



# Thomas Telford School

## Newsletter

Issue No 17

Summer 1998

### A Milestone for the School



*Sixth Form Leavers Summer 1998*

I had the pleasure and very special experience of saying farewell to the students who were the first to enter the School in September 1991. They have now left after seven years of education here.

The students have been marvellous ambassadors for the School in every respect and acted as exemplars for other students to follow. They are students with whom the staff have had excellent relationships and, on behalf of the staff and Governors of the School, I wish them every success in their future careers.

I reminded them on the day that they left, that they are welcome back any time, especially if we can offer some help, guidance or support. I shall now observe with interest how they progress further into adult life.

It is with confidence that I look forward to the Examination Results this August as I expect the School to make further improvements on its already formidable achievements. It has been a notable year for our Performing Arts students. I was especially pleased with the production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and our achievements in the sporting field which have matched those of last year.

One of the highlights of the year has been the opportunity for me to have a working lunch with a representative group of children from each year. I intend to continue this practice as I have received invaluable advice on how we can improve the School further. I am particularly grateful for the openness, honesty and maturity of our students during this exercise.



*Headmaster - Mr Kevin Satchwell*

**Kevin Satchwell July 1998**



# Leading the Way with New Classroom Technologies

## Whiteboard Technology



*Mr Bisp conducts an English lesson about the Loch Ness monster*

The School now has four electronic whiteboards. They are located in the English, Humanities and Business Learning Bases. An electronic whiteboard operates as a normal whiteboard but uses an electronic pen which acts as a computer mouse, the board acting as a huge computer screen.

This means that teachers can demonstrate anything that can be seen on a computer to a full class of students. For example, a multimedia CD-ROM of Hamlet can be used allowing sound clips and video clips to be played to the class. Videos can be started and paused to allow time for discussion and questions - all controlled by the teacher using the electronic pen. The boards are directly linked to the School network and to the Internet. This means that any of the millions of pages on the world wide web can be displayed to the full class.

Extensive use is made of this facility, for example, in Geography lessons, satellite images that are only minutes old are used by teachers to illustrate the movement of weather patterns. In Science lessons, direct links to animated graphics illustrating the movement of molecules, usually based in an American University, can be made.

## Internet Access to the Curriculum

All Thomas Telford School students with network IDs and passwords can access the School Intranet from home if they have internet access. When students access the School home page on the world wide web and select the Telford Learning Grid, they will be asked for their details. Once these have been entered the whole of the curriculum intranet can be accessed. At present this consists mainly of Sixth Form material.

A new project will put the entire curriculum from Year 7 to Sixth Form on the School Intranet. This will take most of next year to complete. Students will be able to see what homework and class work they will be getting, in advance, by checking the Intranet in School or from home.

## Virtual Classroom

The Virtual Classroom at the School has linked up with a number of other schools using electronic whiteboards and video conferencing.

A poetry lesson about First World War poet, Wilfred Owen, was given by Head of English, Miss Michelle Williams, simultaneously to a group of Year 10 students here and Year 10 students located about 150 miles away at Dixons City Technology College in Bradford.

Student desk microphones allowed students to talk to the remote teacher and to their fellow students at the other school. The large 52 inch TV in our Virtual Classroom gave a superb picture of the remote classroom and students.

Another virtual lesson was delivered to Telford from Bradford. This was an IT lesson about the Microsoft Access database software, delivered as part of the GNVQ Advanced IT course. The remote teacher sent our students their homework by electronic mail.

Mr Len Adam, IT Consultant, commented: "Students were very enthusiastic on both these occasions".

Our grateful thanks go to the Shropshire Star for allowing us to use a number of their photographs in this Newsletter



*Year 9 Students using the Virtual Classroom*



## Row Row Row Your Boat (Gently Down the Stream)



*(l-r) Russell Evans, Mark Smith and Jamie McDowall with Simone Boulton approaching at a fast pace!*

Sixth Form students successfully completed a British Canoe Union One Star Award during a weekend residential course at Stottesdon in March. The students who are studying a Leisure and Tourism Advanced GNVQ also completed a project in which they planned, completed and evaluated a Mountain Bike Trek.

