



ACADEMY LIFE

*Aspire
Endeavour
Achieve*



Principal's Update

I hope everyone enjoyed a lovely break with family and friends over Easter. I was delighted to share the Ofsted report with you last week and I hope you've had time to read through it. The inspectors have written in detail about what they saw at Trentham Academy, and I am happy it is a true reflection of what I see every day.

In the areas where we were graded Expected, we also met the criteria for much of the Strong standard but the revised framework requires every point to be fulfilled rather than the 'best fit' model of the previous framework. You will have read that inspectors agreed we had already identified the correct areas to further develop and we will continue to do this.

We are, of course, delighted to have been recognised as a school graded 'Strong standard' for Inclusion and for Personal development & well-being. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work in ensuring Trentham Academy prioritises inclusive education.

Our first week back was full of celebration as our reward winners enjoyed a non-uniform day and free chips! For the top 40 students in each year group, they enjoyed an additional event and spent a day taking part in a range of activities provided by BeeActive.



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In the same week, Year 10 were treated to a live production of Macbeth here at the academy – Lily and Skye write more about this on page 3-4.

There have been some fantastic results in sport, and the football calendar will remain busy as several teams continue to progress through the competitions to semi-final and finals matches. On Tuesday I was delighted to witness the Year 11 team win the Sentinel Schools Shield for the first time ever! A fabulous achievement. Full round-up on page 9.

Early last week we celebrated Trentham Prize for Fiction. It was an absolute pleasure to see the 15 short-listed students with their friends and family at the event. Congratulations to Emily for winning Trentham Prize for Short Fiction, Frankie for winning Trentham Prize for Horror Fiction and Gideon for winning the overall Trentham Prize for Fiction.



We then held our presentation evening, with awards for Aspire, Endeavour and Achieve in each year group alongside the annual Year 11 Subject, Sport, Dance and Academy Life awards. Congratulations to all our award winners. Ex-pupil Dr Robert Hanson joined us to present the awards and spoke about his journey since leaving Trentham. It was an absolute pleasure to have Rob back in the academy and listen to his story. He offered wise words and motivation to our students and encouraged them to take every opportunity they were given in the future.



This week, Mrs Cooper has spoken to the students in assembly about their well-being. She has talked about the negative impact of social media and how algorithms work to ensure students see the same repeated content – content that is not always supportive of their mental health and well-being. We continue to deal with problems in the academy that have started in group chats or on social media platforms and we work to support students to navigate these issues.

You will have seen in the news that the government has now said that schools should be mobile-free and we will be working with parents, students and staff over the coming weeks to update our policy surrounding mobile phones and smart watches.



Our Year 11 students have now completed their Art, Photography and Speaking examinations and their first written examination takes place a week on Monday. The next few weeks will fly by and we wish them every success in their exams.

Wishing everyone a very enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend.

Waggs

Macbeth

Skye, Year 10

Watching the production of Macbeth was really engaging and helped make the play feel more real. Seeing the characters being performed on stage made the storyline easier to understand and the emotions feel more intense than just reading the text.

I learnt a lot more about the characters and their motivations, especially Macbeth's ambition and how he is influenced by Lady Macbeth. Watching the actors perform helped me see the themes of power and guilt a lot clearer because we got to see it through expressions, actions and tone instead of imagining them.

I enjoyed the acting and the atmosphere during key scenes. The use of costumes and props, especially during the witches scenes, made the play feel more dramatic and tense. As well as the staging positions during scenes including Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, showing power through who is at the centre of the stage. These parts made the performance memorable and highlighted the development of the story. The actors made the performance engaging and enjoyable but also educational and easy to understand.



Lily, Year 10

I will be completely honest, when I saw that the play consisted of a cast of three people, I was slightly skeptical as to what I was going to be watching. But after experiencing the play, I think it is just a credit to the actors, and shows how truly brilliant they are!

Each character was shown so uniquely, and their mannerisms and ways of speech were displayed amazingly! This was one of the key things that I think was a brilliant help for my revision, because you often try to visualise each character - how they act, how they speak, how they interact with others - but seeing it first hand, really helped me to build these characters and their stories, which of course will help me with further analysis.



