Thomas Telford School

2025 - 2026
Governors' Report
To Parents & Carers

November 2026

To All Parents of Students

Welcome to this Annual Governors' Report to Parents. As there is no longer a statutory requirement for Governors to meet formally with parents, and such meetings have not attracted many parents in the previous years, there are no plans to hold a meeting this year.

If, however, you have any queries or concerns, please send these in writing to the Headmaster or to the Chair of Governors and these will be dealt with appropriately.

M Davies
Clerk to the Governing Board

Chair's Introduction
This Annual Report provides you with details of the students' achievements, developments and successes of the School during the previous academic year. Whilst there is no legal obligation for Governors to provide this Report, the Board recognises the importance of sharing information with parents, carers, and other key stakeholders.

I am delighted to report that the School achieved its best A Level results to date. Overall, 51% of students gained A* or A grades in their A Level examinations, including vocational subjects; 93% achieved grade C or above, and the pass rate was 100%. At GCSE, attainment declined, with 80% of students achieving grade 4 or above in both English and Mathematics. However, student progress remained positive, and the headline figures were well above national averages.

As a Board, we believe that the success of the School extends far beyond examination results. Throughout the year, students have participated in an extensive range of enrichment opportunities, educational visits, leadership programmes, sporting competitions, creative arts performances and community initiatives. These experiences continue to support the development of confident, well-rounded young people who are well prepared for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. As a School, we remain committed to providing an education that combines academic excellence with personal development. Investment continues to be made in technology, careers education, enrichment activities and student wellbeing, ensuring that every young person is equipped with the knowledge, skills and character needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Teaching and Support Staff

The continued success of Thomas Telford School is built upon the outstanding commitment of our teaching and support staff. Their professionalism, expertise and unwavering dedication to our students remain the cornerstone of everything we achieve.

Throughout the year, staff have continued to adapt and innovate, embracing new approaches to teaching and learning whilst maintaining the high standards that define the School. Their willingness to provide additional support outside normal lesson times, together with an extensive programme of intervention, mentoring and enrichment, ensures that students receive the individual guidance they need to succeed.

Governors are particularly grateful for the care and encouragement shown by staff in supporting not only students' academic progress but also their personal wellbeing and development. This commitment creates a positive learning environment in which students feel challenged, supported and inspired to achieve their goals. We would like to place on record our sincere thanks to Headmaster Mr Ian Rawlings, the Senior Leadership Team and all teaching and support staff for their continued dedication and outstanding contribution to the life of the school.

Destinations & Progression

Supporting students as they prepare for the next stage of their education, training or employment remains one of the School's highest priorities.

All Year 11 students benefit from face-to-face careers interviews and are supported by both the Careers Team, Head of Year and their Personal Tutors to ensure smooth transitions at the end of Year 11. Of our Year 11 students, 56% progressed into our Sixth Form, 35% continued in full-time post-16 education and training at other providers, 6% gained scholarships at professional football clubs, and 6 students (3%) accepted posts as apprentices.

After A Level Results Day 2026, 70% of our 6.2 students have progressed to university, with 56% moving to Russell Group, Times Top 25 Universities or one of the premier Stage Schools. Four students have secured places on medicine courses and two have taken up places at Oxford or Cambridge Universities.

It was also positive to note that 29 students secured apprenticeships, including 12 who were awarded places on higher and degree apprenticeships programmes, including with prestigious employers such as HSBC, S&W, Capula, PwC, EY, West Midlands Police and Capgemini. We are incredibly proud of the students who have secured these fantastic apprenticeship offers. These students have shown particularly outstanding resilience and determination over the past 12 months, presenting themselves professionally in highly competitive digital interviews and assessment centres.

Above all, we remain proud of every student who leaves the School with a clear sense of direction and the confidence to pursue their chosen pathway.

Careers Provision and Business and Industry Links

Our Careers and Industry Links provision remains integral to the School curriculum and the service ensures that our students are provided with high-quality programmes to guide and support them to make well-informed decisions about their future careers. This is particularly important in the current context of changes in both the local and national economy, in the School leaver and graduate employment market, and also Higher Education. The School also recognises the transformational potential of Artificial Intelligence ("AI") and preparing students for the future world of work, whilst equipping students to develop the skills to use AI responsibly and effectively as they embark on their employment pathways.

Our Careers provision currently includes:

- A personalised approach to careers ensuring each student can access advice and guidance about their chosen career path
- An extensive programme to support those students wishing to apply to Oxford, Cambridge, and other highly selective Universities
- A package of focused support for students pursuing a career in Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science
- Practical support for the processes of job search, preparing effective CVs and job applications, developing interview presentation skills, and performing highly at assessment centres
- Opportunities to experience the world of work and understand how the curriculum is applied in the workplace

A large number of students used the Careers Resource Area during the last 12 months, seeking help on a broad range of issues, including volunteering opportunities, finding employment, careers advice, gaining entry to university or stage school and advice on the best combination of subjects for certain careers. The Careers Team also arrange for students to take part in digital interviews and assessments as students can book private spaces, lap-tops and headsets in the Careers Resources Area and/or meet employers in person on site.

Career and Activities Week July 2026

Careers and Activities Week in July provided an excellent opportunity for students to try new experiences, develop key employability skills such as teamwork, problem-solving and communication, and begin thinking about their future career aspirations. Wherever possible, we aim to take students beyond the school environment through educational visits and trips that broaden their experiences and expose them to different workplaces, people and settings.