*As part of her GCSE Technology Project, Year 11 student, Sarah Spode has designed and constructed a device to enable wheelchair-bound people to open their 'wheelie' bins more easily. Mr Hudson, Director of Technology, commented: "Sarah has come up with a wonderfully practical idea and it would be excellent if this simple device were to be taken up by Local Authorities or disabled groups."*

## A Well Kept Secret!



*Pictured above (l-r) with their remote control cars are Year 7 students:*

*Diptesh Patel, Alex Warnsby, Edward Proffitt, Jonathan Holloway, Matthew Somerville and Robert Mills*

Not many people know this but there are a couple of after school clubs where students have a great deal of fun at the end of a hard day's study. During the winter months, a Radio-controlled Model Car Club operates on a Tuesday or Friday after school on the hard-play area and during the Summer Term, kite flying takes place on a Friday after school. Senior Industrial Consultant, Mr Malcolm Scotto who runs both these clubs, commented: "The students who take part really enjoy relaxing at the end of the day. If there are any other students who would like to join in, please let me know."

## Erica Stars at the Palace

Former student Erica Deakin, who is now studying at Paul McCartney's Fame School - the Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts – took a starring role at Buckingham Palace in the Spring.

Erica was one of two students from LIPA who were asked to portray scenes from the West End musical 'Chicago' as part of an entertainment for the Heads of State from twenty five countries who were attending an Asia/Europe conference hosted by Tony Blair. The audience not only included Her Majesty The Queen but also Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of Germany and Jacques Chirac, President of France.

## A Cunning Device!

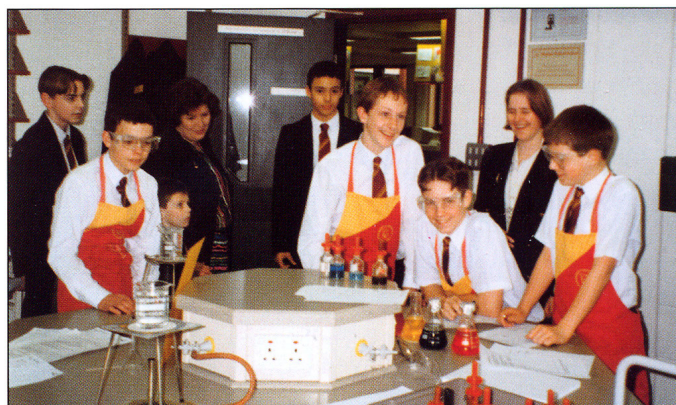


*Sarah Spode demonstrates her helpful device*

*(Photo courtesy of Shropshire Star)*

## National Science Week

A Science Open Evening was held in March to celebrate National Science Week. The evening provided an opportunity for the parents of Key Stage 3 students to see demonstrations of a wide variety of experiments in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Parents were invited to "have a go" too. Mr Simon Rogers, Head of Science said: "We were delighted with the response from parents. It was an 'eye opening' experience for them to see how much science education, particularly through the introduction of technology, has changed since their own school days."



*(l to r) Luke Prescott, Simon Reece, Visitors, Nicholas Lloyd, Luke Staddon, David Tracey, Miss Gill Edge and Peter Squire*



# Jesus Christ Superstar



Elizabeth Harrison, Kirk Morgan and Rebecca Bullock

*"It was a pleasure to see so many people really enjoying what they were doing and putting so much energy into the performance - the sheer talent of those involved was staggering."*

*I cannot recall leaving any other school production wishing I could watch it all over again. It was a magical two hours."*

