

December 2019

Mittre



Headteacher's Mitre foreword December 2019

Not only have they been working hard in lessons, but our students have been as busy as ever outside of the classroom, taking full advantage of the extra-curricular opportunities on offer this term.

We've had an action-packed rugby season with many fixtures at all levels and numerous boys in all year groups representing the school. The excellent commitment to training by Year 7 students resulted in 99 students representing the school across 26 different matches. We've had a number of superb rugby spectacles including exciting cup runs, the floodlit match against Haileybury College and the School's first fixture at Eton College. House rugby rounded things off nicely, with all boys showing the right balance of competitiveness and good spirit.

Two sell-out audiences were in for a treat at our musical *Les Miserables* at the end of November, with so many visitors commenting on just how professional the production was. The dedication, passion and enthusiasm shown by all made for two incredible performances and justified the three months of hard work they put in. We also saw great dedication from our students in this year's Showcase performance and the day of charity bag-packing on Saturday. We had success in both the Rotary Club's Youth Speaks competition and the English Speaking Union's Debating Mace this half-term. Each public performance is a great vehicle for developing confidence, collaboration and presentation skills, which helps for things like the 'Oxbridge & Medicine application workshop' that many of our aspirational Year 12 students attended in November, to prepare applications to some of the most prestigious Universities in the country.

We wish the very best of luck to Mrs Emma Boniface, who is moving to a school closer to home after 6 years and a term at TBSHS. She has made a great impact as both a teacher of DT and a Head of Year and I'm sure will be just as successful in her new role. We also say farewell to Ms Fiona Nattress, who has worked at the school since September 2015 in the Modern Foreign Languages department. We thank her for her contribution to the school during that time and wish her well in her future endeavours.

It has been another busy term culminating in three joyous Christmas services in St Michael's Church and a very festive Christmas lunch this week.

I'd like to congratulate all those who have represented the school in some way or taken advantage of the opportunities available. I'd also like to thank the staff for making so many enriching experiences available to our students.



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Remembrance | 6 |
| Turing Suite Mural | 7 |
| Lord Michael Heseltine comes to TBSHS | 8 |
| Year 12/ 13 Product Design A Level Trip 2019 | 9 |
| Design and Technology Rotary Tournament | 10 |
| UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge | 11 |
| Maths in Action Study Day | 11 |
| UKMT Senior Team Mathematics Challenge | 12 |
| A GOOD START TO THE DEBATING SEASON | 14 |
| SCHOOL TEAMS MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OF SPEAKING | 15 |
| Careers News | 16 |
| Year 10-12 Trip to Harlow College for | 16 |
| Prospective Medics & Health Care Professionals | 16 |
| Sixth Form Post-18 Support and News | 17 |
| Year 12 Post-18 Planning | 18 |
| German Debating Report | 19 |
| House Rugby | 20 |
| History Lectures at The Cambridge Festival of Ideas | 21 |
| Les Misérables | 22 |
| Les Misérables Gallery | 23 |
| Sixth Form Art Trip | 24 |
| TATE MODERN | 24 |
| Stitch Up Club Report | 25 |
| Charity | 26 |
| Rugby Reports | 28 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Senior Rugby - DMP | 28 |
| Year 11 – RJW | 28 |
| Year 10 – EPK | 29 |
| Year 9 - MJH | 30 |
| Year 8 –JGM | 30 |
| Year 7 - JPG | 31 |
| Citizenship - Westminster | 32 |
| German Exchange 2019 | 33 |
| Message from the Parent Teachers and Friends Association. | 34 |

Remembrance

Monday November 11th at 11 am is seared into all of our memories as we pay tribute to those who have died defending the rights we enjoy today.

The students here gathered in the sports hall, having all been briefed by their tutors in the days leading up to our Remembrance Service with reminders about the significance of this time, and why it is we reflect back and remind ourselves of stories both public and perhaps too to those we know about in our own families, memories of our grand-fathers and great grand-fathers who stood up stoically 'to the plate;' many of whom as we know never to come home.

As they entered, the students removed their shoes and maintained absolute silence. Within a 15 minute period they stood shoulder to shoulder, then listened to a few poignant words from Mr Reeve before a two minute silence was requested. The muffled boom of a canon across the town emphasised the moment. Again, the silence was absolute; no fractured cough split the air, no shuffle could be heard, nor head move. This was the one protracted moment in the entire year when utter respect was expressed; and our students were fantastic. During the service, the last post was thoughtfully played by Owen Lee, and the choir sang 'For the Fallen.'

A second boom was then heard, symbolically closing the occasion, and, after a few moments, the gathered congregation walked in silence towards the exits, put their shoes back on, then left the sports hall, reflecting on what had just happened.

It is hard to believe that over 1100 students could gather in such a way and show the reverence expressed; but they did. It was a marvellous sight to behold, so thank you to every student.

Mr Pearson-Phillips.



Turing Suite Mural

Nine TBSHS Sixth Formers, led by Alfie Aylett have drawn and painted a stunning mural in the Turing Computer suite.

The artists are - Hannah Ahmed, Georgia Bryson, Euan Caton, Zoe Endean, Harry Hewitt, Sophie Lloyd-Rossi, Libby Slow and Molly Tatam, with Alfie Aylett as the organiser.

Everyone in the group is an A Level Art student, except Euan, who came in especially to add the Mitre logo.

Mr Stark approached Alfie to find out if the team would like to do a mural, and after a bit of discussion and organising the team started work in early November.

The entire mural took over 15 hours to complete with the artists working in teams of three at any one time, including during their free lessons.

The group chose a Bob Ross picture (Sunset Aglow) to reproduce as they just liked it.

The work is painted in acrylics supplied by the art department and the team used their own wall brushes.

Alfie commented that it would be nice if it stays in-situ for at least as long as the science mural (which is getting on for 20 years old.)

