



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

Senior School COURIER

8th July 2022

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

COMMEMORATION DAY



Parents and friends gathered on the green in front of Taunton School to celebrate another outstanding academic year with prizes and awards given to students across all year groups. Take a look at photos from the day on page 4 and watch a highlights video of the last week of term here:

[Video link](#)



Mr Glaser's farewell message



After 13 years dedicated to Taunton School, CEO and Headmaster Mr Glaser delivered a touching speech in this year's Commemoration service. Read his farewell message on page 3 as he moves on to pastures new. The Taunton School community wishes Mr Glaser the best of luck in this new endeavours.

More inside:

- England Hockey Selections
- Year 11 Prom

- Activity weeks
- Meeting Mr Johnson

On This Day - Taunton School Open Ceremony

This month we celebrated the opening ceremony of the Taunton School Staplegrove site on the 14th June 1870. The ceremony involved a procession from the old school site on Wellington Road to the new site led by a fire and drum band. Although it definitely looks a little different today, we are proud of the heritage of the school and love looking back at old photos from the archives.



Summer Events

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 23rd July | Afternoon tea and pastry masterclass with Michael Coggan, winner of Bake Off: The Professionals |
| 12th August | Our very first Pop-Up Cinema Night with classic movies and tasty street food. |
| 20th August | An evening of live music with DT8 Live on the front lawn of Taunton School – complete with a hog roast and bar. |
| 21st August | A jazz and swing afternoon and hog roast with All Jazzed Up performing on the main stage. |

These events are open to all – visit our website to find out more details.

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

The Senior Courier

Farewell message from Mr Glaser



One really important aspect of school life that has always been good but that has improved significantly recently is "student voice". We need to hear your views.

Some of the most memorable moments this year have involved members of our community speaking openly about their own journeys, their own anxieties and how they have overcome them. I have found these moments very moving.

Two, however, have stood out. Kate, Polina and Roman talking to us about their recent experiences in Ukraine and most recently a number of our Lower Sixth Students delivered a really powerful presentation on reproductive rights in light of the US Supreme Court's recent decision.

Students – use your voice – be heard. You have spoken loudly this year about LGBTQ rights, about the rights of everyone no matter their sexuality, gender, race or belief. About anxiety, about injustice. About war, About reproductive rights. Be loud. Be challenging. In the pursuit of a better world – be difficult.

Contribute – not just in our community but beyond. Be a changemaker!

I offer the following advice to our Upper Sixth leavers:

Avoid negativity – being negative and negative people. Life's too short to hang around with people who bring you down.

Treat everyone with kindness – and I mean everyone. It means a huge amount to people. I might be the Headmaster but it doesn't make me better than anyone else. I love the fact that one of my colleagues always says "alright mate" as he goes past. It's an honour being considered as a mate to John and it indicates a community that is at ease with itself.

Have Fun – life is there to be enjoyed.

Accept a compliment – when someone says you look great it is because you look great. Don't say "no I don't I look awful". Simply say "thanks"

My advice to everyone is communicate kindly, even if you are telling someone something they don't want to hear.

Everyone has been so kind and generous and I want to thank everyone for the lovely presents that I have received and the donations to our Leave Your Mark campaign.

This community is amazing. When I meet prospective students with their parents I say that I hope they will find a warm, welcoming, together community. No clones. No robots. Everyone is comfortable being themselves. But alongside this warmth I want you to see hardworking and ambitious teachers and students. That is what we aim for and visitors always report back that this is exactly what they find.

Keep working hard, keep aiming high and keep looking after each other. In the words of our chaplain – enjoy your wild and precious lives.

It has been an honour and a privilege to work at this wonderful school.

Mr Lee Glaser, TS Headmaster



Commemoration Day



Meeting Mr Johnson



We were pleased to welcome Mr Johnson on site, our new headmaster for September 2022. Mr Johnson met with students and staff from across the school and stayed for some photographs. We look forward to him joining Taunton School later in the year for the autumn term.



Taunton ACF Probationary instructor training

Tom Yap has passed a 2-day training course to become a Probationary Instructor for the Taunton ACF and another course, which enables him to handle and look after ammunition up to a calibre of 20mm. Well done Tom.



