

THE TCS Tribune

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity



Issue #22 - Summer 2024



Testbourne Community School

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity



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

Welcome to the 22nd 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.

As always, the summer term has been punctuated by the GCSE examinations for our Year 11 cohort, along with the Leavers' Assembly and Prom that signify the end of their time with us. The students were brilliant in their exams, behaving extremely well and ably demonstrating the high levels of resilience needed to plough through around thirty separate papers, or around sixty hours of examinations, for some students.

As is always the case, I really enjoyed this year's Prom. The arrivals were a real treat, with students looking incredibly glamorous as they alighted their vehicles at the entrance to the Norton Park Hotel. Thankfully, students did not seem at all deflated by the rainy and overcast weather and were helped by staff with umbrellas to get into the building without undoing all their preparations. The outgoing cohort of Year 11 were very much the energetic dancers; I think

some of them did not stop all night! Once again, students demonstrated how mature and sensible they are, doing themselves and the school proud with their conduct and several saying "thank you" on the way out at 11pm. I too should echo those thanks because the Leavers' Assembly and the Prom only happen because of the hard work of staff volunteers. Additionally, as is true every year, staff have put in a tremendous amount of effort educating and supporting the year group in their time with us.

This term is also extremely busy because of our transition events. We had two days of visits of Year 5 students at the beginning of July, giving the Year 5 children a taste of secondary school life. Feedback was 100% positive, with one child rating the experience as 1000 out of 10. There may be some maths work to do with that particular student, but the sentiment was fully understood!

We also welcomed Year 6 students to our main transition day to welcome them to the school and help them to understand our way of doing things. We had 200 children joining us from more than 25 primary schools because we are oversubscribed once again so have admitted above our usual Pupil Admission Number. This saves families the disappointment of not getting a place or the emotional rollercoaster of the appeals process. We asked that Year 6 children from our large feeder schools try to integrate with those who arrive to us as the only child from their primary school; fortunately, they did a brilliant job and I spoke to many such children who had a fabulous day making new friends. Alongside the many staff that make transition events happen, my thanks extend to the transition prefects of Year 9 who were magnificent in helping all the days to run smoothly, and to the parents and carers of Year 6 who made the trip out to our Induction Evening at the risk of missing the start of the England v Netherlands match. Overall, we enjoyed beginning our journey with this fantastic new cohort.

This term has also been busy with exciting events, trips and visits for all students. This issue is packed with tales from our Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, our Battlefields trip, our SeaCity trip, our attendance at the Hampshire Book Awards, our ambitious Careers Week and so much more.

As I write this letter, final preparations are being made for my favourite event of the year: our annual Prize Giving event in Winchester Guildhall. This event is a genuine highlight and enables us to celebrate with the students that go above and beyond in demonstrating the Testbourne Standards of Excellence along with their supportive families. I am very much looking forward to seeing the children and their families at this wonderful event.

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. This term's Headteacher recognition letter recipients;

Spring 2

- Oyinkansola Bada
- Ellie Binfield
- Tom Cady
- Millie Green
- Mikolaj Knapinski
- Alexandra Rolfe
- Gabriella Rugila
- Vlad Rusmanica
- Daniel Smith

Summer 1

- Jessica Baker
- Owen Bishop
- Louie Casey-Brown
- Poppy Cooper
- Grace Hitchcock
- Joy Lebentz
- Bihela Sapumanage
- Lyra Stickland

Hot Chocolate Friday

On a Friday morning, members of the Senior Leadership Team meet with nominees from each year group who have demonstrated our Testbourne Standards of Excellence. Invitees include;

Oyebola Adeniyi, Oscar Andrews, Noah Armstrong, Daisy Ashley, Charlie Baker, Jessica Baker, Amber Ball, Hugo Bayliss, Evelyn Bealing, Freya Berry, Rose Billingham, Ellie Binfield, Owen Bishop, Olivia Blanch, Emily Buckley, Gregory Bull, Louie Casey-Brown, Leo Chandler, Olivia Chapman, Jack Clements, Trudy Crick, Charlotte Cumbers, Ashton Dopson, Nicholas Dowling, Daisy Ellis, Chloe Forsey, Chelsea Grezdena, Ruby Hansell, Mason Hardy, Erin Hoare, Edward Hollis, Maisie Howard, Flynn Hutchins, Lola Johnson, Archie Jones, Gavril Kurk, Charlie Learmont-Pollock, Joy Lebentz, Ethan Lewis, Frazer Longster, Clora Makota, Morgan Mason, Shaun Michael, Evie Mosdell, Sophie Noble, Faith Nother, Molly-May Paddock, James Rampton, Maisie Ricketts, Gethin Ridge, William Robinson, Humphrey Roebuck, Gabriella Rugila, Jacob Ryan, Bihela Sapumanage, Elizabeth Spence, Lacey Stickland, Pearl Targett, Daniel Tegg, William Thomson, Shaun Michael Valderama, Aidan Williams, Lacey Williams, Aidan Williams, Tristan Williams, Thomas Wilson, and William Woods.

Finally, all that remains to be said is that I wish you a wonderful summer and hope that you get to spend some quality time with those who mean the most to you. We look forward to welcoming students back to school in September.

Kindest regards,

Mr Jon Beck

Headteacher



PROM 2024

The Year 11s arrived in style (despite the British weather!) at Norton Park Hotel on the 5th July; our lovely staff made sure that the students were dry arriving into the venue. Students arrived in an array of transport, including a tractor, an ambulance, and many sports cars! As always, it was lovely to see them in their beautiful dresses and smart suits. They all had a fantastic evening and spent most of the night on the dance floor! It was a wonderful way to celebrate the Class of 2024, and we are excited to see them again in the summer for Results Day.





