

27th May 2022 #TAUNTONSCHOOL

CHANNEL SWIM TEAM MAKE A SPLASH ON TV

Taunton Prep School was featured on BBCTV this week when news reporter Scott Ellis visited to film the school's long distance swim club as they prepare to break the record for the youngest ever relay team to swim the English Channel.

Watch the video here.









More inside:

- TPS best sporting year in history
- Tes awards for Taunton School
- New library photos
- Foxcombe colour run

Message from the TPS Headmaster



A very warm welcome to this edition of the Courier and I hope that you find the following pages interesting and informative.

During the past three weeks, we have held another in-person Open Morning, and an online Open Morning, and there continues to be a strong demand for our places. For next September, parents wanting places in Years 5, 6, 7 and 8 are having to spend a little time on our waiting list (a place often becomes available before very long), but

there are places currently available for September's Years 3 and 4.

It feels very good for all of us to be part of a school which is in demand, but I want you to know that we will not compromise on our offer of small class sizes. The average across the whole of the Prep School is currently between 18 and 19 pupils per form and we will always do everything we can to avoid having any form of more than 20 pupils (and there are currently no forms with over 20 for next September). In all classes, we monitor very carefully to ensure that all of the pupils are making the very good progress which we all want to see. Should any parents ever have any concerns whatsoever about the academic attainment or progress of their child, we are always more than happy to discuss this with them at any stage of the term.

Next September, the two classes in the current Year 3 will become three classes for the start of Year 4 (with the addition of a number of new joiners). As is always the case in our regular structure, the two classes in the current Year 4 will become three classes for the start of Year 5, and the three classes in the current Year 6 will become four classes for the start of Year 7.

Last week, a very successful transition meeting took place for parents of pupils joining the Prep School into Year 3 in September. We are looking forward to having many of our current Year 7 pupils putting themselves forward to be Junior Leaders for our Year 3 children in September. To have the oldest pupils spending time with, and looking out for, the youngest goes a long way to creating the wonderful family feel which is such an important part of the ethos of our school.

In terms of transition for our current Years 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, there is no need for a meeting for parents, but we will be sending out detailed letters to parents during the second half of term which will provide all of the significant information relating to the next academic year. During the final week of term, we will announce the Form Tutors for next year and we will give the pupils time with their new Form Tutors before the end of the Summer term.

It has been terrific to see the concentration and effort from our pupils during this past week of exams and assessments. Mrs Pike, our Deputy Head Academic, and the teachers have ensured that our pupils have had an excellent preparation and I hope that all the children feel as if they have done themselves justice. Results will be given to pupils and parents after half term. By facing regular tests throughout their time in the Prep School, our pupils develop their revision skills, examination technique, endurance and resilience, all of which gradually build as they move up the school. This ensures that they are well prepared for the exams which they will face in the future. I am sure also that they will all really enjoy a summer half term without the burden of revision.

On the extra-curricular front, we have been seeing an incredible amount of outstanding achievement for Prep School pupils, some of it on the National and International stage, and I hope that you enjoy reading about the sport, the performing arts, and other areas in the rest of this Courier. Very well done to all the pupils for all of their efforts, commitment and ambition. What they are achieving is truly inspirational.

Finally, as I write this, I am very excited about the return of our proper TPS Sports Day (after two disrupted years due to COVID). The friendly rivalry and healthy competition between the houses, which we have seen in other events during the year, will no doubt be very much on display again. I always love to see how the pupils derive so much pleasure, not simply by participating themselves, but by encouraging and supporting their team mates and friends. I hope that you have been able to have the day off work and to be present on Uppers to enjoy the fun.

I wish you and your families a very relaxing and happy half term break, and I look forward to seeing everyone again for the final exciting weeks of the school year.

