



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

Senior School COURIER

11th December 2020

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

A ROYAL SEAL OF APPROVAL



Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne, visited our school this week to officially open our new dining room and kitchens. The new facility is at the very heart of our whole school community and it is fitting that such an important part of Taunton School should receive royal recognition!

As well as the official ceremony, Her Royal Highness took time to meet with a number of our students, paid a visit to our design technology department, and had the opportunity to hear our musical talent on display in the school chapel.

It was an uplifting event for staff and students alike and well timed at the end of a very busy term, and a year like no other! Thank you to everyone who made this Covid safe visit possible.

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Have a very Merry Christmas!



Head's Up: End of Term celebrations

by Lee Glaser



What a lovely way to finish the year! It was wonderful to welcome HRH The Princess Royal to school on Wednesday to officially open our new dining room. I am thrilled that this amazing facility has been opened by a member of the Royal Household with an event befitting of the impact that the dining room will have on the whole school community. Terry Harris, our Head of Estates and Facilities, and his team have done an incredible job in delivering this project under such difficult circumstances.

As I write I am very much looking forward to being part of the Carol Services which traditionally mark the end of this term. This week I have also been able to watch the Autumn Concert, the Dance Show and a number of the brilliant musical advent calendar performances. Although this term has been different to our normal expectation, I am delighted by the number of activities we have been able to deliver within the safety guidelines. I am in awe of my colleagues and our students.

I paid tribute in our end of term assembly to the non teaching staff who are the unsung heroes. They have been truly remarkable and to pick out one staff member might not be the right thing to do...but I'm going to do it anyway! Emily Kane, our Sister in Charge of the Health Centre has kept us going throughout difficult times. I cannot thank her enough.

The whole community now deserves a good break and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lee Glaser, Headmaster

End of Term Assembly Awards and Colours - Senior

CCF Colours

Full Colours	Makena Nesbitt
Certificate of Merit	Emma Hounslow Will Hudson
Contigent Commanders Cup	Awarded to Royal Navy Brave

Debating Colours

Senior Half Performance	Kara Klimczak-Gange George Knowles Guido Wieser
Senior Full	Hanna Wittek

Senior House Debating Competition

House Debating Impromptu	Dan Travers (GD)
House Debating Interpretive Reading	Harry Leung (FW)
House Debating winners	Ruth Garang and Hanna Wittek (BV)
Best Speakers	Joe Gough (WW) and Ruth Garang (BV)
Overall Winners	Goodland

Cricket Colours (from Summer 2020)

Junior Full	Harrison Barrett Thomas Houghton-King Teddy Woolstencroft Archie Billings Barnaby Webber
Senior Half Performance	Aidan Carter Jacob Hockey Joleigh Roberts Freddie Stevenson Max Fletcher Ben Pomeroy Adam Small Henry Weatherill

Tennis Colours (from Summer 2020)

Junior Full	Teddy Woolstencroft
Senior Half Performance	Flora Collier Makena Nesbitt Joni Shaw

Senior House Football

Senior House A Competition	Wills West
Senior House B Competition	Fairwater
Overall Winners	Wills West

End of Term Assembly Awards and Colours - Senior

Hockey Colours

Senior Half for Services to Hockey	Tia Chaloner Freya Chandler Nieve Davis Arabella Ellison Jess Fisher Charlotte Hicks Martha Mileham Joleigh Roberts
Senior Half Performance	Hetty James Emily Lawton Eloise Taylor Imogen Walden Verity Winsor
Senior Full	Flora Collier Izzy Glaser Rhiannon Lee Isla May Lucy Regan Zoe Shadlock Freya Tyler

Rugby Colours

Senior Half for Services	Bryn Baker Timo Bonsels Alfred DeCharry Tom Kitson-Herring William Hudson Thomas McConnell Maxton Tuttiett Ethan Tyler
Senior Half Performance (Year 12)	Antonio Alvarez Harrison Barrett Tom Burridge Ben Chaffey Barney Dietz John Endersby Thomas Houghton-King Charlie Shave Teddy Woolstencroft
Senior Half Performance (Year 13)	Miles Butt Rupert Dean Ronnie Foster Ben Jackson Thomas Leah Rowan Mandeville Calum Pinn Freddie Stevenson Henry Weatherill
Senior Full	Francis Appiah Ben Bailey George Charalambous Sebastian Dando Oliver Halliday Nick Payne Archie Prosser Jek Ramella Pollone Sam Stevenson
House Rugby Senior Cup	Marshall