Prize Giving Ceremony at Winchester Guildhall 2024

Our final evening event of the year was our Prize Giving Ceremony which was held on 18th July. Parents, staff, students, governors and guests all joined us for a fantastic celebration in the Winchester Guildhall. Our guest speaker was Mr Tim Fisher, who delivered an inspiring speech and gave us an insight into some of the great leaders he has worked for as a member of the British Diplomatic Service.

We were serenaded upon arrival with the TCS String Quartet and then enjoyed musical performances including a viola solo performed by Miriam Fisher. The TCS Choir opened the ceremony with 'A Million Dreams' by B Pasek and J Paul and later performed 'Counting Stars' by OneRepublic.



Students received recognition for their effort in all subject areas and for demonstrating our Testbourne Standards of Excellence. There were also a selection of literacy, SLT and special awards.

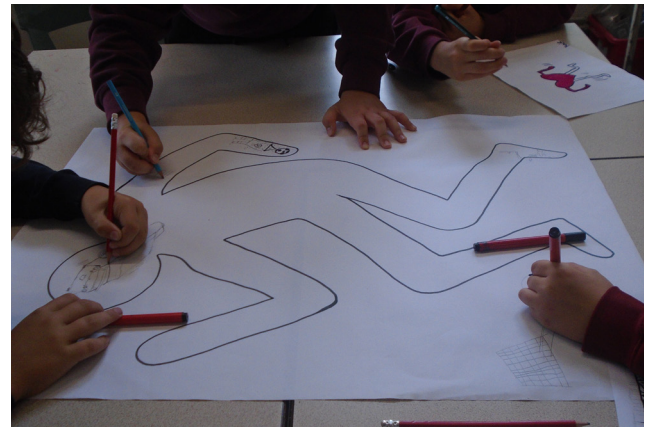
It was wonderful to celebrate the efforts and many achievements of our students. Congratulations to all the award winners of 2024.



Year 6 Transition Day

On July 10th we welcomed our future new Year 7 students to TCS for a transition day. It was a fantastic day which began with an opening assembly in the Sports Hall with Mr Beck, during which the students were introduced to key members of staff including Mrs Ballanger, our Head of Year 7 and Mrs Gray, one of our Assistant Headteachers and SENDCo.

Students then had the opportunity to meet their new tutors. During this they did a wide range of different ice-breaker tasks which included talking to classmates they hadn't met. Some of the new Year 7 students were the only ones arriving from their primary school, so this was a really useful activity for them to do and get to know their tutor group.



The visiting students got to go on a guided tour to familiarise themselves with the school site. During this, they went to the canteen to get their fingerprint put into our school payment system so that when they came to this school they could pay for our wide range of different meals and snacks.

Then our new Year 7s were able to experience lessons at TCS. These included learning how to translate shapes from one point to another in Maths, using a wide range of descriptive vocabulary to describe a chocolate bar in English, how to calculate force from different practicals in Science, and much more.

Throughout the day, Year 9 students were on hand to answer questions, help in lessons and to chaperone the guests around the school. The Year 9s that joined the tutor groups with the new Year 7s are also going to be assigned to the same groups for the first term in September. The Year 9s will be students that the Year 7s can talk to about their worries; they will also help the Year 7s to get to lessons on time! Their title is 'Transition Prefects' and they, and the rest of the school, look forward to our new Year 7s joining us in September.



Year 5 Taster Days

Primary School Visits – by Nathan P., Year 9

On Tuesday 2nd July and Wednesday 3rd July, Testbourne Community School hosted Year 5 students from all around the area. I was one of the many Year 9 students who helped with these experience days, and we wanted to show off the school and why students and parents may pick us as their secondary school. The children were all given a variety of different lessons to take part in so they could get a real sense of how the school was run and the different methods used to teach within it.

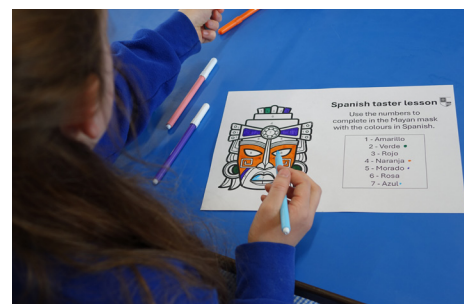
Our job was to supervise them and ensure they got to the right lessons at the right times. We then stayed with them and offered support to the teachers if they needed help with small jobs, or with practical work. The event was centred around a book called 'Oh Maya Gods' by Maz Evans. The whole day was then based around Mayan culture and history. Some of these included learning about all the different Gods they worshiped and what each one oversaw.

My group's schedule consisted of lessons in Science, Art and Music. In Science, a practical experiment was conducted on the properties of some 'space dust', as the Mayans often looked into space as a source of inspiration. A series of tests were set up to determine the properties of the space dust, like its magnetism, pH, and solubility. The Year 5 students enjoyed using the scientific apparatus and finding out where in the solar system the space dust came from.

In Art, the visiting students studied the different mythical Mayan creatures and how they looked. After that, the Year 5s had to create their own creature. To do this they were given a large pack of different animal parts such as eyes, mouths and skin (fur, scales and feathers). They then cut out the ones they wanted and stuck them to a head shaped piece of paper to create their own type of mythical creature. After everyone was done, we then went around the room and talked about the name and the parts they used for their mythical beast.

In Music, we used the glockenspiel and other percussion instruments. At the start the teacher introduced the students to a rhythm and then asked them to copy it on the glockenspiel. We repeated this several times, each time with a different rhythm. Then the Year 5 students were put into groups with a Year 9 helper in each one and were tasked with using the rhythms they just played to make a series of four rhythms to present to the rest of the class. We did this for ten minutes before listening to everyone else's work.

