

The MITTRE



July 2021

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Headmaster's Foreword	3
Marxism Walk	5
National Mock Bar Trial	6
Year 7 Bushcraft 2021	7
Captain Tom Walk	8
Goodbye to Year 13 and Year 11	9
"Bumper Year" For TBSHS Debaters	11
Mathematics Department	13
Careers News	14
Duke of Edinburgh Award - Practice Walks Report	16
Athletics	17
Cricket	18

Headmaster's Foreword



Before writing my foreword for this term's Mitre magazine, I took a look back at the message I wrote in July 2019. It was a good reminder of the range of great opportunities and experiences we are normally able to provide for our students, many of which have been missing for the last two summers. However, we are proud of the approach we have taken throughout the pandemic. Students continued to have their lessons in specialist classrooms and receive good, practical experiences in the relevant subjects. Extra-curricular activities have continued to run where possible, a great example being the Bushcraft camp enjoyed by almost the whole of Year 7 last month. As always, a challenging and character-forming experience for the boys, one which they really gain from.

On top of the challenges created by Covid, the inclement weather in May forced lots of changes to the cricket fixture list, though we still saw numerous matches take place over the course of the season with some very notable victories experienced across the age range including a memorable win against Felsted School for the 1st XI. As with athletics, it's a real credit to the staff involved that so many students have still had a chance to represent the school this term.

Weather conditions and travel restrictions didn't hold back our debating teams this year, with the English Speaking Union's Mace switching to a virtual event. Our team of Year 12 students did extremely well to win the Eastern region competition and make it all the way through to the Grand Final of this national competition, an incredible achievement for a state school, given the wealth of resources available to the large independent schools. Our thanks go to retired teacher Mr Fraser and several existing colleagues, who did a great job of preparing the team. This term also saw our first ever Mock Bar Trial, with teams competing against students from another school and given the challenge of forming a case for the prosecution in one trial and for the defence in another. A great experience for the many sixth formers involved.

This term we say farewell to the following members of staff. I thank them for all they have done in their time at TBSHS and wish them the very best of luck in their future endeavours:

Mr Wells (Cover supervisor), Mr Jenkins (Science), Mr Lord (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Martin (LSA), Miss Davies (English), Miss Brierly (Receptionist), Mrs Watts (Exams officer) and Mr Rawlinson-Mills (Maths)

Each of the departing colleagues has made a valuable contribution to the school and I wish them all the very best of luck for the future. As these staff move on, we look forward to welcoming the new staff joining us in September:

Mr Harvey (Assistant Headteacher); Mrs Sherwood (Sociology); Mrs Matharu (English); Mrs Steele (Drama); Miss Mansfield (Art); Mrs Houghton (English); Mrs Jones (English); Mrs Luppi (Exams Officer);

Miss Goan (Sixth Form Team); Miss Holland (LSA); Mrs Little (Cover Supervisor); Mrs Hunter (Receptionist) and Mrs Radford (Receptionist).

These new colleagues bring with them a range of different experiences. I hope they'll settle in quickly and am certain they will make a really positive impact on the school. Mr Harvey will oversee the pastoral system for students in Years 9-11, Miss Butler will similarly be responsible for Years 7 & 8.

The official cancellation of examinations created a huge amount of additional work for the staff this term, but in true TBSHS tradition our staff have gotten on with the job and worked incredibly hard to ensure the assessment process and grade allocations are as fair and accurate as possible. I look forward to sharing the outcomes with the students on their results days in August:

Tuesday 10th August – A-Level/BTEC

Thursday 12th August – GCSE

As was recently announced by the government, when we return to school in September, we will no longer be required to operate a 'bubble' system and many of the constraints associated with that. We will be returning to the traditional timings of our school day and all students will have break and lunchtime at the same time. We are required to conduct a similar mass testing programme for COVID-19 that we had in place in March of this year. Details of this will be shared with parents in due course.

Thank you to all those parents and staff who responded to our survey on the effectiveness of the remote Parents' consultation evenings we have had to run this year. Your feedback will help to inform how we operate future Parents' evenings for different year groups.

The very exciting news is that work officially begins on the site of the new school. The first phase will involve the preparation and levelling of the ground for the buildings and the sports pitches. Construction of the buildings is due to commence later in the summer and our current expectation is that we hope to be moving into the new site in January 2023!

