



TAUNTON
— SCHOOL —

Senior School COURIER



25th November 2022

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

LEST WE FORGET

Students across Taunton School remembered fallen heroes this month. The school also added four names to its war memorial as pupils, staff and former students came together for four days of Remembrance events.

Go to page 7 for more.



More inside:

- Cricket selections
- Remembrance Day
- Business, Law and Apprenticeships Fair
- Captivating Concertos

Catering team receives 5* food & hygiene rating

The hard work of Taunton School's catering team has been rewarded with a 5* Food and Hygiene Certificate rating. The team provides first-class options for school lunches, as well as boarders' breakfasts, sports teas and special events.



Business, law and apprenticeships fair

Students from Taunton School and the local area spoke to local employers and educators from the fields of economics, business, entrepreneurship, the Armed Forces and more at our latest Business, Law and Apprenticeships Fair organised by the careers department.

[View more photos here.](#)



Mathematicians claim gold in UKMT Maths Challenge

Congratulations to the following students who completed the Senior UK Maths Challenge and were awarded gold certificates and will now proceed to the next round of the competition – The Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo:

Year 11

Jack J – Fairwater

Year 12

Simon I – Wills East

Kris W – Wills East

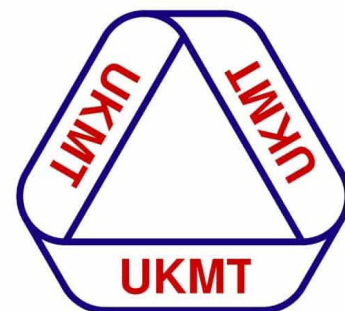
Kai C – Wills West

Year 13

Shad A – Evans

Henry C – Marshall

Evelyn Z – Weirfield



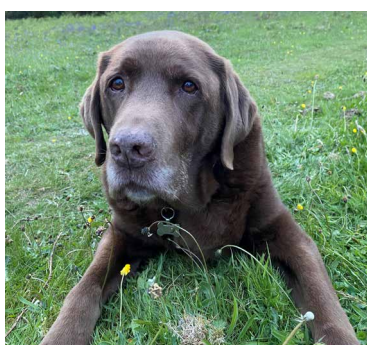
Pre-Med students prep for interviews with top doctors

Year 13 Pre-Med pupils Annie, George and Michael spent an evening last week honing their interview skills with practising doctors from Musgrove Park Hospital as well as medical students from University of Plymouth and University of Bristol to prepare for their university applications to study medicine.



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.



Upcoming Events

5th December

TPS Winter Wonderland Dance Show

6-8th December

A Christmas Carol performances

19th December

Rugby Kicking Clinic, Rugby 7s Clinic, Girls' Rugby Afternoon

19th December

Performance Netball Camp

21-23rd December

Christmas Sped Camp

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

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](#)



News from Foundation Director Jack Clark

Headmaster's Reception



Thank you so much to everyone who joined us last Friday for the Headmaster's Reception. It was wonderful to see the room full of parents, OTs, donors and staff.

It was great to hear from Mr Johnson as he shared his reflections on his first term and his aspirations for the future of the school. We were also treated to a musical showcase from some of our most talented students.

To see some photos from the evening, please visit our [Flickr album](#).

175th anniversary charity ball a great success

We are delighted to announce that our 175th Anniversary Charity Ball raised over £18,000 for means-tested Assisted Places at Taunton School. Thank you to everyone who supported this amazing event.

Planning for next year's ball is already underway and we'd love you to join us on Saturday 28th October 2023 - please save the date!

To see some photos from the evening, please visit our [Flickr album](#).



Finance and business panel

We are delighted to invite parents and OTs involved or interested in the areas of finance and business to a panel event on Monday 6th February.

This is the first in a series of themed networking events being run by the Foundation. We are starting with business and finance but the plan is to hold one of these events annually looking at different topics of interest.

The event will be a great opportunity for anyone involved in finance or business to network with other professionals over lunch and to hear from some of our distinguished community. We have four speakers confirmed for the session.

Guy Biggin, Partner, Social Purpose and Non Profits at Crowe

Peter Brooks, Founding Partner at Frost Brooks

Julian Pike, Partner at Farrer & Co

Emma Wheeler, Head of Women's Wealth at UBS Global Wealth Management

Spaces for this event are limited, in order to make the networking manageable. Please do [sign up online](#) if you'd like to join us.

Tokyo drinks reception



Taunton School warmly invites current and prospective parents to join us for a drinks reception in central Tokyo on the evening of Friday 9 December. Meet the Principal of TSI, Adrian Hallworth, as well as other parents, friends and alumni at this casual event.