Looking at the feedback, both Year 5 days were huge successes. Lots of the Year 5s students rated it as 10/10 on the evaluation forms, while some of them gave their day even more than 10/10, which was fantastic. They appreciated all the Year 9 helpers and explained how comfortable they now felt with the school. One of them even told me they'd definitely be coming to Testbourne, and they wanted to find me when they got there. I really enjoyed the whole day and I'm glad I could help the Year 5 children enjoy the experience.



Year 11 Leavers Assembly

On Thursday, 20th June, we celebrated the remarkable journey of our Year 11 students with a memorable assembly, marking the culmination of their five-year adventure with us. The event was not only a reflection on their transformative years but also an anticipation of the exciting future that lies ahead.

The assembly was filled with nostalgia as we revisited their Year 7 photos, marvelling at the growth and changes they've undergone. The students then had a playful moment of revenge with a farewell video from staff, showcasing our own school-day images.



The day continued with the traditional shirt signing, symbolizing the bonds and memories forged over the years. The students also relished in a festive atmosphere, enjoying ice-creams as a sweet treat to reward their success.

We are incredibly proud of all their achievements and the hard work they've put in. As they step into the summer, we send them off with our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for a wonderful and well-deserved break. Here's to the class of 2023-2024 — may your future be as bright and promising as the legacy you leave behind.



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

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.

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.”

Careers Week

Careers Week saw an array of activities for both KS3 and Year 10 this year. For Year 10, they had seven speakers to choose from on the Monday morning, which included a Google employee, NHS Orthopaedic Strategy lead and a banker. During the rest of the week, Year 10 were involved in Virtual Work Experience, mock interviews, and several trips including a visit to Philips Law Firm and BCOT. As well as this, we hosted several workshops including Graphic Design and Critical Thinking. During their mock interviews on Friday 12th July, we welcomed thirteen volunteers who spent an enjoyable day in the Sports Hall interviewing the students.



Years 7, 8 and 9 also had seven speakers to choose from (across the week we welcomed over 25 speakers in total): these included nurses, engineers, musicians, dieticians, IT specialists, police officers, marketing managers and data analysts. During the course of each day, students had careers lessons that focused on key skills such as leadership, communication and teamwork. Lesson activities included the Marshmallow Challenge, designing a farm to make it as profitable as possible, and creating a careers fair booth for a job of the future.

Additionally, on Wednesday 10th July we hosted NHS350+ who delivered the brief to all students to create a product that would be given to patients in hospitals. The best designs went forward to a Dragon's Den competition. We had five Dragon volunteers who deliberated and chose our winners for each year group. This was a nerve-wracking experience for students who had to deliver their pitch to them, as well as the other groups they were competing against, but they all held their nerve and made each other proud.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all volunteers who gave up their time to come into school and either speak to our students, be a Dragon, interview, deliver a workshop, or act as a chaperone. It was a busy, successful week that encouraged our students to consider both the skills and opportunities that are open to them when they leave Testbourne.

Miss L Cartridge

Head of Personal Development & Careers Lead



Sailing on the Prolific

For the second year in a row, a group of 14 students from Years 7 to 9 set sail for four days on the Ocean Youth Trust's sail training yacht, the *Prolific*, during the Easter holidays. This time they were accompanied by Dr Wilson as well as the *Prolific* crew, and they sailed from Southampton to Cowes on the Isle of Wight, continued to Lymington, returned to anchor off Ryde on the Isle of Wight and then headed back to Southampton. The trip involved learning all they could about the sails, navigation, safety on board and how to live comfortably through cooking, eating and cleaning to keep everything shipshape!



All those on the trip earned their RYA Start Yachting Certificates. These are not just handed out for going on the voyage – to earn them, students had to listen, concentrate, and work in a team; practise things until they were able to get them right (even if they initially struggled); take part in routine tasks such as cooking and cleaning as well as the more exciting jobs; cope with living in an entirely unfamiliar situation; cope with being away from home; take responsibility when asked; and follow safety instructions, and more. Well done to the whole crew – they should be proud of doing so well.

Some feedback from the group after the trip shows how amazing their experience was!

- *I really enjoyed it and would go again if I could. One of my favourite bits was navigating.*
- *I really enjoyed being fully all-hands-on-deck with the work and helping the crew with everything that was needed.*
- *Some of my favourite things were washing up with music and disco lights. I would 100% go again. I made loads of new friends, and I will never forget my brilliant time on board.*
- *I learnt all about sailing and how to hoist a sail, tides, lots of knots, how to cook at sea and what it's like to navigate at sea. My favourite part of the trip was when we dropped the anchor, and the views when out at sea looking back at Portsmouth.*
- *I'd like to sail again. The captain said it would take 3 weeks to sail to America on the Prolific - I'd like that as an adventure.*
- *I enjoyed hoisting the sail on the boat and I learned how to cook. I would do it again as I made new friends, also it was an amazing life experience.*
- *I experienced a lot of fun and got plenty of useful knowledge. Thanks for the great memories that will last for my whole life!*

If you'd like to join the crew in the future, there will be another Testbourne voyage on the Prolific in April 2025. Watch out for information about it in the autumn term.



Sailing Prize Winner

Lucas J (now a Year 8 student) was in Year 7 when he spent four nights as a member of the Testbourne sailing crew on the Ocean Youth Trust's *Prolific* sail training vessel. Afterwards, he painted this picture and was awarded 'Joint runner-up' in the OYT's annual Chris Ellis Award competition. The prize is a discount off another voyage on the *Prolific*, and Lucas is booked to go back on board in the summer holidays. Well done Lucas and good luck with your continuing journey learning to sail on board the *Prolific*.

Members of the crew who went on board in April can enter this year's Chris Ellis Award by writing a poem, story, or diary, or creating a collage or other artwork linked with their time on the *Prolific*. More details can be found here <https://www.oysouth.org/ellis-award/>.



