



NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS and CARERS **May 2017**

Dear parents and carers

The first week of the exam season begins, as we write, for Years 11, 12 and 13. Staff are delivering a full programme of pre-exam briefings, revision sessions and masterclasses to help make sure that students are as fully prepared as possible. As you will recall we have the first of the reformed GCSEs in Maths and English this year, and a number of new style A Level courses being examined for the first time. We have been impressed by the approach of our students in preparing for their exams and we wish them all the very best for the weeks ahead.

In our final week of assemblies prior to the exams we talked to students about the importance of thinking wisely in the approach they take both to their studies and to their wider development. We used the opportunity to celebrate the very many examples of Trinity students who do think wisely about all that they do. We showed photographs of students achieving high standards in their work in school, for example the Y10 Food group who explored molecular gastronomy and produced food worthy of the Master Chef finals for a restaurant evening with invited guests. The number of Achievement points students have received to date this year was shared with students: 20,536 award points, for example, have been given to students for an outstanding contribution in lessons. This shows clearly how so many of our students have grasped the importance of a strong work ethic if they are to do as well as they possibly can.

In our assemblies we also shared many examples of students thinking wisely about their wider personal development, in taking on responsibility both themselves and for other people, and in grasping wholeheartedly the many opportunities there are here at Trinity. We showed photographs of the Y10 Archbishop of York Award groups who collected Easter eggs to donate to the local food bank and shared the brilliant news that we have been awarded Champion School status by the National Citizenship Service as an acknowledgement of the high number of students from our older year groups who are involved in this scheme which focuses on volunteering to serve others. There are so many more examples we could give and we remain incredibly proud of our students for all they do.

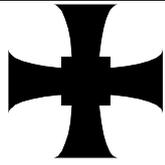
It is such a privilege to work with our students and this was brought home to us again in the interviews we held last week for new House Captains. It was fantastic to hear the Y10 students who applied talk about how keen they are to take on this responsibility, to represent the school and its values. They are all excellent role models for the high standards, sense of responsibility and approach to opportunities that we strive for. It was very difficult to choose between them but we certainly have another excellent team of student leaders in place for the next year.

The summer term is always a busy one and we look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events such as the Key Stage 3 Awards evening where we will be celebrating the achievements of those Y9 students who have gained the highest number of points in the Key Stage 3 Diploma.

Finally, many thanks to those of you who completed the perception survey last week. We hope to give you feedback from that in our next newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Sheila Johnston and Derek Kay
Co-Headteachers



CHAPLAINCY

This half term we've focused on three main topics in form time: friendship, thinking wisely, and freedom. Through friendship we considered the importance of connections between different age groups; the work of Silver Line, an organisation which provides a listening ear for the elderly, and the important role that grandparents play in the lives of students. We recognised the strength of friendships in sport and watched a clip of the help runners gave each other at the end of the London Marathon. We thought too about unlikely friendships, and looked at the work an Israeli hospital is doing to treat injured Syrians (their traditional enemies). Amnesty International, providing friendship and support to those isolated and imprisoned for expressing their views, was also considered.

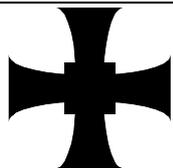
Through our second topic (thinking wisely), we looked at the campaign to increase understanding of mental health, headed up by Princes William and Harry along with Kate, Duchess of Cambridge. We thought about the ways we can be good friends to ourselves by acknowledging our feelings and seeking help with anguish or stress. Time was also spent looking at top tips for beating exam stress, strategies for effective study, and ways to promote confidence. All this seems like wise thinking given that we are now in the exam period!

Freedom, our last topic as we head towards half term, will be examined through the lens of the freedom to choose wisely, to adopt helpful attitudes, to be aware of the impact of our own behaviour on others. We'll be considering this against the background of working towards exams, as well as the impending general election, and of news items connected to freedom, such as the recent release of some of the Nigerian schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram a couple of years ago.

Wisdom is an element of character which church schools try to build and encourage in their students, and it's linked to understanding and emotional freedom. Building understanding between church and school is an important aspect of life at Trinity. Recently, I've been building small bridges by going into year 10 classes to talk about communion in church services, a ritual which is itself strongly linked to community and building identity!

Wishing you all a good half term.

