



THE TCS Tribune



MERRY CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of the first term, I am delighted to introduce you to the inaugural edition of our termly newsletter 'The TCS Tribune' that I hope you find both useful and interesting.

This has been a significant term for the school as we relentlessly focused on the three ideals of our strapline: Achievement, Excellence and Integrity. This term, we have made several developments around procedures and expectations that I hope you and your children will have noticed. These changes affect the culture of the school and reinforce our mantra of 'here to learn.' I am clear that learning must be the priority and that we are intolerant of those who choose to interrupt learning. We are fortunate that the vast majority of students at TCS are extremely affable, polite, caring and reasonable. This, alongside their eloquence and intelligence makes them wonderful people to work with.

As I reflect on the term, I feel extremely proud of all that our staff and students have achieved. It has been an action-packed term of extra-curricular activities; trips and visits; sporting achievements; GCSE Drama, Dance and Music assessments; mocks; an ambitious school production and a buzz and energy around teaching and learning. Shortlisting articles for this short newsletter has been very challenging!

I would like to thank our team of excellent teaching and support staff for all of their hard work and dedication to the school throughout this term. I would also like to recognise the efforts that students have put in to meeting higher levels of expectation. They have been working hard in lessons and have been exceptional ambassadors for the school at the various functions they



have attended. In particular, I would like to congratulate students on their exemplary behaviour. Several visitors to the school along with members of the community have commented on the exceptional behaviour of students in lessons, in the local area and beyond. Finally, I would like to thank you as our parents and carers who have been tremendously supportive of your children and the school. I have enjoyed reading your emails and talking to you at parents' evenings and other events.

I know we are all very much looking forward to the Christmas break and having time to spend with friends and family. This will also be an opportunity for staff and students to recharge their batteries and begin the new calendar year with the passion to build on our successes and further develop the quality of education that we provide for your children.

I would like to conclude by wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming your son or daughter back in 2018.

Best wishes.

Mr J Beck

Mr J Beck, Headteacher

TCS – Achievement • Excellence • Integrity



DATES & CONTACTS FOR YOUR DIARY

AUTUMN TERM 2017

Last day of Autumn Term:
Thursday 21st December 2017
Testbourne will close at 1:10pm.

Buses will collect students at 1:10pm. Students who catch public transport will still be able to leave at this time to catch their respective services.

SPRING TERM 2017

Students return for Spring:
Thursday 4th January

**Half term: Monday 12th to
Friday 16th February (inclusive)**

Last day of Spring Term:
Thursday 29th March 2018

SUMMER TERM 2018

Students return for Summer:
Monday 16th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 7th May

**Half term: Monday 28th May to
Friday 1st June (inclusive)**

Last day of Summer Term:
Friday 20th July 2018

INSET DAYS 2018

(school closed to students)

INSET Day: Monday 12th March

INSET Day: Monday 23rd July

USEFUL INFORMATION

Testbourne Community School
Micheldever Road, Whitchurch,
Hampshire RG28 7JF

School Office Telephone:
01256 892061

School Named Contact:
Mrs E. Sentance

Community Tel: **01256 892261**
Fax: **01256 896796**

Email: [adminoffice@
testbourne.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@testbourne.hants.sch.uk)

**The School Office is normally
open for telephone calls
between 8:30am – 4:00pm
on each school day.**

WELCOME TO THE TCS LIBRARY

Thanks to the generosity of the PTFA we are gradually building up our stock of quality fiction and non-fiction books for students to borrow from the Library. We still have a long way to go before we reach recommended stock levels but you can help by supporting PTFA events, such as the recent Christmas Craft Fair, which is specifically fund raising for the School Library this year.



There will be lots of other events coming up to encourage students to develop their love of reading, starting with the Key Stage 3 Readathon, which they will be learning more about in English lessons.

With the Library now open every day at break, lunch and after school (until 4pm), we are developing the space to make it work better as a place for quiet study and reading for pleasure. The students are being very patient while work is in progress and we have had lots of positive feedback from them about the improvements so far.

