



FEBRUARY 2017

SALVE!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ISLAND FREE SCHOOL

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IT'S DECISION TIME

Our Year 8 pupils recently made a big decision on their GCSE Options that will change their lives, as they will study these subjects throughout their time in KS4.

On Wednesday 18th January parents of Year 8 pupils were invited to attend the GCSE Options Evening to give them an insight as to what each subject can offer and advice from their teachers on the subjects they should choose. There were talks by Mr Boyd explaining how the new GCSE system would work and Mentors were also available on the evening to help calm any worries that their pupils might be experiencing. We spoke to some pupils about the evening and

Henry N said 'Overall, I think that I came away with a better idea of what I will be picking and what career routes I could choose to go down afterwards.'

Thursday 19th January gave each Year 8 pupil the chance to experience what their lessons might be like in each GCSE subject and get a feel for what they might enjoy. Pupils took part in Drama, Art & Design, Music and PE sessions, as well as brand new subjects such as Geology and Triple Science. 'Choosing our options was hard because there were so many of them', says Sophie R, 'I didn't know what to pick until I spoke to the teachers on the taster day. The meeting gave me a chance to talk to the teachers and learn what each of the subjects were about.' Also,



each house spent time with their mentor on the day to discuss any questions and take part in the careers session, which was a fun, interactive quiz designed to highlight us some careers that may be suitable for us based on our personality traits.

By **Harvey O**



Roman Royalty for a Day

On Thursday 8th February, all Year 8 pupils embarked on a trip back in time to the Fishbourne Roman Palace. After a trip across the Solent they arrived at the historical site. The pupils and their mentors looked round its magnificent garden and saw its intricate mosaics, some of which were being cleaned with cotton buds and distilled water to keep them in tip-top condition. Fishbourne Roman Palace staff were on hand to provide fun facts and lots of information about sanitation in the roman times and what it was like to be in the roman army. Charlie, who led the military workshop, even let us try on some of the armour! In the museum they saw statues and skeletons, all recovered from the original site, with some items being nearly two thousand years old. At the end of the day the year 8 students had learnt all about the history of the Roman palace and were thoroughly exhausted from a long but exciting day.

By **Curtis P, Maia O and Saskia H.**

WELCOME

Can you believe it's February already? February marks the half way point in more ways than one. Not only are we half way through the academic year but year 9 pupils are half way through their time at TIFS. Year 8 will soon be measured for their blazers and year 7 will no longer be the youngest in our community as national offers day approaches. Time marches ever on and all too soon the summer will be here and another year done. Lets hope the second half is as fantastic as the first has been.

Mr Boyd,
Headmaster



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Super Sevens

On Tuesday 31st January, two teams of Year 7 girls competed in their first ever netball fixture. Both teams played friendly matches against mixed teams of Year 8 and 9s from Medina College. TIFS girls made a tentative start but made substantial improvements in performance by the end of the fixture. The pupils grew in confidence, focused on the targets set and created some beautiful passages of play. Miss Sheen's players of the match from each team were Alisha P and Bianka A. Well done to all who took part!



Professional Choreographer visits MoTIFS

On Friday 13th January, our GCSE Dance pupils a.k.a. 'MoTIFS' Dance Company and 12 other keen dancers from years 7 and 8 took part in an all-day dance performance workshop. The workshop was lead by Luke Brown, who is a choreographer, performer and associate artist at Swindon Dance and The Point, Eastleigh. These dancers were pushed to their limits with an intensive day of professional repertoire from Luke's latest touring work, "For You I Long The Longest". They also practiced a selection of contact skills, where students found themselves in lifts and balances they couldn't have imagined upon entering the studio! After the workshop, Luke said, "The girls worked extremely hard and I was very impressed with their conduct. I would also like to say that my visit to The Island Free School has been one of the best trips I have taken in my teaching career. The whole atmosphere felt



like a big family full of care and support." Mrs Paul, teacher of Dance, said: "I hope the Year 7 and 8 pupils were able to get a taste for the intense enjoyment and the physical rewards that studying GCSE Dance would provide." We also spoke to Jess B who participated in the workshop. She said: "Learning the contemporary dance was fun, although I was aching by the end of the day. The workshop taught me how to dance to different types of music, and with different people."

