

VOICE

15 Edition 2025

NEWSLETTER



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INTRODUCTION

A note from the Principal

Kat Cafferky, Principal

Welcome to our most recent issue of Voice the newsletter, where we share highlights with you from across the academic year so far. We are delighted to be finally full as a school with five years groups of Purple Stars. Our newest students have settled in really well and have already been representing our school in sporting fixtures and the Performing Arts. It has been a busy start to term with the election of our Build Team Ambassadors who are leading their teams around the academy with pride.



Our Year 10 students have started to motor in their Options subjects and our Year 11s are busy preparing for their next set of examinations. All year groups have come back strongly after the summer break and it is wonderful to see them working so hard in their lessons and using their impeccable manners. Thank you to all our families for attending after school events to support your child this term and in helping to organise them every day so that they are successful at school. Attendance remains the single biggest factor in a child's success at school and we also thank you for working with the school to ensure that they are in every single day. We are all looking forward to a restful extended break and to welcoming Year 11 into their first ever October Revision school. I hope that you enjoy reading about what we have been up to and I am confident that you will spot some familiar faces!



YEAR 7 An exceptional start to TAL life!

Year 7 students have had a fantastic start to their journey at Trinity Academy Leeds. The year groups ferocious attitude to learning and demonstration of the TAL core values is infectious. Team ambassadors lead their team with pride and have met weekly to develop their skills as a leader.



**Ms Armstrong,
Head of Year 7**

This term has been full of perfecting routines, developing character through the foundational steps of The Build, finding passions through Involve, PE Co-Curricular and Performing Arts opportunities, announcing our newest Student Librarians and Earthshot Ambassadors, plus much more. The pictures speak for themselves. I cannot wait to see what each Purple Star can achieve next term and throughout their time at TAL, this is just the beginning.



This term we proudly welcomed over 240 new TAL Tigers into our academy community. From day one, Year 7 have shown true TAL Tiger spirit - ferociously hardworking and kind. Before joining the academy, students impressed us through their dedication to Project Purple Star and Summer School 2025. We had over 180 students participate in both of these transition activities, where they embraced learning, teamwork and our academy values. Since September, the year group's momentum has only grown with all students keen to be involved in academy life. Students have thrown themselves into leadership roles as Team Ambassadors, Reading Ambassadors and Earthshot Ambassadors, setting the standard for excellence across the year group.



Our Year Sevens have shone beyond the classroom. The girl's netball team claimed victory in the multi-academy competition, while our rugby and football squads have represented TAL with pride and determination. Many students have also joined one of our prestigious LAPA pathways, showcasing their creativity and passion for performance through Choir, LACD, Phoenix Dance and Orchestra.



Inside of the classroom, our purple stars have been 'reaching higher', demonstrating academic excellence in everything they have achieved. Their lessons have been wide ranging and challenging, going far beyond the National Curriculum. Please read about each of the departments over the coming pages. We are also incredibly proud that Year 7 became the first-year group this academic year to achieve 100% attendance in a single day - a fantastic reflection of their commitment and enthusiasm for learning. Our newest TAL Tigers are truly living out our school mantra by reaching higher, seeing further and shining brighter every day.

YEAR 8



**Mr Mahmood,
Head of Year 8**

From the very start, our strength has been **teamship** – working together, supporting one another, and making the most of every opportunity. Whether in lessons, on the sports field, or in performing arts, our Year 8s have shown that **we are one team**.

Attendance has been strong, and students have built **excellent home learning habits**. Behaviour across the year group has been consistently positive, with students demonstrating kindness, respect, and resilience.

In lessons, students have worked hard and shown curiosity and drive. Beyond the classroom, they've embraced a wide range of **extra-curricular opportunities** – from sports fixtures (many of which we've won!) to music, drama, and dance. And even when the result hasn't gone our way, the attitude has been inspiring: **we come back stronger, together**.

