



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

Senior School COURIER

24th September 2021

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

LIFE RETURNS TO TAUNTON SCHOOL



See some of the action from the first week of term here:

[Watch video](#)

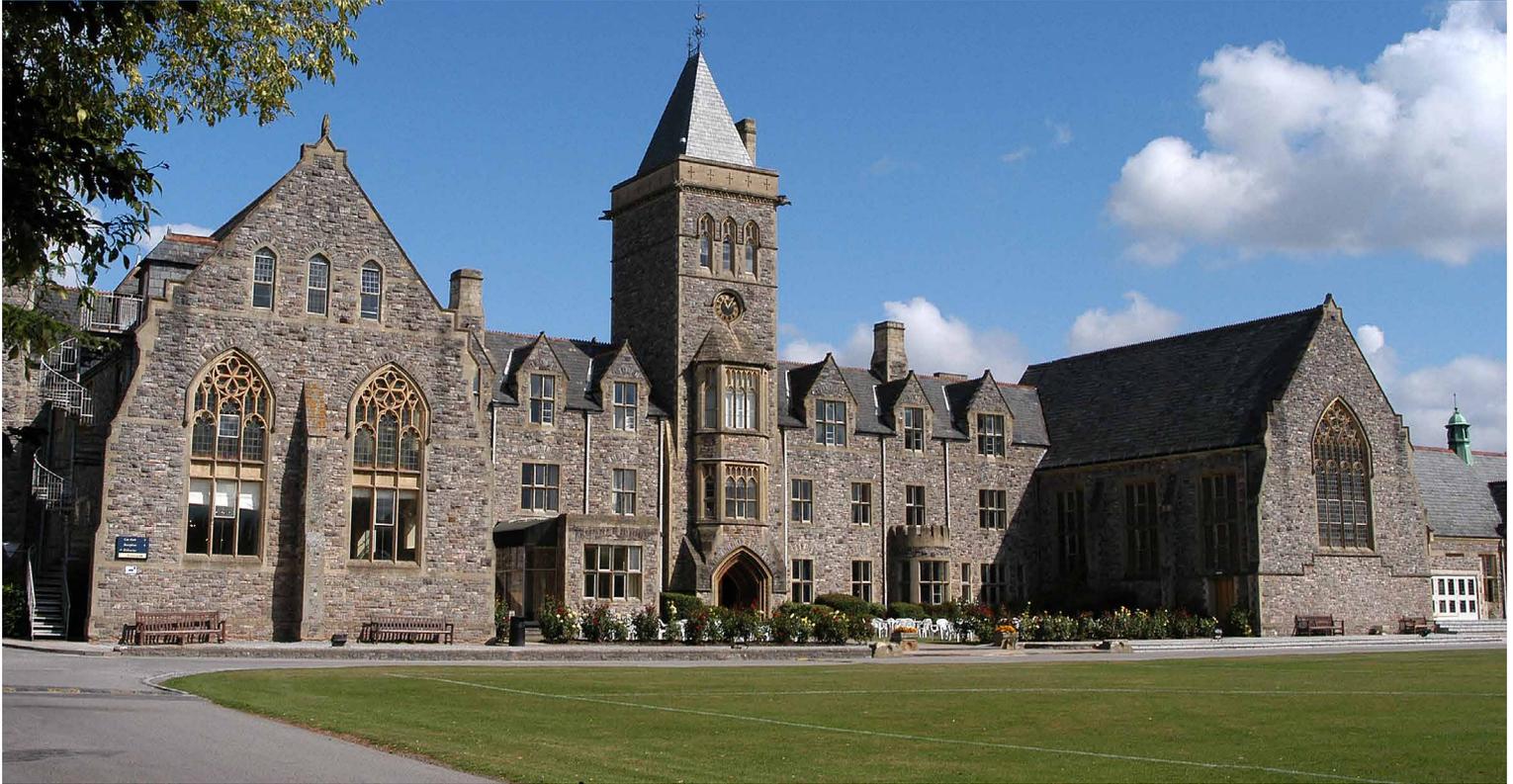
MORE INSIDE

- Meet the new Director of Sport and Assistant Head Pastoral & Community
- Boarders bond with start of term activities

- Summer of Sport at Taunton School
- Results round up

Next Senior Courier: 22nd October 2021

Message from the Head



So here we are at the end of week three. As ever, the September weather has been magnificent when compared with the weather in August. I haven't even had to resort to wellies on my Saturday afternoon tour of fixtures! It's been great to see our wonderful school in its full glory this past few weeks. Our community has experienced significant disruption over the past four terms and we are now able to experience some of the many activities we have missed. It is great to see and hear our students laughing and enjoying themselves.

