



Mitre

April 2020

Table of Contents

Head Teacher's Foreword	Page 2
Debating	Page 3
Business and Economics trip to New York	Pages 4/5
Year 8 ski trip to Wagrain, Austria	Page 6
Year 9 ski trip to Gastein, Austria	Pages 7/8
Interact, Spring Term	Page 9
Finale Concert	Pages 10/11/12
Black and Gold Quiz	Page 13



Mrs Helen Fletcher

Our school librarian, **Helen Fletcher**, died suddenly on March 3rd. Mr Reeve, Head Teacher said; "We have, today, lost a dear member of our school community. Mrs Helen Fletcher, who had been our school librarian for 31 years, suffered a sudden heart attack and passed away this morning.

Mrs Fletcher made a very significant contribution over such a long period of time. She has impacted the lives of so many members of our school community, supported thousands of students and worked with hundreds of staff, volunteers and library helpers down the years. She was incredibly proud to be our school librarian and we are very grateful for the commitment she gave."

Many students and parents have written their tributes to Helen on the school web-site; and it is abundantly clear that she was both deeply loved and respected, by all, in equal measure. She will be dearly missed, by everybody.



Head Teacher's Foreword

Although it feels that the events referenced in this edition of the Mitre took place in a different era, we still wanted to provide the opportunity to reflect on some of the great student experiences from the earlier part of the spring term. The challenge and uncertainty faced by the whole country, and beyond, has understandably occupied our thoughts for the last few months, but the fantastic international trips over February half-term and the mightily impressive Music Festival Finalé in early March were each a credit to the staff and students involved.

As you can see from the article above, we mourned the sad loss of our longstanding librarian, Mrs Helen Fletcher. The current restrictions meant we were unable to attend her funeral to pay our respects and reflect publicly on all she had done for our school over the last 31 years, though the many warm messages of fondness and appreciation we have received have helped to underline just how much she will be missed by all at TBSHS.

As I wrote in my email to all students at the scheduled end of last term, it was great to hear from teachers and tutors that so many students had really worked hard at home to keep on top of the work they had been set in the last two weeks of term. We appreciate there are many pressures that students have to cope with at this time, including not all having constant access to IT facilities at home, so where they are able to stick to their regular timetable of lessons and complete the set tasks, they are doing well.

With the announcement that the UK 'lockdown' has been extended for at least the next three weeks, I would ask all parents/carers continue to ensure that their children adhere to the expectations set out by the government and

remain at home at all times, except for their daily period of exercise.

There continues to be great uncertainty around when things will get back to normal and students will be able to return to school. We do now know a little about how Ofqual plan to deal with the allocation of GCSE and A-Level grades and would ask for your forbearance on this matter, as teachers and departments collate all of the information they need.

In the meantime, teachers will recommence the setting of work for all students from Monday 20th April and students will need to quickly get back into the habit of checking ShowMyHomework regularly and working their way through the set tasks. Parents are asked to discuss the work with their child at the end of each day, to support them and help us to monitor their progress.

I know that many in our school community will have faced their own personal challenges over the last month, whether that be the loss of loved ones, increasing financial hardship or those struggling to cope with the isolation and loneliness. In these circumstances, it is essential that we all do our best to support each other and take a moment to show kindness and offer sympathy to those we know to be suffering; and not do or say anything that may make their lives even more difficult.

It is my great hope that our staff, students and their families remain healthy and strong, and I look forward to seeing you all before too long.

Warmest regards,

Mr Reeve.
Headteacher.

Oxford Schools' Debating

We took four teams to Bedford School for the regional round of the Oxford Schools' Debating on February 12th.

Pride of place must go to Nabil Shah & Will Worthy (Year 11), who qualified for Finals Day at the Oxford Union, along with a team each from the Perse, Oundle, Bedford & CATS (international school in Cambridge). Mr Patterson can only remember one other TBSHS team reaching this stage of the Oxford competition in all his time at the school (34 years) and that was Charles Lockie & Tiegan Meadows when they were in Year 12.

James Gor & Xander West (Year 13) could not have been far off qualification either - likewise Year 11's Elliot Wood & Ben Hepworth; the latter making his inter-school debut. Also appearing in their first competition were Alex Banhidai &

Henry Davis (Year 9) who both grew in confidence as the event went on and, by the end, were giving other schools' Sixth Formers something to think about.

