



BEACON

shining a light on our school



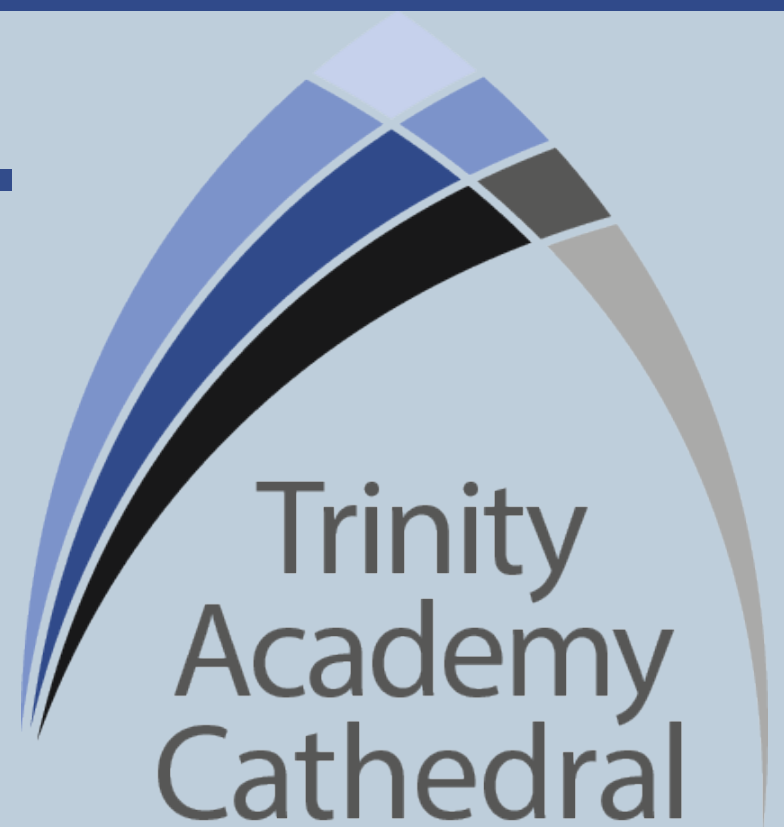
THE TEENAGE BRAIN NEEDS...



A CHANCE FOR RENEWAL

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16





CATHEDRAL AT Easter

LENT IS A TIME OF SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR CHRISTIANS AS THEY LOOK FORWARD TO THE JOY OF EASTER WHICH IS THE BIGGEST CELEBRATION IN THE CHRISTIAN YEAR.

Did you enjoy some delicious pancakes on Shrove Tuesday this year? The season of Lent began the day after, on Ash Wednesday, and continues until Maundy Thursday (the day before Good Friday). Lent is a period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) during which Christians remember the temptation of Jesus and the 40 days he spent fasting in the wilderness after his baptism. It's a time to reflect upon one's own spiritual condition and to devote more time to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It's an opportunity to break some bad habits and establish some new ones.

In school we have had a Lent 'Bingo Challenge' with 25 challenges to help us pray, fast and give - small acts of kindness for the benefit of those around us. We are also offering an opportunity in partnership with St George's to donate to the foodbank. Donations can be brought into Chaplaincy during the last two weeks of term to be collected by the foodbank team.

As a Church of England school, we held Easter Services in school for each year group; the theme for our services was Hope. For Christians, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of their hope. The Bible describes hope as 'an anchor for the soul' (Hebrews 6:19); whatever winds and currents may surround a ship, its anchor keeps it from drifting away. The Christian hope of eternal life, of God's promises and God's presence can keep us secure in challenging times.

The message of Easter is a message of hope. Christians believe Jesus' death paid the price for the wrong things each of us do, say or think, opening an opportunity for reconciliation between God and people - Jesus took the punishment our wrongdoing deserves. Jesus' resurrection reminds us of the forgiveness we can receive and the new beginning that offers us. Jesus defeated death when he rose to life again, offering hope for eternal life for believers.

