VOICE NEWSLETTER

17 Edition 2026

Trinity Academy Leeds

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INTRODUCTION

A note from the Principal

Trinity Academy Leeds

Kat Cafferky, Principal

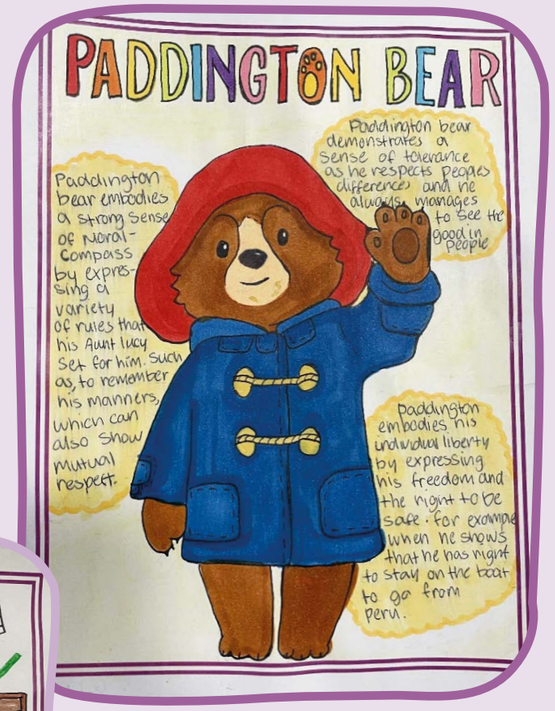
Welcome to our latest edition of Voice, the newsletter. We have had a very busy term indeed. Not least because our Year 11 students have sat their Mock exams, we are very proud of their behaviour and conduct throughout. Students in other year groups have worked just as hard in their lessons and we are looking forward to celebrating them in our end of term assemblies. This term has been a busy one for fixtures and we have had many major wins in football and netball. We have also welcomed families into school for Progress Evenings, ESOL classes and our SEND Coffee Mornings are soon to be launched. This term we celebrated World Book Week with book giveaways, trips to Waterstones and library competitions. We hope that you enjoy finding out more about what we have been up to in the following pages. Thank you to all families for your continued support.

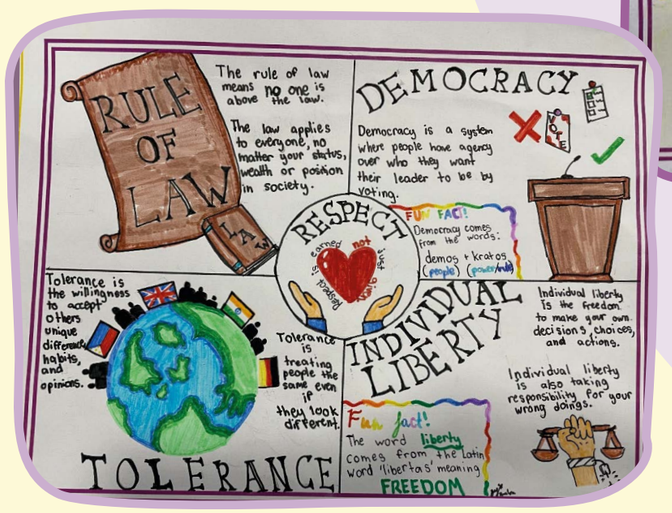
YEAR 7

Ms Armstrong, Head of Year 7

Year 7 students have continued to thrive throughout Terms 3 and 4, demonstrating impressive growth in every aspect of life at TAL. Their routines are now firmly established, their knowledge secure, and their commitment to completing home learning remains strong. Cocurricular opportunities continue to be embraced with enthusiasm, reflecting their curiosity and willingness to get involved. Students have built meaningful friendships, discovered new interests, and developed a genuine sense of belonging within our community. I am incredibly proud of the progress they have made and the maturity they show each day.

Within our Personal Development and Wellbeing curriculum, Year 7 students have produced their first Shine Projects this term, showcasing both their creativity and their thoughtful understanding of the British Values. They have explored these values through Morning Recall and Team Time, working towards collecting stamps in The Build. Every Purple Star contributed a poster, poem, or story that illustrated how individuals or groups demonstrate these values in everyday life. The standard of work was exceptional, reflecting real effort, imagination, and refinement.





The first ever TAL Mentoring Programme was launched this term with our Year 7 and Year 11 students, and it was a wonderful display of citizenship in action. Our Year 11 mentors generously shared their experiences, guidance, and encouragement with the younger year group, creating a supportive and inspiring atmosphere throughout the week. One Year 7 student reflected - grinning from ear to ear - "I felt so nervous in line-up… but that was so fun. My mentor was so kind. When do I get to be a mentor too?". Moments like this capture the spirit of the programme perfectly. This opportunity is one that will stay with our students as they continue their journey through TAL, and I have no doubt that many of them will one day step into the mentor role themselves, ready to pass on their own wisdom and kindness.

Across the academy—and after the school day has ended—there is a real buzz as Year 7 students immerse themselves in a wide range of enriching opportunities. Orchestra, Legally Blonde rehearsals, PE co curricular clubs, fixtures, Phoenix Dance, home learning support, and many more activities. It is wonderful to see so many students choosing to get involved. We also recently celebrated World Book Day—famously World Book Week at TAL. Students received a free book using their token and enjoyed themed activities both in lessons and during Team Time. We know that Readers are Leaders, and this is clear across our year group as students regularly visit the library at lunchtime to renew or return books and discover new ones recommend by staff and students.