During the week, Year 7 students visited Chester Zoo with the Science Department and took part in a field trip to Ironbridge with the Humanities team. They also completed a challenge set by one of our employer partners, Persimmon Homes, which helped them develop a greater understanding of the construction industry and the employability skills required within this sector. In addition, students set up their Unifrog accounts, enabling them to explore future career pathways and make connections between the skills and knowledge they are developing in lessons and a wide range of career opportunities. They also participated in a Money Skills session, where they learned about budgeting, managing finances and the importance of making informed financial decisions for the future.

Year 8 students enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to develop their skills, broaden their horizons and explore future career pathways. Students enhanced their presentation, research and evaluation skills by showcasing their investigations as part of the Science Fair, which is supported by one of our employer partners, Iconsys. They also took part in a well-being carousel, attended a Meet the Author session and participated in a Choices and Consequences themed day, encouraging them to reflect on decision-making and its impact on future opportunities. To support their understanding of careers linked to the legal sector, students visited Shrewsbury Prison, where they gained valuable insight into the criminal justice system and the wide range of careers associated with it. In addition, students completed the Francophone Culture Quest, which broadened their understanding of different cultures, languages and global perspectives, helping them to develop greater cultural awareness and appreciation of the world around them.

Year 9 students visited the National Space Centre, where they explored the world of science, technology and innovation, while gaining insight into the wide range of careers linked to the STEM sector. Throughout the week, students participated in a carousel of careers activities focusing on higher education, apprenticeships and a range of Careers in the Curriculum workshops, helping them to understand how their subjects connect to future opportunities. Year 9 History students also undertook a local visit to Coalbrookdale, while Geography students carried out fieldwork at Carding Mill Valley, developing their subject knowledge and practical skills beyond the classroom. Students further

enhanced their communication and critical thinking skills through participation in News Day, during which they met an experienced journalist and broadcaster. These sessions helped raise awareness of the diverse range of careers and enabled students to hear first-hand about different career journeys and pathways to success.

We were delighted that the vast majority of Year 10 students successfully completed a work experience placement, giving them direct insight into the expectations, responsibilities and skills required in the world of work. A group of students were fortunate to secure places on a specialist Engineering Project, where they worked alongside professional engineers from Safran Aerospace and visited local engineering company Polytec. This experience provided a unique insight into the engineering sector and allowed students to explore the wide range of careers available within advanced manufacturing and aerospace industries. Another group worked with local entrepreneur and former student Nathan Green on an exciting enterprise project. Students collaborated to design, plan and market their own escape room business, developing key employability skills including teamwork, creativity, problem-solving, communication and project management. The project also provided an excellent introduction to entrepreneurship and the challenges and rewards of running a business.

Year 12 students participated in UCAS and employability workshops, which were tailored to their individual career choices, and helped them to start their University and/or job applications. University trips were offered during the week, and university staff, alumni, employers, Careers and other staff ran workshops on registering on the UCAS system, choosing courses, writing personal statements, apprenticeships and budgeting. All Year 12 students also had the opportunity to undertake at least one week of in-person or virtual work experience, and we are grateful for the continuing support of local and regional employers for supporting our programme.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Careers Team for the tremendous support and guidance given to the students during this very important stage in their lives.

Sport

It has been another highly successful year for sport and physical education. Students have continued to demonstrate outstanding commitment, enthusiasm and achievement across a wide range of sporting activities, both within the curriculum and the comprehensive extracurricular programme. The continued growth and strength of sport is underpinned by our Session 3 provision, with strong and sustained attendance at clubs, training sessions and team practices across all year groups.

Football remains a key strength for the School, with high levels of participation and performance across both boys' and girls' programmes. The Session 3 programme continues to offer a broad and balanced range of opportunities, ensuring that all students are able to engage in sport at a level appropriate to their ability and interest, whether competitively or recreationally.

Over the course of the academic year, a significant number of students have achieved representative honours at district, county, regional and national level across a wide range of sports. Football continues to provide a substantial pathway for representative success, with many students competing at county, district and professional academy level. At the highest level, students have represented their home nations in sports including football, athletics and netball. In addition, several students are nationally ranked in swimming and athletics, while others have competed at European Championship level, highlighting the exceptional standard of sporting performance within the school.

Football Performance and Representative Success

At national level, the School enjoyed considerable success in ESFA football competitions, with multiple teams reaching the latter stages of elite and schools' cup pathways. Our U16 Boys were crowned ESFA Elite Schools Cup winners, beating The Forest School 2–0 to overcome the disappointment of losing to them the previous year. This team had eight players progressing to scholarships at professional clubs and defeated an entire Reading Academy cohort who represent The Forest School, demonstrating exceptional performance and achievement at the highest level.

In addition, several teams reached national finals and runners-up positions, including the U12 Girls (ESFA Schools Cup finalists), U14 Boys (ESFA Elite Schools Cup finalists), and U16B Boys, who were ESFA Schools Cup runners-up for the third consecutive year. Our U18 Boys B Team were also ESFA Schools Cup runners-up, while the U18 Girls made it a hat-trick of ESFA Super League finals, once again finishing among the top two teams in the country. All ESFA National

Finals this year were hosted at Stoke City FC, providing students with the opportunity to compete on a professional stage. The teams also received outstanding support from year groups who attended to watch and cheer on their peers. Success was also evident at county and district level, with strong representation across all year groups. Boys' teams in Years 7, 8, 10 and 11 reached county or district finals, while girls' teams in Years 7, 8 and 9 all progressed to county finals. The Year 9 Girls also finished as runners-up in the TWSSA District Cup. These results highlight a consistently high standard of performance and commitment across both participation pathways and elite competition structures.