Rodney Stock (former Chair of Governors) came and supported our students and he was very impressed with the standard of debating, less so with the quality of the singing in the minibus! I will be putting together a press release for local papers as soon as I can - the next competition is the Eastern Region Final of the ESU Mace, a really prestigious competition that has been going for over 60 years, for which we are preparing thoroughly.

Watch this space!

Mr A D Fraser.



Business and Economics trip - New York

New York Trip 14th – 19th Feb 2020

33 A level Business, Economics and Politics students departed school for the long anticipated trip to New York. Our flight was delayed but we finally arrived at our home for the next four nights. We were all up, bright and early, to sample the delights of breakfast at the hotel; fresh waffles were extremely popular!

The first real introduction to New York was navigating the subway system to get to the Financial District for a walking tour on a very cold Saturday. With our guides, we covered The Wall Street Bull and The New York Stock Exchange, where The Fearless Girl Statue is located.



This statue was commissioned in 2017 to draw awareness of International Women's Day. We then proceeded to Trinity Church, though not the original building, but it is the oldest church in New York, originally built in the 17th Century.

Much to Mrs Parr's and Mr Emery's excitement, and for anyone who likes the Hamilton musical, in the grounds are buried both Alexander Hamilton and Hercules Mulligan. We were also taken through the Westfield Trade Centre Mall, which was designed to look like a bird. After a short rest and some sustenance, we had a trip to the Top of the Rock, where we enjoyed amazing views across Manhattan from Central Park to the Statue of Liberty.

Sunday started in sombre mood at the 9/11 Museum and Memorial. The 9/11 Museum serves as the USA's principal institution for examining the events of September 11, 2001, documenting the continuing significance of these attacks. A definite time for reflection and gratitude. We spent the afternoon and early evening watching the New York Rangers take on the Boston Bruins at Madison Square Gardens.

Monday was another early start as we were off to the Liberty and Ellis Islands. The view as we left Manhattan was of the Statue of Liberty looming ahead on the horizon. After disembarking, we had time for a photo opportunity in front of Madam Liberty and take in the view back towards the Manhattan skyline, and then we went on to Ellis Island. The museum tells the moving tales of the 12 million immigrants who entered America through the golden door of Ellis Island.

Tuesday was our last day in the city. We checked out of the hotel before visiting the New York Supreme Court. On arrival, imagine the surprise to see there were many photographers and reporters about; they were awaiting the jury's decision on the Harvey Weinstein trial. Soon we were whisked up to the 13th floor to find out how the US criminal system works. This was a great interactive part where Judge Richardson presided over the court.

We had just enough time before our final visit to the UN to marvel at the magnificent Grand Central Station. Having previously visited, I introduced the students to the whispering

Business and Economics trip - New York

arches. By standing in one corner facing the wall, you can speak to and hear from someone in the diagonal arch. After lunch, we made our way to the UN and enjoyed informative tours about the history and current role of the United Nations. Inside the building, we saw artefacts including a statue from Nagasaki of St. Agnes, found in the ruins of the Roman Catholic Cathedral. We were also lucky to visit the General Assembly.

Finally, it was time to say goodbye to New York. Unfortunately, one of the students had become ill so Mr Hood stayed behind with them whilst the rest of us made our way to JFK. After getting through security and boarding the plane, we discovered that the ovens were not working, so there was only chilled food during the return.

I would like to thank Miss Dewald and Mr Emery for giving up their time to accompany the students. I would like to thank especially Mr Hood for his unexpected prolonged stay to look after the ill student.



Mrs Parr.



Year 8 ski trip to Wagrain, Austria

53 students and 7 staff arrived in the resort of Wagrain, in the Austrian Alps, on Saturday 15th February. The first and most important job was to try on our skis, boots and helmets so we would be ready for the first of six days of skiing on Sunday. After that, we explored the excellent facilities at Jugendhotel Oberwimm.

The first day of skiing is always a challenge as the complete beginners have to get used to the snowplough position and those who have skied before line up nervously for the ski ability test. This year, we were able to have three beginner groups, two intermediate groups and one more advanced group. Our hotel was very close to Wagrain's Flying Mozart lift, which enabled us to enjoy doorstep skiing on some days. On other days, we were able to use the very handy ski bus to take us to the slopes on the other side of the Wagrain valley.



The weather was warm at the start of the week and got colder as it progressed. We enjoyed a significant amount of overnight snow towards the end of the week, which allowed some off-piste skiing on the last two days.

