

VOICE

16 Edition 2025

NEWSLETTER



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INTRODUCTION

A note from the Principal

Kat Cafferky, Principal

Welcome to the latest edition of our Voice newsletter, where we share with you all the brilliant activities and achievements of our Purple Stars this term. I am very proud of how well our Year 7 students continue to settle into secondary school life and would like to congratulate our KS4 students on their brilliant conduct in their mock exams. Outside of the classroom our children have been busy competing in sport, performing on the stage and taking their first set of Empower trips. We are also delighted to announce our newly appointed Head and Deputy student leadership roles after a very competitive process! As the nights draw darker and colder, it is important that your child continues to be in every single day so that they can experience every second of what is on offer and reach their potential. Thank you for your continued support and please have a restful break. A very Merry Christmas to all our families who celebrate.



YEAR 7

**Ms Armstrong,
Head of Year 7**



Year 7 have continued to shine throughout Term 2 at TAL, embracing every opportunity with energy and enthusiasm. Our newest Purple Stars are not only discovering their passions and building lasting friendships but also developing a genuine love of learning that is wonderful to witness. It has been a joy to get to know each member of the cohort more deeply as they immerse themselves in co-curricular sports, Performing Arts, and knowledge organiser revision. A particular highlight this term was their very first Award-Winning Empower trip, where students flourished by stepping outside the classroom and broadening their horizons.

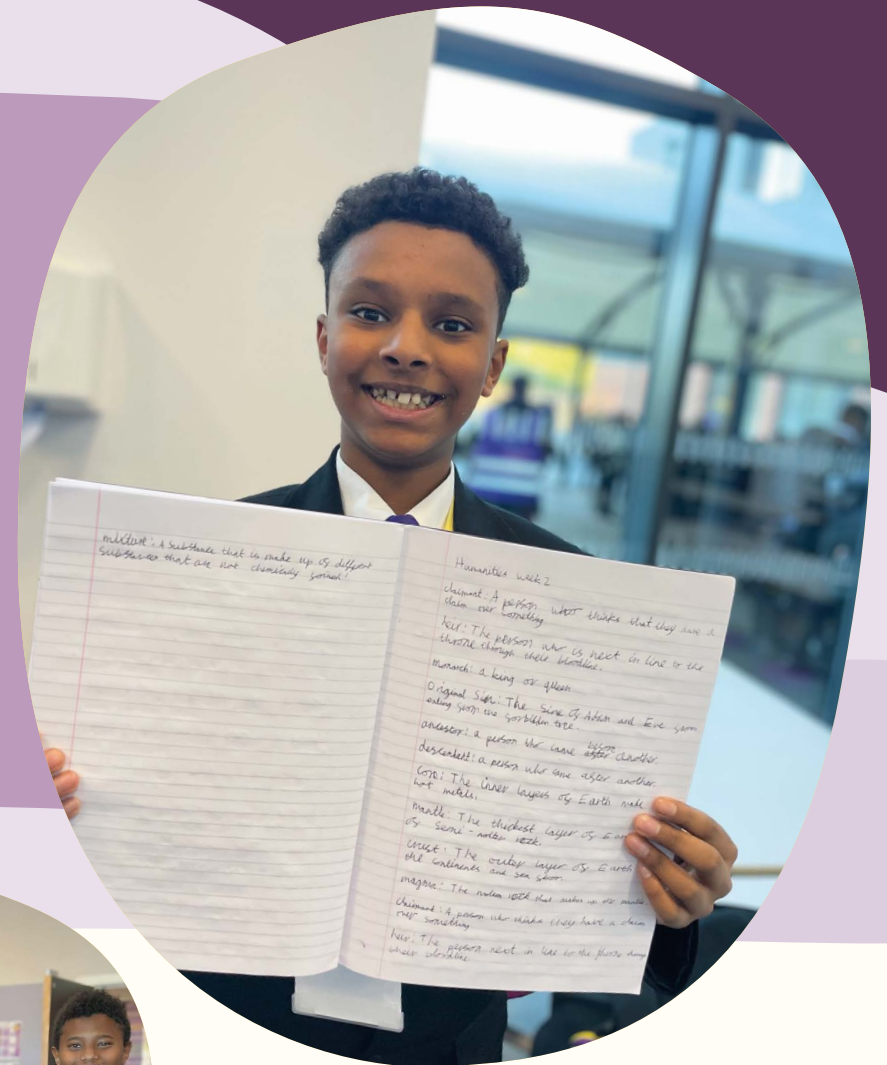
Each week, it is a delight to see the Year 7 cohort filing into the refectory for their co-curricular sports sessions, cheerfully greeting me with a "Good afternoon, Miss" as they pass. The girls' netball team remain undefeated, showcasing skill and confidence as they dominate every match this term. Their determination, resilience, and teamwork- both on and off the court- are truly inspiring. Equally impressive, the boys' football team continue to lead with pride, taking on multiple fixtures and sustaining a remarkable winning streak.



This term has been bursting with creativity and opportunity for our Year 7 Performing Arts students, from hands-on DJ workshops to an inspiring visit to Production Park. A number of students proudly represented the year group at the enchanting Concert by Candlelight, where many experienced the thrill of performing in a live orchestra for the very first time. Weekly Tuesday rehearsals culminated in a magical evening that showcased their growing talents. The Winter Showcase was nothing short of phenomenal, featuring confident and thought-provoking drama pieces, energetic and polished dance performances, and a standout Year 7 solo within a choir spanning Years 7-11. Each performance was a true testament to the dedication, passion, and hard work of this remarkable cohort.



