

Pinch
of

Salt

The news magazine of Titus Salt School

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Creative characters

Students share stories
on world book day

together resilient ambitious caring

A VIBRANT AND CREATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



Positive partnerships boost creativity

The English Faculty continues to enjoy strong partnerships with First Story, a charity that promotes creative engagement by placing writers in schools – and with the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), with whom First Story has an

associate school relationship, alongside other local primary schools and Bradford College. Both these partnerships have created wonderful opportunities for our pupils and excellent ongoing training for our English teachers.

'Reading is Power'



TSS celebrated World Book Day with themed assemblies encouraging pupils to share stories together.

'Reading is Power', this year's theme, encompassed our commitment to foster a love of reading and learning.

Year 7 had a focused lesson in which they designed a story bookmark to tie in with their weekly reading group lesson.

English Faculty staff members also spent the day showing off an item each that best represented a book character, and ran a competition for pupils to guess each character. Well done to Lucy and Victoria for naming the most characters.

An audience with Shakespeare

Shakespeare's tragedy, Romeo and Juliet, was brought to life using Salts Mill as the historic and atmospheric backdrop for the performance.

The play was staged as a collaborative project with young people from four other secondary schools, two primary schools and Bradford College – all RSC associate schools from the area.

Although the schools rehearsed the play separately, and only came together on the day for the two performances, they put on a fantastic show, which was well received by the audience.

Francesca Skaife

Proud to be published

Our pupils, now published writers and illustrators, shared their accomplishments with professional writers, parents/carers and teachers at our recent First Story Book Launch.

The event celebrated the efforts of pupils who worked extremely hard under the guidance of professional writers to produce an anthology.

A particular highlight was when the writers shared their experiences of working with our pupils, and commended their effort and resilience.

As part of the First Story project, pupils also visited the University of Huddersfield for the First Story Regional Festival, where they approached the writing workshops and associated tasks with enthusiasm and confidence.

Francesca Skaife



Angela and Billy, Year 7, Alex, Year 8.

Musical horror's a scream!



If you didn't catch this year's performance of the Little Shop of Horrors, you really did miss a treat! It was fun from start to finish, and demonstrated just how talented our TSS pupils really are.

Congratulations to all the cast, crew and band for a fantastically energetic show with catchy songs, fun characters – and a wild, singing plant that kept the audience entertained from beginning to end.

Mariska Peers

Poems track women's achievements

Two of our Year 13 English Literature learners have had poems published in a booklet promoting women's engagement with the rail industry.

Iris and Antonia were part of a larger group who worked with Northern Rail and Community Rail Lancashire to design a rail journey that celebrated women's achievements.

Accompanied by Community Rail Education Development Officer Karen Bennett, the group took advantage of free train travel to visit Hebden Bridge, Heptonstall and Manchester.

The 'Women Who Wander' booklet was launched in Liverpool on International Women's Day.

Mel Ide



Winning way with 100 words

Congratulations to Jaimie, who has been crowned the overall winner in a national writing competition with his back-to-front story.

First Story's 100-Word Story competition was open to all First Story pupils, aged 11-18, with 35 schools submitting stories.

Jaimie's prize also meant that our Learning Resource Centre benefitted from a stack of new books for pupils. His story will also be professionally printed on specially commissioned postcards.

Charlene Richardson

Readers buddy up

One-to-one reading sessions place huge emphasis on the importance of being proficient in reading, improving each pupil's experience and developing more opportunities in lessons.

We know that if we can help pupils to develop their reading skills this will benefit their literacy and oracy skills. With confidence in these areas, pupils are more likely to be able to develop their learning and make progress.

Andrew Sikora



Mrs Flint with Natasha, Year 7.

Readers club together

Reading Together is a new initiative for Year 7 pupils. Groups of between three and eight pupils choose one book to read during weekly reading lessons. They then read more books at home and discuss what they have read with their peers during the next session.

The groups are self-run, each one having a leader and deputy leader to keep track of the group's activities.

Group reading is a great social activity, with keen and able readers helping along those who may struggle to stay focused, as well as encouraging deeper thinking and questioning.

Destination: University!

An in-house mentoring scheme aims to support Sixth Form learners hoping to apply to Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities

Mr Reid with current members of the support programme.

A higher education

Sixth Form learners hoping to apply to Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities are taking advantage of an in-house support programme.

The mentoring scheme for higher attainers, run by Mr Reid, identifies pupils as early as in Year 9 who may benefit from extra support, encouragement and super-curricular development.

During Sixth Form, the group is introduced to specialist speakers, including university admission tutors and current undergraduates. They participate in mock interview evenings with industry professionals and academics, and individual reading lists are curated for each member around an extensive range of texts.

In Year 12, dedicated critical personal statement support is offered throughout the summer break in

preparation for the early UCAS deadline in Year 13 for competitive courses such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary science. Learners are also encouraged to apply for additional programmes in which they can gain experience and progress their learning.

In addition to the above, three Year 11 pupils have been accepted onto the CamSpire programme - an 18-month programme run by Queen's College Cambridge, which aims to inspire Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Arab learners to apply to selective universities. The programme includes three fully funded residential visits to Cambridge and a personal mentor who is currently studying there.

