



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

Senior School COURIER

17th December 2021

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

GLITTERING NIGHT AT SIXTH FORM BALL



Sixth formers donned their formal wear as they celebrated Christmas with a ball recently. See more sixth form ball photographs on page 23.

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Next Prep Courier: 28th January 2022

Message from the Head



Hark the Herald Angels Sing – what a great carol! Surely the best and I must ask Mr Kirtland to include that as a motion in an upcoming debate. I sang it three times on the final day of term; twice in our school carol services and finally in an informal staff gathering around the tree outside the Chapel. Although not quite back to normal it was great to belt out (badly in my case) “glory to the new born king”. Thankfully we have such a fantastic choir who bring our carol services to life whilst also drowning out my voice. It was also great to follow our tradition of end-of-term assemblies which included a review of the activities of the term. And there have been so many of them. Although we award colours and trophies it is important to acknowledge the hard work of all members of our community whether they were congratulated in assembly or not. Having read the end-of-term reports it is lovely to read that so many members of our community are described as “kind and positive”. These qualities are more important than any award and deserving of huge praise.

We have reached the end of a busy term and the whole of the community deserves a lovely break. Years 11 and 13 will be preparing for mock exams but I hope that they will find the right balance as a good rest is vital. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in January.

Lee Glaser



Diary dates

13+ Scholarship deadline	10th January 2022
International Baccalaureate Scholarship deadline	24th January 2022
Virtual Open Morning	5th February 2022, 9:30am – 12:30pm
Whole School Open Morning	12th February 2022, 9:00am - 12:00pm (UK time)
Year 9 GCSE Information Evening	4th March 2022 6:30pm - 9:30pm
Whole School Open Morning	2nd May 2022 9:30am - 12:30pm
Year 9 GCSE Information Evening	4th March 2022 6.30pm - 9.30pm
Wedding Fair	27th March 2022 11.00am-3.00pm
Whole School Open Morning	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/>

Taunton School announces appointment of new Head and CEO



James Johnson, currently Head of Senior School at Ardingly College in Sussex, will take up the position in September 2022, replacing Lee Glaser who is standing down after eight years at the helm.

Chair of Governors, Henry Keeling, said: "We are thrilled that Mr Johnson will be taking over the reins at Taunton School. His passion for heading up an all-through, co-educational school such as ours with its breadth of provision and global outlook shone through at every stage of the selection process.

"Mr Glaser's successful leadership of Taunton School had set a very high benchmark when it came to choosing a successor," said Mr Keeling.

"Mr Johnson brings a wealth of experience and talent with him," he added. "We believe he is the perfect fit for Taunton School."

Mr Johnson is married with two children. He began his career as an English teacher at Cheltenham College, before becoming a Housemaster at Tonbridge School in Kent, joining Ardingly College in 2016.

As a student he read English at University College London, took an MPhil at Trinity College, Dublin and completed his PGCE at Cambridge University.

Mr Johnson said: "It is a privilege to have been appointed as the next Head of Taunton School. I am especially excited about meeting pupils, staff, parents and alumni in the coming months."

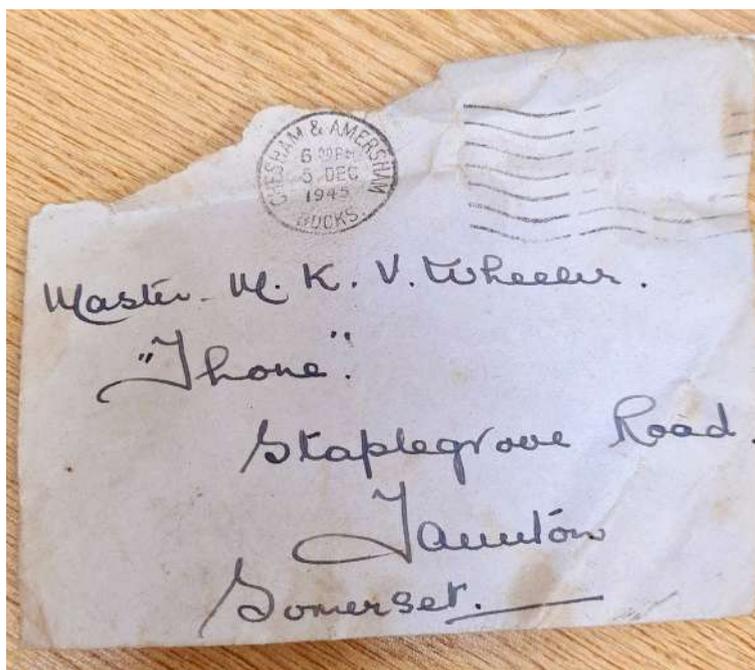
He said the school's 'lack of pretension, its breadth of academic pathways and its co-curricular opportunities as well as Taunton's focus on wellbeing and the global community' were all huge attractions to the role for him.

Mr Glaser said he was delighted about Mr Johnson's appointment. "As much as I will miss Taunton, I am thrilled that James will be taking over the running of this amazing school from me.

"This year we are celebrating our 175th anniversary and with James at the helm, I have no doubt that Taunton School is entering a very exciting phase of its ongoing development.

"He is a very caring man who shares my passion for challenging, nurturing and inspiring young people to succeed in a global community."

Olympian's 1945 letter found under Thone floorboards



A 76-year-old letter written to a future Olympic medallist has been discovered under the floorboards at Taunton School.

The document was uncovered during a refurbishment at Thone boarding house.

