

# TOLWORTH SPOTLIGHT

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**THE YEAR 9 AND YEAR 10  
FRENCH TRIP TO PARIS**

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# HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I am thrilled and delighted to serve Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form as permanent Headteacher from July 2023. I feel humbled by this opportunity and I am extremely excited to continue to work with students, staff, parents, carers and the local community to build on the strong foundations already established. I will strive to lead with integrity, humility and dedication.

What a hectic, busy and bustling term this has been. Students have embraced opportunities to "let their light so shine", to sparkle and to twinkle.

To begin the term, our annual ski trip during the Easter holidays was great fun and we received such affirming feedback from students and parents.

Continuing on the sporting front, our students excelled in multiple areas, taking part in a range of netball tournaments and competing at the Borough Athletics Competition. Our Sports Day was once again the highlight of the year and it was heart-warming to watch all of our students participating in events ranging from running, jumping and welly throwing to "tug of warring"!

Our students continue to show true resilience and determination whilst having fun! Our Duke of Edinburgh students have repeatedly dealt with many "character building" opportunities on their expeditions, with wet weather, long distance walks, and map reading skills to name a few. Their success is testament to their tenacity and embodies our ABC ethos.

Creativity and cultural capital are at the heart of Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form. In school, we have seen our GCSE Dance and Drama students perform complex, thought-provoking pieces that they have spent months devising, practising, and perfecting to rapturous audience applause. Alongside this, our Art, Textiles, and Photography exhibition was truly a feast for the eyes, showcasing the insurmountable talents of our artists.







# HEADTEACHER

Beyond school, we have seen professionals at work across a variety of genres including trips to see Lord of the Flies, 42nd Street and Wicked. These exciting opportunities have been made even more special by the impeccable behaviour and attitudes of our students in these spaces.

Our Music students attended the Gamelan Workshop and Royal College Music Event and Workshop. Their commitment to developing their musical prowess has certainly paid off. The Spring Music Concert was an outstanding event, with professional performances from our own very talented musicians.

In school, we have continued to provide a supportive, ambitious curriculum both in lessons, extra-curricular clubs and other opportunities. Reading is such an integral skill – and enjoyable experience – that we were delighted to welcome the author Nizrana Farook of this year's 'Read Up' novel, The Girl Who Lost a Leopard, to speak to our Year 7 students. We were thrilled to hear from the very person who wrote the first book all of our current Year 7s were given, way back on their transition day, back in the summer of 2022.

In addition to this, we have continued to take part in ISSP days (Independent Schools and State School Partnerships) hosting events in English, Dance and History, as well as visiting other schools in our locality for other subject experiences. Combining ambition with fun and forming new connections is always worthwhile. Subject challenges have also included the KS3 Maths 'Count on Us Challenge' as well as the Science Olympiad, whereby students have performed very well and showcased their talents beyond the classroom.

Our staff have continued to facilitate opportunities beyond the school that represent the importance and celebration of their subjects in the world around us. Our Year 8 students attended the STEM Workshop trip to the National Army Museum, which was excellent. Students visited the Harry Potter Studios, which was, of course magical. Our French students had a fantastique time in Paris and students who took part in the Madrid exchange earlier this year enjoyed hosting our Spanish partners in London this June. The treat of Year 7 has been the trip to Alton Towers where students had heaps of fun!

We continue to give our students plenty of guidance and experiences to prepare them for their future. Our Careers Department have arranged an array of events for students to participate in, ranging from the Year 8 Take Your Daughter to Work Day, the Year 8 Royal Holloway University visit, the Year 10 Subject Fair, the Year 10 STEM Fair, the Post-16 Parents' Information Evening and the Year 12 Work Experience. Our students are regularly able to connect their academic studies to the exciting world of work, encouraging them to reflect and motivating them to realise their ambitions. There is no glass ceiling at Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form!





# HEADTEACHER

Whilst we know how unique and special Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form is, it is always lovely to hear the same from visitors. We recently welcomed a Quality Assurance Review team from Challenge Partners comprised of teaching professionals from all over the country. They were extremely complimentary about our school in person, as well as in the report they published. A few quotations from the report include:

**Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form is not a school that stands still!**

**There is a tangible ethos and culture of trusting relationships and high expectations.**

**Students' attitudes towards learning are extremely positive across the school. There is a shared standard of excellent conduct that students are committed to achieving.**

**Students receive a high level of nurture and pastoral care. Students describe their school as a kind, welcoming and generous community that offers a wide variety of learning and enrichment opportunities. This enables them to develop into confident young people, ready for the world beyond Tolworth.**

As we near the end of the academic year we celebrate the successes and efforts of all our students. They have worked impressively and positively, preparing for Assessment Fortnights, GCSE and A-level exams. As exam season draws to a close, we now await their results with anticipation. We anticipate lots of success, smiles, and sighs of relief on our August Results Days and we are already proud of all of our students. We would like to wish them the VERY best! We are still recovering from the sad goodbyes at the emotional assemblies that celebrated both Years 11 and 13 - we will miss all of you who are going on to new adventures and look forward to welcoming those returning to Year 12 in September! It was lovely to attend the Year 11 Prom at Sandown Park and the Year 13 Prom at Leatherhead Golf Club. Our students looked amazing in their stunning, stylish, beautiful outfits.

As we prepare for new beginnings, this term we have also welcomed our new Year 7s to the Tolworth family. They had a busy, but fun transition day and parents found the information evening very informative and helpful. We are very much looking forward to seeing them at Summer School at the end of August and then again at the start of September.

