

WORLD CHAMPIONS



Three athletic pupils from Taunton School have been crowned official world champions in biathlon and triathlon.

JJ Wells, aged ten, is one of three Taunton School pupils who returned to the UK with medals after competing in the World Biathlon and Triathlon Championships in Madeira recently.

JJ won gold in the Under 11 individual event, while friend and fellow athlete Tom Barnett, aged 12, came away from the championships with a gold medal in the Under 13 team triathlon. 13-year-old Nicolas Du Toit won gold in the Under 15 team triathlon. [Read more here.](#)

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Message from the Prep School Headmaster



I hope that you all enjoyed the exeat weekend, and that you are looking forward to the exciting and busy weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Fireworks Evening, and a big thank you to Mr Coleman and all of the other members of staff who joined together to make the event possible.

The pupils' progress in the classroom must always lie at the heart of their school experience, and I want to start my piece today by focussing

on the academic side of school life. I am delighted every week when I see how many pupils have been nominated by their teachers for a 'Learner of the Week' certificate in assembly, and it was extremely pleasing for me to see so many impressive grades being awarded just before half term in the first set of assessments for Attitude to Learning. I have very much enjoyed seeing parents in school for the Parent Consultation Evenings which have taken place this term, and I hope that these are proving useful and informative for parents. We are, this year, giving parents the choice of online or in-school consultations, and it is interesting to see the split in terms of parental choice. Although the time slots are not long ones with each teacher (and cannot be extended due to the obvious knock on effects for others), all of our staff are more than happy to arrange for a follow-up conversation on another day (by phone or in person) if required.

There have been many performing arts events recently to enjoy and I have been thrilled to see the pupils achieving so much. In drama, very well done and thank you to all of the pupils who have produced such good assemblies this term. Congratulations also to the very many pupils who have competed so well in this week's Taunton Festival of Drama, and we have seen many cups and shields being brought back into school by pupils returning from their competitions. In dance, we are very much looking forward to our show on 5th December, whilst, in music, we have been treated to a tremendous recital concert by our Music scholars in Years 7 and 8 and the Michaelmas Concert for all of our ensembles and

choirs. Many congratulations to all of our Performing Arts staff, and to all of our pupils who rehearse and perform so regularly, and to such a high standard.

For Remembrance, all of our pupils and staff took part in our moving Prep School Service, helping our pupils to develop a mature understanding of wars and conflicts around the world. The boarders also attended the service for all residents on the Sunday. The fact that we have a large core of pupils and staff from military backgrounds adds power and depth to Remembrance Day, and these members of our community help to strengthen the sense of service and values which are at the heart of our school.

We were very pleased to pass on our 'Poppy money' to The Royal British Legion, and we also, last week, raised over £750 for Children in Need. Thank you to all of our parents, pupils and staff for supporting these very worthy charitable causes.

Finally, in sport, last week saw the publication of The Cricketer Magazine's Good Schools Guide for 2022 and we are delighted that we have retained our position in their lists of top cricketing schools in the country at both Senior and Prep level. Across the whole of the South-West, it is only Millfield, Clifton, and us who are listed as being in the top division for both Senior and Prep. Our boys are all enjoying their rugby season, whilst both our Y7 and Y8 girls have qualified for the Prep School National Hockey Finals. Meanwhile, in the pool, our U13 boys and girls swum at the English Schools' National Relay Championships. Just to qualify for these Finals (in the Olympic Pool in London) requires our swimmers to be performing at a very high level, and our boys and girls did themselves, and TPS, proud on the day, finishing 15th and 17th in the country. In cross-country running, very well done to our boys and girls who competed so well in the South-West championships, with the boys' team taking first place, whilst in Biathlon, our pupils gained handfuls of medals in the regional qualifier in Bath, with TPS teams coming first, second or third in all of the following categories: Year 4 Boys (1st), Year 4 girls (1st), Year 5 boys, Year 6 Boys (1st), Year 6 Girls and Year 8 boys. Very well done to all of our pupils for their excellent efforts in sport.

I hope that you can all enjoy plenty of fun and rest over the weekend.

Mr Andrew Edwards, TPS Headmaster

Upcoming events

5th December	TPS Winter Wonderland Dance Show
6-8th December	A Christmas Carol performances
8-9th December	Pre-Prep Nativity - The Bethlehem Star
12th December	Nursery Four Nativity - Nursery Rhyme Nativity
13th December	Pre-Prep Christingle Service
19th December	Rugby Kicking Clinic, Rugby 7s Clinic, Girls Rugby Afternoon
21st-23rd December	Christmas Speed Camp

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



It does feel like the winter has gradually crept up on us -- with the rain, storms and dark evenings. A big Thank you to the parents who have joined us for any parent consultations over the last few weeks, it is always an important opportunity for us to share information -- in addition to hearing more about the children's interests at home. Further thanks to our parents who came along to both the Year two and Year one sharing assemblies, we hope that

you enjoyed hearing all about what has been going on both inside and outside of the classroom.

