

Dear Parents and carers,

We have now reached the end of the Assessment 4 cycle and I want to thank our pupils for the focused way in which they all worked during this period. I look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour when we analyse the progress each pupil has made to date against their Flight Paths. Don't forget that if you need further clarification on how we assess at TKA, you can explore this from the comfort of your own home. Just follow this link to our TKA Flight Path screencast.

<https://goo.gl/KDtByA>

This week both Art and Maths have been taking centre stage at TKA. A number of pupils spent Wednesday at the National Portrait Gallery, which proved a really thought-provoking and creative experience. TKA also held our own Maths Challenge UK event which entails pupils completing lively, intriguing multiple choice questions, which are designed to stimulate interest in Maths.

We also want to ensure our pupils are pursuing a healthy and active lifestyle. It's great to see all pupils engaged in the enrichment programme, although that is expected of course. Next Wednesday is Cycle to School Day and I hope to see many of our History Makers peddling their way to school. Please do ensure that your child is appropriately dressed and wearing the correct cycle safety attire.

I have a plea regarding food items that pupils bring in to school. Please be vigilant about what is brought in for snacks and lunch. We are obliged to comply with the national food standards since the Government took a much firmer stance on food consumed within schools. For your interest and information, please see the link below:

<http://www.schoolfoodplan.com/actions/school-food-standards/>

Whilst these regulations are onerous and extensive, they have been founded on sound research and rightly put a child's health at the heart of their construction and I fully endorse them. It makes sense to us that if sweets, crisps and sugary drinks are not deemed appropriate to have in school vending machines or as part of a school meal offer, we should reinforce that message in our own food and lunch box policy. There are so many healthy alternatives and we hope to be stocking these on site soon. Your support in reinforcing this is very much appreciated.

I do hope that you have an active and enjoyable extended weekend and look forward to biking to school myself next week.

Kind regards,
Sophie Cavangh



Kids' Quiz

on

**Friday 6th
May 2016**

at 6.30pm

**in the
School
Hall.**

**Tickets
are £6 and
available
from
school
office.**

Pupil Survey results

The pupil survey was collated via Google forms and 137 pupils responded: 97.8% of the cohort. Responses were overwhelmingly positive with 96.4% feeling safe at TKA, 95.6% thought they've settled in well and 91.3% enjoy coming to TKA. Those pupils who were less positive have been given individual support and been referred to their form tutors.

Attitudes to **behaviour** were positive with 96.3% of pupils saying the school expects excellent behaviour. The 27% of pupils who didn't think behaviour was excellent met Ms Cavanagh to discuss their concerns about some low level disruption in lessons and staff continue to expect silence lining up and focus in lessons. Most pupils thought staff award rewards and consequences consistently but we keep in mind the 12% who disagreed by ensuring we do give awards when pupils excel and demonstrate our core values..

In terms of **teaching and learning** the responses were positive with 92% of pupils saying they thought the My task, core and challenge questions helped them. The 12.4% (17 pupils) who weren't sure how to respond to feedback from teachers have been directed to teachers and teaching assistants for personal help. 94.1% thought the Chrome books help them learn and 86% have learnt new skills as a result of using them.

Subject specific questions showed positive attitudes to all subjects and those pupils who felt they weren't making progress in several subjects have been given individual support. 34 pupils said they would continue with Mandarin if it were offered as an after school class.

The extra curricular responses showed 95.6% of pupils were pleased with the clubs and 86.9% pleased with the Going Beyond activities, 83.9% enjoyed Walton Firs activities. Finally, 87.6% of History Makers would recommend TKA to other pupils.

Celebrating Shakespeare!

Last Thursday the Globe Players Theatre Company once again visited school to perform 'What You Will' - a selection of extracts from Shakespeare plays intertwined with narrative about the Globe Theatre and Elizabethan society to commemorate the 400th anniversary of his death. The show started with 'The Tempest' and included scenes from 'The Comedy of Errors,' 'Richard III,' 'Macbeth' 'Twelfth Night' and 'Romeo and Juliet.' Performing in the round made for an immersive experience for the pupils and even Reuben (who was sitting on the front row) couldn't escape a moment in the spotlight! The pomposity of Malvolio, villainy of Richard and hilarity of Falstaff demonstrated the depth and diversity of our greatest and most admired English playwright.

