



TAUNTON  
SCHOOL

# Prep & Pre-Prep COURIER

18th February 2022

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

## TAUNTON SCHOOL UNVEILS PLANS TO INVEST IN A £20 MILLION WORLD-CLASS CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT



Work began this week on a new state-of-the-art Sixth Form centre and library for the school which celebrates its 175th anniversary this year, followed by proposals for enhanced sports facilities and a brand new international school.

The project also includes the creation of a green and sustainable pedestrianised hub linking boarding houses, teaching and dining blocks.

Proposals encompass moving Taunton's international school from its current site to the

main campus; as well as developing two new Astroturf pitches, benefitting both the school and local community.

"These exciting developments are a reflection of our success locally, and globally", said Headmaster Lee Glaser. "The project marks the start of a very exciting and important new chapter in Taunton School's long history."

These plans follow the completion of a new dining hall in 2020, officially opened by HRH Princess Anne a year ago.

More inside

- [Leave your mark!](#)
- [Taunton School goes green for the Queen](#)
- [Festival of the Arts](#)

### LEAVE YOUR MARK!

Find out how you can support Taunton School's exciting development plan.

[Find out more](#)

# Leave your mark! Sponsor a tree or a desk at Taunton School

Taunton School families and supporters are invited to sponsor a tree or desk as part of the first phase of the school's development plan.

The 'Leave Your Mark' campaign offers supporters the opportunity to add their family's or a loved one's name onto a plaque, tree or desk in order to raise funds for the new Sixth Form centre and library.

[A JustGiving page](#) has been set up by Foundation Director Mr Clark, following requests from parents for a way of thanking Headmaster and CEO Mr Glaser, who is leaving Taunton School in the summer.



Mr Glaser has asked for donations to the 'Leave Your Mark' campaign rather than personal gifts for him.

The first phase of the development plan involves transforming the senior school library and Sixth Form centre.

## Library and Sixth Form Centre:

The Carrington Library is moving to the heart of the senior school and a new Sixth Form centre will be created. The new library will be a much larger space and include new silent study pods and areas for group work. There are naming opportunities to sponsor desks and study pods as well as the glass entrance doors. For more information about the project or to make your donation please visit our [JustGiving Page](#).

## Creating a 'living entrance' to the school:

The area around the entrance to the school will be enhanced with new flowerbeds and the planting of seasoned trees. This project will make a huge difference to the daily experience of many students, parents and visitors. It also provides an opportunity for families to name and sponsor specific trees and flowerbeds that will grow with the school for generations. For more information about the project or to make your donation please visit our [JustGiving Page](#).

To find out more about the projects or to make a donation, visit the [school's website](#) or [JustGiving page](#) or contact Foundation Director at [Jack.Clark@tauntonschool.co.uk](mailto:Jack.Clark@tauntonschool.co.uk)

**JustGiving™**

## Message from the Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery



As we end our final week of this half-term, we have loved all the hearts and flowers that have appeared around the Pre-Prep and Nursery.

Thank you to the sports staff and particularly Mrs Foad, for the afternoon of Year two multi-sports on Monday. I was incredibly excited to see the mixed teams demonstrate their skills that they have worked hard to develop in their PE and games lessons. Thank you so much to all the parents who came to watch. I look forward to the next sporting event.

I would also like to thank all the Nursery 4 parents who joined us for the exciting Reception information evening, with Mrs Jenner and Mrs Lake. If you would like a copy of the presentation, please contact the Pre-Prep office and we will be very happy to send you this.

Congratulations to all our children who took part in the Pre-Prep Arts Café this week. It is always super to see how the children are progressing with their music and drama. We are currently planning for another performing opportunity in the summer term for the children to work towards.

Thank you in advance to all our parents for your efforts in planning for and supporting World Book Day. The children always love the occasion and the opportunity to dress up. This year is the 25th Anniversary of this valuable day, with many opportunities for discussion about authors, stories, books and characters, which is always so enriching. Further information about the day will be sent to you separately.

Finally, for those of you heading off for a quick break, whether it be hot, cold or just recharging the batteries, I hope that your week is enjoyable and that you can find some fun together as a family.

**Mrs Louise Leah, Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery**

## Message from the TPS Headmaster



I find it hard to believe that it has been nearly seven weeks since we came back for the start of the spring term and it is amazing how much the staff and pupils have packed into that time.