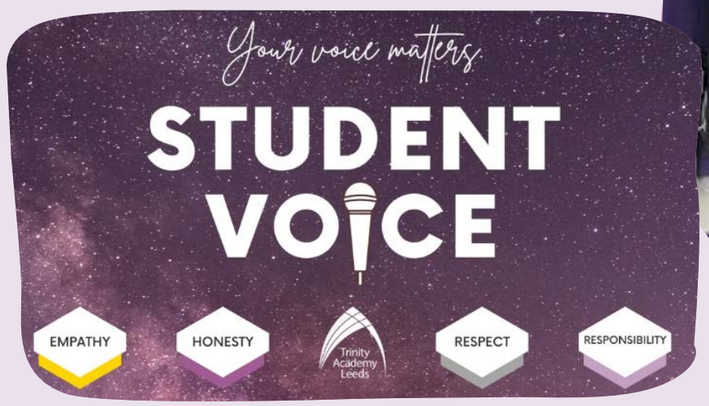
Beyond the academy, many students have continued to Shine Brighter and See Further. Highlights this term include a trip to Waterstones following an exciting week of World Book Day activities, our second Empower visit, and a series of impressive wins across school fixtures. A special congratulations goes to the Year 7 Girls' Rugby team, who have qualified for the Yorkshire Cup Final later this year—the first time in four years that TAL students have achieved this remarkable milestone. Our second Empower trip was also a great success, giving students the chance to learn more about careers in Leeds and the skills and qualities that will support them in their future pathways.

All students have embraced every opportunity to grow, contribute, and shine at TAL. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, on stage, or out in the wider world, they continue to impress me with their enthusiasm, kindness, and determination. I am incredibly proud of all they have achieved so far and excited to see how they will continue to flourish as they move into the next chapter of their TAL journey.

YEAR 8

Mr Mahmood, Head of Year 8

Thank you to all families who joined us for Progress Evening. It was fantastic to see such strong support for our students and to watch you celebrating their achievements. Our team leaders were delighted to meet so many of you and to see how invested you are in your children and their learning. Progress reports show that students have made strong gains and will continue to do so as we move through the year. Please keep having these important conversations about learning with your children. We value the relationship between school and home and know that this partnership strengthens the journey each student is on.



This term, our students have had the chance to take part in Student Voice, a space where they can express their ideas and share their opinions with confidence. Thank you to our team ambassadors who thoughtfully led a session with their teams. We are very proud of all students who contributed with maturity and positivity, especially those who helped shape our anti bullying policy at Trinity Academy Leeds. Their input plays an important part in creating a school environment where every student feels safe, respected and heard.

This term, we celebrated World Book Day over the course of a full week! Teams took part in quizzes and many excited students walked away with prizes. We also spun the wheel, and five lucky winners received a book along with some stationery. To make the week even more special, every student was given a voucher that they could use to claim a free book either from school (Thank you Mr Harling!) or from a store in our local community. We know how important reading is and we thank families for supporting their children with their reading at home.

As always, thank you for everything you do. Your children are incredible and it is a privilege to work with them each day. Thank you for championing them and for supporting us as we help to build their character and guide them through their journey at TAL.

YEAR 9

Miss Bateman, Head of Year 9

Term 2: The Powerhouse in Action

What a phenomenal 10 weeks it has been for our incredible Year 9s. They've shown ambition, curiosity and true Powerhouse spirit in everything they've taken on. From the focus and maturity shown during Options Evening and Progress Evening, to the confidence displayed throughout Empower, our students have stepped up at every opportunity. We've travelled beyond the classroom too, visiting Parliament, asking intelligent questions, and even speaking with the Lord Mayor of Leeds. Our young people represented themselves and our academy with real pride. Back at home in Burmantofts, The Powerhouse has been shining across sport, performing arts, and everything in between. Their resilience, teamwork and creativity have made these last 2 terms have been packed with standout moments.

Term 3 saw our brilliant Year 9's come together for Options Evening a night dedicated to helping students make informed, thoughtful decisions about their futures. Attendance was incredible, with families filling the building and engaging in meaningful conversations about pathways and ambitions. Every single student has now completed their options, and it was genuinely fantastic to see so many parents and carers supporting their children and celebrating this important milestone. Y9 shone once again during their second Empower Day. The Careers Fair was a real highlight every stall buzzing with conversation as Year 9s asked thoughtful questions, explored future pathways, and genuinely impressed our visitors with their maturity. Their behaviour throughout the day was outstanding. Students threw themselves into each workshop, from employer talks to handson activities, and even learnt how to deliver basic first aid, a vital life skill they handled with real confidence. They were engaged, inspired, and curious from start to finish.

Our Year 9 students also had the incredible opportunity to travel to London to visit the Houses of Commons. They engaged brilliantly in workshops and discussions, deepening their understanding of how Parliament works and gaining a real insight into the decisions that shape our country. Their curiosity, respect and maturity stood out throughout the day.

A huge thank you to Mr Vis for planning and facilitating this unforgettable experience for The Powerhouse.

Our Year 9 Team Ambassadors also stepped into the spotlight this term as they travelled into Leeds to represent TAL at the Inner East Youth Summit. They delivered a powerful and thoughtful presentation to Leeds Councillors, sharing their ideas with clarity, passion and desire for change. The feedback they received was incredible and a true reflection of the hard work they put in.

Students also had the brilliant opportunity to speak with the Mayor of Leeds, representing our school with maturity and pride. They were outstanding ambassadors for The Powerhouse from start to finish. 10 weeks. Endless brilliance. And we are only just getting started.

YEAR 10

Mr Taylor, Head of Year 10

Hello all, Term 4 has been another busy term for Y10 students. Through this term students have been rapidly approaching and preparing for their upcoming mock exams. This message was relayed to students in a recent Inspire assembly delivered by myself. My main message to students (and still is) that success does not happen by chance. A key theme through my example was the footballing icon Lionel Messi. He once said that after his footballing debut he was hailed as an overnight success. But rather he claimed the result of his excellence was from 17 years and 114 days of hard work in his youth. Year 10 need to remember that in a year's time from now they will be the ones approaching their GCSE exams. The hard work must start now. Fortunately, they have also had the excellent inputs from the science department to inform them of the positive impacts around revision, and showing case studies of the amount of additional work put in by current Y11 students and the improvement in grades they have seen. For Y10 it is all to play, if they are forming strong home learning habits and having a clear and precise revision schedule, they will see success as inevitable in their final exams. Additionally, as Y10 look to the future they have also received their careers input from Mr Paley, our careers guidance councillor. Students this term have began to access Morrisby to begin thinking about the next steps they will be taking as they look to the next step in their lives after 5 years of hard work at Trinity Academy Leeds.

