



## Pakistan Community Association of Peterborough (PCA) Newsletter

أجالا - پاکستان کمیونٹی ایسوسی ایشن کانیزلیٹر

# Local School to Axe Urdu

Plans to drop Urdu language from its list of Modern Foreign Languages has caused an uproar from Peterborough's Pakistani community. **Thomas Deacon Academy** which has 29.3% students from Asian background is going ahead with its plan to axe Urdu despite opposition from the parents and members of local community.

Matter was first highlighted in PCA annual general meeting on Boxing Day when Peterborough Senior Citizen's Chair B.U. Shaikh presented a proposal demanding reinstatement of Urdu in TDA.

A delegation of local elected members, parents and community representatives met with the Academy's Principal and Senior Management Team on 7th February to express their

### Decision taken without Equality Impact Assessment or Parental Consultation

displeasure at the proposed changes and asked the school to review its plan.

Chairman of Pakistan Community Association Ghulam Shabbir said "It is really worrying that a major institution which has over six hundred Pakistani students on roll can take a decision without carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment or parental consultation."

During the meeting it was agreed that Pakistan Community Association will lead on this consultation and liaise with the school.

A follow-up letter was written to the Principal on 10th February highlighting the flaws in school's decision and recommending that Urdu should continue to be taught in TDA. Unfortunately the response from the Principal shows that no notice was taken of letters from Ghousia Masjid and PCA and it seems that delaying tactics are being employed by school, buying them time to implement their plan to axe Urdu completely from the curriculum.

A number of meetings with members of public and community representatives have been held and as a result, a letter containing fol-

lowing text was sent to TDA on 27th February :

*"If TDA is serious about taking us seriously then it needs to demonstrate it by publicly expressing intent to reinstate Urdu with immediate effect. It is only after this commitment progress for the future and our support to you is possible.*

*Meanwhile we are exploring all avenues including legal, political and physical interventions to demonstrate our resolve on this very important issue which will have marked affect on future generations"*

Unfortunately we have not had a response to this letter thus far. Parent representative Staar Malak Said "it is after all these attempts we see no alternative but to start our campaign of action, starting with going to press." Cllr. Mohammad Nadeem said "this is a matter which is of concern to all the community and we stand united regardless of our party politics". Mr. Zahid Akbar (Iqra Academy), Hafiz Haq Nawaz (PMET) also assured PCA of their full support.

**"We stand united regardless of our party politics."**

**Cllr. Mohammad Nadeem**

At the last Muslim Community Reference Group meeting, Chairman Mohammad Ayoub Choudhary informed members that MCRG is in full support PCA taking the lead role in this matter.

Cllr. Nazim Khan-MBE, who is also a Governor at Gladstone Primary School said "we must not let TDA forget that when they applied for Academy status they gave an undertaking that they will continue to teach Urdu to demonstrate their care for the local community and now they are trying to go back on that commitment"

PCA has received full support from Councillors from Central, Park and Ravensthorpe wards; and from Cllr. Nabil Shabbir of East Ward.

*For more details and join the campaign contact: Staar Malak on: 07809 642 500 or Zayaer Malik on: 07896 082 707*

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Edition

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**Foreword**

Assalam-o- Alekum

Sadly once again it seems that Thomas Deacon Academy is trying to deploy tactics to discourage pupils of Pakistani heritage from choosing it as their school of choice. It had tried to achieve this aim initially by drawing catchment's boundary at Lincoln Road so children living in Gladstone District were denied access to a secondary school stone's throw away from their homes. Thankfully due to the persistent and courage of Gladstone Primary school board of Governors challenging this decision in court of law, TDA had to re-draw catchment's boundary.

It simply does not make sense to take out a recognised Modern Foreign Language that is in greater demand than French, German or Spanish because its uptake is wholly by young people of Pakistani heritage. Demand for Urdu and excellent results show that it is valued by young people. Urdu thrives at and is greatly valued by Jack Hunt school so question we ask of decision makers in TDA "what have you got against Urdu?" It is great to see that through Masajid, community organisations, elected members, educational establishments, teachers, parents and members of community we stand united in demanding that Urdu continues in TDA. Rather than cutting Urdu we would like it to be taught at primary school to A level standard so young people can use it to enter universities.

**Ghulam Shabbir**  
Chairman

## TDA میں اردو کی تازہ ترین صورتِ حال

ستمبر 2012 سے TDA میں اردو جیسی اہم زبان کی تعلیم کو ختم کیا جا رہا ہے اور اس سلسلے میں والدین اور کمیونٹی سے کوئی مشاورت نہیں کی گئی۔ جب والدین اور کمیونٹی کو اس سلسلے میں آگاہی حاصل ہوئی تو ان کی طرف سے TDA میں اردو کے خاتمے پر بڑے سخت ردِ عمل کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ مختلف نمایندہ تنظیموں جیسا کہ PCA، مساجد کمیٹی اور سنیر سٹیزن ایسوسی ایشن نے سکول کے پرنسپل کو خطوط لکھ کر اپنی برہمی کا اظہار کیا۔ اس کے علاوہ والدین نے انفرادی طور پر خطوط اور ای میلز کے ذریعے پرنسپل کو اپنے موقف سے آگاہ کیا۔ جس پر پرنسپل نے سات فروری 2012 بروز منگل کو سکول میں ایک میٹنگ کا انعقاد کیا جس میں ان تمام شخصیات کو باہمی گفت و شنید کی دعوت دی گئی جنہوں نے پرنسپل کو خطوط لکھے تھے۔

