

YEAR 10 NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS!!



Mitre
December 2020

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Head Teacher's Foreword.

As we reach the end of what has been the most challenging of years, we can pause to reflect on some of the many changes we have been forced to make and congratulate both students and staff for their willingness to adapt and the positive approach they have taken to being back in school this term following the first lockdown that started way back in March.

We have been extremely fortunate to have so few positive cases of Covid 19 at TBSHS and must be grateful to the parent body for helping us ensure our students followed the guidance set out by central government, which will have played a huge part in reducing the spread of infection. We've had confidence in the systems we have put in place, but realise we've all had a part to play.

I feel we have managed to strike the right balance of prioritising the well-being of students and staff, whilst also pushing the boundaries of what we've been able to provide to the students. Alongside the one-way systems, the hand hygiene, the face masks and year group 'bubbles,' we've still been able to teach students in subject specific classrooms, giving them access to practical lessons and maintaining the traditional curriculum. We've continued to deliver several aspects of our extra-curricular programme with weekly rugby training sessions, running clubs, band and ensemble rehearsals and remote debating competitions amongst the enriching experiences available to the students. It was also great to hold the 'varsity' rugby match with Year 13 in the last two weeks. For the Year 13 students, many of whom had spent the last six years playing for the school and missed out on the opportunity to play for the 1st XV, it was a fitting way to end their long association with schoolboy rugby.

Featuring in *The Cricketer* magazine's 'Top 100 cricket schools' was a major achievement last month and a real mark of the progress made at the school to boost the levels of participation and the quality of experience available to the students in cricket. Having lost the whole summer term of cricket, it was fantastic to see school training sessions and fixtures taking place during the summer holidays and deep into the autumn term, including our annual fixture with the MCC. I'm delighted that the staff involved have had their tremendous efforts recognised with such a major accolade, especially one that is generally the preserve of independent schools.

Following the success of the Summer Sounds concert in July, I do hope lots of you can find the time to watch this year's TBSHS Christmas Concert. Even if they are not performing, parents will be able view the concert on our YouTube channel and get a flavour of the incredible standard of music their child could get involved in at our school.

Despite the personal struggles we have all faced, our students have been reminded of the greater challenges faced by others in our community and have continued in their efforts to recognise and raise money for very worthy causes. Interact have conducted virtual meetings and lots of students took part in our three 'Santa Dash' runs, as you'll read about later.

Head Teacher's Foreword.

Of course, the pandemic has caused disruption to so much of normal life and sadly the school relocation programme has not escaped. We anticipate a delay in the programme that could mean we are unable to move to the new site before the end of 2022. We continue to work hard on this major project and will update you all in the new year.

On the last day of term we say goodbye to Mr Comiskey, who joined us in the Drama department in September 2017. We wish him the best of luck as he moves across to teach in Essex. We also say farewell to Mr Pearson-Phillips who formally retires from TBSHS after 14 years. He initially joined as Head of Faculty for the Arts before moving on to become an Assistant Headteacher in 2014. We are still hoping to see a bit of 'Mr PP' at the start of next term before he heads off to the other side of the country to spend more time painting in his retirement. Having made a significant impact on the school in many ways during his time, we thank him for all he has done and wish him a long and happy retirement.

In place of our traditional Awards Evening in the last week of term, we have created a film to reflect on the last year and celebrate the achievements of those students completing their GCSE, A-Level and BTEC qualifications in the summer. Here is a link to the film which premieres at 7pm on Thursday 17th December,

<http://tbshs.org/schoolnews.aspx?SubCatID=1347> .

Finally, it was with great sadness that I had to inform our school community this week, of the sad loss of one of our exams invigilators, Mr Ian Wickens. Ian was a great servant to the school for a total of forty years, first as a teacher, then the bursar and examinations officer, before retiring in 2008. After travelling extensively, he returned to the school in 2016 and had been working as an invigilator since then. He was truly *Black & Gold* and will be sorely missed. His family remain in our thoughts and prayers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parent body for their ongoing support for the school during the challenging times. We look forward with hope and great optimism to a more straight forward 2021, but are very aware that the next term will still pose many challenges as well.

I wish you all a joyful Christmas and good health and happiness throughout the coming year.



Mr Dale Reeve.
Head teacher.

Year 10 National Cup Winners - again!!!

The final took place on Wednesday 14th October at Lilleshall National Sports Centre, the former training ground for the England football team, against Turton School from Bolton, who had conceded only 4 goals throughout the entire competition. TBSHS started quickly and within a 4 minute spell, had 7 corners and applied lots of pressure to the Turton goal. They came close to scoring twice but George Hoddle and Joe Nardelli forced the keeper into some excellent saves. Eventually, the pressure told as Jack Walker whipped a corner in to the 6 yard box and Joe Nardelli rose well to head TBSHS into the lead. The game ebbed and flowed with Jayden Peglar producing an outstanding save to keep TBSHS in the lead going in to half-time.

The second half had limited chances as both teams battled hard to get a foothold in the match and it wasn't until the ball fell to George Hoddle who slid an excellent pass in to Ben Smith to round the goalkeeper who then brought him down to win a penalty. Joe

Nardelli stepped up very calmly and slotted the ball to the keepers left as he moved right. TBSHS were looking comfortable until the referee saw something nobody else did and with 3 minutes to play awarded Turton a penalty which was duly converted. This led to a nervous final few minutes which wasn't helped when man of the match Joe Nardelli decided to kick the ball away after an offside decision was given against him and the referee showed him his second yellow card. Fortunately TBSHS were able to hold out and became National Champions.

