Mr G M Watson  
Headteacher

We are blessed in Tewkesbury to have the support of so many local voluntary associations led by committed, unpaid, talented people who give freely of their time without thanks or recognition. Some of these groups are featured in this edition but I would like to extend my personal thanks to all those of you who commit your time to working with young people and to those you know that do likewise. I cannot pay individual tributes to them all but I do know that those youngsters who pursue an interest outside of school whether it be with uniformed organisations, sports clubs, performing arts groups or church groups invariably are more contented, have higher self-esteem and generally perform better at school.

Featured heavily in this edition are the exploits of our rowers under the exemplary leadership of Brian and Jay Curtis at AB Severn. The contribution of adults in the community to the life chances and personal development of our youngsters cannot be over-estimated. I am grateful to them and the many unsung local heroes who do so much for so little in our area to help develop the young adults of the future.

Community is very important to all of us at the school be that the school, local, national or international community. We are privileged to be the only secondary school in Tewkesbury and with that comes a duty to the community we serve. Of course, on rare occasions, we are let down by the thoughtless actions of a minority. In the main, however, I am proud of our community links and the efforts of the children to make a positive contribution to the town in which they live.

Students work in partnership with the local Rotary Club to offer conversation, music and song in local care homes. Members of the local Visually Impaired Support Group have been invited into school recently to benefit from hospitality and entertainment. Some of our students are busy preparing themselves for the Christmas pantomime at the Roses Theatre whilst others showcased their skills and positive attitude at our recent Remembrance Day service. Local and national charities have benefited to the tune of over £3,000 this term thanks to your financial generosity and the generosity of spirit shown by your children. Other young people run the Tea Rooms at the Abbey and some hardy folk took part in the recent lights switch-on event in the High Street dressed in festive garb in arctic temperatures!

Local businesses, too, are increasingly involved with their local school. Well-attended business breakfasts have been hosted at the school with opportunities created for our young people to visit relevant employers and gain both voluntary and paid positions. Businesses have also been keen to get involved in helping to resource our new Design Technology facility with cutting edge equipment. A group of our young people are increasingly proactive in working with Councillors to try to create a Skate Park for Tewkesbury. Their efforts have been considerable and they continue to impress all those that come into contact with them. Students in Year 10 are excelling in the Young Enterprise programme and will be selling bespoke items for Christmas.

The National Citizenship Service is also a group worthy of drawing to your attention in terms of facilitating character development. This organisation offers a fantastic opportunity to Year 11 students after they have finished their GCSE exams in the extended summer break they then have. For only £50, students have the opportunity to undertake a four-week residential programme of outdoor pursuits activities and social enterprise projects. I can highly recommend it to you for further investigation and offer support to any families for whom the financing is difficult.

In conclusion, let me wish you, your families and our extended local community a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year on behalf of us all at the school.

Mr G M Watson  
Headteacher

Tewkesbury School. Aspiration Challenge Excellence Values Community
Research shows that young people benefit greatly from having the chance to interact with people from the world of work. Receiving careers information and education from experts working within certain industries helps to bring it to life, broadening horizons and raising aspirations – showing our students what is possible.

I am delighted to say our first interactive careers fair was a huge success. We were lucky to benefit from the support of a huge number of companies from across the county who were keen to attend and had prepared activities for our Year 10 students, allowing them to get involved. Students had the chance to speak with employees from a wide variety of sectors; construction, engineering, nursing, childcare, armed forces, photography, business administration, social housing, manufacturing, police dog handlers, banking, legal firms, social care providers, technology and cyber experts, sports specialists, electrical engineers and accountants.

This is part of our recently expanded wider programme of careers education. Students from Years 7 through to Year 13 will have the opportunity to participate in a number of activities throughout the academic year; all aimed at broadening their knowledge of possible options whilst building their future employability skills. If you feel you may be able to assist our students by offering a careers talk to a small group, please do get in touch.

As is now tradition at our school we held our Act of Remembrance with all students and staff gathering together to pay our respects at a two-minute silence. Students in the Armed Forces cadets, Boys’ Brigade, Scouts and Guides attended school in their uniforms and following the silence, carried out a marching parade along the Ashchurch Road which ended at the Matthew Stuart Memorial Tree.

