



Autumn 2025

### A Word from the Executive Headteacher...

As we come to the end of a busy Autumn term, I am delighted to be sharing with you many of the exciting things we have been doing across the service.

We started the term with an excellent set of GCSE results for our departing year 11s. Their hard work was reflected in many students making huge progress, and we are thrilled to see them head off to a variety of next steps. A number of students have popped back to say hello, and it is fantastic to hear how well they are doing in their chosen paths. It has been especially lovely to hear how many of them recognise that their time at TMBSS was the best stepping stone to enable them to access their future education, employment or training.

We are excited to announce that TMBSS is launching its own fleet of mini-buses to improve transport for our students. This has just been rolled out to some of our Bridgnorth and Oswestry students, and we hope that this will add more flexibility to our programmes and help support our young people in their access to our services and other outreach offers. I would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday and thank you for your continued support of our young people.

Greg Portman



## Outreach Shoutouts

- One student has successfully transitioned to Hookagate Centre
- Two students have completed all their Entry Level papers for English and Maths
- One student has completed one week of work experience
- One student had a visit to RENU and is keen to start
- One student has started a part time job



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

This term secondary students in Oswestry, Sundorne and Bridgnorth have created Artwork inspired by the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. They earned AQA Unit Awards in why remembrance is important and why the poppy is significant.

Students worked independently and collaboratively to create work. Some choosing to create mixed media paintings and others created poppies from a range of materials to fill the silhouette of a world war 1 soldier to hang in centre.



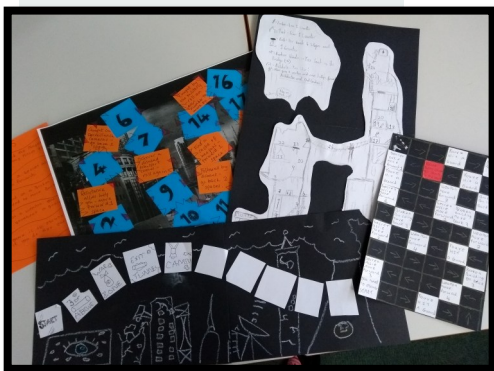
REMEMBRANCE DAY  
*Let No One Forget*

*'We will remember them.'*

## ROLL THE DICE ON THE APOCALYPSE

KS3 students across the service have been studying a Dystopian Literature topic this term. Having read a range of texts from the genre and explored the typical conventions in the works, Ludlow and Hookagate demonstrated their understanding by making dystopian board games.

Here's Isabelle and Angela playing 'Dystopoly', Isabelle's apocalyptic take on Monopoly. She even made all the money!



## Outdoor Education at TMBSS

This term students from Oswestry centre visited a woodland area that had a large stream with a number of waterfalls and visible meanders. Once they reached the largest waterfall, JP became a photographer and got some excellent snaps of KM and JCo. Students also spotted river beach sand and tried to compete with nature by building a dam.



Hookagate students went deer stalking (without the shooting) in Limekiln Woods during the rutting season. Using their stealth and Mr Mac's expertise, they were able to find a number of deer and capture some amazing pictures. It was a rare opportunity to see nature at its most exciting.



On a crisp winter morning, the students climbed to the top of Haughmond Hill and were met with some spectacular views of Shropshire. The students walked over 12 Km and were rewarded with hot chocolate and marshmallows.



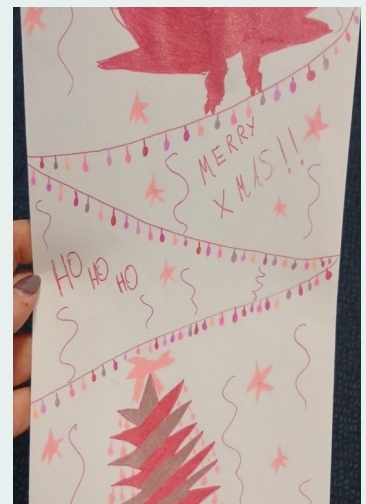
Some students visited the Climbing Hut and climbed on both the bouldering and action walls – some of which were 12 metres high!

## Winner

Outreach student, Mayzie, won a Christmas card design competition organised by Foster Portsmouth. Her design will be used on Christmas cards for the Children, Families and Education Department in Portsmouth.

MM will receive a £20 voucher as a prize.

