



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

Senior School COURIER

22nd October 2021

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY AT TAUNTON SCHOOL



Taunton School students took part in a number of commemorative activities to recognise World Mental Health Day at the school. The event, which fell on Sunday 10th October 2021, is organised by the Mental Health Foundation and encourages society to stop, think and talk about our mental health. Find out more on page 7.

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Next Senior Courier: 26th November 2021

Message from the Head



Wow! Here we are at the end of the first half-term of the academic year. It has, thankfully, been a return to something close to what we know as normal. This last week, in particular, has been fabulous – you will see many of the exciting updates in this latest edition of *The Courier*.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, we had Field Day for all students involved in CCF. Mr Pring and his colleagues delivered an outstanding programme and so many cadets have told me how much they enjoyed the experience.

On Wednesday, we hosted our 'Bring on Year 9' evening which showed how buoyant the school is right now. Many Year 8 students and parents attended the event either in person or online. The advantage of visiting in person was that all of the Heads of Department were in attendance to answer any specific questions, and it was delightful to meet new and current parents to share the excitement of Taunton School life.

On Thursday, Mr Cracknell hosted our annual Concerto Concert, which you can read about in more detail below and [on our website here](#). It was lovely for a live audience to be able to enjoy music played to such a high standard by 10 of our amazing musicians.

On Friday, Mr Kirtland, with the help of George Knowles, hosted another wonderful Burke debate with the hotly contested proposition that "this house believes that feminism has gone too far". There were some excellent questions from the floor and some highly intelligent answers from the proposition and opposition.

Finally, last Saturday we had two great sets of fixtures vs. Bromsgrove in hockey and Canford in rugby; I love seeing the campus buzz with excitement during sports fixtures, and it was delightful to see significant numbers of our girls and boys are involved. It has been a brilliant week to end the half-term. Students have fully committed to many activities and staff have been willing to give up so much of their time to provide high quality opportunities for students. It is because of this wonderful community that the school is so buoyant right now. My thanks also go to you for your support. We can't do any of this without supportive parents and I am grateful to you all. All members of our community now deserve a well-earned rest so that we can return ready to do it all again in November.

Have a wonderful break.

Lee Glaser

Diary Dates

IB Information Evening	3rd November 2021 6:30pm - 8:30pm
16+ Scholarship deadline	5th November 2021
Parent Webinar – ‘Sixth Form Options’	18th November 2021 11am - 12pm
11+ Scholarship deadline	26th November 2021
IB Scholarship deadline	24th January 2022

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

Burke Debates

This half of term has seen a number of exciting Burke debates, including arguments for the two motions: “This House believes that Feminism has gone too far” and “This House believes that human cloning should be legalised.” All teams proposing and opposing the motions researched their arguments thoroughly and took difficult questions from the audience of their peers. Many of the students taking part in the debates this side of term had never taken part before.



National Poetry Day competition



To celebrate National Poetry Day, the English department invited TS pupils to write a poetry inspired by the theme of 'Choices'. The judges were inundated with entries and would like to thank everyone for taking part in the competition. Prizes were awarded to the following students:

First Prize: Monster of Choice, Rebecca L

Second Prize: Falling, Catherine K

Third Prize: Choices, Elsa C

[Read the winning poem on our website.](#)

Lower Sixth Charlie featured in School House magazine



...has shown, helps to a career in engineering'

CHARLIE FRANKS, Taunton School

'It was my dream school, it didn't fall short of expectations'
 Charlie says: 'I joined Taunton School in 2019 from a local school; when I visited with my mother we were met with complete warmth. We left feeling part of something special and my family and I were set on finding a way for me to attend this school. Despite the academic accolades the school has, for me the pastoral care is not just spoken about but acted upon every day. I'm glad the school has supported me throughout my time here. However, it is not just about my experience, my friends also agree that TS' student-staff relationships are very strong and we all feel safe enough to share our experiences and opinions. Life at TS is very much individualistic for everyone; however, the opportunities the school offers are varied and can fit everyone. For me, I like the debating society, drama clubs and the music department. It isn't just clubs though, you can stretch yourself beyond that. For example, I also get involved in speech writing in my spare time. One of the things I am most proud of so far about my time at TS is a recent opportunity to speak publicly about homophobia, a topic that is important to me. I never would have had the opportunity to do this at my previous school. I worked alongside my English teacher and other staff to compose a speech and speak on the English Speaking Union Platform. I am proud of the final result. It pushed me past my comfort zone, which follows the school's key principles: Challenge, Nurture, Inspire. I can say for certain that the support I have received is unrivalled. I am completely indebted to Taunton School.'



