



ACADEMY LIFE

*Aspire
Endeavour
Achieve*



Principal's Update

I hope you were all able to find some enjoyment in the snowy weather we experienced at the start of term. Thank you for your understanding and patience with the delayed start this created. January's weather has been predictably bleak but our students, as always, have continued to brighten our days. Their patience with the limited indoor space during wet breaks and lunches has been commendable and we all look forward to spending more time outdoors as the weather improves.

Our rewards trip to the Trafford centre took place in the second week of this term. The students were all fantastic and the Trafford Centre team commented on how great our students were. It's messages like this that make me so proud of our academy.

I promised, in the December newsletter, to share the highlights from the Christmas show. It now seems like so long ago, but it was such a fantastic end to the Autumn term. Tasha and April have written about the show later in the newsletter. Rehearsals are now in full swing for our production of Alice in Wonderland on 19 March; I hope to see many of you there.

Last week, Mr Bailey talked to students in assembly about British Values. He explained the concepts of democracy, individual liberty, mutual respect, rule of law and tolerance.



Continued

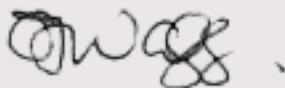
He compared society now to how it was in the 1970s and 1980s and talked about the positive changes Stoke-on-Trent has experienced since that time.

This week, Mrs O'Connor has launched 'Preferences' with Year 8. She has explained the process and how they will choose their courses. Soon, Year 8 parents will receive further information about this process, which includes Preference evening on 12th March – an important date for your diary!

The students have also listened to the well-prepared Prefect Hustings as we open voting for next year's prefect roles. Staff and students will all place their votes and students hoping for senior prefect posts will meet with me too. I look forward to hearing from them all and finding out how they would like to shape Trentham Academy's future, if they were to secure one of these prestigious student leadership roles.

Our Year 9 exams take place in the hall in the week before half term and Year 11 are now preparing for their final mock examinations which take place in the two weeks following half term. Revise well everyone! Dream big, persevere and you will be successful!

Best wishes



We have moved to a new data management system called Arbor. We will not use Arbor for parent communication until after Easter and will share further detail about this after half term.

Mobile phones in school



Phones must be switched off during the academy day. They cannot be used until students are off site at the end of the day.

Please support our policy by using the academy phone if you need to get a message to your child.

Parking



We are worried about the number of vehicles on site when the students are leaving at the end of the day. Please remember that cars are not allowed to drive onto the academy site to collect students at 3.10pm; this includes the visitor car park.

If you have an arrangement with the academy for health reasons, please ensure you observe the 5mph speed restriction and park in marked visitor bays. There should also be no parking on the yellow lines outside the school gate.

Please support us to keep the students safe at the end of the day.

Hear from our students about their Christmas Show

By April, Year 9

Trentham Academy's annual Christmas show was once again the highlight of the term, and this year the dance performances were brilliant. For Year 11, this marked their final Christmas show, and they made sure it was unforgettable. With their amazing remixes of songs making sure to match every beat and not missing a count or step.

Their dances were powerful, polished, and full of emotion, clearly showing the incredible skill, talent, and dedication they have developed over the years. It was a bittersweet moment watching them perform for the last time, but they went out with confidence, passion, and a real sense of achievement.

Starting the night strong, Year 9 and 10 dance club took to the stage with an energetic and confident performance of 'Crazy in Love' by Beyoncé and 'Snowman' by Sia - a well known Christmas song very fitting for Christmas.

Their sharp movements, strong synchronisation, and stage presence showed just how hard they had worked in rehearsals. This was followed by another high-energy routine, 'Get Up' performed by year nine GCSE dancers, which kept the audience engaged and impressed from start to finish. Year 9 should be extremely proud of themselves, as their commitment and determination were clear in every move.



Multiple duos performed that night with emotional pieces like Jayda and Ayat who made a heartfelt contemporary dance to 'Die on This Hill' by Sienna Spiro, Bella and Hollie who also made a compassionate dance to 'Ocean Eyes' by Billie Eilish touching the crowds hearts from the messages that came from the dances.