The letter, written in 1945, was addressed to a 10-year-old Tauntonian who later went on to become a bronze Olympic relay medallist.

Michael Wheeler competed in the 1956 Olympics in the 4x400m relay, where he won bronze alongside his teammates Peter Higgins, John Salisbury and Derek Johnson.

Andy Budge, the painter and decorator who discovered the letter hidden under the floorboards, said: "I was hunting around to see if there was anything there. I found a few old coins and stamps, then I found the letter.

"Someone else might have seen an old piece of paper and put it in the bin but I'm interested in history so I was curious. It made me feel quite sentimental to think that this letter is part of the history of the school."

Taunton School archivist John Brown said: "We dusted off the old registers and it was certain that the boy in the letter is the young athlete who went on to compete in the Olympics. This letter was a lucky find. Michael Wheeler was one of the best athletes Taunton School has ever produced."

Michael's first three years at Taunton School were during World War II, during air raids and food shortages. The school grew vegetables on the playing fields and kept rabbits and chickens. Children from other schools were evacuated to Taunton School.

During his time at Taunton School, Michael (who was known as Mick as a child) broke several school records in running events, then went on to compete internationally, propelling him towards Olympic success.

Ten-year-old Ellie Onesti, a current Taunton School pupil, said: "We learnt about the war in school recently so it's really exciting to see this letter. It was written not long after the war when Michael was the same age as me. Life for him would have been very different to how it is now so it's interesting to learn about him."

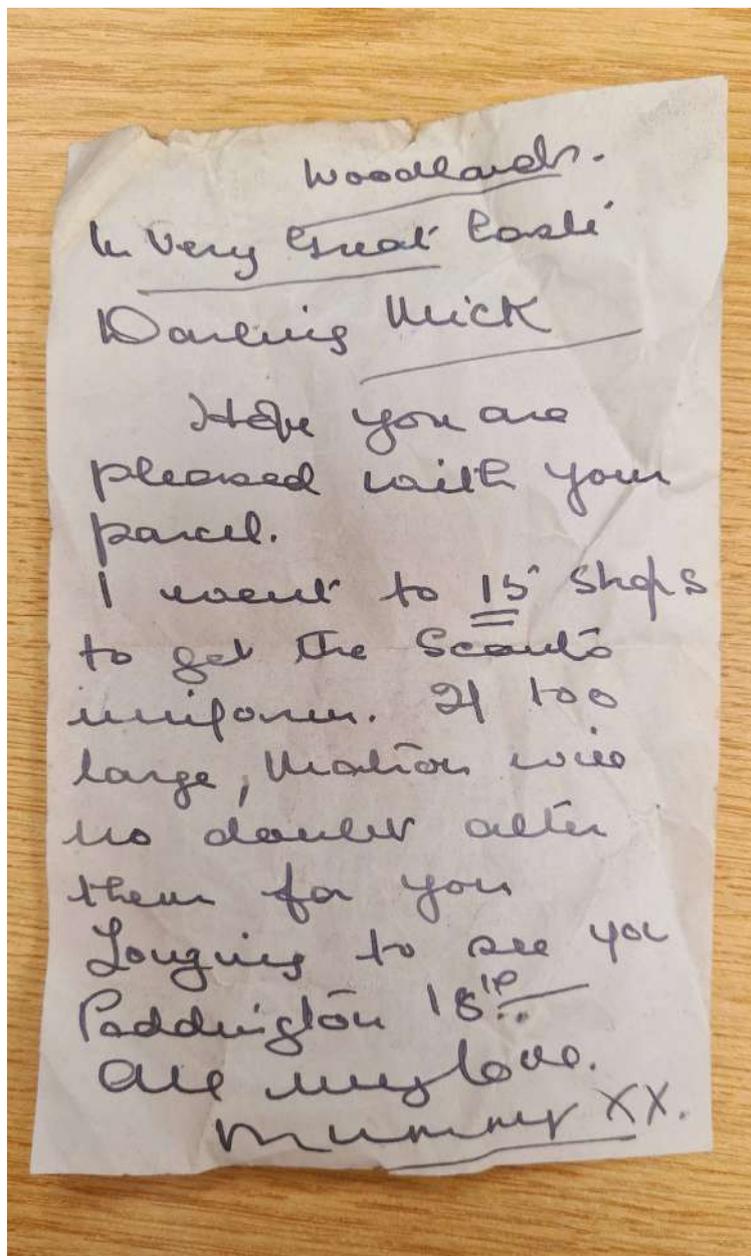
Lee Glaser, Taunton School's Headmaster, said: "To uncover a letter from the 1940s is incredibly exciting – but then to discover that it actually belonged to a pupil who later went on to become an Olympian is astonishing."

"Michael may have dropped the letter, however I like to think that he hid it under the floorboards for future generations to find!"

"We're proud of Taunton School's rich history and our reputation for sporting excellence."

