- Freya Berry
- Matilda Brown
- Oleksander German
- Henry Lloyd
- Ed Perceval
- Ava Hamilton

As always, I wish you and your families and friends well for the summer and hope that you get some quality time to spend with those you love. We look forward to welcoming the students back to school in September.

Best wishes,

Mr Jon Beck
Headteacher



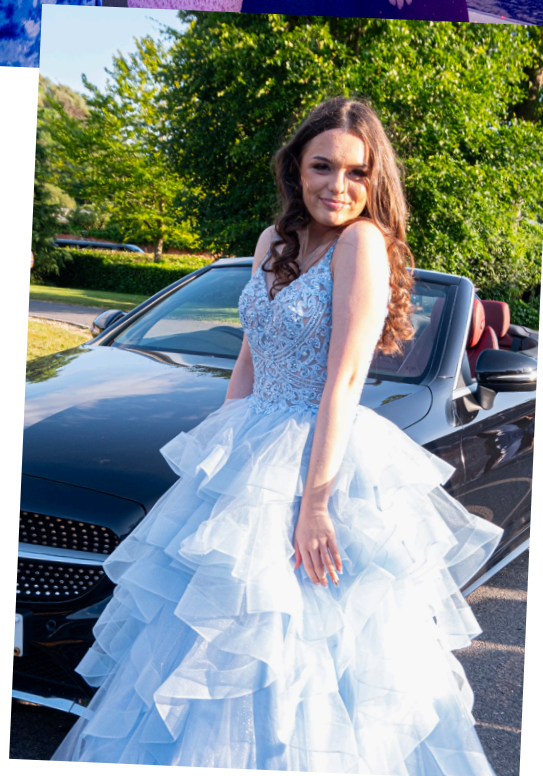
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Year 11 Prom 2023

The Year 11s arrived in style at their Prom at Norton Park Hotel in early July. We saw an array of different transport, including three tractors, a golf buggy, a pink limo and many sports cars! As always, it was lovely to see the students in their beautiful dresses and smart suits. They all had a fantastic evening and spent most of the night on the dance floor! Our best transport winners were Doug S and Jake F, whilst our Prom Royalty winners were Lottie H and Stephanie M. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the Class of 2023, and we will be excited to see them again in the summer for GCSE results day.





Prize Giving Evening 2023

Prize Giving is always a highlight in the TCS calendar, and this year was no exception. On the evening of Thursday 13th July, approximately 140 students received awards for their effort, achievement and for demonstrating the TCS Standards of Excellence. The stunning Guildhall in Winchester provided an inspiring venue for staff, governors, parents, carers and guests to celebrate the successes of our students.

We were treated to impressive performances from the TCS Choir of 'Try Everything' by Shakira and 'Best Day of My Life' by American Authors. These uplifting songs were a wonderful way to start each half of the ceremony.

The awards were presented by Mrs Jean Thorpe, County Education Manager – Secondary and Post-16, who gave a very positive and inspirational speech. We were also fortunate to have guests from the local businesses and organisations which kindly sponsor some of the awards. The citations read out by our Heads of Year served as fitting testaments to the wonderful students at TCS.

Prize Giving 2023 was a fantastic celebration of the effort and accomplishments our students have achieved throughout the year. Congratulations to all award winners!



Year 11 Leaving Assembly 2023

On Thursday 22nd June we were able to celebrate Year 11 students with a brilliant assembly and the customary shirt signing afterwards. The assembly was a chance to reflect on the past five years as well as looking forward to the opportunities that the future holds.

We took great pleasure in looking back at Year 7 photos to see the changes in students, but gave them the chance to get their own back with a farewell video from staff, showing many of us in our school years.

Mr Alderman sent a few words of advice for all our leavers moving forwards:

“Be brave and positive - cast your net wide. Be courageous about meeting people, and about having a go at something you haven’t done before.

Have big dreams and ambitions - school should have prepared you to be resilient and equipped you with the grit and determination to succeed and overcome the inevitable knock-backs along the way. It’s easy to feel defeated at times but view these moments as a challenge. Positivity attracts positivity – and positive people are generally great to be around.

Always be true to yourself - never try to be what you are not. This is a recipe for disappointment and unhappiness. Back yourself and be yourself.

You are at the start of a journey that is as yet undefined - grab that precious opportunity with both hands and be bold. Get the little things right: be on time, treat others kindly and work hard.”





DofE - Bogs and Blisters!

It was a busy term for the Bronze DofE group as they trained and took part in two expeditions. A walk over the Berkshire Downs at the end of April was followed by their two day training expedition in May. Both provided excellent opportunities for teams to learn how to work together. Carrying the heavy rucksacks proved challenging, but everyone had fun at Tom's Field campsite after some good map reading in and out of bogs! All went well, other than a few blisters and sore spots from carrying the rucksacks.



The training was vital preparation for the final assessed expedition in early July, when teams had to be more independent – planning menus, kit and routes to and from Foxlease, a campsite near Lyndhurst. The New Forest provides a stunning backdrop for our Bronze DofE expeditions, and teams walked 16-20 miles across it over the weekend. Along the way they saw deer, New Forest ponies and cattle, as well as snakes (safely in enclosures) at the Reptile Centre. Well done to all those that were successful on their final expedition, particularly as it was in the midst of their Year 10 mock exams. We look forward to seeing the students complete the other sections of their DofE Award so they can be presented with their Bronze Award during Year 11.

As ever, our gratitude goes to the amazing team of parent and community volunteer leaders and staff who give up their time to run the DofE group and give students the chance to take part. Thank you Mrs Nottingham, Dr Wilson, Caroline Orange, Andy Key and Tony Reid, and to Dave Holmes for returning as an assessor for the final expedition.

Any parents interested in volunteering and helping the DofE group next year should get in touch with Dr Wilson r.wilson@testbourne.school. If you have taken part in camping trips, DofE or expeditions in the past, and are a reasonably confident map reader, or would like to develop these skills, we'd love to hear from you!