This year, Katy-Jay S represented England Colleges for a second consecutive year. Tyler C was part of both the England Colleges and English Schools set-ups, playing in international fixtures and training at Chelsea's academy. Among our Year 11 students, Jerome A represented England U17s and was named as a substitute for Wolverhampton Wanderers' first team in a Premier League fixture. Leon H and Seb S have both represented Wales at U16 level, while Jacob DF has represented both England and Scotland at U15 level this year.

Our Football Officials Programme has continued to develop alongside competitive success, with an increasing number of students training and qualifying as referees. These students play a vital role in officiating school fixtures and supporting the delivery of competitions, while also developing leadership, communication and employability skills.

U16 Elite ESFA Final



Y9 Boys Elite Team National Finalists



U18 Girls Super league finalists



Y7 Girls ESFA National Finalists



Athletics and Cross-Country

Athletics and Cross-Country continue to be areas of outstanding strength at the School, with another year of exceptional team and individual performances at district, county, regional and national level. Participation levels remain high across all year groups, supported by strong training attendance and a well-established pathway from Key Stage 3 through to Sixth Form.

The Cross-Country season proved particularly successful, with total dominance in the Telford and Wrekin Schools' Cross-Country Championships (TWSSA). Every year group team achieved victory, including Year 7 and Year 8 boys and girls, Year 9 boys and girls, and the Year 10/11 boys. These performances reflect both the commitment of the athletes and the strength of our training provision.

At a higher level, Thomas Telford School once again made a significant impact in the ESAA Cross-Country Cup competitions. All teams were crowned county champions, including Junior Boys, Junior Girls, Intermediate Boys, Intermediate Girls and Senior Boys. This success continued into the regional rounds, where Junior Girls and Senior

Boys were crowned regional winners, while Junior Boys, Immediate Boys, and Intermediate Girls all progressed to the next stages. At national level, both the Senior Boys and Junior Girls teams qualified for the ESAA National Finals, competing against the strongest schools from across the country.

The annual Bailey Mile Road Race also proved highly successful for the School, with Junior Boys, Junior Girls and Intermediate Girls all finishing as team winners. This event continues to be an important showcase of endurance, resilience and competitive spirit within a strong regional field, where the school consistently achieves both team and individual success.

In athletics, the School's teams competed successfully in the ESAA Track and Field Cup competitions and the Shropshire County Schools Athletics Championships. A significant number of students were selected to represent Shropshire Schools, with several progressing to the English Schools Athletics Championships, highlighting the strength of our athletics programme across both track and field disciplines.

At the highest level, individual excellence continues to complement team success. Adam B and Beth T both represented Great Britain in their respective age groups, a remarkable achievement that reflects not only personal dedication but also the high-quality support and development provided within school and through external pathways. Joe F competed for English Schools in the 400m, where he finished third in the country. Paul H won a silver medal in the 3000m steeplechase, with both athletes competing in the lower age group and achieving outstanding results against the best senior boys in the country. Once again, Zoe G demonstrated her class by winning the 3000m at the English Schools Championships for the third time and went on to represent Great Britain in her final year at the School.

Overall, the sustained success across Cross-Country and Athletics reinforces Thomas Telford School's reputation as one of the leading schools locally and regionally for endurance and track-and-field sport, while continuing to provide meaningful opportunities for participation, progression and excellence for students of all abilities.

Bayley Mile Success and Cross-Country Teams winning team and individual awards



Basketball

Thomas Telford School has enjoyed an excellent year of basketball development, with strong participation and impressive progress across all age groups. Student enthusiasm has been outstanding and has helped make this one of our most successful seasons to date.

We entered a record number of fixtures and competitions this year, giving more students than ever the opportunity to represent the school. This included six age groups in the County Cup, with the U19 Girls taking part for the first time. Our Year 7 and Year 8 teams also competed in the NBA Schools Competition, while our U14, U16 and U19 boys entered the Dynamik National Cup.

Our teams performed extremely well throughout the season. The U16 boys reached the last 16 of the Dynamik National Cup, the furthest that any Thomas Telford School team has progressed in this competition. The U19 boys also performed exceptionally, reaching the last 64 in their first year of entry before being knocked out by a basketball specialist school from Liverpool. Many of these players are in Year 12, and with a developing squad, we expect them to progress even further next year. In addition, both the U14 and U16 teams went undefeated in their County Cup leagues.

A key part of our success has been the support of external coach Mr Green. He has worked with both boys' and girls' teams, helping to develop their skills and confidence. Lester also coaches at Redhill Primary School, creating a strong pathway for younger students who may join Thomas Telford already familiar with our basketball programme. Participation in Session 3 Basketball has remained high throughout the year, with additional training and fixtures provided for students wishing to progress further.

Y11 Boys Basketball Team



Y9 Boys Basketball Team



Swimming

In the recent County Swimming Championships, our swimmers claimed an impressive number of medals across all age categories and disciplines. This success built on our district swimming dominance, where we claimed all of the titles on offer for Years 7 to 10 in both boys' and girls' categories.

Our Learn to Swim Programme continues to be highly successful, with all students becoming water confident and competent by the end of Year 7.

We have continued to work closely with Redhill Primary School, Madeley Academy and Thomas Telford UTC, offering swimming lessons and access to facilities so that they can develop swimmers within their own schools. During these sessions, Mr Plant assists with provision and assessment.

