

# TARPORLEY NEWS

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## A MESSAGE FROM MR DEAKIN:

Dear Parents and Carers, I write at the end of a relatively short half-term, one that is four weeks and four days long. And yet, when I look below at all the content of this newsletter and reflect on all the activities I have observed recently, it's clear that our students are cramming a lot into their lives. An elderly relative used to say to me, "Keep busy. Busy people get even more done". At the time, I used to think that was a fairly obvious thing to say! But I see now that the word "even" was the key word in that adage. When students are committed to events beyond their classes and beyond school, when parents and carers support them and when teachers, coaches or group-leaders add their expertise, there is a cumulative effect far greater than one person working alone. Through these activities students learn the skills of time-management, working with others and the resilience that comes with being committed to an endeavour over time. And so, they do get even more out of life. I hope you enjoy reading about their successes.



At the end of March, along with Mrs Nutton, Mrs Gildea and Mr Bowland, 30 Year 11 students spent a wonderful weekend in Paris exploring many of Paris' iconic landmarks, developing their understanding of French culture, and most importantly speaking French! Students had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the French revolution and the legacy it has left on modern France by exploring the Château de Versailles. They climbed the 674 steps to the second floor of the Eiffel Tower and enjoyed the view at the top and they also spent many a happy moment in Pâtisseries, as well as at a local market, ordering their cakes in French and experiencing a real sense of achievement when the Parisians spoke back to them in French!



This is an exciting time for the Smart Council at Tarporley High School. We have a newly elected Communications Team who are eager to support their peers in sharing their voices and making our school an even better place! Their first class meeting of the term will be asking students to vote on a fundraising event that will take place in the summer term and raise money for our chosen charity, Macmillan. The options are a fun run, a teacher chess competition, a Great British Bake-Off cake sale, a karaoke/Stars in their Eyes challenge or a Lip sync battle. How exciting!

A selection of Year 11 Art & Design pupils recently took part in the annual Art residential at the Conway Centre, Anglesey. It was an exciting opportunity for pupils to immerse themselves in a weekend of creativity.

The students spent the weekend working alongside other talented pupils from across the county with lead art teachers from local schools.

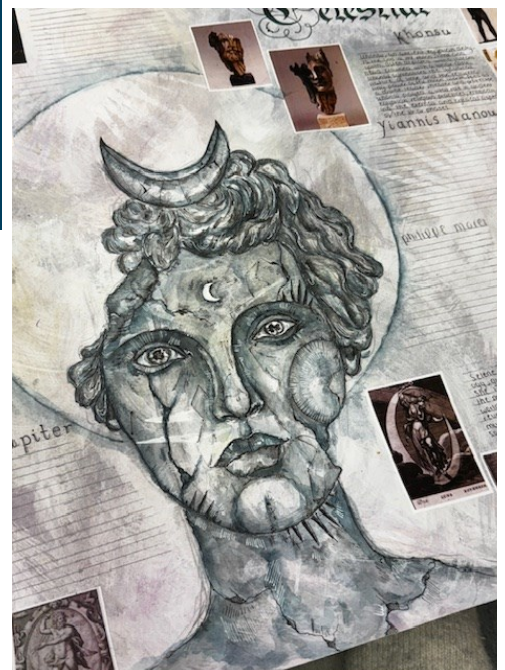
This year pupils were challenged to explore the notion of celestial producing work which varied from painting, drawing and sculpture.

Mr Bowland led a workshop centred on Celestial Deities, whilst Mrs Almond worked produced a fallen angel sculpture.

Mr Bowland said of the experience, 'As always our pupils astound me with their endless talents and exceptional work ethic. To work alongside artists is an intimidating prospect but our group of artists conduct themselves with self-assurance and integrity and always rise to the highest of challenges. I could not be prouder of what our young artists have produced this weekend and cannot wait to see how their artistic talents mature.'



Bella has recently raised £125 for Tourettes Action by raffling off her latest mixed media artwork that she has produced. 25 people paid £5 each for the chance to own this beautiful picture and all of this money went to Tourettes Action.



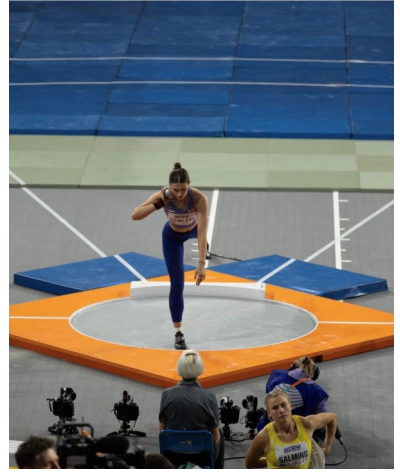
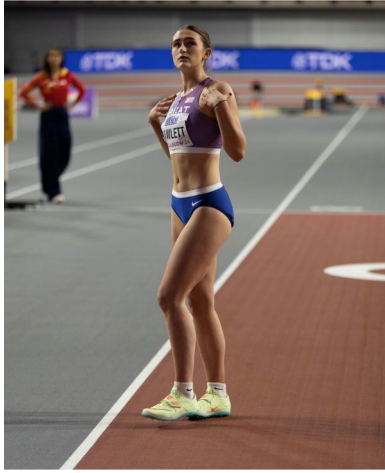
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A Senior Global International selection for Great Britain; former pupil Abi Pawlett competed at the World Indoor Athletics Championships in Glasgow in March. She was selected by GB one week prior to competing in the pentathlon against some of the greatest multi event athletes in the world.

