



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

Senior School COURIER

18th September 2020

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

A NEW START



It's been great to have our students back physically at school! It's been wonderful to hear the buzz of activity and happy voices around the place again.

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Welcome back from the Headmaster



I've attended Chapel, watched hockey fixtures, taught lessons, felt the passion of house matches, been on duty in the new dining room, visited a boarding house and delivered an assembly. The students are smiling and delighted to be with their friends. It's great to be back with my colleagues and to feel their passion for the school. We set out to provide an experience as close to the Taunton School norm but with a clear focus on ensuring the safety of our community. The protocols are working and are being continually adjusted- there are inevitably restrictions, but the resounding feeling is one of a determination to make this work.

The school has strong numbers and I have no doubt that this is due to the hard work over many years which has enhanced our reputation. We cannot sit back, however, and think "job done". As I have said many times, complacency is the enemy and now is the time to build on recent successes. I love the fact that my colleagues across the school will not accept low standards and are always looking to improve. They continue to work tirelessly to ensure our students have a fabulous experience.

So, in short, we are back and always looking to do better.

Keep safe,

Lee Glaser

It's good to be back!



The Keeling Bursary

Year 11 parents: are you aware of The Keeling Bursary?

We are passionate about ensuring that all young people with a desire to work hard and take part can access an outstanding education. We are keen to ensure that all of our Year 11 students who want to stay on in the Sixth Form are not prevented from doing so by financial restrictions.

We therefore offer many bursaries at Taunton School and many of our top performing students are bursary holders. The Keeling Bursary is open to Year 11 students whose parents need some financial support when their child moves into the Sixth Form. Established through the generosity of Old Tauntonians Henry Keeling and Jan Nuttall, it is aimed at students who will benefit most from continuing their studies in the Sixth Form at Taunton School, but for whom this would be very demanding financially. The associated fee remissions are often substantial. Please do consider making an application or feel free to contact me if you would like further information. Applicants will be required to complete a Financial Circumstances form. Expressions of interest should be returned to my PA, Kate Short kate.short@tauntonschool.co.uk by **2nd October 2020**.

Lee Glaser, Headmaster



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First weekend in Weirfield



It has been lovely to welcome the Weirfield girls back to school after such a long time and also to get to know all of those who are joining us this term. The first week flew by in a flurry of excitement and was rounded off with a weekend packed full of activities to help the girls relax and develop new friendships. On Friday evening the girls took part in a Marshmallow Tower competition in their year group bubbles, with Year 12 crowned the winners with their impressive 97cm high construction. After Saturday's games fixtures the girls enjoyed

an outdoor movie screening in the Weirfield garden with takeaways and lots of popcorn. Sunday saw the girls enjoy a well deserved lie-in and brunch (we have missed the hash browns!) before taking part in rounders, giant 'Pass the Pigs', boules and welly-throwing. The U6th took on the L6th in tug-of-war (Year 12 won!) working up an appetite for the house BBQ and a surprise visit from the ice-cream van!

Laura Brayley,
Housemistress Weirfield



Pre-Sessional

The impact of Covid-19 is surely one of the most challenging things most of us have experienced, with the shutting down of work and school creating a huge ripple effect across the world. How refreshing it was, therefore, to see the energy of some of our International students gracing the Foxcombe campus again during Taunton School International's Pre-Sessional course.

With about 50 students spread across the TSI and TSIMS campuses, some quarantining to provide access from travel-banned countries, the course offered our international students an opportunity to get a head start on the year, with English lessons and study skills sessions providing the young people with an enriching experience before the start of term.

As well as 5 hours of study each day, the house staff provided a wonderful range of evening activities, from rounders and football outside, to film nights, pool tournaments and an enormous game of Capture the Flag. Saturday gave the students an opportunity to go for a walk on the Quantocks, one of Britain's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The course was a huge success, with many of the students engaging and conversing with people from all over the world. Considering the unfortunate cancellation of the Summer School 2020, it was a welcome opportunity for not just the students, but the staff as well, to return to some form of new-normal.

Thanks must go to Kevin Griffiths, the Summer School Director, the teachers and to the Summer School and Pastoral House Staff for providing a fantastic opportunity to reopen the school and get the students back to their learning ways.



Skye's the Limit!

A huge congratulations to Skye McLaughlin who came 3rd overall in the Adult Category in the Torbay Triathlon on Sunday!

The triathlon included a pool based swim followed by a Velopark ride and a parkland run.



