

21st July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, here we are at the end of another amazing year at Temple Learning Academy...

As we continue to develop, we are able to benefit more and more from the fact that we are a 'through school'. In recognition of their continued hard work and commitment to Art this year, the Arts Council had a trip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park – TLA's first truly whole-school trip; and it was a fantastic success. 25 pupils from Year 2 to Y11 attended, along with 4 members of staff and an amazing time was had by all. The pupils were fantastic and, as usual, were a credit to our school. They demonstrated excellence in many ways, through their behaviour and engagement. They sketched and took photos of the artwork and listened carefully to explanations from the staff at the park. They asked incredibly insightful questions and engaged in analysis and discussion of the sculptures, happy to listen to the opinions of others, as well as offering their own. Well done Arts Council, we are very proud of you!



We have also enjoyed our first whole-school Sports Day. On the 4th July, a dozen coaches transported close to 700 young people, 60-70 staff and vast amounts of kit to the John Charles Centre for Sport stadium. All day long, we had secondary students cheering on primary students, and vice versa. In every race, the cheering didn't stop until the last participant had finished; every child was cheered through the line with genuine glee and encouragement. No student sat back and took the 'I'm too cool for this' approach. Everyone that could, had a go and everyone cheered. School records were set in every race and every field event – a stat that will, in all likelihood, never again be repeated! The enthusiasm continued when the students returned and got off the coaches. All of them smiling and most of them jangling with medals worn proudly around their necks. Some of the more sporty individuals with half of their own body weight in honours. Towards the end of the day, one of our older students asked me, 'Sir, are you proud of TLA?'. He knew the answer.

Over the last six weeks, some of our primary and secondary students have been visiting Killingbeck Fire Station to engage in interventions with the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) on matters such as ASB, Fire and Road Safety. This wonderful opportunity enabled them to wear fire service uniforms, complete drills and activities, use fire hoses, and even cutting up cars (safely!). The interventions also served to raise awareness of the Fire Service and help build positive and lasting relationships between the WYFRS and our students.



Our Summer Fair on the 11th July was incredibly well attended by so many of our primary children with their parents and carers and, within only an hour and a half, raised over £1000. The proceeds will be added to the PTFA funds and we are going to have some student-voice where our children will make suggestions of what we may buy. Ideas such as 'trim trails' (an outdoor activity trail with different obstacles etc), subsidised trips, or additional equipment for within school have already been suggested. We will, of course, keep you posted on the outcome of these important decisions.

Windrush Dance Sessions with Phoenix Dance Theatre have been taking place this half term. The children, chosen from Y2-6, have had weekly sessions with the dancers from Phoenix which built towards a final performance on stage at The Carriageworks Theatre in Leeds!



In June, Y3 had a wonderful trip to Lotherton Hall where they explored different habitats, birds and Lotherton Hall itself. It was a great day where our children were able to bring their learning 'to life'. As is so often the case, they were praised by members of the public for their excellent attitudes and politeness. This was followed by Y1's trip to Saltburn. The weather was kind and everyone was able to ride on the miniature railway, play on the beach, walk on one of the longest piers in the UK and take a ride on the cliff tramway! They all had a fantastic time!



In early June, Y6 had a visit from The Leeds United Foundation, during which they had a session focussed on positive and negative choices, and internet safety. It was wonderful to see the mature responses from both classes, showing their readiness for Y7! Well done Y6 and thank you to The Leeds United Foundation for coming to learn with us at Temple Learning Academy!

Y4 held special African Culture Days, learning to make traditional food, play musical instruments and look at special clothing and everyday items. The children were wonderful and had a great day!



Ms Sinclair has worked with some of our students on creating some Young Writers poetry for publication. The theme was "The Power of Poetry- Brave New World". Our students were keen to write to express their points of view and creativity and, such was the quality of the work, ALL of the students who entered a piece of poetry from TLA were chosen to be published in the Anthology. What an amazing achievement and a massive well done to you all! The anthologies are released on the 31st August, so we look forward to seeing their work in print when we return next year.

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Several trips to Halton Library have taken place and been great successes. Y5 & 6 have enjoyed great opportunities to talk about their love of reading, explore the library and hear about the summer reading challenge.

Our Reception children have been learning about people who help us. On 23rd June they had a special visit from the Magic Dentist and thoroughly enjoyed learning about keeping their teeth clean and what to expect when they visit the dentist.



A Linguistics Taster Day took place on 22nd June; our Modern Foreign Languages department had a visitor from The University of Leeds who came to talk about 'sociolinguistics' - the importance of languages and dialects in our daily lives! Students were really engaged and keen to learn facts about different languages: real and fictional, such as, Xhosa, an African language which is spoken by a handful of our students, and the language used in the film The Black Panther! Also, Ayapaneco: a language that has been spoken in Mexico for centuries, but one that will die out shortly as there are only 2 speakers of the language left in the world. Fascinating stuff!

Y10 have been thinking about their Post-16 choices with an array of visits and external visitors to school. They have visited Leeds City College and Leeds Beckett University, as well as receiving in-school assemblies from various post-16 providers; Temple Moor High School, Notre Dame 6th Form College and the Bank of England.



On 10th July, our Y10 Geographers had a field trip to Hornsea where they completed data collection for both Human and Physical Geography investigations, under glorious blue skies. Results from the fieldwork will be analysed in forthcoming lessons and provide a great foundation towards their end of Y11 exams.

Our very successful Y11 GCSE exam season ended with a leavers' assembly on 19th June - where students said their goodbyes, signed shirts and enjoyed an ice cream to mark the start of their summer holidays. This was followed by their Prom on 28th June. We are so very proud of our wonderful Y11 Leavers and wish them all the luck in the future. We are very much looking forward to celebrating your hard-earned successes with you on results day on August 24th!



Our Y6 students have also been working very hard towards their Key Stage 2 SATS and were similarly treated to an end of year Prom. A massive well done to you all!

We have enjoyed our three 'Jump Up' days this week where our Y6 students have gained a real taste of what life will be like in September when they graduate into our secondary phase. Hopefully, the three days provided not only memorable but also meaningful opportunities and we are confident that they are now all ready to return in September with a thirst for learning and a maturity of approach to enable the strongest possible start to the year.



Last week, our school catering team had an unannounced inspection from the Leeds City Council Food Hygiene Department. As expected, the inspector was thoroughly impressed with what he saw and graded the school the highest score possible with a 5 star rating - a great testament to the whole team and highlights the fabulous catering provision here at TLA.

So, as you will gather, it has been quite a final half term to cap off an absolutely incredible, busy and exciting year and everyone has very much earned a rest!

Please remember, Monday 4th September is a Staff Training Day, and school reopens to students with a staggered start over Tuesday and Wednesday, as follows:

Year Group	Return to School Date:
Reception	Please see previous communications with individual plans.
Year 1	Tuesday 5th September, 8.25am
Year 2	Tuesday 5th September, 8.25am
Year 3	Tuesday 5th September, 8.25am
Year 4	Tuesday 5th September, 8.25am
Year 5	Tuesday 5th September, 8.25am
Year 6	Tuesday 5th September, 8.25am
Year 7	Tuesday 5th September, 8.25am
Year 8	Wednesday 6th September, 8.25am
Year 9	Wednesday 6th September, 8.25am
Year 10	Tuesday 5th September, 8.25am
Year 11	Tuesday 5th September, 8.25am

I hope that you and your family have a very well-deserved, fun-filled summer and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

With my very best wishes,



Stuart Huddleston
Principal