

TOLWORTH SPOTLIGHT



90TH ANNIVERSARY

Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form celebrates **90** Years of excellence

PFA - MEMORIAL BENCHES

In loving memory of David Flood,
Paul Thompson & Sean Pollard



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a Merry Christmas

& A HAPPY NEW YEAR



HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parent/Carer

I have some time reflecting on my Headship as this is the last newsletter that I will have the privilege of writing. I looked back at my first ever one and although in post for a Year I had just been appointed into the permanent post and shared my excitement and my delight at securing the position. I am still just as excited and also just as delighted to have been the Headteacher of this amazing school.

It is so hard to describe Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form. It is a school, we teach lessons, we deal with teenagers and young people and we work with parents, Governors and our local community but Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form is much more than that. I think the X Factor, the added ingredient at Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form is that we are a family, so what is a family....

The purpose of the family is to maintain the well-being of its members and of society. Ideally, families offer predictability, structure, and safety as members mature and learn to participate in the community.

I believe that we do all of this and more at Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form. We also really care about our young people and show them on a daily basis just how important they really are. Like any family, we do make mistakes. On occasions some of the family can feel alone, scared, isolated, and angry and we can't keep everyone happy and provide what is needed, but we really do try our best. Our students are so incredibly lucky to be part of this family and we are also so lucky to be able to watch them grow and evolve into opinionated, funny, confident, happy teenagers and young people - and provide the support they need as they 'find themselves'.

I will miss Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form. It has become such a part of my life and to quote a previous Headteacher from her leaving speech

'I wish I was young enough to start all over again, and that if I'll be as happy in my retirement, as I have been in my work, I'll be very happy indeed.'

I am so very grateful and honoured to have been given this position and Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form will always have a special place in my heart, I will miss it madly but.... I will not miss the constant scrabbling around to make ends meet and a feeling that education is not valued or cared about by the powers that be. I will not miss seeing staff struggle financially because they are not paid an appropriate salary for the job that they do. I will not miss the constant fear of Ofsted and all that they bring to the table. I will not miss the bureaucracy, the paperwork or the constant overload of information that we receive on a daily basis But I will really miss the people, the family - the interaction with our students, the chats, the gossip, the banter. I will miss the staff, their commitment, their hard work and their care and dedication is beyond compare. I will miss my early morning starts and a feeling that on most days I have made some sort of difference and spent time with some inspirational people. I will miss meeting you out and about and in the oddest of places. I will miss seeing former Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form students and their joy when they speak about their love of the school and being a part of our extended family. I will miss it all really and whilst excited to explore the next part of my life journey I am also so very sad.

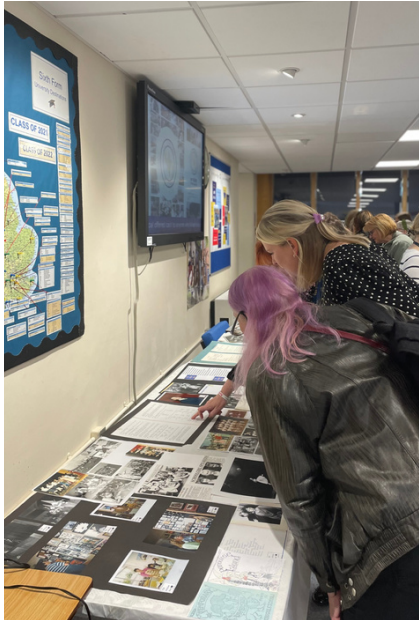
I hope that you have a wonderful holiday, keep well, keep warm, keep happy and one bit of advice, love the time you get to have with family..... It is so very special.

Yours faithfully

Siobhán Lowe

Siobhán Lowe
Headteacher

90TH ANNIVERSARY



"Just to say thank you so much for arranging such a fabulous afternoon yesterday! You, your colleagues and the students made it so special with cherished memories, delicious tea, catching up with great friends and chatting with some delightful current members of Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form . All in all it was a wonderful event and a privilege to have been there. I hope, pray and trust that Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form continues to go from strength to strength in its future! Thank you too for your kindness and efficient help for me personally."

Teresa



It was such a joy to see former colleagues and students who visited us on Friday 11 November 2022 for our 90th celebration tea.

This picture is of the past, present and future Headteacher of Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form, Ms Williams was delighted to return to the school and see that at its heart it was still the same school but it had grown and evolved over time.

We were so lucky to have kept so much of the artefacts from the last 90 years and almost every year had pictures, photos and log books to reflect that time in the school. We put all of these memories on display in the foyer and it was so wonderful to see our students poring over the old photos and giggling at 'what used to be'.....

They were also trying to spot mums, nans and aunties too and there were lots of squeals of delight when they finally found that special someone. Memories were shared and it was lovely to speak to those of you who visited and hear your stories and that you still think of yourself as a 'Tolworth Girl'.



Live music performed by
Yoonji, Maddy and Derin
Thank you girls.

Our Year 11 students were wonderful guides and hosts and they really enjoyed hearing about skirt lengths and the rules that used to be in place as well as the 'fun' that was had by our visitors. We are 90 years old, firmly rooted in our local community with history and traditions but we are preparing our students for the future and are a school that looks ever forward, evolving and continuing to educate our young people- *how lucky are we?*

By Mrs S Lowe

YEAR 7 NEWS

By Mr S Garnham

Year 7 have had a brilliant term to start of their time at Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form . So far this term, students have transitioned to life in secondary school very well. Lots of friendships have been made and the maturity you have shown has not gone unnoticed. We have had lots of fun so far this year at the Year 7 disco (including some questionable dance moves by form tutors), WSCD where students were taking part in languages and RS activities, and the inter-house netball competition. A big congratulations needs to go out to everyone in Year 7 for their hard work, resilience, and attitude to learning throughout this term. We are looking forward to enjoying some festive activities towards the end of this year, before enjoying a well-deserved break.



