

The HISTORY of the school

We are a school with a history, and we are very proud of our traditions and of being traditional.

In 685 AD, St Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, visited Carlisle and founded both a school and a church. For the next 900 years the school continued around the grounds of the Cathedral.

In 1545 The Dean and Chapter of Carlisle Cathedral took on responsibility for the school in the Cathedral Close. The Cathedral was rededicated to the Holy and Undivided Trinity. The school occupied buildings on West Walls, some of which are part of the diocesan offices to this day.

In 1883 this school became Carlisle Grammar School and moved to Strand Road, into what is now the Carlil Building of the school, housing our Sixth Form Centre. Since that time, governors continue to be appointed by the Cathedral Foundation.

As the movement towards comprehensive schools took shape, in 1968 The Grammar School amalgamated with two fine local schools, The Margaret Sewell School (for girls) and The Creighton School (for boys), to become Trinity School – a Church of England Comprehensive School. In fact, these two schools had already joined forces by then, and all of the sites were along Strand Road, which we now occupy, giving us a lot of space!

Recent developments include becoming a specialist Language College in 1998, with an increasingly international perspective to our work, shown today in the Uganda Project, the USA Exchange Scheme, and our many overseas visits and links.

Trinity School became a Grant Maintained School in the 1990s, until 1999 when we became a Church of England Voluntary Aided School. In September 2011, we began our work as a Church of England Academy.

While we cannot claim unbroken links to the school which began in 685 AD, we are in many ways a traditional school. Our history is important to us, especially in 2008 when we celebrated our 40th anniversary with reunions, a service of thanksgiving and other special events.

We are also innovative and creative in our approach. This is a busy school, and also a happy one. Our sense of the past underlines the importance of what we do together in the present school.

September 2012 sees the completion of the rebuilding of the 11-16 school, which brings our facilities right up to date and of the highest quality.



CURRICULUM AND LEARNING

The curriculum at Trinity School is an exciting one. With the range of specialist staff and new facilities available, we can provide much more than the basic curriculum right from the start, and especially at GCSE and A level. Of course there are strong departments in the traditional classroom subjects, Maths and English, Science and Modern Languages, Geography and History. The quality of our provision in the Arts and in PE, in Design and Technology, and in ICT is also significantly good. Then come the new subjects of Law and Psychology, Photography and Sociology, for example.

Our aim is the provision of a high quality curriculum for all students, whatever their ability in particular curriculum areas, with individual tailoring. The use of setting, and the expertise and patience of our excellent Learning Support Department, allow all students to be stretched and supported as their abilities in each subject develop. Our well established Pathways approach in Years 10/11 and in the Sixth Form better tailors the curriculum to the needs of individual students. With over 35 A level courses in the Sixth Form, Trinity students have a fine variety from which to choose.

We also wish our students to learn how to be successful as students and to develop skills in their approach to their studies which they can transfer readily between subjects. We set homework regularly, and this may sometimes be traditional homework, but much of the time it will involve project based research to help students gain independence and follow their individual interests. Classroom rewards are also based around those qualities we hope to see developing in our students: resilience, reflection, researchers who are resourceful and reasoning (they can work things out!)

We also seek to extend our students' range and understanding as they mature and take on new subjects in their time in the school. Vocational courses in Engineering, and in Childcare, are added, for example, alongside link courses with Carlisle College and other partner schools and businesses. Taking on our work from being a Language College provides a particular advantage in this regard, with the chance for a second modern language and plenty of international opportunities.

An introduction to Latin is offered among other enrichments as part of 'Café 26' our wider provision for Gifted and Talented students, and each subject will offer extra-curricular experiences for students to follow their interests. Two fine libraries allow students traditional spaces to read and reflect, but Learning Resource Areas throughout the school offer each subject the chance for more innovative developments too.



SUCCESSSES

Trinity School is a successful school, and we are proud of what we are able to achieve together, and delighted for our students with the results and performances that they produce. This is true across the range of activities of the school, from art to sport, music to enterprise, fundraising to debating. Where it matters most for students' future successes is in their examination results, and we have been very pleased with their achievements.

