

31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will not be surprised to read that we have had another extremely busy term at TLA. Every single day, children across all phases are provided with the opportunities to gain memorable and meaningful experiences that they wholeheartedly embrace. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few of those moments with you and update you on other important matters.

Some of our Y11 Health and Social Care students have been volunteering to undertake their work experience by supporting our primary children through various activities. Many have offered their own time and are proving to be a great support to the primary classes and staff. Our primary children have also thoroughly enjoyed having a new 'helper' in class. Meanwhile, our Y10 Health and Social Care students had a guest speaker, Nurse Angela from the Sue Ryder Wheatfields Hospice, in their lesson last week. Nurse Angela talked to the students about the invaluable work that hospice staff do and the therapies they offer. She also answered questions about nursing more generally which will not only help to support their understanding and help towards their GCSE coursework, but also proved extremely insightful for some of our students that are considering a career in the nursing/medical profession.



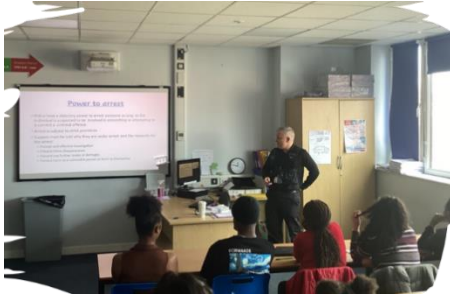
Our KS4 committee expressed a desire to raise money to put towards enhancing some of the resources that we have in school. Their first venture has been to organise a school Tuck Shop. The students have decided what to sell and are working hard to maintain stock through weekly orders. I would like to relay their gratitude by way of a thank you to our students, and parents and carers for supporting their Tuck Shop which will be held every Friday, Week B, in the Primary playground. Please go along and treat yourselves to an after-school treat and help towards their good cause.

Some of our Y11 pupils have undertaken a variety of projects to help them make a difference in society and demonstrate their 'active citizenship' skills. A few examples are:

- Educating Y7 on the importance of Internet Safety and why the current Bill passing through Parliament is necessary.
- Educating Y8 and Y9 students on why voting is necessary in a democracy.
- Calling a referendum on the voting age and campaigning for change with the adults in school.
- Addressing the issue of poverty and organising a food bank.

Furthermore, to show our support for Comic Relief day, the whole school took part in a 'wear something red' non-uniform day and raised £417 for the very worthy cause.

PC Roebuck has been teaching our Y10 students about Police 'powers'. They were joined by some Y11 students who were gaining some primary research information towards their 'active citizenship' work.



The out-of-hours club continues to be a great success. Our Y5 students have created a new name for the club and designed a wonderful logo. The club will now be known as the TLA Core Club, in reference to our TLA CORE values of Courage, Opportunity, Respect and Excellence.



This term saw the redecoration of the secondary teaching spaces begin. The photos show the newly redecorated Humanities and Science departments. Also benefiting from a fresh coat of paint were the Mathematics and Languages departments. The rest of the teaching spaces will be done ready for September 2023.

Y2 had a memorable trip to Tropical World this week. I am told that they particularly loved the meerkats and the crocodile! Who wouldn't?! Thankfully, the recent unpredictable weather held out so that they (our children, not the meerkats!) could also enjoy a delicious picnic in the park afterwards.

Our Reception children have been dancing the 'Ugly Bug Ball', reading bug poems and singing insect-related songs to an audience of their parents and carers. Not only have our youngest children learned lots about the mini-beasts in the world but they have had great fun and impressed us all with their incredible performances. Well done!





Back in February, our Y11 artists enjoyed a trip to Leeds Art Gallery where they studied a wide range of artwork, did observational drawings, took photographs of some of the pieces, and talked with confidence to the Art Gallery staff about the displays. Massive thanks go to Mr Drew for the enthusiasm and excitement that he has injected into Art at TLA since his arrival. Once again, I am incredibly proud to say that whilst on the trip, our students were a credit to themselves, our school and our local community. Not only did they have a very enjoyable and inspirational day, but they also took plenty from it towards their research.

World Book Day saw amazing costumes being worn by both students and staff. Everyone had a brilliant day and the costumes promoted conversations throughout the day about the represented books and authors!