By **Chloe P, Sophie R and Emily D**

Cross-Country Success

On Tuesday 7th February 40 of our most talented runners from Year 7 and 8 took part in a Cross-Country Championship at Christ the King College. TIFS runners competed against pupils from Sandown Bay Academy, Medina College, Ryde School and Christ the King College. The first eight pupils from each race were automatically invited to a further competition and fantastically, some pupils from the Island Free School made it into that top eight with Jerry B, Luke S, Bianka A, Bailey S, KC-Leigh P, Duclie W, Gregory M and Finley L going on to represent TIFS at the Hampshire tournament on 7th March.

The track consisted mainly of mud and tripped up many people but everybody from our school finished the Cross-Country in an impressive time. In true TIFS style, the team banded together to help each other finish the race when it got tough. Emily D said, "It was really hard nearer the end but the team spirit from this school is so strong and my teammates kept me going." All in all, the team performed extremely well in their respective races and we are very excited to see what happens at the Hampshire tournament next month.

By **Emily D and Chloe P**



Oar – inspiring!

On Tuesday 17th January pupils from Year 7, 8 and 9 went to a rowing competition in Sandown against Sandown Bay Academy, Cowes Enterprise College, Christ the King College and Carisbrooke College. Every year group that entered did a fantastic job and overall we came 4th out of 5 schools. This is still a wonderful achievement for TIFS, especially due to the fact we only had pupils from three year groups and the other schools had pupils from Year 7, all the way up to Year 11. Sophie R in Year 8 said: "I was rowing for 3 minutes against some really strong people but finished in 3rd place. Year 7 as a year group finished 1st place just like year 8 did. Year 9 finished in 2nd place but did really well as some of them had to row for 4 minutes. My favourite part of the day was the relay as it was really fun and energetic." Congratulations to everyone who took part.

By **Henry N**



Future Rock Stars

On Monday 23rd January the Year 9 Geology pupils went on the first of many field trips as part of their GCSE studies. Initially, we visited Compton Bay in glorious sunshine to look at the floodplain deposits of the Wealden Beds of the Lower Cretaceous, and the Iguanodon footprint casts on the foreshore. Our second location was Whitecliff Bay, where, shrouded in mist, we studied the suite of Tertiary rocks. These were turned vertical in the Alpine orogeny and so we were able to study 35 million years of deposition by walking from one end of the beach to the other. We took measurements of the location of each different bed and these will be used with description of the grain size, sedimentary structures and fossil content of the rocks to produce a graphic sedimentary log.'

By **Mr Peace, Head of Geology**

Random Inventions of Brilliance & Awesomeness (AKA The RIBA Project)

RIBA returns! For the third year in a row, all 125 Year 7 pupils are participating in the RIBA project and this year's task is to redesign Shanklin Lift. Pupils' wacky and wild inventions could win them a great prize and a young designer's award. Lindsay from the RIBA project came to school to talk to the Year 7's about how to get the best out of the project and some tips on creating their model. The model can be of anything at all, not just a lift, as long as it gets you from the top of the cliff to the seafront at the bottom. This is another chance for TIFS to get creative and competitive – two things that we're already pretty great at. Louis W-P said 'It's so exciting but at the moment I can't decide between a fireman style pole or a skydive!' Some other great ideas including Ty R's glass roller coaster and Cleo's simple and classic architectural design.

By **Sam L & Hallam S**



Teachers in the hot seat

Miss Garcia - Verde, our new Spanish teacher



What is it like teaching English students?

It's different but I really enjoy it!

How do you find English as your second language?

It's really satisfactory to know another language, it's also very enjoyable.

What's your opinion on teaching at an English school?

It's a very long day but I do learn a lot!

Are you learning an instrument at the moment?

Not at the moment but I'd love to.

How long have you been teaching Spanish for?

I've been teaching Spanish for four years!

Do you enjoy the English language?

Yes I learn something new every day.

Have you ever taught any other subjects than Spanish?

Yes in Primary I taught science. Then in Spain I taught I.T. for a while and now I teach latin and Spanish.

What is your favourite aspect of the school?

I just love all the music everywhere!

