



Thomas Telford School

Newsletter

Issue No 18

Spring 1999

National Recognition of GCSE Success!



County's showcase comprehensive is a national winner

SCHOOL TOP OF THE CLASS

By Dave Morris and John Hipwood
SHROPSHIRE'S SHOWCASE Thomas Telford School was top of the class again today, living up to its reputation as one of the most outstanding comprehensive schools in the country.

Better than all the rest



Headmaster Kevin Satchwell celebrates his school's success with pupils front, Katie Lockley, Russell Evans, middle, Mark Bevan, Schmize Vassell and back, Rebecca Kilvert, Tracy Day, Jaivant Patel and Katie Brabazon.



An 'ordinary comp' with an extraordinary rate of success

Thomas Telford School encourages pupils to aim high. Ben Russell looks at England's top GCSE performer

FINANCIAL TIMES

CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES

Comprehensive bests Eton in performance

Thomas Telford School, a city technology college in Shropshire, is the top comprehensive in the country, according to the government's new system for ranking GCSE performance this year.

Its spectacular performance, putting it above famous academies such as Eton College and Manchester Grammar, is mirrored by the achievement of three other CTCs ranked in the top 10 list of most improved schools.

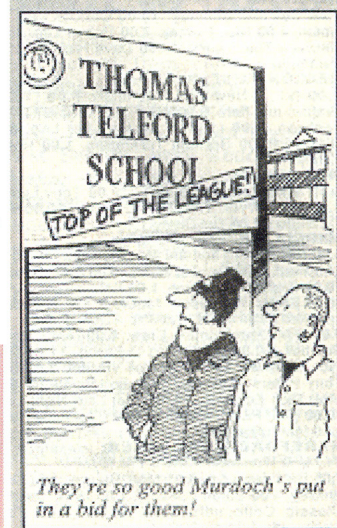
The Birmingham Post

On top form after school revolution

By CHARISSE EDE
The Birmingham Post

A classroom revolution at a Midland comprehensive school, including bonus payments for high-flying teachers, has propelled it to the top of national league tables.

GEMINI



They're so good Murdoch's put in a bid for them!

Acknowledgements

These press cuttings are from the Tuesday 1 December 1998 issues of the following newspapers and are reproduced with the kind permission of their Editors: The Birmingham Post, The Financial Times, The Independent, The Shropshire Star.

Celebrating Success at the



Major prizewinners pictured with Sir Neville Simms and Mr Adrian Watney (l-r): Matthew Fletcher and Kelly Roberts (joint winners of the Mawdsley Award for the Outstanding Student of the Year), Kelly Vaughan (Emma Shaw Memorial Award for Personality of the Year), Holly Smith (Williams Award for Community Service) and Joe Noss (Headmaster's Award for Academic Achievement)

In July, the Seventh Annual Achievement Evening celebrated the progress and success of students throughout the School. Guests of Honour, Sir Neville Simms, Group Chief Executive of Tarmac PLC and Mr Adrian Watney of The Mercers' Company and a Governor of the School, presented over 130 prizes. In addition to the student winners, Mr Frank Mullin of EDS received the Industrialist of the Year Award and Mrs Gill Saphier was named Parent of the Year.



Stephen Clark receives the Tarmac PLC Award for the Most Outstanding Student in Year 11 from Mr Andrew Smith. Stephen achieved a record breaking 10 A* grades at GCSE as well as a Grade A pass in A/S Level Mathematics and an Information Technology GNVQ. When the results were announced in August, he was featured in the local and national press as well as on Central TV!

In November, an evening of celebration was held to mark the excellent GCSE results achieved by Year 11 students in the summer. The students received their Records of Achievement from Mr Andrew Smith, Group Secretary of Tarmac PLC. He also presented almost thirty awards to "The Class of '98" in recognition of their success in individual subjects as well as sporting achievements.