Session 3 participation in both Fun Swim and Recreational Swim remains consistently high, with sessions often oversubscribed. Our GCSE students also continue to use swimming as part of their practical assessment, doing so with great success.

Junior Girls and Junior Boys Swimming Teams after County Championships





Hockey

Hockey continues to be one of the most popular and well-attended sports at Thomas Telford School. The four weekly sessions are consistently well attended and foster an engaging, inclusive and enjoyable environment for all students, whether they are experiencing hockey for the first time or are already established players. This has enabled a number of students with no prior hockey experience, including some who have previously found physical activity challenging, to represent the school in fixtures and competitions. This is something that we are extremely proud of, as it helps students to build friendships, resilience and positive habits that will benefit them in the future.

In terms of competitive success, the School has continued to compete with the strongest schools in the region and has achieved success at district, county and regional levels. At Year 7, the boys finished second in the State Schools County Championships, while the girls won both the State and Full County titles, progressing to represent the school at the regional championships with distinction. The Year 8 girls built on their success from last year to be crowned State County Champions, while the boys progressed to the regional championships despite the loss of key players through long-term injury and illness.

Our Year 9 and Year 10 boys' teams continued their strong development by being crowned State County Champions, and the Year 11 boys secured the State Schools title as well as finishing as runners-up in the Full County Championships.

Notable individual successes have also been achieved, with numerous players gaining selection for county squads. Logan H (Year 8) was selected for the Midlands Marauders Championship team a year early, while George P was selected for Telford and Wrekin Hockey Club's 1st XI, playing a key role in their Midlands Premier League runners-up finish.

The success of our students extends beyond playing performance, with 30 students contributing as leaders and officials. They have supported a range of events, helping to provide younger students with positive first experiences of hockey through the Thomas Telford Multi Academy Trust Year 7 Introduction to Hockey Festival and the Telford and Wrekin Primary Schools Quicksticks Championships.

Netball

Our netball teams continue to flourish both locally and regionally, with this year bringing an impressive collection of titles across multiple age groups. The U14 girls delivered standout performances in higher-level competitions, finishing runners-up in the Shropshire County Netball Championships, qualifying for the West Midlands Regional Finals, and going on to win the Telford & Wrekin Trophy Competition.

The U13 and U12 girls' teams also performed strongly, building on this success by being crowned champions of the same competition. At senior level, the U19 squad progressed through the Shropshire Schools County Championships and Regional Qualifiers to finish as runners-up, demonstrating both depth and determination across the programme and adding yet another accolade to an outstanding year of netball.

Individually, 12 students are currently playing at County or PDP level, with one student achieving international representation for Ireland

Tennis

Our Junior programme will start after May half term and we anticipate another great season for our younger age groups. Tennis Session 3 remains a focus for Year 7 and 8, as we look to prepare our students for future competitions and encourage participation. Our pathway to Wimbledon competition is popular, as is the sport in general.

Cricket

The cricket season has seen us compete in a range of formats. Boys and girls have represented the School in the district indoor competitions for the U13s and U15s, with us narrowly losing on the final ball in the U15s final. We have also entered the Knights Stoke U15 National Cricket Tournament, a new hardball initiative for school cricket and taken part in the Chance to Shine Fifty competition, a fast-paced outdoor softball format aimed at promoting participation and encouraging wider involvement in cricket.

Year 8 Indoor Cricket Team



Gymnastics and Trampolining

Gymnastics and trampolining have continued to grow in strength this year, building on the successful return of these activities within the school's competitive programme. Thomas Telford School was well represented at the TWSSA Elite Gymnastics and Trampolining competitions, with a strong cohort of students competing at county-standard events hosted locally in Telford.

In gymnastics, our performers delivered high-quality routines across floor and apparatus, achieving excellent individual outcomes at the elite level. Tori N, Isabella R and Mia B (Year 8), alongside Sydney Mai S (Year 7), all competed in the TWSSA Elite Gymnastics Competition, demonstrating confidence, technical precision and composure in a competitive environment. Their performances reflected the high standards of preparation and commitment shown throughout training.

The School also enjoyed significant success in trampolining, with a large group of students qualifying for and competing in the TWSSA Elite Trampolining Competition. Tori N, Isabella R and Mia B (Year 8) were again represented, alongside Phoebe B and Allana J (Year 8), and Sydney Mai S (Year 7). The depth of representation across year groups highlights both effective talent identification and strong progression within the activity.

The students involved were excellent ambassadors for Thomas Telford School, displaying professionalism, resilience and a positive competitive attitude throughout. Their success provides a strong platform for future development and serves as an inspiration for younger students to engage with gymnastics and trampolining and to test themselves at county and elite level.

Year 7 & Year 8 Gymnastics and Trampolining teams



Other Sports and Participation Opportunities

Alongside our major sporting programmes, the School continues to provide a wide range of additional sporting opportunities, ensuring that all students have access to varied and engaging experiences beyond traditional activities.

In golf, a number of students represented the School at the County Championships held at Shrewsbury Golf Club, producing some excellent individual performances in a highly competitive field. These results reflect the growing interest and development of golf within the School. We are hopeful that this progress will lead to representation at the National Schools Golf Finals at Woodhall Spa, providing a further opportunity for students to compete at the highest level.

Rufus T (Year 9) representing the School in County Golf Championships



Students have continued to participate in inter-school sporting competitions arranged in collaboration with Thomas Telford Multi Academy Trust ("TTMAT"), including handball, table tennis and rounders. Key Stage 3 inter-house competitions have also remained a key feature of our provision and provide the opportunity for students to represent their house and experience the benefits of competitive sport.