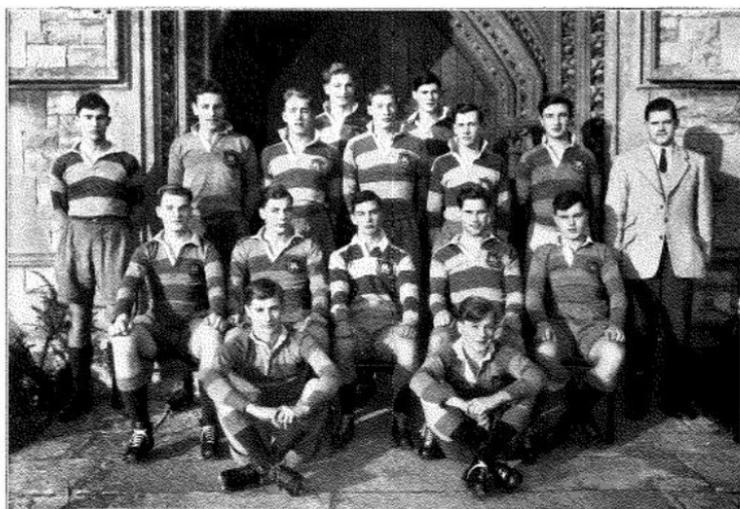
The letter, dated 5th December 1945, reads:

*In very great haste
Darling Mick
Hope you are pleased with your parcel. I went to 15 shops to get the
scouts uniform. If too long, matron will no doubt alter them for you
Longing to see you Paddington 18th
All my love
Mummy xx*



Michael retired from athletics in 1966 and went on to become a teacher. He died in January 2020, aged 84.

RUGBY FIRST XV - 1952



M. G. COVE R. N. GRAY
R. P. WICKHAM C. R. T. ESSEX I. F. CAMPBELL M. K. V. WHEELER R. C. THORNE J. E. PAGE Mr. E. WRIGHT
D. N. DAWBORN A. TUNSTALL B. H. MEAD I. A. PITTMAN J. H. SHORNEY
J. B. MORAN C. A. STEVENS



Rugby team recreate 75-year-old picture

Good sports at Taunton School re-created an old photo this week after repeating a win in a rugby clash 75 years after the original picture was taken. The school's 2021 First Team posed for the picture, copying the 1946 stances and even covering themselves in mud to mimic the black and white snap. The photo was taken after Taunton School's victory over Blundell's on Saturday, which ended on a 36-13 win.

The 1946 match had culminated in a score of 3-0. Rugby coach Nic Sesteret said: "It was a very proud and emotional day for the squad, so it felt fitting to mark it by re-creating a pic from the archives which showed the team who beat Blundell's in the same match 75 years ago. "It's great that rugby at Taunton School is just as strong today as it was all those years ago and it was fun for the squad to create new memories by revisiting old ones." See the full match report, written by Mr Sesteret, on page 21.



THE BLUNDELL'S MATCH 75 YEARS AGO

This was always an important and hard-fought fixture – and still is, three quarters of a century on!

On 23 November 1946 the School 1st XV won 3-0 at home, scoring just one try – worth only 3 points in those days.



By Courtesy of:

THE 1st XV AFTER THE BLUNDELL'S MATCH

A. A. LOCKYER, A. W. WESCOMBE, P. B. M. JACOBSEN, M. F. EVANS, P. A. C. RICHARDSON,
J. C. KAIL, R. A. R. HALE'S, J. L. FITCH, M. B. GIBSON, T. W. SUTER, J. F. HARVELL, D. J. C. CARR,
J. ROOSE, J. B. G. COLLETT.

B. P. BRIGHTON was carried off during the game and was not available when the photograph was taken.

v. BLUNDELL'S SCHOOL

Played at home on Nov. 23rd. School, 3 points; Blundell's, 0 points.

Heavy rain had fallen during the week and the ground was very soft when Blundell's kicked off. A strong cross wind and driving rain during the game completed the setting for a real mud battle.

The School attacked immediately, and though out-weighted the forwards were in grand form and were well on top of the Blundell's pack. And despite the terrible conditions the School backs developed some dangerous handling movements. Twice Hales slipped through a gap, but fell on the treacherous ground, and it was twenty minutes before the School scored. This was the result of a well-judged cross-kick by Hales which Harvell took in his stride, and touched down for a well-deserved try. Then followed two very good attempts by Richardson to kick penalty goals, both of which were just wide of the posts. Although the School attacked continuously—in fact, Blundell's only crossed the half-way line for one very brief period in the whole of the first half—conditions favoured defence, and Blundell's kept the School out.

Play was even harder on the resumption, and on occasions unnecessarily rough incidents tended to creep in. Only five minutes had passed when Brighton was carried off with a nasty kick on the knee. With the School reduced to fourteen men, Blundell's were having an even share of the game; but the School still looked the more impressive side. Then a Blundell's forward had to go off with a split eyelid, and with numbers equal again, the School attacked. Once Evans was almost over, but slipped in trying to round the full-back; and no-side came with no further score.

The School team played magnificently under Suter's inspiring leadership, and were unlucky not to win by a greater margin. But points are always hard to score in such conditions, and throughout the game Blundell's maintained a typically heroic defence of which they had every right to be proud.

Join our team

Join our team of talented and inspiring staff: www.tauntonschool.co.uk/about/job-vacancies/

Improv evening



Congratulations to the students who took part in Taunton School's hilarious Improv Evening on Monday 13th December.

Inter-house debating



The motion "This House would free the Elves from Santa's Workshop" was a lovely way to finish off the Burke Debates for the term.

Well done to Grace, Charlotte, Lizzie and Wambui (taking part in her first debate) for planning both informative and entertaining speeches and well done to George chairing some interesting questions from the floor.

Brain day



Sixth formers had the opportunity to see and touch a real-life brain when Dr Suuton from Nottingham University visited Taunton School for Brain Day. The day started with a lecture delving into the neurological aspect of psychology and brain structure, learning about gyri and conditions such as Lissencephaly. This was followed by brain dissection for Year 13 and a research task into schizophrenia for Year 12.

