

9th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we have reached the end of another incredibly busy half term at TLA, I would like to take the opportunity to share a potted summary of the very many highlights with you.

This term saw the launch of our brand-new House system; every student and staff member has been allocated into one of our 4 Houses – Courage, Opportunity, Respect & Excellence! So far, we have had an Art competition, interhouse table tennis and skipping, a KS2 STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Maths) competition and a house-themed non-uniform day today – with many more events in the pipeline! This has created healthy competition and many new enrichment opportunities for our children whilst strengthening the ‘all-throughness’ of our school!



On Monday 15th January, Red Kite Learning Trust held the sixth Youth Board meeting, welcoming pupil representatives from each of the 14 schools in our Trust. On the agenda this term was potential rewilding projects for our school grounds, updates on our Trust-wide sustainability progress and how we might all work together to improve attendance. You can read all about it here www.rklt.co.uk/youth-board-update-january-2024. From these meetings, the ideas and views of our young people are shared with the Trustees and Leaders in our Trust, influencing what we do and how we work together as a community.

This half term, our primary Religious Education visits to places of worship have continued and this time, it was Reception, Year 2 and Year 3's turn. Year 2 visited a mosque and got the chance to learn more about the Muslim religion. Year 3 visited a local Gurdwara and had a fantastic time learning about the Sikh religion. The children were well and truly stuffed after their visit to the Langar (the community kitchen and a part of the Sikh faith that offers free vegetarian food to anyone who comes to a Gurdwara [a Sikh temple]), and they even learnt how to tie a turban! Our Reception children visited Corpus Christ Church this week and, as we have come to expect from all of our children, behaved beautifully throughout and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Year 6 took part in a World War 2 workshop earlier in the term, this was filled with drama and creative learning opportunities. The workshops were an excellent way to excite and engage our pupils in their learning about war in the modern period.

Our Early Years children had a great time flipping and flopping their pancakes at our Pancake Pandemonium event this week! They raced each other and the winner earned points for their houses while being cheered on by Parents and Carers. Afterwards they enjoyed pancakes provided by our catering team and the children showed their adults round the Reception classrooms so they could see where they learn each day. It was a really lovely afternoon - lots of smiles from everyone involved!

The 2nd February was TT Rockstars day! Our Primary children dressed up as Rock Stars and Number Blocks and there were various Maths-related activities taking place across the day with prizes and certificates for the winners!



Yesterday, our KS4 Battlefields trip departed from TLA at 6.00am, for 3 days of exploring the World War I battlefields in France & Belgium. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to experience first-hand the battlefields and trenches where much of the war took place, as well as learn about the medical advances which took place during this time.

On the 2nd February, 'The Riot Act' came into school to deliver a theatrical performance about road safety to all our Year 7 students. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the play, it was funny whilst conveying an extremely important message. After the performance, the students took part in a short workshop to reflect on the characters.



Earlier in the term, 'Halton in Bloom' got in touch with our Arts Council, having seen the artwork from our school that has been going up on social media. They asked TLA to do some artwork to go on one of the large electric advertising boxes locally. This will say 'Halton in Bloom', have a floral/plant theme to it, have the school logo and an anti-littering message. Our students can't wait to go and paint the design for the local community, and they have contacted the 'Burley Banksy' who is keen to get involved also!

In January we took delivery of TLA's new minibus! This will further enhance the opportunities on offer to our children, and we already have lots of exciting outings and visits booked in – the start of a new TLA journey!



We are delighted to be the very first school in the UK to have a Story Cube! It is inspiring young writers, and even staff, to embrace reading and writing for pleasure. When the children realised that they could share their stories online with family and friends as well as then being chosen from the Cube they were amazed! A huge thank you to The Holroyd Foundation for helping us to fund this new addition to school.

Some of our Key Stage 4 students attended the Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair on 5th February at Leeds Arena. This was a great chance for them to explore future career paths and talk to future potential employers who offered them advice and guidance on apprenticeships and how they work – thank you to Miss Cowlard & Mrs Knipe for making this possible.



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Our Y11 students are continuing to work extremely hard towards their summer exams, and our Y6 towards their SATS. They are all being supported with intervention and booster sessions to help them achieve their best possible outcomes!

So, as you will appreciate, it has been another incredibly busy half term and I think that everyone is ready for another rest so that we are ready and refreshed to keep going into half term 4. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful half-term break and we look forward to welcoming all our students back on Monday 19th February 2024.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Huddleston', written in a cursive style.

Stuart Huddleston
Principal