

30th September 2022

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

TAUNTON SCHOOL ANNOUNCED AS FINALIST FOR TWO NATIONAL AWARDS

Taunton School has been named as one of the best independent schools in the country for both sports and careers education.

The school has reached the final of the prestigious Independent School of the Year Awards in both the 'Student Careers' and 'Sporting Achievement' categories.

The sport announcement follows an extraordinary year for Taunton Prep School, with its pupils being crowned National Champions in hockey, cricket, swimming, biathlon, biathle, triathlon, horseriding, pistol shooting, and golf. The Prep School also won South West titles in cross country running and athletics, whilst 18 of its pupils become some of the youngest children ever to swim the English Channel (in three relay teams of six).



The school was also commended for its breadth of sporting activities and its celebration of sport for all abilities and levels.

The careers announcement recognises an innovative Taunton School programme to introduce children to careers at the age of three by offering play-based activities and a series of visitors to help them develop an understanding of a range of professions.

[Read the full story here.](#)

More inside:

- Work starts on new green heart
- Celebrating 175 years of Taunton School
- The Channel Swim
- Annual Charity Ball

Message from the Prep School Headmaster



It has been a real pleasure to see the school community well and truly back into the swing of things, and I have been particularly impressed with the way in which new pupils and new staff have settled in. The atmosphere in school could not be better as we look forward to a very successful, happy and rewarding academic year.

The New Pupils' Tea Party was an ideal way to welcome our new pupils and their parents into the Prep School. Many of our visitors

comment on the open, genuine and friendly communication which they experience when they visit, and we see it as one of our top priorities to instil in our young people the ability to communicate positively, with respect, kindness and good humour.

It was lovely to see so many parents at the 'Meet the Tutor Evening' and I have much enjoyed seeing so many parents attending our sports fixtures. It has been wonderful to see so many of our pupils representing the school on the sports pitches, and I know that there are plenty of newcomers to the Prep School who have been very excited to be playing inter-school matches for the first time in their lives. I thoroughly enjoyed our first Performing Arts Cafe of the year, and it has been terrific to see pupils enjoying our clubs programme and trips out of school, including the Year 7 surfing trip.

For pupils in Years 3 to 6, the Saturday Morning enrichment programme has got off to a superb start. If your child is attending and has a friend who does not attend TPS, but who would like to come along on Saturday mornings, he or she will be very welcome. The charge for non-TPS children is £100 per term and parents just need to send an email to tpssaturdayenrichment@tauntonschool.co.uk.

It is our Open Morning tomorrow and we have a long list of parents due to visit us. We have only a very limited number of places available for those wanting to join us, and our excellent numbers mean that we are able to push ahead with our ambitious development plans. We continue to cap Form sizes, however, and we do not currently have any Forms of more than 20 pupils, with 18 being the average.

Finally, we have been celebrating some excellent achievements which we know took place over the Summer. As well as many impressive performances on the cricket field, with many of our pupils involved in representative matches for their county, our pupils have excelled in a whole range of activities including athletics, dance, music, tennis, gymnastics, drama, horse-riding, pool swimming, go-karting and swimming (to name just a few!). However, the pupils who arguably created the biggest splash in the news were the 18 pupils in Years 7 and 8 who managed to swim the English Channel in three relay teams of six! I have not heard of any other school in the world doing this type of thing with pupils of this age, so this is truly remarkable. Very well done to all of our pupils who have shown such ambition and spirit over the summer.

Mr Andrew Edwards, TPS Headmaster



Upcoming Events

1st October Whole School Open Morning

7th October Sixth Form Open Evening

8th October Rugby Development Morning

15th October Virtual Open Day

25-26th October Rugby Development Days

29th October Annual Charity Ball

31st October BTEC & IB Open Evening

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>

Message from the Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery



A very warm welcome to all our children and parents. It really has been a fabulously productive first few weeks in the Nursery and Pre-Prep, with the children beginning to bed down into their classes and all the autumnal routines. The Pre-Prep children are also working hard in their targeted phonics groups, along with getting incredibly engrossed in their topic work.

Year 1 had a particularly intriguing visit, from a very naughty Goldilocks, what a mess and what a lot of questions she raised. Running alongside this - in year 2 this term - their topic is London, this has been particularly appropriate over the last few weeks - as we welcome a new king to the throne. From the beautiful displays of the careful watercolours of Paddington Bear, to the posters about the Tower of London.

Thank you to the parents who have joined us for the information

evenings over the last few weeks. We hope that you have found the information useful and that we have been able to answer your questions.

Finally, we continue to delight in having all our parents back in the Pre-Prep and Nursery. However, can I kindly remind you that we cannot have any mobile phones in use in sight of the children we care for here and that using your phone does pose a serious safeguarding concern with the age of our children.

