



TIVERTON HIGH SCHOOL

WORK HARD | BE KIND | BELONG

Headteacher's Half-term Update

2 April 2026



Dear families,

I have been Headteacher at Tiverton High School for two terms now and I would like to say thank you to the families of Tiverton for your continued support and partnership of the school and the changes that we have made so far as part of our school improvement journey. Your encouragement at home and engagement with school life make a tremendous difference to our students' success and wellbeing.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many amazing achievements across our school community.

This term has been filled with many successes and memorable moments. Our students have shown great enthusiasm in their learning, resilience in overcoming challenges, and kindness towards one another. From classroom accomplishments to extracurricular activities, it has been wonderful to see so many children thriving and developing both academically and personally. I am particularly proud of the way our school community is coming together. Whether through events, performances, trips, or daily school life, there has been a strong sense of teamwork and positivity throughout the term.

This Spring term has marked the beginning of our Blackdown Education journey, and we are excited about the positive developments and collaborative opportunities this partnership will bring. We have implemented a number of changes this term from refining our curriculum and teaching approaches to enhance our universal offer in the classroom, made changes to the end of the school day to ensure the safety of our students when leaving the school site to the grand opening of our Student Wellbeing Hub which we have made more inclusive by bringing it into the main school building and adapting our approach to better support our young people who may at times find the demands of school and everyday life difficult.

Building on the positive changes that we made to the end of the school day we are excited about the changes that we have made to our morning routines from Monday 20th April. These changes are designed to ensure a safe, calm, and well-organised start to the school day as well as ensuring that every child is met by a member of staff and has a warm welcome into the school community.

Over the coming weeks and months there will be lots of changes to the school environment starting off with the car park which will be retarmacked over the Easter break, to teacher resources within the classroom to enhance our students experience of learning.

As we enter the Summer term, summer uniform will be in place meaning that students will no longer be required to wear or bring their blazers or the school jumpers. Shirts and ties will still need to worn as part of Tiverton High School uniform expectations.

I wish families a restful break and look forward to welcoming students back on 20 April.

Kind regards

Nicky Lewis



Important dates for your diary

Term Dates 2026-2027

Summer term dates for your diary

School returns

Bank Holiday

Half Term

School returns

[Click here](#)

[Click here](#)

Monday 20 April

Monday 4 May

Friday 22 May

Monday 1 June

Keeping 'In-Touch Tuesday'

Here's a recap of the information that we have sent out to families this half term:



24 February 2026 - [Click here](#)

5 March 2026 - [Click here](#)

10 March 2026 - [Click here](#)



17 March 2026 - [Click here](#)

25 March 2026 - [Click here](#)

31 March 2026 - [Click here](#)

Welcome Back Week - 20 April 2026



As we begin the new term, our focus for Welcome Back Week will be punctuality. Being on time to school and to every lesson is essential. Punctuality ensures that students maximise their learning time, settle quickly, and start each lesson positively and without disruption.

Even a few minutes late can mean missed instructions, key explanations and valuable learning opportunities. We have shared our expectations with students during tutor time and they understand the importance of arriving promptly to school, tutor time and every lesson. Establishing strong routines now will help set the tone for a successful term.

To recognise and celebrate students who consistently meet these expectations we will be awarding:

- **5 reward points for being punctual to tutor time**
- **2 additional reward points for being punctual to each lesson.**

We want to positively reward those students who demonstrate responsibility and readiness to learn. These points will contribute to our wider rewards system.

We appreciate your support in ensuring your child arrives at school on time each day and is prepared for learning. By working together, we can ensure every student makes the most of their time in school.

A reminder of the changes to the morning routines

From Easter (starting 20 April), we are introducing a supervised entry system to help students start the day calmly, safely, and ready to learn.

Key Times

- Gates open: 8:20am
- School starts: 8:35am
- Late arrivals: After 8:35, students sign in at the Late Room.