WSCD FLAMENCO DANCE & MUSIC WORKSHOP

By Miss C Whiteman

This half-term for Whole School Curriculum Day, Year 7 got to participate in a Flamenco Dance and Music Workshop where they learnt some key moves to accompany the wonderful flamenco song 'Verde Que Te Quiero Verde'. Students then had the chance to reflect on celebrations and customs across different cultures, before designing their own fabulous flamenco dresses. One of our students, Melek , said "I really enjoyed the workshop! It made me feel I could learn about and participate in another culture."



WSCD – MODEL-MOSQUES

By Ms S Currie

Friday 18th November saw our first Whole School Curriculum Day (WSCD) of the year. WSCDs are when the school goes off timetable for the day to do a range of activities.

In Religious Studies the activity was finding out about the mosque and its significance for the Islamic faith. Students learned how to recognise the inside and outside features and how each link back to prayer and a Muslim's devotion to Allah. From this, students divided into groups to make model-mosques and competed to represent their Tutor Groups for entry into the model-mosque competition. 16 model-mosques were entered.

Below (and opposite) are the winning three:

3rd place: Emily R, Wiki, Tiya, Deni and Matilda, **7 Opal**

2nd place: Ella, Jeffreet, Kiera, Angela and Leila, **7 Sapphire**

1st place: Zainab, Karina, Olivia L, Tehreem and Melek, **7 Jade**

Congratulations to all students for their enthusiasm, excellent team-work and fabulous creativity on the day. Much fun was had and the activity will serve them well when they begin their studies on Islam in Spring term.



Inter Faith
Week



INTERFAITH WEEK

By Ms S Currie

Inter Faith Week is a time each year across the UK when faith communities are encouraged to reach out to their community. How people of different faiths and beliefs get along is more important than ever and this special week brings a focus to that. This year's Interfaith Week offered a variety of activities for students of faith (or none) to be involved in:

- We had a religious artefacts quiz for students to test themselves on important items in religions
- Year 7 and Year 8 were invited to come to the department and have lunch while they discussed questions about their faith, their traditions and why it matters to them
- Our seniors were offered the chance of visiting the Philosophy Book Group to engage with some of the important ideas they have been discussing

We hope those that came found it beneficial and maybe some new interfaith friendships have been made.

YEAR 7 INTERHOUSE NETBALL TOURNAMENT

By Miss R Moher

Year 7 students who took part in the Netball Interhouse Tournament on Monday 14 November were fantastic and demonstrated skills of leadership, teamwork and resilience within the event. The overall winner was **7 Pearl**. The full results are as follows:



FORM

- 7A
- 7E
- 7G
- 7J
- 7O
- 7P
- 7S
- 7T

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- Misk
- Lina
- Olvina
- Hui
- Rachel
- Beth
- Erin
- Bella

SIXTH FORM PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- Lyla
- Isabella
- Annabelle
- Harriet
- Molly
- Ava
- Grace
- Sophia

YEAR 8 NEWS

By Miss H Clark

This term has been busy for Year 8 and it has been a genuine pleasure to start getting to know the Year Group better since taking on the role of their Head of Year. Our students have continued to work hard in their studies and should be praised for the progress they are making. At a time when they are about to start making important decisions about the next paths of their education, we are proud to see them preparing for this with such a level of maturity.

Students were involved in a fantastic Whole School Curriculum Day in November where they had the opportunity to either visit the Tower of London or learn about castles at school. A huge thanks goes to the History department for arranging such fantastic opportunities to deepen our learning and understanding in such a practical way.

On an extracurricular level it has been delightful to see members of our Year Group representing the school at a huge variety of sports and subjects. A big well done to all involved, in everything from the recent school production of School of Rock to the Year 8 Interhouse Netball tournament.

I wish you all a happy and restful Christmas and look forward to what 2023 will bring for Year 8.



WSCD
TOWER OF LONDON
By Mr N Cunningham

Whole School Curriculum Day saw our Year 8s returning to a Tolworth favourite - the Tower of London! For many students this was their first trip into old London so taking in some of the sites along the way including the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, the London Eye and The Cheese Grater was a particular highlight even before arriving at the iconic Tower of London. The sun always seems to shine on the Tower of London for our trips, and this year was no different. The rain stayed away and the sun even came out to warm us up! Student favourites on the day included:



- The Torture Room, including seeing The Rack where Guy Fawkes and other plotters over the years have been 'forcibly questioned'
- Traitors Gate, where prisoners, including princess Elizabeth, were brought to the Tower via the Thames
- Seeing the exact spot where (the skeletons of who we think were) the Princes in the Tower were found in 1674
- The wonderful White Tower built by William the Conqueror, where every king and queen since has walked
- The Bloody Tower where students marvelled at Walter Raleigh's graffiti
- Henry VIII's different suits of armour
- Death masks of William the Conqueror, Henry V, Charles I and Edward III
- The finest collection of jewellery anywhere in The world - The Crown Jewels
- The brilliant Beefeaters
- The ravenous ravens!! (who again startled our girls during lunch)

All in all, a perfect day all round for everyone. A massive thank you to Mr Dixon for organising the day and making sure everything ran smoothly, as well as all the members of staff who kept a watchful eye over our brilliantly behaved girls!



CHRISTMAS CARDS COMMUNITY PROJECT

This delightful Christmas card designed by *Manahil in 8E* was selected for a very special community project. RBKares asked us if we would like to be involved in their 'Warmer in Winter' project. RBKares, a local charity have been busy preparing gift bags for the vulnerable residents in care homes in our borough and asked us if we would like to get involved by making and writing them a Christmas card. Minahil's illustration of a Tolworth Girl student at Christmas seemed perfect for this project. 200 cards have been printed and Year 8 have each written a festive message to be received by a care resident in the borough.

SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS VESSELS A BODY OF WORK BY YEAR 8

In this last term Year 8 have been looking at telling a story through ceramics. They took initial inspiration from the Willow Pattern, an 18th century tableware design which tells an ancient fairy tale through its imagery. Year 8 have learnt how artist Paul Scott subverts traditional tableware decoration to highlight issues that matter to him and have replicated this process in their own work. The vessel form and personal themes in Grayson Perrys work influenced many to carefully consider a meaningful topic.

