



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER:

As we come to the end of our Autumn Term, I would like to wish you a safe and happy Christmas. Having worked hard all term, our pupils (and staff) will be ready for a break and the opportunity to recharge their batteries. We have had a busy and productive term as demonstrated within this newsletter.

This newsletter reminds me of all we have achieved over the last half term. I have the highest professional regard for the adaptability of our staff and admire the resilience demonstrated by pupils who continue to aim high and achieve well.

A special well done to all of our year 7 pupils for completing their first term in secondary school. They have made an excellent start to their time at Telford Park School, and we are so very proud of them. We pride ourselves on positive relationships throughout the school with the pastoral team at the heart of this. If you would like any support for your child do not hesitate to contact their form tutor or house team.

Moving forward I am looking forward to 2022 and remain hopeful of a more positive outlook.

A reminder that our return to school dates are as follows:

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Years 7, 10 and 11

Thursday 6th January 2022

Years 8 and 9

All pupils start at the usual time of 8.25am.

On-site covid testing of pupils will be taking place on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th January. You will have been contacted directly regarding your appointment time. If you have any questions regarding the onsite testing programme, please contact: info@telfordparkschool.co.uk

I would like to thank all pupils, parents, staff, and governors for their ongoing support and wish you all a very peaceful Christmas where you can hopefully 'be still sometimes' and enjoy some precious family time.

Best wishes,
Holly Rigby
Headteacher



Mrs H. Rigby,
Headteacher



Pastoral Updates:



Year 7:



Mrs Kerr—Head of Year 7



Ms Bailey —SSO Year 7

As we come to the end of our first whole term with Year 7, we definitely could not be prouder of their efforts and the way Year 7 have so quickly become such an important part of our school. There are so many highlights from this half term that there are too many to choose from but we want to share a few of them with you.

Firstly, we get daily reports from the lunch and duty staff about their behaviour around school; tidying up after themselves and being extremely polite. This is so important and lovely that they have this reputation around school as being a fantastic year group. Outdoor learning has also been a great success this term and our students have learned some fantastic skills and transferable qualities. We cannot wait for the next group of students to start this next half term. Year 7 classes have been top of the Hegarty Maths leader board throughout this half term which shows they are doing lots of work in and outside of lessons. We also love a bit of friendly competition and are very happy to beat some of the older Year groups! We have managed to do this with our attendance as well and have frequently been the top attending year group this half term! The Year 7 reports and virtual parents evening were lovely and it was so nice to chat to so many of you. Their reports were a joy to see with very high ratings for effort and behaviour throughout the year group. These are all fantastic achievements that they should be very proud of!

The last few weeks we have had our Year 7 advent calendar, where two students from each tutor group come up every day to collect a treat. This has allowed us to meet every single Year 7 student before we break up for Christmas and this has been so lovely to have little conversations with them all and see how they are getting on.

The new year will bring new clubs and new opportunities for our students and we genuinely cannot wait to see what they will achieve next. Science club and Gardening club have recently picked up a few new Year 7 members so have a think what to get involved in.

Thank you to our Year 7 parents for their support so far this year as well; we are always just a phone call away if there are any questions or queries you have for us.

Myself and Mrs Bailey would like to wish all of Year 7 and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Year 8:



Mrs Perry—Head of Year 8



Mrs Jones— SSO Year 8

Year 8 continue to inspire Mrs Perry and Mrs Jones. The resilience they have shown has been outstanding. Our moto in the base this term has been, "I am going to try a different strategy". Year 8 have used this as a plan of action to achieve their goals.

We have a large number of success stories, each individual journey and goal looks different but we are very proud of all year 8s.

Special recognition on their journeys include Nathan, Katie and Codi May. Mrs Perry has enjoyed discussing with tutors who should be presented with Year 8 end of term stars.