Biology Challenge

Well done to Greg Klimczak-Gange (Year 9), Monique Du Toit (Year 9), Caleb Hickling (Year 9) and Zoe Maynard (Year 10) for being selected to take part in the National Biology Challenge, and congratulations to Greg and Monique for obtaining silver medals, placing them in the top 10% of UK biologists.

IB Exmoor Biology trip



Lower Sixth IB biology students headed to Exmoor and North Somerset on a field trip to study different areas of their ecology topic. This included learning more about biodiversity and ecosystem management, such as the preservation of peatlands to protect the environment against the effects of climate change.

A Level Biology

Our A Level biology students turned the laboratory into a biotechnology centre. They made bread, yoghurt and cider to examine how microorganisms are used in food production.



PSHEE Subject of Loneliness

In PSHEE this term, students have been tackling the subject of loneliness. This idea came from a member of Student Voice who wanted Year 12 students to be trained in how to talk to younger pupils across the school. Together we've been discussing reasons for feeling lonely and shared practical tips to adopt when mentoring and supporting younger pupils, as well as advice for themselves.

This forms part of our peer mentoring initiative, encouraging students to be proactive in both offering and seeking support. Student wellbeing is embedded at the very heart of our school, so we can strive to create a safe, secure and happy environment where every pupil feels comfortable to talk.

TSI Prize Giving

It was wonderful to welcome parents and friends to the Taunton School International Prize Giving ceremony and lunch. Students received their end of year certificates and prizes for outstanding achievement and effort this academic year.



TSI beach trip

To celebrate the end of the school year, the international students in Foxcombe house took a weekend trip to the beach, where they enjoyed some coasteering and surfing.

[Watch a video from the trip here](#)

Green Power Challenge

A group of students in the senior school competed at Preannack Airfield in an F24 Green Power race. As a team, they designed, built and raced the car, powered only by electricity, which they have named 'Tigris'. The team looks forward to racing Tigris again next year.



Metal detecting

Two of our Taunton School chefs have unearthed a haul of historical finds on our campus after taking up metal detecting during the pandemic.

Neil McKellar and Peter Council, who between them have worked in Taunton School's kitchens for over 30 years, have found many interesting artefacts, including a Victorian Golden Jubilee token from 1887.

The chefs make sure to share their finds with students and staff in our history department that everyone can learn about what life was like at Taunton School hundreds of years ago.

The pair are looking for new places to dig in the county and hope that their story will help to inspire others to take up 'beeping' in the future.

Neil says 'Metal detecting is such an interesting hobby, and we feel lucky that we work for a place that is so happy for us to explore our passion and learn more about the history of our county and the school. Finding these lost relics is so exciting; it makes you wonder who or what was happening when that object was dropped into the earth.'

Taunton School's Head of Estates Terry Harris says 'Any opportunity to be curious is encouraged here at Taunton School, and we are so pleased that Neil and Peter have been able to find some fascinating pieces of history in our school campus.'



Reading Challenge

Gold Challenge: Read one book for every week of the holiday. Keep a reading record and write at least one 200-500 word review, telling a friend why you would or would not recommend one of them.

Silver Challenge: Read one book for every 2 weeks of the holiday. Rank the books in order of preference and say why you have picked your favourite and least favourite.

Entries to Ms Kitchen or Miss Lockwood – typed, handwritten or emailed – by 4pm September 9th 2022. Good luck.

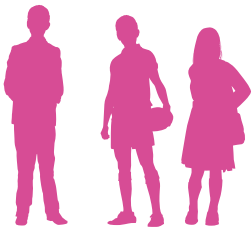
Leave Your Mark campaign

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 parent for a way of thanking Headmaster and CEO Mr Glaser, who is leaving Taunton School at the end of this term.

For more information about the projects or to make your donation please visit our JustGiving page. [Leaving your mark at Taunton School - JustGiving](#)

JustGiving™

Fees refund scheme



Fees Refund Scheme

Secure a Refund if Your Child is off School due to Illness or Injury

[click here for more information](#)

Optional Insurance

Parents are reminded that Personal Effects Insurance is available and covers a total sum insured to any one pupil £5,000.

Contact the finance department for more information.