This term our incredible year 8 cohort have continued to build on their strong foundations laid in Year 7. Their maturity, hardworking outlook and commitment to excellence have made them outstanding role models for our new year 7 cohort. Many year 8 students have embraced leadership opportunities this term. Getting involved in all facets of life across the academy. Academically, Year 8 have continued to impress. Their sparx completion rates have placed Trinity Academy Leeds second in the entire country for completion - a phenomenal achievement which reflects their hard work, focus and resilience. Whether in their lessons, or during co-curricular opportunities year 8 are striving for the highest of standards and striving for greatness every day. We've seen fantastic enthusiasm for the arts, with students signing up for Orchestra, working alongside the brilliant **Opera North**. Many have also registered interest in auditioning for our upcoming school production of *Legally Blonde* – exciting times ahead! **We're proud to share that many Year 8 students have successfully enrolled in: Choir at TAL, Phoenix Dance, Theatre at LAPA, LACD at LAPA**



The opportunities are endless for our **wonderful Purple Stars**, and it's clear they all have a bright future ahead.

This is our chance to say a huge **thank you** to every student who represents Year 8 so positively. You are Shining Brightly and we couldn't be prouder.

YEAR 9

As the new academic year gets underway, Year 9 has already made a powerful impression — living up to their well-earned title as The Powerhouse Year Group. Their energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to excellence are shining through in every corner of school life. From the very first week, Year 9 hit the ground running with fantastic participation in co-curricular sport. The numbers taking part each week are among the highest in the school, reflecting their love of teamwork, fitness, and friendly competition. The results speak for themselves — our netball and football teams have achieved some brilliant wins, demonstrating not only talent but also resilience. Their dedication in co-curricular sessions and commitment to representing the school have been outstanding.



**Miss Bateman,
Head of Year 9**

In the classroom, Year 9 continues to set the standard for KS3. Weekly engagement with Sparx Maths and Reader home learning has been excellent, with consistently high completion rates and impressive progress. Their purple books are filled with beautifully presented work; Thoughtful, detailed, and reflective of the high expectations they set for themselves.

Beyond academics and sport, this year group continues to set the tone for the wider school community. They have welcomed new students with warmth and kindness, making sure everyone feels part of the Year 9 family. Their daily conduct around school reflects our core values of honesty, empathy, respect, and responsibility, with many students going above and beyond to support their peers, show good manners, and lead by example.



It has been a pleasure to see the continued growth, effort, and enthusiasm from Year 9 this term building on the strong foundations from Year 8. Their positive attitude towards learning, commitment to school life, and support for one another make them a real credit to our community.

This year marks a significant milestone for Year 9 as they begin to explore their GCSE options. We will soon be guiding students through this exciting process, helping them reflect on their strengths, interests, and future aspirations. It's a big step, but one I am confident this thoughtful and hard-working group will take in their stride.

There's also plenty to look forward to in the coming months. Excitement is already building for the France Battlefields Trip in November, which will provide a powerful learning experience and a chance to reflect on history beyond the classroom. It promises to be a memorable and meaningful experience for all involved.

YEAR 10



**Mr Taylor,
Head of Year 10**

It's been a great start to the term for Team Year 10. There have been lots of changes and additions to our routines. But we have shone as a year group as we make the transition from KS3 to KS4. The years of tiger have begun for Y10, it is time to earn their stripes. We have had new Team Ambassadors. A big well done to **Mina, Foday, Nathan, Rayan, Selina, Mariam, Estefano, Sara and Sima**. They were exceptional in their speeches and are doing a fantastic job of leading their teams around the academy. Thank you for taking up a fantastic leadership opportunity.



We have also seen the introduction of our Prep programme. The focus that is evident in each Morning Prep session has been amazing to see in Term 1 so far. Every student has been diligently adding to their schema about all the revision techniques we are sharing with them. Students have begun to produce amazing mind maps and fantastic flash cards. Our young people have also been attending Prep+ sessions for their individual subjects. The feedback from each class teacher every time is always glowing with praise.

Team Year 10 have certainly caught the eye. Finally, a big thank you to all those students who have already begun to access Private Prep. A big well done to Busisiwe, who at the time of writing has the highest attendance at Private Prep. Shoutouts to **Snit, Bintou, Haadiya, Sharon, Sephora, and Ephrata** who have also had incredible attendance at Private Prep so far as well. Well done Year 10 for the amazing start you have made so far.