Importantly I know that many of our students in Y10 and their families observed the month of Ramadan. To all families observing the period of Ramadan I hope you had a joyful Eid Mubarak, I hope this special day brought joy and success to you and your families.

Finally, I was pleased to hear the fantastic conduct of all Y10 geographers. Our geography team took all geography students out into Leeds to complete their field work. A big thank you to all those involved in team geography and those in who were on this trip for their amazing conduct well done.

Please have a restful break (filled with some revision) and I look forward to seeing you in Term 5 ready for our next mock exams.

YEAR 11

Mrs O'Hanlon, Head of Year 11

Term 4 has been both refreshing and challenging for Year 11. Students sat their final mock exams over a period of 3 weeks. These mocks were designed to be as realistic as possible to help prepare our young people for their final GCSEs. As of the 16th of March, we are 7 weeks away from the start of your child's external exam series. Our Year 11 cohort have achieved great levels of success in these exams; they are a promising set of results which will no doubt fill them with joy and pride. Watching them grow in mindset (and stature!) over the past 5 years has been a pleasure. Particularly, standing back and watching their preparation for the exams and exemplary conduct during the series filled me with pride. Your young people continue to push themselves to achieve excellence. We have seen it this term in the way they gather round revision notes, ask thoughtful questions in their lessons and seek out additional work and guidance. This term, and going into the next, we are beginning to experience some of our 'lasts'. Their last mock exams. Our last celebration assembly.

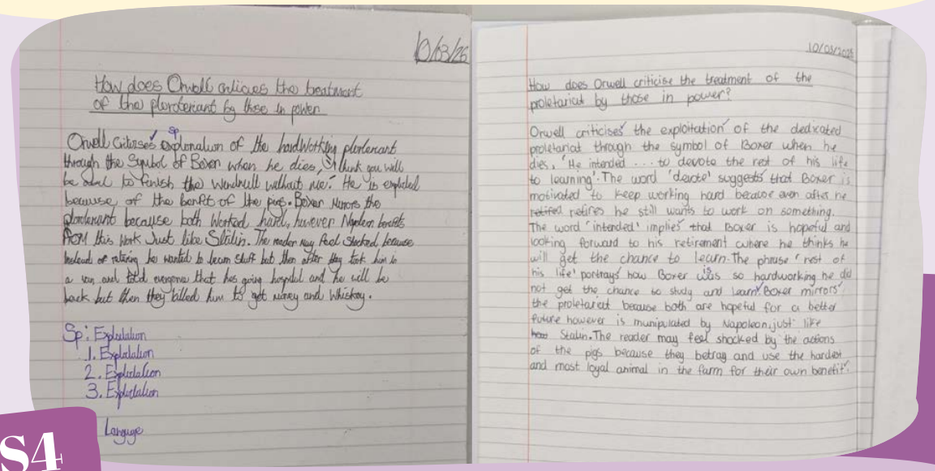
The next end of term assembly will be their leavers assembly. Their last couple of months in normal lessons, as TAL students. Their time with us is fleeting and it brings feelings of melancholy and excitement for both the staff team and the student body. We are celebrating our young people with a tasty treat on Friday 27th March, scheduled carefully to enable all of our students to take part. We will also celebrate results day on the 1st of April. As always, at TAL we do not slow down toward the end. In true PE teacher fashion, I must make a sporting reference to the sprint finish. As your child comes closer to the finish line, please continue to support them to exert maximum effort. Even after the 5 year marathon that has brought them to this point, we must finish strong. Home learning will continue to be set until the final exams begin. A key change here is that we have moved away from centralised Carousel and Sparx. Your child's class teachers for each subject will set homework once a week, due in the following week. This may be in the from of exam questions, worksheets, Seneca or on Carousel. Your child has been asked to note this down in their planner each day to ensure they remain organised and responsible for completion. Maths will be setting exam related tasks rather than Sparx. Thank you as always for your continued support.

ENGLISH

KS3

Students have been diving into transactional, creative and academic writing this term, having explored various texts as vehicles illustrating how to write like a literary scholar.

In year 7, students have continued their study of 'I Am Malala' from term 3, exploring real-life examples of inequality. They have continued to hone their skills with modification and expansion through writing articles advocating for equality and learning how their own voice can be a tool for positive change in their community. In year 8, students have been continuing with their study of 'Animal Farm', a seminar work that has allowed them to consider how texts can function as allegories, as well as the power of language to persuade wider audiences. Year 9 has used their study of 'Purple Hibiscus' to develop their understanding of literary motifs, crafting sophisticated metaphors that illustrate the changing agency of their protagonist. All of these skills will be essential in KS4, when students will need to analyse fiction and non-fiction texts and craft their own narrative and transactional writing pieces in timed conditions. Their mastery of varied sentence structures and ambitious vocabulary will continue to set them up for success.