Well done Mayzie!



## ‘Olive you more than anything!’

During the Summer term students at Hook-A-Gate made the most of the hot weather by re-designing the courtyard area. An olive tree was purchased as part of the plants that were introduced into the new habitat. Students spent some time tracking the sun to find the best spot to place 'Olive', as they thrive in sunny and sheltered spots. A corner of the courtyard was chosen and imagine our surprise and delight when we returned to school in September to find that 'Olive' had actually started to grow olives!



Students researched when the best time to pick these would be and then what they should do to process them into edible olives. They found out that olives can't just be eaten straight off the tree and undergo quite a lengthy 'curing process'. Undeterred, students have now picked the olives and are in the first 'curing stage', hoping to have fresh olives for the centre in the New Year.

# Christmas is Coming

As usual, Hookagate staff and students are getting into the Christmas spirit. They were delighted to invite parents and carers into centre for the annual Christmas Fayre.

Students had been busy baking and decorating cakes and biscuits, as well as making cards and crafts to sell. There was also a raffle with lots of happy winners. Over £80 was raised, and in the new year students will be able to vote on the charity they would like it to support.

The penultimate Friday of term also saw the trip to Attingham to see the Christmas trees.

After an eventful trip on the electric bus to 'The Field of Play' (which involved a team effort to push the bus out of the mud) staff and students went on to enjoy the wonderful festive trees in the house. It was also a great maths opportunity to see if we could work out the height of the tree by using Imogen for scale.



## TMBSS—GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

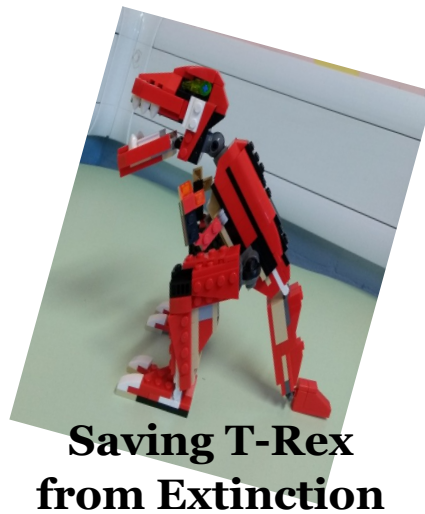
As part of a careers in the Arts lesson, secondary students learnt about a graphic designer who was part of the team who created the festive cups and food packaging for Costa this year. They learnt about design briefs, brand identity, mood boards, collaboration, graphic design and client feedback.



Students then designed their own Costa cups to fit the brief and visited Costa to see the 2025 products in the flesh. Costa even treated our students to a free hot chocolate!



Students at Hookagate that are involved in a weekly 'Lego Construction' session found that the old and much loved Lego T-Rex had several pieces that had broken. The group sent an email to 'Lego' asking if they would be able to replace the broken parts. Students



**Saving T-Rex  
from Extinction**

worked together to rebuild the dinosaur and noted down all the broken pieces and the 'Lego' company very kindly replaced the parts for them. The picture shows a much happier T-Rex after students had replaced the broken parts and saved our dinosaur.

## PEPPER AND MACKIE

### THE THERAPY DOGS

As part of our wider well-being focus this year at TMBSS, we have been exploring opportunities to support our students' mental health in creative and interesting ways.

One of the most popular initiatives has been the introduction of our rather cute and very fluffy therapy dogs, Pepper the Labradoodle and the loveable Cavachonpoo, Mackie.

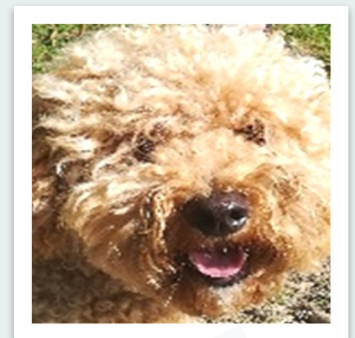
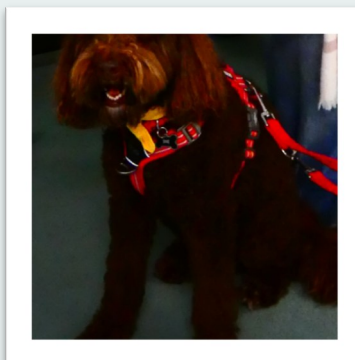
Pepper and her equally friendly owner Anna made their inaugural visit to the Bridgnorth Centre in December, and their impact was nothing short of remarkable. Students were able to meet Pepper one at a time, to make sure she was comfortable in her unfamiliar environment, and everyone was really taken by her calm and reassuring manner.

