



## **NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS and CARERS** **July 2017**

Dear parents and carers

Welcome to the final newsletter of this academic year! As the examination season draws to a close we cannot praise our students highly enough for their hard working and committed approach. Both GCSE and A level students have had new specifications to deal with, as well as changes to the grading system for those sitting GCSEs. We have included in this newsletter information for parents which should help to clarify some of the national changes and the implications for results in schools this year.

Last week saw some farewells. On Tuesday, 27th June we said goodbye formally to Year 11 on their Leavers' Day. It was a lovely morning starting with breakfast in the dining hall followed by time with tutors, year and form group photographs and a final assembly. Our thanks go to Mr McArdle in particular for planning an entertaining and memorable assembly which included a whole range of staff displaying their talents in Trinity's own version of This Morning. The staff version of Carpool Karaoke and the final of MasterChef were particular highlights! On Friday, 30th June the Year 11 Prom took place at the Crown and Mitre hotel in the centre of Carlisle. The students looked fantastic. They had a great time and represented the school superbly well; we are very grateful to the staff who came along to help make sure that all ran smoothly.

Year 13 students had their Leavers' Day on Friday, 30th June. They had breakfast in the bistro, a year group photograph and a final, emotional assembly. They still have the Year 13 Ball to look forward to on Friday, 7th July at Carlisle Racecourse, always a fantastic and enjoyable evening. All Year 11 and Year 13 parents and carers will be receiving invitations to our Graduation Events at Carlisle Cathedral on 7th September where every student will receive a leaver's certificate to celebrate their achievements at Trinity. We also award some prizes at the event in a wide range of categories. Professor Julie Mennell, Vice Chancellor of the University of Cumbria, will be joining us to present the certificates at what is always a lovely final occasion for each year group to gather together in a setting that is very special to the school.

As ever this is a very busy half term. Year 10 students are out on work experience this week and we have received positive reports from employers about the way our students have represented both themselves and the school. Next week sees a group of students setting off on the Great War trip to Belgium, led by Mrs Hodgson, Curriculum Leader for Humanities. Sixth Form students are about to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award expedition and Year 12 will be completing work experience in the final week of term. Much charity work goes on as usual to support the wider community; you will read later in this newsletter, for example, about the excellent work Kilimanjaro House students have been doing as part of the Give a Day to the City project.

Sports Day will be different again this year due to the continued unavailability of the Sheepmount. As last year events will take place over a number of days on the school fields, a year group at a time. We also look forward to the Key Stage 3 Awards Evening at St Cuthbert's Church on Monday, 17th July. We will be awarding the Key Stage 3 Diploma to those who have achieved highly in a broad range of categories in Year 9, the final year of Key Stage 3. This is an award that can be achieved by all; more details on the diploma can be found further on in the newsletter.

As ever at the end of term we will be saying goodbye to staff who are leaving the school. This year is a remarkable one in that four of the staff who are leaving have given, between them, 130 years' service to Trinity School. Mr Stables (Geography) retires after 26 years; Mr Hargreaves (PE) retires after teaching at Trinity for 32 years; Mr Wannop (Maths) retires after 34 years and finally, Mr Foster (Curriculum Leader for PE) retires after an incredible 38 years at Trinity School. Many of you will remember being taught by these staff, as well as having children taught by them! We are very grateful indeed to these staff for their loyalty and commitment to the school and, of course, to their students. We will miss them.

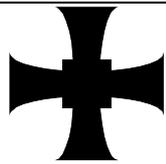
We have a number of other staff to whom we are saying goodbye this year. Mrs Walmsley (Maths), Mr Bowman (Design Technology) and Mr Gregory (Science) leave us after filling gaps very well for us in those departments this year. Miss Page (Learning Support Assistant) is leaving her current post to begin a primary PGCSE course with the University of Cumbria and we wish her well in that. Mr Davidson (Physics) leaves us to take up a new post in the south of the county and we say goodbye to Mr Wilson who is retiring after working part time in the Zone for us, as well as teaching the EPQ to Sixth Form students in previous years. Mrs Hemingway is retiring after leading our work on Childcare for many years; we are grateful to her for the work she has done to ensure success for students on vocational courses. Mrs Edgar, who works as a technician in both the Science and Design Technology departments, retires also; thanks go to her for the excellent support she has given to students completing the Duke of Edinburgh award, always giving generously of her time. Finally, Mrs Bamber is retiring from her post as Curriculum Leader for Learning Support, a role in which she has worked tirelessly to ensure the successful inclusion of students with a wide range of needs. She is, however, returning to the school to work part time in the RS department. We wish all staff leaving us the very best for the future.

As ever, we would like to thank you for your on-going support and partnership with us and wish you all an enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely,



Sheila Johnston and Derek Kay  
Co-Headteachers



## **CHAPLAINCY**

As we come to the end of another busy and hopeful year, students are looking back over the last three terms to find the real jewels; the things they have most enjoyed or most valued in their experiences and achievements. We are calling this theme 'Good Memories.'

Looking back, naming and celebrating achievements, is something we do every year as part of our awards evenings and House Services. The theme 'Good Memories' seems really important at this time because we have heard about and in some cases experienced, so much tragedy nationally. After the Manchester and London attacks, and then the fire in Grenfell Tower, we held silences in school and had messages of support and prayer up on our screens. In order to counteract the sense of division that appeared after these events, we looked at clips from the One Love Manchester concert and from Artists for Grenfell as part of a theme 'More in Common' which ran for two weeks in form time. We took the life of Jo Cox, MP, as inspiration for this and thought about her legacy.

Through 'More in Common' and 'Good Memories' we have tried to work with students to focus on the sense of community which can come out of tragedy, and to enable them to think about the ways they can be bridges for good in the world. We saw wonderful examples of this as many of them engaged with the 'Give a Day to the City' project recently. Students went out to visit the elderly and take bags of encouragement to residents around Warwick Road. You can see some of this on Thought for the Day 'More in Common 2' on the Chaplaincy part of our website, and you may well have seen students in News items during the last week or so too. There is a great sense in school of students wanting to use their gifts and abilities to do something which makes a difference. Our Archbishop of York Award has seen students getting involved in lots of practical ways with this; volunteering at home and doing things to help at school such as car washes and litter picks. Cakes have been baked and sold to raise money for charity, sponsored swims and runs have taken place- even sponsored silences, which have been difficult to see through! Staff have been fabulous at enabling this and growing ideas.