Peter Harris, the Head of PE and Manager said *"I'm so proud of the players, they have worked hard and improved as a team throughout the competition acting on the feedback provided. The lockdown slowed the momentum but they put in a phenomenal performance in the semi-final demonstrating superb resilience and a competitive spirit to see themselves into the final and deserved winners."*



Debating - Year 13 Champions.

ONLINE DEBATING SUCCESS FOR TBSHS STUDENTS.

Wet and windy weather greeted two intrepid debating teams as they arrived at school at 8.00 am on a Saturday morning to spearhead our first foray into online inter-school debating. Year 13 students **Nathaniel Carn** (in only his second competition) and **Amy Raymond** (making her TBSHS debut) joined seasoned Year 12 campaigners **Finn Lihoreau** and **Tom Harding** for an event organised by Imperial College London. Sixty-five teams, including representatives from Budapest & Manila, as well as well-known British schools such as Eton, Westminster and St Paul's Girls, were involved in four hard-fought rounds of debating.

The first motion of the day saw both our teams, in their respective rooms in the Globe building, closing the case for a ban on strikes by public sector workers. **Amy & Nathaniel** had to follow a very strong team from Eton in a debate that focused mainly on medical workers. **Amy** did well to extend the debate to include teachers and civil servants, in addition to refuting the Opposition's arguments and dealing well with a Point of Information that they raised. **Nathaniel** fulfilled his role as summary speaker expertly, identifying the key points of the debate and explaining why he felt that the arguments made by his side (and particularly Amy) had carried the day. The team gained a **third** place, a promising start given the quality of their opponents. Meanwhile **Tom & Finn** were also placed **third** in a debate won by a strong St Paul's Girls pairing.

The second round saw our two teams in direct opposition, with **Finn & Tom** speaking first in favour of the very topical motion "**This House Believes Schools Should Heavily Emphasise the Flaws of Historical Figures**".



Debating - Year 13 Champions.

Finn's opening speech was very well-structured and clearly explained. He stated that it is better to give students a realistic picture of heroic figures so that they realise that nobody is perfect and furthermore that this would be better done, in a balanced way, by teachers rather than relying on social media. **Tom** backed him up strongly, accusing the opening Opposition speaker of wanting to pick and choose what is taught about figures of the past and arguing that learning that their heroes overcame past mistakes would inspire students and teach them resilience. For the Opposition, **Amy** picked up the word "heavily" in the motion and pointed out the danger of teachers imposing their views on students and painting too negative a picture of historical figures. Once again **Nathaniel** produced a well-rounded summary speech, identifying points of clash and challenging the Proposition's arguments. **Tom & Finn** were perhaps a little unlucky not to win in this round, but gained a strong **second** place, with **Nathaniel & Amy** in another solid **third**.

The first motion after lunch was **This House Would Hand Over Control of Public Health to a Panel of Independent Experts**", with both our teams opening for the Opposition. **Nathaniel** spoke very well in this debate, asking who would appoint the panel and questioning whether they would become political appointments, similar to the US Supreme Court, rather than truly independent. **Amy** also showed that she taken advice from earlier rounds on board, with a well-structured speech in which she pointed out that the experts would not be accountable and the Proposition had not specified how they could be removed. The team was rewarded with a **first** place. However, **Finn & Tom** had not fared so well. The judge in their room had marked them down heavily for confining their arguments to the NHS in the UK and gave them **fourth** place.



Debating - Year 13 Champions.

Amy & Nathaniel's victory had propelled them to the top of the standings among the 13 Novice teams (those with both speakers in their first year of debating), but they came up against stiff opposition in the fourth round and could only finish in **fourth** place. However, closing the case against the motion **"This House Would Prefer a World Without Extreme Emotions"**, **Tom & Finn** both gave their best performances of the day. The former started his speech with some strong rebuttal of his opponents and followed this up by arguing that human reaction to emergencies requires extreme emotions. He went on to assert that the best art, drama and music all involve extreme emotions and warned that, without them, all of us would become apathetic and lose our individuality. Lambasting the Proposition's belief in restraining emotions, **Finn** told them "You aren't taking the middle of the road, you're just narrowing the path". Speaking with a fitting passion he rounded off the debate by comparing the world in which we live to the lifeless one that the motion would lead to. The TBSHS team deservedly **won** this debate.

In the overall results table, **Finn & Tom** had finished in a very creditable 33rd place, with **Nathaniel & Amy**, not far behind, having done enough to qualify for the Novice Final, where they would face Alleyn's and Sevenoaks (both independent schools) and the London Academy of Excellence (a selective sixth form college).

For the first time they had the chance to open a debate, proposing that **"This House Would Ban the Publication of Opinion Polls in the Run Up to Elections"**. **Nathan** noted the inaccuracy of such polls, citing the US Presidential election of 2016 as an example. He argued that unfavourable polls produce apathy among voters, while supporters of a party that is ahead in the polls may become complacent, fail to vote and see their party lose as a result. **Amy** brushed aside the Opposition's attempt to claim that the motion denied free access to information and challenged them to give one concrete benefit of publishing polls just before an election. After a tense wait, the judges pronounced.

TBSHS WINNERS OF THE NOVICE FINAL.

