



## ***NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS and CARERS*** ***February 2018***

Dear parents and carers,

As we near the end of this very short half term it is good to see the days beginning to lengthen again and to feel that Spring is not too far away! It is also good to see that our new Sports Hall is near to completion. You won't see it from Strand Road as it is hidden away behind the Leisure Centre but there is not too much more to be done and students will be able to use it, all being well, on their return from the Easter break.

This is the time of year when school performance tables are released. As we have written previously this is a time of great change in the educational world and it is impossible to compare this year's results with previous years due to new progress measures as well as new examinations in English and Maths. As we wrote in the autumn term, we continue to perform in line with or above national averages on most measures but our curriculum for last year's Y11 was not set up to score highly on the new Progress 8 measure. To succeed on this measure schools need to have a curriculum where all students are guided into specific subject groups. At Trinity in the options process for this year group we allowed students to make a relatively free choice of options to suit their interests and abilities. Given the way the Progress 8 measure is calculated this has placed us at some considerable disadvantage on this measure. In line with other schools nationally we have reviewed our curriculum at Key Stage 4 and the impact of this will be seen in year groups moving forward.

We are also proud of the fact that we are a very inclusive school and have twice the national average of students with Education Health Care Plans. As many parents will know our Learning Support team cater very effectively for students with highly complex needs and they do very well here. They do not, however, follow a curriculum that counts towards the Progress 8 measure and this also has an impact upon our score. It is worth remembering that this is a whole school measure based on particular subjects studied; for our students it is the grades they achieve in the subjects chosen that matter most.

We have a significant year ahead at Trinity in that September marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of Trinity School, formed from three predecessor schools: Carlisle Grammar School, Creighton and Margaret Sewell schools. We are planning to mark the event in a number of ways and to start this off we will be publicising a request for stories, memories and photographs from past students and staff. We want to create a timeline of memories recording school life over the past five decades at Trinity. There will be a service of thanksgiving and celebration at Carlisle Cathedral on 4th October as well as events and activities in school. Mr McArdle, one of our Assistant Headteachers, is leading our work on this and will send out further information in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Sheila Johnston and Derek Kay  
Co-Headteachers



## CHAPLAINCY

Christmas now seems far behind and school life continues to be busy and varied. I hope the start of this year has gone well for all of you and provided opportunities to look forward with hope.

This half term we have been focussing on three main themes in form time and assemblies: New Starts, Confidence and Young Leaders. At the beginning of January students were asked to think about their hopes and dreams for this year, and to reflect on events of last year; in their own lives and nationally. We referred (as always during Epiphany), to the story of the Wise Men travelling to Bethlehem to find and pay their respects to a new baby. Students were asked to apply this to themselves in terms of thinking about the challenges they face in their own journeys, and the things which count as epiphanies or life changing moments for them.

We then moved on to Confidence. In the TFTD video, verse 7 in 2 Timothy 1: "For the spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline..." provided the backdrop for thinking about moving into confidence and practising new things. We looked at the story of Nadia Nadim, the Manchester City football player who left Afghanistan as a refugee and began playing football in the West. Her experiences and her desire to give something back to society by training as a medic were highlighted. Bear Grylls' time in a coastal location with Anthony Joshua the boxer also featured as we looked at another aspect of building confidence: facing fears. As students watched these videos, they were asked to focus on the questions: In what do you put your confidence? Where do you get your spirit? What are the fears you face?

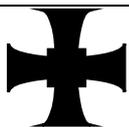
As half term gets closer we are thinking about the qualities needed to be a leader and focussing on the stories of young leaders in the UK and the world. The writing of Timothy, one of the contributors to the New Testament, is being used again as a reference point and a springboard for this topic. Verse 4 from 1 Timothy is featured on the video and in additional resources, and students are being asked to consider the following words:

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love and in purity."