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Lower Sixth student Charlie has been featured in School House magazine discussing his Taunton School experience.

Year 11 scripted performances for the GCSE Drama students



This half-term Year 11 Drama GCSE students performed their assessed scripted performances. The evening opened with John Godber's multi role comedy 'Bouncers'; followed by two scenes from Godber's school based comedy 'Teachers' in which the actors take on the roles of several teachers and pupils at the fictional school 'Whitehall High'. Lastly, the students performed Evan Placey's hard-hitting teenage drama 'Girls like That' which examines aspects of toxic female culture and explores the relationships that women form with one another from a young age. [Read more on our website.](#)

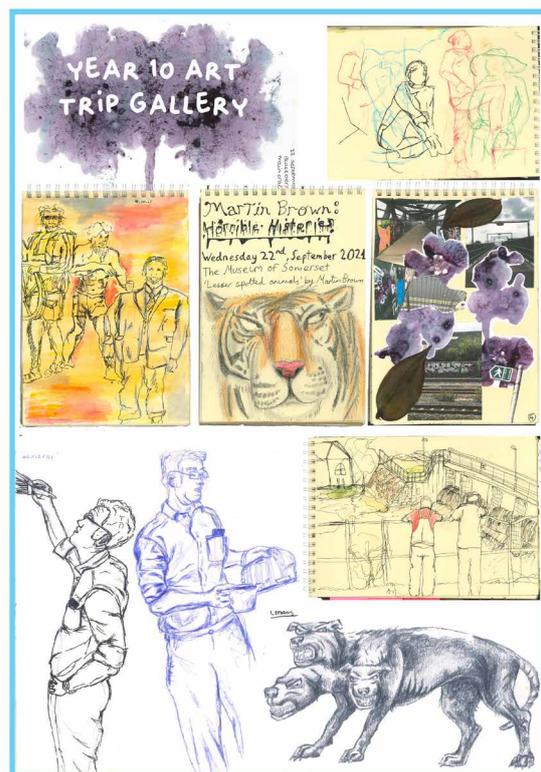
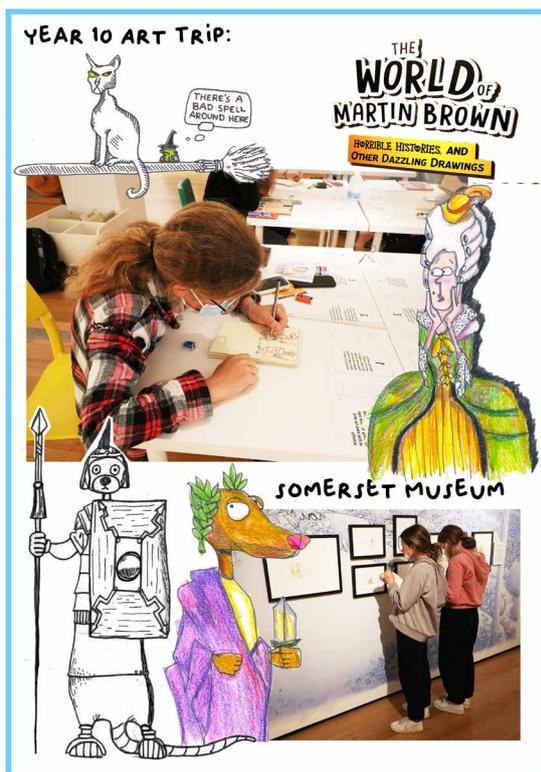
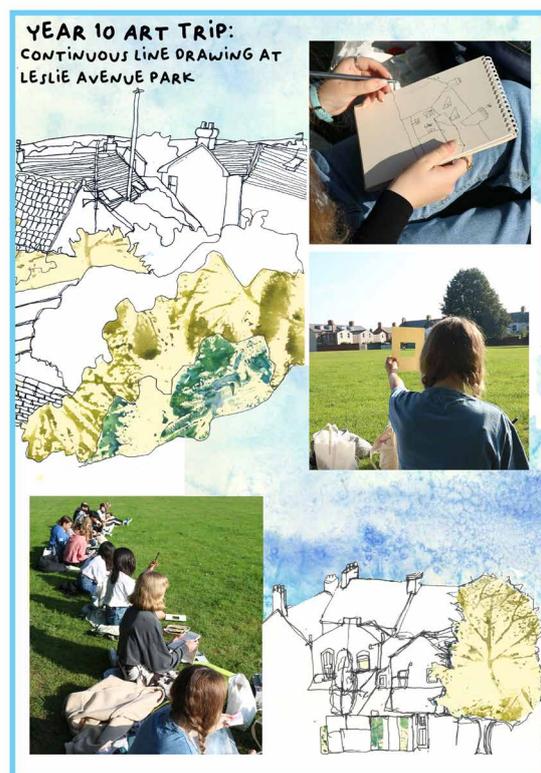
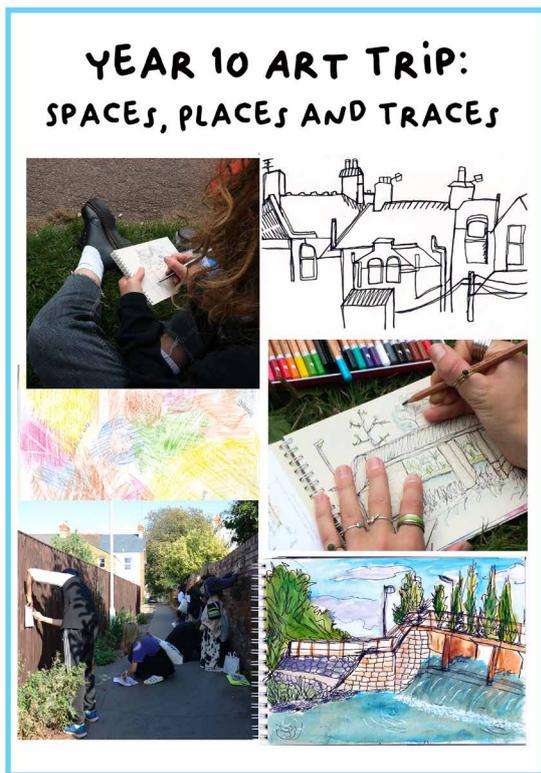
Upcoming talks next term...

