HEADTEACHER’S MESSAGE

Mr G M Watson
Headteacher

One of the most commonly used definitions of Education is the “acquisition of knowledge, skills and personal attributes”. Why then in the UK do we seem to measure a child’s education purely on the basis of their examination results? Are there not significantly more ‘outputs’ from the educational journey? The one-dimensional approach to the development of young people, fostered by successive governments and promoted by the narrow Ofsted framework is increasingly frowned upon by Headteachers and educationalists across the country. Whilst Ofsted only look at the ‘measurable’, I am more attracted to support the words of Albert Einstein that ‘Not everything that counts can be counted’.

I agree that teachers should be held accountable, as should headteachers and governors. Frequent inspections and the publication of league tables are indeed ways of promoting that accountability and have contributed, without doubt, to school improvement over the last 20 years. It is entirely right and proper that parents should have access to information about what schools can offer. Do parents, however, judge schools by the same criteria as our political masters? I don’t believe they do.

All parents ask themselves what they want from their child’s school. As a parent, what I want for my three children is what, I suspect, the vast majority of parents and students would demand. I want my children to achieve academically, I want them challenged, stretched, supported and nurtured within a caring environment. I want them to face and overcome obstacles and be exposed to a wide-range of opportunities.

If parents, rather than Ofsted, were responsible for setting the framework for judging schools, they would choose different measures against which to hold schools to account. Those measures would be broader and they would value personal qualities and skills just as much as academic achievement. Whether parent or teacher, our role in educating the young people in our care is to support the development of knowledge, skills and personal attributes.

At Tewkesbury School, we will continue to strive for academic excellence but we will do so within the context of developing well-rounded individuals of whom we can all be proud and who can make a positive contribution to society and the lives of others.

...our mission is to support the development of knowledge, skills and personal attributes.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

Mr David Graham-Kevan, Elgar
Head of Physical Education

Our girls U19 squash team have been crowned the National Schools Squash Champions, 2014.

The team members Amber Peacey (Elgar), Jade Rothman (Elgar), Beth Parker (Priestley), Hannah Ballard (Brunel) and Becky Musto (Brunel) with reserve Ella Whelan (Bromle) travelled to the National Indoor Squash Centre in Manchester on Thursday 13th March, accompanied by Mr Graham-Kevan and Miss Hamilton.

In the group stages they won a fairly comfortable match v Dr. Challoner’s School (5-0) and a much tighter 3-2 win over Gosforth Academy, Newcastle. The team were fully expecting to meet the mighty Millfield who have been reigning champions for the past 11 years in the final.

We were shocked to learn that Millfield were knocked out by Dame Allan’s School, Newcastle. However confident we were in our own ability, the team was very aware that any school that can knock out Millfield has facilities we can only dream of.

The drama was typified when Amber Peacey, who had been carrying an injury for the last month, collapsed injured as she played match point, which was the tie that awarded us the title.

This is the first time that the Tewkesbury School’s squash team has been able to secure a national title at senior level and it is an amazing achievement. We often compete against independent schools that have facilities we can only dream of. The achievement is down to the hard work of the girls through the school’s squash academy and hours of dedicated practice in their own time. We look forward to competing again next year!

Girls U19 Winners

The standard of play was extremely high from both teams. Tewkesbury kicked things off with a 3-0 win for their 3rd string. Dame Allan’s brought it back at number 5 with a similar 3-0 win. Tewkesbury stepped up a gear and managed to take the championship trophy 4 games to 1. This may suggest that it was a comfortable win, but the performance was based on a very focused approach from the Tewkesbury five and could have easily been a different outcome had we not performed so well. The drama was typified when Amber Peacey, who had been carrying an injury for the last month, collapsed injured as she played match point, which was the tie that awarded us the title.

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Aspiration Challenge Excellence Values Community
TEACHER PROFILE: MISS PEARCE

Kalista Stanley, Year 9
Brunel

What were you like at school: a star student or a trouble maker?
Umm... a little bit of both I think!

What inspired you to become a teacher?
Well, I was working in a wildlife park looking after lions and tigers and part of my job involved educating school groups about the animals. I really enjoyed that so I decided I’d like to become a teacher!

What did you want to be when you were at school?
Initially I wanted to become a vet; then I wanted to become a wildlife photographer and then I wanted to work with animals.

What advice do you have for students interested in a career in science?
Work hard, stay focused on whatever interests you most!

How long have you been a teacher?
This is my fourth year.

What do you like about Tewkesbury School?
I like the students. I like that most students are very respectful and keen to learn and interested in the subjects. I also enjoy the team atmosphere you get from the staff as well!

