

Trinity School

Heathway

Dagenham

Essex

RM10 7SJ

Tel: 020 8270 1601

Fax: 020 8270 4969

Email:

[office.trinity@bdcs.org.uk](mailto:office.trinity@bdcs.org.uk)

Website:

[www.trinityschooldagenham.org.uk](http://www.trinityschooldagenham.org.uk)

Headteacher:

Mr Peter McPartland OBE

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
**THE LAST DAY OF**  
**AUTUMN TERM**  
**FOR PUPILS WILL BE**  
**FRIDAY**  
**18 DECEMBER 2015**

**PUPILS RETURN TO**  
**SCHOOL AFTER THE**  
**CHRISTMAS BREAK**  
**ON MONDAY**  
**4 JANUARY 2016**



# *Trinity School*

## *Newsletter*

### *December 2015*



#### *Dear Parents and Carers*

Trinity School remains a popular school and we now have over 280 children and young people on roll. As a consequence we are continuously adding to the facilities. Over the past months we have undertaken the following projects:

- \* The completion of a new multi gym in the sports hall
- \* The complete refurbishment of the Living and Learning Centre
- \* The completion of a new multi-sensory theatre
- \* The completion of a new multi-sensory facility in the school swimming pool.

We have also identified the need for personalised work/class rooms for those times when distraction free work stations are needed by pupils who may feel overwhelmed by busy and noisy spaces. Therefore we are currently building a new classroom that will offer six individualised work rooms. I am pleased to tell you that this new facility will be completed and ready to use at the end of January.

As we continuously seek better and more efficient ways of keeping in touch with you, we shall be introducing our new Parent Mail (group e-mail/texting service) in the New Year. Please watch out for information about this new service.

As I am sure you are aware Trinity School has always remained opened throughout cold and snowy weather. It remains our intention to do our utmost to keep the school open again this year should there be a return of snow. I assure you that it is my intention to keep the school open and we will close only when all options to stay open are exhausted. However, in the event of poor weather, I urge you to use the following procedure to find out the status of the school. Information about the school can be found on the LBBB and the school website at:

[www.trinityschooldagenham.org.uk](http://www.trinityschooldagenham.org.uk) where there is a link on the front page. Click on this link and you will be taken to a Barking and Dagenham Council web page where you will find information about school closures. I urge you to look at this page before travelling to the school in poor weather. Please try to avoid telephoning the school directly to check if we are open as our lines are always very busy between 7.30am and 9.30am.

I would like to remind all parents who bring their child to school by car or public transport that in the event of snow the roads in and around the school grounds will be icy. All pedestrians should wear appropriate footwear. Drivers must also show great caution and take extra care when dropping off or picking up pupils. Drivers must follow the instructions of the Transport Marshall who is there to ensure the safety of all.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

### Christmas Holidays 2015

Monday 21 December 2015 -  
Friday 1 January 2016 (Bank  
Holiday) (Inclusive)

### Spring Half-Term 2016

Monday 15 February -  
Friday 19 February 2016  
(Inclusive)

### Easter Holidays 2016

Friday 25 March (Good Friday  
Bank Holiday) -  
Friday 8 April 2016 (Inclusive)

### May Day 2016

Monday 2 May 2016  
(Bank Holiday)

### Summer Half-Term 2016

Monday 30 May (Bank  
Holiday) -  
Friday 3 June 2016 (Inclusive)

## NOTE TO PARENTS/CARERS:

Please ensure that all  
belongings are clearly  
marked with your  
child's name.



I also advise you that in poor weather you should allow extra time for dropping off children in the mornings and picking them up in the afternoons. Please remember that there will be a significant increase in cars using the turning circle if the school transport is cancelled. May I also ask parents NOT to park along the main drive leading up to the school gates as this has been causing significant congestion each morning and evening as buses and other drivers attempt to pass each other on this narrow stretch of road.

Finally I offer my thanks to you for all the kindness and support that you have given to my staff over the term. I do hope that you have a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas holiday.

My Best Wishes to you all

*Peter McPartland*  
*Headteacher*

## *Lower School*

It is nearly Christmas and time for pupils to spend their holiday sharing celebrations with their families and friends - so we would like to update you on some of the exciting things which have been happening in the Lower Phase at Trinity since we returned to school in September.

On our first day back we welcomed 2 new teachers and 18 new pupils into the phase - all of whom have settled really well into their new classes and appear to be enjoying school life. The staff have worked hard to set-up their classrooms to cater for the needs of the pupils and we are constantly reviewing and updating our provision as and when needs demand. We wish them all luck and success at Trinity.