A wreath was laid in memory of Matthew, a former student, who died aged 18 during the Falklands conflict whilst serving on HMS Argonaut. This year we were honoured to be joined by Mr Peter Godwin representing the Royal British Legion and Naval Association who also placed a cross at the tree. Prayers were said by Padre Roger Grey of the Tewkesbury Sea Cadets and the last post was played by Mr Graham Sharpe.
**LEADING LEARNING**

**AT TEWKESBURY SCHOOL**  
Ms de Glanville  
Assistant Head (Teaching and Learning)

The Leading Learning Group is made up of teachers representing each faculty area as well as students from the Ministry of Teaching and Learning. The group meets several times a term to discuss pedagogy and to share and develop ideas that will improve teaching and learning at Tewkesbury School. This term’s discussions have included the benefits of whole class marking, reports on different types of feedback that has been tried with students and development of knowledge organisers. The group is enthusiastic and focused and everyone agrees that it is of great benefit to have the teachers and students working together to share their perspectives about what makes good learning. We are being joined next term by governors and have some spaces if there are any parents who would like to join the group to develop their understanding of teaching and learning at Tewkesbury School.

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**BANDIT**

Kevin Howlett  
Event organiser

Students from Tewkesbury School and surrounding Gloucestershire schools all came together in the summer holidays to be a part of The Bandit Music Projects. Bandit is a four-day songwriter and band workshop for 60 to 70 students ageing from 7 to 17 years old. Students come together to form bands and to be creative in song writing and performing. The prime aim of the workshop is to give young people from all backgrounds the opportunity to gain experience in musicianship, creative song writing and performance skills.

The theme for Bandit 19 was “On the Road” and students wrote and performed some great songs. The project was a great success and everyone involved would like to thank Tewkesbury School for the opportunity of hosting this activity. Some of the comments from those involved include: “What an experience!”, “Our children had an incredible time this week”, “They’ve come home absolutely buzzing”, “They’ve made new friends and can’t wait for the next Bandit project!”

So, if you are interested in joining next year’s project, sign up soon! It’s guaranteed to be a great week. The dates are:

- **Bandit 21:** 2nd – 5th April 2018 at Maidenhill School
- **Bandit 22:** 20th - 23rd August 2018 at Tewkesbury School
- **Bandit 23:** 22nd - 25th October 2018 at Maidenhill School

For more information, please contact Kevin Howlett 07827434246 or go our website www.banditmusicprojects.co.uk

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**LET’S MAKE MUSIC**

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Head of Music

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**UKMT SENIOR INDIVIDUAL MATHS CHALLENGE**

Mr Whitehead  
Ethos & Enrichment - Mathematics

On Tuesday 7th November, our sixth form mathematicians took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. The competition is run nationally with students completing a series of increasingly challenging multiple-choice questions in order to try and secure a bronze, silver or gold award.

I am pleased to announce that the following students achieved an award in the competition, which is a fantastic achievement.

- **Silver Award:** Adam Cook & William Hartley.
- **Bronze Award:** Ethan Davies, Eleanor Godusz, Kieran Guinte, Megan Haslam, Molly Haslam, Luke Henley & Alexander Teague.

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**UKMT Senior Team Maths Challenge**

I would also like to congratulate Callum Bennett, Adam Cook, William Hartley, and Stephen Towers who represented Tewkesbury School at the UKMT Senior Team Challenge on Wednesday 22nd November. Whilst we didn’t secure a top three position in the challenge the team were commended by their invigilator for their approach and teamwork throughout the three rounds on the night.

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**Upcoming UKMT Maths Challenges 2017/2018**

- 1st February 2018 – Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (Year 11 and below)
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PUMP 17 (SKATE PARK YOUTH COMMITTEE)

Pump 17 (Skate Park Youth Committee) was founded on 12 October 2017 by 12 students from Tewkesbury School with the aim to improve their local skate park in Priors Park. The park is popular but it is becoming run down, very slippery and unsafe in the damp or wet conditions. They keep their area litter free, with the support of Heart of Priors Park, by organising weekly litter picks.

On 25 November, Pump 17 researched four other skate parks within Gloucester, Cheltenham, Churchdown and Brockworth.

They have also met with Rhino Skateparks to look at designs and quotes to give them a fundraising target to work towards. They will then present the designs and quote to Borough councillors, as permission will need to be given from Tewkesbury Borough Council.

The students are also investigating, with guidance from several local Councillors, a new concrete skate park for Tewkesbury, to bring skateboard, scooter and BMX riders into the town. A new skate park will need planning permission and could take many years so before this can happen they need to improve what they already have.

Their third committee meeting is planned for 11 January 2018 and if you’re interested in working with the students to support them, please get in touch with the school.