Duke of Edinburgh Award - Bronze Successes

35 Year 11 students were presented with their Bronze DofE Awards on Wednesday 29th March, by Councillor Sharon Egan, Deputy Mayor of Whitchurch. An amazing achievement

Well done to Megan B, Amelie B, Millie B, Louisa B, Lorca C, Xander C, Emma D, Emily D, James D-B, Harry D, Chloe E, George G, Kayla H, Eva K, Lucy L, Gracie L, Josh L, Jenny M, Sienna M, Ben M, Madison N, Thomas O, Amelie O, Jack P, Iris R, Mor R, Daniel S, Toby S, Ahan S, Emily S, Poppy T-W, Isabella van L, Benjamin W and Alannah Y.



Huge congratulations go to them all, and to the other eight Year 11 students who took part in the expeditions. They were an amazing DofE group throughout 2022 and many students achieved more than they thought was possible!



DofE - Silver Award Student Report

Last weekend, Testbourne's first Silver Duke of Edinburgh group undertook the assessed Expedition section of the award, consisting of three days of walking and two nights camping across the beautiful South Downs. We were lucky (for the most part!) with the weather and had a brilliant time, with some stunning views at the top of the hills. To complete the rest of the award, we have to complete six months of Volunteering and then six or three months of either a Skill or a Physical activity. It has been a great experience which wouldn't have been possible without the help of Mrs Nottingham, Dr Wilson and Caroline – so a big thank you from us all; we are very grateful for the support and time you have given us!



Amelie, Emma, Madison, Thomas and Emily



Prolific Voyage - Sailing Trip

Fourteen Testbourne students and Head of MFL Miss Matthews spent an exciting four nights on board the sailing vessel *Prolific* during the Easter holidays. They had a dramatic time: very strong winds keeping them in Southampton on the first day, before a short trip to Cowes and then a challenging sail to Poole over very bumpy seas. They learned how to be resilient even if you are feeling truly awful! Better weather meant they had an easier sea and unforgettable time on the Saturday as they sailed back to the Solent. Games, learning about knots, navigation and steering, and taking part in the cooking and cleaning rota kept them all very busy, but they also found time for relaxing on the bowsprit and partying to music on the deck!



Our huge thanks go to the Ocean Youth Trust South and the crew on board the *Prolific*; to Miss Matthews for going along; and to Mrs Nottingham and Dr Wilson for providing the minibus transport in the midst of the Easter holidays. Thanks also to the Baxter and Grimshaw Charitable Trust which helped to provide funding for some students who would not otherwise have been able to go. It was a fantastic trip, hugely rewarding and enjoyable for all, and we have booked provisional dates for another voyage on the *Prolific* in April 2024.





Layla: “Most of all I enjoyed going on the nets at the front of the boat and when we had music on and had a mini party.”

Olivia: “When the weather was good, the sights were amazing and we had the opportunity to sail at night too, 11pm to 1am, which was really great.”

Oleksii: “It was fun to sit on watch with your friend talking about chicken!”



Noabe: “My favourite part was the bit with all the massive waves, but it was also my worst bit as everyone was sick everywhere, and I had to witness it.”

David: “The trip was absolutely amazing - the most exciting and joyful experience I’ve ever had.”

Eleanor: “I personally learnt how to be more resilient and not give up if I can’t do something first time round. The only really bad thing about the trip is that it is all over. I loved every minute.”



Samuel: “We felt the ups and downs of sailing, and I really enjoyed putting up the sails looking out towards the sea.”

Lucas: “I would love to go back on board and do it all again!”

Eden Project - Trip to the Rainforest!

The Eden Project is an extraordinary attraction in Cornwall, designed to promote sustainability and environmental education. Its iconic biomes, housed in enormous geodesic domes, simulate different climates and contain diverse ecosystems. Testbourne students explored the rainforest biome with its lush vegetation and learned about the importance of rainforest conservation. The day trip aimed to inspire Year 9 students to appreciate nature, understand environmental challenges and perhaps contribute to a more sustainable future themselves. Below are accounts of the day in the words of two Year 9 students:



The trip to the Eden Project will be one to remember! Not only did it link to our topic on rainforests, it also introduced us to the wonderful ecosystems of the UK and Mediterranean. The learning centre at the heart of the site helped us to apply our knowledge to what we had learnt in class and introduced us to new areas of the topic as well. But the best part of the day had to be the visit to the tropical rainforest biome. It focused on different rainforests across the world, from South America to Africa, with a rainforest viewing platform 55 feet in the air! If anyone is wondering whether they should go to the Eden Project I would definitely advise them to go. Thank you, Testbourne, for this wonderful opportunity.

- Saskia B, Year 9

Our trip to Eden Project called for an early start and late end to our day, but it was certainly worth it. From beginning to end, it was an amazing experience! I loved learning about all the different biomes and the interesting plants, and though it was a very different environment to a classroom, I learned a lot from the trip. Even the outdoors areas, showing life in a similar climate to England and many European countries, were fun and interesting to explore. The rainforest was definitely my favourite though. Inside, the plants looked surreal, and the trees were unbelievably tall. There were a lot of great photo opportunities, and we even had a photo competition! The plants weren't the only impressive things ... the domes themselves looked amazing, and I took lots of pictures of them as well!

- Hannah H, Year 9

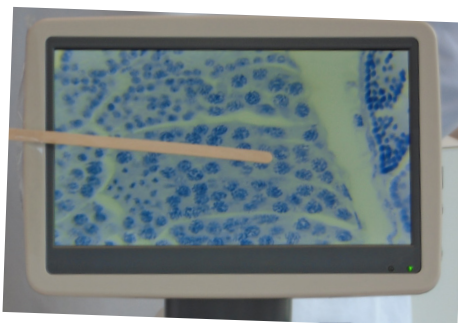


DNA Day at Baylab

On Thursday 4th May, thirty Year 10 students spent the day at the Baylab, a free laboratory for schools that is run as part of Bayer UK at their site in Reading. The day involved a series of workshops aimed at increasing their interest and knowledge about DNA and its marvellous mutations. The students were able to dazzle with their current knowledge of DNA and its components, before making their very own K'nex model of a section of DNA. They were also able to use a microscope to identify the stages of mitosis correctly.



