



TAUNTON
— SCHOOL —

Prep & Pre-Prep COURIER

16th December 2022

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

CHRISTMAS COMES TO TAUNTON PREP SCHOOL



Pupils at Taunton Prep School have welcomed in the festive season with a series of festive activities, including manning their own stalls at the TPS Christmas fair, watching *The Little Prince* at the Brewhouse Theatre and a dance extravaganza with the Winter Wonderland Dance Show. Watch a video of the [Winter Wonderland Dance Show here](#) and a video from [the Christmas fair here](#).

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Message from the Prep School Headmaster



The final few days of term were packed with festive fun and wonderful events such as the Christmas Fair, the Christmas Lunch on Monday, the Christmas Extravaganza on Tuesday, and Wednesday's Carol Services. Thank you very much to the Parents' Association for all of their involvement and support, helping to make it such an upbeat end of term for everyone. It was lovely to see so many parents at the Carol Services, enjoying the excellent singing and reading by the pupils.

It was terrific in Tuesday's final assembly to see how proud and happy pupils were to be recognised for their special achievements. Some of the awards were given to pupils who have demonstrated outstanding levels of attainment such as the Year 8 colours for sport and the performing arts. In order to win those elite colours, pupils need to have been performing to a very high level, and demonstrating outstanding attitudes in all practices and matches. However, many of our awards are truly achievable by all, such as our 'Learner of the Term' certificates for outstanding Attitude to Learning grades, and for a high number of 'Rolls of Honour'. Our TPS Way challenges our pupils to be ambitious, to try their best and to be kind and respectful, and these are all things which are achievable every day by every one of our pupils. When they do these three things, they will be given the recognition which they deserve and we shall all be smiling!

Thank you to all those who have contributed such generous gifts for the Sparkle Appeal, which will all end up in the hands

of children who would not otherwise have had much of a Christmas. It has been heart-warming to hear the children talking so warmly about giving to others, as they dropped off their presents in the School Office.

Thank you also to all of our dancers for giving us such a treat last week in Centenary Hall. The girls and boys worked so hard to learn their routines, and performed them with such grace, style, confidence and skill. Very well done to our excellent dance teachers, Miss Hartland-Mann and Miss Turner, and to all of the pupils who took part. Also in performing arts, we have enjoyed end of term performances from our drama clubs, our Saturday Morning Enrichment group put on a wonderfully vibrant production of 'Hairspray', our choirs have been enchanting listeners out in the community, and every child in Years 3 to 5 has been to The Brewhouse.

In Sport, our boys finished what has been a very successful and rewarding rugby season, whilst our girls have excelled on the hockey pitch with our U13 and U12 teams finishing 9th and 10th in the country after giving their all in their respective National Finals. Meanwhile, our boys finished 4th in the country in the Cross-Country National Finals which took place in Leeds. Many congratulations to all for these wonderful achievements.

There is insufficient space on this page to mention all of the many successes enjoyed by our pupils this term, but if you were to flick through the recent editions of the Courier, you would, I believe, be amazed at what has been achieved. None of this would be possible without the fantastic support given by parents to our children and to the school. I thank you all, and I wish you all a very enjoyable festive holiday.

Mr Andrew Edwards, TPS Headmaster

Message from the Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery



As we near the end of the final day of this term, there has been lots of sparkle and fun going on, throughout the whole of the Pre-Prep and Nursery, including our fabulous Nativity performances and the Christmas fair – last week and of course yesterday's special visit from Father Christmas.

I would like to publicly thank the catering team for our delicious Christmas lunches on Monday

and all that they do to feed us so well throughout the year.

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for the Christingle service on Tuesday, it was very special to have you in the Chapel with us and to have you joining in with the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Thank you to you all for your continued support this term. Enjoy a Christmas to remember with your family and friends. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year in 2023, when it arrives.

Mrs Louise Leah, Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery



Upcoming events

19th December	Rugby Kicking Clinic, Rugby 7s Clinic, Girls Rugby Afternoon
21st-23rd December	Christmas Speed Camp
28th January 2023	Virtual Open Morning
4th February 2023	In-Person Open Morning

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>

Finance and Business Panel

We are delighted to invite parents and OTs involved in finance and business to our networking panel on 6th February. The event will be a great opportunity for anyone involved in these areas to meet and network with other professionals over lunch and to hear from some of our distinguished community. The event will take place at Taunton School and we have four speakers confirmed.

Guy Biggin, Partner, Crowe LLP

Peter Brooks, Former CEO and Founding Partner, Sovereign Capital LLP

Julian Pike, Partner at Farrer & Co LLP

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

[Spaces are limited to ensure the networking is manageable, please sign up using this online form if you would like to attend.](#)

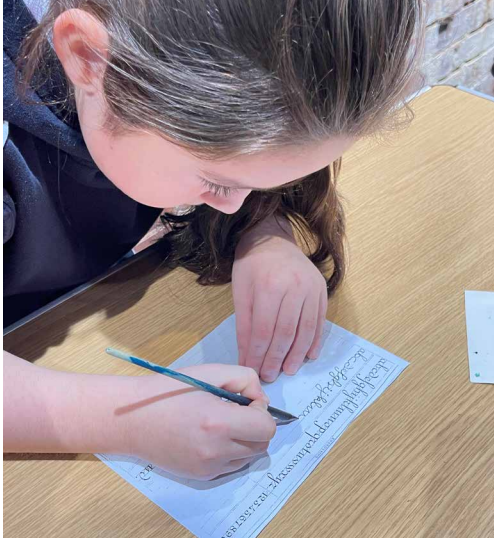
Rob Marshall returns to Taunton

We were delighted to welcome Old Tauntonian Rob Marshall, Red Bull Racing's Chief Engineering Officer, back to the school earlier this month to chat with some of our students about their Greenpower racing car. Rob offered expert advice, design ideas and suggestions on how they could improve the car's performance.



