



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

Prep & Pre-Prep

COURIER

28th January 2022

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

LITTLE LEARNERS MAKE THEIR MARK



Children from Nursery and Pre-Prep have had a busy start to the term, reading, writing, getting creative and learning through play. Please see more photographs on page 4.

More inside

- Flip Out trip
- Thone news
- Performing arts photos
- Music update

Message from the TPS Headmaster



It has been a real pleasure to see all of our pupils and families happily enjoying the first few weeks of the Spring term. A very warm welcome to the new pupils and their families who have started at TPS this term - we are delighted that you have come to join us!

I always very much enjoy seeing all of the activities and lessons taking place on a Saturday morning, and last weekend was no exception. If you have a child in Years 3 to 6 who is not already attending our

Saturday Morning Enrichment programme, please do consider the terrific activities on offer if you have not already done so. Pupils attending other schools are also very welcome, so your child's friends can come as well. For more information, please do contact us on tpssaturdayenrichment@tauntonschool.co.uk.

Alongside our ambition for a high level of academic progress for each child, we have a very strong focus on personal development, and, at the end of last term, every pupil completed a first self-assessment of the year against the 12 words of the TPS Mission. If you have not done so already, please do have a look at the relevant pages of your child's Pupil Planner which will show the coloured-in wheel and some targets for this Spring term. In addition, teachers have included in last term's 'Attitude to Learning' grades, a target word from the TPS mission. There is excellent advice in the planner as to how each of the words can be demonstrated, so please do take a look at those in order to enhance your understanding of our aims in relation to the TPS Mission.

Congratulations to our Year 8 netballers for their terrific performance in the Bryanston tournament, where we got all the way to the final, narrowly losing to Millfield. It promises to be a very exciting season of hockey and netball since our boys have been beating all of their opponents on the astro. We have also had great success in other sports such as cross-country running, table tennis, horse-riding and shooting, whilst lots of our swimmers have been performing to a very high standard in their county competitions taking place during January and February. In table tennis, our U11 and U13 teams successfully qualified for the national semi-finals as one of the top 10 teams in the south of England, whilst our shooting teams are ranked 1st and 5th in the country after the regionals and are keenly looking forward to the nationals on the 8th February.

We have a Virtual Open Morning coming up on 5th February and an in-person Open Morning on 12th February. It is very good to report that we continue to experience a large level of interest in places.

Looking towards next September, the two forms in our current Year 4 will become three forms, and the three forms in our current Year 6 will become four forms. Such is the demand for places in some of our year groups that families approaching us now are having to go onto a waiting list. If you have friends who are considering joining the school in any year group, please do encourage them to come along to the Open Morning or to make contact with our Admissions Manager, Mrs Harvey.

I wish you all a very enjoyable exeat weekend.

Mr Andrew Edwards, TPS Headmaster

Message from the Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery



I do hope that you have all had a positive start to 2022 and that you have been able to make the most of the beautiful mid-winter weather, we have been treated to over the last couple of weeks.

As we near the end of the children's fourth week back at school, there have been lots of 'wow moments' continuing throughout the Pre-Prep with many imaginative learning opportunities taking place. Nursery

4 have been boarding the 'Taunton School Express' to all sorts of destinations - this week. Reception have been inspired by their instructions to design a new space rocket for Astronaut Williams. Year 1 are patiently waiting for their giant eggs to hatch and Year 2 are enjoying 'the wonderful world of chocolate' - looking at where in the world cocoa is grown and the climate and habitats of these countries.

These 'wow starts' really do make the children's learning so much more exciting, as well as sparking the children's imaginations and creating a real sense of purpose to the tasks that they are asked to complete. Last week, I received many letters from an excited Charlie Bucket, who has been absolutely delighted to find a very precious golden ticket!

Finally, I must mention three possible dates for the diary:

Thursday 3rd February, 6.30 pm: Digital Workshop for Year 2 parents.

Monday 7th February, 6.30pm: 'Meet the Reception team'. An opportunity for our current Nursery 4 parents to look around Reception and ask questions.

Thursday 10th February, 8.30am: PA Coffee Morning in the new Dining Hall.

Have a good weekend, when it arrives.

Mrs Louise Leah, Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery

Message from Taunton School International Principal



As you read this latest edition of the Courier, it is wonderful to see our school community come together as we return from our festive break to a new Spring term. It has been fantastic to see our international students back in the classroom and on campus taking part in all that Taunton School has to offer. I was very proud to hear that our Foxcombe boarders fought valiantly in their first house football match

against Wills West after a busy few weeks of mock exams, and that our young learners at Taunton School International Middle School have been working to save New Beacon Books, which is a specialist African and Caribbean bookshop, from closure.