During the brain dissection, the students learnt about the brain structure in a more practical way holding the brain and discovering more about the areas including the frontal lobe and cerebellum. After a short break, students attended another lecture-based session, this time based on the technological and biological advancements in psychology. They learnt about how paralysed tetraplegics can use new technology through Bluetooth and wiring which can move robots through brain activity. They also learnt about the phenomenon of cerebral organoids, which will change the way that scientists are able to research on brains, making animal studies a thing of the past.

Year 12 then moved onto the brain dissection while Year 13 moved onto a 'consolidation of knowledge' task. The penultimate activity of the day was a look into the differences between healthy brains and criminal brains through looking at case studies to discover how the frontal lobe is prevalent in criminal behaviour as it controls empathy, reasoning and decision-making. To conclude the day, students took a further look into mental disorders such as schizophrenia, understanding how challenging life can be living with a mental disorder and the different types of treatment that are out there.

Taunton School students impress at inter-school public speaking competition



Tuesday 30 November saw the opening of the English Speaking Union Churchill Public Speaking Competition. Open to students from Years 9 to 11, Taunton School Junior Debating entered two strong teams from across the age range.

Jana Boraie (Year 11) made an excellent, funny, engaging Chairperson for Team A, working alongside a perceptive and gently probing Questioner in Lizzie Kemmish (Year 10) and as a team they handled the Taunton Academy speech on zoos expertly. Tilly Ruthvern (Year 10) as Speaker for Team A was measured and flawlessly analytical as she discussed elitism in acting and fielded numerous questions neatly and with great maturity under pressure.

Meanwhile, Katrina McAllister (Year 9) was making a very personable and fluent Chairperson for Team B, in particular ad-libbing a beautiful summing up of Taunton Academy's speech on energy resources versus natural beauty. That this speech was delivered so powerfully by Mr Hallows' son Tommy was an added bonus, something Georgina Chung (Year 10) alluded to neatly amongst her thoughtful and perceptive questioning of this Speaker.

As Speaker for Team B, Caleb Hickling (Year 9) went on to deliver a balanced yet passionate speech on sports funding for youth in disadvantaged communities, responding intelligently and knowledgeably to the questions that followed. The judges were impressed, awarding Best Chairperson to Katrina McAllister, Best Speaker to Caleb Hickling, and Best Questioner to Lizzie Kemmish, and Taunton School Team B went through to the next round, which will be held live at a venue yet to be confirmed.

Huge thanks and congratulations to all six students who rigorously prepared for and took part in this competition, and many thanks to Max Mitchell (Year 11) who is an unfailing support in Junior Debating.

Christmas jumpers



Sixth formers Jack Oldland, Oscar Willis and Reggie Tuttiett made staff and students smile with their matching knitwear on Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 10th December!

Safeguarding webinar



On Monday 29 November we ran a webinar on 'Building a Culture of Respect at Taunton School'. If you did not get a chance to join us it is now available on our website [and also Vimeo](#).

Students' go green with beach clean at Brean

Brean beach clean-up review by Tamasha Epie, Year 12.

On the 28th of November, a group of us students took the initiative to sign up and partake in a beach clean-up happening at Brean Beach. The event was organised by The Volunteering Network, who had previously taken us for a session earlier this year to help us sign up for the programme. We left school grounds and arrived at the beach where we were met by members of The Volunteering Network. After being prepped on the rules and regulations, we were equipped with bins and litter pickers and made our way to the shoreline. There we began to collect litter alongside the shore and managed to come across a number of interesting and shocking bits of trash. Each of us went off in pairs and returned with bins filled with trash, ranging from plastic bottles to plastic crates. A common find was bottle caps, plastic bags and lollipop sticks. It was an eye-opening experience for the whole group as we got to see first-hand the damage that has been done to our oceans due to the improper disposal of trash.

At one point during the clean up, we came across a basin trapped beneath the sand. As a team, we worked hard to get as much sand out of the way in order to dig up the basin. The basin was trapped underneath a mixture of sand and water which had created a concrete like substance and because of this, we had to use strategic planning to think of the most efficient way to remove the basin. After spending over half an hour attempting to pull out the basin, we decided to take a break and head back up to the van to get some lunch. After having lunch, we were given the option to climb up a nearby hill to go and see some ancient Roman ruins. So, after clearing up and going for a bathroom break, we made our way up the hill. At the top, we admired the beautiful view of the ocean and took photos. After spending some time on the hill, we eventually made our way back down to the school van. There we thanked the team at The Volunteering Network and after saying goodbye, we made our way back to school after a long successful day. We were able to create new friendships throughout the day and we hope to return back one day to extract the basin.



Geography students get out in the field



Year 12 A-level geographers visited Lymptone on Thursday 26th November to look at the characteristics of the place. The students investigated changes that have occurred to the small Devon village, along with some of the services that are provided for a largely elderly population. This sense of place was compared to the hustle and bustle of Toxteth in Liverpool where the sense of place is vastly different. A good time was had by all in the crisp November sunshine.

Pre-Med students share their experience of meeting the experts

Through the Pre Med course we have the opportunity to speak with current professionals and last week the doctors met with GP Dr. Dan Bunce. He explained the challenges and positive things of being a doctor. One challenge he especially highlighted was the death of patients. This will definitely happen at some point in the career of a GP and you have to find your own way to deal with it otherwise your mental health can be permanently damaged. Another challenge are your working hours that will not be respected. You have to be prepared for working more than expected and that you will be home late more than once a week. Furthermore, you are not done with writing exams, because GP's have to undertake exams throughout their entire lives to stay up to date. GP's occasionally work as part of teams attached to hospitals with roles in accident and emergency centres, where they have to identify how serious a condition is in very little time. However, their main role is looking after patients in their homes and within the communities where they live. According to Dr. Bunce, helping and treating these patients is the best thing in the job as a GP and sometimes even results in long lasting and close friendships.