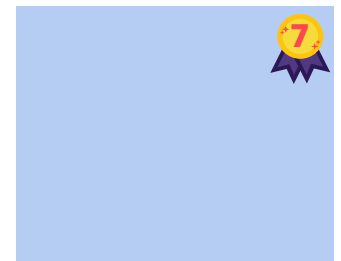
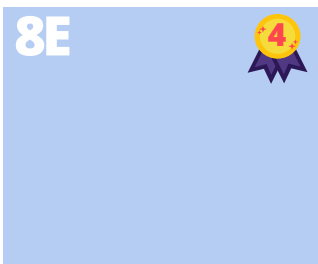
Students have produced designs highlighting issues which matter to them including the war in Ukraine, the loss of bees from our environment, the flooding of Pakistan, global warming, female rights in America and Black Lives Matter. What fabulous, conscientious Year 8s we have!



YEAR 8 INTERHOUSE NETBALL TOURNAMENT

By Miss R Moher

Year 8 students who took part in the Netball Interhouse Tournament on Monday 21 November were fantastic and demonstrated skills of leadership, teamwork and resilience within the event. The overall winner was **8 Pearl**. The full results are as follows:



FORM

- 8A
- 8E
- 8G
- 8J
- 8O
- 8P
- 8S
- 8T

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- Emily
- Teona
- Annie
- Freya
- Tia
- Chloe
- Macie
- Callie-Mae

SIXTH FORM PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- Evelyn
- Bella
- Emily
- Chloe
- Freya
- Sara
- Sophie
- Evie

YEAR 9 NEWS

By Miss T Das

Dear Year 9 students and families

Our Year 9 students have had a very busy Autumn term at Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form. Students have started their GCSE and BTEC courses. They are also enjoying an enriched curriculum by means of the carousel of 9 week courses in Mandarin, Musical Theatre, STEAM (technology and the environment projects) and ICT.

In October, all Year 9 students were ambassadors for the school, showing prospective families and students around on Open Evening – my thanks for their support on the evening.

Year 9 students have been offered a host of different extra curricular activities and it is a pleasure to see our students thriving in clubs such as Creative Writing, editing the Windmill Newsletter, Drama, Book Club, Italian Club, Maths Stretch and Support Club, the Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form choir and band, ukulele club, the Harry Potter club, chess club, Q club, PE & Dance, Photography club and exhibiting their art work at the CornerHouse Arts centre for charity.

Alice W, Sadia A, Yushan Y and Kimberley D represented Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form at the recent Model United Nations conference by Lady Eleanor Holles school in Hampton. 9 Topaz are our reigning champions, winning the interhouse netball tournament and several Year 9 students successfully participated in the Wimbledon Ball Girls' trials. Trials took place for the Borough cross country competition which was held on Wednesday 23 November.

A significant number of Year 9 students were involved in the hugely popular production of School of Rock both on stage and behind the scenes as part of the production crew.

Our Whole School Curriculum day was organised jointly by the Science and Geography departments with a focus on our environment as well as exploring planet Mars.

As we reach the end of term, we are celebrating the festive holidays with Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch, the big fat Xmas quiz and a carol service. Equally importantly, we are running a reverse advent calendar and my thanks to every family for your generous contributions of item which will go to local food banks on the last day of term.

We return to school on Tuesday 3 January for another jam packed term, including Assessment Fortnight starting on Monday 23 January. Our next WSCD will be focussing on careers. If there any parents or carers who would be willing to discuss their careers with our students, I would love to hear from you.

Last, but not least, Year 9 students would like to say a very special 'thank you' and wish Mrs Lowe all the very best in her new adventures. She has led the school from strength to strength and we are grateful for her guidance, kindness and enormous amount of work making our school community what it is today.

Wishing you and your families a special, relaxing and happy Christmas break and a happy new year.

Ms Das & the Year 9 pastoral team

WSCD

DID YOU KNOW THE FIRST PEOPLE TO LIVE ON MARS HAVE ALREADY BEEN BORN?

By Miss E Parker

There are many organisations throughout the world working hard to plan a Mars colonisation. But there is a lot of work to be done to make this a reality. Maybe by the time humans first set foot on Mars, you will be among them!

During Year 9 Whole School Curriculum Day on Friday 18 November, we were fortunate enough to welcome Colin Stuart, an award-winning astronomy author and speaker who has talked to half a million people about the universe. In recognition of his work to popularise astronomy, the asteroid (15347) Colinstuart is named after him.

Students were then tasked with both designing and building a possible habitat for humans to live in on Mars and creating their own mini-ecosystem that will support the survival of the crew on board the shuttle to Mars.

A successful day was had by all and we were so impressed with the creativity and thoughtfulness of our Year 9 students.



ISSP SCIENCE DAY AT HAMPTON SCHOOL

By Miss E Parker

The Independent State Secondary Partnership (ISSP) was established to link Hampton School and LEH with five local state secondary schools. The partnership schools run a range of days for Gifted and Talented students from different year groups in a variety of subjects. Most recently, students in Year 9 were asked to participate in a very successful Science Day at Hampton School. Here is what our students had to say:

'I learnt a lot of things during the trip. I learnt that one catalase molecule can break down 200,000 molecules of hydrogen peroxide every second and I learnt all about the Archimedes Principle.'

'I really enjoyed the trip. It was great to get to collaborate with people from different schools.'

'I had a wonderful time at Hampton, learning about the different sciences and doing different experiments. The sessions were fun and engaging and the many experiments helped explain a lot of difficult things making them easier to understand. I also made some new friends which was nice. Overall, I had a great day, and I would love to do something like this again!'



SHINE BRIGHT CHARITY FASHION SHOW

We were delighted to be able to support a new local charity Shine Bright UK when they contacted us about a charity fashion and talent show at the Hawker Centre, Kingston in November. Our Year 9 Textile students had just completed their latest project on upcycled denim garments and we thought these would fit perfectly into their sustainable theme. The students created their upcycled designs using hand embroidery and applique to embellish denim jeans, jackets or upcycled the denim into bags. Shine Bright UK are a new local charity supporting mental health and wellbeing in Kingston. It was great to see the student's work being celebrated and to be part of this great new initiative.



