I am grateful to many local companies including Severn Vale Housing, Oberthur, Ecclesiastical Insurance, UCAS and Stagecoach for their support of the school. Sixth Form students have benefited from interviews with external employers and our Careers Week.

The next stage of our improvement journey has begun and we are already in the midst of a strategic review of where we need to take the school over the next five years. Your views on what you would like to see improve would be most welcome so please do feel free to send them in to the school or come and speak to us in person.

Like many in the education sector, I remain frustrated that Ofsted overlook the significance of the wealth of opportunities on offer to your children beyond the classroom. Everything that we celebrate in KUDOS is considered insufficiently important by the government but is central to the development of well-rounded young people. My own most cherished memories of school days are of life beyond the classroom: the rugby and cricket tours; the camaraderie; the banter and the lasting friendships. The academic qualifications were necessary to help me pursue my dream of becoming a teacher but it was the extras that made my school days so enjoyable. I trust you would agree that there is so much more to education than the accumulation of examination grades. I would urge you to read Mr Steele’s article on the back page for further reflections on what we believe matters.

It has been a short but action-packed term with many things to engage the students. The lower school production of “There’s a Leak!” was a highlight for me with many outstanding performances. The Year 7 girls footballers have done incredibly well as have our Y9 rugby team and many of our senior rowers who, in association with AB Severn, have competed and won at a very high level. After traffic difficulties on their first day, our 1st XV rugby team managed to make it to Cumbria and had a most enjoyable couple of days on the first rugby tour for a few years.

Our first photography competition, sponsored by ex-student and local photographer Jack Boskett, proved to be a resounding success with some quite superb entries. Earlier this term students visited the Imperial War Museum and we welcomed back our Spanish friends on the reciprocal exchange visit. Further enhancing our links with Gloucestershire business is certainly something that will feature heavily in our strategic developments and any contacts are most welcome.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter.
LEISURE CENTRE CONSTRUCTION IS FAR FROM LEISURELY!

Afie Calvert and Owen Rogers
Priestley and Ugdr

It was a great opportunity for us to visit the construction site and learn about the various steps in constructing such a huge public building. On our tour we learned how the different stages of the project are organised and began to understand how intrusive and time-consuming it can be for builders if the tight schedules are not adhered to. With the employment of so many skilled workers there are huge financial sums at stake and delays with any one element of the build can have a large impact on the funding and progress of the entire project.

The events we reviewed from the Wiltshire Echo magazine were effective in helping us to realise that the construction industry not only requires a work-force with practical skills such as brick-laying and plumbing, but also needs engineers as well as people with great organisational skills to oversee the way the various elements of the project fit together.

Though there were still lots of wires visible when we visited, we can happily claim that we were the first primary students in the country to see the leisure centre under construction! Ms Calverie Assistant Head

TRANSITION TO TEWKESBURY – A NEW LEARNING JOURNEY

Year 5 Exploration Week

During the first week of March, Year 5 students from four of our partner primary schools visited Tewkesbury School to gain a first taste of secondary school life. Based in their own primary schools and guided by helpful and friendly Year 7s, the primary students experienced a variety of different lessons. Each day, different schools visited and the pupils moved around the site to three different classes in mixed-school groups, each supported by a primary teacher.

Students attended French, Spanish, PE, Art, Humanities, Drama, MI, and Maths lessons and got a much-enjoyed overview of the lessons that they did not of the obvious classes taught in the school. The primary students were a pleasure to work with, their lively manners reflected well on their teachers and friends and their enthusiasm and effort was evident in every lesson. Regardless of whether these primary students decide to go to our secondary school, educating them is a pleasure and every experience we have been suprising in making them feel confident about their next steps in the future.

The programme extended from the Wiltshire Echo magazine was effective in helping us to realise that the construction industry not only requires a work-force with practical skills such as brick-laying and plumbing, but also needs engineers as well as people with great organisational skills to oversee the way the various elements of the project fit together. Though there were still lots of wires visible when we visited, we can happily claim that we were the first primary students in the country to see the leisure centre under construction!

YEAR 6 SUBJECT SESSIONS

Our secondary school subject sessions have continued this term for Year 6 students who are transferring to Tewkesbury School in September. The overarching theme of lessons this term has been inclusion. Maths is Space – dealing with uncountably large numbers, fundamental ideas in science, how to make a light sensitive in a 3D environment and developing resilience in Maths. Physics for these latter sessions are not very limited, but one of the students in the class had an opportunity to see if they were any spare materials.

