

Easter Holiday Update



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL MICHAEL FITZSIMONS



It was at about this time, 2 years ago that we welcomed rugby league (and rugby union) legend Kevin Sinfield into our building for our official opening. It was a brilliant day and Kevin's speech to students and staff was truly inspirational. One of our takeaway messages from Kevin was regarding his personal mantra which was along the lines of, 'to become a true champion, you have to be a champion at home first.' I thought this was a wonderful statement and it encapsulates one of our professional standards brilliantly, integrity. Kevin was trying to impress upon students the need to get the basics right, to focus on relationships (especially with yourself), to be a nice person as often as possible and most importantly, to respond well when things become difficult. It is a great message for Year 13 to carry forwards into their summer exams. In an assembly this week, I repeated Phil Neville's definition of high performance as 'the best you can do, in a given situation, with what you have got.' I like it because it does not imply that any particular outcome is associated with high performance, and that instead, high performance is simply about doing your best. No doubt we will all be able to meet each other's gazes on results day and know that we all did our best.

Before the summer exams start, we will be holding a mock results day, where students trial exam mock results will be individually published to them here at the academy. The day will take place on Friday 12 April at 11:40am and it should be a really good event with lots of food and celebrations to boot.

28 students have just returned from our annual ski trip in the north of Spain, and it sounded as though they had a great time whilst away. I was personally relieved to hear that all had made it back safely, albeit with one brave student suffering an injury on day 3. I look forwards to next year's trip and I know plans are afoot for an expedition to Morocco along with a second visit to Europe. Very exciting times.

Lastly, I wanted to share my appreciation to parents and students for your resilience and efforts in respect to college attendance. We sit well above national for attendance and it correlates directly with the levels of progress that students make. It is also an essential part of what being 'Life Ready' (which is our college mission) is all about. Students have shown genuine toughness and determination in attending not only lessons, but also additional achieve sessions and TAP (teacher access point) meetings on a regular basis. Keep it up, it makes all the difference.

Have a restful Easter and we will welcome students back on Monday 8 April.

DATES FOR THE DIARY & UPCOMING TRIPS

Key Dates:

- Term commences** - Monday 8 April
- Y12 Parents Evening (face to face)** - Thursday 18 April
- Y13 Leavers Event** - Friday 21 June
- Y13 Prom** - Thursday 27 June
- Y12 Graduation Ceremony at Halifax Minster** - Thursday 11 July

Upcoming Trips:

- Reward Trip to Alton Towers** - Thursday 6 June
- Duke of Edinburgh Practice** - Tues 18 June to Thurs 20 June
- UCAS Discovery Event in Leeds** - Wednesday 19 June
- Dragonboat Training** - Friday 21 June
- Dragonboat Competition** - Friday 28 June
- Duke of Edinburgh Assessed - Gold** - Monday 1 July to Thurs 4 July
- Duke of Edinburgh Assessed - Silver** - Tuesday 2 July to Thurs 4 July

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.

ASPIRATIONS

This term many of our Year 13 students have begun to get offers back from universities or invitations to interview, which is incredibly exciting! We also have many students seeking apprenticeships. We hosted a very popular talk from West Yorkshire Police about degree apprenticeships in policing and roles within the force. We are pleased to be working with the DWP to deliver a world of work programme to some of our Year 13 students, to develop students' knowledge of the labour market and hone their CV writing and interview skills.

It was also National Careers Week this term and we hope this has really got students thinking about where their level 3 studies could take them. Activities have included a Sociology subject taster day at the University of Leeds, biomedical and forensic science talks from the University of Manchester, an interactive media workshop and even a visit from the National Space Academy to look at the role of scientists in satellite engineering and space exploration!

As a joint celebration for National Careers Week and World Book Day, we also enjoyed a Trinity Talk from the founder of a local publishing house in Hebden Bridge, Bluemoose Books, about his career journey and the different roles in the publishing industry.

TRINITY TALKS - WORLD BOOK DAY THEMED

World Book Day 2024 was celebrated in style with lots of exciting book related events throughout the week, including a careers visit from a local publishing house based in Hebden Bridge. The week culminated in our traditional fancy dress, Drop Everything and Read event and book swap shop / treasure hunt. Great fun was had by all whilst reminiscing over our favourite childhood reads and debating whether it was ever right to 'ban a book'!