Hockey Awards

Senior House Hockey	Besley
Gwynne Jones Cup for Hockey Player of the Season	Zoe Shadlock

Drama Colours

Senior Half Performance	Esme Hallworth Woody Knight Jamie Kent Francesca Leonard Ilya Romanov
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Music Colours

Senior Half Performance	Hannah Clinton Ben Coston Sebastian Dean Esme Hallworth Daisy Hickson George Knowles Harry Leung Annabelle Lewes
Senior Full	Rupert Dean Daisy Downham Charlotte Hicks Matthew Knight Isaac Onyirioha Tamby Welch

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Bronze	Rupert Dean Daisy Hickson Artem Prokhorov Freya Tyler
Silver	Verity Winsor

Senior Inter-House Debating and Public Speaking Winners

Persuasive Speaking	Elizabeth Dutton
Impromptu	Dan Travers
Interpretive Reading	Harry Leung

Senior Inter-House Debating and Public Speaking Main Debate

Best Speakers	Joe Gough Ruth Garang
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End of Term Assembly Awards and Colours - Junior

CCF Colours

Junior Full Colours	Sophie Austin Charlie Way
Certificate of Merit	Sophie Austin
Best Recruit (Awarded on Field Day)	Sophie Austin

Senior House Debating Competition

House Debating Persuasive Sepaking	Elizabeth Dutton (WD)
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Tennis Colours (from Summer 2020)

Junior Full	Jack Brimm
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Junior House Football

Year 9 Competition	Evans
Year 10 Competition	Evans
Overall Winners	Evans

Hockey Colours

Junior Half	Macey Barrett Aniela Cuevas Georgia Greenway Bryony Griffiths Emily Halliday Helen Hounslow Grace Hutchinson
Junior Full	Ailani Braine-Clarke Isabel Hogevoid Emily Jones Georgia-Bella Kingswell Julia Louw Maddy Marsh Annabelle Mellenchip Ellie Trescothick Gypsy-Grace Wood

Hockey Awards

Junior House Hockey	Besley
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Drama Colours

Junior Half	Mark Eavis Sofia Williams
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Rugby Colours

Junior Half	George Baker George Demochka Taylor Flitton Rufus Hetherington Nathan Hobson Kit Hockey Martin Lee Alex Pomeroy Ben Read Reginald Tuttiett
Junior Full	Gabriel Baldegger Gabriel Cameron Ashley Chorley Guy Ellisson Jacob Ferguson Ashley Foster Ollie Heard Henry Hudson Michael Hudson Karl Ko Joe Neeve George Nuttycombe Stanley Snellgrove Devrim Tarr Charlie Way Oscar Willis Justin Wong

Rugby Awards

House Rugby Junior Cup	Marshall
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Music Colours

Junior Half	Hetty Christopher Anthony Knight
Junior Full	George Baker Kate Blackmore-Greasley Cecilia Fawden Bryony Griffiths Evie Gulliver Rufus Hetherington Mina Li Julia Louw Sarah Stoppard Steven Yao

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Bronze	Ashley Chorley Darcie Coleman Stanley Snellgrove
Volunteering, Physical and Skills Sections for Bronze	Jana Boraei

Ten Tors 'Exmoor Challenge'

51 pupils who have registered their interest in the Ten Tors have been challenged to put their outdoor experience to good use and help support one of our local charities, Exmoor Search and Rescue. We are all very fortunate to be able to enjoy the local



countryside and moors safely, due to the fact that if the worst happens, there is a volunteer agency at hand to come and rescue us. As a Mountain Rescue Team the volunteers of Exmoor Search and Rescue provide skills and expertise that the other emergency services can't provide in remote environments. At Taunton School we are very aware that this voluntary service is, in part, what allows us to get out on the hills and enjoy them. The pupils therefore want to show our support for the time the Exmoor Search and Rescue Team give up in training and ensuring that the charity is ready and waiting should we ever need them.

The challenge that they have been set is to cover the equivalent distance of the perimeter of the old Exmoor Forest (38 miles). Each pupil will come up with their own unique way of doing so, challenging themselves in the process.

The running costs of the team are around £25,000 every year. They require specialist equipment and medical supplies and are currently fundraising to replace their Incident Control Vehicle at a cost of £75,000. We know that should we ever need to make that call, we want our local Mountain Rescue Team to be available.

If you would like to support the pupils and ESRT with a donation, or simply send them a message of encouragement please use the link gf.me/u/zaiz23

Caro Wedgwood, Head of Biology, EPQ Co-ordinator

Who wants to be a Quillionaire?

