



21st October 2022

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

## RAISING THE ROOF!



Pupils raised the roof of Centenary Hall on Monday as the whole Prep School wowed judges with their performances in the House Singing competition. Songs included Another Brick in the Wall, We Will Rock You, Don't Stop and Shine were performed with energy and enthusiasm, providing an entertaining afternoon for all. Congratulations to Loveday who won the House Singing and to Dowell who came first in House Performing Arts Week.

Mr Baker said: "A huge well done to all the house staff and house captains for showing great leadership throughout the day. Everyone had amazing fun contributing to their house's performance, from the rehearsals right through to the end performance. We loved performing on a proper stage with professional sound and lighting engineering – like proper pop and rock stars!"

See more pictures on page 5.

### More inside:

- House Singing
- Celebrating 175 years of Taunton School
- Biathle and Triathle winners
- Year 6 production success

## Message from the Prep School Headmaster



It is hard to believe that we are already at half term! Although the past six and a half weeks have shot by, the pupils and staff have achieved so much. The Year 6 musical, 'Dream On', was a tremendous success, with the whole year group demonstrating very high levels of confidence, teamwork, acting, dancing and singing. Very well done to Mrs Simmonds, our new Director of Music and Performing Arts and her team of staff, and many congratulations to all of the children. A big thank you also

to the parents for kitting the children out with what they needed, and for all of their support from home.

Also on the subject of Performing Arts, every child took part in our House Singing competition last Monday, which came to an exciting climax under the bright lights of the stage in the Senior School Sports Hall. Many congratulations to Dowell House for winning the House Performing Arts Shield, and to Loveday for winning the House Singing Trophy with their energetic and suitably irreverent performance of 'Another Brick in the Wall'.

Our Year 3 pupils recently enjoyed a day out at Carymoor, our Year 4 children have been to Brixham, and our Year 7 pupils had their surf trip to Cornwall on the first Saturday of term. I am delighted that we have such an inspiring and engaging programme of trips for all of our year groups, and all of the children have exciting treats to look forward to during the remainder of the year.

I hope that our Year 8 pupils and parents enjoyed the 'Bring on Year 9 Information Evening' run by the Senior School last week. Between 90 and 100% each year of our Year 8 pupils move into our Senior School and are joined by approximately twenty-five Year 9 newcomers. It is lovely for our pupils that they do not tend to lose friends as they move up the school. As well as ensuring that pupils at the top of the Prep School enjoy a smooth transition into the

Senior School, we are committed to making sure that parents have all of the information which they need to feel confident about the years ahead.

Since my last Courier article, I have attended the annual Heads' Conference of the Independent Association of Prep Schools. It was very apparent to me that there are many independent schools who are not finding it easy, and it made me feel very privileged to be Head of our school which is in such a strong position. With waiting lists in some year groups and secure income, we are able to push ahead with ambitious development plans which will further enhance the quality of education and care enjoyed by our pupils.

Many of you will have already seen this elsewhere, but I must mention in this piece the truly exceptional achievements of two Prep School pupils in the European Biathlon and Triathlon Championships held a couple of weeks ago in Athens. JJ Wells was crowned individual European champion in 3 individual events, whilst Tom Barnett won 2 individual golds. They also both won 3 Team Gold medals as part of their respective GB relay teams. Many congratulations to JJ and Tom, and we wish them all the very best as they travel to Madeira over half term for the World Championships. With outstanding athletes like Tom, JJ and many more, it is no surprise that Taunton Prep School was shortlisted, along with just 4 other schools in the country, for the Independent Sports Junior School of the year. Although we did not win, this was apt and very well-deserved recognition for the skill and commitment from all of our pupils and staff during the last 12 months. Very well done to all!

Finally, I have been delighted with our continued charitable giving. We raised nearly £300 for 'Young Minds', the mental health charity, on our 'Hello Yellow' day recently, and we donated a lot of food and drink as part of our Harvest Festival to the Taunton Food Bank, all of which will be much appreciated by those most in need in our local community. Thank you to all pupils, parents and staff who have given such good support to these charitable activities.

I hope that you and your families all have a very restful and enjoyable half-term break.

