

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 3
19TH SEPTEMBER, 2025



Dear Parents

I write to you today from the Brighton Centre following one of many fascinating keynotes that have been part of the IAPS Annual Conference, where I have been representing Town Close in the latter half of this week. With several keynote sessions that have ranged from the rise of AI, to supporting wellbeing in a rapidly changing modern world, to the state of the sector in the current climate; it has as ever provided welcome food for thought. As useful as the headline keynote sessions have been, it is always the case that the Annual Conference represents a unique opportunity for Heads both within our District area and further afield (including international Heads from around the world) to draw upon their collective wisdom in seminars and discussion sessions in addressing the challenges that they are facing in their own local context. It will not surprise you that, in the current climate, the challenges facing Heads of independent prep schools across the country has never been more pronounced, and yet I will leave conference with a real sense of positivity and confidence in what schools like Town Close offer, not only to their own communities, but to society in general. At Town Close we work hard to ensure that our children understand the importance of striving to not only become great pupils but more importantly great people. It is these future great people that will inherit many of the challenges that we can see both now and on the horizon, meaning it has never been more important to equip our pupils with a well-rounded education with the values of 'The Town Close Way' at the heart of it, which will prepare them for a bright future.

Before I left for Brighton, it was great to see our Year 8 pupils set off on the first residential trip of the year, a field trip to How Hill to collect primary data for their Common Entrance Geography projects. Looking at urban and rural tourism, they conducted visitor profiling as well as surveyed the local waterways to identify the number of boats and river users. In their absence, it was great to see our Year 7 pupils stepping up to take on their Prefect duties and I was particularly impressed to see how well they helped to support younger pupils in our school community. Our youngest learners have been as busy as ever this week, with a Teddy Bears' Picnic earlier in the week and a Woodland Explorers session today being highlights of their week. Further highlights have been the return to competitive fixtures with our teams making a great start to their respective seasons, and seeing the co-curricular programme continuing to flourish with sessions from Central School of Dance and Performing Arts and ASA starting this week. We, also, had another very busy Mini Explorers community session with 25 families to joining us for a taster of life at School. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the Year 7 and KS1 Curriculum Evening yesterday; I hope that it was a useful event that gave you important information and a flavour of the year ahead.

Thinking ahead, we look forward to opening our doors at our first Open Morning on 10th October and would welcome you sharing our invite with anyone that you know who might be interested in a Town Close education. Equally, if current parents would like to join us then please do let Amy Jones know on admissions@townclose.com

Further events to look forward to include the upcoming PTA event at The York next Friday and our inaugural Town Close Association London Reunion on Thursday November 27th that offers an opportunity for everyone connected to Town Close to meet up with one another, share stories and enjoy a glass of something festive. To register your attendance, please rsvp to Mrs Amy Jones on admissions@townclose.com

I hope that you have a great weekend.

Every Moment Matters



OPEN MORNING

We welcome parents of children in transition years, such as Nursery and Year 2, to join us at our Open Morning. It will provide you with an opportunity to familiarise yourself with your child's next step at Town Close.



MINI BUS SERVICE



Our mini bus service has been successfully running since the beginning of term, providing children with an efficient, safe and convenient journey to school. To find out more about the 2 available routes, please visit the [website here](#).

DATE CHANGE- CHRISTMAS ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Please note that the date for the Prep Christmas Ensemble Concert has changed from Tuesday 9th December to Thursday 11th December.

NO SMART WATCHES IN SCHOOL

We remind you that children should not be wearing internet enabled smart watches at school.

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BULLETIN BOARD PRE PREP & PREP FRIENDLY REMINDERS



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Parent Consultation: Digital Strategy and EdTech

Monday 22nd September, 6.00pm in the Read Hall

PTA drinks at The York

Friday 26th September, 6.00pm

Pre Prep 'Settling In' Parents' evening for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Wednesday 8th October, 4.30pm

Bentley Photography- Sibling photos

Thursday 9th October

Prep School Informal Soloists' Concert

Thursday 9th October, 4.00pm in the Read Hall

Open Morning

Friday 10th October, 9.15am

Year 3 Parents' Evening

Thursday 16th October, from 5.00pm

Friday 17th October

Break up for half term

Please refer to the calendar on the Parent Portal for a full list of events and fixtures.

SECOND FLU VACCINATION SESSION

For children who missed the flu vaccination this Monday, the second visit will take place on **Thursday 25th September**. To give consent prior to the vaccination please complete the form [here](#).



MATCH REPORTS

HOCKEY

The U11A's got their season underway with plenty of effort and enthusiasm. It was a promising start to the season, with every player giving their best and showing determination throughout the matches. Our attack linked up well, with some sharp passing and good shots on goal. One highlight was some lovely passing to round off a move with a well-taken goal. Both Joanie S and Elizabeth C worked tirelessly and showed some good vision and clearances that helped to put the team on attack on many occasions. Both girls were awarded players of the tournament.

Away at Beeston the U11B and C teams got off to a great start. The B team began strongly and looked confident from the first whistle. As the game progressed, the team really found their rhythm, linking up well and playing some excellent team hockey. The defence (Flo L, Charlotte L and Betty B) made their mark early on, shutting down Beeston's attacks and keeping them from finding the back of the net until late in the game. In midfield, Jemima T-N controlled the play, distributing the ball with vision, while Clara W and Frances H stretched the game out wide, making strong runs down the wings. Up front, Emily R was a constant threat and was rewarded with 2 goals as was Frances H. Well done to Dottie C in goal too. Player of the Match, chosen by the opposition, was Flo L while the Coach's Player went to Frances H.

