



Holy Trinity

School Newsletter



April 2017

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had holy and peaceful Easter.

Last half term was, as always, very busy. Our school improvement work continues and our post-Ofsted Action plan was accepted by the DfE. Our focus is on:

- *developing leadership at all levels, including governance*
- *achieving greater consistency across school in teaching and learning*
- *more effective monitoring of teaching and learning*
- *ensuring accuracy of teacher assessment in the new curricula at each key stage*
- *further developing planning so that pupils of all abilities can make the best possible progress*
- *making marking and feedback more effective*
- *developing pupil independence*
- *improving attendance and reducing exclusions.*

At the same time, the Diocese of Leeds and Hallam continue to work towards the conversion of Holy Trinity to an academy.

Last half term, Y6, Y10 and Y11 sat practice / mock tests in English and Maths. This will help them to prepare for the actual tests.

You will see we had another successful AC Day in which pupils took part in a variety of activities. We have another this week in which Y10 will reflect on their work experience. Thank you to parents and the various businesses and organisations that supported pupils in their placements. Thank you too, to everyone who attended parents' evening, Y11 revision workshops for English and Maths, our liturgies for Mothers' Day and the Y3 and Y4 Easter plays. Many thanks to all the staff who prepared for these events and took part in them.

During Lent our pupils have been involved in charity work; supporting a project called 'Baby Basics' which helps new mothers who are struggling to manage. Pupils have donated money and items and have organised events, such as bake sales, tuck shops and raffles. Thank you for your generous support in these endeavours.

This half term is a very important one for our Y6 and Y11 pupils in particular. SATs week is week beginning 8th May and GCSE exams begin on 15th May. We wish our pupils all the best in their final preparations.

Anna Dickson

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You can also find us on Twitter & Facebook:



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News and Events

Traffic and Road Safety

As you are probably aware, one of our students was injured as a result of being involved in a collision that occurred near the bus stop on Derwent Road. Thankfully, after surgery, he is recovering well.

Whilst we have no control over road safety and traffic outside of the school grounds, we are keen to work with the local authority and bus company to try to alleviate some of the problems experienced by students who have to catch the bus at the Derwent Road stop, where the pavement is very narrow.

In addition, we have undertaken a survey of traffic, with the number of vehicles bringing pupils onto the school site being monitored for a number of weeks.

This research has demonstrated that an average of 116 vehicles access the school site every day between the hours of 8.30 and 9.00am. Along with the issues of accommodating such a heavy traffic flow into and out of the driveway, there are also a corresponding number of cars being parked in unsafe places (on the double yellow lines, along the

access road, obstructing the zebra crossing, bus bays and pavements, etc.).

It remains our aim to reduce the number of vehicle movements on school grounds and to effectively improve safety for our young people.

With this in mind, plans are now being finalised to install pedestrian barriers, which will reduce the number of people crossing the access road in dangerous areas. Young trees (provided by the Woodland Trust) have also been planted around the "big green box" (that houses the school's mains supplies) to stop people crossing at the blind bend. Low height fencing will also be installed along the length of the access road to prevent vehicles from straddling the pavements, kerbs and damaging the grass verges.

Safety is the responsibility of all road users and we ask all parents and carers to please help by allowing extra time for dropping off in the mornings and if possible, parking away from school and walking a short distance.

Holy Trinity Honey

Only five jars of our 2016 crop of Holy Trinity Honey now remain and these are available to buy in school, from the main reception desk.

We hope that the bees have enjoyed their long winter rest in their hives and will soon be out collecting pollen to provide us with another bumper crop this year!



Staffing Update

We have two goodbyes: Mr Hunt and Mrs Swallow, who left us at the end of last term. Thank you to them both for all they did for our students. Mrs Swallow sent the following message:

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so very hard. I have been privileged. I look back with gratitude."

"As I leave Holy Trinity, you will live on in my memories. What wonderful memories they will be. I wish Holy Trinity every success. Love Always."

Welcome back to Mr Waller in maths and Mrs Gonnolly in Nursery, who will be with us until the end of term.

World Book Day

The annual World Book Day event took place on Thursday 2nd March.

Staff dressed as their favourite literary characters and students participated in 'Drop Everything and Read' and a 'bookie' treasure hunt. Congratulations to the winners!