Mr Andrew Edwards, TPS Headmaster

Diary dates	
Half-term	26th May 2022 - 5th June 2022
Year 8 production - Oliver!	9th June 2022 6:30pm
TSI summer ball	23rd June 2022 from 6:30pm
Parents day	25th June 2022
Moving up day	29th June 2022
Community concert	30th June 2022
Summer activity camps (see Ticketsource)	From 11th July

To find out more about scholarships visit our website: https://www.tauntonschool.co.uk/scholarships-and-assisted-places/ Find our Ticketsource events here: https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool

Message from the Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery



As we get back into our usual stride, we have been delighted to welcome so many of you back into the playground. We have also been busy with hatching chicks and school trips going out to both Puxton Park and Taunton Museum. Thank you to all of you who have placed your Emily Fairweather orders this week, we hope that you were happy with the images.

I have been struck by the children's behaviour and involvement in both the woods and in the outdoors, this week. Healthy, measured risk-taking, problem solving, creativity, self-

reflection and self-discovery all within a natural environment and with the children building resilience and leading their own learning.

Thank you to all the parents who joined the TPS transition evening for Year 3 on Tuesday last week. I hope that you found the event to be informative and reassuring for the next stage of your child's learning journey.

We are also very lucky to be celebrating the children's wider achievements. My congratulations go to all our Pre-Prep arts café performers. All the children should be very proud of their performances and a huge 'well done' to everyone who took part.

We welcome Kirsty Eady to TPPS who is taking over as Admissions Manager. Kirsty has moved from HR where she has been employed for the last 5 years, we wish Kirsty every success and happiness in her new role.

This leads me on to my final paragraph which is filled with so much emotion. I would like to take this opportunity to say an incredibly fond farewell to a very special member of our community. Sarah Launchbury is retiring from Taunton school this week. We wish Sarah every happiness, as she enjoys more time to spend with her family and friends.

Enjoy a lovely half term week with some special Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Mrs Louise Leah, Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery

Taunton Prep School celebrates its best ever year of sports

Taunton Prep School is celebrating its best sporting year in history after its athletic pupils scooped a clutch of awards and trophies in national and regional competitions.

The school has won a string of finals in the past 12 months in a range of sports and age groups, meaning its pupils aged seven to 13 now hold several titles.

These include:

- English schools swimming relay champions (U13 boys' freestyle)
- National champions in hockey (U13 Independent Association of Prep Schools and U13 Independent Schools Hockey Cup)
- West of England champions in hockey (U13 girls)
- National Schools Biathlon champions in biathlon (U12 and U13)
- The record for the youngest relay team in history to swim the English Channel
- British National Shooting Championships winners
- South West winners of the English Schools Cross Country Cup (U13 boys)
- IAPS National Triathlon winner (U10 boys, JJ)
- IAPS National Gold Championships winner (U13, Finley)





Taunton Prep School also holds several silver and bronze medals at national level for swimming, netball and hockey, as well as many individual pupils selected for national squads and development pathways.

Taunton Prep School Headmaster Andrew Edwards said: "The fruits of challenging, nurturing and inspiring pupils are shown in their achievements.

"Pastoral care and personal development are the bedrock for achievement and the fact that we have so many boys and girls who are currently reigning national champions is evidence for the great work being done to support and inspire pupils."

Taunton Prep School pupil Emily Miller, who takes part in a range of sports including hockey, cricket, athletics, riding and netball, said: "I feel very proud to be part of Taunton School and our success in many sports and different age groups."















Taunton School shortlisted for Boarding School of the Year

Taunton School has been shortlisted as one of the best boarding schools in the UK in the 2022 Tes Awards.

We have been recognised for our recent £350,000 investment in its boarding facilities, as well as launching inspiring initiatives including guided meditation sessions and training all of our staff in mental health first aid.

Alongside the award, Taunton School's Chief Operating Officer Nikki Miller has been recognised as a finalist in the 'Best School Business Leader' category for the way the school has handled the global pandemic and for creating a unique pensions scheme for teachers.

The school has been named as a finalist in a number of recent awards, including Muddy Stiletto's 'Originality in Teaching Music and the Arts' and Study Travel's Best European School.

Headmaster Lee Glaser, said, "We are absolutely delighted to have been shortlisted in these notable awards, especially amongst such fantastic schools and school leaders in the UK. Taunton School is a 'home from home' for children from over 40 different countries, and we are incredibly proud to offer an outstanding learning and boarding experience for our students."