After a break they carried out a controlled test to see who in the room had a mutation in their DNA that allows them to enjoy Brussels sprouts as they are unable to taste the chemical that makes them bitter – a great mutation to have at Christmas, but not so good when humans were foraging and needing to avoid potentially poisonous food! The final activity was to extract their own DNA. The students used enzymes to break down the nucleus and create cloud-like lumps of DNA which they then placed in a vial on a necklace to take home. It was a great day and gave the students a real insight into potential careers in science as well as covering key concepts required at GCSE.



Fieldtrip to the Beach - Hengistbury Head

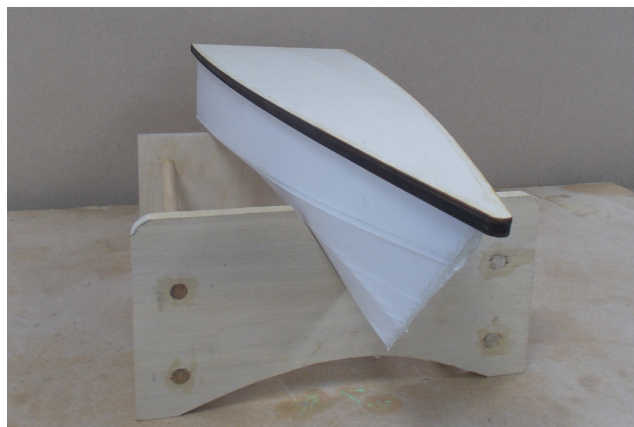
Year 10 GCSE geography students have been busy collecting fieldwork data this half term. Each class visited Hengistbury Head in Dorset towards the end of June to measure whether the groynes there are helping to control longshore drift, and to draw field sketches. The students have written up their fieldwork to accept or reject their hypothesis, and to evaluate the success of the work. Thankfully, the rain stayed away for the week of field trips, and the sun came out. We all enjoyed getting out of the classroom and learning in a completely different environment. The trips were hugely successful – well done Year 10s!



STEM News

STEM Club

STEM Club participants have been busy designing and manufacturing their remote-control power boat ready for the 'QinetiQ Power Boat Challenge' where Testbourne school will race against other boats designed and built by students from local schools. Our boat is still in the development stage but will be ready for racing come November!



Sparsholt Futures STEM Visit

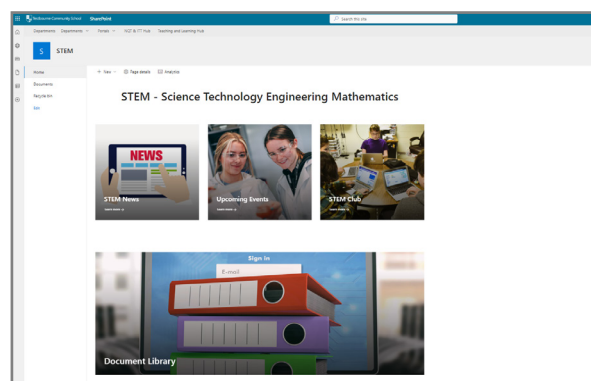
Year 9 were invited to attend a 'Futures STEM' event at Sparsholt College in earlier in June. Students were able to learn about all the different and varied courses and qualifications that Sparsholt had to offer post-16. Students were impressed by the number of specialised resources, including a tropical zoo. Students had the opportunity to learn about careers in agri-tech and engineering, horticulture, land and wildlife, countryside and conservation management, animal and equine-related roles, motor vehicles, sports and outdoor education, and the uniformed services.

Students had the opportunity to talk to the teachers and staff as well as take part in some of the different activities.



STEM Website

The STEM page on SharePoint enables all students to see what is happening in the news regarding developments within STEM, including opportunities that students for students to be involved, and activities and competitions that the STEM club is currently involved with. .



Tutor STEM Challenges

The STEM challenges continue to test the problem-solving skills of our students. This month, students have been trying to construct the world's best paper aeroplane and trying to beat the world record flight of 250 feet (over 75 meters).

Key Stage 3 tutors will submit the winning design and distance from their tutor group to Mr Homewood. We are looking forward to having an overall winner by the end of term.



STEM Enthuse Partnership

Testbourne School has now become one of a limited number of schools able to access grants for future STEM projects. Andover College are hosting a STEM event in July which will enable the school to bid for funds enabling new and exciting STEM projects to take place. Grants will be available from next year and will be an opportunity for all STEM related subjects at Testbourne to think creatively about how they may use these funds to enhance STEM and create innovative and exciting projects for our students.



STEM in Personal Development Lessons:

Students were able to use their detective skills to solve the secret coding messages during the last week of term while working in their Personal Development lessons. Students learned about different forms of evidence and how science can help find the answers as well as how maths can use coding to create and solve secret messages. Students created their own 'code making devices' and shared the secret messages within their classes.



Summer Games Silver Award

After an amazing academic year of sporting extra-curricular activity, we are delighted to announce that we have been awarded with the Youth Sports Trust Silver school sports mark. This shows the high level of competitive sport and activity that is provided at Testbourne and is testament to everyone one involved in running or participating in our clubs: the PE department, the other members of staff who volunteer their time, and most importantly the students of Testbourne. Without the commitment and dedication of all these people we would not be able to run anything. A massive well done to all involved – let's go for gold next year!