It also seems entirely appropriate to take this opportunity -- as we move into the December period, to publicly thank the catering team for all that they do to feed us throughout the year. I know that this continues to be challenging, sometimes thankless and often relentless.

As we march into the next few weeks, we look forward to the beginning of our exciting Christmas events with the start of our sparkle and glitter beginning on Friday 2nd December on 'Christmas Craft day.' The children always particularly enjoy the opportunity to wear their Christmas jumpers on this productive, festive day. Further details about booking tickets for our Christmas events --including the Nativity performances and the Christingle service, were shared in my letter out to parents last week.

Have a good weekend.

Mrs Louise Leah, Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery

Bonfire Night celebrations at TPS



Taunton Prep School hosted a Firework Night on Friday for all the Nursery, Pre-Prep and Prep pupils and families, and here is a little taste of the evening. Everyone enjoyed a bonfire, hot dogs and an amazing firework display over the playing fields.

Thanks to everyone that made this evening happen, we hope you all enjoyed it! Take a look at this [fantastic video from the night here](#).

Taunton Prep School remembers fallen heroes



Pre-Prep School students remembered those who lost their lives in conflicts all over the world during Remembrance events this month, including making their own poppies. The School also added four names to its war memorial as pupils, staff and former students came together for four days of Remembrance events. [Read more here.](#)

TPS pupils celebrate Children in Need



Taunton Prep School pupils raised money for Children In Need by wearing their own clothes, holding a bake sale and taking part in a playground dance session.

Michaelmas Concert



Showcasing all TPS Dance Ensembles



Monday 5th December at 6pm

Venue: Centenary Hall

Prep School musicians performed in the school's annual Michaelmas Concert on Tuesday 22nd November. Read the full write up [on our website here](#) or [watch our video here](#).

TSIMS November Round Up



TSIMS pupils supported Anti-Bullying Week by wearing odd socks to raise money for the Anti-Bullying Alliance. The students also took part in trips including watching a professional basketball game in Plymouth and visiting Longleat Wildlife Park.

TPS students meet Olympic rower



Olympic rower Alex Gregory MBE visited Taunton Prep School to meet and inspire Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. The double Olympic and five-time world champion gave an inspiring talk to pupils and allowed them to try on his medals.

Larry nominated for 'Our People Awards' at Musgrove Park Hospital



Taunton School's therapy dog has been nominated for an award for supporting sick children and their families. Larry the labrador and his owner Caro Wedgwood, Head of Biology, are in line for an 'Our People' award in recognition of their regular visits to patients on the children's wards at Musgrove Park Hospital over the past four years.

Going on a bear hunt



Nursery 4 children had fun going on a bear hunt and decorating biscuits this month.

Year 1 children celebrate Diwali

Mrs Kumar from Reception visited Year 1 to talk about the Indian festival of Diwali. She showed the children interesting objects including garlands, bracelets and tealight holders used in celebrations. Mrs Kumar told the children about the God Lakshmi and the children and staff tried on saris, dresses and tunics. The children also made and decorated clay hand tealight holders.



TPS dancers prep for Christmas concert



French lessons in Reception

The children in Reception have been making bird puppets in their French lessons with Madame Ashmore. They have learnt a rhyme called "Deux Petits Oiseaux" and performed it with their puppets, Fifi et Blanche.



Thone boarding trips and celebrations



Trips for Thone boarders this months have included French Weir Park and Brean Adventure Park.

Taunton Prep named in top 100 cricket schools in UK



We are delighted have been named (yet again!) as one of the top 100 Senior and top 50 Prep schools in the UK for cricket in The Cricketer 2023 Schools Guide.

U11 girls' hockey



The U11 girls' hockey team took second place in their group at the IAPS regional hockey a top eight finish and a place in the cup competition.

Cricket success



Well done to Year 6 pupils Sonny, Lewis, Isaac, Harrison and Sidu who won the Taunton Vale Under 11A club cricket league.

National Swimming Finals

Two teams of TPS swimmers competed at the London Aquatic Centre - home of the 2012 swimming events at the London Olympics - for the 64th English Schools Swimming Association Relay Finals. Taunton Prep School is one of only 30 schools in the country qualify for this event.

Junior Girls' Freestyle Relay: 17th in the country

Libby J, Amelia W, Jess R, Paige T

Junior Boys' Freestyle Relay: 15th in the country

Tom B, Lucas B, Harry A, Oliver H

Junior Boys' Medley Relay: 22nd in the country

Oliver H, Oli H, Tom B, Lucas B



English Schools' Cross Country

Taunton Prep School's junior boys' cross country team are celebrating a win in the regional rounds of the English Schools' Cross Country competition. The intermediate boys' team placed third in their competition, with both teams qualifying for the national final, which takes place in Leeds on 3rd December. The girls' teams placed 5th in the competition.

Individual results:

Lewis O - 3rd

Tom B - 4th

Harry A - 21st

Joseph J - 21st

Harvey C - 27th

Luke J - 34th

Xavia B - 33rd

Rosie J - 16th

Josie H - 19th

Emily R - 22nd

Libby H - 24th

Elspeth C - 47th

