



THE  
**TCS Tribune**

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity

**Issue #23 - Autumn 2024**



**Testbourne Community School**

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity



Dear valued parents, carers and members of the community,

Welcome to the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the *TCS Tribune*. This is our termly newsletter dedicated to sharing the activities of the students and staff in our wonderful school with our wider community.

Recently, the school performance tables were published for the results of the class of 2024. I am delighted to report that, once again, Testbourne is the top performing secular school in the Basingstoke and Deane and Andover areas. These performance tables also show that we are not just about academic outcomes. The proportion of children who attended Testbourne and are now in education, employment or training is much higher than that of the overall national and Hampshire figures. This is because we pride ourselves on helping children to become independent, resilient and well-prepared for their future.

This term is the time in which we celebrate exam achievements with the individual children who made them happen, presenting GCSE certificates to our Year 11 cohort from last year. Staff enjoyed chatting to students and their parents and having a bite to eat. We look forward to hearing more about how life at college and beyond goes for our alumni and send our congratulations to the year group once again.

This has been a very busy, action-packed autumn term. We had our open evening and open mornings early in the term and I am pleased to report that we are oversubscribed once more with just under 300 applications for next year's intake. As always, we will strive to take as many of our first-choice applicants as possible by admitting students over our usual admission number. We want to help families avoid the worry and stress caused by not getting their first-choice school.

There has been plenty to note this term, with some outstanding events, trips and visits alongside our usual day-to-day activities. I will let you read about those in the rest of the *Tribune*. A particular highlight, however, was our inaugural fireworks display at the end of October. We sold over 1200 tickets, enjoyed a first-rate professional display, ate lovely food and raised money for the school. We aim to make this an annual event and hope you can help us grow it and make it the destination of choice for fireworks in the local area.

I also had a wonderful time visiting the Christmas Fair with Hernando and one of my three children. It was lovely to talk to families, prospective parents, staff and members of the community, and of course Hernando got most of the attention! It was a lovely event, in which each of our seven Year 7 tutor groups had a fundraising stall alongside our PTFA and members of the community. Our thanks go to all who supported the event and to local businesses that provide matched funding to make this a significant fundraising event for the school as well as a lovely day for the community.

As you know, each half term, we recognise students for consistently demonstrating our Standards of Excellence by presenting them with a Headteacher's recognition letter. The recipients for the autumn term are:

### Autumn 1

- Belle Alderman
- Freya Berry
- Morgan Mason
- Ava Selwood
- Aimee Regan
- Sam Davies
- Daisy Ellis

### Autumn 2

- Anna Quiroga
- Nathan Salvador
- Izzy Reeves
- Teagan Rose
- Oyin Bada
- Robyn Hadfield
- Nathan Partridge
- River Bettesworth
- Poppy Taylor

Additionally, you may be aware that we have "Hot Chocolate Friday." This event is a weekly recognition event for students who have demonstrated exceptional effort in their learning and in modelling the Testbourne Standards of Excellence. This term, the recipients of Hot Chocolate Friday have been:

- |                      |                      |                       |                   |                          |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| • Oyebola Adeniyi    | • Sophie Burton      | • Felicity Hall       | • Harvey Newman   | • Jacob Smith            |
| • Belle Alderman     | • Beth Cann          | • Harry Hinks         | • Alfie Newman    | • Daniel Smith           |
| • Anthony Andrews    | • Louie Casey-Brown  | • Olivia Hollis       | • Oliver Noble    | • Alana Stafford         |
| • Oyin Bada          | • Analeigh Cockerell | • Libby-Jo Hurford    | • Sophie Noble    | • Poppy Taylor           |
| • Jessica Baker      | • Megan Corbishley   | • Aly Jarman          | • Lewis Nye       | • Isaac Turley           |
| • Gracie Barnes      | • Lewis Couper       | • Owen Kelly          | • Thomas Powell   | • Aylin Ulloa            |
| • Poppy Barrett      | • Finley Cox         | • Devesh Kumar        | • Anna Quiroga    | • Ted Verney             |
| • Oliver Bartholomew | • Miles Cronin       | • Joshua Lawley       | • Ewan Ralph      | • Alexis Westwood-Atkins |
| • Deniz Bekir        | • Elian Crump        | • Joe Lawrence        | • Eddie Rampton   | • Samuel Wigmore         |
| • Alfie Bennett      | • Tillie Devereux    | • Joy Lebentz         | • James Rampton   | • Holly Williams         |
| • Lois Bentley       | • Lily Dowling       | • Ethan Lewis         | • Freddie Randall | • Max Wingfield          |
| • Freya Berry        | • Oliver Ellis       | • Mia Lockley         | • Izzy Reeves     | • Dominic Young          |
| • Rijul Bhowmick     | • Naomi Fisher       | • Fred Lomax          | • Teagan Rose     | • River Bettesworth      |
| • Rose Billingham    | • Jack Franklin      | • Morgan Mason        | • Thomas Robins   | • Isabella Price.        |
| • Jess Bracken       | • Ellie Good         | • Shaun Michael       | • Jacob Rose      |                          |
| • Zach Brown         | • Annabel Gray       | • Valderama           | • Nathan Salvador |                          |
| • Felix Burke        | • Robyn Hadfield     | • Vanya Mykhailetskyi | • Owen Selwood    |                          |