At this time of year, we see new life springing up all around us. The blossom on the trees, the flowers beginning to open, the ducklings in our local parks all remind us this is a season of renewal. We now see the life in things that once looked dead. Perhaps this Easter could be a season of renewal for you. Perhaps it's time to awaken hopes that had faded and dreams that may have dulled through the challenges of life we all face. May hope be an anchor for your soul today.



 **st george's**

Lent @ TAC

PRAY - FAST - GIVE

As part of our focus on giving during Lent, we are partnering with St George's in collecting items for the food bank.

Suggested donations include long life items such as canned and packet foods, and household items such as toothpaste and nappies.

Donations will be received during the last two weeks of term.

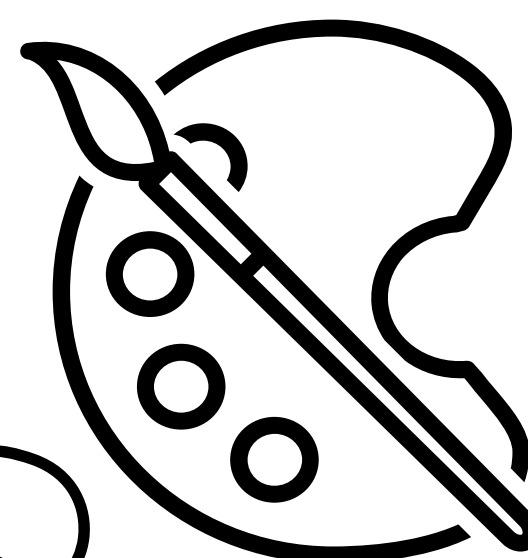
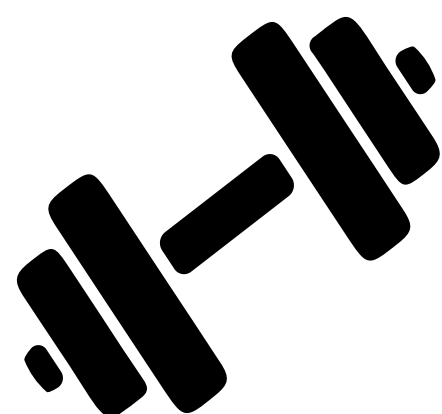
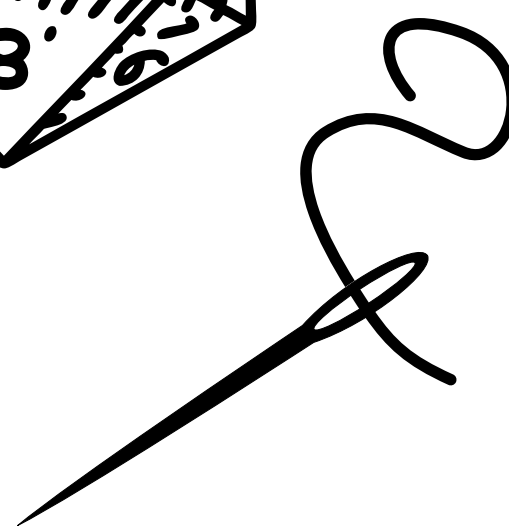
When we each bring a little it adds up to a lot!
This Lent, together we can make a difference.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Involve



EDUCATION OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM IS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF A STUDENT'S CATHEDRAL EXPERIENCE. TRINITY ACADEMY CATHEDRAL'S EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMME, INVOLVE, ENSURES THAT STUDENTS EXPERIENCE A RANGE OF CHARACTER AND RESILIENCE BUILDING OUT OF CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES. THE VAST RANGE OF CLUBS ENHANCES OUR STUDENTS' INTERESTS, SKILLS AND TALENTS BEYOND THE CURRICULUM; THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE TO GET INVOLVED IN!



The INVOLVE programme runs outside of the timetabled school day, with students able to attend more than one club in a week to ensure that they try new activities that stretch and challenge them. All Key Stage 3 students must take part in a minimum of one extracurricular club each week to complete their Cathedral challenge.

