



TAUNTON  
SCHOOL

# Senior School COURIER

6th April 2022

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

## HOCKEY STARS BREAK RECORD



Taunton School is celebrating this week after becoming the first school in history to have three teams in the final of a national schools' hockey competition.

To add to the accolade, the U13 hockey team came 1st in the competition, Inspiresport's Independent Schools' Hockey Cup, while the U15 team came 2nd and U19 came 4th.

[Read the full story here](#)



More inside:

- Photos of the new library unveiled
- It all adds up for maths whiz Maksim
- Chess team reach regionals in championships



## Diary dates

<b>Whole School Open Morning</b>	2nd May 2022 9.30am-12.30pm
<b>A Midsummer Night's Dream</b>	10th-12th May 2022 7pm
<b>An Evening with Nigel Owens MBE</b>	21st May 2022 7:30pm
<b>Upper Sixth Leavers 'Platinum Ball'</b>	1st July 2022 7pm

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/>

Find our Ticketsource events here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool>

## Taunton School shortlisted for international award



Taunton School has been announced as a finalist in the 2022 StudyTravel Ltd Secondary School Awards.

Voted for by agents and education partners, we have been named as one of five finalists out of thousands of schools in Europe.

The winners will be announced on April 25th. [Read more here.](#)

## CCF dinner



Here are some photos of the CCF Mess Dinner which took place in the Densham Suite before Easter. In keeping with tradition, students in the sixth form got suited and booted for a three-course dinner, with Year 12 students serving Year 13 students and staff.



## Photos of the new library unveiled

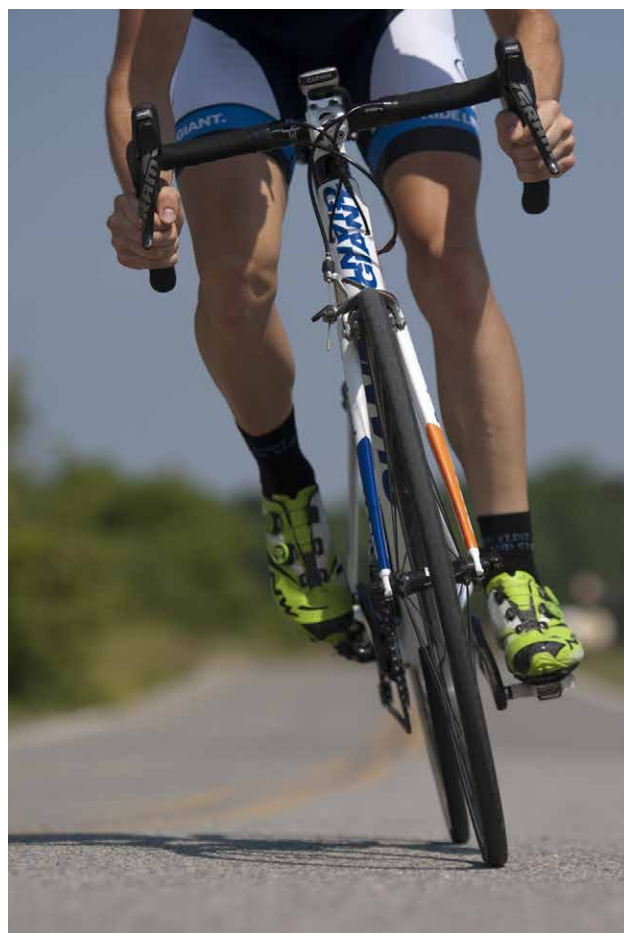


We are delighted to reveal the designs for our new library. The construction, which is taking place in what was known as the Lower Dining Room, will provide our students with a much larger and brighter space to read, collaborate and study.

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 [JustGiving Page](#) or get in touch with our Foundation Director, Jack Clark, at [jack.clark@tauntonschool.co.uk](mailto:jack.clark@tauntonschool.co.uk)

## 100km bike ride for 175th anniversary



Incoming Headmaster James Johnson will join a team of cyclists from the Taunton School community to ride 100km to launch the school's 175th anniversary celebrations.

The teams are looking for more riders to take part in the September challenge, which will end with a celebration at the finish line.

Foundation Director Jack Clark said: *"We are keen to identify those who might be interested so we can start planning and organising practice rides over the summer. Although this is a ride, not a race, riders are expected to have suitable equipment, fitness and experience to complete the 100km route."*

Anyone interested in taking part can contact Mr Clark at [jack.clark@tauntonschool.co.uk](mailto:jack.clark@tauntonschool.co.uk) or call 01823 703159.

