



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

Senior School COURIER

7th May 2021

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

FRIDAY FUNDRAISING



On Friday, students and staff held a mufti day to raise money for the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation 90@90 campaign, which we heard about in Chapel on Tuesday.

The Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation in Cape Town has an ambitious plan to open both a Museum and a Digital Archive that will house of all his life's work. The Anti-Apartheid movement and the struggle for liberation in South Africa that he helped to lead continues to inspire us and teach us how to be better people in our own contexts. His example helps us all to have courageous conversations. If you'd like to find out more about his legacy, check out this website: <https://www.tutu.org.za/>

Read all about Dr Getman's personal experiences with Archbishop Desmond Tutu on page two.



More Inside

Geography field trip

Creative art workshop

Descriptive writing

Meet Laura Brayley

The latest sports news

...and more...

Next Senior Courier: 21st May 2021

Head's Up: How will history judge 2019-2020?

by Ed Burnett



Coronavirus dominates our thoughts and our actions but I wonder if it will be a key legacy of this era? By forcing people into isolation it has caused generations of people to take stock, reflect and challenge the status quo. This is not simply about work / life balance or the rise in homeworking but perhaps more fundamental issues around social justice. This week our Chaplain has been reflecting on the on-going legacy of Desmond Tutu, the South African Anglican cleric who in 1984 received the Nobel Prize for Peace for his role in the opposition to Apartheid in South Africa. Tutu turns 90 this Autumn and his Foundation - Tutu Foundation Website (tutufoundationuk.org) – is set-up to resolve conflict through reconciliation so that we can all live in peaceful and supportive communities. The last two years has seen global conflict on a scale not seen since the end of 1980s as communist rule fell apart and Apartheid was dismantled in South Africa. As the Chaplain often reminds our students, you must speak truth to power and you must challenge injustice. We have seen this over the last year of lockdown as the world has erupted with one voice to say 'enough is enough': we should all be safe from racism, from domestic abuse, from sexual abuse and misogyny. These messages have rightly challenged schools to consider their own cultures and

whether our stated goals are actually lived out on a day to day basis within the school community. Since we came out of Lockdown in March we have actively sought more and more student voice around these issues and this process has carried on this term. I hope to present a greater insight into the work we are collectively doing at Taunton School in our Safeguarding Webinar on May 18th and I hope you will be able to join us. The first line of our Vision is to 'challenge, inspire and nurture young people to succeed in a global community' and therefore we must allow them to safely discuss the culture they live in to understand how they can become the leaders of today and tomorrow and to be at the vanguard of change as we move into a post Covid world. I believe this will be the lasting legacy of 2020-2021 and one we should all cherish in much the same way in which we have cherished the amazing legacies of Desmond Tutu.

**Ed Burnett, Senior Deputy Head
& Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Archbishop Desmond Tutu 90@90



Following on from our Freedom Day Chapel on Saturday in which we reflected on the life well lived of Nelson Mandela, today I am going to tell you about a man who changed my life. The Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu of the Anglican Church in South Africa is largely responsible for me becoming a priest and spending 20 years of

my life in South Africa. He is a self proclaimed Rabble Rouser for peace!

My father met Tutu in Washington, DC while I was still in primary school. They became friends and my father became committed to the cause of liberation in South Africa. In 1984 we travelled there as a family. I was 13 and was blown away to see such blatant structural racism. I was also deeply moved to see how many Christians understood social justice activism as a natural practice of their faith convictions. One of my favourite Desmond Tutu quotes is: 'When people say that religion and politics don't mix, I wonder which Bible it is they are reading.'

I have been reading the "Children of God Storybook Bible" retold by Desmond Tutu to the Pre-Prep children most weeks at their chapel services. It is a wonderful yet simple reminder to "Do what is RIGHT, be KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, and be FRIENDS WITH GOD."