TRINITY SCHOLARS

This term has seen continued progress for our Scholars cohort. Amongst our Year 13s, we had the wonderful news that Amber Field has been offered a place at Medical School. Amber and the other Year 13 Scholars continue to work hard to achieve the grades required for the rich variety of Higher Education opportunities they hope to pursue after leaving TSFA.

Meanwhile, our Year 12 Scholars have been engaging with a range of external support programmes. Several students are actively pursuing the University of Cambridge's HEE programme, whilst a number of others have successfully been placed on other programmes including with the Sutton Trust, Reach for Excellence and others. Our potential medics and dentists will soon be undertaking virtual work experience through Pre-Med Projects. We continue to look for opportunities for in-person work experience opportunities to support these students, so if there's anyone in our community who works in medical or dentistry pathways and may be able to assist with this we would be very keen to hear from you!

TRINITY ENRICH

Term 3 enrichment has been very busy with lots going on with our Duke of Edinburgh cohorts and our Pupil Leadership Group. We have had students continuing with their British Sign language and Latin courses as well as regular attendance at our weekly enrichment sessions such as chess and radio club.

TSFA Men's football team played two tough fixtures against Bradford Park Avenue. Narrowly missing out 4-2 and 3-2 respectively. The team battled hard away from home in both games and performed well, however they just could not get the result they wanted. They are currently second in their Association of Colleges league. We have Bradford Academy and St Mary's Leeds left to play this term, hopefully the team will get a couple of victories and return to the top of the league. Next term will see our final game of the league season against Accord Sixth Form, Ossett.

Next half term running club will be starting up again every Wednesday after College where students will be working towards a Halifax Park run takeover on Saturday 11 May. The club is open to all, those who are used to running and want to go for a timem as well as those who have never run before and want to just aim to complete the course. See Mr Baxter and Mr Pozemkovskis for further information.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH



Our Year 13 Duke of Edinburgh students are working hard to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Awards. We are hoping all our Year 13 students will have completed their awards during the next half term. Next half term will be the big final push for them to sign off their awards.

Next half term will also see our previous Year 13 students invited to Buckingham Palace to receive their Gold Awards from the Royal family. Keep an eye out in next half terms newsletter for the photos.

Our Year 12 Duke of Edinburgh students are now working hard towards their summer expeditions and are starting to plan their routes. The Year 12 expeditions will take place on the following dates:

- Practice expeditions – Tues 18 June to Thurs 20 June
- Assessed expeditions – Silver - Tues 2 July to Thurs 4 July and Gold - Mon 1 July to Thurs 4 July

A reminder that all Gold students need to also take part in a 5 day and 4 night residential. All Gold students have been informed of multiple opportunities so far this year which would allow them to complete this section. Any students who have not secured their residential need to make sure this is secured within the coming term.



PUPIL LEADERSHIP GROUP

Red Nose Day - Our Charity and Physical Health PLG put together a variety of activities during Friday 15 March to raise money for Red Nose Day. Our PLG managed to raise £119.25. A great effort from everyone who contributed, this money will go towards supporting those in need. Well done to Menna Sakallah and Ariba Tahir who won the raffle and well done to our very own Richard Brearley for winning the hamper. Our sports challenges winners were as follows:

Plank Challenge - Kieran Monks

Cycle Challenge - Lewis Kenny

Press up Challenge - Mr Fitzsimons



Thank you to the Charity and Physical Health PLG for their organisation of the day.

The Diversity PLG are busy organising our annual Culture week which will take place on the week commencing 15 April. There will be lots of different activities throughout the week to celebrate our diverse culture at TSFA. The week will finish off with a big Cultural celebration of food, clothing and music on Friday 19 April at lunchtime. We would be very grateful of cultural food donations on this day (with an allergens list) and we are also asking all students to dress to impress on this day.

AMBASSADORS

A big thank you to all our ambassadors who helped out at our Admission meeting evenings this half term - your presence and support was greatly appreciated by staff and visitors alike. These evenings would not be a success without your support.

House Leaderboard

Position	Points	House
1st	12	Dean Clough
2nd	11	Wainouse Tower
= 3rd	8	Halifax Minster
= 3rd	8	Shibden Hall
5th	6	Piece Hall

STUDENT WELLBEING

This term students have been taking part in Mindfulness sessions in the run up to their trial exams. This is something which is open to all students, and has been running periodically throughout the academic year. This has involved using breathing technique, mandala colouring and visualisations to help support students managing exam anxiety.

