

October Half-Term Update



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL MICHAEL FITZSIMONS



Year 12 have made a great start to their time at Trinity Sixth Form. The transition to sixth form college from school is a big one, arguably the most difficult transition in education. Students must deal with ever increasing subject knowledge, more nuanced exam requirements and all at a time where students are transitioning into adulthood, and all the responsibilities that come with that. We promote having a 'Need to Achieve' mindset (we abbreviate it to 'having the Nach') at college and I can give several examples that exemplify the year groups attitude towards their studies:

Their attendance is above 95%, which is what we continually ask for. They have the highest attendance in the entire Trinity MAT. 50% of students in Year 12 are yet to have a day off, despite all the bugs and illnesses floating about. That is mental toughness in action.

Their independent study completion rate is very high; the highest we have ever seen at the college. They have adapted to additional demands of sixth form study and in particular, independent study, well. This is a key contributor to success at sixth form and one of the biggest changes from GCSE study.

Starting well is important but how a person finishes (a week, a term, a task, a job) says more about their character. Will illness rife and the end of the term in site, it is common in society for people to start to lower their personal standards. The path of least resistance becomes more attractive, and standards can dip. 'Life ready' was never defined by mediocrity or 'the average.' Life ready at TSFA means being ready to flourish and these micro doses of challenge (like finishing a term well for example, despite having a cold) are opportunities to really invest into our own mental toughness banks. I once asked a sixteen stone ex professional rugby league player how he managed to preserve so well with an endurance cycling event (a polite way of asking, how does someone as heavy as you, manage to keep up with the whippets here) and he simply replied, 'because I know I have done things that are harder than this.'

Year 13 have just sat their first Progress Check (PC1) and parents will soon receive a report showing your son or daughter's progress. The measure of success is whether students have hit their target grades and if not, how far away from their target grades they are. Target grades are based on a student's GCSE score, and they have an aspirational element to them. If a student hits their target at TSFA, they are doing very well – it is an achievement well worth celebrating. To exceed a target is exceptional and means that students are performing better than their peers nationally by a considerable margin. The fall short of a target is a concern, but what matters is that students know where they can improve. I would encourage you to have these conversations with your sons and daughters. 'Revise more' as a response does not cut the mustard either! It needs to be something specific about content, exam application or revision technique. I will leave you with a quote from Helen Keller, who became the first deaf and blind person in the United States to earn a college degree:

"A happy life consists not in the absence, but in the mastery of hardships."

Enjoy your half terms everyone.

DATES FOR THE DIARY & UPCOMING TRIPS

Key Dates:

- Return from October Half Term** - Tuesday 7 November
- Aspirations Conference & Celebration Event at TSFA** - Tuesday 14 November
- Open Evening at TSFA** - Thursday 16 November
- SEND Parent Evening** - Tuesday 5 December
- SEND Parent Evening** - Wednesday 6 December
- UCAS - Parent Next Step Online Event** - Wednesday 6 December
- Y12 & Y13 House Football & Netball Competitions** - Monday 18 December
- Break-up for Christmas & New Year** - Friday 22 December
- Upcoming Trips:**
 - Trip to Rome** - Wednesday 8 November to Saturday 11 November
 - Trip to Leeds University (Y13 Health & Social Care students)** - Thursday 30 November
 - Trip to Hull University (Y13 students)** - Tuesday 12 December

Polite Notice....ongoing request

In an effort to co-operate with the local community and council, we would kindly ask that parents refrain from using the disabled parking layby as a pick up/drop off point as it does prevent disabled drivers utilising the spaces. We would also like to remind parent/carers to avoid pulling up on to the pavement outside the college due to the safety hazard this creates.

Thank you for your continued support.

TRINITY SCHOLARS

Our Year 13 Trinity Scholars have been working hard this term to finalise their UCAS applications which have now been sent off to meet the early deadlines for Oxbridge and Medicine/Dentistry. We now eagerly await responses from their chosen universities and have already lined up visitors from the University of Cambridge and The Medicine Outreach Team (University of Leeds) to assist with interview preparation next term.

This term has also seen the launch of the programme with our Year 12s and we were delighted to welcome our new group of Trinity Scholars, along with their parents/carers, to an information evening hosted by our Scholars Coordinator, Dr Whittall. Meanwhile, our potential applicants for Medicine and Dentistry enjoyed a talk from the Health Sciences Outreach Team at the University of Leeds with lots of ideas for how to ensure they make the strongest possible university applications.

We are excited to be working with such a talented group of young people and can't wait to see what they achieve throughout the next two years!

ASPIRATIONS

It has been a term packed full of guest speakers and visits!

We have heard some inspiring talks from professionals in law and business about their personal career journeys, as well as from an employee of the BBC who spoke about careers in journalism and media. An esteemed member of our TSFA alumni, Taylor Campbell, also came back to visit us and talk about her journey from sixth form to The University of Cambridge, where she now studies Geography.

Our Year 13s have been busy this term writing their personal statements, which form part of their UCAS application, and will be finalising these applications next term ready to send off by January. We encourage all parents/carers of Year 13 students to attend our UCAS: Next Steps parent event on Wednesday 6 December to learn more about what happens once applications have been sent (including information on student finance).

We are excited to be hosting our annual TSFA Aspirations Conference in November, where all students will get the opportunity to talk to a range of universities, apprenticeship providers and local employers.

TRINITY TALKS

This term has seen two exciting Trinity Talks.