**Mr Andrew Edwards, TPS Headmaster**

## Upcoming events

<b>22-23rd October</b>	Railway Fayre
<b>25-26th October</b>	Rugby Development Days
<b>29th October</b>	Annual Charity Ball
<b>4th November</b>	TPS, TPPS & Nursery Fireworks Party
<b>22nd November</b>	Michaelmas Concert
<b>8-9th December</b>	Pre-Prep Nativity - The Bethlehem Star
<b>12th December</b>	Nursery Nativity

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



I cannot quite believe that this is the last Courier article of this first half of the autumn 2022 term. What a busy six weeks it has been, with so many positive, confident and settled children, with their new and existing friendships.

Thank you to our Parent Association for their organisation of the Pre-Prep disco on Wednesday. A good deal of work went on behind the scenes to make this event possible for our

children. I am very grateful to our supportive parent body for their role in providing this memorable event.

After the half term break, we return to a busy week with our Reception 2023 information evening for our current Nursery four parents, in the Reception classrooms on Tuesday 1st November from 18:30–19:30. On Friday 4th November there is also the exciting annual TPS Fireworks Party on Greenham field, starting at 5.45pm. Tickets are available to purchase online, through the email you have already received. These can continue to be purchased, until the upper cap is reached on numbers. Emily Fairweather will also be in TPPS taking photos of the children in the Nursery and in the Pre-Prep, from Monday 31st October for the whole week.

Have a lovely weekend and I do hope that you get to enjoy some quality time over the half term break.

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

## TPS first School Council meeting



Congratulations to the newly elected members of the TPS School Council for 2022-23 who had a successful first meeting - a working lunch with a delicious fish and chip takeaway. Pupils had wonderful ideas as to changes and initiatives they wish to support this year in school. They began the year looking at some new wall art to go in the Weirfield building as well as having mirrors installed in the boys' bathrooms. They had some great ideas for the new Green Heart area and the imminent refurbishment of all of the bathrooms at TPS.

**Mrs Hill and Mrs Coleman**



# Athletes win haul of gold medals in European Championships



Three young athletes from Taunton School have won a clutch of gold medals in the Biathlon and Triathlon European Championships in Athens.

JJ, Tom and Nicolas won 13 golds and one silver, competing against people from 15 countries across Europe. They will now go on to compete in the World Championships later this month.

[Read the full story here.](#)





## Raising the roof!

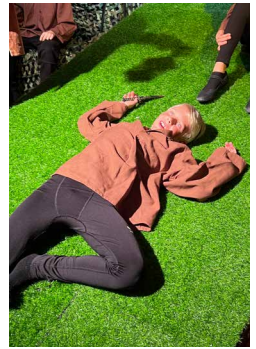


Pupils raised the roof of Centenary Hall on Monday as the whole Prep School wowed judges with their performances in the House Singing competition.





## Year 6 production success "Dream On"



The Year 6 children put on a spectacularly brilliant production of "Dream On", an adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which featured all the expected characters from the original play but with some twists such as a Tango, some Rock 'n Roll and the Olympic Games.

Mr Baker said: "The effort the children made was indeed Olympian and the result was truly brilliant. The children excelled themselves and all developed excellent skills for the stage and for life."



## Sir Peter Westmacott returns to school to give the annual John Rae Lecture

We were delighted to see a packed theatre as we hosted Old Tauntonian Sir Peter Westmacott (1964-68) for a talk on his fascinating 40-year career in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

We were joined by students, OTs, parents and staff who listened as the former British Ambassador to Washington regaled tales of his time spent working in Iran, Turkey, France and the USA. It was great to hear Sir Peter's views on diplomacy, Britain's current position in the world as well as his insights into the relationships diplomats have with government ministers.

Many thanks to Sir Peter for inspiring our audience. Please get in touch if you would like to see a recording of the talk or you can purchase a copy of Sir Peter's book, *They Call It Diplomacy*, [here](#).



## 'Green Heart' in centre of campus

Work has started on the creation of a 'Green Heart' as part of a plan to provide an outdoor haven in the centre of Taunton School.

The £360k plan will see the current asphalt roads and paths between the Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior schools transformed into an eco-friendly pedestrianised area for students to relax and enjoy their green surroundings. It will include trees, plants, seating and sensory areas to promote student wellbeing and provide a place to relax and socialise.