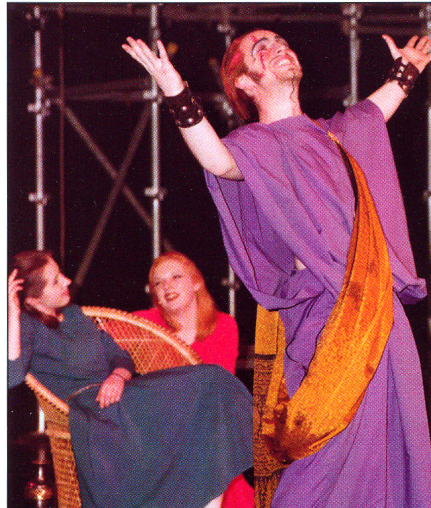
Local Headteacher

Congratulations to the Performing Arts team and all the students who were involved with this year's production of "Jesus Christ Superstar". An excellent cast of young people from throughout the School supported a magnificent performance from 17 year old Kirk Morgan who brought a sensitivity and maturity to the role of Jesus Christ, worthy of a professional actor.

The very best way to pay tribute to the many people involved in this production is to quote from some of the letters received by the School. These include a poem from Rebecca Garbett (see also article at the foot of this page) as well as letters from visitors.

*"I was really awe struck. What a brilliant performance and what hard work had gone into this concert."*

Grandmother



Laura Weaver, Ellie Martin and Matthew Rozier

## TOTAL COMMITMENT

What to expect we were not sure,  
What we got was pure magic.  
Acting, dancing and so much more  
Of a story that was tragic.  
A cast full of total commitment,  
Each one giving their all.  
Having a sense of fulfilment,  
Each standing ten feet tall.  
A performance packed with emotion,  
Casting a spell throughout the crowd.  
To be a part of such devotion  
I was humbled, but very proud.  
Many a tear was in our eye,  
Many a lump in our throat.  
A performance to electrify,  
Not wanting to reach for our coat!  
Let's not forget the rest of the team,  
Their enthusiasm to be applauded.  
Allowing others to realise their dream,  
For this, appreciation's awarded.

Becky Garbett (aged 11)

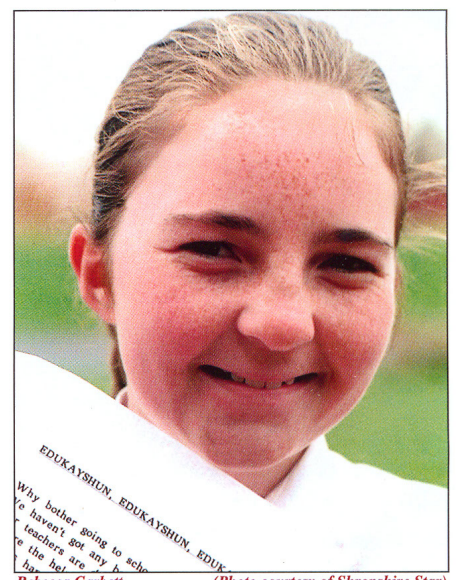
## Rebecca's Gift of Expression

Rebecca Garbett, a Year 7 student, has had her first poetry collection published. "School Gems", based on her experiences at school, is the first of three books of Rebecca's poems to be published this year.

Rebecca began writing poetry when she was a nine year old pupil at Holmer Lake Primary School. "I wanted to make a special gift for Miss Collison, my favourite teacher who was leaving, so I wrote a poem and had it framed" explained Rebecca. "People thought the poem was good and it went on to win competitions and was included in some poetry books."

Mr Satchwell commented: "I have read some of Rebecca's poetry and was very moved and impressed by the way she is able to express her feelings. I think she has a great talent and I know that her book will be very successful."

Rebecca and her Mother have kindly donated some of the profit from the book to School funds.



Rebecca Garbett

(Photo courtesy of Shropshire Star)



## Banking on Success



(l-r) Lee Morgan, Charles Hall, Kelly Cieciora, Felicity Durnall, Trisha Clay (Manager of the Telford Branch of the Midland Bank) and Matthew Brazier

6.1 GNVQ Advanced Business students have received a £116 cheque from the Midland Bank. The students set up a School branch of the Midland Bank in September 1997 and have opened 116 accounts for students since then for which the Midland donates £1 per account to the School. Business teacher, Miss Claire Dawes, said: "The MidBank project provides the students with real life experience helping to develop their personal and business skills as well as giving other students the chance to save their cash."