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

**JustGiving**



## Year 9 and 10 trip to Dear Evan Hansen

Our Year 9 and 10 musicians were delighted to attend a live performance of the multi-award winning musical 'Dear Evan Hansen' at the Noel Coward Theatre in London's glittering West End. They also had the privilege of meeting up with OT Chris Ma, Associate Musical Director of the show.

The show boasts major accolades including a Tony award for 'Best Musical' and a Grammy for 'Best Musical Theatre Album'.

It was truly inspiring to hear the major musical theatre anthems 'Waving through a Window' and 'You Will Be Found', which have both been put on by the school, being performed by the original cast.



## Science and maths quiz



The science faculty's Student Academic Leader, Kris, organised and ran a science and maths pub quiz which was won by Kalani, Mochi and Felix.

## Lisk History Quiz



Jenkin became the first girls' house to win the annual Lisk History Quiz since its introduction in 2018, narrowly beating the Weirfield team to receive the accolade. The lively and entertaining inter-house event, organised by the Lisk Committee, saw grit and determination from all the house teams. Well done to everyone involved.



## Chess team reach regionals in championships

Taunton School's chess team is through to the South West final of the prestigious Times National Schools Chess Championships.

After another enjoyable tussle against Churchill Academy, Taunton's chess coach, Mr Jamie Beviss, said: *"All of our players played superbly well under pressure, showing huge amounts of concentration, skill and composure. They practise hard and deserve the chance to now play in the final and win the South West title."*

Seventeen-year-old Mark, the Taunton School captain from Fivehead, said: *"The match was close and we can't wait to play Torquay Boys' Grammar School in the final."*

Taunton School has chess clubs in the Prep School, International Schools and the Senior School, with the more advanced players in all sections of the school coming together to look at strategy and skills with a specialist coach.

[Read the full story here.](#)



## Weirfield Easter Egg Hunt

Easter came early to Weirfield House this year with girls from every year group taking part in the hotly anticipated annual egg hunt. Over 200 eggs were hidden around the school site and the girls enjoyed searching for them almost as much as eating the chocolate. What a lovely way to round off the term and enjoy the spring sunshine.





## Debating

Congratulations to the Junior Debating Team who took part in the regional finals of the ESU Public Speaking Competition at Colston's School. Caleb, Georgina and Katrina had stormed their way through all the earlier rounds, winning Best Chair and Best Speaker at every stage. The run up to the regional finals was fraught with difficulty as Covid caught out Caleb and led to a brilliant last-minute recruit in the shape of Marni, who wrote an excellent speech on whether Britain should apologise for empire and stepped onto the ESU stage for the first time as Speaker at Colston's School, facing numerous questions with precision and poise. Katrina as always made an engaging and intelligent Chair, doing a brilliant job of supporting her Speaker on the topic of sweat-shop clothing, while Georgina surpassed herself as Questioner and ended up being awarded runner-up prize.

Mrs Commings said: *"This is a very young team to be attending the competition at this level and I hope they will all be taking up the same the opportunity next year with more experience under their belts. Well done all of you for such a great performance."*



## Ukraine discussion

The History Department hosted lunchtime presentations and discussions this week in response to the events in Ukraine. Robert delivered an illuminating presentation, expertly outlining the historical complexities and background to the crisis; on both occasions, it was standing room only for students and staff who did not arrive early.

Meanwhile other Department members hosted a discussion examining more closely the current situation and future possibilities. Head of History, Mark Chatterton, said: 'The maturity of the students attending was striking: the rich international mix ensured that a wide range of views was represented but, despite some strongly held personal opinions, everybody who spoke was listened to with respect, reflecting great credit on the tolerant atmosphere prevailing among the diverse Taunton School community.'

## Global Outlook



Introducing our new Global Outlook Committee!

With the aims of appreciating the culture and worldview of ourselves and others, and of shining a light on global issues, students from across the senior school have come together to launch the committee's vision of: *"open-mindedness, being willing to act and being unified in the actions we take"*.

The Senior Courier

## Sixth form Shakespeare trip



Sixth form English literature students had a brilliant time at Stratford watching Akika strut her stuff as the captivating Beatrice in the RSC production of 'Much Ado About Nothing'.



## Getting arty



Here are some Year 9 artists enjoying a lesson, presenting artist research in their sketchbooks.