The well-being of our pupils and staff continues to be at the top of our priorities and it was a pleasure to see a good number of parents attending our Pastoral Workshop at the end of January. Those present very much appreciated the opportunity to learn more about

our PSHE curriculum (Personal, Social and Health Education) and to discuss further the important issue of keeping our children safe when they are on the internet. Mrs Hall-Tomkin will be writing to all parents after half term to let you know of ways in which you can become even more connected with how we are teaching your children in these vital areas of their learning.

Whilst on the subject of the connection that parents have with the school, I must thank Mr Coleman and Mrs Leah for leading the meeting about the PTA. It was very encouraging to see a good number of parents in attendance, all keen to make a contribution and to reboot the PTA after a somewhat dormant period due to COVID. There will be an AGM of the PTA soon after half term, to which all parents will be invited, with the opportunity to stand for one of the elected officers' positions. After the restrictions of the past two years, we are now very keen on working to ensure that parents regain the feeling of involvement in the school and in their children's education which they have always had at Taunton School.

Yesterday, I very much enjoyed another one of the regular meetings which the Senior Management Team has with our Year 8 House Captains, our Boarding Captain, our Head Boy and our Head Girl. It is a very valuable opportunity to hear from the pupils how school is going from their perspective, and the staff and I always leave significantly wiser than we were at the start of the meeting

about what is really happening on the ground. In addition to this forum, there are several other ways in which we are constantly seeking to hear the voice of the pupils. The School Council meets regularly; boxes are situated around the school into which pupils can post any concerns; and Mrs Hall-Tomkin has been busy this week evaluating and responding to the results of our most recent pupil well-being survey. There is always more that we can do to improve further the school experience for our pupils, and it is vital to listen to the children in order to know how best to do this.

Since the last Courier, there have been some outstanding pupil achievements for us to celebrate. Six of our pupils had qualified for the National Finals of the Pistol Shooting Championships, which took place at the start of this month, and they performed with superb focus and skill to become British Champions with our two teams finishing 1st and 5th! In boys' hockey, we are the only school in the South West to qualify for the National Finals at both U13 and U11 level, and we have seen some extraordinary performances in cross-country running.

Meanwhile, in the Performing Arts, a very large number of our musicians competed with distinction in the Taunton Festival of Arts, and it was terrific yesterday to see our Prep School brass players playing alongside our Senior School musicians and visiting music teachers in a hugely enjoyable workshop and concert. Very well done to all of the pupils who have been involved in such wonderful achievements.

Finally, I hope that you have found time to engage with the very exciting plans for the £20m development of the school campus. If you were unable to attend the presentation for parents on 7th February, please do have a look at the information messages which have been sent to you. We can only embark on such ambitious plans because the school is in such a strong position, and it is wonderful to be starting to implement a roadmap which will guarantee that the school continues to go from strength to strength over the next decade and beyond.

I trust that you are all staying safe in the face of such a big storm, and I wish you and your families a very happy half term.

**Mr Andrew Edwards, TPS Headmaster**

## Message from Taunton School International Principal



As we approach half term, I'm sure our students will agree that a much deserved break is on the horizon. It has been an exciting month of academic rigour and boarding activities, and I have been delighted to once again see our international students across the school getting involved in all that Taunton School has to offer. Highlights for me this month include Harry L's exciting

offer to study at Berklee School of Music in Boston (one of the most prestigious music colleges in the world) and a night of fun for

the Taunton School International Strictly Come Dancing event – well done to Luxor and Louise who won the competition!

For many students, this half term will be a chance to unwind and relax after a busy half of our spring term, and I hope that everyone enjoys time with their families and friends if they are able to. COVID restrictions still impact us and for those who are unable to see their families over the break, know that Taunton School is here to support you. I wish everyone a restful break and look forward to welcoming the students back to campus for an exciting second half of the spring term

**Mr Adrian Hallworth, Principal of Taunton School International**

## Diary dates

<b>Rugby Development Days</b>	24th February 2022 10.00am - 3.00pm (Yr 5&6), 25th February 2022 10.00am - 3.00pm (Yr 7&8)
<b>Rackets Development Days</b>	24th February 2022 10.00am - 3.00pm (Yr 3&4), 25th February 2022 10.00am - 3.00pm (Yr 5-8)
<b>Netball Development Sessions</b>	25th February 2022 9.00am - 12.30pm (Yr 5&6), 25th February 2022 1.00pm - 4.30pm (Yr 7&8)
<b>Year 9 GCSE Information Evening</b>	4th March 2022 6:30pm - 9:30pm
<b>Wedding Fair</b>	27th March 2022 11.00am - 3.00pm
<b>Easter Revision Courses</b>	28th March – 31st March 2022, 11th April – 14th April 2022
<b>Easter Cricket Seasons Preparation Camp</b>	29th March – 30th March 2022 ( <a href="#">see website for groups &amp; times</a> )
<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/>  
Find our Ticketsource events here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool>

## Taunton School goes green for the Queen



One-year-old Bertie from our Nursery and his sisters FloBo and Ottolie from our Pre-Prep planted a tree on our grounds recently as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project to 'plant a tree for the Jubilee', marking HM The Queen's 70th year as monarch.

