



Message from Kevin McKellar

Dear Parent/Carer,

I have enjoyed delivering my Abdi Farah assembly to all of the students. He is a Somali artist who completely 'wowed' New York Art Critics and won America's Next Best Artist competition. He is a true inspiration in every sense of the word. His story is one of resilience, bravery and struggle. He listened carefully to his teachers and with purposeful practice he developed his skills to create amazing works of art. He made every second of every minute of every hour count for him. He put his heart, mind and soul into each task and pushed himself beyond the outer limits of his capabilities. He engaged so deeply with the tasks that you could see that he had "transformed" into the most incredible artist. Have a look at his art work. It is breathtakingly brilliant.



At the moment, our Year 9 students are choosing their option subjects. It is a very exciting time for them. Today, I am talking to the Year 9 students about my life as a steeple jack. It was my first job. I was lucky to have a job during the Thatcher years. I remember looking over at Glasgow University from a 40 storey sky scraper. As I was abseiling down I remember thinking to myself that I would have to work incredibly hard if I was ever going to get to university. I continually remind the students that hard work and effort and devoted purposeful practice always pays off.

Today, I am also talking to the students about other people who have inspired me. Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head by the Taliban in October 2012, just aged 15. Her crime? Wanting to go to school. Believing that every girl had the right to be educated, regardless of their religion. Although she may not know it, she possesses a love of learning so fierce that she risked her life every day to attend school. She understands with astute clarity that the world owes you nothing - you have to work hard to become good at something. If you want the world to change, you have to be that change.

Malala is an excellent role model in many ways. She is brave in the face of terror, she campaigns relentlessly for what she believes is right, and she loves going to school.

Why, we ask ourselves, are some students so reluctant to learn when children in other parts of the world are dying to see the inside of a school classroom? In fact, a recent UNESCO Report stated that **57m children remain without the opportunity to go to school**. This figure is shocking and we must continually remind our students about it.

Has the privilege of going to school become so customary that it is inconvenient? What can we do to make children want to learn more?

I regularly talk to the students and staff about **mental truancy**. It is wrong to just sit in a classroom passively learning, going through the motions. All good learning demands deep application. Ambling along on auto pilot is not an option here at Hendon. Our data continues to improve year on year because we are passionate about learning and I continually remind our students that education is a terrific privilege and that we must never take it for granted. Education gives you choice. It is the most powerful tool in the world. Please support our campaign to tackle mental truancy in lessons.

Kevin McKellar



What is the Pupil Premium Plus?

Pupil premium funding is additional money given to schools to raise the attainment of eligible pupils and narrow the gap between their attainment and their peers.

The Pupil Premium Plus is the name of special funding aimed at looked after children, children adopted from care and those who leave care under a Special Guardianship or Residence Order.

The Pupil Premium Plus is a payment of £1,900 which the school receives to ensure children receive additional support and it is up to the school how they spend the money.

Which adopted children are eligible for this funding?

All children adopted from care under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 are eligible.

How will schools identify adopted children to ensure they attract the funding?

Parents will have to self-declare that their child is adopted. We would like parents who are eligible for this funding to contact the school as a matter of urgency. Parents should contact Ms Fella in the Student Services department on extension 287. Information received will be dealt with sensitively by the school. To receive this funding, documentation to show the child has been adopted from care will be needed in the form of a copy of the Adoption Order or a letter from the local authority that originally looked after the child.

Mrs Weatherhead Deputy Headteacher



The advertisement features a green background with a white central box. At the top, a cartoon character with a megaphone is on the left, and the text "ATTENTION All Parents!" is on the right. Below this is the "ParentMail + Pay" logo, which includes a registered trademark symbol. The main heading "Have you registered?" is in large, bold, orange letters. Underneath, it says "It's an easy, convenient way to receive school messages and pay for items". A list of five benefits follows, each with a green checkmark. Below the list, there are logos for "Credit", "VISA Verified by VISA", "VISA", "MasterCard SecureCard", and "PayPal". At the bottom, a dark green banner contains the text "Registering is really easy... Ask the school office for a registration letter" and a yellow circular badge that says "Download the FREE ParentMail App". To the right of the banner are two smartphones displaying the app's interface, one showing a balance of £12.60.

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Registering is really easy...
Ask the school office for a registration letter

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