

# VOICE

06 EDITION 2022

# NEWSLETTER



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Welcome to our latest edition of Voice, our termly newsletter that gives you a glimpse of life at TAL and the experiences of our students. This time, we hear from the voices of our parents who offer their advice to our new families, in addition to sharing their experiences of their child's first year at TAL. As a school we strive to work closely with our families and to work together to support every young person in our care. Within this edition, you will also hear from our parent governors who help to shape the vision and strategic direction of our school, in addition to information regarding our Family Build programme which aims to support our families in supporting their child. We have really enjoyed welcoming our latest cohort into our school community and cannot wait to see them grow and flourish over the months to come.



Reach Higher, See Further, Shine Brighter

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## Mrs Alnoor & Ryan

We were really looking forward to Ryan starting secondary school and we knew that TAL was the best choice for her. I was a bit worried about her missing her old school and walking on her own every day, but she has been just fine, we walked her half way for the first few days. We talked a lot about the school so she was reassured and confident about coming. We found out about the school through word of mouth, as we had heard about other schools in Halifax and Bradford that belonged to the same family of schools.

She really enjoys being at school, has grown in confidence and made new friends. Our highlight of the year has to be when Ryan played Matilda in Matilda, it made us so proud. She is more mature and always striving to get better. She has a structure after school, and we always make sure that she can complete her home learning in peace.

TAL look after their students and there is no fighting or bad behaviour, we know that she is safe there. If you are sending your child to TAL, do not worry, it is the 100% right decision, and you will not regret it. There is good communication between parents and the school. Students feel they can talk freely and it's easy to make friends.

I went to school in Sudan which was completely different. I achieved really good marks in my final exams, and I want my daughter to achieve the same. At the moment her dreams are to become an Interior Designer.

## Miss Woodhouse & Harleigh-Jade

I felt a little anxious at first when Harleigh was due to move up to high school, but I knew that she made friends easily and had done well at primary so had achieved a lot already. We talked a lot about making new friends having new challenges. We also looked at the new curriculum and the routines that the school has. We liked how there was lots of Sports and Drama included and the Involve Clubs too, which other schools don't have, so we thought the school would be the right choice for her. The communication with parents has been great and staff are always happy to help when you ring in.

Primary was a lot easier, secondary is a lot stricter but we understand the reasons why. I want my daughter to be safe and to be able to concentrate in lesson, and TAL makes sure that this happens. TAL also 'digs deep' into subjects which helps to learn. TAL gives them brilliant opportunities in the curriculum through industry coaches in P.E lessons, and outside through the Empower and Involve programmes for example.

I have been contacted via Facebook from a lot of parents, asking if I would recommend TAL – definitely 100%. As a new parent if you send your child to TAL, you will have no worries. My advice to new parents is to listen to your child, encourage them and always ring school if you are worried about something and they will help sort it.

I support Harleigh at home and help her to be organised. We check together every night what needs to be done and I question her about her subjects. We have lots of conversations. She has matured a lot and is happier with lots of new friends. She loves school. She is also a good big sister! Everything! Her favourite moments of Year 7 have been Empower Trips, the UEFA trip, The Sports Awards Evening was great too and of course, Matilda.

Teachers respond quickly to any queries. The communication between families and school is excellent as there is plenty of information available. I would recommend joining Twitter to follow what the children are doing each day.

When I was at school mine was a lot more laid back, schools now are stricter and also have more afterschool activities like Sports and drama! In the future I want Harleigh to be successful in whatever she chooses to do, at the moment she wants to be a professional rugby player.



## Mrs Mailat & Edward

When Edward was due to come up to secondary school I had mixed feelings, his year group had fallen behind due to covid and I was worried about them catching up. We talked about having a good routine when he started and trying his best at everything. TAL really appealed to me as having high standards, and I also liked the idea of a new school with one year group.

Right from the start there was amazing support given by the school – good communication and everything was well organised. Secondary school helps students to show what they're capable of, primary students seem to be more 'needy'. It is exciting but nerve wracking, it's very different from primary so there is a fear of the unknown. Parents need to do research, go to open evenings, and choose wisely. My advice for new parents is to keep involved with the school, communicate when needed and be prepared/organised to support your child to be successful.

At home we talk about school a lot, I check daily what he is doing and give support when needed. Edward has definitely become more mature, and he put more effort into his home learning and work at school, he keeps on top of everything.