If you do have any further queries, or just feel a little unsure about an aspect of your child's day, please use your child's teacher as your first point of contact. If you still feel that your questions remain unanswered – please do come in and see me. I will always aim to be on the playground most mornings and will keep my door open after drop off, if you would like to discuss anything with me.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Louise Leah, Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery

Work starts on new green heart

Work has now started on the creation of a new 'green heart' in the centre of Taunton School.

The area between the main building and the Prep School is being transformed into an eco-friendly square with plants, seating and a sensory area. The work will be finished by Christmas. In the meantime, the area is fenced off and there are alternative routes through the school.



Children among youngest ever to swim the English Channel

Pupils from Taunton Prep School who braved cold waters and jellyfish are among the youngest in the world to swim the English Channel in August.

The swimmers, some of whom are now attending the Senior School, raised thousands of pounds to help save their local community pool from closure.

Boys and girls, some as young as 12, took the plunge for charity to swim from Dover to Cap Gris Nez in France.

The youngsters, who are among the youngest ever to swim the Channel in relay, were spurred on by the plight of Wivey Pool in Wiveliscombe which faces closure due to rising energy bills.

Jess, 12, said: "I was a bit nervous swimming the Channel because of jellyfish and swimming in the dark but we have been training in the sea at Lyme Regis so I've trained in the dark and been stung before so I felt properly prepared."

Zoe, 13, said: "Swimming the Channel was one of the greatest achievements of my life and marked the end of a five-year dream. I love Wivey pool, I have swum there since I was a baby."

Olivia, 12, said: "We trained at Wivey pool when there was ice and frost on the ground around the pool – the Channel felt warm compared to that!"

The swimmers, who had trained in open waters for two years before taking on the 21 mile journey across the English Channel, raised a total of £6,000 for the pool.

Liz Hurry, Chair of Wivey Pool said: "Wivey Pool is very grateful, impressed and in awe of what the children achieved - not just the money, but the whole Channel swim itself.

"It's just amazing. 'Thank you very much' seems an easy thing to say for what was an incredible thing to do."

A total of 18 Taunton School pupils aged between 12 and 14 swam the Channel in three teams of six. They are among the youngest in the world to take on the challenge.



TPS tea party



Tower of London

Year 2 children have been working on their London topic by making posters, learning about the Tower of London and learning sewing skills to make felt ravens.



Students at The Grange celebrate International Day of Peace

In celebration of International Day of Peace and in recognition of the school's diverse population, the students demonstrated their unity and respect for one another by organising themselves into the nuclear disarmament (peace) symbol in the garden.



Top Red Bull engineer visits Taunton School



Taunton Schools' racing superstar Harry got the chance to meet with Red Bull's Chief Engineering Officer, Rob Marshall this week.

Rob is an Old Tauntonian who attended Taunton School between 1975 and 1986; since leaving, he has enjoyed a successful career as a F1 race engineer – currently heading up Red Bull Racing.

12-year-old Harry, currently in Year 8 at our Prep School, is a go-karting champion and aspiring Formula 1 driver. He got the opportunity to chat to Rob about his career and what goes on behind the scenes at Red Bull Racing.

Year 7 and 8 trip to Cornwall



Music exams

We also have excellent results from our musicians who took their ABRSM and Trinity College exams towards the end of last term, so huge congratulations to the following pupils:

Esme	Piano	2	pass
Reya	Flute	1	merit
Grace	Flute	1	merit
Riya	Flute	1	distinction
Emily	Flute	1	merit
Olivia	Clarinet	1	distinction
Valentin	Clarinet	5	pass
Madeleine	Clarinet	6	distinction
Tongfei	Theory	5	pass
Tongfei	Singing	2	pass
Kikandi	Violin	1	pass
Danning	Violin	5	pass
George	Violin	4	pass

Elspeth	Violin	4	pass
Forest	Harp	2	merit
Matilda	Harp	1	distinction
Daniella	Piano	2	merit
Barnaby	Singing	1	pass
Sophia	Singing	1	pass
Genevieve	Singing	1	merit
Sophia	Singing	1	merit
Chloe	Singing	2	pass
Zachary	Singing	2	distinction
Kayra	Singing	prep test	pass
Madeleine	Singing	4	merit
Isabella	Singing	5	merit

Performing Arts round-up

Our musical highlight is the Michaelmas Concert on 22nd November, at which every music ensemble and our choir will perform.

To celebrate the 175th anniversary of our school, the Drama department are running a special "175 Performances" challenge – get involved!