Musical Successes

This term students have been preparing for our Summer Concert. This is a chance for us to show parents and friends the progress students have made musically over the year. The theme for the evening was the Testbourne Standard of Excellence: Leadership. We had two student compères running the evening, and a student stage management team to assist the performers.



The evening performance featured solos, duets, and our school ensembles, including the School of Rock, String Group and Soul Band. It was a very successful event and was lovely to see so many of our Year 7s taking part and some of our Year 11 students who put their uniform on for one last time to join us.

As well as this performance, we want to say well done to the students who recently passed their Grade 5 music theory exam. Music theory lessons run every Tuesday during tutor time and are available for all our young musicians to attend.

In curriculum music lessons, Year 8 and 9 classes have been getting stuck into their music technology projects, with some very creative soundtracks to accompany a Wallace and Gromit video (Year 8) and a video game (Year 9). Year 7s have been working towards some impressive keyboard performances of Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King". We look forward to the fast-approaching final presentation of work in music lessons before the end of term.



Shoe Inspiration - Design Technology

Mr Homewood's Year 7 Art students have been developing their creative 3D skills by producing cardboard shoes inspired by the work of the artist Jennifer Collier. Students designed their own shoes to represent their favourite things such as a much loved hobby, book or artistic style. They had to solve lots of technical issues in the creation of the shoe as well as the challenge of adding paint to a curved surface. Students worked hard to complete their pieces before the end of term and have added 3D skills to the many artistic skills they have developed and refined this year.



Columbus and his Journeys - History

Year 7s have been studying the significance of Christopher Columbus and how he is remembered in history. Students have learnt about Columbus' determination and resilience to undertake his journeys of discovery, but also his failures, such as being shipwrecked and even arrested, that often get forgotten. The outcome of the unit of work was to redesign a children's book cover about Columbus that presents Columbus' journeys, significance and how we should remember him. Students were given the opportunity to enter a competition where teachers and students from Year 7 voted on the best book covers. Well done to Emily G, Harrison B and Trixie T for being voted as this year's winners!



Royal Coronation Picnic

In celebration of the coronation of King Charles III, Testbourne had a number of events planned. All staff and students were cordially invited to attend the Royal Coronation Picnic on the school field (although, due to the typical British weather, it had to relocate to the playground!) and the canteen also offered special 'Royal Grab and Go' picnic bags at lunchtime. We had a blast listening to top British hits, as well as having sandwiches and scones provided by our canteen. It was a wonderful event and we thank everyone who helped and took part.



Students showcased their baking skills by making coronation themed cakes that, after the judging had taken place, students collected and shared with their friends at the Royal Coronation Picnic! Well done to Lacey H-F for winning the contest: she won a Testbourne King's Coronation commemorative mug! A big thank you to all who took the time to bake a cake for the competition.

Finally, tutor groups had a competition to design a 'Royal Artefact' to commemorate King Charles' coronation. Well done to Mr Rall's tutor, 8~1, and their amazing Royal Beacon.



Careers Week and Maths

Testbourne recently hosted our Careers Week, offering students a range of engaging activities and insightful presentations. While our Year 10 students ventured into the real world to gain valuable work experience across a diverse range of industries, our Key Stage 3 year groups were immersed in a week filled with inspiring speakers and activities. We had a variety of guests, such as: Jon Creswell, Charlotte Clarke and Leanne White, Jon Wilks, Faye Brown, Judith Moule, Ruth Phillips, Tim Selwood, Lewis Evans, Hannah Wells, Jamie Mackay, Ewan Barraclough and George Appeah to name but a few. These speakers were drawn from industries and sectors that included engineering, sports health, theatre, music, the police, forensic science, marketing, art & design, horse racing, public speaking, IT and medicine.



Our visitors captivated our Year 7, 8 and 9 students with presentations on their careers, sharing their personal journeys, responsibilities, and the skills they acquired along the way. In lessons, many staff also shared their own career journeys, showing the breadth of life experience they have available to draw on in their teaching. Careers Week has truly proven to be an enriching experience, empowering our students to explore different career paths and inspiring them to pursue their dreams.

More information can be found on our website, however, here is a report from our Maths Department who had army engineer Tim Selwood give a presentation:

During Careers Week in Mathematics, we have been sharing short videos with students. These show individuals in careers such as Nursing, Building, Motor Mechanics, Guitar Making, Traffic Engineering, Sports Statistics, Animation, Robotics and others. In each one, those featured highlighted the importance of mathematics in what they do or as an important element of their job.



Some of us have also shared our own career journeys with students, which I hope they have found interesting. Students have hopefully realised that many adults have a varied career,

sometimes working in a variety of industries for different companies and organisations. Students will have seen that the pathways to get to these jobs may be very different. Overall, the message has been that you don't really know what you will be doing in the future, as our expectations, thoughts and aspirations may change over time. This is why all subjects at school are important and most will be relevant in some way as they move on through their working life. Students will have realised that some of us haven't always been teachers of mathematics!

Some of our Year 7, 8 and 9 Maths classes were also given a twenty-minute talk from Tim Selwood about his engineering career in the army, from being an apprentice through to being a senior helicopter engineer, an instructor in Kenya, Kosovo and Bosnia, and an airworthiness inspector for Army aircraft. As part of his career, Tim has travelled to places such as Northern Ireland, Germany and Cyprus during peace time, and during times of conflict to Afghanistan and to Iraq during the Gulf War. The speaker showed how his interest - from a very early age - in tinkering with gadgets from an engineering point of view, led to him joining the army on an Apprentice training scheme to become an aircraft technician, completing qualifications in aeronautical engineering as part of his training. Tim explained the importance of Maths to his career, with examples of how and where this had been used as part of his work as a helicopter technician engineer.



