



TAUNTON  
SCHOOL

# Senior School COURIER

30th April 2021

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

## SUMMER SPORT IS BACK



After the disruption of last year's summer sport season, it has been wonderful to see our students enjoy a full programme again. Read all the sports news and match reports from page 5.

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Tea Time Concert

Meet the Foundation Officer

Sports News

...and more...

*Next Senior Courier: 7th May 2021*

## School Uniform Shop

**During Term Time:**

Monday 8am – 2pm

Tuesday 10am – 2pm

Wednesday 10am – 2pm

Thursday 10am – 2pm

Friday 10am – 2pm

1st Saturday of the month 8.30am – 12.30pm

We are also very happy to take orders and payment over the telephone and deliver to a student's area of the school, if parents find visiting during these hours difficult.

Nancy O'Carroll, School Shop Manager

Nancy.OCarroll@tauntonschool.co.uk - 01823 703165

## Tea Time Concert

The first Tea Time concert of the Summer Term featured the students who took part in last weekend's Two Moors Festival Young Musicians Competition.

We had wonderful performances from Isaac on the piano, Lily on the trombone, George on the tuba and Eliza on the trumpet.





# Co-Curricular Statistics

Total number  
of students

**1089**

Total involved  
in activities

**1002**  
(92.01%)

Average number of  
clubs per student

**3.87**

No. of staff involved  
in clubs programme

**128**

Total number  
of clubs

**338**

Club with the highest  
number of students

**CCF Army: 120**



## Meet George Cockburn, Development Officer (aka Foundation Officer)

### What is your job role?

I work in the Development Office, sometimes also known as the Foundation Office, where I manage donations to the school and contact with Old Tauntonians (OTs), as well as other supporters including parents, volunteers and friends of the School. I work to build relationships with people across the wider community who know and love Taunton School, locally and internationally.

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

June 2019, before then I worked in a similar team at the University of Exeter. Before that I worked in a butcher's shop, and before that...!

### Who inspires you?

Personally: Anybody who is facing their own personal challenges, who may be wrestling with their mental wellbeing. And people who are sensitively and effectively helping them do that.

Professionally: Donors like Duncan Gerrard and Ian Evans Lombe who have effectively guaranteed young people the opportunity of education at Taunton School forever, for anybody.

The Sutton Trust. The 'AP 100' campaign at King Edward's School in Birmingham and the teaching outreach program at Highgate School; both are examples of schools matching something they need with something their local community needs and delivering a solution.

### What do you enjoy most about your job?

Working with people to identify ways to support students in the school and ensure the school will always continue to be a fantastic place for students to learn, live and flourish. I also like hearing people's stories about the school and finding out what they really like (or really don't like!) about it.

### What do you find most challenging?

Right now, I am the only member of my team, so almost everything that involves the Development Office reaches me and it's hard to keep track of everything – but that will change!

### What projects are you working on at the moment?

My biggest project this year is this summer's Telephone Campaign calling OTs. We're going to have a team of ten or so current students and recent leavers and we're going to call a few hundred OTs to have a really good chat with them about what they have done since leaving school and how Taunton School is now. I am sure that some OTs will also be inspired to support students here as well.

We have just finished recruiting the team of callers and the interviews were brilliant so I know there will be a great team and I'm excited to work with them later in the year.

### How do you switch off from work at the end of the day?

I might listen to a podcast or phone a friend on the drive home but I also have a 2-year-old and a baby, so as soon as I get home, a different kind of 'work' takes over!



### Quick Fire Questions now...

#### Favourite film

Chariots of Fire, maybe The Prestige (I've not had much time to watch films in the last 2 years!)

#### Favourite book

One book is not enough: His Dark Materials (and The Book of Dust), American crime fiction, some historical fiction.

#### Any pets?

One dog, a black shaggy labradoodle.

#### Hobbies

Almost anything outdoors, in the hills or on water but we barely have time to walk the dog right now! Occasionally we get to the moors or coast path.

#### Favourite singers/bands

Daft Punk, also Fat Freddy's Drop, Gnarl's Barkley and a cheat: Craig Charles' Funk and Soul show on 6 Music.

#### Favourite TV programmes/series

Line of Duty (what a cliché!), Detectorists, Brooklyn Nine-Nine.

#### Any claims to fame

None. If it's right for them then I'd rather help people who are or want to be famous instead.

## SPORT

## Cricket

**Cricket is back!**

After a frustrating 12 months with no cricket in the last summer term and a lack of winter preparation, cricket has returned. Pre-season was well attended across all age groups and was a highly successful experience, including an inter school T20 match for the seniors and grass net practice will hopefully make up for some of the lost time.