Christmas can be a magical time of year but is also fraught with difficulties for some. If you are suffering from financial hardship, we do have access to a very small emergency fund. Should you wish to request assistance, please email Lauren Cartwright, Pastoral and Safeguarding Support Manager, [l.cartwright@testbourne.school](mailto:l.cartwright@testbourne.school) in the first instance. If you live in Basingstoke and Deane, you may wish to get in touch with the Queen Mary Foundation:

<https://qmcfoundation.org.uk/>

All that remains is for me to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing your children in 2025.

Best wishes

Mr Jon Beck  
Headteacher

# GCSE Exams Results 2024

## Congratulations to the class of 2024!

The class of 2024 achieved some superb GCSE and Level 2 Vocational Award results. This resulted in a Progress 8 score of +0.09 (December 2024), which is higher than the Progress 8 scores achieved by all other non-religious secondary schools in Basingstoke & Deane and in Andover.

We are proud of the achievements of the class of 2024 and commend these students on their efforts during the time they spent with us. More than three quarters of students achieved a 'standard' pass of Grade 4 and above in both English and Maths, with over half achieving a 'strong' pass in both. 15% of students achieved the top grades of 9-7 in both English and Maths. More than 80% of students achieved a 'standard' pass or better in two Sciences; two thirds of students studying separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs achieved a Grade 7 or above. Many option subjects, including Computer Science, Dance, Design & Technology, Drama, Geography and Music are celebrating pass rates of above 75% with their students in 2024.

Across all subjects, one in seven students achieved at least one of the top Grade 9s (or equivalent) in their GCSEs and vocational awards, whilst 188 Grade 8s or 9s were awarded to students across all subjects. Of these top grades, over half were in English, Maths or Science subjects. In addition to this, our SEND students made above-average progress, thanks to the dedication and support from our teachers and Support Hub colleagues.



## Open Evening 2024

Our annual Open Evening, held in September, is a very busy event every year. Hundreds of parents and students come to see the fantastic offer here at Testbourne Community School. We were delighted earlier this term to host another busy and successful evening, with more than 300 visitors who came to see the departments. The Year 11 Prefect team, Year 10 helpers, and some Year 9 Transition Prefects were kept very busy showing parents and students around the site.



Some highlights of the evening included:

- In the Science Department, visitors were able to watch a live dissection, use microscopes to investigate cells, conduct flame tests, test acids and alkalis, have a go at making a chromatography flower and build electrical circuits.
- In the Art Department students were able to create Aztec pendants, which many enjoyed wearing and showing off as they toured around the site.
- PE was popular with an activity carousel in the Theatre Hall due to the wet weather. Lots of students showed off their great physical skills and staff were able to showcase the huge range of extra-curricular activities and sport we offer, as well as talk about our excellent results in GCSE PE.
- In English there were various challenges: apostrophes, homophones, match the quote to the play, taste description and Elizabethan English. This gave adults an intellectual workout as well as stretching the students' knowledge too.
- The Art, DT and Music rooms were very busy with students finding out about specialist subjects at Testbourne, alongside Dance, Health and Social Care, Engineering and Computer Science.

At the end of the evening Mr Beck gave a talk in the Sports Hall for more than 200 families, and we were delighted so many people could join us for the event. Thank you to the huge number of staff and students who worked so hard to show off our wonderful school – we really appreciate everything you do.



## Open Morning 2024

In the first week of October we held our very popular Open Mornings, which provide a chance for prospective parents and students to visit the school and see lessons in action. Year 9 students took the visitors on tours around as many classes as possible, and it was a joy to see so many different subjects all being taught by our experienced and skilled teachers. We welcomed a lot of families into school for a tour of the site, with visitors having the opportunity to speak to staff before or after the tours. Visitors gave wonderful feedback about how articulate, polite and kind the tour guides were, and we are very proud of the sterling job that they did. Visitors were also impressed with the school's calm and purposeful atmosphere when walking around site. In January we will be inviting existing parents to have a tour of the school, so please watch out for this invitation soon. Year 6 parents have now made their applications for secondary schools and they will find out which school they are allocated in March.



## Presentation Evening

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 was our arranged special evening for our Testbourne Alumni. Now studying as Year 12 students at various colleges, completing A levels, T levels and Apprenticeships, our former students returned to Testbourne for an evening to celebrate their achievements and collect their GCSE Certificates.

The evening was introduced by Mrs MacAulay, Dr Wilson, Mrs Gray and Mr Alderman and students then signed to collect their certificates. There was also a chance to speak to the many staff who came to find out more about the further studies their ex-students have gone on to take.