Hengistbury Head Field Trip

Year 10 GCSE Geography students visited Hengistbury Head this half term to collect their fieldwork data for their Paper 3 exam. Each class collected data sets to determine whether longshore drift was being controlled by the groynes located there. The students have then spent time writing this up in the classroom. The students thoroughly enjoyed learning outside of the classroom and seeing the geography of the local area. The trips were hugely successful – well done Year 10!





DofE New Forest Adventures

New Forest adventures for DofE this term

Testbourne's biggest ever Duke of Edinburgh's Award group has had two successful overnight trips in the New Forest National Park this term – a training expedition in May and a final, assessed expedition at the end of June.

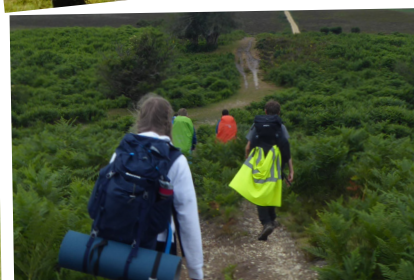
Eight teams of six or seven students set off to navigate their way across the New Forest's heaths and woodlands, with an overnight camp at Tile Barn in Brockenhurst in May, and at Tom's Field near Fordingbridge in June. There was sun and rain, some

difficulties with map reading and a lot of learning to work together as the teams took on the expedition challenge!

Top activities were the hiking, cooking, football at the campsite, lots of laughs and great teamwork. Participants didn't enjoy the ticks, bogs, hills, blisters, rain or lack of sleep so much – but 70% of the group have said they would definitely or possibly be interested in going on to the Silver Award next year.

None of this would be possible without the amazing team of volunteer leaders we have built up this year – thank you so much to team supervisors Andy Key, Andy Noble, Caroline Orange, Craig Wilson, Hannah Heywood, Ian Hickman, Jamie Howell, Mike Hart, Teresa Hickman and Tony Reid; to Mrs Cooper who joined us to assess the teams in June; and not forgetting the dedication of Dr Wilson to the DofE programme. Thank you all!

Report by Mrs Nottingham, DofE Manager



Year 9 History Trip to the WWI Battlefields

On 27-29th June, Year 9 students visited the WWI battlefields in France and Belgium, with an early start on the first day at 5:30am to catch the ferry to Calais. From here we drove to Essex Farm outside Ypres, where Joe Strudwick, one of the youngest British casualties of WWI who died aged 15 is buried, and where John McCrae wrote the famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. Our next stop was Peace Village where we were staying, to drop off bags and have dinner before heading out again for our trip tradition of ten-pin bowling!



On day two, we travelled down to Arras, in the Somme

area of France to visit Wellington Quarry. Arras was an important centre on the Western Front and was an essential part of the Allies' plan in 1917 to break through the German line. Professional miners from New Zealand came to expand the existing medieval quarry, creating an underground base that was used to hide the gathering force before the offensive. Students went on a guided tour where they were able to experience what it would have been like to live and work in the quarry. After lunch, we visited Thiepval, where there is a monument to the 72,337 missing British and Commonwealth soldiers from the Somme and then headed to Newfoundland Park. This was the site where the Newfoundland Regiment from Canada fought on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916. The site has been untouched since WWI, which means students were able to see where the trenches were and the area of no man's land the soldiers had to cross. In the evening, we attended the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres. This has taken place every day at 8 pm since 1928 to remember the fallen, and three of our students laid a wreath as part of the ceremony.

On our last day students visited Langemark, the only German cemetery in Belgium. Here, they were able to experience a different approach to remembering WWI. Whereas the Commonwealth cemeteries are bright and open, the Germans chose to use grey stone and keep their graves covered in the shade of the trees that dot the site. The last visit was to Tyne Cot and Passchendaele Museum. Tyne Cot is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world and really gave the students an appreciation of the scale of loss. By this point of the trip, students were well and truly tired and ready for home! Retracing our steps, we caught the ferry at Calais to Dover before returning to Testbourne at 9 pm for a well-deserved rest on Sunday.



Music Department's Summer Concert

The Music Department's summer concert is an opportunity for our musicians to join together and celebrate another year of great music making. The Theatre Hall was full of our family and friends to enjoy this occasion with us. We had solos from a range of students including Year 7 Lilia playing her flute to accompany Dominic in Year 10 who is taking his Grade 7 saxophone imminently. Testbourne Vocal Group sang the recent viral song "If I were a Fish" and our Folk Group performed the pieces that they recently took to the successful Whitchurch Folk Festival.



Our School of Rock, skilfully led by our guitar teacher Mr Zolotuhin, performed two numbers. For many of the group, including the lead singer, this was their first performance together at Testbourne, showing great courage as well as skill. The highlight of the evening was our school orchestra, who finished the concert by playing "The Final Countdown". All students showed great courage and determination in their performance. These events are possible due to the collaborative effort from our students, parents, instrumental teachers, PTFA and staff, and I would like to thank you all for your contribution to the Music Department's success.



Hampshire Book Awards 2024

On Tuesday 2nd July we got the chance to share our passion for reading with other schools at the Hampshire Book Awards voting day. We got to talk about the six books we had read and vote for our favourite. We also played many games such as 'guess the book' and 'unscramble the title'. It was an amazing morning of fun and even biscuits! I would definitely recommend the Hampshire Book Awards to any young, budding readers.

Chloe F. Year 8



Year 8 History Trip to SeaCity Museum

On Monday 1st July, Year 8 students set out to the SeaCity Museum in Southampton to discover the story of RMS Titanic and how the tragedy affected the city and people of Southampton. This was in line with a scheme of work that looked into the impact the RMS Titanic had on Southampton as an industrial town. Students sustained a significant focus on social history as we unpicked different stories of individuals that worked aboard the Titanic and those who sailed as passengers seeking, either a voyage of luxury or perhaps a voyage of desperation to start a new life elsewhere!