I would like to wish all of you a very well-deserved summer holiday. Have fun in the sun, enjoy quality time with friends and family and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Joilande Botha-Smith  
Headteacher

**ENJOY THE  
SUMMER**

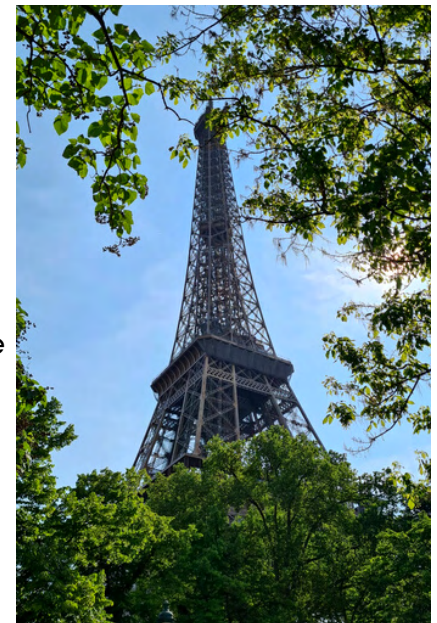




# MFL TRIP TO PARIS



On Monday 9 June 2023, 32 students from Years 9 and 10 travelled to Paris accompanied by their teachers, Madame Bartlett, Madame Pond, Madame Das and Mademoiselle Liu. After a smooth ferry crossing and a comfortable coach journey, our first stop in Paris was a two hour French language lesson to get us ready for our excursions ahead. On Saturday morning we climbed up to the second floor of the Eiffel Tower and then spent the afternoon relaxing on a cruise on the River Seine. The following day we put our French language skills to good use by visiting the largest food market in France, followed by a tour of the Fragonard perfume factory. We also saw the Arc de Triomphe and Notre Dame - we packed in a lot! We had a great trip enjoying the beautiful sights of this capital city and putting into practice all the French language we have been learning. Well done girls for your excellent behaviour and positive attitudes throughout the trip - we were delighted to spend time with you. Bonnes vacances!





BY PHILIPPA & ABIGAIL

### The Eiffel Tower

Our first trip was to the Eiffel Tower and even with the long wait, we had a great time experiencing this iconic landmark with all our friends. Whilst waiting we got to speak to many French people and got to learn more about their culture. We did small quizzes whilst waiting, on the history of the tower and why it was built.

Once we got to the top of the Eiffel Tower we enjoyed the spectacular views with our friends taking photos of the lovely scenery. We eventually made our way to explore the range of stalls to order a snack, with the majority of us favoured towards the slushies and ice-creams available. This allowed us to use our French and interact with someone French by learning more about the language.



### A Typical French Market

On our second full day in Paris, we were given a tour of a typical French market and were also able to go to the flea market there. We all bought our lunch there and got small souvenirs from the market. We were able to practice our French by ordering our own food at the stalls and learning lots of new vocabulary in the form of new foods that we all wanted to try.

After this, we went to a perfume factory and learnt exactly how everything is made and got to learn about the history of it, like different perfume bottles including a pistol which shot perfume at the wearer. Finally, we walked across the street to the Galeries Lafayette and saw the beautiful view of the old fashioned Parisian architecture.

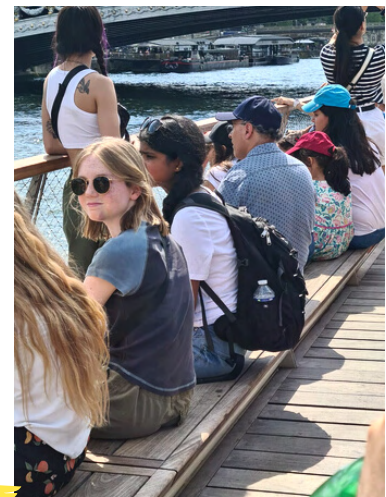
*Merci beaucoup pour un séjour magnifique!*



We then made our way to the second floor, trying not to pass out on the stairs, which felt as though they went on forever! At the top, we went straight to the gift shop to find any souvenirs to bring back with us and share with our families. We were also treated to the view of a lifetime of the wonderful, gleaming mosque and cathedral that we could see from the top, as well as the glistening Seine shimmering in the sun.



The view of the Eiffel Tower-taken by ABIGAIL





## YEAR 7 NEWS

*By Mr S Garnham, Head of Year 7*

I have been blown away with how well Year 7 have adjusted to life at secondary school this year. Transitioning into a secondary school is never an easy task and can be very daunting even for the most confident students. However, Year 7 have shown amazing resilience, maturity and determination throughout their first year at Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form. They have developed skills and built confidence that will set them up for success in the future, and I am incredibly proud of how far they have come this year.

We have seen record numbers of the Year Group signing up to extra-curricular activities, making the most of after school clubs. Students stepping outside of their comfort zone participating, volunteering for form roles, becoming Year 7 transition ambassadors and trying new lessons. There have been lots of events where Year 7 have got involved in our wider community and shown their fundraising skills, raising money for Make a Wish Foundation. This term ended with a number of exciting events, including sports day and our trip to Alton Towers. Our Alton Towers trip was full of fun, thrills, and laughter. The girls got to enjoy the Alton Towers theme park on our first day, before checking in to the Splash Landings Hotel, playing some crazy golf and then enjoying the Splash Landings Water Park. I think everyone was exhausted by the end, but that is testament to how much fun everyone had. Year 7 were fantastically well behaved on the trip. We had multiple members of the public, as well as Alton Towers staff, let us know how polite and friendly they had been. They really are a credit to the school.

Overall I have been incredibly honoured to be the first Head of Year for this cohort. The Year Group have been a fantastic example of what it means to be Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form students and I wish them every bit of success in their future here at Tolworth. Everyone that is a part of the Year 7 pastoral team wants to say a huge congratulations for working so hard this year. We are very excited about what the future holds for you and we all wish you a relaxing summer break. We look forward to seeing you all again in September, ready to tackle a new school year, and flourish for the start of Year 8.