Mrs Perry has received a number of compliments regarding how Year 8 enter and attend assembly showing great understanding of the purpose of us gathering together to share a common purpose. Assembly has been delivered by a number of staff including the Headteacher, Mrs Rigby, each time Year 8 have received praise and acknowledgement for their respectful, engaging manner. Assembly has covered a number of informative topics: including knife crime, careers and exploitation. Mrs Perry is overwhelmed with pride every time she stands at the front of the assembly.

We are so proud of Year 8 and would like to wish all of our students and families a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing what the new year has in store.



Pastoral Updates:



Year 9:



Mr Phillips—Head of Year 9



Miss Marsh— SSO Year 9

As you are aware our theme in the Year 9 Pastoral Base is 'The sky is the limit' and Year 9 students have been reaching for the stars and achieving great things. From their sporting achievements in Rugby, Badminton and Football to their outstanding work and numerous certificates, badges and praise postcards.

A special congratulations to the newly appointed Student Council, Anti Bullying and Mental Health Ambassadors, we wish you all the very best in your Student Leadership Roles. Don't forget that the Year 9 Pastoral Base is on Twitter! Please follow us (TelfordParkYr9) to keep up to date with all relevant information and to see all Year 9's achievements. Here, you will find pictures of our recent trip to RAF Cosford, where our students behaved impeccably and asked the amazing volunteer tour guides excellent questions.

Mr Phillips and Ms Marsh hope you have a lovely Christmas break and we will see all of you in the New Year.

Year 10:



Miss Hipkiss -Head of Year 10



Mrs Smith — SSO Year 10

The Year 10 pastoral base has been busy promoting positivity this half term with a new positive quote on display on entry to the room each day.

Also, with the Starfish board now complete, it is great to be adding more starfish by way of the names of students that have 'made a difference' – whether this be to themselves or for others.

As we near the end of term, year 10's are now forward thinking about their work experience placements next year, and to help with this the base has started to display information on various careers.

Year 11:



Mr Dolphin—Head of Year 11



Ms Watson— SSO Year 11

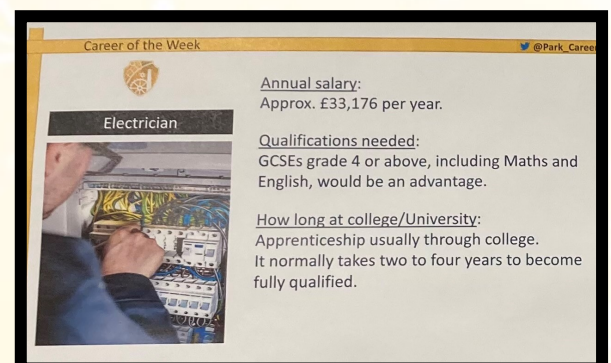
Congratulations to the following students who were voted in as the Year 11 Senior Student Leadership Team:

Tatiana – Head Girl

Zak – Head Boy

Michell – Deputy Head Girl

Tom – Deputy Head Boy

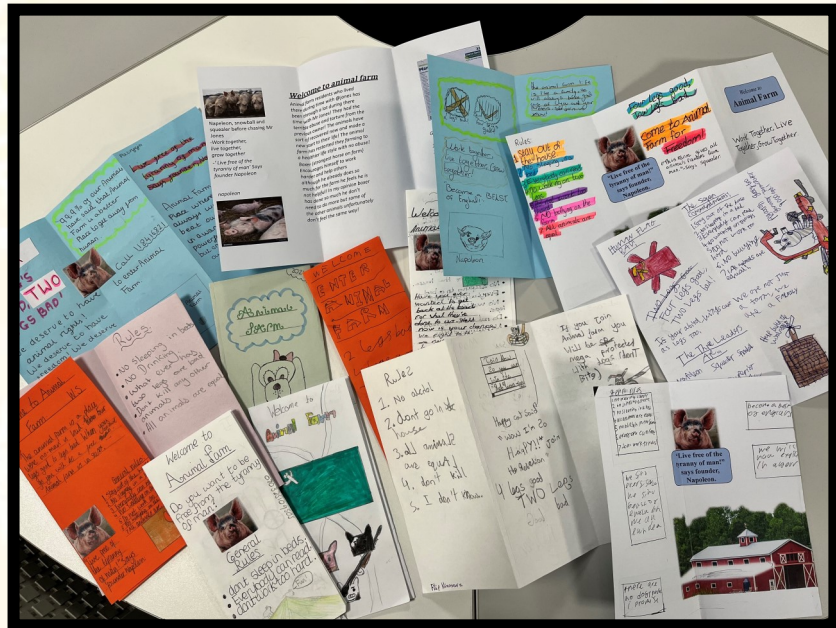


Department Highlights:



