



TEIGNMOUTH COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WAVELENGTH

For more news, why not visit our website www.teignmouth.devon.sch.uk

BUILD-A-BIKE PROJECT

By Phil Milsom - School Sports Co-ordinator



Students at Teignmouth Community School celebrated the gift of a reconditioned bike after successfully completing the first Build-A-Bike project. The project was set up by Martyn Laxton from the local charity 'Ride On - Cycling For All'. The course teaches students the basic skills needed to maintain a bike with the benefit of being able to take the finished product home. Phil Milsom said "it was great to see a group of students from different years come together and work so well as a team. The bikes were donated by CycleRecycle based at Channingswood Prison in Newton Abbot. If you would like to donate your unwanted bike please contact Martyn on 01626 773261 or email Ride-On@hotmail.co.uk .

IMPORTANT DATES

For the diary

- 15th February - Non-pupil day
- 18th to 22nd February - Half term week
- 28th March - Spring review day
- 29th March to 12th April - Easter holidays
- 19th April - Non-pupil day
- 6th May - Bank holiday monday
- 27th to 31st May - Half term week
- 27th June - Summer review day
- 28th June - Non-pupil day (Exeter Rd only)

TEIGNMOUTH TOP OF THE TABLE

Staff and students at Teignmouth Community School are celebrating the news that they are top of Devon school's performance league table, second in the South West and 120th in the Country.



The publication today of the national league tables for secondary school performance shows that Teignmouth Community school adds more value than nearly all other schools in the UK to the examination performance of each of their students. This is a step up to the top spot after last year's places of second in the County, seventh in the South West and 199th in the UK. The school's aim over the last 10 years has been to focus on the performance of each student at the school to maximise their achievement and year on year the results have moved the school to this elevated position. School Principal Tony Gray commented that "It has been a consistent drive amongst the school community of directors, staff and parents to make sure that all students who attend Teignmouth Community School, whatever their ability when they arrive at the school, do better here than they would at any other school. The commitment of the teaching staff in working towards this has been a major factor in these pleasing results and I'm sure that these will continue to remain at this high level."

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'A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM'

By Dawn Shaw, Drama Teacher

37 Drama students recently performed William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', with a rather unique interpretation. With a Michael Jackson sound track, the students from year 7 through to year 12 entertained a full audience over two nights. The students were all exceptional, their hard work and commitment to the show resulted in a very successful performance of a classic Shakespearian text which engaged a modern day audience.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Mr A P Gray BA Hons MEd



Two excellent pieces of news warmed us last week as we shivered in the February chill. The first was the publication of the national secondary league tables for all schools in England which showed Teignmouth Community School to be top of the table for Devon schools (1/37); second for South West schools (2/336) and 120th of all schools nationally in the value that is added to each student's achievement at GCSE (Level 2) courses. This is great news and a tribute to the students of the last Year 11 cohort, their parents and teachers. We have done well in this measure before but never reached top spot. Following this, came the news from Ofsted that because of our continued success in student progress and achievement they will not be visiting us in the near future; a letter from Ofsted to each parent should have arrived recently informing you of this.

Both of these announcements are encouraging and suggest that the approach of providing a curriculum that students can access and achieve in as highly as they possibly can is paying dividends. This year for the first time, students have begun their Key Stage 4 courses in Year 9, rather than 10 and a recent survey of the students was overwhelmingly positive with them feeling motivated and excited about their option courses.

This success in the secondary phase of the school matched that of Mill Lane in the primary league tables. There are many more primaries in Devon than secondary schools but Mill Lane Year 6 students were top of the Teignmouth league table for the first time. The improvements at KS1 and KS2 have been truly spectacular over the last 12 months and now that the new RWI curriculum is established even greater progress is expected. Once again many congratulations are due to the whole school community at Mill Lane.

PARENTPAY NEWS

By Katherine Mallin, Finance Assistant

Do you know what food your child is buying for lunch or break time snacks?
Do they choose burger and chips or a ham salad baguette?

You can view details of the choices they make each day by logging on to your ParentPay account. Once logged in to the www.parentpay.com Home screen select the 'View Menus & Choices' option. This brings up a display detailing the individual items purchased. The 'View Transactions' option shows the amounts spent. If you think your child is spending too freely a daily dinner money spending limit can be set on their account; to do this please contact the Finance Office. Parent Pay is the most convenient way to pay for school dinners, trips, revision guides and uniform. Using Parent Pay is as easy as any other form of online shopping and your card details are not stored by the system. Once set up you are able to easily top-up your child's dinner money account and pay for the trips and other items that become available throughout the school year.

Letters have been sent home recently via students to all those who have not yet registered at www.parentpay.com. If you have not received your login and password, or are having difficulty accessing your account, then please contact the school Finance Office for assistance.



Non-school uniform day for
Comic Relief on Friday 15th March

DEAN DAY

(DROP EVERYTHING AND NUMERATE)

By Joy Keogh, Curriculum Leader for Maths



On Tuesday 29th January both Mill Lane and Exeter Road sites had their first Drop Everything and Numerate sessions. For half an hour both schools “dropped everything” and students and staff alike completed arithmetic questions and mathematical logic puzzles.