Retired teacher Tony Fraser commented;

"I think that this is the first time a team from the school has won a final of this sort. It represents a fantastic achievement for two students who only began debating seriously when they joined the Sixth Form and I was also very pleased for Tom and Finn, who gained a highly respectable placing in the overall table. All our speakers remained positive throughout day, showing great teamwork and resilience. They adjusted well to the different circumstances of the competition, listened to advice and improved with every round. Congratulations to them and many thanks to the English Department for letting us use their rooms and the caretakers for opening up the school so early to accommodate us."

Debating - Year 13 Champions.



Debating - Team England Trials.

On Sunday November 29th, Elliot Wood (Year 12) took part in trials for the England team for the **World Schools Debating Championships**. Sadly, fellow Sixth Former Will Worthy had to decline his invitation because of another commitment, but, as he said, it was very encouraging to know they thought he was good enough. He will of course continue to engage actively in inter-school competitions. On the first day of trials Elliot was involved from 9 am until 6 pm on Zoom, engaging in three debates and one general knowledge quiz, covering issues such as finding links between the Arab world and Prague ('spring'), Pop culture, Sports and Economics; so he needed to have a wide grasp of general knowledge.



Elliot Wood.

Each person had 45 minutes to prepare their six-minute speech. One debate was 'this house would ban private actors (including trades unions) from donating to political campaigns.' Elliot opposed this, saying this improves democracy as it better informs a wider audience and it's to do with people having a right to pay their monies where they like; but there ought to be a limit on the amount of money donated. Elliot said that he found the day challenging as he was debating with people he didn't know, and in effect they were all thrown into the pit and had to work together as a team.

Elliot reported that it was good to get back into competitive debating and he very much enjoyed the whole day, especially when it was announced that he had qualified for the next stage of the trials. The following weekend, Elliot was involved in two very competitive debates, speaking for up to eight minutes in each, but sadly wasn't selected for the final trial.

Only 60 students from the whole country were selected for these trials, so it is very encouraging to have two of our debaters among them. Elliot worked very hard to prepare for the trials and deserves huge congratulations for being one of only 23 speakers to reach the second stage! Both he and Will agreed that the vast majority of schools involved come from the private sector and overseas international schools, and that it is common to be in a competition where there might only be one other state school.

TBSHS has been highly commended by the English Speaking Union for the quality of oracy in the school for the last 3 years in succession, which speaks volumes about just how good debating is at the school. We are very grateful for the ongoing and consistent expert guidance of retired teacher Mr Tony Fraser who inspires all of our debaters.

Mr Pearson-Phillips.

Act of Remembrance.

During period 2, all students arrived in staggered Year-groups to take their place either on the playground or the cage, much as they do for a standard fire drill. But of course student movement on November 11th is always extra quiet and respectful and, before long, everyone was lined up, standing in rows where they could all then see Mr Reeve as he was positioned on a slightly raised podium between the playground and the cage. Being outdoors in this way somehow added gravitas to the occasion and perhaps in future years this might become the norm for Remembrance, regardless of the rain, or wind.



Mr. Reeve gave a very moving address, connecting Remembrance to the challenges of 2020, explaining that this has been a year of 'disruption, tragedy and great loss; a year unlike any other in living memory.' He talked about the challenges of the pandemic and its impact on so many people, reminding everyone of the ultimate sacrifice made by medical staff as a clear parallel with those in the military. All of the school, students and staff absorbed these words and took the time to absorb their meaning.

He further reminded everyone to think of their own loved ones, and to consider their situation, and to respond to it accordingly.



As I wrote in November last year, the students stand in rapt silence because they understand what it is we are all doing as a school.

The ceremony ended as it always does with an extract from Laurence Binyon's 'For the Fallen,' and students were yet again asked to 'remember them.'

Owen Lee, our trumpeter, then played the Last Post, followed by two minutes of utter silence.

Over 1200 students stood still in muted respect throughout. Perhaps too in the future, when we aren't impeded as we are with the Covid virus, some of our parents might also stand at the bottom of the playground, and take part.

If ever there is a day when parents and teachers can jointly be enormously proud of the students, it is November 11th, because the respect they show is phenomenal.



Thank you to students and staff who demonstrated leadership, community and respect at TBSHS's Service of Remembrance on November 11th.

Mr Pearson-Phillips.

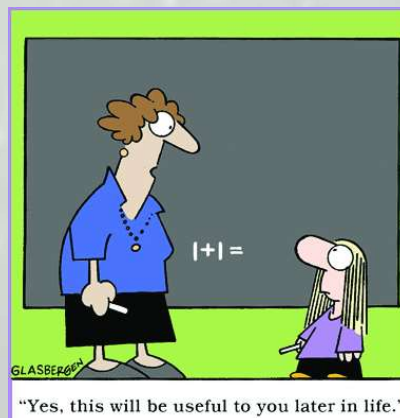
Maths Week.

The Senior Maths Challenge.

This year's Senior Maths Challenge was unable to take place under the normal conditions. We ran it after school on 5th November online and on a voluntary basis, offering it to Years 11, 12 and 13. We were very pleased to have 25 students from across these year groups taking part. The Senior competition is designed for sixth form students, so our year 11's were particularly challenged and made a good account of themselves.

Well done to all who took part and particular congratulations go to Ben Sloan in Year 13 who achieved 'Best in School', William Worthy who achieved 'Best in Year 12' and Filip Janitz-De La Rue who achieved 'Best in Year 11' along with all the Year 11 students who performed very well for their age.