Quick fire!
If you were an animal what would you be and why?
(sighs) Errmm... a monkey because I’m quite cheeky!

What did you want to be when you were at school?
Initially I wanted to become a vet; then I wanted to become a wildlife photographer and then I wanted to work with animals.

What advice do you have for students interested in a career in science?
Work hard, stay focused on whatever interests you most!

If you weren’t a science teacher what do you think you would be?
I’d like to be a travel journalist.

What’s your favourite film?
(Immediately) STAR WARS!

What’s your favourite topic in science?
Animal behaviour.

Thank you to Miss Pearce for being interviewed for Kudos. If you would like to interview a teacher for the next edition please see Ms de Glanville or Mrs Woodward.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING TOTALS UPDATE

Total raised so far: £5,602.06

KELLER £1,821.15
HODGKIN £961.28
PRIESTLEY £900.39
ELGAR £707.95
BRUNEL £633.52
BRONTE £577.77

Well done Keller House a great fundraising effort!

RHS MALVERN SPRING FESTIVAL

Ms Clare de Glanville
Assistant Head

Following on from last year’s children’s literature themed “Where’s Wally?” garden, this year, students in Years 8 and 9 are entering a garden in the show as part of the competition to represent a “Great Moment in History”. Our students have decided to create a floral interpretation of “The Battle of Tewkesbury” and are working hard growing plants to represent the Houses of York and Lancaster who clashed swords in the town. In order to prepare for the show curricular studies: explored garden design, examined historical reasons for the battle and studied some poetry based around the theme. We are very grateful for the support of the Sensory Garden at Bushley as well as Penny Tubbs from the Battle of Tewkesbury Society. We are keen to seek further support and would particularly appreciate any offers of compost or plant contributions, especially those flowering in May with red, white or blue flowers. Once the show is over we will recreate the battle garden at school to be enjoyed by all students. The show runs from 8th – 11th May and the battle garden will be manned by Tewkesbury School students. Please do come along and visit!

SOUTH AFRICA HERE WE COME!

Students going on the Sports Tour to South Africa are busy fundraising, preparing and training for the trip. The tour which is taking place from 14th – 26th July 2014 has an action packed itinerary with a mixture of sporting competition, some leisure time and cultural experiences including visiting a game reserve, excursions to Table Mountain, Robben Island and a visit to an African township. The PE department is currently seeking any local companies that can sponsor the team kit, if you are able to help, please get in touch.
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**Mr Huw Myers**

**Keller**

Tewkesbury School celebrated its annual Presentation Evening in January with an audience of over 500 people, including students, staff, parents, governors and VIPs. The event celebrated last year’s fantastic Year 11 GCSE results and our Year 13 A level results with a number of Special Achievement Awards covering all aspects of school life and links with our community. The Guest of Honour, Eddie “The Eagle” Edwards, presented certificates and prizes to our students and delivered an inspirational address with key messages about perseverance, endurance, hard work and helping other people.

The guests were also entertained by the school’s Saxophone Quartet who played a number of lively jazz pieces.

The school would like to thank all those who attended to make this an excellent evening and extend congratulations once more to all the students who received certificates and awards.

The following students were recognised for their outstanding Academic Achievement in 2013:

**Year 13**
- Thomas Eaton
- Lauren Evans
- Jonathan Haddow
- Daniel Mumford
- Robert Paulson
- Kathryn Smith

**Year 11**
- Christopher Burden
- Jonathan Burden
- Ellie Hainsworth
- Abigail Jones
- Natalie Minter
- Lillie Reid
- Zara Von Benzon

The following students were recognised for their outstanding effort in one or more subjects in 2013:

**Year 13**
- Christopher Burden
- Jonathan Burden
- Beth Parker
- Bethan Skuse
- Daniel Taplin

**Year 11**
- Amy Bell
- Sarah Cridland
- Jessica Eckersley
- Benjamin Freke
- Susana Moncholi
- Melissa Phillips
- Matthew Stewart
- Tara Vallender
- Tobias Wilkinson

The following students were recognised for their Special Prizes and Trophies:

