



TAUNTON  
SCHOOL

# Senior School **COURIER**

19th November 2021

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

## LEST WE FORGET



Taunton School fell silent on Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday as students, staff, cadets and Old Tauntonians remembered the heroes who sacrificed and fought to defend freedoms and protect Britain. In the thoughts of those attending were the Armed Forces and their families from Britain and the Commonwealth. See more pictures on page 13.

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Next Senior Courier: 17th December 2021

## Message from the Assistant Head (Pastoral and Community)



Student Voice is nothing new at Taunton School. It has always existed here in many different ways such as school and boarding councils where representatives from houses represent the views of others. These forums continue to serve an important purpose but you may have noticed that the status of Student Voice has been elevated in recent years. Never has it been more important to harness the views of ALL pupils in an attempt to fully understand the world that our young people are living in and specifically what it is like to be a pupil at Taunton School.

Student Voice is not just listening to our pupils. I believe it represents an approach where the school actively seeks out the views of students, listens and responds. This approach is embedded in everything we do at Taunton School. To garner the voice of students effectively, it is vital to ensure we ask young people the right questions and provide a range of ways for our pupils to communicate their experiences.

A new initiative this year has been to appoint a Year 13 pupil into the role of Student Voice Representative for the Senior School. Esme Hallworth was selected by students at the beginning of the year and together with the Deputy Heads of School, Kara Klimczak-Gange and Barney Dietz, they are the Student Voice Team. Their role is to help staff to better understand the safeguarding issues affecting our pupils and provide opportunities for pupils to shape their experiences at school. Already this term, two anonymous surveys have been carefully written and sent to pupils by the Student Voice to gather information relating to two important topics: the prevalence of sending and requesting nudes and the school culture around protected characteristics. One of the ways the Student Voice has responded to the results of the survey is to organise workshops with students in Year 7 at the Prep School to provide advice and guidance on issues such as online safety.

Whilst the Student Voice continue to work hard on different initiatives, and staff embed Student Voice in all aspects of school, they know that their long-term goal and legacy is to build a culture of respect by empowering the whole pupil body to engage in meaningful Student Voice.

Lyndsay White

## Diary Dates

<b>11+ Scholarship deadline</b>	26th November 2021
<b>Safeguarding webinar for parents</b>	29th November, 6.30pm
<b>13+ Scholarship deadline</b>	10th January 2022
<b>International Baccalaureate Scholarship deadline</b>	24th January 2022
<b>Virtual Open Morning</b>	5th February 2022, 9:30am – 12:30pm
<b>Whole School Open Morning</b>	12th February 2022, 9:00am - 12:00pm (UK time)
<b>Year 9 GCSE Information Evening</b>	4th March 2022, 6.30pm - 9.30pm
<b>Whole School Open Morning</b>	2nd May 2022, 9.30am - 12.30pm

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

To find out more about scholarships visit our website: <https://www.tauntonschool.co.uk/scholarships-and-assisted-places/>

## House Singing – a musical extravaganza



Hundreds of Senior School and TSI students took part in the competition, which featured performances of songs by Abba, Elton John, The Killers and Meghan Trainor to cheers and applause from the audience.

Taking home the overall title were Besley, who performed Adele's 'Rumour Has It', whilst Wills West were runners-up with their rendition of 'Everybody Needs Somebody' by the Blues Brothers. The winners of the Best Warm-up Act award were Wills East who performed 'I Wish I Was James Bond' by Scouting for Girls. Congratulations to the winners and to everyone who took part!

Director of Music Mark Cracknell said: "It's fantastic to see so many pupils involved in singing with their houses, giving it their best effort and enjoying making music together." [See the full gallery of pictures here](#)



## Fireworks display goes with a bang



The skies over Taunton School were lit up for Bonfire Night as 900 people filled the grounds for the annual fireworks display, organised by Taunton Prep School for everyone to enjoy.