After watching the B team's strong performance, it was the turn of the C team and they clearly took inspiration as they started brightly, moving the ball well and working hard for one another. In midfield, Charlotte W was outstanding, battling tirelessly for possession and distributing the ball with accuracy to set up attacking opportunities and scoring all 4 goals herself! When Beeston pressed forward, the defence stood firm, keeping the opposition at bay with solid tackling and clearances. It was a great all-round team performance, with Player of the Match awarded to Emilia A and the Coach's Player going to Charlotte W.

The U13A's had a tough match against Norwich High School this week, finishing the first half behind, 2 goals to 0. However, Ellie C pulled a goal back from a well worked short corner routine, followed by Annabelle H soon scoring a 2nd goal for us. With 3 minutes to go a great goal from Harriet W levelled the score. Player of the Match was captain Ellie C.

The U12A's had an even first half, where chances were few and far between. The half ended goalless thanks to both keepers making some good saves. Sephe V in goal was soon to be just a spectator as we upped our game in the 2nd half. Deadlock was broken when Saskia T broke through and forced the ball past the on rushing keeper. With Sienna A making some good tackles and passes, momentum stayed with TC. 2 more goals were added in almost identical fashion as Saskia T faced the keeper and slid the ball to Sophie K to slot the ball home. The same pair repeating the feat soon after. It was a good second half performance by the whole team. Player of the match was Sienna A.

The U13B's began their season with great promise, welcoming four Year 7 players into the team for their first competitive fixture. Although the match started at a steady pace, the girls quickly settled, demonstrating composure on the ball and making excellent use of the width of the pitch. Coco S delivered an outstanding performance on the right wing, combining speed and fitness to drive play into the circle and create numerous opportunities for her teammates to score. Her skill and determination rightly earned her Player of the Match. In defence, Pearl T impressed with her strong tackles and clear distribution, and her precise forward pass set up a superb finish from Poppy K. The match concluded with a well-deserved 3–1 victory. The girls should feel immensely proud of both their teamwork and individual contributions, and this encouraging performance sets a positive foundation for the season ahead.

The U12B's began well, with the welcome addition of two players who were stepping onto the hockey pitch in a match for the very first time. From the first whistle, the girls showed great determination and teamwork, working hard across the field and supporting one another throughout. Margot C was a standout performer in midfield, covering every inch of the pitch as she defended strongly and drove play forward in attack. Her tireless efforts earned her the title of Player of the Match. The goalkeepers were tested in one-to-one shuffles instead of penalty corners and responded with courage and skill, keeping the team firmly in the contest. Simran T also impressed, beginning the match in defence before moving into an attacking role. By stepping out of her comfort zone and adapting so well, she demonstrated what a versatile player she is. Despite narrowly losing 1–2, the girls should feel proud of their excellent effort, resilience.

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MATCH REPORTS

RUGBY

The rugby season began on Wednesday afternoon with our 1st and 2nd teams travelling to Beeston Hall. Under the enthusiastic leadership of Wolf S, the 1st team recorded a comfortable win by 7 tries to 1. All of the Year 7 players looked in good form with Theo F and Reuben A making their mark with some strong tackling to earn themselves the POM awards. Strong and elusive running from Ben S and Alex O C helped to break the Beeston defensive line with some encouraging handling skills from all the players leading to some well-taken tries. Well done to all of the boys for playing with such a strong team ethos.

The 2nd team were involved in a very closely-fought encounter, recording an excellent win by 5 tries to 4. Tom M made some excellent tackles with Asadallah S and Beetle D both involved in some strong attacking play. All three players received a POM award for their efforts in what was also a very team encouraging performance at this stage of the season.

At Main Field, our Under 11A team ran out comfortable winners against Beeston Hall. Captain, Theo S, led from the front throughout the game and was awarded POM for his determined play. Our Under 10A team played in a triangular with Beeston Hall and Culford, winning both matches by 8-0 and 6-0 respectively. Johnny C and Henry A both impressed with their tackling and were awarded POM by Mr Woods. The Under 10B team won a very entertaining match by 19 tries to 17 with Eric E in good early season form to receive the POM in that game.

Well done to all of the teams for such an encouraging set of results. This afternoon our Year 4 boys are travelling to Beeston Hall for their first taste of competitive rugby. We will report back on their progress next Friday along with the match reports from the block fixture against Langley Prep on Wednesday. Good luck to all of the boys involved in these games.



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PRE PREP WONDERWALL



- Little Acorns, Edward, Self Portrait
- Little Acorns, Leo, Painting of 'Lelly' Elephant
- Beech, Jack, Sunflower Painting
- Oak, Francesca, Sunflower Painting
- Lime, Alfie, Woodland Habitat Independent Work
- Maple, Olivia, Sequencing Stick Man Images
- Willow, Roshan, Numberwork
- Cherry, Henry, Bark observational drawings
- Holly, Wilf, Lovely leaf rubbings
- Silver Birch, Sebby A & Isabel T, Parts of a Tree