



TAUNTON
— SCHOOL —

Senior School COURIER



21st October 2022

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

JENKIN CROWNED 2022 HOUSE SINGING CHAMPIONS



Girls' day house Jenkin took the crown for this year's competitive House Singing competition with their excellent rendition of Taylor Swift's 'You Belong with Me', with Foxcombe taking the trophy for the warm up act with their outstanding modern dance troupe.

Take a look at some of the photos from the performances on page 8.

More inside:

- Message from the new Headmaster
- House Singing Competition photos
- Annual Charity Ball
- Work has started on new green heart

Tom completes an open water triathlon



Pre-Med talk with Dr Basquill

During the Pre-Med session our Lower Sixth were able to have a chat with Dr Basquill who is a registrar cardiologist at Musgrove Park Hospital. She spoke about what her experiences were of medical school, the importance of doing well in your university exams because it determines which deanery you will work in, and how what she thought she would excel at turned out not to be the case! Pupils were able to ask her about her experiences of working for the NHS and the possibilities of working abroad. Many thanks to Dr Basquill for giving up 30 minutes on her way to start her hospital shift!



Jack parades in London for National Sea Cadet Trafalgar Day



Upcoming Events

22-23rd October

Railway Fayre

26th October

Savills Commercial Conference

28th October

Round Table Charity Ball

29th October

Annual Charity Ball

31st October

BTEC & IB Open Evening

15th-18th December

Christmas Party Nights

20th-22nd December

Speed Development Camps

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>

Lisk Society – Gorbachev hero or villain?



The Lisk History Society staged its first major meeting of the term this month. The focus was the life and legacy of the last leader of the Soviet Union, Mikail Gorbachev, and featured an imaginative film made by the Upper Sixth Committee - special thanks to Lizzie, Evie et al for scripting and producing - in which Mark stood out as Gorbachev himself, Charlie as various gerontocrats, and Moni as a remarkably plausible Margaret Thatcher; Nathan was a reasonably likely Reagan, Maria a fine Raisa, while Oom Samie was simply a virtuoso.

After the Lisk Knight, Sir Elizabeth, laid down the ceremonial Robin Evans gauntlet and Lisk herald, Amélie, managed to induce a note from the horn, there were appearances by Henry VIII (Evie), court jester (Jack) and Lisk gladiator ((Issy) followed by illuminating staff presentations. A constant theme was the differing interpretations of Gorbachev, very much still a matter of debate as seen in recent obituaries.



'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.

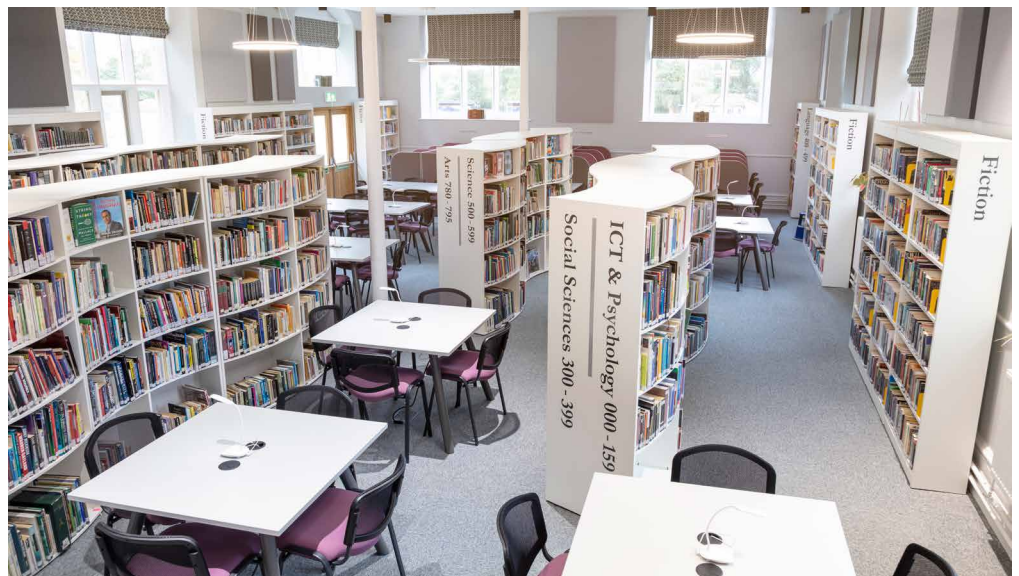
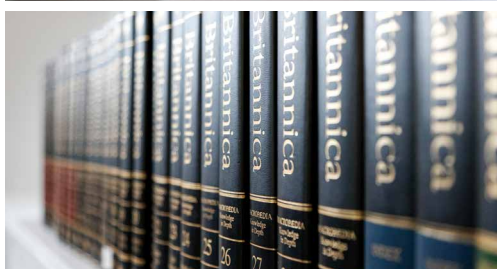
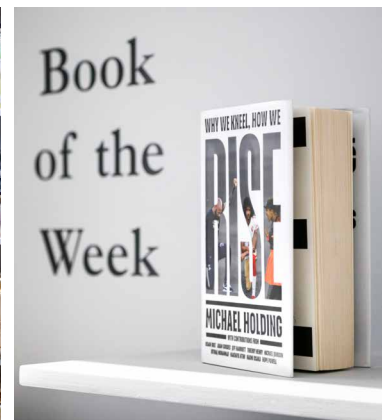
It will include trees, plants, seating and sensory areas to promote student wellbeing and provide a place to relax and socialise.

