TRINITY

SIXTH FORM ACADEMY · HALIFAX

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER | 2026–27

A Celebration of an Extraordinary Term

Welcome to our Term 1 Newsletter for 2026–27 — a showcase of a brilliant start to the new academic year. From a thriving enrichment programme to international competition, from a London Art residential to a mock trial in Bradford's original Crown Court, and a Trinity Talks launch with Luke Ambler, our students have made us proud every single day. This is their story.

24	200+	3	2	100%
Weekly Activities	Super-Curricular	National Awards	International Stars	Attendance Club

Open Evening 2026

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As I write, more than 20 of our students are in New York, having flown out on 15 October and made a successful start to their trip. It feels a fitting way to close a term that has been all about opening doors.

We began the year celebrating our strongest academic outcomes ever: an A Level average point score of 34.37, the highest in the academy's history, with value added rising to +0.16. Our Applied General students achieved a 100% pass rate and value added of +0.37. As proud as I am of those numbers, what matters most is where they lead. This year, 72% of our leavers progressed to university and a further 18% moved into apprenticeships and employment. Among them were four Trinity Scholars heading to Oxbridge or medical school. These successes belong to the students who earned them, the staff who taught them and the families who cheered them on through two demanding years. Thank you all.

With that in mind, I'm delighted to welcome our newest cohort of Trinity Scholars. The programme gives bespoke support to students aiming for some of the world's most prestigious universities and courses. If last year's Scholars are anything to go by, this group has an exciting road ahead, and we will be with them every step of the way.

We were also thrilled to receive three national awards at this year's Edurio Awards: Pupil Choice, Pupil Engagement and Pupil Feedback in Action. This recognition means a great deal to me because it rests on what you, our students, staff and parents, tell us. I'm grateful to everyone who took the time to share it.

This term also saw the launch of our international programme: eight trips with 210 places. Alongside New York, students can look forward to Andorra, Paris, Brussels, Málaga, work placements in Malta and Italy, and, new this year, a community project in Uganda. Closer to home, our enrichment programme is up and running with more than 50 activities. A gentle reminder to Year 12: taking part in enrichment is one of the requirements for Graduation, so do find something you love and something that stretches you.

Our Mental Health and Well-being Fair brought nine organisations into the academy and gave students practical routes to support, something we take every bit as seriously as academic progress. On the sports field, our men's football and women's netball teams have represented the academy with real grit, and we're proud of every one of them.

Life ready has never meant grades alone. The students who flourish here are usually those who say yes: to the trip, to the enrichment, to the conversation at the well-being fair, to the Scholars application that felt slightly out of reach. I hope this year you'll say yes to something new.

I'll leave you with some words often attributed to Ernest Hemingway:

"There is nothing noble in being superior to some other man. The true nobility is in being superior to your previous self."

Have a restful break and thank you for a wonderful start to the year.

TRINITY
SIXTH FORM ACADEMY

ASPIRATIONS

The new academic year has got off to a strong start for careers and aspirations! All Year 12 students have now been introduced to our **Aspirations Programme** alongside the **Trinity Aspire** team who will guide them along the way. Students now all have access to **Unifrog**, a universal destinations platform they'll use over the next two years to explore university courses, career pathways and subject profiles, and to record their enrichment activities, work experience and skills.

In addition to their aspirations introduction, the **work experience programme** has been launched this term to Year 12 students. An introductory session was delivered in Trinity+ alongside guidance on seeking placements. All students are expected to secure their own placement before the end of next term – and support will be available during Term 2 for students who are struggling.

Our Year 13 students have been busy continuing their next steps planning. Those applying to university have been refining their personal statements, and setting up their Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) profiles, while others have commenced with our **World of Work** programme, which supports students heading into apprenticeships or employment. Students have access to comprehensive guidance on all steps of the application process – and have had the opportunity to attend an informative and immersive trip to **Covea** where they had the opportunity to tour different departments, get a feel for the workplace and speak with current apprentices on securing competitive positions.

Looking ahead, next term we have our annual Trinity Sixth Form Academy (TSFA) Aspirations Conference where Year 12 students will explore a lively careers marketplace and attend seminars matched to their interests. We also have our internal UCAS deadline, on Friday 4 December, by which point students should have submitted their UCAS application to centre for checking.

TRIPS / EVENTS

Personal Progress Tutor (PPT) Celebration Breakfasts

Term 1 PPT Celebration Breakfasts have taken place. Students were selected by their PPT for their engagement and commitment to studies and the wider curriculum this term. Students enjoyed a free Greggs breakfast, alongside a short opportunity to meet with their PPT and other members of their house to have their successes acknowledged.