By Felix Mydlak, Year 12

As someone who is interested in studying veterinary science, I met with a local vet. My conversation with Caz Hayward was extremely useful, helping me gain a wider insight into the work of a vet and some of the trials and tribulations that come with it. Caz emphasised the stress that comes hand in hand with being a vet. I appreciated her candour and that she did not make the job sound easy, while highlighting the more challenging aspects such as doing complicated surgery for the first time. I was also interested to learn of the opportunities that can follow from a degree in veterinary medicine, such as volunteering overseas and working on importing medicines. Caz spoke highly of her experience of working at a dog shelter for 15 months abroad, something she would highly recommend. I also learnt some valuable tips about the course itself: to work from the beginning, not to party for the first 2 years and then struggle to learn the content for the next 3. Caz told me she unfortunately learned this the hard way - a piece of wisdom I will certainly value!

Boarders' Sunday Flip Out trip



Here are some photos of the boarders' Sunday trip to trampoline adventure park Flip Out.

By Helen Hounslow, Year 12

Chess success



Taunton School Chess team has qualified for the regional finals of the prestigious Times Schools National Chess U19 tournament. Our team of six attended the qualifier last month at King's Bruton School, where we beat the hosts before losing narrowly to Millfield 'A' team. Captain of the team, Mark Eavis, said "We were really excited to play in our first face-to-face tournament and we are very much looking forward to the next round in the Spring term".

Team members: Frey Lant, Michael Hudson, Mark Eavis, Bryan Pecorini, Henry Collins and Amarra Beviss.

Festival of Christmas concert



Taunton School's Festival of Christmas Concert brought together musical talent from across the school for a heartfelt event of music to ring in the festive season.

Carols in the chapel



Our senior choir impressed with their carol singing in the chapel.

Puppetry workshop



Miss Lockwood brought in her collection of puppets and taught a session on how to use puppetry effectively in performance. The students then experimented with different puppetry techniques.

Wills East news



Wills East celebrated Christmas in style with a secret Santa followed by a filling Christmas meal at a local village pub. Turkey, beef and nut roast were shared by boys and staff whilst the challenging Christmas quiz organised by Mr Brown was circulated amongst the tables. How many doors are there on the ground floor of Wills East? Even the Housemaster struggled with this question! Awards were presented for achievements (positive and funny) throughout the term by the prefect team and the meal was finished off with a birthday song and cake for the Deputy Housemaster Mr Dougan.

On return to school the long awaited pool competition final between Head of House Woody Knight and the skilful Mr Sanderson was played out in front of a tense crowd. Overseen by official Nathan Hobson the match was best out of 3 frames with Mr Sanderson clinching victory in the end. A great end to a busy term.



EASTER REVISION COURSES

GCSE & A-LEVEL

Monday 28th March - Thursday 31st March
Monday 11th April - Thursday 14th April



Christmas at Weirfield



Weirfield girls have been spreading Christmas cheer by wrapping gifts to donate to Christmas Sparkle, a charity which provides gifts for children and young people living in difficult circumstances. The girls also celebrated Christmas with activities including an outing and making gingerbread houses.



John Rae lecture 2021: Alex Beard

Report by Mr Kirtland, Head of English as a Foreign Language.

How to defeat the robots, save the planet and still find happiness: On the evening of December 8th we were delighted to welcome into the school Alex Beard, who gave this year's John Rae Lecture. The John Rae Lectures are an annual event remembering the legacy of a former headmaster and prominent educationist of the second half of the last century. Previous speakers have included the Reverend Ian Paisley, Jermaine Greer, Tim Marshall and Lord Winston.

Alex is an ex-teacher and current head of the Global Learning Lab, and is fortunate to spend much of his time traveling the world in search of the practices that will shape the future of learning. He has written about his experiences for the Guardian, Financial Times and Wired. He also wrote and presented The Learning Revolution, a three-part series on the future of education for BBC Radio 4 (2020), and is the author of Natural Born Learners (2018), a user's guide to transforming learning in the twenty-first century.

Alex's talk here at Taunton was titled: 'How to defeat the robots, save the planet and still find happiness', during which he explored the diversely different educational landscapes of the 21st Century and raised some important questions – the most important being: How do we best prepare young people for the future? The talk, as well as the subsequent Q&A session, was engaging and enlightening.

Rather than suggesting any hard and fast answers, we were invited to reflect on the knowledge and insights he has gained through his work, as well as consider for ourselves the role that we have to play in the education of our children and the younger generation in general.

I highly recommend Alex's aforementioned book, Natural Born Learners – it was certainly my top non-fiction read of 2020. He tells me he has another book in the works, which is good news for us (but not the robots).



Jack Bollom appointed at a First Sea Lord's Cadet



For the first time in the history of Taunton School CCF, a Cadet from the Royal Navy Section has been appointed as a First Sea Lord's Cadet. Leading Hand Cadet Jack Bollom was nominated by the Section Officer and Contingent Commander for this highly prestigious appointment. The nomination was accepted and Jack will be vested onboard HMS Victory in February 2022.