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Martin Thomas
Director of Business Management

Work on our £1.3 million project to improve the Design and Technology block started soon after our return in September with good progress being made so far. The renovations to the building, which was built in the 1970s, are due to be completed in March next year. A new roof and new electrics will be installed and the inside of the building will be totally remodelled to make best use of the space. The school has also contributed £130,000 to the project and we were thrilled that our online crowdfunding campaign raised about £18,000 towards enhancing the fixtures and fittings.

It comes after the school secured a £3.3milion government grant. This money enabled us to install a new fire detection system over the summer and will help to pay for the refurbishment of the design and technology block. Lessons in the area have continued as much as possible while the refurbishments were taking place.

In the New Year, the Youth Justice Service focussed on crime and criminality and in the New Year, the Youth Justice Service will be coming in to school to give some hard-hitting talks by ex-offenders about criminality and time in prison.

Our Churches Team Youth Workers continue to visit to offer weekly mentoring sessions and the whole school has joined in with the Dignity Bags charity effort. This will support a humanitarian charity giving aid relief in the Middle East. The students have collected and donated contents for over 45 ‘Dignity Bags’ which contain sanitary and personal items; these will be given to women and younger girls who are refugees, with the aim of helping them to maintain a basic sense of dignity.

In the New Year, and after all of the excitement of Christmas, we hope to launch our Random Acts of Kindness initiative, an idea which is proven to increase happiness and benefit mental health and wellbeing. We hope it will give everyone a new year lift and beat off those January blues!

We have also started building work to install four new tennis courts, plus three netball courts to replace those lost when Alderman Knight School’s new Sixth Form Centre was built on the previous tennis courts. The new sporting facilities, which will also benefit the community, are being created between the path that runs alongside our all-weather pitch and Alderman Knight School. They will be floodlit, with future-proofing features also being installed, so that in time we can create a covered area.

Martin Thomas says, “The transformation of the DT teaching area is an exciting time for Tewkesbury School. It’s about continual improvement of the facilities that will enhance the educational outcomes for our young people. Since I started here just over three years ago, that’s been high on my agenda. It’s brilliant news for Tewkesbury School.”

PSHE

Rachel Done
Head of PSHE

So far this term, our programme of Personal, Social and Health Education has seen a range of activities and guest speakers coming to school to deliver sessions to support our all of students. The Year 7s have this year chosen to support the Teenage Cancer Trust as their charity – a variety of activities are planned to raise funds. Year 7 are also a part of the Gloucestershire facts4life health programme which is an initiative to help people take ownership of their health, explore illness and develop strategies for their wellbeing.

Year 8 have received weekly visits from a youth worker from the Gloucestershire Crime Commission to deliver anti-knife crime sessions. A visiting theatre company Alter Ego delivered a powerful production called ‘Chelesa’s Choice’ highlighting the very serious and emotional issue of child sexual exploitation. The production showed how young people, boys and girls, are groomed by exploitation. The production showed how young people, boys and girls, are groomed by exploitation.

Year 9 have had lessons with Info Buzz, a local charity, who are working in partnership with Mrs Done to deliver a comprehensive programme of Sex and Relationships Education which covers consent, coercive control and healthy relationships. Visiting speakers came to talk to students to raise awareness of alcohol dependency with a visit from a paramedic and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Year 10 are covering a programme of work on mental health with former student, Jess Rhodes who is an assistant psychologist, coming in to deliver sessions on managing stress and anxiety. She will also be supporting some Year 11 groups who are suffering with exam related stress. The ‘Great Expectations’ sessions have focused on crime and criminality and in the New Year, the Youth Justice Service will be coming in to school to give some hard-hitting talks by ex-offenders about criminality and time in prison.

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CHARITABLE TEWKESBURY

This term we have raised over £3,000 by holding non-uniform days to support Young Epilepsy, Children in Need and Mary’s Meals.

Well done everyone!

The Ministry of Justice and Wellbeing has been researching a selection of charities and have asked the whole school to vote on which charities they want to support for dress down days next year. The results will be announced after Christmas.
rowing is a non-contact sport which means you can enjoy the thrill of tough competition without the risk of getting hit and possibly injured by one of your competitors.

1. keeps you fit by providing a whole body workout. Virtually every joint and muscle in your upper and lower body is involved in rowing.

2. Team sport or solo activity - row as part of a crew, or row in a single-scull boat. It’s fun to be part of a rowing club!