LINO PRINTS SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

In September the Art Department were asked if we could help out with a charity event in support of Kingston Hospital Bereavement department. On the evening of 1 Saturday October the local community got together for a A Night to Remember, a special charity walk that offered family and friends the chance to come together to celebrate the life of a loved one whilst walking through the night. The sponsorship raised would help improve the care Kingston Hospital is able to provide to bereaved families. After working with RBKares on an earlier project they knew how incredible the Hamsa design lino prints were made by our Year 8 students in 2021 and asked if we could re-print some for the walkers, to write a memory or share a story on at the start of the race.



Mrs Billingsley printed up 200 lino prints as postcards and these were displayed on a memory tree and are now on display in the chapel at Kingston Hospital. How lovely to see the students beautiful designs have a life after the classroom. Visitors to the chapel comment on how lovely the idea and designs are. Well done everyone involved.



YEAR 9 INTERHOUSE NETBALL TOURNAMENT

By Miss R Moher

Year 9 students who took part in the Netball Interhouse Tournament on Wednesday 16 November were fantastic and demonstrated skills of leadership, teamwork and resilience within the event. The overall winner was **9 Topaz**. The full results are as follows:



FORM

9A
9E
9G
9J
9O
9P
9S
9T

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Soraiya
Jess
Amelia
Sadia
Annabelle
Isabelle
Isla
Bea

SIXTH FORM PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Brianna
Ella
Scarlett
Laila
Katie
Sophie
Belles
Daisy

YEAR 10 NEWS

By Miss E Munt

Year 10 have been working hard across the autumn term to strengthen and develop their leadership skills, through the Lead Learners Programme. Students have focused on our core year Group values of confidence, resilience, ambition, courage and kindness. Year 10 students have also been working collaboratively, in their Community Leadership Projects, creating formal proposals to improve different aspects of our school and local communities. The top 8 projects will be presented to Year 11 community prefects for their consideration. Students have also shown off their creative flare during the English and Computing initiative, for Whole School Curriculum Day, where they transformed their poetry analysis into various forms of digital media. The standard of work produced was exceptional and clearly demonstrated the wide range of skills which our students possess. Year 10 are starting to look ahead to the new year and preparing themselves for their first Assessment Fortnight of the year. As a Year Group we will be focusing on positive habits for our remaining weeks to put students in good stead to achieve their best in January.



BIMA DAY

Year 10 feedback

"It was a really good way to interact with people and learn how to work together as a team. Really inspired us to try out new skills."



"BIMA was an incredible insight because i learnt new path ways in IT and i enjoyed being partnered with my friends and being able to be creative and think outside of the box for the day. It was an amazing day which made me think of different pathways for my future careers. "

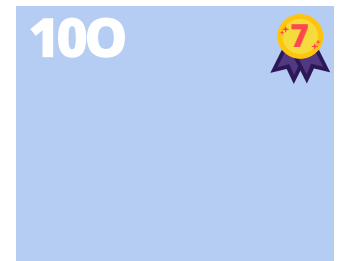


"On BIMA day, we worked in small groups, which helped us develop our collaboration skills, to create sustainable ways to further develop well-known businesses with the help of people within the Tech industry. Towards the end of the day we pitched our ideas to the class; which helped us get a glimpse of what people in the Tech industry do on a daily basis"

YEAR 10 INTERHOUSE NETBALL TOURNAMENT

By Miss R Moher

Year 10 students who took part in the Netball Interhouse Tournament on Wednesday 23 November were fantastic and demonstrated skills of leadership, teamwork and resilience within the event. The overall winner was **10 Emerald**. The full results are as follows:



FORM

- 10A
- 10E
- 10G
- 10J
- 10O
- 10P
- 10S
- 10T

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- Jessica
- Maisy
- Olivia
- Maddison
- Chloe
- Simreen
- Varshaa

SIXTH FORM PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- Nadine
- Izzy
- Abigail
- Amy
- Caitlin
- Megan
- Flo

YEAR 11 NEWS

By Mrs J Saseen

Year 11 have had a busy autumn term and students have been working extra hard in preparation for their mock examinations. Their Assessment Fortnight at the beginning of the term showed excellent progress across the board, with lots of students gaining '++' on their reports, showing that they are truly committed to getting the most out of all learning opportunities and demonstrating excellent initiative. They have also been excellent role models and ambassadors in their roles as prefects. They have conducted tours of the school worked with younger Years during tutorial and also supported at the 90th celebrations. They have also worked together excellently as Tutor Groups to start the fundraising for their prom! So far this term 11O, 11P, 11T, 11J have raised just under £2000 which is a great effort. Activities have ranged from sponge the teacher, a Halloween teacher costume catwalk, secret Christmas candy canes, teacher versus student bench ball and cinema lunches. We look forward to other Tutor Groups' fundraising activities next term and their efforts to beat our top fundraisers - 11 Pearl. We wish all of our Year 11 students a hard-earned rest over the Christmas period.



GCSE GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK

By Mrs A Lowe

On Monday 10 and Friday 14 October, Year 11 Geography students visited the coastal environment of West Wittering and East Head spit for their physical geography fieldwork component of their GCSE.

Students used a range of equipment and fieldwork techniques to collect data on the effectiveness of the coastal management strategies in place. The Geography Department were so impressed with the Year 11 students hard work and enthusiasm towards this part of their GCSE.



YEAR 12 NEWS

By Mrs L Viola, Head of Year 12

The Year 12 students have had a good start to their sixth form journey this year. We have been joined by a number of external students who have settled in well and made strong new friendships.

