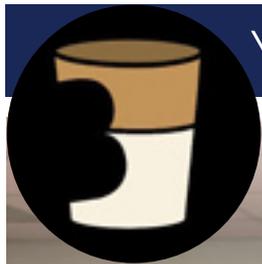




# Senior Courier

8th May 2020

#REMOTELearning



## Young Enterprise County Final Success



Our Year 12 Young Enterprise team have been crowned Winners for Somerset with their eco-friendly edible cup product, "BisCup".

Each year a group of Year 12 business students are invited to set up and run a business as part of the national Young Enterprise scheme. This year, students at Taunton School decided to come up with a solution to disposable cups, creating the product "BisCup". The company statement proclaims BisCup to be "an edible biscuit cup made from natural grains and cereals. It is environmentally-friendly, tasty, crispy and suitable for all kinds of hot and cold beverages."

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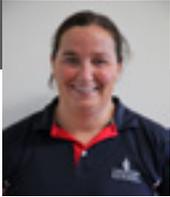
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## The new normal?

by Hayley Mortimer, Director of Co-Curricular

Four weeks into the summer term, many of us have bedded in to our remote school routine.

I am fortunate that in many ways my 'new normal' is not so very distant from my previous normal.

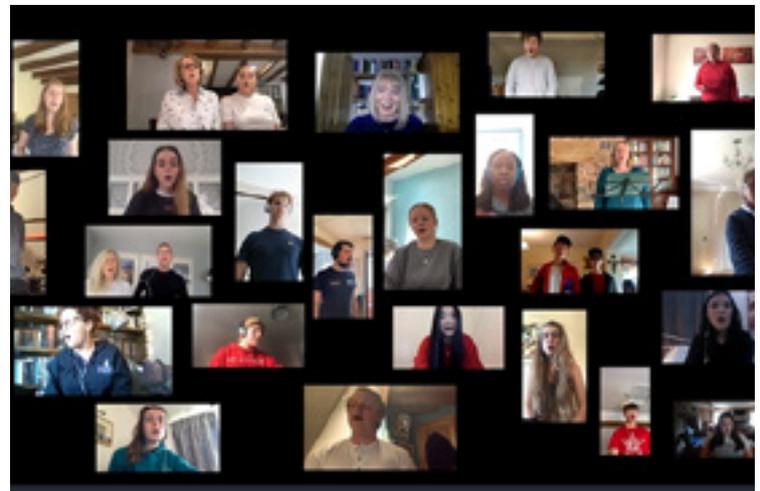
I have been able to be part of Music rehearsals and concerts, the audience for Burke Debates, discussions in Academic and Drama Scholars, and physical sessions in fitness testing and home training circuit development with Sports Scholars. In some ways it is easier for me, as I have on occasion been able to be in two places at once, or been able to watch sessions back after they have been recorded. Microsoft Teams is a bit like the time-turner that Hermione Granger has in the Prisoner of Azkaban - very handy for busy folk!

Of course we miss the noise, chaos and energy that comes from having a school full of teachers and students, but to see so many of the community getting involved in online activities has made me very proud. The 'Miles for MS' challenge has started very positively, with over 49 staff and students completing more than 1700 km and raising over £1600: the first success of the Taunton School Strava Club. The Community Choir has received over 50 individual videos to create a montage of "You are Not Alone." The last month has seen the strength of the Taunton School Community shine through.

I wonder whether some of our new normal routines will stick in the future? Family board games and baking, the effort made to have telephone conversations or online video calls with family and friends, cherishing the allowance of daily exercise to explore the green spaces around our homes, the joys of reading and developing new skills - why not just carry on with these post-lockdown?

I have absolutely recognised that, now more than ever, I have a new appreciation for the beautiful area in which I live, having explored areas of Taunton on walks or cycling excursions, tried new recipes and enjoyed cooking, as well as finding time to read for enjoyment; all things I may not have done if this crisis had not happened. Whilst I miss people, I have been able to use this time to think about the things that are really important to me in my life and to explore new things that I did not challenge myself to do in the past.

