

Team TPS ToPicS



TPS

The
Petersfield
School

ToPicS Year in Review 2025/26

ENJOY RESPECT ACHIEVE



Exceptional Outcomes Unrivalled Student Experience

What a year it's been for Team TPS!

The school year started with us celebrating record GCSE results and, once again, being a top five Hampshire school for outcomes (from over seventy secondary schools). Our students have been involved in so many fantastic opportunities during the year and Team TPS has visited some great locations including the Azores, Austria, Belgium, Spain, Rome, Poland and Eswatini!

Our students performed a magical tribute to Sir David Attenborough to mark his one hundredth birthday in May 2026. This was performed with real verve and passion to win the coveted 'People's Choice Award' when presented at Dance Live! in the Portsmouth Guildhall.

The school also took some important steps towards reducing our environmental impact by tripling the number of solar panels and moving away from gas heating for the majority of our buildings. We also raised several thousand pounds across several fund raising events for our nominated charities this year, including Save the Children and Children in Need.

We are looking forward to another exciting, action packed school year in 2026/27!

Mark Marande
Headteacher



Dance Live 2026

TPS were thrilled to take part in this year's Dance Live!, an event that continues to inspire creativity, teamwork, and a real passion for the performing arts. Our 2026 piece, *A Celebration of David Attenborough: The Final Chapter Is Ours to Write*, explored the beauty and fragility of the natural world through dance and vibrant visual storytelling.

This ambitious performance brought together more than 70 students from Years 8–11, all of whom dedicated weeks of rehearsals, planning, and preparation to bring the piece to life. Travelling to the Portsmouth Guildhall was a truly exciting moment for the students, and the atmosphere on the day was brilliant. From the morning technical rehearsals to the final performance, they approached every stage with fantastic energy, maturity, and enthusiasm.

We were immensely proud of how our students conducted themselves throughout the entire experience. Their professionalism backstage, their support for one another, and their commitment to the project reflected everything we value in the arts at TPS.

Their hard work shone through on stage, and the group delivered a powerful, beautifully coordinated performance that captured the audience's imagination. We were delighted that their talent and dedication were recognised with several awards, including the **Video Journey Award**, **Costume Award**, and the coveted **People's Choice Award** — a true testament to their creativity and teamwork.

A huge well done to every student involved, and our thanks to the staff and families who supported the journey.



GCSE Results



TPS is yet again one of the top performing schools in Hampshire, a HUGE well done to the Class of 2025!

Students have made outstanding progress, with over 84% achieving a grade 4 or above in both English and maths, the highest achievement in the history of the school! Additionally, over a third of all the grades awarded at TPS were at the top grade 7 to 9 (A*/A) level.

Eve B, our outgoing Head Girl from Westbourne, achieved a staggering ELEVEN straight grade 9 GCSEs (A**)! This is something that only a very small number of students across the whole country achieve each year.

Following the publication of the 2025 GCSE results tables, TPS is again a top five Hampshire school, out of over 70 secondary schools in the county. Well done to everyone on your hard work and achievement.

Open Morning Highlights



Battlefields Trip

In October, 52 Year 8 students travelled to the battlefields of the Western Front. Students stood in the footsteps of John McCrae and read his poem 'In Flanders Fields'. They visited the major battlefields and cemeteries around Ypres, before travelling to the Somme to spend the day understanding the battle from start to finish. They were able to hold three private ceremonies for students who had relatives buried or memorialised in Commonwealth cemeteries.

We were so proud of all the students who showed great interest and respect throughout the trip.



Remembrance Day

In November, TPS students and Mr Marande took part in the annual Remembrance Sunday Service in Petersfield. Head Girl, Fifi G, and Head Boy, Joe T, laid a wreath from the school at the war memorial, while students from our cadets read names of the fallen. In addition, our TPS Singers and our students from local youth organisations took part in this special service.



Christmas at TPS



Staff Panto

Oh yes we did! From pumpkin-powered transformations to glass-slipper moments, our staff had an absolute ball bringing Cinderella to life.