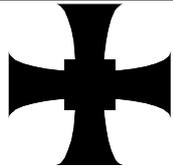
At the start of this half term we ran with the theme 'Your Kingdom Come' which was part of a national drive by the Church to help people engage with the ideas and language of The Lord's Prayer. Some students really took hold of the description of the Kingdom of God as a tiny mustard seed which grows into a wonderful and flourishing tree. One or two spoke to me about a feeling they had of being changed inside by their experience of 'Give a Day to the City,' and likened it to a seed growing in to something big. It is amazing to see students growing through connections with the community around us, and to see the natural bridges between different generations. Students who gave gifts to the

elderly were sometimes very moved by the conversations they had with them, and we are thinking of ways we could strengthen and develop some of these connections next year. Strong connections with each other are part of the full life we work to offer and enable in Trinity students, and helping them to see the value of service is something we take very seriously.

Looking out to others, as well as enjoying achievements, is an important part of our ethos, and students wrote their support for people in London and Manchester on a prayer tree in Jubilee Hall recently. As we come up to the summer holidays we are looking forward to welcoming new students and staff, to enjoying what they will bring and journeying with them. We know too that the end of year brings goodbyes and that some of those are difficult. We send love and good wishes to all those leaving, and thanks for all they have given and brought.

Wishing all of you a happy summer. Thank you so much for your support for the life of our school,

**Caroline Kennedy, School Chaplain**



## **HOUSE NEWS**

### **Amazon House**

As usual we have had such a busy term with lots of events and activities, and a really busy year. Back in September – so many moons ago – we welcomed 7STA and 7DAL, both with new teachers to our school as well, and 7DBS. They have settled in really well and made some excellent contributions to Amazon House. Many of our Year 7 students have excelled as readers, sports people, charity fundraisers, linguists, artists and some of the photographs they took for the wildlife challenge were superb! At the time of writing students from 10JPE and 10JWL are on work experience across the city, county and beyond with seven of our boys taking part in the Army experience week in Staffordshire. 8DLU and 8SFR are out visiting flood hit homes in Carlisle as part of their Archbishop of York award and we are currently deciding on KS3 awards for Year 9. At the end of the formal exam period for our Year 11 students in CBO and SQU we breathed a sigh of relief that we had got them all successfully to the end and had a fabulous celebration at their prom and leavers' day – we will see them at the Graduation evening in September which is a lovely event at the Cathedral and, of course, on the much anticipated results day!

We have had a busy year with charity work and at the request of our House Captains we expanded the charities we supported this year. Fundraising has taken many different forms from a sponsored walk to a reading challenge and we have donated nearly £1,000 to Cockermonth Mountain Rescue, Team Evie and Jaguar conservation in the Amazon rainforest. Thank you to everyone who has worked to support all our charity work, however small – every little helps when you work together as a team! Our outgoing House Captains, Theo Tindall and Chloe Chambers, have worked exceptionally well to represent Amazon House and Trinity School on all sorts of occasions and we thank them for this. Assistants Daniel Dalton, Lucy Atkinson and Chloe Simpson were incredibly supportive and helped to run the House Council in a positive way. Thank you all and best wishes for Sixth Form leadership – Amazon House has often proved to be a good training ground! Following in their footsteps and hopefully helping us move on to even greater things this year are Maya Pearce and Ryan Dawkins as House Captains and Agi Chrapek and Brendan Newton as deputies – Congratulations on your appointments, folks!

Congratulations are well deserved by everyone in Amazon House for a very successful year – have a fantastic summer and come back safe and well and ready to work hard in September!

**Mrs Walton and Mr McMullen**

### **Kilimanjaro House**

We have reached the time of year once more where we look back with pride at the achievements of so many of our students in Kilimanjaro House.

We bid a fond farewell to our fantastic year 11's with some celebrating in style. They enjoyed a celebration assembly on Leavers' day followed by a most enjoyable evening at the prom. We wish them all much success in August when they open those all important envelopes before they go on to the next chapter of their lives.

Our congratulations go to Joe Broadley. our very own squash champion. Joe went to Santiago, Spain in the half term holidays and won four matches to become European under 15 Squash Champion. We are proud of his achievements. Our congratulations go to Joe Broadley. our very own squash champion. Joe went to Santiago, Spain in the half term holidays and won four matches to become European under 15 Squash Champion. We are proud of his achievements. We have a student in year 9, Joe White who has been attending a programme with Newcastle United. Mrs Ward visited Newcastle United to find out a little bit more about what Joe has been doing. Throughout the year Joe has shown commitment to football and the academy. Joe gives up a lot of his time to both his football and to his school work and we are very proud of him and his dedication to his sport. The coaches had very high praise for Joe and are looking forward to working with him next year. Joe has been travelling across to the North East twice a week and often does not get back until very late at night. He is very passionate about his football and is a great role model to other students. Well done to Joe, definitely one to watch!

Two members of 7MSW, Lucy Monkhouse and Lucy Lupton, went along to Stanwix School to speak to Year 6's who will be joining us in September. The girls did a splendid job of reassuring our incoming Year 7's that they were joining a very good school indeed. Mrs Ward was most impressed at how well the girls coped with talking to the students and making them feel excited at the new challenges ahead. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Lucia and Lucy along with Brendan McSephney, Matthew Graham and Charlie Russell for being a brilliant help and guides to our Year 6's who came to us for their induction day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The Year 6's really enjoyed their day and are not worrying about starting in September quite so much now.

Kilimanjaro students have been discussing recent tragedies that have taken place nationally in form time through Thought for the Day. There have been lots of superb discussions around recent events with many students highlighting the good that they see coming from others in difficult and challenging circumstances. Mrs Reay's form produced some beautiful paintings which were displayed for all students to see in Jubilee Hall. Their work encouraged us all to look for the helpers and to try to aim for peace, love and understanding in our community. It is amazing to see the positives that emerge from such devastating situations.