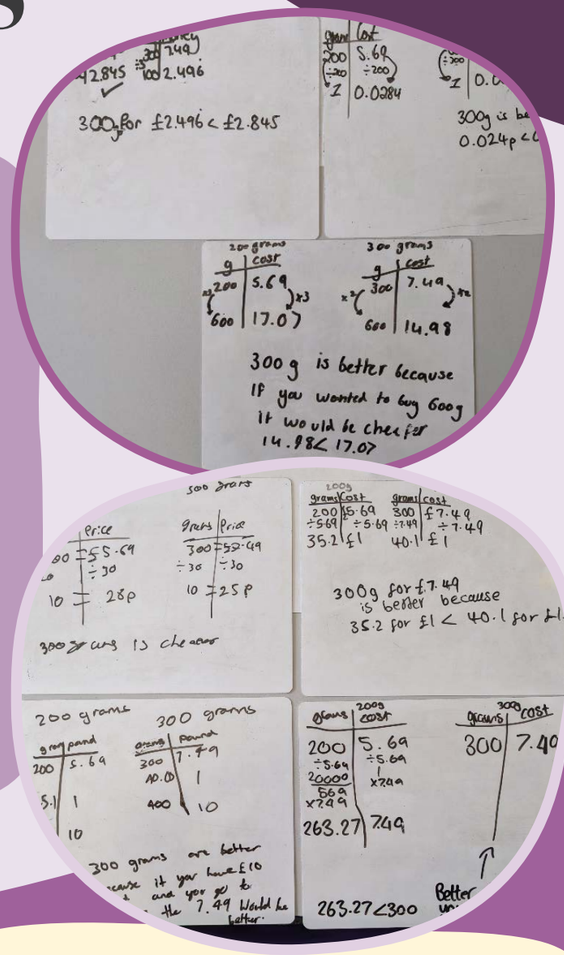
KS4

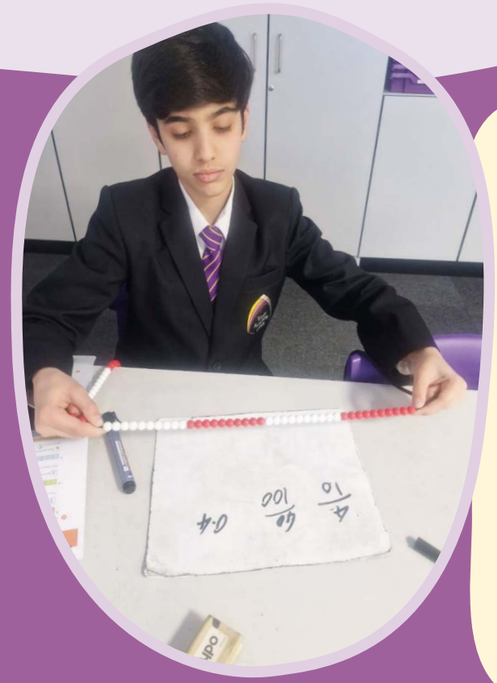
Year 10 have been continuing their study of 'Macbeth' after watching a filmed performance of the Royal Shakespeare Company. They are deepening their understanding of Shakespeare's ideas and context in order to elevate their essay writing skills ready for their mock exams in Term 5.

Year 11 have had an eventful term as they have completed their final set of English Literature and English Language mocks before their real GCSEs beginning in May. The English Faculty have been continually impressed by their dedication and focus throughout the mock period, particularly with the many students who continued to work tirelessly in English lessons even when other exams were still ongoing. Year 11 are now engaging ferociously with their English revision programme in lessons, practicing their skills to make success inevitable in the exam series.

MATHS

The Year of the Tiger continues with the Final Ambush for Y11 students who have now completed their last set of mock exams before their Maths GCSE exams begin in May. Students are using all opportunities to close gaps ready for their exams by engaging in Prep +, which has now resumed after the mock exams. Students continue to utilise Morning Prep and Private Prep to strengthen their understanding of topics within maths, alongside their own independent revision and completion of the new compulsory Home Learning for maths. Examiners' Reports will begin shortly, where students will receive their all-important feedback, making sure they are successful in their GCSE exams.





Across KS3, students continue to develop their use of manipulatives and representations in maths through bar modelling, ratio tables and bead strings. Year 7 have been learning about fraction, decimal and percentage equivalence using bead strings. The bead strings help students to visualiser tenths and hundredths, and are also used to write equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages. Year 9 students have been developing their use of ratio tables in various topics including compound measures and proportion. 9I have been challenging themselves to answer best buy proportion questions in as many ways as possible using their ratio tables. This has allowed students to really strengthen their understanding of working vertically, horizontally and using unitary methods in a ratio tables.

DANCE

It has been a wonderfully busy and inspiring month for dance...

Filled with performances, partnerships and opportunities that have truly highlighted the strength and spirit of our dancers. One of the standout moments this month was our participation in the Yorkshire Youth Dance Platform. Our LACD and Afro Fusion dancers, performing in collaboration with Phoenix Dance Theatre, took to the stage alongside some incredible dance icons. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience a professional platform, share their work with a wider audience and feel part of the vibrant dance community across the region. Their commitment, energy and artistry shone through, and we could not be prouder of how they represented the school. The event was made even more special by the performances of three of our students — Christine, Grace and Ruth — who appeared as part of Northern School of Contemporary Dance's Youth Dance Company through the Trinity Scholarship programme. Seeing them perform at such a high level was truly magical and a powerful reminder of the impact that this partnership with the Northern School of Contemporary Dance continues to have on our young dancers. Opportunities like this allow our students to grow artistically, work with leading practitioners and see the possibilities that dance can offer them in the future.

This month also brought another proud moment as our LACD and Afro Fusion dancers, again in collaboration with Phoenix Dance Theatre, performed at the Great Big Dance Off competition. The dancers showed exceptional dedication in rehearsals and delivered a powerful performance on the day. Taking part in such a large-scale competition is always an exciting experience, and the students embraced the challenge with confidence and passion. Alongside performance opportunities, our students have also been deepening their academic understanding of dance. Our Year 10 GCSE Dance students attended an inspiring Insight Day at Phoenix Dance Theatre, where they explored Shadows, one of the professional works studied as part of their GCSE course. The day gave them invaluable insight into the choreography, themes and creative processes behind the work. It was an amazing learning experience, and the students returned with a wealth of knowledge that will undoubtedly strengthen their studies. We are also incredibly proud to share that students from LACD have been selected to perform at FRESH – the Yorkshire Youth Dance Festival. This is a huge achievement, as not every group that applies is selected to perform. FRESH brings together some of the most exciting youth dance companies, schools and organisations from across Yorkshire, and to be invited to share the stage alongside such talented performers is a significant accomplishment for our students. We are very excited to take to the stage on Saturday 18th April at Leeds Playhouse, and we know it will be another unforgettable experience for our dancers.