English:

In English, we have had such an exciting start to the year: year 7 students have continued with their work on Narrative Writing; Year 8 students have been using the novel, 'Animal Farm' (George Orwell) to support their persuasive writing skills, and Ms Holland's class have produced some excellent examples. Students in Year 9 have been studying 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' and have been securing their knowledge of the Victorian era in preparation for studying 'A Christmas Carol' in Year 10. Year 10 students are currently studying 'A Christmas Carol' and have produced some fantastic pieces of analysis. We are also proud of Year 11 and their commitment, hard work and dedication towards the mock exams this half term: there has been some example work going on and we are so proud of them all. From all of us in English, we would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas.

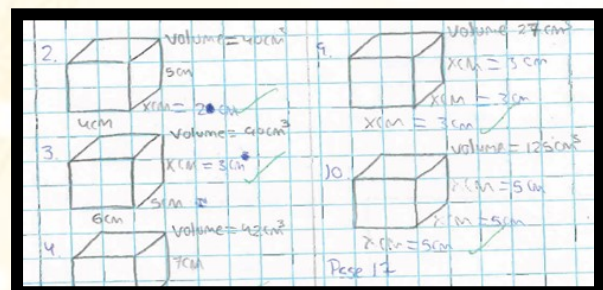


Maths:

Mrs Cotton has been kept very busy this term, writing out certificates for our highest performing pupils. Telford Park School pupils answered a massive 43,041 questions this term. Luca, Emma-Leigh and Alfie top the leader board with 1366, 1230 and 1142 correct questions respectively. Nana has done a massive 25.5 hours of learning. What an achievement!

Year 11 pupils have been working hard in preparation for their mock exams. The Maths Department revision sessions after school on Thursdays and Fridays have been well attended and will continue until the exams in the Summer. The homework club also runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Maths department would like to wish Dario all the very best for the future, he is due to leave us and go back home December. Dario has worked exceptionally hard through his time here. Below are some examples of his work.



Department Highlights:



Technology:

The focus this half term for our lovely Year 10 students has been to develop high level skills, we really have challenged them by setting difficult tasks like making meringues, the students had to learn how to whisk and stabilise a foam and then pipe the mixture to form a beautiful meringue nest.

We have also focused on the skill of dovetailing recipes by cooking more than one component of a dish, for example they made shortbread biscuits and chocolate tarts and also toad in the hole served with mash potato, vegetables and gravy.

Our Year 11s are halfway through their coursework now and are really striving for perfection. Our brief this year asks students to research Italian cuisine so they can plan a two course menu for an Italian themed practical exam. Some of the dishes have been of restaurant quality. Keep up the good work Year 11.

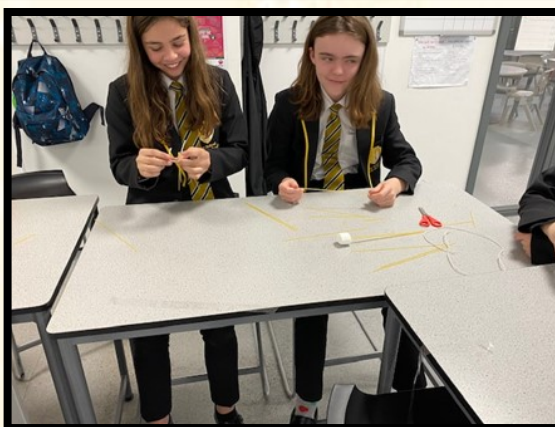
Year 10 students have also been getting into the Christmas spirit with these fantastic festive yule logs!