It was wonderful to see so many students sharing their next steps and their hopes for their future. Good luck for the future to all our students – your results were amazing and we wish you all the best!



## Mock Exams and Year 11 Exam Update for 2025

In November, our current Year 11 students, the class of 2025, completed their first round of mock exams. On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, students had their own 'mock' results day, where they had to collect and sign for their mock exam results, in the same way they will for their real results in August next year. This was a great event, with Year 11 students collectively opening and celebrating their results with their peers. Our mock results day was followed by Year 11 Parents' Evening, which provided parents the opportunity to discuss their results with their subject teachers.



Revision sessions, known as ELKs at TCS – Enhanced Learning and Knowledge sessions – will begin in the New Year, starting Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Each subject area will provide a programme of weekly support on key topics in preparation for the final exams.

For students sitting their final GCSE exams in 2025, 2026 and 2027, the exams regulator in England, Ofqual, has confirmed that they require exam boards to provide students with formulae and equation sheets in GCSE Mathematics, Physics and Combined Science exams. Exam boards have published their formulae and equation sheets ready for the 2025 exams – these are available to download from exam board websites (AQA for Maths & Science GCSEs sat at TCS in 2025). Students in Year 11 were provided with formulae and equation sheets during their November mock exams. We are pleased that Ofqual has reached this decision.

More information about our GCSE results, exams and ELK revision sessions can be found on our school website – [www.testbourne.school](http://www.testbourne.school).



## Extra Curricular Activities at Testbourne

The autumn term has seen a huge variety of activities taking place in tutor time, lunchtime and after school – from STEM Clubs, Clay Club and 'Grub Club,' to School of Rock, Folk Club and Brass Ensemble to tempt Testbourne's musicians to play together. PE and Sports activities have included basketball, table tennis and trampolining as well as the ever-popular football and netball sessions.



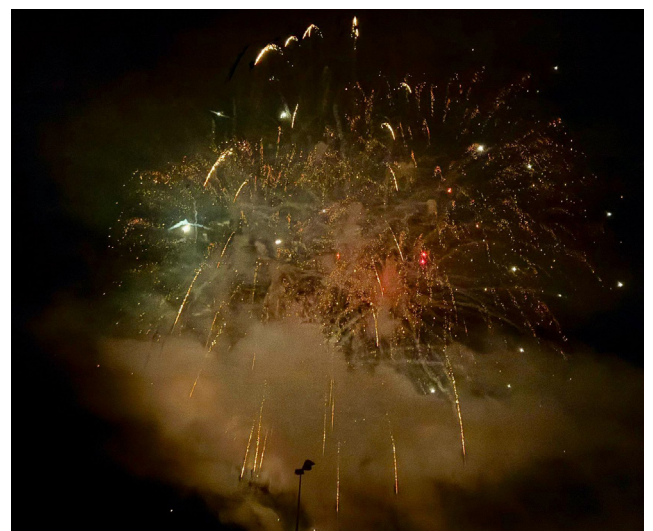
Next term all clubs will start in the second week of term, from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January. Please look out for information which will be sent to parents by email and for students will be available on their year group Teams pages. New year's resolutions could include trying something new next term, so do encourage the students to come along and get involved!



## Testbourne Community Fireworks Display

On the 26<sup>th</sup> October, the school welcomed members of the community as well as staff and students to a spectacular fireworks display on the school field. Just over 1000 tickets were sold prior to the day with additional tickets sold on the night. Our wonderful school catering team provided some delicious burgers and sausages, and school staff manned the popular bar. Our PTFA managed a very busy stall selling a variety of light up toys, which was a great hit with children of all ages.

Pyrotastic, a local Whitchurch company, put on an amazing 18-minute firework show to delight the crowd and round off an enjoyable evening. Thank you to the local Cadet Group who were on hand to provide additional support on the night.



The event raised much needed funds to provide additional resources and equipment for the school. We hope this event will be held annually. A date for 2025 has already been discussed so watch this space! We would like to thank everyone who attended the evening and in turn supported the school.





# Matilda Jr. The Musical

The final week of term saw the culmination of months of hard work from staff and students with three nights of performances for this year's school production, Matilda Jr. The Musical.