Year 7 & 8 Mixed Hockey teams and Swimmers from the TTMAT competitions hosted at the School





This year also saw a successful engagement with Girls' Rugby Development, as a group of Year 7 and Year 8 girls attended a Key Stage 3 Rugby Development Morning at Newport Rugby Club. The event was specifically designed to support students with low confidence or limited previous engagement in sport, offering an inclusive environment focused on participation and personal development. The students represented the School exceptionally well, embracing new challenges and benefiting from the opportunity to engage with the sport. A particular highlight was the chance to view and have photographs with the Women's Rugby World Cup Trophy, which provided inspiration and raised the profile of the women's game.

Key Stage 3 Girls with Women's Rugby World Cup Trophy



International Representation

Katy-Jay S	-	England Colleges, Football
Adam B	-	Great Britain, Mountain Running
Bethany T	-	Great Britain, Athletics
Emily F	-	Ireland, Netball
Tyler C	-	England Schools, Football
Jerome A	-	England, Football
Jacob DF	-	England and Scotland, Football
Leon H	-	Wales, Football
Sebastian S	-	Wales, Football

Summary

This has been an outstanding year for sport and physical education at Thomas Telford School. High levels of participation, exceptional competitive success and sustained progression at district, county, regional and national level reflect the strength of our provision across a wide range of sports. The continued impact of the Session 3 programme, alongside high-quality coaching and strong external pathways, has ensured that all students can engage positively with physical activity, whether recreationally or at an elite level.

Performing Arts and Music

The Performing Arts Department has continued to build on the strong foundations established in the previous academic year, retaining the same dedicated teaching team who have offered a wide range of opportunities to support students to develop confidence in performance settings.

Our Year 7 and 8 Drama Club has been successfully embedded. Miss Forrest led the group and personally wrote a play for students to showcase their emerging skills. We have also seen improved uptake in Year 9 from students wishing to take Drama at examination level.

The Key Stage 3 and 4 Dance Academy, led by Mrs Day, has continued to thrive, with 70 students regularly attending and a waiting list of other students wishing to join. Miss Burns has successfully developed Force Dance Academy, a boys-only dance group, which seen sustained attendance at weekly sessions. This group has not only performed at the School, but also at two external events aimed to raise the profile of boys' dance within the wider community.

Initiatives introduced by Mrs Shaw last year, such as “Give it a Go”, where students can drop in and try a musical instrument, remain popular and have led to increased participation in the orchestra or other ensembles across all year groups.

The Pupil Premium Woodwind and Brass project has now completed its third annual cycle, with selected Year 7 students taking part in a 10-week programme of instrumental lessons. This has resulted in more students accessing lessons as part of the wider Music School provision.

Music Performances

We have continued to hold two music concerts each year, at Christmas and in the summer term, and this year more students studying musical instruments were given the opportunity to participate. It was pleasing to see that the concerts demonstrated an increase in both instrumental skill and performance confidence across all year groups. The orchestra continues to grow steadily in size, the string group is making significant progress in tackling more challenging repertoire, and the rock bands are developing their own style and stage presence.

The 2025 summer concert was a celebration of both classical and popular music, featuring all ensemble groups and showcasing works ranging from Vivaldi and Bizet to the Kaiser Chiefs and Hans Zimmer. Our lower schoolgirls’ band made their debut on the specially built rock band stage and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The concert also featured a number of solo musicians and singers, including a Sixth Form student who performed two delightful pieces on the harp.

Two of the School’s rock bands also performed at the Shropshire County Show and the Shrewsbury Food Festival during the summer term. Both groups performed with energy and musicality, impressing audiences and gaining valuable experience of performing in public settings.

This year’s Christmas Concert showcased the progression of our Music Session 3 groups. The orchestra remains predominantly a lower-school ensemble, with over 50% of members from Years 7, 8 and 9, and performed both seasonal pieces alongside popular songs such as *Thriller* and *Respect*. The string group, comprising eight members, performed a selection of traditional Christmas pieces from across Europe.

The Intermediate Rock Band performed *Sweet Child O’ Mine* and *I Want You Back*, while the Advanced Soul Band delivered stylistic covers of Lenny Kravitz and Bruno Mars, energising the audience with their musical talent and stage presence. The choir performed a range of seasonal and gospel pieces, demonstrating their development in part singing and versatility across different styles.

The concert also featured a number of impressive solo performances and small group pieces from students across all year groups.

Intermediate Rock Band at Shrewsbury Food Festival



Advanced band “A Shaw Thing” at Shrewsbury Food Festival



The Orchestra at the Christmas Concert



At the annual Carol Service, all Year 7 students were given the opportunity to take part, and the event was well supported by parents. Mrs Shaw led a carefully selected programme of seasonal songs, with students performing in two-part harmony and singing with great enthusiasm and energy**.**

Drama Performances

The Key Stage 3 Drama Club

35 students performed a piece they had been working on during the autumn term in January for their parents, entitled *Murder at the Midnight Masquerade*. The production was devised and written by Miss Forrest to challenge students as they continue to develop their drama skills. The performance was an interactive, cabaret-style piece designed to actively involve the audience, and it was once again supported by our student Technical Team.