YEAR 11

This term we took a group of students to the Next Gen careers fair for Year 10 and 11 students across Leeds. This was an incredible opportunity for students to ask questions of local colleges, sixth forms and explore alternative further education provision such as The Royal Air Force. Our students, as always, were confident, articulate and proactive. Many completed college applications whilst at the event and students came away with a range of new next steps avenues to explore. Two members of staff from the event praised our students on separate occasions for their manners, conduct and on their exemplar representation of the academy and our standards and values. We are incredibly proud of you all.



**Mrs O'Hanlon,
Head of Year 11**

Year 11 students have been working really hard in preparation for their next set of Mocks exams. We have been really impressed with how hard they have been working in all their lessons and with their attendance and commitment in PREP+ and Private PREP. We have had record numbers of students staying behind to study and it has been encouraging to see so many revising and completing past papers. Careers appointments and assemblies continue, with many colleagues contacting us to write references. Mr Paley has been really impressed with the maturity and ambition of the cohort. Thank you to all families that have booked additional appointments to support your child. We now have revision guides available on MCAS for students to purchase in Core Subjects.



MATHS

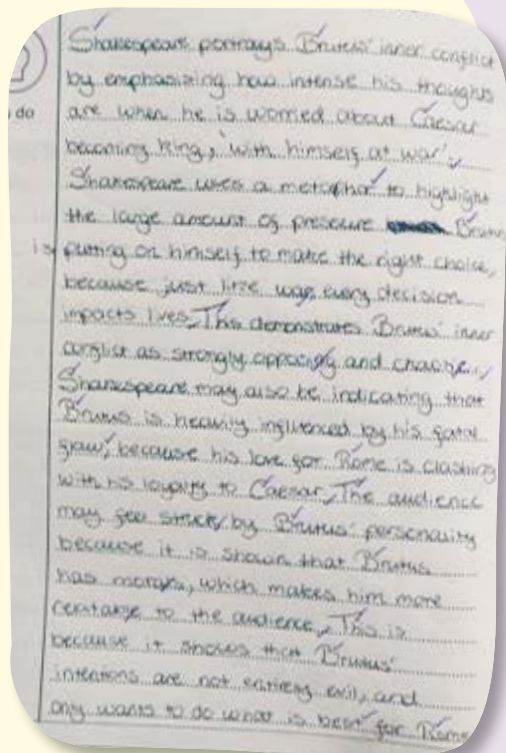
This term our Year 11 students have been working extremely hard towards their first set of Mock Exams, both in their maths lessons and during Morning Prep. Students have been demonstrating excellent revision techniques this year and have really taken up the challenge of the Final Ambush. This week, the Maths Department launched our first ever 'Past Paper Prep' session. Over 100 Year 11 students attended to complete a past paper in groups with the support of their maths teachers. This event saw students working diligently on past paper questions, working in a collaborative environment to support their peers.



ENGLISH

KS3 ENGLISH

Students have made a fantastic start to a new academic year in English. In Year 7, students have crafted creative writing pieces in the style of a Gothic author using conventions of the genre. They have applied their understanding of how language is a deliberate choice a writer makes in order to comment on the works of literary authors such as Bram Stoker and Mary Shelley. In particular, students have been using ambitious language around the use of a 'tenor' and 'vehicle' to comment on the images created through metaphor. This has continued into year 8, where students have looked at metaphor and conceit in Long Way Down. Students have compared Reynold's use of a verse novel to epic poetry such as Dante's Inferno. Students have eloquently described the way unusual vehicles like a tooth being ripped out can be an interesting and complex way of describing grief at losing close family members, as well as considering the moral issues surrounding gang violence and revenge. Year 9 have taken their study of moral decline in year 8 and applied it to Shakespearean tragedy with their study of Julius Caesar. Their study of what makes a tragic hero, tyranny and moral downfall will help them understand the concepts they will study at GCSE Literature, and many students are already writing like GCSE students.