When we return to school in September we will reiterate the expected standards of attitude and effort for all our students, so that we can help the next cohort to set off on the right path to reaching their full potential. The start of next term is as follows:

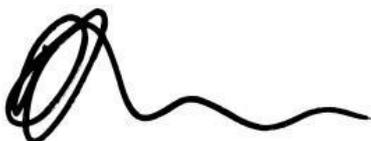
Tuesday 31st August 2021 – INSET day, staff only

Wednesday 1st September 2021 – Year 7 & 12 students only in school

Thursday 2nd September 2021 – All students in school

It has been an incredibly challenging year for everyone and I'm extremely grateful for the encouragement and support we have received from so many parents. I hope you enjoy the rest of this edition of *The Mitre* newsletter and may I wish you all a pleasant, enjoyable summer. I shall look forward to welcoming the students back to a 'normal' school environment next year.

Yours sincerely



Dale Reeve

Marxism Walk



On Thursday 24th June, the year 12s were lucky enough to have the opportunity to go on a Marxism walk around London. We were all very excited, as this was one of our first subject trips since COVID. The trip covered many areas of Marxism so it made it possible for the sociology, history, politics and religious studies departments all to take part. Our vibrant tour guide led us around to specific places relating to key Marxist thinkers such as Friedrich Engels and one of the first places Karl Marx lived in London, which explained some of the reasoning behind his beliefs. He also covered fundamental concepts of Marxism such as capitalism and private property, which will be transferable to all our subjects. Overall, the day was a great success and our tour guide's singing performance was a great finish to the day. Thank you to all the teachers who organised the day.

Sophia Blake, Y12



National Mock Bar Trial

Unfortunately, the competition could not happen in quite the same capacity as it normally does due to Coronavirus restrictions but, after months of preparation (both in-person and online), the team was eager to test themselves and engage in a fixture with another group. Luckily, Mrs Miles was able to organise a friendly to take place against St Peter's School, Bournemouth, so we were able to continue to learn the case and spend time practising with a clear deadline in place. After months of preparation and rehearsal in our roles, the team was ready for the competition on 7th May to showcase new-found skills.



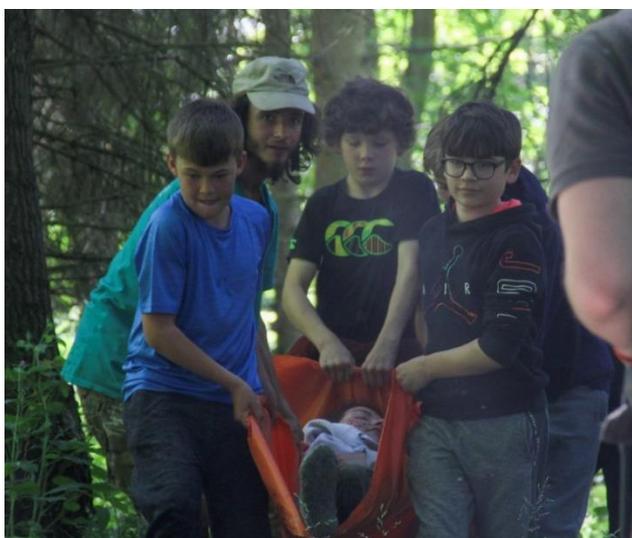
The competition was conducted on Zoom with the TBSHS team in the library and the opposition being broadcast to the school. The team was composed of sixth-formers taking the roles of different individuals in the courtroom including barrister, witness, court clerk, usher and jury member. The competition began with our team in the role of the Defence with two defence barristers conducting the proceedings alongside those with key roles in the case. Following the completion of the case, the jury (comprised of students watching the competition) were able to discuss the proceedings and come to a conclusion about who won, after which we went through the case with St Peter's School as Defence as we put forward our Prosecution team. Both TBSHS and our opposition delivered strong speeches throughout, with well-informed witnesses, which combined to provide a balanced and fierce contest while other roles helped the event to run smoothly and added to the overall courtroom atmosphere. Once both results had been decided, we were able to receive comments and input from a number of experienced speakers - including a judge with major knowledge of the courtroom and the law as a whole – meaning we had strong feedback and a good idea of where our strengths lie as well as where we can improve as a team for later competitions.