These stories, amongst many others that you will read in this latest edition of the Courier, highlight all the fantastic opportunities that our students are able to be involved in here at Taunton School. Good luck to our students for the rest of this half of the Spring term, and I look forward to sharing more exciting updates from our international community with you in the next edition.

Mr Adrian Hallworth, Principal of Taunton School International

Diary dates

| | |
|--|--|
| Virtual Open Morning | 5th February 2022 9:00am - 1:00pm (UK time) |
| Whole School Open Morning | 12th February 2022 9:30am - 12:30pm (UK time) |
| Half-term Sports Camps | 24th & 25th February |
| Year 9 GCSE Information Evening | 4th March 2022 6:30pm - 9:30pm |
| Year 9 GCSE Information Evening | 4th March 2022 6.30pm - 9.30pm |
| Wedding Fair | 27th March 2022 11.00am-3.00pm |
| Easter Revision Courses | 28th March – 31st March, 11th April – 14th April |
| 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/>

Photos from Nursery and Pre-Prep



Pupils get active with movement and games



Pupils took part in a Fundamental Movement session and invasion games to kick-start Saturday Enrichment at the beginning of term. They have also been enjoying short tennis, modern pentathlon, cricket and table tennis.

Enjoying the great outdoors



The Reception children visited Uppers for their Forest Friday sessions recently. They explored the woods, drank hot chocolate and made bird feeders to help the birds through the winter.

Talented musicians get back in the swing for spring



Our Prep School musical ensembles are now back rehearsing for the new term. Here is our woodwind ensemble, string ensemble and guitar ensemble practicing together.



In other music news, Katie playing the clarinet in a recent chapel service.



Junior choir having fun rehearsing, Jonah Man Jazz, by Michael Hurd.



Prep School student Joshua demonstrating his tuba playing ability by performing in front of his class.

Thone boarding news

The cold weather didn't stop Thone House boarders from having a wonderful weekend to start off 2022. On Saturday 15th January:

- The boarders went over to Uppers to complete sections from their Squirrel and Otter Award.
- Year 4 children were supported by Year 8 pupils to carry out a litter pick around the edges of the playing fields.
- Year 5 and Year 6 pupils went bird watching in the forest school area with ten different species recorded including hearing a woodpecker.
- Year 7 and Year 8 pupils redesigned the pavilion, taking inspiration from Antoni Gaudi with many beautiful designs put forward.
- All boarders enjoyed popcorn and a film

On Sunday 16th:

- Some boarders went into town and some went to French Weir Park
- There was time to relax and play
- Grace, Erin, Aakima and Isu took time to practise their instruments for their performance in the Performing Arts Café on Tuesday 18th January





Free Play Friday



Our junior boarders had a lot of fun at 'Free Play Friday' last week. The children were able to choose what they want to do and, on a very wet and windy evening, they decided to make use of Taunton School's fantastic indoor facilities for games and activities.

5, 4, 3, 2 Fun!



The children in Nursery 4 have been exploring our theme of 'Moving Along'. They enjoyed spaceship role play and made a rocket using cola and mints. They have also been practising our writing and making music using the pots and pans.

Music and performing arts round-up

The TPS music and performing arts department have held two Performing Arts Cafés in Centenary Hall so far this term. These offer a chance for children of all ages and abilities to share their performing talents in music, drama, and dance. The performing arts ensembles are off to a flying start this term, from the energetic rhythms of the orchestra currently learning *The Lion King* and *The Simpsons*, to the fabulous drama groups. The Senior Drama Club are exploring and having fun with Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and the Junior Drama Club is partly directed by some of our senior drama scholars, offering them the chance to show leadership skills.

Many TPS musicians are representing the school in the Taunton Festival of the Arts, performing at high levels and competing against musicians from several schools in Somerset. One of our exciting events this term is the Dance Showcase on Friday 11th March. This will be the performing highlight of the year for our dancers and will feature some soloists, small ensembles, and larger dance clubs from a variety of genres. There is also a Scholars' Showcase on Tuesday 22nd March, featuring musicians, actors and dancers from the cream of our crop of high-achieving gifted and talented performing arts scholars.

Music, drama, and dance lessons all continue at pace and, as ever, there are opportunities to try an instrument (or drama and dance) for free as a taster lesson.



Songs from the musicals



The performing arts troupe have recently started work on learning 'Food Glorious Food' from *Oliver!* They are recreating the all-singing, all-dancing food sequence from this famous show. Dancers have also been working on choreography from *Matilda*, guided by Dance Leader Lucy Hartland-Mann.