Holding the honour of First Sea Lord's Cadet is an important one, as Jack will be invited to high profile events where he will represent the Royal Navy CCF section. Events that First Sea Lord's Cadets have previously attended have included an introduction to the Navy Board, a visit to No.10 Downing Street, witnessing HMS Queen Elizabeth entering Portsmouth for the first time, attendance at the HMS Queen Elizabeth Commissioning Ceremony and a three day visit to Flag Officer Sea Training (including witnessing a Thursday war) in Plymouth. We are very proud of Jack and all he has worked for towards his appointment and wish him good luck with the role throughout his time in post! Bravo Zulu LHC Bollom!

Taunton School's top biologists named

Each half term we recognise 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 - Ollie Drummond (AL)
 Y12 - Felix Mydlak (IB), Marnie Cairns (AL)
 Y11 - Charlie Bedford
 Y10 - Daniel Squance
 Y9 - Monique Du Toit, Julian Turck

Autumn sports awards

	Players player	Player of the season	Most improved
1st XV	Thomas Houghton-King	Teddy Woolstencroft	Matthew Ashby
2nd XV	Ashley Chorley	Matthew Brown	Ollie Edwards
3rd XV	Olek Zhaboiedov	Rufus Hetherington	Julien Satow
SCA	Camil Petit	Jack Done	Lukass Plaudis-Lasmanis
SCB	Jordan Koatsa	Charlie Bedford	Jack Bollom
JCA	Olly Hartwell	Jack Burnett	Mohammed Al Suraifi
JCB	Archie Brierley	Rory Lashbrook	Kevin Chacko
JCC	Kobe Ha	Alan Wang	Arsen Yessenov
FA	Tomisin Awofisayo	James Collins	Marcus Hui
FB	Maxi Clayton	Jonathan Sibanda-Jenkins	Ben Barnett
FC	Carlton Chu	Julian Rampaul	Warwick Beament



	Players player	Player of the season	Most improved
1st Team	Eloise Taylor	Julia Louw	Isabel Hogevoold
2nd Team	Maddy Marsh	Heidi Bettsworth	Bella Slade
3rd Team	Olivia Pyke	Katja Wegner	Shailu Srithar
4th Team	Ebony Moon	Amelie Gowen	Rosa Allen
15 A Team	Lizzie Houghton-King	Zoe Maynard	Isabel Phillips
15B Team	Elsa Clayton	Meg Pocock	Marni Gallimore
15 C Team	Amelie Oliff		Aashiya Gurung & Samantha Hung
14 A Team	Takara Dupont	Monique du Toit	Sammy Hallett
14 B Team	Cicely Henry	Izzy Drinkwater	Nuria Da Silva
14C Team	Caterina Lecha van de Paverd		Grace Pickering & Ema Petkova



Rugby house matches

Juniors-Competition A

Winner	Marshall
Runner up	Evans
3rd place	Boarders Combined
4th place	Goodland



Juniors-Competition B

Winner	Marshall
Runner up	Goodland
3rd place	Boarders Combined
4th place	Evans



Seniors-Competition A

Winner	Marshall
Runner up	Wills East
3rd place	Evans
4th place	Goodland
5th place	Fairwater/Wills West Combined



Seniors-Competition B

Winner	Marshall
Runner up	Fairwater/Wills West Combined
3rd place	Wills East
4th place	Goodland
5th place	Evans



Southern Lambs rugby trials



Well done to Charlie Shave, Ben Chaffey and Teddy Woolstencroft who attended Monkton Combe School for Southern Lams trials. This process then leads to three 'Regional' sides playing on the 'Chairman's Day' followed by an invitational programme for a season that has four fixtures and an international tour at Easter. The Lambs RFC was set up to promote traditional rugby values and a 'Corinthian' spirit, playing unreserved 'heads up' rugby in a fast and expansive style, which is player rather than coach led.

Tom Houghton-King and Harrison Barrett will take part in the next trial on Sunday 9th January. Good luck to you all!

Baty Bowl returns



Taunton School's rugby teams kept tradition alive this week as they competed in the Baty Bowl. The match includes traditions such as the Chaplain blessing the bowl, the National Anthem and a coin toss using Brother Baty's Holy Silver Penny.

The guest kick-off was by Simon Hogg, a former rugby player and Taunton School maths teacher and housemaster. Refereed by international ref Tom Foley and club referee Ben Pomeroy, this year included matches played by Years 9 and 10, as last year's Year 9 missed the match due to Covid restrictions.

Match report:

The 31st playing of the Baty Bowl took place on the Front in great conditions; memories of the mud bowl of 2018 long in the memory. Both sides hotly anticipated the clash and the endeavour on both sides was evident throughout. England started strongly and had territory early on, but slightly against the early run of play the International All Stars drew first blood with a try from Digging Colin from short range. Flat Track Mini produced two try saving tackles on UDR, LDR and Are you not Entertained? To keep the All Stars ahead the score was quickly doubled as O Little Town swooped onto a try line restart to score in the corner. England fought back and scored through a fine finish by Never with Markle to take the score to 10-5. Ferocious defence from both sides continued with the All Stars power just taking charge. Further scores from Digging Colin and The Favourite but them 22-5 up before Camilla crashed over for England. Jane's Payment struck the conversion and the score was 22-12. A final score for The Favourite sealed the deal for the All Stars at 27-12. A closer game than the scoreline suggests and both teams should be commended for their effort and skill throughout. The Foal of the Bowl was awarded to Flat Track Mini for his fantastic defence that surely won the Bowl.