[Read the full story here.](#)





# Taunton School Celebrates 175 years

We are proud to be celebrating 175 of excellence at Taunton School. Look out throughout the year to see all the amazing things we have in store to recognise and proudly promote our Tauntonians present and past.

Watch our latest video to hear what some of our students love about Taunton School.

[Watch video](#)



Support Assisted Places by bidding on one of our fantastic auction lots

Booking is now closed for this year's special 175th Anniversary Charity Ball and we are looking forward to welcoming over 250 members of our school community on Saturday 29th October.

If you are unable to join us, but would like to get involved, we have a brilliant range of silent auction prizes to bid on including hotel stays, sporting memorabilia and luxury hampers!

Huge thanks to our generous community for donating the prizes and supporting such a worthwhile cause. All proceeds support talented children attending Taunton School with means-tested Assisted Places.

[Click here to see the range of prizes](#)

## Headmaster's reception

Join us on Friday 18th November for your chance to meet Headmaster James Johnson and hear about his exciting aspirations for the future of Taunton School. The evening will also showcase some of the best of Taunton School music.

Booking: If you would like to attend please email [foundation@tauntonschool.co.uk](mailto:foundation@tauntonschool.co.uk)





## Floyd Stedman talk

As part of Black History Month, Taunton Prep School and Senior School were treated to a lecture from Floyd Steadman about the struggles he faced in his childhood and rugby career due to the colour of his skin.

Floyd went on to become captain of the Saracens rugby team and then a Headmaster of four different prep schools. He gave a powerful talk about how he responded to the injustices he faced and how we can all be aware of our unconscious bias and the importance of two-way conversations.



## Children work on box maze games

The DT enrichment group have completed their box maze games, involving drilling on the bench drills, measuring, marking, cutting to size and problem solving.



## Warhammer Club

Emily and Kaiden show their latest creations in the Airfix and Warhammer Club.





## TPS World Mental Health Day

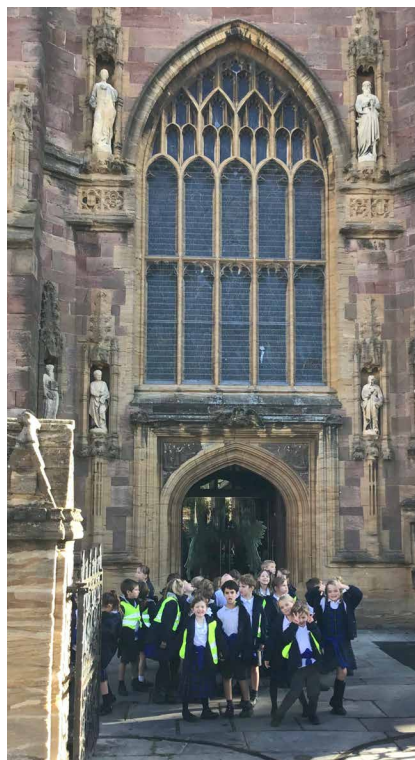
All four houses at TPS joined forces to raise funds for the national charity Young Minds to mark World Mental Health Day on 10th October. Young Minds supports young people with their mental health. The children wore one item of clothing that was yellow in exchange for a £1 donation.



## TSIMS World Mental Health Day



## Year 2 geography trip in pictures





## Thone trip to French Weir Park

Our older TPS boarders headed into Taunton town centre on Sunday and our younger ones went to French Weir Park, making the most of the beautiful autumn weather.



## Thone Outing to Brean Park

The Thone Family enjoyed a fabulous day at Brean Park recently to celebrate the end of a fun-filled first half of term.





## Harvest Festival service

Nursery, Pre-Prep and Prep children enjoyed attending a service in the Taunton School chapel where they learned about being thankful for what we have and sharing it with others. The children donated food items to the Taunton Foodbank to help those less fortunate in our town.



