

Trinity School  
Heathway  
Dagenham  
Essex  
RM10 7SJ

Tel: 020 8270 1601  
Fax: 020 8270 4969

Email:  
[office.trinity@bdcs.org.uk](mailto:office.trinity@bdcs.org.uk)

Website:  
[www.trinityschooldagenham.org.uk](http://www.trinityschooldagenham.org.uk)

Headteacher:  
Mr Peter McPartland

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
**THE LAST DAY OF**  
**SUMMER TERM**  
**FOR PUPILS WILL BE**  
**FRIDAY**  
**18 JULY 2014**



**PUPILS RETURN TO**  
**SCHOOL AFTER THE**  
**SUMMER BREAK**  
**ON**  
**THURSDAY**  
**4 SEPTEMBER 2014**



# *Trinity School*

## *Newsletter*

### *July 2014*

#### *Dear Parents and Carers*

As I reflect on both our achievements and disappointments over the past year I am firmly of the opinion that we should treasure those 'pearl' moments when we see the small but significant progress the pupils make. I am pleased to say that information about pupil progress from the End of Year and Key Stage Assessments are hugely encouraging and illustrate the pupils' hard work and the commitment of my staff. They are all an amazing group of people.

Many of the most powerful and moving events which have taken place in the school over the year have been featured in the local Barking and Dagenham Post. I am proud that Trinity has become an important part of the local community and our work has been shared so often across the borough.

The end of the year always means saying goodbye to the staff and pupils who are leaving. I would like to say a big thank you for all that they have given to the school during their time with us. They will be missed and I wish them well for the future.

However as one door closes another opens, therefore in September we shall be joined by two new teachers, two new speech and language therapists and many new pupils. I wish them a warm welcome.

As part of our commitment to offering a first class service to the pupils, a new sports dome has been opened, as well as a new dining room for our Further Education Centre. Over the summer the swimming pool will undergo a major

refurbishment and preparations will be made to upgrade the facilities in the sensory room and install new playground equipment later in the year.

The school will again be running the summer clubs programme in the first week of the holiday and I hope that all those pupils who are attending have a great time and their parents are able to have a little time to themselves.

May I remind parents that we do encourage the wearing of school uniform and it can be purchased from the uniform shop at Castle Green. Please see the school website for details.

Finally may I wish you all a good summer break and I look forward to seeing you all again in September.

*Peter McPartland*  
*Headteacher*

#### *Lower School*

This year has been very busy and the pupils have benefitted from a wide range of exciting activities within the curriculum and during their leisure time. We are constantly looking at ways to develop this and improve our provision for the pupils.

As part of the staff consultation towards writing our School Improvement Plan for 2014-2015, Lower School classroom assistants identified playground equipment as being a priority.



## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

### Autumn Half-Term 2014

Monday 27 October -  
Friday 31 October 2014  
(Inclusive)

### Christmas Holidays 2014

Monday 22 December -  
Friday 2 January 2015  
(Inclusive)

### Spring Half-Term 2015

Monday 16 February -  
Friday 20 February 2015  
(Inclusive)

### Easter Holidays 2015

Friday 3 April (Bank Holiday) -  
Friday 17 April 2015  
(Inclusive)

### May Bank Holiday 2015

Monday 4 May 2015

### Summer Half-Term 2015

Monday 25 May (Bank Holiday) -  
Friday 29 May 2015  
(Inclusive)

**New Telephone  
Number to Report  
Pupil/Student Absence:  
02087248385**

If your child is absent you must let the school know on the first day of absence (before 9.15 am) giving the reason e.g. illness, appointment etc.

All absences without a known reason will be followed up with a telephone call by the school office.

In response to this, we have provided more scooters to each playground and we are currently looking into providing a wheelchair swing on the old wilderness garden area and possibly a wheelchair roundabout to the Early Years playground. This programme we hope will be starting in a small number of identified classrooms next year.

Our Acts of Collective Worship go from strength to strength and we now have 100% of pupils attending every week.

On June 23rd, we had our New Admissions Day, when pupils, who are joining in September, and their families, came to visit Trinity and met their new teacher.

This year we welcomed pupils aged 3 to 7 and we are now very excited and looking forward to them being part of the school after the summer holiday.

This term more of our classes have travelled offsite with the PE team to take part in some sporting events, whilst others participated in activities onsite. This means that every class has been involved in a PE link activity of some form over the year. We now also have a Primary Panathlon team who have been taking part in events with pupils from other special schools and mainstream bases.

A number of our classes have also been benefiting from trips offsite this term - spending time at ELHAP (a special needs adventure centre) and visiting Tropical Wings as part of our topic work in science. They have also been in the local community - travelling to the local library and to Morrison's to buy ingredients for their cookery lessons.