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

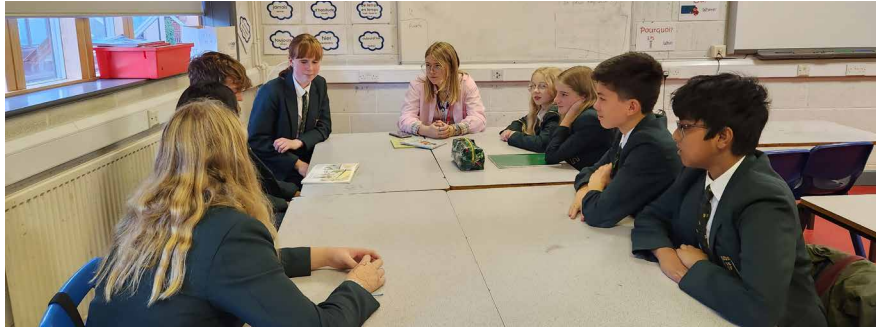
Student volunteers out in force

Volunteering activities at Taunton School have become more and more popular with students. This term, students have been spending time cleaning outdoor spaces, working with local retirement homes, teaching languages to local primary school students and helping with Mandarin lessons too.

The intrinsic satisfaction that students gain from volunteering should not be underestimated. Amalie in Year 12 has already signed up for a second term of visiting The Firs. "I just really enjoy the time I spend with the residents. Arts and crafts and good conversation, what more could I want from a Friday afternoon!"

If anybody has any links in the wider community who are seeking a group of willing volunteers then please do get in touch.

By Vivien Mico



Student review of Hamlet at Bristol Old Vic

William Shakespeare's Hamlet: an age-old tragedy. Timeless. A gripping story still relevant to the struggles of the modern man.

The audience are immediately thrust into John Haidar's adaptation of this classic with some grainy and quite frankly distressing footage of a young Prince Hamlet and his mother Gertrude. This is the beginning of a grungy, gothic play in which a paranoid, gun-wielding Hamlet sets out to avenge his late Father.

Alex Eales' set provides slick transitions between changes of scene and setting whilst the story is clearly and intriguingly portrayed by Haidar. The staging adds to this atmosphere and the audience become enveloped within the multifaceted story and titillating cast.

Billy Howles makes the show with his performance as Hamlet. A jealous, betrayed, broken, shell of a man, he lures the audience's eye around the stage with tremendous interest with his desperate yet skittish psychosis. There are signs of his later hate-fuelled tyranny when he chokes Ophelia and his mind becomes yet further disconnected from his body. Howle beautifully conveys this ill-fated battle between the often conflicted excesses of male emotion and feelings of family loyalty.

The casting largely fits the themes of the play. Nonetheless, the often ill-timed comedic chimes seem out of place and seem to distract from the tension and raw emotion of scenes. Additionally, Isabel Adomakoh Young as Horatio seems disjointed and her manner at times is at odds with an otherwise thought-provoking production.

A review by Ben G



TSI students hone speaking skills in Tutor Debate

TSI tutor groups battled it out at the latest tutor debate, which saw students convince others to agree with their point of view. They were judged on their articulation and fluency, interpretation of language, volume and pace, and how engaging they are, and had only 5 minutes to convey their point.

Well done to winners Nigel and Fernando, 2nd place was awarded to Omar and 3rd to Sasha.



Somerset photography competition

Senior School student Dan F beat over 100 other entries to be named as the U18 category winner of the 2022 "Sea Walks - Happy Days in Somerset" photography competition with this image.



Sixth Form photography competition

Well done to Isabel H (Jenkin), Felicity H (Bevan) and Kirra B (Bevan) whose excellent photos and artwork were selected to be showcased in the new Sixth Form Centre.

The Senior Courier

TSI top merit students

Well done to Wataru, TY, Nigel, Jimena, Mia, Florian, Omar, Vivian, Sara, Liza who have all received outstanding merit awards this term.



Foxcombe weathervane!

This photograph of a rainbow over the Foxcombe Weathervane was taken by TSI student Jackson.



Taunton School adds forgotten heroes to war memorial

Taunton School added four names to its war memorial this month as pupils, staff and former students came together for four days of Remembrance events. The four veterans had been missing from the monument in the school grounds and were added as the school commemorated Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday.

The names added to the war memorial were:

- Gaston Vincent (French Resistance radio operator who saved 30 Jewish children), who attended Taunton School in 1909 served in both World Wars and died in 1944
- Sergeant-Gunner Gerald Gainsford (RAF), who joined Taunton School in 1929 and died in June 1940 when his aircraft was shot down over the North Sea
- Corporal Thomas Arlidge (Australian Army), who joined Taunton Prep School in 1926 and died fighting in Crete in May 1941
- Corporal Richard John (Prince Alfred's Guard, South African Army), who joined Taunton School in 1929 and died in Italy in June 1944

The recent additions mean there are now 320 names on the Taunton School war memorial – 168 from World War I and 158 from World War II.