## YEAR 8 NEWS

*By Miss H Clark, Head of Year 8*

As we come to the end of Year 8 and reflect back over the progress made this year, I am extremely proud of how hard the Year Group have worked. This year, alongside their lessons students have successfully navigated; the GCSE options process including options evening and careers fair, three whole school curriculum days, eight tutor group led assemblies, the 'GCSE Ready' programme and earned a whopping 13,867 house points!

Our summer term focus in Year 8 has been the 'GCSE Ready' programme preparing students for their next steps in education. The programme involved students auditing the skills they already possess in the areas of organisation, motivation, enquiry, resilience, independence and confidence. In doing so, students have had a two skill focus per fortnight and have demonstrated evidence of each for their teachers to sign off. With a resounding number of students actively rising to the challenge we are looking forward to recognising and rewarding the hard work of our students.

This term has additionally seen the remainder of our Tutor Groups take ownership over the planning and running of an assembly themed around a topic they are passionate about. Topics covered included Black Lives Matter, the History of Netflix and Female Empowerment. As with the previous assemblies earlier in the year, it has been a real treat to see the students share their passions and interests with others in the Year Group.

Our final Whole School Curriculum Day for the year saw O, P, S and T take proactive steps into researching and discovering the wealth of local history that Tolworth and the surrounding areas has to offer and representing this with some fantastic memorials produced to represent their findings. Alongside them A, E, G and J worked with technology to solve problems through creativity, modelling and innovation.

I hope Year 8 enjoy a well-deserved rest over the summer holiday whilst looking for opportunities to embrace a development of their cultural capital. In an assembly run by our Assistant Head of Year, Miss Davies, we focused on how we can make the most of the summer break by embracing adventures such as exploring museums, listening to TED talks, travelling near or far, taking up new skills perhaps by using apps such as Duolingo. In addition, students were visited by Miss Leeper last week who shared details on how students can get involved with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme in Year 9.

We look forward to seeing all our students return to us rested and ready to embrace the new challenge of beginning their GCSE studies in September.



# NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

A group of Year 8 students had the exciting opportunity to visit the National Army Museum this July. Students took part in a STEM learning day, completing a variety of workshops relating to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Students had the opportunity to complete workshops across the day such as 'Operation Robot' where students learnt computer coding skills and coded their own Dash robots, 'Cargo Drop', where students used scientific enquiry to explore how forces of motion act on falling objects and finally, they completed a STEM Trail and Design Challenge which involved a tour of the museum galleries. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and the students especially loved seeing if their parachute eggs would survive the mighty fall!





## YEAR 9 NEWS

*By Miss T Das, Head of Year 9*

The summer term is almost over and seems to have gone in a flash. Year 9 have had a packed term full of challenges, activities and opportunities.

Academically, Year 9 completed their second Assessment Fortnight in preparation for their GCSEs in Year 11. I am proud to see that students are meeting our high expectations and that their hard work and effort this year has resulted in achieving good results in their core and option subjects.

At the end of May, Year 9 students participated in school cultural trips to London including visits to the Natural History Museum, the V&A, the Science Museum, the Design Museum, the National Army Museum, The Wellcome Collection and a photography course around London.

Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form celebrated Science week with a range of activities ranging from Dissection Club to a Science Hero's Scavenger Hunt.

Students went to watch 'Wicked' with the Drama Department and applications opened for the National Theatre Young Technicians' Program.

Some of our linguists enjoyed a long weekend practicing their French in Paris. Our Spanish learners welcomed exchange students to school from Madrid and took them to London and Thorpe Park, thanks to the Modern Foreign Languages Department. Places are now open for the Madrid trip in October 2023 to GCSE Spanish students.

Year 9 took part in the Borough Athletics Competition and two students, Florence C. and Anastasiya L. represented the school as Ball Girls for this year's Wimbledon Tennis Championship after a busy year of training. We enjoyed a successful Sports Day with a lot of team spirit and athletic prowess on display.

Plenty of Year 9 students participated in their expedition for Duke of Edinburgh's Award and successfully completed all the challenges set for their Bronze Award and some Year 9s also started fundraising for their forthcoming Borneo trip.

My congratulations to students who won tickets for the Golden Ticket Celebration at the end of term. These students were nominated for a variety of reasons such as improved or excellent attendance, consistent effort, participating in lessons, attitude to learning, making marked progress in their learning, being role models, their kindness to others and being unsung heroes within our school community.

My thanks to the Year 9 Form Tutors who have been supporting their Tutor Group with pastoral care.

I wish you and your families a well deserved summer break and look forward to welcoming our students back to school in Year 10 in September.



## YEAR 10 NEWS

*By Miss E Munt, Head of Year 10*

Year 10 have had another busy term, starting off by reviewing their progress from the mock exams and setting goals ready for Year 11.

We have had seven Year 10 students successful at gaining a spot as Ball Girls at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships this term. This is a remarkable achievement and we are extremely proud of the girls. Congratulations to Charlotte B, Maisy D, Hannah H, Emma L, Flo Q, Skye S and Emily S.

Year 11 Prefect applications are in full swing and we have had sixteen students appointed early, as Year 7 Transition Prefects, working hard to welcome our incoming Year 7 students. They have been incredible in representing the school and making our new students feel confident and comfortable. Applications for our other prefect roles; Academic Support, Diversity and Inclusion and Social and Wellbeing have now closed and we have had an overwhelming number of high quality applications. Appointments will be announced in September.