On 25<sup>th</sup> June, we had our annual Prizegiving to celebrate the achievements of all of our pupils. This is an event to which parents and carers are invited and we were so pleased that over 70 visitors shared the occasion with us. This year the prizes were presented by Melanie Archer - who recently retired from being Deputy Head at Trinity. It was a lovely event which took place in the Sports Hall decorated with the pupils' art work. Pupils sang songs related to our summer topic 'Mini-beasts' and were presented with certificates and balloons to acknowledge their hard work and achievements.

I am very grateful to have such a strong and enthusiastic team of staff to work with - and would like to thank them all for their hard work and support this year. We look forward to a restful summer holiday so we can be ready to continue this hard work next September.

*Abby Town, Veronica Jackson & Candice Webb  
Lower School*

### **Note to Parent/Carers:**

Please ensure that all belongings are clearly marked with your child's name.

## Middle School

The Summer term has seen lots of exciting events and activities taking place within the Middle Phase. Many of our students have had the opportunity to participate in the annual President's Sporting Cup Challenge, performing in the School Concert, had the opportunity to meet and work with Olympic Athletes, competed in Inter Phase Sporting activities and performed at the Hackney Empire with the Drumming Club.

Our weekly Tuesday morning visits to Elhap have continued, with most students within the phase having the chance to experience a large adventure playground designed for young people with special educational needs.



The R.E topic for the Summer term has been to explore 'places of worship'. Some groups have had the opportunity to visit local churches, mosques and synagogues, to experience different places of worship.

Four of our Middle School Classes had the opportunity to attend the annual President's Sporting Challenge, which was held at Chelmsford. During the day the student's had the opportunity to try different types of sporting activities.



Many students from the Middle Phase have represented Trinity School in a range of sporting and swimming events and have also had the opportunity to participate in our own water based sensory journey, which took place in the schools swimming pool.



Middle phase students were lucky enough this term to be included in the Oily Cart production of 'The Tube'.



Our Humanities curriculum for this term has focused on comparing the environments of a local park and the seaside. Students have enjoyed spending time in the Outdoor Classroom, which had been set up so students were able to experience a beach. Other students have had the opportunity to visit the local seaside town of Southend.



## *Upper School*

As the school year rapidly finishes, the Upper phase would like to share some of the highlights of this term:

The Year 11 pupils have now completed their accreditation after many hours of hard work. We have recently received the results that show our students have yet again been very successful and the moderators have congratulated the school on presenting such an outstanding submission of work.

In May we held our annual Prize giving celebration which was a successful occasion. Melanie Archer, retired Deputy Headteacher, kindly returned to present the prizes.

Most students have taken part in work related workshops. They have included making stained glass items, floristry, jewellery making, Zumba and massage therapy.

The gardens in both the FEC and Key Stage 4 are flourishing with produce. Regularly students are selling home grown potatoes, lettuce and strawberries.

On Friday 11 July we held our Leavers Assembly, an annual event where we say farewell to both Year 11 and Year 14 students as they embark on the next stage of their lives. Each student is presented with a progress file illustrating many of their achievements during their time at Trinity School.





Some students will transition to the FEC whilst others will be going to different colleges or day provisions. In the evening we held our Disco/Prom with an American diner theme. The students all “dressed up” for the occasion, and looked amazing. A brilliant evening for all those who attended.

Several students in Key Stage 4 and the FEC are on residential trips this last week of term. The FEC have gone to the Red Ridge Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Wales and Key Stage 4 is at Trewern, the Barking and Dagenham Outdoor Pursuits Centre in mid Wales.

We have had a really good year where all our students have worked hard and achieved much success. As we say good bye to some and wish them well, we welcome the new students to the phase and hope they will enjoy and achieve success throughout their time with us.

We wish you all a very happy holiday time.

*Sandra Burns, Denny Brackenbury, Chris McHardy & Kim Case  
The Upper Phase Management Team*

### *The Living & Learning Centre*

This summer term has been very eventful. Pupils continued to show improved behaviours as well as making good progress in their academic work. A number of pupils completed their Entry 1 Personal Progress accreditation course. Most of them achieved a certificate level and one pupil at diploma level. AQAs for pupils in Years 12 to 14 were also submitted for accreditation. Overall the progress made by pupils has been outstanding and many have met their personal learning objective targets.

A number of multi- agency meetings were held over the last couple of months with the view of addressing two of our pupils’ behaviour concerns and also to support their families. These meetings were very successful and the families have been very appreciative about the support they have received.

The Centre continued to undertake home intervention programmes. Parents felt well supported and pupils have visual structures in their own homes to support their communication and skills development.