Chief Operating Officer Nikki Miller, said, "I am honoured to be nominated for this award and to represent the dedicated support team at Taunton School whose hard work and commitment converted the many projects listed in the citation from concept to reality. The nomination also highlights the privilege we all feel of working for an outstanding school whose core purpose is to create educational opportunities for students from a diverse range of backgrounds."

The Tes awards recognise outstanding initiatives in the UK education sector, including UK state and independent early years settings, primary schools and secondary schools.

The winners will be announced on 17 June 2022.





Musicians hit the right note for charity

Our Prep School pupils took to the stage recently for a very special Performing Arts Café.

Matilda from Year 8 organised the event to raise funds for the Disasters Emergency Committee to support humanitarian aid across the world.

The musical theme continued with the Prep School's spring concert in the chapel last Friday.

Well done to everyone who took part.











Children get hands-on at Puxton Park







The children in Pre-Prep and Nursery recently enjoyed a class trip to Puxton Park.

They had a wonderful time feeding the horses and goats, exploring the milking parlour and taking a ride around the farm on a tractor.

The children have also been incubating eggs which have now hatched into three baby chicks.

Meet Aadya, the new Pupil Librarian



Congratulations to Year 5 bookworm Aadya who is Taunton Prep School's new Pupil Librarian. We're sure Aadya, 10, will do a fantastic job of helping other pupils finding books and advising them on what makes a great read. Aadya's ambition is to star in a movie adaptation of one of her favourite books, Inkheart by Cornelia Funke. We hope to see her on the big screen in the future!

Getting busy on Saturdays















Years 3-6 have been enjoying a range of activities in our Saturday enrichment programme. Here are some internal and external pupils getting creative in their first performing arts, design and technology, and art sessions.

Van Gogh week is out of this world









As part of Year 2's Van Gogh topic the children have been finding out about the planet Venus. They have looked carefully at the layout of information texts and have made Venus posters with eye-catching sub headings and text boxes to make their writing interesting.

Aquarium trip is a day to treasure









Reception children enjoyed a trip to Bristol aquarium to support their 'deep sea treasure' topic. They saw turtles, starfish, catfish, jellyfish, sharks and even got to feed the sting rays.

Radical Rainforests and pretty parrots















Year 4 children designed their own parrots as part of their 'Radical Rainforests' project. They also researched some interesting facts about Rainforest parrots, including their diet, survival adaptations and those species that face extinction.

French fashion fans take to the catwalk

Year 4 had their French fashion show at the end of April. They each presented their favourite sport wearing the clothes for that activity. Many of the children learnt their words off by heart and every child spoke in French with confidence.





Monster fun









There were scary happenings in the Prep school recently when some Year 5 pupils created their own clay monsters.

Rotten Romans















To end their Roman topic, Year 3 visited New Barn Field Centre in Dorchester where they were put to work grinding wheat to make flour, whisking cream to make butter and squashing leaves to make oil for medicine. To round off a very sunny day, the children used a scraper to draw a Celtic or Roman picture on a piece of chalk and they used small clay tiles to create a Roman mosaic.

Charity day



Taunton Prep School hosted a charity day on Friday 20th May, which included an early morning Wake Up Shake Up and an auction of paintings by pupils in Years 7 and 8.



Royal portraits for Jubilee



As part of their topic, Castles and Beanstalks, Year 1 have been learning about Queen Elizabeth II. To mark her 96th birthday this Platinum Jubilee year, they painted portraits of the Queen using watercolours ready to display in their very own royal portrait gallery.

Cartoon characters





Pictured are Year 6 pupils completing and testing their electronic cartoon characters.

Winners of the house poetry competition

There were some beautifully written entries for the recent House poetry competition. The following pupils won their House category and were awarded a £5 to spend at the Scholastic Book Fair this week.



Roberts

Winning entry: Ellie L (6G)

Highly commended: Aymeric D-F (4F) and Siddu C (5H)



Cooper

Winning entry: Jesser B-C (3R)

Highly commended: Emily R (7B) and Olivia D (7V)



Dowell

Winning entry: Robbie E (8M)

Highly commended: Chloe H (7C) Barnaby R (4F) and Henry S (5H)



Loveday

Winning entry: Sophia O (5H)

Highly commended: Alex L (7V)

School council writes prayer

TPS School Council enjoyed their take away fish and chips lunch for what was a highly productive meeting with Rev. Getman today, making excellent progress in writing our TPS prayer.