The focus for the first half term was on VESPA study skills, which helped to support the Year 12 students in transitioning into Key Stage 5 and gave them practical skills and strategies for managing their schoolwork, and setting short and long term goals for themselves. This half term we have focused on building supercurricular profiles and the Year 12 students have begun to explore their options for future directions after sixth form. We have been visited by external speakers from organisations such as UpTree and NCS, and our Careers Department has worked to provide some amazing presentations and resources on the support we offer students in preparing for their next steps. On Whole School Curriculum Day, the Year 12 students were given the opportunity to take part in supercurricular activities of their choice, such as work shadowing, online courses, visits to museums and exhibitions, talks and lectures and volunteering. It has also been pleasing to see the willingness of the Year 12 students to help out with assisting lower school students, and we currently have a group tutoring and mentoring Year 10 students in selected GCSE subjects, which has been a great success so far.

Overall I am proud of how the students have settled in and found their feet in Year 12, and look forward to seeing them go from strength to strength over the course of the year!

YEAR 13 NEWS

By Mr I Boyce, Head of Year 13

Year 13 students were excellent in Year 12 and the vast majority continue to impress now that they are in their final year of secondary education. As a whole they have proved to be a remarkably resilient group of students who are determined to achieve their best. Some students have already applied to university to study medicine, PPE, engineering and a range of challenging courses. By Wednesday 25 January the vast majority will have done so.

Those who do not go on to traditional higher education will inevitably succeed in their chosen path with the guidance of the fabulous sixth form team and superb careers advisors.

Our Head Student Team have impressed enormously this year with their determination, organisation and commitment. They have worked with their allocated Year Groups, spoken at Open Evenings and generally been a force for good. Many other students have contributed to increasing the presence of the Sixth Form in the rest of the school. The maturity and diligence demonstrated by the majority of students is superb. Keep up the good work and remember to be kind to each other and your future selves!



SCIENCE LIVE

Twenty-five Year 12 and Year 13 Biology students visited the Dominion Theatre for the Biology Live! event on Friday 18 November 2022. During the course of the day, they heard from five prominent scientists, Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore, Professor Lord Robert Winston, Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, Doctor Adam Rutherford and Professor Alice Roberts, each of whom spoke about an area of cutting-edge scientific research. There were also sessions from OCR examiners, who provided advice, techniques and top-tips for tackling the A-level Biology papers. Students got a great deal out of the day and have highly recommended that we book next year for all three Science subjects as they valued the day so much.



Hannah (S10)

"It was fascinating to hear some of the latest research collide with our A-level curriculum. In particular, learning about the development of agriculture - the theory that it all began by accident - was intriguing, and all the speakers were engaging. From the genetics of royal families to the UK's COVID-19 response, I personally learnt so much from this experience and it has only encouraged me to look deeper into my Biology curriculum. As Professor Robert Winston said about Biology, something that particularly stuck with me, "Be prepared to be a bit bored, There will be some parts that are very interesting but the whole understanding is very important!"



A LEVEL & GCSE MUSIC STUDENTS AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN KINGSTON

By Mrs E Thompson



On Friday 7 October, a group of A-level and GCSE music students attended a classical concert at the United Reformed Church in Kingston. The recital was organised by the Arts Society Kingston and Strike a Chord Ltd who want to provide more opportunities for young people to experience live classical music. The programme consisted of some of the great composers including, Beethoven, Liszt and Ravel and the students were truly inspired by the phenomenal musicians from the Royal College of Music. The Arts Society are kindly funding another initiative later this year where our GCSE and A-level students will take part in a workshop at the Royal College.

ANNUAL CAROL CONCERT

On Thursday 8 December we held our annual Carol concert. This year we have over 130 students involved which included performances from our new ukulele club, bands, soloists and our amazing Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form choir! It was an opportunity to share the joy of Christmas with our school community and we are very proud of our students, their commitment, effort and passion!



SCIENTIST OF THE HALF TERM NOMINATIONS

Aim High

<i>Year 7</i>	<i>Ella</i>
<i>Year 8</i>	<i>Sigrid</i>
<i>Year 9</i>	<i>Defne</i>
<i>Year 10</i>	<i>Bethan</i>
<i>Year 11</i>	<i>Batol</i>
<i>Year 12</i>	<i>Faith</i>
<i>Year 13</i>	<i>Eleanna</i>

Be Brave

<i>Bethany</i>
<i>Tallulah</i>
<i>Ava</i>
<i>Hannah</i>
<i>Poppy</i>
<i>Matilda</i>
<i>Hannah</i>

Create Positivity

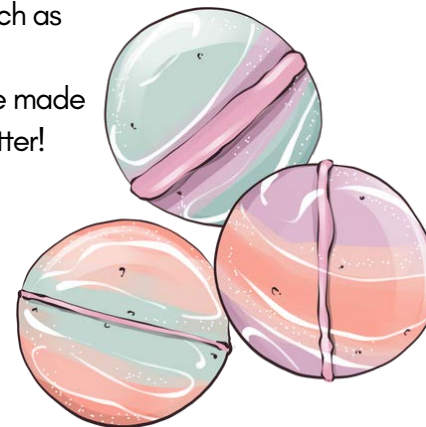
<i>Darcey</i>
<i>Zara</i>
<i>Lily</i>
<i>Olivia</i>
<i>Eisha</i>
<i>Imani</i>
<i>Nazli</i>

ECO-SCIENCE HEALTH & BEAUTY CLUB

By Miss C Martinez



The Eco-Science Health and Beauty Club centres around how we can make everyday health and beauty products from everyday natural resources! Not only is this more cost-effective but allows you to be more creative in personalising your products with the textures and scents you want. Our main focus in the club however, is how this is in fact far more sustainable and friendly for the environment. During the club we have investigated the negative impact of micro-bead plastics in lots of products and found suitable eco alternatives such as natural brown sugar to be used in body scrubs! Over the course of the term so far students have made bath bombs, lip balm, body scrubs and body butter!



YEAR 7 & YEAR 8 ANIMATION CLUB

Students have been exploring the history of moving image and different animation techniques. We started off the club by making the thaumatrope and our own zoetropes out of paper plates, these were both popular 19th century optical illusion toys that paved the way for moving image and animation.