Edward was recently chosen for the Trinity Scholars programme; we were really proud of him. We are pleased with our choice of school as TAL gives the students all the opportunities they need. There is a great variety of subjects in the curriculum and extracurricular opportunities.

I went to school in Romania, so it was very different! I began working hard to get my degree and then Masters once I was in the UK. My dream for Edward is that he continues to get a good education and go on to university, but it will be his own choice: currently he wants to be a professional footballer!



## Mr & Mrs Fielding & Jasmine



We were all worried about moving from a small primary to a large secondary, especially as Jasmine has missed education for the last two years of primary due to covid. We worried about what communication would be like with the secondary school and how she would manage the transition from just one teacher to one for each subject. We talked lots, asked her about her worries/ thoughts and reminded her that nothing was too small to talk about. Her main worry was getting lost. We used our own experiences as a reference to reassure her and to talk things through.

There was good communication with the school from the very start and a good transition process with challenges, visits etc. Mrs Cafferky phoned straight away when I had completed the online form about showing an interest, which I was really pleased about. We liked the fact that TAL was using White Rose Maths and that this was part of their family of schools, while the school would also have one year group to start with.

Mr Gouland and his team have been a great support – nothing is ‘too small’ for them to resolve. The school helped Jasmine make friends by putting us in touch with other parents in our situation, where their child was the only one coming from their primary school. Staff are always on the gate morning and afternoon which is great for safety and asking questions. Expectations are higher at Secondary school and students are treated as young adults and feel valued; lessons are more structured too.

Our advice to parents is to stay calm and to have a good routine for morning and evenings. Keep communicating with school as nothing is too small for them to support you with. Be an example for your child too. For example, all read together every evening, listen to your child as well as any worries/ questions they may have and take time to talk. Try to be an advocate for them by being involved in school life, helping with routines and home learning.

Since joining TAL, she has become a young adult and is more confident. She’s more aware of global issues and responds to issues in such a measured way, we have good discussions about what she is learning at school. She is also more open to try new things and has enjoyed all the extras, for example, the free theatre tips and the UEFA trip.

To be honest, TAL was our only choice, there wasn’t another school that we would have sent Jasmine to. It is a family orientated school, and all parents can feel part of the community. Jasmine is confident that she can talk to a lot of teachers and know that she is being listened to. TAL makes home learning easier as it’s structured and is the same every evening. There is excellent communication between the school and parents.

We both enjoyed school but liked different subjects, such as English and Sociology and Geography. Our hopes for Jasmine are that she is happy and that she does everything she wants to do in life with no barriers.

# PARENT VOICE

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## Mrs Kaur & Karanveer

Before my son joined the school, he was worried about meeting new people, it's a big change from primary to secondary. I made sure that he attended TAL Summer School, although reluctant at first, he really enjoyed it and the experience gave him confidence. He took part in all the transition challenges and got to meet some of the staff before he started which helped. There was good communication between families and staff from the very beginning. Secondary school is a lot bigger than Primary and with an earlier start in the morning, which he had to adapt to quickly. Moving around the school building is different, as in Primary you stay in one classroom. But, he soon started to find his way around and the teachers will never let students get lost. My advice to new parents is to be supportive and talk lots to your child, visit the school if possible and meet the staff. Also, be confident, keep positive, make sure your child talks to staff about worries and gets involved. Always support them every evening to make sure they can do their home learning too.

My son has changed so much since he started TAL, he is more confident now and talks more at home. We love receiving all the certificates for his achievements. Empower trips are a favourite thing of his and we love that his school seems to give more opportunities for students – more trips than any other school that we have heard about.

The work is more challenging at secondary school, but we all want our children to be supported to be their best and he is doing well. We enjoy going to Parent Consultation meetings, where all the staff are friendly and want to talk to you about how your child is doing.

When I was at school, I think the subjects were a lot easier, my favourite was Art. I hope that Karanveer does well in his exams and whatever he chooses as a career and gets a good job. He's kind, polite and achieves all his goals and I know that this is down to the school I chose for him too.