Year of Fundraising



At TPS we are extremely proud of how well supported our fundraising drives are, both by staff, students and parents, and every year we hold a variety of events.

Back in June, Year 7 students took part in a day-long Dance-a-thon. Raising money for The Genie's Wish Charity, Performing Arts staff and students danced non-stop for 6 hours. Lots of fun was had for a great cause that grants wishes and creates cherished memories for seriously ill people and young carers from across England.

In September the TPS PE Department embarked on a mammoth challenge, with the aim of raising money for Children in Need. They decided to take on the National 3 Peaks Challenge with the hope of completing the three highest peaks in the UK in under 24 hours. At 7am on the first day they were at the foot of Ben Nevis looking to take on the challenge without any training, no guide, no map and no designated driver to support with the transport between the mountains, making the challenge even tougher.

After completing Ben Nevis in just over 3 hours the team worked hard to stay on track of the 24-hour time limit with the team's biggest challenge being to climb Scafell Pike in the dark, a trail unbeknown to the team which turns into a boulder field approximately halfway up. Spurred on by head torches in the distance, the team pushed on and eventually reached the summit.



The team continued their journey into the heart of North Wales to tackle the final mountain, Snowdon. Taking the 'miners trail' to the top took the last reserves out of the brave team as 80mph winds were looking to threaten the afternoon. After reaching the ground just before Midday on Sunday, the team had proudly conquered the three peaks and raised £2587.50 for Children in Need. The final time was 28hrs and 27mins.

In October 2025 the whole school took part in Raise and Give week which saw events from staff leg waxing to student tug of war, to a staff lip sync battle and a non-uniform day. Students donated throughout the week to attend the various events and there was a cake sale every day provided by each year group across the week. Over £4000 was raised for the TPS House Charities and a great week was had by all.



Poland Trip



Our trip to Poland was a poignant mix of history and culture.

We visited the stunning Wieliczka salt mines and admired the spectacular crystal caves. We enjoyed a dinner with traditional Polish folk dancing, including some fun audience participation! We also had reflective visits to Auschwitz and Oskar Schindler's factory, where we learned more about this deeply affecting period of history.



TPS Goes Green



At TPS, the 'Go Green' mission to reduce the school's carbon footprint took a huge leap forward with the installation of further solar panels. Miss Wallace and some of the Eco Committee students took to the roof of the Studio with Mr Marande to check on the progress. The contractors spent time explaining how the installation work they are undertaking will triple the school's solar capacity to 322 kW hours of renewable energy! It was an incredible, hands-on (and helmets-on!) experience for the students to actively engage with the school's eco-friendly initiatives. Joe T shared - "It was great to see what the Eco Club has achieved in person" - and he was thrilled to witness the progress the school has made since he joined in Year 7. Alannah C stated that she was "excited to go up again", highlighting how unique and interesting this experience was for the Eco Club members. While discussions about making TPS greener are always ongoing, seeing real, tangible changes help to keep that momentum and motivation growing. The school's investment in solar panels will not only reduce energy costs, but also significantly cut down our carbon emissions. By harnessing clean, renewable energy from the sun, the school is helping to combat climate change and reduce its environmental footprint. We are proudly shaping a greener, brighter future for generations of TPS students to come! Indeed, students were so enthusiastic they offered to return to help with the bi-annual panel clean! We look forward to sharing further updates on this exciting journey to sustainability.



TPS Snowsports Trip



There was plenty of snow and fun on the slopes for our annual skiing and snowboarding trip. Students were carving and shredding the pow in truly gnarly style! The conditions were rewarding but occasionally challenging with real Team TPS spirit shown by all.



TPS Takes Learning Global

TPS were fortunate to have three overseas trips running over February half term. Our Geography students visited the volcanic Azores, MFL students enjoyed exploring Malaga and RE students toured Rome. Three students who were lucky to attend these trips have given us a great taste of each of these very different locations.