Thanks to Mr Hobbs, Mr Mansbridge and Mr Boxall for organising and running the challenge.



TBSHS was proud to take part in the second ever National Maths Week. The event is designed to encourage engagement in mathematical activities, and to remind everybody how interesting and exciting mathematics can be. The week included a number of different elements.

The Daily Quiz

The Daily Quiz ran every day of Maths Week with different quiz questions for each year group. Some of our favourite questions were:

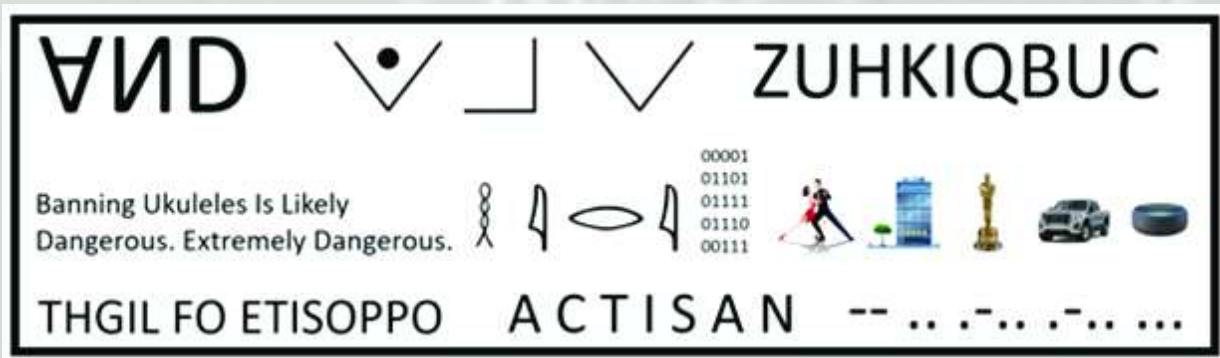
- What else is true about all whole numbers with an odd number of factors? (Year 7, Thursday)
- On which historic English monument would you find the Roman number: MDCLXVI? (Year 9, Monday)
- If , and What is ? (Year 11, Friday)

92 students took part in the quiz over the week- and almost all answers submitted were correct!

Maths Week.

The Code and Cipher Challenge

47 students entered the TBSHS Code and Cipher Challenge as part of Maths Week. They were tasked with discovering traditional methods for hiding and revealing secret messages using the hidden message below:



Can you crack it too? Hint: *don't cease from mental fight in your efforts.*

Race to the Target with the AMSP

On the Monday of Maths Week, a group of the school's top Year 10 mathematicians took part in a national online event run by the Additional Maths Support Programme (<https://amsp.org.uk/>). To the casual onlooker, they seemed to spend an hour playing games. However, they were actually engaged in deep mathematical thinking about the games. Which moves were best? Which moves were impossible? How could you know who was going to win? The students thought hard and learnt a lot. They also, crucially, saw elements of the subject that go beyond the GCSE, and were invited to explore their post-16 options for continuing mathematics.

Problem Solving with NRICH

On the Tuesday of Maths Week, a group of the school's top Year 7 and 8 mathematicians took part in a similar online event run by NRICH, which is Cambridge University's mathematical education project (<https://nrich.maths.org/>). This involved a series of problem solving activities that pushed students to think in different, clever ways. Our youngest mathematicians embraced the challenges wholeheartedly and clearly enjoyed taking part.

Ritangle

The Ritangle Competition for Year 12 started before Maths Week, but this was the week that the difficulty ramped up! Weekly questions were replaced with daily questions and the participants were forced to think incredibly hard about some complicated areas of mathematics. This national competition is designed to stretch and challenge the country's best mathematicians, and our students were absolutely up for that challenge.

Summary

We wish that every week could be dedicated purely to maths, but if we can only have one we will make the most of it! Thank you to all students who enthusiastically took part and to all staff that gave up their time to spread the mathematical joy. We are already looking forward to next year.

Mr Mansbridge.

Interact.

It has been great to be back in school.

Interact, the school charity and community group, has continued its work in this epic term.

Meetings have continued with students from all Years with Mr. Etheridge and the Rotary Club each Wednesday evening over the zoom platform. Meetings have been student-led and praised by Rotary for their effectiveness and ideas.

Zoom, which we did not even know about this time last year, has also been used to interview guest speakers for Sixth form citizenship. A former political advisor in 10 Downing Street, a BBC News producer, a BBC music presenter, a former West Indian test cricketer and our local member of Parliament have all been interviewed by students. If speakers cannot safely come to us, we will safely zoom to them. Let Mr. Etheridge know if you have any ideas for good people to interview or if you wish to be on a panel. Student leadership is key to TBSHS.

You have continued to give back. You filled 3 trollies for the food bank and, without being able to buy a poppy, raised over £800 for The Royal British Legion, for those who suffered and served and those who still suffer and serve. Our Service of Remembrance, movingly led by Mr. Reeve was impeccably observed, as usual. The £1000 you raised last year bag-packing at Tesco's was used by Rotary this year for vouchers for families struggling financially at Christmas. By wearing something festive at your Christmas dinner, you raised further monies here whilst the epic Santa Run, organised by Mr. Hale and Mr. Kelsall raised essential monies for Grove Cottage. Although we have not been able to perform our Showcase in person, we have sent you a link to a show we created.

