



October 2021

Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER:

I am delighted to introduce our first newsletter of this academic year. The Telford Park School newsletter is a celebration of the achievements and successes of our pupils over the last half term. I am sure, like me, you will read this newsletter and feel a sense of pride. Our schools' vision is to empower pupils to develop their abilities, academically, physically, and socially, ensuring excellence in all we do. We pride ourselves on having an exemplary school culture with a curriculum that is ambitious for all pupils. There is so much to celebrate.

There is a wide variety of extra-curricular and house completions on offer to pupils after school. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils attending and getting fully involved. I would encourage all pupils to take part in at least one extra-curricular activity a week. Our extra-curricular timetable can be found [here](#).

During September we were visited by Ofsted and you can read their very positive feedback [here](#). Ofsted's feedback following their visit reinforces our belief that The Telford Park School is a rapidly improving school.

We also launched our new website during this half term. Having taken on board feedback from parents and carers we hope you agree that our new website allows easier access, particularly from a phone or tablet.

A special congratulations to our year 7 pupils who have settled into school life here extremely well.

A reminder that our ongoing aim is to prioritise children's education by delivering high quality face to face education for all pupils. Being at school is vital for children's education and their wellbeing. As we continue to navigate our way through the pandemic the following control measures remain in place:

1. Pupils and staff are to clean their hands regularly, either by washing or sanitising them.
2. Pupils and staff adopt the 'catch, it, kill it, bin it' approach, disposing of used tissues in bins and coughing and sneezing into the crooks of elbows.
3. More frequent cleaning of touch points takes place during the school day.
4. Increased ventilation in the school building.

We ask that where consent has been received pupils continue to test twice weekly during half term and make this a priority on the Sunday evening before we return on Monday 1st November to help keep our community safe.

Wishing you all a lovely and spooky half term.

Best wishes,

Mrs Rigby



Mrs H. Rigby,
Headteacher



Pastoral Updates:



Year 7:



Mrs Kerr—Head of Year 7



Ms Bailey —SSO Year 7

Year 7 have made an absolutely fantastic start to the school year and have settled in so well at The Telford Park School. Their behaviour around school has been exemplary and they are making excellent progress across the curriculum; we could not be prouder of them.

They have had an extremely busy half term finding their feet with different lessons packed full of learning but also I am really pleased to see year 7s attending many after school activities and also taking up leadership opportunities across the school. We have student librarians, eco monitors, antibullying ambassadors, safeguarding squad all being allocated to some brilliant pupils. After school, trampolining and fitness have been extremely popular to name a few of the exciting extra-curricular opportunities for them. Within Performing arts, lots of our pupils have started music lessons on different instruments and we have the annual school production of Beauty and the Beast which still has places open for year 7s to join the chorus and take part in. We also have had an exciting trip running to the theatre, which we hope to run again later on in the year for any students who missed out. Our first House Competition has also been running for our year group with lots of volunteers and the maths homework league has two year 7 classes at the top! What a jam packed half term!

There are new clubs and opportunities still coming up, such as the debate club and the mental health ambassadors and school council. And don't forget that year 7 homework club is on Tuesday after school as a drop in for anyone who needs a little help with the homework rota.

From myself and Mrs Bailey, have an amazing, well-earned half term break. Stay safe and we look forward to seeing what year 7 can achieve in the next half term!

Year 8:



Mrs Perry—Head of Year 8



Mrs Jones— SSO Year 8

Mrs Perry and Mrs Jones are once again very proud of year 8 this half term.

A number of students have been on our Superhero Wow Wall showing lots of different qualities and achievements. Year 8 have shown great enthusiasm for the student leadership opportunities and we have been overwhelmed with the number of students who have applied, these roles include Student Council, Anti Bullying ambassador and Mental Health Ambassador.

We would like to wish year 8 the best of luck after half term and are excited to see what the next half term brings.

Pastoral Updates:



Year 9:



Mr Phillips—Head of Year 9



Miss Marsh— SSO Year 9

What a fantastic start to the term year 9's have had, from their outstanding effort in lessons to their enthusiasm in extra-curricular clubs, including, P.E and Performing Arts. Mr Phillips and Miss Marsh are inspired everyday by the outstanding ready to learn attitude and their achievements in lessons. We would like to say an extra special well done to students who have 100% attendance, received praise postcards and to Nathan who has received a Headteachers award this half term.

