

The Telford Park School

February 2022 Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER:

Dear Parents and Carers,

As this extremely busy half term draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. Transitioning to 'living with COVID' presents its challenges for everyone. This half term we have all have been impacted by COVID infections more than at any time during the pandemic. As guidance continues to change, I will keep you updated. Our current guidance remains accessible on our [website](#). The Telford Park School staff have been nothing short of phenomenal this half term as they have covered for absent colleagues ensuring that the school has remained open for all pupils. I am extremely grateful to them for this.

Our ongoing aim is for our pupils to thrive in their education. To thrive in school, pupils, need to be prepared for the day ahead. The routines we have continue to be extremely important. Pupils should arrive at school by 8.20am. We operate a free breakfast club from 7.30am. Pupils should arrive in full school uniform as outlined in our [uniform policy](#). It is also important that pupils are equipped for the day ahead by having their reading book, a pen, pencil, ruler, and rubber with them everyday. By helping your child prepare for the school day you will be setting them up with the best start possible. Our homework policy was refreshed in September, please check with your child what homework they have each evening. More information and support regarding homework can be found here: [Homework Information](#).

One of our ongoing aims to extend opportunities is that all pupils have the opportunity to visit the theatre. There is exciting information regarding this in the performing arts section of the newsletter.

Recently our school featured in the Shropshire Star, and I have enclosed that article here. As I stated in the article, I have served this community for 22 years and continue to be extremely proud to do so.



We are a school in the heart of its community and are committed to 'Ensuring Excellence' in everything we do.

Our school culture is exemplary. We firmly believe that all pupils should feel safe, happy and cared for in an environment that is well disciplined allowing pupils to be successful and enjoy their learning.

Our ethos is that every pupil should be effectively challenged and supported in order to maximise their academic success and make the best progress possible. All of our pupils must receive a broad, balanced and aspirational curriculum partnered with high quality teaching in a calm, well-ordered learning environment. We aim to give our pupils the best possible platform to secure a bright future. We are very proud of our polite, helpful, well-mannered pupils.

The Telford Park school values the development of well-rounded individuals with sound moral values. Pupils are encouraged to be respectful and tolerant. Relationships with others are a strong foundation of this school. We encourage and recognise pupils who 'let their light shine' by developing any talents they possess.

Fundamental to our philosophy is a commitment to raise the aspirations of young people whilst equipping them with the knowledge, skills and qualities to help them achieve more than they ever dreamed possible.

I am proud to lead
The Telford park School.



Holly Rigby

School on a journey of rapid improvement

The Telford Park School has been on a journey of rapid improvement.

This is something that staff and students have all worked hard for and are proud of.

The school population has increased by 50 per cent since 2015 making Telford Park one of the fastest growing schools locally.

Headteacher Holly Rigby said: "Our school culture is exemplary. We believe that all pupils should feel safe, happy and cared for in an environment that is well disciplined allowing pupils to be successful and enjoy their learning."

Success

"Our ethos is that every pupil should be effectively challenged and supported to maximise their academic success."

"All pupils receive a broad, balanced, and aspirational curriculum partnered with high quality teaching in a calm, well-ordered learning environment."

"We aim to give our pupils the best possible platform to secure a bright future. We are very proud of our polite, helpful, and well-mannered pupils."

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Pupils receive a broad and balanced curriculum

their light shine' by developing their talents.

Ms Rigby added: "We are committed to raising the aspirations of our young people, whilst equipping them with the knowledge to help them achieve more than they ever dreamed possible."

"Having worked in south Telford for 22 years, it is my privilege to lead The Telford Park School."

"Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any questions or would like to arrange a visit."

Wishing you all a restful, safe, and happy half term.

All year groups return to school on Monday 28th February at the usual start time of 8.25am.

Best wishes,

Mrs Rigby

Pastoral Updates:



Year 7:



Mrs Kerr—Head of Year 7



Ms Bailey —SSO Year 7

Mrs Kerr and Ms Bailey have been so proud of Year 7 this half term. Year 7 students have been growing in confidence both in the classroom and during extra curricular activities. It has been delightful to see students attending a wide range of extra curricular activities such as our Debate Society, Creative Writing Club, Dodgeball and a wide range of PE clubs too.

Selected Year 7 students are also taking part in paired reading with the Year 10 Literacy Ambassadors and are making impressive progress with their reading fluency.