After this we developed flipbooks, where we looked at drawn animation by generating a series of pictures that changed gradually so that when view in quick succession they appear to move. Finally, for the last week of term the girls will be exploring stop motion animation, creating short narratives using found objects in the classroom.



ANNUAL ED DAVEY CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Once again, Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form students have been successful in the Ed Davey annual Christmas card competition. The theme this year was entitled 'A Royal Christmas'. Antonia (8E) came 1st in the 11-15 age category with her corgi inspired design and Elora (7G) came 2nd in the same age group with her historic bauble Christmas tree idea.



Ed Davey MP
Member of Parliament for Kingston and Surbiton



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The following students were also 'highly commended' for their design: Chloe (8J), Jana (8J), Sara (8P), Skye (8E) and Sophie (7O). Well done to all those who entered the competition this year, the standard was high, so I am sure Ed Davey had a hard job selecting the winners!

YEAR 9 & YEAR 10 – MADRID TRIP SPANISH GCSE STUDENTS



On Wednesday 19 October, 20 Spanish GCSE students from Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form and 20 from Southborough High School went to Madrid for 5 days to do a Spanish exchange with host families. I was very nervous to meet my host partner, however when we landed in Madrid and they greeted us at the airport I was relaxed. I was so happy that she and her family were so welcoming as I was going to stay at her house for the 5 days. It was nice that the schools put us in touch with each other before going so we could get to know our exchange partner a bit before arriving. I loved all of the things we did. One day we went to get churros con chocolate and then we did a Bernabéu football stadium tour which everyone loved. We went shopping in the centre of Madrid with the school and our Spanish exchange friends. At the weekend we could all do something with our own exchange families. I went shopping and to a theme park with my host family. Others went to family gatherings, spent time with family friends, visited the mountains and sampled lots of Spanish home-cooked food. But this all had to come to an end sadly as we had to go home, but luckily, they are coming to visit us in June. The trip was such a good experience and it has made me improve my Spanish. I wish we could have the opportunity to do it all again!

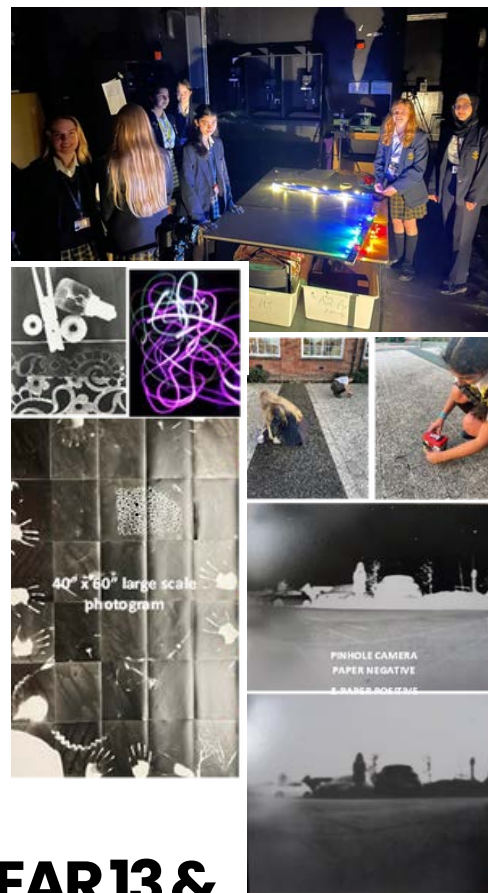
written by Mia in Year 10.

YEAR 9, 10 & 11 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Students have been exploring ways to create photographic imagery with and without using a camera. Students have been experimenting both in the darkroom using wet techniques to develop imagery as well as digitally.

We have created photograms to varying scales, making paper negative images of exterior scenes using slow shutter speeds with pinhole cameras, then developing them into paper positive prints. We have also continued exploring slow shutter speeds using a digital camera, capturing light trails through the lens.

Students have enjoyed exploring a range of photographic techniques and look forward to experimenting with projection and crystal ball photography next!



KINGSTON ARTS SOCIETY – YEAR 13 & YEAR 11 ART AT KINGSTON STATION



We were approached by Kingston Arts Society at the beginning of term about displaying some of our student's artwork at Kingston railway station as part of a national Arts Society scheme. We jumped at the chance to celebrate and share the work of our talented art students with the general public. Our small showcase includes four portrait studies made by GCSE Art students Jenny, Sophia, Isabella and Katie responding to the theme of identity. Inspiration came from a range of artists studied through the year leading to students devising their own designs.

We also included work made by our Year 13 A level Art, Photography and Textile students. Ella was fascinated by the packed streets of central London after being isolated in lockdown for so long; inspiring her to layer imagery to communicate the complex weave of people navigating the space. Lottie explored a range of digital manipulation techniques to intertwine an intriguing photographic design. Leah's mixed media textile work reflects the power of the BLM movement and the marches that took place across the world in 2021. Scarlett's powerful figure painting (the original is 5ft x 8ft) speaks of the weight and exhaustion of physical and mental disabilities.

The art work is still in situ in the waiting room at Kingston station so do please check it out when you are travelling by train.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY- CORNERHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE



The Art, Music and Dance Departments were delighted to be a part of the Celebrating Black History event at The cornerHOUSE Community Arts Centre in Douglas Road, Surbiton in October. The centre gave us the whole of their display space to celebrate the wonderful art work of our talented Art students. On display was a selection of Year 8 identity artworks inspired by the Black American artist Kehinde Wiley. Together with some striking artworks by GCSE and A-level Art and Textile students.



On Saturday 15 October the artworks complimented a day of events and performances including the Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form Choir and a recorded dance performance by Year 9 students. These all ran alongside performances by amazing poet Stephen Walrond, singer song writer Dread Fury, Kimberley's Royal Steel Band and an evening of free comedy supported by Whole Lotta Comedy. The enigmatic host Brandon Palmer really got the audience celebrating the wonderful performances.