Meet the Chaplain - Eliza Getman



How have you found your first few weeks at Taunton School? What have been your first impressions?

My very first impression of Taunton School was that this is an open and equitable community. It seems to value authenticity over appearances. It has been an odd couple of weeks – for all of us. I think the pandemic has reminded us that none of us are really in control and that we need to remain flexible and good humoured as we navigate so many unknowns. I love the Chapel space – and I'm really enjoying seeing/hearing it being used for broadcasts and music lessons and other gatherings of small and large groups. All are welcome here.

Where have you joined us from?

I have been working as the Chaplain at Hospice Care in Exeter for the past couple of years. I was also an assistant priest at St Thomas's Parish Church on Cowick Street in Exeter. Before that I had responsibility for an evening congregation at Exeter Cathedral called Sundays@7. My family moved four years ago from the Durban area in South Africa (where I had worked as an assistant priest in an Anglican Church and as the school Chaplain at Durban Girls' College).

I was actually born in Massachusetts, grew up on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, was an exchange student in Paris, university student in Montreal, Canada, Peace Corps volunteer in Mali, West Africa, and was naturalised as a South African citizen (where I lived for 17 years). I also spent 3 years in Edinburgh somewhere along the way. So my accent is still American – but muddled.

What led you into chaplaincy as a vocation?

I fell into school chaplaincy quite accidentally. I got headhunted around the time that I was being ordained a priest. I had always planned to work in parish ministry – but I loved the energy of being around students and teachers – and helping to shape the ethos of a school community. It was a privilege to work as a hospice Chaplain – walking the nearing death experience with patients and their families and the medical team caring for them. It is lovely to feel that I am back in my element and using the skills and resources I have gathered over many years – both academically and experientially.

Which aspect of your role at Taunton School are you most excited about?

I'm looking forward to developing relationships with people and finding a sense of community. Sam (Year 5) and I are easing slowly into our new life in Taunton and we are looking forward to getting to know people and feeling at home here.

What do you think will be the most challenging part of your role?

I suppose the biggest challenge is navigating the very different expectations and agendas that may be projected onto the role (and the person) of the Chaplain. I cannot be all things to all people. But I can listen to all people and treat them with genuine respect. I hope that I can help people to feel at ease – through my own authenticity and vulnerability. I read something recently about creating "brave spaces" – because no space can be declared truly safe in our complex and dangerous world. That really resonated with me. I want to challenge us all to create a Brave Space here at Taunton School where all are welcome to come as they are and know that they will be accepted.

Quick fire questions now...

Favourite film

Too many to say, but I'm watching Hamilton at the moment and a firm favourite is the 2004 Swedish film called As It Is in Heaven <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZGeFciLZgA>

Favourite book

Too many to say but I'm currently reading Overstory – a novel about trees by Richard Powers and my sister-outlaw just sent me Bernadine Evaristo's Girl, Woman, Other

Hobbies

None at present! I work and I sleep. Although, my son Sam and I have been swimming in the TPS pool in the evenings. I love to cycle, hike, body board and practice yoga. I used to be a potter, but I'm in survival mode moving house and changing jobs and starting a new life adventure.

Favourite singers/bands

So many – but here are a few: Kate Rusby and Souad Massi and Sweet Honey in the Rock <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6Uus-gFrc>

Favourite TV programmes

No TV at present. But when I still had access to Netflix, I was transfixed by Normal People and loved Sex Education.

Thank you for your honesty, Eliza. We are delighted that you decided to join the Taunton School family.

The Outlook is Global...

We, as a race, now shift more of the Earth's surface than natural agents of erosion such as wind, waves, currents and moving masses of ice; we have left our indelible mark on the planet. That mark has been termed the 'Anthropocene' and it is during this Epoch that human (anthropogenic) impacts have really come to the fore.

Since 'the Great Acceleration' of the 1950s (and pre-dating that the Industrial Revolution) the world has become increasingly industrialised, increasingly urbanised, increasingly connected and so increasingly globalised. Though this spatial and temporal change has resulted in undoubted progress (500 million have been lifted out of absolute poverty in China alone) it has certainly resulted in a range of socio-economic, political and environmental issues which need to be tackled; in a time of Global Issues having a 'Global Outlook' is surely the order of the day.

As Assistant Head (Global Outlook and IB Coordinator) it is down to me to take the lead in this area hence the introduction of a 'Global Outlook Learner Profile' (see overleaf). The Global Outlook Learner Profile is closely aligned with the International Baccalaureate's (IB's) overall 'Learner Profile.' At the centre of the Global Outlook Profile is the ability to retain an open-mind and around it are four key traits which inform open-mindedness, namely being knowledgeable, being principled, being caring and being reflective.