Inside the classroom, Year 7 have been working with impressive focus as they prepare for their very first TAL assessments. They are developing a deeper understanding of metacognition, learning how to master keywords and concepts in every lesson—an essential skill that will serve them well throughout their time at TAL and beyond. Their home learning books reflect this commitment, filled with carefully written and corrected core knowledge, with students taking great pride in the quality of their work.



Alongside this, our motto 'Readers are Leaders' continues to inspire, with the Book Buzz delivery and festive Bookcember competition ensuring that every Purple Star has received a brand-new book to treasure and enjoy.

This term has been marked by remarkable growth for our newest cohort, with individuality shining through and passions beginning to take root. It has been a joy to watch Year 7 embrace every opportunity with enthusiasm and confidence. As we look ahead, I am excited to see how they will continue to Reach Higher, Shine Brighter, and See Further as they step into Term 3 and beyond.

YEAR 8

**Mr Mahmood,
Head of Year 8**



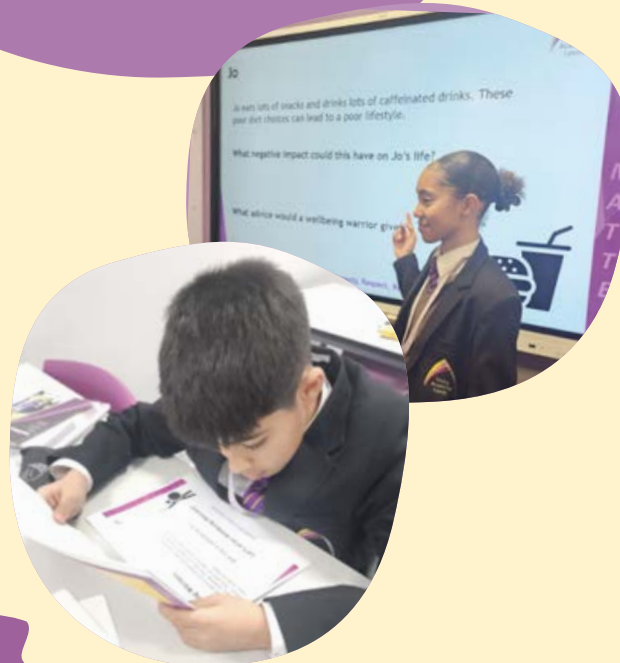
Team Ambassadors

Our Team Ambassadors have shown incredible leadership this term. They have not only guided their teams around the academy but also taken on other important responsibilities. This term, they delivered presentations on the theme "You Matter, We Care", focusing on wellbeing.

This has been another wonderful term for our year group. Our students have discovered their passions and continue to:

**Reach Higher,
See Further,
and Shine Brightly.**

Ambassadors attended weekly meetings to prepare their presentations, creating slides and planning their delivery. Their key messages were about looking after personal wellbeing and supporting others. They led peer discussions in classrooms and spoke confidently in front of their peers like true experts. We are so proud of their thoughtful and inspiring work.



Performing Arts Success

What an exciting term for our Performing Arts team! After many auditions, the cast list for Legally Blonde has been announced. Congratulations to all students who auditioned, the standard from all was outstanding. A special well done to our Year 8 Purple Stars who earned a place in the cast. We cannot wait to see the performance in Summer 2026. Best of luck to everyone involved!

Unique (Kate), Precious (Witney), Luca (Emmett Forrest), Ebony (Delta Nu), Esther (Aaron Schultz) and Alicia (Vivienne).

Bookcember

The festive spirit is alive and well! December has been a month of giving and celebrating. Each morning, we spin a wheel and one lucky winner receives a free book. We know how important reading is, and we have a wide range of books for students to enjoy. For those not selected on the wheel, do not worry, every Year 8 student has received a free book through our BookBuzz scheme. Enjoy your reading, and when you finish, pass your book on so someone else can enjoy it too.



Amelia 8E



Assessment Window 1

This term, all 240 Purple Stars sat their assessments under exam conditions in every subject. They have worked incredibly hard, both in class and at home. We have seen beautiful examples of recall and creative use of flashcards. Thank you to all families for supporting your children through this process. We look forward to sharing their progress with you at Parents Evening.

Aasiyah 8E



It has been a busy term for Year 8, but that is how we like it! December really is the most wonderful time of the year. Keep shining, rest well, and have a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from Team Year 8.

YEAR 9

Miss Bateman,
Head of Year 9



Term 2: The Powerhouse in Action

What a term it's been! Busy? Absolutely. But if there's one thing Year 9 knows how to do, it's adapt and thrive. Over the last 7 weeks we've conquered new challenges in lessons, explored future careers on Empower and even visited new countries on our Turing trip, all while staying proudly and unmistakably purple. From classrooms to sports fields and the stage, we've worked hard, shown resilience, and continued to set the standard as role models for KS3. Term 2 has been a testament to our unstoppable spirit—because that's what makes us the Powerhouse.