Riding results

The latest riding results are as follows:

Class 1 – 70cm – Jess Miller, Florence Legg, Sophie Day - Florence first individually and the team were first overall.

Class 2 – 80cm – two teams: Emily Miller, Florence Legg, Sophie Day and Tilly Jacoby-Kelly. Emily was first as an individual and the team were first overall. Taunton school also came third with a team of Laura Trembath, Zoe Trembath, Emily Miller and Florence Legg.

Class 3 – 90cm – two teams entered: Emily Miller, Laura Trembath, Zoe Trembath and Tilly Jacoby-Kelly, Hetty Holden, Lucy Gliddon and Meg Pocock. Unfortunately no team placings but excellent representation.

Class 4 – 1m – team 5th for Hetty Holden, Lucy Gliddon and Tilly Jacoby-Kelly.



ESSA national relay finals

Some 19 swimmers from across the senior and Prep School travelled to The London Aquatic Centre in November to represent the South West at the English Schools Relay Finals. The Junior Girls and Boys (Yr7/8) and Inter Girls and Boys (Yr9/10) qualified in both the freestyle and medley relays. This year, due to COVID restrictions, only the top 20 times (rather than the top 30) in the country qualified, this meant that both our senior teams just missed out.

All swimmers performed well, with many producing personal best times. The top performances on the day came from the Junior Boys' team who were crowned National Champions in the medley relay and picked up Bronze in the freestyle relay.

The Inter Girls' team did very well to reach both finals, finishing 8th in the freestyle and 10th in the medley relays. The Inter Boys' team narrowly missed out on both finals, placing 11th and 13th after their heats. The Junior Girls' finished a creditable 16th and 18th in their races.

An excellent day was had by all, with all swimmers doing the school proud.



Squash team steps up a gear

After a 5 year absence, the schools 1st team took a big step up this year, and entered into the ESR school nationals, competing against the best senior teams from around the country.

The first team squad travelled to Kings College to play a round robin against Kings, Exeter School and Truro School in the first round of the competition. All of the other teams are regular fixtures in the nationals competition with Truro especially bringing a very strong team that included the top U17 in the country.

Despite being the underdogs, Taunton held their own in every single match, and even pulling off an upset to beat Exeter 3-2 which was enough to help secure their spot in the second round of the competition.

Man of the match was tight between a few players, with votes going for Nathan Hobson and Maxi Clayton, however the deciding vote from captain Ed Smith gave the award to Harrison Barrett for his excellent win against Exeter's top seed to secure the match.

In addition to entering the school nationals, some students have also been representing Taunton School Sports Club senior team in the local men's league and this has resulted in a marked improvement from all those involved.

A great effort from all students in the club this term, on to next term!

Director of Sport round-up – autumn term 2021

It would be fair to say that sport at Taunton School is in a great place. The number of students who are keen to represent on a Saturday, after school and in some cases on Sundays would suggest this.

But we are not just about large block fixtures on a Saturday. There is so much more going on.

I can move around all activities during a games afternoon and have seen the wide and varied opportunities on offer. Ranging from the traditional mass participation sports, such as hockey and rugby, but also more diverse options, such as, yoga (in one week, Hot Pod Yoga), climbing, squash, run club, walking club, and horse-riding among a myriad of other opportunities.

Students at Taunton School are able to find their identity for exercise involvement and discover what makes them want to move. This is something we will keep exploring, with a view to all students leading an active and healthy lifestyle and therefore, enhancing an active community where students are solidifying their experiences so that they are able and motivated to attain lifelong enjoyment of sport and exercise and therefore health.

Football

Matches: 27

Students played: 98

Schools played: 16

Success stories: 1st team made it the 4th round of the ESFA cup for the first time ever.

Girls Hockey

Matches: 136 at Senior school and 206 at TPS.

Students played: 331 girls across both schools.

Schools played: 45 (including tournaments, cup matches and block fixtures).

Success Stories: 4 teams have gone to National finals and 3 teams at regional indoor finals.

Rugby

Matches: 199 (across both schools), 95 at senior school.

Students played: 264 players from Senior school only.

Schools played: 16

For fun: each team has trained for 1,725 mins and have played a combined 5,350 mins of rugby.

Girls Football

Organised and driven by year 12 student Issy Hogevoold. What started out with little over 5 girls, has grown into a well-attended and organised weekly event. This culminated with an amazing first game that ended in a 3-3 draw, and a last-minute equalising penalty, taken by non-other than the mercurial player/coach Issy.

Other

We have also played competitive fixtures in Golf, Squash, Cross-Country, Netball, Swimming, Modern Pentathlon and even Chess!

I can't wait to see what the new year brings for Taunton School sport and witness more of the excellent representation and involvement from as many students as possible. – Mr Pettifer

Rugby report (continued from page 5)



The final game saw Taunton School first team take on Blundell's. After a poor result against them earlier in the season, Taunton knew that they had to turn up and do a job. Taunton started slowly as they gave away two penalties which allowed Blundell's to take the points and go 6-0 up. A similar reason allowed Blundell's to run a set piece play, which allowed them to score, leaving the score 13-0. Taunton started getting going after gathering the ball and sending it deep into the Blundell's half, off the kick-off. Some strong tackles from Barrett and Woolstencroft put pressure on the Blundell's attacking line. This pressure allowed Shave to get his hands on the ball and win a penalty with a quality jackal. Taunton sent it deep into the Blundell's half around 10m from the line. A clever lineout move allowed Ashby to create a two on one with the full back, allowing Woolstencroft to slide into the corner, inches away from the flag, to open up the scoring for Taunton. The conversion was slotted by Chaffey from the touchline, the score being 13-7. The Taunton boys started to switch on and pressure was now being applied to the Blundell's side. Some strong carries from Burridge saw Taunton work their way up the pitch. This allowed Taunton to run a backs move, Dietz broke through the line and Nuttycombe on his shoulder allowed Hudson to pace down the wing. Taunton were five metres away, working their way towards the posts, the forwards pitting in the hard yards to gain as much ground as possible. Tarr got the ball and a quick pick from the ruck saw Tarr power over the line, under the posts. This left Taunton 14-13 up.