The latest Quillionaire's Creative Writing competitions are now open for entries!

Email your festive poetry or short story to alex.cutts@tauntonschool.co.uk following the brief and by the deadlines shown below. Good luck!

Due 16/1/2021



Sixth Form Poetry Competition

It's the Festive Season and the English Department challenges you to write a piece of festive poetry based on...

Flames

or

Thorns

or

Tearing



It's the Festive Season!

Calling all budding writers throughout the school, the English Department challenges you to write a short story or piece of writing based on the '12 Days of Christmas'

It must be:

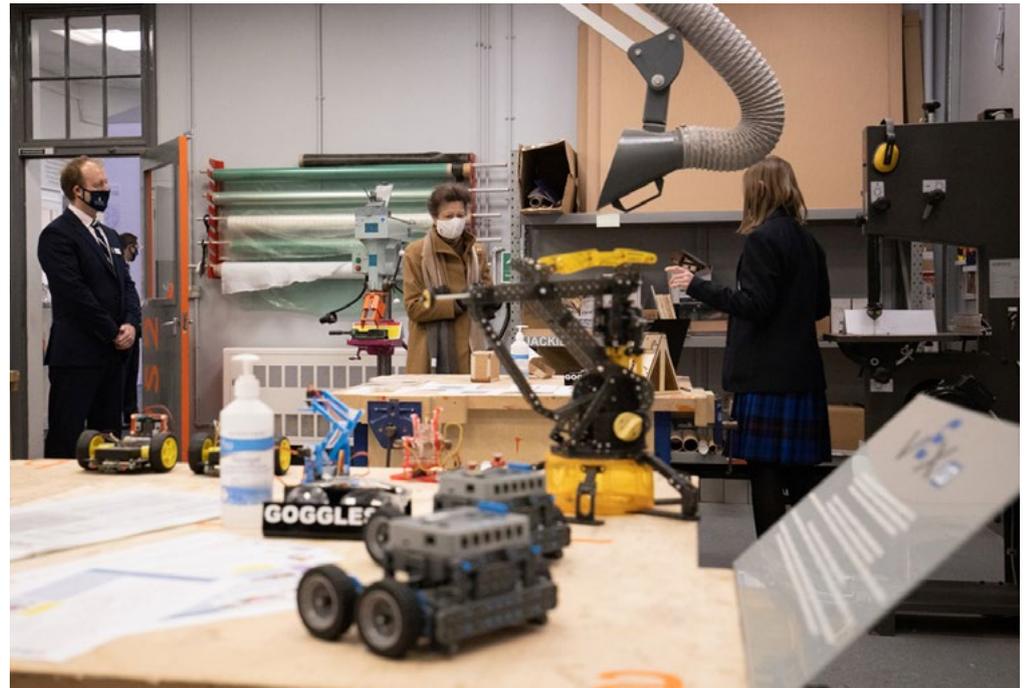
100-200 words long

Due 10/1/2021

Good Luck!



HRH Princess Royal visit



HRH Princess Royal visit



Did you know? The Princess Royal has visited Taunton School previously. She was last here some 50 years ago on the 12th May 1970 when she opened our Clarke Centre building. She is accompanied in this image by the then Head, John Rae.



Education in Action

Recently the Sixth Form economists were invited to attend a series of lectures run by Education in Action. There were a variety of speakers covering topics from Austerity and Monetary Policy to COVID and the Reliability of Statistics. All speakers are experts in their field and included Economist and Radio Four broadcaster Ayeisha Thomas-Smith and Tim Harford, OBE, Economist, Journalist and Author - of whom I am a particular fan! It was a great opportunity for the students, both those in school and those learning remotely, to hear and pose questions for such experts - and it saved us having to travel all the way to Warwick University where it's usually held!

Here are some comments from four of the students who attended:

"I found the various talks really insightful about what kind of issues economists deal with in their everyday jobs. It was especially interesting hearing from Becky Maule from the Bank of England and her views on Monetary Policy and the Government's tackling of the deficit. The conference has definitely reinforced that I want to study economics in the future." Renee Weber, Y12 IB

"I enjoyed listening to all of the speakers putting economics into action. Stephen King (HSBC) stood out for me personally as he discussed the rapid growth rate of China compared to other countries. It put into perspective how quickly an economy can change from a global point of view, especially during this current pandemic." Harrison Barrett, Y12 AL

"The virtual talks from repeated economics proved a success and spread knowledge about the global economy, austerity and policies. All speakers and their passion for their topics drew the attention of the students while interacting with them through