[Personal effects insurance](#)

L6 History Trip to Wells and Glastonbury

Just before half term, the Year 12 history students embarked upon the annual history trip to Wells and Glastonbury.

Beginning with a rainy stop in Wells, the students visited what many regard as the most beautiful cathedral in the country, admiring its scissor arches, beautiful stained glass, stiff leaf carving, astronomical clock and chapter house, before walking through the C14th Vicars' Close and enjoying lunch in the Bishop's Palace and Garden.

The weather perked up for an exploration of the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey, followed by the traditional singing competition in the Abbey grounds during which Late Modern block C's rendition of the Blackadder-inspired theme of 'The baby-eating Bishop of Bath and Wells' triumphed.

It was great to take a break from the classroom with such a receptive group of students.

Pride Month Chapel

In celebration of June being Pride Month, the LGBTQIA+ Society led a pride chapel service with sixth form students Charlie and Moni. Charlie was asked about his thoughts on what pride means to him:

'For me, pride is the celebration of a more accepting world in which you can be yourself, but a time of personal reflection, where I can look at my experiences and actions to see if I can make more of a positive change. It is a time where everyone can acknowledge that equal is ok.'

Taunton School is proud to be an inclusive community that advocates diversity within its members. It is great to see the rainbow flag on campus.



EPQ visit to University Centre Somerset Library at Bridgwater and Taunton College

The Lower Sixth EPQ pupils visited the University Centre Somerset Library at Bridgwater and Taunton College to explore a wide range of academic articles and videos that relate to their EPQ topics. For most of the students, it was their first time going to a research library, and they were very impressed with the facilities and helpful staff at BTC. The visit was a great kick-start to the students' research for over the summer break.



Volunteering



Year 10 WW1 battlefields trip report

With the lifting of Covid restrictions, the History Department was able to resume its annual WW1 battlefields trip over half term and duly accompanied 40 eager Year 10 students to the Somme and Ypres.

Having been re-routed from Calais to Dunkirk, we stopped first at Vimy, scene of Canadian heroics in 1917, and admired the impressive, gleaming white monument atop the ridge. Then it was off to Newfoundland Park, a memorial to the Newfoundlanders, a terrible proportion of whom died on the first day of the battle of the Somme, where we could walk in the well-preserved trenches and gain an excellent idea of the battlefield itself. Having walked down to the German front line, past shell holes and the adjacent cemeteries, we left for Thiepval where Lutyens' monument bears the names of over 70,000 British and Commonwealth troops whose bodies were never recovered, among them several OTs.

The crater of Lochnagar was next on the agenda, and the day ended with a visit to the poignant Devonshire cemetery.

The second day of the trip focused on Ypres, beginning with an exploration of the redug but atmospheric trenches at Bayernwald with bunkers and mineshafts; Hitler fought here and was awarded his Iron Cross nearby. The museum and trenches of Sanctuary Wood near Hill 62 were next.

Three cemeteries followed, first among them the intensely moving Tynecot, scene of the infamous battle of Passchendaele, where OT Cyril Cook's gravestone is but one of 12,000. The German cemetery of Langmark provided a contrast of style and setting. A haunting site, it contains over 40,000 bodies, a scarcely credible 25,000 in one mass grave. Finally, there was a brief visit to Essex Farm where a 15-year-

old lies buried and where John McCrae composed 'In Flanders Fields'.

A foray to Leonidas chocolate shop soon banished any thoughts of tiredness and in the evening we joined some two or three thousand others in attending the daily Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate where a wreath was presented in memory of the 168 OTs who lost their lives during the conflict.

Many thanks to Mr Gallimore who organised everything, as well as to Miss Wainwright and Mr Wells who also gave up part of their holiday to come along.

Equestrian success

A huge well done to our equestrian champions for a sensational team win at the show jumping county finals in Hickstead. After some tough competition, Emily, Florence, Jess and Sophie secured the team win in the 80cm class.



The Club: summer solstice, Morris dancing and croquet

A group of intrepid Club members met in the Parade Ground at 4am to go and celebrate the summer solstice at the Seven Sisters, atop the Quantocks. The longest day of 2022 was blessed with beautiful weather, perfect for taking in the beautiful vistas across the Vale and the Bristol Channel. It was no surprise that the wild ponies could be seen as well as heard this year but the appearance of baby deer was a decidedly unexpected bonus.