Lord Sebastian Coe will be speaking to students in an online Talk and Q&A event - **2nd November**.

Stuart Lawrence, brother of Stephen Lawrence and author of 'Silence is not an Option' - **18th November**.

Alex Beard, author of 'Natural Born Learners' - **8th December**.

TS Art update





**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

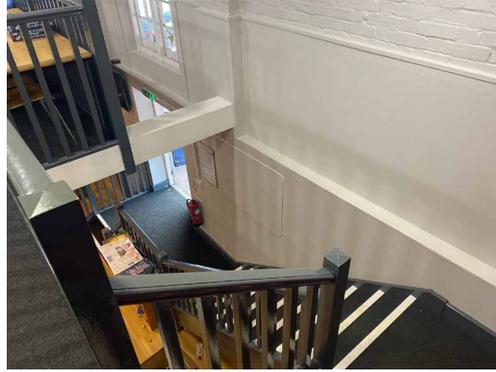
Black tie

Individual tickets are £50

01823 703116 or events@tauntonschool.co.uk



Marshall House refurbishment



Over the summer break, Marshall House had been transformed with a new mezzanine being installed to create more space for the boys. It has made a huge difference, with tutor groups now being more spread out and increased scope for them to use the house for both relaxation and for work.

World Mental Health Day celebrated at Taunton School



Taunton School students took part in a number of commemorative activities to recognise World Mental Health Day at the school. The event, which fell on Sunday 10th October 2021, is organised by the Mental Health Foundation and encourages society to stop, think and talk about our mental health.

The school's activities, which were organised by Head of Psychology Vivien Mico, involved thoughtful discussion and a chance to be creative. Students wore yellow to acknowledge the day and remind each other to be kind and thoughtful; Psychology lessons went off-timetable to share self-care techniques; and team games were played at lunchtime to encourage a break from school work. A display was also erected outside the Psychology department, called 'Stop and Smell the Flowers', where students were encouraged to include their own drawings.

At Taunton School representatives from each house are also re-establishing the Mental Health Society, which will meet weekly to talk about the issues around mental health in Taunton School, discuss how we can raise awareness and challenge stigmas, support campaigns, and prepare a Head's Assembly to celebrate Children's Mental Health Week in February 2022.

[Find out more on our website.](#)

Year 11 Social



Kit donations



Our Outdoor Education team have donated outdoor education equipment like rucksacks and tents to ARC, a local homeless charity.

Conservation work on the Quantocks



Harvest donations



Our Taunton School community have gathered donations for those in need to celebrate Harvest. They have now been received by Arc, a local homelessness charity.

Weirfield coffee morning



Litter picking



Great to see our students getting out and about to support our local community by litter picking at Longrun Meadow Park in Taunton!



Weirfield House hosted a cake sale and coffee morning this month to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support as part of the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'. The girls spent all week baking lots of delicious treats for the school community to enjoy!

Steward training



Many Taunton School students took part in steward training at the school earlier this month to prepare to help at community events in Taunton throughout the year.

Concerto competition



Ten talented instrumentalists from Year 9 to Year 13 performed in the concerto, adjudicated by Kevin Price, Head of Performance at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. Read more about the concert and [find out the winners on our website](#).

Jewellery club



The fashion club hosted a sale with all of the jewellery made this half-term, the proceeds of which will be to fund the future of the club. This jewellery included earrings, pendants, rings and necklaces.

CCF Field Day

Field Day this week has been a great success for our Year 13 NCOs and our Year 11 Cadets.

The Army Section were able to complete a field training exercise at Yoxter, inclusive of night navigation and platoon harbour area drills. This continued at Norton Manor Camp with lessons on pairs fire and manoeuvre, fighting withdrawal, sniper stand and ambush.

The Navy Section stayed at HMS Raleigh, completing some training on the water and were part of the opening ceremony of a new training building on site.

The RAF spent the afternoon orienteering before going to the Fleet Air Arm Museum.

Take a look at this lovely photo of the Army section of CCF on parade outside the front of the school.



The Lisk returns

After a year's absence due to Covid, the Lisk History Society returned last week with over 80 students attending an evening in the Theatre based on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and the 200th anniversary of Napoleon's death. [Find out more on our website.](#)

Four TS students cast in Brewhouse production of Wind and the Willows

Two TS and two TPS students have been cast in the upcoming Brewhouse production of *The Wind in the Willows*.

Year 10 students Rosie S and Eliza H and TPS students Zachary R (Year 8) and Dulcie C (Year 7) have been rehearsing with professional actors for the show, which will be running from 9th December until 2nd January.

The students, who are all involved in drama and theatre productions at Taunton School, will make up part of the chorus in the production.



Mr Piper awarded Lord Lieutenant's Certificate



Almost two years ago, former Chemistry Teacher Ian Piper (who retired in July 2020) was awarded a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for meritorious service for his 26 years' service to the CCF. This month, he was finally awarded his certificate by the HM Lord Lieutenant for Somerset at an awards evening.

House cross country

This half-term saw the annual House cross country event happen slightly earlier than normal. Participation rates were excellent with 85% of the school completing the race. The main race was followed by a highly competitive relay race, with Houses entering as teams of four runners to complete a 1km lap each. Average completion times, % taking part per house and the relay scores were all added together to give the final results. Congratulations to Goodland for a huge points haul and a special mention to Foxcombe for competing with such high numbers in both the main event and the relays.