It is with pleasure that we introduce our new house leadership team with House Captains Anna Bainbridge and Harry Reid and vice captains Alice Heaton, Jessica Scott Lamont and Katie Taylor. Our team have already been busy helping to fundraise for our Give a Day to the City initiative and also getting to know the form reps. We look forward to seeing more of our new team after the summer.

Kilimanjaro House have been doing their bit to spread a little cheer throughout the city this month with the help of Miss Wright. Back in May Miss Wright invited Miriam Lowe and Andy Fearon to come into Trinity to tell Kilimanjaro House about the 'Give a Day to the City' initiative. They set us a challenge: what would it look like if we took what we had – our passions, talents, skills, ideas and enthusiasm - and gave it away for a day? Could we also use all of our creativity and ideas to raise money to fund some of the projects taking place across our city?

9AWG, Miss Wright's own form, were given a pound and asked to try to make it grow in any way they could. The idea was to use their talents and goodness and generosity to grow this pound into something bigger. They wanted to be as generous as they could and use the money to brighten up the lives of people in our city who had suffered in some way.

Students in all of our forms in Kili House have been organising cake sales, tombolas, raffles and many more things to try to raise as much as we can! The generosity and enthusiasm of our students and our staff has been so exciting to see! Miriam came back into school on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June to collect the final total! **A very impressive £320 was raised by students and Miriam was delighted.**

We also wanted our students to get involved in going out into our local community to spread a little generosity and hope so we discussed options and our students were keen to help these three fantastic projects:

A team of students from the house delivered Bags of Courage to the 58 homes of Willow Park who were flooded during Storm Desmond with an invitation to 'Tea on the Green'. When students returned to school that afternoon they were amazed at the response from the residents. One resident told students, "It was better than winning the lottery." Another student said, "Their eyes just lit up when they saw us at the door!" Our helpers said that they felt really good doing something for others. They described their visit perfectly by saying, "We visited a little community with a big heart" Song and Maddison form Miss Wright's form put it like this, "The whole experience touched me because I could bring a smile to many faces and tears of joy to their eyes. We touched their hearts by doing

something really simple. Kindness is a great quality to have and it can affect so many people in such a good way.”

A few days later our students hosted and served high tea to the residents of Willow Park. We wanted to gift this community a time to come together and be served by their wider Carlisle 'family' to bring a little joy and generosity. Due to the splendid Carlisle weather high tea had to be served under a large marquee but that failed to dampen the spirits; students returned to school still buzzing from the joy of having done their good deed!

At Eden Valley Hospice students used their energy to dig, plant and undertake basic construction work to make new and beautiful spaces across the Hospice. Once again it was a day for the wellies and waterproofs. Our students helped to create new gardens for the children, vegetable patches and a bike shed for people to take an enjoyable and healthy option of transport when visiting the Hospice. Students also made mats and garlands out of the 29,000 pompoms the Hospice have which will be resold for their fundraising. This was a particularly poignant experience for several of our students as it affected them very personally. Sally from 9AWG spoke from the heart when she shared her experience of visiting her terminally ill Gran in her final days at the hospice. Sally felt that this initiative allowed her to give something back to the hospice and would have made her Gran very proud.

Miss Wright said, “We were excited for all we can bring to our community and for the links and positive relationships that are being made. We are also excited for our students to discover that their talents, personalities, senses of humour and ideas can be an incredible gift to the people around them.”

Miss Wright has worked so hard on this initiative and it has been brilliant to see so many students from a variety of forms digging deep to see how they can do their bit to spread joy and kindness. A huge well done to 7MSW who had a collection, 8MRY who sold doughnuts, 8SMA who held a tombola, 9CHM who also had a collection, 9AWG who held a bake sale and doubled their pound by acts of kindness, 9JCA who had a collection and 10FDG who also held a bake sale. The generosity of Kilimanjaro students is just wonderful. Kilimanjaro students have huge hearts and are always looking for opportunities to help others less fortunate than themselves. Our visitors to school and our residents who were visited by our students were truly delighted by the kindness that they were shown. Working with the local community is something on which we really pride ourselves.

Mrs Ward and I hope that you all enjoy a wonderful summer and recharge those batteries ready for next year's adventures.

**Mrs Moody and Mrs Ward**

### **Everest House**

We are almost at the end of what has been another very busy year for Everest House. We are all looking forward to the summer holidays for a chance to rest and re-charge, ready for starting all over again in September.

Once again, our very talented students have been involved in lots of exciting things. 9MCO have created a sweep for Wimbledon in order to raise funds for Eden Valley Hospice – a cause close to the hearts of our students. As I write this I hope I will not be a winner as I didn't draw Andy Murray – or indeed any British player – which is a good thing as that would be a sure-fire way for any of our tennis players to make an early exit! Kane Armstrong in 7SDT has also been raising funds for the Junior Diabetes Research Fund: during half term, Kane and his father cycled over 250 miles around the Outer Hebrides to raise money to help this very worthwhile cause – a terrific effort from Kane indeed and we will be following this up in September with a feature article. Kane is not only a fantastic fundraiser but also has designs on a career in film! He spent three days filming at a caravan park in Pooley Bridge with Johnny Vegas and Emelia Fox in the new sitcom “Home from Home”. We are all looking forward to watching this when it hits our screens later this year. Another wonderful ambassador for Everest House is Declan Briggs who is on a council which supports the youth in our area. Declan works closely with Youth Zone, working in the tuck shop, and had a hand in designing the new kitchen and gym area there following last year's devastating floods. Declan also attends meetings and contributes ideas to help support young people who are in care and is passionate about helping make young people's lives better.

We also have some very sporty people in Everest House. In 7ASH Jak Quinn plays rugby not only for Carlisle Crusaders Rugby League team but also for Carlisle Rugby Union, Michael Auld participated in the Boccia Memorial competition and came first, and Ciaran Batey received a gold medal in his recent trampolining competition.