3. You can row all year round, in all weathers. After dark we train on the indoor rowing machines (Ergometers) but the competition is still fierce!

4. Be a winner! With lots of practice and hard training you can be the best in Britain’s most successful Olympic sport. Many top rowers only started the sport in their late teenage years or at university. You can start rowing at any age.

5. Stress buster! Even when under the pressure of GCSEs or A levels the peace and tranquillity of the river will blow your worries away and the camaraderie of your crew will lift your spirits.

6. Many top rowers only started the sport in their late teenage years or at university. You can start rowing at any age.
ROWING: A PARENT’S PERSPECTIVE

Rachael Elliott
Parent

My teenagers get a lot of fun from rowing. It gives both my boys huge amounts of enjoyment, feelings of success, pride, achievement (sometimes winning) and growing self-confidence. It inspires them to eat healthily and engage in fitness training. They really enjoy being on the river and out in our beautiful Gloucestershire countryside. They have also learnt to work as part of a team within the boats, support and encourage others in the club and improves their organisational skills. Within the friendships they have made at the club there are lots of positive traits such as care, kindness, mentorship and encouragement.

Rowing gives them great purpose and is an activity that occupies their time, builds friendships with other boys and girls of different ages and motivates them to live a healthy lifestyle.

As a parent there are two sizeable commitments: financial and time. There are monthly fees, training costs and time ferrying them to training and events. However, these are outweighed by the positives that both these commitments bring. On a competition day it often involves an early start (Sam is our record) and sometimes a late return but on a good day, it is a very positive day out by the river in nice locations such as Monmouth, Evesham and Henley, to name a few. On the way home there is always plenty to talk about, often celebrate and I usually find it a shared positive experience.

Brian and Jay, who run the club, make it their aim to enable the young people to row, train and compete as often as possible. They take good care of new rowers, training them in good rowing techniques and putting them together with other crews in doubles and quads that suit their ability. They are always keen to meet those interested in rowing and will offer free trial sessions. If your son or daughter shows an interest contact Mr Gardner (at Tewkesbury School) or AB Severn. They too may catch the rowing bug!

ROWING gives them great purpose and is an activity that occupies their time...

AB SEVERN ROWING CLUB

SHORT AND SHOUTY!

Madeleine Messenger
Hodgkin

When people find out I’m a cox, I am often met with confused faces or some odd attempts at defining what I do: simply put, yes, I am the little person who sits at the back of the boat and shouts... but coxing is a lot more than just being light and loud!

The first time I coxed at a race, I was virtually pushed into the stem of a boat with zero practice, deciding it would be the appropriate time to check which rope steers the boat in which way. Since then, I’d like to claim that my expertise has improved, although the boys at AB might like to question that slightly.

I now realise that coxing isn’t just about sitting there looking pretty, wired up to a microphone. It’s about going through the highs and lows of your crew’s racing career, about pushing them to their limits in training and then pushing them even more, it is about coaching just as much as motivating, and spotting little errors to be improved in order to make the boat move through the water as quickly as possible.

However, this deeper understanding isn’t to say that coxing doesn’t go without mishaps. One lesson my coach and I have learnt is the importance of reading racing rules and being creative with whatever resources are available: a 46kg Maddie had to make up the required 55kg weight minimum with a carjack, a disc weight and three pebbles duct taped together at National Schools Regatta a few years ago.

Despite issues with missing cox-boxes, forgotten lifecrafts, and non-existent rudders, coxing has taught me invaluable lessons about the importance of organisation, teamwork, and trying to keep level headed in stressful situations. An unforgettable 7 kilometre race at the School’s Head on the Thames was a test of race-thinking and dealing with the disappointment of losing by one second to one of the best schools in the country over a 20-minute row. Through my experiences of racing as both a cox and a rower, I think that having the ability to win and lose with respect is a hugely important life skill to have, and being able to grit your teeth and keep the determination up is necessary to succeed in absolutely anything in the future.

So, despite just being the short shouty person steering the boat, coxswains are an integral part to any crew. Without them, we’d find out just how many crews would keep singing as they rowed off into the distance with no one to tell them to shut up, or how long a group of fifteen-year-old boys would spend trying to launch their boat the farthest out of the boat. But more than anything, coxes are needed to get the maximum power out of a boat of four or eight tired rowers, and ensure that the boat is moving as efficiently and as quickly as possible through the water. Does that make me sound like a control freak?

I think that having the ability to win and lose with respect is a hugely important life skill to have...