Many thanks to Nicky Newberry and Elaine Blackmore for inviting us to take part and to the families who came along to support the event. We hope to continue this link for more events in the future.



SCHOOL OF ROCK

Miss B Davies - Teacher of Drama

Mrs E Thompson - Head of Music

Mr R Bastock - Teacher of Music

On Thursday 24 and Friday 25 November 2022, a number of students took part in School of Rock with Southborough High School after 8 months of planning and rehearsing. Student involvement ranged from performers to costume designers, musicians to stage crew and ushers. Approximately 550 tickets were sold across the two nights with a sell-out performance Friday evening. The cast also performed to a local primary school on Thursday afternoon who were keen to vocalise their support, especially during the final 'Battle of the Bands' scene! The students conducted their roles with professionalism, striving to achieve the best performance for themselves and their castmates. It was especially rewarding to see the pure enjoyment of the cast as they came offstage each night, as well as the friendships and memories they have made over the course of the process. We are exceptionally proud of everyone involved and are very excited to have theatre return to our community. Watch this space for further performance opportunities! Congratulations to everyone involved!



WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS QUALITY MARK (WCSQM)

Essay Writing Competition 2022

Last half term, seven of our Year 9 and Year 10 students took part in the World Class Schools Essay Writing Competition 2022:

- Chloe (Year 9)
- Freya (Year 9)
- Lucy (Year 9)
- Mahirah (Year 9)
- Bethan (Year 10)
- Fajar (Year 10)
- Genevieve (Year 10)

The essay theme '**Friendship**' was set by the world renowned writer and Oxford University academic Robert Douglas-Fairhurst. The students each had their own individual take on this topic and all entries were phenomenal! Our competitors have to aim high and produce undergraduate level writing to be considered for the final.

An enormous congratulations to **Genevieve** who has recently been shortlisted for the final of the competition. The competition had more submissions than ever before, so this is an extraordinary achievement! We will now keep our fingers crossed for the final result!



LAMDA

By Ward-Smith Artistic Director

Our first cohort of LAMDA students received their results at the start of term, with an incredible 96% of students receiving distinctions and the other 45 merits. Exams were taken in musical theatre, acting and public speaking and we have been so excited to have welcomed a further 20 students to LAMDA this term, who are all deep into their preparations for their exams next year! It has been an amazing term, including a brilliant West End theatre trip and we cannot wait for the spring term! If you'd like to take LAMDA tuition at Tolworth, please email Toby at info@southsidetheatre.com



REAL CARE PROGRAM

By Miss N Asprey

The real care baby program is up and running. Students take the baby home for a night where they feed, burp, change nappies and cuddle them. This will give students an insight into how to care for a new-born baby. They will look after the babies through the night and will still need to attend school the next day. These babies are so true to life and there is no 'off' switch!



CAMPS INTERNATIONAL BORNEO TREK EXPEDITION

By Miss H Leeper

This term saw the launch of a very exciting opportunity for our Year 9, 10 and 11 students. In summer 2024, we will be partnering with Camps International to offer students a 4 week service project and trek in Borneo, Indonesia.

Students will take part in environmental and community projects, including beach cleaning, reforestation and construction work. These projects are sustainable and targeted towards the current needs of the local communities which are supported by Camps International. Students will also visit the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre. Finally, they will complete a challenging 4 day trek, sleeping in hammocks and learning how to survive in the jungle!



We had fantastic interest in this opportunity, with many families coming along to our parent briefing to find out more. So far, we have over 30 students signed up to take part in the expedition, and we will be working closely with them over the next 18 months as they fundraise towards this once in a lifetime experience. Please do look out for any student fundraising, and support this where you can - the girls will greatly appreciate it.

CAREERS

Students have been preparing their entries for the Step into The NHS competition in Year 8 and Year 9. They will also be taking part in Take Your Daughter To Work Day on Thursday 27 April 2023; the placements they will be attending look really exciting.

We will be hosting a Careers Fair On Tuesday 7th February from 6pm to 8pm. Can you help? We are looking for anyone who would like to help to inform and educate students about the wide range of roles and sectors there are and what they need to do to be a successful applicant. If you would like to help or know anyone else who would like to help please complete <https://forms.office.com/r/Xja8RtKPmi>.

Parents and students from Year 8 up will be invited to attend the Careers Fair.

We have been sharing lots of opportunities with students via Teams. Students who take part in these opportunities will be able to stand out from the crowd on their CVs and personal statements. Please encourage your child to look out for opportunities that interest them.

Opportunities shared so far include The Young Reporter Scheme, Fantasy Wings, various medical events, insight webinars (HSBC, BA, Lloyds), Virtual Work Experience, University links, Women in Tech.

Year 13 students who have applied to Oxbridge or medicine or dentistry are now doing their practice interviews (MMIs).

The January deadline is fast approaching for all other university applicants; ideally by 1st December to guarantee their reference.

Year 12 are nearing the end of super curricular themed half term with mechanisms to record activities they have undertaken for future use in applications, interviews and references.

Specialist Super Group teams of October Group, Clinical, Creatives, Teaching, Law and Apprenticeships have been set up and are ready to roll.

All students are entitled to Careers Interviews; Mrs Greenland and Mrs Hewitt are happy to see students to help them plan for the future.

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

WHO WE ARE

Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form PFA are the parents, carers and friends of children who attend the school. Our aim is to provide additional facilities, equipment or items that support the school. These are things that the school budget may not stretch to, such as lighting equipment for the school theatre, benches for outdoor spaces, and end of year proms.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We continue to need your support, whether it is taking time to attend PFA meetings, spreading the word, giving ideas and suggestions, taking part in events and helping to plan them or donating unwanted school uniform. We are hugely grateful for your support.

To find out about how to get involved or simply keep in touch:

- join the [PFA WhatsApp group](#)
- email PFA.Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form@gmail.com

VACANT COMMITTEE POSITIONS

We are still looking for a Chair to join and lead the committee. If you are interested we would be happy to have a chat with you about what the role involves.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Next PFA meeting either in school or online Wednesday 18 January 2023 from 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

FREE DONATIONS FOR PFA WHEN YOU SHOP

We have worked hard to be set up as a Registered Charity (no.1187806) so that we can raise funds more easily.