## Primary Event

6.1 Leisure and Tourism students raised money for the Anthony Nolan Trust by organising and running a Netball and Football Tournament for local primary schools. The students, whose organisation of the Tournament was part of their Leisure and Tourism Advanced GNVQ Unit – Planning and Running an Event, raised £200 for the charity. Their tutor, Miss Sandra Coyle, commented: "The students learned a great deal from running this event and the local schools were very appreciative of their efforts."

## Batting for England



Miss Owen

(Photo courtesy of Shropshire Star)

PE teacher, Miss Rachel Owen, was selected to play for England in the first ever women's International Rounders tour to the West Indies in April. Team members were expected to find sponsorship towards the cost of the tour and Miss Owen raised £280 by taking part in a sponsored bike ride and was also delighted to receive a donation from The Mercers' Company.

Miss Owen said: "We scored an excellent 11-1 win over the Grenadine Islands in the Final. Our ultimate aim is to gain recognition for Rounders and for it to be included in the Commonwealth Games."

## Charity Run

English teacher, Miss Michelle Williams, competed in the London Marathon again this year. She completed the gruelling course in just 4 hours 15 minutes – a feat which most of us would find totally impossible! Miss Williams raised over £1,000.

Students from the GNVQ Advanced Leisure and Tourism group raised some of the sponsorship on her behalf from students, staff and members of the community.

The money will be split between the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the School's Student European Links project.

## Enterprising Students

Second Year Sixth Form students have participated in the Young Enterprise Scheme during this past academic year. Two groups of students each set up their own business - Empire Graphics, a desk top publishing company and Okazions which sold cards and arranged functions for all occasions. Both teams reached the Shropshire Young Enterprise Finals in May this year. Empire Graphics performed particularly well. They were runners-up in the Shropshire Finals and secured second prize in a local trade fair competition, judged by the Shropshire Star.

Miss Claire Dawes, Business Studies Teacher, commented: "The Young Enterprise Scheme is a national educational charity which provides exciting, practical business experience to young people. They develop a variety of new skills including working as a team, leadership, making presentations, planning, financial control, taking responsibility and the need for commitment to quality. I'm very proud of both teams. They have worked very hard and deserve their success."



# Fund Raising Stars!

## HM The Queen welcomes Holly and Friends after 700 mile Marathon



HM The Queen greets Holly Smith (left), Rachel Dancer and their donkeys

(Photo Courtesy of Shropshire Star)

Year 9 student, Holly Smith received a royal welcome at the end of an epic 700 mile walk from Scotland to London. Her Majesty The Queen greeted Holly, her friend Rachel Dancer from Sheffield and two donkeys, Joshua and Tinker, in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. The charity walk began at the gates of Balmoral Castle on The Queen's Birthday in April and ended at the gates of Buckingham Palace on the eve of Her Majesty's Official Birthday in June. Holly and Rachel then walked on to Downing Street where they were met by the Prime Minister's wife, Cherie Blair and two of her children. The girls were the special guests of Her Majesty at the Trooping the Colour ceremony the following day.

Holly commented: "The first day meant a lot to me - Her Majesty allowed us to walk through her private estate at Balmoral. Everyday there was different scenery from the rugged mountains of Glenshee to the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. I felt that it was a real privilege to meet The Queen but I felt the greatest privilege was to be chosen to do the walk and to achieve what I had set out to do which was to raise £40,000 on behalf of disabled children."

The Michael Elliott Trust will use the cash to improve the facilities for disabled people at the Freshfields Donkey Sanctuary in Derbyshire.



Back row (l-r): Amy Law, Eve Gaut, Nicky James, Faye Mallen, Mr Ian Musty (Appeals Manager, Macmillan Cancer Relief) Elizabeth Elliott, Lucy Jones, Vicky Wakefield and Elaine Nicholls. Front Row (l-r): Abigail Mitchell, Rebecca Harrison, Heather Ferguson, Vicky McNulty

## Up the Wrekin

Catherine Oswin, Michelle Cheal, Joanna Broughton, Laura Slatcher and Jayna Patel took part in a sponsored walk up The Wrekin to raise cash for the Marie Curie Cancer Charity.