Featured here are just some of the learners who have benefitted from the support programme at TSS.

Vickie Clayden

Brilliant result

Six of our Year 12 learners proved that they are 'brilliant' by completing a programme of university-style Philosophy tutorials with a PhD tutor.

Lincoln, Freya, Ameer, Liam, Alexandra and Zach all tackled their final undergraduate-style assignment with determination. Each passed with at least a 2:1 or 2:2 grade, and Freya achieved a first, which is equivalent to performing at an excellent standard at undergraduate level.

Their achievement is particularly notable as none of them are studying Philosophy or a similar subject at A Level.

Sharon Kennedy

ISOBEL

With excellent A Level results, Isobel has already secured a place at Liverpool University to study Veterinary Science. Isobel's love of animals and passion for animal welfare meant that, from a young age, her dream was to become a vet. Alongside her A Level studies, Isobel gained experience working part-time at the local small animal centre.



BETH

Beth's love of Engineering was sparked on holiday in Rome while looking at an aqueduct system, as well as her passion for taking things apart to find out how they work! Her affinity with Maths and Physics, and a BAE Systems taster week to complete the Silver Industrial Cadets Award, led Beth to successfully apply to join a degree-level Engineering apprenticeship with Leonardo in Edinburgh.



THOM

Thomas is a talented linguist who has been accepted to study Spanish and Portuguese at Oxford University in 2019/20. His passion for language comes from a desire to connect with people from different backgrounds and to take on board their culture, art, expression of feelings and experiences. Thomas particularly loves immersing himself in Spanish film, television and literature, and he's made the most of trips to both countries.



MACKENZIE

Mackenzie left TSS in 2018, and is currently completing a three-year Degree Level Apprenticeship within the Civil Service. This involves university education and technical training, mentoring, job shadowing and work placements. Mackenzie received advice and guidance at TSS during his application, and was fully supported by the Sixth Form Team.



ESHA

Esha set her mind on a career in Medicine after developing a passion for Science - and Biology, in particular. After receiving excellent A Level results, a place awaits her to study Medicine at Imperial College London. Outside lessons, Esha has earned silver awards at the RSB Intermediate Olympiad and the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, and she has enjoyed showing Year 6 pupils her dissection skills at Open Evening!



MARIA

Maria is currently in her second year at Manchester University. After setting her sights on the medical profession, Maria worked hard during her time at TSS, and achieved three As at A Level and 10 A* at GCSE. Training to be a doctor was Maria's ultimate goal, and she has grabbed every opportunity to fulfil her ambition.



Wellbeing makes headline news... Wellbeing makes

Gemma and Lilian, Year 8



Appearing on BBC1's *Look North* didn't faze two of our Year 8 pupils, Lilian and Gemma, who spoke candidly and confidently about their duties as Wellbeing Peer Mentors.

Both have given much time and effort to the role, including attending the local council's first joint Health and Social Care & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to speak to

Bradford Councillors about why mental health and wellbeing are so important to them, and what they do in school to help their peers.

The Project Development Officer on the council panel said: "Lilian and Gemma spoke passionately, and got the council leaders to hear their message that supporting one another is the most important thing."

Lesley Bamforth

Sean, Sienna and Nathan, Year 9.



Sensory garden's pick of the crop

A five-strong, green-fingered team of Year 9 pupils worked together to design a garden, which they entered into the Royal Horticultural Society's Green Plan-it Challenge.

The Year 9 team won the overall award for the best design, after gaining the approval of the judges who were impressed by their inspirational sensory garden and their enthusiasm.

The team were also invited to appear on the BBC Radio Leeds Sunday Gardening show to talk about their design.

Greg Trusselle

Engineering in practice

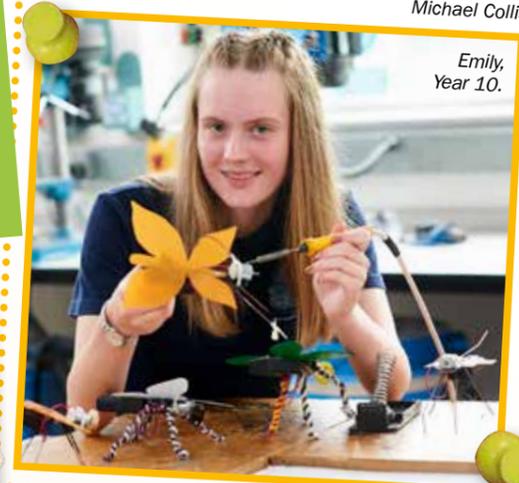
After attending a one-day STEM course at Bradford University, Emily took the initiative to apply to the Engineering Development Trust to attend a three-day residential at Southampton University for aspiring young engineers.

Emily's application, and reasoning why she would benefit from such an experience, impressed the panel, and she was offered a place.

The three days immersed in university life gave Emily a valuable introduction to Engineering and Science, and included practical workshops and talks from undergraduates and academics who lead in their field of research.

