

Trinity School

Heathway

Dagenham

Essex

RM10 7SJ

Tel: 020 8270 1601

Fax: 020 8270 4969

Email:

office.trinity@bdcs.org.uk

Website:

www.trinityschooldagenham.org.uk

Headteacher:

Mr Peter McPartland OBE

PLEASE NOTE:

**THE LAST DAY OF
SPRING TERM
FOR PUPILS WILL BE
THURSDAY
24 MARCH 2016**

**PUPILS RETURN TO
SCHOOL AFTER THE
EASTER BREAK
ON MONDAY
11 APRIL 2016**



Trinity School Newsletter March 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

I really do hope that you enjoy reading this end of term newsletter. The staff and pupils have once again given their very best over the past weeks and I thank them all for their continuing commitment to the school.

Despite significant pressure on the school budget, I am pleased to say that we continue to drive forward our planned school developments. Three of my senior staff have been appointed Specialist Leaders in Education and in September we shall see the first students who will be undertaking their initial teacher training at Trinity in partnership with Goldsmiths University. I am also pleased to inform you that the Home Intervention/Support service will continue with the appointment of Jodie Wright our new worker.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has been running at the school for some years with great success. Consequently my Head of Physical Education, James Morris, has been invited to receive a commemorative plaque at Buckingham Palace in May.

Several teaching assistants and teachers have been recently appointed to ensure that we are fully staffed in time for the next school year when we are likely to have around 290 pupils. In addition, as we are very keen to encourage and train people to work in schools we continue to employ 12 apprentice teaching assistants in the expectation that most will secure permanent employment at some point in the future.

Many of our current teaching assistants have been busy studying for an additional qualification at the level of NVQ3. As they have all been successful I offer them my congratulations. We are all very proud of their achievements.

The recent Governor elections saw the re-election of Mr George Tidbury for a further four years as one of your parent governors. My sincere thanks to all who put themselves forward for the position.

Our buildings development has seen the completion and opening of our suite of six individual work rooms and one of my teachers, Mrs Penfold, has been very busy redeveloping the Upper School garden and allotments.

Next term will see two very exciting theatrical/cultural events held at the school. In May we welcome the annual return of the Oily Carte Theatre Company with their new production called The Light Show which is specifically written for PMLD and ASC pupils. In April with the support of the Arts Council we shall host an exciting and innovative production by an actor-therapist Louise Coleman. The production which is set in our sports dome is known as a Luminaria and has been designed by Architects of Air. You can find out more about both productions on their websites.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

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)

**THE LAST DAY OF
SUMMER TERM FOR
PUPILS WILL BE
TUESDAY 19 JULY 2016**

NOTE TO PARENTS/CARERS:

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



As more pupils attend, Trinity traffic congestion increases and therefore restrictions will be put in place to stop visitors and staff from parking along the main route into the school. In the interests of safety I ask you to comply with new signage and road marking which will appear over the summer.

Finally as Easter is the most important event in the calendar for our families of a Christian faith I wish you on their behalf a peaceful and safe school break.

Best wishes

Peter McPartland
Headteacher

Lower School

Since our last newsletter, pupils in Lower School have been involved in a wide range of exciting extra-curricular activities to enhance their learning, promote social skills and develop British values.

LS AR pupils travelled to Becontree Leisure Centre for the Panathlon Challenge PE event and really enjoyed the opportunity to be offsite taking part in sporting activities.

LS SHo went to Lakeside for a Christmas sensory experience including tastes, sights and sounds associated with the festive season.

LS LH went to Queen's Theatre to see the pantomime and confidently got involved in cheering and clapping during the performance. They also visited the Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green and went on a joint visit with students from our FEC to St. Mary's Church in Dagenham for an Easter sensory experience. We hope that this is a link which will continue not only with the FEC students (who have been reading to the Lower School pupils) but with St. Mary's Church itself.

The whole phase was also involved in a number of events onsite:

All the Lower School pupils participated in an excellent Nativity performance for families and friends with each class sharing their work by video and singing seasonal songs

Each class had a session in our Winter Wonderland for our termly Sensory Experience - this included tastes, sounds, sights, smells and activities based on the winter festive season organised to cater for the wide range of needs of the pupils

All the pupils watched a pantomime performed by an outside group "Dazzle and Fizz" who very successfully adapted their performance for our pupils.

Father Christmas also visited our Story Shed Grotto and each pupil received a gift from him.

All our pupils enjoyed a concert performed by the borough's staff Jazz Band concert in the Dining Hall on February 10th.

Four pupils took part in an aquatics festival at Abbey Sports Centre on 16th March - involving water confidence and swimming skills in a fun, competitive setting.