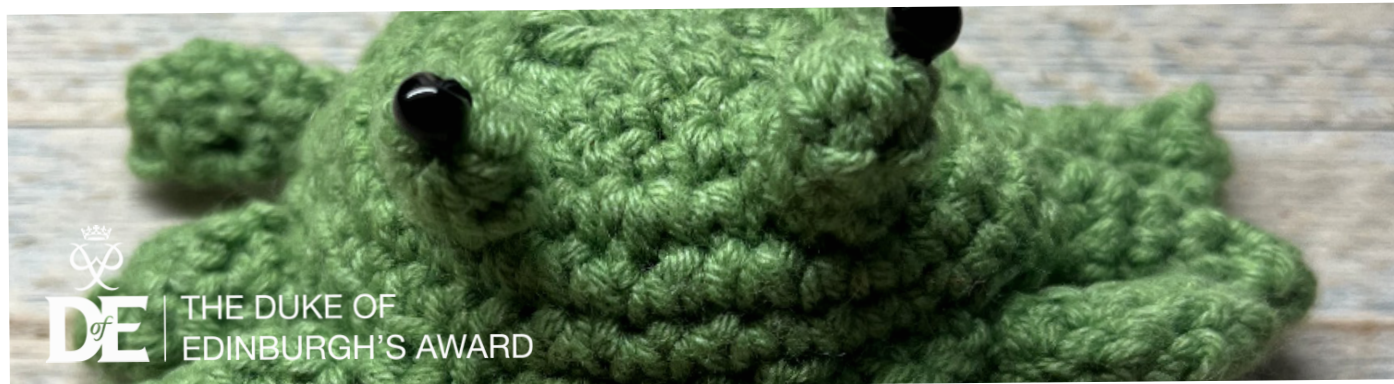
It's always exciting when the time for the whole school production comes along. Collaboration happens across the school as students and staff combine their efforts to get the production ready for performance. The large cast have worked incredibly hard since September to get this show ready for your enjoyment. There were so many talented and enthusiastic young people auditioning for parts in the production, we genuinely could have cast 'Matilda Jr.' at least twice over!

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December, the cast and crew were busy putting final touches to the show with help from a professional production crew. From opening night on Tuesday, through to closing night on Thursday, our students put on a superb show, demonstrating their passion and professionalism from start to finish. We are lucky to have so many talented and hard-working actors, dancers, singers and techies who choose to get involved in performing arts at TCS.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in making the production such a success! It was heartwarming to see so many parents, carers and members of the community join us for the evening performances and enjoy the show. There have been so many lovely comments following the production.

Well done to our cast of revolting children... it's the only time they've been actively encouraged to be a little bit naughty!





## DofE Bronze and Silver Award

### New DofE Bronze and Silver Award groups for 2025 at Testbourne

**New Bronze DofE group** – Year 10 students have begun their DofE Bronze Awards following an information evening for parents and students held in October, application forms being completed, and two introductory sessions in November. This year's group is the school's biggest ever, with almost 60 students having sent in application forms. We look forward to getting started with expedition training from January onwards, and walking/camping expeditions will take place in May and July 2025. The information evening



also encouraged parents to help out – so many thanks to Ian, Clare and Tom, our new parent volunteers, who join our fantastic team of leaders. DofE at Testbourne just wouldn't be possible without them, so a huge thank you as ever for all the time that leaders put in to planning and running activities for DofE.

**New Silver DofE group** – Year 11s who had already completed their DofE Bronze Award attended a lunchtime meeting in October to hear about plans for the Silver Award this year. For only the second time ever at Testbourne, we will be giving students the opportunity to complete their Silver Award. We have now signed up 8 students who are getting started with their volunteering, physical and skill activity sections. These students will take part in two expeditions in July 2025, after their GCSE exams.

**Certificate presentation in April 2025** – Next term will see a certificate presentation evening for Year 11s who have completed their Bronze Awards in the last few months. We are delighted that 32 students have already signed off their whole Bronze Award. Year 11s from last year's DofE group should check their emails and eDofE to see what they need to do to achieve their certificates if they have not yet finished the Award.

Any enquiries about DofE at Testbourne should be directed to Mrs Nottingham, DofE Manager.



# PTFA Christmas Fair 2024

On Saturday 30th November the school hosted the annual Christmas Fair. A huge amount of time and effort went into the organisation of the event and a special thanks goes to the PTFA, volunteers and students who made this event such a success. The PTFA in particular worked tirelessly in the build-up to the event and throughout the day itself.

There were over fifty stalls with a busy stream of people and an excited buzz around each one. There was a stall for each Year 7 tutor group where students offered a variety of options, ranging from games to play to innovative jewellery designs and items to buy. The Year 7 stalls raised nearly £200 alone; the Year 7 students were a credit to the school, as were the prefects who helped to assist on the day.



The PTFA stalls raised around a staggering £4000 for the school: we are incredibly thankful to them and the wider community for coming down to enjoy the day and supporting the school.

A number of staff gave up their time to help make the event successful and a big thank you goes out to all the PTFA, Mrs Powell, Ms Matthews, Mrs Harrison, Mr John, Dr Wilson, Mrs Gray, Mrs MacAulay, Mrs Brocklebank, Mr Wickenden – and particularly Mrs Middleton, who provided the music for the day. The Christmas Fair was a great way to kick-start the Christmas festive season.