It was amazing to see a mass-participation event being completed with such a great attitude by the majority of Taunton School students and few highly committed staff!

Senior Boys Winner	Alex S
Senior Girls Winner	Isla W
Senior Boys Team	Goodland
Senior Girls Team	Weirfield

Junior Girls Winner	Matilda R
Junior Boys Winner	Jack W
Junior Girls Team	Woodyer
Junior Boys Team	Goodland



ESAA Schools Cup – Round 1

Congratulations to the Inter Boys, Senior Boys & Girls teams who qualified for round two of the ESAA Schools Cup!

Inter Boys	Inter Girls	Senior Boys	Senior Girls
Ben B Charlie H Fin H Kian R Harry W Jack W	Monique D Samantha H Francesca H Catherine K Meg P Matilda R	George B Francesco B-M Ben C Mark E Charlie W Massimo B	Rosa A Ailani B-C Isabel H Romane P Isla W Amelie R





Stonar School's one day event

On 25th September, Julia and her horse Castleview Luna entered the inter-schools one day event. Dressage and showjumping both went well, with the pair going clear in the showjumping on a dressage score of 34.5. They had one slight error out on cross country at the 'Stonar hedge' meaning they dropped a few places, but Julia was rightly proud to make it around a challenging course that just under half the riders were eliminated on. The pair ultimately finished 7th!

Blundell's School One Day Event

The TS Equestrian Team started the season with a bang at the Blundell's ODE on Sunday 26th September. It was an early start for our Prep School teams who were out for dressage by 8.30am. The Senior School 90cm Team did extremely well, placing 2nd overall after a gruelling XC round. Really well done to Poppy, Cecilia and Hetty and their trusty steeds. We're looking forward to the rest of the season – this early success bodes well for the Arena Eventing Qualifier in November!

Golf at TPS and TS

Golfers at Taunton School have been involved in two excellent events this term. The first of these was the Rose Bowl competition, hosted by the Old Tauntonians (OTs) at Oake Manor Golf Club. The Rose Bowl served as a fantastic warm up event for Daniel, Charlotte and Finley, all of whom also represented the school at this year's West of England Public Schools Competition, held at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club. [Read the full half term update on our website.](#)



Half-term of Hockey



Taunton School hockey players have had a busy start to the Autumn Term. [Read the full update on our website.](#)

Taunton Netball team crowned U16 County Champions



Taunton School's U16 netball team have been crowned county champions after winning against Millfield, King's College and Wellington at the English School Netball Tournament. The U14 team placed 3rd in the county in their age group.

[Read the full match report and the half term update from netball here.](#)

Rugby at TS – autumn update

For the past seven weeks, Taunton School Rugby managed to play over 90 matches across both Prep and Senior Schools and were represented by 28 different teams.

We came across multiple challenges from Covid, bugs, tests, suspensions and injuries, but our staff and players remained positive, focussed and their hard work paid off.

All teams represented the school very well, our performance across the board improved week after week and participation increased. Amazing work so far from our TS players and staff.

Have a well-deserved rest and come back fresh and ready to go for our exciting second part of the season. [Please follow the link for results and match reports.](#)



Rugby South West Internal Teams competitions

All rugby players played our South West internal competitions during our last training session before half-term. Well done to all participants and congratulations to the winners. Fabulous atmosphere! A massive thank you to all coaches involved.

- Winner tournament 1: Bath Rugby team
- Winner tournament 2: Bristol Academy team
- Winner tournament 3: Gloucester Development
- Winner tournament 4: Gloucester Youth
- **Overall winner is Gloucester Rugby Club!**

TS Rugby selections for Bristol, Bath and Exeter Academies:

Bristol Bears

Eloic B, Thomas F, Frey L, Ollie B, Harry K, Jack B, Ben G, Fabian F, George N, Brogan F, Ed H, Ollie M, Alfie H, AJ M, Lewis F, Fin R, Charlie W

Bath Rugby

Jack D

Exeter Chief's Developing Player Programme

Shaw B