This year has all been about citizenship and the community. You have all had to interact safely and we thank all staff, students and parents for their wonderful team-work in very challenging times. We particularly thank Mr. Reeve, Mr. Gunn and Mr. Lord and all the Senior Management Team. We always thank caretaking, catering, cleaning, finance and office staff. We wish Mr. Pearson-Phillips every happiness in his retirement. Thank you for epitomising the Black and Gold Spirit each and every day, Sir.

Have a good Christmas. Look after others and reach out if you need any support. Stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

Mr Etheridge.



What it is like joining Secondary School in the middle of a pandemic.

‘Joining TBSHS during the Covid-19 pandemic has been hard. It has been more difficult than usual to make new friends because we haven’t been able to meet each other outside of school and extracurricular activities have been on hold. From an academic point of view it has also been challenging because if we were struggling to complete homework we wouldn’t be able to seek guidance from a teacher at lunchtime or after school in Homework Club. Even though lunchtimes have been shortened and table tennis has recently been allowed to go ahead, lunch can sometimes become boring, especially if it’s wet and we have to all stand under the arc.



Although joining the school during the coronavirus outbreak has had some downsides, overall, I have had a positive start and I’ve had the chance to have more lessons on subjects such as DT, RS and History which are three of my favourite subjects. I have made plenty of new friends and enjoyed seeing them even with the limited time. Since cricket has started before school I have enjoyed getting up early and it energizes me for the rest of the day and the cricket has been good fun. There have been many setbacks from the situation we find ourselves in but we have adapted well and I am sure this will continue. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first half term.’

Feroz Raja. 7 Twyford.

‘During lockdown, there was a lot of things that we had to do differently. One of these was home learning because schools couldn’t stay open. To make sure we were still learning, we were sent work to do. I found doing the work challenging because we couldn’t ask our teacher for help if we got stuck and we couldn’t get any verbal feedback either. Since the summer holidays, the schools have been able to reopen and for me it has been a bit challenging because of all the new rules that have been put in place. One rule I am finding challenging to follow is the one way system, because sometimes I will have a lesson which is



next to the lesson that I am going to have next, but because of the one way system, I have to walk all the way around the school to get to that lesson which normally makes me late.

Despite experiencing lots of challenging things over lockdown, I have also had lots of successes such as learning how to bake. I learnt how to bake ‘rocky road,’ (it tasted delicious)! Another thing that I learnt to do was how to code. I think that the lockdown was challenging for everyone, but in some ways it was good because lots of people started to do more exercise and also started to spend more time with their family.’

Oliver Hunter, 7 Chantry.

Student reflections on 2020.

During lockdown, like many people I would spend more time with my family than usual. I was required to stay inside for longer than usual and also went weeks without seeing my friends. Although I didn't realise it, I was slowly going to bed and waking up later and later which almost pushed my day back.

It was quite hard moving up to secondary school as I'm getting used to the social distancing outside of school and all the procedures within, but I'm also getting used to a whole new school too. It is quite hard to maintain the year group bubble in some places such as the junction outside the head of year's office and at some points such as when you're going home, as all the students go at the same time which means the corridors are quite crowded. Additionally, In my first week or so, the one way system made it quite hard to find classrooms as if you missed your classroom you had to walk all the way around the school but, after a few days, I more or less knew how to get to all my classrooms. It was also surprising when I discovered all the classrooms have to have their windows open; but I think I am getting used to the COVID-19 procedures such as the year group bubbles and the one way system.

Harrison Parkes. 7 Meads.



During lockdown, learning away from school has been hard. When it was, it would be difficult to get help because my parents were still working full time, but at home. I still learnt some really fun topics like graffiti. I have still had to keep up with my instruments (drums and saxophone). It has been using lots of my time as I have to practise from 10-20 minutes each day. Also, moving up to TBSHS has been a nerve-racking experience because I am now seeing more teachers and more people. Sadly, my old school friends and I missed out on our residential trip due to the lockdown. Additionally, it has been a bit disappointing as I haven't had the choice to go out freely anymore. Being in a year group bubble is a lot different to the normal circumstances too.

To be back at school and see my old friends has been a lot more exciting than I expected. At my old primary, after the lockdown, half of the class only went to school for 2 days a week, so going to school for 5 days a week again feels better because I can see my friends for longer than normal.

James Lotens 7 Meads.



Student reflections on 2020.

In lockdown during Year 6, I did not get an average education. It was hard for the teachers to put out enough challenging work for everyone which led to me finishing school every day in 10 minutes! I needed more work but there was no one there to give it to me. My mum spent the day helping my little brother and my dad was constantly on calls for work. I spent the whole day doing nothing and waiting for school to start again. When it did in Year 7 and I heard that I was going, I was extremely happy as I was finally going to have something to do with my day! I had many siblings at TBSHS and I had an idea of what to expect but my first day was far from what I expected.

In many ways, Corona-virus made secondary school better for year sevens: the one-way system meant we could not be shoved by older pupils. It also let us have the entire playground to ourselves. But Corona-virus prevented us from being able to do multiple interesting tasks in design technology, science and music, which made the subjects more boring than they would have been. Having to wear masks at lunchtime was also a problem! If everybody bought food from the tuck shop then took off their masks to eat it, there was minimal point in putting any masks on afterwards. Students from many different years were constantly squashed in the hallways and the virus could easily be transmitted then. Currently, I am enjoying history, English, maths and computer science, as the virus doesn't have too much effect on them and the teachers are all nice.