In the Sixth Form, we continue to provide a wider range of opportunities for students with an interest in acting, including additional projects to support their development. The Year 13 cohort performed *Punk Rock* in the final week of term. This production was immersive and emotionally engaging and staged in the round to enhance the audience experience. This group also completed two contrasting pieces based on a stimulus provided by the examination board, with all students achieving a distinction in the examination.

Our Year 11 students have recently completed their course with two devised pieces based on a single stimulus. These performances were very well received by parents, who were invited into school as part of the recorded examination.

Key Stage 4 Year 11 students will have the opportunity to perform their final examination pieces in dance for their parents in May. This marks the culmination of their work over the academic year.

Sixth Form Performing Arts Academy Performances: Arts Nights

Sixth Form students have taken part in three distinct Arts Night events, showcasing their skills as musical theatre "triple threat" performers.

In November, students had the opportunity to perform and choreograph musical theatre pieces. The February showcase focused on singing, while the June event will provide a culmination of their work in dance performance and choreography through the annual dance showcase.

The Annual School Musical: *Grease*

The Annual School Musical remains open to all students, with 136 students choosing to take part in *Grease.* Rehearsals began in January, taking place every Thursday until 7pm. Main roles were shared to provide performance opportunities for a greater number of students, and the younger ensemble cast was divided into four groups. In addition to the performers, a further 13 students were involved as part of the Stage Crew or Technical Team, overseeing sound and lighting design and operation. This was a highly ambitious production, presenting challenges for both performers, due to the relatively short rehearsal period, and the Technical Team, given the demands of the show. We are very fortunate that the School fully supports the Performing Arts Department and our students by providing

access to a professional set and lighting rig, as well as extending the stage to create a performance space comparable to a professional theatre. We received some wonderful feedback from parents about the show, including:

"Wow, what an amazing, outstanding show, thoroughly enjoyed every second. This was the first show my mum had attended and she said it far exceeded her expectations. She smiled all the way through, loved all the music, and commented on how talented everyone is." (Year 9 parent)

Dance Festivals

The Dance Department hosted a Dance Festival in January, with the aim of providing both internal and external students with the opportunity to perform in a supportive environment. Schools from across Telford and Wolverhampton were invited to present pieces which they had been developing in lessons and/or through extra-curricular activities. This year, six schools attended, including, Walsall Academy and Thomas Telford UTC, which are affiliated members of Thomas Telford Multi Academy Trust.

A total of 115 Thomas Telford School students were involved in the festival, either as performers or as members of the Technical Team, alongside 124 external students. It was a wonderful celebration of dance and a pleasure to see so many students supporting one another.

Walsall Academy also hosted its own Dance Festival in the summer term when our Year 12 (6.1) Performing Arts Academy students, Senior Dance Academy students, and Boys' Dance Company showcased their work. Our Performing Arts Academy students and Boys' Dance Company have also represented the school by performing at the Black Country Dance Festival at Walsall Arts Centre, as well as at *Shrewsbury Schools Gotta Dance* at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury.

Professional Workshops

During the year, we have been fortunate to organise and deliver a series of workshops led by former students who are now working as professionals in the performing arts industry. We welcomed Rebecca Lutery, who currently teaches singing at Italia Conti, to conduct mock auditions for our Performing Arts Academy students. This provided a valuable experience, particularly as Rebecca has served on audition panels for Italia Conti.

Jordan Ricketts delivered a workshop and shared his experiences of working in a professional production; he is currently touring with *Matilda*. Milla Star Clarson, Dance Principal at M3, led a heels workshop for students, developing this specialist, industry-relevant skill. We also welcomed Johnathan Dudley , who is currently performing on the international tour of *Les Misérables*.

A trip in July was organised to see former student Tom Xander performing the lead role in *Beetlejuice* in the West End. Earlier in the year, students attended a performance of *The Devil Wears Prada* to see Amy Di Bartolomeo in the lead role of Emily. Amy, a colleague of Ms Crawford, kindly arranged for our students to meet the cast, take photographs, and have their programmes signed.

We are proud to have former students currently working in the West End, on UK and international tours, and on cruise productions. A small selection of current placements includes:

- *Moulin Rouge* – International Tour
- *Beetlejuice* – West End
- *Hercules* – West End
- *Just for One Day* – West End
- FLYBY London
- *Friends! The Musical Parody* – UK Tour
- *Matilda* – UK Tour
- *Beauty and the Beast* – Australia
- *Grease* – Royal Caribbean
- North American Tour with Becky Hill

Trips

The Music Department once again organised a trip to Birmingham Symphony Hall to attend the *Classic FM Hall of Fame* concert. A total of 45 students aged 12–18 took part, dressing for the occasion in formal attire and thoroughly enjoying the experience of a live orchestral performance. The Advanced Soul Band secured two performance slots at the Shropshire County Show on Saturday 23 May and the Music Department organised an orchestra trip for 20 students to Boreatton Park, Shropshire in June. The visit provided an opportunity for group rehearsals in preparation for the summer concert, alongside outdoor activities designed to build confidence and strengthen relationships within the orchestra. The trip was a great success, with students delivering a confident performance at the summer concert and thoroughly enjoying the weekend.

Performing Arts Academy Recruitment

Recruitment to the Performing Arts Academy remains a key priority, particularly as we continue to face strong competition from BOA. Further work is planned to encourage greater participation from boys on the course.
Student outcomes in the Sixth Form remain excellent, with many securing places at prestigious universities and renowned stage schools such as Emil Dale, LIPA, Performers College and Millennium, among others.

