



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

NORWICH'S FINEST PREP SCHOOL · FOR GIRLS & BOYS · 3-13 YEARS

Dear Parents

Friday 14th February 2020



We have been celebrating Town Close receiving the TES Pre Prep/Prep School of the Year Award this week! To mark the occasion, our fabulous catering team baked every child and member of staff a special cupcake to enjoy at morning break, with the front of the house and Pre Prep hall decorated with balloons. I visited Pre Prep children yesterday to explain why we were chosen from over a thousand prep schools nationally and shared the judges' feedback with Prep children today in Headmaster's assembly.



Town Close was noted for a number of impressive initiatives led by the School Council, including the move to a uniform policy without gender titles and changes to reduce single-use plastic consumption. The judges also cited our successful participation in Goblin and F24 electric go-kart racing, noting that not only were we third in the world in the F24 international finals but also over 900 children in Norfolk have participated in engineering thanks to Town Close's input. Another key factor was last year's fantastic Common Entrance and scholarship results, with 75% of grades A or B and 97% A-C and 34 scholarships or awards offered to Year 8 pupils by senior schools. In addition, they cited our victory in a coding competition, 3rd place in the world in the Vocab Express Challenge and the introduction of Bella, our school dog, which was the aspect that caught the EDP's imagination!

Elsewhere this week, Pre Prep assembly focused on the importance of sleep, while Mr Hughes led a Prep assembly about internet safety, marking World Internet Safety Day on Tuesday. Mr Perris, Headmaster of Langley, visited today and led a thought-provoking assembly about preparing for getting older, using Rudyard Kipling's famous poem, *If*, as inspiration. In Headmaster's assembly today, we had two uplifting performances, with Emily playing *Corrente* by Vivaldi beautifully on her violin and Edward giving a rousing recital of Greig's *In the Hall of the Mountain King* on his tuba! These two pieces featured in Year 7's impressive soloist's concert on Tuesday, where we were also thrilled to receive a £500 donation for Break, a prize to a chosen charity that a parent's company had won in an architectural competition. The Year 1 music coffee morning was also inspiring.



We also celebrated cross country success in this morning's assembly and there has been lots more exciting sport this week, with our swimmers impressing in their gala. I have seen lots of important learning too, with Year 4 working on their pneumatic Jack-in-the-boxes in DT, Year 7 TPR pupils discussing the philosophical aspects of living in a virtual world, Year 8 pushing themselves in distance trials in the pool, Year 1 completing fantastic *Little Red Riding Hood* retells and Little Acorns making Valentine's cards. We all enjoyed a special Valentine's pudding today at lunch too!

Years 5&6 were kindly invited by Norwich High School to listen to author Ross Welford and we enjoyed meeting some former pupils too. I was delighted to see Year 2 writing today and noticed one boy who has made incredible progress since I last saw his book. We enjoyed seeing Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents last night for individual feedback on progress, while Years 5-8 receive their interim report on the Portal this evening, which also contains a comment from tutors and me.

Please note that next week is half term! When we return, we look forward to the humanities trip meeting, many more fixtures and the Year 4 parents' evening. Looking ahead, please note that Thursday 5th March is World Book Day with all pupils invited to dress up as a character from literature. Lastly, you might like to think ahead to the summer and book your place at the very exciting PTA Masquerade Ball, with tickets now on sale on the [PTA site!](#)

I wish all our children a lovely half term.

Nick Bennington