It was the last Sports Day for the Year 10s, as this time next year they will have completed their GCSE exams! Students worked hard on their banners, on the theme of Women's Football, engaging with the success of the Lionesses and other global female athletes.

We are saying a sad goodbye to some of our Form Tutors, Mr Dowthwaite, Miss Lada and Mr Otermin, who are moving on from Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form to start exciting new chapters. We are also saying goodbye to our Assistant Head of Year, Miss Di Mambro, who is moving on to pastures new to take on the role of Head of Year at another local school. Miss Di Mambro has enjoyed working with a large number of students in the Year Group over the past three years and has been an invaluable support. We wish all of our departing staff the very best and they will be missed by students and staff alike.

We would also like to welcome Miss Moher as Assistant Head of Year 11 from September. Miss Moher has worked as Assistant Head of Year for three years with the current Year 11 cohort and is bringing a wealth of experience to the team.

We hope you have a fantastic summer and are looking forward to welcoming you all back in September as Year 11.

# YEAR 11 NEWS

By Mrs J Saseen, Head of Year 11



What a pleasure it has been to see the Year 11s at the final stages of the 'marathon' that has been their GCSEs! This term has been full of revision sessions, flash cards, nervous faces and smiles. However, the Year 11s have taken the GCSE period in their stride, and I am very proud of each and every student. With their leavers assembly and prom providing a wonderful final farewell, all that is left to do is to wish them a well-deserved, relaxing summer break. I look forward to opening their results with them on GCSE results day and (hopefully) seeing lots of happy faces. The Year 11s have been a phenomenal Year Group to lead and I feel privileged to have been Head of Year to such charismatic, diligent, funny, caring and positive group of students. I will miss being their Head of Year but look forward to handing them over to the Sixth Form team, who I know will support and guide them in the next steps in their journey. I wish them all the very best for what is to come.



## **YEAR 12 NEWS**

*By Mrs L Viola, Head of Year 12*

The Year 12s have had yet another busy term as they continue to prepare themselves for Year 13 and their future pathways beyond. They have had input from representatives for the Department for Works and Pensions this term in helping them to craft their CVs, and earlier this month the Year 12s participated in the much-anticipated work experience week. This gave them a taste of what the 'real' working world is like.

The Year 12s have also shown dedication to their studies in the run-up to the end of year exams, and we wish all students well for their results – hard work pays off!

We will be encouraging all students to begin working on their personal statements over summer, which will get the ball well and truly rolling on UCAS application for 2024. It is such an exciting time for our Year 12s as they explore all the opportunities which lay before them, but can also be a stressful period as they are faced with many decisions to make about their futures. As always, the sixth form team, including our wonderful careers advisors, are here to support, guide and provide a listening ear when needed.

I would like to wish all our Year 12s, as well as their families, a relaxing and sunny summer, and I look forward to welcoming them into Year 13 in September!

## **YEAR 13 NEWS**

*By Mr I Boyce, Head of Year 13*

Year 13 students have had a turbulent few years involving lockdowns, bubbles, masks and online teaching. Thankfully, as things began to calm down, they entered the sixth form and the vast majority have gone from strength to strength towards success. After a hectic year of mocks, applying to universities or other future directions, they finally endured the pressure of final exams and, as always, they have made it through with considerable style. To cap their time in Tolworth off, they managed to have an amazing leavers' assembly and a tremendous prom at the beautiful Leatherhead Golf Club. Huge thanks to students and staff who helped arrange the event. Students and staff loved the evening, so thank you to everyone who made it such a success.

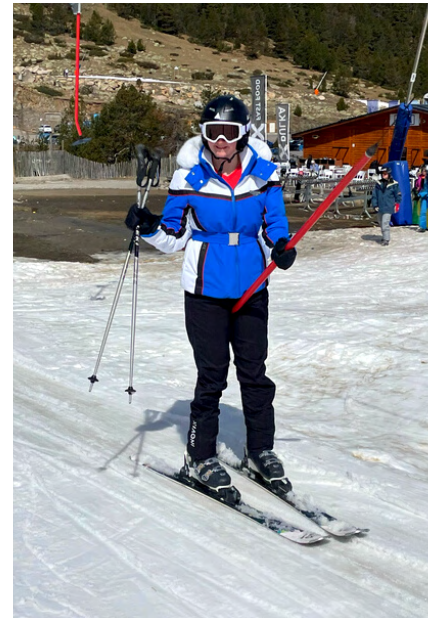
The next big event for Year 13 will be results day on Thursday 17 August 2023. I really hope that the vast majority will be happy with their grades and staff will be in school to help with any questions that may arise.

I wish the Year 13 students the very best of luck for the future. They thoroughly deserve success and I look forward to hearing how well they are all doing over the next few years. It has been a privilege to be their Head of Year.

# SKI TRIP IN ANDORRA



Over the Easter holiday, **72 students** had an amazing trip to Andorra on the Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form Ski Trip. Our first revival of this annual tradition since the disruption of the COVID years meant that more students took part than ever before. All ages and abilities were involved from Year 7 to 13, and complete novices to seasoned skiers. The week-long trip let students form new friendships outside of their normal groups and for many was a completely new experience.





# SKI TRIP IN ANDORRA

'I really enjoyed the ski trip, it was such a fun experience. My favourite moment was making everyone fall down in dominoes. I had a great time skiing with everyone in my group.'

Kira - Year 10




'All the students and teachers had so much fun together. I can remember all the laughs and jokes made on the ski lifts and on the coach. It is a trip I will always remember and be grateful for.'