Year 8:



Mrs Perry—Head of Year 8



Mrs Jones— SSO Year 8

Year 8 Pastoral team have been focusing on building resilience. We have assessed our own resilience and as a year group we have also looked at animals who are resilient. We have followed the story of a Swallow and the resilience swallows show in a 3,000 mile journey from Africa to Scotland. Everyone faces their own challenges and as a result Mrs Jones and Mrs Perry see resilience in Year 8 students everyday. A special acknowledgment to Nathan N, Ethan D and Chelsea M for the resilience they have shown.

Year 9:



Mr Phillips—Head of Year 9



Miss Marsh— SSO Year 9

Year 9 never cease to amaze me, from their effort in lessons to them competing in sports competitions they have really tried hard in everything that they have done. A vast number of students have received praise postcards and Mr Phillips and I, as well as all of their teachers have made positive phone calls to parents/carers to share the great work that they have all achieved.

Just a reminder that Year 9 Options Evening is on Wednesday 23rd March 2022, it is really important that Parents/carers and students attend this evening as the options that are made now can shape the rest of their future.

Year 10:



Miss Hipkiss -Head of Year 10

Miss Hipkiss is very impressed with Year 10 since they have returned in the new year. Students have been working very hard across all lessons and there have been lots of praise postcards being sent home.

Miss Hipkiss have been spreading two very important messages to Year 10 students this half term: 'Try' and 'Be Kind' always! Year 10 have been working really hard this half term in all subject areas and we hope they have a restful and enjoyable half term.



Year 11:



Mr Dolphin—Head of Year 11



Ms Watson— SSO Year 11

Mr Dolphin and Ms Watson are very proud of Year 11 who are currently showing impeccable resilience and determination as they enter their final few months at The Telford Park School. Keep up the hard work and we look forward to sharing this special time with each and every one of you.

Telford Park School—Uniform Project:

During last half term the staff at Telford Park School have been busy setting up a “every child should have a coat” project, this has been so successful that we have now started a Uniform Project to run alongside. Therefore, if you have any old uniform, from ties to trousers, shirts to shoes, that either no longer fit or are no longer used please can you donate by handing in at reception or if students are bringing it in to the Year 9 Pastoral Base. Thank you very much in advance for your support.



Loudmouth Visit at The Telford Park School – 11th January 2022:

This term Loudmouth Theatre production spoke to us, Year 8, about Drugs and Alcohol. The performance impacted the pupils of Telford Park school in a way that increased our awareness of taking drugs and alcohol.

The performance on alcohol and drug awareness was a monologue delivered by one actor to the whole year group. There was a character Q&A, and then signposting to help and support students at the end of the session.

Using role play, they showed us a scenario where a younger sister started taking drugs and drinking alcohol when with her 3 friends. The younger sister thought it was okay because her older sister’s friends had offered her drugs. We had the opportunity to ask questions to the actor about the story and her life.

Here are a few comments from staff and students about what they thought of the production:

Mrs Newbery (Head of RS, PSHE and SRE) said, “The performance from Ellie on alcohol and drugs awareness was pitched perfectly for Year 8 students. The role she portrayed was quite intense and she gave real experiences of teenagers who were experimenting with alcohol and cannabis. Students were really engaged and asked the actor some excellent questions in the Q+A session at the end. I was very proud of how well the students behaved and interacted with the session. Well done Year 8”

Michelle (Student) said, “I thought the Loudmouth performance was outstanding. The acting and lesson behind it was explained well in the play”.

Mrs Perry (Head of Year 8) said, “Very informative, lots of information was given at an appropriate level. It was engaging and entertaining”.

Mrs Kerr (Head of Year 7) said, “I thought it was really interesting. The actress worked so hard through the performance by herself. I like that Year 8 got to ask questions to the character”.

James (Student) said, “I found it inspirational: it opened my eyes about the problems with drugs and alcohol”.

Written By Calum C and Josh W (Year 8 Students)

Department Highlights:



English:

Mrs Wells and Miss Holland's 9.5 English class have been working incredibly hard on their creative writing pieces this half term to strengthen their understanding of first person narration and perspective.

These students have been working on English Language skills in class and have used 'The Hunger Games' (Novel by Suzanne Collins) as a stimulus for their own creative writing. As you can see from these wonderful examples, these students are starting to understand how to create tension and suspense to engage the reader.

Lei:

Maks:

Thirty Seconds. That's how long I had until the countdown ended and I would step onto the silver-plated circled Platform. I + anyone stepped off & before the countdown ended or you would be shredded into million pieces & by hundreds of activated landmines.