It was with great delight that Max Fletcher was named as 1st XI captain. This was so well deserved for his commitment to the cricket programme over a long period and his tactical knowledge. He will well supported by the T20 captain Jacob Hockey. For the girls Joleigh Roberts has been named 1st XI captain, Joleigh has been doing very well outside of school developing on the Western Storm Academy.

In the first weekend it was great to play another school in Bristol Grammar School even though they were not allowed to travel. This didn't stop Taunton, we took five teams to Bristol, U18s, U17s, U16s, 15s and 14s. In these matches there were 4 victories. In age order the U18s bowled BGS out for 116 with the wickets shared. In chase of a modest target Jacob Hockey dominated the run scoring with 74 not out. U17s were the only team to lose after not really recovering from losing early wickets.

Jacob Pengelly struck the ball like he had not been away from cricket for a day let alone a year as he got 52 in 28 balls batting at number 3. Harrison Barrett gave good support as well as Taunton were bowled out in the last over for 154. BGS started positively to get ahead of the run rate, they were pegged back by Ben Chaffey but by using lots of bowlers BGS eventually got to the total after losing 7 wickets. U16s had the most convincing win of the day chasing down their total of 111 in 11 overs as captain Alfie Macdonald lead from the front with bat and ball making 54 not out and taking two wickets. Like the 18s the wickets were shared, Joe Neeve and Kit Hockey two a piece as Taunton were too strong.

In the juniors it was great to see them win the toss and bat by scoring over 500 between them including two centurions. The U15s innings of 258 was dominated with a tremendous striking, that would have looked at home in the IPL, this was from Alex Chaffey who retired on 100 after only facing 37 balls. His innings included eight 6s and his last 5 balls he scored 28 runs. There were other contributions from Alex Small, Fin Robertson and Charlie Bedford. In the field Bryce Bedingfield was the main wicket taker, other wickets went to Ben Giles and Fabian Flay before Seb Malley's wicket in last over lead to a 69 run win. The other centurion was Kian Roberts, slightly less hard hitting but by no means less effective. It was a dominant

innings after early runs for Ben Mason. Kian finished unbeaten on 113 off 60 balls including 21 boundaries, he was joined in the latter stages of the innings by Frey Lant who struck a hard hitting 62 off 38 balls. BGS fell 60 short as wickets went to Akthar, Flitton and McKay. This completed a successful trip to Bristol as Taunton won the fixture 4-1.

As well as the matches in Bristol we put out six more teams at home. There was an inter senior match between 4th and 5th players on the Front. This match was played in great spirit with lots of enthusiasm and will help in the selection for this weekends matches. History is being made by having an external 5th team match this week, as far as I am aware, and this has been confirmed by the school archivist, that the school have not put out a 5th team before. Our B teams played versus prep school teams to give them some valuable practice. In other matches 26 boys played out a competitive match, 14C's Vs 15C's, the 14s taking the win. All these teams will have fixtures this weekend as we have 11 cricket teams playing matches. These fixtures are:

**1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5ths, 15A, 15B, 14A and 14B Vs Blundell's**

**4th, 15C's and 14C's Vs Kings**

**Pete Sanderson, Director of Cricket**



## SPORT

## Cricket



## BGS and Inter Cricket Matches

Won fixture 4-1

18s - BGS 116 ao

Taunton 117-2  
Hockey 74 not out

17s - Taunton: 154 ao  
Pengelly 51 off 29 balls batting 3

BGS 155 - 7

16s - BGS 111 ao

Taunton 112 - 7  
Macdonald 54\*

15s -  
Taunton 258 - 9  
Alex Chaffey 100 off 37 balls

BGS 189  
Bedingfield 4 wickets

14s -  
Taunton 274 - 6  
Roberts 113\* Lant 62

BGS 214

Others teams that played internally, 4th XI,  
5th XI, 14B and C's plus 15 A and B's.



## Athletics

Athletics training got underway on Saturday with students taking part in high jump, long jump, running and javelin.



## SPORT

## Netball

**Match report – Taunton V Wells Cathedral School**

A combination of Taunton's 1st and 2nd team played their first external fixture this year at Wells Cathedral School. Both teams used the first few minutes to find their feet and settle into the game with lots of turnover from both.

Wells contested every ball and worked hard to closely mark each of our players, leaving no room for error. Wells capitalised on our long passes, intercepting and taking them to goal. Steady play by Freya Chandler allowed Taunton to play fast flowing netball.

Taunton responded with interceptions in all areas of the court with numerous intercepts from Flora Collier creating lots of opportunity to score, increasing their lead and pulling away from Wells. Final score Taunton 27-19 Wells.



## Notable Achievements

Congratulations to the following girls who have been selected for the Celtic Dragons U19 Long Squad.