The children were joined by Jim Booth, a former Taunton School organist who celebrates his 101st birthday this year. We were also delighted to be joined by Annie Maw, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset. Prep School pupils Nicholas and Charlotte also attended the planting.

A clip of the planting was shown on BBC Points West.

## More celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee



Year 4 enjoying the Jubilee celebrations, with some wearing amazing homemade crowns!

### Blowing their own trumpets



Here are some fantastic pictures of our pupils trying out new instruments including the trumpet, trombone and flute as part of our instrumental taster curriculum sessions earlier this month.

## Success at Taunton Festival of the Arts



Taunton saw some impressive results at Taunton Festival of the Arts instrumental rounds this term. This is a regional competition and a big highlight for our young musicians. We celebrate and congratulate everybody who took part, especially the following winners:

- Matilda on the violin (Winner Under 12 Bowed Strings)
- Josh on euphonium (Winner under 10 Woodwind and Brass)
- Jake on guitar (Winner Under 14 Electric Guitar)
- Lewis on piano (Winner Grade 2 Piano Solo)
- Toby on piano (Winner under 8 Piano solo)
- Zachary, Kayra and Maddie (all individual champions of their singing rounds).
- Valentin on bassoon (2nd place Under 12 Woodwind and Brass)

Danning and Emily on violins were runners up (Under 10s Bowed Strings) and Matilda, Forest and Evie all won their Harp playing categories and Danning won the Bowed String Recital round.

Massive congratulations to all our children for achieving these very impressive results and to all who showed confidence to enter and to perform, representing the school and showing great musical pride.

Mr Baker said: "We would like to celebrate the success of so many winners from TPS in the recent regional competition, Taunton Festival of the Arts." Good luck to the singers in the upcoming vocal rounds and, as the adjudicator told Jake who won with his guitar playing, "keep rocking!"

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

## Layers of the Earth



Year 3 pupils have been learning about the layers of the earth. They worked in pairs to research facts about their chosen layer before creating an animated presentation for the rest of the class. Great teamwork and great fun! They also created edible models of the Earth this week to demonstrate what they had been learning about the Earth's structure. They had to consider the different layers, the ratio of each layer and whether it was a solid or liquid.

### Year 8 recreate Whatsapp



### Science Inter-House Competition

The Queen's coronation was in 1952, the same year as James Watson and Francis Crick discovered the structure of the DNA molecule. To mark this momentous step in scientific history, the TPS science inter-house competition is to make a model of a molecule (or molecules) of your choice. Models can be made from any materials, but they must resemble real substances. Mr Raven particularly likes the idea of molecules that are edible!

Hand your entries to your Science teacher by Monday 21st March 2022. Make sure you include your name, form and house. There will be prizes for winners and GHPs for anyone who enters. Good luck!

Year 8 pupils have been find out how to do a group chat the old fashioned way in their science lessons!

## Paper Clip Science



In their science lessons this month, our Year 6 pupils have been investigating if more paper clips make a spinner fall faster when dropped at a height.

## Parent Workshop



This month, we held a Year 2 parent workshop on educational technology in the classroom.

## Matilda Rehearsal



Pupils rehearse intensively for the 'School Song' sequence from the stage musical 'Matilda', using the new sets of prison bars!



## LGBT month



This month at The Grange, our students have been celebrating LGBT+ History Month. Vik Griffiths, a volunteer a 2BU - a charity supporting the LGBT+ community in Somerset - came in for an assembly and talked to our

students about what LGBT+ means and brief overview of the history. Students have been buying wristbands to raise money for 2BU and will be showing support for the LGBT+ community by wearing the wristbands every day this month.

## TPS Prayer



Pupils from our TPS School Council are working together with Rev Getman to develop our very own TPS prayer, reflecting the values and beliefs they find important.