## Drop Everything and Read!



All Houses took part in the DEAR (Drop Everything And Read!) initiative, aimed at improving oral literacy skills. Mr Kirtland said: *"It was fantastic to see everyone taking part and getting lost in their favourite book or article."*

## New pastoral leaders for TSI



Meet the new International Student Pastoral Leaders. The SPLs play an enormous role in the smooth running of the Foxcombe Houses and are involved deeply in the pastoral side of wellbeing in their houses. **SPL boys** - Ong, Oleg, Luc. **SPL girls** - Yue, Costanza, Liza.



## It all adds up for maths whiz Maksim



Sixteen-year-old Year 11 Taunton School student Maksim has been named in the top 6% of school mathematicians in the UK after achieving a gold award in the UK Mathematics Challenge. Of all the students that took part, Maksim's score of 121 points was the best across the whole of Taunton School.

Elsewhere in the school, 13 other students also achieved gold awards, which means they performed in the top 6-7% of the entrants across the UK and qualified for a higher-level challenge round. These students included:

- Year 9 Rohan
- Year 10 Shafin
- Year 10 Jack
- Year 10 Oscar
- Year 10 Alan
- Year 10 Timofei
- Year 11 Jasmine
- Year 11 Derrick
- Year 11 Lily
- Year 11 Mochi
- Year 11 Kris
- Year 11 Eric
- Year 11 Tony

The UK Maths Challenge is a 60-minute, multiple-choice examination where the problems are designed to encourage mathematical reasoning and precision of thought. Generally, only 50% of students who enter this exam gain an award across the UK. At Taunton School, 81% of Taunton School students gained an award this year. [Read the full story here.](#)

## Weirfield girls support Children's Mental Health Week



Weirfield took part in various activities to support Children's Mental Health Week and raise awareness of the importance of children and young people's mental health. The week started with 'Positive Post-Its' where the House Prefects decorated the mirrors with positive and encouraging messages, leading the girls to take 'Self-Love Selfies' with their friends to share on social media.

Tuesday was 'Hygge in a Mug', with the girls enjoying a cosy night in with homemade hot chocolate with all the toppings. This was followed by 'Wellbeing Wednesday' with Mrs Harper running a guided meditation session for the Weirfield girls. Thursday was all about baking therapy, a chance for the girls to enjoy the comfort of baking brownies before enjoying them together.

## Taunton cricketers visit Sri Lanka with Somerset County Cricket Club

Five Taunton School cricket players and one recent Old Tauntonian were given the opportunity to play at the international cricket stadium in Sri Lanka with Somerset County Cricket Club.

The students, who represent the U18s Girls, Academy and U15s Boys teams with SCC, travelled to the country in South Asia to play a series of test matches and experience different conditions and climates.

Cricket tours are an important part of academy-level cricket training, and Taunton's Cricket Club are exploring the possibility of future tours to the UAE or Sri Lanka next year.



Taunton School Year 10 student and SCC U15 player Kian said, "Playing in Sri Lanka was a wonderful experience – particularly playing at the Rangiri Dambulla international stadium. I learnt that playing against spin, you need to move really well to either get to the pitch of the ball or get off the ball to play it on the back foot. The things that I really enjoyed were being able to see what the lifestyle was like for Sri Lankans and being able to see what they did in their everyday lives."



## Girls' Under 15s reach final of Lady Taverners National Cup

The U15 girls secured their spot in the final of the national Lady Taverners indoor cricket competition after winning the county semi-final at King Edward's School, Bath.

Up against a strong King Edward's side, Taunton got off to a shaky start. Yet the situation would soon be rescued, with some significant scores made by Marina and Allyssa, and the girls setting a total of 85 to win. Some crucial fielding followed, with Brooke bowling the perfect over, Millie taking two wickets, and a wicket a piece for Zoe and Lucy, leading to a comfortable win over the home team.

The girls went on to face King's Taunton. Despite a strong start to the Taunton innings, the score was only 76, meaning a very good bowling effort was required. The girls showed great resilience and composure throughout a tight innings, with King's only needing 10 off 12 balls. A reluctant Allyssa took three wickets in the final over when only two runs were required, and some excellent fielding work from the entire team meant Taunton pulled off a spectacular victory by just 1 run.



## Equestrian news



Congratulations to the 70 team who won their class at Bicton last month, and to Fliss who won the 1.10m class.



