

December Update



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL MICHAEL FITZSIMONS



Christmas is almost upon us, and students and staff are due a well-earned rest over the festive holidays. You will get to read about specific term two developments and initiatives in the body of text that follows, but some stand out things for me have been:

- The Rome trip
- Our Remembrance service at Halifax Minster
- Our Aspirations Conference
- The progress of our Trinity Scholars
- Our Trinity Talk from Paralympian Ant Cotterill
- The progress that our students are continuing to make, evidenced through their Progress Checks.

We regularly conduct student voice exercises at the college, asking students about their experiences and insights. Their feedback steers college improvement and has been instrumental in helping us establish our curriculum model, our pupil leadership groups, our professional standards and our rewards strategy. One of the things that really stands out so far this year, is their appreciation for the support that they receive from the college staff. There was an overwhelmingly positive response to questions regarding feedback, support from staff, safety at college and preparation for assessments, which for Year 13 in particular, are creeping closer and closer all of the time (16 teaching weeks until the start of summer examinations). There is a real sense of togetherness and purpose, which is fantastic! Up Learn, as you will read, has showcased how hard students are willing to work with students clocking up in excess of 100 hours of additional independent study in as little as nine weeks. The momentum students have gathered must continue in a slightly reduced capacity over the next sixteen days in order for learning and progress to be maintained. We are advising three hours across any ten days of the holiday period (using our 6 steps to revision). This sounds like a lot of work, and it is, but this is Level 3 study and if done properly it will be very impactful for students learning and confidence. Someone who was quoted throughout his life on the importance of perseverance and effort was Winston Churchill. Fittingly, I wanted to finish with one of his famous quotes:

“Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential.”

Merry Christmas everyone.



DATES FOR THE DIARY & UPCOMING TRIPS

Key Dates:

Term commences on Tuesday 9 January 2024
Y13 Parents Evening (face to face) - Thursday 18 January
(4:30pm to 7:30pm)

Deadline for Year 13 for submitting UCAS applications is 31 January 2024

National Apprenticeship Week - Monday 5 February to Friday 9 February

Upcoming Trips:

London Spanish Theatre Trip - Monday 5 February

Ski Trip to Cerler in Spain - Saturday 9 March to Saturday 16 March

Geology Field Trip to Knaresborough - Monday 25 March

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



This term our Year 13 Scholars have begun to hear back from the universities to which they have applied. We've had some great results, with students hoping to study Medicine being invited to interview at Universities such as Sheffield, York and others. Meanwhile, several of our students have successfully negotiated challenging admissions assessments and have earned themselves interviews at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in subjects as diverse as Geography, Classics and Law. We wish every one of our Year 13 Scholars all the best of luck as they pursue their aspirations.

Meanwhile, our Year 12 Scholars have begun their round of weekly sessions. Having met with one of our alumni, Taylor Campbell, a Geography student at the University of Oxford, in term 1, we are now engaging in depth with a super-curricular programme that will enrich their intellectual capacities and ensure they have the skills and experiences required to draft outstanding personal statements. A visit from Joe Stanley, academic outreach tutor from the Selwyn College, Cambridge, helped students to better understand the complex nature of the university application cycle.

ASPIRATIONS

The term kicked off with our hugely successful Aspirations Conference! Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to interact with over 35 different higher education institutions, apprenticeship providers and employers, gaining invaluable information, advice and guidance relating to their next steps after College. Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive and we all agreed it was our best yet! Following on from this, our Year 13s have been busy finalising and submitting their UCAS applications, with many students already being invited to interview and receiving offers! If your child has not yet submitted their application for approval, please encourage them to do so urgently.

Meanwhile, we are excited to have launched a new careers platform, Unifrog, available to all of our Year 12 students. This provides an abundance of up-to-date information about universities, apprenticeships and careers, alongside current labour market information, enabling students to explore their options and make informed choices. Students have already begun to use Unifrog in Trinity+ lessons this term to start to build a CV. As we move through the year, students will continue record their accomplishments and develop their application profiles, enabling them to submit competitive applications when the time arrives!



TRINITY ENRICH

Term 2 has been very busy with enrichment activities from our sporting teams, through to our more creative subjects and our super curricular activities.

On 29th November TSFA hosted Newman College from Brighton in the College Rugby League National cup game. With Newman College travelling through the day, we had our first evening kick off at Halifax Rugby Union Club. Unfortunately, the result did not go our way, however the students maintained resilience throughout and kept fighting till the end. The students can be proud of themselves, and they represented TSFA extremely well.

Our footballers have had a great term. They have had two victories this term, beating Leeds 3 - 2 and beating Ossett 6 - 0. Our footballers are currently in first position within their Association of College league. Well done to everyone who took part.

Our netballers have been working extremely hard this half term during training in preparation for their up-and-coming matches. Their season is far from over with still approximately 10 games left to play. Good luck to all our netballers for your matches next half term.

Due to student voice/feedback we have now included three new enrichment offers for Term 3. Students can choose to take part in basketball, creative writing and public speaking as well as our normal extra-curricular offers. All clubs are open to a variety of abilities.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH



Our Year 13 students are well on their way to completing their Silver and Gold Awards, watch out in future bulletins for the success stories of those who have completed their award.