GCSE

GCSE results have always been good, but they made a significant move ahead in 2010, even by our own high standards, and they have sustained that in 2011 and into the new demands of 2012. We are delighted for our students, whose hard work has produced such good successes for them. Highlights from 2012 saw English and Maths both move their C grade or above figure higher than 70% and we were pleased that 98% of our students gained five or more A*-G passes, an excellent indicator for us of our commitment to success for all. We were also delighted by the range of courses, such as Engineering and Childcare, which are more vocational and less traditional, but give different students a real chance to shine – and they did.

Well done to all.

A Level

We have a large and vibrant Sixth Form and our students have a strong track record of progressing to universities or employment and further training. Our A level results have placed us in the top 25% of schools nationally, with significant improvements being sustained over the past five years. A level results in 2012 saw over 120 students gain the grades they needed to move on to university places with confidence, including Oxford and Cambridge, Durham and St Andrews. We have enjoyed academic successes in a range of subjects, including Chemistry and English Literature, Law and Psychology, Health and Social Care and Nursery Nursing, PE and Spanish – giving an idea of the breadth of the courses on offer.



CARE AND SUPPORT

We have a very strong ethos and approach to care throughout the whole school community.

Ofsted inspectors in 2009 said that pastoral care given to students was 'exemplary'; our SIAS inspector in 2012 said that 'there is an exceptional level of care for every member of the school community.' We have all the advantages of the curriculum and activities which a large school can provide, along with the commitment to the individual which you would find in a small village school.

There are 1200 11-16 year olds who are members of Trinity School, and 350 students in our Sixth Form Centre. Adult Education Carlisle provides courses for some 2000 adults each year. However, our aim is always to be approachable and personal for everyone involved with the school.

The 11–16 year old students are grouped in smaller family units known as houses. Houses are named after two rivers and two mountains: Nile, Everest, Amazon and Kilimanjaro. Each House has a unique identity and an area of the school for its own use. Students normally remain in the same House for five years, with the same Form Tutor and the same Head of House and House Tutor.

As well as care, there are competitions between the Houses each year, including Sports Day, and the House Cup for academic achievement. Each House also has a House Council, and a House Leadership team led by House Captains.

There are at most two forms for each Year in each House, so the Head of House and House Tutor will get to know parents and students in each House extremely well. This arrangement ensures continuity and personal care for each student. This is Trinity's family approach: close monitoring of all aspects of each child's development. We wish all students in our care to benefit from our excellent teaching and we recognise that, to do so, they need to be safe, secure and happy. The House system is thus the ideal approach, we think.

The same attention to the individual, progress and achievement is there in the Sixth Form too. There is a Head of the Sixth Form Centre, and an assistant, two student managers, and Form Tutors for groups of about 20 students.

We value as central the partnership we have with our students' families – thank you for it. There are monthly newsletters, parents' evenings, reports and reviews, and we encourage parents and carers to visit our website www.trinity.cumbria.sch.uk for up-to-date information. More personal contact is at the end of a phone or you are welcome to come in to talk with us.

We also use Moodle, which is Trinity School's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and is our main on-line facility linking the classroom to home. Our VLE can be accessed at the address <http://vle.trinity.cumbria.sch.uk/>



ACTIVITIES

We are a busy school.

Trinity students benefit from the wide range of Physical Education activities available which includes major games, gymnastics, dance, athletics and health-related activities. Activities which are covered at the moment include Rugby Union, Football, Hockey, Netball, Gymnastics, Basketball, Volleyball, Dance, Trampolining, Health-Related Fitness, Athletics, Cricket, Tennis, Rounders and Softball. We have a swimming pool and fitness studio in school.

We are competitive! Our Under 12 boys have been national 5-a-side football champions, and our Under 18 team ESSA national waterpolo plate champions. We compete regionally, and nationally, reaching the closing stages in many sports, such as football and badminton. We have an ethos which encourages the development of individual talent alongside team participation.

Music groups rehearse on most evenings and lunchtimes of the school week and the school is proud of the high standards of our Orchestras, our Choirs and the Big Band. Other ensembles are formed to suit the needs and talents of pupils. Trinity School Theatre Company has enjoyed great success with recent productions including "Westside Story" and "Into the Woods" and drama groups meet regularly. Trinity Staff Players also perform!