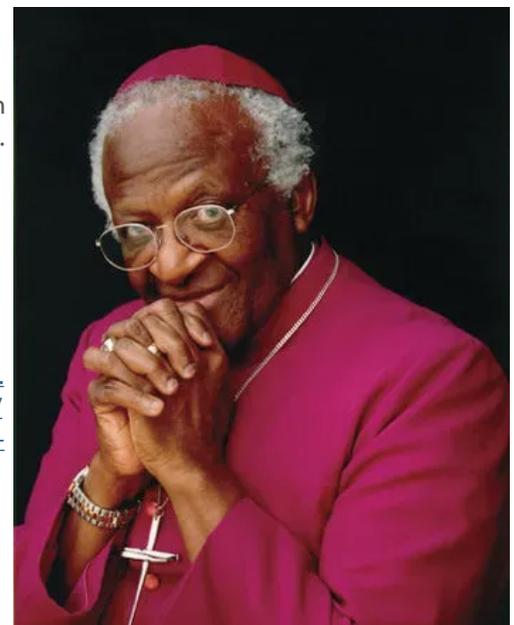
To examine the life and the teachings of Desmond Tutu is to learn what it means to be a South African, what it means to be a Christian, what it means to be a human being. He is a living example of these identities being woven together as one. In the end, in his words, we are all one. "...the only way we can ever be human is together. The only way we can be free is together." This is based on both a deep understanding and practice of Christian theology and the African traditional philosophy of Ubuntu.

Ubuntu means Community or humanity or relationships in the Xhosa language Ubuntu means – I am because we are. A person is a person through other people.

A quote by Desmond Tutu:

"The Bible is not some dry and dusty list of rules. It is the story of how we are created good in God's eyes, how that goodness was damaged, and how wholeness is ours with God. Depravity came into the world through individual choices, drip by drip. The Bible is an invitation to wholeness instead of brokenness. We can choose wholeness and a life of beauty. We can choose to work for peace in the small choices that face us each day. Each of us has the dignity of these choices, whether we are rich or poor, from the global North or South, in prison or not. The Bible shows us how. It is about peace and reconciliation. It is about social justice in your neighbourhood. It is about joy and laughter."

Read the full transcription of Tuesday's Chapel here: <https://intranet.tauntonschool.co.uk/chaplain/archbishop-desmond-tutu-9090>



Hanna launches resources for Youth Parliament Campaign



Year 13 student and Member of Youth Parliament Hanna Wittek has launched her resources for her Youth Parliament Campaign about Youth Protection and Empowerment. These resources raise awareness about domestic abuse and sexual harassment which has been a growing concern for young people in Somerset as the Make Your Mark results showed. Somerset Youth Parliament is a universal youth voice group who represent young people in Somerset.

Calls of domestic abuse to REFUGE in the first day of lockdown increased by 700% as lockdown rules forced young people and families to be in the household constantly which proved to cause an increase in tension and violence. The main concern for young people experiencing domestic abuse was their mental health as study shows that ¼ of UK citizens reported a worsening of their mental health over the first lockdown period. Young people should not feel at risk at home and Youth Parliament is committed to raising awareness about organisations that can help such as Childline and REFUGE where young people do not have to feel lonely and they can seek help.

There has also been an increase in sexual harassment and abuse cases in Somerset in the last 5 years with numbers showing 1 in 3 women have experienced at least one form of sexual harassment in their lifetime. It was brought to Youth Parliament's attention that a culture in schools have increased where sexual harassment is prominent causing young people to feel unsafe and vulnerable in the school environment. Somerset Youth Parliament is also working with the Police and schools about consequences for perpetrators as well as prevention and protection techniques to ensure that sexual harassment in schools, workplaces and public areas is eliminated.

<https://youtu.be/eilhPzyuZdc>

Hanna Wittek

STOP SEXUAL HARASSMENT

1 IN 3

WOMEN HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THEIR LIFETIME



- unwanted flirting
- cat calling
- touching without consent
- sexual favours
- crude jokes/gestures

SPEAK UP!

Crimestoppers- 0800 555
childline- 0800 1111
police- 999

Could happen to anyone
at any age,
anywhere

VERBAL

PHYSICAL

NON-VERBAL

VISUAL



Hanna Wittek MYP

DOMESTIC ABUSE



2.3 MILLION adults experienced domestic violence in the year 2020

calls for reports of domestic abuse increased by 700% during the first week of the pandemic

91% of cases are against women

SPEAK UP!

Refuge- 0808 2000 247
childline- 0800 1111
police- 999



AT HOME
NO ONE
SHOULD
FEEL
AT RISK



Hanna Wittek MYP

Creatively Risky in Art

Year 12 A-Level Art students this week enjoyed a workshop on 'Learning to take creative risks'. Here is a snapshot of their lesson.



