



Thomas Telford School

Newsletter

Issue 6

Autumn 1992

Day Nursery Opens

THOMAS Telford School has broken new ground by being the first school in the area to provide a day nursery for children of between two to five years of age.

The nursery is open from 8 a.m. to 5.45 p.m. each weekday throughout the year. It is available not only for the children of the staff of the School, but also for the children of parents making use of the School's community education programmes and those people living in the local area.

The nursery, which opened on 2nd November 1992, has a specially built outdoor soft play area complete with Wendy house, activity gym and bicycles to complement its fully equipped playroom. In addition, the children use the School's gym, music rooms and theatre as part of their daily programme of learning activities.

Senior Nursery Nurse, Tesni Allday, said, 'A team of three qualified staff will be used to provide a structured day in which the children not only play, but use a range of educational toys and games to stimulate their pre-school educational skills and abilities in a caring environment.'

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Hazel Ashworth displaying designs to students.

STAFF from the world famous Birmingham Royal Ballet took time off from rehearsals in October to run a number of workshops at the School as part of the Year 8 module on industry. Over one hundred and eighty students took part in the event which included sessions on theatre design and management, dance and drama, and a costume and make-up demonstration. Those taking part included Sandy Robertson of the business management department, Hazel Ashworth, a freelance theatre designer and David Morse, head of make-up and principal character artist. The event, which was organised in conjunction with the Ballet's education department,

Royal Ballet Visit

was a huge success and was their largest scale school venture to date. Ballet press officer Josie Stevens said, 'The Birmingham Royal Ballet's educational department is a fundamental part of our work. Children are our audience of tomorrow and we want to enrich their experience and understanding of ballet as an art and to kindle in them an active enthusiasm for it'. English teacher, Mrs Deborah Mundy who organised the day said, 'This is a marvellous opportunity for Thomas Telford students to gain an insight into the world of ballet and theatre as part of the entertainment industry.'

N.C.E.T. Appointment

SOME parents have been telephoning the School to enquire about Mr Satchwell's recent appointment and he wishes to clarify the position. He is not leaving the School. The recent appointment he has just accepted is in a voluntary capacity and creates a natural link between Thomas Telford School and the National Council for Educational Technology. He will join H.M.I. inspectors and leading industrialists on the Council. The NCET, which was set up in 1988 to pioneer work in the introduction of the new technologies into

education, offers a comprehensive enquiry service for those in the business of education and training. Mr Satchwell said, 'I am delighted to have been invited to join the National Council for Educational Technology. It is also recognition for Thomas Telford School for the excellent work in which it is currently involved. Technology has revolutionised learning and teaching styles. Research and further development in this field increases the opportunities for all our students.'



A Message From The Head

CONGRATULATIONS to our new Sixth Formers and Year 7 students who have settled in remarkably well. We now have 500 students on roll and this will eventually grow to about 1,000 by 1996.

School attendance for this year is currently running at 97% and I ask for parents and students' continued support to maintain these high standards which are very well received by prospective employers.

May I take the opportunity of thanking parents who are assisting with the establishment of session 3 which is the community use of the School between 5.30 and 8.30pm. The Governors have recently confirmed the appointment of a new Deputy Head Manager to coordinate work in this area. Mr Danvers will begin in January 1993 and I would expect that there will be an expansion of the existing programme. We will, of course keep all parents informed of developments in this area.

Work has now started on the provision of an All-weather Floodlit Pitch and sports field. The All-weather Pitch should be available for use sometime in the Spring Term 1993.

I look forward to seeing parents at the National Curriculum Awareness Raising Evening later this term.

Finally, on behalf of all the employees of the School may I wish parents and their families a happy Christmas.

Assuring you of my cooperation.

Severe Weather

ALTHOUGH we all hope for a mild winter, it seems sensible to be prepared for severe weather conditions which may restrict transport or affect safety.

The Headmaster will make the decision whether or not to close the School. This will be announced on Radio Shropshire and Beacon Radio from 7.00am onwards or earlier if possible.

However, the School will remain open to receive any students who have not heard the news bulletin, thus ensuring the safety of all.

Advisory Council News

SOME of you will be aware of the Advisory Council, the members and our rôle, but for those who do not know, here are our names and telephone numbers. Should parents wish to discuss or need any information on any matter we will be only too pleased to help.

NAME	☎
Ms Spence	0902 744992
Mr Roche	0902 322226
Mr Jones	0952 200000
Mrs Shaw	0952 596629
Mrs Adams	0952 596085
Mr Evans	0952 248112
Ms Ferguson	0952 883872
Mr Plant	0952 502294

Our activities to date have included the Bar-B-Que in July, and although hampered by the weather it was a huge success and will be repeated on a larger scale next year.

In the meantime we are planning several events in the run-up to Christmas.