The year 9 base now has a 'Sky is the Limit' theme as we truly believe that our students can do anything they put their minds to. They have been proving their greatness over this last half term and we are looking forward to another great half term in the run up to Christmas.

Year 10:



Miss Hipkiss -Head of Year 10



Mrs Smith — SSO Year 10

Here in the year 10 pastoral base we have been focusing on all things positive.

We have two new notice boards in the base (pictures below) - one is to celebrate students that have made a difference, either by helping others or making a real effort to make a difference for themselves. Just being there or supporting others can make a real difference to someone's day.

The other board is to promote the students having pride in their work. We constantly rotate work on this board with what a good piece of work looks like from various students. The year 10's are very proud to have work displayed in the base and we hope for more students to bring us any work they are proud of throughout the year.

Year 11:

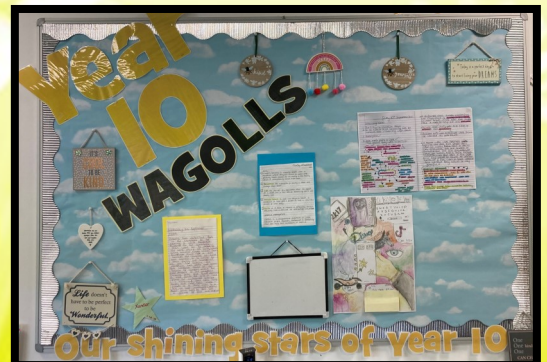


Mr Dopplin—Head of Year 11



Ms Watson— SSO Year 11

We are so proud the maturity and high level of attainment being shown by year 11 this half term - they have had a great start to the year. After half term, the excitement really starts when our Head Boy and Head Girl applicants begin asking for votes. The following students will be delivering a two minute presentation in year group assemblies and students will then vote for their favourite candidate to become Head Boy/Deputy Head Boy and Head Girl/Deputy Head Girl. Tom, Katie, Zak, Michelle, Aramanpreet, Tatiana, Kaydance, and Hannah will all look forward to delivering their presentations to you very soon and myself and Ms Watson would like to wish them the very best of luck.



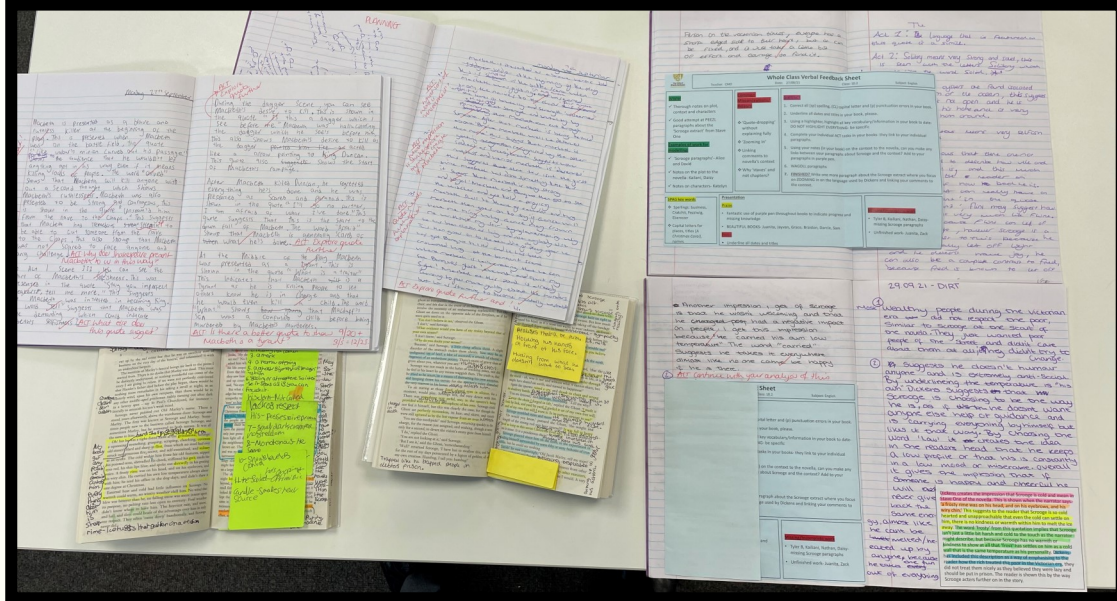
Department Highlights:



English:

In English, we have had such an exciting start to the year: Year 7 students have been studying 'When Secrets Set Sail' and story writing; Year 8 have been studying 'Animal Farm' and writing newspaper articles; whilst Year 9 have been studying Victorian gothic literature with 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'.

Students in Key Stage four have produced some fantastic assessed work on 'Macbeth' and 'A Christmas Carol' this half term and have been provided their own copies of 'A Christmas Carol' which has allowed them to work on their annotation skills. Jaz, Luis, Liam (year 11) and Alicja in (year 10) have produced some excellent work in their DIRT (dedicated improvement and reflection time) in response to Mrs Morton's feedback.

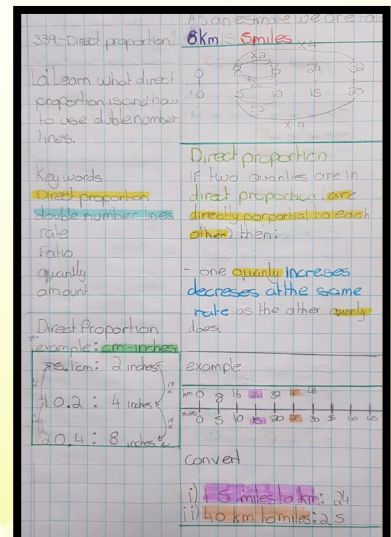
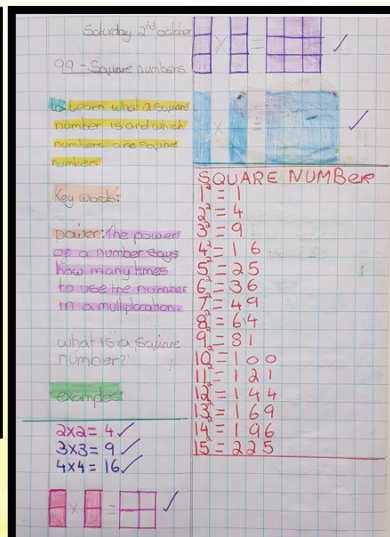


Maths:

Telford Park School pupils have made a great start to the year with their Hegarty Homework. As a school, we have answered a massive 17,635 questions so far this term! What an achievement! All that practice will certainly help our pupils to retain their knowledge and make great progress.

The standard of work we have seen in homework books has been excellent. Katelyn, Aimee and Sophie have shared some of their superb work with us (please see the pictures).

Students have also been challenged to learn and use higher tier vocabulary using The Frayer Model and have been able to identify examples and non-examples of a Quadratic.



The Telford Park School - Vocabulary Frayer Model:		
SAY IT:	DISCOVER IT:	DEFINE IT:
Quad-rat-ic	Quadratics have been used for a very long time in mathematics. Babylonian clay tablets, found in the 1800s show that they knew about quadratics as early as 1800BC - almost 4000 years ago! In Latin, 'quad' also means 4 and 'quadratus' means to be made square.	A quadratic expression contains x^2 but no higher power of x . It may contain an x value and a number.
APPLY IT:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Quadratic </div>	
Write one sentence using the word quadratic I must remember to do my Hegarty homework on quadratic equations.	EXAMPLES: $x^2 + 7x - 8$ x^2 $x^2 + 14$ $x^2 - 9x$ $15 - 7x + x^2$	NON-EXAMPLES $x^3 + 7x - 8$ x^3 $x^2 + 14 + x^4$ $x^5 - 9x$ $15 - 7x$

Department Highlights:



Reading Department:

The more you read, the more you know. The more that you learn, the places you'll go. Dr Seuss could have been talking about the students at The Telford Park School with this quote as reading has become a core part of everyday life. Since our school opened, we have cultivated a generation of readers who read for pleasure and part of our culture is our unique and inspiring reading programme.