Term 1 Enrichment Programme – A Fantastic Start!

Trinity Enrich is off to a brilliant start in 2026-27. Every week, students choose from 24 weekly activities across three strands: super-curricular, extra-curricular and sport. The super-curricular strand has proved especially popular, with over 200 students stretching themselves beyond the classroom through the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Bar Mock Trial, Maths Challenge, Debate Society, TSFA Radio and our Humanities and Criminology societies. Criminology alone has attracted around 100 students. Enrichment counts towards Year 12 Graduation, so every session is a step towards the Graduation Ceremony at Halifax Minster in the summer.

Striking the Right Note: Music Lessons Join Our Enrichment Offer

We are delighted to have partnered with Calderdale Music to bring music lessons to our enrichment offer. The sessions are led by qualified and experienced musicians, giving students expert teaching in a relaxed and supportive setting.

This term, 12 students have been learning to play the **piano**. Starting from the basics, they've been working towards playing songs they know and love, which has kept motivation high from the very first session. Their progress has been remarkable, and we can't wait to hear what they're playing by the end of next term!

Following strong demand through student voice, we're also expanding the offer. **Guitar lessons will start after the October break**, giving even more students the chance to pick up an instrument, learn a new skill and discover a love of music.

Whether you're a complete beginner or have always wanted to learn, there's never been a better time to get involved.

TRINITY ENRICH (CONTINUED)

It has been a busy term on the sports field too. TSFA Football has played two fixtures, against Crossley Heath and Pro Elite, and our netball team won their match against Crossley Heath Sixth Form. This week our men's rugby league team welcomed Park View Academy of Sport to Halifax. Next term, TSFA girls' football will make history when they play their first ever fixture, against Elliott Hudson College.

International Stars!

We're also proud to have two students competing on the international stage this term. Kornel Konopko will represent Great Britain at the Scootering World Championships, part of the World Skate Games 2026 in Asunción, Paraguay. Paige Turpin will represent England Boxing at the AOB Boxing Tournament in Denmark. Everyone at Trinity wishes Kornel and Paige the very best of luck. Go and do us proud!

TRINITY TRIPS

International Trips Take Off in Term 1

It has been a fantastic start to the year for international trips at Trinity Sixth Form Academy. This term, our New York trip, Ski trip, Psychology trip to Disney and Málaga homestay trip have all been advertised to students, and every one of them has recruited successfully.

Thank you to all the students who have signed up and to the parents and carers who supported them. Our staff trip leads are now busy planning what we are confident will be amazing and memorable experiences for our young people. We can't wait to share their adventures in future newsletters!

Turing Trips 2027 Now Open to Year 12

Some of the most memorable experiences of sixth form happen far from the classroom. We are delighted to announce that all three of our Turing Scheme trips for 2027 have now been advertised to our Year 12 students. These opportunities are open to every Year 12 student at Trinity Sixth Form Academy and are heavily subsidised due to the UK Government's Turing Scheme. All three trips include ten days of international work experience alongside cultural excursions and activities. All Year 12 students and their parents and carers have received detailed information about each trip by email.

Malta – Early Years Work Experience – 29 May to 11 June 2027

Sunshine, history and real-world experience all come together on our Malta trip. This is a work experience trip in early years education, and students spend ten days on placement in a Maltese early years setting, supporting young children's learning and development through play. Last year our students impressed their hosts so much that one teacher described them as the best students she had ever worked with. Away from placement, students explore the island's culture. Last year's trip included the stunning capital, Valletta, the ancient walled city of Mdina, and a day trip to the beautiful island of Gozo.

Italy – Sports Coaching Work Experience – 30 May to 12 June 2027

Our Italy trip is a work experience trip in sports coaching. Students spend ten days on placement in Italy gaining hands-on coaching experience. They plan and lead sessions, develop their leadership and communication skills, and build their confidence in a brand-new environment. Away from placement, students visit the beautiful Lake Garda, the romantic city of Verona and the historic mountain city of Trento. They'll also pick up some Italian along the way and enjoy the country's world-famous food.