Mr. Williams, our new learning support assistant



Why did you want to work at TIFS?

I had never worked in a school before, but I knew was coming back to the Island after being in London for ten years for University and work, so I wanted a new challenge and TIFS seemed like the perfect opportunity. I grew up in a house of teachers so it always appealed to me.

Do you enjoy working here?

Yes! I love the enrichment sessions as they allow me to show off my creative skills and teach something completely new and different. My degree is in Film Studies so it's great to explore that further with the pupils.

What is your favourite thing about TIFS?

It's great that we are a tight-knit community. The staff and pupils feel like family and have a great relationship.

PEACE'S PUN

This month Mr. Peace takes on Mr. Trendler in Maths related puns. Who wins? You decide.

Mr. Peace:

I used to work in a bank, but I lost interest.

Mr. Trendler:

My favourite number is infinity, the only problem is I could talk about it forever.



Walking in a Winter Wonderland

On Friday 2nd December 8 pupils from each year group were chosen to go to Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park London for the Autumn Term Ethos Trip. The day began at Ryde Pier Head where the pupils met Miss Allcock, Miss Kerley and Mr Williams ready for a day of fun!

Once the group arrived at Winter Wonderland they set off on their adventure in the Ice Kingdom, looking at beautiful ice sculptures of hundreds of animals. Then they went to the circus, and for a ride on the Big Wheel with a yummy hot chocolate to keep them warm. One of the pupils who attended, Sophie R, said: 'The trip was a really enjoyable experience and I had never been before. My favourite part of the day was seeing the amazing views from the big eye.' Everyone had a fantastic (and freezing!) time and Miss Allcock said that all the pupils behaved perfectly and were a credit to the school.'



By **Amanda M-V and Ella M**

Saunders' Selection

This month I thought I would revisit the theme of inspiration and provide you with some music to motivate you. If you haven't listened to any of my previous suggestions, I really suggest that you do this month. The first one in particular has changed my life as a musician; it is a very powerful piece of music. I hope you enjoy them both.

1 'Les Baricades Mystérieux' by François Couperin. This wonderful, moving, magical piece of music is unbelievably clever. If anybody would like to hear what it sounds like, I believe that I will be playing it in assembly this term so keep an eye, or ear, out. It is a wonderfully clever piece of music which is great to have as part of your repertoire.

2 'Piano Sonata No.23 "Appassionata" (Op. 57) by Ludwig van Beethoven. A little more dramatic than the first, but no less moving. This piece of music is, in my opinion, in the top three Beethoven piano sonatas... and that is saying something. Anyone who likes this piece, it is easy to get hold of PDF sheet music, although it is very difficult to play... believe me, I've tried!

By **Hallam S**

Rewind to December...

Although it feels like a lifetime ago, we thought it was important to remind you of all of the wonderful things that happened at TIFS before the Christmas holidays and share some of our favourite memories of the final week of 2016. To kick off the festive week, mentor groups went head to head in a festive decorating competition.



Every mentor group had to decorate their tutor room with a theme. The themes were chosen from Christmas films and were kept top secret until the day. The judges had to try and guess the film from the decorations and each room was judged on creativity, appearance, imagination and resources used. Every class made a great effort but the overall winning group was Rosea 9 with their recreation of The Snowman and the Snowdog.

On Wednesday 7th December, the whole school donned their festive jumpers and jumped head first into the real meaning of Christmas... food! We devoured a tasty Christmas dinner, lovingly prepared by our dedicated kitchen staff, and enjoyed Christmas cracker jokes, party hats and pudding. A real treat and some quality time with our mentors! All mentor groups took part in the annual school quiz on the last day of term, via the magic of school radio, hosted by Mrs Steele and Mr Peace. The quiz contained questions about school events, music, Christmas around the world and a picture round. The quiz results were collected and points for the cleanest classroom were added up. Then it was time for the most important part of the day... the awarding of the House Cup! Students gathered with baited breath in the playground to hear the results. Rubeum was third, Flavi was second and Rosea earned first place. Pupils and staff said their goodbyes and festive wishes and then left the building ready for a calming, and much-deserved holiday beside the fireplace.

By **Jessica C, Rosa N, Maia O and Saskia H**