Mr Rob Stark, Head of Sixth Form said; 'I tasked Alfie Aylett to come up with a mural for this sixth form study area. Inspired by the works of Bob Ross, Alfie and his team spent several days developing the mural and bringing this piece to life. This was a great student-led initiative and I look forward to witnessing more student art developing within our Sixth Form.'



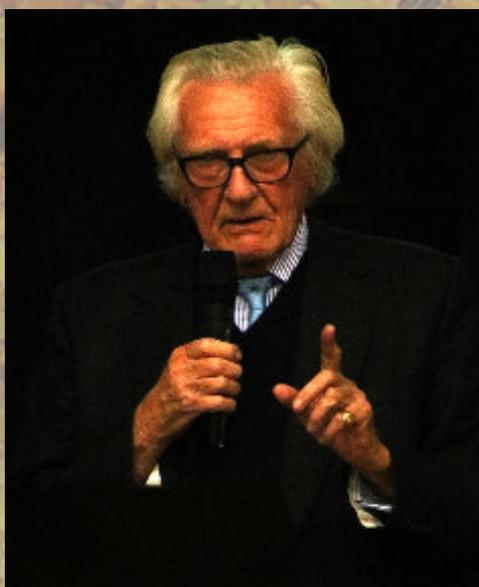
Lord Michael Heseltine comes to TBSHS

TBSHS Sixth Formers and staff were delighted to welcome Lord Michael Heseltine to school on 19th November to speak to our 6th form. After refreshments with Sixth Form A Level politics students, where Lord Heseltine spoke about the European Union and Margaret Thatcher, he moved into the hall to address 350 6th form students.

Questions from the students were plentiful and varied; the Hong Kong democracy protests, Mrs Thatcher, Brexit and what he thought of the future for the current teenagers? Colleagues commented that they were impressed by the interest and engagement of the students. His replies were measured and thoughtful, and indeed he proved to be a most affable guest.

In 1990, Lord Heseltine challenged Margaret Thatcher for the leadership of the Conservative Party, particularly opposing European policy and challenging the introduction of the poll tax

(*'where the duke paid as much as the dustman'*) as interviewer Brian Walden said. He went on to serve as the Deputy Prime minister under Prime Minister John Major, and influenced David Cameron too. He is President of the European Movement and more recently the Conservative whip was withdrawn from Lord



Heseltine when he voted Liberal Democrat in the European Elections this year. He made his thoughts on Brexit quite clear and remarked that if indeed we leave the European Union, that would be a backward step and he predicted as a country, in time, we would seek membership again.

A particular aspect of Lord Heseltine's work was his significant role in Liverpool. In the early 1980s, there had been riots in Liverpool, as there were in other areas of the country. Michael Heseltine today is respected in Liverpool for how he tackled this issue, spending time in the city, listening and working alongside local people, helping sow the seeds for its continued brilliance as a city today. He was a proudly interventionist minister.

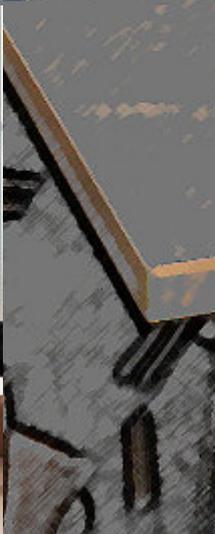
Speakers at TBSHS, come from all sides of the political spectrum. We do not endorse any particular political points of view and include all appropriate political perspectives. A respectful and legal approach to life, nurturing the 'Good Society' as best as we can, is key.



Year 12/ 13 Product Design A Level Trip 2019

On the 16th October 2019, Year 12 and 13 Product Design A Level students visited the Design Museum in London. We took the train and tube to High Street Kensington, arriving at the museum mid-morning. Upon arrival, students participated in a materials workshop where they were able to handle smart and modern materials usually displayed on restricted access. The session encouraged them to think about the properties of materials and to then design a product to solve a design problem. Following the session we had lunch before exploring the User Maker Designer exhibit. The exhibit promotes design through the ages from the Industrial Revolution through to the modern day. Students were encouraged to look for inspiration within existing and iconic design pieces which they can link into their school projects.

It was the first time we ran the trip and it was a great success. Thank you to the students for making the most of the day!



Design and Technology Rotary Tournament

The annual Rotary Club DT tournament took place on the 12th November 2019. We took 12 students, 4 per team, to Birchwood High School where they competed against other schools in the local area. Each team competed within one of the following categories; advanced, intermediate and foundation.

The Task:

A container was positioned in a cylindrical, open topped, derailed 'rail truck'. The team had to design and make a crane, which had to be operated from a distance of 800 mm, with a magnetic hook attached to the jib. The crane had to be pushed into position and the container lifted up by the crane. The crane had to lift the container clear of the truck and then reverse away from the site of the accident before lowering the container and releasing at a safe distance. Depending on the category the team were in, depended on the level of difficulty.

The results were as follows:

Year 8 students took second place in the foundation group.

Year 10 took first place in the intermediate group.

6th form students took second place in the advanced group

Congratulations to all 12 students who showed great team work and did a brilliant job.

Mrs Cornwell



UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge

On Thursday 7th November, 48 of our sixth form students took part in the UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge. This is an individual exam style competition, where students are challenged to answer multiple choice questions on interesting and inventive mathematical problems which are considerably different to those usually studied. (example papers can be seen at <https://www.ukmt.org.uk/competitions/solo/senior-mathematical-challenge/archive>).

Of those who entered, 4 students achieved a gold certificate, 10 a silver certificate and 14 a bronze certificate.

Congratulations to all those who took part, and particular congratulations to those who beat their previous scores. A special mention must go to James Gor, Harry Gaughan, Louis Golding and Ben Sloan who have qualified for the Senior Kangaroo, which is a follow on competition for some of the highest scoring students in the senior challenge. This will take place on Friday 29th November.