The walk launched the charity's Walk for Hope initiative which aimed to raise funds during the Walk to Work/Walk to School Week in June.

The money will go towards supporting the 34 Marie Curie nurses working in Shropshire.



Catherine Oswin and Michelle Cheal with Petra Harper of Marie Curie Cancer Care

(Photo Courtesy of Shropshire Star)

## The Wide Awake Girls

Twelve Year 10 students managed to stay awake for 36 hours at half term and raised over £850. The sponsored 'Stay-awake' was organised by Faye Mallen in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief. Faye commented: "I'm delighted that so many of my friends joined in and that we managed to raise so much."

Ian Musty, Appeals Manager for the charity, said: "Faye's brilliant efforts together with others should mean that we start to build the new chemotherapy unit for Shropshire this year."



## Jungle Art



Sixth Form Student, Angela McKeown (Photo courtesy of EDS)

Sixth Form Art students have completed a commission from local company EDS to produce a series of stunning murals for their newly opened Discovery Centre. EDS's Suzanne White commented: "The Discovery Centre has been a dream of mine for the past two years. With the help of Mr Sharratt and the students from Thomas Telford School, the Centre has exceeded my vision."

## Justice for Year 10

The Year 10 visit to the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham was judged a great success by all concerned.

Over one hundred students, who have been studying 'Crime and Punishment through Time', spent a wonderful day taking part in a mock trial to reinforce their knowledge of the Suffragettes and the Luddites. The day also included a tour of a Victorian Police Station, a chance to make a computer 'photofit' of a suspect and some of the students even had their finger prints taken! There was also an opportunity to try on wigs and gowns, riot gear, etc.

Mr Phil Ryder, Head of History commented: "We had a terrific day and the students were a credit to the School. The museum staff told me that our students were the best prepared and the best behaved school visitors they have ever had!!" Lucy Hardman summed up the feelings of the students: "It was a great day!"

## Tasty Careers Menu

'Investors in Careers' is on the menu for Mr Birkett, Director of Careers and Industry Links. It is an externally assessed Kitemark of excellence which gives a school public recognition for the quality of its careers programme.

Mr Birkett said: "We have updated our Careers, Education and Guidance Policy (copies are available for parents, students and external visitors in the Careers Resource Centre) and we are on line for assessment during this summer." The policy sets out the services that students can expect from the Careers Department. It includes a planned programme of Careers Education. Individual guidance is available from the School's Industrial Consultants and Shropshire Careers Service. There is a 'drop-in' Careers Resource Centre with up-to-date information on career opportunities and support is given for job search including CV preparation, interview skills and action planning. This provides an opportunity to experience the world of work.

The Careers Team are also pioneering a Careers Discovery Programme for Year 10 students and their parents. They will work together with School and Shropshire Careers Service staff to learn the 'nuts and bolts' of how to research different careers. Mr Birkett said: "I welcome any ideas parents and students may have for improvements in our careers service. Please contact me at School."

## Experimental Weaving



(l-r): Natalie Smith, Madeline Howard, Nakash Hussain, Katy Hughes, Charlotte Griffin, Haily Simms, Robin Price, Benjamin Plumb, Emma Lees, Stephanie Cartwright, Abigail Sercombe, Jill Drewry and Richard Holden

A group of Year 9 students took part in a Royal College of Arts Schools Technology project to assess whether weaving equipment can be used to produce experimental work and to illustrate the way that fabrics are designed and made. Six looms were provided for the project by Emmerich (Berlon) Ltd who then kindly donated them to the School.

Four of the students - Robin Price, Katy Hughes, Benjamin Plumb and Natalie Smith, together with Sixth Form student Harjinder Randhawa, spent the day at the Design & Technology 1997 Show at the National Exhibition Centre where they took part in a workshop demonstrating the skills that they had learned during the project and showing the pieces that they had made.