If you have any questions about the Library please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mrs E. Bates, Librarian



TEAM MITYANA 2017

On the 12th October, fourteen students, including myself, set off on a trip of a lifetime to Uganda. It was an eye-opening experience. We made children happy, changed lives and made special memories that we will treasure for the rest of our lives.

Here are some of the thoughts and reflections of my fellow Team Uganda members.

The two weeks we were there were filled with different things to do and places to go. We saw so many new things and met so many inspirational people.

The first part of the trip was amazing and educational, I felt I learnt a lot about a completely different culture and made some good friends.

The Safari was incredible, seeing the big five, making up our own songs and feeding chimps on the equator.

It was interesting going into their lessons and seeing how different our schools were. Even though it was extremely hard, I thoroughly enjoyed water carrying. I still find it hard to believe that many of them have to do this every

day before school and they get up at 4am!

It showed me that I can be selfish and overdramatic, and that I don't have to be. That life isn't always a competition, that at the end of the day people don't like you because of what you've got – it's because of who you are.

What I learnt about myself is that I do not need a lot to live a good life and I take far too many things for granted.

I learnt that Uganda is a great country which far too few people know about. The people are so welcoming and appreciate you being there. However, the poverty needs to be stopped as there are a lot of people without basic needs like clean water.

My first thoughts are about the Ugandan people we met. They appeared to have so

little in terms of material wealth but were so much happier with their lot than we appear to be in the UK.

I felt unbelievably fortunate for what I have as I saw some people and children that had such little clothing and no shoes and living in cramped surroundings. It made me reflect on how I may have a small home, but nevertheless I live in a safe environment with a roof over my head.

When I filled out my application form nearly two years ago I had no idea how much this experience would teach me. I loved meeting everyone and hearing all of their inspirational stories. It really shocked me when I found out how hard their lives are and how hard it is to go to school.

Overall the trip was a great experience and I loved every minute of it. I also enjoyed the fundraising we had to do. I would really recommend it to anyone who is thinking about going.

Mr N Cole

Year 9 Girls' FOOTBALL VICTORY!

Year 9 girls played in an area indoor 5 a-side football tournament today at John Hanson school and won!!!!

They won games against Wellington, Test Valley and John Hanson and drew with Harrow Way. However Harrow Way lost one of their games which meant we were overall champions!



UPCOMING EVENTS: SCIENCE

New Head of Science – Dr Richard Wilson



SCIENCE CLUB

Mr Ayling has a number of exciting investigations and practical demonstrations planned for Science Club. If you are interested in joining Science Club, come and see Mr Ayling in room 43 on Tuesdays after school.

In Science club they have been working on producing their own show aimed at year 5 and 6. They have been examining a variety of exciting and spectacular demonstrations and experiments to put together a selection of the best ones they would like to show off to local primary schools. Now they have selected their favorites a group of them are now putting together a script ready for a show in the new year.

This week we started a new project looking at fossils, the students will chemically digest some rock and sieve it to examine its microfossil content, hopefully finding some exciting things and creating a picture of an ecosystem 140 million years old.

As the new Head of Science at Testbourne, I am proud to be able to write about the exciting upcoming events within the department and some of the fantastic achievements our students have celebrated in Science during this first term.

For the first time, we invited some of our year 7 and 8 students to assist at Open Evening, alongside our year 9 and 10 students, who did a brilliant job demonstrating practical techniques to prospective students and their parents. These students showed exceptional levels of pride and professionalism during their demonstrations, which was highlighted by many of our visitors in their feedback. Our Science Club and STEM groups continue to go from strength to strength, with lab 43 regularly packed out on Tuesday afternoons with scientists who are keen to investigate beyond the classroom! To recognise the many student successes across the department, we have introduced the Scientist of the Month award; a student from each class is nominated by their class teacher to recognise outstanding achievement, with students receiving a letter home to congratulate them, along with a star on the class success board.