## Walking Talking Mocks

Exams by their nature are meant to be challenging – but for some students, they can be stressful or even overwhelming. Some students simply worry about having to sit silently in a large hall; others fret over precisely what is expected of them in their answers. However, working with their teachers, we can mitigate this stress and empower students by practising in the exam environment in a supported way; through this, students' confidence can often increase as their fears are replaced with familiarity. This is the grounding for the 'walking-talking mock' model of coaching students through an exam-duration practice assessment.



Furthermore, these experiences are the epitome of modelling. Testbourne's English Literature WTM focussed on thesis statements – getting productively started in producing focused answers – and clear planning, using resources from our experienced team of English teachers, led by Mr Matthews.

Rather than seeing students feeling overwhelmed, the cognitive load being too much – the students rose to the challenge! We covered all manner of things during the walking-talking mock session to help guide students to success, such as:

- Finding the focus of the question by highlighting the keywords.
- Considering the marking tariff and length of response.
- Working on careful time management.
- Understanding the Assessment Objectives (AOs) required for each question and how to construct a successful answer.

So, are walking-talking mocks a valuable use of time? Most definitely. The proof of the benefits came in the outcome of the actual Literature mock exam, which was very successful. Few students made errors in the real mock regarding question selection and time management was much improved.

If students believe in themselves, and are given the skills, they are more likely to succeed...

Mr Matthews  
**Head Of English**  
**Senior Examiner**

## Jeans for Genes Day

On Friday 20th September, Testbourne students were encouraged to wear a pair of jeans to school, raising awareness and money for the charity 'Jeans for Genes', as well as raising money for the school PTFA. During tutor time, students were shown information about the work the charity does to support children across the UK that have genetic conditions. Examples of some genetic conditions include haemophilia, cystic fibrosis, alkaptonuria and Down's syndrome. The students who wore jeans made a donation and as a school we raised £553. Half of the money raised was sent to 'Jeans for Genes' and the other half went into the school PTFA fund. Lots of Testbourne students rose to the occasion and enjoyed wearing their jeans for the school day!



## Careers - Sky Studios Workshop / Army Elite Skills Workshop

A group of our Key Stage 3 students visited Sky Studios in London for an unforgettable Fiction Workshop. The trip allowed students to step into the world of professional storytelling, exploring scriptwriting, editing and production techniques. Guided by industry experts, they created their own short stories and learned how ideas are transformed into compelling narratives for television. This hands-on experience helped spark creativity and a deeper understanding of the media industry.



Meanwhile, our Year 10 students welcomed a team from the Army for an engaging careers presentation, which highlighted the diverse roles and pathways available within the armed forces. Following the presentation, students participated in an Elite Skills Workshop held outside, where they tackled team-building challenges designed to test their leadership, problem-solving and communication skills. The activities not only provided insight into military careers but also equipped students with transferable skills valuable for any future profession.

Both these careers events underscored our commitment to providing enriching experiences that inspire and prepare students for success beyond the classroom. We are proud of the enthusiasm and teamwork shown by our students and look forward to offering more opportunities like these in the future.



## Restart a Heart Day

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October was national 'Restart a Heart Day', an event organised by the Resuscitation Council UK along with the British Heart Foundation, British Red Cross, St John Ambulance and NHS organisations. Its focus is the promotion of CPR techniques and raising awareness of defibrillators in the community. Testbourne was proud to welcome Peter Turner, a Community First Responder with the Ambulance Service, who led three sessions with Key Stage 3 students who had applied to be trained in these life-saving skills.



# Remembrance Day 2024

On Remembrance Sunday, two of our Year 11 Executive and Senior Prefects, Leon C and Owen B, accompanied Mrs MacAulay to the Remembrance Service in War Memorial Park in Basingstoke. It was a very moving service and brought together representatives from many community groups and organisations. The flypast by the Chinook at 11am is always an impressive sight and it marked the start of the two minutes silence. Leon and Owen laid a wreath on behalf of Testbourne and were superb ambassadors for the school.



On Remembrance Day the school remembered the sacrifice of those who have given their life in service to this country to maintain the freedoms we now enjoy. In tutor groups in the morning, students designed their own poppy; these were then collected and turned into a tutor group wreath. These were then displayed in each tutor base throughout the remainder of the day.



Students returned to their tutor bases later that morning where an assembly was played to all tutor groups where Mr Wickenden explained why we remember and the importance of Remembrance Day. Year 11 student, Miriam F, also contributed to the assembly by doing a reading of 'In Flanders Fields'. All students – including Year 11, who came directly from a mock exam – then gathered on the school playground where Lt Slack led Cadets in the lowering of the standards ceremony. The Last Post was played by Alun Grace and the ceremony ended with the playing of the Reveille. Students observed the two minute silence impeccably as always, and were a credit to the school.





## Christmas Carol Service at All Hallows Church

The Testbourne Carol Service took place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December in All Hallows Church. Nearly 60 students sang, played and delivered readings to tell the Christmas story in a traditional carol service format that originated in King's College, Cambridge, in the 1920s. This year our congregation were welcomed to the church by our Brass Ensemble playing carols outside the church entrance, whilst the bell ringers from the church community made the bells peel to announce the start of our service. Members of the church choir also joined with our school choir in this collaborative event with the local community. We all enjoyed refreshments courtesy of our school PTFA, and went away feeling that the Christmas season had truly begun.



