

22nd December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of another incredibly busy term at Temple Learning Academy! This newsletter highlights just some of the events and experiences that your children have participated in over the past seven weeks.

On the last day of the previous half term, some of our Year 10 students set off on a PGL residential trip to Newby Wiske Hall (near Northallerton). This trip gave them all a fantastic opportunity to take part in all kinds of activities including archery, rope climbing and abseiling! At TLA, we fully appreciate that learning isn't just about what happens inside the classroom and the pupils that experienced these more unusual activities and pushed themselves into situations that may have been a little scary for some, certainly learned a lot about themselves. Well done to you all!



Various promotional events, including wear 'odd socks / shoes day', lots of student-voice and the sale of Report-it-Sort-it buns, were held during Anti-Bullying week. All pupils were reminded and encouraged to speak out if they ever have concerns for themselves or others.

Remembrance Day was marked with a special visitor from the Royal British Legion who hosted our assemblies. As we have come to expect, all of our pupils demonstrated exceptional respect and asked lots of relevant questions to our visitor. Primary pupils worked on making poppies to create a wonderful display in the library, as well as enjoying books to reflect the event.



World Science Day went off with a literal bang (or two!) as I donned my old lab coat and hosted an assembly for our Primary children - bringing science to life! All classes followed this up with science lessons investigating chemical reactions, water filtering, and exploring their different senses as well as lots of other fascinating science topics!!



Back in November, our Year 11 artists visited The Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield to observe, photograph and draw the artwork there. This linked in very well with their coursework and provided them with invaluable research and inspiration. Many of those working at The Hepworth, including the gallery director, spoke of the excellent attitude and impeccable behaviour that our pupils displayed. They were very impressed with how respectful the pupils were and how interested and engaged they were with the work on show. As I have highlighted many times previously, our children are truly a credit to TLA, themselves and you as parents and carers.

Our primary children took part in two very interactive workshops during December: Year 2 learnt about the Leeds West Indian Caribbean Carnival and enjoyed trying on all the carnival costumes and learning some of the dance moves. Year 5 took part in a drama workshop, learning through drama about the ancient Greeks and Greek myths and legends, as well as the Olympic games! One Year 2 child was quoted "this is the best thing I've ever done in school!!"



We held a student leader ceremony in November to celebrate 50 students from Year 5 to Year 11 becoming student leaders. To acknowledge this, they received ties and badges and have since been working closely with Miss Cowlard on projects across school which will come to fruition later in the year.... Exciting times ahead thanks to our young leaders!

Some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils have been involved in a 'Fire Fit' program which they graduated from on the 12th December with a fabulous passing out parade at the fire station. They learnt all the same skills that any new adult recruit would learn: developing physical and mental strength, stamina and teamwork skills to be confident leaders. We cannot thank the West Yorkshire Fire Service enough for their support and we are very proud of our children!



As part of the Primary Religious Education curriculum, all primary children will visit a different place of worship across the academic year. This half term saw trips to the Synagogue in North Leeds for Year 5 and the Buddhist Temple in Leeds City Centre for Year 4. Both trips were a fantastic opportunity for students to engage with, and learn about, the different religions firsthand and ask plenty of questions – which they did with confidence and respect.

November was a big month for our Year 11s as they sat their mock GCSE examinations, in preparation for next summer. They conducted themselves exceptionally well and are now awaiting the results and predicted grades which will not only help them to prepare for the summer exams, but will also assist them in applying for colleges and other post-16 opportunities. Well done to you all for your efforts.

Last year our Trust set up a Red Kite Youth Board, with pupil representatives from each of our 14 schools. This term, the Youth Board had their fifth meeting and you can read all about what was discussed and achieved in this meeting [here](#). The next meeting will be on Monday 15th January so our Youth Board reps at TLA will be canvassing for ideas in the new year, keen to hear about any ideas and initiatives that our pupils would like to share more widely.



Children in Need Day was thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff, (particularly the wet sponge throwing at senior leaders!) as well as raising over £560 for the charity. A Damien Hirst-inspired dot piece created by hundreds of our children for Children in Need is now on display in the diner - a range of colours, patterns, words, objects, characters and designs were added to the dots and our Art Club members then finished it off, resulting in a vertically panoramic dot piece, which looks great in the diner along with our CORE value logos and the Photography competition!

Every week we continue to celebrate our artists of the week, stars of the week and good citizens of the week – as well as holding celebration breakfasts every Friday across Primary and Secondary phases. This is a chance for us to celebrate all the fabulous work our children do day in, day out at TLA.



Christmas festivities have been in full swing over the last couple of weeks – kicking off with a fabulous Nativity performed by our Reception children on 12th December. The Heart Space was packed with families and we were all singing by the end of it! We had our Christmas Fair on the same day and, thanks to all of your generosity, raised £1220. Our primary children are going to be suggesting ideas for how we spend that money to benefit them in school.

In primary, celebrations continued with Christmas Bauble decorating where over 50 children and their families gathered in the Heart Space to decorate baubles, eat Christmas biscuits and listen to festive music! Fifty children attended a Christmas movie night, with plenty of popcorn included and there were sprouts-a-plenty enjoyed as part of our Christmas dinner on 13th December – a festive favourite enjoyed across school by pupils and staff alike.



Please remember, Monday 8th January 2024 is a staff training day. The first day we will welcome back all our pupils is Tuesday 9th January 2024.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year.

With my very best wishes,



Stuart Huddleston
Principal