[Read more here.](#)



The Carrington Library

Taunton School has opened a new library containing 25,000 books as part of the school's ongoing development plan. The Carrington Library follows the opening of the new Sixth Form Centre, with both projects and the EAL refurbishment costing a total of £675k.



Black History Month: Floyd Steadman Talk

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

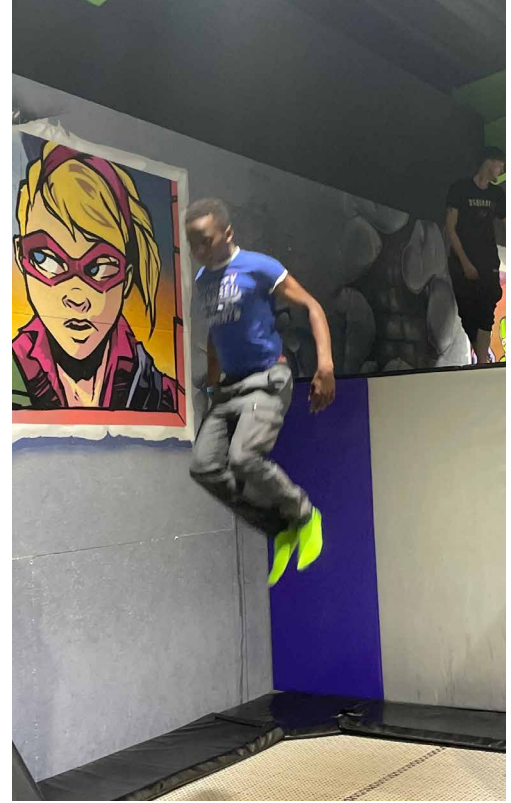
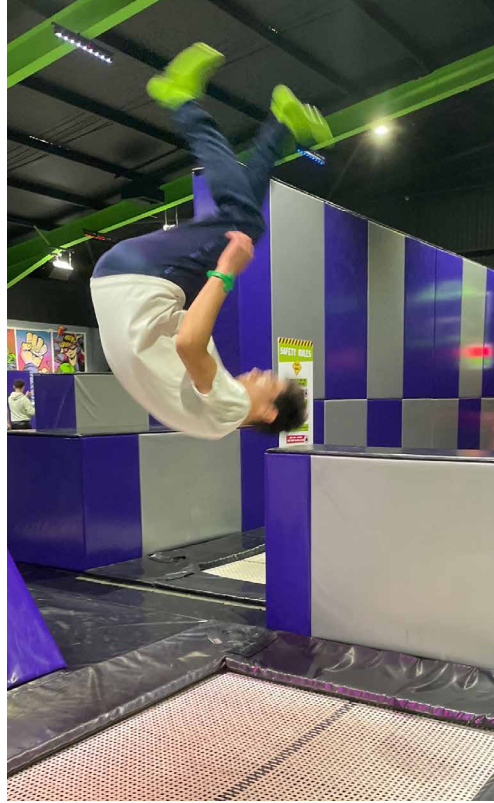
Floyd went on to become captain of the Saracens rugby team and then a Headmaster of four different prep schools. He gave a powerful talk about how he responded to the injustices he faced and how we can all be aware of our unconscious bias and the importance of two-way conversations.



