



# Holy Trinity School Newsletter



Spring 2019

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

The first half term of 2019 was filled with events and activities! I would like to start by thanking parents and staff for the Y11, Y10 and Y9 parents' evenings which were very well attended. Our partnership with parents is fundamental to the progress that pupils make and your support is very much appreciated.

Our older students have a very busy time ahead. Year 11 have just **9** teaching weeks left before the start of their GCSE exams. Prior to this they will also be completing the practical aspects of their courses. Students should now be underway with their planned programme of revision, so that they don't put too much pressure on themselves in the final weeks before the exams.

Year 10 have now experienced the first of their mock exams and will be preparing for a two-week block of mock exams in June. During the last week of half-term Y10 also took part in their work experience. Well done to the students and parents for their participation in the planning of their placements.

Year 9 are in the process of choosing the subjects they will study in Y10 and Y11, for their GCSEs. They have received information about the courses and have had their options evening for parents and students this week.

Y6 are also getting ready for SATs. They too have 9 teaching weeks before their SATs begin. They are working hard in class to prepare.

As you know, all our teachers are involved in research to help us to continually keep up-to-date with the latest developments in education. This half term teachers have jointly planned and delivered lessons. It has been a privilege for me to see this and to see how engaged our pupils are in their learning.

It's also wonderful to see that as well as their hard work in lessons, pupils are also making the most of opportunities outside the classroom. We've had a number of trips and during our AC Day we had a wide variety of visitors from Higher Education and business, helping our students to think about their futures. The half term ended with a visit from Natalie Bennett, former leader of the Green Party, who spoke to our student council and Year 9 students.

Thank you again for your support and God bless,

*Anna Dickson*

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## NEWS ROUND UP

### Vehicles on School Premises

This continues to be an issue, with obstructions being caused by inconsiderate behaviour by drivers parking on double yellow lines, on the wrong side of the access roads and in no-parking areas. This causes frustration and danger.

**If you must bring your vehicle onto school premises, please ensure you drive with consideration for others and the safety of our pupils, which is paramount.**

We continue to be very concerned that an incident will occur that causes injury to one of our children. We are sure you agree that this is something we must avoid at all costs.

Whilst some of our families need access to site due to mobility or other requirements, other drivers can park outside of school and walk a short distance. Again, we would like to remind you that there are **no on-site parking facilities** for parents. The car park at Barnsley Bowl has been made available for our parents and carers to use from 8am each day.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

### Visit by Natalie Bennett

Former Green Party Leader, Natalie Bennett came to Holy Trinity to meet with our School Council and Year 9 Students.

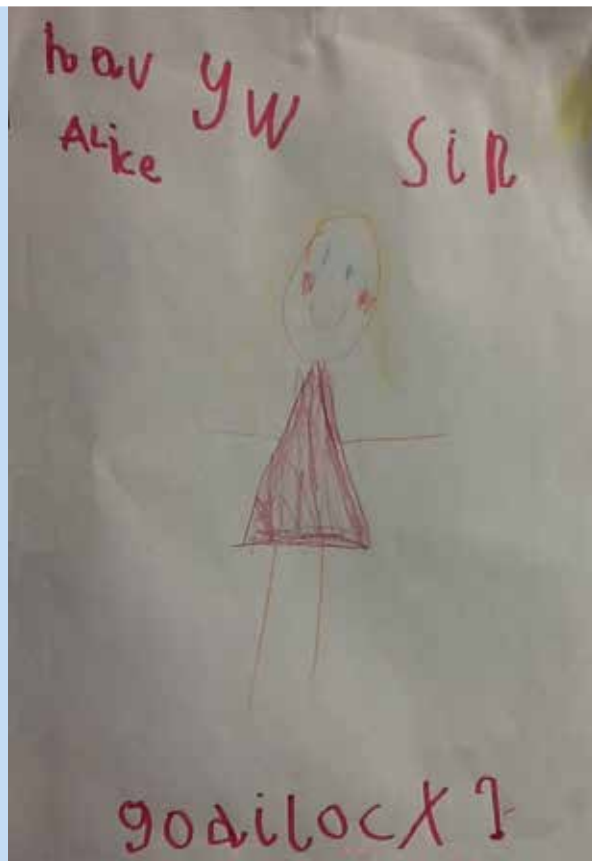


Natalie spoke passionately about the key issues that drive her work. During discussions, she was very impressed with our students, their questions and the issues they raised.

There were a wide range of topics covered, including nuclear weapons, roads and climate change. On this topic, our students told her that they would like to see more trees planted in the school grounds.

Our students found it a very interesting and enriching experience - thank you to everyone who was involved in organising Natalie's visit.