Hampshire Book Awards 2023

Our HBA 2023 judges are a group of Year 8 students who recently took part in deciding the winner of this year's Hampshire Book Award. They had to read all six books on the short-list, and on 29th June we travelled to The Vyne School, Basingstoke, to meet with other judging groups from the area. The short-list was discussed and the votes were cast, added to those of the other regional hubs, and the winner was announced as "When the World was Ours" by Liz Kessler. This was considered a worthy winner by our team of judges, who will have a chance for an author visit with Liz Kessler later this year.



We were given 15 weeks to read 6 books. I enjoyed almost all of them, and I did like the range of genres and storylines, along with the different writing styles of each author. My personal favourite book was "The Boy Behind the Wall". This book was both enthralling and engaging; the narrative was intriguing, with an educational aspect and surprising plot twists throughout.

On judging day, when we arrived at The Vyne School, I enjoyed being able to watch the authors speak about their books and writing experience while meeting people from other schools. After a while, we began to discuss and form analytical responses to each book, discussing parts of the book we liked or disliked. I found it interesting to debate with other students and offer my opinion. After we voted, which was a quick and organised process, we proceeded to complete quizzes within our school teams.

In conclusion, I believe that taking part in the Hampshire Book Awards was a satisfying experience, and I don't regret reading the books.

- Student report by Evie J., Year 8

I really enjoyed the Hampshire Book Awards experience as it led me to read books that I might not have ever chosen. I liked the majority of the books as they were all interesting and different from one another as well as different to the books I tend to read. The whole experience was really interesting because I got to meet up with new people and listen to other opinions. In the end, the book I liked the most did win which was really nice, but I wouldn't have minded if one of the others did because I enjoyed most of them. I am really grateful for this experience as it has opened my view on book genres.

- Student report by Ava S., Year 8



PTFA News

School comes to an end this week with some very happy news from the PTFA: thanks to us all working together, school can now put in place a shelter for the playground to protect pupils from the elements and provide extra seating for use.

Thank you to our donors, to everyone that has supported PTFA fundraising events, to the school and wider community that have helped fundraising opportunities succeed, and particular thanks to the PTFA Committee for their dedication, skills and time. As a result of everyone's efforts and contributions, the school is receiving £20,500 to fund the shelter and seating.



Uniform sales from donations has helped to increase our fundraising this term and we hope that this system can continue to support families and fundraising. Donations of reusable uniform items can continue to be dropped off at school in the Autumn Term. Adele Thorogood on the PTFA committee has established a well-organised system for reselling uniform at our fundraising events, where we are also able to accept card payment through our Sumup card readers.



Other funding streams this year included having the PTFA as a donation option via Scopay; refreshments and uniform sales at Year 6 Open Evening (where Madeline Haddon from the PTFA Committee was also able to introduce the PTFA and liaise with school on achieving the next stages for the shelter installation); refreshments at the School Summer Concert; uniform sales at the Whitchurch Summer Fete; Fete Games & Refreshments at the school's Sports & Wellbeing Day; and, of course, ongoing generous donations via our Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/ptfa-testbourneschool> and Easy Fundraising page <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/testbourneptfa/>

These have all really helped us towards achieving our target and it's been fabulous to engage with the wider community, pupils, families and staff. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to our staff contact, Mrs Gray, our co-chair with Fiona Nicholson.

The PTFA AGM is set for Thursday 21st September 2023, and all parents, carers and staff are invited to attend. This year, we will sadly be losing our Treasurer, Aimee Bishop. We would like to thank Aimee for her efforts, support and expertise at taking care of the PTFA's accounts, and in particular in maintaining our charitable status. The PTFA is registered with the Charity Commission, Charity Number 290250.

If you would like to be our next Treasurer, or be involved in our fundraising events such as the forthcoming Christmas Fair on Saturday 25th November 2023 at TCS, please do attend our AGM on Thursday 21st September 2023. Alternatively, please feel free to get in touch by email to ptfa@testbourne.school or via approaching a member of the Committee in person.

Gardening and Nature Club

The Gardening and Nature Club has enjoyed some thrilling wildlife encounters in the Jubilee Garden this season – following the discovery of a nest of robin's eggs, the group's weekly meetings followed the development from eggs to empty nest. Cinnabar moths also appeared, following last year's wild gardening project where we allowed the caterpillar food plant *Senecio jacobaea* to grow. Thanks to Ms Horne, we also enjoyed a microscope session in the school science lab.



Our raised bed, funded through grant awards, was completed thanks to a school donation of top soil.

This allowed us to fulfil further criteria set with the Club. Mrs Brown has completed an RHS L2 in Practical Horticulture and the school Club is now registered with the RHS Gardening for Schools Scheme. We are looking forward to our trip to the Hawk Conservancy Trust to complete the year – where we hope to see a native owl display and to enjoy a tour of the collection. Thank you to Mrs Nottingham for her fabulous support throughout the year, and to Mr Ralls providing extra staff support on our trip, and our thanks to the school more generally for helping the trip take place.



Managing Teenage Anxiety - Mind Kind

On Tuesday 4th July, we held a 'Managing Teenage Anxiety' information evening, facilitated by Janet Cran, CBT Therapist and MHST Clinical Team Lead for Basingstoke. The presentation aimed to equip parents and carers with the basic knowledge of why our teenagers may struggle with anxiety, when to recognise when this may be becoming a problem, what maintains it, and strategies to manage it.

Feedback from parents and carers included:

"The session provided a great introduction to anxiety. It was packed with tips and ideas which I found really useful."

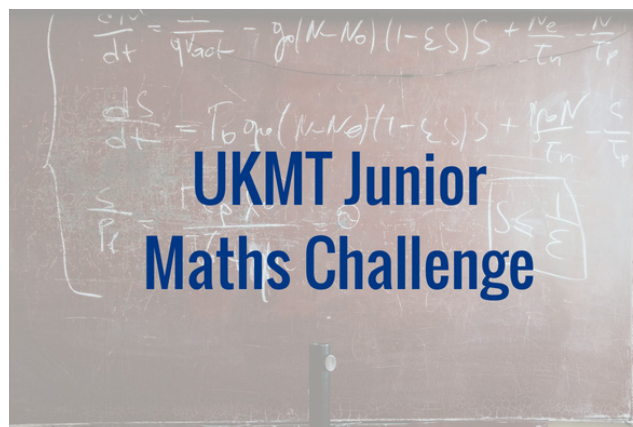
"The content was excellent and enabled me to build on my existing knowledge from attending other webinars."