Karin McDonald
Key Stage 4 Subject Awards for
English Language and
Food Technology



Christopher Ward
Prize for Progress in Drama
in Key Stage 4



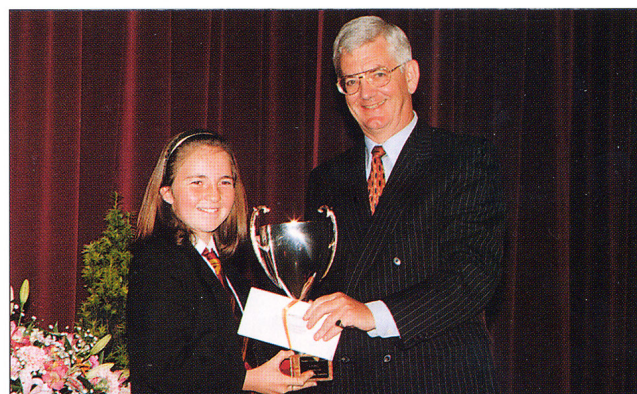
Rebecca Edge
Windsor Life Trophy for
Information Systems



Philip Nicholls
Prize for Achievement in
Year 9 and Blakedown's
Sporting Achievement Award



Celebrating sporting success (l-r): Clare Gee, Chris Waldron, Kim Atkinson, Rebecca Brown, Sharmadean Reid, Daniel Bragoli



Rebecca Garbett receives the Laing Award for Community Service from Sir Neville Simms, Group Chief Executive of Tarmac PLC

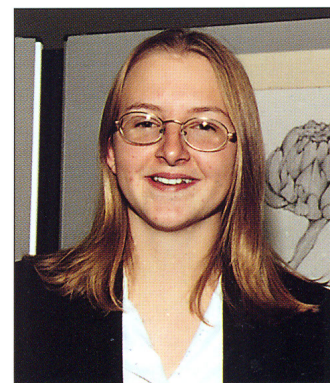
Achievements Evenings 1998



Students celebrating their success (l-r): Craig Shaw (BOSS Award for English Literature), Russell Evans, Laura Pedley (YMOS UK Award for German), Adrian Brown and Clark Crawford (Timstar Award for Science)



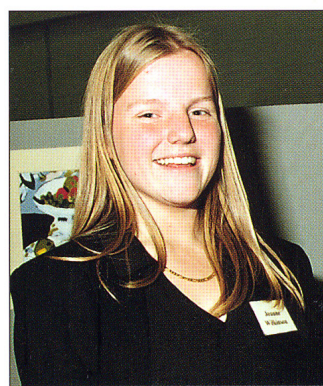
David Samuel
Pavilion Award for Technology



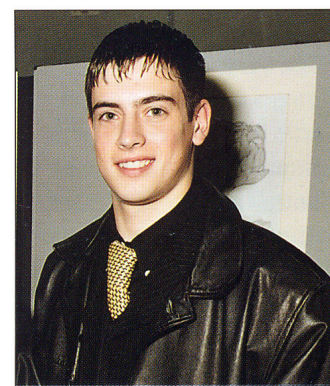
Sonia Nevin
Andrew Smith Award for Mathematics



Ria Johnson receives an Outstanding Student Award from Mr Andrew Smith, Group Secretary of Tarmac PLC. Ria achieved a top A* in GCSE Mathematics even though she sat the examination two years early!



Joanne Wilkinson
An Award Winner for Outstanding Performance in Sporting Activities



David Coe
Tarmac Construction Ltd Award for Physical Education

Second Charter Mark for the School

Thomas Telford School has been awarded a Charter Mark, the Government's prestigious award for excellent public service. This is the second time that the School has achieved Charter Mark status. This Award, which is held for three years, was first presented to TTS in 1995 by the then Prime Minister, John Major.

Last year, the School submitted a further application and was rigorously assessed against nine criteria. Two Charter Mark Assessors from the Cabinet Office spent a day at the School in October meeting with staff, students and groups of parents and industrial contacts.

Mr Satchwell said: "The Assessors were impressed by their visit and their report on the School was excellent." The following quotations are from their report:

'Thomas Telford School is a dynamic school with an atmosphere of orderly and motivated learning.'

'We commend the ever improving trend in academic performance and the high levels of user satisfaction experienced.'

'There is a clear culture of openness in the School and we are impressed by the quality and regularity of briefings and reports you provide to students, parents and staff.'