Abi - Year 10



All of our skiers had 5 days of jam-packed lessons on the slopes of Grandvalira, with even our first timers building the confidence to tackle blue or red runs by the end of the week. Evenings were filled with games and quiz nights as well as bowling and shopping in Andorra la Vella. Traditions were kept up with the fancy dress skiing on our final day. The slopes of Grandvalira dotted with flying squirrels, dinosaurs and a whole zoo's worth of animals. Finally, we headed back out of the Pyrenees, across France, over the channel and back to Tolworth in our overnight coach, getting home on Saturday afternoon seven days after leaving, exhausted but buzzing with memories.





## CONGRATULATIONS TO LOUISA, ISOBEL AND IMOGEN

### Sutton & Epsom U16 Girls - Surrey Shield Winners 2023.

CONGRATULATIONS to Louisa, Isobel and Imogen, who played in the final of Sutton & Epsom Rugby Club - U16 girls.

For more information, please click here [www.activesurrey.com](http://www.activesurrey.com)



## CONGRATULATIONS TO TIA

Tia is currently the fastest 13 year old in the whole of England.

Out of Years 8 & 9, she is ranked 6th in the country.

Of all time history in athletics, Tia is ranked the 6th fastest ever 13 year old.

We are very proud of your achievement Tia!





## MADRID EXCHANGE TRIP

'I found the Spanish exchange very exciting – ever since we went to Madrid in October, I had been looking forward to their return trip to London! We went on two very fun day trips with them to Thorpe Park and London, and in the evenings my family and I had the opportunity to take our exchange student around our favourite places locally, such as the Korean restaurant we visit regularly in New Malden and Bushy Park.

Hosting was a pleasure for me and my family. We loved hearing about the cultural differences and similarities between England and Spain and about how our exchange student lived in Madrid. I feel that the exchange has had a great impact on my Spanish and it has definitely improved my vocabulary!'

Yushan 9P



## Y9 AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Last term, the Year 9 GCSE Music class had an amazing opportunity to visit the Royal College of Music. They had a tour of the museum where they saw the earliest stringed keyboard instrument and learnt about other fascinating instruments. The class then took part in a practical workshop using a Gamelan orchestra. This orchestra comes from Java in Indonesia and creates some impressive sounds. It was an enriching and inspirational day for all the students involved!



## SUMMER MUSIC CONCERT

This term we held our Summer Music Concert with over 100 students taking part. It was a chance to celebrate all the amazing work of our musicians this year and showcase the hours of practice they do. The Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form Choir sang a beautiful arrangement of 'See You Again' by Charlie Puth, the Ukulele Club played a mesmerising version of 'Blinding Lights' by the Weekend and the Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form Band finished the show with a classic Stevie Wonder hit 'Superstition'. There were also many solo items including Matilda (70) on piano, Lokbe (11S) on drum kit and Dionne (9T) singing 'Make You Feel My Love'. This year we also included a class performance of 'Let it Be' on ukuleles by 70! All the students were outstanding and should be very proud of their professionalism and musicianship!



## COUNT ON US CHALLENGE

A team of bright mathematicians from Years 7 to 9 competed against other London Schools in the Count On Us Secondary Maths Challenge in May. Representing Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form were: Katya K, Samara A, Kimberley D and Astri M.

Our students worked as a team to complete puzzles, solve geometric problems and find strategies to win the games. There was a great atmosphere and it was excellent to see such high levels of engagement and team work from all schools. Well done ladies!



## KS5 BIOLOGY OLYMPIADS

Our KS5 biologists have been taking part in the Biology Olympiad and Intermediate Biology Olympiad this term. These are a series of challenging online exams which test students' knowledge of Biology from beyond our specification. A huge congratulations to Sarah M and Eleanna F in Year 13 who both achieved Silver Awards in the Biology Olympiad. Keep your fingers crossed for our Year 12 students who should receive their results in the next few weeks!

## BORNEO EXPEDITION 2024

We have a group of forty students who have enrolled on a Camps International Expedition to Borneo in the summer of 2024. The girls will be completing a range of environmental and humanitarian projects whilst in country, including beach clean-up, reforestation and working with the local community. They will also have the opportunity to explore the biodiversity of this fascinating country with visits to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre. The girls heading off on expedition have a range of fundraising ideas which they have been running this term and will continue next academic year to support their trip costs. Please do keep an eye out for these and support the group if you are able. Every penny helps get them one step closer to their dream adventure!

## DOFE – THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

### Bronze DofE

Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award cohort have successfully completed their practice day walks, embedding the navigation skills they have been working on during our training sessions. They have also considered how to deal with a range of first aid emergencies and how to use our Trangia stoves safely. With all of the training now complete, all that is left is for the girls to sign off any two sections of their award and write their route plan. Our Assessed Expeditions will be going out in the final two weeks of this term and we are looking forward to celebrating lots of completed Bronze Awards when we return in September!



We launched the Bronze DofE Award to our current Year 8 group in late June and look forward to enrolling interested students from September. If you would like to know more about the Award, please have a look on the DofE website.

### Silver DofE

This year we have had a Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award cohort at Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form for the first time in a number of years. We are very proud of the girls who have shown a great deal of resilience and tenacity in working on this award alongside their KS4 studies. The group have completed Practice Expeditions in some fairly horrible weather conditions - with pouring rain, mud up over the top of their boots and temperatures falling to freezing overnight. However, they have not let this stop them and they are now preparing for their Assessed Expedition in early July. Already a few have expressed an interest in moving on to complete a Gold Award, which we are delighted about!

### DofE Social Value

As part of their DofE Award, participants must complete a minimum of three months of volunteering activity. This can be completed in a range of different ways depending on the particular interests of the individual. We were extremely proud to receive our Certificate of Social Impact for this year, showing that Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form students contributed 1,391 hours of volunteering between April 2022 and March 2023. This equates to a social value of £6,690.00 going directly to benefit individuals and youth groups in our local community, as well as a range of environmental causes - well done girls!!