Maths in Action Study Day

Fifteen sixth form students attended the 'Maths in Action' event at the Emmanuel Centre in London on Tuesday 26th November. This is a regular event, where a handful of top speakers address our students on areas of Mathematics beyond the school curriculum. It is designed to enthuse and inspire and give those that attend an idea of how Mathematics is studied at University, and how it is used both positively and sometimes negatively in the real world. This year's lectures ranged from the solution of Fermat's last theorem, Mathematics in the Simpsons, how the media uses Statistics and why we should question what we read, Mathematical magic (predominantly based around topology and binary) and how a graduate in Mathematics followed her dreams about Space and becoming an astronaut.

There was also a very useful short session on exam revision tips by Dr Frost, who has developed a superb website for Mathematics revision, which we have promoted with our students throughout the school.

We hope to continue to attend this event in future years.

3.14159265358979323846264338327950288419716939937510

UKMT Senior Team Mathematics Challenge

This year's senior team consisted of James Gor and Harry Gaughan from year 13 and Sam Williams and Oliver Jones from year 12. The regional heat took place on 3rd December at the Centre for Mathematical Sciences, Cambridge University. 22 teams took part from the surrounding area and the competition was very close throughout. Our team ended up in 8th place after some good performances in each round. This is an improvement on previous years, where we usually place almost exactly half way. Congratulations to the winning team Hills Road Sixth Form College and the runner up The Perse School.

Thanks to the boys for taking part, and the UKMT for organising this annual event.



Film and Media Study Day

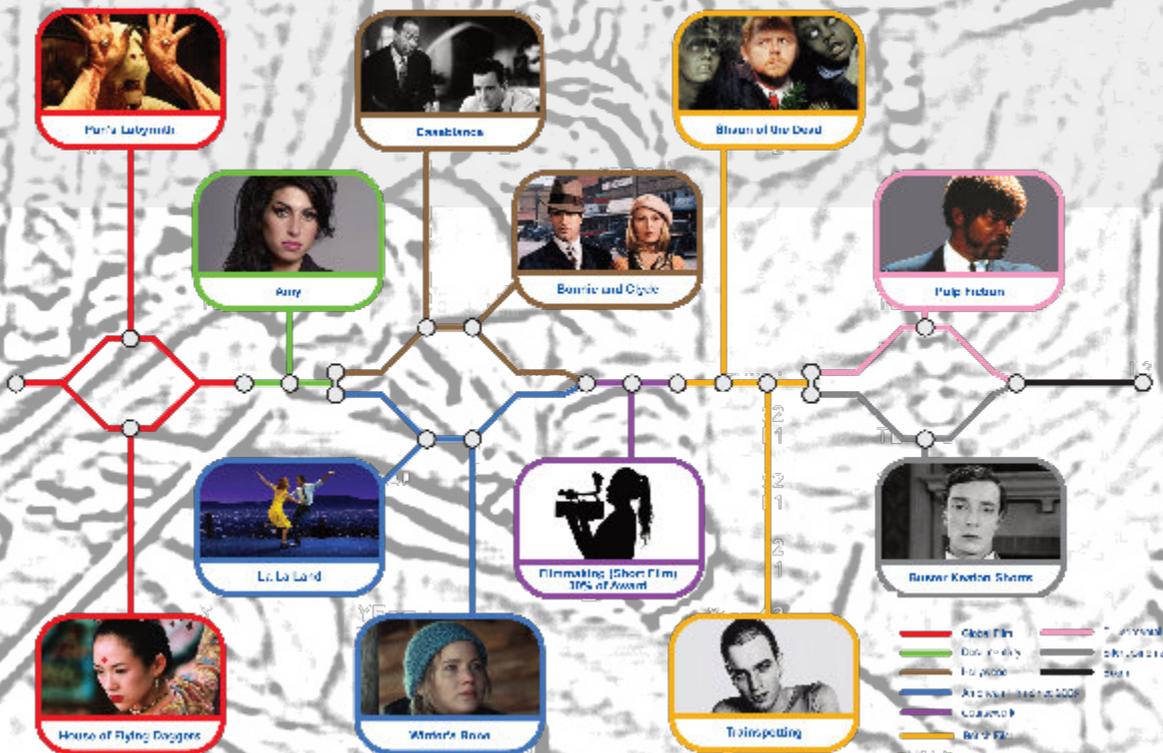
On Tuesday 10th December, TBSHS were pleased to welcome Matthew Daintrey-Hall, an education consultant who has worked with The British Film Institute and the EDUQAS exam board, to discuss film theory.

The day was split up into different sections, discussing gender, spectatorship, semiotics and post-modernism. Students from both Film Studies and Media Studies learnt about several theorists in these fields, from Judith Butler discussing gender to Roland Barthes examining ideology in imagery.

Students tested their knowledge on a range of moving image texts, including music videos and films. Mr Daintrey-Hall also showed how these theorists could be incorporated into a written response – something very helpful to examine in the lead up to exams.

The Film Studies and Media Studies departments are extremely grateful to The Mitre Fund for covering the cost of the study day and materials.

FILM STUDIES MAP



A GOOD START TO THE DEBATING SEASON



The first inter-school debating competition of the season, Round 1 of the ESU Mace, saw TBSHS travelling to Essex to take on the girls' grammar schools of Colchester and Chelmsford, as well as Freman College from Buntingford. Our team of Year 13 students - Boyd Dunster, Scott Lockie and Christian Stimpson had to propose the motion "This House Would Make Voting Compulsory".

All our speakers gave extremely strong performances, delivering well-structured speeches confidently with little reference to notes (unlike some others who read them word for word) and engaging very effectively with their opponents' arguments. By general agreement they were the overall winners and go through to the second round, along with Chelmsford County High School. This was undoubtedly the best TBSHS team performance at this stage of the competition for a number of years.