میٹنگ میں پرنسپل نے سکول میں اردو کے خاتمے کی وجہ کو بغیر کسی ٹھوس شواہد کے واضح کرنے کی کوشش کی جس پر میٹنگ میں موجود شخصیات نے جارحانہ ردِ عمل کا اظہار کیا اور پرنسپل کے دلائل کو رد کر دیا۔ میٹنگ کے بعد PCA نے پرنسپل سے اردو کے خاتمے کے سلسلے میں چند بنیادی اور اہم نکات کی وضاحت مانگی جس کا پرنسپل نے کوئی بھی تسلی بخش جواب نہیں دیا۔ پرنسپل کے اس جواب کے بعد PCA نے واضح طور پر اپنے موقف کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے دو ٹوک الفاظ میں پرنسپل سے سکول میں اردو کی بحالی کا نہ صرف مطالبہ کیا بلکہ اس کے سنجیدہ نتائج سے بھی آگاہ کیا جس کا تاحال پرنسپل کی طرف سے کوئی جواب موصول نہیں ہوا۔

## پاکستانی کمیونٹی کی یک جہتی کا وقت ایک بار پھر آ گیا ہے

تھامس ڈیکونز اکیڈمی نے اردو تعلیم کو ختم کرنے کا جو ارادہ کیا ہے وہ ایک سوچے سمجھا منصوبہ لگتا ہے۔ ماضی میں ہماری کمیونٹی نے لڑکیوں کے سکول کے کاؤن ایونیوس سے منتقل ہونے کے معاملہ میں خاموشی اختیار کر کے آج تک پچھتا رہے ہیں۔ اور اگر اس بار بھی ہم خاموش رہے تو دوبارہ اسی غلطی کے مرتکب ہو رہے ہوں گے۔ اردو نہ صرف ایک زبان ہے بلکہ یہ ہماری آئندہ کی نسلوں کا ہماری ثقافت، ہمارے ملک اور مذہب کے ساتھ رابطہ ہے۔ یاد رہے کہ ٹی-ڈی-ایے نے اکیڈمی بننے کی درخواست میں اردو پڑھانے کا یقین دلایا تھا۔ پاکستان کمیونٹی ایسوسی ایشن آپ کی نمائندگی کرتے ہوئے انشا اللہ اپنا پورا زور لگائے گی کہ اردو کو ٹی-ڈی-ایے ختم نہ کرے مگر ہمیں آپکی بھرپور ہدایت درکار ہے۔ اس معاملے میں ہم تعلیمی ماہر سے قانونی مشورہ بھی لے رہے ہیں۔



# Local Schools Scoop Top Urdu National Awards

Two local schools have taken top national award in Urdu. Students from **Thomas Deacon Academy** and **Jack Hunt School** achieved this highest accolade in “Vocab Express National Championship”, a national competition which was held during the week 29 February to 6 March 2012. **The Genius Cup** which is based upon the top 25 student scores at each school, allowing schools of different sizes to compete on an equal basis, and **The Challenge Cup Medio** that is based on all student scores at each school, for schools with between 151 and 500 registered students; were both scooped up by Jack Hunt school pupils pushing Manchester Grammar school in second and third places consecutively.



**Alvina Farooq (Jack Hunt School) and Amna Shahzadi (TDA) received certificates from PCA Chairman**

**Thomas Deacon Academy** pupils picked up **The Challenge Cup Piccolo** which is based on all student scores at each school, for schools with up to 150 registered students, and were only beaten into second place in the Genius Cup by Jack Hunt school.

Jack Hunt School Urdu Teacher, Mohammad Nawaz said “this is a huge boost for Urdu in Peterborough and great achievement by our pupils to beat school such as Manchester Grammar by a massive margin.” “People should not see Urdu as just another foreign language rather we appreciate that it brings a whole culture and civilisation with it. It is a language our children can actually use in their daily life not just something you study to fill time, as is the case for many other languages that are taught in schools.”

Shiraz Ali who teaches Urdu in Thomas Deacon Academy said “I am absolutely delighted with the results our pupils were able to demonstrate, this shows the level of Urdu command we have been able to develop in our school.” (Visit [www.vocabexpress.com](http://www.vocabexpress.com) for full results)

## STUDENT LEADERBOARD

1	Amna S	Jack Hunt School	27,100
2	Alvina F	Thomas Deacon Academy	22,340
3	Umar K	Jack Hunt School	17,720
4	Aves N	Thomas Deacon Academy	14,430
5	Zeb Ali K	Jack Hunt School	13,870
6	Humza N	Jack Hunt School	13,680
7	Minal W	Jack Hunt School	13,170
8	Safiullah S	Jack Hunt School	12,425
9	Eman W	Jack Hunt School	11,175
10	Aaliya G	Jack Hunt School	10,245

**Pakistan Community Association  
Presented Qaid-e-Azam  
Achievement Award to  
Amna Shahzadi daughter of  
Qari Safwat Shahzad and  
Alvina Farooq daughter of  
Mohammad Farooq**

This has happened at the time when TDA is planning to axe Urdu from September this year.

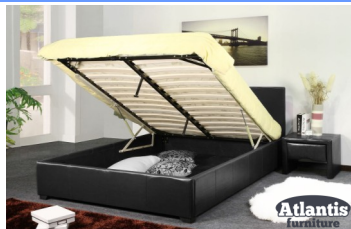
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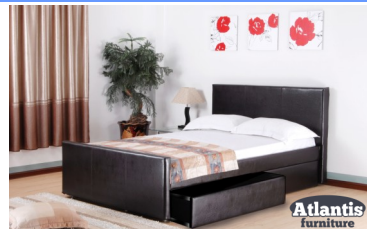
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