KS4 ENGLISH

Year 10 have made a powerful start to their study of their English Literature GCSE this term! They have been closely studying JB Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls', analysing the writer's use of language and stagecraft in this explosive critique of pre-war British society. This has built on their study of texts such as 'Animal Farm' in Year 8 and 'Journey's End' in Year 9, enabling them to engage with high-level concepts around social class and power right from the beginning. Year 11 have come back from their summer holidays with ferocious focus, completing their study of the 'Power and Conflict' anthology (see below for their assessment preparations!), and have gone on to begin working on English Language Paper 2. They have been reading and writing about challenging non-fiction texts, including those from the 19th century, and comparing writers' perspectives on a diverse range of topics - from transportation to safari animals! The English faculty have been exceptionally impressed with their drive to make success inevitable this summer.



SCIENCE

Excelling in Science with Seneca Learning

The Science department at Trinity Academy Leeds are committed to supporting students with the most effective tools for academic success. This year, we have introduced Seneca Learning to level up student revision.

What is Seneca?

Seneca Learning is a free, interactive online platform designed to make revision more engaging and efficient. It uses evidence-based techniques such as retrieval practice and spaced repetition to help students retain information more effectively. Through short, focused learning sessions and instant feedback quizzes, Seneca makes revision a dynamic and enjoyable experience.

How does it support progress?

Students who regularly engage with Seneca show improvements in their understanding and exam performance, leading to higher grades. The platform personalises learning by identifying areas for development and reinforcing key concepts. Research indicates that students using Seneca can revise up to twice as fast and are able to remember more knowledge, which supports their GCSE outcomes.

Celebrating Student Success

This academic year, our Science department has seen exceptional engagement with Seneca. Over 85% of students in Year 11 are consistently using this platform for their 'Enhance' revision. Special recognition goes to **Ilda, Shalom, Rebka, Amil, Reda and Kalarna** who have all completed over 700 minutes of science revision this term! Shout outs also go to 11B, 11T, 11U and 11E who are leading the way in terms of study time.

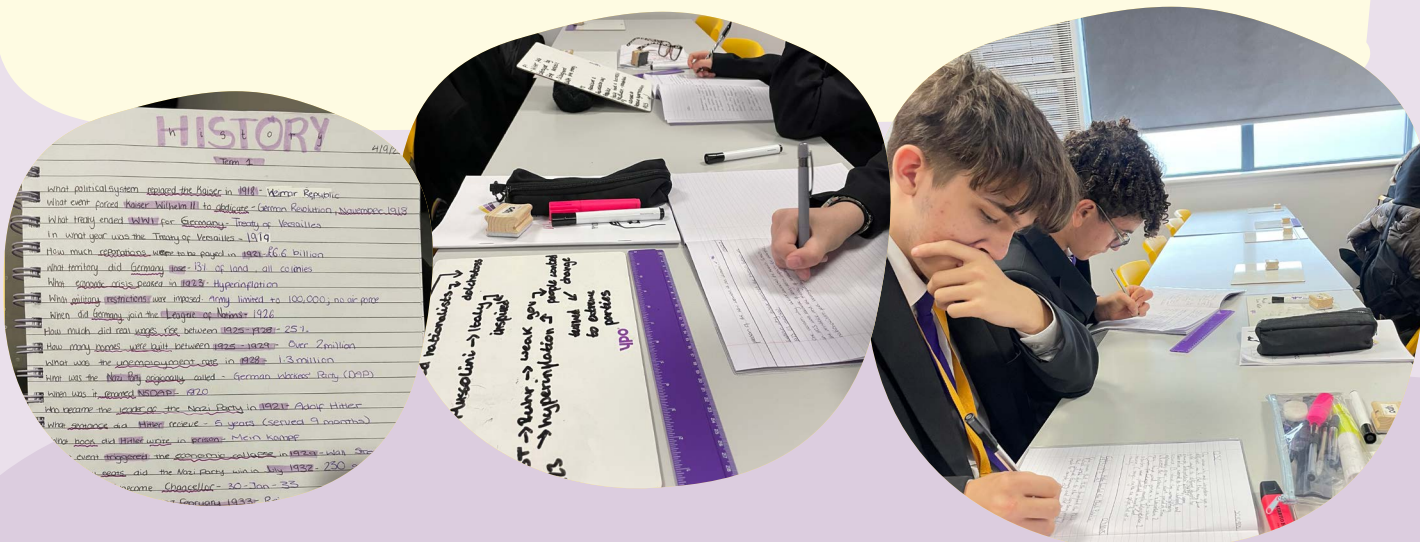
As we look ahead to the next set of mocks, we strongly encourage all students to incorporate Seneca into their revision routines. It is accessible, impactful, and an excellent way to build confidence in Science.