Read more here: [forgotton heroes](#)



Captivating concertos

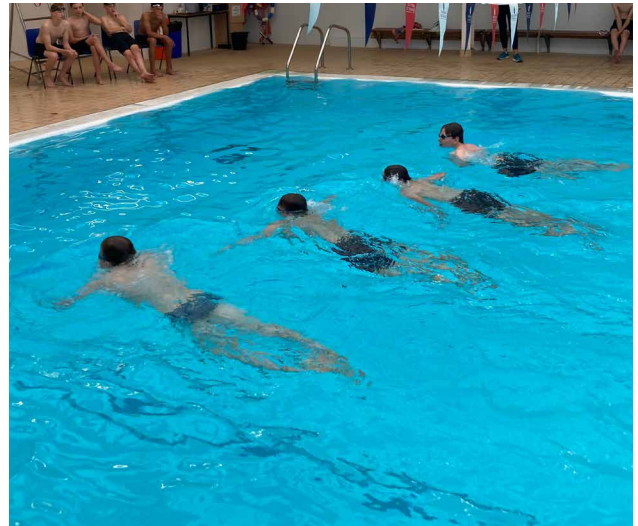
Taunton School's concerto competition took place in chapel on 3rd November, featuring 12 TS musicians performing for a full house. The evening concert was a showcase for the best solo performers in the school, representing all year groups and playing piano, violin, flute, horn, trumpet and trombone. The programme included music by Mozart, Strauss and Shostakovich, with other Romantic era pieces alongside European 20th century music, and a concerto by Chinese composers Chen Gang and He Zhanhao.

See the results here: [Concerto Competition](#)



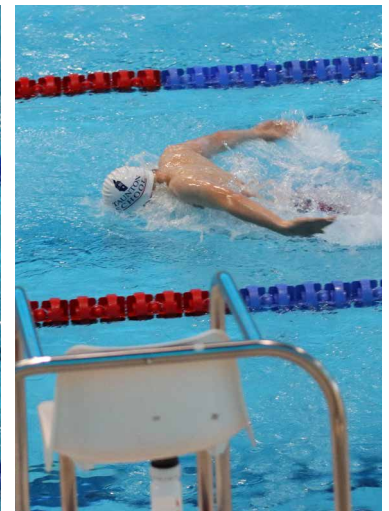
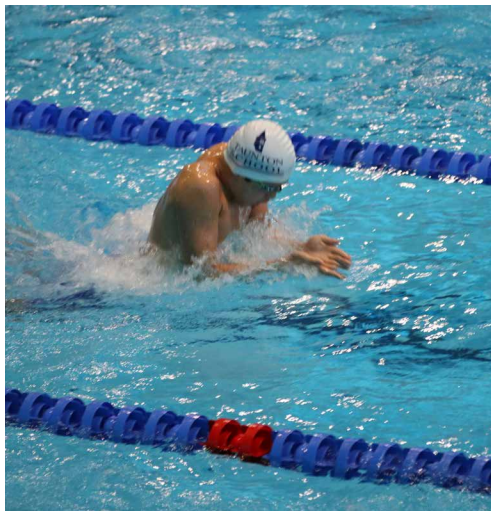
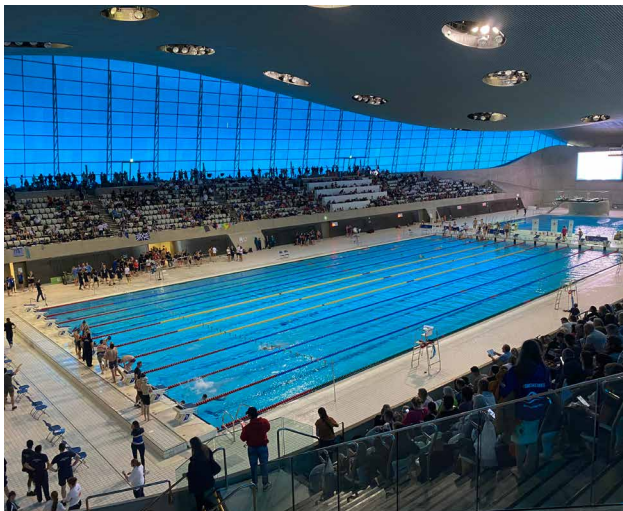
Core PE swimming programme

Students studying our core PE swimming programme have been learning water polo, synchronised swimming, lifesaving skills and stroke technique work so far this academic year.



ESSA Finals

Four teams from Taunton Senior School and Taunton Prep School have qualified for the English Schools Swimming Association regional qualifiers.



Swimming success

Year 11 swimmer Szymon W was crowned junior 50m breaststroke regional champion at the South West regionals recently.



Netballers qualify for regional finals

Taunton School's U14 netball team have been crowned county champions after finishing unbeaten in their tournament.