In 8JLY, Beth Ivison helps coach tennis and is involved in Carlisle Triathlon Club; Jordan Slater has played cricket for Haltwhistle and both Charlie Hutchinson and Stanley McAlindon have been selected

to play cricket for the county and have travelled far and wide to compete. Charlie and Stanley, along with George Beattie, Jack Hetherington, Romano Renucci and Kieran Glencross are all involved in various football teams locally as well – we have high hopes for future school competitions! It is not only the boys who are having great footballing success: Lucy Cook 9MDA has been selected for Sunderland Ladies Football Squad – a huge honour and a great reward for all of her hard work and effort

However, it is not just in sports that some of our students are excelling. In 7ASH Stanley Wong has just passed his Grade 4 Piano Exam. Reece Hussain has his licence for Muay Thai boxing and is now able to compete in the ring; he has also just been promoted to Lance Corporal in the Junior Leaders Armed Forces Cadets.

The summer term means exams and is a very busy time in school. It is also the time of year when we say goodbye and 11SMR and 11MHA deserve a special mention as they were both fantastic form groups and a credit to our House and their Form Tutors. The Prom was a truly wonderful evening with lots of glitz and glam on show, and the girls dressed up nicely too! Leavers' Day was a real mixture of emotions: pride at how much our students had grown and achieved over the last five years, tinged with a little sadness that they will no longer belong to Everest House, but also joy that everyone is moving onto the next stage of their lives, whether to Sixth Form, College or apprenticeships and the world of work. Whatever the future holds, we wish every single student the very best.

As we say goodbye to Year 11, we welcome our new starters. Our new Year 7 intake had a fantastic day here last Monday and it was a joy to see just how excited they all are to join us and we look forward to welcoming 7MBA, 7IBA and 7APD again on 4th September. Dr Barker and Miss Bates spent a wonderful day with their forms, getting to know them and meeting with parents on Monday evening. Ms Pandrich will be joining the Everest team in September and I know she is very much looking forward to meeting everyone, especially her new form.

However, as we say hello to the new beginners we must also say goodbye to Mr Hargreaves and Mr Davidson. They have been wonderful form tutors and will be missed greatly by Everest House. Mr Hargreaves is retiring after 34 years here at Trinity School and Mr Davidson is moving to a new position at Kendal School and we wish him every success in his new role. However, we are very lucky that Mr Martin is staying with us and is taking over from Mr Davidson; so 9MDA will be 10SMR when they return in September.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a very happy and fun-filled summer holiday. We look forward to seeing you all in September.

**Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Barwick**

### **Nile House**

As we come to the end of another busy academic year it's time to reflect on our achievements in Nile House. Our Year 11's have completed their GCSEs, enjoyed their leaving day and their prom. GCSE results are due on Thursday 24th August and we wish all our Year 11's the very best of luck with their results and whatever plans they have from September.

I would like to thank the outgoing Nile House Student Leadership team for their outstanding contribution to the House and the school. House Captains Will Stuart and Caitlin Coway have led by example and have been ably assisted by Luke Stubbs, Abbey O'Neill, Darienne Boyd and Hannah Button. They have taken on many responsibilities, have shown great leadership skills and have greatly assisted both myself and Mrs Wylie in the day to day running of Nile House - we both massively appreciate all their many contributions over their year in office. Our new student Leadership team of House Captains Lily Harper and Will Clark, assisted by Jack Mark-Bertram, Megan Suniga, Kate Troughear and Ben Robson. We look forward to working with this new team and I have every faith that they will rise to the challenges of their various roles and responsibilities.

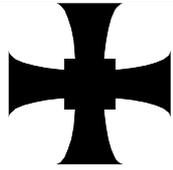
At the time of writing our Year 10's are on work experience and we look forward to hearing all about their experiences in the "real world" of work!

Throughout the Year, Nile House students have been involved in a wide variety of fund raising activities in support of our chosen charity - the Bethsaida Orphanage for girls in Tanzania. In September we challenged Nile House to raise £1,000 to fund the employment of a Science teacher at the Orphanage for a full academic year. As a result of bake sales, sponsored events, non uniform days, donations, a sponsored run plus numerous other events the total raised was a magnificent £1,475.26.

The end of this term will see the retirement of Mr Foster after 38 years of service at Trinity School. Mr Foster has done a brilliant job with his form 11 NFO and we wish him a very long and fulfilling retirement. In September we will welcome our two new Year 7 forms to Nile House with Mrs Annette, who had the pleasure of working with 11MNT for the last 4 years and Miss McQuiston whom we welcome to Nile House as one of our form tutors for the first time.

We would like to wish all students in Nile House as well as our very hard working form tutors a very long happy and restful summer holiday!

Mr Hall and Mrs Wylie



## **INFORMATION AND REMINDERS**

### **School Uniform**

The uniformed appearance of Trinity School students has improved significantly in recent times. This is partly due to the introduction of clip on ties and V-neck sweaters for all students. In truth, though, the full support of the vast majority of parents, as well as the sense of pride we see every day within the student group who value their identity as Trinity School students, are the real driving force behind our success here. Thank you so much for this.

It is well documented that a uniformed appearance gives students a sense of belonging to school and creates an identity for our school in the community. In school the uniform presentation of students remains important to the work that we do pastorally; it helps us to maintain balance and order among the students. We know, for example, that a strict adherence to uniform expectation does much to promote the equality agenda in school. It means that students don't have to worry about peer pressure when it comes to their clothes and how they appear. There is no competition about being dressed in the latest trend, which is also known to add financial pressure in the homes of our students. Most importantly, however, we know that wearing our uniform with pride means that students are half way there to being respectful, buying into our school values and therefore capable of maximising opportunities for learning.

As we near the end of the academic year we are, as ever, active in our planning for further improvement. In this regard it is important that we acknowledge that a small number of students are less willing to comply consistently with our published uniform requirements. In particular, a few students are known to breach expectations by wearing;

- Fabric shoes/trainers (not of the black/polishable variety)
- Mini skirts
- Lycra style fabric skirts – often worn to mini skirt length
- Skinny pants

Some schools have addressed breaches by narrowing the choice of uniform further, for example an all-trousers policy for both genders. It is not our intention to change our uniform guidelines at present; we may, however, need to review this if we don't have the support of all students for the current uniform standards.