# WIMBLEDON BALL GIRLS

Huge congratulations to this years' Wimbledon Ball Girls; Matilda B, Anna-Sofia R, Amy G, Flo Q, Hannah H, Charlotte B, Skye S, Maisy D, Emma L, Emily S, Florence C and Anastasiya L. They have all worked incredibly hard this academic year and their dedication has really paid off. The preparation and selection process in the lead up to the Wimbledon Championships is very rigorous; requiring unrivalled discipline, dedication and commitment. It is a huge privilege to perform at Wimbledon, but also a huge responsibility under the watchful eye of the world, at the largest professional tennis championship in the world! It has been a pleasure to see our students in action. It is an unforgettable experience for them and they have made memories that will last a lifetime! They have coped tremendously well under immense pressure, and they have all done themselves and our school community incredibly proud. Well done!

A special thank you to Eve, Iris, Matilda, Sophia, Anna-Sofia, Olivia, Sophie, Amy, Aidana and Flo for their help and support at the after school training sessions this past year and for giving up many hours of their free time to coach and prepare the new prospective ball girls. Their expertise and care has been so appreciated!

Miss Kelly



## SCIENCE WEEK: EXPLORING THE WONDERS OF SCIENCE AND CONNECTIONS

The Science Department at Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form recently organized an incredible Science Week event, filled with captivating activities and mind-blowing experiments. This year's theme was "Connections in Science," highlighting the interrelatedness of scientific disciplines and their impact on our daily lives. Throughout the week, students eagerly participated in various activities, including a poster competition, an organ dissection club, a STEM careers event for Year 10, a liquid nitrogen show presented by Andrew Hanson from NPL and an awe-inspiring KS3 assembly showcasing thrilling chemistry explosions.

### Poster Competition: Designing Futuristic Methods of Transport

As part of the Science Week festivities, KS3 students put their creative skills to the test in an exciting poster competition. The challenge? To design a futuristic method of transportation that could revolutionize the way we travel. The students unleashed their imaginations and the resulting posters were nothing short of remarkable. From sleek hovercrafts to magnetic levitation trains, the entries showcased an impressive understanding of scientific principles and innovation.



### Organ Dissection Club: Exploring the Marvels of Anatomy

For those with a keen interest in biology and the human body, the lunchtime organ dissection club provided an extraordinary opportunity to delve into the intricacies of anatomy. Over the course of three days, students eagerly gathered to dissect various organs, igniting their passion for understanding the inner workings of living organisms. Monday featured a heart dissection, Tuesday brought the dissection of an eye and finally, on Wednesday, the dissection of a pair of lungs. Through hands-on exploration students gained a deeper appreciation for the complexity and interconnectedness of our biological systems.



### KS3 Assembly: Chemistry Explosions that Ignite Excitement

The Science Week KS3 assembly was an electrifying showcase of chemical reactions, featuring three remarkable demonstrations presented by Mr Dowthwaite, Mrs Bowman and Mr Varatharajan. The audience was captivated as the trio unleashed a series of controlled explosions. Each demonstration was carefully explained, shedding light on the underlying scientific principles and safety measures involved.



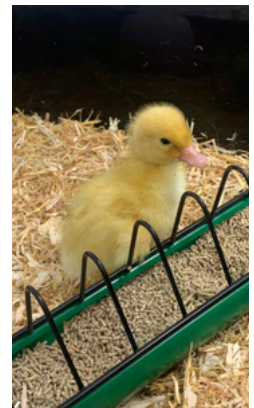
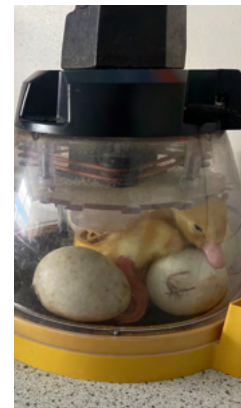
Science Week at Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form was an immense success, igniting curiosity and fostering a deeper understanding of the interconnected nature of scientific disciplines.



## A QUACK-TASTIC EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS!

Excitement and wonder filled the air at our school as we recently hosted a remarkable event that left students with unforgettable memories. The occasion? A duck egg hatching event, where students had the incredible opportunity to witness the miracle of life. The event began with the arrival of an incubator housing a clutch of duck eggs, carefully tended to by our science teacher Mr Dowthwaite and technician Mrs Palmer. Days turned into a thrilling countdown as we observed the eggs gradually crack and tiny beaks poke through, signaling the imminent arrival of the fluffy newcomers.

To make the experience even more enriching students were given the unique opportunity under the careful supervision of our teachers, to meet, stroke and even give the fluffy ducklings a bath! It was an exceptional chance for students to connect with nature, fostering empathy, and nurturing their sense of responsibility. There was even time for Mrs Pond to pass on her mantra to the next generation of ducks - quack on, and embrace the beauty of life!



## IS THERE WITCHCRAFT AND WIZARDRY IN THE REAL WORLD?

You may think that magic and spells only exist in your favourite books and movies, but can we make magic in the real world? Our KS3 Science Club investigates how you can use Science to make things change colour and state, or even disappear.

Students have investigated how to impress their friends with their knowledge of potions. Sometimes all it takes is just one magic drop to completely transform a solution! They used trial and error to turn water bright pink with just one 'magic' colourless drop. Students also wrote messages in invisible ink before using their knowledge of the fire triangle to uncover these secrets.



## SRP EVENTS

During October, we celebrated ADHD Awareness by holding a coffee morning for staff. As well as handing out tasty treats we also handed out information leaflets and pins for the staff to take away.