What This Means for Students

- Staff will be at all gates to welcome students and support uniform, equipment, and behaviour expectations.
- Students should arrive prepared, with phones away and uniform correct.
- Movement into school will be calm and well supervised.

Early Support

Some students identified by SEND or pastoral staff may enter between 8:00–8:05am for:

- Breakfast club
- Wellbeing support
- Help with uniform or equipment

Our Aim

To ensure every child begins the day in a positive, settled, and supported way.

Enrichment Day 3: 24 June 2026

We are busy planning our third enrichment day which promises to be packed with exciting experiences. There is a fantastic lineup of activities planned as part of our commitment to growing and developing our young people.

**24
June
2026**

**Year 7
Y & Z:**
Play / Workshops,
then
Matilda at Bristol
Hippodrome

**Year 8
Y: Sidmouth
Geography Trip
Z: Aquarium**
Visit to Plymouth
Aquarium

**Year 9
Y & Z:**
Sports Festival
Support the
Maggie Fasey
Challenge

**Year 10
Y & Z:**
Y10 Progression
Day
& Careers Fair

Celebrating Success Across Our School Community

We're proud to announce that 170 students from Years 9–11 recently took part in the **UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge**.

This demanding 60-minute problem-solving competition tested their reasoning and mathematical thinking — and they performed brilliantly.

Their results were outstanding:

- 41 Bronze certificates
- 20 Silver certificates
- 6 Gold certificates
- 4 students qualified for the prestigious Pink Kangaroo follow-on round

To celebrate, the Maths Department hosted a special breakfast for all certificate winners.

A huge well done to every student who took part — you've made yourselves and Tiverton High School proud!



Our Tiverton High School **gymnasts** had a fantastic weekend in Stoke-on-Trent, proudly representing the South West.



- U16 Girls (Cara, Ellie, Edith & Brooke): Performed a clean, stylish routine to New York, New York with strong vaults and floor work in the event's biggest category.
- U19 Girls (Lexie, Scarlet & Erin): Competed up an age group, delivering an energetic Grease routine, impressive tumbling, and confident vaults.

Big News!

- Our U16 team won Gold at Honiton and will represent the South West at the National Schools Acrobatics & Tumbling Finals in May!
- Lexie Tout took silver and returns to Nationals in U19 tumbling for the second year running.

The teams now prepare for the Regional Floor & Vault Championships in Bideford this weekend.

Coach Bernie: "The teams showed confidence, poise, and brilliant team spirit—an absolute credit to the school." So proud of these girls—they continue to shine!

Somerset League Netball Finals – Highlights

Our students showed fantastic determination, teamwork, and school spirit at the Somerset League Netball Finals yesterday.

Morning – Years 9, 10 & 11

Despite tough weather, the teams stayed positive and played brilliantly:

- Year 11 – 3rd place
- Year 10 – 2nd place
- Year 9A – 2nd place

Afternoon – Years 7 & 8

As the weather improved, our younger teams took to the court with confidence.

Year 8 showed great fight and promise. Year 7, in their first ever tournament, impressed with their determination and willingness to learn — helped by support from older students. We're delighted that Year 7 finished 2nd, ending the day with huge smiles. Well done to every player — your resilience and teamwork made us incredibly proud!



A Heart Warming Act of Kindness at THS

This morning, our pastoral team received the most thoughtful surprise from one of our students, Thomas. He arrived with homemade cakes and Easter eggs, all baked and prepared himself. When we asked him why, Thomas simply said:

"I see them every morning when I need something - they're always there to help. I'm just giving back... it's just a bit of kindness."

He added, "It's just showing them appreciation for always helping out. It's for all the pastoral team here."

The homemade cakes and Easter treats were a generous and uplifting surprise for the pastoral team. Your kindness, consideration, and willingness to show appreciation are truly valued.