Caroline Kennedy, School Chaplain



INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

Instrumental Fees 2016/17

A reminder to parents/carers who are not paying by monthly standing order payments: the third instalment is due to reach us by 30.06.17, this is the final payment for 2016/17 and will be required to be paid promptly. If payments are not up to date unfortunately students may not be allowed to continue with lessons. Payment can be made by standing order, 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".

Should a student wish to stop taking lessons we will require 4 weeks paid notice in writing.

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.

Payment for School Meals

Please ensure you give your children the correct change for topping up their school meal a/c's at the re-valuers 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.

New £5 Pound Notes and £1 coin

Update: the re-valuers do now accept both the new plastic notes and the new £1 coin.

Cheque Payments: Just a reminder that if you are sending a cheque payment into school you should write clearly on the back the student's 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

School Funding

A group of parents in Carlisle have arranged a rally in protest against the reduction in real terms funding for schools, similar to the one which took place in Penrith recently. For any parents who would like to attend this will take place in Carlisle City Centre on 21st May at 2pm.

Attend Today – Achieve Tomorrow

Recent Government research looked into the link between good attendance at school and the progress students make. Amongst other findings was 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% (the equivalent of missing less than a school day per week.) We take attendance seriously because we take the progress our students make seriously too and so your support in maximising your child's attendance and progress is greatly valued.

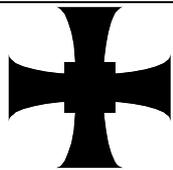
Mr Watchman

Chelsea's Choice

On Friday 19th May we have a production of Chelsea's Choice coming into school for all of our Year 9 students. This is a very powerful drama about the physical and emotional dangers of Child Sexual Exploitation and follows the story of a young girl as she is carefully groomed and drawn into an abusive relationship which very quickly spirals out of her control. This production was first shown here two years ago with our current Year 10 students and helps raise awareness of the issues and dangers of sexual exploitation, giving students some knowledge and understanding of how to protect themselves from this form of abuse.

This production follows on from the assemblies we had last week on the dangers of Sexting. These assemblies were led by PC Dave Mattinson and helped inform our students of the legal responsibilities surrounding taking and sharing inappropriate images as well as the significant emotional costs that are involved. In this age of mobile phones and social media and the speed and ease with which information can be shared globally, it is vital that we educate our students of the many dangers involved and how to be safe online.

Mrs Armstrong, Head of Everest House



RECENT EVENTS

Ski Trip – Carlisle Dry Slope

For eight weeks during March and April we had two groups of skiers and snowboarders taking part in beginner lessons every Thursday after school at the Carlisle Dry Ski Slope on Stanwix Bank. This is in preparation for the ski trip next Easter, 2018. The instructors were impressed at the dedication and enthusiasm of the students, with an invitation to have them back when the season starts again in the Autumn. Both groups had never had skis or snowboards on before, so after a few tumbles and upside down moments, both groups had cracked standing up for more than a few minutes and were starting to look quite good. Roll on the next season!

Miss Graham

Dramatic Success

Hannah Button 11NFO has gained a place in the prestigious National Youth Theatre. She had to go through a rigorous audition process consisting of a workshop, the performance of an audition piece and an interview in order to achieve this. Hannah has appeared in many school productions, most notably starring as Mrs Lovett in last year's production of 'Sweeney Todd'. She has her heart set on an acting career, and the National Youth Theatre is where many famous names started out – Matt

Smith, Daniel Craig, Catherine Tait and Helen Mirren, to name but a few. Congratulations to Hannah on gaining this honour.

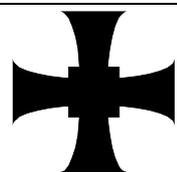
Ms Southwell, Head of Drama

Year 7 Parents' Evening

The above Parents' Evening took place on Tuesday 25 April. Parents had the opportunity to speak to subject teachers regarding their child's progress and work. Thank you to all the parents who attended.

Year 8 Parents' Evening

Year 8 Parents attended the above on Monday 8 May. Parents met with subject teachers and discussed their child's progress and work. Thank you to all the parents who attended and for their valuable feedback.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Fundraising

Well done to Jessica Elliott (BMO) who organised a cake sale in April in aid of a family charity, LORUS, at which a total of £65.67 was raised.

A quiz evening was held just before the Easter holiday with proceeds raised for the Y13 Leavers' Ball. Quiz master Sam Ling (MAS) set questions to teams of staff and students who very keenly contested rounds including famous faces, history, film and music. Congratulations to the winning team of Connor Fraser, Esme Edwards, Simon Shephard, Ollie Gibbon and Nathan McStay.