During April, we celebrated Autism Awareness by opening the SRP to staff. We held another bake sale and decorated the SRP with colourful information posters, as well as handing out information leaflets and pins like we did at our ADHD morning.

On Thursday 15 June 2023 we held a bake sale in support of Neurodiversity Day, as well as raising further awareness of the SRP.

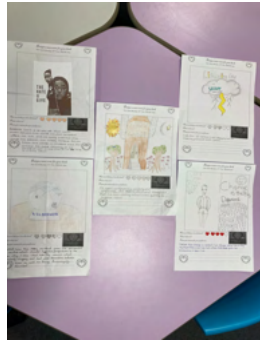




## LIBRARY SPRING TERM ACTIVITIES

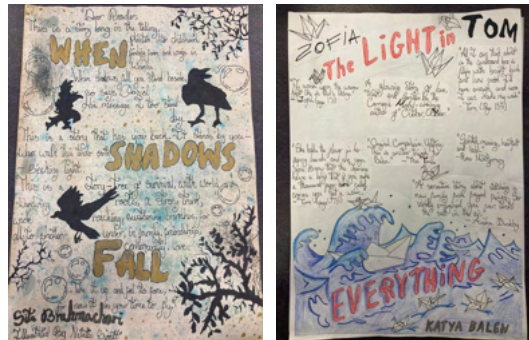
### HAVE A DATE WITH A BOOK

Students had the chance to choose a book "blind", an invitation to try something new and different from their usual choices, to read during the half term break. Students were also invited to design an alternative cover for their "date book". Our winner and runners up are shown here.

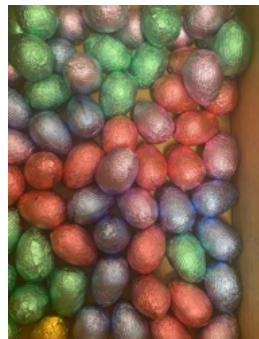


### CARNEGIE ARTWORK

Once again this year, we had a Carnegie group meeting in the library at lunchtime on Thursdays. One of our gifted students produced these amazing pieces of artwork based on some of the shortlisted titles that she had read.



### EASTER EGG HUNT



### RAMADAN BOOK DISPLAY

- Decorated by students



### NIZRANA FAROOK'S VISIT

On Tuesday 25 April 2023 our Year 7 students had the opportunity of listening to author Nizrana Farook. Year 7 students had previously read Nizrana's book "The Girl Who Lost a Leopard" as part of the Read Up Kingston initiative and this visit was an ideal opportunity to deepen their understanding and interest. Nizrana talked to the students about her technique as a writer, about the country of Sri Lanka where she originates from and where the inspiration for her stories comes from.

At the end of the talk, Nizrana had a signing session for students who had purchased her latest book.



## CAREERS

### Science Week - Speed Careers

Year 10 had a carousel of Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths employees. They had five minutes with each to learn about the various roles and ask questions along the way.

### Young Reporter Scheme

Congratulations to Alisar and Ariana on receiving letters of recognition and for their names appearing in the Newsquest Magazine. Students had to upload eight articles in eight months. Students in Years 9 to 12 can sign up for next year's cohort. There is an admin fee of £30.00 per student.

### Post 16 Options Parents' Information Evening - Tuesday 27 June

Parents heard about the various options and routes from a range of education providers to help them support their daughters in their next steps.

Mrs Lelliott said "I just wanted to say thank you for organising last night's presentation. It was very informative and enjoyable... lots to take in! Thank you to all involved."

### Year 10 Discovery Day at Kingston University

Students attended an Introduction to Kingston University (plus an icebreaker game). They got to know student ambassadors and quizzed them about all aspects of university life. There was a talk 'About Higher Education', looking at the myths and benefits around university, followed by a Campus Tour to see what takes place on a typical university campus. Finally they had a Sociology taster session with Dr Lewis Bloodworth. Lewis is an experienced Sociology researcher and lecturer who specialises in families and relationships.

### Take Your Daughter To Work Day

Years 8 and 9 had the opportunity to go to work with parents, family members or friends. They went to some diverse work places. Every student had to complete a booklet whilst there.



*All students are entitled to careers interviews; Mrs Greenland and Mrs Hewitt are happy to see students to help them plan for the future.*



# PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

## WHO WE ARE

Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form PFA are the parents, carers and friends of children who attend the school. Our aim is to provide additional facilities, equipment or items that support the school. These are things that the school budget may not stretch to, such as lighting equipment for the school theatre, benches for outdoor spaces and end of year proms.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

We continue to need your support, whether it is taking time to attend PFA meetings, joining the committee, spreading the word, giving ideas and suggestions, taking part in events and helping to plan them or donating unwanted school uniform. We are hugely grateful for your support.

To find out about how to get involved or simply keep in touch:

- join the [PFA WhatsApp group](#)
- email [PFA.TGS@gmail.com](mailto:PFA.TGS@gmail.com)

## VACANT COMMITTEE POSITIONS

We are still looking for a Chair and a treasurer to join and lead the committee. If you are interested, we would be happy to have a chat with you about what the role involves.

# FREE DONATIONS FOR PFA WHEN YOU SHOP

We have worked hard to be set up as a Registered Charity (no.1187806) so that we can raise funds more easily.

This includes receiving free donations for the PFA each time you shop at:

## Easyfundraising

This is the UK's biggest charity shopping site with over 4,200 retailers that will make a small donation to your chosen charity each time you shop. To support the PFA, select Tolworth Girls' School Parents & Friends Association (Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form PFA) - Surbiton as your chosen charity and then shop at Easyfundraising as normal. You can also bookmark Easyfundraising on your web browser for future purchases.

easyfundraising  
feel good shopping

Help raise free funds  
for our school  
every time you shop online

Join easyfundraising today and search for  
**Tolworth Girls School PFA**

Thousands of well-known retailers will give us a free donation when you shop with them - at no cost to you!

