

## Head Teacher's Update

Dear Parents/Carers

Once again it has been a busy and productive week at TKA. Thank you for supporting us with punctuality. This has improved yet we still have need this to be better. We have spoken with a number of pupils who have been finding their journey to school challenging. We hope now they feel better equipped to improve upon their journey times.

Parents have approached the School for guidance on their child's use of Instagram. The minimum age for users of Instagram is 13 years . Therefore TKA pupils should not be accessing this app. If you have older siblings using Instagram you can limit their exposure by activating the privacy settings and monitoring use regularly. A good indicator of potential exposure to unwanted material is to look at how many 'Friends' your child has on Instagram; a range of 10 –25 'Friends' would be a reasonable amount. More than this, and excessive numbers of 'Friends' in the hundreds, requires very close monitoring and preferably be curtailed. For further guidance please refer to [connectsafely.org](http://connectsafely.org)

We have been informed by our IT supplier that on 25th September Lenovo (the maker of our Chrome books) have now taken their procurement direct, meaning that no distributor or reseller can gain access to any of their devices. We already have 120 chrome books, yet we need them all delivered before we are able to issue them to every pupil. We are receiving support from Google to source the last 20 devices required. A frustrating situation that we hope to resolve swiftly.

Parent Governor nominations information will have accompanied this newsletter. Do please give this serious consideration as parent involvement in the governance of the school is invaluable.

Next Tuesday evening we have our Open Evening for prospective parents. This is an important event for TKA and I am delighted that almost all of the pupils, our very best asset, will be attending to promote the school. Thank you in advance for all your support with getting the pupils here on time and collecting them after the event.

Regards,

*Sophie Cavanagh*

Head Teacher



### UNIFORM REMINDER

We would like to remind parents that school shoes should be black and branded trainers are not allowed to be worn.

The hybrid trainer style footwear, worn by some pupils, should be replaced with shoes (with a small heel) when the next pair of shoes is purchased or in time for Year 8.

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## Friends of TKA held their first event on Friday 25th September a Macmillan Cancer charity cake and coffee morning.



The cake sale raised an impressive £263.81 and a special thank you must go to Mrs Patel (left) for making such an impressive TKA mug cake with coffee sponge. James Wallington (right) was also very proud of his Haribo cake, which went down a treat!

The next Friends of TKA event will be 14th October at 7pm. Please contact Kath Williams for details on how to get involved.



## Homework advice for families

- Try to start the task the day it is set
- Complete the work in a quiet place without distractions from phones or the TV
- Encourage your child to check the work once completed
- Spend a maximum of 40 minutes on each subject
- A minimum of 15 minutes of independent reading is expected every day



Please check and sign your child's homework planner each week.

English, Maths & Science homework is being set every week until October half term.

Details can be found on the school website



## TKA Summer Challenge—Self-portrait winners.

1st place—Jai Patel, 2nd place—Fia Brown, 3rd place— Tess Waterhouse.



**ROSE  
THEATRE  
KINGSTON**

## TKA celebration concert!

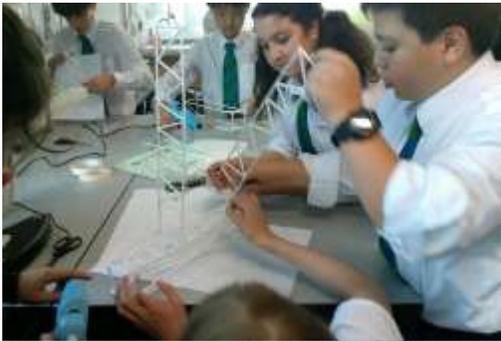
You are warmly invited to join us at our TKA celebration concert at the Rose Theatre on: Tuesday 10th November at 7pm.

The concert will celebrating all things TKA including music, poetry, dance and readings.

Tickets will soon be available directly from the Rose Theatre box office and online at a price of £5 for Stalls and £3 for Circle.

**We will let you know as soon as they are available for purchase.**

# Spotlight on... **Design Technology**



TKA students have been exploring different designs in bridge building with Mr Sheppard.

Their best design has then been converted into straw constructions.

The success of their bridge will be tested by ensuring a can of beans can be balanced on the bridge above a dinosaur infested custard lake! This is part of the whole school House competition to be judged by our STEM leader Dr Keaney.

**Advance Notice** Open Evening is on Tuesday 6th October from 5-8pm. This is the same date as the Tiffin test. Parking restrictions will be in place from 7am—8pm. School will finish at 2:40pm on 6th October. School will open on Wednesday 7th October at 10:50am. Gates open for pupils at 9:30am.

## Important Dates for Term 1 (Autumn 2015)

5th October	Pink Day for Breast Cancer	Pupils may wear one pink item, such as a pink tie, shirt or hair tie
6th October	Open Evening	School closes at 2:40pm. <b>NO CLUBS AFTER SCHOOL!</b> Open Evening from 5—8pm Pupils will be required to return to school for a 4:45pm start
7th October	Late start	School starts at 10:50am. Gates open from 9:30am
19th October	Half term begins	Thames Young Mariner Camp available to book for TKA week 1
2nd November	Return to school	Pupils start back at 8:40am. Pumpkin Carving entries
5th November	CATs	Cognitive Ability Tasks
10th November	The Big Sing	The Rose Theatre 7pm. Tickets from the Box Office
27th November	PSHE Day	Pupils off timetable focusing on personal wellbeing
10th December	Progress Meeting	Parents and carers to meet Tutors for progress up date 5—8pm
18th December	Last day of term	School closes at 12 midday
4th January 2016	INSED	School closed
5th January 2016	Term begins for pupils	School starts at 8:40am