8 Tewkesbury School. Aspiration Challenge Excellence Values Community
School students. They are Will Sayers, Joe Elliot, Rob Croft, Kieran Bennett.

As part of Kudos’ Rowing Special, Ms de Glanville caught up with the AB.

KB: Someone going down the river in a bathtub.

WS: One of our club members trying to measure the speed of the river by dangling a rope off the bridge. It looked like he was about to jump.

CDG: I have heard that you all like to show off your musical skills when you row. Do you have a favourite song that you always sing on the river?

TE: Awesome!

JE: “You had a bad day” by Daniel Powter and also John Denver’s “Take me home, country roads.”

KB: Drifting away!

RC: Row, row, row your boat!

WS: “Yellow” by Coldplay

JE: Sometimes I start a song off and then stop but Will and Kieran keep on singing it.

CDG: Tell me about your most memorable moment on the river.

JE: Tom got loads of people at the race at Reading Head to sing me Happy Birthday. There were voices up and down the river joining in!

WS: Seeing a member of our club swim rather than row over the finish line after capsizing.

KB: Hearing on the loud speaker that I looked absolutely spent after the semi-final of nationals.

JE: Yeah, we felt dead but we qualified for the A final.

CDG: Is it true that Will Sayers is a human rowing encyclopaedia who knows the results of every single race?

KB: Straight fact.

WS: I hope I can apply that in school with my exams!

CDG: What is your proudest win and most heart-breaking lose?

WS: At one of our sculling regattas we lost by a foot, by 0.4 of a second.

RC: Our proudest win was at Nat Champs (National Championships) where we won silver.

RC: At Henley in the long distance sculls – we came 1st and we beat a bunch of the people who beat us at Nationals.

JE: At lots of the regattas we go to, we keep winning 2nd fastest boat of the day. The “second” bit is frustrating, but that is often competing against people who are 2 or 3 years older than us.

CDG: What lifts your spirits and spurs you on?

KB: When you see the finish line.

RC: Overtaking a rival crew.

JE: Yeah, absolutely blazing past them and seeing the look on their faces as if to say “Who are they?” Sometimes if we overtake a crew twice our size I hope it will all be OK when we get off the water!

CDG: Tell me about your average weekly training schedule.

RC: It varies depending on the time of the year. In the summer, we are out on the water after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, twice on Saturdays and once on Sundays. Of course if we are racing that can be for a whole day at the weekend or even over several days. We also do land training in the gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Joe also goes to the gym on Wednesdays. In the summer holidays we row all day, every day.

In the winter, there are of course fewer sessions on the water as it gets dark early, but more erg (rowing machine) sessions at the club. We compare our erg times to keep up the competitive element.

CDG: Why do you like being a part of AB Severn Rowing Club?

JE: Brian and Jay who run the club let us take the boats out pretty much any time. It is a welcoming club with a good mixture of schools and ages and from Year 8 upwards.

RC: And we are really grateful for the effort that Brian, Jay and the other adults linked to the club put in to make it a success.

CDG: Quick questions now:

Erg or on the water? Water

Chips or Greggs for lunch in town? Chips

Quad or four? Quad (Four = 1 blade sweeping sideways, quad is with 2 blades in a scull)

Regatta season or head season? Regatta. We prefer side-by-side racing. It’s more exciting.

CDG: Thanks to you all. Good luck in your next big event. What is it that you are currently training for?

RC: The next major event is at the end of February – The Schools’ Head which we row on the Tideway. It’s a gruelling 7K race on the Thames, the same course as the Oxford and Cambridge boat race actually, under all the bridges, but we do it in reverse due to the tide times.

CDG: Good luck!

CDG: You are in a crew of five. Four rowers plus the cox. How long have you been rowing together?

WS: Less than a year – as this particular crew of four – about 6 months.

JE: … but you were already very successful before I switched in.

KB: Some of us have been rowing for 3 years now in total but we switch around crews. Three of us have been rowing together for 2 years now.

CDG: I think you have different roles and responsibilities in the boat? Who’s the brains? Who’s the brawn?

JE: Will is the stroke – he’s the statistician and brains. Who’s the brawn?

KB: He’s the powerhouse.

RC: Kieran is in the bow seat and steers if we drift off course if we are racing that can be for a whole day at the weekend or even over several days. We also do land training in the gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Joe also goes to the gym on Wednesdays. In the summer holidays we row all day, every day.

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CDG: Good luck!