## Lord Coe praises Taunton School's commitment to sport

Students at Taunton School with an interest in sport had the opportunity to speak to British politician and former Olympian Lord Sebastian Coe in a virtual Q&A hosted in the school's theatre.

At the talk, Lord Sebastian Coe, who is now the President of World Athletics, discussed his school days and how they shaped his early career in athletics, his experience on the world's sporting stage and how it led to him to lead the UK's successful bid to host the London 2012 Olympics. He also discussed the modern challenges surrounding athletics as a sport, including shoe technology, anti-doping and transgender athletes.

During the talk, he praised Taunton School's focus on sport. He said: "Taunton School is clearly a school that doesn't just tuck sport away at the edges of the curriculum as a 'nice to have', it takes sport seriously, as it should be treated." [Read the full story here.](#)

*"Taunton School is clearly a school that doesn't just tuck sport away at the edges of the curriculum as a 'nice to have', it takes sport seriously, as it should be treated."*



## Georgia's team wins US regional volleyball competition



A former Taunton School student has earned a place on a US regional team after her university team won a volleyball tournament. Georgia McGovern, now a student at Claremont University in California, was part of the winning team in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) Volleyball Tournament. During her time at Taunton School, Georgia excelled in both sport and academic work, achieving top grades in the A-Levels. She was recently awarded the 'Specialist of the Week' title by the university league.

### Chloe's medal haul ranks her top in Britain

Congratulations to swimmer Chloe Brown for some outstanding performances in the South West Winter Regionals. Chloe gained a personal best in six events and six finals, with four junior gold medals, a junior silver medal and two senior silver medals. She is currently ranked number one in Britain in the 50m and 100m breaststroke.



### Taekwondo club



Students of all ages are invited to join Taunton School's new Taekwondo club. The club runs on Mondays at 4.15pm and is open to students from beginner level through to those who have already earned belts in the sport. Classes are taught by Master Alec Hay, 7th Dan World Master and Ben Wilkinson from TSI who is a blue belt in Taekwondo.

## Rugby: U15 National cup competition round 3 vs King's College



The boys were looking forward to their second cup game on Wednesday. In perfect playing conditions they started well. About halfway through the first half King's College managed to score out wide. However, Taunton bounced back levelling the score. Half time score was 5-5. Taunton scored early in the second half taking it to 10-5. King's college were strong in attack and managed to come back, 17-10. A last minute attempt unfortunately didn't end well as King's picked up the loose ball and scored down in the far corner sealing the game 24-10. A fantastic game by both sides and we very much look forward to playing them again in a few weeks. Great effort! [Please follow the link for results and match reports.](#)

## Rugby: U14 National Cup competition, round 3 vs Ivybridge

The Foals took to the front to take on Ivybridge in a cup game on Tuesday. A bruising encounter ultimately went the way of the away side as they wore down an immense defensive effort from Taunton against some big Ivybridge runners. Taunton made a good start and Awofisayo continued his scoring streak with a brilliant individual try from deep inside his own half - cheered on by great support from the sideline - and a five point lead was opened up. Ivybridge came back strongly with a try of their own, and it remained 5-5 until the last play of the first half when they added a second try. The Foals continued to work hard and put in some fantastic tackles but did not manage to maintain possession for any length of time to allow themselves a breather. Ivybridge crossed the line twice more to seal the result but the attitude and effort from the entire Taunton team was commendable. Well done all involved. [Please follow the link for results and match reports.](#)



## Cross country

Well done to all runners involved in the school to ESAA XC Cup - Round 2 - last Saturday at King's College.

Inter boys: 4th

Senior girls: 4th

Senior boys: 6th



## Football



Taunton School's girls' football team played their first match for eight years recently, achieving a 3-3 draw against Wellington School. The equalising penalty was scored by Issy Hovegold who started the team and runs the training sessions.

## British showjumping: 2nd place for Florence

TS riders were out in force at the recent Taunton Vale Foxhounds Hunter Trial in October, where the team brought home several top ten placings including a second in Class 5 and third in Class 4.