In addition, LACD students are currently preparing for another exciting performance opportunity as part of Making Moves at Sadler's Wells. Through this programme, our dancers have been working with professional choreographer Richard Alston, a true pioneer of contemporary dance. Collaborating with such an influential artist has been an inspiring experience for our students, allowing them to develop their artistry while gaining insight into professional creative processes. We are looking forward to sharing the results of this work when they take to the Northern School of Contemporary Dance's stage on 1st April. It has been a month filled with memorable experiences, and I would like to congratulate all of our dancers for their commitment, resilience and enthusiasm. Their willingness to embrace new opportunities and challenge themselves continues to make our dance community so special. **We are excited for what the coming months will bring and look forward to sharing even more successes with you.**

DRAMA

There is a lot to celebrate in the Drama Department this term. Starting with our Year 11 drama students have been working incredibly hard to prepare for their practical examinations.

Over the past few weeks, rehearsals have been in full swing as students have refined their performances, developed their character work, and explored the depth and meaning within their chosen scripts to ensure positive progress is made. The dedication shown by this years cohort has been outstanding. From carefully analysing their lines to experimenting with staging, movement, and vocal delivery, set and props as well as lighting design. Students have demonstrated a real commitment to improving their craft. Both the rehearsals and final examinations were full of energy and determination as students supported one another to bring their scenes to life.

We are extremely proud of the professionalism and resilience they have shown throughout the process and they should feel very proud.

Our Year 10 drama students have also made a brilliant start to their devising practical exam. Devising requires high levels of creativity, teamwork, and the ability to turn ideas into powerful pieces of theatre and this year's cohort have embraced the challenge with enthusiasm.

Students have already begun developing imaginative concepts, exploring themes, and experimenting with different dramatic techniques to shape their performances. Rehearsal sessions have been full of risk-taking as students test new ideas and begin building their original pieces. It has been fantastic to see the confidence and collaboration within the groups as they work together to create meaningful and engaging theatre. We are excited to see how these ideas continue to grow and develop.

The excitement for theatre continues across Theatre @ LAPA as both junior and senior students begin preparing for entry into the Evening Drama Showcase.

This special event will celebrate the creativity and talent of students across the school, giving them the opportunity to perform a range of pieces for family and friends. From energetic ensemble work to powerful dramatic devised pieces from the year 10 GCSE cohort, the showcase promises to highlight the fantastic work taking place in drama lessons and rehearsals. Students have already started rehearsing with great enthusiasm, and it is wonderful to see performers of all ages working together to bring theatre to life on stage. The showcase will be a fantastic celebration of the passion, confidence, and creativity that drama encourages. We look forward to sharing an evening full of storytelling, and theatrical talent with our school community in June.

MUSIC

Our music students have been working incredibly hard this term, developing new skills and gaining confidence performing musical instruments to their peers and invited audiences this term.

Year 8 students have recently completed their Just Play Scheme. Throughout the project, they explored a range of instruments including bass guitar, guitar, ukulele, and keyboard. It is always a pleasure to see students building their instrumental skills, learning how to play as an ensemble.

Meanwhile, Year 9 students have been stepping into the role of music producers. They have been learning how to create stylistically accurate music, experimenting with different genres and production techniques. This work has allowed them to develop their listening skills, creativity, and understanding of how music is structured and produced in the real world. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and enthusiasm our students have shown. We are also excited to announce that preparations are underway for our Evening of Music in April, where many of our talented students will have the opportunity to showcase their work and perform for the school community. It promises to be a fantastic celebration of the musical talent across the school.

Stay tuned for more details. We look forward to seeing you there!

COMPUTING

In December five teams of Year 8 girls took part in the GCHQ-led Cyber First Girls competition. This national competition pits students from all over the UK against one another.

Teams had to complete a series of increasingly difficult challenges. They had to complete tasks that ranged from deciphering cryptic codes, to working out the secrets on web pages.

Out of every school in the Yorkshire and Humber region, one group of four brilliant students managed to achieve over 6,000 points in one week!

Their reward was a trip to the University of Leeds for a full day of activities, alongside a celebration of their success. We are immensely proud of all of our teams who took part and cannot wait for next year and even more success.

RS

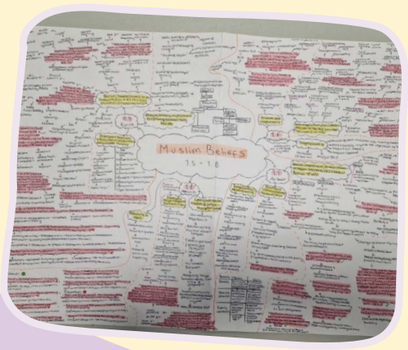
This term was challenging to say the least - our founding cohort of Year 11 students sat their final round of GCSE mock exams and exceptionally performed to the best of their ability in RS. Their commitment to success is nothing short of brilliance, and the RS team are so proud of all of their efforts. Meanwhile, our Year 10 GCSE students are also continuing their revision ahead of their upcoming mock exams. Using skills and strategies learnt through Morning Prep, RS students have produced beautiful revision that will ensure success is inevitable.

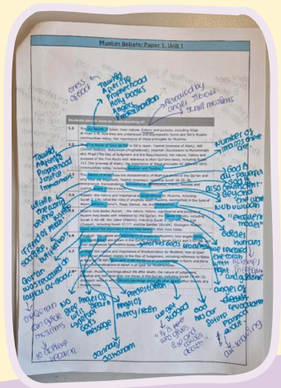
It would be remiss to not also mention the ongoing efforts of our KS3 students in RS. This term, students began by completing their personalised Examiner Reports which detailed targets to improve as well as practice and implementation. We are continuing to explore religious traditions in depth as we are currently studying:

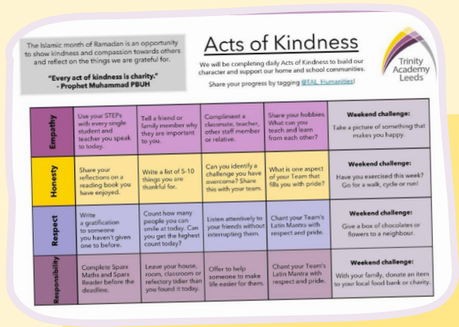
Year 7: How is Abraham a father of nations?

Year 8: How does reincarnation affect a Hindus life?