During the training days at the start of term, a group of Lower School staff spent time clearing our old wilderness area to transform it into an "outdoor classroom" - which has since been named our Wilderness Wonderland. They planted flowers and heathers and made a circle of log seats, so that classes can sit and share activities or even go and have a picnic. Thankfully, the weather has been kind to us since and many classes are benefitting from an extra space in which to learn. The phase managers also cleared the old summer house and have converted it into a sensory "Story Shed" with large coloured beanbags to sit on - this is being decorated each half-term to match the topic being covered and has recently been a forest for traditional tales and is now brightly designed to develop our topic of shape and pattern.



Linked to this, on the 23rd September, all our pupils were involved in the National Multi-Sensory Storytelling Day. Each class was timetabled a slot in both our new Story Shed and our Wilderness Wonderland to enjoy hearing stories linked to our English topic of traditional tales. This was so successful that we decided to plan our Autumn sensory experience day on 12th

October around storytelling. A group of our FEC students came over to the Training Suite and read a "sensory" version of the story "The Little Red Hen". Pupils listened to the story, used switches to respond and explored a range of textures, smells and tastes. It was such a successful event that classes now have a weekly session with the FEC students reading stories from the topic to them - both the FEC students and the Lower School pupils really look forward to this and enjoy every minute!

## PUPIL ABSENCE

If your child is absent, you must let the school know on the first day of absence before 9.15 am giving the reason e.g. illness, appointments etc.

All absences without a known reason will be followed up with a call by the school office.



### \*Congratulations\*

To our School Cook  
Nicole Lane on receiving an award for the highest increase of School Meals across the Borough of Barking & Dagenham.



Our autumn term Open Evening took place on the 6th October and over 65% of families took the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and class team.



In the summer term we are aiming to increase the number of families actually attending to nearer 80%. The conversations that occurred were very informative and have helped us in improving our knowledge of and support for pupils. We also know that closer links between families and school are very beneficial in developing a successful provision for our pupils.



Our staff have also taken part in a range of training over the term to increase opportunities for our pupils - these include learning to drive the school mini-bus, Early Years base lining and sensory curriculum.

Pupils have also been involved in story sessions in our newly refurbished Multi-sensory room, helped raise money on "Wear it Pink" day, made cards to enter into a Christmas card competition organised by one of our MPs Margaret Hodge and our PMLD classes have been taking part in an intra-school Boccia competition.

Between now and the end of term, Lower School pupils are looking forward to a very exciting and busy time including:

- \* Our Nativity assembly for families on the 11th December.
- \* A pantomime onsite on the 15th December and one class travelling to Queen's Theatre to see Aladdin.
- \* Our Winter Wonderland sensory experience in the Training Suite on the 14th December.
- \* A concert on the 16th December followed by Christmas lunch.
- \* A disco on the 17th December.
- \* Christmas Jumper Day on the 18th December.

We are also hoping that during his very busy schedule at this time of year - that we will also be getting a visit from Father Christmas and we are decorating our Story Shed into a grotto just in case!!!!!!

We would like to wish all of our pupils and their families a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to another enjoyable and successful year in 2016!

*Abby Town, Veronica Jackson &  
Candice Webb - Lower School*

### *Middle School*

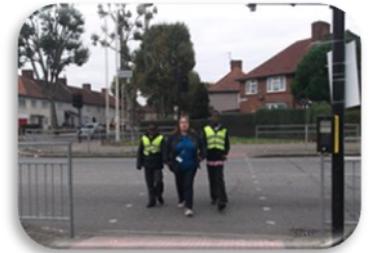
The phase have had a very busy Autumn term with some students having lots of opportunities to take part in events both off-site and within the school.

New students from the Lower Phase have settled in well and are becoming familiar with the expected routines within the Middle Phase.



Our weekly Tuesday morning visits to Elhap have continued, with most students within the phase having the chance to experience a large adventure playground designed for young people with special educational needs

Four classes have completed our Pedestrian Road Safety Skills course, all students will have an opportunity to participate in this course this academic year.



The phase has been lucky enough to participate in four sessions from a local company called Vandome, who work with schools within the borough to develop student's bike skills. During these sessions a number of students have been identified to continue with a skill based biking course.

This term some students have been learning the skills of 'wall climbing', in order to develop their communication and gross motor skills.



Some students attended The Annual President's Cup Christmas Lunch celebration which was held at Barleylands in Billericay. All students thoroughly enjoyed their day.