## Netball news



Taunton School had a busy few weeks in netball in the run-up to Easter, with teams competing against Bristol Grammar, Bryanston and West Buckland as well as the County Cup and Taunton School's own house netball competition.



## Taunton School hosts rugby 7s event



## Girls' football



Taunton School's girls' football team played Wellington recently. They put up a good fight but were outperformed by an on-form Wellington team.

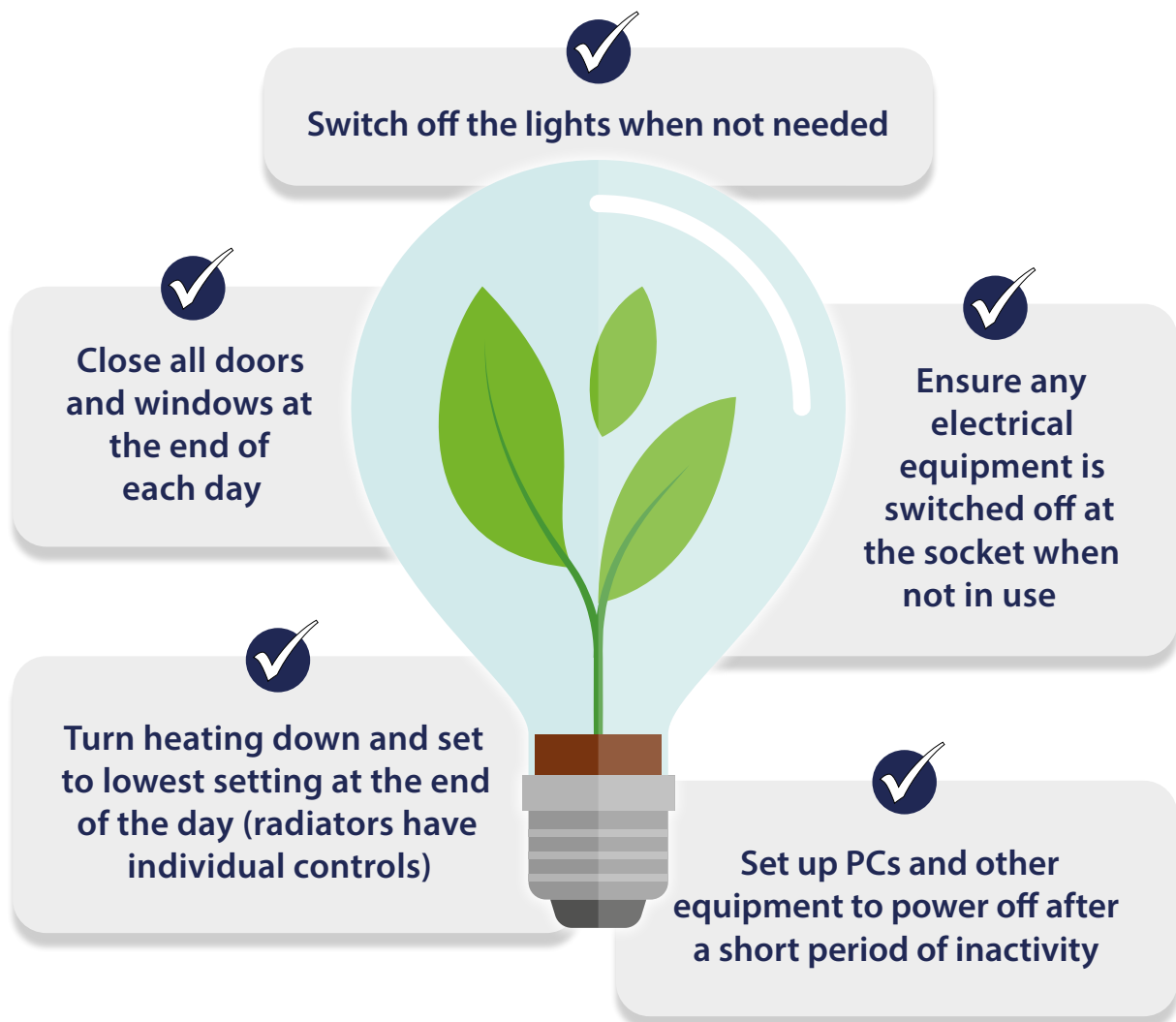


Taunton School recently hosted the U18 West of England Rugby 7s tournament. Here are some photos from the event.





# ENERGY SAVING



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Be smart, **switch off.**