Year 9 Descriptive writing challenge

English students in Year 9 were tasked with producing a piece of descriptive writing using the title: "Describe a busy sporting event". The work is partially inspired by the return of school fixtures.

James Brodie, Head of English

Under the sheaths of an empty, black sky, a stadium beams its lights into clusters of bustling families scrambling to their seats. Wrapped in scarves and obnoxious puffer jackets, they saturate the grey seats and puff warm air into the frigid night. Soon these faces blur into unfamiliar silhouettes, framed in purple banners, printed with 'PyeongChang 2018', from afar. The ice rink lies below a box of four screens; they show live advertisements of an alcoholic drink. The pearly-white smile of a celebrity cradles the green-bottled beverage, humming to the slogan of the brand. But finally, it transitions to tonight's competitor, a man in a kaleidoscopic ensemble. The skater's dress is a white, loose silk shirt with kaleidoscopic gems in sage and jade rows tucked into tight black trousers. At his collar and sleeves, the fabric is hemmed in ovular patterns. Stepping onto the rink, a blanket of silence dominates the arena, followed by mellow applause. Disassociated expressions upon the looming judges' faces reflect woefully upon the competitor, but as the children we are, secretly we all await his performance. The skater's movements begin carving abstract engravements on the ice. The beat of a cliché 90s hit rattles in the background: the dance of his arms, flung meticulously into the path of the breeze he creates behind. Peering into his every pose, the skater is stalked by the cameras, until his performance is complete. In his finishing stance, his chest rises and falls, and hurriedly he glides off the rink.

by Georgina

The spectators roar and screech like animals amongst the sweaty, humid heat of the crowds. Blazing spotlights overhead blind your eyes as they pierce through the night sky, illuminating the runners preparing for the race. Fans cry out for their native competitors as they do their final stretches, getting ready to represent their homeland on the track. A muggy, unpleasant smell of expensive fast food and body odour burns in your nose and leaves a bad taste in the air. Senses overwhelm your mind as if you are on a whole other planet.

Then suddenly out of nowhere it becomes deadly silent. Suspense builds up, increasing by the second, to the point where it becomes unbearable. The runners take place on the starting blocks, crouched down in low, strong positions. The race official draws a handgun out and points it to the sky. A single crack of the gun shatters the silence around it followed by a small trail of smoke out the barrel. The runners lunge forwards with giant strides, their knees and arms drawing high up into the air before driving their feet down with rhino like power into the ground. The cheering of the crowd starts up again, deafening shouts motivating the runners. It's almost neck and neck but Usain Bolt takes the slightest lead followed by his fellow Jamaican runner, Yohan Blake. Every ounce of power and effort is shown on their faces as they dive across the finish line, all over in just a mere 10 seconds. The crowd goes wild as Usain manages to scrape the victory by fractions of a second. He runs over to the crowd in celebration, executing his famous tick pose with his arms in triumph before jumping into the crowd. People around him swarm trying to grab a handshake and give him a hug. Huge smiles on their faces. All senses start to die away as spectators return to their seats and the runners go to receive their awards.

by Oscar

The floodlights are lit like a fire, the crowd is roaring, the players are walking out of the tunnel, they look focused and composed, ready to run through a brick wall if they needed to. You could cut through the tension between each team's crowd; there is loud jeering and shouting at each other. The anthems are starting now, 'God Save The Queen' is being sung by the English players. This is followed by, 'Die Stem Van Suid-Afrika' by the South African team. The referee darts to the middle of the pitch and brings his whistle to his mouth. The game is on!

The thud of opposing teams hitting each other is ear piercing! Yet, every little movement is echoed: the twist of an ankle, shoulders striking opponent's stomachs is brutal and the mumbled talk between each of the teams. You can taste the sweat in the air and the steam evaporating from the players in the scrums.

A player is escorted off the pitch for a head injury assessment now. The divide between happiness and annoyance is intense: the England fans are crying with anger while the south African fans are dancing with joy.

With intense speed, the South African winger scores a try; the Springboks' fans are hysterical with happiness. The substitutes have run onto the pitch hugging him so tightly that he disappears from view. The England players faces mirrors their fans disappointment.

The game is now over, the South Africa fans are cheering with joy. However, the English fans and players turn their faces with disgust. The crowd is starting to disperse now: the English fans first, they all want to rush out of the stadium and return home to 'lick their wounds'. Meanwhile, the South African fans are dancing and singing with the joy of their victory. Their faces show sheer happiness as they want this day to go on forever.

by Ollie

Year 9 Descriptive writing challenge

continued...

