



# Thomas Telford School Newsletter

Issue No. 4 Spring 1992

## Full of Hot Air

After completing a project on hot air balloons, Year 7 students were given the opportunity to study the real thing by the Airship and Balloon Company of Halesfield, Telford, when they visited the School recently.

In addition to an excellent slide show by senior balloon pilot, Graham Dorrell, every student was given a demonstration of how to operate the burner, although it proved too windy to launch the giant Cadbury's Creme Egg balloon they had brought with

them. However, the company have promised a return visit when hopefully the weather will be better.

Technology teacher, Jonathan Boyle, who arranged the visit said, "We now have a very firm relationship with the Airship and Balloon Company and they are looking forward to coming back to launch some novelty balloons later this year."

Pictured with the balloon team are students Craig Foster, Gareth Hope and Technology Teacher Mr. Johnathon Boyle.



*Photograph Courtesy of Shropshire Star*

## Handwriting and Spelling at the CTC

Parents may wish to know the importance that we attach to handwriting and spelling in a school where all students have their own lap top computer. The School provides personal study skills clinics, three days each week, for students needing extra help with

specific handwriting difficulties. The student and specially trained teaching staff identify priority targets with both parents and student receiving a written progress report every eight weeks.

A feature of the School's personal computer system is the dictionary facility in which all students have had instruction. In addition, the students have access to a spellcheck for their Z88 lap-top computers.

At Thomas Telford School good spelling standards are expected and developed.

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## First Commission For Design Student

As part of his BTEC and A Level Design course sixth form student, Richard Tildesley, has just completed his first commission to produce a presentation of the interior of a Saudi Arabian palace.

The work, which involves colour rendering and providing samples of finishings for walls and floors to decorate part of the interior, was commissioned by a Bristol company, Cliftonville Studio Design, to enable students to experience at first hand the competitive world of design.

The company has also set the students another task of designing a fifty cover restaurant on the theme of 'Oliver Twist' with a prize for the best student's work.





## A Message From The Head

I am most pleased to be able to report that the building of the School was completed on 23 February 1992. We are now in the process of furnishing and equipping the remainder of the building. I have to say that the working conditions here for the students are quite outstanding and have attracted a lot of interest from the many visitors who come to the School.

I am also pleased to announce that the School has been chosen to host a major Conference and Exhibition on 16 and 17 May 1992 for 89 other schools who have gained Technology Schools' status. This will mean that educationalists from all over the country will be visiting our School to observe the students' work and provide us with the opportunity of sharing with them the excellent practice that is used here.

I have total confidence that the students will project a first class image and be outstanding ambassadors for the School.

Finally, the Parents Database is now in operation. This offers numerous services ranging from photography and netball to assistance with learning opportunities for the students. May I take this opportunity of thanking all parents who have offered their services to the students and staff.

Thank you for all your continued support.