**Flora Collier**

**Tia Chaloner**

**Freya Chandler**

Sammy Kemmish,  
Netball Coach



## SPORT

## Boys' Tennis

**Match Report - Taunton vs Canford**

On the 24th of April, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd boys' tennis team travelled on the daunting two-and-a-half-hour journey to Canford, close to Bournemouth, to play against Canford school tennis team. The drive down consisted of team preparation and last-minute changes to the teams to ensure the strongest pairings. Overall, the 1st team just lost by 5-4 to Canford and both the 2nd and 3rd team lost 8-1 to Canford.

The 1st team pairings consisted of Jack Brimm and Leonidas Perdikaris as first pair, Jonathan Shaw and Teddy Woolstencroft in the second pair, Sammy Pratt and Vaughn Julyan as the third pair. All the matches were fairly close for all three of the pairs. The first few matches that were played placed us at an early lead with the first pair winning by 6-0, the second pair winning by 6-4 and the third pair losing 6-3. Overall putting us at an early lead. The second set of matches that were played, the first pair secured a win, the second pair unfortunately lost and third pair also unfortunately

lost. The final set of matches were a disappointing loss across the board meaning Canford was able to take a close win. However a notable mention would have to be the final deciding match where the first pair (Jack and Leon) played Canford's first pair, going over into a tie break decider with some excellent tennis being played on both sides with Canford just winning the game.

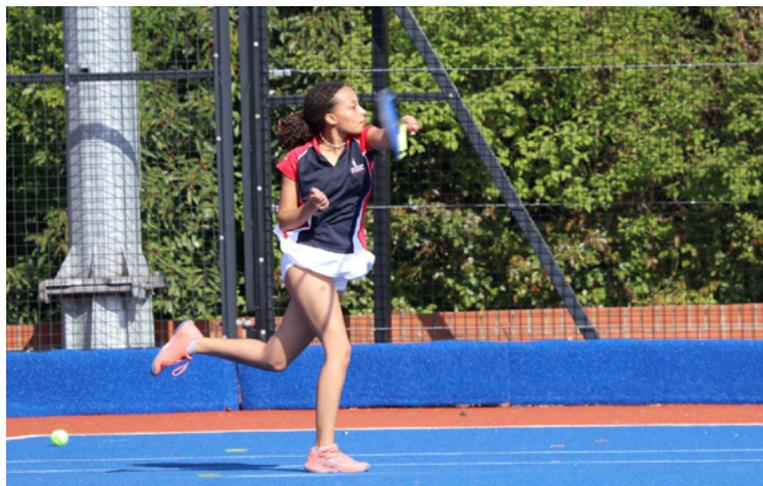
Although the outcome of our 2nd team and 3rd team matches were a disappointing 8-1, many developments in our team tennis were made. Our first pair in the 2nd team, Ollie Drummond and Ollie Edwards, made significant improvements in their double's games. We saw a solid win in their final match with all pairs seeing positive improvements in their serving and volleying. Overall taking all into account it was not a bad start to the tennis season. We all look forward to our next competitive match!

**Joni Shaw**



## SPORT

## Girls' Tennis

**SENIOR 1ST VI**

It was so good to have ALL of the tennis teams back playing competitive fixtures after a 1 year enforced break due to you know what...

The senior girls teams had a difficult and challenging start to the term against a very good Canford team. The sun was shining and the girls were full of anticipation.

After the first two rounds we were 4-2 down, meaning that we needed to win all three final matches to secure the win. Unfortunately we fell just short losing 5-4 overall. It was an amazing effort, pushing such a good visiting team so close. This week we are against Millfield which should produce another competitive fixture.

**Mr Carroll**

**SENIOR 2ND VI**

Meeting Canford on the first weekend of the season is always a challenge but the girls did themselves proud - each pair improved with each game with several games going to deuce. Freya Tyler and Maddie Marsh had a particularly frustrating loss in the tiebreaker against Canford's second pair. The final score does not represent the closeness of the match and the girls should be proud of the performance they produced so early in the season.

**Mrs Davey**

**SENIOR 3RD VI**

Taunton faced Canford for their first Tennis fixture of the season. Canford made a positive start, forcing Taunton to up their

game. The second set was a lot closer, with the home side pushing Canford to deuce on numerous matches. The third set was closer again but Canford finally came out on top. A tough competition for the first game of the season but a great performance from all of the girls.

**Miss Kemmish**

**UNDER 15'S A VI**

The U15A team enjoyed the opportunity to play their first competitive tennis since 2019. All three pairs worked well together and made full use of the gaps between sets to compare notes and discuss tactics. They secured an excellent 8-1 victory against a good Canford team and will need to put in another strong performance in their next fixture, against Millfield.