The Queen's Young Leaders scheme is being referred to, as well as the Archbishop of York awards which run in school. Barack Obama's belief in and encouragement of, young people's ability to shape and influence the world today forms part of the two videos on this topic, as does the story of a young and now widely respected engineer from Sierra Leone who has drawn on a context of sporadic energy supplies and few resources to enhance his creativity. He now talks about changing the narrative of Africa, and through this topic we are encouraging our students to think about what they would like to change in their immediate environment and the world. The process of becoming aware of gifts and abilities, and maximising them to use for good, is something we seek to encourage and is part of the character development that is so important in a Church School.

After half term we will be considering some challenging topics like forgiveness and respect, incorporating the experiences of students and those in the wider national community into materials and assemblies.

**Caroline Kennedy, School Chaplain**



## INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

### **Procedures for School Closure**

At this time of year there is a possibility that school may have to close due to bad weather. It is always a very last resort and only occurs if the site is judged to be unsafe. The following information outlines the procedures we will follow:

### **Closure before the start of the School Day**

Once a decision to close school has been taken a message will be communicated in the following ways:

- A message will be broadcast on local radio both CFM and Radio Cumbria

- The school website will give closure details and will be updated as the day progresses
- A message will be sent to parents and carers, via School Comms by text. ***Please ensure we have your up to date contact details.***
- ***On occasions the closure may not affect all year groups. This will be stated in all messages but please check the website if you are unclear.***

#### **Gradual Closure during the School Day**

There may be occasions where the decision to close has to be made during the school day. In these circumstances the following will apply:

- **Students reliant on school transport** – the school will be guided by advice from the school transport provider regarding any deterioration in weather conditions. Students affected will be advised and collected by the provider at an agreed earlier time. Parents and Carers will be contacted.

If full school closure is decided upon students will be released as follows:

- **Sixth Form, Years 10 and 11** will be released from school and be allowed to make their own way home as long as parents and carers have signed and returned the advance consent form. Parents and carers can request that they should remain in school until collected; students with nil returns will also remain in school.
- **Years 7, 8 and 9** will only be released early if permission has been established on the day with the parent or carer. If no permission is granted students will remain in school until collected by parents.

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

A reminder to parents/carers who are not paying by monthly standing order payments: the first instalment was due reach us by 31.12.17 - if this is still outstanding please make payment as soon as possible. The second instalment will be due 31.03.18. 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.**

The new re-valuer machines unfortunately do not take Scottish notes so please make sure your child has acceptable money to use in them. 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**

#### **Exam Certificates**

Exam certificates for GCSE, AS and A2 level examinations taken in summer 2017 are now available for collection from the Sixth Form Office during school hours.

#### **Uniform matters**

As we approach Spring time and its typically warmer weather, small numbers of students are known to exercise variable compliance with communicated school uniform guidance. Please remember that we will continue to work hard to retain high standards in this regard, and for the duration of the School year. Thank you for your ongoing support with such matters. Uniform guidelines can be found on our website.

Please also note that the current trend of nose piercings is a breach of guidelines and students who report to school wearing such items will be asked to remove them. Please be mindful of this and consider reserving any planned procedures for the Summer holidays, which of course represent an appropriate timescale for the healing process.

### Messages to Students

Parents/carers will appreciate that in a large school where students use rooms in every part of the site for different lessons, it is not easy for us to pass on messages from parents/carers to students during school hours. Our office staff are always helpful but please try to avoid asking us to locate your child to pass on messages or money. It is not our policy to remove students from lessons to receive messages. Really urgent matters, naturally, are dealt with as emergencies.

### Level 2 Craft Course – Bird Boxes

As part of their Level 2 Craft course, a number of current Year 10 students have been making bird boxes to RSPB design in rough-sawn, pre-treated (Tanalised) timber. The hand-made bird boxes are perfect for small garden birds such as Blue Tits, Great Tits and Coal Tits (also House Sparrows).

To achieve and hopefully pass an element of 'enterprise' the students are looking to sell these for around £10 and have produced their own marketing material such as posters and flyers.

Anyone wishing to purchase a student made bird box should contact Mr Taylor in the Technology Dept.