On the eve of 'Black History Month' (October), and in the wake of the forest fires which have ravaged Oregon (and not even mentioning COVID), it is imperative that our students gain, and retain, a Global Outlook as well as having the opportunity to demonstrate it in and outside of the classroom.

On the ground our students play a key role in defining how Global Outlook looks within our school community; their student voice enables them to discuss and raise awareness of global issues using the vehicle of student led organisations such as MUN and Amnesty International.

Our student voice is also clearly audible through our debating and scholarship programme where Global Outlook themes make up some of the first sessions of each new term starting this term with the notion that 'to plant a tree is to plant hope.' Following on from the 'Burke debate' and the scholarship programme the same theme will then be adapted into Head's Assembly and into Chapel.

During these changing times, as our students continue to manoeuvre their way through the Anthropocene, equipping them with a Global Outlook with a local slant ('Glocal Outlook') will ensure that the collective mark that they leave is indeed an indelible one though a positive one with it!

Adrian Roberts

Head of Geography and IB Coordinator



A GLOBAL OUTLOOK LEARNER PROFILE

Our Global Outlook is a 'GLOCAL' outlook –
we embrace the global whilst cherishing the local.

Knowledgeable Principled

Open Mindedness

Caring Reflective

1. **Global Outlook** – Our students see both the GLOBAL and LOCAL picture; they value where they come from and the role that they play in the Taunton School community.
2. **Open-mindedness** – Whilst critically appreciating their own culture and worldview our students also embrace the culture and worldview of others.
3. **Knowledgeable** – Our students gain knowledge and develop their understanding of issues and ideas of global and local significance.
4. **Principled** – Our students are considered decision makers; they act with honesty, integrity and a sense of fairness.
5. **Caring** – Our students are empathetic, compassionate and respectful and aim to make a difference to both people and the environment.
6. **Reflective** – Our students consider their own ideas and experiences of the world with the utmost thought and care.

The new dining room

There was added excitement to the first day back at school with the opening of our brand new Dining Room. Students from across the school sat safely in their year group bubbles and enjoyed their first lunch in the new facility. The huge glass doors create a beautifully bright and airy space in the heart of the main school building.

After an enforced five week absence just before Easter, the contractors returned to site at the start of May and managed to complete the project before students returned to school. The new dining hall is equipped to cater for 1,600 covers and seat up to 400 people at any one time. It has been built using sustainable materials and uses the latest lighting technology and energy-saving devices, in line with the School's environmental policy.

The happy faces of our students already show what a huge success this new facility is!



The new dining room



Gabriel and Joe in brave sea rescue attempt

During the summer break, Year 11 students Gabriel Baldegger and Joe Neeve showed tremendous courage when they rushed to the aid of a struggling swimmer in the Cornish sea.

On 9th August, Gabriel and Joe were enjoying an evening on the beach at Perran Sands in Cornwall when they become aware of a body boarder in trouble. The man had been swept out 100 metres from the shore by a rip tide – a strong offshore current which moves directly away from the shore.

The boys swam out to try to help the man as onlookers on the beach contacted the RNLI. Gabriel and Joe were holding the man afloat whilst swimming back to the beach when all three were picked up by the St. Agnes Lifeboat.



In a letter sent to Gabriel and Joe after the incident from the man they rescued, he described them as 'heroes'. His wife, who had been looking on from the shore with her three young children, also expressed her gratitude calling them 'thoughtful and selfless.'

The crew of the St. Agnes lifeboat said the boys would be 'welcome on any RNLI team' and praised them for calming the stricken body boarder. Whilst commending the boys' willingness to assist a swimmer in peril, they are keen to make beachgoers aware of the dangers of swimming out to someone caught in a rip tide, saying 'we always urge people to call 999 and ask for the Coastguard if they see someone in difficulty in the water, rather than going in themselves.'



Ed Burnett said 'The whole community is incredibly proud of Joe and Gabriel, particularly their selfless instinct of wanting to help someone in trouble.'

