TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be able to write my first newsletter as the new Head Teacher of Trinity High School. I feel honoured and privileged to have been chosen to continue to build upon the success the school has already achieved under the leadership of Mrs Craig.

I have been extremely fortunate to work in Trinity High School for 10 years as Depute Head Teacher and in South Lanarkshire Council for 20 years. My main priority as Head Teacher will be to ensure that our young people continue to feel welcomed, nurtured and secure in our school community. Moreover, we are always striving to raise attainment and achievement to improve the life chances for our young people.

We are a school of faith and learning and our Gospel values of faith, hope and charity are at the core of everything we do. I will work hard to ensure all of our young people are provided with opportunities to nurture their God-given talents to enable them to be the best version of themselves by offering an education of the highest quality.

I strongly believe that our success depends on partnership with, and involvement of, parents and carers. Over the past 10 years, I have built strong relationships with our young people, staff, parents and carers, Motherwell Diocese, and all of the communities we serve. You will always find me ready to listen to ensure we can move forward together - I look forward to continuing to work with you in the coming years.

As always, we have had a busy start to our school year. Our young people have represented our school at both the Vocations Mass and Caritas Commissioning Service held at Motherwell Cathedral. Recently, a beautiful S1 Welcome Mass enabled us to welcome parents and carers into our school building to share in the celebration of Mass. Father Paul Annis and Father Stephen Reilly, our school chaplains, continue to guide and support us in our spiritual formation and it is wonderful to see our young people attend Mass both before and during the school day.

In September we hosted our Senior Awards Ceremony. Again, it was wonderful to welcome parents and carers into our school to celebrate our young people. The evening was an outstanding success, giving us the opportunity to recognise the hard work, attainment and achievements of our young people. Our Guest Speaker, Mark Cunningham, a former pupil of Trinity High School, delivered an inspirational talk to our young people on the importance of seizing every opportunity you are given at school to develop skills for life, learning and work. In keeping with this, our Senior Pupil Leadership Team has now also been appointed and we are looking forward to working with them to continue to take Trinity High School forward.

We have welcomed new staff this term – Ms Lynch, Miss Singer and Miss Steele. I wish them and all our staff well in this academic year.

Please do take the time to read the news and information contained within this newsletter and please continue to access the school website for updates.

May I take this opportunity to thank you - our parents and carers - for your continued support. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all the Trinity High School staff, teaching and non-teaching staff for their relentless commitment to our young people. I hope the October break allows for some much-needed rest and reflection for all.

Best wishes,

Mrs McArdle

PASTORORAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Faith, Hope, Charity

In September there was a very exciting new project at Trinity with Justice and Peace Scotland. St Anthony's and St Mark's will be the first church in Scotland to pilot a Caritas Award parish pathway, as our pupils help parishioners to learn, pray & act in a faith-led response to the issue of human trafficking. The first meeting took place in St Anthony's Church on 3rd October.

Holy Mass is celebrated every Tuesday lunchtime at 1.10pm, and every Friday morning at 8.25am, in the school oratory - everyone welcome!

It was lovely to have Emmanuelle and Martha from 'Generation Hope' visit the school in early September. 'Generation Hope' seeks to bring 12-16 years old together through faith, so that they can build as a community of young people and grow deeper in their faith. The group, who attended in June, enjoyed having the time to talk about the camp and what they had learned.

On Sunday 22nd September, pupils and staff turned out to support St Andrew's Hospice by taking part in the 6k schools fun run to raise much needed funds for the hospice.

This is an annual event that takes place in Strathclyde Park with lots of young people from schools across North and South Lanarkshire. The hospice provides specialist palliative care to people living with life-limiting illnesses and also for their loved ones and carers too. St Andrew's Hospice provides their services free of charge to the adult population of Lanarkshire, without distinction of race, gender or creed.