**Dr Franklin**

**UNDER 15'S B VI**

The weather gifted us with some glorious sunshine for the opening match of the season against Canford. With plenty of time to warm up and soak in the rays, the Taunton U15Bs started off their first matches well, against some challenging opponents. As 3rd pair, Faye and Jana made some great returns, stealing some games against Canford 2nd and 3rd pairs. Lily and Zara as 2nd pair were a great duo and after developing their serves, demonstrated great accuracy and precision in their delivery. Consistent groundstrokes from Zara, and impressive volleys from Lily made for a great team. Finally, our first pair of Bella and Charlotte played very well together, communicating effectively and holding their nerve against a strong opponent. Bella had some fantastic shots down the line, much to the dismay of our opposition, while Charlotte played fiercely at the net - allowing the pair to win their sets against the first and 3rd pair. Well done girls, a great start to the season!

**Miss Hems**

**UNDER 14' A & B'S**

The U14As played with impressive confidence and determination despite this being their first match of the season – and for some, their first ever tennis match. All three pairs worked well together and I enjoyed watching them volley so successfully. For such an early stage in the season, everyone's service worked effectively. Admittedly we lost to Canford but many of the sets were very much closer than the results suggested. Our first pair set the standards high for this term by winning all three matches.

**Mrs Stent and Miss Lewis**



# Equestrian News

Having made the most of lockdown to train harder than usual this winter, the TS Equestrian Team were poised and ready to get straight back out to NSEA events this Easter. Students from across the school attended several events and placed in a plethora of classes, qualifying for some high quality Championships.

On 2nd April, Hetty Holden, Tilly Jacoby-Kelly, Poppy Treanor, Emily Miller, Cecilia Fawden, Daniel Fawden and Fliss Gostling entered the NSEA Eventer's Challenge at King's Sedgmoor Equestrian Centre. The teams did incredibly well for their first outing since lockdown, securing 3rd place in the 80cm class and 4th place in the 70cm class.

On 3rd April the team were straight back out, again at King's Sedgmoor Equestrian Centre, but this time for the British Showjumping Just for Schools League. Jess Miller, Tilly Jacoby-Kelly, Julia Louw, Eva DiCapua, Emily Miller and Millie Struel represented the school and had some fantastic results. Jess Miller, one of our youngest riders, won her 60cm Class, which is fabulous for one of her first school outings at what was a big 60cm course! Jess went on to place 5th in the 70cm class with Tilly 6th and an overall win for Taunton School again! In the 80cm class, Emily placed both 3rd and 4th on different horses, with Julia placing 5th and the rest of the team had good clear rounds to secure yet another TS team win. In the 90cm class, Julia placed 4th with Emily close behind in 5th. In the final daunting 1m class, Millie Struel secured the final win of the day for TS. What a haul – I couldn't be more proud!

On the 8th April, the team travelled further afield: Jess Miller, Julia Louw, Emily Miller, Tilly Jacoby-Kelly and Cecilia Fawden made their way to Moreton, Dorset, for another Eventer's Challenge Qualifier. Sadly, injury prevented Fliss Gostling from accompanying this time. Yet again, we had some amazing results, culminating in the team qualifying (again) for Hickstead this summer! In the

80cm class, the team placed 3rd overall and in the 90cm they placed 6th. Special mention must go to Cecelia and Jeremy for their 1st place in this class.

On the 11th April, Emily Miller was back out to Moreton again, this time for a One Day Event. She and her amazing pony Galaxy II went clear in the showjumping, and cross country phases, with only a few time faults. Her dressage result secured a 6th place overall – a fabulous result for a Year 7 student who was undoubtedly riding against much older seniors. There are big things (and even bigger jumps!) to come for Emily I'm sure!

Finally, on the 15th April, as if they hadn't done enough, the team ventured out to Bicton for another Show Jumper's Challenge at Bicton Arena. Eva DiCapua, Tilly Jacoby-Kelly, Daisy Stout and Millie Struel represented the school in fine style. The team came 3rd in the 80cm class qualifying for Addington Championships. Cecilia placed 7th individually in the 90cm class with a quick, clear round.

Meg Pocock and her stead, Dumbledore, are also working hard to earn places in some gruelling national competitions too. They attended the Broadway SEG event and qualified for the 90cm SEG Championship at Calmsden.

The growing numbers of riders across the school is testament to the dedication and motivation of both the students and their families. Thanks to all of you for your hard work in preparing the horses, travelling long distances after early starts followed by late finishes. I am so proud of our Equestrian Team and look forward to introducing more training sessions and events this term. Hickstead and Addington are tough competitions and our team continue to demonstrate that they thoroughly deserve their places in these arenas.

Kate Walters

