

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am in no doubt that these are challenging times for all schools. I see this through my work at TKA, in the local Headteacher forums I attend and through my work with OfSTED. There is much debate both at national and local level with regards to the financial challenges schools face, staffing shortages and the determination to make every school an academy, with LA involvement in the leadership of schools proposed as a thing of the past. Only yesterday Sir Michael Wilshaw raised grave concerns about some Multi Academy Trust chains, citing insufficient scrutiny of teaching, a lack of focus on pupil progress, set in a climate where there is allegedly a lack of challenge from Trustees.



Let me reassure you that the picture here is much more optimistic. At TKA we continue to recruit high calibre staff and we are achieving our aspirations for your children through rigorous financial planning and monitoring. We are also very well served by Achieving for Children who provide a range of support to all schools in Kingston, and long may this relationship continue. We are very well supported by our Trust who provide regular and rigorous challenge and support to my team and our Trust embrace the advice from the Chief Executive of the National Governors Association to be 'eyes on, hands off' and ensure my leadership of the school is efficient and effective.

TKA is also strengthened by the strong partnership we have with our parent community. We value your feedback and have responded to the very small number of concerns raised in the Parent Survey completed in December. This week pupils have completed their own survey and we look forward to sharing their responses with you. One area we must continue to work together on is the completion of homework. We will be introducing homework catch-up sessions from 16th March between 3:45pm and 4:30pm. Pupils will be directed to these on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday where necessary.

Friends of The Kingston Academy have been working hard behind the scenes arranging events for TKA parents and pupils. Next week my staff team and I will put ourselves against the intellectual might of our parents in what will be the first ever TKA Quiz Night. There are rumours of a team said to be 2-1 odds-on favourites to win, so no pressure there, whoever you are! FoTKA have also arranged for an Easter Raffle so please do send your child in with £1 so that they may purchase a ticket.

Next week pupils will be participating in our Science Rocket Days run in partnership with Kingston University. They will also be participating in research being undertaken by UCL relating to the attitudes of young people towards inclusion in education. We are all enthusiastic to promote action research, so that we can refine our practice with consideration to the most current academic research.

Kind regards,

Sophie Cavanagh

FoTKA Quiz: Friday 18th March at 7pm in School Hall

Tickets for the quiz are selling fast so please return your form ASAP to secure a place. Thanks to the Kingston Riverside Club for sponsoring the event and providing us with a case of Prosecco for the winning table! We have a bank account so you can also make payment by cheque. Please make the cheque payable to FRIENDS OF KINGSTON ACADEMY and put your name and class on the back.

Football vs Hinchley Wood

On Monday 11th March TKA football team visited Hinchley Wood for an away fixture. We were listening to music to get ready for this important game!

Our line up was strong as we had Leo A making his debut and Zach was captain.



In the first half we went down 2 goals but showed resilience in the second half when Alex gave Liam a cross in which he took great delight in tapping home! Seb saved the second half with some spectacular goal keeping and he was awarded Man of the match. Brian was also solid as usual, adding pace to the right hand side of defence and Connor C was superb in stopping Hinchley Wood's chances. We all agreed this had been one of our toughest matches.

By Monty, 7Hg.

The team was: Connor C, Zach (Captain), Monty, Sam, Brian, Noah, Seb, Leo A, Eduardo, Alex, Liam, Rhys.

Sport relief events!

Monday 14th March —TKA Staff vs. TKA girls' netball team at 4pm in playground—50p to watch.



Tuesday 15th March—Football with Kick It Soccer school at Hawker Centre—50p entry.

Thursday 17th March—Zumba at Hawker (50p) after school 4-5pm—open to staff and pupils.

All week—Indoor rowing. Rowing the distance of the Thames—open to all!



Spotlight on STEM

Last week's Science club saw Dr Keaney unveiling a drone kit from the Royal academy of Engineering. Pupils designed a track for a robot that used lasers. This is part of the extended project on drones and robots.



TT Rockstars House Competition



During house assemblies this week, all pupils have been furiously competing in the qualifying rounds of the Times Tables Rockstars House Competition! Pupils sat in rows of four and played several games in the dedicated Arena, with one pupil moving forward a row and one moving backwards after each game. All were vying to be one of the 16 pupils in the front four rows after the final game, as these were the pupils who qualified for the Finals which will take place next Tuesday after school.

The finals will involve a series of knockout stages (round of 64, quarter-finals and semi-finals) before 10 pupils fight it out to decide an Individual Winner as well as the overall House Winner.

Times Tables Rockstars has allowed pupils to show just what can be achieved when you have a growth mindset. With serious dedication to practice and a clear determination to improve, anybody can reach a decent standard of speed and accuracy with their times tables.

Rock on!

Construction captains

We are pleased to announce our Construction Captains:

Mariam

Alys

Henrietta

Maria N

Raph

Zack F

Ben D

John



They will be visiting the site, liaising with Interserve and updating the rest of the pupils on the progress of the building work.



Staff had the opportunity to visit the site before half term.



Art club

In Art club this week pupils made 'Day of the dead' inspired clay sculptures and had begun painting them. Georgia says Art club is, *"fun, interesting and fabulous because we get to learn more about different art and try new things out."* Tess likes Art club because, *"you can be with your friends."* Layan added, *"We have more options to try things we'd never do in class."* John thinks, *"it's fascinating and enjoyable because you get to have fun with your friends. We can paint and make sculptures."* Maia added that *"Art Club is amazing and we have an amazing teacher to teach us Mrs Linch. It inspires us to do art more and love it even if you are not that good at drawing because no one is perfect at drawing."*



Important Dates for Spring Term 2 and Summer Term 1

Tuesday 15th March—Water Rocket Day at Kingston University for **Hawking and Berners-Lee Houses**

Thursday 17th March—Water Rocket Day at Kingston University for **Curie and Lovelace for Houses**

Kingston University Discovery Days—Mon 21st March: Lovelace, Tue 22nd March: Curie, Wed 23rd March: Hawking, Thursday 24th March: Berners-Lee

Friday 25th (Good Friday)—Tuesday 12th April—Easter holiday

Monday 11th April—Staff training morning 8-12pm. Pupil progress meetings with parents in afternoon.

Tuesday 12th April—Pupils return to school at 8.35am.

Thursday 19th May—Staff training 1-5pm—no afternoon lessons or clubs. Pupils leave at 12.

Monday 20th June—Staff training 1-5pm—no afternoon lessons or clubs. Pupils leave at 12.

5th—8th July—School Camp.