These include:-

Special Christmas Concert

Saturday 28 November at 7.30pm

Students' Christmas Disco

Wednesday 16 December at 4.15pm

Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, and are available from the School.

Mrs Adams, Advisory Council Member.



Year 7 students weigh Somalia rice

Aid for Somalia

THOMAS Telford students have been busy this term collecting a range of dried foods to send to the famine stricken people of Somalia.

The students collected rice, lentils, pearl

barley, sugar and salt as part of the campaign by local churches and schools to support the efforts of the aid agency, the Tear Fund.

The food was weighed and then taken to R.A.F. Lynham to be flown directly to Africa.



Tarmac Experience

THREE sixth form students, Surjit Kooner, Nirinder Purawal and David Godfrey used their five week work placement at Tarmac's Buildings Material Division to produce three booklets which will be used in the company's training programme. The students researched and designed the booklets using the School's in-house desktop publishing facilities in conjunction with BMD marketing manager, Angus Groom. They will be used to introduce future work placement students to the Division. In addition, the booklets included a history of BMD headquarters, Wergs Hall, a visitors guide to a new brick factory at Cannock and a guide to career opportunities at Tarmac.

Boxing Clever



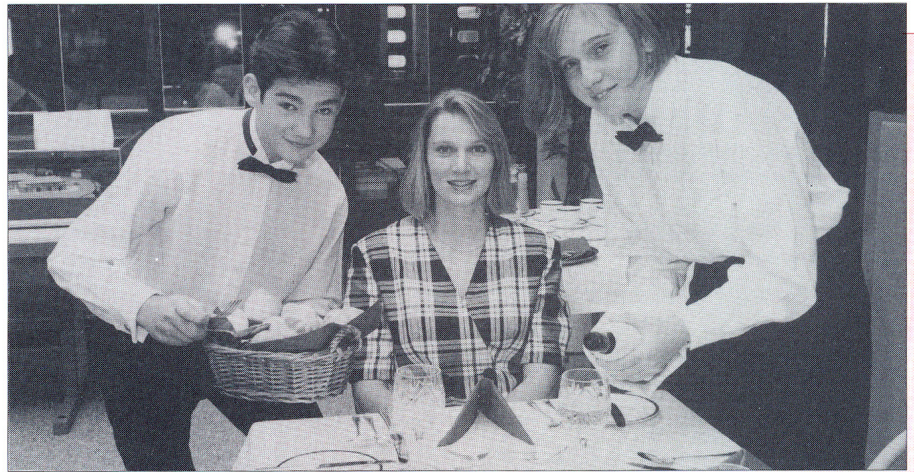
Year 8 Students display their designs.

FIFTY Year 8 students had their maths work professionally judged this term by a team of experts from local company, Telford Packaging.

After paying a visit to the company's manufacturing and design sections, the students were given the task of designing and producing boxes for a range of different products.

Telford Packaging Production Manager, Jim Riley, and fellow workers, Tom Harbinson and Simon Walker came into the School to judge the students efforts and were so impressed they presented the winners with special commendations. Maths teacher Angela Bradley said, 'This has been an excellent opportunity for the students to use their maths skills in a practical way.'

Heartbeat Award



Student Service, Simon Dowell and Sarah Knowles serve member of staff, Mrs Lynne Deller

THOMAS Telford has just become the first school in the area to be given the prestigious Heartbeat Award for providing a healthy eating programme for its students and staff. The award, which is open to offices, factories and schools, is organised by the Health Education Authority and local Health Education Officers. They were impressed by the variety of healthy alternatives provided ranging from low fat yoghurts, wholemeal bread, and sugar free breakfast cereals. In addition, the restaurant, which is run in conjunction with the

School's Hotel & Catering department, was commended for the high standard of training given to its staff in food hygiene. Course leader, Howard Barnes said, 'It is the School's policy to encourage students to take a well balanced meal and every Year 7 and 8 student has been learning about what makes up a healthy diet'. The Hotel & Catering students are also sharing their skills in the School's newly opened Hospitality Suite which provides a totally realistic working and learning environment.

Homework Evaluation

THE evaluation of the School homework arrangements we carried out in the summer term, showed us that the vast majority of parents were pleased with the arrangements that existed at that time.

Since then we have altered our weekly timetable and this has resulted in a more regular pattern of homework being set. It is fair to say that there has been some concern from some parents over the time it has taken the students to complete the tasks on some occasions. As a guide to help you we feel that the Year 7 students should have as a maximum, 2 sessions of 30 minutes each and for the Year 8 students 2 sessions of no more than 45 minutes each.

We do monitor the comments that you, as parents, make and are pleased to react to these to help each student and treat them in

an individual way. Do keep supporting the students and please do comment regularly in the comment box at the bottom of the homework record sheet. If you do not see this sheet regularly there is something wrong and you should ask your son or daughter for it so you may see what tasks they are working on and what progress and comments are being made by the staff. There is always the Z88 and of course a letter, if you feel that you wish to expand on any particular point.

