

Trinity Academy New Parent/Carer Bulletin #1 – Friday 15 May 2020

Headteacher's Welcome

We are very excited to welcome you to the Trinity family and are looking forward to working with you to care for and nurture your child. Our mission at Trinity is to create a world class school. As such, we expect that all members of our community seek to become the best version of themselves, developing Head, Heart and Soul, so that our students will ultimately be successfully and happily employed in a career with prospects, as well as being citizens with a burning passion to serve their communities. Education for us is about the whole child and we are unapologetic in setting the highest expectations for all aspects of our community: our learning (Head), the way in which we care and respect for one another (Heart), as well as our engagement in co-curricular opportunities and experiences (Soul). This is the first of five bulletins we will send to you as we start to unpack this mission statement and begin our exciting journey together.

Mr E Bailey, Headteacher

Message from the Chair of Governors

We are really happy that you have chosen to become a part of the Trinity Academy community and are looking forward to working with you over the next five to seven years of your child's education. It is an exciting time for us. We feel that, as a new school, we are building new ways of doing things – whilst taking opportunities to learn as we go and benefiting from our Cathedral School Trust peer schools. We have a strong foundation in checking whether our students are making the progress they should in their learning and pursue our ambition to provide a world class education for our students. We could not have planned for the current global COVID 19 pandemic, but it has tested our resolve to support, to care for and also to provide continued learning experiences for all our students, in extremely difficult circumstances. We are also immensely proud of our teaching team and know that you and your children will feel the benefits of the work that they have put into this first year. Please be encouraged to contribute to this community, to bring your ideas, your enthusiasm and to play your part in contributing to making Trinity the best school it can be.

Merlyn Ipinson-Fleming, Chair of Governors

Update on Induction

Following recent government announcements on the progressive reopening of schools from Monday 1 June, we are looking at how we can provide a safe and informative induction process for your child. We will be working closely with the Trust, the Local Authority and other agencies to understand how this can be done and plan to give more details in due course. We still envisage that we will have a parent information evening on Thursday 18 June. This may be available as a live online event to limit the number of people entering the school. We intend to give you further details in our next bulletin at the beginning of June.

Dr W Nottingham, Deputy Headteacher

Contacting Us

If you have any questions, please do contact us on 0117 450 9379 or email us at: enquiries@trinityacademybristol.org.

Head – A Place of Learning

At Trinity we place significant emphasis on the Head – learning is central to everything we do. The staff at Trinity are working hard to make sure that your child has the best start at secondary school. We are highly ambitious for every single student and will support them to become the best version of themselves. Over the summer, students can work on five key skills to prepare them for secondary school. These are:

- Establishing good learning habits
- Extended writing
- Oracy (speaking skills)
- Quizzing / revising
- Note taking

We will be discussing one of these key skills in each of our bulletins. In today's bulletin we will focus on establishing good learning habits.

Good Learning Habits

Secondary school students need to be more organised in order to manage their time well and will need to become more independent. However, they will likely need lots of help in developing good habits – especially as they start this journey in Year 7. Students will need to read their timetables and bring in the correct books and equipment for each day. Students are also expected to do between 60 and 90 minutes of homework each day in Year 7. Managing homework is often something that students initially find difficult and are likely to require help and encouragement with, both at home and in school. As part of the in school support, students are able to choose a homework club as one of their co-curricular options each term. However, you can help your child develop good learning habits by:

- Encouraging him or her to read for a minimum of 20 minutes per day. You could even begin building up to this now. This will be an expectation once a child starts at Trinity;
- Making sure he or she packs their bag each night for the following day;
- Displaying their weekly lesson and homework timetables somewhere visible at home;
- Making plans about how homework, co-curricular activities and other extra-curricular activities will fit into the week (also planning in regular breaks); and
- Encouraging him or her to do homework the night it is set where possible.