### Year 11 Prom – Friday 29 June 2018

Information about the Prom was sent out via Schoolcomms last week. A copy of the letter can be found on the school website.

### Year 11 Revision using GCSEPod

Year 11 students have recently been given the opportunity to use GCSEPod, a new online revision platform that allows students to access exam specific videos focussing on the key facts needed for revision, independent learning and homework. So far we have had over 3000 videos streamed by Year 11 students, and the best thing is that it can be used on most electronic devices, and the videos can be downloaded to allow for revision wherever you are!

The link to GCSEPod can be found on the school website, with details on how to login below:

#### HOW TO LOGIN:

- 1) Go to [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) and click LOGIN
- 2) Click NEW HERE? GET STARTED!
- 3) Enter your name, date of birth and the name of your school
- 4) Create a username and password



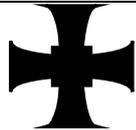
Mrs Leech, Assistant Head – Raising Standards

### School Attendance and the Law

**Section 7 of the Education Act 1996** places a duty on parents and carers to ensure that their child of compulsory school age receives a suitable education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

We have a duty as a school to refer to the Local Authority any students who are absent from school on a regular basis or who have missed ten school days or more without the school's permission. The Local Authority review these referrals and can instigate legal action; this can include fines and court proceedings leading to, in the most extreme cases, imprisonment.

Increasing pressure is being placed on all schools to follow these regulations robustly and we are no exception to this. As the parent or carer of a child at Trinity School you will have heard a lot about attendance from us in recent months and while we will continue to do our best to maximise the attendance of all children at the school with our own internal activity, we will equally fully support the Local Authority in using legal procedures as appropriate.



## **RECENT EVENTS**

### **Y11 Mock Interviews**

All Year 11 students took part in a mock interview session just before the end of the Autumn term. This is one of many workshops held at Trinity School as part of its delivery of the Careers Programme and involves pupils experiencing 'mock interviews' with a variety of employers from across Cumbria. We are grateful that over 40 employers gave up their time and expertise to support our day.

For many students this was the first opportunity to experience a real-life interview situation and it was a great opportunity for them to impress potential employers. The students were able to receive advice so they could start thinking about how to collate evidence about achievement and experience they may need later. What makes one candidate more successful than another often hinges on interviewing techniques that can be learned –and the earlier the better! Especially in today's job market, interviews are a vital step toward acquiring a job or gaining a place in 6<sup>th</sup> Form.

All of the students received feedback on their interview and advice and guidance to support future applications. One local employer told us: "I can honestly say, I have never had a more successful mock interview morning. Your students were some of the best I have ever interviewed and were a credit to your school. They were engaged, well presented and spoken, eager to take feedback and mature in their approach."

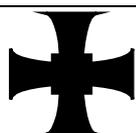
### **Year 11 Information Evening**

On Monday 8 January we welcomed parents and students to school for our Year 11 Information Evening. Parents and students were given talks by senior staff, Mrs Ewing, Careers Advisor, the Sixth Form team and the Curriculum Leaders for Maths, English and Science regarding the Supporting Success programme and how to support students with their revision at home and focusing on revision and study skills for the forthcoming GCSE exams. We also held a drop-in session using an interactive revision resource – 'gcsepod'. Feedback from schools that use this is extremely positive and students enjoy using this to revise and it has now been added to the school website for students to use. Overall it felt like a very positive evening and we hope that parents found it useful. All information from the evening has been added to the website.

**Please note a repeat session of this, for those who could not attend, will be held on Thursday 22 February.**

### **Year 10 Parents' Evening**

The above Parents' Evening took place on Wednesday 10 January. Parents met with subject teachers and discussed their child's progress and work. Thank you to all parents who attended and for their valuable feedback.



## **SIXTH FORM NEWS**

### **Sixth Form Open Evening**

On Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> January our Carloliol Building buzzed with activity as our own Y11 students, plus many students external to Trinity, came with their parents and carers to see what Trinity's Sixth Form has to offer. They attended an introductory talk with the Co-Headteachers and Mr Winter, who leads our Sixth Form; they also heard from Head Girl, Maisie Walkingshaw and Head boy, Ben Cunnah who talked of the opportunities Sixth Form had given them and the support they had received.