Q&A sessions. I personally appreciated the opportunity to listen to these talks as it has expanded my knowledge and context of economics." Hanna Wittek, Y13 AL

"Listening to the speakers talk about current economic issues in society helped put what we are learning in the classroom into the context of the present day. My favourite speaker was Tim Harford (a.k.a. The Undercover Economist) who discussed deception in statistics and the especially relevant real-world implications. The experience showed me there is far more economics in the world than initially appears, and understanding it is now more important than ever." Dan Travers, Y13 IB

Lisa Davey
Economics and Business Teacher



Students meet industry giant Chester King

As part of the Year 13 exam preparation, students have recently had a discussion with Chester King (CEO, British Esports Association & Board Director). Following the successful Q&A with Nick Westwood, the Year 13 BTEC cohort were lucky enough to have a second Teams call on Wednesday with Esport giant Chester King. As their Unit 2 project is centred around researching and analysing the Esports industry, the discussion with Mr King was helpful in determining what pieces of information they would need in order to build a new 'Esports brand and team'.

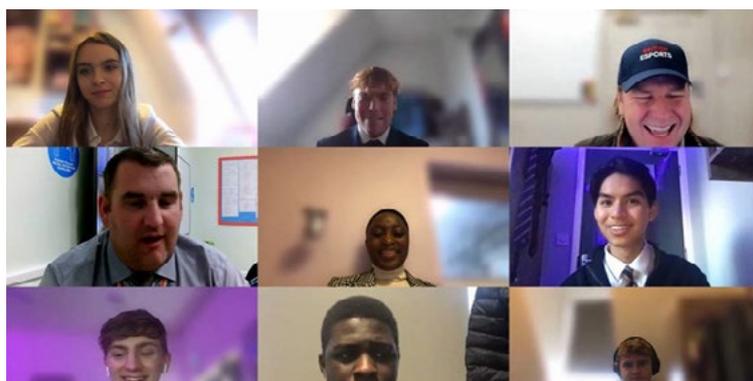
During the 30 minute discussion, Mr King gave an overview into

the details of his job as well as offering tips to the students on how to tackle the case study from a professional point of view. He succinctly explained what his role of being CEO of the British Esports association entailed and offered a unique insight into how he manages and operates his business.

Examples of questions from students were; "How would you approach and convince a well-known company to sponsor a start-up and a mature esports team?" and "What are the external factors that the esports market and teams are facing and being affected by?"

Although not giving them definitive answers, the students gained a huge amount of information and experience from the meeting. A massive thank you goes to Mr King for his time and Mr Stoddart for chairing the call.

Anthony Wells
GRA Business and Economics Department



Senior Inter-House Debating and Public Speaking Competition

The most recent debating event this year was last week's Senior Inter-House Debating & Public Speaking competition, which, as usual, involved participants competing in four separate debating events across all the Houses. The events were: the Main Debate, Impromptu, Persuasive Speaking, and Reading.

Bevan did well to win the Main Debate, but it was Goodland who were crowned overall winners, after performing well across the board. Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to everyone who took part!

Hanna Wittek Y13, Debating Society Secretary

The overall standard of speaking and debating was very high.



Winning students left to right: Elizabeth Dutton, Dan Travers, Joni Shaw, Hanna Wittek, Vas Smychkovich, Ruth Garang, Harry Leung
(Missing: Calum Pinn, Renee Weber, Joe Gough)

2020

SENIOR INTER-HOUSE DEBATING & PUBLIC SPEAKING WINNERS



Persuasive Speaking:

WEIRFIELD -- Elizabeth Dutton

Impromptu:

GOODLAND -- Dan Travers

Interpretive Reading:

FAIRWATER -- Harry Leung

Main Debate:

BEVAN (Ruth Garang & Hanna Wittek)
GOODLAND (Joni Shaw & Calum Pinn)
WEIRFIELD (Renee Webber & Vas Smychkovich)

Best Speakers:

Joe Gough (Wills West) & Ruth Garang (Bevan)

OVERALL WINNER (PLUS 2 RUNNERS UP):

GOODLAND (51 points)
WEIRFIELD (40 points)
WILLS WEST (39 points)

Meet the Director of Rugby - Nic Sestaret

What is your job role and which age groups do you work with?

I am Director of Rugby and I work with students from Year 3 to Year 13.

When did you start at Taunton School and what did you do before?

I started in September 2014. I was a professional rugby player for Exeter Chiefs.

Who inspires you?

Mike Horn (nothing is impossible for this man).

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Being able to achieve great things with a group of people.

What do you find most challenging?