There is still time to explore pastures new, use this time to see how innovative and creative you can be.



## Team BisCup



Managing Director of BisCup and Year 12 student said "The idea of selling edible cups came to us as a company through our shared belief in the need for sustainable alternatives to plastics. We are immensely proud of our student led company for winning the Young Enterprise county finals and we hope for more success as we continue onto the regional stage where we will be competing with other companies across the West of England."

Headmaster Lee Glaser said: "I'm delighted that Team BisCup have been recognised for their hard work on such a worthy business idea. They have persevered with getting their important message out there despite the current challenges and fully deserve this success. I wish them all the very best in the regional finals."

Team BisCup will now go on to represent Somerset with their product in the South West Finals in June. Details of how the event will take place are yet to be confirmed.

Follow the BisCup Instagram and Twitter pages (Biscupuk) to keep up with all the latest news and updates.

*Images taken earlier this year*

## Remote Learning – The story so far

A blog piece written by Mr Henderson, the Deputy Academic Head on 4th May 2020.



In honour of May the Fourth, or 'Star Wars Day' as it is humorously known, I feel like I should begin this article with "A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away..."! This would certainly reflect just how other-worldly the last three weeks have felt for many students, staff and doubtless parents of Taunton School. It has been, at times, an alien experience, but also one full of delightful new sights, sounds and skills – like lightsaber training with a helmet on!

Enough of the space metaphors. It has been an incredibly challenging time on many levels. But the students and teachers have responded magnificently to these challenges. Recent surveys on our remote provision showed that, despite their separation from friends and school, around 40% of our student body feel 'happy' or 'very happy', and nearly a quarter rated the start of this term as 'less stressful than normal'. Students value the live lessons we have been running on the Microsoft Teams platform, the support of their tutors, and the helpfulness, availability and creativity of their subject teachers. Especially for older year groups, online learning does allow for a greater degree of independent learning and managing one's own time and, although the press is full of stories about 'Covid learning loss', some students could come out of this period of lockdown having learnt more than they would have normally in certain areas. Of course, the cost of this will be lack of team sport, socialising, community engagement and many of the other lovely things which characterise the life of

Taunton School and others like it, but in narrowly academic terms, lockdown is far from a disaster so far.

I am enormously indebted to the Taunton School staff for their amazing efforts to get remote learning off the ground and deliver lessons whilst balancing other commitments in sometimes difficult domestic circumstances. The hardest thing for teachers has been electronic workflow and the difficulty of monitoring and marking work submitted on different platforms. Students in turn have had to learn quickly how to jump between applications. With this in mind, we have reduced prep expectations for Years 9 and 10 – the idea being to focus on quality and consistency over quantity, and this means that schemes of work will be lengthened all the way to the end of term. Even if we do return to school in June, there will be no exams – to everyone's relief!

Like everyone, we are hanging on every Government statement and press conference, trying to glean some clues about what lies ahead. But one thing which is obvious is that, come what may, we have a strong community at Taunton School which will bring us through adversity and out into happier times with few damaging after-effects.

We aim to show off some of the great things our students have been getting up to in their lessons over the coming days, through social media and on the school website.

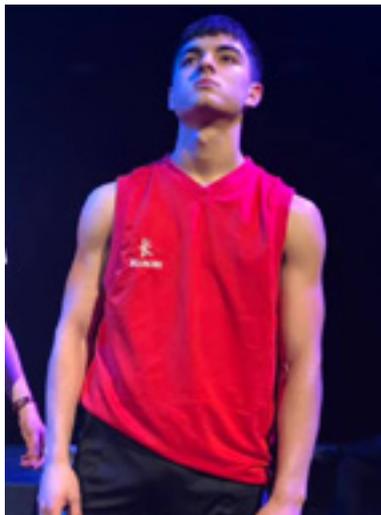
With best wishes to everyone: May the Fourth be with you!