That is not say we are back to normal and our five golden rules are vital in keeping members of our community safe. We have been advised that, above all else, the twice weekly lateral flow tests are the most effective way to prevent the spread of Covid. I would therefore be grateful if you could do all you can to ensure your sons and daughters commit to this routine. On the subject of Covid I was speaking with a member of the local public health team earlier this week, we have had some positive cases, but they are very happy with all of our actions and protocols. We will continue to follow the relevant guidelines and communicate with you if we feel it is necessary.

Looking ahead, we have exciting plans for the year. The planning for the new Sixth Form centre, the new library, the pedestrianised heart of the school, and EAL classrooms are well under way. Literacy is at the top of our educational agenda and we are working with our student body to find creative ways of improving all aspects of school life.

I am excited by the prospect of two brilliant speakers visiting the school later this term. Stuart Lawrence, brother of Stephen Lawrence and author of 'Silence is Not an Option', will be with us on 18th November. He is passionate about justice, equality and fairness and the importance of young people using their voice for change. Alex Beard, author of 'Natural Born Learners', is fascinating and his views on education should be heard by every parent and teacher. He will be with us on 8th December. I strongly recommend that you watch his [TED Talk which can be found here](#). I very much hope to see you at one of, or both of, these talks.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible around school this term.

Lee Glaser

Diary Dates

Whole School Open Morning	25th September 2021 9:30am – 12:30pm
International Open Morning	25th September 2021 1:00pm – 2:00pm (UK time)
Sixth Form Open Evening	1st October 2021 6:30pm – 9:00pm
Keeling Bursary Deadline	4th October 2021
Bring on Year 9 (Year 8 to 9 Information Evening)	13th October 2021 6:30pm – 8:30pm
IB Information Evening	3rd November 2021 6:30pm – 8:30pm
16+ Scholarship Deadline	5th November 2021
Parent Webinar – ‘Sixth Form Options’	18th November 2021
11+ Scholarship Deadline	26th November 2021

Register your place for our upcoming events on our website here: <https://www.tauntonschool.co.uk/open-mornings/>

Exams Round-up



Joy for Taunton School GCSE Students After Another Unsettled Exam Year

Year 11 students received an outstanding set of GCSE and iGCSE results last month despite another year of Covid disruption. “After a second challenging academic year, I am hugely proud of our Year 11 students for achieving a brilliant set of GCSE results. Their commitment to their studies, including in the periods of remote learning, has been richly rewarded. We look forward to welcoming many of them into our Sixth Form in September for A Level, IB or BTEC courses,” said Deputy Head Academic, Damian Henderson. [Read more and find out the top achievers here >](#)



A Level and BTEC Students Celebrate Outstanding Grades in Another Unprecedented Exam Year

Last year’s Sixth Form students finished their Taunton School journey with some brilliant achievements in this year’s A Level and BTEC results, as did their peers on the IB Diploma Programme for which results were issued on 6th July. Students who came into school to pick up their results also featured in a number of national and international publications including The Independent, The Daily Mail and Gulf News. [Read more here >](#)

New Faces



Lyndsay White
Assistant Head Pastoral & Community

Mrs White joins Taunton School after three years working at Taunton School International and brings with her many years' experience of working in boarding and with international students, and a passion for the positive impact that effective PSHEE programmes can have on the lives of children.

Key aspects of the role are promoting Student Voice, delivery of an unmissable Sixth Form experience, overseeing and promoting opportunities for Student Leadership, smooth transition of students from all parts of the school into the Senior School, promoting a culture of volunteering and charity work, both within the local community and global organisations and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.



Jack Clark
Director of Foundation and Alumni

Mr Clark has joined Taunton School to engage a global community of Old Tauntonians, parents and friends to support children at Taunton School by raising funds for bursaries and capital projects.

He joins the school after previously working as Development Director at Emanuel School in Clapham, London, where he oversaw the quadrupling of a number of donor-funded, means-tested bursaries and increased alumni participation.



Daniel Pettifer
Director of Sport

Taunton School's new Director of Sport Daniel Pettifer led the rugby, athletics, badminton, basketball and swimming programmes in his previous role as Former Head of PE and Director of Sport at the Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe.

"I am so impressed by the personable nature of the Taunton School students. They are hardworking and highly coachable. The sporting offer to these students is already excellent, and I can't wait to see what we can do together over the next few years."

Meet the New Heads of School



Charlie Shave
Head Boy



Ruth Garang
Head Girl



Barney Dietz
Deputy Head Boy



Kara Kimczak-Gange
Deputy Head Girl

Year 12 Team Building

Our Lower Sixth students embarked on a series of team building challenges to get to know each other before the start of an exciting two years at Taunton School.



Sixth Form 70s-themed Fundraising Social



Taunton School International Announced as Finalists in National Schools Awards

Taunton School International has been announced as a finalist in the national Independent School of the Year Awards 2021. The school has been recognised for launching a pioneering Foundation Year course and for its new international scholarships established to mark the school's 25th anniversary. TSI is one of just five finalists in the prestigious awards' British International School of the Year category.