The show also highlighted the dedication of the students who attend dance club, especially year 7 and 8 many of whom have been practicing tirelessly right up until the end of term. Week after week, they stayed behind, perfecting routines and pushing themselves, all with the hope that their dances would make the final cut for the show. Their hard work truly paid off, as the performances were confident, expressive, and exciting to watch. Throughout the evening, it was clear that dance at Trentham Academy is built on hard work, perseverance, and teamwork and we're grateful to Mrs Ball for leading this. Every routine reflected hours of practice, resilience, and a shared love for performing. The dancers filled the hall with energy and festive spirit, ending the Autumn term on a real high.



By Tasha, Year 11

Trentham Academy's annual Christmas show was once again the highlight of the term! For year 11, this would be their final Christmas show, and they went out with a BANG! Starting off strong with 'Eyes Without a Face' with Joe, Year 11 on lead vocals before following on with 'Iris' sang by lead vocalist Tasha, Year 11 before a remarkable, very festive, rendition of 'Fairytale of New York' sang by the entire Year 11 band consisting of Tasha, Joe, Maddy, Chloe, Lyam, Liam and Oliver and two additional members: Tara, Year 9 and Lillie Year 9. Tara also performed in many other incredible numbers, such as piano and lead vocalist for 'Counting Stars' by One Republic, 'Oh Darling' alongside Lyam, Sophie, Year 9 and Grace Year 10 and 'Last Night of the World' with Millie, Year 9.

Our choir (senior and junior) performed a FANTASTIC, harmonious cover of Naughty/When I Grow Up from the musical 'Matilda.' It truly felt as if we were at a theatre watching the actual show! Special shout out to Miss Chu who conducted the choir for not just this musical recreation but also 'Spread the Love Around' an upbeat classic from another famous musical 'Sister Act.' Her continuous dedication and hard work is what makes the choir performances so magical!

But not only was it our students that shined that night, our music teacher, Mr Gore, was an absolute legend in making sure that our rehearsals (and the show) ran smoothly. Not only did he work with endurance to get all performances to perfection, but he also stepped in constantly to play in songs when we needed an extra person on an instrument.

Talent, dedication, and hard work were reflected upon that stage that night. Ending the Autumn term with a bang and flooding the hall with festive spirit ready in time for Christmas.

What a night!





Student Leadership – Prefects

Our Year 10 applications for Senior Prefect roles, are reaching a pivotal point this month. The students have written letters of application to Mrs Gaggini prior to Christmas. They have presented to students in Years 7 to 10 in assemblies 28th-30th January. Their presentations have made our voting choices very difficult.

The next step in the process is an interview with our Principal, Mrs Wagg. Staff and students will vote, and decisions will be made for Head Students, Deputy Head Students, and House Captains in addition to senior prefects for Transition, Charity and the Trentham Doctorate.



Sporting Highlights

Y8, 9 & 11 Football

All teams have progressed to the quarter final of the County Cup.

Y8/Y9 Basketball

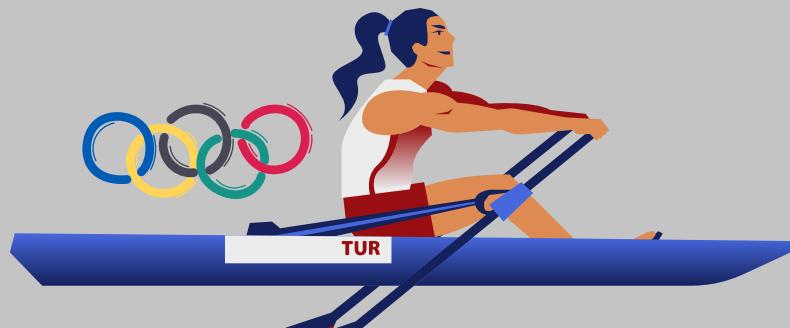
The boys have won their group in the City Basketball competition.

Handball

Y11 Boys beat St. Joseph's College in the recent Handball fixture.

Boccia

Some of our Year 7, 8 and 9 students represented the Academy superbly in a Boccia competition at Stoke College.