Azores by Isla W:

This trip was aimed at helping our understanding of tectonics, as the Azores experience a lot of volcanic activity. On the first day on the island, we went to a beautiful viewpoint overlooking much of the north side of São Miguel Island, before going to a local tea plantation and trying some great tea. In the afternoon, we visited an area with many hot springs and geysers. This really helped our geography knowledge as we are now able to visualise these natural wonders. On our second day in the Azores, we visited a small, locally run pineapple plantation where we were able to taste the fresh pineapples and even try pineapple ice cream! Later, we hiked along a dramatic coastline and passed through lovely villages. On the Monday, we walked to two stunning and unusual beaches.



The first was very rocky and was actually a solidified lava flow! The second was calm and in a secluded bay but had grey sand, like all the sandy beaches in the Azores. This phenomenon is caused by the country's rich volcanic activity. On our final day, we looked down on two pretty lakes from a mountain viewpoint and visited a large underground system of lava tunnels. These tunnels were incredible: we could even see where the lava dripped from the ceiling of the caves!

The most enjoyable moment of the trip for me was in a picturesque botanical garden we visited. We got to run across a chain of stepping stones in a pond which was great fun and also funny! Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the Azores trip as we visited amazing sites, I was never bored, and I found the food delicious.



TPS Takes Learning Global

Malaga by Millie D:

Year 9 Spanish students went to Malaga to practice our Spanish speaking skills and learn more about the rich culture of Spain. We got the opportunity to do many incredible activities including a paella making course, a trip to the zoo, a visit to the video game museum and so much more, while also getting some free time to explore Malaga and enjoy time with friends. One of my favourite moments from the trip was getting to go to a tapas restaurant where we tried loads of authentic Spanish dishes.

I loved the Malaga trip as I got to try so many new things that I hadn't before, and I felt like I learnt a lot and got many chances to practice my Spanish speaking skills.



Rome by Ollie T:

The purpose of the trip was to learn about Christianity and Ancient Romans. On the trip we went to many different cathedrals including the largest in the world, and famous landmarks like the Sistine Chapel and the Colosseum. Every day was full of places to go and things to do. We went to a different restaurant every evening and the food was delicious. My favourite part was either going to the Colosseum or when we got to make our own pizzas. I thought the trip was incredible fun and I thought it was a great experience.



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

On the 8 and 9 May, 18 Teams of Year 9 students successfully completed their Bronze DofE expedition. Over the two days of walking, they showed great determination, resilience, and teamwork throughout their challenge. It was a terrific effort from all involved and they should be very proud of their achievement.

Thank you to all the TPS and Hampshire Outdoors staff who supervised and supported the expedition, as well as parents for ensuring students were fully prepared and ready to take part.



Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award



At the start of June, 45 Year 10 students travelled to Exmoor in Somerset and Devon to complete their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. Over three days of hiking and camping, the groups covered approximately 60km through the beautiful Exmoor countryside, tackling steep and exposed terrain along the way.

Despite facing torrential rain and strong winds, with brief spells of sunshine, the students performed brilliantly throughout the expedition. Their resilience, determination and teamwork were evident from start to finish, with spirits remaining high as they reached the finish point by the sea in Lynmouth.

This was a fantastic achievement, and every student should be immensely proud of their individual accomplishments and the way they supported one another in their teams.



New Science Laboratory

This year saw the official opening of our new Science Laboratory.

All of our laboratories are named after scientists, and our new build has been named in honour of Professor Stephen Hawking. As such, it felt only fitting that the opening and inaugural lecture were delivered by a cosmologist. We were therefore delighted to welcome Professor David Wands, Professor of Cosmology at the University of Portsmouth, to officially open the laboratory.

After cutting the ribbon, Professor Wands gave students a fascinating talk on what cosmology is, what we currently know about the universe, and the questions that the next generation of scientists are still working to solve. He then took some excellent questions from our Year 10 audience, covering topics ranging from quark interactions to what might happen to our universe in the future.