We also welcomed Michael Barrows, Clinician & Supervisor from Calderdale Mental Health Support Team to deliver an assembly to all students to help support students during their studies and provide useful tips on keeping themselves both mentally and physically well.

Next term we will be inviting Kooth in to talk about the support they have available for students but if you are interested in the meantime the website has lots of useful information: <https://www.kooth.com/>

EXAMS/ASSESSMENTS

Our Year 13 students have now completed their final set of trial exams, their conduct throughout these are exemplary. To ensure students are fully prepared for their official results day on Thursday 15 August, we are running our first ever 'Trial Exam Results Day' on Friday 12 April. This event will take place at 11.30am, students will be presented with their trial exam results and both teachers and pastoral support staff will be on hand to celebrate the efforts that students have put in so far and to also provide support and clarification of results, in terms of UCAS and employment.

Both students and teachers are working incredibly hard, and several additional sessions are running before and after college, as well as during the holidays and the occasional Saturday. We highly value the support of parents in encouraging students to attend these additional sessions. The official exam series starts on Monday 13 May 2024, however a small number of practical and BTEC examinations will take place from 29 April 2024. Students will shortly be receiving their timetable for the summer examinations and parents will be able to view these on the MCAS app. We appreciate that all the support that you are giving to your child throughout this time and strongly recommend that students fully utilise the 6 Steps to Revision.

All students should be familiar with the JCQ Guidance for Summer Examinations 2024, the full document can be accessed here <https://sixth.trinitymat.org/key-info/exams/>



Year 12 next assessment will be formal trial examinations running from Monday 24 June 2024 to Friday 28 June 2024.

Loudspeaker Easter Weekend

This half term Loudspeaker came in and offered all our Year 12 students an amazing opportunity to attend the Loudspeaker Easter weekend. We can't wait to hear all about it from our students who have chosen to sign up. We hope you have a great weekend, although with Loudspeaker running the residential we have no doubt this will be a residential to remember.

TSFA Trips

Y12 CHEMISTRY STUDENTS VISIT TO MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY:

Year 12 Chemistry students spent a day visiting The University of Manchester, one of the world's top universities. In the morning our students carried out some exciting practical work and learned about handling radioactive materials safely as well as some of the issues linked to geological disposal of radioactive waste. The trip was sponsored by The University's Dalton Nuclear Institute and Trinity Sixth Form was chosen as the only college to participate in this very special event.

The afternoon was spent learning about the applying to university and what to put in a good personal statement. Our students participated in a Q&A session with undergraduates and found out more about what student life is like. On a tour of the campus, we found dinosaur fossils and the lab where Rutherford did his famous gold foil experiment that revealed the structure of the atom.



SKI TRIP

A group of 32 Year 12 and 13 students travelled to Cerler Ski Resort in the Pyrenees, Spain and enjoyed a week on the slopes from 9 to 16 March 2024. The week consisted of 25 hours of skiing (and ski school lessons) learning the basics such as snow ploughing to the more advanced skills of parallel turning. Our students progressed throughout the week moving from green runs to blue runs and some to even red runs. Students took part in a range of evening activities, including Pizza night, quiz night, Churros night and an Escape Room, as well as time to explore the local area. A fantastic time was had by all and the staff were amazed by how students skiing skills developed throughout the week.

Our students were an absolute credit to us throughout the whole week and we can't wait until next year's trip.



WORLD CHALLENGE

This half term we launched our World Challenge trip to Morocco to our Year 12 students. Our current Year 12 students have the opportunity to go to Morocco in summer 2025 after their A Level exams. Students will be departing on the 2nd July and they will be away for 13 nights and the trip is split into 3 themes:

- 1 – Cultural appreciation – students will get to appreciate the culture in Morocco and will get time to explore the markets in Marrakesh and taste the wonderful Moroccan cuisine as well as learn basic craft skills and have some down time in the beach towns.
- 2 – Community initiative – we will journey into the Atlas mountain to live with and support a local community. Students will get the opportunity to spend time and build bonds with families within in these communities.
- 3 – Expedition – The final part of the trip is an expedition up in the Atlas mountain. Students will trek into the highest parts of the Atlas mountains and will experience wild camping as well as eating and sleeping under the stars. Will zero light pollution, experiencing night sky be a moment to remember.

Please open the link for further information on this fantastic opportunity and how to sign up <https://weareworldchallenge.com/trips/egv4php/> (you may need to paste the link into your google browser to open).