British Rowing

British Rowing have been into the Academy to complete some fitness testing as part of their talent ID process. A number of students have been identified as potential Olympic prospects based on their ergometer scores and anthropometric measurements. They have now been invited to attend Rowing sessions at Trentham Rowing Club.

Student Achievements



Congratulations to Ziyaad, Year 11, who was selected by the PFA (Professional Footballers' Association) to attend their Elite Player Pathway AIMS event, with support from senior staff at Manchester City. The event took place at England's headquarters, Saint George's Park.

Around 100 elite footballers of

Asian heritage from across the country were identified and chosen to come together, representing a wide range of clubs and age groups, from professionals like promotion-winning Port Vale's Mal Benning to scholars, newly signed Under 9s, and players on the fringes of the professional game. **Well done, Ziyaad!**

We also highlight Liam, Year 9, who is taking on an extraordinary personal challenge and he's already making impressive progress.

Liam has set himself the goal of completing **UK2Borneo: 11,600KM of Grit**, an endurance challenge where he will row, cycle and walk 11,600 kilometers the equivalent distance from the UK to Borneo to raise funds so he can join Camps International in 2027.

During the expedition, 16 of our students hope to take part in orangutan conservation, marine projects including scuba diving, and community work with local Bornean communities. To take part, students must raise their own money to pay for the trip.

So far since the new year, Liam has completed over 260 km, leaving 11,330 km still to go. This means he has already passed his first major checkpoint, London, and is now heading towards his second checkpoint: Paris.

Training regularly alongside school life, means some days are rough. Long sessions on the rowing machine and also for Trentham Juniors rowing club have led to blistered hands and aching muscles but these challenges are all part of the journey.



“Some days are hard, but you have to push through the pain and strive for the better.” Liam says, “remind yourself why you’re doing it, and keep going.”

Anyone who would like to support Liam's challenge can donate via his GoFundMe page:

👉 <https://gofund.me/cdf3b271b>

If any other students wish to share their fundraising stories in the newsletter, please send to trentham@clt.trentham.coop for inclusion in future newsletters



Autumn Term

Final House Results

Overall winners were **Voyager** - Well done!

Congratulations to all the Progress Leader Students of the Term Autumn 2025

Year 7: Alina. A

Year 8: Ava W

Year 9: Maggie B

Year 10: James. D

Year 11: Oscar R

*And to the
Principal Student
of the Term
Autumn 2025
Madison M*



Coming up in February

- 6 Year 11 Photography Mock exam
- 9 Year 9 Assessment week
- 9 Year 7 reports
- 10 Year 8 reports
- 11 Year 11 Hospitality Final exam
- 11 Year 11 Art Mock exam Group 1
- 12 Year 9 immunisations (no exams this day)
- 13 Year 11 Art Mock exam Group 2
- 13 Break up for half term at 3.10pm
- 23 School opens at 8.35am
- 23 Year 11 Final mock exams (2 weeks)
- 26 D of E parent meeting 5pm



Please let us know of any achievements you'd like to share in the newsletter by sending them to trentham@clt.trentham.coop, with 'Newsletter' in the subject line.

House Competitions

Our house competitions continue with enthusiasm from students across the academy. The Chess tournament is in full swing with students vying to be Trentham's grand master.

Last week, students battled to be the Dobble winners and next week sees the start of the much-anticipated interhouse Table tennis.

Dobble Winners:

- Year 7/8: **Hugo H**
- Year 9/10/11: **Evelyn E**

Well done both!

Board & Card Game Donations Wanted!

We have a growing number of students who enjoy playing board games during lunchtimes. We would love to create a Cards and Games Library for students to use.

If you have any board or card games at home that are no longer being used, we would certainly put them to good use! Donations can be sent in with students or dropped off at the school office.



Student Rewards

I have had the pleasure of calling home for these students in January, nominated by their teachers:

- Oumer and Louis in Year 7
- Belle in Year 8
- Arley in Year 9
- Shane, Joseph and Kienna in Year 10
- Adrianna in Year 11

Well done everyone 😊