Both Drama and Music enjoy many successes in the Carlisle Music and Drama Festivals, and we are part of the Shakespeare Schools' Festival. We have Live at Lunch concerts in school and evening events. Our new performance venue will be ready by November 2012 to add to our new Music and Drama studios.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme is well established at Trinity, with over a hundred students working with a strong team of staff and supporters for Bronze or Gold Awards.

Other clubs and societies extend across a wider age range; these include a Debating Society, Computer Club, School Council, Chess Club (County Champions for the last three years), The Landscape Team (currently planting our own orchard and starting student allotments).

We have an outdoor residential programme for Years 7 and 8, and we also head further afield: there are trips to The Netherlands (Year 7) and to France and to Spain, to the World War I battlefields, Art trips to Paris, Venice or Prague, exchange visits every two years to New Hampshire, USA, and many activities with our partner schools in Uganda. In 2012, a dozen Sixth Form students and four staff visited them and they return to us in 2013. The whole school is involved through Club Africa and many fundraising schemes.



INSPECTIONS

What the inspectors found when they came to look.

As a Church of England school, we always have two inspections each time: one by Ofsted and then one for Anglican schools. We were inspected in May 2009 and then again in February 2012.

Ofsted

In 2009, the inspections said that: 'Trinity School provides its students with a good education... the quality of the teaching and learning is good... '...standards at Key Stage 4 are continuing to rise and ...most students throughout Years 10 and 11, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are making good progress.'

'Students benefit from an exemplary level of care and this provides a secure platform from which they can pursue their studies... Mutual respect is evident in relationships throughout the school. Conversations flow easily, students are welcoming and enjoy each other's company.'

'...the school is an open and welcoming community where diversity is recognised and valued. A wide variety of local, national and global initiatives involve students and staff in activities that celebrate religious, cultural and ethnic differences.'

The team of 2012 also found us to be a good school, and they noted that we 'have high ambitions for students' which is founded on good and outstanding teaching, a broad curriculum, and effective teamwork.

They commented that 'Students make good progress from their starting points to achieve standards that are significantly above average at GCSE and in the Sixth Form' and that 'Behaviour around the school is very good, maintaining an orderly and safe environment.'

The full reports for both inspections can be found on the school and the Ofsted websites.

SIAS

We are also inspected as a Church of England school every time Ofsted comes –'two for the price of one' idea. The summary of the February 2012 inspection is as follows: 'Trinity School is rapidly gaining momentum in its journey as a church school. the exceptional quality of care for each student and member of staff reflects its core Christian values. The curriculum pays attention to the breadth of human experience and the importance of faith. This enables young people to grow into compassionate and responsible citizens, motivated to take responsibility for their own learning.'

Again the full reports from May 2009 and February 2012 are available on the school's website.



FINDING OUT MORE

We are very proud to belong to the community of Trinity School. It is never dull, and there is always a lot going on! The school's website – www.trinity.cumbria.sch.uk – has a wealth of information about the school, our news, our policies and so on. You are also very welcome to visit us.

Ten interesting things about the school:

- 1 Although we began in September 1968, we have not been officially declared open yet! HRH The Duke of Kent will do that when he visits the school in early October to help us to celebrate the completion of the £20 million rebuilding programme.
- 2 As well as Trinity School, Carlisle, there is a Trinity Hall in our partner schools in Uganda, Ssaku Secondary and Najeera Progressive.
- 3 We commissioned an original musical composition by Eric Wetherell, a former student of the school, for performance by a symphony orchestra at our 40th Anniversary concert in Carlisle Cathedral in November 2008.
- 4 Our Observatory, thanks to Border Astronomical Society, has one of the biggest telescopes in Cumbria.
- 5 Eton 4 Trinity 5 ... was the score in the 2010 ESSA National Water Polo Plate final. (We have also been national football and rugby champions).
- 6 We have been County Chess Champions for the past three years.
- 7 We are one of five schools in the north west to be planting a community orchard and we have involved nine primary schools in this Fruit-full Schools project with us. We have 20 apple trees growing around the school.
- 8 Our History department runs a research project with students on the stories behind the names on our three war memorials. The moving details are on our website. We hold Remembrance Services in the school each November.
- 9 We are North West Secondary Church School of the Year 2012, receiving our certificate in the annual Church School Awards lunch in London.
- 10 Some of our lessons are very good indeed – they have been filmed by Cambridge Education for training purposes and even given a round of applause by Ofsted!