Having a rugby season without contact.

How do you 'switch off' from your job at the end of the day?

I don't! Hahaha... my wife and kids are the best remedy.

How will you be spending the festive season?

With my family in Exeter, eating, watching Christmas movies and playing games (we have a small prize for each winner).

What's on your Christmas wish list?

Covid free and happiness.

Is there anything else that you'd like to tell us about yourself?

I am married to a wonderful woman named Debbie, I have four children (India, Fraser, Darcie and Harper). I am French and I have lived in England for 15 years. My favourite actor is Denzel Washington. I can surf, ski, ride a horse and I am bilingual. My favourite season is autumn (rugby season!). I started playing rugby at five years old. Over my 13 year professional rugby career, I played in France and England.



Quick Fire Questions now...

Favourite Christmas Song

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas" by Michael Bublé.

Favourite Christmas Film

The Christmas Chronicles

Favourite Christmas Food

Pigs in blanket

Hobbies

Jigsaw and cooking

Any Pets

Eddie my dog (Spaniel)

Any Claims to fame?

I won a University 7's World Cup with France

Thank you so much for telling us about yourself Nic. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas with your family and you get a generous helping of pigs in blankets!

Awards for Top Biologists

Each half term we are recognising pupils across all year groups for their outstanding effort, attainment and progress in biology. Pupils are nominated by their class teacher and receive a prize as well as a 'Top Biologist' certificate.

This half term's winners of the Top Biologist award are:

Year 13	Year 12	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9
Flora Collier Leone Romano	Laura Assanti Marcus Song	Emily Jones Evie Gulliver	Bernard Lee Kai Chen	Lucy Gliddon Wills Leach

Well done to all!

Harriet Shaw, Teacher of Biology



Left to right: Lucy Gliddon (Y9), Evie Gulliver (Y11), Wills Leach (Y9), Marcus Song (Y12), Laura Assanti (Y12)

Mums on the Run!



Taunton School 'Mums on the Run' is a group of Pre-Prep parents who have set up a small running group of mixed abilities. Last weekend, they undertook personal charity run challenges for St. Margaret's Hospice and have raised over £2000 so far. If you'd like to make a donation visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/TauntonSchoolMumsOnTheRun>

New members are welcomed - email carriechilds81@gmail.com to find out more.



A Merry Weirfield Christmas!

Even though Christmas 2020 looks a little different to normal the Weirfield girls have still managed to enjoy their usual end of term celebrations. First up was a delicious Christmas dinner followed by the annual Weirfield House Talent Show. Finally, the House Prefects made their speeches and awarded their end of term 'Plate Prizes'. Such a lovely way to round off the term!



Laura Brayley, Weirfield Housemistress



Philanthropy at Taunton School, then and now

An update from the TS Foundation

The Taunton School Foundation was founded nearly 20 years ago with a mission to engage a global community of Old Tauntonians, parents and friends to support children at Taunton School. However, our culture of philanthropy is rooted in a history that long predates the establishment of the Foundation. Almost every building and facility was built with the benevolence of others.

The Science building for example, was created thanks to a sizeable contribution from the Headmaster at the time- Dr Whittaker- who donated his entire annual salary to help build a centre of scientific learning and hope for the future in an era after the First World War when so much had been lost. During the Second World War, Major Ronald Gerrard, one of the most talented sportsmen the school had ever known, was killed in action aged 31. His son, Duncan Gerrard- who never came to Taunton School or knew his father, left over £750,000 in his will to celebrate his fathers' legacy and to support children through sports scholarships.

Taunton School was once a grant aided school where ordinary local children who worked hard, were able to gain a place. We

were once dependent on the generosity of our alumni to develop our facilities and to support bright and able children through scholarships. We have a reputation as a one of the best schools in the South West thanks not only to generations of talented teachers and staff, but also because we maintained a strong partnership with our community for over 130 years.

We continue to engage Old Tauntonians and to seek financial support for children at Taunton School. Over £4million has been raised as an endowment, with a legacy portfolio of pledges amounting to over £5million. Since 2015, we have been fundraising to support means-tested bursaries, augmenting the school's own provision through Assisted Places and £1.7million has been raised, helping hundreds of families, including 70 sixth form students, many benefitting from 100% philanthropic support.

In this fragile time of hope during arguably one of the most devastating global events in recent history, it is clear that we need to look to our school community. More than helping parents who may be going through financial difficulties, bursaries are a driver for societal change.