The Race

As the sun sets, so does the rest of the world around us, until there is only the stadium and the sliver of night sky above- a place to rest your eyes from the electric fervour of the tracks and the crowds. The tens of thousands of people merge easily into one faceless, sweating, anxious mass. The chairs slope down to the track and the chiselled white lines upon it, enclose grass that shines an unnatural bright green under the glare of the stadium floodlights.

If the chairs lead down to the track, then the people lead down to the runners. Eight of them, tall and strong and staring down the end with a terrifying ferocity. They have names, yes, that the commentator introduces them as, and they have numbers on their shirts and flags on their water bottles, but in reality? They are all the same man. (That same man who thundered through the finish line, the same pure elation on his face, for the same prize of a medal or a trophy or an olive branch, in all of the races the world has seen.)

The noise calms. The runners ready themselves, crouch against the blocks. There is something deadly about the way their muscles tense- like a bullet in a chamber.

The starting gun is raised.

A readying shout forces the runners up. Their spikes dig into the soft orange track. A gold necklace hangs off the neck of one of them, glinting in the lights.

You can see them move before the gunshot reaches you, and they're erupting out of the blocks, heads furiously down. The muscles of their calves strain, their arms slide easily through the air and they move forwards. (It sounds obvious, like that, to say that they move forwards, but they do. Every part of them does, is straining for the end, from their clenched hands to their flight-like spring to the almost-mechanical way the movement travels through them.) These men- these machines- were made to run.

by Lizzie

The Final

The crowd suddenly went silent. Soft humming could be heard from amongst the audience as the anticipation began to grow. The odd rustle of a crisps bag or shutter of a phone camera were the only things breaking silence in the hushed stadium. The ground below was brightly lit, glowing lights lined the edge of the vivid red track. A sea of light began to emerge amidst the audience as lights began flickering and phone torches were being waved around. The runners below got into their position, all with muscular yet lean bodies, draped in bright outfits representing their countries. Each shared the same worried look; brows deep set and all pacing around with nerves.

The runners were called to the start line, and although whispering arose and the hum of excited voices got louder, it was still almost mute in the stadium. "Take Your Marks," the loudspeaker announced. All eyes were on the fan-favourite in lane four, with deep skin, cropped dark hair and slightly yellowed teeth, wearing a bright yellow top that exaggerated his abs and toned torso. As the statement declaring them to get set was declared, the crowd slowed to a hushed silence; not even a faint whisper was muttered. The runners raised into position, while the crowd were shifting in their seats with anticipation. The cameras zoomed in on a family of four centred in the middle of the stadium. The two young girls waved excitedly, both holding Olympic Mascots in their hands. The mother and father directed their gaze back on the race, all four of them sharing the same elevated expression as the heat was about to start.

"Go!" The crowd erupted, breaking into cheers of pure excitement and suspense. Almost everyone arose from their seats, waving coloured flags and jumping up and down with banners. The crowd continued to roar, and suddenly out of nowhere, the fan favourite sprints through, leaving a gap between the rest of the runners. His brawny legs powered him over the finish line, all while the crowd exploded with exhilaration. A smile etched across his face, while sweat began to trickle down his forehead. The audience continued to clap and yell, as the winner slowed to a stop and cameras consumed him.

by Marina

Meet Laura Brayley, Weirfield Housemistress and Teacher of History

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

I'm Housemistress of Weirfield House and Teacher of History, working with students aged 13-18.

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

I started at Taunton School in 2008, following several years teaching in a school in Dorchester. Before teaching I had a number of different jobs; I worked in a pet shop, a hotel, for directory enquiries and also worked as a political researcher for a while.

Who inspires you?

My great-grandmother who worked until she was well into her 90s (she kept pretending she was 75!) She had an incredible work ethic and had such a great sense of fun. Michelle Obama is my ultimate girl hero, she is an inspirational role-model who has achieved so much whilst remaining humble and grounded.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The variety, I love that no day is ever the same and it is such a privilege to be able to spend my days with such a wonderful group of girls in Weirfield. Their energy, determination and good humour is a real joy.

What do you find most challenging?