Easter holiday club











Pre-Prep pupils got creative over the break at the Easter holiday club, making their own Easter cards and hats. They also took part in an egg hunt, baking, swimming and lots outdoors play.

Medieval marvel for castle explorers













Year 1 children were very excited to walk to Taunton Castle and Museum for a Castle Explorers workshop. The children enjoyed exploring the remaining parts of Taunton Castle and spotted features that they have learnt about in school, including arrow slit windows, battlements and the thick castle wall. They also had fun dressing up in medieval costumes and designing their own shield. The children were fascinated to feel the weight of a real helmet and chainmail armour.

Pyramids and amulets











The Somerset Heritage Learning Trust visited Year 3 to talk to pupils about ancient Egypt recently. The children found out information about pyramids, archaeologists and much more. During the morning session, the children made date bread, painted their own scarab amulet and became archaeologists searching for and categorising Egyptian artefacts.

Grange trip to Adrenaline Quarry

The sun was shining for an action-packed day for the Grange students at Adrenaline Quarry in Cornwall, where they did all kinds of jumps, flips and tricks, and completed the inflatable assault course across the lake.

Friday night fun at The Grange









Boarders at The Grange baked cheesecakes as one of their evening activities this month. Students have enjoyed lots of exciting activities every night including smoothie nights, cricket and volleyball matches, baking, and cinema trips on a Friday.

Kind-hearted pupils raise funds for refugees



Prep school pupils and staff donated £728 to RAFT to raise money to help refugees recently. The money was raised though a jumble sale and mufti day in March. Pictured are volunteers heading to Afghanistan with a shipment of clothing, medical supplies and blankets, paid for by the fundraiser.

Outdoor fun at Skern Lodge

The students had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Skern Lodge where they enjoyed a range of activities including abseiling, climbing, kayaking, archery and crabbing.

Surf's up for Year 5 in Cornwall

Year 5 pupils spent three days in Cornwall recently where they visited Land's End, St Michael's Mount and The Eden Project. They also spent time at Carbis Bay enjoying some water sports activities. The children had to show positivity, leadership, teamwork and resilience with all the activities which were completed. They enjoyed spending time with their friends and learning about the different geographical elements of Cornwall.











Students raise dough for charity







Students at The Grange celebrated National Doughnut Week, which is a nationwide event that raises money for The Children's Trust. They raised some 'dough' for the charity through a doughnut and hot chocolate sale at break time.

They also took this as an opportunity to sit down with their friends, have a chat and check in with each other, to raise awareness of students' mental health. Some of the money they raised will also be donated to MIND, a charity that supports people with mental health issues.

Take a look at our students enjoying their doughnuts!

Coleridge Cottage brings poetry to life











Year 7 pupils enjoyed a school trip to bring their English lessons to life last week. They followed in the footsteps of poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, visiting Coleridge Cottage, Watchet Harbour and the Watchet Boat Museum.

Phones and tones

Hi will Kinem Kinem



Pictured are Year 7 pupils composing music for mobile ringtones and alarms, under the guidance of Prep and Senior school staff.

Young techies create bucking broncos





The DT enrichment group completed the electronic bucking bronco project with a soldered circuit and an off-centre mass to create the bucking action.

A little bit of cluck at TSIMS







Pupils at The Grange have been looking after the latest addition to The Grange family this month – chickens. Each week, the students clean out the coop, collect any eggs and make sure the feed is topped up.

They've also been growing some vegetables including carrots, green beans, and a variety of salad leaves.

Foxcombe colour run

























Students in Foxcombe house and The Grange took part in the first ever colour run to raise money for Mind in Somerset and to commemorate Mental Health Awareness Week and its theme of tackling loneliness.

Watch a video from the event here.