I look forward to meeting many of you over the course of the year.

STEM CLUB

Many students are now finishing the research stages of their Teen Tech Projects which cover subjects such as designing an Eco-town, including a bus which runs on human poo, the use of hydrogen peroxide to produce energy, a device to alert users to fire and an app to help teach people to drive. We are looking forward to seeing how these ideas progress before they enter the competition in March.

SCIENCE *cont...*

CREST AWARDS

Several students are currently submitting their Bronze CREST award projects for approval.

One project researched the science of emotions and the other researched whether the moon landings are fiction or truth.

If you are interested in starting a Bronze CREST award, come and see Mrs Romain in room 44 every Thursday lunchtime.

GCSE REVISION GUIDES

Final call for Year 10 and 11 students who would like to order a revision guide through school.

Please order online via the Parent Pay system:
<https://www.scopay.com/Testbourne?redirect=true>

Year 9 revision guides will be available to purchase through school in the Spring Term once the Separate Science and Combined Science classes have been confirmed.

KS3 REVISION GUIDES

Revision guides for Year 7 and 8 students will be available to order online via the Parent Pay system.

For more information, please speak to your son/daughter's class teacher.

YEAR 10 SCIENCE TRIP TO SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY

In early November, our Year 10 students participated in a KS4 Interactive Physics problem-solving workshop at Southampton University.

The workshops provided some stimulating and challenging tasks to explore issues of fundamental Physics and Astronomy. They analysed real data from stars in our galaxy to determine their rotation and orbital period. A leading Astronomer, Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, then treated the students to a fascinating lecture about her discovery of pulsating stars for which she was awarded a Nobel Prize, where she emphasised the need for hard work and resilience to achieve your goals. This was a public lecture with world leading academics from Physics and Astronomy. Our students asked some very insightful questions, representing the school and themselves in a credible manner. This was again raised by parents at the recent Year 10 parents evening. Hopefully, this opportunity will encourage our students to have the highest expectations of themselves and consider possible Science careers.

Mrs Haslam

SKILLSTREE AWARDS 2017

Educational charity, Basingstoke Consortium, recently invited Testbourne to its annual Skillstree Awards evening, which is a celebration of the time and commitment businesses, schools, colleges and other partners invest in projects that support young people's preparation for adult life and work.

This year, Ryan Goodridge (Year 11) was nominated in the category *Work Experience – Student of the Year*. Ryan, a budding entrepreneur, was nominated by his employer Stagecoach specifically for his commitment and enthusiasm which went way beyond expectation. Ryan impressed them so much they offered him a part-time job and future employment should he wish to pursue this industry as a career after his education.

Ryan was pitted against a number of other students in the Basingstoke and Deane area but Ryan came out top and won the prestigious award of Basingstoke and Deane Work Experience Student of the Year. Congratulations to Ryan, we are very proud of your achievement.

STAFF LEAVING AT THE END OF CHRISTMAS

Andy Fleming	Teacher of Computing / Geography
Fran Pate	Teacher of Design and Technology
Fran Thorn	Reprographics Assistant

SCHOOL OF ROCK

Testbourne Community School was transformed into a school of rock on the nights of 12th - 15th December when we staged our whole-school production. Our performances of School of Rock The Musical saw a cast of over 100 students play to fully packed audiences in the Theatre Hall for a run of four nights and they really did rock!



We are proud that we were one of the first schools in the UK to stage this production which only had its debut performance in London's West End a year ago. The team effort was superb in making this happen with a committed technical crew, help on design and painting the set from the art department and students, costumes and props were assisted by volunteers and of course the cast members in their efforts to learn the show in just under one term!

The performances were superb and the energy and dedication to the show from the cast and crew has been impressive and inspiring. It will be a show to remember at Testbourne and will hopefully form many fond and happy memories for the students who were part of it.