More mental health information evenings are planned for the Autumn term, so watch this space!

Junior Mathematics Challenge

The Junior Mathematics Challenge is a popular mathematics competition with participants from schools across the UK. Forty students in Year 8 at Testbourne entered the competition and nationally over 300,000 students take part each year. Pupils with scores in the top 40% of participants are awarded bronze, silver and gold certificates in the ratio 5:2:1.



The Challenge is run by the UK Mathematics Trust. It consists of a challenging and intriguing set of multiple-choice questions that are designed to stretch students and stimulate an interest in mathematical problem solving. There are 25 multiple-choice questions that

get progressively harder. The challenge has to be completed within one hour and it is sat in school under normal exam conditions.

The UKMT's aim is to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics. They organise national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for UK school pupils aged 11-18.

A good proportion of those entered from Year 8 achieved the standard required for gold, silver or bronze awards. Congratulations to them all and to all those who participated.

Gold

- Asha Torrens
(also Best in School)

Silver

- Jac Franklin
- Quentin Brown
- Eva Rainbow
- Oliver Robins
- Jacques Fortune
- Maisie Cavanagh
- Own Selwood
- Skye Hadley
- Gemma Orange
- Agatha Mather

Bronze

- Thomas Robins
- Aidan Williams
- Toby Wicks
- Benjie Johnson
- Oliver Koccev
- Noah Johnson
- Oscar Andrews
- Brydee Conduct
- Chanuli Watta-Waduge
- Nathan Partridge
- Bihela Sapumanage

For those of you trying to work out what percentage of students nationally are awarded bronze, silver and gold please see the calculation below:

40% shared in the ratio 5:2:1

$5+2+1 = 8$ $40 \div 8 = 5\%$ each part

Bronze = $5 \times 5\% = 25\%$ Silver = $2 \times 5\% = 10\%$ Gold $1 \times 5\% = 5\%$



Cricket

Cricket Club has been well attended by girls from Years 7-10. When training first started after Easter, some students had never played cricket before. Students have even been doing extra bowling practice in their gardens, and bowling in recent weeks has been excellent!

We entered into the 'Chance to Shine' tournament which was held at Trojans on a very hot day in June.

With this being our first opportunity of a competitive match, we were not expecting to progress very far. However, we won our first game against Eggars School, which gave us confidence to win the next two games against Oasis and Hounslow to top the group. This saw us in a semi-final against St Georges whereby we batted first and scored 49. Some very tight bowling and good catching ensured St Georges only managed 43 runs to take us into a final against King's School, Winchester. Unfortunately, Kings had some big hitters and we were unable to chase down their total of 105.

All in all it was a fantastic experience for the girls and I am looking forward to starting some hardball cricket with them next year.

The Year 9 and 10 boys team also entered the 'Chance to Shine' tournament at Trojans in June. The boys confidently navigated their way through the group, winning games against Oasis and Thornden with some great all-round team contributions. This took us to a semi-final against John Hanson school. We restricted them very well to 47 and looked comfortable at one stage, but just fell short in the run chase in a low scoring but very entertaining game.

We then won the 3rd place playoff comfortably, ending an enjoyable and successful day. All the boys played the game with great commitment and in the right spirit.

The Year 7 and 8 boys team hosted Harrow Way in a hardball match where we lost the toss and were put into bat. We started very confidently with key contributions from the top three, with Bertie, Ben and Bihela all retiring on 25 allowing the remaining batters to swing freely at the end and set an imposing target of 126 in 12 overs. Testbourne then produced a great fielding display, taking wickets frequently and keeping scoring down with Harrow Way ending on 74-6 from their 12 overs. A great display from all involved.

Rounders

Year 7 Rounders Tournament:

The Year 7 girls rounders team attended the Andover School District tournament and finished in a respectable 4th Place. They won 2 out of 3 games in their pool and came up against John Hanson's A team in the playoff for 3rd/4th place. After 2 innings John Hanson won by just 2 rounders to take the 3rd Spot. A few mentions are merited for fantastic fielding skills, including Holly W. who caught an amazing catch and was outstanding on 3rd base intercepting many shots from key players. She was backed up for Lily G. who also used her great catching skills throughout the afternoon. During the batting innings, we witnessed some great hitting and decision making from Ava and Eden L. and Eloise D. Well done girls!



Year 8 Rounders Tournament:

Testbourne entered a Year 7 and 8 mixed team into the Year 8 District Rounders Tournament and they really did themselves proud! Despite having the youngest team, they finished in a very respectable 4th place out of the 8 Andover secondary school teams who took part in the tournament at Harrow Way. Notable performances came from Naomi M., who batted extremely well scoring several rounders, Lily G. who showed some excellent fielding under pressure on 2nd base, and Alaia W-M.'s fantastic bowling. The team made so much progress throughout the tournament, developing their knowledge of rules and different tactics they could use. It was a really fun afternoon and we look forward to more success with this team in the future.



Year 9 Rounders Tournament:

The Year 9 team played very well in the Andover Schools' Rounders Tournament, held at Harrow Way on Wednesday 17th May. There was excellent communication and team work in the field which led to wins against Wellington and Winton. The team scored several full rounders with excellent batting but also picked up lots of half rounders with some determined running, forcing the fielding team to make errors under pressure. Our final pool game was against Rookwood and it was a harder match, with the final score being (13.5 – 8.5). We went through to the semi-finals and played John Hanson who took the win 8.5 – 6.5. The girls played well with notable performances in the field by Amelia and Heidi who both made excellent catches! Lily was voted as the best batter and Amelia was voted our Most Valuable Player by the team: congratulations to you both.