Well done Year 11.



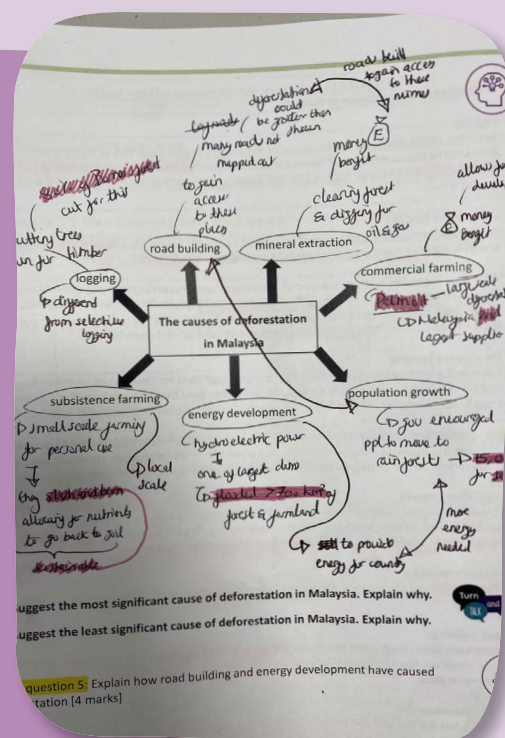
HISTORY

This term, our Year 10 historians have truly impressed with their dedication and drive during the Weimar and Nazi Germany topic. Their commitment to home learning has been exceptional, with many students investing significant hours on Seneca to reinforce key content and exam skills. Alongside this, a remarkable number of beautifully crafted flashcards have been created, showcasing both creativity and a deep understanding of the topics studied. The quality of work produced in class and at home has been outstanding, with students consistently demonstrating analytical thinking, particularly in their responses to historical interpretations and 'Explain why' questions. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and look forward to seeing this momentum continue into the next term.



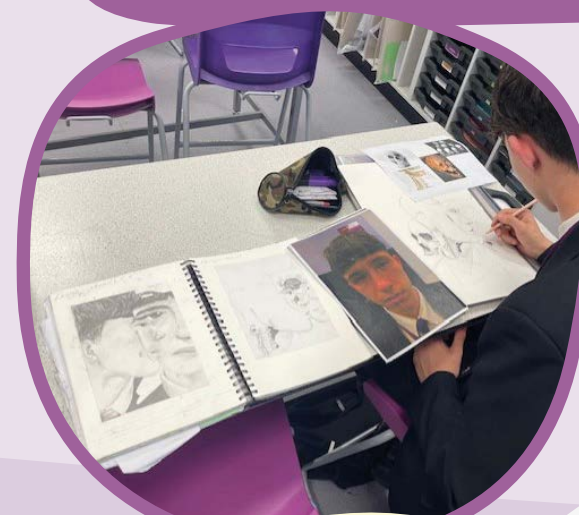
GEOGRAPHY

Our Geographers have made an excellent start to the academic year! We're delighted to welcome Miss Milburn to the department, and she's already made a fantastic impact. Year 7 students have settled in well and are developing their locational knowledge through world maps and compass skills. Year 8 have begun exploring sustainability, with a focus on food as a global resource. Year 9 are engaging with a new topic on tectonic hazards, which we're excited to be running for the first time. Over half of Year 10 have opted to study GCSE Geography, and our new cohort have been working hard learning how to measure the development gap. Meanwhile, Year 11 are honing their revision strategies in lessons while comparing tropical rainforest and hot desert biomes – look out for some great examples included below!