Uganda – Civic Virtues Trip, NEW for 2027 – 22 May to 6 June 2027

This year we are thrilled to launch a brand-new trip to Uganda. This is a Civic Virtues trip, and at its heart is a community project focused on giving back to others. The trip is based around the breathtaking Lake Bunyonyi, with time in neighbouring Rwanda, and is run in partnership with The Tribe Experience. Students spend ten days working alongside local communities on the project, making a real difference to people's lives. They'll experience a completely different way of life and come home with a fresh perspective on the world and their place in it. It is a genuinely once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

TRINITY TRIPS (CONTINUED)

How to apply

Places are limited to 20 per trip. Each trip has a recruitment process, and the first step is a written application. Applications must be emailed to Turing@sixth.trinitymat.org by **12.30pm on Wednesday 4 November 2026**. Students should put the country they are applying for in the subject line, for example "Malta application". They should attach their application letter as a Word document rather than sending a link. Successful students will be recruited and selected before Christmas.

Each of these trips is a chance to see the world, develop new skills and stand out in future applications for university, apprenticeships or employment. We would love to see as many Year 12 students as possible apply. Don't miss out!

TRINITY SCHOLARS

Trinity Scholars Visit Cambridge!

This term our Year 12 Scholars began their journey with a trip to the University of Cambridge. They had the opportunity to meet current Cambridge students, hear about their experiences and find out more about the application process. Students also enjoyed a tour of Selwyn College and explored the historic Cambridge city centre.

A brilliant day of learning, inspiration and discovering what university life could have to offer!

Thank you, Scholars, for asking such insightful questions and representing the academy with pride.

Pupil Leadership Groups: Leading the Way

Our Pupil Leadership Groups (PLGs) give students the chance to lead, make a difference and shape life at Trinity Sixth Form Academy. Each group plans and runs events, campaigns and awareness days throughout the year, and it has already been a fantastic start. Here's what they've been up to this term.

🏃 Physical Health PLG

The Physical Health PLG got the year off to a flying start by taking on leadership roles at our Induction Week Sports Day at Spring Hall. The weather didn't quite play along, but the group refused to let a few clouds dampen anyone's spirits! They organised activities, encouraged new students and kept the day running smoothly from start to finish. Their energy, organisation and enthusiasm were key to the day's success, and they helped our new Year 12 students feel welcome and part of the Trinity Sixth Form Academy community from day one. A brilliant effort from a fantastic team!

🌍 Diversity PLG

The Diversity PLG led the way in celebrating Black History Month this October. The group took over Trinity+ with an engaging Kahoot quiz that tested students' knowledge and sparked some great conversations. They also brightened up the academy with eye-catching posters celebrating iconic Black figures, past and present, so the month's message was seen in corridors across the building. The celebrations came together in a whole-academy assembly, giving every student the chance to reflect on the achievements, history and contributions of Black communities. A powerful and inspiring month of awareness. Well done, Diversity PLG!

PUPIL LEADERSHIP GROUPS (CONTINUED)

♻️ Earthshot PLG

Get ready for Fashionshot! Next term, the Earthshot PLG will host TSFA's very own fashion show with a sustainable twist, putting pre-loved and reusable fashion in the spotlight. The event will show that great style doesn't have to cost the earth, and the group needs your help to make it happen.

The Earthshot PLG is collecting donations of unused or unwanted clothes for children, teens and adults. Every item donated will be given a second life. After the show, the clothes will be available to students at a lunchtime thrift shop, and any remaining items will be donated to charity, so nothing goes to waste.

Donations can be dropped off at reception during the week commencing Monday 2 November 2026.

Time to have a clear-out of your wardrobes and help us make Fashionshot a success!

A New Chapter for 2027

Our current Pupil Leadership Groups will step down after Christmas, and we want to say a huge thank you for everything they have achieved. Their leadership, creativity and commitment have made a real difference to life at Trinity Sixth Form Academy.

Next term, the Pupil Leadership Groups will be advertised to Year 12 students in Trinity+, and applications for our 2027 groups will open. If you're passionate about making a difference, this is your chance to lead. Look out for more information soon!

END OF TERM 1 HOUSE LEADERBOARD

Position	House Points	House
1st	15	Shibden Hall
2nd	14	Halifax Minster
3rd	13	Piece Hall
4th	10	Wainhouse Tower
5th	9	Dean Clough

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Duke of Edinburgh's Award: Sign-Up Opens Soon!

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) will be launched to our Year 12 students in Trinity+ in the first week back after the October break. DofE is one of our most popular enrichment offers. It is exceptionally popular every year and places sell out fast!

Parents and carers will receive information about how to sign up in the first week back. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis through ParentPay, which goes live on **Monday 9 November 2026**. DofE enrichment sessions start that same week and run throughout the year on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

DofE is a fantastic way for students to build skills, confidence and friendships. Students who complete their Gold Award are also invited to an awards ceremony at Buckingham Palace, where they can bring a family member to celebrate their achievement. It's an unforgettable day!