We believe our uniform guidelines are straightforward and reasonable. It is the responsibility of pastoral staff to work with students on uniform so that teachers in the classroom can focus on learning. We give reasonable timescales for any uniform issues to be addressed; this can sometimes lead to other students thinking an issue has not been dealt with. Please be reassured that we will always address issues so that all students are treated in the same way.

Thank you for your understanding and support with uniform matters. If you are unsure at all about school expectations, please access published uniform guidelines, which can be found on the school website ([trinity.cumbria.sch.uk/uniform/](http://trinity.cumbria.sch.uk/uniform/) and here: [Uniform Visuals.pdf](#)). If you have any unanswered questions, please do contact a member of your son/daughter's House team.

### **Attendance matters**

Good school attendance is vital to success in learning. Research says that students with 100% attendance are **1.5 times more likely** to achieve 5+ GCSEs A\*-C or equivalent and **2.8 times more likely** to achieve 5+ GCSEs A\*-C or equivalent including English and mathematics than students with attendance below 85%.

Attendance matters are therefore taken very seriously, with so much at stake, and for this reason next year we are launching a variety of new rewards initiatives for students with improving and excellent attendance. Please therefore do all that you can to support regular attendance to school in order to that we are able to include your child in related activity.

Please recognise that term time holidays continue to affect the progress of too many students nationally. At Trinity School we are no different, and so we urge you to consider very carefully the associated risks whilst considering your holiday arrangements for the year ahead.

**The last day of term is Thursday 20 July, 11-16 students will be dismissed between 12.05pm and 12.10pm, the school buses have been informed.**

### **Exam Results**

#### Thursday 17 August – A2/AS Level results

A2 Level results available to students in Jubilee Hall from 8.30am

AS Level results available to students in Jubilee Hall from 9.30am

#### Thursday 24 August - GCSE results

Results available to students in the Jubilee Hall from 9.00am.

### **Results Clinics- Thursday 24 August**

Students who do not meet the criteria for their chosen course(s) or wish to review their next steps, should meet with a member of staff in the Chapman Library on GCSE Results Day. Drop in from 9:00am-12:00pm and appointments thereafter until 3:30pm.

The Chapman Library will also be open on Friday 25 August for any other queries from 9:00am-3:30pm, appointments only.

**Please call the Sixth Form Office from Thursday 24 August if an appointment is necessary - 01228 516051 extension 263.**

### **Changes at GCSE**

If you have a child in current Year 9, 10 or 11 you may find the following information useful to interpret GCSE exam results this summer. At Trinity, and along with all students nationally, our Year 11 students have completed three new GCSE courses in English, English Literature and Maths. The vast majority of our Year 10 students are following new GCSE courses and Year 9 will start fully on new GCSE courses. At the same time the old A\*/G grading system has been replaced by a numerical system of 9 -1. You will be aware we changed our interim grading system in September 2016 for all students to reflect this.

There is no doubt we are in the midst of massive change in education terms with brand new courses, higher challenge, and radically different assessment and grading systems. We are confident we are preparing our students well for these exams and that outcomes will be up to our usual high standards. However, as this is a very new system we have been warned that individual schools and/or subjects could see much more variation in results both positively and negatively until things settle down. As a result we will be looking carefully at our results in August and increasing our levels of support for students who have either done better than expected or not as well.

The key points therefore are as follows:

- It is much harder to predict GCSE results this year particularly in English, English Literature and Maths. Individual schools or subjects may see significant variation in results.
- Grade 4 is broadly equivalent to an old grade C and is the credible grade for employers, apprenticeships, and sixth form entry. If a grade 4 is obtained students are not required to continue to study English and Maths post-16.
- Grades 7, 8 & 9 are equivalent to the old A\*/A grades although it will be much harder to achieve the top grade 9 and there will be very few in any school.

You may find the following information helpful:

[www.newgcse.campaign.gov.uk/](http://www.newgcse.campaign.gov.uk/)

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-new-grading-scale-factsheets](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-new-grading-scale-factsheets)

### *Frequently Asked Questions for Parents*

#### **1. I have heard GCSEs are changing, what does this mean?**

GCSEs will be graded on a new scale of 9 to 1, with 9 the highest grade, rather than A\* to G as now, to distinguish clearly between the reformed and unreformed qualifications.

The government and Department for Education (DfE) have specified that the new GCSE syllabuses will include more challenging and knowledge-based content with exams only at the end of the course. There is less non-exam assessment too. English language, English literature and maths will be the

first to be graded from 9 to 1 in 2017. Another 20 subjects will have 9 to 1 grading in 2018, with most others following in 2019. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades.

## **2. If the exams are harder, what will happen to the grades this summer?**

Although the exams will have to cover a wider, more challenging range of content, the independent exam regulator Ofqual has made it clear that students sitting these examinations for the first time will not be disadvantaged. Whilst students may come out of the exams feeling that they have done less well, Ofqual has said that broadly, the same proportion of students who currently achieve a C and above will achieve a grade 4 and above in the new GCSEs (see Q4). The exam boards will base standards on results of 16 year-olds who took previous GCSE qualifications, so that it does not disadvantage this year's Year 11 students. The same process will take place next year for the remainder of the new GCSEs.

## **3. Why has this new grading system been introduced?**

The introduction of the 9 -1 system increases the number of higher grades than the previous A\* - G system. By using 9 -1, there are now six different grades from 4 to 9 rather than four in the old system (A\*, A, B, C), which means individual students can be more accurately recognised in terms of their outcomes. The revised scale will also enable employers and others to easily identify which students have taken the new, more challenging GCSEs.

## **4. How does the new grading system match the old one?**

The new grade scale will not be directly equivalent to the existing one. However, to be fair to the students and to give meaning to the new grades, Ofqual has decided that there will be some comparable points between the old grades, and the approach used to awarding will ensure that in the first year of a new qualification:

- broadly the same proportion of pupils will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above
- broadly the same proportion of pupils will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above
- broadly the same proportion of pupils will achieve a grade 1 and above as currently achieve a grade G and above

## **5. As the top grade is grade 9, will there be similar numbers of 9s awarded to A\*s currently?**

There is more differentiation in the reformed qualifications, as there are three top grades (7, 8 and 9), compared to two in the unreformed qualifications (A and A\*), so you would expect that fewer students will get a grade 9 than previously got an A\*.