This term, 30 Year 9 students had the incredible opportunity to take part in a Turing Trip to the battlefields of France and Belgium, guided by Miss Marsh and Mr Levick. The trip was more than just a visit. It was a chance to step back in time and reflect on the sacrifices made during World War I. Our students showed great respect throughout the trip, taking in the stories and memorials with maturity and thoughtfulness. Along the way, they learned so much about history, built new friendships, and, of course, enjoyed copious amounts of Belgian chocolate! It was a memorable experience that combined education, reflection, and a little bit of indulgence. A big thank you to Mrs Collins, Ms Marsh and Mr Levick for making this week possible. These trips couldn't run without you!

Our talented performing arts students have truly shone this term! The Orchestra delivered a breathtaking performance at Concert by Candlelight, showcasing the results of their dedication and countless hours of practice. Meanwhile, students from LACD, LAPA, Phoenix dance, and Choir lit up the stage during the Winter Showcase with outstanding performances that highlighted their creativity and commitment.

A huge well done to all those who secured a role in Legally Blonde. The hard work starts now, and we cannot wait to see the final production come to life. The passion and talent on display remind us why the arts are such an important part of our Year 9 powerhouse.



Year 9 continues to excel across all sports! Our boys' football team remains unbeaten, showing incredible teamwork and determination. The girls' netball team has matched that success, also finishing the term undefeated. Meanwhile, our boys' table tennis team achieved an impressive 3rd place in the whole of Yorkshire, a fantastic accomplishment! To top it off, we attended the Row with the Rhinos event at Headingley Stadium, where our students picked up multiple medals and represented the school with pride. What a term for continued sporting success!

As students move through Year 9, they reach a crucial stage in their educational journey, the point where they begin making choices about their future. By the end of the year, every student will have selected the subjects they wish to study at GCSE. With this in mind, our Empower programme becomes even more focused, offering trips and experiences designed to inspire and inform. This term, students visited Leeds and Huddersfield Universities, Elland Road, Leeds City College, and Notre Dame Sixth Form, gaining valuable insights into further and higher education. These experiences are all about helping Year 9 make confident, informed decisions about their future.

It's been a fantastic term filled with hard work, achievements, and unforgettable experiences. As we move into Term 3, the momentum doesn't stop. Year 9 will continue to adapt, excel, and lead the way. With GCSE options fast approaching, it's time to focus, embrace every opportunity, and make choices that will shape the future. The Powerhouse is ready for the challenge.



YEAR 10

Mr Taylor,
Head of Year 10



Term 2 has been a fantastic term for Team Y10. At the time of writing we are only days away from Y10's first GCSE mock exams. Over the past weeks students have been diligently preparing in Morning Prep sessions under the guidance of their amazing Team Leaders. Thanks to the power of Morning Prep Y10 are learning effective home learning habits. It is always a pleasure as their head of year to walk into any team in Y10 on a morning and see all students focused on their revision. During this term we have also been fortunate to take part in our first Empower experience of KS4. A few weeks ago, all students in Y10 took part in our mock interview process.

As part of their preparation students worked with their Team Leaders to practice the skills needed to confidently interview. I must credit the amazing Miss Scantlebury, she helped 10M go above and beyond in their preparation through modelling and acting an ideal interview, to help bring to life what good interview looks like. This was all with the assistance of Roland Csonka. On the day of the mock interviews our students were interviewed by professional interviewers, each of them with years of experiencing interviewing potential employees. Yet still, they were absolutely blown away by the levels of professionalism shown by Y10 at such a young age. Amina Batool stood out, she took to the interview like a natural. Eyouel Yonas also shone brightly, he was really owning his lane. He led the conversation as if he had been in hundreds of interviews before. The list could go on; there are so many students to name.

I would also like to celebrate the success of the recent casting for Legally Blonde also. A big well-done to: Sharifah, Ci'Maya, Carmen, Lola-Rose, Julia, Shmukh, Ayesha, and Solyanna. I know you will be working incredibly hard throughout this year to put on the best show possible. I cannot wait to see the final production.

By the time this will be sent out the Y10 mock exams will be over. I hope all Y10 students will feel proud of all the hard work they have put in and have a well-earned restful break over the Christmas period. Thank you for a fantastic start to term 1 and 2 in 2025. I look forward to seeing you return in 2026 as we continue are final journey to the end of Y11. Have a great Christmas break and a happy new year!



YEAR 11

Mrs O'Hanlon,
Head of Year 11



This term has been another success for Year 11. Students engaged with their first exam series of Year 11, which was designed to be as authentic as possible to add another layer of preparation for their final GCSE's. Students approached this series with dedication and focus. Our invigilators were rightfully impressed by the calibre of our students and their conduct throughout.

We have also appointed our first ever Head Girl, Head Boy and deputies for each role. The application process was rigorous. Due to a significant number of high quality applications, the shortlisting process was incredibly difficult. Those shortlisted presented to myself and Tim White, Chair of Governors. They also led a tour of an SLO around the school. All candidates faced challenging questions in an intense interview. **Congratulations to all who applied**, were shortlisted, and our elected student leaders. You should all be proud of your efforts.

Head Girl:
Alisha Zimbietou
Head Boy:
Andre Masitara
Deputy Head Girl:
Ellta Mulubrhan
Deputy Head Boy:
Reda Mahalli



MATHS

The Year of the Tiger is well underway at Trinity Academy Leeds and this term our Key Stage 4 students have been relentless in their pursuit of excellence as Year 10 Earn Their Stripes and Year 11 take on the Final Ambush. Year 11 students have recently completed a full set of GCSE past papers for their maths Mock Exams. Students are eagerly awaiting feedback from their Examiners' Reports and have already begun work in Morning Recall, maths lessons and Prep+ sessions to close gaps in their knowledge. Year 10 students will be completing their Mock Exams over the coming weeks, including tackling a GCSE past paper for the first time - we can't wait to see their resilience and hard work shine through in their results.