It was also very pleasing that half a dozen Sixth Formers gave up their time to come and support our speakers. Thanks are therefore due to Alfie Aylett, Will Clayden-Smith, Hannah Fitzgerald, Aisha Jones, Caroline O'Prey and Nick Parker, as well as our Minibus driver Mr Pearson-Phillips,

A more detailed report of this event can be found in the News section of the school website at <http://www.tbshs.org/NewsArticle.aspx?NewsID=6712>

A.D.Fraser



SCHOOL TEAMS MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OF SPEAKING

Although Rotary International no longer runs a public speaking competition at district or regional level, the Bishop's Stortford Club still put on a local "Youth Speaks" contest this term and, as always, TBSHS teams produced a strong showing.

Two members of our Year 9 team had been victorious last year, so their coach Mr Patterson had high hopes of a repeat success. Opening proceedings, Chairman Daniel Connor introduced his team mates with wry humour and expert timing. Tom Gee, the team's debutant, had chosen to consider "why can't teenagers be allowed to be teenagers?" Over the years, there have been many speeches about teenagers and stereotypes, but Tom's approach was totally original. Rather than trying to convince the audience that teenagers are good but misunderstood, he proclaimed himself to be smelly, slovenly and awkward, but argued that this was a developmental stage that he and all teenagers should be allowed to grow out of in their own time. Oliver Worthy in contrast said he was a perfectly behaved young man, before messing up his carefully combed hair, throwing away the flower in his buttonhole and delivering a lively, well-constructed Vote of Thanks that completed a very strong team performance.

Completely new to inter-school competition were the TBSHS Year 8 representatives, with the intriguing presentation title of "Encore". Ravi Jethwa, an extremely cheerful Chairman, revealed that this was just the first of a number of awful puns, as the team were going to talk about apples. Introducing the main speaker as "Isaac Newton, sorry Isaac Reeve", he got the team off to an engaging start. Isaac had researched very thoroughly and, although slightly hesitant to start with, he grew in confidence as he delivered an entertaining speech that covered a wide range of apple-related topics. In addition, he dealt skilfully with a question from the audience. Completing the team, Henry Aylett also overcame early nerves to present a thoughtful, well-ordered Vote of Thanks that fulfilled his role perfectly. The team had clearly taken note of all the good advice given by Miss Davies.

In the Senior section each participating school entered only one team, with a trio of Sixth Formers representing TBSHS. Head Girl Ruby Owen, chairing the presentation, displayed a calm and welcoming authority that put everyone at ease, introducing the team and their subject "Cecil Rhodes – Saint or Sinner?" with plenty of vocal variety and natural gestures. Main speaker James Gor, described as the school's "answer to Brian Blessed", was appearing in Youth Speaks for the sixth successive year. He produced a well-balanced speech, barely glancing at his notes. Leaving the audience to decide which category they felt Rhodes fell into, he gave an accomplished answer to a question about judging figures from the past by current standards. Unlike James, Nathaniel Carn, proposing the Vote of Thanks, was making his competitive debut. Nevertheless, he gave a very assured performance.

And so to the results. In the Intermediates, Daniel, Tom and Oliver's confident, lively style and excellent interaction as a team took them to a well-deserved first place, ahead of a team from Bishop's Stortford College who had a very impressive speaker. I would have placed our Year 8 team a close third, a very promising result in their first competition. In the Senior section the College's extremely confident team gained the victory and I suspect that TBSHS were second.

All our speakers deserve congratulations for the hard work that they put into preparing their speeches and their exemplary demeanour on the night. Thanks also go to their coaches, their families and Mr Reeve for their support.

A.D.Fraser

Youth Speaks web link: <http://www.tbshs.org/NewsArticle.aspx?NewsID=6714>

Careers News



We've had a full-on and busy term with assembly guests, workshop visitors and a PAH Medics Workshop visit to Harlow College for students in Years 10-12 plus Year 10's work experience programme was recently launched. Careers Workshop guests have included representatives from Stansted Airport College who spoke about careers in aviation, a member of Investment 2020 who spoke about the many 'city' careers, an apprentice from GSK who informed us about their apprenticeship and graduate schemes, a lecturer from University College London who spoke about careers for those with a degree in Classics, the outreach coordinator from Princess Alexandra Hospital (there are over 350 careers in the NHS!) and lastly, local Chartered Accountants Price Bailey visited and spoke about their apprenticeship and graduate schemes. Workshops planned for 2020 include Graham Construction, Lloyds of London Insurance and Tees Law. Students in Years 9-13 are very welcome to attend; they should look out for the alerts in the Daily Notices. Early lunch passes are available for those wishing to come along.

Following the Information Evening in November, the Year 10 work experience programme is now in full swing. I wonder what opportunities our students will experience next June? It's always interesting to see the huge variety of private placements and I'm sure 2020 will be no different!

*If you are able to offer work experience placements
or perhaps run a workshop, do please get in touch claire.jonas@tbshs.org*

Claire Jonas
Careers/Events

Year 10-12 Trip to Harlow College for Prospective Medics & Health Care Professionals



Organised by Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow

On Wednesday 16th October, we were given the opportunity to attend a medical workshop at Harlow College. At the beginning, we were spoken to by a lady from the company Medical Mavericks; she spoke to us about the many different professions involved in the NHS. She also showed us how to use a range of medical equipment which we were later allowed to experiment with. One activity that we particularly enjoyed was taking blood out of a prosthetic arm called Andy. It was interesting to experience something out of our comfort zones.

After we experimented with the medical instruments, we moved into the second room which held many company-run stalls where we could find out information about the various careers available to us in the medical industry. This was helpful for us because it allowed us to talk to people who were experts in their field and therefore gain information about careers we may like to pursue in the future.

We obtained great insight into the professions and one in particular that I found helpful was the paramedics, who really showed that teamwork and listening to others are key in all aspects of work. Thank you to Mrs Jonas to organising the trip.