This year all speech and drama students will be working towards performing 175 different performances over the year. Every student who performs will then be awarded a certificate for their entry.

St Cecilia's Day Michaelmas Concert



TPS Music Ensembles and Choirs



Tuesday 22nd November at 6pm

Venue: The Chapel

TPS Drama Club Performances



Years 7-8 Thursday 1st December

Years 5-6 Friday 2nd December

Years 3-5 Monday 12th December



4.15pm

Venue: Centenary Hall

Music Scholars' Recital

Tuesday 8th November at 5pm

Venue: Centenary Hall



Winter Wonderland Dance Extravaganza



Showcasing all TPS Dance Ensembles



Monday 5th December at 6pm

Venue: Centenary Hall

Hairspray auditions in full swing

Rehearsals are currently underway for the Prep School production of Hairspray, which takes place on Saturday 10th December in Centenary Hall.



Celebrating 175 years of Taunton School

As we celebrate our 175th anniversary, we are delighted to invite the Taunton School community to join our celebrations, learn about our past and help us shape the next 175 years.



Join us at an event

Over the next year we have a number of opportunities planned for members of the community to visit the school and meet up with friends and staff. This term the events planned include:

Headmaster's Reception

Join us on Friday 18th November for your chance to meet our new Headmaster James Johnson and hear about his exciting vision for the future of Taunton School.

Booking: if you would like to attend please email foundation@tauntonschool.co.uk

Share your memories

We have plenty of other events planned so please look out for future communications. If you have any ideas or suggestions about how we can celebrate our anniversary over the next year we would love to hear from you!

www.rememberwhen.tauntonschool.co.uk

175th Anniversary Charity Ball

Join us at the school on Saturday 29th October for our special Anniversary Charity Ball which provides the perfect opportunity to get together with friends to celebrate our anniversary.

Booking link: www.tauntonschoolcharityball.com



Charity cycle ride

To kick-start our celebratory year, the Head was joined by staff and parents last weekend to cycle 100km through the Somerset and Devon countryside.

The riders took on the challenge in support of the school's means-tested Assisted Places, which enables us to continue our tradition of supporting children who otherwise could never afford to attend a school like Taunton. If you would like to support them, [please visit our fundraising page](#).

JustGiving™



We are honoured to invite you to our

Annual Charity Ball

to celebrate our

175TH ANNIVERSARY

on Saturday 29th October at 7pm, carriages at 12:30am

in the Densham Suite, Taunton School, TA2 6AD

Dinner, dancing and live band

Charity auction

Black tie

Individual tickets are £60

All proceeds from the evening will support Assisted Places

Book now:

www.tauntonschoolcharityball.com

OT Review



The 2022 OT Review alumni magazine has now been published.

Highlights include plans for our 175th celebrations, an introduction to new Head James Johnson, updates on sporting life at the school and articles by Patricia Oloyede (OW 1962-71) and Lee Cooper (1993-98, Evans).

If you would like to receive a printed copy of the Review, [please do get in touch](#).

Harry is new South West Kart Champion

Harry Cottrell competed at Mansell Race Way over the bank holiday weekend, in a two- day South West Championship. He dominated the two days and won, which crowned him South West Champion in the Mini Max Class. Harry has also completed the National Ultimate Kart Championship throughout this year, where he travelled all over the UK racing amongst the best in the country with 80 competitors. Harry has approached the season in a mature way, gaining valuable experience and growing in confidence.



Taunton School drinks reception in Berlin

Taunton School warmly invites current and prospective parents to join us for a drinks reception in Berlin on the evening of Wednesday 2nd November.

Meet Taunton School's International Marketing and Recruitment Manager, Gabriella Thomas, as well as other parents, friends and alumni at this casual event which is a great chance to meet other parents and discuss life at Taunton School.

For further information and to register your interest, please email foundation@tauntonschool.co.uk

Warhammer Club

Airfix and Warhammer Club is as popular as ever with lots of new members and several 'old timers' from previous years. The club has also welcomed Chris from TSI, who has a wealth of experience with model making that he can pass onto the younger children.



Reception class 2022

Here's a photograph of our new Reception children who are settling into the new academic year very well.



Speech and drama pupils take their LAMDA Grade 5 exams

Seven speech and drama pupils and drama scholars took their LAMDA Grade 5 examination in June 2022. Grade 5 is an Ofqual regulated Level 2 qualification and is the equivalent to a high-grade GCSE.