Science:

On Thursday 18th November, the Science department hosted a house competition for KS3 students. The challenge was to build the tallest free-standing tower that could hold a marshmallow on the top. Students were only allowed 20 pieces of dried spaghetti, 1 meter of string and 1 meter of sellotape.

All house groups managed to build a free-standing tower, but congratulations go to Invictus who were able to build a tower 40cm high. Well done to everyone who took part it was really good fun as well as being a challenge.



Winner!!

Teaching and Learning Update:

Here at Telford Park School, we have spent the last 2 years doing a lot of work around the science of learning (cognitive theory) and how best our students learn. All of our lessons include, knowledge recall activities, lesson mid-reviews, and questioning strategies that support our students to retain core knowledge and retrieve that knowledge when needed.

As a school, it has been amazing to see the impact this has had on our students' learning, especially the daily knowledge recalls, cold calling, and no hands-up questioning strategy. Most of our students can't wait to share how they feel about this new way of learning:

- *'Recall questions have helped me to understand new knowledge and recall old knowledge that will help me with new learning.'*
- *'No hands-up has helped me become more confident answering questions in the lesson!'*

We are looking forward to continuing with these strategies in the new year and are confident that we will begin to see massive improvement in our students' confidence in their knowledge, skills and outcomes.

Department Highlights:



Physical Education:

What a term it has been for PE! Years 7, 8 and 9 have been getting stuck into their Rugby, Netball, Basketball and Fitness lessons where we have seen some fantastic performances both physically and through coaching and leadership. There have also been fantastic performances in our extra curricular clubs and fixtures, with team of the term going to the Un 15 rugby team. Engagement at clubs is on the rise and we want that to continue so please make sure you are coming along.

Our KS4 students have also been working extremely hard in their VCERT Health and Fitness course. Students created replicas of the respiratory system using playdoh and showed a great understanding of how our respiratory system works.

Have a well deserved break and the PE department are looking forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Merry Christmas!

Clubs on offer after Christmas include:

Monday:

Years 7 and 8 Boys Football - 2.35pm - 4pm

Years 10 and 11 Basketball - lunchtime

Tuesday:

Years 7 and 8 Girls Football - 2.35pm - 4pm

All years Volleyball (week 2 only) - 2.35pm - 3.35pm

Wednesday:

Years 7, 8 and 9 Fitness - 2.35pm - 4pm

Invite only Boxing with Bright Star - 2.35pm - 4pm

Thursday:

Years 10 and 11 Fitness - 2.35pm - 3.35pm

Years 9 and 10 Boys Football - 2.35pm - 4pm

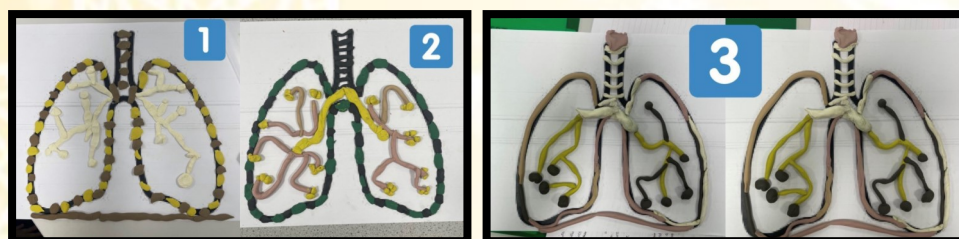
All years Gymnastics - 2.35pm - 4pm

All years street dance - 2.34pm - 4pm

Friday:

Years 11 boys Football - 2.35pm - 3.45pm

Years 7 and 8 Rugby - 2.35pm - 3.30pm



History:

It has been a good Autumn 2 term for the History department for the 2021-2022 academic year.

The year groups are enjoying the areas they are studying this half term. The Year 7 are studying the Normans. Year 8 are looking at Slavery and the role the Industrial revolution played during this period. Year 9 are looking at the Cold War and its challenges. Year 10 are studying the American West and Year 11 are looking at Weimar and Nazi Germany.