Abigail Grant, Ellie Cronin & Callum Harold
Year 12 Students



Sixth Form Post-18 Support and News

Year 13 Post-18 Applications

The summer's very positive A level Results Day saw 73% of the year group heading to university on their chosen courses and the remainder gaining excellent employment positions and apprenticeships, many at degree level. These were in fields as diverse as economics, accountancy, data science, engineering, public service, biomedical sciences, fashion, quantity surveying and law with names such as The Civil Service, Price Bailey, British Aerospace, Jaguar Landrover, The Royal Navy, The Metropolitan Police, GSK, L'Oréal, Telford Homes and Barrow LLP.

The focus this term has been the current Year 13 finalising their university applications. Over 125 students have applied and already there is a 70% positive response rate to all the course choices selected. 8 of our students are currently taking part in Oxbridge interviews for courses as such as Maths, Engineering, Medicine, History, Theology and Religion, Modern and Medieval Languages and Geography. Our 4 medics, vets and dentists have already received at least 6 interviews between them with potentially more in the offing. A variety of interview sessions and workshops have been organised for them with academics from Cambridge, experienced teachers, medical consultants and ex-pupils.

Meanwhile, major apprenticeship schemes are starting to open for 2020-entry and we have students who are working their way successfully through the various on-line forms, tests and telephone or video interviews that precede invitations to Assessment Centres for employers such as J P Morgan and the Civil Service.



Year 12 Post-18 Planning

There will be more in the Spring Term about the start of Year 12's formal Post-18 support programme which starts with a visit to a Higher Education/ Careers Convention at the Emirates Stadium in February and our student and parent Post-18 Information Evening on 3rd March.

However, students are already encouraged to broaden their study and career horizons through the regular electronic Post-18 Bulletin. This attempts to highlight just a few of the huge range of open days, wider reading, workshops, taster events, exhibitions, competitions and careers resources that are available, e.g. three Year 12s recently attended a work experience day with major technology company ARM Global.

It is good to see some Sixth Formers starting to take advantage of the fantastic lunchtime Careers Workshops organised by our Careers Advisor, Claire Jonas. Most recently these were with Price Bailey and NHS Careers with its 350 different roles.

Others are already attending student-led societies such as MedSoc, Law, and Computing where they can discuss topics in depth while also hearing from excellent external speakers.

Those considering competitive applications for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry courses have attended an initial advice and guidance meeting on how they can best be preparing themselves. Other meetings will be held half-termly.

These events are all in addition to the many subject-specific enrichment activities that departments organise beyond the curriculum that help students prepare themselves for life beyond TBSHS, e.g. Film Studies students recently had the opportunity to learn directly from a script writer.

I would encourage all our students to get actively involved in, and to exploit, the many opportunities that the school provides for them to find out more about future areas of work and study.

Fiona Price
Assistant Head of Sixth Form (Post-18 Guidance)



German Debating Report

On 26th November, four TBSHS sixth form students prevailed victorious in the first round of the national German-spoken debating competition against Bancroft's School. The Goethe-Institut, the organisers of the competition, tasked our students to argue against the motion: "This House believes that students should have permission to strike from school for climate change."

Jamie Dunne, team captain, opened the debate and put forward the team's first argument surrounding the excessive cost of these strikes. Following him, Ben Butler brought his refined and eloquent argument, detailing the significance of the impact of these strikes on students' education to the table. Then Felix May passionately put forward his argument that these strikes could be environmentally damaging. Georgia Watkin presented our final argument on the subject of the danger of these strikes with great clarity and finally it was the turn of Jamie Dunne again to counter any points of the opposing team and summarise our arguments.

Ultimately, this debating team proved a great success and the four debaters look forward to debating in German again in the second round in late January. Who knows? If the debaters manage to go all the way and win the competition, the prize is a trip to Cologne, Germany for each of them!



GOETHE
INSTITUT

House Rugby

Interhouse Rugby took place on 7th December for Years 8 – 11 which the Year 7s having already taken place earlier in the year. Across the four year groups around 270 students turned out early on Saturday morning in ‘almost ideal’ rugby conditions.

In Year 8, the competition was dominated by Chantry, Meads and Twyford – with each winning four games but each losing one game to one other, to give a thrilling 3-way tie for first place. Chantry were also successful in Years 9 and 10, the latter of which was particularly impressive as they had no substitutions for 5 straight games. This led to Chantry winning the overall competition comfortably, but House Points will be allocated for each Year Group depending on their positions.

One of the highlights was the Year 11s, who despite their imminent mock examinations, produced an excellent turn out to field two full teams. The game was brilliantly competitive, helped by Mr Wheatley’s rule that they couldn’t score more than once, which really encouraged the teams to work together.

A big thanks must go to the dedicated group of Year 12 Sports Leaders, PE students and rugby players who came along and coached the lower year groups through the morning, leading their warm-ups and giving team talks. Thank you also to all the family and friends that attended to make this such an event, and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Mr Blake



History Lectures at The Cambridge Festival of Ideas

This year has seen significant anniversaries for a number of notable historic events. For example, it is eighty years since the start of the second world war and fifty years since the first moon landing.

Two equally important events were the subject of two fascinating lectures attended by a combination of Year 9 & Year 11 students over the half term.

Firstly, students were treated to a talk by Dr. Sean Lang (ARU) and Nicolas Kinloch (University of Cambridge) on the Treaty of Versailles. It is a hundred years since the Treaty, which ended the First World War, was signed. Almost immediately the Treaty faced heavy criticism and many have subsequently suggested that it laid the foundations for the Second World War two decades later. The lecture looked at the Treaty from the perspective of different world powers in order to discuss the extent to which the Treaty was too harsh on Germany and whether it is fair to blame the peacemakers of 1919 for the problems which exploded two decades later.

Secondly students heard from Dr. Jonathan Davis (ARU) who spoke about the Fall of the Berlin Wall thirty years ago, highlighting how even at the start of 1989, the Wall and the dictatorships that stood behind it seemed secure, Dr. Davis analysed the wide-ranging factors that brought about the opening of the border between East and West Berlin. These included the changes in international politics, the rise of popular protest throughout the Eastern bloc and the role of key individuals.

