

Newsletter

The Tapscott Learning Trust

Spring 2020- Issue 3 - Families and Pupils



The Tapscott Learning Trust
Working together,
achieving for all

Dear Parents, Families and Pupils,

This term has brought with it unprecedented challenges for all of us.

I would like to start by thanking each and every one of you for rising to the challenges that we have all faced in the past few weeks. The community spirit and resilience I have witnessed in all of our schools has made me incredibly proud.

Our staff have worked tirelessly to respond to the fast changing circumstances, and support you and your children in every way we can: we have set up a parent hotline to offer support and signposting to essential services, provided home learning packs for the children, offered up to date information, support and guidance through our school and trust websites and apps and have continued to educate the children of key workers in order to allow them to carry out their crucial roles.

Please use our parent hotline (p.2) to get in touch if you require non-medical support or would like to offer suggestions as to how we can support you further.

The theme of this term's newsletter is Community. I hope you enjoy reading some good news stories which highlight the strong community spirit which is present across all of our schools, and which has been so evident in recent weeks.

Take care and stay safe,

Paul Harris



Pupil Parliament Speaker at WE Day

On 4 March 2020, thousands of change-makers attended The SSE Arena for WE Day, a celebration of a year of action taken to transform communities and change lives. World-renowned speakers, A-list performers and thousands of young people took part in the event, which included a speech given by our very own Monisha Mahendrarajah, a Year 6 Kensington pupil and TTLT Pupil Parliament member.

Monisha, was asked to speak about our Pupil Parliament's contributions to WE Walk for Water, a fundraising event to improve access to clean water for developing communities around the world.

Monisha, speaking to a packed SSE Arena crowd (which would intimidate even the most seasoned of speakers) spoke with clarity and confidence about an issue which is close to her heart. Monisha was selected by Miss Elliot, Kensington's School Council leader, as recognition of her continued contribution to pupil voice at her school and across our trust, including her membership and commitment to Debate Mate, School Council and our TTLT Pupil Parliament.

Monisha's speech sat amongst a star studded line up of celebrities, role models, heroes and activists: Idris Elba delivered a speech about the importance of positive role models and instilling self belief in young people. "You

are important," he asked the audience members to repeat to each other. Lewis Hamilton spoke about climate change and our need to take positive action. "We don't have to be perfect to be part of the solution," was his message to the crowd.

Pupil Parliament members from Kensington, Curwen and Ranelagh attended the event, following their three years of commitment to WE Charity work.

So who inspired our young leaders the most? Shania in Year 5, chose Alexandra Adams, a deaf blind 25 year old trainee doctor. "She was blind and deaf, but she still got through all the hard stuff in life," said Shania. "One person can change the world. That's how she inspired me." Jerusha in Year 5, and Krish in Year 4 enjoyed listening to Maya Ghazal. "She was a Syrian refugee," explained Jerusha, "It really inspired me because when people bring you down, you should just climb up."

Our Pupil Parliament are made up on school council members from all Trust schools and are part of the WE Schools programme. They are currently fundraising for WE Support Health, empowering communities sustainably in Sierra Leone.

North Beckton's Building Renovation

Building work has commenced at North Beckton Primary School. The redevelopment project had been set to complete in April 2020 (although the completion date will now be delayed until work can continue), and will enhance provision for all pupils including those with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD).

The new facilities will be accessible to children across a spectrum of needs; all classrooms will be wheelchair friendly, and specialist learning spaces will be designed for pupils requiring assistance.

The new unit will be made up of one large classroom and a number of feeder classrooms. Facilities will also include a sensory room, as well as areas for physiotherapy, Place2Be counselling and music therapy.

Alison Helm, headteacher at North Beckton, said, "We are committed to making our school a place where all students can thrive

with their education in a positive, supportive environment."

The school's motto, "We all Belong," epitomizes the school's commitment to inclusive practice. By positioning the new PMLD space at the heart of the school, it emphasises its centrality to the culture of school life at North Beckton.



"We are committed to making our school a place where all students can thrive with their education in a positive, supportive environment."

