Trinity High School

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

A Christmas Message from the Head Teacher

I trust that this message finds you and your family well.

As we approach this festive period, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for all of your continued prayers and support. This year has again brought many challenges, but we have all worked together to support the well-being of our young people, staff and their families. It has been wonderful to see the return of our Christmas Fayre, Trinity High Young Performer of the Year and our Christmas Panto, all of which brought for everyone lots of Christmas cheer.
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who make Trinity High School such a great school. Our young people, once again, are truly amazing: their response to projects, fund raising activities which support those within and beyond our community and for all of their hard work in their classes. I thank our parents and carers who work with our school and continue to support our young people to be the best version of themselves. I thank all of the teaching staff and support staff who continue to give their best to our young people, supporting them in their learner journey. Thank you to our Senior and Middle Leadership Teams who strive to enhance the learning experience of our young people. Finally, thank you to the janitorial, cleaning and catering staff for ensuring that our environments are safe and clean. And last but not least, many thanks to Father Paul Annis who plays such a pivotal role in delivering and developing our spiritual, pastoral and liturgical provision.

Trinity High School is truly Home – School – Church - Stronger Together. I would like to finally wish you all a Holy Christmas and a peaceful, safe and happy New Year.

Allison Craig, Head Teacher .

A Christmas Message from Father Paul

Did you Choose Christmas ?
A Consumerist society uses Christmas to make annual target profits. We have the intention of making friends and families happy by buying them presents and gifts, and by doing this we find ourselves feeding the consumerist market. People do not choose Christmas but use Christmas... what does this mean ?

Choosing Christmas means 'I chose Christ'. The only reason for celebrating of Christmas. Pope Gregory from the end of the century made Christmas a universal solemn feast. Where the humble God who entered our world in a body like ours opened our eyes to care for the 'small ones'.

Choosing Christmas is to welcome God who chose to take on our human nature so selflessly, that Jesus may cure us from self-centredness. A joy that finds its source in the loving care of others. The giftedness in giving edifies the giver in a new human connectedness. When clothes become more important than the body it dehumanises, when the lack of self-acceptance pursues choices that never find peace in being truly ourselves. Despite our freedom how wise can our choices be? God chose us out of wisdom that forged our being from the beginning of time, while in foolishness, paradise was lost. Emmanuel (God with us) became a reality in Jesus the Nazarene. In His light we see light; to enlighten everyone with original wisdom which is a life giving energy

We can choose how to live, but can we choose who we are? Are we self-created by our choice? Are we not to acknowledge who we are? created to be ourselves. Being ourselves is choosing the one who chose us "before the world was made, he chose us in Christ, to live through love in God-Father's presence that we should become his adopted children, through Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 1: 3-6)

Christmas is accepting to be adopted by God; to be his children through Jesus Christ; who chose us to be born through his Spirit.

Christmas is about being born and growing according to the Spirit. So that our nature will mature into one body of Christ – the Church.

Happy Christmas in celebrating our birthday in Christ.

Fr. Paul Annis MCCJ

CAGED—WHOLE SCHOOL NOVEL

'Caged'
Whole-School Novel

S1 Interdisciplinary

Learning Day

To bring 'Caged', our Whole-School Novel project to a close, S1 participated in an exciting activity day. Literacy skills were demonstrated across the curriculum through a variety of fun-filled workshops. A special thanks to:

Ms Skillen and Mr Stewart in the PE department who organised a 'Caged'-themed scavenger hunt. Pupils enjoyed working together and participating in active learning.

Mrs Steell and Ms Milliken who delivered a workshop on growth mind-set, closely linked to the novel. Pupils felt inspired and positive leaving this session.

Ms McCulloch and Ms Dawson who created excellent art sessions, where pupils were thrilled to create 'Caged'-inspired fighter masks based on their own character traits – something that happened in the novel.

Mr Griffin and Mr McGhee who presented an interesting lesson about how to create promotional posters featuring their favourite social media stars. Pupils used their Literacy and IT skills to produce marvellous work.

Overall, pupils were thoroughly entertained as they used their knowledge of 'Caged' to develop their Literacy skills across the curriculum. Staff collaborated together to ensure that pupils had a wonderful day. Well done to S1 for their enthusiasm!

Theresa Breslin – Whole-School Novel Author Visit

After a very successful 'Caged' activity day with S1, Trinity High School were lucky to welcome the author of the novel, Theresa Breslin into the school for some fun workshops and prize-giving. Theresa was ever so kind to donate beautiful illustrative books to the winners of the Creative Writing competition completed in the English department – she was super impressed by the work of our amazing pupils.

Senior pupils interested in pursuing a career in writing were also very fortunate to participate in a Q&A session with Theresa. She delivered helpful tips in how to become a successful writer.

Theresa herself commented that Trinity is a "fabulous school brimming with enthusiasm for books, reading and writing. Super-supporting staff encouraging students and some very impressive writing". Thank you Theresa for promoting a love for reading in our young people - what an exciting end to this project!

SCHOOL CONCERT/PANTO

In December, approximately one hundred Trinity High School pupils took to the stage for this year's Christmas Concert; "Step (Back) Into Christmas", and pantomime; "Happily Ever After...?". The acts in the first half of the evening ranged from: a medley of Scottish tunes played by the Scottish Music Group, through a rousing rendition of Frosty the Snowman by the brass ensemble, to an ExtrABBAganza from the Senior Percussion Ensemble, to name but a few.

After the interval, the pantomime featured excellent performances from pupils from S1 to S6. The inhouse-written script told the story of the impact of Teeny Genie's disbelief in magic, and the attempts of her genie mentor to help her believe again.