'The commendable code of conduct practised by students extends beyond the school day and you are highly commended on the very good reputation your students have in the local community.'

'A strong role is played by the Students' Advisory Council who meet daily with the Headmaster to discuss and comment on all aspects of school life. We commend the number of service improvements that have been implemented as a direct result of School Council consultation.'



Quality Assurance Officer, Mrs Jo Davis (left) with other Telford winners (l-r): Mr Ben Warren Deputy Head, Ercall Wood School; Ms Chris Shouli, Assistant Principal, Telford College of Arts and Technology and Mr Don Gibbons, Headmaster, Idsall School (Photo courtesy of Shropshire Star)

Flying the Flag



Head of Art, Mr Carl Sharratt, puts the finishing touches to the students' mural

Sixth Form GNVQ Art and Design students have produced a brilliant multi-coloured relief mural for local company EDS at Matheson House in Telford Centre. The 7.5m x 2m mural depicts the flags of fifty countries in which EDS operates. The mural is part of a series which decorates a long tunnel between different parts of the EDS building.

Head of Art, Mr Carl Sharratt commented: "It has been a marvellous project for the students and will contribute towards their final qualifications. They have designed and made the mural, working with set briefs from a real company. The success of the mural is down to their creativity and hard work. They took charge of this project with great enthusiasm."

Lesley Fox, Community Liaison Spokesperson at EDS, said: "I was pleased to involve Thomas Telford School in our Tunnel Artwork Project and I am very impressed with the creativity and professionalism shown by the students."

Challenge Plus

A group of Year 10 students took part in Challenge Plus, a special one-day development programme which was held in Shrewsbury.

They worked with students from other schools in small, mixed teams to complete challenges and solve problems to develop a greater understanding of themselves, each other and the world they will inherit.

They were fired with enthusiasm by the experience. One of the students, Charlotte Maddocks, commented: "When I first arrived, I was nervous about being in groups with people I didn't know but we worked really well together."

"I learned that everybody has individual needs as well as different strengths and weaknesses. I also learned how to meet deadlines and I improved my communication skills."

Director of Careers and Industry Links, John Birkett, commented: "Challenge Plus is an excellent idea. It was a delight to see the students grow in confidence as the day progressed".

NatWest Bank Business Prizes

A new scheme to reward excellence in Business Education has been launched with the backing of NatWest Bank. Each term three winners, one from each of the Key Stages and the Sixth Form, receive trophies and at the end of the year there will be an award for the NatWest Best Business Student of the Year.

The first winners received their trophies from Mr Bob Follows, Assistant Manager at the Telford Branch. He said: "We recognise the importance of encouraging team work as the bedrock of good business practice and are delighted to sponsor this scheme within the School."



First Winners of the NatWest Trophy for Business Excellence pictured (l-r) with Mr Bob Follows, Assistant Manager at NatWest: Craig Guest (Key Stage 4), Debbie Kirkpatrick (Sixth Form) and Ben Hunt (Key Stage 3)

Award for Careers & Industry Team



Pictured after the Investor in Careers presentation are (l-r): Mrs Suzanne Howell, Head of Business Education; Mr Ray Hughes, Shropshire Careers Service Adviser; Mrs Shirley Lewis, parent; Shaun Hickman Year 11 student; Mr John Birkett, Director of Careers and Industry Links and Ms Angie Robinson, Chief Executive of Shropshire Chamber of Commerce, Training and Enterprise

Congratulations to the Careers and Industry Links team who worked very hard to ensure that the School was awarded the Investor in Careers Kitemark in October.

Following a successful portfolio assessment in July, the School team, led by Mr Birkett, made a presentation to a panel of judges. The team included Mr Satchwell and Mrs Howell together with Mr Ray Hughes of Shropshire Careers Services and a parent and student son combination – Mrs Shirley Lewis and Shaun Hickman.

Mr Birkett commented: "I'm led to believe that we were marked at a very high level and that we were the first school to include a parent and student in the presentation team."

Mr Satchwell added: "The School works closely with Shropshire Careers and is leading the way with innovative ideas such as the Careers Discovery Programme which gives Year 10 students and their parents the opportunity to learn how to research different careers."