Some students simply stroked and hugged her, while some set about teaching her essential new tricks to keep her on her padded toes.

Anna reported that Pepper enjoyed her visit just as much as we did, and Pepper hopes to visit us once or twice a month to support anyone who needs a little canine-crafted care.

Mackie has been joining our Hookagate Outdoor Ed group for several months now and has become a much-loved part of the team.

Our thanks go to Pepper, Mackie, Anna, Ms Riley and Mr Mac for helping this new project to happen.



## POPCORN WITH PADDINGTON



In November students attending Bridgnorth Centre were lucky enough to be offered the chance to see not one, but two films completely free of charge, courtesy of *Into Film*.

The annual *Into Film* Festival is the largest free youth film festival in the world, and delivers thousands of free events and screenings, in partnership with industry distributors and exhibitors.

Everyone attended the first event which was in Bridgnorth's ageing, but still charming, old cinema to watch *Paddington in Peru*; munching their way through their popcorn goodie bags alongside about 100 other local school children. KS4 saw *Bad Guys 2* at Cineworld the following week, with the final opportunity going to the KS3 students who had *Sonic the Hedgehog* to keep them entertained.

## MAXI-LOVE FOR MINI-BUSES

December saw the exciting launch of new minibus services at both Bridgnorth and Oswestry centres. Students swapped their individual taxis for a comfortable seat in our state-of-the-art TMBSS buses, driven by our friendly and welcoming drivers, and accompanied by our fabulous passenger assistants. The minibuses all come complete with security cameras, seatbelts and annoyingly boomy sound systems, ensuring a

comfortable snooze on the morning run and an opportunity for a rousing sing-along on the way home.

The new vehicles promise more flexibility for student programmes and are being piloted in the two centres, ahead of a potential roll-out to the other secondaries. The new service collects and drops off students county-wide, so keep your eyes open for our white TMBSS-logo-ed buses and give us all a wave!





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# What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS



If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.



## RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

### WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:

Universal, suitable for all ages	Parental Guidance required	Suitable for people aged 12 and over	Suitable for people aged 12 and over; anyone younger must be accompanied by an adult
Suitable for people aged 15 and over	Suitable for people aged 18 and over	Adult content only available in specially licenced cinemas and specialist retailers	

### WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

### LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: [www.bbfc.co.uk](http://www.bbfc.co.uk)

## RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

### WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:

<a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>	<a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>	<a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>	<a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>	<a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>

PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:



### LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

### PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: [www.pegi.info](http://www.pegi.info)

# Safeguarding at TMBSS



At TMBSS we believe that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognise that safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people is everyone's responsibility

The Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead for TMBSS is James Pearson and he can be contacted by telephone on 01743 368189 or via e-mail [pearson.j@tmbss-shropshire.org.uk](mailto:pearson.j@tmbss-shropshire.org.uk). All other provisions have designated safeguarding leads and as parents/carers you will be given a leaflet on who they are and how to contact them on the initial home visit. The TMBSS CP Policy is available for all parents/carers to view on the website. It is updated annually.

Just a reminder that Jodie Prophet is our Family Support Worker and is available to provide support. She can be contacted at, [prophet.j@tmbss-shropshire.org.uk](mailto:prophet.j@tmbss-shropshire.org.uk) or you can contact your centre manager.

If you require information on additional financial support, please contact [spelman.e@tmbss-shropshire.org.uk](mailto:spelman.e@tmbss-shropshire.org.uk)

## Useful Contact Numbers

Compass/FPOC – Children's Services  
first point of contact 0345 678 9021

We Are With You – Young people's  
substance misuse team 01743 294700

NSPCC – 0808 800 5000

Bee U – 0 – 25 Mental Health Support  
- 0300 124 0093 Childline – 0800 1111



## IMPORTANT DATES



### End of term:

Friday 19th December 2025



**Start of term:** Monday 5th  
January 2026

### End of term:

Friday 13th February 2026

### Half-term:

*Monday 16th February -  
Friday 20th February*

### Start of term:

Monday 23rd February 2026