Keeping on top of the washing up in Weirfield (a losing battle!) and saying goodbye to the leavers at the end of each academic year, it never gets any easier.

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

There isn't really an end of the day in boarding! That said, it is important to take some time to relax and I enjoy getting outside for a walk or a cycle or curling up with a good book for a bit of escapism.

Quick Fire Questions now...

Favourite film

Life is Beautiful, I have lost count of the number of times I have watched this wonderful film.



Favourite book

Oh my goodness, this is an impossible question! If I had to choose then probably A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini or Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

Any pets?

A rather supercilious tabby cat called Tabitha

Hobbies

Travelling, reading and baking

Favourite singers/bands

It very much depends on my mood but I am a big fan of Coldplay, the Stereophonics and REM. I also love Kate Bush and Mariah Carey.

Favourite TV programmes/series

I don't tend to watch a lot of TV, but really enjoyed bingewatching The Crown over the Easter holidays. Gogglebox is a guilty pleasure of mine too!

Any claims to fame

I can pronounce the longest place name in the UK, Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch.

Geography trips are back – IB students visit Exmoor

Recently six IB Geographers, and three members of staff (Adrian Roberts, Ruth Coomber and trainee Callum Stoneman) headed onto Exmoor for their annual investigation of the River Horner. The day started in the cool sunshine close to Dunkery Beacon and finished at Bossington 9km further downstream.

In their two groups the students worked confidently and efficiently (with regular chocolate and 'Haribo' breaks) to investigate changes to flow, bed load and gradient all of which would form part of their IA (coursework) write up.

Apart from Charlie Bruno taking an unexpected dip in the river, the highlight of the day was the ice cream stop once the bulk of the data had been collected; surprisingly the most popular choice of the day was 'ginger' ice cream with Mrs Coomber having a large one as it was her last IB River Horner trip.

With the changes to government guidance, it was fantastic to get out into the open and do some 'real' geography again with our IB students. Unfortunately, our A level students did not fare quite so well in this respect when it came to formulating questions for their coursework (NEAs) so they had to get creative! Below is just a flavour of what our A level geographers have managed to investigate (and achieve) across the duration of the spring term lockdown:

'The impacts of COVID 19 on the perception and use of Fore Street and East Street in Taunton.'

'The impacts of land use, aspect, slope, vegetation and management on infiltration rates in Torquay, the Quantocks, the Blackdowns...'

'The success of the regeneration of Accra airport residential area, Ghana.'

'How do age and gender affect the perception of Exeter's CBD?'



Pictured above: Dimi Chrevatacis, Jonas Cremer, Charlie Bruno, Blanca Osuna de Miguel, Jane Polonskaya, Brooke Judkins

'The impacts of tourism on the left and right bank in Kiev, Ukraine.'

'The impact of globalisation on George Street, Sydney, Australia.'

'The impact of longshore drift on two contrasting beaches in Kilifi, Kenya.'

Adrian Roberts

Safeguarding Webinar

Tuesday 18th May from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

The event is for all parents of students in Year 6-13 and we invite you to submit questions to be considered. The link for the webinar will be sent to parents next week.

Please email questions to safeguardingwebinar@tauntonschool.co.uk



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

SPORT

Cricket

History Made – 5th team!

The weekend's cricket matches saw history being made as it was the first time Taunton School has fielded a 5th senior XI. This is great credit to all the staff involved in cricket who bring such great enthusiasm, inspiring so many players to keep playing cricket.

In total there were 11 teams out on Saturday, 8 versus Blundell's and 3 against Kings College. Unfortunately poor weather affected the matches played at Blundells. In the matches that started the 15As started, strongly taking 3 early wickets as did the Bs with Rafe Salvador striking a quick 40. There were 5 very wet teams that returned back to a dry Taunton.