Fashion Success for Young Enterprise

Prestige, a Young Enterprise Company run by Sixth Form Business students, organised a successful fashion show in January. This was the first time that such an ambitious event had been planned by a Young Enterprise Company at the School.

Prestige held the Fashion Show at Oakengates Theatre and sold over 400 tickets. Students from throughout the School acted as models and the clothes were provided by a wide variety of local businesses.

Operations Director of Prestige, Tracy Day, commented: "There were many lessons learned by all who took part in the organisation of the Fashion Show. We struggled but the end result showed that it was all worthwhile. It was a superb, well organised night, enjoyed by everyone."

Miss Claire Dawes, Business Course Leader, said: "The Fashion Show was a huge challenge for the students, requiring immense individual effort and teamwork and I'm very pleased that the evening was such a success."

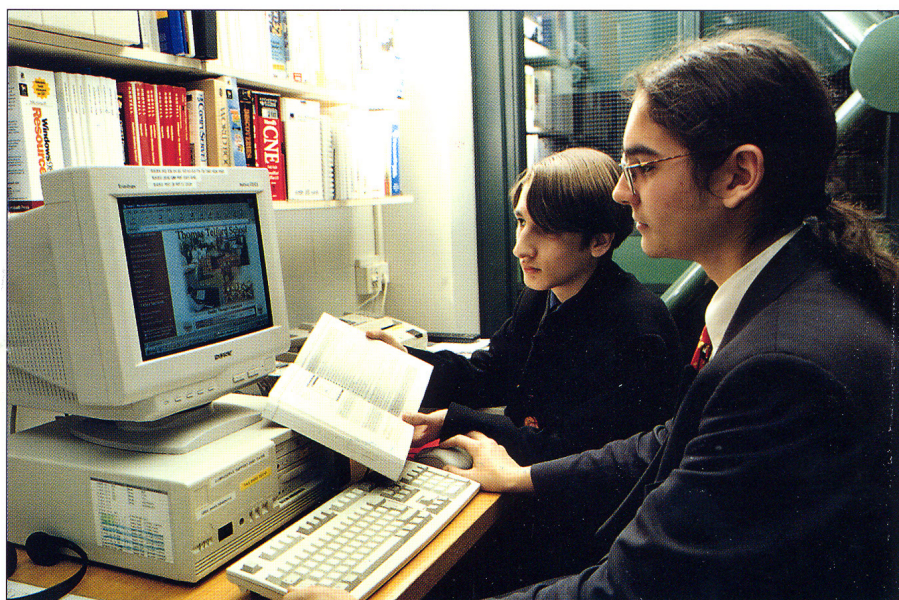
Prestige took part in the Young Enterprise Trade Fair held in Telford in February.

Sixth Form Students Design New Website

Computer Services Department has recently launched a new improved TTS website. The website has been created by two Sixth Form students, Jonathan Will and Nick Evans, as part of their Advanced GNVQ Course in Information Technology.

IT Director, Mr Rob Cullen commented: "The new site contains a wealth of information about the School and enables students and their parents to access the Hypertext Curriculum from home."

Anyone can access the website at: www.tts.salop.sch.uk



Sixth Form students Jonathan Will (left) and Nick Evans

Students Benefit from Parents' Fund Raising Successes



Andrew Birks, whose family won first prize in the Christmas Draw, receives a cheque for £300 from Deputy Head, Mr Berry, watched by Mr Cyril Plant of the Parents' Advisory Council Social Development Committee

Members of the Social Development Committee have worked tirelessly over the past twelve months to raise funds for the School. The Committee, a sub-group of the Parents' Advisory Council, has organised Quiz Nights, a Summer Fayre, a Christmas Draw and, for the first time this year, a Christmas Fayre. All of these events have been very well supported by students, parents, staff and friends of the School and, as a result, the Committee has been able to provide thousands of pounds for the purchase of a wide variety of extra equipment for the benefit of all the students. The Committee receives bids from various departments and has complete autonomy when it comes to deciding which projects should be supported.