On Tuesday 1st October, it was wonderful to see our S6 Caritas pupils commissioned by Bishop Toal at the Caritas Commissioning Service. Please keep our young people in your prayers.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 21st October—Return after October break

Tuesday 22nd October—S3 Parents Evening

Tuesday 5th November—S4 Parents Evening

Monday 11th November—In-service day

Tuesday 19th November—S5 Parents Evening

Thursday 28th November—Christmas Fayre

Monday 2nd December—S4 Assessment Programme starts

Friday 13th December—S4 Assessment Programme finishes

Friday 20th December—school closes—2.30pm

NETBALL TEAMS

Our netball training is running every Tuesday for S1-S6 on a Tuesday after school. The S1 and S2 teams both had their first Scottish Cup game against St Andrew's High School in October. The seniors faced Holy Cross in their first match, also in October. All of the teams were fantastic and showed great team work! The girls are looking forward to their next game.

EXERCISE & FITNESS

Our S5/6 Exercise and Fitness Leadership NPA is well underway with our pupils starting to lead their own circuit sessions and developing their own strength and conditioning programmes.

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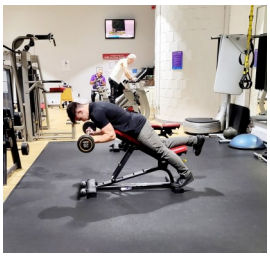
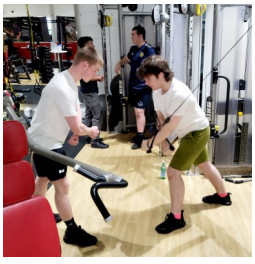
"The secret is there is no secret,

Consistency over Intensity

Progress over Perfection

Fundamentals over Fads"





UNCRC & RIGHTS REPECTING SCHOOLS

We are delighted to announce that Trinity has become a UNICEF Bronze Rights Committed Rights Respecting School.

Last year we began our UNCRC and Rights Respecting Schools journey.

Staff were asked to participate in information sessions during departmental meetings and take part in a staff questionnaire. Letters were sent to parents / carers to make them aware. Our Rights Respecting School notice board was set up in our street area. Our pupil group was formed and pupils took part in Rights Respecting assemblies and questionnaires. Some of our collaborative networks in the school as well as our Equity team have spent time gathering pupil voice in many ways which have enabled us to create an action plan which we will use on our journey to gaining the next award which is SILVER.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in our application for the bronze award. This has been a team effort and we are very happy that we have been awarded this status! This shows that we are committed to respecting the rights of others in our school and beyond.

Look out for lots more work around rights and UNCRC in the near future. We look forward to progressing our rights respecting journey. **#STRONGERTOGETHER**

2024 – 2026

Rights Respecting Schools

UNITED KINGDOM

unicef

Bronze Rights Committed

FOOTBALL UPDATE

13's League—Stonelaw HS 1-4 Trinity High School

14's League—Trinity High School 7-0 Strathaven Acad

15's Scottish Cup—Trinity High School 7-0 OLHS (Motherwell)

16's League—Calderglen 5-1 Trinity High School

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Money and human dignity

A dilemma of choice

After the first three years of Secondary education, choices of subjects to study, will determine the lives of developing teenagers. Although relying on their inclinations with the advice of their teachers and parents, their performance would determine any future choices.

What choice should I take? "Will the subjects I chose help me to get a good Job? A "good" job with a "good" salary to have a "good" life providing for my future family? Basically, it is to be "happy". Will money make me "happy"? or having a job where I can use creatively my talents make me "happier"? Finding a job that would satisfy both my financial needs and self-realisation of using my talents can be a difficult quest.

Knowing myself needs the light of faith

When happiness is achieved through doing "what I like" without considering God and the common good, the path to happiness becomes a dissatisfying spiral of self-indulgence. Without consciously willing I become the sole purpose of everything I work for and without knowing I become trapped in an unintentional addictive life patterns. The continuous attempts of satisfying pleasures that prove short lived, would gradually lead to the uncontrollable urge to be satisfied again and again…. Surely self gratifications would **not** lead to lasting happiness.