Trinity Talks take place on a termly basis with the aim to inspire our students through hearing from guest speakers from a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds. The themes delivered by guest speakers aim to match and reflect our TSFA Creed.

We had our first ever Alumni Trinity Talks from Taylor Campbell, now studying Geography at The University of Oxford. Taylor's talk was titled 'where there's a will, there's a way'. Additionally, Mike Kneafsey, Director of Newmore Capital delivered an excellent Trinity Talks focusing on his 'success strategy'.

STUDENT WELLBEING

At TSFA we are proud to offer a range of support for our students to ensure that we offer services which best meet their individual needs. This term we would like to welcome and introduce Rev Sam Crook who is new to supporting our student wellbeing team. She has already, only a few weeks in, had an incredible impact on the students she is working with on a one-to-one basis.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We have a number of events upcoming for SEND students and their parents.

All Year 12 parents of SEND students will be invited in for a coffee morning on Friday 17 November to allow us to introduce the SEND team and update you on our systems and support; more information to follow. If you have a Year 13 student studying with us and would like to come you are more than welcome. Please just email dmorse@sixth.trinitymat.org to register your interest. In addition to this we will soon be in touch to offer meetings at the first of 3 SEND parents evening with Deborah, our SENDCo. These will take place across Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 December.

TRINITY ENRICH

We have had a large variety of clubs this half term from football, rugby and netball to karaoke, reading and crime club. Our Year 12 students have been able to select from a multitude of activities to enhance their professional and personal development. During Term 1 there were 46 different enrichment options available to our students.

Our recent advertisements for our London trip and Ski trip have also been very popular. We will be heading to London in the summer as well as spending a week skiing in the Pyrenees mountains in Spain. Watch out for the photos!!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

At the end of last year 26 of our Year 13 Duke of Edinburgh students took part in their Silver or Gold assessed expeditions. On return they then presented as a group to our expedition assessor, Mr Davies, who was more than happy to pass all students who completed the expedition. Our students are now in the final few months of signing off their additional sections to be awarded their Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. Well done to all students involved and keep up the good work.

This half term our Year 12 students had the opportunity to sign up for their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Within weeks we hit our capacity and now have 50 Year 12 students who are starting their Silver/Gold Duke of Edinburgh journey with us. We hope you enjoy your DofE experience over the coming year.



As part of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Residential programme 4 of our students were lucky enough to be sponsored by the Rotary clubs to take part in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award residential. As part of this programme our students undertook a full week of activities in the great outdoors as well as presented back to the rotary club about their experiences and what they learnt on the course. The presentations were very professional and made us proud.



PUPIL LEADERSHIP GROUP

Our Pupil Leadership Group started the year off nice and early this year with a planning day in August. Our students were lucky enough to have an inspirational speech by Nick Owen CBE as well as an introduction to the Next Gen programme which quite a few of our leaders have decided to join. Our leaders have planned an action-packed year full of activities and awareness.



Our Physical Health PLG have been working very hard this term by putting on two fantastic events for our students. They planned and ran Sports day as part of induction week and also planned a variety of challenging fitness activities for both students and staff to celebrate National Fitness Day.





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EARTHSHOT PLG

Our Earthshot PLG group this term have been trying to improve our college's ability to recycle stationery as well as supporting students who need additional stationery. Within the Achievement Centre they have created a cupboard that is full of stationery for those students who wish to borrow any stationery or are in need of a stationery item.

All we ask if that as well taking from the cupboard, students also add to the cupboard if they have any stationery, folders, dividers, plastic wallets etc that they no longer use.

CHARITY PLG

Our Charity PLG have been hard at work preparing for the Harvest festival run by Smart Move. Our students have been busy collecting ingredients for Chickpea Curry, Rice and Bean soup, Tuna Pizza, Tuna pasta bake and Bean Burritos to support the homeless and vulnerable within our local area.

We would like to thank any students who has contributed towards these parcels.



DIVERSITY PLG

Our Diversity PLG have been celebrating Black History month during final week of term. Students have put a large number of black iconic figures up on the Achievement Centre windows as well as around the building to raise awareness of who these people are, and what their achievements were. Our PLG team ran an assembly on Black History month at the start of the week and have also run a iconic figures quiz during the Trinity+ sessions.

MENTAL HEALTH PLG

Our Metal Health PLG were hard at work this half term celebrating Mental Health Day. They put together a week of activities to raise awareness of mental health. Students gave out green ribbons for students to put on their lanyard to show their support of mental health. We had a fabulous assembly by the charity Invictus and we also lucky to have one of their therapy dogs Dexter join us.

Students have also promoted our quiet room with a 'tea and talk' session and finished the week of with challenging students in Trinity Eats to go 'Phone Free on Friday' to encourage student interaction.



UPCOMING PLG EVENTS

- Rotary shoe box appeal – donations greatly appreciated
- Christmas food parcel donation to St Augustines Food Bank – donations greatly appreciated
- Children in Need
- House football and netball competition
- Art and Yoga therapy

AMBASSADORS

Our ambassadors have once again started the year off with a bang. We are extremely lucky and honored to have so many students who willingly volunteer to represent our college. We have had over 200 students volunteer this half term at events such as results day, enrolment day and open evening. These events have been a great success due to the professionalism and maturity of our students. Thank you to all our ambassadors this half term.

HOUSE LEADERBOARD
 1St – Dean Clough
 2nd - Wainhouse Tower
 3rd – Halifax Minster
 4th – Shibden Hall
 5th – Piece Hall