Florence Legg

Sophie Day

Olivier Day

Poppy Treanor – 3rd in Class 4

Zoe Trembath – 2nd in Class 5

Laura Trembath

Lucy Gliddon

Alice Boyce



Florence Legg recently rode for the school in the BS Just For Schools League at Chard. She came 2nd in the 70cm and 1st in the 80cm. An incredibly impressive day out! Well done to Florence.

## U19 County Netball Tournament

The U19 netball team took to the courts last Wednesday in the County Round of the National Schools Netball Championship held at Taunton School. The squad had worked really hard in preparation for the tournament and took to the court with real vigour and determination. The game with Richard Huish was really exciting and showed real quality in their netball. All players contributing both in attack and defence throughout with some excellent team defence causing a lot of turn over ball and gained possession. It was a delight to see all of the players contributing to the team, supporting each other and working hard as a squad.

The team finished in 3rd place, just missing out on qualification to regionals on goal difference. Well done to all!

Richard Huish:	Drew: 9-9
Millfield:	Lost: 5-15
Wells Cathedral:	Won 7-5
King's College:	Won 15-1
King's Bruton:	Won 12-4



## Sport in pictures



# Stuart Lawrence



## STUART LAWRENCE TALK AND Q&A

### SIXTH FORM & PARENTS

Thursday 18 November 18:00-19:00

Limited seats available



Taunton School was delighted to welcome Stuart Lawrence to campus yesterday to speak to students. Stuart is the younger brother of Stephen Lawrence, who was murdered in an unprovoked racial attack in 1993 when he was 18. Stuart, who is now an educator and motivational speaker, spoke to students about finding their voice and speaking openly about their mental health, which he encourages in his new book 'Silence is Not an Option'. This inspirational talk is part of Taunton School's PSHE programme, which is an integral part of the curriculum and is embedded into the ethos of the school. The aim is to help students live fulfilled lives, to understand the difference between right and wrong and develop the skills to make those judgements.



## An Evening with Rugby Star Tom Shanklin

**Saturday 19th February, 7pm-11pm**

Ticket price: £45

To be held in our brand new Densham Suite at Taunton School.

Enjoy a formal meet and greet with drinks and canapé.

Indulge with a delicious three-course meal.

Experience a sensational Q&A session with our star guest.

VIP tickets are available, please enquire 01823 703111.

[Book tickets online here.](#)