Wellbeing Hub Parent Workshop

A message from Mrs Hall-Tomkin

After discussing "Motivation" in the last session, this week we discussed emotional regulation, using one of the online articles from the Hub; "Helping Our Children Manage Their Emotional Outbursts" by Julia Philpott. This generated as lot of helpful discussion. She talked about using the LENS approach

- *Listen stop what you are doing, look at your child and listen
- * Empathise nod and make encouraging sounds but don't say anything
- * Notice and name the feeling it sounds as if you are disappointed etc...
- * Stop talking!

This avoids us depriving children of being able to recognise their own feelings. For instance, how often have we replied to, "I'm hungry", with, "you can't be you've just had dinner!"

This session built on the last one as it once again highlighted the importance of naming feelings in ultimately building resilience. Please do read the article yourself if you wish at <u>TPS Parent</u> Wellbeing Hub — TS & TPS Intranet (tauntonschool.co.uk)

We next meet on Saturday 18th June from 8.30 – 9.15am in W7 where there will be a breakfast of orange juice, croissants/pastries and coffee. Please could you email the school office to indicate your attendance and to give us an idea of numbers for catering purposes.

In the previous session week we watched and discussed the 2-12's talk on "Motivation". This discussed the use of positive praise and we all found it useful; it was an interactive session so a lot of discussion was had and we also thought a lot about our own children. We were asked to write down 3 adjectives to describe each of our children which really made us think. Alicia pointed out that how we think about our children, affects how we treat them and there is a danger in labelling our children.

Alicia discussed comments we make in terms of "warm fuzzies" (positives) and "cold pricklies" (negatives) in terms of the language we use to children when trying to change or encourage behaviour to be more positive. She highlighted motivating children by highlighting the positive, using descriptive praise and adding a quality to it e.g. "Thank you for tidying your room, that was really helpful". This then reinforces expectations and also encourages both resilience and a resistance to peer pressure. It also ultimately, allows children to motivate themselves.

Five top tips were;

- Avoid labels
- Highlight the positive
- Notice when they get it "right"
- · Comment out loud
- · Attach a quality to descriptive praise.

Please do watch the talk yourself if you wish at <u>TPS Parent</u> Wellbeing Hub — TS & TPS Intranet (tauntonschool.co.uk)

Joanna Hall-Tomkin Deputy Head Pastoral

Foundation update by Jack Clark



This year the Foundation has seen an unprecedented number of new donors as parents and alumni have generously come together to thank Lee Glaser for his leadership of the school over the last eight years. The <u>Leave Your Mark</u> campaign now has over 100 supporters and is nearing its target of raising £75,000 for the new library and sixth form. If you want to thank the Headmaster, as well as add your name, or that of a loved one, to the new library you can read more about it on <u>our website</u>.

Everyone who gives to the 'Leave Your Mark' campaign or who has made another donation to the school is will be very welcome at a special drinks reception on the 30th June (5-6pm). The drinks reception will be followed by an outdoor concert on the Front. If you have not yet received your invitation and have given a donation to the school or plan to do so then please do get in touch.

Recently I spoke with Upper Sixth leavers about the work of the Foundation and becoming Old Tauntonians (OT). Everyone who has studied at the school is an OT and welcome to attend special events and reunions, reconnecting with old friends and teachers. This summer we have a number of events for OTs, starting on the 28th May with a cricket match in memory of an OT (Matthew Compton, 1983-87, Wills West) followed by a dinner. There will also be a 10-year reunion for OTs who left in 2010, 2011 & 2012. For more information please do get in touch.

To celebrate the school's 175th anniversary next year, there will be a varied programme of events for parents, students and OTs. The first event is a 100km cycle ride, 20 staff and parents have signed up for the challenge so far, including our new Headmaster, James Johnson. If you would like to know more about the event or to join the practice rides then get in touch.

The Foundation supports the whole of the Taunton School community. We provide opportunities for parents and OTs to connect with the school, and we raise funds for essential projects and means-tested Assisted Places. With our 175th anniversary around the corner there is no better time to engage with the school. If you want to know more about any of these areas then please do get in touch.

Jack Clark Foundation Director

Jack.clark@tauntonschool.org.uk

New library images released

We are delighted to announce the designs for our new library. The construction, which is taking place in what was known as the lower dining room, will provide our students with a much larger and brighter space to read, collaborate and study.