Pictured on right from top:

Olivia and Malvolio from 'Twelfth Night'

'Richard and Lady Anne from 'Richard III'

Reuben on stage with the cast

Falstaff and Prince Hal from 'Henry IV'

Some of the pupils comments about the production:

"Very exciting" Damion *"Amazing"* Matteusz

"Active and exhilarating!" Rhys *"Fast paced"* Ben *"Packed with energy"* Ismail





Spotlight on STEM

Congratulations to our Salters Chemistry quiz team who came 3rd out of 16 London teams!



Science Primary outreach

As part of The Kingston Academy's policy of reaching out to the wider community, TKA's lead on STEM, Dr Andy Keaney, delivered a support session for local Primary Science Co-ordinators with the help of Alex Farrer, Achieving for Children's science consultant. Six teachers from the following primary schools took part: The Russell, Grand Avenue, Lowther, Holy Trinity & Kew Riverside. During the afternoon our primary school colleagues carried out experiments to investigate the energy content of food, the effect of temperature on solubility as well as extracting a natural pH indicator from red cabbage. They left feeling much more confident in their knowledge and understanding of KS2 science topics and intend to implement more practical activities in their classes. We hope to continue this collaboration with local primary schools in many areas of STEM delivery.



Homework - Going Beyond lessons

Homework is shown to have significant educational benefits over the course of a pupil's secondary school career. On average, the impact of homework on learning is consistently positive and leading to on average five months' additional progress.

Most pupils at TKA are taking full advantage of homework opportunities, but here are a few ideas about how you can help your child succeed with homework.

1. Talk through the details of activities that your child has recorded in their planner and the information available at: <http://www.thekingstonacademy.org/student-support/homework>
2. Make sure your child has some designated time each day dedicated just to homework. If done only during weekdays, this amounts to one hour and five minutes each day or five hours and twenty five minutes over the course of a week.
3. Help your child identify a good space to do homework: it must be quiet and free of distractions.
4. Talk with you child about the importance of leaving their smartphone in another room whilst they are doing homework. The simple presence of a mobile phone on a table whether or not it's being used has been shown to reduce focus.
5. Check if your child is using their planner to record homework set, due dates and mark off completion.
6. You may wish to discuss what your child has learnt or can recall from their homework.

We place a high value on homework at TKA as it can make a significant difference to learning progress. It also enables pupils to become more independent and be increasingly responsible for their own learning - attributes we hope pupils will retain beyond their years at TKA. Pupils can choose to attend study support sessions after school and are also required to attend homework catch up if they don't complete homework in order to ensure that activities are completed without any child falling behind. We are delighted with the way so many pupils have produced some superb homework pieces, mastered significant levels of knowledge through revision activities and developed ideas beyond their lessons through the homework activities set. We expect all our pupils to show determination and resilience in taking advantage of this vital out of classroom learning.

We were delighted to host a delegation of Korean head teachers on Monday who were on a 3 day tour of London and Dublin and were keen to see how schools in the UK system worked in terms of technology, curriculum and leadership. Allen, (7 Co) who is pictured left, gave an excellent presentation on being at TKA and was able to converse with the teachers at length. Ms Cavanagh spoke of the wonderful opportunities new schools had and how the visitors were welcome to see how TKA develops in the years ahead.



Friends of TKA School Lottery

Congratulations to Catherine Havers for being the first winner of the FoTKA lottery! Thank you to everyone who supported us for the first draw - we are currently on track to raise over £1000 per year for the school through the lottery so please continue to spread the word, and sign up if you haven't already done so:

www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for The Kingston Academy.

Those of you who enter tickets for the draw on 28th May 2016 will be in with the chance of winning a mini-ipad!

Important Dates for Summer Term 2

Monday 2nd May—Bank holiday—**SCHOOL CLOSED**

Wednesday 18th May—PSHE day (Personal, Social, Health, Economic)

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

HALF TERM HOLIDAY: Monday 30th May—Friday 3rd June

Thursday 9th June—TKA Spelling Bee at 3.45-5pm in School Hall. Parents welcome.

Saturday 11th June—New TKA pupil testing (Year 6).

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

Saturday 25th June—Fun Run and Picnic.

Thursday 30th June, Friday 1st July and Saturday 2nd July—Art exhibition

5th-8th July—Summer Camp

Wednesday 13th July—Summer soiree

Friday 15th July—Last day of term