## Forest Fun and Bowling



Our junior boarders at Thone House have been enjoying some action-packed weekends, including toasting marshmallows in our Forest School and a trip to Hollywood bowl.

## Year 5 Shelter Building



Our Year 5 pupils have been creating small shelters in the Forest School area to bring their English lessons to life. This linked with our English study text, 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo, where the main characters becomes marooned on a beach and has to construct a shelter. This was fantastic for developing the students' imaginations, creativity, construction skills, and also demonstrates great team building as part of the Otter Award.

## Bird Feeders



In Junior STEM club we have been creating feeding stations for our feathered friends.

### Year 4 linguists present weather



This week Year 4 have been presenting a weather forecast in French which they wrote themselves. They loved being able to show off their French skills to Mr Edwards too. Félicitations Year 4!

### Cooking enrichment's latest dish



Our budding young chefs have been learning to make apple desserts in their enrichment sessions.

### Dragon Building



In Design & Technology, pupils have continued with their dragon building projects, using a range of skills to construct their sculptures.

## Art updates



Our U13 netballs team were runners up at the IAPS tournament, and are through to the nationals - well done girls!

## U10 & U11 netball



## Wake Up Shake Up



As part of Children's Mental Health Week, our dance scholars led Years 3 to 8 in an energetic 'Wake Up Shake Up' session in the playground.

Here are some action shots from our U11B and U10B teams playing Perrott Hill at home earlier this month.

## Y8 netball



Our Year 8 netball team had a great afternoon of matches against King Edward's School Bath. Good luck on the rest of your netball tour everyone!

## South West Schools Cross Country



Taunton School pupils achieved some fantastic results in Chippenham for the South West Schools Cross Country competition. Not only were they a credit to the school, but also represented the county with pride and great determination.

The conditions underfoot were good, but the weather was testing with very cold, strong winds that made running at the front of the group very challenging. This was the first representative colours that many of the TPS pupils had achieved, and they certainly gave it their all!

A special mention has to go to Tom, who came second in a fiercely competitive battle with an athlete from Gloucestershire; Tom set a fast early pace and continued to push hard to the finish.

We're all incredibly proud of how everyone performed, running against the best athletes from all over the South West - well done everybody.

### **Minor Boys (Yr7)**

2nd - Tom  
13th - Lewis  
30th - Harvey  
Somerset Team 2nd

### **Minor Girls (Yr7)**

50th - Rosie  
Somerset Team 4th

### **Junior Girls (Yr8&9)**

46th - Alice  
Somerset Team 4th



### **TS Athletes:**

**Junior Boys (Yr8&9)**  
34th - Oscar  
55th - Charlie  
Somerset Team 5th



### **Intermediate Boys (Yr10&11)**

51st - Jack  
Somerset Team 4th



After regional qualification, our shooting team travelled to Staffordshire on the 8th February for the British National Shooting Championships.

Despite some initial nerves, the pupils achieved some great individual results and should be very proud of themselves. After settling in, we then celebrated a team win!

**Squad** – Emily, Sophia, Zoe, Laura, Rufus, Olivia.

**Individual Results:** Emily 9th, Laura 10th, Zoe 14th, Rufus 16th.

**Team Results:** 1st (Emily, Laura and Zoe) and 5th (Olivia, Sophia, Rufus).

## National Schools Table Tennis



On 6th February, our U11 and U13 boys teams travelled to Bristol to play in the South finals of the competition, where the winning school from the four areas progresses to the National Finals.

U13 Boys Squad: Johnny, Brodie, Jake, Tom (Joshua was ill)

In Taunton's group were RGS Worcester, UCS, London and Reading School. The standard was very high and after some close games, Reading progressed through unbeaten.

U11 Boys Squad: Alex, Benjamin, Santolo, Jamie.

The U11s played Pearl Hyde School Coventry, St Luke's Brighton and Brandlehow from London. The U11s won one match and St Luke's progressed through unbeaten.

This was an amazing achievement - to reach this stage was the result of months of hard work by the players, so a huge well done to our teams.



## U11 IAPS Hockey



On 7th February, 12 prep schools from across the South West travelled to King's for the West Area Finals. After qualifying through the group stage, Taunton School beat Chafyn Grove in the quarters, King's Hall in the semis, then lost to Sherborne in the final during the Golden Goal. We now qualify for the National Finals at Rugby School next month - good luck everybody!

- 1. Henry
- 2. Lucas
- 3. Bertie
- 4. Ben
- 5. James
- 6. Isaac
- 7. Lewis
- 8. Jj