PUPIL ABSENCE

If your child is absent, you must let the school know on the first day of absence before 9.15 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.



Please Note that From September 2015 The Price of a School Meal is £2.20



Celebrating Chinese New Year has become an annual event which all our pupils seem to enjoy - listening to music, tasting noodles, dressing up in traditional costumes and making Chinese fans and lanterns. This year was no different as the Training Suite turned into an immersive sensory experience for the day and pupils “flew” to China to take part.



Our next sensory experience will be focusing on Easter and springtime - we hope that this is just as successful and enjoyable for all the pupils.



Over the last term, ten classes have accessed adapted bikes in the sports dome on two separate occasions on the 6th January/9th March. We are now hoping that the bikes may be semi-permanently housed at Trinity so pupils can access them on a more regular basis.



On 4th March, everyone in Lower School, including the staff, spent the day acknowledging “World Book Day.” We all dressed up as our favourite characters from children’s books and spent time sharing books and reading together. We also had a whole phase assembly with “Star of the Week” awards being presented by one of our Deputy Heads.



During their Art and DT sessions, pupils worked on designing a mini-garden which could be planted in a wheelbarrow to grow. Pupils chose their favourite fruits, vegetables and flowers and made collages of how they wanted them to be planted - and the designs were entered into a borough competition. Unfortunately, we didn’t win any prizes but we are going to plant up a wheelbarrow to see how our design looks in real life.

We would like to wish all our pupils and their families a Happy Easter and hope that they have a great holiday and return refreshed on 11th April.

*Abby Town, Veronica Jackson, Candice Webb & Sandra Lee
Lower School Managers*

Middle School

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



Theme Weeks—The students have participated in two theme weeks this term. The students really enjoyed learning about the Vikings in our Invaders and Settlers theme week, with opportunities to make Viking food, dress up in Viking costumes and lots more.

ELHAP—Weekly group trips have continued to Elhap. Students have the opportunity to explore an adventure playground adapted and resourced for students with special educational needs. Elhap is a great activity for our students, enabling them to explore and play in a large safe outdoor/indoor environment.

Bubbly Maths— Bubbly Maths again joined us to explore the maths topic of shape, space and measure, in a very hands on practical way. The students made 3D shapes from balloons and had the experience of getting inside a giant 3D balloon bubble.



American Indians

Our Art topic for the spring term for our 7/8 students has been American Indians. To consolidate the learning of the topic the students were very lucky to have a workshop about this where they were able to explore real artefacts and had the opportunity to dress up as American Indians.



Developing Independence and Play Skills

Running through the spirit of our curriculum is developing independence and play skills. All students have had the opportunity to develop these skills through play and work.

Wishing you a happy, restful and safe Easter holiday

Jan Fisher-Sibbons, Chris Komodromos & Lucy Foster
Middle School Management



Upper School / FEC

Once again the Upper Phase and FEC have enjoyed a very busy and fulfilling Spring Term. Year 11 and Year 14 students are working hard to complete their accreditation work in a variety of subjects including English, Maths, Science, PE, ICT, DT, Art, FT, Catering, Horticulture, Home Management and PSE.

Year 10 and Year 14 students continue with their Work Experience placements. Students are able to experience the world of work at Boots the Chemist, Wellgate Community Farm, the YMCA at Romford, The Osborne Partnership and various charity outlets.



Students in the FEC began a link to Dagenham Park School attending the Hair and Beauty Salon 'ELATION' for a short mainstream inclusion course. This has been a fantastic experience and students have enjoyed the opportunity to discover and learn new skills.



Assemblies for this term were given over to each Upper Phase class team. This has been approached with enthusiasm and highly enjoyed by all. Groups have come up with some original ideas and themes for their assembly.



A group of FEC students had the opportunity to visit the Mayor of Barking and Dagenham this term. They had a wonderful time and were allowed into the Mayor's parlour, tried on his robes and had tea. As a result of this the Mayor will be coming in to school on 20th April for a formal visit.



Once again some Upper Phase and FEC students represented the school at sporting events including Panathlon, Boccia, Football, Rowing, and Swimming Gala's. These events have been very successful and our students have gained a variety of medals as rewards for their achievements.

As part of our Work Related Learning and Mini Enterprise curriculum both Upper Phase and FEC groups have produced some fantastic items for sale. Leading up to Christmas the FEC made 'Door Stop Snowmen' and these sold like hot cakes. This term students have been making money banks which they decorate and package.



All in the Upper Phase and Further Education Centre would like to wish you a very happy and enjoyable Easter break.

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

