

18th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Half term brings us all a much-earned break after another very successful yet tiring few weeks. Students and staff have worked incredibly hard and consequently, there have been many achievements and moments of success that I would like to share with you.

Yet again, your children have continued to adapt to the constantly changing rules and guidance brought about by the pandemic with incredible resilience and agility and I will say again that they are an absolute credit to yourselves and our school.

In my Christmas newsletter I shared with you the successes that we had enjoyed on World Science Day. Well, in January we had 'TT (Times tables) Rock Stars'. Miss Ali created a fabulous day for all of our Primary children and our thanks go to her for putting Maths at the forefront; we all had a great day. Enormous thanks also go to Miss Rimmer and Miss Pierce for all their hard work as our amazing Music Club took to the airwaves with their debut performance to open the TT Rock Stars day. They were definitely the stars of the show and there was not a dry eye in the house! Our Reception children also got in on the act, looking absolutely great as their favourite Number Blocks.



Our Primary children have also enjoyed the arrival of our super 'Scrap Shed' and they have all engaged in the Scrap Shed Challenge this half term. The weather was, for once, kind. It stayed dry and bright and there was so much fun, excitement and creativity on show! We are all looking forward to seeing what is created as the weeks go on.





Our Reception children have also been getting to grips with their new outdoor area. Everyone has had so much fun testing out new skills and using all of their courage to jump! I must say a huge thank you to our fabulous Site team and EYFS team for giving up their weekends to get this in place. I am sure that you will agree from the pictures that all of the smiling faces make it worthwhile!

You will be aware that one of our main school priorities is to develop reading skills and promoting a love of reading for pleasure. As part of many exciting actions to promote reading, investment has been given to rejuvenate our library and rehome it to a bigger space. When we return from the holiday, students will be able to come to the library at lunchtime to have some quiet and reflective times reading and completing calming activities such as puzzles and origami. Years 5-8 will also have a fortnightly reading lesson with their English teacher in the library where they will be able to read for pleasure and join reading interventions. As you can see, these are exciting times at TLA in terms of reading! Lamptey's Library will be officially opened on the 25th March by a special, but as yet surprise, guest. All that I can tell you is that they are affiliated with Leeds United Football Club.



Attendance and punctuality continue to be a big focus for us. Following on from our 'Winter Wonderland' reward at Christmas, we are delighted to be able to reward over 400 students in Years 5 to 11 for their fantastic attendance this half term with the TLA Valentine's Fair. Students will be able to ride on the waltzers and visit traditional fairground stalls such as the coconut shy and candy floss cart for free. Unfortunately, due to the high winds and heavy rain forecast on Friday 18th February, this event has had to be rescheduled and will now take place on the first Friday back after half term: Friday 4th March.

Next half term, the Easter bunny will be visiting students in secondary with 100% attendance to deliver a chocolate treat just before the Easter holidays! All students need to do is ensure they are in school every day from Monday 28th February. For our younger children, we have an egg-citing Easter egg-travaganza planned! For every class with egg-cellent attendance over next half term, we will be planning a cracking Easter egg hunt. We can't wait to reward our students who go the egg-stra mile to attend every day!

This half term has seen the first ever Trust Student Board meeting where representative students from every school, Primary and Secondary, across our Trust met to discuss shared Values and Goals for the future. Timmy Dube (Year 6) and Shaunna Enganayi (Year 8) represented TLA and did so in such a mature and articulate manner that they received a special mention from Mr Sheriff (CEO, RKL), who chaired the meeting, for their contributions. From all students and staff at TLA, a massive well done and thank you to you both for putting TLA on the map!



We have also introduced 'Principal's Breakfasts' this half term which I must state very quickly is not just a free meal for me every day! Once a week, a selection of students from one year group that have most impressed over the half term through excellent attendance, best attitudes to their learning or greatest improvements made, are invited to share breakfast with me. We are treated to some delicious food (thanks for our superb catering team), including a selection from toast, pain-au-chocolates, croissants, bacon or sausage butties, fresh fruit and a hot drink whilst we talk and celebrate their achievements. If you have not yet been invited, please keep trying hard and maybe next time it will be your turn.





Temple Learning Academy
Neville Road, Halton Moor, Leeds LS15 0NN
Tel: 01132 645456 Email: info@tla.rkit.co.uk
Principal: Mr Stuart Huddleston (BSc, PGCE, NPQH)



Our Year 11 students are working hard to prepare for their GCSE exams and post-16 destinations. Last week, 10 graduate employees from Arla visited school for the morning to conduct mock interviews to support Year 11 in these preparations. Our students spent the week leading up to their interview preparing responses to interview questions and developing their interview skills. As you can imagine, nerves were high but so was the determination and commitment of our first ever Year 11 cohort. All students conducted themselves impeccably and were a credit to themselves, their families and our School. We are incredibly proud of them! Thank you to Mrs Knipe, our Year 11 Success Champion, for organising all of this.

You will be aware from the letters you received earlier in the week that there are to be exciting changes to the structure of the school day after half term.

Please note, the start (8:25am) and end (3:10pm) times of the school day remain unchanged.

All students have continued to adapt incredibly well to the developments across school as we continue to evolve and improve and I am confident that they will embrace the new changes equally well.

We look forwards to welcoming all children and students back to school on Monday 28th February.

Have an absolutely wonderful half term break, hopefully with less wind and more warm spring sunshine!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Huddleston'.

Stuart Huddleston
Principal