Some staff commented “Long time since I have done any form of maths puzzles at all and I really enjoyed it”, “I really enjoyed using my mathematical brain. I thought the hard sheet was pretty easy actually which has given me a confidence boost!”, “my tutor group really enjoyed it”. Students commented “I really enjoyed the first Drop Everything and Numerate day, I took the sheet with me and finished it later on that day!”

FOUNDATION CLASS VISIT TO JACKS’ PATCH

By Susan Taylor, Foundation Teacher



Early years Foundation stage children recently took part in a visit to Jacks’ Patch Garden Centre which links to the topic of ‘Living and Growing’ that they are currently working on. Each child purchased something to improve the outdoor learning environment back at school. These items included nuts and fat balls for the birds, spring/summer bulbs and plants. The tropical fish were a particular fascination!

ASHLEIGH WINS REGIONAL YOUNG CHEF FINAL



Ashleigh Smith 10DST won the Regional Young Chef finals which were held here at Teignmouth Community School on the 5th of February. Schools from across the County fielded competitors, who were able to benefit from our excellent catering facilities to prepare their three course meal. This prestigious win will mean Ashleigh will now go on to compete in the Springboard Future Chef finals at East Devon College, Tiverton, and the RIBI Young Chef award at Ferndown Upper School in Poole at the end of March. Ashleigh was also awarded the South Devon Young Memorial Cup for preparing the best dish in the competition.

TEIGNMOUTH Community School PARENTAL TRAINING 

Would you like to play an active part in your child achieving higher grades but aren't quite sure how?
Register for a parental training session with us to see how easy it really is

DODDLE

Knoodle ME

For more information email alex.kirkbride@teignmouth.devon.sch.uk

OLD CAMERA EQUIPMENT NEEDED

If you have any unwanted, manual cameras that are functional that you no longer need because they have been replaced by digital models, our photography department would be delighted to take them off your hands.

Email elizabeth.wilson@teignmouth.devon.sch.uk for more details.

CELEBRATING WITH A HUNDRED MILLION WORDS READ!

By Michelle McKeeman, Accelerated Reading Tutor

As public libraries celebrate National Library Day on 9th February this year, we also acknowledge the success of both our libraries at Mill Lane and Exeter Road in supporting our Accelerated Reader program. We now have students from Year 3 to Year 9 enrolled on the program and we are delighted to announce that TCS students from both sites have read over an astonishing 100,000,000 words already this academic year.

Since the introduction of Accelerated Reader, reading has become an integral part of our curriculum – instilling the reading habit amongst many of our previously reluctant readers, both at home and at school. Many of our students are also supported by a dedicated band of reading volunteers from our sixth form and from the Community.

Author visits have played an important part in encouraging our students to try books that they might not normally choose. TCS is one of only 10 schools lucky enough to have been chosen to take part in the Exeter 'Extreme' Imagination Festival. Author Ellen Renner will be speaking to Y5 and Y6 classes and a selected group of Y7 students will also be participating with them at Mill Lane on 26th February. Later that week a group of Y8 students will be working with the author and poet Philip Gross in the Exeter Road Library on Thursday 28th February when he delivers a creative writing workshop.



YEAR 1 & 2 VISIT @BRISTOL

By Annabelle Sampson, Year 1/2 Teacher



Year 1 and Year 2 Children recently visited the @ Bristol Science Museum. The trip incorporated a visit to the planetarium section as part of the childrens current topic 'Space'. A great day was had by all.

TUTOR AWARD

By Gavin Morris, 9GAM



Andrea Del La Cruz of 9GAM has won the tutor group prize of two Apollo Cinema tickets for gaining the most achievement points throughout the Autumn Term. Joe Jeffery came a very close second. Andrea gained 108 net points for working hard in various subjects, accelerated reading, contribution in lessons and excellent attitude amongst other things.

Teignmouth's BRAND NEW Fitness Centre!



- TREADMILLS ■ CROSS-TRAINERS ■ CYCLES
- CONCEPT II ROWERS ■ STAIR MASTER
- RESISTANCE MACHINES ■ FREE WEIGHTS
- FOOTBALL ■ BADMINTON
- TABLE TENNIS ■ BASKETBALL
- NETBALL ■ HOCKEY
- SPORTS MASSAGE ■ SPORTS THERAPY
- HEALTH & BEAUTY TREATMENTS
- BODYPUMP ■ ZUMBA ■ AEROBIKING
- CIRCUIT TRAINING ■ CARDIOSTEP ■ TBTS
- BOOTCAMP CIRCUITS

GYM/CLASSES ONLY MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE FROM AS LITTLE AS **£20 PER MONTH**

OPENING HOURS:

Monday-Friday 5.30-9.30pm
Saturday & Sunday 8.30am-5pm

Exeter Rd Teignmouth TQ14 9HZ

TEL: 01626 774091
info@alivfitnessandsport.co.uk

REUTERS VISIT YEAR 8 MODERN LANGUAGES STUDENTS

By Lea Ying-Li, French Teacher

Three language visitors were invited into school to talk to Year 8 about their work and how they use languages in the workplace. The visitors gave accounts of their personal experiences with languages and how languages are so vital in their company Thomson Reuters, the world's leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals. It was great for students to see the relevance and importance of being able to speak another language.