Twenty Seconds. Now! The countdown continued. I could see the petrified faces of my opponents and the shock in their eyes. Then I remembered that millions of people around the world were watching me compete in the Hunger Games!!

TEN SECONDS REMAINING.

I started panicking. I was thinking about what weapon I should go for. OR should I go for the boys. I had no idea what to do...

The countdown began, the numbers '60, 59, 58, 57' going through one ear and spinning around in my mind like a carousel. I was extremely 'sweaty'. The drops of salty sweat falling down my pale cheeks and dripping down my chin. I was standing on a large circle, stone pillar, but I wouldn't dare step off it. I didn't really feel like having my legs blown off by explosive landmines. ^{Countdown happening} ~~Still~~ twenty five seconds left. My leg began bouncing. I was shaking in fear. Ten, nine, eight - my teeth were chattering but I forced myself to get into a sprinting position. Seven, six, five, four. I was just about ready to run for my life but my eyes got locked onto a medium sized rucksack further onto the field.

It was 20 seconds before we can run. I have to go get weapon but my grand nodded no so we started killing people. Someone grabs a bag so did I. Someone tried to hit me but he died. Gave a girl with growing knives then she attacked me. So then I ran for my life. A few seconds later I run into someone and I kept running.

Rhys:

Year 10 students have been working on A Christmas Carol (Novella written by Charles Dickens). Mr Whitaker's 10.1 class have been challenged to write about key themes within the text and to use higher-tier vocabulary when articulating their essay responses. The student examples below demonstrate excellent engagement with the novel and show some fantastic language analysis.

Sadie:

Ignorance and Want

How does Dickens use the characters 'Ignorance and Want' to emphasise to the Victorian reader that they must change their ways?

First of all, Dickens uses the way Ignorance and Want were described to convince the reader that they need to change their ways, when Scrooge tried to say they were fine children but the words choked themselves. This reaction from Scrooge suggests that he was shocked by their appearance meaning that Ignorance and Want were in an appalling state. The adjective 'fine' suggests that Scrooge was realizing that he needed to change, and he was starting to which highlights the importance that the Victorian readers need to start taking care of others in society, and especially the less fortunate. Furthermore, the personification, 'choked' implies how drastic the children's appearance was and consequently leading to the change in Scrooge's personality as he cannot lie anymore towards them anymore. This significantly demonstrates how the rich people in society need to change their ways and how everyone has the responsibility to look after others in society. Dickens uses Scrooge's reaction to emphasise to the Victorian reader that they are causing them to look this way and is describing how they are treated. Lower class in the Victorian Society were treated.



Department Highlights:



Science:

This Spring term the Science Department have been incredibly proud of all the hard work that students put in every day with their schoolwork, practical lessons and homework which has resulted in some amazing results in the KS3 assessments. Students have not only shown resilience and tenacity during the Covid - 19 pandemic but many have also managed to translate this into excellent assessment scores. Mrs Newey and Mrs Wilcox had a busy few days getting all those praise postcards written and handed out to all the top scoring students! Well done to everyone involved.

As always practical lessons have been a key part of the Science curriculum this term with all year groups getting a chance to get hands on in the labs with heart dissections, testing for enzymes, investigating rates of reaction, testing the pH of everyday household substances... too many practicals to mention, but all FUN!

The BIG NEWS this term is the launch of the new STEMillions Club launched to address the disparity between the number of males and females accessing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers. Now year 9 and 10 girls are gathering after school to explore careers in STEM and the female role models who are doing it. The photos show STEMillions researching an inspirational lady called Anne-Marie Imafidon, the founder of [STEMettes](#).

Keep up to date with Telford Park Science activities on Twitter @TelfordParkSci



Food Technology:

We have had a really busy half term, Year 11 have been completing their coursework assignment and Year 10 have been building their culinary skills by making delicious skilled dishes including carbonara, brownies and pasta bake. After half term we will be looking forward to celebrating shrove Tuesday by making pancakes yum!