Michael Collis

Emily, Year 10.



Digital discourse



Will, Year 8.

Year 8 pupil Will delivered a keynote speech to an audience of 150 people, who came together for the UK Safer Internet Day at the BT Centre in London. Audience members included representatives from a variety of business sectors, charities, MPs and representatives from the media.

As part of his role as a TSS Digital Leader, Will delivered a speech highlighting the challenges young people face online, and how and why online consent is important.

Sofiana Atif

Year 8 ease transition

On Transition Day, we welcome our new Year 7 pupils into school to sample TSS life before starting their secondary school journey in September.

Playing an important role on this special day in our calendar are the Transition Mentors. The day can be daunting for some pupils, so our Year 8 pupils are on hand to guide and support the new pupils throughout the day.

The experience not only benefits the pupils who receive the mentoring, but also boosts the confidence of the mentors themselves.

Katy Wilby



Kiara and Declan, Year 8.

Climate emergency!

TSS has declared a climate emergency, meaning that consideration of the impact of every action we take in school will be made in the context of the threat from global warming.

Among recent activities, more than 60 pupils attended a workshop with representatives of Baidon Friends of the Earth, Manchester University and a Green Party Councillor, to learn more about the climate crisis.

Recycling facilities have been improved, and action has been taken to reduce waste and power consumption. A staff and pupil committee has also been set up with the aim of making the school as environmentally friendly as possible, as well as educating the wider community about the dangers that we face, and how we can mitigate them.

Greg Trusselle



Alex, Year 9, who is a member of climate committee.



Adam, Jessica and George, Year 9, with their Bronze Award.

CREST award winners

Several Year 9 pupils are now in receipt of a CREST Award.

Pupils taking part in the Arris Engineering challenge were encouraged to complete the Bronze level as part of the project. Run by the British Science Association as a nationally recognised accreditation, this is the STEM equivalent of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Our Year 9 pupils are hoping to move onto their Silver award

next year after coming up with some fabulous ideas. These include a Nurse's smartwatch, to help improve the way a nurse communicates with patients, and a Smart Wheelchair designed to help disabled people move around more independently.

In Year 13, Cherri was awarded Gold for her outstanding work in creating a robotic arm to assist people with arthritis.

Stuart Green

Invitation to the palace

Former pupils Alex and Tom were invited to Buckingham Palace to pick up their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

In line to join them, Year 12 learners have been working towards their Gold Award, spending the last week of the summer term completing a gruelling expedition in the Lake District. In Year 9, over 70 pupils, including pupils from the DSP, have completed their Bronze Award.

More and more pupils are taking up the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which encourages teamwork and social interaction, and helps young people to stand out from the crowd when applying for university and jobs.

Greg Trusselle



Former pupils Alex and Tom.

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Salt sport

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Olympic accolade



Huge congratulations to Ella, who represented Team GB at the Special Olympic World Games in Abu Dhabi, bringing home two medals in cycling.

Ella won the Bronze medal for the 500m time trial, in her fastest time, and we were lucky to watch her start the race on video. She beat her personal best again in the 1km time trial, where she came sixth.

Ella now wants to compete at a national camp in Liverpool in 2021, then the Berlin Olympics in 2023.

Miss Longbottom

Three cheers for Ellie-Page

Year 10 pupil Ellie-Page travelled to Orlando, Florida, as a member of Team England after successfully auditioning to compete in the biggest cheerleading event in the world.

Ellie-Page, who is a member of the local team, Yorkshire Martyrs, not only had an amazing experience, her team came home with eighth place in the Freestyle Pom event.

Mariska Peers



Crowning glory

Year 11 pupils Holly and Ella both received awards at this year's Bradford Sports Awards.

Holly was crowned Young Female Sportsperson for her contribution to diving, and Ella was crowned Young Disability

Sportsperson for her cycling.

The prestigious event celebrates the achievements and efforts of players, coaches, administrators and volunteers from across all levels of sport in the Bradford District.

Mariska Peers

Skier races ahead

As a member of the Lion's Ski Club, based at Snozone in Castleford, Year 9 pupil Corey Green is working hard to improve his ski racing.

Corey has skied from a young age on family holidays, but only took up ski racing two years ago.

He's now set his sights on becoming a champion, and has competed in many races, including the Artemis British International Ski Challenge in Italy.

James Russell



Sporting roundup

ATHLETICS

Despite the weather causing havoc for the athletics fixtures this year, the Year 7 and Year 8 joint athletics team has been extremely successful. The boys and girls competed in the Bradford Athletics League and were placed second, just behind Bradford Grammar School.

PERFORMANCE ACADEMY

The Titus Salt School Performance Academy continues to deliver an effective athletic development programme to gifted and talented pupils in sport.



RUGBY

The Year 8 boys' rugby team took part in an end-of-season rugby trip to the Lake District, where they trained at Ambleside and Windermere rugby clubs.

NETBALL

Our Year 7 and Year 8 Netball teams have had an outstanding season. Year 7 won the Bradford Schools' League, and went through to the semi-finals of the Bradford Schools' Tournament. Year 8 came second in their league.