Cross phase work extends to teachers as well as this term Tewkesbury School staff and primary colleagues have been working together to discuss different assessment and reporting strategies now that levels have been removed from the National Curriculum. In Tewkesbury School assessment and reporting at Key Stage 1 is a particular focus and we are keen to quickly establish a system that sensibly follows through with the recent changes. At Key Stage 2, it also supports development of skills needed for the new GCSE. It is going to have the impact of our primary colleagues and further develop the sense of working together in a whole-school learning community.

“...the construction industry requires a variety of skills in its workforce...”

keep in touch...

with the latest news from Tewkesbury School on twitter, follow @meichowell

OSFED, FEBRUARY 2016

GET SET GO!

Georgina Hoare, Year 7 Bronote

Girls Get Set is a scheme run by GE Aviation at the Tewkesbury site.

Girls Get Set is a scheme run by GE Aviation at the Tewkesbury site. This girls only programme works with girls aged 12-14 who are transferring to Tewkesbury School in September. The overarching theme of lessons this term has been inclusion. Maths is Space – dealing with uncountably large numbers, fundamental ideas in science, how to make a light sensitive in a 3D environment and developing resilience in Maths. Physics for these latter sessions are not very limited, but one of the students in the class had an opportunity to see if they were any spare materials.

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“The behaviour of pupils is good.”

Teachers provide useful feedback to pupils about their work, and pupils report that they find this helpful and that they make more progress as a result.

“Mental health awareness is a permanent fixture on our PSHE curriculum.”

The staff engaged a lively round two event and had ‘Time to Talk’, which was just what the doctor ordered after the two-day visit from the Ofsted inspectors. Staff were able to pick up useful ideas and information, and this helped them to strengthen areas where they may need help and to go if they needed to.

All in all, Tewkesbury School fully supports the Time to Change campaign, with mental health awareness a permanent fixture on our PSHE curriculum.

OSFED, FEBRUARY 2016

REMEMBER

new items of school uniform available from the end of April!
“Boys and girls achieve equally well in this school. All pupils, regardless of gender, are encouraged to succeed.”

The curriculum is designed to suit pupils with different abilities and interests, so that pupils feel well supported and able to succeed.

OFSTED, FEBRUARY 2016

OUR RACE AT HAMPTON

Alphonsina Metaxogou, Year 9

Hodgkin

On the 26th February, I was proud to be rowing for the Senior 9s in their 2:14 (Canterbury) 14s on Hampton Head. We found some tough opposition, against schools and clubs well known in the rowing world such as Wold Boys School, Hymers Rowing Club and Wanstead Rowing Club, but due to our hard work and determination, we came away with an impressive second place.

Around 20 of us from All Saints Rowing Club travelled to London at 6am on the day of the 3K race, piling into our cars in the dark and freezing cold! The weather forecast looked dry, but the wind, a rower’s enthusiasm for the world of sport and many, many more factors, was all part of such a nice club: so far in my rowing career I have learnt a lot about the view from the stroke and it paid off!

During his time at the museum, we had a learning session to discuss our prior knowledge of the Holocaust. We listened about how images of Jews’ persecution made us feel, and how those numbers written to the nameless victims of the Nazi regime had memories and stories too. In groups, we entered the exhibition rooms and were guided with audio devices through shadowing displays in the many ways lives were preserved, changed and ending that time. At the beginning, there were photos of ordinary happy family life full of hope and the end of the visit exceeded our feelings of sadness and sorrow as we came to understand about what happened.

From this trip we gained valuable information about the Holocaust and also discovered how we should be proud of our lives because of the past. Our trip concluded by making our way to our own vans with a huge sense of emotion and determination.

FAREWELL TO MR SHARPE

Mr Gordon
Head of ICT

Mr Sharpe, a familiar face in the school, has left us to become a headteacher in Gloucestershire.

Our building student action and staff have appeared in a moving play called ‘Will’s Slippers’ about dementia which was performed at the Roses Theatre in March.

Most of our students said that they were proud of the play but also as an empathy exercise for their grandparents or other people who are affected by dementia.

Thank you to Mr Sharpe for all his work and wish him all the best in his new role.
Miss Hamilton, Head of Girls’ PE

Our Year 11 netball team have had an excellent season holding an unblemished winning record during the county competition. The pre-match Ballarat 8-0, 8-0, 0-0 match was a tough game against Cheltenham Ladies College winning 3-0. They then came 1st-4-1 following by winning against Bourneville in the semi-finals, 8-0.