We are cultivating a real culture of reading at the school, with all KS3 students having a book suited to their reading ability.



Primary Outdoor Play Area

As you will probably be aware, the outdoor play area in our Primary Phase was in need of some improvement works to bring it into use all year round. Plans were drawn up and the necessary funding and permissions obtained, to replace the current grass area between the fenced playground (multi use games area), ball wall and shelter with a specialist, bonded rubber mulch product, to prevent the muddy conditions that occurred when the weather was wet.

This is the same all-weather material that was installed outside classrooms 1 to 4 in October 2016, for the same reasons.



We have also replaced the bark chippings from around the trim trail, as well as installing a number of new picnic tables and benches.

As you can see from the pictures, this work has made a massive improvement to our primary outdoor facilities. We are very pleased with the finished results – as are the children!

A Review of AC Day, from Mr Mac

On 31st March, we held our third Alternative Curriculum Day of this academic year and as with the previous days, it was a resounding success and provided a useful and enriching experience for our pupils. Our Year 10 students were out on their work experience placements, at a wide variety of locations. We have been delighted to hear how they've performed and, as always, they've done us proud.

We have received a wide range of glowing reports, which really show the high quality of young people who make up our student cohort.

Meanwhile, back in school a range of activities, all based on the theme of Enterprise and Careers, were delivered by a variety of providers, such as Enterprising Young People

and both Sheffield Hallam and York St John Universities. Students from Year 11 were engaged in a variety of tasks designed to inform and support them as they move into the next, critical phase of their exam preparations.

The annual Year 9 retreat, gave this group of students the chance to 'stop, reflect and reset' – both



as individuals and as spiritual beings.

Great thanks go to Miss Meehan who yet again produced a quality experience for everyone involved. Finally, and by no means least, a group of Year 7 pupils enjoyed a residential visit to London, which was organised jointly by the Humanities and English departments.

Pupils took part in a wide range of activities, which managed to combine education and fun really well. Many thanks to Mr Thomlinson, Mr Henderson, Miss Newton and Miss Walker for all the time and effort they put into creating a very special and memorable experience for our pupils.

The Catenian Public Speaking Competition



On 5th March Dominic Jones and Tomas Mok (Y11) competed in the prestigious Annual Catenian Public Speaking Competition, in which students from across the region compete. This year's competition had 11 contestants and all were outstanding.

Dominic and Tomas were fantastic ambassadors for our school, investing a lot of their own time preparing for the event, kindly supported by Miss Newton.

Unfortunately they didn't place in the top 3, but it was very close! Both students had a fantastic experience and have practiced skills that will stay with them for life. They also received some very positive comments from the judges and the audience.

Year 7 and Year 8 Science Activities

Our budding scientists have been very busy and have enjoyed a variety of activities, school visitors and trips.

BAE Systems came into school to show what robots and drones can do, our Y7/Y8 Science Club has been investigating and experimenting and we took our Y8 students on a 'Big Bang' Science Trip.



Visit by David Dein



IN TOWN: David Dein with school ambassadors Jessica Jones, Kega Hemingway, James Littlewood and Ellis Fleetwood.

You may have seen a report in the Barnsley Chronicle about our recent visit by David Dein, former Chair of the FA and Arsenal FC.

David gave a very informative talk to secondary students about football as a big business and as an entertainment source. He also spoke about the impact of technology on the game and the size of revenue streams.

He shared many entertaining anecdotes about high profile figures in the game, but David's main message was the importance of resilience, teamwork and his recipe for success. For Holy Trinity this was an excellent reinforcement of the FAITH message that is embedded in our pupil culture.

Double Gold for The Longley Sisters

At the end of March, Holy Trinity stars, Rosie Longley and her little sister Eva represented their kick boxing gym "The Combat Academy" at the ICO British Open Championships in Birmingham.

Eva Longley was entered in the -25kg category, reaching the final and dominating her opponent to win the gold medal on a unanimous points decision.

Rosie Longley reached the final of the -45kg final, which she won in 15 seconds after stopping her opponent with a heavy roundhouse kick to the head! What a brilliant achievement – well done to Rosie and Eva - both British Open Champions!