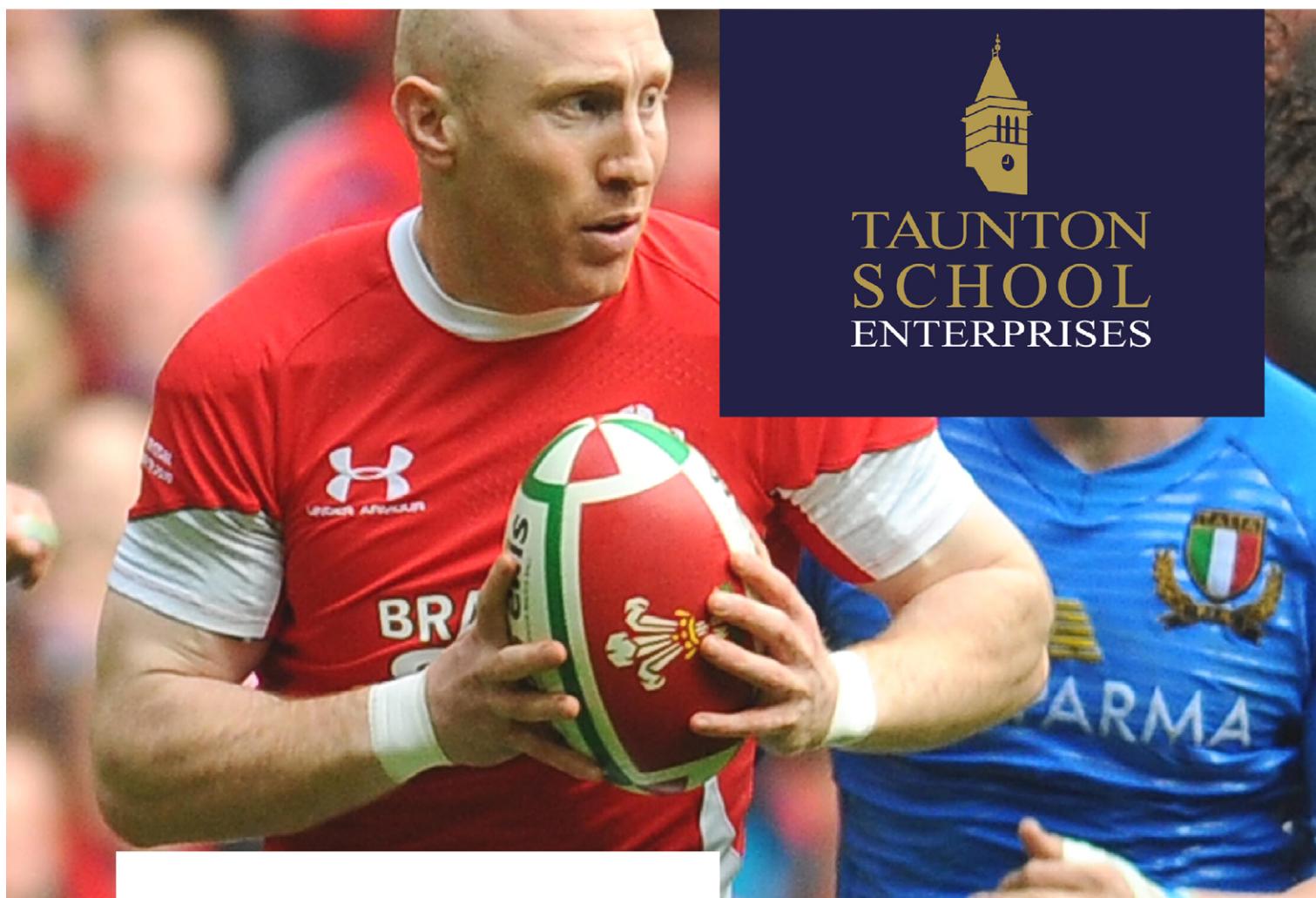
## JOHN RAE LECTURE BY ALEX BEARD



Wednesday 8 December 17:00-21:00

Limited seats available





TAUNTON  
SCHOOL  
ENTERPRISES

AN EVENING WITH

# Tom Shanklin

Enjoy a formal meet and greet with drinks  
and canapes

Indulge in a delicious three-course meal  
brought to you by our brigade of talented  
chefs.

Experience a sensational Q & A session with  
our star guest, rugby legend Tom Shanklin.

Saturday 19th February, 2022

7pm – 11pm

Ticket price £45

To be held in our brand new  
Densham Suite at Taunton  
School

## TICKETS

Buy tickets through our box office  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool)

## Year 12 drama

Year 12 drama students put on two fantastic performances on 16th November for their scripted drama exams. Mark Eavis and Summer Curtis performed 'Educating Rita'. Charlie Franks, Zoe Lucas and Angelica Zanetta performed 'The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband'.