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I think almost everyone who has read any of Shakespeare's work will say that it can be a bit of a tricky read: making sense of it can be difficult. However, the actors were so skilled in what they did, and they articulated every line of the play perfectly, with such a great understanding, that really made it an entertaining watch! Alongside that, being able to accompany the words that I read with actual visuals, movements and physical characters made so many pieces of the story fall together or click into sense. I actually really enjoyed picking up on the key quotes throughout the play, which shows just how well every word was spoken by the actors.



Furthermore, if the incredible performance hadn't been enough, we had a fabulous Q&A at the end! It was so brilliant that none of the actors were shy, they knew so much about the play, and were obviously very passionate about what they were doing, because they answered every question with exactly that: passion, clarity and an extensive knowledge. It certainly gave me some things to take away and think about throughout my literature lessons.

Overall, I can not thank the school, the production company, or the actors enough for the incredible experience that I had watching the play! And I can confidently say that it has really helped with my understanding, knowledge and enjoyment of Macbeth.



Ski Trip

Evie, Year 10

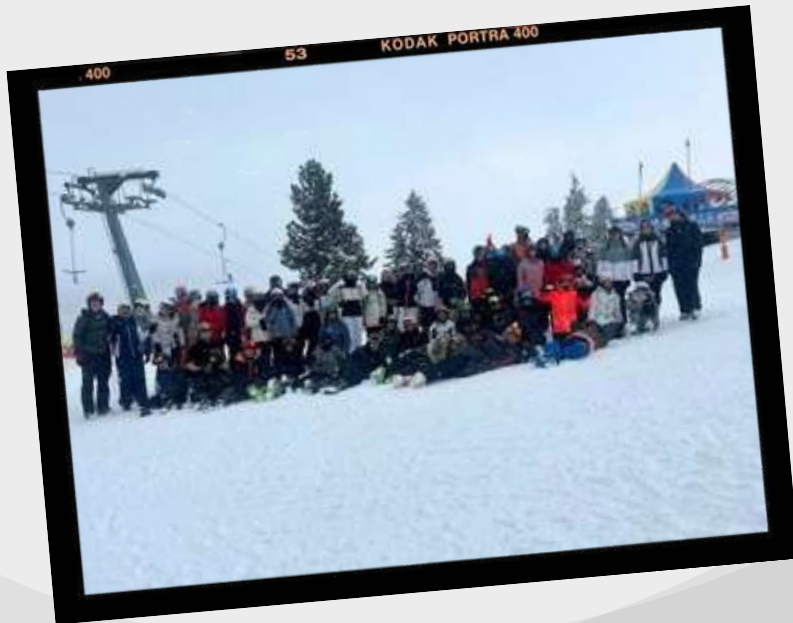
The trip began long before we even touched the snow. It started with the long and slow journey: full of laughter and music. Games being played, snacks disappearing way too quickly, just before we boarded the ferry. The ferry offered pretty views on the deck and that strange mix of excitement and tiredness that only travel days can create.

After 24 hours sat on the coach, we finally arrived in sunny Austria. The glistening waterfall and the random football match that was discovered was the exciting entertainment after our arrival.



One activity that I think everyone could agree was the best, was the swimming. What started as a relaxing dip turned into everyone getting involved in chicken battles. People clambering onto shoulders, wobbling tall, then eventually toppling down with an epic fall.

Every night, just before tea was served, Callum would deliver his daily speech. Whether he meant to or not, he became the unofficial narrator of the trip, summarising each day in a matter of minutes.



When we reached the mountains, everything shifted. Our shoes were replaced with ski boots and skis, and our hats with helmets. Skiing quickly became the heartbeat of the week - daily snowball fights before the day of skiing started, falling over dramatically, laughing every minute, and carving down runs.

Every day brought a new story: someone mastering a new skill, someone else discovering gravity's personal vendetta against them.



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Unfortunately, Leo had an accident on the trip so didn't get to ski the last 2 days. We all missed him and wish him a speedy recovery.

Midweek brought the competitive bowling showdown. It wasn't really about the skill, more about the dramatic celebrations and questionable techniques. Some people bowled like professionals; others bowled and hoped for the best.

Another competitive activity was the games nights. Whether it was Grab the Mic, or Taco, Cat, Goat, Cheese, Pizza, everyone wanted to win. Even if it meant singing your heart out to your favourite songs or slamming your hand on the table before everyone else.