Boys' boarding trip to Hollywood Bowl

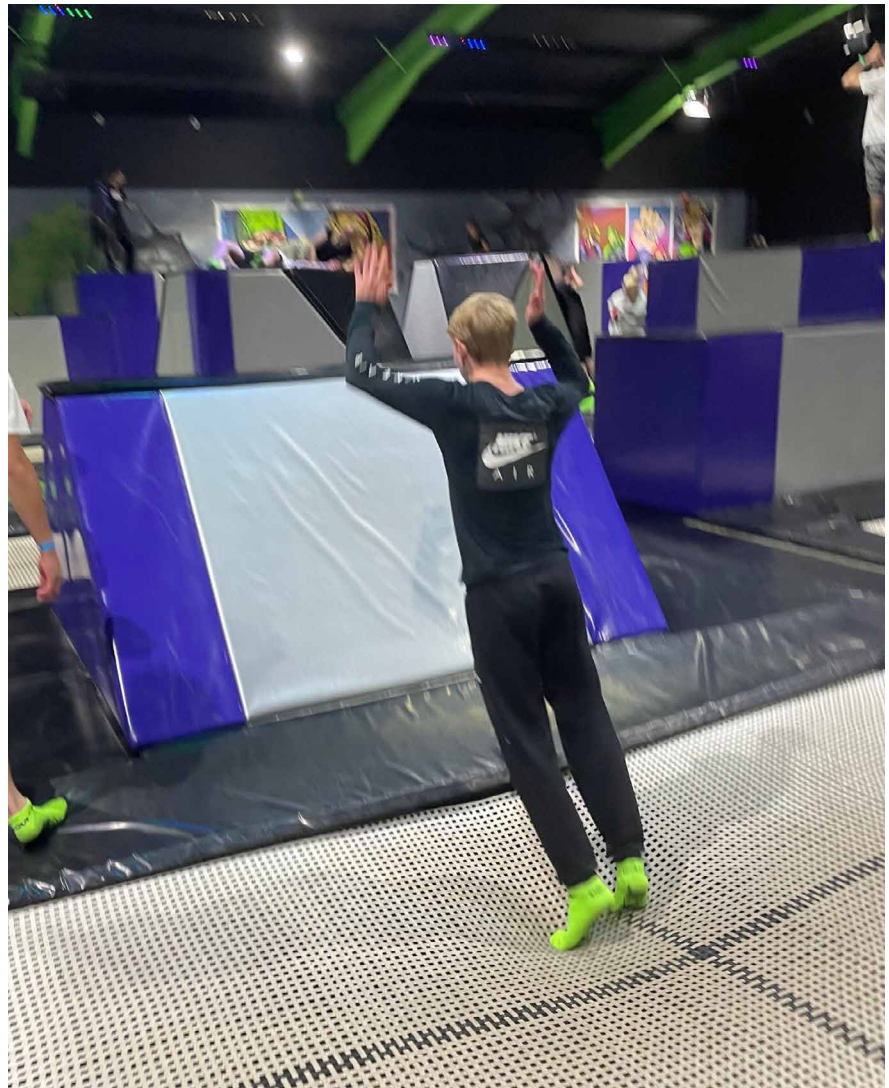


Senior boarders' trip to Flip Out



Cake sale for Macmillan Cancer Support

Students at Taunton School International raised £166 for Macmillan Cancer Support with a coffee morning and cake sale!