### An Unexpected Visitor in EYFS2!



After reading the story of Goldilocks and the three bears, the pupils and staff in EYFS2 discovered an unusual scene in their home corner!

It was very messy, with the cooking area having porridge left in a pan, some leftovers in a bowl and spilled porridge on the floor! The children thought that it could have been Goldilocks and after eating all the bears porridge she wanted to eat theirs too (which they were going to be eating for snack time!)

The children made posters and asked everyone in school if they had seen anything. They then received a letter from Goldilocks saying sorry. On reflection, the children decided to forgive her and wrote a letter back to let her know.





## Gearing Up for Exams

### Year 11 GCSE Preparation

We work hard in school to support our students and help them to achieve their full potential. We want every one of them to leave Holy Trinity with the best possible qualifications to help steer them on their way to the next stage in their lives.

This will also help them to have the widest possible choice and a greater range of opportunities in what they would like to do next.

It's proven that children who also have support at home perform better and achieve higher grades. Anything you can do to help your child will make a difference - you don't need to be an expert in any of the subjects they are studying; there are many ways in which you can help. Your support, encouragement and taking an interest in what they are revising will have an impact. There are lots of online resources to help with revision, such as BBC Bitesize. You can also obtain past and practice exam papers and marking schemes via the exam board websites. Your child will know which exam board they are working under.

In addition, we have issued a revision booklet containing advice and information about how you can best support your children at home, as they revise and plan for their exams.

In the meantime, here are a few tips for how you can help:

- Ensure your child has a quiet space where they can work, away from distractions.
- Offer to help them create a revision timetable and to assist with them sticking to it.
- Remember that they also need some downtime and fun.
- When your child feels worried or stressed, listen to their concerns, help them to keep perspective and encourage them to keep trying.
- During the exam period, try to keep a calm environment, your child may feel stressed and be on edge more than usual at this time.

Remember that the earlier your child begins to revise, the better they will feel when it comes to the exams and the better chance they have of getting the grades they are capable of.

### Year 6 SATS

It is also soon to be SATS time for our Year 6 children - they begin at the same time as GCSEs.

Our Primary Phase teachers are working hard to make sure all of our Y6 pupils are prepared for the tests. As with the older students, any additional help you can give at home, will help your children to achieve their best.

Again, please get in touch if you would like advice on how best to do this.

## AC Day

Our latest AC Day was another big success with many visitors and activities for our students to participate in. Our AC Days provide important opportunities that allow students to explore their own personal development and views, as well as enabling them to learn about future pathways and the choices they will have to make in life.

We were very pleased to have the BBC Bitesize Roadshow in school, which aims to help students to think about careers as well as raising awareness of their website, which contains help and information for all learners to use. It was a very useful event, with lots of useful tips and some great questions from our students.



## Team Active Gymnastics Competition

The Team Active Gymnastics Competition was held at Holy Trinity just before the half term break. There were four categories for our gymnasts to compete in, Year 3/4 Foundation, Year 3/4 Advanced, Year 5/6 Foundation and Year 5/6 Advanced. The top two teams in each category progress to the South Yorkshire Games Finals to represent Barnsley. Our teams worked hard and did brilliantly, with some excellent performances in both the floor and vault elements.



The final placings for our teams in each category were:

- Year 3/4 Foundation - **GOLD!**
- Year 5/6 Advanced - **SILVER!**
- Year 3/4 Advanced - **BRONZE!**
- Year 5/6 Foundation - **BRONZE!**

A huge WELL DONE to all! Good luck to those teams progressing to the South Yorkshire Games!

## Forthcoming Dates

### Spring Term 2019

|                      |                                                    |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 1st March     | Year 11 receive their personalised GCSE timetables |
| Friday 1st March     | Coffee Morning                                     |
| Wednesday 6th March  | Ash Wednesday                                      |
| Wednesday 6th March  | Primary Parents' Evening                           |
| Thursday 7th March   | World Book Day                                     |
| Friday 15th March    | AC Day                                             |
| Friday 22nd March    | Y11 reports to parents                             |
| Thursday 28th March  | Y10 reports to parents                             |
| Friday 29th March    | Mothers' Day Liturgies                             |
| Wednesday 3rd April  | Y9 reports to parents                              |
| Wednesday 10th April | Y7 reports to parents                              |
| Thursday 11th April  | Y10 students receive mock exam timetable           |
| Thursday 11th April  | Y3 and Y4 Easter Concert                           |
| Friday 12th April    | Holy Week Liturgies                                |
| Friday 12th April    | School Closes for Easter                           |
| Monday 29th April    | School re-opens for summer term                    |