

Founder's Day

16th March 2018

Good morning and welcome to all students, staff, governors past and present, trustees, ex-students of Archbishop Tenison's School and all other friends of the school. And I would like to start with a huge thanks to Dr Reverend Sam Wells and his team here at St Martin in the Fields church for making today possible.

I am delighted every Thursday at school to see our whole school community gathered in our Great Hall for our act of collective worship and I have been anticipating with real excitement my first Founder's Day where we are all gathered here today in this wonderful church.

Our school was founded in the crypt, right underneath where we are sitting today, 333 years ago in 1685 by Archbishop Thomas Tenison who was hugely committed to the education of young people. He wanted to ensure that the minds, the bodies and the spirits of young people were equally developed to forge a new generation who would have the intellect, the physical endurance and strong Christian and human values to make the best of themselves while also being kind and compassionate to those around them.

I am very proud today to be given the opportunity to translate his original principles into a modern context and appreciate the legacy I inherit and the obligation I have to pass this school on securely to future headteachers.

There are many new schools appearing around us in Lambeth and this can only be good for the futures of young people. But what Tenison's has which sets it apart is this exceptional tradition and set of founding principles. We sit here today enjoying a founder's day which has been celebrated by former students of this school going back over centuries. All of you will carry memories of these Founder's Days into adulthood and will share those memories whenever you meet other Old Tenisonians.

So I ask you to join in with energy and enthusiasm as we celebrate our school and to give your prayers for its success today, tomorrow and for the next 333 years.

Mr Jim Henderson
Headteacher