This competition was a great introduction into the style of Mock Bar Trial despite the obstacles both staff and students had to face throughout the last year. The event would have not been possible without the continuous work of Mrs Miles, who organised the competition and gave feedback and guidance in every session, and other staff members such as Mr Conquest who was able to give advanced feedback having some experience of law as an academic discipline.

Tom Harding and Malachi Jacobs Y12

Year 7 Bushcraft 2021

Bushcraft was a phenomenal experience and a week that the students and staff will never forget. We had the great opportunity to learn loads of new things about nature and the great outdoors. The Bushcraft staff threw knowledge at us all day, especially on the numerous nature walks. We were taught how to fillet a salmon, removing the ribs, slicing off the head and popping out the eyes. Some students even volunteered to eat the eyes!



The main aspect of Bushcraft was learning about survival, and skills that are essential for this. How to start a fire, building a shelter to live in from the natural materials that are around the forest, and first aid training. The latter culminated in a tragic, yet hilarious, act of the school staff crashing a plane and expecting Year 7s to save them – to keep a long story short, it did not go well and did not end how it was meant to!

We had great opportunities to play new games and took part in some adventure sports such as archery, tomahawk throwing and camouflage activities. We were all able to make new friends who will be by our side for years to come, and explore the natural beauty of the UK.

A massive thanks goes to all the staff that made the trip possible, especially the trip leader, Mr Neesam and for putting up with us and surviving the week!



Sam Fridrich, 7D

Captain Tom Walk

Captain Sir Tom Moore – A Humble Tribute

On Wednesday May 26th after school, a group of Year 7 students created and participated in an understated but important Interact event.



In honour of Captain Sir Tom Moore, the Year 7 students pictured above walked to the war memorial in Bishop's Stortford and back.

<http://www.tbshs.org/NewsArticle.aspx?NewsID=10028>

Goodbye to Year 13 and Year 11

Earlier this term we said a fond farewell to our Year 13s and 'Au Revoir' until September for most of our Year 11s.



<http://www.tbshs.org/NewsArticle.aspx?NewsID=10026> – Year 13

<http://www.tbshs.org/NewsArticle.aspx?NewsID=10027> – Year 11





“Bumper Year” For TBSHS Debaters



Team Photo, Finn, Tom, Elliott, William

The school’s debaters have enjoyed what Mr Reeve has described as a “bumper year” in interschool competition. Teams drawn from Year 12 students reached the final stages of the three biggest schools’ events last term, a feat matched by only two other schools in the country, both of them from the independent sector. Our greatest success came in the ESU Mace, where Finn Lihoreau, Will Worthy and Elliot Wood overcame Harrow School and four other teams in their semi-final to reach the Grand Final. Despite another very fine team performance, they were narrowly beaten by Wellington College, but they deserve immense credit for finishing as national runners up from a field of 196 schools.

You can watch the final at [ESU Schools' Mace 2021 - Grand Final - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) or read a more detailed report of that and the semi-final -

<http://www.tbshs.org/NewsArticle.aspx?NewsID=9997>

Teams from the same year group also qualified for International Finals’ Days in two other competitions. Elliot and Will reached Finals’ Day at Cambridge University and both students were also selected for England Schools’ trials.



Max O’Reilly & Nabil Shah won through to the equivalent stage of the event run by Oxford University.



In addition Year 11 student, Eric Queeney has gained a place in the National Development Squad.



In all, 21 students have represented the school, around half of them as ‘novices’ (speakers in their first 12 months of interschool competition). In the

latter category, there have been some very promising results. Nathaniel Carn & Amy Raymond (Year 13) were novice champions at Imperial College London 2020, Max O'Reilly was placed 8th out of 63 novices at Oxford Finals' Day, and Georgi Petkov (Year 11) was the third best of over 60 novice speakers at Imperial College 2021.



Amy & Nathaniel with certificates



Max explains



Georgi really means it

The fact that TBSHS is one of only three schools, and the only one in the state sector, to have teams qualifying for all three of the major Finals' Days in the country is a reflection of our current strength in debating and a reward for the commitment of our speakers.