The Duke of Edinburgh Award at TLA is now fully underway, with our Y9 students honing their new skills such as cooking, learning another language and even learning how to radio broadcast! They are also practicing their physical skills; we have many keen footballers, runners and walkers amongst the cohort, and the students are learning why it is important to stay fit and healthy. Their volunteering section has mostly been completed within school doing things such as tidying classrooms and helping in our primary phase with either volunteering at after school clubs or helping our younger students with their reading. They are looking forwards to the Summer term when they will begin to plan their expedition, which will involve learning new skills such as setting up tents, orienteering and first aid.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of March, we hosted the first full face-to-face RKLTY Youth Board meeting, consisting of student representatives from across the 13 Primary and Secondary schools in Leeds and Harrogate. It was truly inspiring to see young people from across our Trust working together and sharing ideas and experiences.

After electing their own Chairs of the Primary and Secondary sections, the Board went on to discuss sustainability and contribute to developing a Trust-wide policy that will be published later this year. The Youth Board then started to consider what the role of IT should be in our schools, and this will be the focus of the next meeting. It is absolutely brilliant that our students are able to have their voices heard in this way and the future can only be brighter for it.

Following on from their recently combined Parent/Carer and Options evening, our Y9 students have been in serious consideration mode with regards to which GCSE/BTec options they were going to choose to pursue studying into Y10 and 11. It has been an understandably big and exciting decision and we hope that they are all now enthused by what lies ahead.

The second external artist's 'Off the Curriculum' visit to TLA took place this week after our school was selected to take part in two focused art days as part of Leeds 2023 Year of Culture. The two days involved external artists coming into school to work with a selection of Y4, 5 & 6 students, delivering art sessions based around critical thinking and skill development around themes selected by our students. We were one of only six schools selected to take part in this experience, so this is a great accolade and very exciting times for Art at TLA. With Miss Durn in Primary and Mr Drew in Secondary, Art at TLA is in incredibly strong hands!



Y4 enjoyed an amazing residential trip to The Deep in Hull. They impressed with their wonderful manners, thoughtful questions and brilliant organisational skills. Sleeping with the sharks really will be a night that many will never forget!

In March, Police Officers from West Yorkshire Police brought 'Bobby Bear' into school and introduced him to every class in primary. The Police Officers were kind enough to leave Bobby with us; he now lives in our Primary phase and is available any time that the children would like to see him.



Last week, we welcomed St Giles Trust to school to deliver awareness-raising whole year group assemblies to students in KS3 (Y7-9). St Giles Trust's award-winning approach uses trained professionals with lived experience to debunk the myths and stereotypes around crime, weapons, gangs, and county lines. The assemblies focussed on weapons awareness and knife crime and are designed to equip our young people with practical tools and strategies to build resilience to risks such as negative peer pressure and provide real



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knowledge that will help them to make positive choices. To further equip and protect our students from the potential dangers of 'County Lines', St Giles Trust are returning to TLA in April to deliver a further assembly to our KS3 students.

On a completely different note, I am very aware that we are all experiencing the daily challenges brought about by the significant cost of living increases of late. Whilst this situation has a significant effect on many families, it is also affecting many public sectors that we all rely on, and schools are not protected from those same challenges. At TLA, we have experienced a 17% increase in the cost of wholesale food prices since September which amounts to thousands of pounds over the year. We have done everything that we can to absorb those extra costs and avoid passing them on to you. However, it may be that from September, whilst we will do our best to protect you from the full increase, we are likely to be forced to increase the price of school meals. I wanted to inform you of this now so that you have time to start considering whether you may be eligible, if you haven't already, to apply for free school meals. I would like to reassure you that it is a very private matter in schools these days and unless your child were to tell someone that they are on free school meals, no-one would know as all transactions go through the electronic biometrics system. Please see <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-for-free-school-meals> to find out more and contact [info@tla.rklt.co.uk](mailto:info@tla.rklt.co.uk) if you would like support to complete the forms and/or more information.

Further to the message that was sent to you earlier this week, I would also like to reiterate that students are not permitted to wear facial piercings in school other than one plain stud in each ear. Also, I must also remind you that if students choose to dye their hair over the holidays, only natural hair colours are permitted for school. When we return, and in the hope of the imminent arrival of warmer weather, Secondary students have the *option* to wear the summer-term polo shirts (with the TLA logo), in place of the shirt and tie. All other uniform expectations remain the same.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to welcoming all our students back on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

With my very best wishes,

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

Stuart Huddleston  
Principal