This academic year there will have been over 100 INVOLVE clubs for your child to select from including, Explore Club, Art Club, Earthshot, Dungeons and Dragons, Drama Club, Sewing and Fitness.

Each INVOLVE club provides your child with a unique experience wider than the curriculum, developing their interests, passions and inspiring them to try something new. Following the Easter holidays the INVOLVE clubs will once again change for the final two terms; we ask that parents look at the timetable on MCAS and discuss with your child which opportunity they would like to engage in. This not only will assist them in their Cathedral Challenge and may lead to them receiving a certificate in our rewards assembly but also will help them learn vital skills.

Following an audition process, students were selected to participate within the Drama Club for a production of Macbeth. Pupils have also been assisting with set design, lighting and co-ordinating the production. This has given the students an opportunity to see how a production is coordinated from start to finish.

Chainmaille Jewellery provides students with a fantastic opportunity to not only learn a new skill but to design and make their own jewellery that they could then take home. We had some beautiful pieces made during the first two terms.

COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY

Parliamentary Ambassadors



Miss Toney visited London to take part in the UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador Programme. The programme invites teachers from across the UK to discover more about how UK Parliament works, and how they can engage their students in politics.

She visited the House of Commons and House of Lords, toured the palace and met teacher colleagues. She was also given the opportunity to quiz Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House of Commons, and his counterpart in the Lords, Lord McFall of Alcluith.

The three-day programme offers a great opportunity for politicians and teachers to share experiences. This has allowed the PSHE and Citizenship team to develop exceptional resources that allow our pupils to be prepared for the modern world.

We believe that the young people at Trinity Academy Cathedral have the power to make positive change in our communities and across the world. Understanding how our democracy works is crucial to building a platform that allows this work to happen.

Miss Toney said that "In my view, you are never too young to get involved in democracy - so giving teachers an insight into the world is a great way to pass that message back to the classroom".



COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY

Learning on Location



Residential Trip

In March, a lucky group of Key Stage Three pupils were invited to take part in an Earthshot residential with Miss Toney and Ms McIntosh.

They got to spend time in a beautiful location connecting with nature and developing mindfulness techniques. They completed a passport to nature and set intentions linked to their interactions with nature for the future.

We believe that it is crucial that our pupils have these opportunities that allow them to be independent and to leave the distractions of modern life behind.

STEM Trip



The day involved the students spending the day in the new £100m Materials Science building at the University of Leeds.

The morning was based around sustainable fashion - we looked into the sustainability policies of ASOS, H&M and Patagonia and thought about what was good and what could be improved, so they could then design their own fashion business and come up with their own sustainability policies.

The afternoon was a practical session looking at the hydrophobicity of materials - we experimented with different materials and water and then from this we could deduce the structure of the material. And finally we had a tour of the different engineering buildings where the students could ask the PhD students different questions about engineering and university life.

COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY

Thank You, Earthshot

I joined Earthshot when it first began. I am one of the few ambassadors left from the start of the process. Throughout the years I have been able to be a part of multiple meetings as well as many trips and opportunities held throughout the academy. Not only has my passion for the environment grown but also my aspirations and hopes for the future have flourished. As I prepare to leave the academy to pursue my next role within the community at college, I am reflecting on all that Earthshot has given me. Both through experience and opportunities to progress as an individual but also being part of a caring and inspirational group of young aspiring minds that have become a second family for me.

When Earthshot first started, we got to shape the foundation for what many ambassadors would experience now as they decide to join. Over the years, this group of people, students and staff, have provided an amazing environment for us to change the academy and our community to become more ecofriendly. Even seemingly small changes, such as eliminating single use plastic in the canteen, have had a long-lasting impact. Community litter picks and the beach clean at Scarborough have been a way for every ambassador to contribute in our mission to combat climate change.