Don't miss your chance to take part. Look out for the email and be ready to sign up on 9 November.

EXAMS / ASSESSMENT

Each year the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), the organisation that represents the main exam boards, updates its Instructions for Conducting Examinations (ICE). These are the rules every school and college must follow when running exams. The new edition came into effect on 1 September 2026. Most of the changes affect how the academy runs exams behind the scenes, but a few affect students directly.

- Students must make sure their calculator is in exam mode before an exam begins.
- The Unauthorised Items poster has been updated and will be displayed outside every exam room.

As a reminder, mobile phones, smartwatches, earbuds, smart glasses and any other smart devices must not be taken into an exam room. Any pencil cases/drinks bottles taken into the exam room must be see-through.

The full JCQ guidance is available at jcq.org.uk/exams-office/instructions-for-conducting-examinations-ice. A shorter guide written for students, Information for Candidates, is available at jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents. **We would encourage all students to read it before their exams.**

EXAMS / ASSESSMENT (CONTINUED)

Examination and Assessment Dates for your diary:

- GCSE resit exams take place from Tuesday 3 November to Monday 9 November 2026.
- Results for the November GCSE resits will be released on Wednesday 13 January 2027.
- Year 12 Progress Check 1 (PC1) In Class Assessments take place from Monday 16 November to Friday 20 November 2026.
- Criminology assessments take place from Tuesday 8 December to Friday 11 December 2026.
- Year 13 Progress Check 2 (PC2) Trial Exams take place from Monday 14 December to Friday 18 December 2026.
- The Applied General January exam window runs from Tuesday 5 January to Friday 15 January 2027.

Timetables for every exam season will be emailed to students at least two weeks before the exams begin.

STUDENT WELL-BEING

We're pleased to announce the launch of **SilverCloud**, an online mental health tool now available to our sixth form students.

SilverCloud offers a range of self-help programmes that students can work through at their own pace, whenever and wherever suits them. The programmes cover areas such as anxiety, low mood, stress and building resilience, using practical techniques to help manage well-being.

Students can be referred through the academy by speaking to the well-being team, or they can refer themselves directly if they prefer.

SilverCloud also includes modules designed for parents and carers, offering guidance on how best to support a young person with their mental health.

Referrals can be completed online by scanning this QR code and stating that you would like support via SilverCloud:

Art, 3D, Graphics and Photography London Residential, 5–6 October 2026

Year 13 Art and Design students enjoyed an inspiring two-day residential visit to London, giving them the opportunity to explore some of the UK's most renowned galleries and museums while gathering ideas for their Personal Investigation projects.

The trip began with a visit to the Tate Modern, where students immersed themselves in a wide range of contemporary artworks. Later, we took a riverboat cruise along the River Thames, providing fantastic views of London's iconic skyline and landmarks. On the second day, students visited the Design Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A), and the Natural History Museum. Throughout the visit, they explored inspiring collections of art, design, architecture, natural forms, and historical artefacts. These experiences provided a wealth of ideas and first-hand research that will help shape and develop their work across Art, 3D Design, Graphics and Photography.

The residential was not only an invaluable learning experience but also a chance for students to develop their independence, curiosity, and creative confidence. The experience allowed the students to engage with the collections and make connections to their own projects. We look forward to seeing how the inspiration and research gathered during the visit influence their final Personal Investigation outcomes over the coming months. It was a memorable trip and one that will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on their creative journeys.

TRIPS / EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Bradford Police Museum

On Friday 9 October, some of our Year 13 Criminology students visited the Bradford Police Museum. They had a chance to explore the Victorian police station and cells before taking part in a mock trial in the city's original Crown Court. They all played their roles brilliantly and learnt lots about the police booking and court processes. Well done to all!

HOUSE CAPTAINS

House Captains Bring the Smiles

It has been a long and busy first term, and our House Captains decided the final two weeks before the October break deserved a boost! They set out to lift the mood across the academy and bring a little extra joy to everyone's day.

Upbeat music has been playing in Trinity Eats at lunchtime, and riddles and jokes have appeared in Trinity Eats and the open space, sparking plenty of laughs (and a few groans!) among students. Staff weren't forgotten either. The House Captains decorated staff workrooms with smiley faces and memes to brighten the final few days of term for our hard-working team.