Year 10 Rounders Tournament:

It was an extremely warm event for our Year 10 girls when they competed in the District Rounders Tournament held at John Hanson School. First up we played against Test Valley. The team quickly settled into the match showing great organisation in the field. Batting strongly in both innings, Testbourne finished the match with a win of 17.5 – 8. Sophie S. was chosen as best batter and Mia H. as best fielder.

Next up Testbourne went against John Hanson. The team played an excellent first half and there was only 1.5 rounders between the teams at half time. John Hanson returned strongly in the second half however, and the game finished 14 – 8.5.

Our final game in the pool stages was versus The Clere and Testbourne played with determination to win and finish 2nd in our pool. The final score was 10.5 – 5.5.

Our final match was against Rookwood for 3rd/4th place overall. The team played really well but couldn't quite overcome some really strong batting from the opposition, the final score of 13.5 to 10 putting us in 4th place out of the 7 schools who entered.

Athletics

Year 7 and 8 Athletics Charlton:

Back in June, 34 Year 7 and 8 students attended Charlton Athletics Track for the Andover and District Athletics Competition. Overall, we finished in 2nd place in the Year 7 competition and in 5th Place in the Year 9 Competition. We had a few individual highlights of the day. Lily G. finished in 1st place in the long jump, with 4m27, and 2nd place in the 150m with a time of 21.22. Her performance in the long Jump led to her achieving the 'Year 7 Girls' Field Award'.



Celeste V. won both the 600m and the 1000m events (1.53 and 3.32.18) and set a new record by 0.1 second in the 1000m. Lily O'C. finished 1st in the discus with 16m85, and came 2nd in the shot (7m07). Freya B. won the shot with a throwing distance of 7m13. Eloise D. finished 2nd in the javelin with a throwing distance of 13m67.

For the Year 7 boys, Dallas H. was our first winner of the day; his best throwing distance of the javelin was 25m51. He was joined by Archie B. who won both the 1000m and 600m events (1.49 and 3.13). Archie also broke the long-standing record for his time in the 600m.

In the Year 8 competition, Quentin B. finished in 2nd place in the javelin (25m45) with Ben C. coming 3rd (24m65), and Noah J. finished in 2nd place in the discus (20m44).

In the girl's competition Betty D. achieved second place in the shot, with a throwing distance of 7m48. Well done to all!!

Year 7 and 8 County Championships – Southampton

We had a very successful day at Southampton, even though the weather was not very kind to us! Out of the fourteen students who had been selected to represent Andover we had four brilliant results from our Year 7s. Lily G. won the girls' long jump (4m56), and Archie B. won the boys' 1000m (3.05). Freya B. finished second in the shot (7m45) and Celeste V. finished second in the girls 1000m (3.20.4) – only just missing out on winning the race by 0.3 of a second! All these times and distances were improvements on their results at the District event earlier in the month. All our students performed to their best of their ability and should be very proud of being part of the Andover team and having an opportunity to compete against the top athletics in the Hampshire area. All other results are listed below.

Year 7

- Eloise D. 15th javelin (10m64)
- Lily O'C. 9th discus (15.76)
- Dallas H. 7th javelin (25.79)

Year 8

- Betty D. 8th shot (7.21)
- Gemma O. 9th shot (2.50)
- Noah J. 9th discus (20.76)
- Benji J. 11th long jump (4m)
- Ted B. 9th 800m (2.40.9)
- Quentin B. 14th javelin (17.11)

Year 9 and 10 Athletics – Charlton:

The sun was shining this year for the upper school District Championships held at Charlton on the 26th of May. The event is run as two separate competitions. Overall Testbourne finished in 4th place in both the Year 9 and 10 age groups. A number of our students performed well in individual events, in Year 10, including Dan S. who finished 2nd in the 400m (56.65), Isaac H. who came 3rd in the 100m (12.06) and 2nd in the javelin (28.95), Thomas C. who achieved 3rd in the 200m (24.78), Ollie S. who came 3rd in the shot(9.14), and Kara B. who came 2nd in the 1500m (6.34).

In Year 9, Ryley M. came 1st in the 300m (40.40) and 3rd in the long jump (4.66). Will H. came 2nd in the 1500m (4.57), Kate H. came 2nd in the 100m (13.36), and Caitlin P. came 2nd in high jump (1.25m).

Overall it was a great team performance: well done!

Year 9 and 10 Athletics – County Championships, Portsmouth:

As a result of finishing 1st or 2nd at the District Athletics Championships at Charlton, several students qualified to represent Andover at the County Championships. Unfortunately, Kate H., Ryley M., Caitlin P., and William H. were unable to attend the event. However, a big well done goes to Kara who finished 10th in the IG's 1500m, Daniel who qualified for the 400m final and ran close to his PB time of 56.4, finishing in 7th place. Charlotte V. finished 3rd in the 800m final with a time of 2.19.9, and Poppy T. won with ease the 1500m in a time of 4.51.5. We are proud of you all!

English Schools Athletics:

Two students with connections to Testbourne competed at the English Schools Athletics Championships held at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, at the end of July. This was the setting for the Commonwealth games last year.

Poppy T. (Year 9) competed in the Junior girls' 800m and had faced strong competition, narrowly missing out on the final. This was her first time at the ESAA.

Amelia G. (a former Testbourne student) competed in the triple jump and jumped a personal best of 12m61cm to win against a strong field, including last year's winner. This was Amelia's fifth performance at these championships.

Mrs Chewins and Mrs Vallance were also lucky enough to be on this trip as team managers for Hampshire.