Four new staff joined the ARP in April and they have integrated very well into the LLC system. They are all experience staff who used to work in the main part of the school before joining this ARP. They are therefore very familiar and comfortable with the use of structured TEACCH and by joining the LLC.

The Centre was inspected by Sheila Nolan, NET-Director of School Improvement in June, 2014 and in her professional opinion the LLC succeeds outstandingly well in its main aims. We wish everyone a Happy Summer Holiday.

*Rolland Dankwa – Manager Living & Learning Centre*

## *Trinity Poets Published in British Library Poetry Collection*

Congratulations to Zayn Mohamed and Charlie Munns, who are about to become published poets! The two boys entered their Monster and Adventure poems into the Young Writers' competition this summer. Both poems, selected for their creativity and expression, will be published in poetry collections this September. Copies will be held not only in Trinity School but in the British Library in London. This is a fantastic and well deserved achievement by two original and imaginative poets. Here are their poems:

### Scylla From The Sea

I'm sailing back to Troy  
The sea is calm and glossy  
Like laminated paper.  
The waves start to splosh!  
The six-headed monster Scylla  
Rises from the deep ocean  
His poisonous fangs  
As sharp as Excalibur's blade.  
I throw the piece of dark chocolate  
Into one of Scylla's mouths  
It lands on the rough, hairy tongue  
Yuck! Shrink! Shivel!  
The head closes,  
Scylla is defeated.

**Zayn Mohamed**

*Annie Gogarty*  
*Literacy Support Teacher*

### Desert Adventure

I fed animals  
I saw love  
We went caving  
I tasted love  
We sat on the edge of a  
mountain  
Watching the stars  
I heard silence  
We fell in love

**Charlie Munns**

## Read all about it! Trinity School Dagenham sees Year 3 pupils' work published in national short story book



Year 3 pupils Handi Longo-Mona and Paul Boateng (front) with headteacher Peter McPartland and class teacher Rebecca Jenner (behind)

Aspiring writers from a Dagenham primary school have had their prize-winning stories published for all to see.

Year 3 pupils Paul Boateng and Handi Longo-Mona from Trinity School were presented with copies of the book Mini Adventures by Headteacher Peter McPartland at a special assembly.

The pair were winners in a nationwide competition to have their work published alongside that of other children from around the country. Class teacher Rebecca Jenner said: "This is such an excellent reward for all the hard work both Handi and Paul have put in and it also gives great encouragement to the rest of our students." The competition is run by literary organisation Young Writers, which works with schools, parents and young writers across the country to promote poetry and creative writing.

## Disabled swimmer helps to inspire Dagenham School children



A swimmer born without fully formed arms or legs has helped inspire pupils at a Dagenham school to make the most of their abilities.

Keen sports enthusiast John Willis was visiting Trinity School as a part of his 50:50:100 project as he aims to swim 1,000m in 50 different pools in 100 days. Five students helped power him along as part of a relay in a time of 34 minutes and 36 seconds, before John talked about his experiences and took a question and answer session. John was a solicitor for 12 years before founding Power2Inspire – an

organisation encouraging people to focus on what they can do, not what they can't.



"John is an inspiration to us all and you could see by the reaction and affection shown to him how much the students enjoyed his visit. He has given us some great ideas for the future."

## Top British athletes Danny Lawrence and Nathan French visit Trinity School, Dagenham

A pair of top British athletes dropped into a Dagenham school last Thursday to put a group of lucky pupils through their paces. Commonwealth medal-winning gymnast Danny Lawrence visited Trinity School, in Heathway, alongside Olympian Nathan French - part of Great Britain's volleyball squad in the 2012 games. Students were split into groups and put through energetic exercise routines.



Danny, who won a silver medal at the 2010 Delhi games, put on a special gymnastic display before giving a talk and answering questions from students.

The pair were there as part of the "Sports for Schools" project encouraging youngsters to take up sports. They were assisted by Paul Reeves who helps run the scheme. The school's head of PE James Morris said: "We hear so much about the London Olympic legacy, or lack of it.

"But inviting such dedicated athletes to our school has encouraged students of all abilities to take part and try to achieve their own personal goals.

"We are a school for children with special needs and our aim is to ensure all our students have the opportunity to be involved in sport and strive to reach their full potential."

## Former deputy comes back to honour outstanding pupils

Outstanding pupils at a special needs school were presented with a vast array of certificates and trophies at a recent prizegiving ceremony. Proud parents watched as more than 80 certificates were presented to students from Trinity School, in Heathway, Dagenham, by former deputy headteacher Mel Archer.

The visitors were also treated to a number of songs sung by the students.

Mel, who retired last December, worked in Barking and Dagenham schools for more than 30 years, 18 of which were at Trinity.