The three remaining matches at Taunton were all closely fought. The first team started well but finished badly! Adam Small and Ben Coston were untroubled as they amounted a 63 runs opening partnership. Unfortunately neither were able to go on and make a significant score and despite 6 other batters making double figures we were dismissed for a below par 176. The last partnership of 28 between Henry Weatherill (21) and Freddie Stevenson gave Taunton hope going into the field. Blundells' innings mirrored Taunton's as they amassed 62 for their opening stand before Alfie Macdonald



got Taunton back in the game with a nine over spell of 4-23. This gave Taunton a chance but Blundell's 7th and 8th wicket partnerships dug in to complete a 3 wicket win. The 14A's lost their century maker from the previous week as Kian Roberts showed great school spirit in replacing an injured player in the 15s, this may or may not have affected the result. Taunton amassed 148 with a good innings of 45 from Will Harvery, AJ McKay also batted well before some late lusty blows from Jack Burnett And Akhtar gave Taunton a competitive score. Blundells started well and managed to lose the match ball early in the first few overs which helped in Blundells scoring quickly off the opening bowlers. Ben Mason and Jack Burnett took a wicket apiece as Taunton tried to fight back but Blundells managed to chase the total down only losing 3 wickets. The 14B's had a classic low scoring thriller! Blundells were bowled out by Taunton for 99, wickets for Henry Kingswell, Brooke Olivia-Whittaker, Sam Billings and Olly Hartwell. In reply the major contribution was from Sam Davies, 39, he was ably supported by Oscar Baker before a classic B's collapse, including an unfortunate dismissal off a potential dead ball, meant Taunton finished 5 runs short despite Ed Hudson getting 15 not out.

In the three other matches Vs King's we hosted a 4th team match and the C teams went to Kings. The more inexperienced C teams did well in their matches. The 15Cs performed well to set a total of 82 off their 20 overs with Dan Webber top scoring with 15, Kings chased the target losing two wickets. In the 14C's Kings batted first amassing 149 in their 20 overs, this would have been significantly less without wides. Yusuf Ismail picked up two wickets as well as wickets for Adam Griffiths, Alfie Howells and Mohammed AlSuraifi. In reply Alfie Howells and Archie Martin batted nicely as Taunton amassed 100. There was a significant victory by the 4th team, which saw another historical event. Early in their 20 overs Kings were in a strong position but Taunton fought back well with Reggie Tuttiett taking a middle innings hat trick as he finished with figures of 4-16. Matt Brown and Alex Pomeroy also took two wickets apiece in the fight back. In reply Taunton lost a couple of early wickets but hard hitting from Freddie Richards (35) and Charlie Shave (22), they

combined to make serious inroads to chasing 129. Victory was achieved by 6 wickets.

In midweek matches the weather was the first winner as Mondays T20 matches were rained off but the girls 15s did play their first match on Thursday evening. This match was in the National Cup vs Dautsey. In the match Brooke Olivia-Whittaker showed her all round ability with bat, ball and in the field. She took two wickets, got two run outs and scored an unbeaten 50 as she finished the match with a 6! Dautsey's batted first making 90, as well as Brooke's performance there was good bowling from Hetty Holden, Bella Slade and Olivia Pyke. In chasing down the total Brooke was ably supported by Jyette Lundehn, who was making her cricketing debut, Faye Vincent and Lily Fawcett as Taunton passed the total with 3 overs remaining and 5 wickets in hand.

Overall it was a proud wicket with the numbers of teams that were playing cricket but results didn't quite go Taunton's way. Performers of the week were Reggie Tuttiett and Brooke Olivia-Whittaker, well done everyone!

Pete Sanderson, Director of Cricket



SPORT

Girls' Tennis

**Senior girls 1st VI**

Our tough start to the season continued against a very good Millfield side. The girls gave it everything, but came up against the strongest team we've played in many years. Despite the score line, both myself and the girls felt it was a good experience to play such strong opponents and gave us many ideas on where we need to improve to reach the next level. Credit to Flora Collier who attended Celtic Dragons netball training prior to the tennis fixture - a true sports scholar. Up next for us is Clifton College at home.

Senior girls 2nd VI

The fixture against Millfield is always a test but a depleted squad due to some absences added to the challenge. The girls faced their opponents with determination and grit and did themselves proud. With each match they gained confidence and once again felt the disappointment of the scoring system in tennis - most games went to deuce but they just couldn't win those crucial advantage points. Eloise and Freya played well despite having never played together before, losing to their opposite number 4-6 and Kara and Maddy improved with every match. Rosie's promotion to the 2nds didn't phase her and she made a great partner for Verity and provided a solid opposition for the Millfield girls. All in all a solid performance again in some challenging conditions, hopefully giving the girls more confidence in future fixtures.