Work-related learning continues to be an important aspect of the course. Wherever possible, we invite former students to share their experiences of working in the performing arts industry. In addition, we organise visits to key training providers to support students in preparing for their next steps after leaving the School. We also benefit from having a key member of staff who works closely with the Careers Department.

Technical Theatre Team

The Technical Theatre Team operates under the direction of Mr Bowdley, a qualified teacher with experience in theatre technology education, science/physics, education research and training, and who is also a co-owner and consultant to an international online business. The team comprises students from Year 8 through to Year 13 and supports a wide range of events across the school calendar. This enhances the experience for students across music, dance, and drama by providing a performance environment that closely reflects the professional performing arts industry.

Approximately 15–20 events are supported each year, with students developing skills in lighting, sound, and stage management, enabling them to deliver all performance opportunities. Many former students have gone on to pursue careers in technical theatre, and this year is no exception, with one Sixth Form student already working in the industry while continuing their studies.

Some students from the Performing Arts Academy also work regularly with the Technical Team, allowing them to gain a broader understanding of what is required to produce a show. This experience enhances their employability within the industry by enabling them to apply themselves across a range of roles and develop a deeper understanding of performance production.

Benefits to students:

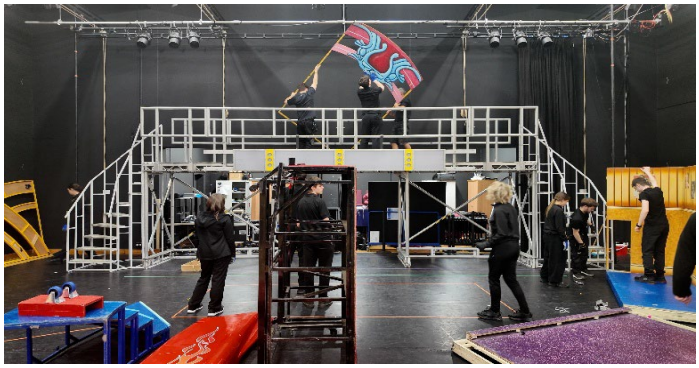
- **Skills and knowledge:** Students develop expertise in sound (live and recorded), lighting, stage management, and health and safety.
- **STEM links:** These skills complement learning in physics, mathematics, design technology, and computer science, providing real-world application of curriculum knowledge.
- **Transferable skills:** Students develop teamwork, time management, budgeting, and the ability to work to deadlines and collaborate across year groups.
- **Responsibility:** Students work both as part of a whole team and within smaller groups, taking on leadership roles and contributing to decision-making for events.
- **Duke of Edinburgh Award:** Many students use their Technical Team involvement as their skills component.
- **External engagement:** Students may work with external suppliers, gaining insight into the wider technical theatre industry.

- **Decision-making:** Students learn to work within available resources and make appropriate decisions, reflecting real-world practices.
- **Continuity:** Older students support the development of younger members, ensuring the sustainability of the team.
- **University applications:** Participation is highly regarded by university admissions tutors and can help students stand out, with former students citing it as beneficial for courses including medicine, engineering, and performing arts technology.
- **Sponsorship and support:** High-quality productions enable the school to secure significant discounts from suppliers, often amounting to substantial financial savings each year.
- **Sound**
  The upgrade to the sound system has significantly modernised our approach to productions. Its continued development now allows us to use a "silent orchestra" pit for the main School show, where most of the sound is delivered through the system rather than directly from instruments. This enables sound engineers to achieve a more precise balance between the orchestra and on-stage vocals.

- **Lighting**
  The lighting upgrade implemented six years ago continues to enhance both performances and examination work. We are now exploring further development opportunities, as some older equipment is becoming less effective and updates are required to maintain a modern, industry-relevant lighting provision.









Action and Events During 2025-2026

Students are awarded “TTS Points” for taking responsibility, taking opportunities and doing well in their schoolwork. Last year there were 82,506 TTS points awarded to students:

Year 7 - 27,555
Year 8 - 22,234
Year 9 - 16,861
Year 10 - 9,098
Year 11 - 6,758

When students reached 30, 60 or 100 TTS points, they received a bronze, silver or gold certificate at assembly and a prize ranging from a free breakfast to gift vouchers. The Year 7 student who receives the most TTS points is recognised at Achievement Evening where they are awarded a trophy and a prize. The winner of the Headmaster Award at Achievement Evening in July 2026 was Year 7 student, Alanna S (332 points).

Below are some of the main events of 2025-2026: -

- Student Led Conferences for Years 10 and 11
- Achievement Evening
- Sixth Form Taster Sessions for Year 11 students
- Sixth Form Information Evening for external Sixth Form applicants
- Music, Drama and Dance Events
- Year 7 Harvest Festival
- Year 8 Remembrance Service
- Holocaust Memorial Day
- European Day of Languages
- GCHQ National Languages Competition with Year 9
- Year 7 French Spelling Bee
- Options Taster Sessions for Year 8 students
- School Production of “Grease”
- Sports Day
- Science Fair
- Induction Tours for Sixth Form Students
- Summer School for new Year 7 students
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Year 8 Science Fair
- TTMAT Science STEM poster competition
- STEM Quadcopter Challenge
- Key Stage 3 Physics visit to Leicester Space Centre
- Year 7 trip to Chester Zoo

Governors
On a termly basis, the Governing Board continue to monitor progress against issues arising from the School Development Plan. Governors also monitor Health and Safety incidents, including near misses, by reviewing termly reports and considering what action might be necessary to minimise reoccurrences.