Gabriel and Joe were invited to talk about their experience on BBC Somerset radio this week after being recognised for their extraordinary feat of bravery. Click to 2:49:00 - 2:54:00 to hear the interview: [bit.ly/RescueInterview](https://www.bbc.com/somerset/radio/2018/08/180824-rescue-interview)

You can read more about the dangers of rip tides on the RNLI website: <https://www.rnli.org/safety/know-the-risks/rip-currents>



SPORT

House Cricket



House cricket was a great way to start a very delayed cricket season. On a fantastic afternoon weather wise, which certainly made it feel like July, all houses entered teams. There were varying abilities and not surprisingly, the day houses dominated the finals.

In the Seniors, both Evans and Marshall sailed through the group phases. Marshall hit the highest score of the day; 98 off 5 overs versus a colourful and enthusiastic Fairwater team. Marshall defeated Goodland, last year's winners, in their last group match and went into the final as worthy competition favourites. Evans had seen off both Wills houses in three competitive matches even though both East and West push them hard. The West boys took the bragging rights of the Wills houses as East finished 4 runs short.

In the Senior final, an agreed toss saw Evans bat first. Fine hitting by Small, Barrett and Heard amounted a competitive total of 71. In response strong hitting by Salter Green led to 10 being needed off the last over. Step up Year 11 Taylor Flitton for Evans- he bowled an amazingly accurate over only conceding 6 to see Evans to victory and the cup.

In Juniors, from the boarding houses in particular there was many a cricketing debut, but this really showed the spirit of the school with the 'have a go attitude'. This meant for safety a soft ball being used in some matches. After victories for Goodland and Marshall over Fairwater the final match was crucial. Goodland Vs

Marshall would have been a worthy final as it was a thriller. The match ebbed and flowed as wides top scored for Goodland in a total of 50. In response strong batting from Lant, Burnett and Chaffey meant 8 runs were required of the last over but Marshall's tail did not wag as Roberts only conceded 6. Wills East, who had beaten West, vied with Evans for a place in the final, East made a creditable 48 with Vincent and Tyler both getting into double figures. This was not enough as Willoughby again struck the ball well before retiring.

What should have been a competitive final was dominated by Goodland. Evans could only muster 22 against very tight bowling from all but it was Finlay Robertson who did the damage taking 3 wickets. Goodland openers, Dupont and Marsden easily knocked off the score with 3 overs to spare to retain the junior trophy.

Winners -

Juniors: Goodland

Seniors: Evans

Thank you to all the staff that made it possible.

Pete Sanderson, Director of Cricket



Cricket in Lockdown

This summer has obviously been a challenging one for everyone and cricket was the sport to suffer most but there have still been many highlights since the return to training and matches.

Training

Once the ECB permitted net and group training sessions the school was in a 'ready' position to make sure sessions could be offered to a wide range of players. Once the green light given we ran sessions for Year 3 up to Year 13 throughout a hectic week. A special thanks here to Mark Jolliffe, the Head Groundsman, who hastily, on his own, prepared two practice wickets. Every session was attended by the maximum number of players permitted, which increased by other staff members helping at sessions. These sessions were done in all weathers, even extremely heavy rain could not stop sessions and helped our diving techniques. Mr Pring, Mr Godfrey and myself deciding on different attire to cope!

Matches

In August the school hosted over twenty matches. These were mainly Somerset CCC pathway matches from under 10s up for both boys and girls. Taunton was well represented in these matches, which saw plenty of talent on show. Within all the pathway matches, Taunton was the only school ground to be ready for use for the whole of August. Mr Fowler was part of the coaching team sharing his knowledge across all ages and it was great for Mr Sanderson to observe these players not only at school but other venues.

The other matches were two different school teams. The first was for those who regularly attended the senior cricket session on Wednesdays. A challenge match was thrown down by the staff. This turned out to be a mistake as Ben Chaffey outplayed all the players retiring on 50. There were other good contributions as a challenging total was set. This turned out to be too high a target for the staff as the boys earned victory, completing a 100% win record for the 2020 season.

The second match, which started the new season, was a rearranged match Vs a strong MCC team, assisted by Mr Pring and Mr Sanderson as well as two OTs, Jon Kerslake and Jack Cooper. The latter still showed he has a chirpy side as he entertained the present team! The school team included finishing Year 13s, Toby Eavis and Ayush Shukla (he flew in from Hong Kong), unfortunately Conway Gilbert couldn't gain availability but 5 other players from Cornwall could. The MCC batted first and posted an impressive 240. Freddie Stevenson lead the attack claiming his first school wickets and with Ayush showed what a strong attack the school would have had in the summer. They were backed well by Weatherill, Fletcher, Pomeroy, Coston and Pengelly. In reply the opening pair of Adam Small and Ben Coston started very well, Small being particularly strong versus any loose bowling. However it became a match that Ben Coston and Adam Small will wish to forget as they were dismissed by the accurate bowling of Mr Sanderson! In pursuit of the high total, Taunton struggled versus spin but Eavis struck some good blows in his last school match. The school fell short by 50 runs.