The two talks both offered fascinating insights into the past and the students, who gave up a day of their half term holiday to attend enjoyed the opportunity to hear from leading experts on these key events of the Twentieth Century.



Les Misérables

This year's school musical, Victor Hugo's 'Les Misérables' was one of the best yet. I'm sure I'm not 'on my own' in thinking that the idea of tackling such a huge and challenging musical was a daunting task but having sold out on both nights we are glad to say we managed to pull it off.

Working under the direction of Ms Bart-Williams and Mr Comiskey, and under the Musical direction of Mr. Emery and Mr. Newsome we made strong progress from day one and the end result was completely worth it.

Harry Collier-Smith, playing the principle role of Jean Valjean, gave a well-rounded performance demonstrating great vocal dexterity and making a part that greatly challenges professionals seem relatively easy, especially as this was his first acting role in a school show. Valjean is chased throughout by Inspector Javert who was performed by Tega Amrore. His was a powerful performance that greatly realises Hugo's intentions of an imposing character, and the rivalry between Javert and Valjean was apparent from the start. Thomas Woods and Lois Gilder split up the drama with their hilariously comic characters, Monsieur and Madame Thernadier providing some light relief to the hard hitting story of the French Revolution. Other notable performances include Freya Demmon's Eponine, Teddy Pope's Marius and Georgia Bryson's Cosette; each with many tricky and emotional numbers that brought a tear to the eye. All of the cast were amazing on both nights and of course it couldn't be a show without the backstage help from a number of students lead by Toby Charity.

Everyone in the cast had an amazing time during these 10 weeks and a lot of close friendships were formed. It'll certainly be a show to never forget. Finally from all the cast, a big thank you to Ms Bart-Williams, Mr Emery, Mr Comiskey, Mr Newsome, Mr Turone and all the backstage, front of house and lighting crew.

Finn Lihoreau





Les Misérables Gallery

Photos by Tony Hepworth



Sixth Form Art Trip

TATE MODERN

All of us arrived at the Tate Modern with different itineraries for the day; some were to attend paid exhibition, some would be visiting Tate Britain and others had simply planned to explore specific areas of Tate Modern. I began by looking at the section 'Artists and Society', aiming to find elements of the work that I could relate to my own, with its themes of perceived beauty, societal pressure and plastic surgery. The work that I found to be most related to my own was a mixed media series by Ellen Gallagher (1965) which explored ideas surrounding media such as advertisements (1930s - 1970s) aimed at African-American women, promoting 'white' ideas of beauty.

The second half of the day was spent similarly, with each student having a different plan for how they would be spending that slot of time. A few went over to Tate Britain to see art-works more relevant to their themes in school. Personally, I spent that time exploring the rest of the gallery - as there were no other specific areas of the gallery that I felt would be most likely to link to my work - and so I looked about the gallery to find works with similar themes, stylings or messages to my own. Here I considered the larger than life fountain at the centre of the gallery which, as many fountains do, was adorned with the figure of a naked woman. However, the water was spouting for a slit in the neck as well as from her breasts, which I felt could be interpreted as a message surrounding the pain and sacrifice of conforming to conventional beauty.

Overall, we had a great day and we can use what we learnt to inform additional ideas in the 6th form art studio. Thank you to Mr Thomas for organising the day, and to Mr Pearson-Phillips and Ms Hartwig too.

Georgia Bryson.

Stitch Up Club Report

Stitch Up club is an amazing club for Years 7 – 9. I have attended all 3 years where we have made a variety of textile items such as cross stitch cards, pompom rugs and reusable shopping bags. These activities are run by Mrs Boniface who always thinks of new ideas for activities and we thank her for this amazing club. It lets people bring out their imagination without any judgement. Stitch Up club is so much fun. Doing this club has allowed us to find people who are like us and share similar hobbies. I have made so many new friends so I thank Mrs Boniface.

James and Lewis Levi, Year 9

4 years ago I set up 'Stitch Up club'. It started off as a small club for Year 7-8 with the aim of teaching the boys how to stitch on a button and use a basic running stitch! Different students have attended, however there has been a core group who have attended every year. We have made Christmas decorations, mini monsters, learnt cross stitch and more recently made pompom rugs and personalised fabric tote bags. It has been a great pleasure to spend lunchtime with the attendees and I hope they have enjoyed each project. I wish them all the best and hope they continue fabric and textile based projects in the future!

Mrs Boniface



Charity

School charity, or Interact, supported and nurtured by the Rotary Club, continues to put the ethos of the school into practice through student leadership. Following our Mental Health Awareness Day, we continued this work this half term.

Student leadership was once again demonstrated by Showcase with Natasha Gunn, Archie Summerfield and Jen Beale showing outstanding management and leadership in putting together a moving and enjoyable show which raised over £700 for our local food bank and night shelter. The support of Oliver Jones, Dan Palmer, Sam Williams, Kieran Carter and Megan Potter was also excellent as was the leadership of Mr. Turone who is an absolute star. Thank you very much indeed to those who supported this event.

As part of our Christmas Giving campaign, students once again undertook bag packing to raise money for food parcels created by our local Rotary Club. Over one weekend, students raised over £1000 for this fine cause whilst members of the public commented on and off line upon their conduct.

The school continued to support the Poppy Appeal in November, raising the commendable sum of over £700 for our local Royal British Legion as part of our poignant annual Service of Remembrance in the Hall. We continue to remember.

Happy Christmas

Simon Etheridge





Showcase 2019

Photos Mr M Smith



Rugby Reports

Senior Rugby - DMP

This was always going to be a challenging year with a relatively young senior squad. Having said that the team put in a number of excellent performances. The most memorable were winning the county Vase, an emphatic win against Richard hale 65-5 and a very strong performance in the National Cup against a favoured RHS Ipswich where we won with a score line 38-26, the most points RHS have conceded all year. This performance demonstrated the potential that this team possess. The balance of the forwards attacking with power and excellent offloading skills, coupled with providing quick ball for the backs who were attacking with pace and accuracy meant that RHS were dominated in all areas of the game.