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$$250 \times 3 = 750$$

There was 750g at the start

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As we head toward the festive season, we usher in the month of DecemBAR! Throughout the next month, White Rose Maths will release daily questions to get students thinking about how problems can be represented and solved using bar models. Using representations - such as physical manipulatives, ratio tables and bar models - is a core part of maths lessons at TAL. Students are becoming more fluent and confident in using bar modelling to support and strengthen their understanding of many topics in maths, such as ratio problems and solving equations with unknowns on both sides. DecemBAR provides an excellent opportunity for students to test their understanding of bar modelling - students will have the opportunity to engage with problems during their lessons and each Friday students will have the opportunity to attempt the question of the day during Community Lunch. Students will be able to discuss the questions with their peers and maths teachers, selecting different levels of difficulty and earning achievement points for their efforts.

ENGLISH

KS3

It has been a lively term for KS3 as they continue their journey towards becoming sophisticated poets, rhetoricians, and scholars. In Y7 students have begun mastering academic writing skills through their study of the Gothic genre. Their understanding of how to write about an author's choice effectively will serve them well in their time at TAL, including in their future GCSE English studies. Creativity took centre stage in Y8, where students explored the power of metaphor, rhythm and poetic form to master their own original poetry. We have explored the influence of poets such as Benjamin Zephaniah and Valerie Bloom to inspire students to craft powerful poems related to their own experiences. Finally, in Y9, students have used their study of 'Julius Caesar' to explore how politicians use rhetoric to persuade people of their own ideas, as well as preparing them for their study of tragedy in 'Macbeth' next year. They have also mastered the art of persuasive writing by crafting their own rhetorical arguments, employing techniques that we studied in class. This year has been full of hard work so far, and we cannot wait to see this pay off with success in the upcoming MOR and exam week!



KS4

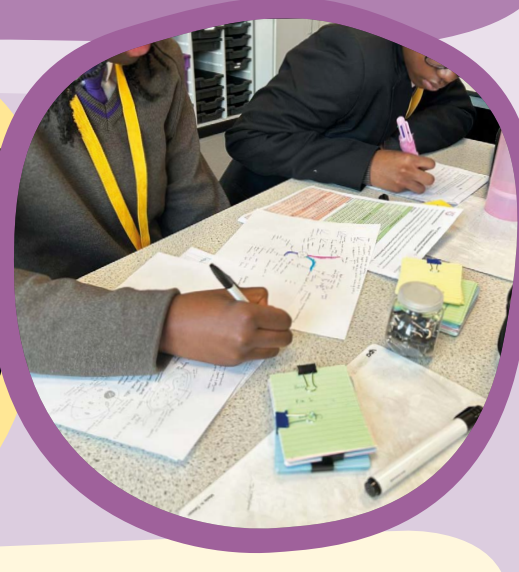
Year 11 sat their first full set of Mock Exams in both English Literature and English Language this Term. They have worked incredibly hard to make success inevitable by using their flashcards and mind maps to revise key moments and key quotations for both Macbeth and A Christmas Carol for their Literature Paper 2 examination. For Language, lots of practice papers have been written to refine key reading and writing skills and we are confident the results will be exceptional following every purple star's phenomenal attitude and effort.

Year 10 have also had Mock Exam fever having sat their very first Mock Exam component on An Inspector Calls this Term. As we would expect, the revision for this has been a joy to witness and the English Department cannot wait (yes, really!) to mark these to bear witness of the true excellence of this year group.

SCIENCE

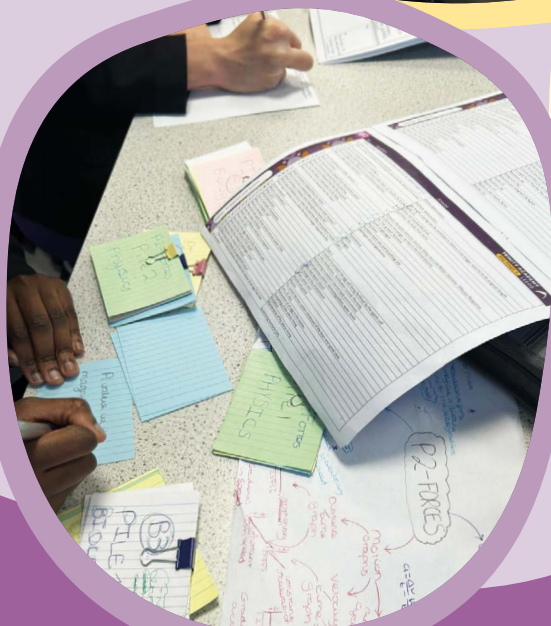
As the first set of GCSE mock exams approaches, Year 10 students have been working hard to prepare for this important milestone in their academic journey. These exams are not only a chance to test their knowledge but also an opportunity to develop effective revision strategies that will serve them well in the future.