Earthshot is not just a TAC organisation but in fact is a Trinity MAT organisation. Through my time with Earthshot I have had three chances to interact with the wider MAT to share our ideas. There have been two conferences which have been both an amazing learning experience and a fantastic chance to interact with my fellow ambassadors from across the schools. My other experience was when we went to White Rose Maths Leeds Hub to pitch an idea to a panel in hopes of winning a grant: even though we did not win this was an outstanding opportunity to interact with others and share our aspirations for the academy.

We do not only have these chances to expand our passions, but we have also been given the ability to connect with the staff members of TAC. My favourite initiative that we have launched has been the staff eco-café's done at the end of every term. These are café's that both educate staff on the actions we are taking in Earthshot but also a chance for them to interact with ambassadors over drinks and fairtrade sweet treats. I am passionate about these café's as they explore the idea of educating and promoting a cause which has inspired change in the academy but perhaps also in homes. This year we are even inviting local pensioners to the café so we can spread awareness to the local community as well as connect with them.

Through Earthshot we can share our individual passions through various opportunities from giving assemblies to the school and putting 'news zooms' into Morning Preparation. This has aided in our efforts to share what Earthshot is about. As I prepare to leave the academy, the connections through Earthshot are the strongest I think I have made throughout the entirety of my Cathedral school life. I am proud of the things we have managed to achieve as a group such as achieving the eco-school green flag award with distinction (twice). But what I am proudest about is to have built a group of young minds that share and build on each other's ideas and passions to improve the academy and community to help the only planet we have. This group has given me a place to express my passion and a chance to make a change. We connect through our weekly meetings as well as trips (recycling centre, Yorkshire Wildlife Park [to visit our adopted red panda], and the Sea Life centre in Scarborough) to widen our knowledge on the best ways to help the planet.

The years I have dedicate to Earthshot are fond memories and an experience I will never forget. From the students I have connected with to the staff that have run Earthshot: Mrs Stead, Miriam and Miss Toney. They have given their time to help the ambassadors progress their passions and make a change that will be felt in the school for years to come. When I visit the school in the years ahead, I am excited to see the change that this amazing group of people are able to accomplish to make the necessary change to help save our dying planet.

Nicole Kershaw,

Year 11 Earthshot Ambassador



COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY

Earthshot Meets CAPA



Eco friendly approach to Mary Poppins

At Capa Juniors, we believe in making a positive impact on both stage and the environment. For our recent Mary Poppins performance, we wanted to take a sustainable approach to our production. Our goal was to reduce waste and make the show as eco-friendly as possible.

Instead of buying new costumes, we sourced everything from our existing costume cupboard, repurposed items from previous shows, and found hidden gems at local charity shops. Many costumes were also created using simple materials that our students already had, like white school shirts, reducing the need for excess resources.

In terms of set design, we reimaged wooden flats from previous productions, painting and repurposing them to fit the magical world of Mary Poppins. To minimise the need for new props, we also incorporated projection images to represent different locations, giving the performance a dynamic feel while reducing waste.

Through these efforts, Capa Juniors not only brought the iconic Mary Poppins to life but also proved that sustainability and creativity can go hand in hand!



Photography credit: Stage Shots Photography



COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY

Wicked Writers: Be the Change

SOME OF OUR STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN WICKED WRITERS. THIS IS A PERSUASIVE WRITING COMPETITION INSPIRED BY THE THEMES OF WICKED THE MUSICAL.

THIS YEAR, STUDENTS WERE INVITED TO WRITE ABOUT POSITIVE CHANGE THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY. THIS COULD BE ANYTHING FROM ENVIRONMENT TO MENTAL HEALTH TO SOCIAL JUSTICE – IT JUST NEEDED TO BE LOCAL!

BELOW IS ONE OF OUR ENTRIES ABOUT THE ISSUE OF HOMELESSNESS.

'Helping, helping, helping...' people say, 'Why do we need to help!'. Well, you might be aware of lots of homeless people living in your neighbourhood.