Senior girls 3rd VI

Taunton travelled to Millfield for their second match of the season. Duo, Imogen and Esme won their first game convincingly with some impressive serves and communication from both. Their second game went to a tie break, sadly Millfield stole the final point. Laura and Fran forced their opponents to work hard for every point and made deuce on numerous occasions but

couldn't quite take the game. Lucy and Tia stepped up to provide competition for Millfield. Improvements were made in each game but they were unable to secure the win. Well done to all of the girls who



performed well in very wet conditions!

Junior girls U15s A VI

With our usual fighting spirit, each pair in the team put their all into each match. Amalie and Chloe won their first easily, lost the second to a very tough and talented first pair, but picked themselves up again and won their final match. Hannah and Electra had a really tough pair and lost 6-0 to Millfield's first pair, but won their second game and marginally lost their final game in a tie-breaker. Elle and Shai picked apart their first two matches 6-1, 6-0 and were winning 5-3 against Millfield's first pair, but unfortunately lost in a tense final 15 minutes 7-5. Overall success; beating Millfield 5-4. A real credit to the girls for beating such a tough side!

Junior girls U14s A VI

Having had a warm and sunny day last week, this Saturday our teams faced the cold, rain and only the odd bright spell. The girls played with fantastic enthusiasm and energy, approaching all matches with determination. The girls' volleying and serving were stronger and much more consistent than last week and their play was increasingly confident. The pairs worked effectively together and are becoming better at communicating with each other. Some of the matches were extremely close with many games reaching deuce. I was particularly pleased to see our U14A third pair's delight - and surprise - at winning one of their matches and I am sure this will give them greater confidence for next week's matches.

Junior girls U14s B VI

The U14Bs played with determination and enthusiasm despite the wet and windy weather, when playing against Millfield this weekend. All three pairs worked well together and I enjoyed watching their confidence grow game by game. After 3 matches played by each of the pairs, the team rose to victory beating Millfield 6-3. It was fantastic to see each pair win 2 games each, sharing the losses and the successes.

**Shaun Carroll,
Director of Tennis**



SPORT

Boys' House Tennis

1st Evans**2nd Goodland****3rd Wills East**

This year's boys' tennis house matches have once again proven to be both a competitive and enjoyable event. With a total of eight teams and 16 pairs, the team captains came together to decide on the groupings. With a cleverly devised system, each pair was able to play every pair in their group. We saw many exceptional pieces of play as the teams battled their way into the semi-finals. Guido Weiser, Alfred d'Cherrey and Freddie Salter Green made notable performances and contributed significantly in their teams. Headed into the semi finals was Evans with 42 games, Wills East with 24, Marshall with 26 and Goodland with 30.

Further notable plays included Jack Brimm and Tom Haughton-King with some exceptional serving. In the finals we saw 4 very close matches between Evans and Goodland. The first 2 play offs resulted in a 4-0 loss and a 4-0 win for each side. The current games score is 4-4. In the final 2 matches the first pairs drew 2-2 leaving the final game being crucial in deciding the result of the tournament. Both sides played exceptionally well but after a 2-1 lead by Evans the pressure on Goodland was too much. As a result, Evans took the win and the tournament came to an end.

Evans Team - Edward Cousins & Will Kyle-Short Ollie Drummond & Ollie Edwards

Edward Cousins



SPORT

Rugby Bristol Bears Selection

Nick Payne (Middle) played with the U18 Bristol Bears academy team against Bath Academy last Saturday. Nick felt good to be back playing again after having a long time out. It was a very competitive game which Bristol sadly fell on the wrong side of by one score.

Charlie Way (second from right), Gabriel Baldegger (first from left) and Ashley Foster (extra picture) represented the U16 Bristol Bears against Bath Rugby last Saturday. It was a brilliant game to watch between two very evenly matched sides. Both academies played two very close matches in terms of score. Bristol Bears were

strong up front and fairly dominant. The size of the boys and intensity of the games has certainly increased. Taunton students were on fire, they played with real tempo which showed their ability.



George Nuttycombe (second from left) represented the U16 Bristol Bears on Friday night against a strong Millfield side. Bristol made a few too many handling errors at key moments and the score ended up in Millfield's favour 25points-10. Also to put it into context Millfield asked if they could field a number of U17's due to the Bears V Bath match on Saturday.

Ben Giles (first from right) had a great game with the U15 Bristol Bears team against Millfield on Friday night. Bristol coaches split it so every child got 30 mins to keep it fair. Ben put in some great tackles and was in every ruck and gained a lot of ground. Bristol Bears won 14pts-5.