On one evening, we enjoyed the thrills of the Lucky Flitzer alpine toboggan. Unfortunately it was too warm for us to go curling; however, all

students had the opportunity to play a range of ball games in the large sports hall. It continues to amaze me how much energy the boys have, even after five hours of skiing during the day!



I thoroughly enjoyed seeing 28 students learn a new skill and the rest of the students improve their skiing due to good teaching and a positive attitude. Thank you to Mr Hobbs, Mr Kelsall, Mr Newsome, Mr Reeve, Mr Reynolds and Mrs Griffiths for being great company and helping the students to have a really enjoyable week.

In 2021, I will be leading the current Year 7 ski trip to Eben, Austria, whilst Mr Wheatley will lead a group of older students on a trip to Saalbach, Austria. Both trips are full, but if your son or daughter is keen to come along it is always worth declaring an interest via Mrs Kitching, the trips and visits coordinator, alexia.kitching@tbshs.org. Mr Wheatley and I will be advertising the 2022 trips in September. The trips will be for a) students in Year 7, and b) students in Year 8 - 12, in the academic year of 2020-21.

Mr Griffiths.

Year 9 trip to Gastein, Austria

After a long and busy term, everyone was excited to go skiing. After loading the coach, we headed for Austria with a day's journey ahead of us. On arrival, the daily routine was the same; an early call from the staff with loud music, kit checks, collection of skis and then onto the slopes. The first day skiing was a real learning curve, with the beginners getting their first feel of the snow and the more experienced refreshing their memories. Some of the beginners were off the nursery slopes in no time at all and soon up on the mountains! Everybody was itching to get back to the slopes the next day but first we were off curling during the evening.

We were being pushed to improve. After our après-ski drinks whilst exchanging stories from



the days skiing, we went off tobogganing. Luckily, Mr Alexander was on hand to translate the safety briefing which was listened to by all, (well mostly all) as we only lost three sledges on the way down and all survived. However, Mr Wheatley remarked; "it was fun, but we are not doing it again!" The next day was great. By the end of it, everybody was once again thrilled as we went back to the hotel to share stories and watch the football. Most of the staff were puzzled as to why the boys were chanting so much.

We visited Alpendorf for the next two days. The conditions on the slopes were brilliant. However, the experts along with some keen members of staff went across the valley to Wagrain on the G-



link cable car. After some great skiing almost everyone fell asleep on the coach on the way back to the hotel. Everyone had massively improved with some becoming confident enough to join the top group for a last ski. Eventually however we dropped our kit off and headed back to the hotel for a quick turnaround before our dreadful return. All was going well until we got to Calais. Due to a force 10 wind and severe sea state, we were stuck for roughly 6 hours. When we finally got aboard, a tug pulled us out to the rough seas. Consequently, we sat in a lovely smelling bus on our return to TBSHS!

Despite 18 students and 4 staff coming down with a sickness bug after the trip, it was one to remember. A massive thank you to Mr Hale, Mr Stark, Mr Alexander, Mr Conquest, Mr Fellowes-Prynn and Mr Pike for taking us on the trip. A special thank you to Mr Wheatley for making all of this possible and for organising what was, in effect, a fantastic trip.

Will Hale. Year 9.

Year 9 trip to Gastein, Austria



Interact

On Shrove Tuesday, the school charity group, Interact, raised £362.21 for Saint Michael's Church. A committed team, wearing protective gloves, made up from students of various years, cooked and served pancakes inside and distributed toppings outside over two days. Saint Michael's Church were very grateful for this donation.

Interact also led the school response to International Women's Day as students were given an opportunity to wear one piece of clothing in a different colour on Monday 9th March, the day after International Women's Day. Assemblies, led by students, raised further awareness and empowerment.

The Interact Team are now encouraging students to send their ideas for Showcase and charity events next academic year.

Thank you to Dan Palmer, Ollie Jones, Archie Summerfield, Sam Williams, Kieran Carter, Rudy Knight, Patrick Nunn, Chris Goodeve, J.J Sathan, Luke Rosier, Isaac Reeve, Joe Newman, Megan Holland, Sophie Olejnik,

Abbie Hurley, Jen Beale, Evie Gilbey, Bliss Ashley, Marlee Elven, Amy Raymond, Elliot Lavergne, Eric Queeney, Alex Johnston-Smith, Dan Jordan, Brody Knight and Taylor Anderson for all their wonderful support of Interact this half term. It is very much appreciated.