I have not been quarantined yet but I assume I will in the future as the chances of one person getting the virus out of the whole year (169 students) is probably quite high. I don't know what it will be like in quarantine, all I know is I don't want to.

Rory Dordoy, 7 Waytemore.



Leaving primary school and joining secondary school was always going to be nerve-wracking but doing it during a worldwide pandemic was an even bigger challenge. My first concern before starting at TBSHS in September was would I be ready academically? We had lost so many weeks of learning in Year 6. I gave remote learning my best shot and worked through test SATs papers so as not to forget everything I had learnt. To keep us from going stir crazy, my family went for long daily walks. We found parts of Stortford we didn't know existed (including a rope swing over a big ravine which I fell off and broke my arm on Easter Sunday...not one of the better memories of lockdown). I also took up running for the first time to try to improve my fitness levels and was surprised to clock up a 5k within a few weeks. Like everyone, we did family Zoom calls and quiz nights, but it's just not the same as being together.

I was very relieved when schools reopened in September so I could start at TBSHS. I had definitely been at home for long enough! The first few weeks were tough with so many new teachers to get to know and new subjects to learn. The rules put in place to help keep the virus in check made things different too but, in some cases, they were actually helpful to a 'newbie' like me. Bubbling with the year 7's also meant it wasn't too intimidating at break time which also helped. The only disappointment has been the restrictions on after school activities although I have managed to join running club on a Wednesday which I really enjoy. I was also making really good progress with Saturday morning rugby, even though I had never played before and I'm looking forward to it starting again. There are so many things I can't wait to do, like sleepovers and camping trips and family BBQs. I think I'll appreciate them so much more now.

Sam Leaver, 7 Waytemore.



TBSHS Cricket.

I'm pleased to report that we managed to put on a number of internal fixtures for boys across the age ranges in the summer holiday, from U12 right through to Seniors. This complimented the outdoor net training sessions that were up and running soon after lock-down restrictions were lifted to enable this aspect of cricket to return. This was in addition to the home and socially distanced training programme that we sent through to boys to help keep them engaged with the game during lock-down. It was evident that we could see the benefit from doing so on so many levels, not just from a sporting perspective, but also, more importantly, from a human and social one.



Since returning to school in September, we have managed to play a number of fixtures in spite of the restrictions causing the suspension of the vast majority of our extra-curricular programme. We have played fixtures across all age groups with the exception of the U15s, whose matches were sadly cancelled. The Senior Squad have played 3 matches, two T20 matches versus an invitational HM's XI, resulting in one win and one loss; in addition to our fixture against the MCC which was played in a 40 over format.

On a cold and windy day for cricket on the last weekend in September, the 1st XI put in an initially strong bowling performance in the field before perhaps allowing the game to get away from them in the 2nd half of the MCC's innings. When batting, we fell short of the challenging

target of 250 posted by the MCC, notwithstanding a superb 99 from Y11 Alex Peirson, which bodes well for the future.

In other age groups, the U14s comfortably defeated the West Essex District Cricket Board back in early September, and we have managed to team up with another like-minded school in Haileybury College in order to play an U13 fixture. This was the first match at the school for the boys and even though they lost, the boys enjoyed the experience. Hopefully the next game will be in warmer conditions and we are confident that they will be better equipped for future fixtures.

The U12s also played a first competitive fixture, which resulted in an incredibly close game in which Haileybury chased down our creditable score of 114 in 20 overs with just 4 balls to spare. We have also managed to run an internal Saturday morning match between our new Y7 cricketers, along with some indoor training in line with restrictions, to kick start boys' cricketing experience at the school.

Looking further forward, we'd hope to be able to get indoor training back on (restrictions permitting) on schedule, after the October Half Term with this taking place before and after school (dependent on the age group) in preparation for what we hope will be a 2021 season packed full of cricket for TBSHS, both in the UK and abroad.

TBSHS Cricket and MCC Match Report.

With regards to touring, we have managed to successfully rearrange our U14 Junior Cricket Tour to the Bailiwick of Guernsey for the boys who were unable to go back in June. We will be taking 2 squads of now U15 boys out to the Bailiwick during May Half Term 2021. We are also currently organising for our current U14s to go on their tour to the Bailiwick as usual later on in June 2021, and have of expanded the tour to accommodate a record number of 36 U14 boys.

We are immensely grateful to Elizabeth College, Guernsey for all of his work in helping us being able to give such a wonderful opportunity to our U14s every year.

In addition, we have also managed to successfully reschedule our planned Senior Cricket Tour to Barbados for July 2021, with the originally scheduled date back in July also falling victim to the pandemic. We're excited at being able to find a solution to still be able to offer this tour to the senior boys, albeit a year later than originally planned.



TBSHS 1st XI Cricket Team Belatedly Welcome the MCC

Due to COVID-19 the original fixture scheduled for July was cancelled. However, the school were delighted to welcome a very strong MCC team captained by Eddie Ballard, former BSCC Captain to Jobber's Wood on Sunday 27th September 2020. On an extremely cold day not suitable for cricket, the MCC elected to bat and set about posting a big target. After an opening partnership of 50 from former TBSHS 1st XI captain Simon McConnell and James Coe the boys showed some real fight and slowed down the scoring whilst taking wickets in the process. Captain Harry Olorenshaw marshalled his team well but unfortunately, as the conditions began to take its toll the MCC accelerated during the last 10 overs. They finished on 250 for 5 from 40

overs. Tom Oakley showed the class of the MCC with a wonderful 121 not out with his 100 coming off just 64 balls. The pick of the bowlers were Will Lambert with 3 for 39 and Charlie Castle who only conceded 25 runs from his 8 overs but all the bowlers did well against a very strong batting line up.