Students’ progress
Students continue to receive an Annual Report at the end of the academic year, and parents and Personal Tutors discuss progress and set targets. Parents receive modular reports on progress every half term and are asked on each occasion if they are satisfied with homework and the general standard of work. We very much value this regular line of communication with parents.

Community and Outreach Programme
Sharing successful practice with other schools is a natural part of the work undertaken by Thomas Telford School. We have a range of initiatives underway involving work with other schools and receive support from The Mercers’

Company. These are carefully planned and budgeted for, to ensure that they are successful and there is no negative impact upon the students or staff of Thomas Telford School. Below is an outline of the school's work with other schools:

Joint Professional Development with TTMAT Family of Schools
Staff from Thomas Telford School work collaboratively with TTMAT secondary schools which support each other with moderation of assessment, curriculum development, and training at departmental level during the annual collaboration training day. The School also supports the two primary schools, Redhill Primary Academy and Thomas Telford Free School, particularly providing children at those schools with access to our facilities.

Projects
TTMAT - Primary Club with Redhill Primary Academy
Inter TTMAT Mathematics Competition
STEM Quadcopter with Collins Aerospace
UKMT Mathematics Competitions
Harvest Festival
Black History Month project
TTMAT Netball @ Madeley Academy
TTMAT Football @ Sandwell Academy
TTMAT Table Tennis @UTC
TTMAT Basketball / Handball @ Walsall Academy
TTMAT Tennis / Rounders / Cricket (Year 8 and 9) Madeley Academy
TTMAT Hockey / Swimming @ Thomas Telford School
TTMAT Art staff workshop at Woodsetton Pottery with Artist Lorraine Bates
TTMAT joint PD Day Cyanotype technique and Gelli plate printmaking
Artist in Residence programme Year 11 and Sixth Form
Printmaking competition Sixth Form
TTMAT Spoken Language showcase Year 10
Regular year group charity events such as bake sales and sponsored sports events

Charity and Community support
The School has supported five charities as chosen by the student headship teams within each year group, and raised pleasing amounts of money in a variety of ways for: -

- Compton Care
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- HOPE- Holistic Opportunities Preventing Exclusion
- Telford Mind
- Telford Stay- Homeless Charity

Year 10 started the year with a fantastic bake sale that raised over £3,000 for Compton Care. Students sold out of all of the cakes which they had baked. Our annual #HelloYellow day in October saw us raise over £1,200.00 for World Mental Health Day and was followed by our Christmas Jumper day in December which raised a further £1,200.00.

Later in the year, a number of 6.1 Business Academy students ran fundraising events, including "are you smarter than a 6th former" quiz, where staff and students battled it out to be crowned champions. There were also several Year 7 and 8 movie nights, which are always extremely popular with students, as well as various charity golf matches and sponsored bike rides, arranged by the students. A second charity trip abroad was launched, with 6.1. 38 students raising money to fund their trip in July to Tanzania to support in local schools.

We are really pleased with the fundraising efforts and are extremely grateful for the support of everyone that contributed.

Finance, Administration and Premises

There has continued to be a strong focus on the School's finances to ensure that optimum value for money has been achieved. The annual programme of repairs and a refurbishment of several areas took place in the summer holidays, alongside several more significant capital projects, notably the installation of electric security gates at the entrance to the School and repairs to the Library roof.

The phased programme of external and internal maintenance ensures that the fabric of the School is maintained to the highest possible standard, and the groundsmen have once again kept all areas tidy and have ensured that playing surfaces and pitches have been conserved in good order. It continues to be very pleasing that students respect the quality of their environment and contribute to its ongoing pristine condition.

There has also been a continued focus on keeping the School's IT systems secure by ensuring that our IT security is based on the DfE and NCSC standards. A full review of the software in use across the site has been undertaken resulting in the very latest packages being made available for staff and students alike. During the year, the School achieved the externally-verified and government-backed Cyber-Essentials plus accreditation and is routinely monitoring compliance with this standard to ensure that it can be maintained at the point of the renewal assessment process.

Parent communication and engagement has been maintained through the My Child At School application and student portal. Appropriate AI solutions have become embedded to optimise the teaching and learning provision and to support time efficiency.

Sponsors
The Mercers' Company and Tarmac Holdings Limited, the School's main sponsors, are committed to the aims and objectives of the School. They continue to offer generous support to the students in a wide variety of ways, including financial support. Each Sponsor nominates up to four Governors to serve on the Governing Board, and this provides Sponsors with information regarding the achievements of the School. The Headmaster is also able to seek advice from Sponsors, when needed.

Governors
The School is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Act. Governors (who are directors of the Company) are nominated by the two Sponsors of the School and by the Governors themselves. Each year, Governors retire by rotation in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, which provide that at the Annual General Meeting of the Company, one third of the Governors must retire from those being those longest in office since last election, with the eligibility for re-election.

During the year, there have been changes to the composition of the Governing Board, with the resignation of two long-serving Governors, Mr Jones and Mr Harrison. The Board has recently completed a governance evaluation to identify the skills, experience and expertise required for new appointments which will be made to fill these vacancies, in due course. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all Governors for their continued commitment, dedication and support of the School.

Chair and Secretary
The Chair of the Governors is Mrs G L Ruoss, and the Company Secretary is Mrs M Davies.

Financial Statements
The audited accounts for the 2025-2026 academic year will be submitted to Governors on 11 November 2026 for their approval and the full Annual Report and Financial Statements will be made available via the School's our website, in due course.

G L Ruoss
Chair of Governors
November 2026