An education at Taunton School is out of reach for most ordinary working families and without support for our bursary programme, we are at risk of losing our socio-economic diversity which benefits the whole school. We are therefore unapologetic in our commitment to strengthen our culture of giving.

The 100 Campaign- to raise over £5million to support over 100 children with bursaries throughout the school- will be launched in 2021. We are looking to our alumni and friends to support children now as they have always done.

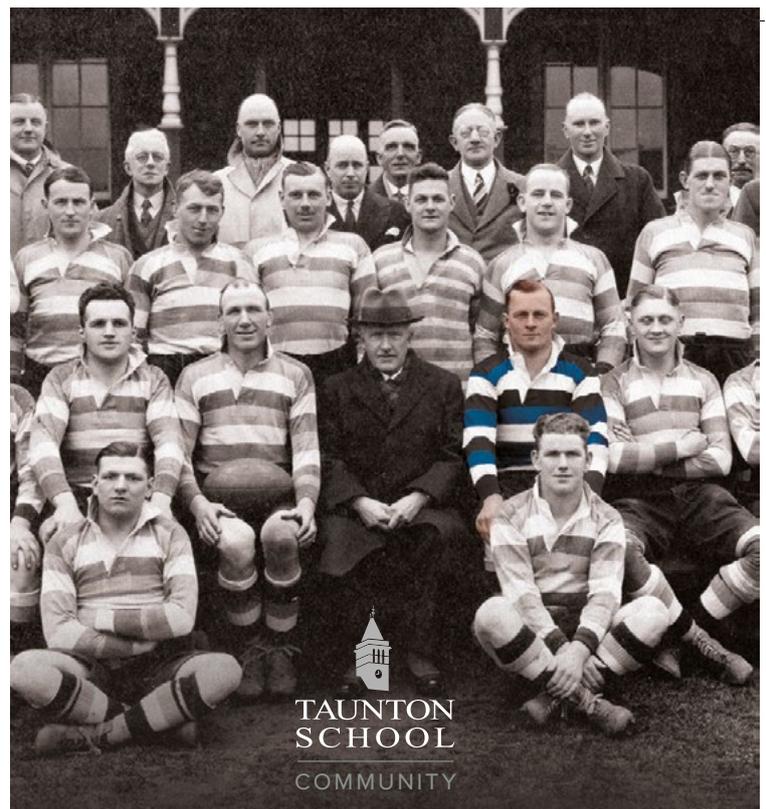
Nadine Latte
Foundation and Alumni Director

Here is our latest report from the school and OTs [The Review](#) [click here](#)

To find out more about the work of the Foundation, [click here](#)

Image: Major Ronald Gerrard

THE **100**
CAMPAIGN



TSI enjoy Christmas Festivities

At the end of a long and challenging term for all, it's important to take a moment and bask in the joy often found at this time of year. 2020 has been full of challenges, pressures and a constantly shifting social viewpoint, but regardless of all this we at Taunton School International chose to send the year out with a bang and a bit of Yuletide cheer and put on a fantastic (and socially distanced) Christmas Party last Thursday night to send the students off with a smile.

To start the day off, Miss Higgins organised an 'Elf Day', raising money for the Alzheimer Society, and seeing all members of staff dressed in their Christmas best as elves. Having spent the day teaching in their green elf attire, the staff filled the Christmas Party with jingling bells and green hats in a very festive atmosphere. Huge thanks go to Miss Higgins, who raised an enormous £355 for the society.

The weather was kind to us that evening and we were lucky enough to be graced with a crisp evening to welcome student and staff alike. To open the event, staff passed around hot chocolate and mince pies for the students, and a warm mug of mulled wine for the staff. The talented Aomi opened the evening with a beautiful rendition of the traditional carol 'Once in Royal David's

City', proceeded by Nana, leading everyone in 'Hark the Herald' and 'Silent Night' from La Casita on her violin. Fairy lights and candles lit up the Foxcombe site, creating a beautiful, Christmassy atmosphere.

The students then headed over to an outdoor screen to participate in a very festive Kahoot quiz, followed by a comic Christmas video that had been put together by the house staff, all of which was taken in good spirits. Food was provided for all, with Christmas roast rolls and waffles the sum of the evening's festive eating.

The whole event, and indeed the day, went down a treat, with everyone leaving with a smile. The night before our departures week began, the event could not have been better placed to bring Christmas cheer to the Foxcombe family and we are all delighted that the students enjoyed the evening so much.

A huge thanks goes out to the staff who helped organise the event and TSI wish everyone a very happy and joyful Christmas; without a doubt, we all need one!