Pupils engaged in workshops that allowed them to get hands-on with history in order to understand better how and why the Titanic sunk. Within this session, we were shown how the watertight compartments filled up one by one using an ice cube tray – which, indeed, sadly succumbed to the same tragic outcome! Pupils also learnt about the different jobs aboard the Titanic and the challenges they faced in those fateful hours, went on self-guided tours around the Titanic exhibition, and completed a worksheet to help them understand how this ship affected Southampton on an economic, social and political level.

TCS Laptop Scheme

We are delighted to be able to offer our Easy4U Laptop Scheme to more year groups within the school. This has, up until now, only been available to current Year 7 students. The scheme has been successful for this year group, providing an easy way of getting a good quality device for your child's home learning needs. The laptop scheme is paid for monthly (or purchased outright), and this includes the laptop itself as well as any technical support. Full details of the scheme can be found on our website by going to: <https://go.testbourne.school/laptopscheme>. You will also find a link to our online web shop allowing you to easily order a device.



Devices will be issued to your child at the start of the 2024-2025 Academic Year. If you are interested to taking part in this scheme, it is highly recommended that you submit an order by the middle of August 2024.

The laptop can be paid monthly for 24, 36, 48 or 60 months. Whilst it's not essential to do so, we recommend the following options to ensure the laptop is paid off before your child leaves the school:

- Students going into Year 10 in September 2024: 24 months or purchased outright
- Students going into Year 9 in September 2024: 24 or 36 months or purchased outright
- Students going into Year 8 in September 2024: 24, 36 or 48 months or purchased outright

Once the monthly payments are complete or if you have purchased the laptop outright, it is yours to keep.

Please see our TCS Laptop Scheme brochure at the bottom of the Laptop Scheme web page for detailed information and some Frequently Asked Questions.

Celebration of Languages Trip

On Tuesday 9th July, Miss Matthews and Mr Wingfield accompanied seven keen linguists from Year 9 on a trip to the Emirates Stadium in London for the inaugural More Than Words “Celebration of Languages” event.

The day included a range of exciting activities such as dancing with African performer and drummer Busi Mhlanga and hearing inspirational stories from Paul Hughes, former Military Special Operator and star of Channel 4’s “Hunted”, who is fluent in Arabic and Russian.



As well as beautiful Urdu poetry, a thrilling performance in Italian, and a fascinating insight into how languages are vital on the front line of policing from Police Inspector Maciej Matusiak, pupils heard from BAFTA award winning foreign film producer Oliver Roskill who even brought his trophy along for all to see!

The pupils were left motivated and inspired with first-hand experience that languages really are more than words.

Testbourne Improvements

We are very pleased to update you on some major works that have happened in recent months.

Firstly, during the Easter holidays we refurbished our long jump pit including two new runways.

Next, we replaced the canopy which covers the canteen patio area. This has been designated a ‘Quiet Zone’ where students can enjoy a calm space in all weathers.

New for September 2024 will be the refurbishment of the Kingfisher Block student toilets. This will provide nine cubicles, two of which are ambulant toilets. This extensive refurbishment provides an additional three toilets and improves the layout to provide a safe environment for students.

A huge thank you to Hampshire County Council for additional funding for the canopy and toilet refurbishment projects and to our PTFA for providing additional benches and picnic tables.



Year 10 Andover College Visit

On Thursday 6th June, Testbourne Community School was delighted to be able to give ten Year 10 students the opportunity take part in a range of medical workshops at Andover College. This was aimed at students interested in pursuing a career in the medical field and who wanted to gain hands-on experience and insight into various aspects of medical science.

Students took part in the following workshops:

- Heart Auscultation
- Medical Law and Ethics
- Central Nervous System
- Vital Signs and Deteriorating Patient Management
- Skeletal System and X-ray Interpretation
- Surgery and Suturing



Year 8 UK Junior Maths Challenge

Recently, forty Year 8 mathematicians participated in the UK Mathematics Trust Junior Maths Challenge; this is a national competition which gives students a chance to tackle some challenging problem-solving questions under timed exam type conditions.

The Challenge gave the students some interesting mathematical problems of a type we don't always get the chance to look at in usual lessons. The questions got progressively more difficult; however, students were not expected to be able to complete all of them, just to complete as many as they could in the time given.

This challenge was just some mathematical fun (albeit with a little bit of pressure), but gave participants the chance to gain a gold, silver or bronze certificate, or a Certificate of Participation in this national competition.

Many of the Testbourne Year 8 participants achieved notable scores with five gold, seven silver and thirteen bronze certificates being awarded as shown below. Two students, Morgan and Freya, were joint Best in School.

Morgan M.	Gold
Freya B.	Gold
Alice W.	Gold
Nico Q.	Gold
Gethin R.	Gold
Ollie O.	Silver
Celeste V.	Silver
Gregory B.	Silver
Nicholas D.	Silver

Isabelle M.	Silver
Devesh K.	Silver
Zachary B.	Silver
Dylan M.	Bronze
Matthew H.	Bronze
Emmy S.	Bronze
Alaia W.	Bronze
Rosa B.	Bronze

Ifan S.	Bronze
Lucas J.	Bronze
Abigail L.	Bronze
Leila M.	Bronze
Lil P.	Bronze
Chloe F.	Bronze
Holly W.	Bronze
Alfie N.	Bronze



Morgan and Freya achieved enough marks to be invited to enter the Junior Kangaroo Challenge, the follow-on competition from the Junior Maths Challenge.

PE Updates

District Athletics - May 24th, 2024

This year, the weather was not kind to us for our Year 9 and 10 annual District Athletics event: it rained all day, but our students took it in their stride! We got off to a great start with Poppy T (Year 10) and Celeste V (Year 8) both winning their 800m races, and Will H (Year 10) and Ted B (Year 9) both finishing in 2nd places in their events. This success continued with several students qualifying for the track finals in their selected event. Students included Emily P (100m), Ed H (100m/200m), Rijul B (200m), Kate H (200m), and Riley M (300m).