Chasing such, a big score was always going to be a challenge but TBSHS were confident as they had a strong batting line up. However, the going proved tough and the opening bowlers made scoring a real challenge. Disappointingly, most of the top order struggled and the boys slumped to 24 for 4. Opener Alex Peirson with the support of Louis Hannam set about rebuilding the innings and put together an excellent partnership of 104 before Hannam was unlucky to fall for a hard fought 21.

MCC Match Report.

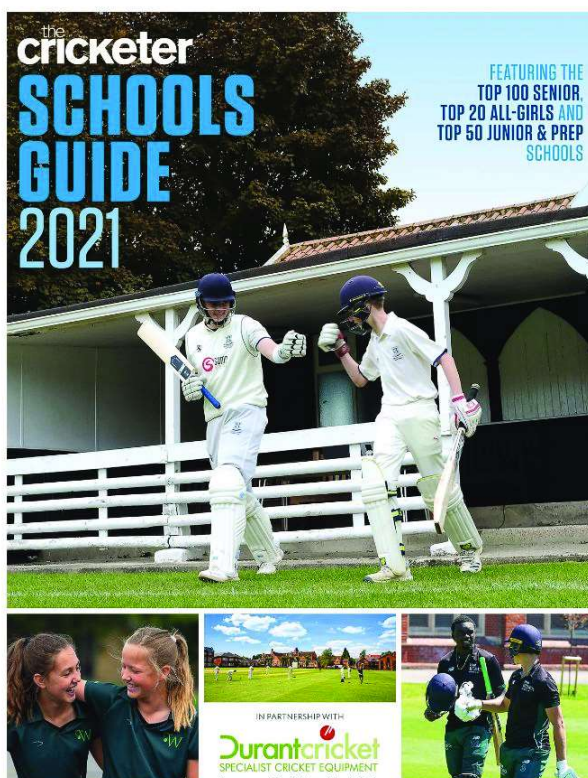
Peirson continued to score effectively and the remaining batsman did well to support him. Sadly, his innings would end in agonising fashion as he was dismissed for 99. However, it was a wonderful innings from a 15-year-old batsman against such opposition and in very difficult circumstances. After some late hitting by Lambert and Castle former pupil, Andy Richardson took the final wicket with TBSHS on 166.

Getting the game on was the most important thing and to welcome the MCC again was a great honour. The efforts of all those who made this game a reality must be applauded and a huge thank you goes out the MCC players for coming out to play in such cold conditions. We look forward to hosting them again next year on hopefully a much warmer day in July.

Mr Hale.



Cricket: TBSHS in top 100 schools nationally!!



TBSHS put in the Top 100 Schools for Cricket for the first time.

Staff and students are thrilled to find that they have been placed in The Cricketer Schools Guide top 100 Schools for Cricket in the UK, for the first time in the School's history.

The Cricketer has published its **Schools Guide 2021**, featuring the top 100 senior, the top 50 prep/junior, and for the first time, the top 20 all-girls.

It follows an exhaustive process which saw a record number of schools submit entries to be included in the guide, despite the ongoing pandemic. All entries were judged against an extensive set of criteria, which included a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes and coaching.

The Cricketer magazine editor Simon Hughes said:

'This year's Schools Guide is particularly important in showcasing our schools who have kept the game alive through a very challenging summer. Whether it has been remote video sessions, drills in the garden or even Zoom quizzes, schools cricket has emerged resolutely from this pandemic and the appetite to get back out on the playing fields is palpable.'

'There should be deserved praise for all the teachers, coaches and volunteers who have put in so much hard work, in the most difficult of circumstances, to preserve a love of the game among the next generation.'

'Congratulations to all of the schools included and we look forward to hearing about all of your future successes.'

Matthew Hale, Head of Cricket said

'We are delighted to be included in this prestigious magazine as it reflects all the effort that we have put in to developing cricket at TBSHS. This recognition provides additional motivation to continue building cricket at TBSHS and we will strive to provide even more opportunities for our pupils in the future.'



TBSHS cricket tour to Guernsey 2019.

Black History Month Competition



Massive thank you to all of those who took part in the Black History Month poster competition, run by the History and Citizenship departments throughout October. We had just under 200 fantastic entries from across all year groups 7-11, covering a huge range of figures from Chadwick Boseman to Mansa Musa.

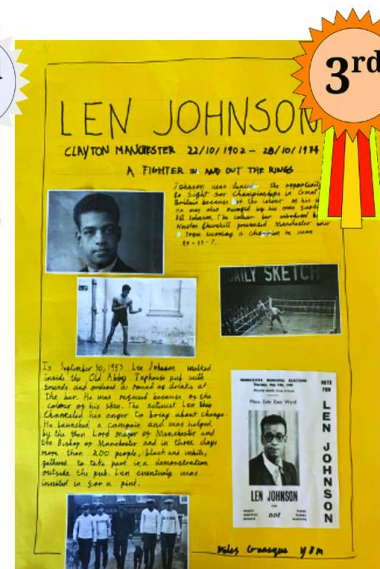
Choosing the winners was a real challenge, and so a huge well done to our top three entries, who have each won an Amazon gift card and 10HP.