50 Year 12 students have now started on their DofE journey. All students should now be gathering evidence and uploading it to their eDofE profile to show they have engaged with physical activity, skill development and volunteering on a weekly basis. After Christmas they will be attending weekly session to learn and develop key skills required for their summer expeditions.

** SUCCESS STORIES **

This term, **Alicia Scott** received our Principal's Commendation for community work in the mental health sector across West Yorkshire and beyond!

She has also been working alongside Bradford Mental Health Services as part of a focus group of young people to identify issues in the service and suggest improvements. This week she attended another focus group and presented to over 150 other teenagers regarding neurodivergent/mental health services in Bradford.

Well done Alicia



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TRINITY

SIXTH FORM ACADEMY

PUPIL LEADERSHIP GROUP

We would like to take the time to thank our Year 13 PLG for all their hard work and effort as members of the PLG since last April. They have put on a variety of events, raised awareness and have supported many local and national charities. We are extremely grateful for their contributions during the past 8 months. In particular we are extremely grateful for their work this term supporting multiple charities as well as making the building festive for our students.

Our PLG have had a very busy term and have organised the following events for our students. They have raised £279.29 for Children in Need, they have donated many food items and ingredients to the SmartMove Harvest Festival, and supported the Rotary Shoe Box Appeal. They have raised awareness of bullying during Antibullying week and have celebrated Diwali. Students have also supported the HalifaxBid Christmas Giving Tree appeal, have raised many food donations to support the Ebenezer Food Bank and have supported the Halifax Minster Christmas Tree Festival. It is due to the generosity of our students that those who are less fortunate than ourselves may have a brighter Christmas holiday. We would like to thank any student who have contributed to any of these events.



In January our newly recruited Year 12 PLG will take over the role as PLG members and we wish them the best of luck in their new role for the coming year. Thank you to everyone who had applied and well done to the students who were successfully appointed.

AMBASSADORS

Thank you to all our ambassadors who helped out during our second open evening this half term. It was a great success, and this is mainly down to the professionalism and maturity of our students ambassadors. Thank you for your support.

HOUSE LEADERBOARD

Joint 1st – Shibden Hall and Wainhouse Tower
3rd – Dean Clough
4th – Halifax Minster
5th – Piece Hall

STUDENT WELLBEING

We have recently been lucky enough to add another layer to our wellbeing provision, Rev'd Sam Crook provides additional support to our students and comes in on a weekly basis. Please see below which tells you a little more about Rev'd Crook and what she is offering our students.



Hi, I am the curate at Halifax Minster, before becoming a priest I was a teacher and a counsellor. I'm originally from Romford near London but lived in Yorkshire since 2001. As part of the Minsters partnership with TSFA I have started working at the college one morning a week offering pastoral support as part of the well being team. I'm available for confidential one to one chats with both staff and students as well as more informal conversations about spirituality and wellbeing. It's wonderful to be part of the TSFA team and get to know staff and students alike.

EXAMS/ASSESSMENTS

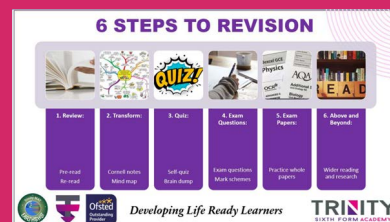
Year 12 completed their first progress check assessment this term, results and attitude to learning scores are now available on the MCAS app. Year 13 sat their first trial examination, attitude and behaviour during trial examination week was exemplary. Results will be available shortly on the MCAS app. January sees many formal BTEC examinations taking place, students have had their timetables. Please ensure your child arrives promptly for their examinations – morning examinations start at 9am and afternoon examinations at 1pm. We recommend that students arrive 10 minutes early for examinations.

Up-coming assessments:

- Year 12 PC2 – 5-9 February 2024
- Year 13 PC3 – 29 January – 2 February 2024

Students are encouraged to use the 6 steps to revision when preparing for examinations.

The provisional summer 2023 timetables have been published and are now available on our website



Up LEARN

We are delighted to have launched a new learning platform, UpLearn, to all students studying A Level Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Psychology, and/or Economics.

Up Learn is a leading online independent learning and revision tool that provides comprehensive courses. Our students now have access to hundreds of online video lessons and exam preparation materials for each of the above courses, any time of the day / night. These resources complement our classroom delivery and provide students with engaging revision activities, such as mini quizzes, topic quizzes, videos and how-to exam guides, that can be completed using either their phone, tablet or laptop. The platform also uses AI technology to track student progress, which can be monitored by their teachers, and also personalises learning schedules to enable students to access top grades. 97% of all students that complete the UpLearn package for each course, achieve an A or A*.

Over the course of the term engagement in UpLearn has continued to rise and the average student is completing a minimum of 3 hours per subject per week.

Rome Trip

At the beginning of November 2023, year 12 and 13 students took part in our first trip to Rome. We departed from Halifax at 5 am, in the freezing cold, and just a few hours later, we landed in the beautiful and sunny capital of Italy.



Our students were amazed by the grandeur of the Colosseum, the priceless sculptures, frescoes, tapestries and paintings of the St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums.

We visited the Roman Forum, the Trevi Fountain, the largest in the city and the most beautiful in the world, the Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona, the Pantheon and Campo de Fiori.

Four days in Rome were not only a chance to learn new things, but also the adventure of a lifetime.

Everyone had a fantastic few days.