World Book Day at Curwen

Friday 5th March was World Book Day, organised by the charity (of the same name) which aims to give every child and young person a book of their own. Every child receives a book token worth £1 which they can use to buy one of the special World Book Day books or to spend on a book of their choice.

World Book Day is also a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and reading. Mr Smale, Literacy Leader at Curwen, worked alongside children and staff to organise a whole week of exciting activities and events this year, to inspire a school of enthusiastic young book worms.

The traditional Book Week dress up day was a bit different at Curwen (a school which never does anything by halves!). Pupils were challenged to create their own sandwich boards representing their favourite books. The children then proudly wore the sandwich boards on World Book Day itself. It was a chance for children to recommend their favourite books and to exercise creativity in the designing and making of the boards.

Favourite books such as Roald Dahl's "BFG", Dav Pilkey's "Captain Underpants", and David Walliams' "Bad Dad" were all represented. Winners were chosen from each class (very tricky decision making!) judged on creativity, design and effort.

There was also the Grand Opening of the exciting new book vending machine - named Jeff! Winners of the Sandwich Board competition and Poetry competition (held earlier in the year) were given a special gold token to select a book of their choice from the machine.





Ranelagh's "Good" News Celebration

Following a successful Ofsted at Ranelagh, the school and wider community of parents, carers, businesses, police and local religious leaders all came together to celebrate the school's successful Ofsted report, in which they were graded as, "Good," and praised for their high expectations of all pupils, their engaging curriculum, pupils' enjoyment of their learning, the teaching of key skills and the calm behaviour displayed across the school. The report stated that, in keeping with their school motto, "The school provides opportunities for all pupils 'to be the best that they can be'.

The winter fair was planned and organised by the PTA and was marked with Santa's grotto, community stalls, Ranelagh's own cafe and a range of tabletop activities from pin the tail on the donkey and Christmas face

painting to a festive photo booth filled with props for families to wear. Local businesses donated a range of raffle prizes, which included £50 vouchers, a bike and a range of toys and foods. Aviva International sponsored the school event and offered nine enthusiastic volunteers, who helped organise stalls and run the infamous cafe.

Jeremy Fallows, head of operations at Aviva international said, "It's amazing to see such a fine event with so many members of the community together enjoying themselves." The multinational savings and insurance company donated £500.00 towards the event, as well as

donating a box of prizes for the school.

Over 400 people attended the event and the school raised £2500.00. One Ranelagh parent said, "The winter fair brings all the Ranelagh family together"



For school news from the Tapscott Learning Trust, follow us @LearnTapscott



Find news about your school at:

<https://www.facebook.com/trust-tapscott/>

School Places

We currently have school places at all of our successful Tapscott Learning Trust schools.

If you, a friend or family member, are interested in any of our schools, please ring for further information:

Curwen - 020 8472 0290
info@curwen.tltl.academy

Kensington - 020 8472 0290
info@kensington.tltl.academy

North Beckton-02074733344
info@northbeckton.tltl.academy

Ranelagh - 020 8534 4364
info@ranelagh.tltl.academy

Rebecca Cheetham's Bush Fires Fundraiser

Following the recent and unprecedented 2019-2020 Australian bush fires, a group of concerned Rebecca Cheetham parents approached headteacher Rohan Allen with the idea of organising a fundraiser. Rohan Allen is an Australian himself, so the bush fire cause is close to his heart.

After consultation with parents, the community agreed to raise funds for Wildlife Victoria, a charity at the forefront of wildlife rescue.

Fundraising activities included a "PJ at School Day", where children paid to wear their pyjamas to school, and a sponsored, "Make the Headteacher Run!"

As well as discussions surrounding fundraising, some interesting questions were raised about the best ways to speak to children about tragic and upsetting events such as these. Whilst parents often experience an

instinct to protect children from these events, staff at Rebecca Cheetham encouraged parents to take a more open approach. By discussing the fires with children in a sensitive way, the children are able to make sense of the world, to understand the environmental challenges faced at this time and to learn to make positive decisions to change the world for the better. After all, it is their future.

