

Thomas Telford School

Issue No. 3 Autumn 1991

SHAPING THE FUTURE

Just a glimpse inside one of the Learning Bases and visitors can see how quickly our students are meeting the challenge of shaping the future of education at Thomas Telford School.

Quite at ease with the vast array of technology, it is difficult to believe that the students have only been with us eight weeks. Already there is a strong sense of purpose amongst the Year 7 and Sixth Form students alike.

Teachers and technicians are delighted with the enthusiasm and independence shown by the students. This is clearly demonstrated at 8 a.m. each morning when the Learning Base becomes a hive of activity as students gather around the work stations to print out work and prepare for the day ahead.

New resources arrive daily and the School eagerly awaits the new satellite link-up and computer conferencing facilities which are due within the next few weeks.

Eight weeks old we may be, but we are here today and here to stay at Thomas Telford School.



CONTENTS

- Page 2: Letter From The
Headmaster
Advisory Council
Election
Are You Receiving Me?
Off To A Flying Start
- Page 3: EuroFest
Achievements
Parent Database
A Taste Of The Orient
- Page 4: Seal Of Approval



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parent/Guardian

It is with considerable confidence that I am able to report to you that all of our students have settled down remarkably well.

I know that I speak for all of the teachers when I state that we have been most impressed with the students' general demeanour, maturity and positive attitude towards work. The early signs are that the partnership with parents has already got off to an excellent start and I will be working relentlessly to encourage the continuation of this relationship.

May I inform you that all parents will be invited into School before Christmas to discuss, in detail, the progress of their child. I shall also use this opportunity to allow parents to have a good look at our outstanding facilities.

On behalf of the students, I request that you keep up the good work in supporting the School. We can only go from strength to strength.

Assuring you of my full cooperation.

Yours sincerely

K J Satchwell
Headmaster

TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

After initial teething problems, the transport arrangements are now running smoothly. We are keen to provide the Wolverhampton students with the opportunity to participate in Flexi-study sessions from 4.00pm-5.00pm.

Later coach departure times will enable students to join the new Comprix computer course this term.

From November 4th the coaches will depart at 5.00pm for those students on this course. All parents will be informed by letter of the detailed arrangements.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Elections for the eight parent representatives on the Advisory Council will take place between November 25th and November 29th.

The Advisory Council for Thomas Telford School was initially considered as a suitable way in which the Headmaster and Governors of the School could obtain advice and information from parents, students and the wider community.

The Governors feel that it is important to provide a forum for involving the community in the education of our students.

Its brief is as follows:-

- To develop community contacts
- To advise and assist on student activities
- To advise on community use of premises
- To organise social functions

If you feel you can contribute to this exciting partnership please complete a self-nomination form, which will be sent to all parents soon.

OFF TO A FLYING START

During the month of September Year 7 and the Sixth Form Leisure Studies group visited RAF Cosford for a week.

The morning sessions were spent working on various aspects of flight and included a visit to the Aerospace Museum. Full advantage was taken of the excellent sporting facilities kindly made available by the RAF. Working in teams, the Year 7 students were led by the Sixth Form as they created their own team games and rules for play.

These were presented on Friday afternoon in front of RAF personnel and the winning team was awarded a trophy by the Station Commander.

ARE YOU RECEIVING ME?

As Andrew and Gary demonstrate, the Z88 is an ingenious device which certainly speeds up the process of sending information between home and school.

We are pleased to see so many parents using the Z88 to send messages into school. Every two or three weeks there will be an update on each student's progress which you can access via the PARENT FILE. All you have to do is follow this simple process:-

- Press the two SHIFT keys to switch on.
- Ensure the cursor is on PIPEDREAM on the control panel.
- Press ENTER to access PIPEDREAM.
- Press ⬆FL and key in the word PARENT.
- Press ENTER and you can read the report.

Who said, "I'll never be able to use a computer?"





Business & Finance students learn about management from John Birkett, Group Personnel Officer at Tarmac PLC

THOMAS TELFORD SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Congratulations to Sixth Form student Richard Chellumbrun who was selected to act in "Aida" at the new National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. The production which was billed as "the most spectacular opera ever staged" ran for two weeks. Richard was able to maintain his studies throughout the hectic rehearsal schedule by using a distance learning package.
- A combined team of staff and students have entered the Shropshire Basketball League. The team was formed during the School's visit to R.A.F. Cosford when the Physical Training Instructors challenged Thomas Telford School to a match.
- Year 7 students Nicholas Chetwood and Michelle Woodrow have been chosen to represent their Year Group on the new Advisory Council. Nicholas and Michelle produced an election video which was broadcast during assembly.
- Well done the BTEC Hotel and Catering group who have been feeding the five thousand. Well, almost! The students have been working alongside the School Catering Service to provide breakfast, lunch and light refreshments each day. The team will also run a catering service during the Admissions interviews which take place throughout November.
- Year 7 football has been the focus of much attention this term. The team has an excellent record of success with two victories already against Trench and Moseley Park. Training is in progress for the match versus Kingshurst City Technology College which is the venue for an afternoon of sport this month.
- The charity fund-raising group ran a Mufti-Day in aid of Hope House, the new children's hospice. Students paid for the privilege of wearing casual clothes whereas staff were fined for dressing in uniform.