House Singing Competition



National CCF Sailing Regatta

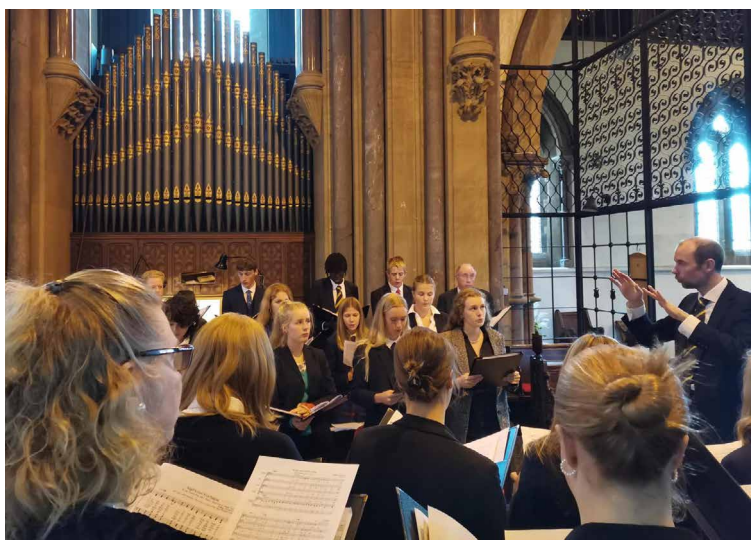
Three cadets from the Royal Navy section travelled down to HMS Raleigh to compete in the national CCF sailing regatta between the 8th and 9th October. Jack (FW Yr 11) sailed a Fusion single-handed dinghy in his category and fought against some adverse tidal conditions and a lack of wind against some incredibly experienced sailing schools and fought hard in each race to sail his best. Dan and Jack (both ML Yr 12) sailed together for the first time in a the double hander sailing category and worked hard together learning the boat and communicating as a team to place 3rd overall after coming 1st in two races and 3rd in the other two. This was an amazing feat for our young sailors who have had little experience in the world of sailing regattas and we hope to come back next year and build on our successes!

Lt Dunn (Head of Royal Navy CCF Section)



Chapel Choir: Choral Evensong at St. John's Church

Taunton School Chapel Choir led the music at a stunning service of choral evensong before half term at St. John's Church. The choir worked very hard to prepare all the necessary music, including canticles, anthem, psalm, preces and responses and hymns. It was an excellent opportunity to sing with the accompaniment of the church's Father Willis organ, played brilliantly by organist Mr Baker. The service included wonderful repertoire in up to five vocal parts, by Mozart, Stanford and Parry, sung with purity of sound and sensitive phrasing, and appreciated by a large congregation. The church gave a very warm welcome to students, staff and parents, and the all-important doughnuts were enjoyed by all. Huge thanks to all the music staff and other academic staff who took part and supported the students. The choir has a busy schedule of rehearsals and events, and will next be heard at remembrance, at the Autumn Concert on 23rd November, and of course at Christmas.



OT Sir Peter Westmacott returns to Taunton for 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](#).

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](#)



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

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



U14 girls' hockey team become county champions

We want to wish a HUGE congratulations to the U14 Girls' Hockey Team for winning the county finals last week and being crowned county champions!

The team was undefeated following their victories against Kings' College, Millfield and Kings' Bruton. This means they have made it through to the West finals after half term.



U14 and U16 netball teams qualify for English School regional finals

The U14 team were crowned county champions winning all their games, meaning they progress to the regional finals. Well done also to the U16 team who finished second losing only one game by 1 goal, so have also made it to the finals. Well done to everyone involved and good luck!



U16 girls' hockey team become T3 county champions



U16 boys become indoor hockey county champions



Girls' football team win at Wellington



The team won 5-1 with all goals scored by Captain Issy.

UIPM Biathle and Triathle Championships 2022

Three young athletes from Taunton School have won a clutch of gold medals in the Biathle and Triathle 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 more on our website here](#)



Music Scholars' Recital

Tuesday 8th November at 5pm

Venue: Centenary Hall



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

Teatime Concert



A casual concert open to all abilities and musical styles. Get involved as a performer or audience member and bring your peers along! Cake and refreshments are provided for all who attend.



Every Wednesday at 5:05pm

Venue: Gwyn Williams Room