Adrian Hallworth, Principal of Taunton School International, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have made it to the final stage of these awards, particularly as we celebrate our 25th anniversary this year."

International students are a very special and important part of our school community and this award acknowledges the work that our wonderful teachers and students do to create such an inspiring educational environment. [Read more here >](#)



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, at headmaster@tauntonschool.co.uk by 4th October 2021.

Lee Glaser, Headmaster



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175 Years of Taunton School

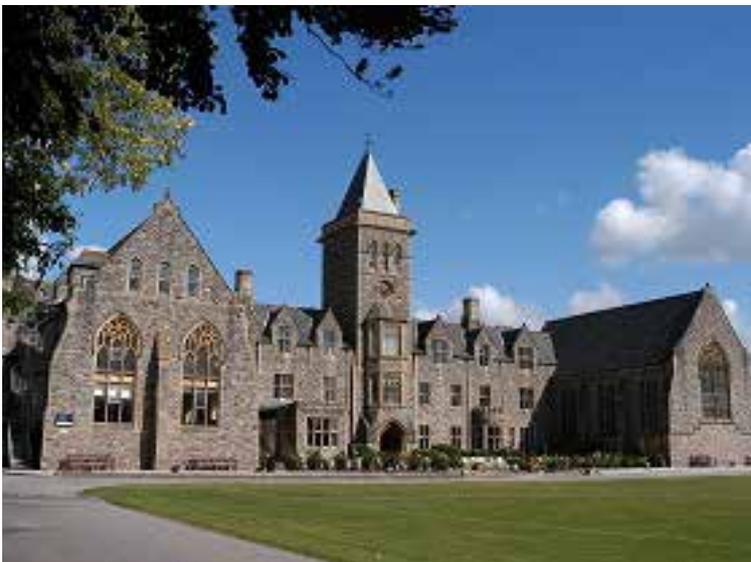


Next year is a significant milestone for Taunton School: our 175th anniversary. We are putting together our plans to mark this important date and we want to hear from you.

Our new Foundation Director, Jack Clark, talked about one of the activities that is already underway: "Last year we started the Memories Project, a chance to collect photos and stories from across the school's history. We plan to curate and share these next year as part of our anniversary celebrations. As both a member of staff and a parent with three boys, in the Prep and Pre-Prep, I have really enjoyed joining Taunton School and seeing how much parents and staff appreciate being part of this community. That is why we want to hear from current parents and pupils about their experience of Taunton School and what they think makes this community so special."

Looking across the memories we have collected so far, what comes across clearly are the acts of kindness and generosity that pupils, teachers and parents have witnessed and benefitted from over the last 174 years. The school itself was founded on benefaction, when in 1847, members of the community took it upon themselves to solve an educational need and together funded the origins of Taunton School. Today's supporters are no different and each year hundreds of our school community generously donate to the charitable foundation.

If you have stories, photos or quotes about your experience of Taunton School, or if you would like to hear more about the work of the schools charitable foundation, then please get in touch with Mr Clark at Jack.Clark@tauntonschool.co.uk.



Boarding Life

The start of a new school year is always busy, but perhaps particularly so for our boarders who have to adjust not only to a new school, but to a new home as well. The first few days of term are spent getting to know new housemates, adapting to new routines, meeting new teachers and trying out new sports and activities. To round off their first week, our boarders enjoyed a fun-packed weekend with a disco on Saturday evening followed by house outings on Sunday, finishing off with an evening BBQ.

Take a look at some of the photos from the activities [here](#) and [read more on our website here](#) >





**TAUNTON
SCHOOL**

Lee Glaser and Barbara Gregory
are honoured to invite you to our

Charity Ball

Raising funds for

Love Musgrove & Taunton School Foundation

On Saturday 30th October at 7pm, carriages at 12.30am

At the Densham Suite, Taunton School, TA2 6AD

Dinner and dancing with live jazz band

Charity auction

Black tie

Individual tickets are £50

01823 703116 or events@tauntonschool.co.uk



Christmas Party Nights

Thursday 15th, Friday 17th, Saturday 18th, Sunday 19th & Monday 20th December

SOLD OUT

SOLD OUT

SOLD OUT

Arrive from 7pm
 Welcome fizz cocktail on arrival
 Formally served 3-course meal with coffee and mince pies
 Disco & Fun Casino
 Bar open until midnight with carriages 12.30am

£10 non-refundable deposit to secure places at time of booking. Full payment by 30th November.

To book, please contact
events@tauntonschool.co.uk | 01823 703111

Exclusive use available on dates above. Minimum numbers apply.