Field events took place throughout the day, and again we had some excellent results. Participants included Lily G and Lily O'C, both Year 8 students, who were entered into the Year 9 competition due to their high level of skill. Some highlights of the day are detailed below:

Year 10

- Kate H 2nd in the 100m and 200m
- Poppy T 1st in the 800m
- Caitlin P 2nd in the High Jump
- Will H 2nd in 800m and 3rd High Jump

Years 8 and 9

- Ed H 1st in 200m and 2nd in the 100m
- Rijul B 2nd in the 200m
- Lily G 1st in Long Jump
- Gemma O 1st in 1500m
- Emily P 3rd in the 100m
- Lily O'C 2nd in the Discus
- Benji J 2nd in the Discus and 4th in the 300m
- Quentin B 1st in Javelin
- Teddy B 2nd in the 800m

Nine schools took part in this event and competitors were split by year group. Overall, our Year 10 team finished in 5th place and our Year 9 team finished 3rd place! This was a fantastic achievement. Well done to all.

County Championships - 8th June

Any athlete who finished in 1st or 2nd place at district level had the opportunity to compete again on Saturday 8th June in Portsmouth. Here, they were representing Andover in the county competition. Unfortunately, Quentin, Teddy, Will and Caitlin were unable to attend on the day, but all the other athletes listed above attended. It was a great day and I feel very proud of the performances I had the opportunity to watch. Ed H chose to compete in the 200m and easily made it into the final, setting a new PB of 25.1s in the process. Kate H also qualified for the 200m final and finished in a respectable 5th place, making her 5th fastest in Hampshire for 200m! Gemma O competed in a tough 1500m girls race and set a new PB of 5m 25s! This was an incredible achievement for a young lady who has only competed at this specific distance a couple of times before.

In the field events, our Year 8 duo of Lily G and Lily O'C both performed well, Lily G finishing in 3rd place and Lily O'C finishing 2nd. This meant that Lily O'C was selected to throw in the County Championships in London the following weekend, while Lily G was nominated as reserve for this event.

Rounders

Year 7 Tournament – 11th June

Congratulations to our Year 7 Rounders team, who finished in 2nd place in the Andover District Competition. The girls won both matches in their group: this was down to the whole team's fielding skills and communication after each ball was bowled. This meant they went straight into the final against Harrow Way. The final score was 9.5 rounders to us and 11.5 rounders to Harrow Way. Well done to all the squad – it was a great team effort.

Squad: Sophia M, Bethany H, Grace S, Evie B, Erin I, Belle A, Victoria W, Emily G, Alana S, Charlotte W.



Year 8 Tournament – 18th June

The tournament had been re-scheduled due to poor weather on the original date. A special thanks must go to Mrs Larson and Mr Walker, as without your support the girls would not have had a chance to take part in this competition. Our first game against Harrow Way was tough! The girls lost the toss and went into bat scoring just three rounders; however HW only managed to score 4.5 rounders, so all was to play for in the second innings. Unfortunately, although we managed to field well, we didn't connect well when batting and so HW finished the game with 9.5 rounders to our 5.5 rounders.

We then played The Clere School and John Hanson B team and won both of these games. This meant we finished 2nd in our group and went on to play Wellington in the 3rd/4th play off. We opted to field, but Wellington stormed away and scored four rounders off the first four balls! Testbourne dug deep and Wellington finished with seven rounders after the first innings! Luckily, we managed to match this score in our innings.

Testbourne then went back out into the field and were amazing, Wellington scoring just one rounder out of 20 good balls! We went on to win this game finishing with 11.5 rounders to Wellington's 8 rounders, so we finished in 3rd place overall. Well done girls - a super afternoon for all!

Year 8 Squad: Holly W, Ava L, Eden L, Alaia WM, Lily G, Indigo T, Samara T, Celeste V, Grace L.

Year 9 and 10

Back in May, we took a mixed team of Year 9 and 10 students to play in the Year 10 Rounders tournament at Harrow Way. The girls played well overall, winning two of their four round-robin games. There was some superb deep fielding and excellent throwing skills from Gemma O and Poppy T into Caitlin and Amelia who were ready to receive the ball on bases two and four respectively. They were supported with solid bowling from Chloe B and a quick reaction time from Lauren B who played the role of backstop during the afternoon.

Year 9&10 squad: Emily P, Gemma O, Caitlin P, Poppy T, Lauren L, Lauren B, Chloe B, Amelia S, Grace Y, Kate H, Olivia K.

Track Knockout

Well done to all the Year 8 and 9 students who have competed in the track knockout competitions over the summer term. The girls team came 3rd in the first competition and so were selected to take part in the next round of the cup, where they finished in 4th place. Unfortunately, a couple of students couldn't make the second round, and this affected the overall score on the day. However, credit goes to Emily, Gemma, Lily, and Celeste who all put 100% effort into their events.

Our boys team finished in 4th place, and this resulted in them being entered into the 'Plate Competition'. They comfortably won the second round, beating Perins school in the process.

Track Cup Final:

Well done to the boys who finished in a very close second place to Embley, beaten by just 2 points. It all came down to the final race of the day that ended with a photo finish due to Ed H's speed in the last leg! Well done boys, it was a super achievement.

This is the first time Testbourne have entered this competition and we will be entering again next year due to our success!

Our Athletes: Ed H, Ollie O, Archie B, Benji J, Noah J, Bihela S, Rijul B, Teddy B, Will T, Emily P, Gemma O, Lily G, Alaia WM, Celeste V, Aimee D, Madeline dM, Izzy K



Year 7 & 8 District Athletics – June 24th

The sun was baking for this competition. The calm, windless conditions allowed all the students an opportunity to do their best. Two competitions ran concurrently, one for Year 7 and one for Year 8, competing for a trophy which is awarded on the day. Overall, the TCS Year 7s finished in 4th place and our Year 8s finished in 3rd place – an excellent achievement given only a small squad of Year 8 girls were participating on the day!