Ben Wilkinson, GRA TSI



SPORT

Saturday Sport - 5th December



SPORT

Football vs Millfield

Saturday 5th December

Taunton School 1st XI 3 – 0 Millfield 3rd XI

(Goalscorers: Brody Peart x2, Jacob Hockey)

In what can only be described as a mud bath (the poor FX pitch!) our 1st team prevailed as they were a bit more 'battle-hardened' than Millfield. The first half the opponents played a better passing game without creating anything clear cut while we always looked dangerous on the break securing our first in that way (a cross converted from inside the 6 yard box by Jacob Hockey). The second was a wonderful 'knuckle-ball free kick' from Brody Peart (ironically I should have played advantage as Henry Woodward had been put through by Brody!). 2-0 at half time and then the second half was dominated by us with Millfield playing on the break – Brody scored the third from a penalty after Sammy Pratt was upended in the box.

MOM: Sammy Pratt (so tenacious and calm playing holding mid) but honourable mentions should also go to Jacob Pengelly (what an engine he has), Ben Coston and Jacob Hockey.

Taunton School 2nd XI 1 – 3 Millfield 4th XI

(Goalscorer: Rhys Appleton)

A cold bitter day but spirits were high as students travelled to Millfield looking for yet another win. A mixed squad allowed a number of players (Max Hole, Francis Appiah, Ollie Edwards, Ben Ashmore and Rhys Appleton) to make their 2nd team debut and they relished the opportunity. TS started well and absorbed a lot of pressure as the new team tried to settle but, unfortunately, we found ourselves 1 nil down after only 5 minutes as a game of pinball in the box ended up with the ball ricocheting off a Millfield players shoulder in a piece of good fortune. This gave Millfield the edge and it was clear they wanted more as they relentlessly peppered the TS goal until a second goal was secured a few minutes later. TS could not wait for half time and soaked up the pressure well for the final 10 minutes. At half time we re-grouped and made a few changes and we started the second half well as Rhys Appleton and Ben Ashmore both went close. Millfield then hit us on the break and exploited the wings to score a superb 3rd team goal with the assistance of a dropped cross by the GK. This was frustrating for all. TS did not, however, give up and for the final 10 minutes we had all the possession and had approximately 10 shots on target. Thanks to great goalkeeping from Millfield, TS only managed to convert one of these chances as Rhys side footed past the oncoming keeper after great work from Dan Edwards down the right. This was, unfortunately, just a consolation.

MOM: Rhys Appleton on his debut.

Taunton School 3rd XI 2 – 3 Millfield 5th XI

(Goalscorer: Jack Oldland x2)

Taunton 3rds started strongly in this away fixture at Millfield and for much of the first half were the only team in the game. Personal battles were won in every position and going in at half time only 2 goals to the good was a travesty! Jack Oldland netted both of the goals that were chalked up though there was another that appeared to everyone to have crossed the line but unfortunately the VAR was suffering a technical error which would surely have confirmed the goal.

Numerous chances were squandered both before and after the break and as a Liverpool fan for the last 40 years you could see what was going to happen. Lesson to be learnt – don't try Cruyff turns on the edge of your own box when you're the last man. And if for some reason you do and it doesn't work out then don't scythe down the opposition in the area in a panic to win it back.

Not being satisfied with only shooting ourselves in one foot we then, in the spirit of goodwill and generosity at Christmas time, put one into our own net and the game was somehow once again level.

Though Taunton pushed for a winner, denied by the bar, the keeper and the ghost of Christmas past, a stoppage time corner was cleared, turned into a chance for Millfield and some pinball in the box ended up in the back of the net.

We can be disappointed with the result on a day when we deserved better but it was just one of those days that it feels like fate. Shooting practice in training and next time will be a different story.

MOM: Nathan Roberts for being the steel in the midfield.

Taunton School U15s 4 – 6 Millfield U15s

(Goalscorers: Kian Roberts x2, Ethan Salvador, Alex Chaffey)

Matt Reed



SPORT

Rugby

It has been a strange term as we were only allowed to play touch rugby following the RFU guidelines. Since the beginning of term we managed to play one external fixture against King's College with Ready4Rugby rules and also students played internal tournaments, house matches competition and team building activities. Students have been wonderful, always positive during the sessions, full of energy and they showed a lot of resilience during the pandemic. I would also like to thank all the staff involved and SMT for their support, they have done an amazing job in this difficult time. I wish you all a well-deserved break and a wonderful Christmas. I wish you all the best for 2021!