Flying dragons take over DT



Design technology pupils are currently designing and making flying dragons out of foam. To help them learn about 'designing in profile' they each created a dragon design, divided it into three parts then transferred the design to styrofoam pieces, before the material was cut out on the fretsaw. The students used files, sanding blocks with wet and dry paper to give a smooth finish to the sides.

Cell science in action for young biologists



Year 7 scientists have had fun making animal and plant cells out of different materials, demonstrating the various structures they have learnt about inside each.

Year 3 step back in time to learn about Romans



Year 3 spent a morning at the Museum of Somerset last week as part of their Roman topic. They dressed up as Romans, handled real Roman artefacts and looked at the Roman treasures around the museum.

Young bakers learn new kitchen skills



Prep School pupils have been cooking up some tasty treats this term. So far they have made bread and pizza, with other dishes planned over the next few weeks. The Saturday cookery enrichment group have been decorating cupcakes.

TSIMS students raise money to help save book shop

Students at Taunton School have helped to save the only remaining independent black publisher and bookseller in the UK from closure.

The students contributed £110 to the national crowdfunding campaign 'Save New Beacon Bookshop' by organising a bake sale and a raffle of two books written by black writers.

New Beacon Books was founded in 1966 and has been pivotal to the growth of the Black Education Movement. It specialises in Black British, Caribbean, African, African-American and Asian literature. As a result of the pandemic, the shop faced imminent closure last year; however, a successful crowdfunding campaign saw almost £85,000 raised in the space of eight days to save the shop.

Exploring black history and diversity is an important element of Taunton School. Building further on the celebration of Black History Month in October, a number of new titles by black authors have been added to the school library at Taunton School

International Middle School, such as 'Boys Don't Cry', 'Black Women in Science', 'You are a Champion' and 'Black and British'.

Teacher of English and EAL Suzette Youngs, says, "Teaching students about black history through literature, poetry and fiction is an excellent way of developing understanding, empathy and a general awareness of the immense contribution of the black community to so many aspects of our shared histories.

"We hope to work closely with New Beacon and possibly set up a Q&A session with the bookshop owner in the future. I think that it would be interesting for students to know why diversity and challenging mainstream narratives is so important."

Cupcake pop art makes for colourful fun



Art students have been looking at how pop art relates to popular culture through the skill of cupcake print making.

Pupils learn essential lifesaving skills



TPS boarders took part in a first aid course recently, learning new skills which could save lives in an emergency.

Boarders 'flip out' at trampoline adventure park



Thone House spent the afternoon bouncing around at Flip Out on Sunday, followed by a trip to McDonalds to refuel.

Wellbeing update from Miss Hall-Tomkin

During January INSET, Key Stage 3 teachers of PSHEE and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) enjoyed some excellent training from "It Matters", focussing on best teaching practice and looking at national developments.

We were also very pleased to welcome Alicia Drummond, the founder of TeenTips, to school to give Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training to all TPS staff. This was fascinating and really important for staff to feel they have up-to-date strategies on the issues currently facing pupils and how they can best support both pupils and themselves, with mental health wellbeing.

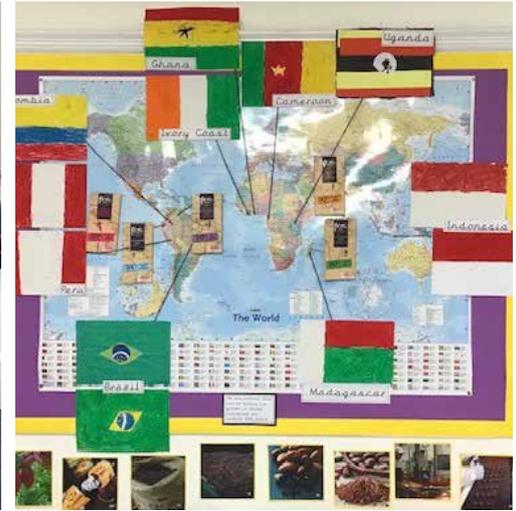
We have joined the Wellbeing Hub and this provides excellent talks, resources and live Q&A sessions for parents via the parent portal. I would urge all parents to [register on the Wellbeing Hub](#) and view the introductory video. It really does provide comprehensive help and advice on a huge range of topics.

By the time you read this, we will also have held our face-to-face parent pastoral workshop, where we will be looking at the topics of PSHEE and RSE and online safety. Parents will have had a chance to look at resources, ask questions and partake of cheese and wine!