**Eddie Edwards with Tim Hill Trophy winners, Bethan Skuse and Beth Parker**

**Special Prizes and Trophies**

- The Bob May Trophy for Enthusiasm in Music - Michael Hayes - Year 13
- The Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award (Sponsored By Tewkesbury Federation of Small Businesses) - Rachael Hedges - Year 13
- The Duke of Edinburgh Trophy (In memory of David Tustin) - Craig Gibson - Year 13
- The Artmark Prize for Contribution to the Arts - Lauren Evans - Year 13
- The Alan Hayes Trophy for Contribution to Drama Performances - Daniel Jepson - Year 13 & Zoe Mumford - Year 11
- The National Achievement Award - Daniel Mumford - Year 13
- The Language Prize - Jake Marshall - Year 13
- The Martyn Alan Scholarship - Catherina Williams - Year 13
- Prize for Contribution to the Student Council - Jessica Piesse - Year 11
- Prize for Endeavour - Rhiannon Parry - Year 11
- The Stuart Williams Trophy for Musical Achievement - Eleanor Gilbert - Year 11
- The Tim Hill Trophy for Contribution to School Sport - Bethan Skuse & Beth Parker - Year 11
- The Matthew Stuart Trophy for Contribution to Year 11 - Natalie Minter - Year 11
- The Peter Remmer Trophy for Service to the Community - Susana Croft - Year 11
- The Shirley Wood Humanities Trophy - Megan Whitehead - Year 11
- The Henry Doston Trophy for Science & Technology - Natalie Minter - Year 11
- The Charlotte Potter Trophy for Achievement in Dance - Georgia Shire - Year 11
- The Moog Prize for Engineering - Jon-Paul Harvey - Year 11
- The Creative Writing Prize (Sponsored by DF Legal) - Abigail Jones - Year 11
- The Rising to the Challenge Trophy - Jerrie Bannister - Year 11
On Tuesday 25th February the whole school stopped their normal timetable to explore career opportunities. There was a buzz of excitement in the air and the theme of the day was 'Take a chance and do something you have never done before.'

The day was packed with activities delivered by companies, individuals and colleges to encourage students to explore careers they have never previously considered.

'**Take a chance - do something you have never done before.**'

**Highlights of the day:**
- Central Band of the RAF playing to Year 7 and visiting Year 6 pupils
- Extreme adventurer Sean Conway talking to students in Year 8, 9 and 11
- The ‘Human Library’ which was made up of the general public with a story to tell
- Mock Interviews for students in Year 10

The theme of the day for Year 7 was exploring music with the Central Band of the RAF and other musicians. They had the chance to try a variety of instruments and also the opportunity to sing as a large choir. Local primary school pupils were included in the Y7 programme as part of their familiarisation process with Tewkesbury School.

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Above and right: Year 10 mock interviews

Below and right: Year 7 students try new instruments
Year 8 students spent the day looking at the world of work. Using a scheme of work called “The Real Game” they were able to appreciate the impact financial decisions have on their life.

Year 9 concentrated on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers. Two architects came in from Bath and Gloucester, and Pershore College; known for its excellence in horticulture; also led sessions which included floristry and making organic apple juice using a press. Other companies also delivered sessions to make their day extremely varied.

The Year 10 students had a very busy day. The focus for them was to gain an insight into the world of work. In preparation for the Careers Day all students submitted their CV for a mock interview. On the day, they arrived in school in ‘business dress’ looking extremely smart. They all received an individual 25 minute mock interview conducted by businesses and organisations, including The Roses Theatre, Severn Vale Housing and Ecclesiastical Insurance. The interviews gave the chance for students to hear advice, receive feedback on interview technique, CV presentation, career planning and how to stand out in an increasingly competitive job market.

Students were nervous about the process but afterwards felt better-informed and motivated to work on improving their CVs. Deji Adesosun from Ecclesiastical Insurance said, “The mock interviews offered a brilliant opportunity to engage with the student community in a meaningful way. The ambition and drive of some of these 14 and 15 year olds is a credit to Tewkesbury School...”

Year 11 students had the opportunity to select their own timetable for the day. They were asked to sign up to listen to various speakers from a wide range of exciting careers. These included: how to be a nanny, MacMillan Chantry, Waitrose, Tesco, RAE Army, Hilton Puckrup, Rev Ibbotson from Tewkesbury Abbey, Oil and Gas industry, GCHQ and former students Ian Solano, who is now a DJ and Steve Meredith who is a bodyguard to the stars. He has guarded One Direction, so you can imagine the excitement that caused!

‘The ambition and drive of some of these 14 and 15 year olds is a credit to Tewkesbury School...’
Extreme adventurer Sean Conway who lives in Cheltenham gave motivational talks to Year 8, 9 and 11. Sean is the first and only man in history to swim the length of Britain in 2013 from Land’s End to John O’Groats – a journey of 900 miles. He has previously cycled the length of Britain (1300 miles) and plans to finish his Great British Triathlon in 2014 when he will run the length of Britain. His tales and experiences not only gripped the audience but surprised many with his tenacity to complete a challenge against all the odds.