Year 11 Prom



We had a wonderful evening at Old Thorns, celebrating with the Class of 2026 at their Year 11 Prom. At our largest ever Prom, the sun shone brightly, but the heat did not get in the way of a fantastic evening. As ever there were some amazing vehicles delivering the students to the venue in front of a crowd of parents, friends and TPS staff.

There were lots of stunning gowns and sharp suits on display as the students made their way up the red carpet. Inside the students enjoyed a meal, cheered on the awards presented by Mr Marande and then danced the night away.



Team TPS Sports News



Congratulations to our Year 8 Students who have retained the BET Cup for a third year in a row. Students this year have competed at football, cricket, volleyball, netball and the BET Legacy event against the other eight Bohunt Trust Schools.

The competition has now concluded with TPS defending the trophy for a second year.



U15 Boys & U15 Girls Dodgeball teams took to the Kettering Sports Arena to compete in the National Schools Finals. Both teams started slowly, coming up against some tough opposition. Over the course of the day they found their way to some hard-earned victories to secure spots in the quarter finals. The boys bowed out narrowly to this year's (and last year's) champions while the girls won their game to book a spot in the semi-final. The girls came close but fell short against the eventual champions. The girls then went into the 3rd place playoff and took a win to be crowned the 3rd best dodgeball team in the nation, with the boys finishing 6th in the country.

Team TPS Sports News



Our U15 boys and U15 girls NFL Flag squads travelled to Manchester to compete in the NFL Flag National Finals, proudly representing not only our school but the entire Southeast England region. The girls opened their campaign with a commanding win, setting the tone for a strong tournament run that carried them all the way to the quarter finals. They finished as the No. 6 team in the UK, placing them firmly among the very best school teams in the country. The boys fought through a thrilling opener against a talented Scottish side and battled their way through the play offs to secure a brilliant No. 10 national ranking.

On a grey and showery Thursday, our athletics team made their way down to the Mountbatten Centre for the SE Hants Athletics Championships. The TPS team were the overall winners on the day and we want to celebrate how incredible our students were. With 47 TPS students competing, across a variety of different track and field events, we were often challenging for podium spots, coming away with several gold, silver and bronze medals.



Congratulations to our Year 10 Girls Handball Team who travelled to Nottingham for the National Handball Finals. The girls started strongly against Downlands and narrowly missed out on the result losing the game 3-2. They then had an excellent win against Durham, winning the game comfortably 5-2. This left a final test against Trinity. Despite an excellent effort from the girls, who showed some exceptional resilience, they were unable to take their chances and lost the game 7-4. This allowed for a friendly game against Highcliffe before playing for 9th and 10th place against Thorp school. The girls were awesome and finished the day on a high, winning the game 5-2.

Student/Teacher Interview

JOE TULLY, HEAD BOY AT TPS & FRANKIE GOODALL, TPS ENGLISH TUTOR AND STAFF MHFA

Back in October, Joe Tully and Frankie Goodall attended The Petersfield Awards Ceremony after being nominated for the Young Achiever Award and the Wellbeing and Mindfulness Award respectively. Both were thrilled to be announced as winners on the night and later sat down to interview each other.

JOE TO FRANKIE

What inspired you to focus on wellbeing and mental health? I've always believed that people do their best when they feel supported and valued. Becoming the staff Mental Health First Aider during the Covid pandemic was a significant experience for me, and it's been amazing to see so many colleagues accessing support.

What does the MHFA role entail? The role is to listen without judgment, hold supportive conversations and signpost to help as necessary. I normally have one to one meetings with teaching and associate staff needing support, new staff and those returning from Mat/Pat leave.

What's the most rewarding part of your role? When a staff member tells me that a conversation or check-in helped them feel better or more confident, or that they've had a breakthrough in an area they were struggling with.

How did it feel when you found out you'd been nominated the Petersfield Award for 'Wellbeing and Mindfulness'? I was completely shocked! I didn't expect it at all — but it made me proud to see something positive come out of something I care deeply about.