Futures Ready

Before Easter all our Y12 students spent a useful day at Northumbria University's City Campus East where they were given information to help them make informed choices over the coming months. The morning was spent learning about the university's NU Entry scheme, the factors to consider when choosing a course and university and also how higher education differs from sixth form. A session about personal statement writing entitled 'I'm the one that you want' was illustrated with good and bad examples of personal statement writing and commonly overused phrases to avoid – some of which had been included in almost one thousand Northumbria University applications! Students were encouraged to begin considering how they can use their skills, interests and work experience to create an impressive personal statement later this year.

After lunch, students attended a subject taster in either architecture, business, English, law, healthcare or sport. Students in the architecture taster learned about course requirements, the increasing complexity of the department's design projects and how current students are actively involved in the design of local buildings. All students had the opportunity of a campus tour where they could view some of the halls of residence, the library, Student Union building and the Sport Central facility. An informative day was had by all with the added bonus of seeing some familiar faces around campus from Trinity's class of 2016!

2017/18 Sixth Form Student Leadership Team

The 2017/18 Sixth Form Student Leadership Team has now been appointed following the recent applications process. Our Head Boy and Head Girl will be Ben Cunnah and Maisie Walkingshaw with the deputy positions filled by Jamie Norris and Nell Attwood. Next year our Senior Ambassadors will be given specific areas of responsibility: Abbie Taylor and Imogen Dodd (Year 13 Leavers' Ball), Emma Ostridge and Meg Burns (Charities), Grace Tyson (Eco), Emma Little (Sport – The Winter Cup), Kyra Walton (Sport – Development of after-school/inter-form sporting activities), Emily Tait (Mentoring), and Urszula Budzynska (Student Council). In addition the following students made successful applications for Ambassador positions: Jasmine Heaton, Heidi Smith, Robbie Bell, Nigel Lung, Natalie Latta, Lucy Millar, Chloe Telford, Laura Best and Holly Currie. Well done to all the students concerned.

Cumbria Youth Commission

Sue Davies from the Cumbria Youth Commission visited Sixth Form before Easter to introduce the Cumbria Youth Commission - a three year project instigated by the current Police and Crime Commissioner which aims to give young people the opportunity to voice their opinions about the county's police force. Fifty students are currently part of the project and our Sixth Formers were also encouraged get involved, particularly if they are thinking of studying law, criminology or policing at university. A number of our students took the opportunity to register their interest at a lunchtime drop-in session which Sue held the following day.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold walking expedition

Our Duke of Edinburgh's Gold walking groups have successfully completed their training. Hopefully the experience will help them when they embark on their big adventure – their qualifying expedition! It will take place in the penultimate week of term and we have high hopes of both teams completing their challenge!

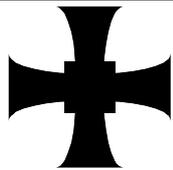


Year 8 Students become book editors for author Tom Palmer

Bestselling author Tom Palmer visited Trinity on Tuesday 2nd May to work with students on a draft manuscript for his latest book. Tom has been Trinity Library's reading patron for the year and during his last workshop visit he very kindly suggested that some students get involved in the story writing process. The first draft of his latest story is set to be based in Cumbria and features a tale about fell running and World War 1. Students from Mrs Thomas' English group got the opportunity to read the book draft over the Easter break and to prepare some criticism. They had the chance to discuss their ideas with Tom – including what worked in the storyline, how believable the characters were as well as some constructive criticism about how to make the story appeal more to teenagers.

Huge thanks to Tom for taking time out to visit us again and to Mrs Thomas' group who worked so hard during the session.

Mrs Barry, Senior Librarian



SPORTS ROUNDUP

Cricket

Our cricket teams have had a successful start to the season with both the under 14 and under 13 teams beating Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Penrith. Patrick Muldoon, Charlie Hutchinson and Jacob McAlindon played particularly well.

Holland Hockey Tour

Over Easter our Year 8, 9 and 10 hockey teams travelled to Holland to take part in a two day tournament. Each morning the girls received coaching from top British players. Our Year 8 team played four games each afternoon and finished in 4th place. Our U15 B team finished in 4th position and the A team were runners up. In the first round of matches our U15A girls were undefeated. They beat four other British schools convincingly and drew with the Dutch home side, Dendron 2-2. They met Dendron again in the final; the girls played with great spirit and showed their skill but lost 3-1.