Students then had a chance to explore the facilities in the Carloliol building with its dedicated Sixth Form Bistro and extensive library and study area. Staff from each subject area were on hand to talk to students and their parents as were many of our current Sixth Formers who came along to give their perspective on the courses they are studying. In the Bistro staff from eleven universities were on hand to answer questions about their courses, and the best subjects to study at A level to gain entry to them. If you didn't make it to the evening, please do contact our Sixth Form office who will be happy to arrange a visit for you.

### **Dream Placement**

For a further year, several of our Sixth Form students have successfully passed the Centre for Leadership Performance's Dream Placement selection event. All the students did incredibly well to

get to this stage and will gain some valuable experience for the future. The eight students who have been offered placements are: Year 12s Olivia Benson (Bendalls Engineering), Chloe Chambers (NHS), Daniel Dalton (Story Homes), Jasmine Metherell (NHS), Sophie Simpson (CN Group), Theo Tindall (NHS) and from Year 13, Noah Smith (Direct Rail Services) and Bruckman Elliott (Story Contracting).

All students were invited to a Development Day on Saturday 27 January where they worked with their Host Company to prepare for the placement week which will take place during the February half-term holiday. We wish all students well with their placements and look forward to hearing how they get on.

### **Jen Marris' assembly**

Jen Marris from Shades held an assembly recently to inform our Year 13 students of issues surrounding sexual health, alcohol and drugs.

The theme of the assembly was staying safe, with the intention of helping to inform students' own decisions. Jen presented statistics surrounding drug and alcohol misuse in a clear and effective way and students were impressed with the way she delivered her message:

"Jen Marris' assembly gave us useful information on drug and alcohol safety, whilst being non-judgmental, and set at the right tone for its audience. Jen communicated well with the sixth formers, using appropriate language whilst getting the information across. My fellow students really engaged with the material as Jen wasn't being critical and negative about our lifestyle choices, but rather wanted to teach us how to be safe and how to look after ourselves". (Imogen Dodd - SMC)

### **Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award**

On Saturday 20 January students had a very successful day out at Caldbeck on their first practice walk. The students familiarised themselves with their tents, made a hot drink with the stoves they will use on their expedition and also did some map work. The afternoon saw them hiking through the snow in very pleasant sunny weather conditions, using newly learned navigation skills. Route planning will commence ahead of the half term holiday and we hope their next practice walk will be equally successful.



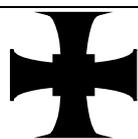
### **World Book Day 2018**

WBD this year is on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March. We will be giving out £1 vouchers to students during this week. Students can use these vouchers in local bookshops to get £1 off a book including any of the 5 specially published WBD young adult books or purchase one of the £1 WBD books. One of the main themes this year is talking about books we have enjoyed and it would be great if you could spend just a few moments with your child talking about any great books you have read and maybe encouraging them to talk a bit about the ones they have enjoyed. You may even like to tweet or Instagram your favourite book/s with the #ShareaStory hashtag. You can view the 2018 WBD video 'Bookclubbing' during WBD week – designed to share the love of books! Go to [www.Worldbookday.com/bookclubbing](http://www.Worldbookday.com/bookclubbing)

### **The Wicked Young Writer Competition 2018**

Now in its 8th year, the Wicked Young Writer Awards is a chance for young people aged between 5 and 25, to write about absolutely anything! In the fiction categories, any creative writing will be accepted. So students can write a story, play, or poem.