ART

Term 1 in Art and Design has been fantastic. Students across all year groups and made a phenomenal start to the year. Key Stage 3 have been focussing on sharpening their observational skills. Year 7 have produced some beautiful skull drawings linked to the theme of Natural Forms and Our Planet. Year 8 have been drawing with precision to recreate the local former Burtons factory in the style of the artist Ian Murphy linked to the theme of Our City.



Year 9 have created outstanding hand studies inspired by Mark Powell linked to the theme of Identity. Key Stage 4 have also made a fantastic start to the year. Year 10 have submitted beautiful drawing work for their first coursework project of Food and are now working on developing their acrylic painting skills. As always I have been blown away by the hard work and dedication of our Year 11 students putting the finishing touches to their Growth and Decay sustained project. I cannot wait to see what's produced next term!

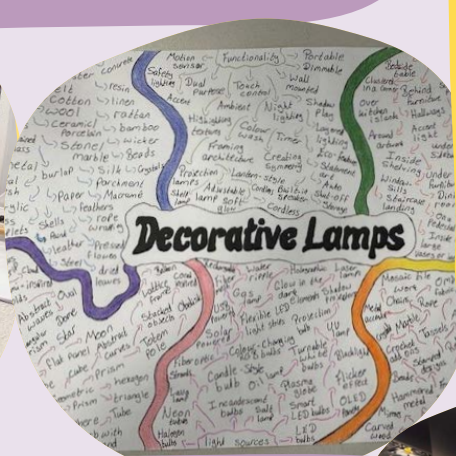


TECHNOLOGY

This term Year 7 have been welcomed into the technology workshops. Unit 1 focus on skills development: materials and properties. All students have learnt about the hazards within the workshops and have been introduced to the tools and machinery. The technical knowledge Year 7's have been learning about are natural timbers and manufacture boards. The Year 7s have been practising their measuring and marking out. As well as building their confidence with the tenon saws, and the belt sander to construct a butt joint.



Year 8 students have been developing their skill development: electronics. Together they have learnt how to use the software 'crumble' to program their crumble controller and components. They have created a nightlight and a probability spinner.



Year 9 have started the year in food technology. Where already they have complete two food practicals; chicken goujons and sweet potato wedges, as well as an assessed practical; A Dutch apple cake.



Both Year 10 classes for hospitality and catering, and 3D Design have made a brilliant first impression to their teachers. Year 10 hospitality catering have been learning about the industry as well as practising different chopping techniques. 3D Design students have dived straight into their mini sustained project; decorative lamps, which has had a focus on the art movement Art Deco.



I cannot wait to see what the Year 11s create in their practical mock exams. Good luck to all students taking part.

Year 11 hospitality and catering students have been focused on improving their practical skills and time management with numerous practicals. This will set them up to be successful for their food practical mock exam next term.

Year 11 3D design are now incredible close to their mock exam, which is the first day back after the break. Students are now in their final prototyping stages and mock exam prep to ensure they are set up to be successful.

PERFORMING ARTS

A Thrilling start to the Term for Performing Arts

It has been a vibrant and bustling start to the new term in the Performing Arts department, filled with creativity, excitement, and outstanding achievements. Students and staff have thrown themselves into the new academic year with enthusiasm, and the energy around TAL has been truly inspiring.

We began the term with a series of highly successful auditions for our Co-Curricular offers Theatre @ LAPA, Phoenix Dance @LAPA, LACD @LAPA, and Choir @LAPA. The level of talent and dedication shown by our students was exceptional, making the selection process both challenging and rewarding. These groups are now hard at work preparing for an exciting season of performances that promise to showcase the very best of LAPA's creative spirit.

This term also marked an important milestone as we welcomed the first cohort of LAPA Pathway students. Their arrival represents an exciting new chapter in our journey of nurturing artistic excellence and providing students with a clear route to professional and higher education opportunities in the arts.

LACD are excited to be part of the 'Making Moves' project this year, in collaboration with Sadlers Wells. During this project, students have the opportunity to work alongside a professional choreographer. This year LACD have been selected to work with Sir Richard Alston and are excited to perform their piece to him and a live audience in March. During this project students will develop their choreographic skills and will be inspired by a choreographic approach which is set by Sir Richard Alston himself.