This includes receiving free donations for the PFA each time you shop at:

- **AmazonSmile**

Amazon donates 0.5% to the PFA each time you make a purchase with them. Start making free donations in 5 easy steps:

- **Easyfundraising**

This is the UK's biggest charity shopping site with over 4,200 retailers that will make a small donation to your chosen charity each time you shop. To support the PFA, select Tolworth Girls' School Parents and Friends Association (Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form PFA) – Surbiton as your chosen charity and then shop at Easyfundraising as normal. You can also bookmark Easyfundraising on your web browser for future purchases.

On laptop or tablet:

1. Log in to Amazon as normal
2. Search for AmazonSmile and click on the link
3. Navigate the main menu (3 horizontal lines)
4. Go to Your AmazonSmile. Search for Tolworth Girls' School Parents & Friends Association and select it as your chosen charity
5. To support the charity, always shop at Smile.Amazon.co.uk. You can also bookmark AmazonSmile on your web browser for future purchases

On mobile phone:

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app and log in as normal
2. Navigate the main menu (3 horizontal lines)
3. Tap on Settings and select Amazon Smile
4. Select Tolworth Girls' School Parents & Friends Association as your chosen charity
5. Click the Turn on AmazonSmile button. This will enable future eligible purchases made on the app to generate a donation

PFA NEWS

Memorial Benches

Please see the photos below. We hope that the students will enjoy sitting on the benches and the view.



THANKYOU!

Thank you for supporting the PFA wear your own clothes day recently. The event raised approximately £1000. Some of that money has been used to organise the Christmas hamper raffle. Thank you to members of the PFA who have supported the carol service by selling refreshments and raising more money on that evening. Events for the new Year may include an Easter extravaganza and a quiz night or comedy night. Events in 2023 are dependent on interest and support.



STUDENT CONTACT DETAILS

Please can parents inform the school immediately of any changes in your daughter's/son's contact details. These are very important and must be kept up to date in case of student illness or a school emergency.

PARENTPAY REMINDER

Please can we remind parents/carers to use ParentPay or PayPoint if you do not have a computer to pay for trips or other items the school requests money for. We will continue to send out activation letters to those who send in cash or cheques. Paying by ParentPay is a much more secure way of paying and also very convenient for parents to be able to pay at any time. We thank you for your cooperation.

The Finance Team

HEALTH AND SAFETY REMINDER FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

All students in the laboratory must wear safety goggles. This includes when a student across the lab is still working on their practical task and you have finished your experiment for the day. This simple precaution can eliminate the danger of eye injury caused by you or your neighbour splattering chemicals or breaking glass. Another important protection for your eyes is to avoid rubbing your fingers in or near your eyes. Chemicals can easily be transferred from your hands to your eyes in this way. All students are required to wear a lab coat at all times when anyone is working with chemicals in the lab. A lab coat is more than a uniform identifying you as a scientist; it affords you some protection from spills of hot or corrosive materials as well as protecting your school uniform.

IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM THE FIRST AID TEAM

Parents are reminded to inform the school if there are changes to the following:

- Emergency contact details
- Medical conditions that can emerge as students mature
- Changes to medication
- We request that all parents whose child suffers from severe asthma or severe allergies provide the school with a named up-to-date inhaler or epipen
- If the medicine becomes out of date, you will be informed and you must replace the medicine immediately; we as a school will take no responsibility if you fail to provide a replacement

CHILDCARE – ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN CHILDMINDER AGENCY, LEAP AHEAD

The Achieving for children Childminder Agency, Leap Ahead is registered and inspected by Ofsted. Childminders can choose to join the agency and be registered and inspected by Leap Ahead rather than Ofsted. In addition to registration, those who join our agency will receive individual support and guidance, meetings, training and an annual graded visit. The childminder's report is published on the website where parents can search for childminders in their area: <http://www.leapahead.org.uk/>

SCHOOL TERM & HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2022-23

SPRING TERM 2023 TUESDAY 3 JANUARY – FRIDAY 31 MARCH

Students Return	Tuesday 3rd January
Half Term Holiday	Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February
Students Return	Monday 20th February
Last Day of Term	Thursday 30th March
INSET DAY	Friday 31st March

KEY DATES FOR SPRING TERM 2023

Year 10 Assessment Fortnight	Wednesday 4th – Thursday 19th January
Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Results Day	Friday 20th January
Year 9 Assessment Fortnight	Monday 23rd January – Friday 3rd February
Year 11 Parents' Evening (Virtual)	Tuesday 31st January
Early Closure for Students – Staff Training	Monday 6th February
Sixth Form – RAG week	Monday 6th – Friday 10th February
Year 8 Options Evening	Tuesday 7th February
Year 12 Assessment Week	Monday 27th February – Friday 3rd March
Year 13 Assessment Fortnight (Mocks)	Monday 27th February – Friday 10th March
Year 8 Parents' Evening (Virtual)	Tuesday 7th March
Early Closure for Students – Staff Training	Monday 13th March
Year 11 Assessment Fortnight 3 (Core Only)	Monday 27th – Friday 31st March
Year 12 Parents' Evening and HE Presentation (Virtual)	Tuesday 21st March
Early Closure for Students – Prize Giving	Tuesday 28th March
Prize Giving at The King's Centre, Chessington	Tuesday 28th March
Last Day of Term for Students – Early Closure	Thursday 30th March

SUMMER TERM 2023 MONDAY 17 APRIL – WEDNESDAY 19 JULY

Students Return	Monday 17th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May
Half Term Holiday	Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June
Students Return	Monday 5th June
Last Day of Term	Wednesday 19th July

NB Easter 2023: –

Good Friday falls on Friday 7th April
Easter Monday falls on Monday 10th April



REACH OUT

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[@TolworthGirls](https://twitter.com/TolworthGirls)