The Morris dancers were back in force, joining in with the English tradition, which dates back to the C15th with Club members even remembering one, or two of the steps, and it was great to see the annual croquet tournament return to the Nicholson residence.

Before returning to school, members enjoyed a hearty breakfast and celebrated Amelie's birthday with some much-needed chocolate cake at 8am, as the longest day stretched ahead.



Charities

Students were proud to hand over the money they have raised over the school year for their chosen charities. The students worked hard to organise a wide range of fundraising activities, including a number of challenges, socials and events as part of their Raising and Giving (RaG) Weeks earlier in February.

This money will support the Taunton Opportunity Group, YMCA Taunton, St. Margaret's Somerset Hospice, Children's Hospice South West and CADRO.

Well done to everyone who helped raise money to support these worthy causes.



TS students world average again in 2022 IB Diploma results

Twenty-two students from Taunton School have achieved outstanding results in the first post-Covid year of assessments. The school is celebrating a 100% pass rate with an average of 34 points, exceeding the world average by almost two full points.

Outstanding individual achievements include:

Top scorer and Head Girl Ruth Garang achieved a score of 42. Ruth joined Taunton School from local comprehensive Taunton Academy after gaining an IB scholarship. While at Taunton School, Ruth was heavily involved in academic clubs including debating, Model UN and Amnesty International and was accepted into the school's Pre-Med programme. In September, Ruth will begin her studies at her first choice university, Queen Mary University of London, to pursue Medicine. She hopes to specialise in Psychiatry or General Practice and to travel alongside her studies.

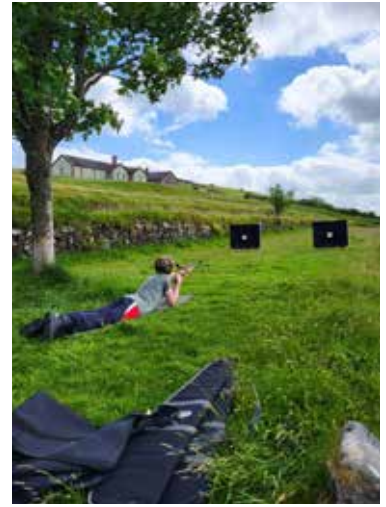
Ruth said, "I have absolutely loved every minute of my time at Taunton School. The opportunities here are endless. I am so happy with my results, I was incredibly nervous; I want to say a big thank you to all of my friends and teachers, whose support during my time at Taunton School has been incredible."

Joint second top achievers are Blanca Osuna from Spain and Vas Smychkovich from The Netherlands who achieved 39 points. Blanca joined Taunton School from Argentina and will now be studying Biology at Bristol University. Vas joined Taunton School's dedicated international school, Taunton School International, before beginning her IB studies at Taunton Senior School and will be studying Neuroscience at King's College, London or at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden.



Year 10 and 12 activity week

As part of their end of term festivities, Year 10 and 12 enjoyed an activity week with Adelong Outdoors, during which they took part in rock-climbing, abseiling, a Royal Navy training phase and team-building challenges. Topped off with some lovely weather, a great week was had by all.



Year 12 water sports

Ahead of their positions as Senior School leaders next year, 14 Year 12 students enjoyed a morning of paddle boarding, kayaking and teambuilding on the River Tone. They particularly enjoyed taking part in a challenge to see how many of them could float on one paddleboard together. A great way to blow off some post-exam steam.



OT Cricket match and dinner

It was fantastic to see a number of our OTs return back to Taunton School for a cricket match and dinner to remember a loved friend and classmate who passed away nine years ago.

Friends of Matthew 'Dennis' Compton, staff and other OTs from the 1980s and '90s came together to catch up with each other, remember times shared at school and enjoy visiting the school again.

<https://www.facebook.com/tauntonschool/videos/419691140017681>



Light Show Concert

A huge thank you to everyone who came to support our students performing in the stunning community concert and light show. The audience was treated to some stellar performances from our orchestras, choirs and ensembles, demonstrating all the diverse talent we have here at Taunton School.



