



# Trinity School

## Headmaster's Newsletter

Week ending: Friday 3 February 2012

From the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

### Government GCSE Tables

Some parents may have been perplexed by the release, last week, of the national GCSE performance tables. At first glance it may appear that Trinity has plunged into academic mediocrity but, as I hope will become apparent, the published figures are hopelessly misleading.

For the last few years the Government has not included any IGCSE results in its tables, meaning that most academically selective independent schools were ranked right at the bottom of the tables. This year the Government has included some 'accredited' IGCSE courses but not *all* IGCSEs. This has had the impact of making things even more misleading. The published figures suggested our average GCSE score per pupil was 410; in fact, with all IGCSEs included, it was 508. I should stress that 'accreditation' has nothing to do with how universities perceive IGCSEs, but simply whether OFQUAL (the government body which accredits public examinations) has agreed that state schools can study them as well.

Furthermore, the figures for the 'English Baccalaureate' had Trinity at a disturbingly low 34%. In order to be included in this 'Ebac', students need to have passed Maths, Science, English, a language and a 'humanity' with a grade C or above. However, the Government only counts History and Geography as humanities and not Religious Studies (RS). We insist boys choose 'at least one humanity' from History, Geography and RS. Last year, some 73 boys studied RS and over 90% of them received either an A or an A\* but this doesn't count at all in the tables. Equally, whilst the Government does at present include Geography IGCSE in its calculations, it does not include History IGCSE, which our boys also take.

So, in essence, the Government Tables which supposedly are designed to give parents information about schools are the perfect evidence that such league tables are, at best, simplistic and, at worse, hopelessly misleading. I have made this point to our Chair of Governors, Gavin Barwell MP, who has kindly raised the whole issue with Nick Gibb MP, the Minister of State for Schools.

### Sports Results

#### Hockey

##### v Langley Park

1 <sup>st</sup> XI	Won	3-1
U16A	Won	7-0
U15A	Won	2-1
U14A	Lost	1-7
U14B	Won	1-0
U13A	Won	3-1
U13B	Won	5-0
U12A	Won	3-1
U12B	Won	2-1

##### v Merchant Taylors

2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Won	3-0
3 <sup>rd</sup> XI	Lost	4-5
U16B	Lost	0-1
U15C	Drew	1-1
U14C	Won	2-1

##### v John Fisher

U13C	Won	7-0
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##### v Allyn's

U12A	Won	6-2
U12B	Won	12-0

#### Indoor Hockey

##### v Good Shepherd

U11	Won	11-1
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#### Rugby

##### v St Olave's

U12A	Won	24-17
U12B	Lost	10-15

##### v Wimbledon College

U12C	Lost	20-31
U12D	Lost	0-63

#### Netball

##### v Wallington

1 <sup>st</sup> VII	Won	13-8
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## Rugby – Daily Mail Cup Quarter-Final

The much anticipated quarter-final game was postponed at the last minute due to a frozen pitch. Never have I seen so many disappointed students when they realised that they would have to attend lessons as normal rather than watch the game! The match has now been re-scheduled for this coming Wednesday at 1:45 pm – weather permitting.

Congratulations to **Sean Rowtham** (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) who has been selected to play for the Harlequins School of Rugby U13 squad, which caters for the most outstanding rugby players in Surrey.

## Music

Congratulations to **Stefan Leadbeater** (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) who heard this week that he has been selected to tour Singapore and Japan with the choir *Libera* during the Easter Holidays. He will be performing as lead soloist in the main theatres in Singapore and Tokyo as well as appearing on local TV and undertaking promotional events. Meanwhile, he has also successfully auditioned for a part in a Channel 4 comedy sketch show called *VIP* which he will be filming during half-term.

Congratulations also to **Gabriel Kuti** (Junior Form) who has been selected to perform at the Purcell Room, South Bank, later this month.