Pablo Fanque
Circus owner and entrepreneur
(Eli Fletcher-Snow, 7S)



Maya Angelou
Poet, memoirist and
civil rights activist
(Ezra Jeremiah Maniquis,
11T)



Len Johnson
Boxer and civil rights activist
(Miles Guasque, 8M)

Black History Month Competition

Evan Badcock	Year 8
Max Carter	Year 7
Tristan Dreblow	Year 8
Neo Egbokhan	Year 10
Arthur Ellis	Year 7
James Frans	Year 8
Ethan Gill	Year 7
Theo Hammonds	Year 7
Daniel Hodges	Year 8
Kellan Hookham and Isaac Reeve (joint)	Year 9

Caleb Hutley	Year 7
Charlie Jacques	Year 10
Elliot Lavergne	Year 8
Samuel Leaver	Year 7
Jacob Morgan	Year 10
Finn O'Reilly	Year 7
Benjamin and Matthew Philip (joint)	Year 8
Feroz Raja	Year 7
Rahul Rana	Year 8
J.J. Sathan	Year 8



Every entry received has earned 2HP. As many as possible will form a key part of a display that will be going up in the near future, celebrating both the work of TBSHS students and the many incredible contributions made by people of colour to global history.

Ms Quinlan, Subject Leader for History.

Santa Run in aid of Grove Cottage



'Santa Dash 5K - Years 7, 8 and 9.'

TBSHS running club took part in Grove Cottage's Virtual Santa Dash in December with all proceeds going to support the great work at Grove Cottage. The runs took place on Monday 7th (Y9), Wednesday 9th (Y7) and Friday 11th (Y8). Over 80 boys ran a 5K course starting and finishing near St James the Great dressed in Santa suits, with several staff also modelling the way and a variety of festively dressed Y12's. Despite some difficulty running such a distance in the outfit, all boys were able to finish in good time (many wearing less of the outfit that when they started). An achievement they can all be proud of.



Upon returning to school all boys enjoyed a hot chocolate and a few biscuits thanks to our catering staff - a great way to end an excellent term for running club at TBSHS and to contribute to our local community. A big thank you and well done to all involved!

So far, entries have raised more than £800 excluding any sponsorship, and more is expected to come in over time.

Mr Kelsal.



Santa Run in aid of Grove Cottage



Careers News – Autumn Term 2020



It was fantastic returning to school in September and see the student and staff community reunited; all displaying remarkable optimism, enthusiasm and resilience.

We've had a number of postponed events this term; Careers Fairs, lunchtime Workshops etc, but we hope to reschedule as soon as we are able to in 2021. In the meantime, Year 11 Post-16 guidance interviews continue – albeit at a safe distance – and I never tire of hearing about our students' ambitions and aspirations. During my meetings this term, I've noticed far more budding entrepreneurs than in previous years so perhaps Lockdown resulted in some creative juices flowing! Year 11 form groups have received Post-16 sessions from assembly guests this term that were delivered via the Zoom platform – another dimension of the pandemic that we've had to grow accustomed to - but one that has proved extremely effective at relaying information.

Virtual work experience opportunities continue to increase, and I hope the students are taking full advantage of them as any that come my way, are advertised in the more enhanced Careers News contained within the weekly Parental Bulletin. Future employers may well want to see evidence of such programmes on CVs **so do encourage your sons/daughters to read the updates and apply for any relevant courses.** I have recently completed a reference for a student who has applied to *Spotify* for a spell of work experience whilst another student was successful in gaining an *Arkwright Scholarship*, and four of our Sixth Form girls have recently completed a technology day with *Arm* via *Uptree* so it really is worth 'having a go'.

It goes without saying, if you feel you can support our students in any way such as virtual work experience or a careers workshop, do please get in touch.

After an extraordinary year that none of us will forget, we're all looking forward to 2021 with positivity and hope – and of course - a full and varied Careers Programme. I wish you all a very Happy & Safe Christmas.

Mrs Jonas

Careers/Events

The Bishop's Stortford High School

PTFA news - 2020

Message from TBSHS Parents, Teachers and Friends' Association

Wow! What a strange nine months it has been. Lockdown has meant that our usual fundraising activities were cancelled and we lost opportunities to meet and greet prospective parents, new parents and established parents who have supported us throughout their child's time at The Bishop's Stortford High School.

Despite all this, I am pleased to report that recently we have been able to fund requests from eleven different departments within the school and spend over £9,600 on equipment and services to maintain the outstanding education opportunities that have become synonymous with The Bishop's Stortford High School. This includes:

- Visualisers for a number of departments
- DIY equipment for Design Technology
- Assessment tools for Learning Support
- Artefacts to bring History alive for students
- Interactive electronic resources for Geography
- Drum Microphones for Music Technology
- Incubator Oven for Science
- Diversity Resources for English

On top of that we have put aside funding for the new school, to ensure facilities in the new building are up to the standards our children deserve.

Although events are paused for a little longer, rest assured that the PTFA have plenty of fun evenings ahead and we look forward to welcoming you, our parents and friends, to these events in the not too distant future.

On behalf of all the PTFA may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a truly Happy New Year.

Caroline Harding. Chair PTFA.