Nic Sestaret, Director of Rugby



SPORT

Lockdown Swimming

Since lockdown started swimming has delivered 60 swim sessions, about 20 hours a week with Head of Swimming Development Graham Davidson across the whole school. With Sessions starting at 6am there has been something for everyone across each week. Sessions have been challenging, long, short, fast and slow!

We have worked on improving starts, turns, four stroke skills, underwater work, pacing skills as well as various aspects of fitness.

The underwater cameras have been busy with swimmers able to see what they are doing on the large poolside screen and make visible progress on all techniques in real time.

The progress that has been made is significant across the

school with all leaving this period much better technically than at the start of lockdown 2.0.

There have been some fantastic demonstrations given by Senior School and Prep School swimmers alike. Its been great to see the TPS swimmers look up to the Senior School swimmers for inspiration and bring the Taunton School Swimming family together for a period, with everyone really focused and engaged and a joy to work with each day.

Well done everyone who turned up, new faces and old to the pool!

Hayley Mortimer
Assistant Head Co-Curricular and Outreach



Help Your Boys Succeed at School

The Headmaster and Chair of the PTA warmly invite you to an online talk by Mr. Gary Wilson on Monday 4th January 5.30-6.30pm.

Gary has spoken at Taunton School several times before to great acclaim and we look forward to another large (albeit online) audience again this time. The talk will appeal to parents of children across the whole age range. A link to the live stream is below and the preferred browser is Chrome.

You will be able to order Gary's book "Help Your Boys Succeed" directly from him after the event at a twenty percent discount – the best January purchase you will make!

<https://intranet.tauntonschool.co.uk/liveevents/public-events/gary-wilson-talk-for-parents>

About the speaker

One of the country's leading authorities on raising boys' achievement, Gary Wilson is currently a freelance consultant and author of several books including "Raising Boys' Achievement" and, for parents, "How to Help Your Boy Succeed". A teacher for twenty-seven years, he began work on raising boys' achievement in his own cluster of schools in West Yorkshire in 1993. In 2001 he was asked to write "Using the National Healthy School Standard to Raise Boys' Achievement" for the NHA and the DFES based on the success of his work in schools.

In 2003 he was made the country's first Local Authority school Improvement Officer with specific responsibility for raising boys' achievement. From 2005-2010 he was chair of the National Education Breakthrough Program on Raising Boys' Achievement, established by the National Primary Care Trust and the DFES Innovations Unit, which worked across 300 schools nationwide.

In 2005 he led a double national award-winning campaign to raise boys' achievement across Kirklees LA. In 2008 he ran a campaign to raise boys' achievement in Derbyshire, which won a national award for work with parents. He has spoken at countless LA and national conferences all over the world. He has advised and delivered training in over a thousand schools and over thirty LAs across the UK and internationally. He has delivered innumerable sessions for parents and governors and worked with boys across the length and breadth of the country. He presents keynotes, leads local authority projects and delivers INSET days and

training sessions for Primary and Secondary schools, twilight sessions and parents' sessions.

His first book "Breaking Through The Barriers to Boys' Achievement and Developing a Caring Masculinity" was described in the Guardian as "undoubtedly the seminal work on this subject." He has advised the BBC, appeared on Woman's Hour a number of times and his work has been the subject of several Teachers' TV programmes. He is also adviser on raising boys' achievement to Oxford University Press, specifically as series expert on "Project X", a set of resources that have significantly increased boys' engagement with reading. He is also co-author of the OUP Pathway for raising boys' achievement. In 2016 he produced two new books "Boys Will Be... Brilliant! Getting it Right for Boys in Early Years" (with Linda Tallent) and "100 Ideas for Primary Teachers: Raising Boys' Achievement". Due to be published January 2021, "Let's Hear it From the Boys" affirms powerfully just how important it is to start any work on boys' achievement with the real experts; the boys themselves.

<https://www.garywilsonraisingboysachievement.com/>

The image shows a screenshot of the website 'GARY WILSON RAISING BOYS' ACHIEVEMENT'. The website has a yellow header with a navigation menu: HOME, LATEST, ABOUT, TRAINING, PARENTS, PUBLICATIONS, CONTACT, SHOP. Below the header is a stack of books including 'POCKET PAL', 'Raising Boys' Achievement', '100 IDEAS FOR Primary Teachers', 'Help Your Boys Succeed', 'BOYS WILL BE BRILLIANT!', and 'BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS TO BOYS' ACHIEVEMENT'. At the bottom of the screenshot, there are four icons representing roles: SPEAKER, AUTHOR, TRAINER, and CONSULTANT, each with a 'READ MORE' link.