Although many matches this season resulted in narrow losses, for the majority of those games the 1st team were leading at some point. Learning to convert those leads into wins will come with experience as many of the team remain for at least another year. It was great that a number of 2nd team players stepped up towards the end of the season when players were hit with injury and illness and performed extremely well.

The last two weeks of fixtures saw the team play some memorable matches; Stowe (away), Haileybury at BSRFC on the 1st XV pitch under floodlights and Eton College (away).

Special mention should go to Adam Oakey who captained the team this year and Bailey Albert who has had to **play out of position** as an inside centre rather than hooker, for the past 2 years, providing the team with a solid base to work from in the backs.

Year 11 – RJW

The U16s have had a positive season, with a totally new team bedding into their roles from September, due a significant number of key players being unavailable for selection due to them playing for the 1st XV. The team have performed exceptionally in the circumstances that they have found themselves in, showing enormous resilience and commitment in achieving some great wins against the likes of New Hall, Richard Hale, Brentwood and Bishop's Stortford College. They have always managed to improve from elements worked hard on in training, with a fantastic example being the 2nd half performance against The Leys, in addition to their final performance against Eton, where their ability to stop 1st phase momentum in the middle of the park showed their willingness to learn and act on their learning as a side. They finish their age groups school Rugby careers with a solid platform to take into senior rugby in the VI Form."



Year 10 – EPK

The U15's have played some excellent Rugby at times this year. With sustained numbers over 30 at training and around 20 boys attended before school gym sessions they were able to develop individual position specific skills and fitness, while coming together to play some exciting running rugby in some games and some gritty determined performances in others. The commitment towards training has been terrific and has seen many boys move between A and B teams as a result of their efforts.

The U15A team won 6 games, including an away trip to Eton where they won 60-0 and a nail biting performance at Jobbers against Brentwood which they won 28-24 with a try in the last play of the game. Beyond the games they also showed tremendous fighting spirit on a miserable morning at The Perse where they narrowly lost 7-12 late in the game after one of the most physical games of the season and a loss in the National Cup against a strong Haliebury side where the boys managed to put 4 tries on the board. The U15B team have also had many successes this year, most notably in a 48-0 win at Ipswich school in a fixture that they narrowly lost last year.

The boys should be very proud of their personal and team success this year and look to continue this level of commitment throughout the remainder of the year and into Y11.



Year 9 - MJH

The U14's have had an excellent season. Attendance at training has been amazing with over 60 boys regularly attending the twice weekly sessions. Selection has been almost impossible but to the credit of the squad in accepting a degree of rotation to ensure more than 65 players could represent the school this season. The squad even managed to put out 3 teams to play the Leys on probably the busiest school weekend of the year and saw the C team record a 35-10 victory. The B team had a wonderful season and didn't allow the ever changing team affect performances on the pitch. Many players have stepped up to play for the A team with real credit and some are now established A regulars. The A team have really developed throughout the year and are playing some excellent rugby which has seen some wonderful results this season. Overall a great season for the U14's which has seen them collectively win over 80% of their games and confidence is very high for next season when they take part in the national cup.

Year 8 –JGM

The U13s Rugby squad have had an excellent term of rugby. The biggest success is that over 50 different boys have represented the school in either the A, B or C teams. This is a fantastic reflection of the commitment to training that the boys have made and the development that goes along with this. To such an extent that some boys have moved from D to A team squads since last year. In every game we were the smaller less physical team but the sum of our individual parts was almost always more than the opposition. This allows for a quick recycling and off-loading game that makes the most of our increasingly impressive "catch and pass" and good decision making in attack. In defence we were at times heroic, often against much larger opposition and in the face of defeat. Our most pleasing and complete performance however, was against Bishop's Stortford College away. Both A and B teams won playing with a work rate, pace and accuracy that the College simply could not match. All the players have displayed excellent values throughout the season with a genuine desire to improve and have been a pleasure to coach. I hope we can get continue to get over 50 players to training next year.



Year 7 - JPG

157 boys attended the first Saturday morning training session at Jobbers Wood during which a mixture of TBSHS staff, Y10 and 11 students helped to coach the boys. For many boys it was their first taste of rugby. It was great to witness a sea of black and gold almost engulf Mr Reeve as he led the Headteacher's traditional run.

Training sessions took place before and after school from September until the end of November, with the focus being on player development. We played the entire season without positions which allowed players to appear in various places around the pitch. Within a few minutes it was possible for boys to put the ball in the scrum; pack down as prop in the next one; receive the ball as a fly half after a ruck, and then score a try on the wing! Despite this potential mayhem, the Under 12 sides have enjoyed a successful season.