In Science, students have embraced a variety of methods to consolidate their learning. One of these techniques has been the use of flashcards, which allow quick recall of key terms, definitions, and formulas. Many students have found this method particularly useful for mastering tricky concepts and improving memory retention. A more creative approach to revision has been revision clocks. These visual tools help students break down topics into manageable chunks, ensuring that every area of the curriculum gets attention. By allocating time to each section, students can structure their revision sessions effectively and avoid last-minute cramming. Year 10 have also been creating mind maps and using these to link ideas together, making complex topics easier to understand.



Students have also been utilising the Seneca Learning platform, which offers a wide range of Science resources aligned to the GCSE curriculum, including short quizzes, detailed explanations, and instant feedback. This allows students to identify gaps in their knowledge and revisit topics as needed. The platform adapts as students progress through tasks to ensure that they are challenged at the right level, helping them to strengthen understanding and improve recall.

The dedication and effort shown by Year 10 is brilliant. They are building strong foundations for success—not just in their mocks, but in their final GCSE exams. Good luck to all our budding scientists!



HISTORY

It has been a busy and exciting term in the History Department. Students across all year groups have explored new topics, developed their historical thinking, and taken part in memorable learning experiences.

Year 7 continued their journey into medieval history by studying the Battles of 1066. They investigated the claims to the throne and compared the strengths of the different armies. They also learned how William the Conqueror secured victory at Hastings.

Year 8 have focused on the Industrial Revolution and its impact on Leeds. They explored how factories, transport, and new technologies changed the city. Students also learned about Burmantofts pottery; an important part of Leeds' industrial heritage.



Year 9 have studied two major topics: the Holocaust and the Cold War. They approached these subjects with maturity and used our core values of empathy, responsibility, and respect throughout their learning. A highlight of the term was the international trip to the First World War battlefields, led by Miss Marsh and Mr Levick. Students walked in the footsteps of soldiers, visited key memorials, and gained a powerful understanding of the human impact of the war. It was an unforgettable experience that brought their classroom learning to life.

Year 10 have worked hard on their GCSE course, focusing on Weimar and Nazi Germany. They completed their first set of mock exams and showed real determination as they developed their exam skills.

Year 11 have continued their GCSE studies with Medicine on the Western Front. They analysed sources from the trenches and then began their final topic, Early Elizabethan England. They also completed their mock exams this term and demonstrated impressive focus and resilience.

It has been a term full of curiosity, hard work, and thoughtful discussion. We are incredibly proud of our students and look forward to another successful term ahead.

GEOGRAPHY

Geography highlights this term

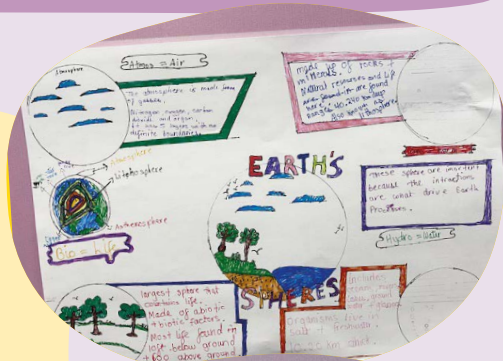
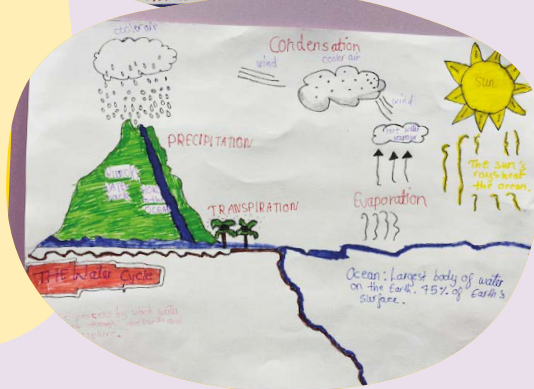
Our students have shown fantastic dedication to Geography this term, thriving both in and beyond the classroom. Here's a snapshot of what each year group has been exploring:

KS3 Geography

Year 7 have been investigating the key spheres of activity on Earth - from continental drift and the water cycle to population growth. Using Google Earth, they've explored places across the globe, comparing human and physical geography.

Year 8 have focused on food as a vital resource, debating how it can be used sustainably to support a growing global population.

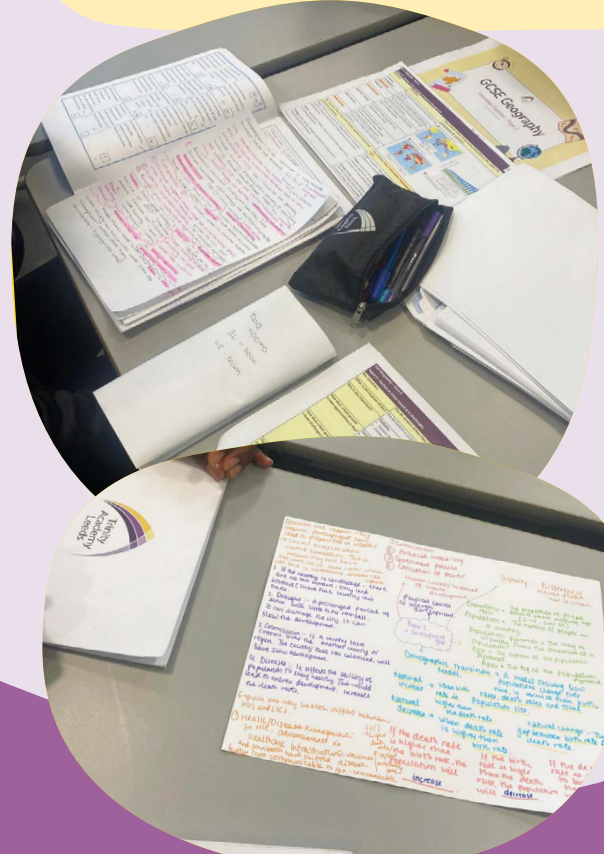
Year 9 have discovered why oceans matter, learning how coral reef ecosystems form and the threats they face. They've also examined Somalia as a case study in ocean governance, tackling global issues in their discussions.