When in school, Sixth Formers have been able to debate on Wednesday afternoons under the watchful eye of Mr Conquest. Thanks to the efforts of Mr Patterson, we have managed to maintain Middle School debating (Years 9 to 11) online throughout the school year, which has enabled us to enter more junior competitions than ever before, (see <http://www.tbshs.org/NewsArticle.aspx?NewsID=9973>) as well as running an internal competition. The latter was won by Toby Ford & Rohan Rana (who defeated Alex Banhidai & Henry Davis in a very close final).

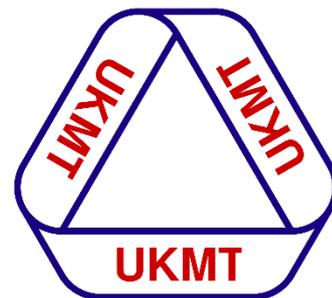
As the term draws to a close, we are holding a workshop and debates to reintroduce debating in Year 8 and looking forward (hopefully!) to a return to face-to-face debating in September.

Mr Fraser

Mathematics Department

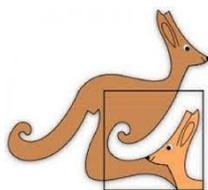
Maths Challenge Spring/Summer 2021

Despite the difficulties caused by social distancing in school, we are pleased to report that both the Intermediate and Junior Maths Challenges took place this academic year. Both were carried out online, with staff and students quickly adjusting to the new format.



The Intermediate Challenge was open to students on a voluntary basis, with 94 enthusiastic year 9, 10 and 11 students taking part.

Congratulations to all entrants. Special mention must go to Ben Tanner, Jonathan Stevens and Tom Kay who achieved best in their respective year groups, and Aaron Dean, Ben Seary, Kaya Akbaba, Luca Chandler, Filip Janitz-de-la-Rue, Nicholas Miller, Robin Munday, Alex Payling, Toby Petch and Liam Taylor who performed well enough to qualify for the follow on 'Kangaroo' challenge. Ben Tanner qualified for the prestigious Olympiad competition.



Filip Janitz-de-la-Rue and Toby Petch scored well in the Kangaroo and achieved Merit awards. Very well done to both boys, we hope to see them for the Senior Challenge next year (and hopefully the Team challenge too!).

We await the results of the Olympiad.



59 students from years 7 and 8 took part in the Junior Maths challenge. There were 6 Gold winners, 24 Silver and 13 Bronze. This is a great outcome for our youngest competitors and bodes well for the future. Special mention here must go to Reece Davison and Jack Lenihan who achieved best in their respective year groups and to Evan Badcock, James Frans, Robert Gor and George Grimwood who all scored highly enough to receive a gold certificate and qualify for the Junior Kangaroo follow on competition.

We await the results of the Junior Kangaroo competition.

Mr Boxall

Careers News



Sadly, two lockdowns and one school closure this academic year have led to a severely curtailed careers programme. However, we have continued to offer careers advice and guidance despite the challenges and inevitable cancelled projects.



Once all the Year 11 students had received their post-16 option *Next Steps* interview, I was able to make a start on Year 10 students and whilst Year 10 students took exams, I was able to meet with some Year 9s. It's been really enjoyable getting to know some of the younger students.

Years 7 and 8 also received some important careers advice this term when I visited their classrooms during form time to give a very general overview of pathways and opportunities open to students once they reach the top end of school or college. My first question to the boys, always, is to ask who has a clear career ambition? I love their answers; they range from astro-physicist to professional sportsman – and there seems to be a lot of budding marine biologists out there.

National Careers Week

NCW

1ST – 6TH MARCH 2021



Earlier in the year, the students participated in both *National Apprenticeship Week* and *National Careers Week* – the latter being a quiz where the students had to match a past occupation with a member of staff. The aim of the quiz was to illustrate that training for a particular career doesn't necessarily mean a job for life. Gone are the days when school leavers, apprentices or graduates stay with one employer for years and years. It's quite common now to have several employers, retrain and switch careers. With their form teachers, they were also able to choose short careers films plus work through a PowerPoint looking at *Jobs of the Future*. Meanwhile Years 9, 10 and 11 watched a couple of films; *How do I get an apprenticeship?* *Will Covid-19 have an impact on my career plans?* They also choose some careers films plus a PowerPoint outlining *Labour Market Information* and *The Fourth Revolution*.