CDG: Aspiration Challenge Excellence Values Community
SANTA’S HELPERS ARE ON THE ‘NICE LIST’

Juliet Sirrell
Community Co-ordinator

Earlier in the year we were approached by the Tewkesbury Christmas Lights Committee to ask if our students would like to assist Father Christmas this year at the Tewkesbury Christmas Lights switch-on held in November. We were of course very pleased to help!

Praise goes to Bryn Meads-Jones, Jessica Dash, Lauren Doyle, Hayden Everitt and Charles Cornell from Year 11 and Grace Baker and Jessamy Morris from Year 7 who all gave up their time to be the Christmas elves and fairies. It was a cold afternoon but they seemed to be oblivious to the falling temperatures and did a marvellous job of helping Santa and talking to families with young children. The Committee were all delighted with the effort the students went to with their costumes and make-up. Santa was very pleased that he was able to meet all of the children this year due to the help he received from our students, who were a credit to the school.

YEAR 7 WELCOME

Mr Dawson
Head of Year 7

It has been a busy start to the new term and life at Tewkesbury School for our Year 7 students. I am sure that the term has presented them with many exciting new challenges as they’ve adapted to having new journeys to school, new teachers, new subjects, more homework and new friends to make! Your children have adapted quickly to all the changes and it has been brilliant to watch our youngest students settle so well into secondary school, getting involved in so many clubs and activities.

At the end of this term we will have a final assembly which will be a fantastic opportunity to praise these students for all of their efforts. My thanks go to parents and families for helping to support your children through the transition and I hope that their time at Tewkesbury School will be an enjoyable, successful and happy experience. Please do contact the school as soon as you can if your child is experiencing any difficulties.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH’S AWARD

Mrs Justin
Award Leader

The girls on their Silver expedition assessment in July

As we reach the end of 2017 we reflect on the successes and achievements of our award participants this year. I wish to congratulate the following participants who have completed their Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards in the past 12 months.

BRONZE
Matthew Bashford, Daniel Brittain, Eloise Castle, Caitlin Finch, Amy Gardner, Maisie Huck, Megan Keightley, Erin Mills, Jasmine Morgan, Jed Nicholls, Jazmine Parrott, Damon Quemby, Gemma Randford, Olivia Stewart, Evie Stewart—Davis, Jimmy Tyler and Katie Webster.

SILVER
Nicole Gunston, Alexander Teague and Megan Winstone.

GOLD
Lauren Ball, Katie Essex, Sophie Essex and Laura Rowe.

Awards Ceremony Evening - May 2017
Each year in May we celebrate the success of our participants with families invited to attend a presentation held at the school. We were delighted to have Mr Anthony Stockman, a Rotarian who is an avid skier, racing enthusiast and helicopter pilot as our guest speaker. He talked to the participants about seizing life’s opportunities and presented participants with their certificates. Andrew Phillips from Year 13 was presented with the ‘David Tustin Memorial Trophy’ for his services to the unit.

Silver Expedition Assessment - July 2017
Having completed all of their training in the previous 12 months, two groups of Silver Duke of Edinburgh’s Award participants set off for their three-day expedition on Exmoor. On Day 1 the girls’ group found walking up the river bed easier than battling the tussocks of moorland grass, though then had to cope with wet boots and blisters for the rest of the expedition. The boys descended the very steep but impressive valley of the rocks. The boys found a purse and a poorly bird that were presented to the staff to deal with; thanks boys! Well done to both groups who found the step up from Bronze to Silver a real challenge. However, with excellent team work, good navigational and camping skills, both groups successfully completed this section of their Award. Well done!

676 hours of volunteering was completed between April 2016 and March 2017.

This has been calculated by the South West Regional Office from all those students who had their volunteering section signed off between the above dates.

The social value of this has been calculated at £2,704. Well done everybody!

It’s the time of year when we’re all busy with our online shopping buying gifts in time for Christmas. Did you know that you can support our school by using www.easyfundraising.org.uk to donate when you shop?

You can help the Tewkesbury School Duke of Edinburgh’s Award scheme to raise much needed funds for equipment, training and expeditions with no cost to yourself. Before you shop online, simply sign up to use Easy Fundraising, choosing Tewkesbury School Duke of Edinburgh’s Award as the cause to support. The Easy Fundraising website will then redirect you to your chosen retailer and donate a percentage of your purchase back to our school. Every bit helps! Thank you for your support.
The Student Parliament continues to go from strength to strength and, following the recruitment drive in September, now has more than 85 ministers across the four ministries. The different houses and year groups are well represented and this year there are much closer links with the Sixth Form. A number of teaching and associate staff are involved and methods such as online surveys, assemblies, balloting, bulletin messages, visits and interviews are all used to seek opinion and promote ideas.

