

## Head Teacher's Update

Dear parents and carers,

Last week was a tough act to follow with the success of our performance at The Rose Theatre. Nonetheless, History Makers have been impressing us in the classroom with their positive attitudes to learning. Homework has been increased this half term and we are aware that this can be somewhat of a challenge. It is necessary for our pupils to develop the ability to work independently and apply themselves to studying at home. Study Support is available Monday to Thursday for pupils to attend if they need additional help.

Friends of The Kingston Academy have been working hard organising a range of activities and events such as the 'Bag to School' initiative, planning the end of term school disco and preparing for the big Christmas wrap for local Young Carers. My thanks to all those who have got involved so far, and for the parents who have generously offered to sponsor the creation of the school cup that the School Council will name. It is really important that TKA has a pro-active parent body and I would ask more of you to get involved by contacting: [fotka@thekingstonacademy.org](mailto:fotka@thekingstonacademy.org) and offering your services.

This week we were all saddened by the death of the 14 year old Coombe Girls' pupil who was tragically killed on her way to school. It is right that we encourage pupils to travel independently now they are at secondary school. Yet the death of a child reminds us how fragile life can be. Next Friday Transport for London will be delivering a session on safer travel to all pupils as part of our termly PSHE programme. Please do take the time to discuss this with your child.

I would also like to remind parents that, for everyone's safety, you are not permitted to access the school site by vehicle. I am in discussion with Fern Hill regarding this as the behaviour of some users is unacceptable, despite numerous pleas, and we will now need to take more decisive action to address this. Unfortunately the inappropriate actions of a few may be to the detriment of the majority. I do hope that we are able to positively influence better behaviours from these individuals.

Finally, I'm delighted to report that work on the refurbishment of our existing building has begun! Contractors have been on site for the past 2 weeks preparing for the heavy works to begin. We look forward to providing you with regular updates on progress.

Have a good weekend, Sophie Cavanagh.



### IMPORTANT DATE:

Thursday 10th

December

Progress meetings with  
Transition Tutors.

**4.30pm—7.30pm.**

Details about booking an  
appointment will be provided  
next week.

### JOB VACANCIES!

**Amazing opportunities to  
join our TKA Team. See  
website for more details.**

### In this issue:

- Learning the TKA Way
- Football match report
- Tudor Drive library visits
- Dates for diary

# Learning the TKA Way

By Isabelle (7Ni) and Lydia (7Pd)

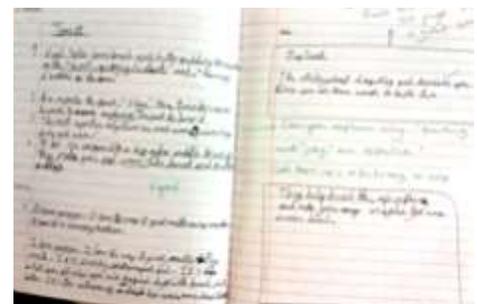
At The Kingston Academy we have a special way of learning which makes our lessons more enjoyable. Each activity is called: My task, Core and Challenge. My Task is for when you're unsure about a new topic and it would help you understand and be more engaged. Core is for most of the class which gives you a push but you can still easily manage the task. Challenge is for the more confident pupils who want to push themselves and get more advanced at a skill. There's even Uber challenges for some homework tasks! We can get extra marks in Design Technology if we have a go.



In Maths we can choose between Core and Challenge but in English we mostly do all 3 tasks and we work our way up. For example when we read a poem in English we start by drawing an image about the poem or descriptions we have just read together as a class. The Core task focuses more on how the language works and reading between the lines. The Challenge then asks us to explore the metaphor as a more complex task.

We have a coding system written by the teachers which tells us what went well (www) and even better if (ebi) which allows us to expand our answers. If we are given a Gap task it would mean that we either need to improve a piece of work or even finish something we haven't completed.

When we have a piece of work marked and there are some boxes you usually need to write a reply to the teacher or write out spellings and another short paragraph or simile/metaphor. We think it's a good idea to improve sections of our work rather than having to repeat all of it. It's a smart system in the way that it works because the codes allow us to see where we can improve and where we did well. Learning is now fun!



# Wet weather fails to dampen football spirits!

By Connor Cross (7Mn)

It was Tuesday afternoon when the TKA football team hopped onto the bus and headed for Southborough. It was the second match of the season so the spirits were high on the way to the venue. When we arrived we were all buzzing with excitement as we walked down to the playing fields. After our briefing from coach we were ready to play.

The whole team got off to a risky start and we unfortunately let in a silly goal. With some of our spirits running low the team needed a boost of encouragement and the one person you're sure to get that from is Noah. After a few close shots on goal the opposition scored another goal. It was the end of the first half and the team weren't looking their best.

After a strong team talk we were ready again. Straight away we were off but we were then turned over and the opposition were on a break. The cross came in and Noah went in for the ball and was slide tackled right in the ribs. With our keeper off we needed a replacement so Seb came to the rescue! Unfortunately we conceded another and at the dying moments the opposition struck back again to win 4-0. The team were depressed but we knew we could have played better.

Ms Briggs gave two man of the matches: one for Monty and Connor. (Left)



## Visits to Tudor Drive library

To launch the December Reading Challenge month we will be visiting Tudor Drive library. Your child will have the opportunity to take out a book on a class library card and they will need to return the book by Wednesday 16th Dec.

Monday 30th Nov - Period 5 7Peta, Period 6 7Mega

Tuesday 1st Dec - Period 1 7Giga, Period 3 7Exa

Thursday 3rd Dec - Period 3 7Kilo

Friday 4th Dec - Period 2 7Tera



Only 1 week to go until the deadline date of Monday 23rd November to order your Rose Theatre celebration concert photographs! After this a £3 delivery charge will be incurred. To view the online gallery please click on the link below and enter the password: **TKACC2015**

<http://www.intime-photography.com/tkacc> Part of the proceeds will go to school funds.

## Important Dates for Term 1 (Autumn 2015)

Friday 27th November PSHE Day—Pupils off timetable for Travel Safety Day (TfL)

Blue day—wear a blue accessory to raise awareness of men's health (Movember)

Friday 11th December— 'A Christmas Carol' performance for pupils at 9.30am. £4.10 paid by Parent Pay.

Thursday 17th December— Friends of TKA School Disco in School Hall—(7-9pm) £6

Friday 18th December—Last day of term. Christmas Jumper day. School closes 12 mid-day.

Tuesday 5th January 2016 Term begins for pupils. School starts at 8:40am.