The selection was not part of this year's indoor plan for her but when it came, it was an honour and huge privilege, not to mention unbelievable experience. It came after Abi competed in sprint hurdles at the British Championships and British Universities with a time of 8.17 to rank no 1 in the UK in the under 23 age group and 3rd in the UK as an open age senior.

With only one week to prepare, training for a pentathlon was not what it would normally be, but regardless, Abi travelled to Glasgow with Team GB and competed in sprint hurdles, high jump, shot put, long jump and 800m and finished 9th in a World final.

An invaluable experience and motivation to gain further senior international selections.



Carys and Chloe W are talented rugby players who have made a significant impact in the regional tournament this year while playing for RC/North Wales. They displayed exceptional skills and determination, leading their team to an undefeated season. This remarkable achievement made history as it was the first time an RGC team had accomplished such a feat in the tournament.

Throughout the season, Carys, and Chloe showcased their abilities by consistently outperforming their opponents. They demonstrated their prowess by defeating formidable teams like Cardiff Blues, Dragons, Ospreys, and Scarlets. Their contributions played a crucial role in securing victory in all their fixtures. In addition to their success in the regional tournament, both Carys and Chloe are members of the Welch PDC, a platform that recognises girls with exceptional talent. This recognition sets them on a path to potentially represent Wales seniors in the future.

Chloe, in particular, deserves a special mention for her outstanding performance. Despite being only 15 years old, she competes in the under-18 Rugby category, showcasing her exceptional skills and determination. With her remarkable progress, it is hopeful that Chloe will follow in her sister's footsteps and earn an opportunity to represent Wales next year.



The Young Writer's Club submitted and have been selected to be published in The Young Writer's competition 'The Glitch'. Their short, 100-word stories centered on alternate realities where something has gone wrong or 'glitched'. For example, one student wrote about a disappearing population with the ring of a mysterious bell. They are pictured here with their 'talent for writing' certificates.

Next, some have entered in The Young Writer's poetry competition 'Through their eyes' where they have written poems from the perspective of someone or something else.

Well done, Young Writer's Club!

Carys (13VB) has just successfully represented England at the Swedish Grand Prix in a swimming event run by DISE (Diploma in Sporting Excellence). Firstly, she beat off tough competition to be selected. She then went on to represent our country in a 72-strong field, including swimmers from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Carys also managed to shave significant time off her personal best in 50 freestyle, and also competed in 100 freestyle and the 4 x 100 relay, in which her team placed second.





## The Institute of Engineering: Faraday Challenge

Thirty Six students from year 8 participated in the Institute of Engineering and Technology Faraday Challenge to find the best solution to an engineering and electronics challenge. The winning Tarpорley team 2 who impressed the judges with their ideas and presentation skills. Their final score in them in the top 35 schools nationally. "Every team worked so well together, only hearing the brief in the morning, the organisers were very complimentary of our Pupils" Mrs Almond STEM Co-ordinator.



## Year 10 Design Careers workshop

A group of inspiring designers from Year 10 GCSE DT classes took part in an inspirational workshop with local Artist and illustrator Luke Crump. The hands-on session allowed students to explore ideas and methods to generating ideas. Luke talked about his career from being an apprentice to projects he has works on as a full-time designer and artist.

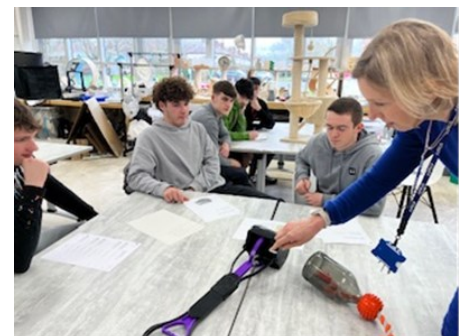
## STEM is the Answer – Lego Robotics Days

We were delighted to host two Lego Robotics days this term with year 9 and year 12 students. The tasks set addressed real-world challenges, with a focus on green energy and sustainability, all activities allowed pupils to develop their creativity through LEGO building activities centered around sustainable design. Fostering critical thinking and innovation through problem-solving, programming and coding robotics equipment.



## Chester University Design workshop

The University of Chester Design faculty invited year 13 DT students into experience an inspiring design workshop. An opportunity to tour the facilities, meet undergraduates, experience an afternoon as a student at the University. It was great to see former A level Design student at the University and hear about his first year experiences on his degree course.