The second half saw Taunton with a strong kick chase and a jackal from Heard saw Taunton win another penalty. This was again put into the corner and a strong lineout allowed Taunton to verge close the Blundell's line. Houghton-King got a strong pass and twisted and turned to allow him to bustle over the line. The score was now 21-13 to Taunton. The next points in the match were due to a piece of individual magic from Chaffey. With Taunton working their way closer into Blundell's half, a penalty advantage was offered. This allowed Chaffey to get into the 'pocket' and set up a drop goal opportunity. The ball was zipped to Chaffey on the left-hand side of the pitch, a few metres outside the 22 and a sweet strike saw the ball fly through the posts bringing the score to 24-13. Taunton were now taking the game away from Blundell's and playing expansive rugby. The penultimate try of the day saw an unbelievable interception from Foster, to catch the ball on the halfway line and pace it down the wing, scoring in the left corner, the score now being 29-13. The last points of the game were again due to the line speed of Taunton, allowing Blundell's to have no space to run. A turnover from Shave allowed Taunton to play, some strong carries from Barrett and Dietz allowed Taunton to break the line and verge closer to Blundell's try line. Players getting sucked into the ruck allowed space wide for Taunton. This invited Chaffey to get his hand on the ball and cross field kick was called. Chaffey then struck the ball from the left-hand side of the pitch towards the right corner. A sharp catch from Nuttycombe, jumping in the air allowed him to gather the ball on the full and dot it down in the corner (converted). Leaving the final score 36-13 to Taunton.

Overall, it was a very proud and emotional day for the boys. For the majority of the squad, it would be their final rugby fixture for the school and what way to finish the season. The boys deserved a cracking last game and all in all an unbelievable season has now drawn to a close.



Demonstration & Afternoon Tea with Michael Coggan

Winner of *Bake Off The Professionals*

Sunday 20th February 2022, 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Come and join us as we welcome Michael Coggan from *Gin & Bake*.

Michael will provide a demonstration followed by a delicious full afternoon tea, prepared by him and our in-house catering team.

This not-to-be-missed event will take place in our wonderful Densham Suite.

£28.00 per person to include a full afternoon tea.

Venue: Densham Suite, Taunton School, Taunton, TA2 6AD

Savouries

- Chicken mayonnaise and parmesan bridge roll
- Cucumber and cream cheese sandwich
- Gruyère and burnt leek gougères
- Smoked salmon and horseradish crème fraîche sandwich

Scones

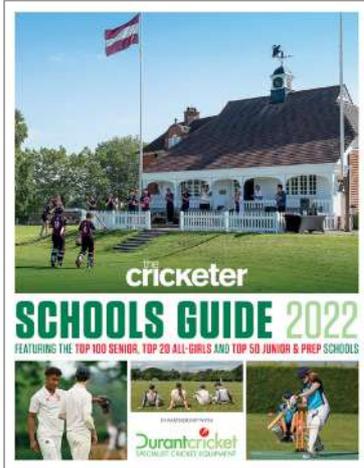
- Plain scones
- Earl grey and lemon scone

Sweet

- Rhubarb and custard petit gateau
- Malted milk chocolate and hazelnut macaron
- Victoria layer cake
- White chocolate and passion fruit choux

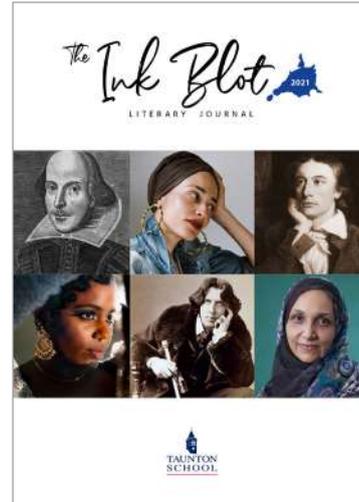
Buy tickets through our box office:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool

The Cricketer Schools Guide



Taunton Prep School has been named in the top 50 schools of The Cricketer's School Guide 2022. The guide recognises schools showing a commitment to cricket and a focus on facilities, fixture and coaching. The Cricketer magazine editor Huw Turbervill said: "As a parent myself, I would like to place on record my thanks to all the teachers, coaches and volunteers who have worked so hard, in the most difficult of circumstances, to ensure the next generation are given opportunities to grow within, and love the game, that we cherish so deeply. Congratulations to all of the schools included and we look forward to hearing about all of your future successes."

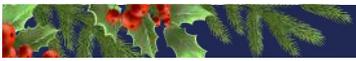
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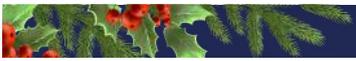


You can see the 2021 edition on Ink Blot journal, celebrating students' creative writing talents [by clicking here.](#)

Sixth form Christmas ball in pictures







Merry Christmas from the marketing team!