Keep your ears to the ground for details of our summer show, which will be announced in the new year...!

SENIOR MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Festive Dodgeball

Our young people learned the importance of physical fitness to boost mood and release stress during this high energy and engaging workshop. The festive music was blasting as pupils enjoyed a variety of dodgeball challenges. A great fun workshop and one which certainly warmed the pupils up and had them smiling!

LAMH

Our senior pupils were really engaged during this workshop as they learned more about Mental Health. They were encouraged to remember that we all have mental health and discovered the importance of discussing this openly with others. They were asked to visualise their stresses as a 'bucket' and considered a variety of methods for emptying these stresses to prevent the 'bucket' overflowing. Our young people responded to this workshop in a thoughtful way and were given a variety of resources they can use in the future!

Lifelink

The Lifelink workshop certainly had our pupils engaged and interested. The importance of taking care of our Mental Health was skilfully demonstrated using the analogy of a tennis ball. Just like the ball which bounces back our young people were encouraged to consider the incredible resilience they already have within themselves and how to tap into this. Moreover, they were encouraged to consider where to seek help and what to do when they cannot simply 'bounce back' from stress. This excellent analogy allowed our young people to really consider their own strengths and abilities to reach out for support.

Alpacas

The frozen ground and cold were soon forgotten when our young people clapped eyes on these adorable and cuddly creatures! The excitement was palpable as they got the chance to walk an Alpaca as well as pat their lovely soft fur! There were smiles all round and many picture opportunities! This encouraged our young people to see how being in the fresh air and around animals can have a positive impact in lifting our moods and providing stress relief.

Orienteering

Our young people absolutely loved the opportunity to put their teamwork and map reading skills to the test in this active workshop. Pupils have to work together in teams as they made their way round the school collecting a variety of clues on the way. This encouraged our young people to improve their team building and communication skills whilst working towards a common goal. The pupils raced round the course with great enthusiasm and were rewarded with a chance to warm up!

Climbing Wall and Bungee Trampolines

Our young people demonstrated their incredible skill and resilience in these action-packed activities. Despite the cold many of the young people scaled the climbing wall several times and loved warming up by bouncing away on the trampolines! This was

Bee Keeping

The S4 N5 beekeepers were busy extracting honey on Wednesday (14th of December) from the comb made by Trinity High schools hardworking bees!

Nearly 50 jars of honey were made! Busy bees indeed. Well done to all the pupils involved as they worked a double shift to remove capping's, spin the frames, and triple filter the honey before it was jarred.

UPDATE FROM FACULTY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Red Wednesday

The S6 Caritas class, led by Mrs Chisholm organised a whole host of activities to highlight the plight of persecuted Christians throughout the world and to help promote the work of Aid to The Church in Need. Our school turned into a sea of red with staff and pupils wearing red, feasting on a red themed cake and candy a very special 'Rednesday' raffle they managed to raise just over £700 and also collected many items for our local food bank appeal - Thank you to all who helped!

Ozanam Centre

Several students along with Mrs Marks took time to hand out clothing and essential items to homeless women and children in classroom at the Frederic Ozanam centre in Glasgow. In these cold nights its so important that we help where we can and support the most vulnerable in society... living out the teachings of the Beatitudes.

SSVP Academy Group

Mr O'Neill and the S3 Academy Group have been busy helping to organise clothing, backpacks and essential items (shampoo, toothpaste, soap etc) for the most needy.

These will be taken to the Ozanam Centre at our next visit

Blessing Jars

As part of Trinity High's commitment to the goals of 'Laudato Si' Mrs Marks' S5 class have been busy upcycling glass jars and have created beautiful blessing jars which are filled with inspirational quotes to remind us to be thankful for all the blessings we receive each day. These have been gifted to staff who are sharing these with their classes ... a grateful heart... is a happy heart!

Advent Food Bank

The RE department have once again been collecting food items for our local food banks to ensure that our local families are looked after during the Christmas break - We also received an amazing £94 from our Nurture Group, Frank, a fantastic S2 student baked and sold so many cupcakes at the school Christmas fayre and donated the proceeds to allow us to buy more items for our local foodbank- Well done and thank you!

Staff and pupils responded with such generosity and love on our annual Christmas Jumper Day, which also saw Mrs Marks highlight the work of the Homeless Project Scotland charity to our S1 pupils. Over £350 was collected for this charity, chosen due to the great work they do each night and the links with our whole school novel 'Caged' by Teresa

Breslin which highlights the struggles of homeless young people. Food items can be handed in until the end of term.

Liturgical Celebrations

Fr Paul continues to support the faith life of the school by celebrating Holy Mass each Tuesday lunchtime and Friday morning. He provides great insight in our classrooms and is on hand to support the whole community. He supported the school through the month of November, celebrating Mass on All saints day for the whole school community and guiding us as we prayed for our dearly departed. We are looking forward to our end of term Mass where he will encourage us to be more accepting of others and the will of God .. like Mary accepted the role of being the mother of Christ our saviour.

Gaudete

Several of the S6 Caritas group along with Mrs Chisholm attended the youth Diocesan Advent event with several other schools, after a time of reflection they also enjoyed some pizza and snacks - a great way to prepare for Advent and to welcome Christ at Christmas

Advent Tree of Faith, Hope and Love

Our Christmas Tree is looking beautiful and is being added to every day as our students are creating their own decoration for it along with a prayer for our Community- focusing on the four themes of Advent - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Merry Christmas