We are delighted that we have a cricket fixture programme,

particularly with the sun shining on hard grounds. This will be a combination of external matches with a rearranged T20 match Vs Clifton and three more Saturday fixtures. There will also be more internal matches after a successful house competition last weekend, (see house report).

Somerset Pathway

There were many players performing across the pathway programme. Some of the highlights were Conway in a full Somerset 1st XI squad practice match and Ollie Heard gaining selection for the regional team, but unfortunately this didn't happen. He did however play up in the Somerset under 18s which, as a Year 10, is a great achievement.

Joleigh Roberts trialled to play in the national T20 competition for womens cricket competition, but unfortunately she didn't get selected. However getting to that stage was an excellent achievement and she has the opportunity to get on their academy this winter. She did represent Somerset and was the 2nd highest wicket taker, which included 4-38 Vs Wales.

Keeping it in the family Kian Roberts also played up age groups, including the U16s. Again this shows the talent that is coming through the school.

Kian was joined by Ben Mason, Logan Dupont and Findlay Robertson in playing above their own age group for Somerset U14s, 15s and 16s.

Adam Small played for the full Devon team as well as U18s in a successful summer.

Freddie Stevenson played for Cornwall B team as well as U18s, 17s and 16s. Also representing Cornwall was Ben Coston and Jacob Pengelly (U16s and U18s), Aidan Carter (Cornwall U18s), Jack Oldland, Nathan Roberts and Alfie Macdonald who made an impressive 110.

Others who represented their counties were Henry Weatherill and Ben Chaffey (U18s Somerset), George Nuttycombe debut selection for U15s, Thomas Ford, Cole Willoughby and AJ McKay (Somerset U13s, U14s and U15s) and Rhys Appleton (Wiltshire U16s). Izzy Hogevald also played for the girls U17s team.

With those playing in pathway cricket there were 50 players involved from across both schools - what a great achievement!

Thanks to staff, particularly Mr Pring, Mr Godfrey and Mr Gallimore for their help in June and August and to Mark Jolliffe and his staff.

Pete Sanderson, Director of Cricket

SPORT

Hockey

MATCH REPORTS

Results:

Taunton 1sts V Millfield 1sts - 3 - 0 Loss

Taunton 1sts V Millfield U16s - 1-1 Draw

Taunton U15A V Millfield U15A - 2-0 Loss

Taunton U15B V Millfield U15B - 5-0 Loss

On Saturday the Girls' first team travelled to Millfield for 2 fixtures. In the glorious heat the team started really well, putting lots of pressure on Millfield. Two clear cut chances, one a corner one in open play went missing which could have been decisive. Still an end to end game continued with Millfield breaking the deadlock first with two minutes to half time. A scrappy goal that gave them the lead into half time. In the second half Taunton started the better of the two teams, coming out stronger again, winning a Penalty corner but not converting. The teams continued to battle it out before Millfield converted a corner of their own. With a few minutes to play Millfield again scored another scrappy goal giving them a flattering score. However the girls battled hard and competed throughout.

Following this the Girls rolled straight into another game with the U16 team. Another close fought game between two good sides, with fatigue setting in, the girls conceded, but they dug deep to level the score in the last minute of the game. A well worked penalty corner finally finding the goal after Captain Izzy Glaser converted the deflection. After 80 Minutes of hockey the team had done really well - always a tough place to play, it was great prep for the season ahead. Well done all!

Elliot Foweraker, Director of Hockey



SPORT

Football

The boys enjoyed a full mixed trial match which afforded all players the opportunity to be selected for the 1st XI this academic year. After a frantic start and two goals in the opening minutes the game settled down and the teams started to shake off some of the rustiness and display some sleek movement and passing, showing at times, glimpses of the football which helped both 1st and 2nd team last year win their respective leagues. Solid performances from some of our more experienced players such as Dan, Lino, Brody, Henry, Kai, Max and Alex allowed some of our newer players such as Jamie, Olek, Archie, Isaac and Josh to show their qualities with continued focus in training over the coming weeks we are hopeful that they will continue to develop. The game finished 3-3 and was a really good test before we start our official fixtures on Saturday against Millfield.

Matt Reed