KS4 Geography

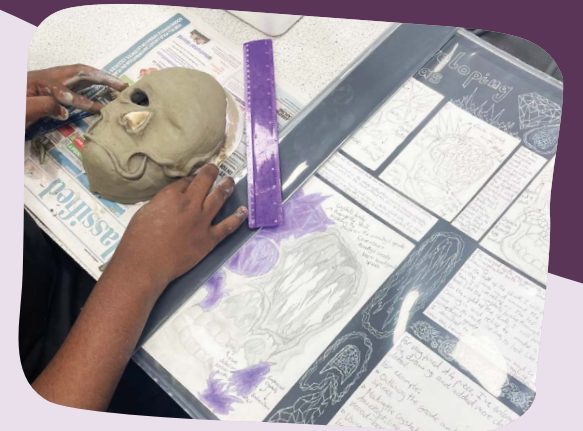
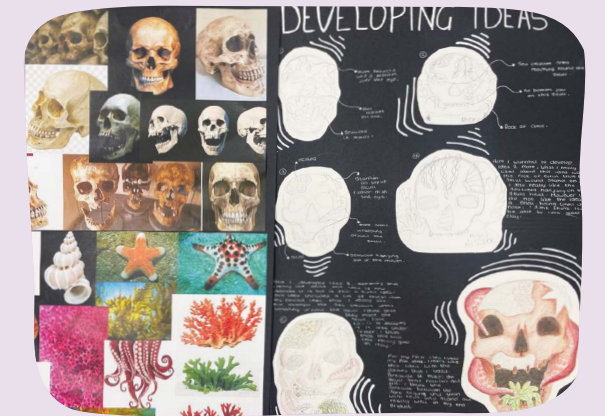
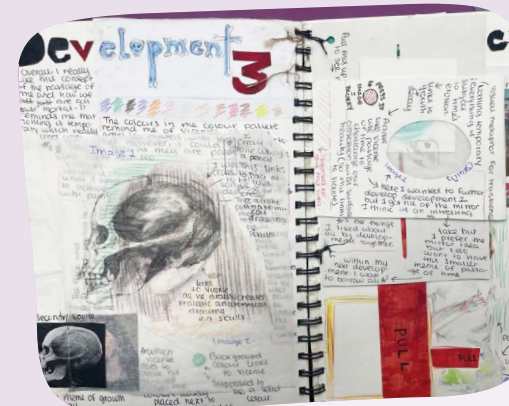
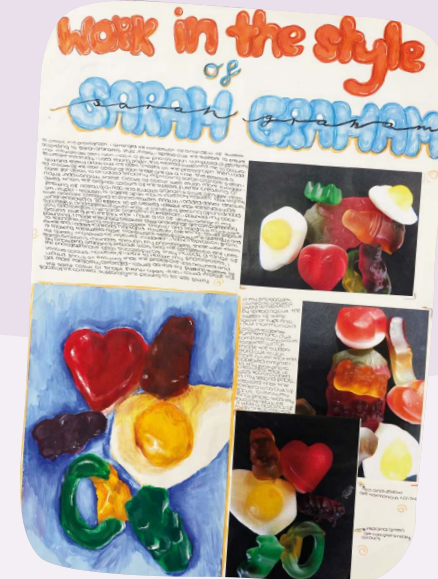
Year 10 impressed us with their first GCSE assessment point. Their revision resources - flashcards and mind maps - were outstanding and clearly reflected their motivation. Special mention to 10Gg4 for consistently producing excellent materials!

Year 11 completed their most comprehensive mock exams yet, covering all three papers. It was brilliant to see students engaged in revision sessions and quizzing each other on core content. A big shout-out to Hamza in 11L, who came prepared every morning with questions for staff - making the most of every opportunity to succeed!



ART

A focus on Key Stage 4. I have been blown away this term by the focus of students in both Year 10 and Year 11. The final coursework deadline is in sight for Year 11 who will be beginning their externally set assignment when we return in January. This term students have been improving their sustained project on the theme of growth and decay alongside a ceramics project strengthening design and idea development skills. Year 10 have continued with their introductory project on the theme of Food. Students have working in a range of 2D media and will now be moving on to ceramics creating a large-scale outcome inspired by the artist Claes Oldenburg. I am excited to see the wide range of tasty treats created!