The new library will be in the heart of the school and after consultations across the student body we have chosen a modern design that reflects their needs and wishes.

The work for this exciting project has already started and is due to be finished for use by autumn 2022. There are naming opportunities for parents and OTs 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 <u>JustGiving Page</u> or get in touch with our Foundation Director, Jack Clark, at <u>Jack</u>. Clark@tauntonschool.co.uk.







Join us for a 100km bike ride and help launch our 175th anniversary celebrations

Join us for a 100km bike ride and help launch our 175th anniversary celebrations

On Sunday 25th September, cyclists from Taunton School's community, including James Johnson the incoming Headmaster, are planning to ride 100km to launch our celebrations for the school's 175th anniversary. This enjoyable community challenge will start and finish at school with celebratory hospitality at the finish. We will have the support of a team car but all riders will need to make sure they have the right equipment to complete the ride.

We are keen to identify those who might be interested so that we can start planning and organizing practice rides over the summer. Although this is a ride not a race, riders will be expected to have suitable equipment, fitness and the experience to complete the 100km route.

Riders will be asked to raise £175, with all donations going towards the Taunton School Foundation.

If you are interested in taking part, or to find out more, please contact the Foundation Director, Jack Clark, at jack.clark@tauntonschool.co.uk or ring +44 1823703159.









TAUNTON SCHOOL

EVENT CALENDAR

Saturday 23rd July £28 per person	Bake Off The Professionals, with Michael Coggan, Winner 2020 A masterclass in pastry with afternoon tea
Friday 12th August £19.50 per person	Pop Up Cinema Night & Street Food An evening of classic movies, Grease followed by Dirty Dancing
Saturday 20th August £24.50 per person	Evening Lawn Party with DT8 Live With hog roast and bar
Sunday 21st August £24.50 per person	Jazz & Swing Afternoon Live jazz band, bar and hog roast
Thursday 1st September Free tickets, Registration essential	Wedding Open Evening Explore our facilities, meet the wedding team and our recommended suppliers
December: Thursday 15th, Friday 16th, Saturday 17th, Sunday 18th From £33 per person	Christmas Party Nights Welcome cocktail, three-course meal, disco and fun casino

For more information and to book tickets please visit our website:

www.tauntonschoolenterprises.co.uk

Email events@tauntonschool.co.uk Phone 01823 703111

U13 boys' rugby 7s





Downs Festival

The U13 boys had an eventful day at the 49th annual rugby 7s competition held at the Downs School. The boys progressed through to the plate competition having placed runners-up in their group, going on to face Dulwich, Cheltenham and Colstons. Well done to the boys for finishing in 6th place overall.

Millfield Festival

The U13 boys travelled to Millfield to compete in another rugby 7s festival. Here they topped their group, beating Farleigh Prep, Hampshire, Stoneyhurst Prep, Lancashire and Aysgarth Prep, to qualify for the Cup Competition group stages. The boys would go on to face some tough competition, yet fought hard to grasp a well earnt 4th place. A very impressive performance from everyone involved.



IAPS Clay Pigeon Shooting

Although Rufus and I have been clay shooting since we were about ten this was going to be our first competition together, we were excited and a little nervous. We had to wake up at the crack of dawn to drive to the West London Shooting School, the oldest in England. After the health and safety check it was finally time to shoot. Rufus and I pulled the short straw and had to shoot first, starting the competition off. There were five stands, at each stand there were ten clays to shoot. The clays were sent up in pairs with a different combination of style at each stand. Sometimes coming from the left and or the right, straight up and falling as well as a running clay along the ground. It meant it was a test of all around shooting ability. We both felt we shot well throughout the day but we didn't necessarily know how anyone else was doing as there were over 100 competitors in the under 13 age group. When we heard our names called out as the winners of our section we were gob smacked! It was really exciting to win an IAPS gold medal especially as the school has never been represented at the IAPS clay pigeon shooting championships before. It certainly made the five hour journey home a little easier! We really enjoyed our day and would like to thank our dads for driving and supporting us.

Report by Charlie V.







Sport round-up







2nd XI cricket













Combined sports





Thursday 9th June & Friday 10th June at 6.30pm

Venue: Taunton School Theatre