The Telford Park Literary Cannon contains classic texts such as Crime and Punishment, 1984, The Picture of Dorian Gray, Frankenstein, Great Expectations, Dracula, and Lord of the Flies. Social issues texts such as Noah Can't Even, Orangeboy, Kick the Moon and The Breadwinner. Orphans of the Tide, Voyage of the Sparrowhawk, Shadow and Bone, Windrush Child and The Midnight Library are a snapshot of the contemporary books we also read during the start of every KS3 English lesson and KS4 Tutor periods.

The Canon has been selected with a low risk, high gain approach to expose all our students to challenging, high-quality, wide-ranging texts daily thereby improving cultural literacy, broadening minds, encouraging empathy, improving vocabulary, and promoting resilience. Some texts have been selected to support curriculum areas however we have gone to great lengths to ensuring the canon broadens text exposure rather than narrow it. Our canon reflects our school's values, diversity, aspirations, and community. In addition to texts studied within our new English curriculum the canon facilitates all Telford Park students (by the end of Year 11) having read a minimum of 45 books with challenging themes and vocabulary which they may not have ordinarily chosen to read independently.

Research suggests all students of all abilities connect with texts as the teacher reads to them (with the greatest gains for weaker/reliant readers). Every student has their own copy of the book and a bookmark which are kept in either their English classrooms or their Tutor rooms. Every student tracks the text as the teacher reads and students are never called upon to read aloud. The Teacher's copy of the text has been annotated to identify ambitious vocabulary which they will refer to as they read. Our Senior Leadership Team work on a rota to drop into a class/tutor group, pick up a copy of the text and take over reading to a group.



BYBIED (BRING YOUR BOOK IN EVERY DAY)

Students are expected to place their reading books on their desks at the start of every lesson and spot checks are regularly undertaken where students with a book are selected at random and given a raffle ticket to place in their house box in the library to be in with a chance to win a prize. There may also be the potential for bigger rewards at the end of the academic year.

During drop ins a tally is also kept of students who do not bring their books in and when the draw is taken that number of tickets is blindly removed from the house box.

In view of all of the above, may we remind all Parents/Carers and KS3 students, every KS3 (Years 7,8 & 9) student is expected to have a book to read with them EVERY day.



Visit from Dan Freedman:

During Summer School all Year 7s were lucky to have world renowned author Dan Freedman visit. Not only did he regale them with stories of the days he was the official journalist for the England team when David Beckham was captain, he impressed them with being the author of the Jamie Johnson books. For those of us not in the know Jamie Johnson is not only the main character in Dan's books, but the series has also been adapted for television and can be found on CBBC. They were also quite impressed he was friends with Marcus Rashford (one of our Park mural heroes). Our students undertook an activity prior to his arrival to come up with probing questions for Dan and then had the opportunity to have their questions answered in person. They also found out writing books is quite the task! None of us had quite appreciated just how many re writes take place. Dan chose three students whose question he was most impressed by, and they received signed copies of his book.



Department Highlights:



Technology:

What a start to the year! Year 10 have approached their food studies with such maturity and enthusiasm. Our GCSE Food course began with the topic of nutrition: students are learning about Macronutrients including Protein, Fats and Carbohydrates. After each theory lesson, we plan a skills practical based around our knowledge learnt during theory lessons. The students have really impressed me and our wonderful Technician, Mrs Ducommun. Here are some of the wonderful things they have cooked so far: Pasta Bolognese and Mini Quiche Tarts.



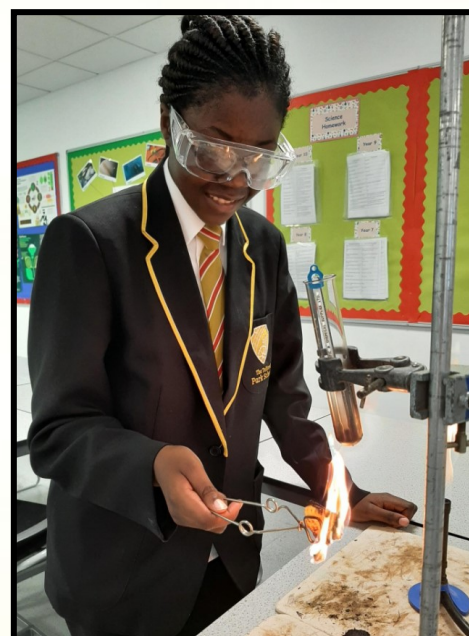
Science:

This half term has started very well as we are all really enjoying being back the labs for lots of practical work. This has had a positive impact on all year groups who have been more eager than ever to get stuck into practical investigations. Out of all the exciting science going on here are just some special mentions from this half term:

- Year 7's are making the most of their 'Working Scientifically' topic where they learn Laboratory safety rules, scientific method and how to use bunsen burners! It is wonderful to see so much enthusiasm and engagement from them.
- Mrs Wilcox's Year 9 Physics class have demonstrated half lives with strawberry pencil sweets to produce a graph.
- Mrs Newey's Year 11 class made fake urine to show colour and volume on a normal day, hot day and when someone has drunk a lot!
- Mrs Penny's Year 9 class related Atom Models to well known British puddings which has assisted with long term memory retention.

We have seen a great start to Science Club where students have been helping to shape this years' programme lead by their curiosity and scientific questioning of the natural and man-made worlds around them. For example, as part of an investigation of Woolly Mammoths - students discovered that they did once roam the Shropshire countryside before they became extinct, and scientists are now trying to produce Woolly Mammoths, from DNA, to be reintroduced to the wild to help with climate change. Also, burning food to heat water helped students discover that tortilla chips are packed with a lot of energy!

All year 7, 8, and 9 students are welcome to Science Club every Wednesday between now and Christmas, and watch this space for Spring Term STEMettes club.



Department Highlights:



Physical Education:

Opening Schools Facilities project

In the summer term of last school year, we were awarded some funding to offer more sporting activities for our young people following the Covid-19 pandemic. We were busy planning lots of exciting opportunities in readiness for our students' return this September.

The project has been a huge success with superb attendances at 6 difference activities – which have included: Arthog outreach, tennis, golf, gymnastics, street dance, boxing fitness. It has been fantastic to see students who wouldn't normally attend more traditional team sports clubs get excited and come along each week to these clubs.

Arthog outreach has involved our students over coming some of their personal fears to complete a range of team building and outdoor adventurous activities, including den building, climbing, high ropes and canoeing. I would like to thank the 2 members of staff, Mrs Evans and Miss Greenaway, who have supported this club which has run for 6 weeks every Tuesday and Thursday from 3-6pm. They have been so impressed to see the development in confidence in the students involved.

Part of the funding also included purchasing some sports equipment to help improve our offering at the school. We are in the process of ordering our own set of rugby posts which we hope to have up in the next few weeks.

Thank you for your support with encouraging your child to get involved with these activities, hopefully we can continue to offer some of them going forward.

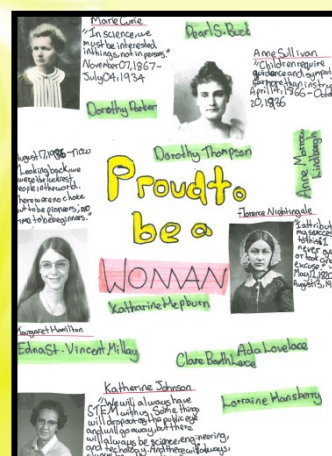


History:

It has been a good first half term for the History department for the 2021-2022 academic year. The department started the year looking at some of the career opportunities students may wish to explore by studying the subject and the self-discipline needed to succeed.

The year groups are enjoying the areas they are studying this half term. The year 7 are studying the key skills in History. Year 8 are looking at the Industrial revolution and the role our immediate community played during this period. Year 9 are looking at the Holocaust and its challenges, learning about conflict, whilst encouraging critical thinking and enquiry skills. Years 10 are studying the American West and Year 11 are completing their study on Medicine.

The department, collaborating with others organised activities to celebrate Black History Month (BHM). The activities included poster design on the theme for this year's celebration 'Proud to be', research task on any individual in the black and minority ethnic community who has contributed positively to life in the UK. These activities culminated in displays, showing some of the contributions made to all facets of life in the UK and the world at large of several individuals from the black and minority ethnic community. A year 9, enjoying the displays said, "this is all new to me". A year 11 summed it up in one word "great".