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## Girls Bentley

On international Women's day, three year 13 students were invited to take part in the "Girls into Bentley Experience Day". The day involved a site tour, factory tour, hands on experiences in production and talks from inspiring women who work in STEM industries and Bentley Motors. The focus for the day was careers, apprenticeships and opportunities for all.



## FI in Schools Regional Finals

Tarporley High School took three teams to the regional finals of the FI in Schools STEM Challenge on January 30th. Velocity, Palace Racing and The Fearsome4 took on another 30 teams from schools across the North West at Bolton University.

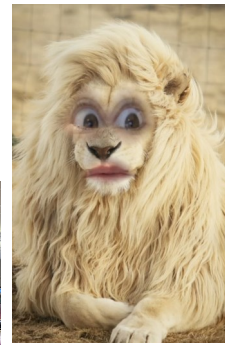
Across the day each team delivered a verbal presentation, discussed their engineering and design portfolio with engineering students and, of course, raced the cars they had built over the last year. Palace Racing were fastest in their class on the day, but a minor issue with the car meant they were unable to take away the award.

Mr Nieroda, one of Tarporley's STEM Leaders said "The pupils were exemplary in their approach to the event. They took on each challenge as a team and thoroughly enjoyed the day"



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Students from Year 7, 8 and 9 have been getting solid results over the last few weeks in the Concrete Carving Club! Starting with a big block of aerated concrete, they have been using saws, chisels and other equipment to sculpt a range of chunky creations, inspired by everything from Easter island to tiki culture. If anyone is interested in joining us after school on Tuesdays, please see Mrs Westerside-Downes.



It's been a busy term in the library this month with our ACORN reading sessions, 6th Form Reading Buddies, Book Clubs and of course World Book Day! We are so lucky to have a permanent library on-site and it is a place of reading, learning and quiet sanctuary for all of our students. World Book Day took place on the 7th March and students were treated to a 'Masked Reader' competition – there were lots of giggles as students had to guess the teacher and the book! In addition to we also ran book review competitions and all students were offered book vouchers! Throughout this term our Yr 7s and 8s have been spending time in the library selecting books and having a good old read in addition to reading their ACORN book along with their tutor! On Thursdays, our wonderful 6th Formers have devoted their tutor times to sitting with our Yr 7s and supporting them in their reading – our readers are making great progress and some friends for life! Don't forget that the library is open during holidays, so please pay us a visit and pick up some holiday reading!



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Emily is part of the England Roses u19 netball Pathway squad that travelled last year to Tobago to compete at the Commonwealth Youth Games but her attention this year is strictly focused on playing in the English Netball Premier League for Oldham. Having won the title last year, there is just one game left to play in this year's campaign. Emily also plays for Manchester Thunder in the NPL league with a tough game to come in two weeks time against Loughborough Lightning.



We have some great news to share with you all. You may have come across 2 of our Associate Teachers who are working towards their Post Graduate Certificate in Education with us here at The Sandstone Trust:- Miss Ellams in DT Textiles and Mrs Shareef in Physics. We are delighted to announce that they have both now secured their first teaching roles ready for September. Miss Ellams will be joining the Team at Sir Thomas Boteler CofE High School in Warrington and Mrs Shareef will be starting at the Chesterton Community Sports College in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

They have both worked extremely hard during their time with us and at 2 of our Partner Schools in Chester and Malpas, gaining valuable experience towards their Qualified Teacher Status which will be awarded at the end of the Course in June. We are extremely proud of them and also to have been part of their journey in to the Teaching Profession.

We would like to thank all our Colleagues here at Tarporley for the time they have invested with Miss Ellams and Mrs Shareef in helping them to achieve their goals. We are certain they will go on to become an inspiration to the Students in their new schools in September.

If anyone would like more information on our Initial Teacher Training Courses, please visit our section on The Sandstone Trust website:-

<https://www.sandstonetrust.co.uk/trust-information/initial-teacher-training.php>

January 2024 started with a busy schedule in the library with the continuation of book clubs held over three lunch breaks per week, each group currently reading the book, *Tyger*, by SF Said. On a fortnightly rotation, each Year 7 and Year 8 Tutor times are held in the library where the students are either reading for pleasure, or Tutors are reading to the students.

January was also an opportunity to mark Holocaust Memorial Day with a wide range of holocaust books available for all reading ages to develop their understanding of this important commemorative day.

February brought the celebration of LGBT+ History Month with plenty of information displays and relevant books on display

We also celebrated the Chinese New Year on 10th February with some fantastic Year of the Dragon drawings completed by a few Year 9 students.

March has been a busy month in the library honouring Women's History Month, Welsh authors for St David's Day, Irish authors for St Patrick's Day, and last but not least celebrating World Book Day on the 7th March.

This is a big event on the library calendar, with plenty of prizes and competitions won. Each tutor group played "The Masked Reader" video where students had to determine which teacher was masked, and what book they were discussing. The big reveal was most enjoyable!

Librarian Mrs Parkinson and Assistant Mrs Brownrigg surprised the students with a Cat In The Hat themed dress-up!