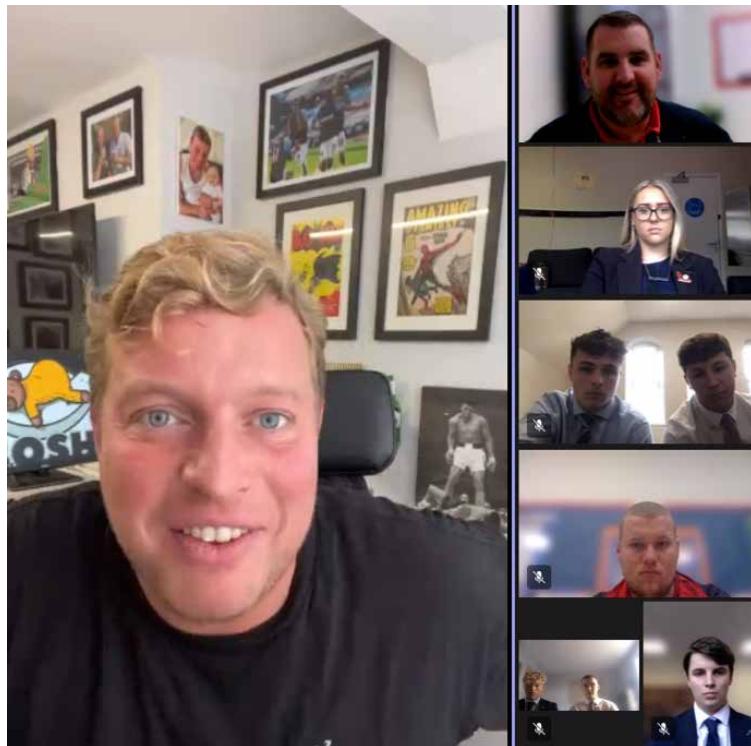
## Monoprinting

Year 10 artists have been using palette knives, rollers and ink, learning about textures and developing their drawing skills through monoprinting. Dr Lotte Hammer said: "*Monoprinting is good for helping the students learn about different textures.*"



## Tom Skinner

BBC TV star and entrepreneur Tom Skinner hosted a virtual Q&A with BTEC business students. Tom spoke about his time on The Apprentice and answered students' questions about marketing.



## Day of the Dead

The languages department presented lessons on The Day of The Dead festival for Spanish students on 2nd November.



## Night at the Movies

On Friday 12th November Taunton School held its first concert featuring ensembles and choirs in front of a full audience in five terms.

This included performances from our orchestra, string orchestra, wind bank, funk band, dance band, rock band, choirs, jazz ensemble and brass ensemble.

Talented musicians performed some of the most iconic and wonderful music from the big screen from Frozen to Jurassic Park.

[Click here to watch the video](#)



## Top Biologist



Each half-term Taunton School is recognising pupils across all year groups for their outstanding effort, attainment and progress in biology. Pupils are nominated by their class teacher and receive a prize as well as a 'Top Biologist' certificate.

This half-term's winners of the Top Biologist award are:

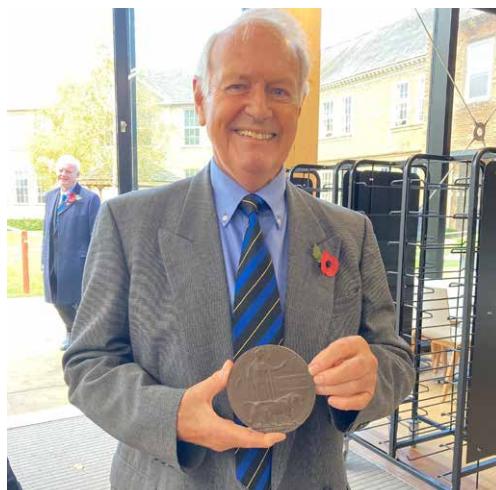
- Year 13: Manon Zhendre (IB), Sammy Pratt (AL)
- Year 12: Oscar Sherwood (IB), Annabelle Mellenchip (AL)
- Year 11: Joe Taylor
- Year 10: Octavia Woodley
- Year 9: Caleb Hickling

Well done to all!

## Remembrance Day in Photos

32 Old Tauntonians attended a Remembrance service and reunion held at Taunton School on 13th November.

Veteran Phillip Speed brought a plaque to present to the Headmaster with photos of two otters which were taken in by the school. These otters were the feature of a BBC documentary and were written about in a book by a Taunton schoolmaster which featured Phillip's dad, an OT, who was schoolboy at the time.





## Charity Ball

Taunton School held a charity ball recently in aid of Love Musgrove and Taunton School Foundation. Here are some pictures from this spectacular event.