Some highlights of the day are listed below.

Year 7:

Alana S: 1st in 600m (2m 2.65s), displaying great resilience and a strong finish!

Belle A: 2nd in the Discus (16.6m) and 3rd in shot (6.43m)

Emily G: 3rd place in the 1000m (3m 59s)

Jacob R: 2nd place in both the 80m (11.12s) and High Jump (1.25m)

Luke W: 3rd (3m 31s) and James C: 4th (3m 33s) in the 1000m

Year 7 & 8 District Athletics – June 24th (continued)

Year 8:

Lily O'C: 1st place in both Discus (19.74m) and Shot (7.13m)

Lily G: 1st in Long Jump (4.55m), 3rd in 100m (14.17s)

Celeste V: 1st in 800m (2m 32.09s)

Archie B: 1st in both the 800m (2m 20.11s) and the 1500m (4m 56.08s)

Gregory B: 1st in Javelin (23.93m)

Zack B: 2nd in High Jump (1.30m)

Ted V: 2nd in Discus (22.52m)

All the students who finished in 1st or 2nd place had an opportunity to attend the County Championships at Southampton on 11th July.

County Athletics – 11th July 2024

This event saw a brilliant day for the Testbourne students, starting off with Lily G winning the Year 8 girls' Long Jump with a jump of 4.86m. This was followed by Archie B finishing in 1st place in the 800m and Celeste V in 2nd place in her race. Zack B finished in 3rd place jumping 1.45m in High Jump, an excellent achievement for him! Lily O'C was 4th in the Discus; Greg B came 6th in Javelin; Ted V achieved 10th in the Discus; Belle A came 12th in Discus; Alana S finished 14th in the 600m; Emily G 12th in the 1000m; and James C 14th and Luke W 15th in their 1000m race. Well done to all for taking part in an excellent afternoon of athletics.

Cricket U13 Girls Softball

We have had a fantastic turnout to our U13 training this season with a group of over twenty very committed girls coming to training every week.

The girls played well at the Hampshire 'Chance to Shine' tournament held at Trojans Cricket Club, winning matches in our pool stage against Toynbee and Oaklands with star bowling by Alaia WM, who took several wickets. We narrowly missed out on the semi-finals, losing by one run to The Bay School from the Isle of Wight, and Priestlands (who went on to the final and won).

Lots of the girls now play hardball outside of school and, as this goes to print, we have a team entered for the Hampshire hardball competition for the first time since Alice Monaghan was a student here!

Those of you who know Alice know that she is now playing for Southern Vipers and has been selected for Manchester Originals in The 100 game this summer!

U15 Girls Softball

We went into this year's Hampshire tournament knowing that we had been runners up last year. We had a combined Year 9 and 10 team this year, and had two tough first-round games against Toynbee and Springfield, a team from Portsmouth. Highlights of these games included a three wicket maiden over from Phoebe B! Managing to get over the line in both, we faced a quarter final against Perins who batted first and put on 73. We were able to chase this down with two overs to spare and it saw us go into the semi-finals against Kings, who were winners last year. We lost the toss and were put into bat, managing a solid 52. The first ball of their innings saw a spectacular wicket by Gemma O and we felt we could have a chance; unfortunately, their batters were too strong for us and went on to win the game. Nevertheless, it was a great effort from our ladies and we go into the hardball competition next week. With lots of students now playing hardball outside of school, this is the first time in a while we have been able to enter.

U15 Boys Softball

On what was a fantastic day for playing cricket, we took nine boys from across Years 9 and 10 to play in the county event. We faced four games in the group stages, to then qualify for one of the four finals. The boys started with a fantastic victory against Swanmore College where we racked up 145 in our 50 deliveries. We then bowled well, keeping them under 60.

We then played our second game against Toynbee A, batting first and maintaining our aggressive mindset. Unfortunately, our decision making saw us losing wickets regularly, and we were bowled out for 45. This was too low a target to defend even with some good bowling.

Our third game was against local rivals John Hanson: we bowled first and contained them to 104 which was an achievable target. We batted well and, with a dozen balls remaining to get 21, we were in control. Some very tight bowling then restricted us and we fell two runs short on the last ball.

Our final game was a tough loss against eventual runners-up Priestlands, who scored 152 off their 50 balls. Against a strong bowling line up we fell comfortably short.

We qualified for the 7th/8th place final, which was not where we wanted to be, but the boys put in an accomplished performance against Toynbee 'B' team and we came away with the win and 7th place. It had been an inconsistent day but the leadership and resilience shown by the boys was impressive.



U13 Hardball District

The district hardball six-a-side, five-over tournament took place at John Hanson this year, with six teams battling it out to be the best in the district.

Throughout the day our bowling was fantastic, bowling with accuracy and efficacy that consistently troubled the batters. With five of the six players having to bowl (the other keeping wicket), this was vitally important and they were all exceptional.

Our first game was against Harrow Way where we won by 32 runs. Our second game was a tough game against Rookwood who we beat by 18 runs. By winning both games we qualified for the final, where we met John Hanson.



This was a closely fought match, where our bowling was at its best: with John Hanson chasing 50 they were restricted to just 22. This was an even more impressive feat giving the talented batters that John Hanson had. A fantastic performance which left us crowned as District Champions.

U15 Hardball Districts

On a very rare hot day at the end of June we took a team to John Hanson school for the annual six-a-side hardball tournament. There were six teams entered and we were very unlucky to draw John Hanson in our first game. They batted first and made an impressive 87 from their five overs!