*Sixth Form Hotel & Catering students prepare a conference buffet*

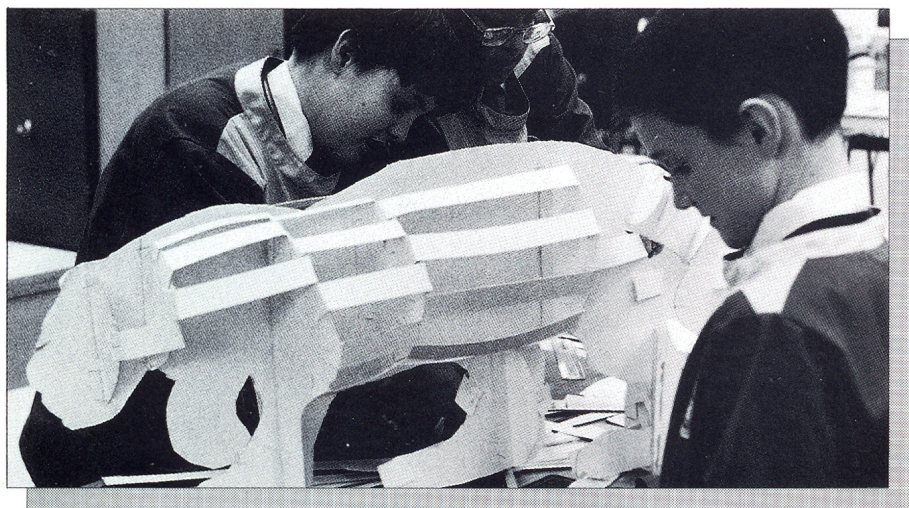
## New Satellite Links

The School has just installed the very latest in satellite technology which will enable students to receive educational television programmes from all over the world. The four channel directional dish includes Astra, Intelsat and Eutelsat 1 & 2 and will enable the School to pick up broadcasts from as far afield as the USA, Europe and the Middle East.

The wide ranging coverage of news, sport, documentaries and language programmes has already proven a boon to those students on Business & Finance and German and Japanese Language courses.

In addition, the School also has access to the Discovery Channel which features science and nature programmes specially developed as part of a joint collaborative European television venture. Also installed is the Dartcom weather satellite dish which will enable the Geography students to obtain detailed maps and images from satellites in geostationary orbit.

Systems manager, Mr Kevin Samujh, said, "The satellite links will enable the students to experience many aspects of technology at first hand and provide an excellent educational resource."



*Students in the Art & Design studio working on a paper sculpture of a panther*

## Work Experience

Twelve students from the BTEC Leisure Studies group are looking forward to working in a variety of leisure and tourist facilities in the Telford area. Assisted by one of the School's industrial consultants, Alan Phillips, the students will be employed in such places as Lilleshall, Cosford P.T.I. training school, the Holiday Inn, the Racket Centre and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. They represent the first of nearly eighty students from Thomas Telford School who will be negotiating with local firms to secure a placement relevant to their area of study.





## Revolutionary approach to keyboard training

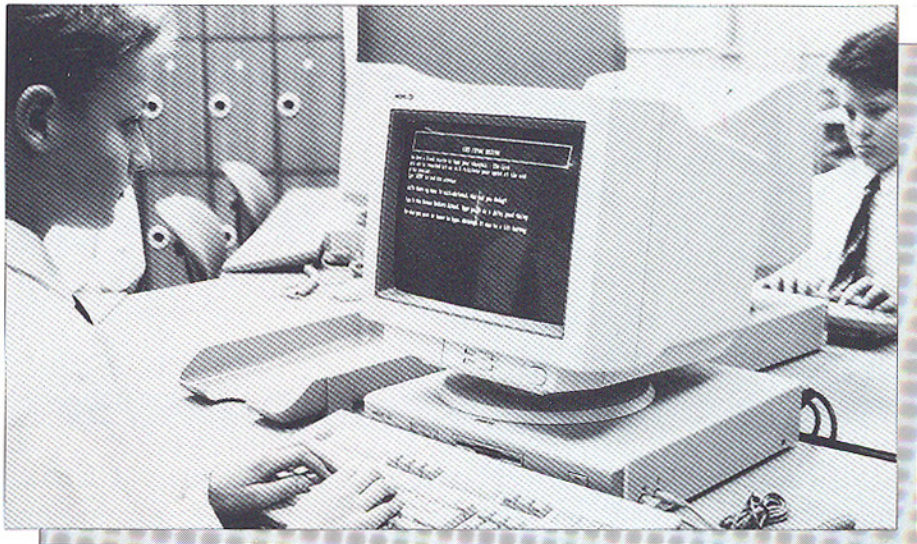
A revolutionary approach to early keyboard training has earned national recognition for Thomas Telford School. The Longman Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning was recently presented to the School. Every Year 7 student and member of staff had undertaken a structured computer keyboarding course and many 11 year olds have gained certification for achievements of 98% accuracy in a test designed by the Pitman Examination Institute.

"At Thomas Telford School we use information technology in every subject area to support student learning. Every student has access to a lap top computer for homework purposes. We have invested heavily in technological resources and it is essential students can utilise these sophisticated I.T. systems to the full. This can only be achieved if keyboard skills training is part of each student's curriculum" explained Deputy Head, Reg Tooth.