Please see our Facebook page for more clips and pictures from the show and thanks to everyone who came to watch!

www.facebook.co.uk/TestbourneMusic



OPEN EVENING

Our Open Evening was a tremendous success. We estimate that we had over 720 visitors. The three Heateacher talks were full, with standing room only. In addition we changed the format of our open mornings offer and welcomed around 90 families for tours given by our fantastic students. All of this work has resulted in us being hugely oversubscribed for the next intake in September 2018.

STAFF JOINING IN THE NEW YEAR

Simon Matthews
Head of English

Adrian Watkins
Head of Design and
Technology

YEAR 10 MADRID VISIT

18th – 22nd October 2017 | David Jones
Head of MFL

At the end of the last half-term 37 students studying Spanish took part in a Language and Culture visit to Madrid.



At the end of the last half-term 37 students studying Spanish took part in a Language and Culture visit to Madrid.

The group travelled by plane from Heathrow to Madrid on Wednesday evening and enjoyed three full days in the Spanish capital before returning on Sunday. Our hotel was conveniently situated right in the centre of the city, just two minutes from the Plaza de la Puerta de Sol. This made exploring and finding our way around really easy. The students soon became experts on the layout

of the centre of the city and quickly felt at home. For visits which were a bit further out we used the public metro system and even a cable car to the Casa del Campo.

The students might have thought they had signed up for a holiday, but found themselves with early morning calls on Thursday and Friday as their lessons in a local language school started at 9.00 a.m. They really enjoyed the lessons which helped to increase their confidence when speaking Spanish and also provided

them with some practical language to help them make the most of their visit to Spain. Teaching also covered material which they will be able to use in the Speaking and Writing parts of their GCSE exams.

After lessons and lunch, it was time to explore the city. The sights visited included the Plaza Mayor, The Royal Palace, The Museo de Arte Reina Sofia where Picasso's famous "Guernica" is housed along with other outstanding and well known pieces of art from the last century.

One of the highlights for football fans was the visit to the impressive Estadio Santiago Bernabéu, home of Real Madrid. We also took in some more traditional Spanish culture at the Plaza de Toros de las Ventas bullring. Whilst a visit to an actual bullfight was never going to be on the cards, it was interesting to get a sense of the importance of the Corrida de Toros in Spanish culture.



Our evening meals were taken in the restaurants in and around the Plaza Mayor. I was really pleased to see the students trying and enjoying traditional Spanish food – even if the odd McDonalds was also consumed!

Our time in Madrid soon came to an end but we left with some wonderful memories. I hope the students will be able to return one day



and share fond memories of this visit. I would like to thank them for their exemplary behaviour and positive attitude throughout. Their teachers at the language school also said that they had been a pleasure to work with. Thank you also to Miss Lord, Miss Boukari, Mrs Davies and Mr Naylor without whom the visit would not have been able to take place.



NON-UNIFORM DAY AT TCS

Non-uniform day for Children in Need was a particular success this term with well over £800 raised for a truly worthy cause. I would like to thank students, parents and carers for ensuring that although students had the flexibility to choose not to wear their uniform they were still dressed appropriately for school and were reliable in making their donations.

We raised
£800
for Children
in Need

YEAR 11 SORRENTO VISIT

A group of year 11 geographers visited Sorrento during October half term. During our visit we had an exciting walk up Vesuvius in the fog, saw the effects of the 79 AD eruption by visiting Pompeii and Herculaneum and travelled along the Amalfi coast looking at the beautiful scenery and coastal features. The students also learnt how to make pizzas and got to taste their creations! The students were a credit to the school and had a fantastic time away!



AUTHOR VISIT: Maz Evans

On 1st November a group of Year 7s and 8s were lucky enough to have the opportunity to go to Whitchurch Primary School to meet a very popular children's author – **Maz Evans**.

She treated the students to a really hilarious talk about herself and how she got into writing. She also put teachers on the spot by arranging for some of them to take part in a 'Battle of the Gods' which was fun and not at all embarrassing for staff!