It a wonderful feeling to see players back in action after no competitive rugby for over a year. Fantastic effort everyone.

Nic Sestaret, Director of Rugby



SPORT

Rugby

**1st XV Taunton vs Millfield: Won
28pts-24 (Away)**

Tries: Ben Bailey, Tom Houghton-King, Nick Payne (2)

Conversions: Ben Jackson (4)

Man of the match: full squad (22 players)

It was a wonderful feeling coming back to contact rugby under the new guidelines (no scrums and mauls). Our players had been training long and hard for this moment. We travelled after school on Wednesday to Millfield. We were greeted with perfect conditions to play a good game of rugby, the weather was nice (at last!) and the pitch had the ideal surface to absorb impact. After talking to three official referees, players led the warm-up in an exemplary manner bringing focus and communication. The game started slowing as we conceded two early tries but we responded well before the first quarter by a powerful run from Ben Bailey. Millfield kept pressurising us by playing their usual wide and expansive game but our defence stayed strong and we managed to secure a second try using great footwork from Tom Houghton-King. Players fatigue started to show at the start of the third quarter where both teams fought for each inch of ground. Nick Payne, our captain, secured a temporary lead after some rewarding work from the forwards. Millfield came back into the game in the fourth quarter and levelled the score to 21pts to both teams. Two minutes before the end of the game, Taunton were penalised 22m in front of the post. Millfield captain walked towards the



referee, pointed to the posts and converted 3 pts. At this stage of the game, we had less than two minutes to play, we were behind by 3 points (24pts-21) but Taunton players were determined to have the last word. Our players managed to get the ball back from kick off and they kept the ball for ten intense phases until our captain Nick Payne delivered a well-deserved victory. All tries were converted by Ben Jackson. It was the best reward possible for all these months of hard work. The school are very proud of their achievement. Well done!

Nic Sestaret, Director of Rugby



Taunton Deane
Swimming Club

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Trials will be held at the KEELING pool,
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jenniferrichardson@tdswim.club
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SPORT

Rugby

TS 1stXV Defy the Odds in Thrilling Comeback Win vs Millfield

After a long day of lessons, and an even longer year without contact rugby, a nervous excitement rippled round the TS camp as we survived Mr Sestaret's hair-raising driving and made it to Millfield. Debuts for many of the Lower Sixth boys ensured the intensity would be high right from the warm-up, whilst the floods of opposition supporters flocking to all sides of the pitch only added to the anticipation for kick-off. Some strong words from Captain Nick Payne in the huddle set the tone for what would go on to be a truly epic encounter.

The first quarter saw Millfield profit from their home advantage, as Taunton conceded two well-worked tries in quick succession. However, a Tom Curry-esque performance in defence from Charlie Shave steadied the boys as we worked our way back into the game. Body-on-the-line heroics around the breakdown from the likes of Ronnie Foster and Sam Stevenson swayed the momentum in Taunton's favour; bearing fruit in the form of second-quarter tries from vice-captain Ben Bailey, and outside centre Tom Houghton-King, both crashing over from short range.

It was honours even going into the second half, but the now muted Millfield crowd personified Taunton's mounting

pressure. Strong interplay saw Tom Houghton-King break through the defensive line with a commanding crash line, before the ball was worked to Nick Payne; the skipper dotted down to give TS a well-earned 14-21 lead. Millfield responded to level the match, and even took the lead after slotting a penalty kick with three minutes to go. All hope looked lost, until Miles Butt climbed highest to claim the Taunton restart – structured, attritional forward pressure led to Nick Payne crashing over for his second, to give Taunton the win with the clock in the red. Emotions were uncontrollable as the boys celebrated a deserved, hard-fought victory.

Stand-out performances from Nick Payne, Ben Bailey and Francis Appiah exemplified the dominance of the Taunton forwards, whilst conversions from Ben Jackson ensured we stayed in the match. Champagne moments go to Isaac Stuckey for playing on despite throwing up, and to George Charalambous for putting up with some colourful heckling. A big thanks must go to Mr Sestaret and Mr Turner for getting us there, both physically and strategically. With lots still to work on, attention now turns to the local derby vs Kings in three weeks time.

Tries: Payne (2), Bailey, Houghton-King

Cons: Jackson (4)

Ben Jackson