Thank you, Thomas

Introducing our new Student Wellbeing Hub

Our new Student Wellbeing Hub (SWH) is run by our experienced practitioner, Mrs Passmore. Mrs Passmore will be providing targeted support and interventions for students with social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) needs. The SWH offers a calm and nurturing environment where students can regulate, reflect, and re-engage with their learning as well as providing targeted interventions for students identified as requiring this additional support.

Mrs Passmore works closely with our teaching and pastoral and safeguarding teams to help students build confidence, resilience, and strategies for success both in and out of the classroom.

The Wellbeing Hub has been very well received by our students - here are some of the things they said about this new resource:

"I really like the Wellbeing Hub because I feel safe and welcomed... The Wellbeing Hub is a very nice introduction to the school and I feel very lucky to have this support" T, y9

"It is a safe space to open your mind and tell someone about your feelings... you can just chill and open up about everything" I, y9

"Mrs Passmore is always delighted to see me and loves to help me out when need be, always here when I need to talk, giving me a boost of courage when I need it" C, y11

"The Wellbeing Hub is a really helpful room because it helps support others, especially people who struggle with lots of different things like anxiety and having this room really helps. I appreciate the support she [Mrs Passmore] gives me. She is kind and caring" D, y9



Students Shine in World Premiere Performance with Bath Philharmonia

On Wednesday 4 February 2026, twenty-five talented young musicians from Tiverton High School, Blundell's School and Uffculme School took to the stage at The Forum, Bath, performing in front of an audience of more than 1,000 people. Joined by professional musicians from Bath Philharmonia, they premiered their collaboratively composed new work, **Quintessence** — a remarkable achievement that concluded an ambitious three-week creative project.

A Unique Creative Partnership

This inspiring partnership brought together Bath Philharmonia's Creative Learning Team and students from across Mid Devon. Throughout the project, the young musicians impressed staff with their exceptional behaviour, professionalism and enthusiasm.

Led by Mr Cordon (Tiverton High School), Dr Leaman (Blundell's School) and Ms Lihou (Uffculme School), students experienced Bath Philharmonia's full co-creation model, which included:

- Two in-school workshop days open to all students, regardless of experience
- A twilight rehearsal with a Bath Phil Music Leader
- Orchestration of the students' musical ideas for full orchestra
- A final rehearsal day at The Forum
- A public performance as part of a professional evening concert

This inclusive approach ensured that every participant could play a meaningful role in shaping the finished piece.

Creating Quintessence

Over two collaborative workshop days, students explored the theme "The Fifth Element", developing musical ideas that expressed unity, imbalance and transformation. Their final composition, Quintessence, weaves together multiple sections and contrasting atmospheres, blending creativity with philosophical inspiration.

Student Ginevra reflected on the process:

"We wanted to show the unity of the elements and the imbalance created by adding a fifth, using dissonance to express this disruption. There are moments in the piece where we all come together to show the unity created when all the elements combine."

The result is a bold and atmospheric piece that showcases imagination, teamwork and musical maturity.

A Standing-Out Performance

After an afternoon of rehearsals at The Forum, the students performed Quintessence with confidence and composure during the first half of the evening concert. Their focus and musicianship shone on stage, earning praise from Bath Philharmonia musicians, staff from all partner schools and the large and appreciative audience.

A project spokesperson shared:

"Huge congratulations to the 25 young musicians who performed with such skill and confidence tonight. Their behaviour, teamwork and enthusiasm were outstanding throughout. Their performance of Quintessence was truly special — a highlight for everyone involved."

Bath Philharmonia also extended their thanks to the schools for initiating and supporting the collaboration, helping to connect young musicians across Tiverton and wider Mid Devon.

Watch Quintessence

The world-premiere performance is now available to watch on YouTube, giving families, friends and school communities the chance to enjoy this exceptional achievement.

A Lasting Impact

For many students, performing in a major concert venue alongside professional orchestral musicians was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. This project not only strengthened musical skills and confidence, but also built new friendships and encouraged creativity across three schools.

Blundell's School, Uffculme School, Tiverton High School and Bath Philharmonia look forward to continuing this inspiring partnership in the future.