At the end of each module every student will have an end of module report that should outline the work that has been undertaken during the previous weeks. Again we would welcome your comments on these sheets so we are all working together towards achieving the maximum support for the students.

M. Douch



Police Progress Arrested in Basketball Contest

HELLO, hello, hello. An exciting start to the basketball season saw the sixth form team take on the local Police side. The School team gained an early ascendancy and at half time enjoyed a narrow, but well deserved lead. The second half saw the Police come back strongly, slowly draw level and just before the end take a two point lead. In the last move of the match the scores were levelled which put the contest into overtime, a draw not being permitted in basketball.

The School team benefited more from the short break and quickly took a five point lead which was the cushion needed to complete a well earned victory, 36-31.

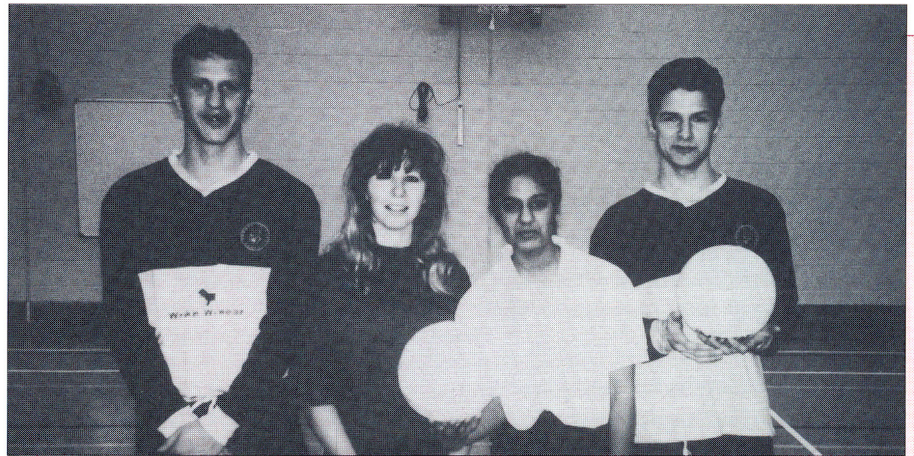
Derby Winners

THE Year 8 football team notched up its largest victory of the season so far when they defeated Wolverhampton rivals, Moseley Park by eight goals to two.

Although good defending saw a scoreless first twenty minutes, a purple patch saw Thomas Telford take a deserved four nil lead by half-time.

Hat-tricks for both Simeon Sunday and Andrew Pryce, a headed goal by the smallest player on the pitch, Michael Carter, and a further goal by Anthony O'Connor put the game well beyond the reach of the opposition.

Man of the match, making his debut for the first team was Ian Phillips.



Ian Jones, Toni Ellis, Harpal Rhandawa and Richard Cadman, Thomas Telford Students who have recently been selected for county honours.

County Standard

CONGRATULATIONS to sixth form students, Harpal Randhawa and Toni Ellis who have been chosen to represent Shropshire at Netball. Toni has been selected for the under 19's and Harpal for the under 21's. It was with their help that the School recently gained an emphatic victory over Wolverhampton Grammar School, 23-8.

With equal success Ian Jones and Richard Cadman have been selected to play for Shropshire Schools under 19's football team

Drama Request

ARE there any parents or friends of the School who have any old costumes, clothes or furniture which they think may be useful to the Expressive Arts department? If any body can help please contact Mr Griffiths at the School and he will make arrangements to have the items collected.

Nerves of Steel

SIXTH form student, Louise Pengilley from Willenhall took a large step recently - 120 ft. to be precise.

Louise volunteered to join a group of people in November who abseiled from the top of the Mander House shopping precinct to raise funds for the Spastics Society.

Leave of Absence

REGULAR and full attendance is essential if students are to benefit fully from the education offered to them at Thomas Telford School.

Parents must ensure that all possible steps are taken to avoid students being absent from School for family holidays.

Parents are reminded that the School year at Thomas Telford is longer than the average school year. This will inevitably result in differences in school calendars.

All requests for Leave of Absence will be considered by the Headmaster, Mr. Satchwell, and the Board of Governors.

If, after serious consideration you still wish to apply for Leave of Absence please obtain the requisite form from the School Office and return it for the attention of the Headmaster, Mr. Satchwell.

Term Dates 1992/3

1992 Autumn Term

1 September to 22 December (Half Term 26 to 30 October)

1993 Spring Term

4 January to 2 April (Half Term 15 to 19 February)

1993 Summer Term

19 April to 30 July (Half Term 31 May to 4 June)

1993 Autumn Term

1 September to 22 December 93 (Half Term 25 to 29 October)