**Damian Henderson, Deputy Head Academic**

## Haleem accepted into the National Youth Theatre

**Year 13 Student, Haleem Clift, has been accepted into the prestigious National Youth Theatre. Here is his story.**

I love drama and acting, but I wasn't sure about drama school. I wanted to pursue acting in the future, but I didn't want to do it full-time, at least not yet. When I heard about NYT, it seemed perfect. I was introduced to it by Mrs Winter. It's a program for 14-25 year old actors/actresses to develop and grow. It differs from drama schools in that it's not full-time. Being part of NYT means you have opportunities to audition for stage and screen casting, develop your ability through workshops and masterclasses, meet other young actors and a load of other things. The next step is a one-week summer intake course, which is on zoom this year.



As with any 'success' though, there's always a lot that goes on behind the scenes. For me, this came from Mrs Stamp and Mrs Winter, as well as ongoing support from my house staff. Mrs Stamp helped me choose my monologue, and throughout the last 2 years has challenged me with new and interesting roles. She has always believed in me. As for Mrs Winter, she has been absolutely incredible. Having worked as a professional actor, I am so lucky to have been mentored and coached by her. Whether it be through her professional voice coaching sessions last year or the countless opportunities she's given me to speak in services, her support and advice have helped me grow my acting skills exponentially.

The audition was in Bristol; there was a 5 hour workshop (which included loads of improvisation and group work) and then a 10 minute monologue slot/interview. It was a great day. I genuinely walked out and said to my mum that I'm not bothered if I don't get in, it was a great experience.

When I got the email 3 months later, it was a lovely surprise. It was my first ever audition and being successful with it has helped to grow my confidence massively. I feel very excited about what the future could hold.

She helped to direct my monologue, watched it countless times and gave her continual advice and support, both professionally and pastorally. She supported me through the strange and unnerving audition process and helped to unleash my full potential. Which is essentially the reason I gained a place. So I can't thank her and Mrs Stamp enough. The acting and performance skills I have learnt have been invaluable, both on and off-stage. It's arguably been my biggest takeaways from my experience at Taunton School and have no doubt that it will serve me for many years to come.

**Haleem Clift, Year 13 student**

# Remote Learning

The effort that our whole community has put into our Remote Learning programme has been fantastic. Here is a snap shot of some of the endeavours we've enjoyed so far. Do keep sending in your pictures and videos as we plan on making a short film to celebrate the success very soon.

## PRE



**To ponder...**

- What is your role in the debate between 'taboo' and 'tabooish' as presented to the world?
- What is your role in the world's quest for "an end to war" as seen through the lens of 'emptiness is bliss'?
- What is your role in the world's quest for 'emptiness is bliss' as seen through the lens of 'emptiness is bliss'?
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## Economics and Business

**The Leadership Of Winston Churchill**  
British Prime Minister during WWII

*What makes his Leadership so Effective*

**Vision**

During WWII, all anyone hoped for was victory. Winston Churchill saw a vision of how they would achieve that victory as it was through fighting and he was able to communicate that to his people.

**Experience**

Although his vision was clear on what he needed to do, he needed the skill and knowledge on how to conduct it effectively. As a military officer, he was well equipped for that. Along with a career as a writer, he was able to construct inspirational speeches to sway his people to pursuing his vision.

**Perseverance**

And even if the odds were stacked against him, even people on his side were against him and his ideas, he pursued in his chase for victory and succeeded which even scared tyrants like Hitler.

*Action centered Leadership Model*

In this model, it reveals the importance of understanding and developing the task, team and individual to achieve a goal.