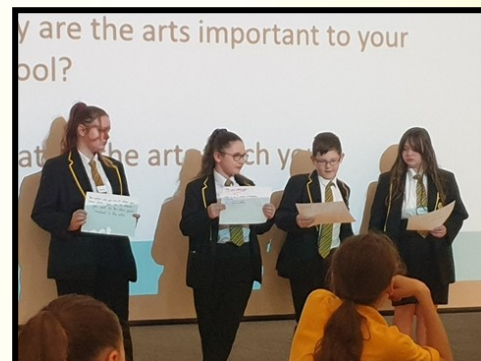
Department Highlights:



Performing Arts:

New Arts Ambassadors:

We have just appointed 5 new Arts Ambassadors from year 8 who are very keen and enthusiastic to begin their Young Arts Ambassador training. Over 20 year 8 students applied for these 5 roles. Between them, these 5 successful applicants have many skills and talents within the Arts and have lots of ideas of how they would like the Arts to look in our school. We can't wait to get started. The Young Arts Ambassadors completed their initial training session at Priory school this term, along with students from Grange Primary, Windmill Primary, Langley and Priory schools. During this session the students considered the importance of the Arts in school (Drama, Arts, Music, Dance, creative writing, speaking and listening, debating, DT, media, film) and discussed ways of improving and promoting our Arts to our students at Telford Park school. Our new year 8 Arts Ambassadors are: Sam, Hollie, Veronika, Keaton, Ellie



Extra-Curricular Activities:

Our new programme of exciting after school groups is now up and running; we have guitar group, Rock School, African Drumming, Creative writing, a debate club, a dance club, a film club and for those wanting to 'let their light shine' on stage, we have begun our audition and rehearsal process for *Beauty and the Beast*, our whole school production for February 2022.

A reminder about clubs:

Tuesday: Rock School 2:35 – 3:35pm (open to all years, guitar, drums, keyboard and vocals)

Wednesday *Beauty and the Beast* Rehearsals 2:35 – 4:30pm

Thursday: Guitar Group 2:35 – 3:35pm

Year 11 Music / Drama Drop in coursework sessions

Friday: African Drumming 2:35 – 3:05pm

Instrumental Lessons:

Over 70 students from years 7 to 11 have now applied for music lessons with the Telford and Wrekin Music service. During these lessons on drums, keyboard and guitar, pupils will learn and develop their instrumental and musicianship skills, which they can then use in their curriculum music lessons and also during the extra-curricular clubs.

Trips

We are looking forward to two Birmingham theatre trips running this term; year 7 will have the opportunity to watch *Gangsta Granny* by David Walliams and year 10 Drama students are off to see *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell.



Transition News:

During the last week of the summer holidays, we launched our first ever Telford Park summer school. The week was aimed at pupils in year 6 who were due to move into year 7. We were delighted to get such a good response from our new year 7s and on Monday 23rd August we opened our doors to 75 nervous but excited pupils. Our numbers grew and by Wednesday we had gained another 12 pupils. By the end of the week 94 different pupils had accessed the week. Our staff couldn't have been happier with the enthusiasm and energy that our pupils put into each and every activity.

Pupils had the chance to try lots of different activities throughout the week. Activities included Sports lessons, Science experiments, Treasure hunts, English and Computing lessons, Problem solving, Orienteering and Arts and Crafts. We were also lucky enough to have some brilliant activities offered by external agencies. 'Life Shed' ran some bushcraft activities for us and 'BrightStar Boxing' ran some fantastic boxing sessions. 'Talk the Talk' ran literacy and public speaking workshops and 'Hammonds Catering' finished the week for us with a brilliant BBQ.

From a personal perspective the week was a fantastic experience. Our staff very much enjoyed meeting all our new pupils. The aim was to welcome our new pupils into The Telford Park family. It was so nice to see so many friendly faces when we started back at school properly in September. We had such a good time that we are already planning our 21/22 summer school so if there are any younger siblings out there then watch this space.



Mr T. Ward

SENCO