Over the past twelve months the Committee has donated £800 towards the cost of weather satellite equipment. £700 has also been given to the Careers Department for an extra computer with Internet access. Foreign Languages has benefited from the purchase of a new overhead projector and the Humanities Department has been able to provide a new set of atlases at a cost of almost £600. The Committee has provided money for extra kits for sports teams and the Performing Arts Department has also gratefully received a donation towards the cost of staging the 1999 School Production of 'Oklahoma'.

Operation Christmas Child

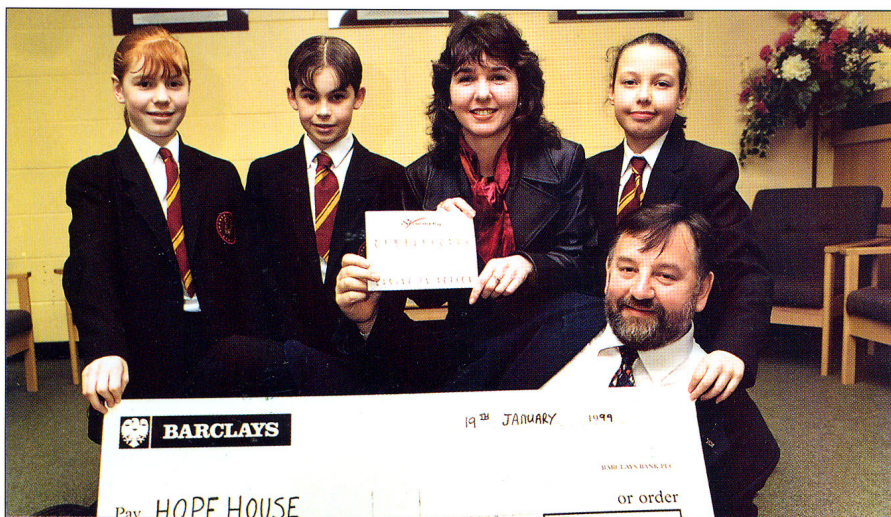
Operation Christmas Child provides Christmas parcels for children in refugee camps, hospitals, orphanages and schools across Eastern Europe and TTS students collected 185 shoe boxes full of gifts. This was the first time that the School had taken part in the project and contributions were received from almost every Tutor Group.

Mrs Evans, who masterminded the School's effort, commented: "I was overwhelmed by the response from the students. It was a magnificent effort and I hope that we can do even better next year."



Year 10 students helping to sort the parcels (l-r): Katie Watson and Jennifer Histed

Good Work for Good Causes



Ms Charlotte Mansell from Hope House Hospice receives a cheque for £750 from Mr Ryder following his sponsored swim. Year 7 students (l-r) Gemma Kelly, Andrew Robbins and Rochelle Penfield

Many different charities, chosen by the students, are supported throughout the year. Mufti Days every half term are a simple, enjoyable way of raising funds while individuals and groups undertake sponsored activities, for example, bicycle rides. Even the 2-4 year-old children in the Nursery have joined in, raising over £1,000 with a sponsored walk to provide toys for a children's hospital! Ideas in the pipeline include Year 8's plan to bake telephone shaped cookies for Childline. The School participates in annual events too - Remembrance poppies and Marie Curie Cancer Care daffodils are just two examples.

Former Students Reunion



Students and staff at the Reunion (l-r): Sarah Hickman, Mr Nigel Bates, Abigail Payne (nee Pattison) and Miss Gill Edge

The second Reunion was held before Christmas and the School was delighted to welcome back almost 80 former students. Staff and guests spent a fascinating evening catching up on news of university life and a wide variety of careers, some travelling to foreign countries, others remaining nearer home.

Mr Birkett, Director of Careers and Industry Links, has produced a special Former Students Newsletter full of snippets of information, copies of which are available from him at the School.

A Life on the Ocean Wave

Former student, Deborah Dodds, has set sail on HMS Liverpool, a Type 42 Destroyer. In a complete career change, Deborah joined the Royal Navy in November 1997. She is training to become a Communications Technician and has already successfully completed an Electronic Warfare course. Deborah had previously worked for several years in various fields of Business Administration.