## TSIMS update

The first half of the autumn half term has been busy for the students at TSIMS. During this time they have excelled in demonstrating their recognition and generosity towards those in need. Mrs Young's tutor group led a Macmillan Coffee Morning at the end of September. Here the students got stuck in selling cakes, cookies and donuts to their peers and teachers and raised £124 towards cancer support. Later in the term the students showed their support for World Mental Health Day (10th October) by getting behind the #HelloYellow campaign run by the charity Young Minds. The students wore yellow as a mark of solidarity with children and young people dealing with mental health issues, donated money to Young Minds and participated in a variety of activities to help alleviate their own stress and worries and explore their own mental well-being. These activities included: a multi-sports session in the garden, a dog walk in the Spinney, an art club, a dream catcher making session, a quiet room session and a cooking class. Finally students at TSIMS got involved with the Harvest Festival taking place in Taunton. They donated items such as tinned food, cereals and toiletries to the charity Open Door which supports homeless people in the local area. Alongside this, the students also experienced their first trip to an English church service at St Mary's. Here the students gave readings, sang hymns and assembled with the community.





## Performing Arts Cafés

Enthusiastic and talented young musicians and dancers gave a superb afternoon in the first Performing Arts Café of the academic year. The performances continued with musical and dramatic entertainment from pupils in the second Performing Arts café. These events provide all-inclusive and celebratory performances, led by an inspirational team of visiting music, dance and speech & drama teachers who continue to educate and enthuse our next generation of performers.



## Year 3 trip to Carymoor Environmental Centre

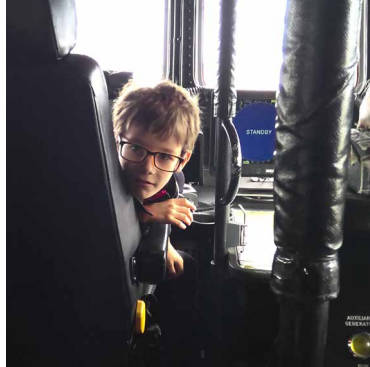
Year 3 had a 'rubbish' day out at Carymoor Environmental Centre in a day of two halves. The morning was focused on our 'I am Warrior' topic where the children successfully baked their own bread (topped with delicious local Carymoor honey) on an open fire inside a wonderful imitation Celtic Roundhouse. They dressed up in tartan tunics, covered themselves in blue woad and weaved their own willow plates. After lunch they weighed their waste to highlight the issues of modern day living, comparing themselves to the sustainable Celtic lifestyle. They ended the day at the waste transfer station, watching bin lorry after bin lorry deposit their waste ready for incineration. Pupils in Year 3 have now been tasked with taking charge of their recycling at home and seeing what changes they can make as part of their Squirrel Outdoor Learning Award.





## Year 4 trip to Brixham

On Friday, Year 4 had a fabulous time on their trip to Brixham to visit Sir Francis Drake's ship, The Golden Hind. As part of this term's history topic, 'Privateers and Petticoats', the children learnt what it was like for a Tudor sailor and saw many different and interesting artefacts. The children relished in the opportunity to dress up in Tudor clothing, be put in the stocks and even walk the plank! An added bonus this year, was taking a tour of the RNLI Torbay lifeboat station. The children were totally fascinated, and were even allowed to go on board.



## Student Elle places 2nd in the Torbay Triathlon

Elle (Year 4) competed at the Torbay Triathlon recently, finishing in 2nd place in the girls' race, and 6th overall. Leading after the swim, a tricky transition 1 and an unfortunate fall cost the gold on this occasion. But what a great achievement to carry on, get back on the bike and then have a good run to work back in to the medals.



## U13 girls' hockey team reach IAPS national finals



The U13 girls' hockey team have reached the IAPS national finals.

They won their group beating:

Downs: **3-0**

Leweston: **1-0**

Beaudesert: **2-0**

Quarter final vs Port Regis: Won **2-0**

Semi Final vs Millfield: **2-2** & won on Penalty flicks

Losing only in the final to a strong Clifton side.

They move onto IAPS Nationals held at Haileybury on the 25th November.



# Concerto Competition



Come and support excellent young musicians from Year 9 to Year 13 performing as soloists in the glorious acoustics of the Chapel. Refreshments provided on arrival.



**Thursday 3rd November at 6:30pm**

Venue: School Chapel

# Music Scholars' Recital

**Tuesday 8th November at 5pm**

Venue: Centenary Hall



# 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

# St Cecilia's Day Michaelmas Concert



**TPS Music Ensembles and Choirs**

**Tuesday 22nd November at 6pm**

Venue: The Chapel