And then far too soon were the last goodbyes. The final morning had that familiar heaviness – packing bags, taking one last look at the mountains, promising to remember every moment. The journey home was filled with discussions with, 'Remember...' and the whole coach singing 'Just The Way You Are.' As we pulled up onto the school car park, we realised the Ski Trip 2026 is a trip filled with memories that will last a lifetime, and a trip that won't quite say goodbye.

Student Achievements

I have received many emails from parents, carers and other stakeholders, celebrating the successes of our students this month:

Congratulations to Lily, Year 10, on her visit to Kenya

Lily volunteered to join a group of people travelling to Kenya to support a school and their pupils. She did not know anyone on the trip and raised funds before she travelled to ensure she could take supplies with her. It was organised by The Port Vale Foundation and they wrote a long letter to me celebrating Lily's participation in the experience.

Here's snippet from the letter:

She has been a complete credit to your school, a credit to Port Vale and to herself. She has taken everything in her stride and embraced what has been asked of her and beyond. Lily has been incredible, not only when volunteering in the schools but back at social time with the rest of the travelling group. Staff were always super impressed with Lily's maturity, her confidence and ability to get on with any task given to her.



Congratulations to Zach, Year 9, on his swimming achievements

Zach has only been swimming competitively for just over a year, and recently qualified for the Staffordshire County Championships for 50m butterfly!

At the county championships in January, he swam in a 50m pool for the first time, placing 18th in Staffordshire in the Under 14 age group for that race. In March, he passed the Platinum STA Award and entered 8 races at the Y2K Gala achieving 8 PBs and 3 medals, two bronze and a silver.

This month, he took part in the Etwall Eagles Open Meet in Matlock, entering 4 races, and getting 4 PBS and 4 medals, one bronze, two silver, and one gold. His time for 50m Butterfly improved again and he won the gold medal for that race. This means he has already qualified for the 2027 Staffordshire County Championships! Congratulations Zach!



Congratulations to Shay in Year 8 – he's Charlie Bucket in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Shay takes the lead at the Regent Theatre on Tuesday 23rd June, Thursday 25th June and Saturday matinee 27th June. It's a professional production with a live orchestra and full West End set.

Congratulations to Angana in Year 7 for her Indian dancing prize

Angana won first prize in the Under-16 Group category at the Nadanakala Star Indian Classical Dance Competition, held in London on 11/04/2026, with participants from across the UK. Indian classical dance is a traditional dance form from India, known for its graceful movements and cultural value. Congratulations Angana!



Congratulations to Jaxon, Year 7 on his work for charity

Jaxon was diagnosed with epilepsy at the end of last year and despite dealing with the challenges and frustrations this has brought at a time when he was just gaining some independence on starting High School, we are so proud of how he has and continues to deal with this. And to give something back to a charity that has helped us personally navigate these changes, Jax chose to take part in the 26 Miles in 26 Days Challenge ending on Epilepsy Awareness Day on March 26th.

Not only did he complete the challenge and raise an amazing £1092 for Young Epilepsy, but as he takes part in a lot of sport anyway, he decided to up the challenge to a Double Marathon and completed 52 Miles instead.

Overall the charity raised nearly £175,000 to help young people with epilepsy and we are extremely proud of the effort he put in to finish the challenge.



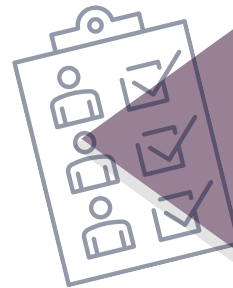
Spring Term Winning House

Congratulations to Pioneer for winning the Spring term House Competition!



Attendance

Congratulations to Year 7 who continue to lead the attendance tables! It is so important to be at school and Year 7 are still leading the way! Year 7 and Year 10 have maintained their percentages and Year 8 have improved their attendance – well done all.



Attendance so far this year:

Year 7 - 96.89%
Year 8 - 95%
Year 9 - 93.4%
Year 10 - 93.7%
Year 11 - 91.8%

Year 11 Exams

A huge well done to our Year 11 students for successfully completing their Art, Photography and MFL speaking exams- an excellent achievement and a strong start to the exam season!

A reminder that GCSE written exams begin on 11th May. We wish all our students the very best of luck as they continue their hard work and preparation. Please note that your child's personalised exam timetable can be viewed on the Arbor Parent App.