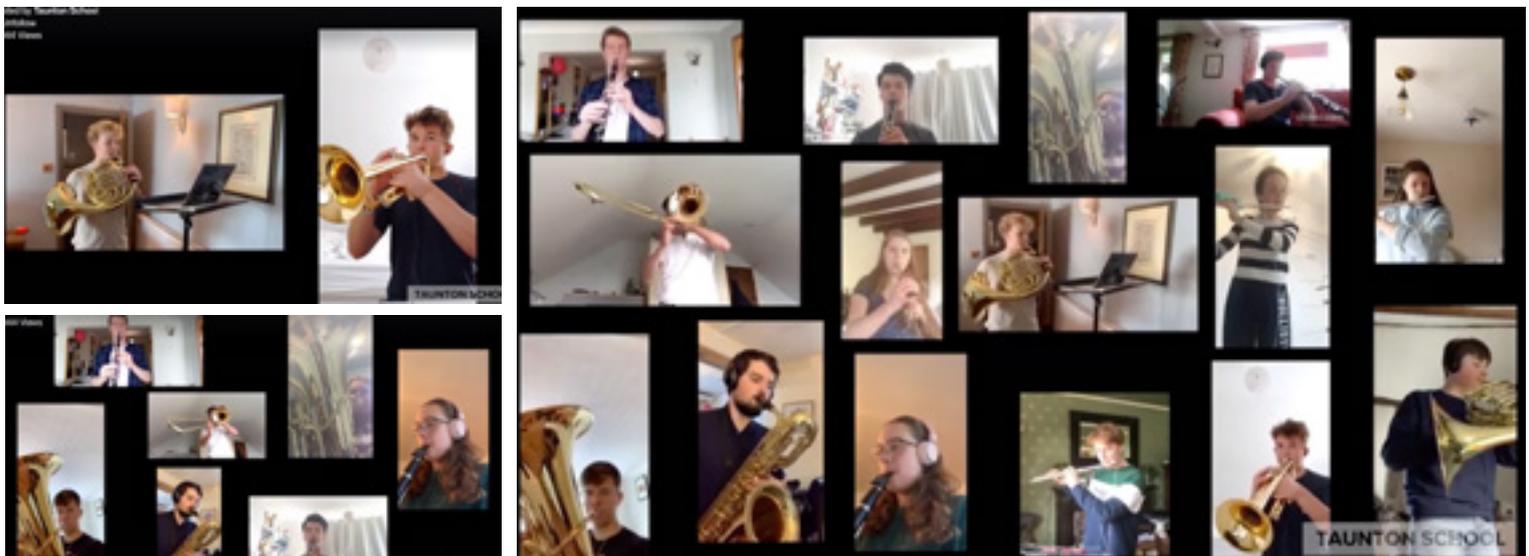
The job of the leader is to identify the task, for Churchill, it was either to form a peace deal or fight it out against Hitler but overall to gain a victory and stabilise the independence and protect the values of England. With more specific:

The team, which was consisted of multiple groups, soldiers, government officials, war cabinet and civilians with greater subsections. These were the people Winston was in charge of and he had to assign a role to all of them. He had to prepare each group for their task.

The individual, as a leader Winston had to inspire the individuals to continue with their duties even if they may have felt doubt in the methods and ensured them what they were doing was helping the greater cause.

## Music

In Music, remote learning has not stopped the students getting involved and still performing. Every Thursday at 3pm students have been taking part in the Teatime concert from their homes and our community choir has still been meeting virtually 3 times a week. Below are members of the School Wind Concert Band - as they perform (separately but together) 'Procession of the Nobles' by Rimsky Korsakoff.



# Sport Challenges

The Sports department has been setting students and their families a variety of challenges to get involved with and stay active. examples of some of the challenges have been in Netball the "Can Can' Challenge and in Rugby Mr Sestaret got some of his pals from Exeter chiefs to get involved with a skills challenge. We would love to see your challenge attempts- send in photos to be featured in the next courier.



# Year 9 Spanish

Year 9 Spanish students have been getting busy in the kitchen during their home learning, creating spanish dishes for their families to enjoy. It's been lovely to see the students so hands on in the kitchen and enjoying their finished dishes.



# Miles for MS Challenge

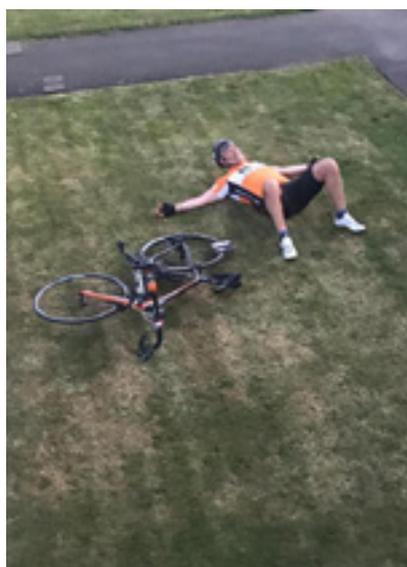
Multiple  
Sclerosis  
Trust

MS

Multiple Sclerosis affects the central nervous system and it is estimated that 130,000 people in the UK have it.