Shop at over 4,100 online stores

M&S Clarks Groupon Currys Amazon  
Viking WAITROSE JUST EAT ebay Debenhams Waterstones

Download the app

GET IT ON Google Play Download on the App Store

Over £31 million raised Trustpilot 5 stars 1.8 million users

## PFA NEWS

With exam season coming to an end, it has been great to see the students enjoying the warm and sunny weather and spending plenty of time outside in the grounds of the school. The new benches ordered by the PFA have been very popular with the students and we have ordered another four that we are sure will be put to good use during these warmer months.

Since our last PFA update we have also had a brilliant Music Concert on Thursday 11 May 2023 with some amazing performances by the girls that were loved by the audience.

A big 'thank you' to all of you who continue to support our fundraising activities for the school - it is always appreciated.

As we move towards the end of the school year, we have also had our **annual Pre-loved Uniform Sale on Wednesday 5 July 2023.**

This is an important fundraising event for Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form. Please continue to look at the back of your wardrobes and hand any pre-loved uniform into reception. All uniform is welcome, including blazers, jumpers, skirts and any PE and Dance kit and used or sold throughout the year.

• Next PFA Committee Meeting - TBC. Please look out for further messages from us.





## STUDENT CONTACT DETAILS

Please can parents inform the school immediately of any changes in your daughter's/son's contact details. These are very important and must be kept up-to-date in case of student illness or a school emergency.

## PARENTPAY REMINDER

Please can we remind parents/carers to use ParentPay or PayPoint if you do not have a computer to pay for trips or other items the school requests money for. We will continue to send out activation letters to those who send in cash or cheques. Paying by ParentPay is a much more secure way of paying and also very convenient for parents to be able to pay at any time. We thank you for your co-operation.

The Finance Team

## HEALTH AND SAFETY REMINDER FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

All students in the laboratory must wear safety goggles. This includes when a student across the lab is still working on their practical task and you have finished your experiment for the day. This simple precaution can eliminate the danger of eye injury caused by you or your neighbour splattering chemicals or breaking glass. Another important protection for your eyes is to avoid rubbing your fingers in or near your eyes. Chemicals can easily be transferred from your hands to your eyes in this way. All students are required to wear a lab coat at all times when anyone is working with chemicals in the lab. A lab coat is more than a uniform identifying you as a scientist; it affords you some protection from spills of hot or corrosive materials as well as protecting your school uniform.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM THE FIRST AID TEAM

Students are not allowed to carry their own medication in school unless it is an Epipen or asthma pump. If a student requires pain relief, first aid can give paracetamol after being assessed. Please remember to inform the school of any new medical conditions that your daughter may have developed within the school term/year, also of any medication that needs to be stored in first aid. It is important that we keep medical information updated, as this will enable us to support student's needs effectively.

Parents are also reminded to inform the school if there are changes to the following:

- Emergency contact details
- Medical conditions that can emerge as students mature
- Changes to medication
- We request that all parents whose child suffers from severe asthma or severe allergies provide the school with a named inhaler or Epipen that has not expired
- If the medicine becomes out of date, you will be informed and you must replace the medicine immediately; we as a school will take no responsibility if you fail to provide a replacement

## CHILDCARE – ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN CHILDMINDER AGENCY, LEAP AHEAD

The Achieving for Children Childminder Agency, Leap Ahead is registered and inspected by Ofsted. Childminders can choose to join the agency and be registered and inspected by Leap Ahead rather than Ofsted. In addition to registration, those who join our agency will receive individual support and guidance, meetings, training and an annual graded visit. The childminder's report is published on the website where parents can search for childminders in their area: <http://www.leapahead.org.uk/>

## **AUTUMN TERM 2023**

**MONDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER – THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER**

INSET Day for Staff	Monday 4th September
INSET Day for Staff	Tuesday 5th September
Year 7 Induction (TBC)	Wednesday 6th September
All students return	Thursday 7th September
Half Term Holiday	Monday 23rd October – Tuesday 31st October
Students return	Wednesday 1st November
Last Day of Term	Thursday 21st December

## **SPRING TERM 2024**

**MONDAY 8 JANUARY – THURSDAY 28 MARCH**

INSET DAY	Monday 8th January
Students Return	Tuesday 9th January
Half Term Holiday	Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February
Students Return	Monday 19th February
Last Day of Term	Wednesday 27th March
INSET DAY	Thursday 28th March

## **SUMMER TERM 2024**

**MONDAY 15 APRIL – FRIDAY 19 JULY**

Students Return	Monday 15th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May
Half Term Holiday	Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May
Students Return	Monday 3rd June
INSET DAY	Monday 1st July
Last Day of Term	Friday 19th July

***NB Easter 2024:-***

Good Friday falls on Friday 29th March

Easter Monday falls on Monday 1st April





**IN LOVING MEMORY OF DAVID FLOOD**  
Miss Fabregas ran the London Marathon in April 2023 for Team Macmillan  
Thank you all for your donations and support!

## REACH OUT

Website: [www.tolworthgirlsschool.co.uk](http://www.tolworthgirlsschool.co.uk)  
email: [ContactTheSchool@tolworthgirlsschool.co.uk](mailto:ContactTheSchool@tolworthgirlsschool.co.uk)  
Tel: 020 8397 3854

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Twitter handle:  
[@TolworthGirls](https://twitter.com/TolworthGirls)