Our response started well, and at the halfway stage we were piling on the runs. Sam G had already retired and then the run rate slowed, and we finished with 80 runs – not quite enough, but still not a bad effort! Games against Rookwood and Wellington then followed, both of which we won, placing us second in the tournament – right behind John Hanson, again!

Year 7 and 8 Swimming Gala

Well done to our amazing swimmers who attended this year's Swimming Gala at Rookwood School on a sunny afternoon in June. Our team captain Chloe F took full charge of the team, ensuring that everyone was ready for their individual race.

There was a full line up of races of 25m/50m, in all strokes. Testbourne students won a large proportion of these races, and this contributed to us finishing the day in 1st place overall out of five participating schools.

Year 7 team:

Evie B, Grace S, Olivia C, Olivia H, Jack C, Luke W, Harry T, Maksym G.

Year 8 team:

Freya B, Chloe F, Chloe C, Lily O'C, Ted V, Sam H, Tobi W, Charlie B.

PE Updates - Outside of School

Freya B

Freya has been invited to the Swim England Summer Championships (nationals). She qualified for the 200 metre freestyle event, with a qualifying time of 2.14.50. She will be heading to Ponds Forge at Sheffield on Tuesday 30th July. Freya will swim in the age 14/15 mixed age category and is one of fourteen swimmers in the age 14 category to be invited. Swimmers compete in the age category that they fall into on 31st December 2024: Freya will actually only have been 14 for three weeks at the time of the event, so is one of the youngest in the age group.

We wish Freya good luck in her competition and look forward to hearing her results in September!



James M

A special mention goes to James in Year 7. James is fully committed to BMX racing and has had a lot of success this year at several racing events.

James raced in Birmingham at the start of July in his last National of the 2024 season, and has ended in the position of 2nd in the country. This is an exceptional result and, along with James and his family, we are all very proud of his achievements.

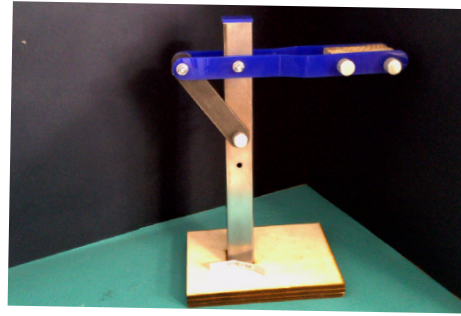
James still has a few regional rounds to go, where he is currently ranked as no.1; and he'll race the British Championships in August. The season will finish in Belgium for the last European round of the year in September.



STEM Updates

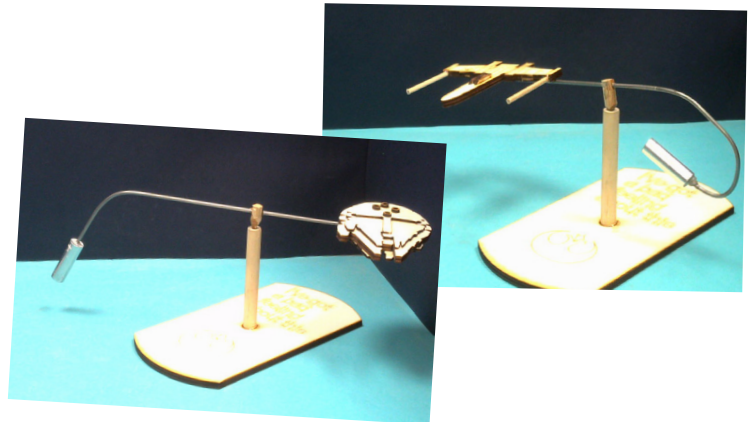
Engineering

Year 10 Engineering students have completed their Unit 1 section where they manufactured an adjustable bicycle support bracket using a wide range of hand and machine tools as well as a range of materials. Students worked incredibly hard to produce a quality final product and supporting portfolio each.



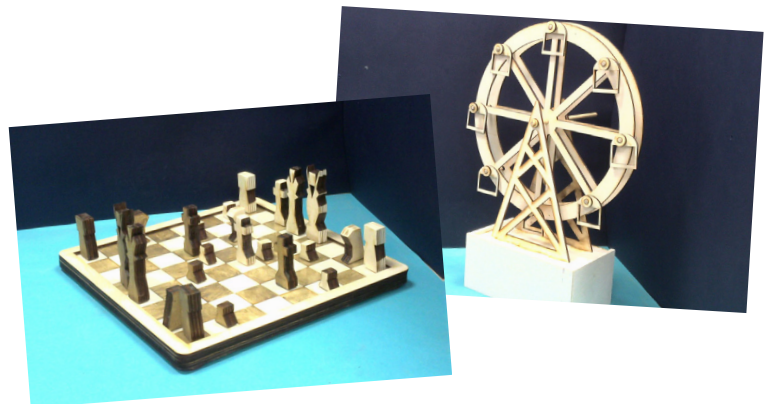
STEM club

Students in Years 7 & 8 have been able to attend weekly lunchtime STEM clubs running at Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes. Students have completed their first project, which was to design and manufacture their executive balancing toy. Students designs reflected a wide range of themes for their balancing executive toy including helicopters, planes, superheroes, and animals.



STEM Club Prefects

The STEM Club Prefects have been developing their own projects this term and have challenged themselves to produce a range of engineered products. The image is of the motorised Ferris wheel designed and manufactured by Archie W, which is shown as it neared completion. Another example is Jack D's chessboard set; he is also designing the bespoke container to hold all the individual pieces.



Powerboat Challenge 2024

A team of Year 8 students have now started their design for the 2024 Powerboat Challenge, held annually at the Haslar Research Base in Gosport. The rules this year stipulate that all powerboats must include the capacity of carrying a 500g weight. Last year TCS did very well and produced a competitive boat and accompanying portfolio: this year we are hoping to come away with some silverware!



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