## **6. I want my child to aim for the equivalent of a grade C across all subjects but I am confused as to whether they should be aiming for a 4 or a 5?**

Because the same proportion of candidates will get a 4 and above as currently get a C and above, aiming for 4 and above is equivalent to aiming for C and above. This is, and will remain the level that pupils must achieve in order not to be required to continue studying English and maths post-16. The government has defined a grade 4 as a 'standard' pass. Where employers, FE providers and universities currently accept a grade C, the government expects them to continue recognising a grade 4.

## **7. I have heard there will be a 'standard' pass and a 'strong pass', what does this mean?**

The government will publish schools' results not just at the 'standard pass' (grade 4 and above), but also at the 'strong pass' (at grade 5 and above) in school performance tables only. The number of pupils achieving a 'strong pass' will be one of the measures by which schools are judged.

## **8. How will employers be informed and educated on the differences between the new and old grades and qualifications?**

The DfE is working with the independent regulator Ofqual, exam boards and partner organisations such as the Confederation of Business Industry (CBI), using a variety of products and channels including social media, to ensure that all stakeholders can get access to the information they need. This includes ensuring that employers understand that the new GCSEs are more demanding, and that

a new grade 4 represents a similar level of achievement to a current low to medium grade C – the threshold for a level 2 qualification.

### **9. Will employers and colleges be asking for a 4 or a 5 as part of their entry criteria?**

Employers, colleges and universities will continue to decide the level of GCSE grades needed to meet their individual employment or study requirements. The DfE is encouraging employers, colleges and universities to have realistic expectations of pupils in the first cohorts to sit the new, tougher GCSEs when setting their entry requirements for work or further study. Employers and colleges will also need to recruit the same number of students as previously, so are likely to set their criteria in terms of the equivalence of C and above and 4 and above.

**Mr Kay, Co-Head teacher**

#### **Instrumental Fees 2016/17:**

A reminder to parents/carers who are not paying by monthly standing order payments: the third instalment was due to reach us by 30.06.16, this is the final payment for 2016/17 and should be paid urgently. If fees have not been paid in full students will not be allowed to continue with lessons in September. Our preferred method of payment is by standing order, however, payments can be made by credit/debit card either with ParentPay or by phoning the Finance Office. Payments by cash and cheque are still acceptable, cheques should be made payable to "Trinity School".

Cumbria Music Service operates an Instrument lease scheme which is available to any young person in Cumbria. There is also an Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme run by Cumbria Music Service enabling students receiving tuition with Cumbria Music Service Teachers to purchase their own instrument without paying VAT. Please contact Mrs Richardson, Head of Music, for more information about this scheme.

#### **Instrumental Fees 2017/18:**

For students who are continuing with lessons next year: the Tuition Arrangement letters including information about fees and the consent form are available to download from the School website or to collect from the Music Office. If you have signed up to Schoolcomms you should receive the arrangement pack via email. Please return the consent form to the Finance Office as soon as possible.

#### **Payment for School Meals:**

Please ensure you give your children the correct change for topping up their school meal a/c's at the revaluers as change is not given and may not be available in school. Payment by cheque is acceptable but cheques must be made payable to 'Mellors Catering Services Ltd'. Parents/Carers are reminded that topping up can also be done via ParentPay with a credit or debit card.

**Cheque Payments:** Just a reminder that if you are sending a cheque payment into school you should write clearly on the back the students name, form and reason for payment.

If you have a query or you require further information please contact the Finance Office on 01228 516051 ext 215.

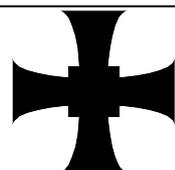
**Mrs A Larking, Finance Manager**

#### **Lockers**

Please remind your child (ren) to empty their lockers by the end of term, any contents that are left in the lockers after 20 July will be destroyed.

If you wish to rent a locker next year the annual charge remains at only £5. Payment can be made now through Parent Pay, however if you wish to make a cash payment we will make arrangements to collect during the first week of the academic year.

**Mr Charnock, Assistant Head teacher**



## ***RECENT EVENTS***

#### **Bleak House Writing Event (Year 5)**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> July we invited Year 5 students from our feeder primary schools to Trinity to take part in the 'Bleak House Writing Event'. We were joined by students and teachers from Kingmoor, Stanwix and Rockcliffe. The students became reporters for the day! They were gathered together at the start of the day to be given their task by their editor-in-chief (who looked not unlike Mr Kay) and then met many of the characters from Charles Dickens' Bleak House (who may have looked a little like Mrs Leech, Mr

McArdle, Miss Southwell, Mr Puskar, Mrs Rowley, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Giles, Miss Care, Miss Connell-Coon) – asking them questions and learning their stories. Year 8 students were also involved, helping out teachers from their former primary schools. Although Bleak House is a complex novel, the characters themselves are distinctive: some sneaky and mean, some honourable and noble. The trick for the Year 5s was to work out which was which! After meeting the Bleak House characters in the morning, students went back to their primary school to complete a piece of writing based on their experiences of the characters that they had met. All the feedback from staff and students was hugely positive; one Year 5 told me that it had been ‘the best day ever!’ We were really happy to welcome our primary school colleagues and their students to this event and we hope we can do so again next year!

**Mr Hopkins, Curriculum Leader for English**

### **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award**

Over the weekends of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> June, 80 Year 10 students completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award qualifying expeditions. The delegates were an absolute credit to the school and represented Trinity in all that it stands for: Standards, Responsibility, Opportunity... for All. The DofE organisation, with whom we work very closely in order to cater for such numbers, was overwhelmed by the passion, commitment, resilience and enthusiasm that the students brought to the fore, and they were not shy in sharing their view of Trinity students being the best they had worked with in whole North of England.

Students now have the summer holidays to complete all of the other sections of the Award (skills, physical and volunteering), before an evening celebrating their achievements takes place in October.

A big thank you to all members of staff who have volunteered their time over the course of the year to help provide such an fabulous opportunity and a big well done to all students involved.