Year 5 trip to Tyntesfield House

Year 5 enjoyed a visit to Tyntesfield House. The children took part in a variety of workshops throughout the day and learnt about how the Gibbs family lived in the beautiful estate. They were also taught about the differences between rich and poor Victorians, got dressed up in their attire and explored a variety of artefacts - allowing to understand the different roles within the house.



Year 8 positivity in PSHE



As part of the PSHE topic on Celebrating Differences, Year 8 pupils have been designing some 'positive propaganda' to go up around the school to help people feel more included, positive and happy during the dark mornings and nights.

Year 3 meet 'Bran the Celt'



Year 3 had a wonderful story telling session with 'Bran the Celt' thanks to Clive Pig Mister StoryFella and the artefacts he brought with him. This was followed by an interactive drama workshop.

Year 5 and 6 drama show



Pupils in the Prep School's drama clubs took to the stage for their end-of-term performances this month. Pictured are our Year 5 and Year 6 actors entertaining the audience.

TPS Senior Choir perform at SCC



TPS Senior Choir kickstarted the festive singing with a performance at Somerset County Cricket club members lunch

Little Prince



Pupils in Years 3 to 5 visited the Brewhouse Theatre to watch The Little Prince.

TPS Honeycombe



The Eco Club will be selling five of these complete honeycombs and honey in jars from a swarm that made its home at the school earlier in the term. The club has spent a number of weeks spinning the honey and preparing it ready for the TPS Christmas Fayre.

DT Enrichment



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas with these mischievous little elves on their shelves.

Year 8 event leaders host Year 3 and 4 party



Year 8 pupils spent the week selling tickets, making playlists, creating dance routines and designing party games ahead of the Year 3 and 4 Christmas party. Adorned with sparkles and party outfits, the guests were welcomed into a hall filled with balloons and disco lights before treated to a photo booth, face painting, pass the parcel.

Christmas at TSIMS



This month, the students at The Grange celebrated Christmas by participating in a Christmas music morning and enjoyed a Christmas party where they shared their secret Santa gifts, wore Christmas jumpers, and tucked into a traditional English Christmas dinner!

Fauré Requiem

**Join Taunton School Festival Chorus
to sing this beautiful piece
with orchestra in March**

Email the Director of Music:
toby.carden@tauntonschool.co.uk
for more information

Open to all parents and friends of Taunton School
All voices and ages welcome. No previous experience needed

TPS choir success

Our choirs have developed and grown from strength to strength over the course of the term, showing their skill and their sense of musicality and teamwork by performing regularly in our Chapel Services and also out in the community over the Christmas period. Not even at the weekend do our enthusiastic performers rest on their laurels, for we have also had an intense term training and rehearsing for the production of Hairspray with our Performing Arts Enrichment group. This was the culmination of many weeks of hard work but also excellent fun and focussed training.

By Mr Baker



Michaelmas Concert



Showcasing all TPS music ensembles and most of the entire student body of TPS from across all ages and all ability levels, the Michaelmas concert was a highlight of our Autumn term.

Winter Wonderland Dance Show



Winter Wonderland Dance Show brought together passion, energy and skill from the youngest to the oldest and most experienced TPS dancers, celebrating each other's talents and love for performing in all sorts of traditions at every level of skill.

[Watch a video from the evening here.](#)

TPS Enrichment production of Hairspray



Year 6 Dream On



Year 6 pupils presented Dream On, a fun and quirky take on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, in Centenary Hall. Next term, Year 4 will perform Ocean Commotion.

TPS Enrichment production of Hairspray

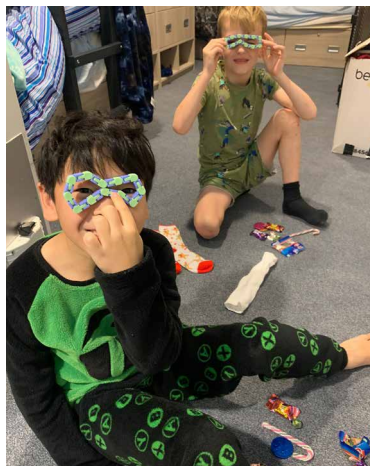




Santa's elves visit Thone House



Merry Christmas from Thone House



Christmas Shopping



TPS Squash



Taunton School travelled to King's to play a friendly fixture for their first taste of a competitive squash fixture. The performance of the day (voted for by the players) went to Christian P for his persistence and consistency throughout his matches.

Back row: Nathan H, Rufus H, Oli G, Alex C, Logan D

Front row: Will K-S, Maxi C

English Schools Cross Country Finals



The junior and intermediate cross country team at Grammar School Leeds. To qualify through to the finals the team had to compete in the area rounds at Kings College (1st) then the regional rounds at Downside School (1st). Twenty-seven schools qualified for these finals from 9 regions with 163 runners in the race. The team was very proud to finish 4th.

County Show Jumping Championships



Well done to our equestrians Violet, Florence, Alice, Eliza, who won the 80cm class, and Florence, Hetty, Poppy, Meg, who won the 90cm class at the County Show Jumping Championships, making us County Champions for those heights. Hetty also placed 8th in the 1m class.

Well done to all of the following who represented the school: Hetty H, Violet L, Florence L, Meg P, Eliza H, Alice B, Zoe T and Laura T.