"Maz Evans is hilarious and very inspirational about not giving up on your dreams." – **Lena Hadley**

"Maz whacked the teachers on the head with an inflatable hammer. It was hilarious." – **Izzy Pyle, Archie Malyon, Ailsa Preston, Edie Oram**

"Thank you very much Whitchurch Primary School for the invitation to join you. We had a fabulous time!" – **Mrs Harvey, Literacy Co-ordinator**



THE PTFA COMMITTEE

We would like to thank personally the PTFA for their work this term. Without this team of hard working and dedicated people we would not have been able to refurbish and restock the library or buy various items of equipment to enhance learning for our students. If you are able to give even a small amount of your time to help the PTFA with their various fundraising activities or can help to raise money in other ways, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

PTFA Elected a New Chair for the Committee!

The PTFA elected a new committee in October; many thanks to the outgoing committee members for all their effort and hard work over the past year.

We held the Christmas Craft Fair at the end of November which raised an impressive £2060. Thank you to all who helped on stalls, and everyone who generously donated prizes for the raffle and tombola. We will be spending the money raised on buying more books for the School Library.

We have worked with Department Heads to identify vital pieces of school equipment that we will be funding. More details to follow, but this demonstrates how important your contributions are to the PTFA fundraising events.

Upcoming events this year include a Parents Disco, Bingo and a return of the Fun Run.

As ever, thank you for your ongoing support.

BOYS' FOOTBALL RESULTS TO-DATE, WITH UPCOMING FIXTURES:

YEAR 7

- Home game v Clere postponed date TBC
- Testbourne 0-6 John Hanson

Upcoming fixtures:

- Wednesday 29th November 2017 Wellington (A)
- Tuesday 9th January 2018 Power League tournament @ Brighton Hill

YEAR 8

- Clere 1-2 Testbourne

Upcoming fixtures:

- Tuesday 12th December v Wellington (A)
- Wed 20th December v John Hanson (A)
- Wednesday 10th January 2018 Power League tournament @ Brighton Hill

YEAR 9

- Wellington 4-0 Testbourne

Upcoming fixtures:

- Thursday 11th January 2018 Power League tournament @ Brighton Hill

YEAR 10

Upcoming fixtures:

- Tuesday 12th December 2017 Power League tournament @ Brighton Hill

YEAR 11

- John Hanson 4-7 Testbourne

Upcoming fixtures:

- Wed 6th December v Wellington (A)
- Tuesday 19th December 2017 Power League tournament @ Brighton Hill

NETBALL ROUND UP AT TESTBOURNE – Mrs Vallance

With the season drawing to a close for the year 11 and year 9 netball teams we have had some very good results already in the league.

Year 11, with 2 games left to play, have had a very good season and remain unbeaten! Wins against, Wellington, Rookwood, Winton and Test Valley have seen Testbourne victorious in them all. With a very solid defence of Molly Wateridge and Anya Ahl not many goals have been scored by other schools. Shooting combinations of Olivia Picton, Evie Davis, Alice Trott and Kirsty Richards have ensured we have also scored plenty of goals down the other end!

Year 9 have also had a solid performance with one game left to go. They have really built on last years

experiences and with over 20 students consistently coming to netball club every week it has been really difficult trying to pick a team each week. Wins have so far been against Test Valley, Winton, Wellington and Harrow Way with only one lost game against a very strong Rookwood side. Regular performances from Abi Noakes and Carys Graham in defence, Ellie Loxton and Maya Doherty as shooters, and Tanwin Hails as our main centre court player have helped to gain wins so far.

Please see the website and Testbourne Twitter feed for full results.

Year 7 and 8 Netball club has currently been very well attended at lunchtime for practice. Their league fixtures start after the Christmas break.

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity

Mr Jon Beck BSc (Hons), NPQH. Headteacher, Testbourne Community School

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