The department organised a trip to the RAF Cosford National Cold War Exhibition. This trip enabled the Year 9 students the opportunity to interact with some of the exhibits which were used during the Cold War. It gave the students real life experiences of what they have been learning about in the classroom. This ignited their enquiry skills and encouraged critical thinking. The resultant questions and analysis of some of the students marvelled the tour guides which was a gargantuan credit to The Telford Park School and a joy to witness.



Department Highlights:



Performing Arts:

Blood Brothers Trip:

As part of the BTEC Performing Arts course, Year 10 students travelled to Birmingham Hippodrome in November to see a professional performance of Willy Russell's Blood Brothers. Students thoroughly enjoyed the performance and it's safe to say, there were definitely a few tears at the end! The magic of seeing this performance live in the theatre has certainly brought inspiration and has helped students to gain a deeper understanding of Willy Russell's fantastic musical.

Gangsta Granny Trip:

40 Year 7 students enjoyed their first Telford Park theatre trip to the New Alexandre Theatre in Birmingham where they watched a very enjoyable performance of David Walliams' Gangsta Granny. On our return journey students were excited to discuss the performance and the particular scenes they enjoyed. A second opportunity to see Gangsta Granny in 2022 will be available to Year 7 students who have not previously seen the show. Information will follow shortly.

Fashion workshop:

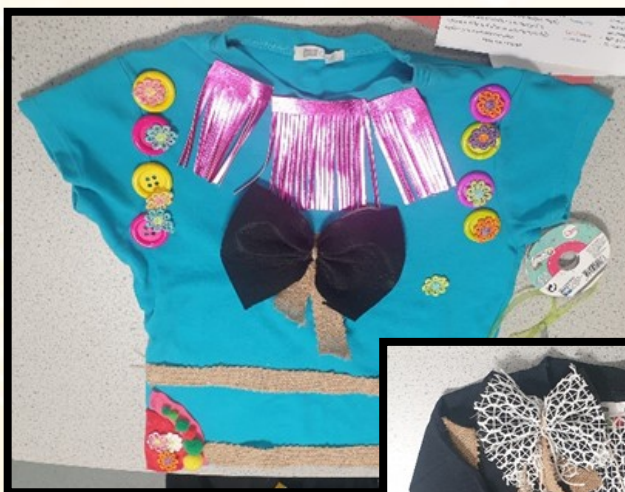
Following on from our initial workshop with Roz, a fashion designer and owner of Complex Simplicity, students from Year 8 participated in two days of Fashion Workshops. In the first workshop, the students worked through the initial stages of the design process where they designed their own T shirt in response to the theme 'Extravaganza'. Students then created samples of their final designs in preparation for day 2 where they began work on the actual T shirts. There are 3 more workshop days which will enable our students to develop, improve and finalise their garments in preparation for a fashion show in March. This fashion show will also involve students, and their collections, from 4 other schools in our CAT Arts Hub. The work completed so far exemplifies creativity, flair and originality and demonstrates newly learned textile skills and techniques such as hand sewing and applique.

Christmas Concert

During this term, students have been developing their instrumental, vocal, acting and dance skills in rehearsals for the Christmas Concert. Performances were given from a variety of groups such as Rock School, Choir, dance group and the cast of Beauty and the Beast. Students should be commended for their commitment to rehearsals and their ensemble skills.

Date for the Diary:

Beauty and the Beast 16th and 17th February 2022. Already purchased tickets are still valid; new tickets will be available in due course.