Department Highlights:

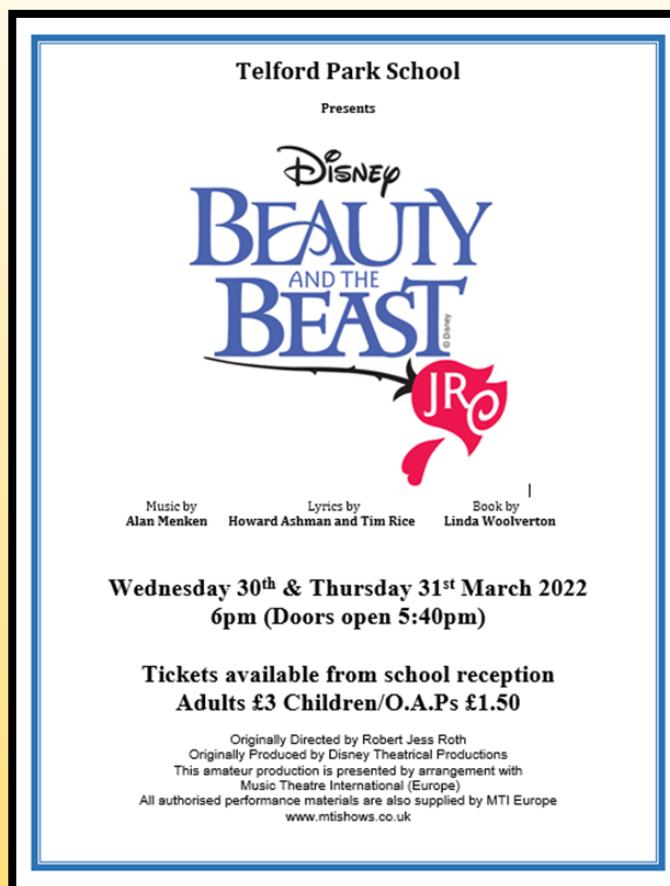


Performing Arts:

Beauty and the Beast:

Rehearsals are in full swing as we head towards our exciting performances.

Our whole school production of Disney's Beauty and Beast will take place in school on Wednesday 30th March and Thursday 31st March. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased by collecting a ticket order form from Mrs Bradburn. Existing tickets for the original dates in 2020 remain valid and you will be contacted with regards to which of the performance evenings you plan to attend. If your child is part of the cast, please encourage them to attend all rehearsals. A copy of the rehearsal timetable is available on the school website and also on your child's Performing Arts channel on Microsoft Teams.



Telford Sings:

Students from Telford Park School have been rehearsing and learning new songs in preparation for Telford Sings, an event taking place on 2nd March. Several primary and secondary schools across Telford are working in partnership with Lichfield Cathedral School as part of the MusicShare programme, independently rehearsing in school and joining together for one large performance that will take place at The Place, in Oakengates.

Textiles Workshops & Fashion Show

Year 8 students are continuing their work with Roz, our fashion designer where they are up-cycling garments in the theme of Circus and Extravaganza in preparation for a final fashion show that will take place in March. 3 secondary schools and 2 primary schools are jointly participating in this project and will share each other's collections at the final show. Students have been learning new textiles skills such as sewing and shibori whilst developing creativity and a sense of individuality.



Department Highlights:



Year 11 Performing Arts Devising Workshop Paperbirds:

In January, Year 11 Drama students participated in a practical workshop with Evie from the Paperbirds Devising Company where she introduced them to various methods and activities that could be used when creating their own pieces of drama. Students really enjoyed this 2 hour workshop and created some very imaginative and entertaining pieces of work. Year 11 students are currently working on their own devised piece in preparation for their final performance exams.



Arts Award:

Telford Park School is now offering students the opportunity to gain an extra qualification in the Arts. Arts Award (Bronze) has now been introduced to Year 8 students and encourages students to develop their creativity and individual interests in the Arts in a variety of forms. Students can access the Arts through a wide range of activities such as the Performing Arts (singing, music, dance, drama, musical theatre), the Visual arts, craft and design (drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, textiles, printmaking, fashion, design, architecture), Literature (poetry, fiction, journalism, scriptwriting, storytelling), Digital & Media ('digital making' using code, photography, film, video, broadcasting, web design, multimedia games design) and Heritage activities (such as visits and arts related workshops & projects). This is a project based qualification, equivalent to Level 1, where students plan and carry out their own journey, recording evidence along the way by means of a portfolio. This qualification is supported by Arts Council England.

Please see Mrs Bradburn if you are interested or would like any more information (years 8 and above)



Dates for your diary:

All years (choir only) Telford Sings March 2nd

Beauty and the Beast March 30th and 31st

Year 7 Gangsta Granny Trip to Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury March 17th

Year 8 Arts Celebration event (Textiles) March 15th

Year 8 and 9 Mamma Mia trip to Regent Theatre in Stoke May 18th

Year 10 GCSE Music We Will Rock You trip to Regent Theatre in Stoke March 9th