Can you believe 2% of the world's population is homeless! Even in Wakefield there are 718 people who are homeless! So, in total 150 million people don't get to celebrate events like Christmas, New Year's Eve and lots more fun things that we get to celebrate!

Do you think this is right? Don't you think everyone needs to be treated that same way you treat yourself? Even giving one pound might have an impact!

Just be the person you wish to see!



COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY

Earthshot Round-up



Bupa Foundation Green Community Grants

We are very grateful to have been awarded a £2000 grant from the Bupa Foundation Green Community Grants programme. We placed a bid to improve our peace garden to increase its biodiversity and to support our community's well-being. The bid was made considering some recent research from King's College London. It has found that spaces with a diverse range of natural features are associated with stronger improvements in our mental wellbeing compared to spaces with less natural diversity, so we are keen to develop biodiversity on our site.

We have planted a range of wild seeds to support the needs of birds and other wildlife while promoting biodiversity and ecological resilience. Our peace garden project is still ongoing, and we are so proud of our Earthshot eco-ambassadors who are working hard to make this project become a reality. We have set up bug houses and have a range of pots to plant up soon!



Earthshot Litter Pick

Did you know in a YouGov survey carried out on our behalf ahead of the Great British Spring Clean, more than 31.6 million people said 'litter-free' streets would help them love where they live – and 72% of UK adults said seeing litter makes them less proud of their neighbourhood? Our students continue to be the change they wish to see through their support of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. They supported The Great Big School Clean in March and pledged to collect rubbish to show their responsibility to our local environment. In just under 60 minutes they collected 6 full bags of rubbish!

Big Schools' Bird Watch 2025

Some of our Earthshot eco-ambassadors joined the RSPB in January to support a national campaign in helping conservationists build a valuable picture of how each species is faring and form an action plan to help native bird species.

This year marked the 46th RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, which sees keen birdwatchers across the UK join the largest garden wildlife citizen science project by spending one hour tracking the birds they see in their gardens.

This work is vital! Did you know that in the past 50 years, Great Britain has lost more than 38 million birds.

Our ambassadors continue to embrace our school values of responsibility and respect to our planet.



EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Serving our community

AS WAKEFIELD'S ONLY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL, WE TAKE INSPIRATION FROM OUR FAITH FOUNDATIONS TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.

Eco-Community Café: A Celebration of Connection and Sustainability



Students from Earthshot and New Gen Leaders proudly hosted our first-ever community café, bringing together staff and pensioners for an inspiring afternoon of shared learning and conversation. Guests had the opportunity to hear from our Earthshot ambassadors about their achievements this term and engage with our New Gen Leaders to discuss their ongoing projects.

It was heartwarming to see our students connecting with the local community, exchanging ideas, and celebrating their progress. The event featured delightful entertainment, including mesmerising card tricks by Mr. Boam, a lovely keyboard performance by Quinn from CAPA, and a beautiful violin showcase by our talented Involve musicians, guided by Miss Murray.

Adding to the fun, our students organised an eco-bingo session and the much-anticipated draw for our eco-lent challenges. Congratulations to our winners—Olivia Richards (Year 7) and staff member Miss Parnham—for their fantastic participation!

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this wonderful event. Your support helps foster a strong, eco-conscious community, and we look forward to many more gatherings like this!



EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

How students learn best

AT TRINITY ACADEMY CATHEDRAL, WE ARE COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT OUR STUDENTS DEVELOP THE BEST STUDY HABITS TO SUPPORT THEIR LEARNING.