## Hampshire Book Awards Ceremony 2024

For the wonderful Hampshire Book Awards Ceremony, a group of Year 9 readers (including myself) were able to go to Calthorpe Park School to meet Rachel Delahaye, the author of the winning book, 'Electric Life'. It was an amazing experience as she told us about what she thought of the dystopian themes in the book and told us about the writing and publishing process. At the end we had the opportunity to have a book signed with Rachel, and to snap a photo. It was an amazing day to finish off the fantastic experience of being a Hampshire Book Award judge.



Chloe F  
Year 9

## 3G Pitch Awards

Testbourne has been awarded a Hampshire Football Association 3G ATP Pitch of the Year Award, which recognises the very best artificial playing surfaces across Hampshire. The award recipients are selected by a panel of industry experts, including the partners and sponsors of the award, Technical Surfaces, and Hampshire FA's facilities team. The citation for Testbourne's Award is as follows:



Testbourne's 3G Pitch was officially opened in March 2019. It is a much valued and much used resource for the community and is hugely beneficial in developing grassroots sport at a local level. The pitch provides

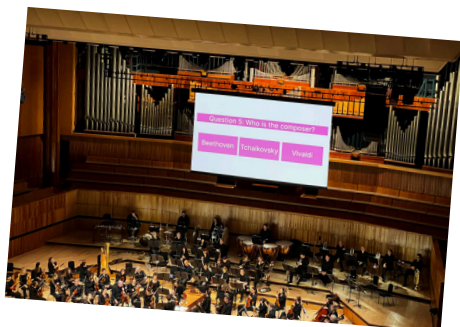
the school's PE Department with a first-class facility, enabling activities to take place in all weathers. Local community and sports organisations enjoy the opportunity to play on a FA registered pitch and provide sport and physical activity for all. Partner clubs including Whitchurch FC and Overton Youth FC are fantastic clubs to work alongside and their membership numbers in both girls' and boys' teams have increased vastly over the last three years. The Testbourne Site Team is committed to ensuring that the pitch is well maintained all year round and the school and partner clubs are incredibly grateful for their efforts.

## GCSE Music BrightSparks Trip

Twenty seven students recently headed to The Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank, London, to watch the London Philharmonic Orchestra for a special performance created for GCSE Music students. They performed a range of music that would help further musical knowledge in line with the GCSE music syllabus. We heard a performance of Bach's Badinerie – a complex piece for flute and orchestra, which really helped the music to come alive for our students. The concert was accompanied by a very knowledgeable compère and was an interactive experience, with quizzes and information appearing on the screen behind the orchestra as the music was being played.



The concert had something for everyone, with music from 1700s right up to 2022; it catered for musicians of all levels, using the wide range of musical vocabulary that our students need to know at GCSE level. Bright Sparks is part of the London Philharmonic Orchestra's education programme, and we hope to be successful in the ticketing ballot for future performances.





## Robotics Club and Lego League

A team of ten Year 8 students have been taking part in a Robotics Club learning how to program using Lego Spike Prime. They will be using these skills to take part in the first Lego League Challenge tournament in March 2025. The challenge involves the team competing against other schools in four areas:

1. **Robot Design** - Design and build a Lego robot.
2. **Robot Game** - Program the robot to complete missions.
3. **Innovation Project** – Identify and research a problem, design and create a solution and present their project ideas.
4. **Core Values** – Work on and demonstrate core values of teamwork, inclusion, impact, innovation, discovery and fun.



The challenge is a global STEM programme for teams of young people, to encourage an interest in real world themes and develop key skills that are crucial for their future careers. This year the theme of the challenge is 'Submerged'. The team has been researching issues relating to our oceans and exploring environmental solutions.



## PE Updates

### Year 7 Rugby Development Day

On a very sunny day in November we took a group of 12 students to Trojans Rugby Club annual rugby development day. The students had shown an interest from their PE lessons and had started coming to after school rugby club. They had never played a competitive match before. After a warm up with all 15 schools, three games of touch rugby were played and then came the decision of whether to progress to 'full contact' games or stay playing touch rugby. Having had lots of practice at after school club learning to tackle, the girls opted to play 'full contact'. Two more games followed and it was fantastic to watch 12 fearless year 7 students taking other students to ground with their newly found tackling skills. A very enjoyable morning and we hope to get some competitive fixtures against other schools in the new year.



The girls also enjoyed a session led by the Basingstoke Rugby Club girls' coaches who came to Testbourne. Harrow Way also attended with a team in the hope of developing girls rugby in the Andover schools area. More joint sessions are hopefully planned for after Christmas.