— The —
**Wellbeing
 Hub**
 — from Teen Tips —



Children celebrate the wonderful world of chocolate



Year 2's 'Wonderful World of Chocolate' topic is well underway. The children have been busy researching where in the world cocoa trees grow, using atlases to locate cocoa producing countries, learning about the chocolate making process and using iPads to record their knowledge.

Teams celebrate netball success



The U11 and U13 netball teams had a great day at the Bryanston Tournament recently. The U11s qualified into the Plate Competition, while the U13s were the overall cup competition runners-up, only losing the final match of the day.

County Cross Country Championships



A total of 17 TPS athletes ran at the County Cross Country Championships on Saturday.

Roise Joynes, Tom Barnett, Lewis Orchard, Harvey Coleman, Alice Boyce and Nic Du Toit have all been selected to represent Somerset in the South West Championships on 5th February. Harry Adams, Luke Jones, Emily Miller, Zoe Trembath and Brodie Davidson are all listed as reserves in the team

Minor Girls

9 Rosie Joynes

Also ran:

Josie Hanson, Olivia Day

Minor Boys

1 Tom Barnett

4 Lewis Orchard

5 Harvey Coleman

R1 Harry Adams

R5 Luke Jones

Junior Girls

6 Alice Boyce

R2 Emily Miller

R5 Zoe Trembath

Also ran:

Freya Ashford, Grace Gendall,
Sami Johnson

Junior Boys

4 Oscar Coleman (senior)

7 Charlie Halford (senior)

10 Nic Du Toit

R4 Brodie Davidson

Also ran:

Theo Winsor

Inter Boys

6 Jack White (senior)

R2 Jack Pool (senior)

Senior Girls

R2 Imogen Evans (senior)

Senior Boys

R5 Hamish Ruthven (senior)

TPS riders show they can jump with style

The equestrian team competed at KSEC recently in a 'Jumping with Style' qualifier. Florence Legg TPS came second in her class and the Fawdens did well in the bigger classes too. Results below:

KSEC JWS results 09/01:

70: Cottown Little Rupert - clear - 2nd

80: Dan F - 4 faults - 13th

90: Cecilia F - clear - 8 time - 31st

Dan F - 8 faults - 6 time - 34th

Tilly J-K - E

100: Cecilia F - 4 faults - 7 time - 11th

Tilly J-K - E

The TPS showjumping team put in some great performances at the South West Regional Grass Roots Final at Moreton recently. Well done to Florence who was 1st in the 70 and Jess who was 2nd in the 60.





Whole School Open Days at Taunton School

Virtual: Saturday 5th February 2022, Saturday 14th May 2022

In-person: Saturday 12th February 2022, Monday 2nd May 2022

Find out more at:

www.tauntonschool.co.uk/open-mornings

or call us on **01823 703703**

Half-term sports camps



Taunton School is offering half-term sports camps in hockey, netball and racket sports next month. [To find out more and register, click here.](#)

Taunton School in Dubai

Meet Old Tauntonians and current families for a chance to catch up and learn more about life at Taunton School at our latest glamorous drinks reception in Dubai on the evening of Friday 25th February 2022!

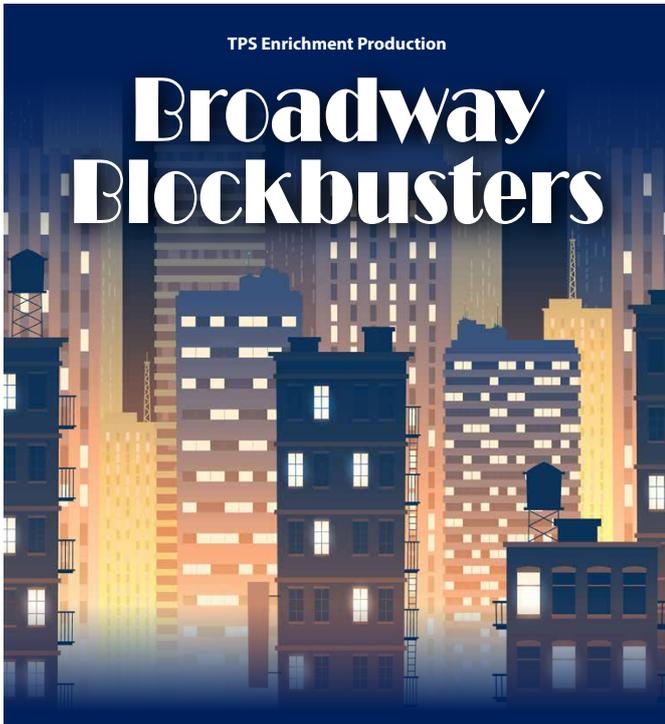
Following the success of Taunton School's recent alumni meet up in New York, we would like to invite former Taunton School students and current families to attend this latest event run by Taunton School in Dubai.