What does winning the award mean to you?

It is an honour. I see it as recognition not just for me, but for our whole school community who work together to look after one another.

If you could give one piece of advice to people about looking after their wellbeing, what would it be?

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Reaching out is a sign of strength, not weakness- it's good to talk!



FRANKIE TO JOE

Tell me about yourself in 30 seconds! My name's Joe, I'm 16 years old, and I've lived in Petersfield all my life, attending local schools. I love performing in amateur dramatic shows and have even directed a few myself. Outside of that, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

What did you win the Young Achiever Award for? I won the award for my charity work over the years, fundraising for several local charities such as the Food Bank and Home Start Butser, as well as for directing my own show with my amateur dramatic society.

How did it feel when you found out you'd won? I was really shocked — I honestly wasn't expecting it! It felt like such an honour to be recognised for the work I've done for the causes I care about.

What challenges did you face along the way? Each year, more people rely on local charities, which makes it harder to collect enough items to meet demand. With the show I directed, we also had cast dropouts at the last minute, so I had to think on my feet and find quick solutions to keep things running smoothly.

Who inspires you the most? My parents- for teaching me and nurturing me as I've grown up. I also find inspiration in anyone who's achieved their dreams; hearing their stories and how they got there really motivates me.

What are your hopes for the future? My long-term goal is to become a West End director and to support and inspire the people I meet along the way.

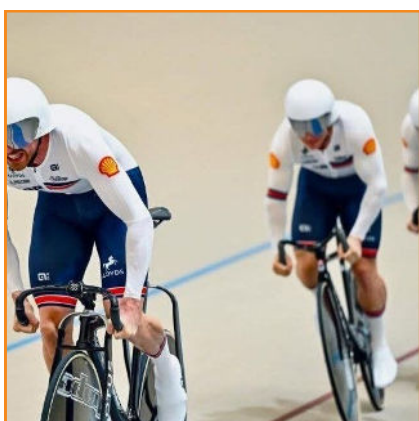
What message would you give to other young people who want to make a difference? Don't worry about what others say. If you're making a positive impact on your community and the world around you, that's what truly matters.

Team TPS Alumni News



We were delighted to welcome back former TPS student, Imogen Haydon at our Celebration Evening in June. She gave our students an inspiring speech about her journey from TPS to becoming a Graduate Materials Scientist now working in fusion energy at the UK Atomic Energy Authority.

Jack Morris recently returned to TPS to teach two high intensity dance workshops. The first workshop was for our Boys Dance company. The second workshop was for our GCSE Dance students. They were also put through their paces with a vigorous ab routine and a complex adagé. It was such a privilege for the students to be taught movement phrases from Jack's Urdang classes.



Former TPS student Joe Truman stormed to a gold medal victory in the Track World Cup cycling competition in Hong Kong.

TPS alumni Gregg Baxter shared his passion for powerchair football on BBC breakfast.

Gregg is a great talent in the sport, becoming the first player ever to win premiership league titles for teams in both England and Scotland. He is also on the England team development pathway.



TPS alumni George Gilliatt recently became one of the LEGO groups youngest ever Senior Designers, after a successful year designing sets for the Harry Potter and Star Wars franchises. His most recent project has been a collaboration with pop star Olivia Rodrigo.

ERA Week Highlights



ERA Week 2026 is designed to inspire every young person to Enjoy, Respect, Achieve and become a true game changer. Pupils step outside their comfort zones, explore new passions and develop the confidence to be the very best versions of themselves.

Among many varied activities, the week included camps for Year 7 and Year 8 and trips to locations such as St Ives, the New Forest and Kew Gardens. A wide range of gamechanger activities were also held in school.



ERA Week Highlights



TPS Fest Highlights



Exceptional Outcomes Unrivalled Student Experience

TPS Fest Highlights



Exceptional Outcomes Unrivalled Student Experience



TPS

The
Petersfield
School

Exceptional Outcomes Unrivalled Student Experience