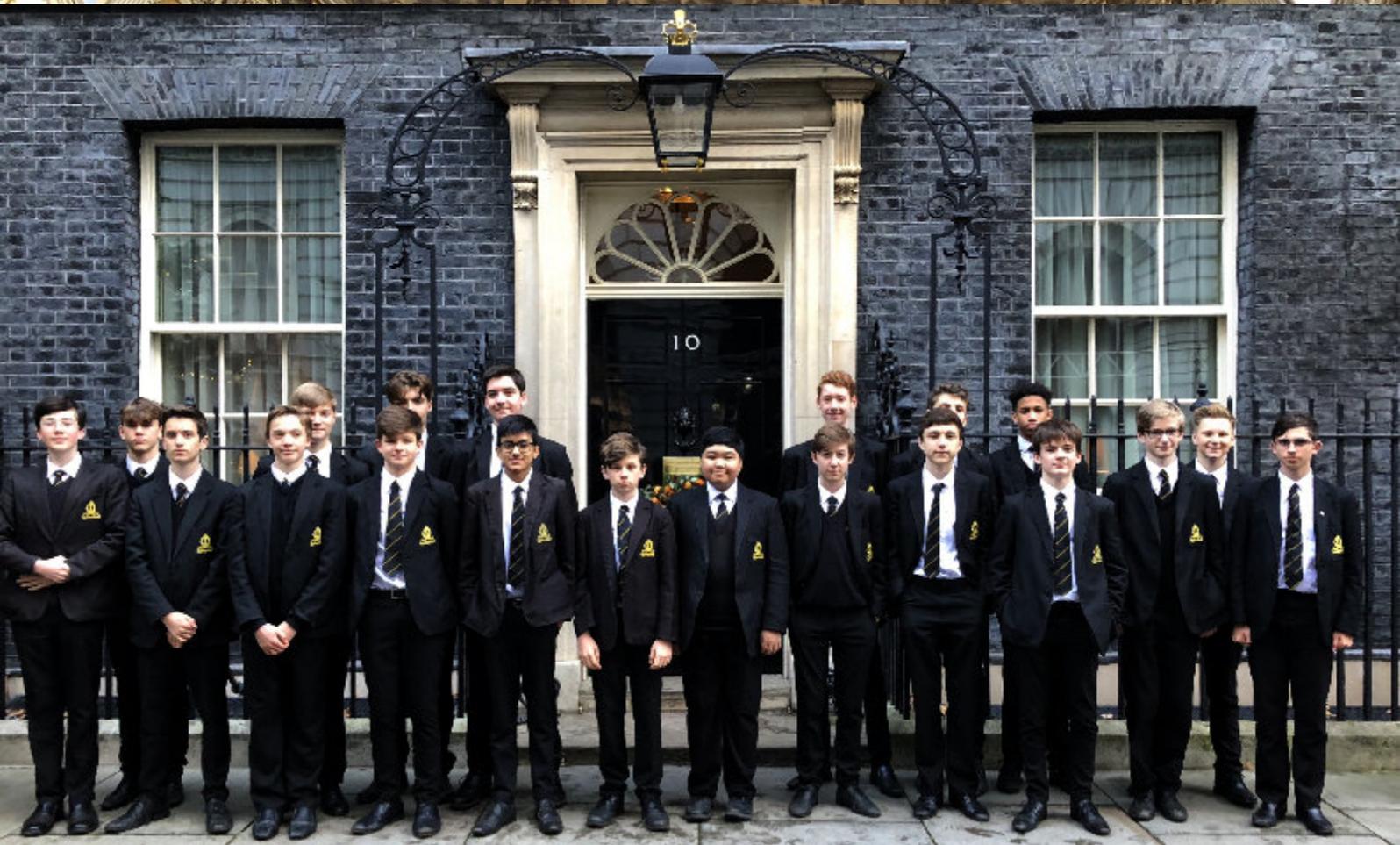
Citizenship - Westminster

On December 9th and December 11th, Year 10 experienced a citizenship visit entitled "Iconic London."

The impeccable students visited the Palace of Westminster, including the symbolic House of Commons, as well as experiencing the welcoming Supreme Court, engaging in an inspiring walk along Downing Street and reflecting on magnificence, awe and wonder of Saint Paul's Cathedral. Lunch was kindly provided by the wonderful and tireless staff of McDonalds at St. Paul's.

Guides, staff and police were so very impressed by Year 10 who were superbly behaved, asked fine questions and were beyond "on point". Accompanying staff and Ms Kitching, Dr Coke-Woods and Ms Miles were also outstanding in their fulsome support as were the unsung heroes of the parents who, once again, dropped off students at 6 am.

Simon Etheridge



German Exchange 2019

Germany has, with open arms, allowed for another successful exchange with our great friends at the Nordpfalzgymnasium in the quiet town of Kirchheimbolanden.

We met at Stansted Airport with sleepy faces but high expectations on Monday 9th December. Everyone was excited to finally meet their exchanges, although we were all nervous, too. After a day of travelling cross-country, we finally arrived at the school, and went home to spend the first night with our exchanges and their kind host families, some having dinner and watching films, others spending the night in their rooms!

The following Tuesday was spent at the Nordpfalzgymnasium (grammar school), where we learned about the German school system and daily routine of German teenagers. Suffice to say, it was a pleasant change from our typical English school day.

On Wednesday we set off on the train to the city of Mainz. Although the rain was trying its hardest, our spirits stayed up throughout the tour of the city and our free time in it. We all found the rich history and beautiful Christmas markets stunning, wishing we had it in our very own Bishop's Stortford. We had an interesting tour of the broadcaster SWR, learning about how Germany's federal system extends to television and radio. Some of us even took part in a radio show!

On Thursday morning everyone waited eagerly for the bus ride to the quaint city of Heidelberg. We enjoyed our time ice skating, even if we weren't very good at it. A trip up to the Heidelberg castle was perfect for views over the old town and photo opportunities for social media!

Friday was another day in school which cemented friendships and gave us even greater insight into the school system. In the evening we had a farewell party in the school and more time with the exchanges. Overall, the trip was both incredibly enjoyable and useful for our studies. Thanks must go to both Mr Alexander and Mr O'Sullivan for organising the trip as well as their German counterparts, Mrs Freyer and Mr Stübler.

Dan Barnett and Felix May.



Message from the Parent Teachers and Friends Association.

The annual PTFA Candlelit Supper was attended by over 150 people this year. Guests kicked off the Christmas season with singing and dancing and general merriment. The school hall was transformed with the help of sixth formers, and the school chef served a delicious three course dinner. The TBSHS band 'Room 73' played live music to the delight of everyone. All profits will go towards benefiting the students at the school.

Our next event will be the Black and Gold quiz on the 13th March 2020. Come along for a fun night for all the family.

A huge thanks to all who attended and helped organise PTFA events during the past year. Whether you made cake, donated raffle prizes or washed up, every little helped!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the PTFA.