It's a lovely example of how small acts of kindness can make a big difference, and a reminder of the positive, supportive community that makes Trinity Sixth Form Academy so special. Thank you, House Captains, for helping us all finish the term with a smile!

Preparing for Adulthood Day

Our sixth form students recently took part in a Preparing for Adulthood Day, building the practical skills they'll need for greater independence after school.

The day started with budgeting, as students planned how to make a set amount of money stretch across a week of meals. They then put their plans into action on a supermarket trip, comparing prices, spotting good deals and paying for their shopping themselves.

Back at the academy, students cooked a meal from their ingredients, practising kitchen safety, food hygiene and following a recipe from start to finish.

It was a brilliant day of real-world learning, and students showed great confidence and teamwork throughout. Well done to everyone involved and thank you to the staff who supported the day.

SUCCESS STORIES

From A Levels to Apprenticeships with Trinity

Congratulations to four of our recent leavers, who achieved excellent A Level results this summer and have now taken the next step in their careers by starting apprenticeships with Trinity.

Evan Gilmore is working at Trinity Academy Whitehill, Daniel Naylor at Trinity Sixth Form Academy, Charlie Chapman at Trinity Central Office and Archie Mellor at Trinity Academy Halifax.

An apprenticeship is a fantastic way to gain real workplace experience while continuing to learn, and we are delighted that they have chosen to start their careers with us. Well done Evan, Daniel, Charlie and Archie, and we wish you every success!

NEXT TERM IN TRINITY+

The 100% Club

The **100% Club** rewards scheme was introduced in Trinity+ in the last week of Term 1. This initiative recognises and rewards students who maintain full attendance at TSFA, either weekly or termly. Prizes such as Amazon, Greggs and Just Eat vouchers can be won, along with Owala bottles and the much-loved M&S cookies. This year we have collaborated with local businesses such as The Piece Hall and Loafers for some very exciting prizes to be introduced next term.

NEXT TERM IN TRINITY+ (CONTINUED)

Trinity+ After the October Break

Trinity+ is our personal development programme, delivered to all students each week. It helps them stay healthy, safe and ready for life beyond sixth form. Here's an overview of what students will be covering after the October break.

Year 12

Year 12 students will focus on looking after themselves and others. Sessions cover mental health and managing exam stress, positive habits, online safety and digital footprint, healthy relationships, drugs and alcohol awareness, and radicalisation. Alongside this, the Life Ready sessions build the practical skills students need for their next steps. These include study skills, the ethical use of AI, CV writing, a personal skills audit, interview practice and logging their work experience on Unifrog. The term ends with our popular Trinity Challenge, and students will also hear about the launch of our Pupil Leadership Groups.

Year 13

Year 13 students will focus on preparing for independent adult life. After a session on courage and mental toughness, they will explore healthy relationships, including radicalisation, misogyny and grooming, and prepare for their trial exams with a focus on integrity and work ethic. Two finance sessions cover banking, budgeting, borrowing, debt and credit, including how to recognise financial exploitation. The term finishes with a life admin session on payslips, tax, National Insurance, council tax and registering with health services, so students leave us ready for whatever comes next.

If you have any questions about Trinity+, please contact the academy.

AMBASSADORS

Thank You, Ambassadors!

It has been an incredibly busy term, and our Student Ambassadors have been with us every step of the way. They welcomed new students during Induction Week, supported our Year 12 and Year 13 Parent Information Evenings and helped at our very busy Open Evening.

Our ambassadors are a real credit to Trinity Sixth Form Academy. Staff have commented again and again on their professionalism and how approachable they are with visitors, and our events simply wouldn't be the success they are without them. A huge thank you to every one of you!

TRINITY TALKS

We were delighted to welcome Luke Ambler back to Trinity Sixth Form to launch this year's Trinity Talks programme down at Halifax Minster. Luke is a former professional rugby league player and the founder of ANDYSMANCLUB, the free peer-support group that has helped thousands of men across the UK talk openly about their mental health. He spoke powerfully about our Professional Standards and looking out for one another, and students left with plenty to think about. Look out for more high-profile guest speakers in the Trinity Talks programme next term.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- **Wednesday 11 November** – Remembrance Service.
- **Friday 13 November** – Children in Need (Wear PJs and Bake Sale).
- **Thursday 26 November** – all Year 12 students off timetable in the morning to attend our annual Aspirations Conference.
- **Friday 27 November** – In-Service Education and Training (INSET) Day.
- **Thursday 10 December** – Year 13 Parental Consultation Evening.
- **Friday 11 December** – Christmas Jumper Day.