Year 9: Can war be justified?







During this term, many of our students also celebrated Ramadan and Lent. In the spirit of being the best version of ourselves, all students participated in our annual Acts of Kindness calendar which featured a variety of actions that promote kindness in our school culture. Many students also participated in daily congregational prayer during Ramadan, led by our own students: Bilal 7T, Mohammed 7I, Shazal 10T, and Maziar 11I. To top this off, over 40 members of our dedicated staff team even fasted for a day to share the same experience as our fasting students! Next term is an exciting one for us in Team RS with some special announcements to look forward to!

Citizenship - Parliament Trip

Back in October we set our Year 9 and 10 students a challenge. We asked them **"If you were Prime Minister what would be the first law you implemented and why?"** Thus began our inaugural 'Agents for Change' competition. The prize for the winners? – A place on our first ever trip to the Houses of Parliament. The responses received were mind blowing in terms of their quantity (over 100) and their quality. It was certainly tough to select just thirty winners.

The trip itself was an incredible experience for our young people. They had the opportunity to go on a behind the scenes tour of the Houses of Parliament (including going in the House of Commons debating chamber!). Followed by a Q and A session with Lord Katz – whom they impressed with their knowledge of current affairs and passion to make a difference in the future. We rounded off the day by visiting Westminster Abbey where we saw first the coronation thrown and the tombs of famous British people like Isaac Newton and William Blake. A day to remember for our Agents for Change! Roll on next year.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Spring term has been an incredibly busy and rewarding period for the PE Faculty, filled with trips - 'WOW' moments, outstanding extra-curricular sporting achievement, and impressive academic progress across all year groups.

Man City Trip – A Reward for Commitment

This month, thirty students who have shown exceptional dedication to football club -attending regularly and representing the school in competitive fixtures - were treated to an exciting trip to the Carabao Cup Semi Final between Manchester City and Brentford. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience elite football at the highest level, celebrating their commitment and involvement throughout the year. Man City came out on top which many of our student's were pleased about. This 'WOW' moment is now an annual pilgrimage for our TAL Tigers. We seek to reward commitment and dedication.

Netball Excellence – Competing with the Best

Netball is a sport which has gone from strength to strength within the faculty. Our squads are competing with the strongest schools in the city, and the momentum is growing as we look ahead to even bigger plans for the 2026–2027 season. Additional training nights will be introduced, including a dedicated Netball Squad evening to support player development and performance. This term has seen notable success in Leeds Schools Netball Association competitions:

- **Year 8** finished as runners-up in the Leeds Schools Netball Tournament, narrowly missing out to Prince Henry's Grammar School.
- **Year 9** also secured a runners-up position in their age group, falling just short against Guiseley. The final shot of the game being the decider for Guiseley.

To capitalise this success and continue to inspire the next stage of development, students will enjoy a 'WOW' moment later this month - attending a live fixture to watch the professional Leeds Rhinos Netball team on 27th March. This promises to be an exciting and motivating experience for all involved.

Table Tennis Excellence – Regional and National Recognition

Our table tennis programme continues to excel at both regional and national levels. KS3 students reached the national finals, showcasing an impressive level of skill and commitment. A particular highlight this term is Luliya (8T), who has achieved the remarkable title of Yorkshire Champion - a fantastic achievement that reflects the hardwork on behalf of both Mr Helliwell and our students.

Rugby – A Fantastic Start to the Season

There has been a strong opening to the rugby calendar, especially for our girls' teams.

The Year 7 girls have earned a place in the Yorkshire Cup Final, where they will take on Castleford Academy at Siddal RLFC on Thursday 26th March 2026. Come on girls, we are all behind you – bring that trophy back to LS9! Additionally, this outstanding team have also made it through to the National Cup Semi-Finals, scheduled for May. A remarkable double achievement for such a young squad. Still new to the game and learning.

Duke of Edinburgh – Year 9 Launches Their Journey

The Duke of Edinburgh Award has officially launched for the new Year 9 cohort, with 23 students enrolling this year. They are now preparing to begin their volunteering placements in the spring, taking on roles that will support both the school and the wider community. The programme will culminate in their assessed expedition, taking place from Mason's Campsite in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. A truly beautiful setting for experiencing the great outdoors.

BTEC Programme – Outstanding Academic Progress

Both BTEC Sport and BTEC Health & Social Care are celebrating a hugely positive start to their academic study of Physical Education. Early assessments and predicted grades indicate extremely strong academic outcomes, with a particularly impressive number of students on track to achieve Distinction* and Distinction grades. Sample work is being prepared for the exam board. We are expecting results which will be competitive with any school Nationally.

GEOGRAPHY

Our students have continued to shine in Geography this term, demonstrating curiosity, independence and a growing understanding of the world around them. Here's what each year group has been exploring:

KS3 GEOGRAPHY

Year 7 have been learning about global biomes, before narrowing their focus to the deciduous forest found here in the UK. They've explored the biotic and abiotic features that make this ecosystem so dynamic. To finish the term, students will be completing their on-site fieldwork in our very own eco garden at TAL. This hands-on investigation links directly to our work with Eco Schools, from which we proudly hold a Distinction Green Flag Award.

Year 8 are examining climate change - both as a major global issue and through its impacts at a local level. Students have been making meaningful connections to our Trinity MAT Earthshot initiative, considering how individual and collective action can contribute to a more sustainable future.

Year 9 have been investigating how development is measured around the world, recognising that there are significant development gaps between countries. This topic has sparked thoughtful discussions around empathy and global responsibility, closely aligning with our TAL core values as we shape informed, compassionate global citizens.

KS4 GEOGRAPHY

Year 10 completed their first piece of GCSE fieldwork this term, exploring the question "How successful has urban regeneration been in Leeds?" Students visited key sites across the city and had the opportunity to explore CITU, a leading example of sustainable urban living. Their conduct throughout was exemplary - studious, insightful and respectful in public spaces.