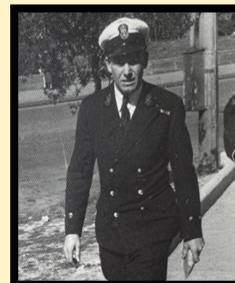


On Thursday 11th November, the school held it's annual Remembrance Day assembly. As part of the assembly, Drama students from years 9-11 worked collaboratively to devise a Theatre in Education performance based on the stimulus of 'Think Twice'. We wanted to challenge the students at Telford Park to think twice, think again about other people, not just soldiers, who have been directly or indirectly affected by wars or conflict. The performance began by portraying the ignorance of a teenager who could not understand the reason behind buying a poppy, as 'she bought one last year'. The actors educated the teenager, and our students, on the importance of the poppy and what it represented. Actors performed scenes showing men enlisting in the army and showed how individuals felt at various times (child evacuees, wives, sisters and other family members). We decided to use the Verbatim style of theatre as including the actual words and thoughts from people at the time helped to educate our audience and add more reality and emotion. The piece concluded with facts about the poppy and how it was only the flower to remain strong and resilient during the endless fighting that tore apart our beautiful British landscapes.



During the Remembrance Assembly, Mr Walker shared extracts from his relative's hand-written World War 2 diary, which documented life on the seas and his travels through East Africa. Private Corbett also wrote about eating Christmas dinner in the jungle, driving an ambulance at night without lights and his challenges on the front line. Images of the diary were shared on the TV screens around the school, giving students the opportunity to see the diary in more detail. We all appreciate the effort he put into writing this diary, which gives a personal insight into one soldier's experience of WWII.

Mrs Creen talked about her grandfather, (pictured right) C.P.O F.J. Fallows who served in the Royal Navy on several ships during World War II. His role as Chief Petty Officer involved "the discipline and well-being of the ships company". Mrs Creen also told of the 6 war medals he was awarded for his service and of HMS Ulysesse, the battleship he served on that formed part of the British Pacific Fleet of ships to Japan during one of the last missions of the war. Whilst aboard ship in Japanese waters the crew heard of the news of the end to the war which was such a relief to so many, as well as a very significant date in history - August 15th 1945.



Mr Hylton spoke to the students about the National Arboretum Memorial Staffordshire, and the significance of the Arboretum, how it's objective is to honour the fallen UK service men and women to recognise their service and sacrifice, and to foster pride in the British Armed Forces, and civilian community. Mr Hylton encouraged both students and staff to try and make a visit to the Arboretum, entry is free and it is open every day except for Christmas, and is only about an hour's drive away from Telford.

The assembly finished with the playing of the Last Post, and this was followed by a two minutes silence, this enabled the students to reflect on the ultimate sacrifice made by others, in conflicts at home and around the world.





Careers News:

Work Experience – Year 10 Pupils

We are pleased to announce that we will be offering work experience to our students again this academic year. Although there is some uncertainty around restrictions which may be in place during the next year, we have been working with Telford and Wrekin Education Business Links to ensure that if physical work experience cannot take place, then alternative activities will be provided within school.

Work experience week: 16th - 21st May

Latest Date to request work experience: 19th February

Please see the careers section of the school website for more information and to apply for a place: [Careers Website](#)

Other useful links:

Careers in Telford and Wrekin: [LINK](#)

Post 16 Provision in Telford: <https://www.telford1619.com/>

Guest Speaker from BBC News:

On Tuesday, Year 9 and 10 pupils had a talk from the BBC Lead News Director Richard Murrell about careers at the BBC and beyond. Richard spoke about how he began in hospital radio before progressing to becoming a director over a number of years. He shared stories of a BBC apprentice starting out and students were able to practise their questioning skills with a real broadcast journalist.

Please ask your child about their experience and ask them about what they thought. Whether they want to work in media or the news is not important. It's more about thinking about what skills they have and how they might transfer to different careers.



Reading Update:

We set ourselves the target to buy every student in school a book this year. Year 7, 10 and 11 have received theirs and just before Christmas, we gifted all students in Years 8 and 9 with books linked to PHSE, Science, Sport and Geography.

Mrs Rigby invited students to the library to pick a book which proved to be a tricky challenge as all the books were wrapped and only had the title of the book on the packaging.

Students, therefore, judged a book purely on its title, not its cover which meant they were getting an extra special Christmas surprise.

We would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