Deborah said: "Joining the Navy has been everything I had envisaged and more. I have gained self-confidence and independence. I am glad I had the courage to try something new because it has been the best decision I have ever made. I have Thomas Telford School to thank for the education I gained. My good results have opened many doors for me, something which would not have been possible without the patience and support of the staff."

Deborah wants her story to be an inspiration to other students. "Your life is never planned out and set in stone and if you really want to do something with yourself, even if it means changing your whole life to do it – you can, if you believe in and have faith in yourself."



PWCT Deborah Dodds (RN)

Meet the Headship Team



The Headship Team (l-r): Tom Burnley, Kelly Vaughan, Lewis Webber and Jessica Element

For the first time, the School has a team of Head Boys and Girls this year. Four Sixth Form students, Tom Burnley, Lewis Webber, Jessica Element and Kelly Vaughan were selected by staff to represent the School at public events and to provide feedback to the Headmaster on issues which students raise with them at their weekly Wednesday surgery during Personal Tutorial time. Mr Satchwell commented: "I value their excellent contribution towards improving the School. They are always open, honest and frank in their discussions with me and they have the ability to see the strengths and weaknesses of issues that are discussed."

TTS Sports News

Football



Under 16 Girls Football Team (l-r): Back Row - Carina Turner, Gemma Belcher, Sharmadean Reid, Danielle Petrovic (Captain), Jane Holloway, Sarah Dobslaw, Rebecca Brown. Front Row - Lauren Jones, Vicky Kellett, Vicki Cornish, Justine Goh, Nicola Roberts, Kirsty Goh

Under 16 Girls

In the County Cup, the team had a tremendous 2-1 semi final victory against Adams Wem, a team previously unbeaten for five years. Danielle Petrovic, the County Captain whose play this year has been outstanding, scored two goals. The team lost the final 6-2 to Meole Brace.

In the National Under 16 championships, the team won their first round match 5-2 against a much-fancied team from Aldridge School. In an exciting game, Danielle Petrovic and Kirsty Goh scored twice each with Gemma Belcher scoring the fifth goal. The girls are due to meet a team from the North West in the next round.

Year 7 Boys

The Year 7 football team has made an outstanding start and appears to have the potential to become one of the strongest football year groups.

During the Autumn Term, the team remained unbeaten in all First Eleven fixtures and the boys have already won the Telford District five-a-side championships and have reached the final of the County seven-a-side tournament.

The team will compete in the National stages of the five-a-side competition and County seven-a-side. They have set their sights on victory in the Under 12 CTC Cup.

There have been many excellent individual performances, including Adam Welsh, Robert Eggington, Luke Matthews and Danny Guthrie who have all played for the Under 13 team as well.

Under 19 Boys

An exciting penalty shoot-out gave the team victory in their County Cup semi final match against William Brooks. Daryl Newey was the hero of this tense match, scoring his penalty in sudden death.

This win placed the team in their third successive County Cup final which they lost 3-0 to Shrewsbury School at the Gay Meadow football ground.

Netball

The Year 9 Netball team has had its best season ever with the girls reaching the semi-finals of the Shropshire County Cup competition where they lost to Idsall, the eventual Cup winners.

Several students have also represented the County – Bethan Shaffery. Kim Atkinson, Nicola Forrest, Becki Brown and Jenni Wilson.

Hockey

The Under 19 Mixed Hockey Team won the County Championships. In a round robin tournament, they won all their matches without conceding a single goal!

The Year 8 Boys seven-a-side team are also County Champions. They beat Meole Brace 1-0 in the Final. Philip Berry scored seven goals in the tournament including the winning goal in the final.

Water Polo

Sixth Form student, Beth Edwards, has been chosen to play in the Great Britain Under 20 Water Polo team. Beth is considered to be amongst the top seven players in the country in her age group. She was in Prague recently where the National side was competing in a friendly tournament.

As well as playing for the British team, Beth plays for Coventry in the National League and will be visiting Athens in April where the team will be playing in the European Cup. Beth says: "You need to be a very strong swimmer and have high levels of upper body and leg strength. I'm thrilled to have the opportunity of playing for my country and very much hope that the British team will qualify for the Olympics in 2000."



Beth Edwards