Miss R Lunt, Head of English

Heart – A Place of Care and Respect

Trinity students know to value, not just their academic and co-curricular learning, but also their well-being and sense of care and respect. At Trinity we call this the 'Heart'. We understand that students (and indeed all of us) make mistakes. We believe that, in order to respect and care for others and our surroundings, we must start by caring, respecting and valuing ourselves. We can explore what 'Heart' means by focussing on:

- Caring for the Planet: as a school and an individual
- Bristol: community involvement
- Trinity: our school and local area
- Others: social interaction
- Me: well-being and self-respect

In each of the five bulletins we will dive deeper in one of the areas above. Today we will be looking at Caring for the Planet as a school and an individual.

Caring for the Planet: as a School and an Individual

Within ten minutes of last year's Induction Day, two students had already picked up pieces of litter. They had shown the type of care and respect for the environment that we expect from all of our students. When your child begins at Trinity, please encourage him or her to engage with, and lead on, environmental concerns by:

- Joining the school's Green Team - A group of students that act to reduce the school's carbon footprint and other impacts on the environment.
- Recycling - We expect all students to use minimal amounts of single-use materials but where this isn't possible, we have food and recycling bins that must be used around the school. We encourage all students to support one another in ensuring that everyone does the right thing.
- Making a Green Pledge - With small steps we can help reduce the planet's suffering. Do they already have a reusable water bottle? Do they help with recycling at home? Do they pick up rubbish when you see it littering parks and streets? What could they pledge to do to help our planet?
- Listening to guest speakers - We often have guest speakers in assembly, to talk about environmental issues. Last year, Bristol Waste and Dr Andrew Garrad CBE FREng came to talk about the difference Trinity students can make.
- Taking an interest in Trinity's new building - Have you had a look at the [new plans](#)? Have you seen what wonderful things Skanska are putting in place to make our new building an environmentally friendly place.

Miss H Garrad, Head of Year 7

Soul – A Place of Engagement

Our intellectual, spiritual and emotional selves develop together when we are doing the things we choose and love with others. We might describe those things as hobbies, interests, or passions. They can often be those things that connect us and keep us going through challenging times. They feel good for our 'Soul'. Finding those things that ignite that spark requires us to try something new, take risks and meet new people.

At Trinity Academy, children participate in co-curricular activities and there is always a rich offer of clubs for children to choose to participate in and find their spark, including sports, arts and many other things. We invite you to work with us to introduce your child to some of the attributes of our soul (intellectual, spiritual and emotional selves) that will be developed at Trinity. Namely:

- Character
- Trying something new
- Relationships
- Community and Co-creation
- Employability

We will be discussing one of these attributes in each of our bulletins. In today's bulletin we will focus on character.

Soul attribute: Character

Character is often referred to as being made up of those 'soft skills' that we draw on to function effectively in society. They can often be those skills that separate one candidate from another in an interview. There are lots of different words and phrases to describe various 'soft skills'. At Trinity we focus on four:



Self-Direction – 'I am in control of my learning both in and outside the classroom'



Resilience – 'I try new things and persevere even when it is tough'



Self-Control – 'I am in control of my emotions and responsible for myself and others'



Communication – 'I ask questions showing others I am interested in their ideas and points of view.'

How to Develop Character

- Identify together times when your child has shown each of these character attributes and praise them, possibly using the icons to explain the character.
- Look for moments when your child shows each of these character attributes over the summer and praise them, possibly using the icons to explain the character.
- How can I signify and praise an aspect of character?
 - Avoid material reward in favour of language
 - It doesn't have to be at the time.... the moment is never lost with praise.
 - "I noticed that you worked out how to do that on your own... great self-direction!"
 - I remember how hard you found ... when you first started. I was really proud of how resilient you were. You stuck at it!"
 - "That seemed to make you feel angry... I'm so pleased you talked to me about it rather than shout. That's great self-control."
 - "Good communication...that's a really interesting question... I think... what do you think?"

Mr H Young, Teacher of Art