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# PARENT VOICE

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## Miss Murgatroyd & Cheyenne

Starting secondary school is a big step for children and parents. We were both a bit nervous and worried about her making friends, as she wasn't friendly with anyone else who was coming from her Primary school. We got support from the mentoring set up by TAL through Flourished Minds, which took place before September and made her feel more confident and prepared. We talked a lot about routines and read the Parent Handbook carefully to make sure she was always prepared and had all her equipment. I chose TAL for Cheyenne because I liked the idea of a new school, with only one year group and the facilities that they would have. I also had a strong instinct from talking to staff and reaching the information about the school that it would be a good and stable environment for my child. The communication from the school has been excellent, my advice is to always check your emails, join the TAL Twitter account for the latest news and look out for the weekly Parent Bulletin, which is really useful. All staff respond to my queries quickly and any concerns Cheyenne has are dealt with quickly. I have found that secondary school has a better structure to learning, leading to a better attitude to learning. There are possibilities for students to achieve in all areas. The school tries to keep everyone involved part of the TAL family. I have also found the school App MCAS really helpful to keep track of how my daughter is doing at school.

We got the hang of the home learning really quickly and we have got into good routines. With the maths homework, we watch the videos together and then tackle the problems set each week. I think the Knowledge Organisers are a great tool for learning, as everything they need is in there, the bulletin tells you what to revise and we have a regular time each night to do homework.

Since Cheyenne has joined TAL, she has grown in confidence, is now happy to get involved in more things and meet new people. She has matured, is more independent and enjoys new challenges. Matilda and the UEFA football trip were highlights of the year for her, but there are so many brilliant opportunities, I would recommend that you encourage your child to do them all! It's a close network and not overwhelming, students have freedom to explore new experiences which takes them gently out of their comfort zone.

At TAL the discipline/firm boundaries are successful and really do work as everyone is treated fairly, allowing your child to learn without others distracting them. I feel that my daughter is safe at school and is growing so much. I encourage my child to do her best in school as I enjoyed school myself. I still love to learn and History was definitely my favourite subject.

Cheyenne's sister has just started at TAL in Year 7 and I know that she will have a great experience. My hopes for my daughters are that they succeed in whatever they want to do, that they are confident and develop their own personality while being good members of society.

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## Mrs Mullen & Orla

We were both very scared and nervous about going to high school and a 'new school' in a different area to where we live. We worried about Orla not making friends and not settling in as she had had a lot of support at Primary school. To help her settle we drove past the school lots of times, so we knew where the school was and where the student entrance was. We looked on social media for updates, it was great that social media was kept up to date regularly.

We had already met Mrs Cafferky when she visited our Primary school and then we had a further conversation with her, so she put us at ease – TAL was the only school to make contact with us when we enquired about support for Orla. We just had a 'good feeling' about the school. We had plenty of phone calls with the school and there is lots of information in the planners. Mr Harrison (SENDCO) kept in contact with updates.

We feel that the communication with parents is good, you need to check your emails, the MCAS App and if you have any issues, don't panic, ring in and speak to someone. Orla was supported really well, in her subjects but also to make friends and she has lots now.

We love that TAL has a good variety of extra-curricular clubs, and they offer support when students are out of their comfort zone while trying new things.

Orla is really organised so she doesn't need much help in the morning, but we always double check that she has what she needs. It's a really good idea to have a home routine of home learning, equipment checks and signing the planner, it helps you and your child be organised.

Since joining TAL she has grown in confidence and now has a willingness to try new things through Involve. In her first year we have loved the new friends that she has made and watching her perform on the stage. We were also so proud of her when her solo dance was shown on Twitter, she really loves dance.

The school listens to parents, when they are aware of where additional support is needed, this is actioned immediately. When I was at school, I loved Art. My hopes for Orla in the future are that she is happy in whatever she chooses to do.



# PARENT GOVERNORS

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## JOHN FIELDING

Hi, my name is John. My daughter is in Year 8. I have been a parent governor at TAL for over a year. I am very proud to have been able to work with, and support the academy from building site to thriving school! I am the careers governor, which means I regularly use networks and connections from my professional background to offer the pupils enriching experiences.

I am aware that the transition from primary school to secondary school can be daunting, not just for our children but for us as parents too. Having navigated this last year, I would like to support other parents as they make this transition, whilst I carry on working with the school and governing body. Together, we can continue to make TAL the amazing school that I know it to be.



## MARK FOX

I applied to become a school governor at TAL for an array of reasons, my son becoming a proud pupil, me as a proud parent and being interested at what happens behind the scenes!