Ms de Glanville
Assistant Head (Teaching and Learning)

The Student Parliament plans to involve the wider student body in more ballots so that their opinions on school matters are shared and so that they become practised at voting and exercise their rights and responsibilities to do so. We were really impressed to see their site looking so tidy and litter-free and hope that we can encourage our school community to work harder on tackling our litter problem.

Ms Watson often tells us how good our school is and what an excellent attitude to learning the students have, but he also says there is always room for improvement and I have to say that I agree. For this reason, I have a passion for my Ministry (the Ministry of Teaching and Learning.) The reason I joined this Ministry is because I would like to help drive the focus on raising expectations. It is frustrating if students misbehave or challenge is not high in lessons because really, we all want to improve. I joined the Ministry so I can play my part in making that happen and it has been great joining the Leading Learning Group with some teachers so that we can discuss different things that improve learning.

In our Ministry meetings this term we have considered educational questions. To the question “Should learning be fun?” we decided that whether things are fun is a matter of opinion. Sometimes it can be harder to learn if things are not fun, but we decided that making lessons engaging was more important than making them fun. What we want in our lessons is variety. We agreed that controlled learning leads to better production than purely fun learning. In coming months, students from the Ministry of Teaching and Learning are going to take part in some learning walks with Ms de Glanville so that we can experience what learning is like across several year groups rather than just have experience of our own lessons.

As a Minister, I have also enjoyed being part of the student voice interview panel for new staff. I love knowing that the students’ opinions are taken into consideration when the leadership team appoint teachers.

Ministry of Employment

At their Autumn Term meeting, the Ministry of Business and Employment was keen to give and receive feedback on the recent developments in careers provision at Tewkesbury School. The Year 11 Ministers reported positively on the Y11 visit to the University Fair at Bristol. They also asked for more careers information via websites, more speakers to tell them about different types of jobs (especially those that are unique or a bit different) and more explanations about all the options there are for their future including options moving into Year 10 and Year 12. At Tewkesbury School, Mrs Whiting is doing a fantastic job responding to students’ wishes and has set up loads more opportunities to make sure that all are well informed. All Year 9 – 11 students were invited to a higher education study day at the University of Gloucestershire Oxstalls Campus; the career website, careerpilot.org.uk has been introduced to students in their careers lessons and additionally, the school has welcomed speakers to talk about their careers in graphic design, sports and leisure, construction, paramedic science, nursing and the Police Force. The interactive Year 10 careers day saw students from TS meet employers from 20 different industries.

Ministry of Business & Employment

The Ministry of Business and Employment has been working hard gathering information on charities that could be potential beneficiaries of the four remaining non-uniform days of this academic year. Each non-uniform day raises approximately £1000 so it is a quick and popular way to raise money for good causes. Over 17 charities were researched by the Ministry and short-listed to eight. These were: RNLI, Diabetes UK, Stem 4 (a teenage mental health charity), Winston’s Wish, Gloucestershire Young Carers, The Vale Wildlife Hospital, Cheltenham Animal Shelter and Maggie’s (a cancer support charity). The Ministry gave mini presentations on each of these in house assemblies in the last two weeks of term and students voted for their top four charities. At the time of KUDOS going to print the votes had yet to be counted, but before Christmas it will be revealed which charities will benefit from the remaining non-uniform days. The Ministry were pleased with the way the charity assemblies went and were delighted that nearly all students participated in the voting, though approximately 40 ballot papers were spoiled and therefore not counted as students had marked with ticks instead of crosses as instructed. The Student Parliament plans to involve the wider student body in more ballots so that their opinions on school matters are shared and so that they become practised at voting and exercise their rights and responsibilities to do so.