They now go through to regional finals, along with the U16 and U19 teams who both came second in their tournaments.

Read the full report on our website here: [Netball regional finals](#)



Girls' football v Sherborne

Well done to our girls' football team who have been very busy this month – their spirit and intensity has been admirable.



Biathle and Triathle world champions

Three pupils from Taunton School have been crowned official world champions in biathle and triathle at the championships in Madeira this month.

TPS students Tom and JJ won gold in the Under 11 individual events and Under 13 team events, while Senior school student Nicolas won gold in the Under 15 team triathle.

In October, JJ, Tom and Nicolas medalled in the European Championships in Greece, where they secured 13 podium places between them.

[Read more here](#)



Hockey round-up

Taunton School's boys' and girls' hockey programmes have seen exciting seasons play out so far with a number of impressive results.



Well done to the U16 Boys who have qualified for the Regional (West) Semi Finals.



Congratulations to the U18 Boys who were crowned county indoor champions on Monday evening, qualifying for the Regional (West) Finals.

Director of Hockey awarded highest level coaching certificate



Director of Hockey Elliot Foweraker has been awarded the highest level of coaching qualification for hockey available in the world. Mr Foweraker received the award after previously completing the European Top Coaches Programme. He has also recently completed the Great Britain Hockey Advanced Coaching Programme, which is the highest qualification in the country.

Equestrian

Well done to all those who represented the school at the Hickstead Arena Eventing qualifier at Pontispool, especially to Poppy T in Year 11, who came first in the 1m class out of 19 competitors.



Gold in Karate

Congratulations to George T and Lucie T who competed in the JKS England National Karate Competition this month. George won gold and was named national champion in the cadet black belt individual Kata event and also in the team Kata black belt over 16s, despite being only 15 years old. He also won silver in the team Kumite final.

Lucie received a bronze in the age 12-15 years individual Kata event at only 12 years old, beating England squad members along the way.



Cricket selections

Taunton School's cricket programme is going from strength to strength after a series of academy and county pathways selections. Currently, the programme has 28 players selected in representative squads for Somerset, Cornwall, Devon, Wiltshire and Dubai. There are also five players who are on higher-level programmes and are working towards academy places.

Marcus Trescothick, England and Taunton School Coach said, "We are very proud of the players and how hard they have worked to achieve these accolades and they have a great opportunity to progress to higher levels. Overall, the cricket programme is growing and even though the summer is long way off, many players are working extremely hard."

Mr Sanderson also said, "Both boys and girls are working hard in 1-1 and group sessions and real progress is being made in the core skills of alignment, base and momentum and I cannot wait for the summer."



Taunton named in top 100 cricket schools in UK

Taunton School has been named as one of the top 100 Senior and Prep schools in the UK for cricket, in The Cricketer 2023 Schools Guide.



Cross country

Congratulations to the following students who represented the school in the regional cross country competition on Saturday:

Theo W – Year 9 – Evans

Nicolas Du T – Year 9 – Goodland

Oscar C – Year 10 – Evans, finishing 4th overall

Charlie H – Year 10 – Evans, finishing 5th overall

The team finished 3rd overall and have qualified for National Finals in Leeds in December.

U15 NatWest Cup Rugby

The U15 rugby team beat Ivybridge 19-15 in a tense game to progress onto the 4th round (final 16 teams) of the competition. They play Canford away on the 1st December.

Winter Wonderland Dance Extravaganza



Showcasing all TPS Dance Ensembles



Monday 5th December at 6pm

Venue: Centenary Hall

Taunton School Drama Department Presents

Charles Dickens

A Christmas Carol

adapted by David Edger
in association with Nick Hern Books



Tickets available at:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool



Tuesday 6th - Thursday 8th December at 7pm

Venue: Taunton School Theatre



RUGBY KICKING CLINIC

Monday 19th December
U10 - U16
10 - 11.30am £10



For more information contact: ben.thomas@tauntonschool.co.uk

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



RUGBY 7s CLINIC

Monday 19th December
U12 - U16
12 - 1.30pm £10

For more information contact: ben.thomas@tauntonschool.co.uk
Booking available on www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool



RUGBY GIRLS' AFTERNOON

Monday 19th December
U10 - U16
2 - 3.30pm £10

For more information contact: ben.thomas@tauntonschool.co.uk
Booking available on www.ticketsource.co.uk/tauntonschool





TAUNTON
— SCHOOL —

SPEED DEVELOPMENT CAMP

This camp will focus on developing the technical aspects of strength and speed and how they can be applied across all sports to enhance performance



Tuesday 20th December
Wednesday 21st December
Thursday 22nd December

10am-11am Speed session in the sports hall
11.30am-12.30pm Strength session in the gym

Cost: £15pp per day

Age 13-18 – Limited spaces available

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