THOMAS TELFORD STUDENTS IN EUROFEST 1991

On October 15th the School participated in Shropshire's Eurofest programme. Five students accepted an invitation to attend the Lloyd's Bank seminar "Meeting The Challenges Of the Single European Market". This featured Mr. Christopher Nevin, Lloyd's Bank International Manager and was held at the Shropshire chambers of Industry and Commerce in Telford.

The five students Amanda Arnold, Andrea Tudor, Sharonjit Sandhu, Richard Cadman and Nick Andrews are currently studying for a BTEC award in Business and Finance. They were the only students from within the county to attend this prestigious event. Issues under discussion were Banking, Exporting into Europe and the Development of the Ecu, (the contentious European currency unit). The students took their place amongst professional businessmen and women thereby gaining an insight into current business initiatives.

PARENT DATABASE

The response to our request for help with School Activities has been overwhelming. Over two hundred replies were received with offers of assistance ranging from football coaching to photography.

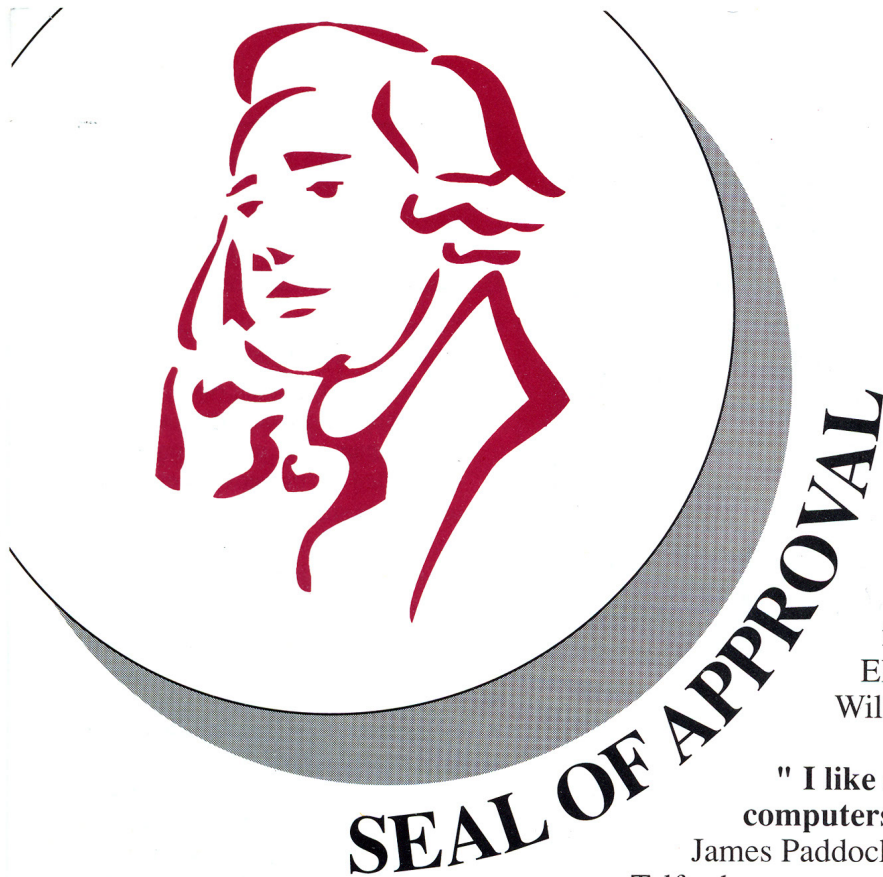
The database has already been used to find parents willing to join Year 7 students on their visits to the castles at Warwick, Beeston, Powis and Little Moreton Hall. Many thanks to our willing volunteers who braved the elements and helped students conduct surveys.

This half-term sees the launch of our paired reading scheme so be prepared for that telephone call!

A TASTE OF THE ORIENT

YEAR 7 students will receive 'a taste of the Orient' this half-term as they begin a short course in Japanese language and culture. The School is particularly pleased to welcome Mrs Chiang who will assist Mr Tillman in this curriculum area. Mrs Chiang is well known within the Japanese business community in Telford where she has taught English. The Japanese courses will be run in conjunction with German which will feature as the student's first foreign language.





Comments Made About The School By The Students

" It's brilliant! I think it's a better environment for children to work in."

Elizabeth MacDivitt (Age 11)
Willenhall

" I like staying after school to use the computers and do my homework."

James Paddock (Age 11)
Telford

" It's more like working in an office because of the furniture. I think we are treated differently to most children in other schools."

John O'Brien (Age 11)
Finchfield, Wolverhampton

"I think the team-building activities were an excellent introduction to sixth form work."

Richard Chellumbrun
Sixth Form

"The way sixth form students are allowed to dress for the office is a good preparation for future employment."

Harpal Kaur
Sixth Form

**" I like the way teachers let you stay in and do your work at lunchtime and break.
It's nice to be trusted."**

Dharminder Dhanda (Age 11)
Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton

" It's exciting because everyday is different."

Craig Foster (Age 11)
Bilston

" Before I came to Thomas Telford School I was scared that I wouldn't know how to use all the new technology but now after a week I feel more confident."

Nadine Powell (Age 11)
Malinslee, Telford

" It's absolutely wicked."

Aaron Foster (Age 11)
Wolverhampton