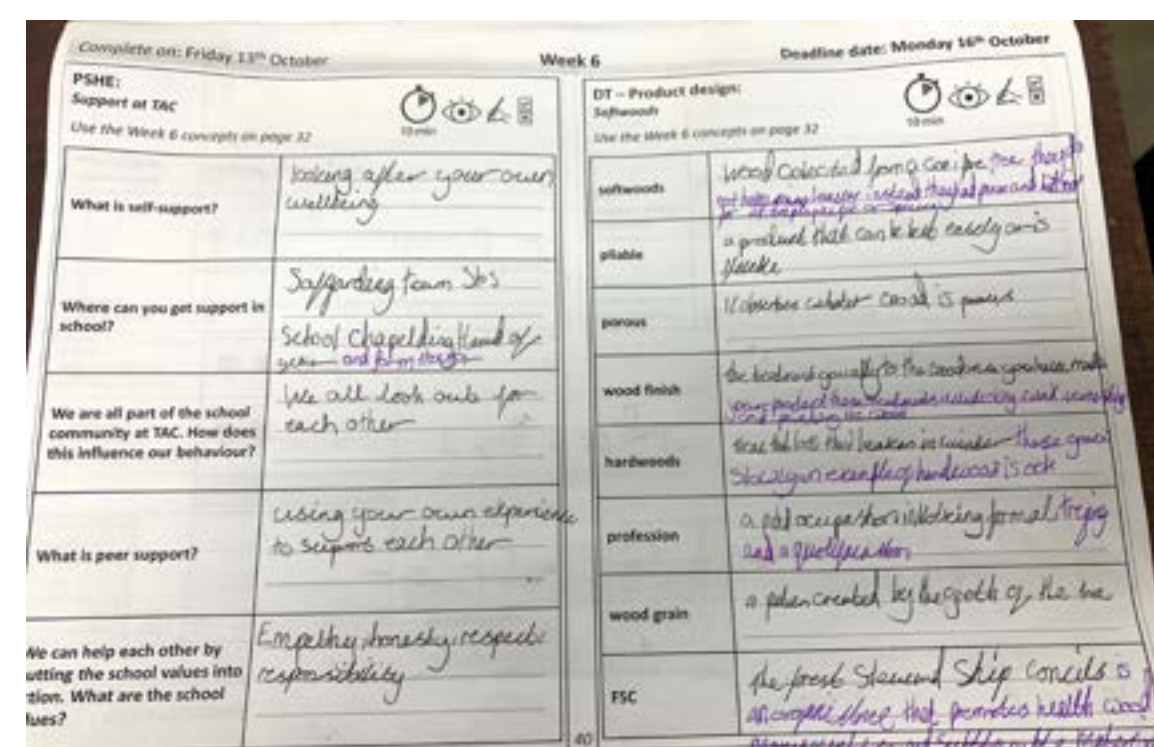
We learn by paying attention to information and thinking about it. For students to retain information, they must engage in active learning strategies that strengthen their ability to recall and apply knowledge.

We explicitly teach independent learning strategies which build good study habits over time. We empower our students to take control of their learning, developing resilience and fostering self-motivation. This leads to positive impacts on pupil engagement, progress and attainment, helping support our learners to prepare for lessons or future exams.

Retrieval practice encourages learners to recall information from memory by answering questions, using their prior knowledge. This helps solidify the information in their long-term memory and strengthens connections, especially during stressful situations, which is particularly beneficial in high-pressure scenarios such as exams.

We recommend the following strategies:

	LOOK – COVER – SAY – CHECK	
	LOOK – COVER – WRITE – CHECK	



How can parents help?

Parents and carers play a crucial role in supporting their child's learning. Talk to your child about their homework and encourage them to seek help at school when needed. The use of proven study techniques will greatly enhance their ability to retain and apply knowledge.

Here are several ways you can help your child with their home learning:

1. Set a routine.
2. Have a designated homework space at home.
3. Get rid of all distractions.
4. Have regular breaks.
5. Promote independence.
6. Help your child organise their time.
7. Be a role model.
8. Communicate any concerns with school.



EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Focus on your future

WE BELIEVE IN PROVIDING THE WIDEST RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OUR PUPILS DECIDE ON THEIR CAREERS. WE HAVE THE HIGHEST AMBITIONS FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND WANT THEM TO HAVE THE CHARACTER AND QUALIFICATIONS TO MAKE CHOICES FOR THEIR FUTURE.