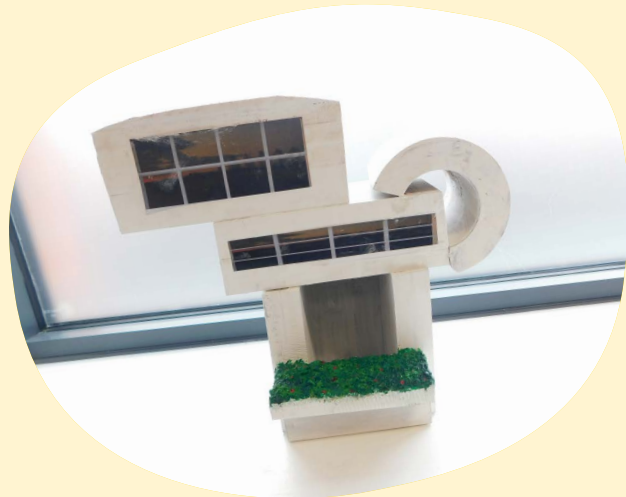


KS4 brings the opportunity to work in a wide range of media developing creativity and independence. Year 9 students please feel free to discuss Art, Craft and Design with your art teacher if you are considering it for GCSE we would love to discuss the possibilities, and the many doors studying Art can open in the future.



TECHNOLOGY

It is certainly the year of the tiger! Term 2 has provided our Year 11 students with a taste of what the practical exams will be like for 3D Design and Hospitality and Catering.



3D Design

The first day back after the October holidays the 3D Design students were thrown into a 5 hour mock exam. Where they were to create a 3D outcome for their sustained project. The theme was 'places and spaces' focusing on architecture. Prior to the mock exam students spent their time investigating, exploring and designing their own ideas. The 3D Design students went into their 5 hour mock exam confidently. Many students achieved what they set out to do, others found it useful to see how time soon passed and others got a better understanding on their own level of independence. The students will use what they have learnt from their 5 hour mock exam for their 10 hour exam in April. The 3D Design students are now incredibly close to finish their component 1 which is worth 60% of their final grade. They are also eager to see what their component 2 (the externally set assignment) theme will be when released in January.

Hospitality and Catering



It is clear that the Y11 students in Hospitality and Catering have been putting the time into their revision. They have been able to apply the knowledge they have learnt in KS3 and KS4 to their written mock paper. The students have also had a mock exam in their practical work. Before their practical mock begun students had work together to create their own time plans for their recipes. On the day of their practical mock the students worked incredibly hard in the kitchen for 5 hours, showcasing all of their skills. Their brief was to make a lasagne with a side of garlic bread, followed by a sticky toffee pudding. The students had to coordinate their time plans for them to break off for break, team time and lunch, whilst still ensuring they were to meet the deadline. The students were marked on their time plans, hygiene, preparation skills, cooking skills and their presentation. They should be incredible proud of how hard they worked and their outcomes.

PERFORMING ARTS

Winter Showcase

This year's Winter Showcase was nothing short of spectacular. Families, friends, and community members gathered to celebrate the talent and dedication of our performers and they did not disappoint. From the moment the event began, the energy in the room was electric, setting the tone for an unforgettable evening.

The performances highlighted the tremendous growth our participants have shown over the past few years. From beautifully choreographed dance routines to confidant musical and dramatic performances, each act reflected countless hours of practice and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Audience members some who have supported us since the Academy's opening in 2021, were treated to a wide variety of styles and skill levels, showcasing the diversity and creativity within Trinity Academy Leeds.



One of the standout moments was the standing ovation from the audience. This was a reminder of how meaningful these shared experiences are. The Lapa Winter Showcase isn't just a performance; it is a celebration of teamwork, progress, and community spirit.

As we wrap up another successful winter season, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our performers, directors, volunteers, and families. Your support and enthusiasm make events like this possible. We can't wait to see what the spring/summer season brings, and we look forward to continuing to shine together.



Drama

This term has been an unforgettable one for our Drama Department, packed with opportunities that have inspired our students and deepened their love for performance.

Our theatre trips have been a highlight. Students braved the **terrifying live production Shock Horror**, a thrilling blend of suspense, stagecraft and jump scares that left everyone buzzing with tension long after the final curtain. In contrast, our visit to the iconic musical **Blood Brothers** provided a masterclass in storytelling, emotion and performance, giving students the chance to see a true modern classic performed at its very best.

We have also been treated to **exclusive backstage access to the set of Emmerdale**, giving students a rare glimpse into the fast-paced world of professional television production. From meeting members of the crew to seeing how scenes are brought to life, it was an experience that sparked curiosity, excitement, and plenty of future ambitions.



We're also excited to welcome our new **LAMDA @ LAPA cohort**, who joined us after a packed and energetic introductory session. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and we can't wait to see their skills develop in the months ahead as they begin working toward their performance qualifications.

And perhaps most exciting of all, after announcing our cast, we are thrilled to begin rehearsals for this year's school production: **Legally Blonde!** The energy is high, the excitement is building, and we know this show is going to be something truly special.

It's been a remarkable term filled with creativity, courage, and unforgettable experiences. We can't wait to see what our talented students achieve next.

Row with the Rhinos: A Landmark Event for Leeds

Term 2 saw the launch of the inaugural **Row with the Rhinos** event, a groundbreaking collaboration between **The Leeds Rhinos Foundation, British Rowing**, and TAL's PE faculty. Coordinated by **Mr Lisgo** and **Mr Spencer**, this unique initiative brought together over **250 students from schools across Leeds** for an indoor rowing competition at the prestigious **Headingley Stadium**.