Tennis

Year 9 and 10:

Four students represented Testbourne Community School at the District Doubles tennis competition at John Hanson School. Against tough opposition, both pairs showed excellent commitment and determination. Unfortunately, only one pair made it through to the semi finals but were beaten by John Hanson (the eventual winners). Well done Tom S., Owen B., Declan C. and Will H.



Year 7 and 8:

The Year 7 and 8 District Tennis Doubles tournament was held at Harrow Way this year. There were nine doubles teams in total, which after the first round of matches played in three different-tiered semi-finals. Gregory B. and Ben C. played in the Cup Tier and came 3rd overall while Samuel H. and Humphrey R. played in the Plate Tier and came 9th overall. The competition was of a high standard, but all four students enjoyed the opportunity and played with a great level of sportsmanship and determination, rising to and enjoying the challenge.

Girls Football 'Game On' Event

Year 8 and 9:

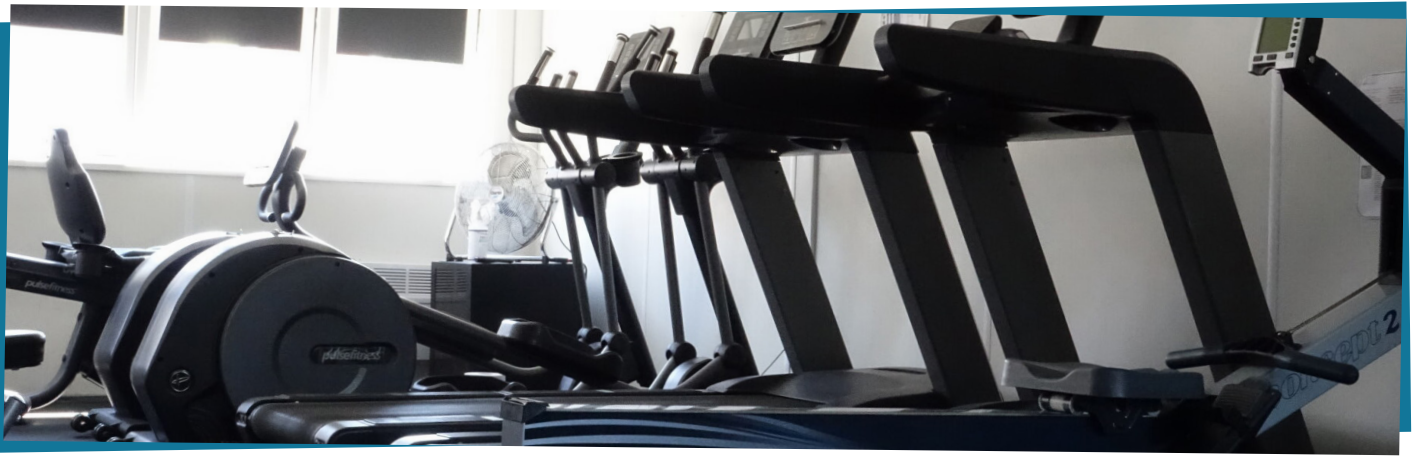
As part of the girls' football 'Game On' programme, which was launched in February with Mrs Vallance, fourteen football activators from Years 8 and 9 were selected to join other secondary schools in Basingstoke to complete further training and leadership workshops.

The Barclays-sponsored girls 'Game On' initiative is part of England Football and has the aim of developing and teaching key life skills through football, while demonstrating how they are transferrable to everyday life. There are many roles that the girls could choose from to help with extra-curricular opportunities from coaches to marketeers – they run, organise, and deliver sessions for their classmates, not only introducing more girls to football, but also developing themselves for the future.



A plan is being put in place for the new academic year where our new activators will be able to support the development of girls football opportunities for with pupil in Years 7-9.





Testbourne Community Fitness Gym

We're excited to announce that our gym refurbishment is complete! Whether you're an avid gym-goer or just starting out, we invite you to join our community gym and achieve your fitness goals.

We've upgraded our equipment to ensure that you have everything you need for a great workout. Our old Pulse resistance machines have been replaced with new, state-of-the-art 'GymGear Dual Series' machines, along with a dual adjustable pulley and a functional rig. You'll have access to a range of equipment to help you achieve your fitness goals, whether you're looking to build strength, improve your cardio or increase your flexibility.

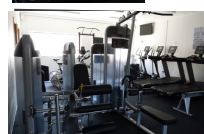
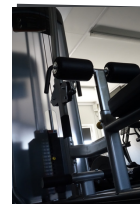
Membership prices start from just £20 per month and our friendly and knowledgeable staff are on hand to assist you with any questions or concerns. They can provide you with guidance and support as you work towards your fitness goals.

If you're interested in joining our gym, we encourage you to book a tour with us today. You can visit our website at <https://testbourne.schoolhire.co.uk/gym-membership/15361> to learn more and schedule your tour.

TESTBOURNE FITNESS GYM

The gym has a variety of cardiovascular, resistance, functional and free weight equipment for a complete workout. A fitness instructor is on hand to guide you and assist you to achieve your fitness goals.

Opening Hours	
Monday - Friday	Saturday
06:45 - 21:30	09:00 - 14:00



Joining fee: £10, with no minimum contract, then a monthly Direct Debit of:		
	Individual	Joint*
Standard	£26	£42
Concession**	£20	£35
Family***	£67	

* two members of the same household
 ** includes: students, over 55s, NHS workers, or members of the armed forces
 *** four members of the same household

All new members must first have a safety induction before you use the gym equipment, which includes an opportunity to discuss your fitness goals and programme requirements.

Contact gym@testbourne.school, or phone 01256 892 261 for more details.



Teen Gym for school students aged 14-16.
 Every Monday, 15:15 - 16:15
 Book at: go.testbourne.school/teengym



Free to gym members, £5 to non-members.
 Most Wednesdays, 18:00 - 19:00
 Book at: go.testbourne.school/bootcamp



Testbourne Community School



www.testbourne.school



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