The Sixth Form Centre was transformed into an exhibition hall for colleges and businesses to display information about courses and apprenticeships. They were kept busy with enquiries from Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form students throughout the day.

Mrs Fowler and the Community Catering students prepared and served a fine buffet lunch for all the guests which went down very well!

Here is what one student said about Careers Day, “The day was a real benefit and has helped me get an idea of what I want to do with my life. Thank you so much for the opportunity to meet all these people”.

Mr Sharpe, Head of Careers and Personal Development said, “I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the 120+ visitors that came to Tewkesbury School who have all said, without reservation, what a great event the Careers Day was. Our students were polite, engaged and took the opportunity to ask sensible questions. The range of activities throughout the day was fantastic and I’m certain that everyone involved has benefited from the experience.”

Below: Sean Conway, Extreme Adventurer

Below: Former student Steve Meredith, with ‘Harry Styles’ and students

Year 11s seeing a body guard in action

Above and below: Year 9s try floristry
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HALL OF FAME

Well done to the following students on their successes.

Steve Spiers (Year 11, Elgar), has been nominated player of the year at Puckrup Hall Golf Club and won an award of merit out of more than 400 members. He has accepted a place to attend Hartpury College for Performance and Excellence in Golf.

Levana Hanson (Year 8, Elgar), who swam at the Nationals in Sheffield at the start of March. Out of 5 races she got 1 gold and 4 silver medals.

Tom Samuel (Year 7, Brunel), was selected to represent Gloucestershire in Cross Country in the SW Championship in Bournemouth in February.

Becky Sheppard (Year 11, Bronte), has qualified in two strokes for the National Swimming finals.

Well done to Morgan Monks (Year 8, Priestley) who captained Worcestershire County Rugby under 13s to a magnificent 53-7 win over Herefordshire. Morgan also managed to score three superb tries himself.

During February there were squash successes for BU15 James Musto (Year 8, Brunel), winning the plate final, GU19 Beth Parker (Year 12, Priestley), who won the plate, BU17 Ryan Wilson (Year 11, Hodgkin) and Jordan Hardwick (Year 11, Hodgkin), met in the main draw final with Jordan winning 3-0.

Bethan Skuse (Year 12, Brunel), had success at the NIA in the Midland Championships under 20 women 400m. She finished 2nd in her heat and went through to the final and came fifth in 64.5 seconds. She is now 10th in the SW rankings.

Our Year 7 & 8 girls’ futsal team won the County futsal competition in February.

Our Senior Football Academy and Y11 football teams have reached the semi-finals of the district cup.

Well done to Matt Ballinger (Year 10, Keller), who reached the semi-final of the Rotary Chef competition held at Gloscol in January. He worked really hard with Mrs Fowler to create his menu and produced some fantastic food.

Congratulations to Sixth Former Becky Plant (Elgar) who has been selected to represent the UK at the Rotary World Affairs Health Seminar in Wisconsin, USA in June. Becky said “I’m really excited. It will be an amazing experience and I feel that I am lucky to have been chosen.” Becky has ambitions to become a neurosurgeon so the conference will have plenty to offer her. It’s the third year running that a student from our Sixth Form has been chosen to attend this seminar. Good luck!

We are immensely proud of these students who are so dedicated to achieving successes in their chosen field.

Inspired to return the gift of education

Mrs Lyndsey Woodward
Marketing Manager

At the start of March we were thrilled to receive an email to the school office from past student Lance Martin. He wanted to say a huge thank you to his history teachers, Miss Davis and Mrs Newcombe. Lance is about to begin a teaching course at the University of Auckland studying a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education, specialising in history and social studies (a NZ curriculum creation). He’s keeping his fingers crossed that if all goes well, he’ll be teaching full time in a New Zealand school this time next year.

Miss Davis and Mrs Newcombe taught Lance throughout his time at the school and for GCSE and A level and in Lance’s words, they ultimately inspired him to become a teacher. He felt it important to finally say a thank you to Tewkesbury School. I think Lance’s story demonstrates to all of us that learning is a continuous journey and that it is never too late to say thank you to someone who has helped you in the past. Is there anyone who deserves a thank you, however belated, from you? Thank them and make their day!

We would like to wish Lance lots of luck and every continued success in his chosen career path.

Mollie Courtney jumps to success

Well done to Mollie Courtney, (Year 12, Elgar) who has represented England at High Jump in the under-20 team competing against Wales in March.

She set a personal best of 1.73m and picked up a silver medal. Mollie, who is a Cheltenham Harriers athlete, was one of the youngest on the team. She counts representing England as her greatest achievement so far and hopes more international opportunities will come her way.

Mollie said, “Getting selected was an achievement for me so I just wanted to enjoy the experience. I will just have to keep improving and see what happens”.