TSI Summer Ball

Students from TSI celebrated the end of the academic year with a glittering summer ball hosted at the beautiful Dillington House. It was a fabulous send off for our students who have worked incredibly hard all year in their GCSE and Foundation courses.

Take a look at some highlights from the night here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgaDXhPFR0w>



Year 11 Prom

Our Year 11s looked fantastic for their prom at Hestercombe House, enjoying stone baked pizza, a photo booth and plenty of dancing to celebrate the end of their GCSEs.



Charity Ball

Saturday 29th October 2022

Please save the date for our special 175th Anniversary Charity Ball coming up this autumn. Following on from the success of Taunton School's first annual Charity Ball last year, we are already planning the next one!

The evening is set to be bigger and better than last year, with delicious food, live entertainment and a charity auction. It promises to be one of the highlights of the 175th anniversary celebrations and all money raised will enable children to attend Taunton School on means-tested assisted places.

There will be more details coming soon about how you can secure a table but for now, please save the date!



BAKE OFF THE PROFESSIONALS WITH

Michael Coggan
WINNER 2020

Date: Saturday 23rd July

Venue: Taunton School, Densham Suite



£28
Per person

A Masterclass In Pastry.

Michael will return to Taunton School's Densham Suite to tempt and treat us with a pastry masterclass, and a full afternoon tea designed by the Bake Off winner himself and crafted by our own in-house catering team.

Tickets include masterclass and full afternoon tea @ £28.00 per person.

Book now: www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool

Email events@tauntonschool.co.uk **Phone** 01823 703111  



Pop Up Cinema Night
& STREET FOOD

Date: Friday 12th August

Time: From 6pm

Venue: Taunton School



An evening of classic movies, *Grease* followed by *Dirty Dancing*.

Enjoy our 160 seat auditorium with a selection of tasty street food served from the Old Library during the breaks.

Start time 6.00pm.

Tickets include food @ £19.50 per person.

£19.50
Per person

Book now: www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool

Email events@tauntonschool.co.uk **Phone** 01823 703111  



Evening Lawn Party

WITH **DT8** LIVE

Date: Saturday 20th August

Time: From 6pm

Venue: Taunton School, Front Lawn

£24.50
Per person



DT8 will be playing live on the front lawn of Taunton School for an evening party this summer.

Enjoy a delicious hog roast from Somerset Pyne's the Butcher.

Gates open 6.00pm with band on from 7.00pm. Event finishes at 10pm.

Tickets include entry and a hog roast @ £24.50 per person.

Book now: www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool

Email events@tauntonschool.co.uk **Phone** 01823 703111  



Jazz & Swing AFTERNOON

Date: Sunday 21st August

Time: From 1pm

Venue: Taunton School, Front Lawn

£24.50
Per person



Sensational jazz and swing band, All Jazzed Up, will be playing live on the front lawn at Taunton School from 2.00pm.

Enjoy an afternoon of jazz & swing and a delicious hog roast from Somerset Pyne's the Butcher.

Gates open at 1.00pm and the event finishes at 5.00pm.

Tickets include entry and a hog roast @ £24.50 per person.

Book now: www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool

Email events@tauntonschool.co.uk **Phone** 01823 703111  



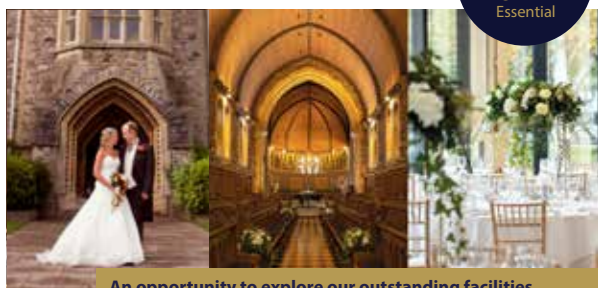
Wedding OPEN EVENING

Date: Thursday 1st September

Time: From 5pm

Venue: Taunton School

Free Tickets
Registration
Essential



An opportunity to explore our outstanding facilities including our incredible on-site Chapel, charming Old Library and our brand new state-of-the-art Densham Suite.

Our expert wedding team will be on hand to answer questions, along with a selection of our recommended wedding suppliers.