Year 11 have now completed their final set of mock exams. We're incredibly impressed by the increased focus and commitment to revision that students have shown. This week we also received the Paper 3 pre-release material - an exciting resource that we will be analysing together as a department. Students will be preparing to study changing water demand and water supply in the UK, ready to tackle their final exam with confidence.

HISTORY

This term has been marked by strong engagement and thoughtful work across all year groups. It has been encouraging to see students approaching complex historical topics with curiosity and maturity, consistently demonstrating empathy, honesty, respect and responsibility in their discussions and written work.

YEAR 7

Year 7 are studying the Reformation and the invention of the printing press, exploring how new ideas spread and how access to information transformed society.

YEAR 8

Year 8 are examining the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. Their work has shown a deep sense of empathy as they consider the experiences of enslaved people, alongside an honest engagement with the difficult realities of this period in history.

YEAR 9

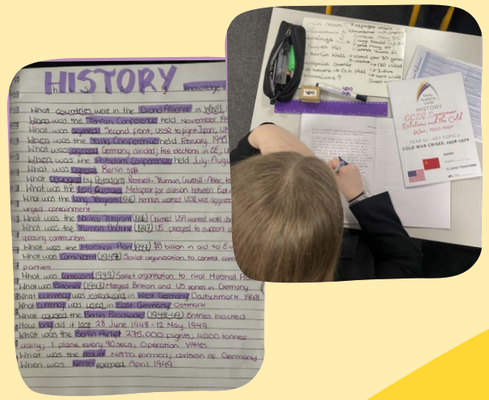
Year 9 are focusing on the Civil Rights Movement, analysing the struggle for equality and the impact of key individuals and campaigns. Their reflections have demonstrated responsibility in handling sensitive themes and respect for the voices of those who fought for justice.

YEAR 10

Year 10 are studying the Cold War, developing a strong understanding of global tensions and ideological conflict. Year 10 are working hard outside of the classroom to revise and consolidate, which is reflected by engagement with Enhance and their consistently strong quiz results!

YEAR 11

Year 11 have recently completed their latest round of mock exams and have shown impressive commitment throughout. Alongside this, they are studying Elizabethan England, with a particular focus on Elizabethan society. Their ability to balance exam preparation with new content, while maintaining responsibility for their learning and respect for the historical context, has been commendable.

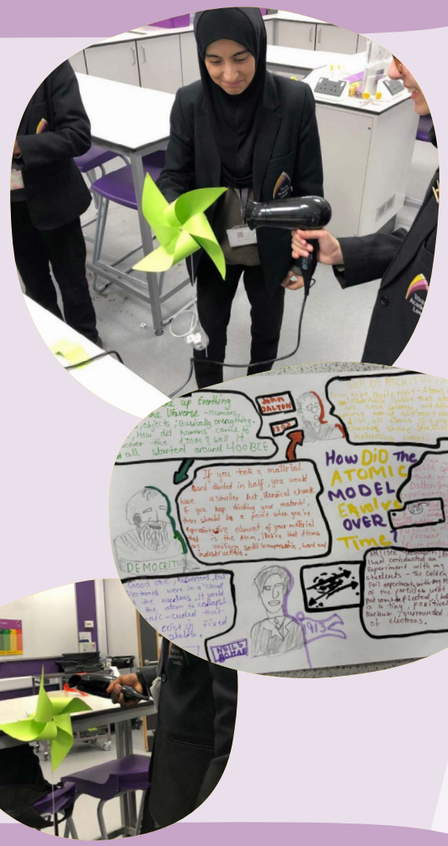


SCIENCE

In Science, Y7 and Y8 students took part in British Science Week: an annual UK-wide celebration of science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM). We leapt at the opportunity to broaden our students' awareness of STEM careers and get them thinking about how their lives are shaped by the industry every day.

In Year 7 and 8 lessons, students were presented with introductory descriptions of four real scientists working in a variety of research areas. Reading about these individuals, students were asked to identify what positive attributes made them so successful in their work and reflect on which of these qualities they valued most.

This activity paved the way for our students to carry out some research of their own, in the form of a fact-file about any scientist, past or present. Whilst the response to this has been excellent, we wanted our Purple Stars to take part in something on a larger scale. In an effort to answer the question, "What does a good childhood look like?", researchers from Northumbria University and the British Science Association have launched a nationwide poster competition encouraging children to share their views. The most insightful entries from each school will be sent off for judging and the ideas they convey will directly inform these influential studies. Here, all students had the opportunity to use their voice to contribute to informing the UK Government. Excitingly, the best entries will receive an educational, scientific prize. With the deadline of 1st April, students still have time to submit an entry!



Finally, British Science Week would not be complete without a practical investigation. Therefore, our Science Involve groups were tasked with designing a wind turbine capable of lifting a cup of pennies up from the floor. Once again, TAL's young scientists diligently grappled with this engineering challenge and were rewarded with some satisfying mechanical triumphs! Through these activities, we are reminded that scientific curiosity and creativity are in abundant supply at TAL. We look forward keenly to this time next year, when these virtues will no doubt re-emerge in breathtaking style.

ART

For two Saturdays this term, the Art Department was buzzing with a different kind of energy. While most were enjoying a lie-in, our dedicated Year 11 GCSE Art and 3D Design students took over the art room for a high-intensity Coursework Catch-Up Day.

The atmosphere was one of pure focus and shared passion. From refining intricate portraits to developing digital work on photoshop, the progress made in just a few hours was staggering. It's this kind of "above and beyond" attitude that defines our students and seeing their commitment to achieving excellence was truly inspiring.

We also have some extra-special news to share. We are thrilled to announce that two of our very own have taken first and second place in the Richardsons competition to design their 2026 catalogue cover. Shortlisted designs were taken to a public vote

1st Place: Chloe in 8M took home the top prize for her breathtaking design winning a £100 Amazon gift voucher.

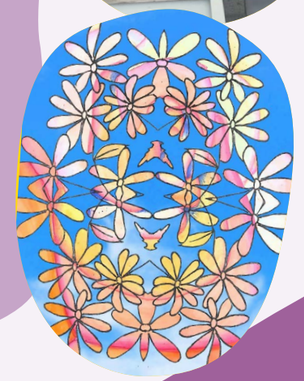
2nd Place: Youmna in 10B secured the runner-up spot with her excellent digital cover design winning a £50 Amazon gift voucher.