If students prefer to write non-fiction, they may like to enter the Wicked: For Good Award for Non-Fiction and write an article, essay, biography, review or letter, to name a few! There are some brilliant prizes including 4 tickets to see Wicked in the West End of London, meeting the cast and books to win. Further details can be found at [www.wickedyoungwriterawards.com/](http://www.wickedyoungwriterawards.com/)



## **SPORTS ROUNDUP**

### **Rugby**

Nelson Thomlinson A 50-50 Trinity A

Attack outdid defence in a thrilling encounter at Nelson Thomlinson. NTS dominated the first half with Trinity failing to keep their shape in defence. Trinity's second half performance was much better, displaying some excellent passing and offloading skills. Special mentions must go to James Bell who finished a couple of try's in the corner superbly and man of the match Ethan Dawson who carried ball down the middle well all game, scoring a hatrick in the process.

Nelson Thomlinson B 35-15 Trinity B

An inexperienced Year 7 Trinity B team worked endlessly but couldn't restrict the strength and speed of a much more experienced Nelson Thomlinson team. NTS were organised in defence and attacked in numbers by catching the Trinity back line cold several times in defence. Trinity did score three tries and started to gain confidence throughout the second half but couldn't stop several flowing NTS attacks.

The experience of playing competitive rugby against strong opposition will hopefully inspire the group to continue to improve. Battling performances from Callum Taylor, Leon Fowler and two tries from Joe Ewbank were a particular highlight on a cold February afternoon.

**Gymnastics Milano North Region Trio Competition**

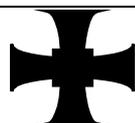
Trinity entered three teams in this event in which the gymnasts have to perform an individual floor routine, a vault and a group floor routine. All nine of our gymnasts performed exceptionally well. A special mention must go to Year 7 student Hayley Head who stepped in as a replacement for the injured Emily Fitton with only six days to go!

The Under 16 Girls, Anya Neile, Anya Bartlett and Hayley Head, came first, as did the Under 16 Boys, Bert Wilson, Jake Squires and Samuel Graham. The Under 13 Girls, Sadie Kelly, Nicole Latour and Abby Martin, came second. All three teams have qualified to represent the North region in the National Finals, which are held in Stoke in March. Many congratulations to them all!

**Cumbria Schools Gymnastics Competition**

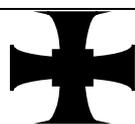
Congratulations to all 7 of our gymnasts who took part in the County competition last weekend. Our Under 19 girls were up against a very competitive field and produced some outstanding performances to finish 1st as a team (Anya Bartlett, Anya Neile, Nicole Latour and Abby Martin). In the U19 individual section of the competition, Anya Neil received the silver medal and Nicole Latour the gold which means she is County Champion!

In the Under 14 boys' competition, Samuel Graham finished in bronze position. Bert Wilson and Jake Squires could not be separated, finishing joint first - County Champions.



***TERM DATES for 2017- 2018***

First Day of Term	Last Day of Term	Half Term Week
<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)



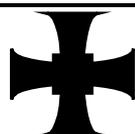
***TERM DATES for 2018- 2019***

First Day of Term	Last Day of Term	Half Term Week
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<b>Autumn Term 2018</b> Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October – Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Spring term 2019</b> Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February
<b>Summer term 2019</b> Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Good Friday – 19 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday – 21 <sup>st</sup> April Easter Monday – 22 <sup>nd</sup> April  Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May  (Early May Bank Holiday – Monday 6 <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

Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2018	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Training Day
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Year 10, Interim 2 Home to Parents Year 9 Options Day Year 9 Parents' Evening
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Break up for Half Term
<b>HALF TERM</b>	
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Second Half Term of Spring Term
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2018	Victorian Literature, parent and student conference
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2018	Year 13, Interim 3 Home to Parents Year 11 Information Evening (repeated session)
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March and Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	World Challenge Training Weekend
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Year 11 Mock exams
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> March – Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Carlisle Music Festival
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Year 7, Interim 2 Home to Parents Year 8, Reports to Parents
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Spring Concert
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March and Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2018	Theatre Production - DNA
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Sixth Form online voting for Sixth Form Leaders
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> March – Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Year 8 Assessment week

Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Year 11 Interim 2, Home to Parents Spring Term ends
	SPRING BREAK (EASTER)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Summer term commences

**Dates are subject to change.**