## Piano Competition

Over 50 pupils took part in the final of this year's piano competition which was held on Wednesday and adjudicated by the eminent British pianist, Antony Peebles. Many congratulations to the winners who were:

### Beginner to Grade 3

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Dexter Howell** (1<sup>st</sup> Year)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Will Roberts** (1<sup>st</sup> Year)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Stefan Gutierrez Yildirim** (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)

### Grades 6-7

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Sebastian Elliott** (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)  
& **Andrew Samarasekara** (4<sup>th</sup> Year)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Duy Le** (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) & **Hansen Wang** (1<sup>st</sup> Year)

### Grades 4-5

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Joe Mackley** (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Joseph Parks** (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Benjamin Stein** (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)

### Grade 8+

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Fangzhou Xu** (L6)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Elliot Fitzgerald** (U6)  
& **Sam Anker** (U6)

Congratulations to **Sophie Winter** (L6) who has been appointed Senior Organ Scholar at Croydon Minster and **Mr David Warren** who has been appointed Junior Organ Scholar. Congratulations also to **Crispin Lord** (L6) who has been appointed a Choral Scholar at St Peter's Streatham.

## Politics

We were pleased that Mr Tom Brake MP agreed to come and discuss with our Politics students this week his experiences as a Liberal Democrat MP and the impact that the coalition government has had on the country. This followed on from last week's visit to the London School of Economics to hear Jodi Kantor speak about her new book, *The Obamas*. This is the latest of high profile political speakers to visit the school this year and the Department is looking forward to the Inaugural Trinity School Question Time which will take place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

## Careers Evening

Last night's 'medical' careers evening was very well attended and the audience appreciated both the enthusiasm and candour of our 7 speakers. Many thanks to all those who took time to share their experiences.

## Charity News

It was a particular delight this week to receive a letter from Ghana thanking the school for the recent donation of some old Trinity football and rugby shirts to the youngsters in the village of Kuful, Cape Coast, Ghana.

## Photography Club

A new photography club has started in the Lower School this week and takes place during lunch times on Friday. Boys wishing to participate should contact **Mr Jamie Rogers** for further details.

## Pottery Club

This club has now resumed and will be held on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:00 pm in the Ceramics workshop. The club is open to all members of the School.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### BBC Symphony Orchestra

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 7:00 pm a number of our boys have been selected to sing with the BBC Singers and the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a concert performance of Dvorak's opera 'Jacobin' at the Barbican. This performance will also be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 next Thursday at 2:00 pm.

### Chinese New Year Show

Parents are warmly invited to an evening of entertainment in celebration of Chinese New Year on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February from 7:00 pm in the Mitre Theatre. Boys who are studying Mandarin and their parents will find the evening particularly rewarding, but all are very welcome to attend. The entertainment will include martial arts, sport, music, drama, Chinese cuisine and plenty of audience participation; the evening will conclude with a dragon dance at around 9:00 pm. This is a free ticketed event; please contact **Mrs Tina Murphy** (Music Department) if you would like to attend [tm@trinity.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:tm@trinity.croydon.sch.uk)

### Sport Courses

Over the half term we will be running a number of sporting activities which are open to current Trinity boys, prospective new boys and their friends who are currently between eight to twelve years of age.

### Hockey Camp

This will take place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; contact **Dafydd Charles**, Trinity Sports Club, for further details [djc@trinity.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:djc@trinity.croydon.sch.uk)

### Football Camp

This will be running on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Again, please contact **Dafydd Charles** for further details.

### The Ultimate Sports Course

This two day course will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February at Trinity School. Sports on offer include Rugby, Football, Cricket, Hockey, Golf, Climbing, Archery, Tennis, Badminton, Table Tennis, Basketball, Water Polo and Racquetball. Please visit our website for further details and application form.

### Choral Concert

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March we will be presenting a choral concert with the main feature being Mozart's famous Requiem. We hope to have a large community choir of pupils, staff and parents so it is still not too late to join us if you wish to participate in this. Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February in the school Recital Room; please do contact **Mrs Helen Wickes** (Music Department) if you would like further details [hfw@trinity.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:hfw@trinity.croydon.sch.uk)

### **Quiz Night**

This will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March from 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm in the Trinity Concert Hall and is being organised by the Trinity Parents' Association. There is an early bird special price for any bookings before 13<sup>th</sup> February; please contact Sunita Rickets, [tpa@trinity.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:tpa@trinity.croydon.sch.uk) for further details.

### **Lost Property Volunteers**

Trinity's Lost Property Office is run by a remarkable team of parents and is open from 8:00 – 8:50 each morning during term time. We are now looking for additional volunteers to join this dedicated team, so if you would be interested in finding out more, please contact **Mr Rob Brookman** (Head of Lower School), [rb@trinity.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:rb@trinity.croydon.sch.uk)

With kind regards

Mark Bishop