Both students have had their designs printed and are now being used by Richardsons. To have two students from our school recognised at a national level is a phenomenal achievement. It speaks volumes about the talent and the hard work of our students.

Elsewhere it has been a term full of ceramics with Years 7, 8 and 9. Each year group tackled a different challenge:

- Year 7 started their journey by mastering the fundamentals. They've been busy crafting clay slabs inspired by the earth's fragile coral reefs.
- Year 8 stepped up the complexity with Burmantofts spoon warmer inspired outcomes, celebrating local history through creativity.
- Year 9 have worked hard to create coil pots inspired by the artist Grayson Perry.

Beyond the final products, what has been most impressive is the students' resilience. Working with clay is a process of trial and error-sometimes things crack or collapse-but the way our KS3 artists have problem-solved and started again has been fantastic. The kiln is currently working overtime to keep up with your creativity!



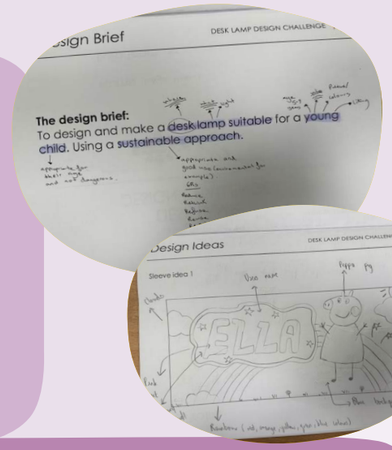
TECHNOLOGY

The Year 8 Design Challenge: A sustainable desk lamp.

It's been a busy and exciting term for our Year 8 students! Throughout Terms 3 and 4, they've taken on a creative, hands on design challenge: to design and create a desk lamp suitable for a young child, using a sustainable approach. This challenge wasn't just about making something that looks good—it was about thinking like real designers and having sustainability as the focus.

Understanding the Brief

Students began by closely analysing the design brief. They explored what the lamp needed to achieve, who their user was, and which materials would be best suited to achieve a sustainable approach. To help guide their decisions, they created a user profile and developed a detailed design specification. From there, they produced orthographic projection drawings— a professional style diagram that shows a product from several viewpoints. These drawings helped them communicate exactly how their lamp would look and how each part would fit together.



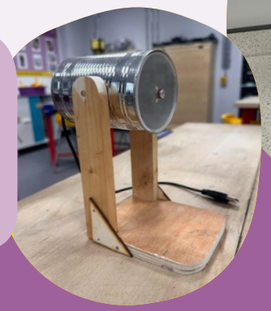
From Planning to Manufacturing

With their investigation stages completed and designs ready, students moved onto using the tools and machinery within the workshops to bring their lamps to life. Accurate measuring and marking skills were essential, guided by the classic rule: "Measure twice, cut once."

Using tenon saws, they removed waste material from their plywood bases, while their spruce components were shaped and smoothed using the belt sander. Afterwards, they drilled the spruce, prepared their dowel pieces and joined these parts using panel pins.

Let There Be Light

To finish their lamps, students took part in a soldering workshop. Here they learnt how to connect an LED pcb to a USB cable—a vital final step in making their lamps fully functional. For many, this was their first experience with soldering, and they handled it with confidence and care.



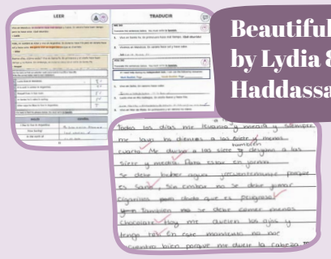
SPANISH

What have KS3 students been learning this term?

YEAR 7

Year 7 have been building on their knowledge about describing themselves and the people around them in their 'Mi mundo' (My world) booklet. This has included learning about: numbers up to 100, family members, pets, colours, school subjects and giving opinions.

Beautiful work by Linn 7M



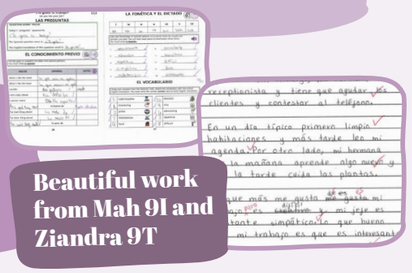
Beautiful work by Lydia 8U and Haddassah 8A

YEAR 8

Year 8 have been learning about healthy lifestyles in their 'En forma' (In shape) booklet. This has included learning about: daily routine, giving advice about being healthy, body parts and illnesses and injuries. Eventually, they will be learning vocabulary around food and drink in Spanish in addition to learning how to use the near future tense to talk about what they are going to order in a restaurant.

YEAR 9

As Year 9 have been considering GCSE options and thinking about future careers, in Spanish, they have been focusing on the topic of 'El mundo laboral' (The world of work). This has included learning about: different jobs and daily tasks, expressing themselves in the future tense and talking about future plans.



Beautiful work from Mah 9I and Ziandra 9T

Spotlight on... 'La Semana Santa' (Holy Week)

La Semana Santa (Holy Week) is a hugely important celebration in Spain and many Latin American countries. It marks the week leading up to Easter and remembers key moments in the Easter story. The week begins on Palm Sunday, which celebrates Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. Later in the week, people remember events such as the betrayal of Jesus on Holy Wednesday, the Last Supper on Holy Thursday and the Passion on Good Friday. Holy Week ends on Holy Saturday, which marks the death of Christ. Across Spain, huge processions take place. Enormous floats called pasos, some weighing over 1,000kg, are carried through the streets by groups of around 40-50 people. These processions are watched by large crowds and are often accompanied by slow, solemn music played by brass bands. Members of religious brotherhoods, known as nazarenos, take part wearing traditional robes and tall pointed hats called capirotes. During the week, people also enjoy traditional treats such as torrijas, a type of sweet fried bread.

TORRIJAS

A float representing Jesus Christ entering the city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

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