Inevitably, the Year 10 Work Experience was cancelled, and once again is being offered to students as a voluntary programme to take place during the summer holidays. If you are a Year 10 parent/carer, we strongly urge you to encourage your son to take part. By participating in the programme, students can inform future employers that they were proactive in undertaking work experience voluntarily during a very challenging and difficult time. We would argue that any future employer reading the information on a CV, is likely to be extremely impressed with any initiative shown by students. Learning about a job can be a fantastic and life changing experience for students as well as an opportunity for students to learn about themselves. They may well start to build and develop existing skills that employers are keen to see; team working, problem solving etc. Networking is something you can never start early enough and making a positive impression may lead to part-time jobs or even an internship. If you have missed the information letter, then please see the school website where you will find a copy under the 'Academic' tab.

We're very much hoping the our bi-annual Careers Forum for Years 10-13 can take place in October so do watch out for future announcements. If you are able to attend the Forum in a professional capacity, I would love to hear from you, do please do get in touch.

In the meantime, I wish everyone a safe and very happy summer.

With very best wishes.

Claire Jonas
Careers/Events
The Bishop's Stortford High School
Email: claire.jonas@tbshs.org



Duke of Edinburgh Award - Practice Walks Report

On 25th May and 29th June, our Gold DofE group took time to travel the routes we had planned in class. The first was a circular trip through the surrounding areas of TBSHS, where we split into two groups depending on who had done Bronze or Silver DofE beforehand, with teachers helping both groups. This meant the walk built up the confidence of those who were less experienced because no one person took over and everyone was able to partake in map reading roles. Also, those that had done DofE before were encouraged to be independent in order to put what they had previously learnt into action. This enabled everyone to have an equally levelled skillset and prepared us for our next walk in June that we would do without any assistance.



For this secondary walk, we were dropped off in either Thundridge or Ware with groups we had decided upon ourselves, and we had to follow our planned route back to school. Although we were not quite able to make it all the way back to TBSHS, because the walk was a little longer than anticipated, we were picked up at Spellbrook. Most found the walk enjoyable and there were some funny moments, except when there was a small disagreement about the pace as some were desperate to get home in time for the second half of the England game!

All in all, the walks have given us some experience of walking miles rather than metres as well as the map reading and compass skills we will be needing to use on our 3-day practice expedition in September.

Helen Franklin, Y12

Athletics

TBSHS students have taken part in two athletics competitions over the summer term. On Saturday 12th June, nine TBSHS athletes who had met the entry criteria, travelled to Jarman Park to take part in the Herts County Athletics Championships - a meet with some of the strongest competition available in the county. Despite it being a sweltering day, many TBSHS students performed well. Notable performances include Regan Lawrence, 2nd in 110m hurdles, James Petty, 3rd 400m, Elliot Butcher, 3rd 100m, William Worthy, 1st 3000m (all of Y12) and William Crabb, 3rd 800m with a PB of 2:14 (Y9). Unfortunately – no TBSHS student met the entry time for English Schools.



The Y8s (above) took part in the ESAA Track and Field Cup on Wednesday 21st June, a competition that relies upon students being able to perform both a track and field event in order to gain points for their team. Despite some very good performances such as Luke Dunham running a 4:50 1500m and a 4.55m long jump from Ed Bennett, TBSHS were not able to progress to the second round of the tournament.

Mr Kelsall

Cricket

In what has been a very challenging year for cricket, we have still managed to overcome the many obstacles and provided opportunities for the boys to play. This commenced around lockdowns and various Covid restrictions in the winter, with early morning training for years 7, 8 and 9. The numbers involved were amazing hence the need to run five sessions a week. Once we moved into the New Year, we also offered sessions after school for the Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 bubbles, until the sports hall became the exams location for the remainder of the year. Even without any nets available, the staff came up with a wide range of activities to keep the boys training in the Cage, on the field and even in the gym throughout the season. The commitment of the boys has been first rate and the sessions have been a really enjoyable experience for the students and staff alike.