The event set a new benchmark for competitive sport in the city, delivering an unprecedented level of professionalism and excitement. Students experienced a high-energy atmosphere, cutting-edge equipment, and expert guidance, making this one of the most memorable sporting experiences Leeds has ever seen. The event will be biannual, and the Spring event will pitch the winning school against the Leeds Rhinos first team players to see whether it is technique or brawn which propels an indoor rowing boat further?

This partnership not only showcased the power of collaboration in sport but also inspired young athletes to embrace new challenges and strive for excellence. It is a testament to the regard which TAL PE is held that the Leeds Rhinos Foundation and British Rowing were welcoming to developing this partnership.



KS3 Football: A Season of Excellence

Term 2 has been a remarkable period for our KS3 football teams, with outstanding performances across all year groups. **Year 7 boys** have been nothing short of exceptional, remaining unbeaten throughout the term and proudly sitting at the top of their league. Their consistency, teamwork, and determination have set a high standard for future fixtures and demonstrated the depth of talent within our younger cohort.

Equally impressive, **Year 9 boys** have mirrored this success, also leading their league with a series of dominant displays. Their ability to combine technical skill with tactical awareness has made them a formidable force on the pitch. Meanwhile, **Year 8** continue to showcase excellence, producing strong performances and demonstrating resilience in every game. Their commitment to improvement and competitive spirit ensures they remain a key part of our thriving football program.

These achievements reflect not only the dedication of our students but also the hard work of the PE faculty in fostering a culture of ambition and teamwork. With such momentum, the future of football at TAL looks incredibly bright.

Adding to this success, our **Year 8 and Year 9 girls' teams** have progressed to the **third round of the cup**, a fantastic achievement that highlights the growing strength and depth of girls' football at TAL. Their determination and skill have been inspiring, and we look forward to seeing how far they can go in the competition.



Netball: A Beacon of Excellence

Netball at TAL has truly become a beacon of excellence this term, with our teams delivering outstanding performances and setting new standards for success. One of the most notable highlights was our victory over independent school **Woodhouse Grove**, a result that speaks volumes about the talent and determination within our squads. Beyond this impressive win, our teams have comfortably beaten every other opponent they've faced, showcasing skill, teamwork, and an unwavering competitive spirit.

Adding to this incredible success story, **Year 7 student Kadijatou Diko** has made history by becoming the first TAL student ever to be named in the **Leeds Schools Representative Squad**. This achievement is a testament to her hard work and talent, and it marks a proud moment for our school community.

A special mention must go to **Miss Henderson**, whose leadership and commitment have been instrumental in driving this culture of excellence. Her passion for the sport and dedication to developing young athletes is clearly being communicated to our students, inspiring them to reach new heights.

With such momentum, netball at TAL is not just thriving—it's setting the benchmark for others to follow.

MUSIC

Orchestra continues to go from strength to strength with all sections now filled. The Concert by Candlelight in conjunction with Opera North was a beautiful night of music, with many pupils performing on stage for the very first time on their brand-new instruments. The new Musical Theatre Advanced Choir group is fully established and has added an extra dimension to our choral offering. Year 7 are learning to play piano in their curriculum music lessons, so the entire year group was treated to a bespoke piano recital by a professional concert pianist – it was incredible to be able to put an artist of that calibre in front of our pupils and to hear Bach, Rachmaninov and Clara Schumann reverberating around the assembly hall. The LAPA pathway students have been introduced to the many and varied careers that are available within the music industry by taking part in a DJ workshop learning to create live sets and visited Production Park to learn about the world of live event production.



COMPUTING



It has been a busy term in Computing at TAL. We have just completed our BTEC component 2 coursework in both the Digital Information Technology and Enterprise qualifications. This totals some 150+ students who have created some outstanding pieces of work.

In Key Stage 3, all eyes are on our five Cyber First Girls Competition teams! This is an annual activity, hosted by CyberFirst through GCHQ. Our five teams of girls in year 8 have been working both in Involve, as well as at home on the various challenges.

The scores are incredibly close between the teams and we are working hard for a place in the top 10 within the Yorkshire and Humber region again. As a Cyber First Silver Award school, we are incredibly keen to push as many of our students into STEM fields of study and work as possible. We will keep you updated with the final result in the next edition of VOICE!

This term was one of the RS teams' favourites because we tested the knowledge of all our year groups. From Year 7 to Year 11, every single student was assessed on how much they have progressed in RS. We are so proud of their efforts as we continue to study:

Year 7: What can we learn from the Prophets? What is the significance of Adam, Noah and Abraham?

Year 8: What can we learn about Jesus from the Gospels?

Year 9: What are the 5 Pillars of Islam and why are they important to Muslims?

Year 10: Should we punish criminals or should we forgive them instead?

Year 11: What does the future of Christianity look like?

At KS3, Year 7, 8 and 9 have had their first RS assessment of the year. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase how much they have learnt over the term so far. Similarly, students in Year 10 and 11 have also had their first mock exams of the year! Year 11 students stepped up to the challenge of multiple GCSE papers alongside revision, and Year 10 showed their resilience in their preparation for their first ever GCSE mock exams.

A particular highlight is the quality of writing that our Year 9 students are currently producing. Their explanations are no less than GCSE-standard, and they are clearly prepared to take on the challenge of GCSE writing. The images show just some examples of this!

We are so proud of all our RS students who have worked consistently and brilliantly to achieve success in their exams. We are looking forward to seeing what Term 3 brings in the new year!

Zara

Reham

Lonseny

Joseph