Alternatively in considering the light of faith as guide; God through His Word can shed a "torchlight" on our common human cravings, which can never be satisfied without God. Jesus helps us through His parables to open our eyes to see through reflection stories. From the beginning of the Bible the deceptive desire of the forbidden fruit has long evidence throughout our human history. The tug of war between "my good" versus the "common good"; the good of my Patria versus the neighbouring countries. My good in using natural resources versus the shared good of what God has provided for all his creatures.

There are three parables on the Kingdom of God, drew my attention about **Talents**, **Stewardship** and **accountability**. All three assume that God is the King of the Universe and all human beings are under His employment.

The first parable in Matthew 25:14-30 is about three servants who each receive 'talents' one received five, another two and a third one. 'Talent' in the biblical Greek is TALANTOS which is a monetary currency that is weighed. A day's wage of a labourer is between 35.80 – 36.29 Kg of silver. The first two servant 'traded' with their 'talantos' that is ERGAZOMAI in Greek means; worked, gained by one's labour. The third buried his 'talantos' out of fear of the master.

A talent is both a gift given, but also an ability to exercise a certain skill or natural ability in a field of work. While the modern understanding of investing has financial marketing model, rather than being industrious activity. This parable is an invitation to discover what we are good at, recognise it is a gift from God and God gave it for a purpose within His creative plan.

The second parable Luke 16:1-13 The parable of the dishonest Accountant who was sacked because he was not an honest steward. Although the parable has a range of understandings, the point is that our way of conducting our work as stewards is being under God's employment. Some people who live according to this world they may survive according to their shrewdness, but will not be considered as "children of light", but earthly, not heavenly. The way we use money has a responsibility that matches God's purpose.

The last parable Matthew 25:1-11 the parable of the final judgement, considering the common good particularly the hungry, naked, foreigner, homeless, sick, imprisoned… "whatever you did to the least of these you did it to me" says the Lord.

What must I consider ?

The Second Vatican council in its constitutional document summaries three important aspects when thinking about 'getting a job' ;

"In the economic and social realms too, the dignity and complete vocation of the human person and the welfare of society as a whole are to be respected and promoted. For being human is to be the source, the centre and the purpose of all economic and social life." [*Gaudium et Spes 63*]

Human dignity work expresses one's own vocation creatively with personal uniqueness. Every person has a quality and leaves an imprint that is unique. Just like artists even though they all practice the same pursuit they are identified by their individual style and their own genius. Enriching art with their diversity.

Personal vocation being called to grow in being more your self. Living out what you are passionate about, what you believe in shapes how you grow and become truly yourself.

Welfare of society economic life involves the production, the distribution, and the consumption of goods and services, where the dignity of every human person and the development of the common good are central.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Temporary and permanent wealth

Does earthly wealth prevent heavenly treasures? No, but personal wealth should not make us lose sight of God who provides the means for us to be affluent. Nor prevent us to be in solidarity with global development of all human beings. Permanent wealth are actually values that give meaning and purpose to what we posses. Values, like education, family, health, and faith invites us to be more humane in our growing prosperity. The value of sharing our resources, achievements, and beliefs bond us together in creating a society that can overcome injustices, corruption and greed in its various forms. Wealth cannot always be a mere consumption that will make us crave for more with greater dissatisfaction. In a certain way "consumerism" makes people even poorer.

Work in commerce and business can be an authentic vocation from God: people who in their specialised area of responsibility place themselves at the service of their fellow human beings and of society are in fact a blessing for everyone. In our work we can obey God's will and in our small way contribute to the perfecting of creation, if we act justly and lovingly. That way we use the good gifts of the earth and our own talents for the good of our fellow human beings who God has chosen them to be our neighbours. Together we can then occupy the earth as our common home made by God who is Father of the human family that He created and redeemed by His Son Jesus Christ.

[by Fr. Paul Annis MCCJ]