All of our girls were a credit to the school and we received a special trophy for "The Best Team on Tour" for their involvement and enthusiasm. Thank you girls for a brilliant week! Special thanks to the teachers who made the trip possible – Miss Atkinson, Miss Simpson, Miss Ashton, Mrs Wylie and Miss Hunter.

Year 8

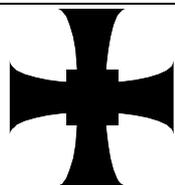
Neve Varah	Dorina Horvath	Millie Butcher	Emma Harding	Chloe Hurst
Summer Marshall	Ellie Irving	Emily Clark	Sophie Richardson	Anya Bartlett
Rebecca Russell	Sophie Milburn	Virginia Walker-Clark		

Year 9

Jess Wharton	Jess Evans	Frankie Sewell	Amy Queen	Lucy Cook
Poppy Wilson	Daisy Wilson	Lucy Eagling	India Reynolds	Jess Hetherington
Jodie McConnell	Elise Todd	Emily Fitton	Emily Monkhouse	

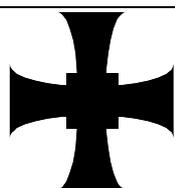
Year 10

Hannah Wharton	Esther Attwood	Abbie Eagling	Ellie Barbour	Georgina Slater
Miriam Tait	Ellie Garbutt	Nadia Perez Bar	Erin Harkins	



TERM DATES for 2017

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

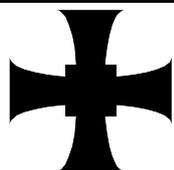


TERM DATES for 2017- 2018

First Day of Term	Last Day of Term	Half Term Week
Autumn term 2017 Monday 4 th September	Friday 15 th December	Monday 23 rd October – Friday 27 th October
Spring term 2018 Thursday 4 th January	Thursday 29 th March	Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February
Summer term 2018 Monday 16 th April	Friday 20 th July	Good Friday – 30 th March Easter Sunday – 1 st April Easter Monday – 2 nd April Monday 28 th May – Friday 1 st June (Early May Bank Holiday – Monday 7 th 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 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June 2017	Half Term
Monday 5 th June 2017	Year 7 Exam Week GCSE and A2 Exams continue
Wednesday 7 th June 2017	Theatre Trip - Newcastle
Thursday 8 th June 2017	Year 9 Interims to parents
Monday 12 th June 2017	Year 12 Mock Exams
Saturday 17 th and Sunday 18 th June 2017	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award - Qualifying Expedition A
Monday 19 th June – Friday 30 th June 2017	Year 10 Exam weeks
Tuesday 20 th and Wednesday 21 st June 2017	Year 12 Geography Field Trip
Saturday 24 th and Sunday 25 th June 2017	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award - Qualifying Expedition B
Monday 26 th June 2017	GCSE exams end
Tuesday 27 th June 2017	Year 11 Leavers' Day Art Exhibition
Thursday 29 th June 2017	A Level exams end
Friday 30 th June 2017	Year 11 Prom Year 13 Leavers' Day
Monday 3 rd July 2017	New Intake Day – Year 6 students New Intake Parents' Evening
Monday 3 rd July to Friday 7 th July 2017	Year 10 Work Experience Week Year 8 Archbishop of York community action week
Thursday 6 th July 2017	Year 7 Reports to Parents
Thursday 6 th July and Friday 7 th July 2017	Sixth Form Induction
Friday 7 th July 2017	Year 13 Leavers' Ball
Monday 10 th to Friday 14 th July 2017	Great War Trip Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition
Thursday 13 th July 2017	Year 8 and Year 12 Interim Reports to Parents
Monday 17 th July to Thursday 20 th 2017	Year 12 Work Experience Week House Services
Monday 17 th July 2017	Key Stage 3 Diploma Evening
Tuesday 18 th July 2017	Sports Day
Thursday 20 th July 2017	Break up for Summer Holidays
Thursday 17 th August 2017	A Level exam results day
Thursday 24 th August 2017	GCSE exam results day
Monday 4 th September 2017	School starts
Thursday 7 th September 2017	Graduation Evening for the current Year 11 and 13 students

Dates are subject to change.