They did themselves proud in the final of the competition held in March, finishing as runners up to Cheltenham Ladies College. In a close fought battle, they lost 7-6 which was disappointing, especially as the team had beaten them in the rounds. This is a huge achievement and shows how far the team has come. All of the team members also play for the Tewkesbury based Development Academy.

For more information, please get in touch with Mrs Shiho Gabb, one boy per family aged 14 – 15. Host families will receive £200 for their share of the nightly stay.

Tewkesbury School is involved in a cultural exchange from 11th – 16th March. Students from Years 11 – 13 took part in the rugby tour to Cumbria. In a close fought battle, they lost 7-6 which was disappointing, especially as the team had beaten them in the rounds. This is a huge achievement and shows how far the team has come. All of the team members also play for the Tewkesbury based Development Academy.

WHAT GOES ON TOUR STAYS ON TOUR!

Brodie Cush, Year 11

Tewkesbury School Senior Rugby Tour - play Sedgley Park School, Cumbria

Friday 5th February, 24 students from Years 11 – 13 took part in the rugby tour to Cumbria. After a gruelling but entertaining 11-hour journey the players and coaches were delighted to arrive in rainy Ulverston. Already a close-knit team, the following morning we were nervous but excited to be playing Sedgley Park School in our first rugby match of the tour. In a close fought battle, they lost 7-6 which was disappointing, especially as the team had beaten them in the rounds. This is a huge achievement and shows how far the team has come. All of the team members also play for the Tewkesbury based Development Academy.

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F a m e


As part of our focus on community, this year our Sports Centre is joining in with the Tewkesbury’s Big Weekend events. On Friday 6th May from 4-7pm, we are offering lots of fun activities for families to enjoy. These include a family room, doing coffee, talking, playing, tennis, badminton, multi sports activities and a bouncy castle. The cost is just £2 per child to join as many activities as they wish and this will be donated to charity.

Adults are free. There will be refreshments and snacks available to buy. Bring your family along and join the fun!

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Mr Steele
Deputy Headteacher

So, apparently I now work in a good school. Thank goodness for that!

I’ll let you into a secret: in my long service at Tewkesbury School, it’s never been anything less, with committed staff, friendly students and a brilliant choice of activities outside of lessons. That’s not to say that exam results didn’t need to improve and it’s a fantastic feeling to see the whole school community finally rewarded for all of their hard work, with unequivocal endorsement from Her Majesty’s Inspectors.

Maybe outstanding isn’t necessarily where we want to be!

Maybe we should forget about outstanding and focus on being great?

Maybe we should decide what great means?

This is not ground-breaking. Other schools are doing exactly the same thing and working with parents, students, governors, teachers and the wider community to decide what to do in the best interests of the students.

For what it’s worth, these are some of the things on my list:

- Raising standards still further
- Giving students access to subjects that they want to do, not options that benefit school league tables
- Tackling low level disruption in some lessons
- Improving uniform
- Working together to deal with litter and poor language
- Tackling online abuse via social media
- Giving students more responsibility and trust

Over the next couple of months, there will be plenty of opportunities for all groups connected to the school to have their say. I hope you will join in and let us know what a great school means to you!

Please share your thoughts via feedback@tewkesburyschool.org

Keep it Local this Holiday!

The Roses Theatre has come up with a great Easter holiday offer for Tewkesbury School students!

They are offering £1 off their under-26 film ticket price – so tickets will be a bargain price of £4 (or £6 for 3D) across the Easter holidays. All pupils need to do is type in an online code TSEaster when booking any film that is screened between 23 March - 10 April. Alternatively, students can book in person or over the phone and tell the booking office you are from Tewkesbury School, quoting KUDOS magazine offer.

There are plenty of films to suit all ages showing over Easter – check out the website www.rosetheatre.org for details.

Tewkesbury School

CAR BOOT SALES

3rd April, 17th April, 1st May, 15th May, 29th May
9.30 am - 12.00 pm (no set up before 9.00 am)
£6 per car (£5 pre-booked)
£8 per van/trailer (£7 pre-booked)

Refreshments and toilet facilities provided by Tewkesbury School
All enquiries & to pre-book your vehicle contact
juliet.sirrell@tewkesburyschool.org | 01684 292152

Tewkesbury School. Aspiration Challenge Excellence Values Community