There will be fizz, canapés and goody bags on arrival.

Doors open from 5.00pm to 8.00pm.

Book now: www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool

Email events@tauntonschool.co.uk **Phone** 01823 703111  

Christmas PARTY NIGHTS

December 2022

Thursday 15th £35.00

Friday 16th £39.00

Saturday 17th £39.00

Sunday 18th £33.00

Arrive from 7.00pm

Meal served 7.30pm

Welcome cocktail on arrival

Three course meal prepared by our in-house catering team

Disco and fun casino

Bar open until 12.00am with carriages at 12.30am

A £10 non-refundable deposit is required per person to secure the booking, full payments are due by 30th November.

Exclusive use available on dates above, minimum numbers apply (Densham Suite capacity: 300).

To book, please contact
events@tauntonschool.co.uk | 01823703111



Email events@tauntonschool.co.uk

Phone 01823 703111

England Hockey Selections

Huge congratulations to Ollie, Jacob and Will, who have been selected again to represent England U21s, U18s and U16s in upcoming test matches and competitions.



Rugby and Hockey Camps

Taunton School sports coaches are hosting a series of rugby and hockey camps this summer for students and members of the Taunton community. Find out more and book your place here:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool>



Rugby Camps

Rugby Development Camp

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd August

10-14 year olds (10am-3pm)

£30

Rugby Performance Day

Wednesday 24th August

12-16 year olds (10am-3pm)

£40



Pre-season Camps Boys' Rugby & Girls' Hockey

Tuesday 30th August

Juniors (Y9/10) 10am - 11.15am

Seniors (Y11-13)

11.30am - 12.45pm

Wednesday 31st August

Juniors (Y9/10) 10am - 11.15am

Seniors (Y11-13)

11.30am - 12.45pm

Monday 5th September

Juniors (Y9/10) 3pm - 4pm

Seniors (Y11-13) 4pm - 5pm

Location: Rugby - Front of the school

Contact: daniel.pettifer@tauntonschool.co.uk

Hockey - Durrant

Contact: elliott.foweraker@tauntonschool.co.uk

Booking available on misocs



Taunton School summer term tennis highlights



It has been a great summer tennis term with record numbers of players and teams competing. Congratulations to the Senior Boys 1st team on their unbeaten season and to the Girls team for reaching the winter cup finals.

We have been able to finish the successful season with a trip to Wimbledon for some of our year 13 players - a great end to a fabulous term, well done to all involved.

Taunton School swimmers victorious at annual Meade King Cup

Congratulations to our swimmers on another annual Meade King Cup victory. The competition saw the Taunton School Swimming Team not only win six trophies but also break five school records, with the U15 Medley Relay team smashing the previous record by an incredible 13 seconds.



1st XI Cricket T20

The Boys 1st XI Cricket Team did a fantastic job of winning the T20 Competition final in a nail-biting bowl out. Despite the slightly underprepared pitch due to poor weather conditions, our batters adapted well, and hits from Alfie Macdonald, Ben Chaffey, Kian Roberts and Jacob Pengelly resulted in a 5-2 victory; Mr Sanderson's record of never having lost a bowl out with Somerset or Taunton School lives on.

Junior House Cricket

In the A team competition, Evans met Goodland in the final having both won their respective groups. Facing tight bowling from Evans, Goodland set a score of 37. This unfortunately would not be enough and Evans managed to cross the line with 4 balls to spare. A special mention goes to top scorer Brogan Flitton. The B team competition saw Goodland win all 3 matches to be crowned champions. It was also lovely to welcome TSIMS to join the competition, many of whom had only been playing cricket for a few weeks.

Marshall take victory in House Cricket

Having qualified from both their groups with two wins, the final between Goodland and Marshall was bound to be a well-fought and tight affair. With Logan Dupont and George Nuttycombe setting a score of 42 for Goodland in a 4-over match, Marshall would have to put in a shift. Ben Chaffey and Barnaby Webber for Marshall proceeded well, but still required 14 runs off the last over. In a thrilling finish, Marshall required 6 to win off the last ball, and with an outstanding shot, Webber led Marshall to victory. Well done to everyone who competed.

Cricket round-up

