

Trinity Academy New Parent/Carer Bulletin #2 – Friday 5 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It's a pleasure to be sending out our second bulletin to families who are starting at Trinity in September. As you can imagine, there is a lot going on at the moment but we are planning carefully how we welcome your child to Trinity over the next three months so that they, and you, feel happy, confident and fully informed on all that will happen.

Parent Handbook 2020

Moving from primary school to secondary can be daunting for many children and parents. It is normal to have lots of questions about how a secondary school works and how it is different from the primary school experience. Such questions include:

What are lessons like? How often is homework set? How does the school reward my child for behaving well and working hard? Which subjects are taught? How is my child supported academically? When do I receive reports and when are parents' evenings? Where do I buy the school uniform?

We have answered these questions (and many, many more) in our [Parent Handbook 2020 – an Introduction to Year 7](#). This is also available online now, on our new [induction page](#) of the school's website. You will also receive a physical copy of the handbook in the post. I highly recommend reading it as it gives you and your child lots of helpful information about our school and life at Trinity.

Mr E Bailey, Headteacher

New Year 7 Parent Information Evening

We will be holding our New Year 7 Parent Information Evening from **6pm to 7pm on Thursday 18 June**. This is a presentation that highlights all the important information a parent needs to know before their child starts at Trinity Academy. It is also an opportunity for parents to ask any questions they have. Because of physical distancing measures, this meeting will only be held online – we will be sending out details of how to join the meeting on Monday 15 June. The meeting will be recorded and uploaded onto our [induction page](#) for any parents who were not able to view the meeting live.

Dr W Nottingham, Deputy Headteacher

Parent Questionnaire

We would like to find out more about your child, so that we can prepare to welcome them into the school. Normally we would do this by meeting your child in their primary school. However, given the strict physical distancing measures required of schools this is not currently possible. Instead, we would like you to complete a short online questionnaire. Some of the questions relate to your child's interests and motivations, whilst other questions are about the family environment. The information you provide is only used by the school to support your child's transition to Trinity Academy. We do not share any information you give with any external organisation. Please click [here](#) to access the online questionnaire.

Dr W Nottingham, Deputy Headteacher

Contacting Us

If you have any questions, please do contact us on 0117 450 9379 or [email us](#).

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 making

In today’s bulletin we will focus on extended writing.

Study Skill: Extended Writing

One of the most important skills students at Trinity will develop is their extended writing. Your child will be asked to write in extended paragraphs and essays in a wide range of their school subjects, including English, history, science and many others. Some students may feel that the skill of writing comes naturally to them, but others may require more help. Whatever their current level of ability, we will provide your child with the support they need to become a confident writer.

Confidence and skill in extended writing comes with plenty of practice and attention to detail. Here are a few ways in which you can support your child with their writing:

- Give them opportunities to practice! The more your child writes, the more confidence they will gain. So why not ask them to create the family’s shopping list? Or challenge them to write a story or poem?
- Read your child’s writing and praise them for their success. All writers want an audience. You can support your child with their homework by reading it and providing feedback. Describing one thing they’ve done well and one area for improvement is extremely useful.
- Encourage your child to proof-read their work. Students need to develop the good habit of proof-reading their work and correcting errors. Encourage them to check that they have used punctuation correctly – it is easy to forget the basics of capital letters and full stops!

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. In the last bulletin, we looked at how we encourage students to care for the planet. Today we will be looking at community involvement.

Community Involvement

We encourage Trinity students to learn about Bristol's history – particularly its role as an industrial and cultural hub. We weave the city's rich history into our academic and pastoral curricula, present it in assemblies and facilitate conversations between students and staff. Students learn about the role Bristol communities have played over time, including in World War Two, in tackling social and racial injustice and in environmental activism. We also want Trinity students to appreciate the opportunities Bristol offers as a modern, vibrant and diverse city. The list, below, gives some Bristol-based activities the previous Year 7s were involved in:

- Careers Day, where students met 15 Bristol-based professionals from various backgrounds including an accountant, a nurse, a vocal teacher and performer, a journalist and a graphic designer.
- Visits to iconic venues, such as Bristol Cathedral, Bristol Library, Bristol Old Vic and Bristol City Hall.
- Meeting important Bristolians, including Marvin Rees the Mayor of Bristol, and Peaches Golding the Lord-Lieutenant of Bristol.
- Form Time activities, reflecting on Bristol-based personalities such as Edward Colston and the controversy surrounding his work and recognition in Bristol, and Banksy and what his work means to the wider world.
- Subject-linked activities, including the Bristol Reading Road Map in English and the River Avon bank erosion in geography.

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'. You can find out how staff and students describe 'Soul' in our [latest video](#), available on the school's induction page.

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 trying something new.

Soul attribute: Trying something new

Confidence comes from finding activities that we really enjoy and sharing that experience with others. We expect children at Trinity to attend co-curricular opportunities at Trinity to find those activities. There are a wide range to choose from, some of which your child may have experience of and some which they may not yet have tried. We encourage children to try something new as well as develop those things that they love to do.

Here are a few ways in which you can support your child with trying something new:

- **Give your child opportunities to try new things.** The more your child takes the opportunities available, the more they will grow in confidence and develop wider friendship groups.
- **Celebrate your child's interests, hobbies and passions.** Take every opportunity to celebrate and discuss your child's interests. Talking with your child about what they think and feel when they are participating in their field of interest is also an opportunity to develop oracy, emotional literacy and model how to share interests.
- **Encourage your child to participate and try new things.** There will be a wide range of co-curricular activities at Trinity for your child to choose from. Please encourage your child to participate as and when opportunities are available, whether that's at Trinity or in the local area.

Mr H Young, Teacher of Art