**Mr Cookson, DofE Coordinator**

### **KS3 Diploma**

We have had a really positive response from our Year 9 students who are undertaking the KS3 Diploma this year. The diploma is a way of recognising the efforts made by students in Year 9, culminating in a celebration event at the end of this term. Students were recently reminded about the standards that we would be looking at, and what they needed to do to achieve the different diploma standards. The six categories being used for the diploma are: Attendance, Punctuality, Achievement Points, Behaviour Points, Academic Progress and Extra-Curricular Participation.

During the Spring term students received a ‘snap shot’ of where they were up to in terms of their diploma standard and have been working with their form tutors to try and set targets for improvements to move towards the next diploma level before the end of term. The standard of diploma awarded can be either: Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Credit.

It has been really pleasing to see the wide range of extra-curricular activities that the students participate in too, showing great commitment and determination to succeed in sport, dance, arts, volunteering, music and many more!

We are looking forward to celebrating the success of students who have achieved highly in the diploma by inviting them and their parents/carers to a KS3 Diploma Awards Evening on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017. This is a chance for us to celebrate everything they have achieved so far at Trinity School as they prepare for the demands of the KS4 curriculum and GCSE study. Further details and invitations to this event will be sent to parent/carers following the final diploma standard being awarded at the start of July.

**Mrs Leech, Assistant Head teacher**

### **New Year 7 Students**

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July our new intake of Year 7 students spent a day in school familiarising themselves with their surroundings and form groups. The students’ parents were invited into school on Monday evening also. They were welcomed by senior school staff and had the opportunity to meet their child’s form tutor.

### **KS3 Arch Bishop of York Young Leaders Award**

All Y8 Students have just completed their final challenge for the Archbishop Youth Trust Young Leaders Award. The Archbishop of York Youth Trust exists to empower young people to **‘be the change you want to see’** in their schools, communities and the world!

Students have spent time working in the Community, with CERT UK and as part of the ‘Give a Day to the City’ initiative. Here they have had the opportunity to go out into our local community and spread a little generosity and hope to their wider Carlisle ‘family’. On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July, thanks to your

wonderful response and many kind donations, all Year 8 students were involved in packing and delivering Bags of Courage to the homes along and surrounding Warwick Road who were flooded during Storm Desmond. Some students have also been involved in hosting and serving a high tea to the residents of Willow Park.

Most students have also completed their personal and school challenges and we hope that you have benefitted from some of them at home! They have ranged from a 50 mile sponsored bike rides, three peaks walk, completing the colour run, cooking for the family, gardening, helping in a variety of ways by donating clothes, bag packing, setting out and serving refreshments at Brownies. School challenges have included sponsored silences, cake bake and doughnut sales, staff car washes, tombolas, teaching lessons and guess the number of sweets in the jar. Thank you to parents/carers who have signed these activities off and to those who have got involved, from transporting to and from various activities to competing in the various sporting events too! Cheques have also been issued to a number of charities, notably Cancer Research and Eden Valley Hospice as a result of these activities –final totals to be confirmed.

On the completion of all challenges, students will receive their Awards at a service in school on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July. The certificates and badges will be presented by Elizabeth Howat, strategic Lead for the Secondary Awards for the Archbishop Young Leaders Programme. **Please encourage your students to complete any personal or school challenges for those outstanding and sign the log sheet if you have not already done so. These need to be finalised by 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017.**

**Mrs Shore, Subject Leader for Religion, Philosophy and Ethics.**

#### **KS4 Arch Bishop of York Young Leaders Award**

Some Year 10 and Year 11 Students have been involved in the KS4 Award. Here students have had the opportunity to develop core leadership and character skills. They have undertaken apprentice style challenges as part of each module, giving them a wealth of practical experiences and volunteering opportunities, to prepare and empower students for life after school.

Students raised money for Cancer Research UK with two separate events in the autumn term. Year 11 students created a 'buy a square' competition whereas the Year 10 group organised a guess the number of sweets in the jar activity. Both groups were very active in their engagement with the charity. The second Year 10 class created a guess the logo competition which included an inter-house competition element. This proved to increase engagement from the wider school group, supported by Tutors across the school. Monies raised in this event are being donated to Eden Valley Hospice to support the work they do locally.

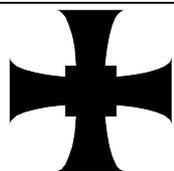
During the spring term, groups have adopted an Easter focus, with a view to providing opportunity for donated Easter eggs to be added to food parcels for local disadvantaged families. We felt that this was a good way to share some of our own school values at this important time on our calendar.

There are many personal challenges too such as sponsored silence, car washes, cakes were baked in school and sold to raise money for local charities. (£75 raised from the cake sale going to Eden Valley Hospice.) Other students put together a PowerPoint presentation to send out to form tutors to use in registration time (to complement Thought for the Day) which consisted of the work Scope does and the people it helps

The summer term saw the Year 11 group engaged with representatives from Carlisle City Council contributing to ongoing work at Bitts Park to ensure that this venue continues to be a family friendly destination. Whilst our Year 10 students spent an afternoon at Cert UK in Penrith, participating in an audit of resources and preparing equipment ready to go to residents about to finally move back into their homes.

Finally, on 13<sup>th</sup> July, a group of Year 10 students will take part in an event supporting elderly people in and around our local community serving a lunch at the Church of Scotland Chapel Street Carlisle. Y10 students will receive their Awards at a service in school on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July**. The certificates and badges will be presented by Elizabeth Howat, Strategic Lead for Secondary Awards for the Archbishop Young Leaders Programme. Year 11 Students will receive their certificates and badges at the **Awards Evening in Carlisle Cathedral** in September. (Details of this to follow)

**Mrs Shore, Subject Leader for Religion, Philosophy and Ethics.**



## SIXTH FORM NEWS

### Junior Citizen Scheme

Cumbria Police and Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service recently asked for help from Sixth Form students with running their Junior Citizen Scheme. The scheme was aimed at primary school children who spent a day at Carlisle East Fire Station learning about anti-social behaviour, fire and water safety, stranger danger and drugs awareness. Lyndon Alexander (AHY), Imogen Dodd (BPA) Nigel Lung (WPH), Ryley McDowall (IBA) and Chloe Southall (JGI) all assisted with the event.