Old Library capacity up to 80
 Dining Room capacity up to 360

£38

Per Person

Thursday, Friday & Saturday

£33

Per Person

Sunday & Monday



TAUNTON SCHOOL
 ENTERPRISES

Email events@tauntonschool.co.uk Phone 01823 703111

Join the Taunton School Community Choir!

We are inviting our wonderful community to take part in our Community Choir, which is open to everyone connected to the school; staff, parents, grandparents, helpers – anyone! We are working towards a November 'Film Music' concert and a 'Christmas Spectacular', with full orchestra on 5th December in the beautiful school chapel. Come along and give it a go! **Thursdays 6:30pm in the Music School from 7th October.**

Mark Cracknell, Director of Music

Daisy performs at Taunton Sinfonia

Well done to Upper Sixth clarinet player Daisy, who performed as a soloist with the Taunton Sinfonia at St James' Church this month. Daisy, who is a music scholar, had the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience after winning the 'Taunton Young Musician of the Year' competition last year.



Pipes and a Parade - The Club

The Club, a cross curricular arts/humanities society, heralded the start of a new academic year with the traditional parade and photo, followed by the opportunity for all members to speak on an intellectual experience from their summer holiday. Take a look at photos from their first meeting.



Biology Field Trip to Exmoor

Biology students from Taunton School's Upper Sixth embarked on an enriching field trip to Exmoor. Read Upper Sixth student Bonnie's write up of the trip [on our website here >](#)



PSHEE Talks



On 16th September, our Senior and International schools hosted two notable speakers to speak on impactful issues including child sexual exploitation and overcoming cancer. One of the talks came from OT Shannon Jones, a qualified Social Worker who regularly visits Taunton School to deliver a talk about Child Sexual Exploitation; this talk helps students of all ages recognise the signs of CSE so that they can protect themselves and also look out for their peers.

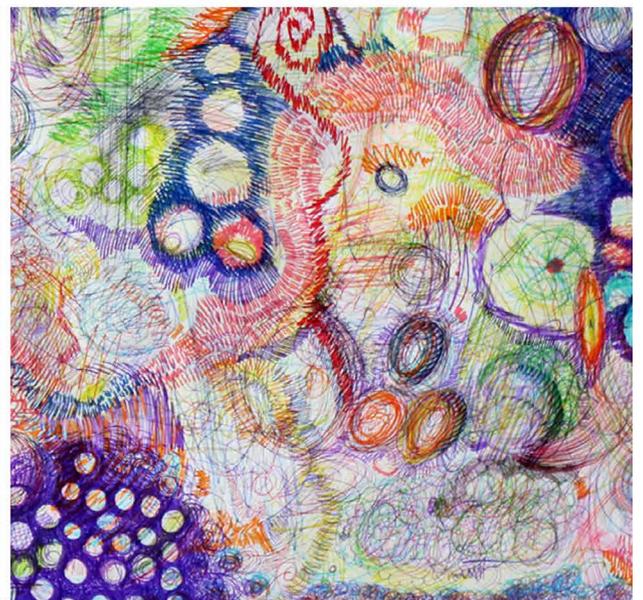
Former Marine Gary Blunt also spoke on the topic of developing resilience and a positive mindset. Titled 'Analogue Man', the talk focused on his life as an ex-marine and cancer survivor, and his determination and passion in life.





Vlad Kulkov's pen drawings inspired this year's Big Draw event with its focus on organic abstraction and free scribbling. Thank you to all the staff and students who participated – it was great to see so many of you enjoying drawing. A large number of TPS pupils also shared their views as they walked past: "Cool", "Wow," and "That is amazing". If you did not see the final drawings, you will be able to admire them in the Loveday Building later this term.

Dr Hammer



SPORT



Our students have been busy representing their counties and countries in sport over the summer:

- Isla in Lower Sixth represented Team England in the laser run at the 2021 School Games at Loughborough University.
- Year 11 student Daniel was selected for the U16s Somerset Golf Team and played his first match at Long Sutton against Devon. Daniel also achieved his RYA stage 2 dinghy certifications in sailing.
- Year 10 Holly placed 4th in the Swim Wales National Open Water Championships.
- Upper Sixth Maxime was named 'player of the tournament' at the Gordano 10s earlier this month where his team 'the North Petherton Colts' took home the trophy.
- Lower Sixth Charlie has been working with the Bristol Bears over the summer. He has made it to the final 28 in the Under 18 squad selection, and played numerous games for the team.
- Year 10 Jack has been selected for England Hockey U16s assessment trials based on his performance in the Futures Cup.
- Upper Sixth Fred took part in the PBS swimming event this month.
- Year 9 James won the Taunton Cricket Club U13 'Best Batsman' award for the 2021 season, alongside Year 9 Charlie, who won 'Best All-rounder', and Year 9 Oscar who won 'Best Bowler'.
- Year 9 Luke has completed his initial archery training and is now a full member of Archery GB.