The thoughts and prayers of all in Interact are with all those suffering and caring in the very challenging current situation. We are reflecting on ways we can all safely and "virtually" help. If any parent has any suggestions for this, please e-mail simon.etheridge@tbshs.org

Interact is thinking about, and wishing every good wish for, everyone in our school community, and beyond, this Easter and in the months to come. We continue to remember the life and legacy of Mrs. Fletcher. The tributes page on the school webpage represents everything we all aspire to be.

Mr Etheridge.



Finalé Concert



The 41st Finalé Concert proved to be as successful as TBSHS always expects it to be; with fantastic performances from all involved using a wide range of instruments. In addition, the school hall was packed with enthusiastic students and parents: all prepared for what was indeed a treat for the ears. This year, the adjudicator for the Finale Concert was Lieutenant Colonel David Barringer, MBE, the Principal Director of Music for the British Army; and it transpires he very much enjoyed the evening. He could not attend the beginner and intermediate finals however and in his place he sent one of his colleagues, Captain Laura Stead and she was hugely impressed with what she saw.

He started by congratulating Luis Obeng for playing his own composition. He then applauded his technical proficiency and remarked on how important it was to ensure that all 'technical sound issues are treble checked beforehand,'



because these issues did hinder the overall performance.

He then focused on Freya Demmon's singing, saying she started in a slightly 'nervy manner,' but once she settled; 'wow, a great effort, full of emotion and a real performance.'



He told the audience that he was 'about to give Owen Lee a job' as he listened to his performance, until Owen 'put his hand in his pocket.' The audience responded warmly to this; the point being, as we were reminded, that 'stage presence' is something all performers need to consider, and that 'audiences listen with their eyes!' He continued to congratulate Owen on his great technical playing.



Finalé Concert

'You have fantastic hair' is what he said to Jack Attwool as he talked about his performance on classical guitar.



He applauded his ability to rise to the occasion from what was a shaky start and congratulated Jack, telling him to 'strut his stuff' when on stage in future.

He then commented on Joe Lee's performance on the cello. He reminded him to spend time at the beginning to fully prepare for the performance. He applauded his 'great sense of style;' Joe 'grew in confidence' with 'great technique' and 'a stylish finish' at the end.



The next finalist we heard about was Jonny Brewer. He applauded his start, 'you drew me in from the beginning' and 'you were all over the piece.' He suggested that Jonny blend in 'some light and shade' into future performances. His final comment alluded to Jonny's 'absolutely fantastic technique.'

The Colonel then assessed Owen's piano piece, remarking on how similar he looked to the cornet player from earlier! He applauded the performance from start to finish; it was hugely enjoyable 'from the off.'



Finalé Concert



Finally, the audience were reminded that Finn Lihoreau's performance on the saxophone was 'a great sound.' He then said he'd written; 'amazing technique' and went on to advise Finn to maintain the 'air support' throughout.

At this point the prizes were awarded, with Jonny in 3rd, Finn in 2nd and Owen named Musician of the Year. The Colonel made a point that indeed the winner could have been 'any of these three, such is their musicianship.' All three boys stood on the stage for what was a fantastic reception from a packed hall. It is at this point we must remember the scores of students involved throughout the weeks leading up to this concert, and of course acknowledge the massive amount of work put in by Mr Newsome and Mr Emery, with technical support on the evening from Mr Turone.

The Music Festival is a TBSHS highlight every year, and the performances from all involved in 2020 once again flagged up the excellence we see on a daily basis in school: so well done to all.

Mr Pearson-Phillips.



Black and Gold Quiz

On Friday the 13th March, the school hall was packed to the brim with competitive quizzers. This year we were delighted to welcome 24 teams to the seventh annual Black and Gold Quiz night hosted by the PTFA. Everyone was in good spirits, and unbeknownst to all at the time, this was probably one of the last group social gatherings for a while, which made it all the more special. After a tightly fought contest, 'The Undecided' won for the second year running, just one point ahead of the English teacher team.

The profit from the night has not been verified yet, but it will be in the region of £2,500! A massive contribution to PTFA funds, which will be used to help benefit the students at the school.

I am truly grateful to all who attended the event and made the evening such fun, and to all the PTFA members for their help and hard work. See you next year!

Debbie Landers,
Quiz master.