The Music department began the academic year in style with a free concert for pupils and parents showcasing the musicians of Opera North. Members of our choir got an introduction to the world of opera when they were invited to watch the UK premiere of the new family opera "The Secret of the Black Spider" at Leeds Grand Theatre, which included taking part in an exclusive Q&A with composer and librettist Judith Weir after the show. Orchestra is at full strength with nearly 40 pupils taking part each week, and we are delighted to have strengthened our peripatetic offer with the appointment of a fantastic vocal teacher who will be joining us after half term. All of these experiences, we have no doubt will inspire future performers among our students.



Meanwhile, anticipation is already building for the upcoming school production of Legally Blonde, with preparations and audition planning well underway. It's shaping up to be another unforgettable show, brimming with colour, humour, and energy. Looking ahead, we're thrilled about two of our most anticipated annual events; the Concert by Candlelight in association with Opera North and the LAPA Winter Showcase, both taking place next month. These celebrations of talent, collaboration, and creativity are the perfect way to close what has already been a dynamic and inspiring start to the year. We can't wait to see what our students will achieve next. The stage is set for another exceptional season at TAL!

PE

Term One has been nothing short of exceptional for the Physical Education Faculty at Trinity Academy Leeds. Our students have thrown themselves into every opportunity available, with hundreds actively participating in our INVOLVE sporting activities, extra-curricular clubs, and competitive fixtures: All students shining brighter.



Our netball squads have been in unstoppable form, consistently delivering dominant performances and sweeping aside all that's been put before them. They have quickly become a force to be reckoned with across the region. Additionally, In Rugby League, our Year 9 and Year 10 teams have had success by qualifying for the Yorkshire Regional Finals, after finishing in the top two schools in Leeds.



This term also marked the launch of a groundbreaking new partnership with British Rowing and the Leeds Rhinos Foundation. As part of this exciting collaboration, we've installed 18 state-of-the-art Concept 2 rowing machines and rebranded our Fitness Suite as 'The Boathouse at TAL'. This new identity reflects our bold vision for rowing at Trinity Academy Leeds.

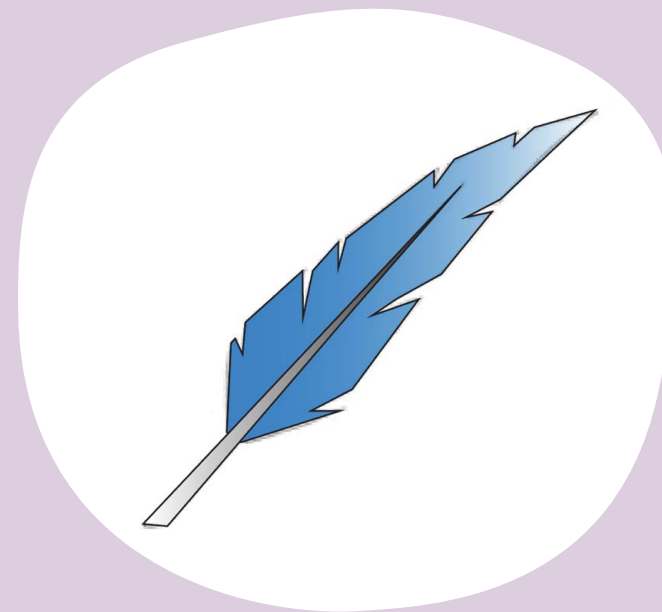
Our Rowing Programme now provides students with access to high-quality rowing experiences across the curriculum, in extra-curricular clubs, and even on the water through our partnership with Leeds Rowing Club. Students are already developing their technique, fitness, and teamwork. Furthermore, we're proud to announce that the TAL Tigers will be competing in their first regatta in Spring 2026.

With so much already achieved in just one term, we're incredibly excited for what lies ahead.

COMPUTING

The Computing department has hit the ground running this year. Fresh on the heels of last year's phenomenal success on a regional level, we are reaching higher this year with our fresh cohort of young female Computer Scientists. This year's Involve for Women in Computing is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever before.