She is now training hard to improve on her national times in the 100m hurdles and is competing in April. We wish her lots of luck.
**EDUCATION MATTERS**

**Mr Andy Steele**
**Deputy Head**

At first sight, the recent news that England is divided into two different nations, those who read and those who don’t, is worrying but maybe not surprising. To some extent, blunt stereotypes are confirmed by the research, which suggests that it is people from poorer backgrounds who are less likely to read than those from more affluent homes. It also suggests that younger people and boys are not picking up books by choice.

So why does this matter? Growing up in the 1970s, I remember stories claiming that children were watching too much television and that educational standards were bound to slip as a result. Well, those children are now in their 40s and in charge of everything – civilisation hasn’t quite collapsed, so maybe things weren’t so bad. But what about 2014, with the Internet, DVDs, social media, mobile phones, YouTube and Netflix fighting for the attention of youngsters? Books haven’t got a chance, surely?

Well, technology isn’t necessarily the problem. I’ve just counted the books on my shelf and there are over 400, but the rate of increase has slowed since I invested in a Kindle last year. For some students, this switch from paper to screen is extremely motivational – our excellent library has some Kindles that can be borrowed and you can pick up a used model on eBay for less than £50. Other devices are available!

Instead, I believe that the problem for some is entirely down to enjoyment. Good readers get engrossed in a book and, before they know it, an hour has passed in a rollercoaster of imagination. Weaker readers find it more difficult to get this flow and reading becomes a chore – “This is boring” really means “This is hard.” Unfortunately, this can descend into a chicken and egg scenario, as “This is hard” means “This is boring” really becomes a chore – “This is boring” really.

So what can you do if your child is not showing an interest in reading? Well, my advice is to take control. It’s a typical primary school expectation that parents listen to their child read out loud every week. There is no reason why this shouldn’t continue because there has been a six week summer holiday. It’s an equally good idea to read to them, so that they can hear the ebb and flow of a well-read and understood sentence.

Above all, encourage them and take an interest. Books aren’t expensive and a trip to the local library makes them free. Also, don’t forget that lots of people enjoy reading non-fiction. If a football magazine inspires your child then go with it! We can do our bit, (if you haven’t heard about our amazing Accelerated Reader programme in the lower school then please get in touch) but it needs us all working together to make a real difference.

I will finish with a comment from Viv Bird, chief executive of Booktrust, who said: “Frequent readers are more likely to be satisfied with life, happier and more successful in their professional lives.” Let’s not leave this to chance.

Good readers are literate and can communicate more effectively, which is a highly sought after skill. Working for a school that employs close to 200 people, I get involved with a lot of recruitment – I’m afraid to say that job applications littered with spelling and grammatical errors don’t get very far and in a competitive market that will be a pretty common approach in any industry.

**SUMMER UNIFORM**

Summer uniform can be worn after the Easter Holidays. Y7 and Y8 will be expected to wear pale blue short sleeved shirts with the school badge on the left hand side. The iron-on badge is available from the school’s finance office, SchoolTogs Cheltenham and Trutex Gloucester. 19-11 will be allowed to continue to wear pale blue polo shirts should they so choose. Polo shirts are being phased out.

**REBECCA BOWLS THEM OVER**

**Mrs Lyndsey Woodward**
**Marketing Manager**

On the 11th March, two classes of Year 9 Tewkesbury School students took a trip out to @Bristol. The classes are part of WILD which means ‘What I Like to Discover’. @Bristol provides lots of interesting activities to challenge young pupils in a creative way. We thrived on taking part in activities and saving them on a barcode so they could then be accessed later on.

The first floor learning was all about humans and it included water works where we presented our own weather forecast: a stalke station registering how we reacted to sounds. We discovered what it felt like to be in a womb, tested our brain’s reaction time in the live lounge; experienced the mutation station with different genes and competed against our friends in different physical activities.

Upstairs in the exhibition we took part in ‘Animate It’ where we could create our own short animations and create a story. This also included a special space zone, a TV studio and experiments with bubbles.

We were lucky to visit during ‘Brain Week’ and linked it to our studies on memory and revision skills. We were intrigued to speak to neurology students and neurologists who could tell us all about our brain function in certain ways and which parts get used for certain purposes.

@Bristol was definitely a fun educational trip and was very enjoyable. It helped to answer the questions and theories we had.

**YEAR 9 GO WILD @ BRISTOL**

Aisling Reid, Year 9

Brian Claessen, England indoor bowls U21 Manager to give some bowls demonstrations. Students will also be able to have a go at playing; we might have some more talented bowls players in the making!