The location is currently TBC and will be updated soon.

Please email Director of Development Jack Clark on jack.clark@tauntonschool.co.uk to RSVP.

TPS Enrichment Production

Broadway Blockbusters



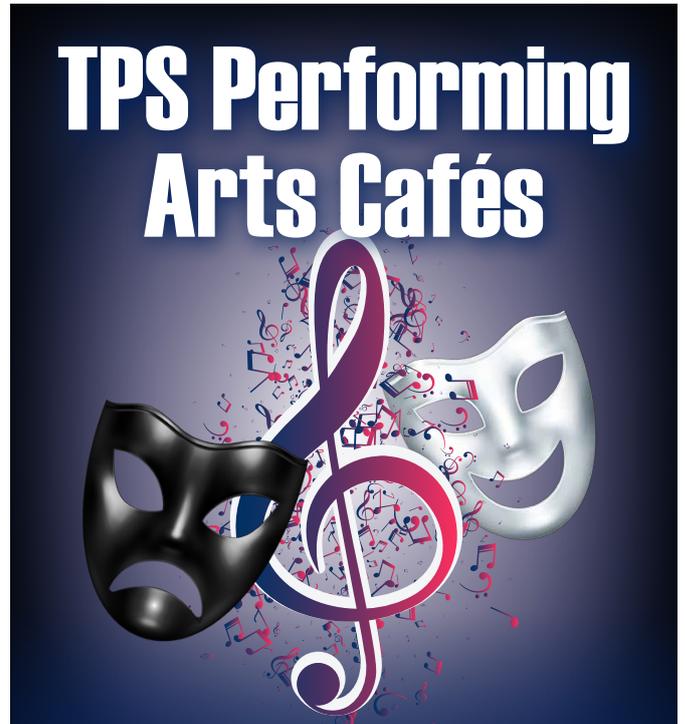
A scintillating mix of song and dance from the best of Broadway and film.
Refreshments from 11.15am, Performance at 11.30am.

FREE ADMISSION limited availability (booking required)



Saturday 19th March from 11.15am
Venue: Centenary Hall

TPS Performing Arts Cafés

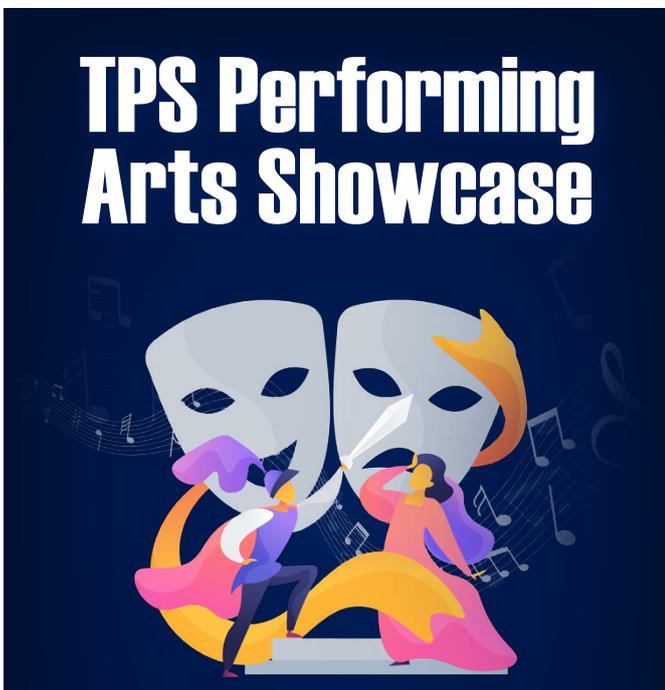


- 18th January
- 25th January
- 1st February
- 8th February
- 15th February (TPPS Café)
- 1st March
- 8th March



Tuesdays at 4.15pm
Venue: Centenary Hall

TPS Performing Arts Showcase



An evening of music, dance and drama from our Performing Arts scholars and leaders.

FREE ADMISSION limited availability (booking required)



Tuesday 22nd March at 6pm
Venue: Centenary Hall

The Robin Hood Files



Year 6 Production

"The Robin Hood Files" by Phil Tuffin A comedy drama for kids exploring the Robin Hood legend.

FREE ADMISSION limited availability (booking required)



Friday 18th March at 6pm
Venue: Centenary Hall



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 gourgères
- 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