

28th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another incredibly busy term at TLA, I would like to share some of the highlights. As we have come to expect, our children continue to embrace the countless opportunities afforded to them and gained many memorable and meaningful experiences along the way.

At the very end of last half term, Temple Learning Academy's first ever foreign residential departed, as 52 GCSE History students visited historical sites around Ypres, Belgium. The students visited significant sites which played pivotal roles in the First World War, including Essex Farm and Tyne Cot Cemeteries, and Flanders Fields Museum. Our students had an opportunity to witness the Menin Gate ceremony and paid their respects by laying a wreath during the ceremony. On the last day, students paid their own individual respects at Tyne Cot Cemetery by laying poppies at a grave.



At the start of term, we used our brand-new minibus to take some of our secondary students to the Royal Armouries as part of a knife crime educational initiative targeting young people, focusing on the negative consequences of knife crime. As part of the day, students went to see the Knife Angel, a 20-foot-tall sculpture created entirely from knives and blades that have been taken off the streets of Britain. Those students have subsequently been working with our Safer Schools Police Officer, PC Roebuck, to roll out this information to the rest of our school.



Year 4 were incredibly excited to enjoy a residential at The Deep earlier in March. They took part in a workshop where they learned about food chains, sustainability and plastics in our oceans. They also had a tour where they saw pufferfish, clown fish, sharks, penguins and much more! A lot of fun was had by all, and they were very proud to complete their first ever residential – especially sleeping next to the sharks!



On 7th March, TLA celebrated World Book Day with a "cosy reading" theme and a 'masked reader' competition! Staff hid their identities to read their favourite stories and children had to guess who the reader was!

Year 3 went on a trip to Herd Farm, just north of Leeds, this half term – where they learned about life in a small Iron Age village. This included learning about how homes were built, the many different uses of the huts, how to build a fence and the different types of tools and weapons used in the Iron Age. All of the children had a great time and coped especially well with the very cold weather on the day!



On 14th March, Year 2 went on a trip to Tropical World. They had a fantastic time learning about all of the different climates, plants and animals and, as expected, their behaviour was typically brilliant throughout the trip.

Year 1 enjoyed a fantastic afternoon this half term with their parents and carers who came into school to help them make marmalade sandwiches. The children followed their own instructions to make their sandwiches! I am sure that Paddington would be very proud!

Early Years have continued to wow all of their adults, parents and carers with their creativity this week, through a junk modelling workshop where they have taken inspiration from a famous artist. Meanwhile, Year 1 have been enjoying all the sights and sounds of a stunning Hindu Workshop. The variety of experiences that our children encounter is truly amazing!



Our Year 10 Boys Basketball Team continued to go from strength to strength this term – they have had some fantastic wins including a 31-29 win against our closest rivals Corpus Christi! The boys have really grown as a team and continue to put in excellent performances - we are very proud of them all!

Last week, we welcomed Steve Eadon to TLA - Steve created the company 'Mingalaba' (meaning 'hello' in Burmese) after working for many years as a coach at Arsenal Football Club. Mingalaba celebrates and promotes languages through football. Students were welcomed into an amazing assembly where they learned about Steve's journey from disliking languages in school, to then developing them, living abroad, and eventually working for Arsenal Football Club. Steve talked about all of the famous footballers and managers he has met which certainly caught the attention of many students. He also talked about how many jobs in a football team require the use of an additional language. Students had the opportunity to participate in some workshops where they learned how to create a match report and some practical sessions putting their Spanish skills into practice on the pitch! Our students demonstrated loads of Courage, Opportunity, Respect and Excellence throughout the sessions and there were some great football and Spanish skills shown too!



On Saturday 23rd March our Year 9 and 10 Duke of Edinburgh Award students set off on their practice expedition, ahead of their assessed expedition in June. A wonderful time was had by all as they hiked to, and around, Temple Newsam. Well done everyone and good luck for the real thing in June!

House activities and events have continued across this half term – one of the highlights being the Spelling Bee. Everyone that took part represented their house with real enthusiasm, spelling some tricky words, ranging from 'quiz' in Early Years to 'conscience' in Year 6. The Secondary spellings included 'accommodation', 'queue' and 'recommend' - all spelled out under pressure. The staff Spelling Bee was even tougher and more competitive with House Respect taking the winning place on a tiebreak with the word 'soliloquy'!



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Following on from their recent Parent/Carer and Options evening, our Year 9 students have been considering which GCSE and BTec options they are going to choose to study into Year 10 and 11. Our current Year 11's continue to work hard towards their summer exams, with an abundance of support from TLA staff, revision sessions, interventions and forthcoming Easter school sessions. Year 6 are showing similar commitment to their SATs preparation, participating in Masterclasses, breakfast boosters, after-school sessions and much additional support to ensure that they all reach their potential ready for the next stage of their learning.

Our Red Kite Learning Trust Youth Board met again earlier this month, at Meadowfield Primary School. Representatives from all of the schools across our Trust gathered to continue discussing issues that are important to them, including sustainability and mental health. Click the link to read all about their meeting and the amazing initiatives our schools and young people are working on: <https://www.rklt.co.uk/youth-board-update-march-2024/>. They are an inspiration to us all!

As usual, after the Easter break, 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 15th April 2024.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Huddleston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stuart Huddleston
Principal