Speaking of Involve, Videogame Character design is now in its fourth year, with a whole new cohort of students keen to learn who to develop a character from concept to digital art. We are in the early stages of development, but we can see some real skills from some of this year's digital artists in the making.



```
testScores = [100, 90, 55, 60, 95, 40]
searchScore = int(input("what score are you looking for?"))
for i in range(len(testScores)):
    if testScores[i] == searchScore:
        print("Found the score in location", searchFound)
    else:
        print("Score not found")
```

Computing lessons continue to push students in all things STEM. Year 7 have now had their induction into the academy and are working on the importance of e-safety when sending and receiving emails. Year 8 are also working on an e-safety project; using Adobe Illustrator to learn about vector graphics and how to draw them. This will lead to an e-safety logo project. Year 9 are rounding off their key stage 3 programming curriculum, with a final look into how a computer searches and sorts through information. It's going to be a busy but exciting year up here in the department!

LANGUAGES



A huge welcome to our three new members of staff: Mr Sedlak, Mr Zambrano and Miss Pinar (who is joining us for part of her teacher training course). They bring with them a wealth of experience and are a real asset to the team.

It was brilliant to welcome so many potential new Purple Stars at the recent Year 6 Open Evening. It was wonderful to meet so many prospective students and parents eager to explore the range of linguistic and cultural opportunities available at TAL. A special mention to our formidable student helpers: Chloe 11B, Ansumana 10A, Shazal 10T and Esther 10U. You did a phenomenal job!

Friday 26th September marked 'European Day of Languages'. Although European Day of Languages celebrates languages spoken on the continent of Europe, we are extremely proud of the diverse cultures and languages represented at TAL and therefore we celebrated many of the languages spoken at TAL. Students enjoyed reading through the language fact files on tables in the Refectory and break and lunch time, quizzing themselves and others about what they had learnt and entering the Purple Start Challenges. Well done to everyone who took part! Our Week 'Linguist of the Week' awards are back in full-swing and it's so difficult to choose just one student from each year group each week. Well done to our winners so far this term: Adam D, Zared D, Eshaal F and Simran C from Year 7, Koby M, Muhamad D, Maria B and Issra E from Year 8, Emilia H, Anaiah N, Shiva M from Year 9. We can't wait to award more linguists for their brilliance throughout the rest of the academic year.



Finally, we're proud to welcome the next talented cohort of students starting their Heritage Language GCSE course. These students will be taking a GCSE this summer in the language they already speak at home, allowing them to gain official recognition for their incredible linguistic skills. We wish them the very best of luck!

RS

RS is in full swing this term! We welcomed our new RS teacher, Mr Vis, who has thoroughly enjoyed the many discussions in RS lessons so far. As always, our students are challenged as experts in RS with their growing schema of knowledge. We are currently studying:

- **Year 7:** How has religion changed in Britain? What can we infer from the census data?
- **Year 8:** Was the world created by God? What evidence (or lack of) is there?
- **Year 9:** Why is it important for Muslims to follow Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)?
- **Year 10:** What was Jesus' role in making salvation possible?
- **Year 11:** What are different denominational forms of worship in Christianity?

In KS3, our Year 7s have made an incredible start learning about the multicultural nature of Britain and the diversity of worldviews - we even held a debate on how religion compares to football! Our Year 8s have enjoyed discussions around various explanations for how the universe came to be, including Christian, Muslim, Hindu, philosophical and scientific explanations. Finally, in Year 9, students have been exploring the religion of Islam in depth, building on their knowledge of Abrahamic faiths.



In KS4, our Year 10 GCSE RS students have begun their course starting with the nature of God in Christianity, particularly the importance of Jesus and his life. Students have begun creating bespoke revision resources in the form of mind maps, flash cards and revision clocks ahead of their first assessment. Our Year 11 GCSE RS students have continued to strengthen their exam practice, achieving their best results yet in our first end of term assessment. They continue to Shine Brighter with their diligence and efforts in exam practice, honing their skills to perfection ahead of their first set of Year 11 mock exams.

We are looking forward to continuing to support our students to Reach Higher, See Further and Shine Brighter!