The playing side of the season has been very challenging due to Covid restrictions and some terrible weather. Due to restrictions placed on many schools, the fixture card was almost re-written and a very flexible approach has been employed by the school to get the boys playing cricket. Sadly, senior cricket took a real big hit and many early fixtures were cancelled. However, we did manage to get a 7-a-side competition played at Jobbers Wood with all the senior players and some staff taking part. We also played Bancrofts with a Year 12 team travelling away for an entertaining game, which saw Josh Fox guide the team home. A combined team of all the remaining senior players and some Year 10s played at Jobbers Wood and won comfortably. This was due to an excellent bowling display and an amazing opening stand in which Harry Olorenshaw scored a very quick century.



U13 @ St Joseph's



Senior cricket 7-a-side

The MCC once again honoured the school on the 7th July and the Heads XI will be bringing a “star-studded” team to Jobbers Wood in the last week of term. The most notable fixture this season was at Felsted during their annual cricket week. Due to the confidence in our team, we elected to bat first in difficult conditions but posted a slightly disappointing score of 169. When the Felsted opening pair raced to 50 it was clear that to defend such a limited total was going to be difficult. However, once the partnership was broken, confidence grew in TSBSHS ranks. A combination of fine spin bowling from captain Harry Olorenshaw and Alex Peirson supported by some fantastic fielding saw Felsted dismissed for 151. Both bowlers finished with five wickets each. A fantastic victory, which is a result of many years of work for this group of players.

The younger age groups have been lucky enough to get in some external fixtures and tournaments. Sadly, we didn't perform so well in the County Cups, with the exception of the U14s who lost in the semi-final to a very strong Haileybury team. However, it should be noted that although the competitions were smaller this year the quality of the teams taking part was higher than in recent years. Even with all the changes, we did manage to secure some excellent fixtures against schools, including BSC, Forest and Haileybury along

with two fixtures against the West Essex Cricket Board XI at U13 and U15 levels. The U12s were invited to play in The Perse's festival alongside Stamford, Norwich and The Perse. They were competitive in all games, beating Norwich and losing narrowly to the overall winners The Perse in the final game. Dan Laskey was outstanding with the bat and Pdraig Rees had a great day with the ball. The U13s attended the St Joseph's Festival alongside strong opposition from across the East of England. They beat both the St Joseph's teams, tied with Gresham's and lost on the last ball of the game against overall winners Brentwood. All the boys performed excellently with pick of the players being James Frans with both bat and ball.

The Year 7 cricket programme has been a real success with high numbers of students taking up the game and playing for the first time. We have managed to introduce them all to hardball cricket with internal games to allow the boys to gain experience. The culmination was three fixtures against Richard Hale School at Jobbers Wood. It was great to witness so many boys playing cricket and winning all three games in the last over! This was a real highlight of the season.

Sadly, the senior tour to Barbados had to be cancelled and the two tours to Guernsey had to be postponed. However, we are still determined to give the boys the opportunity to experience cricket tours whilst at TBSHS. Mr Wheatley has already planned and launched three trips to Guernsey for next season. The current Year 8s will visit at the normal time of mid-June 2022, the current Year 9s will go during the May half-term and the current Year 10 will head to Guernsey after their GCSEs in June 2022. We are also formulating a plan for a major overseas senior tour in July 2023.

Overall, the season has been challenging but enjoyable. To receive recognition of our efforts with a place in *The Cricketer Magazine Top 100 Schools*, and victories over school such as Felsted, suggests that we are moving in the right direction. Thank you to all the parents for the support and understanding throughout an ever-changing season. Thanks must also go to all staff who have helped out during the year, and a special thank you must go to Mr Wheatley who has arranged, rearranged and continues to rearrange the many tours for the boys. Finally a huge thank you to Mr Sam Howlett who has provided excellent support for many years and has played a key role in the development of the sport as we see it now. He will be a great loss to TBSHS Cricket but we wish him well in his future endeavours.



1st XI @ Felsted



U12 @ The Perse

Moving forward, we hope to continue to build the sport within the school. We will probably have to adapt to change again but we will strive to provide opportunities for students to play cricket at TBSHS.

Have a great summer, hopefully watching or playing some cricket.

Mr Matthew Hale
Head of Cricket