The children who took these examinations were:

Charlie (Year 8) - awarded with Distinction
 Daisy (Year 8) - awarded with Merit
 Wilbur (Year 8) - awarded with Distinction
 Xavier (Year 8) - awarded with Distinction
 Maddie (Year 8) - awarded with Distinction
 Abi (Year 7) - awarded with Distinction
 Ben (Year 7) - awarded with Distinction

Students settle into life at Taunton School International Middle School

Over the past few weeks the students at Taunton School International Middle School (TSIMS) have taken part in a number of induction activities to help them settle into life at Taunton School. These have included bowling, evening activities making crepes and smoothies, and attending lunchtime clubs and activities like debating club, art club and multi-sport club to challenge their skills and nurture their interests. A highlight for many was taking on an assault and ropes course at the Ultimate Adventure Centre in Bideford. Here the students tested their resilience, motivated one another to get stuck in and created lasting memories together of their initial few weeks at TSIMS.

Read more about their first month: <https://www.tauntonschool.co.uk/2022/09/27/students-settle-into-life-at-taunton-school-international-middle-school/>

View photos from their first month here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/196002619@N05/albums/72177720302450198>



Mono printing in enrichment



Art Club sketching the school

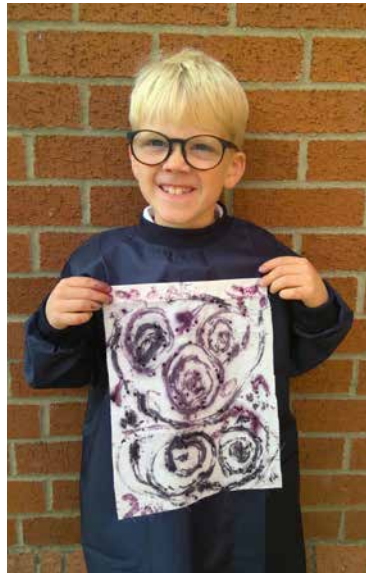


STEM Club making wobbly robots



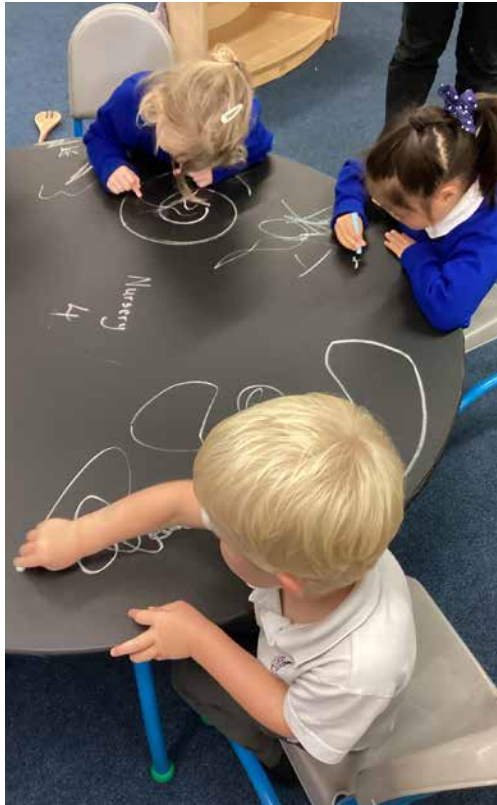
I Am Warrior – creative curriculum

Year 3 enjoyed getting their hands dirty to begin their 'I Am Warrior' creative curriculum topic. Having spent time placing the Iron Age on a timeline, they reflected on how life as a Celt would be very different to life today. They discussed what the inside of a roundhouse might be like, before using clay and straw to make their own with a partner. They then used berries to create their own Celtic artwork, using the berry juice to dye fabric just as the Celts had done.



Taunton Pre-Prep exploration

The children have enjoyed creating a large scale marble run, using the computer, colour mixing, the new chalk table and finding creepy crawlies!



Emily competes in tetrathlon championships

Well done to Year 8 Emily who competed at the National Tetrathlon Championships - 3rd best swim, 5th best for her age group.

Sports Camps



Rugby Camps

Rugby Performance U15 + U16s

Saturday 1st October (10-11.30am)

Free

Rugby Development U12 + U13s

Saturday 8th October (10-11.30am)

Free

For more information contact: Ben.Thomas@tauntonschool.co.uk

Booking available on www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool



Rugby Camps

Development Days

Tuesday 25th October (10am-3pm)

U10 - U14s

£30

Wednesday 26th October (10am-3pm)

U10 - U14s

£30

For more information contact: Ben.Thomas@tauntonschool.co.uk

Booking available on www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool





Upcoming Open Events at Taunton School

In-person Open Day: Saturday 1st October

Sixth Form Open Evening: Friday 7th October

Virtual Open Day: Saturday 15th October

BTEC & IB Open Evening: Monday 31st October

Booking essential: www.tauntonschool.co.uk/open-mornings