The computer based keyboard training course, Typequick, produced by Comprix Ltd was praised by students as easy to use and enjoyable because it provided immediate feedback and revision within lessons.

"The strength of the Typequick program is that students are able to re-access the software at any time and can work through the lessons independently. We now find the students use Enrichment time to improve their speed and accuracy. In fact many are now faster than the staff!!!!" said Mr Tooth.

There can be no doubt that the joint venture between Thomas Telford School and the producers of the Typequick program has paved the way for future generations of students to develop important skills so crucial for tomorrow's workforce.



*Year 7 students practise their Typequick skills*

## Achievements

- Full marks to the fourteen sixth form students for passing their British Red Cross awards. As well as providing them with the vital ability to save a life, the award will also count toward their City & Guilds and BTEC Diploma courses.

In return for their tuition the students are now working with the Red Cross to produce a set of high quality teaching aids using the computer packages available in the School.

- Congratulations to Daxa Patel who helped launch the recent module on Celebration by staging a representation of the sacred festival of Diwali. Daxa, a sixth form student on the Leisure Studies course, explained the history of this ancient religious belief and gave an outstanding display of traditional dancing. A group of Year 7 students were so inspired that they learned part of the dance themselves and performed it to a recent year assembly.

- Staff and students were given a taste of the real Japan when language teacher Mrs Chiang staged an exhibition of Japanese food and clothing associated with the themes of Festivals and Celebrations.

Authentic insights into Japanese life were provided by the many religious and cultural items on view and especially popular were the opportunities to try on a kimono, sample

seaweed and attempt to master the art of using chopsticks!

Students were also able to make use of a number of the exhibits in follow up project work, increasing an already rapidly growing interest in Japanese language and culture.

- Twenty-two Thomas Telford students have recently returned from a weekend trip to Paris where they attended an international conference aimed at preparing people for a career in Europe. The seminar, which was given in English, was introduced by Jean-Francois Poncet, President of the French Council, and covered such issues as the challenge of the single market, monetary union, and career opportunities for business and language students within the community.

Business and Finance teacher, Ms Linda Thorley, thought the event a great success and praised the professional organisation and the informative question session at the end of the lecture.

- Two police officers from Telford's school liaison team will be giving a series of lectures to the Year 7 students this term as part of their Health and Fitness module. They will be working alongside the staff and students and will be covering such issues as personal hygiene and the problem of drug abuse.





# Revolutionary approach to keyboard training

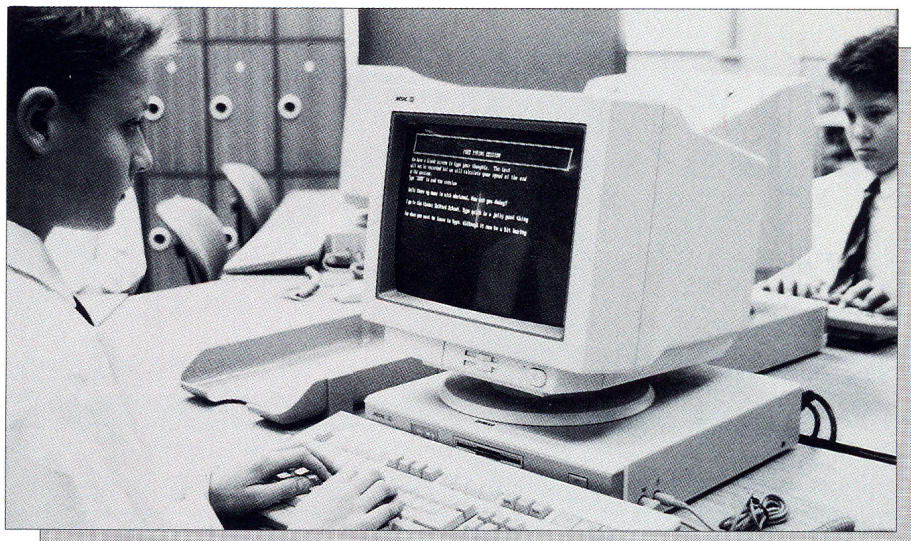
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