Art and Design Teacher, Miss Clara Gregson commented: "I was surprised and delighted that so many Year 9 students chose to take part in this after school project. They have been very enthusiastic and have even been getting on with the weaving in their own time."



# TTS Sports News



**Under 15 Hockey Team - County Champions**  
Back (L to R): Liam Hennessy, Ian Monckton, Daniel Winter, Ross Clarke, Mr Potter, Karl Hukins, Alasdair Fawcett, Matthew Foster  
Front (L to R): Joseph Shaffery, Jon Gaze, Chris Kelly, Richard McDonald, David Williams, Riccardo Bragoli, Kieran Stephens  
(Photo courtesy of Shropshire Star)

## Congratulations to..

Philip Nicholls who is the Shropshire County Cross Country Champion and who has also been included in the All England Squad.

**..and..**

Kimberley Atkinson who won the Shropshire Schools Senior Girls Novice Gymnastics Championships in February.

## Basketball



**Clockwise from the front:** Jayne Barrow (holding the trophy), Joanna Harvey, Rachel Barrow, Joanne Leeming, Carina Turner, Sharmadean Reid, Laura Chaney, Lindsey Briggs, Danielle Petrovic, Donna Wilkinson and Joanne Wilkinson  
(Photo courtesy of Shropshire Star)

The Under 19 Girls Basketball Team have had an excellent season culminating in their success in the County competition. The team won matches against Abraham Darby and Idsall Schools to reach the very closely fought final in which they beat Bridgnorth Endowed by a margin of only four points. Donna Wilkinson who is the captain of our Under 19 team is also captain of the Shropshire County team. Jayne and Rachel Barrow, Lindsey Briggs and Jo Wilkinson have also played for the County this season.

## Hockey

The Under 15 Boys Hockey team won the County Championship this season beating Meole Brace in the final. Matthew Foster was 'Man of the Match'. The Under 19 and Under 16 teams also reached the finals of their Competitions.

An Under 13 seven-a-side team won the County title beating Bridgnorth Endowed School 4-1 in the final. Chris Leech scored a hat trick. The team went on to the regional finals where they played in a round robin competition, with Liam Hennessy, in particular, playing some excellent hockey.

## Athletics

In the TSB County Athletics Championships, both the Year 7/8 and Year 9/10 Boys teams became County Champions, with outstanding performances from Luke Staddon, Gary Elks, Chris Dixon, Jason Harvey, Ian Monckton, Philip Nicholls and Riccardo Bragoli.

At Under 14 level, four students are Individual County Champions - David Blackford (Hurdles), James Mackenzie and Gemma Belcher (100 and 200 m) and Philip Nicholls (1500 m).

Ian Monckton and Philip Nicholls have been selected to compete in the All England School Championships in July.

## Football

The Under 19 Boys team were runners-up in the County Cup. They were beaten in the final 4-2 by Shrewsbury School. They also reached the West Midlands College League final for the third consecutive year, losing narrowly 3-2.

The Girls Under 12 five-a-side team won through to the area final of the Wagon Wheels National Cup by beating Abraham Darby 3-1. In the area finals the team were eventually beaten by Bridgnorth Endowed, having beaten schools from Cheshire and Stafford.

Daniel Nicholls and Richard Weaver were chosen to take part in the Under 19 Shropshire County tour to Lowestoft.

## Ice Hockey



Stuart (left) and Adam Brittle (Photo courtesy of Shropshire Star)

Stuart and Adam Brittle played International Ice Hockey in Canada. Stuart was a member of the Under 16 Great Britain team while Adam played for the Under 14 England team in the World Junior Ice Hockey Championships.

## Sponsored Kit



Philip Nicholls (left) and Chris Waldron receive a cheque for £350 from Mr Jeff Thomas, Account Manager at Rentokil

The School has received sponsorship from three companies this year who have provided the funds for sports kit.

The School is very grateful to Rentokil Office Machines in partnership with Ricoh UK Ltd who have sponsored a football team strip and to Accountants, KPMG who provided the funds for another strip.