All of Middle Phase staff would like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas holiday.

*Jan Fisher-Sibbons - Assistant Headteacher  
Middle School*

## *Upper School*

As we rapidly approach Christmas, we would like to share some of the highlights of this busy term.

In September new students were welcomed into the phase. They have all settled into the Upper School extremely well and have adapted to the different curriculum that is offered in this phase. Equally, the students who have transitioned to the FEC have also settled well and are really enjoying the variety of opportunities open to them. All students have been working very hard as they have embarked upon their accredited courses and vocational subjects.



In October we enjoyed a 'Scary Night' disco when many students and staff dressed up for this fun evening with music dancing and prizes.



As a school we supported the annual “Wear it Pink” Charity day which raised an impressive £785.34 for Breast Cancer Awareness

Work experience has started for our Year 11 and Year 14 students. This will continue into next year. Students will access placements such as the Sue Ryder Charity Shop, The Osborne Partnership, Heathlands and Wellgate Community Farm. Transition continues for students as they prepare for future placement at Post 16.



In November FEC students visited a Hovis distribution centre to develop an understanding of how businesses operate and also Havering College with which future college links are planned.



The mini enterprise scheme continues to be successful. The 2016 calendar has been produced using art work from across the school, and is selling really well. As part of their work related learning curriculum the FEC have made personalised trays and snowmen- two very popular products.



Many students across the phase have represented Trinity School at various sporting fixtures. The FEC continue to access a variety of venues in the community as part of their curriculum using sports centres, leisure centres and supermarkets.

In December we host our presentation afternoon, when students return to receive certificates in recognition of accredited work completed in the summer. A record number of students have gained certificates and diplomas this year. Six of our students will be presented with their G.C.S.E Mathematics and P.E. certificates- a great accolade.

We are very proud of all our students’ achievements and pleased that so many parents and friends intend to share in this celebration.

Christmas events are in progress. A brass band has given a Christmas Concert. The choir are singing at a local old people’s home and another group are visiting Thurrock Garden Centre’s Christmas festivities. On the last day of term the celebrations will finish with Mr. Payne’s disco and the spectacular “Trinity’s Got the Xmas Factor” talent competition

From all the students and staff of the Upper Phase, we wish you a very Happy Christmas holiday and a peaceful new year.

*Denny Brackenbury, Kim Case & Veronica Roberts  
The Upper Phase Management Team*

## The Living & Learning Centre



Christmas sensory exploration

This term has been a very exciting time for all of those involved in the Living and Learning Centre. Over the summer break LLC1 underwent a major refurbishment by our team of talented caretakers. It looks fantastic and students are enjoying their new surroundings.

Our newly refurbished kitchen is used by our post sixteen students every week to carry out their catering sessions. Students have been advertising the goods that they are making and selling them to LLC staff, this is to equip them with the necessary skills before we branch out and offer our services to the wider school community. Students have successfully made and sold jacket potatoes and mince pies so far.

All LLC students are now accessing lessons and activities within the main school environment. All students are timetabled to attend music, PE and ICT slots with their LLC peers. It is very positive to see our students in and around the school environment, making effective use of the facilities that are on offer. Six LLC students are attending PE sessions with a class group in the main school; we increase these opportunities for the students that it is appropriate for.



Post 16 DIY group work

The Living and Learning Centre team have been working closely together to begin to introduce more group sessions to students timetables. This has been very positive. Our students are now working together in small groups for at least one session a day.



Shopping in the community

The team were very proud to find that Jonathan Williams was awarded a Jack Petchey Award in November for the way that he has settled into the Centre since joining us earlier in the year. Jonathan has opted to use his prize money to buy leisure activities for his classroom. We are using the rest to make our end of term Christmas party extra special and will feature food from our student's favourite restaurants!

Christmas is coming to the Living and Learning Centre! We have been taking part in shopping trips in the community to buy gifts as part of our LLC student Santa; some students have completed internet shopping to buy their gift. We are holding our Christmas lunch on two separate days to ensure that LLC1 and LLC2 get to access a celebration, appropriate to each groups needs.

The LLC team is looking forward to achieving more exciting things in 2016.



Caring for Pets topic work

We hope that all our students, parents and carers have a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

*Jo Long*  
*LLC Teacher Manager*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
HEADTEACHER  
MR MCPARTLAND OBE



*Mr McPartland attended an investiture at Buckingham Palace on Thursday 10 December, where he received his OBE from HRH Prince Charles.*

*The award was given for services to Education.*

*Merry Christmas*