Year 7 Channel 4

For the third year running Channel 4 spent the day in school showcasing to Y7 the range of careers available to students within the TV & media industry. Students began the day in an assembly where they were introduced to different careers behind the camera and then students participated in a 1hr workshop which allowed them to further explore the creative industries.

Year 10 Mock Interviews

Another annual event in the school calendar is Y10 mock interviews. These took place on the last 2 days of term, with all students in Y10 having a 20 minute interview carried out by volunteers from local colleges & businesses. The students completed preparation work, including a written application form, a few weeks prior to the interviews. Feedback from interviewers was extremely positive with everyone saying how well the students performed in what, for many, is their first ever interview.

Year 9 University Visits



This term Y9 students have visited Higher Education (HE) institutions as part of our "Experiences for All" programme of events. This is an annual event on the Trinity Academy Cathedral calendar and the visits are fully funded by school, with no cost to students.



Students visited either Barnsley College, Huddersfield University or Leeds University and were able to learn more about the range of degree courses on offer, the cost implications of studying at university and financial support that's available. On each visit students were able to participate in extensive campus tours and spoke to student ambassadors about university life.

**Further and
Higher
Education**

Apprenticeships

**Work
Experience
and Jobs**

**Trinity
Academy
Cathedral**

EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Reading Rewards

AT TRINITY ACADEMY CATHEDRAL, WE KNOW THAT READERS ARE LEADERS. IT IS OUR AMBITION THAT ALL PUPILS LEAVE OUR SCHOOL READING AT OR ABOVE THEIR CHRONOLOGICAL AGE.

Sparx Reader

In September, we launched the Sparx Reader programme with our pupils in Key Stage Three. We have been really pleased with the take up so far. We are seeing improved engagement, accuracy and an increase in the number of Sparx Reader Points being achieved by pupils. This will help pupils to read more fluently and achieve the best possible outcomes at the end of Year 11.

Please continue to encourage students to complete their homework by Sunday evening. We really appreciate your support.

World Book Day

For World Book Day this year, we explored the fantasy genre. During the day, students solved word puzzles and challenges to complete their own fantasy quest. There was such a buzz around school, thank you to everyone who took part.

"Can we get books like this in the library?"

"This has been so good- I've loved it"

"Thank you so much for putting in so much effort for us"



Lexonic Reading Intervention

This term we have launched Lexonic intervention. Students from Years 8 & 9 have undergone 6 weeks of reading and literacy instruction supporting them with mastering academic vocabulary: enabling improved comprehension. The outcomes of this intervention have been staggering; all students significantly improving their reading age.

Coming Soon...

We are currently developing a new quiet outdoor reading space for students to access during breaks and lunches.

Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

- 1. Let your teen choose-** let them read whatever they find engaging, or in whatever way they want to read (online might not be the enemy).
- 2. Keep it real-** make explicit connections between the ability to read and future options in life.
- 3. Connect reading to your child's passion-** we don't want it all to be about exams.
- 4. Find the right reading level-** think what they can, rather than what they should.
- 5. Resist the urge to criticize-** when they feel criticised they are likely to stop altogether

Scan the QR code for further advice in supporting students with their reading.



HOLD THE BACK PAGE

Sports Round-Up

Year 9 Boys Football Team

The year 9 boys football team have made it to the Wakefield District Final.

Team PE are hoping for some more silverware for the Trophy cabinet.



Year 9 Netball Wakefield District Tournament

An excellent effort and performance from our year 9 netballers.

Finishing 3rd place in the Wakefield District Tournament, against 11 other schools.



The Round-Up!

- Our Year 7 Netballer's had an excellent win against Crofton.
- A first game and win for our Year 7 Rugby team.
- The Year 9 Netball team finished 3rd in a recent district tournament with 11 other schools.
- The sports kit has arrived for the sports tour to Barcelona over the Easter holiday.
- A group of Year 7 pupils have taken part in the London Youth Rowing Challenge.