Last Year, Miss Stancer aimed to complete 350 miles with her family in one month raising money for the Multiple Sclerosis Trust, as part of the charities Miles for MS campaign. They were able to beat that target collective doing 464 miles and raising over £1,000.

Miss Stancer would love to see the Taunton School community get involved during May with the challenge.



## Can you help Miss Stancer beat last year?

I want to get as many of YOU involved as possible to complete as many miles as possible – Whilst trying to raise a little bit of money.

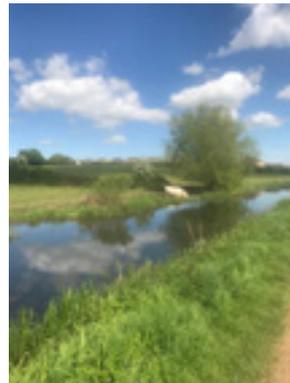
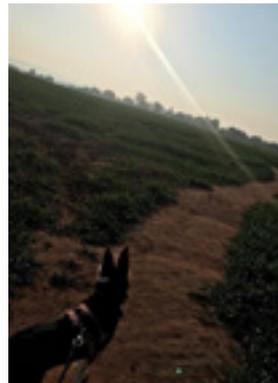
Remember you can complete the miles however you like... Challenge yourself, your family, your friends and classmates...

There will be some prizes and goodies for those who complete the most miles along with the biggest fundraisers!

Make a profile here: [https://give.everydayhero.com/uk/get-started?team\\_id=264876](https://give.everydayhero.com/uk/get-started?team_id=264876)

Join the TS Team here: <https://give.everydayhero.com/uk/team-TS>

## Miles for MS Challenge



## A Letter of Thanks...



**Taunton School were very grateful to receive a letter of thanks from the HM Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Annie Maw, in recognition of the hard work, volunteering and effort that Taunton School has put in during the past two months.**

Firstly, I know that at the moment, life in all our schools is very different from any circumstance encountered by any of us before. I know that this is very difficult to manage and, with the welfare of your pupils and the immediate pathways which their learning journey will take, in mind, this is extremely challenging.

As professional people, you are dealing with these issues with such ingenuity, such courage and such stamina. I am in awe and very proud. I know, that as an example of the very privileged educational opportunities which our children receive in this country today, your skills and your expertise will not be found wanting, even in the current circumstances.

I have been in close contact with our NHS health providers as we live through this crisis, and Colin Drummond, at Musgrove Park Hospital, tells me that Taunton School has been really exceptionally supportive to them, to their work and to the people who are providing their services. I understand that what you have given is both ingenious and diverse. This is an example of what is so marvellous about our community.

If there is anything to celebrate about this terrible situation, it is the kindness of people like you and of the organisations which you work for. It is what central Government needs so desperately and what we, in Somerset, seem so good at supplying.

I hope you will accept this very inadequate message of thanks to you all for the work that you are doing for our hospital and front line care services. This gratitude is expressed on behalf of the people of Somerset and, also, on behalf of the Royal family who I represent in our county.

When it is safe to do so, I would love to come to Taunton School to meet you all and to thank you in person for the magnificent help which you have given.

With my kindest regards

**Annie Maw**  
**Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset**

## Who wants to be a Quillionaire?

Keep a look out on the English Department social media and Teams for the weekly challenge!

### Challenge 1 (Summer 2020)

Start date: Monday 4th May: Closing date for this week's entries: Monday 11th May 5pm...