The day involved supervising small groups of local primary school children around work stations, working alongside police officers, PCSOs and fire crew. eg. at one workstation children had to exit a building safely when the fire alarm went off making sure they had done all the steps the firefighters had taught them beforehand. Personal skills such as teamwork, communication and time management were also put to the test.

Overall our students found it to be an informative and enjoyable experience which has equipped them with useful volunteering experience to refer to in their personal statements and CVs.

### Careers in Medicine

Some of our Y12 students recently attended a 'Career in Medicine' event at the Cumberland Infirmary. The purpose of the event was to broaden participation in medicine and for students to make a more informed career choice. Participants attended fifteen talks and practical workshops over the two days, each focusing on a different speciality of medicine e.g. trauma, cardiology oncology and neurology, and all run by consultants in that field. This highlighted not only the theoretical but also the practical aspects of medicine and students engaged in model simulations of specialist subjects, from neo-natal care to laparoscopic surgery. Here are the students reflections on the event:

"The event highlighted the amount of hard work needed to go through medical school and being a trainee/junior doctor. They also gave great advice concerning applications for Medicine which will be extremely helpful. Overall, it was a worthwhile experience and gave me a great insight into the career which I will be able to talk about during interviews, as well as giving me an idea about which speciality I would like to go into in the future". (Emma Robinson GSB)

"While attending the event it was made apparent just how important team work and communication skills are within a medical environment to ensure the best outcomes for patients. The practical side of the event made the learning both interesting and interactive. Overall the event allowed me to think of things I hadn't thought of before and will allow me to develop my understanding in order to make a more competitive application and to help me to go forward in my intended career path". (Robbie Bell WPH)

"At the Careers In Medicine event I was able to find out more about the different specialties in medicine. We were given talks from different departments, like oncology and neurology. We also had workshops in some of the different areas and I was able to learn about suturing and laparoscopic surgery. It has been a benefit to me as I am now more interested in different specialties such as cardiology, which I didn't know much about before". Chloe Telford (CHE)



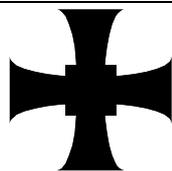
### Spellbinding Award Day

This year's Cumbrian Schools Book Award (Spellbinding) Day took place at Penrith Methodist Church Hall on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June. The day was the culmination of four months of intensive reading by students as they read and reviewed the eight books on the short list. This year the four students to attend and take part in the final voting for the overall winner were: Samuel Ferguson, Amy Shepherd, Beth Farrar and Rebecca Russell. All of our students took an active role and were fantastic ambassadors for Trinity School. They got the chance to meet up with students from other schools around Cumbria for a day of book talk and fun. Master of ceremony for the day was the celebrated

'Manucunian poet' Mike Garry – who entertained us with poetry and comedy. The final vote made *Cell 7* by Kerry Drewery the winner this year, with *The Girl in the Blue Coat* by Monica Hesse and *The Hour of the Bees* by Lindsay Eagar joint runners-up. All of the Spellbinding books are available to borrow from the library.

### Books and Games

The library is always grateful to receive donations of books (good condition, appropriate for secondary age students) and games (eg chess, scrabble, connect 4 etc). If you have any that you no longer need and would like to donate, please drop off at reception. Any help would be most appreciated



## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Tennis County Finals

Year 9 and 10 boys and the Year 8 girls tennis teams have both reached the County Tennis Finals. Well done to James Hale, Stanley Wong, Adam Tiffen, Fraser Barrowclough, Joseph Broadley, Neve Varah, Beth Iveson, Emily Delaney and Izzy Nuttall. Both teams are playing this week in the next round of the competition.

### Tennis Division 2 County Finals

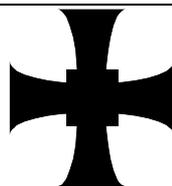
Congratulations to the year 9 & 10 boys tennis team. Our boys beat a strong Caldew team to be the division 2 county tennis champions. It was a tight match going to a play off after both teams were even on points after the singles and doubles matches were completed. Trinity eventually won 10-5 in the play off. Well done to James Hale, Stanley Wong, Adam Tiffen and Fraser Barrowclough.

### Year 9 Trinity Cricket Leaders

A team of Year 9 girls officiated at the Primary Schools Kwick Cricket event on Thursday 15 June at Carlisle Cricket Club.

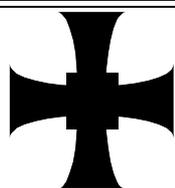
The girls had previously completed their Cricket Activators course and this was a great opportunity to put what they had learnt into action, umpiring and scoring all the games.

Some of the girls were nervous at the start but increased in confidence as the day progressed. Well done to all the girls who took part.



## TERM DATES for 2017

First Day of Term	Last Day of Term	Half Term Week
<b>Summer term 2017</b> Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Good Friday – 14 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> April  Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June  (Early May Bank Holiday – Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May)

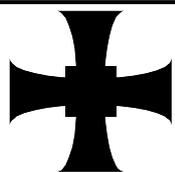


## TERM DATES for 2017- 2018

First Day of Term	Last Day of Term	Half Term Week
<b>Autumn term 2017</b> Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Spring term 2018</b> Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Summer term 2018</b> Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Good Friday – 30 <sup>th</sup> March Easter Sunday – 1 <sup>st</sup> April Easter Monday – 2 <sup>nd</sup> April  Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June  (Early May Bank Holiday – Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May)

### Attendance at school and holidays

If you are thinking of taking your child out of school during term time please complete a Leave of Absence request. The form is available from Reception or on our website.



## CALENDAR DATES

Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Great War Trip Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Year 8 and Year 12 Interim Reports to Parents Sports Day – Year 9 students
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> July to Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> 2017	Year 12 Work Experience Week
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	House Services – during the day Key Stage 3 Diploma Evening in St Cuthbert's Church
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Sports Day – Year 7 and 8 students
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Break up for Summer Holidays
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	A Level exam results day
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	GCSE exam results day
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	School starts
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Graduation Evening for the current Year 11 and 13 students In Carlisle Cathedral

Dates are subject to change.