Keep going, Year 11—we're proud of you!



Sporting Highlights

STOP THE PRESS - TITANS LIVING IN A SHIELD OF DREAMS!

At Newcastle Town FC, conditions were perfect for a highly anticipated cup final. This Titans team had spent all week discussing preparation – carbohydrates, hydration and scouting reports – and there was a real buzz around the academy.

The game started evenly until Alsager began to find their way on top. We were losing a few battles, jumping in, and not quite getting our distances right, and they had the quality to punish us. Their dangerous number ten dragged a shot across goal to their striker, who couldn't miss. **1-0 Alsager.**

The Titans fought their way back into the game and created a number of chances, but the ball just wouldn't fall. That was until a quick-thinking free kick from Staton to Barlow led to a generous handball decision. Hope made no mistake from the spot.



Soon after, Alsager played a poor pass across their back line. Hope was slipped in and finished with a proper striker's finish. **Congratulations to Hope, who was deservedly named Sentinel Shield Man of the Match.** The trophy will be on display in reception this year – well deserved. He caused problems all day getting in behind and getting us up the pitch.

The second half was mainly played in the middle third. Trentham were organised. Was the game beginning to peter out? Suddenly, Alsager equalised. Then, moments later, a tackle fell kindly for them and they struck again. **3-2 Alsager, four minutes left on the clock.**

Trentham kept pressing. Thompson drew a foul, the ball was delivered into the box and chaos followed – three of our lads had hacks at it before Owen, cool as a cucumber as ever, tapped it home. Absolute scenes. Players, staff, parents and the Trentham Ultras went wild. One of those magic football moments you wait and wait for – *goosebumps*.

Onto penalties. Same speech as always: "Who's got the best goalkeeper, lads?" "We do, Sir!"

Continued

And Grindey, the specialist, stepped forward again (twice).

After Hope, Thompson, Tomlinson and Barlow all converted, their fifth penalty had to be scored to keep them in it. Grindey went low to his right – save!

Trentham Titans: Sentinel Shield Champions 2026.



A brilliant achievement – and a few thank-yous:

- **Simon and Emma at the Sentinel Shield**, for everything they do to organise the event. It was great to hear about the local charity work they support – some truly brilliant causes.
- **Newcastle Town FC and Kidsgrove FC**, for their excellent venues and volunteers.
- **The parents**, for their incredible support over five years at Trentham. So many have seen every kick of an incredible journey with a special team.
- **The Titans** – an outstanding group of young men. The first Titans team to put their name on this fantastic Shield. Thank you for all your hard work; I am absolutely delighted for you all - turned into a proper team!

One more game to go – the City Cup final.
The Last Dance.
Time to complete the Double.
Up the Titans.

TRENTHAM TITANS – CITY TABLE TENNIS CHAMPS

In the City Team Table Tennis Championship, the Titans advanced past OSSMA and St Joseph's with both out A and B teams to qualify for the finals at Clayton Academy on Tuesday.

Our A team beat Blythe and Clayton 8-0 and 7-1 respectively to win the trophy.

The B team beat Blythe and Madeley 8-0 and 8-0 to win the B team tournament too.

A great marker for the progress we have made in table tennis as an academy. All the lads played with great sportsmanship and skill throughout - well done! 🏓🏓🏓



Year 9/10 Girls' Football

Our Y9/10 Girl's football team put on a brilliant display beating Thistley Hough 3-0 in the South City Cup Final.

They showed brilliant teamwork, resilience and determination to secure the win comfortably and now are in the City Cup Final. Details will be announced soon and your support will go a long way!

Girls' T1 Rugby

Recently, our Year 9 and Year 7 girls participated in a T1 rugby festival. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn some new skills and the students really progressed throughout the session!



Coming up in May

- 1 Own Clothes Day - Ghana Fundraiser
- 4 May Day Bank Holiday
- 5 GCSEs begin
- 22 Academy Closes
- 25-29 Half Term Break



Student Rewards

Congratulations to the following students who received phone calls home from Mrs Wagg in April:

- Angana and Matei in Year 7, Kayden and Tommy in Year 8, Alfie, Erin, Bea, Lucie and Selim in Year 9, Artemis & Lily in Year 10 and Marcy-Noo in Year 11

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.