Ministry of Justice & Wellbeing

The Ministry of Justice and Wellbeing has been working hard gathering information on charities that could be potential beneficiaries of the four remaining non-uniform days of this academic year. Each non-uniform day raises approximately £1000 so it is a quick and popular way to raise money for good causes. Over 17 charities were researched by the Ministry and short-listed to eight. These were: RNLI, Diabetes UK, Stem 4 (a teenage mental health charity), Winston’s Wish, Gloucestershire Young Carers, The Vale Wildlife Hospital, Cheltenham Animal Shelter and Maggie’s (a cancer support charity). The Ministry gave mini presentations on each of these in house assemblies in the last two weeks of term and students voted for their top four charities. At the time of KUDOS going to print the votes had yet to be counted, but before Christmas it will be revealed which charities will benefit from the remaining non-uniform days. The Ministry were pleased with the way the charity assemblies went and were delighted that nearly all students participated in the voting, though approximately 40 ballot papers were spoiled and therefore not counted as students had marked with ticks instead of crosses as instructed. The Student Parliament plans to involve the wider student body in more ballots so that their opinions on school matters are shared and so that they become practised at voting and exercise their rights and responsibilities to do so.

Ministry of Business & Employment
If you still need advice or guidance about your post-16 options please see one of the Sixth Form Team.

TEWKESBURY SCHOOL

proudly presents

Alice in Wonderland

March 2018

at Tewkesbury School

We are excited to announce that our next major school production will be Alice in Wonderland being performed over three nights in March 2018 at Tewkesbury School.

The leading roles have finally been cast and due to the immense size of the leading role of Alice, we have selected three students as Alice to perform a night each! They are Emily Newman, Penny, Emily Farrington and Lauren Hall who are all in Year 10. We also have a huge cast of students from Years 7-13 performing alongside as the weird and wonderful characters of Wonderland. We even have a bijou band in formation, who are busy composing their own songs to support the action. This is led by Musical Directors, Craig Sipek from Year 13 and Erin Mills from Year 12. Watch this space for more information in the new year.

#Success
Congratulations to Brodie Cook (Year 13, Bronte) and Joshua Davis (Year 13, Priestley) who played rugby for Gloucestershire U18s v Berkshire U18s at the start of December.

#Excellence
Well done to Jazmine Taylor (Year 8, Elgar) who has been selected for the County Netball squad, moving up from the County Development Squad. She has done exceptionally well as she is in Year 8 and it is a Year 9 squad.

#Success
Zoe Dibble (Elgar) won bowler of the year in the Gloucestershire Women’s Adult Cricket League.

#Aspiration
Megan Brookes (Brunel) competed at the Horse of the Year Show in October held at the NEC. Megan and her pony won their class, competing against 20 other ponies. Well done Megan!

#Excellence
Gymnast Caitlin Lochhead (Keller) continues to excel. She represents Scotland and attended the National Challenge Cup, coming 3rd in the All Around competition out of 60 gymnasts winning silver on vault. She was invited to represent Scotland in two competitions. The first was at the Malar Cup in Stockholm, where the Scottish team placed 3rd overall and Caitlin made floor finals where she came 4th. The second was a home Nationals competitions in November. In this event Caitlin came 4th All Around and won the Gold medal of all the Scottish women at senior level and was 4th in the floor final.

#Challenge
Well done to Lewis Humphries (Year 9, Priestley) who competed in a quad racing championship weekend in Scotland during October.

#Success
Dominic Webb (Year 7, Hodgkin) has been selected for the district squad for cricket.

#Community
Our Year 10 artists have again been invited to exhibit their work in the De Ferrières Gallery at the Wilson in Cheltenham, alongside professional artists. The exhibition features work inspired by a visit to view the watercolours of Queen Victoria. Students then looked at the local landscape of Tewkesbury and Gloucester and produced lovely striking paintings of the buildings. The Exhibition is now open and runs until 2 January.

#Challenge
Alex Oliver (Year 9, Hodgkin) was invited to attend a Cricket Tour to South Africa in October, spending 10 days playing intensive cricket and training with a group of other boys from around the country. He achieved a personal best whilst playing, hitting 70 runs in one game and hitting 31 runs within 13 balls. Alex has also been selected to tour Mumbai, India in February 2018.

#Success
Congratulations to our U13 girls’ football team who reached the last 64 teams in the country. The U14s have reached the last 32 teams in the country.

#Aspiration
Musa Biyikli, Derryn Allinson, Hannah Daly and Lucas Hancock were selected to attend the presentation by Hillary Clinton at Cheltenham Racecourse as part of the Cheltenham Literature Festival in October. Following this they entered a report writing competition organised by the University of Gloucestershire and we were thrilled that Derryn Allinson won with his excellent report. He was presented with the prize of a GoPro and selection of books. This was a fantastic opportunity and we are very proud of the students for representing the school so well at this occasion.

#Community
Congratulations to Mr John Hendry, who is a member of our Site Team, on recently joining Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service. He will be a retained Firefighter at Tewkesbury Station.

#Focus on your future

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