



Providing new learning opportunities  
to inspire our local schoolchildren

## Battersea Highlights



Reaching children in  
our local communities

## What Is The Thomas's Schools Foundation (TSF)?

Established in 1999 and launched that same year at the Royal Albert Hall, TSF is a registered charity that provides educational opportunities and support to children in the local communities of the four Thomas's London Day Schools (TLDS). Chosen as this year's charity, the Upper School will be involved in the exciting and vital work that Thomas's Schools Foundation undertakes in our local area.

## Who Are We?

TSF was created as an independent charity with the encouragement of Thomas's London Day Schools, with whom we continue to work closely. However, as a separate legal entity for over twelve years, the Foundation has been staffed by scores of volunteers, the majority of whom are or have been parents of Thomas's London Day School pupils. Laura Malkin and Alison Cabot currently serve as our co-chairs. Laura has grown-up children who attended Thomas's Battersea and Alison has one son at Thomas's Battersea and two sons at Thomas's Fulham.

## What Do We Do?

TSF has two areas of focus:

- To identify, develop and support **educational, sporting, music, drama and art** activities for state school pupils who live in the four neighbourhoods where the Thomas's London Day Schools are located: Battersea, Clapham, Fulham and Kensington.
- To provide funding for and administer means-tested **bursaries** for children whose parents cannot otherwise afford to attend the Thomas's London Day Schools.

TSF relies 100% on donations to continue with its aims.

# What We Do In Battersea

## Christ Church of England Primary School

- **Swimming Club** - 30 students in Year 1 and a further 30 in Year 2 are given the opportunity to learn and attend weekly swimming sessions at the Latchmere Centre. The programme runs for three terms. Learning to swim at an early age helps promote childrens' swimming mastery as well as fitness.

- **Drumming Club** - The Foundation funds Jo May, an experienced percussion teacher and performer, to run classes in local primary schools. Thus far Jo has visited over 17 schools and community centres in the areas local to the four TLDS schools. At Christ Church C of E, the Foundation provided the financial support to extend the drumming club. Sixty children in total in years 2, 3, 5, and 6 attend 45 minutes sessions every two weeks. The project develops and teaches valuable skills-discipline, perseverance and concentration, in addition to improving rhythm. The project culminates in a performance. We are looking to extend the programme to other schools.

- **SummerArtWorkshop** - Y1-Y5 talented art pupils are provided with the opportunity to work with an art teacher and learn how to work with new media. The project runs for 3 days in the summer term.



## Westbridge Primary School

- **Pottery** - The Foundation funds a weekly pottery lesson for ten Westbridge children after school in the pottery studio at TLDS Battersea. The children learn ceramics techniques, create their own pieces and thus express themselves and explore their creativity with clay. We are looking into expanding our partnership with Westbridge by providing the financial support to run drama, gospel choir singing and yoga classes.



## St George's Church Of England Primary School

- **Chelsea Writing Project** - In the autumn half term Y5 children take part in a history/art/writing/sports project linked to Michael Morpugo's WWII book Billy the Kid, illustrated by Michael Foreman. The children visit Stamford Bridge where they learn about historical artefacts and meet a Chelsea pensioner, as well as Paul Canoville, the first black Chelsea player. The main event at Stamford Bridge involves a session with Michael Foreman himself.

- **Community Choir** - With other neighbouring schools, the local community and Wandsworth Schools' Music Service, we sponsor a Community Choir weekly on Thursdays after school. The choir brings together up to 60 children from the schools in the area and engages them in singing games, activities and performances.

- **Sport** - Y1-Y6 children's PE lessons were based around skipping for fitness last year. At the end of the year they put on an amazing display to showcase their talents. 300 pupils were given a skipping rope, thanks to TLDS Battersea's Sainsbury's vouchers.



## Women of Wandsworth Group At The Katherine Low Settlement

- **Drama Programme** - A ten week after school programme with the aim of building self-esteem is run by a Stagecoach professional in two groups: one for 4 to 8 year olds; the other for 9 - 13 year olds. With a successful trial, the programme will roll into the next two terms resulting in a production, possibly at TLDS Battersea, after school breaks up.

- **Taekwondo** - 2 sessions run on Saturday mornings for 10 weeks. There are 2 levels, each with a minimum of 20 children in each session. The programme was piloted in the Summer Term 2011 and was hugely popular.



## Friends of York Gardens Library

Due to recent government budget cuts, the library was facing closure when local groups came to its rescue and formed the Friends of York Gardens Library. TSF is a key member of this group, helping in particular with the volunteering and activities sub-committees.

It is the goals of the Friends group to ensure a future for the library and its community centre. To that end TSF, in conjunction with TLDS PTA, can provide an important component by helping to develop and sustain a volunteer programme at the Library. TSF will also support the Library by renting/hiring the facilities for some of our community programmes.

In January plans include helping to organise a Glee Club, Capoeira classes and Boxing for both boys and girls. We are also working with Wandsworth Schools Music Service to sponsor Bandworks - music ensembles from local schools including TLDS, Falconbrook, Westbridge and Highview that will meet at York Gardens Library.

## Funded Bursary Programme

TSF funds means-tested bursaries for children to attend Thomas's London Day Schools and has awarded over 25 bursaries to date. For further information please contact [bursaries@tsfoundation.org](mailto:bursaries@tsfoundation.org)

Thomas's Schools

**FOUNDATION**

Registered Charity No. 1068954



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## Contact Us

For further information please contact: [enquiries@tsfoundation.org](mailto:enquiries@tsfoundation.org)

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