**Write a description of a precious possession using the following opening and concluding paragraphs to book-end your response.**

**You should aim to write between 250 and 300 words...**

Opening:

My father's desk is a thing of beauty. I've always admired it. Its style may be considered a little outdated, but I love it and I don't particularly care for what's 'in' and what's 'out'. It's pretty unspectacular at first glance and typically 1970s: pinewood and functional. But there's something extraordinary about it...

(Your part goes here...)

Conclusion:

...Over time these possessions become even more precious. They're our connection with the past; they give us a sense of history or belonging. I suppose that's why we keep them polished and loved.

Calling all creative enthusiasts...

There is now an exciting new weekly writing forum where all staff and students are warmly invited to submit pieces each week for possible publication...

Each week writers of the best pieces will be contacted and their pieces put into a folder for possible publication at the end of term. There will also be prizes awarded from time-to-time where weekly entries exceed 20...

So...time to dust off your pens and get writing - most of all have fun being creative. We may be in lockdown but our minds are always free.

**How to submit:**

All submissions please to be sent as a Word Document to: alex.carter@tauntonschool.co.uk (formerly Ms Cutts). Feel free to ask Miss Carter or any of the English Department on the Teams Chat page (or via email) if you have any questions or would like more details.

Please note: Only complete, edited and spell-checked submissions will be accepted and entries must be sent before the weekly closing date. No late entries will be accepted. Anonymous responses are also welcome for the more shy amongst you...

**TS English Department**

## Cricket

Firstly I hope you and families are keeping well in these difficult times. I have been so impressed by the efforts of our cricketers since the reality of their being no match programme at the moment. This is highly frustrating for all involved, particularly as without doubt the work ethic and efforts to improve techniques and tactical awareness this winter had been higher than previous years. It is disappointing that at the present time we do not have a match programme but fingers crossed this may change in the future.

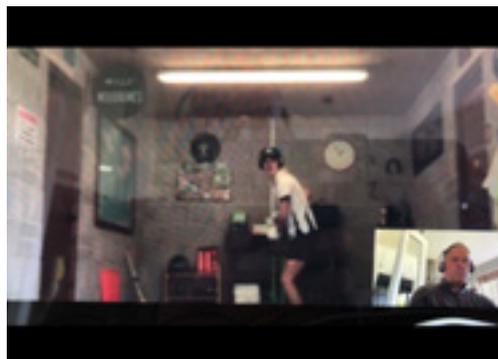
The great thing for me is the way the players have responded to doing drills remotely, this has been through video feedback, live sessions, 1-1 and group conversations. In the group discussions we have covered; How to bowl at Gayle in a T20?, when you are making your Somerset debut in a T20 what field would you set and what would you bowl?, Favourite players? why? strengths and how would play against them? and a Test match draft auction. Mr Trescothick has been a part of these successful discussions, these group sessions have been done across all year groups and can be accessed via the cricket channel in TEAMS. If anyone is looking for more ideas of what do at home in different amounts of space then look at the Firefly sports pages and within cricket some interesting quiz's, the latest was

"How well do you know Mr Trescothick?" .

Finally congratulations to Conway Gilbert who was named 1st XI captain. Part of his online role will helping other players in different age groups.

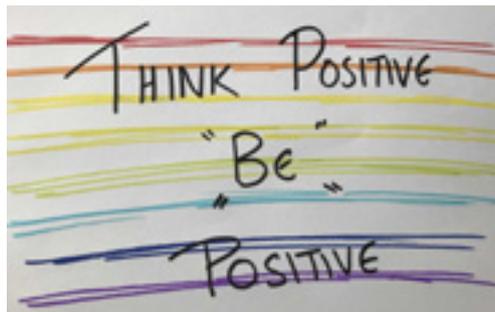
Stay well and hope to hear leather on willow soon.

**Pete Sanderson, Director of Cricket**



# #TSArtChallenge

Our daily drawing challenges set by our Art Department continue to go from strength to strength and we are building up quite a gallery. Please enjoy the submissions we were delighted to receive from the past week. Make sure you follow their twitter account @tsartdepartment to get involved.



KEEP SENDING IN YOUR ART CHALLENGE DRAWINGS