## Year 9 Netball Report

It was great to enter two teams into the league this year, and we almost had enough for three! Matches have been highly competitive, with some very close results. The girls have been voting for their 'players' player' each game and we will be compiling the results and sharing the outcome of this early in the New Year! Our A team joined the A league and although they had heavy defeats against Harrow Way and John Hanson, their other games against the Clere and Wellington were closer and they narrowly missed out on a win against Wellington.

The closest result for our B team was against Winton which they lost 4-1. Eden was inspirational in this game and her leadership and determination shone through. Well done girls - this is just the start!

Results:

### 9A Team

Testbourne 2 - John Hanson A 31  
Testbourne 6 - Harrow Way 29  
Testbourne 8 - Wellington 11  
Testbourne 13 - John Hanson B 7

### 9B Team

Testbourne 1 - Winton 4  
Testbourne 1 - Rookwood 13  
Testbourne 14 - John Hanson 3  
Testbourne 2 - Clere 9  
Testbourne 5 - Harrow Way 23

## Year 10 Netball Report

The Year 10 team have had a very successful season and with a regular 9 or 10 players in the squad, they have played consistently well together. Gemma has been a fantastic captain and has been nominated player of the match most times this season by the opposition teams. The team have challenged every game. In defence Jess, Emily and Sophie have been outstanding, turning over numerous balls and stopping other teams from scoring. Eva has shown her strength and versatility, as she can play not only in the centre court (in several positions) but she is also able to play Goal Shooter, scoring some exceptional goals. Eva has shown fantastic timing and moves perfectly to create space and support for our attacking players. We have a few new players to the team this year, with Madison in defence, Phoebe in attack and Ziva who has used her athletic pace to drive the team through the centre court. To win games, every player needs to perform in their role to the best of their ability and that's what we have witnessed from the sidelines as the team won three out of four fixtures. Well done girls!

Results:

### 9A Team

Testbourne 11 - Wellington 13  
Testbourne 15 - Winton 1  
Testbourne 10 - Clere 5  
Testbourne 13 - John Hanson 6

## PGL Netball Trip

In November, a group of Year 9 and 10 students participated in a netball tournament at PGL Liddington. The girls played some excellent netball, and each captain led their team through some competitive games of netball! We finished on a high with a win for the Year 10's and our Year 9B squad received the 'Umpires Team of the Tournament Award' for their improved performance, passion and determination displayed by the girls throughout the two days! A great trip, thanks to Mrs Vallance and Mrs Kirkpatrick for their support to allow this group excursion to take place.



## Year 11 Netball Report

For our Year 11 netball team, the league is always slightly lighter because of the importance of other commitments, and the girls have just three scheduled games. The third is in the last week of term, so we are unable to provide the result at this time. They have played John Hanson, Winton and are due to play Danebury. The match against Winton took place in very cold conditions. It was a close match with some fantastic defence from Poppy (Goal Defence) supported by Millie (Goal Keeper). This led to a number of key interceptions that were passed in to Caitlin and Gemma in the circle to shoot and score. The mid court attack of Kate, Chloe and Evie linked the passes up, by driving in to spaces and communicating their intention, they were successful. The final score was Testbourne 17, Winton 14, so a success for us. Well done ladies, you played strongly throughout and deserved to win this game.

Other Results:

Testbourne 14 - John Hanson 9  
Testbourne 17 - Winton 14  
Testbourne - Danebury (result tbc)

## Girls Football

### U14 v Kings School – Hampshire Cup game

This was a tough draw for our young side and the Kings team was very strong. At half time, the visitors were 7-0 up but Testbourne showed a great deal of resilience and only lost the second half 2-1. Well done to the team for their efforts!

Andover District Girls 5-a-side Tournaments results:

Year 7 - 5th overall  
Year 8 - 3rd overall  
Year 9 - 3rd overall  
Year 10 - 4th overall



### Year 8 v The Clere (friendly match)

A game was arranged to add to the fixtures calendar for the girls against The Clere. The match was a fun game to watch despite losing 3-1. A rematch has been scheduled for next term!

### Basingstoke League

Our Year 7s and 8s played in a Basingstoke League hosted by The Vyne. The fixtures were over two evenings and they enjoyed the opportunity to play different teams. They played really well and we hope to return to The Vyne with our girls' Year 9 and 10 team in January.

The results were as follows:

Testbourne 1 - Blue Coat Academy 0  
Testbourne 1 - The Vyne 2  
Testbourne 1 - Cranbourne 1  
Testbourne 1 - Costello 4



## Boys Football - Year 7

Our Year 7 team have made an encouraging start to football at Testbourne. The numbers at training have been positive and the biggest challenge has been squad selection with so many to choose from. On the pitch the team has been developing, improving and heading in the right direction. We started with an early loss to Wellington, 4-2, after just one training session, but showed the potential that is there. It was a standout performance from Ralph and Jaiden led the team well.