Additionally, I loved what I saw as a parent when we were choosing our secondary school. I felt a sense of warmth, collaboration and passion from all whom I spoke with. I instantly knew that this was my school of choice for Luca, especially from Mrs Cafferky, Mr Goulard and the leadership team.

Prior to my visit, I had seen pupils of Year 7 (now Year 8) out in the surrounding area, and one word that could describe them is impeccable, a word that has been repeated at the open events.

I get a great sense of gratitude by giving back to the community, and for me, becoming a parent governor fills me with immense pleasure. I look forward to working with the school in such a capacity, and hope that my contribution will make a tangible difference.

Finally, the My Own Child mantra resonated with me and continues to do so on a daily basis. I have adopted this because I am an assistant football coach!



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# TRINITY ACADEMY LEEDS SPORTS AWARDS EVENING

## MR LISGO

Parents were invited to this formal event which documented all that our founding cohort contributed to sport, and were recognised at our inaugural Sports Awards Evening. The formal event acknowledged all that our founding cohort achieved in the sporting arena in their first year at TAL. Our special guest Lois Forsell - Leeds Rhinos Womens Head Coach - commented on the "Special culture that has been created at TAL and the state-of-the art facilities" in her keynote speech. She was "moved closed to tears by the passion for sport and support for one another in the room". Thereafter she presented a series of awards to outstanding performers and those who have demonstrated tremendous commitment to the TAL Way - always putting side before self.



# BUILD CEREMONY

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## MRS O'HANLON

Parents were also invited to celebrate Level 1 of The Build was tackled magnificently by our founding cohort. With 82 Gold awards, 60 Silver awards and 63 Bronze awards achieved, it was an incredibly successful first year of The Build. The Build develops character, positive citizenship, and academic excellence, all of which were demonstrated by our cohort through their success last year. Our students volunteered for local charities, such as Burmantofts Senior Action, raised money for charities such as cancer research and helped their neighbours by taking out their bins and taking their lawns. The first year of The Build also saw our students cleaning up our local area by litter picking, and planting seeds to go green. At the end of the year, their achievements were recognised during our Build Ceremony where parents and carers were invited to celebrate their child's success and hear all about the year group's endeavours. We can't wait to see the progress your children make in both Levels 1 and 2 this year!



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# FAMILY BUILD

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## Family Build Sessions

**Sessions run from  
5.00pm - 6.00pm**

Helping your child with home learning

Session one: **21/09/2022**

Keeping your child safe online

Session two: **24/11/2022**

Helping your child to excel in English

Session three: **24/01/2023**

Helping your child to excel in Maths

Session four: **08/03/2023**

Supporting your child's Mental Wellbeing

Session five: **04/05/2023**

Healthy routines and boundaries

Session six: **27/06/2023**

## English as an additional language lessons

Our Curriculum Lead for EAL, Joanna Kolota, will be running a series of ESOL lessons for parents and carers who wish to improve their level of written and spoken English in order to support their child further. These sessions will run throughout the school year subject to demand and will be completely free of charge.

**If you would like to take part in any of these events or activities, please contact us to book your place.**

**Email: [contactus@leeds.trinitymat.org](mailto:contactus@leeds.trinitymat.org)**

**Telephone: 0113 483 1126**



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# FAMILY BUILD

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## PARENTS' EVENINGS

### Year 7

Session one: **01/02/2023**

Session two: **14/06/2023**

### Year 8

Session one: **09/02/2023**

Session two: **21/06/2023**



## SEND Clinic Dates

**21/09/2022**

**16/11/2022**

**25/01/2023**

**16/03/2023**

**16/05/2023**

## Settling in Evenings

Y7 Settling in Evening: **29/09/2022**

Y8 Settling in Evening: **06/10/2022**

## Student Build Celebration Ceremony

Ceremony Date w/c: **17/07/2023**

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## FAMILY INDUCTION DAY

This year, we welcomed a brand-new cohort of Year 7 students into our TAL family. Our Year 7 students had already been entering our transition challenges and reading through their transition guides to prepare themselves for secondary school, but it was brilliant to meet them and their families in person. During the day we explained important details, gave out equipment and helped parent/carers to navigate our school App, MCAS. Check out some images of the day and some key dates below for both year groups.



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## Thank you for reading our TAL newsletter!

It means a lot for us to share our students' voices and all the incredible things they are achieving at TAL.



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