This was swiftly followed by a very even contest in the Hampshire Cup away to Thornden School. A draw would have been a fair result, but a last-minute winner for Thornden resulted in a 3-2 defeat. This was a real team performance, but the return of Spencer was positive with a very strong performance in midfield, moving back into defence for the second half.

John Hanson was the next fixture, and we suffered without a recognised goalkeeper in the absence of Xander. Mr Cooper took charge against a well organised John Hanson team, but the changes were unsettling, and we ended up on the wrong side of a 6-2 scoreline. Special mention must go to Will who went in goal for the second half and produced some excellent saves. Other notable performances came from Elian, Jake and Jaiden, who worked tirelessly.

Winton arrived at Testbourne in late October, and for the first half proved difficult opponents. Some tactical changes at half time meant that we performed much better and ran out winners 4-1. Will and Jake were a real handful for the Winton defence, Elian pulled the strings in midfield, while Ollie, Alfie and Tom provided a solid defensive unit, in an excellent second half performance.

## Boys Football - Year 8

Our Year 8 football team has had an exciting and eventful start to their league campaign, playing impressive football across their four fixtures. Results have been mixed, but the boys have shown incredible determination, teamwork and resilience throughout the season.

The team began with a promising start, playing some fluid, attacking football and showing great promise for the season ahead. However, they faced a tough challenge in their first away game, where they were narrowly defeated. Despite the loss, the boys displayed immense grit and effort, never letting their heads drop and continuing to fight until the final whistle.

Their second fixture was a hard-fought draw in a game that they felt they could have won. There were plenty of chances created, and while the result wasn't what they had hoped for, the performance highlighted their potential and the high standard of play they are capable of. The boys' ability to stay focused, work together and support one another was evident throughout the game.

Off the pitch, the camaraderie in the team has been impressive, with the boys building strong friendships and having a lot of fun on their away trips. The spirit and togetherness during travel to and from games has helped foster a positive and supportive atmosphere, an essential ingredient for any successful team.

With two games still to be rescheduled, the boys are aware of the opportunity to fight for three points in each. The belief is strong within the squad, and we have no doubt that they will give their all in the remaining fixtures. Their excellent communication and unwavering dedication make them a team to watch as they continue their season. A big congratulations to the Year 8 football team for their hard work so far. We're excited to see what they can achieve in the games ahead – keep up the great work!



## Boys Football - Year 9

The Year 9 football team had a mixed season both in terms of results and performances. The highlight of the season was a fantastic 4-2 away victory at Wellington in the league. Over the season the boys showed fantastic determination, putting up a battle in every game. A big thank you to Zach for leading the team and for being a brilliant and reliable captain as well as the 9 or 10 regulars who represent the school every week.

Results:

Testbourne 1	-	4 Wellington
John Hanson 7	-	1 Testbourne
Harrow Way 5	-	3 Testbourne
Wellington 2	-	4 Testbourne
Testbourne 0	-	5 John Hanson
Harrow Way 5	-	0 Testbourne

## Table Tennis

Our table tennis teams recently competed in a highly competitive tournament, demonstrating exceptional sportsmanship and determination. Both the Year 9 and Year 11 teams gave their all, with the Year 11 team finishing in an impressive 5th place, while the Year 9s, despite their best efforts, were narrowly edged out by their opponents.

The Year 11 team displayed a remarkable level of skill and resilience, thrilling spectators with some truly exciting matches. Their 5th-place finish reflects their exceptional talent and team spirit, and they should be incredibly proud of their performance.



Both teams are already looking forward to their next opportunity to compete, and we can't wait to see what they'll accomplish next. Well done to all involved – your dedication and teamwork were evident, and you've made our school incredibly proud.

### **Basingstoke Schools Boys Individual Competition.**

A huge well done to Ali who represented Testbourne alongside Zach in the Basingstoke District event held at Brighton Hill Community School. Ali won topped his pool and then went on to win the final, winning all his matches. Zach played well, showing a lot of skill through the matches, and finished in the pool stages. They were both a credit to the school.

Ali goes through to the next stage and will represent Testbourne at the County Event in January.

## Boys Rugby

Entry into the U14 Hampshire Cup meant that our U14's team played against Courtmoor School from Fleet. The match was kindly hosted by Overton Rugby Club.

Testbourne enjoyed lots of early possession but the first half ended with Testbourne on the receiving end of a 5-17 deficit. By the end of the match there was not as much of a gap between the teams as the 17-32 score line might suggest. The spirit the boys showed throughout the match was excellent. A massive thanks to Mr Moore for refereeing, he did a splendid job.



# Christmas lunch

Testbourne's Christmas lunch event was a festive triumph, spreading holiday joy over three delightful days. Students and staff gathered to savour delicious meals prepared by our outstanding canteen team, who excelled in creating festive treats that brought laughter and smiles. The atmosphere was filled with joy and holiday cheer, making each day a celebration. Thank you to everyone who made it special and we wish a happy holiday to you all.



# Testbourne Community School



[www.testbourne.school](http://www.testbourne.school)



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